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# Fishing Forecast

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The likeliest locations for fishing fireworks during the Fourth of July weekend appear to be Lake Norman and the Outer Banks.

Norman is yielding limits of striped bass to anglers who know how to find concentrations of the fish, currently downlake between Markers 4 and 9. Scads of white perch also are being caught.

Along the coast, strong winds and the resulting rough seas disrupted offshore trolling earlier in the week. However, conditions have improved the past two days and the catch of billfish, dolphin and yellowfin tuna rates very good to excellent.

**Lake Norman:** Striped bass 50-60 feet deep on live baits, with largemouth, spotted bass and white perch mixed into the striper schools. White perch also are being caught 15-25 feet down in the backs of coves on jigging spoons and Sabiki rigs. Spotted bass during early morning on topwater plugs.

**Lake Wylie:** Good for channel catfish 5-10 feet deep around the points on cut baits. Largemouth near bream beds and under docks on a variety of lures. Bream on crickets, earthworms. Plentiful white perch around brush 15 feet deep.

**Mountain Island Lake:** Bream, catfish and white perch.

**Union County Lakes:** Large crappie at Lake Lee. Bream, catfish and scattered largemouth at Cane Creek Park, Monroe and Twitty.

**High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery, Blewett Falls:** White perch on spoons cast to surface-feeding schools. Bream on crickets, earthworms. Catfish at Blewett Falls, both in the lake and the Pee Dee River below the dam.

**Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss:** Crappie at night at Hickory on minnows fished under floating lights. At Rhodhiss, trolled jigs and sliders are producing crappie. Bream are hitting well and there are scattered catches of largemouth.

**Lake James:** Walleye on crawlers trolled on Bear Paw rigs.

**Fontana Lake:** Trout on lures, mainly spoons, trolled 35 feet deep in the main channel on downrigger devices. Also, trout at night on crawlers fished 40-feet deep at the dam. Largemouth, smallmouth bass at dawn and dusk on topwater lures.

**Lake Wateree:** Largemouth around deep structure on artificial worms, crankbaits. Crappie 12-18 feet down near brush and bridge pilings on jigs, minnow. Blue catfish on the flats on traditional baits.

**Lake Murray:** Stripers during early morning on surface lures cast to shoal markers. Then, during the rest of the day, they're hitting free-lined live herring from Bomb Island to the dam. Channel catfish to 10 pounds on cut baits, shrimp and stink baits fished 15-25 feet deep. Plentiful bream along the shoreline. Crappie 15-20 feet deep around brush, mainly on minnows. Largemouth 10-15 feet down around rocky points and humps.

**Santee Cooper Lakes:** Blue catfish during early morning on drift-fished cut baits. Blues also are being caught by anchoring in the Diversion canal between Lakes Marion and Moultrie. Good to excellent for bream around shoreline cover. Crappie in brush 10-18 feet deep.

**Lake Thurmond:** Mainly crappie 20-25 feet down around brush and sunken trees. Good for bream along the banks.

**Lake Hartwell:** Largemouth at dawn on topwater lure and later on drop-shot lugs. Channel catfish on the main-lake flats.

**Lake Jocassee:** Trout during early morning around the intake towers on shiners.

**Lake Keowee:** Largemouth, spotted bass on soft plastic lures worked around well-shaded docks.

**Outer Banks:** Nags Head area: Blues, croaker, flounder and scattered spots at piers; Oregon Inlet: Billfish, dolphin and large yellowfin tuna offshore. Blues, false albacore inshore. Excellent bottom action for triggerfish ; Hatteras Island: Billfish, especially white marlin, and limits of dolphin offshore. Blues, flounder, pompano, Spanish mackerel inshore. Black drum, blues, croaker, flounder in the surf; Ocracoke Inlet: Black drum, pompano, puppy drum, whiting and a few flounder in the surf. Cobia, Spanish mackerel inshore. Dolphin, sailfish and whiting offshore; Morehead City area: King mackerel to 43 pounds along the beach and in the Beaufort Inlet shipping channel. Dolphin from the 14 Buoy to Big Rock, in an area known as Big 10 and around the wreck of the Atlas Tanker. Billfish further offshore. Flounder, pompano, sheepshead, spadefish, Spanish mackerel and whiting at piers.

**Southeastern N.C. Coast:** Increasing numbers of king mackerel offshore. Fine action for bottom species in 100-120 feet of water. Flounder and very big spadefish at the artificial reefs. Large flounder to 9 pounds in the backwaters.

Scattered blues, croaker, flounder, pompano, spots and whiting at piers.

**S.C. Coast:** Little River area: Blues, Spanish mackerel and whiting; Grand Strand area: Big red drum at the Murrells Inlet jetties and south end of Litchfield on cut mullet and sections of blue crabs. Flounder in Murrells Inlet on mud minnows. Spanish mackerel and scattered kings at piers. Blues in the surf and at piers, along with croaker, flounder, spots and whiting. Blackfin tuna and dolphin offshore. Excellent for large spadefish for anglers fishing out of Georgetown; Charleston area: Reds, or spottails, in the marshes during high tides on a variety of lures, including topwaters. A few blues and trout also are being caught. Spanish along the front beaches and, during late afternoon, at Castle Pinckney. Billfish, dolphin and a few king mackerel offshore; Beaufort area: Good to excellent for reds in the marshes on flies, gold spoons, other artificials and live baits. Cobia in Broad River on live eels, menhaden, squid and whiting. Cobia also are being caught on flies.


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