



Eagle Lake 2022

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Eagle Lake is a 4,700 acre oxbow formed by the Mississippi River and is cutoff from the river by the mainline levee system. Water levels are controlled via the Muddy Bayou control structure operated by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Eagle Lake is one of the largest oxbows in Mississippi and is a popular destination for bream and crappie anglers.

Location: Approximately 20 miles north of Vicksburg off Hwy 465.

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

Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Lake Depth Map: <http://www.mdwfp.com/media/5416/eagle-lake.pdf>

Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom
- Multiple pay-to-use ramps
- Bait shops and store with gas

Creel and Size Limits

The following apply to both sides of the lake, including the channel to the Muddy Bayou control structure.

- Crappie: 11-inch minimum length limit and 30 crappie per day per angler
- Largemouth Bass: 16- inch minimum length limit and 10 bass per day per angler
- No limit on bream or catfish

Regulations

Eagle Lake is a state boundary water and the following regulations apply to the Mississippi side of the lake.

Yo-Yo's and Jugs

- 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.
- Each jug or yo-yo must be tagged or marked with angler's name and address.
- Anglers must attend jugs and yo-yos when fished during daylight hours.

Handgrabbing

- Hand grabbing season for catfish is open May 1 to July 15 each year.
- Only wooden containers may be placed in the lake.

Fishing Tips

Crappie

- Target shallow areas along the shoreline or islands during spring. In fall and winter, target piers in deep water on the eastern side of the lake.

Largemouth Bass

- Target piers and rocks along the eastern shoreline. Also target Cypress trees around the islands.

Bream

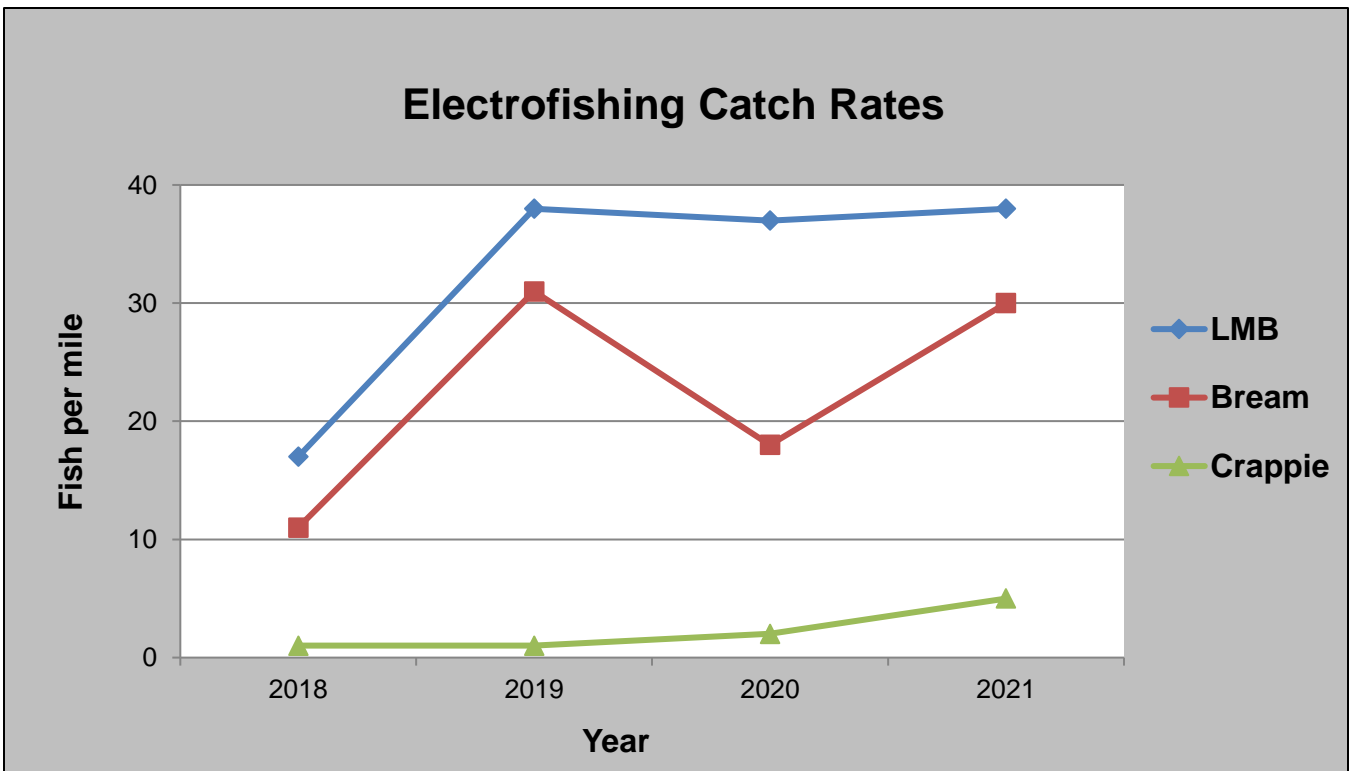
- Try crickets in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Big bluegill are often caught during winter around piers on the eastern side of the lake.

Catfish

- Target flats and islands on the western side of the lake with liver, worms, or cutbait.

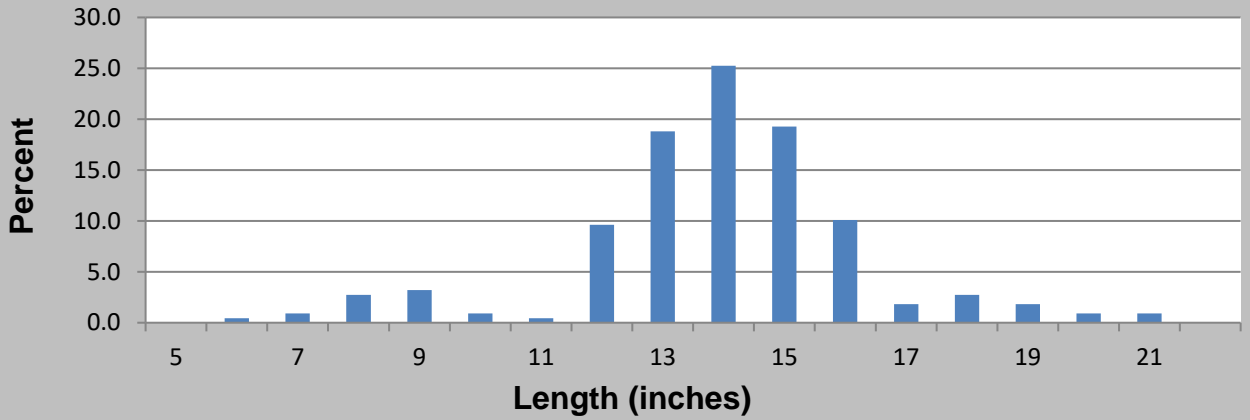
Below: Results from 2021 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Eagle Lake. Largemouth Bass, White Crappie, and Redear Sunfish are stocked periodically by MDWFP to help maintain a quality fishery.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth bass	218	41	15.1	175.0	1.9	38
Bluegill	175	33	6.0	8.6	0.2	29
White bass	78	15	11.5	15.4	1.5	12
White crappie	23	4	12.6	15.3	1.5	4
Black crappie	8	2	10.2	13.1	0.7	2
Warmouth	7	1	7.3	8.1	NA	1
Gizzard shad	6	1	14.6	15.0	NA	1
Longear sunfish	5	1	5.0	5.7	NA	1
Channel catfish	3	1	19.2	21.1	2.3	1
Yellow bass	3	1	10.2	13.1	0.7	1

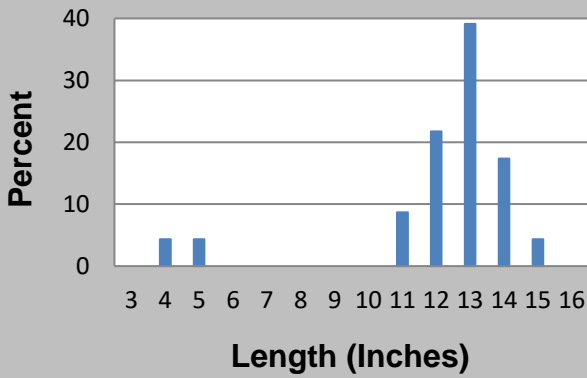


Above: Changes in catch rates during fall electrofishing at Eagle Lake from 2018 through 2021. Adult Largemouth Bass catch rates have remained high for the last three years.

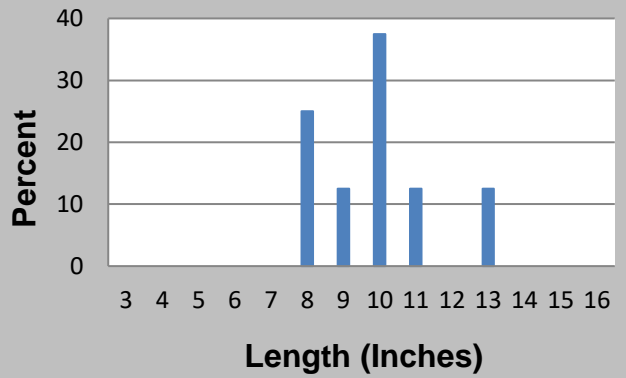
Largemouth Bass



White Crappie



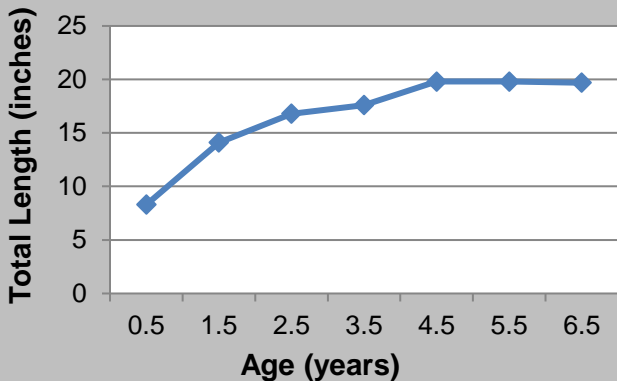
Black Crappie



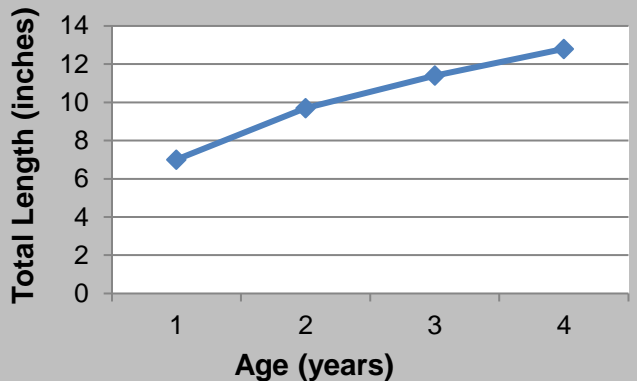
Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, White Crappie, and Black Crappie collected during 2021 fall electrofishing at Eagle Lake.

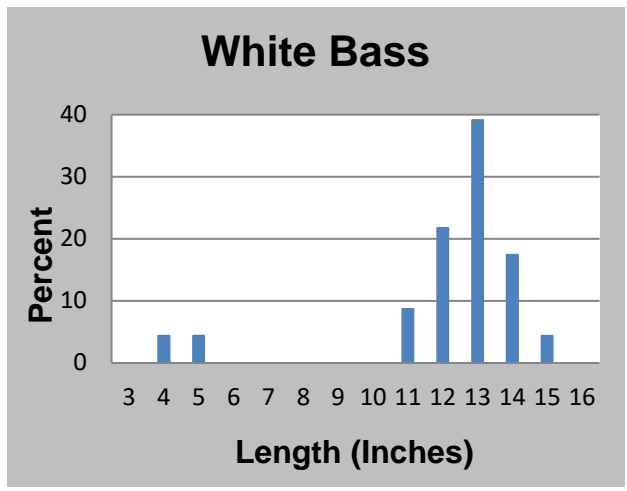
Below: Growth rates for Largemouth Bass and crappie at Eagle Lake. This lake promotes some of the fastest growing fish in the state due to high fertility and an abundance of forage, primarily shad. Ages are shown in half year or whole year increments due to the time of year that sampling occurred.

Largemouth Bass



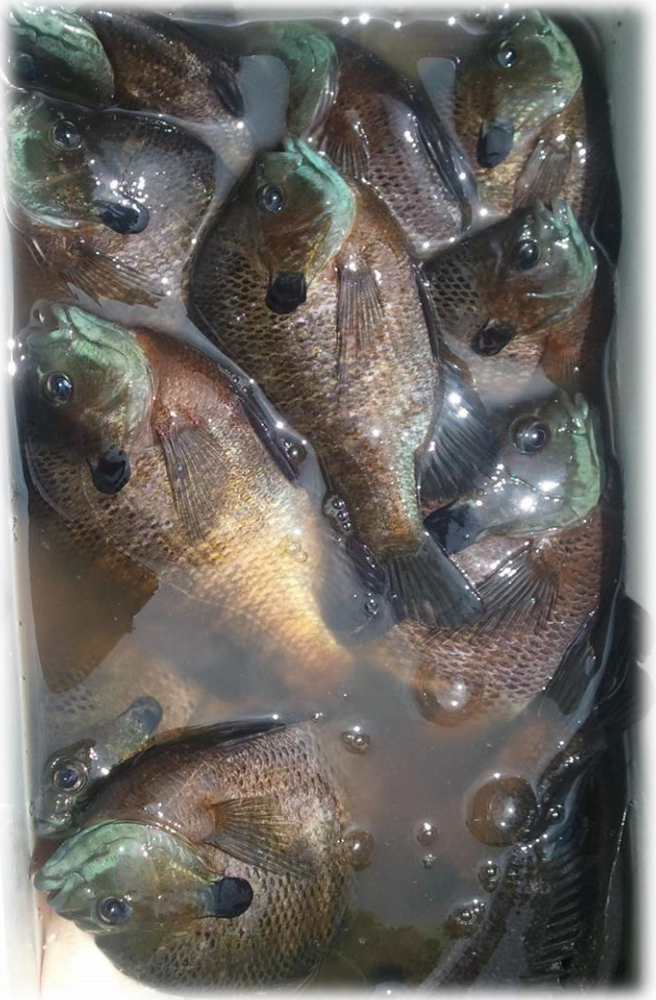
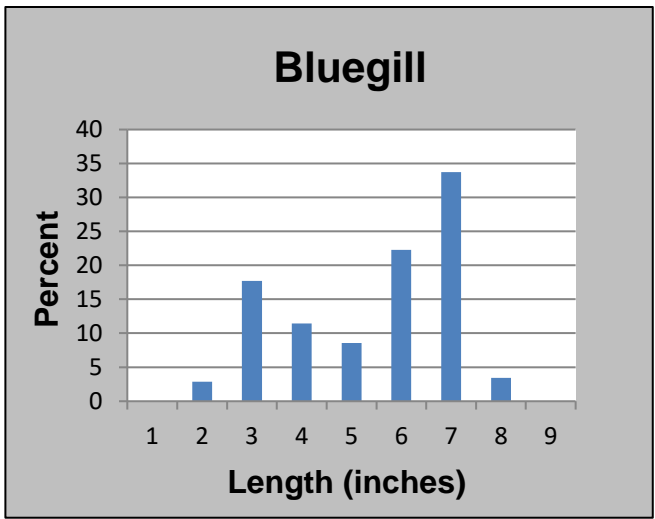
Crappie





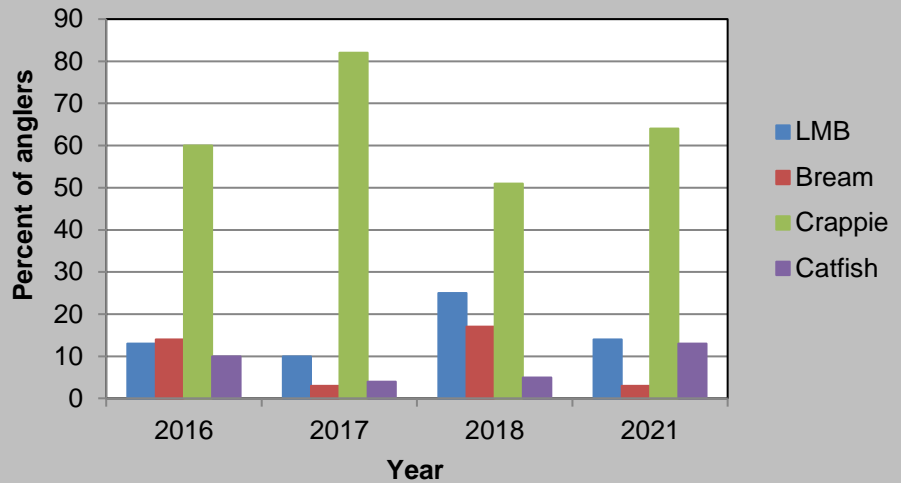
Above and Left: Length frequency of White Bass from 2021 fall electrofishing. White Bass can be a lot of fun to catch on spinnerbaits and Eagle Lake has a healthy population. There is no limit on White Bass harvest.

Below and Right: Length frequency of Bluegill from 2021 fall electrofishing and a cooler of angler-caught Bluegill during 2021 spring angler creel survey. Multiple sizes of bluegill were sampled during electrofishing providing forage for lake predators and keepers for anglers.

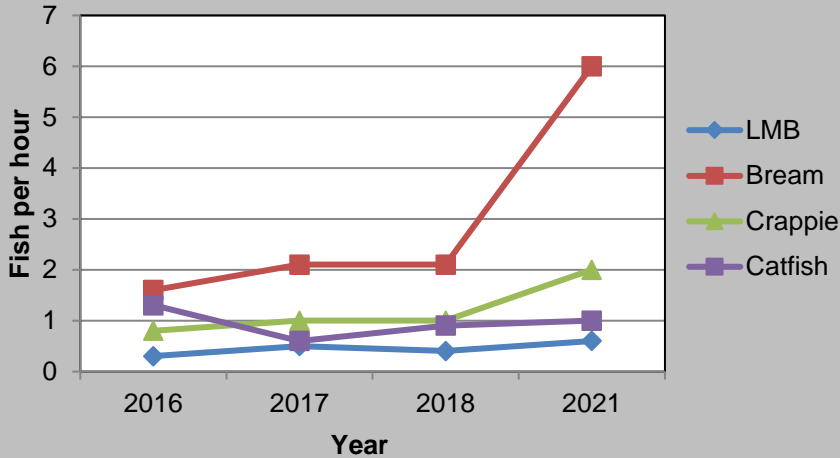


Targeted Species

Right: Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake. Crappie anglers continue to be the largest angler group at Eagle Lake.

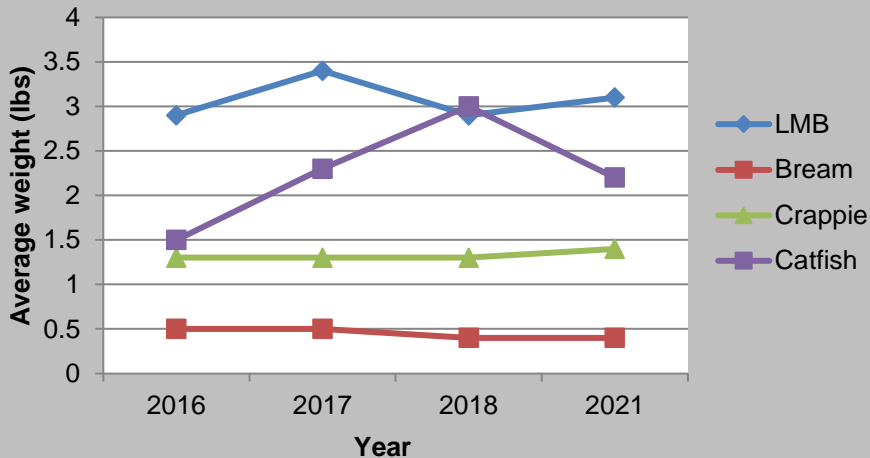


Angler Catch Rates



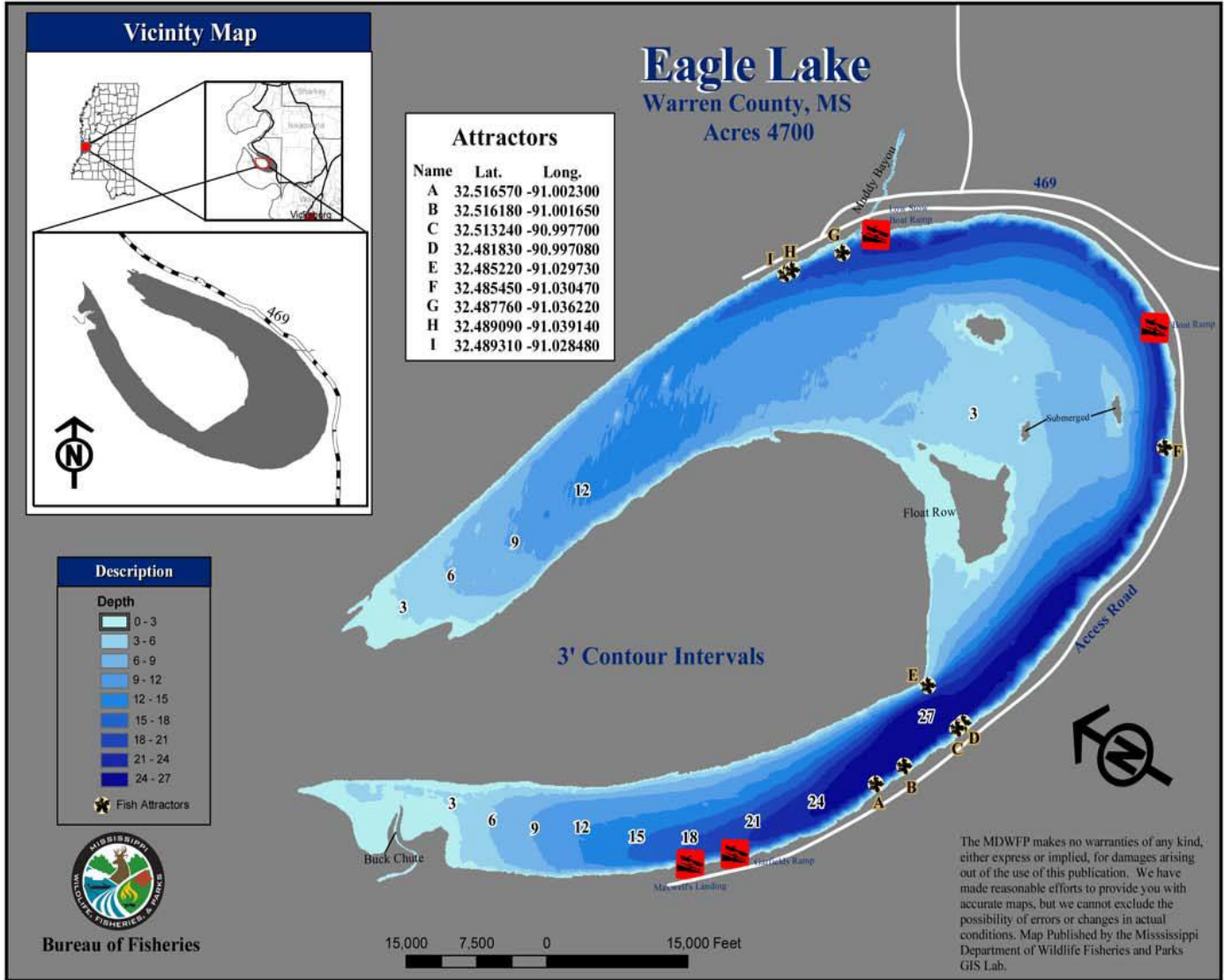
Left top: Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, and catfish at Eagle Lake based on spring creel surveys. Catch rates for crappie and bream increased in 2021.

Average Weight Harvested



Left bottom: Average weight of harvested fish at Eagle Lake. The average weight of a Largemouth Bass was over 3 pounds, while crappie averaged 1.4 pounds in 2021 angler creel survey. These weights rival the top fisheries in the state.

Below: Depth map for Eagle Lake



Left: Numerous Largemouth Bass over five pounds were collected during 2020 fall electrofishing.