

Spring Bass & Water Temperature

Warming water triggers a gradual bass movement to shallower areas. This "migration" may take several weeks, depending on how quickly the water warms. By the time water temperature reaches about 55 degrees many bass may be in less than 15 feet of water.

Bass move shallower in spring as warming water results in increasing bass metabolic activity, which causes a greater need for food. Bass instinctively know they will find more forage opportunities in the shallows as the water warms. Largemouth bass are biologically programmed to spawn in water shallow enough for sunlight to incubate their eggs. This shallow migration takes place via points, channels and other underwater structures that lead into coves and tributary arms.

As the water temperature approaches 64 to 72 degrees for largemouth bass, groupings of bass may stop and hold, sometimes for several days, in certain key locations before moving into spawning areas. Anglers call such spots staging areas, and they can be excellent places to catch bass when the water temperature is in the upper 50s. Common staging areas include creek channel bends, underwater humps or the last drop-off leading into a shallow bay.

As spawning time approaches, look for bass in shallow areas of coves, bays, tributary pockets, creeks and other sheltered areas. The largest concentration of spawning bass will often be in the northwest corner of the lake or large cove; this area is protected from the north wind and is typically 3 to 5 degrees warmer than elsewhere in the lake.

April is one of the two best months to fish for bass on Keowee; October is the other one. So get out and catch a 'monster.