



# Lake Beulah 2017

## REEL FACTS

Nathan Aycock – Fisheries Biologist

[NathanA@mdwfp.state.ms.us](mailto:NathanA@mdwfp.state.ms.us) (662) 759-6444

**General Information:** Lake Beulah is an oxbow lake of the Mississippi River in Bolivar County. The lake is periodically connected to the Mississippi River when the river is high enough. The lake is approximately 1,000 acres in size, though size will change with the fluctuating water levels of the Mississippi River. The lake is surrounded primarily by bottomland hardwood forests.

**Location:** Inside the mainline Mississippi River levee in Bolivar County about 5 miles south of Rosedale, MS.

**Fishery Management:** Crappie, Largemouth bass, bream, and catfish

**Purchase a Fishing License:** <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx>

### Amenities

- 1 Public Ramps

### Regulations

- 30 crappie per day.
- 10 Largemouth bass per day.
- 100 bream per day.

### Fun Facts

- The lake was formed in 1863 when the Napoleon cutoff was constructed to keep confederate soldiers from firing on union ships coming down the Mississippi River. This cutoff changed the course of the river and the old river bed slowly began to fill in and became known as Lake Beulah.
- The MS river starts to enter the lake when the water level reaches close to 24 feet on the Arkansas City gauge.
- The lake forms part of the state line between Mississippi and Arkansas even though the entire lake is east of the Mississippi River, as the state lines were drawn when the lake was still a meander of the river.

### Sportfishing Tips

#### Crappie

- During winter months try trolling through the two deep holes on the western side. In the spring target structure and piers along the banks with minnows or jigs.

#### Black Bass

- Target piers and structures along the eastern shoreline. Crankbaits and spinner baits are always a good choice of bait.

#### Bream

- Use crickets or red worms around the fishing piers, especially from early summer through the fall.

#### Catfish

- Target shallow mudflats near the deep holes and around the chute to the river. Use nightcrawlers, chicken liver, and stinkbait for bait.

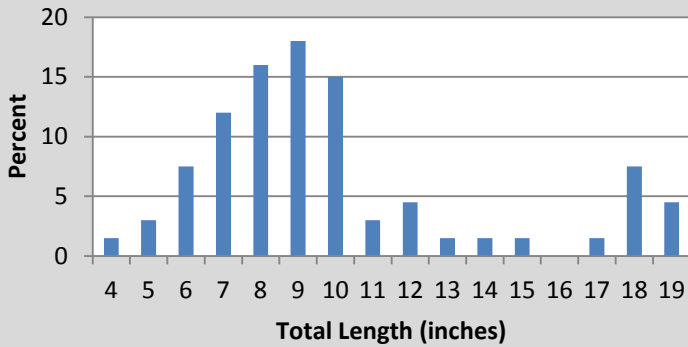
**Below:** Complete results from the 2015 electrofishing survey from Lake Beulah. Lake Beulah is sampled in the fall every 1-2 years. Bluegill made up the largest percent of catch of all sport fish at 34%, followed by Largemouth Bass at 20%. Catch rates for bass and bream increased in 2015 while crappie catch rates decreased. Crappie weights and bass weights were slightly lower than previous electrofishing surveys.

Species	# of fish sampled	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate-Adult Fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	112	33.7	5.4	8.9	0.3	46.4
Largemouth Bass	66	19.9	10.5	19.9	1.2	20.5
White bass	26	7.8	9.2	14.8	0.5	11.9
Longear Sunfish	25	7.5	4.6	5.7	0.1	11.3
Common Carp	17	5.1	20.0	28.7		7.2
Crappie	15	4.4	9.2	12.0	0.7	6.1
Channel Catfish	14	4.2	18.9	21.7	2.7	6.4
Warmouth	12	3.6	8.8	12.5	0.5	4.9
Freshwater Drum	12	3.6	8.4	21.4		1.8
Smallmouth Buffalo	9	2.7	17.3	25.0		3.5
Spotted Gar	8	2.4	21.7	28.7		3.2
Bigmouth Buffalo	7	2.1	20.6	23.4		3.5
Orangespotted Sunfish	3	0.9	2.6	2.7		0.0
Bowfin	2	0.6	23.2	24.5		0.0
Silver Carp	2	0.6	30.7	32.7		0.0
Longnose Gar	1	0.3	49.4	49.4		0.4
Golden Shiner	1	0.3	5.6	5.6		0.0

**Right:** A picturesque view of Lake Beulah.



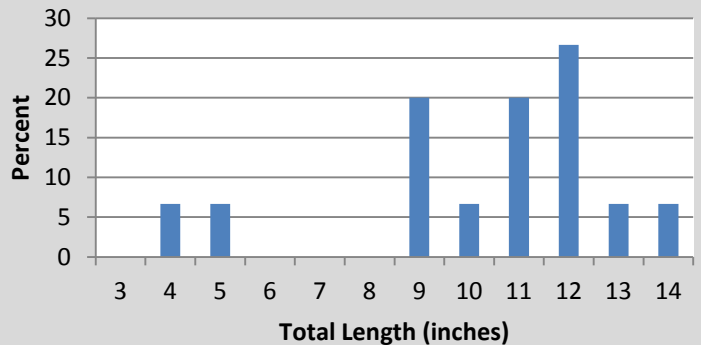
## Largemouth Bass



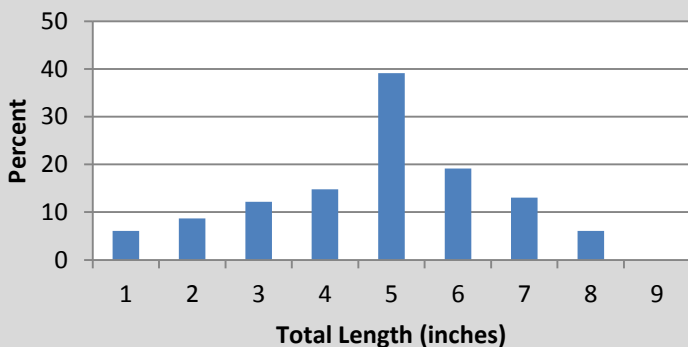
**Left:** Length distribution for largemouth bass from the 2015 electrofishing survey at Lake Beulah showing percentage of bass collected in each inch group. Younger fish between 7 and 10 inches increased in 2015 compared to 2013.

**Right:** Length distribution for crappie from the 2015 electrofishing survey at Lake Beulah showing percentage of crappie collected in each inch group. Results from 2015 changed very little from 2013.

## Crappie

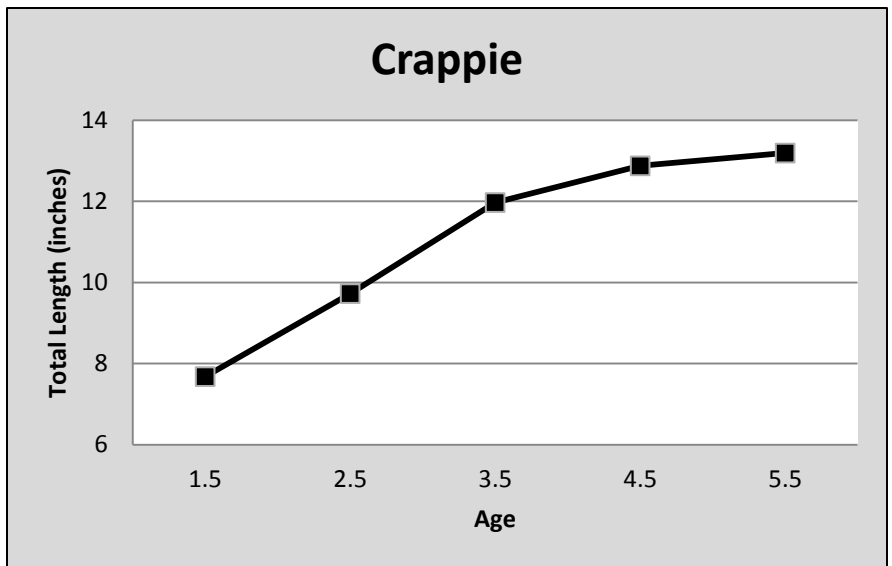


## Bream



**Left:** Length distribution for bream from the 2015 electrofishing survey at Lake Beulah showing percentage of bream collected in each inch group. The 2015 results changed very little from 2013, but a higher percentage of adult size fish in the 5 to 7 inch range were collected.

**Right:** Crappie growth rates from Lake Beulah. Crappie growth is fast with fish growing to 12 inches in 3.5 years.



**Below:** Depth map for Lake Beulah

