

Review in *Lure Angler* by Keith Edmunds

A water rail scurries for safety as old Esox lunges skywards, spreading lily leaves and wrecking their pale pink flowers... From the first glance at the cover Dave Pugh's new lure angling book captures the imagination, it begs you to take a look inside.

On opening the book I was really pleased to see the very clear front with the text being of a good size, a bonus for those of us finding our arms are too short. It soon becomes clear that the book is not a regurgitated version of previous books on the same topic, it is evident that Dave writes from first-hand experiences, gained by countless hours on the water.

Many of the pages found me nodding in agreement, no more so than when the author shares his opinion on lure colour, early on in the book Dave states that fish don't buy lures, anglers do and that lures are painted to appeal to the angler – how true. Later in the pages he touches on the “scientific” information available regarding light refraction and the eyesight of fish then with one fell swoop he tells us... pike constantly ignore the theory! This theme continues throughout the book in a no-nonsense manner. One photo caught my eye, that of a reasonable perch caught on an outsized Rapala Super Shad Rap dangling from its lip. Again the author smashes the old theory, this is not an illustration of a greedy fish – more of how fish regularly misjudge their target and have poor eyesight. Chances are it may have been chasing the large hook or was hunting the vibration not the vision.

Interestingly many of the lures in the book are not 'state of the art', more like old favourites and this may make some of the illustrations feel a bit dated but there is a good reason for this – those lures are still catching plenty of fish. It really is a great read and one that will appeal to the newcomer and the more experienced lure anglers. As a pick up and put down reference book I found the first half easier to navigate whereas section two seems to flow through the pages and the chapter titles are not conventional.

All in all an excellent lure angling book and certainly one to help you catch more fish – indeed one of the best I have seen.