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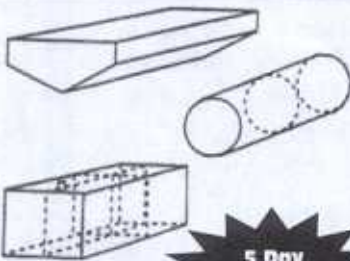
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WORKING THE SPOOKS

One thing about these lures, whether it is the Spookster, Sea Dog, StriperSniper, or any other lure for that matter such as the pencil popper or a metal lip plug, you need to be in contact with your lure at all times. Meaning, don't let it get caught up in the current, a wave or rip without having control of its action to work it through the zone. To maximize the effectiveness of the plug, ensure you have your line taught at all times and feel the plug working. This will take practice, so try different methods to find what action and style will work for you while still serving the interest to the stripers.

GET SPOOKED

Mike Dauphin, Tattoo's Lures: www.tattoostackle.com
Don Guimmelli, Afterhours

constant cutting of line when changing lures. Dealers for his plugs can be found on his website at www.tattoostackle.com.

AFTERHOURS' FATBOY SLIDER AND SPOOKSTER

Afterhours Custom Plugs by Don Guimmelli are another extremely effective line of wooden lures. Afterhours offers two types of spook style lures, the Spookster and the Fatboy Slider. The Spookster is 6 inches long and weighs 2-3/4 ounces, while the Fatboy Slider is 6-3/4 inches long and also weighs in at 2-3/4 ounces.

Guimmelli confessed that he is a top water junkie. He's been fishing in the saltwater for more than 35 years, grew up fishing all sorts of lures and baits, including the Zara Spook and Poe's Lures.

He's been making his own lures since childhood, and despite the action of the lures mentioned above, he did not find the exact lure he wanted. As an experienced woodworker, he set out to make the Spookster and Fatboy Slider. He went through many variations until he found a model that worked well for him.

In regard to the Spookster, his lure looks similar to the other two, but its action is certainly different. Guimmelli has no preferred retrieve; in fact, he encourages anglers to develop their own retrieves. But as a spook-spawned lure, walking the dog is the key to its success. One thing I noticed about this lure is that it floats vertically in the water when not moving. Reason is, Guimmelli purposefully added more weight to the backside. He feels this enhances the zigzag action on the retrieve and the lure's cast-ability. When a fish boils on this plug, slow the retrieve to a crawl. Tighten up the line so you can twitch the Spookster slightly.

The Spookster's design gives it other fish-attracting action I have yet to find with the others. Retrieved with short, horizontal jerks, the lure zigzagged but also had a "porpoising" action that the fish were very responsive to. Fishing the Eastern Connecticut coastline on a mid-August morning, I had good action with the Spookster, landing decent school fish up to 15 pounds, along with bluefish in the 8- to 10-pound range. Being mid-August, it was slow compared to early June and the fall run.

During a trip on Cuttyhunk at the end of this past July, Guimmelli found the swift current at certain points on the

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