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Fluke fishing . . .

Avoid gut-hooked fish with BIG HOOKS

by Dave Fewster

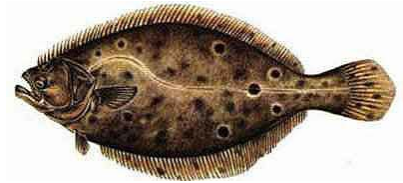


On Monday, December 28, RISAA had its last club meeting of 2009. The guys I spoke to were already itchy to get back into the brine, and I am certainly feeling their pain. To fill the absence of the fresh salt air, and the excitement of the morning ride to the holy ground, we fill our spare time with holdover stripers, fishing seminars and some of us even slip on over to the other side and punch holes into the sweet water in hopes of a monster pike or an elusive salmon.

One conversation brought up the 2009 fluke season. I know, I know, to many shorts not enough keepers. Well, put that aside.

A crafty angler in the group named Captain B.J. Silvia has come up with a great rig. Yeah, it spins and sparkles like the rest of them, but this one's a little different. It's got better sparkle, heavy duty parts and a huge hook to seal the deal.

At first glance you might think that you are going to miss the bite with this rig, but I can attest, not on this rig. The huge hook actually keeps the penetration in the front and side of the mouth and avoids gut hooking the sub-legals. Even the larger fish had the hook in the right spot.



Back in June I was fluking outside of Newport with my girlfriend, Melissa. It was one of those days, an increasing southwest wind that was dying to hit 20 and an outgoing tide a few days before the moon. Boy, we were covering some ground!

Out came the big stuff. My new sparkly spinners with the gaff tied to the end, my 12 oz bank sinkers and my rubber rods.

Melissa asked if we were still fishing for fluke. I just laughed and baited the business end with some fresh sea robin belly and some secret strips.

Well, we hit and we hit them good. The rig sparkled in more ways than one. We had our share of smaller fish, but none were gut hooked. The rig also stayed nice and straight with its heavy leader, and the large 3-way clip handled those bulky 12 ounce sinkers with ease. We experienced this each time we used them throughout the season.

It's those little things that can make a difference. It's important to "think outside the box" these days. It will give you an edge over the competition, and it could also save some fish while filling your cooler.

I hope this reflection of 2009 helps you get through this extra cold winter and causes a spark when your filling next season's fluke box.

See you on the ice.

Flag—up!

Squid