



Pickwick Lake 2016

REEL FACTS

Nathan Martin – Fisheries Biologist

NathanM@mdwfp.state.ms.us (662) 840-5176

General Information: Covering 43,100 acres, Pickwick Lake, which borders Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi, is the 4th largest impoundment on the Tennessee River. It is owned and managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The reservoir extends 52.7 miles from Wilson Dam (river mile 259.5) in Florence, Alabama to Pickwick Landing Dam (river mile 206.7). The lake is nationally recognized as one of the best bass fishing lakes in the country.

Location: Northeastern border of Tishomingo County roughly 10 miles north of Iuka on Hwy 25.

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

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

Amenities in MS

- 9 public boat ramps
- 3 marinas
- 3 campgrounds
- J.P. Coleman State Park
- Hotel
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms

Regulations

- Black bass (largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth): 15 inch minimum length limit, 10 bass (combined) per day per angler.
- Crappie: 9 inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 bream (combined) per day per angler.
- Catfish: only 1 fish allowed over 34 inches, otherwise no limit.
- Other creel limits can be found at <http://www.mdwfp.com>

Regulations

Yo-Yo's, Juqs, 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.

Handgrabbing

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.

Licensing

- A Mississippi fishing license is valid from Pickwick Dam upriver to the Old Riverton Lock at mile marker 226.6 (see the map on page 5 below).
- A Tennessee fishing license is valid from the Pickwick Dam upriver to the Hwy 25 Bridge and the Old Riverton Lock.
- A Alabama fishing license is valid from Pickwick Dam upriver to the Hwy 25 Bridge and Wilson Dam.

Sportfishing Notes

Black Bass

- Target main lake and creek ledges and humps with Carolina and/or Texas-rigged plastics, crankbaits, and jigs.
- In the spring, fish main lake flats and coves with spinnerbaits and swimbaits.

Crappie

- Try casting, trolling, and vertical jigging along drop-offs in primary creeks.
- Fish in Yellow and Bear creeks using jigs and minnows.
- Target deeper water in the creeks during winter.

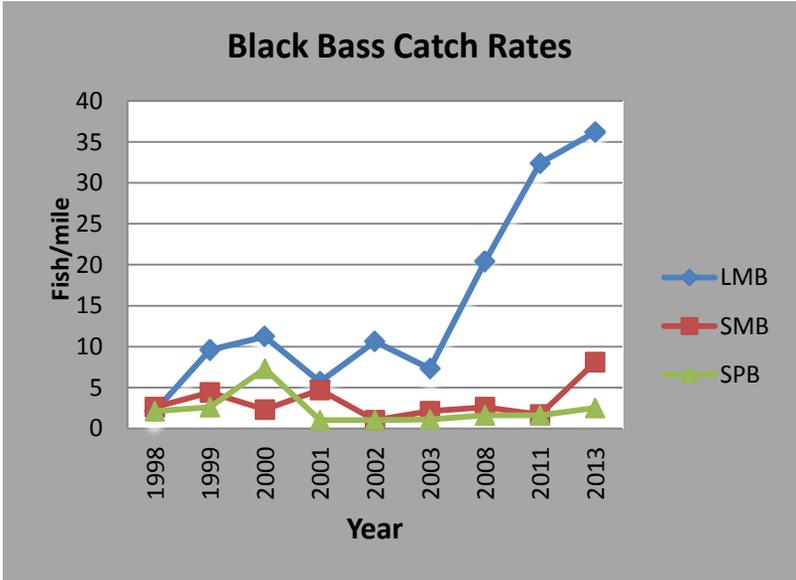
Catfish

- Fish for cats in the main lake around the ledges and humps with cutbait or whole shad.
- During May and June, fish rock bluff walls with nightcrawlers

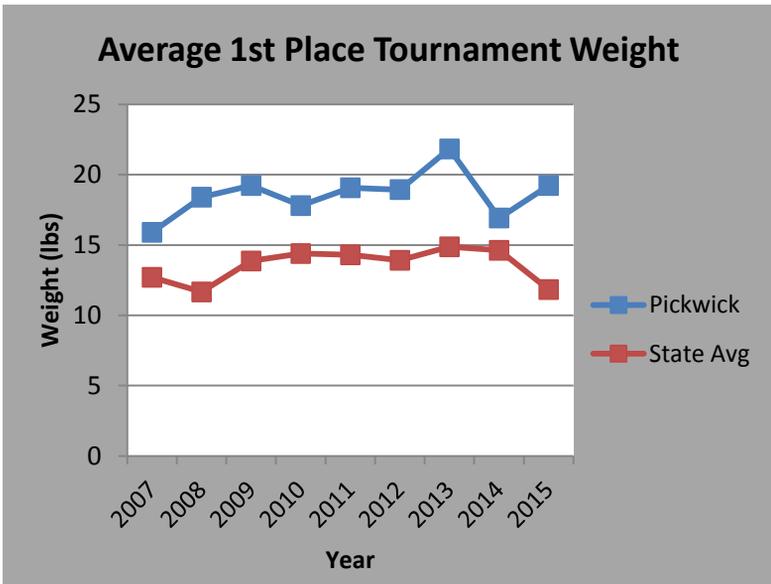
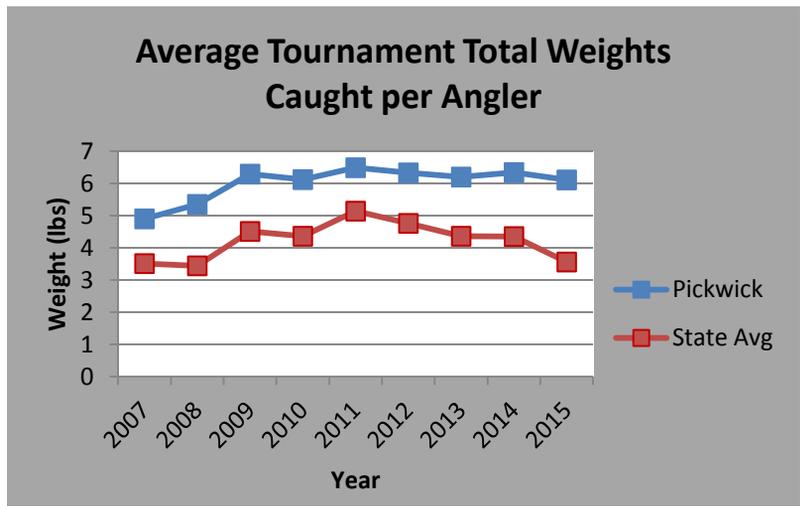
Below: Results from the 2013 spring electrofishing survey on Pickwick. Boat electrofishing was completed along 15.2 miles of shoreline during May.

Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length (inches)	Minimum Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	381	41	11.9	3.9	21.6	36.3
Bluegill	169	18.2	6.1	5	8.5	20.3
Smallmouth Bass	74	7.9	11.7	3.7	19.2	8.1
Gizzard Shad	67	7.2	10.5	7.4	14.1	8.3
Yellow Bass	46	4.9	8.4	6.8	10	5.6
White Crappie	45	4.8	8.5	8.5	15	5.6
Longear Sunfish	38	4.1	5.7	5.1	6.5	4.4
Redear Sunfish	30	3.2	5.6	7.7	10.1	3.6
Threadfin Shad	22	2.3	-	-	-	-
Spotted Bass	20	2.1	11.3	9.3	15.3	1.2

Below: Electrofishing catch rates (fish/mile) for Largemouth Bass (LMB), Smallmouth Bass (SMB), and Spotted Bass (SPB) since 1998. These statistics are for Largemouth Bass 8 inches and longer, and Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass 7 inches and longer. The catch rates for LMB significantly increased starting in 2003. It's not uncommon for catch rates to change over time as populations naturally fluctuate from year to year.



Right: The average total weight (sack weight) of black bass weighed-in per tournament angler each day. Over the past decade, the average tournament weight for Pickwick Lake anglers has been significantly higher than the state average. This is due to the quality bass fishery in the lake.



Left: The average winning bass tournament weight has been higher than the state average over the last eight years.

Below: Summary of bass tournament reports for the past five years. Bass clubs and tournament directors are encouraged to report their tournament results to the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. This data combined with other information helps us manage the fishery.

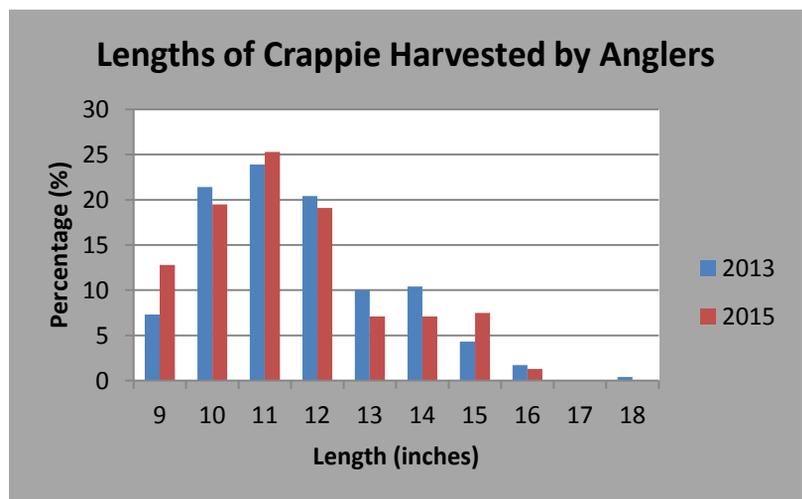
Year	Number of tournaments	Total number of anglers	Total number of bass caught	Avg. number of bass/angler day	Avg. pounds of bass/angler day	Percent of anglers with 5-fish limit	Avg. weight of bass weighed-in	Total number of bass >5 lbs.	Mean weight of "lunker"	Mean 1 st place weight
2010	49	2,206	6,188	2.6	6.1	70	2.5	61	5.7	17.8
2011	78	3,383	10,250	2.8	6.5	70	2.4	141	5.9	19.1
2012	54	2,245	5,273	3.1	6.3	60	2.2	70	6.4	18.9
2013	38	1,362	2,427	2.4	6.2	56	2.7	100	6.5	21.8
2014	63	3,403	8,183	2.2	6.3	32	2.9	80	6.6	16.9

Species targeted	Percentage (%)
Bass	48
Bream	2
Crappie	42
Catfish	9
Party Size	
1	34
2	51
≥3	15
Have you been interviewed on Pickwick in 2015?	
Yes	13
No	87
Do you read and/or use fishing Reports?	
Yes	40
No	60
Opinion on 15" MLL for bass	
Help	56
Hurt	4
No Change	41
Fishing satisfaction for the day	
Very Satisfied	41
Satisfied	47
Neutral/No Opinion	6
Dissatisfied	6
Very Dissatisfied	0



Above: Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Ninety percent of the anglers interviewed were targeting either bass or crappie. Similarly, 85% of the anglers were fishing in a party of two or less. Eighty-seven percent of the anglers were interviewed only one time during the spring of 2015 which shows that many different anglers fish at Pickwick. Approximately 40% use MDWFP fishing reports to plan their fishing trips. The 15 inch minimum length limit on black bass was adopted in 2013. Over half the anglers (56%) thought the regulation had a positive impact on the bass fishery, and 41% thought it had no affect on the population. Only four percent of the anglers responded that the rule had a negative impact on the population. Eighty-eight percent of the anglers were satisfied or very satisfied with their fishing trip at Pickwick Lake.

Right: Length distributions of crappie harvested by anglers at Pickwick Lake during spring 2013 and 2015. Crappie anglers harvested an average of 81.5% of their catch during both years. The average length of crappie harvested in 2013 was 11.7 inches , and in 2015 it was 11.5.



Below: A Mississippi fishing license is valid in the areas shaded in red .

