

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For May 21, 2019**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey y'all from the Excel Bay Pro 203 Fishful Thinking. This will be my last report from the 203. Don't get all torn up---the new Bay Pro 230 will be complete with its Suzuki 250 as soon as I can deliver it back to Mountain View, AR to the Excel plant then back home. We have been busy rigging the electronics and fishing accessories when I have a free moment from fishing with clients every day.

It will feel strange to actually have a couple of days off but that is only because I blocked them off my schedule. The phone has rung constantly with clients and prospective clients asking for dates to fish.

I've been blessed to have lots of old friends and former clients fish with me the last couple of weeks. There is a certain peace in familiarity when folks who have fished with me, some several times, step onto the boat and they know what to do. It makes my job easier.

## **Crappie**

I've been asked a thousand times "Is the spawn over with?" The answer is finally "Yes."

We've been spending a lot of time on Barkley this spring and it has been paying off greatly. The quality of the crappie has been amazing. We have been pulling PICO crankbaits in deep channel areas as well as around some ledges and points. Colors have changed throughout the trip so I keep the tackle boxes handy. I have had MANY clients say they have caught their largest crappie ever on my boat lately.

The reports I'm getting from others who are spider rigging or vertical jigging have been mixed but mostly lower catch rates and quality than we are seeing with cranks.

## **Bluegills and Redears**

Folks, I don't know what to say. The catch has been light due to the lack of bedding activity. I think the slow rise in water temps has contributed but I'm just not seeing many active beds. I run the Side Scan often in areas I think there should be bedding fish and more times than not, the beds are empty. The sad looks on faces at the cleaning stations back that observation up.

Not all is gloom and doom. We are catching several bluegills, just not the size and in numbers we would like to see. Redears are the same. I am seeing pictures of some really big redears but they are scattered all over both lakes.

## **Catfish**

From the increase in numbers of both blue and channel cats we are seeing attack the crankbaits, I'd say the catfish spawn is starting. We had a big blue cat hit a PICO last week but I first thought the bait was hung on the bottom. Once we realized the hang-up was moving, I then realized my Big T net was too small. After several attempts, we managed to boat the beast. It was high-fives all around.

Check for catfish around rocky banks and points. Cut bait, worms, or any variety of commercial baits will draw strikes.

As Memorial Day approaches, so does a big up-tick in recreational boat traffic. With more traffic comes more opportunities to see just how careless and uncaring many boaters are. The lack of boating and fishing law enforcement is making the situations worse. I've seen several instances of boaters making huge wakes in areas where other boaters are trying to put their boats onto the trailer.

Nothing will rock your world like a big roller wave hitting just as your boat starts onto the trailer, only to see it thrown sideways or too far forward. Many instances of damage happen in this scenario while the oblivious cause motors on down the lake.

Kentucky boating law says you are responsible for your wake and any damage it might cause but if we have zero law enforcement around to see such actions, it ends up falling on the boat owner to deal with uncompensated damage to his/her boat and trailer.

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs when the big motor is running. Watch out for those who refuse to watch out for you. Help those who need help on the lake. We towed in two unlucky fishermen Sunday when their boat quit in the middle of a heavy rainstorm.

Enjoy the official kick-off to summer boating but boat responsibly. Leave the alcohol on the bank.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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