



# Neshoba County Lake 2020

## Reel Facts

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**General Information:** Neshoba County Lake is a 138 acre impoundment that was transferred to the State by the Neshoba County American Legion. After repairs, the lake was reopened in 1985 as a State Lake. It is an exceptional fishery for Largemouth Bass.

**Location:** Six miles southeast of Philadelphia off of Hwy 486 in Neshoba County.

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

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

### Amenities

- Boat ramp
- Handicap accessible fishing piers
- Rental pavilion
- 22 camp sites with full hookups

### Creel Limits

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions
- Largemouth Bass: Slot limit, bass 16-20 inches in length must be released, 10 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 20 inches in length.
- 100 bream per day
- 10 catfish per day

### Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel only
- No trot lines, throw lines, jugs, FFFD's, yo-yos, set hooks, or limb lines allowed.
- Largemouth Bass between 16-20 inches must be immediately released. One over 20 inches may be kept.

### Permits

- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Camping is on a first come-first served basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

### Sportfishing Tips

#### Crappie

- In the spring, target shallow structure that is close to the creek with jigs or minnows. In the summer and winter, fish deeper water along creek ledges.

#### Largemouth Bass

- In early spring try shiners in open water for big fish. Target aquatic vegetation with top water lures as weather warms. Swim baits also work well along the levee.

#### Bream

- Use crickets or red worms, from early spring to fall, at depths of 2-4 ft.

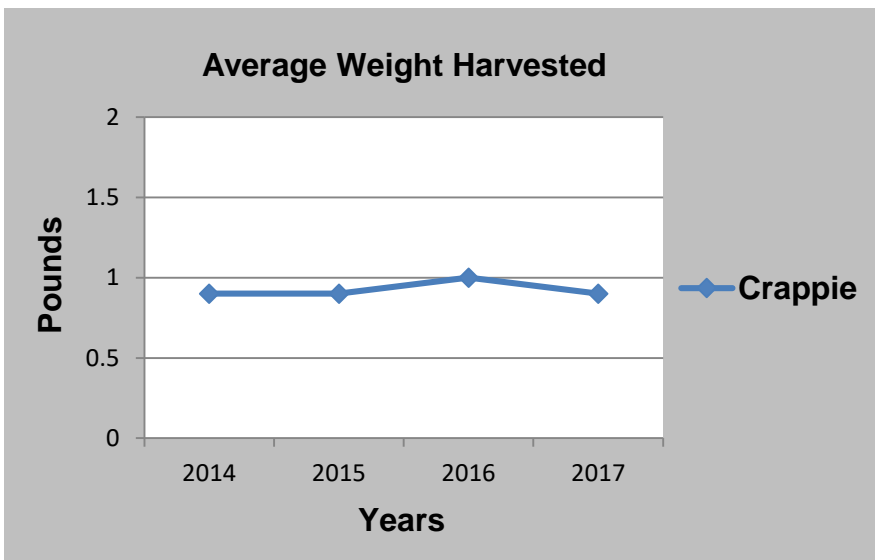
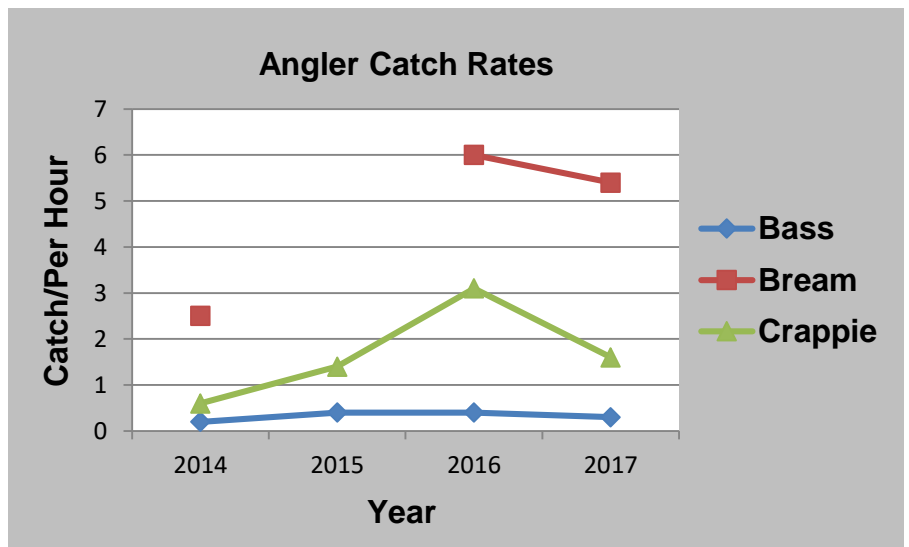
#### Catfish

- Tight lining on the bottom with liver or worms works well around the earthen piers.

**Below:** Neshoba County Lake 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.

Fish Species	Weight	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	14.3	Austin Vowell	February 2017
Crappie	3.2	Janet Blalock	April 2014
Redear Sunfish	1.8	Betty Bell	April 2019
Bluegill	1.1	Jimmy Ray Jones	2015
Catfish	Open	-	-

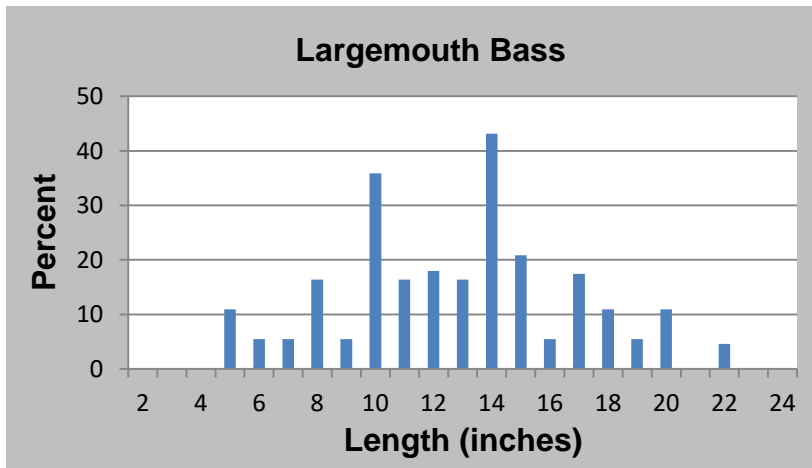
**Right:** Angler catch rates from spring creel surveys. Largemouth Bass catch rates are low, but quality remains high. Trophy bass are regularly caught in early spring. Bream fishing has improved recently averaging over five per hour the last couple of years.



**Left:** The average weight of angler harvested crappie over the last four years is just under a pound. There has been inconsistent harvest of Largemouth Bass and bream during spring creel surveys. Most bass anglers are catch and release oriented, harvesting less than 3% of their catch.

**Below:** Results from the 2017 electrofishing survey at Neshoba County Lake. This sampling is conducted every two years during the fall and provides biologists with sport fish population metrics which are monitored over time.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	56	43	4.4	7.6	0.1	23
Largemouth Bass	46	36	12.3	21.1	1.2	18
Gizzard Shad	14	11	12.4	18.3	1.0	6
Redear Sunfish	6	5	8.7	10.6	0.5	2
Channel Catfish	5	4	23.2	25.4	4.1	2
Black Crappie	2	2	13.3	14.4	1.4	1

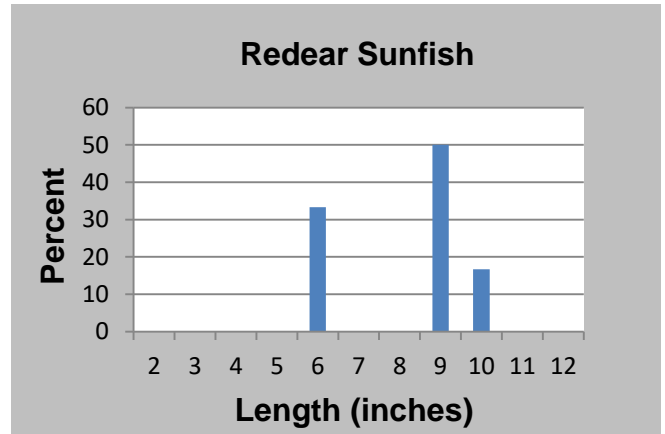
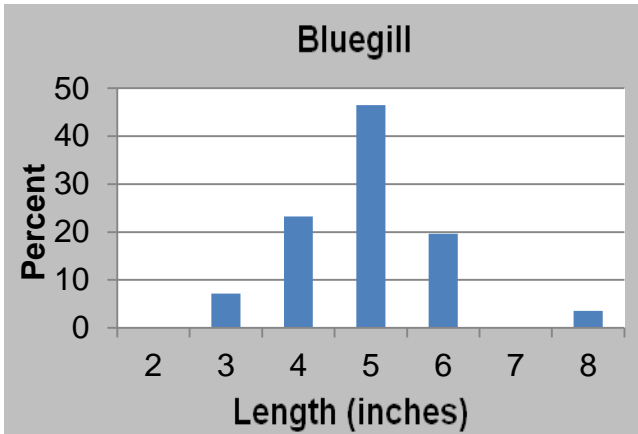


**Left:** Largemouth Bass (LMB) length frequency histogram. There are numerous fish in the 14-20 inch range that provide quality fishing for any Largemouth Bass enthusiast. Abundance of ten inch fish signals good recruitment from last years spawn.

**Right:** Neshoba County Lake is a popular destination for anglers in pursuit of big Largemouth Bass. In 2014, Mississippi Game and Fish Magazine nominated it as one of the top trophy bass fisheries in the state. Numerous double-digit fish are caught during the Spring. The large watershed provides a rich, fertile environment for tremendous fish production. Austin Vowell broke the lake record with this huge 14.3 pound lunker caught in February of 2017. The biggest fish are caught in February and early March when they are full of eggs and ready to spawn.



**Below:** Length distributions for bream from the 2017 electrofishing survey at Neshoba County Lake. Bluegill were abundant and averaged five inches in length. Redear Sunfish numbers were low, and only a few big fish were collected.



**Right:** Bream fishing starts heating up in late April as Bluegill begin spawning in the vegetation. Anglers target holes in the shallow pad flats with crickets and worms.



**Left:** Handicap accessible piers and earthen piers provide ample bank fishing access.

Below: Neshoba County Lake depth map.

