

**THE BEST WEEKLY FISHING REPORTS FOR YOUR AREA**  
WHERE-TO FEATURES • TIDE TABLES • HOT SPOT OF THE WEEK

September 30, 2004 • No. 40  
New Jersey, Delaware Bay Edition

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# THE **W**fisherman

\$1.75

**Bergen  
County  
Stripers**

**YES,  
Cows Eat  
Peanuts!**



**NJ FALL  
Boat Show**

**OCTOBER 1 - 3**



# offshore tips

## THINKING OUTSIDE

# THE BOX

### A couple of late season secrets to help you score more offshore. By Freddy Gamboa

**F**or years, tuna and mahi have been a favorite quarry for both the inshore and offshore fisherman.

There are numerous time-tested techniques that fishermen have used to land these great game fish, although a few anglers have taken it a bit further in terms of strategy.

Think of everything that everyone always does as being what's inside of the box – those few extras that can stack the odds in your favor are what happens when you think outside of the box.

#### TROLLING/CHUM TECHNIQUE

This is a technique that I use when trolling around lobster pots or floating debris while looking for mahi mahi. It's a timing technique which takes good communication between captain and crew.

Upon arriving to the structure I instruct my crew to grab a handful of live killies – cut-up chunks of butterfish, squid, or bunker work also – and have them stand on the same side of the structure I will be trolling by. Depending on wind and current I have him throw the bait at least one boat length ahead and towards the structure. This technique allows for any dolphin in the area the opportunity to find the bait by scent or sight and come near the surface in the path of my boat. This then allows my trolling spread a chance of running over mahi who already tried my appetiz-

er and opportunity to eat a full meal of trolling lures.

I particularly like this technique because it allows me to quickly and effectively work over numerous lobster pots in a given area without having to run and gun to each pot, thereby missing any fish in between. I can also view what type of predators, in addition to quantity and quality, that are available by allowing me a clear window before my wake arrives. Numerous times I have seen multiple fish come to the surface to inspect the bait but only have one fish eat the bait. Using this technique allows me to make a choice to make another pass or break out the light spinning outfits and have a ball.

#### FINETUNING THE SPREAD

On my boat, Andrea's Toy, I have the luxury of having a 9-foot beam that allows me to troll seven rods easily without tangles. I use a W pattern trolling spread to run my lures at 5 to 8 knots depending on sea conditions. On my long rigger I run a ballyhoo dressed with a Billy Bait, Zuker, or Tuna Clone in the sixth or seventh wave, green machine with a bird in the center rigger 100 yards back, on the short rigger a squid spreader bar in the fourth or fifth wave, and a squid daisy chain or Magnum CD plug in the flat line position in the clear alley off my prop wash, usually in the second or third wave.





*(Far left) Big dolphin in the cockpit can help make a great day offshore even better. Thinking outside of the box can pay more than inside the box. (Bottom) The author starts his day trolling, running all lures on the port side and color, with the starboard lures and color, letting the fish decide their preference.*

While this spread is pretty much standard among fishermen with a few minor variations here and there, what I like to do - a bit outside of the box as it were - is to run all the lures on the port side in one color and the lures on the starboard side a completely different color. My logic is simple - depending on the water clarity, sun penetration, or surface wave disruption, certain colors work better than others. I let the fish decide which color they prefer on that particular day, and as I start to get consistent action on one particular color, I completely switch all the lures to the hot color of the day.

Typically, I like to start with green/yellow on one side and black/purple on the other. The reasoning behind these two colors is they are in complete contrasts of each other, giving the fish totally different silhouettes against the surface of the water.

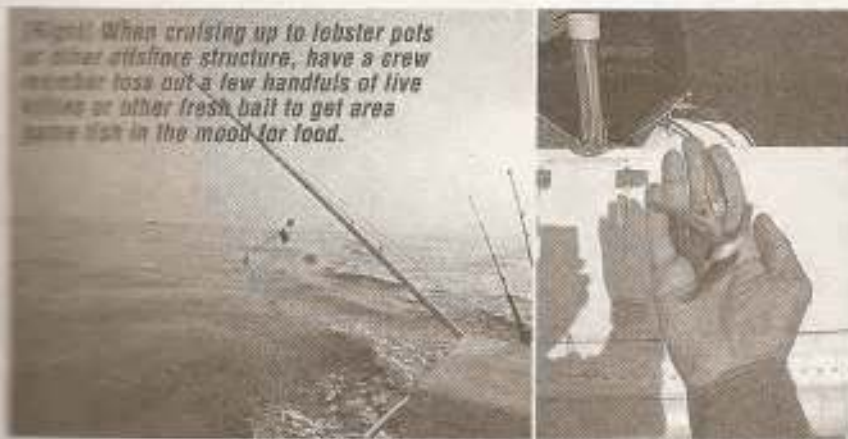
Hopefully by adding a few out of the box ideas to your time tested techniques, you will see your pelagic catches increase in the upcoming seasons.

Tight lines.

## FREE TUNA SEMINAR

On Sunday at 1:30 p.m., meet the author, Freddy Gamboa, at the New Jersey Fall Boat Show at the Raritan Center in Edison. *TUNA!* is the topic, and Freddy's reaching into his box of tricks to help you get in on the action before the offshore season ends.

For a full listing of this year's *Fisherman* seminars, check out the New Jersey Fall Boat Show story in this week's edition.



*Tight! When cruising up to lobster pots or other offshore structure, have a crew member toss out a few handfuls of live shrimp or other fresh bait to get area same fish in the mood for food.*

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