



# Moon Lake 2020

## REEL FACTS

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**General Information:** Moon Lake is a 2,300 acre oxbow lake of the Mississippi River. The primary inflow to the lake comes from Phillips Bayou at the northern tip of the lake. The main outflow is Yazoo Pass which connects the lake to the Coldwater River.

**Location:** Outside the mainline Mississippi River levee in Coahoma County about 15 miles north of Clarksdale.

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

**Purchase a Fishing License:** <http://www.mdwfp.com/license/fishing-license.aspx>

### Amenities

- 2 Public Ramps
- Fish Cleaning Station
- Pavilion

### Regulations

- Minimum length limit for crappie is 10 inches.
- 30 crappie per day, with 5 crappie under 10 inches allowed.
- 5 Largemouth Bass per day.
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.
- Commercial fishing is open from October 1 – February 28 and requires a special permit from MDWFP. Other regulations can be found at [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com)

### Fish Stockings

#### 2019

Largemouth Bass  
50,000; 2.5 in.

#### 2018

Largemouth Bass  
53,100; 1-3 in.  
890; 6 in.

#### 2017

White Crappie  
48,000; 3 in.  
Largemouth Bass  
14,000; 2 in.  
Bluegill  
100,000; 1 in.

#### 2016

Largemouth Bass  
35,000; 2 in.  
Bluegill  
130,000; 2 in.

#### 2015

Blue Catfish  
2,000; 5-25 pounds  
Bluegill  
130,000; 2 in.

### Sportfishing Tips

#### Largemouth Bass

- Fish piers along eastern shoreline and near Paradise Point ramp.

#### Crappie

- In the spring fish structure and piers along the banks with minnows or jigs. During summer and winter months try trolling through the deeper areas of the lake.

#### Bream

- Fish areas with structure in water less than 5 feet deep with crickets or red worms, especially in the late spring and summer.

#### Catfish

- Fish shallow mudflats around the island or near the cypress trees with night crawlers, chicken livers, or stink bait.

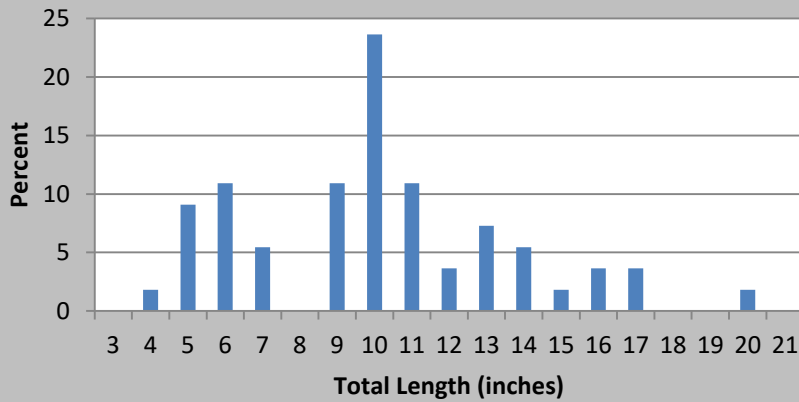
**Below:** Results from the 2018 electrofishing survey on Moon Lake. Moon Lake is sampled in the fall every 2 to 3 years. In 2018 catch rates for Largemouth Bass increased while Bluegill catch rates decreased slightly, and catch rates of crappie increased. Non-game fish were very abundant, specifically buffalo and gar, and comprised over 50% of the total catch by number in 2018.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Buffalo	248	44	18	28		97
Bluegill	90	16	4	7	0.2	37
Largemouth Bass	55	10	11	20	1.0	22
Spotted Gar	40	7	20	28		15
Freshwater Drum	36	6	13	18		14
Longear Sunfish	32	6	3	5		13
Shortnose Gar	31	6	21	25		13
Crappie	4	1	11	12	0.7	3
Common Carp	8	1	22	26		3
Redear Sunfish	5	1	7	10	0.5	2
White Bass	4	1	8	16	2.0	1
Channel Catfish	3	1	12	17	0.7	1
Bowfin	2	<1	28	29	7.3	1
Green Sunfish	1	0	4	4		<1

**Right:** Crappie are the most sought after species in Moon Lake. White crappie and black crappie are both present at Moon, but white crappie are more abundant.



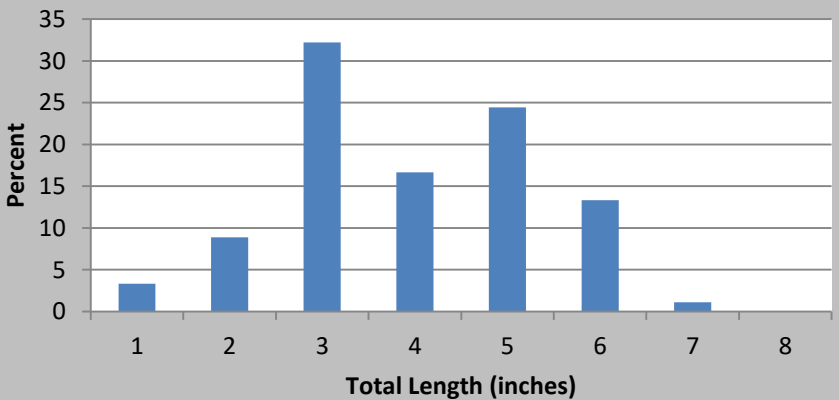
## Largemouth Bass



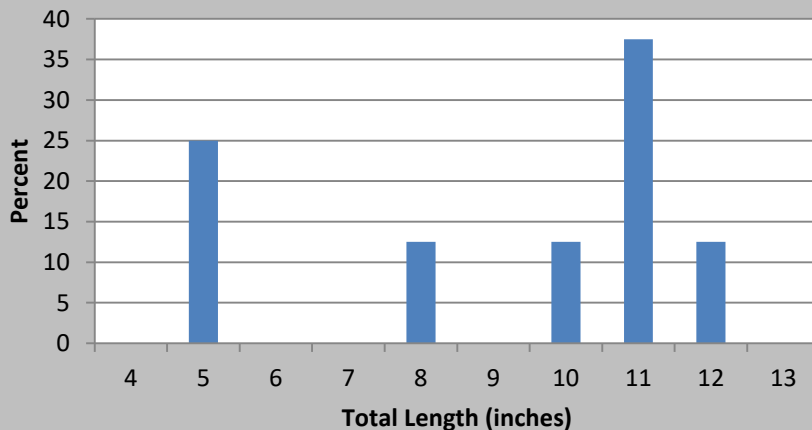
**Left:** Largemouth Bass length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2018 electrofishing survey. The largest bass collected was 20 inches long and weighed 4 pounds.

**Right:** Bluegill length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2018 electrofishing survey. The average length of a Bluegill was 4.5 inches, while the largest Bluegill collected was 7 inches in length.

## Bluegill

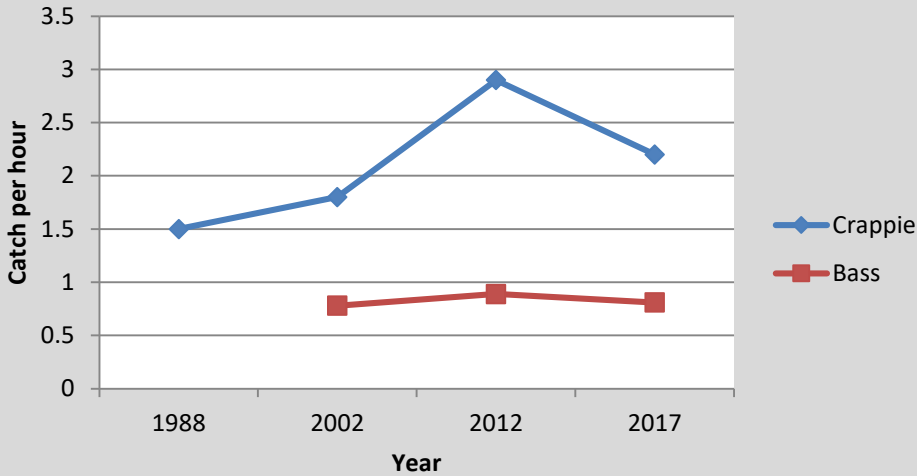


## Crappie



**Left:** Crappie length distribution for Moon Lake from the 2018 electrofishing survey. Most crappie collected were between 10 and 12 inches. The largest crappie collected was 12.5 inches long and weighed 1.1 pounds.

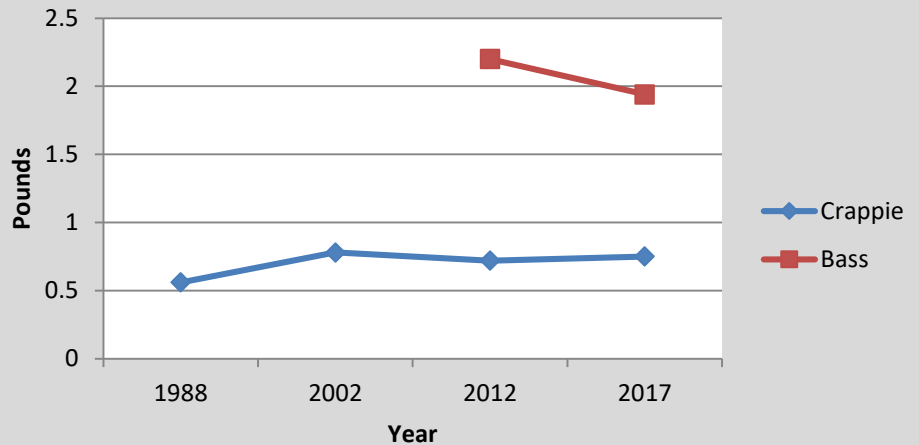
## Angler Catch Rates



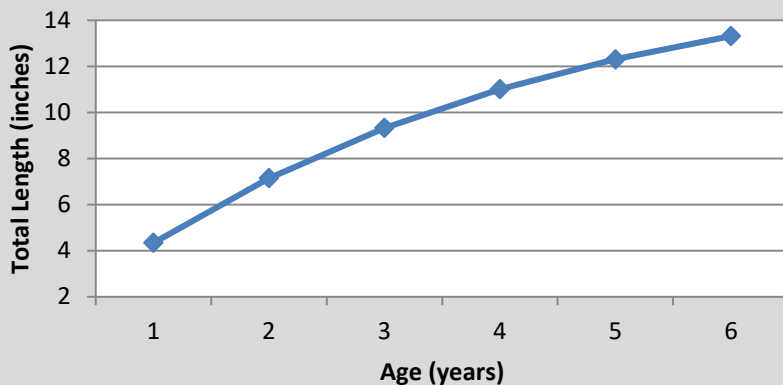
**Left:** Results from angler creel surveys indicate relatively steady catch rates for bass and crappie. In 2017, crappie catch rates fell slightly but were still above average for Delta oxbows.

**Right:** In 2017 average weight of harvested crappie was 0.75 pounds and average weight of harvested bass was almost 2 pounds.

## Average Weights

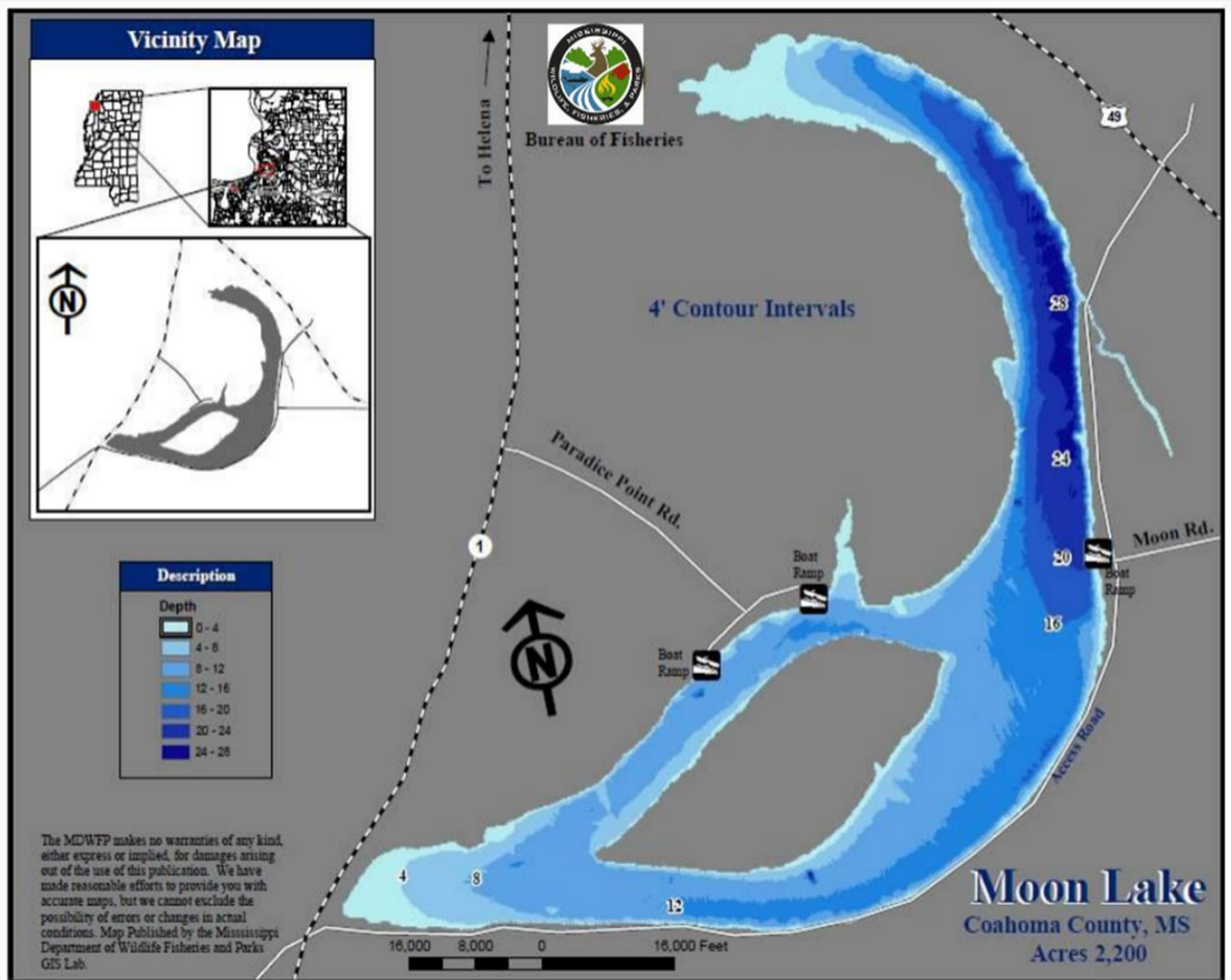


## Crappie



**Left:** Growth rates for crappie at Moon Lake. On average crappie reach 10 inches at 3.25 years and reach 12 inches at 4.6 years old.

Below: Depth map of Moon Lake.



**Left:** Crappie are the most sought after fish species by anglers fishing at Moon Lake.