

SLAP TO SUCCESS

DAN VARNEY SHOWS YOU A SIMPLE SHALLOW FISHING TRICK TO TRY ON YOUR LOCAL COMMERCIAL FISHERY.

Slapping your rig on the surface is a great tactic for shallow feeding carp. It really comes into its own when the carp are feeding in the uppermost layers. It is a particularly effective summer tactic but it can also work surprisingly well later on in the year, too. This is because you are mimicking the sound of feed hitting the water without actually giving the fish much bait to eat.

HOW IT WORKS

The concept is very simple. The noise of your pole rig hitting the water mimics the sound of your loose feed. So, when a carp comes in to investigate the noise, all it finds is your hook bait!

IDEAL BAIT

Lots of baits can be used with this method but it works particularly well in conjunction with loose fed pellets and a hair-rigged hard pellet on the hook. Anything from 4mm to 8mm pellets can be used.

FEEDING

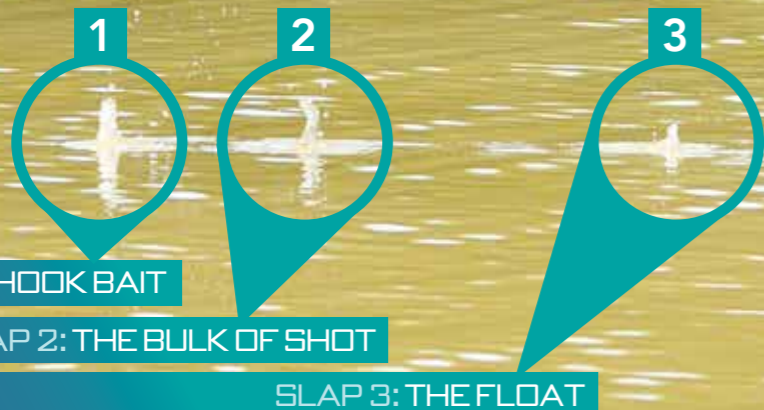
The key to this method is noise. Throw or catapult some pellets two or three times and then stop. Next, slap your pole rig on the surface instead. This could be just once or as many as four or five times in quick succession.

The amount of pellets you feed will depend on how hungry the fish are, but anything from six to ten pellets each time is a good starting point. Varying the quantity and frequency will also help to keep the fish guessing.

THE RIG

A short and robust float such as a Drennan Crystal Dibber is perfect. This design sits upright and 'works' in the swim quickly while the buoyant tip can support heavy baits with ease. The clear body also shouldn't spook shallow feeding fish so easily.

Try placing all the shot just above the hooklength to begin with. This then helps to create three separate 'plops' when the rig slaps on the surface from the float, the bulk and the hook bait.



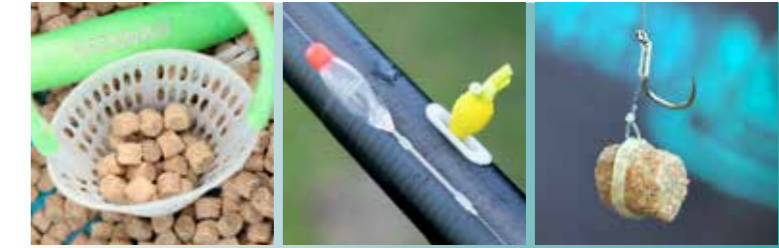
SLAP 1: THE HOOK BAIT

SLAP 2: THE BULK OF SHOT

SLAP 3: THE FLOAT



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DAN'S SHALLOW GEAR

Dan chose a 0.2g Drennan Crystal Dibber shotted with a simple bulk of four No10s. The hook was a size 16 Power Hair Riggers on a short 4in hooklength of 0.14mm Supplex to 0.16mm main line. Yellow 10-12 Carp Bungee hollow elastic completed the setup.

