



Lake Washington 2017

REEL FACTS

Nathan Aycock – Fisheries Biologist

NathanA@mdwfp.state.ms.us (662) 759-6444

General Information: Lake Washington is a 3,000 acre oxbow lake of the Mississippi River. It is one of Mississippi's largest natural lakes, with scenic cypress forests in both ends and most of the western shore, and supports an excellent fishery for crappie, bream, and catfish.

Location: Off of Highway 1 in Washington County about 20 miles south of Greenville and near the towns of Glen Allen and Chatham.

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

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

Amenities

- 1 MDWFP ramp
- 5 other public ramps
- Fishing piers
- Fish cleaning stations
- Cabins, bait shops, and restaurants available along lake

Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day, must be at least 11 in. long, except 5 crappie under 11 in. may be harvested.
- 5 Largemouth Bass per day, must be at least 15 in. long, except 2 bass under 5 in. may be harvested.
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.
- Regulations also apply to the outlet channel downstream to the weir at Paul Love Park

Regulations

Limblines

- Fishing with limblines and set hooks is prohibited at Lake Washington.

Yo-Yo's and Jugs

- No more than 25 jugs and/or 25 yo-yos may be fished per person.
- Each jug or yo-yo must be tagged or marked with angler's name and address.
- Jugs must be attended during daylight hours, and yo-yos must be attended at all times. For yo-yos, attended means devices (whether set, baited, or tripped) must remain in sight of the angler. However, yo-yos may be unattended (tripped, with hook out of the water) from of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sportfishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target shoreline areas with jig or minnows, especially near cypress knees. In the summer and winter, troll through deeper, open water areas.

Largemouth Bass

- Target submerged structure such as the piers along the eastern shoreline or the cypress forests in the northwest and southwest portions of the lake.

Bream

- Use crickets or red worms in water 2 – 4 feet in depth, especially from early summer through the fall.

Catfish

- Use rod and reel, jugs, yo-yos, or trotlines baited with live bait in water less than 5 feet deep.

2015 Electrofishing Summary

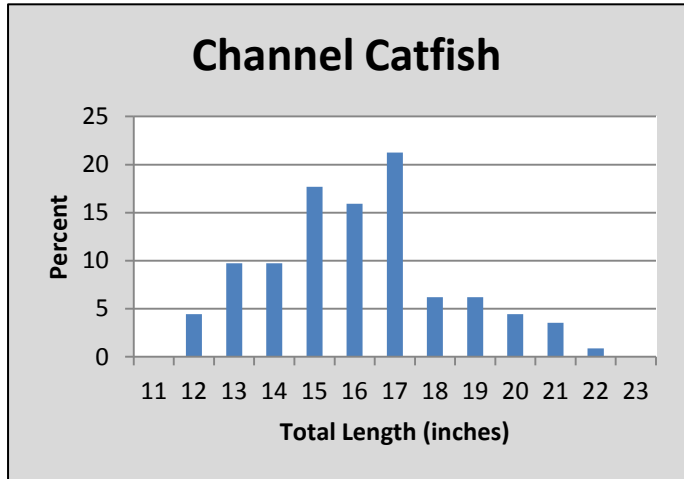
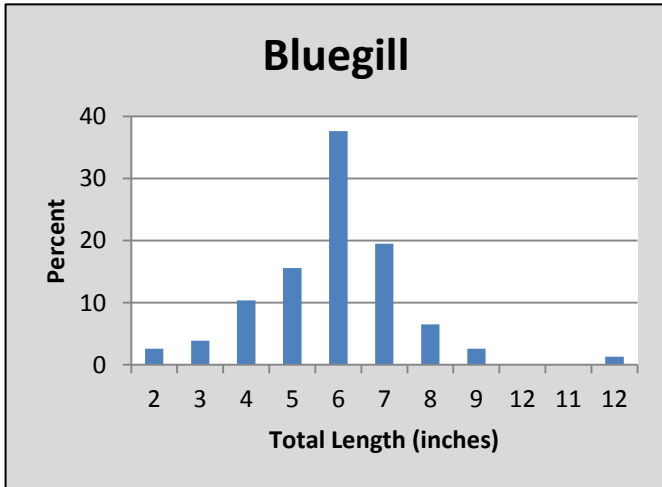
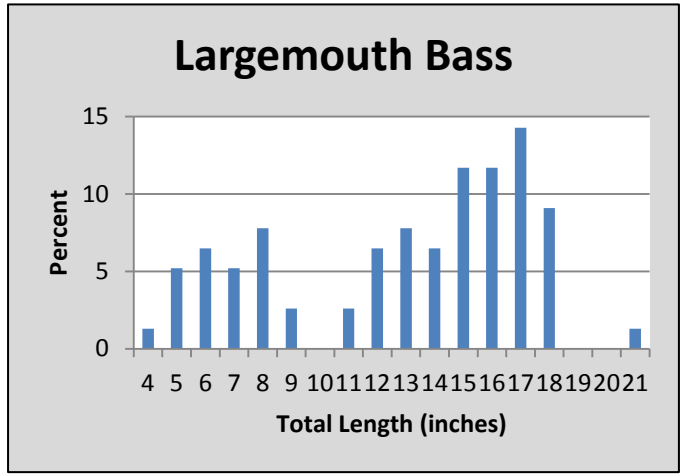
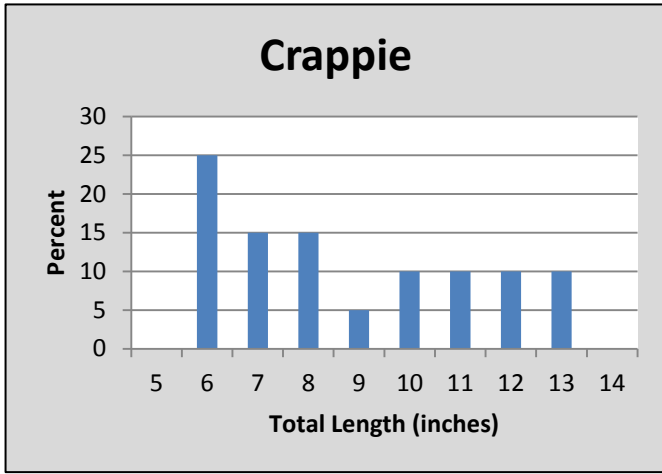
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Channel catfish	113	19.7	16.6	22.2	1.8	34
Yellow bass	99	17.2	4.8	8.3	0.3	17
Bluegill	88	15.3	6.3	12.7	0.3	26
Largemouth bass	77	13.4	13.3	21.2	2.3	18
Longear sunfish	72	12.5	5.4	6.5	0.2	20
Spotted gar	27	4.7	23.7	30.3		7
Freshwater drum	21	3.7	12.4	14.6		5
Warmouth	17	3.0	5.7	8.1	0.3	5
Green sunfish	14	2.4	5.2	7.7	0.2	3
Black crappie	14	2.4	8.7	12.8	0.6	4
Smallmouth buffalo	13	2.3	17.4	23.6		4
Common carp	8	1.4	21.3	23.7		2
White crappie	6	1.0	10.7	13.9	0.8	2
Bowfin	3	0.5	24.6	26.4		1
Golden shiner	1	0.2	5.6	5.6		1
Black bullhead	1	0.2	6.7	6.7		1
Yellow bullhead	1	0.2	11.6	11.6		1

Above: Results from the 2015 electrofishing survey on Lake Washington. This lake is sampled by electrofishing every 1 to 2 years during the fall. Catch rates for bass increased since the previous survey. Catch rates of catfish was the highest of all Delta oxbows sampled in 2015. Fish condition was high for all game fish species, indicating healthy, fast growing fish.

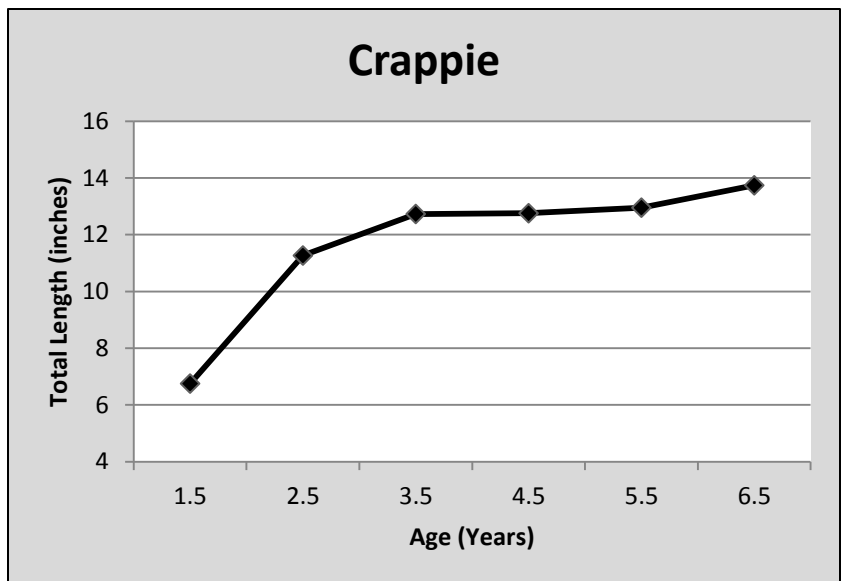
Right: Lake Washington was recently ranked as the #2 trophy crappie lake in the country based on a survey of professional crappie anglers conducted by wired2fish.com



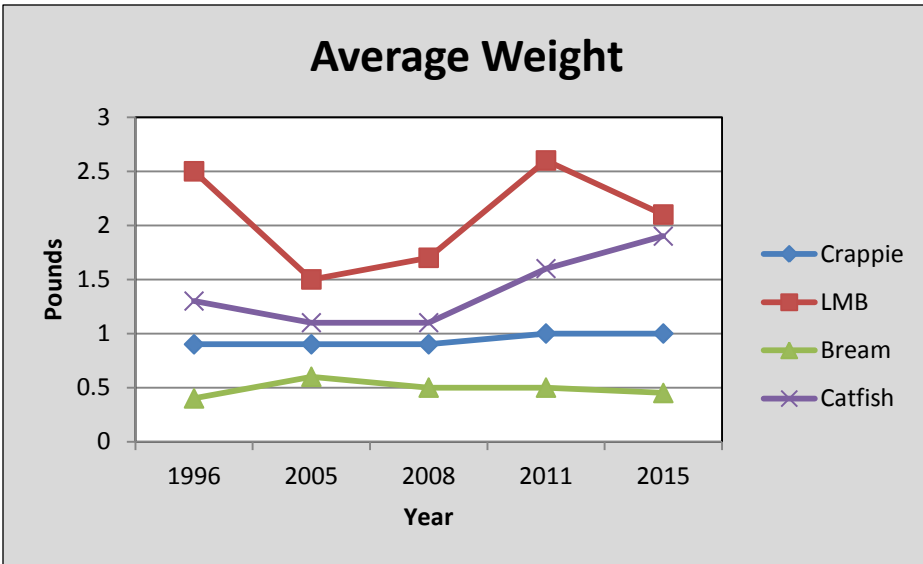
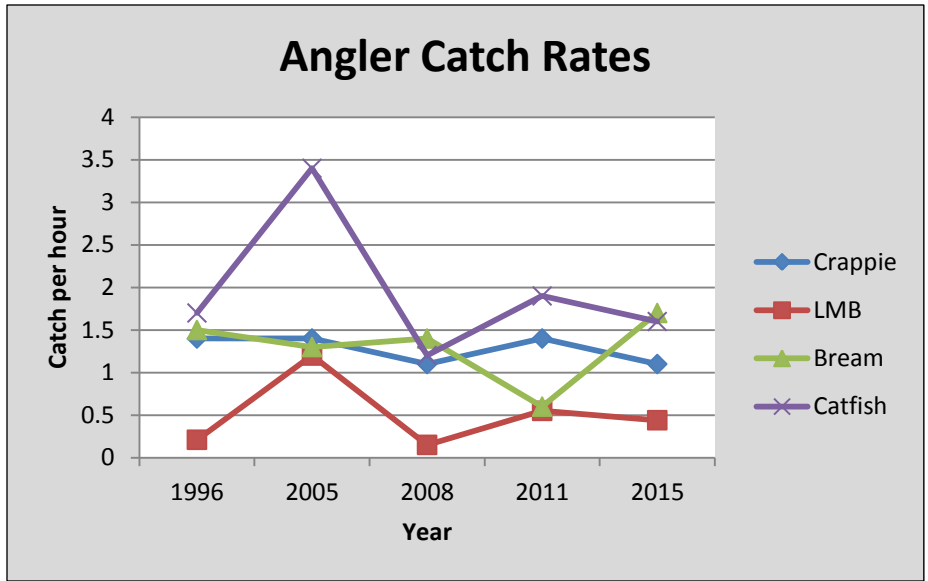
Below: Length distributions for sport fish and catfish from the 2015 electrofishing survey at Lake Washington. These figures indicate a wide size distribution of each species, high numbers of catchable sized fish, and successful sport fish reproduction, all of which are signs of a healthy fish population.



Right: Growth rates for crappie at Lake Washington. Crappie growth rates are above average compared to other lakes in Mississippi.



Below and Right: Results from angler creel surveys indicate relatively steady catch rates for all species. In 2015, average weights for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish were above average compared to other Mississippi lakes.



Below: Lake Washington contains expansive cypress forests throughout much of its northern, southern, and western shoreline. These areas provide abundant fish habitat, are excellent nursery areas for juvenile fish, and provide unique and beautiful fishing and boating opportunities.



Below: Depth map for Lake Washington.

