

Fishing Tip – “Swim It Don’t Jig It” *by Frank Przybylski*

A common mistake many anglers, especially those new to artificial baits, is that they tend to over work the lure. When a lure has too much action, it does not appear to be natural prey and does not get the interest of most game fish... in fact it often spooks them away.

So my advice is simple... **“Be the bait”**. By mimicking the behavior of natural prey your odds of drawing a strike go up exponentially. The “Be the bait” mentality will force you to slow down and even stall the lure at times, but more often than not, it requires you to **swim the lure** instead of jiggling it erratically. I know it’s hard to believe but by imparting less action an angler’s overall success rate will improve dramatically.

Here are a few presentation techniques to put you on the right track:

- 1.) When working a soft plastic paddle tail baitfish imitation... simply make a long cast and crank the lure straight back at a moderate pace without jiggling or hopping it. The paddle tail on this type of bait causes a thumping sound in the water which gets the fishes attention. Just fish the paddle tail bait like you would a spoon and you’ll notice a marked improvement in the number of fish caught.
- 2.) When working a crustacean or tube pattern... work the bait with short upward rod movements (from 9 o’clock to 12 o’clock) no more than six inches at time. Once at the 12 o’clock position, reel slowly down to 9 o’clock only to take up the slack. This gives the crustacean pattern a very natural slow hop and drag action.
- 3.) When working hard baits such as a suspending twitch bait... Again make a long cast and let the bait sink 6” to 10” below the surface then slow reel the lure several feet before giving the bait a subtle twitch and then repeat the sequence. This very natural swimming technique will fool all of our inshore species.

In short, don’t over think your retrieve. After all you more than likely select lures for their realistic appearance; why not let that feature really work for you.