

Drop Shot Tips

Real time fishing reports has shown that there has been a lot of success catching spotted bass this month (January) using the drop shot technique. It is a method that requires patience as the slower you can go with your boat the better. Brad Fowler who talked to the "Anglers" in December said the best days are calm days. That is because it is easy to control your boat and stay on top of fish. If you encounter windy days, fish into the wind to have the best boat control. The greatest success is when you can keep your line vertical and the weight on the bottom. It is easy to check to tell if you are on the bottom by looking to see when you drop down your rod tip and you see floating line. If the line is still tight you are off the bottom. If you move too fast your line will be at an angle and most likely the weight is off the bottom. Moving too fast also changes the baits action.

The key to being more successful drop shottin' is to first use your electronics to find baitfish and bass will be close by. If you mark suspended baitfish and see streaks around them, they will be bass. Take a close look at the electronics to see if you can detect any bass on the bottom. They may show up as a slight separation from the lake bottom or something that might look like bottom clutter. If you do, stop the boat or move it very slowly so you stay on the fish. If you have GPS capability it is a real plus as you can mark waypoints where you see fish and concentrate on that area. Without GPS it is a lot more difficult as bass won't move far in cold water to chase bait. But, if you put the bait in front of them in a slow to non-moving presentation they will bite.

It is best to move your bait slowly and at times just let it stay stationary. A slight jiggle of the rod tip will make the bait dance just a little and look alive. A lot of the "bites" are hard to detect and you will just feel something different. If you do, just lift the rod tip straight up and the hook will set. If you feel a hard tick do the same thing, lift the rod tip straight up to set the hook.

Like anything else if you want to catch bass using the drop shot practice makes perfect. Try different depths to know how the rod feels with the weight on the bottom. A good size weight for 30' to 50' is 3/8 ounce and from 50'+ to 80' 1/2 ounce weight is best. Also, you need to be able to interpret your electronics to know when you find fish.