



Moon Lake 2024

REEL FACTS

Amber Bookout – Fisheries Biologist
amber.bookout@wfp.ms.gov (601) 432-2200

General Information: Moon Lake is a 2,300-acre oxbow lake of the Mississippi River. The primary inflow to the lake comes from Phillips Bayou at the northern tip of the lake. The main outflow is Yazoo Pass which connects the lake to the Coldwater River.

Location: Outside the mainline Mississippi River levee in Coahoma County about 15 miles north of Clarksdale.

Fishery Management: Largemouth Bass, crappie, catfish, and bream

Purchase a Fishing License: <https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/licensing/login>

Amenities

- 2 Public Ramps
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Pavilion

Regulations

- Minimum length limit for crappie is 10 inches.
- 30 crappie per day, with 5 crappie under 10 inches allowed.
- 5 Largemouth Bass per day.
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.
- Commercial fishing is open from October 1 – February 28 and requires a special permit from MDWFP. Other regulations can be found at www.mdwfp.com

Fish Stockings

2021

White Crappie
22,566; 4 in.

2019

Largemouth Bass
50,000; 2.5 in.

2018

Largemouth Bass
53,100; 1-3 in.
890; 6 in.

2017

White Crappie
48,000; 3 in.
Largemouth Bass
14,000; 2 in.
Bluegill
100,000; 1 in.

2016

Largemouth Bass
35,000; 2 in.
Bluegill
130,000; 2 in.

Sportfishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Fish piers along eastern shoreline and near Paradise Point ramp.

Crappie

- In the spring fish structure and piers along the banks with minnows or jigs. During summer and winter months try trolling through the deeper areas of the lake.

Bream

- Fish areas with structure in water less than 5 feet deep with crickets or red worms, especially in the late spring and summer.

Catfish

- Fish shallow mudflats around the island or near the cypress trees with night crawlers, chicken livers, or stink bait.

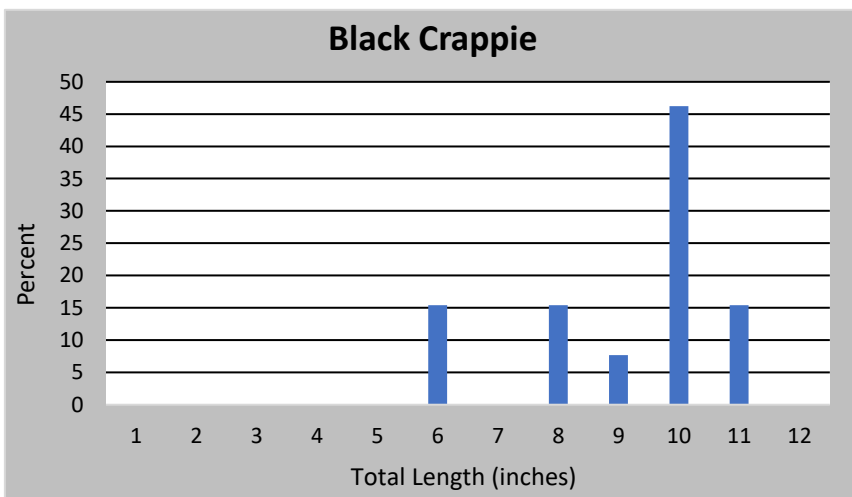
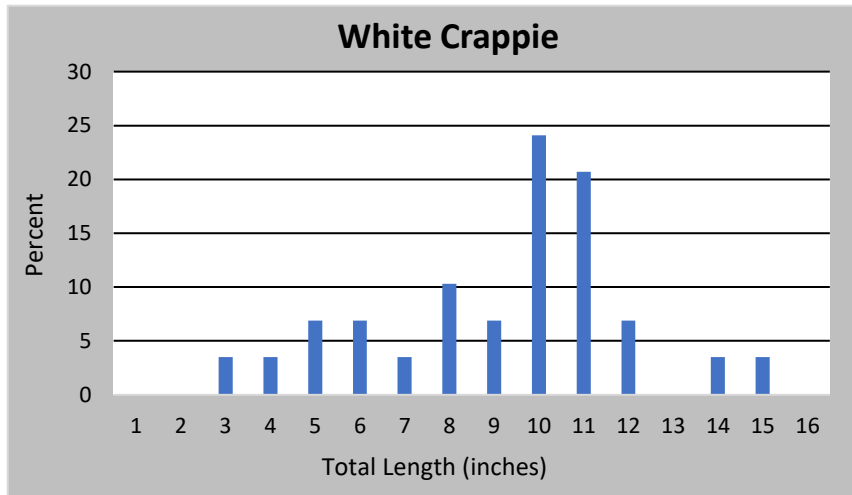
Below: Results from the 2023 electrofishing survey on Moon Lake. Moon Lake is sampled in the fall every 2 to 3 years. 2023 sampling saw an increase in catch rates for both black and white crappie. There were no Largemouth Bass captured during this survey.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
White Crappie	29	37.2	8.7	14.8	0.5	25
Bluegill	19	24.4	3.4	5.2	0.1	11
Black Crappie	13	16.7	8.8	10.9	0.4	13
Shortnose Gar	5	6.4	22	23.7	0.8	0
Smallmouth Buffalo	4	5.1	18	19.2	3.1	4
Longear Sunfish	3	3.8	2.5	2.9	.	0
Channel Catfish	2	2.6	19	20.8	2.1	2
Longnose Gar	2	2.6	34.6	37.7	.	2
Freshwater Drum	1	1.3	15.9	15.9	.	1

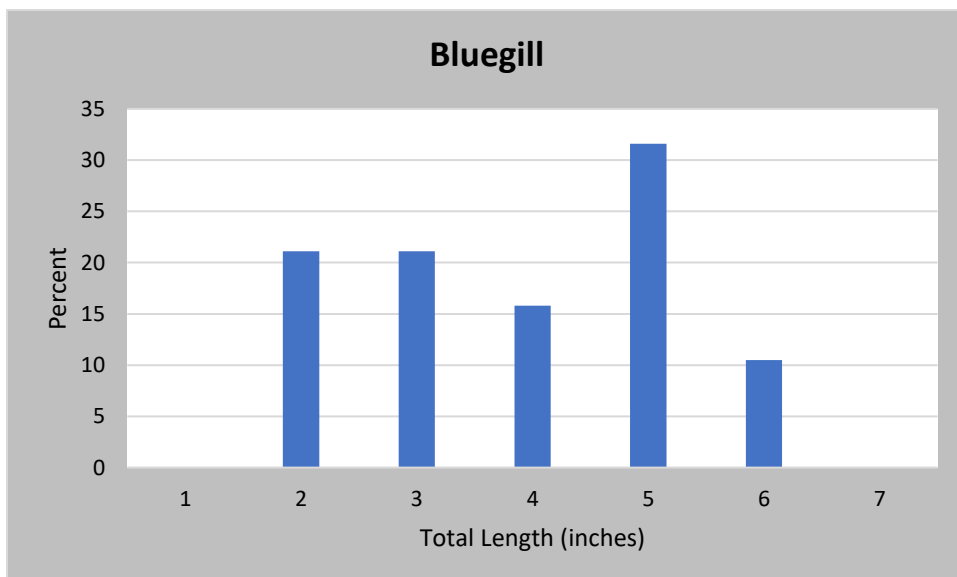
Right: Crappie are the most sought-after species in Moon Lake. White crappie and black crappie are both present at Moon, but white crappie are more abundant.



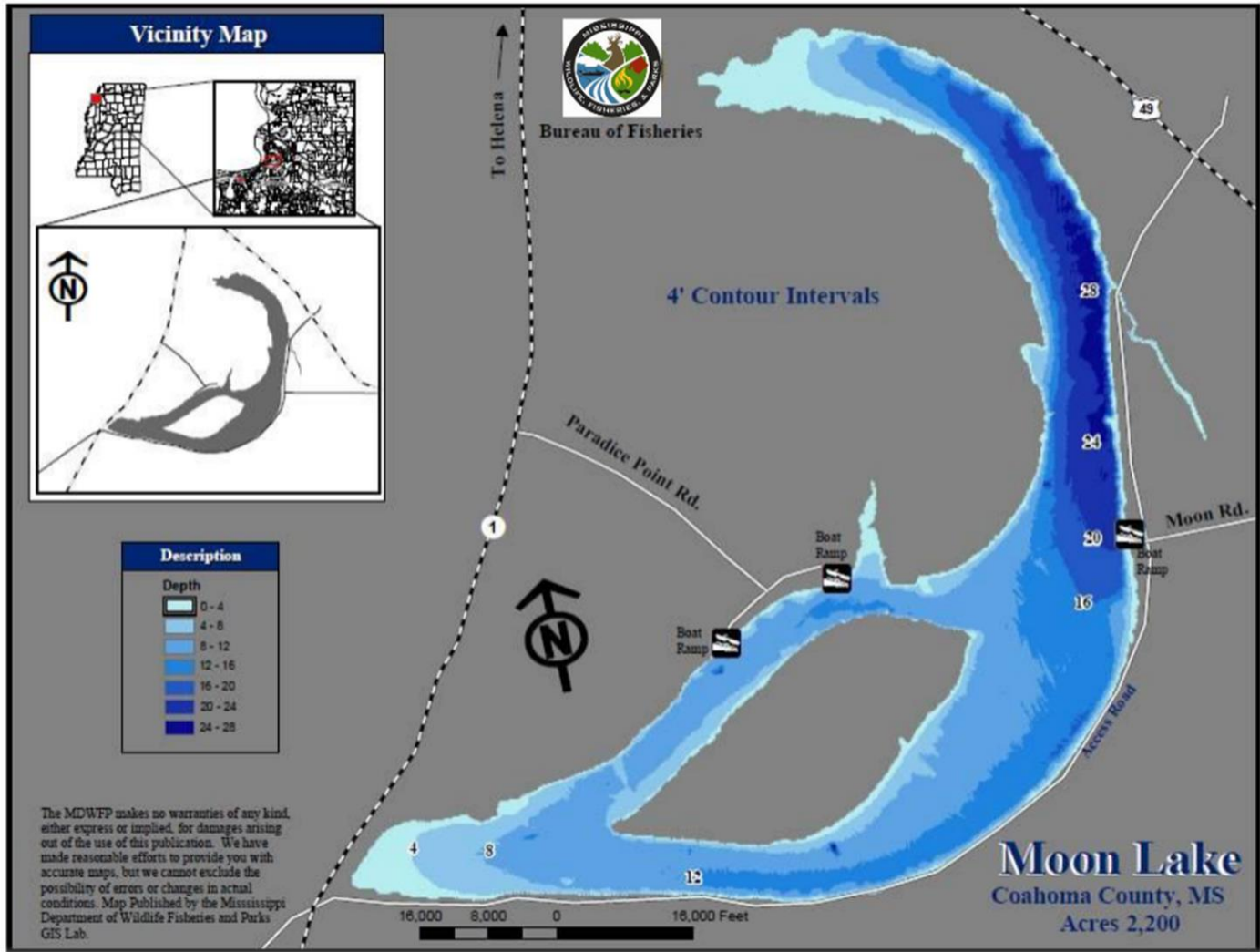
Below: Crappie length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2023 electrofishing survey. Crappie averaged almost 9 inches in length. The largest crappie collected measured 15 inches in length.



Below: Bluegill length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2023 electrofishing survey. The average length was just above three inches, while the largest Bluegill collected was just over five inches in length.



Below: Depth map of Moon Lake.



Left: Crappie are the most sought-after fish species by anglers fishing at Moon Lake.