

Spotted Bass Key Points To Consider

You will find more spots in the main lake and just inside the creek arms (ie deeper water).

Spotted bass will also generally live in or suspend over deeper water 15-80 feet.

Spots are more prone to holding on rock type structure and long points with brush piles.

They tend to roam and move around quite a bit making a pattern VERY short lived for the most part and they both absolutely love moving water (current).

Throw topwater, minnow baits, heavy compact spinnerbaits 3/4 to 1 1/4" ounce in a smaller downsized double willowleaf , 4 and 5 inch Senkos, crankbaits, jigs 1/4 to 3/8oz, Alabama Rig, jigheads tipped with a Yamamoto Cuttail worms etc.

A Carolina rig, Texas rig, or a split shot rig are just not primary confidence baits in clear water. They most definitely have their time and place.

Don't use these heavy baits to slow roll the bottom, Their heavy weights make extremely long casts to take advantage of the clear water. The heavier tandem willowleaf can be reeled faster and burn it to take advantage of the aggressive and curiosity nature of spots.

One of the key ingredients to catching fish in clear water rely s on the retrieve. By reeling the bait faster I am not only taking advantage of the fact that Spots are aggressive and curious. You want the bait to look like a escaping and fleeing baitfish. By using the faster retrieve you will trigger a reaction strike.

One of the most common mistakes people make is they fish too close to the shore and they don't make long enough cast in clear water. Longer casts have a greater calling range in clear water and it gives the spots more time to come out of 30ft + of water to nail your bait zooming over head. Not to mention that Spots are already notorious as "bait followers" so by making the longer cast it gives the fish a little more distance to fool around and commit to crashing into your offerings.

Do keep in mind that every area (point, hump, ditch) has a sweet spot that is the most likely area to call the school up to the surface or sub surface. Your job is to fan cast to find these areas and analyze where the sweet spots are in relation to your surroundings so you can avoid running over it next time with the boat or trolling motor when you visit that area again.

In most cases these areas are often located exactly where a normal angler would position his boat to fish the shoreline. So you basically want to fish quite a ways off the point or structure itself . Try starting out about 80 yds (often in 60+ feet of water) from the structure and fan cast with long casts and slowly close in on the point/hump or whatever available structure around these areas.

Most of the areas to fish for spots takes place in 15-80 feet of clear water with structure such as rocks / brush piles on or off points. Burn heavy spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, topwaters around these type of structures. You're basically still fishing deep structure, you are basically fishing the first 1 to 5 feet of water at the top of the water column and drawing them off their deep holding structure to the surface/subsurface.

One of the most common methods is the "Run and Gun" offense while fishing for spots. Move around the lake a lot. Fish a spot for 10-15 minutes or less and if you don't get a bite move.

Spotted bass are usually so aggressive spring through the middle of the summer that if they're there you should get a bite in the first few casts to a productive point or underwater brush pile. They commonly turn their appetite and mood off and on like a light switch which makes running and gunning even more effective. I like to mix my areas up to figure out the pattern as they often change from day to day and even sometimes hour to hour.

Most clear water spots hunt their prey by sight more than any other sense so I like to give them what they want in color selection. The one thing that drastically sticks out like a sore thumb is the color favorites of spotted bass they prefer very LOUD colors.

White, fire engine red, Neon green, Chartreuse, bubblegum and flashy type colors. White skirted spinnerbait with pink blades is awesome (Mini Me's can come in this color) and so is hot pink jerkbaits. Colors like the flashy American Shad, Firetiger, Nishiki, Clown, sunfish, bubblegum type baits are absolutely powerful tools for catching spots.

Color selection for me remains the same for small plastics as well. However also use natural colors at times.

So next time your out on the lake give these spot catching techniques a try when things get tough. Concentrate on those points and humps as they hold fish 365 days a year and remember WARP SPEED retrieve and LONGGGGG casts!