

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For February 26, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey y'all from the Excel BayPro "Fishful Thinking".

I mentioned last week that the lake is a mess. This week it is mess 2.0. All of us who watch the lake level and what is happening with discharge rates as it relates to current and such knew TVA couldn't continue to dump all the water that was coming in from the south. The rivers downstream are now at serious flood stages and the inevitable is happening--the lake levels are headed up BIGTIME!!

I know most forecasts are subject to change but we may see levels approaching 370 in a few days. That puts the level over 10 feet above summer pool. That much water will almost shut fishing down and cause untold hardships to campgrounds and marinas. The ramps will be under several feet of water and most parking lots will become depositories for tons of floating debris.

Extra care is advised for those brave enough to get out there in high water conditions.

Some crappie have been being caught by those who are vertical jigging minnows and plastics down in the brush piles and stake beds. The crappie are holding extremely tight to cover. Check cover in depths of 10-20 feet. Cover next to deeper water will be your best bet.

I did get a report a couple of days ago from a life-long friend who was invited to try some deep crappie. Most of the time deep crappie on KY and Barkley lakes will be 20-25 feet deep. These guys had hit on a pattern where there was cover in 50 feet of water. That wasn't a misprint! 50 feet of water. They are using double minnow rigs fished around cover and right on the bottom. Limits of crappie were their result. That might be something to keep stored in the memory banks.

Slow trolling around newly submerged cover should produce some crappie as well as other species. Catfish and bass will be moving into the shallow cover because that will be where the warmest water temperatures will be found. Most bays and creeks are extremely muddy. We should actually start to see the water clearing up once the levels start to rise.

I normally mention boating safety in my reports but I have to add a serious warning to that in this report. The lakes are going to be covered in trash and debris. It won't just be a beer can that some inconsiderate slob tossed over the side. I'm talking large trees and anything else that might have been laying on the bank or in the woods since the last flood.

Extreme caution is the word. Water temps are still around the low 50s and a dunking won't end well. Wear that PFD.

Be careful. Watch out for others and be ready to help those who might have problems. Watch your speed and keep in mind your wake is your responsibility and with the high lake levels, many docks and marinas can easily be damaged.

Welcome to our soggy slice of Heaven.

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