



Buck talks fishing

by BUCK PERRY, Education Editor

For Hot Fishing In Cold Weather, Try Warm Water Discharges

Editor's Note:

Judging from mail received at Fishing Facts, many readers have questioned the absence in recent months of articles written by Education Editor E. L. (Buck) Perry. In this regard it is with deep sorrow that we report the passing of Buck's wife and lifelong fishing partner, Mrs. Marjorie (Bud) Perry, after a year's illness.

Known affectionately as "Bud" to all her friends, Mrs. Perry is credited with being the one who "tended the store" while her husband, Buck, was away assembling the material contained in his books, fishing schools, lessons and study courses. It is she who made it all possible.

With the passing of Mrs. Perry, a truly great angler has passed from the scene. We can think of no more suitable epitaph than the one which expresses the thought, "Behind each great man there is an even greater woman." Bud Perry will be sorely missed by all of us who were privileged to know her.

It is hoped Buck Perry's regular series titled "Buck Talks Fishing" will resume once again in the near future. In the interim period, however, we plan to feature a series of brief fishing lessons which originated from Buck Perry during the mid to late 1960's. These valuable lessons were accessible to only a limited number of fishermen during the '60's period and consequently were missed by a vast majority of Fishing Facts readers. Through this interim series it is hoped the fountain of fishing knowledge will continue to flow, and that Buck will join us once again in the near future.

There is no need to point out how some ads shout in loud voices the magic of "killer" lures and equipment available. This is the way most products are sold. This seemingly is what the fisherman desires and what he is looking for. He wants a shortcut to success and frequently does not want to put forth maximum effort. So he buys everything that comes along that might provide the magic he seeks, and hopes it will be the very thing that will clean out all the lakes.

He will never find it.

When it comes to romantic tales, I believe this has done more to down the advancement in fishing knowledge than any other consideration. The methods used, and the ideas concerning fishing and the habits of fish, are nearly the same today as they were in grandpaw's time, maybe far back beyond that. Why is this so?

Let me give you an outstanding example of what I am talking about. In a past issue of a leading magazine in the outdoor field, there appeared a story. The editors took great pains in expressing what a great honor it was to present a particular story by an outstanding author.

In the story, the writer went to great lengths to explain how he had spent twenty or thirty years finding out how to catch bass, but that he had given up on large lakes and had concentrated his efforts on small farm ponds, etc. His great and outstanding discoveries were:

1. Fish come in two groups — "catchables and uncatchables." His conclusions being that fishermen should not keep the catchables for soon there would be none left to catch as only the uncatchables

would remain.

2. The next outstanding discovery was to be very careful how a hooked fish is handled or the fish would squirt out "fright juice" and scare all the other fish away.

You and I shouldn't be the least bit surprised if we soon read an article where someone is advocating that we take the temperature of the fish we catch. By doing this (it will be claimed) we would not only have a guide as to where the fish came from, but we would then know where to look for additional fish. [I can't imagine in which orifice the writer suggests sticking the thermometer. If he recommends the mouth, I'm sure he has had little to do with northern pike or musky.]

This is just a sample of the pure bunk the fisherman is being subjected to. It's no wonder he keeps looking for a magic lure. It might be just the thing to snag that ol' "uncatchable."

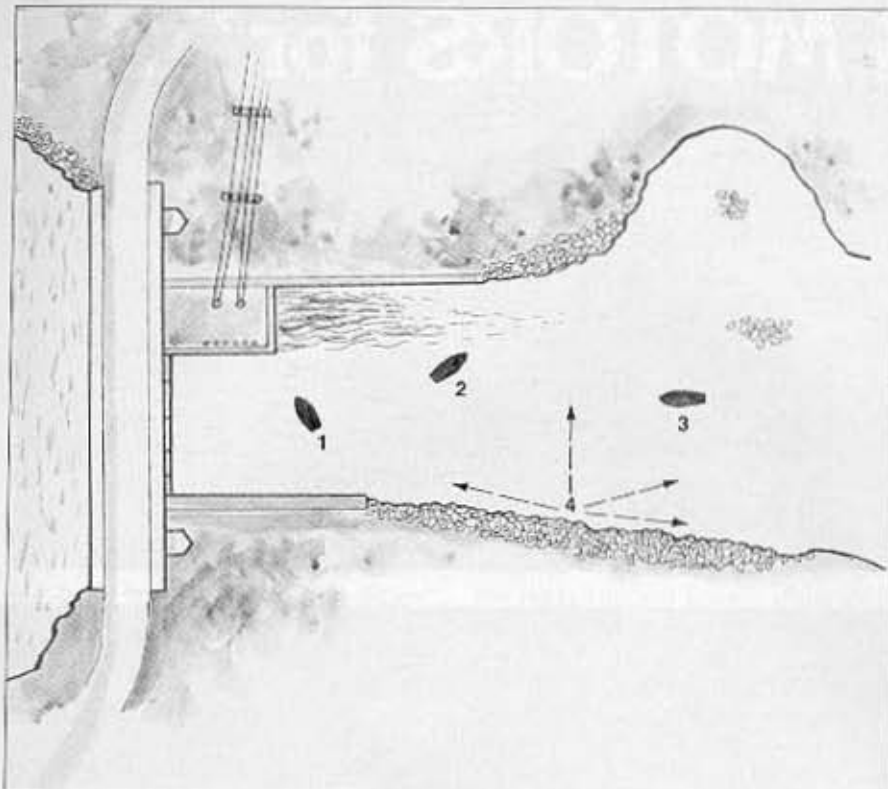
What it all amounts to is pure ignorance. However, no fisherman knows it all. There is much not known and much to learn. What we observe and prove as fact is not done in a hurry nor is it done under any one set of circumstances. Thirty-five years of dedicated research into the habits of fish, how weather and water affect him, where he is likely to be found in the waters and how or what are the best methods for catching him are true facts that have been gathered over these many years. We hope that many more will be found as we continue our work and study.

Now let's get on with the subject at hand — fishing!

Areas behind dams, or areas that receive quantities of discharge waters from power dams and other power facilities, have created some favorite fishing spots.

On the accompanying sketch, a top view is shown of the discharge or tailrace of a hydroelectric plant. This could also represent discharge from a power station that uses huge quantities of water for cooling purposes. This particular discharge is commonly known as a "hot hole."

These discharge areas are favorite spots for fishing during all periods of the year. They receive huge quantities of additional fish during the spawning runs, and the uniformity of water temperature found in this moving, churning water has a bearing on the yearly picture. If the discharge water is a "hot hole" it may provide



Warm water discharge areas below dams or tailrace waters below hydroelectric plants frequently create excellent fishing spots, especially during the colder months. Would you know where and how to fish them?

the most productive fishing to be found, especially during the colder months.

The Spoonplugger is always aware of a breakline, and its attraction for fish. He would keep in mind the breakline created by the "hot hole" water when it meets the colder water of the main stream, lake or reservoir.

This particular water is moving most of the time, and there are several methods or procedures used for working it. In the figure, boat No. 1 is in an anchored position. From this position, casting with various types of lures can be done.

Boat No. 2 is drifting. The fisherman runs the boat into the churning discharge waters, and lets it drift for quite a distance. Many types of artificial lures or live bait can be used for drift fishing. All depths can be worked, especially the bottom. Lines are worked on the upstream side of the boat, rather than the downstream side. (As is the case in all drift fishing, lines are worked on the side of the boat opposite the direction of the drift.) If a jump type lure (jig, spoon, etc.) is being used, the fisherman would pause after each jump to wait for the drift of the boat to take up the slack in the line before another rod movement was made.

Position No. 3 shows a troller. All

sections of the water can be worked by trolling, with any degree of speed needed.

Often the motor is used to hold the boat in a certain position so that bait, or jump type lures, can be used on the bottom in this swift water. The boat can be moved forward or backward, to the left or to the right, covering all areas.

The riprap section (rocky section along shore) is trolled with lures skipping along the rocks.

The fast moving water close to the discharge can be trolled by making a fast swinging turn into the boiling water, then moving away. The pass can be made upstream or downstream, but the troll downstream will require an increase in speed, in order to keep lures performing properly.

No. 4 shows a casting position from shore. Casting this particular type of water from the shoreline is one of the few places where a shoreline fisherman is close to being on equal footing with the man in the boat. He can cast all sections of the riprap, and can control his depths in almost all sections within reach. When "fan casting," the lure should be allowed to sink to the bottom before starting the retrieve. The most effective retrieves will normally be those made against the current.

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