

Thick grass bass

Invading the vegetative lairs of lunker largemouths



Photo by John N. Felsher

Landen Dixon of Citronelle shows off a largemouth bass he caught on a Stanley Ribbit plastic frog while fishing the Mobile-Tensaw Delta near Mobile, Ala. Rigged with a hook inserted into the plastic, a frog can easily go over matted vegetation and other entangling cover.

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

In late summer, aquatic grasses reach their greatest growth potential before colder weather hits. With mild winters during the past few years, vegetation didn't die off. In places like the shallow bays of the lower Mobile-Tensaw Delta, huge grass mats stretch across significant acreage.

"In the last three years, we've seen a resurgence of aquatic vegetation in the lower delta," explained Wayne Miller with Mobile-Tensaw Delta Guide Service (251-455-7404) in Satsuma. "With that, the numbers and quality of bass have improved dramatically in the delta."

Grass provides outstanding oxygen, cover and hunting grounds for bass as well as their prey species. Frequently, the biggest bass lurk in the thickest weeds. Even during the hottest days, some bass always stay in shallow grass beds. When grass grows thick and mats on the surface, anglers must

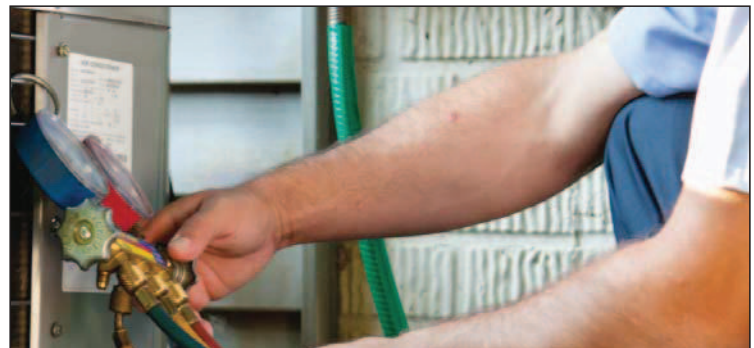
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