



Screenshot Contest October 2011

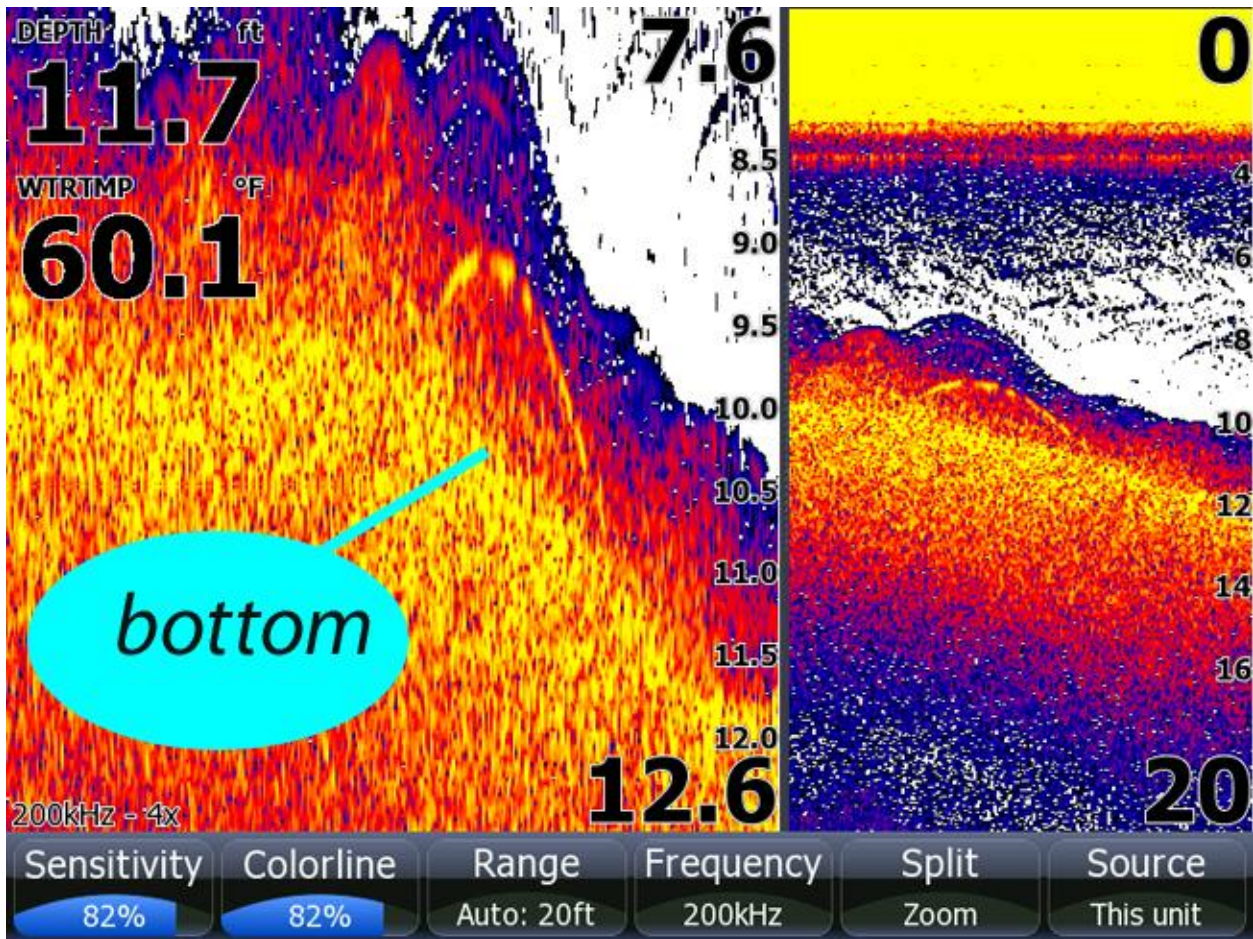
Tom Weihrauch is the winner with D and Dan Swanson with E was a close second.

The contest was for the best fish in weeds with 2D sonar.

All the entries demonstrated fish in weeds well. The Lowrance HDS has broadband so it can show the fish better than the older LCX/LMS models.

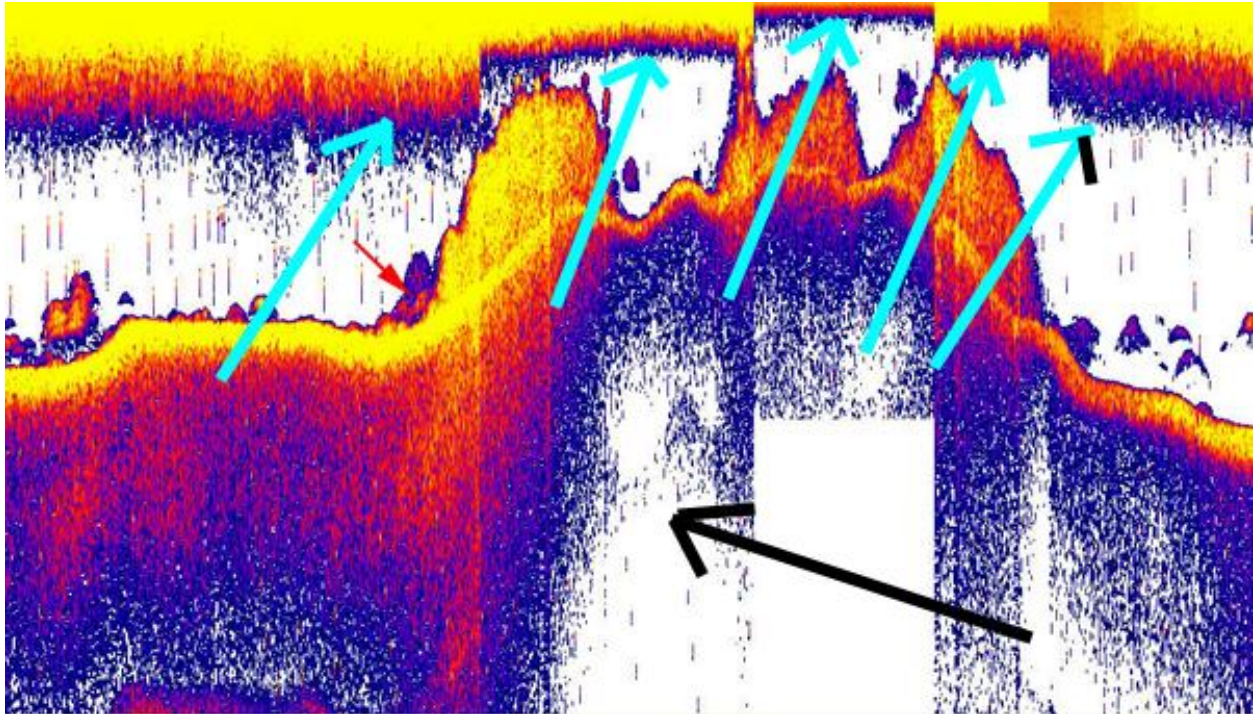
Doctor Sonar's Interpretation

A

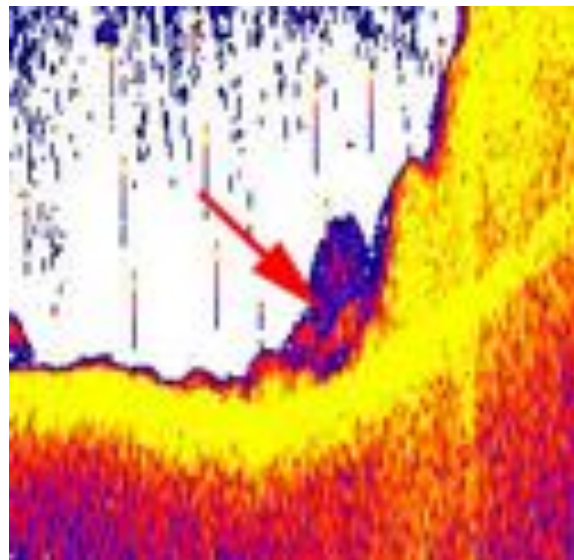


This fish is easily seen on both the zoom and standard scale. Everything in the cone is displayed on the screen but the fish echo is added to the weeds which allow a fish arch to be displayed as a stronger echo (yellow) than the weeds (red). The bottom is displayed even with the thick weeds.

B



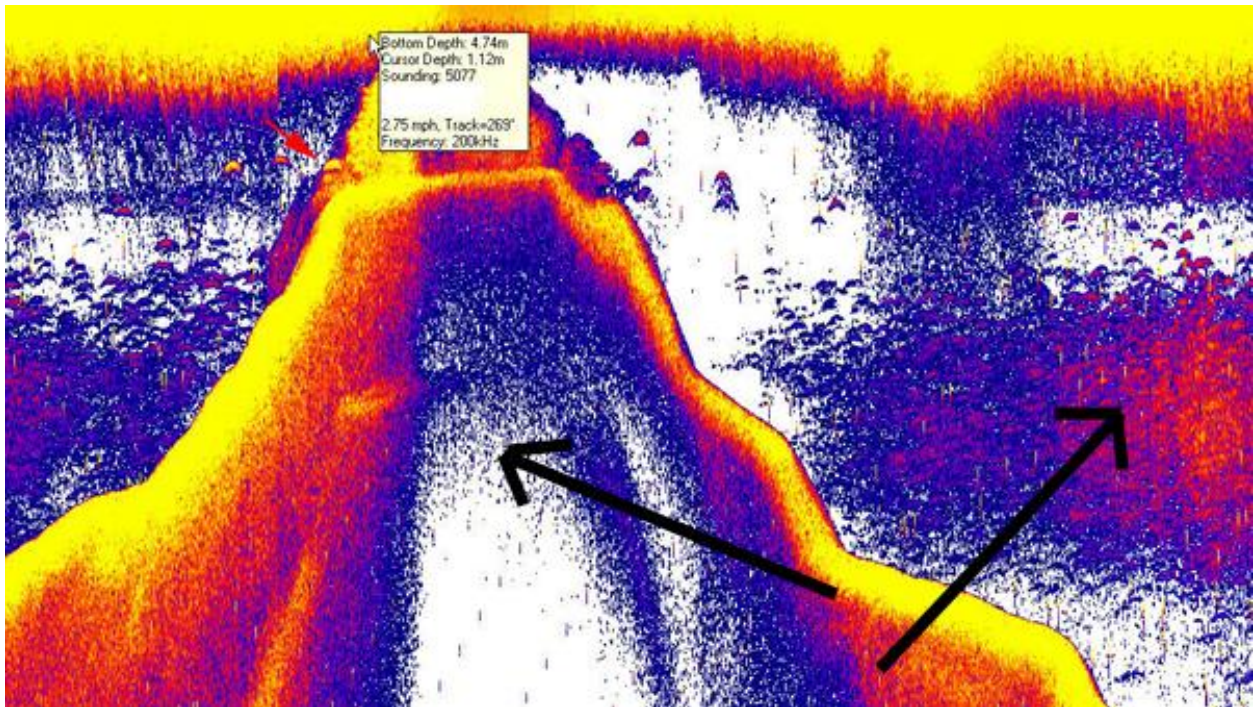
These fish are difficult to see on this image because of the scale and should be zoomed.



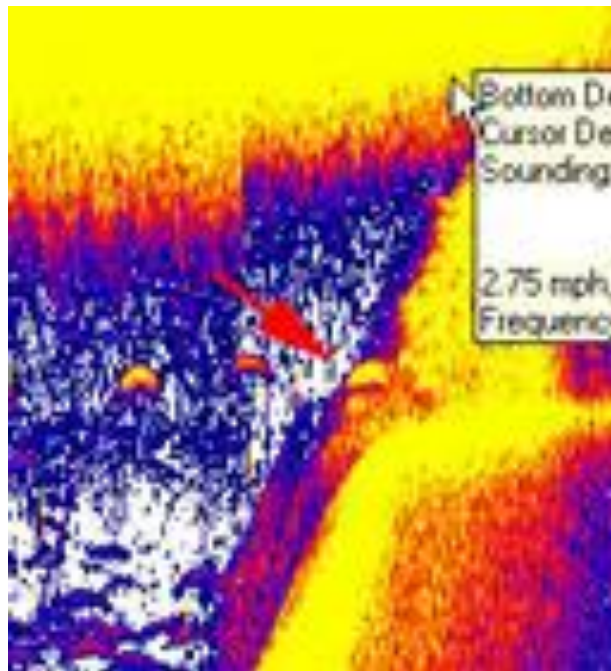
Notice the surface clutter changes with the depth range (blue arrows). Notice the bottom thickness and echo strength is less in shallow water (black arrow). I think the contestant used the SonarViewer to capture a picture and you get to see all the range of the sonar instead of the image you get with auto range on your HDS.

The HDS adjusts sensitivity depending on depth which is demonstrated well with B.

C

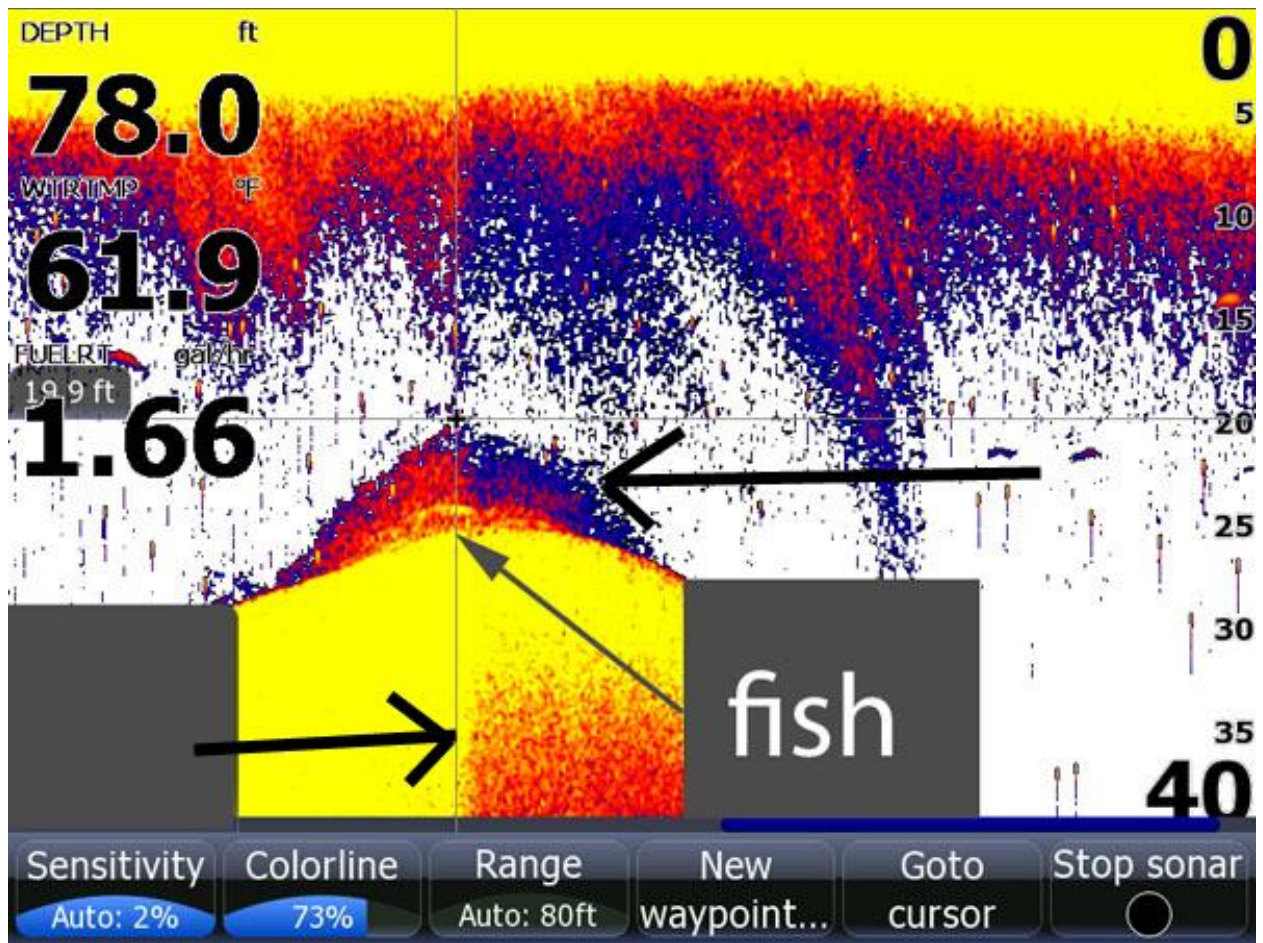


The red arrows points to an excellent example of fish in weeds and I think would have gotten more votes if the scale was smaller to see the detail. I zoomed it but the quality of the zoom is not as good as what you would see with the HDS on the water.

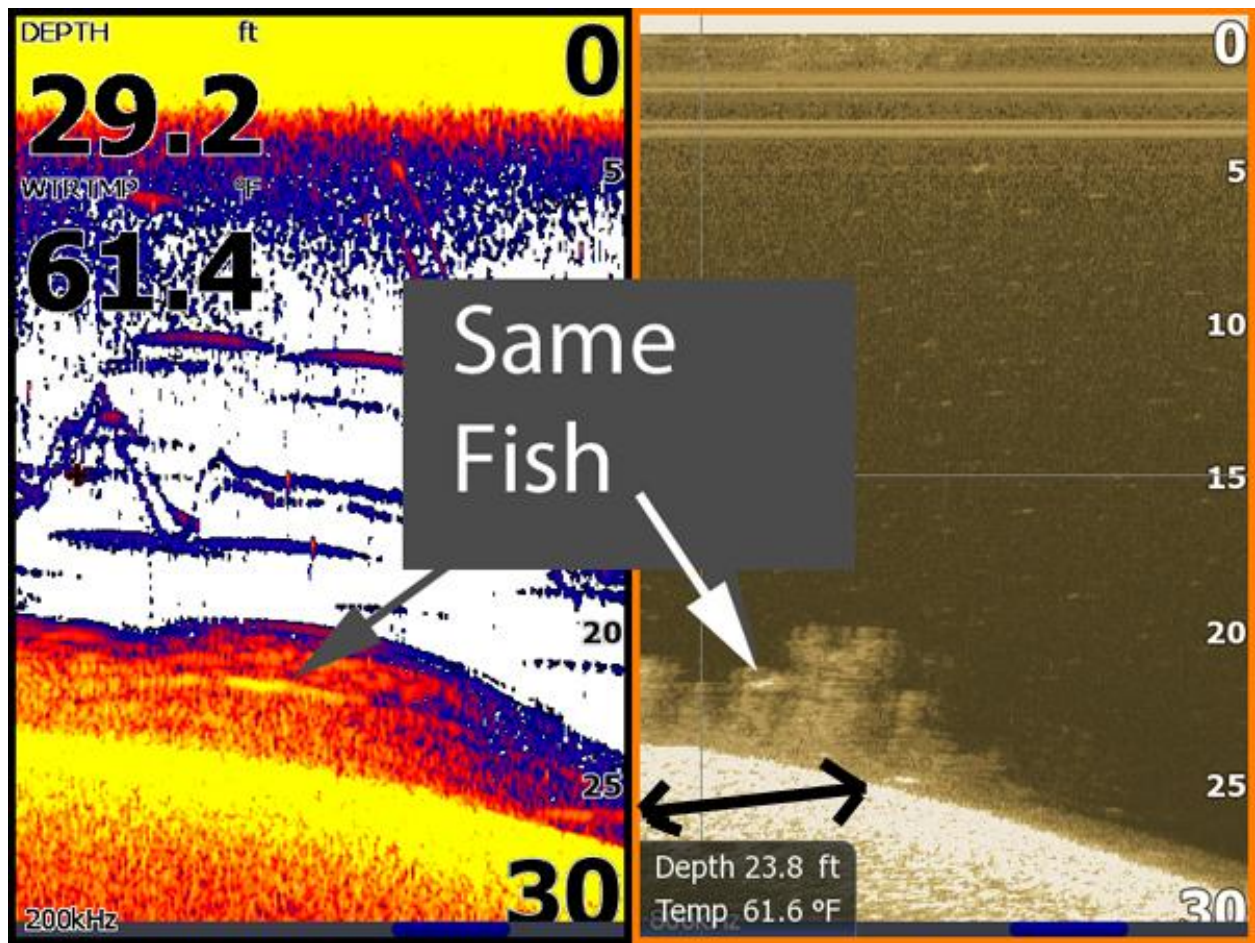


C demonstrates a massive school of baitfish and the change of sensitivity when the shallowest depth is reached. The bottom is not softer but the sensitivity has been adjusted lower by the HDS. Notice the recovery of the sensitivity is delayed going deeper compared to going shallow.

D

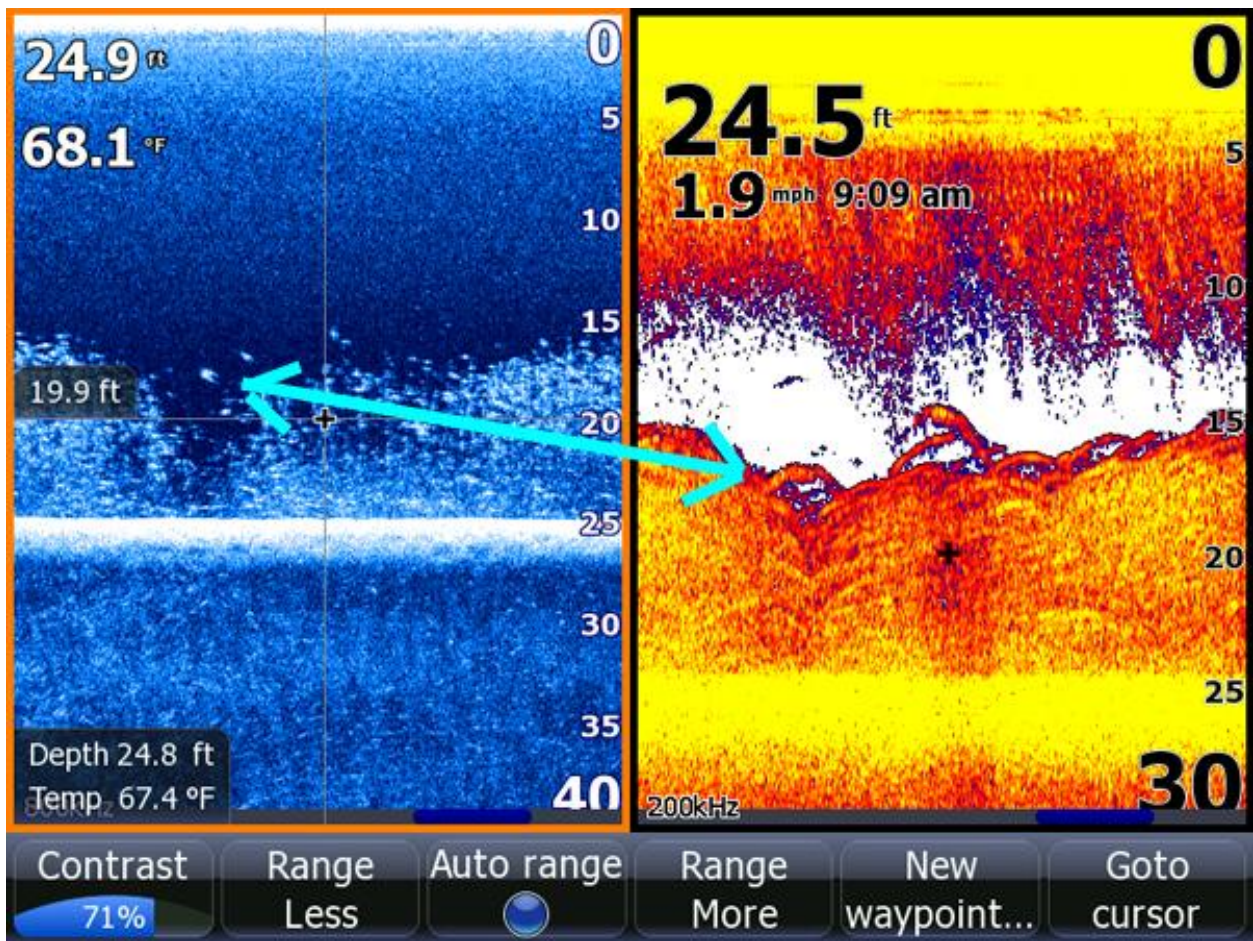


The same situation is happening with the sensitivity in this image. The sensitivity changed to a lower setting when the boat reached the shallowest depth and didn't re-adjust quickly going deeper so the bottom appears to softer with the auto settings. The weeds also appear less dense when the settings changed.



The 2D sonar shows the fish well as does the DownScan comparison view. There is another fish on both views (black arrow).

F



The weeds are dense and deep so this must be a clear lake. Weed growth is sunlight dependent. The DownScan is the better image for interpreting since the weeds and fish blend together. I think they blend because the fish aren't as large as the fish on the other screenshots so the echo strength difference of the fish compared to the weeds is less so the fish don't stand out. The white dots on the DownScan are fish and some of the weeds show as dots but I think it is a weed bed full of small fish with 2 larger fish near the top of the weeds (blue arrows).

Summary

1. Fish can be seen with both the HDS broadband 2D sonar and DownScan and the DownScan is better for displaying the weeds.
2. Pay attention to the auto sensitivity when determining bottom hardness
3. Learn how to catch those fish in the weeds (Doctor Sonar Bobber DVD Kit). This will be one of the prizes for the next screenshot contest.