Comments (0) | Recommend (0)

Buzz up!

- Print
- Reprint or License
- Share

Fishing Forecast

Like Be the first of your friends to like this.

Posted: Thursday, Sep. 30, 2010

Freshwater fishing action appears on the upswing as cooler nights drop the water temperature.

Producing especially well during the past few days have been the relatively small Union County municipal reservoirs and Fontana Lake in the Great Smoky Mountains.

Heavy rain and windy conditions generally have disrupted angling along the Carolinas coast. Catches were good before the foul weather moved in and action should continue when conditions improve.

Lake Norman: White perch, largemouth bass, small striped bass and catfish in mixed schools around humps 20-30 feet deep. They're taking live baits. Experts predict bigger stripers will become more active within a week to 10 days as the autumn bite begins. Catfish, blues, channels and flatheads in the creeks on cut baits worked 5-15 feet deep.

Lake Wylie: Plentiful channel catfish on drifted cut baits, especially shad. White perch on minnows worked 25 feet down over hard bottom. Largemouth, feeding in surfacing schools of shad in the creek arms, on a variety of small lures. Improving for crappie on minnows.

Mountain Island Lake: Good for bream, catfish along the shoreline on traditional baits: crickets for the bream, crawlers and cut baits for catfish.

Union County Lakes: Cane Creek Park: Limits of crappie (20 fish per day) on jigs, minnows worked 5-8 feet deep. Largemouth on soft plastic lures; Lakes Lee, Monroe, Twitty: Largemouth on a variety of lures. Bass weighing 8 and 6 pounds were caught last weekend at Twitty.

High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery, Blewett Falls: Improving almost daily for crappie, mainly on minnows. Blue catfish in the Pee Dee River below Blewett Falls.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss: Crappie and white perch at Hickory, much improved for crappie at Rhodhiss.

Lake James: Scattered largemouth and smallmouth bass on crankbaits, spinnerbaits cast to the shoreline.

Fontana Lake: Excellent for smallmouth up to 41/2 pounds on crankbaits cast to points from 5 p.m. until dark. Limits are being boated.

Lake Wateree: Good to excellent for blue catfish on cut baits drifted over flats 10-15 feet deep. Crappie, moving into the creek channels, on trolled minnows. Dutchman, Singletown and Wateree creeks are producing best.

Lake Murray: Excellent for stripers from Spence Island to the dam on live herring fished 45-65 feet deep around humps and off points. Catfish 10-20 feet down around humps on stink baits. Bream just off the shoreline on crickets, earthworms.

Santee Cooper Lakes: Largemouth during early morning on soft plastics cast to lily pads, logs and other cover. Crappie 12-20 feet deep on minnows worked around brush. Plentiful bream on crickets, earthworms.

Lake Thurmond: Smallish stripers, hybrids are feeding in surface schools across the reservoir and are striking a variety of lures. Larger fish, lying below the surface feeders, are taking live baits. Large shellcrackers uplake 7-8 feet deep off the banks on crickets.

Lake Hartwell: Stripers, hybrids 50-75 feet deep off points on live herring. Improving for largemouth on topwater lures and flukes off the deep points. Flathead catfish during early morning on cut bait and live bream.

Lake Keowee: Largemouth, spotted bass on drop shot rigs fished 30-40 feet down on the main channel points.

Outer Banks: Oregon Inlet: Limits of dolphin, plus blackfin tuna, wahoo, white marlin and yellowfin tuna when sea conditions offshore are favorable. Hatteras Island: Blues, puppy drum in the surf at Cape Point. Spots in the surf at Buxton. Ocracoke Island: Scattered blues, puppy drum and whiting in the surf. Gray and speckled trout on the sound side of the island.

Morehead City area: Blackfin tuna, sailfish and wahoo offshore when sea conditions are favorable. Good for blues, Spanish mackerel from the Cape Lookout Shoals to Beaufort Inlet. Red drum in Pamlico Sound near Cedar Island. Plentiful spots at the Beaufort Drawbridge, near the Duke Marine Center and in the Turning Basin on bloodworms. Blues, pompano, Spanish mackerel, spots and whiting at piers.

Southeastern N.C. Coast: Good numbers of reds, trout in the bays and creeks at Bald Head Island. Flounder in the lower Cape Fear River near Southport. Blackfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo offshore when sea conditions are favorable. Scattered king mackerel at the Yaupon Artificial Reef. Bottom species offshore in 100 feet of water. Blues, flounder, pompano, spots and whiting at piers.

S.C. Coast: Little River area: Spanish mackerel in the 3-pound range at Cherry Grove Pier, along with pompano. A few large red drum at the jetties. Black drum, croaker, whiting on cut mullet. Grand Strand area: Big red drum at the Murrells Inlet jetties on cut baits during the changing tides. Reds, or spottails, and black drum in the creeks on cut and live baits. Sheepshead at the Georgetown (Winyah Bay) jetties on fiddler crabs. Spanish mackerel, gray trout at the near-shore artificial reefs. Blackfin tuna and wahoo offshore when conditions are favorable. Blues, lots of croaker, Spanish mackerel and spots at piers and in the surf.

Charleston area: Good to excellent for spottails in the backwaters at creek mouths and shell rakes on live baits. Trout near the shell rakes on live shrimp and, during early morning, on topwater lures. Flounder in the inlets on mud minnows. Tarpon at Bull's Bay, the Charleston jetties and North Edisto Inlet on large menhaden and mullet. Sailfish and wahoo offshore. Beaufort area: Spottails, trout in the backwaters on live shrimp. Spadefish in numbers at the artificial reefs.

Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer.