

## **Jerkbaits**

One of the primary reasons that these baits are used by so many anglers is because Jerkbait is considered to be one of the more versatile types of baits on today's market and can literally be fished just about anywhere at any time. There are many different techniques and presentations you can use when fishing with a Jerkbait.

There are two basic types or styles of Jerkbait that are sold on the market today: "Hard-Jerkbaits" and "Soft-Jerkbaits." The "Soft-Jerkbait" type would be a Super Fluke. The "Hard-Jerkbaits" type would cover the hard plastic types such as Rapala's Husky Jerk, Rapala X-Raps or other similar minnow baits.

If you are fishing shallow water 1- to 6-feet "Soft-Jerkbait" would be best to use in a situation like this simply because it is relatively snag proof and it allows you to keep from getting hung up on the bottom. In an area such as this, Texas rig the bait using a wide gap hook without any added weight or a 1/8 ounce weighted hook at the most. Cast the bait and retrieve making short twitches periodically and letting the bait lay still. Keep repeating this technique all the way back to the boat.

If you are fishing open water at the same depth or deeper you can use either a Soft or a Hard Jerkbait. Keep in mind that a "Hard-Jerkbait" has exposed hooks already fastened to the bait (which means it is easy for the bait to get caught-up on the bottom). With either bait, cast it and make a couple of small sharp twitches, then let it lay still for a moment. After the bait lays still, the first twitch is usually when a bass will strike so be ready. If not let it lay there for a moment, then make a couple of small sharp twitches lifting the bait back up to the surface and let it drop again.

If fishing deeper water (6- to 10-foot depths) the same techniques already mentioned will work just as well in this deeper water, but fish a little deeper with these baits. In the case of the "Hard-Jerkbait", select one that suspends and/or has a small diving-bill on the front of it to get it down under the water's surface. Most of these "Hard-Jerkbaits" will be made for the depth of water you choose to fish (the bigger the front bill, the deeper it will go). Cast it out, start your retrieve to get it down to the desired depth, then start jerking or twitching it a few times and let it lay motionless for a moment. Keep repeating this technique all the way back to the boat, however when the bass are more active, you can just twitch and jerk the bait all the way back without any pause. One factor to always remember when bass fishing is: "Always let the bass dictate how they want the presentation!" So don't be afraid to experiment with your retrieve.

If you want to use a "Soft-Jerkbait" (Super Fluke) in this same area do the following. To get the "Soft-Jerkbait" down in deeper depths you can rig it with a weighted 1/8 or 3/16 ounce EWG (Extra Wide Gap) hook either a 5/0 or 4/0. Use the same retrieve techniques just described above for these deeper depths.