

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For February 19, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey y'all from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

Man, what a mess the lakes are! Every gate at both dams are wide open as TVA and Corps dump as much water as possible to compensate for the flood waters south of us that are heading this way. Kentucky Lake's level is 355 and slowly rising. T

he water that is coming from the south is warmer than what we have had here so the lake temperatures are increasing with the level. Keep a close eye out for floating debris that is being pulled off the banks as the water rises and that which is coming with the flood waters from the south.

As the surface temperature nears 50 degrees, the crappie and other game fish activity is increasing also.

Crappie

The crappie bite has picked up a bunch as the temperatures have increased. Heavy current flow is making the fish hold tight to drop-offs and submerged cover. Muddy water in most coves and bays has discouraged many fishermen from getting on the lake and rain forecast for mid-week will make it worse. The crappie didn't go to Florida for the winter. They are congregating in water from 12-25 feet deep CLOSE to cover.

With the muddy water, it is taking a bait that the fish can more easily locate so most good catches are coming from those who are spider rigging with double minnow rigs. It is taking a major effort to locate concentrations of crappie but when located, several limits of nice sized fish are being caught.

Some fishermen refuse to use minnows so they will need to have a bait that can be seen PLUS use a scent attraction like crappie nibbles or the new Slab Sauce spray. Fishing slow and paying attention to those rod tips is a must.

Spider rigging in cold water seems to be almost a contact sport as many boats tend to crowd into an area where fish are seen being caught. Some times this causes hard feelings and verbal sparring. We are blessed with over 160,000 acres of water between both lakes. There are plenty of areas that hold fish so please be considerate of others and give them some room.

Every fisherman out there has a major case of cabin fever and can't wait to get out there and dunk some minnows and jigs. Just make sure that first trip of the year isn't a

disappointment. Check your gear and boat BEFORE you back onto the ramp and block access for others.

Next week looks better weather-wise and spring has to be closer than it was last week. This winter has been tough. Get your gear together and get out there. Wear your PFDs. Be considerate of others and take time to help someone who might need a hand.

My thoughts and prayers are still with those effected by the recent shootings here and in Florida. I long for the world of my youth. It seems Mayberry has left the building.

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
www.crappie-gills-n-more.com