Bee Lake 2026
REEL FACTS

Matthew Steffensen – Fisheries Biologist
matthew.steffensen@wfp.ms.gov **(601) 432-2200**

General Information: Bee Lake is a 1,400-acre oxbow lake in Holmes County. It is one of the largest natural lakes along the bluff line between the flatlands of the Delta and the forested uplands of the Yazoo River Basin. Historical data suggests that the lake was formed by the Ohio River. The lake is long, roughly 14 miles from its upper to lower end. The lake has an average depth of 5 - 6 feet.

Location: On Highway 49E in Thornton, MS about 25 miles north of Yazoo City and 35 miles south of Greenwood.

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

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

Regulations

- 30 crappie per day.
- 5 Largemouth Bass per day.
- 100 bream per day.
- No limit on catfish.
- Alligator Gar 0 per day.





Fish Stockings

2025
Largemouth Bass
70,728

2023
Largemouth Bass
30,000

2021
White Crappie
17,000

2019
Largemouth Bass
50,000

2018
Largemouth Bass
12,000; 4 in.

2017
White Crappie
50,000; 3 in.
Largemouth Bass
14,000; 1.5 in.
Bluegill
115,000; 1 in.

Sportfishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Try areas around brush tops, fallen logs and around cypress stumps.

Crappie

- In the spring fish structure along the banks with minnows or jigs. During summer and winter months try trolling through the deeper areas of the lake.

Bream

- Fish areas with structure and around cypress knees in water less than 5 feet deep with crickets or red worms, especially in the late spring and summer.

Catfish

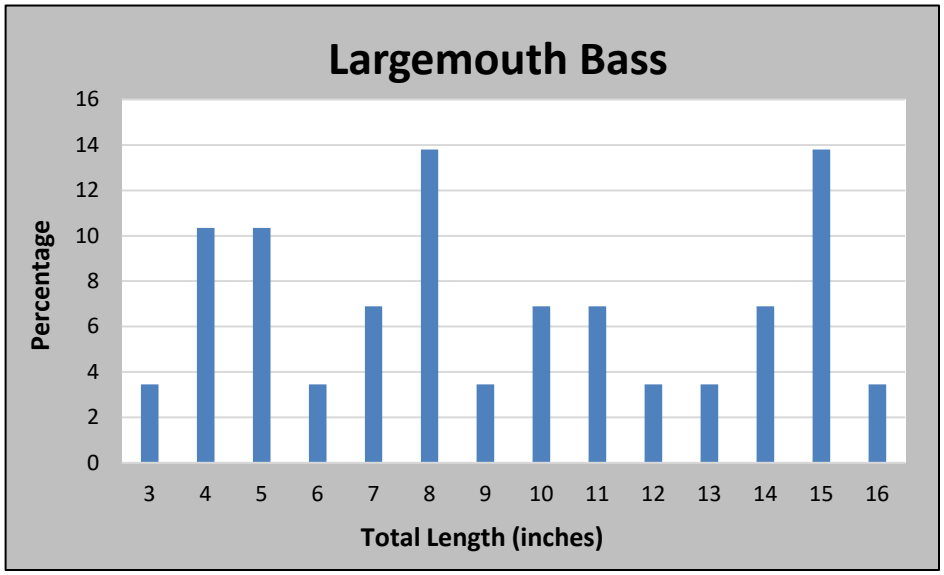
- Fish shallow mudflats near the cypress trees with night crawlers, chicken livers, or stink bait.

Below: Results from the 2025 electrofishing survey on Bee Lake. Bee Lake is sampled in the fall every 2 to 3 years. Catch rates for Largemouth Bass and bream showed significant improvement from 2024 while crappie showed a slight decrease.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate-Adult Fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	83	34	3.4	7.8	0.1	21
Threadfin Shad	80	33	2.1	2.8	-	-
Largemouth Bass	29	12	10.2	19.1	1.1	8
Longear Sunfish	21	9	3.4	4.7	<0.1	6
White Crappie	21	9	7.9	12.7	0.4	7
Gizzard Shad	11	3	7.12	14.9	-	1
Warmouth	1	<1	3.9	3.9	<0.1	1

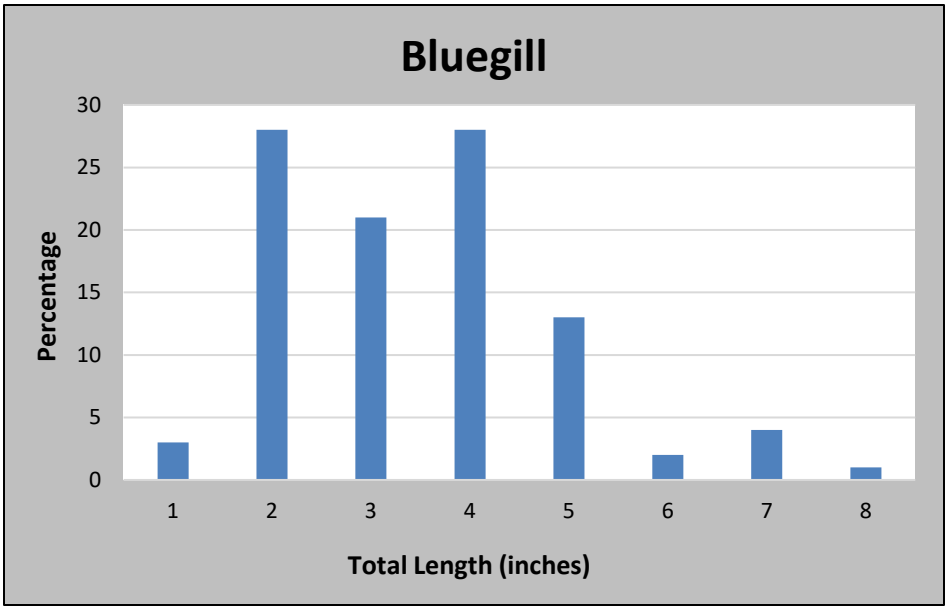


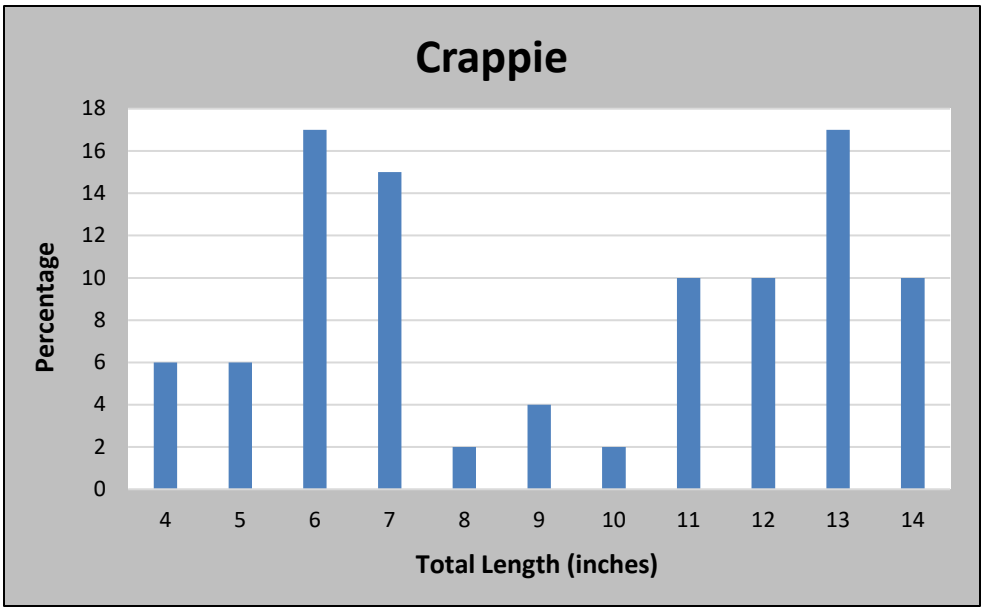
Left: Bee Lake is home to multiple bass tournaments each year. Anglers come from all over the state to join in some great bass fishing at a beautiful Delta oxbow.



Left: Largemouth Bass length distribution for Bee Lake from the 2025 electrofishing survey. Bass total lengths ranged from 3 to 16 inches. The wide range of fish indicates a good spawn in previous years.

Right: Bluegill length distribution for Bee Lake from the 2025 electrofishing survey. The majority of Bluegill ranged from 2 to 7 inches in total length with a few reaching 7 inches.





Left: Crappie length distribution for Bee Lake from the 2025 electrofishing survey. Crappie numbers indicated a good range of young and mature fish in Bee Lake.

Below: Depth map for Bee Lake.

