

## **FINESSE FISHING**

Finesse fishing is a term that describes fishing slowly with small lures, light line (6 or 8 lb.max.) and spinning rods and reels. This method of fishing is most effective in clear water lakes like Keowee. There is little cover and lots of structure to fish in Keowee. Finesse techniques are less likely to spook bass under these conditions. Bass use their sense of sight when feeding in clear water and small lures will look more natural to them. Light line is less likely to spook bass than heavy monofilament or braided lines which bass may see and refuse the bait.

Finesse fishing techniques can also be advantageous when bass have been subjected to heavy fishing pressure and reject normal bass lures. With the large population of bass in the 12" to 14" size in Keowee, finesse fishing can produce good catches.

The two most common methods of finesse fishing are the drop shot rig or a jig. Both methods should use either a tube; grub or finesse worm that is 3 to 4" long. Split shot rigs are also used for finesse fishing. A split shot rig has a hook and soft plastic bait and then a small lead split shot added to the line for weight. It is really a simple Carolina type rig.

Using small baits does not eliminate your chance to catch large fish as many large bass have been caught on finesse type baits. If normal bass techniques are not working then it would be worth your while to try a finesse rig to see if it can't trigger a strike.

Finesse methods are extremely effective in very cold or hot water as the bass are very lethargic and won't move far to catch a meal and it takes them a long time to digest one. The trick is to find them with your electronics and then start to fish finesse style.

