

## "Think Like A Pro" Test Key

1. b

Moving water is more of a must on the Upper Coast, where large river systems and bigger passes make for more tide movement. In hypersaline lagoons, the level of the water often dictates where fish will be found.

2. d

I like to replace a sinking Fat Boy with a Catch 5 in bright, windy weather, but an Original Corky with the tail bent sharply down works great too, especially if it's windy and cloudy. Under dark skies, in murky water a red/white tail or black/green tail lure works great.

3. c

If the wind is too strong, it will cancel the truth of this statement. The statement is most true in places where the water clarity holds up well, meaning places with firmer bottom and/or more sea grass.

4. a

I like to throw floating Corkies in water that's knee-deep or shallower.

5. d

While the other three statements ring true much of the time, they are not always true. However, it is ALWAYS impossible to catch a fish if the effort is made in water where there is no fish.

6. d

7. c

If I'm able to make a fish strike at a plug, I'm close to catching the fish. First, I'll change the presentation to see if I can make the fish strike more forcefully. If that fails over time, I'll change to a similar, slightly different plug. Last, I'll switch over to another kind of lure altogether. Calling Kev is just ridiculous; you know it, and I know it!

8. b

I think of high pressure as being like a heavy hand. It presses down on everything, generally resulting in low tide levels and inactive fish.

9. a

All of the others are important, as is knowledge of the biology of the fish. But I believe a complete and thorough knowledge of the bay system is the most important step in staying in touch with the schools of fish.

10. b

A and c are also probably true, but they are irrelevant to those of us who are committed to becoming better as lure fishermen.

11. d

12. b

Predators who eat other fish are more active in the dark or in low-light conditions when the water is clear, probably because catching their prey requires less output of energy when compared to chasing them down in brighter light.

13. b

Fish often prowl the shallows along the beachfront at first light on incoming tides in the summer.

14. c

Any east in the wind will mess up the clarity on these flats. As long as there's No east in the wind, the clarity will hold up fairly well under moderately strong winds.

15. a

Mud streaks usually hold fish in clear, open basins in winter. Slicks and rafted bait will normally not be seen during this time frame.

16. a

17. b

This is especially true in moderate or hot water temperatures.

18. d

A responsible captain should always carry a ready anchor.

19. d

Trophy trout can and will be caught from out of a boat on lures, especially when calm conditions allow for greater stealth and control of boat noise and movement.

20. b

Rat-tails dart around erratically, which prevents fish in clear water from getting "too good a look" at them. The vibrations given off by paddle-tails make them effective when water clarity is poor.

21. a

Rod, reel and line are tools, not fundamentals. Angler and location are not parts of presentations.

22. d

More length and flex in a rod allow for whipping soft plastics around better.

23. b

I like a 6 to 6'3" rod best for topwater use. That's *shorter* by coastal standards.

24. d

Most of the best presentations involve the establishment of rhythm, AND the disruption of rhythm.

25. b

Studies suggest a trout's diet shifts more to finfish as it gets larger.

26. d

27. a

28. b

I prefer a Super Spook or Skitterwalk (full-sized) in winter, Spook Junior in summer.

29. a

The truth of the statement "find the bait, find the fish" is strongest in winter.

30. c

While other birds might help one locate trout, laughing gulls do so most directly on a consistent basis.

31. d

Generally, I haven't caught many trout at all in water with salinities lower than 15 or so.

32. a

Saltier water in the north end is better, wind is a problem, and moving water is a must.

33. c

High tides and low water temperatures can be good too, depending on how low. Moderate water temperatures and full tides work best.

34. d

And don't email to tell me the big ones taste good. I've eaten some after killing them accidentally, so I know better!

35. b

Spending more time on the water only translates into growth as an angler if mistakes are identified and eliminated or reduced, and if strengths are built upon. Doing the same wrong things over and over again will not result in improvement.