6/18/11

DORS

Local Freshwater Fishing Report

LAKE HARTWELL

» ***Black Bass: Good.*** Guide Brad Fowler reports the topwater bite off deeper, main lake points is strong. Fish will hit Spooks, flukes, swimbaits and topwater lures, especially on windy days when there is surface disturbance. There is also a strong bite in 25-35 feet of water over the same points using drop shot rigs. The size of fish feeding on top is generally better than the fish taking drop shots. Because of higher water levels a good number of fish should stay shallow through the summer, like they did a couple of years ago. Working buzzbaits early and late around the banks is a good way to catch a big fish.

» ***Catfish: Fair.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that channel catfish have generally moved out of the creeks and onto main lake flats in 10-25 feet of water. They will take both dip (stink) bait and cut herring. Blue catfish have generally moved out to deeper water where they are difficult to catch on Lake Hartwell.

» ***Crappie: Fair.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that crappie are still being caught under lights at night around bridges and brush piles in 12-20 feet of water. Fishing minnows, casting jigs, or working jigs tipped with minnows will all catch fish.

» ***Striped and Hybrid Bass: Good.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that striper and hybrids are feeding well off mid-lake points in 30-40 feet of water. Down lines fished 20-35 feet down in these areas have been the most productive way of catching fish once the sun comes up. Early in the morning a few fish are being caught on free lined live herring pulled over points, but once the sun rises this bite dies off. Schooling activity has been spotty, but it's still a good idea to have a Spook tied on just in case.

LAKE JOCASSEE

» ***Black Bass: Fair.*** Captain Pat Bennett reports that as the spawn ends the very strong spring fishing is winding down. Schools of post-spawn fish are very visible around secondary and some primary points. They are feeding on minnows and chasing bream, but getting them to hit a lure can be difficult. Downsizing your tackle and fishing slowly may increase your catch rate. Flukes and other soft plastics are a good bet. The best bite of the day may be around the intake towers early in the morning when water is moving.

» ***Trout: Very good.*** Captain Steve Pietrykowski reports that trout fishing is still strong. 35-60 feet is the magic depth and trolling live shiners has been most productive. Hardware is also catching fish and in fact the big fish was caught on an Apex spoons in 50 feet of water. Early in the morning the bite near the intake towers is still strong. Night fishing is slightly hit or miss but still generally good, and suspending nightcrawlers and shiners 25 to 40 feet down near the intakes is producing.

LAKE KEOWEE

» ***Largemouth and Spotted Bass: Good.*** Guide Brad Fowler reports a very few fish are still bedding up the lake, but the spawn is generally over. One good pattern is fishing in 15-35 feet of water around the break line from shallow to deep water over humps and points. Carolina rigs, shakey head worms and drop shot rigs will all work. The other strong pattern is fishing shakey head worms, soft jerkbaits and Senkos around docks. The water is getting warm, and so the key is docks that provide some shade.

— Courtesy of SCDNR