What's Hot

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

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

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	Where	The Expert	Dominant Fishery	Rods & Reels
	South	Earl Starkey, Foster General Store; Foster, Okla.	crappie, largemouth, flathead	Zebco and Shakespeare combos
		Butch Bradley, Frank & Fran's Fisherman; Avon, N.C.	Spanish mackerel, bluefish, drum	Tica and Okuma rods (7- to 12-foot lengths); Okuma Avenger Baitfeeder spinning reels and Penn Slammer 560 spinning reels; Daiwa Saltist 20 & 30s conventional reels
	Northeast	Chris Fulton, Stratford Bait & Tackle; Stratford, Conn.	bluefish, striper	Tsunami Airwave rods (8- to 10-foot); Shimano spinning reels and Penn Sargus SG 5000 & 6000 series spinning reels
		Tony Tochterman, T.G. Tochterman & Sons; Baltimore, Md.	striper, Spanish mackerel	Powell and St. Croix Avid series rods; Hardy-Greys fly rods and reels; Shimano Baitrunner, Daiwa Emcast and Penn's Sargus and Torque reels
	Midwest	Josh Harder, Rainy Lake One Stop; International Falls, Minn.	walleye, crappie, northern pike	Shimano's Stradic and Symetre reels; Fenwick HMX and Eagle GT rods
		Kathy McCann, Dillion Falls Store; Zanesville, Ohio	flathead, crappie, sauger	Zebco Hawg Seeker combos; Shakespeare, Shimano and Abu Garcia spinning reels; American Spirit rods
	West	Curtis Hayes, Benicia Bait & Tackle; Benicia, Calif.	striped bass, sturgeon	St. Croix Avid casting reels; Shakespeare Ugly Stiks (light to medium action, 7-foot lengths)
1		David Leinweber, Angler's Covey; Colorado Spring, Colo.	rainbow, brown, northern pike	Sage rods (9- foot, 5 weight); Ross Rhythm and Lamson Velocity fly reels

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Line	Lures	Terminal Tackle	Overview
Spiderwire and various monofilaments	Storm baits	Eagle Claw hooks and swivels	"Crappie are starting to bite. Bass fishing has been steady, and anglers are jug fishing for big flatheads."
Sufix	Locally made Herbie Lures and Berkley Gulp	Eagle Claw, Gamakatsu and Owner circle hooks (5/0 through 7/0)	"It had been very good up to the last northeaster for bluefish, puppy drum and Spanish mackerel."
Mustad UltraMax and Berkley Big Game (15- to 20-pound tests)	Lordship Lures plugs and Super Strike poppers	Billfish and Sampo swivels; Gamakatsu circle hooks (6/0 to 8/0 sizes)	"It's starting to pick up with more action with stripers and bluefish now that the temps are in the 50s."
PowerPro, Sufix Siege and Berkley Trilene XL	Sebile hard baits, Shimano Butterfly jigs; Bass Assassin, Storm and Tsunami soft plastics	Seaguar leaders, Sampo and Gamakatsu swivels; Daiichi circle and j-style hooks	"The weather and fishing has been very good, though gas prices are hurting business."
Berkley Trilene XL (6- to 8-pound tests); Spiderwire	Northland Tackle Jig-N-Minnows and One Stop customer spinners	Eagle Claw 1/0 hooks and Lindy Rigs	"The fishing has been excellent for walleye, some too big to keep!"
Stren braid, American Premier Pro Cat lines (30- to 50-pound tests)	Rapala and Rebel hard baits; Strike King buzzbaits; Berkley Gulp and Venom soft baits	Eagle Claw, Tru-Turn, South Bend and Mustad hooks; South Bend Hi-Tech swivels	"The fishing's been great for shovelheads, crappie and sauger. We're catching big fish up here."
P-Line, PowerPro	Mister Twister soft baits, G. Pucci Flash striper jigs (white/ red head)	EChip sturgeon leaders; Owner hooks (octopus and kahle, 5/0 to 7/0)	"The striper bite is going on right now, while the sturgeon bite is productive."
Rio and Scientific Angler lines	Umpqua's midges, nymphs and blue- winged olives	Orvis and Rio tippets; Tiemco hooks (20 to 22 sizes)	"It's been really good for trout until that first winter storm. It's been a great season for rainbows and browns."

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