

Sky Conditions:

In a clear water lake like Keowee, optimum conditions would be cloud cover and some wind. Both of these cut down light penetration and make fish more active. The majority of bass prefer the shade on sunny days but they make no effort to avoid sunlight. As light gets brighter, fish are either going to move tightly to cover or into deeper water. That's why early morning fishing in dark or low light produces results in shallow water but as the sun rises the bite stops and shifts as the fish are moving deeper. Because shallow bass are usually most active during low light periods, a good strategy is to work shallow patterns early and move to mid depth flats after sunrise. Reverse the cycle as the sun goes down and finish the day fishing shallow at dusk.

Due to the increased visibility in clear waters, natural colors and natural looking baits are your best bet. You may have to downsize your lures and use finesse presentations so use something real subtle like a super fluke, soft tube bait or plastic on a light jig head. A big bait may spook bass in clear water. A subtle presentation will get more bites. One of the worst things you can do is use heavy lures and heavy line in gin clear water on a sunny day. In Keowee, line weight of 8 or 10 lb. is all that is needed.

Sight is the number one sense a feeding bass uses and if he can't see your lure, he won't hit it. Therefore, natural colors, white and chartreuse should be your first choices in light periods. Dark colors put off a better profile on dark days, early morning or dusk. Minnow, perch or gold and black work well.

Cold water fish normally bite better under sunny skies and warm water fish under cloudy skies. Clear water fish bite better under cloudy skies or dark conditions.