



Natchez State Park Lake 2017 REEL FACTS

Dustin Rodgers – Fisheries Biologist
dustinr@mdwfp.state.ms.us

General Information: Natchez State Park Lake is a 230 acre park lake producing quality bass, crappie, bream, and catfish every year. The lake also holds the state record Largemouth Bass (18.15 lbs.), which was caught in 1992.

Location: Approximately 10 miles north of Natchez off State Park Rd.

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

Lake Depth Map: http://www.mdwfp.com/media/128191/natchez_web_map_2015.pdf

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

Amenities

- 1 boat ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 50 camping pads with water/electric hookups, 10 cabins, and 8 tent sites
- 9 hole disc golf course, 6 picnic sites, playground, pavilion, and nature trail

Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 18 - 22 inches in length must be released, 7 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 22 inches in length

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramp.
- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Skiing is allowed within ski area. Lake is designated as No Wake in all other areas.

Forage Species

- Gizzard Shad
- Threadfin Shad
- Golden Shiners
- Crawfish

Fishing Tips

Bream

- Try crickets, red wigglers, and wax worms in shallow areas along the dam and around the cabins.

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs of main lake points and creek channels.

Crappie

- Fish standing timber and brush around the main lake creek channels. Vertical jigging is popular with jigs and minnows.

Largemouth Bass

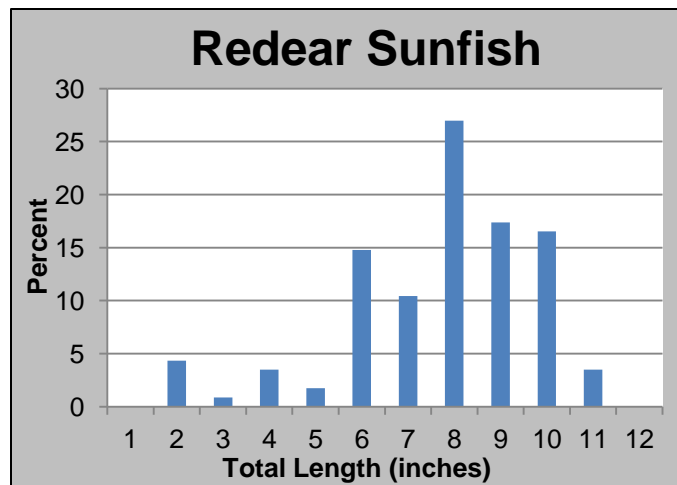
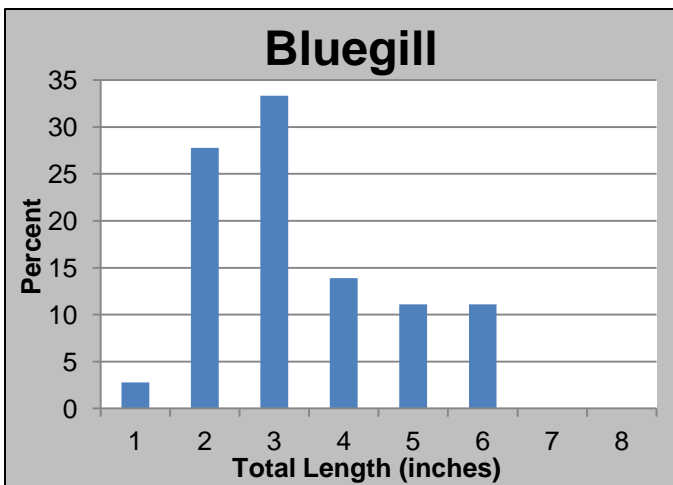
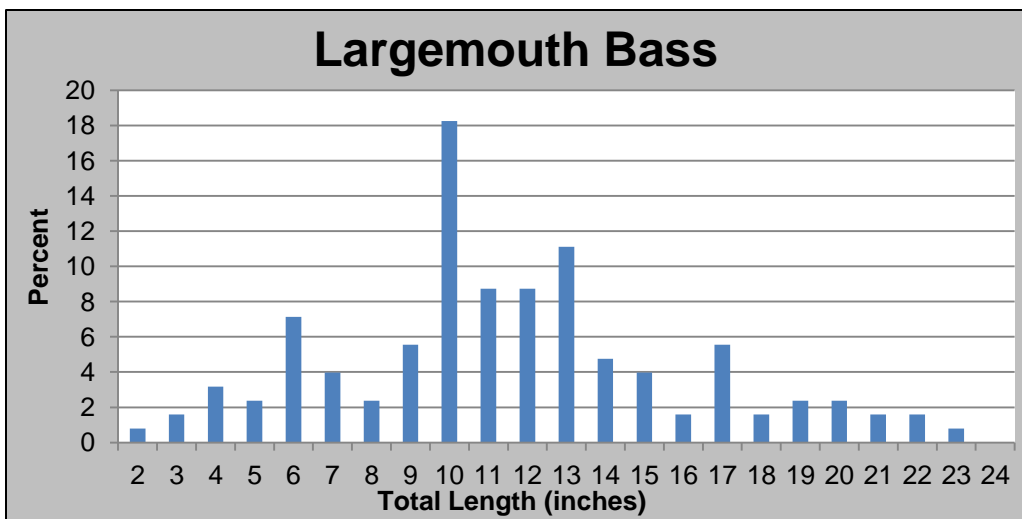
- Target brush piles and ledges with junebug or watermelon red colored soft plastics. Topwater baits and crankbaits can also be good around main lake points and drains. Jigging spoons are good in the winter.

Below: Results from the 2015 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Natchez State Park.

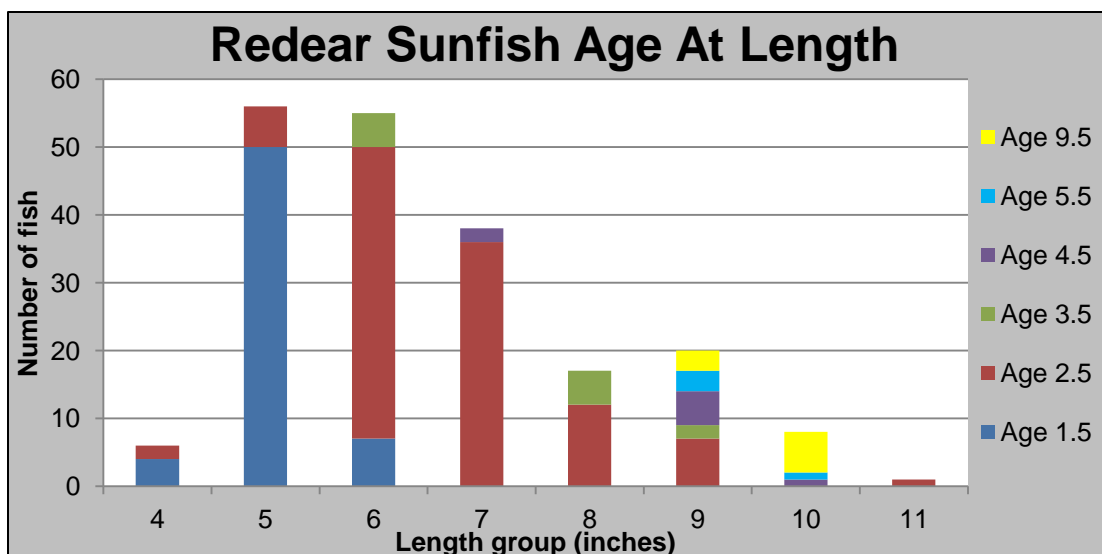
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	126	33.4	12.0	23.6	1.3	41.1
Redear Sunfish	115	30.4	8.2	11.1	0.4	43.9
Gizzard Shad	44	11.6	12.4	14.2	-	17.7
Bluegill	36	9.5	3.9	6.4	0.1	10.1
Longear Sunfish	35	9.3	4.2	5.5	0.1	13.7
Threadfin Shad	9	2.4	3.8	3.9	-	-
Channel Catfish	4	1.0	18.0	18.9	1.8	1.6
Green Sunfish	4	1.0	4.4	6.6	0.1	1.2
Black Crappie	2	0.5	12.3	12.6	1.1	0.8
Warmouth	2	0.5	2.9	3.7	-	0.4
Black Bullhead	1	0.3	3.6	3.6	-	-



Above: Natchez State Park consistently produces trophy Largemouth Bass and Redear Sunfish.

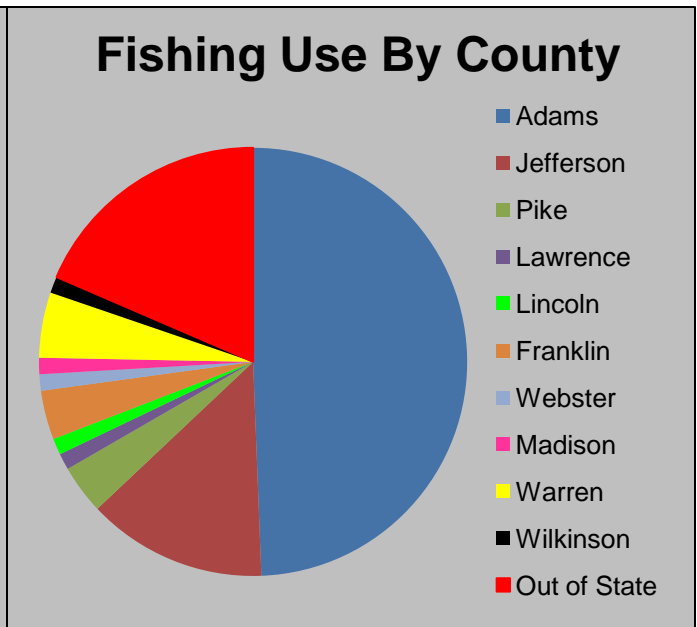
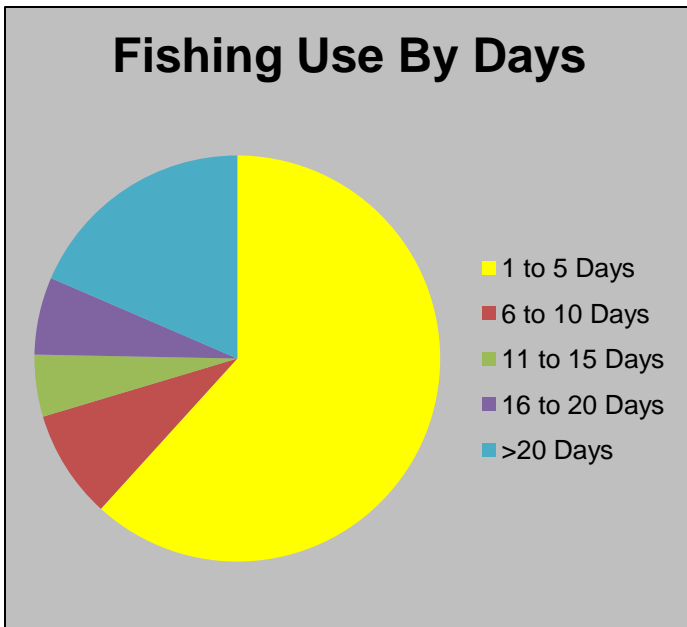
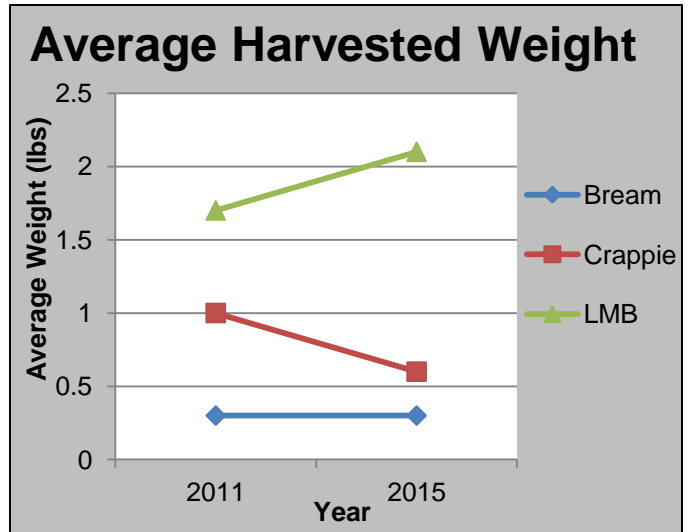
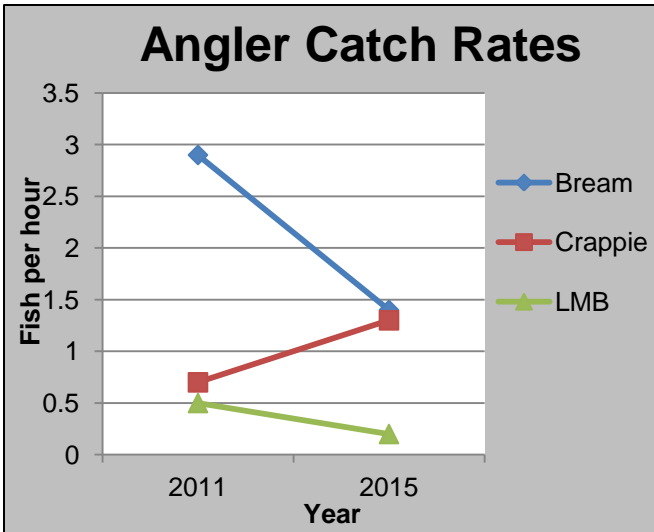


Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish collected during 2015 fall electrofishing.



Above: Age at length for Redear Sunfish collected during 2015 fall lead net sampling. The majority of redear collected were 1.5 and 2.5 years old ranging between 4 and 11 inches in length. The oldest fish aged were 9.5 years old. Growth rates varied greatly, as would be expected with bream.

Below: Angler catch rates and average harvested weight for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, and crappie at Natchez State Park, based on spring creel surveys in 2011 and 2015. Catch rates have decreased for bass and bream. Crappie catch rates have increased. The average weight of bass increased, while crappie weight decreased. Bream weights have remained constant. Based on these trends, anglers are catching fewer but larger bass, compared to more but smaller crappie.



Above: Based on 2015 spring creel data at Natchez State Park, the majority of anglers interviewed fished there either less than 5 times or more than 20 times per year. The majority of anglers were from Adams County, Jefferson County, or out of state.