

Venom Lures

The sweetest dream part two

The Dream Craw

Any bass angler you meet today can most likely rattle off at least five different creatures on the menu for bass as far as forage is concerned. Frogs, lizards, shad, worms, water dogs, and the list can go on and on. They all have a place in the bass fishing world and one will produce better than the other at certain times, but one particular species on the bass's menu has always stood as a constant staple in their diet.

Here again the question might be “why”. Well if you're short on time to do the research and study, the good folks at Venom Lures have you covered. Their answer to that predator/prey relationship between the bass and the Crayfish, more affectionately known as the crawdad was forged into the Dream Craw.

Available in fourteen different colors the 4.25 inch Dream Draw is the perfect size for most angling applications. After viewing Venom's online store I noticed that this bait can be purchased in single packs of eight, or in a fifty count pack like the Sweet Dream. With many different colors options it's also easy to match this bait as a trailer to jigs as well.

Already in the package the Dream Craw is fortified with Megastrike so there's no need to juice this soft plastic bait with scent attractants. As I started inspecting the bait I noticed right off that it possesses the same thin segmented body style as the proven Sweet Dream. At the end of the bait is the molded body style of a crayfish head that sports large oversized claws which are also thin in form to provide a lot of action and vibration.

Watching this bait in a test tank attached to a shakey head jig I noticed that the claws are very buoyant and slowly rise on their own, just as a crayfish would in a defensive posture when threatened. It only takes just a little movement to give the claws a lot of action, perfect for Carolina rigging.

In reviewing this bait for Venom I found no problems with rigging it to the Carolina Rig, Texas Rig, and Shakey Head techniques. I was able to obtain good solid hook sets with each application due to the baits thin design. I also cut the main body away and used the craw section as a trailer for my jigs which worked very well. The drop shot is the only rig I've yet to use this bait with and I'm looking forward to that at the upcoming O.B.F.N. Lake Erie tournament at Sandusky.

Working this bait in several different water conditions I found that it eases through vegetation and over rocky areas. I had no trouble pitching to docks, standing timber and other available cover that I found while doing my review. But I had the most fun using this bait on my favorite rig, The Carolina rig and I have to tell you that if anyone wanted to learn what the bite feels like using this rig, tie on one of these Dream Craws to the end of it.

This is also a great bait for those just starting out in using soft plastics because the bite is more discernable with a craw type bait than say a finesse worm.

Watch a bass, especially a Smallmouth Bass attack a crayfish and you'll know why you feel the bite. The key I found while using the Dream Craw was to wait for my line to start moving before setting the hook. Bass have a habit of attacking a crayfish then spitting it out very quickly. You'll feel initial the "tap" but when you go to set your hook, there's nothing there.

Bass may hit and spit a crayfish three or more times before it finally picks it up and moves away with it, again the key is to watch your line moving off. When using the Carolina rig you'll definitely know when they have it as they drag that heavy sinker across the bottom while trying to make off with their stunned prey.

Yes the predator/prey relationship between bass and crayfish is alive and well. From early spring through almost early winter the bass will forage and feed on them. Another thing to remember is that crayfish molt and shed their hard outer shells throughout the season, sometimes several times per year as they grow so their colors will change. So change colors from time to time if the bite is off to try and match the hatch as it were.

The next time you're on the water and wanting to use a bait that resembles the predator/prey relationship, try Venom's Dream Craw with your favorite rigging and see if their answer to predator/prey will help your bass fishing success.

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