

**District 6 (Nate Taylor, Cory Harman) – 304-420-4550**  
**2311 Ohio Ave.**  
**Parkersburg, WV 26101**

## SUMMER

### ***Small Impoundments:***

Summertime is an excellent time to pursue **Largemouth Bass**, and there are countless techniques to catch these fish. If fish are being stubborn, be sure to try working brushy shorelines with weightless worms, flipping jigs into weed beds and cranking deep underwater structures such as points, humps or cut ins. Small impoundments support some of West Virginia's best Largemouth populations, and they are often overlooked by bass anglers. Our four larger impoundments in District 6 (North Bend, Elk Fork, O'Brien, and Woodrum Lakes) all offer bass populations that meet or exceed some of West Virginia's more popular fisheries. Bass surveys are conducted biennially on each of these impoundments. Survey data shows that Elk Fork Lake (Jackson) has the highest density of bass between these four impoundments. Survey catches are lowest for O'Brien Lake (Jackson), but it has the highest density of large fish. Anglers fishing O'Brien have a good chance of catching multiple large fish in a day if they have figured out fishing in muddy water. North Bend (Ritchie) and Woodrum (Jackson) support balanced populations for both size and numbers of Largemouth Bass. It should be noted that all four of these impoundments are *catch-and-release* for all bass, and all have a *10HP* limit for motors.

Summertime fishing for panfish is fun for all ages, and nearly every area waterbody holds populations of **Bluegill** or other sunfish. During recent surveys, Conaway Run Lake (Tyler) and Woodrum Lake (Jackson) stand out as exceptional sunfish fisheries. Bluegill have small mouths compared to their body size, and hook selection important when targeting them. Make sure to use a hook with a small gap width and a long shank to allow for easy removal. For bait, meal and wax worms or bits of shrimp are especially effective. Fish with as little weight as possible to allow a natural drop. Bobbers are great for beginners but are not always necessary. Artificial lures (such as trout jigs, small spinners, and micro crankbaits) are also worth a try. Tiny topwater poppers and dry flies offer great sport. In clear conditions, the smaller the artificial, the better.

**Crappie** fishing is very popular in our small impoundments, and small jigs are the most common method for fishing for these predators. Crappie are usually found suspended tight to brush piles and other woody cover. Crappie typically congregated, and they can be found very deep during summer months. Counting down your jig to find the correct depth is a great way to consistently pull fish out of cover. North Bend Lake (Ritchie) and Woodrum Lake (Jackson) are known to be Crappie hotspots for in District 6.

This is also a good time to fish for **Channel Catfish** in area waters. Night crawlers, chicken liver, or prepared catfish baits fished along the bottom is the tried and true method. Adult Channel Catfish are stocked into several area lakes. These include Conaway Run Lake (Tyler); Cedar Creek State Park Lake (Gilmer); Mountwood Lake (Wood); and North Bend State Park Pond (Ritchie). Also, slower moving, muddy waters found in the upper portions of lakes following rain events are great places to find active Channel Catfish.

### ***Navigable Rivers:***

**Hybrid Striped Bass** congregate in Ohio River tailwaters and creek mouths during the warmest parts of the summer. Large individuals appear to be attracted to the whitewater created from the gates and hydropower outflows. Experienced tailwater anglers often use surfcasting rods and weighted bobbers to get their baits into these areas. Topwater baits, spoons, spinners, and jigs are popular options for this technique. **White Bass** and smaller Hybrids can be picky about bait size during this time of the year. If you see active fish on the surface, but are not getting bites, try downsizing your offering.

**Walleye and Sauger** have generally moved out of tailwater areas during summer; however, a few remain year-round. Concentrate on deep drop offs, stream confluences, and embayments to catch these species. Low light and night fishing are most effective for these nocturnal predators. Their large eyes give them great night vision.

**Catfishing** is a great summertime angling opportunity. The best fishing for these species is at night. We recommend bottom fishing eddies and target outside bends, creek mouths, or tailwaters. Popular Channel and Blue Catfish baits include dough baits, chicken livers, worms, shrimp, and cut fish. Gizzard Shad, Skipjack, and Bluegill are good bets for targeting large Blue and Flathead Catfish.

### ***Rivers and Streams:***

Fishing for **Muskellunge** has been good during recent summers. Hot spots this time of year include areas both upstream and downstream of fast-moving water, and along downed trees. Bucktails and crankbaits are useful in covering water to efficiently locate active fish, but slower baits may be what makes a fish commit. That said, anglers should not rule out fishing at night. High water temperatures push Muskies' metabolisms to their upper limits. If you plan on releasing your catch, be mindful not to over-exert the fish while fighting, and plan on leaving the fish in the water during the unhooking process.