

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For August 21, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

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

I've always heard the old timers talk about "Dog Days". They were referring to the hot, mostly dry times in late summer when everybody is tired of the hot weather and ready for fall.

Gardens are past, yard mowing is hopefully slowing down, school kids are back in the classrooms and fishing is almost not worth the effort. Welcome to Dog Days 2018.

I do all my own booking, prep and guiding. You book a trip with me, you fish with me. I've always been a control freak when it came to my relationship with clients. That goes back over 20 years to my waterfowl outfitting days.

One Saturday morning about a month ago, I was enjoying a rare day off, eating breakfast at JoJo's Cafe in Benton with the coffee gang at our designated table in the center of the room. Our coffee group is a lot like an old Baptist church member - don't think about sitting in my seat!

As I enjoyed my breakfast, my phone rang then stopped after one ring. Since I didn't recognize the number, I ignored it. It rang again and again I ignored it. I then got a voicemail. Since I don't hear well in a crowded room, I stepped outside to listen to the voicemail. It was a new client asking where I was? I checked my schedule to make sure I hadn't failed to get his date booked. I had him booked for the next Saturday.

I called him back and found out he and a friend were sitting at our designated meeting place on Lake Barkley. I had put his reservation down in my phone one week later! I could tell he was upset and I apologized profusely.

Normally I would have been able to meet them a bit late but my boat was in a slip at Sportsman's Marina while I replaced the carpeted bunks on my trailer. All I could do is ask for forgiveness and a chance to make it up to them. I got my chance Saturday.

We started out Saturday in a spot where my buddy Justin had won a tournament the previous week. As soon as we dropped the Pico cranks in the water, Ricky hooked into a 12" keeper. David and I both said OH NO!! Bad luck!!

Now there's a lot of superstition surrounding fishing and one is it is terrible luck to catch a fish as soon as you start. That proved to be true.

The rest of our trip was slow with a keeper here, a non-target species there. I had a ball teaching Ricky and David how to look for productive spots, how I use my electronics, and how I set my boat up for the most comfortable but productive way to fish. They were both experienced fishermen who took everything in and asked a ton of questions that I was more than glad to answer.

In the end, my apologies were accepted and we had a great day on the water even though the crappie were slow to cooperate.

Crappie

As the water temps continue to drop, we should start to see a reverse migration of the bait moving back into the coves. Find the bait, find the crappie. The lowering of the lake has pulled bait and game fish out of the coves into main lake areas but scattered them all over the place. The lake is just over a foot from winter pool and we should see better fishing soon.

A buddy of mine fished Kentucky Lake hard Saturday with crankbaits and got skunked. He did catch a mixed bag of yellows, catfish, bluegills, and bass on the Picos.

Other Species

I'm getting reports of some nice bluegill being caught in water 6-10 feet deep. Try worms, crickets or Popeye jigs with wax worms on a drop-shot rig. These fish are loosely bedding and you won't see the hot-and-heavy action of the spring spawn but you will get a great tug on your line and a plate full of some of the best eating the lakes have to offer.

Slow is the word for everything else except some groups are catching decent numbers of yellows and whites jigging main lake drops and channels with spoons, in-line spinners and blade baits.

I'm still being asked where folks can buy the Pico crankbaits. Sportsman's Marina on Jonathan Creek, Fast Eddie's on Hwy 68 in Fairdealing, and Kentucky Lake Outdoors in Calvert City are all stocked with most colors. The fall crankbait bite is just around the corner and those stocks will start to dwindle. You can get the Pico's at picolures.com.

We will start filming fishing tip videos this week that will be shown here on ExploreKentuckyLake.com.

If you have ideas of a subject related to fishing and boating you would like to see covered, please pass along a note to Shawn [here](#) or [to me](#) and we will be glad to try to get it on video. We also welcome your feedback, positive or negative.

We lost another boater on Kentucky Lake a week ago. This is happening much too often and the only thing these drownings have in common is none of the victims were wearing PFDs while the boat was in motion.

Please wear those PFDs when the boat is operated above idle speed.

As the lake levels continue down to winter pool, more and more hazards are getting shallower. We saw a lot of exposed bottom areas on Barkley on Saturday. For every one of those exposed areas, there are dozens of hazards that lurk just under the surface. Watch where you run the boat and avoid shallow areas.

Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. Leave the alcohol on the bank for later.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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