

ALABAMA'S Bass Anglers Information Team 2007 B.A.I.T. Annual Report

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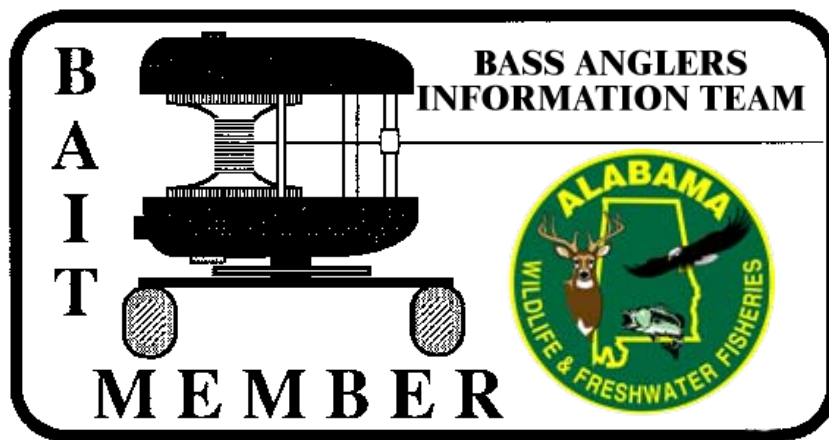
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Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries
Fisheries Section

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B.A.I.T.
Bass Anglers Information Team
2007
Annual Report



By

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Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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ON THE INTERNET www.outdooralabama.com

Reservoir Reports...

www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/where/reservoirs/

Angler Recognition Program...

www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/record/

B.A.I.T. Program...

www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/where/reservoirs/quality/

Limits and Regulations...

www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/regulations/

Boating Access...

www.outdooralabama.com/boating/where/freshwater.cfm



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2007 B.A.I.T. Summary

In spite of the record drought, 2007 might be the best year for bass fishing in the State of Alabama since the Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries began keeping records in 1986. Alabama's bass fishermen caught more fish, larger fish, and weighed in more cumulative weight than during any of the previous 21 years of B.A.I.T. reporting. Even the number of hours required to catch a five-pound bass was the lowest since the Largemouth Bass Virus Disease (LMBV) swept through the state in 1998, and is rapidly approaching the pre-LMBV average of 258 hours. The following summary outlines the most important points from the 2007 B.A.I.T. Report.

- ***Aliceville*** was the top lake in the overall quality indicator rankings
- ***Aliceville, Pickwick, Mitchell, Guntersville, Wheeler, Martin, and Smith*** all improved in the overall quality indicator rankings
- ***Aliceville, Pickwick, Wilson, Jordan, and Mitchell*** were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings
- ***Guntersville, Aliceville, Pickwick, Harris, and Eufaula*** were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama

Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

- 2.89** – Number of bass caught per angler-day
- 5.24** – Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
- 1.81** – Average weight of bass caught
- 307** – Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
- 10.73** – Weight of the largest bass caught
- 12** – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
- 270** – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

INTRODUCTION & METHODS USED

The printing of the 2007 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the twenty-second year of the B.A.I.T. Program. The objective of the program since its inception 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 2007, we have summarized 10,802 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 2,433,418 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 562,283 bass that weighed 956,126 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries' Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program which maintains over 120 boating access areas statewide. The accomplishments made by this program during 2007 may be of particular interest to tournament bass anglers and their organizations. In addition, the new Angler Recognition Program administered by the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries is in its first year of existence, and details of this program can be found here as well.

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.

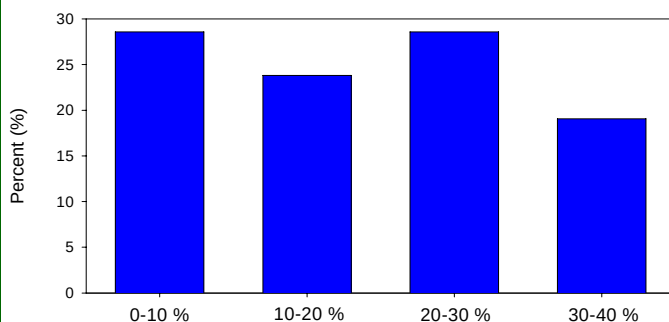
To rank reservoirs, five "fishing quality" indicators were used: percent of successful anglers (percent of anglers with one or more bass at weigh-in), average bass weight, number of bass per angler-day, pounds of bass per angler-day, and hours required to catch a bass five pounds or larger. Since the 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 more than 10 reports. This section was 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 on a given (i.e., catching a big bass) 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.

In the 2007 BAIT Survey, bass fishermen were asked for their opinion on the following subject...

What percentage of the bass population in Alabama dies from natural causes each year?

Alabama's bass fishermen responded in the following way...



The death from natural causes, or natural mortality rate, will typically range from 20-30% for largemouth bass populations in Alabama. Natural mortality refers to death of fish from sources such as disease, predation, inadequate environmental conditions, and old age.

Separating natural mortality from fishing mortality is important in determining the need for length and bag limits. Changes to statewide creel and length limits for any particular water body are generally not needed unless fishing mortality is greater than natural mortality.

Fisheries that receive little pressure, or high catch and release, generally do not need restrictive regulations because the force of natural mortality would deplete fish that could be kept by anglers.



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STATEWIDE CLUB TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Bass clubs submitted 485 tournament reports during 2007, up from 416 in 2006 (Tables 1 and 3). Furthermore, Alabama based clubs reported 31% more tournaments in 2007 than in 2006. Club representatives did an excellent job filling out the cards and few reports were rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information. We want to again, thank all of the participants of the B.A.I.T. Program and urge them to keep up the good

work! Forty-two Alabama clubs provided data in 2007. Two hundred and three reports from Alabama waters were received from Dr. Carl Quertermus of the University of West Georgia, who summarizes tournament data from the Georgia

Bass Federation; and another 17 reports were received from Biologist Larry Pugh, with the Mississippi Division 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 2007, tournament reports were received for 30 bodies of water that were fished 82,980 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 23,994 bass that

weighed 43,465 pounds (Table 1). A total of 270 bass five pounds and larger were reported for an overall catch rate of one bass five pounds or larger for every 307 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 12 bass eight pounds and larger in 2007. The largest bass caught in 2007 came from Lake Guntersville and weighed 10.73 pounds. With 117 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Guntersville led this category. Other top lakes for big bass included Aliceville, Pickwick, Harris, and Eufaula. Of the 44 clubs or organizations that submitted data during 2007, 26 submitted five or more tournament reports. Seventeen clubs

submitted 10 or more reports. Ten contributors submitted only one report. A list of clubs contributing tournament results for the 2007 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

Average catch rates in 2007 for both number (2.89) and pounds (5.24) of bass per angler-day were the highest since the B.A.I.T. Program began in 1986. Compared to 2006, seven lakes improved in overall fishing success in

2007. The most notable improvements were on Pickwick and Wheeler, which finished 2nd and 9th, respectively, in the overall ranking (Table 2). Although average size of bass increased slightly on Wheeler, most

improvements on these lakes were a direct result of an increase in the numbers of fish caught rather than an increase in fish size.

More tournament reports in 2007 were received from Guntersville (47), West Point (44), and Eufaula (42). Harris, Logan Martin, the Mobile Delta, Neely Henry, Smith, and Weiss each had 20 or more tournament

reports (Table 1). A good distribution of reports provides more representative catch statistics from which meaningful summaries can be prepared. All club representatives should understand that every tournament report is important if this

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Big Bass in 2007

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. >5lbs.
B.A.I.T. - Ala. Div. III	Guntersville	Mar. 17 th	40
North Alabama Tournament Anglers	Guntersville	Mar. 17 th	8
Black Warrior Bass Trackers	Guntersville	May 12 th	7
North Alabama Tournament Anglers	Guntersville	Jul. 14 th	6
Pipemill Bassmasters	Guntersville	Jun. 8 th	6
Marietta Bassmasters	Guntersville	Apr. 21 st	5
Haralson Hawg Hunters	Guntersville	Jun. 23 rd	5
West Alabama Bass Fisherman Assn.	Millers Ferry	May 19 th	4
Tri Rivers Bass Club	Guntersville	Apr. 14 th	4
Team Trails of Miss. - E. Miss. Div.	Aliceville	Mar. 10 th	4

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Average 5-Fish Weight in 2007

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Gordon Co. Bassmasters	Weiss	Apr. 7 th	15.02 lbs.
B.A.I.T. - Ala. Div. III	Wheeler	Apr. 21 st	12.96 lbs.
Pipemill Bassmasters	Guntersville	Jun. 8 th	12.48 lbs.
Clay Co. Bass Busters	Lay	Nov. 17 th	12.09 lbs.
Team Trails of Miss. - E. Miss. Div.	Aliceville	Mar. 10 th	11.59 lbs.
Team Trails of Miss. - E. Miss. Div.	Aliceville	Apr. 28 th	11.48 lbs.
Dallas Bass Anglers	Harris	Jan. 1 st	11.33 lbs.
Outcasters Bass Anglers	Logan Martin	Mar. 24 th	11.33 lbs.
Pipemill Bassmasters	Jordan	Apr. 20 th	11.24 lbs.
Pipemill Bassmasters	Mitchell	Jan. 11 th	10.76 lbs.

program is to continue to be successful.

Of the 30 reservoirs from which reports were received, 22 had five or more tournament reports (Table 1). The following comments deal with these 22 reservoirs, which are ranked by quality indicators in Table 2. The percent of successful anglers (those with one or more fish) ranged from 55% at Smith to 92% at Logan Martin. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.32 pounds at Harding to 2.88 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 1.73 at Eufaula to 4.31 at Aliceville. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 2.85 in

the Mobile Delta to 8.60 at Aliceville. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 30 reservoirs was 1.81 pounds.

Overall, Aliceville accumulated more quality indicator points (104) than any other reservoir in Alabama, replacing Jordan from 2006. Pickwick (97) jumped from fifteenth to second while Wilson (75) appeared at number three. Readers should note that the primary intent of Table 2 was 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 Guntersville would be the first choice, followed by Aliceville and Pickwick. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings to find that Aliceville, Pickwick, and Logan Martin lead the way. If catching lots of bass is important, Aliceville would provide the best opportunity based upon its bass per angler-day ranking, followed by Martin and Logan Martin.

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) which 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 fished in 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 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. For instance, bass per angler-day averaged 2.89 statewide in 2007; but for Guntersville, it was 2.08. Statewide average weight was 1.81 pounds for all 30 reservoirs; but at Eufaula, Demopolis, and Guntersville, average weight was 2.01, 2.00, and 2.88 pounds, respectively. These average weights were higher primarily cause anglers must release the smaller fish due to the minimum length limits.

Length limits remained in effect during 2006 on West Point (14-inch minimum on largemouth bass), Wilson (14-inch minimum on smallmouth bass), Guntersville (15-inch minimum on all black bass), Eufaula (14-inch minimum on largemouth bass), Demopolis (14-inch minimum on all black bass), Pickwick (14-inch minimum on smallmouth bass), Little Bear Creek (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth bass), Smith (13- to 15-inch slot on all black bass), and Harris (13- to 16-inches on largemouth bass).

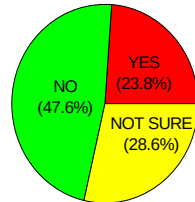
In spite of the record drought, 2007 turned out to be the best year for bass fishing in the State of Alabama since the Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries began keeping records in 1986. Alabama's bass fishermen caught more fish, larger fish, and weighed in more cumulative weight than during any of the previous 21 years of B.A.I.T. reporting. Even the number of hours required to catch a five pound bass were the

lowest since the Largemouth Bass Virus Disease (LMBV) swept through the State in 1998, and is rapidly approaching the pre-LMBV average of 258 hours. A trend that first appeared in the 1998 B.A.I.T. data that has been a major concern ever since is the dramatic decrease in angler's catch rate of bass over five pounds from reservoirs throughout the State. The average number of hours (effort) needed to catch a five-pound and larger bass dramatically increased beginning in 1998, and reached its peak of 837 the following year. From 1999 through 2007, the amount of effort has decreased from 837 hours

In the 2007 BAIT Survey, bass fishermen were asked the following question....

If anglers harvested every bass they caught under 13-inches from a slot lake would it harm the population?

Here's how anglers responded:



followed by an explanation of why slot limits are used to improve fishing on some Alabama lakes.

Typically, lakes which have slot limits have high rates of bass recruitment. In other words, the abundance of small bass in these systems is increased due to high rates of survival. Slot limits are implemented to encourage the harvest of bass below the lower bounds of the regulation (e.g. 13 inches), thereby reducing competition and increasing the growth rates of the remaining fish.

In large water bodies, it is virtually impossible for anglers to over-harvest these smaller size bass since they encounter only a portion of the population. It is much more likely that anglers would not be able to take enough bass from these type lakes to make a positive impact than it would be for them to harm the population by harvesting too many fish.



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to 307 hours (Figure 1), a trend that is continuing to show improvement. The decrease in large fish in Alabama occurred regardless of the river system, reservoir size, reservoir location, or type of management. Regionally this phenomenon was also documented in Arkansas, Georgia, Oklahoma, and Tennessee. It is now generally accepted among fisheries biologists and researchers that this decrease in the number of larger fish being caught by anglers can be attributed largely to the impact on bass populations of the Largemouth Bass Virus Disease (LMBV). Although there have been no recent outbreaks, we are continuing to cooperate with researchers at Auburn University and other agencies to assess the presence of this virus in

Alabama bass populations and to monitor any further fish mortalities caused by this pathogen. The decreasing amount of effort required to catch large bass in Alabama since 1999, is a hopeful trend; and this has been interpreted by many of the researchers monitoring this disease as an indication that our bass populations are beginning to adapt to this new pathogen. There are still indications that this disease is continuing to impact our bass populations by elevating natural mortality rates above what was observed prior to its introduction; but it is hoped that in time, our bass populations will develop a greater resistance to this disease. In addition, fisheries management biologists and fisheries pathologists from across the Country are now working together to learn more about this disease as quickly as possible in hopes of determining strategies to minimize its impact on our largemouth bass fisheries. To aid us in

this effort, please report any unusual bass die-offs to your district fisheries office, and never move fish from one body of water to another.

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 those water bodies

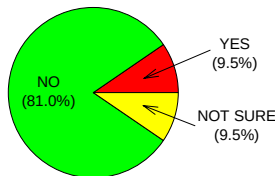
that generally have not been included in the quality indicator rankings in Table 2. Secondly, when comparing water bodies, be aware that the scales on the vertical axes have maximum ranges that vary. You can use these graphs to predict future fishing by looking for trends.

Good luck fishing, and don't forget to take a child with you and introduce him or her to your sport. Our children are our future anglers and stewards of Alabama's resources. To

In the 2007 BAIT Survey, bass fishermen were asked the following question....

Overall, do you think fishing has been better in 2007 than it was last year?

Here's how anglers responded:



followed by comments from an Alabama Fisheries Biologist and member of the Prattville Bass Anglers:

Because of my passion for bass fishing and for studying the dynamics of fish populations, I have been eagerly anticipating the opportunity to examine the 2007 B.A.I.T. data. All year, I've paid close attention to the results of my own fishing trips and have tried to relate it to what I've seen on the job, and how both have been affected by the record drought of 2007.

Since mid-April, I've felt that my angling success has been sporadic. I've generally blamed it on reduced flows, low water levels, lack of adequate shoreline cover, and of course, jet-skis. My fish appeared scattered and disoriented, with my best areas producing only a fraction of the fish they had in the past. So, it was easy for me to count myself among the 81% who perceived a decline in the quality of fishing in 2007.

However, after analyzing this year's B.A.I.T. data, I was surprised to learn that the overwhelming majority of us were completely wrong! The 2007 season was, in fact, the best year for anglers participating in this program since it began 22 years ago - a quick review of this report makes that very clear.

So, the question now becomes, "what aspect of bass fishing would cause me and many others to perceive a decline when, in reality, there was a significant improvement in the quality of bass fishing statewide?" Hopefully, future surveys will help to answer this question.



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obtain more information on Alabama's fisheries resources, visit the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Internet Homepage: www.outdooralabama.com.

Bass Eight Pounds and Larger from 2007 B.A.I.T. Tournament Reports

Date	Organization	Lake	Weight
Jan. 13	Cullman Bassmasters	Guntersville	8.37 lbs.
Jan. 27	Clay Co. Bass Busters	Harris	8.00 lbs.
Feb. 17	Bass Fishing League	Guntersville	8.88 lbs.
Feb. 17	Bass Fishing League	Guntersville	10.06 lbs.
Feb. 23	Bassmaster Classic	Lay	8.13 lbs.
Feb. 24	Bass Fishing League	Guntersville	8.69 lbs.
Mar. 17	Clay Co. Bass Busters	Harris	8.44 lbs.
Apr. 14	Airport Marine Trail	Guntersville	10.73 lbs.
Apr. 14	Airport Marine Trail	Guntersville	8.03 lbs.
Apr. 14	Gilbertown Bass Club	Coffeeville	8.66 lbs.
May 6	Bassmaster Series	Wheeler	9.00 lbs.
Jun. 9	Bass Fishing League	West Point	8.00 lbs.
Jun. 23	Ala. BASS Fed. Nation	Mitchell	8.84 lbs.

MONTHLY TOURNAMENT STATISTICS

In this section, reservoirs with at least 20 reports are discussed in detail and often refer to the monthly tournament results. Table 6 provides monthly catch information for all reservoirs with at least 10 reports.

Eufaula

We received 42 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held from January through November, with the majority (10) occurring in April. A total of 642 tournament anglers fished for 6,867 hours to catch 1,189 bass that averaged 2.01 pounds (Table 6). Average size of bass has been slowly decreasing since 1993, primarily because of reduced fertility levels in the Chattahoochee River watershed. However, it may also be a function of the increased abundance of the smaller spotted bass in anglers' creels. Spots now make up about 20% of all bass weighed in during tournaments at Lake Eufaula. Although most tournament activity occurred in the spring, the best fishing seemed to take place from July through October, with better catch rates, and only slightly smaller fish than during the springtime. Coincidentally, the percentage of largemouth bass in anglers' creels was generally highest during the fall. It took the average angler about 34 days of fishing to catch a bass over five pounds; a figure that was fairly constant throughout the year.

Guntersville

Forty-seven tournament reports were received from this reservoir that were held during every month of the year, with the majority (7) occurring in March and May. A total of 746 tournament anglers fished for 7,858 hours, catching 1,635 bass that averaged 2.88 pounds (Table 6). The average number of fish weighed-in by each angler was 2.08, with an average bag weight of 5.99 pounds. Seventy-six percent of Guntersville's bass fishermen weighed-in at least one fish. Anglers' creels were comprised of largemouth bass (92%), spotted bass (8%), and only a few smallmouth bass. March offered anglers the best opportunity to catch bass over five pounds, with almost half the annual total being caught during that month. Anglers fished for an average of only three days to catch a bass over five pounds in March. January, February, June and July were also productive months for big bass. August through December had the lowest catch rates for big bass. Fifty-six percent of the spotted bass were caught from September through November. Overall, June was probably the best month for bass fishing at Guntersville. During that month, anglers had the highest catch rates, the second highest number of bass over five pounds, and weighed-in an average of 9.33 pounds per angler.

Harris (Wedowee)

During 2007, we received 20 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held throughout the year, with the majority (4) occurring in January and August. A total of 492 anglers fished for 4,194 hours, catching 1,246 bass that averaged 1.64 pounds (Table 6). Although catch rates declined from 2006 to 2007, they were still far above the 20-year average at 2.97 fish per day. Average bass weight has continued to

increase, reaching its highest level yet (1.64 pounds). Harris was a popular tournament destination throughout the year, and catches were made up of mostly spotted bass (87%). Catch rates were highest during the fall and winter, but the heaviest weights were caught during winter. More largemouths were caught in May and June than in any other months. Bass over five pounds were caught throughout the year, but the largest bass were caught from January through March.

Harris has a 13- to 16-inch slot limit on largemouth bass, which is intended to help reduce an overabundance of small bass all competing for the same size prey. Slot limits are rarely effective unless anglers are willing to remove fish below the slot. Harris anglers have made great strides toward removing the sub-slot fish and harvested bass at rates almost four times the statewide average in 2007. However, additional harvest will continue to improve this fishery; so if you or your club plans to visit this lake in the future, please do your part to reduce the abundance of small fish and keep the sub-slot fish after each tournament.

Logan Martin

Twenty-nine tournaments were held from March through December, 2007, with March being the most popular month (6 tournaments). Four hundred seventy five anglers fished for 4,645 hours, catching 1,941 bass that averaged 1.54 pounds each (Table 6). Catch rates have continued to increase and reached their highest level ever (4.18 fish per day) in 2007. The average size of bass (1.54 pounds) was only slightly below the 20-year average of 1.58 pounds. Anglers averaged 6.44 pounds apiece at tournament weigh-ins in 2007, making it the best year on Logan Martin since this program began in 1986. Furthermore, almost every



Cropwell Creek on Logan Martin Lake was stocked with 390,000 Florida largemouth bass during spring, 2007.

competitor weighed-in at least one fish, with only 8% of anglers catching no fish. Although there didn't appear to be a bad time to go to this lake in 2007, the period from March through July had the highest catch rates, while the largest average weights per day occurred in the spring and fall. Bass over five pounds were caught during June and July for an overall catch rate of 1 for every 155 days fished. Additionally, the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries stocked 390,000 Florida largemouth bass for genetic enhancement into Cropwell Creek (Town & Country) in May bringing the two-year total to about 0.7 million fish.

Mobile Delta

During 2007, we received 27 tournament reports that were held during every month except November, with the majority (4) occurring in March and July. A total of 401 anglers fished for 3,500 hours, catching 678 bass that averaged 1.47 pounds (Table 6). Average bass weight (1.47 pounds), bass per angler (1.94), and weight per angler (2.85 pounds) all dropped in 2007. Only 62% of Mobile Delta bass anglers weighed-in at least one fish. The 2007 season was not among the best

years for bass fishing in the Mobile Delta, but most quality indicators were near the 20-year average. Over 99% of angler's creels contained largemouth bass, with spotted bass being present only once during a tournament in October. March was the best month overall with 86% of anglers catching at least one fish and most anglers caught almost 3 fish per day that averaged 1.82 pounds each. Fishing was poorest from May through August with catch rates around one fish per day and weights of 1.6 pounds per day. Two bass larger than five pounds were caught from the Mobile Delta during 2007.

Neely Henry

Thirty-one tournaments took place

during 2007. Four hundred seventy three bass anglers fished for 4,191 hours to catch 1,273 bass that averaged 1.59 pounds each. Tournaments were reported during every month except March and April. The summer months were the most popular times to fish this reservoir, with 17 tournaments being reported from July to September. The ratio of spots to largemouths was 3:2 and changed little during the year. Most quality indicators were among the highest recorded since 1986. Bass averaged almost 1.6 pounds apiece, anglers averaged catching over 3 bass per day, and the average weight per day was 4.82 pounds. No month or season stood out as being particularly good or bad; fishing just appeared steady throughout the year.

Smith

For the first time ever, more than 20 reports were received for this reservoir, making it much easier to detect changes in its bass fishery. Twenty-one tournaments were reported during 2007, showing that 518 anglers fished for 4,122 hours, catching 1,011 bass that weighed 1,913 pounds. The average weight of bass from Smith Lake was 1.89 pounds, the average number of bass caught per day was 2.45, and the average weight of anglers' creels during tournaments was 4.64 pounds - all drastic

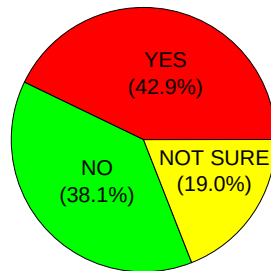
improvements since 2006. Furthermore, the percentage of competitors with no fish at the weigh-in dropped from 61% in 2006 to 45% in 2007. Even more impressive was the number of fish over five pounds caught from the lake. In 2006, it took the average bass fisherman 104 days of fishing to catch a bass over five pounds, opposed to only 59 days in 2007.

Smith Lake has a 13- to 15-inch slot limit on all black bass, which is not

In the 2007 BAIT Survey, bass fishermen were asked....

Do you think fishing styles/techniques are the reason for recent increases in the catches of spotted bass?

Here's how they responded:



followed by comments from an Alabama Fisheries Biologist and member of the Lake Guntersville Bassmasters.

Not only new fishing styles and techniques, but new equipment too, is playing a role in increased catches of spotted bass. The new Sonar/GPS mapping units are opening up new and unmolested populations of spotted bass to anglers. Deep, fish-holding habitat can now be located easier with these sonar/GPS units.

Presenting vertically fished finesse rigs; such as the shaky head worm and drop-shot rig to these deep-water fish with spinning tackle and fluorocarbon line is resulting in successful catches. Furthermore, power fishermen are learning that they can adapt to these finesse approaches to remain competitive when conditions are tough.

Deep diving crankbaits are reaching deeper fish while slow-rolling heavy spinnerbaits at depths of 30 feet or more are hammering big spots both day and night. The fishhead spin is another lure that is being used successfully to catch suspended spots.

In addition, nighttime fishing is becoming more popular on heavily pressured lakes where spots are often the more aggressive species. New styles, techniques, and equipment are definitely reasons why anglers are catching more spotted bass.



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uncommon with deep infertile impoundments where there is an overabundance of small bass all competing for the same size prey. Slot limits like this one are intended to encourage the harvest of small bass, and are rarely effective unless anglers are willing to remove fish below the slot. This helps to reduce competition among the smaller, more abundant fish, which allows the remaining fish to reach larger sizes. In recent years, Smith Lake anglers have become more open to removing the sub-slot fish, and have harvested bass at rates more than twice the statewide average of 5%. Still, during 2007, only 12% of the bass caught during Smith Lake tournaments were removed from the lake; so there is still a long way to go. If you or your club plans to visit Smith Lake in the future, please do your part to help improve the quality of its bass fishery and keep your sub-slot bass after each tournament.

Weiss

We received 36 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held from February through October, with the majority (11) occurring in June. A total of 653 tournament anglers fished for 5,591 hours to catch 1,541 bass that averaged 1.84 pounds (Table 6). Bass fishing at Weiss appeared to decline slightly from 2006, but still ranked as one of its best years, with nearly 83% of anglers catching at least one bass, weighing-in an average of 2.76 fish that weighed 5.06 pounds. The time required to catch a bass over five pounds increased slightly from 33 days in 2006 to 37 days in 2007. Throughout most of the year, the largemouth to spot ratio was about 3:2. February and March offered anglers the best opportunity to catch a big bass, but overall catch rates were poor (1-2 fish per day) during that period. Fifteen bass over five pounds were caught during 2007.

West Point

We received 44 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held during every month except December. The majority of tournaments (8) occurred in May. A total of 642 tournament anglers fished for 6,213 hours to catch 1,885 bass that averaged 1.55 pounds (Table 6). Almost 80% of anglers caught at least one bass and weighed-in an average of 3.03 fish that weighed 4.69 pounds. During the last ten years, catch rates at West Point have tripled, but average bass weight has decreased by 25%. As with other reservoirs in the Chattahoochee River watershed, reduced fertility levels and an increase in abundance of the more aggressive spotted bass has resulted in a fishery dominated by spots. In 2007, close to 80% of the bass weighed-in by West Point anglers were spotted bass. However, in spite of the abundance of spotted bass, big largemouths are still common in this reservoir. West Point has consistently been ranked as one of Alabama's top five lakes for producing big bass. Although catches of bass over five pounds fell by over 30% in 2007, it was probably related to extremely low water levels during the drought (only one bass over five pounds was caught after July 31st).

TOURNAMENT PERMITS

During 2007, several tournament organizations inquired about the need for tournament permits in Alabama. The Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries does not require tournament organizations to secure tournament permits for any of their events. However, the Alabama Marine Police requires a Marine Event Permit for any event (including bass tournaments) with more than 100 boats participating. Applications can be

obtained from the Alabama Marine Police free of charge by calling (334) 242-3677, and 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 which are held on any of their reservoirs. Corps permits must be submitted 30 days prior to the event, and can be obtained from your local project office or from their website at: <http://bwt.sam.usace.army.mil/specialevent.htm>.

Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2007 B.A.I. T. Program.

Lake	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	No. of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	No. 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	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days ¹ to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Aliceville	9	212	190	123	1859.0	801	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	1599.3	2.00	15	0	5.31	89.62	4.31	8.60	124	12
Bankhead	3	56	44	22	527.0	195	51.9	48.1	0.0	97	323.1	1.66	0	0	3.22	78.57	3.70	6.13	.	.
Harding	13	163	142	41	1417.0	427	33.6	66.4	0.0	98	563.8	1.32	1	0	3.32	87.12	3.01	3.98	1417	142
Cedar Creek	1	10	10	3	90.0	35	.	.	.	97	38.5	1.10	0	0	2.30	100.00	3.89	4.27	.	.
Claiborne	4	85	67	39	738.5	243	59.6	40.4	0.0	100	331.9	1.37	0	0	3.97	78.82	3.29	4.49	.	.
Coffeeville	4	168	77	29	1544.0	242	.	.	.	96	395.1	1.63	2	1	6.06	45.83	1.57	2.56	772	77
Demopolis	15	325	225	79	3048.0	716	98.1	1.9	0.0	97	1428.4	2.00	4	0	4.18	69.23	2.35	4.69	762	76
Eufaula	42	642	444	62	6866.5	1189	80.4	19.6	0.0	94	2388.1	2.01	20	0	4.60	69.16	1.73	3.48	343	34
Gainesville	4	63	52	37	584.0	224	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	417.2	1.86	3	0	4.44	82.54	3.84	7.14	195	19
Guntersville	47	746	570	167	7858.3	1635	91.8	8.1	0.1	98	4710.2	2.88	117	1	5.15	76.41	2.08	5.99	67	7
Harris	20	492	402	258	4194.0	1246	13.0	87.0	0.0	83	2041.0	1.64	15	2	4.94	81.71	2.97	4.87	280	28
Holt	5	69	46	7	585.5	116	.	.	.	100	195.7	1.69	0	0	3.54	66.67	1.98	3.34	.	.
Jones Bluff	5	86	66	34	753.0	240	42.4	57.6	0.0	98	414.2	1.73	1	0	4.37	76.74	3.19	5.50	753	75
Jordan	19	338	293	101	3211.0	1048	18.1	81.9	0.0	99	2030.8	1.94	4	0	4.50	86.69	3.26	6.32	803	80
Lay	13	192	166	85	1872.5	613	42.8	57.2	0.0	97	1097.6	1.79	3	0	3.95	86.46	3.27	5.86	624	62
Logan Martin	29	475	437	206	4644.5	1941	25.4	74.6	0.0	93	2989.6	1.54	3	0	4.01	92.00	4.18	6.44	1548	155
Martin	16	258	234	114	2672.0	1137	15.2	84.8	0.0	90	1586.4	1.40	1	0	3.77	90.70	4.26	5.94	2672	267
Mobile Delta	27	401	248	58	3500.0	678	99.3	0.7	0.0	94	998.2	1.47	2	0	2.97	61.85	1.94	2.85	1750	175
Millers Ferry	10	318	217	81	3123.5	803	66.7	33.3	0.0	95	1326.6	1.65	9	0	4.90	68.24	2.57	4.25	347	35
Mitchell	17	268	238	110	2547.0	915	0.0	100.0	0.0	98	1638.6	1.79	1	0	3.70	88.81	3.59	6.43	2547	255
Neely Henry	31	473	405	140	4190.8	1273	40.0	60.0	0.0	95	2018.6	1.59	9	0	4.16	85.62	3.04	4.82	466	47
Pickwick	16	398	345	181	3453.0	1271	.	.	.	97	2760.3	2.17	15	0	5.11	86.68	3.68	7.99	230	23
Smith	21	518	284	146	4122.0	1011	12.4	87.6	0.0	88	1913.2	1.89	7	0	4.45	54.83	2.45	4.64	589	59
Tuscaloosa	2	41	27	7	369.0	90	.	.	.	100	118.4	1.32	0	0	3.82	65.85	2.44	3.21	.	.
Warrior	4	86	59	20	715.0	223	.	.	.	95	335.8	1.51	3	0	4.76	68.61	3.12	4.70	238	24
Weiss	36	653	540	156	5590.5	1541	57.3	42.7	0.0	98	2828.7	1.84	15	0	4.50	82.70	2.76	5.06	373	37
Wheeler	16	412	352	175	4199.5	1402	95.2	0.4	4.4	99	2489.1	1.78	6	0	4.44	85.44	3.34	5.93	700	70
Willson	10	254	207	96	2232.0	772	85.3	14.7	0.0	96	1434.6	1.86	5	0	4.36	81.50	3.46	6.43	446	45
West Point	44	642	511	180	6213.0	1885	23.3	76.7	0.0	95	2913.0	1.55	9	0	3.89	79.60	3.03	4.69	690	69
Yates	2	26	21	12	260.0	82	.	.	.	98	139.3	1.70	0	0	4.92	80.77	3.15	5.36	.	.
Grand Total	485	8870	6919	2769	82980	23994	53.4	46.5	0.1	95	43465	1.81	270	4	4.32	78.01	2.89	5.24	307	31

¹a 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 2007 B.A.I.T. Program.

Rank	Percent Success	Average Bass		Bass per		Pounds per		Hours per		Overall	value
		Weight	Angler-Day	Angler-Day	Angler-Day	Angler-Day	Bass > 5 lbs.				
1	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Aliceville	Aliceville	Aliceville	Guntersville	Guntersville	Aliceville	Aliceville	104	
2	Martin	Pickwick	Martin	Pickwick	Pickwick	Aliceville	Aliceville	Pickwick	Pickwick	97	
3	Aliceville	Eufaula	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	Pickwick	Pickwick	Wilson	Wilson	75	
4	Mitchell	Aliceville	Pickwick	Mitchell	Mitchell	Harris	Harris	Jordan	Jordan	72	
5	Harding	Demopolis	Mitchell	Wilson	Wilson	Eufaula	Eufaula	Mitchell	Mitchell	72	
6	Jordan	Jordan	Wilson	Jordan	Jordan	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	Guntersville	Guntersville	71	
7	Pickwick	Smith	Wheeler	Guntersville	Guntersville	Weiss	Weiss	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	71	
8	Lay	Wilson	Lay	Martin	Martin	Wilson	Wilson	Lay	Lay	67	
9	Neely Henry	Weiss	Jordan	Wheeler	Wheeler	Neely Henry	Neely Henry	Wheeler	Wheeler	64	
10	Wheeler	Mitchell	Jones Bluff	Lay	Lay	Smith	Smith	Martin	Martin	61	
11	Weiss	Lay	Neely Henry	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Lay	Lay	Weiss	Weiss	61	
12	Harris	Wheeler	West Point	Weiss	Weiss	West Point	West Point	Harris	Harris	56	
13	Wilson	Jones Bluff	Harding	Harris	Harris	Wheeler	Wheeler	Neely Henry	Neely Henry	55	
14	West Point	Holt	Harris	Neely Henry	Neely Henry	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	52	
15	Jones Bluff	Millers Ferry	Weiss	West Point	West Point	Demopolis	Demopolis	Eufaula	Eufaula	47	
16	Guntersville	Harris	Millers Ferry	Demopolis	Demopolis	Jordan	Jordan	Demopolis	Demopolis	44	
17	Demopolis	Neely Henry	Smith	Smith	Smith	Harding	Harding	West Point	West Point	44	
18	Eufaula	West Point	Demopolis	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	Logan Martin	Logan Martin	Smith	Smith	42	
19	Millers Ferry	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Harding	Harding	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	41	
20	Holt	Mobile Delta	Holt	Eufaula	Eufaula	Mitchell	Mitchell	Harding	Harding	39	
21	Mobile Delta	Martin	Mobile Delta	Holt	Holt	Martin	Martin	Holt	Holt	18	
22	Smith	Harding	Eufaula	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Holt	Holt	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	12	

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2007 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	No. of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	No. 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	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days ¹ to catch a bass over 5 lb.
1	11	176	131	36	1582.0	379	100.0	0.0	0.0	81	564.0	1.49	0	0	2.82	74.43	2.40	3.57	.	.
2	12	377	167	104	3016.0	581	.	.	.	84	1432.2	2.47	6	0	4.90	44.30	1.93	4.75	503	50
3	5	216	182	80	1758.0	458	85.3	14.7	0.0	99	1279.6	2.79	45	0	6.10	84.26	2.61	7.28	39	4
4	1	18	7	2	162.0	22	.	.	.	100	39.1	1.78	1	0	5.31	38.89	1.36	2.41	162	16
5	4	36	28	5	300.0	66	.	.	.	74	140.3	2.13	1	0	4.52	77.78	2.20	4.68	300	30
6	13	109	75	16	837.3	222	.	.	.	94	319.2	1.44	0	0	2.93	68.81	2.65	3.81	.	.
7	4	58	44	9	464.0	126	80.0	20.0	0.0	100	208.7	1.66	0	0	3.94	75.86	2.72	4.50	.	.
8	7	117	98	59	1088.5	404	100.0	0.0	0.0	97	829.5	2.05	3	0	4.68	83.76	3.71	7.62	363	36
9	1	18	4	0	144.0	4	.	.	.	100	7.4	1.86	0	0	3.44	22.22	0.28	0.52	.	.
10	12	372	293	90	3313.5	851	.	.	.	98	1663.2	1.95	16	0	4.68	78.76	2.57	5.02	207	21
11	1	10	8	2	95.0	24	.	.	.	100	40.2	1.67	0	0	4.31	80.00	2.53	4.23	.	.
12	2	53	25	14	477.0	91	.	.	.	100	254.7	2.80	3	0	5.76	47.17	1.91	5.34	159	16
13	2	70	44	13	630.0	95	.	.	.	100	212.0	2.23	1	0	5.65	62.86	1.51	3.36	630	63
14	7	228	130	48	1876.0	388	53.9	46.1	0.0	99	699.2	1.80	3	0	4.79	57.02	2.07	3.73	625	63
15	1	14	5	1	112.0	13	.	.	.	100	46.9	3.61	2	0	5.50	35.71	1.16	4.19	56	6
16	1	143	98	98	1287.0	215	.	.	.	5	432.8	2.01	2	0	5.81	68.53	1.67	3.36	644	64
17	7	66	48	4	720.0	113	92.1	7.9	0.0	100	172.2	1.52	0	0	3.25	72.73	1.57	2.39	.	.
18	2	28	17	7	258.5	63	74.3	25.7	0.0	100	108.0	1.71	1	0	4.08	60.71	2.44	4.18	259	26
19	5	63	62	42	930.0	237	74.3	25.7	0.0	100	470.1	1.98	6	0	5.58	98.41	2.55	5.05	155	16
20	1	14	12	0	126.0	14	.	.	.	86	25.1	1.80	0	0	2.75	85.71	1.11	1.99	.	.
21	11	225	205	69	2191.0	758	95.5	0.0	4.5	98	1299.6	1.71	4	0	4.42	91.11	3.46	5.93	548	55
22	2	50	42	13	740.0	192	.	.	.	98	308.5	1.61	0	0	4.25	84.00	2.59	4.17	.	.
23	1	53	48	40	477.0	109	40.1	59.6	0.3	100	160.7	1.47	0	0	4.00	70.57	2.29	3.37	248	25
25	10	158	120	34	1239.5	361	40.1	81.0	0.0	94	492.2	1.36	5	1	4.27	95.95	2.91	3.97	323	32
26	1	14	8	2	70.0	21	19.0	0.0	0.0	100	27.5	1.31	0	0	3.87	57.14	3.00	3.92	.	.
27	11	151	136	60	1320.0	515	.	.	.	98	894.0	1.74	3	0	4.31	90.07	3.90	6.77	440	44
28	1	34	24	3	323.0	59	73.7	26.3	0.0	100	117.8	2.00	1	0	5.77	70.59	1.83	3.65	323	32
29	1	18	6	2	324.0	19	.	.	.	100	38.8	2.04	0	0	4.00	33.33	0.59	1.20	.	.
30	10	106	88	32	957.0	299	.	.	.	98	445.5	1.49	0	0	3.47	83.02	3.12	4.66	.	.
31	2	69	65	52	586.5	298	.	.	.	98	676.7	2.27	8	0	6.02	94.20	5.08	11.54	73	7
32	7	229	184	90	2201.0	755	83.3	16.7	0.0	96	1118.8	1.48	7	0	4.37	80.35	3.43	5.08	314	31
33	6	119	102	71	1098.0	446	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	862.4	1.93	7	0	5.21	85.71	4.06	7.85	157	16
34	10	300	261	191	2654.0	1125	.	.	.	97	2106.1	1.87	5	0	4.73	87.00	4.24	7.94	531	53
35	13	452	230	87	4067.0	731	.	.	.	98	1259.7	1.72	3	1	4.54	50.89	1.80	3.10	1356	136
36	13	295	257	89	2519.5	848	98.8	1.2	0.0	97	1641.3	1.94	15	0	4.80	87.12	3.37	6.51	168	17
37	13	159	145	72	1840.0	612	.	.	.	99	1042.3	1.70	2	0	4.81	91.20	3.33	5.66	920	92
38	9	182	159	78	1708.0	868	.	.	.	99	1524.0	1.76	8	0	4.86	87.36	5.08	8.92	214	21
39	8	110	57	10	880.0	133	.	.	.	100	187.6	1.41	1	0	3.06	51.82	1.51	2.13	880	88
40	13	205	173	60	1748.5	570	22.8	76.2	0.9	82	902.7	1.58	1	0	4.02	84.39	3.26	5.16	1749	175
41	12	185	164	149	1570.0	797	.	.	.	94	1360.3	1.71	10	2	5.44	88.65	5.08	8.66	157	16
42	14	129	90	14	1032.0	251	92.8	7.2	0.0	93	645.1	2.57	8	0	4.67	69.77	2.43	6.25	129	13
43	17	407	351	168	3516.0	1253	.	.	.	98	2677.4	2.14	16	0	5.18	86.24	3.56	7.62	220	22
44	201	3034	2526	753	30741	8608	46.5	53.5	0.0	96	14732	1.71	76	0	4.12	83.26	2.80	4.79	404	40
Grand Total	485	8870	6919	2769	82980	23994	53.4	46.5	0.1	95	43465	1.81	270	4	4.32	78.00	2.89	5.24	307	31

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

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2007 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
AL-TN BASS CLUB	11 EDWARDS DR.	LAWRENCEBURG	TN	38464	JONATHAN EDWARDS	931-762-5531
APCO	744 HWY. 87	CALERA	AL	35007	RICHARD BROWN	205-664-6003
BAIT Div. I	74 COLLEGE ST., APT. 5	SOMMERVILLE	GA	30747	HERBERT DODD	706-578-2080
BAIT Div. III	18833 HWY. 72	ROGERSVILLE	AL	35652	DANNY HEARD	256-783-3025
BAIT Div. IV	74 COLLEGE ST., APT. 5	SOMMERVILLE	GA	30747	HERBERT DODD	706-578-2080
BAY AREA BASSMASTERS	808 MICHIGAN AVE	FAIRHOPE	AL	36532	ELMER VICK	251-928-7016
BF GOODRICH BASS ANGLERS	2463 LEE RD. 42	OPELIKA	AL	36804	ARTHUR HERNDON	334-749-1261
BIRMINGHAM BASS CLUB	3944 RIVER VIEW DR.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35243	WILLIAM MCCREE	205-381-1394
BIRMINGHAM BASSMASTERS	13784 DIANNE DR.	MCCALLA	AL	35111	MIKE LINN	
BLACK WARRIOR BASS TRACKERS	5514 SUMMERFIELD DR E	TUSCALOOSA	AL	35404	CHARLIE TIDMORE	205-553-2919
BLUFF CITY BASSMASTERS	501 FIVE MILE RD.	EUFAULA	AL	36027	JIM HOWARD	334-616-6956
BROTHERHOOD OF ANGLERS T.T.	11337 KENSINGTON LN.	NORTHPORT	AL	35475	JASON PHILLIPS	205-210-1718
CLAY COUNTY BASS BUSTERS	24 FOREST DRIVE	HEFLIN	AL	36264	KEITH MORROW	256-396-6100
CULLMAN BASSMASTERS	1165 CO. RD. 78	BREMEN	AL	35033	MARK JONES	205-901-0029
DEMOPOLIS H.S. F.F.A.	701 HWY 80 W.	DEMOPOLIS	AL	36732	CLIFTON McNIGHT	334-289-0294
FISHERS OF MEN - SOUTH ALA	P.O. BOX 2222	E. BREWTON	AL	36427	ALLEN COUCH	251-867-9852
FIVE FLAGS BASS CLUB	4770 MUSCODA ST.	PENSACOLA	FL	32526	WAYNE LASSITTER	850-944-9913
GEORIGA BASS FEDERATION	BIOLOGY DEPT., 1601 MAPLE ST.	CARROLLTON	GA	30118	CARL QUERTERMUS	678-839-4035
GILBERTOWN BASS CLUB	P.O. BOX 183	GILBERTOWN	AL	36908	MIKE THORN	251-843-2668
I.L.B.C. BASS TRAIL	3815 WATERMELLON RD.	NORTHPORT	AL	35473	SAM DAVIS	205-752-0107
KOWALIGA	474 N. ANN AVE.	TALLASSEE	AL	36078	HANK GOLDEN	334-283-6117
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE BASSMASTERS	3480 LITTLE DR SW	HARTSELLE	AL	35640	PHIL EKEMA	256-751-3656
MAGNOLIA BASS CLUB	3595 U.S. HWY 11	CUBA	AL	36907	MICHAEL DENNIS	205-499-1034
MISS. DIV. WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS		TUPELO	MS		LARRY PUGH	
MOBILE BASSMASTERS	4951 GOVERNMENT BLVD.	MOBILE	AL	36693	BOB STEELE	251-661-9600
NORTH ALABAMA TOURNAMENT ANGLERS	24963 LISA DR.	ATHENS	AL	35613	STAN SHERROD	256-230-0081
NORTHPORT BASS CLUB	11008 BUSTER TIERCE SPUR	NORTHPORT	AL	35475	ROBERT FINDLAY	205-339-5546
NUCOR STEEL	ORCHARD MILL ROAD	COTTONDALE	AL	35453	A. CHAMPION	205-556-2065
OUTCASTERS BASS CLUB	75 CO. RD. 68	SECTION	AL	35771	BIG STEVE TURNER	256-572-4509
PEP MILL BASSMASTERS	350 SPRING TRAIL	WARRIOR	AL	35180	BILLY J. LAWSON	205-647-2871
PRATTVILLE BASS ANGLERS	1752 WHIPPOORWILL CT.	DEATSVILLE	AL	36022	TIM BAKER	
RED BIRD BASS	4206 LAWNWOOD DR.	MONTGOMERY	AL	36108	LEE ZEIGLER	334-281-0940
SAWYER LODGE #93 F&AM	1758 CO. RD. 133	WEDOWEE	AL	36278	DONNIE STRAIN	
SEMMES SOUTHERN COMFORT BASS CLUB	10575 PONDEROSA DRIVE	SEMMES	AL	36575	DANNY HEATHCOE	251-649-9325
SOUTHWIRE COMPANY	1 SOUTHWIRE DRIVE	CARROLLTON	GA	30109	STEVE HARPER	770-832-5450
SMITH LAKE DAM TOURNAMENT	1769 CO. RD. 933	CRANE HILL	AL	35053	WAYNE COLE	256-747-7355
TEAM TRAILS OF MISS. (WEST ALA.)	P.O. BOX 555	FAYETTE	AL	35555	TRISH SOWINS	205-932-3895
TEAM TRAILS OF MISS. (NE ALA.)	409 W. PASADENA AVE.	MUSCLE SHOALS	AL	35661	JAMES BYRD	256-702-3980
TEAM TRAILS OF MISS. (WEST MISS.)	2753 TVA RD.	WEST POINT	MS	39773	GENE BROWN	662-295-0284
TEAM TRAILS OF MISS. (EAST MISS.)	P.O. BOX 555	FAYETTE	AL	35555	TRISH SOWINS	205-932-3895
TMT ANGLERS	220 LEACH DR.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35213	LANCE GRANGER	
TRI-RIVERS BASS CLUB	415 DUSTY TRAILS	DEATSVILLE	AL	36022	DAN SPIRES	334-361-1878
WEST ALABAMA BASS FISHERMANS ASSN.	P.O. BOX 210	GORDO	AL	35466	JEFF GILLIAM	205-364-8530
WILDCAT TEAM TOURNAMENT	1165 CO. RD. 78	BREMEN	AL	35033	MARK JONES	205-901-0029

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2007 B.A.I.T. Program.

Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	No. of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	No. 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	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days ¹ to catch a bass over 5 lb.
JAN	21	499	324	147	4323.5	1201	32.0	68.0	0.0	92	2146.78	1.79	13	2	4.63	64.93	2.78	4.97	333	33
FEB	41	751	472	159	6362.0	1472	40.7	59.3	0.0	96	2832.02	1.92	13	0	4.39	62.85	2.31	4.45	489	49
MAR	64	1554	1222	597	14080.0	4196	50.4	49.6	0.0	94	8684.68	2.07	90	1	4.87	78.64	2.98	6.17	156	16
APR	56	1054	860	376	9984.0	2900	62.8	37.2	0.0	99	5528.85	1.91	34	1	4.60	81.59	2.90	5.54	294	29
MAY	53	958	795	314	9382.0	2844	63.5	36.1	0.4	96	5000.00	1.76	29	0	4.27	82.99	3.03	5.33	324	32
JUN	52	933	734	266	8831.5	2548	61.0	38.9	0.1	95	4670.66	1.83	28	0	4.35	78.67	2.89	5.29	315	32
JUL	40	637	509	196	5780.3	1643	60.8	39.2	0.0	94	2972.47	1.81	22	0	4.31	79.91	2.84	5.14	263	26
AUG	38	654	469	117	5719.0	1307	47.1	52.9	0.0	90	2159.15	1.65	12	0	4.04	71.71	2.29	3.78	477	48
SEP	43	582	472	150	5559.5	1656	44.1	55.9	0.0	96	2637.38	1.59	6	0	3.74	81.10	2.98	4.74	927	93
OCT	37	565	478	197	6270.3	2040	51.4	48.4	0.2	96	3311.91	1.62	9	0	3.73	84.60	3.25	5.28	697	70
NOV	24	422	352	144	4269.0	1381	53.4	46.6	0.0	95	2262.07	1.64	11	0	4.37	83.41	3.23	5.30	388	39
DEC	16	261	232	106	2419.0	806	36.3	63.7	0.0	97	1259.21	1.56	3	0	4.02	88.89	3.33	5.21	806	81
Grand Total	485	8870	6919	2769	82980.0	23994	53.4	46.5	0.1	95	43465.2	1.81	270	4	4.32	78.00	2.89	5.24	307	31

¹a 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 2007 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	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Demopolis	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	12	83.3	108	31	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	70.3	2.27	2	0	6.03	2.87	6.51	54
	MAR	2	41	63.4	369	87	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	186.8	2.15	0	0	3.78	2.36	5.06	.
	APR	2	29	89.7	261	77	100.0	0.0	0.0	92.1	157.0	2.04	0	0	3.49	2.95	6.02	.
	MAY	2	52	78.8	494	135	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.3	278.8	2.07	2	0	5.41	2.73	5.64	247
	JUN	3	94	52.1	897	157	100.0	0.0	0.0	99.4	319.4	2.03	0	0	4.23	1.75	3.56	.
	JUL	2	48	72.9	472	120	91.7	8.3	0.0	95.0	225.1	1.88	0	0	4.32	2.54	4.77	.
	AUG	1	20	80.0	190	60	100.0	0.0	0.0	90.0	105.6	1.76	0	0	3.75	3.16	5.56	.
	SEP	1	22	68.2	198	34	.	.	.	100.0	59.7	1.76	0	0	3.25	1.72	3.01	.
	OCT	1	7	100.0	60	15	.	.	.	100.0	25.8	1.72	0	0	2.94	2.52	4.34	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Eufaula	JAN	1	25	60.0	225	25	.	.	.	100.0	51.4	2.06	0	0	4.25	1.11	2.29	.
	FEB	4	49	63.3	416	54	57.1	42.9	0.0	98.6	134.1	2.48	0	0	4.64	1.30	3.22	.
	MAR	5	100	57.0	1102	169	91.7	8.3	0.0	99.3	384.8	2.28	2	0	4.22	1.53	3.49	551
	APR	10	143	65.0	1284	176	72.4	27.6	0.0	98.7	378.4	2.15	5	0	5.04	1.37	2.95	257
	MAY	3	50	74.0	747	103	74.5	25.5	0.0	95.4	198.4	1.93	2	0	4.87	1.38	2.66	373
	JUN	4	48	54.2	417	65	80.7	19.3	0.0	97.7	143.9	2.21	1	0	3.88	1.56	3.45	417
	JUL	5	78	84.6	876	189	85.2	14.8	0.0	84.9	374.9	1.98	2	0	4.32	2.16	4.28	438
	AUG	3	46	73.9	496	98	68.5	31.5	0.0	60.3	196.4	2.00	2	0	4.52	1.98	3.96	248
	SEP	3	48	81.3	617	138	87.6	12.4	0.0	99.1	243.1	1.76	2	0	4.51	2.24	3.94	309
	OCT	1	12	100.0	96	37	89.2	10.8	0.0	97.3	79.4	2.15	3	0	5.44	3.85	8.27	32
	NOV	3	43	79.1	591	135	91.6	8.4	0.0	100.0	203.4	1.51	1	0	4.84	2.28	3.44	591
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Guntersville	JAN	2	25	40.0	208	27	96.2	3.8	0.0	100.0	92.1	3.41	4	1	6.25	1.30	4.43	52
	FEB	3	32	34.4	257	36	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	125.3	3.48	4	0	4.25	1.40	4.87	64
	MAR	7	181	86.2	1774	386	96.1	3.9	0.0	98.9	1237.1	3.20	56	0	5.95	2.18	6.98	32
	APR	6	101	83.2	1313	266	94.1	5.9	0.0	99.2	704.1	2.65	11	0	5.14	2.03	5.36	119
	MAY	7	109	82.6	1069	281	96.6	3.4	0.0	96.4	757.5	2.70	10	0	4.78	2.63	7.09	107
	JUN	5	65	89.2	776	255	95.4	3.8	0.7	98.2	724.2	2.84	14	0	6.25	3.29	9.33	55
	JUL	2	53	84.9	506	111	91.7	8.3	0.0	98.3	323.4	2.91	9	0	5.60	2.19	6.39	56
	AUG	1	10	60.0	80	11	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	25.1	2.28	0	0	3.50	1.38	3.14	.
	SEP	5	48	58.3	508	71	82.8	17.2	0.0	96.9	204.1	2.87	2	0	4.47	1.40	4.02	254
	OCT	6	98	64.3	1088	142	86.8	13.2	0.0	98.2	393.4	2.77	5	0	4.73	1.30	3.61	218
	NOV	2	18	88.9	232	45	74.2	25.8	0.0	100.0	111.2	2.47	2	0	5.29	1.94	4.79	116
	DEC	1	6	50.0	48	4	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	12.8	3.19	0	0	3.88	0.83	2.66	.
Harding	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	3	28	85.7	236	64	40.8	59.2	0.0	100.0	103.6	1.62	0	0	4.13	2.71	4.39	.
	MAR	2	20	90.0	160	64	17.8	82.2	0.0	100.0	80.0	1.25	0	0	2.46	4.00	5.00	.
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	1	26	80.8	247	74	36.5	63.5	0.0	89.2	76.4	1.03	0	0	2.75	3.00	3.09	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	8	100.0	56	9	11.1	88.9	0.0	88.9	10.7	1.18	0	0	2.47	1.61	1.90	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	10	60.0	90	13	53.8	46.2	0.0	100.0	18.5	1.42	0	0	.	1.44	2.06	.
	NOV	3	34	100.0	310	124	55.6	44.4	0.0	100.0	164.3	1.33	1	0	3.63	4.00	5.30	310
	DEC	2	37	83.8	318	79	19.9	80.1	0.0	99.1	110.3	1.40	0	0	3.20	2.48	3.47	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

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	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Harris	JAN	4	76	86.8	611	276	8.4	91.6	0.0	96.4	447.5	1.62	2	1	5.32	4.52	7.33	305
	FEB	2	45	84.4	394	120	0.0	100.0	0.0	79.2	165.7	1.38	0	0	3.71	3.05	4.21	.
	MAR	2	162	71.0	1449	300	.	.	.	44.3	592.5	1.98	4	1	7.13	2.07	4.09	362
	APR	1	53	90.6	477	109	.	.	.	100.0	160.7	1.47	0	0	4.00	2.29	3.37	.
	MAY	1	12	91.7	96	24	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	44.3	1.85	0	0	4.40	2.50	4.61	.
	JUN	2	32	81.3	258	86	37.0	63.0	0.0	92.2	139.6	1.62	3	0	4.39	3.33	5.41	86
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	4	50	86.0	388	138	11.5	88.5	0.0	94.5	207.2	1.50	3	0	4.71	3.56	5.34	129
	SEP	1	10	100.0	100	39	.	.	.	100.0	58.7	1.50	0	0	4.95	3.90	5.87	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	2	40	82.5	320	94	3.9	96.1	0.0	48.4	130.1	1.38	2	0	4.69	2.94	4.06	160
	DEC	1	12	100.0	102	60	.	.	.	70.0	94.8	1.58	1	0	5.50	5.88	9.30	102
Jordan	JAN	1	16	100.0	160	57	.	.	.	100.0	117.1	2.05	0	0	4.20	3.56	7.32	.
	FEB	3	56	78.6	490	133	.	.	.	100.0	250.2	1.88	1	0	4.29	2.71	5.11	490
	MAR	3	69	87.0	761	235	3.9	96.1	0.0	96.1	473.3	2.01	0	0	4.24	3.09	6.22	.
	APR	2	35	91.4	307	149	.	.	.	99.1	304.0	2.04	1	0	5.45	4.85	9.90	307
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	2	32	75.0	320	77	43.2	56.8	0.0	98.6	162.0	2.10	1	0	5.44	2.41	5.06	320
	JUL	2	29	75.9	264	81	11.1	88.9	0.0	99.1	130.6	1.61	0	0	3.44	3.07	4.95	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	13	92.3	104	39	.	.	.	94.9	78.2	2.00	0	0	3.78	3.75	7.52	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	21	95.2	179	50	32.0	68.0	0.0	100.0	84.6	1.69	0	0	3.31	2.80	4.74	.
	DEC	4	67	94.0	627	227	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	430.9	1.90	1	0	4.74	3.62	6.87	627
Lay	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	2	30	93.3	280	93	13.2	86.8	0.0	100.0	169.1	1.82	0	0	3.94	3.32	6.04	.
	MAY	1	17	88.2	162	72	.	.	.	100.0	122.5	1.70	0	0	3.44	4.46	7.59	.
	JUN	1	14	92.9	112	45	.	.	.	100.0	77.7	1.73	0	0	3.11	4.02	6.93	.
	JUL	2	42	97.6	378	159	52.2	47.8	0.0	89.2	274.4	1.73	2	0	4.70	4.21	7.26	189
	AUG	2	37	64.9	487	65	62.9	37.1	0.0	96.7	115.3	1.77	0	0	4.40	1.33	2.37	.
	SEP	2	20	75.0	165	36	.	.	.	97.4	54.6	1.52	0	0	2.72	2.18	3.31	.
	OCT	2	20	90.0	187	84	.	.	.	100.0	160.8	1.91	0	0	3.91	4.49	8.60	.
	NOV	1	12	100.0	102	59	.	.	.	100.0	123.3	2.09	1	0	5.44	5.78	12.09	102
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Logan Martin	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	6	91	90.1	765	339	18.3	81.7	0.0	82.9	543.5	1.60	0	0	4.35	4.43	7.10	.
	APR	3	68	98.5	611	304	.	.	.	98.6	511.1	1.68	0	0	4.36	4.98	8.37	.
	MAY	1	19	94.7	171	69	8.7	91.3	0.0	98.6	113.6	1.65	0	0	4.40	4.04	6.64	.
	JUN	5	89	92.1	989	414	46.5	53.5	0.0	94.0	644.1	1.56	1	0	4.24	4.19	6.51	989
	JUL	3	54	81.5	445	163	37.3	62.7	0.0	96.3	228.6	1.40	2	0	4.63	3.66	5.14	223
	AUG	3	31	90.3	273	92	28.0	72.0	0.0	93.6	117.9	1.28	0	0	3.21	3.38	4.33	.
	SEP	4	45	93.3	387	140	17.0	83.0	0.0	93.1	203.8	1.46	0	0	3.41	3.62	5.27	.
	OCT	1	23	100.0	391	190	30.0	70.0	0.0	93.7	290.7	1.53	0	0	3.94	4.86	7.43	.
	NOV	1	20	90.0	180	106	.	.	.	97.2	175.0	1.65	0	0	3.94	5.89	9.72	.
	DEC	2	35	94.3	433	124	17.8	82.2	0.0	100.0	161.3	1.30	0	0	3.25	2.86	3.73	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

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	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Martin	JAN	4	80	95.0	874	416	9.1	90.9	0.0	91.3	602.6	1.45	0	0	3.91	4.76	6.89	.
	FEB	2	45	88.9	369	156	4.1	95.9	0.0	100.0	224.7	1.44	1	0	5.07	4.23	6.09	369
	MAR	3	39	82.1	294	112	.	.	.	97.4	155.6	1.39	0	0	3.99	3.81	5.29	.
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	22	68.2	171	30	41.7	58.3	0.0	72.2	43.9	1.46	0	0	2.53	1.75	2.57	.
	SEP	2	22	100.0	274	127	4.0	96.0	0.0	98.0	165.9	1.31	0	0	4.00	4.64	6.05	.
	OCT	2	30	100.0	530	219	11.1	88.9	0.0	73.8	285.5	1.30	0	0	2.95	4.13	5.39	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	20	95.0	160	77	11.7	88.3	0.0	98.7	108.2	1.41	0	0	3.63	4.81	6.76	.
Millers Ferry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	39	48.7	361	50	.	.	.	83.3	109.5	2.19	1	0	4.87	1.39	3.04	361
	MAR	1	18	66.7	117	23	.	.	.	95.7	46.3	2.01	1	0	5.87	1.97	3.96	117
	APR	2	62	75.8	822	183	.	.	.	100.0	308.2	1.68	0	0	4.46	2.23	3.75	.
	MAY	3	91	85.7	880	348	80.0	20.0	0.0	97.7	505.6	1.45	7	0	5.07	3.95	5.75	126
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	10	80.0	160	28	53.3	46.7	0.0	100.0	49.4	1.76	0	0	4.87	1.75	3.09	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	98	54.1	784	171	.	.	.	96.5	307.6	1.80	0	0	4.44	2.18	3.92	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mitchell	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	3	51	82.4	448	177	.	.	.	100.0	356.4	2.01	0	0	4.19	3.95	7.96	.
	MAR	2	40	100.0	345	145	.	.	.	100.0	285.3	1.97	1	0	4.46	4.20	8.27	345
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	1	8	75.0	76	23	.	.	.	95.7	37.3	1.62	0	0	3.81	3.03	4.91	.
	JUN	2	54	87.0	496	157	.	.	.	93.8	239.5	1.53	0	0	3.52	3.17	4.83	.
	JUL	1	9	100.0	90	42	.	.	.	100.0	81.6	1.94	0	0	.	4.67	9.06	.
	AUG	2	23	82.6	202	63	.	.	.	95.0	113.6	1.80	0	0	4.79	3.12	5.63	.
	SEP	3	37	86.5	328	132	.	.	.	97.8	231.8	1.76	0	0	3.22	4.03	7.08	.
	OCT	2	27	88.9	268	89	0.0	100.0	0.0	97.6	138.2	1.55	0	0	2.38	3.32	5.16	.
	NOV	1	19	100.0	295	87	.	.	.	100.0	154.9	1.78	0	0	3.94	2.95	5.26	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mobile Delta	JAN	1	19	73.7	171	40	.	.	.	87.5	49.4	1.23	0	0	2.08	2.34	2.89	.
	FEB	2	48	39.6	399	80	.	.	.	100.0	145.5	1.82	1	0	4.80	2.01	3.65	399
	MAR	4	59	86.4	556	164	100.0	0.0	0.0	88.2	269.1	1.64	0	0	3.78	2.95	4.84	.
	APR	2	26	76.9	232	53	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	70.5	1.33	0	0	3.00	2.28	3.04	.
	MAY	3	41	53.7	390	49	100.0	0.0	0.0	86.1	71.8	1.47	0	0	2.98	1.26	1.84	.
	JUN	3	46	52.2	391	41	100.0	0.0	0.0	95.2	61.0	1.49	0	0	2.77	1.05	1.56	.
	JUL	4	58	39.7	479	43	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	64.0	1.49	1	0	3.06	0.90	1.34	479
	AUG	2	28	57.1	210	26	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	35.8	1.38	0	0	2.20	1.24	1.70	.
	SEP	2	24	70.8	182	47	100.0	0.0	0.0	79.2	57.7	1.23	0	0	2.51	2.58	3.17	.
	OCT	3	35	71.4	322	63	95.8	4.2	0.0	100.0	75.4	1.20	0	0	1.89	1.96	2.34	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	17	100.0	170	72	100.0	0.0	0.0	83.3	98.1	1.36	0	0	2.92	4.24	5.77	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

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	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Neely Henry	JAN	1	32	37.5	256	26	50.0	50.0	0.0	100.0	58.0	2.23	2	0	5.15	1.02	2.26	128
	FEB	1	8	37.5	64	5	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	8.9	1.79	0	0	2.80	0.78	1.40	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	4	74	91.9	694	272	23.1	76.9	0.0	95.1	412.3	1.52	1	0	4.23	3.92	5.94	694
	JUN	2	28	96.4	252	85	33.3	66.7	0.0	83.8	122.2	1.44	0	0	2.42	3.37	4.85	.
	JUL	8	90	87.8	788	278	45.6	54.4	0.0	95.3	478.1	1.72	2	0	4.66	3.53	6.06	394
	AUG	5	93	82.8	716	178	43.7	56.3	0.0	88.8	271.9	1.53	1	0	4.32	2.49	3.80	716
	SEP	4	54	90.7	492	193	35.9	64.1	0.0	99.2	293.4	1.52	0	0	3.06	3.93	5.97	.
	OCT	2	18	100.0	297	58	28.9	71.1	0.0	98.3	84.2	1.45	0	0	3.74	1.95	2.83	.
	NOV	3	50	96.0	424	133	57.4	42.6	0.0	99.4	208.0	1.56	2	0	4.97	3.14	4.90	212
	DEC	1	26	92.3	208	45	40.0	60.0	0.0	100.0	81.8	1.82	1	0	5.88	2.16	3.93	208
Pickwick	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	6	192	88.5	1632	565	.	.	.	98.1	1272.9	2.25	9	0	5.53	3.46	7.80	181
	APR	2	35	88.6	312	148	.	.	.	96.4	294.3	1.99	1	0	4.86	4.74	9.43	312
	MAY	2	60	83.3	510	170	.	.	.	98.2	384.6	2.26	0	0	4.43	3.33	7.54	.
	JUN	2	25	76.0	225	69	.	.	.	94.0	128.3	1.86	1	0	4.51	3.07	5.70	225
	JUL	2	41	92.7	369	162	.	.	.	96.6	345.3	2.13	2	0	5.91	4.39	9.36	185
	AUG	1	36	80.6	324	123	.	.	.	98.4	269.0	2.19	2	0	5.36	3.80	8.30	162
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	9	88.9	81	34	.	.	.	100.0	65.9	1.94	0	0	3.89	4.20	8.14	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Smith	JAN	4	132	31.1	1056	187	.	.	.	75.6	411.4	2.20	2	0	4.95	1.77	3.90	528
	FEB	5	124	38.7	999	199	3.2	96.8	0.0	88.4	445.7	2.24	2	0	4.46	1.99	4.46	499
	MAR	5	155	69.7	1272	337	.	.	.	92.3	760.7	2.26	2	0	4.94	2.65	5.98	636
	APR	1	5	80.0	40	11	.	.	.	100.0	12.3	1.11	0	0	2.04	2.75	3.06	.
	MAY	2	26	76.9	166	61	18.3	81.7	0.0	96.3	83.8	1.37	1	0	5.09	3.67	5.05	166
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	1	22	81.8	154	55	12.7	87.3	0.0	94.5	54.8	1.00	0	0	3.42	3.57	3.56	.
	AUG	1	17	76.5	119	38	2.6	97.4	0.0	97.4	28.6	0.75	0	0	3.58	3.19	2.40	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	16	87.5	128	47	19.1	80.9	0.0	51.1	40.1	0.85	0	0	3.23	3.67	3.13	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	21	85.7	189	76	.	.	.	100.0	76.1	1.00	0	0	4.16	4.02	4.02	.
Weiss	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	50	74.0	450	59	.	.	.	100.0	141.9	2.40	0	0	4.88	1.31	3.15	.
	MAR	3	84	50.0	756	156	51.7	48.3	0.0	100.0	380.0	2.44	4	0	5.78	2.06	5.03	189
	APR	8	156	92.3	1265	429	59.2	40.8	0.0	99.6	757.9	1.77	5	0	4.85	3.39	5.99	253
	MAY	4	59	86.4	511	140	77.5	22.5	0.0	94.8	219.1	1.56	0	0	3.46	2.74	4.29	.
	JUN	11	187	88.2	1634	495	49.0	51.0	0.0	97.1	848.8	1.71	5	0	4.50	3.03	5.19	327
	JUL	4	55	83.6	458	100	58.5	41.5	0.0	95.0	170.2	1.70	0	0	3.50	2.18	3.72	.
	AUG	1	21	81.0	158	44	56.8	43.2	0.0	97.7	81.1	1.84	0	0	4.14	2.79	5.15	.
	SEP	2	30	90.0	260	80	55.5	44.5	0.0	96.4	157.0	1.96	1	0	4.87	3.08	6.04	260
	OCT	1	11	100.0	99	38	65.8	34.2	0.0	100.0	72.9	1.92	0	0	4.76	3.84	7.36	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

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	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
West Point	JAN	1	11	81.8	99	28	25.0	75.0	0.0	100.0	49.0	1.75	0	0	3.11	2.83	4.95	.
	FEB	1	10	60.0	80	7	42.9	57.1	0.0	100.0	14.7	2.11	0	0	4.29	0.88	1.84	.
	MAR	7	142	81.7	1342	514	36.4	63.6	0.0	97.9	859.2	1.67	3	0	5.09	3.83	6.40	447
	APR	7	79	84.8	738	228	27.8	72.2	0.0	99.7	431.3	1.89	2	0	3.77	3.09	5.84	369
	MAY	8	103	78.6	1073	265	17.6	82.4	0.0	94.0	326.3	1.23	1	0	3.35	2.47	3.04	1073
	JUN	3	52	84.6	493	121	35.1	64.9	0.0	89.8	183.9	1.52	1	0	4.81	2.45	3.73	493
	JUL	2	30	70.0	240	50	22.5	77.5	0.0	81.7	75.7	1.51	1	0	4.78	2.08	3.15	240
	AUG	3	45	60.0	438	51	32.8	67.2	0.0	93.0	85.3	1.67	0	0	4.36	1.16	1.95	.
	SEP	7	108	78.7	967	330	10.1	89.9	0.0	94.7	459.4	1.39	1	0	3.58	3.41	4.75	967
	OCT	4	44	84.1	420	132	9.3	90.7	0.0	94.3	182.2	1.38	0	0	2.82	3.15	4.34	.
	NOV	1	18	100.0	324	159	6.3	93.7	0.0	98.1	245.8	1.55	0	0	3.20	4.91	7.59	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wheeler	JAN	1	59	76.3	472	67	.	.	.	100.0	170.1	2.54	3	0	5.25	1.42	3.60	157
	FEB	1	34	67.6	272	52	.	.	.	100.0	98.5	1.89	0	0	4.19	1.91	3.62	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	2	66	81.8	569	220	.	.	.	99.1	430.1	1.96	1	0	4.53	3.87	7.56	569
	MAY	4	76	89.5	901	301	95.1	0.6	4.3	99.6	543.0	1.80	1	0	4.76	3.34	6.03	901
	JUN	1	32	93.8	288	132	.	.	.	93.9	288.2	2.18	1	0	5.06	4.58	10.01	288
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	2	53	83.0	477	155	.	.	.	96.6	230.9	1.49	0	0	3.97	3.25	4.84	.
	OCT	5	92	95.7	1221	475	95.5	0.0	4.5	99.5	728.3	1.53	0	0	4.09	3.89	5.96	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wilson	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	30	70.0	240	61	.	.	.	100.0	136.0	2.23	1	0	5.17	2.54	5.66	240
	MAR	1	36	94.4	288	155	.	.	.	100.0	281.5	1.82	1	0	5.25	5.38	9.77	288
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	1	38	92.1	342	144	.	.	.	96.5	288.8	2.01	1	0	5.63	4.21	8.44	342
	JUN	1	30	73.3	270	68	85.3	14.7	0.0	95.6	156.3	2.30	0	0	4.91	2.52	5.79	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	38	68.4	300	53	.	.	.	84.6	85.7	1.62	0	0	3.72	1.77	2.86	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	2	60	86.7	524	198	.	.	.	98.2	339.1	1.71	0	0	3.91	3.78	6.47	.
	NOV	1	14	100.0	224	87	.	.	.	100.0	139.4	1.60	2	0	5.76	3.88	6.22	112
	DEC	1	8	37.5	44	6	.	.	.	100.0	7.9	1.32	0	0	1.65	1.36	1.80	.

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

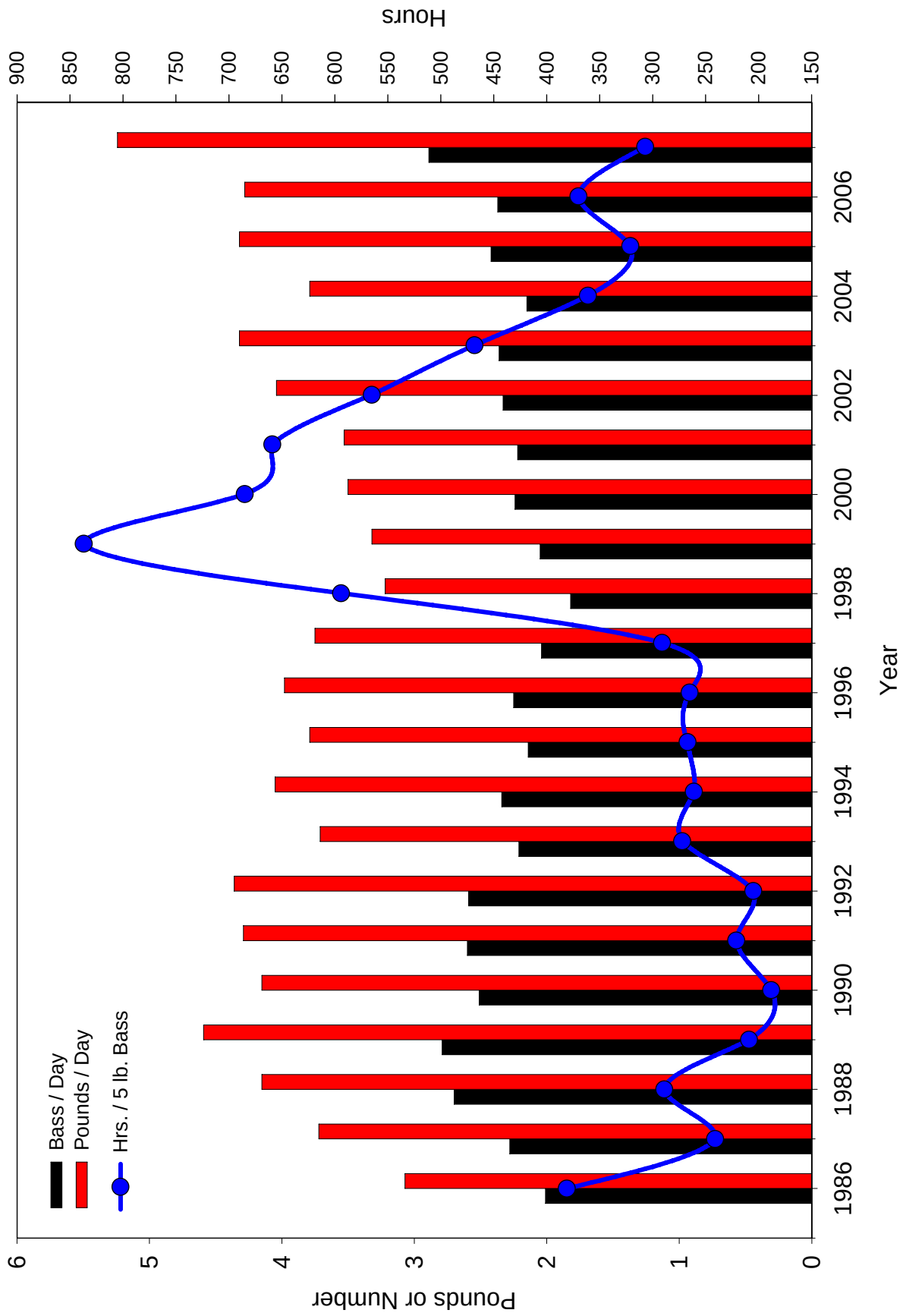


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments

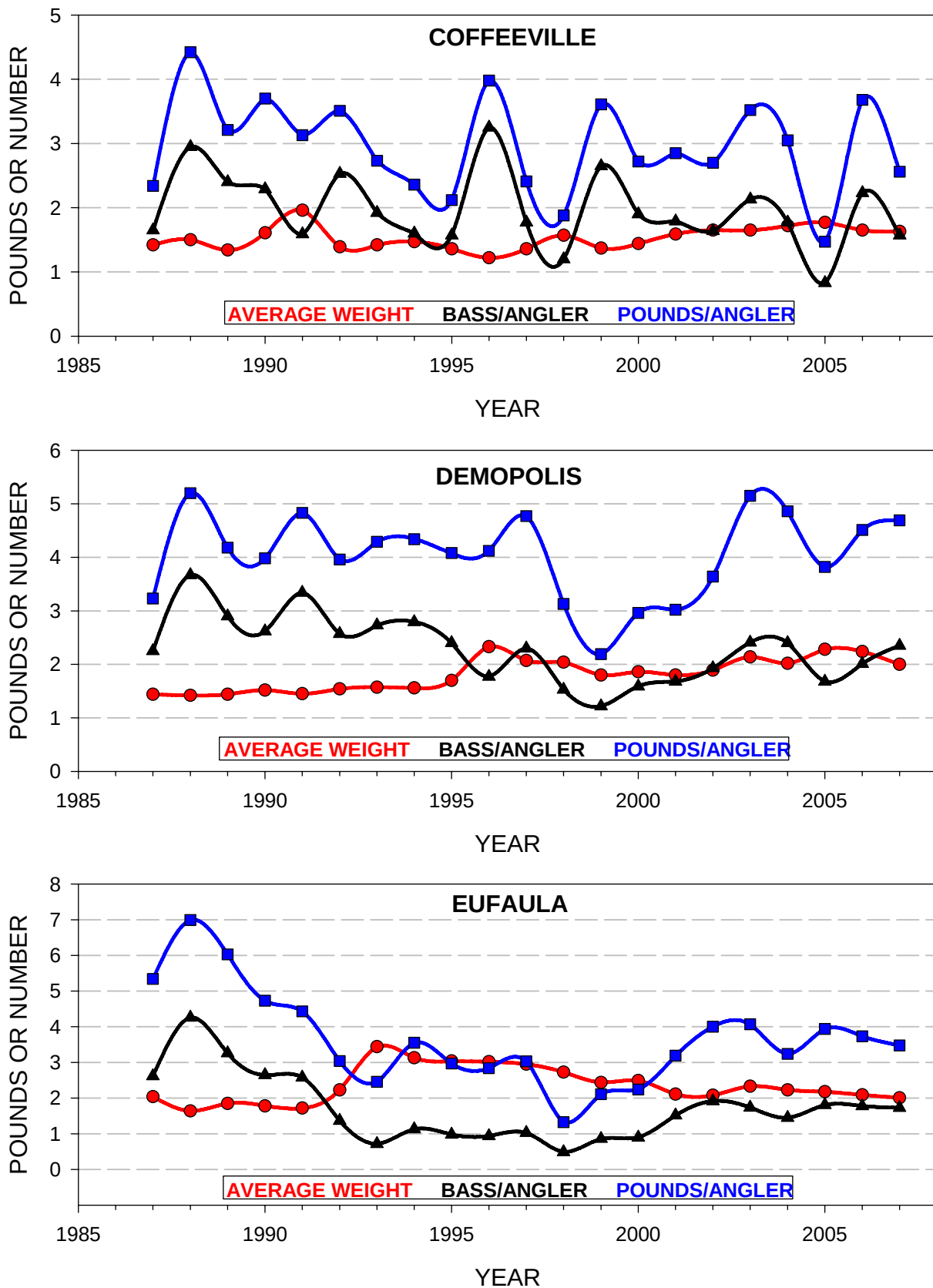


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeetville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2007.

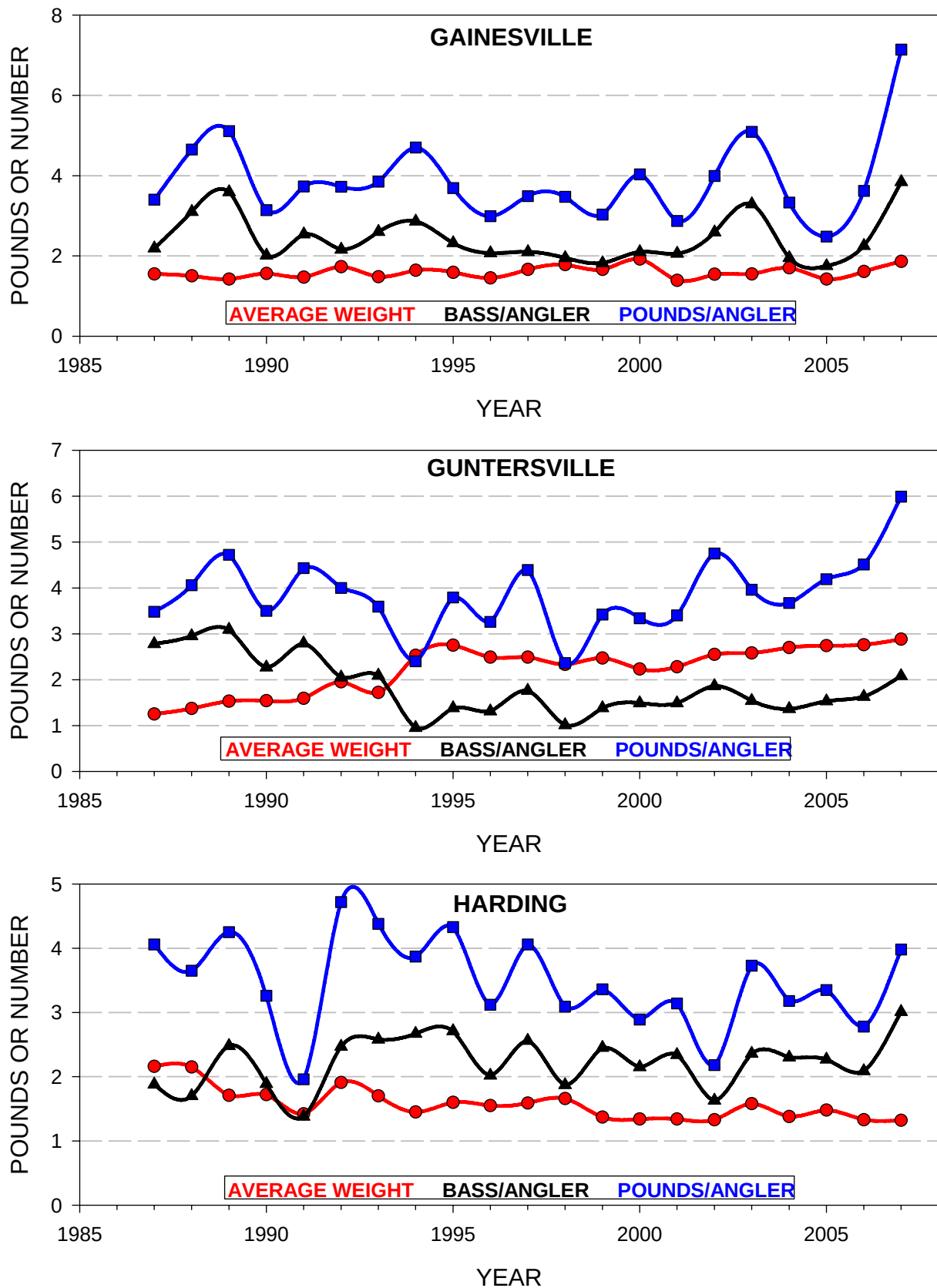


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Gunterville, and Harding, through 2007.

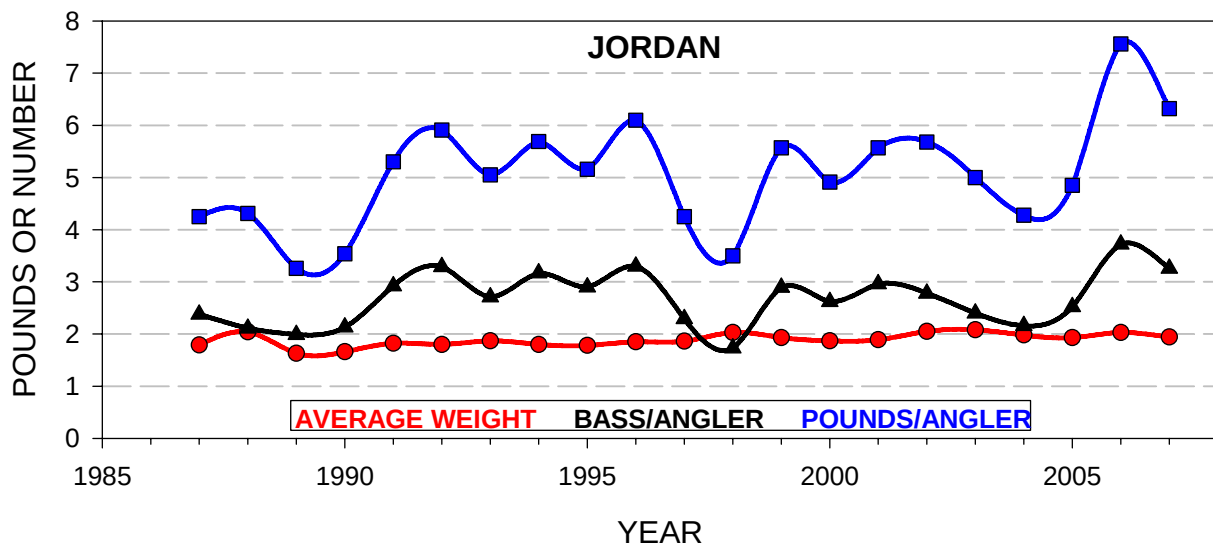
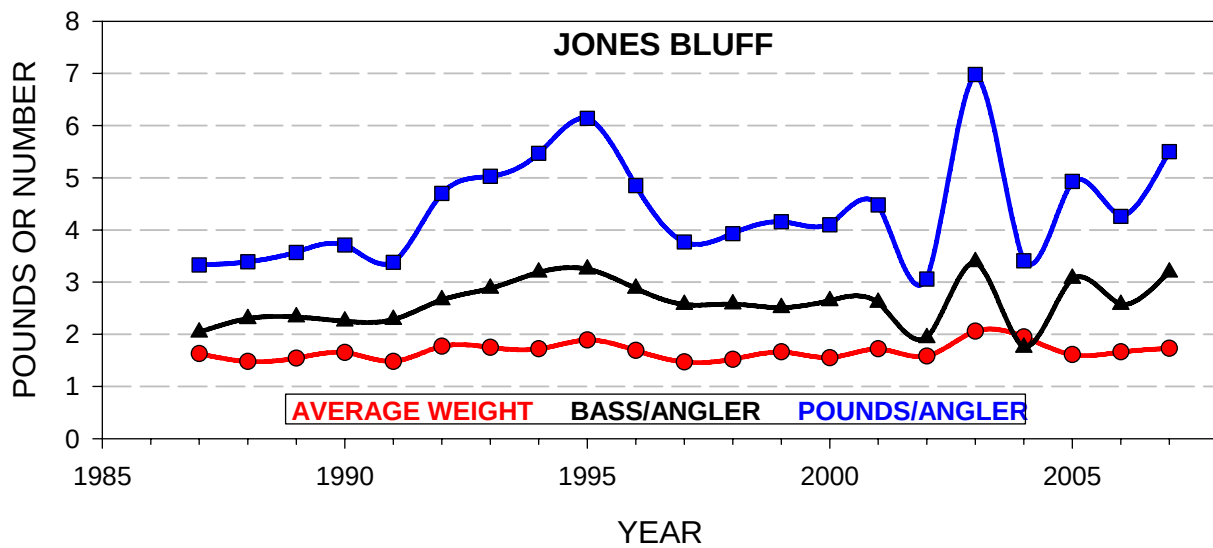
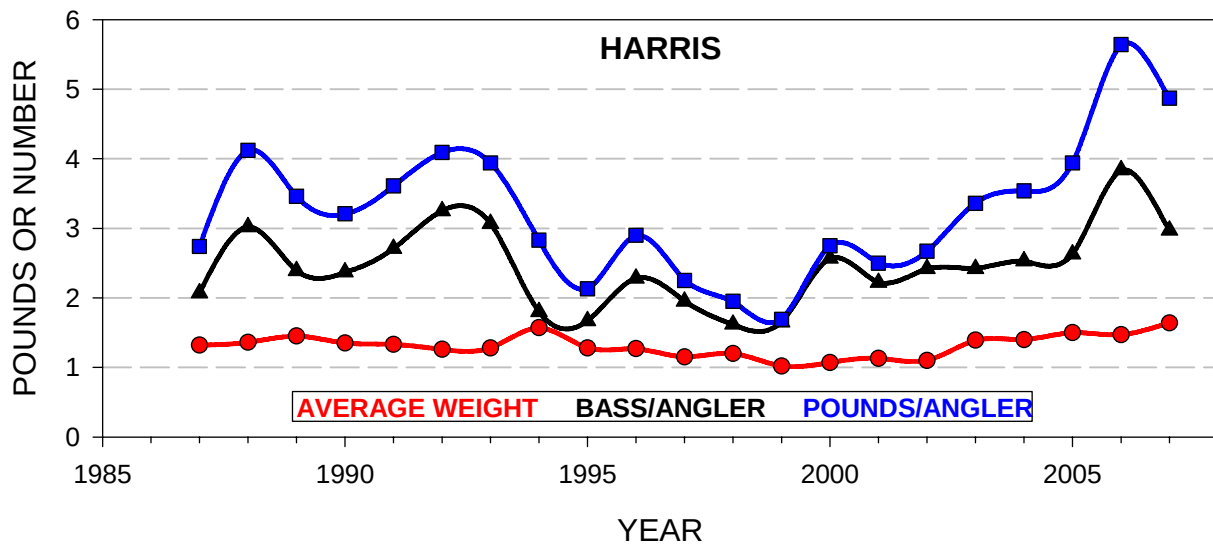


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2007.

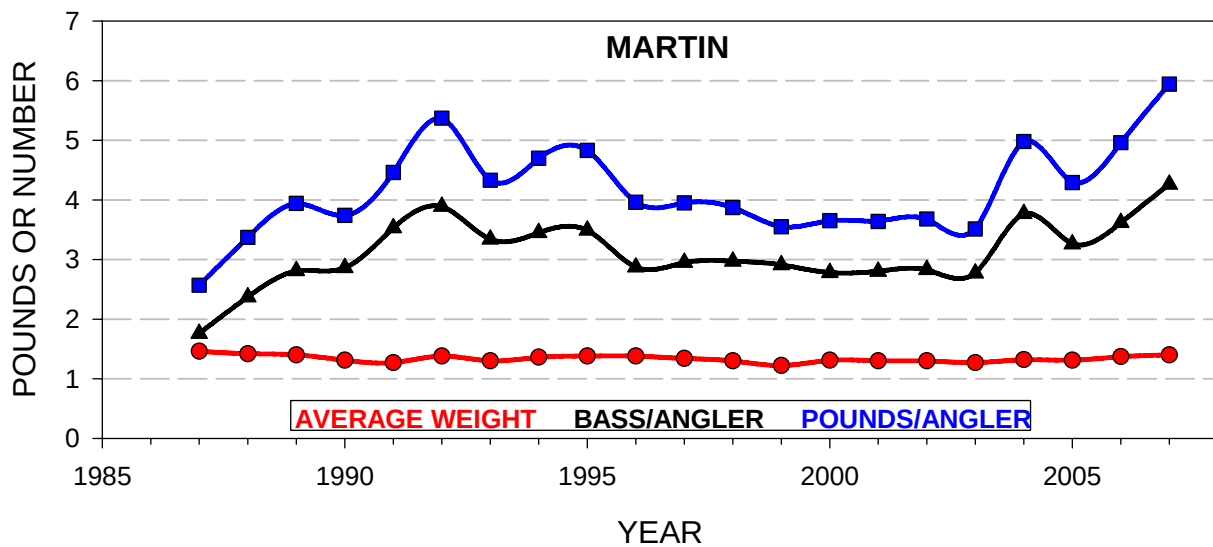
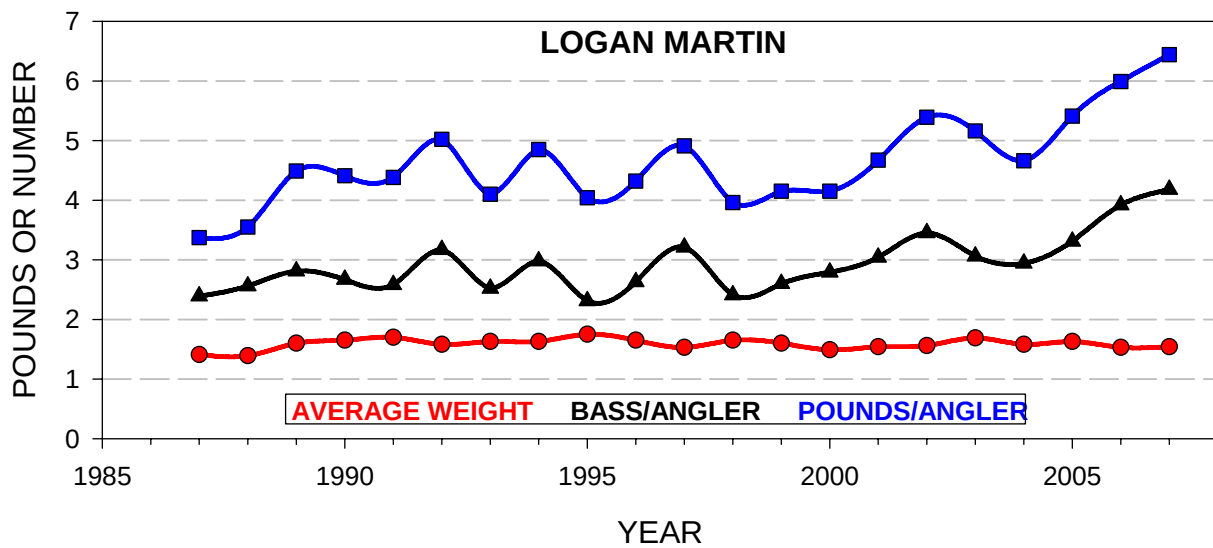
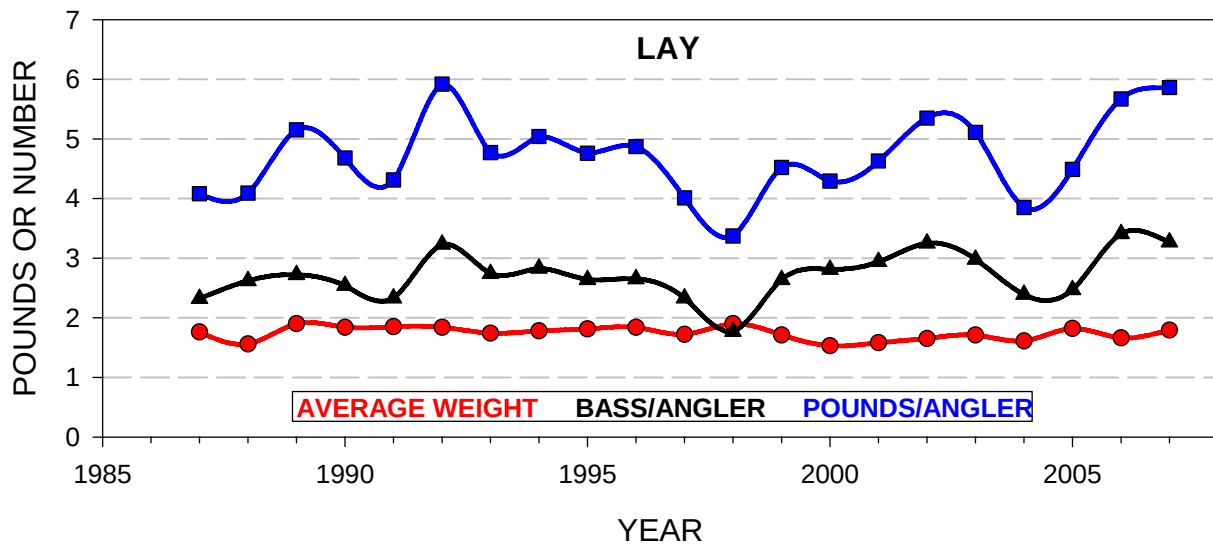


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2007.

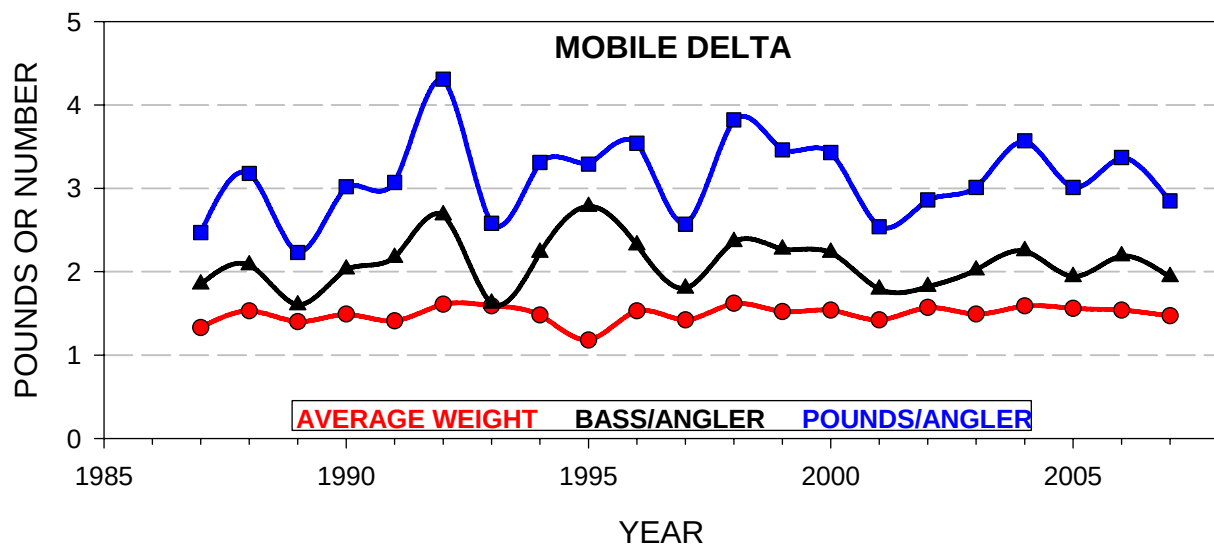
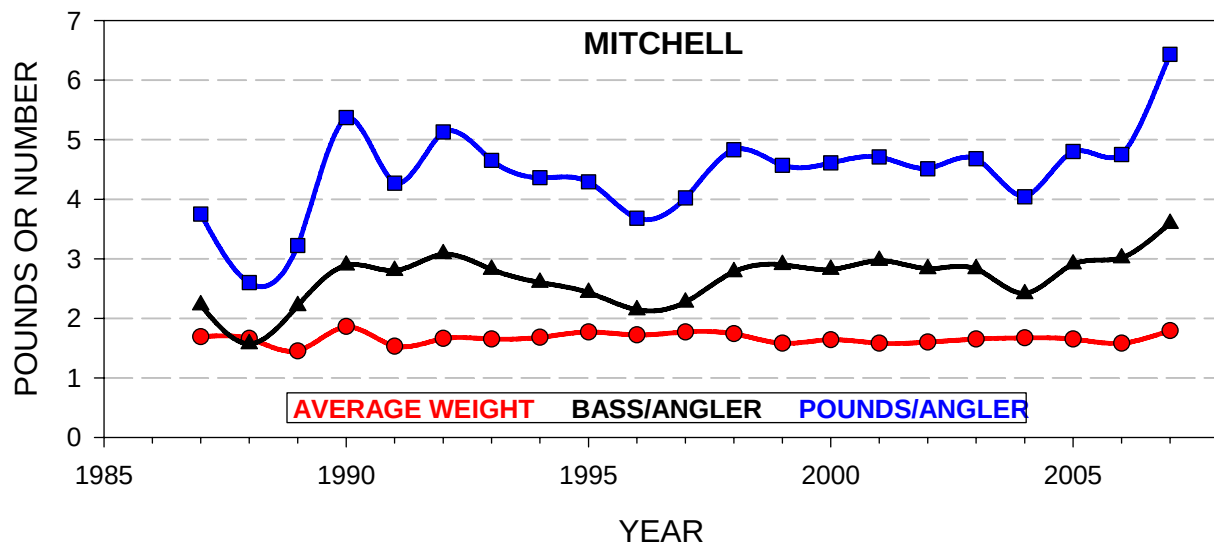
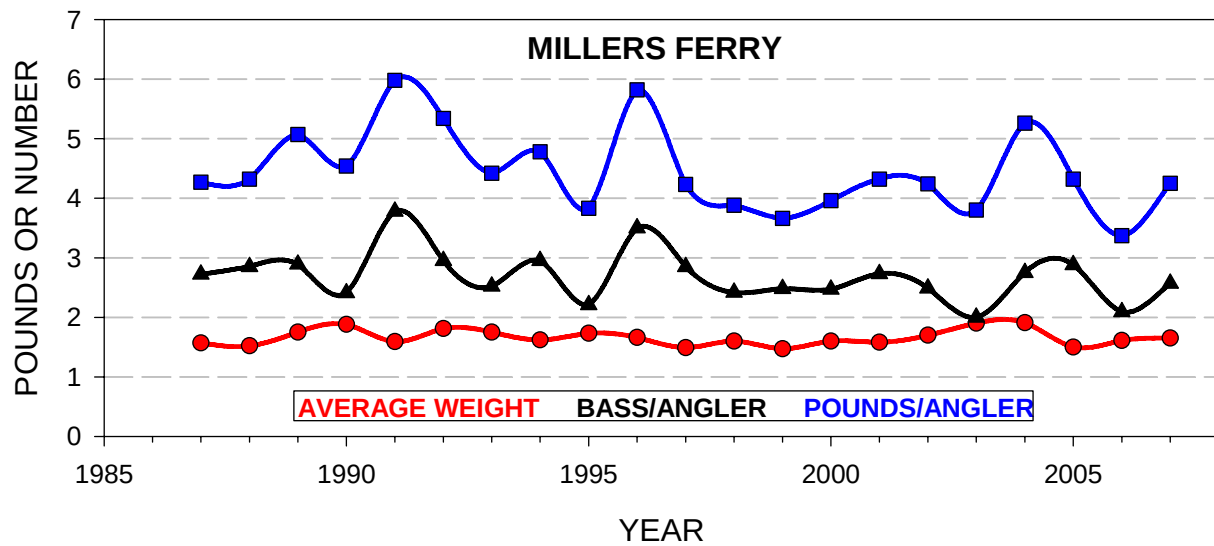


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2007.

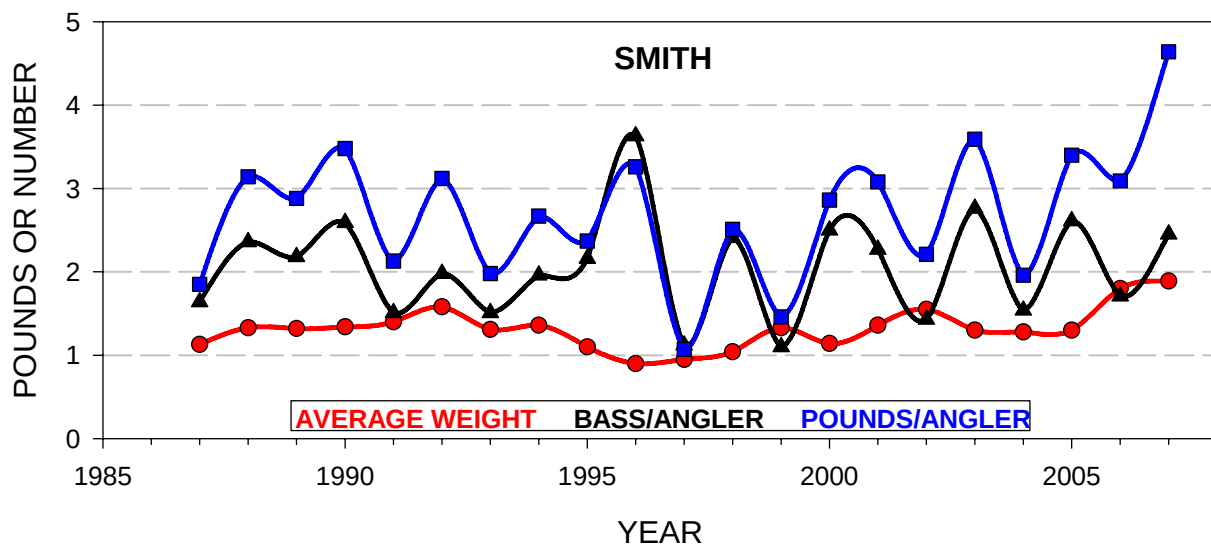
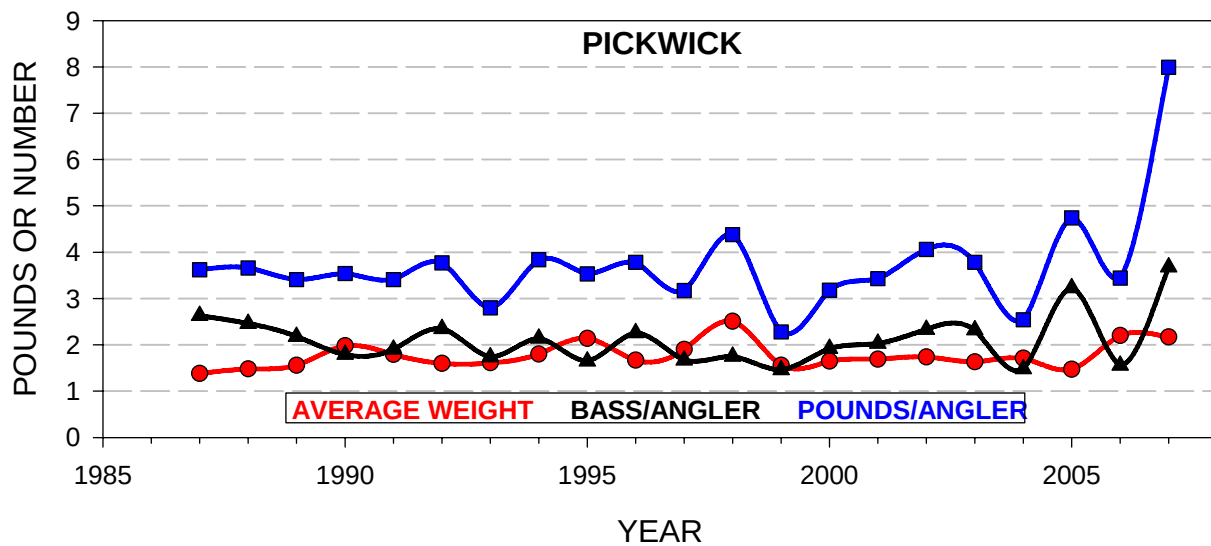
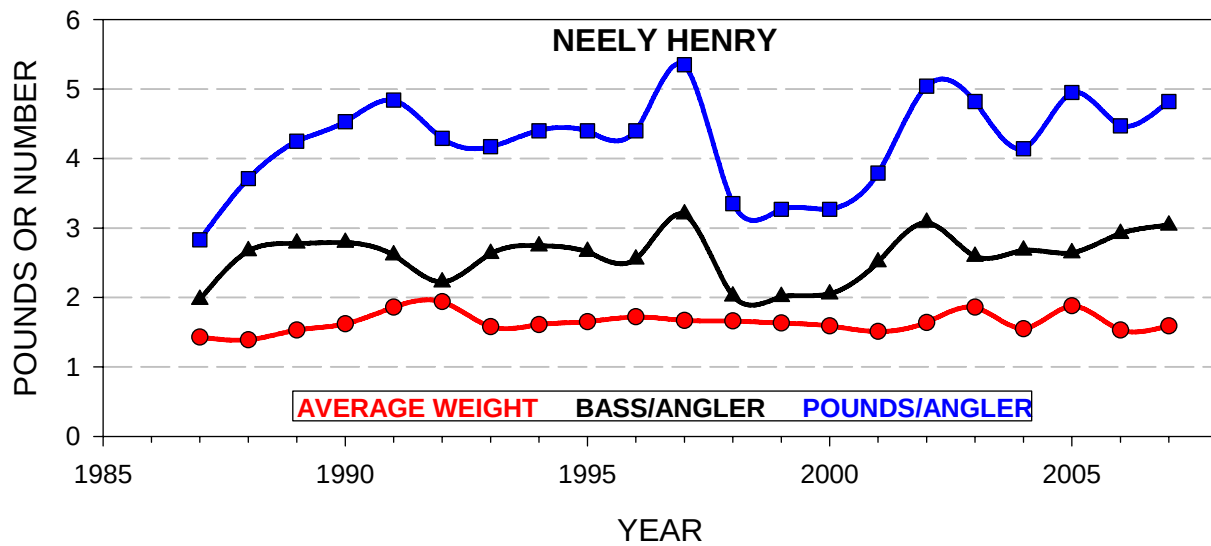


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2007.

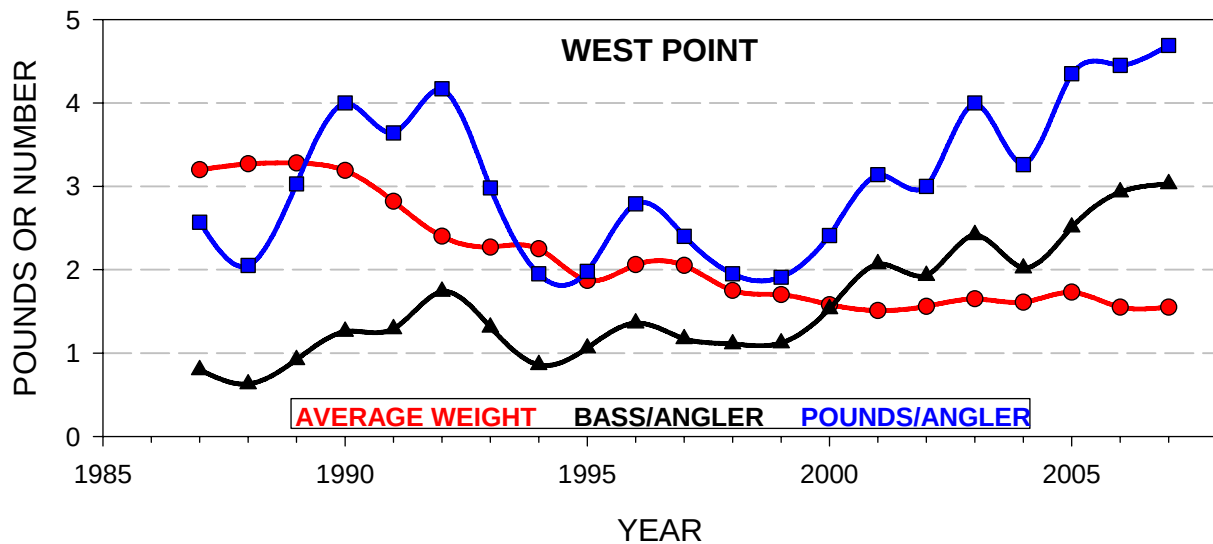
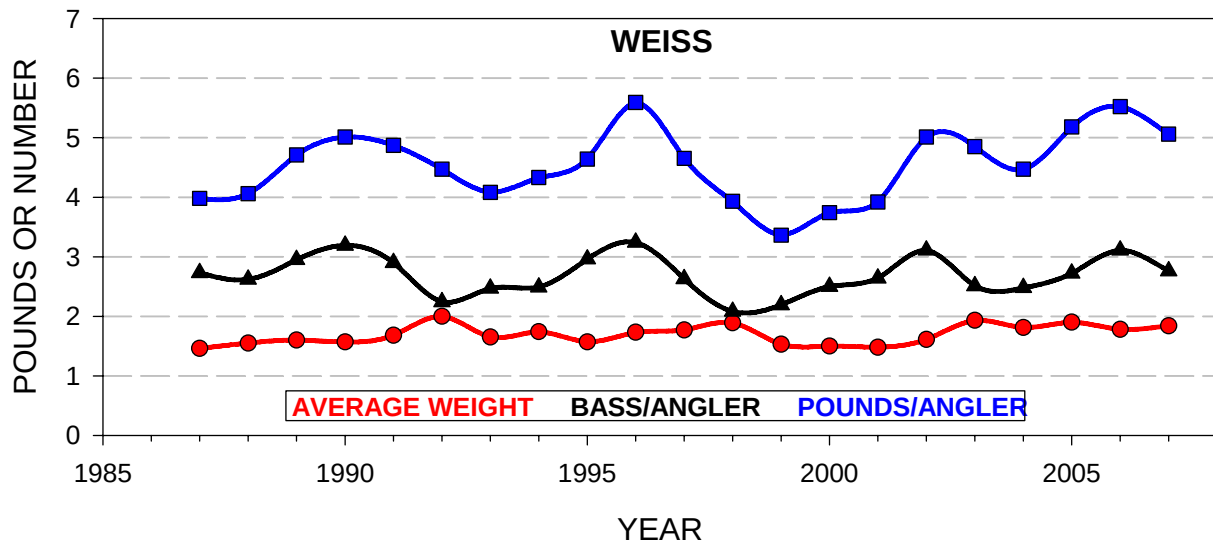
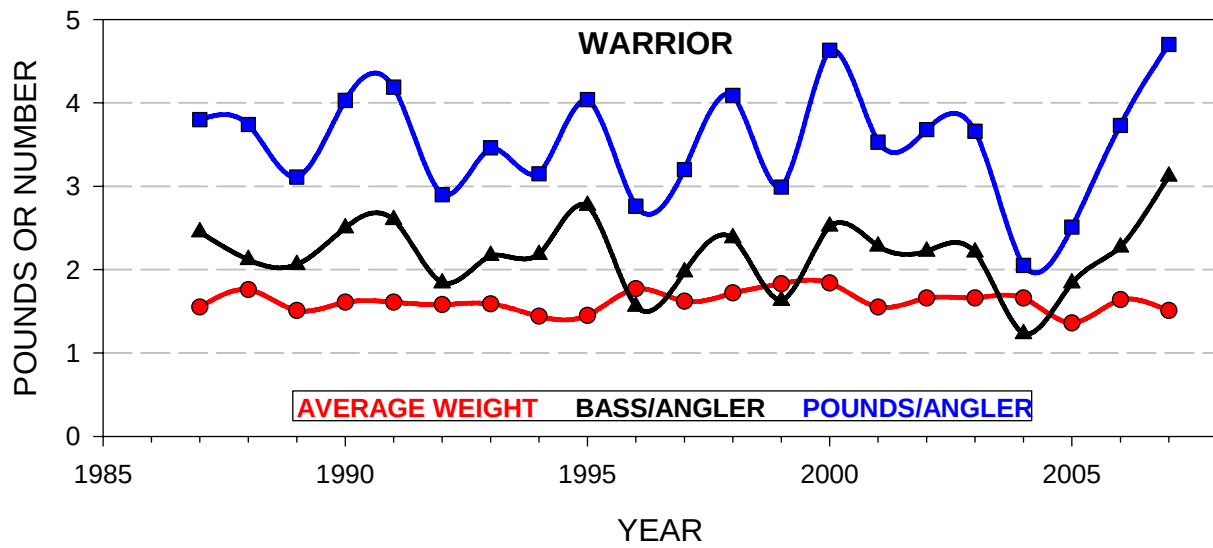


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2007.

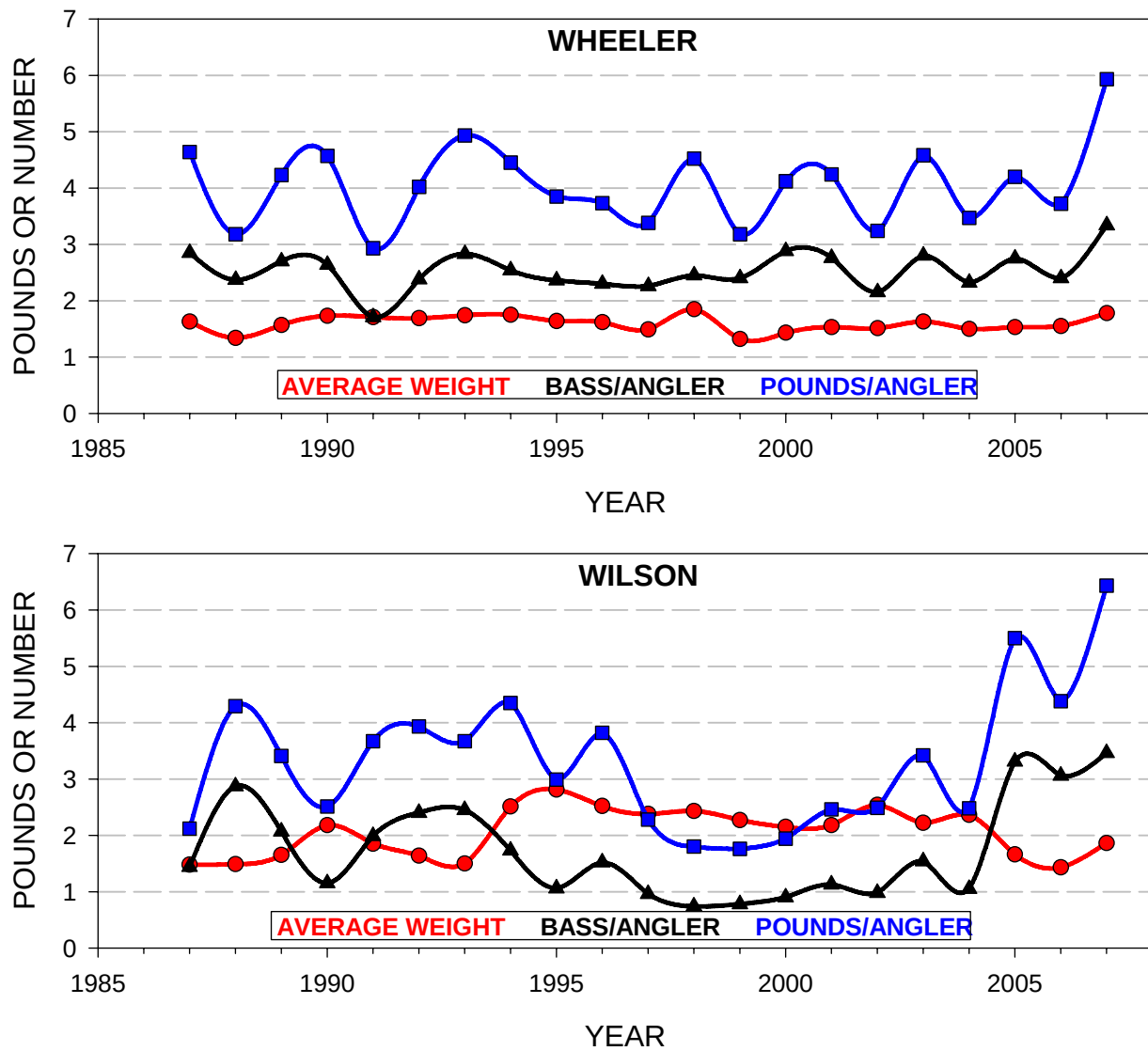


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2007.



Alabama's Boating Access Program



The Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries maintains 120 public boating access areas on most of the State's public reservoirs and waterways. The Boating Access Program, or Capital Development, is a four-man crew based out of Marion, Ala., whose responsibilities include building, maintaining and repairing boat ramps, parking areas, boarding piers, and signage.

Alabama's Boating Access Crew has long been regarded as one of the Southeast's premiere boat ramp construction teams, and has pioneered ideas which have modernized the art of boat ramp construction. Their innovative

ideas have been duplicated by numerous state and federal agencies throughout the Country.

During 2007, this crew was responsible for many significant improvements to boating access in Alabama. Among them was the replacement or addition of docks at Waterloo (Pickwick), Minky Creek (Guntersville), Selma Landing (Miller's Ferry), Mt. Vernon (Mobile Delta), Flint Creek (Wheeler), Thomas Mill Creek (Eufaula), and Mud Creek (Guntersville).

Parking lots were paved or repaired at Leesburg (Weiss), Gordon (Chattahoochee River), Parker's

Bridge (Sipsey Fork), and Waterloo (Pickwick).

Boat ramps were repaired at Road End (Harris), Moundville (Warrior), Gordon (Chattahoochee River), Foster's Ferry (Warrior), and Beeswax (Lay). A new boat ramp was constructed near downtown Cordova (Cane Creek), and ramps were extended at Elk River (Wheeler), Pace's Point (Martin), and both ramps at Kowaliga Bridge (Martin).

Their efforts to extend ramps on lakes most affected by the drought will continue as long as water levels remain low. However, ramp extensions require 2 - 6 weeks, and may only be extended 30 feet

at a time which gives an additional vertical depth of about 4 ½ feet. Most bass boats require 3 feet of depth to launch safely.

Not all boat ramps are good candidates for extensions. In many cases, the depth in front of the existing ramp may be too shallow to extend the ramp. For every 30 feet in length, there must be at least 5 feet of depth. In some locations, ramps are near deep water channels where the depth 30 feet beyond the end of the ramp may exceed 20-30 feet, prohibiting a quick and cost effective ramp extension.

If the drought continues into 2008, ramps that were extended in October and November of 2007 may be in danger of becoming too shallow to launch. At their lowest 2007 levels, Lake Martin was down 16 feet (6 feet below normal winter pool), Lake Harris was down 13 feet (5 feet below normal winter pool), and Smith Lake was down 19 feet (5 feet below normal winter pool). During winter draw-downs, the primary focus of the Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Boating Access Crew will be on these three lakes due to the severe impacts of the drought on these reservoirs.

Future plans include the construction of several docks on Guntersville and Jordan; ramp renovations and extensions at Smith, Harris, and Lay; new ramps at Coffeetown, Smith, Coosa River, and Tallapoosa River; parking lot renovations at Guntersville, Wheeler, and Eufaula; and the possible acquisition of existing ramps in several locations in South Alabama.



Boat Ramp Extensions Made Easy!

1.



S.B. Pope measures the depth prior to a ramp extension while Mike Hale (left) and Steve Taylor (right) prepare to add gravel to achieve the proper slope of 15 %.

2.



The last 30 feet of an existing boat ramp is cut off and carefully pushed into place by Tim Brewer (backhoe operator).

3.



The resulting void is ready to be reinforced with rebar and filled with fresh concrete.



Participation in this program is open to anyone licensed to fish in the State of Alabama, and who catches their fish from Alabama waters. Application requirements and procedures can be obtained by viewing the website at www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/record/. To request an application, contact Damon Abernethy by e-mail at Damon.Abernethy@dcnr.alabama.gov, or by phone at (334) 242-3882.

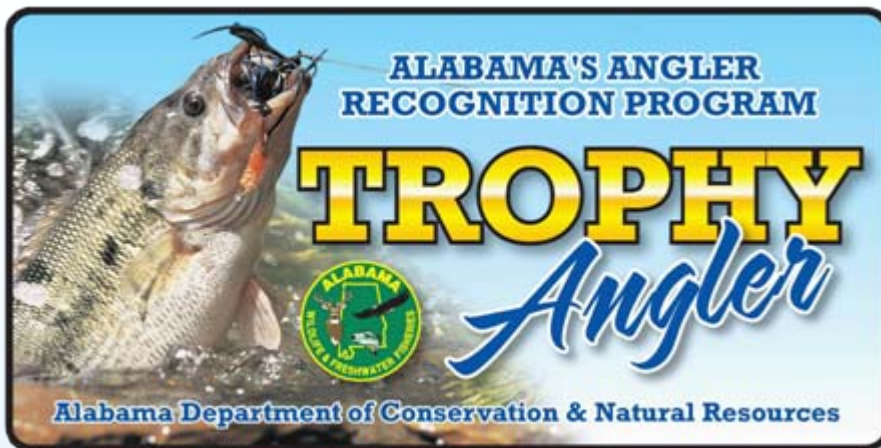


Michael Brasher of Moody caught this 4 lb. 4 oz. spotted bass on November 10th while drifting live threadfin shad in Rabbit Branch on Logan Martin.



Bill Wilmoth of Pensacola, Fla., caught these HUGE bluegill while fishing at Escambia County Lake (also known as Leon Brooks Hines Lake) during May. The lake is open to the public and daily fishing permits can be obtained at the lake's full service tackle shop, which also has boat rentals available.





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David Lockhart of Jasper holds the current Smith Lake Record largemouth bass. The fish measured 25 ½ inches in length and weighed just over 11 pounds. David caught the fish at night on June 3rd, 2007.



Blake Gowen of Decatur caught this 10 lb. 4 oz. largemouth bass from Guntersville on March 23rd.



Gary Guthrie of Jasper caught this 10 lb. 4 oz. largemouth bass from Smith Lake on April 16th. Gary's fish stood as the Smith Lake Record for nearly two months before being broken by a larger fish.



Aubrey Boothe of Coker holds the new Lake Record largemouth bass from Oliver Reservoir on the Black Warrior River. The fish measured 25 ½ inches in length and weighed 11 lbs. 10 oz. Aubrey caught the fish on a crankbait on December 30th, 2006.



This State Record Black Crappie weighed 4 lbs. 5 oz. and was caught by Shelley Meadows of Mentone. Shelley's fish established a three-way tie for the largest black crappie caught from Alabama waters.



Jeanette McKelvey of Moulton caught this 7 lb. 14 oz. smallmouth bass while fly fishing with her husband during a Mayfly hatch on Wheeler Lake, August 2nd.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the 42 independent Alabama bass clubs, the Georgia Bass Federation, 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.

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