



Photo by John N. Felsher

Becky Smith admires a bass caught in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta near Mobile.

SWEET SPOT: The little things can mean big bass

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to eat. Did fish in the livewell spit up anything they recently ate? Is there visible bait in the area?

Analyze each strike to establish common factors, such lure color, size or action. Also look at the environment. Where did the fish hit? How deep was it? What was the closest cover? Try to verify and repeat the pattern. Once anglers can figure out the best patterns, they can eliminate unproductive waters and techniques to concentrate on what works best.

"I constantly analyze what's happening," advised Denny Brauer, a former Bassmaster Classic champion. "An angler must be totally aware of where the bait is and what's happening. Know how deep it is and how it's running in relation to the cover. When the bite happens, add up all that information and find the common denominators. People who find a place and an action that duplicates those common denominators catch more and bigger fish."

Figuring out sweet spots and hot techniques might come after considerable experimentation, scouting and knowledge of where fish should be and what they should be doing, but solving the puzzle could put a lot more fish in the boat.

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