

The “How” , “When” and “Where” Considerations

The **“How”** very much depends on your personal preferences, but always be ready to adapt and adjust to the conditions and to the fish. Whatever method(s) you choose, consider all of the following:

1. Fly Fishing

Matching the hatch, choosing fly patterns that resemble the prey or strike impulse patterns when the fish have "lock jaw"

Color, shape, and size of the fly matter

Water column: Where are the fish feeding? Surface? Just below or down deep?

Line type: sinking, intermediate or floating. Get your offering to the fish.

Match the rod to the fish and to the line

2. Light Tackle

Spinning gear

Conventional gear

Match your tackle to the angling needs

Color, shape, size, type of lure does matter

Lure types, hard baits, soft plastics, spinners, impulse baits, swimmers, top waters, jigs, etc

Line type, size and strength, mono, braids etc.

Tried and true terminal tackle and knots

Matching the hatch (or impulse strike triggering lures)

Attractants that provide that “edge” when fish need a bit of coaxing

Water column, get your bait to the fish

3. Bait

Live bait choices that match the local menu and are specific to feeding patterns

Chunking and chumming techniques that produce feeding incentives, chum lines, small suspended chunks

Attractants such as adding flash, color and contrast to the bait, such as squid skirts and colored yarn, especially red

4. Trolling

Line type: wire, mono, lead-core, braid

Lure types: top water baits, swimmers, shallow and deep diving, jigs, etc.

Water column position: the strike zone, type of bottom structure

Live bait: type, storage, freshness, techniques

The “How” , “When” and “Where” Considerations

Match the “How” with the “When”

The **“when”** can be the most important consideration for success. Some fish will feed better at different times of the day and may depend on current weather conditions or other factors listed below. Sometimes choosing the “best” conditions comes down to your experience and other "local" knowledge that you can readily get from other anglers or your resident tackle shops.

1. Time of day

Sunrise, the magic time, is usually an all around good time to find fish eating and the low light conditions help stimulate impulse strikes
Daytime feeding patterns are generally slower and very dependant on other factors, especially the presence of forage food
Evening and the approaching dark can be the best time of day for finding actively feeding fish
Nighttime brings darkness and a sense of well being to the larger fish, best time for big fish

2. Weather

Sun and especially bright sun can keep fish spooky and off the bite unless there is bait working, so go deep, fish structure
Clouds and dim sunlight usually will stimulate daytime feeding especially where bait and structure are present
Wind speed and direction can be an ally or enemy. Know the water you’re fishing, follow slick lines, check the lee shore
High or low pressure systems can create or eliminate feeding patterns and bait movement in an area or water column

3. Water clarity conditions need to be addressed; whether the water is clear or stained, adjust as necessary

4. Tides can be critical to feeding times and bait movement in or out of specific areas and offshore

5. Moon phase: some are better than others and change with the season, bait movements can be affected, big tides and minus tides

6. Weather fronts: big impacts can be expected, warm fronts turn on the bite, while cold fronts turn it off

7. Water temperature and change with water depth, look for the thermocline

8. Seasons of the year dictate migration patterns of both predators and bait and also can determine area residency patterns of both

The “How” , “When” and “Where” Considerations

Match the “When” with the “Where”

With the how and when in place, the where is *where* the action is. Always remember that most, if not all, game fish are *ambush predators* and will be found where they can best accomplish the element of surprise and expend the least amount of energy. Whether you are fishing from a boat, walking a bank, shoreline, or tidal flat, be aware of your surroundings and pay careful attention to potential “structure” and “ambush zones.”

Current and current seams are areas of different water flow and present excellent ambush opportunities

Sea foam on a rocky shore or beach front and slick lines provide structure for baitfish; look for feeding fish in or around those types of structure

Water depth may determine where baitfish reside and as such become an ambush zone

Tide flow and direction generally determine bait movement in a river, channel, tidal flat, or in the open ocean. Gamefish will seek ambush zones in these areas

Rocks and weed beds provide the ultimate structure for baitfish

Floating debris provides structure and hiding places for baitfish and become floating ambush zones

Troughs and humps are feeding areas, so where there is food, there are eaters

Points and depressions usually are associated with changes in water flow and depth thereby establishing ambush sites and gathering areas for bait

Cut banks offer protection from current and provide overhead structure so expect these areas to hold bait

Flats (mussel beds & sand bars) provide many habitats areas for feeding and spawning, gamefish party places!

Creek mouths and estuaries are prime time places, rich in nutrients, abundant areas of structure, natural ambush environments

Bait balls provide security in numbers for bait and easy feeding zones for gamefish

Working birds are the torchlight to the promised land; find the birds working, and you have found the feeding fish



Fishing Joppa On The Rising Tide



Fishing Joppa On The Falling Tide