



THE

# Fisherman®

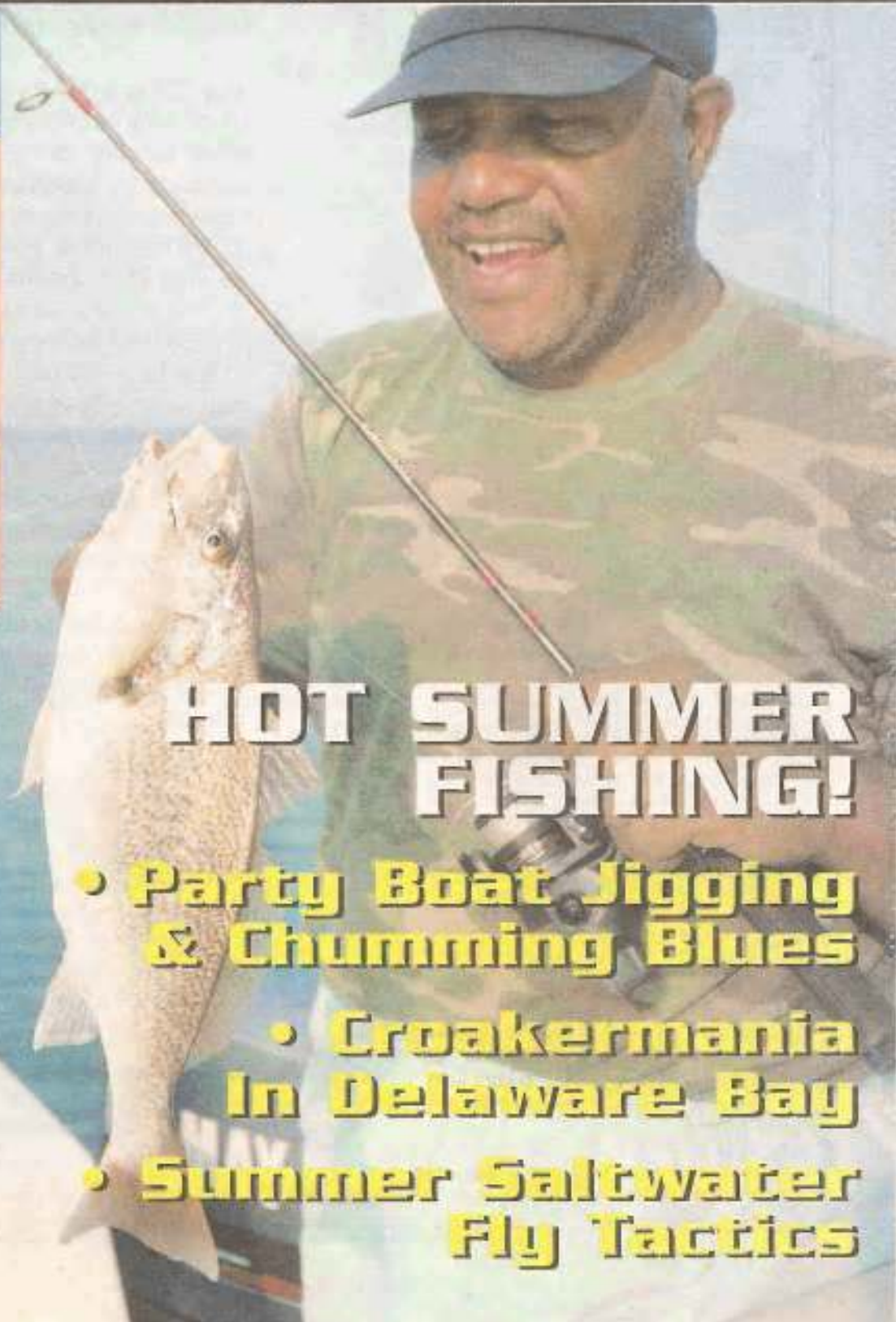
DREAM BOAT  
**WIN A**  
Hydra-Sports 2450CC

July 29, 1999 - No. 31 New Jersey, Delaware Bay Edition \$1.50

## FEATURED THIS WEEK

**Bridge  
Holes:  
FRESHWATER  
HOT SPOT  
FOR BASS &  
TROUT**

**Score More  
Fluke:  
• JIG THOSE  
RIGS**



## HOT SUMMER FISHING!

- **Party Boat Jigging  
& Chumming Blues**
- **Croakermania  
In Delaware Bay**
- **Summer Saltwater  
Fly Tactics**



I am like most people when it comes to changing old habits and especially when it has to do with fishing. We fishermen usually stick with what works for ourselves, not with what works for other fishermen. That was my problem when it came to catching fluke. My friends would come on my boat and out fish me every time. It took me two years to finally switch over to their methods and techniques.

By changing rigs, and by learning how to "jig" my rigs, I became a more successful fluke fisherman.

## FLUKE TIPS

# JIG THOSE RIGS

CARLOS BASTO, JR.

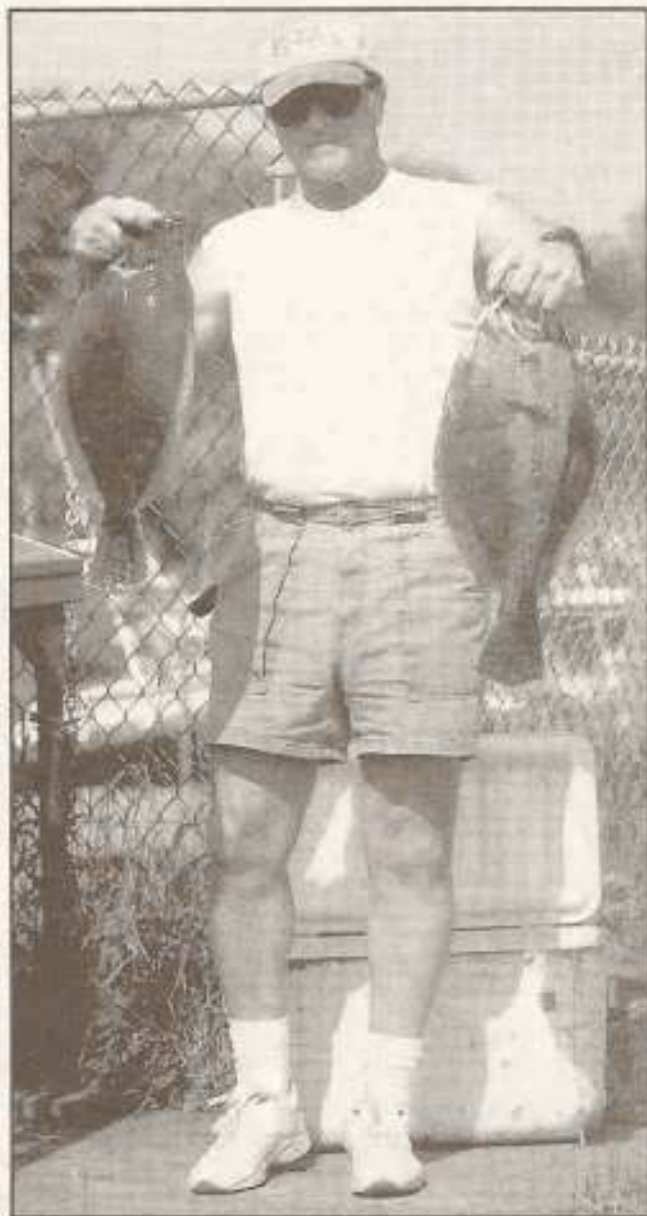
### THE RIGS

The rig that I use the most is a two-hook rig. It is inexpensive and very easy to make. I start by cutting a 36-inch piece of 20-pound leader. Then I tie a size 2 barrel swivel on one end and a wide-gap hook on the other end via palomar knot. I place a number 2 Gamakatsu octopus hook on a dropper loop 18 inches up from the other hook. To finish off the rig, I place a bucktail teaser on the dropper loop so that it sits right on the hook. I fish this rig with a sliding fishfinder on the main line with just enough weight to hold bottom. I get my bucktail teasers from a company called Sea Striker, a popular brand in many tackle shops, and they come in either white or chartreuse.

A long time friend of mine has his own success by making his own jig heads. He makes mostly 1/4 to one-ounce shad darts and ties on white bucktail hair. I have used his darts and I can attest that they out-fish regular bucktails. There have been a few times when he could not come out on the boat and I tried using ordinary bucktails with less success. If you have some extra time, try picking up a mold or two and making a few jigs. I have watched him do it and it takes a little time but the rewards are well worth it.

The bullet rig is a rig that has become very popular on Long Island Sound and works well in New Jersey, too. It is very similar to the two-hook rig but instead of using sinker for weight, I snap on a bullet jig. This jig is a silver colored lead ball with a hook attached to it by a split ring. Flashy Mylar and bucktail hair are tied to the hook. I have seen these jigs for sale at some of the local fishing flea markets. Tackle shops on the New York side carry a huge selection of colors and sizes and some Jersey shops are starting to get them in. I rig this up by first attaching a three-way swivel to my main line and putting a snap for the jig. I then tie on a 30-inch piece of 20-pound leader and tie a wide gap hook to the end.

One rig that I almost forgot to mention is a wreck rig. A couple years back while fishing one of my favorite wrecks off



Sea Bright, one of my fishing partners accidentally caught two big doormats in a row. I tied on a rig and slapped on some bergall filet and I was business. That day I caught my limit in an hour and they were all big ones. From then on I have done this many times and I have always managed to yank a few out of the wreckage.

The rig I use for this type of fishing is the two-hook rig, but I change one thing on it. On the fish finder rig, I take off the snap for the sinker and replace that with a 6-inch piece of 10-pound leader. Make a loop for your sinker and tie the leader onto the ring of the fishfinder rig. This way if you get hung up, you won't lose your rig or your fish.

### HOW TO JIG 'EM

The two hook rig and the bullet rig are both jigged the same way. You must jig your rod parallel to the water and not the usual up and down motion. The reason for this is because by jiggling in the usual yo-yo motion, both baits will not be in the strike zone and your rigs will be a tangled mess. When you feel that extra weight at the end of your line set the hook. There is no need to drop back or give the fish some extra time because the fluke respond aggressively to the jiggling motion and usually swallows the bait in one shot. When I use these rigs I try not to let out any line while drifting because it cuts down on your

jigging. The key to fishing these rigs is that they must be constantly moving. I try to compensate by adding a little more weight or by snapping on a heavier bullet jig.

The shad darts are fished a little different. You just want to skip it slowly along the bottom and twitching it once in a while. These darts are deadly in shallow water and it seems to me that the smaller size dart works better than the bigger ones.

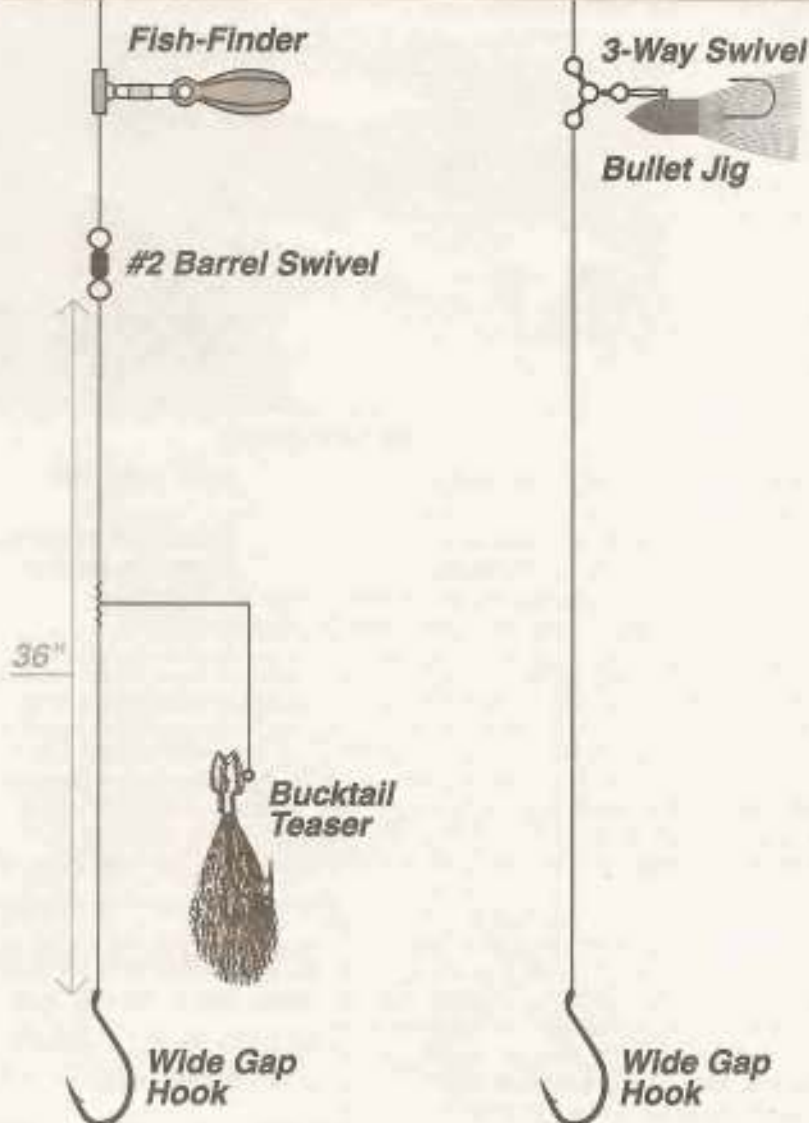
## CHOOSING BAITS

Spearing is the bait of choice for the two-hook rig. I put one on each hook and nothing else. On a typical day we go through about six or seven packages for three of us. It's always a good idea to have plenty of bait. On the bullet rig I put a spearing on the lower hook and a long strip of squid on the jig itself. With the shad darts, I put a thinner strip of squid on because I do not want to take away the action of the lure. One thing to remember about squid is that you don't want to mix your strips with that purple dye. It seems not to work as well.

## TACKLE TIPS

My rod of choice for jigging fluke is a heavy freshwater conventional rod usually around 6 to 7 feet in length. You definitely want a rod made of graphite so you get that sensitivity and it should have a fairly stiff tip. I match my rod with an ambassador 5500 and I am all set. The shad darts are better fished with a heavy freshwater spinning rod and reel. I usually fill the spinning reel with 8-pound Silverthread. On my conventional setup I fill my reel with 20-pound SpiderWire because of its thin diameter. This means I can usually get away with using less weight, plus the feel you get with SpiderWire you just won't get that with regular mono.

These rigs and methods have been tested over and over in all types of conditions and have been used everywhere from the flats off Provincetown, Massachusetts to the Ambrose Channel off Sandy Hook. If the fluke are there you will catch them.



### 40 years of family boating

If quality, safety and performance at an affordable price are what you've been looking for, Stop. Your search is over. Built by Yamaha these boats are everything you want plus more.

Visit our beautiful waterfront facility and see why we're the only dealer to consider when buying your new Cobia in New Jersey.

**Cobia**  
A Yamaha Boat Company

**YAMAHA**

**HOBBY LOBBY MARINE**  
At Shelter Cove Marina  
(732) 929-1711  
1423 Bay Ave., Toms River, NJ 08753

## Save The Fisherman!



Great for Christmas, birthday or Father's Day gifts, or for your own library.

Keep your valuable how-to, where-to Fisherman issues for future reference in these handsome, vinyl-covered, cobalt blue binders with gold embossed Fisherman logo.

Looseleaf style holds 25 issues per binder, packed two binders per box to hold one complete year of issues. They look great on a bookshelf in your den or office.

Set of two binders **\$16<sup>95</sup>**

For immediate delivery call:

**732-295-8600**

or fax **732-295-4162**

or send check or money order to:

**The Fisherman**

1622 Beaver Dam Road  
Point Pleasant, NJ 08742

Add \$3.50 for UPS shipping and handling. New Jersey residents add 6% sales tax. Delivery in 2 to 4 days.