

Fall Bass

As water temperatures cool in fall, bass feel less need to conserve energy. They spend more time roaming for food instead of sitting -and waiting for forage to come to them. Bass prowl flats, creek channel ledges, points, depth contours and ditches, actively hunting-baitfish.

Concentrations of bass are likely to be found on long points, large main lake flats and submerged humps. Shad school-up heavily in fall at the mouths of reservoir tributaries and gradually work their way into the backs of creek arms. Bass will group in large numbers to take advantage of this abundant forage, and can often be seen breaking the surface in pursuit of a meal.

In deep, clear lakes like Keowee, some bass may take up an offshore lifestyle, suspending around baitfish schools in open water.

Most bass pros try to cover as much water as possible when fishing in the fall, knowing that large numbers of bass will be spread out on major structures such as points, channel ledges and submerged humps. Fast moving lures like lipless crankbaits (Red Eye Shad or Rat-L-Trap) are especially productive at this time. Use them to comb flats for actively feeding fish. Crankbaits are ideal for probing points and ledges on the main lake. As bass follow schools of shad into tributary arms, lures like spinnerbaits that produce a flash and profile of a baitfish are productive. Buzzbaits and surface poppers score strikes early and late in the day around boat docks and shallow cover. Keep a stickbait type (Zara Spook) or chugger type (Chug Bug) tied on to throw at schooling bass.

Larger lures (1/2 ounce to 3/4 ounce) are recommended in fall because bass are oriented to feeding on fully mature baitfish. Since Keowee is a clear water lake, realistic colors, especially shad patterns, tend to work best.