

# Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

**For July 30, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

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

It's been nice to have a few days off this week. Late July thru August usually finds folks getting back in the train of thought to get the kids back in school and many don't think about fishing in the hottest part of the year. The fish still have to eat and will bite the lure we use to find them.

I was able to get in the boat of a friend of mine from Evansville, Justin, along with my cousin Rickie on Friday. We were going to check out some spots that I had planned on taking my guide party to on Saturday.

We started out dragging Pico cranks in every pattern on spots that Justin and I have both caught good fish this summer - ZERO! Not even the catfish or yellows were interested in our offerings. The Humminbird Helix 12 Mega was showing fish in cover but they wouldn't come out to play. It took a couple more spots before we found active fish.

We ended up with 15 nice keeper crappie, a keeper sauger and a bass. The catfish were noticeably absent. Since I rarely keep any fish for myself, I figured this would be a good mess of fish for Vicki and I to divide into meal-sized quantities and enjoy for several dinners.

We left biting fish since our real reason for being near Eddyville was to attend the War On Carp Congressional meeting with Rep. Comer and many representatives of government and tourism interests. My hope is this is the beginning of the battle to get our lakes mostly clear of these foreign invaders. Many of us have been crying the alarm about the Asian carp for years but those cries seem to have fallen on deaf ears.

Saturday found me on Barkley for the most enjoyable trip I have ever been a part of as a guide. Kevin and Crista had fished with me about a month ago to see what it was all about before they decided to bring their children, Keaton and Carmen. Our earlier trip had been a huge success and my hope was the fish would cooperate like they did earlier. Seems the fish had a different plan.

We started out at daylight in a spot that was loaded with fish Friday but would get a ton of boat traffic later in the day. Several passes along a series of points yielded zip. I decided another long boat ride was the thing to do. The kids loved the fastest my speed the 203 will run and if there were boat wakes to be found and pass over, the more the better.

Our second stop found fish on the Helix 12 but none that wanted to bite. I knew that eventually we would get some action so after several passes around cover and over changing bottom contours, we finally got some action. The catfish that had been vacant Friday had taken back their spots. Our catch consisted of several catfish, a tiny largemouth bass (not much larger than the Pico), one crappie, and some yellows. The kids had a ball reeling in anything that would bite and Mom and Dad were coaching and helping get the fish to the net.

Our last stop saw some yellows and a Pumpkinseed that jumped on a crank. Not that it is unusual but the sight of the Pumpkinseed brought a lot of curiosity. I try to explain each and every species we catch and sometimes even do a short biology lesson. The morning sun on the most beautiful fish in our lakes made for a great ending to the trip. All fish were released to swim again.

Thanks to Kevin and Crista for allowing me to be a part of a wonderful morning.

## **Crappie**

The low 90s water temps along with low current flow is making finding and catching the crappie a task. The crappie are still in mid depth (15-25') cover along contour changes and drop-offs. Don't miss the chance to check out any points along your route.

I'm getting no reports from those who might be fishing plastics or minnows. The heat is just keeping most crappie fishermen at the house doing honey-do jobs and racking up brownie points they will need later when the bite improves.

## **Catfish**

Reports of some decent catches are coming from the tailwater areas of all three dams in our area. I'm seeing several boats along the old Cumberland River channel in Barkley who are fishing the ledges and creek channel junctions for catfish. The best times will be late morning when the generation starts the increase in current flow. Cut bait, large minnows and stink baits will be your best bet.

## **Bass**

Having just been on Barkley the last week, all reports I've been getting have been of tough bites and low catch rates. I talked to two bass guys Saturday who were pulling their boats out at late morning and giving up. They both said with the heat, it just wasn't worth the effort right now.

## **Whites and Yellows**

The frequent jump activity of a couple of weeks ago has all but stopped.

The lack of current is really hurting catches now. Many fishermen have turned the lake over to the pleasure boaters until after Labor day. There are still fish to be caught and they sure won't be caught sitting in the recliner watching reruns of Andy Griffith. Now might be a great time to clean up the fishing boat or change line on those reels.

Be careful out there. Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. Wear your PFDs. Fall fishing is right around the corner.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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