

# DIFFERENT: Crappie can be landed in various ways

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mat. Some people use lines only two to five feet long to increase their accuracy so they can reach places others can't attempt to fish.

Let the bait slowly sink vertically, but watch the line for any subtle movements that might indicate a strike. Make a natural, subtle presentation without any added action. Crappie usually bite immediately or not at all. If the bait hits bottom, jig it back up toward the surface and move it just a few inches to repeat the procedure.

Whenever possible, such as when fishing standing timber or stumps, fish every side of an object. For whatever reason, crappie might hold on one side of an object or another. On a cold day, fish might prefer the sunny side. On a hot day, they might hold in the shade.

Perhaps some unseen object creates a perfect ambush spot below the surface. Fish all angles to determine patterns.

Keep moving from object to object. After determining a pattern and thoroughly probing all available sweet spots at a location, look for similar cover and conditions elsewhere.

### Spinners

When crappie aggressively feed, throw a spinnerbait. Many bass anglers catch big crappie on large spinnerbaits, but smaller spinners might produce more consistent action.

"When I was a kid, I fished a lot with in-line spinners like a Mepps," recalled Jimmy Houston, a legendary professional angler. "We just

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Photo by John N. Felsher

Jighead spinners like these Road Runners make excellent crappie lures.

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