



Lake Dockery 2023

REEL FACTS

Buford Lessley – Fisheries Biologist
Buford.Lessley@wfp.ms.gov (601) 859-3421

General Information: Lake Dockery is a 44 acre lake, owned and operated by the city of Byram. The lake was renovated in 2010. It is part of the MDWFP Community Fishing Assistance Program (CFAP), providing fishing opportunities in an urban setting.

Location: Approximately ½ mile off Siwell Rd. in Byram, MS

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/5375/lake-dockery.pdf>

Amenities

- 1 public boat ramp with parking lot
- Several park benches and picnic tables

Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 25 per day
- Catfish: 5 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: 5 per day

Forage Species

- Golden Shiners
- Crawfish

Regulations

- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Sport fishing licenses are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Gasoline powered motors are prohibited. Only electric trolling motors may be used.
- Lake Dockery is open from 30 minutes before dawn to 30 minutes before sunset.

Fishing Tips

Bream

- Fish crickets, red wigglers, and wax worms in shallow areas during late spring and summer.

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along the dam and water control structure.

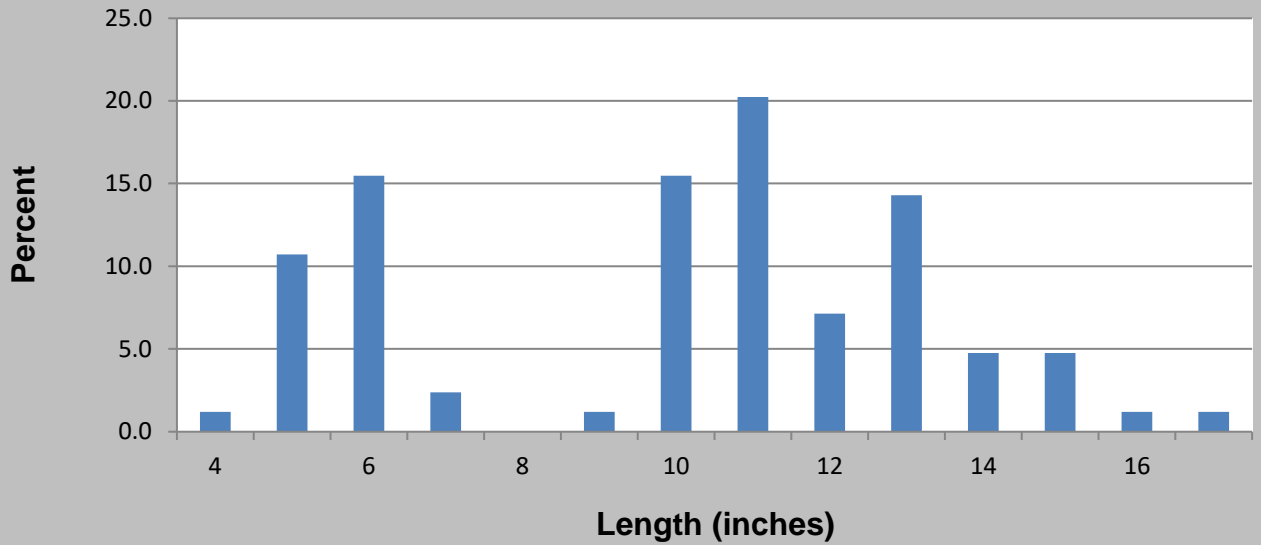
Crappie

- Target brush and laydowns in the middle of the lake with jigs and minnows. The water control structure is another popular spot.

Largemouth Bass

- Fish around brush and trees with junebug or green pumpkin colored soft plastics. Topwater baits and soft stick baits are good choices around lily pads.

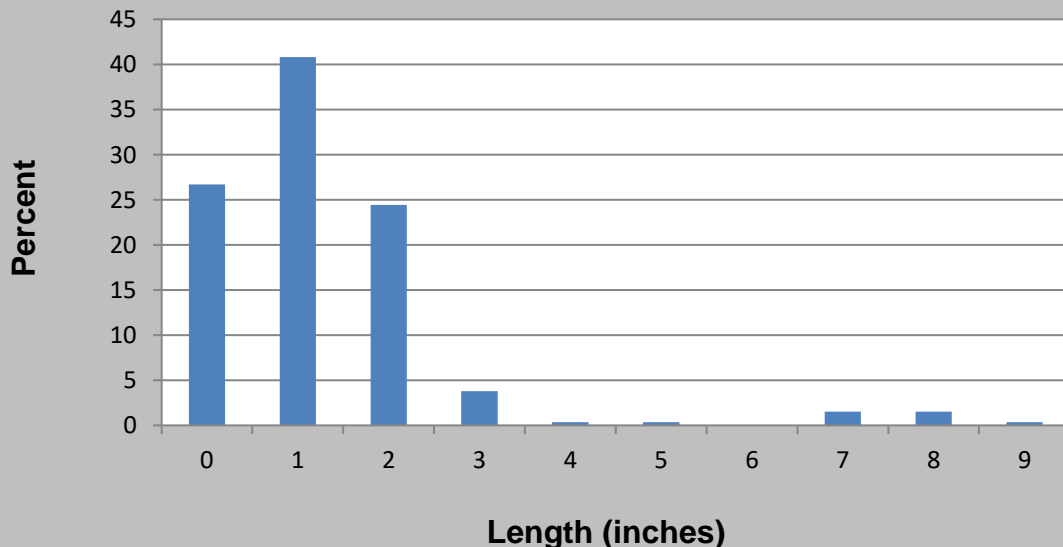
Largemouth Bass



Above: Length distribution for Largemouth Bass collected during 2022 fall electrofishing. Catch rates for 2022 were decent with 5-6 inch and 10-11 inch Largemouth Bass making up the bulk of the sample.

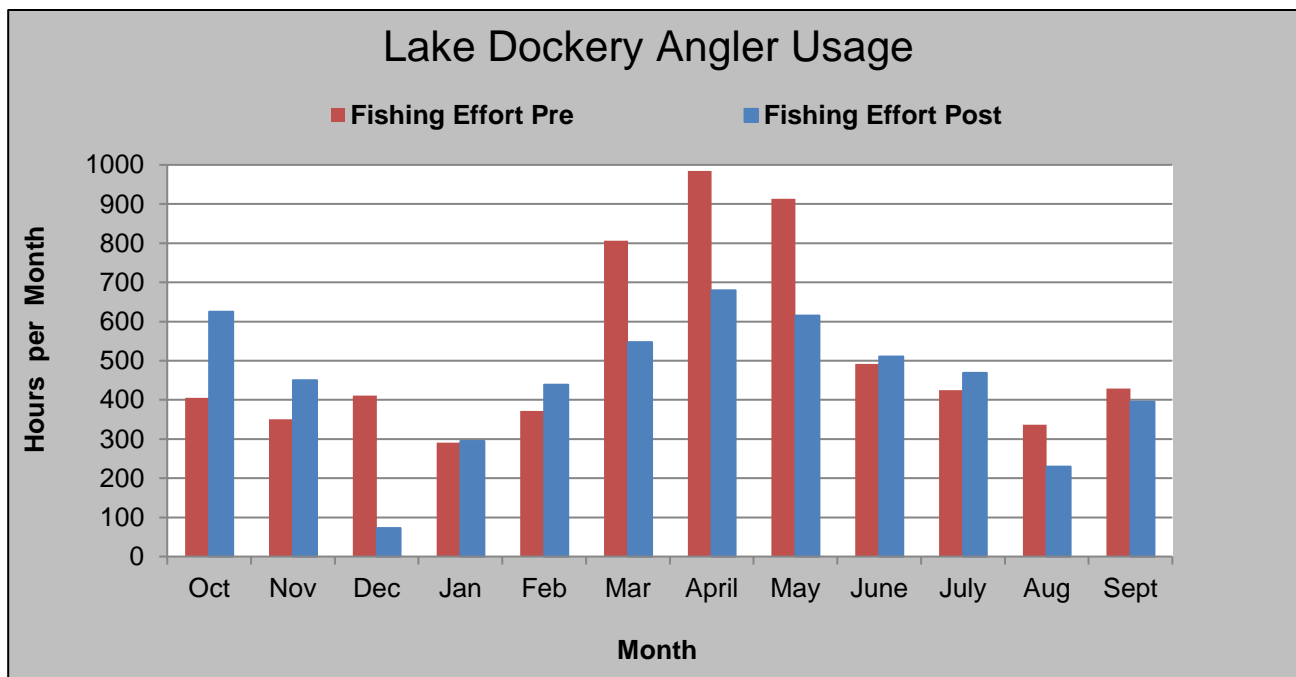
Below: Length distributions for Bluegill collected during 2022 fall electrofishing. One-inch bluegill made up over 40% of the sample.

Bluegill



Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/hour)
Golden shiner	2	>1	3.5	3.7	2
Channel catfish	4	1	19.3	21.2	4
Green sunfish	3	1	1.9	2.1	3
Warmouth	2	>1	3.4	3.5	2
Bluegill	263	73	1.9	9.5	263
Redear sunfish	2	>1	5.4	8.1	2
Largemouth bass	84	23	9.5	16.1	84

Above: Results from the 2022 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Dockery. A total of four samples were completed at 15 minutes per sample. Catch rates were calculated by dividing number of fish by total time (1 hour). Bass and Bluegill made up the majority of the fish in each sample.



Above: Trail cameras were used at Lake Dockery to track angler usage before (pre) and after (post) a fishing incentive program was initiated. Game cameras were used to count anglers for an entire year to determine the baseline fishing pressure. At the beginning of the second year of the study, biologists tagged 100 fish in Lake Dockery with numbered tags. Each tag had a specific prize associated with it. Anglers who caught a tagged fish, were instructed to bring the tag to the Jackson office to claim their prize. The incentive program was publicized with press releases and signs posted at the lake. Based on fishing effort, the program was unsuccessful at increasing angler participation on the lake.