

SOFT PLASTICS 101

CHAPTER 4

COLOUR SELECTION

CRIKEY... WHICH ONE DO I CHOOSE?

Walk into a tackle store and you will be confronted with a wall of soft plastics in hundreds of colours.

This can often be confusing for anglers and we are commonly asked which is the best colour or what colour should I use. There are many theories on colour and colour selection, based on species, location, water colour and clarity, how bright the day is and more. Below is a simple guide, followed by many anglers, that has proven effective for us time and again. By selecting 3 different types of colours, in your chosen soft plastic model, you can have the bases covered on most occasions.



NATURAL / LIGHT COLOURS

On bright days and in clear water a light natural colour has proven itself time and again. These conditions give the fish excellent visibility and these light natural colours are often the most realistic presentation available.

These light, natural colours are often relatively transparent and feature flecks and glitter to add to their appeal. Flecks can add subtle contrast and silhouette, while glitter catches the light and mimics the flash of scales and other natural triggers found on both aquatic and terrestrial prey.

DARK / SILHOUETTE COLOURS

When the water is dirtier or stained, or the light conditions low due to time of day or overcast weather a darker colour offers a better silhouette in the water and has often proven more effective. Run out tides, rainfall run off and tannin stained water can all create environments where darker coloured plastics can excel.

These plastics can again feature fleck and glitter for added realism and additional strike triggers. Gold glitter is especially effective in dirty water and low light, catching and reflecting available light.

FLOURO COLOURS

When neither of the aforementioned colours are working it's time to try something completely different and fluoro colours have proven themselves time and again when light, natural and darker colours aren't producing the bites.

Whether it's visibility, something that stands out from the rest or the fact that fluoro colours reflect UV light, there is something that has made colours such as Nuked Chicken Glow, Sexy Mullet and Pink Glow proven performers.

That's a very basic overview of colour, however it's basics that have proven themselves in both tournament and social fishing situations. In future chapters we will look further into colour and also UV, with some plastics reacting more to UV light and with the fish's receptors in their eyes able to view this UV light reflection, why is a UV colour like Motor Oil so effective, while at other times a non UV colour like Bloodworm produces the bites and the tournament win. Stay tuned.

NEXT UP IN CHAPTER 5: SCENT

