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## Tube Fishing - Part 2

By Russ "Bassdozer" Comeau

*This article is part of a series on tube fishing. Please enjoy.*

### -Spinning Tubes

Tubes on spinning gear have always been one of the most productive baits for me the last 15 years or so. Tubes really shine when I need to go to a finessy, lightweight, hang there and hover kind of approach. Few other lures I've used do that as good as a tube. I almost always use jig heads as opposed to T-rigged for this. The line tie eye coming off the top of the tube helps it get that float for me. Also, I feel the jig head is more solid for the hookset, being one piece with the hook gap wide and clear as opposed to a T-rigged tube, which is two pieces (weight and hook) with the hook gap clogged by the bulk of the tube body. I use light jig heads of 1/16 oz. for this in 6 feet or less, and I use 1/8 oz. down to 12 feet, or 1/4 oz. for 18 feet - always understanding that the increased weight gives you increased depth - but also robs the tube of the hovering, gliding kind of action inherent in it.



Now, I'm not talking flipping tubes here, but casting tubes across light cover or open water on spinning gear. Flipping tubes are a different kind of animal, and I talk about them down in an earlier article, if you click here: [Flipping Tube Tactics](#).

Getting back to lightweight tubes - in shallower water, I'll use 12 lb. test with the 1/16 oz. heads, and lower the line test as I go progressively deeper with progressively heavier heads - 1/8 oz. with 10 lb test, 1/4 oz. with 8 lb. test. The fatter line diameter lets the tube float and hover more in shallower water, but the thinner line diameter gets it down deeper - and the line and the water pressure drag on the long thin line in deep water makes a line belly that gives the same neutral buoyancy effect as you get on a short fat line in shallower water. That's an important point. The effect of the line often dictates the action of a lure. The line - and how you control the belly, slack and tautness in it - allows the lure to achieve its optimum action - or not. Sometimes, especially with the light tubes we are discussing here, you should be focusing on the line and how you handle it more than you should be focusing on the lure itself. The proper placement of belly in the line is not always bad. When used properly, belly makes an oscillating

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effect that follows through into the lure which suspends neutrally like one of those little Cartesian diver toys we played with as kids. If you control the line, the tube will be floating around there kind of totally weightless on the end of the string doing its own thing. Fish will wolf it down when the tube achieves that equilibrium point of optimum life-like action induced by proper line handling.

## **-Ikas**

As far as the Ikas, I always think of them as a different lure than a tube. They may have the same shape, but a tube is about as light as you can get for that shape (it's hollow), whereas an Ika is about as heavy as you can get for that same shape. Because of that weight difference, I don't consider them to be the same.

The Ikas produce fish if you treat them as their own lure, never trying to make them be a tube *in my mind*, which may be different from somebody else's thinking. That's what makes fishing interesting - no two people do it the same!



I will use Ikas on the same or a slightly heavier set-up than tubes. I use tubes to hover, glide and laze around. However, I use Ikas to dart, snap and move somewhat quicker than a tube. Also, because it is so dense, the Ika excels on a weightless or splitshot presentation whereas I personally consider tubes to be lousy (too light) when used weightless, and tubes can sometimes act too flighty for my taste (the Ika hunkers down whereas the tube floats) on a quickly-fished splitshot rig.

Not saying my opinion is right or wrong, just that's what I choose to do!

Regards, Bassdozer

### **Other Tube Bait and Ika Information:**

- [Tube Fishing Part 1](#) Flipping Tubes on Texas Rigs
- [Tube Fishing Part 2](#) Spinning Gear for Lightweight Tubes and Ikas
- [Tube Fishing Part 3](#) Pro Staff Compendium of Tube Tips
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