



Claude Bennett 2017

Reel Facts

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General Information: Lake Claude Bennett is a 71 acre lake located near Rose Hill. The lake was opened in 1961, and named for a former president of the University of Southern Mississippi who lived in Jasper County.

Location: Approximately 20 miles East of Bay Springs off Hwy 18.

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

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

Amenities

- Boat ramp
- Fishing piers
- Bank fishing
- 31 campsites
- 4 cabins

Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- 30 Largemouth Bass (LMB) per day. Anglers are encouraged to keep their limit of LMB.
- 100 bream per day.
- 10 catfish per day.

Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel fishing only. No trot lines, limb lines, set hooks, jugs or yo-yo's are allowed.
- Carp, gar, buffalo and Bowfin may be taken by use of bow and arrow at night.

Permits

- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Camping is on a first-come first-serve basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.
- Cabins rented by reservation only.

Sport fishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target shoreline areas that contain brush piles with jigs or minnows in water depths of 4 – 6 ft. During the summer and fall fish tops or creek ledges in 12 - 16 ft. of water.

Largemouth Bass

- Fish submerged structure in coves and on points with soft plastic worms, spinner baits, or shallow diving crank baits.
- Use crickets or red worms in water 2 – 4 ft. in depth. Earthen piers and coves provide great opportunities.

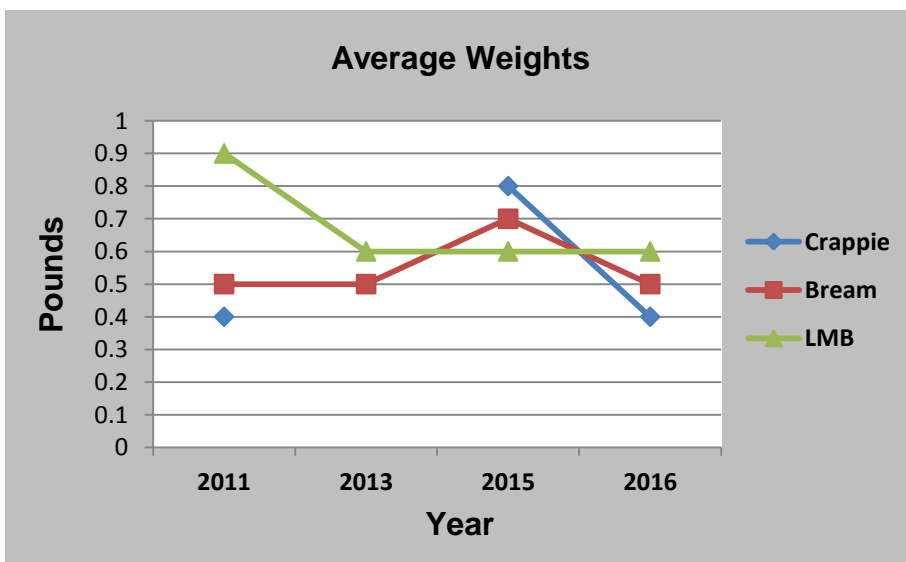
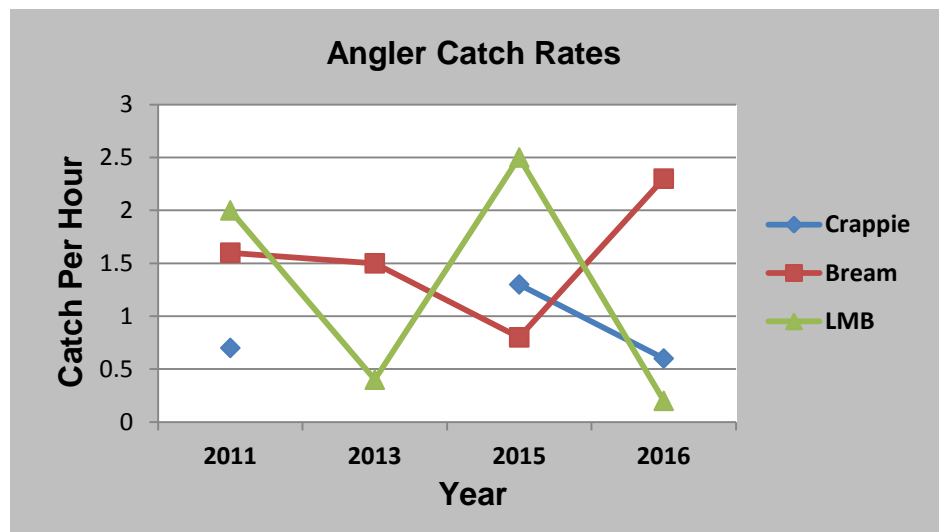
Catfish

- Use liver, wigglers or stink baits in 4 – 6 ft. of water with rod and reel.

Below: Lake Claude Bennett record fish. Record fish must be weighed and verified by the lake manager, lake supervisor, or fisheries biologist. Anglers who catch a lake record fish will receive a certificate acknowledging their catch. There is no minimum weight for any open lake record.

Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	14.75	Mike Boone	1997
Crappie	3.40	Paul Bryan	March 2015
Redear Sunfish	Open	-	-
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	Open	-	-

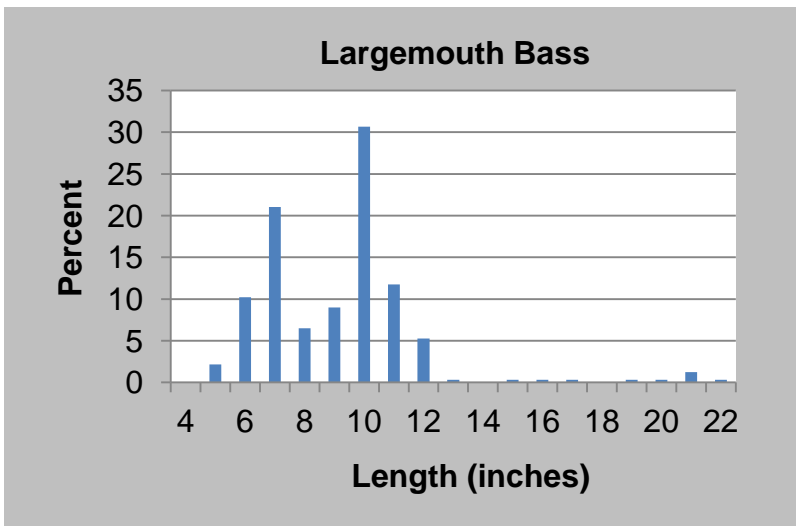
Right: Bream angler catch rates have increased since 2015 while Largemouth Bass and crappie angler catch rates have decreased.



Left: Average weights of angler harvested fish. Largemouth Bass weights have been low but consistent since 2013. Bream and crappie weights declined from the last year.

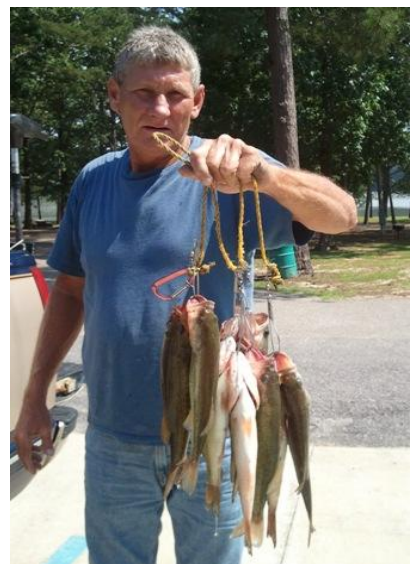
Below: Results from 2016 electrofishing. Sampling is conducted at Claude Bennett every two years in the fall. The fishery features numerous Largemouth Bass and low numbers of good size bream.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	37	10.2	8.14	9.49	0.5	20
Largemouth Bass	323	89.0	9.64	22.1	0.6	123
Redear Sunfish	3	0.8	10.1	11.5	0.8	2



Left: The length distribution of Largemouth Bass collected during fall electrofishing indicates the population has an overabundance of small bass. Although some larger fish do exist, the majority are less than 12 inches, therefore anglers are encouraged to keep the 30 fish limit on each visit.

Bald Eagles are an added aesthetic bonus when visiting Lake Claude Bennett.



Below: Depth map for Lake Claude Bennett

