

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For July 13, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake

Greetings from the white Excel Bay Pro.

Mixed bags of species and lots of water covered have produced some great catches some days, slow catches on others. The increased current flow is helping fishing a bunch.

The heat has been brutal and we are going thru almost a case of bottled water most days. Please keep yourself and your passengers hydrated well. Some folks tell me they don't drink a lot of liquids while on the water because of the frequent bathroom breaks. Please don't let that be an excuse that might land you in the emergency room. The marinas on the west side and the nice restrooms at many of the LBL cove areas should ease any apprehensions.

All of our catch is going on ice. I know that takes catch-and-release out but it is the best way to keep the catch fresh and great tasting.

Crappie

We are having some decent catch days and some not so good. The large crappie have left the building in many areas we have fished. Small to medium size keeper crappie have been the bulk of the catch. Trolling crankbaits has been the tactic.

Wood cover in water deeper than 20 feet has been our target. If the schools of minnows or baitballs are present, you are in the right place. There are still crappie to be taken on the main lake ledges and flats but they are really scattered. Our best catches have been in the mouths of the large bays.

Some spider rig fishermen are having decent luck tightlining minnow rigs.

Bass

I was a bass tournament fisherman in a past life but I don't fancy myself as a bass guide. There are some of the best guides in the country who specialize on bass here on KY and Barkley Lakes and I send requests for bass trips to them. When I

was looking for a name for my company, I purposely left "bass" out of the "Crappie-gills-n-more" name. It has been the "more" part that has been the biggest part of the past week's fishing. We have been having some big catches of nice bass pulling Pico, Arkie, Bomber and custom cranks.

I absolutely love the new Pico cranks and folks have been asking where they can find them. Right now Mitch is working his fingers to the bone to get orders out but they are only available on the Pico lures web site. We should start seeing them in stores in a few months.

The bass have been caught in the same areas we are seeking crappie. When a fisherman of any age hooks a bass on 80+ feet of line with the boat moving about 2 mph, the excitement begins. Seeing that fisherman posing for pictures to send home is priceless.

These lakes have an extremely healthy population of bass. If a fisherman wants to keep bass for the table or to mount, go for it. I know lots of fishermen are catch-and-release only and that's fine. To expect a 9 year old or a novice fisherman of any age, to release the largest fish they have ever caught is not right. If they chose to have me add it to the pile of fillets they are taking home, it should not raise an eyebrow.

White and Yellow Bass

There is some serious schooling or jump action early and late in the day in some large creeks and on main lake bars. Making long casts with in-line spinners, blade baits, curly tail grubs, and spoons will get your arms yanked badly.

Make sure to be cautious when approaching a jump. I see too many boats blast right up into the melee only to have the fish shut off instantly by the noise and wake. Cut your big motor and use the trolling motor to EASE up into the edges of the jumps. It will keep the fish feeding and it might keep you from getting a large metal bait bounced off your head from the guy who just had his fishing ruined by your inconsiderate actions.

Catfish

Current has been the key to large catches or having to stop at Fast Eddies on the way home for a plate of catfish.

The blue cats have been feeding on deep drops and river ledges on days of good current flow. Expect to catch the channel cats shallower on rocky banks and ledges. Cut bait like shad will be best for blues while stinkbaits, worms, and leeches will produce channel catfish bites.

Others

I'm seeing some bank action from bluegills near willow fly hatches.

We are still catching a few small sauger.

We did have a couple moments of terror and excitement this week when we hooked 3 foot long gar on our crank baits. One of them was a beautiful spotted gar that was the largest I have seen that was sporting an impressive mouth full of razor-sharp teeth. Needless to say, the pliers over the side of the boat to remove the hooks was in order and both fish were released unharmed.

Be careful and courteous out there. Be aware the lake level is now slowly being drawn down for fall/winter pool. It will take a while but the level you fished last week will probably be shallower next week.

Wear your PFDs when the big motor is running. Keep plenty of non-alcoholic liquids on the boat to stay hydrated in the brutal heat.

Welcome to our little slice of Heaven.

Capt. Doug Wynn
Crappie Gills n' More
5 Rivers Taxidermy
157 Chase Loop
Benton, KY 42025
(270) 703-7600
doug@5riversdux.com
www.crappie-gills-n-more.com