

# PRO TIP

## Insight On Lures & Trolling Patterns

Knowing what action a lure is designed to have will help you properly place that lure in your trolling pattern. Every lure has a specific style and action which is ultimately determined by shape and weight. As a lure is moved around the pattern, the action might change. So it is important to know how these facts are relative to action if you want to maximize a lure's productivity. Although every manufacture has a different vision of perfection in action, some general rules apply.

### • SPEED

Most high-speed lures are designed to have proper action at 7-10 knots. Some lures can even be trolled at speeds up to 20 knots. Hi-speed lures should stay stable in the water, they should not jump or skip from wave to wave. They should stay in the water at speed and have periods of "smoke" or constant "smoke" trails. By lowering or raising your outrigger lines, jumping or skipping can usually be corrected. A lure can also be adjusted in front, behind or in between wakes to achieve proper action. Be aware of leader size. Some lures will not run well when rigged on very heavy leaders, despite speed. When you are trying to use lures at very high speeds (12-20 knots) drop the lures farther behind the boat. The lures will run better in the clean water and the bow in the line will also help keep the lure down below the surface.

### • DRAG

Certain styles of lures create more drag than others. It is important to understand how shape causes drag. Properly match trolling lures to tackle line class. It is important to understand that although certain lures have too much drag to be run off rigger clips, they can be effective as teasers,

flat lines or shot-gun positions right off the rod tip.

### • SHAPE

Shape creates action. Some lures like bullets and jets, can be effectively run in any position. Other styles, particularly lures designed to have more movement, become restricted when they are too close to the rod tip or outrigger. Make sure your lures seem to run freely and gracefully.

**FLAT HEADS** - There are a few variations of flat head lures. Sharp edges produce "popping" and splashes that can elevate several feet above the water. Smooth or slightly rounded sides produce a pushing, bubbling action as they rise to the surface. Flat heads run very well in all positions, so they are easy to use. Some flat head lures can even be run at speeds up to 20 knots, producing tremendous turbulence and long bubble trails. Our Dino Killer (page 49) is a good example. It is designed to be run at regular speeds, (7-10 knots) but also performs exceptionally well at speeds up to 20 knots with very little drag. This is mainly due to its soft sides that create smooth entry.

**JETS & BULLETS** - A properly designed jet or bullet will create a long bubble trail through the water. A good bullet will rise and fall in the water column and create a bubble trail that is similar to that of a jet. This bubble trail helps gamefish locate and track a lure in your pattern. Jets and bullets are effectively trolled in all positions.

**CHUGGERS** - Chugger style lures have a cupped out head that creates a large splash as the lure crashes the surface. Some chugger style lures, like Black Bart Prowlers, are also jetted. This slightly reduces the "Pop" but increases the smoke trail. It also slightly

reduces the lure's drag. Chuggers will run well in long and short positions, but especially well as a long flat line. They also run very straight, which will increase your hook-up ratio.

**ANGLE HEAD** - Lures with angles on the nose are the most difficult to construct and use. Slight differences in the angle will change or ruin the desired action, so consistency in construction is extremely important. A correctly made angle nose lure will produce a straight running action lure with a very large "smoke trail." An angle nose combined with a bulge or taper will produce a wobble that is unique to angle nose lures. An angle combined with a "tube" will produce a wake, like a boat with a long bubble trail. These actions are great for adding variety to your spread and can make the difference between catching or not. A properly run angle nose lure will run straight and true, and makes an easy target for a hungry gamefish.

There are many opinions and techniques when using Hi-speed trolling lures. This information reflects our knowledge as lure manufacturer's, fishermen and salesmen. We not only create and use our products, but we receive a tremendous amount of feedback from our customers and friends all over the world. Hopefully this information helps to increase your understanding of trolling lures and in turn will help you to form your own opinions and techniques that will be effective for you. Tune out your lures and diversify your patterns. You will be more successful when high-speed trolling on your next trip.

-Laurance Green

