

Melton Hill Fishing Report

May 10, 2012

WATER CONDITIONS

The predicted water level is approximately 793.9 ft. above sea level.

The average water surface temperature is in the mid 70's.

Cooler surface temperatures can be found in the early morning hours.

The reservoir is very clear with a slight green tint.

SUMMARY

The bass bite is getting better every day and the bigger bass seem to be holding near the mouths of creeks and feeder streams. Crankbaits seem to be the best lure choice right now. Medium divers with at least some chartreuse in the color are doing very well. Primary points and rocky banks are also key spots, especially if there is some submerged structure close by. Crappie are moving up into shallower water but still holding tight to structure. Muskies are doing fair right now and seem to be holding close to structure.

MUSKIES

Improving

3 to 12-feet

The musky bite seems to be improving and should get better as the water temperatures continue to stabilize. The main channel below the steam plant is always a good place to try. Fallen timber and submerged or at least partially submerged timber seems to be a favorite hangout for big muskies. Big chartreuse spinner baits and big trout imitating jerk baits are a good choice right now. Bulldogs and shallow invaders are excellent lure choices for big muskies. Remember, there is a 50 inch minimum length limit on these trophy fish. This means a musky less than 50 inches must be returned to the water unharmed.

BASS

Improving

8 to 12-feet

Chartreuse and white spinnerbaits are doing well right now. White chatterbaits with a little chartreuse are catching some nice largemouth and smallmouth. The KVD crankbait in Tennessee Shiner color is doing very well right now. It does help if the dam is spilling water which it has been lately. If the dam is not spilling the bite seems to be a little slower. Rocky outcrops and points seem to be holding the bigger bass, while submerged timber or underwater humps and islands are holding good numbers also. The downstream sides of ambush positions are very good spots to swim a crankbait through. Medium divers and swimbaits are good lure choices for fishing deeper water. Rattletraps and other lipless crankbaits are good for covering lots of water quickly.

CRAPPIE

Improving

6 to 17-feet

Crappie seem to be biting better, and are moving into shallower water. Submerged structure like brushpiles and just about any other fallen timber is holding some good keeper sized crappie.

Around 8-10 ft. seems to be the preferred depth for the bigger fish. Reactor Bend in the Reactor Cove area is a good place to start looking for the crappie. 1/16th oz. hair jigs in brown and brown and white is a good lure choice.

STRIPED BASS

2 to 12-feet

Striped bass are always present in Melton Hill and there have been a few anglers fishing for them. The best bait for stripers or (rockfish) is undoubtedly live skipjack. Live skipjack hooked through the back, just behind the dorsal fin, with about a 6/0 circle hook is a good rig for stripers. You can either tightline them or tie a partially inflated balloon onto your line at whatever depth you desire. Let the skipjack swim around as much as it wants. Striped Bass have no trouble swallowing an 8-10 inch skipjack. However, you must have heavy tackle for these big fish.