
GO FISH! (W.VA. DNR)

Monongahela River

Fishing in the tailwaters downstream of the lock and dams along Monongahela River is very productive, especially since the river flow is low and water temperatures are decreasing. Sauger and walleye will begin feeding at dusk in the tailwaters. Jigs with minnows are always good baits but 3-inch plastic grubs will also be productive. Carp are abundant in the vicinity of the Star City boat ramp. Channel catfish are abundant throughout the river and can be caught on cut bait, chicken liver and night-crawlers.

Cheat Lake

Cheat Lake has an excellent channel catfish population and they can be caught throughout the lake using cut bait, chicken liver, and nightcrawlers. However, channel catfish are particularly numerous upstream of Mt. Chateau. Using spoons, jigs, or casting spinners to catch white bass feeding on minnows throughout the lake can lead to very fast fishing action. Smallmouth bass are increasing throughout Cheat Lake and largemouth bass are also abundant. Cheat Lake Park located near the dam is a good area for bank anglers to catch channel catfish, sunfish, and bass. Keep track of the lake elevation and predicted daily changes in elevation on the Cheat Lake website at www.cheatlaketoday.com.

Tygart Lake

The lake is currently 21 feet below the summer level and falling slowly. As the lake falls, try using crawfish imitating lures along the shoreline to target largemouth and smallmouth bass. Look for schools of white bass breaking water on the surface while feeding on minnows. Chase the schools and make long casts with spoons or jigs with 3-inch grubs for fast action. Walleye are scattered throughout the lake and their depths vary during the day. Using minnows during the day in depths up to 40 feet can be an effective method to catch walleye. Also, start fishing for walleye at dark when they move into shallow water to feed. There are leftover trout from August stocking in the tailwaters and further downstream. Call the Corps of Engineers telephone hotline at 304-265-5953 for daily lake and tailwater conditions.