

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Smallmouth Bass Techniques

Re: Smallmouth Bass Techniques

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URL:

An 18" smallie can be an 8 to 10 year old fish, so it is a rare bird and pretty street wise. In the Delaware I find the larger fish in deeper runs - generally not really in the pools, but where the water is maybe at least 4 ft to 5 ft deep and a pain to fish. Even in the deeper runs there are seams and bubble lines where more fish seem to be. There are some hotspots that are just big fish spots, but don't ask about those. Drop offs around creek mouths are good too. In a bigger river I just fish the better spots a lot and now and again a big fish bites.

I live on a small stocked trout river that also holds plenty of larger smallies. They are a pain to catch. They hang out in impossible spots to fish or they are cruising. They cruise around and occasionally bust into the shallows after minnows. The most reliable time to hook them is when they bust into the shallows, but you have to be at the right place at the right time. The only answer I have found is to spend plenty of time watching to spot better smallies and get a handle on their habits and then fish a lot to get them when they are vulnerable. Wish I had an easier answer, but IMHO big smallies are tougher to fool than big trout.