

## **Boat Position**

One of the most critical things that a fisherman needs to learn is how to maximize boat position so you catch more fish. You cannot really be productive unless you learn the basic rules of how to position your boat. A good color sonar unit with GPS is very desirable as it will allow you to follow the contour lines when fishing points, humps, shorelines or creek channels and properly position your boat. The color units with GPS show shallow water in blue and easy to see contour lines so it is easy to follow the structure and position your boat properly. These units also store and show your boat track on the GPS lake map so you can go back through on the same path if you find fish. Here are some basics tips.

1. When fishing a point, don't go across it with your boat, you will spook the bass, turn your boat parallel to the point and work it out on one side and back on the other side, do not work across the point unless you are out in deeper water casting to the shallows. Depending on the wind, it is always best to position your boat to cast into the wind and towards the point. It provides a more natural bait presentation. It is also desirable when fishing a point if you don't start on the side to start at the deepest part of the point and work your way into the shallows and along one side.
2. When fishing along a channel or creek bottom, keep the boat in a consistent depth so you are turning with the depth changes not crossing them. At times moving up and down the creek channel sides may be desirable as the sides may hold bass if they are not in the channel bottom.
3. When fishing a hump, you can use your electronics to position your boat to follow the outside contour of the hump and cast to the top of the hump. At times staying in the deep water and casting to shallow is best. At other times fishing from the top of the hump and casting to deep water may be best. You have to experiment.
4. When moving parallel to a bank don't always throw to the bank and work the bait back. Some times you can be more productive by working the boat along parallel to the shore and casting parallel to the shore to fish a consistent depth. This keeps the bait in the depth where the fish are longer.
5. When you take someone fishing, be aware of the fact that boat position is what allows your partner in the back to have an equal chance at catching fish. Position your boat so both of you can cast to the prime spots.
6. Lake Keowee is a very clear water lake and as such you can easily spook fish without properly positioning your boat. You will be more successful if you learn to make long casts, the longer the better as you can then position you boat not to spook the fish. If you can't make long casts with a baitcaster a spinning outfit is best as you can cast light lures a long way.
7. Fishing docks can be very effective on Lake Keowee. It is best to position your boat away from the dock to be able to cast parallel to the sides of the dock or the back of the dock. This will put the bait in the best position and cover the most parts of the dock.

The boats position is the most important factor that can help you in catch more fish. Just remember to always consider how your boat could be used to improve the chances of catching a fish. Also, always be aware that you position your boat to give your partner an equal chance to catch fish. Proper boat position is the only way to accomplish this.