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Fishing Forecast

Posted: Thursday, Sep. 09, 2010

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The pattern almost always is the same:

A storm passes along

Day	A.M. Min.	A.M. Maj.	P.M. Min.	P.M. Maj.
Today	6:20	12:05	6:45	12:35
Friday	7:25	1:10	7:50	1:35
Saturday	8:15	2:05	8:50	2:35
Sunday	9:20	3:05	9:45	3:30
Monday	10:20	4:10	10:50	4:35
Tuesday	11:15	5:05	11:55	5:40
Wednesday	-	6:05	12:20	6:30
Sept. 16	12:45	6:55	1:05	7:20
Sept. 17	1:35	7:40	1:50	8:05

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Sept 18	2:20	8:25	2:35	8:45
Sept. 19	3:00	9:05	3:15	9:25
Sept. 20	3:40	9:45	3:55	10:05

Carolinas coast, stirs up the Atlantic, and leaves great fishing in its wake.

And so it has been following Hurricane Earl, which skirted the shoreline of the two states last Thursday and Friday.

The catch during succeeding days includes up to 19 white marlin per boat per day off Oregon Inlet. Parties trolling from charter boats based at Oregon Inlet Fishing Center and at nearby Pirates Cove Marina in Manteo caught 240 white marlin on Tuesday alone.

The post-storm catch also includes blues to 10 pounds in the Hatteras Island surf, big red drum in Pamlico Sound, and excellent numbers of wahoo off Morehead City and the S.C. Grand Strand.

Lake Norman: Catfish, largemouth bass and white perch in mixed schools on live baits. Best action is around humps 15-30 feet deep, especially uplake near Marker 20. Catfish, moving into the backs of creeks, on drift-fished cut baits.

Lake Wylie: Catfish in the major creek arms and around humps in the main channel on cut baits. White perch 20 feet deep near humps on earthworms, minnows. Largemouth bass during early morning on a variety of small lures cast to surface-feeding schools. Gradually improving for crappie on minnows.

Mountain Island Lake: Plentiful bream on crickets, earthworms. Catfish on crawlers, cut baits, stink baits.

Union County Lakes: Largemouth at Cane Creek Park, Lee, Monroe and Twitty on soft plastic lures.

High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery and Blewett Falls: White perch at each reservoir on small spinners, spoons cast to surfacing schools. Crappie at Badin on slow-trolled minnows.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss: Improving for crappie around brush 12-10 feet deep, mainly on minnows.

Lake James: Scattered smallmouth bass off points on shiners, small crankbaits, twister-tail grubs.

Fontana Lake: Smallmouth are starting to hit a variety of lures trolled 25-30 feet off the shoreline. Also, smallmouth on topwater lures cast to surface-feeding schools well uplake in the Chambers Creek area.

Lake Wateree: Crappie in the stretch from Wateree Creek to Beaver Creek on brush 12-18 feet deep. Catfish on cut baits drifted over flats 10-15 feet down.

Lake Murray: Good to excellent for striped bass 35-50 feet deep near the dam and towers on drifted live baits and trolled plugs such as Rebels and Roadrunners. Plentiful bream around docks and fallen trees. Catfish at night around the islands on crawlers, cut herring.

Santee Cooper Lakes: Crappie on minnows worked near brush and other cover 12-20 feet deep. Bream around shallow vegetation on crickets, earthworms. Catfish on cut herring, perch and shad, especially at night. Largemouth during early morning on soft plastics cast to shoreline cover.

Lake Thurmond: Hybrids, stripers 40-45 feet deep on live baits. Shellcrackers just off the shoreline on crawlers, crickets.

Lake Hartwell: Hybrids, stripers 70-110 feet deep on bucktails, Roadrunner lures trolled on lead core line. Fair largemouth on topwater lures cast to deep points. Catfish off deeper points on crawlers, cut herring, live bream and perch.

Lake Jocassee: Trout 70-80 feet deep on drift-fished herring, shiners and trolled spoons.

Lake Keowee: Largemouth and spotted bass on drop-shot rig worked 30-40 feet deep off main channel points.

Outer Banks: Nags Head area: Blues, red drum in the surf at Coquina; Oregon Inlet: Some of the best action ever offshore for white marlin, with limits of dolphin and yellowfin tuna to 83 pounds. Blues, Spanish mackerel closer in; Hatteras Island: Limits of dolphin off Hatteras Village, plus billfish and wahoo. Blues to 10 pounds in the surf and sound, along with flounder, gray trout, pompano, Spanish mackerel and whiting. A bluefish "blitz" in the surf from Avon to Buxton, with some fish weighing in the 8-pound range; Ocracoke Island: Keeper-sized flounder, puppy drum in the surf; Morehead City area: Big drum in Pamlico Sound near Cedar Island and Oriental. Smaller reds in the grassy marsh areas. Good to excellent at Cape Lookout and southward to Emerald Isle for Spanish mackerel. Large wahoo offshore near Big Rock. Blues, flounder, pompano, puppy drum, spots and whiting at piers.

Southeastern N.C. Coast: Lots of reds in the 4- to 8-pound class in backwaters near Wrightsville Beach. Flounder in the inlets, at Snow's Cut, in the lower Cape Fear River and backwaters near Ocean Isle. Blues, Spanish mackerel in the surf and at piers.

S.C. Coast: Little River area: Flounder, reds, trout in the creeks on live baits. Numerous large flounder at Cherry Grove Pier; Grand Strand area: Billfish, blackfin tuna and wahoo offshore, plus excellent catches of bottom species such as grouper. Black and red drum in the creeks on cut bait. Sheepshead at the Georgetown (Winyah Bay) and Murrells Inlet jetties on fiddler crabs. Blues, croaker, ladyfish and whiting in the surf. Large Spanish at the piers on live baits; Charleston area: Excellent for trout on live shrimp worked 3 -5 feet deep under a float around shell rakes. Tarpon in Bulls Bay, at the jetties and in North Edisto Inlet on live menhaden, mullet. Reds in the estuaries with lots of fish being caught while "tailing," or feeding in the shallows on high tides. Flounder at the creek mouths and in the inlets on mud minnows; Beaufort area: Spottails, or reds, during high tides on crabs, flies, mud minnows and shrimp. Trout in the Hilton Head section on live shrimp.

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