



in this issue...

Redfin on Blades

Jack...on the rocks!

WA Flathead

Shallow Water Troutin™

Barra Time

Flathead Fundamentals

Choosing a Soft Plastic



Angler: Danica Dickson

Species: Spanish Mackerel

Lure: TT Lures Switchblade HD



www.ttlures.com.au
info@ttlures.com.au



www.z-man.com.au
info@z-man.com.au

Latest @



New Ghostblade Colour **BLOODY GHOST**



Requests from anglers fishing TT Lures has lead to the release of another new product!

The 1/12oz Polycarbonate Ghostblade has long been recognised as a gun lure for bream, redfin, trout, jungle perch and bass, among other species.

Now, in addition to the 10 original Ghostblade colours TT Lures have released the BLOODY GHOST. Product testing for this transparent, blood red blade has shown it to be deadly in murky, dirty or tannin stained water , but also in the crystal clear water found on the flats in some areas.

If you have already discovered the effectiveness of the Ghostblade, check out the new Bloody Ghost colour. If you are yet to try the Ghostblade, check them out at your local tackle retailer.

The Switchblade HD has also been doing the job for anglers of late!

Wayne 'Barra Munga' Harvey with a thumper Queenfish and Danica with a solid Spanish Mackerel. The Switchblade HD is available in 1, 1.5 & 2oz, and is deadly, jig, cast or trolled!



New Chatterbaits 1/4oz Mini



Latest @



New to the Tackle Tactics product range is 5 colours in the ZMan 1/4oz Mini Chatterbait. This Chatterbait is the perfect size for bass and has already been slaying them in testing, while other lures have failed to raise a scale. Other species that have been landed so far on the 1/4oz include golden perch, saratoga, mangrove jack, barra and flathead.

If you haven't seen a Chatterbait in action - they combine the erratic swimming action of a hardbody with the profile and pulsing of a lead head jig and the flash and vibration of a spinnerbait. That is a cracker combination!

The 5 colours available include White, Shad, Blue / Black, Brown / Black and Green Pumpkin / Black. Alternatively you can grab your favourite replacement skirt from the TT Lures range and create your own head and skirt colour combo. Chatterbaits are a versatile lure option for under 10 bucks!

NQ Field Angler Vinnie has been getting creative again... this time it's BallyhooZin' Barra! He has been fishing the flowing water with the BallyhooZ on a heavy TT Lures jighead... and the verdict? They love them!



Had a cracker afternoon session with Steven Riding chasing the ultimate ambush predator, Flathead.

Check out the awesome picture that Steve shot, using the ZMan 4" StreakZ Curly TailZ rigged on a TT Lures Tournament jighead in 1/4oz 3/0H.



Redfin on Blades **By Robbie Alexander**

Redfin are known to take a variety of different lures and bait, in fact they probably have a more diverse appetite than most other freshwater fish species. On top of this appetite they are also a very inquisitive fish and will hit a lure of just about any kind to satisfy their curiosity.

When it comes to choosing a lure suitable for redfin, it's hard to go past blades. Blades are a small, skinny, flat and usually metallic fish shaped lure with a heavy lead head and a series of holes along their back. Some blades, such as the TT Ghostblades, are made of clear plastic to allow for a transparent body. The lead head and shoulders area of the blade has had a lot of design and engineering put into it to make sure that as it is retrieved water gets displaced around the blade, causing it to vibrate as it is being retrieved. Blades send out quite powerful vibrations which most fish can sense, even in murky water.

Robbie with a cracker redfin taken on a TT Lures Switchblade in Purple Glimmer



The holes along the back are designed to give the angler greater control over the lure. For example, the TT Switchblades have 4 holes in some weights. The hole furthest to the back causes the blade to sit almost vertically as it is being retrieved, which in turn causes the greatest drag against the lure and the strongest vibrations. This is perfect for fishing in shallow water, or water with a lot of aquatic weed which you want to keep your lure above.

The hole at the front of the blade causes the lure to sit the most horizontal in the water which causes it to have the least powerful vibrations, allowing the blade to sink and be fished deeper. The front hole is best suited to vertical fishing such as jigging. The middle hole or holes are just extra options to give greater control over your lure with regards to the above mentioned points.

One of the best things about fishing with blades is that they cast out of sight! Their slim-line design allows the lure to fly through the air like a bullet. I like to cast mine out as far as I can and then let it sink to the bottom. I then slowly retrieve the blade. As I retrieve it, the blade starts lifting off the bottom and working its way to the surface, and as redfin are predominately a bottom feeder I like my blade to be as close to the bottom as possible. To achieve this I stop the retrieve several times and allow the blade to sink back down to the bottom. It becomes a bit of a fast/slow/fast/slow type retrieve, and more often than not the redfin will hit the blade as it is sinking, or slowing down.

Blades come in a range of sizes, however the most commonly used size is the 1/4oz, which is around 40mm long. So if you're heading out after a few reddie's, don't be afraid to tie on a blade and give it a go.



Robbie Alexander with a nice Chartreuse Switchy redfin



Ben Corker with a lovely late afternoon redfin on a Pink Hussar Switchblade



Jack... on the rocks!

One of the biggest kicks I get, and I'm sure many of us do, is getting out on the water and fishing the creeks and estuaries. There are many different species to target in our waterways, but it's hard to go past the intensity and excitement of extracting mangrove jack out of their snaggy lairs. As we all know the times are changing and gone are the days of only being able to catch jacks on hard bodied lures. In fact, I can honestly say that when targeting these hard hitting animals, one of the best soft plastics on the market today and one of my personal favourites is the 4" ZMan SwimmerZ. These plastics are constructed from ElaZtech and are 10X tougher than other soft plastics, which makes them almost indestructible to jacks! Match the 4" SwimmerZ up with TT Jig Heads, TT Snake Heads or the TT Snagless Weight System (SWS) and you have yourself one deadly weapon!



When fishing for Jacks I prefer a creek or estuary that has at least one rocky outcrop or rock bar in it. A majority of boaties will swear and curse at rock bars and usually can't wait to push past them so they can go on about their business and fish their traditional gutter or gravel patch, but have they ever asked themselves... "I wonder what lives in and around these rocks?" It's something that is overlooked far too often. Rock bars can be located anywhere in a system; at the mouth of a river, on a deep bend in a creek or as far as your boat will take you up a tributary. They nearly always hold a good supply of food and provide excellent shelter.



When fishing rocky outcrops and bars, I generally prefer the last two hours of the run out and first two hours of the run in. I find that in this window the fish have moved back out of the mangroves and off the flats and will hold around these bars until the next tide. This is the optimum time to sink and "hop" 4" ZMan SwimmerZ down the face of the structure and slow roll them back out. When fishing your plastics, use the current or flow to assist your lure into the strike zone. For example when the tide is pushing onto a rock bar position your boat up-current and flick your plastics back down into the pressure point created by the water pushing against the rocks, usually if there are any bigger, more dominant fish around, this is where they will be holding.





Using the different weights in your selection of TT Jig Heads and Snake Heads, you will be able to determine how heavy or light you need to go to get your SwimmerZ hopping down the face of the rocks, keeping it in the strike zone for longer. Once your plastic makes it to the bottom, give your rod a short sharp twitch to get your SwimmerZ just off the bottom and "roll" them out with the slowest possible retrieve. This is deadly for Jacks! They just can't help themselves when a 4" ZMan SwimmerZ is rolled slowly past their nose.



Another advantage to using ZMan SwimmerZ is that they are super realistic and even on the slowest retrieves they are constantly working. When using this technique I prefer to use the TT Tournament Series Jig Heads in the 1/4oz #5/0H, if the tide has lost its run then lighten your jig head to a 1/8oz #5/0H. Likewise if the structure is a little heavier, the TT Snake Head jig heads in 1/4oz or 1/6oz #4/0 are dynamite!




Now that's some quality bycatch while chasing jacks!

Another situation you may find yourself in when fishing rock bars for jacks is terrain changing from classic, almost boulder type, rocks to a rubble or gravel like bottom. This is where the game begins to get a little harder to play, especially if the conditions are right for oysters and barnacles to flourish. This is a perfect opportunity to fish the 4" SwimmerZ on the TT Lures Snagless Weight System (SWS). Fishing the SWS can be one of the smartest decisions you could make when fishing tough country. Not only will it save you time and money, but most importantly it will land you more fish. I like to match to 4" SwimmerZ up with the #4/0 SWS. Work out how much current you will be fishing and match the weight to suit.

When it comes to main line and leader I like to keep it fairly light to get the maximum performance out of the SwimmerZ. I usually run 10lb main line and around 20lb leader. As far as colours go, this is a personal choice, but I find matching colours to water clarity works well for me. If fishing dirty, silted water stick to your darker colours; Red Shad, Black Back Shad and Golden Shiner work well. I apply the same rule of thumb for night fishing. For broad daylight and clear water, the lighter colours like the Yellow Back, Sexy Lady and Pearl all produce.

So next time you decide to target mangrove jack in a creek or estuary, whether it be in a boat or land based, grab yourself a few packets of 4" ZMan SwimmerZ and some TT Jig Heads. Seek out a nice rocky outcrop or rock bar and have a crack at these brilliant fish. You never know, you might just be pleasantly surprised!



4" SwimmerZ rigged on three TT Lures jighead options - L-R 4/0 SWS (Snagless Weight System), Tournament Series jighead 5/0H, 4/0 Snake Head.

Flatties of the West

By Jason Warr



The author with a WA Tailor



I caught my first Swan River Bartail Flathead some 15 years ago at a time when the soft plastic had just revolutionized the Bream and Flathead lure fishing world. Lure fishing was relatively new to me, having only used Halco Twisties and homemade broomstick poppers on the local Tailor population, but reading about the way a timid bait nibbling Bream would smash a lure like a Mangrove Jack or how big lizards could be tricked into eating a chunk of plastic as it sat motionless on the sand in front of its quarry, really appealed to me.

I had read an article about making and modifying plastics for big Flatties by chopping a couple of lures up, melting them back together as one big one and adding a treble stinger to the jig head. I had to give this a go and on my third cast under the Stirling Bridge in Freo, I came up trumps. A thumping 86cm Bartail on my little overhead baitcaster and I was a very happy boy! I'd never seen one that big before. Nor had the old bloke at the local tackle shop! That was it I was bitten by the lure bug.

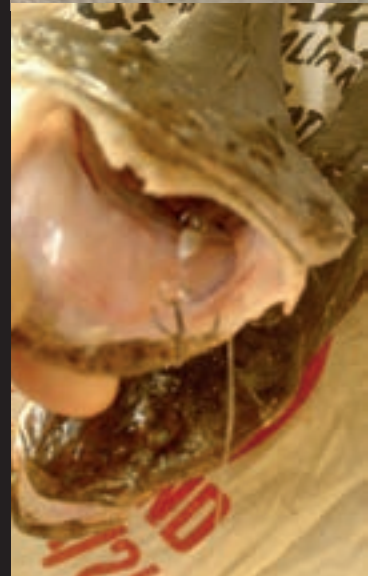
The big problem with the beautiful Swan River is the hoards of *Torquigener Pleurogramma*, or Blowfish that will decimate anything that is not bulletproof, like a pack of Piranhas on a pig carcass. After a few casts your plastic starts to resemble, well nothing really! And all around where you're wading, the water surface is dotted with Blowie mouth-sized bits of Fluro Pink and Chartreuse coloured soft plastic specks.



When blade style lures appeared, I thought to myself, "Blowie proof". You'd fish them similar to a plastic and the 'hop and pause' retrieve that Flathead find irresistible, can be much more effective without having to worry about the hoards tearing apart your 12th tail that morning. Now I was able to let the Blowies climb all over the lure and sometimes that would be enough to entice a big Flathead to strike, even when stationary.

This is something I used to good effect this last summer. Towards the end of the retrieve I stop the Switchblade on the sand in front of me, sometimes in less than a foot of water. On a number of occasions the lure has attracted the attention of lizard lying in wait, but the lure was too far away for him to risk blowing his cover... but, the Blowies are after it and he thinks there will be nothing left of whatever that is by the time he gets there. When I drop the blade to the bottom again, the Blowies still hang around giving off 'feeding time' vibes. The Flatty can't resist and darts over for a look... with his mouth! It's an amazing sight right at your feet. I even had a 60cm+ model inhale a barely hooked Blowie from under my nose. Apparently Flathead don't mind a feed of Fugu!

Switchblades go off when they're on the chew, and when they're not, I downsize to a 1/12oz Ghostblade and waft that around till I find a patch holding a few fish. The only disappointing thing about the summer Flattie run in the Swan is that 99% of the catch will be roe laden females, so I release most of my fish. The greedy ones that swallow my TT blades and damage their gills are kept and join me for dinner later that night.



Blades are extremely effective on flathead, and best of all they stand up to the blowies!

Shallow Water Troutin'

By Declan Williams

Coral trout are available in the northern waters of Australia and are a fantastic species to target; they look good, taste great, are extremely aggressive when it comes to smashing lures and they can be targeted in relatively shallow water which can be adrenaline pumping and very visual.

Locating suitable water can be as simple as looking at the charts for the area you are fishing, with a focus on finding depths of about 40m that rise to 20m lumps. Once you arrive at these lumps you then use the sounder to locate big ugly bombies and this is the sort of area that trout call home. In these shallow areas you will come across a variety of trout species, including coral and coronation trout, and fish that range from 10cm in length to fish that you can't stop!

One memorable experience was bringing a sweetlip up rapidly and then pausing it a few metres down to allow it to expel some air. As the sweetlip held at that depth I noticed a colour change below it and before I could even react a monster trout inhaled the sweetlip and proceeded to tear line off a locked drag, straight back into the nasty bombies from where it had come.

A solid combo is required to stop these fish and we will often start with a 20-40lb rod, 5000 size reel and 30lb braid, upping this to a 30-50lb rod, 600-8000 size reel and 50lb braid if we find ourselves getting smoked. Trout generally aren't very leader shy, so you can fish 40-80lb leader.





Lures that have worked well for us include the ZMan 5" Jerk ShadZ rigged on a TT Lures Tournament jighead in 1/2oz – 1oz 7/0H. In the areas where we are fishing locked up drags to extract trout from bombies, we fish a TT Tournament XHD jighead in a 1oz 10/0 SL12. Unlike snapper fishing, when chasing trout we fish heavy heads to get the plastic to the bottom quickly, avoiding trevally and mackerel that are sure to see you stitched up around the bombies.

Lure colour can also make a difference when chasing trout. We have had less success on brownish colours, while colours including electric chicken, pearl, smokey shad and shiner have been some of our standout performers.

The technique we use is; cast the plastic, allow it to sink to the bottom, wind it up a couple of times, give it 3 or 4 big sharp rips, wind quickly for 3-4m, pause, open the bail arm and allow the plastic to fall back to the bottom and repeat. Trout sometimes chase the lure and then pounce on it on the pause. By doing this you have lured the fish further away from the snag, increasing your chances of extracting them.

By-catch when chasing trout includes a million different sweetlip, coral cod, trevally, shark and Spanish mackerel, red bass and saddle tail. The prize though is the coral trout and that's what we are primarily targeting. There's no need to get up too early either when chasing trout, they will bite all day, but if the sun's not up, forget it... go and chase reds instead.

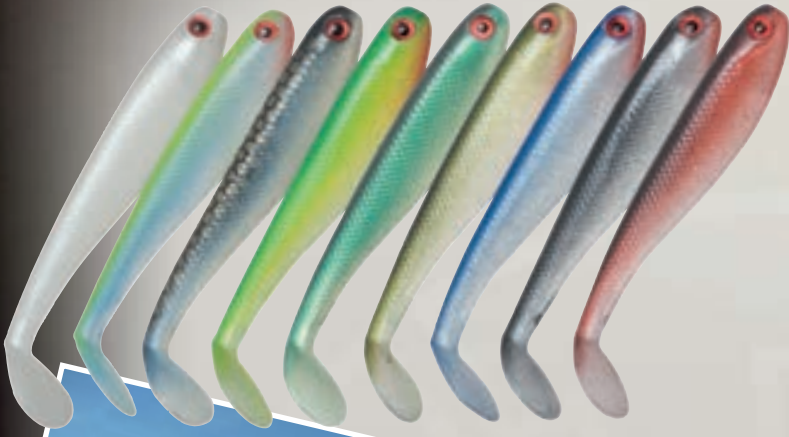


Another technique is to target the extremely shallow coral flats, under 8m deep. To do this throw a long cast, allow it to sink for a few seconds, but don't hit bottom or you will be snagged in a millisecond! Lift your rod tip and retrieve quickly, with plenty of twitches. Locating this type of structure can be as simple as checking out Google Earth for 5-8m flats that are near deep water. Position the boat to line up a drift along the edge, bring the plastic over the flats and then allow it to drop down the face of the drop off. The downside of this technique is that things will often eat the plastic as it comes over the edge and then drive you back into the reef.

Chasing trout in the shallows can be extremely visual and adrenalin pumping. It's hard to beat the sight of an angry trout moving in and then smashing your plastic. They pull hard, fight dirty, look great and are one of the best eating fish in the ocean. So if you get the chance, go troutin'!



ZMan 6" SwimmerZ / TT Lures War Head



The 6" SwimmerZ exploded onto the Barra scene and has rapidly become the go-to plastic for Barramundi. It's an extremely realistic mullet profile, that's super-soft and flexible so it feels realistic, yet 10X Tough so that it stands up to solid strikes and acrobatic battles. The ElaZtech material is also buoyant so the tail works and body rolls even at the dead slow retrieve speeds that Barra often prefer.

SwimmerZ have already accounted for 1000s of Barra, including plenty of metre plus fish, 3 Barramundi world line class records for Mark Hope from World Record at Tinaroo and one angler reported catching 50 Barra on a single SwimmerZ!

SwimmerZ can be rigged on TT Lures Head Hunter or Tournament Series jigheads, but when it comes to Barra the team at TT have designed a jighead specifically to suit the 6" SwimmerZ - the War Head.

War Head jigheads feature a heavy duty 8/0 hook that is designed to handle Barra, but also Australia's hardest pulling sportfish. They also feature a unique grub keeper that is designed to lock into the head and belly slot of the 6" SwimmerZ, holding it securely in place. The War Head is available in 1/4, 3/8 and 1/2oz, with anglers stepping up to 7/0 and 8/0 TT jigheads in heavier weights when wanting to fish deep, in strong current or troll deep.

Anglers have also had great success rigging the SwimmerZ on the TT Lures Snake Head when fishing deep in heavy cover or over and around weed. A 6/0 or 8/0 Snake Head is ideal.



The Toughest Frog on the Pond!



Frogs are also an effective lure option for Barra, as well as a heart stopping way of fishing. Watching that bow wave appear behind the frog gets the hands shaking... and then there's the boof of an explosive surface strike as the Barra engulfs the frog and then takes to the air!

www.z-man.com.au
info@z-man.com.au

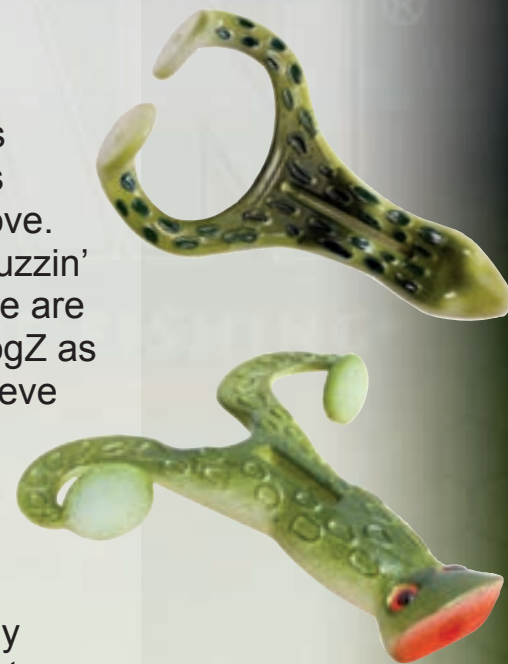
The advantage of frog fishing is that you can rig them on a worm hook or TT Lures SWS (Snagless Weight System) jighead and fish them over the top of structure that it would normally be difficult to fish.

This allows you to target lilies, the pockets in weed beds, snaggy shallows and drains, almost anywhere without fear of snagging or fouling with weed. FrogZ are also deadly on cod, saratoga, bass and a range of other surface feeders.



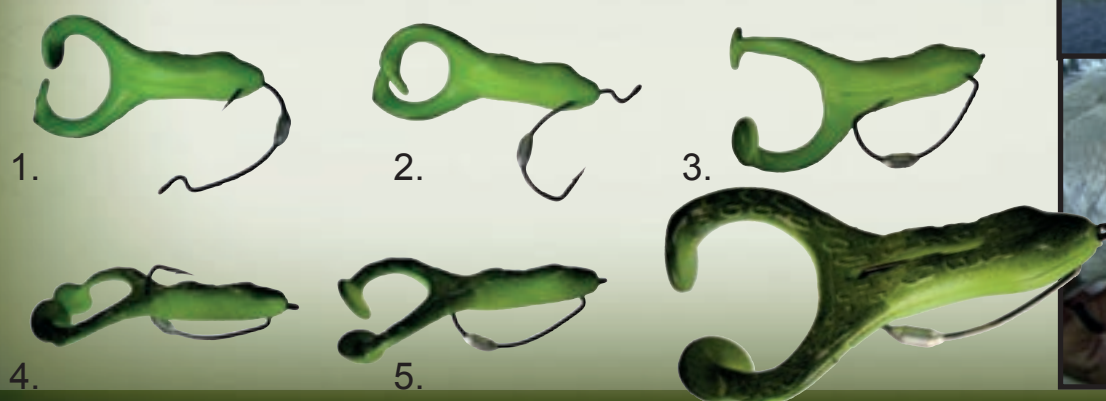
ZMan have two main frog options, Hard Leg FrogZ and Pop FrogZ.

Hard Leg FrogZ have a lively paddle foot action that creates plenty of surface disturbance, a gurgling sound and bubbles when you are going at the right speed, like in the image above. The retrieve speed is quite fast and is often referred to as buzzin' frogs. The take often comes from underneath, however there are times when the Barra will create a bow wave behind the FrogZ as they follow it. Keep winding as often when you stop the retrieve the Barra that is fixated on the frog, will lose interest.



Pop FrogZ have a cupped face that allows the lure to be buzzed, blooped, popped and gurgled to attract attention and the advantage that ZMan FrogZ have is that they are constructed from ElaZtech, making them 10X Tough, so they don't tear easily and buoyant so you can pause them without them sinking.

When rigging FrogZ on a TT Lures SWS jighead, the 6/0 SWS is ideal for a 4" FrogZ and 8/0 for a 6" FrogZ. See below for how to rig FrogZ using a TT Lures SWS jighead.



FLATHEAD FUNDAMENTALS

By Justin Willmer

One of my favourite species to target is the humble flathead; they smash lures, put up a great fight on light line and if you decide to take a couple home for a feed, they also taste great. My partner Sheri wasn't really into fishing so I thought flathead on soft plastics would be a great way to introduce her to the sport. To say that she enjoyed it is an understatement and after her initial successes on flathead she has spent time chasing tailor, trevally and queenfish in the surf and can still regularly be found hooked up to a flathead from the kayak.

Flathead are ambush predators, so the first tip I can give you is keep the plastic on and near the bottom. We generally target fish in less than two metres of water, using a TT Lures Tournament Series jighead in 1/4oz 3/0H and step up to a 3/8oz if there is strong current. A 3/8oz jighead can also be a good option if the wind is blowing hard as it allows longer casts so you can cover more bottom.

When targeting flathead we focus our attention on the second half of the run out, as this is when the water is draining off the flats and forcing the baitfish and crustaceans into deeper water, where the flathead lay in wait. Prime areas include drains which act as bait funnels, weed edges as the weed is a perfect hiding place for bait when the tide is up, and oysters, rocks and rubble in the general area as this too holds bait. If none of these are present don't worry, just focus your attention on the edge of the bank and you will eventually bump into a flathead.



Sheri with a decent flathead from the edge of a weed flat.

The technique we use is to drift a cast distance out from the bank edge and cast back almost onto the bank. We then allow the plastic to sink to the bottom, use two sharp lifts of the rod tip to lift the plastic up off the bottom and then wind up the slack as we allow the plastic to fall naturally to the bottom again (Check out the video link hereabouts and you will see this retrieve in action). The aim is to attract the attention of the flathead with the twitches, representing an injured or dying fish without dragging it too far out of the strike zone and then allow it to fall naturally back down to the waiting flathead. Some days the flathead will prefer a slower, less aggressive retrieve and on other days more twitches and a quicker retrieve will fire them up, so mix it up till you find what they want.

Our go-to lures for flathead are the ZMan 3" MinnowZ and 4" StreakZ Curly TailZ. Thread them onto the jighead so that they sit straight, slide them back down a little and add a tiny dab of super glue to the grub keeper and then slide them back into place. This locks the super-soft and flexible ElaZtech plastic in place and because they're 10X Tough you can just keep on catching fish!

We have had great success on the 3" MinnowZ in Chartreuse Glow, Space Guppy, Electric Chicken and Glow Pink, but any of the colours will catch fish. Likewise with the 4" StreakZ Curly TailZ, all of the colours in the range catch fish, but favourites include Electric Chicken, Natural, Space Guppy, Pink Glow and Baby Bass.

The great thing about flathead is that they are so accessible, with almost any sand flat or channel edge worth a cast. The more you fish for them the easier it becomes to work out where they will be and the easier it is to catch a stack of flathead, so make sure you let a few go for others to enjoy.

Remember to slow down and stay in touch with the bottom, change colour or add scent if you're not getting hits and if you have a friend that wants to get into lure fishing, the flathead is a great place to start.

See you on the water...



Click PLAY to see the ZMan in action!



Sheri with a 60cm GT, welcome by-catch while chasing flatties.



Choosing a Plastic Pt. I

When it comes to selecting the right soft plastic there are a few things to consider. The first thing is probably 'What species am I targeting and what does it eat?' It is often referred to as 'matching the hatch' which is an old fly fishing saying that describes how fly tiers take note of what insects are hatching and then tie a fly that closely matches this insect. Likewise with plastics, a good starting point is to observe what the fish are feeding on, or what bait, crustaceans and other creatures are in the area and attempting to match these. Let's take a look at the ZMan range of plastics, what each is meant to represent and what species they are ideal for targeting.

Paddle Tails

Paddle tails, as their name suggests, have a 'T' tail that is joined to the end of their realistic fish shaped body at right angles, giving the plastic a realistic paddling, swimming tail action as it is retrieved through the water. The aggressiveness of the action will often depend on the size of the tail and speed of the retrieve. Paddle tail plastics are ideal for beginners, as the action is built into the plastic, so once it starts moving it will start swimming. They are also deadly in the hands of more experienced anglers who over time learn to impart subtle speed changes and twitches that add further to their realism of the paddle tail.

3" MinnowZ

This 3" paddle tail plastic appeals to a wide range of species due to its profile size and it's small but lively tail action. It can be fished effectively at a wide range of speeds, or twitched and hopped for added action.



3" MinnowZ are dynamite on flathead, bass, trevally, saratoga, mangrove jack, cod and a myriad of other freshwater and saltwater species.

4" SwimmerZ

Realistic 3D eyes and hand-painted, scale textured finishes make this 4" paddle tail extremely realistic. In fact it is a brilliant representation of one of the most popular baitfish species, the humble mullet. The large paddle tail and super-soft and flexible, yet 10X Tough ElaZtech construction allow the tail on this plastic to work at extremely slow retrieve speeds.



This has rapidly become a go-to mangrove jack lure and a favourite for mulloway, barramundi, flathead, cod and more.

6" SwimmerZ

This is the big brother of the 4" SwimmerZ and it again has the realistic look and feel, and that deadly tail action at dead slow speeds. It has become a favourite for Barramundi, Mulloway, XOS Flathead and offshore species.



5" Grass KickerZ

This unique plastic has a large aggressive paddle tail and tapered nose that make it perfect for rigging on a TT Lures SWS (Snagless Weight System) jig head. This allows it to be fished in amongst the weed, overhanging mangroves, timber and other snags, with much less chance of hanging up. The Grass KickerZ can also be rigged on a standard jig head for those wanting a baitfish profile with plenty of tail action.



This plastic has already proven to be deadly on barramundi and is sure to be dynamite on mulloway, flathead, snapper and other offshore species.

Curl Tails

Curl tails are another soft plastic that has plenty of built in action, again making them ideal for beginners and deadly in the hands of experienced anglers. When laid flat, the tail of the plastic will curl back toward the body of the plastic forming a letter 'C' and the 'curl' in its name. Once you commence your retrieve the curl tail will move back behind the body and ripple and flutter seductively in the water, attracting fish and triggering strikes.

2.5" GrubZ

This small cur tail has a compact body and long tail that creates plenty of movement in the water. As with the other ZMan plastics in the range the 2.5" GrubZ are constructed from ElaZtech, meaning they are super-soft and flexible, yet 10X Tougher than a standard soft plastic. This has a couple of advantages; the lure feels extremely real so fish keep eating it until they find the hook and because they are 10X Tougher, they stand up to blowies (toadfish), leatherjacket and other toothy critters, allowing you to spend more time fishing and less time rigging.



Already a winner on bream and also dynamite on redfin, trout, bass, estuary perch, flathead, saratoga and a myriad of other species. If you aren't getting any hits, try downsizing. Even a fish that has a full belly can't resist a jellybean sized lure like the ZMan 2.5" GrubZ.

4" StreakZ Curly TailZ

A fat minnow body and large curl tail give this plastic a great profile and plenty of action. It swims on the drop and can be fished with a slow retrieve, twitched faster or hopped, making it an extremely versatile lure option.

It is dynamite on flathead and other victims include big bream, snapper, mulloway, bass, trevally, cod, sweetlip... the list is almost endless.



9" GrubZ

This is a big grub for those chasing barramundi, mulloway, snapper, pearl perch, dhufish, cod and other large predatory species. The difference with the ZMan plastic is that it stands up to the pickers and toothies, so you get more than one drop out of your plastic. The ElaZtech material that ZMan is constructed from is also buoyant, so when that plastic is sitting on the bottom, the tail is up dancing around in the face of the fish, attracting fish and triggering strikes.



11" EelZ

This long plastic flutters and ripples through the water when retrieved and when paused the 10X Tough ElaZtech tail floats up into the face of the fish, attracting attention and triggering strikes. This big fish plastic will appeal to pearl perch, dhufish and other offshore species, as well as barramundi, mulloway and cod.

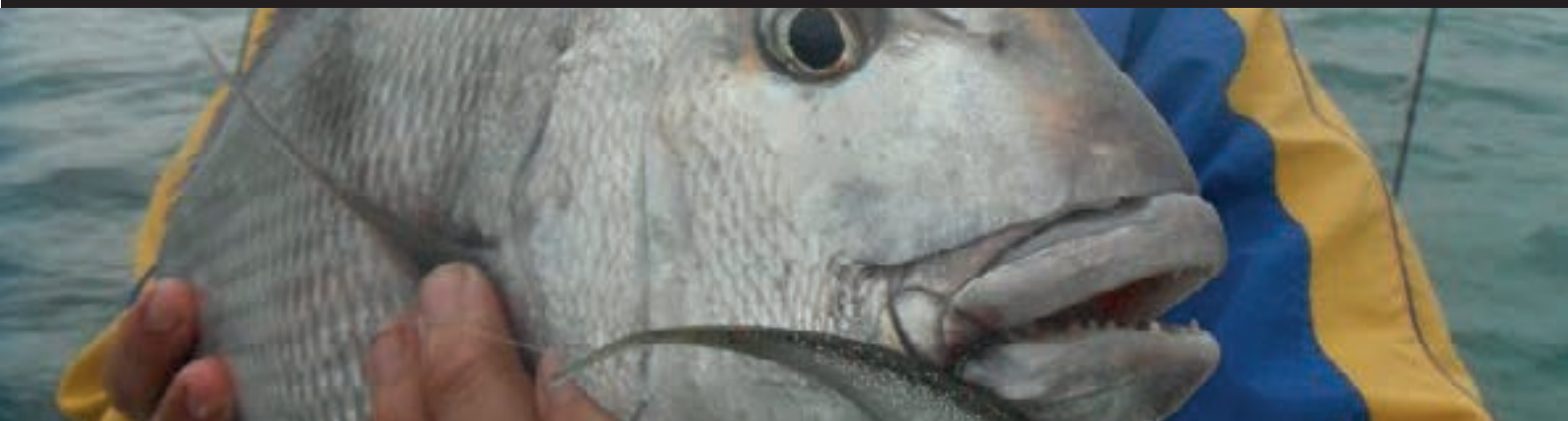
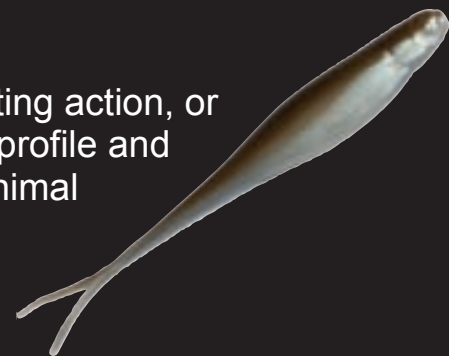


Jerk Baits

Jerk baits don't have the action built into them like a paddle tail or curl tail plastic. Instead they are more straight tailed and rely on the twitch and flick of the angler to get them darting like a baitfish to attract predators. There are some advantages though to this lack of action; the plastic will often glide naturally on the drop, it sinks faster making it a favourite in faster currents and deeper water, it casts like a rocket and the angler can apply extremely subtle twitches to the plastic and the tail will flick. Jerk baits are also popular when you are wanting to retrieve the plastic faster, such as casting into schools of pelagic species, lifting the rod tip high and burning and twitching the plastic through the fish.

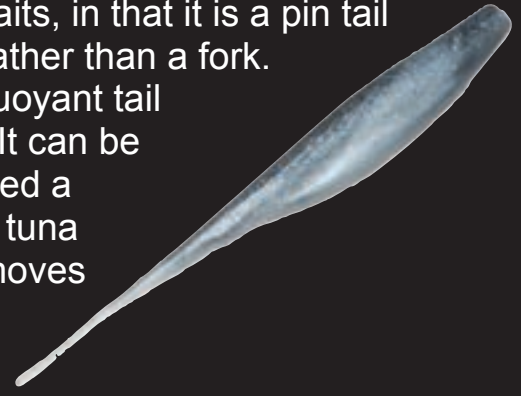
3.75" StreakZ

This compact jerk bait can be fished with a twitching and darting action, or hopped slowly through shutdown fish. It is a realistic baitfish profile and the softness of the ElaZtech ensures maximum action for minimal movement, while it's 10X Tougher so that thin, forked tail will stand up to toothy critters. This plastic is ideal for bream, bass, flathead, inshore snapper and stacks of other baitfish eating species.



5" StreakZ

The 5" StreakZ is a bit different to many other jerk baits, in that it is a pin tail plastic, meaning that the tail goes to a single point rather than a fork. This gives the StreakZ a unique action, where the buoyant tail dances, worm-like in the water attracting predators. It can be twitched and hopped, fast or slow, but has truly gained a following when chasing oceanic speedsters such as tuna and mackerel. When retrieved quickly the StreakZ moves with a sway, like its swimming and the wiggling tail drives fish crazy. Slow it down and twitch it and it has been the undoing of plenty of flathead, mullet and trevally.



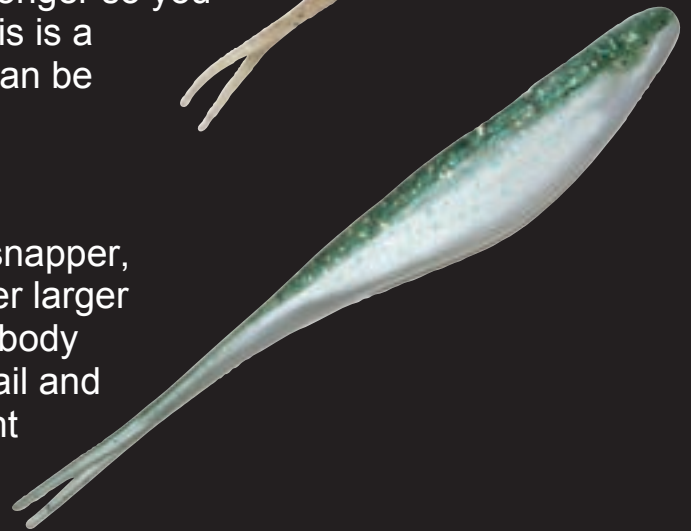
5" Scented Jerk ShadZ

A more traditional, fork tailed jerk bait, the 5" Jerk ShadZ is ZMan Australia's number one snapper plastic. Again it's soft and flexible for maximum action in the tail, but 10X Tougher to stand up to the toothies and pickers commonly found offshore. The Jerk ShadZ also feature 100% natural scent to attract fish, trigger strikes and make the fish hold on longer so you have more chance of a solid hook set. This is a versatile plastic for offshore fishing, that can be fished fast or slow, hopped and twitched.



8" StreakZ XL

This jumbo jerk bait is ideal for targeting snapper, kingfish, mackerel, cobia, wahoo and other larger predatory species. It has a larger baitfish body profile with plenty of action in the forked tail and it is salt impregnated to add casting weight and help it sink faster when rigged for sub-surface presentations.



That's a quick look at three different types of plastics, Paddle Tails, Curl Tails and Jerk Baits, how you might fish them and what species will generally respond well to that style of plastic. In part 2 of 'Choosing a Plastic', we are going to look at the ZMan Crustaceans, Frogs and specialist Bluewater plastics.



Thanks for checking out Issue #7 of the Tackle Tactics Fishing E-Mag, we hope you enjoyed the read. For more information, stories and video links check out our Facebook pages or websites and stay tuned for Issue #8 of the E-Mag coming soon. Please forward the E-Mag link onto your fisho friends.



www.z-man.com.au

www.ttlures.com.au

[Facebook.com/Zman.Aus](https://www.facebook.com/Zman.Aus)

[Facebook.com/ttlures](https://www.facebook.com/ttlures)

Info@z-man.com.au

Info@ttlures.com.au

Before you go if you haven't seen the WeFlick Fishing crew's video 'Chasing Bream & Estuary Perch on the ZMan 2.5" GrubZ', click PLAY to check it out! Cheers, Team TT

