Trace State Park Lake 2026

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Trace State Park Lake is a 565 acre lake located between the cities of Pontotoc and Tupelo in Pontotoc County. The lake was originally designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service as a watershed lake for flood control. The lake was drained in 2017 for repairs to the dam and was re-opened in August of 2020. Historically known for its good bream fishery, the lake currently supports both abundant bass and bream. A seasonal fishery also exists for crappie and catfish.

Location: Trace State Park is located in Pontotoc County, 8 miles W of Tupelo off of Hwy. 6.

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.
- 5 Cabins and 3 cottages.
- Campground with 76 sites including water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- 2 Children's playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Restrooms and showers.
- 2 disc golf courses.
- 14 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Pavilion
- 35 miles of ORV and horse trails

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.
- Trace Lake's two main bodies are connected by a canal. Skiing is allowed on the eastern body, but once you go through the canal, it is designated as no wake.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased in the park office
- Contact the park office at (662) 489-2958.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Target main lake points with wacky rigs and Texas-rigged plastics.
- In the summer and fall, fish the weed edges with spinner baits, Texas-rigged plastics, and various topwater lures.

Crappie

- Fish sunken brush tops and laydowns.
- Target main lake points and deep weed edges with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

Bream

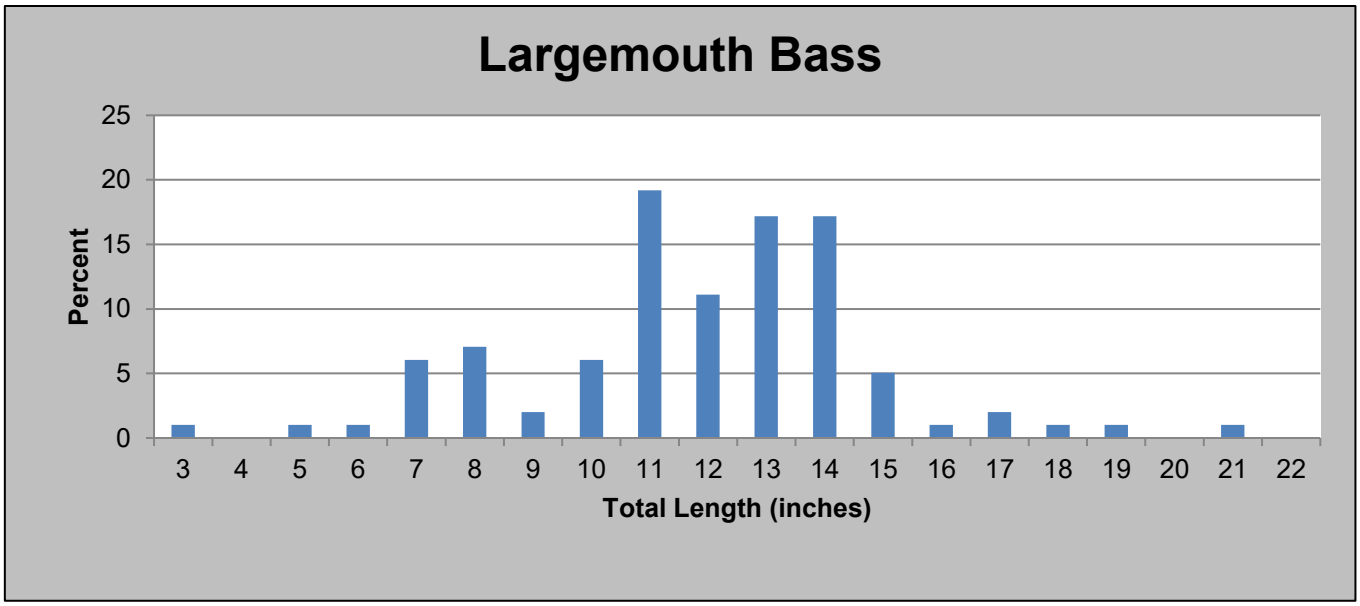
- Target coves with tightlined redworms, mealworms, and crickets.

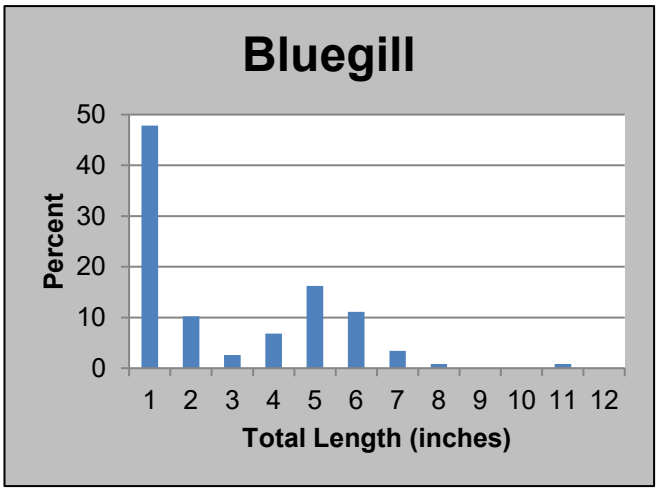
Catfish

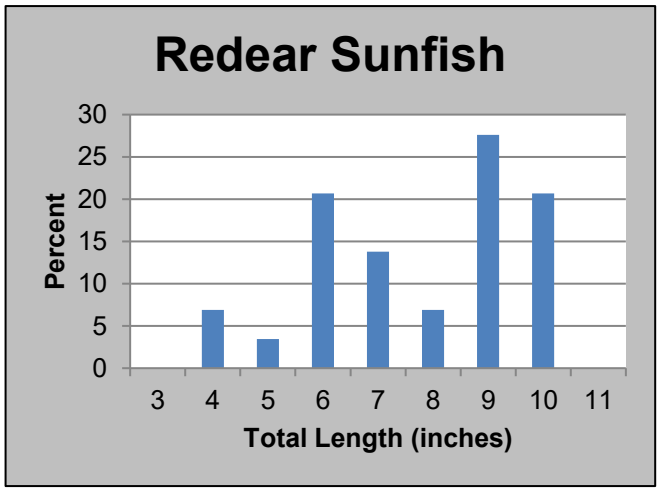
- Target main lake points with nightcrawlers, liver, or cutbait.
- Fish deep laydowns and brushtops on main lake .

Below: Results from the 2025 fall electrofishing survey at Trace State Park. Boat electrofishing was completed along 3.1 miles of shoreline in October.

Species	# of Fish Sampled	% of Sample	Average Length (Inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile)
Gizzard Shad	35	12	11.9	13.0	-	11
Threadfin Shad	20	7	2.3	3.1	-	-
Bluegill	117	39	3.5	11.9	0.2	16
Redear Sunfish	29	10	8.3	11.0	0.5	9
Largemouth Bass	99	33	12.3	21.4	1	29







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



Above: Trace Lake is bass-crowded, however, it does have some quality-sized bass as well. Anglers are strongly encouraged to keep a limit of bass under 13".

Right: 2025 creel data from Trace Lake. Anglers were primarily targeting bass and bream, but there were crappie anglers present as well. The majority of anglers at Trace do not currently use forward-facing sonar. Anglers from 17 Mississippi counties were interviewed, but the majority came from Pontotoc County.

Species targeted	Percentage (%)
Bass	39
Bream	43
Crappie	14
Anything	1
Catfish	0
How satisfied are you with the fishing at Trace?	
Very Satisfied	23
Satisfied	50
Neutral/No Opinion	17
Dissatisfied	12
Very Dissatisfied	0
Do you use a LiveScope or similar forward-facing sonar?	
Yes	37
No	63
What is your county of residence?	
Lee	30
Pontotoc	35
Union	7
All other counties	27

Below: Graphs depicting species of fish targeted and catch rates for Largemouth Bass, bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish), and crappie at Trace Lake based on spring creel surveys. The percentage of anglers targeting bream surpassed bass anglers for the first time in 2025.

