FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2009 THE GREENVILLE NEWS

FISHING REPORT

Lake Jocassee

Trout: Very good. Captain Steve Pietrykowski reports that the trout bite is hot and his boat is catching good numbers of fish trolling spoons and minnows in 60 to 90 feet of water. Shiners are more productive than lures right now and depths in the 70s have been best.

Bream: Good. Work the backs of creeks, coves and around waterfalls with crickets, redworms, popping bugs or inline spinners.

Bass: Fair. Captain Pat Bennett reports that the bass bite should improve as the water continues to cool. In the meantime, look for moving water, where bass may hold in ambush spots fairly shallow. Also hit rock walls and ledges with rigged worms 20 to 50 feet deep.

Lake Keowee

Largemouth/spotted bass: Fair. Captain Chris "Fishboy" Schuber reports that the topwater bite slowed a bit when water levels dropped but his boat has still been catching fish in shallow water around schools of shad. Nemire Baby Buzzer buzzbaits in red color have been very successful on both spots and largemouths in the morning, and six inch Lake Fork trick worms are catching fish around boat docks.

Bream: Good. Hit the docks and shady overhangs with crickets 4 to 10 feet deep.

Lake Hartwell

Largemouth bass: Fair. Largemouth bass are starting to feed on very small shad which are suspended over 40-100 feet of water in the main lake. Shad and bass will be from the surface down to 20 or 30 feet and at times the topwater action can be good.

Catfish: Good. Catfishing remains good on long sloping points and at the mouth of Hartwell State Park and around old 29. Fish cut bait on the bottom.

Striped/hybrid bass: Fair to good. Some schooling action has been reported, particularly early and late. Down line fishing and trolling with lead core line remains effective, and most of the fish seem to be concentrated in 40-45 feet of water.

Crappie: Fair. Crappie can be caught over brush piles in 25 feet of water during the day, and at night best fishing is coming around bridges and pilings.

Bream: Good. Bream love docks, marinas, and sandy flats. Try crickets and worms.

Lake Russell

Largemouth/spotted bass: Fair to good. Guide Wendell Wilson reports that schooling action continues to improve and the main pattern on Lake Russell is now targeting schooling fish on the main river channel which are keying in on schools of small shad. While it is possible to cast for these fish when they come up (always keep topwater handy) the best way to catch them is to troll through the schools with a shad colored Shad Rap or a Norman Little N crankbait.

Crappie: Good. While the crappie bite is not yet at its fall peak it is well on its way and 25-30 fish trips are becoming the norm. Look in main channel coves for brush piles located in 20-25 feet of water and rising to within 10 feet of the surface.

Catfish: Good. The bite for 2-5 pound eating sized channel catfish continues to be good but the fish have moved deeper. Fish in 25 feet of water with cut herring and expect to catch a mixed bag with some white perch included, too.

Clarks Hill Reservoir

Yellow/white perch: Excellent. Guide Wendell Wilson reports that his boat continues to catch outstanding numbers of 8-10 inch perch using minnows and cut herring. Fish about 5 feet deep and expect the bite to be evenly divided between white and yellow perch.

Striped/hybrid bass: Good. The Clark's Hill Herring Hut reports that this is a transition period for striped and hybrid bass but the schooling action is beginning to start particularly early and late from the Georgia Flats up to Shriver Creek. After the schools go down fish cut herring on the bottom in the same areas to catch larger fish.

Bream: Good. Nice bream continue to be caught in about 6-8 feet of water. Below the dam in the Savannah River the bream bite is just starting and is on the verge of getting hot.

Crappie: Fair. Crappie fishermen are catching fish over brushpiles in 35-40 feet of water using live minnows.

Bass: Poor to fair. Largemouth fishing remains tough, although the bite appears to be marginally improving. Worms and lizards are still the best bet, with a few fish caught on buzzbaits recently.

Lake Greenwood

White perch: Very good. White perch are balled up in tight schools in the creek runs in the lower half of the lake and they will stay that way until October. In the upper half of the lake they are more scattered across the flats. Sabiki rigs baited with minnows or worms are a good way to catch them.

Catfish: Good. Captain Chris Simpson reports that the he has been catching good numbers of channel catfish drifting shrimp across humps and flats in the 8 to 15 foot range. Cut bait is another good option and if drifting isn't working then try anchoring.

Largemouth bass: Fair. Early and late floating worms in white or chartreuse are working well around block walls and riprap; buzzbaits have come on in the last week and anglers are now catching some fish on the top with chartreuse and white lures.

Bream: Fair. The bluegill and shellcracker bite has slowed substantially; fish in 4-6 feet of water in the backs of coves and around docks with crickets and worms.

Striped bass: Fair. Striper are scattered but some schooling action has been reported, particularly late in the afternoon. At times bass, white perch and striper all seem to be coming to the surface together and eating shad.

Crappie: Fair. Look for crappie over deep brush with minnows or around bridges at night by setting out a light.

Lake Murray

Striped bass: Very good to excellent. Good numbers, good size being reported. Early in the morning there has been good schooling action down around the dam, which will continue all day on cloudy days.

Bream: Very good. Shellcracker are being caught off secondary points and around islands. Use baby nightcrawlers and red worms. Bluegill are shallower around brush and docks.

Crappie: Good. Most crappie are being caught up the lake. The two patterns are fishing the edges of drop offs down about 20 feet and fishing over deep brushpiles in 18-30 feet. Both minnows and jigs will work.

Largemouth bass: Fair. Captain Doug Lown reports that the largemouth bass bite has improved somewhat in the last week or two although there is not a single, hot pattern. Fish are roaming and some are shallow, some are suspended and a few are deep. The key to finding fish is that bass are following the balls of bait.

Catfish: Fair. Catfishing has slowed down in the last couple of weeks. Fish in 8-15 feet of water around shallow humps, points and islands and at night fish the same areas in 3-15 feet. Fresh cut herring and nightcrawlers will both work.

Santee Cooper

Largemouth bass: Fair. Captain Inky Davis reports that largemouth bass fishing has improved in the last couple of weeks and water temperatures are starting to drop. The key to catching bass has been fishing around shallow structure with soft plastics.

Catfish: Slow. Captain Jim Glenn reports that the late-summer heat has slowed bites in both lakes and the canal. The most productive depths have been 30-45 feet with cut bait.