

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For September 19, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

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

Summer just doesn't want to give up its grip. Air temperatures in the 90s and water surface temperatures in the mid 80s make us feel like it is July rather than late September. The lake has risen about three feet over my last report as TVA pulled the plug on the east Tennessee lakes on the Tennessee River to prepare for the Hurricane Florence rains that didn't come to that area.

All those factors together should mean terrible fishing but that isn't the case. Both crappie and bass didn't seem to get the memo.

I had the pleasure to have Shawn from this site on the boat with me Tuesday. We were filming some more fishing tip videos due to the fact I'll be out of commission for the rest of the year with my upcoming surgeries.

As I got the boat ready to head back to Sportsman's Marina, Shawn asked if I was going to try to catch a couple of fish so we could film my crappie and catfish cleaning techniques. I hadn't been on the lake for a few days but I motored to an area where we had caught some crappie last week. The fish were still there even though the lake conditions have changed a bunch. I caught enough to do our videos and for Shawn's family to have fresh crappie and catfish for supper.

## **Crappie**

We have been catching some nice strings of crappie pulling crankbaits in 12-16 feet of water. The fish are scattered and it's taking covering large areas of water to find and catch them. Picos cranks in Simply Awesum, Bone Orange, Mudbug, and Blue Boogie have produced equally but I constantly change out colors that aren't working. Bomber 6As and Bandit 200s have produced also.

I'm getting no reports from crappie fishermen using different techniques and the last several trips it seemed I was just sharing the lake with a few bass fishermen and the lake traffic is surprisingly light.

I had a wonderful day on the water Wednesday with Lisa and Scott from Russellville, Ky. Scott and his son Daniel had fished with me in May and we had a great time. Daniel quickly became a highlight of my season. For a 5 year old, he was all questions and took in the whole experience in like an adult.

When Scott booked the mid-week trip I was afraid Daniel would be in school and he was. Daniel's seat was taken by his Mom, Lisa. At first she wasn't sure she wanted to go and was afraid she wouldn't enjoy the trip. I'm glad she changed her mind on both. She ended up catching 2/3 of the 32 keeper crappie we caught and we all had a ball. We still missed Daniel and I look forward to fishing with him next spring.

## **Bass**

The FLW High School Regional tourney was held last week and the catch was very light. It seems the bass bite has picked up since the lake rise has stabilized and started dropping slowly. The Tuesday night tournament out of Moor's Marina saw catches much better with an average of over 4 pounds needed to win.

Bass seem to be moving around with the schools of minnows. Some are being caught on the deep ledges while others are being caught on rocky points in the bays. Topwater baits are working shallow while large cranks, spinnerbaits, and creature baits are working on the ledges.

I want to thank my readers for the great response and feedback I've been getting for the fishing tip videos. I'm having a good time filming them with Shawn. He's not a veteran fisherman so our time on the water is all about me answering questions from him about my tactics while he answers my questions about the web site business.

With the lake rising quickly and now falling, there is a lot of debris from foam cups and water bottles to huge logs. Please keep an eye out for floating hazards.

As of last night, I'm completely out of dates available for trips. Thanks to all who have made this a great year on the water. I'll be fishing thru October 14 then down until March.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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