

GO FISH! (W.VA. DNR)

Monongahela River

Water levels are above normal and water is turbid after recent rains. Increased flows will cause walleye and sauger to move upstream and their numbers will increase at the lock and dams. Sauger and walleye usually begin feeding at dusk in the tailwaters but will be active during the day, when the water is turbid. The Westover side of the river below the Morgantown lock can be productive during high-water conditions. Jigs with minnows are always good baits but 3-inch plastic grubs will also be productive. Muskies are particularly active right now and can be caught by trolling large crankbaits. Channel catfish are abundant throughout the river and can be caught on cut bait, chicken livers and nightcrawlers.

Cheat Lake

The winter operation schedule has started, 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 at cheatlaketoday.com.

Tygart Lake

The lake level has increased from recent rains. 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. 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, 304-265-5953, for daily lake and tailwater conditions.

Stonecoal Lake

The lake is 5 feet below summer pool and clear. A few trout have been caught this past week on powerbait. Bass and panfish are also being caught in and around structure. A few catfish are also being caught in the evenings. Crayfish have moved in and

are being caught on minnows and jigs.

Stonewall Jackson

The lake is at winter pool and milky. For bass, try shallow water and around structure. Crappie are in deeper water. Before heading to the lake, contact the Corps of Engineers, at 304-269-7463.