

Fishing in the period from Late March through early April has been hot and cold. The water quality in the area is likewise variable. South of Baffin Bay, clear water recently pushed through the Land Cut and has the entire area looking great. In Baffin, and in the Lagoon north of there, the water is tainted with brown tide. I've been focusing mostly on areas in the clear water and catching some big trout on good days. Had three 30 inchers and a 29 ½ in a 17-day window. The biggest was caught in Baffin on a sinking strawberry/white tail original Corky with the tail bent down. It was kind of windy and the water wasn't too pretty that day. Also had a 7 ½ pounder the same day. Most of the better fish we've caught have bitten either sinking Fat Boys or floating ones. When I'm fishing water deeper than knee deep, I stick with the sinkers. In shallower water, I switch over to the floaters. Best numbers of fish have generally been in water about waist deep, and they're biting topwaters aggressively for part of the day on most outings, sinking Corkies better when the action slows. Small topwaters like Spook Jrs and Skitterwalk Jrs are working better than full-sized ones most of the time. The key with all the lures is to maintain a vigorous side to side movement in the head of the plug for much of the presentation. Incorporating pauses and speed bursts is critical too. This is typical moderate weather fishing; the fish want the lures moving erratically with some speed, but they often strike on the pause or slow-down. The areas where I'm catching best do have some fish signs present, namely a decent amount of bait and some slicks, but it's not an obvious thing, meaning the bait and slicks aren't as abundant as they sometimes are in spring.