



Lake Jeff Davis 2016

REEL FACTS

Trevor Knight – Fisheries Biologist
trevork@mdwfp.state.ms.us

General Information: Lake Jeff Davis is a 100 acre State Fishing Lake which first opened in 1963. The lake was renovated in 2010 in order to make repairs to the dam. While drained, willow trees became established and now offer substantial cover.

Location: Approximately 3 miles southeast of Prentiss off Hwy 42.

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

Lake Depth Map: http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4626/lake_jeff_davis.pdf

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

Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom with showers
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 13 camping pads with water/electric hookups
- Bike trail and nature trail

Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 18-24 inches in length must be released, 15 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 24 inches in length

Forage Species

- Crawfish

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramp.
- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Skiing is allowed on Tuesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day from noon to sunset within ski area.
- Lake is designated as No Wake all other times.

Fishing Tips

Bream

- Try crickets, red wigglers, and wax worms in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Gravel beds around the fishing piers are popular. Also try shallow areas between the willows and shore.

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs.

Crappie

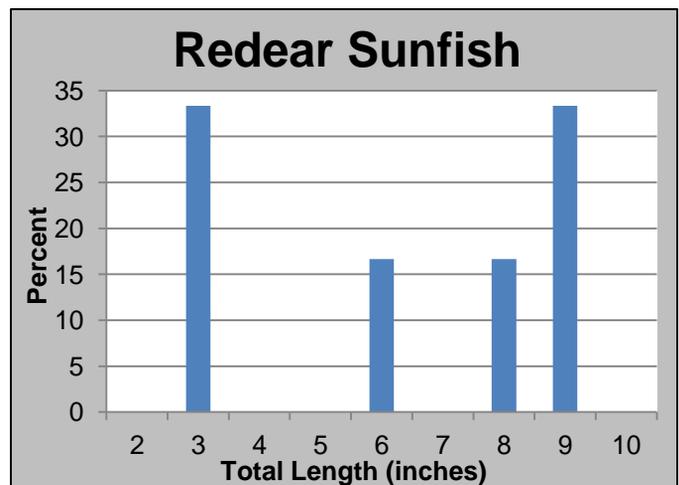
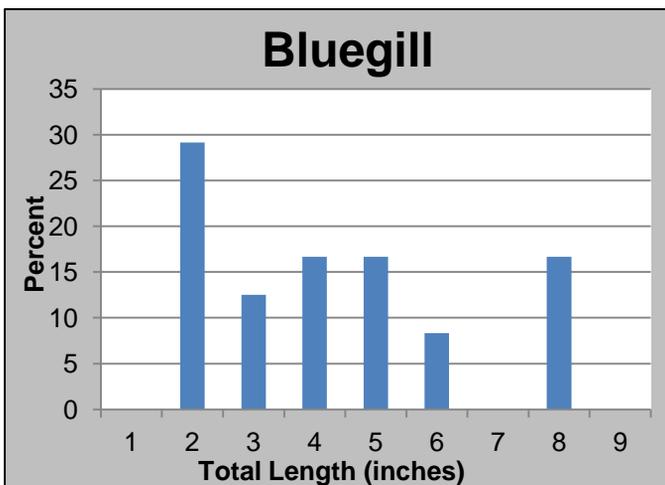
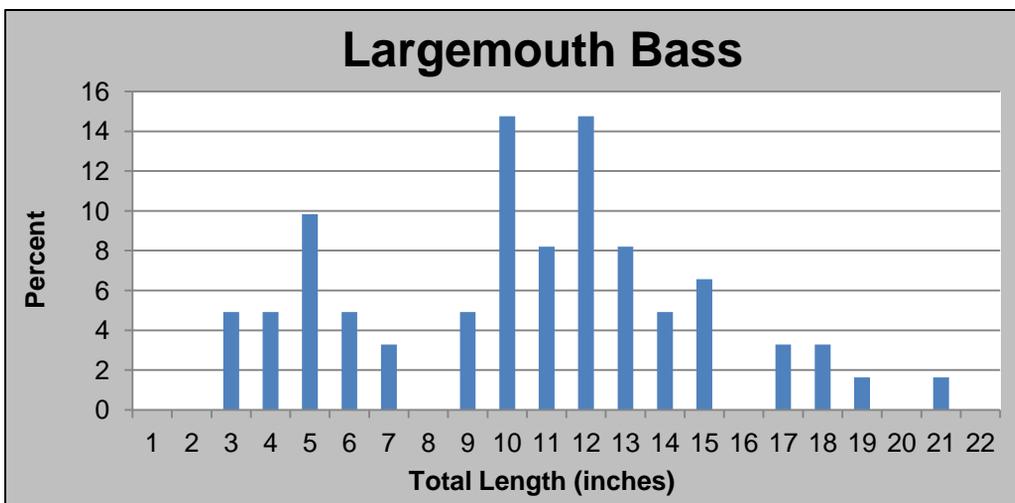
- Target deep willow trees around the main lake. Minnows are the most popular choice.

Largemouth Bass

- Target stumps and dollar pads in the morning with topwater baits. During the day, fish willow trees with wacky rigged soft plastics and jerkbaits for suspended bass.

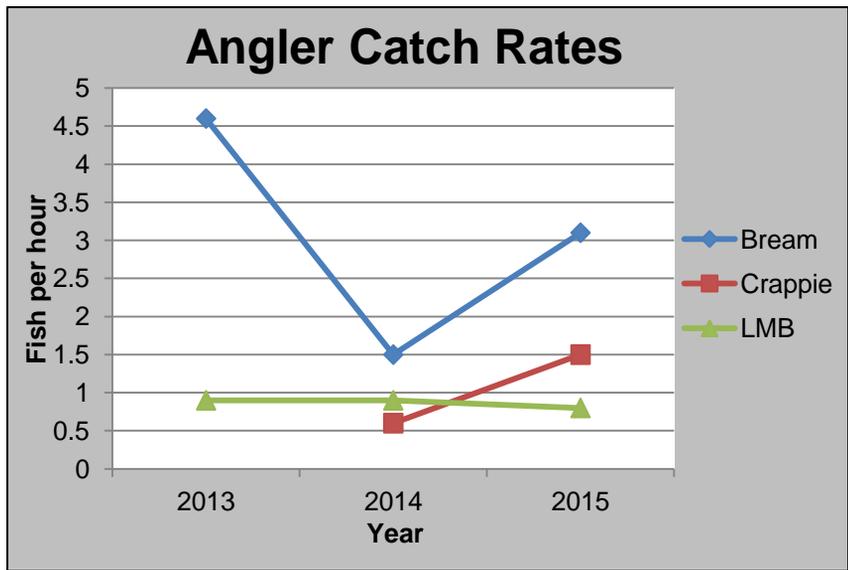
Below: Results from the 2015 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Jeff Davis. Overall health of Largemouth Bass and bream has remained consistent over the past three years, but there is room for improvement. There has been a steady increase in the number of large bass collected during sampling since the renovation. We encourage anglers to harvest small bass to help improve the health of larger ones.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	61	64.9	11.0	21.2	1.1	15.7
Bluegill	24	25.5	4.9	8.6	0.2	6.1
Redear Sunfish	6	6.4	6.7	9.5	0.4	1.4
Longear Sunfish	2	2.1	4.4	4.5	0.1	0.7
Warmouth	1	1.1	4.0	4.0	0.1	0.4

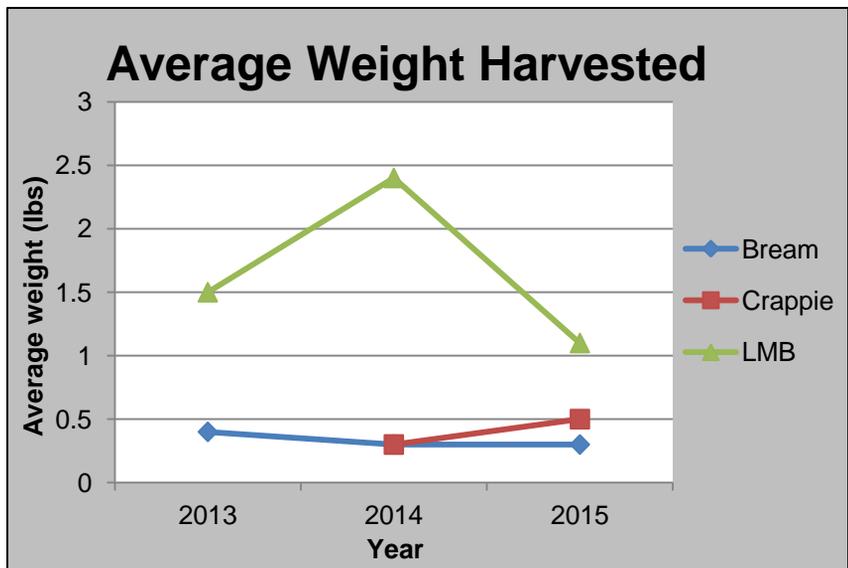


Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish collected during 2015 fall electrofishing.

Right top: Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, and crappie at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Crappie catch rates have increased as anglers have learned which willow trees consistently hold fish. Largemouth Bass catch rates have remained consistent since reopening.



Right bottom: Average weight of harvested fish at Lake Jeff Davis. Average weight of harvested bream has remained consistent, while Largemouth Bass (LMB) harvested weight has declined. The slot limit encourages anglers to harvest smaller fish.



Left: MDWFP staff constructed gravel beds around the fishing piers during renovation. These beds serve as excellent spawning habitat for bream and are popular fishing spots during the summer. Largemouth Bass will also be found cruising the edges of these beds waiting to ambush bream.



Left: Anglers are catching bigger Largemouth Bass each year, as the initial stock starts reaching trophy size. 2015 marked the first year since the renovation that fish over 10 pounds have been caught. With the aggressive slot limit, the potential for a trophy bass fishery certainly exists at Lake Jeff Davis.

Below: Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, catfish, and anything at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Bream have been the most targeted species since the lake was reopened with Largemouth Bass being the second most sought after fish. Lake Jeff Davis has been one of the most popular state lakes in Southwest Mississippi since it reopened in 2013.

