

# Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

**For August 6, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

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

I was involved in a situation on the lake Friday that demands our attention and some changes before it gets out of hand.

I had a client on Jonathan Creek at daylight. We were pulling cranks and only catching crappie that were barely keepers. I decided a move was our best course of action.

As we started picking up the six rods were had out, I slowed my Terrova remote steer trolling motor speed where we were barely moving toward the mouth of the bay. I admit my attention was to the back of the boat.

All of a sudden I realized we were even with a line of white "Purex" jugs. OH CRAP!!! Instantly I knew we were into an Asian carp net. I quickly steered the Terrova to the back of the boat but when I saw the closest pair of jugs move toward us, I knew we were tangled in the net.

I shut the motor off and tried to raise it so I could see the prop, sure enough it was tangled and there were carp on either side of my motor. Luckily, it just took a second to get the net off the motor skeg and prop with zero damage to both motor or net.

I had been within spitting distance of this net but my attention was not in front since I hadn't seen it. White jugs on this lake are a daily sight for a guide. I was 100% at fault here. I don't know the regulations on the way a net has to be identified or set. This net was several 100s of yards from the bank to the middle of the bay. It had to be no more than a foot under the water. There was no boat anywhere around it to warn boaters to stay away.

This incident was documented on social media and started a storm of protest from both sides - recreational boaters and commercial fishermen. That wasn't my intent but soon decided by starting a dialog, we might educate folks. I spent two hours Saturday talking to commercial fishermen about this incident, how nets must be set and marked, and what can be done to prevent scenarios where both net owner and boater end up with damaged equipment.

Let me be as clear as I can, I 100% support commercial fishermen and their back-breaking efforts to begin to get a handle on this Asian carp invasion. I have always used care around trot-lines and any other marker buoys I run across.

It is going to take some sort of standardized markings on these nets and educating the public how to watch for and avoid them. I'm calling for Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources and Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency to get together, use some of the government subsidy dollars, and buy colored buoys for the netters. Then there needs to be a warning at every launch and marina warning boaters of what to look for. Prosecution for anyone willfully damaging a net should also be in the arsenal.

We are all going to have to get along here for this effort to be successful. The nets are here to stay and as we get into fall, we will be seeing (I hope) more of the nets and those who work them. Now it is going to be up to the powers that be to act on our recommendations.

## **Crappie**

I was checking many spots Friday for biting crappie and ended up finding a mix of small to medium sized crappie in 15-25 feet of water but scattered with no pattern. We were pulling both Picos and my custom crankbaits. Color didn't seem to favor one over the others.

We ended up with crappie, a nice largemouth, a big redear (yes, they will hit a crankbait also) and some nice yellows. Reports from friends have been of slow fishing with many small fish for each keeper. Some reports of catches by those pulling jigs and roadrunner type baits are starting to come in. I think when fishing gets slow, folks tend to try things different than normal. I've received no reports from live bait fishermen in a few weeks.

Since we have very little current and the lake is slowly dropping, fishing all-around is slow for most willing to get out there. I'll end it at that. Fall and cooler weather and water temps will be here soon.

I'm heading to Enid Lake Mississippi on Thursday for the Crappie.com Mississippi Crankfest. This is a gathering of crappie crankbaiters from all over the country sponsored by Crappie.com. I plan on fishing both Enid and Grenada while there. I'll report on the event in my next report.

Be careful out there. The lower lake levels mean the gremlins will again start to show their wicked selves. Avoid the shallow areas when running at plane.

Wear those PFDs. Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. My September and October bookings are filling my calendar up fast. If you want to experience crankbaits in the fall, go to my web site and fill out the Book A Trip section and ask for the days you want.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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Crappie Gills n' More

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