

# Outdoors: Adventures in the Carolinas

*PUBLISHED IN: OUTDOORS*

It appears to be a "bluefish world" along the North Carolina coast.

During the past few days, pier and surf anglers from Hatteras Island on the Outer Banks to the state's southeastern beaches have caught big blues.

Hard-fighting "whopper choppers" weighing up to 14 pounds have been reported.

**Lake Norman:** Plentiful white perch in the creeks on live bait, and big numbers are being caught. Crappie under docks and around brushy cover 5-15 feet deep, mainly on minnows. Largemouth bass around piers and rip-rap, hitting crankbaits and soft plastic lures. Largemouth also are schooled off points, around humps and on flats, taking live baits. Catfish 15-20 feet deep in the creeks on cut baits.

**Lake Wylie:** Largemouth around piers and rip-rap on jigs. Catfish 10-25 feet deep on drift-fished cut baits. Continuing good crappie catches on minnows. Improving for bream on crickets.

**Mountain Island Lake:** Largemouth just off the shoreline on soft plastic lures. Crappie in shallow cover on jigs, minnows. Bream on crickets, earthworms.

**Union County Lakes:** Bream, largemouth at Lee. Bream, catfish at Monroe. Crappie, largemouth at Cane Creek Park.

**High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery, Blewett Falls:** Good to excellent at all the Yadkin-Pee Dee River reservoirs for crappie. Tuckertown recently has produced some 2-pounders. Improving for largemouth on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastic lures. Bream at Badin and Tillery on crickets. Spawning striped bass to 15 pounds in the tailrace at Blewett Falls.

**Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss:** Stripers well uplake at Hickory on live baits. Good for crappie, bream at both reservoirs on traditional baits.

**Lake James:** Smallmouth bass on the points on shiners. Crappie in medium-depth brush on minnows.

**Fontana Lake:** Largemouth, smallmouth on the points and rocky outcroppings on shiners and Lucky Craft lures. Scattered walleye on crawlers.

**Lake Wateree:** Largemouth around shoreline grass on jigs. Catfish on cut shad.

**Lake Murray:** Striped bass in 30 feet of water on free-lined live herring. Plentiful bream, shellcrackers on crickets, earthworms just off the shoreline. Crappie in shallow cover. Channel catfish on the points.

**Santee Cooper Lakes:** Good to excellent for largemouth around shallow brush and other cover on soft plastic lures. Stripers in the upper reaches of Lake Marion on live baits. Concentrations of crappie 20-25 feet deep in both Marion and Moultrie around brush and logs on minnows.

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**Lake Thurmond:** Fair to good for largemouth around cover with wood such as blowdowns, logs, willow trees on Senko lures. Stripers, hybrids at dawn and dusk on live herring free-lined near the dam. Very good for crappie around shallow cover on jigs, minnows.

**Lake Hartwell:** Improving for stripers, hybrids in the rivers and backs of creeks on live baits. Channel catfish on the points on cut baits. Crappie around bridge pilings on minnows.

**Lake Keowee:** Largemouth around docks and on points on flukes and other soft plastics.

**Lake Jocassee:** Trout at dawn and during late afternoon on crawlers fished 50 feet deep. Black bass in around shallow cover on soft plastic lures.

**Outer Banks:** Nags Head area: Small spots, whiting at piers; Oregon Inlet: Limits of yellowfin tuna, dolphin offshore. A 400-pound blue marlin boated and released. Big bluefish and Spanish mackerel inshore; Hatteras Island: Limits of large dolphin offshore. Big blues in the surf from Cape Point to Hatteras Inlet. Croaker, flounder and whiting also are being caught in the surf from Avon southward. Keeper-sized flounder in Pamlico Sound; Ocracoke Island: Dozens of big bluefish in the surf, along with large whiting. Red drum to 48 inches by boat in Ocracoke Inlet; Morehead City area: Very large blues in the surf and at piers. Cobia, Spanish mackerel just off the beach from Beaufort Inlet to Cape Lookout. Keeper flounder at the artificial reefs. Blue marlin, dolphin, sailfish and wahoo offshore.

**Southeastern N.C. Coast:** King mackerel to 40 pounds and blues to 15 at piers. Kings, cobia around artificial reefs and in the Cape Fear River channel. Spanish mackerel just offshore. Blue marlin offshore. Red drum in the creeks at Bald Head Island and Southport. Black drum along the sea wall at Ft. Fisher. Flounder, reds in Tubbs Inlet.

**S.C. Coast:** Grand Strand area: Blues, Spanish mackerel, whiting at piers. Limits of dolphin offshore, along with wahoo and white marlin. Reds in the creeks just before low tide on mud minnows; Charleston area: limits of dolphin offshore. Black drum, sheepshead around inshore structure on fiddler crabs, clam strips. Spottails (reds) in the backwaters around docks and rock piles on live baits and Gulp! lures; Beaufort area: Good to excellent for cobia in the Broad River, especially near bridges, on live eels and a variety of lures. Spottails on live mud minnows at the mouths of creeks and around oyster beds.



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