



Bay Springs Lake 2021

REEL FACTS

Dustin Rodgers, Dustin.Rodgers@wfp.ms.gov

Stanley Turner, Stanley.Turner@wfp.ms.gov

Telephone (662) 840-5176

General Information: Covering approximately 6,700 acres and 8 miles in length, Bay Springs Lake is the northern most impoundment along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Bay Springs is connected to Pickwick Lake on the Tennessee River through the Divide Cut and Yellow Creek. As a result, water levels on Bay Springs are controlled by Tennessee Valley Authority's operations at Pickwick Dam.

Location: Within Tishomingo and Prentiss Counties approximately 26 miles East of Booneville on Hwy 4.

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

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

Amenities

- 7 public boat ramps
- Marina
- Campground
- Public Beach
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms
- Lock & Dam scenic overlook
- Interpretive center

Regulations

- Black bass (largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth): 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: No limit.
- Other creel limits can be found at <http://www.mdwfp.com>

Fish Stockings

2019

Florida Largemouth Bass
(110,000)

2013

Florida Largemouth Bass
(75,000)

2011

Florida Largemouth Bass
(75,000)

2009

Florida Largemouth Bass
(114,660)

1999

Threadfin Shad
(60,000)

1996

Threadfin Shad
(250,000)
Redear Sunfish
(285,000)

Fishing Tips

Black Bass

- Target main lake and secondary points with C/T rigged plastics.
- In the spring, target timber areas in the back of coves with spinner baits.

Crappie

- Try standing timber near Jackson Camp.
- Fish Ashcraft Holler and McDougal Branch using road-runners or hair jigs.
- Target main lake points in the winter.

Bream

- Fish similar areas as crappie using redworms and crickets.

Catfish

- Target cats at night on the shallow flats with cutbait or liver.
- During the summer, fish the rip-rap on the north side of the lake near Crow's Neck.

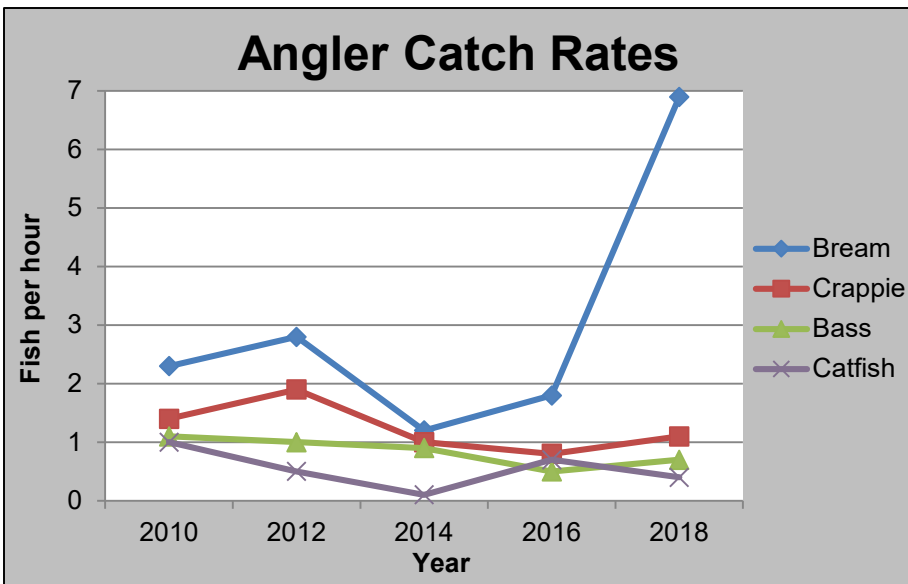
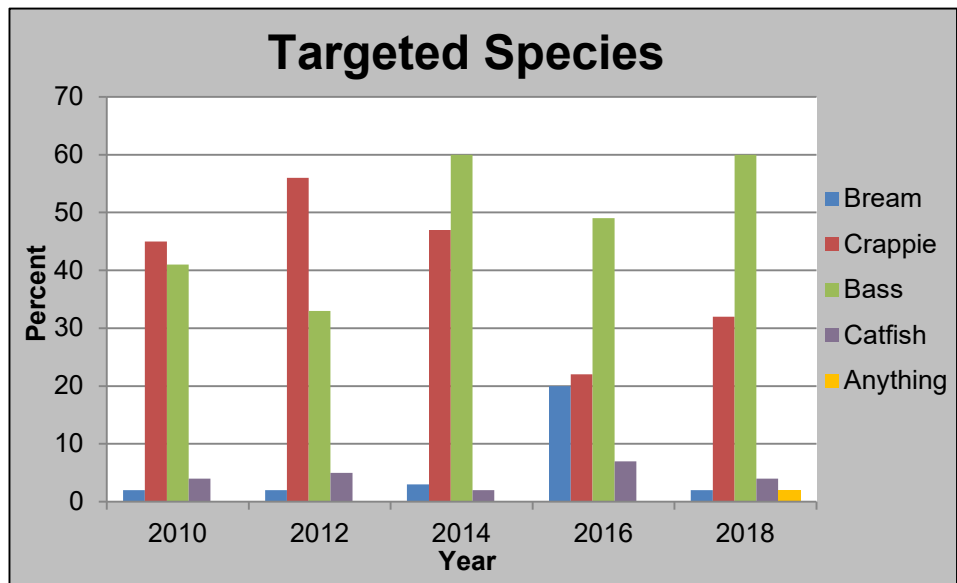
Below: Results from the 2019 fall electrofishing survey on Bay Springs. Boat electrofishing was completed along 5.3 miles of shoreline in November. Healthy bass (largemouth and spotted) populations were seen during the survey.

Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Minimum Length (Inches)	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	161	25	1.3	12.1	23.2	24
Bluegill	186	29	1.6	5.2	7.8	29
Gizzard Shad	1	<1	12.6	12.6	12.6	<1
Redear Sunfish	126	20	3.5	7.2	9.7	22
Spotted Bass	14	2	6.8	12.4	17.3	3
Smallmouth Bass	1	<1	7.5	7.5	7.5	<1
Yellow Perch	15	2	4.8	8.1	11.3	3
Longear Sunfish	10	2	2	3.4	4.7	1
Chain Pickerel	9	1	8	14.5	19.3	1
Warmouth	3	<1	4.7	6	6.7	1
Green Sunfish	2	<1	3.2	3.5	3.9	<1
Black Crappie	108	17	7.8	12.5	14.4	39
Channel Catfish	1	<1	15.7	15.7	15.7	<1

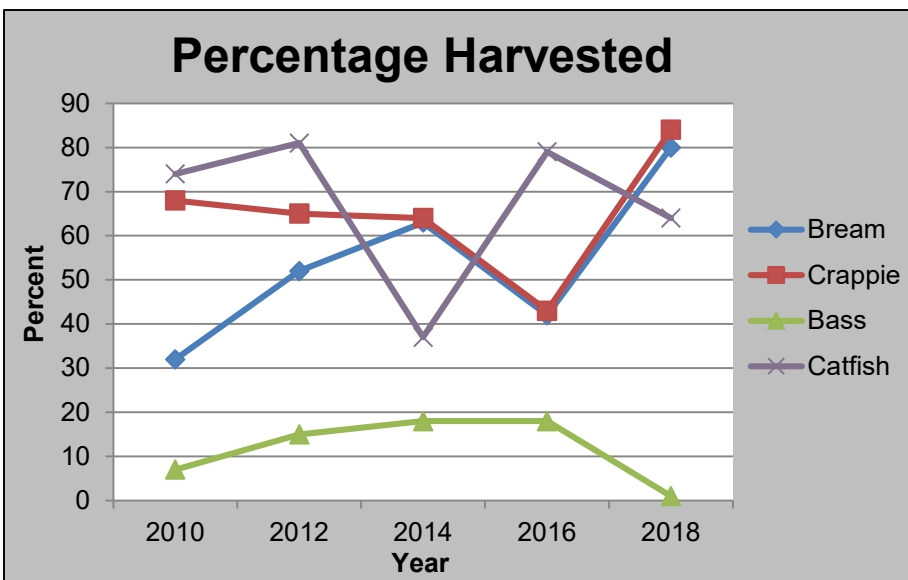
Below: Bay Springs has a healthy crappie population. These Black Crappie were collected from a single piece of woody debris, and almost all were over the 9" minimum length limit.



Right: Percentage of anglers targeting bream, crappie, black bass, catfish, and anything at Bay Springs Lake. The percentages of anglers targeting each species have remained fairly consistent over the last few years; however, bass anglers have increased in total percentage over the long-term.



Left top: Angler catch rates for bream, crappie, black bass, and catfish at Bay Springs based on spring creel surveys. Bream anglers saw a significant increase in catch rate in 2018. Catch rates for bass and crappie were similar to the historical averages. Catch rates have decreased for bass and crappie since 2012. It is possible that the increase in aquatic vegetation has spread fish out more, making it more difficult for anglers to find concentrations of fish.



Left bottom: The percentage of caught fish that are harvested by anglers at Bay Springs Lake during spring creel surveys. 2018 saw the percentage of bass and catfish harvested decrease, while bream and crappie harvest increased.

Have you been interviewed on Bay Springs in 2018?	%
Yes	5
No	95
Do you read and/or plan your fishing trips around the MDWFP weekly fishing reports?	
	%
Yes	37
No	63
Would you support instituting a 14" minimum length limit on black bass throughout the TTW?	
	%
Support	85
Not Support	8
No Opinion	7
Considering all factors, how satisfied are you with the fishing at Bay Springs?	
	%
Very Satisfied	24
Satisfied	58
Neutral	13
Dissatisfied	3
Very Dissatisfied	2



Left: Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Ninety-five percent of the anglers were interviewed only one time during 2018, which shows that many different anglers fish at Bay Springs. Thirty-seven percent of the anglers read the weekly MDWFP fishing reports for Bay Springs. The majority of bass anglers said they would support instituting a 14" minimum length limit on black bass throughout the Tenn-Tom Waterway. Over eighty percent of the anglers interviewed were satisfied with the fishing at Bay Springs Lake.

Right: Average length of crappie and black bass harvested by anglers at Bay Springs Lake during spring creel surveys. The average length of harvested crappie and bass has increased over the past six years. Although the harvest rate for bass has decreased, it appears the size of bass harvested has increased. In contrast, crappie anglers may be harvesting more crappie due to a decrease in the size of crappie caught. Bay Springs Lake should definitely be considered by anglers looking to catch quality size crappie and bass.

