



March What's Biting Report

Temp: Low 60s

Clarity: Stained

Bass: Good.

As we move into March, the warming weather and a slightly stained lake should move many of the largemouth very shallow quickly, especially if we have a continued warming trend. Expect the largemouth bite to continue to be good around any shallow wood or brush, or around shallow baitfish schools. Shallow-water baits such as Chatter Baits, square bill crankbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Shad Raps are working very effectively. Spinnerbaits and jig 'n pigs are also producing some fish around downed trees. It's also a good time to catch a big fish, even though the numbers may not be that great early in the month. One of the main keys to this type of shallow fishing is to look for warmer water. A ditch or creek run sometimes helps to bring warmer water into an area, especially after a warm rain. Even a 2- to 3-degree difference can have a positive effect. A simple Carolina rigged Zoom green-pumpkin finesse worm is hard to beat just for numbers of fish caught.

Panfish: Good. How good it gets usually depends on weather and water conditions. What we don't want is muddy and cold water below 50 degrees. Look to fish in water with temps around 60 degrees or lower. Live Crickets usually work best in water temps of 60 or higher. Expect the topwater fishing to be the best very early and very late or on overcast days. Bedding fish are mostly less than 1 pound or so, but there are some bigger fished mixed in. Target flat areas used for bedding or the top of humps. The key is finding clearer water for this bite.

Crappie: Excellent. The multiple warm days in late February drastically improved the crappie fishing. Crappie are already being caught in the shallows on jigs under a float, especially in the afternoons. Blowdown trees in 5 to 10 feet of water are still holding some fish, as well. Concentrate on trees that are close to the old creek or river channel. Some crappie are being caught by drop-shotting jigs over or near deeper brush. Expect the shallow bite to turn off in the event of an extended cold snap or get even better with an extended warming trend. Trolling for crappie usually kicks into high during March. Hopefully the water will stay clear as we move into March. Trolling always seems to work better in clearer water. Overall, March is probably the best month for size and numbers of crappie. Expect many of the crappie to bed on the full moon in March this year with the mild winter we have had.

Good luck, but don't stop fishing!

Doug Stinnette

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