

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For August 28, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey Folks! Welcome to the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

Thank goodness my bookings for August have been light. The extreme heat is not something I relish fishing in day after day. The 78 degree conditions in my taxidermy studio have been just fine.

There are fish being caught but I choose to stay on the hunt for crappie instead of other species. The crappie are starting to show some movement towards fall patterns but this high 90s every day is slowing the transition down.

Crappie

I had the pleasure to fish with Brian and his wife Terry last week. Brian has fished with me before but the conditions of his first trip were much different than now. His prior trip saw rain and 40s but we made the best of it and caught some nice fish trolling roadrunners behind planer boards. They have been setting their former bass boat up as a crappie machine but they wanted to pick my brain as to what equipment I use trolling cranks and longlining jigs.

The forecast for 10-12mph north winds really dampened my spirits since I wanted to spend the trip on the LBL side of the lake. At the start of the trip, the winds weren't too bad so we headed across from Sportsman's Marina to a bay on the east side. Our best efforts were not enough to get the crappie interested in our offerings. Had we been interested in trying to catch Asian carp, we would have come to the right place.

The winds were starting to build the waves on the lake so we headed back to the west side. We caught our first and largest crappie on a wind-swept point that was only safe to fish for a few minutes. The building roller waves made the decision to head back to Jonathan Creek a no-brainer. As we fished every conceivable type of water, we picked up one here-one there on Pico and Bomber cranks.

Brian and Terry threw a ton of questions at me but I was able to answer them and help them get on with their boat project. Terry was really excited about crankbaiting and I'm sure she will give Brian a run for his money when they are on the lakes in their part of Kentucky. A bunch of small to medium crappie and a couple of catfish made for a couple of bags of fillets and a hug from Terry. She was also excited when Brian booked a day in October to come back to Kentucky Lake.

We fished ledges, flats in 12-20 feet of water, scattered brush and stakebeds, and channels to catch our fish. That is the same report I'm getting from Kentucky and Barkley

lakes. I am hearing of some limits of small fish being caught spider rigging with jigs and minnows on shallower flats, water 8-12 feet deep. A friend had a great day on Barkley Saturday pulling cranks for scattered fish.

If this oppressive heat breaks and we start to see some cooler weather, we should see the crappie move toward the medium depth flats and bays where there is cover. Find the baitballs, find the crappie.

As the lake level continues down to winter pool, please be mindful of the Asian carp nets that are being set in the bays and main lake. While many of us are advocating for some sort of standardized marking system for the nets, we will have to be cautious for any sort of floats in a line that may be marking a net.

These nets are being set high in the water column to target the shallow feeding carp. The best solution is to keep a keen eye out and avoid any areas where the nets are present. We must all work together to help lower the population of these foreign invaders. If you see the commercial fishermen at ramps, take time to tell them how much you/we appreciate their efforts. They are our first-line defense and are doing back breaking work for a minimal amount of money.

The week of October 8-14 will find fishermen from all over the country here for the Crappie.com Kentucky Lake ShinDig that will take place on the 12th and 13th. Last year we saw Crappie.com members from 11 different states. This year will could see more states represented. If you would be interested in joining the best fishing site on the internet, go to Crappie.com and look into joining. Details about the events that week can be found on the KY Forum page. Many states put on events for members like the one we participated in at Enid Lake, Mississippi a couple of weeks ago.

I got my first taste of filming fishing and boating tip segments last week. Those segments should start showing up here soon. I hope you enjoy them. Feedback is encouraged.

Be careful out there. The Rescue Squad found a missing boater safe on a Kentucky Lake shoreline last night. Not many such scenarios end this well.

Wear your PFDs when the boat is above idle speed. They won't save your life if they are stashed away under the other junk we all cram into our storage areas. Leave the alcohol on the bank for later. Very few seem to know that a boat operator in KY can be arrested and charged with DUI while operating a boat, same as behind the wheel of a vehicle on Kentucky roads.

Let's all keep wishing for cooler weather and better fishing. I still have some dates in September and October available.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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