

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For August 2, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

The recent break in the weather with cooler temps for a few days is starting to charge everybody's batteries back up for some early fall fishing. I just wish the fish had gotten the memo. It's still real hit-or-miss on both lakes.

I took the day off Tuesday once I saw the forecast of clouds most of the day plus TVA was starting to run some more current than they have been lately. I have a new-to-me tactic that I'm trying to apply to our lakes and I needed a couple of guinea pigs to help me. I broke out the large planer boards and crankbaits.

Now, I've done this a lot over the years with mixed success. I'm a huge advocate of planer boards when I'm longlining in colder water and pre-spawn when the fish are moving up toward the banks. It gets my baits away from the boat and that is very important in clear, shallow water. We were going to be in clear water up to 25 feet deep.

I'll spare you the details but the fish cooperated and we had one of the better days I've had recently. It was wonderful to spend time with two of my best friends in the world AND catch fish. Lots of fish! Crappie, white and channel catfish, white and yellow bass, even some big bluegills made it to the livewell.

On to the news!

Crappie

Our catch yesterday was in 15-25 feet of water with scattered wood cover. We were using Pico, Bomber, Arkie, and Bandit crankbaits. All were deep divers even though we ran some of them close to the boat on shorter amounts of line so they ran shallower--maybe 10 feet deep. We targeted the scattered schools of minnows (baitballs) on main lake flats near deep water.

We were joined by huge schools of Asian carp that seem to scare our targets out of the areas they were feeding in. We found we had to get away from the bigger

concentrations of Bighead carp to find game fish. Sad situation but true. I am hopeful for the new program that is a joint effort project of the KY Dept of Tourism and KY Fish and Wildlife to help subsidize commercial netters who are removing large amounts of the Asian carp invaders daily.

Current is still the primary reason fishermen are having good catches. Without it, things are slow.

I'm still getting reports of some limit catches of nice crappie from folks who are finding baitballs near ledges and are vertical jigging both jigs and minnows. Best depths are close to 20 feet deep. Some times the fishermen are having to put the bait on the fish's nose and keep it there to entice strikes. The crappie are scattered and it takes covering a lot of water with wood cover to scratch out a good mess of fillets.

Catfish

It's whats for dinner!!

Good catches of blue, channels and WHITE catfish are showing up. Many folks have no idea that white catfish even exist. They are just like blue cats but the whites are a very light gray on the back with silver sides. They have a lot of iridescent greens, blues, pinks, you name it. They are a beautiful catfish when most folks think only a mother catfish would find them attractive.

Lucky anglers are fishing deep river drops, rocky points and deep flats on the main lake near deeper water. Best catches are from folks who are vertical fishing with chicken livers, cut bait, prepared stink baits, and leeches fished as deep as 50 feet.

Yellow and White Bass

If I had a dollar for every yellow bass we have caught the last few weeks, I would be in a semi-wealthy man. They won't leave a crankbait alone and are responsible for countless crappie being spared because the small yellows hit a bait before it could get to the crappie.

Both yellows and whites are being taken on main lake ledges with shad baits, in-line spinners and jigging spoons fished with an erratic retrieve. Some jumps are still being seen but they seem to have slacked up from earlier in the summer. An observant fisherman might still get lucky on the jumps if he/she pays attention to

the activity of the sea gulls on the lake. If you see a concentration of them that appear to be diving to the water, get ready for some jump action.

Bass

The ledge bite is totally dependent on current being generated at the dam. When current is flowing, so are the bass. Try the usual big crankbaits, big worms/creature baits, and flutter spoons on deep drops near the river or creek channel banks,

There is some early and late afternoon action around shallow structure where minnow schools are present. Top water baits, spinnerbaits and plastic minnow imitations are getting strikes. Check out the backs of bays in creeks that have deeper water close by.

Solar Eclipse

Folks are really starting to get excited about the prospects of large numbers of visitors to our area for the August 21st total solar eclipse. Motel rooms are filling up. Sportsman's Resort at Jonathan Creek (270-354-8333) still has a few rooms available.

Some estimates that are being tossed around are upwards of 1/2 MILLION folks will be visiting our lakes area for the eclipse. We still have time to get ready for the mass of people. The state is saying the effect of having all these visitors will be similar to having a bad ice storm. You might want to make sure your vehicle and boat are filled up, your refrigerator is stocked, and you have your eclipse glasses handy.

With the visitors will also come lots of boat traffic. Please be careful out there. The lakes are big enough to spread out the boats but more popular areas like the Rock Quarry are going to be crazy.

Be courteous to those around you. Wear your PFDs. Obey all laws and rules. Keep plenty of non-alcoholic drinks with you to prevent dehydration.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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