

# June Is Prime Time For Smallmouth Bass



This 24-inch smallmouth bass was caught on a jig and minnow fishing on a shallow sandbar extending 200 feet out into the lake in three feet of water while fishing with the author.



Focusing on the bedding location can yield big results. This 23-inch smallmouth was caught along the shoreline in six feet of water in June.



This 23-inch smallmouth bass was caught while casting under a dock with a boatlift connected to it in three feet of water.

BY JOHN ANDREW

As like many other freshwater species of fish, there are multiple methods, locations, techniques, times of the year, bait options, lures and water temperatures that send us to where we are going to go fishing for particular fish. In northern Illinois up to northern Wisconsin, as well as Iowa, Minnesota and Michigan, the 20th of May through the 20th of June and sometimes later (depending on ice out) is considered prime time for shallow smallmouth bass.

This article is geared for shallow water fishing for smallmouth bass and the pictures shown here today are from a single guided outing with one client. All methods, techniques and critical concepts listed below are important for all of us. My clients use all mentioned information listed below during the shallow water fishing period, but on this outing we used only one.

Please take mention to the importance of releasing these hard fighting fish and careful handling of them during the netting and unhooking process, especially during the catch and release period before the catch and keep season opens in your area.

Crankbaits are widely used at loca-

tions of riprap, manmade sea walls, large flats and multiple other locations for smallmouth bass. The right size and color can make all the difference in the amount of fish you will catch. The speed of your retrieve and the depth of this lure is the critical concept for success. Some crankbaits have no rattle inside of them and some have a knocking heavy sounding rattle built in and some have a loud rattling noise.

If you are sight fishing for smallmouth bass, make sure to use polarized sun glasses as this will help you see the fish much better under the water. Using soft plastics has been a long time favorite for many anglers. The color and size of the plastic is the critical concept for our success. What I mean by this is, in the Great Lakes a normal or larger size plastic works well, weather you are drop shotting, jigging plastic, dragging plastic, using craws or a host of other plastics. In smaller bodies of water smaller plastics at certain times of the year (now) can be very important and one or two colors are better than all other colors. During my seminars, several people have asked me why I used certain sized lures and my answer is always the same: Large bodies of water have multiple food sources and smaller bodies of water have a smaller, limited

food source that provides a much smaller selection of what they will eat and at what time of the year.

Nothing is set in stone and there will always be the exceptions, but what I have mentioned above is very important. After the smallmouth bass move deeper and start relating to other food sources their color preference of lures will change due to what they are focusing on for their diet at that time of year. That is for another article on how to catch them during the warmer water season. For now we are focusing on shallow water.

A deadly lure and bait combination secret (until now) for bed fishing is something most anglers have never ever considered before. My clients and I have been doing this for years: try using a 1/16-ounce jig head and a crappie minnow and drop this combination right onto the bed of the smallmouth bass and hold on tight because they simply will not refuse this offering. It's "DEADLY!" This critical concept of smallmouth bass fishing has provided the largest poundage catch in the history of The Anglers Choice Guide Service (last season.) All fish were released; none were kept. These fish were not caught on the Great Lakes. The smallest fish is 22 inches.

A good suggestion for plastic baits is to try using a pre-rigged bait, such as a two-inch, two-hook tiny plastic worm. Try putting a 1/16-ounce split shot at the head of your knot and drop this onto the bed and hold on tight—DEADLY! You will need to experiment with different colors, since one or two colors will work better than all other colors.

The same is true with spinner baits. Some patterns and colors do work better than others. A good tip is this (for us):



Smallmouth bass, 21 inches, caught while working the shallow drop-off of a rock bar next to the shoreline in June.

use willow leaf spinner blades and in the dark-colored water use large Colorado blades.

Let me know what you think and/or want you want to know.

Now let's go get 'em.

The author, John Andrew, owner/operator of The Anglers Choice Guide Service.com is a two-time World Record Holder, a two-time Outstanding Angler Achievement Award Winner, a full time year 'round tour guide for fishing and hunting in the state of Wisconsin of which John is a full time resident specializing in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. He can be reached at 715-892-3020 or 715-686-2012.

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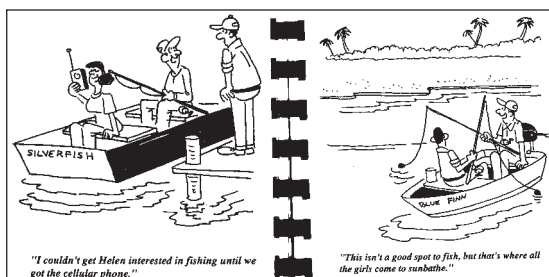
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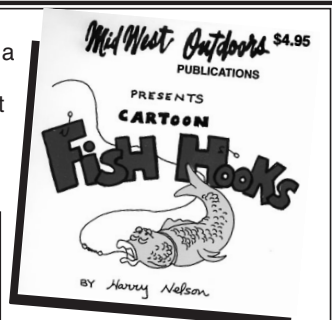
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