

This past week, fishing took on somewhat of a summer feel in terms of the patterns I found working. I'm still catching some trout shallow, less than knee deep, but most of the best action on that pattern is early in the morning, and the bites are becoming fewer and farther between. Best bet for me when fishing those depths has been to stay close to drop offs into water that's more like thigh deep, keying on the edges of the grassbeds and the highest activity levels and concentrations of bait. At times, I've been able to see numerous wakes (presumably of cruising trout and/or redfish) within casting range. The catching is best on small topwaters and floating Corkies in these depths. I'm starting to find better concentrations of trout in water about waist to navel deep. Out in those depths, I'm targeting grass beds and potholes, using mostly soft plastics on light jigheads. Color hasn't seemed to matter much. In some areas, I'm finding lots of dinks and small keepers. In other areas, there seem to be more keepers and a few big fish, though there are always some dinks. This whole thing is more of a hot water pattern. In fact, the water is in the 80s much of the time lately. The catching was good most of the week, with the exception of the two windier days I fished, Tuesday and Saturday. For the week, I totaled 11 trout over 25 inches, with a 28 and a 29, both 7 pounders. I caught some of the big trout on top, some on Corkies and some on Provokers, and at various times during the day, in locations separated by five miles or more. The key to finding the bigger trout seems to be finding good concentrations of other trout, which means finding lots of bait and other signs. Again, this sounds a lot like summer fishing, finding a bunch of fish and culling through lots of them for a few big bites. As long as my numbers stay like this, I'll keep working it!