

Small Pond Fishing for Big Bass

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Many anglers travel to their favorite lake and often these are fairly large lakes, reservoirs or river systems. What anglers always seem to forget is that some very good fishing and also large fish can be caught near in your backyard.

Many people chuckle to themselves as they leave the driveway and see the local kids fishing in the local pond that is within 10 miles of their home. The only thing that they are missing is that there is a very good possibility that where they are going, they will probably catch smaller fish than that kid by the pond, and many hold the next state record.

With small water (pond) fishing there are a variety of ways that you can approach on how to fish it. If you are fortunate enough that the city or state has put a ramp in then you will be able to drop a bass boat in there. If you are not lucky to get that, then there are a few other options that you can use. There is the car top boat, johnboat, canoe or kayak. You can wade either with or without waders, and there are also float tubes. The float tube is very nice and an inexpensive way to get on the water. Trout fishermen have been using these for many years and are a great alternative.

If the pond that you are fishing isn't big enough to get the bass rig in, don't pass it up. A lot of these small waters are really overlooked by the bass fishermen. One evening, take a walk down to the local pond and talk with the kids fishing there and chances are they can tell you many stories of some big fish. Don't be like most bass fishermen and think that you have to fish big waters to get big fish. These small waters will produce some very big fish.

One nice thing about these small waters is there is light fishing pressure and in most cases you can go to the landing at anytime. Another nice thing is that you can fish most of the pond in a few hours and don't have to kill a whole day if you are on a time frame. These places are great locations for before or after work when you only have a small amount of time.

When the decision is finally made to fish small waters, there are a variety of ways to attack the water. First thing when getting on the water is to assess what fishing opportunities there are. Survey the shoreline and see if there are docks or wood (trees) in the water. Take a quick look at the development on the water, as this will tell you many things right away. Lastly, watch your electronics as you cruise around the lake. Establish if there are any humps, ditches, edges or if it is just a bowl shaped body of water. At the same time, try to establish the weed line and look for baitfish as well. Water quality is also a big factor as dark water means shallow fish and clear water means deeper fishing is to be had.

For the waters that have a dark, murky or muddy color, the fishing will more than likely be shallow. The weed lines will only go out to about six feet and may be more clumps of weeds rather than pronounced lines of weeds. Fish in this type of water typically are object orientated. Look for wood as this is the top structure that you can find and this is where the fish are going to be.

Stumps, lay downs and docks are the most common wood targets that you are looking for. These can be fished in a variety of ways and with a variety of baits. Docks can be flipped with jigs, worms or any other plastic baits. Spinnerbaits are a great bait to work down a dock and a great trick is to bend the arm of the bait, so that it runs underneath portions of the dock. Stumps and lay

downs are best fished with plastics and jigs. This is where accuracy comes into its own, as you need to precisely place the bait in small areas around these pieces of structure. This is where all of the practice comes into play, as accuracy is everything. Start with the structure in the deeper water and work your way towards shore. Make as many flips as possible as the bait is only in the area for a short period, so if the fish doesn't pick it up right away, jig it a few times and then flip it to the next target.

Clearer water, you will also fish in a similar way with the shoreline structure. But in most clear water there usually will be a pronounced weed line and areas that will have clumps of weeds and weed patches as well. Clear water will probably have you fishing deeper. Good tactics for this is jigs and plastics in the weed beds. By casting into these weedy areas, you can dig out some big fish that are buried in there.

Other techniques will include spinnerbaits, crankbaits and the rattletrap type baits. Spinnerbaits can be burned near the surface above the weeds, they can be brought right across the tops and tick the weeds this way. Also, slow rolling them on the face of the weed line where the bass are positioned to attack anything that is going by. The rattling baits should be ripped through the tops of the weeds and will attract some ferocious strikes. Lastly, crankbaits worked at a variety of depths around the weeds are very productive and should never be over looked. If you feel the bait snagging weeds on the retrieve, give it a pop to break it free and this usually attracts many strikes that wouldn't occur by just using a steady retrieve. Use these techniques on sunken islands as well, since a number of fishermen don't even know that these structures are even there.

After you have fished a few of the many small waters that are around you, you will wonder why you never tried them earlier. Don't laugh anymore as you drive by these lakes or ponds, as they may and probably do hold the biggest fish that you will catch. They may not have the numbers that the larger lakes have, but the size will more than likely make up for it.

So give that local pond a try and if there is a kid sitting there fishing, try and take them out as well and when they catch one of these big fish you will be amazed at their reactions and gratitude that you took them out. Always remember that these fish may not grow quickly and if they are not returned to the water, the pond may not have any more fish for our kids to catch. Practice catch, photo and release so that future generations will have the same opportunities as we have. These waters are fragile and need our help to keep them going.

Tight lines and have fun