



CCMOORE BAITS VS MONSTER COMIZO BARBELS

By Francisco Granados

With the arrival of our very cold winter, we decided to fish a session targeting the big 'Comizos' and to test new baits for the prestigious bait manufacturer CC Moore & Co Ltd. We had read English articles documenting memorable catches of Barbel for anglers using the original Odyssey mix, so thought there's no better way to test these "fish sweets" than with the demanding and elusive Spanish Barbel.

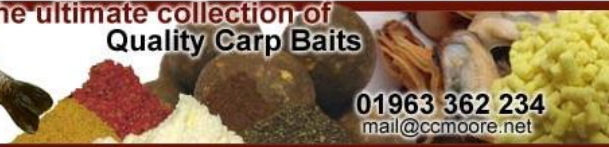
It's true that, although the British Barbel looks like it's Iberian namesake, they live in still waters instead of rivers and have a very different diet, so the effectiveness of the CC Moore baits was about to be really put to the test.

My angling colleague (Jorge Sacristan) and I (Francisco Granados,) were determined to make a simple recipe with few ingredients so as not to complicate the mix and food signals:



The mix we used was:

- Odyssey Base Mix, 10kg
- Odyssey Liquid Additive, 1000ml (100ml per kg of mix)
- Robin Red, 450g (from 20g to 50g per kg of mix)
- 5 Dozen of XL eggs (6 XL eggs per kg of mix)



Preparing the Bait

In a bowl, we put the eggs, Odyssey Liquid Additive and Robin Red. We beat the mixture vigorously and then gradually added the base mix to get a right consistency.



We finished by kneading it by hand, making sure not to make it too hard and dry as it is a very high quality, soluble mix.



We filled the bait gun with 'dough' and began to gun it onto a 15mm table. We collected the boilies from the table and then placed them into a bowl with a little base mix to stop them sticking to each other.



When the rolled boilies were finished, we put a saucepan of water on the stove and a metal colander of the same diameter, which allowed us to remove all the baits quickly without the water going off the boil. We always



place the boilies in to boil when water is at its hottest, this ensures the baits take less time to cook. We left the baits cooking for 2 to 3 minutes (the time they took to float).

As they were drying we moved the boilies every 4-5 hours so they were able to dry evenly. After this length of time, the bait was then packaged into zip-sealed bags and then frozen quickly to keep them as fresh as possible.



Fieldwork

After preparing the bait, we turned our attention to 'field work'.

After the painstaking job of locating the fish we pre-baited selected areas for 30 days with small amounts of boilies so the fish got taste for these little 'delicacies' and were gradually becoming accustomed to the new bait we had produced. Thanks to the clarity of the water we could see that the baits had disappeared on each occasion. We didn't know for certain if the culprits were Carp or Barbel but soon we would be left in no doubt.

The Session

The day of truth arrived, so we set out your rod pods and rods. We had different shaped baits: round, dumbbell, square, double etc... and fished these alongside a PVA mesh stick **filled** with chopped Odyssey boilies and some pellets of Betaine H.N.V. Pellets, also from CC Moore.



After 24 hours, the first bite came at dawn. A good fight was won and we slipped the net under an impressive 25lb+ Barbel. It seemed that the bait was working but it was too early to draw any firm conclusions.

During the rest of day the rain and snow alternated, accompanied by a strong north wind, which quashed the activity of fish - unsurprisingly.

The next morning was difficult because of the persistence of bad weather but we decided to try it again and to our surprise, the first bite came very soon.

This time the fortunate was Jorge Sacristán and after a terrific battle, he slipped the net under a +21lb 'Comizo' (Barbel).





With the fish still in the unhooking mat, one of my alarms began screaming relentlessly and the line peeled off at high speed. I quickly grabbed my rod and started the fight.

With such a ferocious take I hoped that what was on the other end would be a good fish and after 10 minutes of running and retrieving the net was slipped the net under another 'Comizo'. This time the fish went 30lb+!

This event left us somewhat shell-shocked, however, having such an incredible run we quickly cast out the baits and continued fishing to be if we could capitalise further on our superb session. Following lunch the rain stopped and once again the bites started.

Our phenomenal session continued and we caught two more monster Barbel; this time weighing in at 31lb+ and 30lb+ for Jorge and me respectively.



The last day of our session was sadly a washout due to a heavy storm so we chose to go pack up and went home buzzing from our memorable catches.

Needless to say we were very impressed with the performance of the bait and felt that the work we had put in had been well rewarded. Careful planning and preparation and the use of a top quality bait had certainly paid off for us.

Thanks to CC Moore,

Francisco Granados and Jorge Sacristán