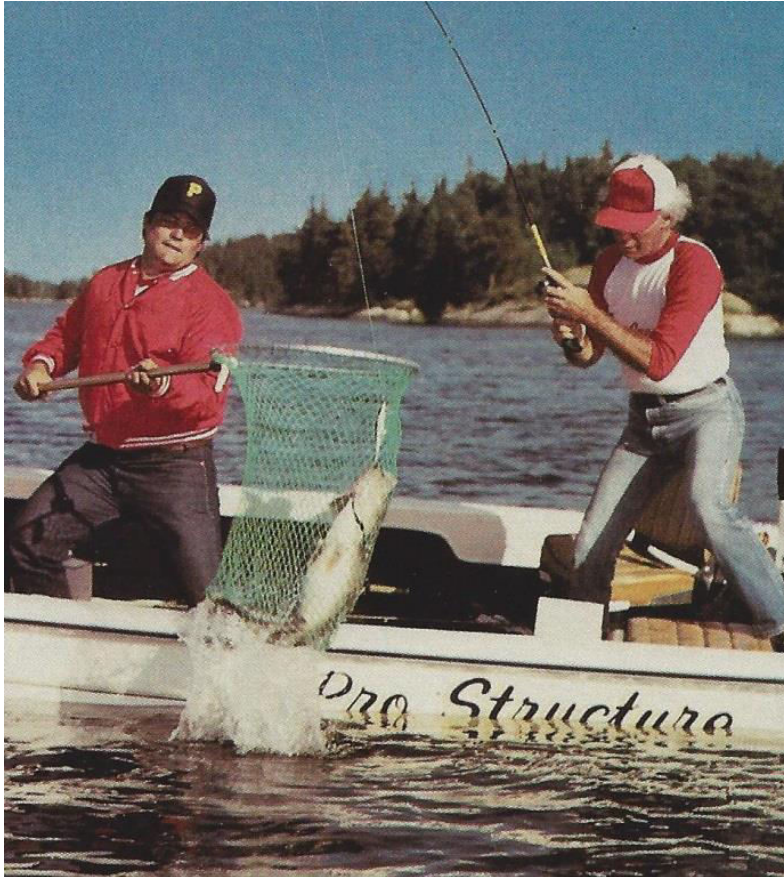


“DIXON ON CASTING”



We Discussed Don Dixons’ “Pro Structure” video on casting

Don Dicksons’ video “The Mechanics of Fishing—Casting” was shown and proved very informative. The mechanics of casting are simple if the basics of fishing are followed and the knowledge about fish behavior is used. He prefers **baitcasting reels** because they usually have a **smoother drag** and can handle **heavier weight lures** to cover water faster. Only **4 categories of lures exist** and were described as: **weedless, topwater, crankbaits, and jump lures**.

Crankbaits are the most important type of lure since they are designed to go to different depths and can be worked at different speeds (depth and speed control). **Another name for crankbaits is free-swimming bottom bumping lures** because **one of their advantages** is the ability to walk or **bounce off the bottom triggering strikes**. Many lures are available in this category including Rattletraps, Bombers, and Rapallas. **Dixon preferred using Spoonplugs for his casting crankbaits** because they are a **sinking lure** and can be **worked at different depths and speeds**. If the **boat is anchored in less than 12 feet**, a Spoonplug can be cast into deep water,

allowed to sink to the bottom, and **walked on the bottom all the way back to the boat**. This way, one **need not “kneel and reel”** to get their crankbait deep. **Jump baits** are the **second most important group of baits**. They include **spoons, jigs, plastic worms, tubes, blade baits, etc.** They are **cast out, allowed to sink to the bottom** on a tight line, and **hopped back** to the boat in a series of jumps. Lower your rod tip as the lure gets closer to the boat. They are a **slower presentation** than a crankbait and **should not be dragged, but jumped** off the bottom and allowed to **sink back on a tight line**. He uses jump baits **mostly in deep water casting or vertical jigging**. The **speed** of the lure is controlled by the **length of the jump and the weight of the lure**. If any tap from a fish is felt, the **hook should be set immediately**. Fish can spit out a lure in a split second, and many fish are lost due to slow reactions. **Dixon recommends using crank baits 90% of the time, jump baits 8% of the time, and topwater and weedless baits 2% of the time**. **Varying** (checking) **different depths and speeds** with your lures is **critical** in finding the proper combination that **gets the fish to reflex strike your lure** at that particular time and under those weather conditions. Thanks to Don Stephens for presenting this informative program!

Chase Klinesteker