

Old Reliable...The Jigworm

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One of the oldest techniques that catch numbers of fish is fading into memory. But the anglers that remember the jigworm know that it catches fish. The jigworm is probably the lure of choice when anglers start out fishing and it can be used with a wide variety of plastic and live-baits.

With live-bait, you can use any bait of choice and numbers of people will use the roundhead jig for this bait setup. The live-baits of choice will be minnow, leeches and crawlers and these combinations are deadly on a variety of different fish. If you use live-bait you may want to look into this, as it is very effective.

What we will concentrate on is the plastic jigworm combination. The jigworm is finesse approach to fishing and can be fished in different areas with different retrieves. We will look at some rigging techniques, types of retrieves and look at area's that we would fish the jigworm in. if you haven't fished the jigworm much lately or maybe not all, this will be another technique that you will want to have rigged at all times.



The two main ways of rigging the jigworm will be weedless and exposed hook. A wide array of plastic baits can be used for the jigworm, worms, lizards, grubs, creature baits or any others that are out there. Below are pictures of the weedless and exposed hook jigworm and the key to these riggings always comes to keeping the plastics as straight as possible. One other key is to use a jig with the minimal weight that you can get away with. 1/16 or 1/8 ounce are

usually the norm with this approach, but if you are fishing deep water you may have to go to the 1/4 ounce.

The way that a majority of people fish the jigworm would be to cast it out and let it sink to the bottom. Always pay attention to your line as a number of times the fish will hit the bait before it hits the bottom and you will see your line jump a little. Once the bait is on the bottom, you can jiggle the rod tip a little to get the bait to dance a little to try and entice a curious fish to hit.



Bringing it back to the boat try using short hops and pauses between each hop. If the fish are aggressive, they will hit it right away, but if not aggressive, you may have to let it sit for a period of time and also shake the rod tip a little as well. Always retrieve all the way back to the boat as a

fish that is not in the feeding mood, may follow the bait all the way back and strike at the last minute.

Depending on if you are fishing in weeds or fairly barren bottom, this will determine if you fish with the jigworm weedless or exposed hook. Either of these areas is going to hold fish and fishing the weed edges is the top producer of the jigworm. I find that fishing a light weighted weedless jigworm in the thickest weeds produces numbers of fish and good sizes as well. These fish are not targeted by numbers of anglers and may be the ticket for you on those tough days.

Jigworms can be fished in all cover and structure and what this bait mimics is a baitfish feeding along the bottom. Weeds are the cover of choice but other cover areas are productive as well. Laydowns and stumps are areas that you can fish the jigworm very well through just make sure to use the weedless version. Rocks and gravel are areas to try as well and you may be able to use the exposed version in these areas.



Many people started fishing with the jigworm and as they acquired other skills along the way, they seem to forget about it. The jigworm is a technique that is going to produce fish when times get tough. You are also able to switch the plastic bait to something else fairly quickly and you are fishing once again. If you haven't tried the jigworm or haven't used it lately, tie one on and you may never take it off and forget about it again.