

## **Wind & Bass:**

Don't be afraid to fish windy banks and points in the spring. Many times, you'll find that these areas hold the warmest available water on the lake. Also, wind triggers a feed in the shallows as plankton is stirred up and baitfish come to feed. Baitfish will bring the bass to also feed. A great way to eliminate water is to run a windy bank using your graph or depth finder to see whether baitfish are congregated there. If so, you can expect to duplicate that pattern on similar areas the rest of the day. You also should use a surface temperature gauge to find the warmest available water.

In clear lake reservoirs like Keowee, when skies are bright, bass on downwind shores are likely to be more active than bass in calmer, clearer locations. Wind breaks up the surface and makes the fish more aggressive. The biggest advantage to fishing in the wind is that fish have a predictable behavior in windy conditions. They most often congregate around windblown points and banks, ambushing baitfish as they swim by or are carried into the shallow water against the bank. The wind also works crayfish and other forage out of rocks and ledges making them easier prey to feeding fish.

Good baits to use when fishing in the wind are crankbaits both lipless and divers, spinnerbaits, jerk baits like the X-Rap and weighted super flukes. If you fish wind blown points whatever the bait you use remember to cast into the wind. It is tougher but your retrieve will look more natural to the bass as it comes with the current. Natural bait will not move upwind and neither should your lures. The bite will go up by casting into the wind and pulling your lure back in a more natural presentation.

After you catch a few and the bite stops, you might want to switch to a worm rig and fish more slowly, it may result in another one or two bass. But, fishing in the wind with worm rigs is difficult as the goes down the more bow there is in the line.

Anglers Angle