

2021 FISHING FORECAST AND TIPS



Welcome to the 2021 Fishing Forecast for Kentucky's major fisheries. The forecast is based on 2020 fish population surveys, creel surveys, fish stockings, and historical knowledge of the fisheries. The Forecast is designed to assist anglers in planning their fishing trips and improve their fishing success. Additional fishing information is available from the Department's website at fw.ky.gov or by obtaining copies of the 2021 Sport Fishing and Boating Guide available at most sporting goods stores. The Kentucky Trout Waters brochure is contained in the 2021 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 2021 fishing season starts March 1 with the new year's license, so take a trip to your local sporting goods store, get online at fw.ky.gov, or call 1-877-598-2401 to purchase your 2021 fishing license.

The Fishing Forecast is 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 2021

- Rainbow trout will be stocked for the first time in Wolf Creek in Martin County.
- Rainbow trout will be stocked for the first time in Robert J. Barth Lake (Campbell County) in November.
- Chimney Top Creek in Wolfe County will receive a stocking of 450 6-inch rainbow trout in the fall.
- Pools 4 and 5 of the Kentucky River will be stocked with blue catfish in 2021.

New Up-and-Comers

Several lakes 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 Shanty Hollow Lake (Warren and Edmonson counties).
- Bluegill at Briggs Lake (Logan County), Shanty Hollow Lake (Warren and Edmonson counties), and Wood Creek Lake (Laurel County).
- Crappie at Barren River Lake (Allen and Barren counties) and Guist Creek Lake (Shelby County).
- Saugeye at Taylorsville Lake (Spencer, Anderson, and Nelson counties).
- Channel catfish at Briggs Lake (Logan County), Fagan Branch Lake (Marion County), and Marion County Lake (Marion County).
- White bass at Barkley Lake and Tailwaters (Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties), Green River Lake (Taylor and Adair counties), and Herrington Lake (Mercer, Boyle, and Garrard counties).
- Muskie at Buckhorn Lake (Leslie and Perry counties).
- Rainbow trout at the Cumberland Tailwater (Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties).

Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet

Make sure you check out the new Fishing Forecast Cheat Sheet located towards the beginning 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.

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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 smaller 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. Lake Beshear in west Kentucky, Barren River Lake in west-central Kentucky, along with Herrington and Green River lakes in central Kentucky also offer excellent early spring bass fishing. Dewey, Fishtrap, Fishpond, and Highsplint lakes give east Kentucky anglers a great shot for an early spring trophy largemouth bass. The new Kentucky state record largemouth bass (14-pound 9.5-ounce) was caught from Highsplint Lake in 2019.

If you are after smallmouth bass, head to Green River Lake, Kentucky Lake, Lake Cumberland, Laurel River Lake, Dale Hollow Lake and Fishtrap Lake 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 southwestern, 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 of the 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, Carr Creek, 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, Taylorsville, Herrington, and Fishtrap 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, Dale Hollow, 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 Cave Run, Green, and Dewey lakes. A 40-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily creel limit is in effect at Buckhorn Lake.

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.

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	✓			✓	✓				
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 George	✓				✓				
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						✓	✓		
Pennyrite Lake				✓	✓				
Rough River Lake/tailwater						✓			
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									
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 George							✓		
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							✓		✓

2021 FISHING FORECAST

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

The fishing forecast is based on 2020 fish population surveys, planned fish stockings, and projections for 2021.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
AJ Jolly Lake	175 acres	(Campbell County)
		Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish over 12 inches present. Low numbers of blue catfish; 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	Stocked annually since 2013. Good numbers of quality saugeye present; fish up to 25 inches are possible.

BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER	45,600 acres	(Trigg, Lyon and Livingston counties)	Western Fisheries District
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	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. Wintertime 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	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	Fair	Barkley Lake is a little tougher fishing for crappie than Kentucky Lake. White crappie are most abundant, and fish are looking plump. You can expect to catch good numbers of short fish this year along with a handful of nicer fish. Fish from good spawns in 2014 and 2015 are mostly gone and recent spawns have been average or poor, so it could be tough fishing for crappie over the 10-inch minimum size.	

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARKLEY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		Western Fisheries District
Largemouth bass	Fair	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. Numbers of intermediate and large-size bass in Lake Barkley are down, but the chances of catching a trophy are still alive and some good year classes are now starting to contribute to the fishery.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers of 9- to 11-inch fish with trophies up to 12-plus 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. If you're looking for trophy redear, Lake Barkley is your destination.
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. You are better off fishing in Kentucky lake if you want smallmouth, but the numbers in Barkley have been expanding recently.
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	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. There is no size or creel limit and harvest is encouraged.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER (from Barren River Lake dam to Green River confluence)		Southwestern Fisheries District
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Barren River Lake tailwater area 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 best below Greencastle and downstream to Green River. Note: walleye regulation is 2-fish creel limit and you cannot keep walleye between 18 and 26 inches.
BARREN RIVER (above lake upstream from Long Creek confluence)		Southwestern Fisheries District
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 any time of year, but especially during summer months.
White bass, hybrids and yellow bass	Fair/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)		Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 15 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 blue, channel, and flathead catfish present with good numbers of larger individuals. Fishing best near creek channels and at night. Fish for blues with live or cut bait in open water areas with jugs or rod and reel.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BARREN RIVER LAKE (continued)		Southwestern Fisheries District
Crappie	Excellent	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- to 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.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers overall and above average numbers of 14- to 18-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	Good	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 action.

BEAVER LAKE	158 acres	(Anderson County)	Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Excellent	Very good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; ≥8-inch fish present.	
Channel catfish	Good	Channel catfish (3,700) were stocked in 2020; fish over 15 inches common.	
Crappie	Fair/Good	Small population; majority of the crappie are between 8-10 inches, larger fish possible.	
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Majority of the bass are 8-12 inches; fair numbers of bass up to 15 inches; bass over 20 inches are present.	
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of 8- to 9-inch fish available; 10- to 11-inch fish possible. Overall, numbers are down due to the significant reduction of aquatic vegetation in lake. Redear sunfish (31,600 fish) were stocked in fall of 2020.	

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BENJY KINMAN LAKE	88 acres	(Henry County) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Fair numbers of 5- to 7-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers over 15 inches; trophy-size fish present.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of fish between 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Fair numbers of bass present. Fair potential for quality-size fish and bass over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; key in on areas with aquatic vegetation.

BESHEAR LAKE	760 acres	(Caldwell and Christian counties) Western Fisheries District
Blue catfish	Good	Blue catfish are being stocked every third year. Their population is doing fair, with good growth. Some 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-incher. Best fishing during spring in areas of aquatic vegetation and around woody structure. The population is considered stunted; therefore anglers are encouraged to harvest the small crappie.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	One of the main reasons 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 with 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.

BOLTZ LAKE	92 acres	(Grant County) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches; \geq 8-inch fish present.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of channel catfish over the 12-inch size limit. Low numbers of blue catfish; 25-inch plus blue catfish possible.
Crappie	Good	Abundant; majority of fish around 8-10 inches; larger fish possible.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above 12-inch size limit; potential for bass \geq 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Low numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish available around vegetation.
Saugeye	Fair/Good	Harvestable-size saugeye present. 9,200 saugeye were stocked in spring of 2020.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BRIGGS LAKE	18 acres (Logan County)	Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Good numbers of 7- to 8-inch fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	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, with occasional fish over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Good numbers of larger fish (9-inch plus) available. Larger fish very shallow in early spring; then move to thermocline depth.
Warmouth	Fair	Fair numbers of fish available. Fish in or near vegetation.
BUCKHORN LAKE and TAILWATER	1,230 acres (Leslie and Perry counties)	Eastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	Good size distribution and very good numbers of 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. Redear sunfish are planned for stocking in 2021.
Catfish	Excellent	High numbers of channel catfish with good recruitment of young fish each year. Some flathead catfish available up to 40-50 pounds. Lake contains lots of good rock area for hand-fishing during spawning. Tailwater provides additional good fishery.
Crappie	Good	Good numbers of legal-size fish from 9 to 11 inches. Occasional larger fish to 13 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	Good	There have been good spawns over the last several years. Numbers of keeper fish have increased slightly with most being 15-20 inches. Spring fishing success can be very good if high water events do not occur.
Muskellunge	Good	Overall numbers are good, but majority of fish less than 36 inches. For 2020, there was an increase in recruitment and fish over 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 in edges of shallow weed beds in backs of coves. Bank fishing opportunities are good at the tailwater in March and October.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
BULLOCK PEN LAKE	134 acres	(Grant County) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish are 6 inches or less, but are abundant.
Catfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of channel catfish over the 12-inch size limit; potential for larger fish (≥ 20 inches). 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.
White bass	Poor	Small population, but some large fish in the 14- to 17-inch range possible.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CARPENTER LAKE	68 acres	(Daviess County) Northwestern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Most fish 5-7 inches. Some larger fish caught annually. Target spawning fish in shallow water in bank cuts and coves, especially on edges of lily pads. Through summer, fish deeper edges of lillies and offshore humps with red worms, wax worms, and nightcrawler bites under a float.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Stocked every other year in even years. Excellent growth rates produce good numbers of 20+-inch fish. Use night crawlers, chicken liver, and/or strawberry chicken under a bobber or on bottom at night throughout the year. Fish off ADA pier and gravel jetty off Hwy 405.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Many fish 13-15 inches in the population with good numbers of fish 18 inches and greater. Target woody structure in 2-6 feet of water using plastic worm and creature baits. Larger fish will follow schools of shad in open water. Use shad imitating swim baits or crank baits.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers. Most fish 7-8 inches; some up to 10 inches. Fish deeper edges of lily pads and offshore humps with live bait under a float.
Saugeye	Good	Saugeye were initially stocked in May 2019 as 1.5-inch fingerlings. Fish were stocked again in 2020. Growth is very good and there will be harvestable-size (14 inch) fish in 2021. Saugeye are feeding on small shad, crappie, and bluegill. Lures imitating their prey along with crappie gear and small bass gear will catch fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CARR CREEK LAKE	710 acres	(Knott County)
Eastern Fisheries District		
Zebra mussels and hydrilla are present at Carr Creek 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.		
Bluegill	Fair	Good numbers of small bluegill present. Shallow water areas in creek arms provide good fishing in spring and early summer. Target larger fish around weedbed edges in summer. Fishing pier near ramp at marina holds fish in submerged brush when lake is at summer pool. Redear sunfish were also stocked in 2019 and are planned to be stocked again in 2021.
Catfish	Good	Primary species are channel and flathead catfish, but blue catfish were stocked in 2020. Numerous channel catfish can be found in the 12- to 18-inch range. There are a few white catfish in the lake. Flathead catfish not numerous, but 36- to 40-inch fish are available.
Crappie	Good	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. Check out KDFWR web page for GPS coordinates of submerged fish habitat structures. Excellent structure in Litt Carr arm of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of large fish over 20 inches. Growth rates have remained high in recent years. 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. Fish will suspend along steep rock bank or cliff drop.
Spotted bass	Fair	Best numbers are concentrated in upper and mid lake. A few large fish up to 18 inches with fair numbers through 16 inches.
Walleye	Good	High numbers of fish from 15-25 inches, with a few larger fish. 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)
Northeastern Fisheries District		
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.		
Catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish up to 24 inches along with a few larger sizes. Many are found along shallow rocky shoreline areas in early-May to 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.
Crappie	Fair	Excessive fishing pressure in 2020 likely reduced numbers of the bigger fish within the lake. However, good numbers of juvenile fish should help this population rebound fairly quickly. Starting in May, fish around department-placed and natural brush piles in the lower end of the lake. Slow fishing in the fall and winter; fish up in the riverine sections of the lake for best results at this time.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CAVE RUN LAKE (continued)		Northeastern Fisheries District
Largemouth bass	Good	Great numbers of fish around the upper end of the slot limit (15-16 inches), and high numbers of fish less than 8 inches. Population continues to be dominated by smaller bass and harvesting fish under the slot limit helps this population. Difficult lake to fish, upper reaches have best chances for larger fish.
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 gravely banks or near channel drop offs. Note: 36-inch minimum size, one fish creel limit.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Uncommon; found primarily off rocky points or shoreline in the lower lake. Note: 18-inch minimum size limit.
Spotted bass	Good	Smaller in size and most numerous within the middle and lower main lake shoreline; becomes less common within the upper reaches of the lake.
Sunfish	Good	Widespread and common, but most are 7-inches long or less. 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. A slowly growing population of redear sunfish is spreading through the lake. Fish deeper than you would for bluegill and around vegetation.
White bass	Excellent	There are plenty of larger-size fish out there, but fish are not very active in the jumps. Areas around Clay Lick and Alfrey can have infrequent and short lived jumps as well as the confluence of the Licking and Beaver rivers. 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)	Southeastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	High-density population with most fish less than 6 inches, but some fish up to 8 inches can be found. Anglers have several designated bank fishing opportunities available around the lake.	
Channel catfish	Fair	Decent numbers of fish 12-15 inches with some up to 20 inches. Stocked in even-numbered years.	
Crappie	Fair	Stable population with good numbers of fish in the 9- to 11-inch range, but bigger fish are also available to anglers. Try fishing jigs and minnows around structure up in the creeks in the fall.	
Largemouth bass	Good	With good numbers of fish across all size classes, it remains one of the best options in southeast KY for catching fish over 15 inches. Several strong year classes have helped bolster the catch rates of bigger fish and should bode well for the future of the fishery. Note: 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 6-8 inches. Size structure of the population is improving with some fish over 10 inches being caught. Using mealworms around vegetation is a good option to target them.	

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CLEAR CREEK LAKE	40 acres	(Bath County) Northeastern Fisheries District
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.
Channel catfish	Good	Catfish spawning boxes have been installed in this lake in an effort to help with natural reproduction. In order to assess the success of spawning boxes, stocking was suspended in 2019. Anglers should see minimal impact from this change.
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 around standing timber.
CORINTH LAKE	96 acres	(Grant County) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish; \geq 8-inch fish present.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of channel catfish over the 12-inch size limit; fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Fair	Low numbers; most fish between 8 and 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of bass at and above 12-inch size limit; good potential for bass between 15-20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish up to 8 inches; trophy-size fish present.
CUMBERLAND LAKE	50,250 acres	(Russell, Wayne, Clinton, and Pulaski counties) Southeastern Fisheries District
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	Good numbers and larger fish (>8 inches) are present. Good summer fishery. Target coves and cuts using crickets, nightcrawlers, or redworms.
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. Riverine sections of the upper lake also produces good numbers of catfish.
Crappie	Good	Moderate numbers of fish, but larger fish (12-14 inches) are relatively common. Strong 2018 and 2019 year classes should bolster the fishery in the coming years. Headwater areas (mouth of Laurel and Rockcastle rivers) in the early spring and around cover in the major tributaries (Fishing, Beaver, and Wolf creeks) in the fall are good options to try using minnows and jigs.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches present, and fish over 20 inches available. Upper lake tributaries generally have higher numbers, but largemouth bass can be found throughout the lake in good numbers. Abundant shallow water cover in the tributaries are good bets in the spring and fall.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Variety of sizes in the populations with good numbers of fish up to 20-inches. Good numbers of fish in the 12-16 inch range should help bolster the population in the years to come. Float-n-fly techniques and jigs offer good wintertime fishing. Main lake points are good areas to target.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
CUMBERLAND LAKE (continued)		Southeastern Fisheries District
Spotted bass	Excellent	Population remains strong with a high density of 12- to 15-inch fish, and larger fish are also present. Higher densities are in the lower lake areas but are found throughout the lake in good numbers.
Striped bass	Good	Growth rates remain strong, but anglers may struggle the next few years to catch good numbers of fish due to weak year classes in 2018 and 2019. Note: a 22-inch size limit, 2 fish daily creel limit remains in effect.
Walleye	Good	Decent numbers of fish in the 16- to 20-inch size range with a few larger fish available. In the spring, surface baits fished at night is a good bet. During the summer months, switch to trolling nightcrawler rigs 25- to 30-feet deep on main lake points and flats.
White bass	Poor	Low density population concentrated in the upper half of the lake. Try fishing headwater areas in the early spring for your best chance at catching them.
CUMBERLAND LAKE TAILWATER		(Russell, Cumberland, Clinton, and Monroe counties) SE and SW Fisheries districts
The new section of Hatchery Creek opened in 2016. The new section is catch-and-release only and artificial baits only.		
Brook trout	Fair	Stocked annually in the tailwater. Low density population with most fish in the 10- to 12-inch range.
Brown trout	Poor	The brown trout population in the tailwater is still struggling to recover. Low density population of fish, with most less than 15 inches. Some keeper fish (>20 inches) still present.
Cutthroat trout	Poor	Stocked for the first time in 2019; it is a low-density population.
Rainbow trout	Good	Increasing numbers of fish in the slot (15-20 inches) with some trout over 20 inches present. Ample numbers of stocked-size fish available for anglers throughout the year.
Sauger	Fair	Low density population distributed throughout the tailwater. Try near the dam in the winter and early spring with small jigs and grubs for your best chance at catching one.
Striped bass	Good	Increasing numbers of fish and good size distribution, with some fish over 20 pounds available. Although they can be found throughout the tailwater, the best areas are below Burkesville using live bait or trolling shad or trout colored crankbaits or swim baits during the summer months.
Walleye	Good	Moderate density population with decent size distribution of 2- to 5-pound fish, with some larger fish present. 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	Poor	Low density population. 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) Southeastern Fisheries District
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Numbers remain strong for larger-sized fish over 15 inches. Target largemouth in cuts and coves in creeks and around cover in the spring.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Good 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	Fair	Low density population with fish up to 13 inches.
Walleye	Good	Walleye numbers remain strong, with many fish over 20 inches.
DEWEY LAKE	1,100 acres	(Floyd County) Eastern Fisheries District
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	Excellent	Popular fishery with jug fishing in main lake areas from early spring through fall. Larger fish are 32-38 inches. Fish over 40 inches have been caught recently in the tailwater.
Bluegill	Fair	Stable population with good numbers. Large fish are around 7 inches long.
Channel catfish	Excellent	Good numbers found in the lower lake year round. The upper lake is best in the summer months. Lots of good bank fishing access along roadside and parking areas.
Crappie	Good	Very good numbers, with majority of larger fish being white crappie. Most keeper-size fish are 9-13 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 live bait in the spring and fall.
Largemouth bass	Good	Numbers of 15- to 20-inch fish have increased in recent years. March is good time to go after largest fish in shallow murky water with artificial plastics. When water is clear fish crank baits close to submerged brush and trees.
Muskellenge	Fair	Stocked for first time in October 2014. There are legal-size fish and numbers are improving. This fishery is mainly comprised of just 4 year classes (2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019). Annual stockings will continue.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Fish are present through 10 inches, but infrequent in catches. Some areas such as the rip-rap rock face of dam hold good fish. Try fishing bait near the bottom (4-6 ft) 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-October, look for good numbers of fish in shallow water areas in head of coves off main lake feeding on shad.
DIX RIVER – below Herrington Lake	(Garrard and Mercer counties)	Central Fisheries District
Rainbow Trout	Poor/Fair	Low number of holdover fish is expected due to poor water conditions. Multiple stockings during the year.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
ELKHORN CREEK – main stem and North Fork (Franklin and Scott counties)		Central Fisheries District
Catfish	Good	Large channel catfish possible in bigger pools; good numbers of channel catfish 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- to 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)		Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches. Fish ≥8 inches increasing.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers of fish present, with fish over 15 inches common.
Crappie	Good	Most around 8 to 10 inches; larger fish present. Good spawn in 2020.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Excellent numbers of bass in the 12- to- 15-inch slot. Good numbers of bass greater than 15 inches. Trophy-size bass present.
Redear sunfish	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish between 6-8 inches near weed beds and creek arms. “Shellcrackers” greater than 10 inches are present. Redear sunfish (26,200 fish) were stocked in the fall of 2020.
Warmouth	Fair	Nice-size fish present, usually around weed beds. Locally known as “redeye” or “rockbass”.
FAGAN BRANCH LAKE 140 acres (Marion County)		Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) temperature and oxygen levels for trout in the 20- to 30-foot range. This zone decreases as the summer progresses. Lake is extremely clear year-round.		
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish available.
Brown trout	New	Stocked in 2018 and 2019.
Channel catfish	Fair	Good numbers of 11- to 14-inch fish but opportunities for larger fish also present. 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 slow growing. Big fish present; try trout colored jerkbaits and swim baits during winter months.
Rainbow trout	Fair/Good	Best fishing will be at night under floating lights from May– to- mid-October due to clear water. Fish will be in 20- to 30-foot ranges during the summer. Fish available throughout the lake during the winter. Stocked in November. 15-inch plus fish available.
Redear sunfish	Excellent	Good numbers overall and plenty of 9- to 10-inch fish 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)
		Eastern Fisheries District
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 are stocked annually. Larger fish are approximately 32-34 inches. This fishery continues to improve and provides good jug fishing opportunity.
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers of 8- to 10-inch fish 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 abundant numbers found throughout the lake and into Levisa Fork. Numerous 2- to 5-lb. fish. Provide good opportunity for tickling/noodling during nesting. Excellent rod and reel opportunity in the upper lake around Miller's Creek in the fall. Also good above Lick Creek boat ramp access in the spring.
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 tickling/noodling opportunities when fish are spawning. Live bait makes an excellent choice on rod and reel.
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 up to 27 inches and approximately 10 pounds.
Largemouth bass	Good	Very good numbers and good growth rates; lake is prone to rapid changes in water level affecting fish activity for periods. Larger fish often found in brush/tree tops in backs of coves in lower and mid lake.
Redear sunfish	Fair	This fishery was initiated with stockings from 2010-2013. Larger fish are approximately 10-12 inches. Good spawning areas exist in the backs of coves in the lower and mid sections of the lake.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	With better 2017 and 2018 year classes, we are looking for this rating to improve in the near future. Also, the Levisa Fork up and downstream of the lake provides good opportunity for trophy fish. Larger fish show good numbers through 22 inches.
White bass	Excellent	Numerous fish from 12-16 inches. During fall and at winter pool try from Hurrican Branch to dam. During spring, fish will move upstream into Levisa Fork around Lick Creek boat ramp access. Mid-lake areas around Grapevine Creek area will be good for fish in summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GRAYSON LAKE	1,512 acres	(Carter and Elliott counties) Northeastern Fisheries District
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. Great numbers of channel and fair numbers of flathead catfish. Jug fishing opportunities are great in the summer on the lower portion of the lake near the Bongos. Try fishing the middle and upper sections in early fall.
Crappie	Fair	High numbers of fish in the 7- to 9-inch range, and fair numbers of fish over 9 inches. Anglers need to search out cover and utilize department-placed brush piles.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	High numbers of fish were harvested in 2020 and might slow down catch rates of larger fish, However, with the fast growth rates, this population should rebound fairly quickly. Fish jumps are infrequent; best option is to fish in summer when the fish are pinched down and into the lower portion of the lake.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Best population exists in the upper reaches of the lake. Good numbers of smaller (under the size limit) fish can produce fun days of catching many fish. High water helps to congregate these fish within the shoreline vegetation in the spring. 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)	Northwestern Fisheries District
Catfish	Good	Good populations of channel and blue catfish, with some flathead catfish. Trophy-size blue and flathead catfish available. Target tailwaters below locks and dams, 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 and small plastics.
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, bucktail jigs, nightcrawlers, or chicken liver cast onto hard bottoms or end of boat ramps can catch fish as well.
White bass	Good/Excellent	Fish tributary mouths in spring and below dams mid-spring through fall. Top water baits or lead head jigs below dams and lead head jigs, jigging spoons, or live bait at mouth of tributary streams during spring. Fish bank access areas and boat ramp at mouth of Pond River late-March through April with nightcrawlers or chicken liver.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREEN RIVER	(dam at Rochester up to Green River Lake dam)	Southwestern Fisheries District
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 below instream dams, spring and feeder creek mouth's, and around woody debris or other current breaks. Stocked annually throughout river above Rochester.
Rock bass	Excellent	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish present from dam to Munfordville.
Smallmouth bass	Excellent	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 more common in middle reaches of the river below Highway 88.
GREEN RIVER LAKE	8,210 acres (Taylor and Adair counties)	Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through mid-October) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 16-18 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. Late fall to early spring excellent time to catch trophy fish, even from the bank. Population maintained by annual stocking.
Smallmouth bass	Fair	Low density overall; however, there has been a slight uptick in numbers from good spawns of 2015 and 2018. Expect better than average numbers of 15-inch plus fish. Fish in mid- to 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 lower as are numbers of larger fish (20-inch plus), but good-sized fish 7-9 lbs available. 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, long points and channel drop offs during summer and fall. Population maintained by annual stocking.
White bass	Good	Population dominated by 13- to 16-inch fish. Still a good large fish (14-inch plus) presence from good year classes of 2015 and 2017. Fish headwater areas in spring (mid-March to early-April); troll flats, look for jumps, and fish under lights during summer.
White crappie	Good	Good numbers of harvestable-size fish (9-inch plus). Expect to weed through some sub-legal fish to find a keeper.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
GREENBO LAKE	181 acres	(Greenup County - Greenbo State Park) Northeastern Fisheries District
		Hydrilla and Elodea continue to thrive in the lake. Grass carp have been stocked (2016-2019) in an effort to combat this problem. It is illegal to harvest grass carp on this lake. If one is hooked please return the fish immediately, unharmed to the water. Hydrilla is a highly invasive and detrimental aquatic vegetation. 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. These fragments remain viable for up to five days out of the water.
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.
Brown trout	Good	Brown trout were stocked for the first time in 2019 and will continue to be stocked. Care should be taken to properly identify the trout species. Note: 1 fish daily creel limit and 16-inch size limit.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in even years; many 2- to 3-pound fish observed during sampling. Several flathead catfish are also seen in sampling. Reports of larger flatheads up to 40 pounds have been received. Note: limb lines (set lines), jug lines, and trot lines are illegal to use at this lake.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over 15 inches long and chances for trophy-size 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. Vegetation is less dense than it has been for several years.
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) Central Fisheries District
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	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	Good	Most in the 7- to 10-inch range; larger fish are present.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Limited population; most fish in the 16- to 22-inch range; potential for trophy-size fish.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
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GUIST CREEK LAKE (continued) Central Fisheries District

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.
Saugeye	Fair	Stocked annually since 2013. Good numbers of quality saugeye; fish up to the 25 inches are possible.

HERRINGTON LAKE Central Fisheries District

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.
Common carp	Fair	Fish in coves or headwaters with grain-based baits on bottom.
Crappie	Poor/Fair	Difficult to locate but many quality-size fish (10 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/Good	Numbers are slightly increasing and 2- to 5-lb fish are present; possible trophy-size fish. Stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish over 12 inches, many over 15 inches; potential for trophy-size fish. Good night fishing lake during the summer.
Longnose gar	Good	Large fish common; look for them around schools of shad. Schooling common in fall; potential trophy size.
White bass	Good	Good numbers of fish in the 13- to 15-inch range; trophy-size present.

KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER WFD

57,101 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, best fishing is along the main river channel. Fish congregate along the ledges of the channel when there is current, and scatter along the adjacent flats during periods of low flow. Drift 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.
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In the tailwaters there are year-round fishing opportunities. The ideal times are in April and May, and October and November. The best bait option is using fresh bait (shad and skipjack herring) caught in the tailwaters. An alternative bait option is pieces of silver carp. One might jump in your boat, or ask a bow fisherman or snagger for one. Though most anglers fish from a boat, two fishing piers offer great bank fishing opportunities for those without a boat.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		Western Fisheries District
Bluegill	Excellent	There are high numbers of 6- to 8-inch fish. The best fishing is in mid-May, but bluegill can be caught year-round. Crickets and worms fished under a cork during the spawn are great baits. Later in summer try the stake beds or deep (6- to 10-foot 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	<p>In the lake, the best fishing occurs during the late spring along chunky rock shoreline of the lake, and rip-rap shoreline around the dam and marinas. Good fishing is available along river channels 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Crappie	Good	Anglers are catching fair numbers of larger white and black crappie in the 12-inch plus size range. Good year classes in 2014 and 2015 are still contributing to those catch rates, although the majority of fish caught in 2021 will be short fish from the 2018 and 2019 year classes. Anglers fishing shallow along rocky shoreline are catching fair numbers of black crappie, which are the dominant species of crappie in Kentucky Lake. 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. Newer techniques like trolling crankbaits and real time sonar imaging have also made it much easier to target crappie year-round. A lot of short crappie being caught, just means better fishing to come.
Largemouth bass	Good	<p>An excellent year class in 2016 has resulted in some good fishing and much higher catch rates of 14- to 16-inch fish and a lot more optimism than we've seen in recent years. 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, however, in recent years the shallow bite has been more reliable than the ledges. Smaller fish can be found in the backs of embayments around brush, and chasing shad minnows during late summer. During the fall, fishing around boat docks and rocky shorelines is a good tactic.</p> <p>There is some fine bass fishing in the tailwaters below KY Dam. Try fishing white spinner baits along the rip rap shoreline.</p>
Redear sunfish	Excellent	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, searching for bugs, snails and small mussels; hence you need to fish near or on the bottom. Redear generally spawn a little deeper than bluegill.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY LAKE and TAILWATER (continued)		Western Fisheries District
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>The smallmouth have made a huge comeback in recent years and anglers are catching more smallmouth now than they have for the last 20 years. 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. For true striped bass, most anglers fish the current breaks near the bridge piers at the 68/80 Hwy bridge.</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 shoreline fishing is available off the two fishing piers near the dam. From the shoreline, fish with 4-inch sassy shad type baits.</p>
White bass	Fair	<p>Fishing is good 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Yellow bass	Excellent	<p>Lots of fish but their max size is around 10 inches. Their taste is much better than most anglers perceive and even a short fish produces a thick filet. 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. Most anglers who are specifically targeting yellow bass will look for schools suspended near the bottom along main lake flats and points. They primarily feed on aquatic insects along the bottom, so vertical jigging near the bottom is a good tactic. It is also a fantastic way to introduce children to fishing because of the high catch rates and ease of fishing methods.</p>

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KENTUCKY RIVER	255 miles (main stem)	Central, Northeastern and Eastern Fisheries districts
Blue catfish	Fair	Best in lower pools of the the Kentucky River. Fish below dams and on outside bends with current.
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*	Poor	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	Fair/Good	Found around sand bars, creek mouths, below dams around rock and sand bars. Stocked annually.
Smallmouth bass	Poor/Fair	Nice fish possible in mouths of quality tributaries. Also found around rock piles and walls.
Spotted bass	Fair/Good	Sporadic catches of small- to medium-size fish; usually below dams but also around palisade rock wall areas.
Walleye	Poor	Present in low numbers due to stockings and escapement from reservoirs in headwaters. More likely to be caught upriver. 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.

KINCAID LAKE	183 acres	(Pendleton County)	Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Poor	Abundant, most fish are less than 6 inches.	
Channel catfish	Good	Good number of fish over 15 inches.	
Crappie	Fair	Abundant; most between 6-9 inches.	
Largemouth bass	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.	

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
KINGFISHER LAKES	14 acres and 21 acres	(Daviness County) Northwestern Fisheries District
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year in even years. Good growth rate and good numbers of fish over 16 inches. Fishing with nightcrawlers, chicken liver, and/or strawberry chicken is productive throughout the year, especially at night.
Bluegill	Fair	Bluegill are improving. Density has been reduced and fish growth is improving. Most fish 5-7 inches with a few larger fish becoming available. Fish from the bank with live bait under a float or with small jigs.
Largemouth bass	Good	Low density population with most bass in the 15- to 20-inch range and very healthy. Population structure improving with time. Fish woody shoreline structure all year.

LAKE CARNICO	114 acres	(Nicholas County) Northeastern Fisheries District
Coontail is starting to become an issue. Triploid grass carp have been stocked in 2018-2019. The shoreline was treated with aquatic herbicide in 2020.		
Bluegill	Poor	Low numbers of bluegill. Bluegill were stocked in 2019 in an effort to increase numbers of catchable fish. Focus your efforts around weed edges. Note: bluegill and other sunfish - 15 fish daily creel limit.
Catfish	Fair	Fair numbers of flathead and channel catfish can be found. Catfish spawning boxes have been installed in this lake as well. Stocking will be suspended in hopes that natural reproduction will take its place. 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, in the backs of coves, and along deeper channel edges. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Redear sunfish	Poor	Very low numbers. Redear were also stocked in 2019. Note: see bluegill.
Saugeye	Fair	We are hearing good reports of saugeye being caught. Try targeting deep channel breaks. Note: 14-inch minimum size limit.

LAKE GEORGE	36 acres	(Crittenden County) Western Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Small bluegill less than 6 inches are very abundant. Few fish over 7 inches. Great for new anglers.
Channel catfish	Good	Decent numbers of catfish 15-20 inches, and a few larger individuals present as well. Fish around shallow cover.
Crappie	Fair	A stunted crappie population, with most fish caught in the south end along cover. Most are 7-8 inches.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	All sizes of bass are present with good numbers over 15 inches and a handful over 20 inches.
Redear sunfish	Good	Numerous fish in the 6- to 8-inch range. A handful of fish greater than 10 inches. Try fishing a small piece of night crawler under a cork near the bottom for best success.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
LAKE MALONE	767 acres	(Muhlenburg, Todd, and Logan counties)
		Northwestern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Population mostly comprised of 4- to 6-inch fish. A few larger fish can be found at the peak of spawn in some locations. Target flats in the upper reaches of the lake and backs of coves.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year in odd years; good number of 14- to- 16-inch fish with a few 20-inches plus.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Moderate number of 9- to 10-inch fish. Fish brush piles and fallen trees along some of the steeper banks or flats upstream of Shady Cliff and towards Sherwood Point.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Good number of fish 15 to 20 inches and over 20 inches. Fish the shoreline water willow during spring and at night during summer. Also fish submerged trees and brush along deeper banks during summer with spinner baits and jigs. Fish open water with Alabama rigs and swim baits early summer through fall as bass follow schools of shad. Target rocky banks during fall when bass are feeding heavily on crayfish.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Low number of redear, but good size (9-11 inch). Fish deep edge of shoreline water willow in spring-early summer. Move to deeper submerged structure as water warms during summer. Target the edges of upper lake flats and midway back in coves before water becomes less than 4 feet deep.

LAKE REBA	76 acres	(Madison County)
		Northeastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	Most catchable fish are over 6-8 inches. Excellent bank access and high pressure. Getting away from the well beaten paths and forging your own trail to some lesser fished portions of the lake will produce better results.
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 overall. Extremely high angling pressure makes getting away from the easily fished areas a must on this lake.
Redear sunfish	Good	Angling for spawning fish occurs closer to the bass spawn than the bluegill spawn. Great numbers of medium-sized fish and a few larger ones. Fish deeper than you would for bluegill.

LAKE WILGREEN	169 acres	(Madison County)
		Northeastern Fisheries District
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) Southeastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	Decent numbers of fish with numerous fish in the 5- to 6-inch range. Try fishing in the upper Laurel River Arm during the summer using crickets and redworms.
Crappie	Fair	Increasing population numbers dominated by black crappie, with 10- to 12-inch fish present. Upper portion of Laurel River Arm near city dam is the best area to target them.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable population with good numbers of fish across all sizes. Moderate density of fish less than 12 inches should give the population a boost in the coming years. Better numbers are found in the upper Laurel River Arm.
Smallmouth bass	Good	Low density population, but larger, quality-size (over 3 pounds) fish present. Decent numbers of 12- to 18-inch fish should help bolster the population for the next few years. In the winter and early spring, casting jigs and swim baits are good options for targeting larger fish.
Spotted bass	Fair	Moderate density of 10- to 13-inch fish with bass up to 16 inches. Increased number of smaller fish bodes well for the future of the fishery. Mid and lower sections of the lake are the best areas to target spotted bass.
Walleye	Good	Good numbers of 18- to 21-inch fish with fish up to 24 inches. 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	Low density population of moderate-sized fish. Generally found up in the Laurel River Arm.
MARION COUNTY LAKE	32 acres	(Marion County) Southwestern Fisheries District
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	Good	All sizes available. Stocked every other year.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers of 11- to 13-inch fish, with a few 15-inch fish available.
Redear sunfish	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) Eastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good	Good numbers; a popular bluegill fishery. Most harvested fish are 7 inches or less. Fish near road beds and shallow mud flats in spring or summer. Redear sunfish are planned for stocking in 2021.
Channel catfish	Good	Most fish are less than 20 inches; fingerlings were stocked in 2018 and 2020. Fish at night for better results as water is very clear. There are several good bank fishing areas. When murky, Cranks Creek and Martins Fork Creek where first entering the lake can have good numbers of fish. Note: jug fishing and limb lines are prohibited.
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 along break lines to deeper water in summer. Fish road bed edges adjacent to standing timber in the spring and fall.
Largemouth bass	Good	Numbers over 15 inches are above average in recent years. 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	Poor	This fishery is currently rebuilding with first stocking of native strain walleye in 2013. Stockings have continued in 2014-2019. Greater numbers of fish were found in 2020 fall sampling efforts showing an encouraging increase in the population. Note: two fish daily creel limit; 18- to 26-inch protective slot limit.
MAUZY LAKE	81 acres	(Union County, Higginson-Henry WMA) Northwestern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Moderate numbers, most fish 4-6 inches. Excessive aquatic vegetation led to poor growth and affected sampling efficiency and fishing opportunities in 2019. Grass carp were stocked in 2020 and should help control excessive vegetation.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year in odd years. Many 15- to 22-inch fish in the population. Under exploited population.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Decent number of bass over 15 inches available. Excessive vegetation is hindering bass foraging success and growth. Fish plastic baits and spinner baits around offshore hardwood brush piles in spring/early summer before vegetation expands.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Most fish 6-8 inches with a few over 8 inches. Redear now outnumber bluegill but growth is poor. Excessive vegetation limited fishing opportunities during summer 2020.
MCNEELY LAKE	51 acres	(Jefferson County) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Good/Excellent	Good numbers of fish through 8 inches; \geq 8-inch fish are present.
Channel catfish	Fair	Channel catfish stocked annually; 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.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good numbers of fish over the 12-inch size limit with fish over 20 inches present. Best cover is water willows, fallen trees, and stumps.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MCNEELY LAKE (continued)		Central Fisheries District
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.

METCALFE COUNTY LAKE	22 acres	(Metcalf County)	Southwestern Fisheries District
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	Low numbers overall, with some trophy-sized fish (30-inch plus) available. Fish with live or cut bait near creek channel. Stocked sporadically since 2009.	
Channel catfish	Fair/Good	Fair numbers available. Stocked every other year.	
Crappie	Fair	Smaller-size (7-9 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	500 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)	Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 12 feet.			
Blue catfish	Fair	Stocked since 2008.	
Bluegill	Poor	Most fish 3-5 inches with few 6- to 7-inch fish.	
Channel catfish	Fair	Good numbers of 13- to 16-inch fish, with some larger fish present. Stocked every other year.	
Crappie	Fair	Fair number of 8- to 9-inch fish. Larger crappie present but at low numbers.	
Largemouth bass	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 some 7- to 9-inch fish available.	
Spotted bass	Poor/Fair	Fair numbers, but slow growing with few fish exceeding 12 inches.	

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
MILL CREEK LAKE	41 acres	(Powell/Wolfe County – Natural Bridge State Park) Northeastern Fisheries District
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-size 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. Try focusing on deep standing timber. Note: 15-inch minimum size limit.
Rainbow trout	Excellent	Stocked annually. Best time to fish is within the first few days after stocking.
NOLIN RIVER LAKE	5,795 acres	(Grayson, Edmonson and Hart counties) Northwestern Fisheries District
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	Increased number of fish in the population compared to 2019/2020. Number of 7- to 9-inch fish in 2020 indicates good numbers of 10+ inch fish available in 2021. Fish inundated structure in shallow water for spawning fish. During summer, fish main lake brush piles and standing timber in coves 12-18 feet deep for larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Good	Stable population with good number of fish over 15 inches. Fish often difficult to find during summer months. Anglers should continue to see good numbers of quality bass in 2021. Water and fishing conditions change regularly so be flexible in fishing location, tactic, and pattern.
Walleye	Fair	Most fish 16-18 inches with a few over 20 inches. 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. Also in summer, try fishing at night under lights near the main channel in the upper lake with jigging spoons or minnows. Some fish remain in upper river year round.
White bass	Excellent	Large number of 11- to 14-inch white bass. Fish from Bacon Creek upstream during April spawning run with lead head jigs rigged with plastics, small crank baits, or live bait. Fish longer main lake points or jumps in summer. Also in summer, fish at night under lights near main channel with jigging spoons or live minnows.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
NOLIN RIVER LAKE TAILWATER (Edmonson County - 7 miles of river until confluence with Green River) SWFD		
Black bass	Fair	Largemouth and spotted bass present in fair numbers in first four miles of tailwater. Smallmouth numbers increasing.
Trout	Fair	Rainbows stocked monthly (April-November) except for August. There are some holdover fish 12-16 inches, but numbers are low due to warmer tailwater temperatures in late summer 2020. Brown trout stocked annually since 2017. Trout most abundant in first 3.5 miles of tailwater.
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, backend of pools, and current breaks (logjams, layoffs 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 Northeastern, Central, Northwestern and Western Fisheries districts		
Blue catfish	Good	Good populations in tailwaters and deep holes around outside bends with moderate current. Try using fresh cut bait rather than frozen or prepackaged baits.
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	Excellent	Fish can be found in backwater areas adjacent to woody habitat year round.
Flathead catfish	Good	Potential for very large fish; look for cover such as sunken logs, boulders or other large objects.
Hybrid striped bass	Good/Excellent	Fish up to 6 pounds in and around tailwaters.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Fishing is best in tributaries and backwater areas. Fingerlings stocked annually in the Greenup, Meldahl, Markland, and Cannelton pools.
Sauger	Fair/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	Poor	Occasionally found in tailwaters.
White bass	Good	Can be caught in tailwaters in winter and spring and creek mouths during the fall.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PAINTSVILLE LAKE and TAILWATER		
	1,139 acres	(Morgan and Johnson counties)
		Eastern Fisheries District
		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 areas such as Patoker boat ramp access. Down-lake, large fish are often located deep; fish that are shallow can be found around rock riprap shoreline areas and islands.
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 from Patoker boat ramp to lower Sandlick. The lower lake will have larger fish often holding at edges of hydrilla beds and submerged brush piles.
Hybrid striped bass	Good	Stocked for first time in June 2015. Initial stocking was 11,000 fish. Remaining fish are primarily 20-23 inches. An additional stocking occurred in 2020 and will continue every third year.
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. March is popular for catches of lunger fish in standing timber and around lower lake islands. Note: size and creel limits now follow statewide regulation.
Rainbow trout	Good	Best fishing in shallow water during winter to early spring after the February stocking; some fish present in summer at depth of 20-25 feet. Brown trout are planned to be stocked in 2021.
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 and majority are small; some large spotted bass present up to 14 inches; best fishing in lower half of lake along main lake shoreline.
Walleye	Poor	Fair numbers through 28 inches; potential for trophy size; look for active fish to be suspended in March around the 8-foot depth near the lower lake islands or mid lake-standing timber; May and October are also good months to fish with live night crawlers on a jig head fished off the bottom. During summer, drop minnows, night crawlers or jiggling spoons along weed bed edges.
PENNYRILE LAKE		
	47 acres	(Christian County)
		Western Fisheries District
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 and kayakers.
Channel catfish	Fair	Decent numbers of 12- to 15-inch catfish, and a few larger individuals present as well. Fishing around fallen trees and beaver huts with night crawlers or cheese bait should provide success. Note: there is a 12-inch size limit on catfish.
Crappie	Poor	Low overall numbers, but fish are good size.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
PENNYRILE LAKE (continued)		Western Fisheries District
Largemouth bass	Fair	This lake has a high number of bass 12 inches and smaller. It is a great place to take kids fishing!
Redear sunfish	Good	Numerous fish in the 6- to 8-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) Northwestern Fisheries District
Catfish	Good/Excellent	Large number of 20+-inch channel catfish available. Lower number of flathead catfish, but trophy fish available. Fish upper lake areas in early spring and steeper rocky banks during mid-May to June for spawning fish. Fish upper river areas and main lake river bends in the fall/early winter as water level begins to drop.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Lots of big fish caught from 2018-2020. Plenty more moving to harvestable size, with good numbers of 10+ inch fish available. Fish shallow water 2-5 feet deep for spawning fish. Brush piles 10-15 feet deep hold larger fish during summer, especially mid lake. In fall/early winter, fish nearshore structure as water level drops.
Hybrid striped bass	Excellent	Excellent population of hybrid striped bass. Large number over 15 inches and many over 20 inches and up to 10 pounds. Fish upper south fork 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. The thermocline typically keeps fish less than 17 feet deep June through September.
Largemouth bass	Fair/Good	Good number of bass 15+ inches. Bass have proven difficult to catch the during summer when water quality/conditions are below average. May and September have been the most productive months for bass anglers based on recent creel data. Target large wood and rock near shore during spring. Water and fishing conditions change regularly so be flexible in fishing location, tactic, and pattern.
Tailwater	Good/Excellent	Tailwater was closed to fishing for several years due to dam construction. Tailwater will continue to be open until the final construction phase begins. Good to excellent fishing for hybrid stiped bass, flathead and channel catfish, and crappie. Hybrids and crappie best in April, catfish best late-May through June.
SHANTY HOLLOW LAKE		135 acres (Warren and Edmonson counties) Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 10 feet.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Numbers of 6-inch plus fish up from last couple of years. Fish 8-10 feet on brushpiles, laydown trees, or rock outcroppings in summer for larger fish.
Channel catfish	Fair	Most fish 10-14 inches. 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	Good	Good numbers of 12- to 14-inch fish, with increasing number of 15-inch plus fish.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers overall, but some larger fish (8-inch plus). Larger fish up shallow early in the spring then out to thermocline depths by early summer.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
SMOKY VALLEY LAKE	36 acres	(Carter County – Carter Caves State Park) Northeastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair	Slightly better than last season; most less than 7 inches. Bluegill were stocked in the lake in 2019
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	Fair	Slowly improving population. There are plenty of chances to catch a good number of fish, but the size is still small overall for this population. Angler harvest is the key to improving this fish population. Note: 12- to 15-inch protective slot limit; 6 fish daily creel limit, only one over 15 inches.
SPURLINGTON LAKE	27 acres	(Taylor County) Southwestern Fisheries District
Summertime (mid-June through September) oxygen levels are too low to support fish below 7 feet.		
Bluegill	Excellent	Good numbers of 6- to 8-inch plus fish available.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes present. Stocked every other year.
Largemouth bass	Excellent	Better than average numbers of larger fish (15-inch plus). Good choice for big bass (20-inch plus) opportunities.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Lower numbers of fish overall; however, 10-inch plus available.
TAYLORSVILLE LAKE	3,050 acres	(Spencer, Anderson and Nelson counties) Central Fisheries District
Bluegill	Fair/Good	Good number of fish 6 inches and longer around standing timber in coves.
Catfish	Good/Excellent	Blue catfish population stable; fish with live bait and cut bait (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. Good numbers of flathead catfish are present.
Crappie	Good/Excellent	Good number of fish at and above the 10-inch size limit. Expect another good crappie fishing season in 2021. Very good spawn in 2019 which means the future looks promising for crappie fishing in the upcoming years. Note: daily creel limit 15 fish and 10-inch size limit.
Hybrid striped bass	Fair/Good	Hybrid striped bass numbers fairly stable; good numbers of fish greater than 15 inches. In spring and fall, there are good number of fish in the headwaters. Look for jumps early and late in day July-September. Hybrids are stocked annually.
Largemouth bass	Good/Excellent	Very good numbers of 12- to 15-inch fish; good numbers of 15- to 18-inch fish; best in timber coves; concentrate effort on primary points on main lake and secondary points in creeks.
Saugeye	Good	Saugeye stocked since 2015; harvestable-size saugeye are present; saugeye are stocked annually.
White bass	Fair/Good	Good numbers in Salt River above the lake in spring (with good flow from rains) and fall; many 8- to 12-inch fish present.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
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.
Channel catfish	Good	Good numbers and good-size fish (15-inch plus) available. Stocked periodically through the spring and summer.
Largemouth bass	Fair	High numbers, but 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	Fair	Stocked periodically through winter and early spring months (November, February, and March) for put and take fishing. Lake too warm for trout by early- to mid-May.
Redear	Good	Good lake for 9- to 10-inch fish.
WASHBURN LAKE	18 acres	(Ohio County)
Northwestern Fisheries District		
Bluegill	Good	Moderate numbers, several bluegill over 8 inches in the population. Target upper end of lake and behind the small island for spawning fish. Fish with live bait under a float near structure summer through winter.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked every other year in odd years for many years. Stocking temporarily discontinued in 2020 as part of a research project evaluating potential for natural reproduction. Good number of fish greater than 18 inches. Fish at night from the jetties using nightcrawlers, chicken liver, or strawberry chicken about a foot off of the bottom. From a boat, target areas where water runs into the lake and fish with the same baits.
Largemouth bass	Poor/Fair	Suveys in 2020 showed very successful 2019 and 2020 spawns. Population currently dominated by 5- to 10-inch fish. A few 12- to 15-inch fish available. Target woody structure throughout the year with plastics, spinnerbaits, and shallow-running crankbaits.
Redear sunfish	Fair/Good	Most redear in the 7- to 8-inch range with some over 9 inches. Target slightly deeper water than for bluegill using live bait and popeyes.
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	Good	Good numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish, but very few 8-inch plus fish.
Channel catfish	Good	All sizes available. Stocked every other year. Fishing best at night near creek channel and during or after rain event when lake is rising.
Crappie	Fair/Good	Good numbers of fish, but will have to weed through smaller fish to find larger fish.
Largemouth bass	Fair	Better than average numbers of 12-inch plus fish but few fish larger than 15 inches.
Muskie	Fair	Fish stocked in creek below the dam every 2-3 yrs. Fishing best in late winter to early spring using large inline spinners and jerk baits in deeper holes near woody cover from dam to low-water ford.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Good numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish; few larger than 8 inches.

Location/Species	Forecast	Comments
WOOD CREEK LAKE	672 acres	(Laurel County) Southeastern Fisheries District
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 middle and upper sections of the lake.		
Bluegill	Good	Low to moderate density population with decent numbers of 6- to 7-inch fish.
Channel catfish	Good	Stocked in odd-numbered years. 12- to 15-inch fish common.
Crappie	Fair	Moderate numbers of smaller fish in the 7- to 8-inch range with an occasional fish exceeding 9 inches.
Largemouth bass	Good	High density population composed primarily of 8- to 13-inch fish with improving numbers of bigger fish. Target bigger bass in the upper arms of the lake.
Rainbow trout	Fair	Stocked annually in October and February. Most fish in the 10- to 13-inch range.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Low numbers of fish up to 8 inches with some larger fish available. Try targeting them in the mid lake area.
Spotted bass	Poor	Low density population, with few fish exceeding 12 inches. Target mid and lower lake areas for spotted bass.
YATESVILLE LAKE	2,314 acres	(Lawrence County) Eastern Fisheries District
Bluegill	Excellent	Excellent numbers and size distribution throughout the lake; numerous fish 7.0-7.5 inches, with larger fish reaching 8.0-8.5 inches. Good spawning areas can be found at the backs of mid-lake coves.
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-spring, many fish are shallow in upper lake; abundant bank access available in upper and lower lake sections.
Crappie	Good	Recent years have had excellent spawns yielding higher densities of smaller fish. Most larger fish range 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. In the fall, fish located in clear water will stay deeper. Muddy water tends to bring fish shallow.
Flathead catfish	Good	Good size distribution with numbers increasing; rocky shoreline provides best opportunity with bluegill and green sunfish as bait. During spawn, rocky shorelines will provide good hand fishing opportunity.
Largemouth bass	Good	Good size distribution continues with good numbers of 15- to 20-inch fish. Recruitment of young fish has remained high since 2015. Fish growth has been slow in recent years. Popular lake for tournament fishing as most of the year produces good results. To avoid boat access and congestion problems at ramps, please utilize KDFWR website for viewing tournament schedules. Also, check out KDFWR web page for GPS coordinates of submerged fish habitat structures.
Redear sunfish	Fair	Population is expanding due to increased growth of weedbed areas; 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

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.
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 shoreline, fishing with a curly tail jig.
Largemouth bass	<p>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.</p> <p>In spring fish shallow with a Rapala #11 or #13 gold with black back, and floating or shallow diving stick baits. Black/brown or black/blue ½ ounce jig with #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 either pumpkin or june bug color. Shaky head jigs tipped with finesse worms make an excellent search lure for shallow bass.</p> <p>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. Fishing shallow can also be productive in the summer particularly at night. Shallow bass in the summer are usually targeting sunfish, so sunfish mimics like swimbaits can be a good option.</p> <p>During fall, fish along main lake ledges around stumps and brush with shad-color or and 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 topwater lures are becoming more popular for targeting trophy fish. Use white spinner baits around main lake stumps.</p> <p>In recent years we have seen very little submerged aquatic vegetation (grass). The evidence strongly suggests this is due to a successful spawn of the invasive grass carp within the tailwaters in 2015. As those grass carp die or are harvested by commercial fishermen, the grass may come back if conditions are right. 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.</p>

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	Best time is in May-June using cut bait or live bait fishing 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	Best time is from April-June using live bait (skipjack herring) or 4-inch sassy shad baits with 1-2 ounce head (depending on amount of current, bump the bottom) in pearl or chartreuse color. 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.