

BY W.H. "CHIP" GROSS

Anglers need to know your store carries must-have items.

By reading "Your Fishery" each month, retailers located near some of the best fisheries in the country will discover what anglers are successfully fishing, what other independents are selling and what needs to be on your shelves.

# Niagara River

Despite chilly temperatures, the fishing can be anything but cold this month on the Niagara.

A simple selection of the right lures and tackle is all anglers need for this great winter fishery.

Photo: W.H. "Chip" Gross

## Connecting the Great Lakes

of Erie and Ontario, western New York's Niagara River is best known for its trophy fall salmon and world-class winter steelhead trout fisheries.

Chinook (king) salmon enter the river from Lake Ontario as early as Labor Day, and the prime fishing lasts about six weeks.

Following the big salmon into the stream are large steelhead that stay all winter into spring.

"King salmon, as well as some cohos, migrate from the lake into the lower river each fall to spawn, and then die," says local fishing guide Joe Cinelli. But the majority of salmon returning to the Niagara are mature 3- and 4-year-olds.

Ron Hutcheson, owner of A-1 Bait

Supply ([www.a-1bait.com](http://www.a-1bait.com)), located along the river in the town of Lewiston, N.Y., says spoons, in-line spinners and medium-heavy rods are the bulk of what he sells for the fishery.

For rods, he mainly carries brands such as Fenwick, Eagle Claw, Daiwa and Sheffield.

"Boat anglers use mainly bait-casting equipment — Okuma, Abu Garcia, Daiwa and Shimano reels — because they are catching fish by drifting salmon eggs on a three-way swivel rig," he says. "Shore fishermen, on the other hand, use mostly spinning equipment, including Okuma, Daiwa and Penn reels, as

they are casting artificial baits."

The artificial lures most often found on the end of anglers' lines range from Luhr Jensen Kwikfish and Blue Fox in-line spinners to Acme KO Wobbler spoons and No. 11 Rapala floating minnows.

Other effective lures include the Worden's Triple Teaser and Dardevle spoons. No matter what lures you stock, the most popular colors for the fishery are orange, firetiger and chartreuse.

## Five Best Bets

- 1 Luhr Jensen Kwikfish
- 2 Blue Fox Super Vibrax
- 3 Acme Little Cleo
- 4 Worden's Triple Teaser
- 5 Shimano Tekota Line Counter 300

