

“Slow Death Smiles”

OK gang. The secret's out. If you haven't heard of using a slow death hook and smile blade in combination with one another yet, let me be the first to introduce you to your next favorite lure. Believe me when I say "You gotta try this one". Mack's Lure Inc. has released the Smile Blade Slow Death Rig, which combines two of the hottest fishing innovations in the walleye fishing world; the patented Smile Blade® and the Slow Death hook. A number of Macks Lures Pro-Staffers had input regarding the size and colors available in these rigs. The result....12 forage based colors that are ideal for walleye fishing in the Pacific Northwest. Let me briefly describe the Smile Blade Slow Death Rig. It starts with the Slow Death hook, which is offset with a large bend and causes your bait to spin with a bite-enticing cork screw



action. Thread half of a crawler or Gulp onto the shaft of the hook and you're in business. The Smile Blade portion of the rig is made of lightweight Mylar and not only adds an extra wiggle action to the bait but spins at a speed slower than any other blade out there. Being able to fish this rig so slow with a spinning flash and corkscrew action is something that gets even the

most lethargic fish to bite! As the spawn concludes and we enter into the post spawn period, a slow presentation can be absolutely deadly. Walleyes that are aggressive, negative or somewhere in between all will fall victim to this presentation. All you have to do is pull them out of the package, clip them into the swivel on your bottom bouncer and you're ready to go. I've been fishing these rigs utilizing two basic methods. The first is the traditional approach. Affixing the rig to the bottom bouncer and determining your forward trolling speed while keeping the bouncer in contact with the bottom. The second method utilizes a 10'-12' limber rod placed in the rod holder with a lighter than normal bottom bouncer. Most folks call this technique "dead sticking". The choice of rod is critical to this presentation. A limber, soft rod will allow the fish to "load up" and essentially hook themselves. Legacy Rods or Bass Pro Shops Walleye Angler rods are perfect SWC Times Page 7 for this technique. As you know, I really enjoy pitching jigs. By employing the dead stick method coupled with a Smile Blade Slow Death rig out of one side of the boat, I can still pitch jigs out of the other side and the long rods greatly improve my coverage.

Bob Ploof