

Top Water Lures

Top water lures are among the most exciting baits you can fish for bass. Besides, top waters are often very productive and can sometimes out-fish other techniques. In general, top waters are most effective in warm to cool water, while slower, deeper baits such as jigs and worms are more effective in extremely cold and extremely hot water. If the water temperature is above 55 – 60 degrees, a top water should be a consideration for you to throw in the morning. Top waters are most effective in the early morning, late evening and during the calm before an approaching storm.

Poppers like Chug Bug or Rapala Skitter Pop attract bass with a gurgling and popping sound on the water's surface. Poppers should be retrieved in a series of starts and stops.

Sammies or Zara Spook walk the dog top water baits are excellent lures for Keowee. Cast them out and retrieve with a jerking motion to make the bait swim side to side. Pausing some times can trigger a strike. Floating soft plastics like Strike King 3X (fluke type) worked the same way are also a good bet.

Floating minnow baits like Rapala should be fished by casting them to the shoreline and letting them sit for about 10 seconds before you move them. Then just twitch the rod a few times so the bait moves slightly. This will imitate a wounded bait fish. If nothing happens just start reeling in a slow steady retrieve.

In general, top waters tend to work best in the late spring (just after the spawn), summer and fall. In hot weather, top waters will produce on schooling bass. Top waters are excellent baits for fishing big, open water as well as shallow shorelines. For example, if there is a drop-off from 15 to 25 feet, a top water will often draw strikes from spotted bass that are suspending there, especially in clear water like Keowee. Long, tapering points are great places to try top waters. Move to the end of the point and cast the area where the point falls off into deep water with a big top water such as a Zara Spook. In clear water like Keowee a silver, white, or shad colored minnow lure twitched quietly on the surface will often produce explosive strikes.