

# Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

**For October 4, 2017**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Greetings from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

There is a feel in the air that we just might be getting over the hump and into full-blown fall weather. As much as I love fall and the cooler weather, I really hope nothing changes from fishing we have experienced the last couple of weeks on KY Lake.

For my part, the crappie fishing has rarely been better and never as satisfying. Seeing the excitement on the faces of those who have never crappie fished at all, much less pulled crankbaits, makes it all worthwhile.

## Crappie

Did I tell you it has been red hot the last couple of weeks? We have been averaging almost 30 keeper crappie a day on the Excel, every one caught on cranks.



I'm not going to say it has been easy. They won't jump into the boat but they have been eager, willing and able to grab a PICO, Bandit, Bomber or Arkie as it went by their face. The fish are scattered in 12-25

feet of water, following the schools of minnows that are moving into the deeper bays. If you can find wood cover and bait, the trap will be set to produce some great catches.

PICO in Zombie, Mudbug, Fish Hawk, Blue Boogie, and some of my custom colors have all been red hot. I wish I could say they are available locally but right now you can only get them off the PICO Lures web site. Spring will have them in local bait shops.

Plastics cast or vertical jigged around wood cover will also produce. I'm seeing more spider riggers out there so they must be getting into fish also. I do know those who are longline trolling jigs and roadrunners are catching lots of fish but most are short.

Every species that consider minnows to be top on their menu are starting to put the feed-bag on for fall and winter. Skittering minnows will tip you off to action below. It may be bass. It may be yellows or whites. It may be something else like the 3-4 foot long gar that are about the break my bank from hitting crankbaits then leaving for parts unknown with the lures.

Some day I'll have to answer for some of the adjectives I've used under my breath when I see a PICO that is so hard to get become decoration in the impressive teeth of the long-nose and spotted gar that are mixing in with the Asian carp in coves right now.

I really haven't been hearing much from the other species on the lakes. I do know I'm seeing lots of bass boats covering a lot of water close to us without what appears to be much luck. That won't last long as the water temps start to fall again and the shallow rocky and gravel points and banks become haven for the huge schools of minnows.

Like the voice said in one of my all-time favorite movies, "Field Of Dreams". "If you build it, they will come". Those who have worked so hard among us to place structure in these waters will soon be reaping the benefits. Each fisherman who loves to chase crappie and other gamefish should consider making and sinking some wood cover in their favorite areas.

Keep in mind, when that structure you worked so hard to build hits the bottom, it then belongs to everyone. Don't act like just because you built it, you have the right to tell others to get away from it. That's not how it works and starting an argument over it might end up with a doctor having to remove that prized fishing pole from areas we won't mention.

Shallow water is upon us for months to come. Watch your GPS. If you don't have a GPS, ask Santa to bring you one. It is the best tool you will ever put in your boat.

Be careful out there, be considerate of others, watch for boaters who have gas gauges that need calibrating and need a pull to the gas pumps. Wear your PFDs when above idle speed with the big motor. Learn and obey the F&W regulations and creel limits and maritime laws.

Enjoy this season and get out there and put some fish in the freezer.