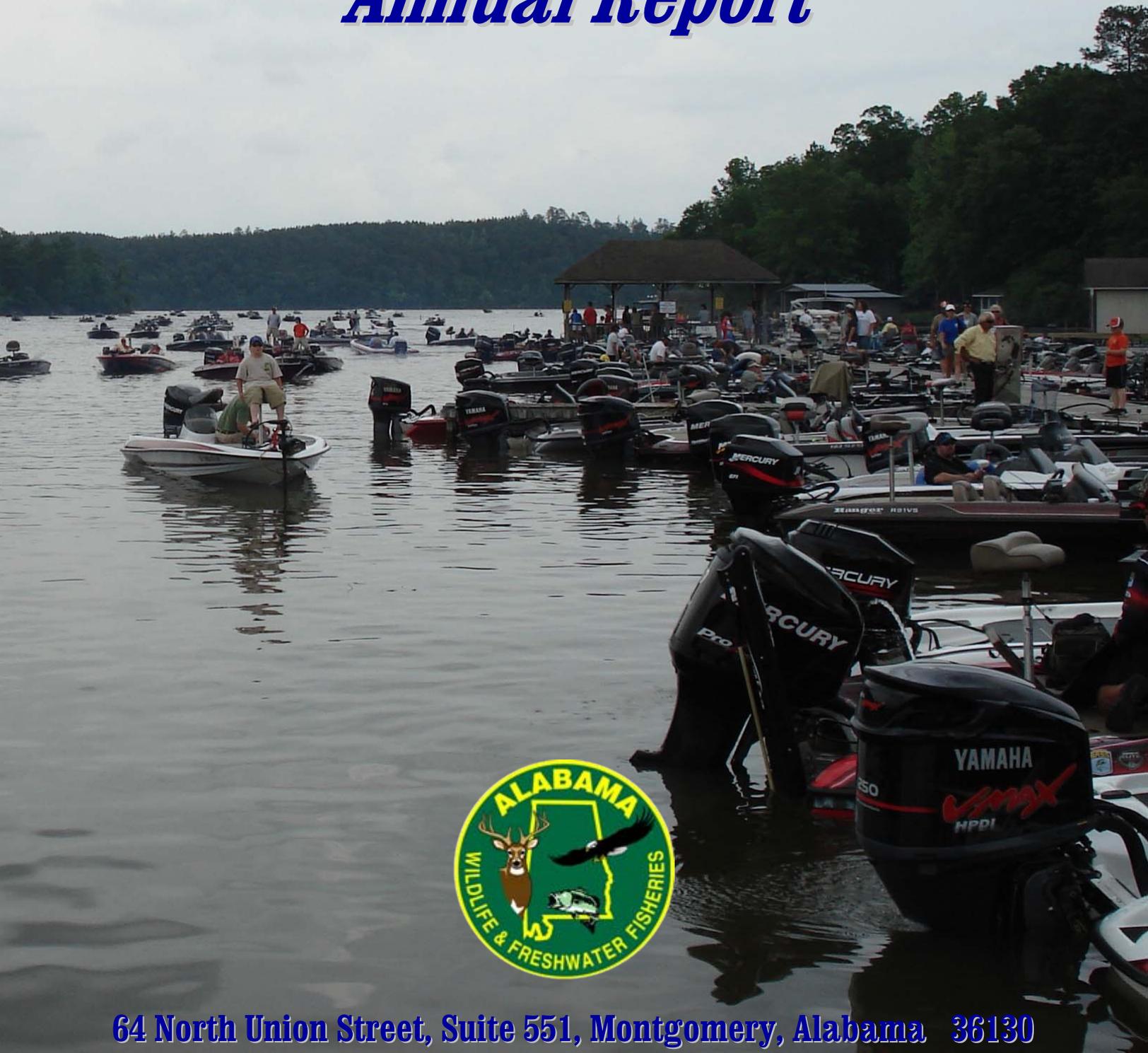
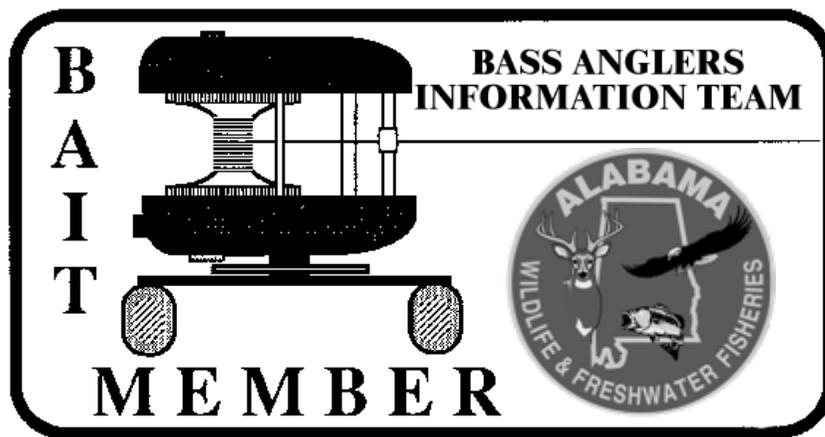


2009

Bass Angler Information Team Annual Report



B.A.I.T.
Bass Anglers Information Team
2009
Annual Report



By

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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

Tournament Listings...

www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments/



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2009 B.A.I.T. Summary

Bass fishing in the State of Alabama has shown an overall trend of improvement during the past several years, and particularly during the last three. For the third consecutive year, Alabama's bass fishermen have caught more fish, larger fish, and weighed in heavier limits than during any of the previous 24 years of B.A.I.T. reporting.

The number of hours required to catch a five-pound bass has continued to improve and has actually dropped below the pre-LMBV average for the first time since the virus began impacting Alabama's fisheries in 1997. From 1986 through 1997, the average angler fished for 251 hours to catch a bass weighing over five pounds. In 2009, it took only 234 hours.

The fishing quality on all Tennessee River impoundments was excellent during 2009, with Guntersville, Pickwick, and Wilson providing the best angling opportunities. The following summary outlines the most important points from the 2009 B.A.I.T. Report.

- *Millers Ferry* was the top lake in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Millers Ferry, Wilson, Pickwick, Guntersville, Weiss, Neely Henry, and West Point* all improved in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Millers Ferry, Wilson, Pickwick, Guntersville, Logan Martin* were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Guntersville, Eufaula, Weiss, West Point, and Wilson* were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama

Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

- 3.63** - Number of bass caught per angler-day
- 7.22** - Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
- 1.97** - Average weight of bass caught
- 234** - Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
- 9.52** - Weight of the largest bass caught
- 10** - Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
- 353** - Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

Introduction & Methods

The printing of the 2009 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the twenty-fourth 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 2009, we have summarized 11,750 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 2,596,543 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 616,849 bass that weighed 1,064,017 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 2009 may be of particular interest to tournament bass anglers and their organizations. In addition, details of the Angler Recognition Program administered by the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries 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 15 or more 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 (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.

Alabama's
“Take a Kid Fishing”
Distinctive License Plate



Please take advantage of your opportunity to provide perpetual support for Alabama's aquatic resources!

The cost of these tags is \$50 and they can be purchased wherever you have your tag renewed. Contact your county probate office or call the Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division at 334-242-3472 for more information.

Statewide Tournament Results

Bass clubs submitted 450 tournament reports during 2009, down slightly from 478 in 2008 (Tables 1 and 3). 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! Thirty-two Alabama clubs provided data in 2009. One hundred sixty six 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 59 reports were received from Biologist Larry Pugh, 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 2009, tournament reports were received for 30 bodies of water that were fished 84,687 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 30,246 bass that weighed 61,984 pounds (Table 1). A total of 353 bass five pounds and larger were reported

for an overall catch rate of one bass five pounds or larger for every 234 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 10 bass eight pounds and larger in 2009. The largest bass caught in 2009 came from Pickwick Lake and weighed 9.52 pounds. With 98 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Guntersville led this category. Other top lakes for big bass included Pickwick, Eufaula, West Point, and Weiss.

Of the 38 clubs or organizations that submitted data during 2009, 25 clubs submitted five or more tournament reports. Fourteen clubs submitted 10 or more reports. Ten contributors submitted only one report. A list of clubs contributing tournament results for the 2009 B.A.I.T. Report is

presented in Table 4.

Average catch rates in 2009 for both number (3.63) and pounds (7.22) of bass per angler-day were the highest since the B.A.I.T. Program began in 1986. Compared to 2008, seven lakes improved in overall fishing success in 2009. The most notable improvements were on Millers Ferry, Pickwick, and Guntersville, which all moved into the top 5 in the overall rankings (Table 2).

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. >5lbs.
Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Guntersville	Mar. 21 st	15
Mt. Dew Tournament Trail	Pickwick	Mar. 21 st	7
Fishers of Men (W. Tenn.)	Pickwick	Mar. 14 th	6
Ala.-Tenn. Bass Club	Wilson	May 6 th	5
Stren Series	Pickwick	Nov. 5 th	5
BFL	Pickwick	Mar. 7 th	5
Big Shanty Bassmasters	Guntersville	Mar. 14 th	5
Hills Creek Bass Club	Guntersville	Feb. 28 th	5
Black Warrior Bass Trackers	Guntersville	Apr. 24 th	5
Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Guntersville	Apr. 25 th	5

The number of bass caught per angler-day on these three lakes increased by 26–39% compared to 2008. Consequently, the number of pounds weighed-in per angler-day increased by 28-36%. The time required to

catch a bass over five pounds on Pickwick has improved by a whopping 25% since 2008!

Most tournament reports in 2009 were received from Pickwick (58), Guntersville (49), Eufaula (47), and West Point (40). Logan Martin, and Weiss each had 20 or more tournament reports (Table 1). A good distribution of reports provides more representative catch statistics from

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Team Trails of Mississippi	Pickwick	Mar. 14 th	18.77 lbs.
TMT Anglers	Guntersville	Sep. 20 th	18.61 lbs.
Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Wilson	May 9 th	17.21 lbs.
Team Trails of Mississippi	Pickwick	Jul. 11 th	16.75 lbs.
Team Trails of Mississippi	Pickwick	Apr. 11 th	16.25 lbs.
Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Guntersville	Mar. 21 st	16.12 lbs.
Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Guntersville	Apr. 25 th	15.97 lbs.
Team Trails of Mississippi	Pickwick	Feb. 21 st	15.82 lbs.
Mt. Dew Tournament Trail	Pickwick	Sep. 9 th	15.79 lbs.
Team Trails of Mississippi	Pickwick	Jun. 13 th	15.35 lbs.

which meaningful summaries can be prepared. All club representatives should understand that every tournament report is important if this program is to continue to be successful.

Of the 30 reservoirs from which reports were received, 21 had five or more tournament reports (Table 1). The following comments deal with these 21 reservoirs, which are ranked by quality indicators in Table 2. The percent of successful anglers (those with one or more fish) ranged from 57% at Holt to 95% at Logan Martin. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.36 pounds in the Mobile Delta to 3.01 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.35 at Holt to 5.48 at Millers Ferry. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 3.79 in the Mobile Delta to 10.24 at Millers Ferry. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 30 reservoirs was 1.97 pounds.

Statewide Tournament Results

Overall, Millers Ferry accumulated more quality indicator points (92) than any other reservoir in Alabama, replacing Harris from 2008. Wilson (90) came out of nowhere due to an increase in reporting, while Pickwick (84) jumped from tenth to third.

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 Eufaula and Weiss. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings to find that Millers Ferry, Pickwick, and Wilson offer the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, Logan Martin would be the best destination based upon its bass per angler-day ranking, followed by Millers Ferry and Neely Henry.

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 3.63 statewide in 2009; but for Guntersville and Eufaula, it was 2.81 and 2.51, respectively. Statewide average weight was 1.97 pounds for all 30 reservoirs; but 2.39 pounds at Eufaula and 3.01 pounds at Guntersville. These average weights were higher primarily because anglers must release the smaller fish due to the minimum length limits. Length limits remained in effect during 2009 on West Point (14-inch minimum on largemouth), Wilson (14-inch minimum on smallmouth), Guntersville (15-inch minimum on largemouth and smallmouth), Eufaula (14-inch minimum on largemouth), Demopolis (14-inch minimum on all black bass), Pickwick (14-inch minimum on smallmouth), Little Bear Creek (13- to 16-inch slot on

largemouth), Smith (13- to 15-inch slot on all black bass), and Harris (13- to 16-inches on largemouth).

Bass fishing in Alabama has continued to improve with 2009 generally scoring the highest marks since the Alabama 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 24 years of B.A.I.T. reporting. This is the third consecutive year this trend of improvement has been evident in the 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 has finally dropped below the pre-LMBV average of 258 hours.

The average number of hours (effort) needed to catch a five-pound and larger bass dramatically increased beginning in 1998 due to the presence of the Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV), and reached its peak of 837 the following year. From 1999 through 2009, the amount of effort required to catch a bass over five pounds has decreased from 837 hours to 234 hours (Figure 1). You have to go all the way back to 1992 to find a better year for big bass in Alabama's reservoirs.

Although there have been no recent outbreaks of LMBV, there are still indications that this disease may be impacting our bass populations by elevating natural mortality rates above what was observed prior to its introduction; so, 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. 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 obtain more information on Alabama's fisheries resources, visit the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Internet Homepage: www.outdooralabama.com.

Bass Over Eight Pounds from 2009 B.A.I.T. Reports

Date	Organization	Lake	Weight
Feb. 14	North Alabama Bass Club	Guntersville	9.50 lbs.
Mar. 7	Metro Atlanta Hawg Hunters	West Point	9.10 lbs.
Mar. 14	Fishers of Men (W. Tenn.)	Pickwick	8.30 lbs.
Mar. 21	Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Guntersville	8.25 lbs.
Mar. 21	Mt. Dew Tournament Trail	Pickwick	9.52 lbs.
Mar. 21	Mt. Dew Tournament Trail	Pickwick	8.22 lbs.
Apr. 4	Bass Angler Invitational Trail	Wheeler	8.75 lbs.
Apr. 11	Conasauga Bassmasters	Guntersville	9.36 lbs.
Apr. 18	Gordon Co. Bassmasters	West Point	8.25 lbs.
Jul. 11	N. Alabama Tournament Anglers	Guntersville	8.50 lbs.

Monthly Tournament Stats

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 15 reports.

Eufaula

We received 47 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held during every month, with the majority (9) occurring in March. A total of 721 tournament anglers fished for 7,656 hours to catch 1,924 bass that averaged 2.39 pounds (Table 6). This was the first year since 1993 that the average size of bass caught during tournaments has increased. From 1993 to 2008, the average size dropped from 3.44 to 2.13 pounds. It should be noted that the minimum length limit was lowered from 16-in. to 14-in. during the same period, which resulted in anglers bringing a higher proportion of smaller fish to the scales. A reduction in fertility levels and the increase in abundance of smaller spotted bass in the Chattahoochee River watershed has also been attributed to this decline in average fish size.

The number of spotted bass weighed in during Eufaula tournaments has been hovering at or below 20% for the past several years, with the majority of those fish being caught during the cooler weather from November through January. The data from Eufaula did not suggest that there was a particularly good or bad time of year for bass fishing in 2009, with values varying throughout the year. It appeared that the early pre-spawn and post-spawn/shad spawn offered anglers the best opportunity to catch a bass over five pounds, although catch rates were low in the three June tournaments. It took the average angler about 15 days of fishing to catch a bass over five pounds, which was a slight improvement over 2008 figures.

Guntersville

Forty-nine tournament reports were received from this reservoir that were held during every month except January and August. The majority of tournaments occurred in April (11). A total of 776 tournament anglers fished for 7,556 hours, catching 2,157 bass that averaged 3.01 pounds (Table 6). The average number of fish weighed-in by each angler was 2.81, with an average bag weight of 8.46 pounds. Over 85% of Guntersville's bass fishermen weighed-in at least one fish in 2009, which is a 16% increase over the previous year. Anglers' creels were comprised of largemouth bass (98%) and spotted bass only.

Compared to tournament data collected since 1986, this year was by far the most impressive with all quality indicators being well above the 24-yr. average. Catch rates were almost 40% higher, bag weight was 53% higher, and the length of time required to catch a bass over five pounds was 56% better than the 24-yr. average! The abundance of aquatic vegetation on Guntersville has remained fairly stable for a number of years, which likely has contributed to recent angler success. However, changing weather patterns may cause a decline in the abundance of aquatic vegetation in the coming years.

March offered anglers the best opportunity to catch bass over five pounds, but numerous big bass were caught from February through June. Anglers fished for an average of less than four days to catch a bass over five pounds in March. As in 2008, September had the lowest catch rates for big bass, with the average angler fishing for 719 hours to catch one over five pounds. Few spotted bass were caught from Guntersville, but the majority were taken during the fall. March and April were probably the best months overall for bass fishing at Guntersville, but the month of June was not far behind. During those three months, anglers had excellent catch rates and weighed-in an average of 10.5 pounds per angler. Only 4-6 days of fishing was required to catch a bass over five pounds in March and April, while in June it took nearly 12 days.

Logan Martin

During 2009, we received 34 tournament reports from this reservoir that were held during every month except January. The majority (6) occurred in May. A total of 578 anglers fished for 5,382 hours, catching 2,409 bass that averaged 1.63 pounds (Table 6). Catch rates improved in 2009, reaching 4.48 bass per angler-day, the best ever recorded in the annual BAIT report. Average bass weight rose to 1.63 pounds, less than two ounces shy of the 24-yr high.

Logan Martin was a popular tournament destination throughout the year, and the ratio of spots to largemouths was 3:1, but varied considerably from month to month. Catch rates were high throughout the year, only twice dropping below 4 bass per angler-day. Average weight of bass was lowest during the summer and early fall. Time of year did not appear to have any influence on an angler's chances of catching a bass over five pounds.

Pickwick

Fifty-eight tournament reports were received, representing every month except January. The majority of tournaments were held in March (11) and May (10). 1,986 anglers fished for 19,768 hours catching 7,255 bass that weighed 19,766 pounds. Over 16% of the bass weighed in were smallmouth bass.

During 2009, the average size of bass caught exceeded the 24-year average by almost 23%, averaging 2 lbs. 12 oz. during the course of the year. The number of bass weighed in per angler-day was 3.98 in 2009, which far exceeded any figures from previous years, and was nearly double the 24-year average for the lake. Likewise, the number of pounds weighed in per angler-day was exceptional at 9.32 pounds, which was twice the 24-year average. Bass over 5 pounds were common on Pickwick, but not plentiful enough to be considered a top big bass lake. However, it did produce 30% of the State's bass over 8 pounds, so the potential to catch a trophy fish certainly exists.

The recent expansion of hydrilla in the mid-lake area has offered a popular pattern for bass anglers, and the area from Wilson Dam down to the lower end of Seven Mile Island is popular with smallmouth anglers.

Monthly Tournament Stats

Weiss

Twenty-four tournaments were reported during each month from March through November. Most tournaments occurred in May (6) and June (7). Four hundred seven anglers fished for 3,508 hours to catch 1,427 bass that weighed 2,489 pounds, with an average size of 1 lb. 12 oz.

Catch-rates increased by 35% in 2009, reaching 4.07 fish per angler-day. The fishery at Weiss is dominated by largemouth bass, but also includes a very healthy population of quality spotted bass. In 2009, tournament angler's creels were comprised of a 3:2 ratio of largemouths to spots.

The frequency of bass over five pounds increased significantly in 2009. The time required to catch a bass over five pounds improved from 586 hours in 2008 to 175 hours in 2009, ranking it among the top 4 years for big bass on Weiss since this program began in 1986. The last time this many big bass were caught from Weiss was in 1997.

The number of bass caught per angler-day (4.07) and the number of pounds per angler-day (7.10 pounds) were both at an all-time high, and about 65% greater than the 24-year, lake-wide average. 2009 was certainly a spectacular year for bass fishing on Weiss.

West Point

During 2009, we received 40 tournament reports that were held during every month of the year except January, with the majority (17) occurring in April. A total of 562 anglers fished for 5,788 hours, catching 2,114 bass that averaged 1.60 pounds each (Table 6). Over 70% of the bass weighed-in on West Point were spotted bass.

The number of bass caught per angler-day (3.65) was the highest ever recorded, probably due to the reduction in the minimum length limit and the increasing abundance of spotted bass. The number of pounds weighed-in per angler-day (5.84) was also the highest on record, but this is directly related to the increase in catch-rates rather than an increase in average size of bass.

The number of hours required to catch a bass over five pounds (202) improved considerably in 2009, but has not approached the glory days of the late 1980's. However, it was the best year on record since 1992, and nearly 500 hours shorter than it was just two years ago.

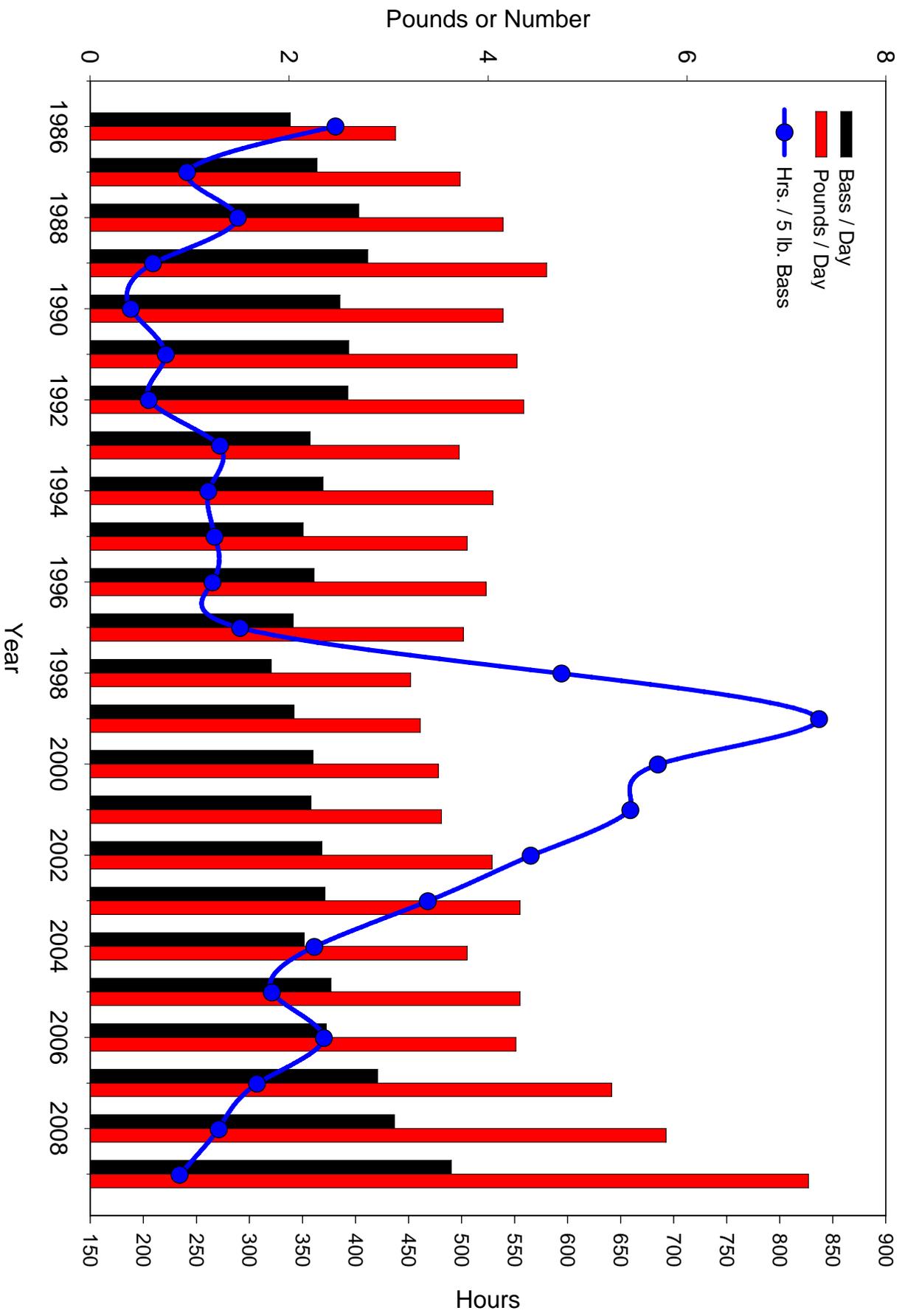


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments, 1986 - 2009.

Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2009 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 ^a	Pounds per day ^a	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days1 to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Aliceville	10	174	49 ^b	99	1558	575	100.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	1083	1.88	3	0	5.36 ^c	80.65 ^c	3.69	6.95	519	52
Bankhead	6	153	144	102	1377	578	56.7 ^c	43.3 ^c	0.0 ^c	99	899	1.56	2	0	4.50	92.31	4.20	6.53	689	69
Harding	14	231	209	94	2103	792	46.9 ^c	53.1 ^c	0.0 ^c	98	1099	1.39	3	0	4.30 ^c	90.48	3.77	5.22	701	70
Claborn	1	29	27	25	276	132	80.0	52.0	0.0	95	203	1.54	0	0	3.63	93.10	4.79	7.38	.	.
Coffeeville	2	26	25	7	193	68	66.7 ^c	33.3 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	77	1.13	0	0	2.91	96.15	3.52	3.99	.	.
Demopolis	4	82	76	27	687	239	58.0 ^c	42.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	95	443	1.85	1	0	4.38	92.68	3.48	6.45	687	69
Eufaula	47	721	578	137	7656	1924	84.0 ^c	16.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	90	4598	2.39	50 ^c	0	5.43 ^c	80.17	2.51	6.01	153	15
Gainesville	3	96	78	43	886	305	90.6 ^c	9.4 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	447	1.47	1	0	4.73	81.25	3.44	5.05	886	89
Guntersville	49	776 ^b	660 ^b	267	7556 ^b	2157	97.7 ^c	2.3 ^c	0.0 ^c	97	6497	3.01	98	4	5.88	85.05 ^c	2.81 ^c	8.46 ^c	80	8
Harris	16	264	215	122	2235	846	12.4 ^c	87.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	96	1208	1.43	6	0	4.45	81.44	3.78	5.40	373	37
Holt	6	195	112	67	1146	269	31.0 ^c	69.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	371 ^b	1.82 ^c	2	0	4.38	57.44	2.35	4.10 ^c	573	57
Jones Bluff	4	143	70 ^b	43 ^b	1370	423	22.2 ^c	77.8 ^c	0.0 ^c	95	747	1.77	1 ^c	0 ^c	4.73 ^c	57.50 ^c	3.09	5.45	1230	123
Jordan	18	270	233	82	2446	737	17.4 ^c	82.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	93	1569	2.13	3	0	4.53	86.30	3.01	6.42	489	49
Lay	14	220	199	114	1963	759	41.4 ^c	58.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	98	1377	1.81	5	0	4.16	90.45	3.87	7.02	654	65
Logan Martin	34	578	550	314	5382	2409	24.9 ^c	75.1 ^c	0.0 ^c	97	3917	1.63	6	0	4.24 ^c	95.16	4.48	7.28	897	90
Martin	14	213	176	75	1998	697	16.4 ^c	83.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	90	1095	1.57	0 ^c	0 ^c	3.34 ^c	82.63	3.49	5.48	.	.
Mobile Delta	11	277	240	59	2626	730	92.2	7.8	0.0	92	996	1.36	1	0	2.95	86.64	2.78	3.79	2626	263
Millers Ferry	5	110	103	91	1012	555	48.3 ^c	51.7 ^c	0.0 ^c	94	1036	1.87	4	0	4.69	93.64	5.48	10.24	253	25
Mitchell	10	189	169	75	1905	668	21.4 ^c	78.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	98	1239	1.85	0 ^c	0 ^c	3.55 ^c	89.42	3.51	6.50	.	.
Neely Henry	18	303	273 ^b	153	2633	994	51.0 ^c	49.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	1589	1.60	7	0	4.39 ^c	93.17 ^c	3.78	6.04	376	38
Oliver (Warrior)	1	6	6	5	42	29	10.3	89.7	0.0	97	30	1.02	0	0	3.00	100.00	6.90	7.07	.	.
Pickwick	58	1986	243 ^b	1285 ^b	19768	7255 ^b	83.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	16.4 ^c	99 ^c	19766	2.72	85 ^c	0	5.64 ^c	89.01 ^c	3.98 ^c	9.32	233 ^c	23 ^c
Smith	4	42	28	14	342	83	38.6	61.4	0.0	100	145	1.75	2	0	3.32	66.67	2.42	4.24	171	17
Tuscaloosa	4	110	97	68	1034	465	75.0 ^c	25.0 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	611	1.31	0	0	3.37	88.18	4.50	5.91	.	.
Warrior	6	148	121	60	1197	410	85.2 ^c	14.8 ^c	0.0 ^c	91	737	1.80	2	0	4.44	81.76	3.43	6.16	599	60
Weiss	24	407	382	199	3508	1427	58.6 ^c	41.4 ^c	0.0 ^c	96	2489	1.74	20	0	4.98	81.41	4.07	7.10	175	18
Wheeler	17	398	324	216	3810	1554	96.50 ^c	1.50 ^c	2.0 ^c	96	2832	1.82	12	1	5.12	81.41	4.08	7.43	318	32
Wilson	9	253	230	171	2078	1004	89.25 ^c	0.0 ^c	10.75 ^c	99	1531 ^b	2.03 ^c	9	0	5.00	90.91	4.83	9.20 ^c	231	23
West Point	40	562	494	210	5788	2114	29.2 ^c	70.8 ^c	0.0 ^c	95	3264 ^b	1.60 ^c	28 ^c	0	4.80 ^c	87.90	3.65	5.84 ^c	202	20
Yates	1	14	14	5	112	48	.	.	.	98	89	1.85	2	0	6.91	100.00	4.29	7.95	56	6
Grand Total	450	8976^b	6125^b	4229^b	84687^b	30246^b	54.0^c	45.6^c	0.4^c	97^c	61984^b	1.97^c	353^c	10^c	4.82^c	86.19^c	3.63^c	7.22^c	234^c	23^c

^aa day is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours

^bdue to missing data these values are artificially low

^cincomplete records were excluded from these calculations

Table 2. Ranking by quality indicators for all reservoirs with five or more tournament reports in the 2009 B.A.I.T. Program.

Rank	Percent Success	Average Bass Weight	Bass per Angler-Day	Pounds per Angler-Day	Hours per Bass > 5 lbs.	Overall	Value
1	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	Guntersville	Millers Ferry	92
2	Millers Ferry	Pickwick	Wilson	Pickwick	Eufaula	Wilson	90
3	Neely Henry	Eufaula	Logan Martin	Wilson	Weiss	Pickwick	84
4	Bankhead	Jordan	Bankhead	Guntersville	West Point	Guntersville	73
5	Wilson	Wilson	Wheeler	Wheeler	Wilson	Logan Martin	68
6	Harding	Aliceville	Weiss	Logan Martin	Pickwick	Wheeler	65
7	Lay	Millers Ferry	Pickwick	Weiss	Millers Ferry	Weiss	64
8	Mitchell	Mitchell	Lay	Lay	Wheeler	Lay	61
9	Pickwick	Wheeler	Neely Henry	Aliceville	Harris	Neely Henry	59
10	West Point	Holt	Harris	Bankhead	Neely Henry	Bankhead	58
11	Mobile Delta	Lay	Harding	Mitchell	Jordan	Jordan	54
12	Jordan	Warrior	Aliceville	Jordan	Aliceville	Aliceville	52
13	Guntersville	Weiss	West Point	Warrior	Holt	West Point	51
14	Martin	Logan Martin	Mitchell	Neely Henry	Warrior	Eufaula	50
15	Warrior	Neely Henry	Martin	Eufaula	Lay	Mitchell	49
16	Harris	West Point	Warrior	West Point	Bankhead	Warrior	40
17	Weiss	Martin	Jordan	Martin	Harding	Harris	38
18	Wheeler	Bankhead	Guntersville	Harris	Logan Martin	Harding	37
19	Aliceville	Harris	Mobile Delta	Harding	Mobile Delta	Martin	26
20	Eufaula	Harding	Eufaula	Holt	Mitchell	Holt	25
21	Holt	Mobile Delta	Holt	Mobile Delta	Martin	Mobile Delta	19

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2009 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 ^a	Pounds per day ^a	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days1 to catch a bass over 5 lb.
1	2	28	26	12	232	63	38.1	61.9	0.0	100	181	2.87	2	0	5.19	92.9	2.72	7.80	116	12
2	11	261	191	44	2290	560	64.0	34.8	1.2	98	1004	1.79	5	0	4.53	73.2	2.45	4.38	458	46
3	12	162	142	40	1390	403	51.4	48.6	0.0	73	848	2.10	10	0	4.53	87.7	2.90	6.10	139	14
4	11	121	101	25	1200	307	69.7	30.3	0.0	76	449	1.46	0	0	2.82	83.5	2.56	3.74		
5	5	445	392	233	6575	1571	83.4 ^c	16.6 ^c	0.0 ^c	99	2791	1.78	4	0	4.81	88.1	2.39	4.25	1644	164
6	10	203	172	57	1823	552	38.2	61.1	0.7	99	1042	1.89	4	0	4.65	84.7	3.03	5.72	456	46
7	12	89	84	41	801	292	46.9	53.1	0.0	100	555	1.90	3	0	4.03	94.4	3.65	6.93	267	27
8	23	110	82	23	946	226	78.8	17.7	3.5	99	490	2.17	9	0	4.64	74.6	2.39	5.18	105	11
9	12	158	134	108	1322	599	25.8	74.2	0.0	97	1056	1.76	6	0	4.82	84.8	4.53	7.99	220	22
10	4	77	63	28	693	221	46.6	48.9	4.5	100	432	1.95	2	1	5.36	81.8	3.19	6.23	347	35
11	7	87	60	17	696	176	89.3	2.8	7.9	95	332	1.89	4	0	4.77	69.0	2.53	4.77	174	17
12	11	230	200	86	2202	708	49.1	50.9	0.0	95	1153	1.63	2 ^c	0 ^c	4.77 ^c	87.0	3.22	5.24	922	92
13	1	44	28	6	264	50				40	94	1.88	0	0	3.88	63.6	1.89	3.56		
14	7	178	158	110	1613	673	55.0	45.0	0.0	97	1224	1.82	3	0	4.47	88.8	4.17	7.59	538	54
15	11	142	129	86	1171	543	73.1	26.9	0.0	97	840	1.55	2	0	3.68	90.9	4.64	7.18	585	59
16	1	18	16	13	144	70				100	153	2.19	4	0	7.38	88.9	4.86	10.63	36	4
17	8	113	103	38	934	324	49.9	50.1	0.0	94	625	1.93	4	0	4.28	91.2	3.47	6.69	234	23
18	8	102	94	63	959	385	56.1	43.9	0.0	99	826	2.15	0	0	5.05	92.2	4.01	8.61	120	12
19	11	289	235	134	2528	877				98	1665	1.90	12	1	5.31	81.3	3.47	6.59	211	21
20	1	59	53	42	413	250				99	165	1.09	5	0	6.06	89.8	6.05		83	8
21	1	11	11	3	88	23				100	25	1.09	0	0	3.63	100.0	2.61	2.84		
22	1	23			276	118	0.0	100.0	0.0	98	186	1.58	0	0	4.50		4.28	6.74		
23	1	14	10	9	126	51	21.6	78.4	0.0	100	70	1.37	0	0	4.50	71.4	4.05	5.56		
24	6	20	20	17	180	95	65.3	33.7	1.0	100	185	1.95	2	0	4.32	100.0	5.28	10.28	90	9
25	6	114	108	83	1140	666				96	1231	1.85	6	0	5.17	94.7	5.84	10.80	190	19
26	5	129	121	43	1032	263	24.3 ^c	75.7 ^c	0.0 ^c	100	341 ^c	1.72 ^c	0	0	4.17	93.8	2.55	4.31 ^c		
27	2	27	19	8	243	70	92.9	7.1	0.0	100	137	1.96	2	0	4.93	70.4	2.88	5.64	122	12
28	1	10	7	7	80	21	81.0	19.0	0.0	100	46	2.19	0	0	3.25	70.0	2.63	5.75		
29	6	110	106	78	1176	580				99	1157	1.99	5	0	5.59 ^c	96.4	4.93	9.84	235	24
30	1	32	27	20	288	120				100	152	1.27	0	0	4.19	84.4	4.17	5.28		
31	9	455	397	307	4316	1515				100	2435	1.61	8	0	5.33	87.3	3.51	5.64	540	54
32	13	194	172	95	2152	776				94	1459	1.88	8 ^c	0 ^c	5.08 ^c	88.7	3.61	6.78	204	20
33	5	180	157	134	1530	751	97.6	0.0	2.4	99	2225	2.96	27	2	7.05	87.2	4.91	14.54	57	6
34	11	212	196	91	1806	713	57.9	42.1	0.0	98	1461	2.05	10	0	4.84	92.5	3.95	8.09	181	18
35	59	1825		1175 ^c	15513	6712 ^c				100 ^c	17462	2.33 ^c	79 ^c	3 ^c	5.76 ^c		4.80 ^c	11.26	172	17
36	1	91	49	32	819	223				96	429	1.92	1	0	5.50	53.9	2.72	5.24	819	82
37	1	100	30	30	400	30				100	127	4.23	0	0	5.32	30.0	0.75	3.18	400	40
38	166	2513 ^c	2232 ^c	891	25323 ^c	8669	49.7 ^c	50.3 ^c	0.0 ^c	94	15746 ^c	1.82 ^c	115	3	4.85	88.8	3.41 ^c	6.23 ^c	226	23
Grand Total	450	8976°	6125°	4229°	84687°	30246°	54.0°	45.6°	0.4°	97°	61984°	1.97°	353°	10°	4.82°	86.2°	3.63°	7.22°	234°	23°

^aDay is defined as one angler fishing for 10 hours

^bDue to missing data these values are artificially low

^cIncomplete records were excluded from these calculations

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2009 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
BASS-AHOLICS	P. O. BOX 328	RIVER FALLS	AL	36476	CHRIS WEAVER	334-488-4606
NATIONAL BASS TRAIL (GA/AL)	979 KENNON DR.	CATALULA	GA	31804	BLAINE SOUJERWINE	706-494-0699
BF GOODRICH BASS ANGLERS	2463 LEE RD. 42	OPELIKA	AL	36804	ARTHUR HERNDON	334-749-1261
MOBILE BASSMASTERS	4951 GOVERNMENT BLVD.	MOBILE	AL	36693	BOB STEELE	251-661-9600
ALABAMA BASS FEDERATION	P. O. BOX 190	NOTASULGA	AL	36866	AL REDDING	334-257-3170
BIRMINGHAM BASSMASTERS	13784 DIANNE DR.	MCGALLA	AL	35111	MIKE LINN	205-477-7643
LAY LAKE BASSMASTERS	128 WHEELER DR.	SYLCAUGA	AL	35150	ERNE TEAFORD	256-249-0598
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE BASSMASTERS	3480 LITTLE DR SW	HARTSELLE	AL	35640	PHIL EKEMA	256-751-3656
CLAY COUNTY BASS BUSTERS	24 FOREST DRIVE	HEFLIN	AL	36264	KEITH MORROW	256-463-2389
NORTH ALABAMA BASS CLUB	213 ARROW FEATHER DR.	MERIDIANVILLE	AL	35759	DON FERREE	256-851-8651
BOEING BASS CLUB	26555 LAMBERT ROAD	EKLMONT	AL	36520	JOANTHAN MANTEUFFEL	256-423-8674
AUBURN BASSMASTERS	609 MORRIS AVE.	OPELIKA	AL	36801	WILLIAM FLORENCE	334-524-1864
VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH	8820 HWY. 69 SOUTH	TUSCALOOSA	AL	35405	TONY JOHNSON	205-752-0977
FISHERS OF MEN - SOUTH ALA.	P.O. BOX 2222	E. BREWTON	AL	36427	ALLEN COUCH	251-867-9852
NORTHPORT BASS CLUB	11008 BUSTER TIERCE SPUR	NORTHPORT	AL	35475	ROBERT FINDLAY	205-339-5546
BASSOUTH	37 WEST DR.	ROME	GA	30165	TODD BAGLEY	706-766-2686
RED BIRD BASS	4206 LAWNWOOD DR.	MONTGOMERY	AL	36108	LEE ZEIGLER	334-281-0940
PIPEMILL BASSMASTERS	350 SPRING TRAIL	WARRIOR	AL	35180	BILLY J. LAWSON	205-647-2871
NORTH ALABAMA TOURNAMENT ANGLERS	24963 LISA DR.	ATHENS	AL	35613	STAN SHERROD	256-230-0081
AL-TN BASS CLUB	45 EDWARDS DR.	LAWRENCEBURG	TN	38464	JONATHAN EDWARDS	931-762-0573
ALA-MISS BASS CLUB	16 SULLIVAN DR.	BUCKATUNNA	MS	39322	VAN CLINGAN	601-648-0261
JR. OPEN BASS TRAIL	1263 CO. RD. 85	PRAITVILLE	AL	36067	JIM SPARROW	334-201-4135
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECH. ENGINEERS		BIRMINGHAM	AL		DANIELLE COSTON	205-960-3223
TMT ANGLERS	220 LEACH DR.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35213	LANCE GRANGER	205-956-9049
WEST ALABAMA BASS FISHERMANS ASSN	P.O. BOX 210	GORDO	AL	35466	JEFF GILLIAM	205-364-8530
INDIAN LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH	3815 WATERMELTON RD.	NORTHPORT	AL	35473	PHILLIP SKELTON	205-792-1768
MORGAN COUNTY BASS CLUB	171 ROSECLIFF DR.	HARVEST	AL	35749	KEVIN MAYES	256-837-5711
SLAM SERIES (1-MAN) HT3	1031 CO. RD. 1564	BAILEYTON	AL	35019	REX CHAMBERS	256-736-3763
POWDER SPRINGS BASS CLUB	116 LINDA LN.	POWDER SPRINGS	GA	30127	JAMES LANKFORD	770-560-8013
SOUTHWIRE COMPANY	1 SOUTHWIRE DRIVE	CARROLLTON	GA	30109	STEVE HARPER	770-832-5450
FAYETTE BASS CLUB	10991 HWY 13 N.	BANKSTON	AL	35442	TODD TUCKER	205-689-4707
KOWALIGA	474 N. ANN AVE.	TALLASSEE	AL	36078	HANK GOLDEN	334-283-6117
BAIT Div. III	5582 CO. RD. 26	ROGERSVILLE	AL	35652	BARRY BEDINGFIELD	256-762-4939
BLACK WARRIOR BASS TRACKERS	5514 SUMMERFIELD DR E	TUSCALOOSA	AL	35404	CHARLIE TIDMORE	205-553-2919
MISS. DIV. WILDLIFE, FISHERIES & PARKS	1505 EASTOVER DR.	JACKSON	MS	39215	LARRY PUGH	601-432-2208
MARBURY H.S. BENEFIT	1263 CO. RD. 85	PRAITVILLE	AL	36067	JIM SPARROW	334-201-4135
BROOKWOOD BASS BUSTERS	12700 HAYNIE DR.	BROOKWOOD	AL	35444	BRYAN COCHRAN	205-454-7948
GEORIGA BASS FEDERATION	BIOLOGY DEPT., 1601 MAPLE ST	CARROLLTON	GA	30118	DR. CARL QUERTERMUS	678-839-4035

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2009 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 ^a	Pounds per day ^a	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days ¹ to catch a bass over 5 lb.
JAN	14	210	176	68	1776	569	31.8 ^c	68.2 ^c	0.0 ^c	92	1013	1.78	7	0	4.31	83.81	3.20	5.70	254	25
FEB	34	793 ^b	560 ^b	286	7005 ^b	2296	54.3 ^c	45.7 ^c	0.0 ^c	99	4132	1.80	25 ^c	1 ^c	4.82 ^c	83.36 ^c	3.22 ^c	5.75 ^c	302 ^c	30 ^c
MAR	53	1139	658 ^b	534 ^b	10576	3862 ^b	54.6 ^c	44.9 ^c	0.5 ^c	97 ^c	9095 ^b	2.35 ^c	92 ^c	5 ^c	5.74 ^c	84.36 ^c	3.72 ^c	8.76 ^c	110 ^c	11 ^c
APR	63	1427	997 ^b	788	13081	5467	55.2 ^c	44.8 ^c	0.0 ^c	99	10901 ^b	2.02 ^c	65 ^c	3 ^c	5.21 ^c	89.18 ^c	4.18	8.49 ^c	196 ^c	20 ^c
MAY	54	1230	958 ^b	758 ^b	14158	5098 ^b	68.2 ^c	30.6 ^c	1.2 ^c	96 ^c	9662 ^b	1.93 ^c	41 ^c	0 ^c	4.67 ^c	92.92 ^c	3.66 ^c	7.03 ^c	335 ^c	34 ^c
JUN	48	920	602 ^b	465 ^b	8289	2955 ^b	52.6 ^c	47.1 ^c	0.3 ^c	95 ^c	6522	1.97 ^c	35 ^c	0 ^c	4.86 ^c	85.88 ^c	3.82 ^c	7.87	229 ^c	23 ^c
JUL	32	593	388 ^b	269 ^b	5234	1789 ^b	50.9 ^c	49.1 ^c	0.0 ^c	95 ^c	3958	2.08 ^c	22 ^c	1 ^c	4.96 ^c	83.08 ^c	3.54 ^c	7.56	221 ^c	22 ^c
AUG	25	568	403 ^b	193 ^b	4927	1322 ^b	57.1 ^c	42.4 ^c	0.5 ^c	94 ^c	2494	1.75 ^c	12	0	4.60 ^c	75.47 ^c	2.79 ^c	5.06	411	41
SEP	42	601	488 ^b	204 ^b	5587	1797 ^b	49.2 ^c	50.6 ^c	0.2 ^c	96 ^c	3429	1.80 ^c	15	0	4.31	87.30 ^c	3.31 ^c	6.14	372	37
OCT	39	527	421 ^b	205	5397	1784	52.3 ^c	47.0 ^c	0.7 ^c	95	3103	1.74	14 ^c	0 ^c	4.40 ^c	87.53 ^c	3.31	5.75	363 ^c	36 ^c
NOV	31	769	322 ^b	409	6829	2799	43.6 ^c	56.3 ^c	0.1 ^c	100	5393	1.93	20	0	4.63 ^c	88.71 ^c	4.10	7.90	341	34
DEC	15	199	152 ^b	50	1823	508	39.9 ^c	60.1 ^c	0.0 ^c	96	931	1.83	5 ^c	0 ^c	4.32 ^c	79.17 ^c	2.79	5.11	339 ^c	34 ^c
Grand Total	450	8976^b	6125^b	4229^b	84687^b	30246^b	54.0^c	45.6^c	0.4^c	97^c	61984^b	1.97^c	353^c	10^c	4.82^c	86.19^c	3.63^c	7.22^c	234^c	23^c

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

^b due to missing data these values are artificially low

^c incomplete records were excluded from these calculations

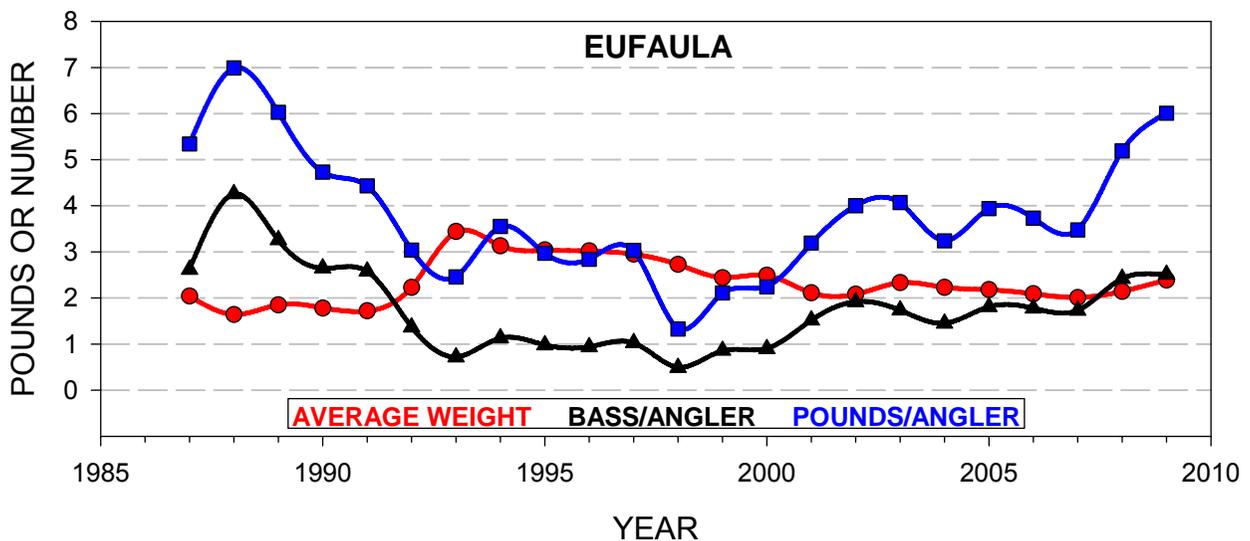
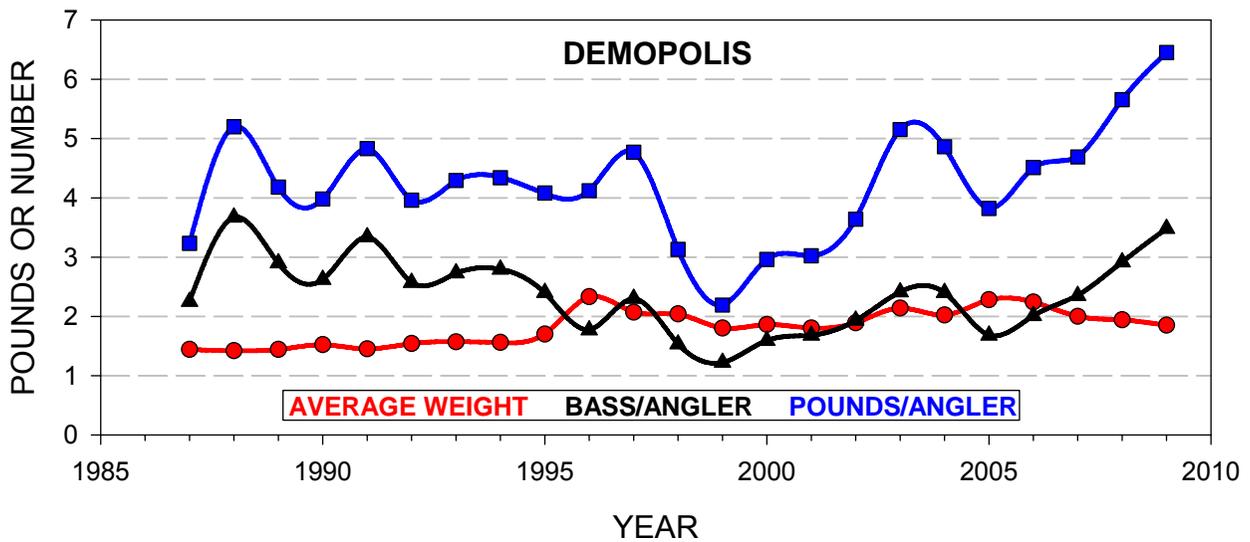
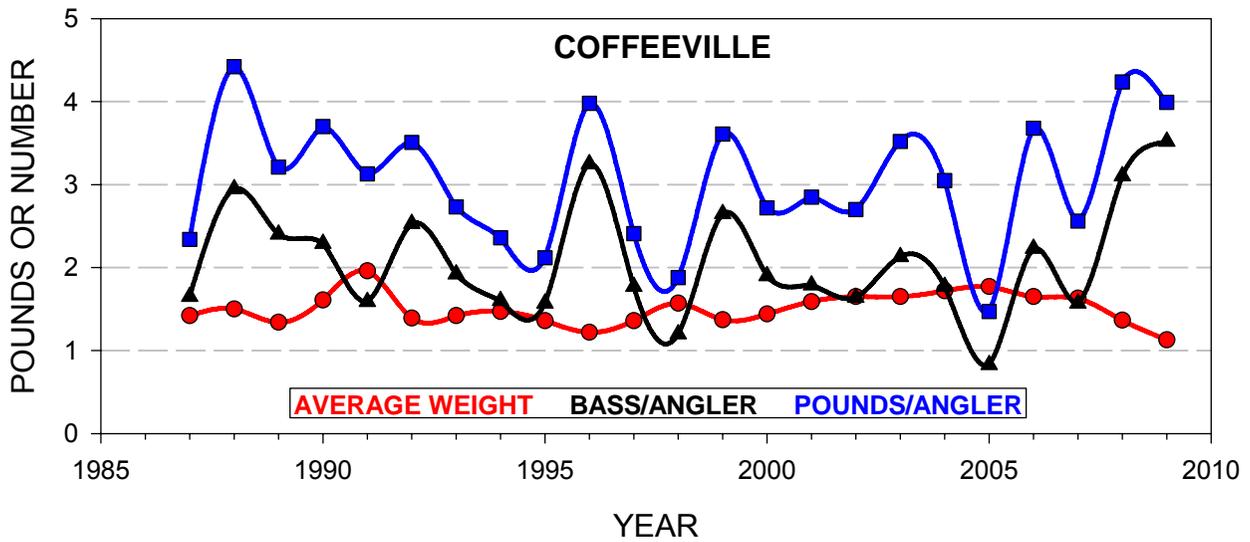


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeeville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2009.

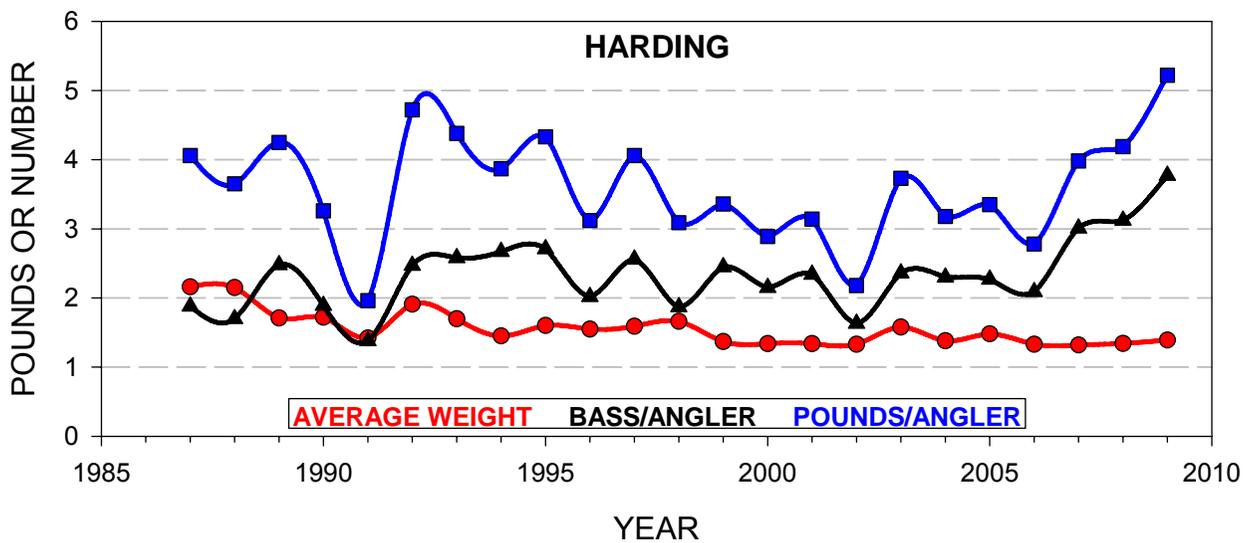
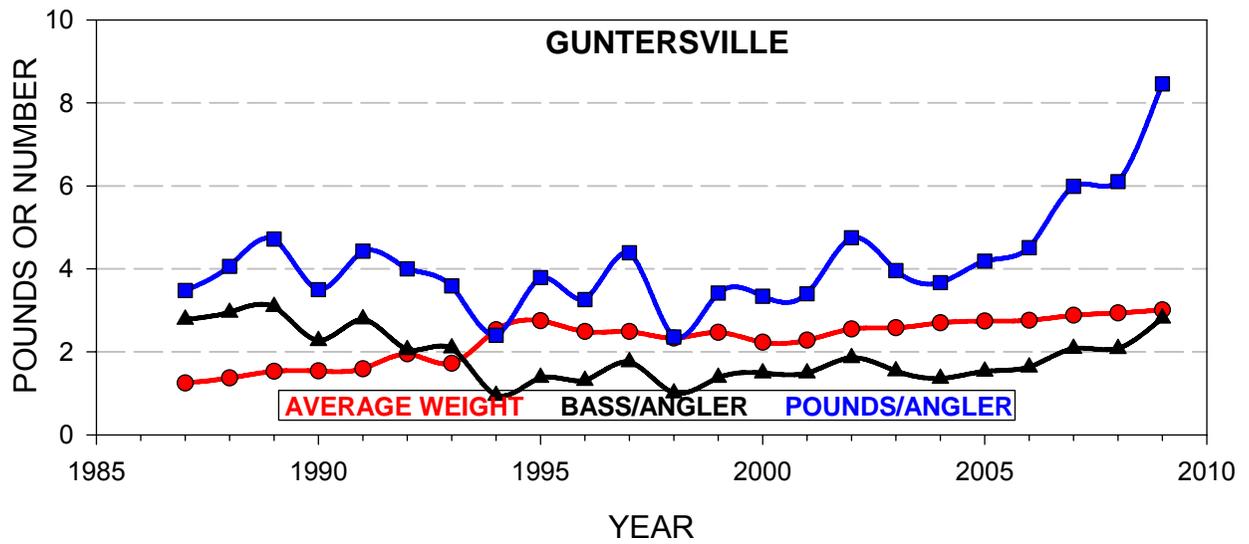
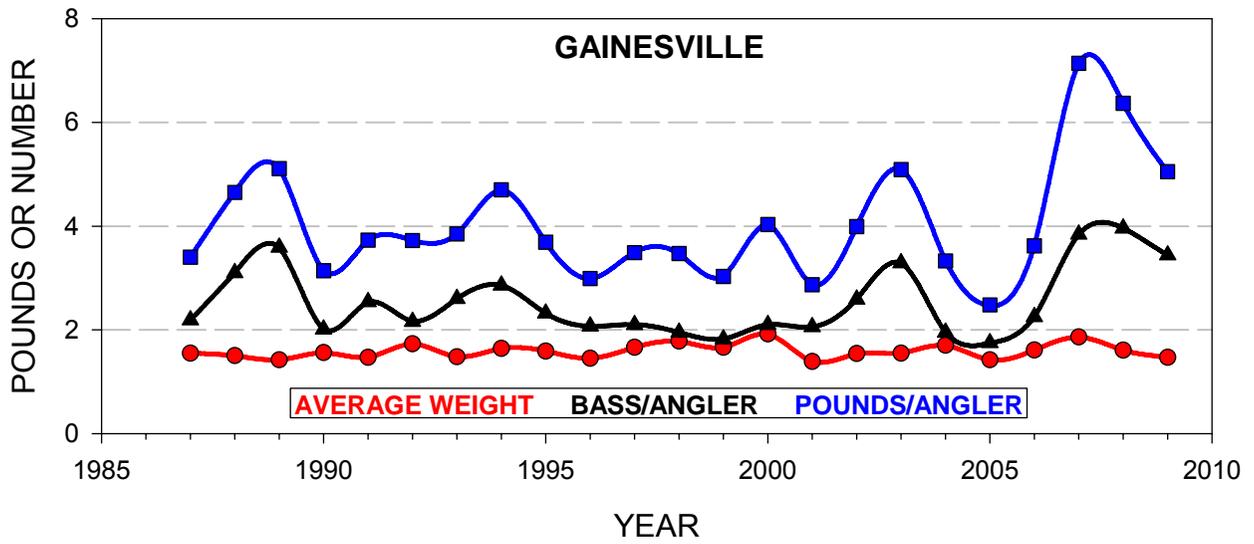


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Gunterville, and Harding, through 2009.

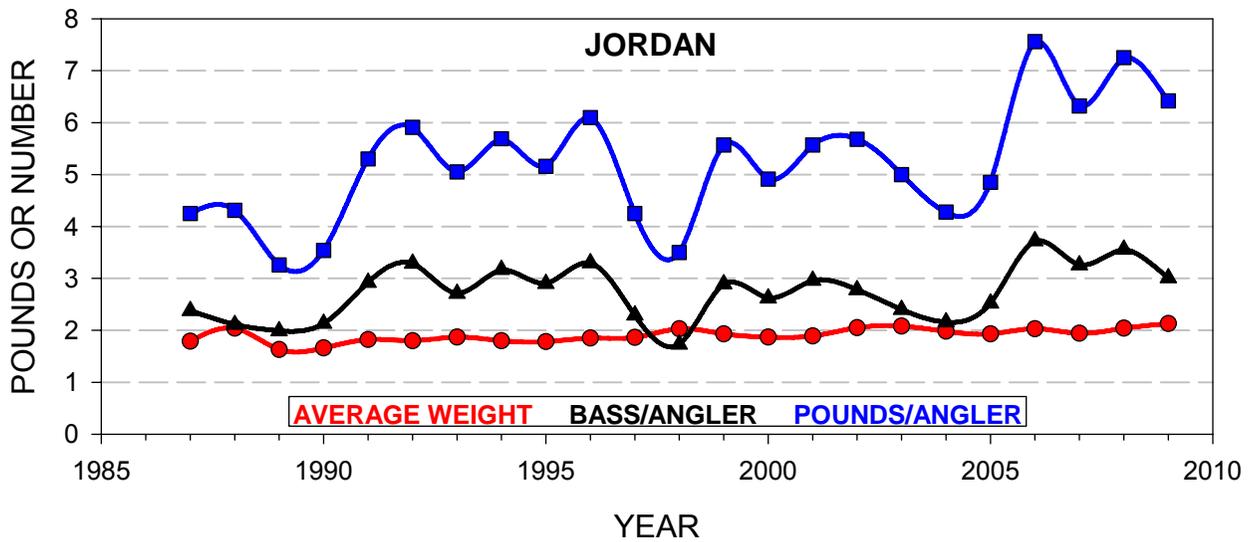
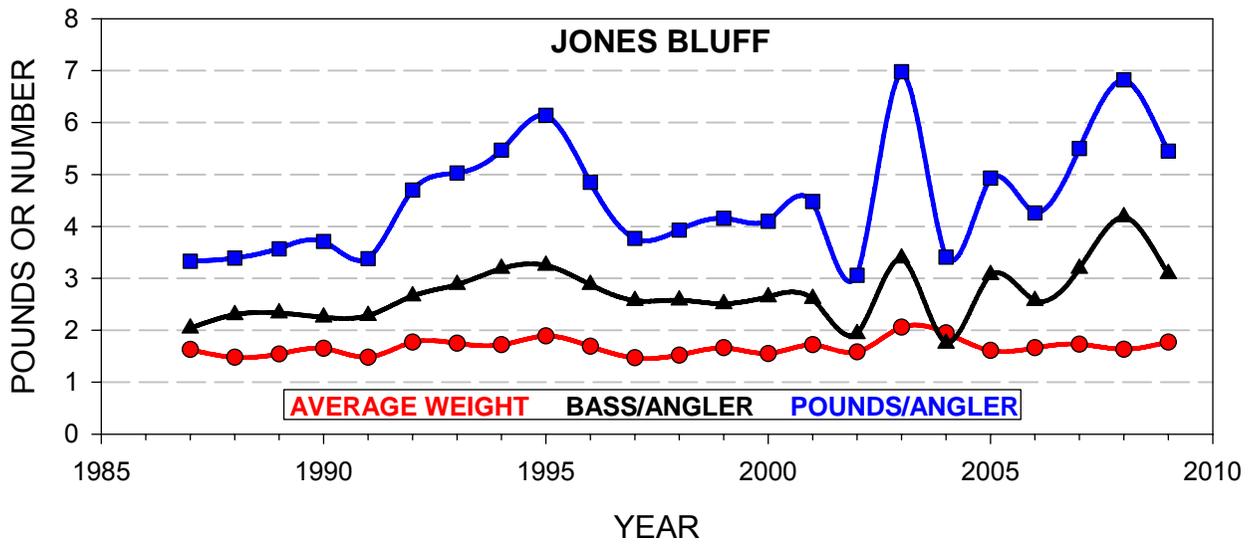
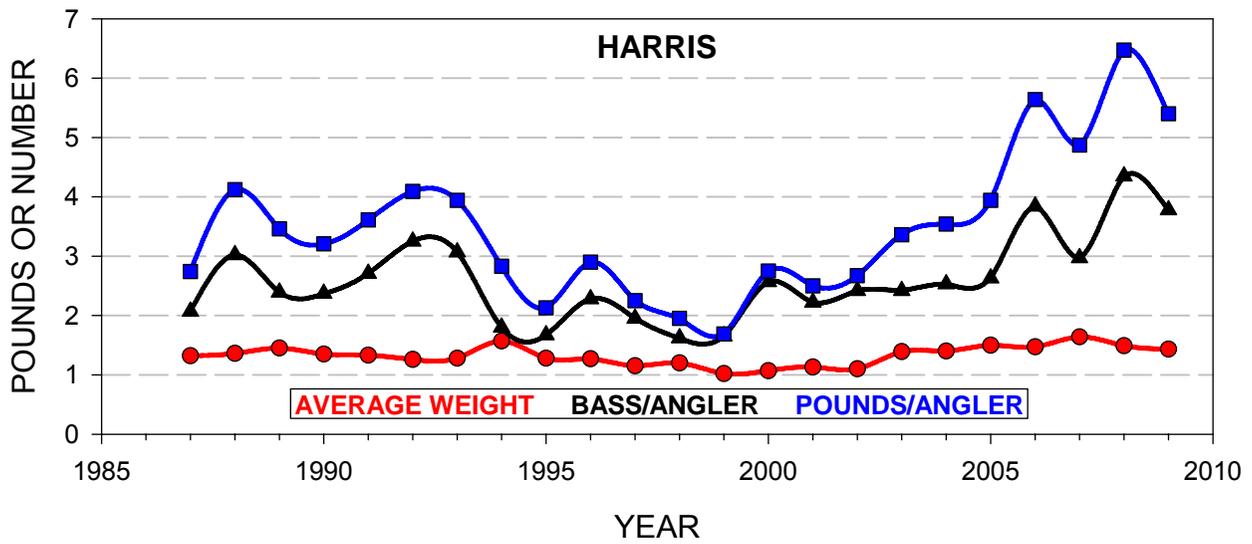


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2009.

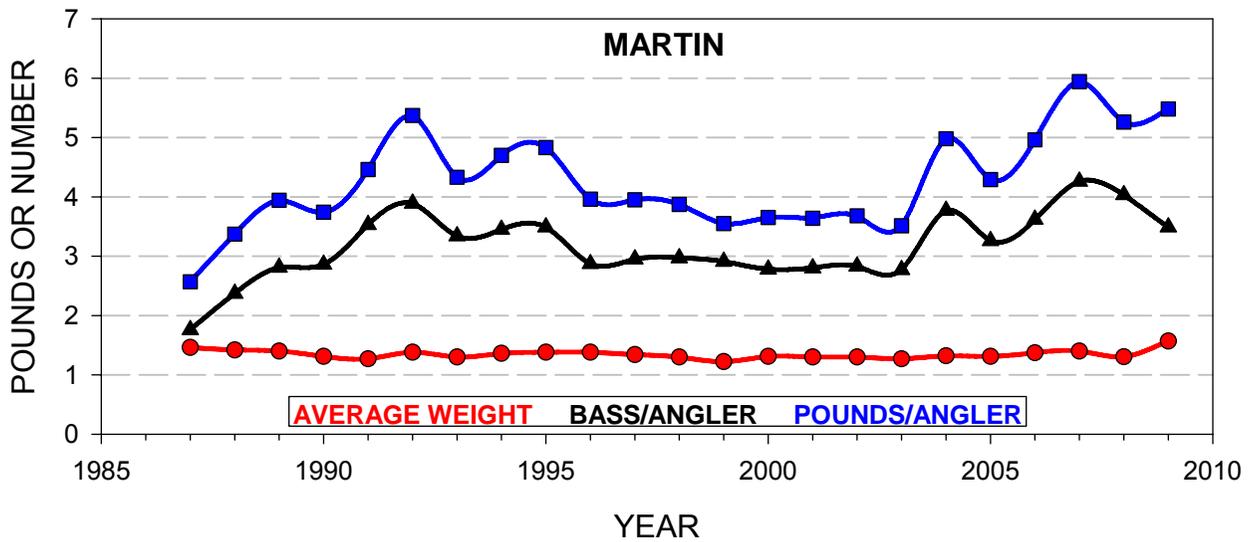
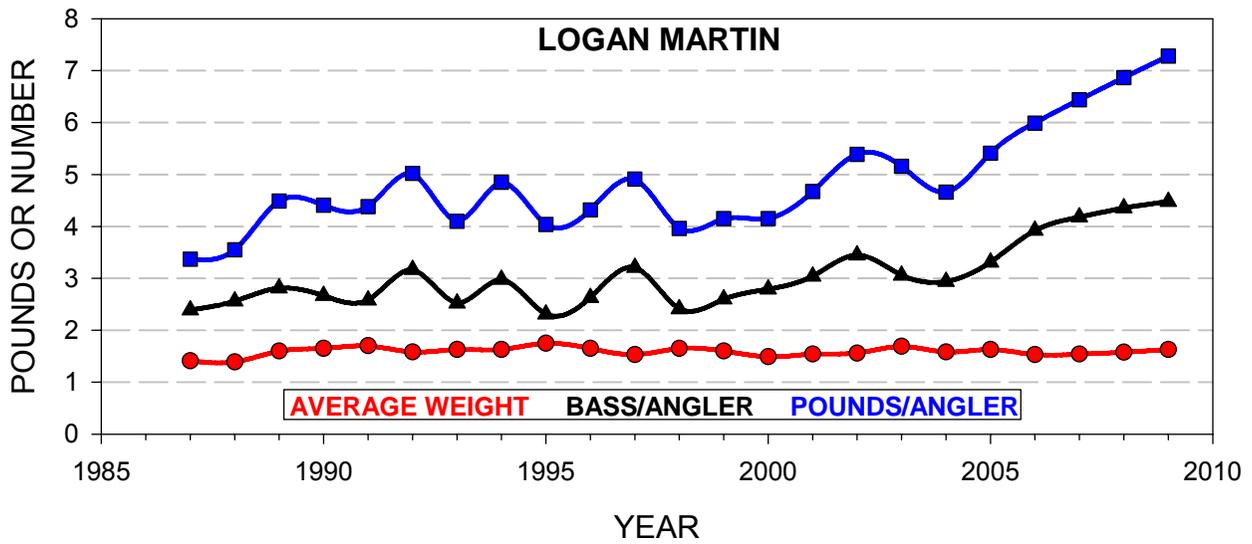
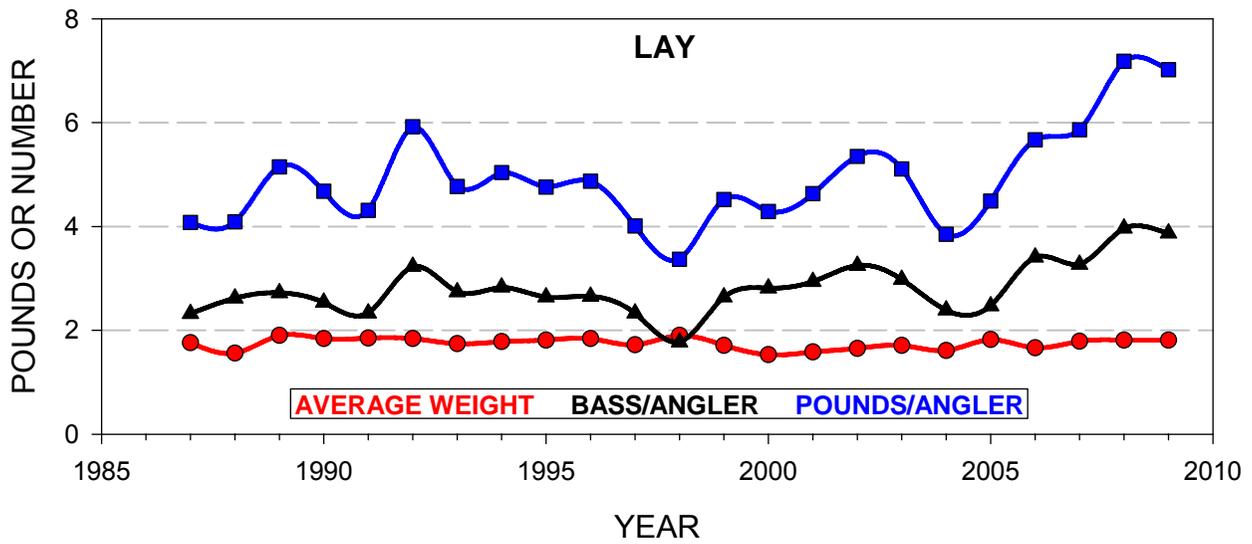


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2009.

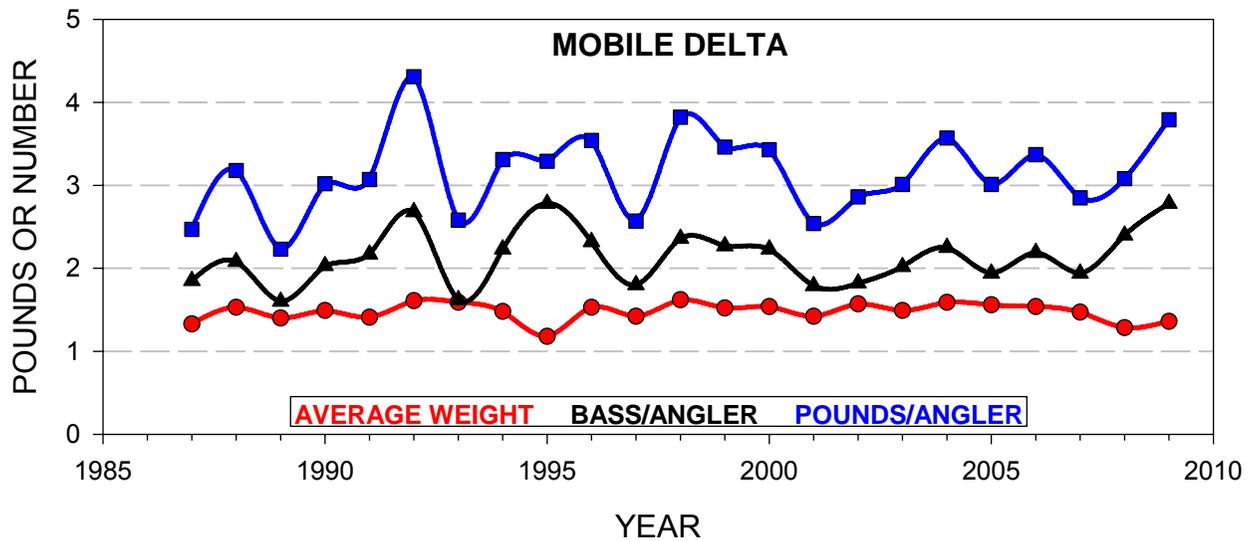
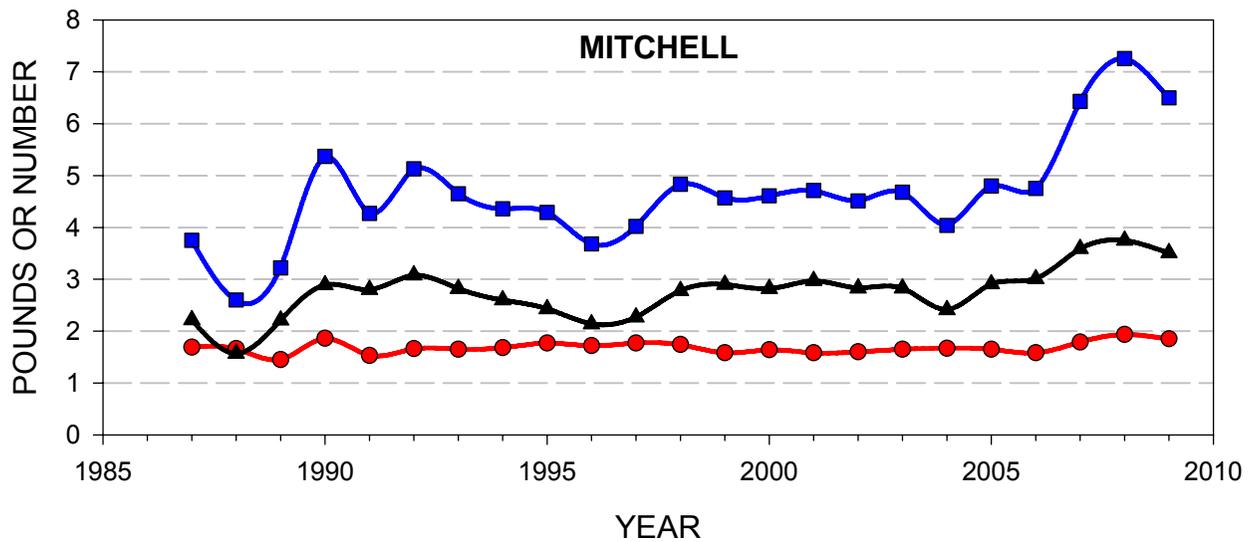
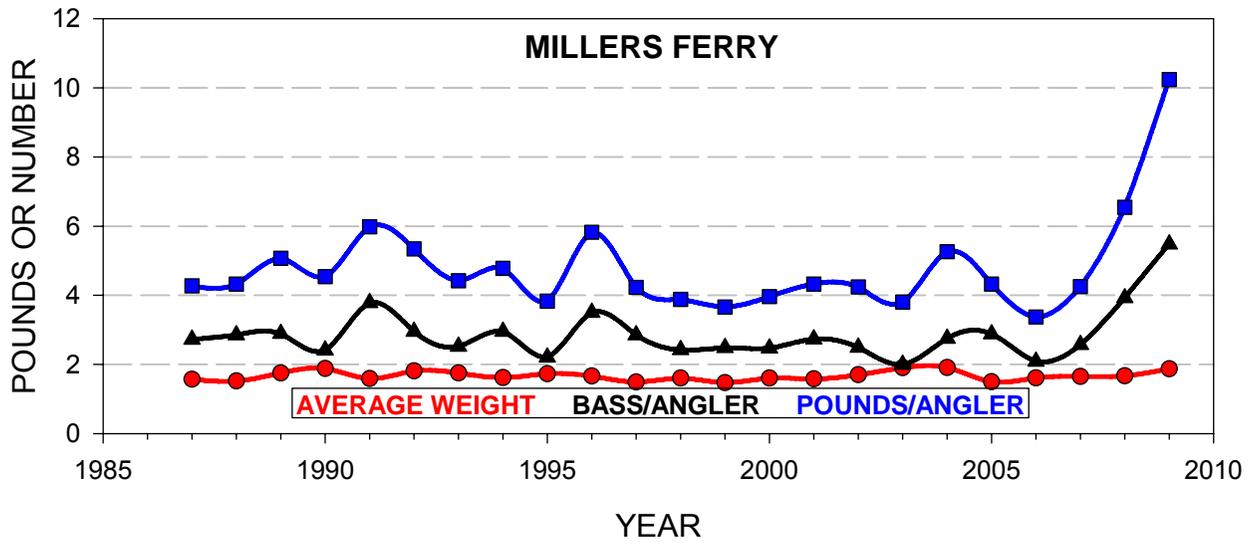


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2009.

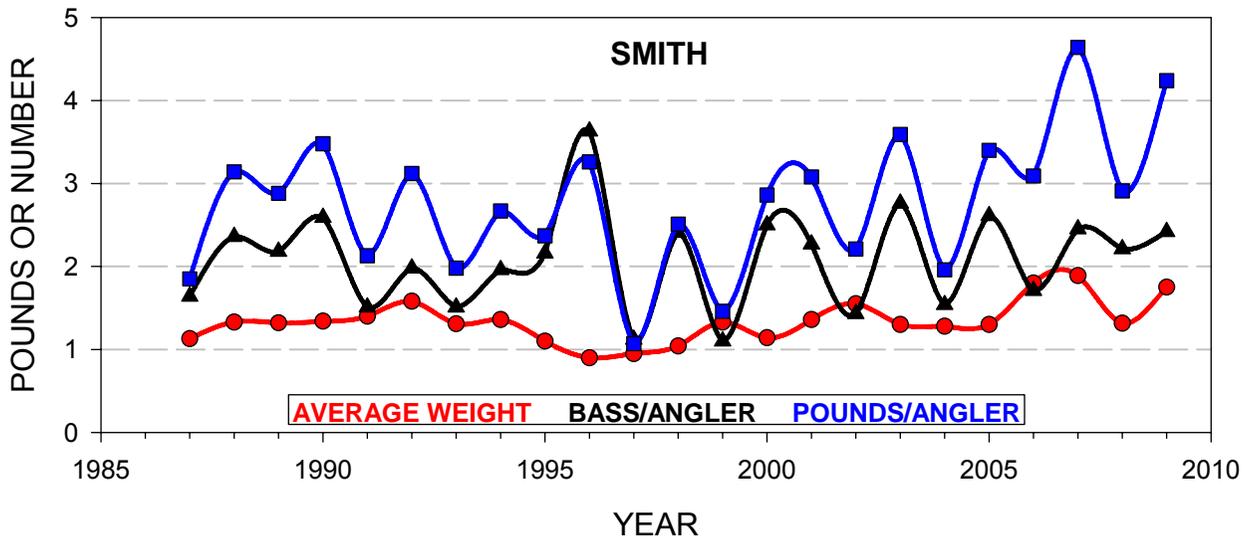
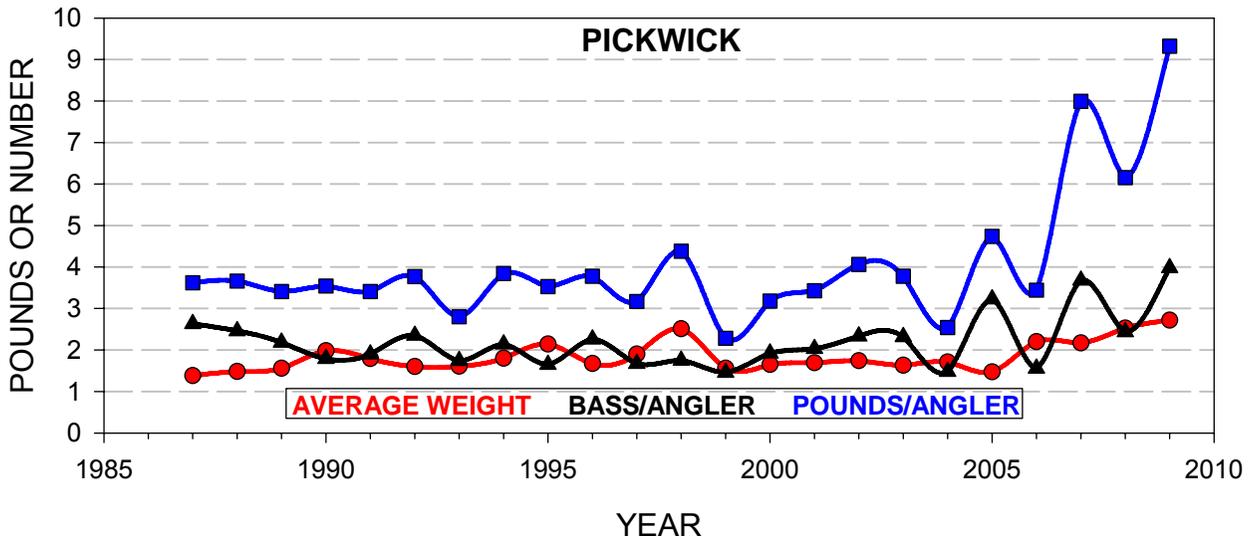
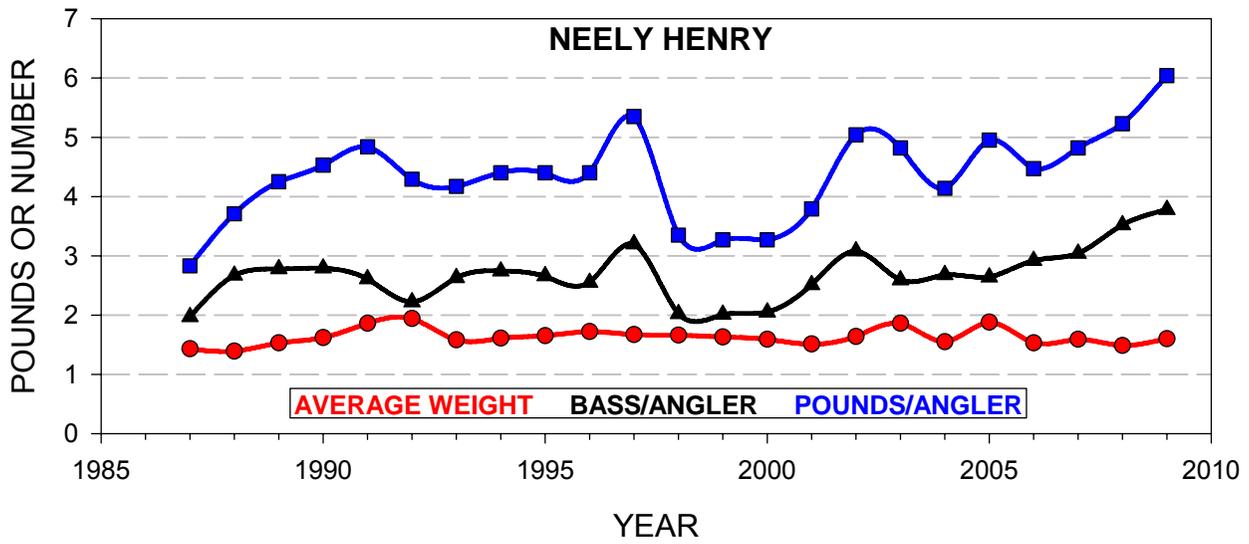


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2009.

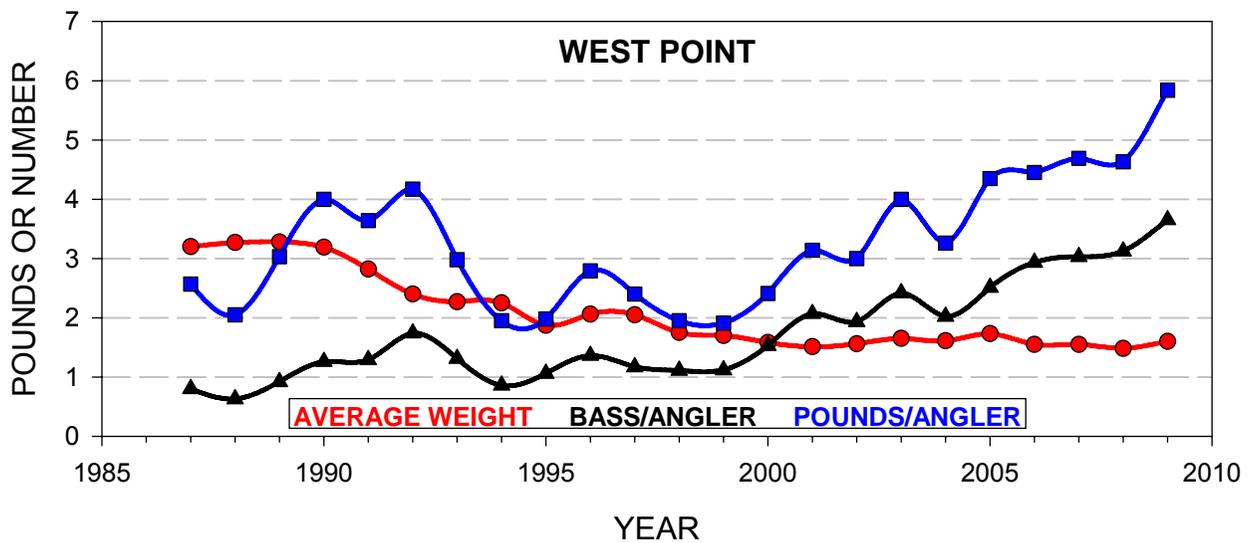
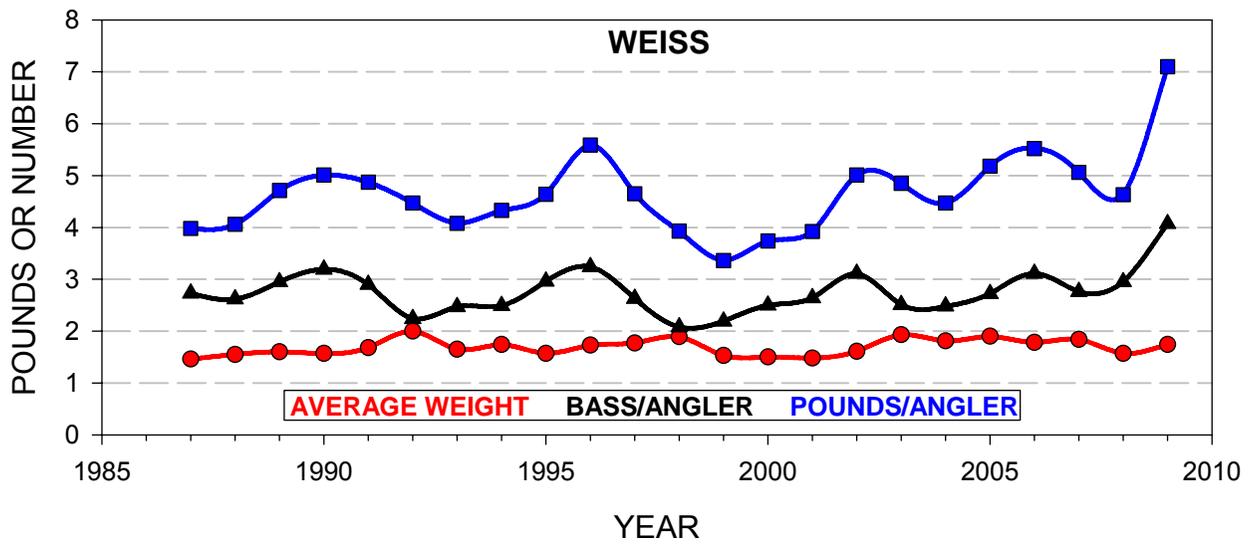
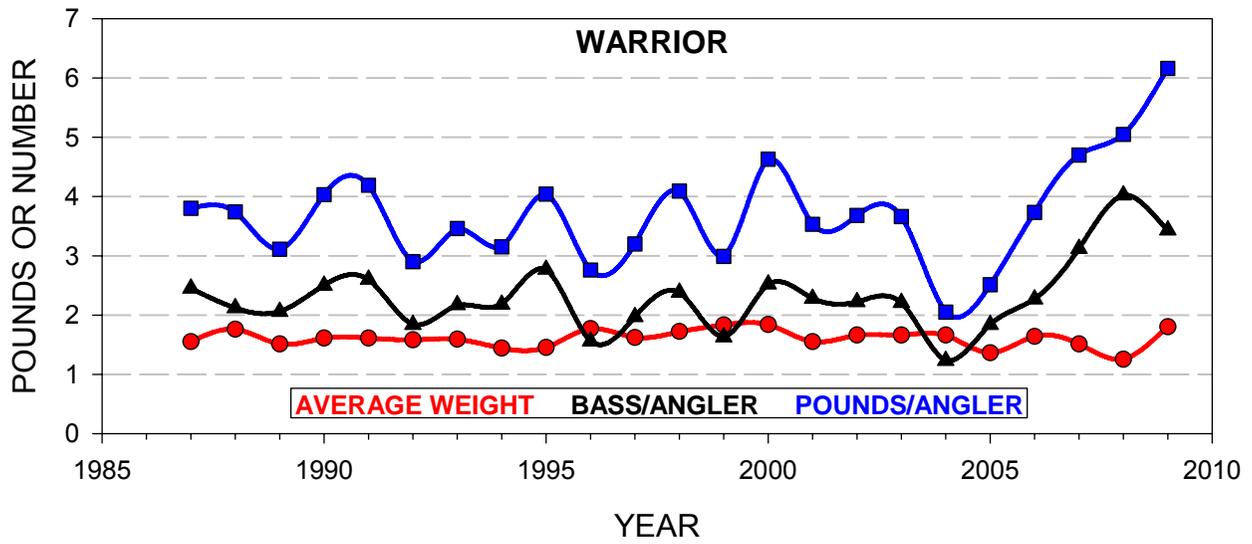


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2009.

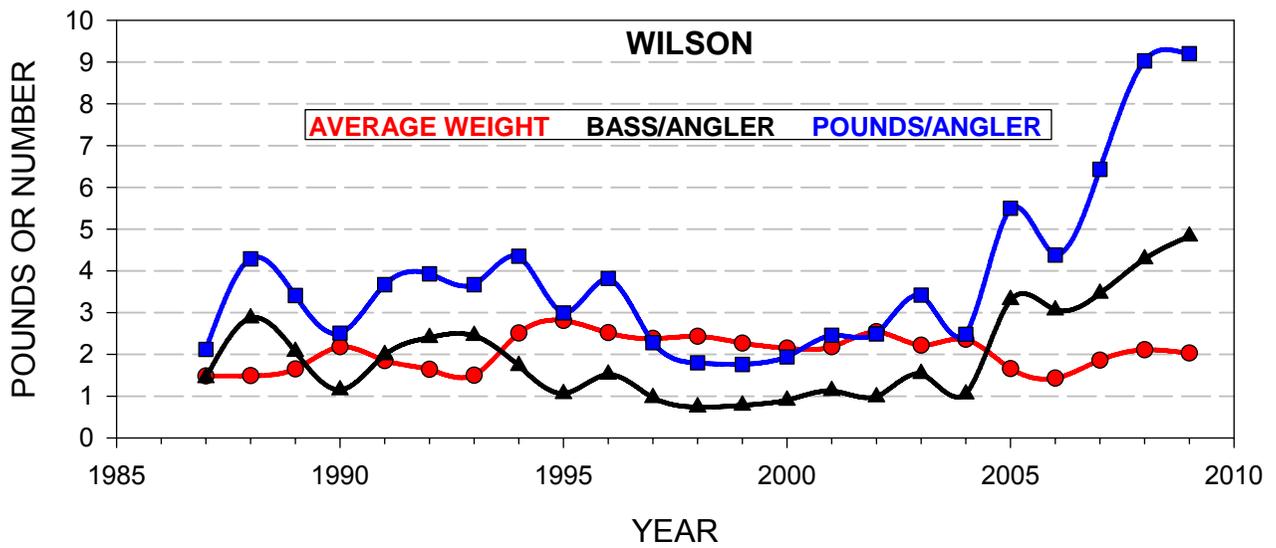
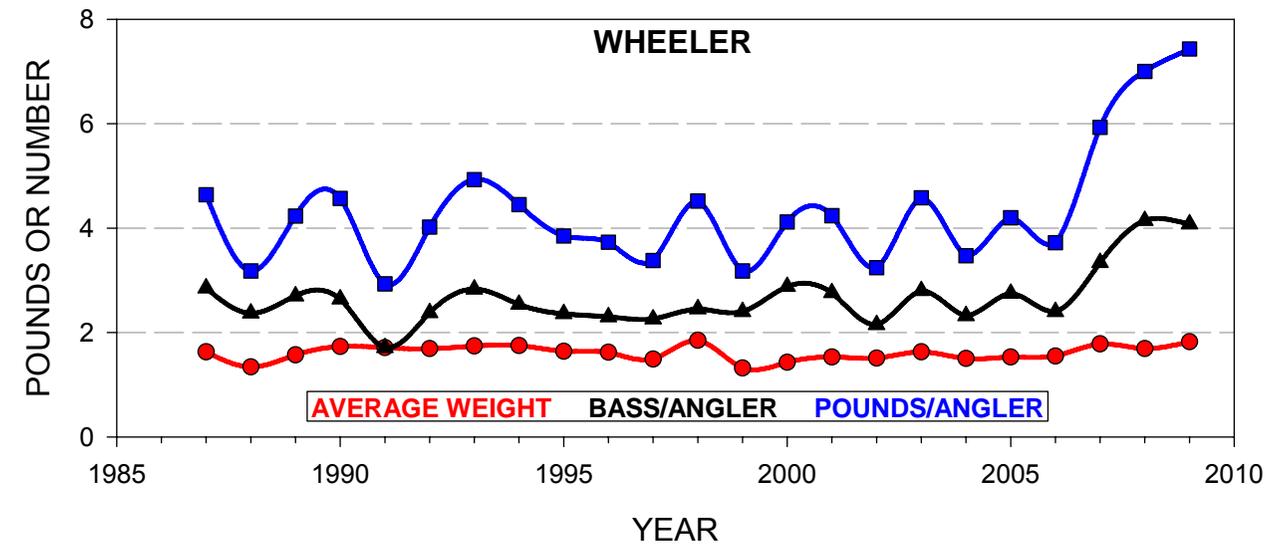


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2009.

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2009 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.
Eufaula	JAN	3	38	86.8	329	108	71.4	28.6	0.0	100.0	238.9	2.21	4	0	5.65	3.28	7.26	82
	FEB	1	16	75.0	160	35	.	.	.	100.0	90.3	2.58	2	0	7.07	2.19	5.64	80
	MAR	9	174	77.6	1777	459	82.7	17.3	0.0	94.7	1160.8	2.53	15	0	6.14	2.58	6.53	118
	APR	7	70	81.4	680	165	96.3	3.7	0.0	94.1	436.1	2.64	6	0	5.44	2.43	6.41	113
	MAY	3	76	89.5	771	260	85.8	14.2	0.0	83.0	566.5	2.18	2	0	5.13	3.37	7.34	386
	JUN	3	32	90.6	434	74	96.8	3.2	0.0	88.9	234.8	3.17	5	0	6.18	1.71	5.41	87
	JUL	4	64	82.8	714	222	85.9	14.1	0.0	78.1	549.8	2.48	3	0	5.20	3.11	7.70	238
	AUG	3	68	67.6	632	127	94.3	5.7	0.0	75.8	280.0	2.21	3	0	5.76	2.01	4.43	211
	SEP	5	62	82.3	892	204	81.5	18.5	0.0	95.9	458.5	2.25	4	0	4.39	2.29	5.14	223
	OCT	6	62	85.5	606	145	91.1	8.9	0.0	96.3	330.2	2.28	3	0	4.38	2.39	5.45	202
	NOV	2	29	79.3	241	92	74.1	25.9	0.0	100.0	176.3	1.92	2	0	5.78	3.82	7.31	121
	DEC	1	30	60.0	420	33	78.8	21.2	0.0	100.0	76.0	2.30	1	0	5.06	0.79	1.81	420
Guntersville	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	5	91	57.1	768	142	96.3	3.7	0.0	100.0	451.9	3.18	12	1	7.23	1.85	5.88	64
	MAR	5	101	83.2	1086	352	96.6	3.4	0.0	95.0	1247.5	3.54	28	1	6.97	3.24	11.49	39
	APR	11	205	92.2	1838	647	97.9	2.1	0.0	99.3	1885.9	2.91	26	1	6.49	3.52	10.26	71
	MAY	4	65	98.5	598	165	100.0	0.0	0.0	94.6	478.1	2.90	9	0	5.57	2.76	7.99	66
	JUN	5	96	95.8	1148	381	100.0	0.0	0.0	93.1	1119.3	2.94	10	0	5.64	3.32	9.75	115
	JUL	1	32	87.5	288	76	.	.	.	97.4	264.9	3.49	5	1	8.50	2.64	9.20	58
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	9	88	79.5	719	153	97.1	2.9	0.0	96.7	394.6	2.58	1	0	4.30	2.13	5.49	719
	OCT	6	69	82.6	804	157	91.1	8.9	0.0	100.0	423.0	2.69	4	0	5.14	1.95	5.26	201
	NOV	2	19	89.5	227	72	91.3	8.7	0.0	100.0	188.3	2.62	2	0	5.85	3.17	8.30	114
	DEC	1	10	70.0	80	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	43.7	3.64	1	0	5.39	1.50	5.46	80
Harris	JAN	2	34	94.1	289	133	6.4	93.6	0.0	85.0	190.9	1.43	2	0	6.29	4.60	6.60	145
	FEB	5	88	79.5	766	286	8.3	91.7	0.0	99.4	360.4	1.26	0	0	3.38	3.73	4.71	.
	MAR	2	20	100.0	166	76	16.0	84.0	0.0	100.0	163.2	2.15	2	0	6.47	4.58	9.83	83
	APR	2	42	85.7	378	159	12.8	87.2	0.0	97.4	206.6	1.30	0	0	3.63	4.21	5.47	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	3	54	63.0	428	104	11.6	88.4	0.0	90.9	159.0	1.53	2	0	4.15	2.43	3.71	214
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	17	82.4	136	46	.	.	.	78.3	62.1	1.35	0	0	4.08	3.38	4.56	.
	OCT	1	9	100.0	72	42	59.5	40.5	0.0	97.6	65.9	1.57	0	0	4.94	5.83	9.15	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Jordan	JAN	1	20	100.0	160	47	17.0	83.0	0.0	100.0	142.2	3.03	0	0	4.50	2.94	8.89	.
	FEB	1	12	100.0	96	26	14.3	85.7	0.0	100.0	53.9	2.07	0	0	4.50	2.71	5.62	.
	MAR	4	59	91.5	546	174	21.9	78.1	0.0	98.2	402.8	2.31	1	0	4.65	3.19	7.38	546
	APR	2	26	100.0	243	107	4.1	95.9	0.0	81.0	221.8	2.07	1	0	4.46	4.40	9.13	243
	MAY	1	27	88.9	270	108	19.4	80.6	0.0	91.7	195.8	1.81	0	0	4.20	4.00	7.25	.
	JUN	1	21	90.5	189	53	0.0	100.0	0.0	100.0	106.5	2.01	1	0	5.44	2.80	5.63	189
	JUL	2	17	70.6	143	30	30.0	70.0	0.0	100.0	60.1	2.00	0	0	4.16	2.10	4.20	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	3	53	69.8	497	101	26.7	73.3	0.0	98.4	177.1	1.75	0	0	3.85	2.03	3.57	.
	NOV	1	11	90.9	110	36	44.4	55.6	0.0	100.0	93.4	2.60	2	0	6.77	3.27	8.49	55
	DEC	2	24	79.2	192	55	3.3	96.7	0.0	68.0	115.4	2.10	0	0	4.42	2.86	6.01	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

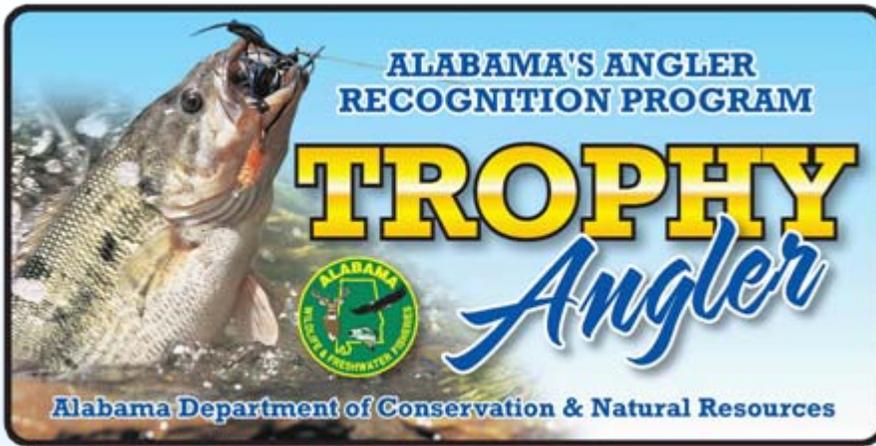
Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	
Logan Martin	JAN
	FEB	1	24	79.2	216	38	5.3	94.7	0.0	97.4	67.3	1.77	1	0	6.08	1.76	3.11	216	
	MAR	4	78	100.0	634	285	36.7	63.3	0.0	99.7	549.7	1.93	1	0	4.60	4.50	8.67	634	
	APR	3	61	93.4	570	275	10.2	89.8	0.0	96.3	478.9	1.74	0	0	3.88	4.82	8.40	.	
	MAY	6	103	100.0	1160	585	29.2	70.8	0.0	92.2	968.6	1.66	0	0	4.01	5.05	8.35	.	
	JUN	4	73	91.8	637	288	30.0	70.0	0.0	92.5	437.8	1.52	1	0	4.46	4.52	6.87	637	
	JUL	2	20	80.0	262	77	46.4	53.6	0.0	99.1	121.9	1.58	0	0	3.84	2.94	4.65	.	
	AUG	1	13	84.6	104	53	9.4	90.6	0.0	100.0	75.8	1.43	1	0	6.31	5.10	7.29	104	
	SEP	5	77	96.1	629	287	28.2	71.8	0.0	97.6	413.1	1.44	1	0	3.94	4.56	6.57	629	
	OCT	3	56	98.2	460	221	14.4	85.6	0.0	91.1	312.6	1.41	0	0	3.70	4.80	6.79	.	
	NOV	2	38	94.7	440	175	12.9	87.1	0.0	100.0	278.2	1.59	0	0	4.05	3.98	6.32	.	
	DEC	3	35	97.1	270	125	12.5	87.5	0.0	100.0	213.3	1.71	1	0	4.34	4.63	7.90	270	
Neely Henry	JAN
	FEB
	MAR
	APR
	MAY	2	32	90.6	304	111	60.7	39.3	0.0	93.9	149.7	1.35	0	0	3.75	3.65	4.92	.	
	JUN	4	54	98.1	499	189	65.7	34.3	0.0	96.6	303.8	1.61	0	0	3.71	3.79	6.09	.	
	JUL	2	39	89.7	312	149	16.1	83.9	0.0	92.0	250.8	1.68	2	0	5.20	4.78	8.04	156	
	AUG	4	93	94.6	770	260	51.4	48.6	0.0	95.1	396.1	1.52	3	0	4.78	3.38	5.15	257	
	SEP	4	60	75.0	540	209	45.8	54.2	0.0	96.6	367.2	1.76	2	0	4.55	3.87	6.80	270	
	OCT	2	25	92.0	208	76	19.2	80.8	0.0	100.0	121.1	1.59	0	0	4.16	3.65	5.82	.	
	NOV
	DEC
Pickwick	JAN
	FEB	5	104	62.5	880	323	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	880.0	2.67	4	0	5.07	3.67	9.76	131	
	MAR	11	368	92.0	3141	1349	.	.	.	100.0	3140.5	2.56	35	2	7.05	4.58	11.70	82	
	APR	4	281	.	2389	1233	.	.	.	100.0	2388.5	2.21	6	0	6.44	5.16	11.41	341	
	MAY	10	345	97.7	5758	1368	86.0	0.0	14.0	99.0	5758.0	2.15	11	0	5.05	2.48	5.62	499	
	JUN	6	172	.	1462	461	.	.	.	100.0	1462.0	2.42	9	0	5.82	5.07	12.49	130	
	JUL	7	168	92.9	1491	572	.	.	.	100.0	1491.0	2.46	6	0	5.41	4.39	11.07	205	
	AUG	2	46	58.3	379	57	.	.	.	100.0	379.0	1.98	0	0	4.56	2.97	7.85	.	
	SEP	2	32	.	272	55	.	.	.	100.0	272.0	3.17	3	0	5.59	4.98	13.87	37	
	OCT	5	57	54.6	485	179	67.0	0.0	33.0	100.0	484.5	2.11	3	0	4.84	3.69	7.80	133	
	NOV	5	406	.	3451	1634	.	.	.	100.0	3451.0	2.04	8	0	5.53	4.73	9.66	421	
	DEC	1	7	.	60	24	.	.	.	100.0	59.5	2.30	0	0	4.32	4.03	9.29	.	
Weiss	JAN
	FEB
	MAR	1	15	73.3	135	32	18.8	81.2	0.0	100.0	44.3	1.38	0	0	4.35	2.37	3.28	.	
	APR	1	18	88.9	144	70	.	.	.	100.0	152.6	2.18	4	0	7.38	4.86	10.60	36	
	MAY	6	98	92.9	816	352	68.1	31.9	0.0	95.6	670.6	1.91	6	0	4.99	4.32	8.22	136	
	JUN	7	109	99.1	1015	436	59.8	40.2	0.0	90.8	717.6	1.65	4	0	4.66	4.30	7.07	254	
	JUL	3	63	93.7	504	184	42.1	57.9	0.0	90.8	346.6	1.88	2	0	5.55	3.65	6.88	252	
	AUG	1	17	94.1	136	55	.	.	.	100.0	92.2	1.68	1	0	5.40	4.04	6.78	136	
	SEP	1	21	85.7	179	47	48.9	51.1	0.0	95.7	63.2	1.34	0	0	3.49	2.63	3.54	.	
	OCT	1	11	100.0	99	50	58.0	42.0	0.0	100.0	100.8	2.02	2	0	5.81	5.05	10.18	50	
	NOV	3	55	94.5	481	201	66.2	33.8	0.0	100.0	301.0	1.50	1	0	4.61	4.18	6.26	481	
	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.	
Wheeler	JAN
	FEB
	MAR	3	19	78.9	171	68	98.3	0.0	1.7	100.0	125.3	1.84	1	0	4.23	3.98	7.33	171	
	APR	4	177	81.9	1461	642	100.0	0.0	0.0	94.2	1303.1	2.03	6	1	6.36	4.40	8.92	243	
	MAY	4	95	89.5	1110	503	94.7	2.6	2.7	94.4	869.2	1.73	2	0	4.72	4.53	7.83	555	
	JUN
	JUL
	AUG
	SEP	1	30	56.7	240	56	.	.	.	98.2	80.4	1.44	0	0	4.88	2.33	3.35	.	
	OCT	3	47	85.1	566	207	96.0	0.0	4.0	95.5	322.2	1.56	0	0	4.81	3.66	5.69	.	
	NOV	1	14	85.7	119	42	92.8	4.8	2.4	100.0	76.3	1.82	1	0	5.24	3.53	6.41	119	
	DEC	1	16	62.5	144	36	100.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	55.8	1.55	2	0	5.42	2.50	3.87	72	
West Point	JAN
	FEB	2	29	82.8	259	71	21.6	78.4	0.0	88.5	132.7	1.87	2	0	5.30	2.74	5.13	129	
	MAR	4	62	85.5	673	284	28.5	71.5	0.0	76.8	332.0	1.17	5	1	5.90	4.22	4.93	135	
	APR	17	269	91.1	2979	1159	34.6	65.4	0.0	98.5	1845.9	1.59	15	1	4.93	3.89	6.20	199	
	MAY	1	15	86.7	128	59	25.4	74.6	0.0	100.0	75.1	1.27	0	0	4.63	4.63	5.89	.	
	JUN	3	30	93.3	270	121	17.2	82.8	0.0	97.6	185.8	1.54	1	0	4.37	4.48	6.88	270	
	JUL	2	27	70.4	216	41	62.5	37.5	0.0	100.0	73.6	1.79	1	0	5.35	1.90	3.41	216	
	AUG	1	11	45.5	88	7	42.9	57.1	0.0	71.4	9.0	1.28	0	0	2.50	0.80	1.02	.	
	SEP	2	24	91.7	332	112	25.6	74.4	0.0	96.7	167.2	1.49	0	0	3.15	3.37	5.03	.	
	OCT	2	22	90.9	198	67	55.6	44.4	0.0	98.6	100.0	1.49	1	0	4.35	3.38	5.05	198	
	NOV	5	57	89.5	518	152	19.4	80.6	0.0	100.0	272.4	1.79	3	0	4.66	2.93	5.26	173	
	DEC	1	16	87.5	128	41	82.9	17.1	0.0	100.0	70.3	1.71	.	.	.	3.20	5.49	.	

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



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.



Matthew Burmeister landed this flathead catfish while fishing in Talladega Creek on November 11, 2009. The fish weighed 52 pounds.



Lee Black caught this 11 pound 4 ounce largemouth bass from Lake Guntersville on February 12th, 2009.



Jerry Daily holds the new Wilson Lake Record largemouth bass, which he caught on June 20th, 2009. The fish weighed 11.15 pounds.



This alligator gar was caught by Richard Johnson in the Tensaw River area of the Mobile Delta. The fish weighed 151.6 pounds which tied the State Record for this species.



Michael Weatherspoon was fishing on Neely Henry when he caught this 17.38 inch black crappie on October 24th, 2009.



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.



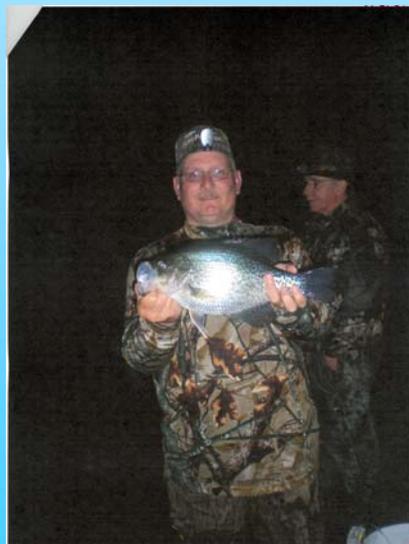
Edward Lawrence caught this 16 inch white crappie from Lake Martin on April 14th, 2009.



This 5.81 pound smallmouth bass was caught from Pickwick Lake on February 7th, 2009 by Jo Ann Pickle.



This 31.38 pound striped bass was caught by William Spencer from Lake Martin on March 8th, 2009.



This 3 pound black crappie was caught from Lake Guntersville by Paul Grise on February 27th, 2009.



Skyler Sanders caught this 9.75 pound largemouth bass from a private pond on December 4th, 2009.

**YOUR
PICTURE
HERE**



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Ken Shows and Johnnie Gunnells were fishing together in the Jordan Dam Tailrace when they caught this nice pair of spotted bass on November 1st, 2009. Ms. Gunnells' 4.75 pounder edged out Mr. Shows' 4.25 pounder.



Mr. Charlie Bertus caught this 4.74 pound spotted bass from Lake Guntersville on February 9th, 2009. His catch established a Guntersville Lake Record for spotted bass.



This 4.75 pound spotted bass was caught from the Black Warrior River near Tuscaloosa by Clint Fikes on July 3rd, 2009.

**YOUR
PICTURE
HERE**



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Kevin Lade caught this 65 pound blue catfish from Wheeler Reservoir on October 23rd, 2009.



This 62.5 pound blue catfish was caught by Regina Rhodes on July 14th, 2009, from Wheeler Reservoir.



Brent Miller also caught a monster blue cat from Wheeler during October, 2009. This one weighed 64.9 pounds



This 62 pound blue cat was caught by Dorothy Ann Coley from a private pond on February 8th, 2009.

**YOUR
PICTURE
HERE**

ALABAMA LAKE RECORD BLACK BASS^a

RESERVOIR	SPECIES				RESERVOIR	SPECIES			
	Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Spotted Bass	Redeye Bass		Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass	Spotted Bass	Redeye Bass
Aliceville	T	—	M	—	Lamar Co.	T	—	—	—
Bankhead	M	—	T	—	Lay	M	—	M	—
Barbour Co.	T	—	—	—	Lee Co.	T	—	—	—
Bibb Co.	T	—	—	—	Little Bear	T	M	M	—
Big Bear	T	M	M	—	Logan Martin	14-11	—	M	3-02
Big Creek	M	—	M	—	Madison Co.	T	—	—	—
Cedar Creek	T	M	M	—	Marion Co.	T	—	—	—
Chambers Co.	T	—	—	—	Martin	M	—	M	2-11
Claiborne	M	—	M	—	Miller's Ferry	M	—	T	—
Clay Co.	T	—	—	—	Mitchell	M	—	T	M
Coffee Co.	T	—	—	—	Mobile Delta	M	—	M	—
Coffeeville	M	—	M	—	Monroe Co.	T	—	—	—
Columbia	T	—	M	—	Neely Henry	M	—	M	M
Crenshaw Co.	T	—	—	—	Oliver-Chat.	M	—	M	—
Dale Co.	T	—	—	—	Oliver-Tusc.	11-10	—	M	—
Dallas Co.	T	—	—	—	Pickwick	M	T	M	—
DeKalb Co.	T	—	—	—	Pike Co.	T	—	—	—
Demopolis	M	—	M	—	Point A	M	—	M	—
Escambia Co.	T	—	—	—	Private Ponds	16-08	—	M	—
Eufaula	T	—	M	—	Purdy	M	—	4-14	—
Fayette Co.	T	—	—	—	Smith	11-00	M	8-15	—
Gainesville	T	—	M	—	Thurlow	M	M	M	M
Gantt	M	—	M	—	Tuscaloosa	M	—	M	—
Geneva Co.	T	—	—	—	Upper Bear	T	M	M	—
Goat Rock	M	—	M	—	Walker Co.	T	—	—	—
Guntersville	14-08	M	4-11	—	Warrior	M	—	M	—
Harding	M	—	M	—	Washington Co.	14-08	—	—	—
Harris	M	—	M	2-06	Weiss	M	—	M	M
Holt	M	—	M	—	West Point	M	—	M	—
Inland	M	—	M	—	Wheeler	M	M	6-03	—
Jones Bluff	M	—	T	—	Wilson	11-02	10-8	M	—
Jordan	M	—	T	M	Yates	M	M	M	M

Minimum Qualifying Sizes for Alabama's Angler Recognition Program.

SPECIES	MASTER ANGLER		TROPHY ANGLER	
	Weight (lbs.-oz.)	Length ^a (inches)	Weight (lbs.-oz.)	Length ^a (inches)
Black Crappie	3-00	16"	4-00	17"
Blue Catfish	50-00	44"	70-00	51"
Bluegill Sunfish	1-00	10"	2-00	13"
Channel Catfish	15-00	32"	25-00	37"
Flathead Catfish	30-00	37"	50-00	44"
Hybrid Striped Bass	12-00	27"	16-00	29"
Largemouth Bass	8-00	23"	10-00	25"
Redear Sunfish	1-00	11"	2-00	13"
Redeye Bass	0-12	11"	1-00	13"
Sauger	2-00	17"	3-00	19"
Smallmouth Bass	5-00	20"	7-00	22"
Spotted Bass	4-00	19"	6-00	21"
Striped Bass	25-00	38"	35-00	42"
Walleye	5-00	22"	8-00	26"
White Bass	3-00	17"	4-00	19"
White Crappie	3-00	16"	4-00	18"

^aQualifying sizes are derived from the standard weight (W_s) equation with a relative weight (W_r) of 110 %.

Other Topics

TOURNAMENT PERMITS

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) 242-3630, 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>.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL DAY USE PERMITS

Annual passes can be obtained from the guard shack at all park entrances, or by contacting your local Corp of Engineers Resources Management office. These passes allow you to use any boat ramp operated and maintained by the Corps of Engineers, nationwide. The charge for these permits is \$30 and is good for one year from the date of purchase. Local and regional offices are listed below.

Alabama River Lakes Site Office (Hayneville)	334-872-9554
Millers Ferry Resource Office (Camden)	334-682-4244
Holt Resource Office (Peterson)	205-553-9373
Black Warrior/Tombigbee Project Mgmt. Office (Tuscaloosa)	205-752-3571
Demopolis Site Office (Demopolis)	334-289-3540
Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Office (Carrollton)	205-373-8705

TRAILER TOURNAMENTS

Any tournaments where rules permit anglers to fish in various water bodies and then bring their catch to a particular lake for a weigh-in where fish are then released alive into that body of water are in direct violation of Alabama's [Public Water Stocking \(220-2-.129\)](#) regulation. Moving live fish from one lake to another can have a number of detrimental consequences; examples include 1) moving fish caught from lakes with consumption advisories into lakes without advisories, 2) introducing genetically inferior strains of spotted bass into our world-class spotted bass fisheries of the Coosa River, 3) introducing diseases such as the Largemouth Bass Virus which decimated many of our bass fisheries in Alabama beginning in the late 1990's, 4) diluting the genetic benefits of our Florida bass stocking program, and 5) introducing non-native, potentially harmful species into lakes where they do not currently exist.

However, 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 that lake if you did not catch them there.** 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 & Freshwater Fisheries biologists have revealed a significant decline in bass harvest rates, statewide. In 2009, nearly 100% of all bass caught from public waters were released.

As the catch-and-release ethic has evolved during the last 20 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, which often leads them to make some 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 the stress. Making this mistake can result in numerous dead fish floating in the water around the boat ramp on the following day. The number of complaints received by ADCNR accusing tournament anglers of killing and wasting fish during organized bass tournaments is on the rise.

In many states, people who are not tournament anglers have pushed for legislation to prevent wasteful and negligent abuse of sport fisheries and some states have responded with No-Cull regulations, which prohibit the release of fish once they have been placed into an angler's livewell. This is obviously contrary to the competitive principles of bass tournaments and has resulted in a drastic decline in the number of tournaments being held in those states. Anglers have simply lost the desire to take part in a contest where luck plays a larger role than preparation and skill.

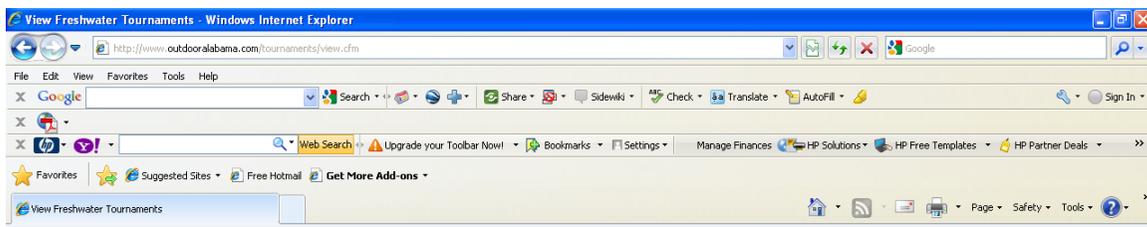
The ADCNR is not a proponent of such regulations, but as the State's resource agency it has a responsibility to protect the natural resources of this state, and an obligation to respond to legitimate public concerns about negligent waste of public resources.

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.

Tournament Website

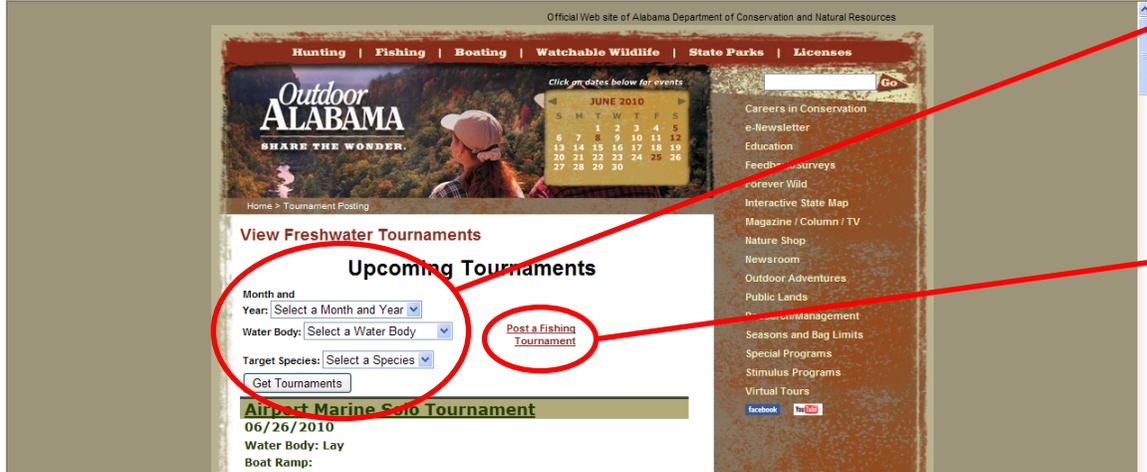
<http://www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments/>

Type the above link into your web browser to access the page below and post your tournaments or view those posted by other organizations. This feature is available for all 45 of Alabama's public reservoirs and signs are being placed at each ADCNR public access area to inform anglers of the new interactive website.



Select from these options to see when and where tournaments are being held, or . . .

Click here to bring up the page below and post your own tournament.



On this page, you can post specific information about your tournament and include contact information, a link to your website, or even a copy of your tournament registration form.

Please let other tournament fishermen 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.

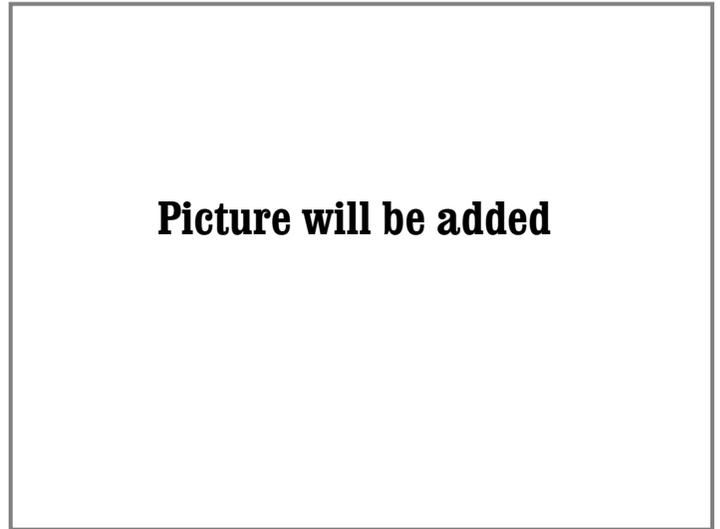
Boating Access



At Lake Guntersville, the original slab at Mud Creek Public Boat Ramp had become slick with wear so a new ramp slab with V-groove traction was constructed and set into place on top of the old one, and rip-rap was used to stabilize the bank around it.



Also on Lake Guntersville, undermining of the public ramp at Waterfront Grocery had caused it to collapse, leaving a large hole in the ramp. This condition is caused by heavy use and power loading. The wash was filled with rip-rap and a new slab constructed.



At Camp Rotary Public Boat Ramp on Lake Jordan, Alabama Power Co. expanded the parking lot to make room for about 90 rigs.



The Bonner's Point Public Boat Ramp at Lake Jordan began receiving a major renovation in August. The improvements will include the addition of a 60-ft. wide, four-lane launching slab, newly configured access roads, and two 100-ft. courtesy piers. The original single-lane ramp will be left in place and will serve handicapped boaters and include a total of four adjacent handicapped parking spaces. Future plans include a parking lot expansion that will service more than 100 rigs.

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