

Ring the Dinner Bell for Fish – Rockport Rattler Jig Heads

The Science

Fish detect prey by a various and highly-evolved set of sensory systems. The more senses you can charm, the more chances a strike will occur. Their sensory systems include the recognition of smell, sight, sound and vibration.

Once any of a fish's sensory systems are activated, their response is heightened. This response can often be referred to as a "reaction" strike by anglers. Fishermen can increase their likelihoods of a strike by using baits that have sound and vibration producing features. When a lure looks real, a fish will strike it faster and hold it longer consequently guaranteeing a better chance of getting a good hook set.

The Lure



Professional crappie angler and B'n'M Pro-Staff manager, Kent Driscoll introduced me to an absolutely fantastic lure called a Rockport Rattler. Sure there's been plenty of rattling jig heads, I agree. I assure you I've used plenty and sometimes they make a difference. This one is different. I've even inserted rattles in my soft-plastics at times; that gets expensive and it takes time. As I've mentioned before, sound travels about 4 times faster in water than it does in air, making water an excellent sound conductor. This means fish can hear and sense the Rockport Rattler at a longer distance. I don't see Kent get excited about a lure very often. He's

won more tournaments than I care to mention. In other words he's an excellent fisherman.



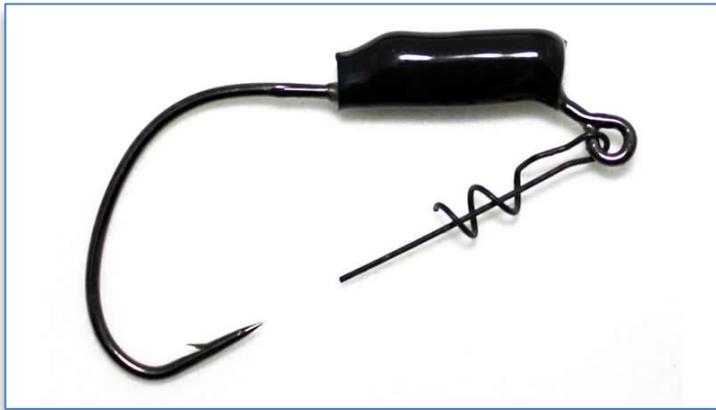
The guys at Rockport Rattler have long produce the original rattling chamber jig body. According to Driscoll, "These guys took these jig heads to the next level with the introduction of the Outlaw Max Rattling Jigs. These jigs are the bomb. They come with three Aberdeen style hooks in black nickel finish per jig. This helps when fish are aggressive to increase your strike ratio. They also include high reflecting eyes with a rattling chamber. Believe me when I tell you, there's nothing on the market that comes close to the fish catching ability. It's like adding a treble hook to your jig head."

Driscoll said, "I push minnows and soft plastics a lot; I get a lot of 'ghost bites'. I don't know whether the fish hit the head or the tail of the jig or whether they blow it out so quickly you can't get a hook set. The Rockport Rattler almost totally eliminated this type of strike."

Professional bass angler Don Terry is also a fan of the Rockport Ratter. Terry said he loves the Shake Head Jigs, “They come with a Lazer Point Wide Gap Hook in a black nickel finish and a screw lock to hold the head of the plastic bait. I can run the hook thru the plastic and bury the hook in the plastic body for a truly weedless presentation. The best thing about the setup is the rattle matted alongside the hook for the loudest rattle sound possible. I just love the reflecting eyes.”



Terry is also a fan of the Football Head Rattling Jig and the LunkerMAX Swimbait Hooks. Terry said,



“The football jig comes with a heavy duty brush guard for a totally weedless presentation. The Wide Gap Lazer Point hook allows me to add any type of frog, crawfish or creature bait to my presentation. Did I mention it comes with a high-quality skirt in many different colors? When word gets out these baits will not stay on the shelf. I use the LunkerMax swimbait hooks exclusively on my large swim baits, worms, crawfish, grubs and frogs. It’s great when the rattle is matted to the

hook. It saves time and money by not tearing my soft plastic.”

Go check out their website, www.rockportrattler.com. They’re available at Bass Pro Shops and Van’s Deer Processing & Sporting Goods locally; they’re also available for various websites. They catch all types of fish, freshwater and saltwater. Why spend those high prices for rattler inserts that come out on the first bite. They offer Shakey Head, Football Head, Swimbait Hooks, QuickLock Jigs, CroakerMax Hooks, Cobia / Striper Jigs, Panfish Jigs, LunkerMax and my favorite the OutlawMax.

I’m an avid crappie fisherman; I use the Rockport Rattler jig head with my favorite scented plastic to give my baits that fuel to trigger sight, smell and taste to trigger that reaction strike. Like I said earlier it’s like ringing the dinner bell for fish. Enough said, better get you some.