

## Lake Murray Country April 1 Fishing Report

The Largemouth Bass on Lake Murray are in the middle of spawn, finishing their spawn on the lower lake by the end of the month, and starting to feed on the shad spawn mid lake and up the river. Over the coming weeks as the full moon approaches look for the Bass to start feeding more heavily on the beginning shad spawn mid lake and up the. Fishing techniques for Largemouth Bass will differ depending on which end of the lake you are fishing. Look for Largemouth lake-wide to stage on secondary points or deeper banks outside of spawning areas.

On the upper reaches (from Dreher Island up river) of the lake where the water has more color, look for fish to be shallower. Techniques of choice are crankbaits that dive to the 2-4 foot range, such as an IMA square bill; Greenfish 1/2oz spinnerbaits in Chartreuse and White; Greenfish 1/2oz Jigs in Green Pumpkin; soft plastics flipping baits, such as the Reins Paddle Tail Worm, Craw Tube, Punchin' Predator, Ring Claw Daddy or C-Pod rigged with a Reins 1/4oz or 5/16oz TG Slip Sinker; Finesse worms in a natural or green pumpkin color, merthiolate or white colored Trick worm. Look for areas with a hard bottom and visible cover in the form of laydowns or docks. Look for Bass chasing topwaters, such as a Greenfish buzzbait, frog, prop bait, like the Ima Helips, or poppers, like the IMA Finesse Popper 65, as fish will be guarding fry.

On the lower end of the lake (from Dreher Island to the Dam), focus on wakebaits such as an IMA Bone Floating Flit, IMA Floating Glide Fluke or Swimbaits like the Optimum Boom Boom Swim bait and Reins 4" Fat Rockvibe Shad to cover water and find areas of the most activity with cruisers or spawners that will track or follow these lures, slowing down in areas where fish are located with a jig, shakey head, dropshot or trick worm in a Watermelon or Green Pumpkin color. Look for fish to stage more on secondary points around rock or a hard bottom, with fish spawning adjacent to these areas. In the clearer water look for beds next to rock, dock post, laydowns or stumps. Be sure to look as deep as possible, as the biggest fish will spawn deeper. Deeper beds will be easier to catch; however, can be more difficult to see.

Over the next month as bass begin to chase shad and herring, it is a great time to pick up your favorite shallow water lure and just go fishing. Bass will be holding on secondary points or deeper banks outside of spawning areas. 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 Shell Cracker and Bluegill staging for their spawn. On the Lower end of the lake, where Bass are slightly behind schedule, look for them to be staging on secondary points adjacent to spawning coves feeding on the Shad and Herring spawn or in the coves spawning.

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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