

Jigging Spoons

Jigging spoons are an excellent winter lure that mimics baitfish and are effective baits to fish over structure. Lake Keowee's "spotted bass" go deep or suspend over deep water in the winter. Jigging spoons are one of the few bass lures that work well in very deep water and can be very effective to catch suspended bass or deep bass. Jigging spoons are productive in both extremely cold and extremely hot water. Under these water temperature conditions bass are not moving much and are holding tight to the bottom or suspending over deep water or schooled up in confined areas. Spots will always be close to baitfish, so finding them is a key to success. In the winter most baitfish have returned to main lake structure or are in river or creek channels.

Jigging spoons work best when you've found bass in a tight area, such as along a creek or river bed drop-off. The key is to look for and find vertical elements to structure as bass most often hold there. 45-degree drop offs are a place to good start. Here is where you have the best opportunity to find schooled up bass. If you can find them it may be possible to catch a good number of "spots" in a short time on a spoon. Locals and guides who know Lake Keowee will catch 20 or more bass a day under these conditions.

A good depth finder and "the ability to successfully read it" is a must to being successful when fishing deep or suspended "spots" with a jigging spoon. Jigging spoons can be fished "vertically" or right over the fish, they can be cast out and let sink and then retrieved in a pumping up and down motion and they also make an effective reaction bite lure when retrieved fast if you find and cast to schooling "spots".

The Fishing Hole in Clemson has locally made jigging spoons for about \$2.50 each. Another good jigging spoon is the Flex-It spoon that Ken Strudivant recommended. Grady's in Anderson has them as does Ace Hardware in Seneca. Ken recommended the 0.6-ounce size. The Flex-It spoon is about \$3.50 to 3.95.

Try one you may snag a "spot" or two.