

Lake Murray Country October 1st Fishing Report

The Largemouth Bass on Lake Murray are starting to transition into their fall patterns, schooling on Herring/shad, and starting to feed on crayfish in the upper section of the lake. Many fish are still on a summer schedule, feeding at dawn, dusk and night when the temperatures are cooler, with more fish becoming more active during the day when the winds pick up as clouds start to build. There have been patterns starting to develop in the upper end of the lake and back of creek arms as bait has started to move into these areas and crayfish have started to become more active. Over the coming weeks, as the days continue to get shorter and as the water continues to cool down, look for Largemouth Bass (with Striped Bass mixed in) to school more heavily on Blueback Herring, especially on windblown points. Fishing techniques for Largemouth Bass will differ depending on which end of the lake you are fishing. Look for Largemouth lake-wide to position on main-lake points and humps, as well as becoming more active in the creeks and in the river.

On the upper reaches (from Dreher Island up river) of the lake where the water has more color, look for fish to be shallower, especially around areas of shade. Lures of choice are the Greenfish Tackle 3/8oz Buzzbait in white or white/chartreuse; Ima Finesse Popper; Ima Helips Prop Bait; Greenfish Tackle 1/2 flipping Jigs in Green Pumpkin or Murphy's Magic; Greenfish Tackle 1/4oz swim jigs in Green Pumpkin or Black/blue; soft plastics flipping baits, such as the Reins Punchin' Predator, Craw Tube, Claw Daddy or Reins Paddle Tail Worm rigged with a Reins 1/4oz or 5/16oz TG Slip Sinker; or Finesse worms in a natural or green pumpkin color. Look for areas with a hard bottom and visible cover in the form of laydowns or docks. Look for Bass to chase topwaters all day. As the day progresses, if there is wind, key on shaded areas where fish will position on shade lines. If conditions are calm and sunny and the fish do not seem to be chasing, focus on slower techniques picking apart docks and shoreline cover.

On the lower end of the lake (from Dreher Island to the Dam), focus on topwater walking lures like the Ima Skimmer and Ima Little Stick in Chrome; wakebaits such as an IMA Bone Floating Flit; Swimbaits like the 3" and 4" AA Bad Bubba Shad or 4" Reins Fat Rockvibe rigged on a 1/2oz or 3/4oz swimbait head; Ima Glide Fluke; and soft jerkbaits like the Optimum Victory Tail in a Chrome or Sexy Shad color to cover water and find areas of the most activity. When the fishing slows down or as the day gets later, slow down with a 1/2oz Greenfish tackle jig; shakey head or dropshot Reins Bubbling Shaker or Swamp Mover in a Watermelon or Green Pumpkin color; and a Reins 4" Axe Craw, Carolina Rigged with a 1/2 oz Reins Sliding Football Sinker and an 18" leader. Look for fish to be positioned on primary points or humps transitioning to secondary points. This time of year on the lower end of the lake, boat positioning is important, with the boat positioned over water as deep as 25-35 feet, casting toward the point. A Lakemaster chip in your graph, setting the shaded depth on your Humminbird (Press Menu twice, under Chart), to 20 feet can be extremely helpful in locating ideal humps and points. Also important is the wind. Follow the wind from day to day, fishing points that have the most direct wind blowing on them. Paying attention to the wind can be the difference between a successful day and a difficult one this time of year.

Over the next month bass will continue to move into the creeks and pockets, following the shad and herring, and will continue to feed on Bluegill and Crayfish. It is a great time to pick up your favorite

topwater lure or shallow water lure and just go fishing. In the river and in the backs of creeks and coves, where resident fish are more prevalent, fish could be as shallow as a couple feet targeting Bluegill. On the Lower end of the lake, where Bass are set up slightly deeper, look for them to be positioned on main lake points and humps in 15-25 feet adjacent to spawning coves and feeding on Shad and Herring, as well as showing up in the pockets by the end of the month.

A great way to get out, enjoy the outdoors, and do a little fishing is to book a trip with one of the Lake Murray area guides. I am a certified Fisheries Biologist, Coast Guard Approved, full-time Largemouth Bass guide, have fished full-time and competitively for the past 13 years across the country on both the BASS and FLW trails, and have a lifetime of fishing experience. I offer a learning experience on multiple techniques of your choice, tournament preparation, and/or electronics education. I would love to share my knowledge with you on the water and enjoy a day of fishing.

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