

# Spring Time Is Here... I Hope!

**For March 15, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake from Ky Dam to Paris Landing and Barkley north of US 68*

Here we go again! Spring time is finally creeping in and warmer temps are on the way. Many of you have waited long enough to get back out on the water after a long winter. For once we actually had a winter with some cold and ice and I am ready for those warm spring days. We are still getting some cool nights down in the 30s and 40s but hopefully we can put those days in the rearview here soon.

## **Lake Conditions and What's Happening on the Lake**

**Water Temps:** Low 50s

**Lake Level:** 358' and falling another few feet over next few days

**Water Color:** fairly stained but clearing up every day

As many of you know, we have had a very wet winter and a lot of flooding in the area over the last couple weeks, bringing lake and river levels way up. There were a good majority of fish that made their ways to the banks and flooded cover during the high lake levels. Now that the levels are starting to get back to somewhat normal the fish have been taking their time getting back to their normal for this time of year.

What I have seen over the last few days are a lot of the productive banks that normally hold fish this time of year, are starting to get some small fish moving back up on them with the occasional good one being caught every now and then. I personally haven't seen the numbers that I'd like to but when getting bit it seems to be pretty good quality. I think it will take the lake a few days for most of the largemouth to get back to normal.

I have seen several nice smallmouth over the last few days which is typical for this time of year. This is a great time of year to hook into a personal best smallmouth. Usually when those water temps get into the 50s, those smallmouth will start thinking about spawning. This fishing is right on the edge of busting wide open. Spring is here!!

## **Techniques That Are Working**

**Shallow Cranking** - One of the most productive baits this time of year for covering water are shallow running crankbaits. The best areas the last few days have been those channel banks where the deep water is close by. Chuck rock and gravel transition banks have been the most productive. I always keep a square bill and a little deeper running bait for those deeper banks this time of year.

Specifics - Lucky Craft 1.5 and 1.5 DD, Spro Little John MD, Rapala DT6 and DT10

Colors - Red Craw Colors and Chart or Yellow Craw Colors

**Spinnerbaits** - Spinnerbaits are always a good choice when bait fish are the primary forage. A great search bait around shallow cover. When fish start to show up on shallow wood, rock, or docks a spinnerbait is hard to beat especially on those windy March days.

Specifics - Nichols Pulsator 3/8 oz on shallow wood, 1/2oz on deeper cover

Colors - Chart/White Double Willow

**Lipless** - The lipless is a great search bait when the fish start to migrate towards the creeks and flats. Probably one of my favorite things to do in the spring is to throw a Lucky Craft LV500 around and cover lots of water.

Specifics - Lucky Craft LV500, Bill Lewis Rattletrap, SK Red Eye Shad

Colors - Spring Craw, Delta Red Craw, TO Craw, Rootbeer, Reds

**Jerkbaits** - Another great bait and one that has produced many big fish in the spring time of the year. Fishing channel banks and current breaks, the jerkbait is a very productive bait this time of year.

Specifics- Lucky Craft Pointer 100, Flash Pointer 115, Spro McStick

Colors- Chart Shad, Pearl Threadfin Shad, Chart Colors with water colors

**ARigs and Swimbaits** - Always gonna catch a few on an ARig this time of year if you throw it enough. It's a great bait to throw if you find those bigger schools still schooled up out deep and haven't moved in yet. Good bait to toss around the bank as well.

## **Crappie Fishing**

We are now offering crappie fishing trips. Feel free to email with any questions or if you would like to inquire about a trip. Crappie fishing for the most part is just now getting going again. If you can imagine the high, muddy water had them pretty scattered out. For the most part it has been pretty slow with a lot of reports of guys really struggling to get a limit.

With the water we have had the fish tend to move around a lot and here today gone the next. We cast for them and the brush piles seem to be hit or miss right now. 20' has been the magic depth when you do find a few. Crappie report should get better as water continues to fall and things get back to normal.

For those of you who are not familiar with my service, I competed for 8 years on the FLW Tour. I am a full time Licensed and Insured Captain with First Aid and CPR

certification. I offer one-on-one training for all times of the year, fun bass fishing trips, and electronics lessons on the ins and outs of the new technology. We are now offering crappie trips as well.

I would love the opportunity to share a day with you in my Ranger Z520L or in your own boat to get your electronics dialed in. I am here to help you and to help you become a better angler and to give you confidence in your equipment.

If you are in the area on the North end of Kentucky Lake be sure to stop by Kentucky Lake Outdoors in Calvert City. Be sure to stop in and see Jack, Kevin, or Benji and tell them I sent you. They are fully stocked with anything you read in my reports and if they don't have it, they will get it for you. Also the guys at Jet-A-Marina in Calvert City are our local Ranger Boats dealer and these guys do a great job keeping us running throughout the year. Be sure to stop by and see the brand new service department. See Kerry, Toby, or Clint and I promise you these guys will take care of you.

Follow me on Facebook and Instagram @brandonhunterfishing and @bhunterfishing for product tips and giveaways this year. Please visit [brandonhunterfishing.com](http://brandonhunterfishing.com) and shoot me an email to book your next trip. I'm looking forward to the season and sharing what I learn each day on the water with you!

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