

Kiddy Sidewinder Lures, Icey-Tek Cool Boxes and Berkley Scales

This month Des Westmore takes a good look at three different items he has been using on long-term tests.

Kiddy Sidewinder Lures

When shads and jellyworms first became available in the UK, the original shads did not work so well at low retrieve rates. They generally performed best when the tide was running and the faster you cranked them, the better they worked. This was because their tails were relatively stiff and at low speeds, the lure just swerved from side to side.

When wound at a faster rate, the tail worked properly - beating erratically and sending out fish attracting vibrations. Of those original shads, there was a particular colour combination that did consistently well in the area of the Channel that I fish. It was a 4-inch shad that had a bright red back and bright yellow/gold belly. What the hell the pollack and cod thought it was is anybody's guess, but those colours



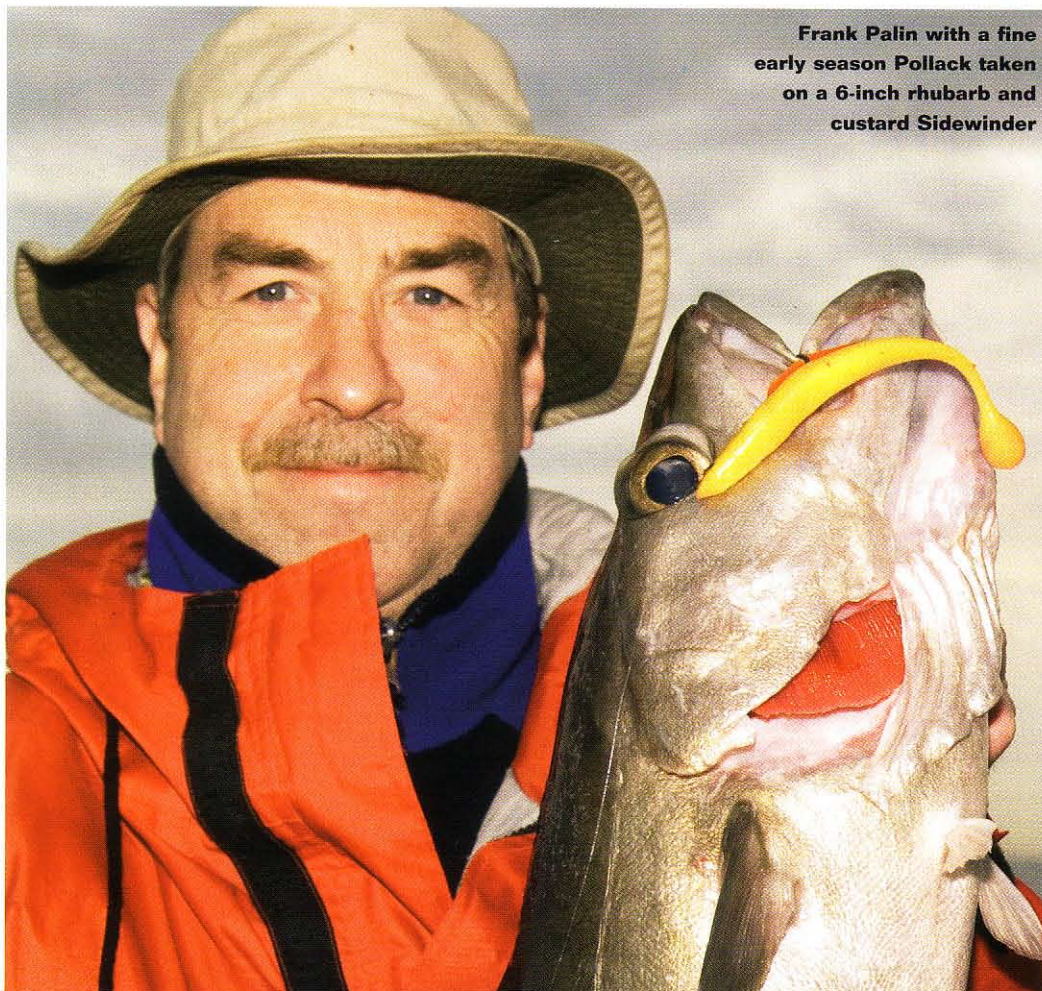
definitely triggered a reaction and it was on this colour lure that I caught my first 20lb cod.

When the first internally weighted shads appeared in tackle shops, they signalled a bit of a change in the way shads could be fished. The tails on these lures had bigger 'paddles' at their tips

The Rhubarb and Custard Tempest Sidewinder Sandeels, pictured along with other Sidewinders from the range available

and were made of supplier materials. This meant that they worked at low and high speeds. Their internal weighting also gave them an in-built keel without the need for a separate lead head, while many were translucent with holographic elements inside the lure. Though we now take them for granted, they looked pretty special at that time and caught lots of anglers as well as fish. Many were superb imitations of fish that live in warmer parts of the world and while there were also solid coloured lures, I never saw any in the red/yellow combo. That was until this year.

Frank Palin, an angler that I both work and fish with, visited Scotties tackle shop on the Isle of Wight and came away with a pack of Tempest 'Sidewinder Sandeel' lures, which are distributed by wholesaler 'Kiddy'. They had bright red backs and yellow stomachs though 'Rhubarb and Custard' is the official colour. Frank had liked the lures for two reasons. Firstly was the aforementioned colour scheme and secondly



Frank Palin with a fine early season Pollack taken on a 6-inch rhubarb and custard Sidewinder