



BY MARK LASSAGNE

**W**hether you fish a hundred days a year or just two, a little research and keeping track will benefit you greatly. You might really whack-um one day but can you duplicate it the next day? Maybe you can, if you know what the conditions were the previous day and can follow that same pattern. Paying attention is grossly underrated. Do you know what the weather, wind, tides, water temperature, fish position, bait and depth are?

I have been there and I was that guy so speaking first hand. There were many times I went out on the water and just went fishing. I often remembered how and where I caught fish but really did not pay too much attention to what

else was going on. I have caught good fish but never had the success I knew I could have had. I have also done well in a number of tournaments but each time I had to work much harder than I should have. The guys that did their homework and really paid attention could consistently catch better fish almost every time.

A few guys that come to mind are Bobby Barrack, Gary Dobyms and Steve Sapp. In talking with Bobby a few times, he revealed that he can tell you when the fish should bite within minutes according to what he has

l e a r n e d  
f r o m t h e  
t i d e s .

Steve Sapp can take a pattern of fish behavior to new areas of the Delta with similar conditions and catch a winning sack. Dobyms has fished and fished enough to remember most any situation and duplicate it. These guys, unlike most of us, are able to spend 200 plus days on the water. When you spend that amount of time on the water things start to become second nature and responses to changing conditions are almost automatic.

That saying related to being “older and wiser” is right where I am or at least need to be. Over the last few years I’ve been working hard to keep track of what’s going on with notes, notes and notes. Did I say NOTES! I know note keeping is inconvenient but well worth the price. Unfortunately, I don’t

have one of those photographic memories like my little brother. He makes me so mad... He

always says “Do you remember when?”

And I’d say, “Was I there? I don’t remember that?” So for me to remember, I have to write notes. You may be like my brother and not need notes, just remember everything. If so, good for you! Just log it into memory.

I like to do a little research before going to fish in order to see likely tide changes, weather patterns, fluctuations in water temperature and historical successful fishing strategies. I even check fishing reports and review several for consistency. If a report on the Delta lists a place and time fish were caught, reference the map and tide table for that spot. You might find a similar location somewhere else, an area of later or earlier tide staging. I use [www.westernbass.com](http://www.westernbass.com) quite often for fishing reports. I will also post a truthful report there, (not giving up too much information) then later I can reference the report and remember what I did in the past. Most fishermen remember where we caught fish but we don’t always remember the conditions when we caught the fish. Don’t get stuck on “I caught one here last year”. Some

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