

# Too many fish!

Believe it or not, there are times when you can have too many fish in front of you! It's true, and top match angler Andy Kinder is only too aware of the problem.

It wasn't long before Andy started to catch carp on a running Method feeder.



**Andy Kinder**  
Age: 43  
Hometown: Sheffield  
Sponsors: Maver, Marukyu

Commercial fisheries are fantastic places to fish but there are times when they can be a nightmare. Not because you can't get a bite, but because you get too many!

"When you have lots and lots of active carp and FIs in front of you, false bites will be a real problem as they swim into your line," says Andy Kinder. "The fact that these fish are regularly caught makes matters even worse. They're attracted by the feed you introduce, but quite often they're suspicious of your hook bait."

Situations like this can lead to spooked and foul-hooked fish and neither of these make for an enjoyable day on the bank. But there are ways to minimise the chances of both of these problems and Andy was tasked to show us how at the beautiful

Woodside Fishery, in Shropshire.

"This is a fantastic fishery but, like many commercials all over the country, sometimes you can have too many fish in front of you," he says. "It's a nice problem to have, though, and there are things you can do to make sure that most of the 'bites' you get are proper ones."

## Two-pronged approach

After choosing Peg 4 on Woodside Lake, Andy explains that he will target two areas of the swim.

"I'm fishing opposite the end of the only island in the lake and a gentle 25-yard cast with a small Method feeder will drop me into the perfect spot to intercept fish patrolling the island and also from the main body of the lake," he says.

"The other area that looks attractive

is the margins and I'm going to plumb, looking for a flat or very gently sloping area between 18 inches and two feet deep. Many margins are contoured like this, before sloping off into the main lake."

The margins lend themselves to pole tackle and Andy soon has both pole and free-running Method rod set up before he explains his bait and feed strategies.

## Bait and feed

A good Method groundbait will be a blend that attracts fish to the feeder while dispersing quickly, but not until the feeder has hit the bottom. A fast-dispersing feed will reveal the all-important hook bait quickly... which should result in fewer line bites.

Many top anglers have their favourite mixes, and Andy's currently is Marukyu

EFG I6I. Designed specifically for Method-feeder work, this groundbait is the most recent addition to the UK range from the Japanese company and contains no fewer than 28 ingredients. All behaving differently, they are designed to produce a controlled breakdown speed as well as stimulating fish to feed.

In swims up to four feet deep, Andy uses I6I on its own as his Method groundbait, but in water that's deeper than that, he'll add a couple of handfuls of Marukyu EFG I00. This very fine groundbait serves as a binder, helping the mix stick to the feeder until it settles on the bottom.

He doesn't add any pellets to the groundbait, preferring his hook bait to be the only real 'food' on the feeder. However, if the distance allows, he will catapult a few 4mm or 6mm pellets around the feeder

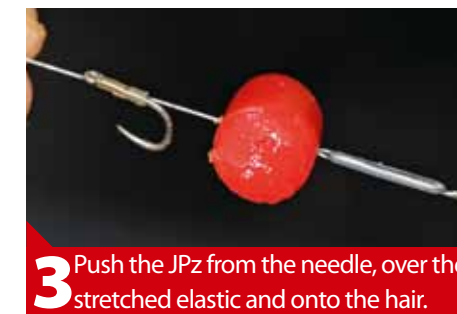
## Hair rigging a JPz



**1** A tiny piece of hollow pole elastic is tied to the end of the hair.



**2** Push a baiting needle through the JPz and hook into the elastic.



**3** Push the JPz from the needle, over the stretched elastic and onto the hair.



**4** Held secure and ready for casting.

every 10 minutes or so to create a wider area of attraction.

Feed for the margin swim is interesting, and revolves around dead maggots. All Andy does is to throw a couple of pints of red maggots into a clear plastic bag, add a handful of fine krill powder, knot the bag and pop it into the freezer. You need to do this at least four days before fishing as maggots frozen for less time than this may come round and start wriggling again! They're resourceful critters are maggots!

The night before fishing, he removes the maggots from the fridge and in the morning they'll have thawed out, with a definite 'fishy' aroma from the krill flavour that they will have absorbed.

The second important constituent of Andy's margin swim is groundbait, this time Marukyu EFG I5I. Another multi-ingredient groundbait, I5I is designed for warm-water work and quality fish and he'll feed this loose from a pole cup, in conjunction with the maggots.

## Feeding to bites

Feeding the margin swim in the right way is crucial. You need to feed quite a lot, but not too much, says Andy.

"The thing is, fish expect to find food in the margins, and quite a lot of it, as anglers usually throw their unused bait in at the end of a session.

"The problem comes in how much to

## ANDY'S TACKLE Feeder

**Rod:** Maver 9ft Reactorlite  
**Reel:** Prototype  
**Main line:** 10lb (0.23mm) Maver Jurassic  
**Hooklength:** 3in of Maver Genesis Extreme 8.6lb (0.20mm)  
**Feeder:** 30g flat Method  
**Hook:** Size 14 Maver CS20

## Pole

**Pole:** Maver Elite Carp  
**Elastic:** 12-20 Maver Dual Core  
**Line:** Maver Genesis Extreme 8.6lb (0.20mm)  
**Float:** 4x12 Maver Invincible Series 8  
**Hook:** Size 12 Maver CS21

## Fishery fact file

Woodside Fishery, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY14 0BU  
**Tel:** 01299 270565  
**Website:** www.woodsidefishery.co.uk  
**Day tickets:** £6





## Bait and feed



**1** EFG 151 for the margins.



**2** EFG 161 for the Method.



**3** Feed the margins with half a pot of dead, krilled maggots...



**4** ... topped with half a pot of groundbait.



**5** Drop the feed from a height to make a splash.

feed. The ideal scenario is to get three or four fish over your feed and competing with each other. If there are only three or four fish there, you shouldn't get too many line bites. More than this and you will.

"Some good anglers prefer to have only one fish feeding on their margin line at a time, but I prefer a few more so that they compete and take my hook bait faster."

### The session

Andy starts on the Method feeder, with a hair-rigged 10mm Marukyu JPz. He uses a tiny length of hollow elastic tied to the end of the hair to act as a stop, and he's soon getting indications on his fine quivertip.

In truth, it's not difficult to differentiate between a line bite and a proper bite when feeder fishing. Line bites are plucks, twitches and slow pulls, whereas a proper bite will usually pull your rod in, and it doesn't take long before Andy is playing his first carp of the day.

Several more follow and it's noticeable that as the first couple of hours progress, bites come increasingly quickly, sometimes within seconds of casting. The mix is obviously doing exactly as it should because line bites are almost non-existent.

Early afternoon Andy starts to feed his margin swim, with half a pot of krilled maggots topped up with groundbait. Having done this, he leaves it alone for half an hour, the aim being for any fish to settle over it and start to feed confidently before he drops his rig among them.

Continuing to fish with his Method rod, he constantly watches for signs of fish appearing in the margins, and is pleased when, 10 minutes after feeding, he spots swirls right where he has fed.

Twenty minutes later, and after he has fed another potful of krilled maggots and groundbait, he lowers his rig into the cauldron.

Hook bait is interesting: two large dendrabaena worms, which he hooks in the head before whacking the rig on to the surface to stun them.

Other hook-bait options include four or five dead maggots or two grains of sweetcorn – swap around and find

which works best.

You'll only know whether you're feeding your margin swim correctly when you start to fish it. Ideally your float should settle for a few seconds before shooting under as a fish takes your hook bait. Things are rarely perfect, though, and Andy suffers the almost inevitable line bites before he catches his first margin carp.

By a process of trial and error over the next couple of hours, he gets his feeding perfect – a full potful after every second fish – and he ends the session with around 90lb of carp and FIs.



Just part of Andy's 90lb haul.



### Two sizes

Marukyu JPz now come in larger 10mm sizes to go with the 6mms that have proved so popular.