



# Lake Mary Crawford 2023

## REEL FACTS

Stephen Brown – Fisheries Biologist  
Stephen.Brown@wfp.ms.gov

**General Information:** Lake Mary Crawford is a 128 acre State Fishing Lake which first opened in 1957. The lake was the first Dingell-Johnson construction project in Mississippi. The lake has long been known as a popular bream fishery.

**Location:** Approximately 5 miles west of Monticello off Hwy 84.

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

**Lake Depth Map:** [http://www.mdwfp.com/media/128140/mary\\_crawford\\_web\\_map\\_2015.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/128140/mary_crawford_web_map_2015.pdf)

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

### Amenities

- 2 boat ramps with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom with showers
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 20 camping pads with water/electric hookups and nature trail

### Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: 30 per day

### Forage Species

- Golden Shiners
- 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 Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 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. Brush piles around fishing piers are popular.

#### Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs of main lake points and around the water control structure.

#### Crappie

- Target the water control structure and brush piles around the main lake. Minnows are the most popular choice.

#### Largemouth Bass

- Target stumps and brush piles in deeper water with junebug colored soft plastics. Topwater baits can also be good in the morning around grass.

**Below:** Lake Mary Crawford is open for all record fish. Record fish must be weighed and verified by the lake manager, lake supervisor, or fisheries biologist. Anglers who catch a lake record fish will receive a certificate acknowledging their catch. There is no minimum weight for any open lake record.

Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	7.2	Wesley Bass	March 3, 2017
Crappie	2.4	Tom Jacobs	March 26, 2017
Redear Sunfish	0.35	S.J. Speights	2022
Bluegill	0.9	William S. Bennett	July 7, 2017
Catfish	14.4	Richard Albritton	March 19, 2017

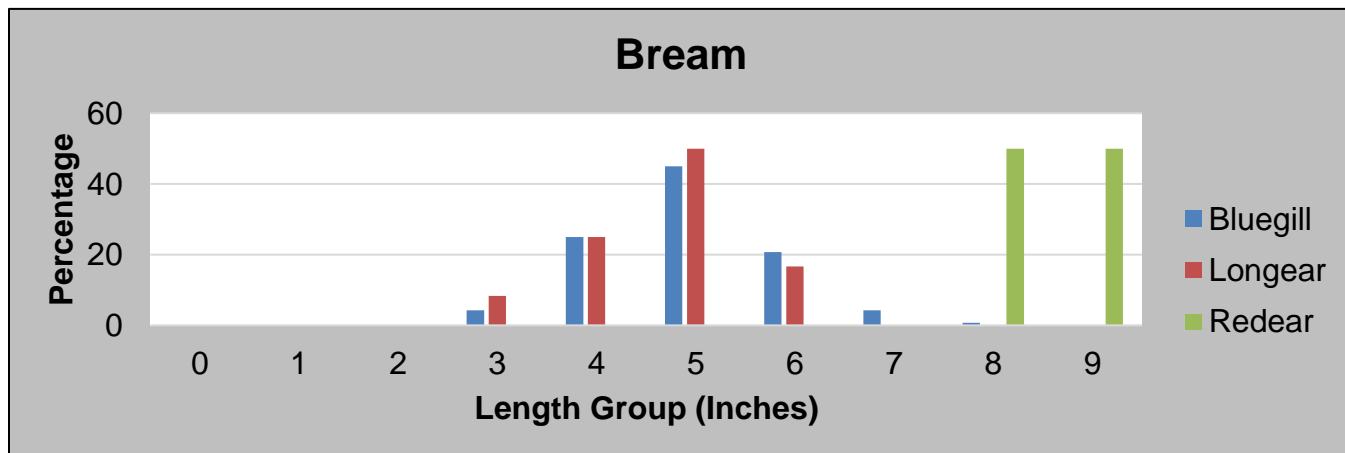
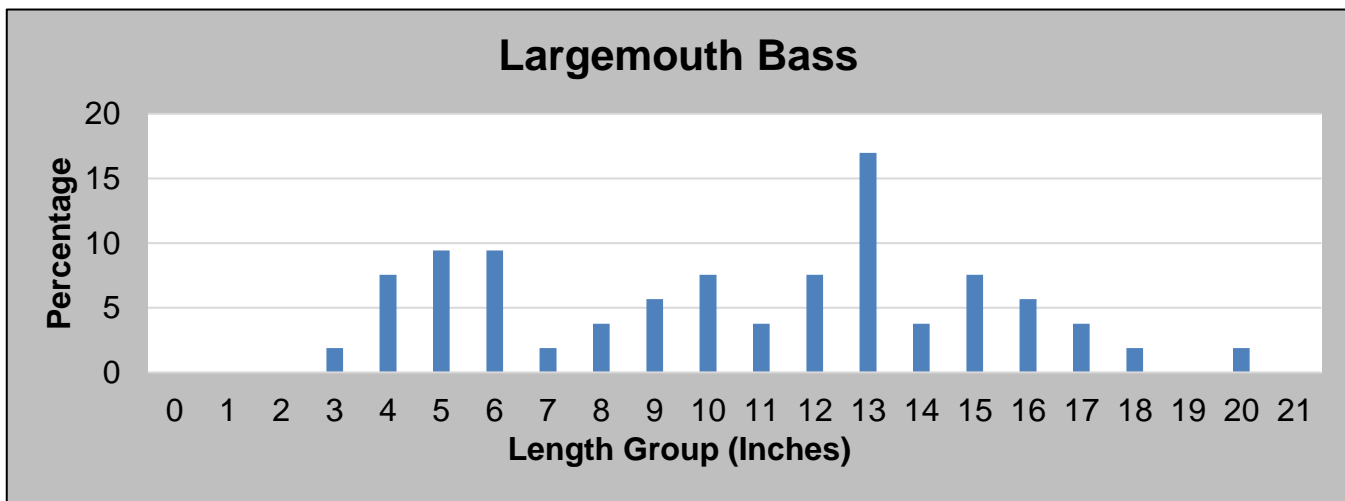


**Above:** Locations of fish attractors placed in Lake Mary Crawford during renovations. Fish attractors are comprised of tree tops placed in a variety of depths. These tree tops can be excellent locations to catch Largemouth Bass, bream, and crappie throughout the year.

# Lake Mary Crawford was reopened in 2021 after renovation.

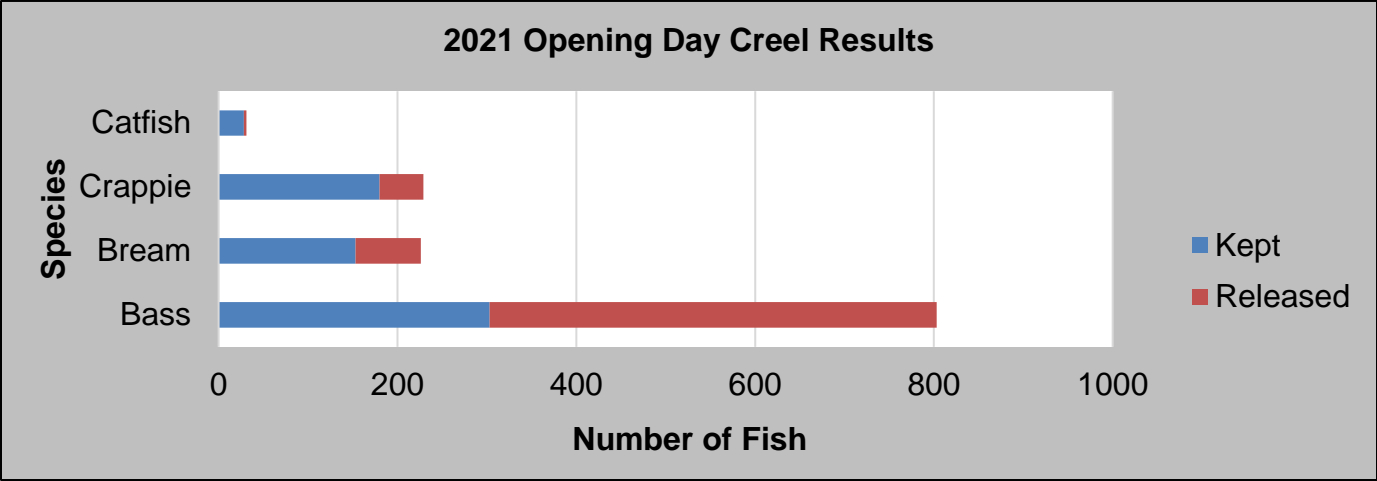
**Below:** Results from the 2022 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Mary Crawford. The fishery is off to an amazing start after the recent renovation. The bass population is well balanced and forage species are in abundance. With proper harvest from anglers this lake will remain an exemplary fishery for years to come.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Channel Catfish	2	0.9	19.4	20.7	2.2	5
Bluegill	140	62.2	5.5	8.8	0.1	257
Longear Sunfish	12	5.3	5.4	6.2	0.1	20
Redear Sunfish	4	1.8	8.9	9.1	0.5	6
Largemouth Bass	53	23.6	11.1	20.4	1.0	70
White Crappie	14	6.2	11.9	13.9	0.9	29



**Above:** Length distributions for Largemouth Bass and Bream (Bluegill, Longear and Redear) collected during 2022 fall electrofishing.

**Below:** Opening Day Creel Results for Lake Mary Crawford. A total of 1,289 fish were caught this day, 625 of which were released.



**Below:** Youth Opening Day Creel Results for Lake Mary Crawford. A total of 220 fish were caught this day, 31 of which were released.

