

# MODIFIED TUBES

*The Tube Trailer Effect*



by Wayne Carpenter

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This subtle change to your tube can yield big results in your catch. There is much we don't yet know about this relatively new product but by adding color and action to a tube, you will get a different bite. To date, field tests have shown the darker colors to be effective for largemouth and the lighter ones for smallies. Nothing is written in stone here but one thing has been universal...once you get on a bite with *tube trailers*, you take the trailer off and the bite stops. Put the trailer on and you're back on aggressive fish.

The first prototypes of the *tube trailer* appeared in 2000 and you could find them in the Xtreme Bass Tackle catalog. Since then, more companies have jumped on board but have been conservative in their color selection. This is for a good reason: anglers have yet to discover what an effective tool this bait can be.

I'm drifting an 11 foot flat in Lake St. Clair (Michigan) and we are routinely hooking up with 2 lb. smallmouth which is fun, but ain't gonna cut it at tournament time. My partner continues to do the "same old same old" while I slip a white tube trailer onto my 3 1/2 inch smoke with small gold and small purple flake tube. Now that is quite a contrast! Immediately, I begin picking up the bigger fish in the school. Coincidence?

Next time we are fishing Grassy Island outside of the St. Clair River channels. This island is primarily sand and bulrushes with long shallow flats that give way to a 3 to 8 foot break and a weedline. Anyone who fishes with me knows that I am a real fan of the inside (shallower) break for smallies; but nothings cookin' here. I insert a dark melon pepper *tube trailer* into the same 3 1/2 inch smoke with small gold and purple flake tube and go three for three with fish in the 2 to 3 lb. class; Made something out of nothing.

Have you ever been hot-to-go on a school of bass only to find the bite shut off like someone threw a switch and said, "Play time is over?" One of my top tricks is to switch flake color in my plastic baits. I did this once over a two hour period; switched six times after the bite "shut off" and continued to catch fish. My partner, who was throwing our "top" color couldn't get bit again. If you're throwing red flake, switch to green, from green to blue flake, from blue to purple and so on. *Tube trailers* accomplish the same effect by adding a trailer color to any color tube you're using.

Customers have called over the years and confirmed my personal experiences. It's no magic bullet but once they start eating the modified tube, you take the trailer off and the bite is off too. This has been true for both largemouth and smallmouth. Once you see the two tendrils swinging sexy off the back of your bait, you too will be convinced this bait can help you put better fish in the boat.

## RIG YOUR TUBE TRAILER



**Tube jig rigged with a standard tube jig.**



**Put the jig hook point through the center of the nub of the Tube Trailer. Thread the nub of the Tube Trailer along the hook shank and into the tube.**



**Fully rigged tube with Tube Trailer**

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