



TREAT YOURSELF TO THE BEST!

Cheat Sheet

Big Soft Baits by Species

By Capt. Mike Hogan

Fresh Water:

Largemouth Bass : The 7” and 10” “Texas” rigged Hogys have been proven to be deadly on largemouth bass. Don’t be afraid to fish big for these aggressive fish. I have done very well on the kettle ponds in Cape Cod when the herring are in. (Bone’s my favorite color!) Later on in the season when the lily pads are in, the Hogys are great for hopping over the pads. Their pronounced weight and size create a lot of attention. Start fishing them as a jerk bait once they’re off the pad and hang on!

Small Mouth Bass: The 7” Texas rigged Hogy is the way to go here. Amber is the hot (hot, hot) color for the smallies.

Pike and Musky: The 10” and the 14” are the proven sizes for these toothy critters. I use a short 80lb test fluorocarbon leader when fishing for muskies. I use a Texas rigged 10” Hogy in weedy situations and the tandem rigged 14” Hogy in open water to draw more attention. Hogy Insert rattles drives them crazy!

Saltwater:

Bluefish: Though bluefish chop up soft baits, they love ‘em. I’ll use Hogys on finicky bluefish, which is often the case when I try to catch one on short notice for dinner!

Striped Bass: Hogys were designed and field tested when fishing for striped bass. I’ll use 7” Hogys for schoolies or when larger fish are feeding on very small baits. I routinely cast, drift and troll Hogys for striped bass. Don’t forget drop shotting them as a pin point strategy for finicky fish holding in deeper water.

Cod/Haddock: I use the 10” tandem rigged Hogy as a dropper for whales... Other times, I’ll add two dropper loops above my sinker and fish with nothing but Hogys. I like the 14” on the bottom and a 10” on top. Haddock LOVE bubble gum colored Hogys.

School Tuna: Hogys make great cast baits to breaking school tuna. Last year, off Chatham, MA, the 10” tandem rigged amber Hogy was HOT. In Gloucester, MA the light tackle fleet trolled the tandem rigged bone Hogy with great success. When the blue fin tuna were on sand eels or very small squid, daisy chains and spreader bars rigged with Hogys were the ticket. You’ll be amazed by how well they simulate a bait ball.

Warm water Pelagics (Trolling): When high-speed trolling, I always tip my green machines and jet heads with 10” bubble gum Hogys. They’re erratic quivering drives fish crazy. As a ballyhoo alternative, I did not notice any difference between the 10” Hogy and a real ballyhoo rigged behind my Hander™ heads. Just slide the head over a tandem rigged Hogy and you’re in business. A real time saver!

Warm Water Pelagics (Casting): I always have two spinning rods rigged and ready when heading offshore. One with a 7” Texas rigged bubble gum Hogy targeted for Mahis schooling under debris or high flyers and another with a 14” bone colored Hogy as a cast bait for white Marlin. I was told by a guide in Key West that he raised a 200lb plus sword fish on his. I’m still not sure what we would have done if he hooked it on 30lb test spinning gear!

Giant Tuna: A commercial angler friend of mine swears by the 14” black or purple Hogy attached to his stinger. It was his theory that the darker colors simulated a shot of ink from a frightened squid. I took his tip and upped my score on bluefins up to 100lbs on my squid bars.

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