

Recently, I've discovered or rediscovered several truths related to fishing in extremely hot weather. On many days, the bite on small cigar-shaped topwaters like Super Spooks Juniors is sluggish in the early morning, compared to what it's like in late-spring, early-summer. But, the bite often gets better at some point later in the morning, so testing plugs like these regularly throughout the day makes sense.

However, on some days, topwaters with rotating blades on them, like the MirrOprop, work better to earn strikes than the dog walkers. Sometimes, both types of plugs attract attention, but the strikes on the prop baits result in a much higher percentage of hook ups, due to the more violent nature of the strikes.

Also, a familiar scenario develops on many days. If too many tiny trout (12-14 inchers) bite in a spot, the likelihood of catching decent keepers at the site is low. Oftentimes, moving away from a spot where 20 or more dinks bite results in a slower bite, but bigger trout. I find this to be especially true when I'm fishing small structural elements like spoil banks. I normally find the most active parts of the area to produce lots of small fish, while less active parts can produce fewer bites, but bigger fish. In all cases, stopping and throwing where a bite is earned makes sense. If tiny fish keep snapping at the lure, walking slowly away from them makes sense. If a 20 incher bites, standing and grinding in the immediate vicinity for at least 10-15 minutes can be justified.

And last, any and all signs of nervous bait can lead to lots of fish. In some cases, subtle ripple patterns which seem relatively insignificant at first glance can indicate large schools of small keeper trout. Birds like pelicans and terns hovering repeatedly over the same spaces can do the same.