

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For July 26, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Howdy from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

Tough! Tough! Tough! Did I say it is tough right now? We are having more days with little or no current than days with noticeable current. When we have current, the fishing is much, much better than without. It seems like everything in the lakes is in doldrums, waiting for current.

Crappie

We were on Barkley earlier this week and had a good day with a couple of new friends from IL. The crappie were scattered on brush and wood cover in 20+ feet of water. Finding concentrations of fish didn't mean they were active or willing to bite.

I had to cover a lot of water and many of old reliable spots produced nothing. When we did get action, it was on Pico or Arkie cranks as well as my custom c55. The c55 was bright orange with stripes. Arkie Mad Dog and Pico Zombie worked best.

I got a great report from a friend who is single pole vertical jigging over brush in similar depths. He is also having to cover a lot of water to pick up one here, one there. There again, current was a big factor. Earlier is better for getting on the lake. It seems like the mid-day bite is very slow then picks back up in late evening.

Bass

The ledge bite is slow but picks up during peak current times. Big crankbaits, big creature baits, and big spoons seem to be working best. As the minnows get bigger and stray farther from their shallow water protection, the shallow bite is picking up also. Try top water baits early and late as well as spinnerbaits and even wacky worm rigs fished around scattered cover where schools of minnows are present.

Catfish

I know this sounds like a broken record (remember those?) but current is everything. During peak power generation at the dams, the bite picks up noticeably.

River ledge cover, rocky areas near deep water, and rocky points will produce both channels and blues.

Lots of folks are beating the heat and putting out noodles or jugs in the bays to target channels and flatheads late in the afternoons or right before dark. Flatheads are going to be much more likely to take live large minnows, small fish like live small bluegills, or cut bait. Please, please, please stay close to the areas you place the jugs and be sure to keep a count of them. Check them often. We don't need them drifting away or being dragged off by a hooked fish.

We had a good catch of channel and white catfish Monday on crankbaits dragged along river ledges on Barkley.

White and Yellow Bass

I am not seeing jumps on Barkley like there are on Ky Lake. Our hours of trolling are not producing the numbers or size of yellows on Barkley like Kentucky. I really can't answer why.

The major complaint from those chasing the jumps is the fish will not stay up long or in one place very long. Vertical jigging and drop and yank style retrieves seem to be a more reliable method on main lake ledges and river/creek junctions. Some of the whites are very good quality with an occasional hybrid bass thrown in as a special treat. Hang On!!

Bluegills and Redears

I haven't been after either but we are still picking up some really nice bluegills on crankbaits in major creeks near cover.

Total Solar Eclipse

We are ground zero for the total solar eclipse on August 21. The last one seen in our area was prior to 1500 AD. To say this is a once in a lifetime event couldn't be more true.

I am putting together a package deal that can be seen on my website. It includes an all-day boat trip, lunch, eclipse glasses, PLUS 2 rooms for 2 nights at Sportsman's Resort on Jonathan Creek. Contact information for those interested is there also.

Some sources I've talked to say we may have as many as 1/2 MILLION visitors to the area for the eclipse. Now is the time to prepare for your activities around the eclipse. We should see much more boat traffic than a typical holiday weekend but we should also expect an increased police presence as well as a large contingent of US Coast Guard patrols. Be sure you have all your safety equipment available and working. Don't overload your boats and watch for those around you.

Those who take paying customers on their boats MUST be holding Coast Guard OUPV or higher credentials. F&W might look the other way on a day like this but never expect the Coast Guard to do so. The fines are seriously painful.

Be safe out there. Wear your PFDs. Obey and follow all maritime and F&W laws and regulations. Be courteous to those you share the lakes with.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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