FISHING REPORT

Lake Jocassee: Trout: Good. Large shiners are working best, particularly for larger trout. Trolling, too, can be effective with shiners and spoons. Most angling effort is concentrated from the surface down to around 50 feet, but most action is in the 30-foot range. Three rivers area and Jumping Off Rock are both active hot spots. Bass: Poor. Check back in April, but if you must go, work finesse worms 15 to 25 feet deep around main lake points and brush piles.

Lake Keowee: Largemouth/spotted bass: Poor to fair. Some fish are being caught, but there's not much to the size or total numbers yet. Concentrate your efforts 20 to 40 feet deep with shaky head worms or drop-shot rigs. Crappie: Fair. Try mini-jigs tipped with small minnows and hit the brush 6-10 feet deep in 15 to 20 feet of water.

Lake Hartwell: Bass: Good. Water level is high, giving bass and baitfish plenty of new areas in the grass. These areas, particularly around pockets, are your best bets right now. Offer shallow-running crank baits and spinner baits 2 to 6 feet deep. Water temperature is pushing into mid-50s in most areas of the lake. Crappie: Good. Bite is good and will get even better. Fish are moving in and out along banks now. Try your luck by offering small minnows or jigs several feet deep on brush in 15 to 20 feet of water. Striped/hybrid bass: Fair. Several anglers have reeled in nice stripers and hybrids while bass fishing in shallow pockets with spinner baits and crank baits. But best bets remain jumbo minnows and Road Runners fished fairly shallow wherever schools of baitfish have converged. Catfish: Fair. Catch blue cats by working flats in 20 to 30 feet of water with cut herring and gizzard shad.

Lake Russell: Largemouth bass: Poor to fair. Muddy water has slowed the bite, but rigged worms fished 10 to 20 feet deep may do the trick. Crappie: Poor to fair. Waiting to break loose. Meanwhile, toss small minnows around brush piles in 20 feet of water.

Lake Thurmond: Striped/hybrid bass: Good. Fish are being caught on both ends of the lake. In the lower end, fish 30 feet deep in 60 feet of water with live herring and beside the dam on the S.C. side near the Welcome Center with cut bait. On the upper end near the Russell Dam, use cut bait 15 to 20 feet deep. Crappie: Fair to good. Bite is picking up quickly. Get your share by trolling and tight-lining around brush. Look for hot spots in deeper creeks, fishing 8 to 12 feet down over 20 to 25 feet of water. Multiple two-pound fish are being caught in some instances, and a variety of jigs are working. Largemouth bass: Poor to fair. Things are looking up, but gradually. Try Buckeye Lures Mop jigs in 30 feet of water, but also work some of the shallow pockets with crank baits and spinner baits.

Lake Greenwood: Crappie: Good. Will Hinson of the Southern Crappie Tournament Trail reports the bite has picked up as water has begun to clear. He's been finding fish 20 feet deep over 26 feet of water on river channel near the state park. Tight-lining small minnows is most effective. Catfish: Fair. Warmer water temperatures will improve the bite, which has been fair at best. Try drifting cut bait on flats in 15 to 25 feet of water and be patient. Largemouth bass: Fair. Spinnerbaits and jigs are both effective now. Look for warming water to bring bass into shallower haunts such as pockets and coves where grass is abundant.

Lake Murray: Crappie: Very good. Capt. Brad Taylor reports good action, both long-lining and tight-lining in the Little River area 10 to 12 feet deep in 18 to 20 feet of water. Dark-colored jigs are working well in what is looking like the best crappie season in some time from the midlake area on up. Bream: Good. Bluegills and shell crackers are mixed. Work the hard bottoms in 6 feet of water with night crawlers. Striped bass: Fair. Action is fairly widespread from the rivers on toward the dam. Trolling bucktails in 5 to 30 feet can produce fish, as can cut herring on the bottom. Most reports are coming from the Gap up the Little River area. Largemouth bass: Poor to fair. Bass are both deep and shallow and still not hitting with any consistency. One popular pattern is covering water with crank baits such as Rat-L-Traps and Shad Raps; spinner baits may be effective, too.

■ —Scott Keepfer