

GO FISH! (W.VA. DNR)

Monongahela River

Fish are actively feeding and water temperatures are above normal for this time of year. Fishing in the tailwaters downstream of the lock and dams along Monongahela River is very productive for most species. 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. Sauger can also be caught in deep holes at the mouths of tributaries. Pricketts Creek is a particularly good area to try. Channel catfish are abundant throughout the river and can be caught on cut bait, chicken liver and nightcrawlers. Muskies are particularly active right now and can be caught by trolling large crankbaits. This pattern will be good all winter.

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. 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.cheatlake-today.com.

Tygart Lake

The lake is currently 45 to 50 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. 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 and can be caught by bank anglers casting large rapalas. The fall trout stocking has been completed and there are still large brood trout present in the tailwater and downstream through Grafton. Call the Corps of Engineers telephone hotline at 304-265-5953 for daily lake and tailwater conditions.

Stonewall Jackson

The lake is approximately four feet below

summer pool and milky. For bass try shallow water and around structure. Crappie are in deeper water. Try trolling with minnows and around bridges in 15 feet of water. A few musky have been caught this week trolling. Before heading to the lake please contact Corps of Engineers at 304-269-7463.