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Your fishing report for September 22, 2017

From the deck of the Kick'n Bass pontoon

The KnB pontoon has been pulling crankbaits and catching mixed bags of crappie and what ever else will take the bait! Curiously, the fantastic white and yellow bass bite disappeared over the matter of a few days. With fall here our target species will be crappies. Can't keep those yellow bass off a hook and they do keep it exciting. The heat and humidity are here for another week or so but that has not stopped the crappie bite. I am still learning something new each trip out and that keeps me going...fishing is ever changing and we all need to keep changing with it.

Lake conditions

The water level has stabilized to average normal pool at 355.50. Temps in mid 60's at night and upper 80's during the day have made for a great morning bite. TVA is keeping the water level steady at this level so watch out for shallow water...always use your GPS map for traveling on the lake. Here is a link to their website.

You can view the lake levels here:

tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Kentucky

Weather forecast

<https://weather.com/weather/tenday/1/42025:4:US>

Crappies

Crappies have settled into their normal pattern on the main lake. Pulling Arkie and PICO crankbaits has produced some nice fish. Best trolling speed has been 1.8 mph. I thought at one point that because we got short struck a couple of times that maybe we were moving to fast. Slowed to 1.6 mph and no bites at all. Lesson learned. Seems the best colors this week have been any lure as long as it was pink or mostly pink.



The Autry group from Owensboro, KY, with a mess of stripes

Fishing the deeper bays over brush and stake-beds has produced some fish but the main concentrations of fish are in the main lake flats. Right now the key to catching crappies is to put in the time and cover a lot of water...you will be rewarded.



Randy Woods caught a 16" slab!



Greg, Nate and Randy Woods from Wabash, IN, Had a great day catching crappies with Captain Rich.

Whitebass

The whitebass report is a little more tricky. The fish have been following the bait balls and keeping up with them has had us moving a lot. Good catches are had with perseverance in moving. I don't care to chase them this much but they don't care about my feelings! SteelShad bladebaits pulled way up off the bottom and hesitated at the top of your pull has been the key. They love to chase their food.

Catfish

Same report as last time but can't help that. We have not fished for cats exclusively but we have caught a ton fishing for other species. We have caught cats casting Steelshads and also trolling crankbaits. Nearly every time we catch a cat while trolling I hear "I didn't know catfish would hit on lures"! Yes, they do!



Captain Rich is slipping--he can't remember this man's name, but he remembers that the catfish was 17 lbs!

Largemouth

We have caught largemouths the last few weeks fishing for other species. Either on SteelShads or crankbaits. I try to keep a sexy shad colored Arkie crankbait on at all times because that is a favorite color for bass. Reeling in a 5 pounder on a 14 foot rod is a treat! Had some small fish and one 4 ½ pound fish this week.

Bluegills and Redears

I did not get the chance to fish for gills and redears this week but have caught some nice gills while trolling and casting SteelShads. We have caught a few in deep water on crankbaits. The redear pictured here is better than a pound!



Denny and Joyce Allen of Markle, IN had a good day on the pontoon. on left, Denny with the one pound red ear; on right, Joyce with a 4.4 lb largemouth.

ATTABOY

Thank you! We had a great time!!!! We will see you again!

—Christina Huse, Wright City, Mo

Book now with Captain Rich!

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