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**March 8th, 2012**

**\*\*\* Special Announcement \*\*\***

Relief is in sight involving the **Eggners Ferry Bridge** and a plan to reopen it to traffic. Governor Steve Beshear announced today that a contract has been awarded to repair the Eggners Ferry Bridge on Kentucky Lake. This is news that thousands of people have been eager to hear. Thursday the state awarded a \$7 million contract to a company that promises to complete repairs by Memorial Day. The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet awarded the contract to Hall Contracting of Kentucky, Incorporated. The same company completed repairs ahead of schedule to reopen the Interstate-64 Sherman Minton Bridge in Louisville. The contract includes a \$50,000 per day penalty for the company for every day it misses the deadline.

**Lake Conditions**

**Lake Levels and Water Conditions ...** As of this morning both lakes were approximately 1.5 feet above winter pool. Early this morning we had a front move thru the area bringing torrential rains to the lakes area and it has rained steadily throughout the day. As of 6PM this evening the bays and creeks are beginning to cloud up on Kentucky Lake and over the next 12 hours my guess is that the lake will rise and the water color will become quite dingy in the bays from the runoff in the back. Lake Barkley traditionally dirties up quicker so my guess is that over the next 12 hours that Barkley will quite a bit of color in it. Below is up to date and projected lake level forecast. For additional info on Kentucky Lake visit the TVA website: [http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh\\_r.htm](http://www.tva.gov/lakes/kyh_r.htm)

**Predicted Data**

Day	Average Inflow*	Midnight Elevation*	Average Outflow*
3/08/2012	113,460	355.72	91,450
3/09/2012	101,930	355.53	91,000
3/10/2012	89,623	355.32	91,000

**Weather Outlook**

**Friday...**Mostly sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. North winds 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday Night...**Clear. Lows around 30. Northeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday...**Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s. East winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday Night...**Mostly clear. Lows in the lower 40s. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday...**Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s. Chance of precipitation 40 percent.

**Sunday Night...** Showers likely and a chance of thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. Chance of precipitation 70 percent.

## Fishing Report – Pre-Spawn 101

March is a transitional month for a lot of species here on Kentucky Lake. With the warmer than normal water temps we've had this winter and the unseasonably warm days we've had, the pre-spawn period is rapidly approaching.



Largemouth bass begin pre-spawn actions when the water temperature is between 55 degrees and 60 degrees. Smallmouth bass go pre-spawn a little earlier when the water temperature is between 50 degrees and 58 degrees. Currently our water temps are hovering in the mid 50's and in some areas of the lake that are affected by Southerly winds and long periods of sunlight, the water temps could go even higher. During the pre-spawn, a couple of degrees can make a huge difference where the fish will be located. If you find an area that is warmer than the others, that's where the more aggressive bass are going to be. While it's true bass spend most of their inactive time in deeper water this time of year they will move shallow to feed. The best times for success coincide with the Prime Feeding Times ...

<http://www.solunarforecast.com/solunarcalendar.aspx> and the most productive areas this time of year have shallow cover close to deeper water. Start in areas that are facing northwest and look for the warmest water you can find

between deep water and the spawning flats."The 55 degree water we experienced this week is significant as it has initiated a major move in the bass population. **Smallmouth Bass** are definitely in pre-spawn mode and the huge females are setting up on the deeper drops adjacent to spawning flats. Best baits seem to be Jerk Baits and Steel Shad Blade Baits. Some of the fish are suspending along the first noticeable drop off of main lake points and at the ends of the long tapering points at the mouth of the bays. **Largemouth bass** ... are being caught on main lake points, gravel banks and on the deeper flats at the mouth of the bays. Best baits are ZMan finesse worms on a 3/16 oz PJ's bass extractor jig and Steel Shad blade baits. In WINDY CONDITIONS, which we have this week, a pretty good pattern was to cast shakey heads to windblown points and gravel banks in the bays and drag the lure Carolina Rig style. A good

many fish were caught this way. Ad back up plan has been to drag a jig. Some bass are suspended over brush in deeper water and are being caught on A-Rigs and SPRO Little John crank baits in shad and crawfish pattern. Last year we had a minor spawn in March and it's possible that we could see some early spawners if the unseasonably mild weather continues. If you know how to use your *High Definition Electronics* you'll find these fish in these areas. As always, the trick is catching them. *Jeff Swearingen of Illinois, (Photo) with a huge pre-spawn female bass caught on a PJ's Bass Extractor Shakey Head Jig and Z-Man Finesse worm.*



**Crappie Fishing** ... has been inconsistently good. What I mean by that is we've had to keep moving from brush pile to brush pile and rotating baits to catch a good mess. We've caught them a number of ways ... backing off and casting 3/32 oz. Kentucky Green Curly Tails, casting a

slip bobber with a minnow to the brush and slow rolling Steel Shad Blade Baits on flats adjacent to drop offs that have brush placed on the drop. The ratio of keeper to non-keeper fish is still running about 3 to 1 but the action is good. An added bonus to the flat fishing is catching some very aggressive **Yellow Bass** and some of them are running pretty good size. Keep your fingers crossed that the dirty water and windy frontal conditions doesn't throw a monkey wrench into what appears to be a really good start to March. Either way it will be only a minor set back as the lakes recover quickly.

## GUIDED PONTOON FISHING TRIPS ...



### **Kick'n Bass Guide Service Offers Pontoon Trips for the Whole Family!**

That's right, nobody gets left behind! Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa and the kids can go too! Catch fish from our newly acquired state of the art fishing machine and have fun doing it! Crappie, Bass, Bluegill, Redear, Stripes or Catfish ... the choice is yours. Don't want to fish, rather relax and chill out? No problem, we can customize your trip. If you have something special in mind just let us know. Contact us well in advance for reservations. Email: [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)

## Sonar Tip of the Week

*I have two HDS 8s, one on the bow and another at the console. Also I have an HDS 5 installed in the dash. I've been extremely frustrated with them. I called Kick'n Bass for help. Randy went to work on my units and quickly identified that the 8s were not talking to each other and cleaned up a lot of clutter. Also he set up easy to use short cuts of screens that would be most in use. Each and every time Randy asked for my input and asked about how I fished and what I would want the units to do for me. Randy is a Lowrance pro staffer and has the ability to fine tune graphics, program and diagnose units. When it came to the new HDS 5 he discovered cables had NOT been installed by my dealer to the side scan unit. I was upset. Randy called Matt Quinn at Bass and Gas, a local Lowrance dealer, and asked if he would install the missing cable. (This was on a Sunday morning no less!) Matt asked us to meet him in 20 minutes at his store and when we arrived he was there with tools and the cables. In no time he installed what was needed and Randy was able to complete his upgrades, shortcuts and balance of the entire system. A demonstration on the water showed me the ins and outs of the capabilities. I was speechless. What a transformation! I may not be the best fisherman but am now confident the electronics are telling me what is in the water. Now I just need to spend the time on the water getting comfortable with my system. I cannot say enough about Randy and Matt. Kick'n Bass and Bass & Gas are FIVE STARS for customer service and PLATINUM for customer satisfaction!!!!!! I highly recommend both of them. Frustrated with your electronics? Give Kick'n Bass a call, you won't be disappointed. (P.S. I asked about locks or security systems for my HDS system and Matt had them in stock but then what blew me away, he installed them at no charge and color coded the key locks for me, geez that's good stuff)*

John Watz - Clarksville, TN.



*Talk about being at the right place at the right time ... finding a school of Yellow Bass having a feast on a huge school of baitfish. Three of us used Steel Shad blade baits to catch yellows for about an hour before the school got wise and moved on. The offshore bottom structure in the photo is significant. The bottom contour forms a saddle and the rise on each side of the saddle forms a ledge which is idea for holding game fish. Without the aid of our Lowrance HDS finding a hotspot like this wouldn't have been possible. Quite frankly finding this spot turned what was a very slow day of fishing into a blast! You can find places like this too. Let Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class" help you get the most out of your system. Contact [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)*

## ***What is Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class"?***

**Kick'n Bass offers a one on one, hands on, in your boat using your electronics class that will take your understanding and know-how to another level! IF YOU'RE CONFUSED, FRUSTRATED, AND NEED ANSWERS then Kick'n Bass' "On the Water Sonar Class" is for YOU!**

**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 system 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.**
- **Learn how to assign a waypoint to a fishing hot spot and find it again.**
- **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.**

**You've Made a Significant Investment in Electronics. Learn to Use Them to Their Full Potential.**

**Don't Wait ... NOW is the time to get it done. Spend time now using your system and be ready for Spring Fishing!**

**Call Now! (270)703-6133 or email [rk@kicknbass.net](mailto:rk@kicknbass.net)**

Thanks for reading Kick'n Bass' fishing report!

Tight Lines ...

*Randy Kuhens*