

*Fish Kentucky Lake
with Guide Captain Rich Bay*



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Your fishing report for July 2, 2016

From the deck of the Kick'n Bass pontoon

Weather forecast is for highs in the upper 80's for the next week. Pretty hot so bring alot of water and sunscreen for your ventures out in the lake (or beach!). Looks like a great week to fish and play in the sun again. Being the 4th of July weekend be cautious on the water. There is going to be alot of boats on the lakes area. Check the local paper for fireworks extravaganzas! This report is very similar to the last because conditions haven't changed too much...just hot. Mixed bags of fish has been the norm this week and it is nice to see the Sauger making a comeback in the lake.



Andrea Dunn of Chester IL
shows off her Sauger

Lake conditions

Water temps are 85 degrees in the morning and warming up to about 89 degrees in the afternoons. Water color on the main lake is clear to about three feet. Levels are at summer pool (359.0 elevation) for now and according to the TVA this is the level they are going to hold at through the holiday weekend. Not much water being pulled at this point, at least during the day so we have been doing alot of running from spot to spot.

You can view the lake levels here: tva.gov/Environment/Lake-Levels/Kentucky

Weather forecast

Friday... Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
Highs in the mid 80s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Friday Night... Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.
Lows in the mid 60s. Northeast winds around 5 mph.

Saturday... Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Saturday Night... Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the upper 60s.

Sunday... Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Sunday Night...Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Independence Day...Partly sunny with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 80s.

Monday Night...Partly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Tuesday...Partly sunny with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs around 90.

Tuesday Night...Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70s.

Wednesday...Partly sunny. Highs in the lower 90s.

Crappies

Crappies have settled up into their normal pattern on the main lake. Pulling [Arkie](#) crankbaits has produced some nice fish. I have been varying my trolling speed between 1.6 and 2.1 mph. Seems the best colors this week have been the #3 Sexee Shad and chartreuse/black combo Arkie crankbaits but that can change day to day.. Fishing the deeper bays over brush and stake-beds with minnows has also produced some good catches. Having to sort through a bunch of short fish to find keepers is a good/bad situation.

Largemouth

The summer ledge pattern has taken ahold on Kentucky Lake. Those that the toon has caught were while pulling Sexee Shad crankbaits or tossing a [Steel Shad](#) bladebait for whitebass. Deep diving cranks, Steelshad bladebaits, shaky head worms and Texas rigged creature baits have been catching fish. A few bass fisherman have reported an early morning top water bite on buzzbaits and poppers also.

Redear/Bluegill

I did not get the chance to fish for gills and redears this week but have still seen nice baskets of both at the cleaning. We have caught a few in deep water on crankbaits. An old pattern I've used in the past is to find a long flat in about 10 feet of water and let the current slowly move the boat along. Bounce a piece of crawler on a bare hook with a split shot one foot above the hook and be ready!



Mikayla Thompson from Phoenix with a nice slab



Cynthia Leadingham of Houston with a beautiful largemouth



Bubba Lopez from East Chicago, IL

Whitebass

The Whitebass are moving into their summer patterns as well. They are stacking up on river channels and deep flats mid lake. Only problem we have had is the lack of current to get the baitfish excited and the other fish to start chasing. No current means less oxygen for the fish in this hot weather which causes them to be sluggish...but they still gotta eat! We have caught a bunch on [Steel Shad](#) blade baits and [Ken's](#) Hybrid spinners. Occasionally I like to use a slab spoon to keep my lure near bottom especially when the TVA is not pulling any current. Best tip for catching stripes is to always stay in contact with the bottom. What I mean by that is raise the lure up off the bottom but you have to let it flutter back to the bottom. They like to chase and attack their food and letting your lure flutter back towards the bottom will pick up a lot of fish. The whites are deep and relating to current on the main lake and near the mouth of the bays. Large yellow bass have been mixed in with the stripes along with a few sauger.



Nathan Ratcliff had fun catching this cat!

Catfish

Catfish have spawned and are being caught from 12 to 60 feet deep. Juggers have had a rough time because the cats are just not in the bays very thick. Caught several on cranks this week. Night crawlers or chunk stink baits on a catfish rig are taking lots of channels, flatheads and bluecats right now and I would think the cat bite is going to keep getting better. Catfish rigs fished near deep rocky areas are producing along with cut bait and stink baits. Check out the [Rippin' Lips](#) website. I'm using their line of rod combos, terminal tackle and jars of stinkbait to catch some good fish. The new bait chunks that we are testing have caught some nice fish so stay tuned for these new products!



Ann, Nathan and Cody Ratcliff with their upcoming fish fry!

If you are in the lakes area and need boat/motor work look up [Jet-A-Marina](#). They can get you back up and running at a good price. They have been tremendous to Kick'n Bass.

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