**General Information:** Covering 43,100 acres, Pickwick Lake, which borders Alabama, Tennessee, and Mississippi, is the 4th largest impoundment on the Tennessee River. It is owned and managed by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The reservoir extends 52.7 miles from Wilson Dam (river mile 259.5) in Florence, Alabama to Pickwick Landing Dam (river mile 206.7). The lake is nationally recognized as one of the best bass fishing lakes in the country.

**Location:** Northeastern border of Tishomingo County roughly 10 miles north of Iuka on Hwy 25.

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

**Purchase a Fishing License:** [http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx](http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx)

### Amenities in MS

- 9 public boat ramps
- 3 marinas
- 3 campgrounds
- J.P. Coleman State Park
- Hotel
- Picnic Areas
- Restrooms

### Regulations

**Yo-Yo’s, Jugs, and Trotlines**

- 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. Trotlines may have no more than 100 single hooks.

**Handgrabbing**

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.

**Licensing**

- A Mississippi fishing license is valid from Pickwick Dam upriver to the Old Riverton Lock at mile marker 226.6 (see the map on page 5 below).
- A Tennessee fishing license is valid from the Pickwick Dam upriver to the Hwy 25 Bridge and the Old Riverton Lock.
- An Alabama fishing license is valid from Pickwick Dam upriver to the Hwy 25 Bridge and Wilson Dam.

### Sportfishing Notes

**Black Bass**

- Target main lake and creek ledges and humps with Carolina and/or Texas-rigged plastics, crankbaits, and jigs.
- In the spring, fish main lake flats and coves with spinnerbaits and swimbaits.

**Crappie**

- Try casting, trolling, and vertical jigging along drop-offs in primary creeks.
- Fish in Yellow and Bear creeks using jigs and minnows.
- Target deeper water in the creeks during winter.

**Catfish**

- Fish for cats in the main lake around the ledges and humps with cutbait or whole shad.
- During May and June, fish rock bluff walls with nightcrawlers.

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Right: The average total weight (sack weight) of black bass weighed-in per tournament angler each day. Over the past decade, the average tournament weight for Pickwick Lake anglers has been significantly higher than the state average. This is due to the quality bass fishery in the lake.

Left: The average winning bass tournament weight has been higher than the state average over the last eight years.

Below: Summary of bass tournament reports for the past six years. Bass clubs and tournament directors are encouraged to report their tournament results to the Mississippi Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. This data combined with other information helps us manage the fishery.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of tournaments</th>
<th>Total number of anglers</th>
<th>Total number of bass caught</th>
<th>Avg. number of bass/angler day</th>
<th>Avg. pounds of bass/angler day</th>
<th>Percent of anglers with 5-fish limit</th>
<th>Avg. weight of bass weighed-in</th>
<th>Total number of bass &gt;5 lbs.</th>
<th>Mean weight of &quot;lunker&quot;</th>
<th>Mean 1st place weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>2,206</td>
<td>6,188</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>17.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>3,383</td>
<td>10,250</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>5.9</td>
<td>19.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>2,245</td>
<td>5,273</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>6.4</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>1,362</td>
<td>2,427</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>21.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>3,403</td>
<td>8,183</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td>3,137</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>19.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Above: Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Ninety percent of the anglers interviewed were targeting either bass or crappie. Similarly, 85% of the anglers were fishing in a party of two or less. Eighty-seven percent of the anglers were interviewed only one time during the spring of 2015 which shows that many different anglers fish at Pickwick. Approximately 40% use MDWFP fishing reports to plan their fishing trips. The 15 inch minimum length limit on black bass was adopted in 2013. Over half the anglers (56%) thought the regulation had a positive impact on the bass fishery, and 41% thought it had no affect on the population. Only four percent of the anglers responded that the rule had a negative impact on the population. Eighty-eight percent of the anglers were satisfied or very satisfied with their fishing trip at Pickwick Lake.

Right: Length distributions of crappie harvested by anglers at Pickwick Lake during spring 2013 and 2015. Crappie anglers harvested an average of 81.5% of their catch during both years. The average length of crappie harvested in 2013 was 11.7 inches, and in 2015 it was 11.5.
Below: A Mississippi fishing license is valid in the areas shaded in red.

Note: Area shaded in red represents where a valid Mississippi license is honored.

Fishing regulations of each state must be adhered to while fishing in that state’s waters.