

# Old, but effective

*Popping cork rigs can work when other techniques fail*

Bobby Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures unhooks a speckled trout he caught on a popping cork rig with a plastic bait while fishing in Mississippi Sound near Bayou La Batre, Ala. A popping cork rig essentially consists of a float holding up a natural or artificial bait. When an angler jerks the rod, the cork makes a commotion on the surface like a fish attacking prey.



Photo by John N. Felsner

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

Among the oldest, simplest and still most effective techniques for catching many saltwater, and even some freshwater, species, a popping cork rig can put more redfish, speckled trout, flounder and other fish in the boat quickly.

"I use a popping cork rig all year long for both trout and redfish," advised Bobby Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures (251-661-7696, [www.ateamfishing.com](http://www.ateamfishing.com)) in Mobile. "I call it my 'in case of emergency break glass' rig because it will work when nothing else does. It may not always produce the biggest fish, but it's great for numbers."

A popping cork rig essentially consists of a float holding up an enticement. Some corks somewhat resemble an old topwater popper. When jerked,

See **POPPING CORK**, 40

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