

MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT PROGRAM

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



BUREAU OF FISHERIES



MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

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 and the number of reporting tournaments has increased each year. 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: larry.pugh@mdwfp.state.ms.us

2005 Bass Tournament Program Results

- C A total of 221 tournaments reported 37,142 pounds of bass (Table 1). Report cards were received on 34 lakes. Bay Springs and Pickwick Lakes had the most tournaments reported.
- C Average weight of bass ranged from 1.08 pounds on the Escatawpa River to 2.96 pounds at Log Loader Chute. The statewide average weight of tournament bass increased from 1.55 pounds in 2003 to 2.17 pounds. Using average length of tournaments to define an angler day, number of bass caught/angler day was highest at Lake Whittington and pounds caught/angler day were highest Log Loader Chute.
- C It took an average of 13.91 pounds to win a tournament in 2005 (Table 1). Of lakes with a least five tournaments reported, Lake Ferguson and Ross Barnett Reservoir had the highest average winning weights.
- C Lakes (at least five tournaments reported) were ranked by averaging six Aquality indicators® (Table 2). The top 3 lakes in 2005 were Lake Ferguson, Tunica Cutoff and Ross Barnett Reservoir. Ferguson retained the top spot in 2005 and received high marks for average winning weight, average weight of bass weighed-in and pounds of bass caught per day. Tunica is a newcomer to the list this year and scored well under pounds of bass caught per day and average winning weight. Ross Barnett was the top scorer under average lunker weight and average weight of bass weighed-in. Bay Springs and Aliceville lakes 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.
- C Eighteen 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.
- C Team tournaments were larger in 2005 and had more anglers. Seventy-three percent of the reports submitted were team tournaments that averaged 26 teams per tournament. Individual tournaments (e.g., club

tournaments) accounted for 27% of the reports and averaged 26 participants per event.

- C The number of bass weighed-in over 5 pounds increased in 2005. On the average, it took 306 angler hours, or 36 angler days, to weigh-in a bass over five pounds during 2005 tournaments. A total of 283 bass (58 more than in 2004) five pounds or larger were reported.
- C Of these, 31 bass were at least seven pounds (Table 4). More bass over five pounds were weighed-in at Ross Barnett Reservoir, Bay Springs and Pickwick Lakes. The largest bass reported weighed 10.71 pounds from Ross Barnett.
- C The heaviest five-bass limit weighed 26.27 pounds from Ross Barnett (Table 5). The heavy sack was weighed-in on April 17, 2005, during a Media Bass Team Trail tournament. Seven of the top 10 heaviest sacks in 2005 came off Ross Barnett.
- C Limits of bass were weighed-in by 30% of all anglers or teams, similar to the number of limits reported in 2004.
- 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 2005 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	13	415	627	1.51	3.45	40.00	2.28	12	5.77	12.53
Aliceville	9	204	291	1.43	2.95	25.86	2.07	10	6.58	14.42
Back Bay	1	27	61	2.26	3.63	85.71	1.61	0	4.06	12.82
Bay Springs	37	971	1697	2.32	4.68	32.15	2.01	48	5.38	13.11
Bogue Homa	1	68	108	1.59	4.02	35.29	2.53	1	5.04	16.89
Columbus	23	1548	2629	1.70	3.61	26.47	2.13	28	5.59	14.22
DeSota	1	70	94	1.34	3.76	37.14	2.80	2	6.58	23.86
DogRiver	1	14	55	3.93	4.60	57.14	1.17	.	.	6.53
Enid	1	24	47	1.96	4.26	50.00	2.18	3	6.57	17.76
Escatawba	1	11	34	3.09	3.35	27.27	1.08	.	.	7.91
Ferguson	5	349	682	1.95	5.19	40.81	2.66	5	6.40	20.72
Flint Creek	3	108	183	1.69	2.40	23.61	1.41	2	4.27	9.23
Grenada	7	742	901	1.21	2.56	9.45	2.11	4	5.21	14.16
Gulfport Lake	2	84	161	1.92	3.01	33.33	1.57	1	5.18	16.85
Jourdan	3	104	166	1.60	2.14	22.03	1.34	0	3.48	10.30
Kemper	2	62	98	1.58	2.49	6.38	1.58	2	6.10	7.59
Lamar Bruce	3	81	146	1.80	3.63	48.84	2.01	5	5.29	18.57
Lock B	5	118	91	0.77	1.16	10.29	1.51	2	4.69	11.88
Lock C	3	56	134	2.39	4.34	31.82	1.81	4	5.14	13.45
Lock D	3	59	113	1.92	2.93	27.03	1.53	1	5.04	9.69
Log Loader	1	75	155	2.07	6.11	63.16	2.96	2	7.33	21.66
Maynor Creek	2	20	25	1.25	1.70	0.00	1.36	0	3.14	5.48
Paige Bayou	1	9	35	3.89	4.60	66.67	1.18	0	2.52	8.71
Pascagoula	11	321	649	2.02	3.17	41.38	1.57	5	4.68	11.67
Pearl River	15	373	868	2.33	3.94	68.34	1.70	1	4.00	13.28
Pickwick	29	2148	3628	1.69	3.39	39.74	2.01	52	5.24	15.18
Ross Barnett Reservoir	21	1747	2270	1.30	3.80	18.85	2.92	73	7.26	19.27
Sardis	4	177	229	1.29	2.55	21.35	1.97	7	6.60	15.54
Tensas River	4	85	227	2.67	4.10	23.53	1.54	0	3.75	9.70
Tippah	1	24	43	1.79	2.54	50.00	1.41	0	3.18	9.68
Trace	1	24	29	1.21	2.46	8.33	2.04	1	5.08	9.82
Tunica	5	199	362	1.82	4.69	36.21	2.58	8	5.80	17.36
Washington	1	76	143	1.88	4.86	55.26	2.58	3	6.64	23.11
Whittington	1	40	158	3.95	10.09	47.50	2.56	1	5.57	19.96
Totals	221	10,433	17,139					283		
Average		47	78	1.68	3.65	30	2.17	1.28	4.92	13.91

Table 2. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2005 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	2.92	Pearl River	2.33	Ferguson	5.19	Bay Springs	1.29	Ross Barnett	7.26	Ferguson	20.72	#1 Ferguson
Ferguson	2.66	Bay Springs	2.32	Tunica	4.69	Aliceville	1.73	Aliceville	6.58	Ross Barnett	19.27	#1 Tunica
Tunica	2.58	Pascagoula	2.02	Bay Springs	4.68	Ross Barnett	2.03	Ferguson	6.40	Tunica	17.36	#3 Ross Barnett
Aberdeen	2.28	Ferguson	1.95	Pearl River	3.94	Tunica	2.11	Tunica	5.80	Pickwick	15.18	#4 Bay Springs
Columbus	2.13	Tunica	1.82	Ross Barnett	3.80	Aberdeen	2.94	Aberdeen	5.77	Aliceville	14.42	#5 Aliceville
Grenada	2.11	Columbus	1.70	Columbus	3.61	Pickwick	3.51	Columbus	5.59	Columbus	14.22	#6 Columbus
Aliceville	2.07	Pickwick	1.69	Aberdeen	3.45	Columbus	4.70	Bay Springs	5.38	Grenada	14.16	#7 Aberdeen
Bay Springs	2.01	Aberdeen	1.51	Pickwick	3.39	Lock B TTW	5.02	Pickwick	5.24	Pearl River	13.28	#8 Pickwick
Pickwick	2.01	Aliceville	1.43	Pascagoula	3.17	Pascagoula	5.46	Grenada	5.21	Bay Springs	13.11	#9 Pearl River
Pearl River	1.70	Ross Barnett	1.30	Aliceville	2.95	Ferguson	5.93	Lock B TTW	4.69	Aberdeen	12.53	#10 Pascagoula
Pascagoula	1.57	Grenada	1.21	Grenada	2.56	Grenada	15.77	Pascagoula	4.68	Lock B TTW	11.88	#11 Grenada
Lock B TTW	1.51	Lock B TTW	0.77	Lock B TTW	1.16	Pearl River	31.71	Pearl River	4.00	Pascagoula	11.67	#12 Lock B TTW

Table 3. Organizations that submitted reports in the 2005 MWFP Bass Tournament Program.

Club	Number of tournaments	Number of anglers
Aberdeen TTW Bassmasters	11	186
American Bass Anglers	6	112
BAIT Team Trail	10	310
B.A.S.S. Weekend Series	7	518
Belmont Bass Club	23	432
Big Cedar Bass Club	5	53
Dixie Bassmasters	3	80
Dog River Bass Club	2	50
Five County Bass Club	8	186
Fisher's of Men Tournament Trail	16	1256
Houston Hawgcallers	11	258
Intex	1	10
Jackson County Bassmasters	1	9
Jonesboro (AR) Bassmasters	2	30
Magnolia Bass Club	1	31
McNairy County Bass Club	1	12
Media Bass Trail	24	1417
Mountain Dew Tournament Trail	6	661
MS State Bass Federation	2	463
Ocean Springs Bassmasters	12	213
Terry Parker Benefit	1	39
Starkville Bass Club	1	10
Team Trials of MS	53	2452
Triton Owners	1	385
Wal-mart BFL	12	1246

Table 4. Summary of bass weighed-in that were seven pounds or larger from the 2005 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program Report.

Weight (lbs.)	Date	Lake	Tournament/Club
10.71	4/17/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
10.08	3/05/05	Bay Springs	Team Trails of MS
8.89	7/17/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
8.82	3/13/05	Aliceville	Team Trails of MS
8.56	3/05/05	Ross Barnett	Wal-mart BFL
8.34	3/30/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
8.21	2/26/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trials of MS
8.18	3/05/05	Ross Barnett	Wal-mart BFL
8.12	2/12/05	Aliceville	Team Trails of MS
8.04	2/13/05	Aliceville	Team Trails of MS
7.87	3/19/05	Sardis	Team Trails of MS
7.81	8/02/05	Bay Springs	Belmont Bass Club
7.80	3/20/05	Ferguson	Media Bass Trail
7.75	9/17/05	Bay Springs	Wal-mart BFL
7.62	2/26/05	Kemper	Magnolia Bass Club
7.60	7/23/05	Pickwick	Mountain Dew Trail
7.57	7/09/05	Sardis	Fisher's of Men Trail
7.56	3/12/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS
7.44	5/21/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS
7.43	2/19/05	Pickwick	Team Trails of MS
7.37	6/25/05	Columbus	Wal-mart BFL
7.35	5/10/05	Bay Springs	Belmont Bass Club
7.33	6/26/05	Log Loader	Media Bass Trail
7.31	4/30/05	Columbus	Wal-mart BFL
7.30	3/19/05	Pickwick	Mountain Dew Trail
7.21	6/04/05	Aberdeen	Team Trails of MS
7.18	4/23/05	Lock C	Five County Bass Club
7.15	3/06/05	Pickwick	BASS Weekend Trail
7.13	2/19/05	Aberdeen	Aberdeen TTW Bassmasters
7.11	5/07/05	Pickwick	Fisher's of Men Tail
7.00	9/10/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS

Table 5. The top 10 heaviest limits weighed-in from the 2005 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program Report.

Weight (lbs.)	Date	Lake	Tournament/Club
26.27	4/17/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
26.07	3/30/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
25.97	2/26/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS
25.30	5/21/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS
24.71	3/13/05	Aliceville	Team Trails of MS
24.70	3/12/05	Ross Barnett	Team Trails of MS
24.60	7/17/05	Ross Barnett	Media Bass Trail
24.36	8/13/05	Pickwick	Team Trails of MS
24.06	3/05/05	Ross Barnett	Wal-Mart BFL
23.86	4/17/05	DeSoto	Media Bass Trail