

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For April 4, 2019**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hello from the Excel Bay Pro "Fishful Thinking".

It FINALLY feels like spring. Wednesday was glorious with mild winds most of the day. It was what seemed like a perfect spring day for fishing. Only problem was the fish didn't get the memo in the areas we fished. It was tough! It's hard to blame the wind or weather on a day like that.

There are folks who are having great catches one day then slim catches the next. While there are some nice fish being caught, many are having to sort through lots of little crappie to get a nice creel. It seems to just be what bay you are in on what day. I will say all the crappie are really healthy.

As a guide, I try to keep a wide variety of tactics in my bag of tricks. Some popular tactics like spider rigging don't translate well to guiding clients who have never done it or maybe even seen it. The high wind days of most of my guide trip days so far have forced me to longline jigs and roadrunners and even break out the crank baits a couple of times.

I got out my new Off Shore Tackle OR-38 mini planer boards Monday for a trial run. The wind was tough and had most boats just looking for a place with less wind than others. I ended up with some nice crappie but lost as many in the wind.

My clients love the planer boards because it is like trolling big bobbers behind and beside the boat. The whole reason for using the planer boards is to get the baits out away from the boat so you can cover more water with each pass.

By the way, Shawn and I got to video some new Fishing Tips of the Week segments Monday afternoon once we found an area with less wind. In one I will explain the planer boards and in another I'll go over longlining jigs. Please let me know if there is a fishing tactic or situation you would like to see on video. We are always looking for new ideas.

## **Crappie**

Depending on the weather and water conditions, there have been some really big strings of nice crappie caught. Many of those are dunking minnows or jigs right into the

stakebeds or brush piles. Lots of fishermen make their own luck by working hard to build then sink their own special brand of fish-holding structure.

Of course once it hits the bottom it is there for anyone to fish. Crappie are coming from very shallow to very deep. A good place to start will be 10-15 feet of water and work your way which ever direction the fish dictate. Longlining or slow trolling 1/8th ounce jigs with black and chartreuse curly tails would be a great way to start. If the bait is ticking the bottom, reel it up a couple of turns.

## **Bass**

I'm seeing a lot of crankbaits being cast along rocky banks and points just inside the mouths of major coves. Alabama rigs seem to be hanging from a lot of rods also.

There is a 200 boat bass tournament out of Moors the next couple of days so be aware of heavy traffic in that area.

I had a great time with two guys from Indiana and two ladies from Ohio this week. Both groups hung in there with less than stellar results. Luckily, my back and knee are doing great with no pain issues so that is a positive.

The lake level is still at or near winter pool so boaters must be cautious and watch out for gremlins in shallow areas. The ramps are filling up even during the week so please use courtesy when loading and unloading your boat. Get all your gear ready and the boat ready to go into the water BEFORE you pull onto the ramp.

I saw a lady this week pull their boat and trailer to the top of the ramp and get out of the truck, essentially blocking the others who were waiting from using the ramp. This kind of activity will likely get you to hear some new adjectives. All of the ramps have areas where you can get the boat ready to launch and secured to go home AWAY from the ramp areas. Use them for such.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs. I make sure EVERY client who boards my boat is offered a PFD and has one within reach the entire trip. Many choose to not wear them but none can say they weren't offered the chance. Watch out for marked and unmarked carp nets. They will be a constant neighbor from here on out. Let's all learn to work around them.

Welcome and enjoy our slice of Heaven.

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