



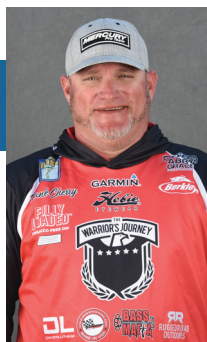
3 things to remember

Bryan Schmitt

1 November is the best month to go fishing, and nobody does it much. Hunting is really big around here this time of year. The weather can be strange, but rivers like the Potomac are full of **grass**. That grass starts to deplete and die off in November, and that can confine fish to **small areas where the grass is still healthy** or push them to some form of structure and the numbers of catches go through the roof. Look for the last available good grass or the closest **hard structure near the grass** that was there, and be ready to catch a bunch of fish.

2 Keep it simple. You can easily get everything you want to get done with two or three baits. You need a spinnerbait, a jig and a shaky head. If you are going to fish grass, the **spinnerbait** will still get it done. The bass are eating shad this time of year. You switch to a slower presentation and we know how big of a bite **a jig** can get. You can flip it in the small grass areas and structure. The **shaky head** is the cleanup bait for fish that are a little deeper and moving around dropoffs.

3 Another important factor, especially where I am, is that you can get cold weather and heavy winds. Be prepared to adjust. You can still have a productive day, but sometimes you have to get into protected waters. Be willing to **change with the weather**. One really cool aspect of tidal waters, [is that] you can get some very **hard winds**, and those hard winds will affect the current and the tide. You can get a severely **blown out tide**, which makes the water really low. That is a plus, because it will confine the fish tremendously and can make for some excellent opportunities if you can brave the conditions.



Berkley Right Bait, Right Time... Hank Cherry

In November, I try to stay as shallow and as far toward the backs of the creeks as possible. You are past the first frost usually, but I don't really think all the bass leave at once. I think the most productive places in November are going to be the middle to back halves of creeks. One thing all three of these baits have in common is that I can cover a lot of water with them.



Berkley Stunna

The fish are transitioning and moving and they are feeding on shad. The Stunna is a good shad imitator. It is a reaction bait, and you can cover a lot of water with it. You can fish it by throwing it to the bank all the way out to as deep as you need to. You get a lot of bites. That time of year, I like anything that is opaque colored or is imitating a shad. I won't go to anything translucent until the water gets really cold. My cadence this time of the year is pretty fast. The bass are still aggressive and they are trying to feed up and get that final push until wintertime.



Berkley Choppo 105

The Choppo is good because when the water cools off, you have a lot of bass that move up shallow and feed at night around rocks and shallow points. The Choppo is the best way to cover that shallow water column and cover it fast. It generates a lot of bites and big strikes. It has plenty of noise and the hookup ratio on that size bait is exceptional. It is a fun way to fish. To me, that is the prime time for the Choppo. If it is sunny, I throw a bone color, and if there is any wind, clouds or overcast conditions I throw the maverick color (black).



Berkley Frittside

It is a flat-sided crankbait and, once again, we are going after that shad profile. It has a tight wiggle and, with the colors offered, if you have rocky situations up shallow you can mix in some crawfish colors because they will tend to feed on crawfish in November, especially around the full moon. The Frittside 5 would be an excellent choice in November, but if you are tournament fishing, I would throw the Biggun' just because it gets big bites. I'll throw it shallow around rock, wood cover, whatever I can. I like a basic crank-and-stop pattern. This time of year, they aren't that hard to trick once you find them; it is more about finding them.

What they say about... the deepest smallmouth they've ever caught



Cory Johnston
Elite Series pro
Ontario, Canada

The deepest I've ever caught them was in 60 feet on Lake Erie. We have a break that we fish pretty often, and instead of finding them on the break, I was marking them off of it.

They ate a drop shot. I'm sure you can catch them there pretty regularly, but that's the one time that I've actually done it.



David Williams
Elite Series pro
Newton, N.C.

I wouldn't think it would be over 20 or 25 feet at the most. I'm a shallow-water fisherman, and I'm not a big electronics guy, so most of the time I do my best to catch them pretty shallow. I'm typically looking for fish, even smallmouth, on visible cover.

When you fish for smallmouth up shallow, they usually won't be in big groups like when you find them out deep, but there are always some big ones. That's what I'm counting on.



Josh Douglas
Elite Series pro
Isle, Minn.

I always try to stay under 25 feet, but sometimes you need to go deeper. Glacial lakes, for example, tend to be very, very clear. My home lake of Mille Lacs, I've only caught them 30 feet deep, but on Lake Champlain, I once caught smallmouth in 45 feet of water.

I was out looking for deep rocks and caught them on a drop shot. When you go out deep, there are generally more of them.

TOP 5

Among the the 2022 Elite Series field, Rick Clunn has the most B.A.S.S. wins, with 16. He's in no danger of being overtaken soon, but two anglers — Jason Christie and Mike Iaconelli — are next in line with eight apiece:

- 1** Christie has won twice on Lake St. Clair, but "only" won once in his home state of Oklahoma.
- 2** Iaconelli has placed first on three different tidal fisheries: the James River, Delaware River and Louisiana Delta.
- 3** Clunn has won more than once on two bodies of water: Guntersville and the St. Johns River.
- 4** Greg Hackney and Brandon Palaniuk have both won six times on six different bodies of water.
- 5** The only tournament venue where both Hackney and Palaniuk have claimed victory is Sam Rayburn in Texas.