# Lake Columbia 2020
## REEL FACTS

Stephen Brown – Fisheries Biologist

Stephen.Brown@wfp.ms.gov

### General Information:
This 84 acre lake is best known for its Largemouth Bass fishing. The lake has three large coves and ample bank access which create excellent fishing areas as well as a deeper ski area usable on permitted days.

### Location:
The lake is located 7 miles SE of Columbia in Marion County.

### Fishery Management:
Largemouth Bass, bream, and crappie

### Purchase a Fishing License:
[https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/](https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/)

### Depth Map:

### Amenities
- One public boat ramp
- One handicap access fishing pier
- Two earthen piers
- Day-use / picnic areas
- Public restrooms with showers
- 12 Camping pads with electrical/water hookups
- Skiing is allowed on Wednesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day noon to sunset

### Regulations
- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to boat ramp.
- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, free floating fishing devices, jugs, yo-yo's, limelines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- For more information contact Lake Columbia manager Dustin Brumfield at (601) 736-1861

### Creel and Size Limits
- Catfish: 10 per day.
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 14 to 18 inches must be released, 5 fish per day creel limit, only one may be over 18 inches in length.
- Bream: 100 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day

### Fishing Tips

**Crappie**

Use minnows or green and black jigs in 6 to 8 ft. of water near structures and around overhanging limbs

**Largemouth Bass**

Use topwater lures, spinnerbaits, and crank baits early in the day, or dark colored soft plastics and frogs fished around deeper vegetation in 4 to 6 ft. of water.

**Bream**

Use crickets or red worms in about 2 to 4 ft. of water, fished close to the bottom, near structure.

**Catfish**

Use pungent baits, such as liver, fished near the bottom.
Below: Lake Columbia record fish. Record fish must be weighed and verified by the lake manager, lake supervisor, or fisheries biologist. Anglers who catch a lake record fish will receive a certificate acknowledging their catch. There is no minimum weight for any open lake record.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fish Species</th>
<th>Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Angler</th>
<th>Date Caught</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>Mike Allen</td>
<td>December 30, 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>1.94</td>
<td>John McDonald Jr.</td>
<td>February 16, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Ray Newsome</td>
<td>May 19, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>Ray Newsome</td>
<td>April 15, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above: A peaceful morning on Lake Columbia. This is the view from one of the coves found around the lake. These coves have a variety of vegetation that provide cover and an ideal habitat for the many species of fish.
Below: Results from the 2019 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Columbia.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th># of fish collected</th>
<th>% of sample</th>
<th>Average Length (inches)</th>
<th>Maximum Length (inches)</th>
<th>Average Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Chubsucker</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>14.1</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Below: Summary of the total numbers of adult fish sampled per mile (Largemouth Bass; LMB, Bream; Bluegill and Redear Sunfish) from 2015 - 2019 fall electrofishing. Even though electrofishing catch rates have fluctuated, anglers continue to catch high numbers of fish.
Below: Length distribution of Largemouth Bass collected during fall 2019 electrofishing.

Below: Length distribution of Bluegill and Redear Sunfish collected during fall 2019 electrofishing.