



# Lock D (Beaver Lake) 2016

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Lock D, also known as Beaver Lake or John Rankin, is a 1,992 acre pool on the Canal Section of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW), located in Itawamba County, immediately below Lock E. Lock D is 8 miles long with a mean depth of 12.5 ft. and maximum depth of 26 ft. As with all of the TTW Canal Section impoundments, the west side of the entire pool is a levee.

**Location:** Within Itawamba County approximately 6 miles North of Fulton, along the Rankin Highway.

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

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

### Amenities

- 2 public boat ramps with courtesy piers and parking lots.
- Walker's Levee (West)
- Beaver Ramp (East)
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms (Beaver Ramp)

### Creel and Size Limits

- Black Bass (Largemouth, Spotted, and Smallmouth): 10 bass (combined) per day per angler.
- Crappie: 9-inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie limit per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 bream (combined) per day per angler.
- Catfish: No limit.
- White Bass: No limit.
- Other creel limits can be found at <http://www.mdwfp.com>

### Regulations

#### Yo-Yo's, Jugs, and Trotlines

- 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. Trotlines may have no more than 100 single hooks.
- The area between the Montgomery Lock (Lock E) downstream to mile marker 406 on Lock D is closed to trotlines, throw lines, set hooks, limblines, FFFD's, jugs and yo-yos.

#### Handgrabbing

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.
- It is illegal to place any cavity-type structure, intended to be used for hand grabbing purposes in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

### Fishing Tips

#### Black Bass

- Target drop offs and creek channels during the summer using plastics.
- In the spring, target the west side levee with spinnerbaits, and lipless crankbaits.

#### Crappie

- Try the standing timber near the Beaver Ramp in the old Mud Creek channel using plastics or minnows.

#### Bream

- Fish near the Beaver Ramp near the grass and the culvert.
- Fish along the John Rankin Hwy Mud Creek bridge.

#### Catfish

- Target shallow flats with chicken liver.
- During the summer, target the rip-rap near each lock and dam or the main navigation channel.

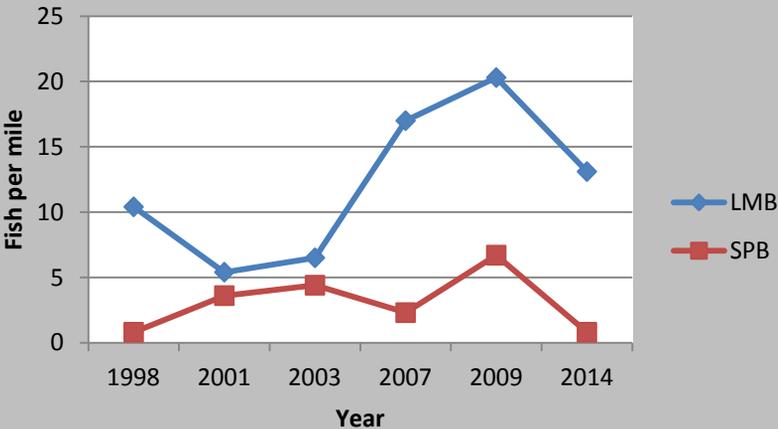
**Below:** Results from the 2014 fall electrofishing survey on Lock D. Lock D boasts healthy populations of many sport fish species, as well as forage fish such as Gizzard Shad.

Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Redear Sunfish	40	30.1	7.5	9.2	0.3	15.0
Largemouth Bass	38	28.6	13.0	22.0	1.6	13.1
Bluegill	25	18.8	5.7	7.4	0.1	9.0
Black Crappie	10	7.5	12.1	14.3	0.9	3.8
Gizzard Shad	10	7.5	11.8	12.8	NA	3.8
Yellow Perch	6	4.5	7.1	9.1	NA	2.3
Spotted Bass	2	1.5	11.0	12.1	0.5	0.8
Warmouth	2	1.5	7.3	7.8	0.3	0.8

**Right:** A few Yellow Perch were collected during fall sampling, and a few were seen in anglers' creels during the 2015 creel survey. Although Yellow Perch in the TTW rarely get to harvestable size, they do add to the species diversity along the waterway. In the Midwest, Yellow Perch are highly sought after because they make excellent table fare. The current state record came from Bull Mountain and weighed 1.13 pounds.

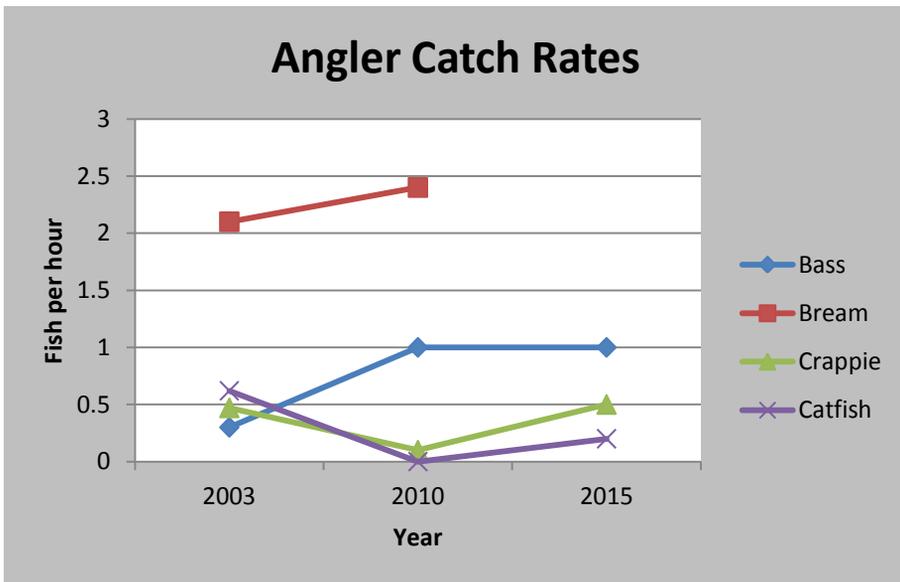
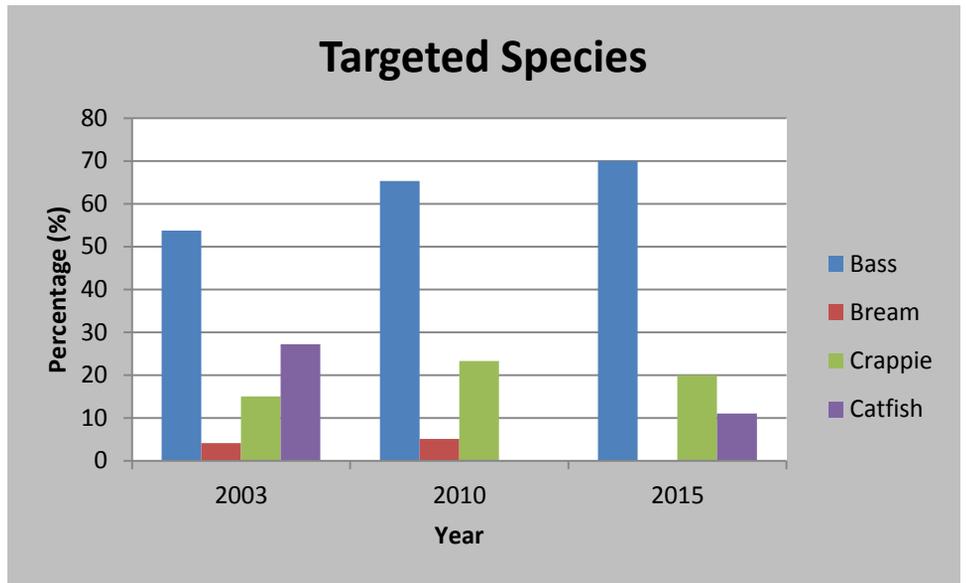


### Black Bass Catch Rates



**Left:** Electrofishing catch rates (fish/mile) for Largemouth Bass (LMB) and Spotted Bass (SPB) since 1998. These statistics are for Largemouth Bass 8 inches and longer, and Spotted Bass 7 inches and longer. The catch rates for both species peaked in 2009, and decreased in 2014. Historically, populations of both Largemouth and Spotted Bass have naturally fluctuated from year to year in the waterway.

**Right:** Percentage of anglers targeting Black Bass (Largemouth and Spotted), crappie, bream, and catfish at Lock D. Bass and crappie remain the most targeted species since 2003. Catfish are also commonly targeted throughout the entire waterway. Few of the canal section locks support bream fisheries due to the lack of habitat.



**Left top:** Angler catch rates for Black Bass (Largemouth and Spotted), crappie, bream, and catfish at Lock D based on spring creel surveys. Catch rates for crappie and catfish were the only ones that increased since the last creel survey. Bream catch rates are not included in 2015 because there were not any bream caught by interviewed anglers during the survey.



**Left bottom:** The Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW) was completed in 1984 and is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It is still the largest earth moving project in U.S. history. The navigation channel throughout the TTW is 300 feet wide and a minimum of 9 feet deep.

<b>Have you been interviewed on Lock D in 2015?</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	14
No	86
<b>Do you read and/or plan your fishing trips around the weekly MDWFP fishing reports?</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	26
No	74
<b>In your opinion, should the 9 inch minimum length limit on crappie be:</b>	<b>%</b>
Removed	0
Increased	12
No Change	88
<b>Considering all factors, how satisfied are you with the fishing at Lock D?</b>	<b>%</b>
Very Satisfied	11
Satisfied	73
Neutral	8
Dissatisfied	8
Very Dissatisfied	0
<b>Home County</b>	<b>%</b>
Itawamba	43
Lee	29
Prentiss	29
Other MS Counties (3)	10
Non-Resident (Alabama, Illinois)	4



**Left:** Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Eighty-six percent of the anglers were interviewed only one time during spring 2014 which shows that many different anglers fish at Lock D. Only 26% of the anglers used MDWFP fishing reports to plan their fishing trips. The vast majority (88%) of anglers want to keep the 9-inch minimum length limit on crappie. Most anglers (79%) on other waterway lakes also want to keep this regulation. Eighty-four percent of the anglers at Lock D were satisfied or very satisfied with the fishing. In 2015, anglers from six different Mississippi counties were interviewed during the survey. The majority (43%) of the anglers were from Itawamba County. Only four percent of anglers were non-residents from Alabama and Illinois.

**Right:** Crappie fishing on the canal section has increased in popularity over recent years. So much so that it has even hosted crappie tournaments sponsored by some national tournament trails. The average size crappie harvested from Lock D in 2015 by anglers was approximately 11 inches, which is just shy of the average size caught during the fall electrofishing survey in 2014 of 12.1 inches.

