

It's the count, that counts.

When we think about lure fishing in Texas it means something under one oz and normally fished using a rod that is less than 8ft. Ask the same question on the East coast and you will be talking long rods and heavy lures which they call plugs, as is the same when fishing the spillways of middle America for the Stripers and large Catfish. The reasoning behind this method of fishing is to extend your effective fishing area when fishing from your feet. One man who has perfected the art of lure fishing at long distance is the maker of the Spoon'r lure who goes by the name Spoon'r.

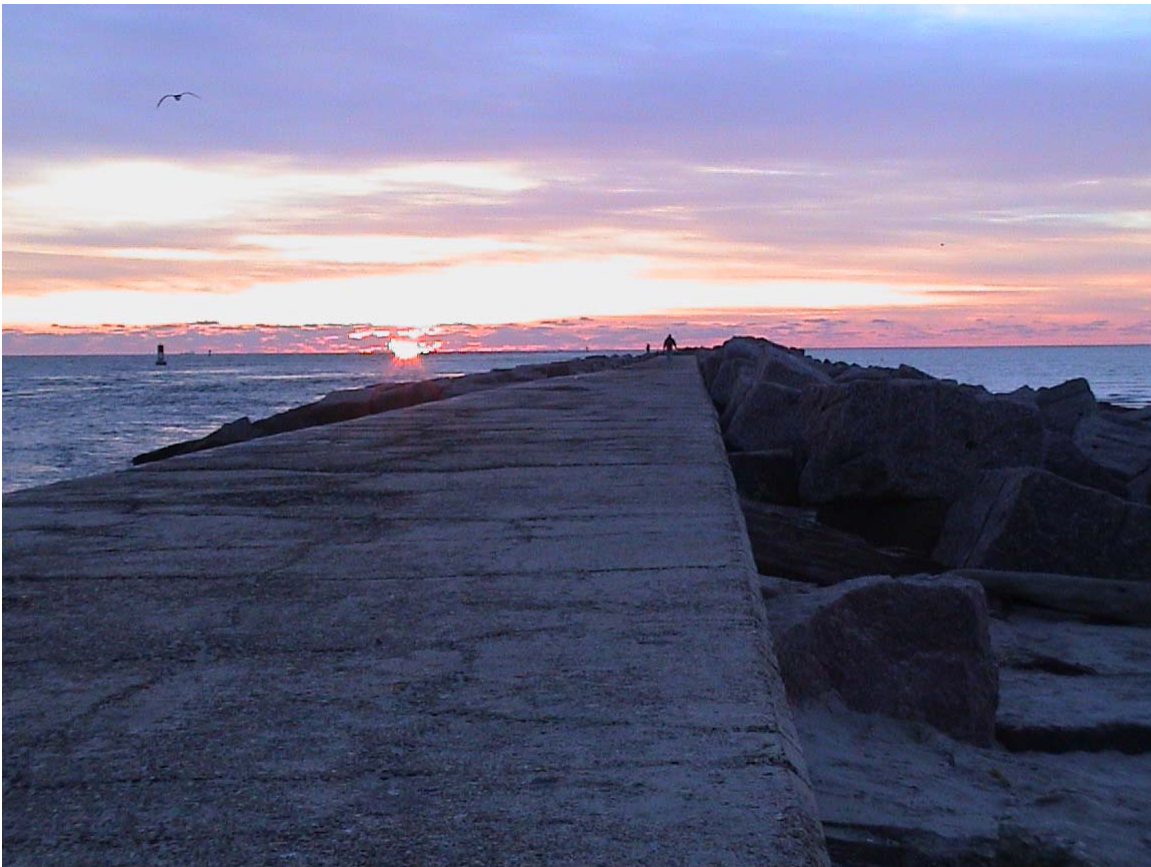


As I approached Port A, the sun was just starting to redden the morning clouds that hung low over the Gulf horizon. Spoon'r had been very specific with his instructions. "Be at the jetty's at sunup. The weather is going to be good and the tide is running out." Having kept a record of Spooner's fish caught last year, I know he landed and released well over 200 Bull Reds from December to Spring. He also had a pot load of Kings, Spanish and Jacks in the summer months, all from his favorite spot, the south Jetty at Port A. Spoon'r

Spoon'r Lures by Nick Meyer 2004

is very aware of the time slot he will fish and produce, and I was trying like hell to make sure I kept the appointment.

“Thank God I no longer drink,” I thought as I loaded up for the walk out to end of the jetty where Spoon'r was just arriving; a long way even without a hangover.



You may be wondering just what a Spoon'r lure is. Basically, you have two designs: The Outcast and the Fat Mama. The Outcast, which comes in two different sizes, 2oz and 3oz., and a host of different colors, are all fitted with the finest buck tail teaser hand tied to a 1/0 Eagle Claw treble hook.

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The design of the lure is clever, and because of the shape will cast extreme distances. (150yds plus.) Yet on retrieval, it can be worked fast across the top to attract the aggressive and competitive warm water species, or it can be counted down and worked across the bottom in the colder winter months. The wide thinner part of the lure, which is attached to your running line, will allow it to rise easily when retrieved.



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This side shot of the lure shows the lure in the cast position. During the cast the hook folds back on the lure. This also shows how the lure is weight forward when cast. When I was at Hatteras, North Carolina casting plugs with some of the big boys, it was pointed out to me that it is important that the lure turns quickly as it is cast. (ie: It does not spend a lot of time sideways or backwards at the beginning of the cast as this kills distance.)

The Spoon'r turns very quickly, achieving aerodynamics.



As you can see in the cast, the lure is being pulled around, in effect, backward and will turn to become aerodynamic upon release of the cast.

The Fat Mama weighs in at 2oz and is, again, unique in shape. From your first observation it would appear to look the same as a fresh water lure called The Slab. This fat lady is shapely and seductive. The thickest part of the lure is not down the centerline

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of the lure. Instead, it is slightly offset and this is what gives her that killer action: the flutter on the drop.

Insert Fatmam.jpg

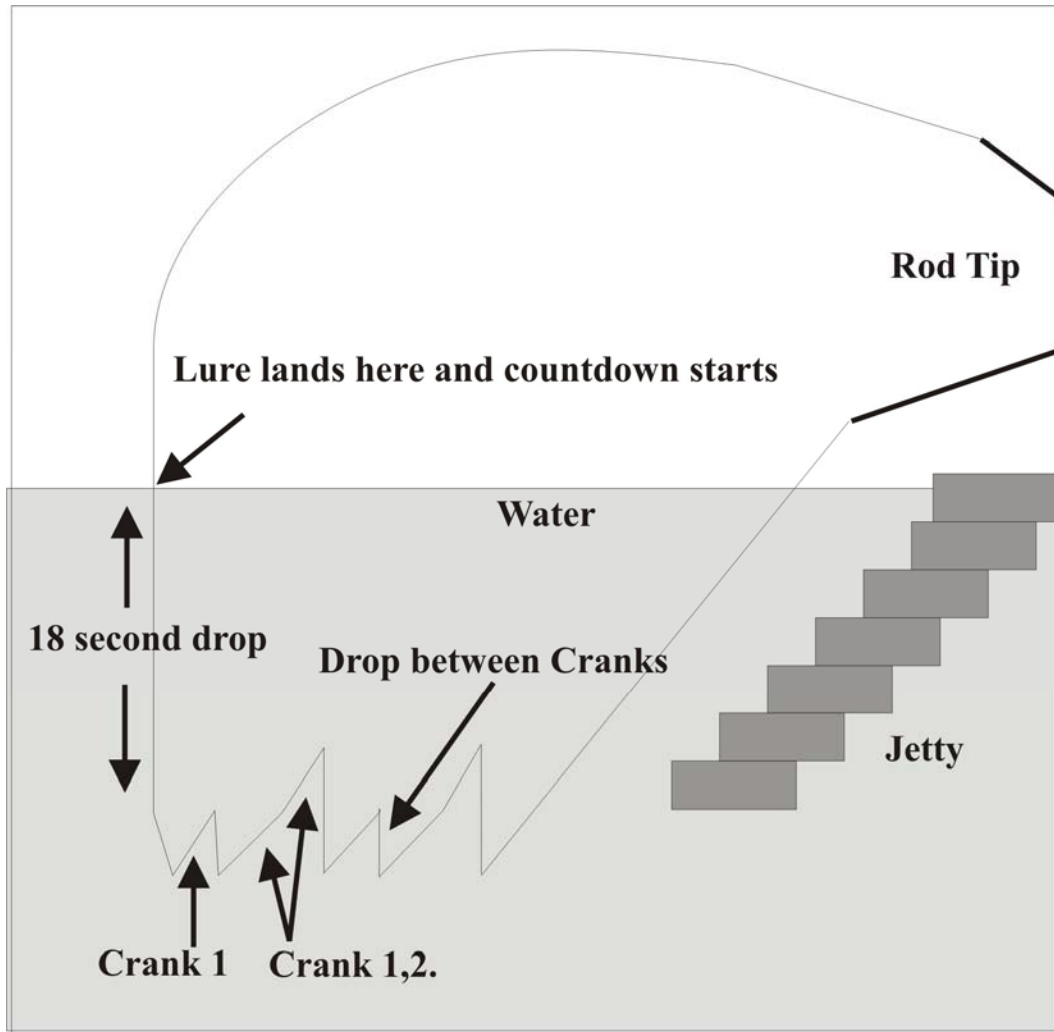


I noticed that a Cormorant was drifting beside me on the outgoing tide as I made my way to the end of the jetties. So, the tide was going out at about 2 to 3 mph. At about $\frac{3}{4}$'s of the way out, the Winter Texans had gathered. There was only one Texan amongst them, Rick Smith from Aransas Pass. He fishes with Spoon'r a lot using a Fat Mama and was landing this nice Red.



Spoon'r was out at the end of the jetty working the channel side. He was slinging the Outcast and giving it a 10 second drop. Changing colors and adjusting the drop time he reassured me that when he finds the depth they were at, he would have one. Rick's fish had come on a 18 second drop using the Fat Mama and when Spoon'r changed his lure and drop he picked one up. He was casting the 2 oz lure up-current and working the line between a back eddy and the out-going tide. The other thing of interest is how he plays the lure. He does not pop the rod or raise the tip when he retrieves. He does it all with the reel. With the tip off the rod pointing down, he will turn the handle. One turn, then two turns, then he stops before he repeats the action again. He explained to me that when he

turns the reel handle the lure comes up. This one, then one- two rhythm brings the lure up, then drops it before he repeats the action. "You can feel the lure flutter down," he told me.



It was not long before Spoon'r was into a Red once he had found the depth by using the same lure and countdown as Rick Smith, who had caught earlier. Trying to land a fish on the Jetty's can be quite dangerous and having a friend out there with you and a good landing net is vital.



Larry Onken from Illinois landed this nice 45 inch Red for Spoon'r caught on the Fat
Mama

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Spoon'r soon had this one back in the water

Spoon'r lures and long casting seems to be a deadly combination and something worth trying. Most good tackle shops around the Corpus area stock the Spoon'r lures so you should not have a problem getting hold of them. Be safe. Nick Meyer.