

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For September 26, 2017**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey y'all from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

The calendar says fall is here but the sweat that has soaked my clothes on the lake the last several days says summer won't give up its grip. Ninety-degree temps, low to no current, high sunny skies should all point to really bad fishing. The reality couldn't be any farther from that. We have been tearing up the slab crappie.

## **Crappie**

The word on crappie is PICO, as in PICO crankbaits. I've got folks burning my ears trying to get hold of them and so far their web site is the only source ([picolures.com](http://picolures.com)). Colors that are hot have been Fish Hawk, Blue Boogie, Zombie, and Mudbug.

We are targeting crappie in depths of 15-25 feet deep with scattered structure and baitfish balls. It takes covering a bunch of water to find fish, maybe one here, two there.

Trolling to find some seems really boring. To others, it is one of the most relaxing ways of putting fillets in the bag since I do all the work. Sitting there waiting for the rods to load up is not rocket science. I have taught the technique to folks from all over the country and it produces well wherever there are crappie, especially white crappie that tend to remain in open water areas much of the year.

This past week has been one of the most satisfying of my fishing career. The clients have been great, quick learners, and eager to get some fish to the net.

Heather and David from Georgetown took a chance on calling me on short notice. We had a wonderful day and Heather caught her best crappie ever, a 16" black/hybrid crappie pig.

Sunday found Hunter and his Dad , Joe, in the Millennium fishing chairs. Neither had a clue about crankbaiting but were quick learners. We were rewarded with 29 great keepers, several in the 14-15 inch range.. I think Joe will be asking for trolling gear for the next several birthdays and Christmas.

Monday was one of those days we all hope for. A former client but now close friend, Steve, came in from Bloomington, IN. We hooked up with one of my best friends in the world, Jere from Fulton, KY. Steve and Jere had never met but by the end of a couple of hours of laughing and cutting up, you would have thought they had been friends forever.

The fish made us work for it and cover some big water but cooperated when we put the PICOs in front of them. 28 good keepers made it to the livewell. Steve took a gallon ziplock bag of fillets back to IU country.

Anglers fishing two-pole rigs or vertical jigging are finding mixed results on isolated brush piles and stake beds. You will have to check out several waypoints to put a mess in the box.

## **Yellows and White Bass**

As has been the pattern all summer, the yellows are destroying most anything dropped in front of them. The size seems to be smaller than earlier in the summer but they are a constant. Some nice whites have succumbed to cranks also. I'm not seeing the folks targeting the yellows/whites on the main lake drops like earlier.

## **Catfish**

Channel cats are a constant threat to our cranks and we've had some in the 7-8 pound range. Those who are choosing more traditional means of catching catfish have mostly been disappointed due to zero current.

## **Bass**

I'm seeing more bass boat activity in shallower areas than before. Minnow schools are showing up on shallow main-lake bars and secondary points in major bays. With the baitfish come the bass. I've seen several small jumps of bass ripping the baitballs in very shallow, chunk rock areas. Try topwater plugs and buzzbaits early and late. Crankbaits fished right into the minnows will get your arms stretched.

One thing that has been so noticeable the last week has been to lack of other fishermen in the areas we have done so well. I know summer is over but folks are missing out on some of the best action of the year right now. Cooler weather is forecast for later this week and that could very well break summer's grip. I just hope things don't change too much, we're having too much fun right now.

Watch out when running the lake. The drawdown has exposed more hazards than most fishermen realize exist. Wear your PFDs when moving from spot to spot. Be considerate of those around you. Get off the couch and put some crappie fillets in the freezer.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.