



Kemper County Lake 2016

Reel Facts

Ryan Jones – Fisheries Biologist

RyanJ@mdwfp.state.ms.us (601) 859-3421

General Information: Kemper Lake is a 596 acre impoundment nestled in the hardwood hills of Kemper County. Built in 1984, it is the second largest state lake. It has an abundant fish population with exceptional bream and crappie.

Location: Just off of Highway 397 North, five miles from DeKalb and 30 miles from Meridian and Philadelphia.

Fishery Management: black bass, crappie, bream, and catfish.

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

Amenities

- 2 boat ramps
- Fishing piers
- Fish cleaning station
- 47 full hookup campsites and primitive camping area.
- Picnic pavilion

Creel Limits

- 30 Crappie per person per day with no length limit.
- 10 Black bass per person per day with no length limit.
- 100 Bream per person per day.
- 10 Catfish per person per day.

Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel only
No trot lines, throw lines, jugs, FFFD's, yo-yos, set hooks, or limb lines allowed.
- Carp, gar, buffalo and Bowfin may be taken by use of bow and arrow at night.
- Skiing is allowed daily from noon to sunset in designated areas.

Permits

- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Camping is on a first come-first served basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

Sport fishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target areas with brush in 4-8 ft of water using road runners or beetle spins. In the summer and fall try jigs or minnows on deep water structure and along creek ledges.

Bass

- Target lily pads with top water baits or submerged structure and deeper points with jerk baits or finesse worms.

Bream

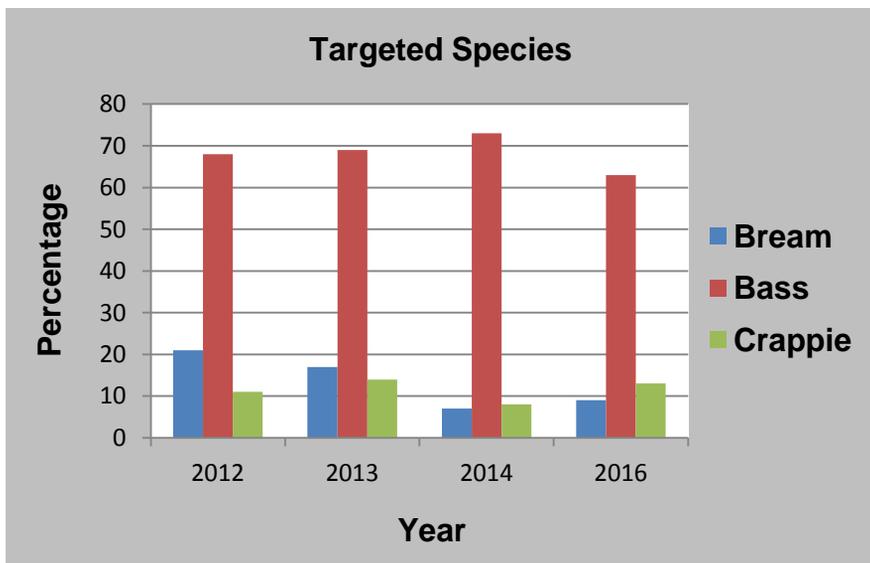
- Use crickets or red worms in shallow areas from early spring to late summer.

Catfish

- Use liver, worms or stink bait in 4-6 ft of water.

Below: Results from the 2014 electrofishing survey. This sampling is conducted every two years in the fall and provides biologists with sport fish population metrics which are monitored over time.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	108	30.9	5.4	8.8	0.1	43.4
Redear Sunfish	19	5.4	7.0	10.7	0.3	7.7
Crappie	3	0.9	6.5	8.9	0.2	1.0
Largemouth Bass	169	48.3	8.2	23.0	1.0	33.8
Spotted Bass	49	14.0	5.8	16.0	0.5	3.5
Chain Pickerel	2	.57	14.3	18.4	0.7	.90

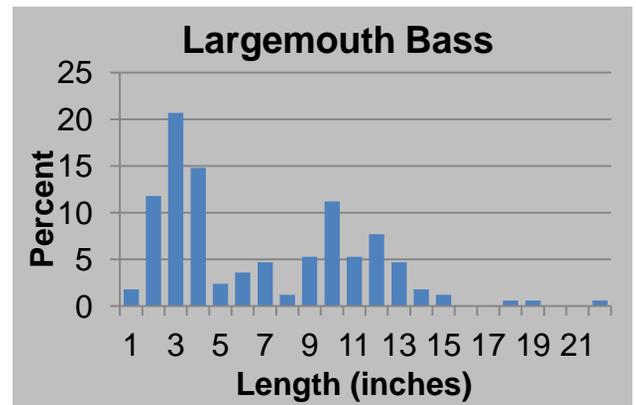
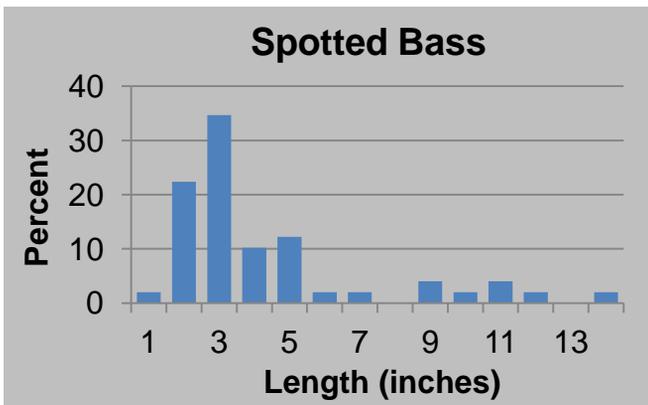
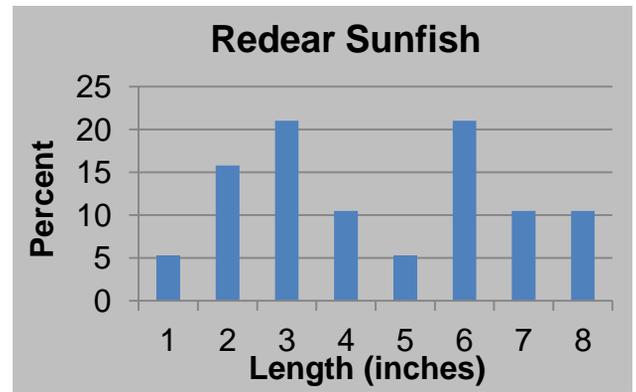
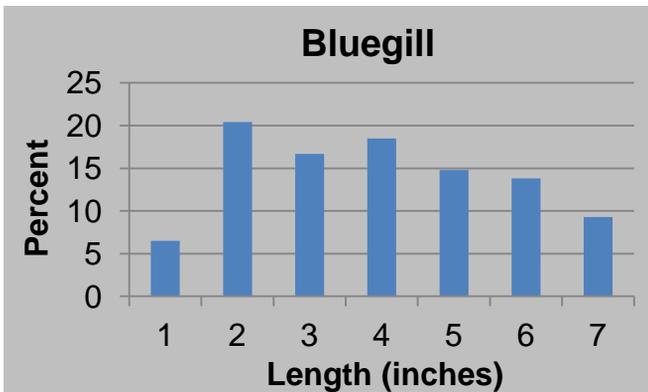


Left: Fish targeted by anglers from spring creel surveys. Black bass are the most popular fish but anglers also target bream and crappie. Kemper has a large Spotted Bass population which offers sportsmen some variety. Data were not available for 2015.

Right: Habitat enhancement for sport fish. Brush cut from the bank is excellent fish habitat and provides anglers with multiple areas to target fish.



Below: Length distributions for sport fish from the 2014 electrofishing survey at Kemper Lake. These figures indicate a wide size distribution of each species. All fish populations are healthy and there are high numbers of harvestable sized Bluegill and Redear Sunfish. Successful spawns were observed in the Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass populations. Anglers are encouraged to harvest a 10 fish limit of any sized bass.



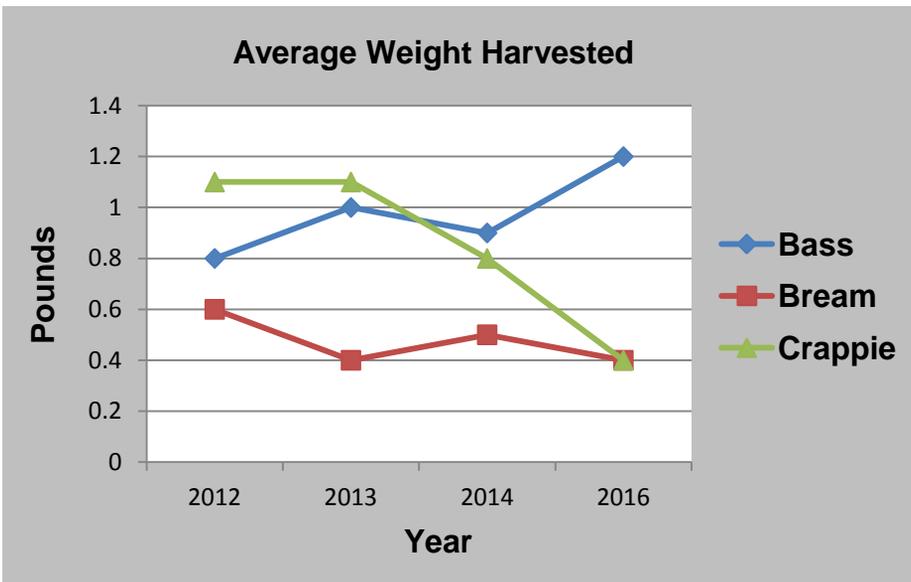
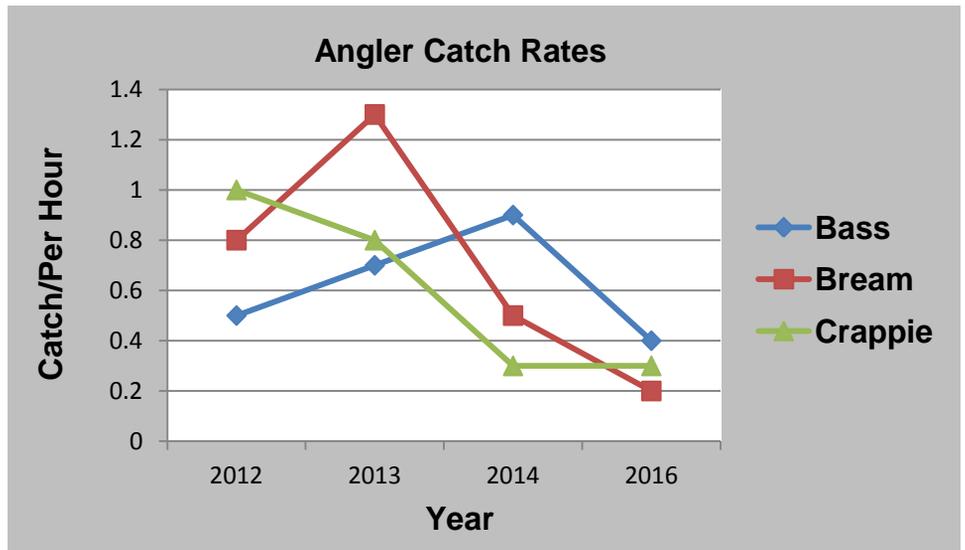
Below: Kemper County Lake is home to the Bald Eagle.



Right: Kemper County Lake has an abundant crappie population. Black Crappie generally average around 1 lb each. The clear water makes crappie fishing a challenge but the benefits are worth the effort.



Below and Right:
 Angler catch rates and average weights of sport fish caught during Spring angler creel surveys at Kemper County Lake. Data were not available for 2015.



Below: Kemper County Lake is characterized by deep, clear water that makes for a unique fishing experience. Numerous brush piles have been added and their GPS coordinates are available on the weekly fishing report page. It is by far one of the most beautiful places to visit in our state.



