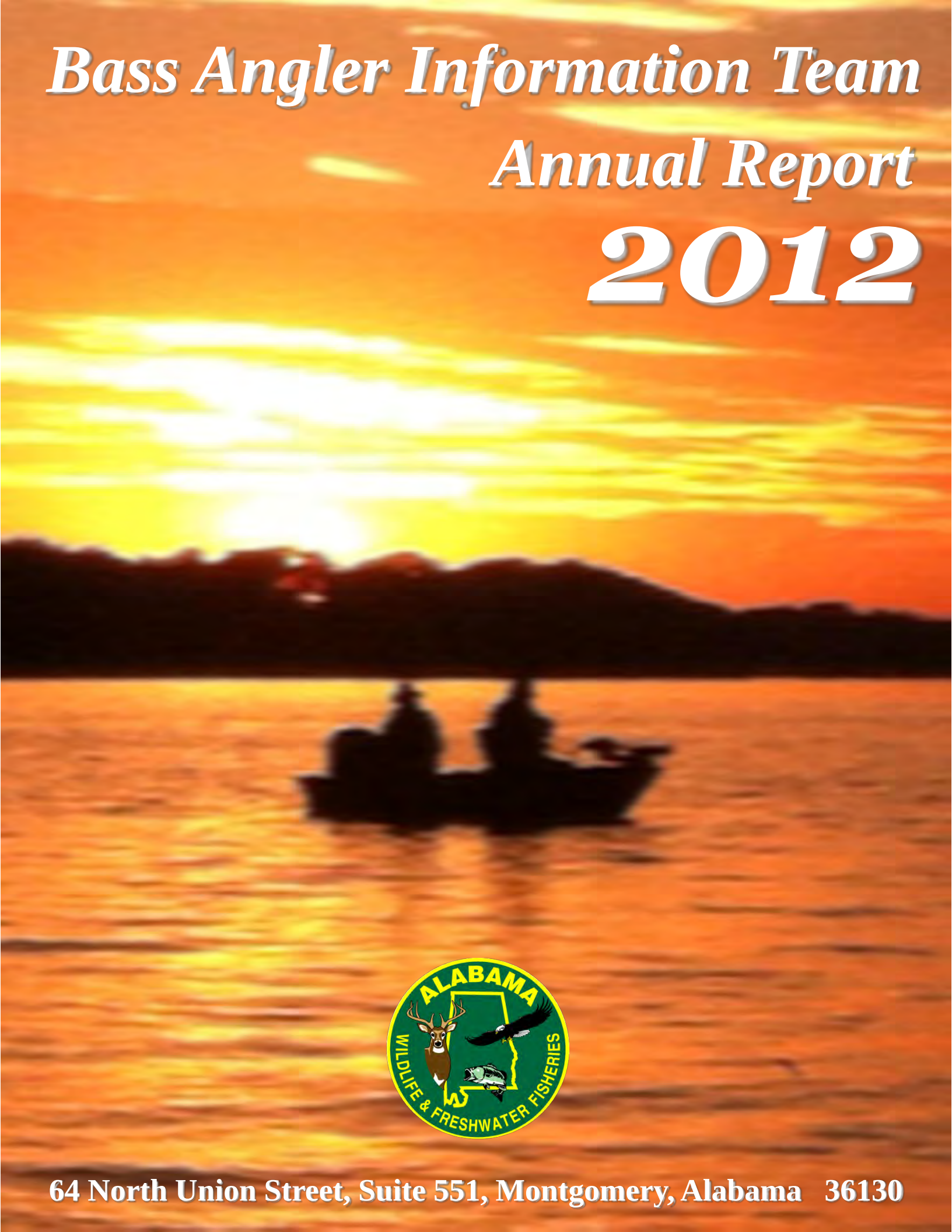
Bass Angler Information Team

Annual Report

2012



64 North Union Street, Suite 551, Montgomery, Alabama 36130

B.A.I.T.
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2012
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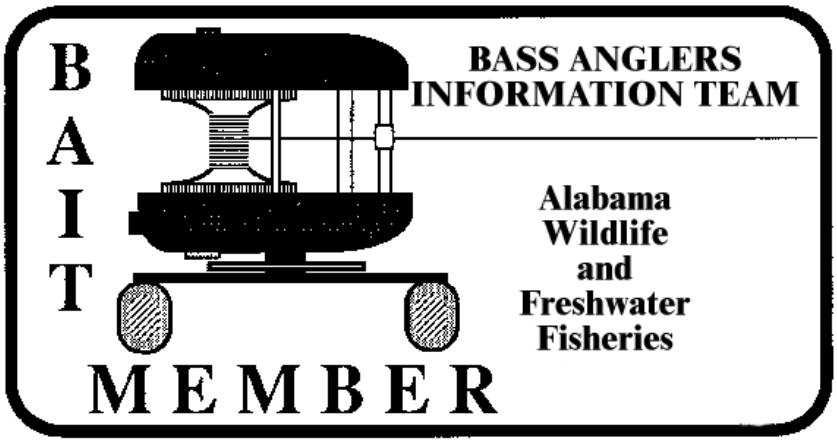

By

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Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Funded in part by the Federal Aid to Sport Fish Restoration Program
Alabama DJ/WB Project F-38

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2012 B.A.I.T. Summary

Bass fishing in the State of Alabama has been excellent during the past several years. and particularly during the previous five. During 2012, most quality indicators were very similar to that of the previous year. Bass caught per angler-day were down, somewhat; but the average size bass caught was 2.24 lbs., which is the largest in the 27 year history of this program and almost a quarter of a pound larger than the year before.

Although Pickwick and Guntersville have remained among the top reservoirs in the state during recent years, it is Wheeler that made the most impressive improvements in 2012. After years of ranking near the bottom of the quality indicator rankings, it has skyrocketed to No. 2, overall; primarily due to a considerable increase in the numbers of larger fish being caught. In fact, the time required to catch a bass over five pounds rivaled that of the early 1990's when the lake was considered to be in its prime.

- *Bankhead* was the top lake in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Wheeler* and *Aliceville* moved into the upper 1/3 of the quality indicator rankings where they were joined by newcomers *Warrior* and *Coffeeville*; while the *Mobile Delta* fell from the middle of the pack all the way to last place
- *Bankhead, Wheeler, Pickwick, Aliceville,* and *Warrior* were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Guntersville, Bankhead, Pickwick, Wheeler,* and *Eufaula* were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama

2012 Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

3.55 – Number of bass caught per angler-day
7.54 – Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
2.24 – Average weight of bass caught
235 – Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
12.56 – Weight of the largest bass caught
27 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
363 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

Introduction & Methods

The printing of the 2012 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the twenty-seventh 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.

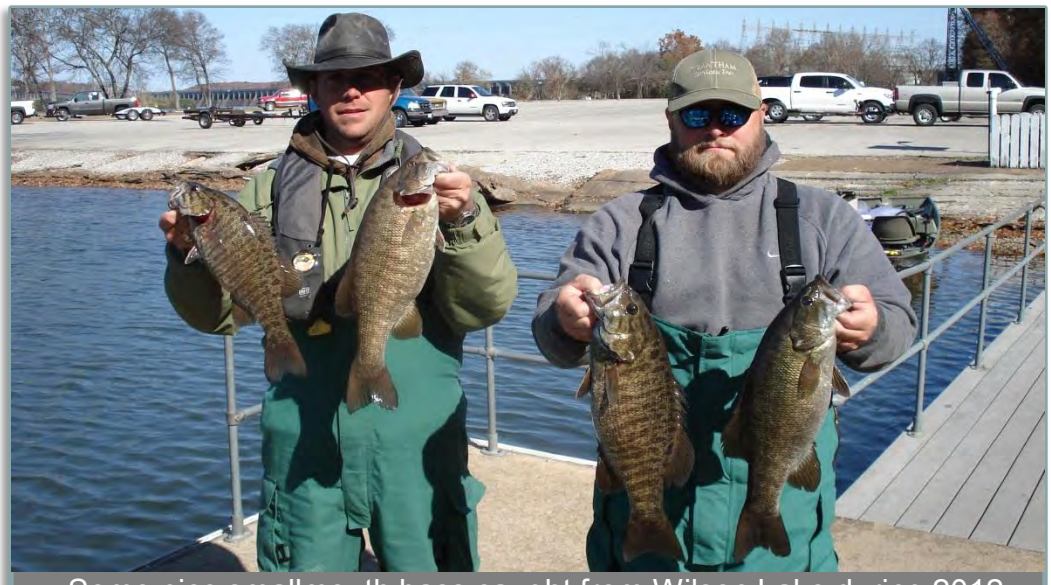
Through 2012, we have summarized 12,955 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 2,865,785 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 713,320 bass that weighed 1,273,565 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries' Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program which maintains over 110 boating access areas statewide. The accomplishments made by this program during 2012 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 10 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.



Some nice smallmouth bass caught from Wilson Lake during 2012.

Net your $50 Rebate

with the Purchase of the New Freshwater Fishing License Tag

Visit our website at www.outdooralabama.com or contact a District Fisheries Office for details

Proceeds from the sale of each Freshwater Fishing tag will be used to:

- Enhance and restore aquatic habitats
- Reestablish robust wild populations of now threatened species
- Provide conservation educational opportunities
- Propagate and stock genetically desirable fish
- Fund fish disease research
- Minimize the damage caused by invasive species
- Repair fish production ponds

Statewide Tournament Results

Bass clubs submitted 450 tournament reports during 2012, down slightly from 368 in 2011 (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! Seventy-seven clubs provided data in 2012. One hundred 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 53 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.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Big Bass in 2012

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. >5lbs.
BFL (Choo Choo)	Guntersville	Feb. 11	21
BFL (Bama)	Neely Henry	Jun. 30	12
Alabama BASS Federation Nation	Eufaula	Mar. 3	9
BFL (Choo Choo)	Guntersville	Mar. 3	9
Fishlife Bass Tour	Guntersville	Jan. 21	8
Bassmaster Weekend Series	Guntersville	Aug. 25	7
BFL	Pickwick	Mar. 10	7
FLW Tour	Wheeler	Sep. 20	7
Fishlife Bass Tour	Lay	Feb. 18	6
Peanut Craft	Pickwick	Feb. 25	6

In 2012, tournament reports were received from 31 bodies of water that were fished 124,800 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 43,216 bass that weighed 100,007 lbs. (Table 1). A total of 363 bass five pounds and larger were reported for an overall catch rate of one bass five pounds or larger for every 235 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 27 bass eight pounds and larger in 2012. The largest bass caught in 2012 came from Pickwick Lake and weighed 12.56 pounds. With 99 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Guntersville led this category. Other top lakes for big bass included Wheeler, Pickwick, Lay, and Eufaula.

Of the 77 organizations that submitted data during 2012, only 25% submitted five or more tournament reports, and 13% submitted 10 or more reports. Thirty-five contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2012 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Average 5-Fish Weight in 2012

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Champions	Pickwick	Mar. 10	16.06 lbs.
Champions	Pickwick	May 26	15.36 lbs.
Black Warrior Bass Trackers	Guntersville	May 3	15.30 lbs.
Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	Feb. 25	15.28 lbs.
C & R Bass Series	Eufaula	Feb. 11	15.08 lbs.
Itawamba Co. Bassmasters	Pickwick	Aug. 25	15.08 lbs.
Angler's Choice	Guntersville	Mar. 8	14.42 lbs.
Fishers of Men	Pickwick	Apr. 21	14.36 lbs.
Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	Jul. 14	14.29 lbs.
FLW Tour	Wheeler	Sep. 20	14.27 lbs.

Average catch rates in 2012 for both number (3.55) and pounds (7.54) of bass per angler-day were similar to the record numbers set two years before. Compared to 2011, five lakes improved in overall fishing success in 2012. The most notable improvements were Wheeler and Aliceville, which all moved into the top 5 in the overall rankings, but Neely Henry and Mitchell declined (Table 2). The average size bass caught on Wheeler increased by 18% compared to 2011, and bass per day increased 59%; consequently, the number of pounds weighed-in per angler-day increased by more than 50%. The time required to catch a bass over five pounds was nearly 3.5X less than in 2011

Most tournament reports in 2012 were received from Pickwick (54), Guntersville (49), Neely Henry (37), Eufaula (36) and Mobile Delta (33). These five reservoirs accounted for 46% of the statewide tournament reports. Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin each had more than 20 reports (Table 1), which means that the other 23 reservoirs contributed only 36% of the annual total for 2012. A good distribution of reports provides more robust statistics from which accurate summaries can be prepared. All club representatives should understand that every report is important to the continued success of the B.A.I.T Program.

Of the 31 reservoirs from which reports were received, 23 had five or more tournament reports (Table 1). The following comments deal with these reservoirs, which are ranked by quality indicators in Table 2. The percent of successful anglers (those with one or more fish) ranged from 74% at Guntersville to 99% at Coffeeville. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.39 pounds at Coffeeville to 3.17 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.44 at Jones Bluff to 6.02 at Coffeeville. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 4.21 at Jones Bluff to 9.98 at Wheeler. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 31 reservoirs was 2.24 pounds.

Statewide Tournament Results

Overall, Bankhead accumulated more quality indicator points (93) than any other reservoir in Alabama, moving up one spot from its second place finish in 2011. Wheeler (91), Pickwick (88), Aliceville (87), and Warrior (79) rounded out the top five (Table 2).

Readers should note that the primary intent of Table 2 is not to determine the overall "best" reservoir, but to characterize the fishery of each reservoir. Anglers should first review the quality indicator that is most important to them. The overall rating would be used to narrow choices. For example, if an angler wanted to have the best chance to catch a bass greater than 5 pounds, then Guntersville or Bankhead would be the place to go. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings to find that Wheeler, and Guntersville offer the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Coffeeville or Aliceville might be the best destination based upon their bass per angler-day rankings.

Bass data, as expressed in the B.A.I.T. report from reservoirs with harvest restrictions or length limits, will be biased since the data is a function of the restrictions. Length limits are imposed to increase the number of fish below a minimum length or within a specified length range (slot limit) 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 self-imposed by most tournaments, the restrictions will reduce the total harvest in numbers and possibly pounds. However, those fish weighed in will be larger (longer) by virtue of the minimum length (MLL) or slot limit. In the B.A.I.T. Report, length limit lakes should rank high for average weight and near the bottom for percent success and bass per angler-day. For instance, bass per angler-day averaged 3.55 statewide in 2012; but Demopolis and Guntersville averaged 2.95 and 3.13, respectively. Statewide average weight was 2.24 pounds for all reservoirs combined; but Guntersville with its 15-in. MLL averaged 3.17 pounds. 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 2012 on West Point (14-inch MLL on largemouth), Eufaula (14-inch MLL on largemouth), Demopolis (14-inch MLL on all black bass), 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-inch slot on largemouth); however, some changes related to smallmouth bass have taken effect on the impoundments of the Tennessee River. Beginning in 2012, no more than five of the daily creel of black bass may be comprised of smallmouth bass. Length limits for Pickwick (15-inch MLL on smallmouth bass), Wilson (15-inch MLL on smallmouth bass), Wheeler (15-inch MLL on smallmouth bass), and Guntersville (15-inch MLL on largemouth and smallmouth bass) were changed to offer more protection of the smallmouth bass fishery on the Tennessee River.

Bass fishing in Alabama has been excellent in recent years, with 2012 being among the best years reported since 1986 when B.A.I.T. reporting began. The number of bass over five pounds rebounded nicely from 2011.

The average number of hours (effort) needed to catch a bass larger than five-pounds dramatically increased beginning in 1998 due to the presence of the Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV), and reached its peak of 837 hours the following year. Within 10 years, this figure had returned to its pre-LMBV average of around 250 hours, and has remained fairly consistent since then.

Although there have been no recent outbreaks of LMBV, there are indications that this disease may be impacting our bass fisheries by elevating natural mortality rates; so, please report any unusual bass die-offs to your district fisheries office, and never move fish from one lake 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 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.

Bass Over Eight Pounds from 2012 B.A.I.T. Reports

Date	Organization	Lake	Weight
Feb. 11	BFL (Choo Choo)	Guntersville	9.38 lbs.
Feb. 11	Fishlife Bass Tour	Lay	9.41 lbs.
Feb. 11	Alabama BASS Fed.	Neely Henry	8.00 lbs.
Feb. 18	BASS Weekend	Guntersville	9.63 lbs.
Feb. 18	BFL (Bama)	Guntersville	8.31 lbs.
Feb. 18	Fishlife Bass Tour	Lay	9.41 lbs.
Feb. 25	BFL (Music City)	Guntersville	9.00 lbs.
Feb. 25	Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	9.20 lbs.
Feb. 25	Peanut Craft	Pickwick	11.78 lbs.
Feb. 26	Conasauga Bass.	Guntersville	9.58 lbs.
Mar. 3	BFL (Choo Choo)	Guntersville	10.63 lbs.
Mar. 8	Angler's Choice	Guntersville	8.57 lbs.
Mar. 9	BASS College Series	Guntersville	8.00 lbs.
Mar. 10	BFL	Pickwick	12.56 lbs.
May 12	Northport Bass Club	Warrior	10.31 lbs.
Jun. 30	Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	9.76 lbs.
Aug. 18	Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	9.02 lbs.
Aug. 25	Itawamba Co. Bass.	Pickwick	9.18 lbs.
Sep. 29	BFL	Pickwick	10.44 lbs.
Sep. 29	BFL	Pickwick	9.31 lbs.
Dec. 22	Fishlife Bass Tour	Guntersville	10.51 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 listed in Table 6. This table provides monthly catch information for all reservoirs with at least 10 reports.

Eufaula

Thirty six (36) tournaments were reported during 2012. No tournaments were reported during November and December. The majority occurred during March (9). One thousand one hundred two (1,102) anglers fished for 9,235 hours to catch 3,023 bass that weighed 6,851 pounds, with an average size of 2.22 pounds.

Catch-rates increased 22 % from the previous year, and surpassed the historical high for this reservoir, possibly due to the increasing abundance of spotted bass. The average sized bass (2.22 lbs.) caught by tournament anglers was similar to the 15 year Eufaula average.

The most notable change was the improvement in catch-rates of bass larger than five pounds, which increased by more than 36 % over the previous year. The number of hours required to catch a bass of this size was 177 hours, which is similar to the long-term average for this reservoir.

Considering all factors, March was probably the best month to visit Eufaula in 2012. Thirty five percent of all bass over five pounds were caught during this month, while number of bass and pounds per day were among the highest of any month.

Guntersville

Forty nine (49) tournaments were reported during 2012, and most tournaments occurred in March (11) and February (9). Three thousand four hundred twenty four anglers fished for 35,145 hours to catch 10,797 bass that weighed 34,663 pounds, with an average size of 3.17 pounds. Although percent success declined by 8 %, all other quality indicators improved considerably in 2012; in fact, average weight, bass per angler-day, and pounds per angler-day were all record highs.

Percent success was greatest from April - June, with around 90 % of all anglers catching at least one keeper fish; however, the remainder of the year was more challenging, with less than 60 % of anglers catching a keeper fish. About 30 % of anglers managed to weigh in a limit of five fish during tournaments in 2012. The fishery at Guntersville was dominated by largemouth bass (90 %) and no smallmouth bass were reported, although they do exist in the reservoir.

The number of hours required to catch a bass larger than five pounds (128 hrs.) had improved from a year ago; however, it was still nearly double that of 2007-2010, when anglers averaged about one week of fishing to catch a bass over five pounds. Average bass weight was the highest in 27 years of BAIT Reporting, indicating there are excellent numbers of quality fish in the lake.

Excellent fishing and several elite bass tournaments have brought national attention to the quality of this bass fishery. The past several years have offered some of the best bass fishing in the 70 year history of this reservoir and have attracted anglers from across the country.

Lay

Twenty nine tournaments were reported during 2012, and most tournaments occurred in March (7). Seven hundred fifty nine anglers fished for 6,642 hours to catch 2,244 bass that weighed 5,016 pounds, with an average size of 2.24 pounds.

Although anglers caught fewer fish than in previous years, they were considerably larger in size. Average bass weight was 20 % larger than the long-term average for the lake, and anglers caught bass heavier than five pounds at a rate nearly twice that of the 27 year Lay Lake average. For the past couple of years, Lay Lake has offered some of the best bass fishing the lake has seen in more than 15 years.

From 1997 - 2000, ADCNR's Fisheries Section stocked more than 900,000 Florida largemouth bass into the Beeswax Creek area, which has resulted in an increase in the frequency of Florida genes in the population to about 30 %, lake-wide.

Logan Martin

Twenty nine tournament were reported during 2012, and those tournaments were distributed fairly evenly throughout all seasons. Five hundred thirty anglers fished for 4,642 hours to catch 1,896 bass that weighed 3,364 pounds, with an average size of 1.77 pounds.

Fishing on Logan Martin was poor in 2012 when compare to previous years. Anglers caught 30 % fewer fish than during the previous 20 years, and bass over five pounds were scarce. The average angler fished for 216 days before landing a bass over five pounds in 2012, which was 70 % longer than the post-LMBV average for the lake. Hopefully, the poor fishing on this lake in 2012 was an anomaly that will correct itself as time progresses.

Nearly 1.2 million Florida largemouth bass fingerlings were introduced into the Cropwell Creek area by ADCNR's Fisheries Section from 2006 – 2009. The population has not yet been examined to determine if the Florida genes are persisting in the population.

Martin

Twenty tournaments were reported during 2012, with the majority being held from January through April. Six hundred ninety seven anglers fished for 6,121 hours to catch 2,211 bass that weighed 3,566 pounds, with an average size of 1.61 pounds.

Catch-rates have declined for the past couple of years, but are still above the long-term average for the reservoir. However, the average size bass from Lake Martin (1 lb. 10 oz.) was the highest ever recorded during the course of the BAIT Program, and the time required to catch a bass over five pounds (43 days) was slightly better than the pre-LMBV average of 46 days. In fact, during the past five years, it has taken Lake Martin anglers nearly nine times that long to catch a bass over five pounds, so 2012 was an excellent year for big bass.

Monthly Tournament Stats

All things considered, 2012 was probably the best year for bass fishing on Lake Martin since the mid-1990's. From 2010 – 2012, ADCNR's Fisheries Section stocked more than 1 million Florida largemouth bass into the Sandy Creek arm of the lake, which may help to continue the trend of larger fish being caught.

Mobile Delta

Thirty three (33) tournaments were held during 2012, with the majority (6) being held in February. However, tournaments were generally dispersed evenly throughout the year. The number of tournaments reported was considerably higher than during the previous three to four years.

Three hundred eighty four anglers fished for 3,436 hours to catch 1,184 bass that weighed 1,658 pounds, averaging 1.40 pounds apiece. Four of the five quality indicators declined from the previous year, but were similar to, or greater than the long-term Delta average. The scarcity of large bass is nothing new in the Delta, but during 2012, bass over five pounds were caught at half the rate of the long-term average for this waterbody.

There were few seasonal patterns evident in 2012. The percent success was lowest from August to November, which was also the period of time when average bass weight was lowest.

Neely Henry

Thirty seven (37) tournaments were reported during 2012, with all but one occurring between April and November. The majority (27) occurred from May through August, with June (8) being the peak in tournament activity.

One thousand three hundred eight anglers fished for a total of 13,154 hours to catch 4,826 bass that weighed 9,469 pounds. The average weight of bass was 2.00 pounds and the ratio of largemouths to spots was 1:1.

Like many other Alabama reservoirs in 2012, Neely Henry showed a trend of anglers catching fewer, but larger bass. Percent success fell from 92 % to 84 %, bass per anger-day fell from 3.90 to 3.67, and percent of anglers with a limit fell from 49 % to 48 %, while average bass weight increased from 1.75 to 2.00 pounds, pounds per angler-day increased from 6.81 to 7.37, and average big bass weight increased from 3.62 to 4.81 pounds.

Pickwick

Fifty four (54) tournaments were reported during 2012 that occurred during every month except December. The majority took place in March (9) and September (9), with April and October both having seven tournaments each. One thousand eight hundred forty nine anglers reported fishing for 15,645 hours to catch 5,273 bass that weighed 14,417 pounds, and the average bass weight was 2.20 pounds.

One interesting observation was the decrease in number of smallmouth weighed in by anglers. In 2011, the ratio of largemouths to smallmouths was about 3:1, while that same ratio in 2012 was 19:1.

Fewer bass were caught in 2012, with percent success falling from 97 % to 86 %, the number of limits decreasing from 66 % to 51 %, and number of bass caught per angler-day decreasing from 4.46 to 3.97.

Big bass continued to be a fixture at Pickwick in 2012. The length of time required for the average angler to catch a bass over five pounds (169 hours) was essentially unchanged from the previous year, as was the length of time required to catch a bass exceeding eight pounds (1,955 hours). However, average big bass weight increased from 5.9 pounds in 2011 to 6.4 pounds in 2012.

Standardized Electrofishing Results

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

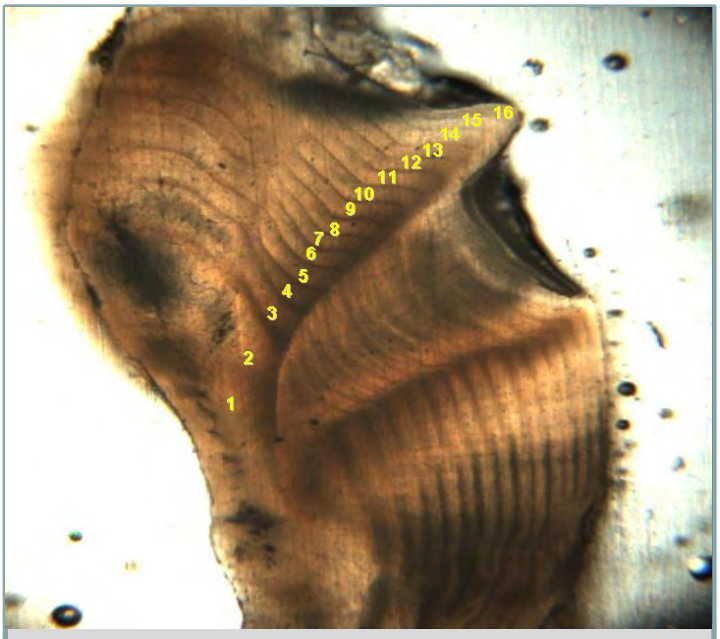
These four variables ultimately determine the quality of each fishery, but all of them are limited by the nutrient levels in each reservoir. Even with good management, reservoirs with low fertility or poor water quality do not have the potential to produce outstanding fisheries. Depending on the results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

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

Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries biologists conduct a standardized electrofishing sample at Lake Jordan on the Coosa River.

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

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



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

Standardized Electrofishing Results

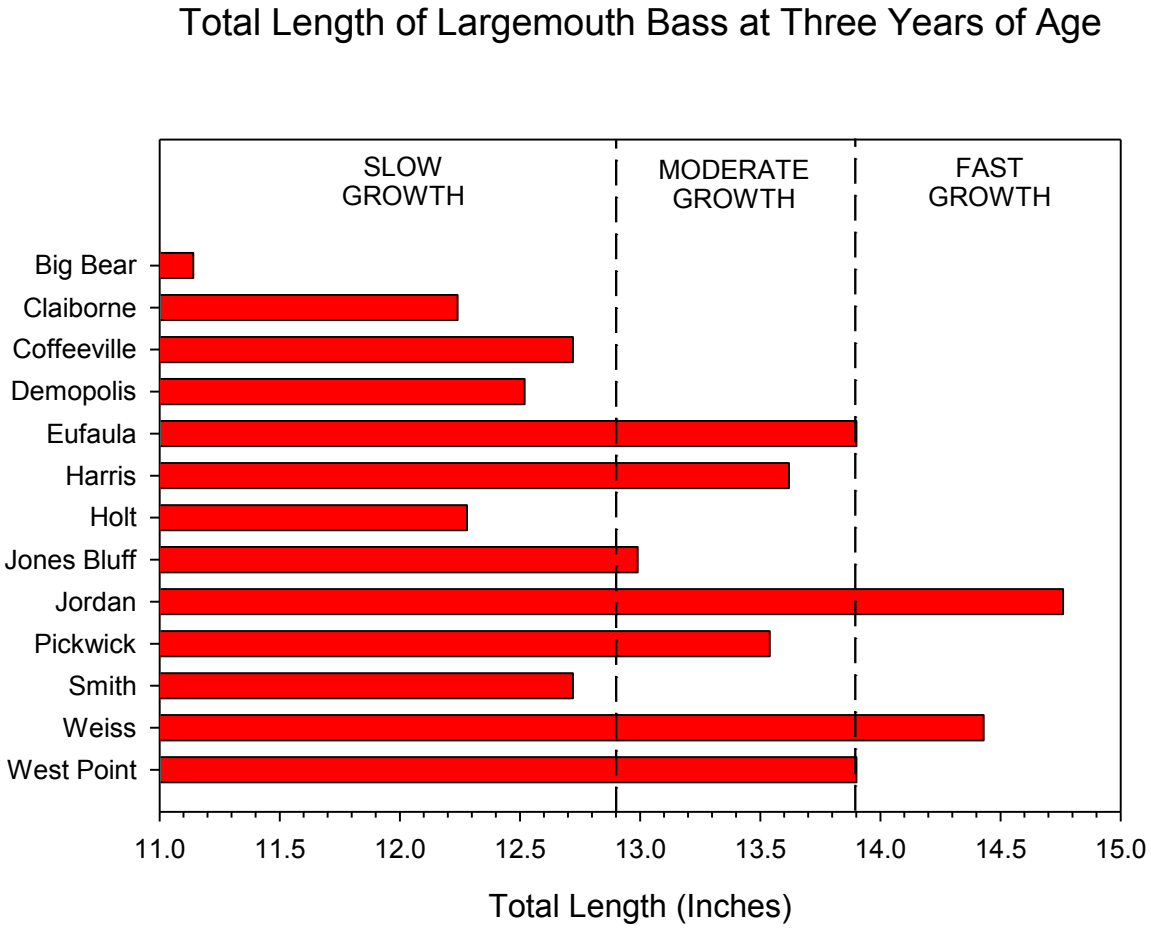
Growth

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

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

In Alabama, largemouth bass rarely exceed 10 years of age, and relatively few of the fish in these samples include fish greater than 5 years old. In warmer climates, bass grow faster but do not live as long as fish in colder climates. Additionally, a biologist's ability to impact the size structure of a fish population through the use of length limits is most easily measured by examining the population characteristics of fish that are about to enter the fishery (i.e. those fish becoming available for harvest). Given all of these factors, a good benchmark for the growth-rates of most Southeastern bass populations is the average length of bass at three years of age, which is usually 12 -14 inches. The bar chart below illustrates the results of these studies on the reservoirs that were sampled by Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries biologists during Spring 2012.

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



Standardized Electrofishing Results

Mortality

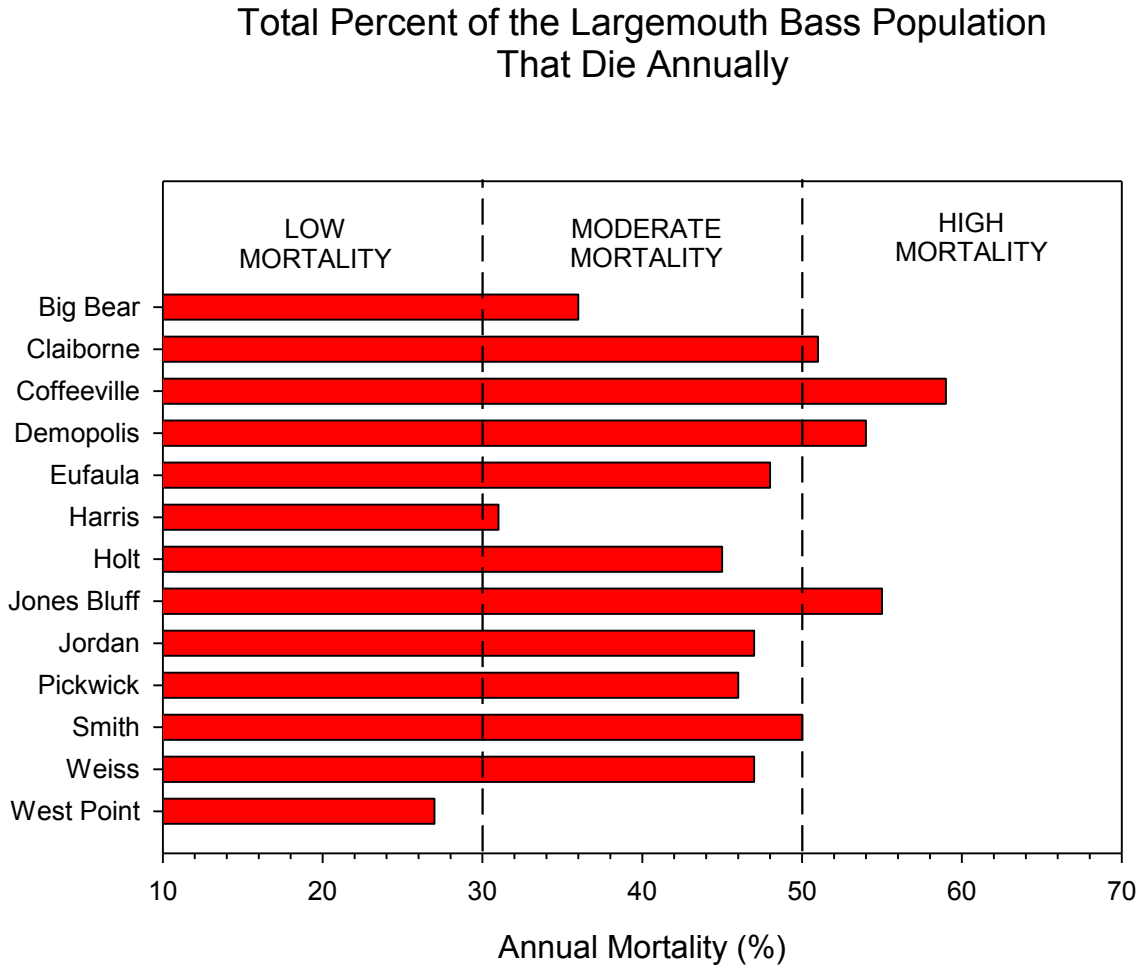
The second of the three most important objectives in fishery assessments is to determine the mortality rate for the population. Mortality is the death of fish, which can be caused by a wide range of things that include both natural causes, and fishing-related causes. In this section, it is total annual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

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

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

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

The chart below reflects the total annual mortality rates of largemouth bass populations sampled during Spring 2012. Biologists' use this information to help guide them to make management decisions in an effort to improve the quality of fishing. A reduction in mortality-rates following the enforcement of a length limit is an indication that this management action has had a positive influence on the population. Obviously, if fishing-related mortality is low, then length limits will do little to improve the quality of a fishery.

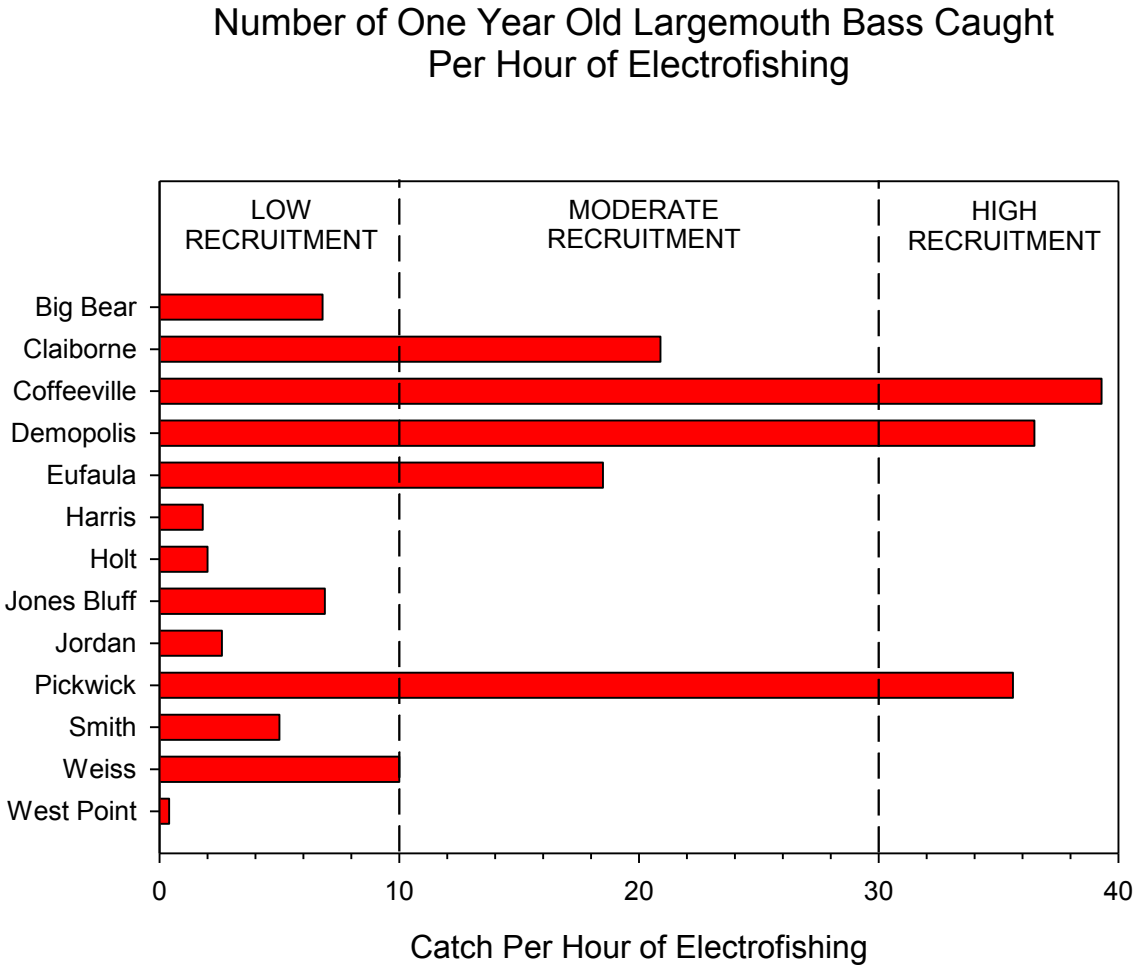


Standardized Electrofishing Results

Recruitment

The final critical objective in fishery assessments is to determine recruitment of the population into the fishery. This is generally defined in two ways: 1) the number of fish surviving to reach one year of age, or 2) the number of fish surviving to reach harvestable size. The first is important because fish that do not reach 3 to 3 ½ inches before their first winter are less likely to survive to the following spring. The second is important because it is a measure of the percentage of fish that reach sizes large enough to be caught or harvested by anglers. Recruitment can be impacted by density-dependent and/or density-independent factors. Density-dependent factors include population size, fish size and growth characteristics, reproductive fertility, cannibalism, disease, predation, and competition for food. Density-independent factors are non-biological in nature and may include floods, droughts, temperature extremes, excessive wind, and pollution.

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



Standardized Electrofishing Results

Abundance

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

The number of 8-12 inch fish collected per hour of electrofishing is a general indicator of overall population abundance. In Alabama, the majority of samples, statewide, fall within the 11 – 26 fish per hour range. The chart below illustrates these values for samples conducted on public reservoirs during Spring 2012 survey efforts.

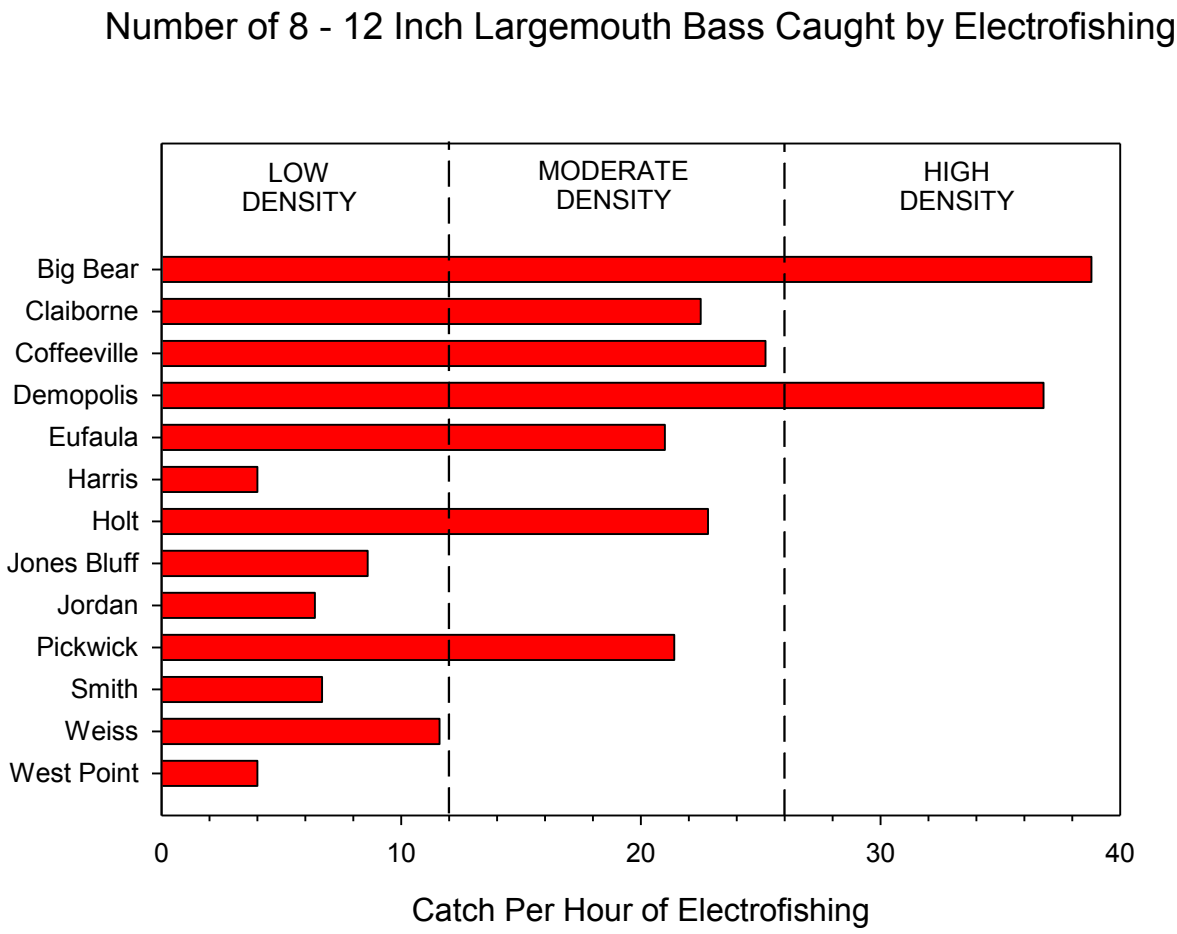


Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2012 B.A.I.T. Program.

Lake	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day[a]	Pounds per day[a]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days[a] to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Aliceville	5	108	87.0	78.7	918	469	99.0	1.0	0.0	97	894	1.91	3	0	4.66	86.96	5.11	9.73	306	31
Bankhead	6	113	86.7	63.7	950	422	26.4	73.6	0.0	98	829	1.97	4	0	4.40	86.73	4.44	8.73	148	15
Big Creek	2	13	92.3	38.5	126	44	100.0	0.0	0.0	20	56	1.28	0	0	2.32	92.31	3.49	4.47	.	.
Cedar Creek	1	17	100.0	41.2	170	50	.	.	.	100	76	1.52	1	.	6.63	100.00	2.94	4.47	170	17
Coffeeville	6	73	98.6	91.8	615	370	93.2	6.8	0.0	97	516	1.39	2	0	4.20	98.63	6.02	8.39	308	31
Demopolis	8	302	75.2	27.8	2609	771	77.3	22.7	0.0	98	1562	2.03	4	0	4.71	75.17	2.95	5.99	432	43
Eufaula	36	1102	78.7	30.7	9235	3023	79.3	20.7	0.0	98	6851	2.22	26	0	4.70	78.72	3.30	7.42	177	18
Gainesville	4	93	87.0	68.8	829	363	96.3	3.7	0.0	96	623	1.72	5	0	5.36	87.01	4.38	7.52	166	17
Guntersville	49	3424	73.7	30.4	35145	10797	90.3	9.7	0.0	98	34663	3.17	99	15	6.63	73.73	3.13	9.86	128	13
Harding	6	113	91.2	28.3	956	319	.	.	.	98	481	1.51	1	0	4.13	91.15	3.34	5.04	956	96
Harris	10	235	82.6	56.6	1971	860	35.8	64.2	0.0	99	1283	1.49	7	0	4.79	82.55	4.36	6.51	233	23
Holt	10	130	84.6	49.2	1048	415	18.1	81.9	0.0	100	696	1.68	5	0	4.43	84.62	3.96	6.64	210	21
Jones Bluff	6	96	87.5	31.3	1246	304	.	.	.	97	524	1.72	0	0	3.88	87.50	2.44	4.21	.	.
Jordan	15	375	84.8	35.2	4187	1239	22.7	77.3	0.0	98	2075	1.70	4	0	4.26	84.80	2.96	5.08	900	90
Lay	29	759	79.6	32.8	6642	2244	22.1	77.9	0.0	98	5016	2.24	25	2	5.31	79.58	3.38	7.55	184	18
Logan Martin	29	530	90.2	48.5	4642	1896	30.5	69.5	0.0	97	3364	1.77	2	0	4.19	90.19	4.08	7.25	2157	216
Martin	20	697	81.6	35.9	6121	2211	50.0	50.0	0.0	98	3566	1.61	8	0	4.61	81.64	3.61	5.83	425	43
Millers Ferry	7	100	91.0	59.0	912	323	91.7	8.3	0.0	97	551	1.71	3	0	3.71	91.00	3.54	6.04	284	28
Mitchell	9	154	86.4	44.2	1425	526	24.1	75.9	0.0	97	926	1.76	1	0	4.00	86.36	3.69	6.50	1425	143
Mobile Delta	33	384	86.7	37.2	3436	1184	97.7	2.3	0.0	95	1658	1.40	1	0	3.04	86.72	3.45	4.83	3124	312
Neely Henry	37	1308	83.6	48.4	13154	4826	50.3	49.7	0.0	97	9469	2.00	44	1	4.81	83.64	3.67	7.37	295	29
Pickwick	54	1849	85.5	50.9	15645	5273	94.4	0.0	5.6	97	14417	2.20	70	8	6.37	85.48	3.97	9.22	169	17
Smith	3	40	75.0	62.5	381	122	.	.	.	100	343	2.81	6	0	5.95	75.00	3.20	9.01	64	6
Tuscaloosa	3	88	89.8	68.2	792	366	78.2	21.8	0.0	100	490	1.34	1	0	4.73	89.77	4.62	6.19	792	79
Upper Bear	2	18	100.0	33.3	162	52	3.8	96.2	0.0	100	67	1.29	0	0	2.69	100.00	3.21	4.14	.	.
Warrior	5	88	86.4	55.7	778	323	98.2	1.8	0.0	98	612	1.90	4	1	6.05	86.36	4.15	7.87	195	19
Weiss	17	340	89.7	37.9	2828	1068	64.6	35.4	0.0	94	2054	1.87	4	0	4.47	89.71	3.78	7.06	669	67
West Point	18	278	86.0	27.7	2598	933	73.0	27.0	0.0	96	1377	1.48	7	0	4.05	85.97	3.59	5.30	371	37
Wheeler	15	489	84.0	58.7	4285	2071	92.3	3.9	3.8	99	4276	2.06	24	0	4.78	84.05	4.83	9.98	172	17
Wilson	4	103	78.6	42.7	917	318	72.2	0.0	27.8	99	628	1.97	0	0	4.66	78.64	3.47	6.84	.	.
Yates	1	8	100.0	62.5	80	34	.	.	.	100	64	1.87	2	.	7.50	100.00	4.25	7.96	40	4
Grand Total	**450**	**13427**	**80.9**	**40.2**	**124800**	**43216**	**74.9**	**24.1**	**1.0**	**98**	**100007**	**2.24**	**363**	**27**	**4.87**	**80.90**	**3.55**	**7.54**	**235**	**24**

[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

Table 2. Ranking by quality indicators for all reservoirs with five or more tournament reports in the 2012 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	Coffeeville	Guntersville	Coffeeville	Wheeler	Guntersville	Bankhead	93
2	Harding	Lay	Aliceville	Guntersville	Bankhead	Wheeler	91
3	Millers Ferry	Eufaula	Wheeler	Aliceville	Pickwick	Pickwick	88
4	Logan Martin	Pickwick	Bankhead	Pickwick	Wheeler	Aliceville	87
5	Weiss	Wheeler	Harris	Bankhead	Eufaula	Warrior	79
6	Jones Bluff	Demopolis	Warrior	Coffeeville	Lay	Coffeeville	76
7	Aliceville	Neely Henry	Logan Martin	Warrior	Warrior	Guntersville	73
8	Bankhead	Bankhead	Pickwick	Lay	Holt	Lay	67
9	Mobile Delta	Aliceville	Holt	Eufaula	Harris	Weiss	65
10	Mitchell	Warrior	Weiss	Neely Henry	Millers Ferry	Logan Martin	65
11	Warrior	Weiss	Mitchell	Logan Martin	Neely Henry	Eufaula	63
12	West Point	Logan Martin	Neely Henry	Weiss	Aliceville	Neely Henry	63
13	Pickwick	Mitchell	Martin	Holt	Coffeeville	Millers Ferry	61
14	Jordan	Jones Bluff	West Point	Harris	West Point	Holt	58
15	Holt	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	Mitchell	Martin	Harris	54
16	Wheeler	Jordan	Mobile Delta	Millers Ferry	Demopolis	Mitchell	51
17	Neely Henry	Holt	Lay	Demopolis	Weiss	Harding	41
18	Harris	Martin	Harding	Martin	Jordan	West Point	40
19	Martin	Harding	Eufaula	West Point	Harding	Martin	37
20	Lay	Harris	Guntersville	Jordan	Mitchell	Demopolis	37
21	Eufaula	West Point	Jordan	Harding	Logan Martin	Jordan	31
22	Demopolis	Mobile Delta	Demopolis	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Jones Bluff	31
23	Guntersville	Coffeeville	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Jones Bluff	Mobile Delta	29

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2012 B.A.I.T. Program.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day[a]	Pounds per day[a]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days[a] to catch a bass over 5 lb.
1	10	82	91.5	35.4	707	242	96.3	3.7	0.0	76	326	1.35	0	0	2.62	91.46	3.42	4.61	.	.
2	1	9	88.9	88.9	81	40	52.5	47.5	0.0	100	88	2.21	2	0	5.44	88.89	4.94	10.90	41	4
3	14	258	87.2	23.3	3131	772	76.1	23.9	0.0	98	1157	1.50	4	0	3.83	87.21	2.47	3.70	679	68
4	8	157	86.0	64.3	1382	603	72.7	27.3	0.0	98	1054	1.75	3	1	5.13	85.99	4.36	7.63	461	46
5	4	136	71.3	51.5	1126	447	35.8	64.2	0.0	99	734	1.64	5	0	6.24	71.32	3.97	6.52	157	16
6	6	73	98.6	91.8	615	370	93.2	6.8	0.0	97	516	1.39	2	0	4.20	98.63	6.02	8.39	308	31
7	6	672	92.1	43.9	6216	2490	.	.	.	98	5310	2.13	19	1	6.97	92.11	4.01	8.54	280	28
8	6	32	93.8	56.3	305	125	57.9	42.1	0.0	98	199	1.59	0	0	3.60	93.75	4.10	6.52	.	.
9	1	22	90.9	63.6	176	85	98.8	1.2	0.0	100	190	2.24	1	0	5.88	90.91	4.83	10.80	176	18
10	1	26	88.5	50.0	182	87	.	.	.	100	186	2.14	3	0	6.00	88.46	4.78	10.22	61	6
11	1	129	66.7	23.3	1032	317	.	.	.	100	431	1.36	.	.	5.30	66.67	3.07	4.18	.	.
12	12	59	81.4	22.0	522	141	87.9	12.1	0.0	80	199	1.41	0	0	2.62	81.36	2.70	3.82	.	.
13	4	96	67.7	33.3	768	271	.	.	.	100	622	2.29	.	.	5.01	67.71	3.53	8.10	.	.
14	3	89	55.1	34.8	712	200	.	.	.	99	517	2.58	.	.	5.49	55.06	2.81	7.26	.	.
15	2	44	77.3	54.5	352	154	.	.	.	.	294	1.91	.	.	5.52	77.27	4.38	8.36	.	.
16	2	30	86.7	76.7	240	128	.	.	.	.	194	1.52	.	.	4.34	86.67	5.33	8.09	.	.
17	1	7	100.0	71.4	56	30	.	.	.	.	60	1.98	.	.	3.73	100.00	5.36	10.63	.	.
18	1	194	90.2	66.5	3104	1307	.	.	.	100	4475	3.42	.	1	8.57	90.21	4.21	14.42	.	.
19	2	366	77.6	26.8	2928	1048	.	.	.	100	2131	2.03	.	.	6.37	77.60	3.58	7.28	.	.
20	1	17	100.0	41.2	170	50	.	.	.	100	76	1.52	1	.	6.63	100.00	2.94	4.47	170	17
21	3	616	79.4	30.5	5044	1555	.	.	.	99	4082	2.63	12	1	7.25	79.40	3.08	8.09	133	13
22	3	894	65.7	25.3	7152	2104	89.9	10.1	0.0	99	6668	3.17	30	8	8.88	65.66	2.94	9.32	181	18
23	1	214	60.7	22.0	1712	489	.	.	.	100	1591	3.25	.	1	9.00	60.75	2.86	9.29	.	.
24	13	362	90.9	36.5	3202	1135	.	.	.	99	2009	1.77	7	0	4.70	90.88	3.54	6.28	457	46
25	1	11	.	.	88	.	.	.	.	.	133	.	.	.	5.45	.	.	15.08	.	.
26	3	104	86.5	53.8	782	368	63.9	36.1	0.0	99	953	2.59	1	1	6.63	86.54	4.71	12.18	150	15
27	7	129	88.4	74.4	1098	530	.	.	.	98	978	1.85	4	0	4.36	88.37	4.83	8.91	239	24
28	1	13	69.2	61.5	104	43	76.7	23.3	0.0	100	109	2.54	0	0	4.56	69.23	4.13	10.50	.	.
29	11	111	90.1	22.5	1004	303	60.1	36.3	3.6	100	587	1.94	2	0	4.83	90.09	3.02	5.85	502	50
30	1	86	.	.	688	.	.	.	.	.	420	.	.	.	7.49	.	.	6.11	.	.
31	2	256	43.4	21.1	2048	616	.	.	.	96	1835	2.98	.	.	6.97	43.36	3.01	8.96	.	.
32	4	18	83.3	22.2	153	43	69.8	30.2	0.0	100	79	1.84	0	0	2.99	83.33	2.81	5.18	.	.
33	1	208	63.9	21.2	1664	506	.	.	.	100	1855	3.67	.	1	9.63	63.94	3.04	11.15	.	.
34	7	75	70.7	21.3	669	191	18.9	81.1	0.0	97	337	1.99	1	0	3.61	70.67	2.86	5.92	669	67
35	2	295	88.5	29.8	2655	844	.	.	.	98	1480	1.75	3	0	5.88	88.48	3.18	5.57	885	89
36	2	32	75.0	59.4	288	105	77.1	22.9	0.0	99	250	2.38	3	0	5.00	75.00	3.65	8.67	96	10
37	2	286	90.2	56.3	2452	926	38.7	61.3	0.0	95	2292	2.48	8	0	6.40	90.21	3.78	9.35	307	31
38	3	31	93.5	22.6	274	79	.	.	.	100	145	1.84	0	0	3.74	93.55	2.88	5.30	.	.
39	13	421	73.9	29.2	3772	1024	.	.	.	97	2008	1.96	7	.	4.77	73.87	2.71	5.32	539	54
40	21	350	63.4	38.6	2833	944	.	.	.	99	2707	2.87	45	4	6.11	63.43	3.33	9.56	63	6

[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

Table 3. Cont'd.

Club No.	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Bass per day[a]	Pounds per day[a]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.	Days[a] to catch a bass over 5 lb.
41	1	9	88.9	33.3	72	47	.	.	.	100	57	1.22	0	0	4.57	88.89	6.53	7.93	.	.
42	2	44	68.2	43.2	361	136	99.3	0.0	0.7	100	318	2.34	2	0	5.56	68.18	3.77	8.80	181	18
43	4	35	94.3	62.9	274	145	.	.	.	100	332	2.29	5	0	4.89	94.29	5.29	12.11	45	5
44	1	13	100.0	53.8	117	49	71.4	28.6	0.0	98	99	2.02	0	0	4.25	100.00	4.19	8.47	.	.
45	17	151	78.1	49.7	1208	451	22.4	77.6	0.0	99	1066	2.36	9	0	4.54	78.15	3.73	8.82	134	13
46	1	15	100.0	73.3	120	66	.	.	.	95	139	2.11	2	.	6.69	100.00	5.50	11.59	60	6
47	2	228	46.9	13.6	1824	424	.	.	.	99	774	1.83	.	.	5.17	46.93	2.32	4.25	.	.
48	1	15	100.0	80.0	150	71	85.9	14.1	0.0	97	153	2.15	2	0	5.31	100.00	4.73	10.19	75	8
49	1	27	37.0	33.3	216	45	66.7	33.3	0.0	87	101	2.24	1	0	5.37	37.04	2.08	4.67	216	22
50	1	97	90.7	39.2	776	258	.	.	.	94	564	2.19	3	0	5.89	90.72	3.32	7.27	259	26
51	4	57	75.4	49.1	490	181	64.6	35.4	0.0	100	405	2.24	2	0	5.19	75.44	3.70	8.27	245	24
52	1	23	82.6	30.4	138	39	.	.	.	95	66	1.69	.	.	3.31	82.61	2.83	4.78	.	.
53	6	120	86.7	56.7	1200	457	.	.	.	99	938	2.05	7	.	5.80	86.67	3.81	7.82	171	17
54	1	17	94.1	70.6	153	73	42.5	57.5	0.0	99	140	1.92	0	0	4.25	94.12	4.77	9.16	.	.
55	1	36	75.0	55.6	324	117	.	.	.	98	228	1.95	2	0	5.44	75.00	3.61	7.04	162	16
56	1	40	85.0	62.5	320	91	85.7	0.0	14.3	100	282	3.10	1	0	5.35	85.00	2.84	8.82	320	32
57	1	25	60.0	28.0	188	65	.	.	.	100	.	.	0	0	4.68	60.00	3.47	.	.	.
58	1	12	100.0	58.3	96	55	.	.	.	98	86	1.57	0	0	4.50	100.00	5.73	8.98	.	.
60	1	23	100.0	95.7	219	90	.	.	.	100	253	2.81	3	0	5.33	100.00	4.12	11.58	73	7
61	1	12	83.3	25.0	108	41	48.8	51.2	0.0	98	63	1.54	0	0	3.65	83.33	3.80	5.84	.	.
62	1	17	100.0	70.6	162	70	28.6	71.4	0.0	94	122	1.75	1	0	5.50	100.00	4.33	7.57	162	16
63	2	45	91.1	60.0	693	197	.	.	.	96	307	1.82	0	0	3.99	91.11	2.84	5.32	.	.
64	7	51	78.4	9.8	427	97	.	.	.	96	175	1.80	0	0	3.03	78.43	2.27	4.10	.	.
65	4	268	88.4	72.4	2332	1453	93.4	3.6	3.0	99	2982	2.05	20	0	6.08	88.43	6.23	12.79	117	12
66	1	4	50.0	50.0	36	15	66.7	33.3	0.0	100	33	2.22	0	0	3.75	50.00	4.17	9.24	.	.
67	1	160	93.1	.	3040	1122	.	.	.	99	2113	1.88	3	0	6.05	93.13	3.69	6.95	1013	101
68	1	28	85.7	78.6	252	118	.	.	.	100	303	2.57	1	.	5.25	85.71	4.68	12.04	252	25
69	1	15	80.0	40.0	128	47	78.7	19.1	2.1	100	98	2.08	0	0	4.06	80.00	3.69	7.66	.	.
70	1	69	85.5	44.9	656	287	99.3	0.7	0.0	100	400	1.39	0	0	3.63	85.51	4.38	6.10	.	.
71	12	100	90.0	49.0	1130	383	62.2	15.6	22.2	98	756	1.97	7	0	4.89	90.00	3.39	6.69	121	12
72	9	323	87.9	70.0	2907	1116	.	.	.	.	1946	1.74	4	0	5.18	87.93	3.84	6.69	536	54
73	1	298	95.3	22.1	7152	2094	.	.	.	94	6401	3.06	.	.	7.81	95.30	2.93	8.95	.	.
74	1	40	72.5	10.0	320	78	.	.	.	100	241	3.08	.	.	.	72.50	2.44	7.52	.	.
75	1	224	89.3	32.6	1792	627	.	.	.	100	2224	3.55	.	4	8.00	89.29	3.50	12.41	.	.
76	12	169	92.3	63.3	1424	733	.	.	.	98	1425	1.94	2	0	4.27	92.31	5.15	10.01	712	71
77	3	133	94.0	75.9	1264	576	.	.	.	93	1234	2.14	6	0	5.17	93.99	4.56	9.77	211	21
78	103	1765	87.8	33.6	16723	5678	74.4	25.6	0.0	95	10184	1.78	44	1	4.28	87.76	3.40	6.05	374	37
79	53	1709	.	52.3	14527	4912	.	.	.	.	13722	2.22	73	8	6.37	.	4.03	9.45	147	15
Grand Total	**450**	**13427**	**80.9**	**40.2**	**124800**	**43216**	**74.9**	**24.1**	**1.0**	**98**	**100007**	**2.24**	**363**	**27**	**4.87**	**80.90**	**3.55**	**7.54**	**235**	**24**

[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

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2012 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
ABA COUPLES TRAIL	P. O. BOX 475	ATHENS	AL	35612	JOHN BRANNEN	256-679-8278
ALABAMA B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION	605 FARR CIR.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35226	EDDIE PLEMONS	205-979-3526
ALABAMA BASS FEDERATION	1362 COUNY ROAD 85	PRATTVILLE	AL	36067	JIM SPARROW	334-201-4135
ALABAMA POWER SERVICE ORG.	749 FORREST AVE.	GADSDEN	AL	35901	ELIZABETH ELLIOTT	256-549-7233
ALABAMA STUDENT ANGLERS (STATE)	P. O. BOX 5068 PINEHURST TER.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35242	ROSE ELLIS	205-991-5159
ALABAMA STUDENT ANGLERS (VI)	1510 HANSON ST.	OPELIKA	AL	36801	EDDIE DANIEL	334-332-1895
AMBASSADORS BASS CLUB	12134 YANCEY GLEN DR.	MOBILE	AL	36695	ROBIN CLARK	251-605-3073
AMERICAN BASS ANGLERS	7132 BLACKS BLUFF RD.	CAVE SPRINGS	GA	30124	RHONDA FORD	706-936-4530
AMERICAN BASS ANGLERS (DIV. 12)	167 KRISTIE LN.	TYRONE	GA	30290	DEACON COLLINS	404-862-4233
AMERICAN BASS ANGLERS (DIV-88)	1507 SYCAMORE DR.	KENNESAW	GA	30152	JOHN PARR	404-907-6945
AMERICAN COUPLES SERIES	68 WOODBURY DR.	STERRETT	AL	35147	MARK SHANNON	205-678-7944
AMERICAN FISHING TOUR (AL CENTRAL)	20 NANCY CT.	WETUMPKA	AL	36093	TOM STORM	334-567-0351
AMERICAN FISHING TOUR (AL NORTH)	P. O. BOX 475	ATHENS	AL	35611	DEBORAH TALLEY	256-232-4428
AMERICAN FISHING TOUR (MOBILE)	6070 STRICKLAND PL.	PENSACOLA	FL	32506	BRIAN METCALF	850-723-5024
ANGLER'S CHOICE					RICK BYRNES	
ANNISTON ARMY DEPOT	7 FRANKFORD AVE. BLDG 220	ANNISTON	AL	36201	ANDREW BURNS	256-235-7549
BASSMASTER COLLEGE SERIES	MARSHALL COUNTY CVB	GUNTSVILLE	AL	35976	LISA SOCHA	800-582-6282
BASSMASTER WEEKEND SERIES (S. AL)						256-998-0171
BASSMASTER WEEKEND SERIES (TN-EAST)					RANDY SULLIVAN	256-230-5628
BASSMASTERS WEEKEND SERIES	247 DEER CREEK RD.	MAYFIELD	KY	42066	RANDY SULLIVAN	256-230-5633
BASSMASTERS WEEKEND SERIES	901 SOUTH JEFFERSON ST.	ATHENS	AL	35612	BILLY BENEDETTI	256-230-5632
BASSMATER WEEKEND SERIES (N. AL)						256-998-0171
BELGREEN BASS CLUB	2762 SHADY GROVE RD.	RUSSELLVILLE	AL	35653	JOHN THORNTON	256-366-3583
BFL (BAMA DIVISION)	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	KY	42025	ROBERT EVANS	270-703-9969
BFL (CHOO CHOO DIVISION)	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	KY	42025	MIKE HALE	270-703-0002
BFL (MUSIC CITY DIVISION)	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	KY	42026	ROBERT EVANS	270-703-9969
BIRMINGHAM BASSMASTERS	13784 DIANNE DR.	McCALLA	AL	35111	MIKE LINN	205-477-7643
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
C & R BASS SERIES	105 RIVER MIST DR.	COVINGTON	GA	30014	CLAY JOHNS	770-722-5795
CITY OF ATHENS RELAY FOR LIFE	P. O. BOX 1089	ATHENS	AL	35611	ANNA LEIGH PEACOCK	256-232-1440
COWETA BASSMASTERS	244 CHANDLERS RUN KNOT RD.	NEWMAN	GA	30263	MATT RIGGS	678-378-3969
CRIMSON TIDE BASS ANGLERS	15363 STONEHEDGE CLIFFS RD.	NORTHPORT	AL	35475	KEITH KIRKLEY	205-657-2966
DEKALB BASSMASTERS	5109 ANDERSON DR. NE	FT PAYNE	AL	35967	STAN BLEVINS	256-996-6984
EAST WALKER BASS ANGLERS	546 PHILLIPS RIDGE RD.	EMPIRE	AL	35063	SETH SKALNIK	205-601-4210
ETOWAH ANGLER BASS CLUB	712 CHURCH RD.	GADSDEN	AL	35904	DAVID STEPHENS	256-546-2798
FAYETTE BASS CLUB	10991 HWY 13 N	BANKSTON	AL	35542	TODD TUCKER	
FISHERS OF MEN (AL-NE)	1263 THOMASON RD.	ALBERTVILLE	AL	35951	TIM VAN POLEN	256-665-2560
FISHERS OF MEN (AL-SOUTH)	P.O. BOX 2222	E. BREWTON	AL	36427	ALLEN COUCH	251-363-0547

Table 4. Cont'd.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
FISHERS OF MEN (IN)	2384 REUTER LN.	SPRINGVILLE	IN	47462	BOBBY EADS	812-583-6389
FISHLIFE BASS TOUR	P. O. BOX 185	WARRIOR	AL	35180	JODY HARRISON	205-243-4572
FLW EVERSTART SERIES	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	AL	42025	RON LAPPIN	270-252-1588
FLW NATIONAL GUARD COLLEGE FISHING	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	KY	42025	KEVIN HUNT	270-252-1588
FLW TOUR	30 GAMBLE LN.	BENTON	KY	42025	BILL TAYLOR	270-703-2564
FOUNDATIONS BASS FISHING CLUB	5767 BALBOA TER.	PINSON	AL	35126	JAMES WINE	205-482-2246
GEORIGA BASS FEDERATION	BIOLOGY DEPT., 1601 MAPLE ST	CARROLLTON	GA	30118	DR. CARL QUERTERMUS	678-839-4035
HILLCREST BASS CLUB	5117 POST OAK RD.	OXFORD	AL	36206	CLYDE ABERNATHY	256-835-9412
KIWANIS CLUB	P. O. BOX 240	DEMOPOLIS	AL	36732	CHARLES SINGLETON	334-341-1132
KOWALIGA	474 N. ANN AVE.	TALLASSEE	AL	36078	HANK GOLDEN	334-283-6117
LADY BASS ANGLERS ASSOCIATION	774 SUGAR CREEK RD.	GRAND RIVERS	KY	42045	CHERYL BOWDEN	214-728-7518
LAKE GUNTERSVILLE BASSMASTERS	3480 LITTLE DR. SW	HARTSELLE	AL	35640	PHIL EKEMA	256-751-3656
LEAGUE FOR ANIMAL WELFARE	P. O. BOX 2510	ANNISTON	AL	36202	NICK KAUFMAN	256-831-1484
LGBM	147 LOWELL DR.	GRANT	AL	35747	PETE PINKERTON	256-728-7430
LOCAL BOYS	413 BELMAR CIR.	GLENCOE	AL	35505	JOHNNY WATSON	256-312-1733
MISSISSIPPI DWFP	1505 EASTOVER DR.	JACKSON	MS	39211	LARRY PUGH	662-840-5176
MOBILE BASS ASSOCIATION	12134 YANCEY GLEN DR.	MOBILE	AL	36695	ROBIN CLARK	251-605-3073
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
NORTH BIBB BASS CLUB	1177 MT. CARMEL DR.	WEST BLOCKTON	AL	35184	DOUG HAYNES	205-938-2455
NORTHPORT BASS CLUB	11008 BUSTER TIERCE SPUR	NORTHPORT	AL	35475	ROBERT FINDLAY	205-339-5546
OLD TIMERS BASS CLUB	238 PUCKETT RD.	EMERSON	GA	30137	RONNIE STOVER	770-353-7485
OUTCAST BASS CLUB	6056 NUTMEG AVE.	PACE	FL	32571	LISA COX	850-232-5919
PALS & GALS	3313 CUTOFF RD.	MOUNDVILLE	AL	35474	BILLY RICHARDS	205-792-7398
PENSACOLA HAWG HUNTERS	5680 MULLDOON RD.	PENSACOLA	FL	32526	WILLIAM MYRICK	850-456-6860
PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ASSOCIATION	1102 MAIN ST.	BENTON	KY	42025	LISA BELL	270-527-2030
R.L. HARRIS TOURNAMENT TRAIL	P. O. BOX 134	LINEVILLE	AL	36266	JACKSON BONNER	256-343-4796
RADICAL TACKLE	4215 J. L. SMITH PKWY. UNIT 12 I	HIRAM	GA	30141	CHRISTIE LESTER	678-567-1211
RENEGADE BASS TOURNAMENT						
RUMBLING WATERS B.A.S.S. CLUB	217 WOODLAND DR.	ECLECTIC	AL	36024	TOMY GAMBLE	
SHARE THE GOSPEL TOURNAMENT TRAIL	HC 62 BOX 222	CHATOM	AL	36518	REV. HOWARD GASTON	251-847-3502
SOUTH CHOCTAW BASS CLUB	212 COLONIAL DR.	COFFEEVILLE	AL	36904	JEREMY WILLIAMS	205-457-1286
THE TACKLE STOP TRAIL	434 NORTH SPRING	DADEVILLE	AL	36853	MICHAEL BECK	334-354-3908
TIGER BASSMASTERS	5204 PARKSIDE CIR.	BIRMINGHAM	AL	35242	BILL GORDON	251-605-3073
TOP ROD SOLO TRAIL	P. O. BOX 1597	HARTSELLE	AL	35640	BRENT CROW	256-466-9965
WALGREENS	1613 GLENN BLVD.	FORT PAYNE	AL	35968	MARK BIGELOW	256-504-6711
WEISS LAKE BASSMASTERS	P.O. BOX 6102	ROME	GA	30162	JAMES THOMPSON	706-295-5295
WEST ALABAMA BASS FISHERMANS ASSN	P.O. BOX 210	GORDO	AL.	35466	JEFF GILLIAM	205-364-8530
YOUNG SOUTHERNERS YOUTH	100 VMC DR.	ALEXANDRIA	AL	36250	DWAYNE HAYNES	256-452-1234

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2012 B.A.I.T. Program.

Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% of anglers w/ at least 1 fish	% of anglers w/ a limit of fish	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	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[a] to catch a bass over 5 lb.
JAN	18	308	84.8	41.6	2512	891	97.3	2.7	0.0	100	1831	2.06	9	0	4.10	84.81	3.55	7.29	154	15
FEB	50	2312	75.1	32.4	19241	6206	84.2	15.8	0.0	100	15823	2.49	79	11	5.95	75.08	3.27	8.22	133	13
MAR	67	3502	75.2	37.7	30565	10733	78.7	21.3	0.0	98	28476	2.57	71	6	5.67	75.23	3.64	9.32	195	19
APR	52	1147	86.3	49.2	10236	3801	70.5	25.5	3.9	97	7788	1.96	25	0	4.54	86.27	3.82	7.61	374	37
MAY	47	1337	88.6	40.4	16654	5444	58.4	41.6	0.0	96	13843	2.45	31	1	4.82	88.64	3.35	8.31	276	28
JUN	43	992	80.0	39.9	8459	2801	64.5	35.3	0.2	96	5959	2.03	45	1	4.86	80.04	3.39	7.04	184	18
JUL	28	549	80.6	47.3	4808	1640	55.0	43.9	1.1	95	3470	2.03	21	0	4.48	80.58	3.56	7.51	227	23
AUG	27	500	86.5	45.2	4186	1463	42.3	57.7	0.0	94	3533	2.17	16	2	4.49	86.50	3.75	8.44	257	26
SEP	45	1126	87.1	45.3	10417	4048	90.4	7.0	2.6	97	7706	1.90	33	2	4.40	87.07	3.93	7.55	303	30
OCT	43	1148	85.9	41.1	13349	4428	57.4	39.2	3.4	97	8533	1.88	18	0	4.40	85.89	3.37	6.35	573	57
NOV	18	298	88.2	47.2	2721	1080	95.3	4.7	0.0	100	1826	1.58	4	0	4.10	88.21	4.15	6.71	627	63
DEC	12	208	82.2	48.1	1654	681	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	1221	1.79	11	3	4.75	82.21	4.12	7.38	150	15
Grand Total	**450**	**13427**	**80.9**	**40.2**	**124800**	**43216**	**74.9**	**24.1**	**1.0**	**98**	**100007**	**2.24**	**363**	**27**	**4.87**	**80.90**	**3.55**	**7.54**	**235**	**24**

[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

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2012 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	2	30	93.3	236	108	.	.	.	100	244	2.26	0	0	4.37	4.58	10.33	.
	FEB	4	64	79.2	672	195	.	.	.	99	560	2.19	1	0	5.16	3.34	8.33	288
	MAR	9	652	76.5	5273	1977	.	.	.	99	4522	2.29	17	0	5.72	3.75	8.57	88
	APR	6	75	73.3	640	140	.	.	.	91	270	1.93	2	0	4.10	2.19	4.22	184
	MAY	2	18	83.3	152	27	.	.	.	100	55	2.04	0	0	3.99	1.78	3.63	.
	JUN	6	183	83.1	1520	421	.	.	.	94	899	2.14	5	0	4.83	2.77	5.92	304
	JUL	1	7	100.0	63	17	.	.	.	94	33	1.95	0	0	2.93	2.70	5.25	.
	AUG	1	8	75.0	72	14	.	.	.	100	29	2.05	0	0	3.24	1.94	3.99	.
	SEP	1	8	87.5	64	10	.	.	.	100	23	2.29	0	0	3.13	1.56	3.58	.
	OCT	4	57	77.2	543	114	79.3	20.7	0.0	96	216	1.90	1	0	4.40	2.10	3.99	543
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Guntersville	JAN	1	18	38.9	108	25	.	.	.	100	142	5.68	8	0	6.82	2.31	13.15	14
	FEB	9	1133	69.3	9278	2634	89.8	10.2	0.0	100	8941	3.39	30	6	7.87	2.84	9.64	119
	MAR	11	1315	71.3	12185	4047	90.4	9.6	0.0	99	13490	3.23	15	6	7.06	3.52	11.07	189
	APR	3	89	88.8	1108	365	.	.	.	98	1029	2.82	6	0	5.61	3.29	9.28	185
	MAY	8	445	91.2	8755	2665	.	.	.	95	8013	3.01	11	0	6.30	3.04	9.15	117
	JUN	3	73	91.8	723	214	.	.	.	92	549	2.56	6	0	6.47	2.96	7.59	121
	JUL	1	45	53.3	405	56	.	.	.	96	154	2.76	1	.	5.44	1.38	3.81	405
	AUG	3	149	84.6	1138	477	.	.	.	92	1403	2.94	8	0	6.03	4.19	12.33	142
	SEP	1	14	57.1	112	20	90.0	10.0	0.0	100	56	2.80	1	0	7.18	1.79	4.99	112
	OCT	7	93	63.4	1033	214	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	574	2.68	6	0	4.57	2.07	5.56	172
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	2	50	48.0	300	80	.	.	.	96	312	3.91	7	3	9.03	2.67	10.42	43
Harris	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	56	82.1	459	218	.	.	.	100	344	1.58	4	0	6.45	4.75	7.51	115
	MAR	2	48	79.2	432	174	30.4	69.6	0.0	100	278	1.60	0	0	5.41	4.03	6.43	.
	APR	1	34	67.6	272	92	20.7	79.3	0.0	99	117	1.27	0	0	3.44	3.38	4.30	.
	MAY	1	29	72.4	232	94	58.5	41.5	0.0	96	157	1.67	2	0	7.25	4.05	6.75	116
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	10	90.0	80	29	.	.	.	100	34	1.18	0	0	2.09	3.63	4.29	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	3	58	98.3	496	253	.	.	.	99	353	1.40	1	0	3.80	5.10	7.12	496
Holt	JAN	1	17	94.1	119	58	.	.	.	100	88	1.52	1	0	5.06	4.87	7.38	119
	FEB	2	18	88.9	144	51	19.6	80.4	0.0	100	116	2.26	3	0	5.88	3.54	8.02	48
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	1	9	77.8	72	18	33.3	66.7	0.0	100	30	1.69	0	0	4.50	2.50	4.22	.
	JUN	1	18	77.8	162	63	25.4	74.6	0.0	100	102	1.61	0	0	3.81	3.89	6.27	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	22	90.9	154	87	4.8	95.2	0.0	98	164	1.89	0	0	4.36	5.65	10.67	.
	SEP	1	29	86.2	261	88	.	.	.	100	116	1.32	1	0	4.35	3.37	4.44	261
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	7	57.1	56	14	0.0	100.0	0.0	100	22	1.58	0	0	2.49	2.50	3.96	.
	DEC	1	10	80.0	80	36	.	.	.	100	58	1.62	0	0	3.56	4.50	7.30	.

[1]a 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.
Jordan	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	55	96.4	470	218	.	.	.	100	385	1.77	2	0	5.24	4.64	8.19	235
	MAR	2	45	57.8	360	103	.	.	.	98	210	2.04	0	0	3.71	2.86	5.83	.
	APR	3	53	60.4	424	130	.	.	.	98	290	2.23	0	0	4.62	3.07	6.84	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	2	26	76.9	236	61	.	.	.	100	98	1.61	0	0	3.08	2.58	4.16	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	11	81.8	99	22	22.7	77.3	0.0	86	.	.	0	0	3.82	2.22	.	.
	OCT	2	129	97.7	2100	508	.	.	.	97	787	1.55	1	0	4.58	2.42	3.75	2100
	NOV	1	6	100.0	60	21	.	.	.	100	28	1.32	.	.	.	3.50	4.61	.
	DEC	2	50	92.0	438	176	.	.	.	100	277	1.58	1	0	4.35	4.02	6.33	438
Lay	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	4	108	70.4	946	287	.	.	.	100	703	2.45	10	1	7.47	3.03	7.44	95
	MAR	7	278	76.6	2236	777	44.1	55.9	0.0	99	1873	2.41	7	0	5.40	3.47	8.37	87
	APR	1	15	80.0	120	60	.	.	.	98	115	1.92	0	0	3.75	5.00	9.62	.
	MAY	2	115	94.8	938	380	.	.	.	97	759	2.00	3	0	6.50	4.05	8.09	313
	JUN	1	11	100.0	88	42	0.0	100.0	0.0	100	124	2.96	1	0	6.93	4.77	14.12	88
	JUL	1	8	62.5	48	16	.	.	.	100	40	2.53	1	0	5.11	3.33	8.44	48
	AUG	1	24	83.3	216	60	.	.	.	100	110	1.83	1	0	5.71	2.78	5.09	216
	SEP	7	134	74.6	1170	335	0.0	100.0	0.0	95	711	2.12	1	0	4.50	2.86	6.07	1170
	OCT	5	66	87.9	880	287	13.3	86.7	0.0	100	580	2.02	1	0	4.32	3.26	6.59	466
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Logan Martin	JAN	1	20	95.0	160	70	.	.	.	100	132	1.89	0	0	4.01	4.38	8.25	.
	FEB	2	16	81.3	128	48	.	.	.	100	104	2.17	1	0	5.22	3.75	8.14	80
	MAR	2	51	94.1	408	215	.	.	.	100	449	2.09	0	0	4.79	5.27	11.00	.
	APR	4	82	97.6	770	358	.	.	.	96	704	1.97	0	0	4.49	4.65	9.14	.
	MAY	3	76	85.5	660	197	.	.	.	94	323	1.64	0	0	3.86	2.98	4.89	.
	JUN	2	44	79.5	427	140	.	.	.	96	245	1.75	0	0	3.37	3.28	5.73	.
	JUL	4	69	91.3	619	187	17.6	82.4	0.0	95	309	1.65	0	0	4.14	3.02	5.00	.
	AUG	1	12	83.3	102	48	39.6	60.4	0.0	100	99	2.05	0	0	3.86	4.71	9.67	.
	SEP	2	21	85.7	168	68	.	.	.	99	100	1.47	0	0	2.86	4.05	5.95	.
	OCT	3	62	95.2	628	279	.	.	.	95	413	1.48	1	0	4.58	4.44	6.57	628
	NOV	4	57	89.5	412	229	.	.	.	99	397	1.73	0	0	4.56	5.56	9.63	.
	DEC	1	20	85.0	160	57	.	.	.	98	90	1.58	0	0	3.13	3.56	5.64	.
Martin	JAN	3	59	79.7	472	175	.	.	.	100	313	1.79	0	0	4.20	3.71	6.64	.
	FEB	5	348	76.4	2819	1006	52.5	47.5	0.0	100	1613	1.60	3	0	5.16	3.57	5.72	100
	MAR	4	35	97.1	328	132	54.0	46.0	0.0	100	263	1.99	3	0	6.11	4.02	8.02	109
	APR	4	195	88.2	1861	614	59.1	40.9	0.0	99	946	1.54	2	0	4.04	3.30	5.09	931
	MAY	1	13	38.5	72	14	0.0	100.0	0.0	93	24	1.74	0	0	2.95	1.96	3.41	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	2	20	100.0	340	180	.	.	.	81	252	1.40	0	0	3.53	5.29	7.42	.
	NOV	1	27	92.6	230	90	.	.	.	100	153	1.70	0	0	3.29	3.92	6.67	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

[1]a 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.
Mobile Delta	JAN	4	48	89.6	433	174	97.3	2.7	0.0	100	236	1.36	0	0	2.78	4.02	5.45	.
	FEB	6	76	88.2	684	274	98.2	1.8	0.0	100	398	1.45	1	0	3.72	4.01	5.82	572
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	3	100.0	24	8	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	14	1.70	0	0	4.81	3.33	5.68	.
	MAY	3	21	100.0	173	65	68.2	31.8	0.0	98	99	1.53	0	0	3.05	3.77	5.76	.
	JUN	3	34	79.4	297	45	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	59	1.31	0	0	2.44	1.52	1.99	.
	JUL	2	9	100.0	76	33	85.7	14.3	0.0	55	53	1.62	0	0	3.40	4.34	7.03	.
	AUG	3	36	77.8	273	68	97.1	2.9	0.0	88	87	1.28	0	0	3.17	2.49	3.20	.
	SEP	3	16	81.3	142	28	100.0	0.0	0.0	50	35	1.25	0	0	2.15	1.98	2.48	.
	OCT	2	18	83.3	158	44	100.0	0.0	0.0	82	58	1.31	0	0	2.51	2.79	3.67	.
	NOV	5	115	86.1	1114	410	99.4	0.6	0.0	100	567	1.38	0	0	3.05	3.68	5.09	.
	DEC	1	8	100.0	64	35	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	52	1.48	0	0	2.68	5.47	8.09	.
Neely Henry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	116	77.6	928	278	.	.	.	100	629	2.26	5	1	8.00	3.00	6.78	186
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	12	100.0	96	56	.	.	.	100	125	2.23	2	.	6.38	5.83	13.03	48
	MAY	6	249	85.5	2232	767	43.9	56.1	0.0	98	1550	2.02	3	0	4.62	3.44	6.94	744
	JUN	8	331	70.7	2601	941	70.9	29.1	0.0	96	1890	2.01	19	0	5.38	3.62	7.27	130
	JUL	7	216	90.3	1967	856	42.5	57.5	0.0	95	1708	2.16	9	0	4.70	4.35	9.60	219
	AUG	6	88	92.0	774	285	36.0	64.0	0.0	95	471	1.65	1	0	3.99	3.68	6.09	774
	SEP	4	71	90.1	932	269	.	.	.	97	420	1.75	0	0	3.70	2.89	5.15	.
	OCT	3	192	91.1	3328	1255	66.7	33.3	0.0	99	2449	1.95	4	0	5.02	3.77	7.36	832
	NOV	1	33	90.9	297	119	.	.	.	100	227	1.91	1	0	5.05	4.01	7.65	297
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pickwick	JAN	3	71	.	604	140	.	.	.	.	422	3.01	0	0	4.86	2.32	6.99	.
	FEB	2	66	.	561	110	.	.	.	.	602	3.23	9	2	10.49	2.75	10.74	62
	MAR	9	469	67.6	3987	1438	.	.	.	99	3877	2.37	15	1	7.11	4.00	9.73	248
	APR	7	217	90.7	1786	751	.	.	.	97	1956	2.17	7	0	5.66	4.99	10.95	255
	MAY	6	113	.	961	240	.	.	.	.	1063	2.39	6	0	5.05	4.28	11.07	133
	JUN	3	40	.	340	77	.	.	.	.	414	1.98	7	1	7.13	5.66	12.17	49
	JUL	2	29	.	247	28	.	.	.	.	351	2.57	4	0	7.07	5.49	14.24	62
	AUG	4	76	96.7	661	131	.	.	.	.	625	2.03	5	2	6.62	3.44	9.45	132
	SEP	9	380	75.0	3224	1235	94.4	0.0	5.6	100	2536	1.97	13	2	6.45	3.97	7.87	222
	OCT	7	370	81.8	3123	1112	.	.	.	100	2423	2.03	3	0	5.64	3.81	7.76	202
	NOV	2	18	.	153	11	.	.	.	.	149	2.77	1	0	5.12	3.24	9.74	153
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Weiss	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	10	90.0	80	35	.	.	.	83	58	1.64	0	0	4.65	4.38	7.19	.
	APR	3	58	96.6	474	182	.	.	.	100	329	1.81	0	0	4.11	3.84	6.93	.
	MAY	1	9	100.0	135	57	.	.	.	91	107	1.88	1	0	5.13	4.22	7.92	135
	JUN	5	139	89.2	1215	447	.	.	.	93	883	1.98	2	0	4.91	3.68	7.27	608
	JUL	1	14	78.6	123	48	64.6	35.4	0.0	100	120	2.49	1	0	5.05	3.92	9.76	123
	AUG	1	30	80.0	300	103	.	.	.	92	203	1.97	0	0	4.22	3.43	6.76	.
	SEP	2	41	87.8	318	130	.	.	.	91	206	1.58	0	0	4.15	4.09	6.49	.
	OCT	1	16	100.0	.	.	.	.	.	.	59	.	0	0	4.31	.	.	.
	NOV	2	23	87.0	184	66	.	.	.	98	92	1.39	0	0	3.68	3.59	4.98	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

[1]a 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	28	92.9	224	84	.	.	.	100	130	1.55	0	0	3.79	3.75	5.81	.
	FEB	2	43	81.4	344	103	.	.	.	100	166	1.61	2	0	4.33	2.99	4.82	172
	MAR	2	45	91.1	360	166	73.0	27.0	0.0	98	252	1.52	2	0	5.52	4.61	7.00	180
	APR	4	70	81.4	614	156	.	.	.	92	205	1.31	0	0	3.21	2.54	3.34	.
	MAY	1	12	100.0	216	118	.	.	.	89	183	1.55	0	0	4.00	5.46	8.48	.
	JUN	1	4	100.0	32	12	.	.	.	83	13	1.08	0	0	2.10	3.75	4.06	.
	JUL	2	23	60.9	184	35	.	.	.	94	48	1.38	1	0	4.41	1.90	2.62	184
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	3	31	90.3	248	86	.	.	.	97	117	1.36	0	0	3.02	3.47	4.71	.
	OCT	1	10	100.0	160	53	.	.	.	98	71	1.34	0	0	4.05	3.31	4.44	.
	NOV	1	12	100.0	216	120	.	.	.	100	192	1.60	2	0	7.70	5.56	8.88	108
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wheeler	JAN	1	7	100.0	56	30	.	.	.	.	60	1.98	.	.	3.73	5.36	10.63	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	40	85.0	320	91	85.7	0.0	14.3	100	282	3.10	1	0	5.35	2.84	8.82	320
	MAY	4	84	83.3	747	243	98.9	1.1	0.0	99	474	1.95	2	0	4.58	3.25	6.35	374
	JUN	2	30	53.3	242	63	98.4	0.0	1.6	100	145	2.30	0	0	3.41	2.60	5.99	.
	JUL	1	40	37.5	320	90	67.8	27.8	4.4	100	197	2.19	4	0	5.45	2.81	6.17	80
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	4	268	94.0	2372	1462	95.1	2.1	2.9	99	2939	2.01	17	0	5.97	6.16	12.39	140
	OCT	2	20	85.0	228	92	70.7	17.4	12.0	100	178	1.94	0	0	4.10	4.04	7.84	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

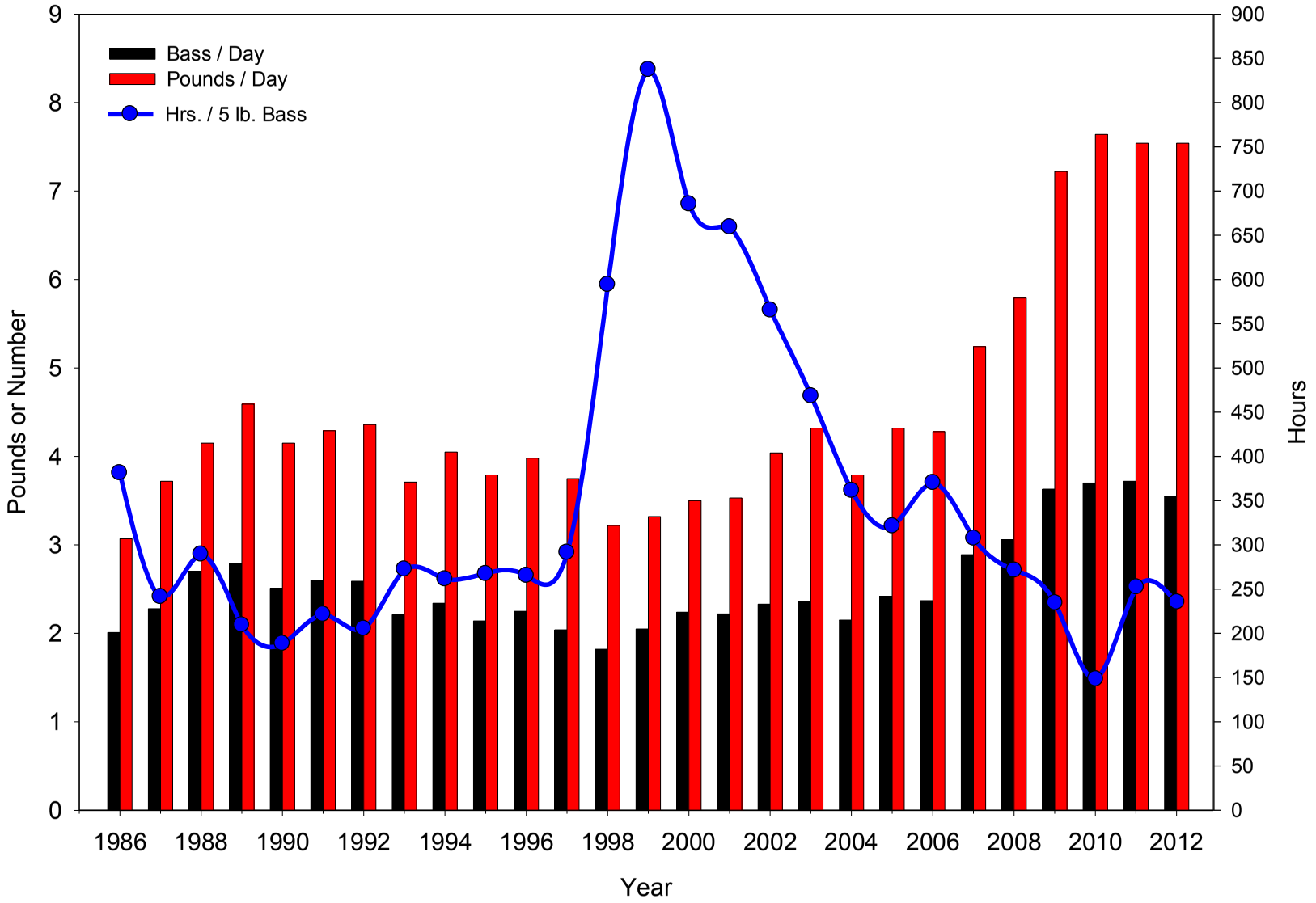


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments, 1986 - 2012.

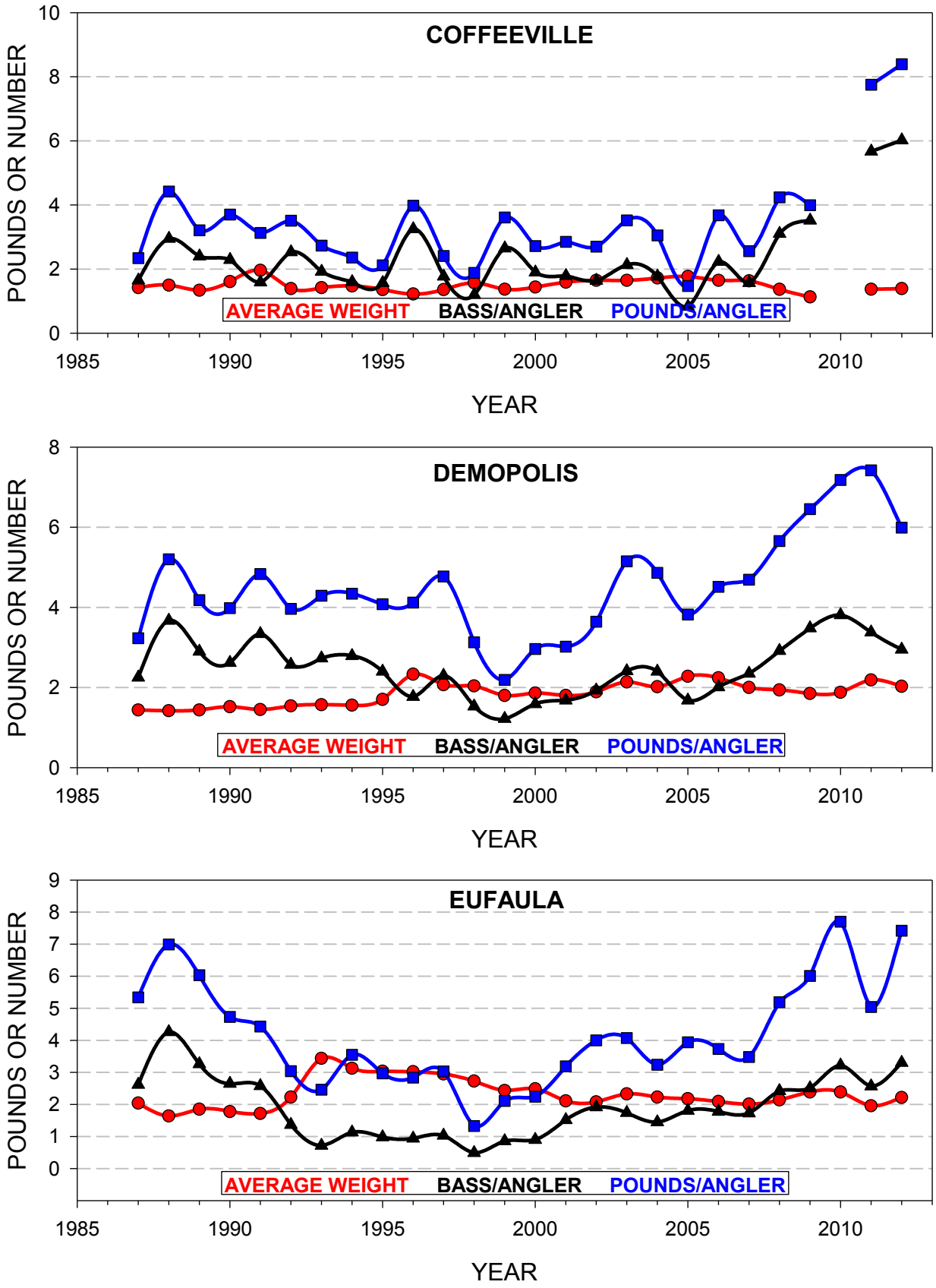


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeeville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2012.

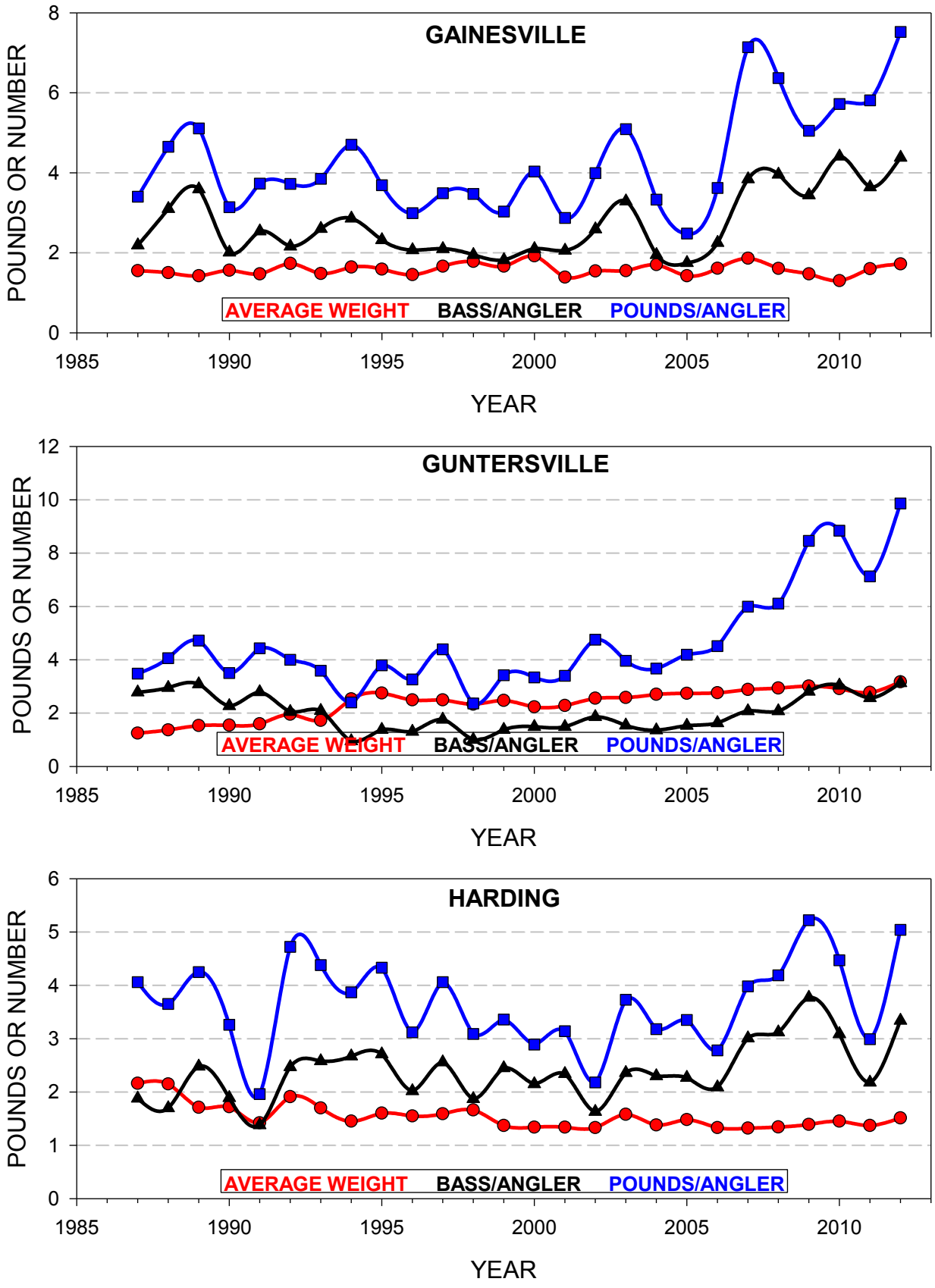


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Guntersville, and Harding, through 2012.

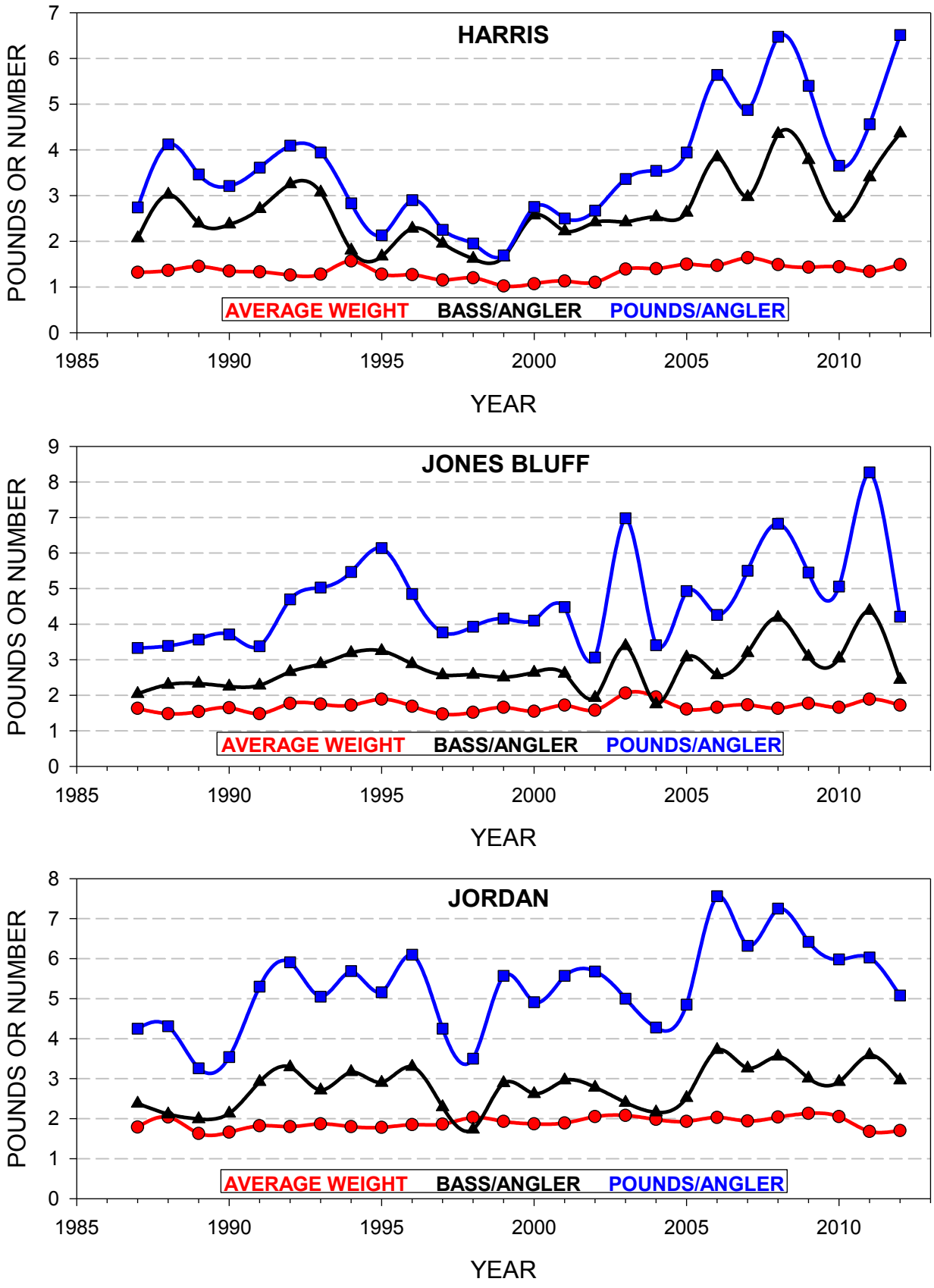


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2012.

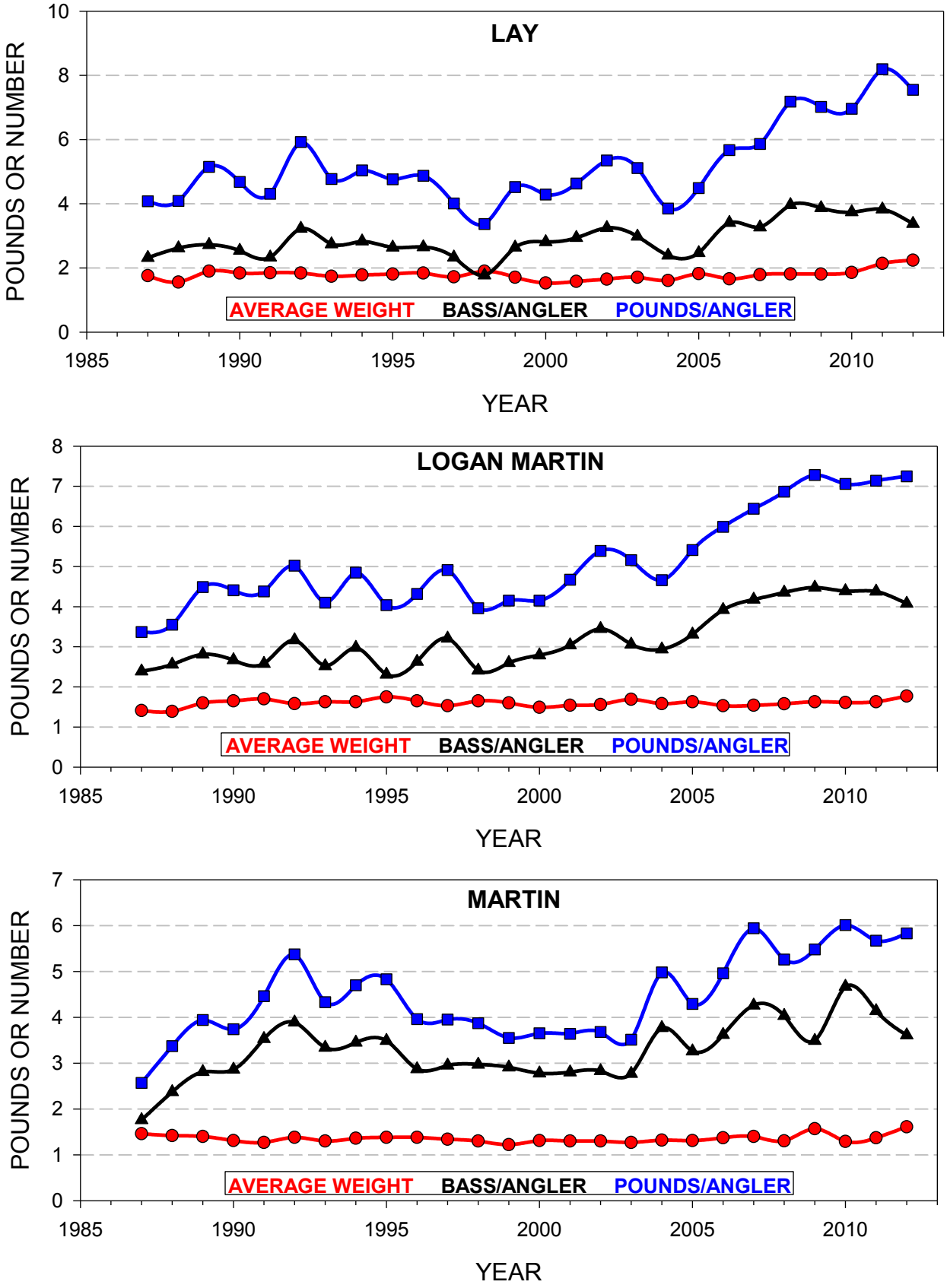


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2012.

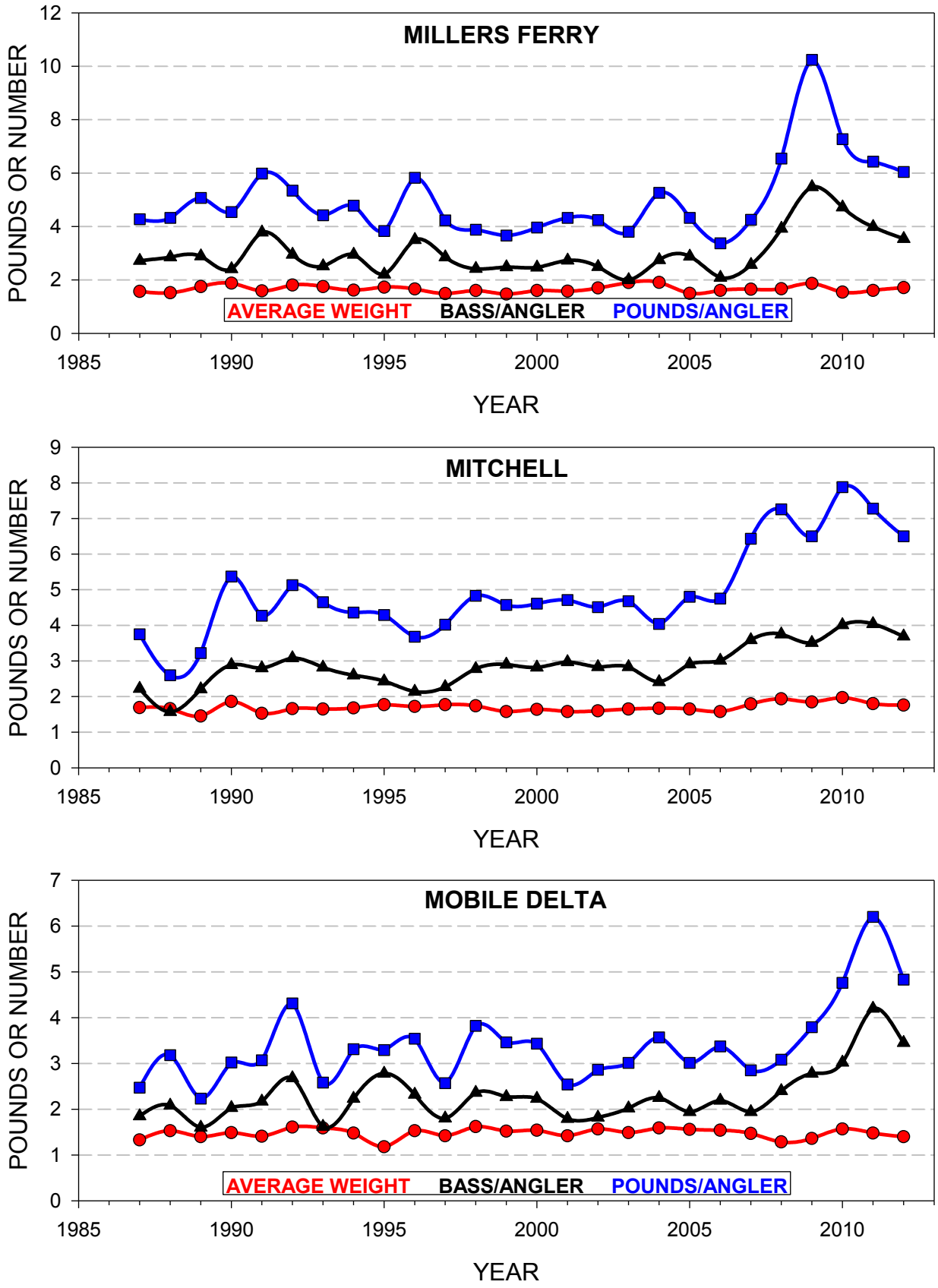


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2012.

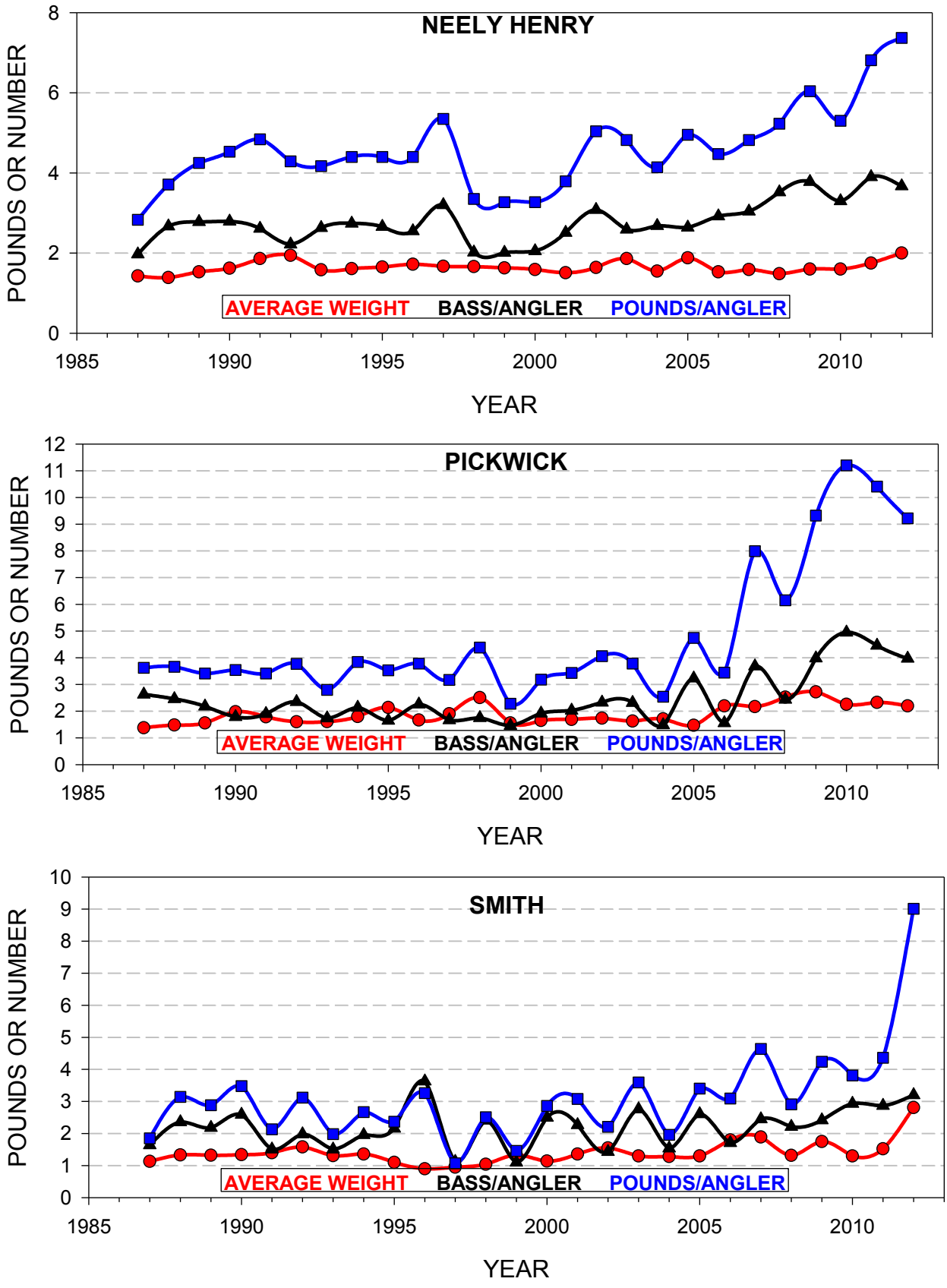


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2012.

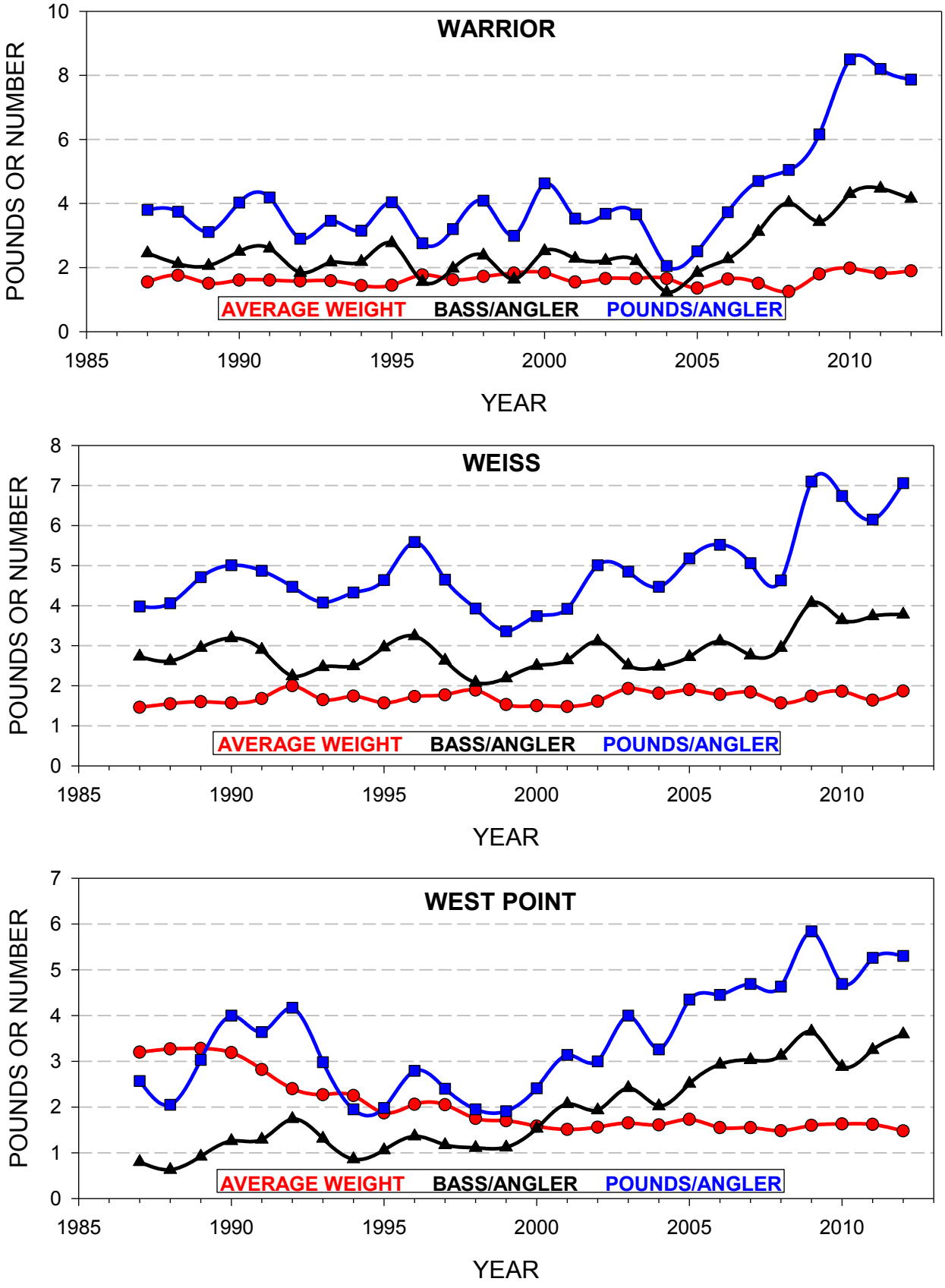


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2012.

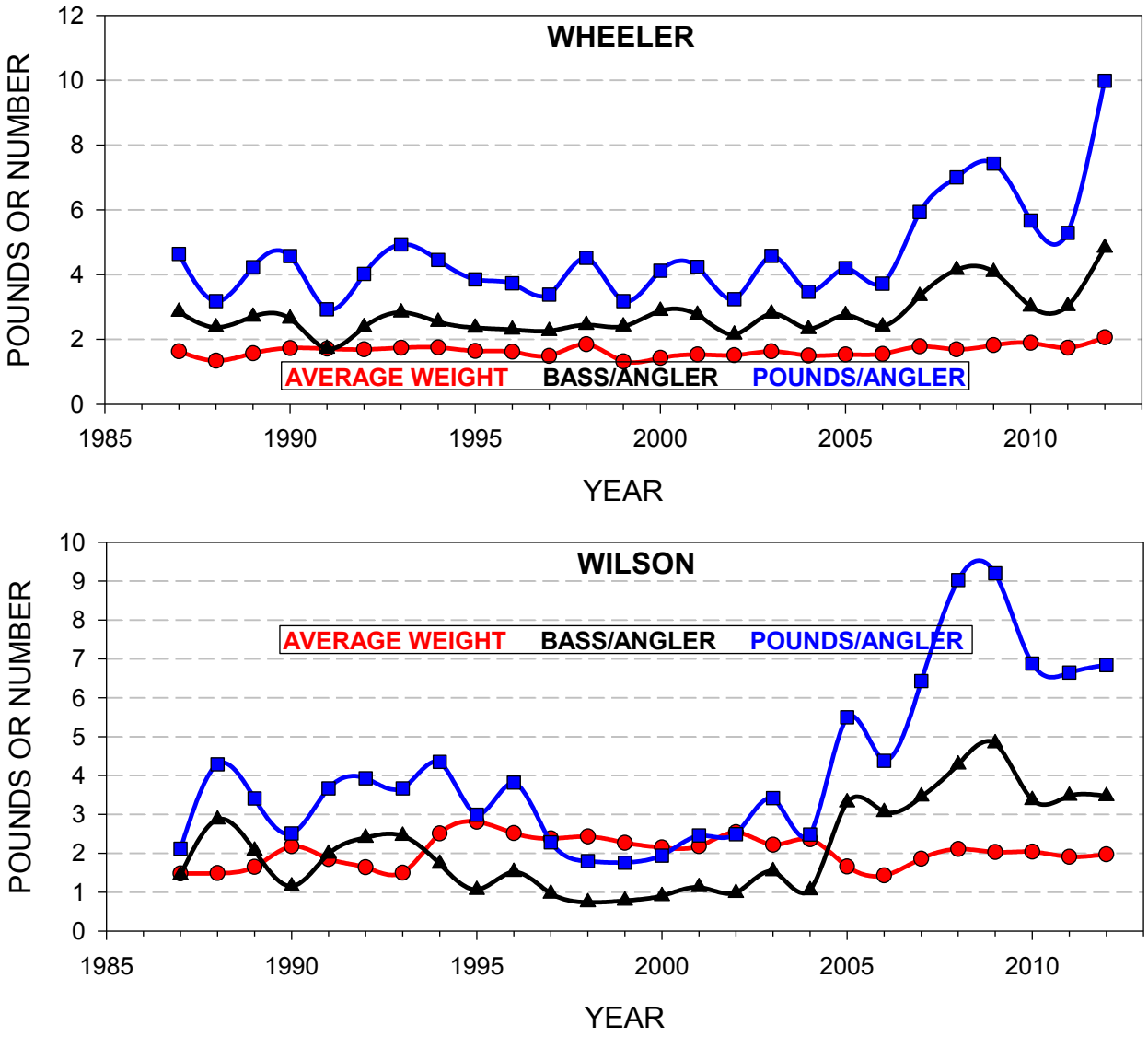


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2012.

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 2012, nearly 100% of all bass caught from public waters were released.

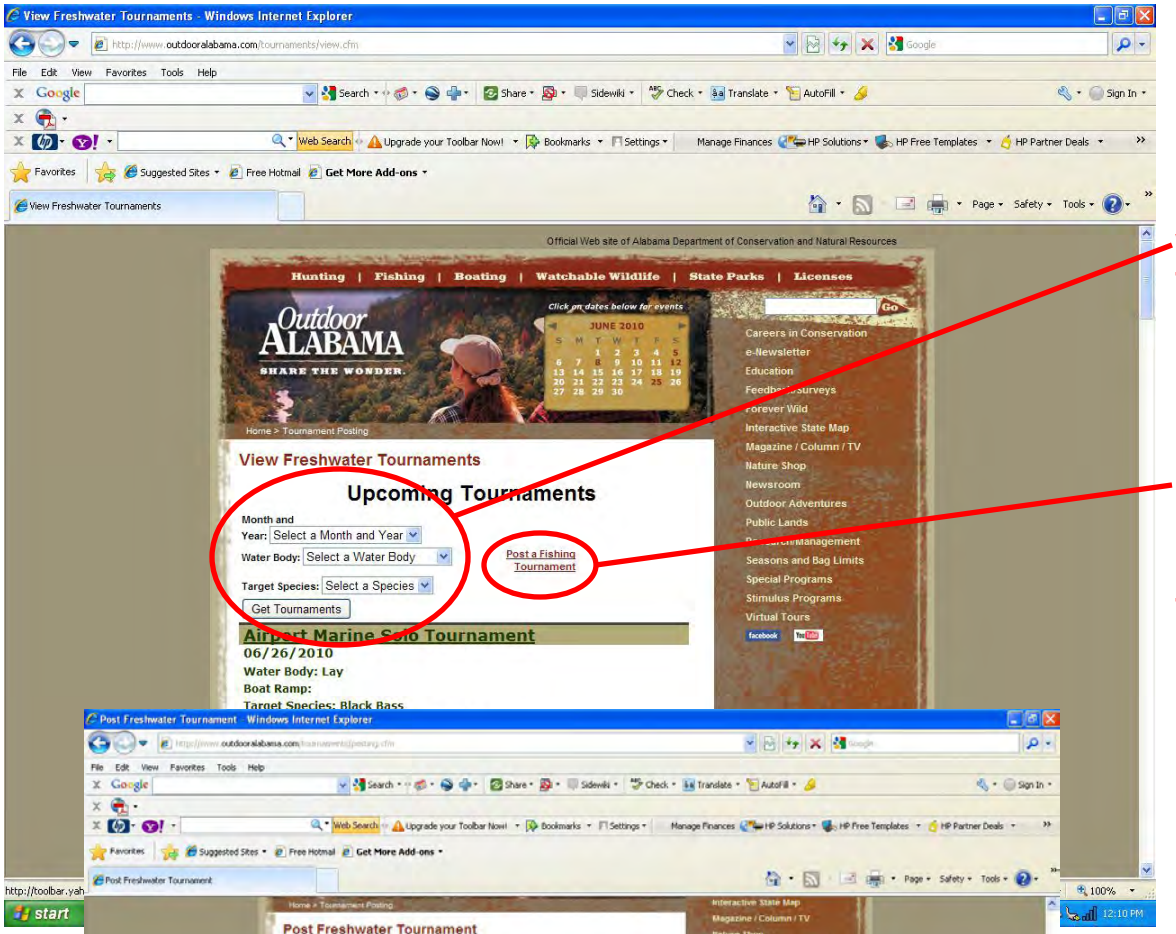
As the catch-and-release ethic has evolved during the last 20 years due to intense promotion by tournament organizations and participants, many well-intentioned anglers have become so passionate about this angling ethic that they feel a moral obligation to release every bass they catch, which often leads 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 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, so 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. Recommended guidelines for tournament weigh-in procedures can be found at: http://outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/fish/bassblack/fishhandling.pdf.

Tournament Website

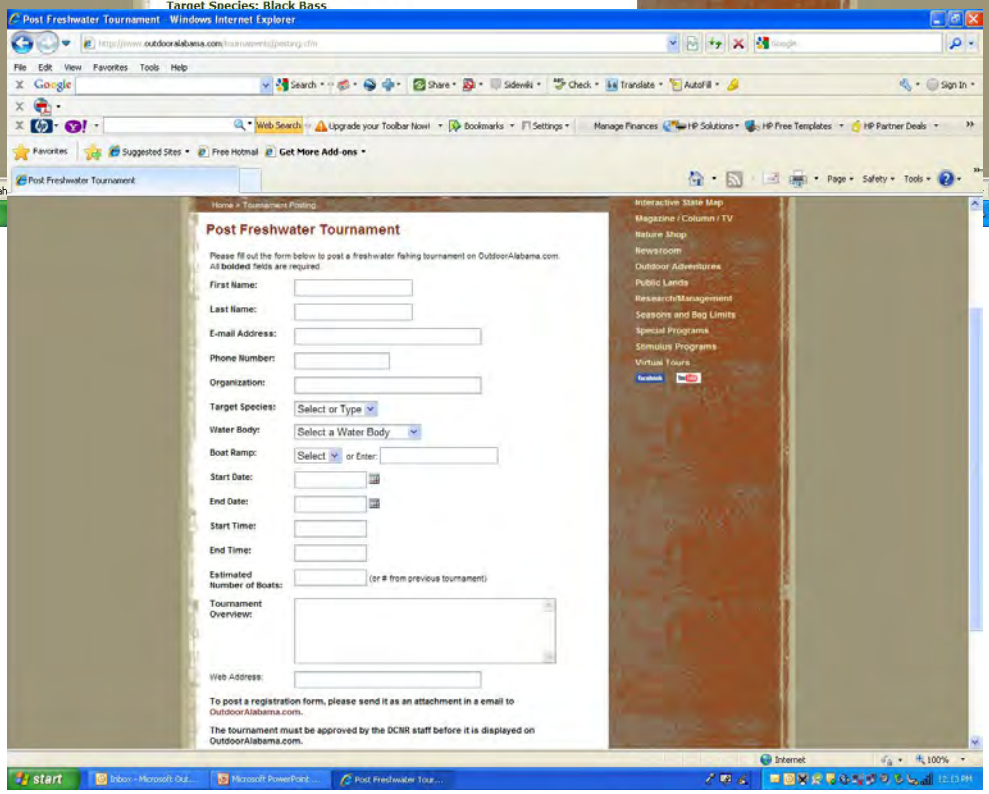
http://www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments/

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

The Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries maintains 113 public boating access areas statewide. Several of these facilities received upgrades during 2012.


South Sauty Public Boat Ramp (Lake Guntersville), April 2012.

South Sauty (Lake Guntersville)

With the popularity of Lake Guntersville during the past several years, existing public access has not been adequate during peak fishing seasons. To help remedy this problem, South Sauty was chosen for a major renovation and expansion. This site was selected because it was located in an area of the lake that offers excellent fishing and had particularly limited public access. This site was also desirable because it included several acres of undeveloped property that was suitable for parking lot expansion. This access area was originally constructed during the mid-1960's, and had received only minor upgrades since that time.

Prior to renovation, it was a primitive facility with a single lane launching slab, a small courtesy pier, and dirt parking for about five rigs. It is now fully accessible and includes a large, three-lane launching slab, ample security lighting, two 40-ft. courtesy piers, and parking for 75 rigs. The entrance was also relocated to accommodate better traffic flow within the project boundaries. This project was completed in cooperation with the Jackson County Commission and the Town of Langston.


Rose Trail Public Boat Ramp (Pickwick Lake), December 2012.

Rose Trail (Pickwick Lake)

This access area is located on the Bear Creek Arm of Pickwick Lake, and is very popular during spring, especially among crappie fishermen. This facility received a major facelift beginning in 2012. The launching slab was replaced with one having a steeper grade, which was a common request from the anglers. The courtesy pier was also replaced with a heavy-duty, fully accessible, floating pier. In 2013, the parking area will be repaved and accessible parking will be added. This project was completed in cooperation with the Colbert County Commission.

Other Projects (Statewide)

New courtesy piers with Flow-Thru decking were installed at *Choccolotta* and *Tensaw Public Boat Ramps* on the Mobile Delta, which should help to prevent damage from storm surges and high winds. Concrete steps leading to the courtesy pier at *Lion's Park Public Boat Ramp* (Smith Lake) were constructed. The launching slabs at *Buck Island Public Boat Ramp* (Elk River) and *Spann's Public Boat Ramp* (Choctawhatchee River) were replaced. A number of parking lots were re-striped, courtesy piers repaired, and signage replaced, as needed, statewide.


SPORT FISH
RESTORATION