

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For June 28, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hello All from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

As Mungo Jerry said so many years ago in the song "In The Summertime", it feels like "you can reach right up and touch the sky". I might caution one to not do that the next few days with heat index numbers above 100 and the chance of getting struck by lightening from one of the many pop-up thunderstorms we have been dodging.

When I haven't been on the lake, I've been trying to trade trucks. Folks have warned me they won't recognize me when the red FX4 with all the decals is gone. My wife has threatened bodily harm if I cover up my new-to-us truck with decals so I'll be incognito for a while but the tan Bay Pro hasn't changed - yet. More on that in the near future hopefully.

Crappie

It has gotten back to the hit or miss on crappie. Most days we hit them but some it's a miss but not totally. Current has been sketchy and the crappie seem to be just cruising around in search of their next meal. It is one here, two there, none later. Praise the Lord, we are seeing increasing numbers of bait schools - baitballs.

A friend of mine, who is a great crappie fishermen, texted me a couple nights ago and is pulling his hair out because he can't seem to get the hang of pulling crankbaits. He's been on Barkley and Ky lakes and is coming up zeros. I tried to encourage him to tweak some things he's doing and to keep plugging away (pun intended). I also urged him to keep trying but also consider coming to the Crappie.com event at Fenton Pavilion in LBL on July 21st.

If you would like to attend, we will have three boats set up with cranking gear but all three boats are set up differently to accomplish the same end. It is for Crappie.com members so I would encourage you to go to Crappie.com and sign up as a new member. Attendance is by RSVP on the KY Forum.

Our target fish are in 20-30 feet of water around scattered brush and stakebeds. I know running a bunch of cranks around brush seems like suicide, but the fish are hanging loosely around structure. Expect to lose some baits but also catch some nice crappie for the table. Be sure to take a large cooler to ice down any keeper fish. Crappie and other species don't survive well in livewells in 90-degree water so any you plan to keep, put them on ice.

Most of the minnow jiggers and spider riggers I know have put the tackle up for a couple, maybe three, months or more. A few are braving it early and very late in the day in areas similar to where we are fishing cranks.

White and Yellow Bass

I'm seeing scattered jump activity in bay mouths and on the main lakes. The jumps are made up of whites, yellows, and small bass with some catfish thrown in for good measure. In-line spinners, blade baits, and curly-tail plastics are taking schooling fish when the schools stay up on top for a bit. Try casting right into the melee and let the bait sink a few feet or even to the bottom before starting a jerking or erratic retrieve.

If you are lucky enough to see gulls and other water birds circling and diving into the jump, approach with caution. Noise and boat wakes are not going to keep the jump on top.

Catfish

Fishing has been tough for most but some good catches are being made by those who know the lake and spend a lot of time searching for feeding catfish. We are catching several blues and channel cats on our Pico cranks. Catfish love pink so that might be a good bait to have in your spread. Try channel breaks where there might be mussel shell beds, rocky and pea gravel banks with deep water very close by. Cut bait, leeches, livers, and worms are drawing strikes on hungry cats. The days with heavy generated current will be best.

Saturday I fished KY Lake with Mike and Clarence. Our first trolling pass yielded five good keepers and we thought it was going to be a great day. The crappie went total shut-mouthed on the next pass and for quite some time. Change in locations three times worked to give up a few at most locations so we ended up with a decent day.

The highlight was Clarence hooking and landing a large channel cat on a Simply Awesum Pico on a 16 foot Southern Crappie Rod. He laughed and squealed the whole time of what seemed like five minutes he was fighting it. Mike had to hear about that for the rest of the trip. They had a six hour trip home to Ohio and I'm not sure Clarence didn't walk part of the way home.

Sunday found us on Barkley with a couple (Crista and Kevin) who are great friends of a dear friend of mine (Chad). The three of them had a little knowledge of trolling for crappie with Chad having fished with me a few weeks ago.

Our first stop gave up two good catfish, one blue and one channel. Normally I would have been considering moving to get away from an area that is infested with catfish. They let me know real quick they valued the catfish as much as crappie and let's stay where we are. The rest of the day saw steady action on crappie and catfish on Picos.

We lost one crank to something that slimmed the line three feet above where the line broke. We had a pretty good idea something with whiskers was the culprit.

An hour or so after we started, Crista commented she had made her mind up prior to the trip she would be happy if we just caught a couple of anything. We ended up with 21 crappie and 12 catfish. I think she was tickled!. They were an absolute pleasure and treated me like a long-time friend.

Take time to pick up just one (minimum) piece of trash floating on the lake that doesn't belong to you. If everyone did that, we would see a noticeable difference in something we all despise. Slobs will be slobs but lots of trash, I'm convinced, comes out of boats where it wasn't disposed of properly and the operator/passengers failed to see it fly out.

One thing that will help greatly is take your empty water/beverage plastic bottles and crush or roll them flat. That way they are much less likely to blow out on the lake or the trailer home. I keep a small mesh draw-string laundry type bag in my boat and it is clipped onto the boat so it and the trash stay put till we empty it out on shore in a proper container. It takes very little effort to keep our lakes much more tidy.

Be careful out there!! Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. A near head-on with a tritoon Sunday, after I had stopped my forward momentum and the toon operator totally ignored us till they were very close, left us shaken at the end of our otherwise wonderful trip.

Luckily it ended well but the looks the passengers on the tritoon gave us, as they crossed my bow from left to right at less than 20 yards, made it apparent that they though we would have been at fault. I seriously doubt a court of law will rule with the operator of a much larger craft that runs over a stopped, smaller vessel in the channel. Why chance it??

I have several dates left in July and August but just a few during the last two weeks of June.

If you are in the Memphis listening area, I will be on Larry Rea's outdoor radio show on July 14th at 2:30 on 92.9 FM. I think his shows may be available later on his web site. Many thanks to my wonderful friend who started out as a client, Linda Arnold, for stepping on Larry's toes until he got me on his show. Linda is a sweetheart and one of the best fisherperson's I've had the pleasure of knowing.

Take the time to take a kid fishing. A couple of hour trip to a shore area with some crickets and redworms could trigger a child to be a lifetime fisherman. Lord knows we should try to get them away from the iPad and video games for a few hours each week.

The designers of the Eggners Ferry Bridge on Hwy 68/80 in Aurora did a wonderful service to the bank-fishing public when they put paved access trails on the southwest

and northeast approaches of the bridge. Check them out. There is some seriously good fishing to be had early and late.

Mid-day might well be best left to the Blue Herons. FINS lakes like the one at Mike Miller Park in Draffenville is also a great choice. If you don't have tackle, contact me and I'll see to it that some can be borrowed. No way we will keep lack of tackle keep a child from fishing.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

Capt. Doug Wynn
Crappie Gills n' More
5 Rivers Taxidermy
157 Chase Loop
Benton, KY 42025
(270) 703-7600
doug@5riversdux.com
www.crappie-gills-n-more.com