



Bay Springs Lake 2025

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Covering approximately 6,700 acres and 8 miles in length, Bay Springs Lake is the northern most impoundment along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Bay Springs is connected to Pickwick Lake on the Tennessee River through the Divide Cut and Yellow Creek. As a result, water levels on Bay Springs are controlled by Tennessee Valley Authority's operations at Pickwick Dam.

Location: Within Tishomingo and Prentiss Counties approximately 26 miles East of Booneville on Hwy 4.

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

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

Amenities

- 7 public boat ramps
- Marina
- Campground
- Public Beach
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms
- Lock & Dam scenic overlook
- Interpretive center

Regulations

- Black bass (largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth): 10 bass (combined) per day per angler.
- Crappie: 9-inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 bream (combined) per day per angler.
- Catfish: No limit.
- Other creel limits can be found at <https://www.mdwfp.com>

Fish Stockings

2023

Florida Largemouth Bass
(100,000)

2019

Florida Largemouth Bass
(110,000)

2013

Florida Largemouth Bass
(75,000)

2011

Florida Largemouth Bass
(75,000)

2009

Florida Largemouth Bass
(114,660)

1999

Threadfin Shad
(60,000)

Fishing Tips

Black Bass

- Target main lake and secondary points with C/T rigged plastics.
- In the spring, target timber areas in the back of coves with spinner baits.

Crappie

- Try standing timber near Jackson Camp.
- Fish Ashcraft Holler and McDougal Branch using road-runners or hair jigs.
- Target main lake points in the winter.

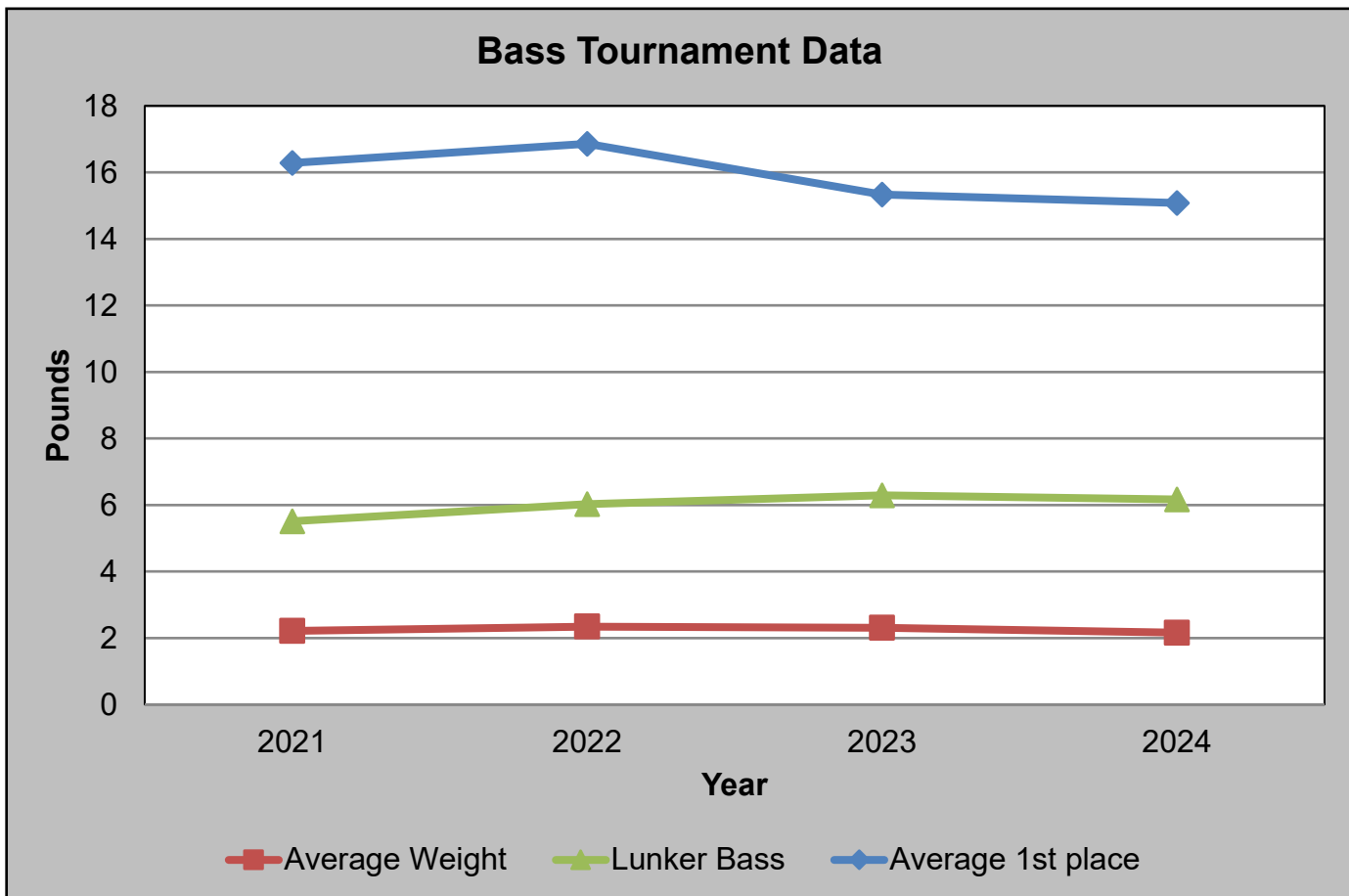
Bream

- Fish similar areas as crappie using redworms and crickets.

Catfish

- Target cats at night on the shallow flats with cutbait or liver.
- During the summer, fish the rip-rap on the north side of the lake near Crow's Neck.

Below: Bay Springs is a popular destination for [bass tournaments](#). The graph below shows the average weight of individual bass caught, the average weight of the lunker bass and the average 1st place weight of the tournaments since 2021.



Below: Bay Springs has a healthy crappie population. These Black Crappie were collected while sampling from a single piece of woody debris, and almost all were over the 9" minimum length limit.

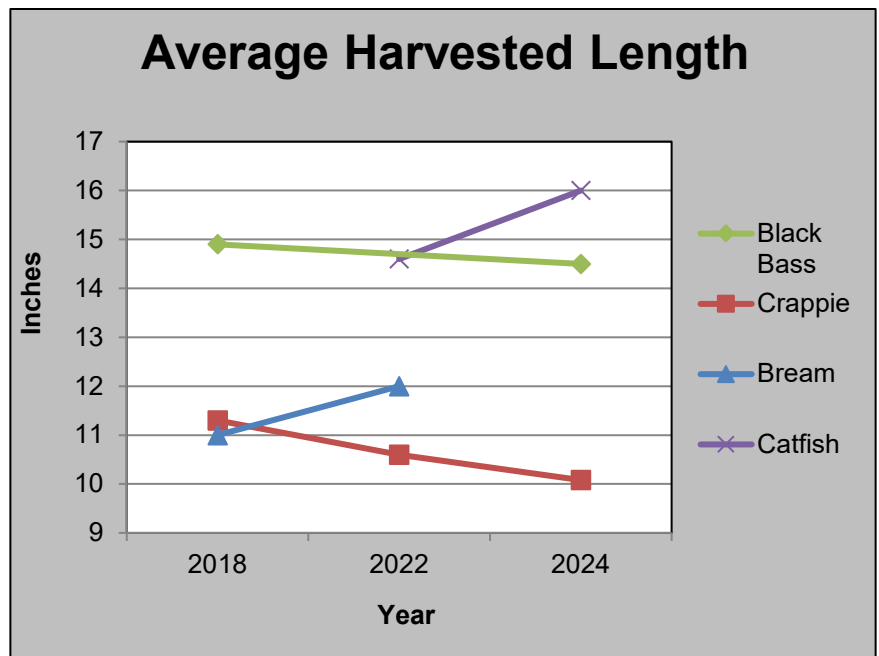


| | |
|--|----------|
| Have you been interviewed on Bay Springs in 2024? | % |
| Yes | 2 |
| No | 98 |
| Since you've been fishing in Bay Springs, has the fishing gotten better, worse, or remained the same? | % |
| Better | 16 |
| Worse | 35 |
| Remained The Same | 48 |
| Do you use a Live scope or other form of forward-facing sonar? | % |
| Yes | 45.5 |
| No | 54.5 |
| Considering all factors, how satisfied are you with the fishing at Bay Springs? | % |
| Very Satisfied | 13 |
| Satisfied | 45 |
| Neutral | 20 |
| Dissatisfied | 17 |
| Very Dissatisfied | 5 |

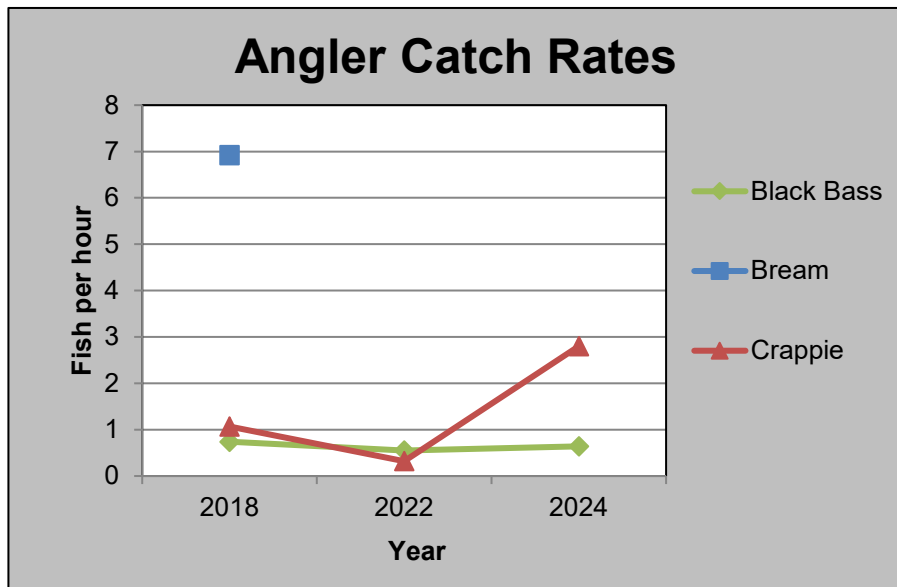
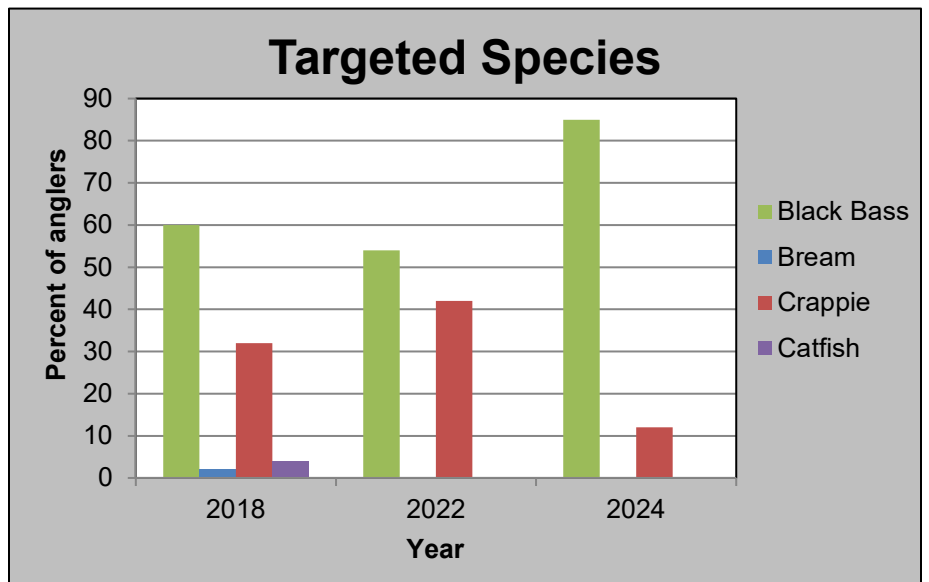


Left: Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Ninety-eight percent of the anglers were interviewed only one time during 2024, which shows that many different anglers fish at Bay Springs. Sixty-four percent of anglers say the fishing at Bay Springs has remained the same or improved. Most anglers do not use LiveScope or other forward-facing sonar, and fifty-eight percent of the anglers interviewed were satisfied with the fishing at Bay Springs Lake.

Right: Average length of crappie and black bass harvested by anglers at Bay Springs Lake during spring creel surveys. The harvest rate for bass has increased inevitably since none were kept during 2022 surveys. Catfish harvest length has increased since 2022, but the majority of anglers were not targeting catfish.



Right: Percentage of anglers targeting bream, crappie, black bass (Largemouth and Spotted Bass), and catfish at Bay Springs Lake. The percentages of anglers targeting each species have varied over the last few years; however, bass anglers increased by nearly 25% this past year. Forty-one percent of the bass anglers interviewed in 2024 were tournament anglers.



Left: Angler catch rates for bream, crappie, black bass, and catfish at Bay Springs based on spring creel surveys. Bream anglers were only creelied in 2018, hence the single data point. Catch rates for bass and crappie were similar to the historical averages. Crappie anglers caught more, but smaller, fish in 2024.

Right: The percentage of fish caught that are harvested by anglers at Bay Springs Lake during spring creel surveys.

