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Your fishing report for May 2 , 2017



Maddox Nechville of
Glasgow, KY

From the deck of the Kick'n Bass pontoon

Well, the last three weeks have been exciting! Fishing has been excellent for the most part. Wind, rain and cold fronts have made it tough but working hard to keep on the fish has paid off! Between crappies, largemouth, stripers and a few sauger, the fishing has been a mixed bag of fillets. With redear/bluegill season just getting underway, the steam heading into summer is full speed ahead!

Lake conditions

Water temps are about 68.5 degrees in the morning and warming up to about 73 degrees in the afternoons. These temps are perfect for pulling cranks crappie fishing as long as they are steady. Weather forecast is for steady temps but some storms...overall May is going to be great for fishing! Water levels are at 357.0 and they are predicted to stay at that level for the near future. TVA is pulling 150,000 cfs right now to accommodate the storms that are blasting the area this last week. Rain, rain...go away!!

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



The Buckingham crew from St. Louis



The Traylor group from Louisville



A two-pound whopper from Tracy Hitt, Champaign, IL

Weather forecast

<https://weather.com/weather/today/l/42025:4:US>

Crappies

These last few weeks have been just fantastic for fishing...especially for crappies! Some weather has caused a couple of rough trips but the bite and the spawn are on. The KnB pontoon has been pulling crankbaits exclusively. With the water temps and the water rising and then being lowered as rapidly as the TVA are doing it, my best way to find these scattered crappie is by covering A LOT of water. The deeper bays have been where I have concentrated my efforts these last few weeks and all the crappies have been prespawn with eggs. The West KY biologist has told me the reason for these fish with eggs is that some just do not move up to spawn. They will spawn in deeper water than most.

We have had fish from 6 inches to 17 inches! Yesterday's near 17 inch white female crappie by Ernie Knepp from Indiana has been the largest to date this year...full of eggs from 18 feet of water. Best speed has been 1.8 mph but when the cold fronts move in, I have slowed to 1.6 mph. Best color has been changing nearly daily. Luckily I have a huge stash of every color Arkie crankbait that they make. Lately the black/gold 350 series and the various chrome lure colors have been like dynamite. Also, some days a Perch colored Arkie has done the trick. I ALWAYS run some pink or pink variation as a constant....best crappie color in my opinion. In fact, the 5 pound largemouth we caught last week was on a pink crank in 15 feet of water. Some fish are coming from shallow water stake beds but I have not fished shallow at all....staying away from the crowds.



The Knepp family, Montgomery IN



Jim Strange of Louisville with his black crappie



Dan Crede Champaign, IL
Kevin Stille, Phoenix, AZ



Bob Craig group, Paducah, KY

Other Species

Same report as my last report on other species. Haven't fished for any other types of fish but we have had incidental catches of largemouth (to 7 pounds), yellow bass (some good sized fish) and a bunch of perfect eating sized whitebass. Have had several sauger but only one longer than the 14 inch minimum. Haven't fished yet for redear and bluegill but have seen some good, prespawn catches of both. Some great catches of cats by the catfishers too.



Gigi Selchert Fox Lake, IL
with her five pound bass



And the winner is...
Richard Ebright's
seven pounder!

ATTABOY

*Rich, just wanted to again say we loved and appreciated all your hard work you put in,
to guide us the last 2 days. We will be back!*

—Ernie, Kendall, Ryan, Alan and Braxton Montgomery, IN.

Book now with Captain Rich!

Gift certificates available

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