

---

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Smallmouth Bass Techniques

Re: Smallmouth Bass Techniques

Author: : afishinado

Date: : 2010/7/19 9:53:57

URL:

Quote:

gfen wrote:

I'm really having problems with this, but its become a new passion for me... Come the weekends, I can't wait to hit the Lehigh down my way and try for smallmouth, but I just can't seem to really seal the deal.

**Just how gently do these things take the fly?** Today I've found a place that seems to have a great population, the water seems almost text book like. The main river area is a foot to three feet, very rocky. There's some heavily shaded deeper runs along one bank, 3'-4'+ deep pools before a piece of rapids, and then lots of seamed water afterwards.

I spent a few hours working it hard, but seemed to only have a few noticable takes. I'm fishing wooly buggers like big wets, down-and-across, then the swing, a hang and a stripped retrieve.

Nothing. Well, almost nothing. Seems a few smaller ones try to hit it half-heartedly on the retrieve, but that's it. I can only assume I'm getting takes on the drift, but I never seem to see it?

Do they really take the fly that lightly? Going from the TV shows, you always see bass smashing the spin guy's lures, but I don't seem to ever get that... Is there a better way to catch takes that I'm not seeing, or is it that I'm just not deep enough?

I'm not above a day full of 6-8" smallies, and I can see them there, but I just don't seem to be getting them... Any hints?

If/When Whheff reads this, I know we talked about this a time or two, if you want to pick up some weekend, let me know...

Gary, when the smallies are "On" they rip the rod out of your hand! For some reason, the weather I guess, the smallies have not really been on yet for me and most of the reports I've read, for most anglers. When they're not chasing, dead drifting smaller flies may be needed. Hang in there.

I copied and pasted some SMB fishing tips I posted in another thread. Try this:

As far as where to fish in general, SMB usually prefer areas with some current, depth and plenty of rocks/boulders. Work these areas well, and concentrate your casts in and around the rocks and current breaks. Try all types of presentations: dead drifting, swinging, fast stripping and everything in between until you find what the fish are looking for at the time.

I usually move and search. When you find where they're hanging and the right presentation (a pattern), stick with it and hammer them! The pattern may change during the day so remain flexible and don't be afraid to experiment with different water types, presentations and flies to get back on them.

You don't need a whole lot of different patterns and flies to catch smallies. A couple of different flies in a couple of light and dark colors should do the job. You can't go wrong with a wooly bugger. Bass sometimes key in on colors or just even light or dark flies. Try some olive/black buggers (my & the fishes favorite) chartreuse, white, and maybe brown. Clousers work well at times with the classic color being chartreuse over white. A few medium sized poppers and maybe some sliders in light and dark colors should round out the selection.

If things are really tough, it would be a good idea to have some large nymphs in your box, stonefly patterns work well. Try dead drifting and swinging them if the smallies aren't chasing.