

---

Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : ITT we expose our Basses

Re: ITT we expose our Basses

Author: : pwk5017

Date: : 2013/8/5 9:41:23

URL:

I fished a new stretch of my favorite small stream over the weekend. Easily one of my best afternoons bassing with a fly rod. I landed 8 fish between 14-16", which is incredible for this stream. Usually, if I get one 16" smallie from this stream, I'm ecstatic. Then, I was fishing the classic "railrod trestle hole", which was more of a deep run, and I hooked up with a bruiser. I was standing on the bridge column, so I had to fight the fish back to the other end of the column where I could jump down (and not land in 6' or so) and net it. I truly thought I had my first 20" on the fly, but it wasn't meant to be. Taped out at 18.75-19". Still, one of my better smallmouth. I caught one on spinning gear back in May on the young that had to be 20", because I could barely fit it in my net, and my net opening is 20" with a deep basket. It flopped out of the net before I could get back to the bank to photograph it. Anyways, that fish tale is for another day. Back to yesterday. I retrieved my barbless fly no probs, but saw something in the fish's mouth. I thought it was puking a baitfish/crayfish, but it turned out to be a 3-4" tube hooked in the fish's tongue area. It still had 3" of line attached to it. I felt terrible, so I tried to get the tube out, but it had to have had a barbed hook. I tried for 10 seconds, couldn't do it easily, so I decided to release the fish with the tube in its mouth. I felt like I was going to do more harm than good, what do you think? The good news is the tube wasn't hooked in the gut/gills, so I'm hoping this doesn't turn out to be a fatal injury. I would love to have that fish reach 20" for me. Finished the day with revisiting a big pool that didn't produce earlier in the afternoon, and hooked up with another bruiser. I had one deep run from the fish, then a huge aerial display, and it was off. Looked to be in the same class as the big one of the day. Maybe that is my 20"er waiting to be caught. I love fishing new water when it produces. Pics to come when I get home from work.