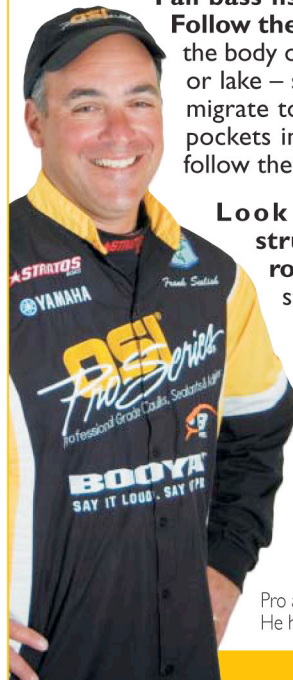


Off the Clock

Fishing with Frank

Follow the baitfish to find bass this fall



Fall bass fishing has a simple rule: Follow the baitfish. No matter what the body of water is – river, reservoir, or lake – shad and other baitfish will migrate to the creek backs and lake pockets in the fall, and the bass will follow them.

Look for any cover or structural irregularity like rock pile or brush. Shad will stop there to feed and the bass will use the irregularity to hide from – then ambush their prey. Intercept the bass by fishing between the shad dimpling the surface and the intermediate water.

After a rain, seek the run-off ditches. Shad will congregate in these nutrient-rich waters filled with the zooplankton and phytoplankton that shad love to eat. Find the shad, find the bass.

Pick a lure that imitates baitfish. Rattle baits (like Rattle Spot), top water baits (like Crazy Shad, one of my personal favorites because it sounds like shad flipping on the water), and jerk baits (like Excalibur Stick Bait) are good lures to try besides the obvious spinner baits.

Worried about cooler temperatures? Don't be, because the fish aren't. They won't go into their winter pattern until November. By then, we'll be talking ice fishing for crappie and perch.

Good Fishing! *Frank*

Pro angler Frank Scalish is on the 2007 Elite Series Bassmaster Tournament Trail. He has been sponsored by OSI® Pro-Series® since 2003.

For more information, visit www.OSIPro.com/spotlight.shtml