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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Smallmouth Bass Techniques

Re: Smallmouth Bass Techniques

Author: : Fishidiot

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URL:

You're certainly correct that larger river bass, esp during summer afternoons, lay up in deeper pools. Obviously, "deep" is relative. On most of the SMB rivers I fish, deep would be a pool the bottom of which I can't see if the sun is high. This would typically be at least 4+ feet. In these pools, during the afternoon, I like to hunt for noticeable structure. Bridge pilings, log jams, ledge rock - something you can see and fish 'em hard focusing mainly on the upstream side of the structure and/or the side in shadow. I think the best structure would be a large, submerged, mid-river boulder. These are hotspots for big summer bass. Of course, low light conditions usually fish better in summer. If you're fishing a river with a featureless, deep pool - I'd recommend moving to the center of the river (odds are that's where it's deepest) and fan cast a big, heavy streamer with a sinking line. Fish it very slow and deep. Try this in a couple areas and if it doesn't produce, move to the shallows and try to find structure or wait till dusk and throw big poppers.

Also, bait and spin guys can really be your friend 😊. Try to find out what they're having success with in the deep water. Often it's cranks or heavy tube lures. You can also prospect the deep water with spin gear yourself. If you can get some "intel" from local spin fishing sharpies on depth and lure type you can usually figure out a FFing application that's similar.