Local Freshwater Fishing Trends

LAKE JOCASSEE

» ***Trout: Good.*** Captain Steve Pietrykowski reports that night fishing season is here and he has been catching multiple keepers fishing nightcrawlers and shiners 25 to 40 feet down near the intake towers at night. The day bite has also been strong using downriggers to troll spoons or live bait in the 30-50 foot range.

LAKE KEOWEE

» ***Largemouth and Spotted Bass: Good.*** Guide Brad Fowler reports that fish are at all different stages of the spawn on Lake Keowee. Because of the temperature differential around Keowee, the spawn usually kicks off earlier and runs later there than on most lakes, and this year is no exception. In the warmest mid-lake section most fish are post-spawn, but in the upper and lower parts of the lake most fish are spawning or about to bed. Besides targeting bedding fish, anglers are catching post-spawn fish around docks. Fish come off the beds and hang around docks before they move offshore for the summer, and these dock fish will readily take soft plastics.

LAKE HARTWELL

» ***Crappie: Fair.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that crappie are being caught around brush about 10 feet deep in 15 feet of water on curly tail jigs and minnows. Some fish have already been to the banks and spawned, and some have yet to move very shallow.

» ***Catfish: Very good.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that channel catfishing has come on strong in the last week or two and many channels are feeding off points in the same areas where he is catching striper. If herring die it's a pretty good bet that a channel will get them. Blue catfish are still in the creeks around points and out in the channel in 15-30 feet of water, but they don't like hot water and are beginning to move back toward deeper water.

» ***Striped and Hybrid Bass: Good.*** Captain Bill Plumley reports that striper and hybrids are still scattered out up the rivers and in the very backs of creeks in 10 feet or less. Free lining, down lining, and casting and fishing live herring on the bottom will all catch fish, and cut bait will probably work, too. His boat is pulling up on points and fan casting live bait out and casting very good numbers of 3-8 pound fish.

» ***Black Bass: Good.*** Guide Brad Fowler reports that the big female bass started to come up to spawn about two weeks ago and a bunch of fish remain on beds. A few bass are still pre-spawn, but most are spawning or post-spawn. It's early for the blueback herring to move up to spawn and water temperatures are below normal for this time of year, but all of a sudden they have showed up on shallow points, red clay humps and shallow shoals. Bass are ganging up on them and feeding, particularly around shallow points on the way back out from spawning pockets. Spooks, flukes and swimbaits are all popular lures.

— Courtesy of SCDNR



SUBMITTED

Six-year-old Jackson Pittman shows off a trout he reeled in recently at Blue Hole Falls.

