



Wolf Lake 2016 REEL FACTS

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General Information: Wolf Lake is a 1,000 acre oxbow of the Yazoo River and is a popular destination for crappie and catfish anglers. The acreage also includes Broad Lake, which is a shallow oxbow that joins Wolf at the southern end. Wolf Lake has a long, narrow appearance and the shore is lined with large cypress trees.

Location: Approximately 8 miles west of Yazoo City.

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

Lake Depth Map: http://www.mdwfp.com/media/128352/wolf_lake.pdf

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

Amenities

- 2 public boat ramps

Creel and Size Limits

- Largemouth Bass: 12-inch minimum length limit and 5 bass per day per angler
- Crappie: 30 crappie per day per angler
- Bream: 100 bream per day per angler
- Catfish: no limit

Hand Grabbing Regulations

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

Water levels

- Water levels at Wolf Lake are influenced by the Mississippi and Yazoo River system. Flooding often occurs during the late spring and prompts the closing of the two public boat ramps. Sport fish typically benefit from moderate flooding due to an increase in available habitat.
- During 2011 the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers rose to historic levels and flooded this region. Wolf Lake was out of it's banks for several weeks and Asian carp were introduced.

Fishing Tips

Crappie

- Target cypress trees along the shoreline with minnows or jigs. This is a fairly shallow lake and crappie can be found around the trees throughout the year.

Largemouth Bass

- Spinner baits and crank baits can be productive when fished around the base of cypress trees. Dark colored soft plastics are recommended due to muddy water.

Bream

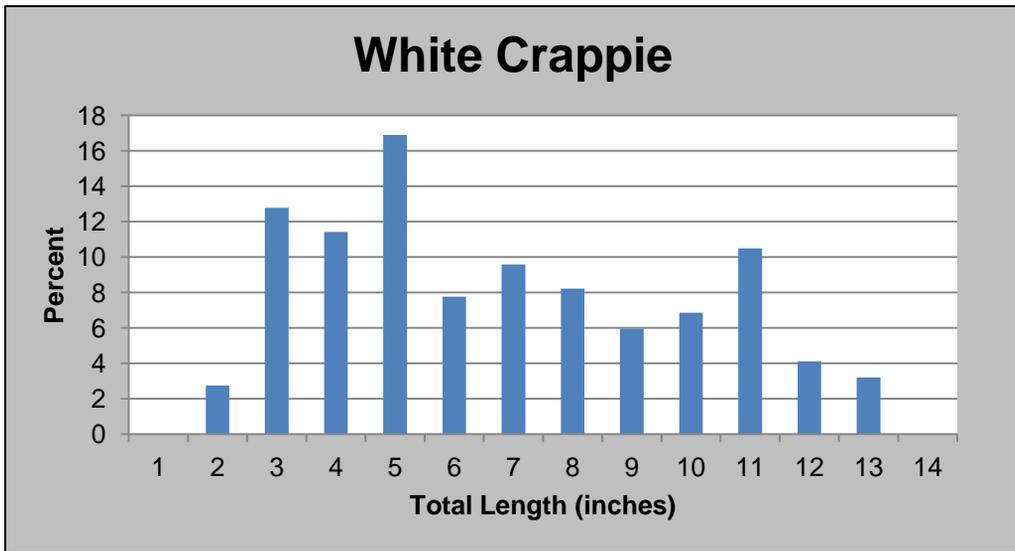
- Try crickets and worms for bream around brush and trees.

Catfish

- Blues and channels can be caught with cutbait, liver, etc. Rod & reel and jugs are both popular methods. Live bait is recommended for catching flatheads.

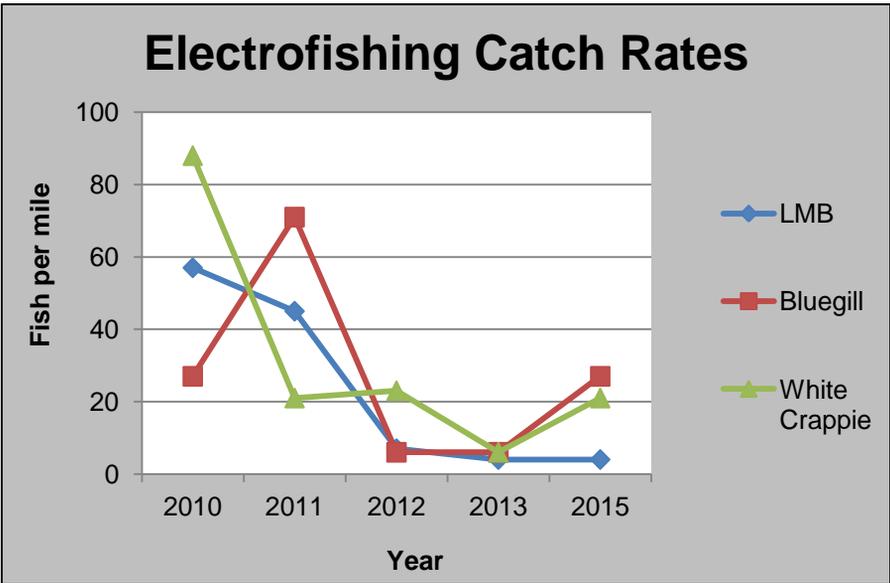
Below: Results from 2015 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Wolf Lake. The sport fishery is dominated by White Crappie and the fish are in excellent condition due to an abundant shad population. Bream sizes were small and low numbers of Largemouth Bass were collected.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Threadfin Shad	314	33.3	2.5	3.5	-	42
White Crappie	219	23.2	7.3	13.8	0.4	21
Bluegill	200	21.2	4.7	7.8	0.1	27
Gizzard Shad	107	11.3	5.2	7.9	-	15
Dollar Sunfish	28	3.0	3.7	4.3	-	4
Largemouth Bass	28	3.0	12.8	16.6	1.2	4
Longear Sunfish	16	1.7	4.2	4.8	0.1	2
Warmouth	11	1.2	5.6	7.7	0.2	2
Channel Catfish	9	1.0	10.9	21.3	1.0	<1
Blue Catfish	3	0.3	28.7	30.8	9.6	<1
White Bass	3	0.3	9.9	10.7	0.5	<1
Orangespotted Sunfish	2	0.2	2.8	3.4	-	<1
Black Crappie	2	0.2	9.8	10.8	0.6	<1
Flathead Catfish	1	0.1	41.7	41.7	-	<1
Green Sunfish	1	0.1	5.4	5.4	0.1	<1



Above: Length distribution of White Crappie collected during 2015 fall electrofishing. The size range depicts a balanced population with significant numbers of quality size fish present. Crappie in the 3 to 5 inch range show that a successful spawn occurred during Spring 2015.

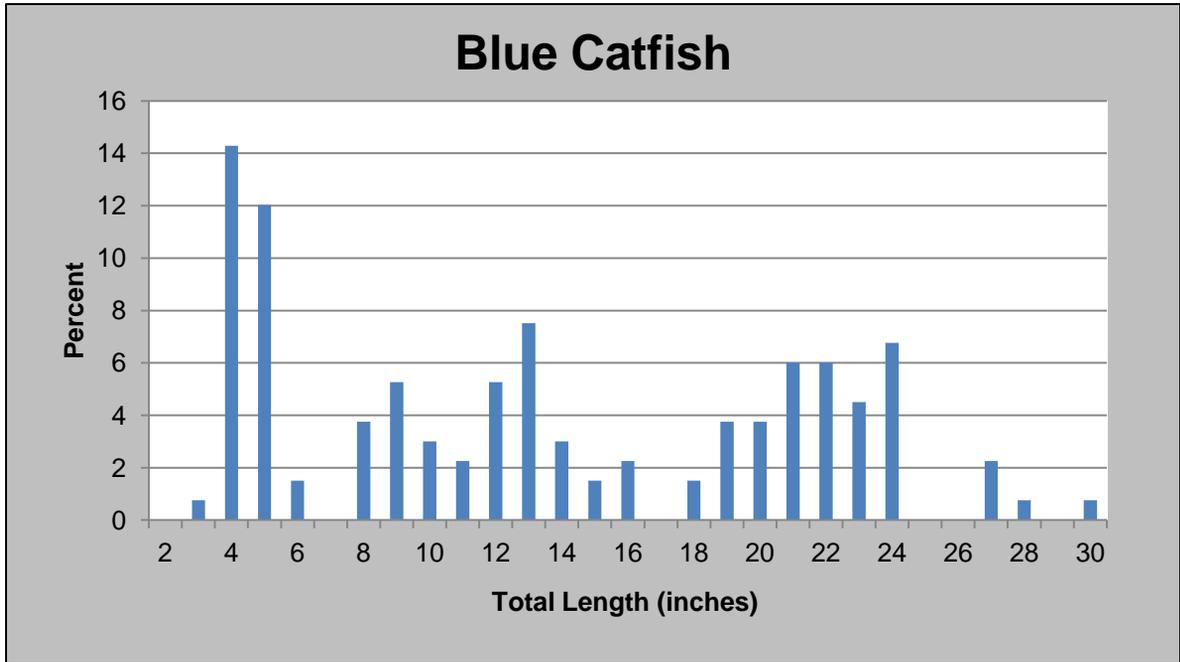
Right: Catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB) and White Crappie were high during 2010 fall electrofishing, but declined following the 2011 flood. Bluegill benefited from the high water that year, but their numbers decreased by 2012. Bluegill and White Crappie populations are improving based on 2015 sampling, while LMB numbers remain low.



Below: Results from 2014 winter gill net sampling at Wolf Lake. Blue Catfish and Silver Carp dominated the catch with significant numbers of buffalo and gar being caught. A commercial fishery exists at this lake and the harvest of gar, buffalo, and carp is encouraged.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/net night)
Blue Catfish	24	41.4	26.4	34.5	0.8
Silver Carp	7	12.1	23.7	24.6	0.2
Alligator Gar	4	6.9	58.9	66.3	0.1
Longnose Gar	4	6.9	49.4	55.6	0.1
Smallmouth Buffalo	4	6.9	20	20.6	0.1
White Crappie	4	6.9	9.4	10.2	0.1
Shortnose Gar	2	3.4	21.4	23.3	0.1
Bigmouth Buffalo	2	3.4	21.4	23.7	0.1
Common Carp	2	3.4	21.8	21.8	0.1
Flathead Catfish	1	1.7	43.5	0.0	<1
Channel Catfish	1	1.7	18.7	0.0	<1
Grass Carp	1	1.7	25.4	0.0	<1
Freshwater Drum	1	1.7	18.5	0.0	<1
Paddlefish	1	1.7	53.2	0.0	<1

Below: Length distribution for Blue Catfish collected during 2013. A catfish sampling project was conducted at Wolf Lake, and Blue Catfish dominated our catch. Lengths ranged from 3 to 30 inches and the population was in good condition. Oxbow lakes in Mississippi are known for supporting quality catfish fisheries for anglers to enjoy. Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish are also present; however, only a small number were collected.



Above: Pictures of Blue Catfish and Flathead Catfish collected from Wolf Lake during 2013.



Above: Cypress trees are plentiful at Wolf Lake and show high water marks from previous floods. They provide habitat for different fish species and serve as natural fish attractors for anglers. Water visibility levels are typically low at this lake throughout the year due to excessive turbidity.

Below: Juvenile Silver Carp were collected from Wolf Lake following the 2011 flood and have since grown to larger sizes. Research suggests that these fish require a steady current in order to reproduce, so that should limit their ability to spawn at this lake. Due to connectivity with the river system during high water events, it is possible for more carp to enter the lake.

