

Tubing for Smallmouth

"Tubing" is one of the most popular fishing techniques for catching smallmouth bass. Tubing doesn't mean using an old inner tube to float on the water. It is fishing with a tube lure. A tube lure looks like a short piece of tubing with one end closed and the other end shredded or cut into strands. Tubes come in several sizes, but 2-inch to 3-inch tubes work best for catching smallmouth.

Most shades of green or smoke (gray) tubes are popular among anglers. Devoted tube anglers have several colors of tubes in their tackle boxes. Bass tournament anglers have been tubing for several years. They regularly catch smallmouth bass over 20 inches long.

To fish a tube, you need jig heads to slide into the tube and have the jig

eye pop up through the tube head. The weight of the **jig head** depends on where you are fishing and the size of the tube.

When fishing a 3-inch tube, a quarter-ounce jig is great for a slow fall and water up to 10 feet deep. If you want the tube to fall through the water slower, use a smaller jig head. If you're using a longer tube, you will need a bigger jig head. Have fun trying different tubes with different-sized jig heads until you find one that works best for you.

Cast your tube lure near rocks and reel in your line slowly. Stop the tube a few times, and let it fall to the bottom near the rocks. Near rocks is a great place to catch smallmouth bass because they like to live near rocky areas, but be careful. It is easy to get snagged when fishing around rocks. Many anglers say that this technique can help you catch smallmouth bass over 20 inches long.

