MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT

 PROGRAM

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



MDWFP FISHERIES BUREAU



MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

1505 Eastover Drive Jackson, MS 39211 [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com)

Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities.

The Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) began a program in 1998 for bass tournament anglers to help biologists monitor bass populations. These results continue to be a valuable addition to the data that MDWFP biologists use to manage bass populations. In some waters, it may be the only measure we have of what anglers are catching.

Bass clubs and tournament organizers are encouraged to provide tournament results to MDWFP on the form shown below. The form may be mailed, faxed or emailed to the address below.

**MISSISSIPPI BASS TOURNAMENT REPORT CARD**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lake: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Start:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Stop:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Tournament Type:** | **Individual ( )** | **Team ( )** | **Director:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Club or Organization:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Address:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **City:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **State:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Zip:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Total No. of Anglers or Teams:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Limits Caught:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |
| **Number of bass weighed-in:** | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |  |
| **Total Weight (all bass):** |  **Lbs.** |  **ozs./tenths** |  |
| **First Place Weight:** |  **Lbs.** |  **ozs./tenths** |  |
| **Tournament Lunker:** |  **Lbs.** |  **ozs./tenths** |  |
| **No. of Bass over 5 Pounds:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **Bass Greater than 7 lbs. Individual Fish Wt.****\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

**By mail: Mississippi Wildlife, Fisheries, & Parks ph: 601-432-2209**

 **C/O Greg Glotzbecker fax: 601-432-2203 Attn: Greg Glotzbecker**

 **1505 Eastover Drive email: Stan.Crider@wfp.ms.gov**

 **Jackson, MS 39211**

2024 Bass Tournament Summary

Mississippi’s bass tournament anglers had a good year in 2024 based on 248 tournament reports. Average statistics for all lakes in 2024 were slightly lower than 2022 and 2023. In 2024, the average lunker weight was lower than 2022 and 2023. The average weight of individual bass weighed in 2024 was higher than in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2024, the number of hours to catch a 5 lb. bass or greater was lower than 2022, but higher than 2023.

**At least** **five reports** are needed from a lake to be included in the final “Lake Rankings.” In addition, the five reports must include all the information for each ranking metric. In past years, tournament bag limits used in the Mississippi Bass Tournament Annual Report have been five bass which were more restrictive than state regulations. Due to the lack of 2024 tournament data, eleven tournaments with four fish limits were allowed in the 2024 Bass Tournament Annual Report. The lakes with four fish limits were Eagle Lake, Lake Ferguson, and Lake Washington. Fifteen lakes were included in the lake rankings. In 2024, Ross Barnett Reservoir, Bogue Homa, Bay Springs, and Enid Reservoir ranked as some of Mississippi’s best bass fishing lakes. Based on rankings, average lunker weight was highest at Ross Barnett Reservoir in 2024. For 2024, the Pearl River provided the best numbers of bass per day.

The following summarizes the most important points from this year’s tournament report:

* Reports were submitted from 248 tournaments that fished 29 different waterbodies.
* In 2024, **Ross Barnett Reservoir** finished as the top lake in overall quality indicator rankings followed by **Bogue Homa, Bay Springs,** and **Enid** **Reservoir.**
* The largest bass weighed in was 10.30lbs. from Pickwick.

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|  2024 **Statewide Tournament Statistics** |
| **1.91** | **-** | **Number of bass caught per angler – day** |
| **3.58** | **-** | **Pounds of bass caught per angler – day** |
| **2.07** | **-** | **Average weight of bass caught** |
| **421** | **-** | **Hours to catch a 5 pound bass** |
| **4.39** | **-** | **Average lunker, or big bass weight** |
| **12.40** | **-** | **Average 1st place weight** |
| **180** | **-** | **Number of bass 5 pounds and larger** |

* The total number of tournament reports was 248 in 2024 (Figure 1), and the highest number of reports came from Pickwick (31). Over 8,909 anglers fished in tournaments and weighed-in 13,064 bass (Table 1).

 It took an average of 12.40lbs. to win a tournament in 2024 (Table 1). Of lakes with at least five tournaments reported, Bogue Homa had the highest average winning weight followed by Pickwick and Enid Reservoir.

 After reviewing waterbodies with more than three tournament reports, the numbers of bass caught per angler day ranged from 0.53 at Lake Ferguson to 2.63 at the Pearl River. The highest average lunker was at Ross Barnett Reservoir and the highest average weight was at Okatibbee Reservoir.

 The seasonal distribution of 2024 tournaments is presented in Figure 2. March through June were the most popular months to conduct tournaments with at least 26 per month. April had the highest number of reports submitted at 35.

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| **Table 1. Summary of Bass Tournament results from the 2024 MDWFP Bass Tournament Program** |  |
| **Waterbody** | **Report** | **Entries** | **Bass** | **Bass** | **Pounds** | **Percent** | **Average** | **No.** | **Big** | **Average** |
|  | **Cards** | **Caught** | **Per Day** | **Per Day** | **Success** | **Weight** | **> 5 lbs.** | **Bass** | **1st Place** |
| Aliceville | 3 | 51 | 179 | 2.60 | 4.75 | 52 | 1.83 | 0 | 4.35 | 12.66 |
| Back Bay | 4 | 57 | 150 | 2.21 | 3.75 | 39 | 1.67 | 2 | 4.63 | 10.10 |
| Bay Springs | 8 | 137 | 380 | 2.00 | 4.41 | 66 | 2.16 | 8 | 6.17 | 15.08 |
| Bill Waller | 18 | 122 |  |  | 1.27 |  |  | 1 | 2.02 | 4.35 |
| Bogue Homa | 7 | 138 | 243 | 1.41 | 4.29 | 42 | 3.03 | 14 | 6.40 | 21.19 |
| Calling Panther | 12 | 140 | 310 | 2.25 | 2.98 | 62 | 1.57 | 1 | 4.28 | 11.22 |
| Columbia | 2 | 15 | 13 | 1.44 | 1.81 | 14 | 1.22 | 0 | 2.19 | 6.19 |
| Columbus | 4 | 78 | 203 | 1.92 | 4.35 | 29 | 2.27 | 1 | 4.80 | 14.64 |
| Desoto | 1 | 14 | 14 | 0.56 | 1.63 | 0 | 2.90 | 1 | 5.28 | 10.98 |
| \* Eagle Lake | 1 | 25 | 67 | 1.37 | 4.24 | 40 | 3.10 | 1 | 5.05 | 14.84 |
| Enid | 5 | 100 | 340 | 1.77 | 4.29 | 55 | 2.45 | 8 | 6.38 | 18.85 |
| \* Ferguson | 9 | 305 | 268 | 0.53 | 1.31 | 7 | 2.42 | 4 | 5.09 | 11.62 |
| Flint Creek | 3 | 34 | 128 | 1.92 | 3.08 | 63 | 1.56 | 1 | 5.20 | 10.74 |
| Grenada | 6 | 156 | 247 | 1.41 | 2.86 | 23 | 2.00 | 2 | 4.98 | 12.00 |
| Jeff Davis | 21 | 119 | 405 | 1.99 | 2.06 | 47 | 1.04 | 0 | 2.10 | 6.52 |
| Jourdan River | 5 | 66 | 186 | 2.36 | 3.67 | 41 | 1.59 | 1 | 4.32 | 10.58 |
| Lake Lincoln | 2 | 19 | 59 | 1.69 | 3.84 | 37 | 2.29 | 2 | 5.63 | 15.09 |
| Locks A - E | 1 | 19 | 53 | 1.43 | 3.13 | 37 | 2.18 | 1 | 5.06 | 15.46 |
| Maynor Creek | 1 | 19 | 51 | 1.59 | 2.76 | 42 | 1.73 | 0 | 4.12 | 14.01 |
| Mike Conner | 11 | 66 | 180 | 1.86 | 1.17 | 31 | 0.64 | 2 | 2.47 | 4.53 |
| Moon Lake | 3 | 59 | 207 | 1.81 | 2.84 | 50 | 1.56 | 0 | 3.55 | 9.81 |
| Okatibbee | 4 | 67 | 198 | 2.31 | 8.99 | 80 | 4.57 | 5 | 5.50 | 16.53 |
| Pascagoula River | 30 | 506 | 1648 | 2.52 | 3.89 | 47 | 1.57 | 8 | 4.00 | 11.12 |
| Pearl River | 20 | 261 | 348 | 2.63 | 3.73 | 60 | 1.95 | 4 | 4.06 | 10.98 |
| Ross Barnett | 20 | 1130 | 2882 | 2.22 | 5.83 | 41 | 2.74 | 40 | 6.52 | 18.13 |
| Sardis Lake | 7 | 203 | 399 | 1.35 | 2.60 | 23 | 1.89 | 2 | 4.92 | 12.18 |
| Tunica Lake | 1 | 14 | 7 | 0.28 | 0.50 | 7 | 1.77 | 0 | 3.56 | 9.06 |
| \* Washington | 8 | 245 | 468 | 0.96 | 2.36 | 23 | 2.49 | 0 | 4.24 | 12.17 |
| Pickwick | 31 | 1867 | 3431 | 1.72 | 5.46 | 26 | 3.06 | 71 | 5.97 | 19.75 |
| Totals | 248 | 6032 | 13064 |  |  |  |  | 180 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | 1.91 | 3.58 | 40 | 2.07 | 0.726 | 4.39 | 12.40 |
| All calculations for Waterbodies, Totals, and Averages are based upon individual tournaments |  |  |  |
| \* Lakes including 4 fish limit tournaments |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

 The average weight of bass weighed in increased from 2.00lbs. in 2023 to 2.07lbs. in 2024. Pounds per day (3.58lbs.) in 2024 was lower than 2022 (4.29lbs.) and 2023 (4.14lbs.). The hours to weigh in a five-pound bass increased from 282 in 2023 to 421 in 2024 (Figure 3).

 In 2024, the 10 heaviest 5-bass limits five came from Pickwick (Table 2). The largest sack (33.11lbs.) was weighed in at Pickwick during a PWBT event in December. Three of the 10 big sacks were weighed in during October. Two of the 10 big sacks were weighed during the month of February and two of the 10 big sacks were weighed during the month of September.

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| **Table 2. The top 10 heaviest limits weighed-in 2024**  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Lake** | **Date** | **Tournament** | **Weight (lbs)** |
| **Pickwick** | **7-Dec** | **PWBT** | **33.11** |
| **Pickwick** | **29-Nov** | **PWBT** | **31.49** |
| **Pickwick** | **23-Mar** | **MLF** | **28.44** |
| **Pickwick** | **17-Feb** | **Alabama Tourn Trail** | **28.18** |
| **Pickwick** | **4-Oct** | **MLF** | **27.75** |
| **Pickwick** | **5-Oct** | **MLF** | **27.06** |
| **Pickwick** | **3-Oct** | **MLF** | **26.75** |
| **Pickwick** | **22-Sep** | **MLF** | **25.88** |
| **Pickwick** | **10-Feb** | **PWBT** | **25.18** |
| **Pickwick** | **21-Sep** | **MLF** | **24.75** |

 The number of bass weighing at least five pounds decreased from 267 in 2023 to 180 in 2024. Bass >5 pounds represented 0.726% of fish caught per tournament during 2024. On average, it took 421 angler hours to weigh in a bass equal to or over five pounds.

 In 2024 there were 19 lunkers that weighed at least seven pounds. The largest lunker was caught at Pickwick on November 29 and weighed 10.30 pounds (Table 3). Pickwick and Ross Barnett Reservoir accounted for 31% of lunker bass seven pounds or bigger. Another 10% were caught at Bogue Homa.

 Forty-two clubs or tournament organizations submitted reports (Table 4).

 Eighteen clubs submitted five or more reports, and ten clubs submitted ten or

 more. The average number of reports received per club or organization was six.

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| **Table 3. Summary of bass weighed-in that were seven pounds or larger** |
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| **Lunker** | **Date** | **Lake** | **Tourney** |
|  **10.30** | **11/29/2024** | **Pickwick** | **PWBT** |
| **9.96** | **1/27/2024** | **Pickwick** | **PWBT** |
| **9.78** | **3/9/2024** | **Ross Barnett** | **American Bass Anglers** |
| **9.40** | **7/27/2024** | **Grenada** | **North MS Bassmasters** |
| **8.29** | **10/5/2024** | **Pickwick** | **Fishers of Men** |
| **8.26** | **3/16/2024** | **Bay Springs** | **Lee Co. Bass Club** |
| **8.23** | **12/7/2024** | **Pickwick** | **PWBT** |
| **8.21** | **2/3/24** | **Ross Barnett** | **Media Bass MS** |
| **7.88** | **8/1/2024** | **Mike Conner** | **Mike Conner Fruit Jar** |
| **7.65** | **4/13/24** | **Ross Barnett** | **Media Bass MS** |
| **7.61** | **2/17/2024** | **Ross Barnett** | **American Bass Anglers** |
| **7.60** | **6/29/2024** | **Ross Barnett** | **Media Bass MS** |
| **7.56** | **5/5/2024** | **Ross Barnett** | **Sonny Montgomery - Catch A Dream** |
| **7.34** | **3/16/2024** | **Bogue Homa** | **Jones Co. Bassmasters** |
| **7.30** | **7/13/2024** | **Calling Panther** | **Southwest MS Bass Tournaments** |
| **7.25** | **6/15/2024** | **Okatibbee** | **Okatibbee Classic** |
| **7.13** | **7/20/2024** | **Pickwick** | **Lakeview Bassmasters** |
| **7.06** | **3/23/2024** | **Bogue Homa** | **Fishers of Men** |
| **7.03** | **2/17/2024** | **Pickwick** | **Alabama Tourn Trail** |

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| **Table 4. Organizations that submitted 2024 reports in the 2024**  |
| **Club** | **#Tournaments** | **#Anglers** |
| **Alabama Tourn Trail** | **1** | **442** |
| **American Bass Anglers** | **13** | **322** |
| **BAIT** | **5** | **220** |
| **Bassmaster High School** | **1** | **91** |
| **Ben Touchstone Benefit** | **1** | **54** |
| **Bill Waller Fruit Jar** | **18** | **204** |
| **Bogue Homa Fruit Jar** | **1** | **16** |
| **Boondock Fishing** | **1** | **14** |
| **Collinsville Bass Club** | **3** | **111** |
| **Columbia Fruit Jar** | **2** | **23** |
| **Fayette Co. Bass Club - TN** | **6** | **85** |
| **Fishers of Men** | **18** | **757** |
| **Gulfport Lake Fruit Jar** | **1** | **17** |
| **Jeff Davis Tournament** | **21** | **211** |
| **Jones Co. Bassmasters** | **1** | **40** |
| **Jones Co. Leadership Tourn.** | **1** | **27** |
| **Kim Dixon Benefit Tourn.** | **1** | **29** |
| **Lakeview Bassmasters** | **3** | **35** |
| **Lee Co. Bass Club** | **5** | **159** |
| **Magnolia Bass Club** | **2** | **31** |
| **Media Bass MS** | **22** | **1395** |
| **Mike Conner Fruit Jar** | **11** | **99** |
| **Miss Bass Nation** | **4** | **88** |
| **MLF** | **20** | **1558** |
| **MRAA**  | **11** | **672** |
| **Murky Water Bassmasters** | **6** | **95** |
| **North MS Bassmasters** | **3** | **55** |
| **Okatibbee Classic**  | **1** | **28** |
| **Okatibbee Fruit Jar** | **1** | **44** |
| **Pascagoula River Shoot Out** | **7** | **355** |
| **Pascagoula River Super Solo** | **4** | **86** |
| **Peanutcraft Lures Tourn. Tr.** | **11** | **444** |
| **Pearl River Fruit Jar** | **1** | **15** |
| **Picayune Bass Club** | **12** | **247** |
| **Kings of the River** | **2** | **72** |
| **PWBT** | **5** | **215** |
| **Singing River Bassmasters** | **9** | **44** |
| **Sonny Montgomery - Catch A Dream** | **1** | **234** |
| **Southwest Christian Bass Club** | **1** | **8** |
| **Table 4 continued** |  |  |
| **Southwest MS Bass Tournaments** | **7** | **157** |
| **Sumrall Bass Club** | **2** | **56** |
| **Wounded Warrior** | **2** | **54** |

 Team tournaments were more popular than individual tournaments with 69% of the reports submitted from team events. These tournaments averaged 19 individuals per tournament. Individual tournaments accounted for 31% of the reports and averaged 37 participants per event.

 Lakes with at least five tournament reports were ranked by averaging seven

 quality indicators” (Table 5). In 2024, the top five lakes in order were Ross Barnett Reservoir, Bogue Homa, Bay Springs, Enid Reservoir, and Pickwick. Pickwick received high marks for average weight of individual bass weighed in. In 2024, Pearl River received high ranks for the number weighed in per day. Pounds of bass weighed in per day was highest in Ross Barnett Reservoir. Once again, Bogue Homa received high marks for hours to catch a bass equal to or over five pounds. Ross Barnett Reservoir received high marks for big bass weight. The highest average for winning weight was at Bogue Homa. The highest percentage of anglers weighing in a limit bag was at Bay Springs.

 Largemouth bass caught during Mississippi bass tournaments can include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass.

 Success of this program depends on participation from clubs and tournament organizers. We thank all those who voluntarily submitted report cards. Higher numbers of reports allow better estimates of fishing conditions; not just a good or bad day’s fishing by one or two clubs. Results can be used by tournament directors, anglers, and biologists to better manage and enjoy our fisheries resources. Angler involvement has been and remains the key to protecting and managing Mississippi’s fisheries resources.

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| **Table 5. Final rankings of tournament lakes in Mississippi based upon 2024 reports.** |
| **Ranked by “Fishing Quality Indicators” from lakes with five or more tournament reports** |
|  | Average | Average | Index | Average | Average | Percentage |  |
| Average | Number | Pounds | Hours to | big bass | 1st place | of anglers |  |
| weight/bass | Caught per | Caught per | Catch a  | weight | weight | with a 5- | **Overall** |
| (lbs.) | 8-hour day | 8-hour day | Bass >5 lbs. | (lbs.) | (lbs.) | fish bag | **Rank** |
| PK | 3.06 | PR | 2.63 | RB | 5.83 | BH | 1.52 | RB | 6.52 | BH | 21.19 | BS | 66 | 1 | RB |
| BH | 3.03 | PS | 2.52 | PK | 5.46 | EN | 1.99 | BH | 6.40 | PK | 19.75 | CP | 62 | 2 | BH |
| RB | 2.74 | JR | 2.36 | BS | 4.41 | BS | 2.09 | EN | 6.38 | EN | 18.85 | PR | 60 | 3 | BS |
| LW | 2.49 | CP | 2.25 | EN | 4.29 | PK | 2.84 | BS | 6.17 | RB | 18.13 | EN | 55 | 4 | EN |
| EN | 2.45 | RB | 2.22 | BH | 4.29 | RB | 3.53 | PK | 5.97 | BS | 15.08 | JF | 47 | 5 | PK |
| LF | 2.42 | BS | 2.00 | PS | 3.89 | MC | 4.21 | LF | 5.09 | SL | 12.18 | PS | 47 | 6 | PR |
| BS | 2.16 | JF | 1.99 | PR | 3.73 | JR | 7.06 | GN | 4.98 | LW | 12.17 | BH | 42 | 7 | JR |
| GN | 2.00 | MC | 1.86 | JR | 3.67 | PR | 7.88 | SL | 4.92 | GN | 12.00 | JR | 41 | 7 | PS |
| PR | 1.95 | EN | 1.77 | CP | 2.98 | GN | 8.42 | JR | 4.32 | LF | 11.62 | RB | 41 | 9 | CP |
| SL | 1.89 | PK | 1.72 | GN | 2.86 | PS | 8.43 | CP | 4.28 | CP | 11.22 | MC | 31 | 10 | GN |
| JR | 1.59 | BH | 1.41 | SL | 2.60 | LF | 10.56 | LW | 4.24 | PS | 11.12 | PK | 26 | 11 | SL |
| PS | 1.57 | GN | 1.41 | LW | 2.36 | SL | 12.07 | PR | 4.06 | PR | 10.98 | GN | 23 | 12 | LW |
| CP | 1.57 | SL | 1.35 | JF | 2.06 | CP | 21.42 | PS | 4.00 | JR | 10.58 | SL | 23 | 13 | LF |
| JF | 1.04 | LW | 0.96 | LF | 1.31 | JF |  | MC | 2.47 | JF | 6.52 | LW | 23 | 14 | JF |
| MC | 0.64 | LF | 0.53 | MC | 1.17 | LW |  | JF | 2.10 | MC | 4.53 | LF | 7 | 14 | MC |

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| **BS**=Bay Springs; **BH**=Bogue Homa; **CP**=Calling Panther; **EN**=Enid Reservoir; **LF**=Lake Ferguson; **GN**=Grenada Reservoir; **JF**=Jeff Davis; **JR**=Jourdan River; **MC**=Mike Conner; **PS**=Pascagoula River; **PR**=Pearl River; **PK**=Pickwick; **RB**=Ross Barnett Reservoir; **SL**=Sardis Lake; **LW**=Lake Washington  |

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