

Seasonal Patterns of Largemouth Bass On Lake Oconee

Spring

Spring can really be divided into three separate time frames.

Before the Spawn

As the water temperature slowly and gradually rises, bass fishing can be extremely hot and productive on Lake Oconee. If the water warms quickly due to some unusually warm weather coming early, largemouth bass tend to forget about feeding and will begin to spend their time on the stronger urge of spawning. Start early and stay out on the stump areas, shallow coves, backwaters, rocky shorelines, creek mouths and near shallow island shorelines.

During the Spawn

The water temperature will have warmed enough for the bass to start the reproductive cycle. Largemouth bass don't feed during this time. They will simply grab hold of a live, plastic worm or plastic craw and move it from the bed. Stay alert to detect when the fish picks up the lure and moves it from the bed. Hop plastic baits over the shallow areas. Bass will become irritated and aggressively attack any lure that appears a threat.

After the Spawn

After the spawn, the larger female is wasted away and tired. She will now move into deeper water and seek refuge in dark, dense cover to recover. The smaller male will stay back and guard the bed, aggressively attacking bluegill bream and other fish threatening to eat the eggs.

One of the prime fishing times for largemouth bass is from five to six weeks after the spawn. The eggs have hatched into small baby bass and are on their own. The females have recuperated and fattened up and are back actively feeding. The males are now feeding regularly after guarding the bed for so long.