



Chotard & Albemarle 2018

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Chotard and Albemarle are two oxbow lakes formed by the Mississippi River. These two lakes are 1,123 and 657 acres in size, respectively. Chotard remains connected to the Mississippi River by a narrow chute at the south end of the lake, and is accessible from the river when the water level is 13' or higher (Vicksburg gage).

Location: Approximately 25 miles north of Vicksburg off Hwy 465.

Fishery Management: Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish.

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

Amenities

- 1 public ramp at Laney's with parking lot
- One private ramp at Chotard Landing

Creel Limits

The following apply to both sides of the lake:

- Black bass: 10
- Crappie: 50
- Bream: No limit
- Catfish: No limit
- White Bass: No Limit

Regulations

Chotard and Albemarle are boundary waters with Louisiana and the following regulations apply to the Mississippi side of the lake.

Yo-Yo's and Jugs

- No more than 25 jugs and/or 25 yo-yos may be fished per person.

Handgrabbing

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.
- Only wooden containers may be placed in the lake.

Fishing Tips

Fishing is typically best when the river is on a slow fall.

Crappie

- Target shallow areas along the shoreline during spring with jigs or minnows.
- During fall and winter, target deeper areas.

Largemouth Bass

- The chute between Chotard and Albemarle, and the springs on the east shore of Albemarle are good places to fish for bass.
- Spinner baits and crank baits are popular choices.

Bream

- Try crickets or worms around shoreline brush.

Catfish

- Oxbows generally have excellent numbers of catfish. Use liver, worms, and cutbait.

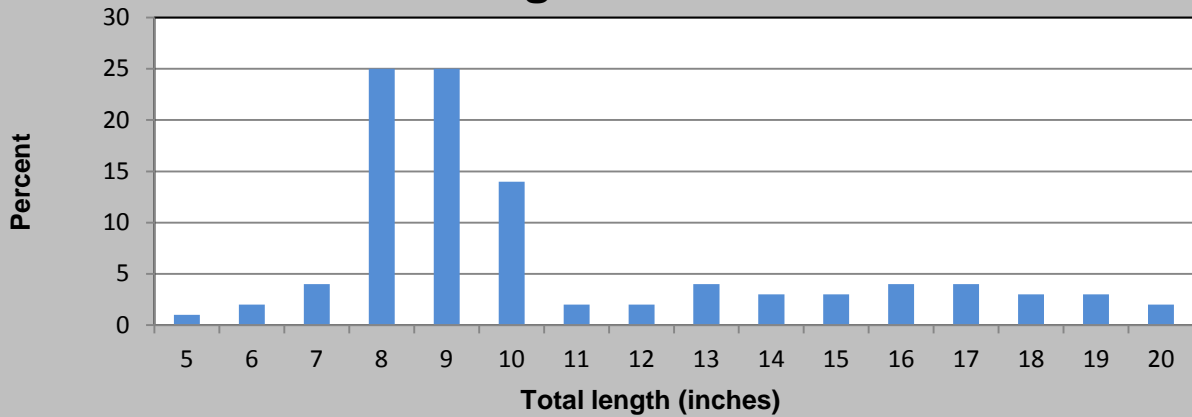
Below: Summary of fish collected during winter gill net sampling, January 2015. Length is reported as total length (TL), except paddlefish lengths which are reported as eye to fork length (EFL).

Species	Number Caught	% of Catch	Catch per net night	Mean Total Length (inches)	Minimum Total Length (inches)	Maximum Total Length (inches)
Bigmouth Buffalo	4	3	0.1	58.9	54.8	66.3
Smallmouth Buffalo	40	31	1.3	22.9	16.4	37.1
Blue Catfish	2	2	0.1	22.0	22.0	22.0
Channel Catfish	1	1	0	25.2		
Bowfin	2	2	0.1	30.5	30.2	30.7
Common Carp	38	30	1.2	24.4	18.9	31.6
Grass Carp	1	1	0	43.3		
Silver Carp	12	9	0.4	32.2	28.1	37.3
Freshwater Drum	4	3	0.1	14.8	10.9	22.9
Gizzard Shad	8	6	0.3	17.2	16.1	18.5
Paddlefish	8	6	0.3	51.9	47.9	56.3
River Carpsucker	8	6	0.3	15.9	21.7	19.4

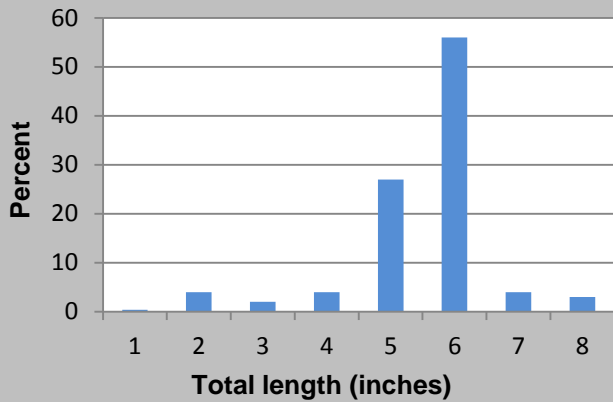
Right: This 327 pound state record Alligator Gar was caught by a commercial fisherman in Chotard Lake. It is now on display at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences.



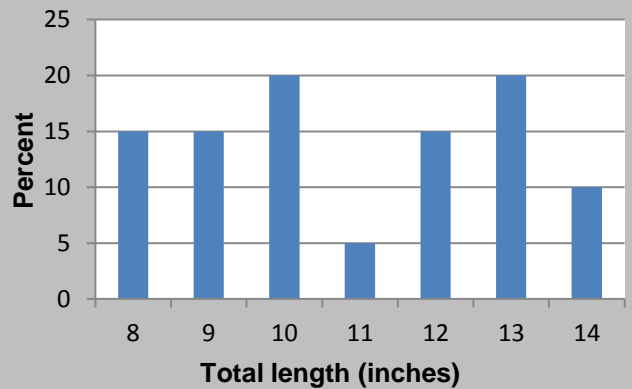
Largemouth Bass



Bluegill



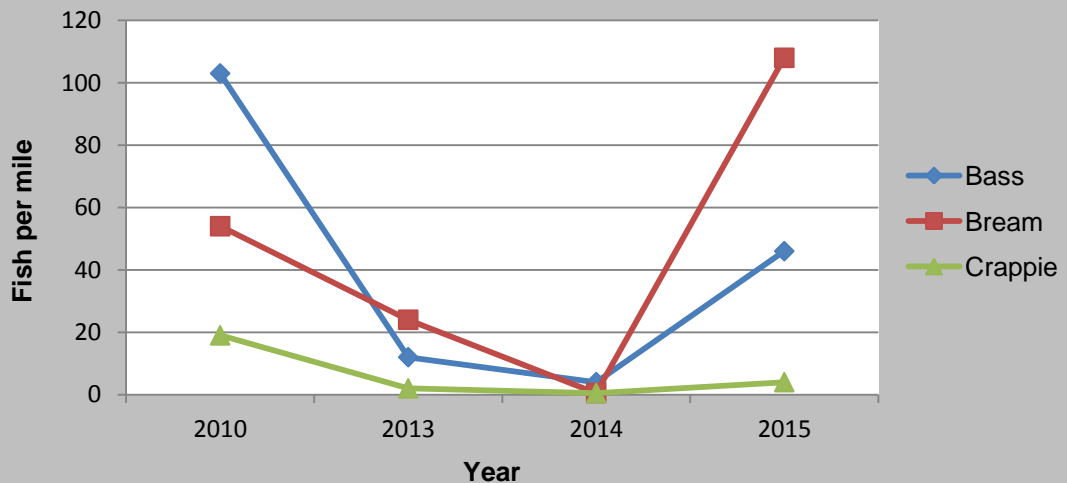
Crappie



Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill and crappie collected during 2015 fall electrofishing at Chotard.

Below: Numbers of bass, bream and crappie expressed as number per mile collected during 2015 fall electrofishing at Chotard and Albemarle. Sportfish numbers appear to be rebounding after the flood in 2011 and drought in 2012.

Electrofishing Catch Rates



Below: Asian Carp are abundant in these connected oxbows, and their impact on gamefish is uncertain.

