

When we're out fishing, my clients frequently ask me for advice about what color lure they should use. Though I generally think color is less important than the choice of type of lure and the presentation made with the chosen lure, I still have strong preferences for certain hues in specific conditions. Certainly, I believe the color of a sub-surface lure is of more significance than is the color of a floating plug, which creates more of a vague impression to the fish. Additionally, I believe colors are most important when the water is either extremely clear or murky, and also when skies are either bright or pitch dark. Regardless of the type of lure, I usually deploy natural looking lures in clear water, bright or shiny ones under bright skies and darker ones under dark skies. If the water is really murky, I favor lures with vertical lines separating distinctly different colors. Normally, a dark color is at the front or head of a lure, while a bright color resides at the tail or back end of the lure. All of these generalizations will help novice and/or beginner anglers select lures which well match different fishing situations, but I've taken things a step further and created a "color selector chart" for one of my favorite lures, the 5" MirrOlure Provoker soft plastic. Shaped much like a glass minnow, with a long, slender "rat" tail, these soft plastics dart erratically through the water in response to the vigorous twitching of a rod tip. Particularly in clear to trout-green water, I believe this erratic, darting action generates more strikes than more subtle and predictable movement patterns. In addition to having a favorable movement pattern, Provoker worms also give off an attractive scent, not so strong as something like a Gulp! product, but stronger than many other scented soft plastics. Last, but not least, Provokers are made with a soft, yet durable plastic; sometimes, it's possible to hook and land 25 or 30 fish on one worm before it's ruined! Though paddle-tailed soft plastics have their place in any expert lure chunker's quiver, I prefer rat-tails most of the time, and the Provokers are some of the best I've ever used. I use these enticing soft plastics almost exclusively when I'm deploying "the worm". To view the Provoker Color Selector Chart, double click on the image of the worms on this page. Those who want a handy reference available at arm's length could, of course, copy and email this image to themselves and (assuming they carry a smart phone) view it while fishing!