



# How to Quickly Eliminate Un-productive Water

By Jerry Fournier

**L**earning the seasonal patterns is one of the most important factors when eliminating dead water. You really need to study bass and their behavior toward the seasonal patterns, this will give you good idea where they are and where they aren't. This will take some time but the dividends are huge once you figure it out.

Second is experimenting, because if you continue to fish the wrong water, wrong bait or presentation time and time again, you won't improve as a bass angler.

One of the first things you need to do is break down the seasons. For example, what happens to bass in the fall before winter sets in? I am speaking of late September, October and November, if you are

a student of bass fishing you may already know. Bass come out of the deep water of their summer home and start eating and getting ready for winter. If the wind is blowing or you have a ripple on the water this is one of the better times to throw a spinnerbait, swimbait or a topwater frog, popper or Spook. Points are a good place to start. Points offer shallow water leading to deep water. The bass will move up and down during the day to feed. If the water is calm, throw topwater in the morning then start searching deeper with jigs, plastics or throw a crankbait. Bass will continue to eat very aggressively until the water temperature changes as the outside air gets colder. If the outside temperature in September and October is still warm, fish the shady spots all day long. Bass are predators and will be hiding under or behind something in the dark

waiting for an easy meal. Look for shade that comes from a hillside on the lake blocking the sun. Bass will stay shallow until the sun gets on the water then they move to shade. Boat docks, trees, brush-piles, pilings and tules all cast some type of shade and you can find shade to fish all day long, you just have to look for it.

Bass will eat more often during this time of year to get ready for the winter. As the water cools bass start slowing down and eating less, they will not be as aggressive. This means you slow down with your presentation and start fishing deeper.

Another place to look for fall bass is in current. Somewhere around that current is a current "break" or an eddy. In September you should be looking for faster moving water than you would in

November or December. Year round, bass want their meal served to them which is why you are looking for current.

Logical thinking like this helps eliminate fishing dead water. It comes from understanding seasons and fish behavior. What I just shared is a good example of why it's necessary to learn seasonal patterns. In order to have success, it's important that you focus on what the bass are doing and where they are going during each season.

I strongly believe you can cut corners and find fish faster by reading and educating yourself with as much bass fishing reference material as possible. The Internet and bass publications like this magazine provide incredible amounts of information.

For those of you who can't

spend enough time on the water, the best advice I have is to start with the basics. Take the time to read and store articles from magazines such as the Bass Anglers Guide. The writers for B.A.G. have been asked to be a part of this magazine by our peers. The publisher has asked seasoned local anglers to share information on how we fish, and what we look for when we are fishing, and the types of products we use so that you can learn from us. We are fishermen first and writers second. Follow all of the writers in this publication that you feel are giving you good information. Cut the articles out and file them by the writer, body of water and by the season. This is a great step in eliminating unproductive water. Most of us that are writing for the B.A.G are seasoned anglers with many years of experience. I have been fishing for bass for almost forty years. I too have fished dead water so you can learn from guys like me and save yourself the same mistake.

Aside from reading and fishing on your own, another way to learn is to hire a licensed fishing guide. You can eliminate large amounts of unproductive water in one day this way. There are many good guides on just about every body of water you would like to fish. Speaking from personal experience, when I am taking people out fishing, I

am teaching them all that I can. I have a passion to teach beginners how to catch bass. I share with them why, where, and how. I just changed rod companies; I am now on the G-Loomis pro staff. My guests will be fishing with G-Loomis rods for the day. G-Loomis is one of the worlds premiere rod makers. This will give them first hand experience fishing with quality products. I also fish with P-Line, some of the world's best fishing line. My guests will see first-hand why I use these products. Every product on my boat has been proven by me to work. Every guide you hire will have some type of product for you to use. Take advantage of this it will save you money in the long run. Every guide will be working hard to insure that you have a great experience on the water, helping you to find fish quickly by eliminating unproductive water!

If you would like more information, you can visit my website [www.jerry-fournier.com](http://www.jerry-fournier.com).

Jerry Fournier is a pro staff member for G-Loomis, P-Line, Snag Proof, Rodstrainer, Promar, Costal Del Mar, Western Wildlife Adventures, Prop Cover and Coyote Bait and Tackle.

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