

## *Kentucky Lake's Bass, Crappie and Bluegill Action Good*

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Kentucky Lake's fishing scene continues to heat up as anglers have gotten off to a pretty good start during the first week of June here on the big pond.

Surface temperatures this week climbed to the 79 to 82 degree range as summer weather descended even though seasons don't change for another couple of weeks---June 21 to be exact.

Lake levels are staying pretty much around the normal summer pool elevation of 359 in the Kentucky Dam and Paris Landing area while upstream around New Johnsonville readings are forecast to be in the 358.8 for the weekend. Water color remains clear across the reservoir.

Bass fishing continues to hold up well as it has pretty much all spring. Hefty stringers were taken this week by both tournament anglers and those just fishing for fun. It has taken well over a 5-pound average to win recent tournaments.

A lot of anglers are catching fish in shallow water where tossing buzzbaits and other assorted topwater lures have paid off as have spinnerbaits and Texas rigged worms. The clear water conditions have worked in favor of topwater fishing, especially on some cloudy mornings.

Most of the winning tournament stringers are coming from anglers casting big deep diving crankbaits, jig and craw combos, 10-inch Texas rigged worms and huge swim baits on main lake ledges. The drop-offs started producing fish a few weeks ago and continue to pay dividends.

Crappie action continues to improve as some nice stringers were taken this week in midrange stakebeds and brush piles. Depths of 10 to 14 feet were holding more fish than last week at this time.

June has long been a month that's overlooked and underrated by most crappie anglers who still fall under the heading of "spring only" anglers.

Baits of choice have been 1/6 to 1/8 ounce jigs sporting such colored skirts as red/chartreuse and motor oil with red glitter. Tipping jigs with minnows has enticed strikes and adding Berkley's crappie nibbles has helped too.

The fish are showing more interest in biting and also making the transition toward structure. Often times crappie are sluggish and somewhat stressed in the post-spawn phase but slowly begin to rebound in early June and it appears they are doing just that.

Some late bedding bluegill are still being caught as anglers back off the banks and work deeper, open water beds. Another full moon late next week will trigger some late bedding activity and also on the horizon will be Mayfly hatches that will offer some good bluegill action.

Catfish are coming in from a few jug fishermen baiting up with chicken livers, nightcrawlers, leeches, and shad. Watch for action to improve in the main river areas too once current returns in the river channel.

A lot of catfish are still lingering in midrange depths as some dandies are still being caught by both shallow water bluegill fishermen and crappie anglers working stakebeds and other structure.

Some windy days and hot weather have challenged anglers at times but the overall fishing scene has been productive for a variety of species this week.