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Outdoors: Adventures in the Carolinas

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Trolling off the Carolinas coast is terrific.

The catch includes numerous billfish, large cobia, limits of dolphin, including lots of big "bulls," and wahoo.

Inshore, a run of huge "Hatteras blues" continues for anglers in boats, pier fishermen and surfcasters.

Lake Norman: Plentiful white perch 40 feet deep around humps and in the creeks on live baits, jigging spoons and Sabiki rigs. Largemouth and spotted bass on live baits worked under areas where surface schooling has taken place. Catfish 20-30 feet deep in the creek channels and coves on cut baits.

Lake Wylie: Largemouth around docks and off points on jigs. Excellent for white perch on minnows. Catfish 10-20 feet down on drift-fished cut baits.

Mountain Island Lake: Bream on crickets, earthworms. Catfish on cutbaits, stinkbaits. White perch on earthworms, minnows.

Union County Lakes: Cane Creek Park: Bream, catfish, largemouth; Lee: Bream, catfish; Monroe: Catfish; Twitty: Bream, catfish, carp.

High Rock, Tuckertown, Badin, Tillery, Blewett Falls: Bream on crickets, earthworms. Catfish on cut baits, frozen baits and stink baits at all reservoirs on the Yadkin/Pee Dee Rivers. A few striped bass continue to be caught in the tailrace at Blewett Falls Dam.

Lakes Hickory, Rhodhiss: Stripers uplake at Hickory on live baits. Bream, catfish and scattered largemouth at Rhodhiss.

Lake James: Smallmouth bass off the points and rocky bluffs on shiners. Walleye at night on crawlers. Crappie in brush 15-20 feet deep on minnows.

Fontana Lake: Largemouth during early morning on topwater lures. Bream on crickets, earthworms. Walleye at night on crawlers worked 50-60 feet deep off points under floating lights.

Lake Wateree: Largemouth along the shoreline and under docks on soft plastic lures. Catfish uplake on drift-fished cut baits.

Lake Murray: Striped bass, suspended 30 feet deep, on live herring. Stripers also are taking cut baits off the points. Crappie around deep brush on minnows and in creek channels on trolled jigs, sliders. Channel catfish on points and around humps on cut baits, shrimp, stink baits. Bream, shellcrackers on the points on traditional baits.

Santee Cooper Lakes: Good to excellent for bream, shellcrackers. Largemouth near eelgrass and around the bases of cypress trees on soft plastic lures and Rattletrap-type plugs. Catfish at night on cut baits.

Lake Thurmond: Stripers, hybrids 25 feet deep off the points on live herring. Some surface schooling is taking place. Crappie 15-20 feet deep around sunken trees.

Lake Hartwell: Largemouth during early morning on buzzbaits, soft plastics. Channel catfish 5-20 feet deep on cut baits, stinkbaits. Scattered stripers, hybrids in surface-feeding schools.

Lake Jocassee: Trout at night on crawlers fished 25-40 feet down at the intake towers and during the day on lures trolled 50 feet deep. Largemouth, smallmouth during early morning on topwater lures.

Lake Keowee: Spotted bass off the points on soft plastic lures.

Outer Banks: Nags Head area: Big blues in the surf at Ramp 4. Blues, croaker, whiting at piers; Oregon Inlet: Billfish, bigeye tuna, limits of dolphin, cobia to 80 pounds offshore. Blues, Spanish mackerel inshore; Hatteras Island: Billfish, blackfin tuna, cobia to 70 pounds, large dolphin offshore. Blues, flounder, Spanish mackerel and whiting in the surf at Hatteras Village. Pompano, whiting in the surf at Avon. Flounder at the jetties near Buxton; Ocracoke Island: Big blues, cobia, flounder and Spanish mackerel in the surf. Red drum from boats in the inlet. Billfish, dolphin offshore; Morehead City area: Billfish, large dolphin and wahoo offshore. Bluefish, Spanish mackerel inshore. Flounder at the artificial reefs and in Beaufort Inlet. Big blues, flounder, pompano, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel, spots at piers.

Southeastern N.C. Coast: Blackfin tuna, cobia, dolphin offshore. A few king mackerel at areas known as The Horseshoe and Lighthouse Rocks. Blues and Spanish mackerel inshore. Flounder to 9 pounds at Ocean Isle and in the Cape Fear River from Snow's Cut near Carolina Beach downstream to Bald Head Island. Blues, flounder, kings, sheepshead, Spanish mackerel and whiting at piers.

S.C. Coast: Little River area: Black drum, blues, spottails, whiting at Cherry Grove Pier; Grand Strand area: Billfish, blackfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo offshore. Cobia and Spanish mackerel at the artificial reefs. Flounder in Murrells Inlet on mud minnows. Spottails in the creeks on mud minnows, finger mullet and shrimp. Blues, king mackerel, pompano and Spanish mackerel at piers; Charleston area: Billfish, dolphin offshore. Blues and Spanish mackerel inshore near the artificial reefs and jetties. Spottails in the backwaters on live baits and Gulp! lures. Flounder around inshore structure and sandy inlets on menhaden, mud minnows; Beaufort area: Cobia in the Broad River on live eels, squid and whiting. Spottails during high tides on mud minnows. Dolphin, sailfish, wahoo offshore.

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