

Focusing On Super Smallmouth, Today

BY JOHN ANDREW

I like fishing on the deeper drop offs, sandbars, deep rock piles and deep flats. Fishing with a jig works well and the plastic or bait I put onto this jig is very important. There are countless numbers of combinations, but as you will read, I focus on only a few and only a select color combination related to the water clarity and forage.

When my clients ask me to take them fishing for a big smallmouth, I focus only on the cisco based or trout based lakes. Yes, that's right, lakes that contain trout. This has been a well-kept secret for many, many years for producing a truly jumbo-sized smallmouth bass. Just like out in the western states, people have been fishing lakes that contain trout that produce super-sized largemouth bass for years.

Super-sized smallmouth bass of the north (not just the Great Lakes) and certain southern states are being caught on trout based lakes. These lakes that contain trout may have rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout and even lake trout or any combination of these.

Some stream trout fishermen will tell you that throughout their trout fishing experiences on their favorite trout stream, they have landed giant smallmouth bass. The same is true for the western bass fishermen who have been seeing this for over two decades.

A jig and tube with metal flake has been good for years, but matching the color to the trout that are in a lake is a critical concept to your success; this is also true for plastic lizards and/or worms.

Swimming the bait seems to also be the technique that works the best for us. Everyone thinks jiggling off the bottom is how you are supposed to use a jig. Well, we produce more and bigger smallmouth bass by drifting the boat over productive deep-water trout areas and swimming the jig. Remember, this is a summer pattern, not spring or fall. The giant bass are suspended above the trout, not down with them.

Keep in mind that the Great Lakes' smallmouth bass do not just eat smelt, alewives, gobies or crawfish. Do some research and discover which lakes do have smallmouth bass and trout in them. Find out what kind of trout are there and match your bait color to the trout color and you will catch some huge bass. Lake Castaic in California has been producing giant largemouth bass for over 20 years, as well as other western lakes. There is an entire line of Castaic plastic trout-colored lures that have been for sale for years and years. We use smaller baits for the smallmouth bass and mostly plastics and or other versions of them.

Spoons work like the Swedish Pimple



This happy smiling young man caught this jumbo smallmouth bass on a small tube jig during the heat of the day in July.



These youngsters caught this big bass while fishing in the heat of the summer using a jig in deep water alongside a brush pile.



While fishing with his son and guide, John Andrew, Dave caught this beautiful bass on a jig and small plastic straight worm.



While fishing with his father, this bass was caught on jig and lizard combination on a sand drop-off into deep water.



On a rainy day and casting small jigs and fishing them on a deep flat next to a creek channel, this big bass was caught and released, as all bass are.



On a hot summer evening this giant smallmouth bass was caught swimming a lizard at 47 feet deep, over a group of rainbow trout.

and other spoons that produce a lot of flash with a slow descent. We do not use heavy spoons that drop straight to the bottom. The color of these spoons does make a difference on the numbers of fish you catch. Yes, almost all fluttering spoon will catch bass, but matching the color to the trout color in the lake will produce the most and biggest bass.

I hope this article has opened your horizons on the future of giant smallmouth bass fishing. Although we can catch big bass on lakes that do not have trout or cisco based water, do some homework and see where these lakes are and go trophy hunting. Please remember, these giant bass are as rare as a mother having triplets. We must practice C.P.R. (catch, photo and release). All bass pictured in this article were released.

Now let's go get 'em!

God bless.
The author John Andrew, owner/operator of The Angler's Choice Guide Service.com, is a two-time World Record holder, a two-time Outstanding Angler Achievement Award Winner, a fulltime, year 'round tour guide for fishing and hunting in the state of Wisconsin, where John is a full time resident, and specializing in Vilas, Oneida and Iron counties. He can be reached at 715- 892-3020 or 1-715-686-2012, or email johnandrew@centurytel.net.

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