



# TECH BULLETIN

## CALIFORNIA

# LAKE PERRIS

Compiled from the Diaries and Logs of the Luhr Jensen Fishing Research Team.

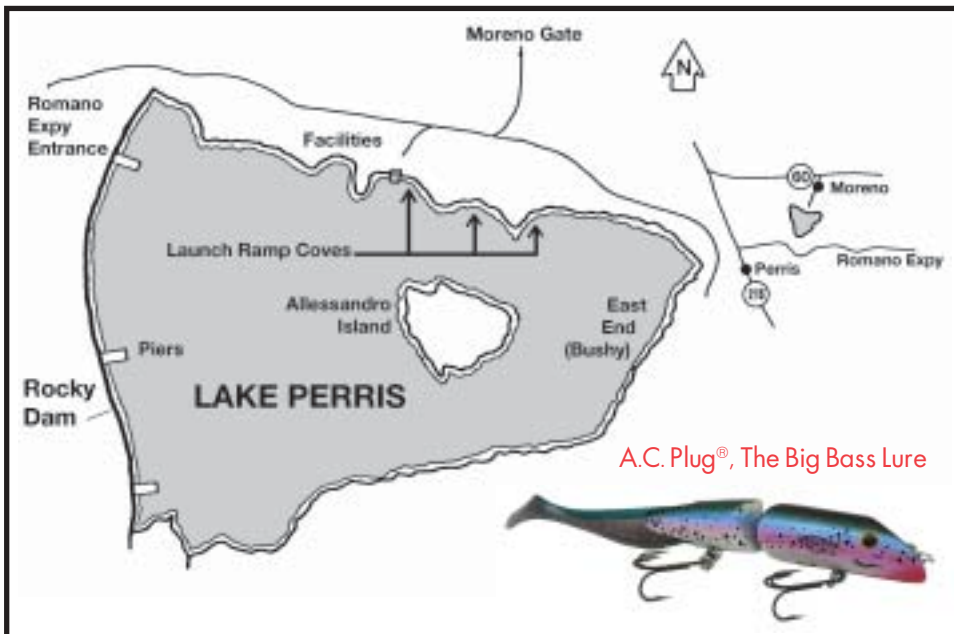


BY RONNIE KOVACH

Ronnie is the founder and owner of Ronnie Kovach's Outdoor Enterprises, Inc. including: "Fishing Expeditions TV"; Radio Fishing University KRLA 870, Los Angeles; FX Radio; FX apparel; angling books and publications as well as a comprehensive fresh and saltwater seminar series. He has written five best selling books on bass, trout and saltwater fishing and has over 500 articles and columns published in outdoor magazines including Bassmaster, Bassin', Western Outdoors, Pacific Fisherman, South Coast Sportfishing, Marlin, In-Fisherman, and Big Game Journal & Saltwater Sportsman.

### BASS TACTICS

Bass at Lake Perris often root for crawdads on the bottom, the fact remains that these fish also are voracious surface feeders



at times. For that reason, it pays to keep a few favorite topwater baits in the boat all through the year. I personally have caught bass on the surface in 50-degree water in the cold of January.

The big secret is to watch closely for either surface boils of bass herding schools of shad or look for these baitfish to kind of "puddle" on the surface. Hungry bass may be underneath the shad, pushing them toward the top. Bass at Lake Perris have a fancy for the 5/8-oz. **Nip-I-Diddee**® prop bait in **Silver Speckle** or **Silver/Black Top** patterns. Also try the **Ozark Mountain**® **Woodchopper**® in **Silver/Black Top** or **Silver Foil/Black Top**. They will also strike a jerk bait.

Minnow-shaped plugs such as the **Power Minnow**™ are excellent options when the "spots" want a subsurface presentation. The trick is to gently pull the floating lure down beneath the surface for a few inches with the rod tip. Then let the bait rise back to the surface for a split second and start the "pull"

phase of the retrieve again.

Invariably bass will strike the Power Minnow as you pause and the lure starts to rise to the surface. I personally prefer the 4 1/2-in. length in **Silver/Blue Top** finish.

Bass are notorious at Perris for suspending in thermoclines or among schools of shad at 10- to 30-ft. depths. Here is when it helps to have an array of crankplugs to survey the different depths.

The **Hot Lips Express**® **T.A.** in **Crystal Tennessee Shad**, **Crystal Crawfish**, **Crystal/Hot Texas Red**, **Clearwater Flash**, and **Summer Crawfish** in either a 1/4-oz. or 1/2-oz. size are perfect for hunting bass in the 15- to 20-ft. range.

### AC PLUG® FOR MONSTER BASS!

There are many double-digit weight bass caught annually at Perris. The **A.C. Plug**® closely replicates the small planted rainbow trout these monster-class Florida largemouths home in on.

Try fan-casting the A.C. Plug everywhere from near the shoreline cover, out into open water. Huge bass at this lake will frequently be "marauders", swimming freely among schools of suspended rainbows.

This plug can also be slow-trolled with a traditional flatline strategy using 15- to 20-lb. test mono! Or, try pulling the A.C. with lead core line across outside points and even in open, deeper water. **Good Luck -- and hold on!**

### MORE TACTICS

Perris' largemouth bass population will strike an array of reaction baits. In addition to the Woodchopper and Nip-I-Diddee, try

### TOPWATER BAITS



P. J. Pop™



Nip-I-Diddee®



Woodchopper®



Power Minnow™

HOT TOPWATER COLORS  
#0819 Silver Speckle  
#0996 Silver Foil Shad  
#0940 Silver/Black Top

the **P. J. Pop™** in *Blue Back/Silver Shad*, *Silver Foil Shad* or *Green Back/Silver Flash* finish. As a year 'round surface lure, it would be hard to find a more effective bait than the P.J. Pop popper/spitter for Perris' largemouth population! Both the Wood-chopper and Nip-I-Diddee are classic prop baits made of wood.

If the largemouths seem to prefer a more prominent profile in a surface lure, throw the Nip-I-Diddee in *Silver Speckle*, *Baby Black Bass*, or *Silver/Black Top* colors. This chunkier prop bait also will create more surface commotion with its larger propellers.

Perris largemouths similarly will home in on the identical Hot Lips Express series of crankplugs used to fool the bass. Sometimes, however, if largemouths are holding tight up in the brushy shallows of Perris' east end, try Luhr Jensen's **Speed Trap™**. This shallow-diving, fat-bodied plug is deadly in 2 to 4 feet of water in *Clearwater Flash*, *Crawfish* or *Tennessee Shad* patterns. The **Brush Baby®** is the best lure on the market for deeper brushy conditions.

If largemouths refuse to strike surface lures, minnow plugs or crankbaits, it might be necessary to slow down the pace and try some Western style wormin'.

Largemouths will eat 4- to 8-in. plastic worms slow-crawled along the bottom. The split-shot technique is also productive at times with smaller 3- to 4-in. worms and grubs, or try some 1/8-oz. darter heads.

Plastic worms and grubs in colors such as mottled brown and green, "salt 'n pepper" shades with black and silvery glitter, and pumpkin or chartreuse black flake are patented winners in soft plastic lures at Perris.

At times, Perris' bass will school up in deep water, providing some sensational spoonin'. This can occur all through the

## RECOMMENDED CRANKBAITS





**HOT CRANKBAIT COLORS**  
 #0491 Summer Crawfish  
 #0530 Tennessee Shad/Crystal  
 #0570 Crawfish/Crystal  
 #0584 Hot Texas Red/Crystal  
 #0710 Clearwater Flash

year, wherever concentrations of threadfin shad are located.

The versatile **Crippled Herring®** minnow-shaped jiggging spoons are perfect for this situation. Using a rhythmic, vertical lift-and-drop motion, working it on or near the bottom..

Quite often, bass will hit the spoon on the "drop" phase of this presentation as the lure is sinking. A baitcasting outfit filled with 10- to 12-lb. test mono is best suited for vertical spoonin' in this manner.

Solid *Chrome*, *Genuine Gold Plate*, *Nickel/Neon Blue Back* and *Nickel/Neon Green Back* finishes in 1/2- to 3/4-oz. sizes of the Crippled Herring are perfect for deep water spoon fishing at Lake Perris.

Largemouth bass will readily attack a spinnerbait, all season long, especially in the lake's brushy east end. Use 3/8-oz. or larger in *White* or *Chartreuse*. 10- to 14-lb. test mono works best.

share of winter rainbows working from the bank. Spinners such as the **Shyster®** in *Yellow/Black Scale* or *Fire Tiger*, and the **Bang-Tail®** in *Frog Scale* and *Grasshopper Scale* are perfectly suited for this type of Southern California troutin'.

If rainbows seem to want a slower presentation, switch to either a 1/4- to 3/8-oz. **Hotrod®** or **Krocodile®**. *Red/White Stripe/Nickel*, *Nickel/Silver Prism-Lite®* and *Hammered Brass/Fire Stripe* all are productive colors.

It is important to scale down in line test when casting lures for Perris' rainbows.

### CRIPPLED HERRING® JIG



**HOT COLORS**  
 #0013 Chrome #0306 Nickel/Neon Blue Back  
 #0307 Nickel/Neon Green Back #0599 Genuine Gold Plate.

### LAKE PERRIS TROUT

Rainbow trout routinely are planted into Perris in the colder winter months. Although most anglers catch only the smaller, 10- to 12-in. "stockers", there are larger specimens in the 5- to 6-lb. class that hold over in deeper water each season.

Trolling with lead core line is the best way to reach these larger 'bows. Try trolling anywhere from 4 to 10 colors of 18-lb. lead core line along the deeper parts of the west end of the lake. Use a 4- to 5-ft. length of 6-lb.-test leader and a rubber snubber to absorb the strike.

The popular Luhr Jensen **Needlefish®** spoon is overwhelmingly the best choice for deep water trolling at Perris. With 4 to 10 colors of line out, you will be trolling approximately 25- to 35-ft. depths.

Bring an assortment of Needlefish sizes and colors to try with some of the most effective being *Pearl Bikini*, *Brass Bikini* and *Frog*.

Don't be surprised to find rainbows all the way down to sixty feet in the warmer months. You might want to try a **Pink Lady®**, **Deep Six®**, **Dipsy Diver®** or **Jet Diver™** to take your Needlefish to these greater depths.

Shore anglers also can catch their fair

Whereas you might use 8- to 15-lb. mono for bass, the 'bows must be fished with 2- to 6-lb. test. Perris can be incredibly clear at times and trout will spook when spinners and spoons are fished on heavy monofilament. Also, finer line diameters help to bring out the best action in these small spinners and spoons, enhancing their overall effectiveness. Under ultra-tough conditions, consider using totally invisible fluorocarbon line instead of monofilament.

As a final note, don't be surprised if a trophy largemouth bass bushwhacks your tiny trout spoon or spinner as you walk the bank! Often when schools of immature shad minnows are holding near the shoreline, bass will zero in on a miniature spoon or spinner that replicates the size of the baitfish.

From planted trout, to world class bass, Lake Perris is a year 'round Mecca for the freshwater angler in Southern California!

**Ronnie Kovach's Fishing Expeditions**  
 can be reached by calling  
 714-375-9888  
 or by writing P. O. Box 3118,  
 Huntington Beach, CA 92605-3118.

### TROUT'N SPOONS & SPINNERS





**HOT SPOON COLORS:** #0131 Brass/Red Head  
 #0043 Red/White Stripe/Nickel Back  
 #0074 Frog/Brass Back  
 #0083 Pearl Bikini/Brass Back  
 #0150 Nickel/Silver Prism Lite®  
 #0283 Brass Bikini




**HOT SPINNER COLORS**  
 #0095 Yellow/Black Scale  
 #0068 Grasshopper Scale  
 #0074 Frog Scale.

### DEEP WATER TROLLING DIVERS





