

PRESPAWN: ~ 55 DEGREES

Bass will begin moving from their deep winter haunts toward their eventual spawning areas and the "catching" starts to improve. Fish the same type of vertical areas now as in winter, but they should be close to a flat area, because bass like to spawn on flat places in protected water. If you had been fishing drop offs in winter, now fish the ends of the drop offs, close to some shallower water.

Northern banks are very important now because they're warmer than other areas on the lake. The sun will warm the water in this area a few degrees more than other water and attract bass. Avoid places hit by cold north winds and colder water.

Once the water hits the mid 50's degrees, bass are starting the prespawn mode. Migration routes are important now. Bass will follow ditches, depth contours, tapering points toward shallower water.

A deep running rattle type crankbait rooted along the bottom is a viable option now. A slow rolled spinnerbait also works well. For combing large expanses of water, a lipless rattling crankbait is an excellent choice. Use this lure with a slow stop and go retrieve in the upper ranges of the prespawn temperature zone. Also, use a suspending jerkbait (X-Rap type) and use a stop and go retrieve as its dead stop suspended motion can cause reaction bites.

A pick up in the fishing pace happens as the water hits around 55 to 60 degrees. You can run down a bank while throwing a Red Eye Shad or spinnerbait and catch active bass. Carolina or Texas rigged worms are also effective at this time. An unweighted or weighted Super Fluke is also an excellent bait. Retrieve the "fluke" with a top and go motion and be sure to keep the slack line out so you can set the hook on a strike. A tube jig is also a good bait now. Cast it out and let it sink to the bottom. Slowly work it back in and up and down retrieve. It is really very similar to a Texas rig.