# MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT PROGRAM 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



# FISHERIES BUREAU



# MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

1505 Eastover Drive Jackson, MS 39211 www.mdwfp.com



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) began a program in 1998 for bass tournament anglers to help biologists monitor bass populations. These results continue to be a valuable addition to the data that MDWFP biologists use to manage bass populations. In some waters, it may be the <u>only</u> measure we have of what anglers are catching.

Bass clubs and tournament organizers are encouraged to provide tournament results to MDWFP on the form shown below. The form may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the address below. Forms, reports and data input can be accessed via internet at:

http://home.mdwfp.com/Fisheries/TournamentReports.aspx
OR
http://www.msbass.org/php/report\_card.php

#### 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:_	
Number of bass weighed-in:			
Total Weight (all bass):	Lbs.	ozs./tenths	
First Place Weight:	Lbs.	ozs./tenths	
Tournament Lunker:	Lbs.	ozs./tenths	
No. of Bass over 5 Pounds:			

By mail: Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks

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email: larry.pugh@mdwfp.state.ms.us

## 2010 Bass Tournament Summary

2010 was another good year for Mississippi's bass tournament anglers! More tournament reports were received this year than the previous 8 years of the program. Averages for all lakes in 2010 were very similar to those in 2009 and still above the previous seven years of reporting. At least five reports were received from 15 lakes; the most lakes ever included in the "Final Rankings." Quality indicators continued to improve, with average weight of bass weighed-in and 1st place weight the highest ever reported. Average lunker weight is still above 5 pounds. Anglers are raving about the quality of the fishing at Pickwick, Enid and Sardis Lakes; and Ross Barnett Reservoir is still cranking out more bass over 7 pounds than any other lake in the State. The following summarizes the most important points from the 2010 Tournament Report:

- 278 reports were submitted from 40 different lakes
- Enid Lake finished as the top lake in overall quality indicator rankings followed by Bay Springs, Lock B, Ferguson and Pickwick
- 33 bass over 7 lbs were weighed-in

### Statewide Tournament Statistics

2.22 - Number of bass caught per angler-day

4.36 - Pounds of bass caught per angler-day

2.06 - Average weight of bass caught

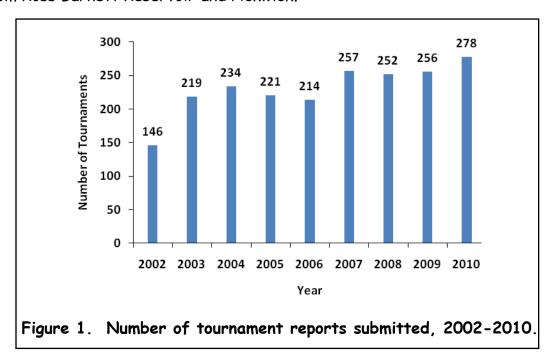
288 - Hours to catch a 5 pound bass

5.12 - Average lunker, or big bass, weight

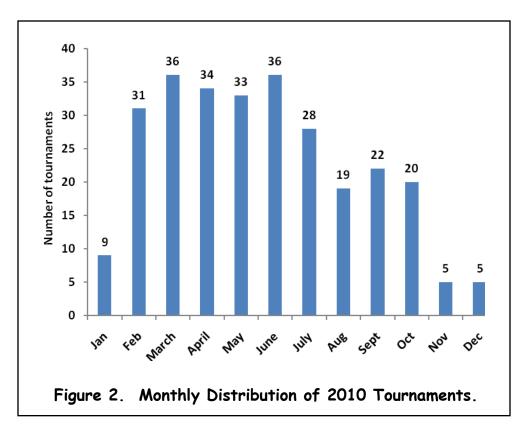
14.39 - Average 1<sup>st</sup> place weight

288 - Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

 A total of 278 tournaments reported 9,764 anglers that weighed-in 21,459 bass (Table 1). Report cards were received for 40 lakes. More tournament reports were received in 2010 than any previous year (Figure 1). The most reports came from Ross Barnett Reservoir and Pickwick.



- It took an average of 14.39 pounds to win a tournament in 2010 (Table 1). Of lakes with a least five tournaments reported, Ferguson and Enid had the highest average winning weights.
- Average weight of bass ranged from 1.09 pounds on Dog River, AL to 3.14 pounds at Lake Washington (Table 1). The statewide average weight of tournament bass was 2.06 pounds. Using average length of tournaments to define an angler day, number of bass caught/angler day and pounds caught/angler day was again highest at Lock C on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway (TTW).
- The seasonal distribution of 2010 tournaments is presented in Figure 2.
   Tournament reports were submitted from all 12 months. Tournaments held from February through June accounted for 61% of the total.



- Tournament catch for numbers and pounds per day were slightly lower than values reported in 2009; average weight of weighed-in bass increased (Figure 3). The hours to catch a bass 5 pounds or larger (288 hours) rose somewhat in 2010 but were still lower than the 7-year period from 2002 through 2008.
- Lakes with at least five tournaments reported were ranked by averaging six "quality indicators" (Table 2). The top 3 lakes in 2010 were Enid, Bay Springs, and Lock B, with Ferguson and Pickwick rounding out the Top-5. Enid Lake received high marks for average lunker weight and percent of limits weighed-in. Bay Springs received high marks for hours to catch a bass over 5 pounds and average weight of bass weighed-in. Lock B scored highest for number and pounds of bass weighed-in per day. Ferguson was the top scorer for highest average 1<sup>st</sup> place weight and average weight of bass weighed-in, with Pickwick receiving high scores for average weight and pounds of bass weighed-in. Enid Lake replaced Pickwick and Bay Springs as the top lake in 2010. Bay Springs held the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot, with Lock B entering the top-5 in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Lake Ferguson jumped back up again to the 4<sup>th</sup> spot with Pickwick rounding 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.

Two, five-bass limits weighing over 27 pounds were caught in 2010 (Table 3). The
heaviest limit weighed 27.47 pounds from Desoto Lake with a 27.03 pound sack
brought in at Pickwick Lake. Surprisingly, these sacks were weighed-in during June.
Nine of the top 10 heaviest sacks in 2010 came from different lakes, with two sacks
weighed-in at Pickwick.

			1st Place
Lake	Date	Tournament	Weight
Desoto Lake	26-Jun-10	Peanut Craft Lures Trail	27.47
Pickwick Lake	6-Jun-10	Fishers of Men	27.03
Grenada Lake	31-Jul-10	Team Trails of MS	26.68
Lake Washington	27-Feb-10	Team Trails of MS	26.35
Sardis Lake	25-Jul-10	Oxford Bass Club	25.76
Lake Ferguson	15-May-10	Media Bass Trail	25.48
Pickwick Lake	10-Mar-10	Team Trails of MS	25.33
Bay Springs Lake	27-Mar-10	Lee County Bass Club	25.33
Lake Okhissa	19-Jun-10	Believers Bassmen	25.25
Ross Barnett Res.	6-Mar-10	FLW - BFL	25.13

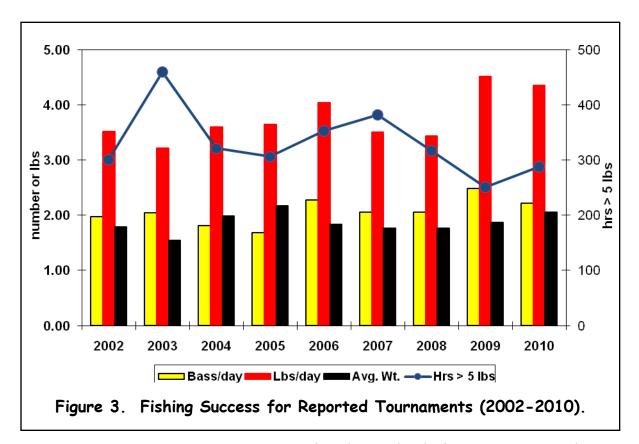
- The number of bass weighed-in over 5 pounds slightly decreased in 2010. On average, it took 288 angler hours, or 34 angler days, to weigh-in a bass over five pounds during 2010. The number of bass five pounds or larger weighed-in was 288. This represents 1.3% of the total number of bass weighed-in.
- Of these, 33 bass were at least seven pounds (Table 4). Forty percent of the big bass weighed-in came from Ross Barnett Reservoir (13). The largest bass was caught at Lake Lincoln State Park and weighed 10.82 pounds.
- Thirty-two clubs or tournament organizations submitted 288 tournament reports;
   27 clubs or organizers submitted more than one report card (Table 5). Eighteen clubs (56%) submitted five or more reports and eight clubs submitted 10 or more.
   Team Trails of Mississippi accounted for 26% of the total number of tournaments.
   The average number of reports received per club or organization was nine.

Table 4. Summary of bass weighed-in that were seven pounds or larger from the 2010 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program Report.

LUNKER	DATE	LAKE	TOURNAMENT
10.82	22-May-10	Lake Lincoln State Park	Media Bass Trail
10.39	18-Apr-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
10.27	22-May-10	Lake Lincoln State Park	Media Bass Trail
9.25	15-May-10	Calling Panther Lake	Rankin County Bass Club
9.02	20-Feb-10	Turkey Fork	Deep South Christian Anglers
8.99	6-Jun-10	Pickwick Lake	Fishers of Men Trail
8.80	19-Jun-10	Pickwick Lake	Fishers of Men Trail
8.43	21-Mar-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
8.32	24-Jul-10	Lock C TTW	Monroe County Bassmasters
8.28	27-Mar-10	Bay Springs Lake	Lee County Bass Club
8.13	6-Mar-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	FLW Bass Fishing League
8.13	3-Apr-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Team Trails of Mississippi
8.00	21-Feb-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
7.95	17-Apr-10	Pickwick Lake	Lee County Bass Club
7.88	25-Sep-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
7.84	11-Apr-10	Enid Lake	Peanut Craft Lures Trail
7.81	27-Feb-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Duncan Marine Trail
7.80	15-May-10	Lake Ferguson	Media Bass Trail
7.66	27-Mar-10	Bay Springs Lake	Lee County Bass Club
7.62	27-Mar-10	Bay Springs Lake	Lee County Bass Club
7.58	20-Mar-10	Pickwick Lake	Tenn Tom Open Water Trail
7.42	20-Feb-10	Back Bay	Team Trails of Mississippi
7.41	27-Feb-10	Okatibbee Reservoir	Luter's Fishing Tournaments
7.38	10-Apr-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Rankin County Bass Club
7.28	21-Mar-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
7.28	21-Feb-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Media Bass Trail
7.27	12-Jun-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Fishers of Men
7.26	12-Jun-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Meridian Bass Club
7.25	30-5ep-10	Pickwick Lake	FLW Everstart Series
7.24	22-May-10	Enid Lake	Tupelo Bass Club
7.20	20-Mar-10	Ross Barnett Reservoir	Deep South Christian Anglers
7.06	14-Mar-10	Bay Springs Lake	Oxford Bass Club
7.00	14-Aug-10	Pickwick Lake	Peanut Craft Lures Trail

Table 5. Organizations that submitted reports in the 2010 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program.

	ournaments	
	<u>Jurnaments</u>	<u>anglers</u>
American Bass Anglers	9	152
Attala County Bass Club	7	169
Believers Bassmen	10	276
Belmont Bass Club	7	51
FLW BFL	9	986
Budweiser	1	150
Camp Shelby Bass Club	7	85
Collinsville Bass Club	3	102
Deep South Christian Anglers	3	<b>52</b>
D.E.R.A.	1	24
Duncan Marine	4	523
Fishers of Men	10	500
FLW Everstart	3	204
Four Lakes Bass Club	4	16
Kings of the River	4	238
Lee County Bassmasters	11	280
Luters Fishing Tourneys	2	128
Media Bass Trail	22	1158
Memphis Bass Association	1	28
Meridian Bass Club	4	<b>61</b>
Monroe County Bassmasters	9	101
MS Bass Federation	2	360
Ocean Springs Bassmasters	12	118
Open Tournament	1	21
Oxford Bass Club	6	230
Peanut Craft Lures Trail	20	814
Pickensville Marine Trail	1	31
Rankin County Bass Club	8	129
S.M.A.B.C.	8	215
Team Trails of MS	72	2111
TennTom Open Trail	7	343
Tupelo Bass Club	10	108



- Team tournaments were again more popular than individual tournaments with sixtyeight percent of the reports submitted from team events. These tournaments
  averaged 20 teams per tournament. Individual tournaments accounted for 32% of the
  reports and averaged 29 participants per event.
- Limits of bass were weighed-in by 46% of all anglers or teams, similar to the numbers reported in 2009.
- Tournament bag limits varied from 4 to 5 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 MDWFP. We thank all those who voluntarily submitted report cards. Higher numbers of reports allow better estimates of fishing conditions, and not just a good or bad day's fishing by one or two clubs. 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's fishery resources.

Table 1. Summary of bass tournament results from the 2010 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program.

	Report		Bass	Bass	Pounds	Percent	Average	No.	Big	Average
Waterbody	Cards	<b>Entries</b>	Caught	Per Day	Per Day	Success	Weight	>5 lbs.	Bass	1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Aberdeen	7	111	203	1.84	4.04	44	2.20	0	3.34	13.31
Aliceville	5	147	362	2.82	5.04	58	1.85	5	5.01	16.56
Back Bay	7	178	455	2.61	2.61 4.15		1.62	3	4.68	11.97
Bay Springs	17	381	880	2.74	5.99	73	2.29	22	5.57	16.44
Bee Lake	4	78	189	2.36	3.70	48	1.67	0	4.59	11.73
Calling Panther	2	52	33	0.75	1.52	2	2.12	1	6.25	6.25
Chotard	2	45	109	2.31	3.63	14	1.64	1	5.69	10.31
Columbus	10	673	973	2.15	4.38	40	2.13	6	4.80	14.46
Desoto	4	145	237	1.69	4.59	53	2.66	1	5.14	20.85
Dog River,AL	2	20	72	3.58	3.92	60	1.09	0	2.05	7.01
Eagle	2	42	97	2.17	5.52	35	2.73	0	3.81	16.53
Enid	9	333	816	2.73	5.43	90	2.02	15	6.66	19.86
Ferguson	11	406	937	2.32	6.09	58	2.74	13	6.09	21.49
Flint Creek	4	98	182	1.94	3.14	32	1.77	2	4.51	11.82
Grenada	4	82	172	2.47	4.83	54	1.99	1	4.35	16.65
Gulfport Lake	3	63	99	1.65	2.40	15	1.52	0	3.95	8.48
Jourdan	2	57	172	2.98	4.44	73	1.53	0	3.85	12.88
Kemper	2	91	232	2.81	3.29	61	1.18	0	3.71	8.89
Lakeview	2	92	143	1.56	3.21	52	2.07	4	5.08	13.93
Lincoln St Pk	5	107	198	2.30	4.24	30	2.01	5	6.40	14.45
Little Eagle	1	27	86	3.19	7.63	33	2.40	6	6.00	18.94
Lock A	1	4	5	1.25	1.60	0	1.28	0	2.30	2.30
Lock B	7	69	211	3.36	6.88	70	2.05	4	5.76	15.61
Lock C	3	37	163	4.40	8.39	76	1.91	4	6.47	14.11
Lock D	2	28	47	1.56	3.35	44	2.35	1	5.22	14.74
Log Loader	2	73	114	1.57	4.41	46	2.80			22.14
Maynor Creek	1	32	52	1.63	2.04	38	1.26	1	3.76	9.10
Okatibbee	5	166	398	2.37	4.41	49	1.91	7	5.91	16.36
Okhissa	1	29	67	2.31	6.75	28	2.92	4	6.50	25.25
Pascagoula	14	567	1,160	2.09	3.16	46	1.49	4	3.79	10.97
Pearl River	17	474	1,253	3.17	4.80	72	1.60	2	3.86	11.28
Pickwick Lake	49	2,206	6,188	2.62	6.12	70	2.47	61	5.68	17.80
Ross Barnett	52	2,280	4,060	2.31	5.07	56	2.24	96	6.01	17.17
Sardis	8	270	515	2.42	4.68	76	1.93	7	6.15	17.25
Simpson	1	13	3	0.23	0.55	0	2.39	0	3.48	3.48
TTW	2	32	54	1.94	4.59	28	2.37	3	5.79	16.51
Tunica	1	24	41	1.71	3.99	67	2.34	3	6.46	24.66
Turkey Fork	1	21	9	0.43	1.12	0	2.60	1	9.02	9.02
Washington	3	121	194	1.54	4.85	42	3.14	3	6.15	20.44
Wolf	3	90	278	3.05	6.32	77	2.15	2	5.89	14.55
Totals	288	9,764	21,459					288		
Average				2.22	4.36	46	2.06	1.04	5.12	14.39

Table 2. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2010 reports.

Ranked by "Fishing Quality Indicators" from lakes with 5 or more tournament reports													
Averag weight/b (lbs.)		Avera Number C per 8-hou	Caught	Averag Pounds Ca per 8-hour	ught	Index of hours to cat bass > 5	atch a	Averag big bass we (lbs.)		Avera 1 <sup>st</sup> place v (lbs.	veight		Overall Rank
Ferguson	2.74	Lock B	3.36	Lock B	6.88	Lincoln Pk	1.35	Enid	6.66	Ferguson	21.49	#1	Enid
Pickwick	2.47	Pearl River	3.17	Pickwick	6.12	Lock B	1.47	Lincoln Pk	6.40	Enid	19.86	#2	Bay Springs
Bay Springs	2.47	Aliceville	2.82	Ferguson	6.09	Bay Springs	1.47	Sardis	6.15	Pickwick	17.80	#3	Lock B TTW
Ross Barnett	2.24	Bay Springs	s 2.74	Bay Springs	5.99	Enid	1.89	Ferguson	6.09	Sardis	17.25	#4	Ferguson
Aberdeen	2.20	Enid	2.73	Enid	5.43	Okatibbee	2.02	Ross Barnett	6.01	Ross Barne	tt17.17	#5	Pickwick
Columbus	2.13	Pickwick	2.62	Ross Barnett	5.07	Ross Barnett	t 2.02	Okatibbee	5.91	Aliceville	16.56	#6	Ross Barnett
Lock B	2.05	Back Bay	2.61	Aliceville	5.04	Aliceville	2.50	Lock B	5.76	Bay Springs	s 16.44	#7	Sardis
Enid	2.02	Sardis	2.42	Pearl River	4.80	Ferguson	2.65	Pickwick	5.68	Okatibbee	16.36	#8	Aliceville
Lincoln Pk	2.01	Okatibbee	2.37	Sardis	4.68	Back Bay	2.69	Bay Springs	5.57	Lock B	15.61	#9	Okatibbee
Sardis	1.93	Ferguson	2.32	Okatibbee	4.41	Pickwick	3.07	Aliceville	5.01	Columbus	14.46	#10	Lincoln Park
Okatibbee	1.91	Ross Barnet	tt 2.31	Columbus	4.38	Sardis	3.28	Columbus	4.80	Lincoln Pk	14.45	#11	Pearl River
Aliceville	1.85	Lincoln Pk	2.30	Lincoln Pk	4.24	Columbus	9.53	Back Bay	4.68	Aberdeen	13.31	#12	Columbus
Back Bay	1.62	Columbus	2.15	Back Bay	4.15	Pascagoula	12.05	Pearl River	3.86	Back Bay	11.97	#13	Back Bay
Pearl River	1.60	Pascagoula	2.09	Aberdeen	4.04	Pearl River	20.15	Pascagoula	3.79	Pearl River	11.28	#14	Aberdeen
Pascagoula	1.49	Aberdeen	1.84	Pascagoula	3.16	Aberdeen	0.00	Aberdeen	3.34	Ferguson	21.49	#15	Pascagoula