

# Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

**For October 19, 2017**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey Ya'll from the white Excel Bay Pro 203.

Fall has fallen or at least it has felt that way on the morning boat rides this week. We've had to break out the bib overalls and hoodies instead of the guide shirts and shorts.

Tuesday found us at 36 degrees slightly before the beginning of a good trip with Rich and Suzie, who are down for the outdoor writers convention. I want to welcome all of those who are here for the week including Jill, who I had the pleasure for fishing with Wednesday along with Kenny.

I can't go any farther without mentioning my trip last Friday with Justin and Kenny from Evansville. Kenny told me going in that he had very little crappie fishing experience and zero pulling crankbaits for crappie. I told him I would do my best to answer any questions he might have. The trip started out slow with just a couple of keepers in the first couple of hours fishing time.

I was watching one of Kenny's lines from the rod that just didn't look right. I told him it might have a small fish or piece of trash on the bait. After Kenny made about 2 turns of the reel, line exploded off the spool like he had hooked onto a jet-ski. After 300 feet of line had ripped off, it stopped but nothing budged. Justin and I got all the other lines reeled in and I started making my way in the direction of whatever Kenny had hooked had gone. As we got closer, the beast would take off, ripping off the line Kenny had gained on it.

After several minutes, we were almost directly above the creature we had yet to see but it wasn't going down without a fight. It made several short runs and we were worried a line breakage or hook pulling loose would leave us puzzled as to what was on the end of the line.

I was hoping for a large striper or flathead catfish but had already resigned myself to the reality of what it probably was. As Kenny put increasing pressure on it, the beast slowly came up from the depths. As we got our first glimpse of it, the line from the movie Jaws came to me in a bit different form "I think we are going to need a bigger net". My EGO reach crappie net is only about 15 inches square and no match for what was now on its side by the boat, a huge foul-hooked Bighead Asian Carp.

Justin is a veteran of several catfish tournaments and used to handling monster fish. He ran his fist down the mouth of the beast, grabbed its gill plate from inside, and threw it over the gunnel and into the floor of my Excel. We had fist-bumps and congratulations all around before Kenny finally got the nerve to grab it for pictures. Justin estimated the

fish to be in the 60 pound range. It was about 4 1/2 feet long. After pictures, the fish was dropped back into the lake but not before it sustained a mortal injury that would assure it wouldn't be passing its genes along to another class of offspring.

The battle was over but Kenny said it was the highlight of his fishing career. It was by far the largest fish I have ever had in my boat. We ended the day with a great catch of crappie, several catfish and enough memories and laughs to last a long time.

## **Crappie**

The water temps have dropped over 10 degrees in a week and the fall migration toward shallower water and cover has begun. Many of the locations we have done so well the last couple of months are giving up zero crappie right now. I have had to move much shallower and changed my crankbaits to medium to shallow runners, 200 Bandits, 4A Bombers, and other small cranks.

Letting out much less line is allowing us to continue running the PICO cranks to great success. Depths of 10-15 feet are now the targets of our attention.

Many spider riggers are getting good catches in shallow water on minnows and jigs but they are having to sort thru dozens of short fish to get to limits of keepers, most barely over legal at 10+ inches. Several good catches are also coming on jigs that are being longline trolled.

Plastics tipped with crappie nibbles and small minnows would be a great place to start seeking crappie.

## **Bass**

The migration extends to bass as well. Shallow cover, secondary points, and schooling action along rocky cover are all producing. Try shallow square-bill crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and topwater baits for the best chances to put some nice bass in the boat. Fall bass fishermen fishing crankbaits might also be surprised to find good sized sauger hitting the fake minnows.

## **Catfish**

Action has been slow but getting better on days when current is being generated.

Now is the time to get out and watch Mother Nature prepare for winter. The leaves are changing colors. The eagles and ospreys are very active on both sides of the lakes. Tuesday Suzie got a great thrill when not one, but two mature bald eagles landed in a tree not more than 40 yards from us. She had said all morning she hoped to get a glimpse of one. I think her digital camera was overheating before she put it down.

Get out there and enjoy that lake when it is not crowded and one might be able to enjoy an area of the lake without company for long periods of time. Be careful out there. Be considerate of others and watch out for folks who might need a hand. Wear your PFDs and watch for gremlins that might show themselves in the shallow water areas.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

Capt. Doug Wynn  
Crappie Gills n' More  
5 Rivers Taxidermy  
157 Chase Loop  
Benton, KY 42025  
(270) 703-7600  
[doug@5riversdux.com](mailto:doug@5riversdux.com)  
[www.crappie-gills-n-more.com](http://www.crappie-gills-n-more.com)