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Fishing Forecast

Posted: Thursday, May. 13, 2010

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It's The Spring of The Cobia at Hatteras Village.

Record numbers of the big, tasty fighters have been boated in the nearby Outer Banks waters during the past few days. So many of trophy size, 50- to 80-pounders, have been caught that the Village's marinas temporarily ran out of citations awarded by the N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries.

Best angling action on the Piedmont lakes is for bream, which are hitting crickets, earthworms and small artificial lures along the shorelines.

	A.M.		P.M.	
Day	Min.	Maj.	Min.	Maj.
Today	5:05	11:20	5:30	11:40
Friday	5:55	-	6:10	12:00
Saturday	6:45	12:30	7:15	1:05
Sunday	7:50	1:40	8:25	2:10
Monday	8:55	2:45	9:30	3:15
Tuesday	10:00	3:45	10:35	4:15
Wednesday	11:00	4:50	11:30	5:20
May 20	11:55	5:45	-	6:10
May 21	12:25	6:35	12:45	6:55
May 22	1:10	7:15	1:30	7:40
May 23	1:55	8:00	2:10	8:25
May 24	2:40	8:45	2:55	9:15

Lake Norman: Limits of largemouth and spotted bass on crankbaits, surface lures cast to the banks in very early morning. After about 8 a.m. they're hitting around natural rock piles and rip-rap. Striped bass 30 to 40 feet deep in the main channel on live baits. Catfish in the backs of coves on cut baits.

Lake Wylie: Largemouth in the backs of coves and in main channel shoreline pockets on soft plastics. Also around docks on jigs. Catfish on cut baits at creek inflows. Improving for white perch around underwater humps 20 feet deep on earthworms, minnows.

Mountain Island Lake: Crappie on minnows. Catfish to 50 pounds on cut baits.

Union County Lakes: Mainly bream, catfish and largemouth on traditional baits and lures.

High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery and Blewett Falls: Good to excellent for bream, mostly on crickets. Fair crappie on minnows. American shad in the tailrace at Blewett Falls on small, chartreuse, twister-tail grubs.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss: Stripers uplake at Hickory on drift-fished shad, shiners. Crappie at Rhodhiss around brushy cover on jigs, minnows.

Lake James: Very good for walleye on crawlers worked with spinner rigs along clay shoreline. Smallmouth bass on shiners cast to points.

Fontana Lake: Continuing limits of smallmouth on crankbaits, shiners fished around rocky banks and points. Largemouth on topwater lures at dawn and dusk. Walleye on crawlers.

Lake Wateree: Crappie in practically all creek arms on trolled jigs in a variety pockets on soft plastic lures.

Lake Murray: Stripers in surface-feeding schools on topwater lures and free-lined live baits. Waters around points are best. Excellent for catfish in the shallows on cut herring. Bream, shellcrackers along the banks on crawlers. Crappie on trolled curly-tail jigs. Largemouth on topwater plugs, flukes, swimbaits.

Santee Cooper Lakes: Excellent for catfish in the shallows on cut baits. Crappie on jigs, minnows fished around brush 8-15 feet deep. Largemouth on spinnerbaits cast to shoreline cover and grass. Lake Marion stripers uplake near the train trestle and in the Wateree River on cut herring.

Lake Thurmond: Stripers, hybrids on points on small herring and Li'l Fishy lures. Largemouth on a variety of surface plugs. Big shellcrackers and bream along the banks on crickets.

Lake Hartwell: Fine for largemouth on blueback herring, spinnerbaits, swimbaits. Catfish 5-15 feet deep in the creeks and coves on chicken livers, crawlers and cut herring. Stripers, hybrids on live herring worked in the shallows.

Lake Jocassee: Largemouth and smallmouth around shoreline brush on artificial worms. Trout 30-60 feet down on live baits, spoons.

Lake Keowee: Largemouth and spotted bass on artificial worms and crankbaits. Schools of the fish are starting to feed on the surface and hit topwater lures.

Outer Banks: Nags Head area: Blues, whiting in the surf and at piers; Oregon Inlet area: Bluefin tuna to 190 pounds and yellowfins to 50 pounds offshore. Improving for dolphin. Tailor blues and flounder inshore; Hatteras Island: Blues, croaker, spots and whiting in the surf and at piers; Ocracoke Island: Large red drum in the surf and inlet, along with some black drum; Morehead City area: Large cobia all over. Blues, Spanish mackerel at Beaufort and Bogue Inlets and around the Shackleford Banks. Croaker, spots in the surf and at piers.

Southeastern N.C. Coast: Blue and white marlin, blackfin tuna, dolphin and king mackerel offshore. Big grouper on the bottom offshore. Cobia along the beaches and around near-shore artificial reefs. King mackerel around Lighthouse Rock and in the shipping channel at the mouth of the Cape Fear River. Flounder at Snow's Cut and in the lower Cape Fear near Southport. Trout in the creeks at Bald Head Island. Cobia, king mackerel to 35 pounds and Spanish mackerel at piers.

S.C. Coast: Little River area: Reds (spottails) and trout at the jetties. Whiting, small flounder at Cherry Grove Pier; Grand Strand area: Good to excellent for blackfin tuna, dolphin, king mackerel and wahoo offshore. Flounder, spottails at the inlets and jetties on mud minnows. Improving for trout during low tides, especially at the north end of Pawley's Island. Black drum and Spanish mackerel at piers. Sheepshead at the Winyah Bay jetties; Charleston area: Good to excellent for blues, Spanish mackerel just off the beach and at inlets. Flounder in the inlets on mud minnows. Reds around docks and rocks. Blackfin tuna, dolphin and king mackerel offshore.

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