Okatibbee Reservoir 2025 Reel Facts

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General Information: Okatibbee Reservoir is a 3,500-acre impoundment, managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that was built in 1968 to reduce flooding along Okatibbee Creek and the Chickasawhay River. It is home to some of the best Largemouth Bass, catfish and crappie fishing that the state has to offer.
Location: Just off Highway 19 about nine miles north of Meridian, MS in Lauderdale County near Collinsville.
Fishery Management: crappie, black bass, bream, and catfish.
Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Amenities

- Five public boat ramps
- Bank fishing
- Cabins, full hook up and primitive campgrounds.
- Marina
- Bait shops and restaurants.

Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions
- 10 black bass per day with no length restrictions
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.

Spillway Regulations

- Anglers can only use one pole or rod per person.
- Artificial lures with no more than 3 treble hooks no larger than #2 may be used anytime. The use of baited or bare treble hooks is illegal. No other gear can be used in these waters except for the gears permitted for capturing bait (dip nets, cast nets, boat mounted scoops, and wire baskets.
- From Dec 1 until the last day of February - Anglers can only fish with 2 single hooks no larger than #2. Hooks must be secured at least one inch apart.
- From March 1 to Nov 30 – Anglers can only fish with 2 single hooks of any size. Hooks must be secured at least one inch apart.

Sport fishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target fish in grass beds. Jigs tipped with a nibble or minnows fished with a cork provide the best action. In the fall, try similar techniques along creek ledges or deep structure.

Largemouth Bass

- Fish grass beds with top water lures or deeper points that contain submerged structure with soft plastic baits or diving plugs.

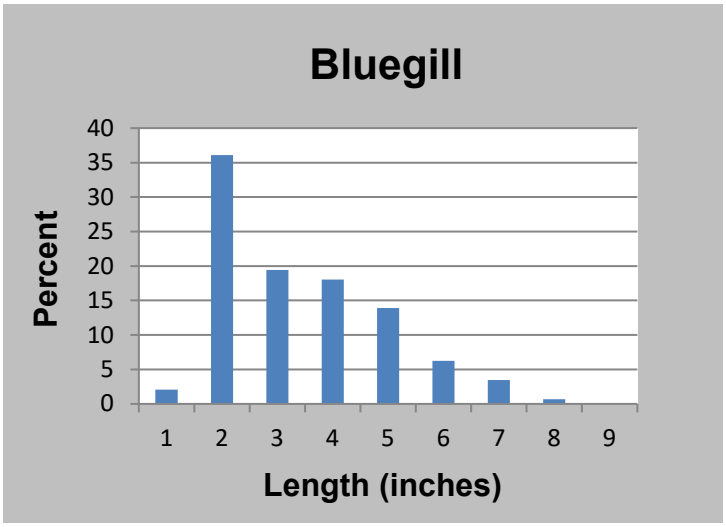
Bream

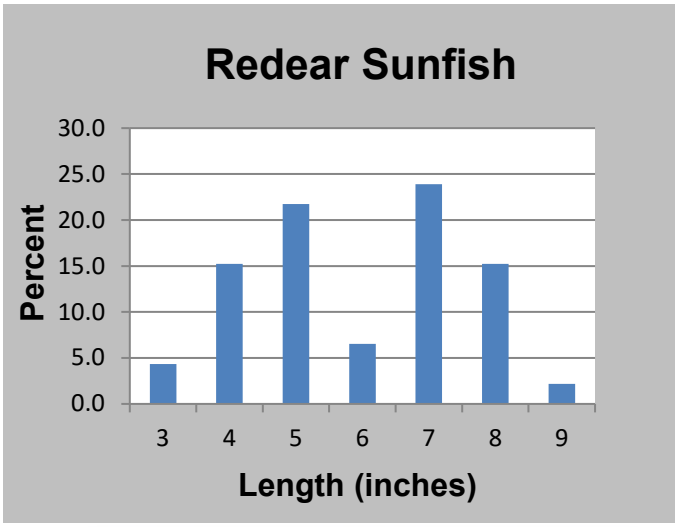
- Use crickets or red worms in shallow water from early summer through the fall.

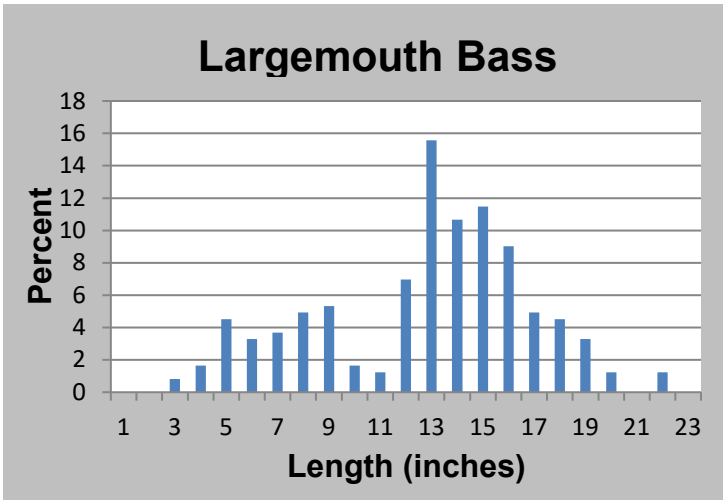
Catfish

- Use trot lines and poles along the rocks in the spring. Jugs work well later in the year in deeper water.

Below: Length distributions for sport fish from the 2023 electrofishing survey at Okatibbee Reservoir. These figures indicate a wide size distribution of each species and good numbers of catchable sized fish. Largemouth Bass and bream populations are showing consistent spawning and recruitment into the fishery.







Above: Largemouth Bass collected during fall electrofishing.

Left : Two species of black bass are found at Okatibbee Reservoir. Spotted Bass (top) and Largemouth Bass (bottom). They can be distinguished by observing the orientation of the mouth. When closed, Spotted Bass mouths do not extend past the eye.

Below: Results from 2023 electrofishing at Okatibbee Reservoir. Electrofishing is performed every two years during the fall.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	46	5	9.0	11.8	0	7
Threadfin Shad	193	23	2.6	3.1	-	-
Lake Chubsucker	1	0	5.4	5.4	0	-
Spotted Sucker	22	3	12.5	18.6	0	-
Blue Catfish	1	0	16.6	16.6	0	<1
Brown Bullhead	2	0	16.1	16.1	-	<1
Channel Catfish	2	0	17.8	19.1	1.9	<1
Warmouth	5	1	7.1	11.5	-	1
Bluegill	177	21	4.8	7.7	0.1	27
Longear Sunfish	67	8	4.4	5.6	0	11
Redear Sunfish	98	11	6.7	9.8	0.2	15
Spotted Bass	20	2	8.5	17.8	0.9	1
Largemouth Bass	190	22	11.0	21.5	1.1	20
White Crappie	21	2	10.3	13.7	0.6	3
Black Crappie	12	1	9.6	12.5	0.6	2

Right: Okatibbee Reservoir has an abundant crappie population that offers a unique fishing opportunity throughout the year but especially from mid February to the end of April. Crappie move to shallow structure such as rocks, stump fields and grass beds when water temperatures reach approximately 62 degrees in early spring.

Below: Depth map for Okatibbee Reservoir