

water grass beds.

The only technique needed in fishing a spoon in shallow water is to vary the retrieve speed slightly. In deep water, the retrieve can be stopped and the spoon allowed to drop and flutter before beginning the retrieve again.

A spoon with the 'skinny' end attached to the leader will dive deeper into the water. A spoon with the 'fat' end attached to the leader will swim more shallow.

While a ball bearing swivel is a necessity for trolling spoons, a barrel swivel between the standing line and the leader will overcome line twist when using a casting spoon.

Jigging spoons

These spoons range in size from 3/8 to 16 ounces. The jigging spoon is heavy bodied and designed to be worked vertically rather than retrieved like a casting spoon. The term jigging comes from the motion needed to manipulate the lure.

The spoon is lowered to the desired depth, usually just slightly off the bottom. The rod is raised sharply, then brought back to the normal position. This action makes the lure rise and fall sharply, imitating the eating or sporadic motion of bait fish.

JIGS

The modern jig is a lead head lure with a hook and line eyelet molded into it. These lures are dressed using a variety of materials and baits. In Charlotte County, jigs from 1/32 ounce to 3/4 ounce are used, depending on the targeted species.

Jig is derived from the French word "giguer," which means to dance. One way of working a jig is to dance the lure along the bottom by using a slow retrieve with a periodic upward movement of the rod so the lure rises sharply, then falls. Whether fished with spinning, spincast, or baitcasting equipment, to work effectively the lure and tackle must match.

The most important elements of a jig are weight, color and motion. Weight is controlled by the size of the lead head, but the shape of the head and the materials used with the jig can impart both physical and visual motion.



That is, while the jig may drop in a straight line, the dressing on the lure can imitate anything from a smooth swimming motion to darting or erratic moves that signal escape or fright.

Jig heads

The creativity in designing jig heads has been prolific. The following is a representative list of head shapes and types used locally.

Bullet
Lima Bean
Oval
Slider/Glider
Laughing
Bottom weighted
Round
Darter
Floating
Swimming
Wobbler
Shad
Horsehead
Banana
Grave digger

In addition to shapes, jigs also come with spinner blades, weedless, designed with cork screw wire to hold baits or plastics, and painted in every color imaginable including fluorescents.

Jigs also come with feathers, hair, mylar and nylon skirts, helicopter blades attached behind the head, and soft plastic bodies in endless sizes and shapes. Jigs are also frequently used to fish live, frozen or cut bait.

While choices seem endless, there are a limited number of lures consistently effective in Charlotte County and Harbor waters. Two of the most popular jigs are the bucktail and the marabou.

The bucktail is a hair jig so named because the original lures were made from the tail hair of a deer. Synthetic hairs are now used. The two most popular colors are yellow and white.

The marabou jig is a feather lure originally made from the *covert* feathers of the African marabou stork.