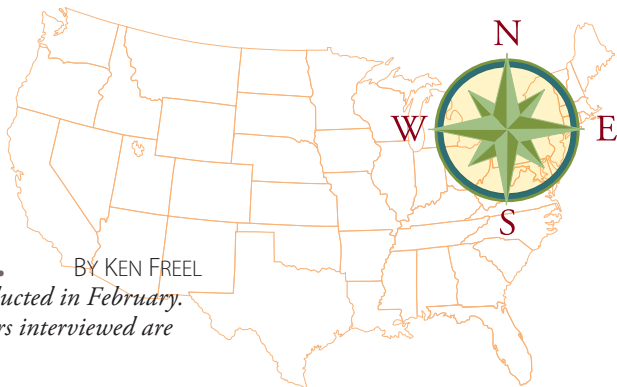


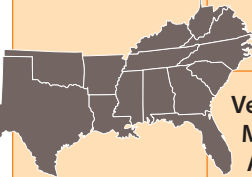



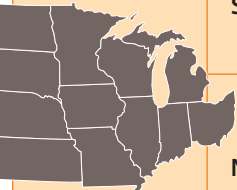

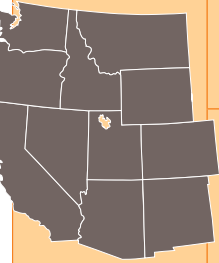


What's Hot Where

A spot check of what's selling around the country.

(Ed. Note: Interviews for this month's "What's Hot Where" were conducted in February. Comments address what is selling at the time of the interviews. Retailers interviewed are selected at random.)



BY KEN FREEL

Where	The Expert	Dominant Fishery	Rods & Reels	Line	Lures	Terminal Tackle	Overview
South 	Tom Hawthorne, The Ozark Angler; Little Rock, Ark.	rainbow trout, brown trout	Sage and Orvis fly combos; Winston rods	Rio, Orvis and Scientific Anglers lines (3- to 6-weights)	Generic scuds and sow bugs; Umpqua and Randy's flies	Umpqua Tiemco and Daiichi hooks (sizes 12 to 22)	"Fishing is good for rainbows and browns because we've got plenty of water."
	Velma Frederick, Maw & Paw's Bait Shop; Abbeville, La.	redfish, gar, catfish	Zebco and Daiwa combos; Zebco 202s and 808s	Eagle Claw mono (10- to 100-pound tests)	H&H Cajun spins, Blakemore Road Runners, Slater jigs	Eagle Claw circle and j-style hooks; Seven-strand sleeves and Berkley swivels	"The fishing was pretty good until hurricanes Ike and Gustav came through."
Northeast 	Steve Schmeling, Ocean Pro Shop; Smyrna, Del.	crappie, stripers	Daiwa and Okuma combos 	PowerPro braid and Berkley Trilene	Gary Yamamoto Senkos, Yum Buzz Frogs and Rapala hard baits	Gamakatsu worm hooks; Bullet Weights sinkers 	"It's been slow, though some crappie are biting in the shallow ponds."
	Mark Meltzer, Meltzer's Sporting Goods; Garfield, N.J.	lingcod, blackfish, yellow perch		PowerPro braid, Berkley Trilene XL and Gamma copolymer	Tsunami Swim Shads; Spro and Wizard bucktails	Wizard and Gamakatsu hooks (6/0 and 7/0 sizes; j-style)	"It's slow. Mostly ice fishing for yellow perch. Saltwater guys are catching blackfish, ling and cod."
Midwest 	Michael Kyle, Backcountry Outfitters; Springfield, Mo.	rainbow trout	Sage Z-Axis and TCX rods (9-foot lengths); Sage 4500 series reels	Rio Gold and Scientific Anglers Sharkskin (4 to 6 weight); Seaguar Grand Max	Egg patterns and soft hackles	N/A	"Been really good daytime or nighttime. Phenomenal fishing for 16- to 20-inch rainbows."
	Ray Kindle, Ye Olde Tackle Shop; North Webster, Ind.	white perch, crappie, bluegill	HT Enterprises and St. Croix ice combos	Cortland, Stren Original and Berkley Trilene	 Rapala ice jigs	Tru-Turn Aberdeen hooks (No. 6)	"It was really good until the front moved in. Supposed to be minus 25 wind chill tomorrow."
West 	Mike Parks, Sportsmen's Warehouse; Phoenix, Ariz.	Largemouth bass, stripers, trout	Pflueger ultralight combos and Shimano rods (6 to 7 foot)	Berkley Trilene 100 percent Fluorocarbon; Stren and Berkley Trilene mono	Norman and Bomber hard baits; Strike King Sexy Shads; Roboworms	Owner TwistLock hooks; Gamakatsu baitholder hooks (No. 12 and No. 14)	"Been fair to good, depending on the day and the weather for stripers, trout and largemouth bass."
	Hugh Cobb, Pacific Coast Bait & Tackle; Oceanside, Calif.	yellowtail, Humboldt squid	Shimano's Clarus rods and Torium reels; Abu Garcia Ambassador 5500 and 6500 reels	Maxima and P-Line (green; 12- to 15-pound test) 	Lucky Craft Flash Minnows	Owner hooks; Spro and Billfisher swivels 	"Anglers are catching a few yellowtail and lots of Humboldt squid on the party boats."

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