

Lake Murray Country June 1 Fishing Report

The Largemouth Bass on Lake Murray are well into their summer patterns, cycling from feeding on Bluegill and Herring. There are many fish feeding at dawn, dusk and night when the temperatures are cooler, and during the day when the wind picks up. Over the coming weeks, look for the Bass to continue feeding on Bluegill that are spawning and staging around shallow cover and docks, as well as shad and Blueback Herring 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 shallow pockets around Bluegill beds.

In 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 Topwater frogs, Greenfish Tackle 3/8oz Buzzbait in Black; Greenfish Tackle 1/2oz flipping Jigs in Green Pumpkin or Murphy's Magic; Greenfish Tackle 1/4oz swim jigs in Green Pumpkin; soft plastics flipping baits, such as the Reins Punchin' Predator, Craw Tube, Ring Claw Daddy, Paddle Tail Worm or C-Pod rigged on a Jika rig with a Reins 1/8oz or 3/16oz Slim Drop Shot 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, and for Bass chasing topwaters, such as a Greenfish Tackle buzzbait, frog, prop bait, like the Ima Helips, or poppers, like the IMA Finesse Popper 65. Keep an eye out for Bluegill beds in the backs of pockets around cover in the form of bushes or laydowns, shaded banks, and areas where the Mayfly hatch is taking place, especially first thing in the morning and on cloudy days.

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 Optimum Boom Boom Swim bait, 4" Reins Fat Rockvibe Shad or 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 or Craw Tube, Carolina Rigged with a 1/2 oz Reins Sliding Football Sinker and an 18" leader. Look for fish to position on primary points or humps closer to the mouths of spawning pockets. This time of year on the lower end of the lake, boat positioning can be key, 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 25 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 as bass continue chase shad and herring on points, and feed on spawning bluegill, it is a great time to pick up your favorite topwater 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 Spawning 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.

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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