



# Late Summer Largemouth



The late summer period can be a time for both big largemouth, *and* action. As usual, the key is concentrating on the proper water and using the proper presentations. You can have good success on one lake and drive a few miles down the road and get skunked. While there is never a sure thing, you can increase your odds by doing a bit of research. The size of the lake, water clarity, off shore structure and other predator species all must be taken into consideration.

Natural lakes with well-defined weedlines are easy to fish in late summer. The size of the lake is not important as long as the lake is at least 20 feet deep, and has clear to moderately clear water. By late summer, few lakes see quality largemouth bass spending time in shallows and the weedlines hold the mother load. A combination of lower oxygen levels and lack of sufficient forage trigger larger bass to make a move. The big bass vacate the slop and begin to stack up along the weedline in search of larger forage.

To catch these weed related bass you will need to be in the right place at the right time. Early in the day and in the evening largemouth will move into the weeds to feed. If you are fishing a lake with a high musky or pike population, feeding periods can be sporadic. On several lakes I fish the bass bite can be phenomenal and suddenly come to an abrupt halt when large toothy critters move in. If this happens in the morning, bass will return but if it happens in the evening the bass bite is over.

As the sun rises it is hard to beat a topwater bait. While each angler has a preference, over the years I have had incredible action with the old reliable Hubs Chub. Yes, the Hubs Chub is good for more than catching tons of smallmouth. The three inch bait is my favorite for catching smallmouth, but for largemouth the four inch Hubs Chub gets the nod. The four inch Hubs Chub moves lots of water and emits a great deal of noise. I have used every surface bait on the market but no other bait can match the surface attacks that you'll experience with the Hubs Chub.

One humid late August morning, while fishing my favorite unnamed lake, I caught 6 big largemouth in under an hour with the four inch Hubs Chub. I casted a four inch Hubs Chub in Bone Shad about six feet past the weedline over 12 feet of water. I gave the Hubs Chub a violent twitch and let the bait set a few seconds. If I did not get a strike I gave it a few more erratic twitches trying to emit as much noise as possible. If that did not work I buzzed the surface bait back to the boat.



## 4" Hubs Chub



Most of the strikes came during the first pause but I had one big largemouth explode at boatside. The Hubs Chub enables the angler to use a variety of presentations. Try doing that with any other surface bait. The four inch Hubs chub is also an excellent bait after dark.

The topwater bait may be more fun but the spinnerbait will allow an angler to catch more fish since you will be able to cover more water. Cast the spinnerbait and start your retrieve when the spinnerbait hits the water. Since we are looking for the most active bass a fast retrieve is in order. Along with attracting a big bass the fast retrieve will also keep the spinnerbait riding high over the weeds. As the spinnerbait hits the edge of the weedline let it drop along the edge of the weeds. After a few seconds give the spinnerbait a fast jerk and continue the fast retrieve. Many times a huge bass will be holding tight to the weedline and need something to trigger it.



## Case Sinking Salty Shad



On some mornings bass will refuse both a topwater bait and a spinnerbait. When this happens, soft plastic minnow type jerk baits like the Case Sinking Salty Shad can be deadly. Regardless of the water clarity, whether it's sunny or overcast, I use minnow imitation colors. White and silver fleck are the top colors. Work the jerk bait with a series of fast short twitches. You want to get the attention of the bass and let the bass engulf the bait on the pause.

Anglers will head into the shallow weeds and cruise over the weedline and pass up the big bass. So if you are looking for big bass, use caution when approaching a weedline. Stop your out-board well out from the weedline, put down the trolling motor and start casting a medium depth crankbait over the top of the deep weeds. If there is sufficient forage in the deeper weeds, a big bass will have no reason to move shallow. Early in the day there is limited light penetration so use natural pattern minnow imitation crankbaits like a Yo-Zuri Hardcore F718 or a Hardcore Shad SH-60. When fishing crankbaits I use a six foot six rod and spool my casting reel with flourocarbon. The fiberglass rod has a slower response and you won't over react on the hookset.

A good evening bite also occurs in the shallow weeds. The evening bite may at times be more intense but it will be for a short period of time. On lakes with heavy boat traffic during the day the evening bite is excellent. You can work a weedline in the early evening and have little success but right at dusk the action can be incredible. The same presentations that worked in the morning are productive at dusk.