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OUTDOOR NEWS: HOW TO ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2009

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Freshwater ReportMountains AreaLake JocasseeTrout: Excellent. Jocassee Outdoor Center reports that the trout biteis fantastic early in the day. The fish are being caught trollingspoons and minnows in 60 to 80 feet of water over tree tops. At nightsome trout are being caught around the intakes in 40 to 80 feet of wateron nightcrawlers and minnows but this bite has slowed over the last fewweeks. Bream: Good. In the backs of creeks, coves and around waterfallsbream are being caught in good numbers. Fish with crickets, worms orsmall artificials like inline spinners. Catfish: Good. Catfish arebeing caught at night under lights by fishermen anchored near theintake, often as a by-catch for trout fishermen. Boats can tie off onthe shelf and fish about 40 to 60 feet down on the bottom. Black Bass:Fair. Bass are being caught in 40 to 60 feet fishing Carolina rigs,drop shot rigs, and shakey head worms around deep points and saddles inbetween deep islands. Overall the bite is tough, though. Forsmallmouth bass be sure to fish around rocky points. Topwater action isminimal although a few fish are hitting the surface very early in themorning. Lake KeoweeBream: Good. The Fishin' Hole reports that the bream bite remainsstrong on Lake Keowee. Small bream can be found around most any shallowstructure fishing under a float, but the bigger fish will be holding inslightly deeper water - fish on the bottom with crickets or worms.Largemouth and Spotted Bass: Good. Captain Chris "Fishboy" Schuberreports that the spotted bass bite has turned on in the last week. Hehas been catching lots of 1 to 3 pound fish fishing worms rigged "wackystyle" in less than 5 feet of water around boat docks. His boat hasalso caught a few largemouth bass fishing shallow running crankbaitsaround Cane Creek and Crooked Creek.

ABOUT ME



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Another pattern is that manyanglers continue to fish deep with shakey heads, drop shot rigs, andCarolina rigs.Lake HartwellCatfish: Very good. Catfishing is hot in 15 to 20 feet of water increeks like Reed Creek, Crawford's Ferry, and Lightwood Log. Cutherring, nightcrawlers, and catalpa worms (if you can find them) are allworking, and lots of fish in the 25 pound range are being landed. Thebite is also very good for 2-6 pound fish. Bream: Very good. Aroundlighted boat docks and marinas some monster bream are being caught atnight in the Tugaloo. Chum with crumbled crackers to bring the fish in,and use crickets or worms to catch them. Largemouth Bass: Good. Thebass bite is surprisingly strong considering the heat. First thing inthe morning there has been a good topwater bite using poppers fishedover mid-depth points. When the sun comes up back off and fish mainlake points using Carolina rigged green worms fished very slowly. Striped and Hybrid Bass: Fair to good. Captain Wendell Wilson reportsthat striper and hybrid action is hit or miss right now. On days whenfish are schooling the bite can be strong, but on other days it istough. When fish are not on the surface the most productive patternseems to be fishing down near the dam around timber in 50-60 feet ofwater. Use down lines baited with herring fished either 20-30 feet deepover top of trees or fished near the bottom in pockets between thetrees. Crappie: Good. At night fishing around bridges up the Senecaor Tugaloo River is resulting in good catches. Use Green Monster lightsto bring up the fish and use live minnows to catch them. Piedmont AreaLake RussellCatfish: Very good. Captain Wendell Wilson reports that the bite for2-5 pound eating sized channel catfish continues to be very good. Fishhave moved slightly deeper into 15 to 20 feet of water and cut herringfished on flats in the creeks will catch fish both day and night.Crappie: Very good. Crappie have moved deeper and the best bite is nowover isolated brushpiles in 20 to 25 feet of water. Live minnows fishedvertically are the best bet. White Perch: Good to very good.Throughout July and August the white perch bite on Lake Russell is hot.Fish with minnows vertically in 30 feet of water and keep the bait justoff the bottom. Largemouth and Spotted Bass: Good. Small bass continueto school on the top, especially early in the morning and late. Largerbass can be found fishing around the cedar timber about 20-30 feet deepwhere they can be caught with a Texas rigged worm pegged behind a 3/16ounce sinker. The fish are somewhat suspended and they will hit on thefall. To locate concentrations of spotted bass fish on main lake rockypoints 20-25

feet deep. A spot remover and a 4 inch straight tailfinesse worm will work, and for both shakey heads and Texas rigged wormsgreen pumpkin and cotton candy are good colors. Striped Bass: Good. Upthe lake near Sander's Ferry, Captain Wilson reports that he has beencatching 12-14 pound striper and even landed a 20 pound fish a few daysago. Free line live herring or cast Super Spooks early in the morning -once the sun gets up the bites slows down. Bream: Fair. Bream are notbedding and so it is hard to locate the larger ones right now. However,small ones are easy to catch in the coves on crickets and worms. Lake ThurmondYellow perch: Very good. Captain Wendell Wilson reports that he hasbeen catching very good numbers of 8-10 inch perch using minnows or cutherring. Fish about 5 feet deep. Striped and Hybrid Bass: Good.Striped bass fishing continues to be strong. The biggest concentrationsof fish are in 60-70 feet of water where they are seeking out cool,oxygenated water. Cut herring seems to be the best bait right now.Catfish: Good. The Herring Hut reports that some very large catfish arebeing caught on Lake Thurmond. Fish cut bait in about 15 feet of wateroff long sloping points. Crappie: Good. Crappie fishermen are catchingfish over brushpiles in 35 feet of water at night. Use either afloating or suspended light and fish minnows vertically. Bream: Good.Nice bream are being caught fishing crickets and worms in 8 feet ofwater. Largemouth bass: Slow. Largemouth bass fishing is tough. Thebest bet is targeting deepwater structure using worms, lizards and deepdiving crankbaits. Fish will come shallow when conditions are right,though, and Captain Wendell Wilson reports that he caught an 8 poundlargemouth a few days ago where it had corralled bait in only 2 feet ofwater. Lake Wylie Catfish: Excellent. Captain Rodger Taylor reports that the channelcatfish bite is outstanding with lots of 3-5 pound fish being caught.Drifting cut bait in 15-20 feet is most productive. For blue catfishand flatheads fish in the river arms and down the lake on humps andchannel drops. Brush piles that fishermen have set out for crappie areanother good place to look. Sportsman's Inc. also reports that in thelast few days there have been reports of 8 to 15 pound catfish that havepinned bait in the backs of coves. White perch: Very good. CaptainTaylor reports that the white perch bite continues to be strong andminnows are the bait of choice. River Stop near the entrance toEbenezer Park has the best bait-sized minnows. Look for sandy bottomsin 18-24 feet and fish just off the bottom. Largemouth Bass: Good. Thebass bite has been very good at times but there have also been slowdays; Sportsman's Inc.

characterizes it as on and off, depending on theweather. Early in the morning there has been good topwater schoolingaction off main channel points. During the day fish are moving deeper,from 15 feet on down. Carolina rigging with a downsized 4 inch green orwatermelon seed worm with the tail dipped in glowing dip is working, andcrankbaits and jigging spoons are also productive. Lots of fish arealso suspending on the ends of drops; they are taking a drop shot rigvery well on the fall just before it hits bottom. Lake GreenwoodBream: Very good. The bluegill and shellcracker bite remains strong andmost of the bluegill are in protected coves in 2 to 3 feet of water.Crickets and red worms will both work and inline spinners have also beenproductive. The shellcracker have backed off to slightly deeper waterbut can still be caught. White perch: Very good. White perch areballed up in tight schools in the creek runs in the lower half of thelake, and they will stay that way until October. In the upper half ofthe lake they are more scattered across the flats. Sabiki rigs,available at Sportsman's Friend, baited with minnows or worms are a goodway to catch them. Largemouth bass: Fair. Bass are well into a summerpattern and early in the morning topwater lures are working. During theday shakey head worms fished off of points are working, and some smallerfish are hanging around docks. Catfish: Fair. Captain Chris Simpsonreports that the channel catfish bite is unpredictable from day to dayand the fish are moving a lot; night time fishing is more consistent.Overall anchoring has been better than drifting which requires hittingthe right spot at the right time. Cut bream and shad are outperformingshrimp, unusual for this time of year. There are also reports of lotsof small fish being caught with stink baits off points and coves. Lake MurrayBream: Excellent. Bluegill fishing is excellent around shallow dockswith worms and crickets. Shellcracker are being caught from 8 to 12feet deep off rocky points with worms. Catfish: Very good. Fish offpoints and islands in 10-15 feet of water with cut herring. StripedBass: Good. The keeper ratio continues to improve and some nice fish,including a 28 pounder and a 26 pounder, were weighed in at Lake Worldin the last few days. Both of these fish were caught trolling plugs.The best fishing is coming from 40 down to 100 feet of water; lookaround open water humps. Live herring on down lines fished 80-90 feetdeep over 100 feet are working, and some fish are also being caughttrolling umbrella rigs and Road Runners deep. A small amount ofschooling activity has been reported. Lake World will have a nightstriper tournament on August 21 - call the store at 957-6548 for moredetails.

Crappie: Fair. Crappie are surprisingly shallow for this timeof year, especially in the upper regions of the lake. Fish aroundbrushpiles in 15 feet of water and around deeper docks in 10-15 feet.Minnows are the best bet. Largemouth Bass: Slow. Captain Doug Lownreports that the largemouth bass bite continues to be tough. At nightthe fish will move shallower but during the day the fish are suspendedand difficult to catch. Anglers are trying to catch the fish withswimbaits, drop shot rigs, and by jigging in 20-25 feet. Lake MonticelloCatfish: Fair to good. Captain Chris Simpson reports that free-linedrifting with small cut bait and stink bait is catching coolers full of1 to 5 pound fish. However, the bite for bigger fish is tougher.Anchoring on sharp ledges with fresh cut bait seems to work best andCaptain Simpson's boat landed one fish over thirty pounds this way.Reports indicate that night fishing may be the key to catching big fishright now. Lake WatereeWhite perch: Very good. White perch action is hot down around the dam.Fish on the bottom with worms and minnows and look for offshore humpswith hard or sandy bottoms. Catfish: Good. Captain Rodger Taylorreports that drifting is producing good numbers of small blue andchannel catfish perfect for eating. Anglers looking to catch biggercatfish should anchor near deep ledges, on the sides of deep holes, andin the river channel and fan cast baits. Early in the morning or atnight is the best time to fish, and days when there is a current due touplake power generation are best. The best baits for drifting andanchoring are fresh cut baits including shad, bluegill, and white perch.Bream: Good. Catching numbers of bream around docks with red worms iseasy; finding the bigger fish is more difficult. Bigger bream tend tobe a little deeper. Largemouth Bass: Fair. 2009 FLW Co-Angler of theYear Dearal Rodgers reports that there are two main hot water patternson Lake Wateree - fishing docks proximate to deep water that have lotsof brush, and fishing underwater ledges. Jigs are a good bet for dockfishing, and shakey head worms, jigs and DD-22 crankbaits are a good betfor fishing underwater structure. Good shallow water activity has alsobeen reported on certain days when the bass have pushed the shadshallow. Santee Cooper System Catfish: Good. Captain Jim Glenn reports that his boat continues tocatch good numbers of blue catfish. He has been having the most luckfinding fish in 20-25 feet of water and has seen bait schools on thesides of shallow drops and up to the surface on occasion. Some boatsreport doing well in deeper water 40 or more feet down, but that has notbeen his experience. At night catfish will come shallower to feed,particularly between dusk and 10 p.m. Cut bait continues to

be the bestbet, and weekend anglers report a tough bite at times.
Bream: Fair.Bream fishing has slowed substantially in both lakes. Fish around treesand move around to find the fish; crickets and worms fished beneath asmall toothpick cork will both work.
Largemouth bass: Slow. Largemouthbass fishing has slowed down in the summer heat. Texas rigging deepstructure is the best bet.
Crappie: Slow. Crappie fishing has droppedoff in the last two weeks; fish around brushpiles in 18 to 20 feet ofwater with crappie minnows.
Purchase a SC fishing license at: http://www.dnr.sc.gov/purchase.htmlSouth Carolina freshwater recreational fishing regulations: (Pdf file):http://www.dnr.sc.gov/regs/pdf/freshfishing.pdf

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