FISHING REPORT

LAKE JOCASSEE

■ Trout: Fair. Captain Steve Pietrykowski recommends fishing both spoons and live shiners (or herring if you can't get shiners) in the main lake. Most trout are being caught in 35-60 feet of water, although fish are also being caught in 60-80 feet.

■ Black Bass: Slow to fair. Captain Pat Bennett reports that in the absence of cloud cover summer fishing is tough right now, but he recommends fishing blowdowns near deep water. Weightless Senkos and shakey head worms are both good options, and topwater lures fished near riprap around sunset may also produce.

LAKE KEOWEE

■ Largemouth and Spotted Bass: Fair. Guide Brad Fowler reports Keowee has been fishing really well right at daylight and for the first hour or so after. The fish are schooling and feeding well on long shallow points on the main lake. Topwater and swimbaits are the best choice early. Later you can catch one here and there on topwater around deeper points and humps. Also, drop shots and shakey heads around docks and deep drops are working during the day.

LAKE HARTWELL

■ Striped and Hybrid Bass: Very good. Captain Bill Plumley reports that striper and hybrid fishing continues to be very good. He is doing most of his fishing in 45-65 feet of water with down-lined live herring. The mid-lake on down has been most productive, and the best places are around deep points where the channel swings in.

■ Largemouth Bass: Fair. Guide Brad Fowler reports that fishing has gotten a little tougher as the weather has gotten hotter. Fish can still be caught on the topwater pattern all day, but there is a lot of pressure on those fish. The best pattern right now may be fishing deep diving crankbaits around depth changes, and particularly anywhere near deep water with timber, or off deep points with brush piles.

■ Catfish: Fair to good. Captain Bill Plumley reports that channel catfish are biting well in 30-40 feet of water off deep, main lake points. Chum to call in the cats and get them feeding and then fish with cut herring.

■ Crappie: Slow. Captain Bill Plumley reports the crappie bite remains tough, and about the only crappie he's heard caught recently was a nice fish caught as a striper fishing by-catch. Try pre-dawn fishing with lights set up over brush in 12-20 feet of water.

LAKE THURMOND

■ Striped and Hybrid Bass: Good to very good. Captain William Sasser reports that striper fishing has been very good on Clarks Hill, especially early in the morning. The best pattern has been fishing at daylight with live herring on the bottom in 30 feet of water near points and humps.

■ Crappie: Very good. Guide William Sasser reports that crappie continue to feed well over deep brush in about 40 feet of water. The best pattern is anchoring and fishing minnows about 20 feet down over the brush. Towards the middle of Little River, and off the flats on both sides, has been productive. Night fishing should also be strong around the 378 Bridge and the Little River Bridge.

■ Black bass: Slow. Buckeye Lures in Augusta reports that bass fishing on the lake remains tough. The best pattern is fishing over deep humps close to the river channel with plastic worms or Spot Removers.

■ Bream: Good. Guide Wendell Wilson reports that at the top of Clarks Hill he is catching good numbers of shellcracker in 7-8 feet of water.

LAKE GREENWOOD

■ Bream: Excellent. Sportsman's Friend reports that lots of bedding activity took place on the last full moon, and fish have remained shallow. Fish crickets and worms around piers and in the backs of coves.

■ Catfish: Good to very good. Captain Chris Simpson reports that he has been catching very good numbers of channel catfish in the 3-7 pound range over the last few weeks. Drifting will work but anchoring on secondary points in creeks and the backs of creeks is more productive. Using cut bait will produce larger but less frequent fish, and the gar will give you a hard time. Shrimp and stink bait are the best baits for quickly filling a cooler and avoiding the gar.

■ Largemouth Bass: Fair to good. Sportsman's Friend reports that there is scattered schooling across Lake Greenwood, with fair sized striper and largemouth coming up to the top. Some white bass and white perch are also mixed in. Fish are feeding on threadfin and small gizzard shad, and the most likely places they will be found are off points and humps, and around the edges of islands - proximate to depth changes. About halfway back in the creeks is also a good place to look. In addition to topwater lures, crankbaits and bucktails will also catch fish. Besides schooling fish, early in the morning fish can be found around block walls which cool at night and draw in baitfish. First thing bass will feed around them, and floating worms and topwater lures will both work. Some fish can also be caught in the creek channels in 15-20 feet of water on crankbaits and worms, but that bite has slowed.

■ Crappie: Fair. Sportsman's Friend reports that crappie have moved deep. The best bet is fishing around deep brush or deep bridge pilings at night with minnows and jigs.

–SCDNR