

Pole Fishing

By Attila Ágh



A pole-caught 30+ from the DC Tidal Basin!



Sturgeon!

North America has a wide range of fish fauna. Besides the well known bass, and panfish, there are much bigger, and stronger species living along with them. Just to mention a few of these, the queen of all freshwater, and at the same time the world's best sportfish is the carp. Next to the carp, there are different kind of suckers, and catfish species swimming in many waters. Fishing for these larger prey, is an unbelievable experience. Most of the lakes, ponds, rivers, and canals in USA, and Canada are loaded with similar fish, and so they are living just right around you. It's not a surprise, that the popularity of catching them, are rapidly growing amongst anglers. There are many different ways to capture these cool fish, whether you are using float (bobber), or sinker. In most parts of Europe, people are catching fish by fine tackles, using

the pole, match, or feeder rod. These european originated methods are not well known at the moment in this continent, even though they are proved to be very succesful, and fun ways to catch fish. In the near future, some of these techniques will be introduced to the North American fishermen throughout this series, by Attila Ágh, and Jozsef Papp, professional multi species, and match anglers.

Our first writing is about to introduce the very basics of pole fishing. If you are interested more about it, or you have further questions consirning tackle, bait, or techniqualties, please visit our site, at: www.topmixusa.com

Float fishing is not just about casting a bobber, or float into the water, and then letting the wind or current take care of the rest. A much better result can be achieved through controlling the rig or, in other words, actively stimulating the fish to bite. Out of the various float

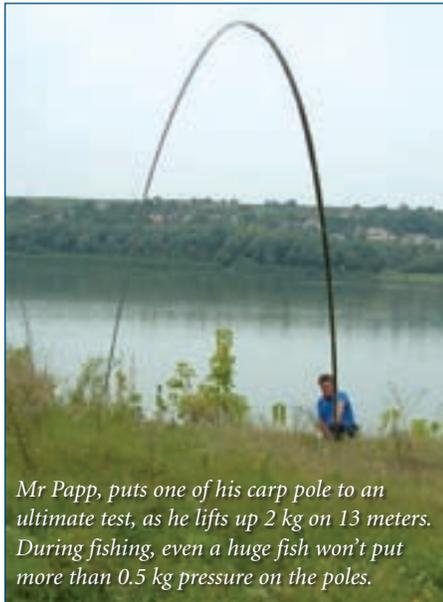
fishing methods available, polefishing is by far the best technique to achieve this goal, because provides the most precise bait presentation. This method was originally developed in France by match anglers. The pole (also called *roubasienne*), is used without a reel. The sections are not telescopic, they simply slide in to each other, and it is very important



to keep the joints clean. Sand or dirt can permanently damage the sections.

At first, only 4-10 meter models were produced, while modern technologies have now made it possible to "grow" poles much longer. Manufacturers were

making up to 16 meter poles before CIPS (International Sport Fishing Association) decided to stop the 'race', limiting pole lengths at all its matches to 13 meters. Advanced materials are used in the construct these fishing tools. Indeed, behind the light weight of most poles you'll also find lots of strength. Obviously, there are different poles out there, all with specific parameters of weight, stiffness, length and price, fitted either for hobby, or competition fishing, for big fish, or small fish. For example, for big fish, such as carp, it is better to use a somewhat heavier, flexible, stronger pole. For most North American waters, I defenetelly recommend a simular, 11-13 meters long, reliable model.

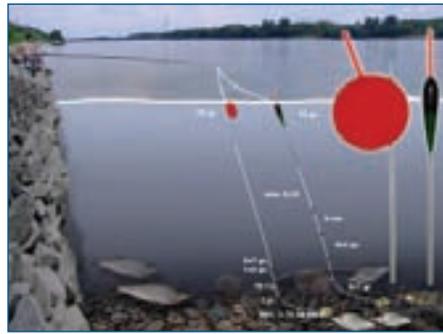


Mr Papp, puts one of his carp pole to an ultimate test, as he lifts up 2 kg on 13 meters. During fishing, even a huge fish won't put more than 0.5 kg pressure on the poles.

What makes pole fishing the leading competitive method on fresh water? The first and most important reason, as alluded to earlier, is bait presentation. Because of the short distance (30 cm-2m) between the tip



Under complete control of the float



of the pole and the float, the rig is under the angler's constant control.

There are countless strategies (or 'tricks') that can be played when pole fishing. Whether holding the float still, moving it left-right with various speeds, slowing it down in a current, or sometimes lifting it up and down, there is always a right way to manipulate the hook bait in order to render it irresistible to any nearby fish. Often, this is very simple - you just have to copy nature. Find out, for the given water, how is the natural forage laying, or moving along the bottom, and try to match that same look. Another great trick is to use a hook bait that matches or imitates indigenous insects or other food items living in the water. For example, red mosquito larva (bloodworm), that can most often be found over soft mud or silt, often 'shoot' themselves few inches above the bottom before slowly sinking back down. By simply lifting the float up a few inches with the pole, and dropping it back down, the hook bait basically mimics this natural movement. As I've experienced many times, this is often the only way to get shy fish to bite.



Monster river red horse caught on the pole, at the 2007 US Open

The second main advantage of pole fishing is accuracy. Because we feed ground bait to attract the fish under the pole tip, our hook is constantly around a small concentrated area of feed, i.e. in front of the front of the fish's mouth!



Ground bait splashes exactly where it's needed.

The third indispensable advantage of the pole is being able to fish with the lightest of tackle (that means a smaller float, thinner line, and/or a smaller hook). It is a fact that lighter tackle always produces more bites, since, obviously, it is less visible to the fish.



Carp also see the difference!

How is it possible to land huge fish without a reel, while often only using very thin diameter (2-8lb) lines? Well, the line is not attached directly to the end of the pole tip, instead it is connected to an elastic, that runs inside of the top few section of pole (top kit). The correct elastication is so important, it is often called, the "soul" of pole fishing.



Which one of these elastics is the right choice for today?



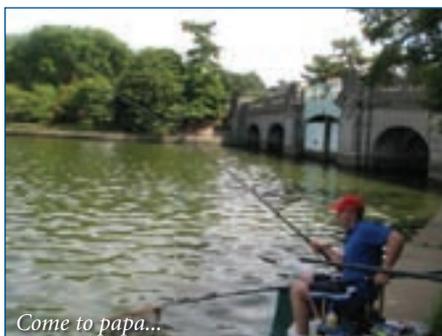
Special teftlon attached to the pole tip, to reduce friction

The length of elastic used can vary anywhere from 60 cm- 3m, depending of the conditions and fish sought. The purpose of the elastic is that it relieves tension from the line when the fish is on the hook. There are many different brands on the market, with various colors, diameters, stretching ability, with either solid, or hollow construction, moreover some new kinds even has liquid inside of them. Mainly the size of the targeted fish, and the braking strength of the fishing line determine the kind of elastic, that should be used. Stronger 'shock absorbing' elastics, housed within the hollow tip of the pole, are typically employed when chasing larger fish.



Big carp under control

The actual way of using the pole is the following: The rig is connected to the top few sections of the pole, or top kit, which can be anywhere between 3-5m long, depending the depth of water being fished. After casting in, we attach this pole kit to the rest of the pole sections, and shift it in by using a pole roller.



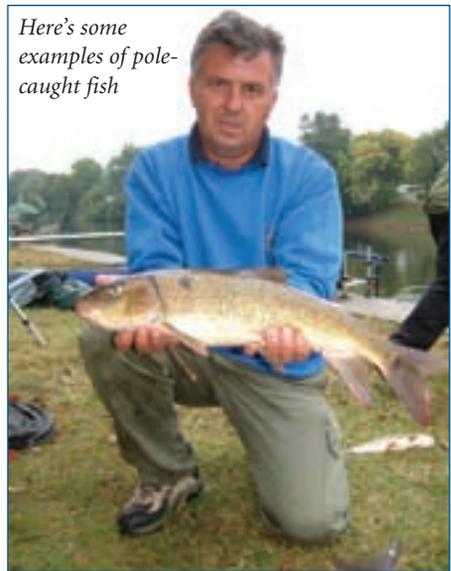
Come to papa...



When the fish bites, and the hook has been set, we have to bring our prey nearer to the bank. This is done by shifting the pole back through the pole roller until the top kit is reached. After detaching the top kit, the fish is either lifted out of the water or netted.

All these processes might seem a little complicated at first. But like everything else, to being able to

succeed, it takes practice, and the results will make up for the effort, guaranteed.



Here's some examples of pole-caught fish

Normally we remain seated during a pole fishing session. The best way of doing that is from the specially made seat boxes. They are comfortable stations for even a long fishing sessions, and can be used for any type of fishing when the angler needed to be seated. Inside of the moduls of the seatbox, there are



plenty of space, to store any the nesseserry tackle, and keep it handy when it needed.

Pre-maid rigs are ready to go...



Pre-made rigs ready to go!

The pole, seat box, roller, landing net, and numberless accessories are not so cheap either. The layman might rightly ask: what is all the money, and hassle for, if at the end the fish goes back to the water? Well, why do we climb the heights of mountains, or search the depth of the oceans? We are looking for challenges.



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