

Fishing Equipment Definitions and Usage: Lures

There are many types of fishing lures/baits used for catching fish. Here is a cheat sheet for some of the more popular lures/baits and what they are often used for. This is by no means an all-inclusive list and is a general guideline. There are always exceptions.

Lure. A term used to describe an artificial product with hooks to mimic food that a fish would feed on.

Action. The movement that the lure makes in the water. Can include wide wobble, erratic, tight, floating, sinking, suspending, chugging, splashing, etc.

Crankbait. A type of lure that is continuously reeled in that mimics either minnows, shad or crawfish. They generally have plastic lips that cause the lure to dive to different depths, depending on the lip size. They come in all colors, sizes and have different style bodies, such as flat and round. There are different shaped lips and different length lips. Action is derived by cranking with the reel handle.

Jerk baits. Bait where the action is derived by “jerking” your rod in a series of jerks and pauses. Usually shaped long and cylindrical, like a minnow. Jerk baits have different shaped lips that cause the lure to go to different depths. These jerk baits can be floaters (float up on the pause), suspending (stay at the depth on the pause), or sinkers (sink when paused).

Plastics. Describes a type of bait made from a plastic-type material. These can mimic crawfish, minnows, shad and worms. There are many types, which include creature, worms, grubs, lizards, shad, minnows, and a host of others

Top Water. Describes a lure that sits on the surface of the water when it is moved or paused. There are different styles such as poppers, chuggers, prop baits, wake baits and walking baits.

Spinnerbait. Lure made of twisted wire, hook, skirt and blades that flash and vibrate when coming through the water. Bait is moved by cranking the reel. Skirt can be plastic, rubber, silicon and/or a combination of any. Runs under the surface or just below the surface.

Buzzbait. Lure made of bent wire with a built-in prop blade that has a hook and either a rubber, plastic, hair or silicone skirt or combination. Is reeled on the surface and produces a gurgling sound.

Lipless Bait. Usually refers to a diamond-shaped bait that has no lip, skirt or props that is retrieved under the surface by cranking the reel. It is often used with a rip-and-pull action in addition to reeling it. It has a very tight wiggle and causes vibration when moved.

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