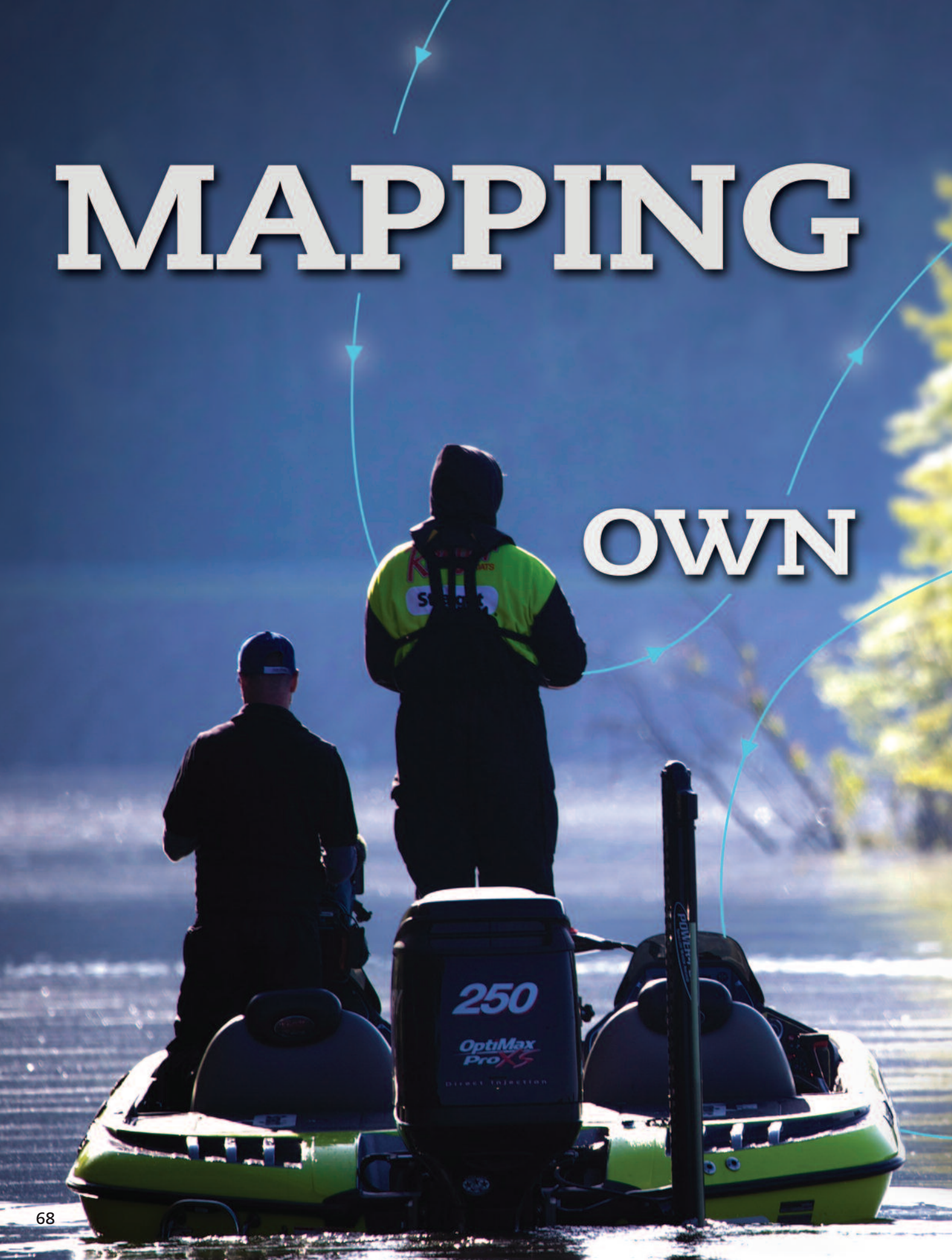


MAPPING

OWN



YOUR

With Lowrance Insight Genesis, you can create detailed contour maps of any water you fish

by Bruce Samson

In the last 10 years, quality contour maps have changed the way we fish. Lowrance Insight and Navionics maps allow Lowrance users to view the bottom of lakes in high detail, and this knowledge of the lake bottom allows us to figure out where the fish are hiding.

WAY



However, with as many quality maps as are available, there are still times when anglers encounter small fisheries or sections of larger fisheries that haven't been mapped. Or more commonly, they locate an area of a fishery that doesn't match up in real life to what is shown on the map. This happens most often in rivers and other fisheries where current constantly sculpts the channels and ditches that course underwater.

Lucky for anglers, Lowrance has a system that allows for making detailed lake maps of any system that you fish: Insight Genesis.

I have been creating depth contour (bathymetric) maps of my fishing spots

for years, using many different software programs. Insight Genesis is the easiest way to create maps for the average angler, and you don't need much computer skill to use this program.

Working Maps

Insight Genesis is a "cloud-based" program. You register and then access it from **lowrance.com**.

You can use it for free and view maps you create, but you have to purchase a \$99 subscription to download the maps to an SD card and use it on your Lowrance units.

The downloadable map is encrypted to your Lowrance models and will not

work in someone else's Lowrance unit. I like this idea, since your secret map can't be stolen and shared.

When you upload data, you have a choice to share your data with Lowrance's community or keep the information private.

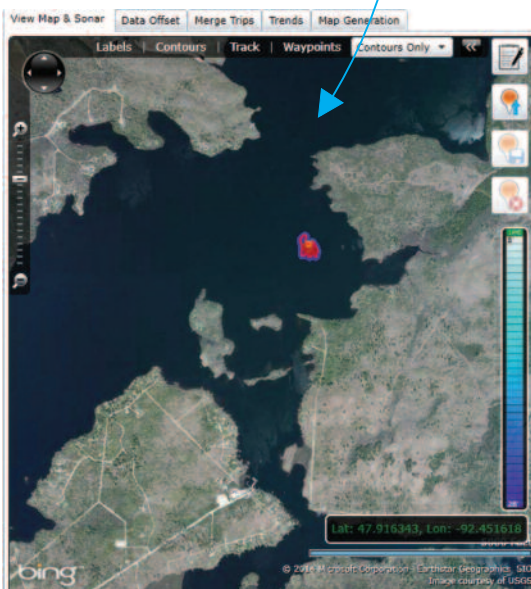
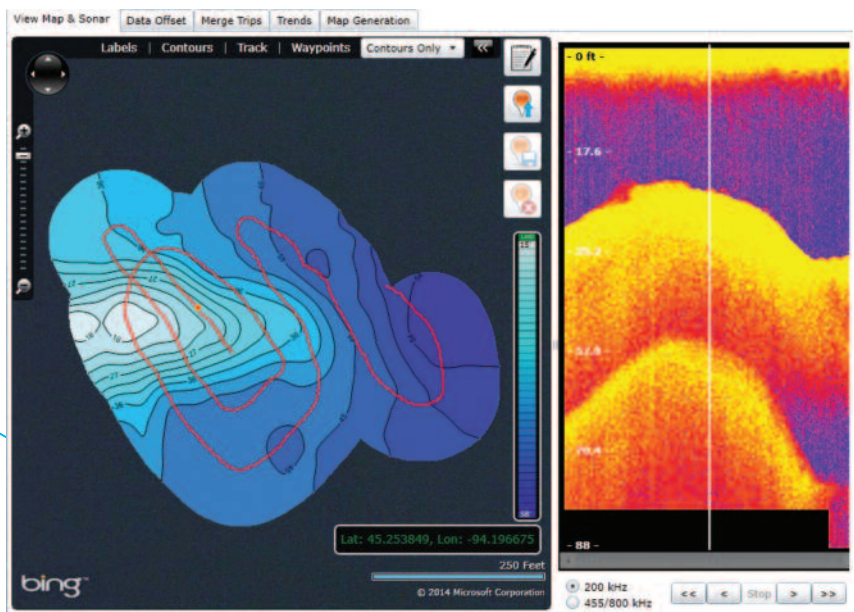
Why Use It

Suppose you found a great fishing spot on a point that had no map available. You can log some sonar data to create a map and uploaded it to Insight Genesis following the easy-to-use four-step process outlined on the Insight Genesis page at the Lowrance website. Here's how it would work:

SCREEN SHOT

This is what a map looks like on your computer. The red trail is the path I followed to collect the data to create the map. The red dot on the map is the same spot as the white line on the sonar viewer (far right), which you can use to compare your actual sonar to the map.

You can also view your maps on a satellite image. This is an important feature because you will make many maps, and this quickly shows you where you collected data.



What You Need

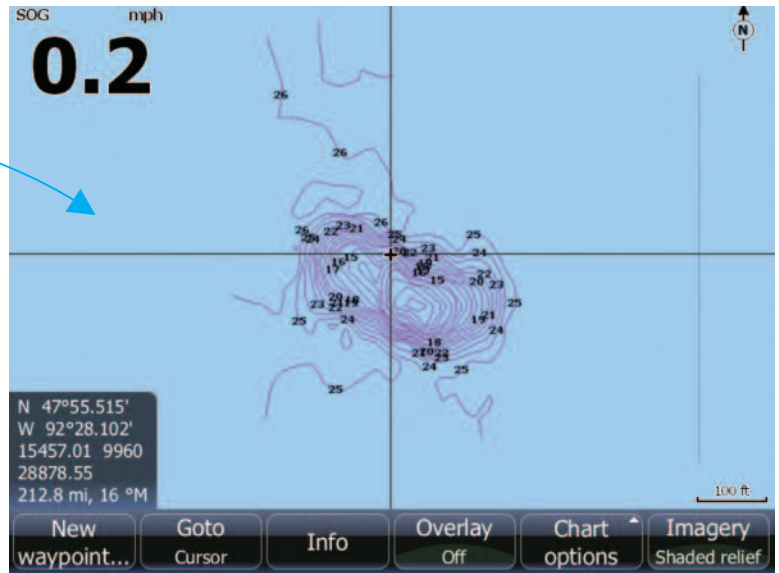
1. Lowrance HDS Gen2, HDS Gen2 Touch or Elite HDI models
2. Blank SD card – currently the best buy is 16 GB, but Lowrance HDS and Elite HDI can take 2 GB to 32 GB cards
3. Computer and Internet service

The Basic Process

1. Log sonar to SD card
2. Upload from SD card to Lowrance Insight Genesis
3. Download map to your card
4. Place card in your Lowrance unit and go fishing



If you downloaded the map, it would look similar to this on your Lowrance unit with selected 1-foot contours. I prefer 3-foot contours for most of my maps, but the 1-foot setting is good when the depth doesn't change much.



Logging Sonar

Lowrance has a Log Sonar feature, which records the data.

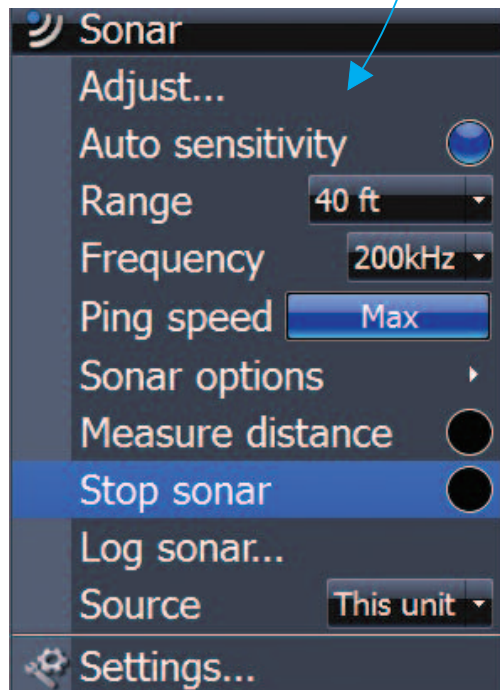
Each model has different menus, but the Log Sonar feature is usually in the Sonar menu (see below).

I recommend recording only your fishing spot and then stopping the recording. If you want to come back and collect more data, you can add it to the first map, and the map will be enhanced. Insight Genesis has a merge feature that allows you to add new data to existing maps.

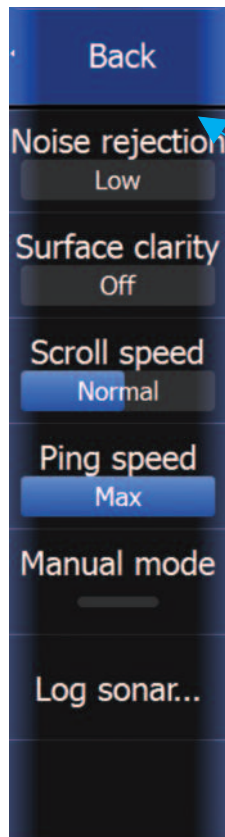


PHOTO COURTESY OF LOWRANCE

HDS Touch Sonar Menu



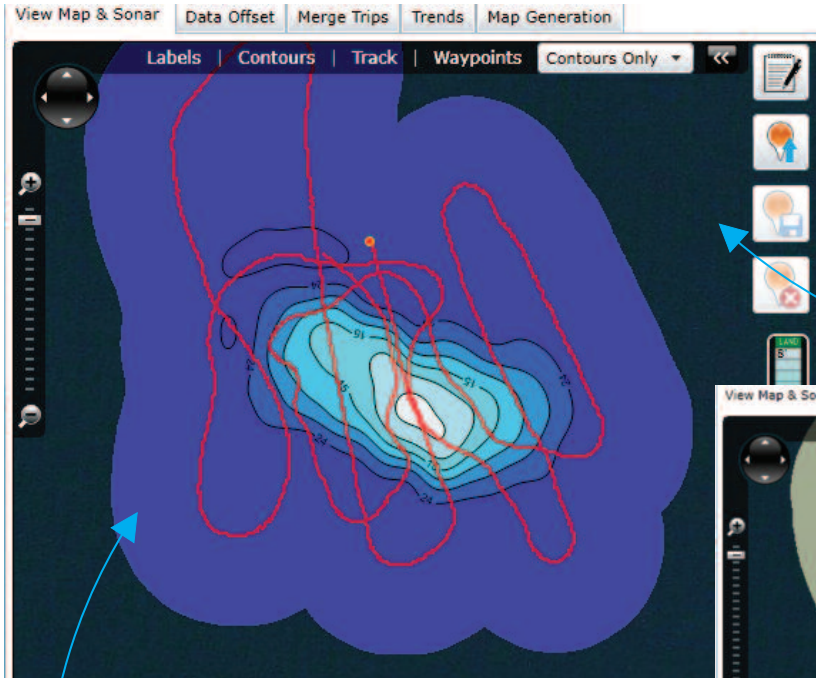
Elite HDI Log Sonar Screen



Lowrance Recommended Settings For Collecting Data

- Ping speed:** 15
- Bytes per sounding:** 3200
- Frequency:** 200 kHz – never have the 50 or 83 frequencies selected when logging sonar
- Recording speed:** maximums
- Composition:** 6
- Vegetation:** 12
- Depth:** 18
- Boat GPS speed:** Any speed less than 6 mph is suitable to record the best data and helps ensure you don't have to re-record to make the best map.
- Depth Range:** Auto

Data Collection



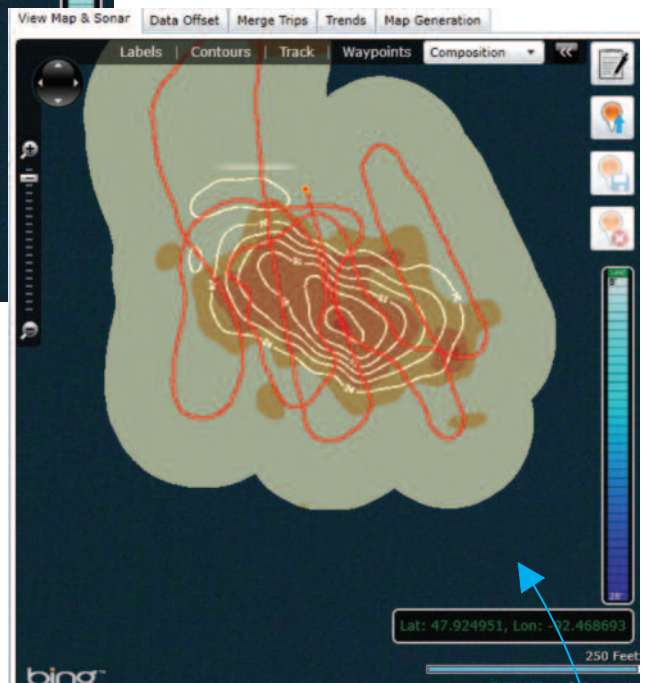
1. Go Fishing

I start by recording the sonar log when I go to a new lake and start looking at new structure, or I look for fish while I record. I never know if I will use the data, but computers have enough memory to store it for later use, plus I can always delete it. The maps you can create this way will pleasantly surprise you.

2. Go Mapping

Driving back and forth over a drop-off, as I did for this image above, works well for creating maps. Make your passes 50 to 100 feet apart and you will have a great map.

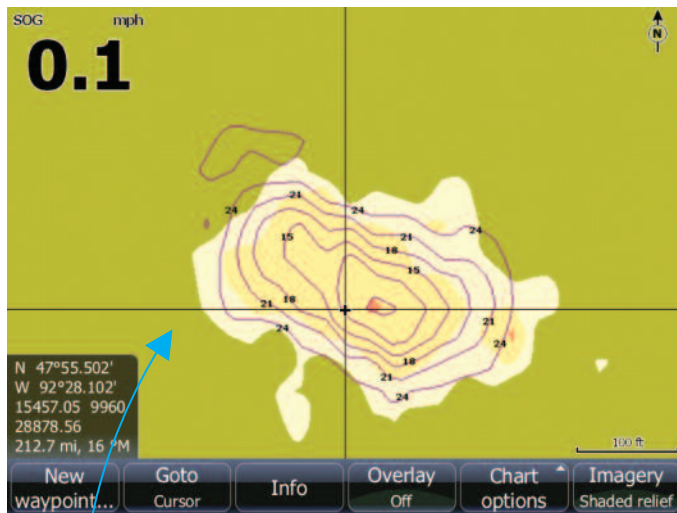
I recommend that you make sure you pass over the shallowest part of the structure and go beyond the bottom of the drop-off by 50 feet.



3. Log, Scope Out And Recreate Bottom Content

Insight Genesis also creates bottom composition and vegetation maps. The image above shows the bottom hardness of a hump as seen on the Insight Genesis page. The brown color is the rocky bottom, and the soft mud of the lake bottom is the gray color.

The image to the left is from my Lowrance HDS unit and shows the depth contours overlaid with the composition map, which is actually the transition from hard to soft bottom.



4. Make Maps, Win Money

Once you make and use a few maps, you'll be hooked. I've won a few tournaments using maps like these that no one else had because seeing what's really there makes it even easier to set up on the best part of any structure. And with Lowrance Insight Genesis, anyone can create his own high-definition maps. ■