FISHING REPORT

■ Lake Jocassee: Trout: Good. Night fishing continues to get better; use night crawlers or shiners 25 to 35 feet deep in vicinity of dam. Trout also are still being caught up the rivers, trolling spoons 20 to 40 feet deep. Bass: Fair. Worms and crankbaits along points are the best bet now; target water 4 to 10 feet deep.

■ Lake Keowee: Bass: Excellent. Bass are biting whatever you feel like throwing, including spinnerbaits, crankbaits and worms. Pick your poison, then focus on secondary points and pockets, usually 2 to 6 feet deep. Crappie: Fair. Hit brush 6 to 12 feet deep with small minnows or jigs.

■ Lake Hartwell: Bass: Excellent. Bass "season" is in full swing. Water temperature is in mid-60s, and bass are biting. Some bass are moving up into pockets while other fish already have bedded, and another wave of fish is on the way. Best options are spinnerbaits, floating worms and crankbaits in water 2 to 6 feet deep. Striped/hybrid bass: Good. Stripers and hybrids continue to migrate up creeks, where they're following the bait; cast baitfish-imitating lures or use blueback herring. Fish can be quite shallow, as evidenced by plenty of largemouth anglers catching hybrids and stripers on spinnerbaits. Crappie: Good. Crappie "have done their thing" and are moving back toward deeper water, so hit the brush 8 to 15 feet deep. Also, night fishing should be starting soon. Bream: Fair. A few bream reports are beginning to trickle in, but great fishing is still a few weeks away.

■ Lake Russell: Striped bass: Record-breaking. A likely state record striped bass, a 63 pound 4 ounce fish caught by current state record holder Terry McConnell, was caught on Lake Russell on April 3. The best bet for targeting Lake Russell striper is to free line blue backed herring on the lower end of the lake near Thurmond Dam. While Lake Russell does not have a large population of striped bass, the lake clearly has some very big fish. Largemouth and spotted bass: Very good. Capt. Wendell Wilson reports both largemouth and spotted bass are on verge of bedding, although the spawning behavior of the two species on Lake Russell is slightly different. Spotted bass bed a bit deeper and seek out clearer water in clean creeks and off the main channel; their beds are usually not visible to anglers. Largemouth bass will tolerate muddier water and spawn very shallow where they can be sight fished for. For spotted bass, target prespawn fish in shallow coves using a spot remover with a 4-inch green pumpkin finesse worm, or use jerkbaits and Rattlin' Rogues. Target largemouth bass very shallow in 1 to 2 feet of water using a white spinnerbait. Crappie: Very good. Wilson reports the largest crappie already spawned on the full moon around March 11 but many of those big fish are still hanging around shallow water in only 1 to 2 feet. The medium-sized fish will spawn on the April full moon, and all of these fish are susceptible to jigs and minnows fished shallow around the bank. Catfish: Good. Lake Russell has a healthy population of eating-sized channel catfish, and these are feeding well right now.

■ Lake Thurmond: Striped and hybrid bass: Very good. Broadway Tackle in Augusta reports striped bass fishing in the lower lake is very good, and some nice fish are being caught both shallow and deep around the dam. Look for schools of baitfish, particularly off deep points, where fish are suspended 20 to 30 feet down. Schooling activity is also being reported with fish frequently busting on surface. The most effective methods are pulling planer boards or dropping down lines with live herring and trolling 3 to 4 inch lures like the Sebille Swimbait, which approximate the size of the early season prey. Crappie: Very good. The bite started in the upper part of the lake, then slowed there, but The Herring Hut down by the dam now reports the crappie have moved up onto the banks in that area about a week ago when the weather warmed and are feeding very well. The wind and cold may briefly have slowed the bite but expect it to come roaring back this weekend. In addition to fishing minnows shallow, trolling Hal Flies and tight-lining minnows is also working, indicating some fish are still staging. Largemouth bass: Good. Bass on Lake Thurmond are at all stages of spawn; most are prespawn, some are spawning, and a few have already spawned. Lizards and jigs fished shallow around the bank are working well. Shellcracker: Good. The shellcracker bite is just beginning, and some early fish are already bedding; fish around the bank with worms and nightcrawlers.

■ Lake Greenwood: Largemouth bass: Excellent. Fish are shallow, and many are on the beds or very close to spawning. Spinnerbaits and jerkbaits are most popular for prespawn fish, and a variety of soft plastics are working for bedding bass. Crappie: Very good. With warm temperatures and the March full moon, many fish have already spawned, but the April full moon has brought a second wave of spawning. Fish minnows and jigs around shallow brush. Catfish: Very good. Capt. Chris Simpson reports the best way to catch catfish this time of year is drifting or slow trolling with Santee rigs in and out of the feeder creeks; catfish have moved very shallow chasing spawning baitfish, so don't be afraid to follow them. Fish will be heavily concentrated in one creek, then there will only be a few in next creek, so keep moving until you find pods of fish. A variety of cut baits will work in the spring, and shrimp is a good choice, too. Striped bass: Fair. Few striper reports are coming in, but the best striper action is being reported trolling deep in the area around Goat Island. Bream: Slow. Bream action is about two weeks away from really turning on.