

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For May 10, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

We all hoped for spring but were secretly also hoping summer would stay away for a few weeks, Fat chance! Summer is here with record high temps forecast for the next few days, Since I can't do anything about the weather (I'd be making a lot more money if I could), we'll just have to make lemonade out of the lemons we have been given. At least the water levels seem to be stabilized near summer pool. That will help the spawn greatly.

Crappie

As the water temperature approaches 70 degrees, the spawning activity of crappie has increased. Some of the fish are already spawned out as others are just heading toward shallow water. Spider riggers are catching large numbers of small crappie with the ratio of keepers to total catch is pretty low.

As the spawn gets into full swing, so does the activity on the secondary and main creek ledges. It seems some fish are transitioning toward shallow while others are heading deeper. Those of us who are pulling crank baits are seeing our catches increase in both quality and numbers. A huge bonus has been several keeper sauger being in the mix.

My wife and I had the rare chance to get on the lake Tuesday. What does a guide do on his days off? He does whatever his wife says and mine said she wanted to pull crankbaits. Who am I to refuse such a request? We headed to the LBL side and found crappie and sauger mixed in scattered groups.

Our three-hour trip yielded ten keeper crappie PLUS three keeper sauger. Three catfish from three to ten pounds used their "Get out of jail free" cards and were released. The catfish will soon be a target of the crankbaits and the livewell but not with Vicki with me.

We are running cranks in bays with scattered cover in 18-25 feet of water. Some fishermen who are vertical jigging minnows and plastics are having good catches also. Ledges, points and transition areas of rock to mud bottoms should all be checked.

Sunday I had the pleasure of fishing with Linda, an amazing fisherman and great friend from Memphis. Our day started out great with a nice tuxedo male white crappie within a couple of minutes of putting the cranks out for our first pass. Shortly after, it appeared we got to see the future of bass fishing when we were over-run with 12-14" largemouth bass that absolutely thought the Pico cranks were great.

We ended up having to give up on our quest in several bays because of the bass. We did have a couple nice keepers with one topping 4 pounds. Once we found the crappie, they were more than willing to hammer the cranks on main ledges in a large creek.

Bluegills/Redears

Yes, they still exist. They have just been a month or so behind like everything else. Kathy and Chuck did get into some nice bull gills on Saturday but the bite only lasted a few minutes. Side scanning several traditional bedding areas left us empty. The fish have been scattered with some nice redears starting to show up.

Fan cast bedding areas with a piece of redworm or nightcrawler on a drop shot rig. Once the bedding fish are found, work jigs with wax worms, crickets or worms under a bobber or fished on bottom. Don't give up too quickly. The next full moon should see the gills set the spawning areas on fire. The redears will be in the same general area. Sandy and pea gravel bottom areas should be the first place you look.

Catfish

If they are hitting our cranks, they will hit worms or cut bait dropped near their nose on bottom. Check out the riprap, chunk rock, and pea gravel areas,

We are already seeing an upswing in the numbers of jet skis, pontoons and tri-toons, and other recreational boats. More traffic means the chance of close calls. Alcohol seems to be standard equipment aboard many boats regardless of state laws forbidding open containers on any boat besides houseboats or cabin cruisers.

With warmer temperatures, many folks will be on the water for the 1st time of the year. Many will end up with boat trouble. Keep an eye out for disabled boats and help those in need when you can.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFD any time the big engine is running about idle speeds. Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. Enjoy the record high temperatures. Sunscreen, sunscreen, and more sunscreen!

Welcome to our slice of Heaven!

Heather at Sportsman's Marina is trying to keep her racks of Pico crankbaits stocked but it is a chore. Stop by to check them out.

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