

## Suspended Bass

Spotted Bass often suspend in open water and when they do, they are normally in an inactive mood. Suspended bass do not feed actively and consequently will not expend much effort to chase down a lure. Bass suspend often in very warm water (summer) or very cold water (winter). They will also suspend after a storm front passes through. In deep clear lakes, suspending bass can also be normal behavior. Lakes like Keowee that are deep and clear, have little shallow water cover. This lack of cover forces the food chain to open water over points, humps, channel drop-offs and other open-water structures. Bass often suspend above these structures waiting to ambush baitfish.

To find suspended bass, you need to be able to use a good depth finder and interpret what you see on the screen. Typical places to look for suspended bass are:

- Steep banks or rock walls with vertical drop off.
- Points that drop off rapidly too deep water.
- Open water between points or islands.
- River or creek beds.
- Schooled shad (if you can find them), as bass will be close by.

Now that you have located them, how do you fish for suspended bass? Whatever method or lure you use, it must be able to be fished at the depth the bass are suspended at. Bass will normally look up, so it is best to fish slightly above their holding depth. The larger bass will usually hold below a school of shad, so it is wise to try to let your bait sink below the schooled shads depth. Typical methods used to fish for suspended bass include:

- Troll deep running crankbaits that go down to about 25'.
- Vertically jig spoons to depths of 30' to 60' by holding your boat above the suspended bass.
- Use heavy spinner baits (up to 1 oz) and slow role them at the bass holding depth.
- Use suspending jerk baits, and when they reach the desired depth stop them and twitch them slightly.

No one method is fool proof, so you need to try different presentations. Inactive or neutral bass can be very tough to catch.