

Offerings from the deep...



TABLE ROCK LAKE:

Top Black Bass lake. Offers quality year around fishing. Spring and late fall are considered the best times to catch bass in shallow water with artificial lures. Summer pan fish are crappie in the early and mid-spring, and bluegill from late spring to late fall. Predominant species: Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky Bass; Black and White Crappie, Bluegill, White Bass, Rock Bass (Goggle Eye), Channel and Flathead Catfish.

LAKE TANEYCOMO

The Ozarks' "Trout Machine." Quality year around fishing for Rainbow Trout due to a comprehensive stocking program and an ideal environment for the fish. Brown Trout are also stocked. Greatest numbers exist in the headwaters below the dam. Top action for Rainbows is usually in winter but other seasons are excellent. Top action for Browns is in the fall. Several species of bass and panfish exist in the lower end of the lake. Predominant species: Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout.

TABLE ROCK LAKE		SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
LARGEMOUTH BASS 	Top sport fish. Widely distributed throughout the lake. Fish in excess of 5 pounds abundant.	Spring spawners, shoreline dwellers. Biggest fish of the year taken in March. Best numbers of fish taken in April and May.	Fish concentrate in submerged timber about 30 feet deep during daylight. Some move to the shoreline 10-20 feet deep at night.	Fish return to shallows as water cools. Night fishing is excellent in September and October. November is usually the best daytime fall fishing month.	Fish located on outside treelines of coves and main lake. Action is excellent during mild winters.
SMALLMOUTH BASS 	Considered best battler once hooked. Located at lower lake and upper reaches of main tributaries.	Same as Largemouth.	Same as Largemouth.	Same as Largemouth, but some stay deep.	Same as Largemouth, but some fish relate to rocks more than trees.
KENTUCKY BASS (Spotted) 	Very scrappy like its cousin the Smallmouth. Schooling fish in summer and fall. Abundant along entire main lake and major tributaries.	Same as Largemouth.	Heavy schooling fish locate on main lake points in 20-30 feet of water. The action is usually very consistent.	Same as Smallmouth, but catch rate is higher.	Some fish chase shad on the surface while others remain in 30 feet of water off main lake points and bluffs.
BLACK & WHITE CRAPPIE 	Excellent table fare. Average fish is large due to 10-inch minimum limit and the lake's immense forage base.	Early spring spawners. March and April best months. Wooded coves and main lake pockets with brush are best.	Fish go deeper and scatter. Best results fishing under lights at night.	Look for dropoffs with timber in coves and upper tributaries.	Look for wooded areas in upper reaches of main tributaries. Action can be excellent with several days of mild temperatures.
BLUEGILL 	Also excellent table fare. Big slabs over 3/4 pound are common. Located all over lake, especially near boat docks.	Late spring spawners. Fish concentrate in timber and brush in April and May.	Some fish continue to spawn into June. Fish are present near almost every tree and dock. The bigger ones are deeper.	Lots of big fish on top of submerged timber, 20-40 feet deep.	Fish sometimes remain on fall patterns in December but become sluggish in January and February.
WHITE BASS 	Tremendous schools make annual runs to upper reaches of main tributaries each spring.	Schooling spring spawners run back in major creeks and rivers. Look for other boats as an indication fish are present.	Look for large schools chasing shad and minnows on the surface of the main lake.	Difficult to locate at times, but still in large schools. Some surface activity in early fall. Tend to frequent deep flats in later fall.	Some fish are located on deep main lake points in early and mid-winter. They move to mud flats in late winter if the weather is mild.
ROCK BASS (Goggle Eye) 	Very good table fare. Schooling fish are usually located in coves and creeks.	Late spring spawners. Schooling fish taken in May on shallow structure in the main lake and mouths of coves. Also live creek dwellers.	Same locations as spring but look deeper, 20-30 feet in the lake. Holes in the creeks.	Back to spring locations.	Dormant
CATFISH (Channel & Flathead) 	Excellent table fare. Located in coves, creeks and main lake pockets. Basically a nocturnal fish.	Late spring spawners. Fish start to move in April, given a mild winter. Best production comes from trotlines, juglines and limblines.	Best rod and reel fishing is at night on main lake, flats. Timbered coves are also productive. Trotline harvest increases.	Feeding activity falls with water temperature.	Dormant
LAKE TANEYCOMO		SPRING	SUMMER	FALL	WINTER
RAINBOW TROUT 	High concentrations all along lake. Aggressive sight feeders will take a variety of artificial lures and flies. They will take live bait equally well.	Fish feed actively due to high oxygen content in water. Current is usually swift. Drift fishing from a boat generally produces best results.	Current slows and ceases at times. Best fishing is early and late in the day and at night. Mid-day is good if current picks up. Boat and bank fishing is excellent.	Browns, Rainbow pattern are similar to summer but mid-day activity improves in late fall.	Peak feeding activity due to high oxygen levels resulting in lake turnover. Nice limits are more the rule than the exception. Mid-day fishing is usually excellent. Current is generally moderate to swift.
BROWN TROUT 	Very aggressive and carnivorous. Highest densities in the first several miles below the dam. Brutes in excess of 20 pounds are believed to exist.	Fish will locate in undercut banks and behind gravel bars. They most readily take live bait drifted along the bottom but will chase jerk baits that imitate minnows.	Fish seek out deep holes. Live nightcrawlers are a favorite bait. Flies can be good. Night fishing is best.	Best time of the year. Annual spawning run occurs in October in the headwaters. Light line is important. Most Browns over 5 pounds are caught this time of year.	Fish spread out after spawning. Patterns are similar to spring.

Fish Illustrations by Joseph R. Tomelleri