



**Recreational Sales & Service**  
**Buy \* Sell \* Trade**



**"We Buy Unwanted Toys"**

**Boats, Trailer Axles & Parts**

**3927 Gov't Blvd. Mobile, AL**

**251-661-9952**



Photo by John N. Felsher

Spotted bass like this one often hit jiggging spoons that resemble small shad or other baitfish.

## EXCITING: Spotted bass fight hard

### FROM PAGE 9

black bass in Alabama, including smallmouth bass."

Spotted bass range down the Alabama-Tombigbee-Mobile river systems all the way to the upper end of Mobile Bay. Some good spots for spots include the Coosa River chain of lakes, Holt Reservoir on the Black Warrior River and Lake Wedowee on the Tallapoosa River. The Jones Bluff section of the Alabama River and Millers Ferry Lake also produce good spot action.

"The Alabama River has a tremendous number of spotted bass from Mount Vernon north," said Wayne Miller, with Mobile-Tensaw Guide Service in Satsuma (251-455-7404). "Just north of Mount Vernon, quite a few lakes on the east side of the river provide good action. The Gainestown area is another good place to fish. A tremendous number of tributary creeks feed into the Alabama River. Those tributaries are great places to throw crankbaits and spinnerbaits for spotted bass. North of Jackson on the Tombigbee River is another good place to fish."

Spots prefer more current and deeper, open water than weed-loving largemouths. Spots typically stay around main channel points, ledge edges with rock or woody debris, rocky shorelines, sandbars, riprap and similar places. Also look for them near dams and in the backs of creeks.

Spotted bass might hit anything that largemouths would strike. Spinnerbaits, crankbaits and topwaters rank among the best spotted bass

baits. They'll also hit jigs, worms and other temptations. Since spots like deeper water, they often hit jiggging spoons.

"Vertically jiggging a spoon is a good way to find fish," Holland recommended. "I'll jig a spoon or sometimes a Rat-L-Trap. A dropshot is another good technique. I also like a three-eighths to half-ounce football jig in a crawfish color. A shaky head worm in a green pumpkin, watermelon red or watermelon seed is another great bait for spots."

Many anglers like to fish suspending jerkbaits for spots. Anglers can make these lures sink faster by giving the rod several vigorous jerks to make the bait dive. At the desired depth, work it so it darts and dashes. Then pause. Bass often strike as the bait sits motionless at the proper depth.

"To best fish a jerkbait, anglers need to learn to fish it with a pop, pop, stop, pop, pop, stop cadence with a couple seconds between the fall and the start back," explained Randy Howell, a former Bassmaster Classic champion from Springville. "That causes the bait to go side to side. It's almost the same action as a walk-the-dog type topwater bait, but under the water. When the angler stops the retrieve, the bait just hovers in the strike zone. When it stops in their face, that's when bass eat it reactively."

Although not typically targeted, spotted bass can make a very welcome bonus on any fishing adventure. Landing several of these hard-fighting fish on light tackle would make any angler's day.