



Lake Tom Bailey 2018

Reel Facts

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General Information: Tom Bailey is a 182 acre lake that was originally built and opened to the public in the early 1960's. The lake was closed in 2000 for repairs and was reopened in 2005. This lake is recognized for its large bream and holds the state record for Channel Catfish at 51 pounds and 12 ounces.

Location: Ten miles east of Meridian MS just off of Hwy 80 close to Toomsuba.

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

Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Amenities

- Boat ramp
- Fishing piers
- 22 Camping pads with water and electricity.

Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- 10 Largemouth Bass per day.
- 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.
- Skiing is allowed on Sunday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day noon to sunset.

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.

Sportfishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target brush piles in shallow shoreline areas with jigs or minnows in 2-4 ft. During the summer and fall fish tops or creek ledges in 8-10 ft of water.

Largemouth Bass

- Target submerged structure in coves and on points with soft plastic worms, spinner baits, or shallow diving crank baits.

Bream

- Use crickets or red worms in shallow water. Willow stumps should be holding bream from early spring until fall.

Catfish

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

Fish Species	Weight	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	Open	-	-
Crappie	Open	-	-
Redear Sunfish	Open	-	-
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	51.8 lbs.	Tom Edwards	5/31/1997

Above: Lake Tom Bailey 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.

Below and right: MDWFP biologists added 34 natural brush shelters in shallow and medium depths to provide anglers with additional fish attractors. Lake Tom Bailey contains numerous stumps from willow trees that grew up during the renovation which also provide quality habitat.

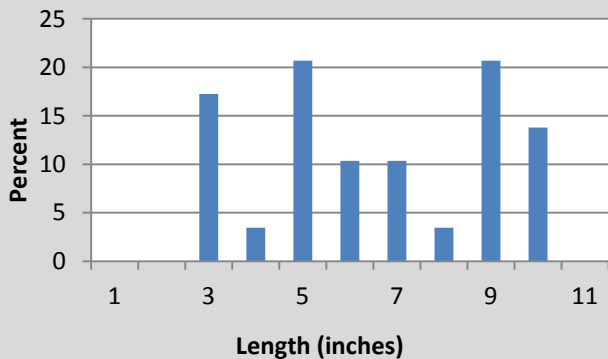


Below: Results from the 2017 electrofishing survey. This sampling is conducted every two years in the fall and provides biologists with sport fish population metrics which are monitored over time.

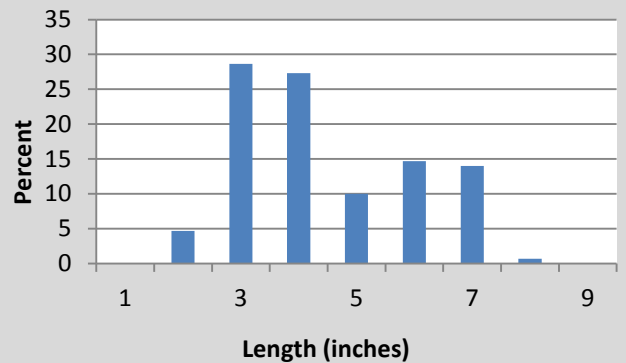
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	38	8	10.4	13.6	0.4	20
Golden Shiner	19	4	3.4	3.9	-	10
Weed Shiner	61	13	2.0	2.4	-	33
Bluegill	150	31	5.0	8.1	0.1	81
Redear Sunfish	29	6	7.1	10.9	0.3	16
Largemouth Bass	184	37	8.7	19.1	0.6	99
White Crappie	4	1	8.3	12.9	0.9	2

Below: Length distributions for game fish collected during the electrofishing survey. Results indicate healthy populations of all species with very large Bluegill and Redear Sunfish. Largemouth Bass are smaller in size but plentiful.

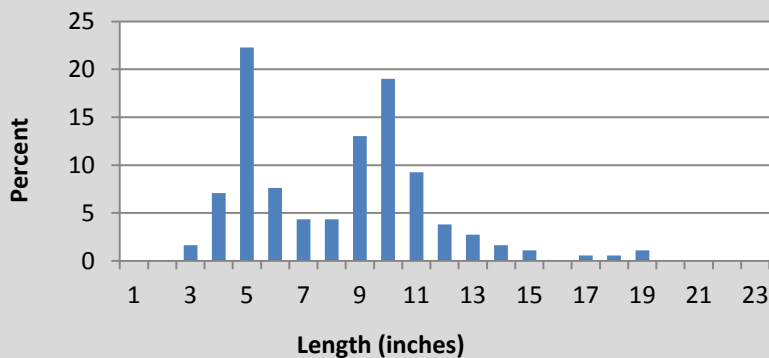
Redear Sunfish



Bluegill



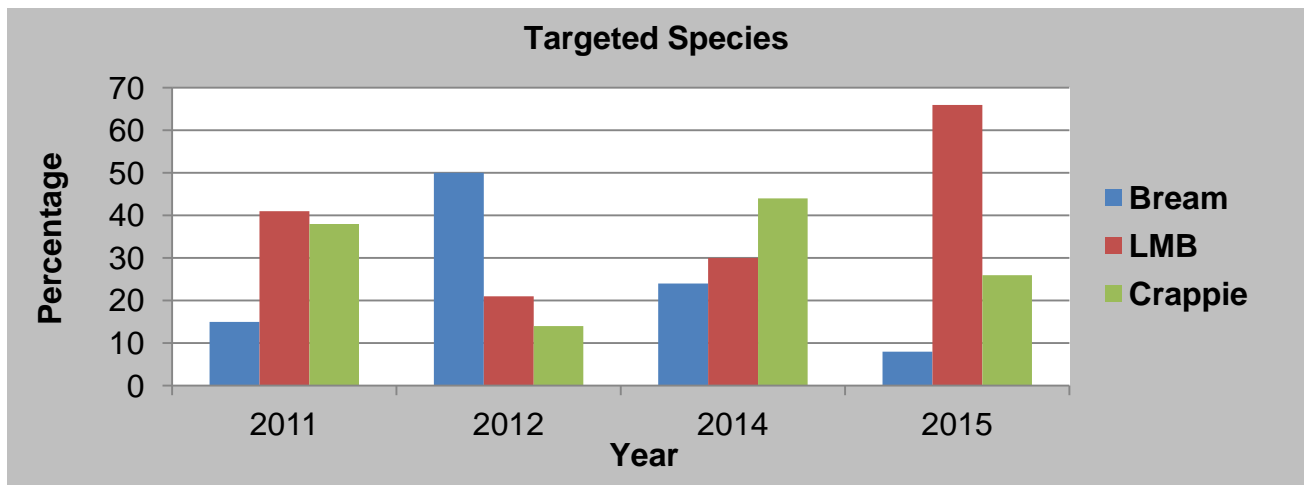
Largemouth Bass



Below: Lake Tom Bailey offers plenty of bank fishing access along with two fishing piers that are handicap accessible.



Below: Species most targeted by anglers at Lake Tom Bailey. The chart indicates a wide range of interest between species. More anglers preferred to fish for bream in 2012, but Largemouth Bass was the most sought after fish in 2015.



Left: Along with numerous quality Redear Sunfish, Tom Bailey offers Largemouth Bass anglers an opportunity to harvest a trophy fish. Numerous brush piles were added in early 2016 to enhance the existing fish populations and provide sportsmen specific areas to catch fish.

Below: Depth map for Tom Bailey

