

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For November 30, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey y'all from the TAN Excel Bay Pro 203. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday.

That's not a typo. My fishing platform is now a new TAN Excel.

The white Bay Pro has been retired by Excel when it sustained a crack in the hull of unknown origin. I had not damaged it by striking an object even though I often warn my readers of the gremlins that live in the shallow areas.

They built me a new 203 (I added a couple of items not found on the white boat), came to Benton to pick my white boat up after we had removed most of my fishing related gear, took the boat to their plant in Mountain View, Ark., put my engine/batteries/etc. onto the new hull, then returned it to me in Benton.

Excel has been nothing short of amazing in the way they have taken care of my bad situation. No boat manufacturer is immune to problems. What sets manufacturers apart is the way they SOLVE those problems and how they work with the customer and the dealer who sold the boat.

Bill Burnett at Big River Marine in West Memphis, Ark. has been great also. Bill has been on top of this situation since I first noticed leakage back in the summer. We both thought it was a livewell plumbing issue till I found the crack in the hull. To say I was devastated was a gross understatement. My apprehensions were for no reason. Excel came thru with flying colors.

The TAN Excel is now rigged and back on the lake with the black Suzuki 140 outboard. The new boat will make me blend in better than the white boat did. I do appreciate all the friendly folks who waved at me any time the white boat came by. (I hope those were waves!). Check out their website at www.excel-marine.com.

Crappie

Having been off the lake for a few days, the only 1st hand report I have is from the crappie. They are being caught from 10-25 feet of water around wood cover by spider-rigging, power-trolling and vertical jigging. Jigs with crappie nibbles and Ky Rigged minnows seem to be working equally well.

We have experienced some great fishing weather lately and some of the ramps look like it should be April from all the rigs parked there. The major bays are getting spring-like

traffic and pressure. Just be aware the surface temperatures are in the low 50s and a person in the water without or with a PFD stands to be in grave danger very shortly.

KY Fish and Wildlife News

I want to welcome BJ Morris as the new Marshall County Kentucky CO/Game Warden. I got to meet him recently at our "crappie.com" event and he seems like a very personable young man. The fact that the entire eastern boundary of Marshall County is KY Lake and the Tennessee River makes his job a critical one. If you see him out there, welcome him but also double check those 10 inch crappie measurements before he does. The "Golden Rule" measuring device is the official one of KY F&W. They are available at all local bait shops like Fast Eddies, HiTek, and KY Lake Outdoors.

I also want to say goodbye to Paul Rister, our long-time KY Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist who retires at the end of the year. Paul has done a wonderful job keeping the public informed of fishery issues, new regulations, and studies that have been conducted. He is a regular member of our KY Forum on "crappie.com" as has been his replacement.

Thanks for everything Paul and thanks for having a thick skin to fend off the arrows of aggravation many of us have thrown at you over the years. We will look forward to seeing you on the lake in a more laid-back attitude as a regular fisherman like the rest of us.

With Paul Rister's retirement, we welcome Adam Martin as the new head fisheries biologist. Adam has also been a regular and welcome member of the KY Forum. He will have both a full plate and his hands full with the growing menace of Asian Carp and solutions to lessen the population and its effect on the Lakes. He is already actively recruiting the public to work on shallow water habitat structures projects with the department to help better spawns of both game fish and also baitfish.

Folks, KY Fish and Wildlife is at the forefront of the Asian Carp issue and is the agency most other states will try to measure up to. If you see them out there, give them a thumbs up for all they do.

The lake level has been back down around 354.5 feet so there are lots of gremlins just waiting to play tag with lower units and props. Get a GPS unit, get a great map card like the LakeMaster V3-V4 and most importantly, learn to use the lake level off-set feature to keep the maps current to low levels.

Be careful out there. Low water temps can kill you in a short time. Wear your PFDs and in the winter, get some means of communication so you can notify others of trouble if you have one of the cell phone carriers who has little-to-no signal on the LBL side and non-developed areas of KY and Barkley Lakes.

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