



Kemper County Lake 2017

Reel Facts

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General Information: Kemper Lake is a 596 acre impoundment nestled in the hardwood hills of Kemper County. Built in 1984, it is the second largest state lake. It has an abundant fish population with exceptional bream and crappie.

Location: Just off of Highway 397 North, five miles from DeKalb and 30 miles from Meridian and Philadelphia.

Fishery Management: black bass, crappie, bream, and catfish.

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

Amenities

- 2 boat ramps
- Fishing piers
- Fish cleaning station
- 47 full hookup campsites and primitive camping area.
- Picnic pavilion

Creel Limits

- 30 Crappie per person per day with no length limit.
- 10 Black bass per person per day with no length limit.
- 100 Bream per person per day.
- 10 Catfish per person per day.

Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel only
No trot lines, throw lines, jugs, FFFD's, yo-yos, set hooks, or limb lines allowed.
- Carp, gar, buffalo and Bowfin may be taken by use of bow and arrow at night.
- Skiing is allowed daily from noon to sunset in designated areas.

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 served basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

Sport fishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target areas with brush in 4-8 ft of water using road runners or beetle spins. In the summer and fall try jigs or minnows on deep water structure and along creek ledges.

Bass

- Target lily pads with top water baits or submerged structure and deeper points with jerk baits or finesse worms.

Bream

- Use crickets or red worms in shallow areas from early spring to late summer.

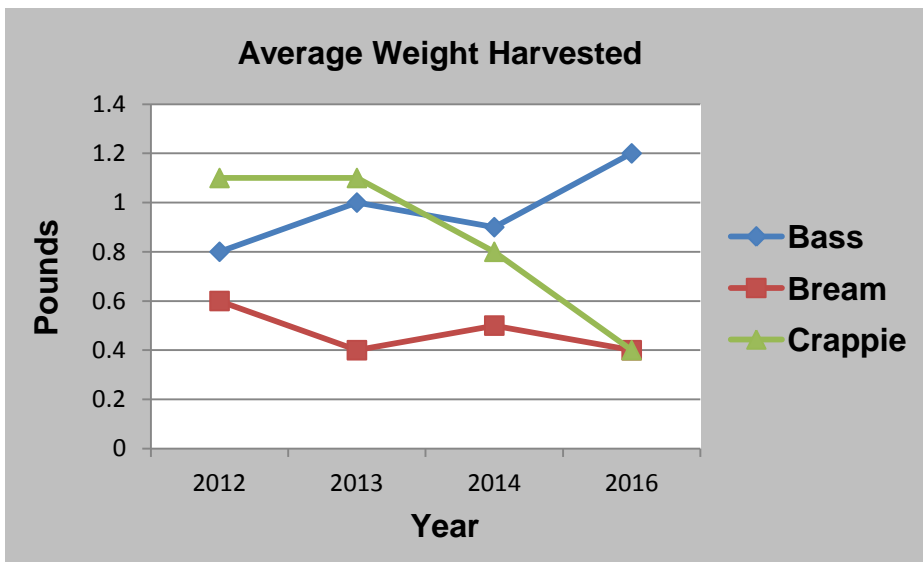
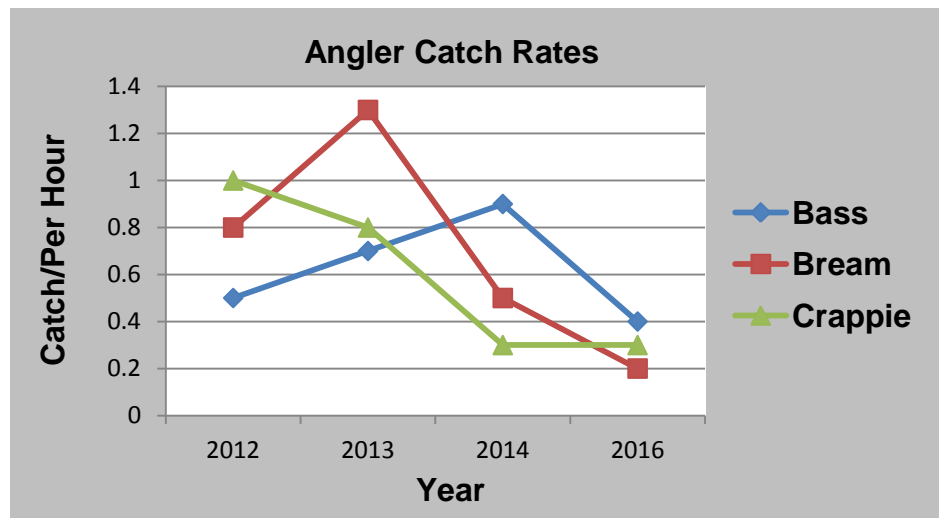
Catfish

- Use liver, worms or stink bait in 4-6 ft of water.

Below: Kemper County Lake 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.

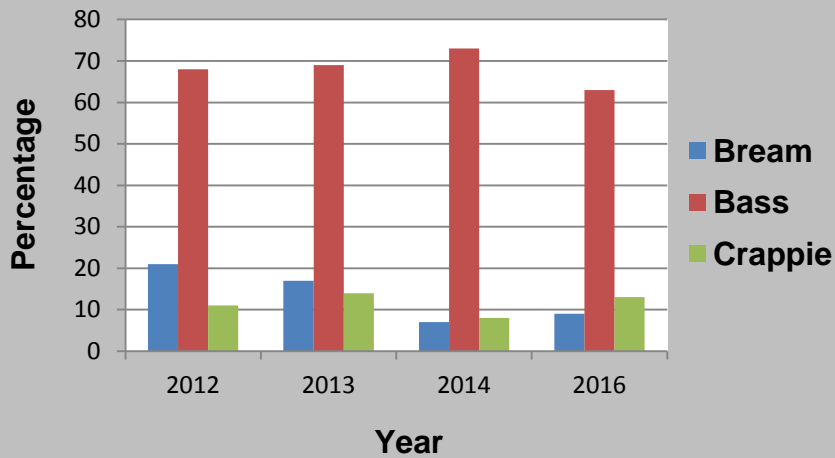
Fish Species	Weight	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	Open	-	-
Crappie	Open	-	-
Redear Sunfish	Open	-	-
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	Open	-	-

Right: Angler catch rates. All species are showing a decline. Bream have taken the biggest plunge but electrofishing results show numerous quality size bluegill and redear in the population.



Left: Average weights of angler harvested fish. Black bass weights have increased since 2014 but the majority of the population remains small. Anglers are encouraged to harvest the 10 fish limit. Crappie have shown a decline; limited angler participation may be a contributing factor. Kemper continues to have a quality crappie population.

Targeted Species



Left: Fish targeted by anglers from spring creel surveys. Black bass are the most popular fish but anglers also target bream and crappie. Kemper has a large Spotted Bass population which offers sportsmen some variety. Data were not available for 2015.

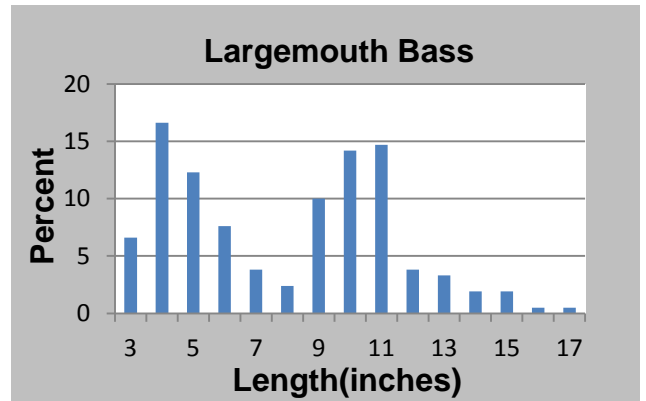
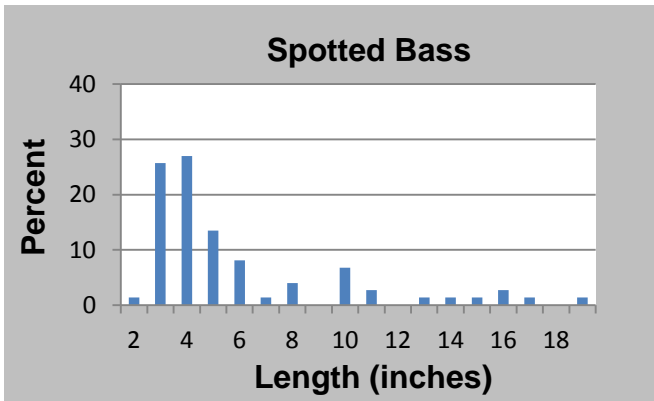
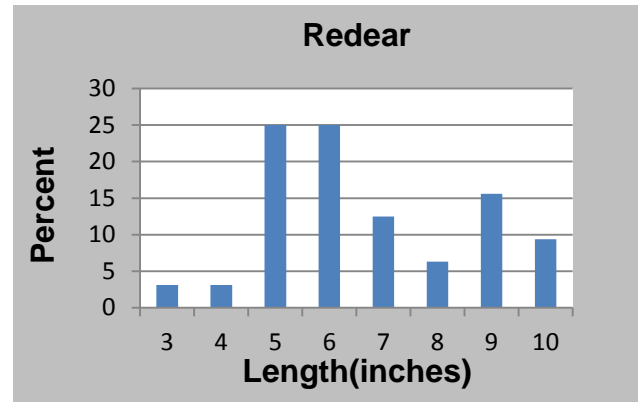
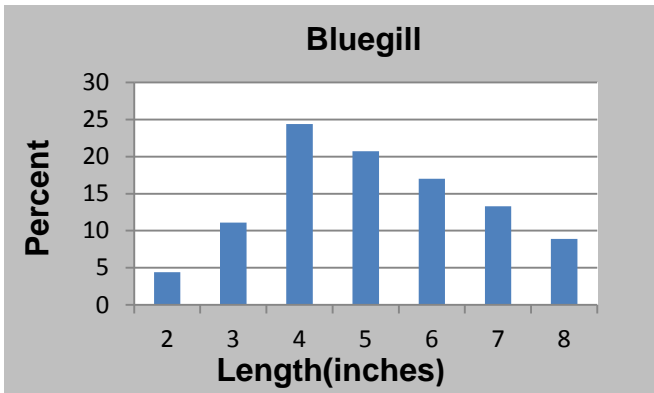
Below: Results from the 2016 electrofishing survey. This sampling is conducted every two years in the fall and provides biologists with sport fish population metrics which are monitored over time.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	135	29.5	5.6	8.7	0.2	23.1
Redear Sunfish	32	7.0	7.2	10.5	0.3	5.6
Largemouth Bass	211	46.0	8.4	17.3	0.6	20.4
Spotted Bass	74	16.2	6.4	19.4	0.7	3.0
Chain Pickerel	6	1.3	13.8	15.0	0.5	1.0

Right: Habitat enhancement for sport fish. Brush cut from the bank is excellent fish habitat and provides anglers with multiple areas to target fish.



Below: Length distributions for sport fish from the 2016 electrofishing survey at Kemper Lake. These figures indicate a wide size distribution of each species. All fish populations are healthy and there are high numbers of harvestable sized Bluegill and Redear Sunfish. Successful spawns were observed in the Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass populations. Anglers are encouraged to harvest a 10 fish limit of any sized bass.



Below: Kemper County Lake is home to the Bald Eagle.



Right: Kemper County Lake has an abundant crappie population. Black Crappie generally average around 1 lb each. The clear water makes crappie fishing a challenge but the benefits are worth the effort.



Below: Kemper County Lake depth map showing recently added fish structures.

