

November Fishing Report

Water temp: mid to upper 50's Clarity: 2-4'

We are going to call this "the year of the shad". I haven't seen so many small (less than 2") shad in a long time. It's amazing with the 2 kills we had last winter that they have come back so strong especially with the slim grass crop we had this year. The shad have evidently spawned during the last little warm spell we had because I found some that were no more than a ¾" long. That unlimited food source and the large schools of bass we experienced this fall say a lot about the quality of this fishery we have here at Pickwick. The abundance of food can make the bass tough to catch so keep changing up baits (mostly in size) until you figure out what it is they want.

Note: this can vary from school to school...

The bass both LM & SM are still biting. The feeding frenzies from a month or two ago have slowed down as the water has cooled off considerably. You need to really slow down and fish an area thoroughly once you locate the fish. Carolina rigged plastics, shaky heads and jigs are accounting for the majority of the fish I am catching. On warmer days the new Burner series of spinner-baits from Strike King have produced good numbers and quality fish. I think the head shape and the downsized blades are reason this bait has produced. We are starting to catch a few on suspending jerk-baits as well. Look for the fish to begin migrating toward deeper water once the temps fall into the lower 50's and high 40's. We'll really have to slow down then!

No news on sauger as yet, we can always hope! Crappie, have picked up, most are coming to trollers, but the tight-liners like me are picking up a few. Most are 15 foot or deeper.

Customers...We are still catching some good fish, numbers are down some but they are still biting. I know I've talked to as few of you about doing the "Float-n-Fly rig I caught a few on it the other day. Water is still too warm to put them where they need to be for the technique. Schooling is still going on just not as pronounced as it was. I've been catching some nice crappie but not many numbers wise, vertical jigging around brush. Some were 26' deep..!

All of us here at **Professional Guide Service** (Roger & Sharon Stegall and myself) would like to thank everyone who made this a banner year for us. We hope that you all have a Merry Christmas and a very blessed New Year.

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