

# MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT PROGRAM



## 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE,  
FISHERIES AND PARKS

FISHERIES DIVISION



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks (MWFP) began a program in 1998 for bass tournament anglers to help biologists monitor bass populations along the Tenn-Tom Waterway. The number of reporting tournaments has increased each year and a statewide program was begun in 2002.

In some waters, it may be the only measure we have of what anglers are catching. Bass clubs and tournament organizers are encouraged to provide valuable tournament results to MWFP on the form shown below:

### MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT REPORT CARD

At a minimum, the underlined items must be filled out to use your report card.

**Lake:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ start- / / end- / /

**Tournament Type:** Individual ( ) -or- Team ( ) **Director:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:**( ) \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Fishing Time (hours)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Bag Limit (no. bass)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total No. of Anglers or Teams** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Over 8 Pounds** \_\_\_\_\_

**No. of Anglers or Teams Weighing Bass** \_\_\_\_\_ **No. Over 5 Pounds** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total No. of Bass Weighed In** \_\_\_\_\_ **Limits Caught** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Weight (all bass)** \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ ozs./tenths **Size Limit (inches)** \_\_\_\_\_

**First Place Weight** \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ ozs./tenths

**Tournament Lunker** \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. \_\_\_\_\_ ozs./tenths

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

By mail: Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks  
C/O Larry Pugh  
272 CR 995  
Tupelo, MS 38802

ph: 662-840-5172  
fax: 662-840-5170  
email: larryp@dwfp.state.ms.us

## 2002 Bass Tournament Program Results

- C A total of 146 tournaments reported 15,837 pounds of bass (Table 1). Report cards were received on 21 lakes. Bay Springs Lake had the most tournaments reported.
- C Average weight of bass ranged from 1.06 pounds in Sardis Reservoir to 2.44 pounds in Ross Barnett Reservoir. The statewide average weight of tournament bass was 1.79 pounds. Using average length of tournaments to define an angler day, pounds caught/angler day were highest at Lock D (TTW) and Ross Barnett Reservoir.
- C It took an average of 8.50 pounds to win a tournament in 2002 (Table 1). Of lakes with a least five tournaments reported, Pickwick and Bay Springs had the highest average winning weights.
- C Lakes (at least five tournaments reported) were ranked by averaging six "quality indicators" (Table 2). Pickwick and Bay Springs finished with the highest ranks. This information is best used to follow trends on a particular lake. Natural fluctuations in bass abundance and size structure are normal, plus environmental conditions and angling pressure vary from year to year.
- C Thirteen clubs or organizers submitted more than one report card (Table 3). More reports from any particular lake will increase the validity of the data for that lake. More statewide coverage is also needed.
- C On the average, it took 300 angler hours, or 35 angler days, to weigh-in a bass over five pounds during 2002 tournaments. A total of 127 bass five pounds or larger were reported.
- C Of these, seven were at least seven pounds (Table 4). More bass over five pounds were weighed-in at Pickwick and Bay Springs. The largest bass reported weighed 8.04 pounds from Pickwick Lake.
- C The heaviest five-bass limit weighed 29.58 pounds from Pickwick Lake. The big limit of smallmouth bass was weighed-in during a Mountain Dew Buddy Trail tournament.
- C Limits of bass were weighed-in by 32% of all anglers or teams.

C Tournament bag limits varied from 5 to 7 bass and were more restrictive than state regulations. Most tournaments had a 12-inch minimum length limit.

Success of this program depends on more participation from clubs and tournament organizers with MWFP. We thank all those who voluntarily submitted report cards. Results can be used by tournament directors, anglers, and biologists to better manage and enjoy our fishery resources.

Angler involvement has been and remains the key to protecting and managing Mississippi's fishery resources.

Table 1. Summary of bass tournament results from the 2002 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program.

Waterbody	Report Cards	Entries	Bass Caught	Bass Per Day	Pounds Per Day	Percent Success	Average Weight	No. >5 lbs.	Big Bass	Average 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Aberdeen	16	468	1,020	2.18	3.68	37	1.69	15	4.74	10.99
Aliceville	10	294	726	2.47	3.64	20	1.47	5	4.97	11.94
Bay Springs	38	989	1,664	1.68	3.39	39	2.01	49	5.04	12.72
Columbus	18	683	1,434	2.10	3.15	21	1.50	9	4.18	9.85
Enid	1	13	4	0.31	0.35	0	1.14	0	1.44	1.44
Ferguson	1	89	102	1.15	2.21	7	1.93	0	4.50	13.37
Flower	1	13	10	0.77	1.00	0	1.30	0	2.94	3.27
Grenada	5	134	125	0.93	1.94	1	2.08	0	3.87	8.81
Gulfport	1	16	24	1.50	1.47	0	0.98	0	2.54	6.06
Jordan River	1	19	27	1.42	1.79	5	1.26	0	3.50	6.43
Lakeview	2	30	11	0.37	0.88	0	2.39	1	4.49	7.49
Lock B TTW	4	116	273	2.35	3.76	61	1.60	1	4.54	13.19
Lock C TTW	1	14	27	1.93	2.54	7	1.31	0	2.88	6.69
Lock D TTW	3	50	173	3.46	5.02	42	1.45	0	4.49	10.46
Moon	2	21	23	1.10	1.69	0	1.54	0	2.45	4.40
Pascagoula	1	14	24	1.71	2.23	7	1.30	0	2.89	6.97
Pearl River	1	11	16	1.45	1.70	0	1.17	0	3.10	4.98
Pickwick	37	1,430	2,938	2.13	4.05	51	1.90	44	4.48	13.14
Ross Barnett	1	122	236	1.93	4.72	11	2.44	3	6.50	17.06
Sardis	1	12	2	0.17	0.18	0	1.06	0	1.35	1.35
Tunica	1	11	12	1.09	2.22	0	2.04	0	4.80	7.96
<b>Totals</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>3,263</b>	<b>8,871</b>					<b>127</b>		
<b>Average</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1.97</b>	<b>3.52</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1.79</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>3.79</b>	<b>8.50</b>

Table 2. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2002 reports.

Ranked by "Fishing Quality Indicators" from lakes with 5 or more tournament reports											
Average weight/bass (lbs.)	Average Number Caught per 8-hour day	Average Pounds Caught per 8-hour day	Index of hours to catch a bass > 5 lbs.	Average big bass weight (lbs.)	Average 1 <sup>st</sup> place weight (lbs.)	Overall Rank					
Grenada 2.08	Aliceville 2.47	Pickwick 4.05	Bay Springs 1.7	Bay Springs 5.04	Pickwick 13.14	<b>#1 Pickwick</b>					
Bay Springs 2.01	Aberdeen 2.18	Aberdeen 3.68	Pickwick 2.7	Aliceville 4.97	Bay Springs 12.72	<b>#2 Bay Springs</b>					
Pickwick 1.90	Pickwick 2.13	Aliceville 3.64	Aberdeen 2.7	Aberdeen 4.74	Aliceville 11.94	<b>#3 Aberdeen</b>					
Aberdeen 1.69	Columbus 2.10	Bay Springs 3.39	Aliceville 5.0	Pickwick 4.48	Aberdeen 10.99	<b>#4 Aliceville</b>					
Columbus 1.50	Bay Springs 1.68	Columbus 3.15	Columbus 6.5	Columbus 4.18	Columbus 9.85	<b>#5 Columbus</b>					
Aliceville 1.47	Grenada 0.93	Grenada 1.94	Grenada N/A	Grenada 3.87	Grenada 8.81	<b>#6 Grenada</b>					

Table 3. Organizations that submitted reports in the 2002 MWFP Bass Tournament Program.

<b>Club</b>	<b>Number of tournaments</b>	<b>Number of anglers</b>
Aberdeen TTW Bassmasters	11	116
BAIT tournament trail	7	210
Belmont Bass Club	24	502
Wal-Mart BFL	6	594
BITE - TN (Pickwick)	27	668
D.E.R.A.	4	60
Hookbenders	4	80
Monroe County Bassmasters	11	311
Mississippi Bassbusters	11	132
Mountain Dew Buddy Trail	7	880
Starkville Bass Club	8	128
Tupelo Bass Club	7	61
West Point TTW Bassmasters	6	135

Table 4. Summary of bass weighed-in that were seven pounds or larger from the 2002 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program Report.

Weight (lbs.)	Date	Lake	Tournament/Club
8.04	3/30/02	Pickwick Lake	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.80	5/03/02	Aberdeen Lake	BASS State Federation
7.62 *	3/30/02	Pickwick Lake	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.47 **	2/23/02	Bay Springs Lake	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.43 *	3/30/02	Pickwick Lake	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.42	2/23/02	Bay Springs Lake	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.04	2/23/02	Aliceville Lake	Monroe County Bassmasters

\* indicates smallmouth bass

\*\* indicates spotted bass