



Trace State Park Lake 2024

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Trace State Park Lake is a 565 acre lake located between the cities of Pontotoc and Tupelo in Pontotoc County. The lake was originally designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service as a watershed lake for flood control. The lake was drained in 2017 for repairs to the dam and was re-opened in August of 2020. Historically known for its good bream fishery, the lake currently supports both abundant bass and bream. A seasonal fishery also exists for crappie and catfish.

Location: Trace State Park is located in Pontotoc County, 8 miles W of Tupelo off of Hwy. 6.

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

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

Amenities

- 2 public concrete boat ramps with courtesy piers.
- 3 handicap accessible fishing piers.
- 5 Cabins and 3 cottages.
- Campground with 76 sites including water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- 2 Children's playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Restrooms and showers.
- 2 disc golf courses.
- 14 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Pavilion
- 35 miles of ORV and horse trails

Creel Regulations

- Largemouth Bass: 14-22" slot limit; 10 per day per angler under 14", one over 22".
- Crappie: 20 per day per angler.
- Bream: 20 per day per angler combined.
- Catfish: 10 per day per angler.

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to the boat ramp.
- Rod and reel fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Trace Lake's two main bodies are connected by a canal. Skiing is allowed on the eastern body, but once you go through the canal, it is designated as no wake.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased in the park office
- Contact the park office at (662) 489-2958.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Target main lake points with wacky rigs and Texas-rigged plastics.
- In the summer and fall, fish the weed edges with spinner baits, Texas-rigged plastics, and various topwater lures.

Crappie

- Fish sunken brush tops and laydowns.
- Target main lake points and deep weed edges with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

Bream

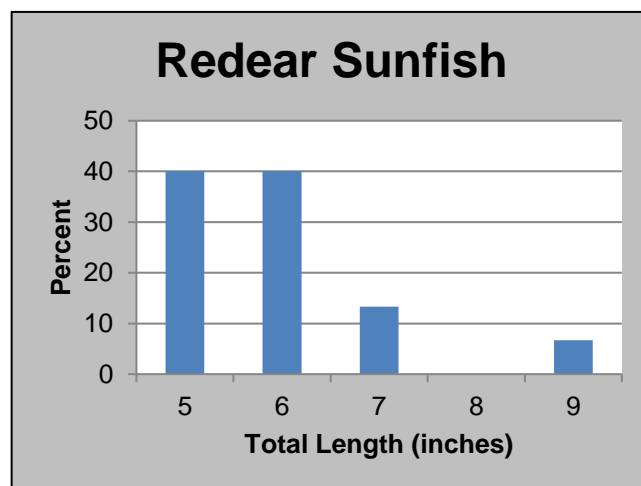
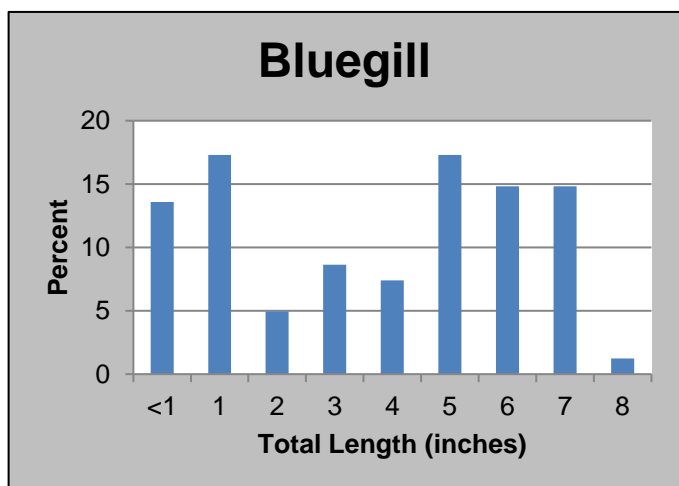
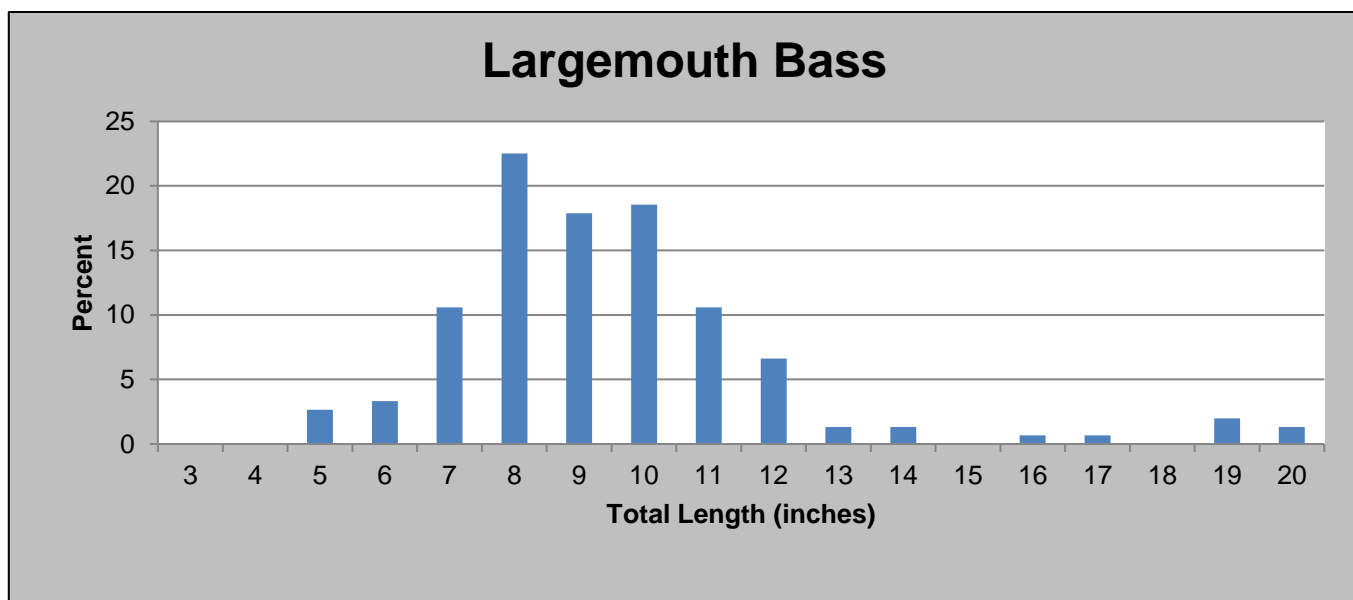
- Target coves with tightlined redworms, mealworms, and crickets.

Catfish

- Target main lake points with nightcrawlers, liver, or cutbait.
- Fish deep laydowns and brushtops on main lake .

Below: Results from the 2023 fall electrofishing survey at Trace State Park. Boat electrofishing was completed along 3.1 miles of shoreline in October. Trace Lake is bass-crowded, and anglers are encouraged to keep all bass caught under 12”.

Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length (Inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	29	10	11.9	14.2	-	9
Channel Catfish	2	<1	23.6	24.0	5.7	1
Bluegill	81	29	4.3	8.2	0.2	17
Redear Sunfish	15	5	6.4	9.7	0.2	5
Largemouth Bass	151	54	10.0	20.4	0.6	42



Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish sampled during fall electrofishing in 2023.



Species targeted	Percentage (%)
Bass	54
Bream	35
Crappie	12
Anything	0
Catfish	0
How satisfied are you with the fishing at Trace?	
Very Satisfied	49
Satisfied	35
Neutral/No Opinion	13
Dissatisfied	4
Very Dissatisfied	0
Do you use a Livescope or similar forward-facing sonar?	
Yes	19
No	81
What is your county of residence?	
Lee	43
Pontotoc	28
Union	15
All other counties	14

Right: 2023 creel data from Trace Lake. Anglers were primarily targeting bass, but there were a good number of bream anglers as well. The majority of anglers do not currently use forward-facing sonar. Anglers from 13 Mississippi counties were interviewed, but the majority came from Lee County.

Below: Graphs depicting species of fish targeted and catch rates for Largemouth Bass, bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish), and crappie at Trace Lake based on spring creel surveys.

