

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For September 10, 2018

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey Folks! Hello from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking".

This weekend would have been a good time to field test rain wear.

Friday had clouds, times of bright sun, east to southeast to southwest winds, and fishing was tough for us. We fished several different areas and techniques and finally found a small concentration of crappie and blue catfish that saved the day. One big redear that whacked a Pico crank in 20 feet of water was the surprise of the day.

Saturday and Sunday found me sharing the boat with Eric from Corbin, Ky. and Kevin from Louisville. Lots of times I feel like the proverbial red-headed step-child when long-time friends book a trip together.

Eric and Kevin made me feel like I had known them for years. Their reason for coming to Kentucky Lake was to learn the crankbait for crappie technique and maybe take some fillets home. They got to do both.

We found crappie Saturday on a short stretch of a shallow ledge that dropped into 20 feet of water. I put my "NASCAR" technique into use as we essentially went around and around, checking out this ledge with Pico and Bomber cranks with an occasional Bandit thrown in. When the bite slowed down, we would move to different areas with similar features but the crappie had decided that one small area was home.

Sunday found us checking out a couple of areas that I thought we could fish on the winds that had been forecast. I don't know why I continue to torture myself watching forecasts for weather. They are RARELY correct and if the winds are forecast for 5 mph you might as well count on double that on the lakes. It didn't take much north wind, three foot rollers, and driving rain to run us into a creek for protection and hopefully some crappie.

One here, one there and it wasn't looking good for the home team. I threw caution to the wind (literally) and started fishing an area that had produced in the past but with water levels 4 feet higher. Our first pass produced some fish, not big fish but solid keepers.

We spent the rest of the trip in that area of water 10-14 feet deep pulling cranks of every color and style. Now normally I wouldn't feel real good about pulling baits that will run 16-18 feet deep in water that was much shallower than that but by letting out much less line and reeling the bait up if it started hitting bottom, we keyed in on a solid quantity of keepers.

Sometimes you just have to get out of that comfort zone. I can't imagine a better way to teach converts to crankbaits that the technique will produce in lots of different areas.

One really nice thing about fishing in terrible weather is the lack of competition. It was really the lack of any other boats PERIOD except an occasional bass boat headed for parts unknown at high speed.

Crappie

Cover lots of water, check depths from 10-20 feet deep, and throw everything in your bag of tricks at them. The crappie are following schools of baitfish. Find those and find the crappie.

I've had some reports of spider riggers using minnows and jigs catching lots of small crappie in medium depth areas when the wind allows.

The Twin Lakes Crappie Club tourney was won Saturday with seven crappie that weighed just over eight pounds. This club consists of many of the best crappie fishermen in our region so those results show it's tough out there.

Bass

I asked a good friend, over breakfast at JoJo's Cafe in Benton, to give me a bass report. He laughed and said "What report? Nothing to report!" From the looks of the movement of the bass boats over the weekend, I'd say it's tough right now.

Catfish

We found both channel and blue cats moving into shallower areas after food. All the blues we dressed this weekend were packed full of small, curly shells like one will find on the rocky bank areas.

I want to thank everyone for the positive response I've been getting for the first fishing tip video from last week. I welcome your input for tips you would to see covered.

The lakes are now just inches above winter pool. Please turn that GPS Chartplotter on and learn what to look for as it pertains to shallow water areas to avoid. I set my shallow water alarm at four feet or less and watch it constantly. Anything four feet or less shows up as red on my map.

Friday I ran across a river bar that showed I was just out of the four foot or shallower red area but my digital depth reading showed less than three feet as we passed over it at 40 mph. Major pucker moment!!

Be careful out there and keep in mind that hypothermia can occur at much higher water temperature that you might imagine. Getting wet on the cool, windy days can not only

be miserable but also unhealthy. Carry extra dry clothes from now until late spring warm up.

Word of note: I have just a very few dates left in September and none in October. I'll be having knee replacement surgery on October 15th and my fishing year will come to a close. I'll still be reporting since I have a great bunch of fishing buddies who for the most part will be truthful as to what is happening on the lake.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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