

# **Doug Wynn's Fishing Report**

**For June 3, 2019**

*Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley*

Hey Folks! The Excel Bay Pro 230 is now in business.

We launched its career last week with a nice catch of quality crappie. My wife, Vicki, swore she wasn't going to let anybody but herself catch the first fish out of it but her insanely busy schedule nixed that thought.

She did get to ride along as we put break-in hours on the Suzuki 250. I was shocked to see her feet propped up as we cruised at 50 mph. Speed on water isn't her thing but the sheer size of the 230 makes it seem much slower.

## **Crappie**

The last couple of weeks have been feast or famine. We might start a trip checking out several areas for crappie with little to show for it then BOOM, four or five nice fish in a short time frame. The bait fish are just now showing up in decent numbers on Barkley but not so much on Kentucky Lake.

The crappie on both lakes are in really good shape as compared to this time last year. As is usual, we are pulling PICO crankbaits along deeper areas where baitballs of shad are present. The catch is mostly one here-one there. Bait colors are all over the place but you can bet I'll always have Simply Awsum and Green Machine on.

## **Catfish**

Many places we can't get away from the cats, especially the blue catfish on Barkley. Most of my clients aren't interested in catfish so I hate to hook into them and have to deal with all that goes with catfish. For those who want to keep cats, the sight of a rod bent double as the fish is brought to the boat is a welcome sight.

I've talked to many fishermen targeting catfish who are doing well on the rip-rap and rocky bank areas. Cut bait, worms, and commercial baits are doing well.

It might be time to mix up some of the Kool Aid/Jello formula and soak up some chicken chunks for the catfish. Take cherry Kool Aid, raspberry Jello, a dash of Anise oil or commercial scent bait like Slab Sauce, some garlic salt, and a very small amount of water.

Place the chicken cuts (usually boneless breast strips) into the mixture in a large Zip Lock bag or plastic container, and place it in the refrigerator for a couple of days. Mix it up every few hours. I then put the mixture in quart Zip Lock bags and freeze them.

When I want to go for catfish, I take the frozen bait and drop it in the cooler with my bottled water. Keep it off your boat carpet or wash any drips off quickly.

When fishing for shallow catfish around rocks, I find it best to rig up with a slip bobber to keep the bait right above the bottom but out of harms way.

### **Bluegills/Redears:**

This has been another tough season for these panfish for me. When I have found active bedding areas, the catch has been a few then nothing. This is also what I'm hearing from other fishermen. I have been seeing some nice redears caught but they are very scattered also.

The summer-like temperatures have brought out the recreational boaters in swarms. As much as I love fishing Lake Barkley, it seems the traffic there is 10X worse than on KY Lake. With the increase in traffic comes the inconsiderate among us. It really puzzles me why a person, running on a bay 1/2 mile wide, must run at top speed within 20 yards of my boat while throwing a wake that is 3 feet high? Anyway...

Be careful out there. Wear your PFDs. Watch out for the inconsiderate among us. Help those who need help. Have fun out there!

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

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