

Dead Sticking

Dead sticking is probably the easiest and most overlooked technique in bass fishing. The thought of leaving your bait in one spot for a few minutes, just doesn't register as a way to absolutely catch fish when the water temps drop. Here are a few tricks to try this winter when the bit really slows. Your presentation is critical to success when dead sticking. You have to remember that this time of year the fish will not chase down your lure.

Carolina or Texas rigs with a soft plastic are the baits of choice. An excellent bait is the Senko. Targeting deep structure or sunny shorelines (northern exposure) is your best bet for this technique. Sunny rocky shorelines hold heat making water temps slightly higher. It's as simple as throwing your bait out and letting it sit. Try not to move it less than a few inches or foot at a time. Let it sit dead still (i.e. dead sticking). Use the lightest sinker you can get away with, because the fish will not jerk the rod out of your hand doing this and you want to reduce any tension the fish feels. Most of the time they will pick up the bait and hold it. They will then swim off like a catfish. So feel for a steady pull or sudden slack in the line.

It is also desirable to use a scent all year around but most defiantly while dead sticking. Fluorocarbon line is recommended, as it will help keep the bait on the bottom, as it is denser than monofilament. Dead sticking a no different then when you set your rod down for a minute or so to grab something in the boat. The bait sits dead still on the bottom.