

Switch to Pike

Come the end of November when the first hard frosts arrive and the weather turns decidedly chilly my attentions turn to Pike.

Hardened Pikers start early October, for me though they are purely a fish that keeps me occupied for the coldest of the winter months and I'll stop at the end of February.

I've spent many a winter carping session sat behind motionless indicators to the point that I now rarely carp fish during the middle of winter. Yes a big winter carp is a special fish and the rewards are there for those that persevere, in fact some of my biggest carp have come in coldest weather.

For now though its Pike fishing that keeps me angling. I find the day sessions that suit this style of angling also suit me, I'll be on the bank at dawn and away at last light which gets me home in time for a hot dinner. By not having barrow loads of gear and being organised I manage to move swims a few times a day if I feel it's necessary.

I am an out n out dead bait angler, it suits my style of fishing, that being a desire for the larger specimens that the gravel pits I fish contain. On average I would say every other fish is a double when using dead baits, these are the size of pike that I'm hoping to catch so I do not fish with lures which I find in general attract smaller fish.



Dead baits and not simply a chuck it out and wait approach. I'll often pop a bait up off the bottom using foam, perhaps colour a bait or inject fish oils to make the bait more attractive. Some days none of this is necessary as they will take anything you put out but on occasions a little tweak can make all the difference.

Another method I use with a great deal of success is the sunken float paternoster, this is an excellent way of presenting a bait well off the bottom or above weed. Indication is via an audible alarm on the front rest and a visual drop off indicator on the back rest. The pits I fish are often over 15ft deep as such I rarely use floats so good indication on the bank is essential.

With February just a few days away it will soon be time for thoughts of a spring carping campaign but until then I've a few more weeks piking to try and bag another toothy monster. So far this winter I've managed several 18lb + pike with the best being 21lb 4oz taken on the Sunken float set up.

