



# Eagle Lake 2023

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Eagle Lake is a 4,700 acre oxbow formed by the Mississippi River and is cutoff from the river by the mainline levee system. Water levels are controlled via the Muddy Bayou control structure operated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Eagle Lake is one of the largest oxbows in Mississippi and is a popular destination for bream and crappie anglers.

**Location:** Approximately 20 miles north of Vicksburg off Hwy 465.

**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/)

**Lake Depth Map:** <http://www.mdwfp.com/media/5416/eagle-lake.pdf>

### Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom
- Multiple pay-to-use ramps
- Bait shops and store with gas

### Creel and Size Limits

*The following apply to both sides of the lake, including the channel to the Muddy Bayou control structure.*

- Crappie: 11-inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler
- Largemouth Bass: 16- inch minimum length limit and 10 bass per day per angler
- Hybrid Striped Bass: 15-inch minimum length limit and 6 bass per day per angler
- No limit on bream or catfish

### Regulations

*Eagle Lake is a state boundary water and the following regulations apply to the Mississippi side of the lake.*

#### Yo-Yo's and Jugs

- No more than 25 jugs and no more than 25 yo-yos may be fished per person. No more than 2 hooks are allowed on each device.
- Each jug or yo-yo must be tagged or marked with angler's name and address.
- Anglers must attend jugs and yo-yos when fished during daylight hours.

#### Handgrabbing

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.
- Only wooden containers may be placed in the lake.

### Fishing Tips

#### Crappie

- Target shallow areas along the shoreline or islands during spring. In fall and winter, target piers in deep water on the eastern side of the lake.

#### Largemouth Bass

- Target piers and rocks along the eastern shoreline. Also target Cypress trees around the islands.

#### Bream

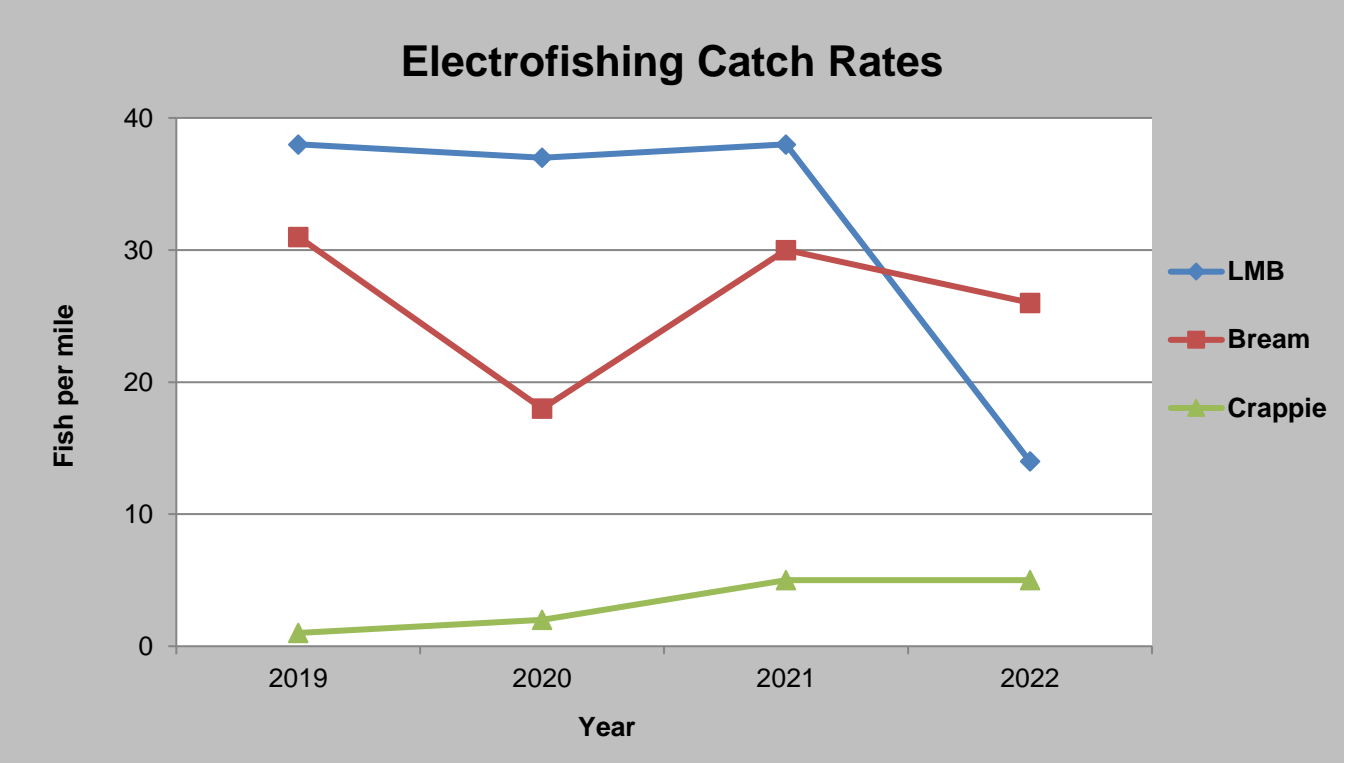
- Try crickets in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Big bluegill are often caught during winter around piers on the eastern side of the lake.

#### Catfish

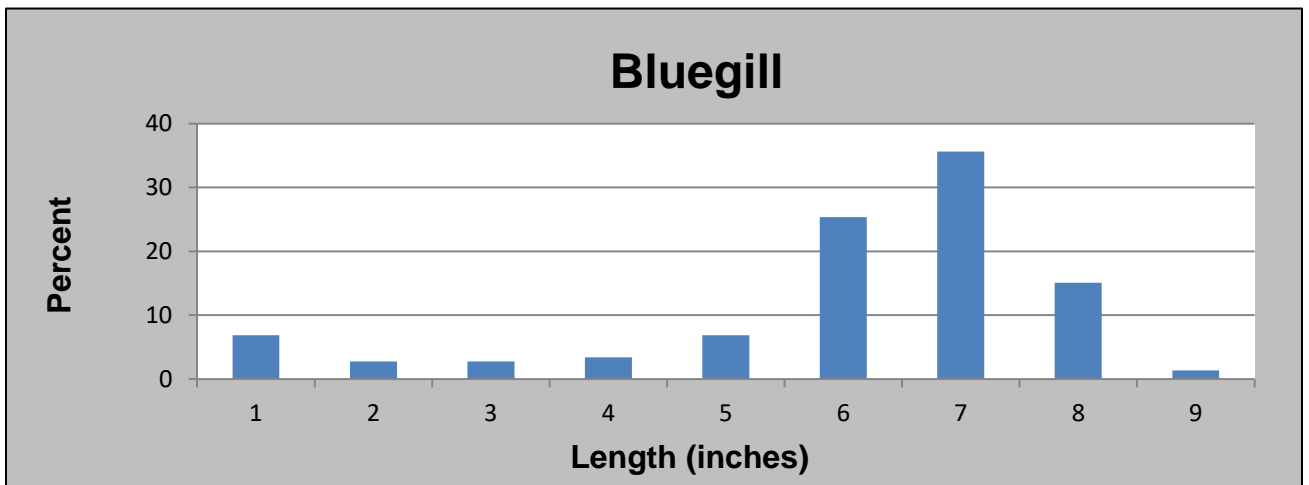
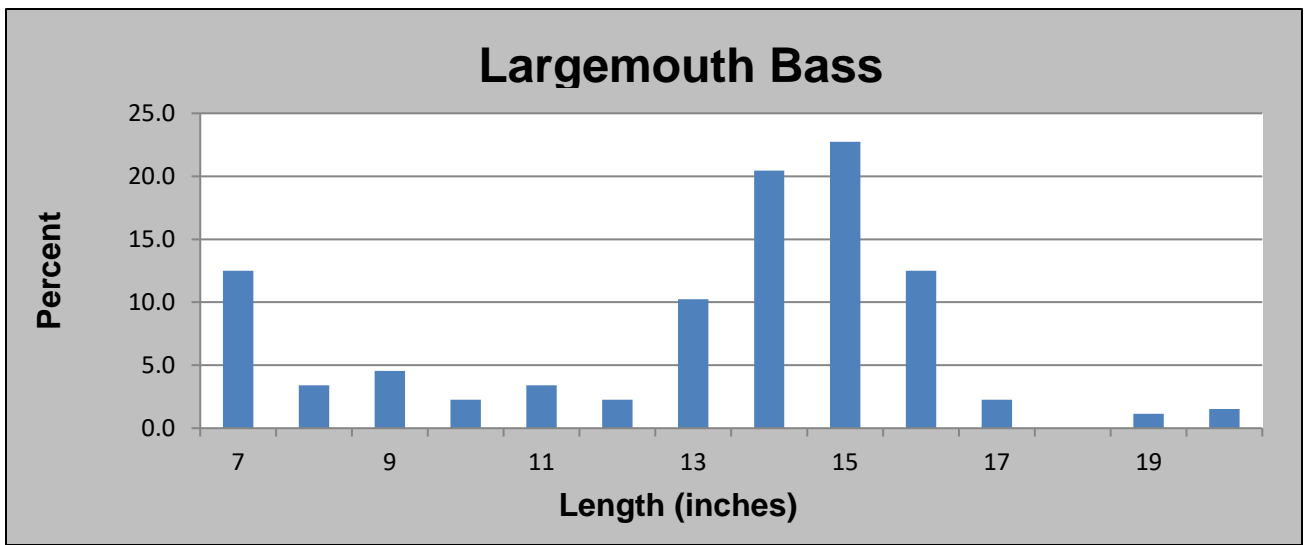
- Target flats and islands on the western side of the lake with liver, worms, or cutbait.

**Below:** Results from 2022 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Eagle Lake. Largemouth Bass, White Crappie, and Redear Sunfish are stocked periodically by MDWFP to help maintain a quality fishery.

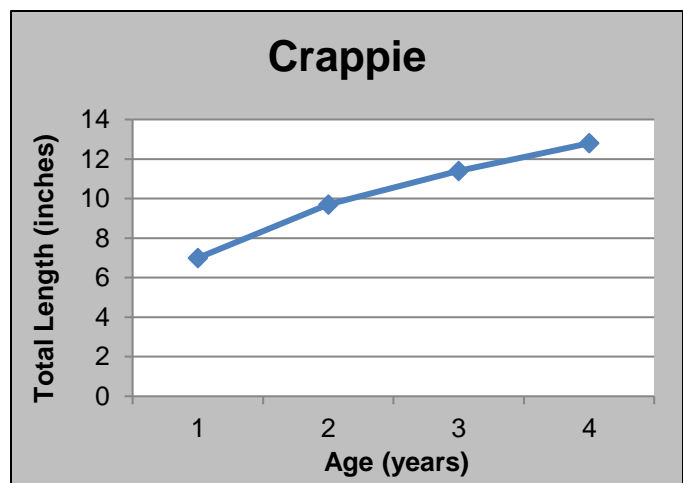
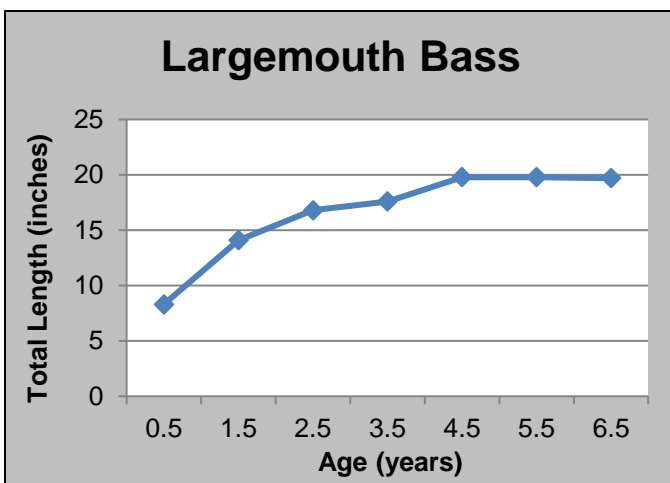
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard shad	95	19.2	5.5	13.3	-	4.54
Threadfin shad	69	13.9	2.3	3.8	-	0
Channel catfish	15	3.0	17.1	18.6	1.7	2.44
White bass	41	8.3	14.9	17.0	1.9	6.47
Warmouth	3	0.6	5.2	6.5	0.1	0.52
Bluegill	146	29.4	6.5	9.6	0.3	24
Dollar sunfish	8	1.6	3.6	4.9	0.1	0.89
Longear sunfish	3	0.6	6.0	6.3	0.2	0.49
Largemouth bass	88	17.7	14.3	20.1	1.9	14.8
White crappie	14	2.8	11.6	15.0	1.0	2.44
Black crappie	14	2.8	11.5	14.3	1.0	2.3



**Above:** Changes in catch rates during fall electrofishing from 2019 through 2022 at Eagle Lake. Catch rates are calculated by dividing total number of fish species by total number of miles traveled. Sixteen samples were taken at Eagle Lake with each sample lasting 20 minutes. A total of 6.15 miles was traveled over the 16 samples.

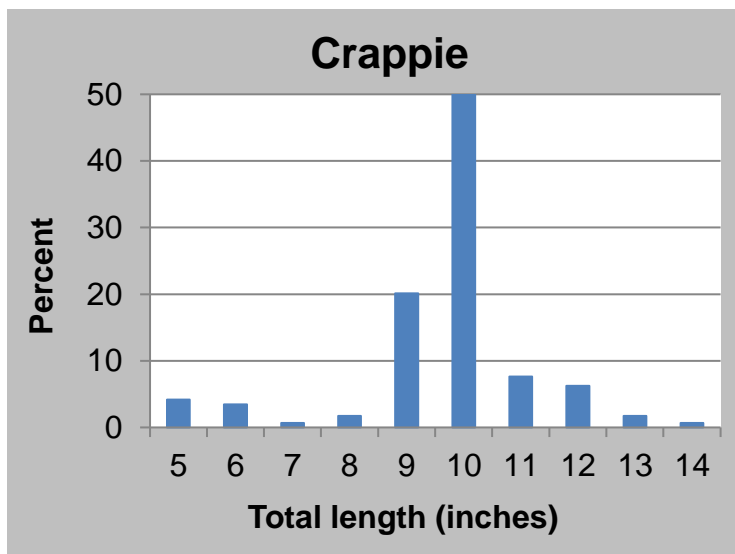


**Above:** Length distributions for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill collected during 2022 fall electrofishing at Eagle Lake. **Below:** Growth rates for Largemouth Bass and crappie at Eagle Lake. This lake promotes some of the fastest growing fish in the state due to high fertility and an abundance of forage, primarily shad. Ages are shown in half year or whole year increments due to the time of year that sampling occurred.



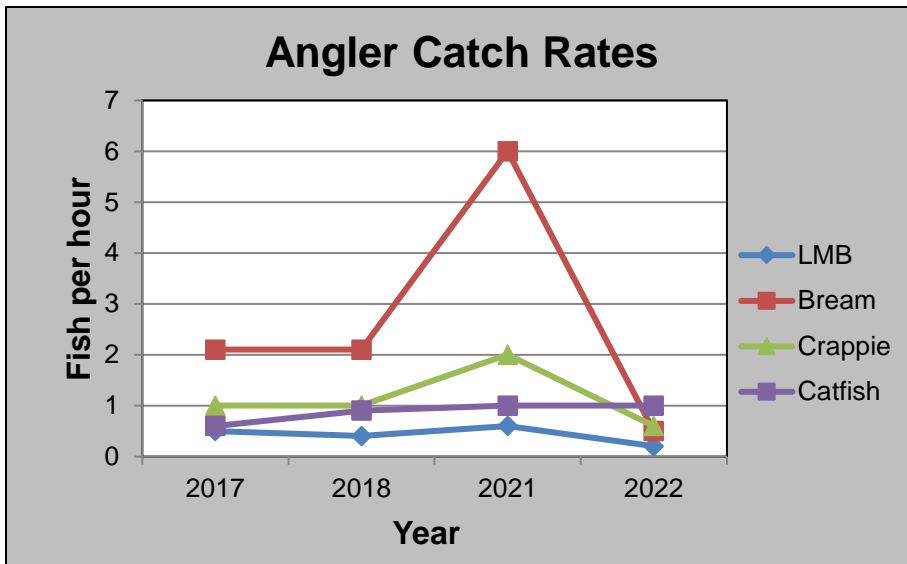
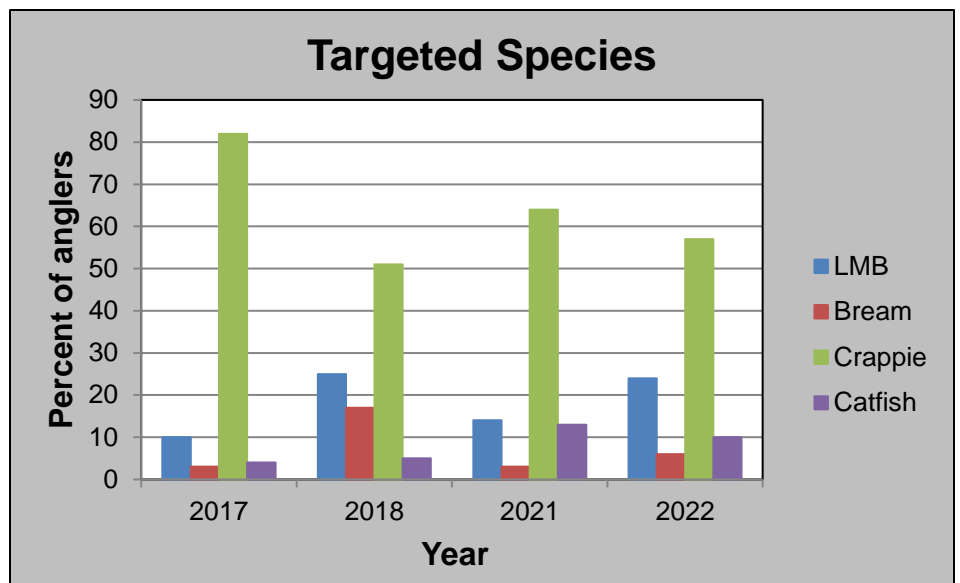
**Below:** Results from February 2018 lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. These nets are primarily used for sampling panfish, such as crappie and bream. Yellow Bass and White Bass dominated our catch, and anglers are encouraged to harvest as many as they want. The overall number of crappie collected was less than previous years; however, most of the fish were at or above the 11-inch minimum length limit. Anglers should expect to catch fewer, but larger crappie.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/night)
Bluegill	287	28.3	15.8	24.5	0.4	71.8
Black crappie	278	27.4	15.2	18.2	0.7	69.5
Yellow Bass	214	21.1	13.0	16.5	-	53.5
Channel catfish	200	19.7	11.9	15.7	2.5	50.0
Common carp	12	1.2	10.2	14.2	-	3.0
White Crappie	10	1.0	9.5	12.8	0.5	2.5
Gizzard shad	5	0.5	9.3	12.4	-	1.3
White bass	3	0.3	9.1	10.3	2.2	0.8
Yellow bullhead	3	0.3	8.1	9.6	-	0.8
Warmouth	2	0.2	8.1	8.4	0.5	0.5
Redear sunfish	1	0.1	7.6	8.1	0.5	0.3

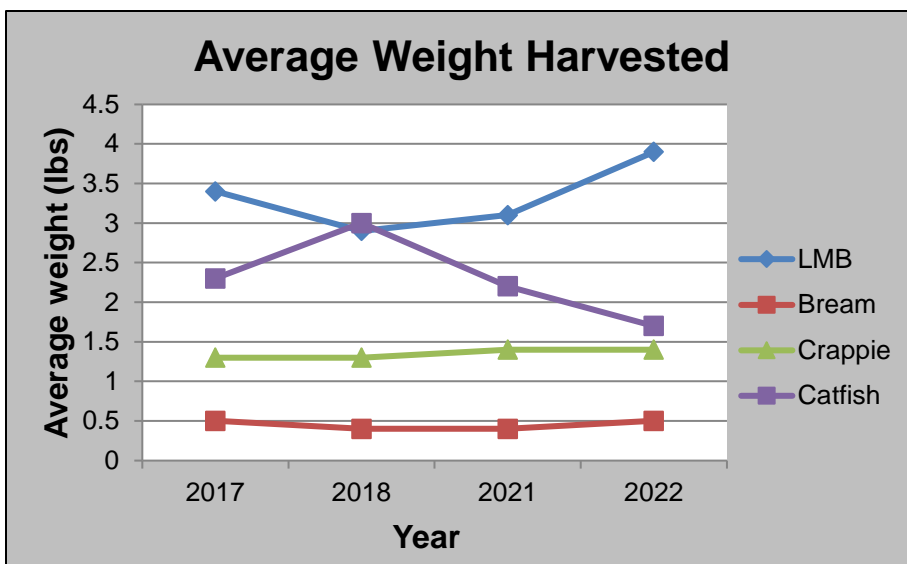


**Above:** Lengths of crappie collected during 2018 lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. The majority of crappie ranged from 9 to 10 inches, which are the result of a strong year class during 2016. Above average lake levels for the 2018 year, combined with crappie being stocked during December 2018, should increase the number of young fish in the population.

**Right:** Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake. Crappie anglers continue to be the largest angler group at Eagle Lake.



**Left top:** Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake based on spring creel surveys.



**Left bottom:** Average weight of harvested fish at Eagle Lake. The average weight of largemouth bass increased to 3.9 pounds and crappie weights remained at 1.4 pounds.





**Above:** Numerous Largemouth Bass over four pounds were collected during 2022 fall electrofishing.



Below: Depth map for Eagle Lake

