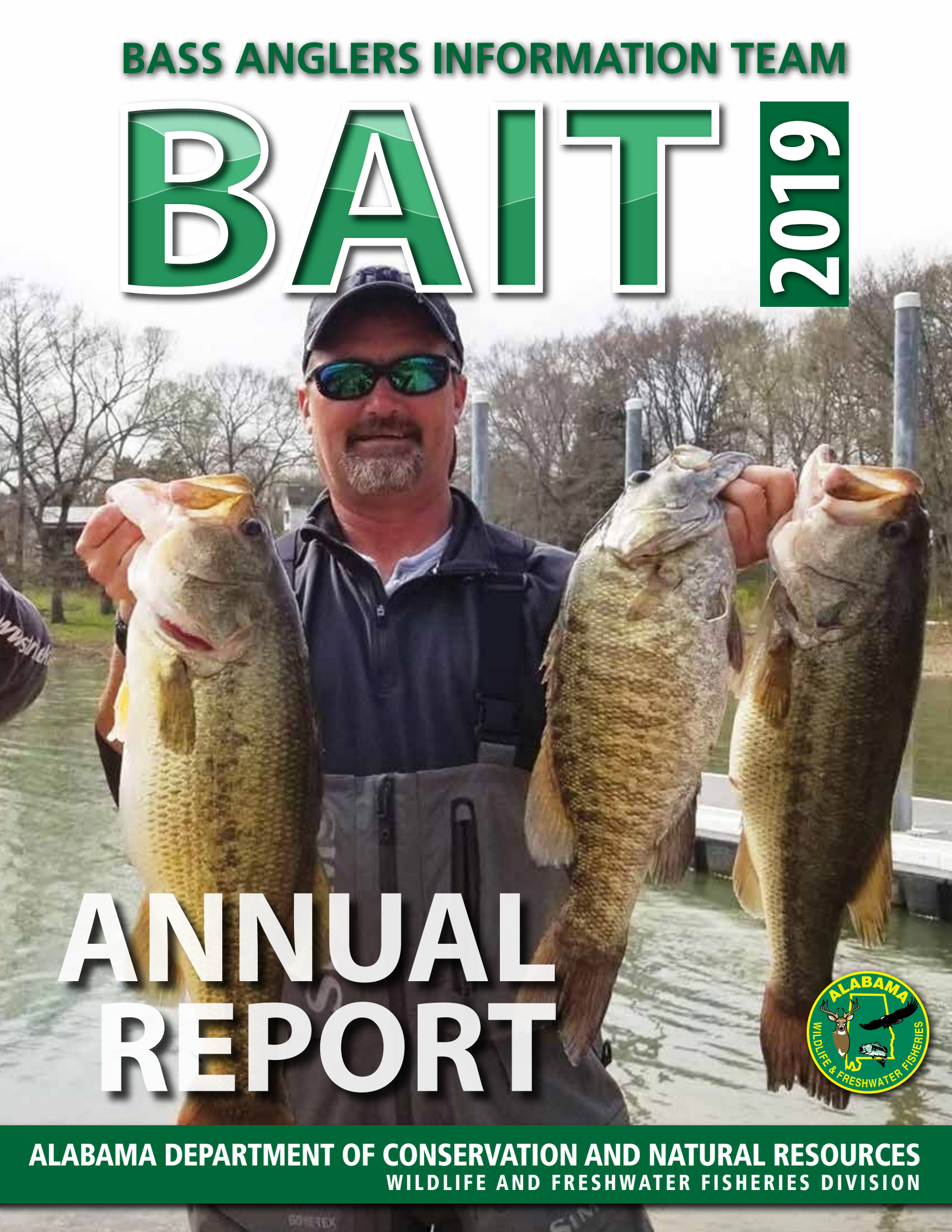
BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM

BAIT 2019



ANNUAL REPORT

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

BAIT 2019

BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM

B A I T

MEMBER

By: Kyle Bolton
Fisheries Biologist

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
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BAIT 2019

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the participating bass clubs; the Georgia Department of Natural Resources; and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks for their genuine interest in this program and their willingness to take a proactive approach to managing bass fisheries in Alabama's reservoirs. Without their cooperation, assistance, and enthusiasm this program would not be possible.

INTRODUCTIONS & METHODS

The printing of the 2019 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the 34rd year of the B.A.I.T. Program. Since its inception, the objective of the program has been to gather information on bass populations by combining the efforts of bass club members and state fisheries biologists. The B.A.I.T. Program summarizes catch data on reservoir bass populations that are collected and provided to us by participating clubs. This information is used by state fisheries biologists in combination with data from other sources as a basis for fisheries management decisions. Bass anglers use the report to establish future tournament sites or to locate a reservoir that provides a particular type of fishing.

Through 2019, 15,763 tournament reports have been summarized. Anglers have spent 3,690,124 hours fishing that provided data for this program. They have contributed data from 1,010,687 bass that weighed 1,933,652 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program, which maintains 114 boating access areas statewide. Information regarding the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team Program is also included. The accomplishments made by these programs during 2019 may be of particular interest to tournament bass anglers and their organizations.

Every year, we attempt to maintain the support of the previous year's clubs and to enlist the support of new clubs through public meetings, news releases, and letters. Participating club officers or tournament directors are sent the previous year's annual report and tournament report postcards to be completed following each tournament. Clubs are assigned individual numbers to insure confidentiality. As tournament cards are received, they are checked for accuracy and entered into a computer database. Club officers are contacted when data are suspected to be erroneous. We compile and analyze the data following receipt of December tournament reports. Statewide tournament results are sorted by reservoir and by club.

To rank reservoirs, five fishing-quality indicators were used: percent of successful anglers (percent of anglers with one or more bass at weigh in), average bass weight, number of bass per angler-day, pounds of bass per angler-day, and hours required to catch a bass five pounds or larger. Since the length of a fishing day varies between tournaments, an angler-day is defined as one angler fishing for ten hours. In this report, an angler-day may simply be referred to as a "day" of fishing. A minimum of five tournaments for an individual reservoir is considered necessary for minimum confidence in each reservoir dataset. Reservoirs with five or more tournament reports are ranked for each of the quality indicators. Values are assigned to each rank and an overall rank is determined for each reservoir by summing the values of the five quality indicators. This ranking system is intended to be a quick reference for club tournament site selection. It does not constitute a "best and worst" list of Alabama reservoirs and should not be interpreted that way.

Tournament results were also broken down by month for each reservoir with 10 or more reports. This section is intended to aid clubs in scheduling tournaments since the quality of fishing can vary considerably from one season to the next on any given reservoir. It also allows anglers to better understand their chances of achieving a particular goal (i.e., catching a big bass) on a given lake by studying in detail how anglers performed during each month of the year. When studying this section of the report, be aware that some months are represented by only one tournament, which may not be a good indicator of the overall quality of fishing during that month.

2019 B.A.I.T. SUMMARY

Bass fishing in the state of Alabama has remained excellent for the past several years. During 2019, all five quality indicators remained the same over the previous year. Average bass weight remained at 2.36 pounds, the 2nd highest average weight since 1986. Percent success (where an angler weighs in at least one bass) decreased 2.7%, but still 8% above average. The number of bass per angler-day (one angler-day equals one angler fishing for 10 hours) decreased 4%, but still remained about a pound above average. Pounds of bass per angler-day increased 4%, setting an all time record. Finally, the number of hours required to catch a 5-pound bass increased by 4%.

Although the larger Tennessee River impoundments have always been traditional angler favorites, Wilson has turned the most heads recently by finishing first overall the past six years in the quality indicator ranking. Jordan was second overall, which is an improvement over last year when it was ranked ninth overall.

- Wilson remained on top in the overall quality indicator rankings.
- Millers Ferry, Jordan, Martin and Pickwick each showed considerable improvement in the quality indicator rankings – moving up 9, 7, 7 and 7 spots, respectively. Neely Henry also moved up four spots while Logan Martin was down 16 spots while Wheeler and Jones Bluff were down 14 spots each in the overall rankings.
- Wilson, Jordan, Lay, Millers Ferry and Martin were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings.
- Wilson, Bankhead, Upper Bear, Pickwick and Eufaula were the top five big-bass lakes in Alabama.

NOTABLE FACTS:

**Regarding lakes with 10 or More Tournament Reports for 2019*

- **Eufaula:** Average weight (2.74) was the highest since 1996. Number of bass and pounds of bass weighed in per angler-day were both up from 2018.
- **Guntersville:** All quality indicators were down from 2018, a notable year on the books, however, 2019 values were still above the 34 year average.
- **Lay:** The number of bass per angler-day (4.16) set a record for the second year in a row. On average, it took 16.35 pounds to win a tournament. There were 34 fish weighed in over 5 pounds. The highest number since 1992.
- **Mobile Delta:** Average weight (1.92) set a record for the second year in a row. The number of hours to catch a 5 pounder (188) also set a record, with the average being 1044 hours.
- **Neely Henry:** A new record for average weight was set at 2.16 pounds, which is eighteen percent above the 34 year average.
- **Pickwick:** Pickwick also set a record for average weight (2.82 pounds). The 34 year average is 2.44 pounds.
- **Smith:** With an average weight of 2.2 pounds, larger bags are being weighed in at Smith. The last 10 years' data (2.00 lbs.) show over a half pound increase in average bass weight compared to the previous 10 year average (1.47 lbs.). On average, it took a little over 16 pounds to win a tournament in 2019.
- **Weiss:** An all time average weight record was set for the 2nd year in a row (2.21 pounds).
- **Wheeler:** Forty percent of anglers caught a limit and it required 16.5 pounds to win a tournament, on average (a 16% decrease from 2018). We received no reports from summer or winter. All quality indicators decreased from last year, but most were still well above the 34 year mean.
- **Wilson:** Data from 14 tournaments were summarized. Average weight increased slightly from 2018. Other quality indicators remained steady. Wilson has remained atop the quality indicator rankings for the past six years. Sixteen percent of fish weighed in were smallmouth bass.

2019 STATEWIDE B.A.I.T. STATISTICS

15.17 – Average winning weight for five fish

3.75 – Number of bass weighed in per angler-day

8.84 – Pounds of bass weighed in per angler-day (new record)

2.36 – Average weight of bass caught

212 – Hours required to catch a 5-pound bass

10.33 – Weight of the largest bass caught

18 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger

394 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

STANDARDIZED ELECTROFISHING RESULTS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries manages 45 public reservoirs through five district offices. Inside the front cover of this publication each district office is listed along with the reservoirs within their area of responsibility. Each reservoir is sampled on a routine basis to monitor the population structure of its sport fish species. These samples are conducted in a standardized manner according to the guidelines of the Alabama Reservoir Management Manual so that changes in population characteristics can be monitored over time. Most reservoirs are sampled on a three-year cycle and management recommendations, such as length and creel limits, are determined from this research. There are three key components of the fish population that biologists must characterize in order to make these decisions; they are growth, mortality, and recruitment. Another important non-biological element is bass harvest rates, which are determined through the use of angler creel surveys.

These four variables ultimately determine the quality of each fishery, but all of them are limited by the nutrient levels in each reservoir. Even with good management, reservoirs with low fertility or poor water quality do not have the potential to produce outstanding fisheries. Depending on the results of these investigations, some management objectives may include the reduction of small bass through the use of slot limits, which can also reduce the effects of variable recruitment.

Fisheries biologist conduct a standardized electrofishing sample.

A careful review of the information in this section reveals certain fishery trends that are reflected in the tournament reporting data. For example, reservoirs that consistently produce good numbers of trophy bass are usually those with populations that exhibit low annual mortality and rapid growth. Conversely, lakes that rarely produce trophy bass are often characterized by slow growth and high annual mortality.

Complex statistical models are developed from these variables and are then used to predict how fish populations might respond to changes in the length or bag limits imposed on each reservoir. Over time, the predictive ability of these models can be validated by comparing the predicted effects to the actual fishery responses to the changes in harvest restrictions. In general, harvest restrictions have miniscule impacts unless the rate of fishing mortality approaches or exceeds that of natural mortality, because there is little biological justification for protecting fish that are dying primarily of natural causes. Since bass harvest in Alabama is generally very low, few reservoirs have restrictive length limits at this time. However, routine monitoring of bass populations will allow changes in harvest restrictions to be made whenever necessary.

Bass are measured and weighed so that biologists can determine the size structure of the population, growth rates, and relative condition.

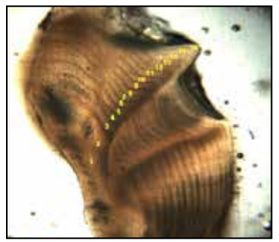
GROWTH

One of the three most important objectives of a fisheries biologist's assessment of a fish population is to determine the growth rate for the fish being studied. There are many factors that can affect the rate at which fish grow. The most important factors are prey abundance, size, and nutritional value; and of course, the number of other fish competing for food resources. Other factors include the age and health of the fish, water temperature, and water quality. Obviously, these variables do not remain constant over time, so the assessment represents a snapshot in time and can vary depending upon when the samples were obtained.

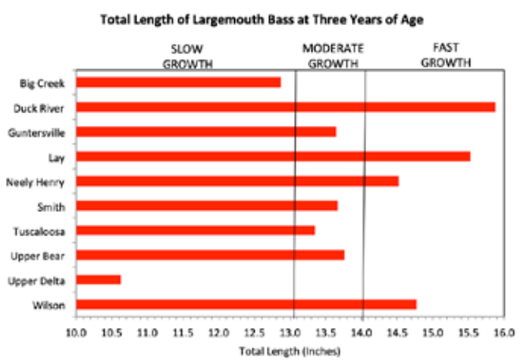
Biologists determine fish growth rates by measuring their lengths at each age represented in the sample. This is done by examining the fish's otoliths, which are free-floating bones in the inner ear that form growth rings similar to those that are visible on the top of a tree stump. These rings are formed because calcium is deposited at a constant rate no matter how fast the fish is growing. During winter (when the fish is not actively growing), calcium is deposited in a more concentrated area and leaves behind a ring once the fish's growth rate increases as water temperatures become warmer. Using this technique biologists can easily determine the amount of annual growth since birth or between two given years.

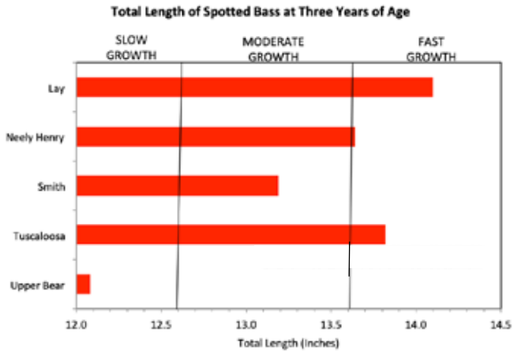
In Alabama, largemouth bass rarely exceed 10 years of age. Relatively few of the fish in these samples include fish more than 5 years old. In warmer climates, bass grow faster but do not live as long as fish in colder climates. Additionally, a biologist's ability to impact the size structure of a fish population through the use of length limits is most easily measured by examining the population characteristics of fish that are about to enter the fishery (i.e., those fish becoming available for harvest). Given all of these factors, a good benchmark for the growth rates of most Southeastern bass populations is the average length of bass at three years of age, which is usually 12 to 14 inches. The following bar charts illustrate the results of these studies on the reservoirs that were sampled by Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists in the spring of 2019.

In order to make good management decisions, growth rates of bass populations are classified as slow, moderate, or fast. However, it should be noted that growth rates are only one piece of the fish production puzzle and must be complimented by other desirable population characteristics in order to produce high quality fisheries.



Cross section of an otolith from a 16-year-old largemouth bass. Dark bands are formed in winter when cold temperatures reduce growth.





MORTALITY

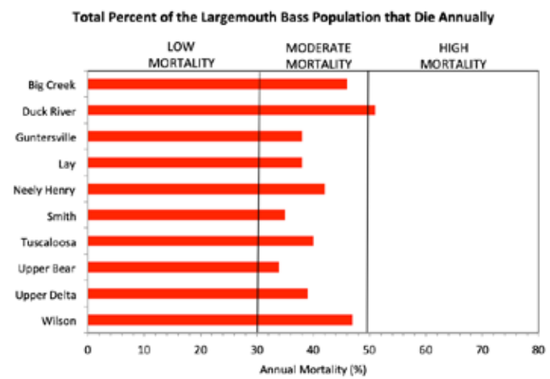
The second of the three most important objectives in fishery assessments is to determine the mortality rate for the population. Mortality is the death of fish, which can be caused by a wide range of things that include both natural causes and fishing-related causes. In this section, total annual mortality will be discussed; however, separating natural mortality from fishing mortality is an important step in good fisheries management. Determining the fishing-related component of mortality is the most important and most difficult task that a fisheries biologist faces. Documenting the number and size of fish being harvested by anglers is relatively easy to do using angler interviews but understanding how many fish die following tournaments or catch-and-release is a much more difficult task.

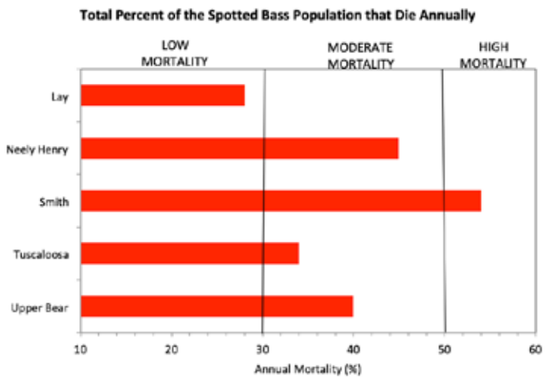
The most common way that biologists determine the mortality rate of a fish population is to measure the rate of decline in the number of fish represented in each age group in the collection. For example, from a collection of fish with a mortality rate of 50% you might expect to see a decline similar to this: Age-1 (100 fish), Age-2 (50 fish), Age-3 (25 fish), Age-4 (13 fish), Age-5 (6 fish), Age-6 (3 fish), Age-7 (2 fish), Age-8 (1 fish).

In Alabama, typical annual mortality rates for largemouth bass range from 35% to 45% but can vary considerably from one year to the next. Only a small percentage of bass in Alabama populations live to exceed 10 years of age. Typically, less than 1% of bass collected in a standardized reservoir sample will exceed 10 years of age. Even in populations with very low mortality-rates this figure is usually less than 3%.

Minimum length limits are a management tool often considered by biologists if mortality rates are high. However, they are only effective if a large portion of the total annual mortality can be attributed to fishing-related causes. Limiting angler harvest cannot reduce bass mortality from natural causes.

The charts below reflects the total annual mortality rates of largemouth and spotted bass populations sampled during spring 2019. Biologists use this information to help make management decisions in an effort to improve the quality of fishing. A reduction in mortality rates following the enforcement of a length limit is an indication that this management action had a positive influence on the population. If fishing-related mortality is low, length limits will do little to improve the quality of a fishery.



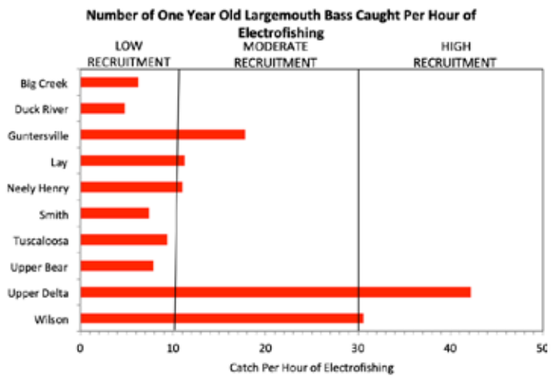


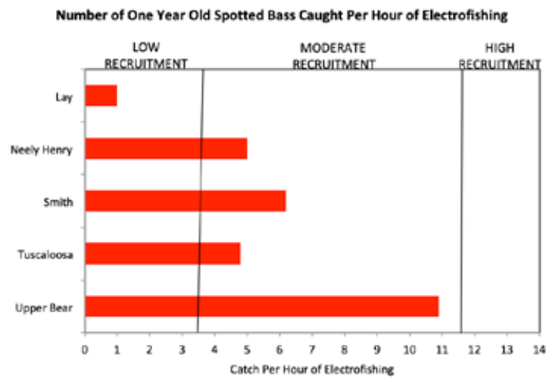
RECRUITMENT

The final critical objective in fishery assessments is to determine recruitment of the population into the fishery. This is generally defined in two ways. One, the number of fish that survive to reach one year of age; and two, the number of fish surviving to reach a harvestable size. The first is important because fish that do not reach 3 to 3 ½ inches before their first winter are less likely to survive to the following spring. The second is important because it is a measure of the percentage of fish that reach sizes large enough to be caught or harvested by anglers. Recruitment can be impacted by density-dependent and/or density-independent factors.

Density-dependent factors include population size, fish size and growth characteristics, reproductive fertility, cannibalism, disease, predation, and competition for food. Density-independent factors are nonbiological in nature and may include floods, droughts, temperature extremes, excessive wind, and pollution.

All of these factors can influence one another and may vary considerably over time. Although it is the biological and environmental interactions that have the greatest impact, exploitation (fish removed from the population by angling) can also influence the recruitment potential of a population.

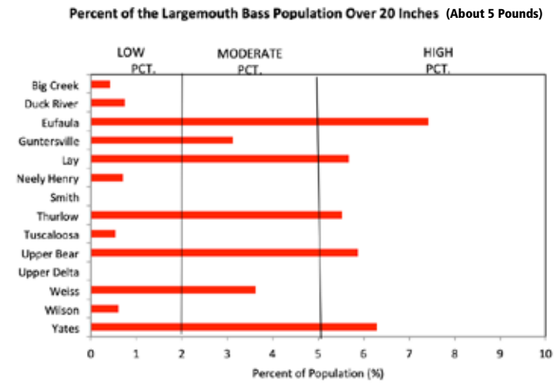


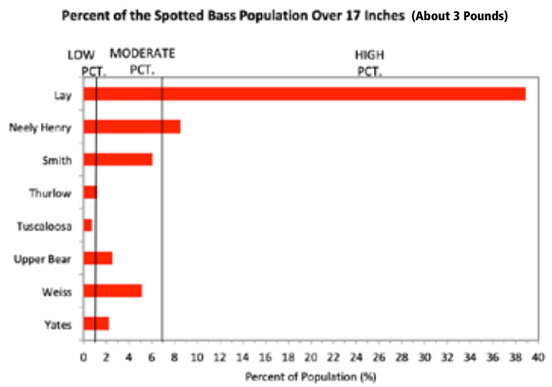


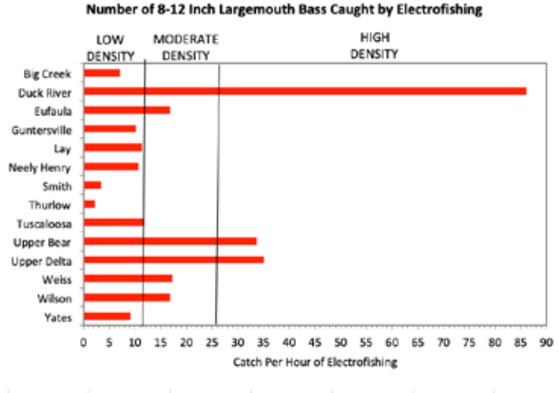
ABUNDANCE

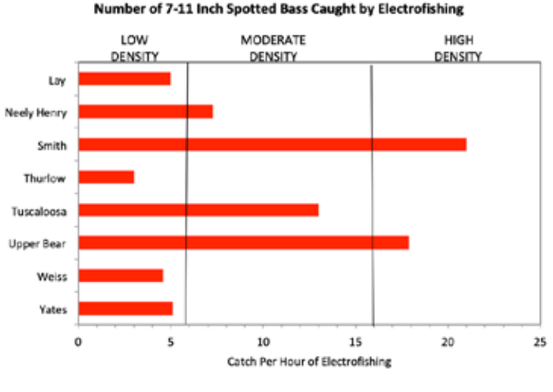
Another important population variable is the abundance of catchable sized fish in the population. Actual abundance is determined by a wide range of things including survival during critical phases of life, habitat suitability, water quality, fertility, water productivity, competition with other fish, predation, or disease. However, it is also important to remember that a biologist's assessment of overall abundance is determined from electrofishing samples that represent a snapshot in time and may be influenced by temporary environmental conditions during the sample period. For example: muddy water can prevent a biologist from seeing fish beneath the surface when electrofishing; cold fronts may cause fish to move away from the shoreline; aquatic weeds can hinder a biologist's ability to see or capture fish that would ordinarily be collected; or fish may be deeper than the reach of the electrical field in extremely clear water. All of these things have the potential to bias estimates of abundance.

The number of 8 to 12-inch largemouth bass and 7 to 11-inch spotted bass, collected per hour of electrofishing is a general indicator of overall population abundance. In Alabama, the majority of samples statewide fall within the 11 to 26 fish per hour range for largemouth bass and 6 to 16 fish per hour for spotted bass. The following chart illustrates these values for samples conducted on public reservoirs during spring 2019.









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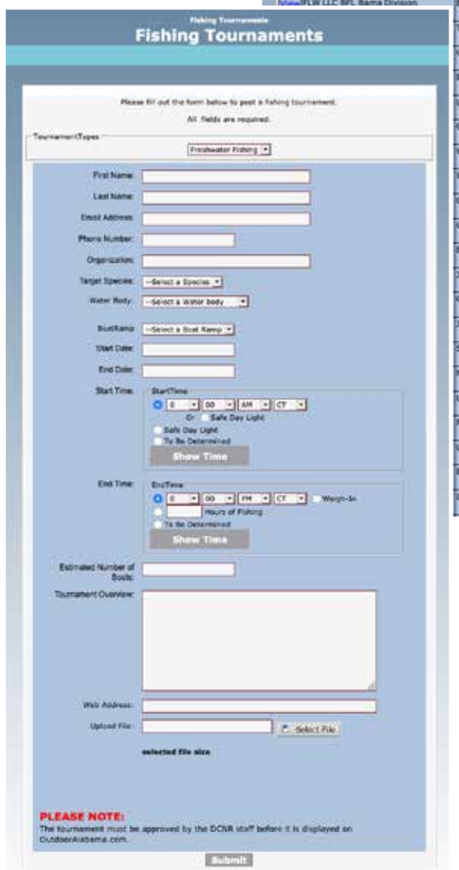
Click here to post information about your tournament, then enter your tournament information including contacts, a link to your website, or even a copy of the registration form.



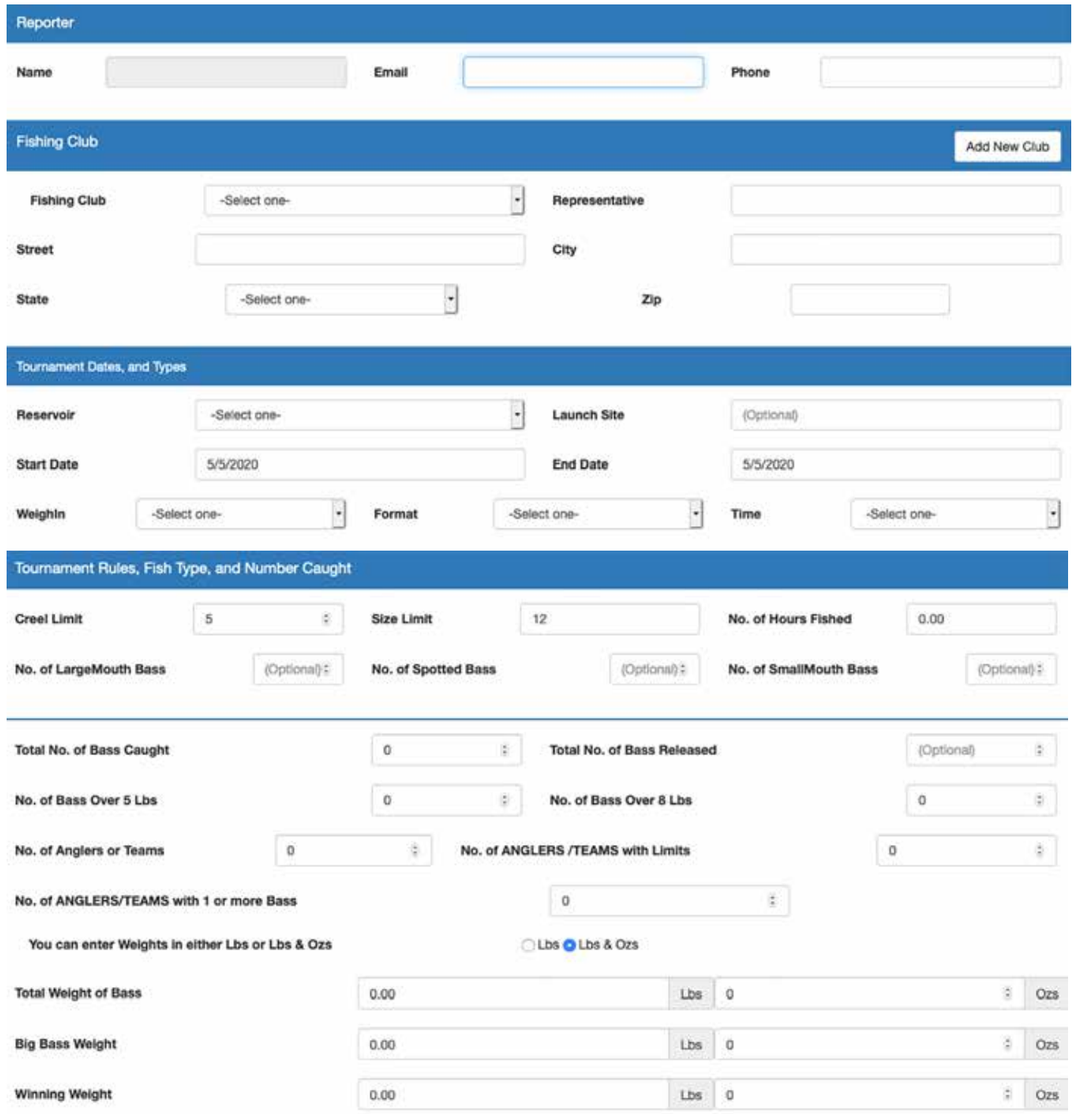
Select from these options to search all tournaments being held statewide.

Please let other tournament anglers know about this website, and if you have questions or comments call 334-242-3471.

This website exists for your convenience and we welcome any suggestions you might have that would improve this valuable tool.

NEW ONLINE B.A.I.T. REPORTING SYSTEM

To access the new online B.A.I.T. Reporting System, type https://tournaments.dcnr.alabama.gov in your web browser. This URL allows you to easily submit your tournament catch data online.



The online system is an additional option for submitting B.A.I.T. tournament reports. Anglers can still email their reports to Keith Henderson at keith.henderson@dcnr.alabama.gov. When submitting reports by email please use the Excel file found at www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments. Anglers can also mail in paper B.A.I.T. cards to: 64 N. Union St. Suite 551, Montgomery, AL 36130.

If you would like copies of the paper cards or have any questions, please call (334) 242-3471. The B.A.I.T. Program is a valuable fisheries management tool. Without the support of tournament anglers and organizers, this program would not exist. Thank You!

STATEWIDE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Bass clubs submitted 285 tournament reports during 2019. That number was down from 361 in 2018 (Tables 1 and 3). Club representatives did a fine job filling out the cards and no reports were rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information. We want to thank the participants of the B.A.I.T. Program and urge them to keep up the good work!

In 2019, 48 clubs provided data. Forty-four reports from Alabama waters were received from Georgia Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist Clint Peacock, who summarizes tournament data from the Georgia Bass Federation. Another 15 reports were received from Fisheries Biologist Stan Crider with the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Without their support, several Alabama reservoirs would not have been well-represented in the quality indicator rankings (Table 2). Once again, we must stress that reports from more locations increase the capability of the summaries to reflect actual fish population conditions and not just a good or poor day's fishing by one or two clubs.

In 2019, tournament reports were received from 29 bodies of water that were fished 100,017 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 37,541 bass that weighed 88,428 pounds (Table 1). A total of 394 bass 5 pounds or larger were reported for an overall catch rate of one bass 5 pounds or larger for every 212 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 18 bass 8 pounds and larger in 2019. The largest bass caught in 2019 came from Pickwick and weighed 10.33 pounds. With 76 bass weighing 5 pounds or larger, Eufaula led this category. Guntersville was next with 71 bass over 5 pounds.

Of the 48 organizations that submitted data during 2019, 44% submitted five or more tournament reports and 21% submitted 10 or more reports. Eleven contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2019 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

The average catch rate in 2019 for number of fish caught per angler-day was 3.8, which is a decrease from 3.9 in 2018. Pounds per angler-day in 2019 increased by 0.38 pounds. Compared to 2018, six out of 21 lakes with five or more reports improved in overall fishing success. Notably, Millers Ferry moved up 9, into the top four in the overall rankings (Table 2). Jordan, Martin and Pickwick moved up seven spots. The statewide average weight was 2.36 pounds, which is up 0.2 pounds from 2018. Pounds of bass weighed in per angler-day of 8.84 set an all-time record, which is well-above the 34-year average of 5.24 pounds.

Most of the 2019 reports were received from Eufaula (30), Pickwick (26) and Mobile Delta (26) and Guntersville (23). Those locations accounted for 37% of the reports. Neely Henry had 18 reports, while Lay, Weiss, Wheeler and Wilson each had 13 or more reports (Table 1). The other 20 reservoirs contributed 36% of the total reports for 2019. A good distribution of reports provides more robust statistics from which accurate summaries can be prepared. All club representatives should understand that each report is important to the continued success of the B.A.I.T. Program.

Of the 29 reservoirs from which reports were received, 21 had five or more tournament reports (Table 1). The following comments deal with these reservoirs, which are ranked by quality indicators in Table 2. The percent of successful anglers (those with one or more fish) ranged from 75% at Eufaula and Pickwick to 97% at Harris. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.40 pounds at West Point to 3.00 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.92 at Guntersville to 9.95 at Jordan. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 5.59 at Logan Martin to 16.00 at Jordan. The statewide average winning weight for a single day five-fish sack in 2019 was 15.17 pounds, which is up a 0.4 pound from last year and up 1.34 pounds from 2016.

Overall, Wilson accumulated more quality indicator points (87) than any other reservoir in Alabama keeping the top spot for the sixth consecutive year. Jordan (84), Lay (76), Millers Ferry (70) and Martin (67) rounded out the top five (Table 2). Readers should note that the primary intent of Table 2 is not to determine the overall best reservoir, but to characterize the fishery of each reservoir. Anglers should first review the quality indicator that is most important to them. The overall rating would be used to narrow choices. For example, if an angler wanted to have the best chance to catch a bass greater than 5 pounds, then Wilson, Bankhead or Upper Bear would be good choices. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings and find that Jordan, Wilson, and Lay offered the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Jordan, Martin or Harris might be the best destinations based upon the bass per angler-day rankings.

Bass data, as expressed in the B.A.I.T. Report from reservoirs with harvest restrictions or length limits, will be biased since the data is a function of the restrictions. Length limits are imposed to increase the number of fish below a minimum length or within a specified length range (slot limit) and should eventually result in a greater supply of bass above the limit. Because all minimum lengths and length ranges will be above the 12-inch limit self-imposed by most tournaments, the restrictions will reduce the total harvest in numbers and possibly pounds. However, those fish weighed in will be larger (longer) by virtue of the minimum length (MLL) or slot limit. In the B.A.I.T. Report, length-limit lakes should rank high for average weight and near the bottom for percent success and bass per angler-day.

The graphs throughout this report provide a historical record of how your favorite waters have performed in the B.A.I.T. Program. A few words of caution – these graphs are not restricted to bodies of water with five or more tournaments. Data points for some years may be represented by only a few tournaments. However, those situations are restricted to water bodies that have not been included in the quality indicator rankings in Table 2. These graphs can be used to predict future fishing quality by looking for trends.

Bass fishing in Alabama has been excellent in recent years. Members of the B.A.I.T. Program have a unique opportunity to contribute valuable biological data that helps make our bass fishery one of the best in the country. B.A.I.T. members realize the value of this program and we appreciate the individuals who provide their tournament catch data.
Good luck fishing! Don't forget to take a child with you and introduce him or her to the sport. They are our future anglers and stewards of Alabama's resources.

Length limits remained in effect during 2019 on:

West Point (14-inch MLL on largemouth)

Eufaula (14-inch MLL on largemouth)

Little Bear Creek (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth)

Smith (13- to 15-inch slot on all black bass)

Harris (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth)

Pickwick* (15-in. MLL on largemouth or smallmouth bass)

Wilson* (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass)

Wheeler* (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass)

Guntersville* (15-in. MLL on smallmouth and largemouth bass)

**No more than five of the daily creel limit of 10 black bass may be smallmouth bass.*

Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days a to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Bankhead	6	138	89.1	68.8	1112	437	55.0	45.0	0.0	100	864	1.98	14	0	4.94	12.88	89.13	3.93	7.77	79	8
Big Bear	1	17	94.1	76.5	136	73	.	.	.	.	137	1.88	0	0	4.61	14.91	94.12	5.37	10.10	.	.
Bartlett's Ferry	2	25	72.0	8.0	225	43	58.1	41.9	0.0	95	61	1.43	0	0	2.72	5.88	72.00	1.91	2.72	.	.
Cedar Creek	2	28	96.4	92.9	224	102	74.5	25.5	0.0	100	159	1.56	1	0	5.47	12.84	96.43	4.55	7.12	224	22
Demopolis	6	104	82.7	60.6	882	365	89.2	10.8	0.0	100	771	2.11	1	0	4.24	12.49	82.69	4.14	8.74	882	88
Eufaula	30	1382	74.7	35.5	11520	3764	90.8	9.2	0.0	95	10314	2.74	76	1	5.94	18.07	74.67	3.27	8.95	129	13
Guntersville	23	1754	77.5	27.5	15604	4553	92.6	5.8	1.6	99	13657	3.00	71	6	6.31	18.10	77.48	2.92	8.75	149	15
Harris	7	63	96.8	58.7	524	254	29.4	70.6	0.0	99	417	1.64	2	0	4.41	11.41	96.83	4.85	7.96	262	26
Holt	3	38	97.4	78.9	304	112	17.5	82.5	0.0	100	219	1.95	2	0	5.09	.	97.37	3.68	7.20	152	15
Jones Bluff	7	338	77.8	38.8	2739	914	19.5	80.5	0.0	99	1921	2.10	3	0	4.35	11.91	77.81	3.34	7.01	913	91
Jordan	7	477	94.5	65.0	4073	2831	17.6	82.4	0.0	97	6517	2.30	11	0	4.64	15.91	94.55	6.95	16.00	370	37
Lay	15	912	82.0	64.4	7485	3240	43.2	56.8	0.0	92	7548	2.33	34	0	5.61	16.35	82.02	4.33	10.08	202	20
Logan Martin	9	172	87.8	37.8	1404	473	21.2	78.8	0.0	97	785	1.66	0	0	3.32	11.62	87.79	3.37	5.59	.	.
Martin	9	786	95.5	81.4	6450	3457	8.8	91.2	0.0	100	6424	1.86	6	0	4.75	13.55	95.55	5.36	9.96	1075	108
Mobile Delta	26	537	79.0	47.1	4316	1637	98.4	1.6	0.0	98	3146	1.92	23	0	4.07	11.75	78.96	3.79	7.29	188	19
Millers Ferry	6	99	79.8	58.6	822	342	69.1	30.9	0.0	100	782	2.29	5	0	5.03	16.35	79.80	4.16	9.52	164	16
Mitchell	8	176	81.8	47.2	1442	491	35.0	65.0	0.0	98	1066	2.17	1	0	4.22	13.70	81.82	3.40	7.39	1442	144
Neely Henry	18	854	84.5	47.7	7054	2746	69.6	30.4	0.0	98	5941	2.16	17	1	4.51	12.99	84.54	3.89	8.42	349	35
Oliver	1	9	55.6	0.0	72	18	5.6	94.4	0.0	100	23	1.25	0	0	2.13	6.75	55.56	2.50	3.13	.	.
Pickwick	26	1597	75.0	31.5	14561	4551	83.3	4.8	11.8	94	12846	2.82	63	10	6.22	20.74	75.02	3.13	8.82	124	12
Smith	10	629	87.1	50.9	5139	2028	6.1	93.9	0.0	100	4463	2.20	1	0	4.40	16.11	87.12	3.95	8.68	5139	514
Tuscaloosa	1	184	82.6	25.0	1472	481	49.5	50.5	0.0	98	563	1.17	0	0	3.50	8.25	82.61	3.27	3.82	.	.
Upper Bear	5	78	78.2	66.7	637	239	56.0	44.0	0.0	100	418	1.75	6	0	4.74	17.74	78.21	3.75	6.57	106	11
Warrior	3	43	86.0	62.8	355	149	95.4	4.6	0.0	98	255	1.71	1	0	3.93	12.14	86.05	4.20	7.19	355	35
Weiss	17	547	83.4	43.5	4556	1663	60.2	39.8	0.0	98	3668	2.21	20	0	4.85	12.80	83.36	3.65	8.05	228	23
Wheeler	13	500	82.2	39.8	4255	1496	86.4	1.1	12.5	98	3200	2.14	10	0	5.17	16.49	82.20	3.52	7.52	289	29
Wilson	14	200	87.0	69.5	1667	681	83.9	0.2	15.9	96	1696	2.49	23	0	5.02	16.50	87.00	4.09	10.17	72	7
West Point	8	86	93.0	45.3	831	358	25.7	74.3	0.0	94	501	1.40	3	0	4.54	12.19	93.02	4.31	6.03	277	28
Yates	2	16	75.0	31.3	160	43	46.5	53.5	0.0	100	67	1.55	0	0	3.65	12.63	75.00	2.69	4.17	.	.
Grand Total	285	11789	81.7	45.3	100017	37541	55.7	42.7	1.6	97	88428	2.36	394	18	4.97	15.17	81.65	3.75	8.84	212	21

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Table 2. Ranking by quality indicators for all reservoirs with five or more tournament reports in the 2019 BAIT Program

Rank	Percent Success	Average Bass Weight	Bass per Angler-Day	Pounds per Angler-Day	Hours per Bass > 5 lbs.	Overall	Value
1	Harris	Guntersville	Jordan	Jordan	Wilson	Wilson	87
2	Martin	Pickwick	Martin	Wilson	Bankhead	Jordan	84
3	Jordan	Eufaula	Harris	Lay	Upper Bear	Lay	76
4	West Point	Wilson	Lay	Martin	Pickwick	Millers Ferry	70
5	Bankhead	Lay	West Point	Millers Ferry	Eufaula	Martin	67
6	Logan Martin	Jordan	Millers Ferry	Eufaula	Guntersville	Bankhead	64
7	Smith	Millers Ferry	Demopolis	Pickwick	Millers Ferry	Harris	62
8	Wilson	Weiss	Wilson	Guntersville	Mobile Delta	Pickwick	57
9	Neely Henry	Smith	Smith	Demopolis	Lay	Weiss	56
10	Weiss	Mitchell	Bankhead	Smith	Weiss	Eufaula	56
11	Demopolis	Neely Henry	Neely Henry	Neely Henry	Harris	Smith	55
12	Wheeler	Wheeler	Mobile Delta	Weiss	West Point	Guntersville	55
13	Lay	Demopolis	Upper Bear	Harris	Wheeler	Neely Henry	54
14	Mitchell	Jones Bluff	Weiss	Bankhead	Neely Henry	Demopolis	54
15	Millers Ferry	Bankhead	Wheeler	Wheeler	Jordan	West Point	48
16	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Mitchell	Mitchell	Demopolis	Wheeler	43
17	Upper Bear	Martin	Logan Martin	Mobile Delta	Jones Bluff	Mobile Delta	41
18	Jones Bluff	Upper Bear	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Martin	Upper Bear	40
19	Guntersville	Logan Martin	Eufaula	Upper Bear	Mitchell	Mitchell	35
20	Pickwick	Harris	Pickwick	West Point	Smith	Logan Martin	26
21	Eufaula	West Point	Guntersville	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	Jones Bluff	25

Table 3. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass re-leased alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight
1	2	16	68.8	18.8	96	29	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	60	2.06
2	9	130	83.8	34.6	1170	390	15.1	84.9	0.0	97	704	1.80
3	9	115	88.7	47.8	940	386	72.8	27.2	0.0	98	698	1.81
4	5	73	67.1	56.2	607	232	89.2	0.4	10.3	100	539	2.32
5	2	9	88.9	0.0	72	13	84.6	15.4	0.0	100	27	2.04
6	3	75	66.7	16.0	568	142	83.1	16.9	0.0	90	323	2.28
7	4	66	90.9	84.8	541	292	.	.	.	.	547	1.87
8	11	2341	85.0	65.1	20104	9197	46.3	52.5	1.2	96	23910	2.60
9	1	213	93.0	73.7	1704	911	.	.	.	100	1572	1.73
10	1	93	87.1	66.7	791	360	90.0	5.0	5.0	100	1316	3.66
11	7	157	86.6	66.2	1323	531	80.0	0.4	19.6	96	1463	2.76
12	11	162	82.7	67.3	1296	376	59.6	38.6	1.9	97	654	1.74
13	12	871	86.5	44.3	6968	2817	.	.	.	99	5918	2.10
14	2	13	100.0	76.9	115	56	44.6	55.4	0.0	96	104	1.86
15	1	60	80.0	55.0	480	209	47.8	52.2	0.0	100	421	2.02

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Table 3. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days a to catch a bass over 5 lb.
1	0	3.78	10.89	68.75	3.02	6.22	96	10
0	0	3.80	11.99	83.85	3.33	6.02	.	.
1	0	4.01	11.34	88.70	4.11	7.43	940	94
4	0	5.00	16.35	67.12	3.83	8.88	152	15
0	0	3.42	7.11	88.89	1.81	3.69	.	.
3	0	5.42	15.76	66.67	2.50	5.69	189	19
6	0	5.66	15.81	90.91	5.40	10.12	90	9
96	4	6.76	21.68	85.05	4.57	11.89	209	21
2	0	5.93	14.22	92.96	5.35	9.23	852	85
12	2	9.69	33.82	87.10	4.55	16.65	66	7
29	2	5.88	23.06	86.62	4.01	11.06	46	5
3	0	4.09	.	82.72	2.90	5.05	432	43
15	0	6.39	16.51	86.45	4.04	8.49	423	42
0	0	4.33	10.98	100.00	4.89	9.10	.	.
11	0	6.81	.	80.00	4.35	8.77	44	4

*A Day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Table 3. Continued: Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days a to catch a bass over 5 lb.
16	2	53	69.8	54.7	477	159	68.6	31.4	0.0	100	422	2.65	4	0	5.82	.	69.81	3.33	8.84	119	12
17	1	104	76.9	55.8	832	359	96.1	3.9	0.0	91	1056	2.94	12	0	6.54	22.84	76.92	4.31	12.69	69	7
18	5	58	86.2	51.7	464	186	79.0	21.0	0.0	98	445	2.39	5	0	5.49	16.82	86.21	4.01	9.60	93	9
19	2	46	93.5	69.6	368	187	97.3	2.7	0.0	100	383	2.05	2	0	5.35	14.02	93.48	5.08	10.40	184	18
20	8	208	87.5	76.9	1664	870	.	.	.	98	1903	2.19	21	0	5.22	16.27	87.50	5.23	11.44	79	8
21	1	32	43.8	28.1	320	61	100.0	0.0	0.0	97	153	2.51	2	0	6.69	.	43.75	1.91	4.78	160	16
22	17	678	78.2	40.9	5424	1706	.	.	.	99	3510	2.06	9	0	4.86	14.86	78.17	3.15	6.47	603	60
23	2	218	78.4	26.6	1744	560	.	.	.	.	1408	2.51	.	0	6.94	19.78	78.44	3.21	8.07	.	.
24	12	914	83.8	39.6	7312	2777	.	.	.	.	6694	2.41	9	4	6.89	17.97	83.81	3.80	9.15	237	24
25	1	208	77.9	47.6	1664	650	.	.	.	.	2081	3.20	.	.	.	29.19	77.89	3.91	12.51	.	.
26	1	75	72.0	16.0	600	155	.	.	.	.	498	3.21	.	.	.	22.63	72.00	2.58	8.31	.	.
27	11	141	97.2	74.5	1199	599	77.6	20.5	1.9	100	1303	2.18	4	0	4.81	14.66	97.16	5.00	10.87	300	30
28	6	40	62.5	30.0	340	86	70.9	29.1	0.0	98	210	2.45	3	0	4.97	15.29	62.50	2.53	6.19	113	11
29	11	514	84.4	55.8	4471	1551	36.1	63.9	0.1	98	3510	2.26	16	0	5.12	16.57	84.44	3.47	7.85	279	28
30	2	411	72.5	18.7	3288	879	72.0	27.6	0.3	99	1584	1.80	13	0	5.53	13.38	72.51	2.67	4.82	253	25
31	1	33	69.7	21.2	264	80	86.3	13.8	0.0	81	161	2.01	2	0	7.31	13.44	69.70	3.03	6.10	132	13
32	3	34	82.4	29.4	261	88	.	.	.	97	145	1.65	0	0	3.27	8.43	82.35	3.37	5.55	.	.
33	14	100	93.0	44.0	1070	343	54.7	44.6	0.6	94	668	1.95	6	0	4.70	11.47	93.00	3.21	6.24	170	17
34	2	360	84.7	13.1	2880	688	94.8	3.2	2.1	99	1611	2.34	5	0	5.29	16.75	84.72	2.39	5.59	576	58
35	6	78	85.9	53.8	699	264	100.0	0.0	0.0	96	416	1.58	1	0	3.89	10.01	85.90	3.78	5.96	699	70
36	3	12	83.3	41.7	52	37	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	76	2.05	0	0	3.75	12.55	83.33	7.12	14.55	.	.
37	2	25	52.0	12.0	175	35	93.3	0.0	6.7	100	88	2.51	0	0	4.11	12.18	52.00	2.00	5.01	.	.
38	4	249	75.5	52.2	1992	825	.	.	.	96	2410	2.92	27	0	7.08	27.83	75.50	4.14	12.10	74	7
39	1	23	87.0	43.5	184	73	.	.	.	100	208	2.85	5	0	7.56	23.75	86.96	3.97	11.32	37	4
40	5	913	76.2	25.1	8217	3123	.	.	.	98	6443	2.06	23	0	6.41	16.05	76.23	3.80	7.84	357	36
41	1	7	85.7	28.6	56	12	98.1	1.9	0.0	100	24	1.97	0	0	4.22	6.46	85.71	2.14	4.23	.	.
42	15	854	74.0	25.2	6832	1840	.	.	.	.	5364	2.92	24	2	6.07	20.34	74.01	2.69	7.85	138	14
43	44	452	81.2	32.7	4355	1367	40.1	59.9	0.0	96	2476	1.81	13	0	4.20	11.73	81.20	3.14	5.68	335	33
44	9	183	82.5	61.2	1464	386	100.0	0.0	0.0	.	838	2.17	4	0	4.48	.	82.51	2.64	5.72	366	37
45	3	12	75.0	25.0	98	33	51.5	48.5	0.0	100	69	2.10	0	0	3.65	11.79	75.00	3.38	7.10	.	.
46	1	200	82.0	37.5	3200	1228	.	.	.	95	3324	2.71	.	4	8.90	22.85	82.00	3.84	10.39	.	.
47	4	106	83.0	20.8	848	209	.	.	.	.	322	1.54	0	0	3.33	10.08	83.02	2.46	3.80	.	.
48	5	54	74.1	63.0	432	184	.	.	.	100	368	2.00	1	0	3.94	12.06	74.07	4.26	8.53	432	43
Grand Total	285	11789	81.7	45.3	100017	37541	55.7	42.7	1.6	97	88428	2.36	394	18	4.97	15.17	81.65	3.75	8.84	212	21

*A day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Table 3. Continued: Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

*A day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments for Big Bass in 2019

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. > 5lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Division (pro)	Guntersville	Feb. 24	30
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Wilson	March 10	25
BFL Choo Choo Division (co-angler)	Guntersville	Feb. 24	20
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	March 10	18
Alabama Children's Classic	Eufaula	June 2	17
BFL Choo-Choo Division	Wheeler	March 24	13
Alabama Bass Nation	Eufaula	March 17	11
Alabama Bass Trail	Wheeler	April 21	11
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Wheeler	Feb. 24	11
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	April 7	10

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments for Single-Day Winning Weight in 2019

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. > 5lbs.
Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club	Wilson	March 10	31.56 ibs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	Nov. 17	30.96 lbs.
Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club	Pickwick	April 7	30.94 lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	Feb. 24	30.31 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	March 10	30.02 lbs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	May 19	28.81 lbs.
Boyd's Bass Trail	Eufaula	Mar. 24	27.88 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	Apr. 7	27.41 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Weiss	May 12	26.84 lbs.
MDWFP submission	Pickwick	March 10	25.70 lbs.

Records Set in 2019 (33 Year History of B.A.I.T. Reporting) *LAKES WITH FIVE OR MORE REPORTS

WATERBODY	RECORD	2019 VALUE	LAKE AVERAGE
Jones Bluff	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.70	4.78
Jones Bluff	Average Weight	2.05	1.71
Jones Bluff	Bass Per Angler-Day	4.72	2.80
Lay	Pounds Per Angler-Day	10.13	5.57
Lay	Bass Per Angler-Day	4.16	2.92
Mitchell	Average Weight	2.08	1.79
Mitchell	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.00	5.48
Mobile Delta	Average Weight	1.85	1.61
Mobile Delta	Pounds Per Angler-Day	8.26	4.63
Weiss	Pounds Per Angler-Day	9.61	4.89
Weiss	Average Weight	2.14	1.74
Wilson	Hours to Catch a 5 lbs.	54	201
Statewide	Bass Per Angler-Day	3.92	2.71

Bass Over 8 Pounds from 2019 B.A.I.T. Reports

ORGANIZATION	DATE	LAKE	BIG FISH
BFL Choo Choo Division (co-angler)	Feb. 24	Guntersville	*11.69
Fayette Bass Club	June 16	Guntersville	10.69
BFL Choo Choo Division (pro)	Feb. 24	Guntersville	*10.00
BFL Bama Division	May 12	Eufaula	8.88
Alabama Bass Trail	Apr. 7	Eufaula	8.83
MDWFP submission	Mar. 10	Pickwick	8.74
Boyd's Bass Trail	Mar. 24	Eufaula	8.63
Alabama Bass Nation	May 19	Guntersville	8.62
Alabama Bass Trail	Mar. 10	Guntersville	*8.56
Alabama Bass Nation	Mar. 17	Eufaula	8.49
MDWFP submission	May 19	Pickwick	8.40
MDWFP submission	Nov. 17	Pickwick	8.37
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Mar. 10	Wilson	*8.31
MDWFP submission	Dec. 15	Pickwick	8.31
Alabama Bass Nation	Feb. 17	Eufaula	8.24

**INDICATES TWO OR MORE BASS OVER 8 POUNDS WEIGHED IN.*

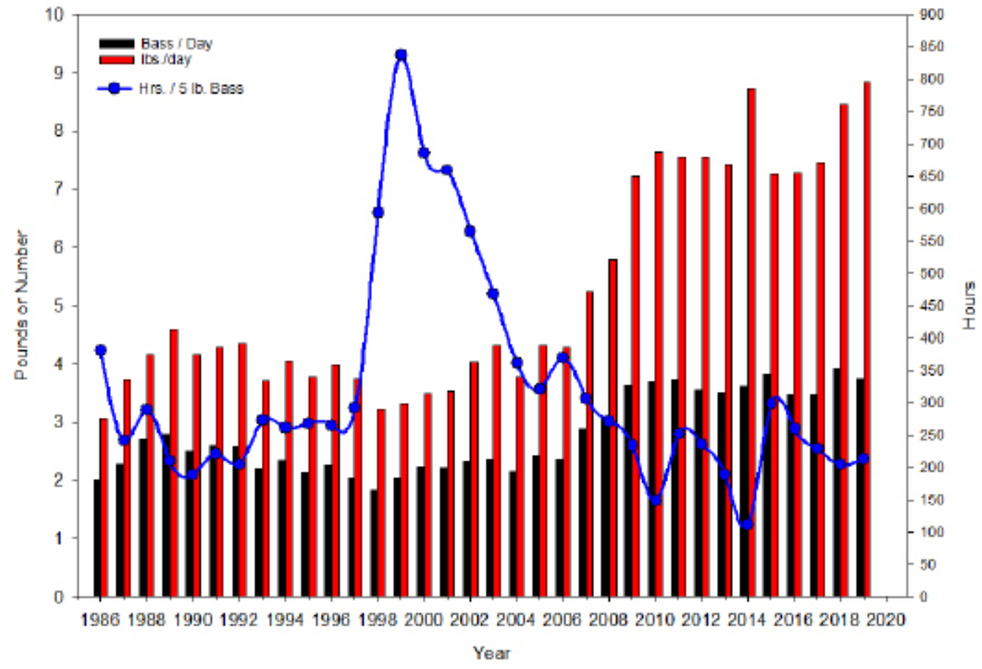


FIGURE 1: ANNUAL CATCH FOR B.A.I.T. TOURNAMENTS, 1986-2019

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2019 B.A.I.T. annual report

Club Name	Club Number	City	State	Representative	Phone
Alabama Association of General Contractors (AGC)	21	Irondale	AL	Josh West	205-451-1400
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	29	Birmingham	AL	Eddie Plemons	205-979-3526
Alabama Bass Federation	22	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Alabama Bass Federation High School	30	Auburn	AL	Darrel High	334-707-7355
Alabama Bass Trail	8	Decatur	AL	Clay Baldis	256-309-9852
Alabama Children's Classic Bass Tournament	17	Eufaula	AL	Sam Williams	334-355-5057
Alabama Student Angler Bass Fishing (Statewide)	40	Eufaula	AL	Tim Walker	334-355-3923
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	11	Lawrenceburg	TN	Jonathan Edwards	931-762-5531
Aluminum Fishing Series	41	Woburn	MA	Chris Martin	781-367-2148
American Bass Anglers Alabama East Central (Div. 88)	18	Cave Springs	GA	Rhonda Ford	706-936-4530
American Bass Anglers Alabama North (Div. 29)	10	Athens	AL	Shelby McElyea	256-230-5633
American Bass Anglers Central Alabama Couples	5	Cave Springs	GA	Rhonda Ford	706-936-4530
ASABFA	9	Wetumpka	AL	Tim Walker	334-355-3923
Association of Collegiate Anglers	46	San Antonio	TX	Anthony Wright	501-317-7281
Bay Area Bassmasters	3	Robertsdale	AL	Joe Barnett	251-931-3025
BFL Bama Division	13	Benton	KY	Leroy Hensley	270-252-1000
BFL Bulldog Division	23	Benton	KY	Mike Hale	270-252-1000
BFL Choo Choo Division	24	Benton	KY	Mike Hale	270-703-5441
BFL Music City Division	34	Benton	KY	Robert Evans	270-703-9969
Bluff City Bassmasters	28	Eufaula	AL	Jim Howard	334-616-1918
Bonnie Plants Classic	31	Union Springs	AL	Vince Culpepper	334-248-9071
Boyd's Bass Trail	38	Dothan	AL	Bill Knight	334-441-8421
Brookwood Bass Club	14	Tuscaloosa	AL	Jim Steadman	205-792-9194
Carbon Hill Bass Club	12	Eldridge	AL	Mark Edmonds	205-389-2505
Chip Wammack Invitational	36	Tuscumbia	AL	Janet Wright	256-383-7474
Christian Bassmen of Montgomery	32	Wetumpka	AL	Brian Selix	334-328-8163
Collinsville Bass Club	19	Collinsville	MS	George Little	601-513-0429
Fayette Bass Club	44	Bankston	AL	Todd Tucker	
Flexco Company Bass Tournament	37	Tuscumbia	AL	Janet Wright	256-383-7474
FLW College Fishing Southeastern Conference	25	Benton	KY	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
FLW High School	26	Benton	KY	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
Gadsden Bassmasters	45	Gadsden	AL	Kelly Stephens	256-442-9933
Georgia DNR	43	Perry	GA	Clint Peacock	
Gilbertown Bass Club	48	Silas	AL	Brock Carpenter	251-847-3494
Hamilton Bassmasters	7	Hamilton	AL	Tim Seagraves	
Heartland Anglers Div. 1	4	Woodlands	TX	Larry Pierce	256-777-2046
Kowaliga	33	Tallassee	AL	Hank Golden	334-354-3387
L & L Marine	15	Northport	AL	Bob Hale	205-333-1605
Lady Bass Anglers Association	47				
Mediabass AL	20	Petal	MS	Allen Stephens	601-624-6647
Miss. Div. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	42	Tupelo	MS	Stan Crider	
Mobile Bassmasters	1	Mobile	AL	Bob Steele	251-661-9600
National Bass Trail (GA/AL)	6	Cataula	GA	Blaine Souerwine	706-577-6874
Rumblin Waters B.A.S.S. Club	2	Eclectic	AL	Tomy Gamble	
SLABS	39	Cullman	AL	Darryl Bartlett	256-636-2547
Southern Masters	35	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
Team Share the Gospel	16	Chatom	AL	Rev. Howard Gaston	251-232-1940
West Alabama Bass Fishermans Assn.	27	Gordo	AL	Jeff Gilliam	205-242-7378

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive
JAN	13	239	65.7	33.1	1908	532	49.0	51.0	0.0	100
FEB	27	1564	83.0	55.3	12707	5194	25.3	73.2	1.5	99
MAR	42	2012	81.9	44.7	16605	6174	38.4	60.9	0.8	100
APR	44	2038	81.4	41.7	17370	5917	45.6	53.5	0.8	98
MAY	35	1785	89.4	60.0	16325	8069	69.3	25.3	5.4	93
JUN	33	1403	82.9	50.2	11393	4461	81.1	18.2	0.6	96
JUL	12	162	77.2	32.1	1329	376	66.3	33.7	0.0	96
AUG	12	154	64.3	32.5	1248	344	58.4	41.6	0.0	98
SEP	28	741	79.1	35.0	6067	1982	33.7	64.5	1.7	94
OCT	19	911	84.4	26.8	8701	2624	83.0	15.2	1.7	98
NOV	14	709	65.2	33.6	5743	1625	58.0	41.8	0.3	100
DEC	6	71	93.0	43.7	624	243	48.6	51.4	0.0	99
Total	**285**	**11789**	**81.7**	**45.3**	**100017**	**37541**	**55.7**	**42.7**	**1.6**	**97**

***a day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

Month	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days a to catch a bass over 5 lb.
JAN	1353	2.54	16	0	4.86	13.90	65.69	2.79	7.09	119	12
FEB	12159	2.34	47	6	5.19	16.98	82.99	4.09	9.57	231	23
MAR	14470	2.34	75	3	5.71	17.52	81.86	3.72	8.71	174	17
APR	13571	2.29	59	0	5.10	16.00	81.40	3.41	7.81	265	27
MAY	19398	2.40	57	6	5.41	16.42	89.36	4.94	11.88	168	17
JUN	11019	2.47	59	2	4.90	15.42	82.89	3.92	9.67	164	16
JUL	814	2.17	4	0	4.24	11.46	77.16	2.83	6.13	332	33
AUG	686	1.99	0	0	3.90	12.00	64.29	2.76	5.50	.	.
SEP	4193	2.12	19	1	4.44	14.82	79.08	3.27	6.91	274	27
OCT	6586	2.51	30	0	4.32	11.83	84.41	3.02	7.57	288	29
NOV	3777	2.32	26	0	4.98	13.50	65.16	2.83	6.58	221	22
DEC	403	1.66	2	0	3.89	11.60	92.96	3.89	6.45	312	31
Total	**88428**	**2.36**	**394**	**18**	**4.97**	**15.17**	**81.65**	**3.75**	**8.84**	**212**	**21**

***1 day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
EUFAULA	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	3	124	76.6	978	391	83.7	16.3	0.0	96	1112	2.84	5	0	5.83	20.08	4.00	11.37	196
	MAR	4	250	76.0	2008	625	72.7	27.3	0.0	100	1666	2.67	17	0	6.79	20.81	3.11	8.30	118
	APR	6	167	71.3	1788	431	79.6	20.4	0.0	97	1153	2.67	13	0	6.17	19.11	2.41	6.45	138
	MAY	1	6	50.0	54	12	75.0	25.0	0.0	92	32	2.69	0	0	4.77	15.91	2.22	5.98	.
	JUN	4	530	77.4	4240	1631	95.3	4.7	0.0	93	4727	2.90	30	1	7.26	23.06	3.85	11.15	83
	JUL	1	8	25.0	64	6	83.3	16.7	0.0	100	18	2.94	0	0	3.94	14.95	0.94	2.75	.
	AUG	1	19	52.6	152	24	87.5	12.5	0.0	100	60	2.51	0	0	4.60	13.82	1.58	3.97	.
	SEP	5	213	75.6	1704	509	.	.	.	81	1257	2.47	6	0	6.00	18.12	2.99	7.38	284
	OCT	5	65	64.6	532	135	83.0	17.0	0.0	88	289	2.14	5	0	5.31	12.04	2.54	5.43	106
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
GUNTERSVILLE	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	3	327	69.7	2663	779	90.0	5.0	5.0	100	2680	3.44	12	5	9.22	25.86	2.93	10.07	66
	MAR	3	291	76.3	2336	820	100	0.0	0.0	100	2623	3.20	1	0	6.04	22.47	3.51	11.23	72
	APR	3	23	73.9	277	51	87.5	12.5	0.0	96	179	3.50	5	0	5.31	9.38	1.84	6.45	55
	MAY	2	19	89.5	152	59	77.8	22.2	0.0	92	137	2.33	1	0	5.11	14.26	3.88	9.04	152
	JUN	1	26	92.3	208	59	.	.	.	.	152	2.58	1	0	5.13	.	2.84	7.32	208
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	4	186	83.3	1488	527	.	.	.	.	1278	2.43	9	1	9.06	17.00	3.54	8.59	69
	OCT	3	532	87.6	5632	1638	93.8	4.9	1.3	99	5085	3.10	23	0	5.81	17.14	2.91	9.03	245
	NOV	4	350	65.7	2848	620	91.8	7.6	0.6	99	1523	2.46	19	0	6.26	16.81	2.18	5.35	150
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
LAY	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	3	71	82	589	204	34	66	0	100	515	3	2	0	6	15	3	9	295
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	5	472	90.7	3878	1899	57.7	42.3	0.0	86	4427	2.33	21	0	6.54	19.62	4.90	11.42	155
	JUN	2	48	89.6	438	191	61.8	38.2	0.0	97	529	2.77	4	0	5.66	16.11	4.36	12.07	110
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	2	70	92.9	560	222	.	.	.	.	416	1.87	2	0	5.30	14.24	3.96	7.43	280
	OCT	1	10	100	80	41	.	.	.	93	73	1.79	0	0	3.45	11.50	5.13	9.17	.
	NOV	2	241	59.8	1940	683	17.4	82.6	0.0	100	1588	2.33	5	0	4.80	14.84	3.52	8.19	388
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

***1 day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
MOBILE DELTA	JAN	3	30	73.3	206	65	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	83	1.27	0	0	2.86	7.28	3.16	4.01	.
	FEB	2	24	91.7	210	87	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	121	1.39	0	0	3.08	10.73	4.15	5.79	.
	MAR	3	55	92.7	461	223	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	401	1.80	2	0	4.60	13.78	4.84	8.70	231
	APR	2	68	91.2	544	292	.	.	.	98	697	2.39	5	0	5.22	16.13	5.37	12.80	109
	MAY	3	55	81.8	454	179	92.5	7.5	0.0	98	345	1.93	8	0	4.63	10.59	3.94	7.60	57
	JUN	2	44	90.9	359	180	100.0	0.0	0.0	94	386	2.15	6	0	5.30	17.11	5.02	10.78	60
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	38	78.9	304	146	.	.	.	99	290	1.99	0	0	4.50	13.19	4.80	9.54	.
	SEP	4	125	63.2	1000	235	.	.	.	97	407	1.73	1	0	3.93	11.33	2.35	4.07	1000
	OCT	2	19	73.7	158	44	92.1	7.9	0.0	100	64	1.46	0	0	2.46	7.65	2.79	4.08	.
	NOV	2	67	71.6	531	155	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	305	1.97	1	0	3.96	13.01	2.92	5.75	531
	DEC	1	12	91.7	90	31	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	46	1.48	0	0	3.65	9.25	3.44	5.11	.
NEELY HENRY	JAN	1	27	44.4	216	23	.	.	.	100	51	2.21	1	0	6.38	10.94	1.06	2.35	216
	FEB	2	19	57.9	152	24	41.7	58.3	0.0	100	52	2.17	0	0	3.34	9.91	1.58	3.42	.
	MAR	2	209	74.2	1878	423	16.7	83.3	0.0	100	770	1.82	3	0	3.98	15.55	2.25	4.10	626
	APR	1	14	71.4	112	45	86.7	13.3	0.0	100	101	2.24	1	0	5.81	19.81	4.02	9.00	112
	MAY	2	141	99.3	1128	626	.	.	.	.	1377	2.20	.	0	5.69	17.22	5.55	12.20	.
	JUN	6	412	89.1	3304	1520	71.0	29.0	0.0	98	3439	2.26	12	1	4.93	13.33	4.60	10.41	275
	JUL	2	17	88.2	136	55	18.8	81.3	0.0	93	91	1.65	0	0	2.96	9.69	4.04	6.68	.
	AUG	2	15	80.0	128	30	83.3	16.7	0.0	97	61	2.02	0	0	4.65	10.48	2.34	4.74	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
PICKWICK	JAN	3	119	58.8	952	258	.	.	.	100	887	3.44	14	0	7.37	25.19	2.71	9.32	68
	FEB	2	39	53.8	296	89	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	345	3.87	7	1	5.55	18.28	3.01	11.64	42
	MAR	2	92	68.5	746	163	86.3	2.0	11.8	100	548	3.36	8	3	8.43	30.31	2.18	7.34	93
	APR	6	528	73.9	4423	1035	.	.	.	.	2777	2.68	14	0	5.99	19.55	2.34	6.28	193
	MAY	5	652	83	6822	2725	83	5	12	93	7554	3	16	6	8	22	4	11	113
	JUN	3	50	64	400	72	82	0	18	98	186	3	0	0	4	14	2	5	.
	JUL	3	85	76	680	166	.	.	.	.	429	3	4	0	6	16	2	6	170
	AUG	2	32	41	242	43	.	.	.	100	121	3	0	0	4	17	2	5	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

***1 day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
SMITH	JAN	1	16	81.3	128	28	32.1	67.9	0.0	100	75	2.69	0	0	4.38	.	2.19	5.88	.
	FEB	3	296	83.1	2368	901	5.7	94.3	0.0	100	2075	2.30	1	0	5.04	19.57	3.80	8.76	2368
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	6	317	91.2	2643	1099	5.2	94.8	0.0	99	2313	2.10	0	0	4.03	14.38	4.16	8.75	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
WEISS	JAN	1	2	100	16	4	75	25	0	100	9	2	0	0	4	.	3	5	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	2	17	88	136	47	79	21	0	98	132	3	2	0	7	16	3	10	68
	APR	3	392	84.2	3310	1256	54.4	45.6	0.0	98	2741	2.18	13	0	5.94	15.02	3.79	8.28	255
	MAY	3	25	88.0	211	73	74.0	26.0	0.0	89	181	2.48	2	0	4.38	13.84	3.46	8.58	105
	JUN	3	74	86.5	592	210	0.0	100.0	0.0	100	452	2.15	2	0	3.95	12.76	3.55	7.64	296
	JUL	2	12	66.7	86	26	57.7	42.3	0.0	96	60	2.29	0	0	4.56	10.75	3.02	6.94	.
	AUG	1	11	36.4	94	12	33.3	66.7	0.0	100	16	1.36	0	0	2.78	7.60	1.28	1.74	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	2	14	79	112	35	96	4	0	100	76	2	1	0	5	10	3	7	112
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
WHEELER	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	5	334	81.1	2824	930	92.9	0.7	6.4	100	2035	2.19	8	0	6.15	18.17	3.29	7.21	189
	APR	2	45	80.0	392	166	86.7	0.0	13.3	98	349	2.10	1	0	4.94	14.78	4.24	8.92	392
	MAY	4	92	89.1	797	322	76.8	3.6	19.6	92	682	2.12	1	0	4.74	21.23	4.04	8.56	797
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	2	29	75.9	242	78	90.5	0.0	9.5	97	134	1.71	0	0	3.50	9.28	3.22	5.52	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

***1 day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

Table 6. continued - Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2019 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day *	Pounds per day *	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
WILSON	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	26	100.0	221	125	76.0	0.0	24.0	100	446	3.57	16	0	6.50	24.75	5.66	20.17	14
	MAR	1	2	100.0	9	6	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	17	2.89	0	0	3.60	15.32	6.67	19.24	.
	APR	4	45	84.4	363	154	97.4	0.0	2.6	96	298	1.93	1	0	4.53	12.36	4.24	8.20	363
	MAY	3	58	95	470	189	93	0	7	93	425	2	1	0	5	19	4	9	470
	JUN	2	31	87.1	304	105	87.1	1.6	11.3	95	263	2.51	3	0	6.53	22.88	3.45	8.66	101
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	2	19	42.1	139	35	80.0	0.0	20.0	100	85	2.44	0	0	4.38	15.44	2.53	6.17	.
	OCT	1	19	94.7	162	67	71.6	0.0	28.4	93	162	2.42	2	0	5.50	19.31	4.15	10.05	81
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

***1 day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours**

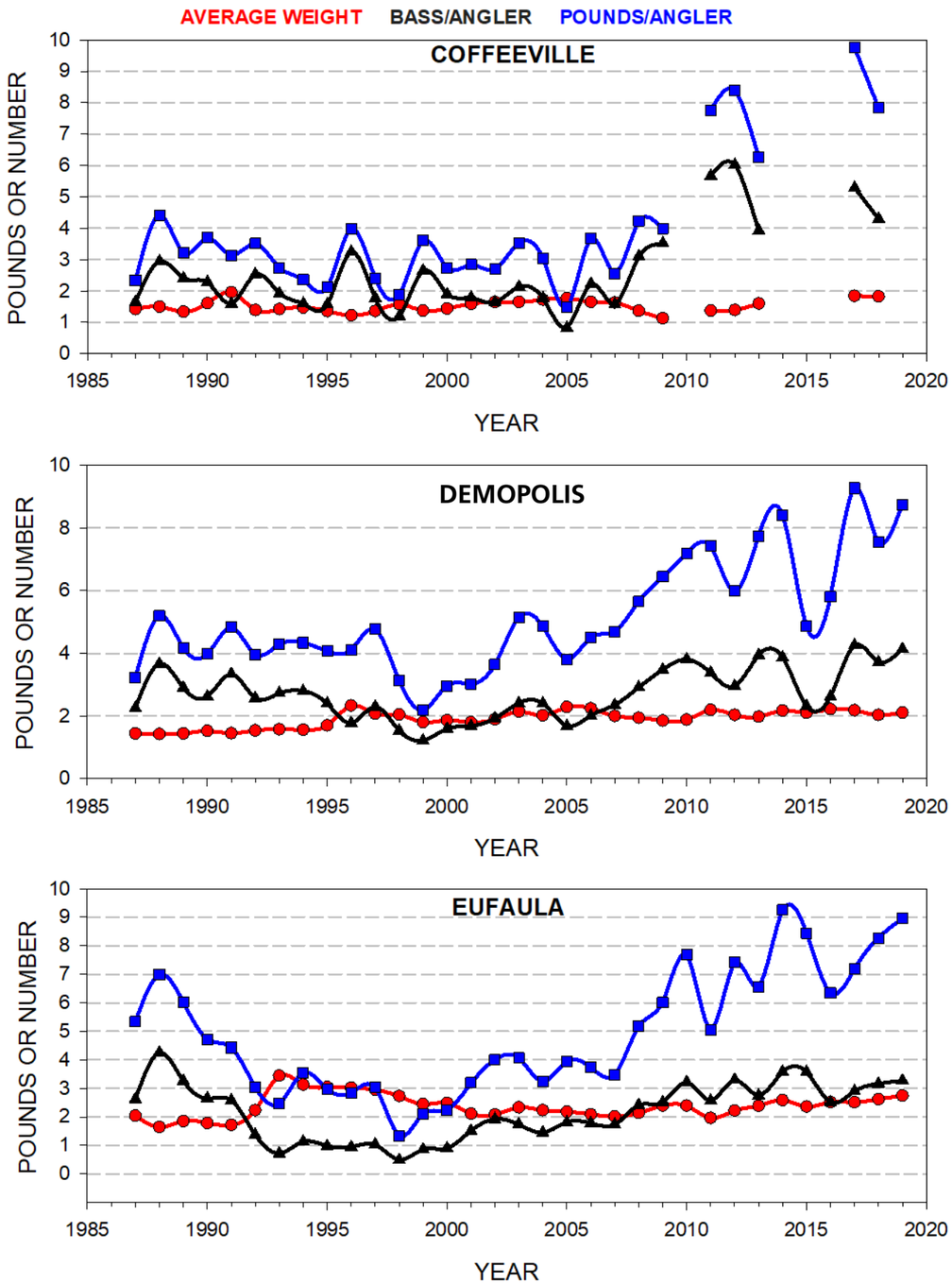


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeeville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2019.

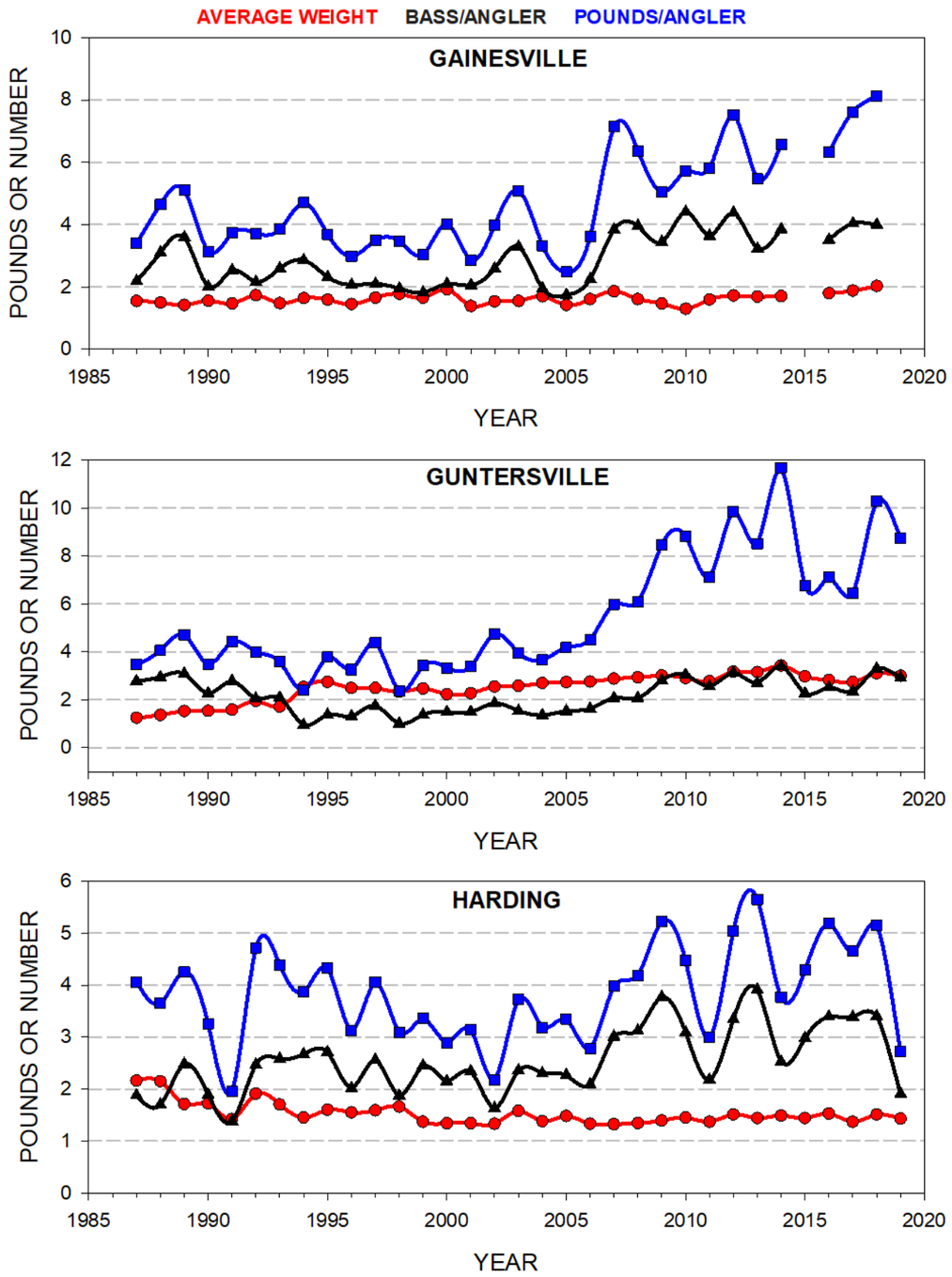
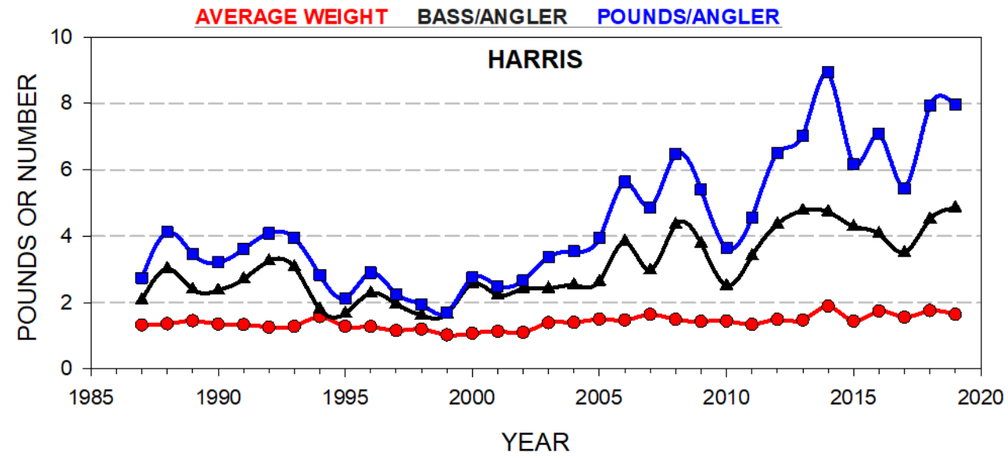
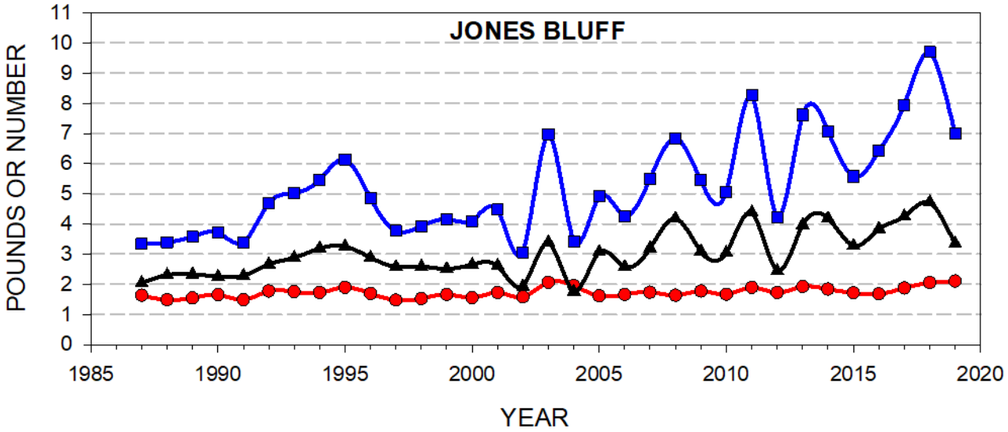


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Guntersville, and Harding, through 2019.





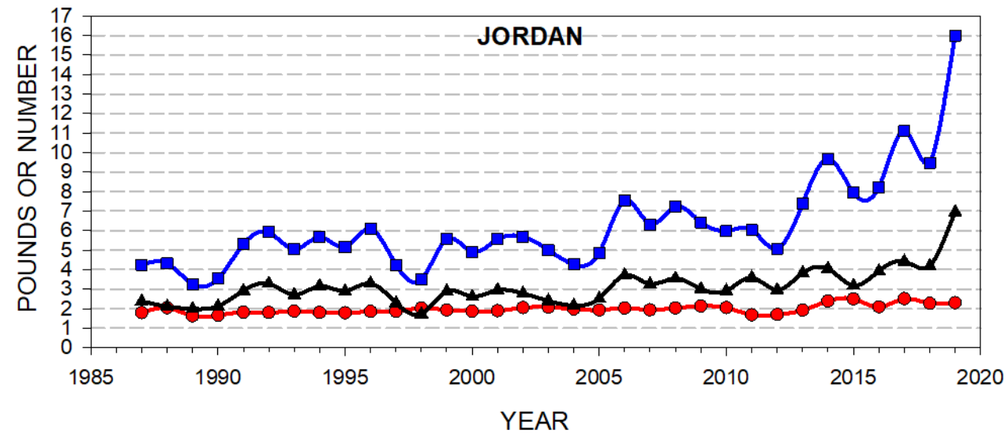
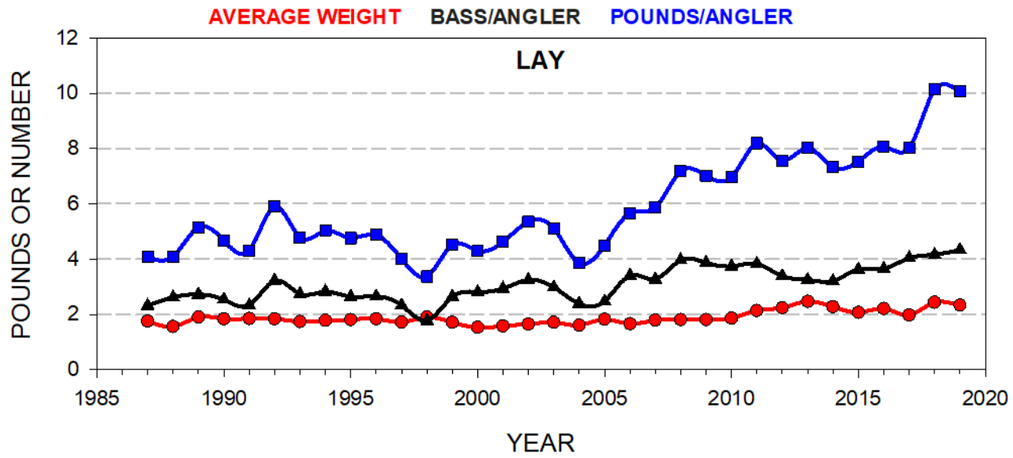
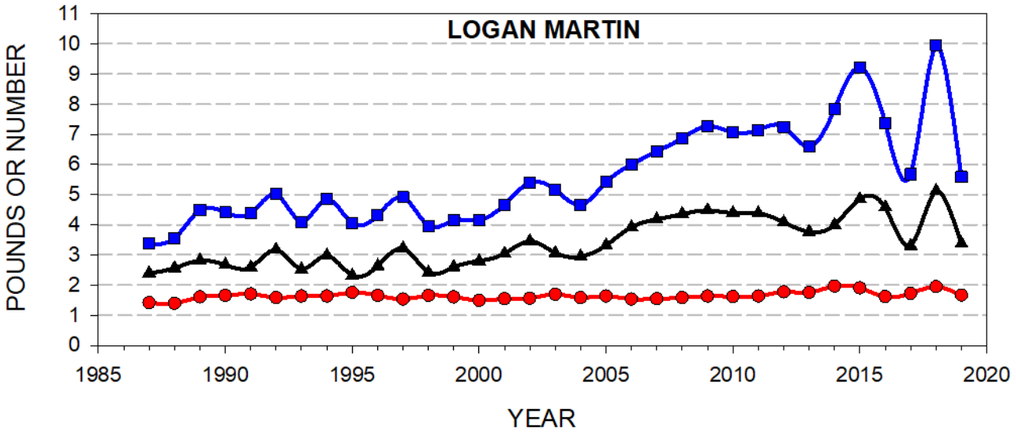


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2019.





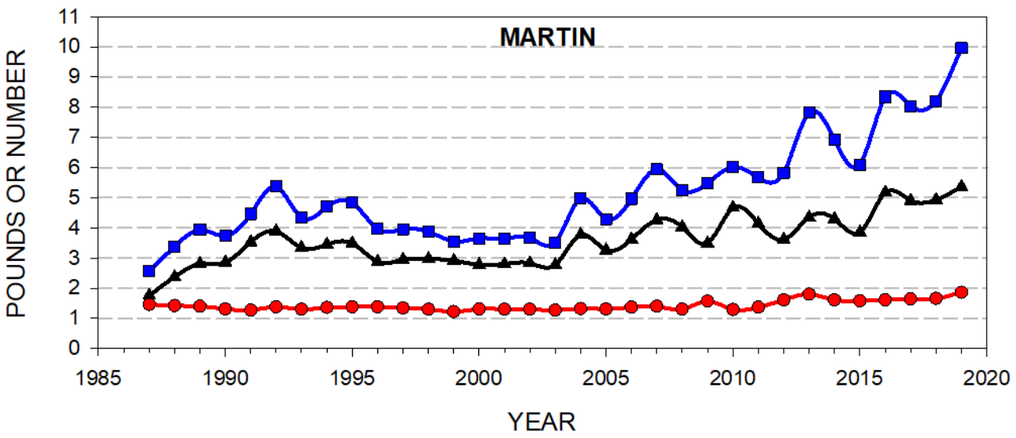
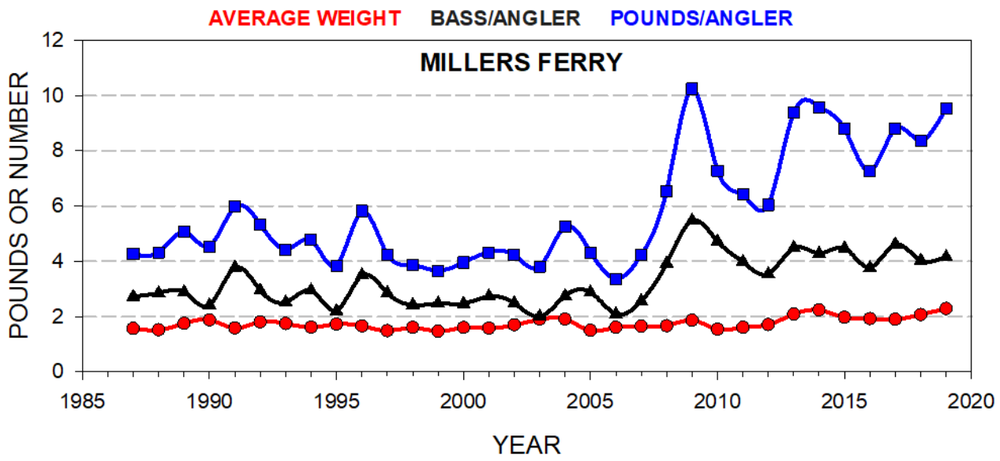
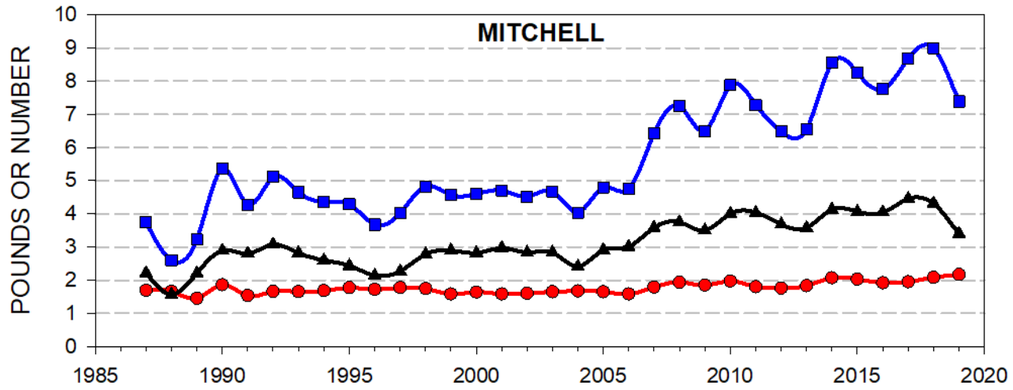


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2019.





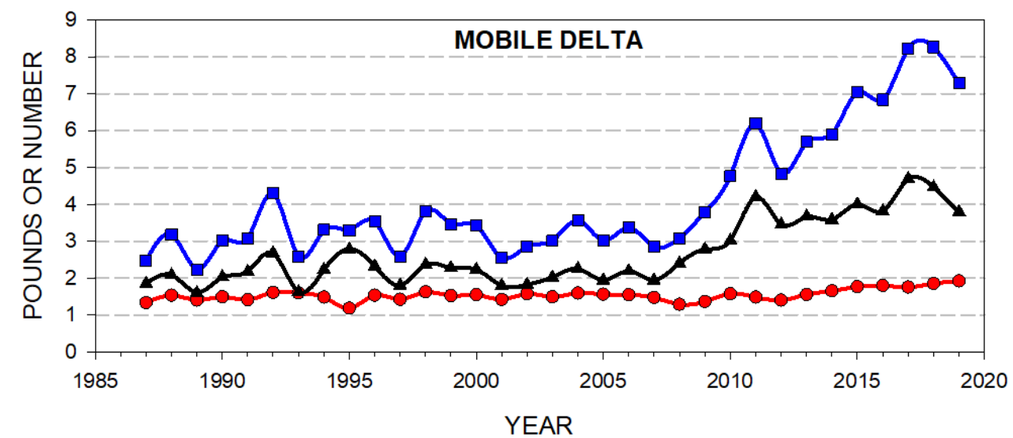
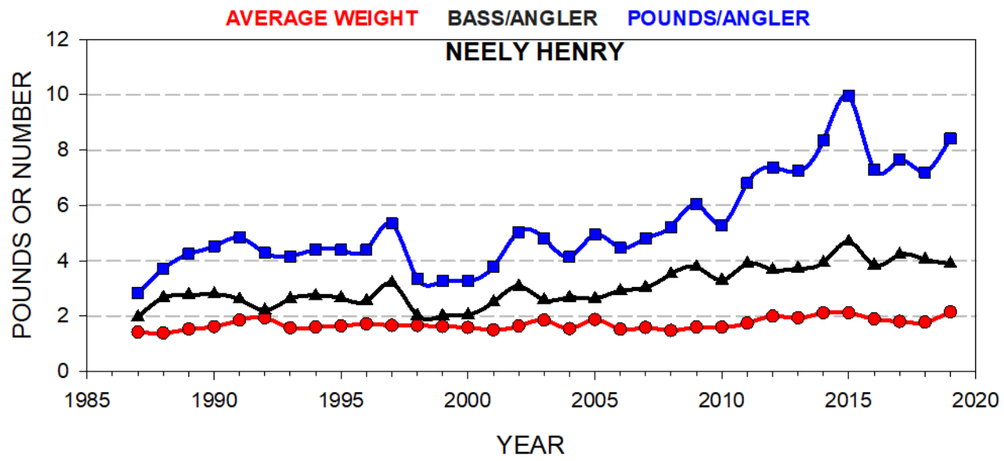
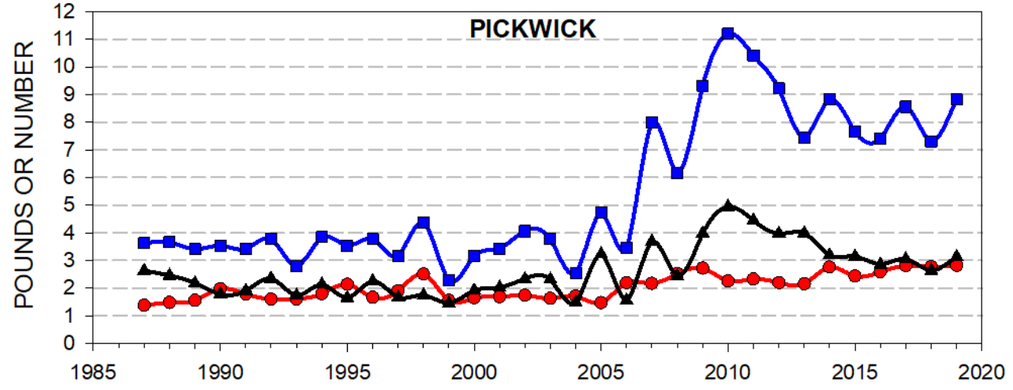


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2019.





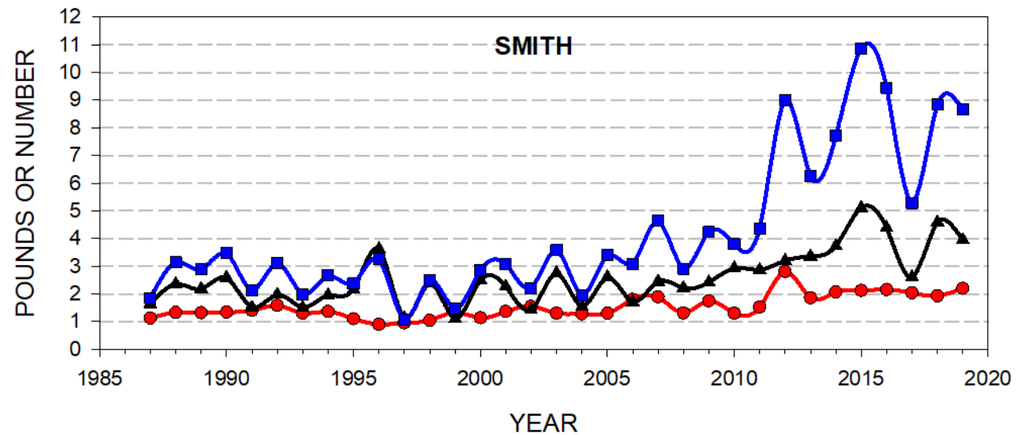
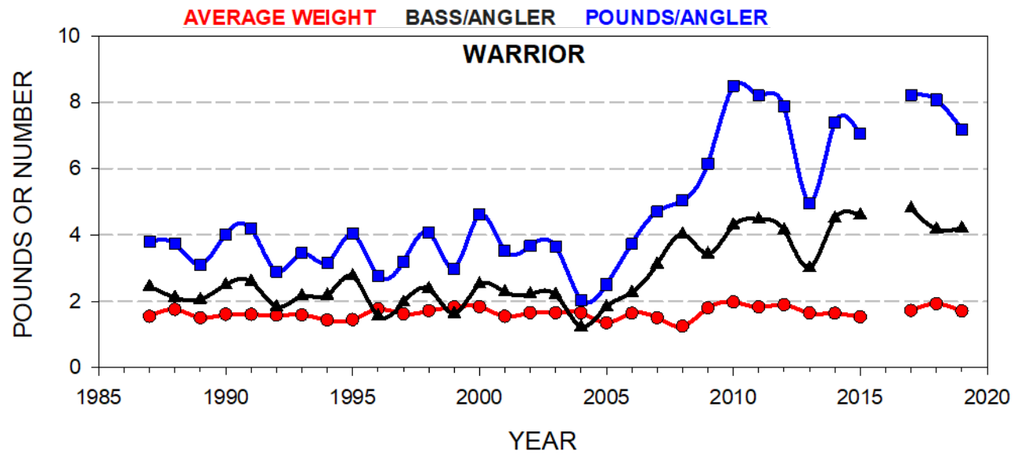
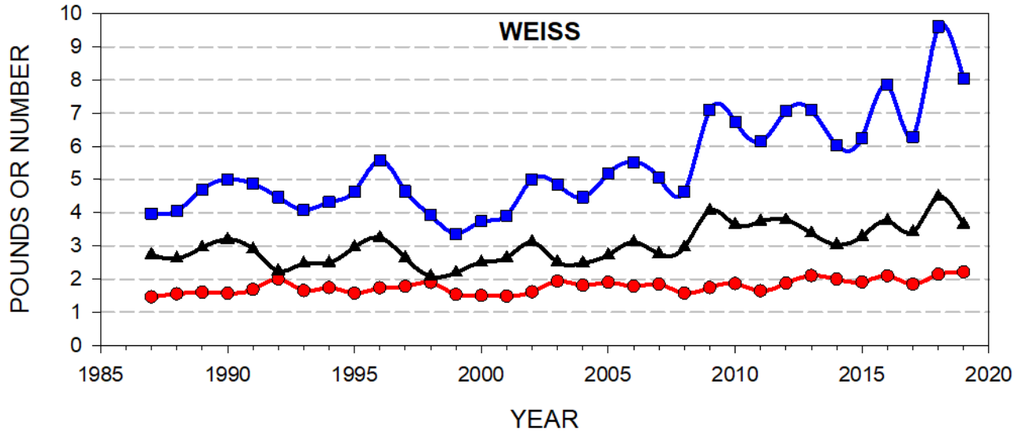


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith through 2019.





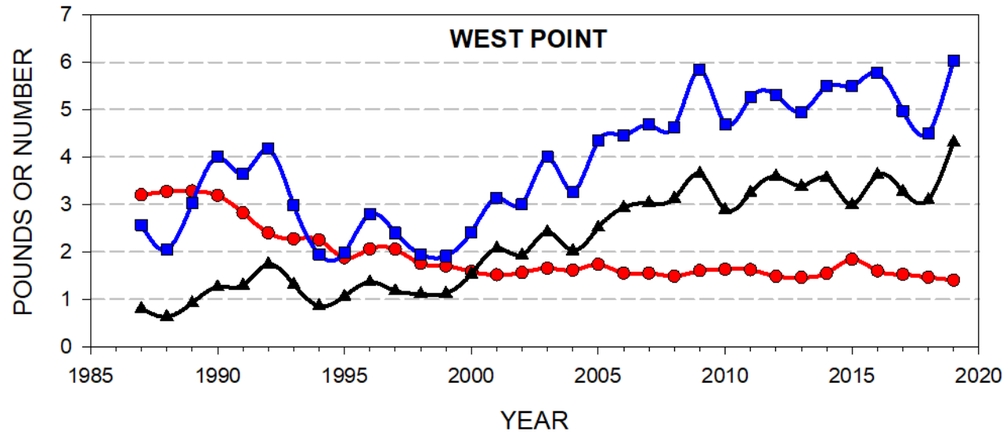
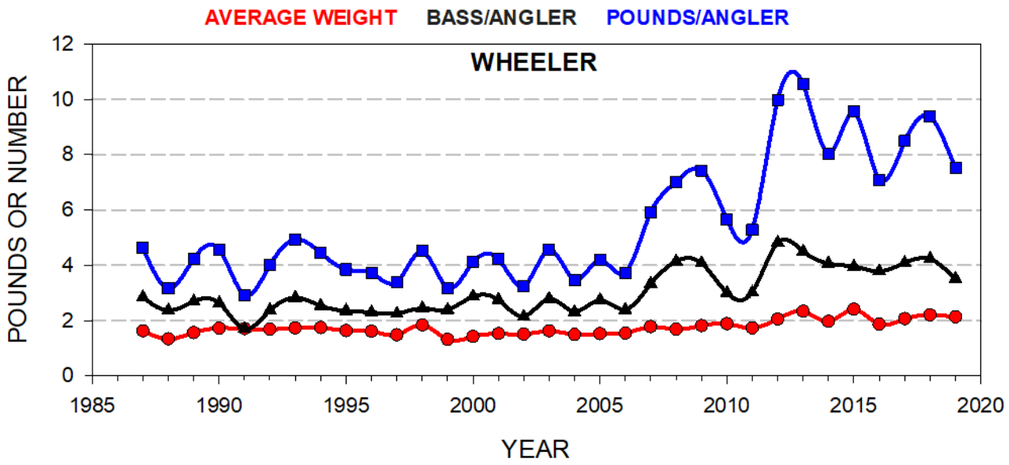


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2019.



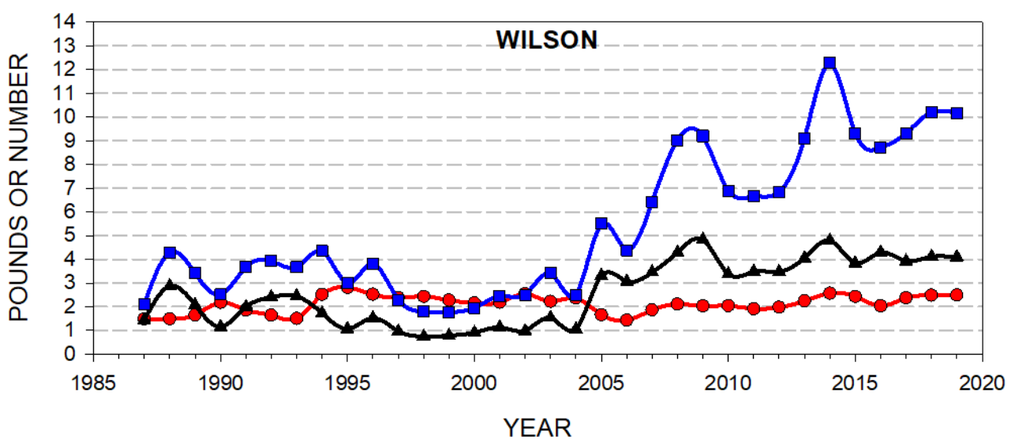


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson through 2019.

HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

In 2019, the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team completed a number of reservoir habitat restoration projects and prepared for many upcoming enhancement activities. Since the first year of the program in 2015, more than 4,900 fish attractors have been installed throughout the state.

While most of the projects have focused on fish attraction (i.e., artificial structures), other projects are aimed at enhancing fish production. The Environmental Affairs Division of Alabama Power Company and other partners have assisted with many projects including transplanting native American water willow (Justicia americana) on Martin and Smith Reservoirs as well as buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) on Martin, Smith, West Point, Logan Martin, and Weiss Reservoirs. These projects will greatly enhance aquatic habitat by providing cover for juvenile fishes and nesting cover for largemouth bass.

Reservoirs selected for aquatic vegetation enhancement operate on an annual drawdown schedule. Unstable water levels are not conducive for natural establishment of aquatic vegetation; therefore, efforts to transplant native vegetation are ongoing. We expect that placing these plants in the drawdown zone will coax them into long-term colonization.

To view detailed structure locations, visit the Outdoor Alabama Interactive Map at www.conservationgis.alabama.gov/dcnr/.

Structure coordinates can be downloaded at www.outdooralabama.com/fishattractors.

Waterbody	Structure Type	Amount	Installation Date
Weiss	Spiderblocks	55	Jun. 2019
Weiss	Spiderblocks	90	Aug. 2019
Neely Henry	Spiderblocks	40	Jun. 2019
Logan Martin	Spiderblocks	65	Jun. 2019
Lay	Spiderblocks	40	May. 2019
Mitchell	Christmas Trees	45	Apr. 2019
Mitchell	Metal Reel Tower	2	Sep. 2019
Mitchell	Felled Trees	50	Oct. 2019
Smith	Spiderblocks	50	Oct. 2019
Martin	Felled Trees	895	Jan.-Jun. 2019

BOATING ACCESS AREA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries maintains 114 public boating access areas statewide. Several of these facilities received upgrades in 2019. For more information on ADCNR freshwater boating access, visit boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov/.

Smith Lake Park Public Boat Ramp (Smith):
ADCNR is working with Cullman County to expand the facility to make it large enough to handle most local and regional fishing tournaments. Phase one of two phases has been completed. Phase one of the renovation included a six lane, 90-foot-wide launching slab. Additional phase one renovations include paved parking for 113 truck and trailer rigs and 10 cars with both make ready and tie down areas. Phase two of the renovation is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2019. Phase two improvements include security lighting, a paved overflow parking lot for 53 truck and trailer rigs, one 45-foot stationary aluminum pier, two floating aluminum piers (150 feet and 60 feet), and a fixed aluminum pedestrian bridge connecting the overflow and main parking areas. When completed the facility will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. ADCNR leases the property from Cullman County, which handles routine maintenance of the facility.

Leesburg Boat Public Boat Ramp (Weiss):
ADCNR is working in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg to provide a major boat ramp facility on Weiss Lake (Coosa River). The property containing the boat ramp is leased to ADCNR from Alabama Power Company and is located on the canal in Leesburg. Phase one of the project has been completed. Phase two will be completed in 2020. Phase one of the project included construction of a new 60-foot-wide concrete launching slab, construction of paved entrance and exit roads with make ready and tie down areas, construction of paved parking for approximately 228 truck and trailer rigs, and construction of two 50-foot floating piers. Phase two will include the construction of a large wharf style pier to accommodate additional vessels during periods of high use. The facility is being constructed to accommodate almost any bass tournament held on Weiss Reservoir. The facility will be constructed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. The Town of Leesburg is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Beeswax Creek Public Boat Ramp (Lay):
ADCNR is working in cooperation with Shelby County to complete a major parking lot expansion. The property containing the expansion is leased to ADCNR from Alabama Power Company. The new parking lot will increase truck and trailer parking from 71 to 155. Construction will be completed in early 2019. Upon completion, the facility will comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Shelby County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Barnett's Landing Public Boat Ramp (Wheeler):
ADCNR installed a new 20-foot floating access pier and completed renovations for the entire facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Lauderdale County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Shoal Creek Public Boat Ramp (Wilson):
ADCNR installed a new 30-foot floating access pier and completed renovations for the entire facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010. Lauderdale County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Lay Dam Public Boat Ramp (Lay):
ADCNR worked in cooperation with Alabama Power Company to install two new stationary access piers, a stationary fishing pier, replace a damaged launching lane, and complete renovations for the facility to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2010.

Pride Landing Public Boat Ramp (Pickwick):
ADCNR replaced a damaged launching slab to allow for easier access during periods of low water. Colbert County is responsible for routine maintenance of the facility.

Triana Public Boat Ramp (Wheeler):
ADCNR is working in cooperation with Madison County to expand the existing parking area and replace a launching slab at the facility. The facility has also been repaved. Upon project completion, there will be two launching lanes and paved parking for 49 truck and trailer rigs and six cars with make ready and tie down areas. The facility will be fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. of 2010 Madison County is responsible for routine maintenance at the facility.

TOURNAMENT PERMITS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries does not require tournament organizations to secure tournament permits for any of their events. However, the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) Marine Patrol requires a Marine Event Permit for any event (including bass tournaments) with more than 100 boats participating. Applications can be obtained from the ALEA Marine Patrol free of charge by calling (334) 242-3630. The application must be completed and submitted to them at least 15 days prior to the event.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also requires a Special Use Permit for bass tournaments with more than 10 boats that are held on any of its reservoirs. Corps permits must be submitted 30 days prior to the event and can be obtained from your local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Office or from its website at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL DAY USE PERMITS

Annual passes can be obtained from the guard station at all park entrances or by contacting your local U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Resources Management Office. These passes allow you to use any boat ramp nationwide that is operated and maintained by the Army Corps of Engineers. The fee for these permits is $40 and the permit is good for one year from the date of purchase.

TRAILER TOURNAMENTS

Any tournament that permits anglers to fish in various bodies of water and then bring their catch to a specific lake for a weigh in where the fish are then released alive into that body of water are in direct violation of Alabama's Public Water Stocking Regulation (220-2-.129). Moving live fish from one lake to another can have a number of detrimental consequences. Examples include: moving fish caught from lakes with consumption advisories into lakes without advisories; introducing genetically inferior strains of spotted bass into our world-class spotted bass fisheries of the Coosa River; introducing diseases such as the Largemouth Bass Virus, which decimated many of our bass fisheries in Alabama beginning in the late-1990s; and introducing non-native, potentially harmful species into lakes where they do not currently exist.

It is important for anglers to know that only the act of releasing fish into a body of water other than where they were caught is illegal. If tournament organizations want to continue to offer these types of tournaments to their competitors, they are certainly free to do so as long as the fish brought in from other reservoirs are not released there. If you participate in one of these tournaments, do not release your fish into a lake you did not catch them from. Your fish can be eaten, donated to a charitable organization such as an orphanage, or returned to the reservoir from which they were caught. Fish can only be moved legally from one reservoir to another if they are transported by boat through a navigable lock.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE

Access area creel surveys conducted by Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists have revealed a significant decline in bass harvest rates statewide. In 2019, nearly 100% of all bass caught from public waters were released. As the catch-and-release ethic has evolved during the last 30-40 years due to intense promotion by tournament organizations and participants, many well-intentioned anglers have become so passionate about this angling ethic that they feel a moral obligation to release every bass they catch. This often leads anglers to make poor choices with regard to the handling of their fish.

An unfortunate consequence of catch-and-release is that tournament anglers are often so focused on releasing their fish alive that they sometimes fail to recognize when a fish is too far gone to survive. Making this mistake can result in numerous dead fish floating in the water around the boat ramp the following day. The number of complaints received by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources accusing tournament anglers of killing and wasting fish during organized bass tournaments is on the rise. Please encourage your anglers to be aware of this growing problem and consider adopting tournament rules that discourage the release of fish in poor condition following bass tournaments.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS LOCAL AND REGIONAL OFFICES

Alabama River Lakes
Hayneville, AL
(334) 872-9554

Millers Ferry Resource Office
Camden, AL
(334) 682-4244

Holt Resource Office
Peterson, AL
(205) 553-9373

Black Warrior/Tombigbee Project Management Office
Tuscaloosa, AL
(205) 752-3571

Demopolis Site Office
Demopolis, AL
(334) 289-3540

Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Office
Carrollton, AL
(205) 373-8705

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
64 N. Union St., Montgomery, AL 36130

OutdoorAlabama.com