



# Lake Ferguson 2018

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Lake Ferguson is an oxbow located in Washington County. The Mississippi River stays connected to the lake year round and provides great fishing opportunities for many different species of fish. Size varies depending on water level, but normally the lake is around 1,400 acres.

**Location:** Lake Ferguson is located in Greenville, MS inside the MS River levee. Two public boat ramps can be found near the casinos.

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

**Purchase a Fishing License:** [https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting\\_fishing/](https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/)

### Amenities

- 2 Public boat ramps
- Several hotels
- Numerous restaurants
- Casinos
- Large parking area

### Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day
- 10 Largemouth bass per day
- 100 bream per day.

### Facts

- Lake Ferguson is 10 miles in total length.
- The MS River can be accessed from the south end of Lake Ferguson where you will also find several sand bars.
- Warfield Point Park is located just south of the lake and can be accessed near the chute of the MS River.
- Lake Ferguson was created in the 1930s when an S-shaped curve in the Mississippi River was straightened by the Corps of Engineers.
- Barge traffic is common from the River into the southern portion of the lake where industrial development is present.

### Sportfishing Tips

#### Black Bass

- Fish brush piles and submerged structure, as well as the rip rap along the eastern shore. Spinner baits and crankbaits are good bait choices.

#### Crappie

- In the spring target submerged trees on the western bank. In the fall try trolling in deep pockets of the lake. Using minnows and jigs is a good choice of bait.

#### Bream

- Target similar areas as spring crappie. Use crickets and worms for bait.

#### Catfish

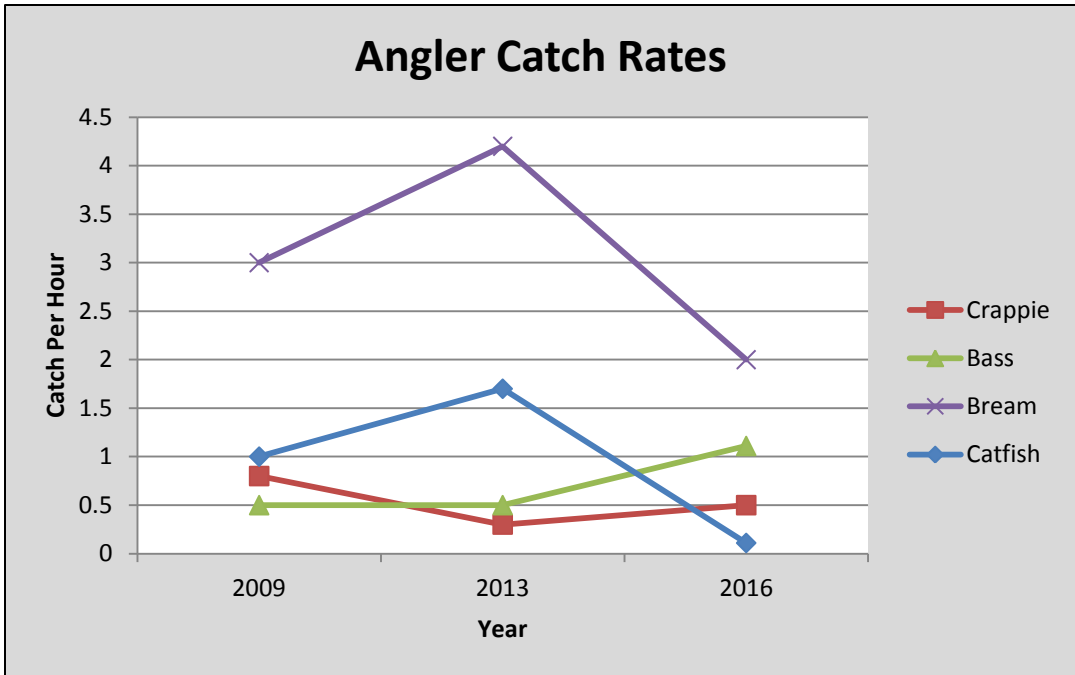
- Fish shallow mudflats around the western bank near the grain elevators using night crawlers, stink bait or chicken liver.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate- Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	77	34	5.3	7.2	0.2	28
Largemouth Bass	52	23	11.9	19.9	1.6	15
Bigmouth Buffalo	27	12	22.1	27.8	NA	9.9
Spotted Gar	21	9	22.1	31.6	NA	7.9
Longear Sunfish	21	9	4.6	5.6	NA	7.9
Common Carp	5	2	23.6	26.8	NA	1.9
Warmouth	5	2	6.5	7.6	0.3	1.9
Channel Catfish	4	2	20.8	23.5	3.6	1.5
Bowfin	3	1	24.1	25.0	NA	1.1
Smallmouth Buffalo	3	1	20.0	23.5	NA	1.1
Longnose Gar	1	0.4	40.6	40.6	NA	0.4
White Bass	1	0.4	6.7	6.7	NA	0.4
Green Sunfish	1	0.4	5.7	5.7	NA	0.4
Redear Sunfish	1	0.4	5.7	5.7	0.1	0.4
Black Crappie	1	0.4	5.1	5.1	NA	0.4
Striped Mullet	1	0.4	17.0	17.0	NA	0.4

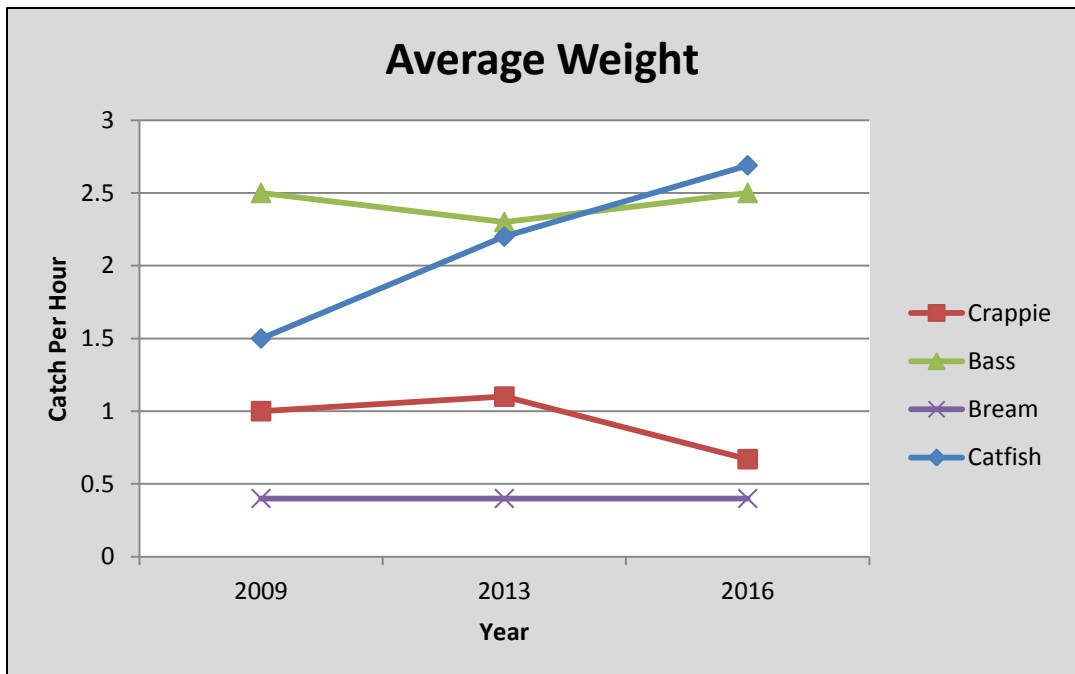
**Above:** Complete results from the 2017 electrofishing survey on Lake Ferguson. Lake Ferguson is sampled in the fall every 2-3 years. Catch rates for Largemouth Bass and bream decreased in 2017. Average weights for Largemouth Bass and bream did not change from previous electrofishing surveys. Bluegill had the highest percentage of total catch (34%).



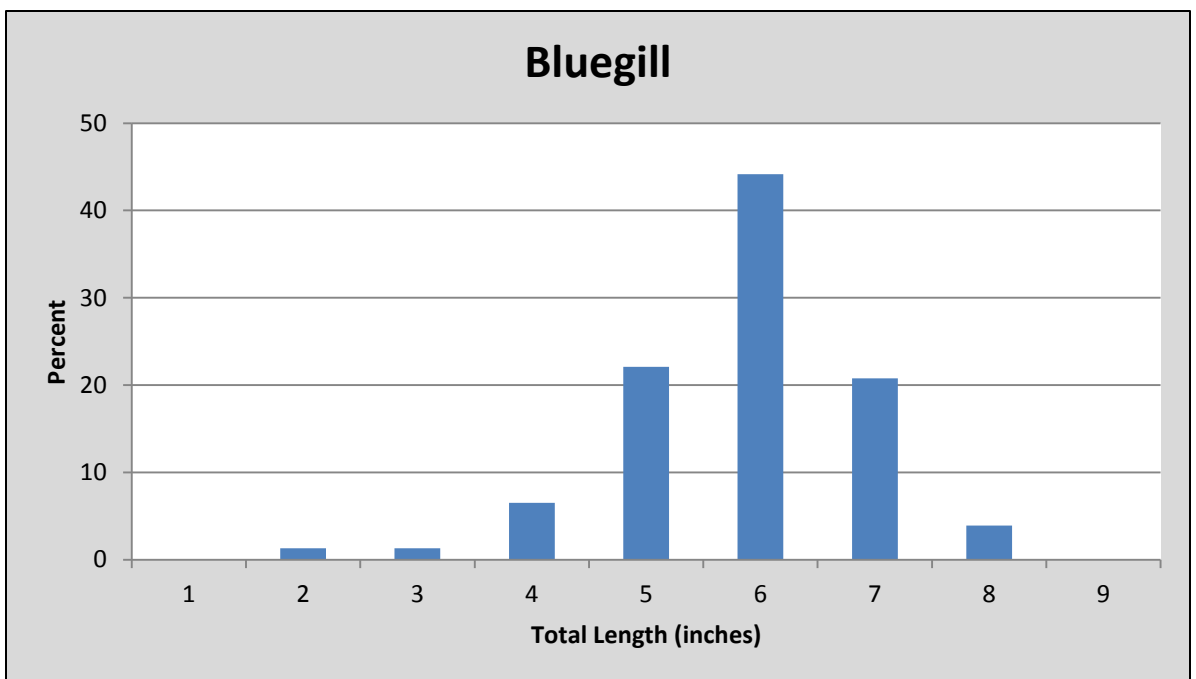
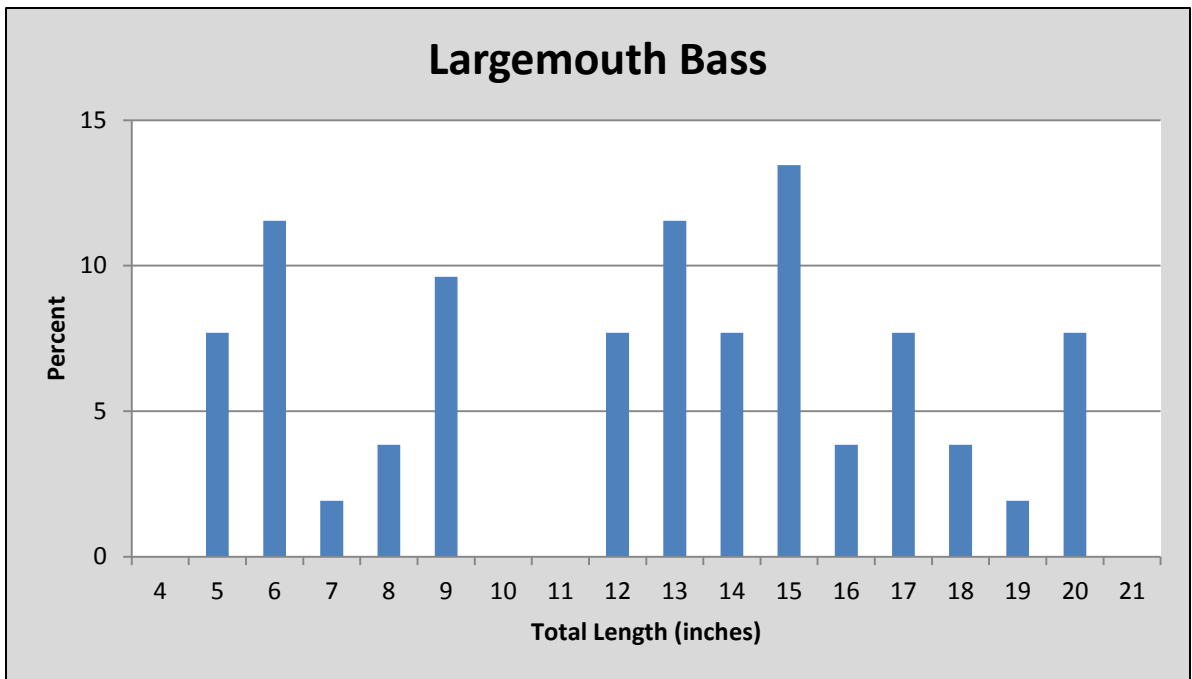
**Right:** A beautiful view from the levee front at Lake Ferguson



**Above and Below:** Results from angler creel surveys show a decrease in bream and catfish catch rates in 2016 and an increase in crappie and bass catch rates. 2016 creel surveys indicated an increase average weight of bass and catfish while crappie average weight decreased slightly and bream stayed the same.



**Below:** Length distributions for sport fish from the 2017 electrofishing survey at Lake Ferguson. These graphs show a wide size distribution of each species.



Below: Depth map for Lake Ferguson

