



Sams will draw these bass up for vicious surface action. For deeper bass, use a *Clearwater Flash* Hot Lips Express or 3/4-oz. Crippled Herring spoon. Overcast days will produce all day topwater action, while bright sunny days will favor a deeper presentation. Plastic worm lovers will do well on 4- to 6-in. *Strawberry Glitter* and *Smoke Glitter* Twister Tail worms.

FALL

By mid-September, water temperatures will begin dropping and the length of daylight will be decreasing. These factors trigger a feeding response and bass will move back into the creeks and coves to fatten up for the winter. Huge schools of shad can be found in the back of most creeks. The very best topwater action occurs in the fall and continues until surface temperatures fall below 68 degrees. The best fishing is centered around Lakeway Marina, within a 5-mile radius. Jerk 'n Sams and P.J. Pops work best in *Silver Foil* and *Tennessee Shad* colors.

Main lake bluff banks produce well in the late fall using the deepest-diving Hot Lips. in a *Crawfish* color.

WINTER

The cold water of December, January & February cause Travis bass to congregate on deep ledges along channel points and bluffs. Vertically jigging Crippled Herring spoons using a short hopping action will produce good action for both white and black bass. Best depths will range from 25 to 45 feet, with the mid-lake zone down to the dam producing

best. The record 14-lb. largemouth came from Cypress Creek in January of 1993.

SHARP HOOKS PAY OFF!

One of the easiest things you can do to improve your fishing success is to maintain super-sharp hooks on your lures at all times. A fine-toothed file such as Luhr Jensen's *Sharp Hook File™* is the absolute best hook sharpening tool available. Hold the file parallel to the hook point and with gentle, one-way strokes remove a small amount of metal on at least two sides to obtain a sticky-sharp point with a knife-like cutting edge.



Sharp Hook Files™

LAKE TROLLING TIPS

Here are some techniques you can use to make trolling easier, more fun and more productive.

1. TROLL SLOWLY: Big fish will not expend any more energy than necessary to catch a meal. Also, most lures will not perform correctly at fast speeds. The best advice is to troll slowly — the slower the better.

2. VARY YOUR SPEED: While slow is the password, this does not mean slow all the time. A lure running through the water at a constant speed, at a constant depth and giving off the same vibration pattern will not catch many fish . . . there's just nothing there to indicate an easy meal is available or that something is in trouble. Slowly, yes, but adjust your speed every few minutes to change the lure's speed and vibration pattern.

3. WORK IN "S" CURVES: Consistent trolling results require that you do everything possible to keep from running in a straight line. We recommend an "S" pattern because every time the troll and lure are on the inside swing of the boat, the lure will drop deeper and slow down. On an outside turn, it will speed up and rise. With each turn you will impart a different action to the troll and trailing lure, signaling "Meal Time" to nearby fish.

When in the Austin area, take some time to experience the excellent fishing at Lake Travis. For assistance and guide services, contact Allen Christenson who has been guiding on Lake Travis out of the Lakeway Marina for more than 18 years. Allen is both an excellent guide and a skilled fisherman who holds the world record for Texas' own Guadalupe bass! He can be reached at Allen Christenson's Guide Service, 512-441-6682.



PROPER CATCH AND RELEASE METHODS

1. Play the fish in quickly so it is not too tired.
2. Handle the fish as little as possible and never let it flop on a hard or dirty surface.
3. Use hemostats or needle-nose pliers to back the hook out the way it went in. Barbless hooks make the process easier.
4. Never release a fish until it is fully revived and acts strong. A tired fish can tumble and get lodged in rocks or moss and suffocate. Carefully work the fish back and forth to pump water through its gills. You will know when it's ready to leave.
5. When taking a picture of your catch, leave it in the water until the camera is ready and then gently cradle the fish in both hands as you lift it out of the water. Never put your fingers in its gills or squeeze it too hard. Keep the fish out of the water only long enough to take the picture.
6. Be gentle and release the fish carefully. *Never throw a fish back into the water!*

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lakeway Resort
& Conference Center
512-261-6600
Lakeway Marina
512-261-7511