



# Eagle Lake 2016 REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Eagle Lake is a 4,700 acre oxbow formed by the Mississippi River and is cutoff from the river by the mainline levee system. Water levels are controlled via the Muddy Bayou control structure operated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Eagle Lake is one of the largest oxbows in Mississippi and is a popular destination for bream and crappie anglers.

**Location:** Approximately 20 miles north of Vicksburg off Hwy 465.

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

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

**Lake Depth Map:** [http://www.mdwfp.com/media/53260/eagle\\_lake.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/53260/eagle_lake.pdf)

## Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom
- Multiple pay-to-use ramps
- Bait shop and store with gas

## Creel and Size Limits

*The following apply to both sides of the lake, including the channel to the Muddy Bayou control structure.*

- Crappie: 11-inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler
- Largemouth Bass: 16- inch minimum length limit and 10 bass per day per angler
- Hybrid Striped Bass: 15- inch minimum length limit and 6 bass per day per angler
- No limit on bream or catfish

## Regulations

*Eagle Lake is a state boundary water and the following regulations apply to the Mississippi side of the lake.*

### Yo-Yo's and Jugs

- No more than 25 jugs and no more than 25 yo-yos may be fished per person. No more than 2 hooks are allowed on each device.
- Each jug or yo-yo must be tagged or marked with angler's name and address.
- Anglers must attend jugs and yo-yos when fished during daylight hours.

### 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

### Crappie

- Target shallow areas along the shoreline or islands during spring. In fall and winter, target piers in deep water on the eastern side of the lake.

### Largemouth Bass

- Target piers and rocks along the eastern shoreline. Also target Cypress trees around the islands.

### Bream

- Try crickets in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Big bluegill are often caught during winter around piers on the eastern side of the lake.

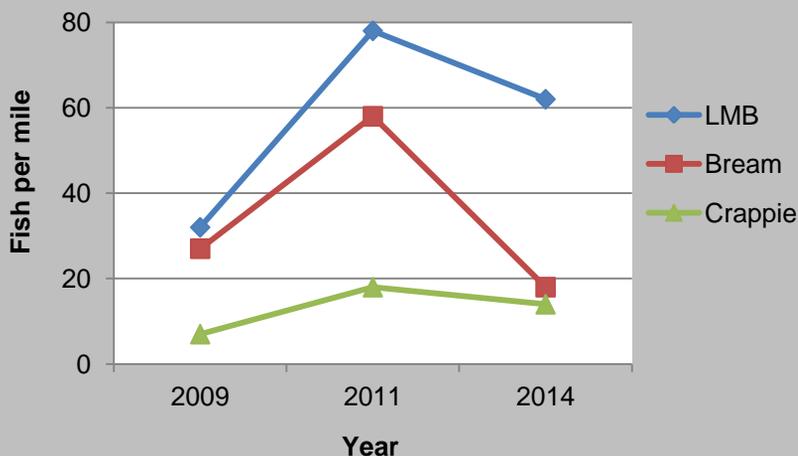
### Catfish

- Target flats and islands on the western side of the lake with liver, worms, or cutbait.

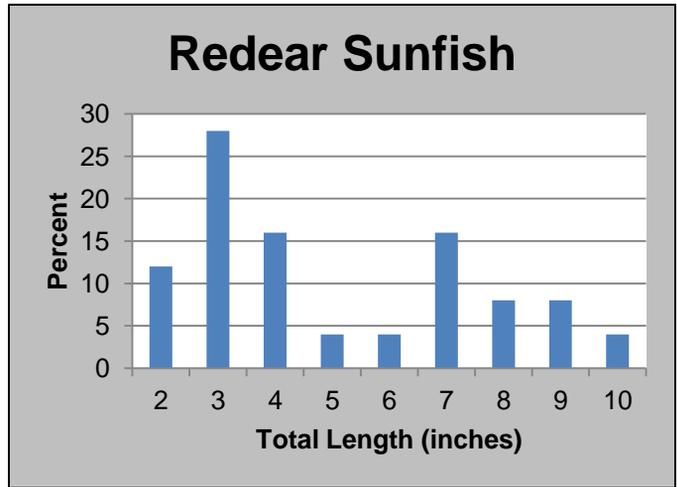
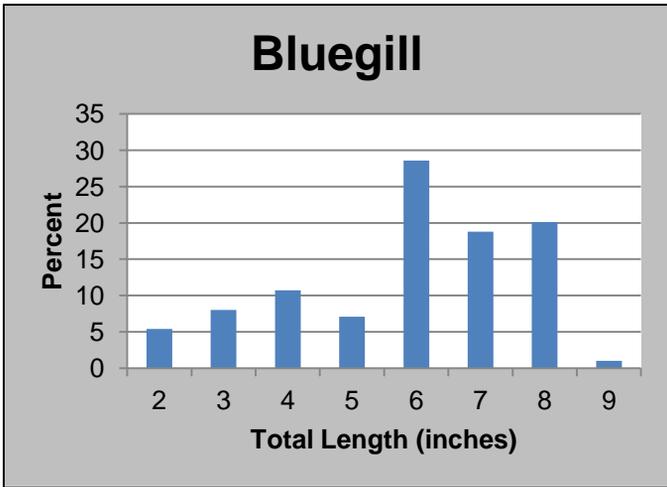
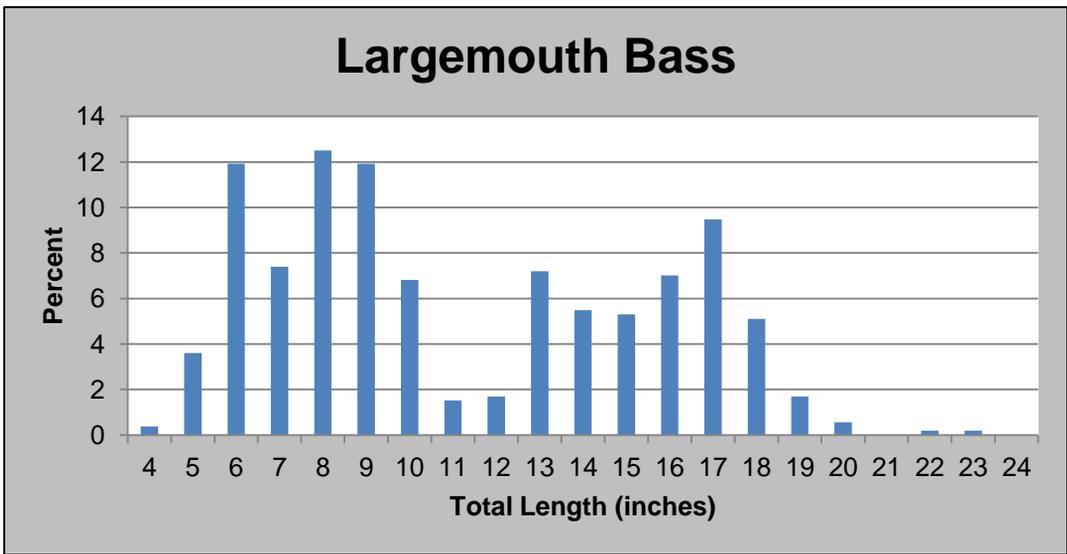
**Below:** Results from 2014 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Eagle Lake for sport fish and catfish. The abundance and overall condition of Largemouth Bass and crappie have continued to be good following the high water in 2011. Regular stockings and a minimum length limit on Largemouth Bass have likely contributed as well. Largemouth Bass, White Crappie, and Redear Sunfish are stocked periodically by MDWFP to help maintain a quality fishery.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	528	46.5	11.7	22.9	1.4	38.7
Gizzard Shad	156	13.7	9.9	15.4	-	13.7
Yellow Bass	119	10.5	7.0	10.7	0.4	12.2
Bluegill	112	9.9	6.3	9.1	0.3	10.1
White Bass	59	5.2	12.8	16.7	1.2	5.7
Black Crappie	55	4.8	11.9	14.4	1.2	6.1
Redear Sunfish	25	2.2	5.5	9.8	0.3	1.4
Warmouth	22	1.9	5.7	9.1	0.2	2.5
White Crappie	21	1.8	12.2	14.3	1.2	2.7
Longear Sunfish	20	1.8	5.1	6.5	0.1	1.7
Threadfin Shad	13	1.1	3.1	3.9	-	-
Channel Catfish	5	0.4	20.2	22.3	3.2	0.5
Green Sunfish	1	0.1	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.1

### Electrofishing Catch Rates

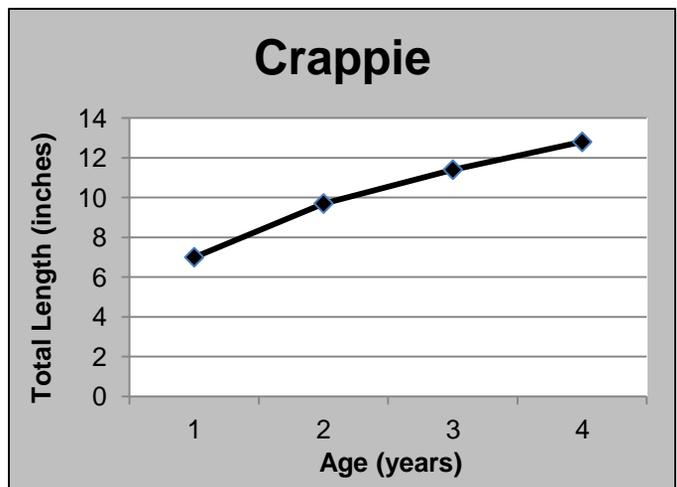
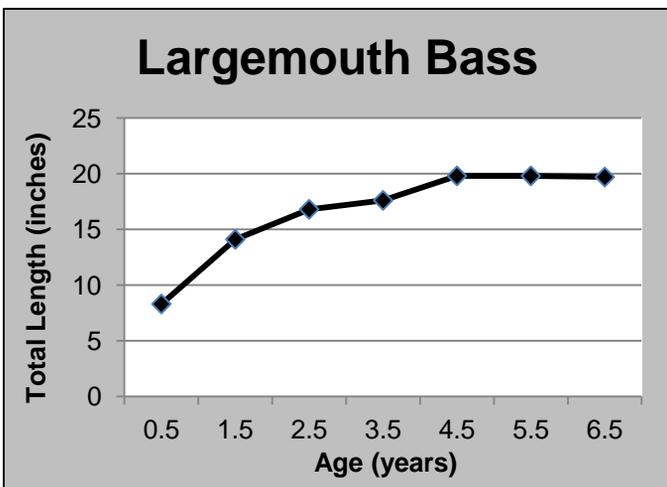


**Above:** Changes in catch rates during fall electrofishing. The number of sport fish increased following the high water in 2011. Largemouth Bass (LMB) and crappie numbers have remained higher than they were before the flood.



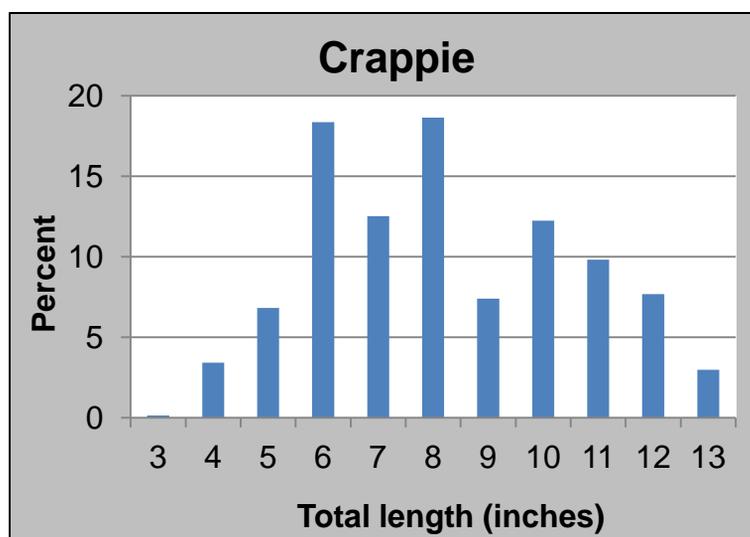
**Above:** Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish collected during 2014 fall electrofishing at Eagle Lake.

**Below:** Growth rates for Largemouth Bass and crappie at Eagle Lake. This lake promotes some of the fastest growing fish in the state due to high fertility and an abundance of forage, primarily shad. Ages are shown in half year or whole year increments due to the time of year that sampling occurred.



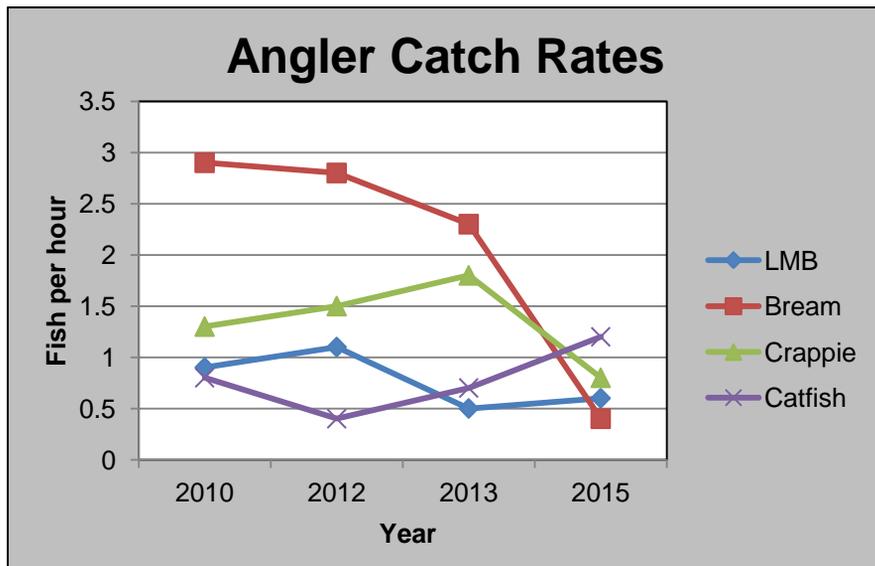
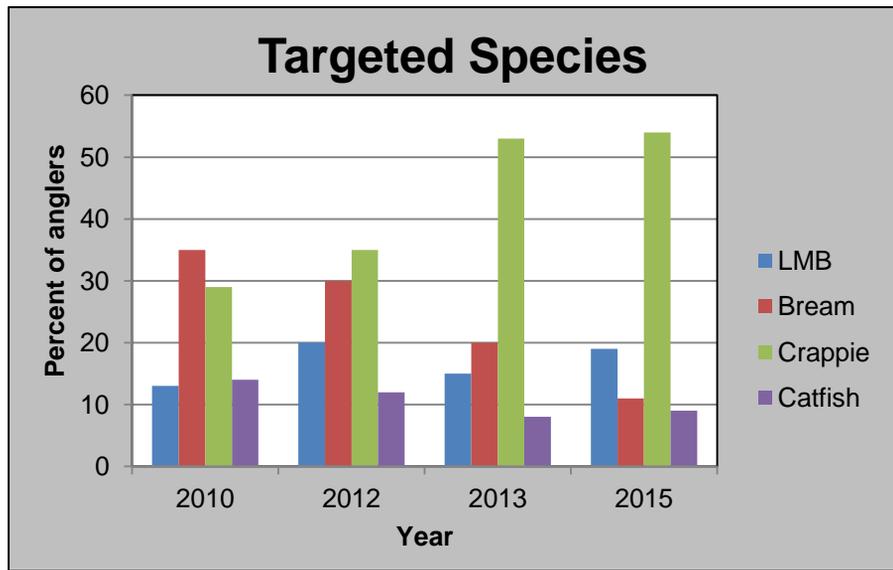
**Below:** Results from 2014 winter lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. These nets are used for sampling panfish, primarily crappie. Yellow Bass dominated our catch and anglers are encouraged to harvest as many as they want. The numbers, sizes, and condition of bream and crappie collected were very good. Strong year classes of crappie from 2011 and 2013 were present, and those fish should be in the 11 and 14 inch range by spring 2016.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/night)
Yellow Bass	1,371	53	8.9	11.0	-	18.7
Bluegill	454	18	6.8	9.5	0.3	19.0
White Crappie	405	16	7.7	13.9	0.4	16.5
Black Crappie	298	12	10.0	13.5	0.9	11.8
Gizzard Shad	24	1	9.4	14.6	-	0.8
White Bass	14	1	11.1	14.4	-	0.5
Redear Sunfish	13	1	8.3	10.9	0.4	0.5
Channel Catfish	5	< 1	15.4	24.4	-	0.1
Warmouth	2	< 1	7.9	8.2	-	0.1
Freshwater Drum	1	< 1	9.8		-	< 0.1

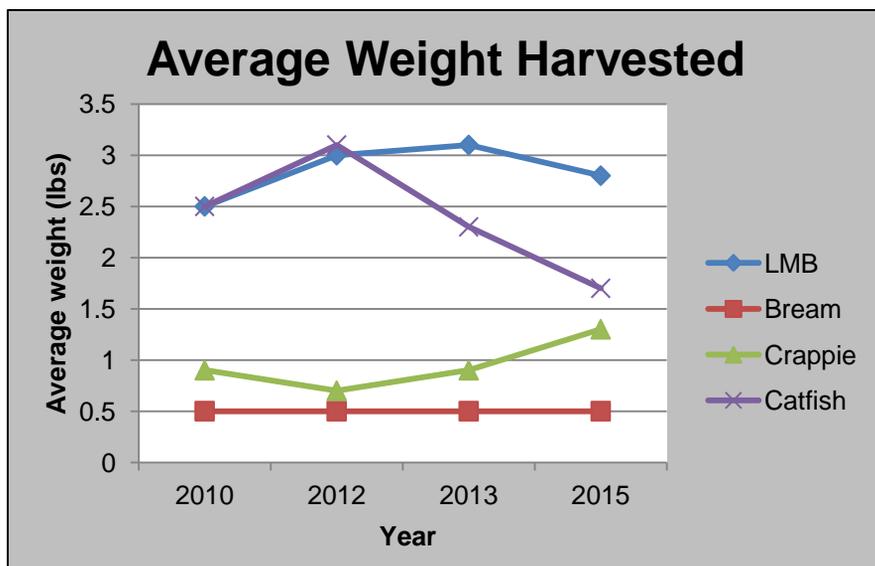


**Above:** Lengths of crappie collected during 2014 lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. Large numbers of 11 to 13 inch fish were present. The percentage of small fish is encouraging as they should reach harvestable sizes throughout 2016 – 2017.

**Right:** Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake. The percentage of crappie anglers has increased significantly over the past few years based on spring creel surveys.



**Left top:** Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake based on spring creel surveys. Catch rates for bream and crappie have declined recently; however, the size of harvested bream has remained consistent as shown below. Crappie anglers harvested larger fish in 2015 with the average weight increasing to 1.3 pounds.



**Left bottom:** Average weight of harvested fish at Eagle Lake. Channel catfish were the only catfish species seen during creel surveys and catch rates increased in 2015, but smaller fish were harvested.