

Fishing continues to morph into what I call a summer pattern. There still seem to be some shallow trout, but most of that action is best early. I'm still catching fish shallow on Skitterwalks and Spook Juniors, but action is better on floating Fat Boys unless the bite is hot. Didn't catch any big trout shallow this week, but did hook and lose a handful which appeared to be at or exceeding five pounds. Mid-morning, the better bite seems to be on waist-deep or deeper grass beds and pothole edges. Out there, I'm catching best on soft plastics rigged on sixteenth ounce heads. The lighter heads make it easier to cope with the stringy grass. Color doesn't seem to matter much. On the calmer days, small topwaters are also working great. In general, moving forward, days with generally lighter winds in the middle of the morning and nothing funky in the weather will probably be best. This time of year, it seems the fish bite best when the weather is bland and boring. If it gets windier, it gets tougher. If storms are around, it doesn't help either. As for the water quality, this recent push of incoming tide associated with the north winds and low pressure system has the brown water moving south. For months now, I've been staying out of the mucky water and in the clear. I'll keep doing so for as long as it's possible.