



# A SIMPLE WINTER TACTIC

**Maurice Prijs** explains how to catch winter carp with some very simple and effective tactics.

## ANGLER FILE

Name: **Maurice Prijs**  
Age: **35**  
Lives: **Utrecht, Holland**

## VENUE FILE

Name: **Tom's Creek**  
Location: **Lelystad, Holland**  
Contact: **info@tomscreek.nl**  
Website: **www.tomscreek.nl**

“IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO COMPLICATE THINGS TO ENJOY WINTER FISHING

In winter it is still possible to have an enjoyable day on the bank of a commercial fishery, even if it is for just a couple of hours. Efficiency can be the key to catching some fish, as setting up different rods, preparing a lot of bait, using lots of top kits just takes time. In winter lots of us just want to go to the bank for a couple of hours and catch some nice carp!

Winter is obviously not the easiest period of the year to catch

some carp. They will be mostly inactive and only look for food during certain parts of the day. I think the key to catching winter carp lies in presenting a hook bait over a very small bed of feed.

It is not necessary to complicate things to enjoy winter fishing. My Acolyte Carp pole, one or two top kits, some micro pellets and some soft hooker pellets will do the job.

A relatively light 6-8 Green Bungee elastic will match perfectly

with the 0.14mm Supplex main line and 0.13mm Supplex Fluorocarbon hooklength I have chosen. I am on a peg with lots of open water in front of me and this relatively light setup in conjunction with a Side Pull Kit and Roller Cone in the top kit enables me to have a chance of landing even the bigger carp in a short period of time.

An AS5 pole float is ideal under these conditions, as the slim design offers very little resistance for shy

biting fish. The antenna is just set a few millimetres above the surface, so if a fish moves the hook bait you will know.

A small pole cup is necessary to introduce some micro pellets to attract one or two carp.

Hook baits cannot be simpler and are just two tubs of Drennan Yum Yums. These soft hookers are highly attractive straight out of the tub. A large 6mm Yum Yum hooker pellet is a very good stand out bait to begin with. If a carp is looking for food, it has to take this pellet first. Later on I might try a 4mm or even cutting a Yum Yum into two halves. This can make an attractive smaller hook bait to try.

My 0.5g AS5 float is shotted with a spread bulk of No10 shot starting 15cm from the hook. This creates a very stable setup that ensures my hook bait is pinned directly over the cupped-in micro pellets. I simply place micro pellets in the cup and then empty it right on top of the float in the deepest part of the water.

It takes just a while in these cold conditions before a carp finds my pellets, but suddenly the highly visual float tip disappears under the surface. This is why we go winter fishing... the first carp is hooked!

This is always a more difficult time of year so, as expected, after catching a couple more carp bites really dry up. The next trick is to add some Yum Yum Bait Booster to my micros, just to give it a little bit of extra attraction. This liquid just gives off some color and smell without any food content and will hopefully draw some fish down to the hook bait.

The added attraction seems to work quite well today as I'm fortunate enough to have a few more carp stretching my pole elastic.

The short session ends after just a couple of enjoyable hours and it is time to go home. By not overcomplicating things it is possible to catch a few nice carp in the cold. Simple as that!

## TOP PELLET TIPS



Micro pellets are an ideal feed to present a soft hooker pellet over.



A pole-mounted pot ensures optimum feeding accuracy.



Try a liquid such as Yum Yum Bait Booster for extra attraction.



A liquid glug helps to draw in fish without overfeeding them.



Try cutting a Yum Yum soft hook pellet in half later on in the session.

