**General Information:** Trace State Park Lake is a 565 acre lake located between the cities of Pontotoc and Tupelo in Pontotoc County. The lake was originally designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service as a watershed lake for flood control. The lake was drained in 2017 for repairs to the dam, and was re-opened in August of 2020. Historically known for its good bream fishery, the lake currently supports both abundant bass and bream. A seasonal fishery also exists for crappie and catfish. 

**Location:** Trace State Park is located in Pontotoc County, 8 miles W of Tupelo off of Hwy. 6.

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

**Lake Depth Map:** [https://www.mdwfp.com/media/5426/trace-park-lake.pdf](https://www.mdwfp.com/media/5426/trace-park-lake.pdf)

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

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### Amenities
- 2 public concrete boat ramps with courtesy piers.
- 3 handicap accessible fishing piers.
- 5 Cabins and 3 cottages.
- Campground with 76 sites including water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- 2 Children’s playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Restrooms and showers.
- 2 disc golf courses.
- 14 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Pavilion
- 35 miles of ORV and horse trails

### Regulations
- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to the boat ramp.
- Rod and reel fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD’s, jugs, yo-yo’s, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Trace Lake’s two main bodies are connected by a canal. Skiing is allowed on the eastern body, but once you go through the canal, it is designated as no wake.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased in the park office
- Contact the park office at (662) 489-2958.

### Creel Regulations
- Largemouth Bass: 14-22” slot limit; 10 per day per angler under 14”, one over 22”.
- Crappie: 20 per day per angler.
- Bream: 20 per day per angler combined.
- Catfish: 10 per day per angler.

### Fishing Tips

**Largemouth Bass**
- Target main lake points with wacky rigs and Texas-rigged plastics.
- In the summer and fall, fish the weed edges with spinner baits, Texas-rigged plastics, and various topwater lures.

**Crappie**
- Fish sunken brush tops and laydowns.
- Target main lake points and deep weed edges with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

**Bream**
- Target coves with tightlined redworms, mealworms, and crickets.

**Catfish**
- Target main lake points with nightcrawlers, liver, or cutbait.
- Fish deep laydowns and brushtops on main lake.
**Below:** Results from the 2020 spring electrofishing survey at Trace State Park. Boat electrofishing was completed along 9.9 miles of shoreline in April, and 4.3 miles in November. The majority of bass were under 12”, but there were several in the 5-9 pound range. Both Bluegill and Redear Sunfish were healthy and abundant. Very few crappie were picked up, but anglers were catching 9-14” fish once the lake re-opened.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (Spring Shock)</th>
<th># of Fish Sampled</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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gizzard Shad</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>17.3</td>
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<td>10.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4.7</td>
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<td>6.7</td>
<td>8.8</td>
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<td>10.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (Fall Shock)</th>
<th># of Fish Sampled</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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>16</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
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**Left:** A pair of 7 pound Largemouth Bass. Trace Lake has a lot of forage for bass, including Gizzard Shad, which are perfect for larger fish. There was a noticeable improvement in the weight of bass compared to their length once they reached 18” and up.
**Right:** Trace has an abundance of small bass, and anglers are encouraged to keep bass under 12”. However, since the upper part of the lake held water during renovation, some trophy-sized bass survived, like this 9 pound largemouth.

**Above:** Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish sampled during spring (pre-opening) and fall (post-opening) electrofishing in 2020.
Right: Creel data from Trace Lake. Most anglers were targeting bass, and most had fished the lake prior to renovation. Ninety-one percent were satisfied with their experience on Trace Lake. Anglers from 18 Mississippi counties and Tennessee were surveyed after the opening, but the majority came from Lee, Pontotoc, and Union counties.