

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For September 7, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Welcome to the decks of the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

Ever wonder what a difference a foot or so less water in the lakes looks like? Just get out there on both lakes right now. It's Scary! There are sandbars, mudflats and all sorts of gremlins out there ready to destroy a lower unit or boat hull with the lake level slightly below 355'.

While we were motoring back toward Sportsman's Resort this afternoon, we witnessed a LARGE (40 footer or so) cabin cruiser operator make a bad decision on navigation and ended up almost stuck on the end of large shallow bar. Once he realized his mistake, he was already creating a football field sized muddy water area. Luckily he realized in time his error and with some hand directions and friendly advice, he went on his way much more carefully.

GPS equipment is nice and we depend on it to navigate but it isn't fool-proof. Be observant and use those buoys. They are there for a reason.

Crappie

The lowering water levels have caused a move in the locations crappie are using. We trolled crankbaits in bays that had previous success but they were vacant. We finally caught up with some baitballs and found some really nice crappie on main lake flats and drops.

We are starting to see some spider riggers in the bays targeting wood cover in 12-20 feet of water with minnows and jigs.

Pick days with light winds, moderate current and cloud cover for best results.

Catfish

Try cut bait, leeches and worms, and stinkbaits along channel drops. On the days we have current, work bottom rigs along rocky areas near deep water.

Yellows and White Bass

Yellows are thick as fleas on a dog's back. There are some areas we can't put a crankbait over the side without it being attacked. The average size is not what I want to dress but those that are in the 10-inch range are going in the box.

Work steel shads, in-line spinners and curly tail plastics on channel drops and points of deep flats.

Bass

I'm hearing it is tough right now due to the lack of current and the scattering of bait in bays and ledges on the main lake. Topwater baits fished near surfacing minnow schools will draw strikes in the bays.

Be careful out there. The lake is at a level many boaters aren't used to seeing. I can imagine the level is being kept low in anticipation of heavy rains that may be seen in the Tennessee and Cumberland valleys from the hurricane that is expected to hit Florida later in the week.

Wear your PFDs, watch out for and be considerate of other boaters.