

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For November 6, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the white Excel BayPro 203.

If you enjoy seeing Mother Nature at her most colorful, now is the time to be on the water. The trees are in peak change and the colors are beautiful. I just wish we could get some serious sunshine so it could be enjoyed the most.

Recent rains and cooler weather have caused some big changes on the lakes. My last two trips have been humbling to say the least. I set a high standard for what I consider a good trip and my standards haven't been met. It wasn't from a lack of effort. I've covered a lot of water that has been very productive recently. The middle to shallow areas that have been so good have become tough for me to produce good stringers of fish.

I put the crankbaits and heavier rods up and put the lighter action longline rods and jigs and roadrunners in their place in the Excel.

Saturday we started out probing areas of cover in the 12-15 feet deep. It didn't take long to realize the fish weren't going to play along. As we moved deeper, we started picking up some nice crappie. I kept thinking back to the reports I've been getting recently about good catches from shallow water. I then broke my own Cardinal Rule: "You never leave biting fish to go find fish". I checked out a couple of areas that might have shallower crappie and then moved to much shallower structure. Huge mistake!!

One thing any crappie fisherman should always keep in mind: crappie fishermen who are catching fish rarely move. When you move into an area that has a large number of boats, it's usually a pretty good chance they are catching fish. My target area had multiple boats that were all spider rigging, most with drift socks to slow their forward movement down to barely a snail's pace. We were going to be longlining and moving about 0.7-1.0 mph. We were the only boat in the area using that technique. Maybe that should have turned on a light bulb in my brain. As we covered a lot of water, the number of boats in our area started to thin out to almost none. Another bad sign.

We ended the trip with a small catch and well below my self-imposed number that make a good trip. It happens but I'm never happy about it!! To add insult to injury, as we got to the cleaning station we ran into a couple of friends who had taken a good cooler of nice keeper crappie. They told us their catch came from an area similar to the one we left biting fish. Never leave biting fish to go find fish!!

Crappie

Reports of good catches have been coming from areas of cover in water from 12-25 feet of water. Double minnow rigs have produced the best catches but some of those casting and vertical jigging plastics had done well. Lucky fishermen are covering lots of water and finding good numbers of crappie in a minority of those spots but when they find the right spot, good catches of good keepers are coming over the side.

When we get warmer days with calm winds, there are still some good numbers of crappie being caught in skinny water on minnows and jigs being slow-trolled. Large numbers of less than 10 inch fish can make it frustrating for some, exciting for others.

I don't have any reports on other species. One of my JoJo's Cafe in Benton breakfast buddies told me a few days ago the bass bite was so slow he had put his bass tackle up and gotten his crappie rods loaded up in his Ranger.

The lake is about winter pool and the water temps have warmed up from a low of 56 last Sunday to around 62 in the areas we fished Saturday. The lake is still really clear with some slight stain in the backs of some major bays where the rain run-off has entered.

Be safe on the lake with low water. Wear your PFDs at all times when the big motor is running. Watch out for those who might need help.

My prayers go out to the Texas community where the church shooting happened earlier today. We should never have to fear for our safety sitting in church. I long for the USA of my youth.