



# Simpson County Lake 2025 Reel Facts

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**General Information:** Simpson County Lake is a 76-acre state fishing lake that was acquired from the American Legion in 1961. The lake was closed in 1991 for repairs and reopened in 1993. It is well known for quality Largemouth Bass and Redear Sunfish.

**Location:** Off of Highway 49 between Magee and Mendenhall.

**Fishery Management:** Largemouth Bass, bream, crappie, and catfish.

**Purchase a Fishing License:** [https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting\\_fishing/](https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/)

## Amenities

- Boat ramp
- Fishing piers
- Pavilion
- 11 camping pads with water and electrical hookup

## Creel Limits

- 15 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 14-22 inches, 10 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 22 inches in length
- 20 bream per day.
- 10 catfish per day

## Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel only. No trot lines, throw lines, jugs, FFFD's, yo-yos, set hooks, or limb lines allowed.
- Fishing is not allowed from courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramp.
- Skiing on Thursday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Labor Day noon to sunset.

## Permits

- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Camping is on a first come first serve basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

## Sportfishing Tips

### Crappie

- In the spring, target areas with brush in 4 -8 ft of water using road runners or beetle spins. In the summer and fall try jigs or minnows in deep water and along creek ledges or structure.

### Bass

- Target areas that have stumps with top water lures, or submerged structure and deeper points jerk baits or finesse worms.

### Bream

- Use crickets or red worms in shallow areas from early spring to late summer.

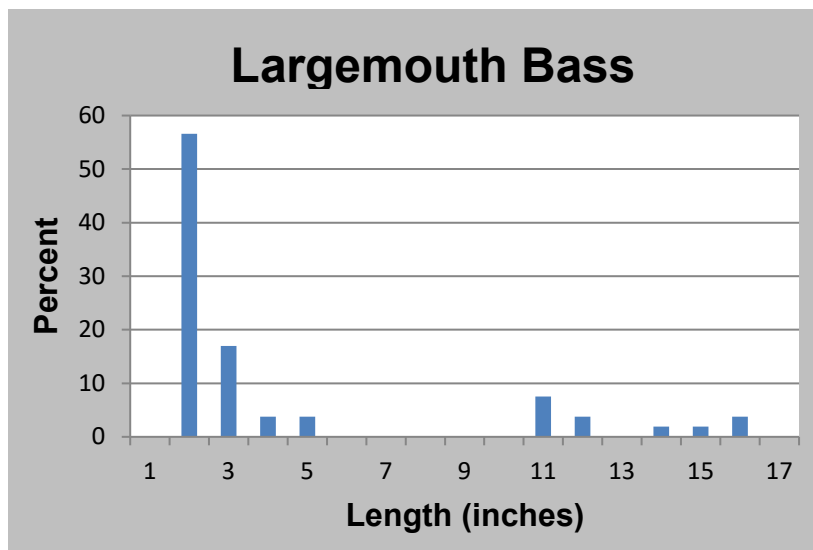
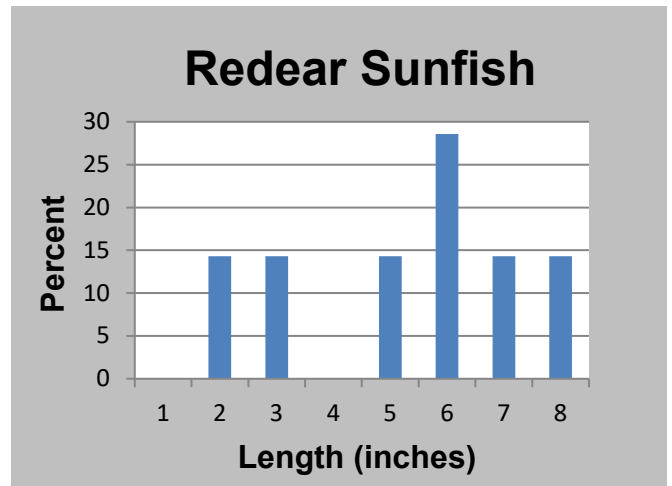
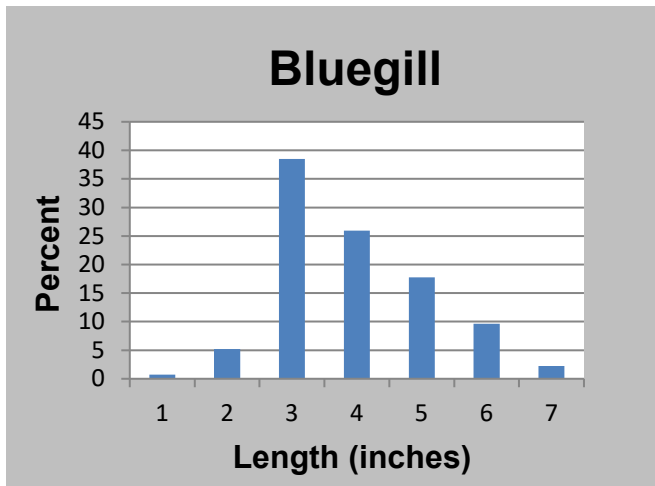
### Catfish

- Use minnows, liver or worms, in 4 – 6 ft of water.

**Below:** Simpson County Lake record fish. Record fish must be weighed and verified by the lake manager, lake supervisor, or fisheries biologist. Anglers who catch a lake record fish will receive a certificate acknowledging their catch. There is no minimum weight for any open lake record.

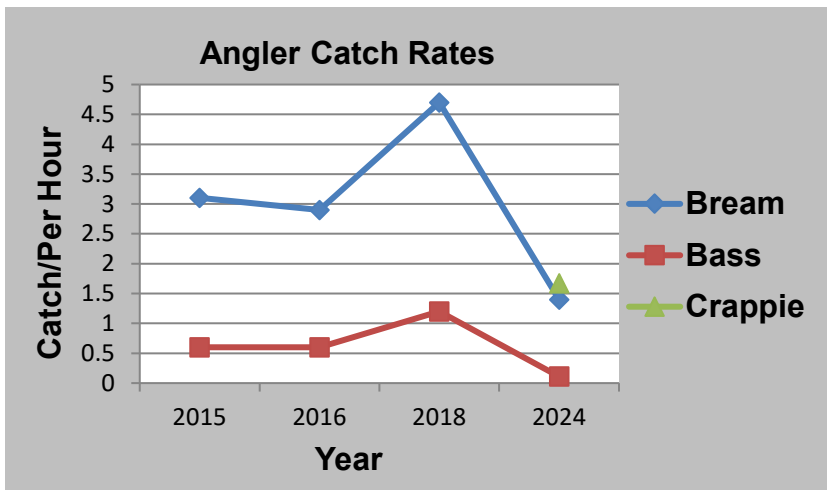
| Fish Species    | Weight (pounds) | Angler         | Date Caught   |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 14.7 lb         | Steven Rouse   | May 2015      |
| Crappie         | 2.1 lb          | John A. Polk   | March 2019    |
| Redear Sunfish  | 0.95 lb         | Cedric Jones   | April 2018    |
| Bluegill        | Open            | -              | -             |
| Catfish         | 39.8 lb         | Jerry Griffith | February 2007 |

**Below:** Length distributions for game fish collected during 2024 spring electrofishing. The Largemouth bass length frequency reveals good spawning and recruitment into the fishery.

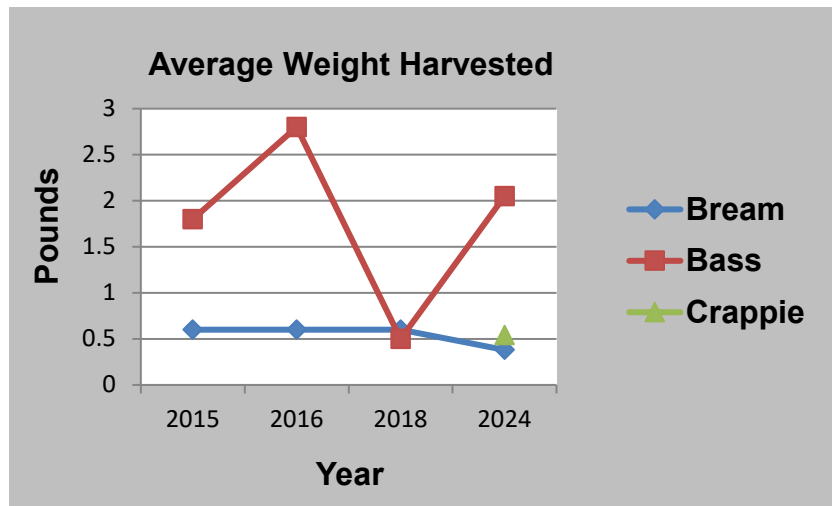


**Below:** Electrofishing results from spring of 2024. Electrofishing surveys are conducted every two years and give biologists an overall picture of the fish populations.

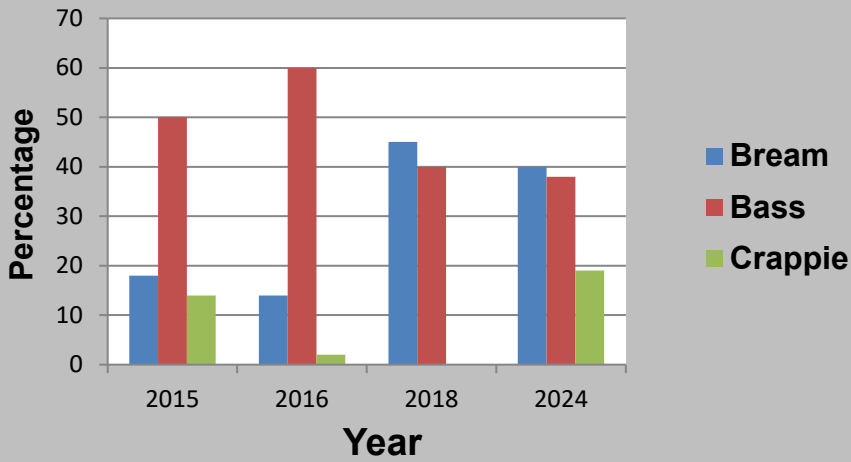
| Species         | # of fish collected | % of sample | Average Length (inches) | Maximum Length (inches) | Average Weight (pounds) | Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/hour) |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 53                  | 26          | 6.0                     | 17.7                    | -                       | 15                                  |
| Redear Sunfish  | 7                   | 3           | 2.8                     | 8.3                     | -                       | 7                                   |
| Bluegill        | 135                 | 66          | 4.5                     | 7.9                     | -                       | 224                                 |
| Black Crappie   | 10                  | 5           | 5.6                     | 6.3                     | -                       | 15                                  |



**Left and Below:** Angler creel surveys provide information about the average weight of fish caught and the number of fish caught per hour. Catch rates decreased after the reopening but will continue to increase as the lake ages.



## Target Species



**Left:** Species targeted by anglers during spring creel surveys. The majority of anglers targeted Largemouth Bass and bream.



**Left and Below:** Crappie anglers typically do well fishing structure along the levee. Numerous natural structures were added in January of 2016 to enhance habitat and provide anglers with fish attractors. GPS coordinates are listed on the weekly fishing report page at [mdwfp.com](http://mdwfp.com).



**Below: Depth map for Simpson County Lake**

