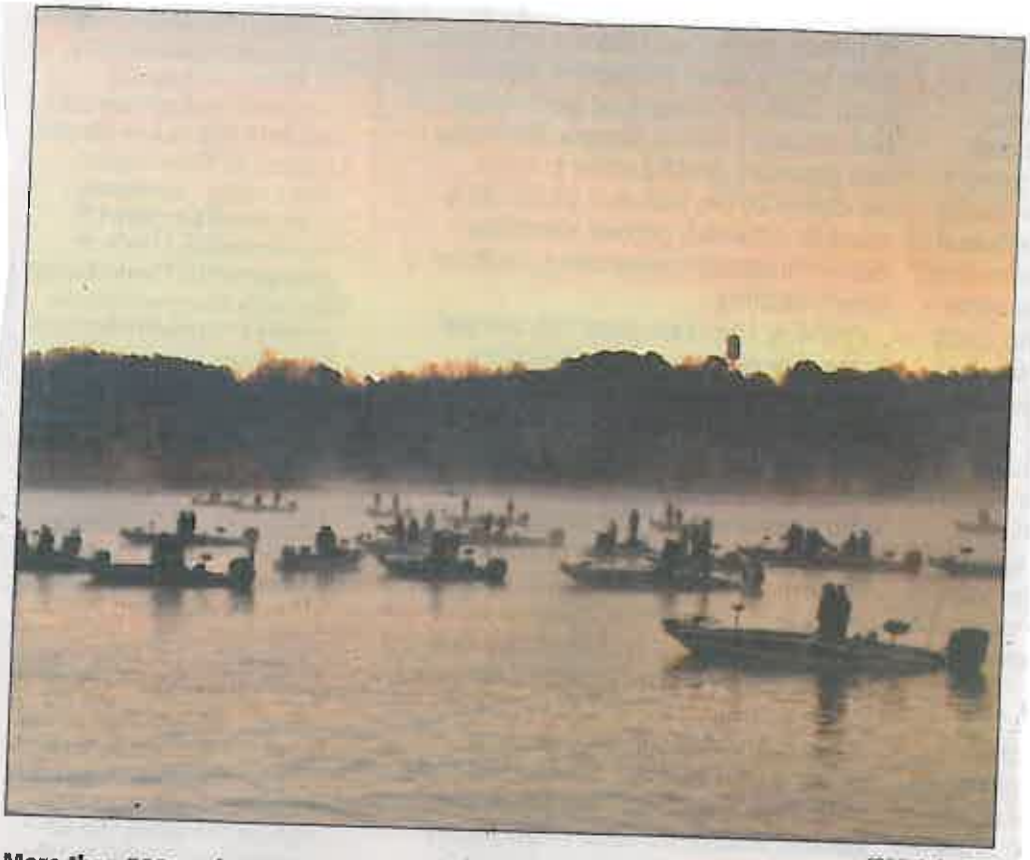


FOR THE JOURNAL

More than 300 anglers were out on Lake Keowee at South Cove County Park at sunrise Saturday morning for a daylong fishing tournament. Phil Shirley, director of the Oconee County Parks, Recreation and Tourism department, said a one-day event such as this typically brings a $70,000 to $100,000 boost to the local economy.

More than 300 participate in local fishing tournament

THE JOURNAL STAFF

SENECA — More than 300 anglers from four states competed at South Cove County Park on Saturday in the first tournament of the year for Walmart Bass Fishing League (BFL).

This division covers the Savannah River basin and holds tournaments on area lakes. A total of 336 fishermen in 168 boats were part of the event on Lake Keowee. Tournaments will also be held at Lakes Hartwell, Russell and Clarks-Hill.

Boaters Darren Ashley of Calhoun Falls and Adam Rice of Anderson each hauled in five fish weighing a total of 15 pounds, 12 ounces, earning 250 points and splitting more than $10,000 in winnings. Dustin Shirley of Royston, Ga., captured 250 points winning the co-angler division with a total of 12 pounds, 11 ounces. Big Fish trophies were captured by Furman Thompson of Clayton, Ga., and Tyler O'Kelley of Seneca.

Phil Shirley, director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism for Oconee County, said one-day tournaments such as this generally provide about $70,000 to $100,000 to the local economy.