



Simpson County Lake 2020

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 in 1991 for repairs and reopened in 1993. It is well know for quality Largemouth Bass and Redear Sunfish.

Location: Off of 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

- 30 crappie per day with no length restrictions.
- 10 Largemouth Bass per day with no length restrictions.
- 100 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.

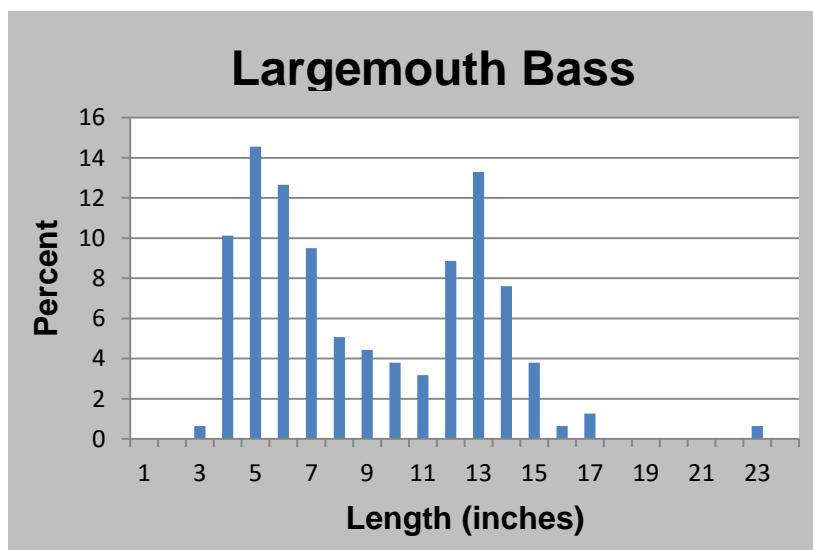
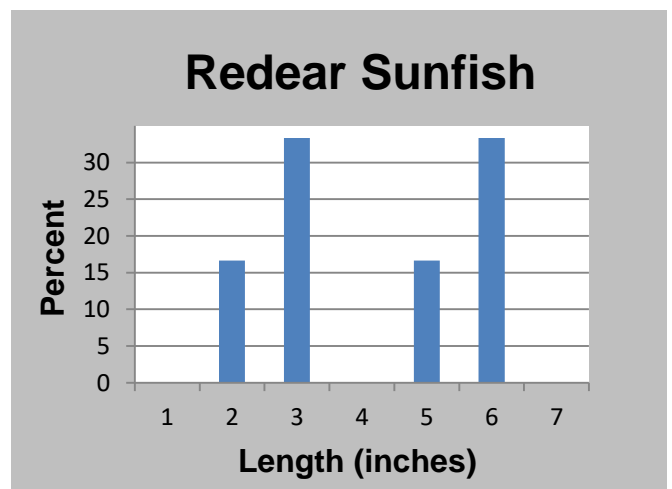
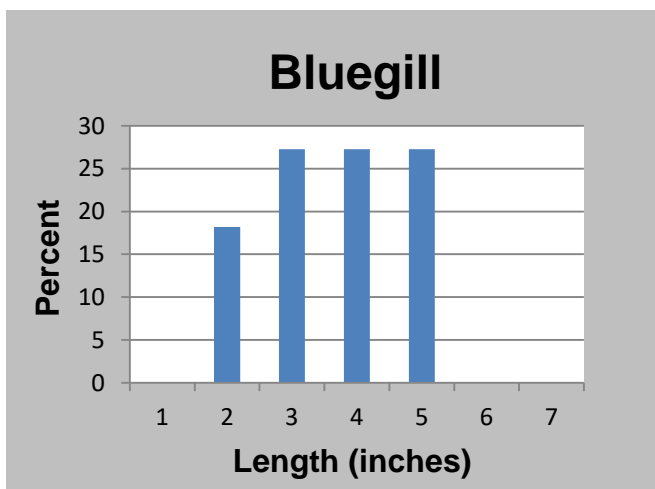
Catfish

- 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	2.1 lb	John A. Polk	March 2019
Redear Sunfish	0.95 lb	Cedric Jones	April 2018
Bluegill	Open	-	-
Catfish	39.8 lb	Jerry Griffith	February 2007

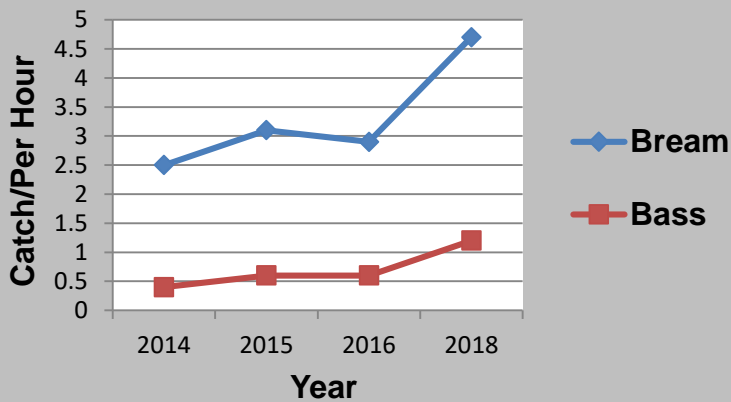
Below: Length distributions for game fish collected during 2018 fall electrofishing. The Largemouth bass length frequency reveals good spawning and recruitment into the fishery.



Below: Electrofishing results from fall of 2018. Electrofishing surveys are conducted every two years and give biologists an overall picture of the fish populations. Largemouth Bass were most abundant followed by Bluegill. Redear Sunfish averaged 5.8 inches in length with a maximum length of 7.7 inches.

Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Largemouth Bass	158	88	9.5	23.8	0.8	85
Redear Sunfish	6	3	5.8	7.7	0.1	<1
Bluegill	11	6	4.2	5.7	0.1	6
Warmouth	2	1	6.5	7.4	-	1
Catfish	1	1	37.8	37.8	-	<1
Gizzard Shad	1	1	6.0	6.0	-	<1
Golden shiner	1	1	3.9	3.9	-	<1

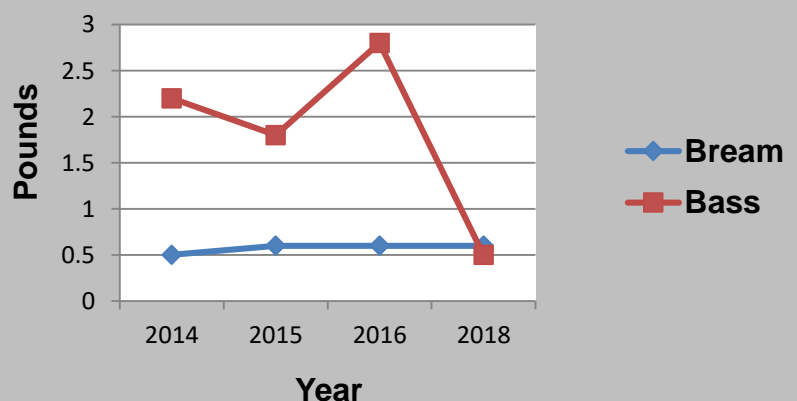
Angler Catch Rates



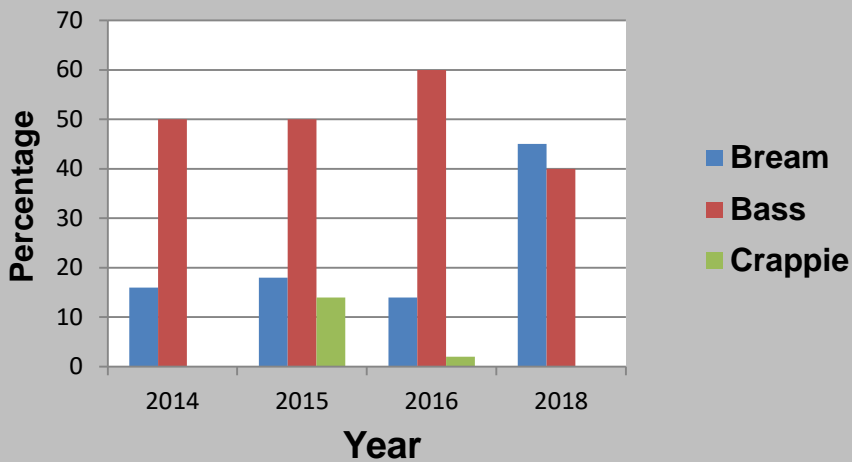
Left and Below: Angler creel surveys provide information about the average weight of fish caught and the number of fish caught per hour. Largemouth Bass catch rates increased in 2018. Bream catch rates increased slightly while average catch weights have remained steady.



Average Weight Harvested



Target Species



Left: Species targeted by anglers during spring creel surveys. The majority of anglers targeted Largemouth Bass and bream. Simpson produces numerous trophy size Largemouth Bass each year.



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. 14,000 triploid hybrid crappie were stocked in November 2017 to increase angler catch rates. These fish were reared at the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery in Enid, MS.



Below: Depth map for Simpson County Lake

