Simpson County Lake 2026 Reel Facts

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General Information: Simpson County Lake is a 76-acre state fishing lake that was acquired from the American Legion in 1961. The lake was closed for repairs and reopened in 2023. It is well known for quality Largemouth Bass and Redear Sunfish.

Location: Off Highway 49 between Magee and Mendenhall.

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

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

Amenities

- Boat ramp
- Fishing piers
- Pavilion
- 11 camping pads with water and electrical hookup

Creel Limits

- 20 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- Largemouth Bass: 18-24 inches slot limit, 10 bass per day creel limit, only one may be over 24 inches in length.
- 50 bream per day.
- 10 catfish per day

Regulations

- Pole or rod and reel only. No trot lines, throw lines, jugs, FFFD's, yo-yos, set hooks, or limb lines allowed.
- Fishing is not allowed from courtesy piers adjacent to boat ramp.
- Skiing on Thursday, Sunday, Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day noon to sunset.

Permits

- Sport fishing licenses and fishing permits are required except on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Camping is on a first come first serve basis. Daily and monthly permits are available.

Sportfishing Tips

Crappie

- In the spring, target areas with brush in 4 -8 ft of water using road runners or beetle spins. In the summer and fall try jigs or minnows in deep water and along creek ledges or structure.

Bass

- Target areas that have stumps with top water lures, or submerged structure and deeper points jerk baits or finesse worms.

Bream

- Use crickets or red worms in shallow areas from early spring to late summer.

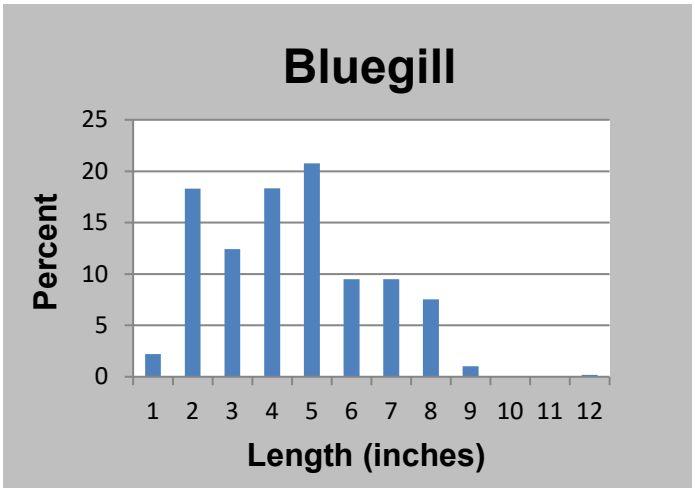
Catfish

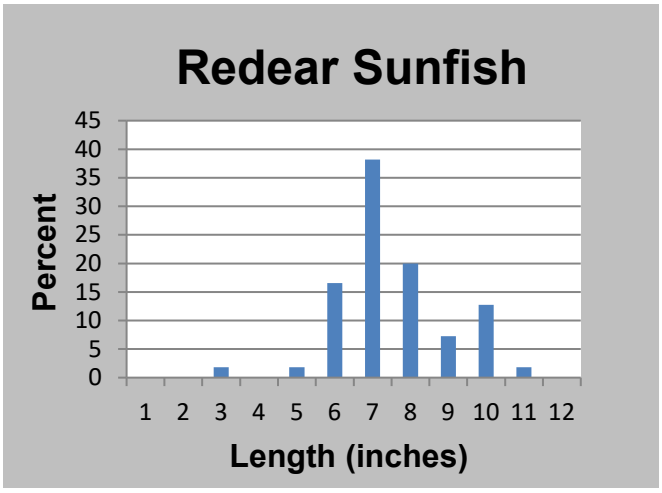
- Use minnows, liver or worms, in 4 – 6 ft of water.

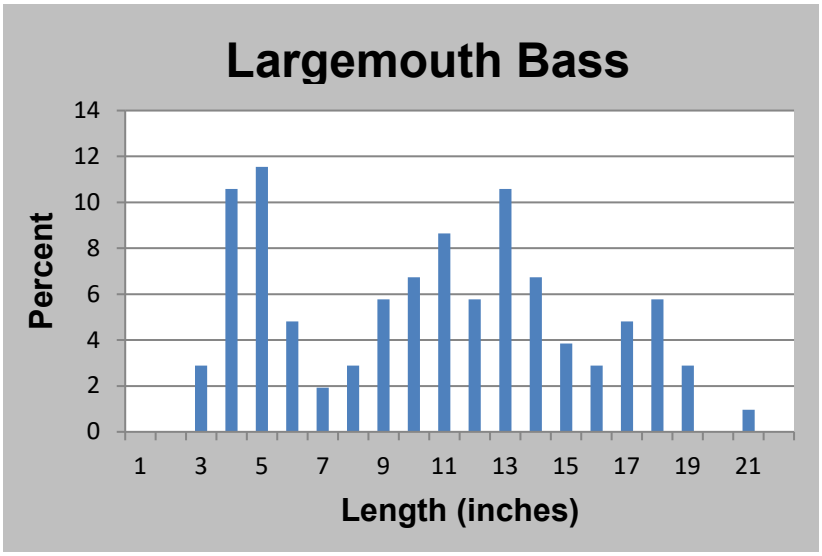
Below: Simpson County Lake record fish. Record fish must be weighed and verified by the lake manager, lake supervisor, or fisheries biologist. Anglers who catch a lake record fish will receive a certificate acknowledging their catch. There is no minimum weight for any open lake record.

Fish Species	Weight (pounds)	Angler	Date Caught
Largemouth Bass	14.7 lb	Steven Rouse	May 2015
Crappie	2.25 lb	Don Barnes	February 2026
Redear Sunfish	0.95 lb	Cedric Jones	April 2018
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	39.8 lb	Jerry Griffith	February 2007

Below: Length distributions for game fish collected during 2025 fall electrofishing. The Largemouth bass length frequency reveals good spawning and recruitment into the fishery.

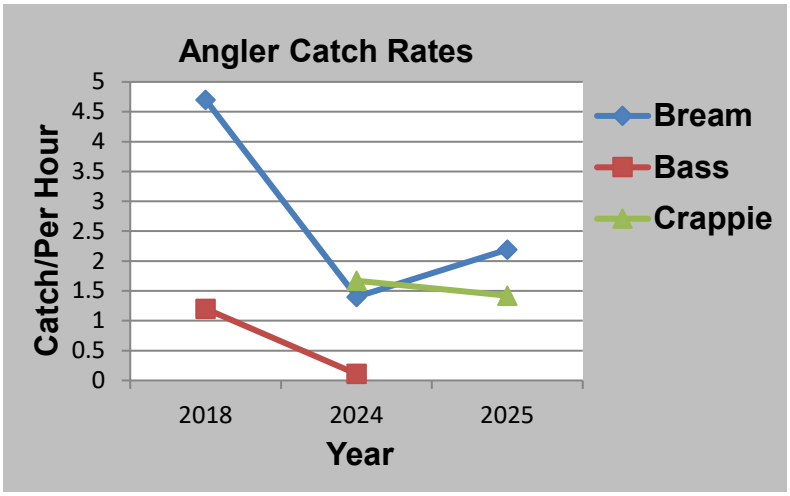






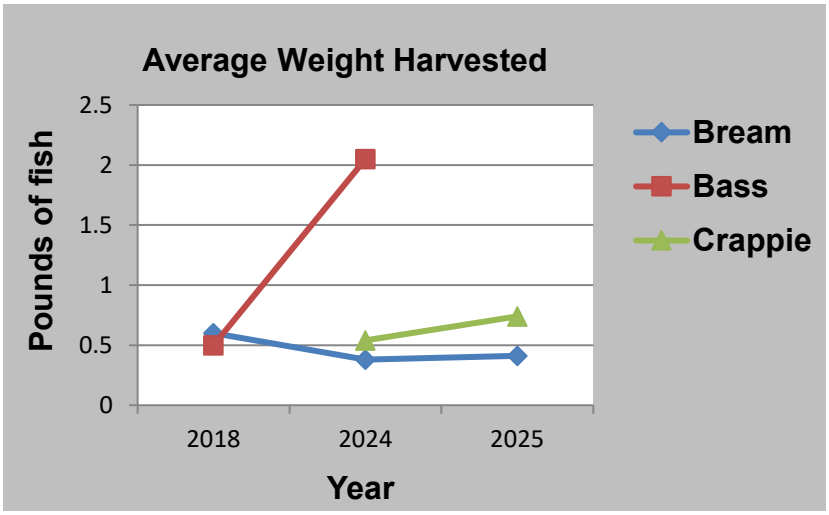
Below: Electrofishing results from fall of 2025. Electrofishing surveys are conducted every two years and give biologists an overall picture of the fish populations.

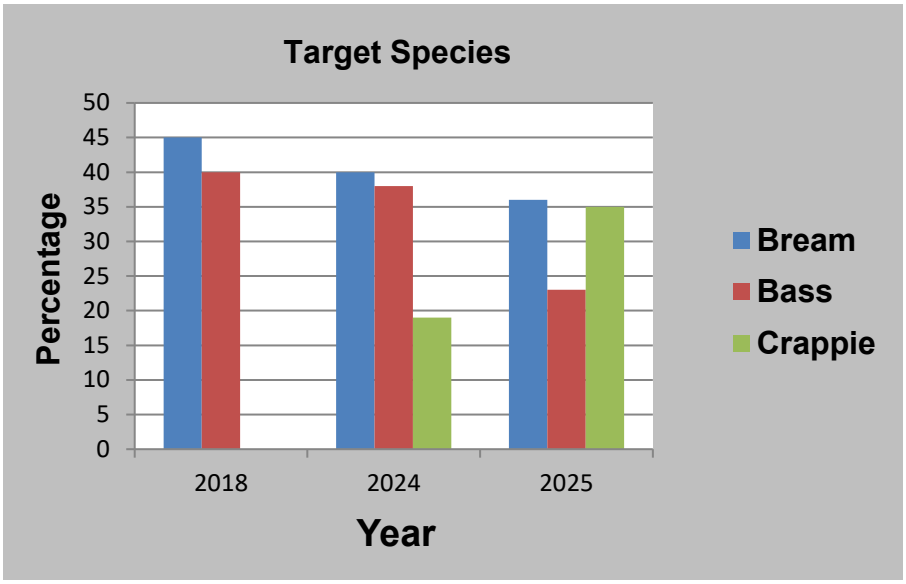
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/hour)
Largemouth Bass	104	15	11.0	21.4	1.4	36
Redear Sunfish	55	8	7.0	10.0	0.2	27
Bluegill	491	70	4.0	12.0	0.1	161
Warmouth	1	<1	6.1	6.1	0.1	<1
Channel Catfish	1	<1	24.2	24.2	6.6	<1
Golden Shiner	50	7	3.9	8.1	-	25
Gizzard Shad	2	<1	12.6	16.3	-	1



Left and Below: Angler creel surveys summarize the average weight of fish caught and the number of fish caught per hour. Catch rates from 2024 to 2025 showed a slight increase for bream and a decrease for crappie. The average weight of harvested crappie and bream increased in 2025. No new creel data were available for bass in 2025, as all bass caught were released.







Left: Species targeted by anglers during spring creel surveys. Most anglers targeted crappie and bream in 2025.



Left and Below: Crappie anglers typically do well fishing structure along the levee. Numerous natural structures were added in January of 2016 to enhance habitat and provide anglers with fish attractors. GPS coordinates are listed on the weekly fishing report page at mdwfp.com.





Below: Depth map for Simpson County Lake

