

Welcome to:

“Bucktailing for Fluke”
by Capt. John

Reel Fun Sportfishing
Twin Lights Marina, Highlands, NJ

"Bucktailing for Fluke"

Tides-

Outgoing vs. Incoming- I like fishing outgoing as it flushes bait out of streams into the bay and the warmer waters puts the fish on the feed.

Speed of your Drift-

Drift Speed: 1-1.5 kts ideal-Anything over 2 kts and it's time to get out your drift sock or attach heavier bucktails. (Cabela's Advanced Pro 72" Drift Sock)

Winds-

Remember... "Winds from the East....fishing's the least"

"Winds from the West....fishing's the best"

Wind/Current working together will usually provide a good day fishing.

Have a Game Plan- Chart out your locations the night before with 2nd, 3rd and 4th options. If your first option is a bust, stick to your plan and work your 2nd, 3rd and 4th locations. Driving around endlessly hoping to score is a waste of your time, gas and money.

Read and use your charts- Home Port Chart #42

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Rods, Reels and Line we like for Bucktailing:

Baitcaster Rod: 6'6" Med/Hvy butt, fast action tip.

Reel: Level Wind Reel (Penn International 965, Shimano Tekota 500, etc)

Line: 40 lb test Power Pro or Suffix braid over dacron or mono backing.

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Rigs: Basic Bucktailing Fluke Rig-

24-30" fluorocarbon leader material w/ dropper loop tied approx 12" above the business end.

50-75 lb. barrel swivel tied to one end of your leader (Tsunami Pro TSS-6-50 or TSS-8-50)

50-75 lb. Snap Swivel tied to end of leader for attachment to one of the bucktails shown below.



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Baits we always use with Bucktails and Teasers:

- Bunker strips
- Bluefish strips
- Sea Robin strips**
- Squid Strips (cut from squid tubes)
- Mackerel Strips
- Fluke bellies and ribbons
- Gulp Alive Products 4-6" Chartreuse Minnow Grub, 8" Sandworms or 7" Belly Strips

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Where to Find Fluke.....*Structure!*

- **Tidal Rips** – "The Rip"
- **Channel Edges** - Ambrose Channel (East or West winds), Raritan Reach Channel (East or West winds), Sandy Hook Channel (East or West winds) and Chapel Hill Channel (North or South winds)
- **Dredge Holes**
- **Structure** - Reefs, sunken wrecks, rock piles, mussel beds, etc. Check Home Port Chart #42 and locate any underwater structure that may hold fish.
- Avoid the crowds! Find your own "honey hole."

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About *Structure...*

Fluke have the tendency to be found around underwater structure....facing into the current on the downside of that structure. Fluke will also be found along channel edges and deep in the channel at low tide and along the flats adjacent to the channel during high tide.

Fluke will also be found in and around man made reefs (fish between structures.....find the sandy bottoms)

Remember.... *Structure, Structure, Structure*

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Tips for “Flukers” with Boats

- Drift around and between structure.
- Bucktails should maintain contact on bottom at all times. Bounce or twitch that bucktail!
- Lift rod tip and feel that bottom!
- Set hook with authority.
- Retrieve slowly & evenly..... don't pump rod.
- Net fish from the head.
- Keep your fish in a cooler w/ice or water.

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Navigating Tips for Boaters

- Using your GPS, mark the beginning point of a drift.
- Use that point to repeat your drift. (Keep "track lines" on)
- Keep your drifts short and tight.
- Keep a log book on EVERY trip...date, location, tide, water temps, number retained, number released, bait used....fish are creatures of habit!
- Long endless drifts without a fish are a waste of time.
- Fish swim together in tight groups.
- If your drift is too fast to hold bottom, either change your bucktail, get out your drift sock which ALL fluke fishermen should own or sometimes both.
- If current is very slow (or wind against tide) and the boat is not moving, its time to power drift or cast and retrieve to get your bucktail moving.
- (REMEMBER: NO MOVING BUCKTAILS = NO FISH)

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Fishing with Teasers produce:

- The vast majority of the Fluke we catch!!!
- Teasers to consider using:
 - 1- Plain J hook with bait (4/0 Octopus)
 - 2- Clouser or Deceiver flies
 - 3- Soft body shads/lures



Chartreuse Deceiver Fly

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Fishing the Sandy Hook Reef – Fluke & Sea Bass

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Tony with his 11 lb. doormat caught in Ambrose Channel.



Kristy with her 8 lb -14oz Fluke

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Mate Chris and
Ambrose Channel Fluke



Mike and his 6.8lb Flattie

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Bill G. with his
26" 6 lb.-2 oz Fluke.



John & Tom with a few of their
Ambrose Fluke on Bucktails.
Tom (on right) with his
7lb. 8 oz beauty.

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Some nice opening day fluke bucktailing Flynn's Knoll.



Some Fluke ready for the knife.

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6.2 lb. fluke caught at
Sandy Hook Reef



Capt Marc with his 8.2 lb Fluke

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11 lb "Doormat" Fluke by Bob
in Raritan Reach Channel



Mike T. with his 6.4 lb Fluke
fishing Scotland Light area

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Capt. John's Hall of Fame Friends



Donnie with his
11.5 lb doormat.



Dave Lilly with his
15.6 lb BEAST



Gerry with his
10.5 lb doormat

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25' Parker Sport Cabin - Furuno 24 mile Radar- Furuno 600L Color Fishfinder
Garmin 2010C GPS Chartplotter- 2 Horizon VHF/DSC Radios
All USCG Approved Safety Gear – All USCG Licensed Captains
All crew certified in Adult 1st Aid and CPR

“Bucktailing for Fluke”

Thank you for attending today’s
“Bucktailing for Fluke” seminar.

From the staff of
Reel Fun Sportfishing
908-421-4761

Tight Lines,
Capt’s. John, Greg & Marc
Mates Chris, Braden & Donnie