

Friend and customer Mike Fry and his wife Mindy recently emailed me a list of questions about fishing channel edges, in the hopes I could provide some answers and create a blog about the topic. Unfortunately, I haven't spent a lot of time in my fishing life working such a pattern, since I like to wade 95% of the time or more, so I don't really feel qualified to act like an expert and give them the answers they want. Some channel edges can be fished by wading, and I do work the pattern at times, particularly in extremely cold and hot weather. Mostly, fishing the edge of a ditch means using a trolling motor and/or drift sock(s) to keep the boat away from the edge, while casting to the ledge.

I have listed their questions below (and added a couple more of my own) in the hopes that some of you reading out there will have strong opinions and/or knowledge about fishing the edges of ditches, and will email Mike and Mindy to share what you know with them. Even if you only have other questions of general observations related to the topic, I'm sure they'd like to hear from you. Maybe we'll create some new fishing buddies in the process! Their email address is [mikefry03@yahoo.com](mailto:mikefry03@yahoo.com).

I've listed their questions first, followed by comments I have about them, if any.

- 1. How does one select a stretch or location along the edge of a ditch or the ICW, as it all tends to look much the same?** *I tend to focus on areas near intersecting channels, or near where a channel comes to an end. I know some people like stretches with secondary ledges, where the primary edge doesn't drop all the way off to the bottom.*
- 2. Is the west or east side of a channel better?** *In the Land Cut, the west side is acknowledged to be the more consistent side. In some places, channels have north and south sides, of course. I'd venture to say it's impossible to make a strong generalization about which side of a channel would be better. It likely depends on other factors, like what lies beyond the edge on either side, which way the wind is blowing, and how the current is moving through the ditch.*
- 3. Which parts of offshoot, or secondary channels produce best?** *In my experience, the best parts of these types of channels are their dead ends, and the areas where they intersect the main channels.*
- 4. Does the dropoff in the Land Cut differ from the stretch from the JFK to Baffin, and if so, how?**
- 5. What is a good way to identify areas with secondary ledges?**

I hope some of you out there will email Mike and Mindy with food for thought.