

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For July 5, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake

I guess I could call this my "What I did on my 4th of July" report.

I've taken a few days off with the family and took my wife out on the lake early on the morning of the 4th to get a good idea of what the fish were doing. Vicki, my beautiful wife of 42+ years, is my best fishing buddy but she doesn't like to get on the lake until she has fixed her hair, put on her make-up, and gotten everything else just right.

We headed out of Sportsman's Marina just after 6AM to a lake slick as glass with very few boats. Our destination was a couple of coves on the LBL side that we had been catching some good crappie and catfish out of. About 2/3 of the way to our start point, we hit a hard rain shower. Putting rain gear on was an afterthought. We got soaked. Vicki informed me I was as good as dead if I took any pictures of her soaking wet. SOOOOOOOOOOOO, we had a decent morning but no photos were taken to document it.

We did have a few nice keeper crappie, one keeper sauger, and a 3 foot long long-nosed gar that couldn't resist Vicki's crankbait. It made for an interesting few minutes since I wasn't going to net it but also wasn't going to let it have that new Pico crank. Vicki lost a huge crappie that was on the surface and we got a good look at. That's fishing. She was sick over that!

We got off the lake around 10 and gave it up to the recreational traffic. I then spent a good part of the afternoon helping make jam with my wife. It's rare we are able to spend an entire day together and it was great.

Back to fishing on the white Excel.

Crappie

Low current flows have scattered the baitballs and the crappie. We have been concentrating on larger coves with wood cover. The crappie are hitting shad pattern Pico, Arkie, and Bomber cranks in medium and deep divers trolled close to cover.

I'm hearing of some decent reports from vertical jig fishermen who are covering a lot of water looking for wood structure. One spot may yield a couple of fish, the next none.

Once we get good current flow thru the lake, the crappie should be back on main lake ledges and flats.

Catfish

The catfish have spawned and moved out to the deeper areas of rock and drops. Good catches of blues have been reported next to the river channel on cut bait, prepared baits like the chicken bait I mentioned a couple of weeks ago, leeches and crawlers. These baits need to be fished right on the bottom.

White and Yellow Bass

I'm seeing good surface activity or jumps early in the day where bait balls are present. In-line spinners are best for the surface feeding fish but once they go down, try blade baits and spoons dropped to the bottom then fished with a jerking retrieve. The more erratic you can make your retrieve, the more likely you are to entice strikes.

Most of the surface feeding white and yellows are small to medium fish but the larger fish will be right under the surface action.

Bass

Probing the deep drops and points on the main lake seems to be the ticket. Large crankbaits like the Strike King series, flutter spoons, and creature baits like jigs and large worms are top producers.

Mid-Summer Patterns

Now that the 4th of July is past, we should start seeing most of the action for all species taking place at the mouths of bays and main lake. That doesn't mean that there isn't action to be had in shallow water and in the bays. The bluegills will be around the banks and trees where willow fly hatches are occurring.

Sometimes we tend to follow the crowds to deeper water during the summer but the shallow fish don't pack up and go on vacation. They will still be in shallow areas

that have deeper, cooler water close by. Bass, crappie, redears and gills, and even catfish can be caught shallow all summer.

I'm seeing a lot of folks fishing with jugs or "noodles" for catfish. F&W says these have to have the owners name and address on them. Too many times I see them scattered all over coves and being unattended. Many times the ones with fish on them end up a great distance from where they were dropped off.

If you are going to jug fish, stay with them and keep a count on what you put in the water. Nobody wants to see a fish suffer needlessly by being hooked but allowed to stay hooked for a long time. Litter is not what we want to see on our banks and many times the noodles end up as trash on the banks.

Be safe out there. A small amount of courtesy goes a long way to make a better day. Obey the maritime and F&W laws, wear your PFDs when the big motor is running, and watch out for others.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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