

Keowee Anglers Summer Night Fishing Tips

The dog days of summer are brutal on bass anglers. Our lake is like a hot tub of boiling water, and humidity levels make you feel like you've just stepped out of a hot shower and into your boat.

When darkness falls it makes big bass less cautious and they move shallow to feed. Fish that lie dormant and unwilling to bite during the daytime move without hesitation to the shallows. Our clear water lake is the toughest and most unproductive during the day, but is best after dark, especially those times close to a new or full moon phase. The moon has a big influence on bass behavior. The best time to plan a night outing is three days before or after a new moon or full moon. The moon's gravitational pull causes defined feeding periods at these particular lunar phases.

As is the case during the day, bass inhabit a multitude of locations at night, but because of the summer heat, the areas closest to deep water offer the most consistent populations of active fish. These areas allow bass to move shallow to gorge themselves on many types of prey that also become most active under a full moon. As day light approaches bass can easily retreat to deeper, cooler waters.

As far as what lures to tie on, keep it real simple. The common thread between all night fishing lures is their dark color. The inner anatomy of a bass's eye allows for keen distinction of objects that are black at night. Dark colors like black, plum and red shad silhouette best. Use the calendar to dictate size selection on plastic worms, using 6-inch worms early in the summer and progressing to larger 10-inch varieties by August. For ledges, points, humps and flats use dark a colored spinnerbait either 3/8 or 1/2-ounce or Red Eye Shad. Use the heavier half-ounce for deeper water. If the fish are aggressive enough tie on a black-bladed, black-skirted; 3/8-ounce buzzbait or black top water like a jitter bug or chugger type. The noise and vibration will attract bass.

Night fishing can be very exciting, but put safety first. Stay in areas that you're familiar with navigating. Have ample lighting on board; make sure your boat's navigation lights are working properly. You should also inform someone of your destination and a time when they can expect you home. Best to have a partner with you. Carry a cell phone. Wear your personal flotation device at all times.

Remember that the best time to go fishing is anytime you can, but try one night outing when the summer sun is as hot as it is right now.