

Fairfax County Fishing Report

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During these past few weeks, there was some rough weather with lower pressure and consistent afternoon storms. But there were still some good moments to get on the water.

The weather has made the bite less consistent, but calmer mornings provided an opportunity to avoid the storms and target fish during a time when they're most active.

Bass are taking soft plastics and shallow crankbaits. Rigged weedless, crawfish, small- to medium-sized worms, and shad imitations have been working in the grass. Shallow crankbaits and other similar lures have enticed bass along the edges of these grass beds and over/around submerged structure.

In the early morning and late evening hours, there has been some topwater action in shallow water along banks. It has still been hard to get a bite with faster lures, such as buzzbaits and walking baits. Perhaps poppers worked slowly would yield better results.

It seems much of the activity one might see on the surface of the water can be attributed to flies and panfish. Crappie are still being found on structure, even as they've moved out of the shallower areas they were located earlier in the spring.

Sunfish are much less abundant than they were during the spawn, but they are on the same grass beds the bass hang around. Much smaller lures like 1/16- and 1/32-ounce jig heads with curly tails are doing the job, but this time of year live bait is probably best.

In rivers with fast-moving water much further west, smallmouth bass can be found in deeper pockets and riffles. Smaller soft plastics, such as shaky heads and crawfish imitations, are producing fish; but with the water warming up, the bite will likely slow down.

Finally, snakehead are increasing their presence all around the grass beds at Burke Lake. They can be spotted on the surface of the water during the hottest parts of the day, but many days getting them to take a lure can feel impossible. White weedless lures have always been a favorite when targeting this species. Chatterbaits also work well further out from areas where weedless lures are necessary.