



# Aberdeen Lake 2020

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** As part of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, Aberdeen Lake covers 4,121 acres in central Monroe county. Impounded in 1984, it is owned and managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The reservoir extends 22 miles from Amory Lock and Dam (mile 371.1) down to Aberdeen Lock and Dam (mile 357.5). Historically, Aberdeen Lake has been a destination for bass and crappie anglers from around the state and has hosted multiple state level bass tournaments in recent years.

**Location:** Just northeast of the Aberdeen, MS along Lock and Dam Rd.

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

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

### Amenities

- 4 public boat ramps
- 1 marina
- 1 campground
- Swimming area
- Picnic areas
- Restrooms

### Regulations

- Black bass (largemouth and spotted): 14 inch minimum length limit, 10 bass (combined) per day per angler.
- Crappie: 9 inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 bream (combined) per day per angler.
- Catfish: no limit.
- All paddlefish caught must be released
- Other creel limits can be found at <http://www.mdwfp.com>

### 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.

#### Spillway

- Anglers can only use one pole or rod per person.
- Artificial lures with no more than 3 treble hooks no larger than #2 may be used anytime.
- The use of baited or bare treble hooks is illegal.
- From Dec 1 until the last day in Feb – Anglers can only fish with 2 single hooks no larger than #2. Hooks must be at least 1 inch apart.
- From March 1 until the last day in Nov – Anglers may fish with 2 single hooks of any size. Hooks must be at least 1 inch apart.
- Baitfish captured at Aberdeen spillway must be immediately placed on ice or in a dry container.

### Sportfishing Notes

#### Black Bass

- Target deeper backwater areas with woody debris and aquatic vegetation with Texas-rigged plastics, square-billed crankbaits, spinnerbaits, and jigs.
- In the spring, target backwater flats with spinnerbaits, Texas-rigs, vibrating jigs, and weedless swimbaits.

#### Crappie

- Target the deep old river bendways with jigs and minnows around any woody cover.
- Fish the edges of vegetation in the lower end of the lake around standing timber.

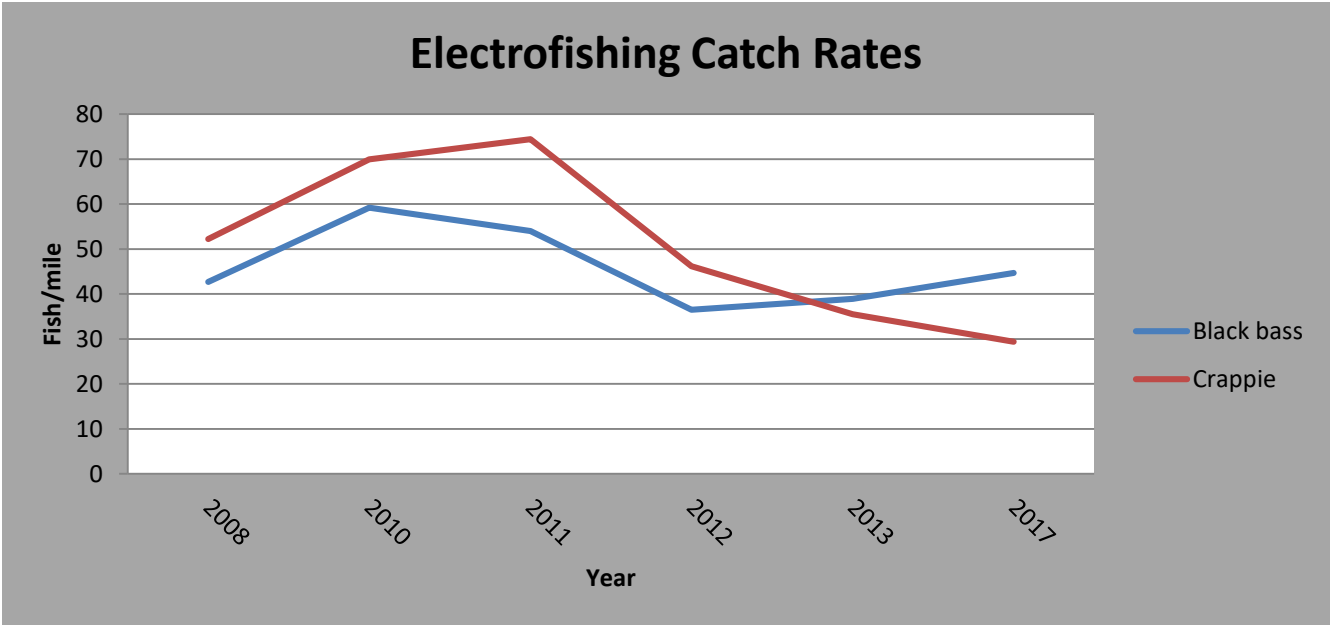
#### Catfish

- Fish for cats along main channel drop-offs, mouths of bendways, and deep old river channels with cutbait or whole shad.

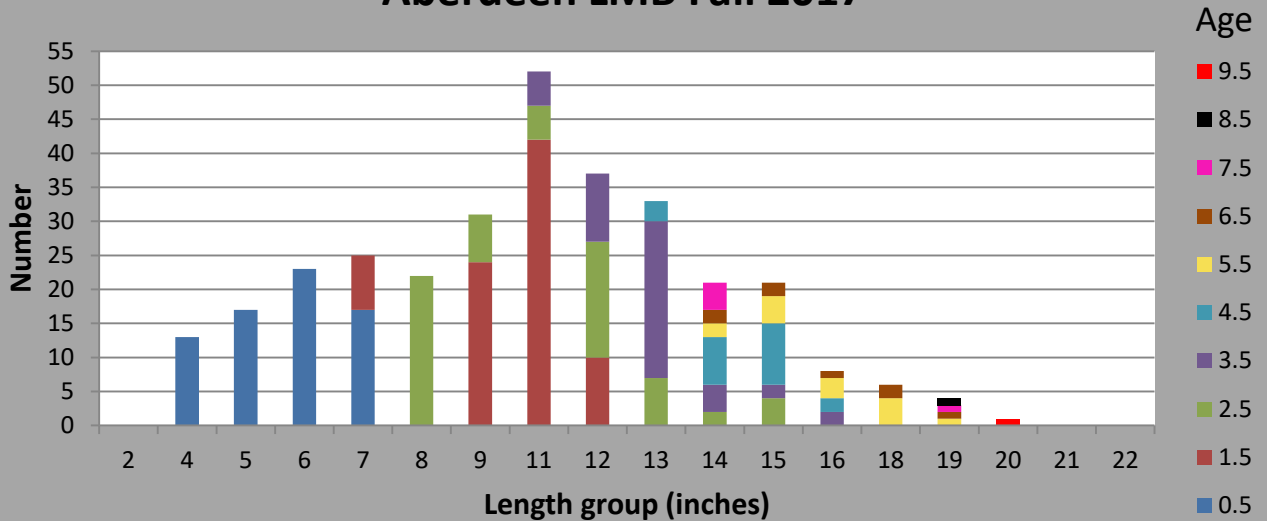
**Below:** Results from the 2017 fall electrofishing survey on Aberdeen Lake. Boat electrofishing was completed along 9.3 miles of shoreline at 15 randomly selected sites during December.

| Species         | # of Fish Sampled | % of Sample | Average Length (inches) | Minimum Length (inches) | Maximum Length (inches) | Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Threadfin Shad  | 709               | 47          | 2.5                     | 1.6                     | 4.3                     | -                                 |
| Largemouth Bass | 314               | 21          | 11.0                    | 3.8                     | 20.8                    | 26                                |
| White Crappie   | 218               | 14          | 8.3                     | 3.0                     | 13.7                    | 22                                |
| Gizzard Shad    | 110               | 7           | 6.7                     | 2.7                     | 10.0                    | 5                                 |
| Bluegill        | 89                | 6           | 4.8                     | 1.2                     | 7.4                     | 9                                 |
| Redear Sunfish  | 31                | 2           | 5.8                     | 2.7                     | 7.9                     | 3                                 |
| Black Crappie   | 23                | 2           | 8.3                     | 3.1                     | 11.3                    | 3                                 |
| Channel Catfish | 8                 | <1          | 18.9                    | 16.1                    | 26.4                    | 1                                 |
| Spotted Bass    | 8                 | <1          | 14.4                    | 7.4                     | 19.1                    | 1                                 |

**Below:** Electrofishing catch rates (fish/mile) for black bass (Largemouth and Spotted Bass) and crappie. These statistics are for Largemouth Bass 8 inches and longer, Spotted Bass 7 inches and longer, and crappie 5 inches and longer. The catch rates for these species have slowly declined over the last decade. It's not uncommon for catch rates to change over time as populations naturally fluctuate from year to year.



## Aberdeen LMB Fall 2017



**Above:** Age at length for Largemouth Bass collected during the 2017 fall electrofishing survey. Approximately 50% of the bass collected were 1.5 years old or younger, and 32% of the fish were 2.5 – 4.5 years old. Largemouth Bass in Aberdeen Lake exhibit reasonably high growth rates during early life stages. The oldest fish was 9.5 years old. The annual mortality rate of Aberdeen Lake bass is 41%.

**Right:** Within the last year, a new invasive aquatic plant was found in various water bodies along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. Giant Salvinia is a floating plant just like its cousin Common Salvinia. But unlike its cousin, Giant Salvinia has a propensity to spread and grow at a much faster rate and has the potential to choke off backwater areas. Anglers visiting the lake need to clean their boats and boat trailers to reduce the possibility of transferring this plant to other water bodies.



| Species targeted   | Percentage (%) |
|--|----------------|
| Bass   | 72             |
| Crappie  | 20             |
| Catfish  | 8              |
| Party Size   |                |
| 1  | 37             |
| 2  | 59             |
| ≥3   | 4              |
| Have you been interviewed at Aberdeen Lake in 2017?  |                |
| Yes  | 10             |
| No   | 90             |
| Would you support instituting a 14" minimum length limit on black bass throughout the TTW? |                |
| Support  | 69             |
| Not support  | 12             |
| No opinion   | 19             |
| Since you started fishing the Tenn-Tom, do you believe the fishing has gotten:             |                |
| Better   | 36             |
| Worse  | 28             |
| No difference  | 36             |
| What action do you think is most needed to improve fishing on the Tenn-Tom?                |                |
| Improve habitat  | 59             |
| Stricter regulations   | 5              |
| Less regulations   | 0              |
| Stocking   | 36             |



**Above:** During the 2017 creel, 92 percent of the anglers interviewed were targeting either bass or crappie. Similarly, 96 percent of the anglers were fishing in a party of two or less. A vast majority of anglers would support a 14 inch minimum length limit on black bass (includes both Largemouth and Spotted Bass species). From the anglers perspective, 36 percent thought that fishing had gotten better since they started fishing the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway while 28 percent thought it had gotten worse. Almost 60 percent of the anglers interviewed thought that “habitat improvement” would be the best way to improve fishing, while 36 percent thought that “stocking” would be the most beneficial.

**Right:** Length of crappie harvested by anglers at Aberdeen Lake during the spring of 2017. Crappie anglers harvested an average of 60 percent of their catch. The average length of crappie harvested in 2017 was 11.1 inches.

