

# WHEN BASS GO DEEP

## The Football Jig

On many bodies of water during the summer, fall, and winter months bass and baitfish migrate to deep offshore structure in search of cooler or warmer waters. A few simple adjustments to your gear and cast will have you tackling bass, even when they go deep.

### Get the Right Gear



#### Rod & Reel

Bass Pro Shops® Johnny Morris® Signature Series Baitcasting Reel and Signature Series II Trigger Rod Combos

- Rod 6'8" Medium Heavy to 7'6" Heavy depending on the weight of the jig.
- The longer rod allows for better hook setting ability.
- Reel gear ratios of 6.4:1 or 7.1:1 help retrieve long casts and improve line tension.



#### Line

Bass Pro Shops® XPS KVD Signature® Series 100% Fluorocarbon Fishing Line

- Fluorocarbon line allows you to feel light bites and bites in deep water.
- Less stretch allows for better hook sets in the deeper water.
- Line weight will depend on the density of the cover and clearness of the water.
- 12, 14 or 17 pound test works best.



#### Jig

Bass Pro Shops® Enticer® Pro Series Football Jig (2014 Game and Fish Winner)

- Football-shaped head "walks" through rocks and cover.
- Design keeps the hook and trailer riding upward.
- Best weights for deep water: ½ oz., 5/8 oz., ¾ oz., and 1 oz.

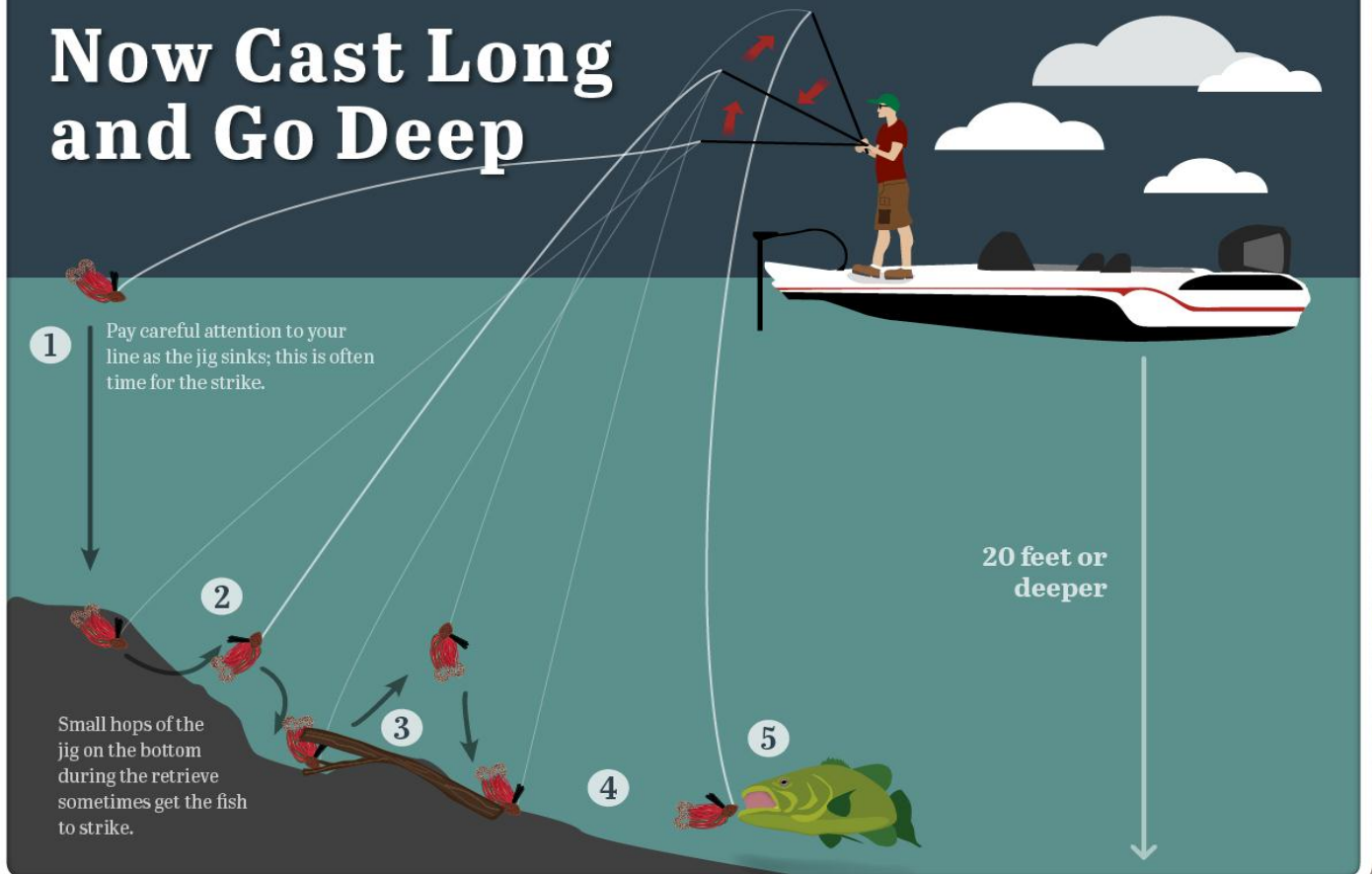


#### Trailer

Bass Pro Shops® XPS® Double Tail Grubs

- Double tail grubs add swimming action when threaded on the football jig hook.
- Match the trailer color to the color of the jig.

### Now Cast Long and Go Deep



**1** Position your boat for a long cast just beyond the cover. Allow the football jig to fall on slack line. Keep slight tension on the reel spool with your thumb and pull line off the reel with your free hand to cause the jig to sink vertically and prevent backlashing.

**2** Once the jig hits the bottom, slowly lift the rod from the 8 o'clock to the 11 o'clock position, and then lower the rod tip allowing the jig to fall back to the bottom. Reel up the slack line after each movement to allow constant contact with the jig and the bottom.

**3** If the jig comes in contact with a rock or other cover, swiftly snap the rod tip from the 8 o'clock position the 11 o'clock position. Then drop your rod tip and allow the jig to fall back to the bottom on slack line. Many times this draws reaction strikes from fish less interested in feeding.

**4** Continue to fish the jig back to the boat over the cover or to a desired depth. When the jig reaches this point, retrieve it back to the boat with a steady, not so fast speed. Fish following the jig or suspended often strike the jig during the retrieval.

**5** When the fish strikes, reel up the slack line and immediately set the hook. Many strikes will feel as a tap or tug—kind of like the resistance of stretching a rubber band. Keep tension on the fish during the entire fight to prevent the fish from using the heavy jig head to throw the bait.

For more information about bass fishing, visit [BassPro1Source.com](http://BassPro1Source.com).