

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For March 21, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

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

Fishermen should be dancing in the streets today. The lake level has dropped back to winter pool and is stabilizing for a few days before the slow rise to summer pool starts April 1.

I can't speak for everyone but I see this as a huge positive for fishing to come. The lake level drop has really made fishing tough for me and several others if you can get them to be honest about it. Of course, we know a fisherman would never tell a fib when it comes to what he's catching and where.

Since getting most of the way over my latest bout with pneumonia and getting some weather that was somewhat more suitable, I took out my first group of clients for the year Saturday and Sunday. They were from SE Illinois and a great group of guys to fish with. The conditions Saturday were extremely windy and every place we found calm conditions was subject to change to high winds within minutes. The catch suffered greatly from the conditions. Sunday was much less windy but the fish were just slightly more cooperative.

People who know me know I take a less than successful trip personally. I want every fisherman in my boat to have sore arms from wrestling fish. Some times it happens and some times it doesn't. The clients were great and understood the conditions were less than ideal.

When I got home I got a text from a friend who is one of the best crappie fishermen I know. We had seen him on the lake Saturday. He wanted to know how we had done. I was hesitant to call him since I figured he had filled the boat while I had struggled. He told me he and his partner had done just a couple of fish better than we had Saturday. I still hated the fact we didn't load the boat but felt better knowing I wasn't alone with the low catch rates.

## **Crappie**

The reports I'm getting of good catches have come from those who are covering a lot of water and are finding small schools of crappie and have stayed on that school until it either leaves or stops biting. Minnows have been doing slightly better than jigs in most cases.

With the water level stabilizing, the fish are going to start moving toward shallower and warmer water. The temps we saw Saturday and Sunday were 51-54 degrees. A friend found a bay near the TN line that had 56 degree water Sunday.

Check out any cover in medium depths and along drops just inside the bays and creeks. Some good catches have been coming from shallower areas, 6-10 feet, but many small fish are being caught for each good keeper.

Spider rigging with jigs and minnows will be best with the cool surface temps. It is going to take a few degrees warmer water before the longline bite comes into play. When it does, watch out. Troll jigs and roadrunner spinners with minnow imitations and curly tail grubs.

Colors like dark green, dark blue, black/chartreuse, and pink would be my first choices. Keep that box of jigs ready because you will be losing many jigs using this technique but when it is on, there isn't a better way to fill the livewell.

I think the bass fishing is picking up as the water warms up. Check out the cover areas near shallow points in the bays. Spinnerbaits and creature baits will be your best choices. The water is still cool so work any bait slow.

With the low water, the gremlins come back into play. Watch out for shallow areas and for debris that has washed into the banks with the high water. There might be new hazards that weren't there a few weeks ago.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs. Watch out for others and be as courteous as you possibly can to your fellow anglers. I know it is very tempting to give that guy who backed down the ramp before getting his boat unhooked and his junk out of the back of the truck a thrashing but ignoring it and going on your way will usually be the best way to handle it.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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