

# Your Dinner May Be Lurking in the Grasses



Of course, we're talking the grasses that give great cover for bass in the Upper Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna River Flats. The Flats contain all the different types of *structure* and *cover* the bass fisherman could want. Structure relates to changes in the shape of the bottom of the river and upper bay, especially those that influence fish behavior. Some examples of structure in the Flats would be the river channel, humps, depressions, sandbars, ledges, and drop-offs. Cover relates to natural or man-made objects on the bottom of the river. Anything a fish can use to conceal itself. Examples include stick-ups, tree lines, stumps, rocks, logs, pilings, docks, weeds, boathouses, duck blinds, bushes, etc.

**You will probably not find a fishery with better, heathery, submerged grass areas than on the Susquehanna River Flats.**

These grasses provide the bass fisherman with a vast area for exciting topwater fishing using poppers, buzzbaits, and any of the topwater plastics such as frogs or large floating worms. The bass fisherman will also find that spinnerbaits and shallow running crankbaits work great in the grass areas. The shorelines of our area offer the bass fisherman many miles of fallen trees and submerged wood that is known as wood lay-downs. Spinnerbaits, shallow running crankbaits and plastics



are excellent choices when fishing these wood lay-down areas. The shorelines and flats are abundant with large rocks that are excellent spots to fish all types of lures.

**During the hot, humid days of summer,** target the vast, large grass beds that the Susquehanna River Flats area has to offer. These grass beds provide the bass with cover from the hot sun while providing the oxygen they need to survive and keep active. Many of the shallow shorelines with the wood lay-downs will have grass growing on them as well. These areas will continue to hold good quality bass through the summer months.

Spinnerbaits and shallow-running crankbaits will work fine until the grass gets too thick and dense. Then try floating frogs, such as Plastic Frogs and the *Optimum* Baits Poppin Furbit Frog. Work the baits across the heavily matted grass beds, keeping a tight grip on your fishing rod. Be ready for that big Lunker you've been waiting for, to explode from under the grass. My Tidal River Drop Shot technique can be a very valuable fish

catching technique this time of the year as well as 4 inch worms and tubes.

**Heading into the cooler months of early fall,** the bass will begin feeding and getting ready for the long, cold, winter months ahead. Target the shallow creeks as the bait fish will school in these areas and the bass will feed on them. Use spinnerbaits and shallow-running crankbaits.

Fall is a great season to catch some nice Stripers/Rock Fish on the Susquehanna River Flats. You may not find the huge Rockfish often found in the spring, but Maryland regulations usually allow you to keep a few. (Always check the current Maryland regulations.) We regularly catch 21-24 inch Stripers/Rockfish this time of year – a good size for your delicious fillets!

**Good Fishing, Capt. Karl Bunch**  
Captain Karl Bunch, Owner/Guide for Karl's Bassin' Adventures is a United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain, Red Cross CPR & First Aid certified and licensed in the State of Maryland and Commercially insured. We strictly Practice Catch & Release of Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass.