



Moon Lake 2018

REEL FACTS

Nathan Aycock - Fisheries Biologist

NathanA@mdwfp.state.ms.us (601) 432-2200

General Information: Moon Lake is a 2,300 acre oxbow lake of the Mississippi River. The primary inflow to the lake comes from Phillips Bayou at the northern tip of the lake. The main outflow is Yazoo Pass which connects the lake to the Coldwater River.

Location: Outside the mainline Mississippi River levee in Coahoma County about 15 miles north of Clarksdale.

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

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

Amenities

- 2 Public Ramps
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Pavilion

Regulations

- Minimum length limit for crappie is 10 inches.
- 30 crappie per day.
- 5 Largemouth Bass per day.
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.
- Commercial fishing is open from October 1 – February 28 and requires a special permit from MDWFP. Other regulations can be found at www.mdwfp.com

Fish Stockings

2017

White Crappie
48,000; 3 in.
Largemouth Bass
14,000; 2 in.
Bluegill
100,000; 1 in.

2016

Largemouth Bass
35,000; 2 in.
Bluegill
130,000; 2 in.

2015

Blue Catfish
2,000; 5-25 pounds
Bluegill
130,000; 2 in.

2014

Bluegill
200,000; 2 in.
Largemouth Bass
57,000; 2 in.

Sportfishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Fish piers along eastern shoreline and near Paradise Point ramp.

Crappie

- In the spring fish structure and piers along the banks with minnows or jigs. During summer and winter months try trolling through the deeper areas of the lake.

Bream

- Fish areas with structure in water less than 5 feet deep with crickets or red worms, especially in the late spring and summer.

Catfish

- Fish shallow mudflats around the island or near the cypress trees with night crawlers, chicken livers, or stink bait.

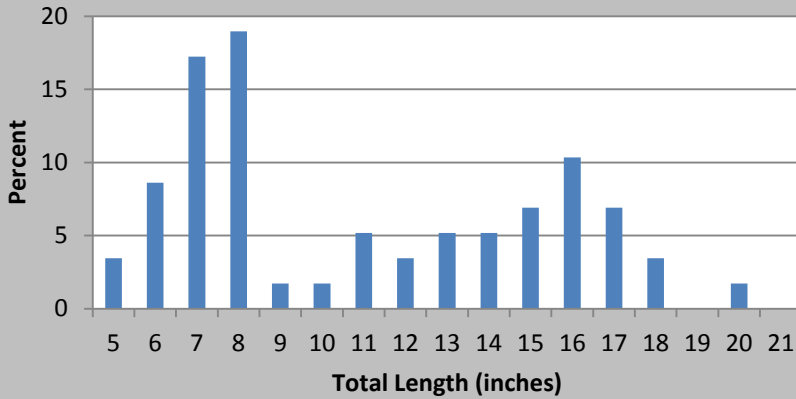
Below: Results from the 2016 electrofishing survey on Moon Lake. Moon Lake is sampled in the fall every 2 to 3 years. Catch rates for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill sunfish increased in 2016, while catch rates of crappie declined. Non-game fish were very abundant, specifically buffalo and gar, and comprised 44% of the total catch by number in 2016.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Buffalo	215	28.4	18.6	25.1		63.9
Bluegill	173	22.9	4.9	7.5	0.2	49.9
Gar	114	15.1	21.5	27.3		19.2
Longear Sunfish	96	12.7	3.3	5.0		18.4
Largemouth Bass	58	7.7	10.4	19.3	1.5	9.7
Freshwater Drum	38	5.0	13.6	19.0		12.2
White Bass	24	3.2	11.6	22.4	1.0	7.5
Common Carp	9	1.2	18.8	23.0		2.9
Crappie	8	1.1	11.1	14.5	0.9	2.6
Channel Catfish	7	0.9	16.5	21.1	2.2	2.0
Green Sunfish	6	0.8	4.4	7.1	0.1	1.6
Bowfin	2	0.3	23.2	24.8		0.0
Flathead Catfish	2	0.3	25.4	34.3	8.8	0.6
Redear Sunfish	2	0.3	7.7	7.9	0.3	0.6
Grass Carp	1	0.1	40.6	40.6		0.0
Warmouth	1	0.1	7.0	7.0	0.2	0.3

Right: Crappie are the most sought after species in Moon Lake. White crappie and black crappie are both present at Moon, but white crappie are more abundant.



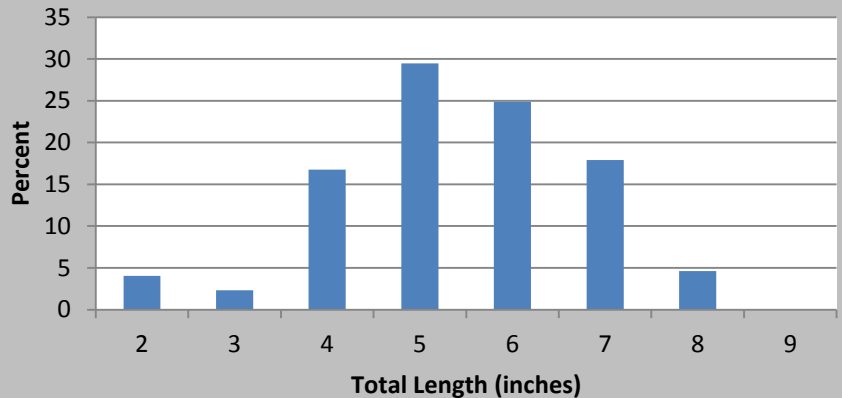
Largemouth Bass



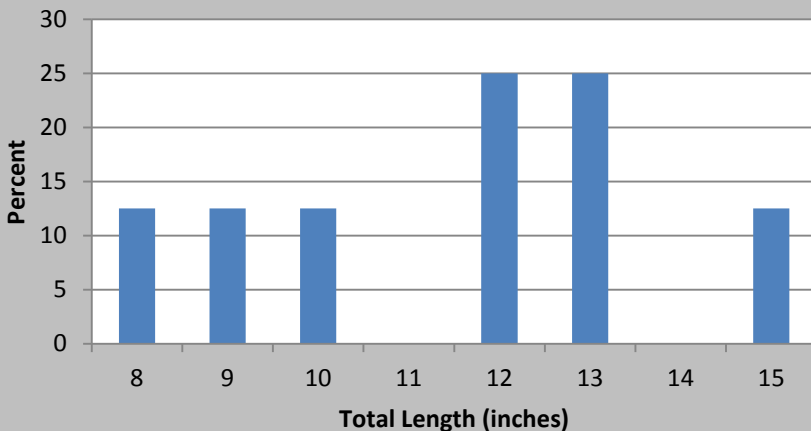
Left: Largemouth Bass length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2016 electrofishing survey. High numbers of fish under 8 inches indicates a good spawn in spring 2016. The largest bass collected was almost 20 inches long and 3.5 pounds in weight.

Right: Bluegill length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2016 electrofishing survey. The average length of a Bluegill was 5 inches, while the largest Bluegill collected was 7.5 inches in length.

Bluegill

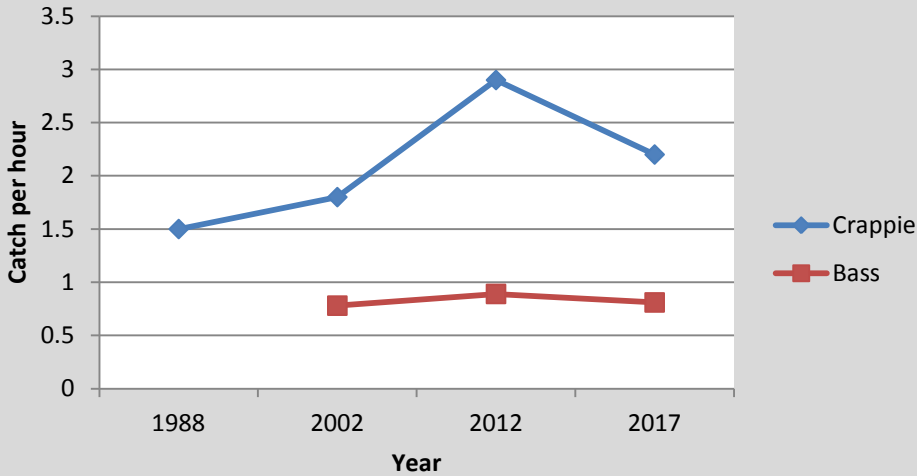


Crappie



Left: Crappie length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2016 electrofishing survey. Most crappie collected were large, adult fish. The largest crappie collected was 14.5 inches long and 1.8 pounds in weight.

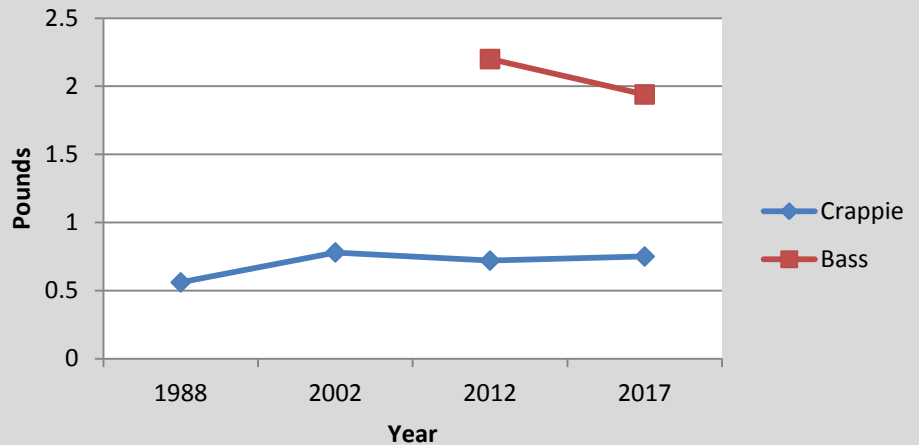
Angler Catch Rates



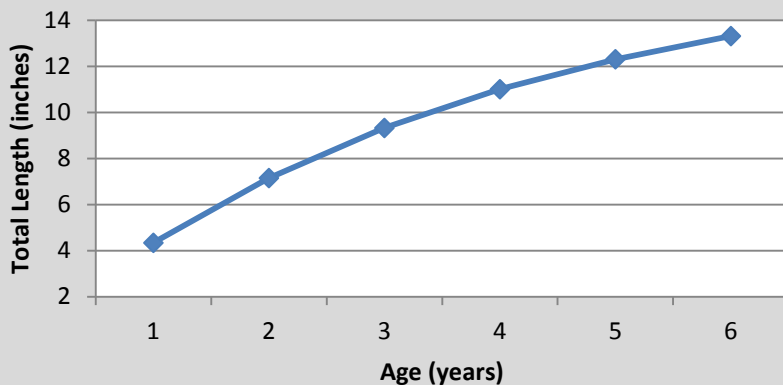
Left: Results from angler creel surveys indicate relatively steady catch rates for bass and crappie. In 2017, crappie catch rates fell slightly but were still above average for Delta oxbows.

Right: In 2017 average weight of harvested crappie was 0.75 pounds and average weight of harvested bass was almost 2 pounds.

Average Weights

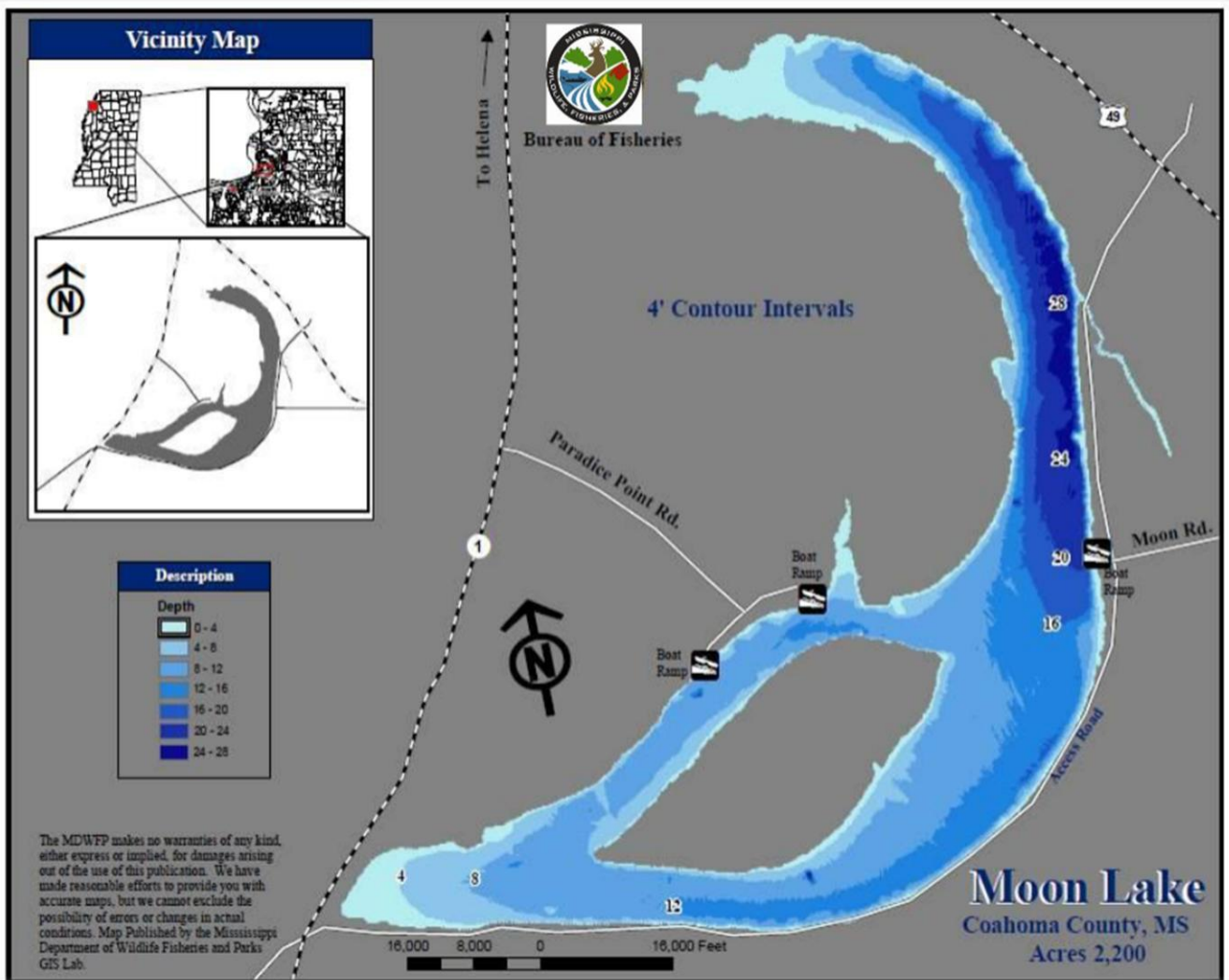


Crappie



Left: Growth rates for crappie at Lake Washington. On average crappie reach 10 inches at 3.3 years and reach 12 inches at 4.6 years old.

Below: Depth map of Moon Lake.



Left: Crappie are the most sought after fish species by anglers at Moon Lake.