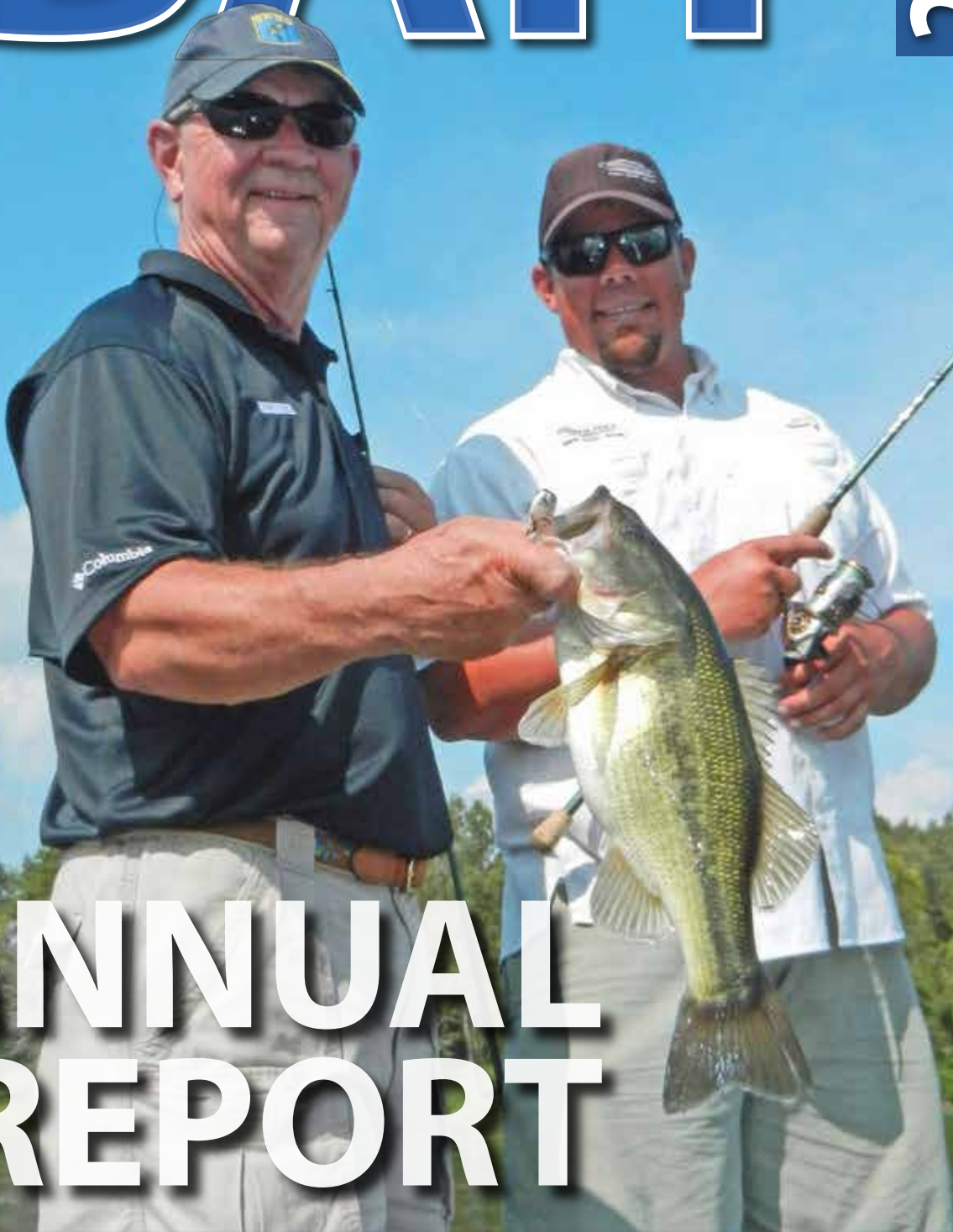


BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM

BAIT

2018



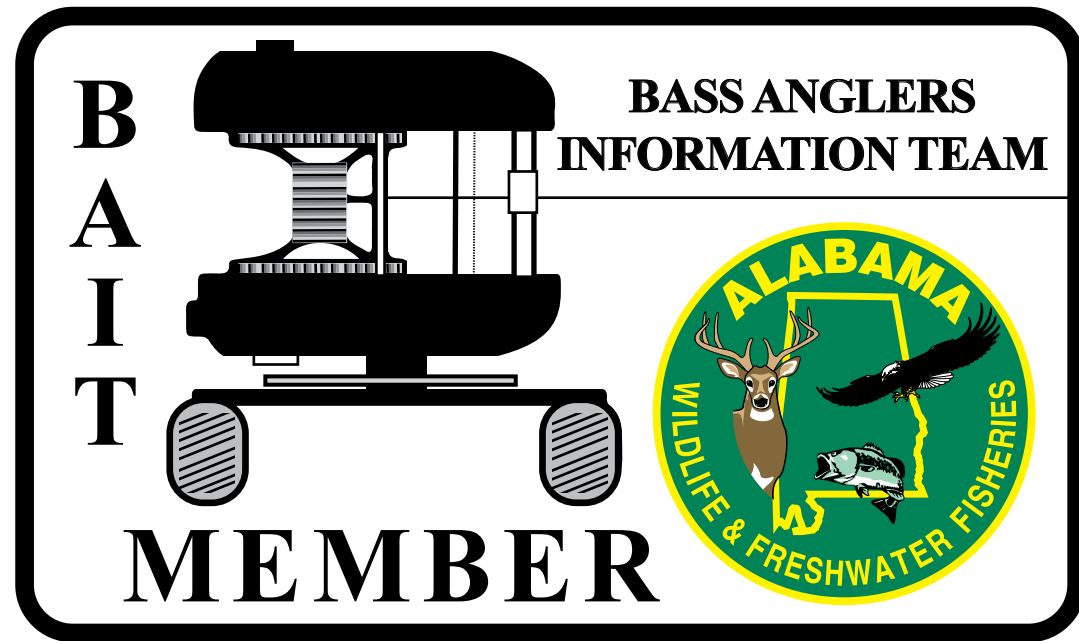
ANNUAL REPORT



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION



BAIT 2018



By: Kyle Bolton
Fisheries Biologist

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
Funded in part by the Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Program Alabama DJIWB Project F-38

MISSION STATEMENT

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B.A.I.T. Program and Tournament Listings

www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments

Limits and Regulations

www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater-fishing-creel-and-size-limits

Freshwater Boating Access

boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov

Fish Attractor Locations

www.outdooralabama.com/fishattractors

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the participating bass clubs; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for their genuine interest in this program and their willingness to take a proactive approach to managing bass fisheries in Alabama’s reservoirs. Without their cooperation, assistance, and enthusiasm this program would not be possible.



INTRODUCTIONS & METHODS

The printing of the 2018 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the 33rd year of the B.A.I.T. Program. Since its inception, the objective of the program has been to gather information on bass populations by combining the efforts of bass club members and state fisheries biologists. The B.A.I.T. Program summarizes catch data on reservoir bass populations that are collected and provided to us by participating clubs. This information is used by state fisheries biologists in combination with data from other sources as a basis for fisheries management decisions. Bass anglers use the report to establish future tournament sites or to locate a reservoir that provides a particular type of fishing.

Through 2018, 15,478 tournament reports have been summarized. Anglers have spent 3,590,107 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 973,146 bass that weighed 1,845,224 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program, which maintains 114 boating access areas statewide. Information regarding the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team Program is also included. The accomplishments made by these programs during 2018 may be of particular interest to tournament bass anglers and their organizations.

Every year, we attempt to maintain the support of the previous year’s clubs and to enlist the support of new clubs through public meetings, news releases, and letters. Participating club officers or tournament directors are sent the previous year’s annual report and tournament report postcards to be completed following each tournament. Clubs are assigned individual numbers to insure confidentiality. As tournament cards are received, they are checked for accuracy and entered into a computer database. Club officers are

contacted when data are suspected to be erroneous. We compile and analyze the data following receipt of December tournament reports. Statewide tournament results are sorted by reservoir and by club.

To rank reservoirs, five fishing-quality indicators were used: percent of successful anglers (percent of anglers with one or more bass at weigh in), average bass weight, number of bass per angler-day, pounds of bass per angler-day, and hours required to catch a bass five pounds or larger. Since the length of a fishing day varies between tournaments, an angler-day is defined as one angler fishing for ten hours. In this report, an angler-day may simply be referred to as a “day” of fishing. A minimum of five tournaments for an individual reservoir is considered necessary for minimum confidence in each reservoir dataset. Reservoirs with five or more tournament reports are ranked for each of the quality indicators. Values are assigned to each rank and an overall rank is determined for each reservoir by summing the values of the five quality indicators. This ranking system is intended to be a quick reference for club tournament site selection. It does not constitute a “best and worst” list of Alabama reservoirs and should not be interpreted that way.

Tournament results were also broken down by month for each reservoir with 10 or more reports. This section is intended to aid clubs in scheduling tournaments since the quality of fishing can vary considerably from one season to the next on any given reservoir. It also allows anglers to better understand their chances of achieving a particular goal (i.e., catching a big bass) on a given lake by studying in detail how anglers performed during each month of the year. When studying this section of the report, be aware that some months are represented by only one tournament, which may not be a good indicator of the overall quality of fishing during that month.

Bass fishing in the state of Alabama has remained excellent for the past several years. During 2018, all five quality indicators improved or remained the same over the previous year. Average bass weight remained at 2.16 pounds, which is 12% above average. Percent success (where an angler weighs in at least one bass) increased 4.5%, which is 10% above average. The number of bass per angler-day (one angler-day equals one angler fishing for 10 hours) increased 13%, which is 45% above average. Pounds of bass per angler-day increased 13%, which is an impressive 65% above average. Finally, the number of hours required to catch a 5-pound bass decreased by 11%, which is 41% better than average. Additionally, the number of 5-pound bass caught increased from 419 in 2017 to 521 in 2018.

Although the larger Tennessee River impoundments have always been traditional angler favorites, Wilson has turned the most heads recently by finishing first overall the past five years in the quality indicator ranking. Wheeler was second overall, which is an improvement over last year when it was ranked fifth overall.

- Wilson remained on top in the overall quality indicator rankings.
- Logan Martin and Guntersville both showed considerable improvement in the quality indicator rankings – both moving up 12 and eight spots, respectively. Weiss and Smith also moved up seven spots while Millers Ferry was down nine spots, Pickwick was also down nine, and Jordan fell seven spots in the overall rankings.
- Wilson, Wheeler, Weiss, Logan Martin, and Lay were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings.
- Wilson, Guntersville, Wheeler, Eufaula, and Pickwick were the top five big-bass lakes in Alabama.

NOTABLE FACTS:

*Regarding lakes with 10 or More Tournament Reports for 2018

- **Eufaula:** Percent success (76.2) was up 13% from 2016 and average weight was up 4% from last year.
- **Guntersville:** Success improved 18% from 2017. Average weight (3.11 pounds) was up 14% from 2017. Pounds per angler-day (10.27) showed a 60% improvement from last year – the highest since 2014 and second highest value since the B.A.I.T. program started. Average winning weight (19.64) was up 1.1 pounds from 2017.
- **Jones Bluff:** Average weight (2.05), the number of bass (4.72), and pounds of bass (9.70) per angler-day were each the highest since the B.A.I.T. Program started in 1986. The amount of bass brought to the scales

per angler-day was 41% above average, while pounds of bass weighed in was almost 5 pounds above average.

- **Jordan:** All quality indicator values decreased but were still above the 33 year average. Winning weight (13.92 pounds) increased by a pound.
- **Lay:** The number of bass per angler-day (4.16) set a record as did pounds of bass weighed in per angler-day (10.13) – a 27% increase from last year and more than 4 ½ pounds above average. Lay had an average weight of 2.44 pounds – the heaviest since 2013 and seconds heaviest since the B.A.I.T. Program started in 1986. Success rates (87%) were also the highest since 2011.
- **Logan Martin:** In 2017, the number of bass being weighed in (3.3) was the lowest since 1990. However, in 2018 that value jumped 55% to 5.12. Pounds per angler-day also showed a significant increase of 75% to 9.96 pounds.
- **Martin and Millers Ferry** showed very similar numbers to those in 2017.
- **Mitchell:** Average weight (2.08) and pounds per angler-day (9.00) set an all-time record.
- **Mobile Delta:** Twenty-eight (28) bass were weighed in over 5 pounds. Average weight reached 1.85 pounds and pounds per angler-day (8.26) each reached all-time highs.
- **Neely Henry:** The average winning weight was 1.6 pounds higher than the lake average of 13.61 pounds.
- **Pickwick:** All quality indicator values slightly decreased in 2018 from a record year in 2017. Still, on average, it took almost a 20-pound limit to win.
- **Smith:** Winning weights on Smith have steadily increased the past three years. All quality indicator values improved with the exception of average weight (1.93 pounds). Only 10% of the time an angler would zero (a 16% improvement). Pounds per angler-day was up 67% and bass per angler-day was up 77%.
- **Weiss:** Both average weight (2.14) and pounds per angler-day (9.61) set all-time records.
- **Wilson:** On average, it only took 54 hours for an angler to catch a 5-pound or greater bass. This set a record for Wilson and was second (all-time) only to Guntersville's amazing value of 38 hours back in 2014.
- **West Point:** All quality indicators were down but percent success, number of bass per angler-day, and pounds per angler-day were still well-above the 33 year average.

2018 STATEWIDE B.A.I.T. STATISTICS

14.80 – Average winning weight for five fish
 3.92 – Number of bass weighed in per angler-day (new record)
 8.46 – Pounds of bass weighed in per angler-day

2.16 – Average weight of bass caught
 204 – Hours required to catch a 5-pound bass
 11.69 – Weight of the largest bass caught
 31 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
 521 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger



STANDARDIZED ELECTROFISHING RESULTS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries manages 45 public reservoirs through five district offices. Inside the front cover of this publication each district office is listed along with the reservoirs within their area of responsibility. Each reservoir is sampled on a routine basis to monitor the population structure of its sport fish species. These samples are conducted in a standardized manner according to the guidelines of the Alabama Reservoir Management Manual so that changes in population characteristics can be monitored over time. Most reservoirs are sampled on a three-year cycle and management recommendations, such as length and creel limits, are determined from this research. There are three key components of the fish population that biologists must characterize in order to make these decisions; they are growth, mortality, and recruitment. Another important non-biological element is bass harvest rates, which are determined through the use of angler creel surveys.

These four variables ultimately determine the quality of each fishery, but all of them are limited by the nutrient levels in each reservoir. Even with good management, reservoirs with low fertility or poor water quality do not have the potential to produce outstanding fisheries. Depending on the results of these investigations, some management objectives may include the reduction of small bass through the use of slot limits, which can also reduce the effects of variable recruitment.



Fisheries biologists conduct a standardized electrofishing sample on Three Mile Creek, a tributary of the Mobile River.

A careful review of the information in this section reveals certain fishery trends that are reflected in the tournament reporting data. For example, reservoirs that consistently produce good numbers of trophy bass are usually those with populations that exhibit low annual mortality and rapid growth. Conversely, lakes that rarely produce trophy bass are often characterized by slow growth and high annual mortality.

Complex statistical models are developed from these variables and are then used to predict how fish populations might respond to changes in the length or bag limits imposed on each reservoir. Over time, the predictive ability of these models can be validated by comparing the predicted effects to the actual fishery responses to the changes in harvest restrictions. In general, harvest restrictions have miniscule impacts unless the rate of fishing mortality approaches or exceeds that of natural mortality, because there is little biological justification for protecting fish that are dying primarily of natural causes. Since bass harvest in Alabama is generally very low, few reservoirs have restrictive length limits at this time. However, routine monitoring of bass populations will allow changes in harvest restrictions to be made whenever necessary.



Bass are measured and weighed so that biologists can determine the size structure of the population, growth rates, and relative condition.

GROWTH

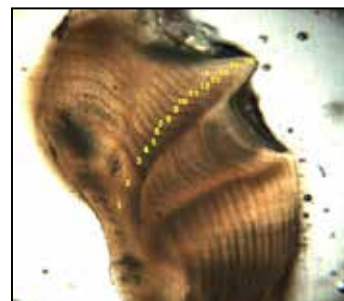
One of the three most important objectives of a fisheries biologist's assessment of a fish population is to determine the growth rate for the fish being studied. There are many factors that can affect the rate at which fish grow. The most important factors are prey abundance, size, and nutritional value; and of course, the number of other fish competing for food resources. Other factors include the age and health of the fish, water temperature, and water quality. Obviously, these variables do not remain constant over time, so the assessment represents a snapshot in time and can vary depending upon when the samples were obtained.

Biologists determine fish growth rates by measuring their lengths at each age represented in the sample. This is done by examining the fish's otoliths, which are free-floating bones in the inner ear that form growth rings similar to those that are visible on the top of a tree stump. These rings are formed because calcium is deposited at a constant rate no matter how fast the fish is growing. During winter (when the fish is not actively growing), calcium is deposited in a more concentrated area and leaves behind a ring once the fish's growth rate increases as water temperatures become warmer. Using this technique biologists can easily determine the amount of annual growth since birth or between two given years.

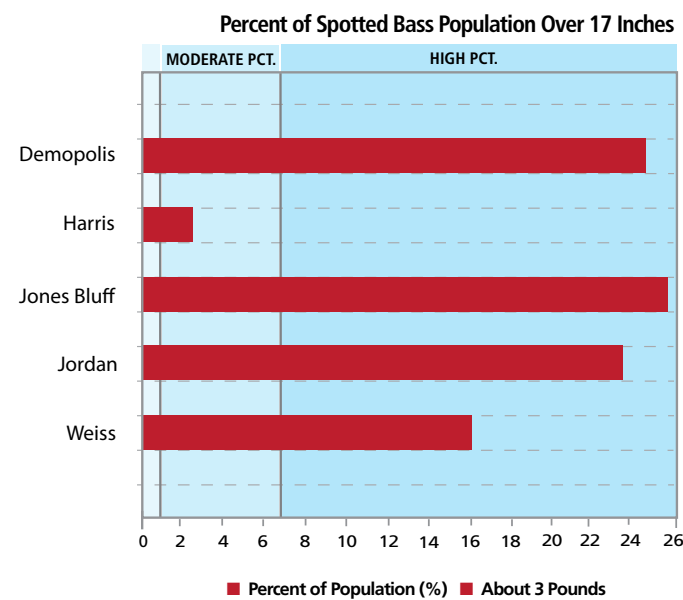
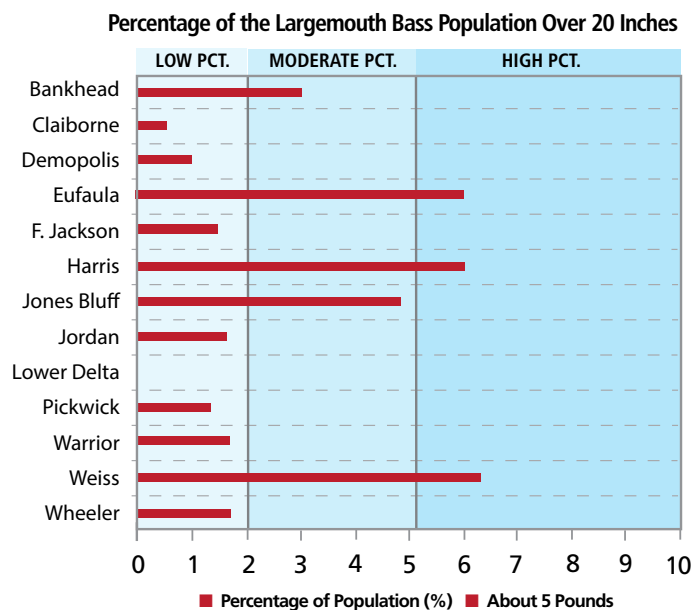
In Alabama, largemouth bass rarely exceed 10 years of age. Relatively few of the fish in these samples include fish more than 5 years old. In warmer climates, bass grow faster but

do not live as long as fish in colder climates. Additionally, a biologist's ability to impact the size structure of a fish population through the use of length limits is most easily measured by examining the population characteristics of fish that are about to enter the fishery (i.e., those fish becoming available for harvest). Given all of these factors, a good benchmark for the growth rates of most Southeastern bass populations is the average length of bass at three years of age, which is usually 12 to 14 inches. The following bar charts illustrate the results of these studies on the reservoirs that were sampled by Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists in the spring of 2018.

In order to make good management decisions, growth rates of bass populations are classified as slow, moderate, or fast. However, it should be noted that growth rates are only one piece of the fish production puzzle and must be complimented by other desirable population characteristics in order to produce high quality fisheries.



Cross section of an otolith from a 16-year-old largemouth bass. Dark bands are formed in winter when cold temperatures reduce growth.



MORTALITY

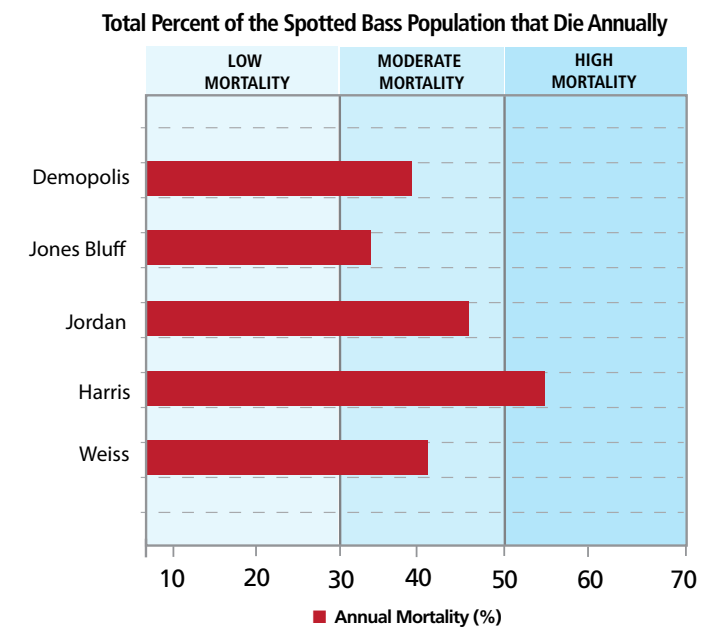
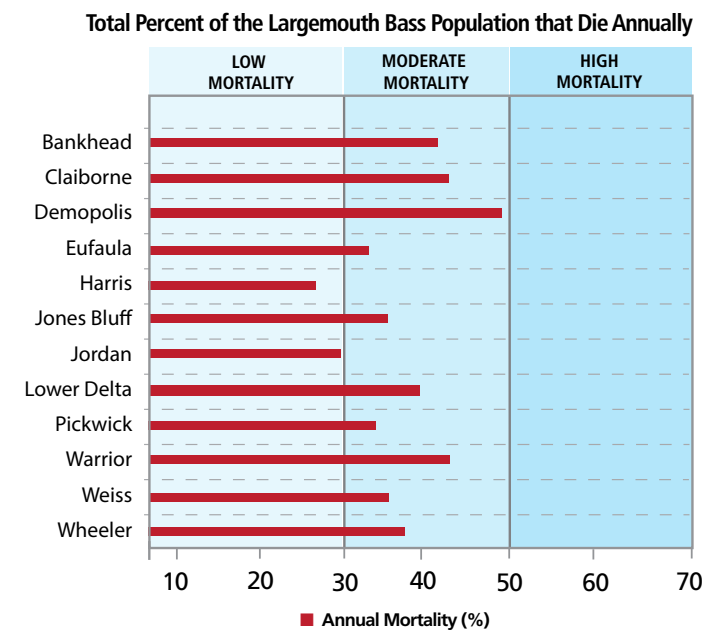
The second of the three most important objectives in fishery assessments is to determine the mortality rate for the population. Mortality is the death of fish, which can be caused by a wide range of things that include both natural causes and fishing-related causes. In this section, total annual mortality will be discussed; however, separating natural mortality from fishing mortality is an important step in good fisheries management. Determining the fishing-related component of mortality is the most important and most difficult task that a fisheries biologist faces. Documenting the number and size of fish being harvested by anglers is relatively easy to do using angler interviews but understanding how many fish die following tournaments or catch-and-release is a much more difficult task.

The most common way that biologists determine the mortality rate of a fish population is to measure the rate of decline in the number of fish represented in each age group in the collection. For example, from a collection of fish with a mortality rate of 50% you might expect to see a decline similar to this: Age-1 (100 fish), Age-2 (50 fish), Age-3 (25 fish), Age-4 (13 fish), Age-5 (6 fish), Age-6 (3 fish), Age-7 (2 fish), Age-8 (1 fish).

In Alabama, typical annual mortality rates for largemouth bass range from 35% to 45% but can vary considerably from one year to the next. Only a small percentage of bass in Alabama populations live to exceed 10 years of age. Typically, less than 1% of bass collected in a standardized reservoir sample will exceed 10 years of age. Even in populations with very low mortality-rates this figure is usually less than 3%.

Minimum length limits are a management tool often considered by biologists if mortality rates are high. However, they are only effective if a large portion of the total annual mortality can be attributed to fishing-related causes. Limiting angler harvest cannot reduce bass mortality from natural causes.

The charts below reflect the total annual mortality rates of largemouth and spotted bass populations sampled during spring 2018. Biologists use this information to help make management decisions in an effort to improve the quality of fishing. A reduction in mortality rates following the enforcement of a length limit is an indication that this management action had a positive influence on the population. If fishing-related mortality is low, length limits will do little to improve the quality of a fishery.



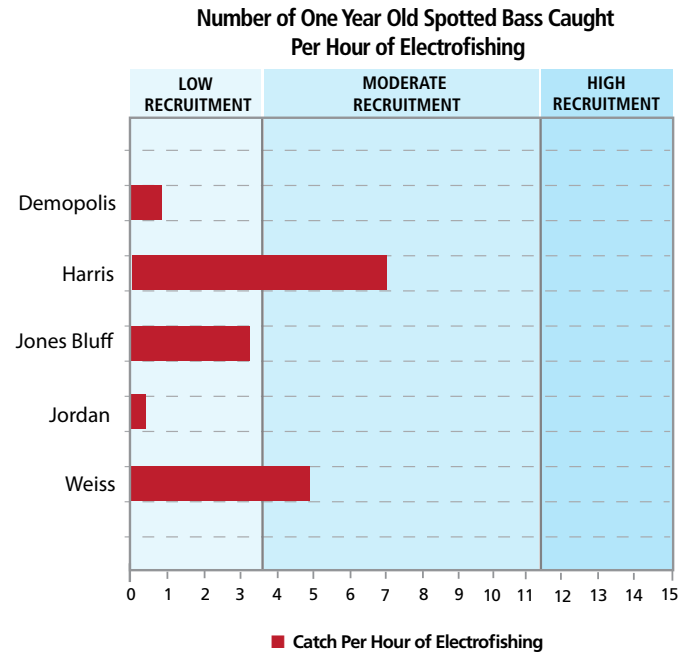
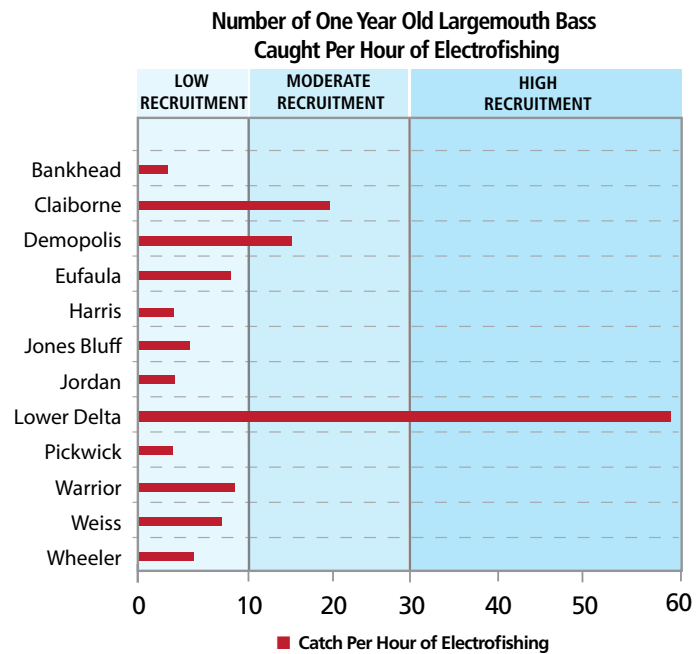


RECRUITMENT

The final critical objective in fishery assessments is to determine recruitment of the population into the fishery. This is generally defined in two ways. One, the number of fish that survive to reach one year of age; and two, the number of fish surviving to reach a harvestable size. The first is important because fish that do not reach 3 to 3 1/2 inches before their first winter are less likely to survive to the following spring. The second is important because it is a measure of the percentage of fish that reach sizes large enough to be caught or harvested by anglers. Recruitment can be impacted by density-dependent and/or density-independent factors.

Density-dependent factors include population size, fish size and growth characteristics, reproductive fertility, cannibalism, disease, predation, and competition for food. Density-independent factors are nonbiological in nature and may include floods, droughts, temperature extremes, excessive wind, and pollution.

All of these factors can influence one another and may vary considerably over time. Although it is the biological and environmental interactions that have the greatest impact, exploitation (fish removed from the population by angling) can also influence the recruitment potential of a population.



ABUNDANCE

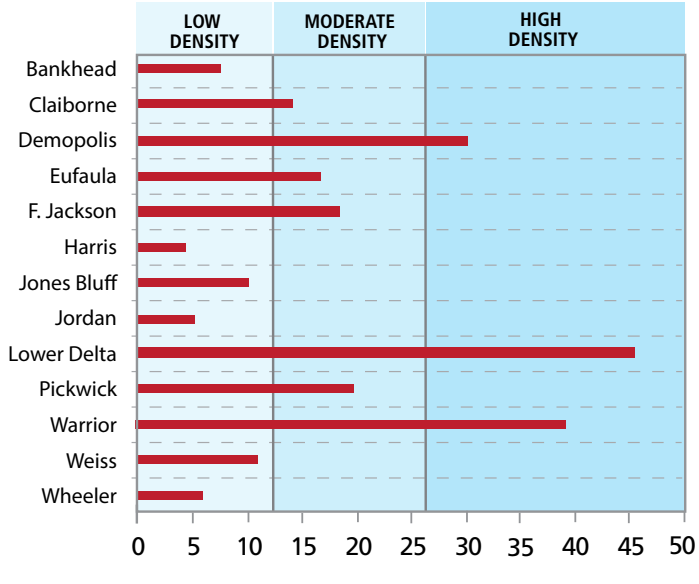
Another important population variable is the abundance of catchable sized fish in the population. Actual abundance is determined by a wide range of things including survival during critical phases of life, habitat suitability, water quality, fertility, water productivity, competition with other fish, predation, or disease. However, it is also important to remember that a biologist's assessment of overall abundance is determined from electrofishing samples that represent a snapshot in time and may be influenced by temporary environmental conditions during the sample period. For example: muddy water can prevent a biologist from seeing fish beneath the surface when electrofishing; cold fronts may cause fish to move away from the shoreline; aquatic weeds can hinder a

biologist's ability to see or capture fish that would ordinarily be collected; or fish may be deeper than the reach of the electrical field in extremely clear water. All of these things have the potential to bias estimates of abundance.

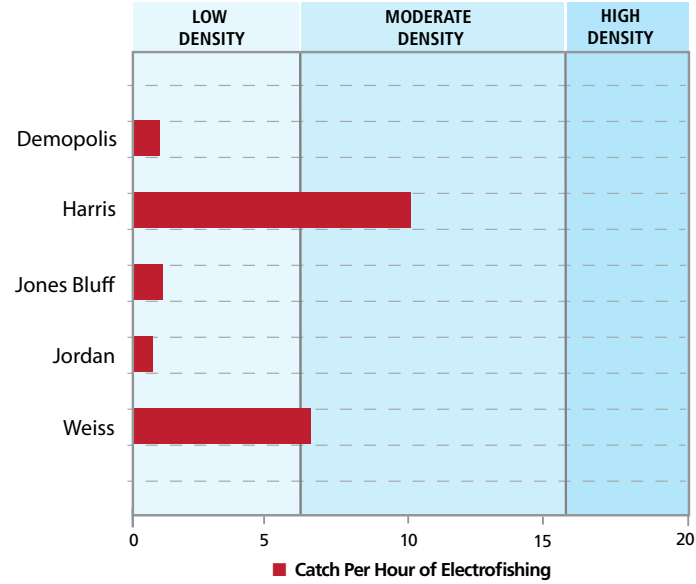
The number of 8 to 12-inch largemouth bass and 7 to 11-inch spotted bass, collected per hour of electrofishing is a general indicator of overall population abundance. In Alabama, the majority of samples statewide fall within the 11 to 26 fish per hour range for largemouth bass and 6 to 16 fish per hour for spotted bass. The following chart illustrates these values for samples conducted on public reservoirs during spring 2018.



Number of 8-12 Inch Largemouth Bass Caught by Electrofishing

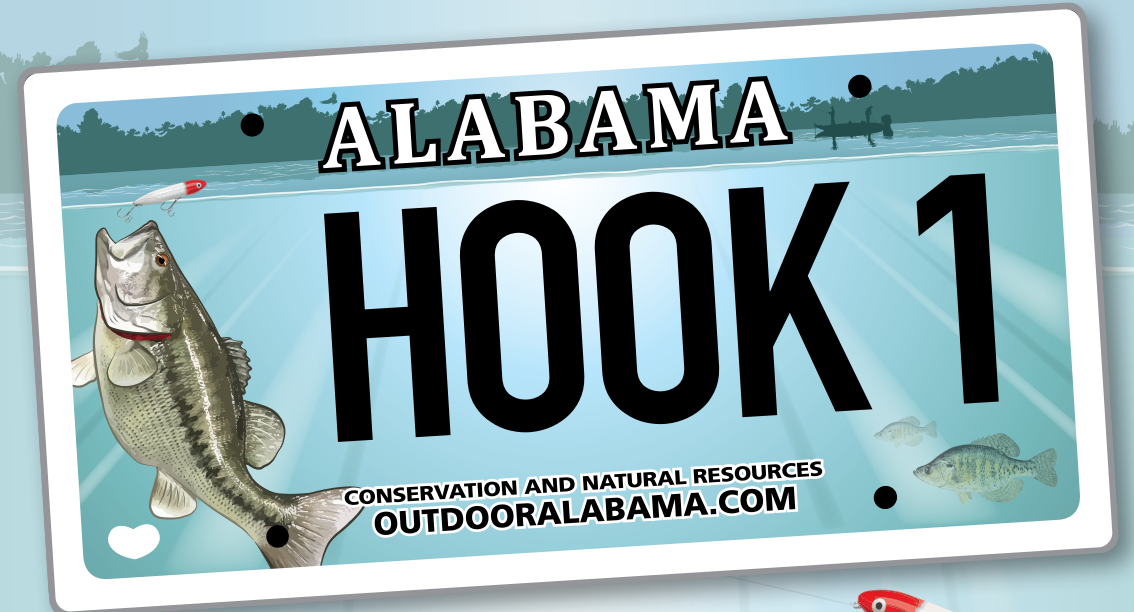


Number of 7-11 Spotted Bass Caught by Electrofishing



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For more information visit OutdoorAlabama.com



www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments

Type the above link into your web browser to access the improved "Fishing Tournaments" webpage where you can post your tournaments or view those posted by other organizations.

Click here to post information about your tournament, then enter your tournament information including contacts, a link to your website, or even a copy of the registration form.

The screenshot shows the 'Fishing Tournaments' website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'Fishing Tournaments' and a 'Post a New Fishing Tournament' link. Below this is a search filter section with dropdown menus for 'Tournament Type' (Freshwater Fishing), 'Month and Year' (Select a Month and Year), 'Body' (Select a Water body), and 'Target Species' (Select a Species). A 'Get Tournaments' button is located below the filters. The main content area displays a table of 'Freshwater Fishing Tournaments' with columns for Organization, Water Body, Boat Ramp, Start Date Time, End Date Time, and Species. A red arrow points from the 'Post a New Fishing Tournament' link to the 'Get Tournaments' button.

Organization	Water Body	Boat Ramp	Start Date Time	End Date Time	Species
Aluminum Fishing Series	Guntersville	Langdon	08/04/2019 Safe Daylight	08/04/2019 3:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
Alabama Bass Federation, Inc	Lay	Beeswax Creek	09/06/2019 Safe Daylight	09/07/2019 3:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
American Bass Anglers - Open Series	Guntersville	Goose Pond	09/07/2019 Safe Daylight	09/08/2019 3:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
Gold Is Bigger Movement	Logan Martin	Lakeside Park	09/07/2019 Safe Daylight	09/07/2019 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
American Bass Anglers - Open Series	Logan Martin	Lakeside Park	09/14/2019 8:15 AM CT or Safe Daylight	09/15/2019 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
FLW (T-H Marine BFL)	Guntersville	Guntersville State Park	09/14/2019 7:00 AM CT or Safe Daylight	09/15/2019 3:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
FLW LLC BFL Bama Division	Eufaula	Lakepoint State Park Marina	09/28/2019 8:30 AM CT	09/29/2019 2:30 PM CT	Bass (Black)
	Tuscaloosa	Bison Creek	10/12/2019 8:00 AM CT	10/12/2019 1:30 PM CT	Bass (Black)
	Guntersville	Guntersville State Park	10/17/2019 8:00 AM CT	10/19/2019 4:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
	Eufaula	Lakepoint State Park	10/19/2019 Safe Daylight	10/19/2019 4:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
	Lay	Beeswax	10/19/2019 Safe Daylight	10/19/2019 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Guntersville	Goose Pond	10/25/2019 Safe Daylight	10/26/2019 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Wheeler	Ingalls Harbor	11/01/2019 8:30 AM CT	11/02/2019 3:00 PM CT	Catfish
	Wess	Cowan Creek	11/03/2019 Safe Daylight	11/03/2019 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Guntersville	Guntersville State Park	11/09/2019 8:00 AM CT	11/09/2019 2:00 PM CT	Bass (Black)
	Lay	Beeswax Creek	11/09/2019 Safe Daylight	11/09/2019 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Eufaula	Lakepoint State Park	02/14/2020 Safe Daylight	02/15/2020 7 Hours of fishing	Bass (Black)
	Jordan	Bonnors Landing	02/15/2020 3:00 AM CT or Safe Daylight	02/15/2020 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Guntersville	Guntersville State Park	02/22/2020 Safe Daylight	02/22/2020 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Jordan	Bonnors and State Boat Ramp	02/29/2020 Safe Daylight	02/29/2020 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Smith	Smith Lake Dam	03/21/2020 Safe Daylight	03/21/2020 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Millers Ferry	Roland Cooper State Park	03/21/2020 3:00 AM CT or Safe Daylight	03/21/2020 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Lay	Beeswax	03/28/2020 Safe Daylight	03/28/2020 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Neely Henry	Coosa Landing, Gadsden, AL	04/18/2020 Safe Daylight	04/18/2020 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Lay	Beeswax Creek	04/18/2020 3:00 AM CT or Safe Daylight	04/18/2020 3:00 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Eufaula	Lakepoint State Park Marina	04/25/2020 Safe Daylight	04/25/2020 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)
	Logan Martin	Pvt City Lakeside Ct. Park	05/09/2020 Safe Daylight	05/09/2020 2:30 PM CT Weigh-in	Bass (Black)

Select from these options to search all tournaments being held statewide.

Please let other tournament anglers know about this website, and if you have questions or comments call 334-242-3471.

This website exists for your convenience and we welcome any suggestions you might have that would improve this valuable tool.

The screenshot shows the 'Post a New Fishing Tournament' form. It includes fields for 'Tournament Type' (Freshwater Fishing), 'First Name', 'Last Name', 'Email Address', 'Phone Number', 'Organization', 'Target Species', 'Water Body', 'Boat Ramp', 'Start Date', 'End Date', 'Start Time', and 'End Time'. There are also sections for 'Estimated Number of Boats', 'Tournament Overview', 'Web Address', and 'Upload File'. A 'Submit' button is at the bottom. A 'PLEASE NOTE' section at the bottom states: 'The tournament must be approved by the DNR staff before it is displayed on OutdoorAlabama.com.'

To access the new online B.A.I.T. Reporting System, type <https://tournaments.dcnr.alabama.gov> in your web browser. This URL allows you to easily submit your tournament catch data online.

The screenshot shows the B.A.I.T. Reporting System form. It is divided into several sections: 'Reporter' (Name, Email, Phone), 'Fishing Club' (Club, Representative, Street, City, State, Zip), 'Tournament Dates, and Types' (Reservoir, Launch Site, Start Date, End Date, Weighin, Format, Time), 'Tournament Rules, Fish Type, and Number Caught' (Creel Limit, Size Limit, No. of Hours Fished, No. of LargeMouth Bass, No. of Spotted Bass, No. of SmallMouth Bass), and a section for 'Total No. of Bass Caught', 'Total No. of Bass Released', 'No. of Bass Over 5 Lbs', 'No. of Bass Over 8 Lbs', 'No. of Anglers or Teams', and 'No. of ANGLERS /TEAMS with Limits'. There are also fields for 'Total Weight of Bass', 'Big Bass Weight', and 'Winning Weight'.

The online system is an additional option for submitting B.A.I.T. tournament reports. Anglers can still email their reports to Kyle Bolton at kyle.bolton@dcnr.alabama.gov. When submitting reports by email please use the Excel file found at www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments. Anglers can also mail in paper B.A.I.T. cards to: 3608 Fairground Rd., Montgomery, AL 36110.

If you would like copies of the paper cards or have any questions, please call (334) 242-3471. The B.A.I.T. Program is a valuable fisheries management tool. Without the support of tournament anglers and organizers, this program would not exist. Thank You!



STATEWIDE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Bass clubs submitted 361 tournament reports during 2018. That number was up from 339 in 2017 (Tables 1 and 3). Club representatives did a fine job filling out the cards and no reports were rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information. We want to thank the participants of the B.A.I.T. Program and urge them to keep up the good work!

In 2018, 53 clubs provided data. Fifty-nine reports from Alabama waters were received from Georgia Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist Clint Peacock, who summarizes tournament data from the Georgia Bass Federation. Another 24 reports were received from Fisheries Biologist Stan Crider with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Without their support, several Alabama reservoirs would not have been well-represented in the quality indicator rankings (Table 2). Once again, we must stress that reports from more locations increase the capability of the summaries to reflect actual fish population conditions and not just a good or poor day's fishing by one or two clubs.

In 2018, tournament reports were received from 30 bodies of water that were fished 113,767 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 44,585 bass that weighed 96,235 pounds (Table 1). A total of 521 bass 5 pounds or larger were reported for an overall catch rate of one bass 5 pounds or larger for every 204 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 31 bass 8 pounds and larger in 2018. The largest bass caught in 2018 came from Guntersville and weighed 11.69 pounds. With 133 bass weighing 5 pounds or larger, Eufaula led this category. Guntersville was next with 100 bass over 5 pounds.

Of the 53 organizations that submitted data during 2018, 47% submitted five or more tournament reports and 26% submitted 10 or more reports. Seventeen contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2018 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

The average catch rate in 2018 for number of fish caught per angler-day was 3.9, which is an increase from 3.5 in 2017. Pounds per angler-day in 2018 increased by a whole pound. Compared to 2017, nine out of 18 lakes with five or more reports improved in overall fishing success. Notably, Logan Martin and Guntersville moved up 12 and eight spots, respectively, into the top six in the overall rankings (Table 2). Weiss moved up seven spots to third overall. The statewide average weight was 2.16 pounds, which is unchanged from 2017. The number of bass weighed in per angler-day of 3.92 set an all-time record, which is well-above the 33-year average of 2.71 fish.

Most of the 2018 reports were received from Pickwick, Eufaula, and the Mobile Delta – each with 40 – and Neely Henry with 24. Those locations accounted for 40% of the reports. Guntersville had 21 reports, while Jordan, Lay, Martin, and West Point each had 16 or more reports (Table 1). The other 21 reservoirs contributed 36% of the total reports for 2018. A good distribution of reports provides more robust statistics from which accurate summaries can be prepared. All club representatives should understand that each report is important to the continued success of the B.A.I.T. Program.

Of the 30 reservoirs from which reports were received, 18 had five or more tournament reports (Table 1). The following comments deal with these reservoirs, which are ranked by quality indicators in Table 2. The percent of successful anglers (those with one or more fish) ranged from 75% at Pickwick and Bankhead to 100% at Little Bear. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.36 pounds at Yates and Cedar to 3.11 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.36 at Cedar to 5.26 at Little Bear. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 3.22 at Cedar to 10.27 at Guntersville. The statewide average winning weight for a single day five-fish sack in 2018 was



STATEWIDE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

14.80 pounds, which is up a half pound from last year and up a whole pound from 2016.

Overall, Wilson accumulated more quality indicator points (71) than any other reservoir in Alabama keeping the top spot for the fifth consecutive year. Wheeler (67), Weiss (63), Logan Martin (62), and Lay (60) rounded out the top five (Table 2). Readers should note that the primary intent of Table 2 is not to determine the overall best reservoir, but to characterize the fishery of each reservoir. Anglers should first review the quality indicator that is most important to them. The overall rating would be used to narrow choices. For example, if an angler wanted to have the best chance to catch a bass greater than 5 pounds, then Wilson, Guntersville, or Wheeler would be good choices. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings and find that Guntersville, Wilson, and Lay offered the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Logan Martin, Martin, or Jones Bluff might be the best destinations based upon the bass per angler-day rankings.

Bass data, as expressed in the B.A.I.T. Report from reservoirs with harvest restrictions or length limits, will be biased since the data is a function of the restrictions. Length limits are imposed to increase the number of fish below a minimum length or within a specified length range (slot limit) and should eventually result in a greater supply of bass above the

limit. Because all minimum lengths and length ranges will be above the 12-inch limit self-imposed by most tournaments, the restrictions will reduce the total harvest in numbers and possibly pounds. However, those fish weighed in will be larger (longer) by virtue of the minimum length (MLL) or slot limit. In the B.A.I.T. Report, length-limit lakes should rank high for average weight and near the bottom for percent success and bass per angler-day.

The graphs throughout this report provide a historical record of how your favorite waters have performed in the B.A.I.T. Program. A few words of caution – these graphs are not restricted to bodies of water with five or more tournaments. Data points for some years may be represented by only a few tournaments. However, those situations are restricted to water bodies that have not been included in the quality indicator rankings in Table 2. These graphs can be used to predict future fishing quality by looking for trends.

Bass fishing in Alabama has been excellent in recent years. Members of the B.A.I.T. Program have a unique opportunity to contribute valuable biological data that helps make our bass fishery one of the best in the country. B.A.I.T. members realize the value of this program and we appreciate the individuals who provide their tournament catch data. Good luck fishing! Don't forget to take a child with you and introduce him or her to the sport. They are our future anglers and stewards of Alabama's resources.

Length limits remained in effect during 2018 on:

- West Point (14-inch MLL on largemouth)
- Eufaula (14-inch MLL on largemouth)
- Demopolis (14-inch MLL on all black bass)
- Little Bear Creek (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth)
- Smith (13- to 15-inch slot on all black bass)

- Harris (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth)
- Pickwick (15-in. MLL on largemouth or smallmouth bass)
- Wilson (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass)
- Wheeler (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass)
- Guntersville (15-in. MLL on smallmouth and largemouth bass)

**No more than five of the daily creel limit of 10 black bass may be smallmouth bass.*



Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive
Aliceville	2	85	82.4	32.9	680	188	.	.	.	.
Bankhead	4	71	74.6	47.9	576	181	86.4	13.6	0.0	98
Bartlett's Ferry	4	40	87.5	35.0	338	115	51.3	48.7	0.0	99
Cedar	2	27	70.4	59.3	216	51	49.0	51.0	0.0	98
Coffeeville	3	43	79.1	72.1	379	163	91.4	8.6	0.0	96
Demopolis	6	165	84.8	47.9	1,429	531	85.7	14.3	0.0	97
Eufaula	40	1,695	76.2	35.0	14,391	4,545	91.0	9.0	0.0	98
Gainesville	4	93	86.0	49.5	803	321	92.0	8.0	0.0	98
Guntersville	21	1,127	80.1	33.6	9,275	3,063	94.1	5.2	0.7	95
Harris	3	49	95.9	61.2	441	199	18.6	81.4	0.0	99
Holt	3	51	86.3	62.7	404	185	24.1	75.9	0.0	100
Jones Bluff	12	366	86.6	67.2	2,956	1,395	48.6	51.4	0.0	97
Jordan	17	484	86.4	52.7	3,935	1,646	12.1	87.9	0.0	99
Lay	16	645	86.7	55.3	5,312	2,209	63.1	36.9	0.0	97
Little Bear	1	18	100.0	16.7	234	123	15.4	84.6	0.0	100
Logan Martin	15	428	93.9	74.3	3,580	1,834	56.8	43.2	0.0	97
Martin	17	911	91.2	62.5	8,638	4,258	17.0	83.0	0.0	98
Mobile Delta	40	990	82.5	60.2	8,030	3,584	95.8	4.2	0.0	99
Millers Ferry	10	219	85.8	59.8	1,939	782	79.6	20.4	0.0	99
Mitchell	12	137	89.8	54.0	1,115	482	16.8	83.2	0.0	99
Neely Henry	24	1,574	84.0	48.8	14,786	5,994	51.2	48.8	0.0	98
Pickwick	40	1,635	75.5	26.7	12,894	3,399	82.3	4.8	13.0	96
Smith	14	1,248	90.1	57.3	9,971	4,577	8.9	91.1	0.0	99
Upper Bear	1	16	93.8	93.8	128	60	25.0	75.0	0.0	100
Warrior	2	43	76.7	65.1	369	154	76.9	23.1	0.0	94
Weiss	12	344	89.0	56.1	2,849	1,279	71.0	29.0	0.0	96
Wheeler	9	596	92.1	52.3	4,930	2,091	80.0	8.8	11.2	99
Wilson	10	205	89.8	74.1	1,781	732	80.4	0.6	19.1	92
West Point	16	148	83.8	18.9	1,302	402	31.8	68.2	0.0	96
Yates	1	9	100.0	77.8	90	42	64.3	35.7	0.0	90
Grand Total	361	13462	83.9	48.2	113767	44585	63.9	34.6	1.5	98



Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day*	Pounds per day*	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days to catch a bass over 5 lb.
367	1.95	3	0	4.82	15.28	82.35	2.76	5.39	227	23
335	1.85	1	0	4.40	13.53	74.65	3.14	5.82	576	58
174	1.51	1	0	4.38	12.08	87.50	3.40	5.15	338	34
70	1.36	1	0	4.76	.	70.37	2.36	3.22	216	22
297	1.82	1	0	4.11	.	79.07	4.30	7.84	379	38
1,077	2.03	2	0	4.06	15.03	84.85	3.72	7.54	715	71
11,908	2.62	133	5	6.42	18.74	76.22	3.16	8.27	104	10
652	2.03	4	0	4.94	15.43	86.02	4.00	8.13	201	20
9,528	3.11	100	19	6.65	19.64	80.12	3.30	10.27	91	9
350	1.76	0	0	5.24	15.90	95.92	4.51	7.94	.	.
312	1.69	2	0	5.52	12.88	86.28	4.58	7.72	202	20
2,867	2.05	4	0	4.35	12.76	86.61	4.72	9.70	739	74
3,731	2.27	5	0	4.30	13.92	86.36	4.18	9.48	787	79
5,382	2.44	14	0	4.42	13.82	86.67	4.16	10.13	379	38
186	1.51	0	0	4.25	.	100.00	5.26	7.96	.	.
3565	1.94	4	0	4.14	12.77	93.93	5.12	9.96	895	89
7,079	1.66	6	0	3.84	11.08	91.22	4.93	8.20	1,440	144
6,636	1.85	28	0	4.26	12.66	82.53	4.46	8.26	287	29
1,619	2.07	5	0	4.49	12.83	85.85	4.03	8.35	388	39
1,003	2.08	1	0	3.74	12.52	89.78	4.32	9.00	1,115	111
10,647	1.78	41	0	5.10	15.19	83.99	4.05	7.20	361	36
9,415	2.77	71	4	5.65	19.53	75.47	2.64	7.30	111	11
8,817	1.93	5	0	4.29	14.17	90.06	4.59	8.84	1,994	199
101	1.68	1	0	7.06	.	93.75	4.69	7.86	128	13
298	1.93	2	0	4.69	19.13	76.74	4.18	8.08	184	18
2,736	2.14	12	0	4.74	14.53	88.95	4.49	9.61	214	21
4,623	2.21	40	1	6.04	19.08	92.11	4.24	9.38	97	10
1,817	2.48	33	2	5.24	17.32	89.76	4.11	10.20	54	5
585	1.46	1	0	3.29	8.73	83.78	3.09	4.50	1,302	130
57	1.36	0	0	4.00	10.42	100.00	4.67	6.35	.	.
96235	2.16	521	31	4.88	14.80	83.87	3.92	8.46	204	20

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.



Table 2. Ranking by quality indicators for all reservoirs with five or more tournament reports in the 2018 BAIT Program

Rank	Percent Success	Average Weight	Bass per Angler-Day	Pounds per Angler-Day	Hours per Bass > 5 lbs.	Overall	Value
1	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Wilson	Wilson	71
2	Wheeler	Pickwick	Martin	Wilson	Guntersville	Wheeler	67
3	Martin	Eufaula	Jones Bluff	Lay	Wheeler	Weiss	63
4	Smith	Wilson	Smith	Logan Martin	Eufaula	Logan Martin	62
5	Mitchell	Lay	Weiss	Jones Bluff	Pickwick	Lay	60
6	Wilson	Jordan	Mobile Delta	Weiss	Weiss	Guntersville	60
7	Weiss	Wheeler	Mitchell	Jordan	Mobile Delta	Jones Bluff	55
8	Lay	Weiss	Wheeler	Wheeler	Neely Henry	Mitchell	50
9	Jones Bluff	Mitchell	Jordan	Mitchell	Lay	Jordan	50
10	Jordan	Millers Ferry	Lay	Smith	Millers Ferry	Smith	45
11	Millers Ferry	Jones Bluff	Wilson	Millers Ferry	Demopolis	Eufaula	43
12	Demopolis	Demopolis	Neely Henry	Eufaula	Jones Bluff	Martin	42
13	Neely Henry	Logan Martin	Millers Ferry	Mobile Delta	Jordan	Millers Ferry	40
14	West Point	Smith	Demopolis	Martin	Logan Martin	Mobile Delta	39
15	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Guntersville	Demopolis	Mitchell	Pickwick	36
16	Guntersville	Neely Henry	Eufaula	Pickwick	West Point	Demopolis	31
17	Eufaula	Martin	West Point	Neely Henry	Martin	Neely Henry	29
18	Pickwick	West Point	Pickwick	West Point	Smith	West Point	12



Table 3. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive
1	12	183	83.1	59.6	1464	406	64.5	33.7	1.7	98
2	12	145	91.7	52.4	1184	526	69.0	31.0	0.0	100
3	12	119	74.0	22.7	995	279	18.3	81.7	0.0	99
4	11	150	88.0	40.7	1200	496	21.8	78.2	0.0	99
5	9	227	90.7	76.2	2005	857	85.4	0.0	14.6	93
6	10	99	89.9	55.6	933	353	92.8	0.0	7.2	99
7	11	502	89.4	52.2	5392	2519	.	.	.	97
8	13	2614	87.3	69.2	20912	10154	57.4	40.8	1.8	98
9	7	52	71.2	7.7	444	80	74.1	25.9	0.0	87
10	12	1375	82.0	30.4	11000	3749	.	.	.	100
11	6	108	84.3	32.4	944	328	57.6	42.4	0.0	99
12	2	122	87.7	84.4	976	526	.	.	.	100
13	8	253	82.2	62.1	2024	944	97.1	2.9	0.0	100
14	8	468	79.5	62.4	3744	1696	93.2	6.8	0.0	98
15	1	37	48.6	24.3	370	68	.	.	.	100
16	1	27	55.6	7.4	216	37	81.1	18.9	0.0	100
17	2	13	46.2	0.0	104	13	84.6	15.4	0.0	100
18	1	56	89.3	44.6	448	150	70.7	29.3	0.0	99



Table 3. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days to catch a bass over 5 lb.
756	1.86	3	0	4.33	.	83.06	2.77	5.17	488	49
980	1.86	4	0	4.26	11.77	91.72	4.44	8.28	296	30
522	1.87	0	0	3.71	10.57	73.95	2.80	5.24	.	.
969	1.95	1	0	4.18	12.69	88.00	4.13	8.07	1200	120
2317	2.70	58	2	6.16	22.93	90.75	4.27	11.56	35	3
559	1.58	1	0	3.63	9.97	89.90	3.78	6.00	933	93
4739	1.88	11	0	5.32	17.06	89.44	4.67	8.79	490	49
23221	2.29	81	3	6.68	21.26	87.34	4.86	11.10	258	26
125	1.57	0	0	2.55	7.36	71.15	1.80	2.82	.	.
8925	2.38	71	16	7.93	19.02	81.96	3.41	8.11	140	14
666	2.03	5	0	5.44	13.77	84.26	3.47	7.06	189	19
833	1.58	1	0	5.19	17.32	87.71	5.39	8.53	976	98
1888	2.00	8	0	5.10	16.31	82.21	4.66	9.33	253	25
3378	1.99	16	0	5.59	16.33	79.49	4.53	9.02	234	23
158	2.33	2	0	5.64	17.29	48.65	1.84	4.28	185	19
92	2.49	2	0	7.44	14.31	55.56	1.71	4.26	108	11
23	1.75	0	0	2.60	.	46.15	1.25	2.19	.	.
300	2.00	0	0	4.56	13.75	89.29	3.35	6.70	.	.

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.



Table 3. Continued: Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% small-mouth	Percent of bass released alive
19	1	25	64.0	44.0	225	69	.	.	.	100
20	9	147	98.6	83.0	1250	671	.	.	.	100
21	6	768	97.3	67.8	6144	3203	.	.	.	99
22	1	269	91.8	17.1	4304	1561	63.0	37.0	0.0	97
23	2	114	66.7	58.8	912	350	.	.	.	98
24	1	64	84.4	73.4	576	255	54.9	45.1	0.0	100
25	2	133	77.4	59.4	1064	393	.	.	.	99
26	1	7	57.1	42.9	63	18	.	.	.	100
27	1	37	73.0	64.9	315	128	.	.	.	95
28	6	115	75.7	63.5	1050	406	83.0	17.0	0.0	99
29	11	66	80.3	37.9	294	114	87.7	0.0	12.3	100
30	12	934	86.7	44.5	7472	3037	.	.	.	.
31	1	77	72.7	62.3	616	259	.	.	.	.
32	3	18	100.0	72.2	162	79	79.7	20.3	0.0	94
33	6	191	91.1	55.0	1756	720	93.3	6.7	0.0	97
34	1	8	100.0	87.5	64	38	100.0	0.0	0.0	95
35	7	71	90.1	28.2	659	276	40.9	57.6	1.4	100
36	6	30	83.3	46.7	240	100	.	.	.	99
37	2	261	72.4	21.1	2088	566	.	.	.	.
38	1	91	52.7	2.2	728	87	.	.	.	95
39	7	79	84.8	38.0	586	231	.	.	.	98
40	1	30	76.7	30.0	225	98	.	.	.	71
41	1	152	75.7	31.6	1216	459	0.7	99.3	0.0	99
42	10	73	90.4	26.0	618	214	73.8	26.2	0.0	99
43	9	524	82.6	44.8	4660	1428	86.1	13.9	0.0	89
44	4	215	76.7	50.7	1720	704	.	.	.	97
45	1	10	90.0	10.0	70	20	85.0	0.0	15.0	100
46	9	164	71.3	49.4	1312	427	.	.	.	.
47	3	35	74.3	57.1	280	111	71.2	28.8	0.0	99
48	12	83	90.4	51.8	900	319	61.1	37.9	0.9	95
49	1	24	50.0	50.0	216	60	.	.	.	100
50	1	44	88.6	63.6	308	170	.	.	.	100
51	24	1357	75.4	22.3	10856	2666	.	.	.	83
52	1	13	76.9	23.1	91	29	24.1	75.9	0.0	100
53	59	683	87.3	33.5	6374	2138	44.6	55.4	0.0	97
Grand Total	361	13462	83.9	48.2	113767	44585	63.9	34.6	1.5	98



Table 3. Continued: Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days to catch a bass over 5 lb.
177	2.57	4	0	7.22	.	64.00	3.07	7.87	56	6
1328	1.98	4	0	4.66	14.15	98.64	5.37	10.63	312	31
6092	1.90	2	0	4.80	14.99	97.27	5.21	9.92	3072	307
2310	1.48	3	0	5.29	.	91.82	3.63	5.37	1435	143
848	2.42	9	0	5.74	21.15	66.67	3.84	9.29	101	10
588	2.31	3	0	5.56	21.41	84.38	4.43	10.21	192	19
840	2.14	3	0	5.48	17.99	77.44	3.69	7.89	355	35
57	3.16	1	0	6.50	.	57.14	2.86	9.02	63	6
262	2.05	2	0	6.08	19.13	72.97	4.07	8.34	157	16
863	2.13	6	0	4.89	14.37	75.65	3.87	8.22	175	18
316	2.77	5	0	4.52	.	80.30	3.88	10.75	59	6
5976	1.97	16	1	6.30	15.25	86.72	4.06	8.00	467	47
828	3.20	17	0	6.65	24.13	72.73	4.20	13.44	36	4
132	1.67	0	0	2.98	.	100.00	4.88	8.16	.	.
1448	2.01	4	0	4.62	15.09	91.10	4.10	8.25	439	44
78	2.04	0	0	4.63	.	100.00	5.94	12.11	.	.
563	2.04	5	0	4.51	14.27	90.14	4.19	8.54	132	13
209	2.09	0	0	3.18	10.98	83.33	4.17	8.73	.	.
1436	2.54	12	0	6.81	20.97	72.41	2.71	6.88	174	17
141	1.62	1	0	6.08	.	52.75	1.20	1.94	728	73
399	1.73	0	0	3.63	11.70	84.81	3.94	6.81	.	.
184	1.88	4	0	5.80	.	76.67	4.36	8.18	56	6
584	1.27	0	0	3.56	11.94	75.66	3.77	4.80	.	.
485	2.27	9	0	5.06	14.58	90.41	3.46	7.84	69	7
3697	2.59	46	3	7.04	20.71	82.63	3.06	7.93	101	10
2010	2.86	21	1	7.25	25.09	76.74	4.09	11.69	82	8
50	2.52	0	0	3.48	16.14	90.00	2.86	7.19	.	.
909	2.13	5	1	5.07	13.34	71.34	3.25	6.93	262	26
228	2.06	5	0	5.88	17.33	74.29	3.96	8.15	56	6
703	2.20	6	0	4.45	12.83	90.36	3.54	7.81	150	15
118	1.97	1	0	6.32	.	50.00	2.78	5.48	216	22
384	2.26	4	0	6.13	.	88.64	5.52	12.45	77	8
7389	2.77	47	4	6.28	19.02	75.39	2.46	6.81	125	12
43	1.47	1	0	7.00	.	76.92	3.19	4.68	91	9
4110	1.92	11	0	4.11	11.20	87.26	3.35	6.45	454	45
96235	2.16	521	31	4.88	14.80	83.87	3.92	8.46	204	20

*A day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments for Big Bass in 2018

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. > 5lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Division (pro)	Guntersville	Feb. 24	30
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Wilson	March 10	25
BFL Choo Choo Division (co-angler)	Guntersville	Feb. 24	20
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	March 10	18
Alabama Children's Classic	Eufaula	June 2	17
BFL Choo-Choo Division	Wheeler	March 24	13
Alabama Bass Nation	Eufaula	March 17	11
Alabama Bass Trail	Wheeler	April 21	11
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Wheeler	Feb. 24	11
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	April 7	10

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments for Single-Day Winning Weight in 2018

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. > 5lbs.
Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club	Wilson	March 10	31.56 lbs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	Nov. 17	30.96 lbs.
Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club	Pickwick	April 7	30.94 lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	Feb. 24	30.31 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	March 10	30.02 lbs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	May 19	28.81 lbs.
Boyd's Bass Trail	Eufaula	Mar. 24	27.88 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	Apr. 7	27.41 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Weiss	May 12	26.84 lbs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	March 10	25.70 lbs.

Records Set in 2018 (33 Year History of B.A.I.T. Reporting) *LAKES WITH FIVE OR MORE REPORTS

WATERBODY	RECORD	2018 VALUE	LAKE AVERAGE
Jones Bluff	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.70	4.78
Jones Bluff	Average Weight	2.05	1.71
Jones Bluff	Bass Per Angler-Day	4.72	2.80
Lay	Pounds Per Angler-Day	10.13	5.57
Lay	Bass Per Angler-Day	4.16	2.92
Mitchell	Average Weight	2.08	1.79
Mitchell	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.00	5.48
Mobile Delta	Average Weight	1.85	1.61
Mobile Delta	Pounds Per Angler-Day	8.26	4.63
Weiss	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.61	4.89
Weiss	Average Weight	2.14	1.74
Wilson	Hours to Catch a 5 lbs.	54	201
Statewide	Bass Per Angler-Day	3.92	2.71

Bass Over 8 Pounds from 2018 B.A.I.T. Reports

ORGANIZATION	DATE	LAKE	BIG FISH
BFL Choo Choo Division (co-angler)	Feb. 24	Guntersville	*11.69
Fayette Bass Club	June 16	Guntersville	10.69
BFL Choo Choo Division (pro)	Feb. 24	Guntersville	*10.00
BFL Bama Division	May 12	Eufaula	8.88
Alabama Bass Trail	April 7	Eufaula	8.83
MDWFP submission	March 10	Pickwick	8.74
Boyd's Bass Trail	March 24	Eufaula	8.63
Alabama Bass Nation	May 19	Guntersville	8.62
Alabama Bass Trail	March 10	Guntersville	*8.56
Alabama Bass Nation	March 17	Eufaula	8.49
MDWFP submission	May 19	Pickwick	8.40
MDWFP submission	Nov. 17	Pickwick	8.37
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	March 10	Wilson	*8.31
MDWFP submission	Dec. 15	Pickwick	8.31
Alabama Bass Nation	Feb. 17	Eufaula	8.24

*INDICATES TWO OR MORE BASS OVER 8 POUNDS WEIGHED IN.

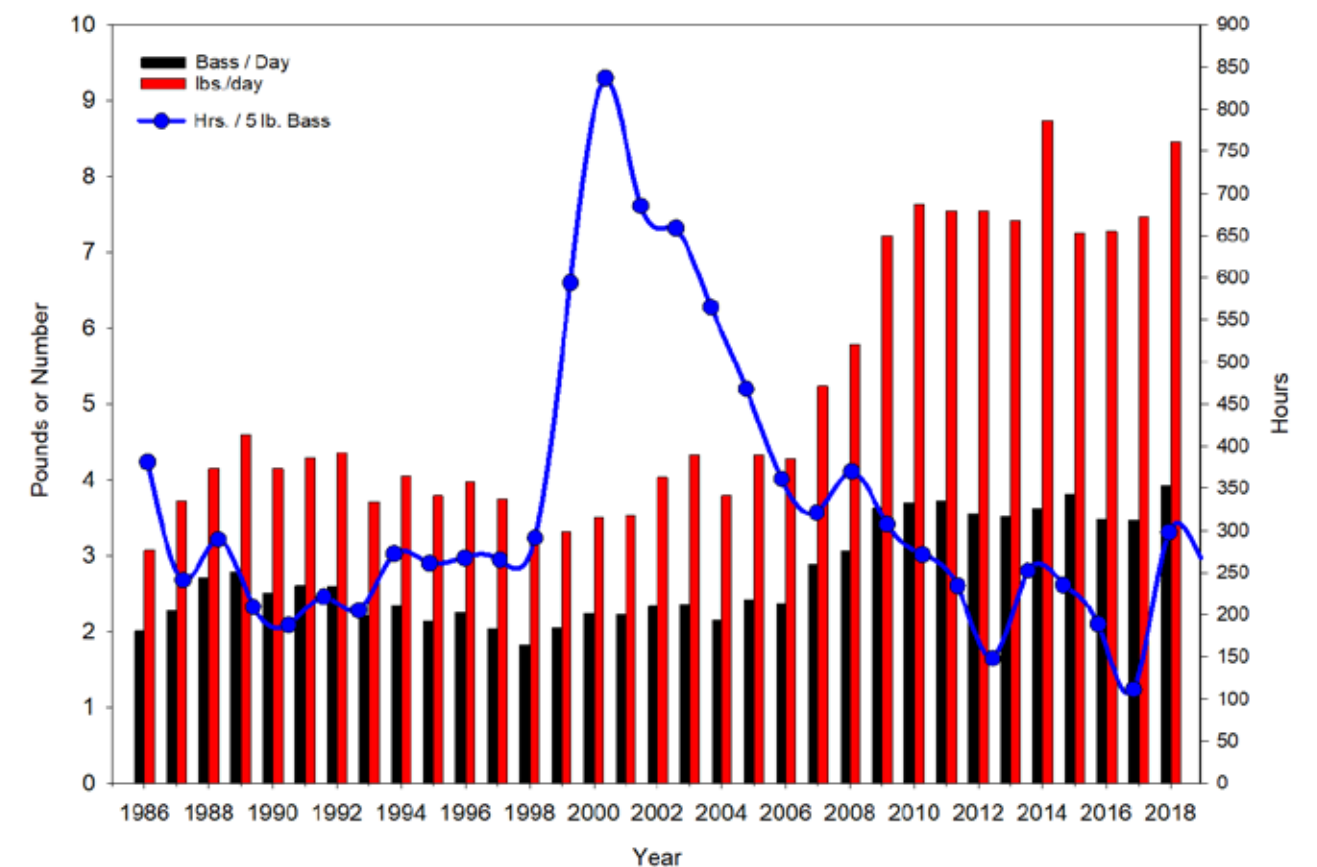


FIGURE 1: ANNUAL CATCH FOR B.A.I.T. TOURNAMENTS, 1986-2018

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2018 B.A.I.T. annual report

Club Name	Club Number	City	State	Representative	Phone
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	43	Birmingham	AL	Eddie Plemons	205-979-3526
Alabama Bass Federation	7	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Alabama Bass Federation High School	22	Auburn	AL	Darrel High	334-707-7355
Alabama Bass Trail	8	Decatur	AL	Clay Baldis	256-309-9852
Alabama Children's Classic Bass Tournament	31	Eufaula	AL	Sam Williams	334-355-5057
Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing (Statewide)	41	Eufaula	AL	Tim Walker	334-355-3923
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	5	Lawrenceburg	TN	Jonathan Edwards	931-762-5531
Aluminum Fishing Series	17	Woburn	MA	Chris Martin	781-367-2148
American Bass Anglers Alabama East Central (Div. 88)	47	Cave Springs	GA	Rhonda Ford	706-936-4530
American Bass Anglers Ram Open Series	25	Athens	AL	Daniel Sylvester	256-230-5633
American Bass Anglers Triton 100% Plus Team Tour	24	Athens	AL	Kristen Mallot	256-771-3709
ASABFA	38	Eufaula	AL	Tim Walker	334-355-3923
Bay Area Bassmasters	2	Robertsdale	AL	Joe Barnett	251-931-3025
Benning Bass Club	16	Seale	AL	Cris Cox	706-570-0886
BFL Bama Division	30	Benton	KY	Robert Evans	270-252-1589
BFL Bulldog Division	37	Benton	KY	Mike Hale	270-252-1000
BFL Choo Choo Division	10	Benton	KY	Alan Gray	270-703-5441
Bluff City Bassmasters	42	Eufaula	AL	Jim Howard	334-616-1918
Bonnie Plants Classic	40	Union Springs	AL	Vince Culpepper	334-248-9071
Boyd's Bass Trail	44	Dothan	AL	Bill Knight	334-441-8421
Bremen Marine Trail	50	Bremen	GA	Sean Hughes	770-537-4883
Brookwood Bass Club	32	Tuscaloosa	AL	Jim Steadman	205-792-9194
Carbon Hill Bass Club	1	Eldridge	AL	Mark Edmonds	205-389-2505
Chip Wammack Invitational	29	Tuscumbia	AL	Janet Wright	256-383-7474
Christian Bassmen of Montgomery	39	Wetumpka	AL	Brian Selix	334-328-8163
Collinsville Bass Club	33	Collinsville	MS	George Little	601-513-0429
Coosa River Team Trail	23	Southside	AL	Jennifer Hopper	256-622-3090
Dannelly Air National Guard (DANG Bass Club)	36	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Dixie Bass Trail	14	Saraland	AL	Ernest Rachel	251-599-3727
Fayette Bass Club	46	Bankston	AL	Todd Tucker	
Fleetwood Baptist Church	27	Cottondale	AL	Sarah Green	205-361-7489
Flexco Company Bass Tournament	45	Tuscumbia	AL	Janet Wright	256-383-7474
FLW Tour	21	Benton	KY	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
Georgia Bass Busters	49	Douglasville	GA	Spider Smith	770-883-2903
Georgia DNR	53	Social Circle	GA	Clint Peacock	478-988-7191
Kowaliga	48	Tallassee	AL	Hank Golden	334-354-3387
L & L Marine High School	18	Northport	AL		205-333-1605
Lake Guntersville Bass Masters	35	Grant	AL	Pete Pinkerton	530-604-2215
Mediabass AL	13	Petal	MS	Allen Stephens	601-624-6647
Miss. Div. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	51	Tupelo	MS	Stan Crider	601-432-2400
Mobile Bassmasters	9	Mobile	AL	Bob Steele	251-661-9600
Mobile Boat Show Bass Tournament	12	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
National Bass Trail (GA/AL)	11	Cataula	GA	Blaine Souerwine	706-577-6874
Pine Level Bassmasters	4	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Rumblin Waters B.A.S.S. Club	3	Eclectic	AL	Tomy Gamble	
Southern Masters	6	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
Southern Team Trail	34	Laurel	MS	Ricky Johnson	601-283-5100
Team Share the Gospel	28	Chatom	AL	Rev. Howard Gaston	251-232-1940
VFW Post 6020	26	Daleville	AL	Ed Barry	334-598-6211
West Alabama Bass Fishermans Assn.	20	Northport	AL	Stephen Wood	205-242-1236

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive
JAN	13	173	75.1	28.9	1,508	438	37.1	62.9	0.0	100
FEB	32	1,347	86.2	55.5	10,983	4790	71.8	27.6	0.6	100
MAR	51	2,247	83.8	49.8	18,471	7407	63.0	35.7	1.3	99
APR	49	2,850	88.4	50.8	23,188	9433	73.3	22.3	4.4	99
MAY	45	2,038	84.3	46.1	19,013	7270	64.8	35.1	0.2	94
JUN	29	970	84.4	63.6	8,001	3508	71.8	27.6	0.5	96
JUL	32	610	81.3	47.9	5,008	1895	75.3	24.1	0.6	97
AUG	19	234	82.5	37.6	1,780	621	77.9	20.3	1.8	97
SEP	47	1,751	76.5	30.8	14,658	4606	54.3	40.9	4.8	95
OCT	22	903	85.4	56.4	8,319	3633	41.5	57.4	1.1	98
NOV	11	148	85.1	43.9	1,194	475	53.5	46.5	0.0	99
DEC	11	191	69.1	36.6	1,647	509	56.8	43.2	0.0	100
Total	361	13,462	83.9	48.2	113767	44585	63.9	34.6	1.5	98

*a day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours

Month	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day*	Pounds per day*	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days to catch a bass over 5 lb.
JAN	852	1.94	7	0	4.23	12.89	75.14	2.91	5.65	215	22
FEB	11,359	2.37	103	16	5.66	16.20	86.19	4.36	10.34	103	10
MAR	17,304	2.34	125	8	5.61	17.32	83.85	4.01	9.37	134	13
APR	20,577	2.18	69	1	4.90	16.30	88.42	4.07	8.87	298	30
MAY	14,913	2.05	66	3	5.11	15.69	84.30	3.82	7.84	286	29
JUN	7,559	2.15	39	1	4.68	13.25	84.43	4.38	9.45	205	21
JUL	3,673	1.94	15	0	4.33	12.13	81.31	3.78	7.34	321	32
AUG	1,184	1.91	6	0	4.16	11.34	82.48	3.49	6.65	297	30
SEP	9,975	2.17	36	0	4.29	12.75	76.53	3.14	6.81	340	34
OCT	6,332	1.74	26	0	4.70	14.27	85.38	4.37	7.61	320	32
NOV	1,053	2.22	11	1	4.24	12.64	85.14	3.98	8.83	109	11
DEC	1,453	2.85	18	1	5.62	17.01	69.11	3.09	8.82	91	9
TOTAL	96,235	2.16	521	31	4.88	14.80	83.87	3.92	8.46	204	20

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.			
EUFAULA	JAN	
	FEB	3	71	87.3	584	257	91.1	8.9	0.0	100	656	2.55	10	1	6.50	19.95	4.40	11.23	58	.		
	MAR	12	367	71.7	3,245	826	89.0	11.0	0.0	99	2,251	2.72	33	2	6.54	17.03	2.55	6.94	87	.		
	APR	6	568	77.5	4,706	1,596	94.7	5.3	0.0	99	4,367	2.74	30	1	6.56	22.31	3.39	9.28	157	.		
	MAY	6	251	77.3	2,023	631	73.2	26.8	0.0	95	1,534	2.43	16	1	6.60	17.64	3.12	7.59	126	.		
	JUN	2	131	76.3	1,048	471	.	.	.	95	1,417	3.01	21	0	6.77	24.79	4.49	13.52	50	.		
	JUL	2	21	90.5	288	110	81.8	18.2	0.0	95	252	2.29	1	0	5.28	18.28	3.82	8.73	90	.		
	AUG	1	8	75.0	72	18	88.9	11.1	0.0	94	43	2.39	2	0	6.30	13.21	2.50	5.98	36	.		
	SEP	2	99	55.6	792	111	91.7	8.3	0.0	95	193	1.74	2	0	5.79	13.50	1.40	2.44	396	.		
	OCT	5	166	84.9	1,425	477	90.5	9.5	0.0	93	1,091	2.29	16	0	6.50	18.24	3.35	7.65	89	.		
	NOV
	DEC	1	13	92.3	208	48	91.7	8.3	0.0	100	105	2.19	2	0	5.49	.	2.31	5.06	104	.		
GUNTERSVILLE	JAN	
	FEB	4	362	80.1	2,968	1,033	98.7	1.3	0.0	100	3,210	3.11	57	15	8.67	24.98	3.48	10.82	52	.		
	MAR	6	317	83.9	2,536	981	93.4	5.5	1.1	100	3,345	3.41	25	2	5.61	20.65	3.87	13.19	101	.		
	APR	
	MAY	4	133	89.5	1,251	402	95.3	4.7	0.0	69	1,215	3.02	12	1	6.65	24.94	3.21	9.71	92	.		
	JUN	1	20	85.0	160	48	.	.	.	.	147	3.06	2	1	10.69	.	3.00	9.17	80	.
	JUL
	AUG	1	6	83.3	48	9	66.7	33.3	0.0	100	17	1.91	0	0	3.06	5.97	1.88	3.59	.	.	.	
	SEP	4	241	74.7	1,928	513	.	.	.	.	1,389	2.71	4	0	6.88	17.34	2.66	7.21	482	.
	OCT
	NOV
	DEC	1	48	54.2	384	77	.	.	.	100	204	2.64	0	0	4.19	17.19	2.01	5.30	.	.	.	
JONES BLUFF	JAN	1	12	75	96	29	0	100	0	100	59	2	0	0	5	13	3	6	.	.		
	FEB	
	MAR	2	74	98.6	592	337	.	.	.	100	716	2.12	0	0	4.52	14.65	5.69	12.09	.	.		
	APR	1	11	100	88	50	20	80	0	100	101	2	0	0	5	14	6	11	.	.	.	
	MAY	1	13	92.3	104	34	.	.	.	100	66	1.94	0	0	4.65	14.25	3.27	6.35	.	.	.	
	JUN	3	229	82.1	1,840	868	53.4	46.6	0.0	95	1,788	2.06	4	0	4.65	13.23	4.72	9.72	460	.	.	
	JUL	2	14	100.0	124	47	46.8	53.2	0.0	94	97	2.06	0	0	4.63	13.29	3.79	7.81	.	.	.	
	AUG	1	9	66.7	72	18	5.6	94.4	0.0	100	25	1.41	0	0	3.83	9.14	2.50	3.53	.	.	.	
	SEP	1	4	100.0	40	12	16.7	83.3	0.0	100	16	1.32	0	0	2.11	7.05	3.00	3.95	.	.	.	
	OCT
	NOV
	DEC

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.			
JORDAN	JAN	1	8	100	80	23	13	87	0	100	63	3	2	0	5	23	3	8	40	.		
	FEB	1	17	94.1	136	49	18.4	81.6	0.0	100	97	1.97	0	0	4.66	12.32	3.60	7.11	.	.		
	MAR	2	31	100.0	257	143	12.9	87.1	0.0	100	371	2.60	0	0	4.56	16.35	5.58	14.48	.	.		
	APR	3	24	100	200	87	19	81	0	100	173	2	0	0	4	13	4	9	.	.	.	
	MAY	1	219	81.7	1,752	803	7.6	92.4	0.0	98	1,907	2.37	2	0	5.13	18.62	4.58	10.88	876	.	.	
	JUN	1	4	75.0	32	8	.	.	.	100	11	1.37	0	0	2.25	6.63	2.50	3.42	.	.	.	
	JUL
	AUG	1	8	62.5	80	17	94.1	5.9	0.0	88	37	2.20	0	0	3.93	12.23	2.13	4.67	.	.	.	
	SEP	4	140	90.7	1,120	445	.	.	.	.	926	2.08	0	0	4.56	14.19	3.97	8.27	.	.	.
	OCT
	NOV	1	21	85.7	168	48	41.7	58.3	0.0	100	78	1.62	0	0	3.25	7.88	2.86	4.64	.	.	.	
	DEC	2	12	58.3	110	23	28.6	71.4	0.0	100	68	2.96	1	0	5.45	13.14	2.09	6.18	110	.	.	
LAY	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	240	96	1,920	1,035	66	34	0	99	2,765	3	8	0	6	20	5	14	240	.	.	
	MAR	3	205	81	1,645	588	28	72	0	100	1,391	2	2	0	5	16	4	8	822	.	.	
	APR	1	12	91.7	96	32	62.5	37.5	0.0	100	70	2.19	0	0	3.64	.	3.33	7.30	.	.	.	
	MAY	4	124	83.1	1,119	388	65.8	34.2	0.0	91	863	2.22	4	0	4.80	15.12	3.47	7.71	280	.	.	
	JUN	1	12	58.3	108	18	44.4	55.6	0.0	89	35	1.92	0	0	3.08	8.74	1.67	3.20	.	.	.	
	JUL	1	12	83	96	43	12	88	0	91	75	2	0	0	4	12	4	8	.	.	.	
	AUG
	SEP	1	15	66.7	120	39	.	.	.	.	69	1.76	0	0	4.06	12.94	3.25	5.72	.	.	.
	OCT	1	11	90.9	88	34	35.3	64.7	0.0	100	57	1.68	0	0	3.25	11.50	3.86	6.48	.	.	.	
	NOV	2	14	78.6	120	32	43.8	56.3	0.0	100	58	1.82	0	0	2.99	8.44	2.67	4.85	.	.	.	
	DEC
LOGAN MARTIN	JAN	2	35	80.0	396	119	18.5	81.5	0.0	100	225	1.89	0	0	4.54	11.83	3.01	5.67	.	.		
	FEB	2	76	92.1	608	315	.	.	.	100	661	2.10	3	0	5.84	17.43	5.18	10.87	203	.	.	
	MAR	1	19	100	152	85	15	85	0	100	147	2	0	0	4	12	6	10	.	.	.	
	APR	4	45	100.0	368	199	25.0	75.0	0.0	99	360	1.81	0	0	3.82	12.55	5.41	9.79	.	.	.	
	MAY
	JUN	3	217	94	1,768	1,005	74	26	0	95	1,947	2	1	0	4	14	6	11	1768	.	.	
	JUL	1	12	100.0	96	29	34.5	65.5	0.0	100	47	1.63	0	0	3.86	8.93	3.02	4.92	.	.	.	
	AUG
	SEP	2	24	95.8	192	82	7.3	92.7	0.0	99	179	2.18	0	0	3.55	10.53	4.27	9.30	.	.	.	
	OCT
	NOV
	DEC

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	
MARTIN	JAN	4	61	70.5	490	114	15.5	84.5	0.0	100	171	1.50	0	0	3.29	8.18	2.33	3.50	.	
	FEB	2	222	97.3	1,776	957	.	.	.	.	1,612	1.68	1	0	5.31	14.19	5.39	9.08	1776
	MAR	2	233	98.3	1,852	1,129	24.5	75.5	0.0	100	2,115	1.87	5	0	4.72	16.19	6.10	11.42	370	
	APR	1	7	85.7	70	30	23.3	76.7	0.0	93	49	1.62	0	0	3.23	11.00	4.29	6.93	.	
	MAY
	JUN
	JUL	1	4	75	32	6	.	.	.	100	9	2	0	0	2	6	2	3	.	
	AUG	2	24	83	174	76	19	81	0	93	126	2	0	0	4	11	4	7	.	
	SEP	1	74	97	1,184	550	.	.	.	93	848	2	0	0	5	.	5	7	.	
	OCT	2	250	84.8	2,784	1,282	0.7	99.3	0.0	98	1,957	1.53	0	0	4.03	11.94	4.60	7.03	.	
	NOV	1	24	83.3	168	77	14.3	85.7	0.0	97	121	1.57	0	0	4.44	10.70	4.58	7.18	.	
	DEC	1	12	83.3	108	37	2.7	97.3	0.0	100	72	1.93	0	0	3.57	11.91	3.43	6.63	.	
MOBILE DELTA	JAN	2	21	100.0	163	95	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	165	1.73	1	0	4.51	13.38	5.83	10.09	163	
	FEB	6	132	82.6	1,082	474	95.4	4.6	0.0	100	891	1.88	4	0	4.67	10.75	4.38	8.24	270	
	MAR	8	303	87.1	2,453	1,230	96.6	3.4	0.0	100	2,229	1.81	8	0	4.62	15.05	5.01	9.09	307	
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	7	144	82.6	1,204	504	95.4	4.6	0.0	96	959	1.90	5	0	3.99	12.29	4.19	7.96	241	
	JUN	4	110	81.8	875	398	94.7	5.3	0.0	97	786	1.97	2	0	4.15	13.59	4.55	8.98	438	
	JUL	3	102	80.4	816	371	91.4	8.6	0.0	98	701	1.89	2	0	4.44	12.92	4.55	8.59	408	
	AUG	1	50	72.0	400	148	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	258	1.74	1	0	5.69	12.88	3.70	6.45	400	
	SEP	4	86	69.8	698	230	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	439	1.91	4	0	4.27	13.11	3.30	6.28	175	
	OCT	2	19	78.9	159	46	87.0	13.0	0.0	100	72	1.57	0	0	2.66	10.23	2.90	4.56	.	
	NOV	2	14	92.9	120	54	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	82	1.52	0	0	2.54	8.13	4.50	6.83	.	
	DEC	1	9	88.9	61	34	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	56	1.65	1	0	5.38	13.20	5.60	9.22	61	
MILLERS FERRY	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	3	94	76.6	775	301	82.1	17.9	0.0	100	656	2.18	2	0	4.58	12.71	3.88	8.46	388	
	MAY	1	10	100.0	80	42	11.9	88.1	0.0	98	72	1.71	0	0	4.44	12.25	5.25	8.97	.	
	JUN	2	53	94.3	530	201	97.0	3.0	0.0	98	397	1.98	1	0	4.69	13.33	3.79	7.50	530	
	JUL	2	35	100.0	308	166	75.2	24.8	0.0	100	348	2.10	1	0	4.66	12.94	5.39	11.29	308	
	AUG	1	12	75	96	21	.	.	.	.	44	2	0	0	3	.	2	5	.
	SEP	1	15	80	150	51	61	39	0	98	103	2	1	0	5	13	3	7	150	
	OCT
	NOV
	DEC

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day	Pounds per day	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	
MITCHELL	JAN
	FEB	2	22	73	172	53	11	89	0	98	112	2	0	0	4	11	3	6	.	
	MAR
	APR	2	37	100.0	310	160	7.5	92.5	0.0	100	370	2.31	0	0	4.01	17.06	5.16	11.94	.	
	MAY
	JUN	1	4	100.0	32	13	46.2	53.8	0.0	100	23	1.78	0	0	3.41	8.39	4.06	7.25	.	
	JUL	1	13	84.6	104	32	.	.	.	100	48	1.49	0	0	3.36	9.98	3.08	4.57	.	
	AUG	1	6	100.0	48	29	.	.	.	97	61	2.10	0	0	3.50	13.19	6.04	12.67	.	
	SEP	2	17	82.4	137	50	42.0	58.0	0.0	98	91	1.83	0	0	3.21	10.95	3.65	6.68	.	
	OCT	1	12	100	96	47	.	.	.	.	90	2	0	0	4	12	5	9	.
	NOV	1	15	100	128	70	.	.	.	100	149	2	1	0	5	14	5	12	128	
	DEC	1	11	73	88	28	18	82	0	100	60	2	0	0	4	12	3	7	.	
NEELY HENRY	JAN
	FEB	1	52	51.9	416	108	.	.	.	100	265	2.45	6	0	5.93	21.63	2.60	6.37	69	
	MAR	2	108	86.1	884	425	54.9	45.1	0.0	100	971	2.29	7	0	5.85	21.41	4.81	10.99	126	
	APR	4	196	83.7	1,568	647	.	.	.	99	1,297	2.01	5	0	5.38	16.91	4.13	8.27	314	
	MAY	6	605	87.9	6,992	2,645	63.9	36.1	0.0	97	4,409	1.67	11	0	5.13	15.93	3.78	6.31	636	
	JUN	3	39	66.7	341	121	42.6	57.4	0.0	99	206	1.70	1	0	4.15	9.32	3.55	6.05	341	
	JUL	3	214	84.6	1,712	716	61.5	38.5	0.0	88	1,259	1.76	4	0	4.85	13.51	4.18	7.36	428	
	AUG	2	20	95.0	153	54	53.7	46.3	0.0	98	102	1.88	0	0	3.70	9.72	3.53	6.65	.	
	SEP
	OCT	2	330	83.9	2,640	1,270	33.9	66.1	0.0	99	2,109	1.66	6	0	6.45	18.75	4.81	7.99	440	
	NOV
	DEC	1	10	30.0	80	8	75.0	25.0	0.0	100	28	3.46	1	0	6.41	18.63	1.00	3.46	80	
PICKWICK	JAN	1	20	55.0	160	33	.	.	.	.	122	3.70	4	0	7.44	24.41	2.06	7.62	40
	FEB
	MAR	1	96	62.5	768	175	.	.	.	.	567	3.24	1	1	8.74	25.70	2.28	7.38	768
	APR	3	350	84.0	2,826	628	90.3	0.0	9.7	100	1,731	2.76	10	0	7.50	22.63	2.22	6.12	23	
	MAY	5	162	73	1,303	284	.	.	.	100	691	2	5	1	5	18	2	5	261	
	JUN	2	61	77	488	95	92	3	5	100	254	3	4	0	6	19	2	5	122	
	JUL	8	97	62	743	165	94	0	6	95	490	3	7	0	5	15	2	7	106	
	AUG	5	38	87	192	68	85	0	15	100	193	3	3	0	5	16	4	10	64	
	SEP	10	693	75.5	5,495	1,585	77.6	7.3	15.0	94	4,089	2.58	17	0	5.52	17.11	2.88	7.44	182	
	OCT	1	6	50.0	24	5	80.0	0.0	20.0	100	15	2.97	0	0	4.34	.	2.08	6.18	.	
	NOV	1	36	75	288	107	.	.	.	.	403	4	7	1	8	31	4	14	41
	DEC	3	76	76	608	254	.	.	.	.	861	3	13	1	7	24	4	14	47

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day1	Pounds per day1	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	
SMITH	JAN	2	16	62.5	123	25	24.0	76.0	0.0	100	47	1.90	0	0	3.01	10.06	2.03	3.86	.	
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	9	1,050	94.3	8,400	4036	22.2	77.8	0.0	99	7,876	1.95	3	0	4.84	15.19	4.80	9.38	2,800	
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	1	8	62.5	56	12	16.7	83.3	0.0	100	21	1.76	0	0	3.38	8.31	2.14	3.77	.	
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	159	67	1,272	468	6	94	0	94	817	2	2	0	6	15	4	6	636	
	OCT	1	15	86.7	120	36	16.7	83.3	0.0	100	55	1.53	0	0	3.10	.	3.00	4.58	.	
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
WEISS	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	4	69	84	583	190	43	57	0	99	405	2	1	0	5	16	3	7	304	
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	2	220	90.9	1823	938	78.9	21.1	0.0	95	2,043	2.18	8	0	5.30	26.84	5.15	11.21	228	
	JUN	1	9	100.0	72	27	51.9	48.1	0.0	96	51	1.88	0	0	3.77	11.40	3.75	7.06	.	
	JUL	3	27	81.5	219	60	55.0	45.0	0.0	97	108	1.81	0	0	4.22	9.27	2.74	4.95	.	
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	2	19	89	152	64	63	38	0	100	129	2	3	0	5	15	4	8	51	
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
WILSON	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	30	100.0	255	149	70.5	0.0	29.5	73	535	3.59	25	2	8.31	31.56	5.84	20.99	10	
	APR	4	77	89.6	672	286	84.2	0.0	15.8	99	563	1.97	1	0	4.86	14.46	4.26	8.38	672	
	MAY	2	32	96.9	276	145	76.0	12.0	12.0	100	317	2.18	1	0	4.63	14.48	5.25	11.48	276	
	JUN	1	28	78.6	252	72	83.3	0.0	16.7	93	214	2.97	2	0	6.25	.	2.86	8.48	126	
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	16	87.5	128	29	100.0	0.0	0.0	93	48	1.66	0	0	3.52	.	2.27	3.77	.	
	SEP	1	22	81.8	198	51	82.4	0.0	17.6	98	139	2.73	4	0	5.63	.	2.58	7.04	50	
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2018 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	% of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5 lb.	Bass over 8 lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day1	Pounds per day1	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	
WEST POINT	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	3	27	100.0	232	100	45.0	55.0	0.0	96	176	1.76	1	0	3.98	14.15	4.31	7.60	232	
	MAY	2	18	78	144	51	22	78	0	86	63	1	0	0	4	9	4	4	.	
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	8	73	79.5	578	135	41.5	58.5	0.0	97	201	1.49	0	0	2.72	6.60	2.34	3.47	.	
	OCT	3	30	83.3	348	116	13.8	86.2	0.0	99	146	1.26	0	0	3.78	9.11	3.34	4.20	.	
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

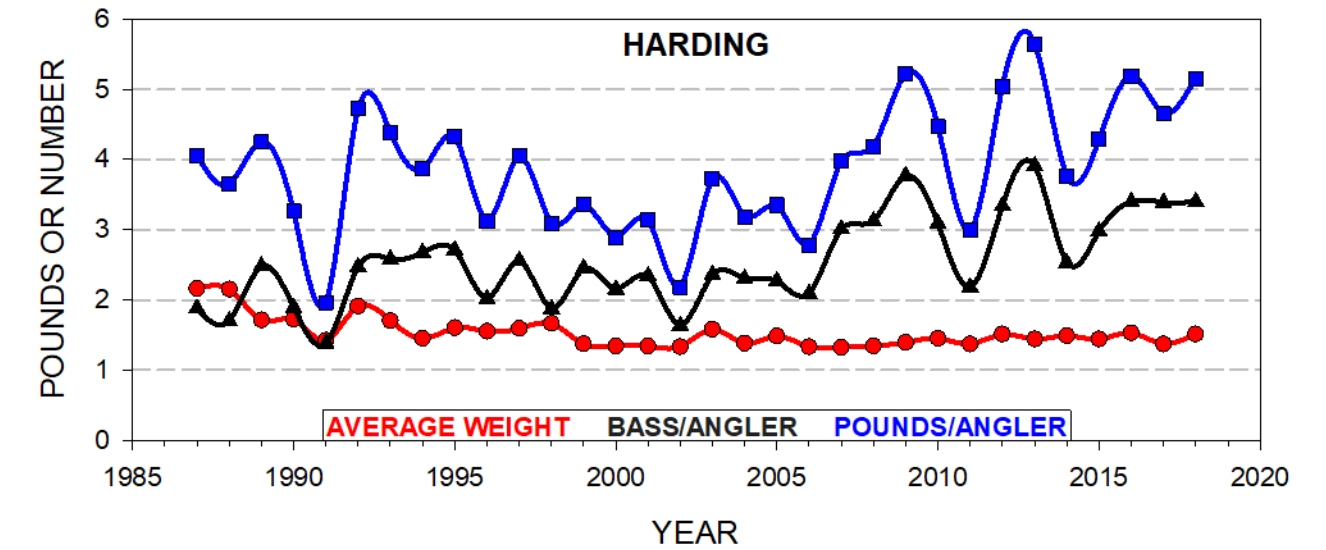
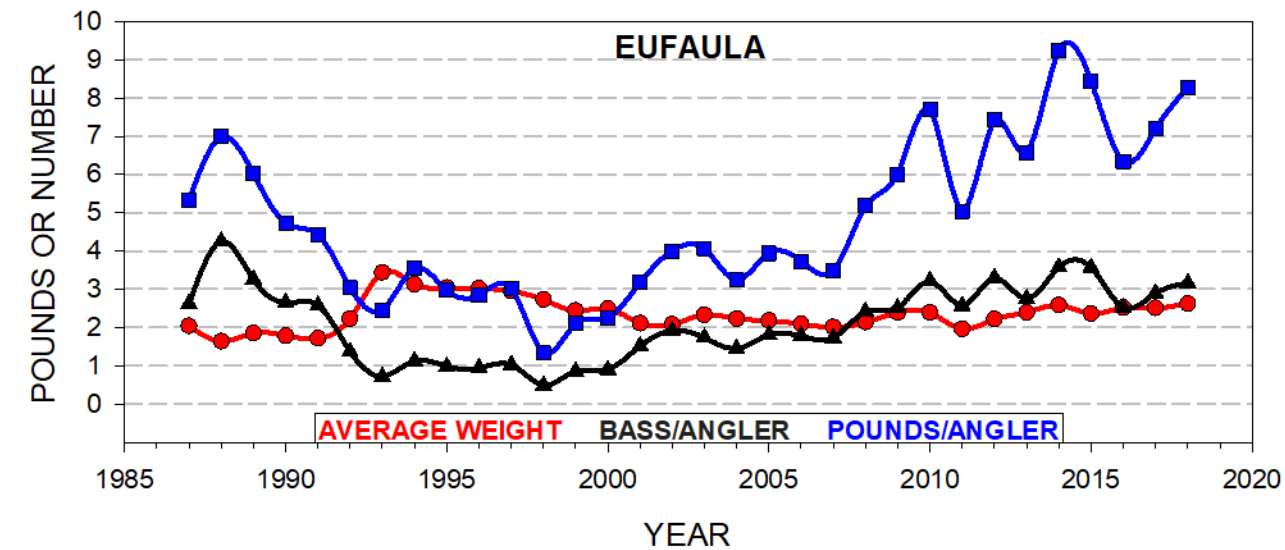
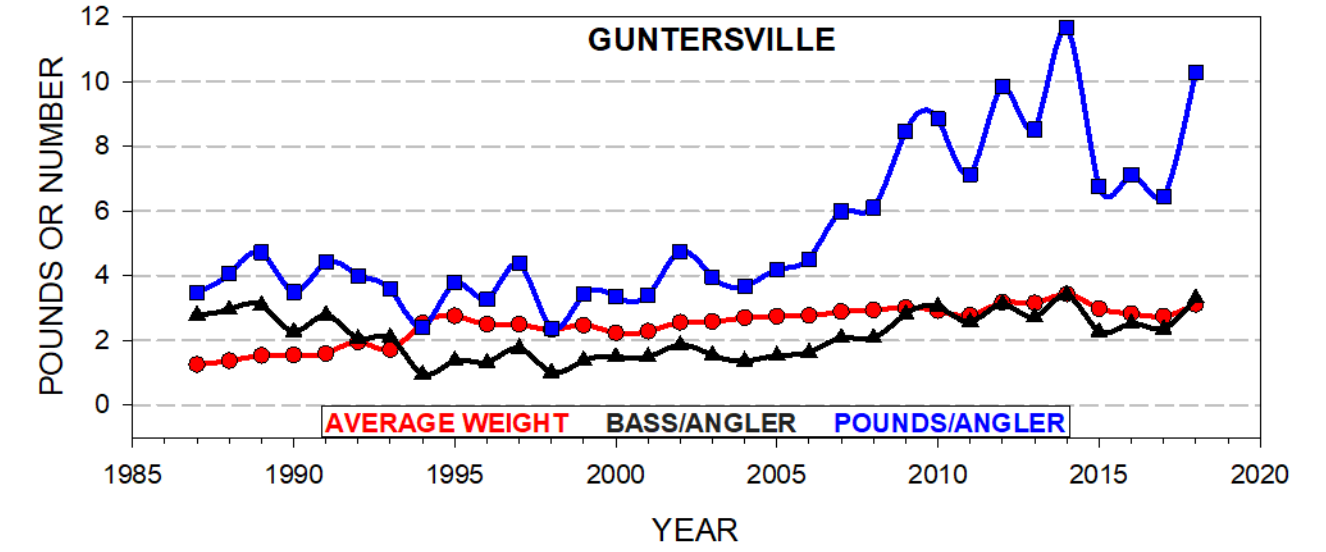
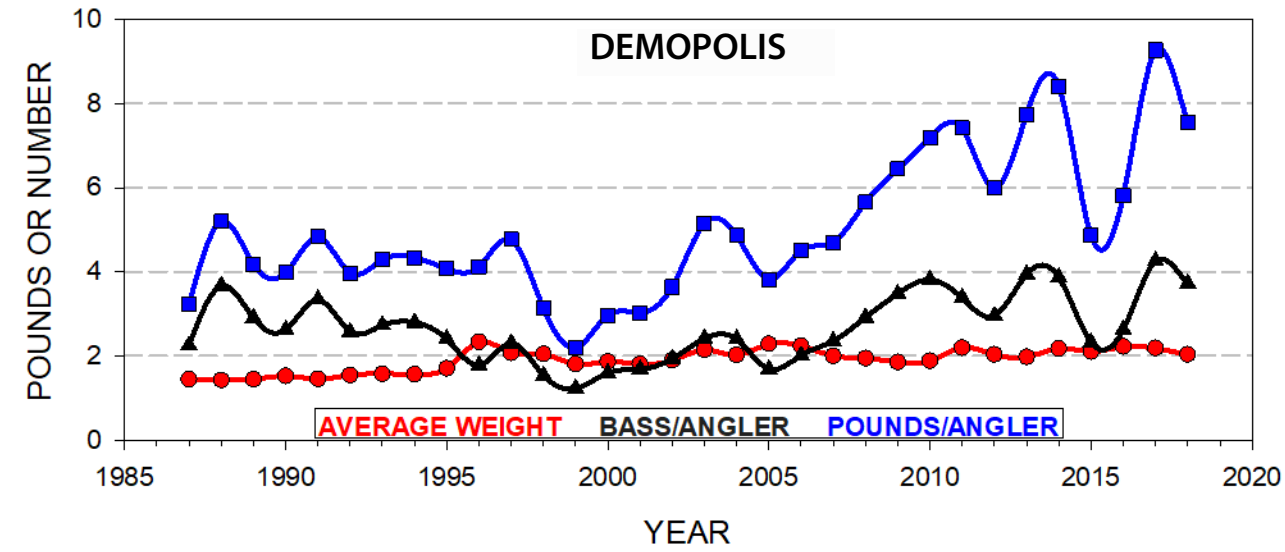
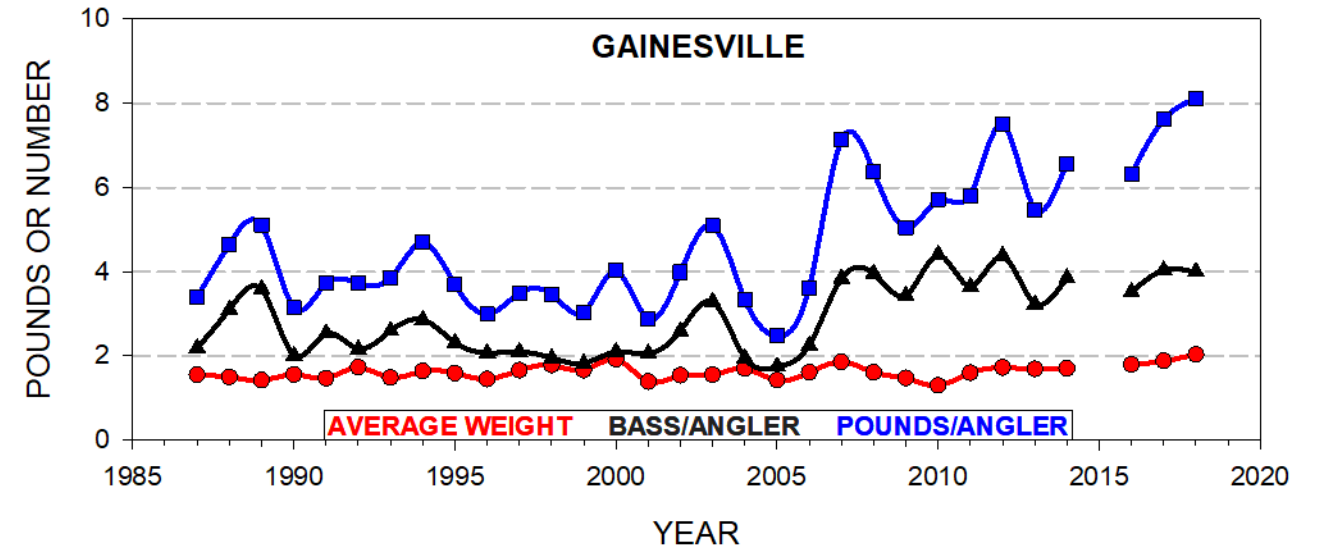
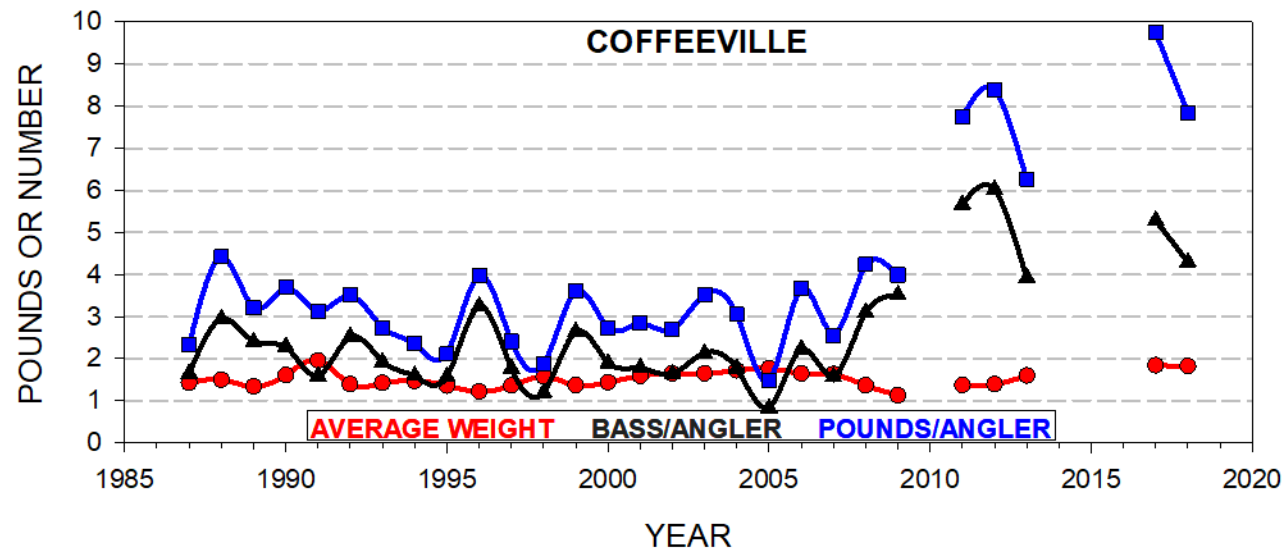
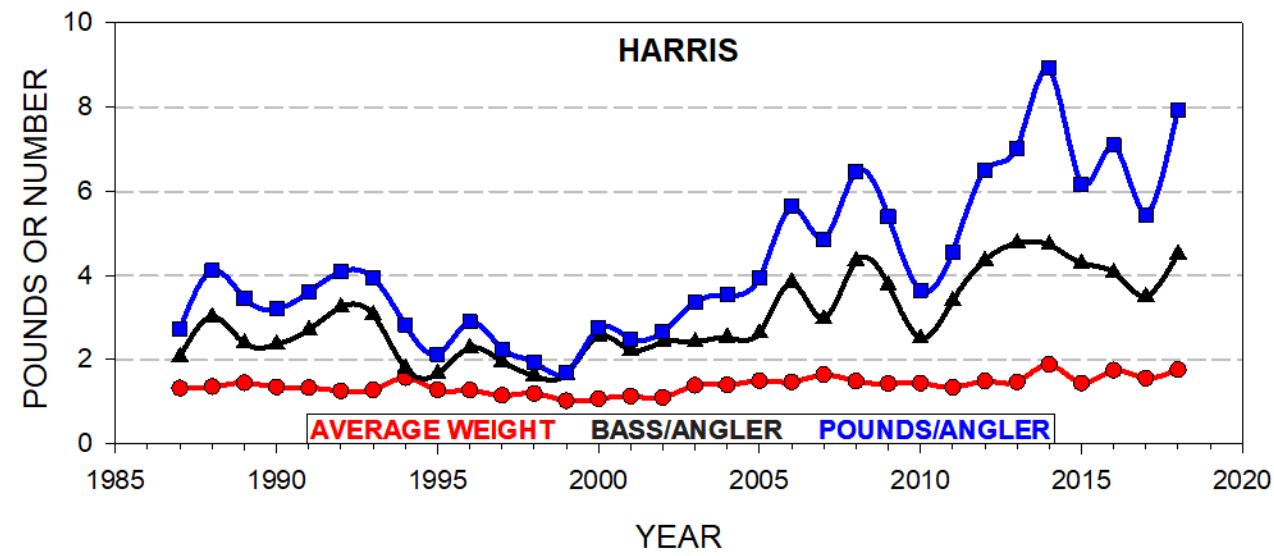


Figure 1. Annual quality indicators for Coffeerville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2018.

Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Guntersville, and Harding, through 2018.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

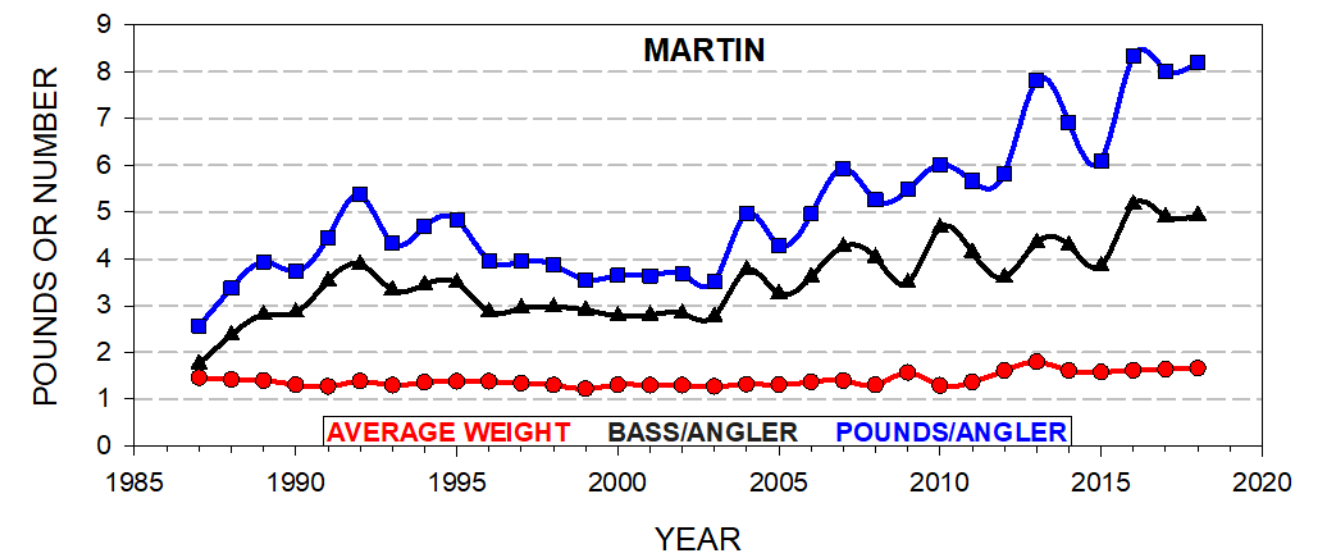
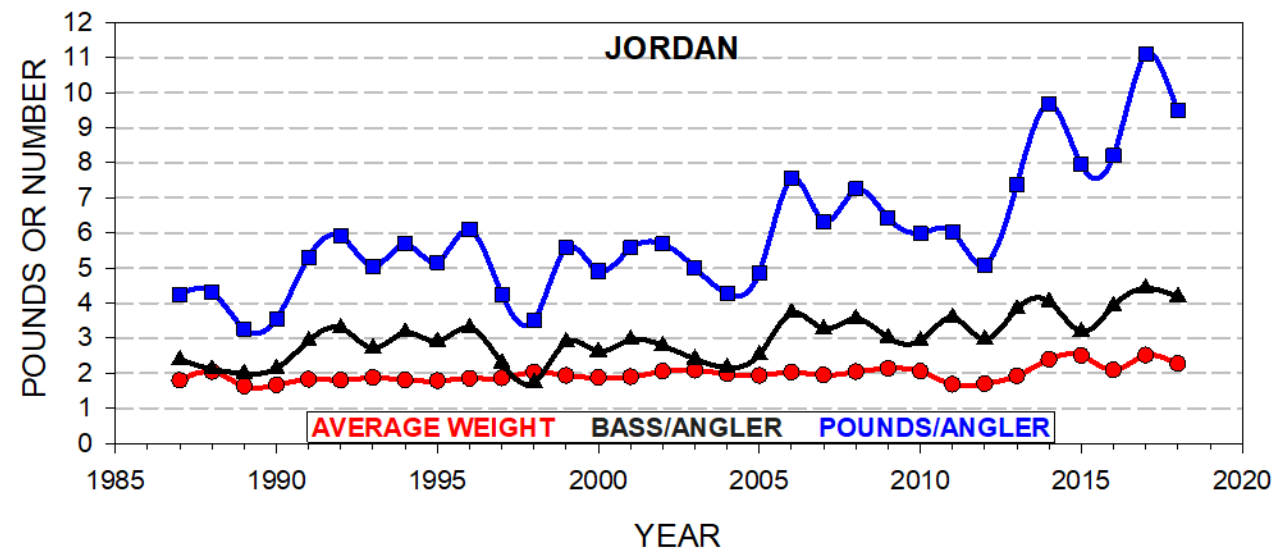
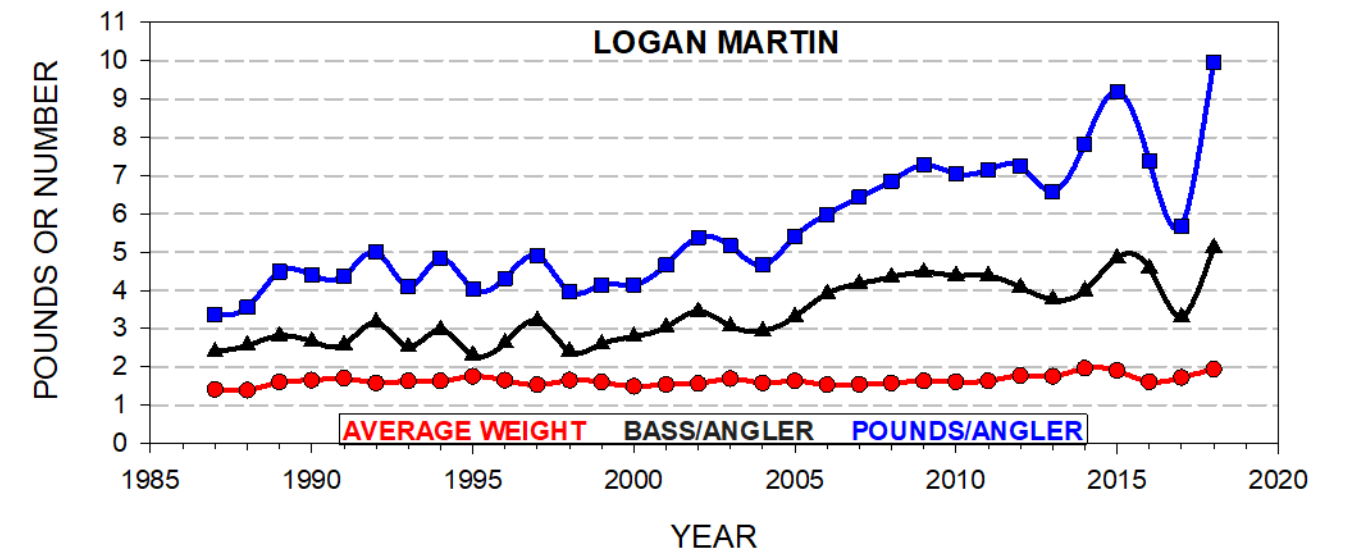
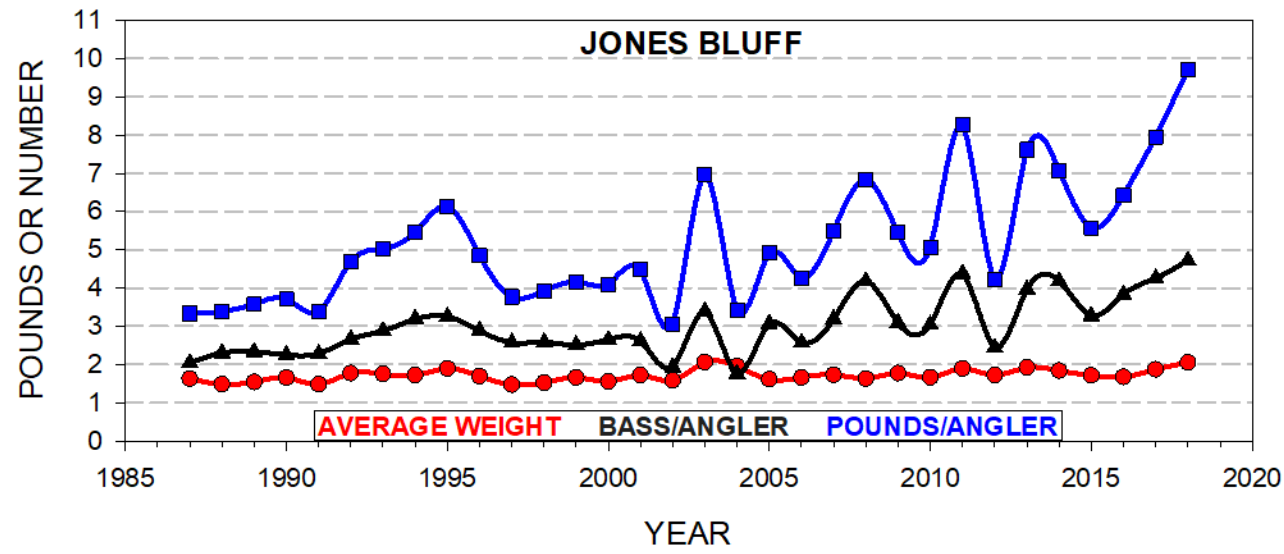
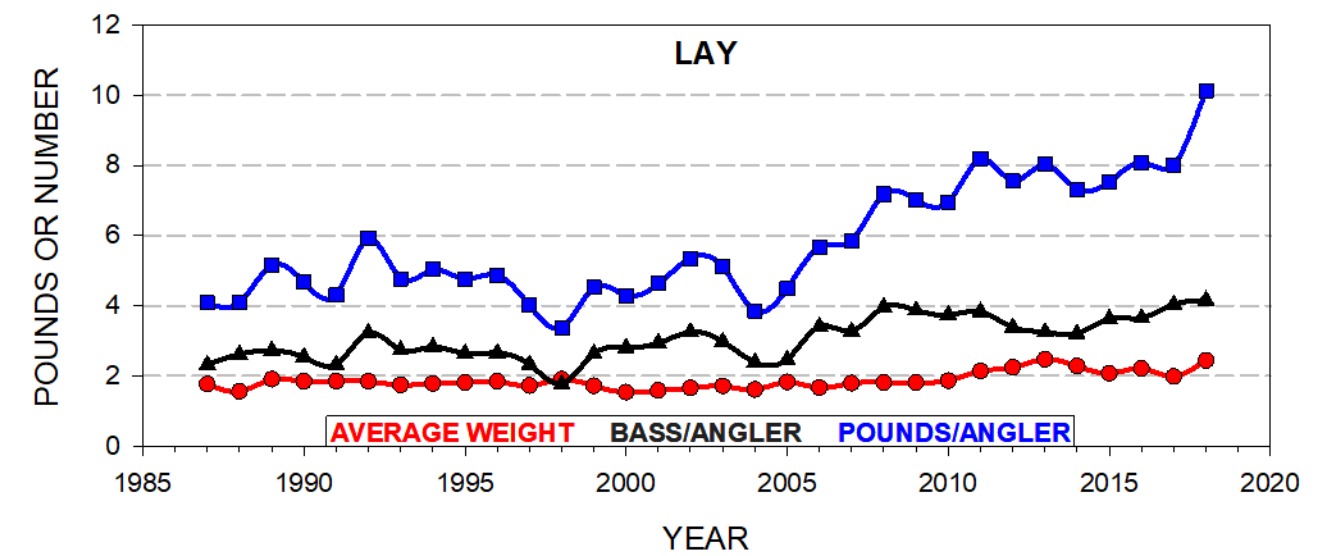


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2018.

Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2018.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

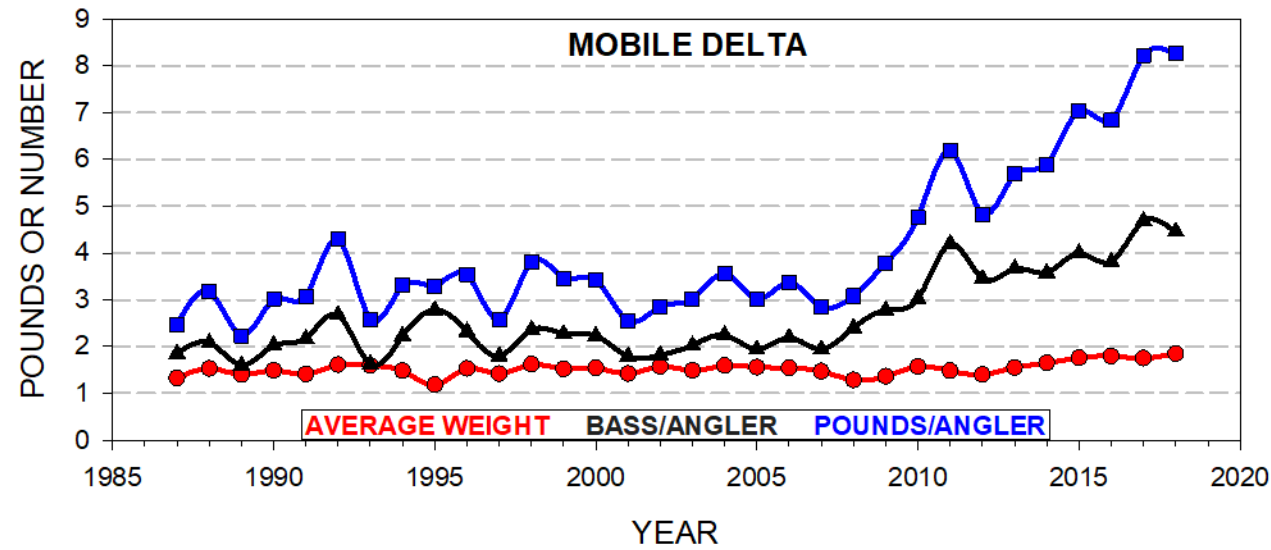
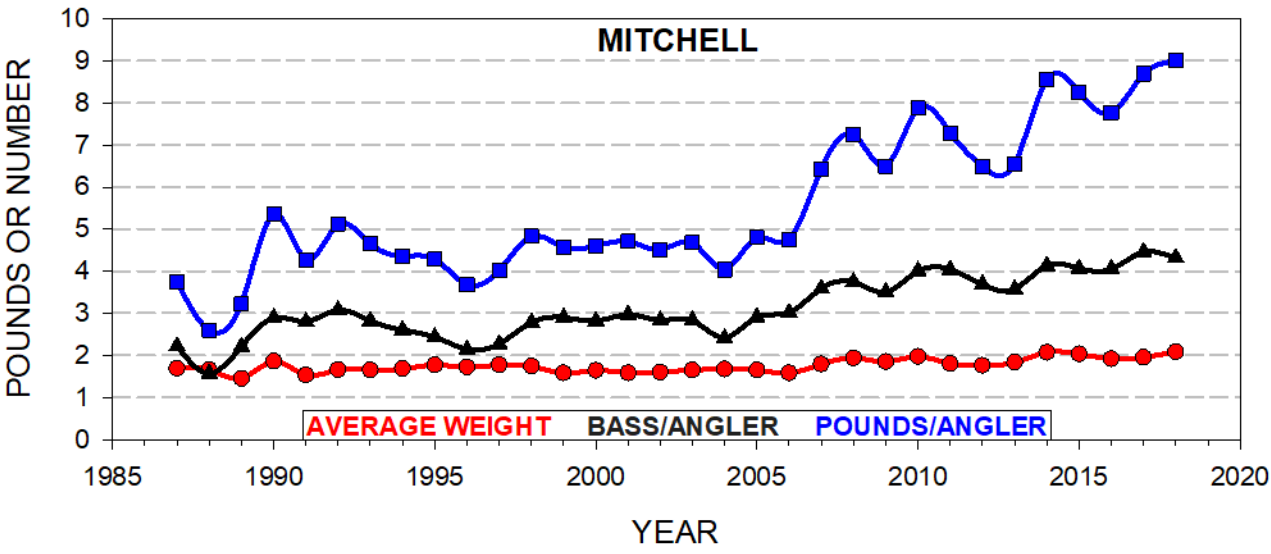
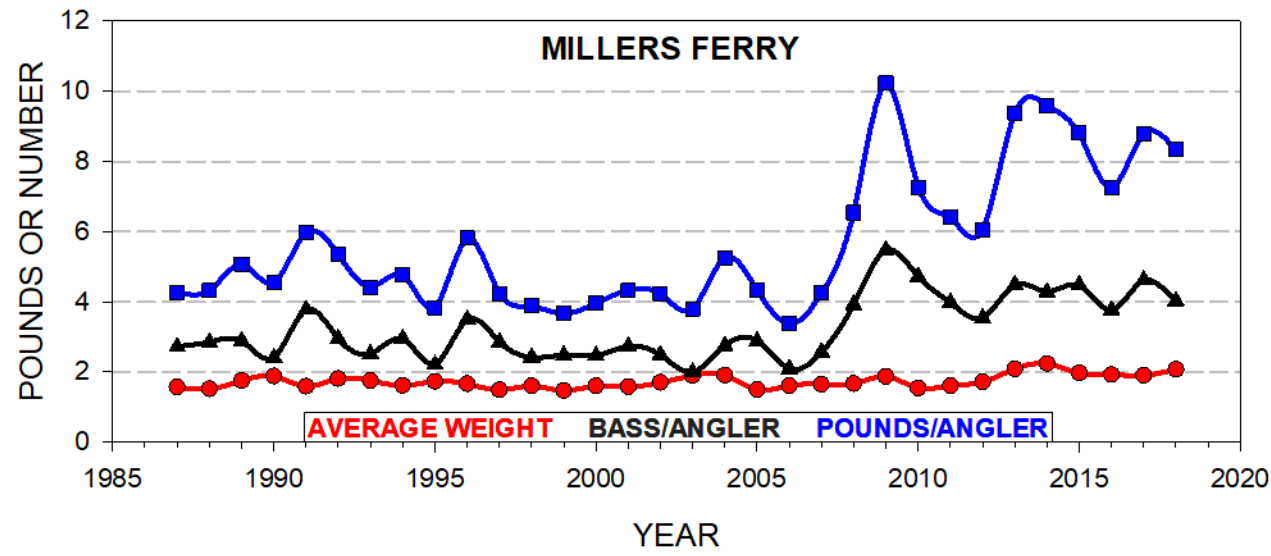


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2018.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

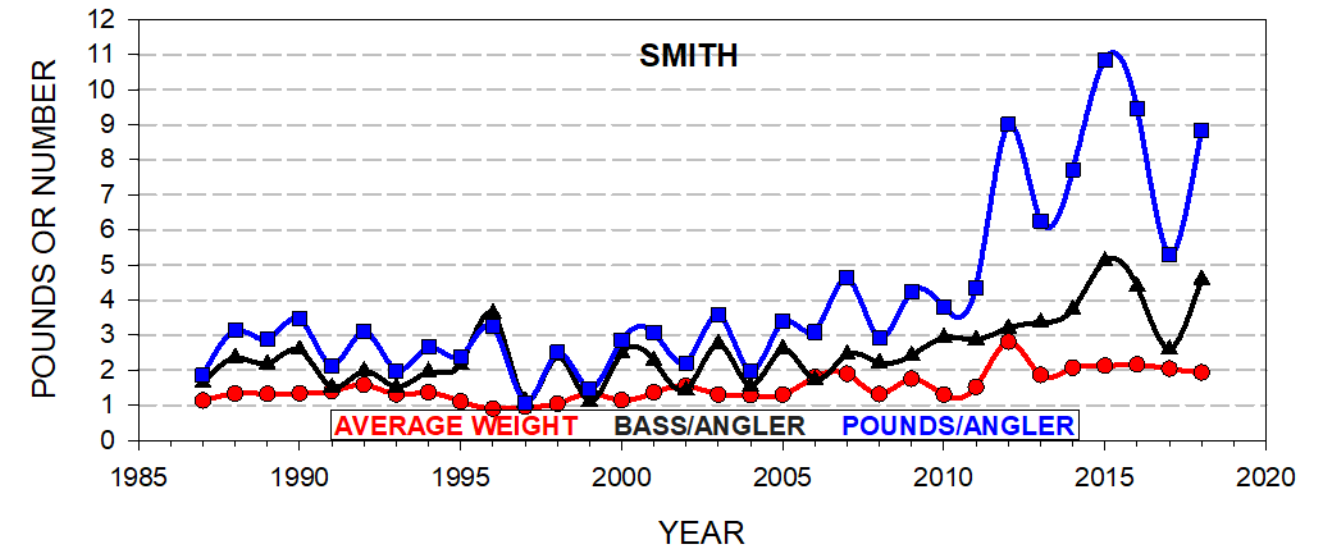
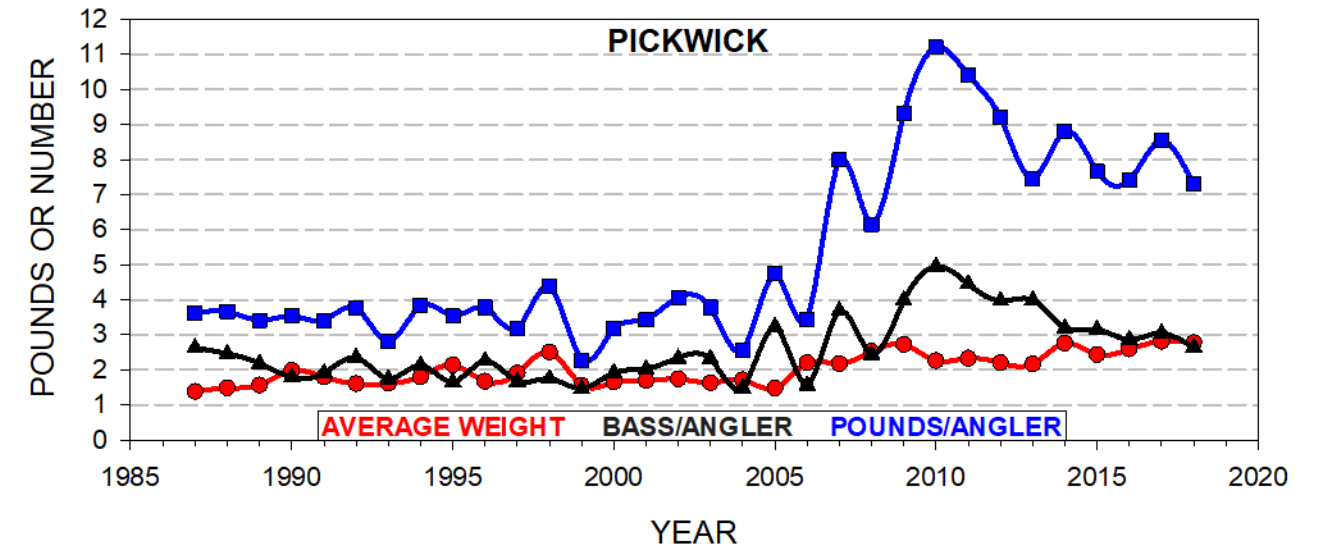
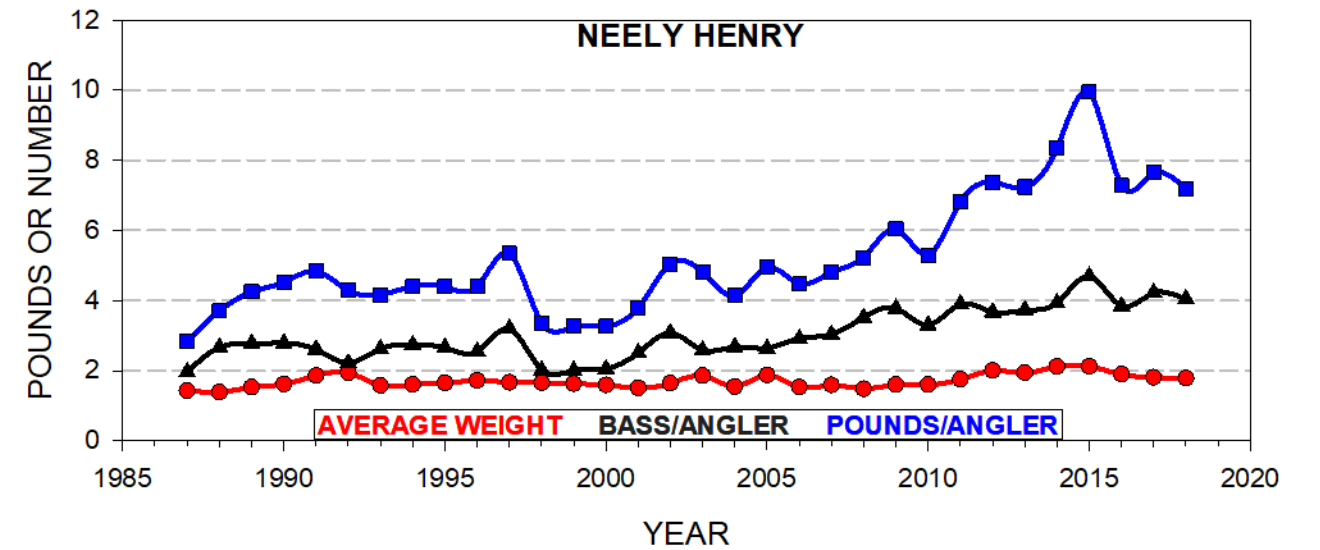


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith through 2018.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

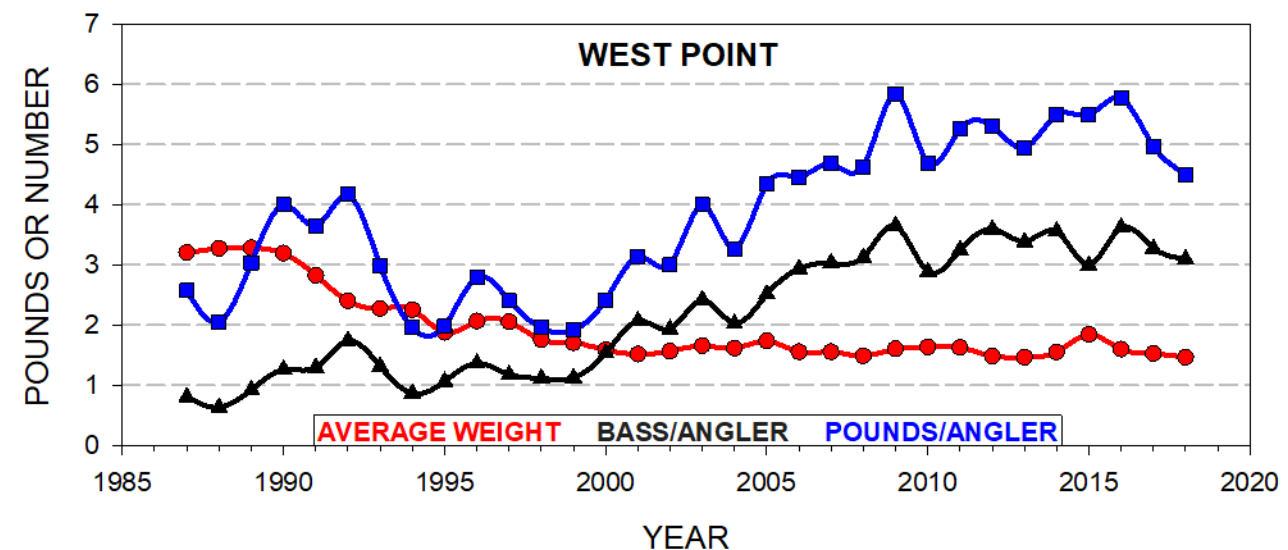
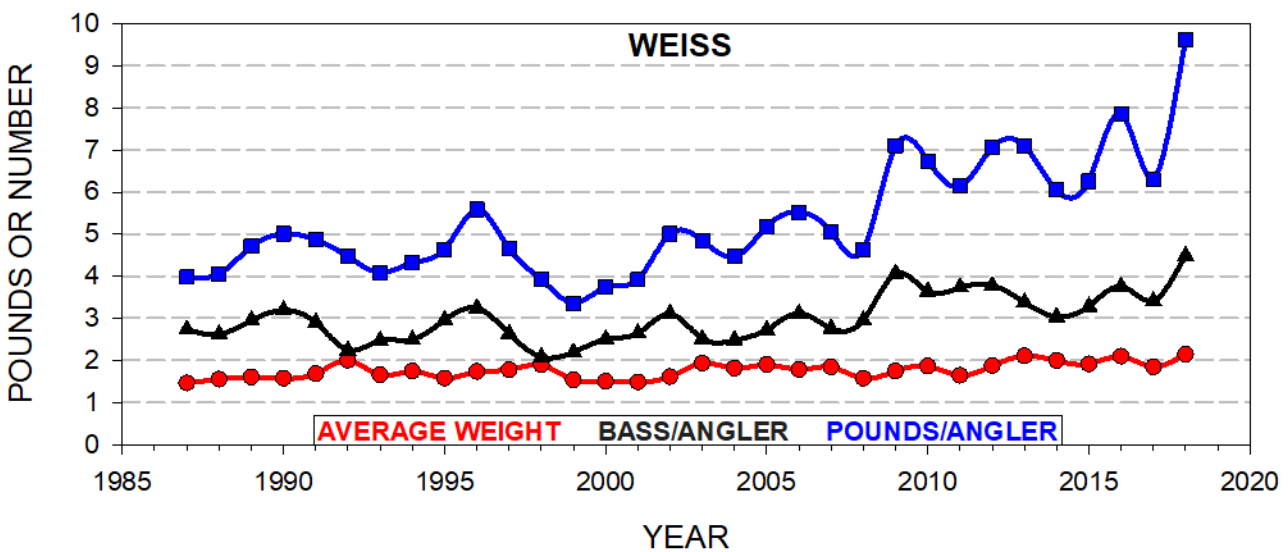
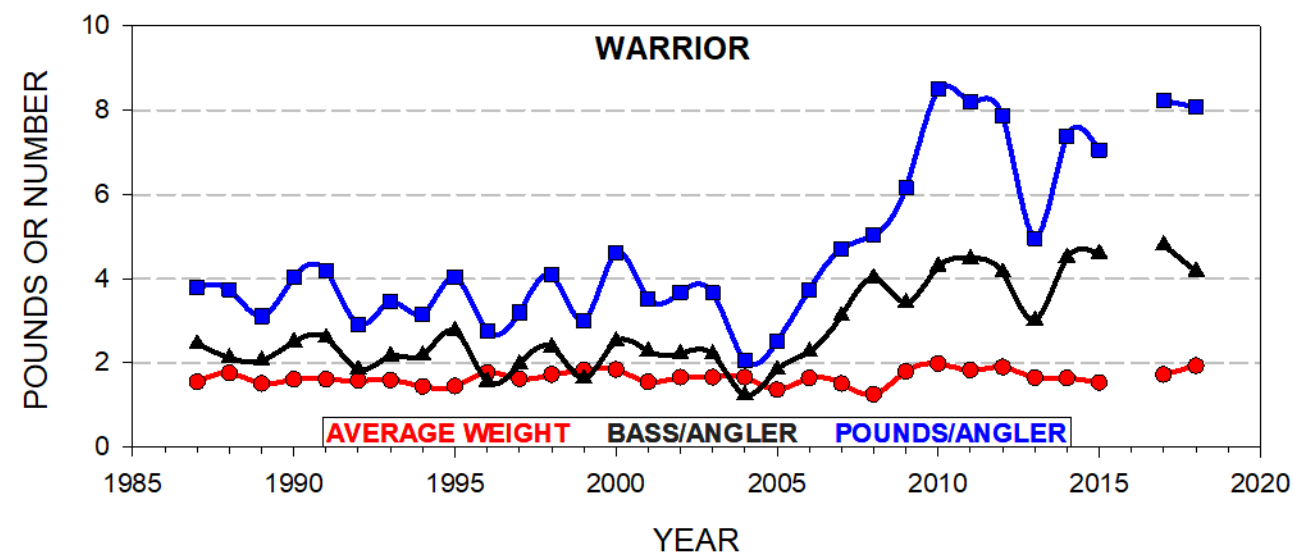


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2018.



ANNUAL QUALITY INDICATORS

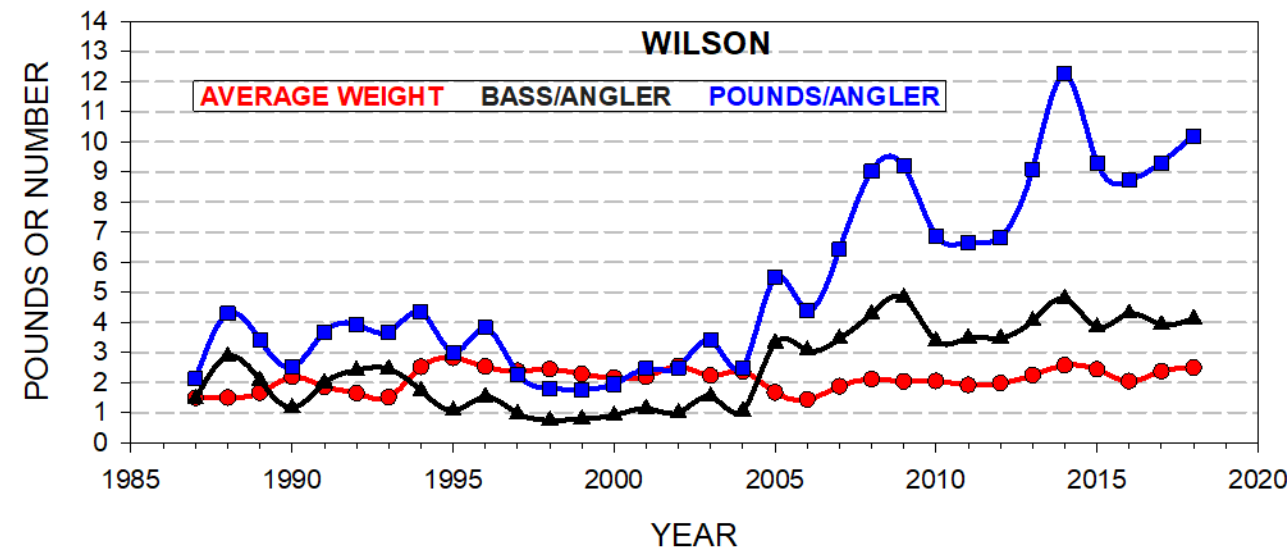
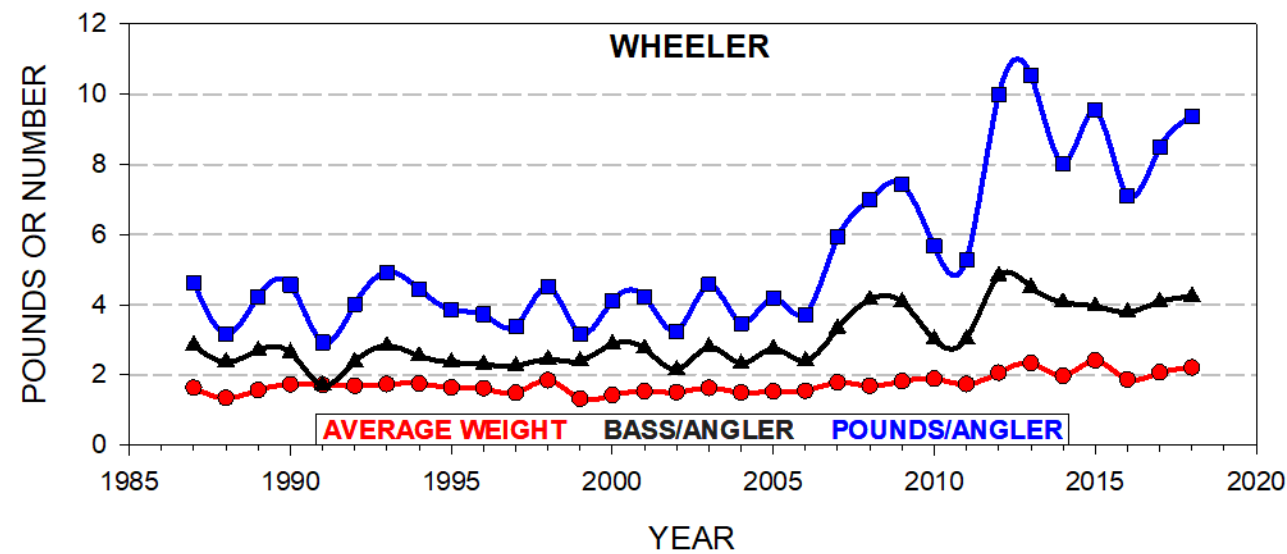


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson through 2018.



HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

In 2018, the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team completed a number of reservoir habitat restoration projects and prepared for many upcoming enhancement activities. Since the first year of the program in 2015, more than 4,900 fish attractors have been installed throughout the state.

While most of the projects have focused on fish attraction (i.e., artificial structures), other projects are aimed at enhancing fish production. The Environmental Affairs Division of Alabama Power Company and other partners have assisted with many projects including transplanting native American water willow (*Justicia americana*) on Martin and Smith Reservoirs

as well as buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) on Martin, Smith, West Point, Logan Martin, and Weiss Reservoirs. These projects will greatly enhance aquatic habitat by providing cover for juvenile fishes and nesting cover for largemouth bass.

Reservoirs selected for aquatic vegetation enhancement operate on an annual drawdown schedule. Unstable water levels are not conducive for natural establishment of aquatic vegetation; therefore, efforts to transplant native vegetation are ongoing. We expect that placing these plants in the draw-down zone will coax them into long-term colonization.

To view detailed structure locations, visit the Outdoor Alabama Interactive Map at www.conservaiongis.alabama.gov/dcnr/. Structure coordinates can be downloaded at www.outdooralabama.com/fishattractors.

WATERBODY	TYPE	AMOUNT	INSTALL DATE
Thurlow	Spiderblocks	25	Feb. 2018
Thurlow	Christmas Trees	50	Feb. 2018
Smith	Spiderblocks	83	March 2018
Jordan	Spiderblocks	50	April 2018
Jordan	Christmas Trees	104	April 2018
Tuscaloosa	Barrel Trees	65	April 2018
Tuscaloosa	Spiderblocks	20	April 2018
Weiss	Bamboo	50	June 2018
Neely Henry	Spiderblocks	100	June 2018
Upper Bear	Artificial Structures	150	June 2018
Lay	Christmas Tree	27	June 2018
Aliceville	Spiderblocks	50	Sep. 2018
Martin	Spiderblocks	45	Sep. 2018
Harris	Spiderblocks	50	Dec. 2018
Mitchell	Felled Shoreline Trees	16	May 2018
Yates	Felled Shoreline Trees	32	July 2018
Weiss	Felled Shoreline Trees	39	Dec. 2018
Harris	Felled Shoreline Trees	36	Dec. 2018
Jordan	Felled Shoreline Trees	49	Aug. 2018
Logan Martin	Felled Shoreline Trees	53	Dec. 2018
Neely Henry	Felled Shoreline Trees	94	Dec. 2018
Martin	Felled Shoreline Trees	20	Dec. 2018

BOATING ACCESS AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries maintains 114 public boating access areas statewide. Several of these facilities received upgrades in 2018. For more information on ADCNR freshwater boating access, visit boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov/.

Smith Lake Park Public Boat Ramp (Smith):

ADCNR is working with Cullman County to expand the facility to make it large enough to handle most local and regional fishing tournaments. Phase one of two phases has been completed. Phase one of the renovation included a six lane, 90-foot-wide launching slab. Additional phase one renovations include paved parking for 113 truck and trailer rigs and 10 cars with both make ready and tie down areas. Phase two of the renovation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2019. Phase two improvements include security lighting, a paved overflow parking lot for 53 truck and trailer rigs, one 45-foot stationary aluminum pier, two floating aluminum piers (150 feet and 60 feet), and a fixed aluminum pedestrian bridge connecting the overflow and main parking areas. When completed the facility will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. ADCNR leases the property from Cullman County, which handles routine maintenance of the facility.

Leesburg Boat Public Boat Ramp (Weiss):

ADCNR is working in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg to provide a major boat ramp facility on Weiss Lake (Coosa River). The property containing the boat ramp is leased to ADCNR from Alabama Power Company and is located on the canal in Leesburg. Phase one of the project has been completed. Phase two will be completed in 2020. Phase one of the project included construction of a new 60-foot-wide concrete launching slab, construction of paved entrance and exit roads with make ready and tie down areas, construction of paved parking for approximately 228 truck and trailer rigs, and construction of two 50-foot floating piers. Phase two will include the construction of a large wharf style pier to accommodate additional vessels during periods of high use. The facility is being constructed to accommodate almost any bass tournament held on Weiss Reservoir. The facility will be constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. The Town of Leesburg is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Beeswax Creek Public Boat Ramp (Lay):

ADCNR is working in cooperation with Shelby County to complete a major parking lot expansion. The property containing the expansion is leased to ADCNR from Alabama Power

Company. The new parking lot will increase truck and trailer parking from 71 to 155. Construction will be completed in early 2019. Upon completion, the facility will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Shelby County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Barnett's Landing Public Boat Ramp (Wheeler):

ADCNR installed a new 20-foot floating access pier and completed renovations for the entire facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Lauderdale County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Shoal Creek Public Boat Ramp (Wilson):

ADCNR installed a new 30-foot floating access pier and completed renovations for the entire facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Lauderdale County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Lay Dam Public Boat Ramp (Lay):

ADCNR worked in cooperation with Alabama Power Company to install two new stationary access piers, a stationary fishing pier, replace a damaged launching lane, and complete renovations for the facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010.

Pride Landing Public Boat Ramp (Pickwick):

ADCNR replaced a damaged launching slab to allow for easier access during periods of low water. Colbert County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Triana Public Boat Ramp (Wheeler):

ADCNR is working in cooperation with Madison County to expand the existing parking area and replace a launching slab at the facility. The facility has also been repaved. Upon project completion, there will be two launching lanes and paved parking for 49 truck and trailer rigs and six cars with make ready and tie down areas. The facility will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Madison County is responsible for routine maintenance at the facility.



TOURNAMENT PERMITS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries does not require tournament organizations to secure tournament permits for any of their events. However, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Marine Patrol requires a Marine Event Permit for any event (including bass tournaments) with more than 100 boats participating. Applications can be obtained from the ALEA Marine Patrol free of charge by calling (334) 242-3630. The application must be completed and submitted to them at least 15 days prior to the event.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also requires a Special Use Permit for bass tournaments with more than 10 boats that are held on any of its reservoirs. Corps permits must be submitted 30 days prior to the event and can be obtained from your local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Office or from its website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL DAY USE PERMITS

Annual passes can be obtained from the guard station at all park entrances or by contacting your local U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Resources Management Office. These passes allow you to use any boat ramp nationwide that is operated and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The fee for these permits is \$40 and the permit is good for one year from the date of purchase.

TRAILER TOURNAMENTS

Any tournament that permits anglers to fish in various bodies of water and then bring their catch to a specific lake for a weigh in where the fish are then released alive into that body of water are in direct violation of Alabama's Public Water Stocking Regulation (220-2-.129). Moving live fish from one lake to another can have a number of detrimental consequences. Examples include: moving fish caught from lakes with consumption advisories into lakes without advisories; introducing genetically inferior strains of spotted bass into our world-class spotted bass fisheries of the Coosa River; introducing diseases such as the Largemouth Bass Virus, which decimated many of our bass fisheries in Alabama beginning in the late-1990s; diluting the genetic benefits of WFF's Florida Bass Stocking Program; and introducing non-native, potentially harmful species into lakes where they do not currently exist.

It is important for anglers to know that only the act of releasing fish into a body of water other than where they were caught is illegal. If tournament organizations want to continue to offer these types of tournaments to their competitors, they are certainly free to do so as long as the fish brought in from other reservoirs are not released there. If you participate in one of these tournaments, do not release your fish into a lake you did not catch them from. Your fish can be eaten, donated to a charitable organization such as an orphanage, or returned to the reservoir from which they were caught. Fish can only be moved legally from one reservoir to another if they are transported by boat through a navigable lock.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE

Access area creel surveys conducted by Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists have revealed a significant decline in bass harvest rates statewide. In 2018, nearly 100% of all bass caught from public waters were released. As the catch-and-release ethic has evolved during the last 25-30 years due to intense promotion by tournament organizations and participants, many well-intentioned anglers have become so passionate about this angling ethic that they feel a moral obligation to release every bass they catch. This often leads anglers to make poor choices with regard to the handling of their fish.

An unfortunate consequence of catch-and-release is that tournament anglers are often so focused on releasing their fish alive that they sometimes fail to recognize when a fish is too far gone to survive. Making this mistake can result in numerous dead fish floating in the water around the boat ramp the following day. The number of complaints received by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources accusing tournament anglers of killing and wasting fish during organized bass tournaments is on the rise. Please encourage your anglers to be aware of this growing problem and consider adopting tournament rules that discourage the release of fish in poor condition following bass tournaments.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOCAL AND REGIONAL OFFICES

Alabama River Lakes

Hayneville, AL
(334) 872-9554

Millers Ferry Resource Office

Camden, AL
(334) 682-4244

Holt Resource Office

Peterson, AL
(205) 553-9373

Black Warrior/Tombigbee Project Management Office

Tuscaloosa, AL
(205) 752-3571

Demopolis Site Office

Demopolis, AL
(334) 289-3540

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Office

Carrollton, AL
(205) 373-8705





Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
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