

Greetings from the white Excel Bay Pro. Fishing has been great when we can get away from the boat traffic.

I have boated KY and Barkley Lakes since I was 10 years old. I have never seen either fishing boat or recreational boat traffic as bad as it is this year. Boat traffic doesn't have to be a bad thing when folks are considerate of others but I have heard of, and experienced first hand, close calls from boats being operated recklessly. Folks need to remember the law says if you cause damage to property with your wake, you are legally responsible.

Catfish

I'm starting with catfish this week. Our recent catch on crank baits has been unreal. Yes, catfish on crank baits. We have been catching good numbers of good quality catfish on main lake ledges where they are spawning. Most of the catch has been channel cats but we have also been catching several of what old-timers call "white catfish".

The white cats are grey and silver and their meat is as white as flathead cats. I had a couple of repeat clients, Fred and Butch from Bullitt County, this week who took home a good sized cooler full of fillets from two days' catch. We weren't necessarily targeting catfish but they are always a welcome addition to the creel for folks who want to keep them.

We have had several up to 10 pounds. Let me tell you, a 10 pound catfish 80 feet behind a slow moving boat is a fight, especially on rods up to 14 feet long. My Southern Crappie Rods have been more the up to the task and when you see one bent into a U for several minutes during the fight, you will be impressed.

The bait fisherman can catch good numbers of catfish near rocky banks near deep water. Night crawlers and cut bait has worked well for us.

Crappie

The crappie bite has slowed down some but we are still catching decent numbers of good sized crappie on crank baits. We put two 16 inch white crappie in the livewell on one trip.

I'm hearing of some good catches on spider rigged minnows and a few vertical jigging jigs over brush. The crappie are needing to build their fat reserves back up

from the stresses of spawning and most have moved to deeper areas where current is running.

Gills and Redears

We fished several bedding areas lately with catches of many small gills. I'm talking 6-7 inch fish. This sized fish is not what I want to see. It does bode well for the future but the larger bull gills have been tough to find. I'm getting very few reports of redears.

White and Yellow Bass

We have been catching some good quality white bass while trolling ledges on the main lake and in the mouths of major bays. Yellows are always eager to slam a jig or crank bait. These fish may be small in size but they are huge in attitude and fight. They are also very good on the table. Watch out for the gill plates and fins on whites and yellows. Painful cuts and pokes are why we call them "razorblades".

Fishermen using jigging spoons, blade baits and in-line spinners are taking good numbers of both on off-shore structures.

Sauger

We are catching several undersized sauger with an occasional keeper. Remember these tasty fish must be 14 inches to be legal. Watch out for their sharp gill plates, fins, PLUS that mouth full of razor-sharp teeth.

Bass

Good catches of large bass are being taken on spoons, crank baits and creature baits on main lake ledges and in the mouths of large bays.

Be considerate of those boaters around you but keep an eye out for those who don't return the favor. Wear your PFDs, obey all maritime and Fish and Wildlife laws, and enjoy your time on the water.

Welcome to our little bit of Heaven.

Doug Wynn
June 15, 2017

