

Doug Wynn's Fishing Report

For July 26, 2019

Report for Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley

Hey Y'all from the new Excel Bay Pro 230 "Fishful Thinking".

I spent a great morning today with Shawn, owner of this site, filming the next several segments of the fishing How-To videos. We took a few weeks off while I caught my breath and Shawn learned the new film gear he just purchased. Hopefully these videos will be as well received as those in the past.

I haven't reported in a couple of weeks. It isn't that I haven't been on the lakes, it's just there hasn't been much to report. I don't do well reporting on how things should be, I want results before I bring a report to print.

Things have been s-l-o-w! We are still catching enough to grease a skillet but the big numbers of big fish have not been hanging out in their usual haunts. I've been spending any spare time on the water looking for new locations that are holding fish. Several of those location have been no-go, some so-so, and a couple have been added to my mental memory bank as well as my GPS.

My wonderful wife Vicki asked last Saturday if I would take her fishing on Sunday. This shocked me because she makes it a point to be in church most every Sunday, even those I have trips scheduled. She reminded me that while she had ridden in the new 230 a couple of times while I was breaking the engine in, she had yet to fish out of it. We rolled out of bed about 4:30 and made the drive to Eddy Creek Marina on Barkley where we would launch. We then ran a few miles to our first stop.

It took me a couple of passes around the bay I had chosen before I found the concentration of baitballs and crappie. In case I never mentioned it, Vicki LOVES to pull Pico crankbaits and is as good at it as anybody who fishes with me. Soon she had 3 crappie hooked at once---TWICE.

None of them were giants but one was very respectable. She handled herself like a pro until she got a phone call that her Mom was being taken to the hospital by ambulance. End of fishing day. Fast forward 10 days and her Mom is THANKFULLY home from a scare. We are now trying to mesh our schedules again so we can go back and finish what we started.

Crappie

With the recent hot weather, low current, and awful fishing conditions, things have been tough. The baitfish seemed to all congregate in small areas with the crappie close behind. The lake levels have started the slow drop to winter pool and with that, the

current has increased but many of the crappie in the mid-depth bays have pulled out into the main bays or even main lake.

I'm finding deeper structure like stakebeds holding large numbers of crappie that can't be persuaded out with nothing less than explosives. While frustrating, it's pretty much a normal thing for the dog days of summer. The last couple of cool nights and mild days have been heaven. Hopefully that will equate to better catches.

While the crappie catches have been meager at best, by the end of the trips we have been putting good numbers of catfish (blue cats on Barkley), white bass, buckets full of small yellow bass, and largemouth bass. A young lady caught a nice flathead catfish on a Pico last week. Everybody has gone home with some fillets.

I got word last week of a small willow fly hatch on Kentucky Lake that produced 35 BIG bull bluegills for the lucky bank anglers who happened to be camping right next to the melee. It shut off as fast as it started.

One thing that has been noticed by many of my clients is the drop in recreational boat traffic in most areas of the lakes. I don't know if this is a result of folks getting ready to send the kiddos back to school, folks out of vacation time, or something else. I hope it is not a result of the adverse publicity being spread in some circles about the dangers of Asian carp on our lakes and the lack of fishing success some are having.

It's easy to blame the carp for global warming, natural disasters, or any of a list of things. I live with Asian carp every time my boat hits the water. I rarely see one unless one of our lines happen to hit one and startle it into jumping well behind the boat. It has been well over a year since one jumped into my boat.

Yes, I often see them on my electronics but rarely do they stay in one place very long. I really feel the netting, especially on Lake Barkley, is having a very positive effect on reducing the numbers.

Last week I got a call from a businessman in central Kentucky who is starting a processing plant to make food products out of the Asian carp. Lots of the products sounded like something I would be eager to try. I even suggested a couple of items I'd like to see marketed.

As we move forward, I hope each of us can do a small part in supporting those in the commercial industry who are catching and processing these invader fish. It's going to take time but the goal of the fisheries managers in ours, and surrounding states, is to save our lakes and stop the entry into the lakes from the rivers thru the locks and flooding. Once the lakes are cleaned out to a minimal level or totally, then they can start doing the same on the rivers.

Be careful out there. Watch out for those who won't watch out for you. Help those who are stranded or broken down. The small amount of time you spend helping others will

come back to you in the future. It's better to pay it forward if you can. Wear your PFDs and watch for gremlins as the lake levels drop.

I have several dates available over the next couple of months.

Welcome to our slice of Heaven.

Capt. Doug Wynn
Crappie Gills n' More
5 Rivers Taxidermy
157 Chase Loop
Benton, KY 42025
(270) 703-7600
doug@5riversdux.com
www.crappie-gills-n-more.com
Excel Boats Pro Staff