

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For August 16, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the white Excel Bay Pro 203

E-C-L-I-P-S-E!! It's all lots of folks are talking about. I offered and sold a package for 4 with lodging, fishing, boating, and picnic lunch on the boat. My phone has rung often and some are upset the package is sold and I don't have more available

There are going to be untold numbers of visitors to our area. I have a booking for Sunday from a family from Seattle, Washington. This eclipse is a big deal that will be over and gone quickly.

The lake traffic is probably going to rival the lake scene from the movie "Caddyshack". I hope not but there is not one person out there who really knows how many the event will truly bring to our area. Best be prepared for it.

There are still some lodging options open. Sportsman's Resort on Jonathan Creek has a few rooms, cabins and park model campers still available ([270-354-6568](tel:270-354-6568)). Many establishments are booked solid.

On to the lake!

Crappie

Good catches of small fish with an occasional hawg are happening in areas of deeper wood cover. One report from this past weekend was an angler caught over 70 crappie to cull 14 keepers. This bodes well for the future for sure and is a good sign of some good spawns recently. He was vertical jigging with plastics into brush and stake beds in 15-25 feet of water. Some anglers are still working deep cover with double minnow rigs.

We are still picking up some nice crappie in similar areas of deep wood cover on Pico, Bomber and c55 crank baits. The Pico baits are only available on the Pico Baits web site but will be hitting stores soon. You are going to be impressed.

Catfish!!

I use exclamation points behind the word to say it's on like Donkey Kong!! Great catches of smaller blues and channels are coming from deep rocky areas and ledges. The best bait has been the prepared chicken bait I mentioned a few weeks back, cut bait, worms and leeches. The fish tend to be larger in size when good current is present. One day of a great catch can help stock the freezer with fillets.

Bass

As a crappie guide, it brings a strange feeling when your first hour of pulling cranks in the mouths of major creeks produces 5 largemouth bass up to 5 pounds for one client. He was here from the Peoria, IL area to test drive my Excel before he made his mind up on what new boat he would order. He ordered an Excel Bay Pro 203 Monday.

When there is current, the bass are on main lake and main creek ledges. When there is not current, the bass will scatter all over to chase baitfish. That's what we experienced Saturday.

Try large crankbaits, creature baits and spoons on the ledge drops.

White and Yellow Bass

Those who are fishing in-line spinners, shad imitations, and spoons on main lake and river channel drops are picking up good numbers of yellows with some whites, stripers, and even hybrids.

Remember, the whites, yellows, and hybrids have no minimum size limit but striped bass (stripers) must be at least 15 inches long to keep.

I haven't seen any jump action so look for big schools of these hard fighters along the same areas the bass will be found with current.

This time next week we will probably look back and wonder what all the eclipse fuss was about. Hopefully there will have been no accidents, health issues, or conflicts of any kind. I do know there will be a huge influx of law enforcement on both the lakes and the highways. The Coast Guard is already making a big impression on the lakes.

Be careful out there. Be considerate and helpful to those who are visiting. The 1st impression of our area should always be a positive one. Obey all the maritime and

F&W laws. Keep a level head and don't get caught up in a "Hey Bubba, hold my beer and watch this..." moment. They don't usually end well. Wear your PFDs.

To all you new visitors, welcome to our slice of heaven.