

## ***ANGLERS HOPING FOR COOLER CONDITIONS AS FALL NEARS***

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With the Labor Day weekend now in the rearview mirror Kentucky Lake anglers are anxious to see a cool snap and perhaps an early arrival of fall. It appears a little rain and slightly cooler temps are in-store for the weekend but it may be the middle of next week before the area says goodbye to 90-degree temps.

Surface temperatures this week lingered around the 85 to 86 degree range. Water color remains clear across most of the reservoir despite a few localized thunderstorms earlier this week.

Lake levels are projected to be in the 356.5 range at Kentucky Dam this weekend and 356.3 upstream in the New Johnsonville sector, which is similar to last week's elevation.

Grassbeds continue to expose themselves south of the Paris Landing area on the Tennessee River and that has appealed to bass fishermen lately. A lot of baitfish are relating to the Eurasian watermilfoil, pondweed, and spiny leaf that is abundant in shallow areas but also growing in matts near deeper water.

Island rims and flats in secondary channels behind islands have thick grass showing all the way toward the New Johnsonville sector.

Tossing weedless lures in the thicker grass has worked well as have some floating flukes and worms. On the parameters spinnerbaits, worms, buzzbaits, and assorted jerk baits are producing strikes.

The summer pattern of main lake ledges is still alive and well too. Several boats are still targeting the drop-offs and tossing big Texas rigged worms, crankbaits, swimbaits, Carolina and Alabama rigs, and jig and craw combos.

Crappie action has been fair lately with several fish relating to structure in the 11 to 14 foot depth range. Vertical fishing jigs and jigs tipped with minnows have worked. A few deeper areas have also given up some scattered fish.

Watch for improvement soon as September crappie will respond quickly to a slight drop in surface temperatures.

Catfish continue to bite on the hooks of crappie anglers working the midrange depths. While a few fish have been taken along the main Tennessee River channel bank lately in depths of 30 to 40 feet there are still a good number of fish that have not gone deep.

Fall's transition hasn't started just yet but watch for a cool snap soon that will likely have a positive influence. Once surface temps fall back a few degrees the overall activity will perk up.