



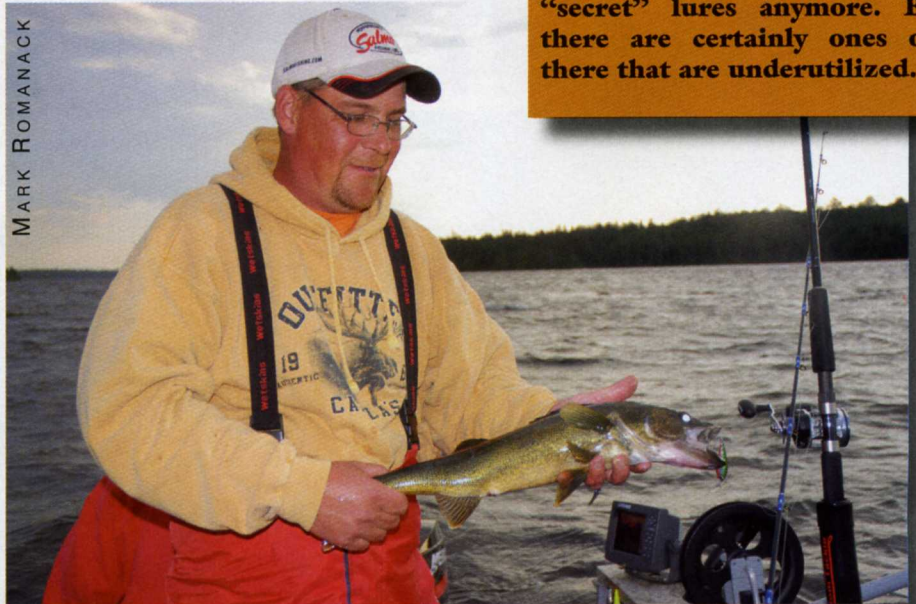
Sleeper Lures of the Great Lakes

Little-known offerings have big potential

A LOT OF legendary fishing lures have earned their stripes on the Great Lakes. More than a few baits, like the famous Luhr Jensen J-Plug, produced so many fish that dozens of copies were spawned over the years.

Over time, a few select artificial lures have reached what I'll describe as "must-have" status. The Storm Wiggle Wart was, for years, the primary crankbait in use on Lake Erie. I

There may not be any "secret" lures anymore. But there are certainly ones out there that are underutilized.



MARK ROMANACK

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can remember when the Wiggle Wart phenomenon was at its peak. Most of the serious charter captains would be trolling with 12 lines and on every single line would be a Wiggle Wart! Now that's loyalty to a lure.

Ironically, at about the same time the Wiggle Wart was king of trolling lures, the famed Erie Dearie was considered the only serious choice among drift fishermen.

My point is that fishing lures don't get famous because they didn't produce fish. Only a tiny percentage of the very best lures ever achieve the level of the J-Plug, Wiggle Wart or Erie Dearie. However, a lot of really excellent fishing lures somehow slip under the radar and never get discovered by the masses. This column is targeted towards lures I've grown to trust that I rarely see other anglers using.

The salmo hornet

As far as crankbaits go, the Salmo Hornet is unique. The Salmo brand of crankbaits aren't molded of plastic or carved out of balsa wood. Instead, these special crankbaits are made from a high-density foam material. Each lure is handmade to exacting standards that other crankbaits simply don't match.

Every Salmo lure is tuned to perfection. This feature alone is invaluable, because most anglers don't bother to tune their crankbaits. A crankbait that's not tuned properly will seldom catch fish. Sadly, this accounts for the majority of crankbaits sold every year.

A tuned crankbait is one that will dive straight down in the water, reach maximum depth and deliver maximum action. Salmo has this mastered.

Action is the other element of crankbaits that makes or breaks a lure.

