



# Lake Jeff Davis 2017

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Lake Jeff Davis is a 100 acre State Fishing Lake which first opened in 1963. The lake was renovated in 2010 in order to make repairs to the dam. While drained, willow trees became established and now offer substantial cover.

**Location:** Approximately 3 miles southeast of Prentiss off Hwy 42.

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

**Lake Depth Map:** [http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4626/lake\\_jeff\\_davis.pdf](http://www.mdwfp.com/media/4626/lake_jeff_davis.pdf)

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

### Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom with showers
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 13 camping pads with water/electric hookups
- Bike trail and nature trail

### Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 18-24 inches in length must be released, 15 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 24 inches in length

### 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 Tuesday, 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. Gravel beds around the fishing piers are popular. Also try shallow areas between the willows and shore.

#### Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs.

#### Crappie

- Target deep willow trees around the main lake. Minnows are the most popular choice.

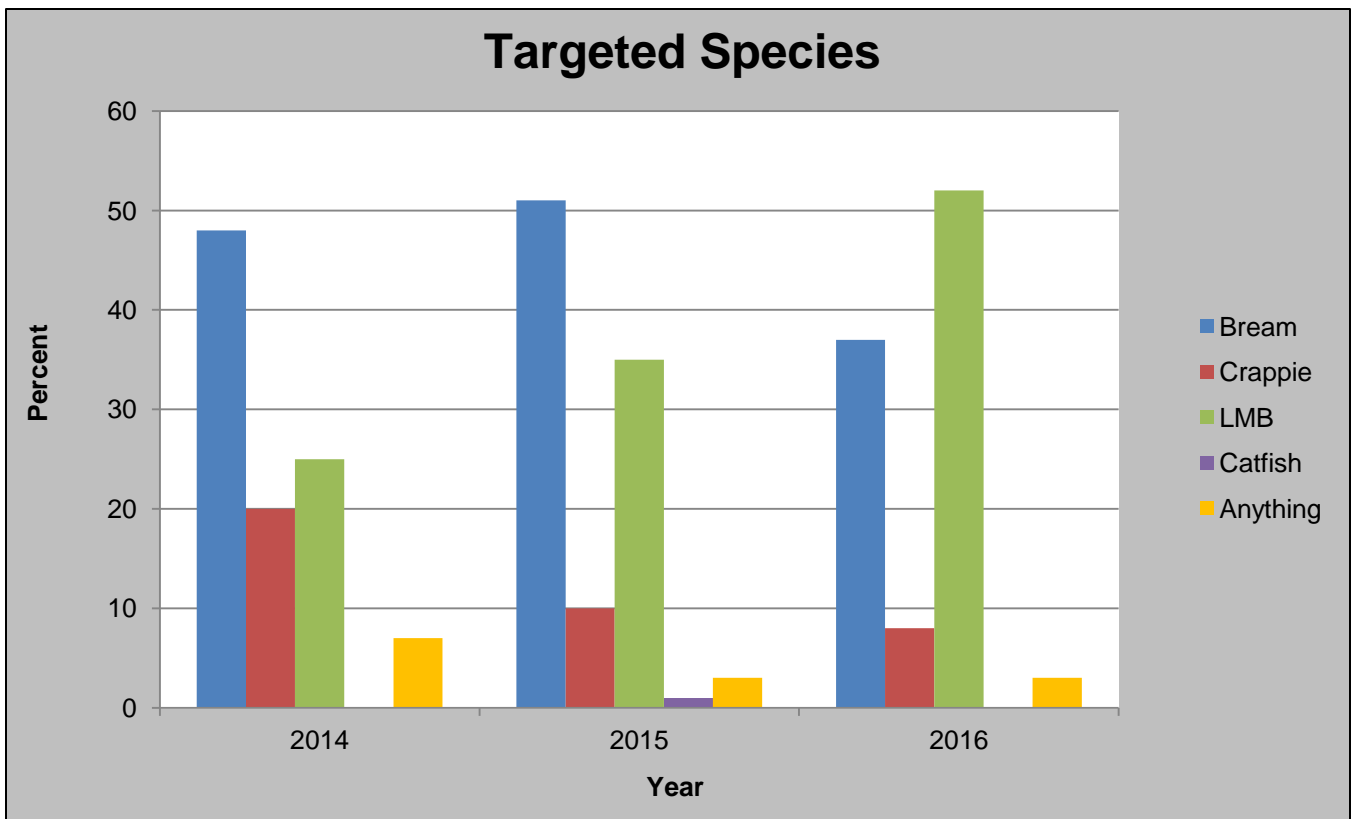
#### Largemouth Bass

- Target stumps and dollar pads in the morning with topwater baits. During the day, fish willow trees with wacky rigged soft plastics and jerkbaits for suspended bass.

**Below:** Lake Jeff Davis 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.

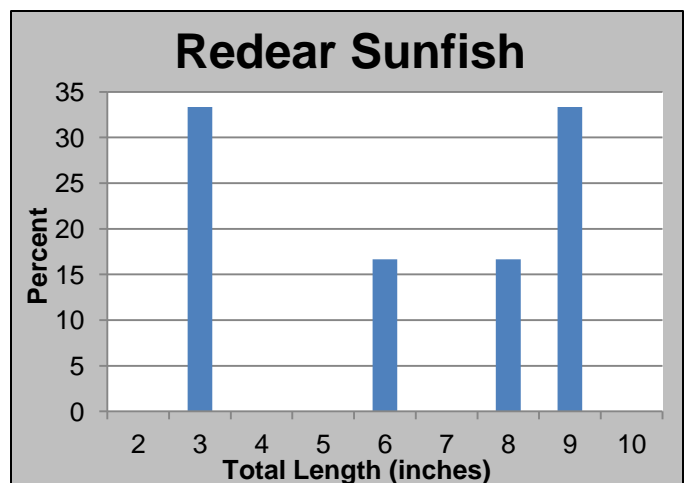
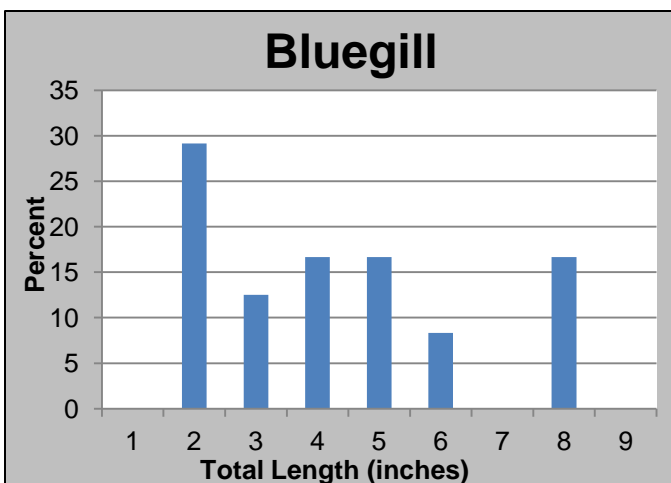
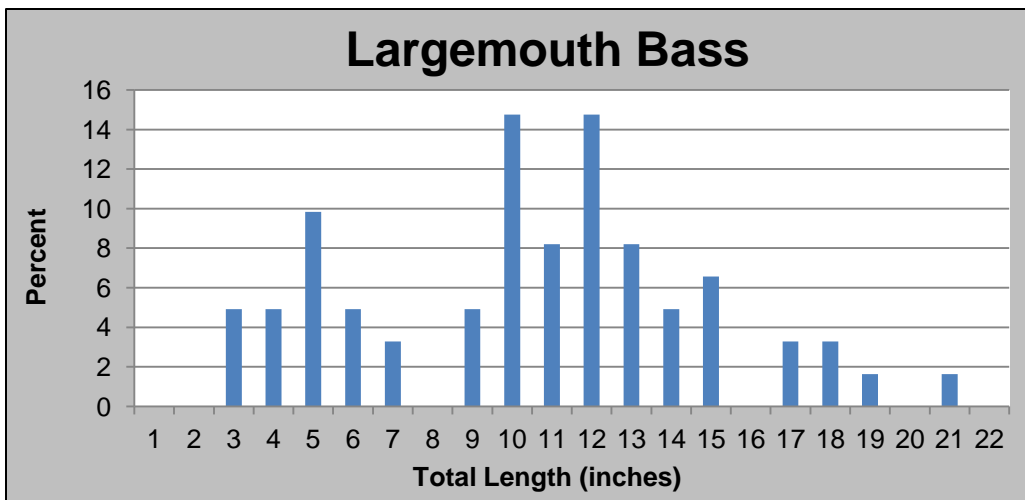
Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	11.50	George Griffith	August 14, 2016
Crappie	Open	-	-
Redear Sunfish	2.54	John Myers	2007
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	27.00	Ken Griffith	1989

**Below:** Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, catfish, and anything at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Bream have been the most targeted species since the lake was reopened with Largemouth Bass being the second most sought after fish. Lake Jeff Davis has been one of the most popular state lakes in Southwest Mississippi since it reopened in 2013.



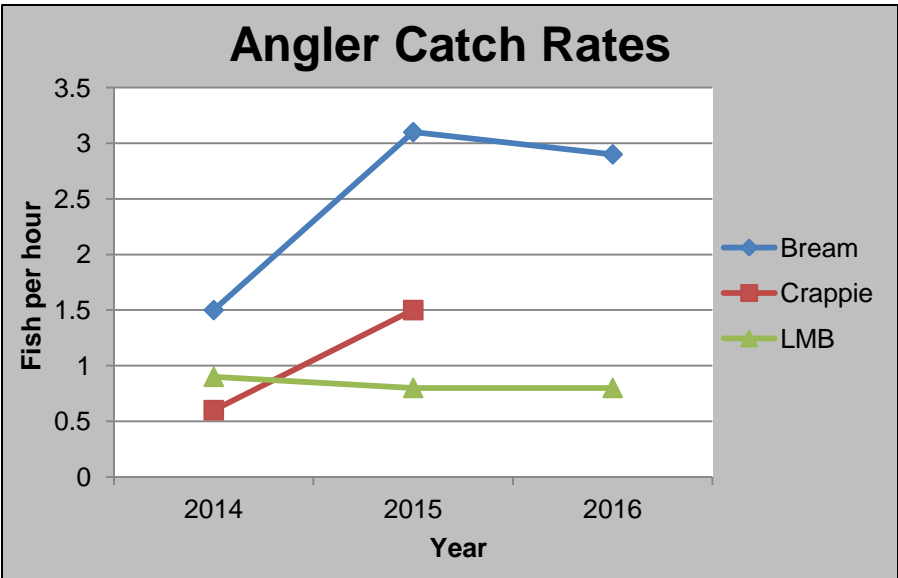
**Below:** Results from the 2015 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Jeff Davis. Overall health of Largemouth Bass and bream has remained consistent over the past three years, but there is room for improvement. There has been a steady increase in the number of large bass collected during sampling since the renovation. We encourage anglers to harvest small bass to help improve the health of larger ones.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	61	64.9	11.0	21.2	1.1	15.7
Bluegill	24	25.5	4.9	8.6	0.2	6.1
Redear Sunfish	6	6.4	6.7	9.5	0.4	1.4
Longear Sunfish	2	2.1	4.4	4.5	0.1	0.7
Warmouth	1	1.1	4.0	4.0	0.1	0.4

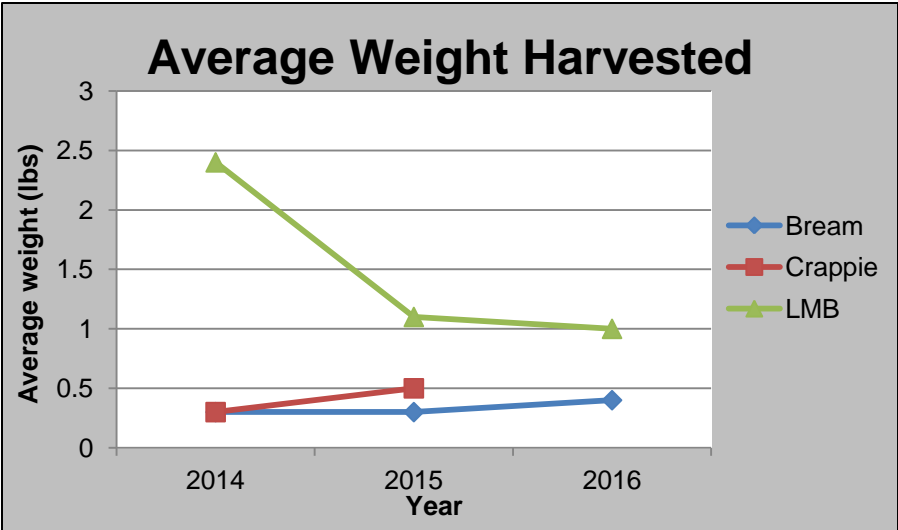


**Above:** Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish collected during 2015 fall electrofishing.

**Right top:** Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, and crappie at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Crappie catch rates have increased as anglers have learned which willow trees consistently hold fish. Largemouth Bass catch rates have remained consistent since reopening.



**Right :** Average weight of harvested fish at Lake Jeff Davis. Average weight of harvested bream has remained consistent, while Largemouth Bass (LMB) harvested weight has declined. The slot limit encourages anglers to harvest smaller fish.



**Left:** Anglers are catching bigger Largemouth Bass each year, as the initial stock starts reaching trophy size. 2015 marked the first year since the renovation that fish over 10 pounds have been caught. With the aggressive slot limit, the potential for a trophy bass fishery certainly exists at Lake Jeff Davis.