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South Carolina Crappie Fishing – Where to Go and How to Catch Crappie

The g ood news is, if you want to go crappie fishing in Sorth Carolina, you have an abundance of Lakes from w hich to choose. Crappie are very plentiful in North Carolina, and w ith a little know how and common sense, if you k now w here to look, you can fish for crappie all year long! S ome of the great South Carolina crappie fishing lakes are:
Watertree Lake
Hartwell Lake
Lake J. Strom Thurmond
Lake Keowee
Lake Jocassee
Lake Marion
Lake Murray
Lake Moultrie
Lake Wylie
Richard B Russell Lake
Monticello Reservoir
Lake Greenwood
Lake Moultrie boasts the black crappie state record, and Lake Murray waters produced the s tate record white crappie, but in addition to these lakes, any stream, creek, river, or pond in South Carolina is a lso apt to have plenty of crappie as well. If you are looking for strictly black or white crappie, your target locations m ight vary slightly. Just remember t hat black crappie l ike to live in larger, deeper waters, while white prefer backwater areas that don't see as much action, and tend to be quiet.
You can catch crappie f rom the bank or a boat while still fishing, drifting, casting or trolling. It is g enerally agreed that the best time to catch crappie is during the spring spawn, and crappie tend to congregate in schools with cover nearby. Live bait s eems to normally w ork b est w hen fishing for crappie. Choose bait that looks like worms, minnows, insects, etc. , and the crappie w ill tend to find you if you are anywhere near their normal habitat. E arly dawn fishermen can usually find crappie close to the surface of the water, but as the sun begins to beam d own on the water, the crappie w ill drop d own to about ten feet deep. As the day progresses, and the sun g ets higher, they will m ove even deeper, often twenty-five feet or even more. At sunset, they will again m ove to more shallow depths, and end the day on the surface. They do tend to return to the deeper water at night, and they s ometimes feed d uring the night as well.
During the spring months, crappie are inhabiting the shallow waters t hat are suitable for t heir spawning, t heir primary food will be s mall crayfish and minnows, so if you fish the shallows using t his type of bait, o nce you locate their schools, y our catch should be plentiful. Remember, crappie move in schools, so if you catch one, there will be o thers nearby. Consider j ust drifting along in likely areas with a slow bait u ntil you catch one crappie, marking the spot, and settling in for a productive day catching crappie.
During the summer months, crappie really respond to the heat, so fish start the day fishing shallow in the morning and evening hours, and move into the deeps during the heat of the day. The b est baits d uring the summer months are crappie spoons and jigs and the live bait you find naturally in their waters.
In the fall, use live bait or crappie jigs and spoons, and dish in the m ore shallow areas, but as the crappie move as the day progresses, just fish a little deeper using spoons and jigs, and seek out structure.