

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For June 21, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake

Welcome from the deck of the white Excel.

First, I want to mention my sorrow to hear of the passing of Jerry Maupin. Jerry was a friend from a younger time in my life. We shared many stories and reports about fishing while around Kenlake Marina. He was a white bass guru who loved vertical jigging while I would be trolling many of the same areas.

Jerry made a lasting impression on me one day when one of his clients kept throwing his lure over our lines as we trolled nearby. A stern lecture to the kid in front of his parents got the situation under control as quickly as it had started. He could have just as easily been critical of my wife and I for being close, many would have. He acknowledged we were on the bar first and we all needed to share the resource.

Now as a fishing guide, I look back on the times Jerry and I crossed paths and remember them kindly. His reports in the *Murray Ledger and Times* were always the first thing I turned to.

Crappie

Crappie have settled into a summer time pattern with the water temps in the mid 80s. We are still catching good numbers of keepers pulling crank baits. Boat traffic on weekends and mid-day is making my job tough so we are concentrating on trips during the week or early and late in the day.

Our best catches are coming from deep flats with some scattered cover. Arkie 350s, Bomber 6As, and Bandit 200 and 300s are all working well. Color patterns seem to change thru the day so having a box full of different choices with really help.

Saturday I guided a couple from Illinois who were wanting to learn how to set their boat up to troll. They have been following my reports closely and wanted to see what all the fuss was about. The chance to catch several different species made it even better.

We started out early in a bay that would soon be crawling with recreational boaters. Our first crappie of the day was a 16-inch trophy that the wife did a great job of getting to the net. Her husband was a great sport as his mate proceeded to give him a beat-down, good natured of course. She ended up with three slabs over 16" and another over 15", a great day in anybody's book.

Some spider riggers and vertical jig fishermen are catching decent numbers around deep structure but the crappie bite is very dependent on current being generated. Low current means tough fishing.

Catfish

We are catching good numbers of good eating size catfish, blues, whites and channels, on cranks near drops and on main-lake bars.

I getting reports of good catches in the canal and on rocky drops where the cats are still in spawning mode. For bait fishermen, try cut baits, stink baits, leeches and nightcrawlers.

Let me get you in on a secret bait some friends of mine swear by. Buy some skinless, boneless chicken breast and cut it into small chunks and slices. Put the pieces in a plastic bowl and mix in a package of dry cherry or raspberry Jell-o. Throwing in a package of Kool-Ade drink mix in the same flavors will help.

Mix it all up and put it in the refrigerator of a couple of days. Mix it occasionally. You can then put the flavored chicken pieces into zip-lock bags and freeze it until you head to the lake. It makes a very appealing (to catfish) bait that won't stink up your boat or hands. Be careful to rinse any spilled off the boat as soon as possible. Fish it on small hooks under a bobber or on bottom on a tight-line rig. I prefer the small circle hooks for all my catfish bait trips.

White and Yellow Bass

We are starting to see some major willow fly hatches and the surface action for the whites and yellows is picking up. From the numbers of boats parked on the ends of river bars and the mouths of creek channels, I'd say the vertical jig bite is going well. In-line spinners, slab spoons, blade baits and curly tail plastics will bring them to the net.

Several nice whites and bunches of yellows are falling to our trolled crank baits.

Sauger are being caught on cranks on main lake bars but most are short of the 14" size limit.

Bass

Good numbers of nice bass are being taken on main lake bars and main channel ledges in the mouths of major creeks. The main baits I'm seeing used are flutter spoons, large crank baits and even some Alabama rigs. Look for feeding fish close to the drops into deep water.

Close Calls

I have had 3 close calls in the last month where we were overtaken by boats that were much too close and in areas where it was totally unnecessary. Saturday a large cigarette boat passed us from behind so close that he threw his wash into my boat. I had to make a hard right turn to keep from being flipped by his wake. We were in an area that had plenty of room. I was running 20-25 mph.

Just because one has a huge boat and an ego to match doesn't mean you own the water you are running in. I am in the process of installing a Go-Pro type camera on my boat to record all the time we are on the water. Incidences of un-safe, reckless operation will be turned over to the authorities. I encourage others to do the same.

This is getting ridiculous folks!!!

Please be considerate of others. Obey the "rules-of-the road" on the water as well as the Fish and Game laws. Take just a little more time to avoid unsafe conditions. Wear your PFDs.

Welcome to our piece of Heaven.