

District 4 (Bob Knight) – 304-256-6947
2006 Robert C. Byrd Dr.
Beckley, WV 25801

Impoundments:

There are two large reservoirs in District 4, Bluestone Lake and R. D. Bailey Lake, that offer anglers a variety of fish to catch. In the summer as water temperatures rise, bass will be active and feeding more than spring. When fishing for bass, start out in the morning by fishing shallow areas with cover, grass, coves, fallen trees or flats. Use baits like shallow running crankbaits, spinnerbaits, topwater lures, and swimjigs. As the temperature rises during the day, bass will look for shade or cooler water. Look for areas with grass, structure or floating vegetation in shallow water or switch to points, drop offs, flats in deeper water. Change your baits to deeper diving crankbaits, Carolina rigs, Texas rigs, drop shots or other baits to reach fish suspended in 10 to 15 feet of water. If you are looking for Striped Bass during summer months, they can be found in deeper water or where water temperatures are below 68 degrees. Find deep water cover off points, humps on the contour of the lakebed, or old river channels. Hybrid Striped Bass and Striped Bass are schooling fish, so use electronics to find a group of fish on your screen. Vertical jigging, lipless crankbaits, and deep diving crankbaits are good lures to use during the summer months. Both Channel and Flathead Catfish are abundant in Bluestone and R.D Bailey Lakes. Blue Catfish are only in R.D. Bailey Lake and can be found in both deep water and shallow areas. Cut bait is the best for blue catfish and channel catfish while flathead prefer live fish as bait. Crappie fishing is good in both lakes and anglers should concentrate on grass flats and submerged timber in deeper water. R.D. Bailey has a good population of Spotted Bass and can be found around deep rocky breaks, points, humps on the lake bottom, suspended around deep timber and bluff walls. Popular lures include crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, jigs, swimbaits, and tubes.

Rivers and Streams:

The New River has an abundant population of Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Musky, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Rock Bass, Common Carp, and Sunfish. Smallmouth Bass can be found in deep pools near shoals and flats, eddies along the bank, fallen timber from the shore, behind boulders in current, or other structures that break the flow of current. As the water warms, Smallmouth Bass will move from the back of the deep pools to the head of the pools closer to the current. Popular lures are jigs, tubes, jerkbaits, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, swimbaits, and crawfish imitations. The Greenbrier river has an abundant population of Smallmouth Bass, Rock Bass and Sunfish. The Guyandotte River is also a good stream to target for Smallmouth Bass. The trout stocking has ended, but there are still many streams with plenty of trout in them and little pressure from anglers. Log onto our website at www.wvdnr.gov and under the fishing section, click on the green highlighted Fishing Map to open our interactive fishing map to find where river access locations are located.

Impoundments:

There are 18 small impoundments in District 4 with good populations of Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Bluegills, Sunfish, and Trout. The State Park Lakes were recently stocked with Channel Catfish also. Bluegill can be caught in early summer in shallow areas with cover or around brush piles in deeper water. Small jigs or minnow imitations work great as well as natural baits like worms, wax worms, and meal worms. Largemouth bass can be found in the shallow areas around any type of structure or vegetation area. As summer temperatures increase, Largemouth Bass will seek cooler water under cover of structures, shady areas along banks or move to deeper water later in the middle of the day. Mornings and evenings will be your best times to catch Largemouth Bass. Channel Catfish is a good fish to target in the

late evenings through dark and can be caught on commercial baits, cut fish and nightcrawlers. Trout fishing is still good even though trout stocking has stopped and there are still abundant numbers available to anglers in several waters. Log onto our website at www.wvdnr.gov and under the fishing section, click on the green highlighted Fishing Map to open our interactive fishing map to find where these lakes are located.