Lake Mary Crawford 2026
REEL FACTS

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

General Information: Lake Mary Crawford is a 128-acre State Fishing Lake which first opened in 1957. The lake was the first Dingell-Johnson construction project in Mississippi. The lake has long been known as a popular bream fishery.

Location: Approximately 5 miles west of Monticello off Hwy 84.

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

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

Amenities

- 2 boat ramps with courtesy piers, parking lot, and public restroom with showers
- 2 handicapped fishing piers
- 20 camping pads with water/electric hookups and nature trail

Creel and Size Limits

- Bream: 100 per day
- Catfish: 10 per day
- Crappie: 20 per day
- Largemouth Bass: slot limit 16-22 inches, 10 per day, 1 over 22 inches long

Forage Species

- Golden Shiners
- Crawfish

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 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. Brush piles around fishing piers are popular.

Catfish

- Try tightlining liver or blood scented bait along deep drop offs of main lake points and around the water control structure.

Crappie

- Target the water control structure and brush piles around the main lake. Minnows are the most popular choice.

Largemouth Bass

- Target stumps and brush piles in deeper water with junebug colored soft plastics. Topwater baits can also be good in the morning around grass.

Below: Lake Mary Crawford is open for all 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.

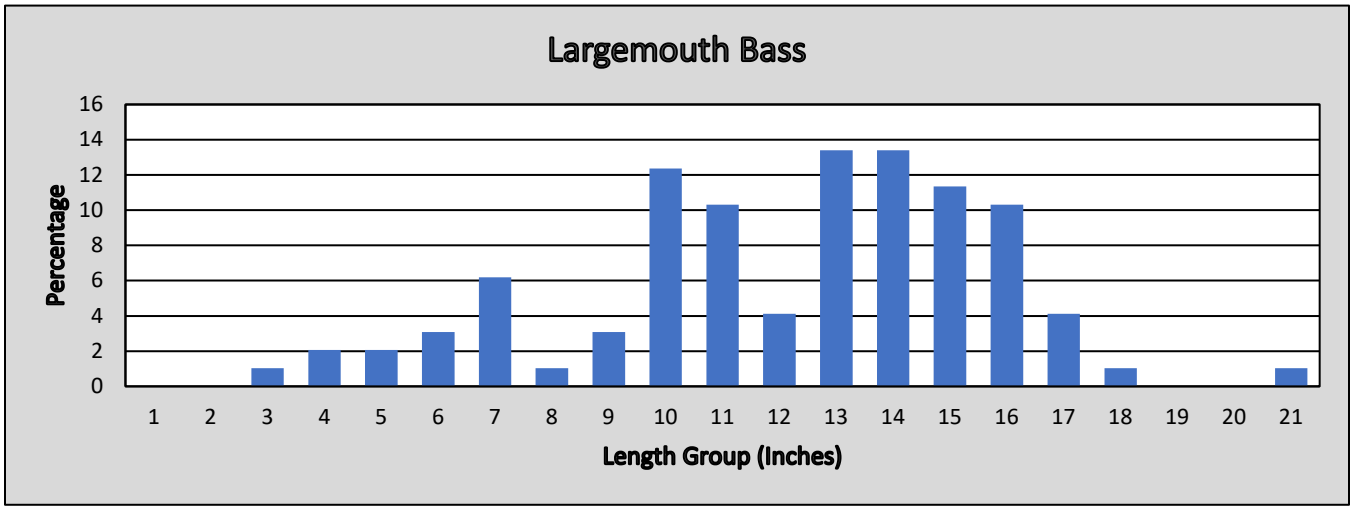
Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	7.62	Caleb Bass	January 2025
Crappie	3.25	John Berry	February 2026
Redear Sunfish	0.81	Harold Rutland	May 2025
Bluegill	0.90	William S. Bennett	July 2017
Catfish	22.86	Ronald Humphreys	August 2025

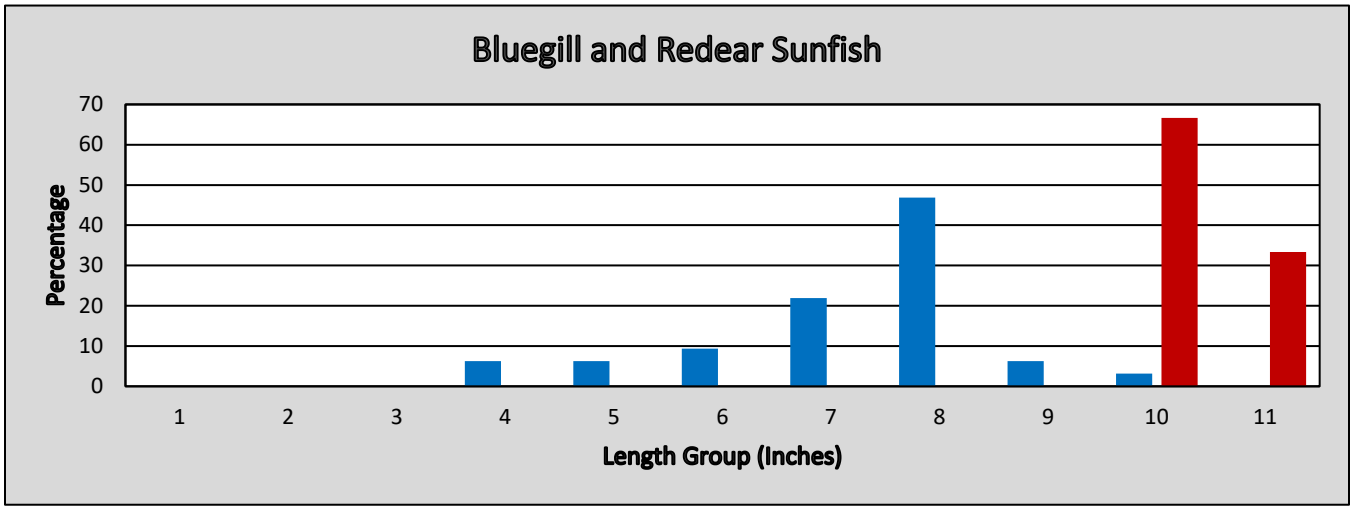


Above: Locations of fish attractors placed in Lake Mary Crawford during renovations. Fish attractors are comprised of tree tops placed in a variety of depths. These tree tops can be excellent locations to catch Largemouth Bass, bream, and crappie throughout the year.

Below: Results from the 2025 fall electrofishing survey conducted at Lake Mary Crawford. The fishery is off to an amazing start after the recent renovation. The bass population is well balanced, and forage species are in abundance. With proper harvest from anglers this lake will remain an exemplary fishery for years to come.

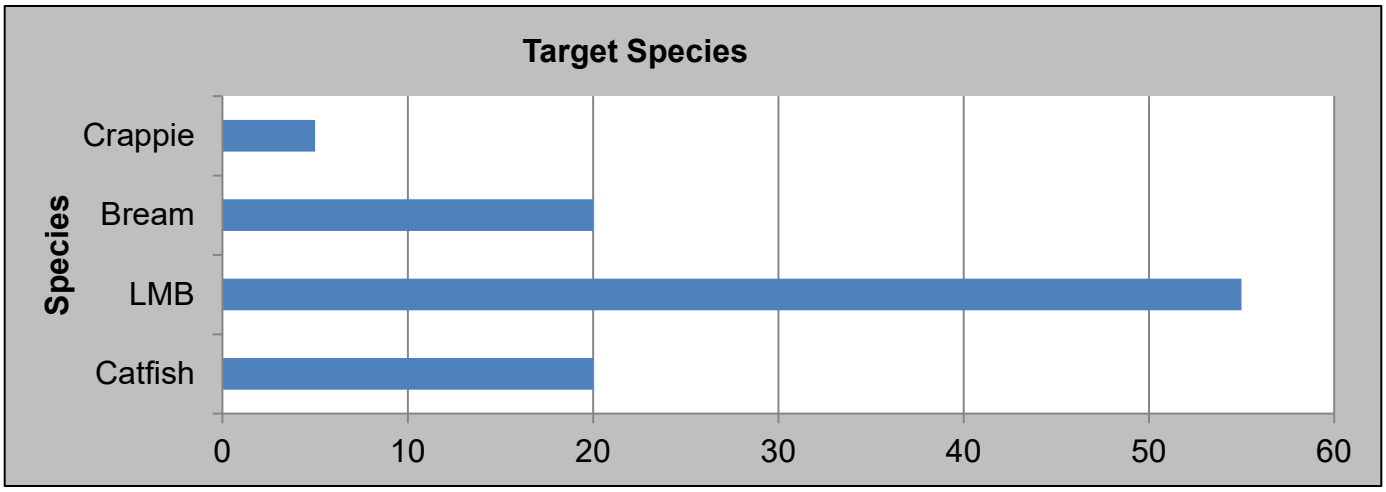
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Green Sunfish	2	2	6.4	6.9	0.2	2
Bluegill	32	24	7.8	11.2	0.3	27
Redear Sunfish	3	2	10.5	11.5	0.8	3
Largemouth Bass	97	72	12.6	21.4	1.2	70





Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass and Bream (Bluegill, Longear and Redear) collected during 2025 fall electrofishing.

Below: Largemouth Bass were the most targeted species in our spring 2024 creel surveys.



Below: There were a total of 54 fish caught in our spring 2024 creel surveys. Largemouth Bass was the second most caught species and the most released species.

