

## **Fishing Report – March 25, 2022**

With the arrival of spring comes the start of the annual fishing reports, when field experts send in the results their fishing excursions. Remember to dress warm in the spring and to dress for fluctuating weather conditions.

### **Shenandoah River**

Spring fishing is heating up on the Shenandoah River. Water temps are in the mid-50s and visibility is about 2 to 3 feet, as the fish are moving out of their deep winter pools and starting to cruise the middle ledges. We have been catching an increasing number of smallmouth bass over the past three weeks, with a nice showing of larger fish between 16 to 20 inches. They are taking slow-moving paddle tails and jerkbaits in the ledges around the 3- to 5-foot depths. A few of the bigger fish are still eating tubes and ned rigs in deeper pools, as well. Our hope is the bite will increase as water temps climb into the 60s over the next few weeks. This is an exciting time to get out on the and find some of the active larger fish.

### **Lake Royal**

Fish and Explore, an approved contracted vendor with Fairfax County Park Authority, took the first group of kayak fishers out on Lake Royal last Sunday. It was the first day of spring, but spring came in like a lion, with cooler temps and high winds up to 15 mph, causing a bit of a challenge. Fortunately, the guides knew where to go, and participants were undaunted by the weather and ventured out to find fish.

This was a mix of new anglers and a few experienced kayakers, as well. Our guides were happy to help the group find sunfish taking bait, so people were able to get some early action. The more experienced group went to a few lesser-known spots and were able to catch some great largemouth bass. The best of the day, pictured, came close to 4 pounds and was caught on a smaller weightless worm. Artificial worms and jerkbaits also produced some nice fish. With these results, the day goes into the win column.

### **Lake Anna (Hot Side)**

Water temperature was in the 60- to 67-degree range and water visibility was 6-feet deep. Fish were caught on Carolina rigs with plastic salamanders, jerkbaits, weightless worms, and crankbaits. Most fish were caught in 5- to 10-foot water, but the bigger fish were caught in depths of 15 to 25 feet. Biggest fish was 4.13 pounds.