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November 4th, 2011

Lake Conditions

Lake Levels ... As of this morning both lakes are holding steady at winter pool give or take a few inches. **Boaters** – Be aware of the depth you are running in at all times and use the channel markers to navigate when appropriate as both lakes are approximately 4' below summer pool levels.

Water Conditions ... The water on both Lakes is in great shape for fishing.

Water Temps ... Surface temps on both lakes are in the High 50's in the morning and warming to the low 60's in the afternoon on sunny days.

November Open Dates ... I have several days open in November give me a call (270)703-6133 and let's put a trip together.

Fishing Report

Rockfish (Striped Bass)



With the larger shad migrating to the shallows the land locked Striped bass, commonly known around here as Rockfish, are moving into the bays. Some nice fish are being caught too. *(Photo - Matt Quinn and Rich Bay with a nice catch with a Ken's Barbella Rig)* Hooking up to one of these brutes is like having your lure hung on the back bumper of a runaway pickup truck. I had one nearly spool me off before I could get my trolling motor on high and get the fish under control. The best opportunity to catch them is fishing in the early morning hours or the last hour before sunset. Also we've had some action in the afternoon to when the wind lays and

the schools of shad are on top. Best areas are chunk rock banks or flats mid way in the bays. We've seen them busting shad on the main lake when it's calm but the biggest

concentration of fish seem to be in the bays following the bigger shad. Casting top water baits, or using a Steel Shad will catch them and don't discount the multi bait rigs like the Ken's Barbella rig (*photo below*) Rockfish are a blast to catch and an excellent eating fish too.

Ken's Barbella Rig a good choice for Bass and Stripers ...



Ken McGregor (*Fisherman's Friend in Lake City 270-362-4323*) has been making striper rigs for years. Recently, the attention the multi-rig baits have been getting in bass tournaments has opened many anglers' eyes to the fish catching ability of these type baits for other species. Some amazing catches are being made on this type of lure. I can tell you that this rig is a killer on suspended fish. Cast and reel it through a school and hang on and don't be surprised if you get multiple hook ups! The Barbella Rig comes in 4, 5 & 6 bait versions to suit your type of fishing. **Rod & Reel combo ...** Having the proper rod and reel is essential in working the bait. A 7' or longer rod with a fast tip action and a baitcasting reel loaded with 65 lb braid seems to be a pretty good combo to cast the lure. The braid will help you dislodge the lure should it get hung up. I use **ZMan PaddlerZ** on a 1/8 oz

head depending on the type of fishing you're doing. The following retailers in the Lakes area have the Barbella Rig in stock; Fisherman's Headquarters at the "Y" in Draffenville, Bass & Gas on HWY 68 and The Cabin Bait and Tackle in Kuttawa.

Bass Fishing ... Overall bass fishing is better this week with the best bite coming when it warms some from mid morning to early afternoon. Baitfish are everywhere and the bass population is not only spread out but feasting on a continuous smorgasbord of shad. While we're finding it difficult at times to compete with Mother Nature, there are some fish to be had. Some of our clients have managed to catch some pretty good fish too!

Best Pattern ... A good number of bass are being caught along chunk rock banks, next to deep water whether it's in the bays or on the main lake points. The nod for most consistent areas would go to the bays from the mid-section to the back but don't discount the main lake points at the mouth of the bays. Concentrate on gravel banks that have deeper water very close to the bank. Specifically look for those banks that have at least 8 feet of water no more than 40 feet from the shoreline. The baitfish are in the shallows eating the algae off the rocks and the bass aren't far behind. During the low light conditions the baitfish appear to be up very close to the bank and as daylight comes on or wind hits the bank they go slightly deeper. A lot of bass are holding on the breakline and moving from the deeper water to the shallows and back chasing the shad. Catch one in an area and usually there are others, so if you catch a bass work the area slowly before moving on. Slightly paralleling the bank with your cast isn't a bad idea either. The best baits are a Steel Shad fished with a varying retrieve, a SPRO McStick jerk bait in Table Rock shad fished slowly with a jerk, jerk and pause retrieve and the Barbella Rig on a moderate retrieve. This pattern seems to be the most productive for us. **Ledge Fishing ...** If you find a ledge with some fish on it they are usually pretty cooperative. Best areas seem to be 8-12 feet deep where the ledge transitioned into deeper water. Secondary channel drops near the mouth of the bays are areas of opportunity right now. Most productive baits were a mixture of a *Steel Shad blade bait, a ZMan Shakey Head and a ZMan Scented PaddlerZ Swim Bait.*

Top Water ... the Best action is occurring during reasonably calm conditions in the very early morning or late evening hours along chunk rock banks and in the very back of the

bays. The most productive bait has been the Spro McStick in Table Rock Shad. We're Jerk Baiting the Spro McStick with a jerk; jerk & pause retrieve to catch a few fish. A Super Spook is a close second.



Crappie Fishing ... Is pretty darn good! We're catching a lot of crappie over brush about 10 feet deep with minnows on a slip bobber rig or casting 3/32 oz KY Green or Blue Pearl curly tails. A large number of non-keeper 8-9 inch fish are being caught right now ... you just have to be patient and work thru the little ones. Usually by the end of the day we'll manage to have a decent amount of quality fish in the pound to a pound a half range too. I plan to cook a mess this weekend.

White and Yellow Bass (Stripes) Both species are in the bays, on main lake flats and secondary channel flats chasing baitfish. While we weren't focusing on these species we caught some really nice fish this week and plenty of them when bass fishing. A **Steel Shad** or a **Ken's Hybrid Spinner** are the two best baits for this type of fishing.

Catfish, Bluegill & Redear ... We didn't fish for these species this week therefore there is no report.

Sonar Tip of the Week





The screen shows a well defined ledge next to the Tennessee River channel. The Largemouth Bass we caught were positioned on the shallow side as well as on top of the ledge. Smallmouth Bass were positioned on the steep side of the ledge. Richie Head (*Photo*) from Tennessee caught this Smallmouth Bass on a Shakey Head on the river side of the ledge. Our HDS 10 not only located these fish but gave us an idea of how deep we needed to fish to catch them. Without the aid of our electronics, locating a "sweet spot" like this wouldn't have been possible.

Attention: High Definition System Owners

Read the owner's manual or watched a DVD and still baffled? Let's clear up your Sonar confusion. Have your unit(s) programmed by someone who depends on the HDS technology daily. Together we can make your units more user friendly and help you become a better angler.

Here's just some of what Kick'n Bass can do for YOU!

- **Make sure your HDS unit(s) has the correct settings for the type of fishing you do. In most cases the units factory default setting is set for "general use" not specific.**
- **Program the individual screens and install the overlay data on the screen that you want. Example: Depth, Water Temp, Time, etc.**
- **Arrange the screens so they display what you want them to show and make going from page to page orderly and non-confusing.**
- **Eliminate unwanted, non-practical on screen data that clutters your screen and gets in the way of using your unit to its maximum potential.**
- **Demo the unit for you to help you be familiar with the screens and commands, so you'll have a good understanding of how to use the unit and take advantage of its fish finding capabilities.**
- **If needed, install the most recent updates.**

As a bonus Kick'n Bass will help you learn to read an electronic topo map and find "places of interest" that could be potential fishing hot spots. For more information, please visit my website at <http://www.kicknbass.net>

Get Ready for Spring Fishing ... Call Now! (270)703-6133

To view the Kick'n Bass Video Fishing Tip if the week
Click on this link <http://www.kicknbass.net/video.htm>

Tournament News ...

Hoosiers Horn & Tiemens Have Big Last Day for Top 10 Finish in Ted's Aqua Marine Tournament ...



Congratulations to **Jake Horn & Rob Tiemens** who came back from a rough first day to catch a 21lb sack and finish the tournament in 10th place. Here's what they had to say about their Kick'n Bass Tournament Prep.

Randy, we wanted to make sure and tell you thanks. We wound up taking 10th place out of 109 boats. The map study, bait selection and pattern you put us on was instrumental in our success. 32.32 pounds after 2 days is proof of that. We're working guys and coming from Indiana and trying to figure out a massive body of water like Kentucky Lake is just not feasible in a couple days. Also the tune up you did on our Lowrance electronics was a huge factor in our success. The clarity and ease of use of the unit after the updates and programming allowed us to able to run a creek and structure scan the transition areas to find the baitfish. Finding the transition areas that held baitfish was the key to getting bit on the high pressure day that we had. We'll be heading back down and we will be looking you up again.

Thanks Again,

Jake Horn & Rob Tiemens

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

Randy Kuhens

If you want to talk fishing or book a trip with Randy Kuhens call him at (270) 703-6133 or email him at rk@kicknbass.net