



Kemper County Lake 2022

Reel Facts

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General Information: Kemper County Lake is a 596 acre impoundment nestled in the hardwood hills of Kemper County. Built in 1984, it is the second largest state lake. It has an abundant fish population with exceptional bream and crappie.

Location: Just off of Highway 397 North, five miles from DeKalb and 30 miles from Meridian and Philadelphia.

Fishery Management: black bass, crappie, bream, and catfish.

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

Amenities

- 2 boat ramps
- Fishing piers
- Fish cleaning station
- 47 full hookup campsites and primitive camping area.
- Picnic pavilion

Creel Limits

- 30 Crappie per person per day with no length limit.
- 10 Black bass per person per day with no length limit.
- 100 Bream per person per day.
- 10 Catfish per person 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.
- Carp, gar, buffalo and Bowfin may be taken by use of bow and arrow at night.
- Skiing is allowed daily from noon to sunset in designated areas.

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.

Sport fishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target areas with brush in 4-8 ft of water using road runners or beetle spins. In the summer and fall try jigs or minnows on deep water structure and along creek ledges.

Bass

- Target lily pads on upper end with top water baits or try fishing structure and deeper points with jerk baits or plastics. Use natural colors due to water clarity and fish slow

Bream

- Use crickets or red worms around structure in shallow areas from early spring to late summer.

Catfish

- Use liver, worms or stink bait in 6-8 ft of water.

Below: Kemper 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	5 lbs. 8.5 oz.	Rodney Smith	September 25, 2021
Crappie	2 lbs. 1 oz.	Homer Burton	August 28, 2018
Redear Sunfish	0.95 lbs.	Richard Smith	May 5, 2018
Bluegill	0.7 lbs.	Justin Alexander	March 25, 2018
Catfish	15.15 lbs.	Stewart Sanford	May 5, 2018

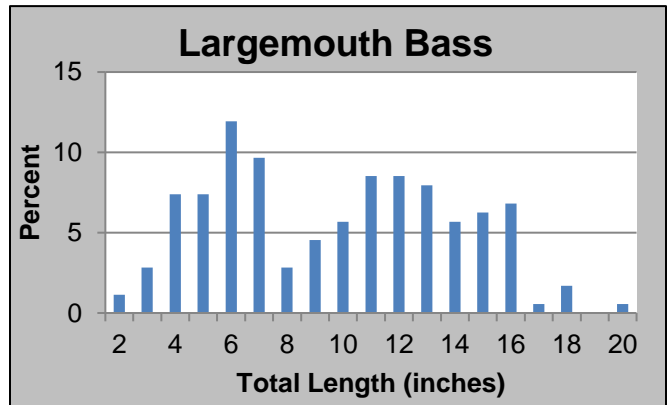
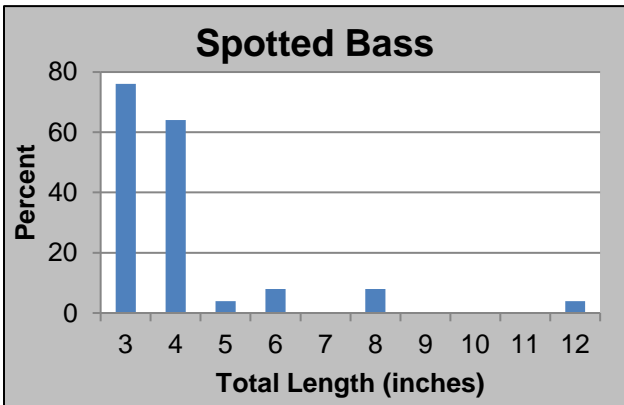
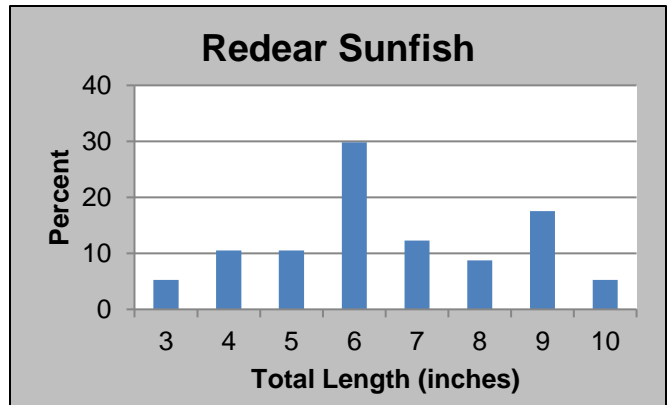
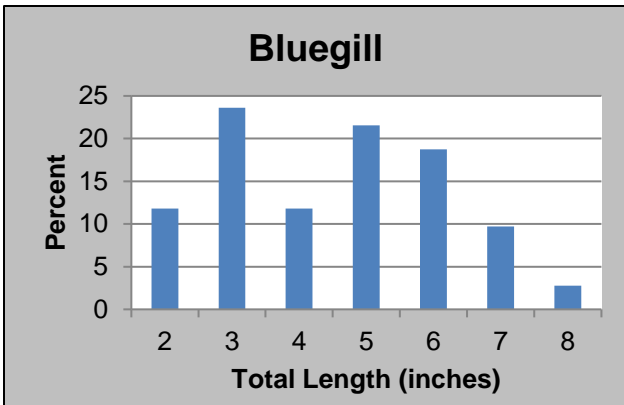
Below: Results from the 2020 electrofishing survey. This sampling is conducted every two years in the fall and provides biologists with sport fish population metrics which are monitored over time.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Chain Pickerel	9	2.2	13	15.8	0.5	1.5
Bluegill	144	35	5	8.8	0.2	20.5
Redear	57	13.9	7.1	10.4	0.3	9
Spotted Bass	25	6.1	4.2	12.2	0.3	0.5
Largemouth Bass	176	42.8	10.2	20.4	0.9	17.3

Right: MDWFP biologists enhance habitat for sport fish populations on state lakes. Hardwood brush tops are cut from the bank and deployed into various depths to provide excellent fish habitat as well as fish attractors for anglers to target. Fish attractor locations can be found on the lake depth map.

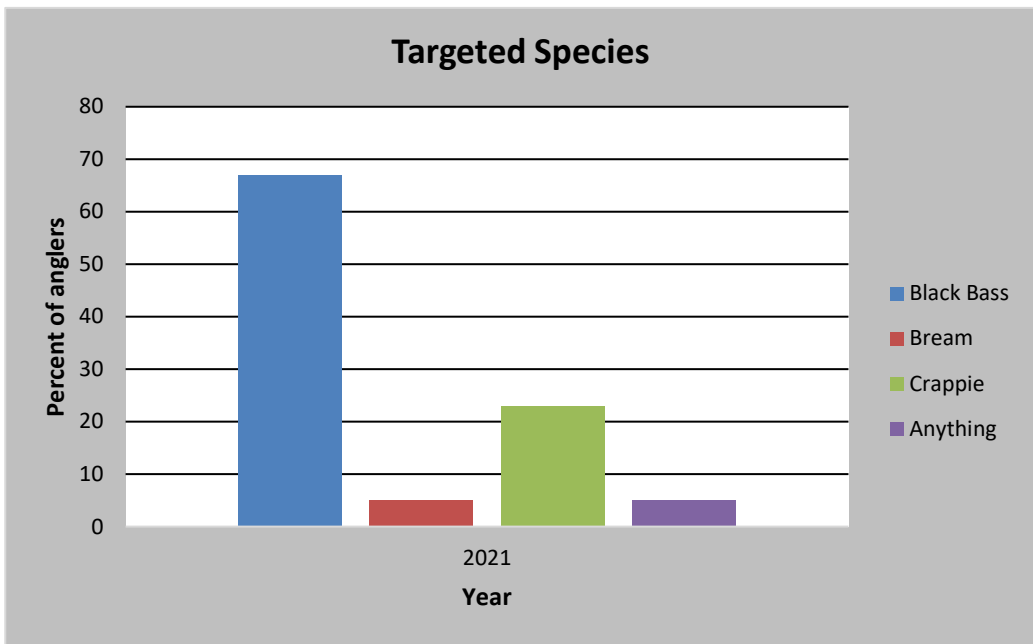


Below: Length distributions for sport fish from the 2020 electrofishing survey at Kemper Lake. These figures indicate a wide size distribution of each species. Bluegill and Redear Sunfish populations are healthy and abundant. Successful spawns were observed for Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass populations. Anglers are encouraged to harvest a 10 fish limit of bass.



Right: Kemper County Lake has an abundant crappie population. Black Crappie average around 1 lb each. The clear water makes crappie fishing a challenge but the benefits are worth the effort.

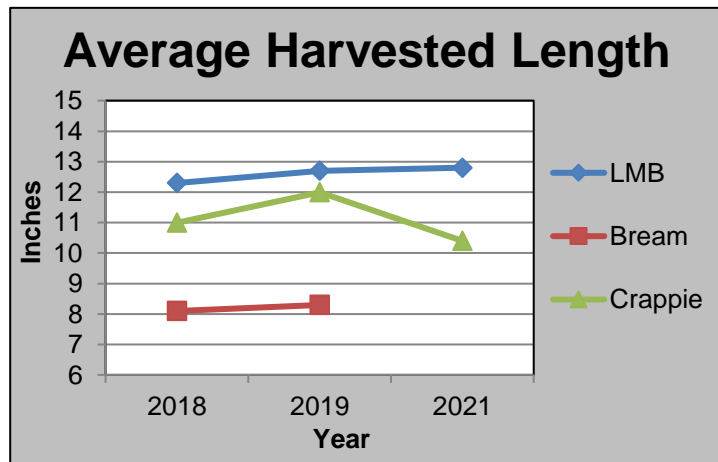
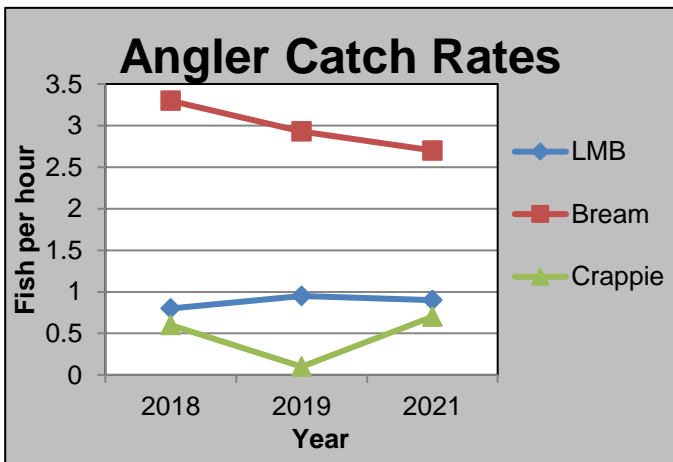




Above: Percentage of anglers targeting black bass (Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass), bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish), and crappie at Kemper County Lake based on spring creel surveys. “Anything” refers to anglers who weren’t targeting a particular species.



Below: Angler catch rates (fish per hour) and average harvested lengths based on spring creel surveys.



Below: Kemper County Lake depth map showing recently added fish structures.

