

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

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Date: : 2007/9/22 22:35:38

URL:

I fished a large warmwater lake today with a decent amount of success. Nearly landed a very large largemouth bass that took a hopper, but it threw the fly as I was reaching down to snatch him. In about two hours I caught a few dozen bluegills and a bunch of bass in the 10 - 12" range. It was a very pleasant morning.

I find that the main difference that distinguishes fishing stillwaters, from say, rivers, relates to the movement of the water and the action of the fly. In most lakes and ponds, fly anglers cannot rely on drift, which is one of the hallmarks of river and stream fishing. The fly angler on a lake or pond really needs to create action, to simulate naturalistic insect behavior without using currents as a tool.

I find that large surface flies from hoppers to deerhair divers seem to be infinitely more effective on lakes than on rivers and streams. I tend to be far more confident in big, gaudy bugs when I'm fishing a lake.

Have other folks found strategies that work for them on stillwaters? What about stillwater fishing for species for big toothy fish like pike? What has worked for you in this challenging environment?