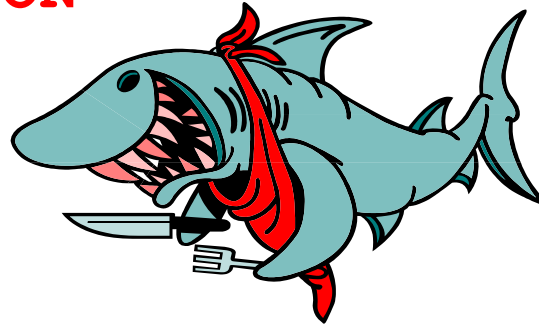


THE STINK STATION



Objective: Students will learn that fish use their sense of smell to detect danger as well as food. They will also recognize several fishing techniques that use scent to attract fish. Finally, they will demonstrate their ability to concoct a homemade stink bait.

Methods

Classifying
Discussion
Hands-on bait preparation

Materials

1. variety of commercial fish attractants, scents & stink baits
2. can of corn
3. can of sardines
4. bottle of perfume
5. bottle of bug spray
6. bottle of suntan lotion
7. a rubber chicken, toy seal, sea lion, or otter.
8. Items to concoct stinkbait (see specific recipe)
9. Stove or alternative cooking top for some bait recipes

Setting: Outdoor classroom with access to water and cooking.

Getting Ready

1. Obtain materials as per list.
2. Set materials 1-7 (see materials list) on a table in front of the class.
3. Break the students into several groups.

Builds On

Catch a Whiff of This!
At What Range?

INSTRUCTIONAL OUTLINE

Activity Instructions

1. Begin the activity by having the students look at the items on the table (see getting ready). Give them a minute or two. Then, instruct them to sit down in their groups.
2. Tell them that they have 10 minutes to decide how to sort these items into two categories looking at them from the standpoint of a fish. Give them one hint: All these things smell and fish can smell them if they are in the water. Instructor can filter among groups and help them discuss. During their discussion they should conclude that one group of items would probably smell good to fish while the other would smell bad. Have them make a list the items they placed into each of the two categories.
3. Lead a discussion as per the narrative below, first getting the students to share their ideas and explain why they sorted the items as they did. Arrange the items on the table into these 2 groups.
4. Then discuss the individual items (or groups of items) as per the following narrative.
5. Conclude with the fun hands-on part of the activity - making stink baits.

Instructor Notes

- 1) **What names did you come up with for the two categories of items?** Good smells/bad smells. Attractive smells/foul smells. Things fish like/things fish don't like. Any descriptors like these are good.
- 2) **Fish have a very keen sense of smell.** They use their sense of smell to help them locate food as well as things they prefer to distance themselves from. So, smells from some of the items would likely attract fish while others would probably repel them.

3) Let's look at what items you put into each of the groups and why?

a) **The bad smell group should include suntan lotion, perfume, oil/gas, seal, sea lion, and otter.**

i) **Why did you place these items into the "bad smells" category?**

- **They aren't things that would be appetizing to fish.**
- **Plus, these things would actually spell signs of danger to fish.** For instance fish are going to associate the natural smells of wildlife that eat them, such as otters and seals, with danger and put them on predator alert. Suntan lotions, oil, and perfumes are unnatural scents associated with human predators.

ii) **So, what should you do if you are around, or using, these things when fishing?**

- **Keep unnatural scents from lotions, bug sprays, etc. off your bait and lures!** That means watch what you touch. If you need to apply suntan lotion or bug spray make sure that you wash it off your hands before handling a lure or bait. I've never met a trout that likes bug spray on its salmon egg or artificial fly.
- **When wading make sure your shoes and clothing are free of foreign substances that might emit odors.**
- **If natural predators are working your fishing area you can change locations.**
- **If you do hook a fish where predators are lurking, reel it in as quickly as possible.** Otherwise these fine diners are likely to snatch your catch off your hook and have it for dinner.

4) **The good smell group should include stink bait, fish attractant, dead chicken, corn, and fish scents.** Believe it or not all these are things can be used to attract fish. Let's explore why and how they are used.

Have the students share their conclusions as to what items they put into each of the groups and why. Have them reevaluate if needed as you lead them through a discussion on the items as per the adjacent narrative.

Show a chum bag or block if you have them. (See instructions for making a chum block in Appendix B).

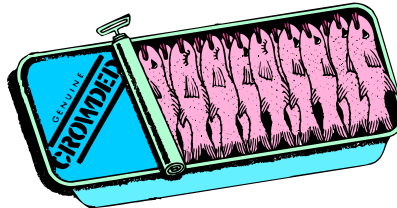
5) Methods of adding scent to the water to attract fish.

a) Chumming

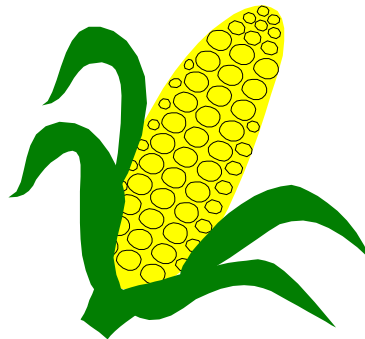
i) **Does anyone know what "chumming" is?** It's a popular technique that entails the scattering of small bits of food into the water. It is used most often in saltwater fishing but there are some freshwater applications. Basically the smells from the food attract fish to the area where you are fishing. The key is to remember to choose chum that at least resembles the scents of foods that the fish you are fishing for are used to eating. Better yet is to use the actual food that the fish seek.

ii) Chumming with fish.

Many anglers catch or purchase baitfish typical for the area being fished and grind them on board with a hand grinder for chum. However, already ground chum can also be purchased in large containers. The fish chum is usually released behind a slow moving boat. This creates what is called a "chum line" or "slick." Schools of fish that intercept the line will follow it and head toward the boat and the eager anglers that await them



iii) **Chumming with canned corn.** Canned corn is a commonly use chum when fishing for carp since they are attracted to berries and fruits that fall into the water from bushes and trees. The corn is broadcast into an area. It sinks to the bottom and is left there for an hour or two for the smells to permeate the area, after which the fisherman returns to fish over it.



Hold up the can of sardines & bring out a hand grinder. Show how it can be used to grind up fish like sardines, menhanden or anchovies. Then show a commercial container from chum.

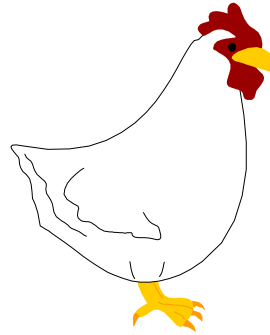
Hold up the can of corn

b) Chum Blocks & Bags

- i) **Chum blocks & bags can also be use to add scent to the water. Does anybody know what a chum block or bag is?**

(1) Chum blocks are simply frozen blocks of fish or animal byproducts that are tossed into a fishing area. The blocks melt in the warm water and the oils from the byproducts float out from a central point. The angler fishes within close proximity to the block. Chum blocks made from meat

byproducts can be very effective for some freshwater fish. For instance a chum block made from “ripened” chicken entrails or canned dog food is said to be good for catfish.



(2) Chum bags are mesh bags typically filled with whole baitfish and hung over the side of a moving or anchored boat. Anchovies and herring and often used because of their oils. The oil from the fish creates a slick on top of the water that attracts gamefish. The angler fishes in the area of the slick.

c) The use of commercial attractants

- i) **Spray attractants are designed for spraying onto lures and soft baits.** The theory behind them is that they make the artificial lure more realistic to the fish by adding smell and taste. Not only will the scent assist the fish in locating the lure but it will also encourage a longer and stronger bite. Learning how, when, and why to use them however is fairly technical and we won't cover that here. Just be aware that they do exist and perhaps consider experimenting with some.

Show examples of chum bags and/or blocks if possible.

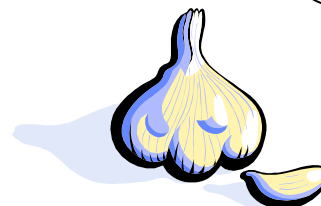
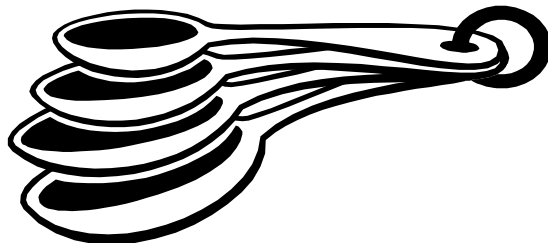
Hold up the bottle of commercial attractant, open, and pass around.

d) Stink Baits

- i) **The last item on the table is stink bait.** Using stink baits is probably the most popular method of adding smells to the water, particularly in freshwater fishing.
- ii) **Rather than broadcast spreading small bits of food into the water like chumming does, stink baits are added to your hook.** They are often called doughballs. Once on the hook you simply cast them into a spot that you think holds fish and wait for the smell to reach them. The trick here is to select, or make, stink bait that will attract the type of fish you are fishing for.
 - Catfish for instance will gobble down a stinky cheese or garlic doughball, but a bass will turn it's nose up to it. Both however would probably relish a crayfish-scented doughball.

6) Wrap-Up. Making Stink Bait

- a) **As you can see, adding “smell” to your repertoire of fishing skills is nothing to put your nose up to.** And neither is making some of your own stinky concoctions to use.
- b) **So, that's what we're going to do next...make scents.** Each of you is going to get the opportunity to concoct a tried and true stink bait for either catfish or carp fishing.
- c) **Making your own stink bait will save you money over purchasing commercially prepared catfish bait, plus it's fun!** It doesn't matter whether you fish with a pole or you are a serious trot line fisherman, homemade baits are an easy and economical way of keeping you in great fish luring bait. Many of the recipes you find will be made from ingredients you already have in your kitchen. And most the recipes are easy to make with little time or effort. So let's get started.



Hold up the bag/s of stink bait.

Demonstrate how to put stink bait on a hook.

Have students prepare stink bait using one of the recipes provided , use one of your own favorite recipes, or have them supply a recipe

Break the students into groups. Have each group make one of the stink bait recipes.

Stink Bait Recipes

WARNING!
THESE BAITS STINK!
YOU MIGHT WANT TO MAKE THEM OUTSIDE

Big Red

GM Fiber One bran cereal
Bread
Big Red soda pop (or substitute another strawberry flavored soda)
Chicken livers
Squeezeable cheeze spread

Blend the bran cereal, the bread, the cheese spread and the chicken livers. Add Big Red until the right consistency is achieved.

Cheese Bait 1

½ Lb. Limburger Cheese
Oatmeal (finely ground oatmeal is best)

Melt cheese over medium heat. When thoroughly melted remove from heat and mix in oatmeal until the mixture is stiff enough to stay on a hook. Try adding other ingredients in addition to the oatmeal such as liver meal, hog or dairy feed, or finely ground chicken.

Cheese Bait 2

1 Pint Milk
½ Lb. Limburger Cheese
2 Tbsp. Molasses
Oatmeal

Bring milk to boil over medium heat. Add Limburger cheese and mix well. Then add molasses and oatmeal stirring until thick. Remove from heat and add more oatmeal until the mixture is thick and tough enough to stay on a hook.

Doughbait

1 Pt. Milk Whole
1/2 Tbsp. Salt
Cornmeal

Bring milk and salt to boil over med. heat. Add cornmeal slowly stirring with wooden or plastic spoon. Add enough cornmeal until thick then remove from heat. Add more cornmeal until the bait is thick enough to stay on hook. Allow bait to age one week or more in a warm place, until it smells sour

Chicken Liver & Jello Delight

Chicken livers
Strawberry jello

Put liver in a jar or container. Pour a dry packet/s of jello over them and fold until thoroughly covered. The gelatin strengthens the tissue in the liver. Wait 24 hours and your ready to go fishing.

Trotline Bait

1 cup flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1/4 teaspoon anise oil (not extract) (can get anise oil from drug stores ask for it)
1 tin of packed in oil sardines

Add the above ingredients in large bowl, then add small amounts of water until a bread-like dough is formed. Let dough rest. Boil a quart of water. Form dough into balls about the size of a walnut and drop into boiling water for 3 minutes. Remove & let balls cool. Works great on 5/0 hooks.

Carp Catcher

1 package of strawberry or cherry flavored Jell-O.
1/4 cup of molasses
cornmeal

Prepare jello as listed on the box. Once it has come to a boil, add molasses to the water and Jell-O. The next step is kind of a measurement of trial and error. Start adding some cornmeal to the boiling water. Stir this mixture until it starts to pull away from the side of the pan and let it cool. Once this mixture has cooled to the point where you can handle it, ball it up in baseball size balls and put them in individual zip lock bags until you're ready to go fishing. Use a 3/4 oz. egg sinker above a swivel, with two feet of line below the swivel and a treble hook. Add enough bait to cover the entire hook up with a teardrop shape. Cast it out and hang on.