

MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT PROGRAM



2004 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

Lake: _____	Date: _____	Start: _____	Stop: _____
Tournament Type: Individual () Team ()	Director: _____		
Club or Organization: _____		Phone: _____	
Address: _____	City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
Total No. of Anglers or Teams: _____	Limits Caught: _____		
Total Weight (all bass):	_____ Lbs.	_____ ozs./tenths	
First Place Weight:	_____ Lbs.	_____ ozs./tenths	
Tournament Lunker:	_____ Lbs.	_____ ozs./tenths	
No. of Bass over 5 Pounds: _____			

By mail: Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks
C/O Larry Pugh
272 CR 995
Tupelo, MS 38804

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

2004 Bass Tournament Program Results

- A total of 234 tournaments reported 30,516 pounds of bass (Table 1). Report cards were received on 39 lakes. Fifteen more tournaments were submitted than in 2003 and from 10 additional lakes. Bay Springs and Pickwick Lakes had the most tournaments reported.
- Average weight of bass ranged from 0.63 pounds at Lake Ross Barnett to 3.10 pounds in Geiger Lake at Paul B. Johnson State Park. The statewide average weight of tournament bass increased from 1.55 pounds in 2003 to 1.99 pounds. Using average length of tournaments to define an angler day, pounds caught/angler day were highest at Bee Lake and Trace State Park Lake.
- It took an average of 12.77 pounds to win a tournament in 2004 (Table 1). Of lakes with a least five tournaments reported, Lake Ferguson and Ross Barnett Reservoir had the highest average winning weights.
- Lakes (at least five tournaments reported) were ranked by averaging six “quality indicators” (Table 2). The top 3 lakes in 2004 were Lake Ferguson, Bay Springs Lake and Aberdeen Lake. Ferguson and Bay Springs switched places from 2003. Ferguson received high marks for average winning weight, average weight of bass weighed-in and pounds of bass caught per day. Bay Springs and Aberdeen scored well under average lunker weight and hours to catch a bass over 5 pounds. Ross Barnett Reservoir and Columbus Lake rounded out the top-5. 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.
- Thirty-four 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. Additional tournament data from the north Mississippi flood control reservoirs and the Mississippi River oxbow lakes are needed.
- Team tournaments made up 60% of the reports submitted and averaged 21 teams per tournament. Individual tournaments (e.g., club tournaments) accounted for 40% of the reports and averaged 29 participants per event.

- The number of bass weighed-in over 5 pounds increased in 2004. On the average, it took 321 angler hours, or 38 angler days, to weigh-in a bass over five pounds during 2004 tournaments. A total of 225 bass (41 more than in 2003) five pounds or larger were reported.
- Of these, 30 bass were at least seven pounds, more than double the number reported in 2003 (Table 4). More bass over five pounds were weighed-in at Bay Springs, Pickwick, Aberdeen and Columbus Lakes. The largest bass reported weighed 11.85 pounds from Kemper County Lake.
- The heaviest five-bass limit weighed 27.18 pounds from Lake Ferguson. The heavy sack was weighed-in on April 4, 2004, during a Media Bass Team Trail tournament.
- Limits of bass were weighed-in by 32% of all anglers or team, similar to the number of limits reported in 2003.
- 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 2004 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 1st Place
Aberdeen	20	518	1148	2.22	3.96	38.11	1.78	18	4.98	13.35
Aliceville	13	260	486	1.87	3.41	18.94	1.82	7	5.42	10.62
Back Bay	3	103	294	2.85	4.03	44.83	1.41	2	4.85	12.14
Bay Springs	42	1246	1941	1.98	4.04	32.99	2.04	69	5.55	13.42
Bee Lake	1	31	103	3.32	8.13	41.94	2.45	2	6.11	20.09
Bogue Homa	4	126	178	1.41	4.08	31.75	2.89	9	7.04	18.69
Columbus	21	1184	2177	1.84	3.35	27.61	1.82	18	5.52	13.22
De Soto	3	155	339	2.19	4.84	55.56	2.21	4	5.39	16.47
Eagle	1	18	12	0.67	2.03	0.00	3.04	0	4.88	8.88
Enid	1	70	89	1.27	2.00	22.86	1.57	.	.	12.91
Ferguson	5	352	740	2.10	4.65	43.91	2.21	6	5.46	18.85
Flint Creek	5	143	180	1.26	1.72	16.25	1.37	1	3.74	8.22
Grenada	3	119	234	1.97	4.51	50.72	2.29	2	4.7	14.57
Gulfport	2	75	137	1.83	2.80	38.64	1.53	0	3.61	8.81
Jordan River	1	40	139	3.48	5.05	50.00	1.45	0	4.62	11.29
Kemper	1	15	29	1.93	2.71	13.33	1.40	1	11.85	11.85
Lincoln	1	23	46	2.00	2.09	4.35	1.05	1	6.00	7.00
Lake Ross Barnett	1	9	35	3.89	2.46	66.67	0.63	.	.	4.24
Lamar Bruce	1	24	50	2.08	2.99	58.33	1.43	0	4.04	9.51
Little Black	1	9	14	1.56	1.64	22.22	1.05	.	.	5.51
Lock B	5	98	233	2.38	3.87	40.54	1.63	1	4.06	10.70
Lock C	4	60	129	2.15	3.75	20.00	1.75	2	6.04	15.59
Lock D	4	60	173	2.88	4.74	43.75	1.65	2	4.47	12.17
Lock E	1	18	22	1.22	1.84	11.11	1.50	1	6.45	9.81
Log Loader	1	71	110	1.55	4.50	36.11	2.91	3	6.57	21.44
Maynor Ck	2	41	99	2.41	3.37	14.63	1.40	1	5.96	9.11
Oktatibbee	2	68	101	1.28	1.58	31.25	1.23	2	5.10	10.43
Pascagoula	9	397	879	2.21	3.33	57.46	1.50	5	4.49	13.02
Paul BJ	3	42	21	0.50	1.55	4.76	3.10	0	2.32	7.48
Pearl River	8	194	605	3.12	4.85	75.69	1.55	1	4.27	12.22
Perry	1	9	17	1.89	2.77	33.33	1.46	.	.	6.59
Pickwick	37	1806	2567	1.42	2.99	22.41	2.10	43	4.10	14.41
Ross Barnett Resv	17	891	1085	1.22	3.73	20.80	3.06	7	5.39	15.18
Sardis	2	145	301	2.08	3.24	58.11	1.56	6	6.585	14.24
Tippah	2	48	74	1.67	1.88	50.00	1.13	0	3.37	7.94
Trace	2	46	103	2.24	6.53	82.61	2.92	3	6.20	18.78
Tunica	2	74	156	2.11	4.90	62.16	2.32	3	4.96	16.85
Washington	1	88	160	1.82	5.02	46.67	2.76	2	6.42	22.23
Whittington	1	64	110	1.72	4.19	56.25	2.44	3	7.04	20.22
Totals	234	8,740	15,316					223		
Average		37	65	1.81	3.60	32	1.99	0.95	4.81	12.77

Table 2. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2004 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 st place weight (lbs.)	Overall Rank						
Ross Barnett 3.06	Pearl River 3.12	Pearl River 4.85	Bay Springs 1.21	Bay Springs 5.55	Ferguson 18.85	#1 Ferguson						
Ferguson 2.21	Lock B 2.38	Ferguson 4.65	Aberdeen 2.47	Columbus 5.52	Ross Barnett 15.18	#2 Bay Springs						
Pickwick 2.10	Aberdeen 2.22	Bay Springs 4.03	Aliceville 3.18	Ferguson 5.46	Pickwick 14.41	#3 Aberdeen						
Bay Springs 2.04	Pascagoula 2.21	Aberdeen 3.96	Pickwick 3.57	Aliceville 5.42	Bay Springs 13.42	#4 Ross Barnett						
Columbus 1.82	Ferguson 2.10	Lock B 3.87	Ferguson 4.99	Ross Barnett 5.39	Aberdeen 13.35	#5 Columbus						
Aliceville 1.82	Bay Springs 1.98	Ross Barnett 3.73	Columbus 5.59	Aberdeen 4.98	Columbus 13.22	#6 Aliceville						
Aberdeen 1.78	Aliceville 1.87	Aliceville 3.41	Pascagoula 6.75	Pascagoula 4.49	Pascagoula 13.02	#7 Pickwick						
Lock B 1.63	Columbus 1.84	Columbus 3.35	Lock B 8.51	Pearl River 4.27	Pearl River 12.22	#7 Pearl River						
Pearl River 1.55	Pickwick 1.42	Pascagoula 3.33	Ross Barnett 10.82	Pickwick 4.10	Lock B 10.70	#9 Lock B						
Pascagoula 1.50	Flint Creek 1.26	Pickwick 2.99	Flint Creek 12.16	Lock B 4.06	Aliceville 10.62	#10 Pascagoula						
Flint Creek 1.37	Ross Barnett 1.22	Flint Creek 1.72	Pearl River 16.49	Flint Creek 3.74	Flint Creek 8.22	#11 Flint Creek						

Table 3. Organizations that submitted reports in the 2004 MWFP Bass Tournament Program.

Club	Number of tournaments	Number of anglers
Aberdeen TTW Bass Anglers	10	153
American Bass Anglers	1	22
Anglers Choice	1	29
B.A.I.T. Team Trail	7	153
Belmont Bass Club	22	482
Camp Shelby Bass Club	9	102
Cooper Tire Bass Club	2	42
Dixie Bassmasters	5	104
Donny Wayne Benefit Tournament	1	53
Fisher's of Men-North Division	5	392
Fisher's of Men-South Division	5	284
Fisher's of Men-West Tennessee	2	208
Five County Bass Club	11	246
Four Lakes Bass Club	1	20
Great Southern Bassmasters	1	19
Houston Hawg Callers	8	176
Media Team Trail-MS River Division	6	428
Media Team Trail-North Division	6	437
Media Team Trail-Ross Barnett Division	6	626
Media Team Trail-South Division	6	38
Meridian Bass Club	3	52
Monroe County Bassmasters	11	166
Mountain Dew Tournament Trail	9	830
North MS Bassmasters	1	25
Oxford Bass Club	1	28
Rankin County Bass Club	4	76
Simpson County Bass Club	1	31
South MS Assoc. of Bass Clubs	8	365
Starkville Bass Club	10	163
Team Trails of MS-Central Division	4	44
Team Trails of MS-East MS Division	6	321
Team Trails of MS-Gulf Coast Division	4	159
Team Trails of MS-NE MS Division	7	213
Team Trails of MS-Regional	2	372

Team Trails of MS-SE Division	6	204
Team Trails of MS-West AL Division	1	44
Team Trails of MS-Winter Division	2	58
T.W.R.A. BITE Program	17	430
Tupelo Bass Club	7	57
Wal-Mart BFL MS Division	6	645
Wal-Mart BFL Regional	3	234
Wal-Mart FLW Everstart	4	130
West Point TTW Bassmasters	9	239

Table 4. Summary of bass weighed-in that were seven pounds or larger from the 2004 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program Report.

Weight (lbs.)	Date	Lake	Tournament/Club
11.85	1/03/04	Kemper County Lake	Dixie Bassmasters
9.53	10/23/04	Aliceville	Monroe County Bassmasters
9.37	2/22/04	Lock C	Five County Bass Club
8.40	3/28/04	Bay Springs	Media Team Trail-North
8.39	6/05/04	Maynor Creek	Dixie Bassmasters
8.38	3/27/04	Columbus	FLW-BFL
8.04	10/16/04	Pickwick	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.90	6/20/04	Ross Barnett	Media Team Trail-RB
7.88	5/22/04	Aberdeen	Aberdeen TTW Bassmasters
7.69	3/06/04	Aberdeen	BAIT Team Trail
7.66	3/20/04	Bogue Homa	MS Team Trails-SE
7.56	2/28/04	Pickwick	FLW-BFL
7.56	6/19/04	Bogue Homa	MS Team Trails-SE
7.50	3/24/04	Pickwick	FLW-Everstart
7.50	2/22/04	Ross Barnett	Media Team Trail-RB
7.49	3/13/04	Bay Springs	Fisher's of Men-North
7.48	2/21/04	Bay Springs	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.44	4/20/04	Bay Springs	Belmont Bass Club
7.43	8/14/04	Bay Springs	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.42	7/06/04	Bay Springs	Belmont Bass Club
7.40	6/05/04	Columbus	MS Team Trails-EMS
7.32	7/17/04	Pickwick	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.25	3/13/04	Pickwick	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.22	8/28/04	Trace Lake	Five County Bass Club
7.18	4/17/04	Bay Springs	Mountain Dew Buddy Trail
7.14	3/20/04	Bay Springs	American Bass Anglers
7.04	3/20/04	Ross Barnett	West Point TTW Bassmaster
7.04	6/13/04	Whittington	Media Team Trail-MSRiver
7.02	3/20/04	Pickwick	Fisher's of Men-West TN
7.00	5/22/04	Pickwick	FLW-BFL

