

# DELTA: Shrimp migrations kick-start feeding frenzies

## FROM PAGE 41

“September is really when things start cranking up,” Miller commented. “At that time, people can catch bass, redbfish, speckled trout and other fish on almost anything they want to throw. When fishing the delta in September, we never know from one cast to the next what we’re going to catch. I’ve caught as many as six species in the delta in one day.”

Nothing kicks off a multi-species feeding frenzy like a shrimp migration. As the water cools, white shrimp leave the marshes and migrate toward deeper water in the gulf. When shrimp move, everything follows them. Bass, redbfish and speckled trout herd shrimp toward the surface where birds dive upon them. Beneath the school, flounder, black drum, sheepshead, catfish and other species pick off cripples or slurp pieces off the bottom.

“In the fall, everything depends upon the white shrimp migration,” Miller detailed. “Just about everything that swims eats shrimp. Look for shrimp on the surface jumping to



Photo by John N. Felsher

Kendra Maness compares a bass she caught to a flounder caught by Jeff Bruhl while fishing a Delta marsh.

escape predators. Where anglers see shrimp jumping on the surface -- that’s the place to fish! Once the bass get on that bite, it’s a phenomenal time to fish with plastic shrimp imitations for both numbers and quality fish. During that time, anglers could fish a shrimp

across the top or let it sink and fish it slowly.”

During a fall shrimp run, many anglers, even hardcore bass fishermen, dangle soft-plastic shrimp imitations under popping corks. Thread a plastic shrimp on a light jighead or hook and suspend it about 18 to 30 inches below a cork. Toss it out and let it sit a few seconds. Then, pop the rig vigorously like a fish striking the surface. When an angler pops the cork, the artificial shrimp flies up to the surface like a live crustacean jumping to escape an attacking predator. It then sinks again.

Predatory fish hear the commotion, see the bait flying upward or sinking. Thinking one of their cousins tried to catch a shrimp and missed, they move in for the kill. Anglers can also fish live shrimp in the same way for multiple species. That rig can catch just about anything that eats a shrimp.

In September, delta anglers don’t go “bass fishing” or “saltwater fishing.” They just go fishing because no matter what natural or artificial temptation they throw, they never know what they might catch.

**Services Include:**

Dozer Work	Prescribed Burning
Dirt & Rock Hauling	Site Prep Spraying
Cogon Grass Spraying	Timber Sales

D.J. Landrum, R.F.  
 Cell: 251-455-6266 Office: 251-454-9591  
[www.landcoforestry.com](http://www.landcoforestry.com)

**Majestic  
Tires & Service**  
 634-0313  
 7909 Airport Blvd.,  
 Mobile

BF Goodrich  
**KM3**  
 Our toughest tire

COOPERTIRES  
 NITTO  
 TOYO TIRES  
 driven to perform

MICKEY THOMPSON  
 PERFORMANCE TIRES & WHEELS