

John Day Bass Fishing Information

In the mid to late 1970's 15 to 18 smallmouth bass were released in the John Day River, followed by another small release in the early 1980's. Today, bass dominate the river. Catches of 10" to 14" are the usual with 14" to 18" not uncommon. 50 plus fish per day is common.

For fly fisherman a light to medium rod (3 to 5 lb.) is sufficient and provides plenty of excitement landing the big ones. One of our recent guests declared that the "ugliest nymphs seemed to work the best."

For spin casters a light to medium weight rod of at least six feet is best and a variety of baits can be employed depending on the conditions. On cooler days, soft jerkbaits or plastic worms seem to work well. Crankbaits and spinners work well around structure or on warmer days. We've even used leftovers from the previous night's dinner! The key is to have a variety of baits and to experiment throughout the day and as conditions change. Inexpensive rods and reels (starter kits) for kids work great. Valuable or expensive rods should be packed in an unbreakable rod-case.

Successful bass fishing depends upon water clarity and temperature. These two factors begin to work well together as snowmelt waters recede in June. When the rafts are scraping over the gravel bars, conditions are usually pretty good.

There will be some opportunities to fish from the raft as we float the river. If water levels allow, we will take our time on the river, and don't mind lingering briefly when the catching is good. There will be plenty of time in the mornings, at lunch and in the afternoon/evenings when we arrive in camp to chase the big ones. You will also have the opportunity to explore promising spots on your own in an inflatable kayak.

All guests wishing to fish or to assist anyone else with fishing must have a valid angling license. Kids under 14 are not required to have a license to fish for bass. Kids 14 to 17 are eligible for a youth license. For Oregon fishing regulations got to <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/>

Feel free to give us a call if you have any questions.



800-788-7238

info@OregonRafting.com