

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For July 23, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

It's been a week of change.

We saw some days of changing weather. We're seeing changes to the lakes with the slow draw down. The rates of current being generated have been lower. Most of all we're seeing changes in fishing that has made my week much tougher but found me fishing new water that has been productive.

## **Crappie**

Scattered would be the best word to describe the crappie this week. The storms that wet us down a couple of days have brought about changes in both location and tactics. We are still picking up a few good fish in the 15-25 foot range on Pico cranks but also Bomber 6As. The 6As run 3-4 feet shallower than the Picos with the same amount of line out.

Some of the crappie have been suspended in shallower depths than we've been targeting lately. It's taking a constant eye on my Helix 12 Mega to locate the fish and put the baits in their faces. The fish we've been catching have been decent quality but the 15-16" fish have been scarce. I'm having to troll areas I usually don't fish to pick up scattered fish. Find the bait and the crappie are close by.

The best patterns have been Red Craw, Geezer Clown, Bone Orange, and Simply Awesum.

I'm always introducing new fishermen to my style of fishing. Early in the week I had Andy and Sam on the boat along with Mom and an uncle. I never could get Sam to touch a catfish but I enjoyed teaching them how to handle a fish on a 14 foot Southern Crappie Rod.

## **Bass**

All the reports I'm getting is the ledge bite has been off, especially on days of low current. Some fish have been caught in areas where schools of minnows are stacked up. We had two bass over four pounds on a trip in mid week that hit Picos right in with the crappie.

## **White and Yellow Bass**

With the draw down, we are seeing the multiple white bass "jumps" we had been seeing essentially disappear. I think as the shad schools have been drawn out to the mouths of the creeks, so have the whites and yellows. Our catch of yellows has dropped a bunch.

## **Catfish**

My breakfast buddies have found some good numbers of blues the past week below the dams. The jello chicken cut bait has produced best.

We have seen our catch of blues, whites, and channel cats drop off a bunch on cranks. For me, that's not necessarily a bad thing. Many clients enjoy catching the catfish but don't want them added to their creel in many cases.

Vicki and I had the extreme pleasure of being a part of the Crappie.com "Cobbler, Cream, and Cranks" seminar event on Saturday. We saw members from several states who wanted to learn how and where to look to catch crappie on crankbaits. My portion was videoed by J Paul Jackson of Excel Boats and is available on the Excel Boats Facebook site.

As we get toward the later part of summer and close to school starting, we will see folks try to cram every minute they can on the lake into a short window of time. It is often those times that we see accidents happen. It is now thru Labor Day that we will need to remain vigilant and watch out for those who won't watch out for us.

My prayers go out to the families who lost loved ones in the tragedy at Table Rock Lake. While there are legitimate accidents, I don't see this incident as anything but operator error by a business who was more concerned by their bottom line than the safety of their passengers. That doesn't bring back those lost in this tragedy but hopefully it will change the way many such businesses do business.

I deal with storms weekly and dodged several this past week. My primary concern is, and always will be, the safety of my passengers. Even as bad as the cell signal is around our lakes, I will find a way to keep track of approaching weather, even if it means a phone call to my wife or a friend. No amount of fish is worth the possibility of hurting a client or ruining my reputation by scaring those in my care.

Cloud blows up, we head for cover or the ramp. We spent several minutes last Sunday tucked into a private slip while heavy rain from a quick rainstorm passed. Thunder and lightning in the distance but headed our direction put us on the trailer.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs when the big engine is running above idle speed. Leave the alcohol on the bank for later. Obey all maritime and game laws. Watch out for those who don't watch out for you.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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