



Trace State Park Lake 2023

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Trace State Park Lake is a 565 acre lake located between the cities of Pontotoc and Tupelo in Pontotoc County. The lake was originally designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service as a watershed lake for flood control. The lake was drained in 2017 for repairs to the dam, and was re-opened in August of 2020. Historically known for its good bream fishery, the lake currently supports both abundant bass and bream. A seasonal fishery also exists for crappie and catfish.

Location: Trace State Park is located in Pontotoc County, 8 miles W of Tupelo off of Hwy. 6.

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

Lake Depth Map: <https://www.mdwfp.com/media/5426/trace-park-lake.pdf>

Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Amenities

- 2 public concrete boat ramps with courtesy piers.
- 3 handicap accessible fishing piers.
- 5 Cabins and 3 cottages.
- Campground with 76 sites including water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- 2 Children's playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Restrooms and showers.
- 2 disc golf courses.
- 14 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Pavilion
- 35 miles of ORV and horse trails

Creel Regulations

- Largemouth Bass: 14-22" slot limit; 10 per day per angler under 14", one over 22".
- Crappie: 20 per day per angler.
- Bream: 20 per day per angler combined.
- Catfish: 10 per day per angler.

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to the boat ramp.
- Rod and reel fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Trace Lake's two main bodies are connected by a canal. Skiing is allowed on the eastern body, but once you go through the canal, it is designated as no wake.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased in the park office
- Contact the park office at (662) 489-2958.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Target main lake points with wacky rigs and Texas-rigged plastics.
- In the summer and fall, fish the weed edges with spinner baits, Texas-rigged plastics, and various topwater lures.

Crappie

- Fish sunken brush tops and laydowns.
- Target main lake points and deep weed edges with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

Bream

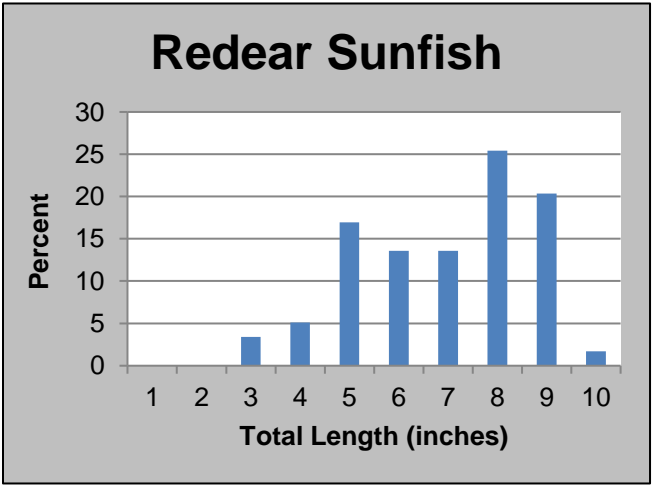
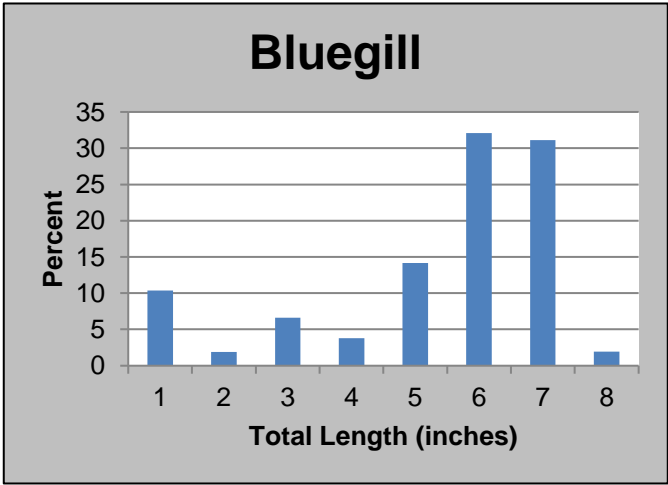
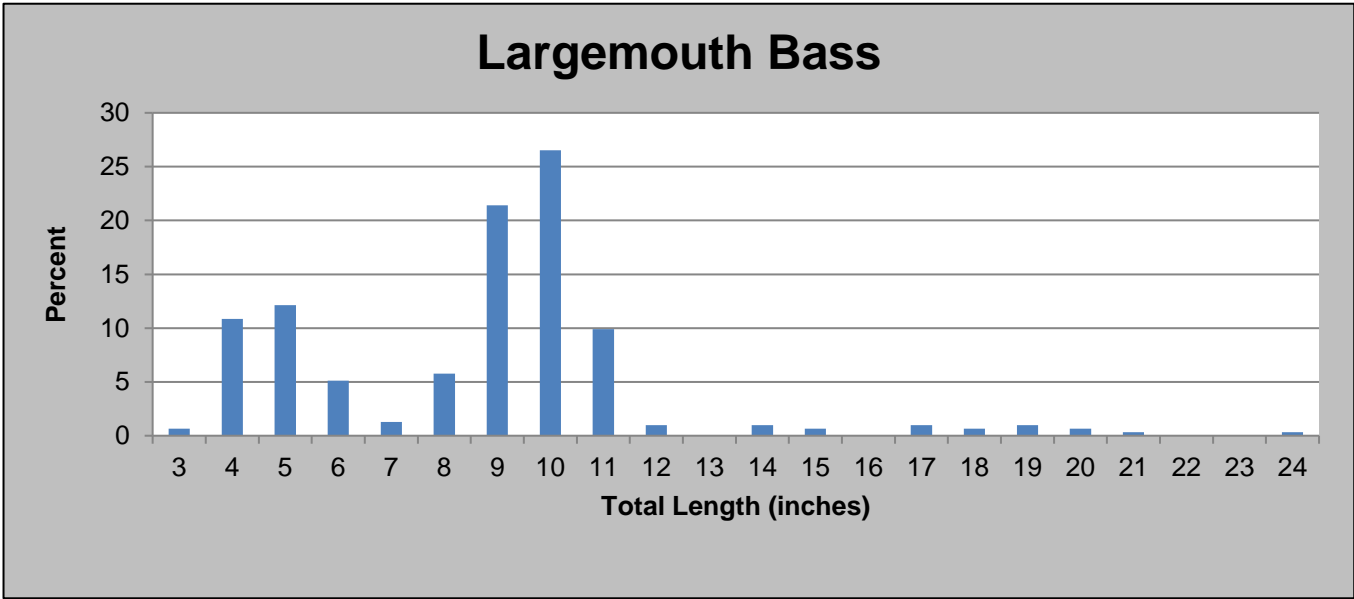
- Target coves with tightlined redworms, mealworms, and crickets.

Catfish

- Target main lake points with nightcrawlers, liver, or cutbait.
- Fish deep laydowns and brushtops on main lake .

Below: Results from the 2022 fall electrofishing survey at Trace State Park. Boat electrofishing was completed along 3.1 miles of shoreline in December. Trace Lake is bass-crowded, and anglers are encouraged to keep all bass caught under 12”.

Species (Spring Shock)	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length (Inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	110	18	11.5	13	-	30
Channel Catfish	4	<1	22.6	25.9	3.9	1
Bluegill	106	18	5.8	7.7	0.2	25
Redear Sunfish	59	10	7.4	10.2	0.3	15
Largemouth Bass	313	52	9.2	24.2	0.6	59
Black Crappie	9	1	9	9.5	0.4	2



Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish sampled during fall electrofishing in 2022.



Right: 2021 creel data from Trace Lake. Anglers were primarily targeting bass, but there were a good number of bream anglers as well. Anglers from 11 Mississippi counties were interviewed, but the majority came from Pontotoc County.

Species targeted	Percentage (%)
Bass	56
Bream	26
Crappie	11
Anything	5
Catfish	2
How satisfied are you with the fishing at Trace?	
Very Satisfied	57
Satisfied	43
Neutral/No Opinion	0
Dissatisfied	0
Very Dissatisfied	0
Did you purchase a daily or annual boat launch permit?	
Daily	65
Annual	31
What is your county of residence?	
Lee	24
Pontotoc	48
Union	13
All other counties	15

