

Shaky Head Fishing

Shaky Head fishing has become one of the most popular finesse techniques in recent years. It can be used in a variety of ways and has proved itself by winning numbers of tournaments. Although it can be used in a lot of ways, I think it is most effective around docks and on deep weed lines. I approach each one of these differently but I'll first talk about docks.

Fishing Shaky Heads under docks is a big part in my fishing every year. I won the 2008 Jr. TBF State Championship, in Minnesota, using only this technique. It offers a very unique action for fish because the tail pretty much just shakes. When I fish the Shaky Head, I use a Berkley Shaky Worm rigged on a Bagley 1/8 oz. Shaky Jighead. I rig this on a 7ft or 6ft 6in. Fenwick Elite Tech rod, and an Abu Garcia Soron STX reel spooled with 10 pound Spiderwire Ultracast Fluorocarbon line. Fluorocarbon is a must when finesse fishing. It helps me detect those real subtle bites and it also is much more abrasion resistant, which will reduce the number of lost fish on docks. How I work the bait depends a lot on where the fish are located. If they fish are located on the bottom, I'll cast or skip way under the dock and then hit the outer edges. When I'm working the worm in these situations, I will just shake my rod tip in an almost continuous action, pausing it every once in awhile. If the fish are located higher in the water column, I will make the same casts, but swim the worm slowly. No matter where the fish are, I will always use Jack's Juice spray, I prefer the garlic. It gives me the highest advantage to catch the most, and biggest, bass I can.

Fishing Shaky Heads on weed lines is very similar in the technique I use on docks. I will cast it out and let it sink all the way to the bottom. If I feel weeds I will give it a good jerk and that causes a lot of reaction strikes. When it is on the bottom, I just shake the rod tip like I do under the docks. I prefer to fish weed lines that have either a steep drop or are on a point. The fish often school up and a shaky head is a great way to catch them. As for the equipment, I use the same as with the docks, except sometimes I might go to an 8 pound test line. And again, fluorocarbon is an absolute must to detect bites. A lot of the strikes happen on the fall and using will fluorocarbon will help you tremendously. Just like any other technique, I always use Jack's Juice spray, especially after I miss a fish.

I hope that you have learned a lot about Shaky Head fishing and I hope you can use these tips to help you catch more bass.