

DOUGLAS LAKE FISHING REPORT

09 May 2012

WATER CONDITIONS:

Water elevation is 988.07 feet as of 6:00 AM, 09 May 2012. This is a .04 foot increase in depth from the 05 May 2012 measurement of 988.03 feet. Average surface temperature on the main channel for the week was 77.9 degrees. Water clarity is stained on the main channel and all creeks.

SUMMARY:

Largemouth and smallmouth bass activity has increased since the last report. Overall, good fishing was enjoyed and consistency of success increased. The big fish have moved to deeper water. Crappie fishing has been decent with fish holding in deeper water. A lot of focus has been placed on bluegill and catfish this reporting period. Bluegill and catfish are hitting well also. Catfish anglers are now becoming more prevalent on the lake and enjoying great success. The previously rapidly rising water level no longer exists and has become less of a factor dictating fish movement. White bass are still biting well and are coming to the creels of anglers fishing for large and smallmouth. Varying atmospheric pressure systems previously experienced have not been a factor over the past week. A new pressure system has, however, moved in as this report is being written. (8:00 AM, 09 May 2012).

LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS: Good

Fish any period of the day. Bass have been very active on Douglas Lake over the reporting period. The larger fish are 25 to 35 feet deep.

Crank and spinner baits are recommended. Bush hogs are producing well. Select baits that interface with the color of the water. Dark colors for stained water and lighter colors for clear water are advised. Bait recommendations have not changed except for the addition of buzz baits in black or darker colors and silver or gold spoons. Plastic worms are still popular over the past week as one of the more favorite baits. Worms in both six and eight inch lengths are being favored with shades of red still being the color of choice. Crayfish representations are also effective. Fish depressions and humps.

Points above Leadvale are hot for smallmouth and largemouth alike. The areas near points 2 and 3 have produced good fish as well as upstream of point 8.

WHITE BASS: Fair

Any hour of the day is good for white bass.

White bass were still active but, fishermen have been focusing their attention to largemouth and smallmouth this last reporting period. White bass are still hitting well, however. This exciting fish is now providing some fine fishing to bank fishermen as well as those with boats. Try the areas both up and down stream from Walters Bridge. The river bank in the Leadvale ramp area has provided a lot of action this reporting period.

Fish the inside seams where fast current flows around quiet pools. White bass will also hold behind bridge piers and rock configurations in the middle of the river. Holes in the muddy river or lake bottom will hold white bass.

Fish 10 to 15 feet. Good lures to use are 2 inch silver spoons, shiners, small rattle traps and rapalas, crappy jigs and any minnow imitation.

WALLEYE/SAUGER: Fair

Fishing has dropped off considerably. Walleye and sauger are still being caught in good numbers by anglers who really know the lake.

Fish the bottom of river channels and the mouths of creeks. Focus on underwater structure such as rocks and stumps on the river channel itself. Locate deep holes and use jigging techniques or allow current to carry jig heads into and through holes. Fish are holding in deeper holes and behind humps and in ditches at the edges of current flows.

Use hard jerk baits, green plastic grubs, hair jigs, minnows and lead heads with feather tails. Green lead heads have been particularly effective in current if allowed to bounce along on the bottom mud. A feather tailed green or florescent orange lead head is deadly if tossed into the edge of a flow and allowed to tumble along with the current. Jig in deep holes and along structure. Jigging holes is one of the most productive methods on the upper river section of the lake. A lead head tossed along the edges of flowing water and allowed to tumble will provide success.

Try the main channel at point 18, Walters Bridge and above point 20. Focus on the center of the river channel above and below the Leadvale ramp. All the water above Swanns Marina is productive. There is good activity above the Leadvale ramp. This information remains unchanged from the previous two weeks report and remains solid, verified information.

CRAPPIE: Good

Crappie are still biting well at all hours of the day. The bite appears to be the strongest in mornings and late afternoons.

Tube jigs, 1/32 ounce hair and feather jigs of various color, minnow or jig and bobber adjusted to just off the bottom all will work well. Crappie spinners have been employed more this week but, the hair jig and bobber still wins out for lure popularity. Let water

coloration be an indicator for color selection. Larger fish appear to be holding in the deeper water.

Fish deeper on muddy points and all quiet water along any rocky shoreline. The shoreline just above Swann's Marina is particularly good for crappie. Indian Creek, Flat Creek, as well as McGuire and Muddy Creeks are all producing decent fish. The bank on both sides at Walters Bridge has produced nice fish. Indian creek has been notorious for producing some very heavy white crappie but has been disappointing over this reporting period. Upstream of Swann's Marina is just plain hard to beat, as well as Nina Creek.

Fish deeper and take advantage of mud holes on the bottom of river channels. Bobbers with a minnow or crappie jig both work well. Crappie spinners tipped with green, yellow or black bait will work alongside brush or rock shorelines.

BLUEGILL: Good

Bluegill are very active across the entire lake at any hour of the day.

Fish against all shorelines that display cover. Bluegill hold in boulders and fallen trees against any shoreline. Fish behind points where current is slowed.

Use bobber with worms, smallest spinner flies, hair flies, tiny hair jigs and try crappie size spinners tailed with either a minnow or green swim bait. Try shrimp also.

Fish any creek bank, especially where rocks are prevalent along the bottom. Fish two to ten feet all day.

CATFISH: Good

Anglers are now targeting catfish and the catches are impressive. Catfish have been hitting at all periods of the day. Fish on the bottom. Blue cats are being caught in the upper river sections of the lake but, channel catfish seem to be the predominant species caught. Catfish seem to have moved into the mouths of creeks and short coves.

Fish against mud banks that contain underwater depressions and mud humps that block current. Rocky shorelines along creek banks are a sure bet. Fish near the mouths of any creek along the shoreline..

Chicken livers and bluegill are the baits of choice

All creeks have yielded good catches.