



Eagle Lake 2019 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/

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

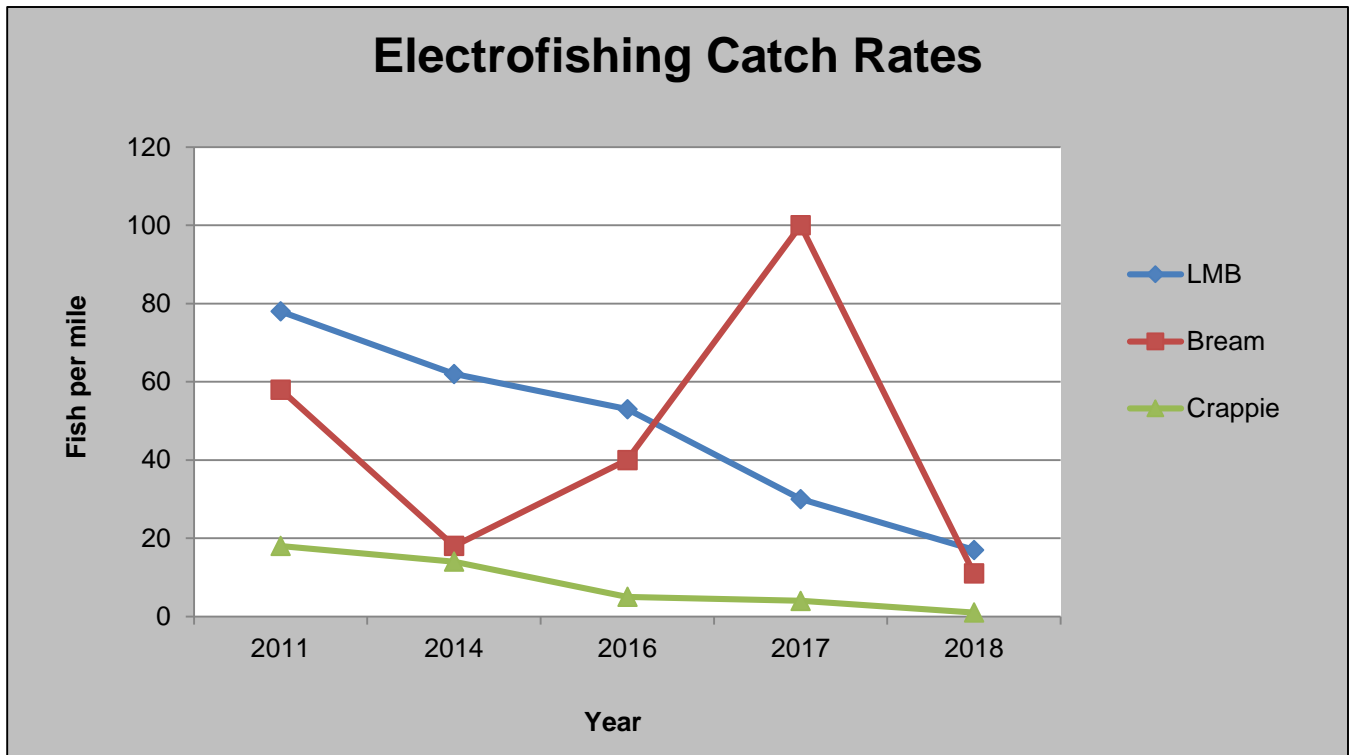
- Try crickets in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Big bluegill are often caught during winter around piers on the eastern side of the lake.

Catfish

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

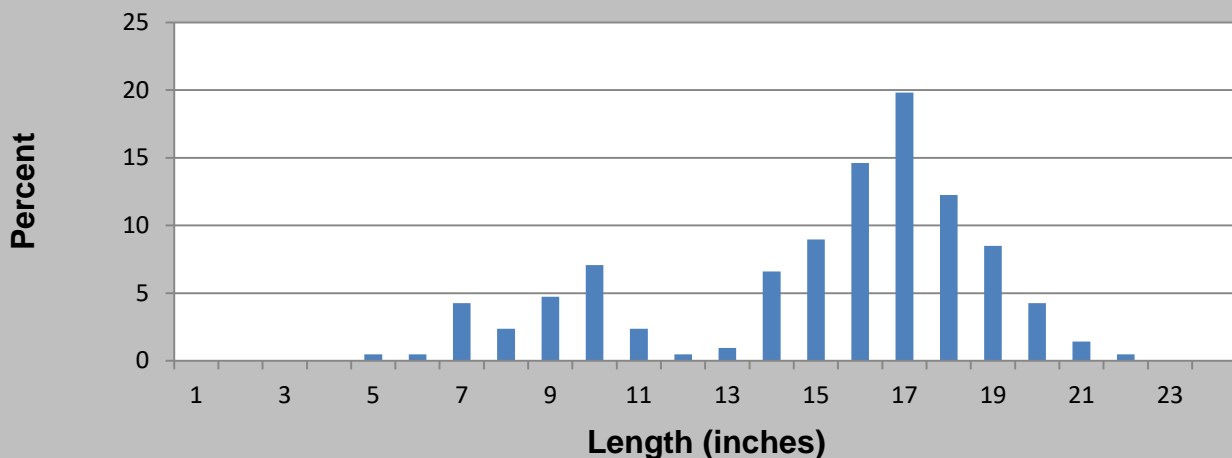
Below: Results from 2018 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Eagle Lake. Largemouth Bass, White Crappie, and Redear Sunfish are stocked periodically by MDWFP to help maintain a quality fishery.

| Species | # of fish collected | % of sample | Average Length (inches) | Maximum Length (inches) | Average Weight (pounds) | Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile) |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 212 | 37.1 | 15.6 | 22.1 | 2.8 | 18.5 |
| Gizzard Shad | 189 | 33.0 | 13.6 | 18.0 | 1.7 | 16.5 |
| Bluegill | 124 | 21.7 | 12.0 | 15.0 | 1.1 | 10.8 |
| Yellow Bass | 18 | 3.1 | 7.4 | 12.3 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| Redear | 16 | 2.8 | 7.0 | 9.9 | 0.3 | 1.4 |
| White Crappie | 8 | 1.4 | 6.4 | 9.1 | 0.2 | 0.7 |
| Black Crappie | 4 | 0.7 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 0.0 | 0.3 |
| White Bass | 1 | 0.2 | 3.0 | 4.3 | 0.0 | 0.1 |

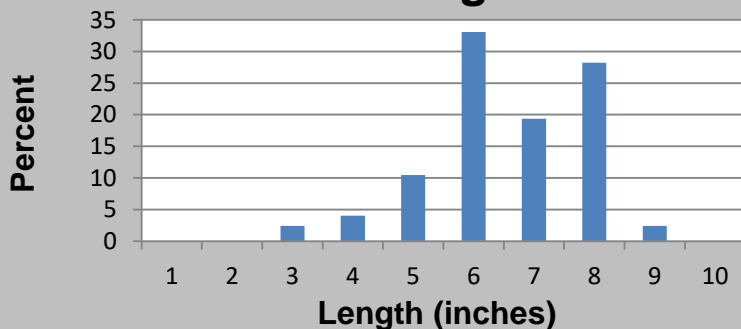


Above: Changes in catch rates during fall electrofishing from 2011 through 2018 at Eagle Lake. Catch rates were down in 2018 sampling due to high water.

Largemouth Bass

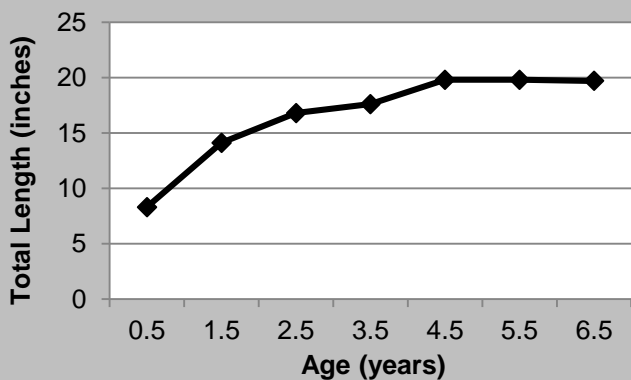


Bluegill

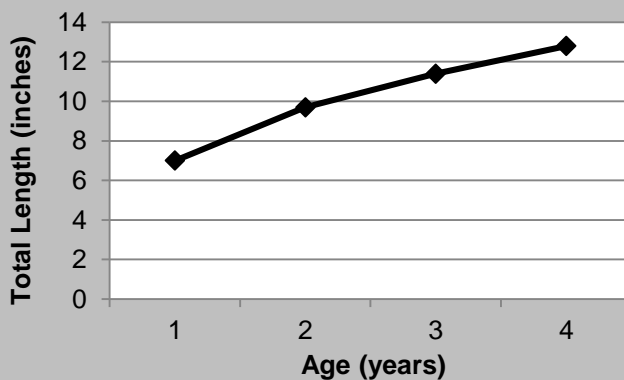


Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass and Bluegill collected during 2018 fall electrofishing at Eagle Lake. **Below:** Growth rates for Largemouth Bass and crappie at Eagle Lake. This lake promotes some of the fastest growing fish in the state due to high fertility and an abundance of forage, primarily shad. Ages are shown in half year or whole year increments depending on the time of year that sampling occurred.

Largemouth Bass

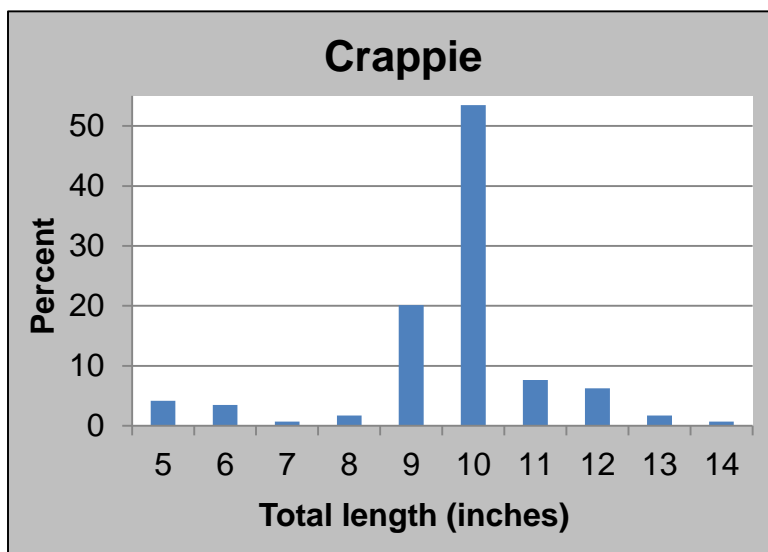


Crappie



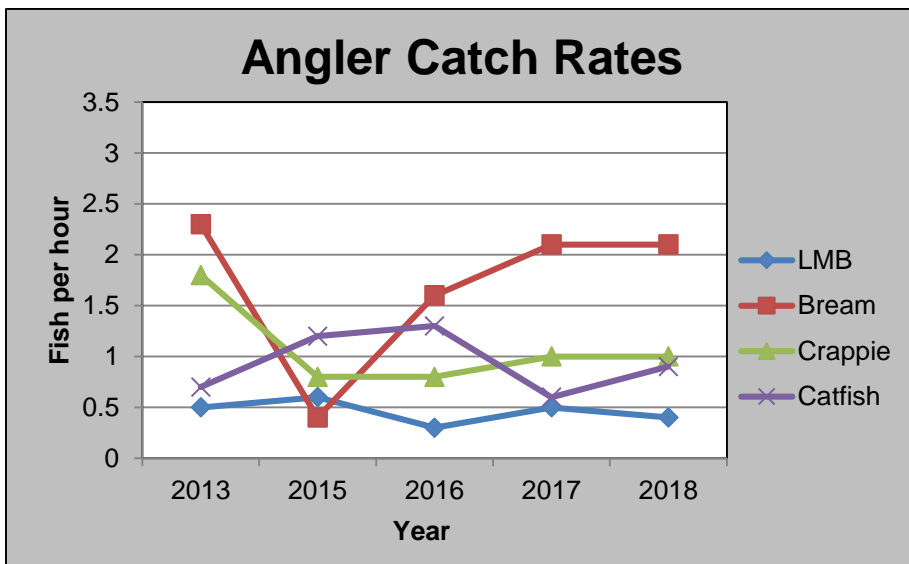
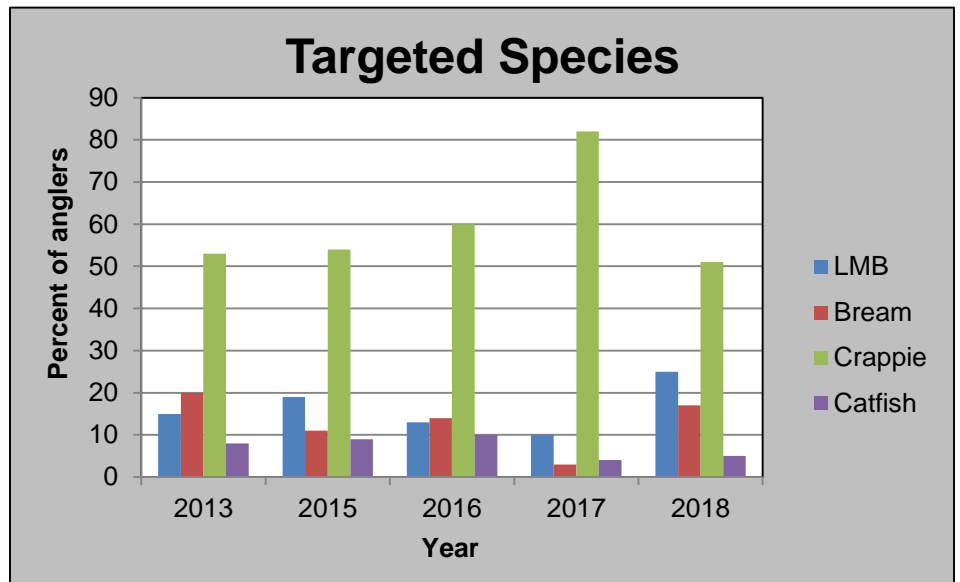
Below: Results from February 2018 lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. These nets are primarily used for sampling panfish, such as crappie and bream. Bluegill and Black Crappie dominated our catch. The 11-inch minimum length limit has protected a large year class of crappie which should be available for angler harvest in 2019.

| 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 |

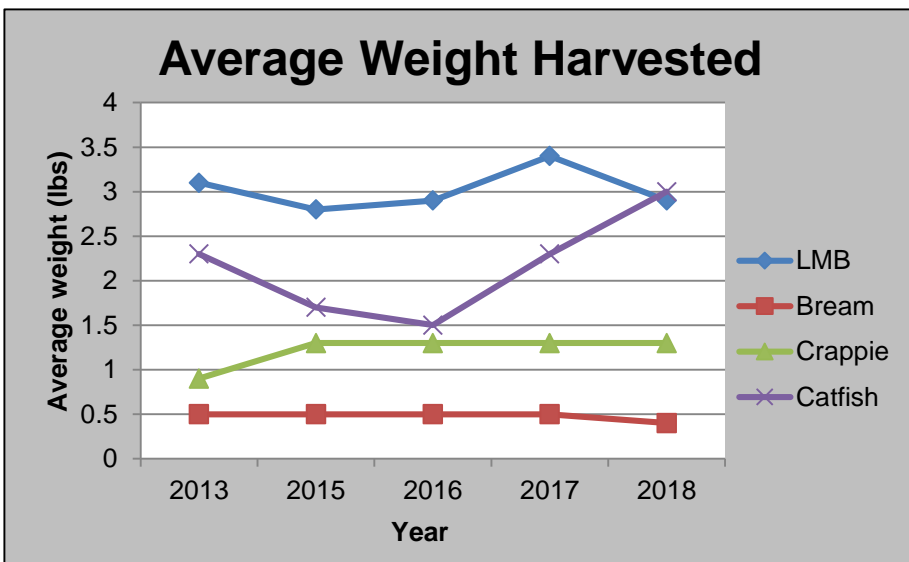


Above: Lengths of crappie collected during 2018 lead net sampling at Eagle Lake. The majority of crappie ranged from 9 to 10 inches, which are the result of a strong year class during 2016. Above average lake levels for the 2018 year, combined with crappie being stocked during December 2018, should increase 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. Bream catch rates have rebounded since 2015. MDWFP stocked over 225,000 Bluegill during the fall of 2015 which may have helped the bream fishery.



Left bottom: Average weight of harvested fish at Eagle Lake. The average weight of largemouth bass remained close to 3 pounds and crappie weights continued to average 1.3 pounds since the 11-inch minimum length limit was put into effect.