

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For April 21, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello from the Excel Bay Pro "Fishful Thinking".

It's been another week of highs and lows. Mostly high winds and low catches.

On the days we've been blessed with reasonable winds and sunshine, catches have rebounded well.

I took Fred and Butch from central Kentucky out Monday and Tuesday. They have fished with me several times and have been exposed to what seems to be a different tactic each trip. Monday we fought winds and clouds all day with very little to show for it since the whole day was a matter of not fishing where we wanted to be, but a matter of fishing where we were able to.

We broke out the small planer boards and jigs/roadrunners. I like the fact the boards allow us to get the baits away from the boat while controlling the depth of the baits with our boat speed. Little of what we tried Monday seemed to matter and our catch reflected it. Tuesday was a different day.

Calm winds most of Tuesday and sunshine brought a change of attitudes for both fish and fisherman. We were able to cover the water we had wanted to fish both days. At the end of the day, we had a sink full of keeper crappie with one large crappie. The fish are still thin with empty stomachs but their willingness to bite helped make it a great trip.

Wednesday and Thursday were total wash outs with wind gusts up to 40 mph.

This has been a very strange spring with nothing that fishermen feel should be working is working. Cool water temps are finally giving way to temps we should have seen weeks ago. I'm seeing fish starting to be caught in mid to shallow depths but also still seeing nice catches from 20-25 feet deep with their heads stuck in brush and their bellies stuck in the mud.

While our catches on the planer boards came on PICO Pointer Shads in Blue Storm and Pink Shad as well Curl Tails, many fishermen are doing well spider rigging with jigs and minnows. Those who are taking the very slow approach and vertical jigging deep brush are also seeing some nice catches. Minnows seem to be best there.

Some friends of mine have resorted to breaking out the PICO INT crankbaits and are doing well. I will be following suit since it seems pulling cranks is a better tactic on the days the wind makes it tough to slow down and fish other tactics. Sportsman's Marina will be stocking many items from the PICO line in the next few days.

I'm seeing some sad faces and getting stories of things that aren't like they used to be from many visitors to the lakes. I got stopped twice one day this past week at a store in Benton by visitors who follow my reports. Both questioned "What are we doing wrong?" The tactics they had used for years aren't working this year. Hopefully things are looking up.

On our trip Friday with guys from Florida and Tennessee, we spent most of our trip in areas I had done so well in on Tuesday. The wind from the northeast just made it too hard to stay on fish and the catch was meager. A change of location of just a mile or so made all the difference as we got onto fish that cooperated using the same technique that wasn't working elsewhere.

Sadly, we found the fish close to the end of our appointed time frame but that short window of eager bites made a big difference in the fish in the box and the demeanor of the trip.

Bass fishing continues to be slow for most I'm hearing from. My cousin Rickie did luck into one of the nicer smallmouths I've seen a spider rigger get in to recently. It was released after pictures.

Once we get past the forecasted rain for Sunday and Monday, it looks like the weather is going to slowly improve. Let's hope the dispositions of the fish and fishermen improve also.

Be careful out there, wear your PFDs, and watch out for other boaters who may not be watching out for you.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven!

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