

Fishing Report Sept. 12, 2022
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As water temperatures slowly start to drop this fall, fishing is heating up again. Fall makes for great fishing, as a lot of species, such as bass, start to move back up in shallow waters and feed on everything in sight in order to put on some weight for the winter. So, grab a rod, some baits, and get on the water.

Burke Lake

Early mornings and evenings show some fish activity again at Burke Lake Park. Over the last two weeks, the bass have been actively feedings and chasing schools of bait fish everywhere. Fishing from the bank for bass has been working well, using plastic 5-inch worms on light 16-ounce weights and finding grass beds that these fish are starting to feed on. Bass have not been the only active hunters at Burke Lake, however. Snakehead are also still actively feeding all throughout the lake on the banks and have been caught on topwater lures and weightless soft plastics. These fish also make for great table fare.

Lake Accotink Park and Accotink Creek

Lake Accotink Park and Accotink Creek are some of the best places to go and fish this time of the year when taking the kids and family out for a fun day on the water. Bluegill and sunfish are everywhere around the banks but are commonly being seen around rocky structures or submerged/fallen trees. The best part about fishing for these species is that a simple hook, worm, and bobber is the best way to catch them, and it makes for a great way to get the kids to catch some fish. If you want to step up your game a little and catch these fish on artificial baits, small creature-like baits with curly tails for action are also working well right now. But don't let your guard down, the bass are usually right behind them!

Shenandoah River

The river is a great place to go year-round but especially now during the fall, as the bite is just heating up again! Smallmouth bass are getting active and are starting to move more out of those deep ledges and hunt around for prey. Over the last two weeks at the Shenandoah, reports of smallmouth in the 12- to 16-inch range have been caught on everything from 3-inch plastic worms rigged wacky style, Ned rig style, and Texas rig style. As the water cools down, expect to see them chasing more shiny baits that spin though the water and grab their attention fast.

Occoquan River/Little Occoquan Run

Little Occoquan run makes for a great fishing spot this time of the year. Over the next couple of weeks, expect to see a huge variety of species feeding on bait and getting nice and big for the winter. Some of the fish being caught include sunfish, largemouth bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, carp, and soon the striped bass will be making their way through the river. Recently, some of the baits with the most luck include small shiny spinnerbaits, jerk baits and live baits, such as minnows or worms.