

2018 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2018 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2017 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. This handout is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improving their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2018 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2018 Fishing and Boating Guide.

To locate fishing access sites in Kentucky, visit our website and click on "Fish" and then "Find a Place to Fish". You will be able to search for your favorite water bodies and get directions to all major boat launches and access sites.

Opening day of the 2018 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting good store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2018 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast was partially financed through funds provided by your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels under the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Program.



New and Expanding Fisheries in 2018

- The lake at Southland Christian Church on Harrodsburg Road in Nicholasville (Jessamine County) will be added to the Fishing in Neighborhoods (FINS) program in 2018.
- Grants Branch Lake (Pike County) will now be stocked with channel catfish and rainbow trout each year.
- The following lakes will now be stocked with channel catfish: Willisburg Park Pond (Washington County), Pikeville City Lake (Pike County), Blackberry Creek Park Pond (Pike County), Elk Horn Park Pond (Floyd County).
- Eagle Lake in Rowan County will now be stocked with rainbow trout and channel catfish.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located at the end of this publication. For those looking for a quick answer to where the best fishing can be found for each species, the Cheat Sheet is your guide. The Cheat Sheet lets you know which lakes are forecasted to provide good to excellent fishing for each of your favorite fish species. Just look up the species you are interested in and then see which lakes have a check mark next to them. These are the lakes which will provide the best chance for a memorable fishing trip for that species. The Cheat Sheet is located on two pages, so if you don't see the species you are interested in on the first page; make sure to check the following page.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes and rivers have shown improvements in their fisheries in the last year. You might try to get in on the action at the following water bodies:

- Largemouth bass at Martins Fork Lake (Harlan County).
- Bluegill at Boltz Lake (Grant County).
- Crappie at Boltz Lake (Grant County) and Yatesville Lake (Lawrence County).
- Blue catfish at Lake Beshear (Caldwell and Christian counties).
- Channel catfish at Carr Creek Lake (Knott County), Kingfisher lakes (Daviess County), Pennyrite Lake (Christian County), and the Kentucky River.
- Flathead catfish at Yatesville Lake (Lawrence County).
- White bass at Cave Run Lake (Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties), Kentucky Lake (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston, and Trigg counties), and Green River Lake (Adair and Taylor counties).
- Saugeye at Guist Creek Lake (Shelby County).
- Redear sunfish at Lake Reba (Madison County).
- Hybrid striped bass at Paintsville Lake (Morgan and Johnson counties).

Late Winter/Early Spring Fishing Frenzy

As warm winds begin to flow over Kentucky, put your new fishing license to good use by trying a few early spring fishing hot spots. In March, fish activity begins in the smaller bodies of water such as farm ponds and smaller public lakes as water temperatures reach the 50's. These smaller, shallower bodies of water warm quicker than reservoirs in spring. Late winter and early spring may be the best time of the year to catch big fish.

Trophy largemouth bass, especially females, are at their heaviest weight of the entire year during late winter and early spring. Female bass feed heavily during this time to provide fuel for the upcoming spawn. Farm ponds and public lakes are prime spots for early spring largemouth bass fishing before the larger bodies of water warm enough for bass to feed.

A few of the best lakes for catching trophy bass in spring are Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Lake Malone in western Kentucky along with Cedar Creek, Kincaid and Guist Creek lakes in central Kentucky. Greenbo Lake in northeast Kentucky and Wood Creek Lake in southeast Kentucky both produced multiple state record largemouth bass in the past. Woods Creek Lake is the home of the current 13-pound, 10.4-ounce state record. Barren River Lake in west-central Kentucky, Lake Beshear and Lake Mauzy in west Kentucky along with Herrington and Green River lakes in central Kentucky also offer excellent early spring bass fishing. Dewey Lake, Fishtrap and Fishpond lakes give east Kentucky anglers a great shot for an early spring trophy largemouth bass.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River, Kentucky, Cumberland, Laurel River, Dale Hollow and Fishtrap lakes for a good chance at catching the smallmouth bass of a lifetime in late winter and early spring. Streams also provide excellent fishing for smallmouth bass in early spring throughout central and eastern Kentucky. Adult fish migrate from their winter habitat in deep, slow moving holes in the lower sections of streams to spawning areas in smaller tributary streams. Elkhorn Creek, South Fork, Licking River and several upper Kentucky, Green and Barren River tributaries offer the best spring fishing opportunities for smallmouth bass. The upper Levisa Fork is also a great smallmouth fishery.

Slab crappie are ready to be caught, beginning in late winter, at many reservoirs in central and western Kentucky. Catches of crappie over 12 inches are not uncommon at Barkley and Kentucky lakes during this time. Black crappie move into shallow water well before the spawning season in early March, so start early for these fish. Other good bets for crappie include Herrington, Taylorsville, Cumberland, Dewey, Rough, Nolin, Barren and Buckhorn lakes as well as Ohio River embayments.

Excellent white bass fishing can be found during the early spring in the upper sections of reservoirs such as Barkley, Cave Run, Nolin River and Herrington lakes. The Kentucky, Green and Ohio rivers offer excellent spring white bass fishing.

During late winter, sauger and walleye fishing peaks in tailwaters below dams on the Ohio, lower Kentucky, Cumberland and Tennessee rivers. Lake Cumberland, Laurel River and Carr Creek lakes possess excellent walleye fisheries.

If you are interested in muskellunge, they move in spring to shallow shoreline structure and headwater areas in search of warmer water at Cave Run, Green, Buckhorn and Dewey lakes. Remember, a 36-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit is in effect for muskellunge at these four reservoirs.

Do not forget to take advantage of trout waters such as seasonal catch-and-release trout streams, lakes stocked with trout in winter months, Fishing in Neighborhood (FINs) lakes stocked with trout and the Cumberland River tailwater and Hatchery Creek below Lake Cumberland in late winter and early spring. Trout bite willingly in cold water.

Try these late winter and early spring hot spots. Not only will they cure your cabin fever, but you might catch the fish of your lifetime.

2018 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2017 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2018.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
AJ Jolly Lake	175 acres	(Campbell County)
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked in summer of 2017. Good numbers of channel catfish over 12 inches present. Low numbers of blue catfish. Catchable-size blue catfish were stocked in 2016; 25-inch plus blue catfish possible. Flatheads present in lake.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant, most between 6 to 8 inches.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Fair number of bass including good number of quality-size fish present.
Saugeye	Fair/Good	Fifth year of stocking was completed last year. Good numbers of quality saugeye present; fish up to the 25 inches are possible. Note: 15-inch size limit

BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER 45,600 acres (Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)

Asian carp (silver, bighead, and grass carp) are present in the lake and tailwaters. Although unwanted, this has created an excellent bowfishing opportunity and a way that anglers can help remove these unwanted fish from our waters. Bighead carp are among the largest fish you will find in north America. The best fishing will be in the tailwaters where Asian carp and other rough species often congregate in the spring and summer. Asian carp make excellent table fare despite their reputation as a "trash fish" and preparation instructions can be found on the KDFWR webpage (fw.ky.gov). Remember to be courteous to other anglers and dispose of fish carcasses properly. Harvest of Asian carp is encouraged!!

Blue catfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 10- to 20-pounders with the occasional 50+ pounder. Best fishing is during late spring and summer along deep river channels. Look for good flow in the lake for best fishing conditions. Winter time trophy fishing is also popular. Blue catfish can be caught year-round in the tailwater. Fresh caught shad or skipjack is best, but cut up pieces of silver carp also works well.
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish up to 9 inches; the best fishing comes in May on sand or gravel spawning beds. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn is a great option. Fish move deeper as the water warms in summer.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Best fishing is during May along rocky banks and during summer along the main river channel and adjacent flats. Try stink-bait in shallow water in the spring. Jug fishing is a great choice. Channel catfish can also be caught year-round in the tailwater.
Crappie	Excellent	Barkley Lake is a little tougher fishing for crappie than Kentucky Lake, though the numbers of crappie are good. You can expect to catch good numbers of 11-inch fish this year along with a lot of short fish. Many fishermen are changing tactics, casting or trolling light jigs and roadrunners year-round.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Shallow water fishing for spawning bass can be amazing in the spring around button ball bushes with floating baits, buzzbaits, spinner baits, and plastic creature baits. During post spawn most bass move to drop-offs in the main lake and mouths of the bays. Try fishing Carolina rigs, jigs, and crankbaits in deeper water when there is good current moving through the reservoir. During summertime, fishing shallow near structure can also be effective, particularly at dawn or dusk. In fall and winter, bass move into the bays to feed on shad. Overall numbers of bass in Lake Barkley are down, but the chances of catching a trophy are still very high.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 9- to 11-inch fish with trophies up to 12 inches. Prime fishing occurs in late April and throughout May as fish are spawning. Fish can be found in areas with gravel substrate and vegetation. Redear generally spawn a bit deeper than bluegill. If you catch one fish, keep fishing the same spot as these fish often make colonial spawning beds.
Sauger	Poor	Population consisting of low numbers of harvestable-size (>14.0 inch) fish. Many fish are caught trolling deep diving crankbaits near secondary channel breaks during the early summer. Sauger can also be caught while fishing for catfish along the main river channel. Fair fishing is found in the tailwaters.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass make up a small portion of the total bass population but are common in certain habitats. Fishing is best around rocky shorelines near deep water, main lake points, and the Canal during late winter and early spring with suspending jerk baits.
Striped bass	Good	The tailwater fishing is best for consistent catches, but the lake produces good catches as well. Fish deep main channel ledges near bridges and other places with current. For the best luck try trolling crankbaits or fishing vertically with large jigs. Good trophy potential.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fishing success has been good recently due to slightly better spawns. Look for schools of shad breaking the surface during summer and fall. If you can't find them working the surface, fish deeper along ledges on the main lake with a spoon or inline spinner. Trolling the ledges with lighter colored crankbaits can be a lot of fun, especially for children and inexperienced anglers. Similar to striped bass, better fishing occurs in the tailwaters.
Yellow bass	Excellent	These often overlooked fish are extremely abundant in both of the big lakes. Fish can be caught on almost anything, but vertical jigging is the most reliable. Although many anglers will throw them back while crappie fishing, yellow bass make excellent table fare.
BARREN RIVER (from Barren River Lake dam to Green River confluence)		
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Barren River Lake tailwater area hybrid fishing is best, especially during or following periods of heavy lake discharges. Good fishing also below instream dams at Bowling Green and Greencastle.
Muskellunge	Good	Target mouth of feeder creeks and around wood structure or other current breaks from dam to Green River confluence. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 12-inch fish. Trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Fishing best from dam to mouth of Drakes Creek. Target areas above and below riffle/shoal areas and rocky outcroppings.
Spotted bass	Fair	Found throughout Barren River. Fish slower moving pools with rocky banks and logs. Fish spinnerbaits and crankbaits in the spring and early summer. Use buzzbaits and soft plastics during summer.
Walleye/Sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below instream dams (Barren River Lake, Greencastle and Bowling Green) especially during December – March. Good-size walleye (15-30 inch) available. Sauger were stocked from 2010-2014. Note: walleye regulation is 2-fish creel limit and you cannot keep walleye between 18 and 26 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER (above lake upstream from Long Creek confluence)		
Bass	Good	Largemouth, spotted and smallmouth all found here in fair numbers and good sizes. Largemouth best below 100 bridge, smallmouth best above Coruth or Dunn's ford/Celsor Road.
Channel catfish	Good	Best action during early onset of rising water conditions anytime of year, but especially during summer months.
White bass, hybrids and yellow bass	Good	Spawning runs still present in late March to mid-April. Small crankbaits and inline spinners for white and yellow bass. Bigger swimbaits and spinners for hybrids.
Walleye	Fair/Good	Males hanging near riffle areas starting mid-February until early April. Fish deepest section of pools rest of the year with bottom bumping spinners, blade baits or curly tailed grubs. Note: walleye regulation is 2-fish creel limit and you cannot keep walleye between 18 and 26 inches.

BARREN RIVER LAKE 10,000 acres (Allen and Barren counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 15-18 feet.		
Bluegill (sunfish)	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish. Fish stump beds and back of coves during the spring and fall. Fish deeper in the summer near cove mouths and along bluff walls near laydowns or standing timber.
Catfish	Excellent	Good populations of channel and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Blue catfish have been stocked annually since 2010, with some of these already over 35 inches. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of crappie (black and white) available. Good numbers of larger white crappie (10-inch plus), but few larger black crappie (10-inch plus) available. Ratio of black to white crappie is about 50-50. Target shallower water to find black crappie in spring and early summer. Summer and winter fishing is best around deeper structure in creek/river channel and fish attractor/brush sites.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Overall numbers are good with large fish (20-inch plus) available. Spring fishing best in upper lake portions at 1st and 2nd riffle areas with spinners, crank baits and curly-tailed jigs. Target main lake (around islands in mid-lower lake) or dam area at night, early in the morning and at dusk in the summer and fall as schools appear throughout the lake. Stocked annually (200,000); however, higher numbers (300-400,000) stocked in 2013, 2015 and 2016.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers overall and exceptional numbers of 15- to 17-inch fish.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density population overall; however, quality/trophy fish (20-inch plus) available. Target lower 1/3 of the lake near the dam, fishing rock outcroppings and rocky transition areas.
Spotted bass	Fair	Lower density population overall; however, quality fish (15-inch plus) available. Bridge pylons and bluff walls with rock slides are good places to target spots.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain low. Best opportunity is during spawning run in late March to mid April with in-line spinners, small jigs and small crankbaits in Barren River, Peter, Skaggs and Beaver creeks above the lake.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Abundant and willing to bite. Most fish are 7- to 9-inches in length. Bite readily on small jigs, spinners and minnows. Bridge pylons excellent areas to target for summertime bite.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BEAVER LAKE	158 acres	(Anderson County)
Bluegill	Good	Very good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; \geq 8-inch fish present.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish will be stocked in 2018. Fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Small population; good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass up to 15 inches; bass over 20 inches are present.
Redear sunfish	Fair	7- to 9-inch fish available around vegetation; good numbers of 10- to 11-inch fish possible. Overall, numbers are down due to the significant reduction of aquatic vegetation in lake. Redear sunfish (31,800 fish) were stocked in fall of 2017.
BENJY KINMAN LAKE	88 acres	(Henry County)
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 5- to 7-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Channel catfish present. Trophy-size fish present.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Fair numbers of bass present. Good potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches. Note: largemouth bass are catch and release only.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; look for the few areas where aquatic vegetation is present.
BESHEAR LAKE	760 acres	(Caldwell and Christian counties)
Blue catfish	Good	Blue catfish are being stocked every third year. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some already measure over 25 inches and weigh over 5 pounds.
Bluegill	Fair	Numerous small bluegill with occasional 8-inch fish caught. Boat fishing is the most popular method, but some bank fishing opportunities are also available.
Channel catfish	Excellent	High numbers of 10- to 15-inch channel catfish in the population. Channel catfish are stocked every other year at 10-12 inches. This is an underutilized fishery. Most anglers fishing for catfish use jug lines or noodles. Catfish are one of the reasons people go to Lake Beshear to fish.
Crappie	Fair	Numerous crappie in the 6- to 8-inch range, with an occasional 10 inch. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure. The population is considered stunted; therefore it is ok to harvest the small crappie.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	One of the main reason anglers fish Lake Beshear. The bass population is dominated by 12- to 18-inch largemouth bass. Best fishing during spring when fish move to shallow water, along the water willow and lily pads. Try fishing the edges of these weeds with a pearl colored fluke using a short jerk retrieve, or use a white spinner bait. Worms, creature baits, and other soft plastics can also be effective during the spawn. In late afternoon or on cloudy days, try top water baits. During summertime, as temperatures heat up, bass often suspend near deep water ledges. These fish can be caught on dropshot rigs or long lined crankbaits and jerkbaits.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BOLTZ LAKE	92 acres (Grant County)	
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked in summer of 2017. Good numbers of channel catfish over the 12-inch size limit. Low numbers of blue catfish; catchable-size blue catfish stocked in 2016; 25-inch plus blue catfish possible.
Crappie	Good	Abundant; majority of fish around 8 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above 12-inch size limit; some potential for bass \geq 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish available around vegetation. 18,400 redear sunfish were stocked in fall of 2017.
Saugeye	Fair	Third year of stocking was completed last year. Harvestable-size saugeye are possible. Note: 15-inch size limit.

BRIGGS LAKE	18 acres (Logan County)	
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Fair	All sizes available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Large fish present. Fish laydown trees, stakebeds and brushpiles in late winter and early spring.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger fish (9-inch plus) available. Larger fish very shallow in early spring; then move to thermocline depth.
Warmouth	Good	Good numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish. Fish in/near vegetation.

BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER	1,230 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)	
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution and very good numbers; larger fish 7-8 inches. Upper lake areas and heads of coves hold best numbers during summer pool. Shallow mudflats in main lake areas can hold large congregations of fish on spawning beds.
Catfish	Excellent	High numbers of channel catfish with good recruitment of young fish each year. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds. Tailwater provides additional good fishery.
Crappie	Good	Large number of fish from 6 to 9 inches with most of the legal-size fish from 9 to 11 inches. Occasional larger fish to 12 inches. July and August can provide some very good fishing over shallow mud flats adjacent to main lake channel. Try trolling or drifting bait tipped jigs or small crankbaits over the flats. Also, October-November during drawdown to winter pool can be very good in the same locations.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Excellent growth rates of young bass and recruitment numbers in 2016 and 2017. Lake is close to moving into a good overall rating. Current numbers of keeper-size fish are fair with fish greater than 20 inches being good. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Muskellunge	Fair	Overall numbers are good, but anglers still contending with majority of fish less than 36 inches. January-March fish will congregate in the lower lake and near dam. Trace Branch area provides good fishing in July and August. September will find many large fish on edges of weedbeds in backs of coves in shallow water. Bank fishing opportunities are good at the tailwater in March and October.
White bass	Poor	Numbers are low with most fish primarily from 8-11 inches. During late summer look for fish in heads of coves where creeks enter.
BULLOCK PEN LAKE 134 acres (Grant County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers over the 12-inch size limit and potential for larger fish (≥ 20 inches). Catchable-size blue catfish are present; 25-inch plus fish possible. Flathead catfish present.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant population of small-size fish (mostly 6-7 inches); a few larger fish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit). Excellent potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers.
Saugeye	Fair	Harvestable-size saugeye are present. Note: 15-inch size limit.
White bass	Poor/Fair	Small population of large fish in the 14- to 17-inch range.
CARPENTER LAKE 68 acres (Davie County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Most bluegill 6-7 inches, very few over 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Excellent growth rates produce good numbers of 15- to 20-inch and larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Increasing number of bass in the 12- to 15-inch range. Good number of fish over 15 inches in the population as well.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers. Most 6-9 inches. Very few over 10 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CARR CREEK LAKE	710 acres	(Knott County)
Hydrilla was documented in Carr Creek Lake for the first time in 2008. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species within the lake and between lakes by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer. Larger fish will hold around weedbed edges in summer. Fishing pier near ramp at marina holds fish in submerged brush when lake is at summer pool.
Catfish	Good	Primary species are channel and flathead catfish with numbers of channel catfish improving. There are a few white catfish in the lake. Flathead catfish not real numerous, but 36- to 40-inch fish are available.
Crappie	Fair	Fishery comprised of black (including blacknose) and white crappie. Larger black crappie from 10-13 inches and white crappie from 10-15 inches. Deadfall trees and submerged brush piles will congregate large numbers of fish during most of the year. Number of keeper size fish is holding stable.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of large fish over 20 inches. March- to early-April anglers have very good fishing success for big fish. During late spring through summer best results often at night.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Low recruitment; a few fish sampled up to 20 inches. Lower half of lake holds best numbers.
Spotted bass	Fair	Best numbers are concentrated in lower and mid lake. A few large fish up to 18 inches with fair numbers through 16 inches.
Walleye	Excellent	Very high numbers of fish from 15-26 inches; a few fish up to 28 inches. March through May are good months to try during day or night. Standing timber will hold suspended fish in summer as well as deeper open water areas with schools of alewife that walleye will suspend beneath.

CAVE RUN LAKE	8,270 acres	(Bath, Menifee, Rowan and Morgan counties)
Recent introductions of the highly invasive and detrimental aquatic vegetation, hydrilla, have been made at Cave Run Lake. Anglers are reminded to take extra precautions to keep from moving this aquatic vegetation to other lakes. Thoroughly clean and inspect your entire boat before moving it to other lakes. Even the smallest fragments of this plant can sprout new colonies.		
Bluegill	Good	Widespread within the lake, most 7 inches long or less, but it is not unusual to catch a few larger fish. Bluegill can be found in the back of coves or other quickly warming shallow water areas in the spring and on department-placed or natural brush piles later in the year.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to 24 inches are fairly common along with a few larger sizes. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early May-June where they seek cover in rock piles and submerged logs to spawn. Later they tend to be found in deeper water. Although not as plentiful, some trophy-size flathead catfish are found in the lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE (continued)		
Crappie	Excellent	Angler reports and department surveys have shown higher numbers of fish in the 7- to 9-inch range in 2017. These fish should translate into fish over 10 inches in 2018. If last year's reports are any indication, 2018 should be an outstanding year for crappie. Starting in May, fish around department-placed and natural brush piles. If there are weeds present, summer fishing will not be as successful as in previous years; fish are still there but just not as congregated around brush piles.
Largemouth bass	Good	Samples showing higher numbers of fish over 15 inches compared to the past, but overall, samples continue to be dominated by smaller bass. Harvesting bass under the slot limit should help increase growth of the remaining fish and improve the overall population. Difficult lake to fish; upper reaches have best chances for larger fish. Note: 13- to 16-inch protective slot limit.
Muskellunge	Excellent	Excellent angling can still be expected in this fishery. Trophy fish can be found primarily in the spawning month of April in the backs of the large coves and Beaver Creek or in the fall months of September and October in association with gentle sloping gravelly banks or near channel drop offs. Note: 36-inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	While still uncommon, smallmouth have been picking up in recent years. They are found primarily off rocky points or shoreline in the lower lake. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Numerous within the middle and lower main lake shoreline; become less common within the upper reaches of the lake. Most less than 13 inches long.
White bass	Excellent	The 2017 surveys showed exceptionally high numbers of larger fish; this should translate into good fishing into 2018. Anglers should expect to see some larger jumps in the summer around the confluence, Clay Lick, and Alfrey areas. Note: no more than 5 white bass in the daily creel limit may be greater than 15-inches long.
CEDAR CREEK LAKE 784 acres (Lincoln County)		
Bluegill	Good	High density population with most fish less than 7 inches. Several bank fishing areas available for anglers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Decent numbers of fish 12-15 inches with some up to 20 inches. Stocked in even numbered years.
Crappie	Good	Stable population with good numbers of fish in the 9- to 11-inch range. Try fishing jigs and minnows around structure up in the creeks in the fall.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	High density of 14- to 18-inch fish present. Although the bass population has plateaued, it is still the best option for catching fish over 15 inches in southeast KY. Good year classes the last few years should bode well for the future. A trophy regulation of a 20-inch minimum size limit, 1-fish creel limit, is in effect on this lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Moderate density population, but good numbers of fish 6- to 8-inches with some fish up to 10 inches. Target redear around vegetated areas using mealworms.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CHENOA LAKE 35 acres (Bell County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Moderate density population with decent numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish. Best numbers are in the upper end of the lake, although the vegetation can limit their accessibility.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked in even-numbered years. Good bank fishing access on north side of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Moderate density of fish up 15 inches with a few fish over 20 inches. Try targeting edges of watershed mats in the spring and summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate numbers of 6- to 8-inchers with fish up to 10 inches. Target redear using mealworms and wax worms fished around brush and vegetation.
CLEAR CREEK LAKE 40 acres (Bath County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 7-inch bluegill present with occasional 8-inch fish caught. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair population with a few fish over 20 inches in the samples. Anglers should focus around the dam and the standing timber at the back of the lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good population of 7- to 8-inch fish. Fish shallow shoreline areas in the spring especially behind standing timber.
CORINTH LAKE 96 acres (Grant County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; \geq 8-inch fish present.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked in 2017; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Low numbers; most fish between 8 and 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers of bass at and above size limit (12-inch size limit); excellent potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Increasing numbers of fish greater than 7 inches.
CUMBERLAND LAKE 50,250 acres (Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties)		
The boundaries of Lake Cumberland are defined as Cumberland Falls on the Cumberland River, Devils Jump on the Big South Fork, the Narrows of Rockcastle River and Laurel River Lake Dam on Laurel River.		
Bluegill	Good	Abundant population with some fish over 8 inches. Try crickets in coves and cuts in the early summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Good density of 2- to 5-pound channel catfish with some larger fish available. Nightcrawlers still fished or slowly trolled on main lake flats and cuts during the late summer and fall is a good option to try.
Crappie	Excellent	Moderate numbers of fish, but good size distribution. Larger fish (12-14 inches) are common. Fishing minnows and jigs in headwater areas (mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle rivers) in the early spring and around cover in the major tributaries in the fall are good bets.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE (continued)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish in the 13- to 19-inch range, with some larger fish present. Upper lake tributaries generally have higher numbers, but largemouth bass can be found throughout the lake.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish up to 20-inches. Float-n-fly techniques and jigs offer good winter time fishing.
Spotted bass	Good	Good density of fish in the 12-15 inch range. Found throughout the lake, with higher densities in the lower half of the lake.
Striped bass	Good	The striped bass population remains stable. A strong 2016 year-class should move into the harvestable size range in 2018 and should mean good fishing for the next few years. Note: 22-inch size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit remains in effect.
Walleye	Good	Moderate numbers of fish. Fish over 22-inches are still lacking, but adequate numbers of 17- to 22-inch fish are present. Best fishing in the spring is at night on surface baits. During the summer months, try trolling nightcrawler rigs 25-30 feet deep on main lake points and flats.
White bass	Poor	Low density population. Try fishing headwater areas in the early spring for your best chance at catching them.

CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties)

The new section of hatchery creek opened in 2016. The new section is catch-and-release only.

Brook trout	Fair	Stocked annually in the tailwater. Low density population with adequate numbers of 10- to 14-inch fish and some larger fish present. Higher numbers found in upper quarter of the tailwater. Brook trout are aggressive feeders that bite readily on a variety of baits.
Brown trout	Good	Good numbers of fish up to 15 inches. Although the abundance of keeper fish (>20 inches) increased slightly in 2017, the density remains relatively low.
Rainbow trout	Good	Increasing numbers of fish in the slot (15-20 inches) with ample numbers of stocked fish available for anglers.
Sauger	Fair	Low density population. Try near the dam in the winter and early spring with small jigs and grubs.
Striped bass	Good	Low numbers of fish, but good size distribution with fish over 20 pounds available. Best areas are below Burkesville using live bait or trolling shad or trout colored crankbaits or swim baits during the summer months.
Walleye	Fair/Good	Moderate density population with decent size distribution of 2- to 5-pound fish. Fishing near the dam in late winter and early spring is a good bet. Try trolling shad-colored crankbaits or nightcrawler rigs in the lower sections of the tailwater in the summer and fall.
White bass	Fair	Fishing lower areas in the tailwater near creek mouths during the winter and early spring is a good option.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
DALE HOLLOW LAKE 6,614 acres in Kentucky (Clinton and Cumberland counties)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good density of fish in the 16- to 19-inch range.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Impressive number of fish over 3 pounds. Jigs and soft plastics are good options, as well as the float-n-fly technique in the winter months.
Spotted bass	Good	Moderate density of quality-size fish (12-15 inches).
DEWEY LAKE 1,100 acres (Floyd County)		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Dewey Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of these damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Blue catfish	Good	Popular fishery with jug fishing in main lake areas. Larger fish are 30-36 inches.
Bluegill	Fair	Stable population with good growth. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake during winter months. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access.
Crappie	Good	Very good numbers, but large proportion is smaller size. Most keeper fish range in size from 9-11 inches for white crappie and 7-9 inches for black crappie. Popular with bank anglers due to many bank access areas.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution; a few large fish from 20-40 pounds caught each year. Popular with ticklers/noodlers in June; try fishing shallow in September and October.
Largemouth bass	Good	Improving numbers of fish 15-20 inches. March is good time to go after largest fish in shallow murky water with plastic baits. When water is clear fish group close to submerged brush and trees.
Muskellenge	Fair	Stocked for first time in October 2014. There are legal-size fish, but numbers are low as this fishery is mainly comprised of just 2 year classes (2014 and 2017). Annual stockings will continue.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fish are present through 12 inches. Some areas such as the rip-rap rock face of dam hold good fish. Increasing population of zebra mussels will improve this fishery. Try fishing bait near the bottom around weedy areas or brush. If catching bluegill, then go deeper or further off shoreline to get into redear sunfish.
White bass	Fair	Numbers remain stable. John's Creek will congregate fish in March-April for spawning (look for Redbud trees in bloom). Later in September look for good numbers of fish in shallow water areas in head of coves off main lake after shad.
DIX RIVER – below Herrington Lake (Garrard and Mercer counties)		
Brown Trout	Poor/Fair	Low number of holdover fish is expected due to poor water conditions in fall of 2017.
Rainbow Trout	Fair/Good	Low number of holdover fish is expected due to poor water conditions in fall of 2017. Multiple stockings during the year. Fishing with artificial lures or flies only from Herrington Lake Dam downstream for 2 miles.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		
Catfish	Good	Large channel catfish possible in bigger pools; good numbers of “keeper” channel catfish, especially in the lower section of the main stem. Flathead catfish are present.
Largemouth bass	Good	Quality fishing found in slow moving pools in the North Fork. Note: 12-16 inch slot limit applies on main stem.
Rock Bass	Good	Many fish between 7-9 inches in main stem and in the lower North Fork section.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of smallmouth bass, especially on the main stem within the slot. Also good numbers of fish greater than 16 inches. Note: fish from 12-16 inches (slot limit) are protected in the main stem Elkhorn Creek.
ELMER DAVIS LAKE 149 acres (Owen County)		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; many around beaver lodges and boat docks. Bluegill population expected to improve with the eradication of the gizzard shad.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size fish stocked in 2017; fish over 15 inches possible.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Most around 8 to 10 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Plenty of bass under 12- to 15-inch protected slot limit with good numbers in the slot. Good numbers of bass greater than 15 inches. Weed beds are back. Trophy-size bass are possible.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches near weed beds or on spawning beds in upper parts of creek arms. “Shellcrackers” greater than 10 inches are present. Redear sunfish population is expected to improve with the eradication of the gizzard shad.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice-size fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as “redeye” or “rockbass”.
FAGAN BRANCH LAKE 140 acres (Marion County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout in the 20-30 foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year-round.		
Bluegill	Good	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of 11- to 14-inch fish. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Best fishing early and late and at night under floating lights using minnows. Fair numbers of fish, but not many larger fish (10-inch plus).
Largemouth bass	Fair	Stable population but slower growing. Big fish present; try trout-colored jerk and swim baits during winter months.
Rainbow trout	Fair/Good	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May–October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20-30 foot ranges during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. 15-inch plus fish available. Brown trout stocking planned for 2018.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of larger fish (8-inch plus) present. Fish edges of deep weed beds (15-20 feet) during summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
------------------	----------	----------

FISHTRAP LAKE and TAILWATER 1,131 acres (Pike County)

Zebra mussels are present at Fishtrap Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.

Blue catfish	Good	Primarily feed on zebra mussels in spring and fall and on gizzard shad during summer and winter. Blues were first stocked in 2011 and larger fish are approximately 32-34 inches.
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers of fish 8-10 inches with some large bluegill available up to 11-12 inches; May and June have been popular months for angling when they are spawning.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good size distribution and numbers found throughout the lake and into Levisa Fork. Provide good opportunity for tickling/noodling during nesting. Lake received supplemental stocking in 2017.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of fish from 9-12 inches. Some larger fish to 14 inches. A popular fishery throughout the year at this lake. If water is clear fish often hold on sharp breaks from shallow to deeper water.
Flathead catfish	Excellent	Numerous large fish with good numbers found in the lake and into Levisa Fork. Numerous rocky ledges and banks around the lake provide excellent noodling opportunities when fish are spawning.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Very good numbers of hybrids in the lower lake in late summer and at winter pool; fair spawning run in headwaters in April. Night fishing has become popular; look for fish in the jumps from May-July; good distribution of fish through 10 pounds.
Largemouth bass	Good	Fair numbers with excellent size distribution and good growth; lake is prone to rapid changes in water level effecting fish activity for periods.
Redear sunfish	Fair	This fishery was initiated with stockings from 2010-2013. Larger fish are approximately 10-12 inches.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	A good spawn in 2017 should move this rating back to "good" in the near future. Also, the Levisa Fork up and downstream of the lake provides good opportunity for trophy fish. Larger fish have good numbers through 22 inches.
Walleye	Poor	Native river strain walleye have been stocked in Levisa Fork upstream of Fishtrap Lake each year since 2010. This fishery is "Fair" at times in river upstream of lake. There were a few anglers during 2017 catching their 2 fish limits in the lake Note: two fish daily creel limit; 18-26 inch protective slot limit.

GRAYSON LAKE 1,512 acres (Carter and Elliott counties)

Bluegill	Good	Numerous, up to 7 inches long. Widespread throughout the lake as well as other kinds of panfish. Try fishing 5 to 6 feet deep in May and June.
Catfish	Good	Widespread throughout the lake. Fair numbers of channel and flathead catfish up to 20 inches long; some trophy-size flathead catfish. Try fishing the middle and upper sections in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	Population appears to be on the upswing. Search out cover (there are several department-placed brush piles throughout the lake) or fish deep near channel edges around standing timber.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GRAYSON LAKE (continued)		
Hybrid striped bass	Good	This fishery continues to improve. Several larger fish remain from previous stocking efforts and currently stocked fish are growing well. Fish the main portions of the lake near the dam in the summer, and occasionally in the jumps. Fish are congregated in the Bruin area in the late fall.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of fish over 15 inches, but most still less than the minimum size limit. Most prevalent of all black bass species in the lake. Best population exists in the Bruin areas. High water helps to congregate these fish within the shoreline vegetation in the spring and the fall months and can produce feeding frenzies and high angler catch rates. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Fair	Stable population. Most fish are found in lower 2/3 of lake.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Rarely seen while sampling. The best bet is the lower portion of the lake, specifically around the Deer Creek area near the dam. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester down to mouth at Spottsville)		
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel, blue, and flathead catfish. Trophy-size blue and flathead catfish available. Good bets are tailwaters below locks and dams, in deeper holes, and around logs, brush, or rocks.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Fish tributary mouths, below locks and dams, and brush along bank in spring and fall with live minnows.
Striped and hybrid striped bass	Good	Stripers and hybrids congregate below dams late spring through early fall. Cast top water plugs or lead head jigs with plastic bodies into boils below dams. Shad imitation swim baits and bucktail jigs also produce well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish mouth of tributary streams in spring and below dams mid-spring through fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish bank access area and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late March through April.
GREEN RIVER (dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake dam)		
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channels and flatheads above lock 5 to Green River Lake dam. All catfish species (channels, flatheads and blues) good down to Rochester.
Muskellunge	Good	Fishing best in spring at feeder creek mouths and around woody debris or other current breaks. Fishing below instream dams also good bet. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Rock bass	Excellent	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish present from dam to Munfordville.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good numbers overall with larger fish (15-inch plus) available. Fishing best from Green River Lake dam to Munfordville.
Walleye/sauger	Fair/Good	Fishing best below Green River Lake dam area and instream dams from early winter through spring. Walleye most common below Green River Lake dam and sauger most common in other reaches of the river.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER LAKE	8,210 acres	(Taylor and Adair counties)
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 18-20 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Large population with occasional 7- to 8-inch fish. Fish stump beds and back ends of coves during spring and deep-water brush, standing timber and structure during summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Good/Excellent	All sizes available. Hook and line fishing best at night or when water levels are on the rise and muddy. Jug fishing good mid-summer to fall.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good numbers of quality-size fish (15-inch plus) and exceptional numbers of 18-inch plus fish.
Muskellunge	Good	Legal-size fish (36-inch) and trophy fish (40-inch plus) numbers fair. Fall, late winter and spring excellent time to catch trophy fish. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, can expect a slight upturn in numbers from good spawn of 2010. Expect better than average numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Fish in mid-lower sections of Robinson Creek and Green River arms for best numbers and chance for 20-inch plus fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish. 15-inch plus spots available.
Walleye	Fair	Overall numbers are fair as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus). Fish dam area and headwater areas of Robinson Creek and Green River arms in late February through mid to late March. Target standing timber coves, main lake stump beds, humps, and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White bass	Good	Good number of large fish (14-inch plus) from good year class of 2014. Fish headwater areas in spring (mid-March to early-April); troll flats, look for jumps, and fish under lights during the summer.
White crappie	Good	Good numbers of harvestable-size fish (9-inch plus). Expect to weed through lots of sub-legal fish to find keeper fish.

GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park)
Hydrilla continues to be a problem for fishing and boating. Grass carp have been stocked in an effort to manage and reduce the spread of this invasive plant. Anglers are reminded to take extra precautions to keep from moving hydrilla to other lakes. Thoroughly clean and inspect your entire boat before moving it to other lakes. Even the smallest fragments of this plant can sprout new colonies.		
Bluegill	Fair	Shoreline vegetation growth is making fishing difficult. Seek out habitat that extends past the weed line, such as beaver dams and logs. Note: bluegill and other sunfish - 15 fish daily creel limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in even years; many 2-3 pound fish observed during fall sampling. Some flathead catfish are also seen in sampling. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREENBO LAKE (continued)		
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches long and chances for trophy-sized fish over 20 inches. Anglers find success fishing deep stickups due to water clarity. With the increase in vegetation, voids or open pockets in the hydrilla also offer good ambush spots.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Trout are stocked annually. The dam offers the best fishing opportunity with less vegetation growth to get snagged on. Also the pier allows anglers to get past some of the shoreline vegetation.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numbers low, however there are fish upwards of 11 inches. Fish deeper water than you would for bluegill. Note: see bluegill regulation.
GUIST CREEK LAKE 317 acres (Shelby County)		
Bluegill	Fair	Abundant; most less than 6 inches. Easy to catch; good place to take a child fishing with live bait (redworms or crickets).
Catfish	Excellent	Catchable-size channel catfish stocked in 2017; very good numbers of catfish with potential for trophies. Flatheads present in lake. Note: this lake is home to current white catfish state record.
Common carp	Good	Fish in coves or headwaters of the lake; fish with grain-based bait; 3- to 4-lb. fish common.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Most in the 7- to 10-inch range; larger fish are present.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Limited population; good numbers of fish in the 16- to 22-inch range; potential for trophy-size fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Excellent potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches. Excellent potential for a trophy fish.
Saugeye	Good	Fifth year of stocking was completed last year. Good numbers of quality saugeye present; fish up to the 25 inches are possible. Note: 15-inch size limit.
HERRINGTON LAKE 2,500 acres (Mercer, Boyle and Garrard counties)		
Bluegill	Good	Stable number of fish up to 8 inches can be found around cover in embayments and inlets of rock walls. Best April-June.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Good	Difficult to locate but many quality-size fish (9 inches or larger) available; best around brush or fallen trees in upper half of lake. Potential for large black crappie around debris in inlets in main lake.
Flathead catfish	Good	All sizes present; usually feed at night on sunfish and shad.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Numbers are slightly increasing and 2- to 5-lb fish are present; possible trophy-size fish.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches; largest fish around shoreline cover in March and April; potential for trophy-sized fish. Best success in the upper half of lake. Good at night during the summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
HERRINGTON LAKE (continued)		
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Fair/Good	Fair to good numbers of fish in the 12- to 14-inch range; trophy-size present.

KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER 55,025 acres (Marshall, Calloway, Lyon, Livingston and Trigg counties)

Asian carp (silver, bighead, and grass carp) are present in the lake and tailwaters. Although unwanted, this has created an excellent bowfishing opportunity and a way that anglers can help remove these unwanted fish from our waters. Bighead carp are among the largest fish you will find in north America. The best fishing will be in the tailwaters where Asian carp and other rough species often congregate in the spring and summer. Asian carp make excellent table fare despite their reputation as a “trash fish” and preparation instructions can be found on the KDFWR webpage (fw.ky.gov). Remember to be courteous to other anglers and dispose of fish carcasses properly. Harvest of Asian carp is encouraged!!

Blue catfish **Excellent** In the lake, the best fishing is along the main river channel. Fish congregate along the ledges of the main river channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift fish vertically using live shiners or cut shad/skipjack in areas where creek channels meet the main river channel and along the main river channel near bends. Use a depth finder to determine if the fish are near the bottom or suspended, and then fish appropriately. Other baits to try include chicken hearts, night crawlers, grass hoppers or catalpa worms.

In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. Using fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters is the best option for bait fishing. An alternative bait option is pieces of silver carp. One might jump in your boat, or ask a bow fisherman or snag fisherman for one. Though most anglers fish from a boat, two fishing piers offer great bank fishing opportunities for those without a boat.

Bluegill **Excellent** There are high numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish. The best fishing is in May, but bluegill can be caught year-round. Crickets and worms fished under a bobber during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep (6'-10' water) brush piles. Catch bluegill in a feeding frenzy during the summer months where mayflies are hatching along the shoreline. Also try deeper rocky points during the summer with pieces of night crawlers.

Channel catfish **Excellent** The best fishing occurs during the late spring along chunky rock shoreline in the lake, and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. Good fishing is available along the river channel during summer and on flats along the secondary channels. Jug fishing in the embayments is often a good way to catch a mess of channel catfish.

In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. However, blue catfish outnumber the channel catfish in the tailwater area. Two piers offer good bank fishing access points, while fishing from a boat might be best downstream around woody debris, stumps and creek mouths.

Crappie **Good** Anglers fishing deep are catching good numbers of keeper-size white crappie. Anglers fishing shallow along rocky shoreline are catching fair numbers of black crappie. Try casting toward the shoreline with a curly-tail jig. Crappie are vulnerable during late winter or early spring as they move toward shallow water areas for spawning. Fish are shallow in early to mid April around buttonball bushes, brush piles and stake beds. Crappie move to secondary channels, drops and flats near creek channels during the fall and winter, and are most frequently found near structure. On mild winter days, crappie may move shallow to brush piles. A lot of short crappie being caught, just means better fishing to come.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
Largemouth bass	Excellent	<p>Several good year classes have resulted in some good fishing. During late winter and early spring, suspended fish can often be caught with jerkbaits and other shad imitations such as the Alabama rig. As spring progresses, fish move to wood structure along the shoreline. During the summer big fish are found along the main lake drops and secondary channels. Fishing the weed beds is good with top water baits on cloudy, rainy days during the summer. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush, and chasing shad during late summer. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is good.</p> <p>There is some good bass fishing in the tailwaters below Kentucky Dam. Try fishing white spinner baits along the rip rap shoreline.</p>
Redear sunfish	Good	<p>Best fishing is in late April and early May. Redear like areas with gravel substrate. If there are yellow mustard flowers inundated by water in the backs of embayments during this time, this is a good place to find redear. Submerged pondweed clumps also hold redear sunfish. These fish primarily feed on the bottom on bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.</p>
Sauger	Fair	<p>In the lake there is a moderate population of harvestable-size (≥ 14 inch) fish. Best fishing is in fall and winter along secondary channels. Try trolling crankbaits.</p> <p>In the tailwaters there is a higher abundance of harvestable-size sauger. This is a good winter fishery. Boat fishing is ideal, though two new fishing piers offer good bank fishing opportunities.</p>
Smallmouth bass	Good	<p>Best fishing along rocky shorelines and bluffs, creek channels at mouths of embayments, the canal main lake points, and main lake stumps. Night fishing during the summer months along gravel bars at the mouths of LBL embayments and rocky shoreline is good with dark colored spinner baits with Colorado style blades or crayfish color creature baits and jigs.</p>
Spotted bass	Poor	<p>Spotted bass are not normally targeted, but are caught while fishing for largemouth or smallmouth bass. Spotted bass migrate to the streams at the backs of embayments during the early spring. Gravel bars and points are prime areas to fish during the summer. Secondary points are good during the fall.</p>
Striped bass	Good	<p>Striped bass and its hybrid are being caught from the lake while fishing for white bass. Trolling with deep diver baits which imitate minnows is effective.</p> <p>Better fishing is available below Kentucky Dam in the tailwater. Fish congregate below the dam during periods of discharge through the generator section of dam. Live herring is the preferred bait. Fishing from a boat is best, but the best shoreline fishing would be off the two fishing piers near the dam. From the shoreline fish with 4-inch sassy shad type baits.</p>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		
White bass	Good	The white bass population has improved in the past few years due to a couple of good year classes. Anglers experienced good catches in 2017. White bass fishing is better in the main lake during summer months when white bass are found schooling along secondary creek channels near the main river channel. Trolling can be very effective for locating these fish. Also look for jumps; when groups of white bass chase shad near the water's surface. In-line spinners and silver spoons work great for catching white bass. Look for main channel points and bends; also near the canal. Good numbers are also found in the Kentucky Dam tailwater area along with its cousin the yellow bass. When fishing from the bank or boat, try using small curly tail jigs or in-line spinner type baits.
Yellow bass	Excellent	Lots of fish but they don't get very big. Their taste is much better than most anglers perceive. Casting the rocky shoreline with a curly-tail jig or rooster tail works great. Large numbers are caught while casting the rocky shoreline in the spring for crappie.

KENTUCKY RIVER	255 miles (main stem)	
Bluegill*	Fair	Shoreline areas around woody debris out of the current hold some quality fish but in low numbers.
Channel catfish	Good	Look for silt-free rocky habitat or below dams or palisades.
Common carp	Fair	Bottom fish with grain-based baits below dams.
Crappie*	Fair	Currently good number of crappie in the Kentucky River; locate in backwater/creek-mouth areas with low current. Fish up to 12 inches or larger possible.
Flathead catfish	Fair/Good	Large fish present around large boulders and log jams.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of 15- to 20-inch fish below dams. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass*	Fair	Locate in cover just below dams, in creek mouths, bank slides, or around timber. Numbers have been reduced due to recent flood events over the past year.
Muskellunge	Good	Best in spring around creek mouths, and in summer around timber and creek mouths. Stocked annually in upper river. More fish in upper half of river (pools 6-14).
Sauger	Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair	Sporadic catches of small- to medium-size fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Fair	Present in low numbers due to past stockings and escapement from reservoirs in the headwaters; good-size fish possible below dams.
White bass	Good	Many 10- to 12-inch fish below dams.

*These are considered "standing water species" and do best in the river after prolonged periods of low-flow conditions. High water or flooding conditions for extended periods will reduce their numbers in the Kentucky River.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KINCAID LAKE 183 acres (Pendleton County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Catchable-size stocked last year; good potential for fish over 15 inches.
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; most between 6-9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit; good numbers of fish over 15 inches; excellent potential for a trophy fish.
KINGFISHER LAKES 13 acres and 21 acres (Daviness County)		
Renovation work was completed late fall of 2014. The lakes were stocked with channel catfish, remedial bluegill, and remedial bass in the fall of 2015.		
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually.
Bluegill	Fair	Most bluegill are 4-5 inches with a few in the 6-inch range.
Largemouth bass	Good	Several bass in the 14- to 16-inch range with a few larger.
LAKE CARNICO 114 acres (Nicholas County)		
Bluegill	Poor	Low numbers of bluegill. Focus on weed edges and pockets in the vegetation.
Catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of flathead and channel catfish can be found. Lake is stocked with channel catfish. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of bass present, with a good amount of fish between 15 and 20 inches and a few over 20. Concentrate summer-time efforts around aquatic weed beds and in the backs of coves. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Numbers are low. Note: see bluegill.
LAKE LINVILLE 361 acres (Rockcastle County)		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish present, with 6- to 7-inch fish available. Good bank fishing access around the lake makes it a good option for families. Try crickets or red worms for good spring and summer fishing.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in even numbered years. Good numbers of 12- to 17-inch fish with some larger fish available.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of fish with most in the 6- to 9-inch range.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair	Stocked annually. Most fish in the 10- to 14-inch range, with a decent number of larger fish present.
Largemouth bass	Good	High density population of fish up 15 inches with several fish over 20 inches. Size structure has continued to improve, with increasing numbers of larger fish present.
Spotted bass	Good	High density population, but few fish exceed 13 inches.
White bass	Fair	Low density population with decent numbers of 11- to 14-inch fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE MALONE	767 acres	(Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4- to 6-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually, good number of 14- to 16-inch fish with a few 20-inch plus available.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9- to 10-inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Stable population with large number of 15- to 20-inch fish. Many trophy fish available. Fish the shoreline waterwillow during spring and fall and at night during summer with plastic baits. Also try submerged trees and brush along deeper banks in spring and summer with spinner baits and jigs.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch) available. Fish water willow edge along the shoreline in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer.
LAKE REBA	76 acres	(Madison County)
Bluegill	Good	Thinning out the vegetation is helping this lake's panfish population. Good population samples in 2017; most catchable fish are over 6-8 inches. Great lake to introduce a kid to fishing with the excellent bank access, but if you expect to easily catch fish you must get away from the well beaten paths and forge your own trail to some lesser fished portions of the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in even years. Sampling shows high numbers of these stock-size fish, and several over this size. Note: 12-inch minimum size limit; limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Great numbers of fish over the 15-inch minimum size limit with an abundance of fish behind those. Excellent growth rates of all fish means fishing on Reba should remain good for the foreseeable future. Extremely high angling pressure makes getting away from the easily fished areas a must on this lake. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Good	Samples collected in 2017 produced some of the highest recorded numbers of larger redear. Many fish observed in early spring (April) sampling trips. Note: see bluegill.
LAKE WILGREEN	169 acres	(Madison County)
Blue catfish	Good	Stocked every third year. Good catches regularly reported in the summer.
Bluegill	Good	Similar number as previous years and most fish are less than 6 inches. The population is healthy up to that point.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	High numbers of fish over 15 and 20 inches. These fish are fat and healthy for their size. All indicators are continuing to show an increase in this population. Should be another great year.
Redear sunfish	Good	Similar numbers to previous years and most fish are less than 7 inches. Note: see bluegill.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAUREL RIVER LAKE	5,830 acres	(Whitley and Laurel counties)
Bluegill	Good	Decent numbers of fish with numerous fish in the 6- to 7-inch range. Fishing crickets in the upper Laurel River Arm during the summer is a good option.
Crappie	Fair	Low density population. Upper Laurel River Arm near city dam is the best area.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable population with good numbers of quality fish. Good density of 14- to 18-inch fish with a few fish over 20 inches. Best numbers are found in the Laurel River Arm.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in January. Adequate numbers of 10- to 14-inch trout and a few larger fish present. Try trolling small crank baits or spoons during the winter and early spring for good catches of stocked trout.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Low density population, but larger, quality size (over 3 pounds) fish present. Casting jigs and swim baits in winter and early spring are good options for targeting larger fish.
Spotted bass	Good	Moderate density of 12- to 14-inch fish with bass up to 16 inches. Mid and lower sections of the lake are the best areas to target spotted bass.
Walleye	Good	Good numbers of 19- to 21-inch fish with fish up to 23 inches. Multiple year classes are contributing to the population, and a strong 2017 year-class should grow into the harvestable range in 2018 and give the population a boost. Try surface baits at night during the spring, or troll deep diving crank baits or spinner rigs across points and islands in the summer and fall.
White bass	Poor	Very low density population, but a few can be found in the Laurel River Arm.

MARION COUNTY LAKE	32 acres	(Marion County)
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 11 feet.		
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of 7- to 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	All sizes available. Stocked every other year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11- to 13-inch fish, but 20-inch plus fish available.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	10-inch plus fish available. Larger fish up shallow in early/mid April for spawn then move out to thermocline depth.
White crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish available. Fish laydown trees in the upper end of the lake in spring and brushpiles in late winter and summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MARTINS FORK LAKE	334 acres	(Harlan County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers. Most harvested fish are 7 inches or less. Fish shallow mud flats in spring or summer.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fingerlings were stocked in 2016. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear. There are several good bank fishing areas. Cranks Creek and Martins Fork Creek, where they first enter the lake, can have good numbers of fish when the water is murky.
Crappie	Fair	Harvested fish are typically 9 to 10 inches. Occasional large fish up to 12-13 inches. Crappie are scattered in shallow water in spring, and congregate in tight groups in standing timber and along breaklines to deeper water in summer.
Largemouth bass	Good	Numbers over 15 inches are above average at present for the lake. This lake contains 4 species of black bass that may be caught by anglers (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, and coosa bass). Largemouth bass numbers account for approximately 80% of the black bass in the lake. Fishing success is generally greater at night during most of spring and summer.
Walleye	Fair	This fishery is currently rebuilding with first stocking of native strain walleye in 2013. Stockings have continued in 2014-2017. Note: two fish daily creel limit; 18-26 inch protective slot limit.

MAUZY LAKE	81 acres	(Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Most bluegill in the 3- to 5-inch range with a few up to 7 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year; many 15- to 22-inch fish in the population.
Largemouth bass	Good	The number of 8- to 15-inch fish in the population is increasing, but still a decent number of fish over 15 inches. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around hardwood brush piles, especially in spring/early summer.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Mostly 6- to 7-inch fish with a few 8 and 9 inch fish in the population.

MCNEELY LAKE	51 acres	(Jefferson County)
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches.
Channel catfish	Fair	Catchable-size stocked each year; large fish possible.
Common carp	Fair	A few large fish present.
Crappie	Fair	Low numbers, but quality-size fish possible. Fish near weed beds and fallen trees, particularly in the spring.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit. Best cover is water willow, fallen trees and stumps.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 9 inches; \geq 10-inch fish are present.
Warmouth	Fair	Large fish present around weed beds.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
METCALFE COUNTY LAKE 22 acres (Metcalfe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	High numbers overall with good numbers of 6-inch fish; however, few exceed 8 inches.
Blue catfish	Fair	Fair numbers overall, but some trophy-size fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked every 3rd year.
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Smaller-sized (8-9 inch) on average; better sizes available but not overly abundant.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Not a high density population; however, trophy fish (20-inch plus) potential consistently above average. Try trout-colored jerkbaits in early to mid-May.
Rainbow trout	Fair	600 fish stocked in March for a put and take fishery. Water too warm by mid-May to support trout through the summer.

MILL CREEK LAKE 109 acres (Monroe County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.		
Blue catfish	Fair	Stocked every 3rd year.
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8- to 9-inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus) overall; 18-inch plus fish numbers well above average.
Redear sunfish	Poor/Fair	Lower numbers overall, but large fish (10-inch plus) available.
Spotted bass	Poor/Fair	Fair numbers, but slow growing with few fish exceeding 12 inches.

MILL CREEK LAKE 41 acres (Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park)		
Bluegill	Good	Excellent numbers of fish over 8 inches. Water is extremely clear and can be difficult to fish. Look for beds in the back end of the lake.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Typical eastern Kentucky mountain lake; deep, clear, and fish are slower growing. However, there are some excellent trophy-sized fish in this lake if you get into the back and far side (away from the boat ramp) of the lake. Anglers should approach their preferred fishing locations cautiously and quietly; with the clarity of the lake, these fish most certainly see you before you can fish toward them. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Stocked annually. Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
NOLIN RIVER LAKE (Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties)		
Catfish	Good	<u>Channel catfish</u> - Good number of 15- to 20-inch fish and many larger. Fish upper lake (Sportsman's Paradise and Cane Run) and river area in early spring and rocky main lake banks mid-May through June. <u>Flathead catfish</u> - lower numbers than channels but several large fish (30+ lbs) harvested annually. Fish late May through June along the steeper rocky banks.
Crappie	Good	Population stable with good number of harvestable 9- to 11-inch fish with occasional 12 and 13 inch fish. During summer fish deeper brush piles 16- to 18-foot deep mid lake for larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Increasing number of fish 15 to 20 inches. Good number of fish over 20 inches. Anglers should continue to see good numbers of quality bass in 2018.
Walleye	Fair	Most fish 14-15 inches with a few in the 20-inch range. Early spring fish Bacon Creek and upper river with lead head jigs and plastic grubs. In summer troll Sportsman's Paradise, Conoloway Creek, and the longer main lake points in the Red Rock and Rock Creek areas.
White bass	Excellent	Large number of 11- to 14-inch white bass in Nolin. Fish Bacon Creek and upper river during spring spawning run with lead head jigs and plastic grubs or live bait. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer fish at night under lights near main channel with jiggling spoons or live minnows.
NOLIN RIVER LAKE TAILWATER (Edmonson County - 7 miles of river until confluence with Green River)		
Black bass	Fair	Largemouth and spotted bass present in fair numbers.
Trout	Fair	Rainbows stocked monthly (April-November); occasional holdover fish present. Brown trout stocked in 2016 and 2018. Note: new statewide brown trout size limit is 16 inches; 1 fish daily limit.
Walleye/sauger	Fair	Removal of lock and dam 6 near Brownsville has allowed more fish movement into the tailwater. Look for shaded and/or deeper holes, back end of pools, and current breaks (logjams, laydowns, and boulders).
White bass and hybrids	Fair/Good	High numbers of white bass in spring from mid-March to mid-April; hybrid occurrence and numbers are more sporadic.
OHIO RIVER		
Blue catfish	Good/Excellent	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Look for silt-free, rocky habitat and embayments.
Common carp	Fair	Large fish possible. Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Backwater areas and creek mouths with brushy habitat are best producers.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Tributaries and backwaters away from current are best areas.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
OHIO RIVER (continued)		
Sauger	Good	Spring and fall below dams with minnows or jigs on bottom.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low population in mid/upper river in sections of rocky habitat and tailwaters.
Spotted bass	Fair	Fish the main channel around cover.
Striped bass	Fair	Mid-summer to late fall good for 6- to 10-pound fish.
Walleye	Fair	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Good population.

PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER 1,139 acres (Morgan and Johnson counties)		
Hydrilla is present at Paintsville Lake. Boaters are asked to take measures to prevent the spread of this damaging non-native invasive species by properly inspecting and disinfecting boats, trailers and equipment.		
Channel catfish	Fair	Large catfish present in low densities in upper lake. Down lake, large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas.
Crappie	Good	Most of successful fishing is done on the upper end of the lake into Open Fork and Little Paint Creeks; white crappie are dominant species and sampled up to 15 inches. Also, this fishery contains some blacknose black crappie up to 10-12 inches and black crappie to 8.5 inches. Sunny days in late March can often provide good catches of keeper fish in shallow water near Patoker boat ramp. Lower lake will have larger fish often holding at edges of hydrilla beds.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Stocked for first time in June 2015. Initial stocking was 11,000 fish. These fish are beginning to show up in angler catches in fall of 2016 at 15-16 inches. Look for 2018 to have improved catches with 18- to 20-inch fish late spring and into summer months.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High survival of young fish is due in part to presence of hydrilla which offers ample cover. Stable population with high numbers of fish <12 inches; fish sampled up to 24 inches; number of fish over 15 inches is holding about the same. March is popular for catches of lunker fish in standing timber.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Good fishing present in shallow water during winter to early spring after the February stocking. Some fish present in summer at depth of 20-25 feet.
Smallmouth bass	Poor	Poor recruitment. Fish sampled up to 22 inches (lower lake areas seem best for larger fish). 18-inch minimum size implemented in 2005. Changes made in water releases at dam in 2006 to improve summer cool water habitat. Spawning benches being placed in lake to aid recruitment. Supplemental stockings of native strain fish occurred from 2009-2012.
Spotted bass	Poor	Numbers are down; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches. Best fishing in lower half of lake along main lake shoreline.
Walleye	Fair	Fair numbers through 28 inches; potential for trophy size. Look for active fish to be suspended in March; also May and October are good months to fish with live night crawlers on a light jighead fished off the bottom. During summer, drop minnows or nightcrawlers along weedbed edges.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PENNYRILE LAKE	47 acres	(Christian County)
Bluegill	Good	Trophy sunfish is the primary management goal in this small but scenic lake. Some really nice bluegill are present as a result of the stunted bass population. Recent surveys found historically high numbers of bluegill >8 inches. Numerous fish less than 6 inches also present. Perfect for bank anglers.
Channel catfish	Good	Decent numbers of catfish 12-15 inches, and a few larger individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawler or cheese bait should provide success.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers of crappie, but fish are good size.
Largemouth bass	Fair	This lake has a high number of bass 12 inches and smaller. It is a great place to take kids fishing! The slot limit on bass has been removed in favor of the statewide regulations. Harvesting some larger bass will help the panfish population and is highly encouraged.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Numerous fish in the 8- to 9-inch range. Few redear present greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success.
ROUGH RIVER LAKE and Tailwater*	5,100 acres	(Breckinridge and Grayson counties)
Catfish	Good/Excellent	Large number of 18- to 25-inch channel catfish with many over 25 inches. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and steeper rocky banks during mid-May through June for spawning fish. Fish upper river areas in the fall/early winter.
Crappie	Good	Good number of 9- to 11-inch fish in the population; many 12- to 13-inch fish as well. Deeper brush piles in mid-lake hold larger fish during summer.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Good number over 20 inches available. Fish upper lake areas in spring. Troll main lake points in summer or fish jumps in main lake (Dam to Tules Creek on north fork and Dam to Little Clifty Creek on south fork). Fish main lake points and sand/mud flats in fall and winter.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of 15- to 20-inch bass; above average for last 10-15 years. Bass anglers at Rough should continue to enjoy a good number of quality bass for the next several years.
Tailwater*	Closed	Access to the tailwater area will be closed for approximately the next 2-3 years due to repair work being completed on the dam.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE 135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair	Numbers of 6-inch plus fish up from last couple of years. Fish 8-10 feet on brushpiles in summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	All sizes available. Stocked every other year.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Large fish (10-14 inches) available. Fish stakebeds and shallow brushpiles in spring; deeper brush in late winter and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Good numbers of 12- to 14-inch fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Fair numbers of 8-inch plus fish. Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then out to thermocline depths by early summer.

SMOKY VALLEY LAKE 36 acres (Carter County – Carter Caves State Park)		
Bluegill	Fair	Slightly better than last season; most less than 7 inches.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Excessive numbers of smaller fish continues to slow growth rates which is leading to lower numbers of bigger fish. There are plenty of chances to catch a good number of fish, but the size is still not there for this population. Angler harvest of smaller fish is the key to improving this fish population. Note: 12-15 inch protective slot limit; 6 fish daily creel limit, only one over 15 inches.

SPURLINGTON LAKE 36 acres (Taylor County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish, with 8-inch plus available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked every other year.
Largemouth bass	Good	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Big bass (20-inch plus) opportunities above average.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers of fish overall; however, 10-inch plus available.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE	3,050 acres	(Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Catfish	Good/Excellent	Blue catfish population stable; stocked annually since 2002. Fish with live bait, cut bait or crank baits (open water areas). Fish over 40 inches possible. Many channel catfish of all sizes; look for bigger fish in the timber in spring; head of creeks in fall, points next to channel any time. Number of flathead catfish is increasing.
Crappie	Good	Good number of fish at and above the 10-inch size limit. Good spawns of white and black crappie were found in 2015. Many of these fish will be entering the fishery (≥ 10 inch). Note: daily creel limit 15 fish.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Hybrid striped bass numbers increasing, including numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there is good fishing in headwaters. Look for jumps early and late in day July-September.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers of 12- to 15-inch fish; increasing number of 15- to 18-inch fish; best in timber coves; concentrate effort on primary points on main lake and secondary points in creeks.
Saugeye	Fair	Third year of stocking completed last year. Harvestable-size saugeye are present. Low numbers because it is a newer fishery. Note: 15-inch size limit.
White bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall; many 10- to 12-inch fish present.

THREE SPRINGS LAKE	30 acres	(Warren County)
Lake is very shallow (no deeper than 6-7 ft)		
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish. Receives hybrid bluegill stocking in September.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good-size fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Numerous fish available; few fish larger than 12 inches. Fish trout colored swim baits after trout stocking dates and in early to mid-May for larger bass.
Rainbow Trout	Good	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November-March) for put and take fishing. Lake too warm for trout by early-mid May.
Redear	Fair	Fair number of 9- to 10-inch fish available.

WASHBURN LAKE	18 acres	(Ohio County)
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Low overall numbers, but many fish in the 7- to 8-inch range.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked annually. Good number of fish in the population, many 15-20 inches.
Largemouth bass	Poor	Population dominated by slower-growing sub-legal fish. Few fish greater than 12 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low number; most fish in the 7- to 9-inch range.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WEST FORK DRAKES RESERVOIR 88 acres (Simpson County)		
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 8 feet.		
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish. Few 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Numerous sizes available. Fishing best at night near creek channel.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish, but will have to weed through smaller fish to find larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Fair/good	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish but few fish larger than 15 inches.
Muskie	Fair	Low numbers of fish in lake. Fishing best below the dam year-round using large inline spinners and jerk baits. Fishing in lake best in lower half of the lake near vegetation beds and brush in winter to early spring. Fish stocked every other year.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of 6-inch plus fish; few larger than 9 inches.

WOOD CREEK LAKE 672 acres (Laurel County)		
Wood Creek Lake has a thick density of Brazilian elodea, a non-native, invasive plant that has carpeted much of the shallow water area in the upper part of the lake.		
Bluegill	Fair	Decent numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in odd-numbered years. 12- to 18-inch fish common.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate density of smaller fish with some fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	High density population with declining numbers of large fish. Upper arms of the lake are the best areas for bigger largemouth.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in October and February. Most fish in the 10- to 13-inch range.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Moderate numbers of fish up to 8 inches with some larger fish available. Mid and lower lake areas are best.
Spotted bass	Fair	Moderate density population, but few fish exceed 12 inches. Target mid and lower lake areas.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
YATESVILLE LAKE	2,314 acres	(Lawrence County)
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution throughout the lake; numerous fish 7.0-7.5 inches.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Quality size distribution and densities of catfish exist in all areas of the lake; recent stockings have greatly increased numbers. During fall to early winter many fish are shallow in upper lake; popular lake for jugging and limb lines.
Crappie	Good	Most larger fish from 10-13 inches. Larger crappie will aggressively go after shad or minnows. Traditional brushy areas and deadfall trees are good for spring spawning fish, with shallow mudflats being good in the fall during drawdown to winter pool.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution with numbers slowly increasing; rocky shoreline and brush will have better numbers. Some fish caught on limb lines with bluegill as bait.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution and good numbers of 15- to 22-inch fish. Supplemental stocking of fingerling bass was conducted in 2009, 2012, and 2013 to aid average recruitment. Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results. To avoid boat access congestion problems at ramp, utilize KDFWR website for viewing and scheduling tournaments. Check out KDFWR web page for GPS coordinates of submerged fish habitat structures.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Population is increasing; annual stockings of fish from 2010-2013; larger fish up to 11 inches. Target areas with weedbeds or submerged roadbeds with some rock on them.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Lakes

Largemouth bass

During late winter/early spring, look for suspended schools of fish near primary and secondary points. Once located, try using suspended jerkbaits or Alabama rigs. Vary your twitch speeds with your jerkbait until you've found what the fish seem to prefer for the day. Fishing slower is often better, as fish can be slow to take a lure in cold water.

In spring, fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, and floating or shallow diving stick baits. Also try black/brown or black/blue ½-ounce jigs with a #11 or #1 pork frog in the yellow mustard flowers in the backs of embayments. Around woody structure use a spinner bait, or plastic lizards in pumpkin or june bug color. Shaky head jigs tipped with finesse worms make an excellent search lure for shallow bass.

During summer, fish ledges near river channels with Carolina-rigged and Texas-rigged soft plastics, and deep-diving crank baits. Also fish stumps on the main lake in the mornings and evenings with topwater baits like the zara spook (current is the key to these main lake stumps being productive). Using a 10-inch plastic worm fished along the ledges during the summer months is also good. A good color is plum.

During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad or blue/chartreuse color crank baits. Use top water baits (zara spook or devil horse) in the flats of embayments on cloudy days or at dawn and dusk. Muskie-style top water lures are becoming more popular for targeting trophy fish. Use white spinner baits around main lake stumps.

With water clarity reaching all-time highs this winter, we *may* see significant grass growth in Kentucky Lake in 2018. If the grass comes back, top water baits such as spooks, stick baits, plastic frogs, and buzz baits are great choices. Plastics, such as worms, and spinner baits are also good when fishing the edges of the weed beds.

Crappie

In spring, fish shallow and over flats with jigs and minnows. Cork fish around buttonball bushes. During summer, white bass anglers trolling small crankbaits near the river channel and primary points in the lake catch many crappie. During fall, fish jigs and minnows next to deep ledges formed by the river channel. Fish may also be caught suspended on flats adjacent to the secondary channel around 10 feet deep near structure. Fall is also a good time to catch black crappie along gravelly shorelines, fishing with a curly tail jig.

Blue catfish

During the summer, fish along the main river channel with minnows, cut shad/skipjack herring, and stink baits. An alternative bait option is pieces of silver carp. One might jump in your boat, or ask a bow fisherman for one. Winter time trophy fishing is becoming increasingly popular.

Channel catfish

In spring, fish with leeches or night crawlers around rip rap. During summer, fish with cut shad, chicken livers, minnows, leeches, and worms along the main river channel.

Sauger

Troll mainlake bars during the late summer and early fall with wiggle-warts or crankbaits, which bump bottom. During fall and winter, use jigs and minnows along the old river channel, along primary points near the river channel, and where a secondary channel meets the old river channel. A good site for fishing is along the river channel just north of the Paris Landing Bridge (US Highway 79).

White bass

Fish the jumps from July – September with slab spoons or white roostertails.

Fishing Tips for Kentucky and Barkley Tailwaters

Blue and channel catfish	The best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait just off the bottom.
Sauger	Fish $\frac{3}{4}$ -oz or 1-oz jigs with minnows bumping bottom in back eddies and near current. Trolling is also good during the winter and early spring. Best fishing is between December and February.
Striped bass and hybrids	The best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4-inch sassy shad baits with a 1- to 2-ounce head in pearl or chartreuse color. The amount of weight depends on the current and should allow baits to bump the bottom. Live bait can be caught in the tailwaters using a cast net or a skipjack rod.
Asian carp	If you want to catch Asian carp the tailwaters are your best option. Snagging or bowfishing is extremely popular and can be a lot of fun. Snagging regulations at both tailwaters are unique so check your fishing guide under special regulations before heading out. You will need a heavy rod and reel setup for snagging. We recommend at least 65-pound monofilament with a 9.0 or 10.0 treble hook rigged with at least an 8-ounce sinker. Tie the hook about 18-24" above the end of the line, then tie your sinker onto the end of the line. Wrapping the sinker line several times around the center of your treble hook will help keep the treble hook in line with your fishing line. Cast out as far as possible and then start jerking the rod backwards while reeling in your line. Do not let the hook touch the bottom if you want to avoid losing it. It is common to snag a fish on every cast when conditions are right.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass	Bluegill	Redear sunfish	Crappie	Rainbow trout	Brown trout	Muskellunge
AJ Jolly Lake									
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Barren River	✓	✓	✓						✓
Barren River Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Beaver Lake	✓			✓					
Benjy Kinman Lake						✓			
Beshear Lake	✓								
Boltz Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Briggs Lake				✓	✓				
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater				✓		✓			
Bullock Pen Lake	✓								
Carpenter Lake	✓								
Carr Creek Lake	✓								
Cave Run Lake	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓
Cedar Creek Lake	✓			✓	✓	✓			
Chenoa Lake	✓								
Clear Creek Lake				✓	✓				
Corinth Lake				✓	✓				
Cumberland Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			
Cumberland Tailwater							✓	✓	
Dale Hollow Lake	✓	✓	✓						
Dewey Lake	✓					✓			
Elkhorn Creek	✓	✓							
Elmer Davis Lake	✓				✓				
Fagan Branch Lake				✓	✓				
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater	✓			✓		✓			
Grayson Lake				✓					
Green River		✓							✓
Green River Lake	✓		✓			✓			✓
Greenbo Lake	✓						✓		
Guist Creek Lake	✓								
Herrington Lake	✓			✓		✓			
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Kentucky River									✓
Kincaid Lake	✓								
Kingfisher lakes (new and old)	✓								
Lake Linville	✓		✓	✓					
Lake Malone	✓								
Lake Reba	✓			✓	✓				
Lake Wilgreen	✓			✓	✓				
Laurel River Lake	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Marion County Lake				✓	✓				
Martin's Fork Lake	✓			✓					
Mauzy Lake	✓								
McNeely Lake	✓			✓	✓				
Metcalfe County Lake	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)	✓								
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)	✓			✓			✓		
Nolin River Lake	✓					✓			
Ohio River						✓			
Paintsville Lake/tailwater						✓			
Pennyrile Lake				✓		✓			
Rough River Lake	✓					✓			
Smoky Valley Lake									
Spurlington Lake	✓								
Taylorville Lake	✓					✓			
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake									
West Fork Drakes Reservoir									
Wood Creek Lake	✓								
Yatesville Lake	✓			✓		✓			

** Additional species can be found on following page.

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

(Summary of lakes forecasting good or excellent fishing for each species listed)

Water body	Striped bass	Hybrid striped bass	White bass	Walleye	Sauger	Saugeye	Channel catfish	Blue catfish	Flathead catfish
AJ Jolly Lake							✓		
Barkley Lake/tailwater	✓		✓				✓	✓	
Barren River		✓	✓				✓		
Barren River Lake		✓					✓		✓
Beaver Lake							✓		
Benjy Kinman Lake									
Beshear Lake							✓	✓	
Boltz Lake									
Briggs Lake									
Buckhorn Lake/tailwater							✓		✓
Bullock Pen Lake									
Carpenter Lake							✓		
Carr Creek Lake				✓			✓		
Cave Run Lake			✓	✓			✓		✓
Cedar Creek Lake									
Chenoa Lake									
Clear Creek Lake									
Corinth Lake							✓		
Cumberland Lake	✓			✓			✓		
Cumberland Tailwater	✓								
Dale Hollow Lake									
Dewey Lake							✓	✓	✓
Elkhorn Creek							✓		
Elmer Davis Lake							✓		
Fagan Branch Lake							✓		
Fishtrap Lake/tailwater		✓					✓	✓	✓
Grayson Lake		✓					✓		✓
Green River	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Green River Lake			✓				✓		
Greenbo Lake							✓		
Guist Creek Lake						✓	✓		
Herrington Lake									✓
Kentucky Lake/tailwater	✓		✓				✓	✓	
Kentucky River			✓		✓		✓		
Kincaid Lake							✓		
Kingfisher lakes (new and old)							✓		
Lake Linville							✓		
Lake Malone							✓		
Lake Reba							✓		
Lake Wilgreen								✓	
Laurel River Lake				✓					
Marion County Lake									
Martin's Fork Lake							✓		
Mauzy Lake							✓		
McNeely Lake									
Metcalfe County Lake									
Mill Creek Lake (Monroe Co.)									
Mill Creek Lake (Powell/Wolfe Co.)							✓		
Nolin River Lake			✓				✓		✓
Ohio River		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Paintsville Lake/tailwater		✓							
Pennyrile Lake							✓		
Rough River Lake		✓					✓		✓
Smoky Valley Lake							✓		
Spurlington Lake							✓		
Taylorville Lake							✓	✓	
Three Springs Lake							✓		
Washburn Lake							✓		
West Fork Drakes Reservoir							✓		
Wood Creek Lake							✓		
Yatesville Lake							✓		✓