Tippah County Lake 2026
REEL FACTS

Dustin Rodgers
Dustin.Rodgers@wfp.ms.gov
Telephone (662) 840-5176

General Information: Tippah County Lake, opened in 1974, has a surface area of 145 acres. Known for its large Redear Sunfish and Bluegill, the lake also supports good populations of Largemouth Bass, catfish and crappie. The lake currently boasts the state record Redear Sunfish at 3.33 pounds, and at one time produced the state record Largemouth Bass of 14.75 pounds. Overlooking Tippah Lake is Wicker Mountain, the 2nd highest peak in Mississippi.

Location: Approximately 2.5 miles North of Ripley off Hwy 15.

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

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

Amenities

- 2 public concrete boat ramps with courtesy piers.
- 3 handicap accessible fishing piers.
- Campground: 22 sites with water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Rental pavilion.
- Restrooms and showers.

Creel Regulations

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

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to the boat ramp.
- Rod and reel 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 and can be purchased at the lake office.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Skiing is allowed on Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day from noon to sunset.
- Lake is designated as No Wake all other times.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Target lake points with Carolina or Texas-rigged plastics or small crankbaits.
- In the spring, fish the back of coves with spinner baits.

Crappie

- Target lake points and sunken brush with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

Bream

- Fish similar areas as crappie tightlining redworms and crickets. Fish gravel beds near the boat ramp and campground during spawning season.

Catfish

- Target cats at night on the shallow flats near the campground or old swimming beach with cutbait or liver.
- During the summer, fish creek channels and near the dam.

Below: Tippah 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. Tippah County's Redear Sunfish record is also the state record.

Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	14.75	Perry Reed	May 1987
Crappie	3.30	Mike Suitor	2001
Redear Sunfish	3.33	Kenny Martin	November 1991
Bluegill	0.50	Aaron Barton	June 2019
Flathead Catfish	42.00	Keith Bullock	September 2014



Left and Right: Tippah County Lake is one of the few state lakes that offers anglers an opportunity to catch flathead catfish. The fish pictured to the right is the current lake record at 42 pounds. Many anglers opt to target flathead catfish during the evening hours from the shore. Anglers make long casts toward deeper water using live bait rigged on a tight line.





Below: Results from the 2025 fall electrofishing survey on Tippah County Lake. Sampling was completed during October with eight samples taken throughout the lake covering 3.1 miles of shoreline.

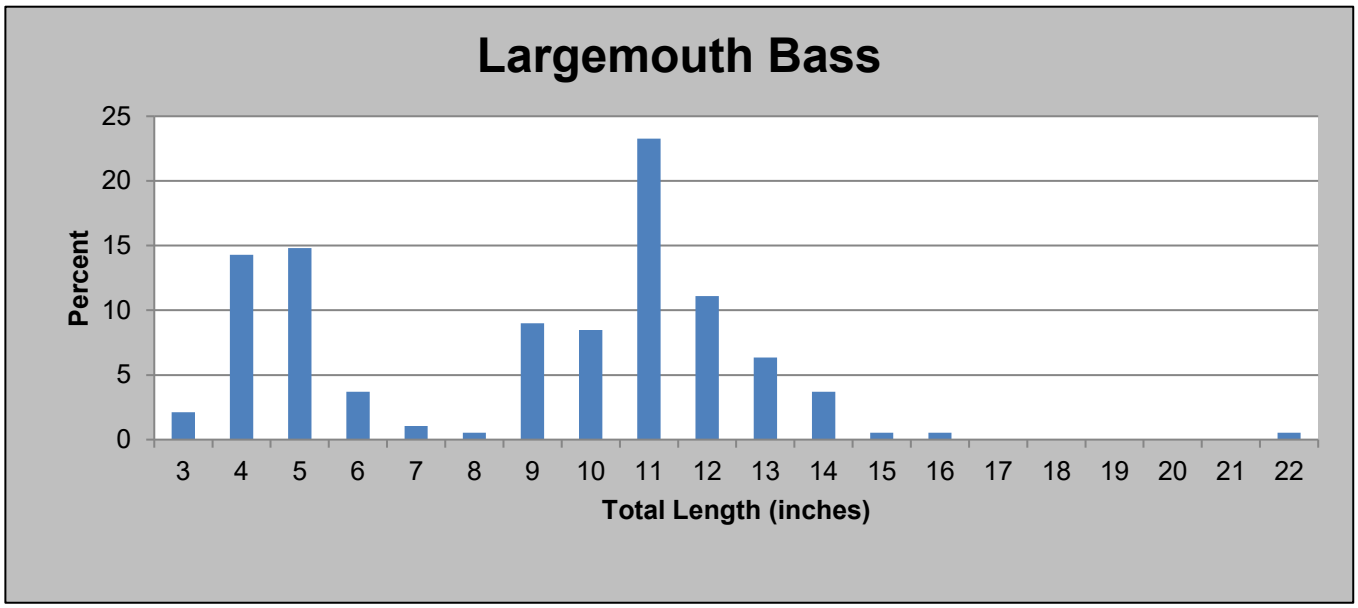
Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length inches	Maximum Length Inches	Average Weight Pounds	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	3	1	12.1	15.0	-	<1
Channel Catfish	1	<1	33.9	33.9	-	<1
Green sunfish	2	1	4.5	5.2	0.1	1
Bluegill	122	35	3.3	8.7	0.3	15
Redear Sunfish	27	8	8.2	10.4	0.5	8
Largemouth Bass	189	54	9.4	22.1	0.7	39
Black Crappie	5	1	11.6	13.0	0.9	2

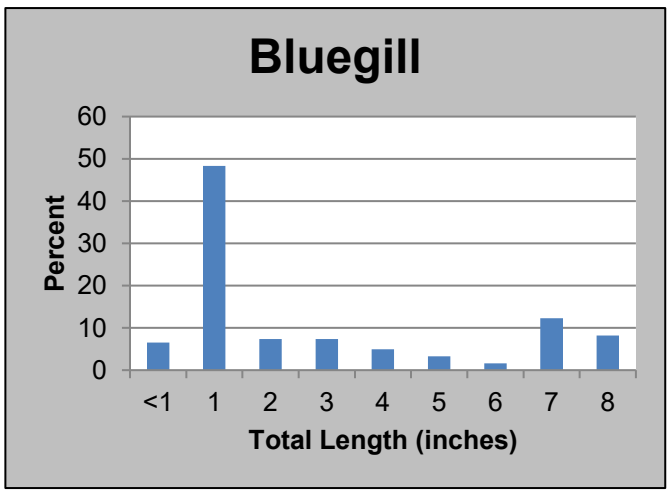


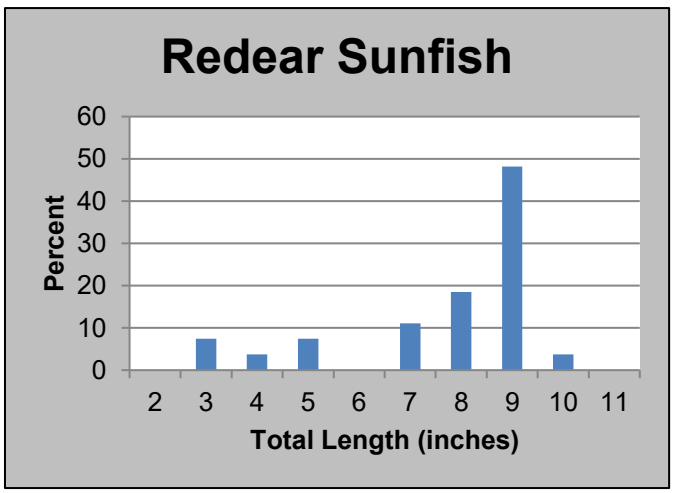
Above: It is often difficult to get an accurate representation of a crappie population during fall electrofishing because the fish are in deeper water. Creel data can often be more useful in assessing the crappie population. Tippah County Lake is home to many good crappie.

Right: Tippah County Lake is bass-crowded, but some decent bass can still be found. Anglers are encouraged to harvest bass under 12”.





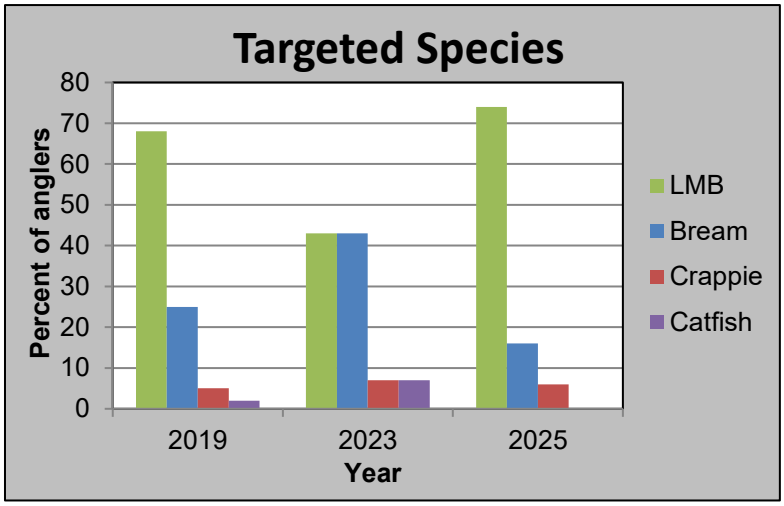




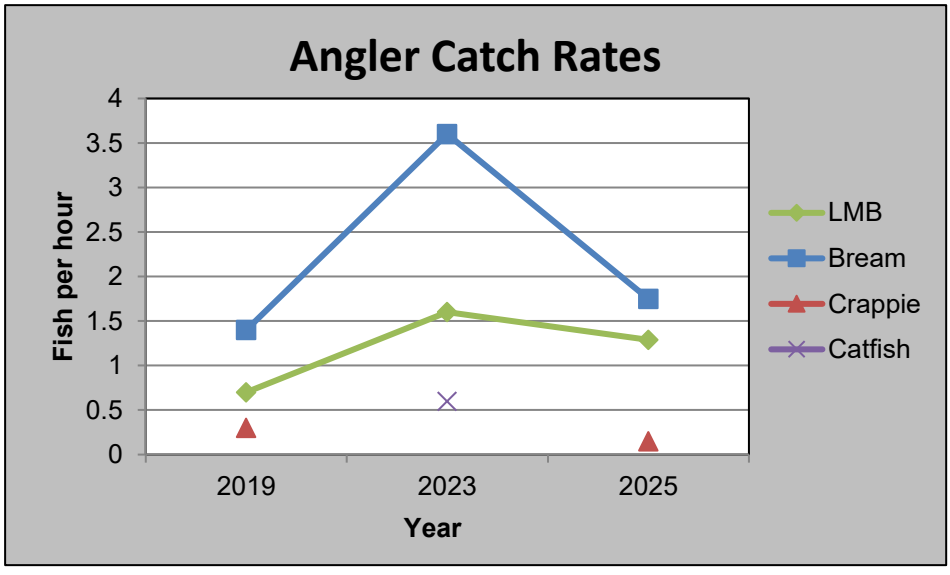
Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish collected during fall 2025 electrofishing.

Have you been interviewed on Tippah Lake in 2025?	%
Yes	16
No	84
Do you use a Livescope or similar forward-facing sonar?	
Yes	14
No	86
Considering all factors, how satisfied are you with the fishing and facilities here?	
Very Satisfied	5
Satisfied	62
Neutral	17
Dissatisfied	17
Very Dissatisfied	0
Home County	
Tippah	44
Marshall	21
Alcorn	6
Benton	27
Other Counties and States	2

Left: Creel surveys provide a good opportunity to collect information and opinions from anglers. Tippah County Lake hosted anglers from four different counties in Mississippi and one other state with the majority of anglers being from Tippah County (44%). Fourteen percent anglers use forward-facing sonar, as opposed to 0% in 2024. Sixty-seven percent of anglers were positive about the fishing at Tippah County Lake.



Above: Percentage of anglers targeting bream, crappie, catfish and Largemouth Bass (LMB) at Tippah County Lake based on spring creel surveys from 2019-2025. Creels were not conducted in 2024.



Left: Angler catch rates for bream, crappie, catfish, and Largemouth Bass (LMB) at Tippah County Lake based on spring creel surveys. Both bream and bass saw a sharp uptick in catch rates in 2023. No crappie anglers were interviewed in 2023. Catfish anglers were only interviewed in 2023, which explains the single data point for those species.