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**Alum Creek, WV 25003**

#### **D5 Reservoirs -**

East Lynn Reservoir (881 acres, Wayne County), is operated by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and provides several different gamefish species for anglers to pursue. Largemouth Bass, Muskie and Crappie are the most sought-after fish in the reservoir. Habitat structures have been added by the WVDNR to provide cover for all species. Areas with felled trees, as well as sunken evergreen tree reefs, are marked with signage and can be easily targeted by anglers. GPS points for these habitat structures are posted at [www.mapwv.gov](http://www.mapwv.gov).

When fishing for Largemouth Bass at East Lynn this summer target areas where the shad are concentrated. East Lynn has a large shad population, an important composition of the Largemouth Bass diet. As water temperatures at the surface reach mid to upper 70's bait fish, such as shad, will move to deeper cooler water at 7-9 feet deep near the thermocline. This is the time to use a drop shot or small swimbait to reach the correct depth of the water column and mimic shad. When surface water temperatures are lower, in the morning and evening hours, the shad will move closer to the surface and differing methods can be used. Swim baits for example, can be affective at these times of the day when fished adjacent to deep ledges, deep structure, weed lines and extended rocky shelves. When using swim baits, fish slow and methodical. Target aforementioned areas, and for best results always attempt to "match the hatch". In other words, mimic the size and forage species that the bass are feeding on at the time.

Crappie fishing in this reservoir is very good. Crappie will school in large number around downed trees which provide this species both escape and ambush cover. The best method to fish for crappie in East Lynn is to first locate downed trees or sunken brush piles. During summer heat Crappie will move to deeper water that tends to be slightly cooler and typically hold more baitfish. Channels with adjacent sunken woody cover or standing timber are prime locations to find schools of crappie at this time of year. Typically, 1/8 to 1/4 oz jig heads are tipped with a live minnow and fished through the entire water column, slowly. This rig allows you to search various depths of the water column and determine whether this tree is holding fish. Additionally, many variations of artificial baits are available for crappie anglers as well. Soft plastic twister tails and grubs from 1-3 inches can be extremely effective in heavy cover around rocks and downed debris. Once you find a school of fish and catch a few, switch from a live minnow to a chartreuse twister tail bait, catch a few more, then switch again. This will continue the bite on that school of fish and may cause bigger fish to strike.

East Lynn has a good population of Muskellunge maintained by annual stockings. When targeting Muskie, locate backwater areas where current is very slow, areas where debris is floating in large piles, fallen trees, standing timber, or any areas with slack water. Muskie are large fish and can grow in excess of 45 inches and weigh more than 25 pounds. There is a large assortment of bait choices for Muskie anglers. Popular summer lures include bucktail style baits like the Mepps Magnum Muskie Killer and various double-bladed offerings. Some soft plastic choices include Bull Dawgs and other large baitfish mimicking baits. As the summer months progress muskie anglers should be aware that these fish are susceptible to delayed

mortality after prolonged encounters with anglers. When you do catch a muskie, keep it in the water as much as possible and return it to the water as soon as you can with limited handling.

Beech Fork Reservoir (711 acres, Wayne County), is also operated by the USACOE and provides several different gamefish species for anglers as well. Largemouth bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, panfish species, and Flathead and Channel Catfish can all be caught at Beech Fork Reservoir. The WVDNR has worked extensively to increase the amount of habitat in Beech Fork Reservoir. Over 35 large trees have been felled and fastened to the shoreline in various areas around the lake. These fish attractant sites are marked with signage and can be easily targeted by anglers. GPS points for these habitat structures are posted at [www.mapwv.gov](http://www.mapwv.gov). These habitat additions provide needed refuge for bait fish, as well as ambush points for gamefish species. When targeting these felled trees and reef structures, probe the inner points of the sunken debris with 1/8 oz spinner baits for an aggressive crappie bite. Certain areas of the lake contain standing timber which will be used by bass to ambush prey. When fishing around standing timber try a higher test fluorocarbon line with a plastic stick bait style worm or grub with a chartreuse tipped tail.

While searching for a pattern, a more aggressive approach can be used to target where Largemouth Bass may be staging at that time. Classic “bird dog” baits such as willow leaf spinner baits, buzz baits, top water baits, jerk baits and lipless crank baits can be very effective to cover water during this time of the year. Once the fish have been located and a pattern has been established, anglers can zero in on a more concentrated approach of finesse fish these active areas of the reservoirs. Once a pattern is established, it should produce results with similar baits in similar areas of the reservoirs. Weightless worms, shaky head worms, wacky rigged baits, tubes and grubs are good examples of baits used in a finesse technique that can entice a Largemouth Bass to strike. These methods are extremely effective around brush piles, downed logs, rock piles and weed lines. The WVDNR has mapped Beech Fork Reservoir and the bathymetry map can be accessed by visiting [www.mapwv.gov](http://www.mapwv.gov).

Beech Fork is stocked annually by the WVDNR with Hybrid Striped Bass fingerlings. Hybrids are aggressive baitfish feeders and will strike at both live bait and artificial lures that mimic shad or other baitfish species. When these fish are actively feeding at the surface rig live bait on a small hook 2-5 feet off a bobber and wait for the strike. Alternatively, an angler can throw a hard stick bait or jerk bait style lure to entice a strike at surface feeding hybrids. Any plug style, rattling lure is an excellent choice when targeting hybrids during daylight or night hours. Trolling is another method that successfully puts hybrids into an angler’s boat. Various search baits which mimic shad movements are available to cover various points in the water column. The key to targeting these fish is to pinpoint where they are feeding and take advantage of their aggressive nature. Special Regulations apply to hybrid striped bass in Beech Fork: daily creel limit of 4 fish, with a minimum size of 15 inches, along with a possession limit of 4 fish.

Beech Fork Reservoir also has a population of Channel and Flathead Catfish. When targeting catfish species bait selections can range from nightcrawlers, leaches, chicken liver, crawdads, grasshoppers, live and lifeless minnows, cut bait and a various multitude of ‘stink’ baits on the market. Flatheads prefer live bait. When rigging for Catfish the most used style hooks are circle hooks. This style hook is designed to ‘set themselves’ therefore reducing the likelihood that the fish will swallow the hook and avoid unnecessary injury. During summer months submerged structure and protected shorelines with adjacent deep water is a good area to locate summer catfish.

**D5 Navigable Rivers -**

The large navigable rivers in District 5 include both the Kanawha and the Ohio Rivers. Both provide opportunities for anglers to target a variety of species. Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, White Bass, Channel catfish, Flathead Catfish, Blue Catfish, Walleye, Skipjack and Sauger can all be caught from these rivers. During summer months close to the tailwaters is a good choice for most species listed due to water being oxygenated as it plunges over the rollers of the locks. Hybrids for example will congregate in tailwaters and creek mouths at this time of year. Topwater baits, spinners and jigs are a popular tactic. White Bass can be pickier about bait selection when the water temps rise so a scaled down presentation is recommended when targeting White Bass.

Summer is a great time for catfishing the large rivers in District 5. Blue and flathead Catfish grow to large size in the Kanawha and Ohio Rivers. These fish can reach more than 40 inches and can weigh over 50 pounds. The best time to fish for this species is during night hours. Target specific areas such as current breaks, outside bends, and creek mouths. Skipjack live or cut is an excellent choice for Blues and other Catfish species. Flathead Catfish prefer live bait, and low light conditions. Channel Catfish can also be found in numbers using a basic river rig on the bottom or a bobber set-up with bait suspended beneath.

### **D5 Rivers/Streams -**

District 5 rivers provide excellent opportunity for a summer float and fish trip. Both the Big & Little Coal Rivers, as well as the Guyandotte River provide excellent opportunities for bank angling and float trips. These rivers are mostly rocky bottomed streams that flow through District 5. The Big and Little Coal rivers feature structure in the form of boulder piles and toe wood banks placed over the last 5-10 years to improve habitat in the river system. Kiosks are located at many public access sites along the Big and Little Coal Rivers that provide useful information on length of a trip and other helpful information. Further information on public access site locations are listed at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov). The location of these river trails is within half an hour from Charleston and provide excellent fishing opportunities.

The Tug Fork River forms the border between West Virginia and Kentucky along the southwestern border of the state. This river is an excellent Smallmouth Bass stream. Muskellunge are also available to the angler. Boating and fishing access from the West Virginia side of the river is scattered but is accessible. Access to the Tug Fork from the Kentucky side of the river is more developed and gives more opportunity to float a day trip. Crawdads are a staple portion of the smallmouth bass diet in the Tug Fork, any lure which mimics this food source is a good choice for Smallmouth Bass. Other baits such as X-Raps, Senkos, spinner baits, rooster tails, curly tail grubs and tubes all work well for Smallmouth Bass. For color choice any natural colors are effective, blue, pumpkinseed, motor oil, watermelon.

### **D5 Small Impoundments -**

Many small impoundments are located throughout District 5. These small impoundments include: Hurricane (Putnam), Laurel Lake (Mingo), Chief Logan Lake SP Pond (Logan), Rockhouse (Logan), Krodel (Mason), Coonskin (Kanawha), Lick Creek Pond (Wayne), Millers Fork Pond (Wayne), and Pettigrew (Kanawha). Target Channel Catfish with bottom or river rigs using liver-based baits or hot dogs soaked in anise (licorice). Other baits that can be used successfully include nightcrawlers, leaches, chicken liver, crawdads, grasshoppers, live and lifeless minnows, cut bait and a various multitude of 'stink' baits on the market. The DNR stocks catchable sized Channel Catfish, prior to free fishing weekend in select locations in addition to fingerlings stocked annually at all managed impoundments. Low light conditions are a great

time to pursue these whiskered fish. Small impoundments provide families with young children opportunities to get out and introduce youth to the sport of angling.