

2019 CRAPPIE TOURNAMENT SUMMARY



FISHERIES BUREAU



MISSISSIPPI WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

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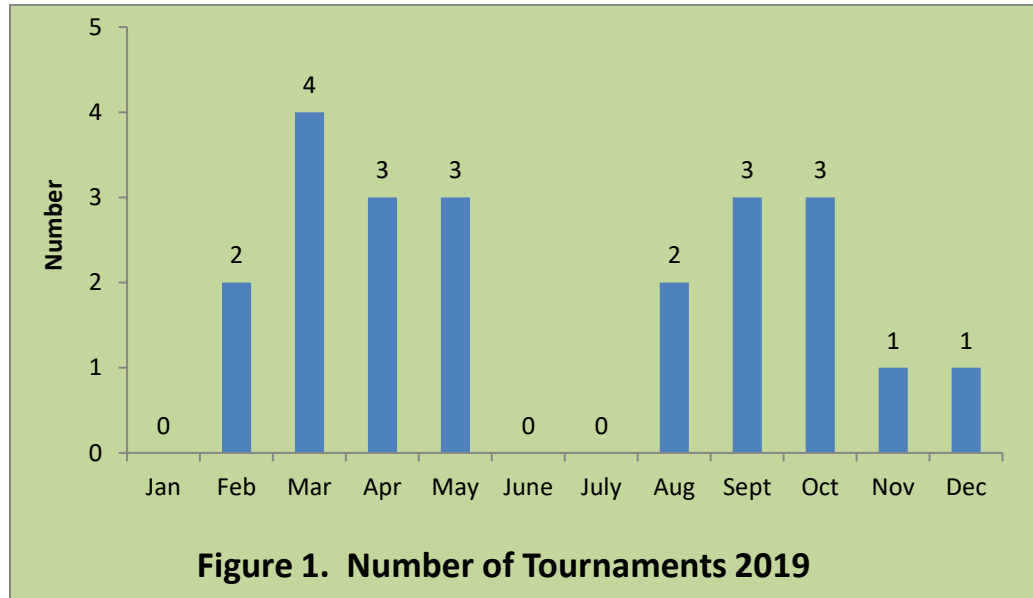
In 2011, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP) biologists began to archive information from crappie tournaments throughout the state. These data should prove helpful in managing one of the most popular sport fish in the state, as well as provide crappie anglers with valuable information that may be used to schedule future tournaments.

MDWFP was able to archive results from 22 crappie tournaments at 8 different lakes in 2019. The following summarizes the most notable results from 2019.

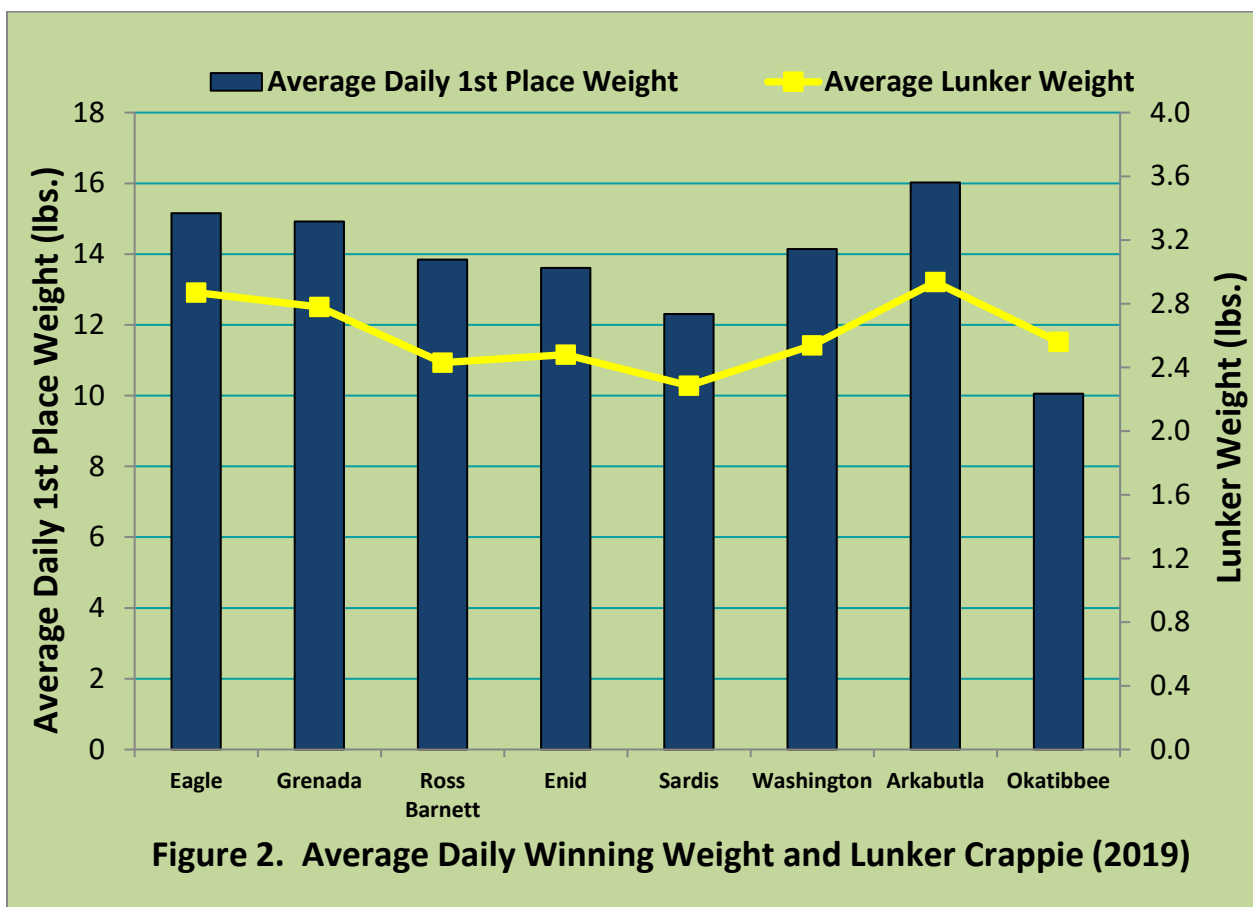
- Grenada Lake finished at the top in overall quality indicator rankings followed by Arkabutla and Eagle Lakes (Table 2). It should be noted that there were more tournaments at Grenada Lake (7), Lake Washington (4) and Ross Barnett Reservoir (4) compared to other lakes.
- The only crappie weighing over three pounds was caught at Arkabutla Lake during 2019. This was down from 2018 when six crappie over three pounds were weighed in and a sharp decrease from 2017, when 23 crappie over three pounds were weighed in from Grenada Lake alone.

Statewide Tournament Statistics, 2019	
2.85 -	Number of crappie caught per angler-day
4.18 -	Pounds of crappie caught per angler day
1.54 -	Average weight of crappie caught (pounds)
153 -	Hours to catch a two-pound crappie
2.62 -	Average lunker or weight of biggest crappie (pounds)
14.07 -	Average daily 1 st place weight (pounds)

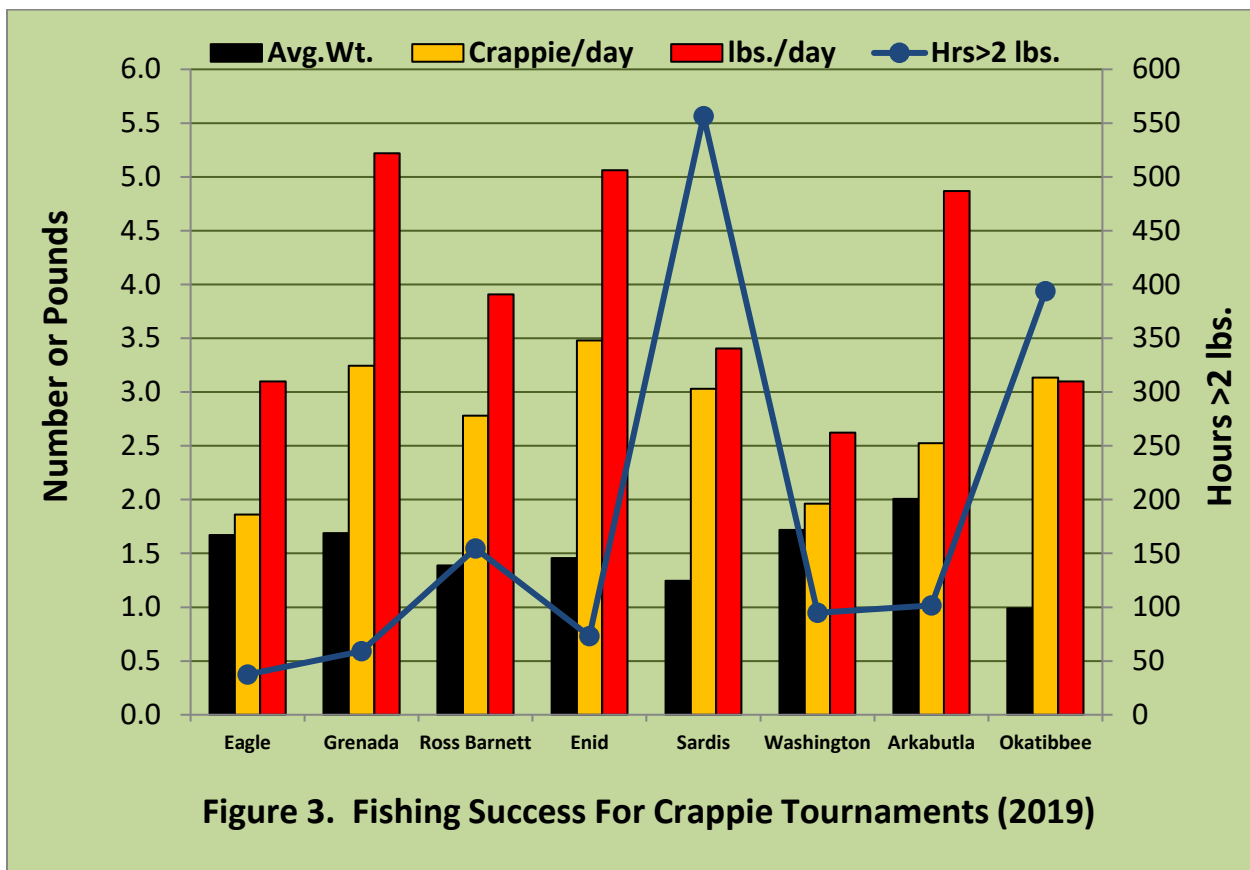
- A total of 2,527 anglers participated in 22 tournaments. Grenada Lake, Lake Washington and Ross Barnett Reservoir had the most tournaments. March was the most popular month for tournaments. No tournament results were reported for the months of January, June and July (Figure 1).



- Tournament bag limits were 7 crappie per team each day. It took a daily average of 14.07 pounds to win a crappie tournament in 2019. This was a 1.88 pound increase in winning weight compared to the average from 2018. Daily first place weights ranged from 16.03 pounds at Arkabutla Lake to 10.06 pounds at Okatibbee Lake (Figure 2).
- The average lunker (biggest) crappie caught per tournament ranged from Arkabutla Lake's 2.94 pounds to 2.29 pounds at Sardis Lake. (Figure 2). The overall average lunker weight in 2019 was 2.62 pounds, which is higher than the average weights in 2018 (2.39 pounds) and 2017 (2.58 pounds).



- Average crappie weight ranged from 0.99 pounds at Okatibbee Lake to 2.01 pounds at Arkabutla Lake. The statewide average weight was 1.54 pounds, up from 1.37 pounds in 2018. The number of crappie caught per angler per day was highest at Enid Lake (3.48), and the pounds caught per angler per day was highest at Grenada Lake (5.22 pounds; Figure 3).
- The number of hours to catch a 2 pound or larger crappie was lowest at Eagle Lake (37 hours), and highest at Sardis Lake (556 hours). The number of hours to catch a 2 pound or larger crappie is dependent on the number of anglers in a tournament, fishing time for a tournament, and number of crappie 2 pounds and larger that are documented by the tournament organizations.



- The top 10 heaviest 7-crappie limits came from five different lakes (Table 1). The heaviest sack was weighed-in at Arkabutla Lake. Four different tournament organizations reported tournament results in 2019.

Table 1. Top 10 Heaviest Daily 1st Place Weights from 2019.

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Tournament</u>	<u>Daily 1st Place Weight (lbs.)</u>
Arkabutla	October 19	Magnolia Crappie Club	16.80
Grenada	March 22-23	Crappie Masters	16.62
Grenada	Sept. 27-28	Crappie Masters	15.99
Washington	February 2	Magnolia Crappie Club	15.70
Grenada	Oct. 25-26	American Crappie Trail	15.60
Arkabutla	September 9	Fruit Jar	15.25
Eagle	February 23	Magnolia Crappie Club	15.16
Ross Barnett	April 6	Magnolia Crappie Club	15.15
Grenada	March 16	Magnolia Crappie Club	15.05
Ross Barnett	August 24	Magnolia Crappie Club	14.08

- All reported crappie tournaments were team events, although in some cases anglers would occasionally fish by themselves. Some tournaments lasted two days but most were one day events.

The results from these tournaments can be utilized by biologists, anglers, and tournament organizations to improve crappie management, increase angling success, and improve tournament success and participation. Tournament reports help provide more insight into the health of crappie fisheries throughout the state.

Table 2. Final rankings of crappie tournament lakes in Mississippi based on 2019 results.

Overall Rank*	Hours to catch a crappie > 2 lbs.	Average daily 1 st place weight (lbs.)	Average Lunker (lbs.)	Average weight (lbs.) of fish	Average number of crappie per angler per day	Average lbs. per angler per day
#1 Grenada (7)	Eagle 37	Arkabutla 16.03	Arkabutla 2.94	Arkabutla 2.01	Enid 3.48	Grenada 5.22
#2 Arkabutla (2)	Grenada 59	Eagle 15.16	Eagle 2.87	Washington 1.72	Grenada 3.24	Enid 5.06
#3 Eagle (1)	Enid 73	Grenada 14.92	Grenada 2.78	Grenada 1.69	Okatibbee 3.13	Arkabutla 4.87
#3 Enid (1)	Washington 95	Washington 14.15	Okatibbee 2.56	Eagle 1.67	Sardis 3.03	Ross Barnett 3.91
#5 Washington (4)	Arkabutla 102	Ross Barnett 13.85	Washington 2.54	Enid 1.46	Ross Barnett 2.78	Sardis 3.41
#6 Ross Barnett (4)	Ross Barnett 155	Enid 13.61	Enid 2.48	Ross Barnett 1.39	Arkabutla 2.53	Eagle 3.10
#7 Okatibbee (1)	Okatibbee 394	Sardis 12.31	Ross Barnett 2.43	Sardis 1.25	Washington 1.96	Okatibbee 3.10
#8 Sardis (2)	Sardis 557	Okatibbee 10.06	Sardis 2.29	Okatibbee 0.99	Eagle 1.86	Washington 2.62

*Number of tournament samples in parenthesis

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