



Lake Prentiss Walker 2024

Reel Facts

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General Information: Lake Prentiss Walker is an 81 acre state fishing lake that was constructed in 1962 and was originally named Lake Ross Barnett. The Lake was closed for repairs in 1994 and reopened in 1997. Prentiss Walker is known for very large Bluegill and Redear sunfish.

Location: Off of Highway 35 in Smith County near the town of Mize.

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

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

Amenities

- 1 boat ramp
- 3 fishing piers
- 21 campsites with electrical/water hookup
- 3 picnic pavilions

Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- 10 Largemouth Bass per day with no length restrictions.
- 100 bream per day.
- 10 catfish per day

Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel fishing only. No trot lines, limb lines, set hooks, jugs or yo-yo's are allowed.
- Carp, gar, buffalo, Freshwater Drum, shad, and Bowfin may be taken by use of Bow and Arrow, Crossbow, Spear or Gig.

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-serve basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

Sportfishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target shoreline areas with jigs or minnows, especially around brush piles in shallow water. In the summer and winter, troll through deeper, open water areas.

Largemouth Bass

- Target coves containing submerged structure with spinner baits or plastic worms. Deep water points or creek channels will produce fish later in the year.

Bream

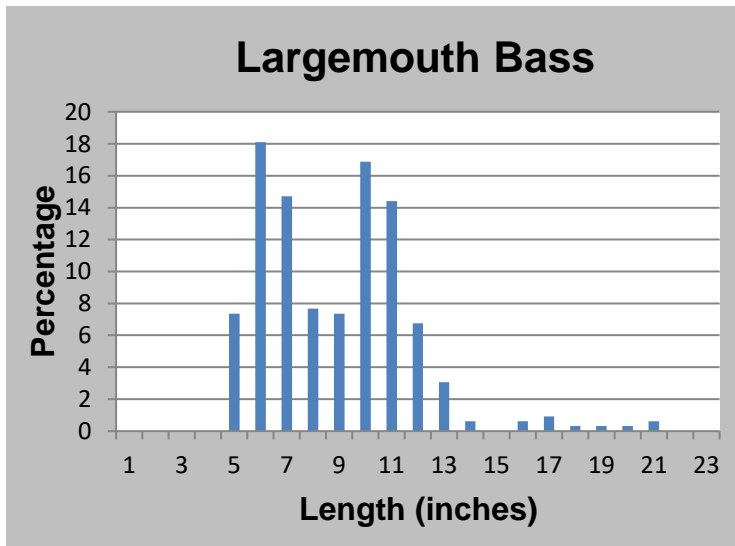
- Use crickets or red worms in shallow water especially from early summer through the fall.

Catfish

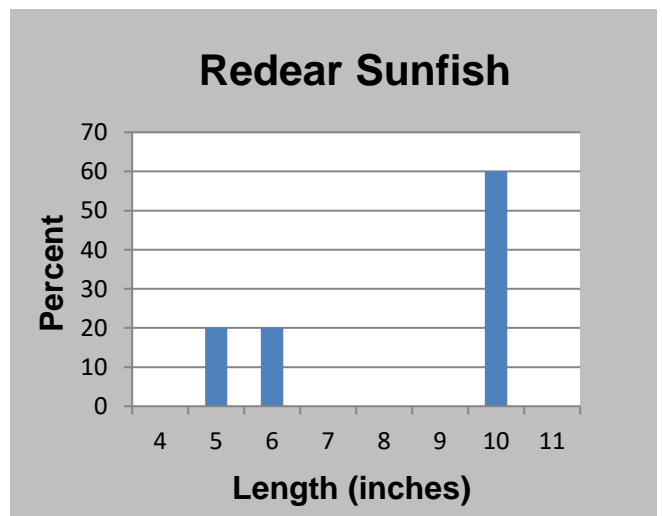
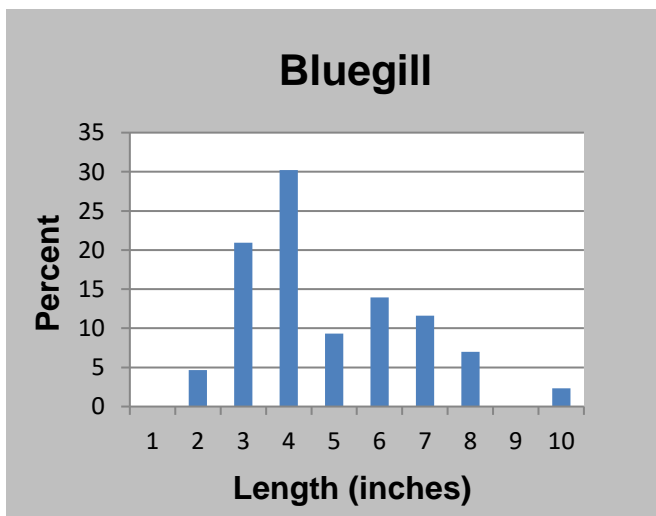
- Tight line on the bottom with live worms or stink baits.

Below: Lake Prentiss Walker 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	13.8 lbs	Daniel Kennedy	Feb. 2008
Crappie	2.0 lbs	Thomas C Hughes	March 2019
Redear Sunfish	1.4 lbs	Catherine Hartzog	March 2019
Bluegill	1.2 lbs	Bryan Stapleton	June 2018
Catfish	43.2 lbs	Roger Norris	Nov. 2020



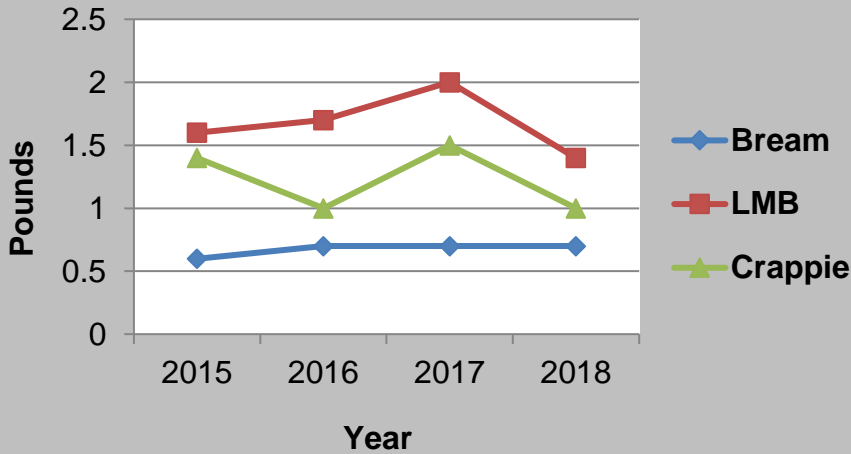
Left and Below: Length distributions for sport fish from the 2021 electrofishing survey. Largemouth Bass are numerous but small. The majority are less than 13 inches. There are some big bass present, but the lake is well known for its bream population. Prentiss Walker has a good amount of forage to produce trophy bream as evident from the bluegill lake record being broken in 2018 by Bryan Stapleton.



Below: 2021 electrofishing results from Prentiss Walker. Survey's are conducted every two years during the fall.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth bass	326	78	9.4	21.5	0.6	175
Golden shiner	4	1	2.3	2.8	-	2
Bluegill	43	10	5.3	10.7	0.2	23
Longear sunfish	8	34	5.1	7.1	-	18
Warmouth	5	1	6.5	8.3	-	3
Redear sunfish	5	1	8.8	10.9	0.6	3

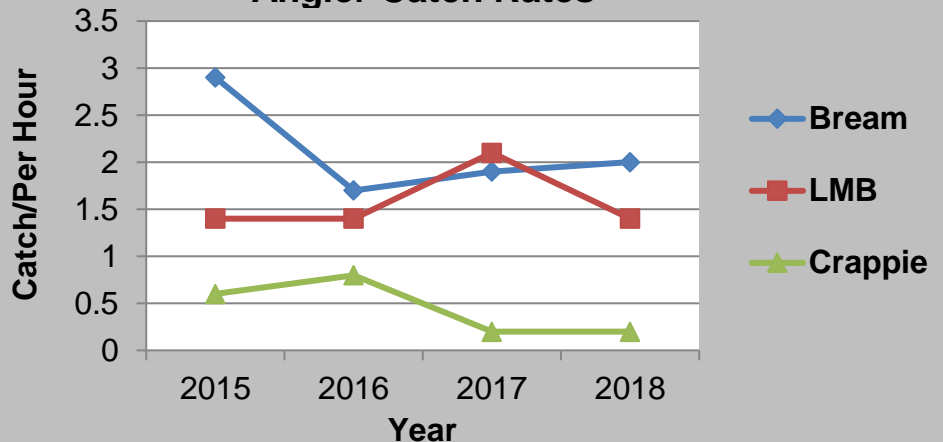
Average Weights Harvested



Left: Average weight of angler harvested fish. Largemouth Bass averaged 1.4 pounds and crappie averaged 1 pounds in 2018. This lake is known for trophy bream, and the average weight was 0.7 pounds.

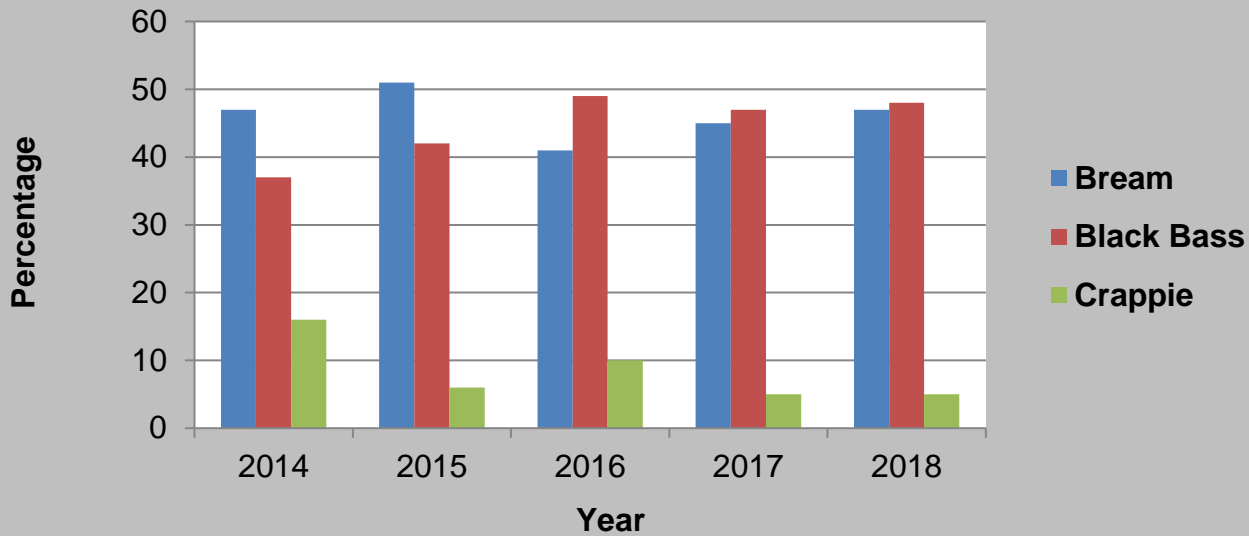
Right: Number of fish caught per hour of angler fishing effort. Largemouth Bass catch rates decreased in 2018 and bream catch rates slightly increased in 2018.

Angler Catch Rates



Below: Bream have been the most sought after species historically, but recently bass anglers have increased. Largemouth Bass and bream are plentiful at Lake Prentiss Walker.

Target Species



Below: Depth map for Lake Prentiss Walker

