Spoon-fed bass
Vertical jigging lets anglers get the drop on big fish

Many anglers sit out the coldest days or focus more on hunting, but frosty mornings can mean big bass on the line, frequently with little competition.

In many ways, winter fishing simulates hunting. Once anglers find the fish’s winter lair; they can usually catch them and often keep catching them from the same place for weeks. “Keep experimenting to find fish and determine a pattern,” advised Kevin VanDam, a four-time Bassmas-

See BASS, 39

Dave Wolak, a professional angler, shows off a bass he caught while using a jigging spoon. A spoon sinks fast and looks like a dying shad on the way down.

Photo by John N. Felsher