

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For October 30, 2018**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey Folks from the Excel Bay Pro 203 "Fishful Thinking". Well... not really. I'd do best saying Hello from my recliner. The Bay Pro is tucked away in my new garage.

My knee surgery was a success. Dr. Derek Morgan at MCCH is absolutely the best. My recovery has been painful but much of that has been due to me really pushing myself in physical therapy. The home health nurses are great and are very pleased with my progress. I will lose my 32 staples today, not a minute too soon.

Thanks to my readers for all the messages, calls, visits, and prayers. My heartfelt appreciation goes out to each and every one of you.

## **Crappie**

WOW!!! My last day on the water was Friday, October 12 and the water surface temperature was 82 degrees. I got a call from a good friend a couple of days ago and he fished 60-degree water on Barkley over the weekend.

Many of those who have checked in with reports have hung up the Pico crankbaits and broke out the longline jigs and Roadrunner type spinners fished on 6-8 pound test mono. The optimum speed for longlining will be 0.8-1.2 MPH. Some folks use line counter reels for longlining but I use spinning reels on the same poles I will use for spider rigging.

The shorter rods all the way down to the 5-foot models I use for casting and dock-shooting. I want a closer separation when longlining than I do with cranks. Two feet between the baits is best. I prefer a curly tail grub trailer on my jig heads and I'll never be caught without having a scent attractant on my baits like Slab Sauce or Crappie Nibbles.

The trick to longlining is finding the baitballs of minnows. The bait may be in reasonably shallow water or it may be in deep water near cover. Most of the times cover is the key. Obviously one doesn't want to be pulling a dozen jigs thru a jungle of tangled brush or stakebeds like you might consider when spider rigging. Close to the cover is usually just fine.

Don't consider pulling longline jigs if you have an aversion to losing tackle. **YOU WILL LOSE LOTS OF JIGS!!** That is the trade off for a box full of fillets.

Some good fish are still being caught tight-lining jigs and minnows above deep cover. Some days you will have to put the bait right down into the middle of the cover to make the crappie eat it.

Spider riggers are catching good numbers of small to medium crappie with an occasional slab thrown into the mix. Jigs and jigs tipped with minnows seem to be best right now. 12-18 feet seem to be the target depths.

I haven't spent as much time in my shop as I'd like to and my beloved shop cat, Camo, is missing the attention.

Best of luck on the lake. Be careful, especially watch out for the shallow-water Gremlins. The lake is near winter pool and as the water temps drop, the threat of hypothermia increases. Wear your PFDs and take an extra change of clothes in case you should get wet.

I'll be thinking of the great fishing I'm missing. Dr. Morgan said I had put off the knee surgery much too long. Hey, the fish were biting! A person has to have priorities. My spine surgery is coming up November 29 and 30.

Keep in touch!

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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