

MONTI: FLUKE FISHING (from page 7)

- Fluke return to the same areas, Bays, etc. year after year.
- Fluke are a flat fish with two eyes on the same side of the fish. They are bottom fish that do not look aggressive, but they will chase bait aggressively and eat the same bait that bluefish and striped bass eat. The difference is that they feed off the bottom.

- They can be caught from a boat (usually while drifting) or from shore with little knowledge, so they are an ideal catch for beginners and children

- Fluke are chameleons, they change color to blend with the bottom.



- Largest fluke on record is 26.6 lbs. and 36" long.

Fluke fishing tips

- Drifting with wind and tide going in the same direction is the key to catching fluke

- Fluke set up looking into the current to feed which means you have to drag the bait over the fluke from boat or shore

- Fish low/high or high/low breaks on the bottom. Fluke like most other fish like structure. The largest fish are often on channel banks, drop offs, etc. So you want to fish these breaks.

- Match the hatch tipping with squid, blue fish, bass, silversides, mummies, minnows

- Jigs and trailer teasers 36" long placed a foot above the jig work well

- Once you find the fish, repeat the same pattern... note location and depth you are catching them at and repeat this pattern as the fish are likely in the same spot

- Power drift (putting the boat in and out of gear to move slowly) at slack tide

- Troll perpendicular when wind and tide not ideal, you will at least get your bait in front of some of the fish, some of the time

- My personal favorite is a big bait... Capt. Monti's fluke cocktail... a rubber squid rig tipped with squid, fluke belly and horizontal minnow

NE FISHING: SQUID (from page 13)

If you're trying to catch a lot of squid in short order, go with a heavier rod and line and use multiple jigs on the same leader. Tie a series of 2"-long dropper loops, spaced 6 to 12 inches apart, in a 3' to 5' mono leader. Attach one end of the leader to the main line via a barrel swivel. Lastly, tie a small bank sinker to the end of the leader and secure 3 or 4 jigs to the dropper loops.

Jigging Action

Jigging action can be critical to success, and often you'll have to experiment with numerous techniques until you find the right one. Daytime fishing usually requires a "yo-yo" jigging action, where the jig is lifted a foot or two off the bottom and allowed to free-fall. At night, the jig can be cast out away from shore and free-spooled until nearly out of sight, then lifted smoothly toward the surface. Sometimes you can score by simply jigging the lure directly below the spot where you're standing. And sometimes simply allowing the jig to dangle at the end of the line works better than a more active presentation. Again, experimentation is key. If you have two people jigging at the same time, start by having each person use a different action or fish a different depth until you find the combination that works.

There is no need to set the hook when using a squid jig, as the squid's numerous sticky arms will become entangled on the spikes. Just lift the rod gently and reel steadily to keep the squid attached as you bring it to the surface. Once you lift the squid from the water, hold it above the surface for a few seconds so you don't get "inked." To remove the squid, jiggle it over an open cooler or bucket until it falls off the jig.

If you plan to eat your squid, cover them with ice to better preserve them, then get them home and clean them. If you intend to use them as bait, place 4 to 5 squid in individual sealable bags and pop them in the freezer for use throughout the season.

About the author....

Tom Richardson, a RISAA member and Massachusetts native, is passionate for the outdoors, including camping, hiking, boating and fishing. An award-winning writer, he was editor for *Salt Water Sportsman* for 15 years prior to becoming editor of the regional boating magazine *Offshore* in 2004. In 2009, he started the boating-lifestyle BoatingLocal.com, Three years later, BoatingLocal became **New England Boating**, a multimedia brand comprising the website, a glossy magazine, and a TV show, all edited and co-hosted by Richardson. In 2016, he launched **New England Fishing magazine**, website and TV show, which he also wrote and hosted.

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