Dr. Wilson,

Bowfin eat fish. Put a bounty on them and kill’em all! You can quote me on that!



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e: bowfin in donavan

**Ken Marion (Professor of Biology, UAB; Board Member, Dauphin Island Sea Lab)**

To Me

Aug 11 at 10:30 AM

Hi Thomas,  
  
Wow. Bowfins!!! I never would have guessed. I have not caught one   
there and I guess no one else had previously reported them to you. I   
wonder how they got there----must have been long ago when the little   
creek was dammed up. Since they have not really been reported before,   
my guess is that this must have been a good year class at one time or   
other and that this may be sort of a one time peak, but who knows.

With all the shad and forage in that lake, I doubt if they would have   
a serious impact on the fishery. However, I might encourage the kill   
policy to be safe. Again, I doubt if they would have a major effect.   
I have caught some good numbers of bass in some oxbow lakes a number   
of years ago that had bowfin in the lakes.

I am sort of swamped for the next several days, but after that it   
might be nice to go fishing. Let me know about possible opportunities then.  
  
Ken  
  
  
At 08:28 AM 8/10/2014, you wrote:  
>Ken,  
>  
>I have discovered that we have a fairly significant population of   
>adult,  big boys, bowfin in donavan.  they are gathered in the weeds   
>in front of the irrigation pipe that has been running for about a   
>week... making the water cooler in this bay and attracting shad and   
>bass.  they will knock the snot out of a big, fat, shallow running   
>crankbait....like a Bio O.  
>  
>I am building a fishing deck near this area and i watch the bowfin   
>feed... first thought it was a beaver... so big and loud.  then i   
>saw some leap into the air... spooked when I hit a post with the   
>sledge hammer.  I watched a fisherman hook up with one of the big   
>one in this spot.  the bowfin ripped the drag and snapped the line.  
>  
>what am i to think about having a population of bowfin in   
>donavan?  certainly offers a new sport to the members.  what advice   
>should i give members.... catch and release.... catch and keep   
>(kill).  do you think these bowfin pose a threat to the bass and bream?  
>  
>I want to post a Bowfin Notice on the web site.... may I quote you   
>on this?    
>  
>we added 10 piles of trees to donavan about two weeks ago.  
>  
>let me know when you want to go fishing.  thanks. tw