



Moon Lake 2016

REEL FACTS

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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: <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx>

Amenities

- 2 Public Ramps
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Pavilion

Regulations

- Minimum length limit for crappie is 10 inches.
- 30 crappie per day, with 5 crappie under 10 inches allowed.
- 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

2015

Blue Catfish
2,000; 5-25 pounds

2014

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

2013

Bluegill
324,500; 2 in.

2012

Bluegill
89,200; 0.5 in.
Largemouth Bass
100,000; 1-2 in.

2011

Bluegill
143,750; 1 in.

2010

Largemouth Bass
106,667; 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.

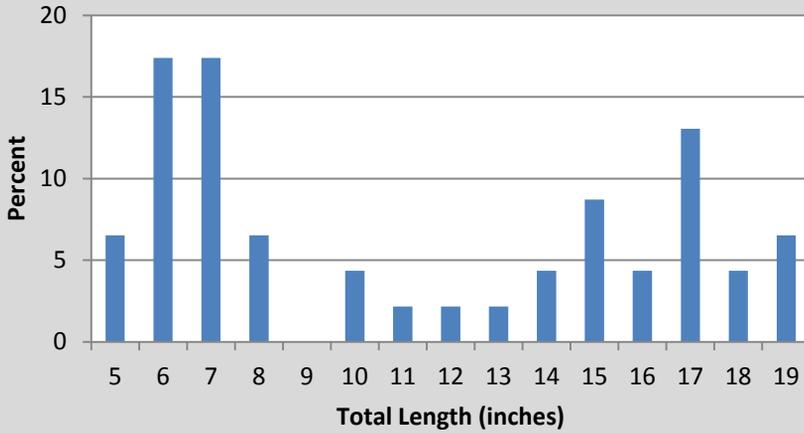
Below: Results from the 2013 electrofishing survey on Moon Lake. Moon Lake is sampled in the fall every 2 to 3 years. Catch rates for Largemouth Bass and crappie dropped in 2013, exhibiting the same trend as most other oxbow lakes in 2013. Bass and bream catch rates were generally below average compared to other Delta oxbows, while crappie catch rates were average. Non-game fish were very abundant, specifically buffalo, and comprised 46% of the total catch by number in 2013.

Species	# of fish sampled	% of sample	Average	Maximum	Average	Catch Rate
			inches	inches	pounds	Adult Fish (fish/mile)
Buffalo	182	34	17.4	23.9		21.4
Bluegill	102	19	4.2	7.3	0.1	10.5
Longear Sunfish	59	11	3	5.4	0.1	3.2
Largemouth Bass	46	9	11.7	20	2.9	3.5
Gar	43	8	20.7	49.3		3.8
Crappie	43	8	9	14.4	1	4
White Bass	22	4	11.4	16.9	1.4	2.8
Freshwater Drum	14	3	13.7	18.5		1.7
Orangespotted Sunfish	7	1	2.2	2.6		0
Common Carp	6	1	20.2	24.1		0.8
Warmouth	4	> 1	3.6	5.3	0.1	0.2
Catfish	3	> 1	16.3	23.9	0.8	0.3
Bowfin	2	> 1	28.4	30		NA
Green Sunfish	2	> 1	3.6	4.4	0.1	0.2

Right: Crappie are the most sought after fish in Moon Lake. Recent studies on the crappie population indicate lower mortality rates for crappie at Moon than at other oxbow lakes and fish as old as 7 ½ years in the population. Growth rates are above average compared to other crappie populations in Mississippi, and fish reached the 10 inch length limit at around 2 ½ years of age.



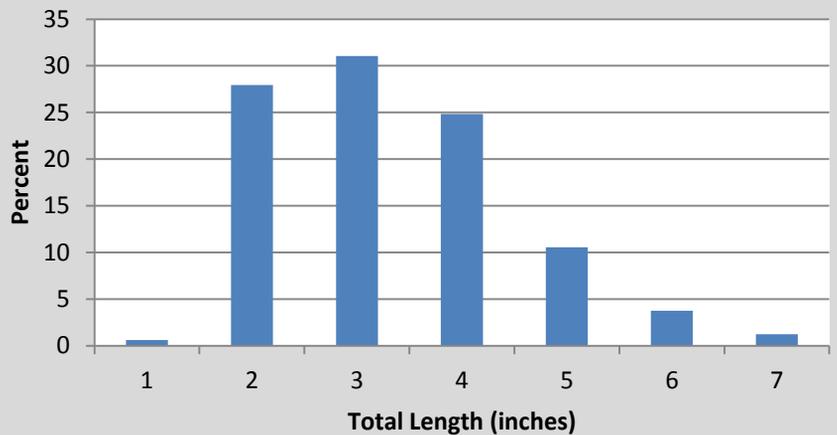
Largemouth Bass



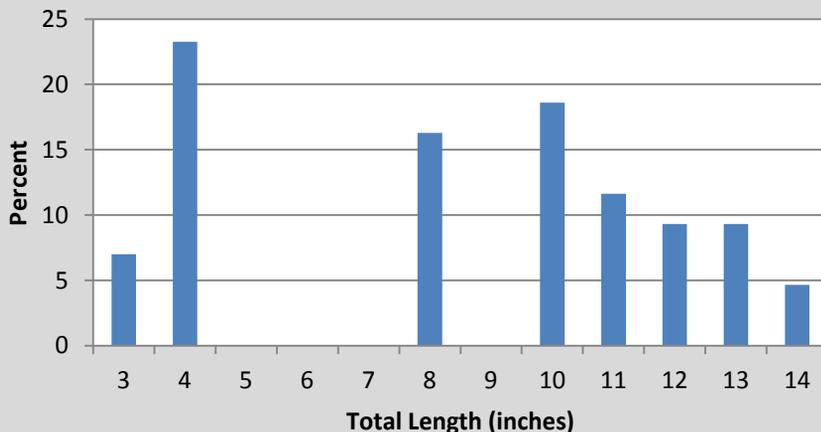
Left: Largemouth Bass length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2013 electrofishing survey. Bass total lengths ranged from 5 to 19 inches, with a high number of 6 and 7 inch fish indicating a good spawn in previous years.

Right: Bream length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2013 electrofishing survey. The majority of bream ranged from 2 to 4 inches in total length with very few over 5 inches.

Bream



Crappie



Left: Crappie length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2013 electrofishing survey. The high number of 4 inch crappie indicated a successful spawn in 2012. Over half of the crappie sampled were over 10 inches in total length.

Below: Depth map of Moon Lake.

