

Winter Stream SmallMouth

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Winter Stream SmallMouth Jan 2004 Tip. High/Cold water stream fishing for Small mouth Bass here in Tennessee can be a real challenge. Where do you start? What do you use for bait? All of these and more elements need to be addressed. But the One most important factor in having a successful stream trip this time of the year, Is Having A Solid Knowledge Of Your Stream

Most Tennessee streams have Wintering Holes that hold Small mouth on a regular basis, but when the water is high and fast these fish look for areas upstream that are Slower and many times surprisingly shallow. It has been my experience that most of these areas won't hold Small mouth during normal winter flow conditions. But when the water is high and you know your stream, they can pay off in big dividends.

My First bait of choice for stream smallies is a good Stoneroller Minnow. A Stoneroller is like candy to a smallie-in the summertime they will hit them dead almost equally as well as alive. But-in the winter they won't even look at them if they are dead. One problem you will face this time of the year and with high water is finding minnows-but with a little luck and a lot of effort some normally can be found. If you have problems finding minnows a good alternate bait is a Hair Fly in black and blue. I have found that if I keep the fly up of the bottom and out of the fast water the fish will pick it up with a very soft tap. I would rate this fly the # 1 best artificial lure for stream smallie in the winter followed closely by a black

Whirly B

Try to settle in on a sandbar if possible and just let your stonerollers drift with the current. Many times all you will feel is a slight change in the weight on the end of the rod. As you tighten your line and feel the fish-flip your bail open and let him have more line. A hard hook set is need this time of the year-many times when you catch a smallie the stoneroller won't even seem to have any scales gone-that is how light the tap can be.

Many fishermen won't fish fast moving high water this time of the year. But if you study your stream and learn the routes and spots that stream small mouth stay in-you can catch them all year long.. If you are interested in a trip please see booking information at the very bottom of this page. If you have additional questions please take advantage of our Fish Reports page..I'll be happy to answer all your questions. Be safe and warm.
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Dial Stream Guide Tennessee Bass Guides.com