



Mayes Lake 2026

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Mayes Lake is a 30-acre State Park Lake, which formed as an oxbow off of the Pearl River. The lake is subject to frequent flooding due to its close proximity to the Pearl River, resulting in a diverse fish community.

Location: Within LeFleur's Bluff State Park just off Lakeland Drive in Jackson, MS

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

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

Amenities

- 1 boat ramp on lake with parking lot and 1 boat ramp with access to the Pearl River
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 28 camp sites with water/electric hookups, and 10 primitive camp sites
- 9 hole golf course with driving range
- 2 playgrounds, 7 pavilions, 18 hole disc golf course, and 5 nature trails

Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 30 per day
- Largemouth Bass: 10 per day

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 and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Lake is designated as No Wake. Only electric trolling motors may be used.

Forage Species

- Gizzard Shad
- Threadfin Shad
- Golden Shiners
- Crawfish

Fishing Tips

Bream

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

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along the outside edge of the old river bend.

Crappie

- Target brush and laydowns on the west side of the lake with jigs and minnows.

Largemouth Bass

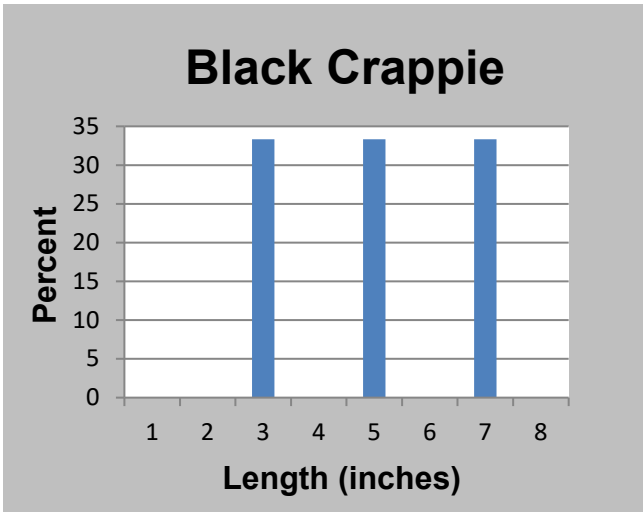
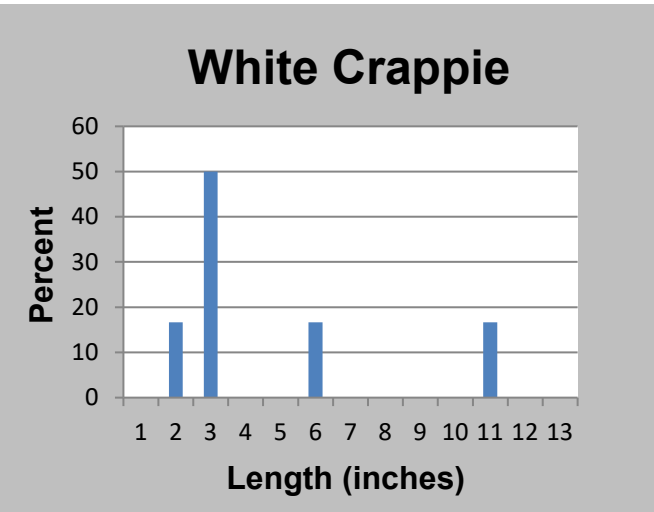
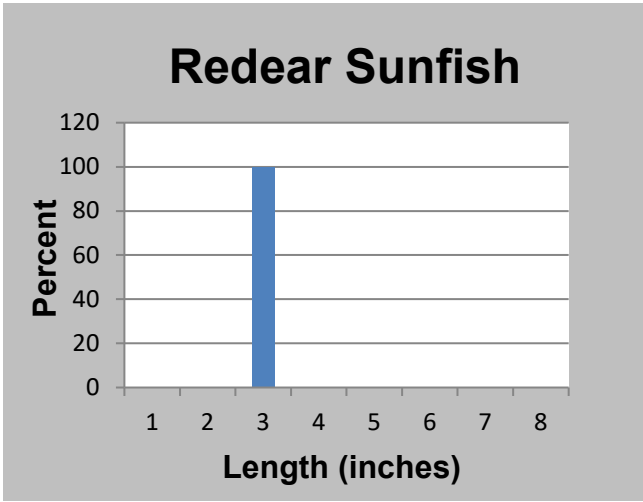
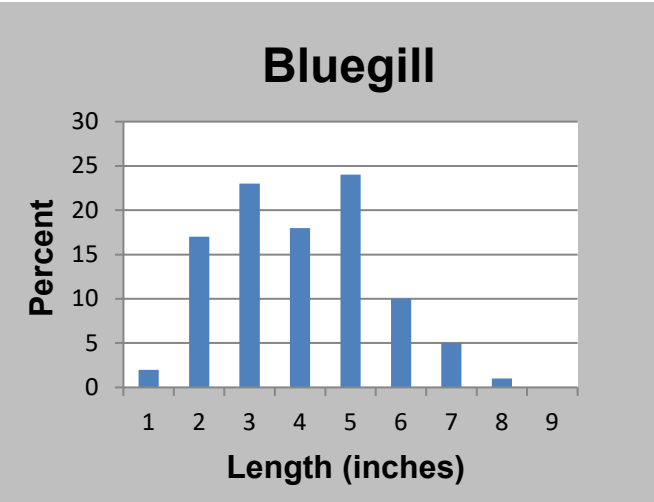
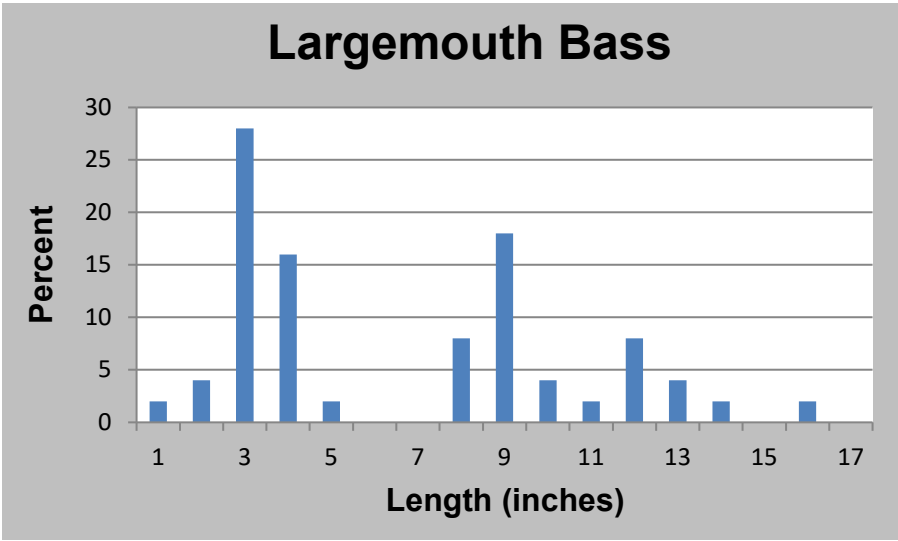
- Target brush and trees with junebug, plum, or green pumpkin colored soft plastics. Chartreuse crankbaits and spinnerbaits are also good choices.

Below: Results from the 2023 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Mayes Lake. Unlike most State Park and State Lakes, the fish assemblage of Mayes Lake mirrors that of a Delta oxbow due to frequent flood events associated with the Pearl River.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/hour)
Threadfin Shad	212	48	1.5	2.4	-	283
Bluegill	104	23	3.5	7.9	0.1	139
White Crappie	6	1	6.1	12.0	0.2	8
Largemouth Bass	50	11	8.1	17.1	0.4	67
Black Crappie	3	1	7.1	9.8	0.2	4
Gizzard Shad	68	15	3.7	6.7	-	91
Redear Sunfish	1	<1	-	4.4	<0.1	1

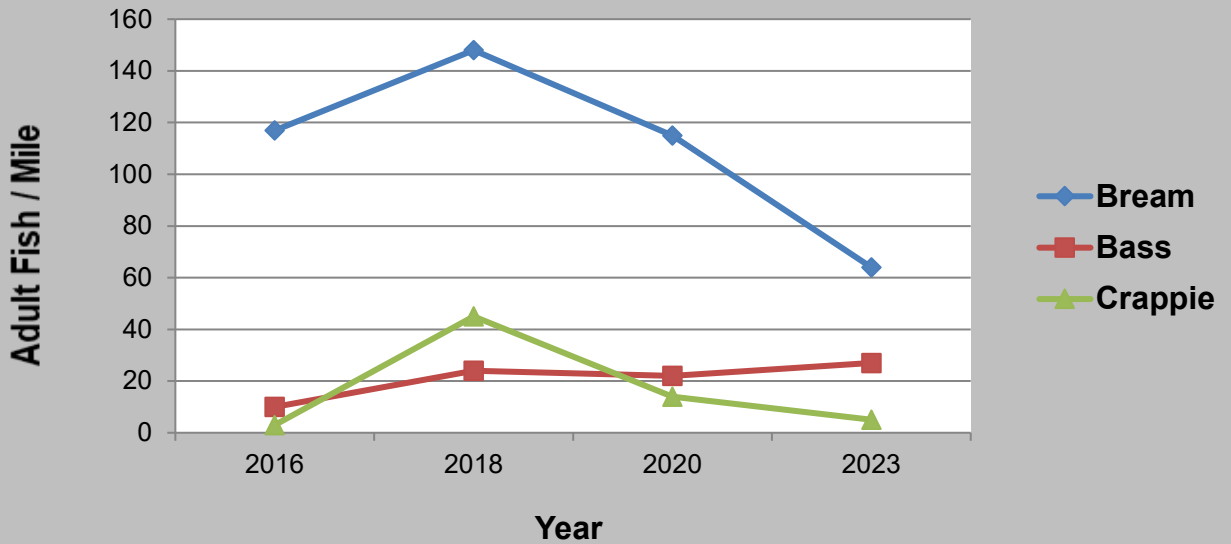


Above: Quality Largemouth Bass can be found within the Jackson city limits at Mayes Lake. Paddlefish are also a common occurrence due to flooding from the Pearl River.



Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, White Crappie and Black Crappie collected during 2023 fall electrofishing.

Electrofishing Catch Rate



Above: Catch rates of adult fish remained consistent for bass during fall 2023 electrofishing; however, crappie and bream abundance decreased. The fish population in Mayes's Lake is typically variable due to periodic flooding.

Below: The Pearl River can also be accessed from LeFleur's Bluff State Park and provides the opportunity to catch both Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass. This stretch of river also supports healthy populations of Blue, Channel, and Flathead Catfish.

