

# *Timber Lake*

## *Fish for a Legend*

### **Angler Etiquette, Good Ideas, Hints, Tips and Tricks**

#### **Introduction**

The following document has been developed to give you an idea of how things at the lake work, how to setup your gear and how to fish for that legend. Whilst these are not hard and fast rules (many exceptions may become obvious), you will probably find that these guidelines are very useful to get you going and help you have a great experience.

#### **General**

1. If other anglers are at the lake talk to them about your experiences and you will soon find that the exchange of information will be beneficial to both parties.
2. When angling or moving around the lake at night, try to keep torch light to a minimum. Bright light is renowned for putting surface feeding fish down. However, please ensure that other anglers are aware of where you are and where you are heading.

#### **Angling in a boat**

1. Always take it in turns to cast when angling with others in a boat. A set routine will soon become obvious, but always check that no-one else is casting when you are about to.
2. When approaching another boat, ensure that you have contacted them (by radio, whistle, horn, light, etc) and informed them of your intention.
3. Try to keep any torch light contained within the boat. If you need to use a torch to navigate or view a snag, cover it with your hand and let a little light leak out between your fingers.
4. When approaching the shore to dock, please use all lights / torches that are necessary to maintain a high level of safety.
5. Sometimes it is a good idea to work an area in a team of boats to maximise the number of lures in the area. You might like to form an agreement with other anglers to see if they are interested in trying this.

#### **Gear Setup**

We normally use 'Baticaster' or overhead rods and reels as they are very strong and allow for accurate repetitive casting.

#### **Rod**

Try to use a rod that is strong, but light as cast and retrieve fishing requires you to make many, many casts. If each cast and retrieve takes 30 seconds to complete and you fish for 10 hours, you will have made 1200 casts!

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Rod length is really a matter of personal preference. Some people like shorter rods (around 5 foot 8) as they allow easy casting in confined spaces. Other people prefer longer rods as it allows a greater degree of casting accuracy and possibly fish fighting ability.

### ***Reel***

Small (but strong) Bait caster reels are quite adequate to fish Timber Lake.

### ***Line***

As stated in the Rules, a 30 Pound minimum breaking strain line is required to fish the Lake. We generally use braided line to increase sensitivity and the fact they have a smaller diameter than mono lines.

The main line is then connected to a length of Leader material. This material is used for a number of reasons:

1. To decrease the visibility of the end of the line – braided lines are generally not see through and can be seen in the water quite easily, especially the Hi Viz yellow lines that we prefer.
2. To increase abrasion resistance at the business end of the line – there are a lot of snags around Timber Lake.
3. The main line is quite expensive and by using a leader you reduce the number of times you have to cut the main line in a fishing session.

The main line and Leader are connected via a 'Double Uni Knot'. Please see Geoff Wilson's "Complete Bok of Fishing Knots and Rigs" on page 19 for an explanation of how to tie this knot. Your Guide will also be able to show you how to tie this knot.

The Leader material may be mono filament in 30, 50 or even 80 pound. If your budget allows, Fluorocarbon in 30 pound seems to work well.

### ***Lure Clip***

As Lure changes are quite common when fishing the Lake, we generally use a clip to attach the lure. Some lures are not designed to be used with lure clips and may fly off mid cast if used with a clip.

We have found that Normans Speed Clips are very good as are some of the larger Coast Lock style snaps.

### **Stay Tuned**

We will try to add more to this document in the near future. In particular, we will try to address fish handling, lure selection and rod technique.

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