

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For August 22, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Welcome from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

The great eclipse furor is over. Life as we know it is still here. I was hoping the eclipse would cause all the Asian carp to jump out on the banks but from my personal observations, sadly that didn't happen.

Thanks to all who chose our slice of heaven for your visits. I hope your visit was pleasant and well received. Things were very quiet until folks hit the highways. I'm sure many are saying today that extra night stay would have been a great idea.

Life goes on. The fish didn't go on vacation.

Crappie

I know it's still summertime for a few weeks yet and it feels every bit the part when one walks outside into the humidity and near three digit temps. I have a sneaking suspicion the fish may be wanting fall to get here ASAP. I'm getting some good reports of good catches of crappie being made just inside many of the major bays and creeks.

Spider riggers using minnows, those of us pulling crankbaits, and the vertical jiggers out there are probing wood cover on drops and deep flats in the major coves and bay mouths. Depths are 15-25 feet of water with fish suspended a few feet off the bottom.

Some good catches are still happening on main lake ledges and flats where wood cover and baitballs are found. Current is a huge plus on the main lake. PICO crankbaits in Zombie and Red Craw have been hot.

I had a Father, his 11 year old son, and 9 year old daughter from Seattle, WA out Sunday morning. They were here with extended family for the eclipse. The little girl was hammering all kinds of fish on a PICO Zombie and she and Dad were kidding Brother about it.

"That's OK, I'm going to catch a big catfish!" Brother said.

It couldn't have been more than two minutes later he hung something. After a fight of several minutes and tons of laughs, I netted a large catfish that was the biggest fish of the day. Did I ever tell you kids are a BALL to have on the boat?

Catfish

The catfish bite on crankbaits has slowed some but anglers using cut bait, prepared stink baits, worms, and leeches are finding good numbers of catfish, both blues and channels, around deep rocky areas and river channel drops. Don't be afraid to start your pursuit in the river channel then work toward shallower areas. Some reports of good catches are coming from 55-60 feet deep.

White and Yellow Bass

We have been catching some of the largest yellow bass I've ever seen lately when pulling cranks on main lake bars. The white and crappie have been mixed in but the yellows seem to beat everything else to the baits. Some whites up to two pounds have attacked baits trolled on deep edges of flat areas. Good catches of whites and yellows are still coming via in-line spinners, slab spoons, and shad imitations on drops on the main lake and mouths of bays.

Bass

The fall transition will help the bass as well as the crappie. They are still on or near deep drops and edges of large flats. Current is a huge benefit. Creature baits, huge flutter spoons, and big crankbaits are your best bet.

I had a wonderful time with a family from Lexington during the Eclipse Package. It is rare that I'm not the BIG GUY in the boat but I had to defer to the recent Cornell Graduate son. That guy is BIG. He and his little sister were quick learners and did a number on a bunch of crappie, whites, yellows, drum, bass, you name it on cranks.

The entire family were like old friends and a pleasure to spend a rare moment in time with PLUS fishing both Sunday afternoon and Monday morning before the eclipse.

Thanks to all who were so considerate of others during a busy weekend. I found the crowds to be no worse than a typical summer holiday. Once the eclipse was over, it

was very apparent there were LOTS of boats on the lake who were strictly there to view the eclipse. As far as I've heard, everybody got on and off the water safely.

Eclipse 2017 is history. Things are getting back to normal. Our next big weekend will be Labor Day.

Keep in mind the lake level is slowly being drawn down to winter pool. The area you safely boated in a couple of weeks ago may not be as safe now. There is a great app called "TVA Lake Info" that gives current lake levels and power generation info. The [lake info page here](#) has similar information. A depth finder, even a very basic one, should be required equipment on every boat.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs. Obey all maritime and F&W rules. Watch out for those who may not be watching out for you.

Welcome to our slice of heaven.