

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For February 9, 2017

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the Excel "Fishful Thinking".

This hard winter has caused most of us to keep our heads down, boats garaged, and working on tackle we hope to get to use soon. I have my taxidermy business that keeps me busy 24/7 when I'm not on the water and I'm working harder than a squirrel at a bird feeder to get mounts done and out the door. I haven't been on the lake so I'll be reporting on news from sources close to me who have been out.

The crappie bite is slow due mostly to water temperatures that are still lingering around 40 degrees. Some nice fish are being taken spider rigging and vertical jigging in water 20-25 feet deep and mostly on minnow rigs. It seems the plastics aren't getting bites like a chunk of meat. The bite is soft and paying close attention to rod tips is a must. Many times the only indication of a bite is the line moving to the side or the line going slack when the crappie picks the minnow up.

Look for flats near drops and creek channels. Many folks think of starting their search right at the break but many times the crappie will be several feet off the top and bottom of drops. Wood cover in those areas are getting the most and best keeper fish. Spend some time running your sonar and try to find or eliminate water where fish are schooled up. If there are baitballs of minnows near the wood cover stop and put the baits right on the cover.

The weather has been iffy most days but as we get further into the month of February we should start to see better weather and more than just one nice day sandwiched by several bad weather days. A nice, sunny day might be all it takes to get the fever but keep a close eye on the projected winds. For some reason a 10 mph forecast wind will almost always equate to a 15-20 mph wind at the lake.

If you do get out there on the lake, put that PFD on and keep it on. It does you no good if it's in the storage box. 40-degree water temps will bring hypothermia on in just a few minutes. Getting out of the water doesn't end the danger. Get into dry clothes or the truck cab ASAP to get warmed up. Be careful out there!

I know some of the marinas sustained damage from the ice so be careful around them as repairs have started. Kudos to KY Fish and Wildlife for their quick repairs on the Jonathan Creek ramp at the bridge. The dock and walkway was torn up but the heavy equipment was on the job as soon as the ice cleared out where they could do repairs.

Continued thought and prayers for the families and students affected by the Marshall County High School shootings.

Welcome to our slice of heaven.

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