

Chapter 1 : Tench – My Blog

Fishing for Tench: The first thing to consider when going tench fishing is where you are going to fish. Most lakes, ponds and canals have tench in them but choosing a water known to hold a good head of tench puts the odds of you catching one in your favour.

LC – Least Concern Appearance The tench is a stocky fish with a humped back that gradually slopes up from its rounded head. One of its most distinctive features is its eyes, which are particularly small and red-orange in colour, located on both sides of its head. The mouth is narrow with thick rubbery lips and a small barbule on either side. With the exception of the tail fin, which is square in shape, every fin has distinctly rounded edges. The tench has very small scales which are set deep into the skin, it is also covered in a thick slime. The tench is a shoaling fish. When the fish are small, these shoals are large and gradually decrease in size as the individual fish within the shoal grow in weight and size. Tench above 7 lbs 3kg have a tendency to be found in small groups or just pairs. Tench will leave behind a considerable amount of slime, this means that landing and keep nets will require a thorough clean after a session. Otherwise, a stiff, crusty mesh that smells particularly bad will form on the net. So how do we catch one? The most effective baits include worms, black slugs, red maggots and casters, as tench are instinctively attracted to such baits. Bread flake, pellets, sweetcorn, prawns and boilies can also be used to catch tench. In some regions, green peas are said to work very well. Some experienced anglers will swear by them as the best bait. In other regions and waters though, success with green peas is limited. Using cereal groundbaits will often get the tench in the swim and interested. They are also attracted by hemp, which is a great tool in the spring when using maggots as your hookbait. Your groundbait should be fine, with the occasional freebie here and there. Therefore, spawning typically takes place between June and July, although if the summer is a particularly cool one, they may have to spawn as late as August. The spawning itself takes place in the early morning, with a couple of males or so chasing several females. A healthy female can produce between 100,000, eggs per kg of body weight. The females deposit these eggs in shallow areas of thick vegetation, with the males fertilising them soon after. The eggs are adhesive, sticking to the aquatic vegetation and branched plants in the area. The larvae emerge around 48 hours later. Around 10mm in length, the larvae have coloured eyes and a black stripe spanning from the eye to the lower part of the tail, which acts as camouflage. Initially, the tench fry survive on algae and other zooplankton in the water, this sustains them until they reach 12cm. After which they become mainly carnivorous, consuming very small particles of food such as insect larvae, bloodworm larvae and other tiny insects. Once large enough, they begin to feed on worms, freshwater molluscs and small crustaceans. Catching young tench is rare as they tend to hide within thick weed beds where they consume zooplankton, however, if you do catch one, look out for the black stripe in front of their caudal fins. Seasons The tench almost exclusively is a summer feeder, ideal times to fish for them are early mornings or late evenings during the summer or early autumn. Winter tench are very rare, once the first frosts have emerged, tench will remain largely dormant until the spring. With that said, tench will feed in the winter if there is a prolonged mild spell. If such a mild spell does present itself, tench will feed for an hour or so in the middle of the day, making that the best time to fish for them. Best Locations The tench is found in still waters, with a preference for clay or muddy bottoms and plenty of aquatic vegetation. It is rarely found in clear waters with stony bottoms. Carp waters often also hold tench, as both fish thrive under similar conditions. Despite tench being known for their unpredictability when it comes to feeding, overall, they are easier to catch compared to carp and anglers very rarely have to wait hours for a bite, unlike their wily cousins. Favourite Feeding Places Tench prefer to inhabit areas with thick mud, silt and vegetation. Whilst it is true that tench occasionally rise to the surface to feed on the insects which are found there, the bottom is the ideal place to fish for them as their natural diet is made up of crustaceans, molluscs, worms, water snails and aquatic insects. Just like carp, they forage in the mud and silt at the bottom for such meals. Tench rarely stray far from weed beds and marginal shelves, which provide the fish with both cover and food. They often give their location away themselves, by producing streams of small bubbles as they search the mud and silt at the bottom for food, these bubbles tend to appear in distinct

meandering lines. The movement of weeds and lilies can also be another giveaway. These signs are rather subtle so the use of binoculars will assist greatly when trying to spot them out on large waters. It is not uncommon for anglers to identify some or most of these signs, only to discover that the fish are preoccupied with tiny natural baits. There are only really two solutions to this scenario, keep going with small baits or move to a different swim where the tench may feed on the baits you are using. An ideal spot for tench

Methods Tench are powerful fish and fantastic fighters, providing excellent sport for anglers. When caught on the line they make good runs and often change direction to seek sanctuary in weed beds and lilies, if present. Tench fishing is very popular, as such there are rods and other tackle pieces designed specifically for them. Despite this, any rod with medium action and a test curve around 1. Use a mainline between 1lb and hooklinks between 1lb, if fishing in an area with dense vegetation or weeds, increase both to ensure that the fish is not lost. Balance your tackle depending on the conditions you are fishing in and the size of fish which reside there. Strong hooks are essential, go for a hook between size 8 and 10, depending on both the size of the fish you are trying to catch and the bait that you are using. Tench are primarily bottom feeders, as such the bait needs to be presented on the bottom, close to weed beds and lilies.

Float Fishing Using a waggler float is the way to go when float fishing for tench, fish an inch or two over depth. Alternatively, using a semi-fixed bolt rig with a PVA bag of pellets fastened to it is another effective method for catching tench. Tench are meek fish and are out-competed for resources in waters which also stock carp. Environments where natural food sources are abundant are perfect, waters such as weedy gravel pits can lead to monster tench being produced.

Pre-baiting Pre-baiting swims can give you a significant advantage when after tench. Because you are persuading the fish to come to you, rather than having to find them, ensure that the baited area is easy to access and as snag free as possible. If you are lucky enough to be able to access the water even on days when you are not out fishing, introduce bait every other day before your session. A good pre-baiting mix consists of brown breadcumb, combined with sweetcorn and chopped worms, you can also include chopped boilies and casters, but this will increase the cost.

Bites Tench have broad fins, and when hooked can utilise them to give the angler some exciting sport.

Chapter 2 : Tench Fishing – Fish Lips and Tales

James Robbins from Shakespeare TV fishes for Tench on the float at Carlton Towers near Selby in North Yorkshire. The video highlights some key tips relating to float fishing for tench including.

Top Tench Waters Blenheim Palace Blenheim Lake is renowned for tench, bream, perch and roach fishing in the summer and superior pike fishing in the winter. Fantastic setting, fishing is from hired boats. Superb venue, with good Tench fishing possible through October and November. If you require a boat to fish the lake please contact Victoria Bellamy on or e-mail vbellamy blenheimpalace. At nearly acres this water can be challenging. Other fish at this venue include Carp to 52lb, Bream to 11lb and Pike to 32lb. Night fishing is permitted at this venue. Night fishing is permitted. This water is no push over, bream have been more apparent than tench in recent seasons. The former record tench of 14lb 3oz was captured here and the potential remains superb. Fishing here is difficult, very difficult in a huge weedy water. The dedicated specialist could thrive though. Pike to nearly 30lb, Perch to over 2lb and shoals of quality Roach can also be found at this venue. The reservoir itself is a round bowl shape with concrete steps for the banks, you will therefore need to use an adjustable pod. Day Tickets as well as Season Tickets are available, however you must purchase your ticket in advance of fishing as no tickets are available on the bank. Fishing times are from dawn to dusk and the water is open all year. Further information on this venue can be found on the Cheddar Angling Club website. The water produces well on both boilies and traditional baits. This water is a Farnham Angling Society water. A large acre venue it is generally considered less prolific than Sywell but offers more in the way of mixed species fishing. Boilies permitted and night fishing for permit holders. Contact Anglian Water on: This venue offers an excellent chance of a double-figure fish. The fishing is not easy, however you can be rewarded if you persevere. Situated in the Cotswolds this ex-ARC gravel pit is amongst the finest in the country. Besides the carp which it is renown for, this lake holds specimen Tench to over 12lb, Bream to over 14lb and also specimen Roach, Rudd, Pike and Perch. You need to be a member of the Carp Society to fish this venue. For information and rules follow this link to the Sywell dedicated pages. Be sure to read the new rules carefully with regard to leger rigs, landing nets and keep nets. Tench up to 12lb 12oz have been caught and there are rumours of even larger fish! Sywell had a great year for specimen Tench during with more than 10 fish caught over the magic 10lbs weight. The lake also contains Pike to over 30lb, Roach to over 2lb and also a large number of Perch and Rudd.

Chapter 3 : Fishing for tench in autumn

Fishing to an island. Cage feeder ledgering is a good way to catch fish close to an island. This is Badgers Wood my local Tench lake, which has two islands that the Tench often patrol.

Hunting and fishing Fishing for tench in autumn Here come the beautiful Golden autumn time. All the students are learning in school, and themselves avid fishermen go on the autumn fishing. We will talk about fishing for tench in autumn, because in autumn and in spring there is a special activity of this fish in our waters. Lin belongs to the family Cyprinidae, is found most often in lakes or streams with silted areas of the seabed. The size of the fish are quite large, but its length does not exceed 30 cm. In autumn swims at depths of 2 to 2. Ling fish is very lazy. Before swallowing the bait, it some time relishing it. Tackle and bait It is well to consider, what equipment and bait to take fishing for tench in the fall. Warm Sunny day is enough to the availability of easy bait. Because of this, it is necessary to get the undergrowth with additional gruselle and special floats. In case of bad weather Ling is becoming less cautious. In the autumn of laziness chooses the purest areas of the water, enabling fishermen sometimes get the fish simple float grid. Bait and nozzle As bait for catching tench in autumn use sour cheese, or millet porridge with chopped boiled egg. You can buy a regular store-bought bait. And most importantly, the bait did not give turbidity. The nozzle should be protein as Lin prepares for winter hibernation and so in the fall he always gets off in large flocks. For catching tench in the fall as a nozzle it is possible to take a normal dung worm, crayfish meat, bloodworm and various insects. Still it is possible to prepare pellets of the dough: Nozzle is kept at the bottom, throwing it in the event of an influx of silt. Lin takes a head if it is a little not reach the bottom. Special attention experienced fishermen are advised to pay bite. It should be noted that when the float starts to walk around, and he trembles, then falls into the water to half. This is a sure signal for sweeps. She sweeps have to be fast if not instantaneous, and strong. This is to ensure that the hook went into the fish as hard as you can, and Lin nice hook. If not hooking the fish breaks off the hook. However, this does not apply to large animals. Following these simple rules, you will not miss a single fish. The main thing is to have patience. The only downside is that fishing for tench in the fall ends quickly, because Lin goes into hibernation.

Chapter 4 : Fishing for tench in September

When fishing for gravel pit tench a 7 lb fish barely raises an eyebrow but on an estate lake this would be classed as a very big fish and this is where I feel that some of the traditions of big fish angling are lost a little.

Young, developing tench take in much plankton-type food as they swim in mid-water; they also eat considerable quantities of algae. Examples of food found on the bottom are insect larvae such as dragon flies, damsel flies and midges. The mature tench also eats crustaceans, such as water slaters, and molluscs, of which the pond snail is the most common example. The younger fish also like water fleas, water mites, and chironomid larvae. But knowing what kind of natural food makes the tench grow big does not really help the angler with his choice of bait. As most of the food that the tench eats is minute, presenting a similar sized bait is not practical on conventional tackle. Microscopic hooks and ultra-fine lines would be needed, yet these would hardly be suitable for hauling out 6lb of muscular tench from a heavily weeded swim. The swan mussel One of the few exceptions is the swan mussel. Many waters holding good tench also hold vast beds of mussels, and in fact, the noted big-tench waters are rarely without them. Also, it is very rare to find a water containing mussels which has no tench, so there may be a link, although it is not absolutely proved. Mussels are therefore good bait, and fishing with this bait is one of the most exciting ways of tempting bigger-than-average specimens. Tench fishing methods are numerous and varied. Four widely used and effective techniques form the basis of serious tench fishing: All these methods hinge on a bottom-fished bait as this is where the tench does much of its serious feeding. Some feeding is done just off bottom however, or even in mid-water, and often the tench will be receptive to a slowly sinking bait; but in these conditions, specialized skills and knowledge are required. For the newcomer, the best method is probably freelining. It is the simplest and involves only absolute essentials – rod, reel, line, and baited hook. With freeline tactics the bait will invariably end up in the right place – on the bottom, and when a tench takes there will be only minimal resistance. There will be no dragging of a float and no friction on the line due to the ledger weight. The only limitation of the freeline method is its range, but you will be amazed how far you can gently lob a large piece of breadflake or a large worm – 15 yards is no problem. In any event, you rarely need to fish farther than that. All too often you will find your tench within 15ft of the bank, provided you use stealth and caution. If you need additional weight, increase the size of your bait or add another worm; alternatively, use a single swan shot a foot or two from the hook. Whenever there is a steady positive draw on the line, however slow, this is the time to strike your tench, and then the fun begins.

Chapter 5 : Tench - Wikipedia

Graeme Pullen from Totally Awesome Fishing finally goes fishing for Tench! He heads to Horcott Lakes to get some epic Tench fishing action! Graeme speaks to.

Hunting and fishing Fishing for tench in September Lin refers to those fish that do not like to change their homes. Look for it where laziness finds himself with swinging the stems of plants, periodical, clouding the water with silt rising from the bottom of the chain of air bubbles. This fish is often quite quite a few bushes iris or sweet flag, and a small vegetation on the banks, hanging directly into the water this is especially true for sites over. Fishing for tench in September and continues throughout the day, from early morning until evening. The most favorable conditions for fishing are warm cloudy days with a moderately high slightly primatene water. In the case of steady clear weather also takes a good idea, but only in the morning and evening. The day Lin can peck at the bait fishermen only at the moment when he searches for food in the mud or water is fed in the thickets. Fishing for tench in September is held on the float rod with nozzles which should be kept at the bottom, periodically repeating the casting, so as to avoid immersion in the mud. If these fish are in a heavily overgrown pond, which managed to clear aquatic vegetation from a small area, you can fish for tench, slowly lowering and raising the nozzle. Lures and bait As bait for catching tench in September, perfect peas, potatoes, dough, mussels, crayfish, manure worms. Last nasazhivajut on a hook accordion to the sting was well hidden. Lin, sucking the bait can go, feeling the hook. In addition, reasonable bait before fishing or during it. Fine food can be old breadcrumbs, mixed with pressed cottage cheese. If the bottom is too muddy, the bait is placed in the trough. But to do this is highly undesirable, especially if fishing takes place on shallow depths, This is because the manger likes to go down the little thing that laziness does not like. Daytime intensive biting does not last long. Yes, and the nozzle Lin takes very suspicious, but peculiar " at first gently touch her, and only then take. The timidity and caution of this fish is enhanced by the fact that it mainly lives near the coast. In lowland reservoirs to look for Lin should also in the shallows and in the coastal zone. This fish is very similar to the habits of the carp, and therefore it often happens along with it. Due to its abundance and the prevalence of line in our waters anglers can focus solely on his catching. Tackle for catching tench The fishing-rod for catching tench in September need to pick the most long, and fishing line strength to 2 kg. Most large tench to be extracted from water without conclusion, so we can not do without such necessary things for fishing as podsachek. Lin prefers to take the nozzle, which is a bit does not reach the bottom. Therefore, the hook is better to take Nos. To catch tench in September is best from dawn to hours and up to hours in the afternoon. Large line is famous for its great power and zeal while walking in Kiev.

Chapter 6 : Pit Fishing for Tench – Part 1 | FishingMagic

Tench Fishing - Species Information and Facts. Exactly what is a Tench? Where do you find Tench? What is the best Tench bait? This section will answer all the general questions you might have on the Tench Fishing.

So equipped with feeder rods I head to a local gravel pit lake that holds some of the intended species. They tend to be the dominant species in most gravel pits; well certainly in my area of the country. But it does mean your tackle has to be strong enough to cope with landing them, especially if a lot of weed is present. Typically in April the water temperatures are still quite cool and I generally opt for a minimal feed option, as opposed to an all out heavy partical approach. This means Groundbait Method feeders with hair rigged mini boilies or Maggot feeders with hair rigged maggot or worm. These feeders are fished in-line and cast every 20 minutes to start with and then, after a couple of hours, every 40 minutes. This means there is enough feed in the swim to attract and encourage the Tench to feed, but not too much to fill them up and bring the Carp in. Arriving at the lake at just before 7: There was a little Carp activity around and eventually saw what I thought was possibly a Tench rolling 30 yards out in one corner of the lake. Then another was spotted shortly after the first sighting giving me enough confidence to try the corner swim for the day. Before setting up the tackle I prepared some groundbait for the feeders and put the kettle on. I was settled and fishing within 30 minutes and counting down the time before a recast. Shortly after 2 pm the right hand rod bite indicator rose to the rod but and the line tightened to the baitrunner. I lifted the rod into a fish and felt the tug tug of my first Tench of the season. First Tench of the Season My first Tench of the Season was a 4lb 8oz male caught on a white popped up mini boile with Groundbait Method feeder. This time 4lb 2oz and another male fish to the mini boilie. Then 20 minutes later the left hand rod indicated a fast take on the worm rig. Just as this was being netted the other rod registered a bite and I found myself into another Tench. As mentioned earlier being prepared for Carp meant that I had a Carp landing net also set up and it was this that was used to land this second fish. Two at Once 5lb 7oz and 4lb 10oz Sitting back in the late April sunshine I was enjoying another cup of tea when the boilie rod indicated another bite. This proved to be another male Tench of 5lb 4oz. Again, just before 6pm and this time on the worm rod, I was into what felt like a heavier fish. This was confirmed on the scales at 5lb 15oz. A great way to finish the day. With the two biggest falling to the worm. Great start to the Tench season. To share just click.

TENCH FISHING is mainly angler's favourite pursuit - and spring and summer is prime time to catch them. This insight and hints are sure to help get more green 'uns in your net. Tench seem to do a vanishing act in the colder months, but as soon as the mercury levels start to climb they feed.

Ecology[edit] The tench is most often found in still waters with a clay or muddy substrate and abundant vegetation. It tolerates water with a low oxygen concentration, [2] being found in waters where even the carp cannot survive. Morphology[edit] Tench have a stocky, carp-like shape and olive-green skin, darker above and almost golden below. The tail fin is square in shape. The other fins are distinctly rounded in shape. The eyes are small and red-orange in colour. The tench has very small scales, which are deeply embedded in a thick skin, making it as slippery as an eel. Folklore has it that this slime cured any sick fish that rubbed against it, and from this belief arose the name doctor fish. This form varies in colour from pale gold through to dark red, and some fish have black or red spots on the flanks and fins. Though somewhat similar to the goldfish , because these fish have such small scales, their quality is rather different. The best methods and bait to catch tench are float fishing and legering with a swim feeder using maggots, sweetcorn, pellets, bread, and worms. Rivers, Lakes and Marshes p Journal of Fish Biology. Lawrence Wells date unknown. Observer Book of Freshwater Fishes, pp Freshwater Fishes of the World pp Males rarely reach over 3 kg. Froese, Rainer and Pauly, Daniel, eds. Understanding Coldwater Fish, p Wikimedia Commons has media related to Tinca tinca.

Chapter 8 : Cage feeder fishing for Tench - Amateur Angling

Pit Fishing for Tench - Part 1, Getting Started Pits Versus Traditional Venues Although traditionally estate lakes and slow-running canals and rivers come to mind for tench fishing, these days you cannot afford to ignore the gravel pits.

Where do you find Tench? What is the best Tench bait? This section will answer all the general questions you might have on the Tench Fishing. The Tench Tinca Tinca A stocky, thick set fish with big black fins that is full of character. Catch your first Tench, and its easy to see why anglers develop a soft spot for the fish. The more common green tench is identified by its silky smooth olive green body and bright red eye. Two small barbules show that the prefer to feed on the bottom. Whilst they appear to be scale-less, they are in fact covered in tiny scales. Their skin is covered in a thick slime which is believed to have healing properties, and this is the reason why the Tench often known as the doctor fish. Its believed other species of fish rub themselves against the Tench to heal wounds although this has never been scientifically proven. Male and female Tench are easily identifiable, with males having large rounded pectoral fins and a pronounced pectoral muscle, whereas the female will have a smaller pointed fin. Predominantly a summer species, Tench almost hibernate in the colder months. They are famous for feeding best at dawn, with dusk being another good time to try your luck. Average weight lbs Average lifespan 15 Years Where do Tench Live Favouring stillwaters and very slow moving rivers and canals, Tench can be found all over England and Wales, Europe and beyond into Asia. In the UK, some of the best tench waters are old established gravel pits with a good water quality and silty bottom. That said, Tench are just as happy in a small pond and can tolerate low oxygen levels. When fishing for Tench, look for weed beds, clumps of lily pads or margins shaded by overhanging trees and reeds. They use their big lips to root around in the mud and silt foraging for their favorite grubs and snails. Look out for the bubbles Tench Tackle Tench certainly punch above their weight and are known for putting up a good fight on well balanced tackle. Similarly, hooklinks around the same breaking strain should be used. For fish safety, always use a hooklink slightly lower than your mainline, incase of breakages or snagged fish. The bigger the bait, the bigger the hook. There are tench rods on the market, but any match type rod around the 1. Check out our guide to match rods on the list When targeting larger fish, then its worth considering a more specialised set-up, similar to that use in carp fishing. No need for a 3. Unsure what bait alarm to choose. Their natural food is varied, with small grubs and crustaceans their favorite, so keep the fish interested by using a variety of baits. A carpet of bait is known to do well. Sweetcorn, maggots, casters and worm are all known to be good baits and you can further enhance this by using groundbaits and small particles such as hemp to encourage them this to root around. This has the added bonus of clouding the water, hiding your end tackle. The bigger fish are also partial to a boilie. A good fishmeal based bait, around the mm size would certainly help pick out the bigger fish. Not be afraid to try something different. How to catch a Tench Its possible to catch Tench on a number of methods, but since they are bottom feeders, you must present the hookbait on the bottom. One of the most popular, and our favorite method, would be the lift float method. This method is perfect for presenting the bait hard on the bottom, close to the margin or lily pads, exactly were Tench will be feeding. It involves using a still water waggler type float fished over depth, meaning you first need to accurately plumb the depth of you swim then set the bulk of your shot so that the tip of the float is just above the water level. This anchors the float to the bottom, presenting the bait hard on the bottom. Once the fish picks the bait up, the bite is indicated by the float tip raising up out of the water. Checkout out our top tips for Lift float fishing here Using a swim feeder is another great way to fish for tench. Again, this enables you to present your bait on the bottom, but also allows you top add a little extra attraction to draw the fish in. You can use a variety of feeders, from the open-ended cage feeder, a small method feeder or a closed maggot feeder. For more information on feeder fishing for Tench, click here Top tip: Little and often is the approach here. To read this, please click here.

Chapter 9 : Fishing for Tench - Part 3

Himley tench kept the same time clock as those across Britain, you had to be fishing at dawn because by 8am the fish totally switched off until late evening. Fishing at dawn and dusk was the concrete rule.

Anglers such as the late member Len Head put specimen tench fishing on the map with his great Bures Lake captures. Today the group still pursues specimen fish but the traditionalist and the pleasure angler, who have a sustained interest in tench fishing are just as welcome. Pit Fishing for Tench – Part 1, Getting Started Pits Versus Traditional Venues Although traditionally estate lakes and slow-running canals and rivers come to mind for tench fishing, these days you cannot afford to ignore the gravel pits. These venues are numerous and do tend to hold the bigger fish. In fact many fish over ten pounds come from these waters as indeed does the current record of 15lb 3oz that was captured in Gravel pit tench If most of your tenching has been done on traditional venues then the gravel pits may at first seem to be quite daunting. Many at first glance appear featureless although in reality this is often a false impression and quite vast in comparison. In the Home Counties some old pits are up to acres in size and more like inland seas than fishing venues. Hence initial impressions can be quite discouraging. Selecting Your Water I would suggest that a venue of up to 25 acres is manageable for the newcomer. You can generally walk round these in an hour. Try and gather as much intelligence as you can by talking to other anglers about methods and successful baits. I will always map my water. You can scan and enlarge the map from your permit book and use a clear acetate to overlay it to mark key information about the swims. Remember all the watercraft that you have learnt on the canals and small lakes apply! Marker floats The use of a marker float will tell you more about the underwater geography and running a lead through will give you an idea of whether you are on gravel, silt or a big weedbed. When it comes to mapping the venue I like to break it down into a number of sections, which can be explored as you wish. I would plan to get to know a couple of areas well and then start fishing! If these do not produce then you can restart the process elsewhere. I would recommend a Hummingbird SmartCast to help you quickly learn about swim features. SmartCasts have a range of around 40 yards, more than adequate for most tench fishing. These are always great areas for tench and are first on my list to place a bait on. Modern tenching does rely a lot on bolt rig feeders but such swims are great for float fishing. Other spots I look for are clear gravel spots which have a fair amount of weed surrounding them. Tench and weed are synonymous. You may need to take a little time to find these spots but it is worthwhile. Leads always give the impression of less weed and you may rig up and find it pretty impossible to fish. Peninsulas on pits command a lot of water and often have intersecting channels and nearby islands, these are quite often hot swims but always popular! However, top specimen anglers like Terry Lampard and Tim Norman did very well on Wraysbury 1 by raking out marginal swims, so never say never! Accuracy Counts It is much easier to fish accurately with a float at short range as you have lots of visual references. With a feeder you do not and you have to create your own references. Direction of cast can be lined up on a far bank feature, you may need one for daylight and one for night time. If you are spodding run out a feeder rod line to the line clip and then do the same with the spod rod until they are matched up. There is no point feeding in one area and fishing in another. Pit Methods Well I have to say for specimen tenching the in-line feeder probably rules supreme. Fished with 2 or 2. You will be using two or three rods and alarms for this style of fishing. This method suits clear spots well and can in those conditions be fished with short combi hooklengths which are very efficient hookers. In-line feeders However, feeders can be a disadvantage if it is very weedy, effectively forming a weed anchor! I would then swop to a running lead Korda System and a mesh pva bag of maggots. This is a better tactic and prevents a feeder picking up kilos of Canadian pond weed. I would also use a helicopter hook link arrangement as opposed to a shorter inline link. Fuss free float fishing can be achieved by using Locslide floats that automatically lock off at the bottom depth. These need to be fished on a tight line and you need to overcast your baited spot to allow for tightening up. They offer quite long range fishing in the bigger sizes. For the purist a big crystal waggler is a great pit float. As you will be fishing some considerable depths a 15 foot float rod is an advantage. Method feeders do not really get a big enough useage although on one venue I fished they out-fished standard feeders by a wide

margin. Drennan and Korda make good 27g weighted versions which are ideal. You can fish these with ordinary tench rods if you do not overload the cage with feed. Even the mini Fox versions can hold a good bit of food and are ideal for light rods. Location The critical word in pit fishing! You could be a long way from the fish so I would not advise bivvying up on a new water and encumbering yourself with all the long stay kit that discourages you being mobile. I would suggest day sessions until you are really on the tench then you can bivvy up and hopefully get that big hit. If no action, always, always try a new swim. In more cases than not it will put fish on the bank for you. I am currently fishing a acre venue and rarely stay overnight as the fish stocks are very nomadic. Make sure you are at your chosen venue before first light and take a look for signs of fish activity such as bubbling or rolling. This is the best time of day to see your target fish. If you are camping make sure you set that alarm for 3. Pit Tackle The float rod that you have used on the estate lake or canal is fine for margin fishing with a float set up. Most tenchers will use a 1. The Harrison Chimera 12 foot Specialist is a typical top end rod but there are now many options at half that price. Okuma do some great budget reels too. Alarms are necessary at night For float fishing a suitable match reel is fine and I always use Maxima 6lb as it sinks like a stone when fishing a bottom end float like a waggler and helps minimise drift. A selection of feeders is essential and you will probably end up making your own in-line maggot feeders as there are not many suitable ones on the market. Hooks from size 16 up to size 8 will suffice. If you intend night fishing then a set of alarms will be necessary and there is a massive choice. The Delkim is probably the top end choice but much more reasonably priced models such as Fox MX are a good choice too. You might require a spod rod and reel for baiting at range but remember a lot of tench can be caught in the margins on these venues. A marker rod set up or a Smartcast is pretty essential though. If you intend staying out overnight then you are going to need all the long stay kit too. My advice is to get to the venue at dawn and fish until dusk. The amount of tench I have caught in the dark hours does not really justify staying out overnight unless travel reasons dictate this. Many pits involve long walks so you really do need to think about how much gear you are carrying. You will rarely park the car near your swim! Steve Innes and a 9lb tench Baits If there are no nuisance species present I would go for red maggots. You can always switch to Enterprise artificials if you are being hook stripped. I am not a big fan of boilies for tench but of course they do catch their fair share on the carp venues that contain big tench. I prefer 10ml baits with two on a hair rig. Lobworm is massively underrated too if you do not have a big population of small perch. But maggots have always been the first choice along with casters. Pit Feeding Times It is dangerous to generalise in angling but I would say that 7am to 2pm is tench time! Of course you should be there earlier to get location clues but I have not found first light to be that busy. Time to sort you kit out and get a brew on before zero hour! Getting Help You should visit our website at www.tench.org.uk. If you join us you will be in the company of around keen tenchers who will be able to give specific help on your chosen venue whether personally or via our members-only forum TenchTalk. Choosing A Venue I would say order yourself a CEMEX guide book as they offer lots of superb tench venues from easy, moderately difficult, to out and out specimen venues. There are also a number of suggestions on our website.