

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For April 14, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the Excel Bay Pro "Fishful Thinking".

Friday the 13th might well explain the past week of fishing. It has been a nightmare. As is always the case, there are a very few who are doing pretty well. The rest are doing really bad.

As I spend time at the marina, bait shops, eating joints, and big box stores, everybody is asking the \$64,000 question: "What is going on with the crappie fishing this spring?" That last word in the sentence has a lot to do with things.

Spring has crept in like a glacier. The water temps have stayed well into the low 50s for weeks. Last Thursday afternoon, the surface temp in a major cove was 57.4 degrees. This past Monday it was 47.1. The sun has been asleep at the wheel and the wind has been brutal most days. Hopefully the 20-something degree nights are gone till November.

From what I'm seeing with my own eyes and what I'm being told by reliable sources, there have actually been some fishermen who have done fairly well in shallow water in late afternoons while others are still making catches in water 20 feet deep. Minnows seem to have a slight edge in productivity over plastics fished with crappie nibbles.

A friend from Missouri had double limits in his boat Monday and Tuesday using minnows spider rigging extremely slowly, 0.2-0.4. Any faster and they were not getting bites. Minnows fished on double rigs right up against brush was the ticket. I also got a text today from a visitor friend of a friend who said he had not seen a crappie in his boat in two full days of trying hard. Discouraging news when most folks who traditionally book their vacations to coincide with the "crappie spawn" every year at this time.

Things have to get better. It might be a good time to break out some different strategy. I'm getting my crankbait gear out for use. This time on the calendar last year we were doing extremely well on both large crappie and good numbers. I'll be pulling PICO INT cranks this spring. They weren't available until early summer but were responsible for many loaded livewells all the way into late October. Sportsman's Marina will have the PICOs on the shelf later next week.

We will also be putting the small planer boards to work with curly tail grubs on jigheads and roadrunner heads in shallow areas as the water temps increase. Cover will help but the crappie attempting to spawn will be scattered over large areas.

It's going to take time for the sun and warm nights to warm the surface temperatures into the mid 60s where they need to be.

I'm hearing some reports of some nice bluegills being taken on longline jigs in shallow to mid-depth areas.

Catfish, bass and other sport fish will start moving shallow with warmer water.

I've got to give a shout out to my brother from another mother from Pennsylvania, Kenny Smith. He was on "Brushpile Fishing" last Saturday and we got to watch the debut from the comfort of our living room. The show is now available on Youtube.

Kenny is celebrating his 32nd straight year of visiting Aurora. He has become quite well known and friend to many here. He is also the absolute best fisherman I've ever had the pleasure to spend time in a boat with. I got to share his boat Monday. We had a pretty good tally that day but spending time with such a friend is what it's all about. His buddy Tim from PA is here this weekend.

Get out there, cover a lot of water, try some things out of your comfort zone, and set the hook hard.

Be careful, wear that PFD when the big engine is running, and watch out for those who aren't watching out for you.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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