

Swim Bait Bassin

By: Steven W. Wells Vicious Team Member

Swim Bait's are not just for West Coast anglers to throw at trout gorging bass. I've found that they are dynamite on the East side of the country as well.

It was foggy out and I could barely see the lure at the end of my line. I made a long cast with the huge bait and it splashed down next to the tree line I was fishing. I started a slow steady retrieve with my Quantum Energy E760PT. I could feel the bait throbbing as I slowly ticked the tops of the bottom growing weeds. My rod tip pulled down sharply and I instinctively snapped it back up. I had a good fish on. This one would go about 6 pounds and would be one of many nice fish I would boat that morning.

I'm not quite sure how I got on this kick but for whatever reason; I began religiously chucking swim baits in April of 2006. Now, I had used Flukes, Sassy Shads, and the occasional Slug-o for years. The Swim Baits I am talking about out weigh those lures in excess of three quarters of an ounce or more. The one I regularly use is an ounce without any weight added. I'm not sure if the color or brand matters as I have caught fish on all that I've tried but the fact remains that these baits simply get a response. I prefer swim baits in five to seven inch lengths, such as the Basstrix, or Luck-E Strike Bass Magic. I have found that the bass just really like the paddle tail type baits the best.

The waters I fish are crystal clear. I normally finesse fish with light line eight-pound test Vicious Fluorocarbon. But when I am throwing these monster baits I use a heavy seven-foot rod and a heavy baitcast reel. I prefer a 6.3:1 ratio reel spooled with twenty pound test Vicious Fluorocarbon. Make sure you use a heavy top of the line hook with these baits. My personal favorite is the new Owner weighted twist lock 5/0 hook. It has a wide gap and the weight keeps the bait from rolling over. I live and do a majority of my fishing in Southern Indiana and I still do very well with these baits. I may not catch tons of fish but when I really need a big bite I throw a swim bait. It takes a little patience but I boated more four pounders last year on swim bait than all other baits combined!

The swim bait has gained a reputation as a big bass bait and became popular in California. Here anglers mimic the stocked trout that the West Coast bass fatten up on. It has also been a key bait in the past couple of years on the professional tournament trails. Hey, I have big bass in my area too, so I logically opted to try the swim bait on my local waters. It has been a wise choice.

There are no secret retrieves or tricks I employ with these baits. I simply cast and count them down. Then I slowly and continuously reel them back. Most of the strikes are pretty hard; some just feel like extra weight. Either way I set the hook pretty good since I use heavier line. I compare the style they are fished to either a spinnerbait or crankbait. Slow and steady is the key. Bass whack them pretty hard. This is an excellent way to catch fish, check it out, especially when you need that kicker fish in your next tournament

Tight Lines and Good Fishing