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Fishing Forecast

Posted: Thursday, Aug. 26, 2010

The greater Morehead City area is producing fine action from the marshes all the way out to offshore waters.

Big red drum continue to be caught in Pamlico Sound near Cedar Island and Oriental, and small reds are hitting in marshy backwaters.

Large Spanish mackerel in numbers are being taken at the Cape Lookout Shoals and king mackerel at Beaufort Inlet.

Plentiful big wahoo are showing offshore in the Big Rock area, along with gaffer-sized dolphin and blackfin tuna.

Lakes and farm ponds across both Carolinas are yielding good catches of bream as the popular panfish bed along the shoreline during the full moon period.

Lake Norman: Lots of white perch across the reservoir on live baits worked 15-30 feet deep around humps as schools of the fish move into the major creek arms. Catfish, suspended 30-40 feet deep in 50 feet of water, on cut baits.

Lake Wylie: Largemouth bass in the riverine section on crankbaits, jigs cast to rocks and sunken trees. Catfish in the lower section of the lake on cut baits drift-fished 15-20 feet down. Small white perch around underwater humps 20 feet deep.

Mountain Island Lake: Bream and catfish for anglers fishing from the shoreline.

Union County Lakes: Good to excellent at Cane Creek Park, Lee, Monroe and Twitty for bream, mainly on crickets.

High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery and Blewett Falls: Mostly bream, catfish on traditional baits.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss: Scattered largemouth on soft plastic lures.

Lake James: Fair for walleye on crawlers and smallmouth bass on shiners.

Fontana Lake: Smallmouth bass, feeding on the surface at the mouths of Chambers Creek and the Little Tennessee River, on Little Sammy and Pop-R lures. Trout near the dam on spoons trolled 60 feet deep.

Lake Wateree: Big catfish uplake in the river stretch on cut baits. Crappie around brush from Beaver Creek to Wateree Creek on jigs worked 12-18 feet deep. Largemouth around deep structure on artificial worms and jigs. Also, some largemouth during very early morning on topwater plugs.

Lake Murray: Striped bass on live herring fished 35-70 feet deep over 100-150 feet of water from Bomb Island to the dam. Catfish at night around the islands on crawlers, cut bait. Crappie in the area below Dreher Island around cover 25-30 feet down on minnows.

Santee Cooper Lakes: Good for crappie in brushy cover 12-18 feet deep on minnows. Blue catfish, mainly at night, on cut herring, perch and shad fished in the shallows.

Lake Thurmond: Hybrids, stripers during early morning on live herring worked 30 feet deep near points and humps. The Soap Creek area is producing best. Crappie suspended 20 feet down over brush 40 feet deep on minnows.

Lake Hartwell: Hybrids, stripers 45-65 feet deep on live herring, mainly off points in the mid-lake section during early morning. Catfish 30-40 feet down off main lake points on cut herring.

Lake Jocassee: Trout 35-60 feet deep on shiners and spoons.

Lake Keowee: Scattered largemouth, spotted bass at dawn and for a couple hours afterward around shallow points on surface lures.

Outer Banks: Nags Head area: Black drum to 7 pounds, keeper flounder in he surf, along with blues, spots. Blues, Spanish mackerel, spots, puppy drum and whiting at piers; Oregon Inlet: Dolphin, sailfish and white marlin offshore. Cobia, Spanish mackerel closer in; Hatteras Island: Good surf fishing for blues, Spanish mackerel at Cape Point near Buxton and for croaker, pompano, puppy drum, spots and whiting along the South Beach. King mackerel, tarpon at Avon Pier. Billfish, dolphin and wahoo off Hatteras Village. Blues, flounder, gray trout and speckled trout in the sound near the village at dawn and in late afternoon; Ocracoke Island: Blues, flounder, pompano, pompano, puppy drum and whiting in the surf. Dolphin, wahoo offshore.

Southeastern N.C. Coast: Billfish, blackfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo offshore. Tarpon on the Bald Head Island Shoals and at Topsail Pier. Flounder, red drum and spadefish at the artificial reefs. Black drum, sheepshead the ADM Dock, Ft. Fisher rocks and Snow's Cut. Keeper flounder, plus reds and trout on live baits in the backwaters near Ocean Isle. Scattered black drum, blues, king mackerel, spots and whiting at piers.

S.C. Coast: Little River area: Black drum during low tides. Reds, trout on live baits at creek mouths and the edges of spatina grass; Grand Strand area: Billfish, blackfin tuna and wahoo offshore, mostly at the Georgetown Hole. King mackerel closer to shore. Large Spanish mackerel at the 3-Mile Artificial Reef. Black and red drum on cut baits and sand fleas at the Murrells Inlet jetties. Sheepshead at the Georgetown (Winyah Bay) jetties on fiddler crabs. Scattered croaker, spots and whiting at piers; Charleston area: Excellent for tarpon on horse mullet and menhaden at all inlets, with Bulls Bay and North Edisto producing best. Small dolphin, sailfish offshore. Trout, small reds in the backwaters at dawn on topwater lures; Beaufort area: Spottails, or reds, in the backwaters on live baits and Gulp! lures. Dolphin, sailfish offshore.

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