

MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT PROGRAM 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



BUREAU OF FISHERIES



MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND PARKS

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Fish Restoration



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: _____			

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2006 Bass Tournament Program Results

A total of 214 tournaments reported 37,039 pounds of bass (Table 1). Report cards were received on 35 lakes. Bay Springs and Pickwick Lakes had the most tournaments reported.

Average weight of bass ranged from 0.99 pounds on the Escatawpa River to 2.90 pounds at DeSoto Lake. The statewide average weight of tournament bass decreased from 2.17 pounds to 1.84 pounds. Using average length of tournaments to define an angler day, number of bass caught/angler day and pounds caught/angler day were highest at Tunica Cutoff.

It took an average of 13.35 pounds to win a tournament in 2006 (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 2 lakes in 2006 were Lake Ferguson and Bay Springs; Ross Barnett Reservoir and Aberdeen Lake tied for third. Ferguson was again the top spot in 2006 and received high marks for average winning weight, average weight of bass weighed-in and average lunger. Bay Springs moved back into the top 3 and scored well under pounds of bass caught per day and hours to catch a bass over 5 pounds. Ross Barnett was the top scorer under average lunger weight and average weight of bass weighed-in. Aliceville Lake finished fourth and Okatibbee Reservoir, a newcomer in 2006, 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.

Twenty-three 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, the Mississippi River oxbow lakes and south Mississippi are needed.

Team tournaments were larger in 2006 and had more anglers. Sixty-nine percent of the reports submitted were team tournaments that averaged 27 teams per tournament. Individual tournaments (e.g., club tournaments) accounted for 31% of the reports and averaged 40 participants per event.

The number of bass weighed-in over 5 pounds was slightly lower in 2006. On average, it took 353 angler hours, or 42 angler days, to weigh-in a bass over five pounds during 2006 tournaments. A total of 246 bass that were five pounds or larger were reported.

Of these, 21 bass were at least seven pounds (Table 4). More bass over five pounds were weighed-in at Ross Barnett Reservoir, Pickwick and Bay Springs Lakes. The largest bass reported weighed 10.87 pounds from Ross Barnett.

The heaviest five-bass limit weighed 25.84 pounds from Ross Barnett (Table 5). The heavy sack was weighed-in on March 19, 2006, during a Media Bass Team Trail tournament. Seven of the top 10 heaviest sacks in 2006 came off either Pickwick or Ross Barnett.

Limits of bass were weighed-in by 39% of all anglers or teams, a slight increase to number of limits reported in 2005.

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 fishery resources.

Table 1. Summary of bass tournament results from the 2006 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 st Place
Aberdeen	12	472	787	2.51	4.47	55	1.81	8	5.60	15.95
Aliceville	10	328	580	2.15	4.23	44	2.01	6	5.78	14.93
Archusa	2	57	83	1.46	2.18	14	1.50	0	3.01	8.52
Back Bay	2	52	176	3.38	6.05	69	1.79	0	4.09	11.60
Bay Springs	36	807	1153	2.76	5.85	27	2.12	24	5.13	13.43
Bee	1	36	65	1.81	3.45	50	1.91	0	.	13.91
Columbus	16	1277	2487	2.28	3.88	37	1.78	16	5.05	13.60
DeSoto	1	101	158	1.56	4.53	35	2.90	4	6.47	21.43
Enid	2	74	122	1.65	2.49	35	1.51	6	4.02	11.07
Escatawpa	1	17	44	2.59	2.57	18	0.99	0	3.14	5.90
Ferguson	9	581	1226	2.05	5.14	52	2.57	19	6.09	20.09
Flint Creek	6	131	182	1.91	3.50	44	1.22	0	3.28	8.70
Grenada	4	186	253	1.41	2.81	26	1.99	1	4.74	13.39
Jordan River	1	27	102	3.78	4.62	63	1.22	0	4.11	10.28
Kemper	1	58	91	1.57	2.41	45	1.54	.	.	9.74
Lamar Bruce	1	36	53	1.47	2.05	28	1.39	0	4.50	11.76
Lock A	1	11	35	3.18	4.37	27	1.37	0	3.74	10.74
Lock B	7	189	353	2.20	3.76	43	1.74	3	4.38	13.51
Lock C	2	49	113	2.56	4.10	47	1.59	0	4.08	12.21
Lock D	6	144	260	2.18	3.61	40	1.63	2	5.68	11.51
Lock E	2	54	82	1.84	2.91	21	1.69	4	4.84	13.57
Log Loader	1	78	134	1.72	4.45	44	2.59	5	7.10	19.65
Maynor Creek	2	63	145	2.87	4.89	32	1.76	0	4.92	15.28
Okatibbee	5	159	380	2.92	4.85	66	1.65	1	5.32	16.00
Pascagoula	3	51	152	2.45	3.75	29	1.45	1	4.25	9.59
Pearl River	6	120	242	2.04	3.57	66	1.76	0	3.80	13.17
Pickwick	36	2771	3550	1.80	3.86	37	2.17	52	5.44	15.55
Ross Barnett	24	1966	2599	1.27	3.59	24	2.80	80	6.76	17.26
Sardis	3	134	201	1.48	2.16	40	1.46	2	5.45	9.97
Tchoutacabuffa	1	13	51	3.92	5.39	46	1.37	0	4.61	9.01
Tippah	1	34	57	1.68	2.12	47	1.26	0	3.06	8.38
Tunica	3	106	268	5.90	13.23	33	2.39	6	5.72	19.69
Turkey Fork	2	27	54	2.08	3.76	8	1.82	1	5.78	9.31
Washington	3	189	323	1.90	5.12	53	2.69	5	8.35	20.06
Whittington	1	52	53	1.02	2.86	23	2.81	0	.	18.41
Totals	214	10,450	16,614					283		
Average				2.27	4.07	39	1.84	1.15	4.95	13.35

Table 2. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2006 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 2.80	Okatibbee 2.92	Bay Springs 5.85	Bay Springs 2.01	Ross Barnett 6.76	Ferguson 20.09	#1 Ferguson				
Ferguson 2.57	Bay Springs 2.76	Ferguson 5.14	Ross Barnett 2.09	Ferguson 6.09	Ross Barnett 17.26	#2 Bay Springs				
Pickwick 2.17	Aberdeen 2.51	Okatibbee 4.85	Ferguson 2.60	Aliceville 5.78	Okatibbee 16.00	#3 Ross Barnett				
Bay Springs 2.12	Columbus 2.28	Aberdeen 4.47	Pickwick 4.53	Lock D 5.68	Aberdeen 15.95	#3 Aberdeen				
Aliceville 2.01	Lock B 2.20	Aliceville 4.23	Aliceville 4.65	Aberdeen 5.60	Pickwick 15.55	#5 Aliceville				
Aberdeen 1.81	Lock D 2.18	Columbus 3.88	Aberdeen 5.02	Pickwick 5.44	Aliceville 14.93	#6 Okatibbee				
Columbus 1.78	Aliceville 2.15	Pickwick 3.86	Lock B 5.36	Okatibbee 5.32	Columbus 13.60	#7 Pickwick				
Pearl River 1.76	Ferguson 2.05	Lock B 3.76	Lock D 6.12	Bay Springs 5.13	Lock B 13.51	#8 Columbus				
Lock B 1.74	Pearl River 2.04	Lock D 3.61	Columbus 6.78	Columbus 5.05	Bay Springs 13.43	#9 Lock B TTW				
Okatibbee 1.65	Flint Creek 1.91	Ross Barnett 3.59	Okatibbee 13.52	Lock B 4.38	Pearl River 13.17	#10 Lock D TTW				
Lock D 1.63	Pickwick 1.80	Pearl River 3.57	Flint Creek .	Pearl River 3.80	Lock D 11.51	#11 Pearl River				
Flint Creek 1.22	Ross Barnett 1.27	Flint Creek 3.50	Pearl River .	Flint Creek 3.28	Flint Creek 8.70	#12 Flint Creek				

Table 3. Organizations that submitted reports in the 2006 MWFP Bass Tournament Program.

Club	Number of tournaments	Number of anglers
American Bass Anglers	4	44
B.A.I.T.	2	34
B.A.S.S. Weekend Series	1	43
Belmont Bass Anglers	22	410
Big Cedar Bassmasters	3	40
Clay County Bassmasters	1	10
Collinsville Bass Club	2	35
Daryl Worley Benefit	1	104
Five County Bass Club	11	380
Fisher's of Men	15	1,090
Houston Hawgcallers	11	328
Lowndes County Bass Club	1	10
Media Bass Trail	20	1,370
Meridian Bass Club	3	64
Mitek	1	8
Monroe County Bassmasters	10	146
MS Bass Federation	2	605
Mountain Dew Buddy Trail	4	273
Ocean Springs Bassmasters	3	28
Pinebelt Bassmasters	9	120
SMABC	4	112
Starkville Bass Club	4	50
Sulligent Benefit	1	60
Mississippi Team Trails	59	3,791
Tupelo Bass Club	9	111

Table 4. Bass weighed-in seven pounds or larger from the 2006 Program Report.

Weight (lbs.)	Date	Lake	Tournament/Club
10.87	3/04/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Wal-Mart BFL
9.71	7/30/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass
9.22	5/21/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass
8.98	6/24/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	MS Team Trails
8.42	3/18/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Fishers of Men
8.35	3/12/06	Lake Washington	Media Bass
7.74	3/18/06	Pickwick Lake	Fishers of Men
7.74	4/01/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	MS Team Trails
7.70	3/25/06	Columbus Lake	Sulligent Benefit
7.70	8/06/06	Lock D TTW	Houston Hawgcallers
7.54	2/19/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass
7.54	6/18/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass
7.43	3/02/06	Pickwick Lake	Wal-Mart FLW
7.35	3/11/06	Pickwick Lake	Tupelo Bass Club
7.25	5/13/06	Aliceville Lake	Tupelo Bass Club
7.24	2/18/06	Ross Barnett Reservoir	MS Team Trails
7.22	5/30/06	Bay Springs Lake	Belmont Bass Anglers
7.18	3/04/06	Bay Springs Lake	American Bass Anglers
7.10	7/23/06	Log Loader Chute	Media Bass
7.06	3/18/06	Aberdeen Lake	Monroe County Bassmasters
7.00	5/06/06	Columbus Lake	Wal-Mart BFL

Table 5. The top 10 heaviest limits weighed-in from 2006 Program Report.

Lake	Date	Tournament/Club	Weight (lbs.)
Ross Barnett Res.	3/19/2006	Media Bass	25.84 lbs
Lake Ferguson	4/8/2006	Fishers of Men	25.32 lbs
Tunica Cutoff	5/20/2006	MS Team Trails	24.03 lbs
Ross Barnett Res.	4/1/2006	MS Team Trails	23.48 lbs
Pickwick Lake	3/11/2006	Mt Dew Buddy Trail	23.07 lbs
Pickwick Lake	3/25/2006	MS Team Trails	23.06 lbs
Pickwick Lake	3/18/2006	Fishers of Men	22.90 lbs
Lock B TTW	2/25/2006	Five County Club	22.48 lbs
Pickwick Lake	5/27/2006	MS Team Trails	22.36 lbs
Ross Barnett Res.	6/18/2006	Media Bass	22.11 lbs