FISHING REPORT

Lake Jocassee: Trout: Good. Capt. Steve Pietrykowski reports the bite remains good when anglers are willing or able to brave the cold, wind and rain. Fish can be caught a variety of ways from surface down to 45 feet. Some anglers are having success trolling spoons and drifting live bait. Black bass: Slow. Capt. Pat Bennett reports fishing remains tough. A few fish can be found in backs of creek and rivers feeding on shad, but more fish can be found on main lake points. Try fishing a white jig or a finesse worm.

Lake Keowee: Largemouth and spotted bass: Slow. Capt. Chris "Fishboy" Schuber reports the bite remains slow. Out on the water, Capt. Chris is mainly fishing watermelon seed colored shakey head worms and Carolina rigged worms in 15-45 feet of water near main lake points. Look for bait on your graph, then be sure to present your lure slowly.

Lake Hartwell: Catfish: Fair. Capt. Bill Plumley reports the bite for channels and flathead catfish remains slow, but blue catfish continue to feed pretty well although they have slowed a bit from two weeks ago. He is fishing on flats in 20-30 feet of water, both up the creeks and out in clearer main lake water. Cut herring and gizzard shad will both catch fish. Striped and hybrid bass: Slow to fair. Capt. Bill Plumley reports striper fishing continues to be a bit better than it was in mid-January, and a few more fish are being picked up than two weeks ago. Bait is not producing at all, but trolling umbrella rigs or jigging spoons around bait will pick up a few fish. Largemouth bass: Slow. Guide Brad Fowler advises best way to catch fish on Lake Hartwell right now is by staying near channels in major creeks and fishing a jigging spoon or drop shotting a worm 30-45 feet deep. Dragging a shakey head worm on the bottom should also catch fish. Crappie: Slow. Plumley reports crappie fishing continue to be slow. Try fishing live minnows over tree tops in 25-30 feet of water.

Lake Russell: Largemouth and spotted bass: Slow. Guide Wendell Wilson reports slow fishing. Fish probably gorged during cold snap and only had to open their mouths to bite. It will take some more warm weather to get their metabolisms going again to the point where they want to eat. When the bite is back on whether Wendell is fishing over trees, other cover or a clean bottom probably won't matter – the key in winter is fishing near schools of bait. Perch and crappie: Slow. Wilson reports that when the water warms fish medium minnows just off the bottom and expect a mixed bag with some bass and catfish thrown in, too. Catfish: Slow. Wilson reports that when the water warms look in 20-25 feet of water around bait schools and fish cut bait on the bottom. Striped bass: Slow. Wilson reports striper are very difficult to locate in muddy water. The bite will probably not improve until temperatures warm and the water clears up a bit.

Lake Thurmond: Striped and hybrid bass: Good. The Clark's Hill Herring Hut reports a lot of fish are making their way down the rivers – the Georgia Little River, Key Creek, and Parksville are good areas to look. Another group of fish has already arrived at the dam, and a few people are catching fish on cut bait off the banks down. The best pattern for hybrids is fishing 25 feet down over 50-60 feet of water. Perch: Good. Guide Wendell Wilson reports that below the Lake Russell Dam he is catching good numbers of white and yellow perch with minnows on the bottom in 30 feet. Crappie: Fair. Guide Rod Wall reports both arms of the lake are muddy, and baitfish have started to make their way into creeks. The best bite in recent tournaments has come long-line trolling with plain jigs – the bite has been short so they are making the bait as short as possible. Black bass: Slow. Herring Hut reports the bass bite continues to be very slow. The better fish seem to be coming in 30-40 feet of water on Buckeye Lures Mop Jigs, but a few fish will come shallower in the evening. Bream and perch: Slow. Herring Hut reports that once the current slows fish in ditches 14-17 feet deep that run parallel to main channel where there are good numbers of yellow perch (use minnows) and bream (use worms) as well as some crappie.

Lake Greenwood: Crappie: Fair. Guide Rod Wall reports that fish are being found in the creeks about 15-20 feet deep, and a foot or two off the bottom. It is a very slow, lethargic bite and darker colored jigs tipped with minnows are most visible in the stained water. Catfish: Fair. Capt. Chris Simpson reports that a few channel catfish are being caught by drifting, but anchoring on the channel ledges is producing more fish right now. Cut herring, gizzard shad and white perch will all work. Largemouth Bass: Slow. Sportsman's Friend reports that in the stained water throwing something with good vibration is essential and the few fish being caught are coming on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Bright colored lures with some flash may also work. Look around brush in 6-12 feet of water. A few fish are also being caught jigging.

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