Lake Jeff Davis 2026
REEL FACTS

Stephen Brown – Fisheries Biologist
Stephen.Brown@wfp.ms.gov

General Information: Lake Jeff Davis is a 100-acre State Fishing Lake which first opened in 1963. The lake was renovated in 2010 to make repairs to the dam. While drained, willow trees became established and now offer substantial cover.

Location: Approximately 3 miles southeast of Prentiss off Hwy 42.

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

Purchase a Fishing License: Licenses & Permits | Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Amenities

- 1 public ramp with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom with showers
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 13 camping pads with water/electric hookups
- Bike trail and nature trail

Creel and Size Limits

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

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramp.
- 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.
- Skiing is allowed on Tuesday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day from noon to sunset within ski area.
- Lake is designated as No Wake all other times.

Fishing Tips

Bream

- Try crickets, red wigglers, and wax worms in shallow areas during late spring and summer. Gravel beds around the fishing piers are popular. Also try shallow areas between the willows and shore.

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs.

Crappie

- Target deep willow trees around the main lake. Minnows are the most popular choice.

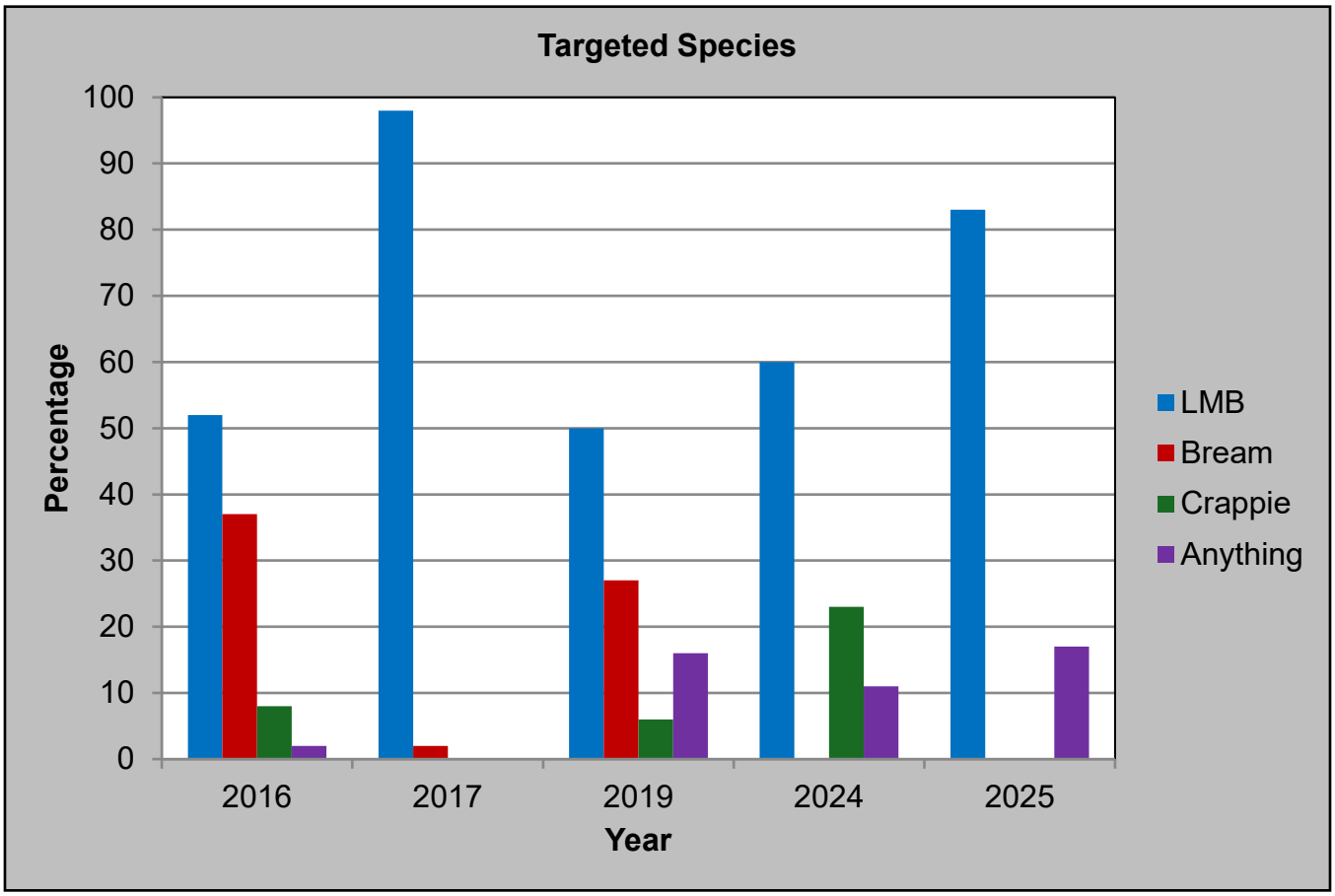
Largemouth Bass

- Target stumps and dollar pads in the morning with topwater baits. During the day, fish willow trees with wacky rigged soft plastics and jerkbaits for suspended bass.

Below: Lake Jeff Davis 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.

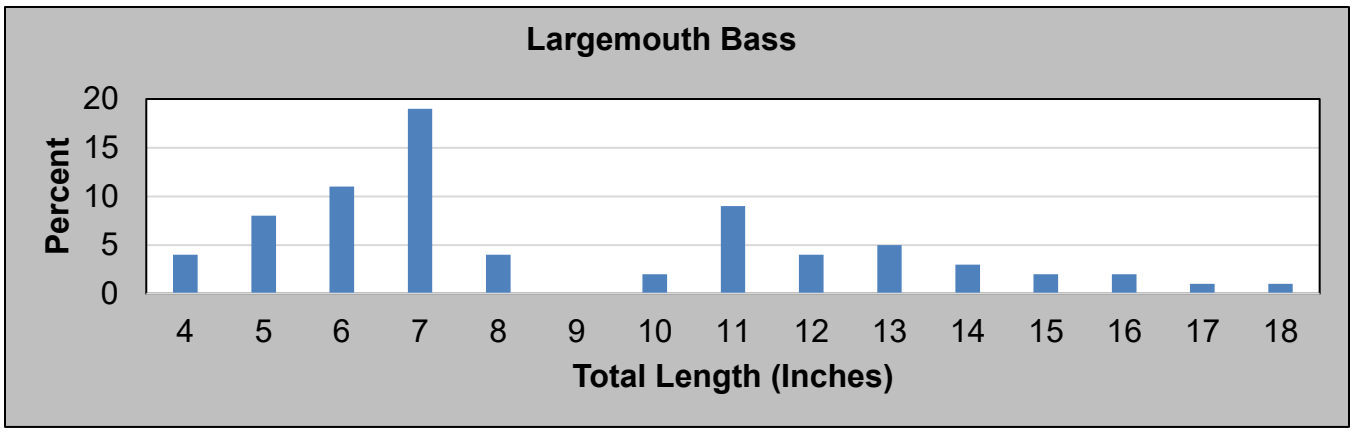
Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	12.80	Dude Stovall	March 2019
Crappie	2.70	Jimmy Stapleton	August 2017
Redear Sunfish	2.45	John Myers	2007
Bluegill	1.20	Terry Mathis	May 2018
Catfish	27.00	Ken Griffith	1989

Below: Percentage of anglers targeting Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, crappie, catfish, and anything at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Lake Jeff Davis has been one of the most popular state lakes in Southwest Mississippi since it reopened in 2013.

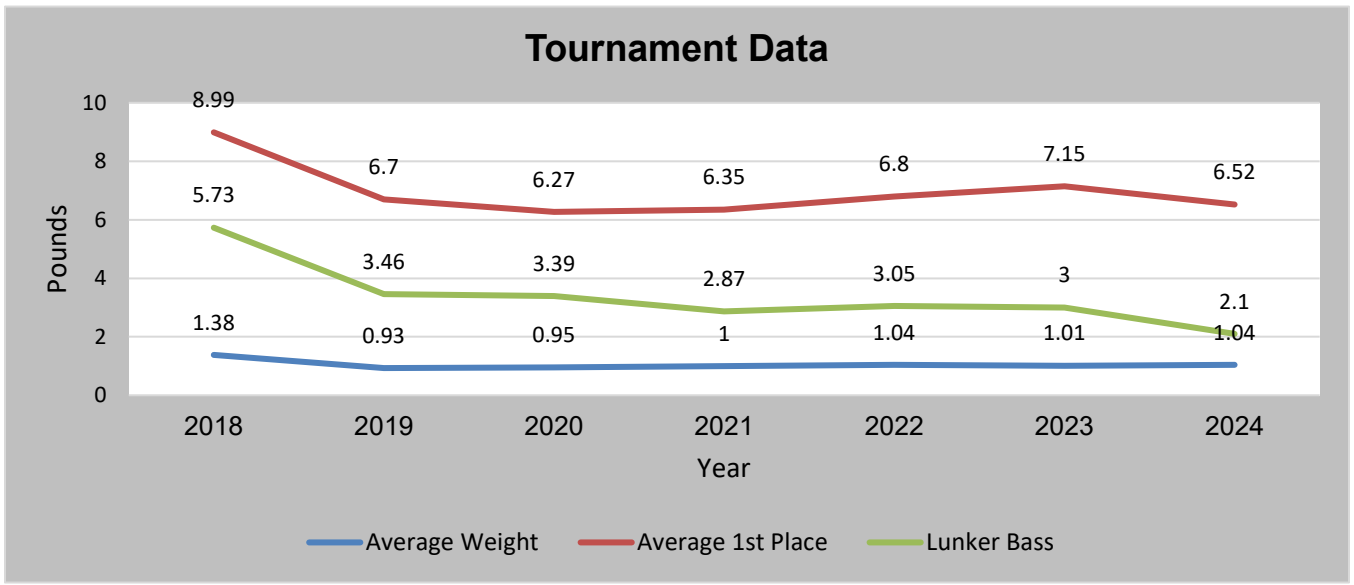


Below: Results from the 2024 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Jeff Davis. Overall health of Largemouth Bass and bream has remained consistent over the past five years, but there is room for improvement. There has been a steady increase in the number of large bass collected during sampling since the renovation. We encourage anglers to harvest small bass to help improve the health of larger ones.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Warmouth	3	4	5.3	6.3	.10	3
Largemouth Bass	75	96	9.2	18.2	.50	11

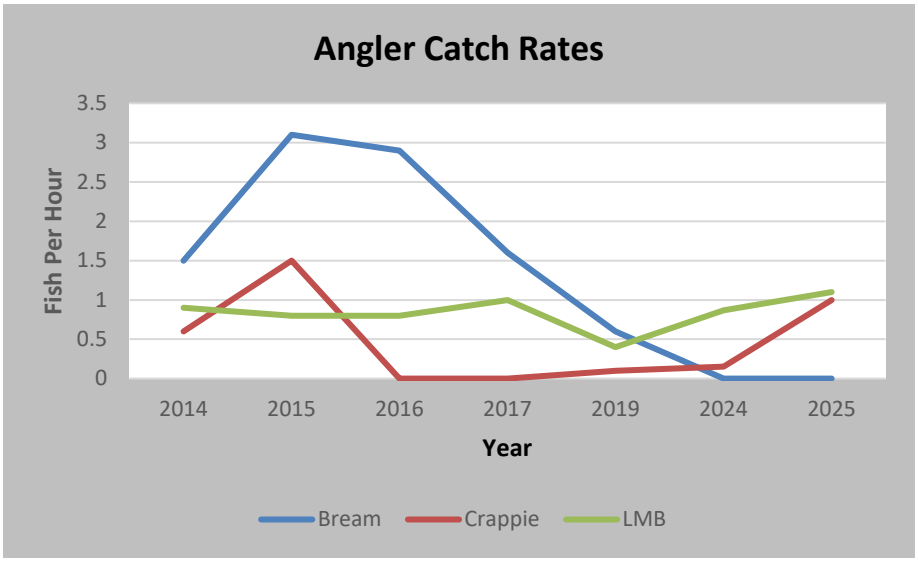


Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass collected during 2024 fall electrofishing.

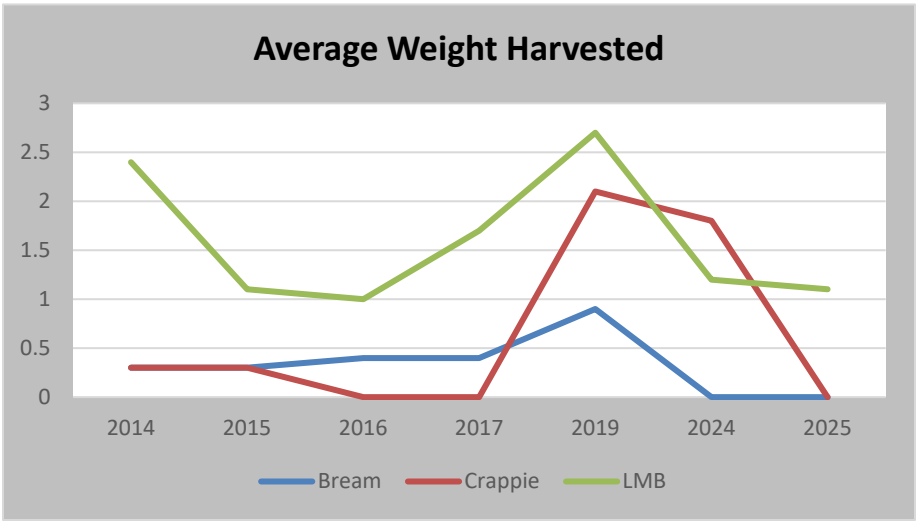


Above: Tournament data from 2018-2024.There were 256 entries in 2018, 363 in 2019, 506 in 2020 and 594 in 2021.

Right top: Angler catch rates for Largemouth Bass (LMB), bream, and crappie at Lake Jeff Davis based on spring creel surveys. Largemouth Bass catch rates have remained consistent since reopening.



Right : Average weight of harvested fish at Lake Jeff Davis. Average weight of harvested bream has remained consistent when bream anglers are interviewed. The slot limit encourages anglers to harvest smaller bass.





Left: Anglers are catching bigger Largemouth Bass each year, as the initial stock starts reaching trophy size. 2015 marked the first year since the renovation that fish over 10 pounds have been caught. With the aggressive slot limit, the potential for a trophy bass fishery certainly exists at Lake Jeff Davis.