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Fishing Forecast

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Bluefin tuna in the 700-pound range along with good numbers of sailfish and wahoo are being boated by anglers fishing out of Morehead City, Atlantic Beach and Beaufort.

"We're off to a good start on the bluefin," said Monroe native Joe Shute, an Atlantic Beach skipper/guide and tackle shop operator. "Several measuring around 104 inches have been brought to the docks. These fish dress out at around 550 pounds."

Overall, the Morehead City area rates the best on the Carolinas coast.

Lake Norman-Striped bass at the mouths of creeks and near the Plant Marshall hot hole on live baits worked 20-30 feet deep. Catfish on cut baits in the creeks. Scattered crappie around deep brush on minnows.

Lake Wylie-Catfish in the creeks on cut baits. White perch 20 feet deep on minnows. Crappie around deep brush and docks on minnows. Largemouth 15-20 feet deep in coves and around underwater humps on crankbaits.

Mountain Island Lake-Stripers on shiners, trout.

Lakes Badin, Tillery, Blewett Falls-Stripers at Badin, Tillery on live baits.

High Rock Lake-Improving for stripers on live baits.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss-Little activity.

Lake James-Little activity.

Fontana Lake-A few walleye well back in the creeks on spoons jigged 30-50 feet deep. Scattered smallmouth, feeding at the surface in jumps, on spinners, spoons, topwater lures.

Lake Wateree-Stripers on free-lined live herring and, when feeding in surface schools, on bucktails and topwater lures. Catfish to 44 pounds in creeks on cut bait. Crappie on chartreuse jigs tipped with minnows and trolled 15-20 feet deep.

Lake Murray-Striped bass on live herring either free-lined or under planer boards. Gulls are working the same forage schools as stripers and showing the way to the fish. Catfish in creeks and around main lake humps on cut herring. Largemouth just off shoreline on crankbaits and

soft plastic lures. When largemouth are schooling, white Roostertail spinners are producing the most strikes.

Santee-Cooper Reservoir-Smallish stripers on drifted, free-lined live herring. Catfish to 50 pounds on cut herring, mullet and shad. Largemouth around shallow structure on crankbaits, soft plastic lures.

Lake Hartwell-Stripers, hybrids in surfacing schools during calm days on bucktails, spoons, topwater lures. Also taking live herring. Catfish in creek runs and on flats on crawlers, cut baits. Crappie 5-15 feet deep around brush, docks on minnows.

Lake Jocassee-Trout on minnows, spoons worked from the surface down to 50 feet.

Lake Keowee-Largemouth and spotted bass on artificial worms fished 25-45 feet down.

Outer Banks-Nags Head area: Puppy drum in surf at Coquina. Oregon Inlet: Limits of yellowfin tuna offshore, along with some wahoo. Striped bass around the Manns Harboro, Manteo and Oregon Inlet bridges. Hatteras Island: Flounder, puppy drum in surf at Cape Point near Buxton and at Ramp 43. Good catches of blackfin tuna along with a few king mackerel off Hatteras Village.

Ocracoke Island: Black drum, puppy drum in surf. Morehead City: Bluefin from Beaufort Inlet sea buoy to Northwest Places and at Big 10/Little 10, the Knuckle and Shad Boat buoys. Gray trout, whiting along beach, at Beaufort Inlet and Dead Tree Hole. Reds, speckled trout in backwaters.

Southeastern N.C. Coast-Bluefin to an estimated 600 pounds starting to show off Southport, Ocean Isle. Puppy drum, speckled trout in backwater marshes.

S.C. Coast-Little River area: Red drum at jetties on cut bait. Spots in marshes. Trout in Intracoastal Waterway. Grand Strand: Spottails (also known as reds and puppy drum) along creek edges and oyster rakes on live shrimp, mud minnows. Black drum at the Murrells Inlet jetties on live and cut shrimp. Whiting in surf and at piers.

Charleston area-Sheepshead near inlets against heavy structure such as bridge pilings on fiddler crabs. Reds in schools near creek mouths and rock piles on minnows, shrimp and Gulp lures. Blackfin tuna and wahoo offshore. Beaufort area: Plentiful spottails on the flats on live baits and a variety of lures. Trout along grass in backwaters on shrimp, Gulp lures and, in early morning, on Zara Spook plugs.

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