

## Lake Keowee Fishing Introduction

Lots of fish swim in the clear waters of Lake Keowee. Originally the lake primarily held largemouth bass, crappie, and catfish. However, many years ago some anglers made an unauthorized introduction of spotted bass, and that upset the ecological balance of the lake. The largemouth and crappie fishery declined, and now 9 out of 10 bass caught in Lake Keowee are spotted bass. Nice largemouth and crappie are still caught, as are the rare smallmouth and white bass. There are no striped bass in Lake Keowee.

The spotted bass are very aggressive and pound for pound are more sporty to catch than largemouth, but spotted bass don't grow as large as largemouth ... it's rare to catch a spotted bass in excess of 4 lb. However, spotted bass population is large, and they taste great.

That said, many have found catching bass on Lake Keowee a humbling experience. Most experienced anglers experienced in other bodies of water look for bass around weed beds where baitfish like to hide, but Lake Keowee has no weed beds. Here the baitfish tend to suspend out in the middle of lake or hide in the rocks or fallen trees along the shore. In addition, the clear lake water allows the fish to see you coming, so stealth and the ability to make long casts are critical skills.

Successful anglers on this lake find bass using knowledge of the bottom contours of the lake, the shoreline structure, the temperature variations in different parts of the lake, and the daily and seasonal migration patterns of the bass.

For newcomers, one way to acquire the knowledge and skills that work to catch bass on Lake Keowee is participate in the activities of the Keowee Anglers, an organization dedicated to sharing the knowledge and skills of experienced Lake Keowee anglers. For more information about this organization, look at other pages on this website.

Below are links to a series of articles about bass fishing on Lake Keowee, written by Bill Walker, the Tournament Director of the Keowee Anglers, and published over the years in the FOLKS Sentinel.