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GO FISH! (W.VA. DNR)

Monongahela River

Fish are actively feeding as water temperatures decrease. Muskies have been stocked for many years and are an underutilized fish in the river. Trolling large crankbaits has been productive during the past month. Fishing in the tailwaters downstream of the lock and dams is very productive for most species while 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 nightcrawlers.

Cheat Lake

The winter operation schedule began Nov. 1, which allows the lake elevation to decrease as much as 13 feet until April 1. The winter boat ramp at the Cheat Lake Park will be opened for reliable boat access. 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 Mont 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 numbers are increasing throughout the 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 at cheatlaketoday.com.

Tygart Lake

The lake is 40 feet below the summer pool and fish are actively feeding. 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. Walleye move into shallow water to feed at dusk. The fall trout stocking has

been completed and there are still large brood trout present in the tailwater and downstream through Grafton. Info: Corps of Engineers hotline, 304-265-5953.

Stonewall Jackson

The lake is 4 feet below summer pool and milky. For bass, try shallow water and around structure. Before heading to the lake, please contact the Corps of Engineers, 304-269-7463.