

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For June 21, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

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

Whew!! What a difference a few days make. The summer sun is still frying most everything in its path but the crappie fishing has kicked into hyper drive. A lot of it can be attributed to the growing numbers of shad schools or "baitballs". The surface action for white and yellow bass has increased a bunch because the food is there again.

## **Crappie**

We had some good days last week but the last few days have been nothing short of amazing. I know to a minnow dunker, caster, or 2-poler, fishing with crankbaits sounds about as fun as watching paint dry. After long stretches of watching lines with nothing happening, I might almost tend to agree. The last few days have seen very few extended periods of inactivity. Some times it has bordered on bedlam.

Monday I had the pleasure of taking Jack from KY Lake Outdoors and his friend Don for their first trolling for crappie with cranks trip on Lake Barkley. I really believe both might have been a tad skeptical at first. They were very quick learners and found that I did know something about summertime crappie fishing. We hadn't dropped the Pico cranks over the transom for more than a few minutes till it was game on.

Now, to the skeptic, one would have to ask "do you really need all those crankbaits in all those different colors?" The answer would be YES. Some colors are white hot one day then dead the next. I have been asked why at least a million times and honestly, I don't know every bit of the reason why.

I'm sure water color, current, moon phase, global warming, etc., etc. is part of it. I just know that's why I typically start my day with different colors on every rod. Once the hot colors are found, I'll make sure a large portion of the baits in the water are that same pattern. Monday it was Pico lures in Bone Orange, Simply Awesum, and Geezer Clown.

We found fish in a medium-sized cove and proceeded to spend the whole trip there. I call this type of fishing NASCAR fishing - going round and round. Whatever works. The crappie started one here-one there, then two, then three, and once four in the net at the same time. It was crazy!!

Jack and Don were soon believers to say the least. We finished with a double limit. (Guides in KY can't count fish toward a boat limit. When the clients are limited out, the boat is done). Forty crappie and nine catfish. Quite a day. Happy clients and happy me. We covered the bow of my 203 completely over with their catch.

Tuesday found me with a group from Louisville on KY Lake. They too had not pulled crankbaits or heard of Pico lures. We had a wonderful time and finished our four-hour trip with 28 keeper crappie. Happy all around again.

On KY and Barkley, the pattern was the same. Fish were suspended in 20-30 feet of water and if a point or wood cover was close by, we had to get as close to them as possible.

Great times! Pico cranks are now for sale at Sportsman's Marina, Fast Eddies, and KY Lake Outdoors.

## **Catfish**

My buddies who provide catfish for their church fish fries are checking prices on farm-raised catfish. It has been slow to zip. They have been fishing deep rocky areas of the lakes plus below both KY and Smithland Dams. Bait is hard to come by in the rivers but the fish don't seem to be feeding anyway.

Some channel and blue cats are feeding on days we have considerable current being generated. Try cut baits, worms and leeches fished right above the bottom.

## **Bass**

By all reports ,what fish are being caught are coming from deep off-shore ledges and channel breaks. When we have white bass jumps some smaller fish are being caught but most are well below the 15 inch mark.

## **White and Yellow Bass**

I've been seeing some jump activity, especially in LBL bays and close to river channel bars. Slab spoons, in-line spinners and lipless baits like Rattletraps are all working. The willow fly hatches are helping all around.

It's great to see the baitballs. One word of advice; as technology improves, we tend to forget the old-school stuff we used for years like 2D sonar. I have found baitballs and shad schools tend to be hard to see on many electronics units so consider running one of the split screens on 2D sonar. The schools of minnows will show up much better.

Mark your calendars: on Saturday July 21st Crappie.com members. We will hold an impromptu "Catching Crappie on Crankbaits" seminar starting at 9 AM till around noon at the LBL Fenton Day Use pavilion. Cross the Eggner's Ferry Bridge and turn right into the area then immediately left to the pavilion.

This will be by RSVP so we can know how many to prepare for. You can go to the KY Forum on Crappie.com, and let us know on the thread "Cobblers, Cream, and Cranks".

If you would like to join Crappie.com, go to the site and sign up. Donation jar to off-set costs will be there.

I get tons of requests for specific info pertaining to how and where I'm catching crappie on cranks. Many local fishermen want to hire me but I'm sure a large percentage just want to know WHERE I'm catching them. Please think about this. Would you go to your auto dealership and ask to speak to a mechanic so you can fix your own vehicle? Try that and see the reaction.

I, and many others, have worked for years learning techniques and locations. We value both. Nuff said.

Be careful out there. Watch out for those who refuse to watch out for others. Keep plenty of non-alcoholic drinks on board or in that shore cooler. Take out what you bring in--TRASH. Nobody likes cleaning up after a slob.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven!!

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