

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For June 8, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey Y'all from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

Man it's hot out there!! My cooler of bottled water on the Excel has gotten a workout the past several trips. The fish seem to be responding to the high sky and hot temperatures also. Early and late are the times to be out there.

It's been said that mad dogs and Englishmen are the only ones who go out in the midday sun but I haven't been seeing either on the lake so far. From the looks of the recreational traffic and bass tournament boats, that saying doesn't get taken seriously locally.

I usually mention this at the bottom of my report but I think it needs to be at the top for now. I try to watch how many of the occupants of the boats near me are wearing PFDs as they speed by. I can honestly say the number is probably less than 20%. Many who are wearing theirs is because the bass tournament anglers are required to wear one when the big motor is running.

Folks, I know it's hot when wearing a PFD in the summertime. How hot do you think the Rescue Squad folks get when they have to wear their PFDs when they are out on the lake trying to retrieve the body of a person who thought it was too hot to wear one and didn't make it home from a great day on the lake?

Food for thought.

BTW, I applaud the local Rescue Squads and the work they do. A big part of their work is what most of us wouldn't want to do. I did see them patrolling the lakes over the Memorial Day holiday. Please help support these folks financially and by telling them you appreciate their work when you see them.

Crappie

We are now officially in the summertime patterns. The Pico crankbaits have been my first, and many trips, only choice. Crappie are heading out to the mouths of the major creeks and coves as well as the main lake ledges. I've been running near brush piles and stake beds in 15-25 feet of water and many of the crappie are ABOVE the structure.

I run down-image and 2D sonar along with my LakeMaster chart on three-way split screen on my Humminbird Helix 12 Mega and the best areas are the ones where I'm starting to see some shad schools or "baitballs". Since last fall the baitballs have been

few and far between. Hopefully the shad had a great spawn and their numbers will get back to normal levels.

Reports from the spider riggers have been slow to bad. I'm still seeing some vertical jig fishermen in the same areas we are pulling the crankbaits.

I'm starting to see several folks who are beginning to pull crankbaits and are learning why I've been talking about how productive it can be. That said, don't throw courtesy out the window just because you think you have to run close to that other boat that just caught a crappie. I had a boat this week with a young child on board that showed us their courtesy was left on the bank when the boat hit the water.

Close proximity fishing can be the norm in cold weather when the lines are vertical while spider rigging. If I have baits running 100 feet behind the boat and I'm trolling at 1.8 MPH, I don't appreciate another boat cutting my path off or running very close behind me. A little consideration goes a long way and will teach that youngster how a boat should be operated.

Bass

From the looks of the lines of anglers stacked up on main lake ledges, I'd say that is as good as any place to start looking for bass. The days that have current are going to be best for all species but especially for bass. Try large swimbait, large crankbaits, flutter spoons and creature baits fished on the edge of drops and ledges. The mouths of major coves and the river channel banks seem to be getting the most attention.

Catfish

The channel cats and blues are being caught along chunk rock banks, riprap, and river channel drops. Try cut baits, shrimp, leeches and night crawlers fished very near the bottom. Current will be your friend.

White/Yellow Bass

We are starting to catch several yellow bass on our crankbaits. I've yet to see any jump activity on the main lake but days with heavy current should be great times to try in-line spinners and shad baits fished on and near the bottom. Check out the ends of bars and creek channel turns and junctions.

Bluegills and Redears

I saw the remnants of the first willow fly hatch of the year yesterday. That always kick-starts the bluegills into a feeding frenzy. Check shallow areas near overhanging trees like willows or blowdowns. Crickets, plastic bugs and popeye jigs with wax worms fished under a small bobber should get the job done.

I had a great day yesterday with Donna and Larry, who have relocated to the area recently. Now I try to set up my crankbaits spread as equally as possible for all who fish with me but Donna put an old-time butt kicking on Larry. He took it well but for whatever reason Donna had the touch going and caught several more fish than Larry and at one time was up something like seven to zero.

Have a wonderful but safe time on the water. I don't think boat safety can be preached enough. Keep plenty of non-alcoholic drinks on board and stay hydrated. I know lots of folks think if I drink a lot I'll have to go to the bath room. A trip to one of the many restroom facilities on the LBL side or the west side is much better than a trip to the emergency room with dehydration.

I've seen severe dehydration effects and it's not pretty. If you take items with you that can be considered trash when empty, bring them back in with you and properly dispose of them. There are few days that I'm on the lake that I don't pick up a can or water bottle that some slob decided to toss overboard. Not cool!!

Summertime is here for the next few months. Hot days and warm nights will have an effect on fishing as will the huge volume of recreational boat traffic. Try to make the best of it and watch out for those who won't watch out for you.

Welcome to our wonderful slice of Heaven!

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