

Bass Angler Information Team

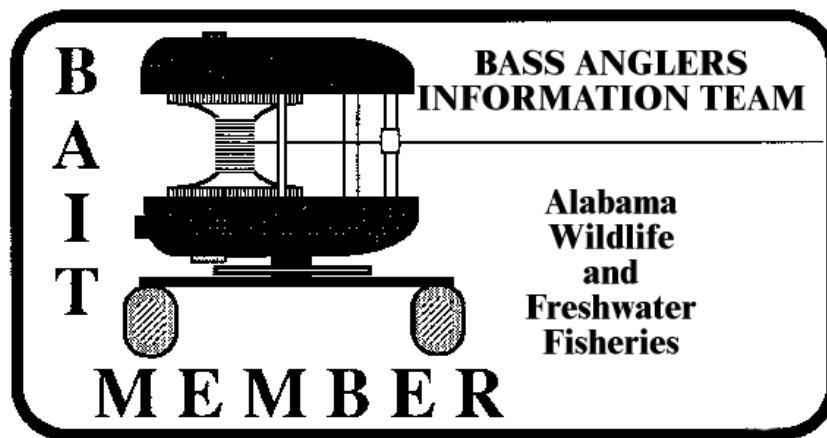
Annual Report

2013



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

B.A.I.T.
Bass Anglers Information Team
2013
Annual Report



By

Damon Lee Abernethy
Fisheries Development Coordinator

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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FISHERIES SECTION OFFICES

MONTGOMERY

Stan Cook, Chief of Fisheries
Nick Nichols, Asst. Chief of Fisheries
Chris Greene, Asst. Chief of Fisheries
Damon Abernethy, Fisheries Development
(334) 242-3471

DISTRICT I

Pickwick, Wilson, Wheeler, Guntersville, the
Bear Creek Lakes

Keith Floyd, Supervisor
Phil Ekema, Biologist
21438 Harris Station Rd.
Tanner, Ala. 35671
(256) 353-2634

DISTRICT II

Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay,
Mitchell, Jordan, Harris, Martin, Yates,
Thurlow, Jones Bluff

Dan Catchings, Supervisor
Michael Holley, Biologist
Fish Hatchery Rd.
P. O. Box 158
Eastaboga, Ala. 36260
(256) 831-6860

DISTRICT III

Aliceville, Gainesville, Smith, Bankhead, Holt,
Oliver, Warrior, Demopolis, Tuscaloosa,
Inland

Jay Haffner, Supervisor
Chris McKee, Biologist
8211 McFarland Blvd.
Northport, Ala. 35476
(205) 339-5716

DISTRICT IV

West Point, Harding, Eufaula, Gantt, Point A,
Frank Jackson

Ken Weathers, Supervisor
Rob Andress, Biologist
Graves Lovell, Biologist
3520 Plaza Dr.
Enterprise Ala. 36331
(334) 347-9467

DISTRICT V

Claiborne, Coffeeville, Miller's Ferry, Mobile
Delta

Dave Armstrong, Supervisor
Tommy Purcell, Biologist
30571 Five Rivers Blvd.
P. O. Box 247
Spanish Fort, Ala. 36527
(251) 626-5153



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

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Limits and Regulations...

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Tournament Listings...

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2013 B.A.I.T. Summary

Bass fishing in the State of Alabama has been excellent for the past several years. During 2013, three of the four quality indicators were similar to the previous year (Average Bass Weight: down 5%, Percent Success: up 2%, Bass/Angler-Day: down 1%, and Pounds/Angler-Day: down 2%); however, the length of time required to catch a bass over five pounds was 189 hours, which was a 20% annual improvement. This value was exceeded in only 1990 and 2010, with the 28 year average being 304 hours.

Although the Tennessee River impoundments have always been traditional angler favorites, it is Wheeler that has turned the most heads during the last two years, finishing No. 1 overall in the 2013 Quality Indicator Ranking. When comparing the last two years of data to the previous 26, we have seen dramatic improvements in Percent Success (up 10%), Average Bass Weight (up 38%), Bass/Angler-Day (up 74%), Pounds/Angler-Day (up 134%), and Hours to Catch a Bass Over Five Pounds (down 475%). More bass over five pounds (66) were reported in 2013 than in any other year, mirroring the big fish success experienced by anglers in the early 1990's when the lake was considered to be in its prime.

- *Wheeler* was the top lake in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Millers Ferry, Demopolis, Martin, and Jones Bluff* all showed considerable improvement in the quality indicator rankings, while *Logan Martin* fell from 10th to 16th place
- *Wheeler, Millers Ferry, Wilson, Demopolis, and Pickwick* were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Guntersville, Wilson, Wheeler, Pickwick, and Demopolis* were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama

2013 Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

3.51 – Number of bass caught per angler-day
7.42 – Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
2.12 – Average weight of bass caught
189 – Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
13.06 – Weight of the largest bass caught
22 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
553 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

Introduction & Methods

The printing of the 2013 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the twenty-eighth 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 2013, we have summarized 13,412 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 2,982,080 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 752,104 bass that weighed 1,359,825 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries' Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program which maintains 113 boating access areas statewide. The accomplishments made by this program during 2013 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 bass caught from Lake Oliver on the Warrior River.

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Statewide Tournament Results

Bass clubs submitted 457 tournament reports during 2013, up slightly from 450 in 2012 (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! Sixty-four clubs provided data in 2013. Ninety-seven 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 20 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 2013, tournament reports were received from 28 bodies of water that were fished 116,295 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 38,784 bass that weighed 86,260 lbs. (Table 1). A total of 553 bass five pounds and larger were reported for an overall catch rate of

one bass five pounds or larger for every 189 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 22 bass eight pounds and larger in 2013. The largest bass caught in 2013 came from Lake Guntersville and weighed 13.06 pounds. With 155 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Guntersville led this category. Other top lakes for big bass included Wilson, Wheeler, Pickwick, and Demopolis.

Of the 66 organizations that submitted data during 2013, nearly 50% submitted five or more tournament reports, and 20% submitted 10 or more reports. Eighteen contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2013 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

Average catch rates in 2013 for both number (3.51) and pounds (7.42) of bass per angler-day were similar to the record numbers of the past three years. Compared to 2012, eight lakes improved in overall fishing success in 2013. The most notable improvements were Millers Ferry, Demopolis, Martin, and Jones Bluff, which all moved from the bottom half into the top 10 in the overall rankings (Table 2). The average size bass caught from Lay

Lake has been on the rise since 2006, steadily increasing from 1.66 to 2.47 pounds. Other lakes like Millers Ferry, Weiss, and Wheeler have also improved in this area. Catch rates have increased by 90% on Harris since the 2010 season.

Most tournament reports in 2013 were received from the Mobile Delta (81), Guntersville (58), and Eufaula (51). These three reservoirs accounted for 42% of the statewide tournament reports. Pickwick and Wheeler each had more than 30 reports, while Logan Martin and Martin had more than 20 reports (Table 1). The other 21 reservoirs contributed only 35% of the annual total for 2013. 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 28 reservoirs from which reports were

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Big Bass in 2013

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. >5lbs.
Lee King Tournament	Eufaula	Jun. 8	28
FLW Outdoors	Guntersville	Feb. 9	22
Bassmaster Weekend Series	Wheeler	Apr. 13	20
FLW Outdoors	Guntersville	Apr. 6	18
FLW Outdoors	Martin	Feb. 16	15
Etowah Angler Bass Club	Guntersville	May 14	11
Senior Bass Anglers	Wheeler	Jun. 28	11
Bassmaster Weekend Series	Guntersville	Mar. 16	10
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	Eufaula	Mar. 16	10
Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	Sep. 13	10

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Average 5-Fish Weight in 2013

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Alabama-Tennessee Bass Club	Wheeler	May 11	19.07 lbs.
Lake Guntersville Bassmasters	Guntersville	Jul. 13	19.04 lbs.
Hillcrest Bass Club	Guntersville	May 10	17.41 lbs.
FLW College Series	Wheeler	May 11	17.24 lbs.
BFL Regional	Guntersville	Oct. 5	16.82 lbs.
FLW Tour	Wheeler	May 11	16.46 lbs.
FLW Tour	Wheeler	May 12	16.16 lbs.
FLW Tour	Wheeler	May 10	16.14 lbs.
Seniors Bass Club	Millers Ferry	Mar. 23	16.02 lbs.
DeKalb Bassmasters	Guntersville	Oct. 26	15.75 lbs.

received, 20 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 69% at Eufaula to 100% at Harris. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.44 pounds at Harding to 3.15 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.71 at Guntersville to 4.77 at Harris. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 4.94 at West Point to 10.55 at Wheeler. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 28 reservoirs was 2.12 pounds.

Statewide Tournament Results

Overall, Wheeler accumulated more quality indicator points (87) than any other reservoir in Alabama, moving up one spot from its second place finish in 2012. Millers Ferry (79), Wilson (77), Demopolis (73), and Pickwick (70) 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 Wilson 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 Millers Ferry offered the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Harris or Wheeler 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 3.51 statewide in 2013; but Guntersville and Eufaula averaged 2.71 and 2.75, respectively. Statewide average weight was 2.12 pounds for all reservoirs combined; but Guntersville with its 15-in. MLL averaged 3.15 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 2013 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), Harris (13- to 16-inch slot on largemouth), Pickwick (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass), Wilson (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass), Wheeler (15-in. MLL on smallmouth bass), and Guntersville 15-in. MLL on smallmouth and largemouth bass); however, some changes related to smallmouth bass took effect on the impoundments of the Tennessee River in 2012. No more than five of the daily creel of black bass may be comprised of smallmouth bass.

Bass fishing in Alabama has been excellent in recent years, with 2013 being among the best years reported since 1986 when B.A.I.T. reporting began. The reported number of bass over five pounds (553) was excellent in 2013, being exceeded by only three years during the early 1990's.

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 consistently good since that time. In fact, 2013 was almost identical to 1990, which was the best year ever with anglers fishing an average of only 188 hours to catch a bass over five pounds.

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. They are our future anglers and stewards of Alabama's resources.

Bass Over Eight Pounds from 2013 B.A.I.T. Reports

Date	Organization	Lake	Weight
Feb. 9	FLW Outdoors	Guntersville	13.06 lbs.
Feb. 13	Ala.-Tenn. Bass Club	Wheeler	9.25 lbs.
Feb. 28	Clay's Bait & Tackle	Pickwick	11.83 lbs.
Mar. 16	N. Ala. Tourn. Anglers	Guntersville	9.06 lbs.
Mar. 16	Bassmaster Series	Guntersville	9.02 lbs.
Mar. 16	Ala. BASS Nation	Eufaula	8.13 lbs.
Mar. 23	Bassmaster Series	Lay	9.26 lbs.
Mar. 30	Ala. Bass Federation	Pickwick	8.25 lbs.

Date	Organization	Lake	Weight
Apr. 6	FLW Outdoors	Guntersville	8.44 lbs.
May 4	FLW Outdoors	Lay	8.25 lbs.
May 10	Hillcrest Bass Club	Guntersville	8.06 lbs.
Jun. 15	FLW Outdoors	Neely Henry	9.06 lbs.
Oct. 17	Fishers of Men	Pickwick	9.19 lbs.
Oct. 26	Benning Bass Club	Guntersville	8.65 lbs.
Oct. 26	DeKalb Bassmasters	Guntersville	8.00 lbs.
Dec. 14	Winter Bass Trail	Pickwick	10.26 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

Fifty one (51) tournaments were reported during 2013. All twelve months were represented by at least one report with the majority occurring in March (19). One thousand four hundred twelve (1,412) anglers fished for 13,849 hours to catch 3,805 bass that weighed 9,082 pounds, with an average size of 2.39 pounds. Largemouth bass made up 86% of the total catch, while spotted bass accounted for 14%.

The quality of fishing on Eufaula has shown a pattern of inconsistency throughout the 28 year history of BAIT reporting, and that trend has continued into the 2010's. However, the past five years have offered good quality fishing compared to other reservoirs in the state.

Catch-rates declined by 20% from the previous year, but were still well above the historical average for this reservoir. The average sized bass (2.39 lbs.) caught by tournament anglers was about 10% higher than the post-LMBV average. Catch-rates of bass larger than five pounds were similar to that of the pre-LMBV era when anglers caught them at a rate of one every 14 days of fishing.

Although anglers seemed to prefer fishing in March based upon the frequency of reports submitted, June appeared to offer more consistently good fishing. In June, anglers caught more bass in general and caught bass over five pounds at nearly three times the rate they had experienced in March.

Guntersville

Fifty eight (58) tournaments were reported during 2013, and most tournaments occurred in October (17) and May (10). Two thousand one hundred thirty three (2,133) anglers fished for 18,446 hours to catch 4,997 bass that weighed 15,720 pounds, with an average size of 3.15 pounds. Largemouth bass accounted for 96% of the total catch.

The quality of fishing at Guntersville has been steadily improving since 1998, but the past 6 - 8 years have been particularly good. The average size bass caught by tournament anglers has exceeded three pounds for the second consecutive year, and has increased by nearly a pound since 2000. Bass over five pounds were caught at a rate twice as high as the long-term average for this reservoir. In addition, more than ¾ of all tournament anglers have had fish to bring to the scales.

During 2013, bass over eight pounds were caught at the highest frequency during February and March, but bass over five pounds were most easily caught during May and June. Catch-rates were highest in May, measuring 3.33 bass/angler-day, which also resulted in the highest total weights for the year at 10.5 pounds/angler-day. Percent success was poor during the winter months averaging only 67%, and highest in June and July when it measured 86%.

Tournament activity has increased substantially in conjunction with the improvement in the quality of fishing, indicating that this increase in fishing pressure has done nothing to negatively impact the fish population. Until environmental factors cause a significant change in the amount of grass coverage throughout the lake, fishing should continue to be excellent.

From 1992 – 1999, nearly 385,000 Florida largemouth bass were stocked into the North Sauty Creek area of the lake. Subsequent genetic assessments revealed that this effort successfully introduced Florida genes into Guntersville's bass population. However, although Guntersville's bass contain roughly 30% Florida genes, preliminary results from genetic work with angler-caught bass over 7 pounds seems to indicate that it is the native Northern strain that is attaining the larger sizes.

Logan Martin

Twenty three (23) tournaments were reported during 2013, and most tournaments occurred in April (6). Three hundred forty six (346) anglers fished for 3,159 hours to catch 1,189 bass that weighed 2,082 pounds, with an average size of 1.75 pounds. The ratio of largemouth to spotted bass was 7:3.

As has been the case in other Coosa River impoundments, catch-rates have declined somewhat in recent years. During the past five years the number of bass/angler-day has decreased by 16%. However, during this same time period, the average size bass has increased by 7%, which has resulted in a relatively stable number of pounds/angler-day, which was 6.58 in 2013. More simply stated, anglers are catching fewer, but larger fish in Logan Martin. One possible reason for this change is due to the increase in catches of largemouth bass. In 2011, 2012, and 2013, largemouth bass comprised 26%, 30%, and 71% of the catch, respectively. The number of hours required to catch a bass over five pounds was nearly 3.5 times lower than in 2012, which was by far the worst year for big bass since the BAIT Program began in 1986.

From 2006 - 2009, ADCNR's Fisheries Section stocked nearly 1.2 million Florida largemouth bass into the Cropwell Creek area (Town & Country); however, this population has not yet been examined to determine if Florida genes are persisting in the population.

Martin

Twenty (20) tournament were reported during 2013, with the majority occurring in February (5). No tournaments were reported from May through July. Seven hundred twenty (720) anglers fished for 6,264 hours to catch 2,726 bass that weighed 4,895 pounds, with an average size of 1.80 pounds. The ratio of spotted bass to largemouth bass was 9:1.

Fishing on Lake Martin was clearly better in 2013 than it has been throughout the 28 year history of BAIT reporting. Since 2003, catch-rates measured as bass/angler-day have been inconsistent, but

Monthly Tournament Stats

increasing steadily over time. In 2013, it was 4.35 bass/angler-day, which was second only to 2010. The most impressive change has been the average size of bass caught, which has increased by a half pound since 2010. It took anglers an average of 257 hours to catch a bass over five pounds in 2013, which was second only to 1988. Furthermore, percent success measured 93% meaning anglers are catching more fish, and larger fish, than in any other time during the past 28 years.

Over one million Florida largemouth bass fingerlings were introduced into the Sandy Creek area by ADCNR's Fisheries Section from 2010 – 2012. Genetic assessments have not yet been made to determine if Florida genes have been bred into the population.

Mobile Delta

Eighty one (81) tournaments were reported during 2013, with more than half being held from May through September (45). One thousand eight hundred seven (1,807) anglers fished for 16,854 hours to catch 6,177 bass that weighed 9,591 pounds, with an average size of 1.55 pounds. Largemouth bass comprised 96% of the total catch.

The number of reports received this year far exceeds the number from any previous year; in fact, it is equal to the five previous years combined. As a result, these statistics can be interpreted with a level of confidence not achieved in more than 10 years.

Catch-rates have been trending upward since 2007, but the average size bass caught has remained fairly constant over time. All five quality indicators for the Mobile Delta were above the long-term averages, and the hours required to catch a bass over five pounds (1,404 hrs.) was less than half of the previous year.

Hopefully, the number of tournament reports received from this body of water will remain high so better information can be obtained to characterize this very important fishery. For many bass anglers in the Mobile area, this is the only large water body that is conveniently located for tournament fishing.

Pickwick

Thirty three (33) tournaments were held during 2013, with the majority (6) being held in October. However, tournaments were generally dispersed evenly throughout the year. One thousand nine (1,009) anglers fished for 8,751 hours to catch 1,216 bass that weighed 6,524 pounds, averaging 2.16 pounds apiece. Largemouth bass comprised 88% of the total catch, while smallmouth bass accounted for 7%.

Fishing on this reservoir peaked during 2009 and 2010. Since that time, the quality of fishing has shown slight decreases each year. Nevertheless, it remains one of the top bass fisheries in Alabama.

Since 2010, the hours required to catch a bass over five pounds has shown steady improvements while all other quality indicators have declined. This seems to support a theory that the hydrilla, which expanded during the 2006-08 drought, may have created conditions that resulted in a few strong year-classes sustaining the fishery. As these

older fish die out, the lake may be returning to a more typical population structure.

Since tournament reports were evenly distributed throughout the year, with an average of less than three reports per month, it is difficult to make judgments about the seasonal fishing quality. The only thing that appears evident, is fishing was good year-round. Throughout 2013, the average size big bass for each month exceeded five pounds and at least three bass over five pounds were reported every month.

Wheeler

Thirty one (31) tournaments were reported during 2013, with the majority (11) occurring in May. One thousand two hundred forty five (1,245) anglers fished for a total of 10,423 hours to catch 4,690 bass that weighed 10,997 pounds. The average weight of bass was 2.34 pounds. Largemouth bass comprised 93% of the total catch, while smallmouth bass accounted for 5%.

After many years of marginal fishing, Wheeler began a strong resurgence in 2012 that has continued throughout 2013. This is primarily due to an increase in the average size of bass, which has exceeded two pounds (2.34) for the second straight year. The abundance of larger bass was severely impacted by LMBV in 1997, and the big bass never seemed to return as they had in other Alabama reservoirs that were affected. However, big bass have been plentiful during the past two years; in fact, more bass over five pounds (66) were reported in 2013 than in any other year since the BAIT Program began. The number of hours required for anglers to catch a bass in excess of five pounds was 101 hours, which is half the pre-LMBV average, and more than four times lower than the post-LMBV average. Catch-rates measured as bass/angler-day (4.50) have remained very high, being surpassed only by Lake Harris. Wheeler also posted the highest percent success (88.8) during BAIT Program history.

From 2000 – 2002, over 277,000 Florida largemouth bass were stocked into the Spring Creek area of the lake. Subsequent genetic assessments revealed that this effort had been marginally successful at introducing Florida genes into Wheeler's bass population. Because of the limited success of the first stocking, Wheeler was scheduled for a second stocking cycle from 2012 – 2014; through the end of 2013, 733,000 Florida largemouth bass have been stocked. The target number for this stocking is 1.2 million fingerlings. A genetic evaluation will follow the completion of this stocking.

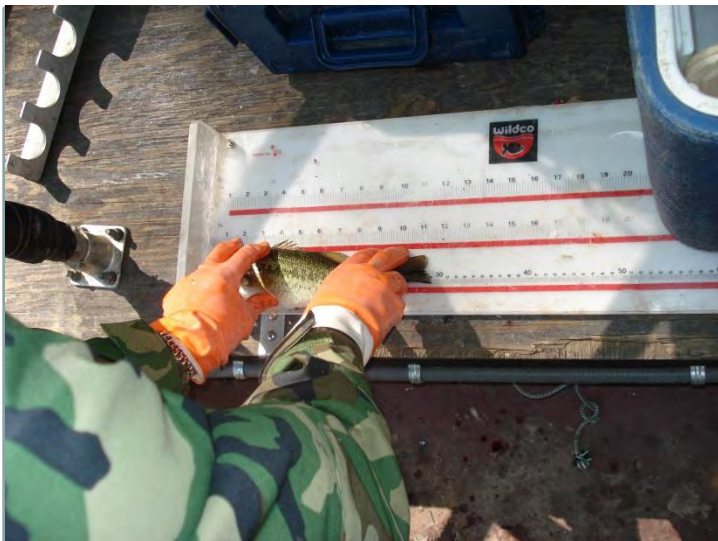
Standardized Electrofishing Results

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



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.

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.

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.

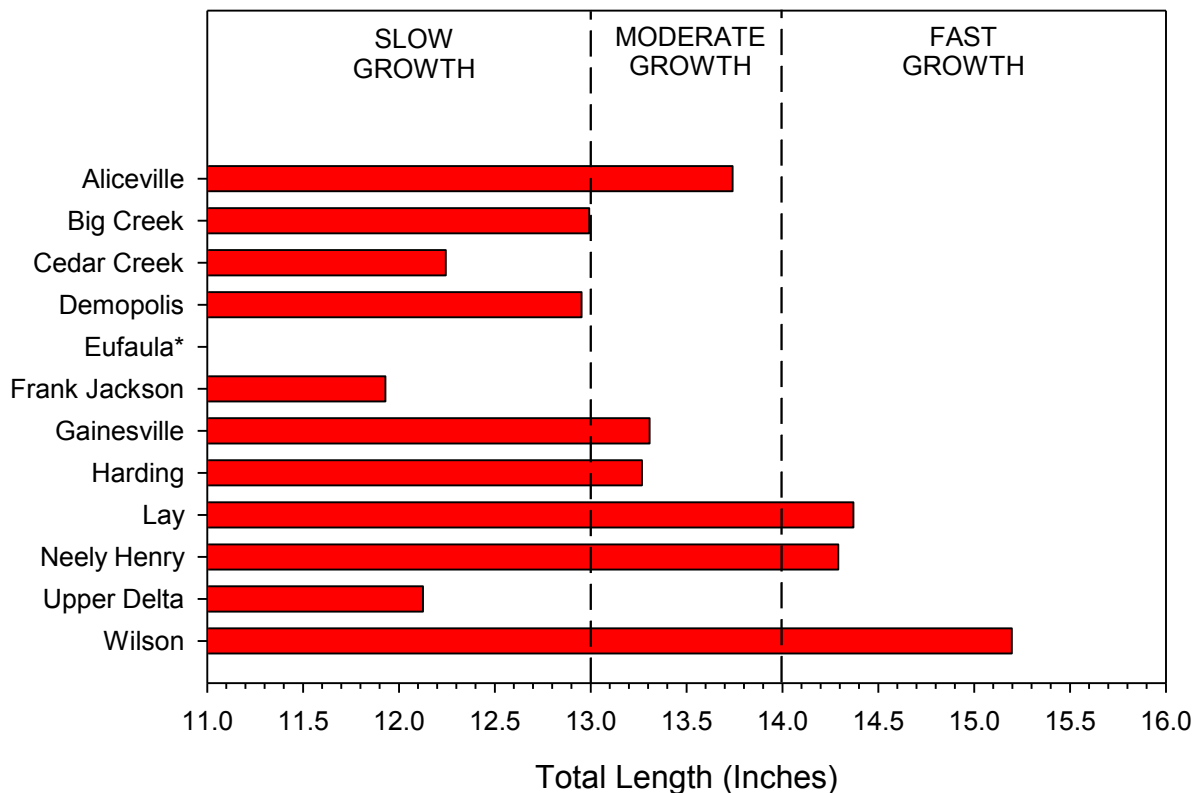
Biologist's determine fish's growth-rates by measuring their lengths at each age represented in the sample. This is done by examining the fish's otoliths, which are free-floating bones in the inner ear that form growth-rings similar to those that are visible on the top of a tree stump. These rings are 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 2013.

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.

Total Length of Largemouth Bass at Three Years of Age



*Fish ages were not determined so this statistic could not be calculated

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).

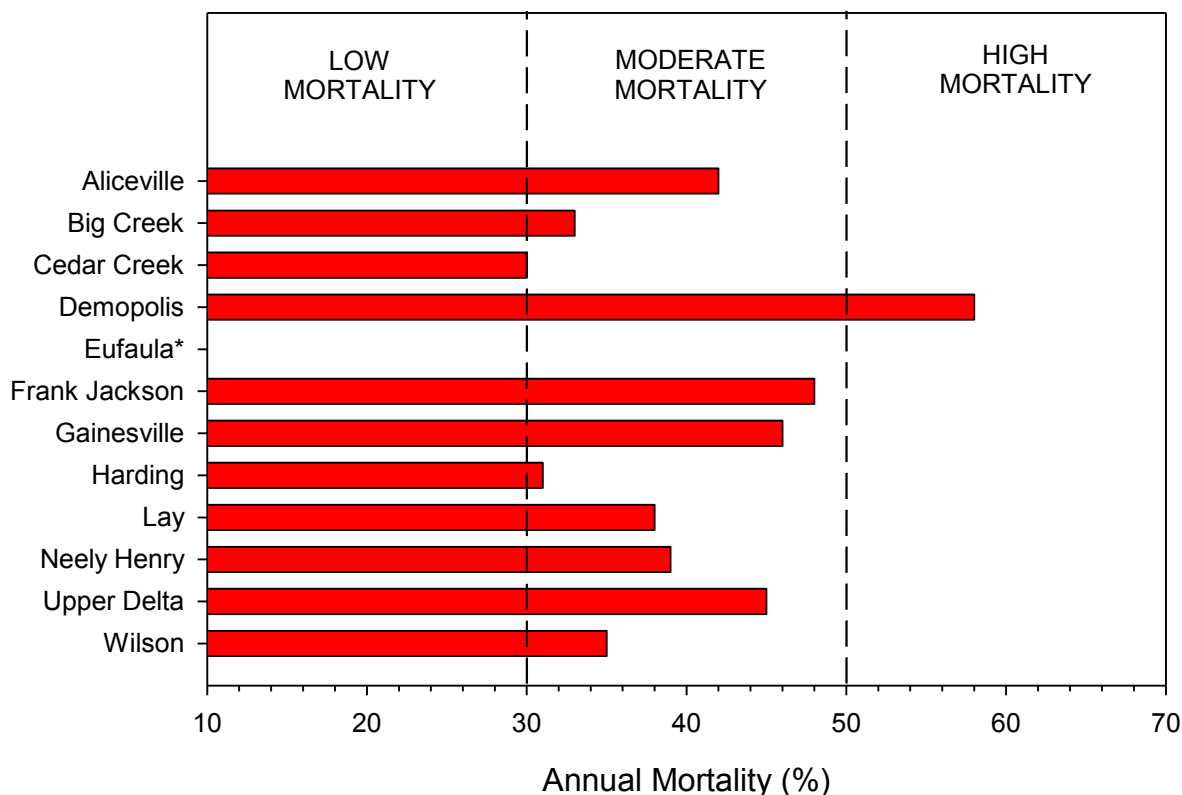
In Alabama, typical annual mortality-rates for largemouth bass range from 35% to 45%, but can vary considerably from one year to the next.

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 2013. 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.

Total Percent of the Largemouth Bass Population That Die Annually



*Fish ages were not determined so this statistic could not be calculated

Standardized Electrofishing Results

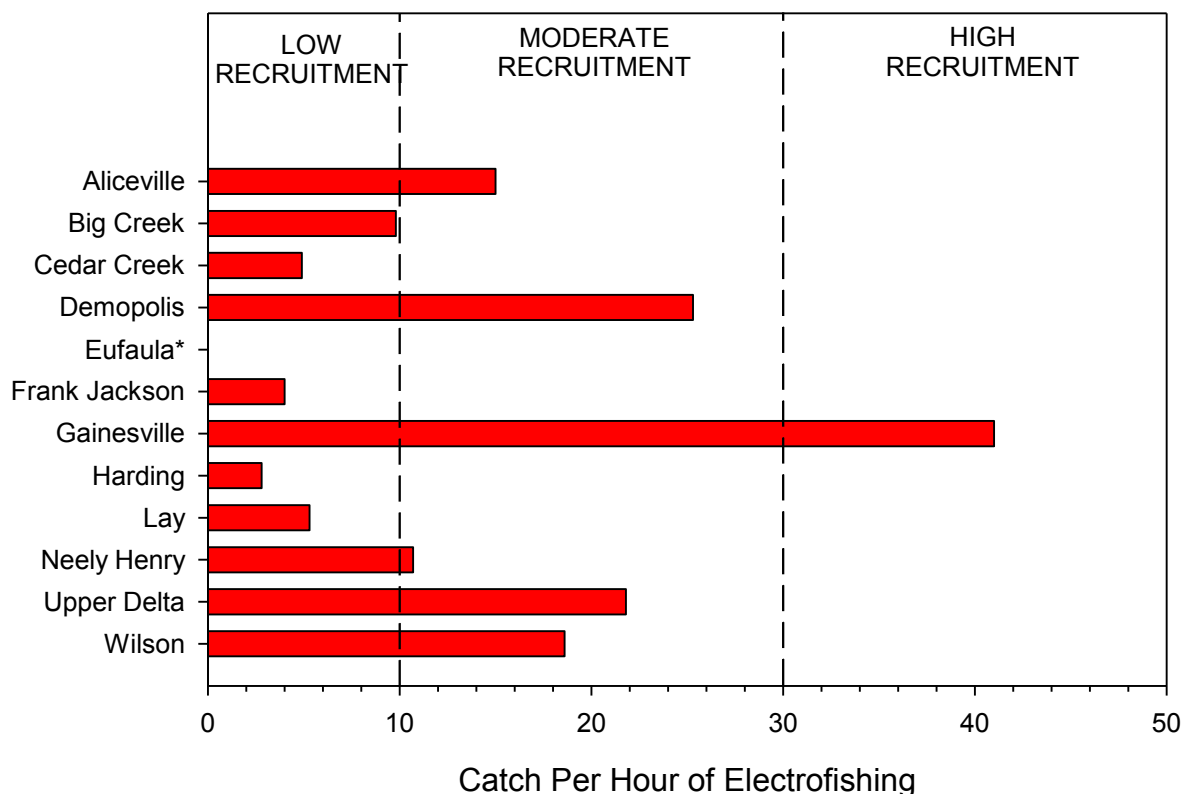
Recruitment

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.

Number of One Year Old Largemouth Bass Caught
Per Hour of Electrofishing



*Fish ages were not determined so this statistic could not be calculated

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 2013.

Number of 8 - 12 Inch Largemouth Bass Caught by Electrofishing

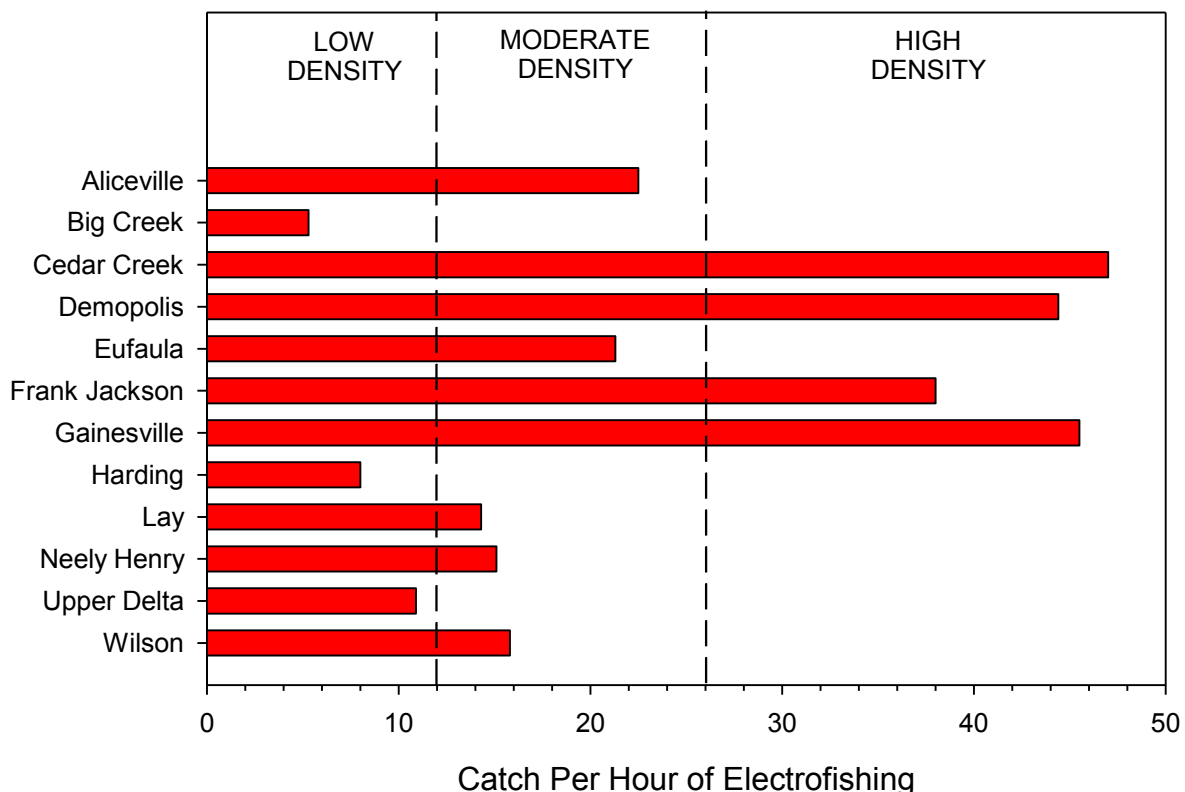


Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2013 B.A.I.T. Program.

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.
Bankhead	2	41	87.8	58.5	369	152	.	.	.	100	236	1.56	0	0	1.56	87.81	4.12	6.41	.	.
Big Creek	2	12	58.3	8.3	96	14	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	20	1.42	0	0	1.42	58.33	1.46	2.07	.	.
Harding	8	131	91.6	43.5	1115	436	.	.	.	96	630	1.44	4	0	1.44	91.60	3.91	5.65	266	27
Claiborne	2	13	100.0	30.8	136	47	65.0	35.0	0.0	100	76	1.62	1	0	1.62	100.00	3.46	5.59	136	14
Coffeeville	1	7	85.7	57.1	56	22	.	.	.	100	35	1.60	0	0	1.60	85.71	3.93	6.27	.	.
Demopolis	5	52	92.3	50.0	488	192	91.3	8.7	0.0	98	378	1.97	4	0	1.97	92.31	3.94	7.74	122	12
Eufaula	51	1412	68.6	23.7	13849	3805	86.2	13.8	0.0	97	9082	2.39	97	1	2.39	68.56	2.75	6.56	143	14
Frank Jackson	2	29	75.9	48.3	222	83	.	.	.	93	129	1.55	0	0	1.55	75.86	3.74	5.79	.	.
Gainesville	1	33	72.7	48.5	297	96	.	.	.	.	163	1.69	.	.	1.69	72.73	3.23	5.47	.	.
Guntersville	58	2133	77.3	21.7	18446	4997	95.7	4.2	0.1	96	15720	3.15	155	13	3.15	77.31	2.71	8.52	83	8
Harris	5	82	100.0	65.9	710	339	.	.	.	100	499	1.47	1	0	1.47	100.00	4.77	7.03	710	71
Jones Bluff	5	76	89.5	51.3	696	276	27.8	72.2	0.0	95	530	1.92	3	0	1.92	89.47	3.97	7.62	232	23
Jordan	13	331	90.0	56.2	3024	1159	5.8	94.2	0.0	96	2229	1.92	2	0	1.92	90.03	3.83	7.37	1512	151
Lay	17	632	73.4	36.1	5230	1699	11.0	89.0	0.0	99	4202	2.47	21	2	2.47	73.42	3.25	8.03	236	24
Logan Martin	23	346	87.9	41.9	3159	1189	71.4	28.6	0.0	96	2082	1.75	5	0	1.75	87.86	3.76	6.59	632	63
Martin	20	720	92.9	52.5	6264	2726	11.0	89.0	0.0	98	4895	1.80	24	0	1.80	92.92	4.35	7.82	257	26
Mobile Delta	81	1807	83.0	51.4	16854	6177	95.5	4.5	0.0	97	9591	1.55	12	0	1.55	83.01	3.67	5.69	1404	140
Millers Ferry	11	232	89.2	64.7	2028	910	.	.	.	99	1903	2.09	16	0	2.09	89.22	4.49	9.39	127	13
Mitchell	15	359	85.5	35.4	2990	1070	.	.	.	98	1958	1.83	2	0	1.83	85.52	3.58	6.55	1387	139
Neely Henry	17	684	87.3	42.5	6781	2528	40.0	60.0	0.0	97	4911	1.94	14	1	1.94	87.28	3.73	7.24	484	48
Pickwick	33	1009	87.9	42.4	8751	1216	88.2	4.7	7.1	98	6524	2.16	73	4	2.16	87.87	3.99	7.45	113	11
Smith	7	767	86.6	37.8	6803	2284	23.2	76.8	0.0	100	4256	1.86	10	0	1.86	86.57	3.36	6.26	680	68
Warrior	1	34	91.2	88.2	306	92	.	.	.	.	152	1.65	.	.	1.65	91.18	3.01	4.96	.	.
Weiss	15	314	85.0	36.0	2731	924	100.0	0.0	0.0	96	1937	2.10	16	0	2.10	85.03	3.38	7.09	171	17
Wheeler	31	1245	88.8	58.6	10423	4690	92.9	2.0	5.1	98	10997	2.34	66	1	2.34	88.84	4.50	10.55	101	10
Wilson	14	256	87.1	55.5	2166	878	91.1	0.3	8.7	98	1969	2.24	20	0	2.24	87.11	4.05	9.09	91	9
West Point	16	247	88.3	30.8	2239	756	.	.	.	91	1106	1.46	7	0	1.46	88.26	3.38	4.94	320	32
Yates	1	7	100.0	57.1	70	27	.	.	.	100	52	1.93	0	0	1.93	100.00	3.86	7.46	.	.
Grand Total	457	13011	82.7	40.5	116295	38784	57.5	41.5	1.0	97	86260	2.12	553	22	2.12	82.67	3.51	7.42	189	19

^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 2013 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	Harris	Guntersville	Harris	Wheeler	Guntersville	Wheeler	87
2	Martin	Lay	Wheeler	Millers Ferry	Wilson	Millers Ferry	79
3	Demopolis	Eufaula	Millers Ferry	Wilson	Wheeler	Wilson	77
4	Harding	Wheeler	Martin	Guntersville	Pickwick	Demopolis	73
5	Jordan	Wilson	Wilson	Lay	Demopolis	Pickwick	70
6	Jones Bluff	Pickwick	Pickwick	Martin	Millers Ferry	Martin	67
7	Millers Ferry	Weiss	Jones Bluff	Demopolis	Eufaula	Jones Bluff	63
8	Wheeler	Millers Ferry	Demopolis	Jones Bluff	Weiss	Guntersville	61
9	West Point	Demopolis	Harding	Pickwick	Jones Bluff	Harris	55
10	Pickwick	Neely Henry	Jordan	Jordan	Lay	Lay	51
11	Logan Martin	Jordan	Logan Martin	Neely Henry	Martin	Jordan	49
12	Neely Henry	Jones Bluff	Neely Henry	Weiss	Harding	Weiss	47
13	Wilson	Smith	Mobile Delta	Harris	West Point	Neely Henry	46
14	Smith	Mitchell	Mitchell	Logan Martin	Neely Henry	Eufaula	41
15	Mitchell	Martin	Weiss	Eufaula	Logan Martin	Harding	41
16	Weiss	Logan Martin	West Point	Mitchell	Smith	Logan Martin	38
17	Mobile Delta	Mobile Delta	Smith	Smith	Harris	West Point	28
18	Guntersville	Harris	Lay	Mobile Delta	Mitchell	Smith	28
19	Lay	West Point	Eufaula	Harding	Mobile Delta	Mitchell	28
20	Eufaula	Harding	Guntersville	West Point	Jordan	Mobile Delta	21

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2013 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	12	128	74.2	23.4	1145	300	18.3	81.7	0.0	97	581	1.94	1	0	3.89	74.22	2.62	5.07	1145	115
2	10	75	82.7	38.7	671	222	86.3	13.7	0.0	89	312	1.41	0	0	2.49	82.67	3.31	4.65	.	.
3	5	486	89.5	28.4	4800	1489	.	.	.	100	2891	1.94	12	1	5.86	89.51	3.10	6.02	400	40
4	6	1442	68.6	29.3	11536	3840	96.2	3.8	0.1	99	10211	2.66	72	8	8.79	68.59	3.33	8.85	160	16
5	15	291	75.9	44.7	2676	933	.	.	.	97	2345	2.51	23	0	5.65	75.95	3.49	8.77	116	12
6	1	10	70.0	10.0	70	14	.	.	.	57	22	1.58	0	0	3.50	70.00	2.00	3.15	.	.
7	10	80	80.0	13.8	674	180	74.3	25.7	0.0	54	263	1.46	1	0	3.12	80.00	2.67	3.90	674	67
8	4	726	87.3	38.2	6459	2182	23.3	76.7	0.0	100	4089	1.87	10	0	5.60	87.33	3.38	6.33	646	65
9	3	502	86.9	59.4	4121	1530	8.5	91.5	0.0	99	3389	2.22	10	1	6.60	86.85	3.71	8.22	412	41
10	9	119	80.7	59.7	994	424	89.9	10.1	0.0	99	1114	2.63	19	0	5.47	80.67	4.26	11.20	52	5
11	12	158	74.7	17.7	1311	367	89.8	0.6	9.6	98	703	1.92	6	0	4.41	74.68	2.80	5.36	219	22
12	7	123	93.5	36.6	1236	453	.	.	.	98	671	1.48	0	0	3.43	93.50	3.67	5.43	.	.
13	1	210	90.0	41.0	1680	650	.	.	3.9	99	1524	2.35	20	0	6.67	90.00	3.87	9.07	84	8
14	13	88	90.9	39.8	821	311	64.1	32.0	.	100	690	2.22	10	0	4.97	90.91	3.79	8.40	82	8
15	8	43	81.4	48.8	385	135	.	50.8	.	97	232	1.72	6	0	3.91	81.40	3.51	6.04	64	6
16	2	51	86.3	60.8	471	183	49.2	5.2	0.0	99	481	2.63	6	0	6.28	86.28	3.89	10.23	78	8
17	1	68	30.9	25.0	748	97	94.8	5.2	0.0	97	264	2.72	3	0	7.31	30.88	1.30	3.53	249	25
18	1	19	78.9	68.4	152	69	.	.	.	100	107	1.54	0	0	3.50	78.95	4.54	7.01	.	.
19	1	110	62.7	22.7	908	193	.	.	.	100	702	3.64	10	3	9.02	62.73	2.13	7.74	91	9
20	11	174	77.6	29.9	1612	527	97.0	1.3	1.8	97	1077	2.04	12	0	5.76	77.59	3.27	6.68	134	13
21	1	19	73.7	73.7	171	70	88.6	4.3	7.1	99	204	2.92	1	0	5.26	73.68	4.09	11.95	171	17
22	2	23	95.7	82.6	165	103	84.4	15.6	0.0	100	201	1.95	1	0	5.91	95.65	6.24	12.15	165	17
23	1	12	83.3	83.3	108	50	90.0	10.0	0.0	100	126	2.53	2	0	5.87	83.33	4.63	11.71	54	5
24	2	83	73.5	53.0	664	259	.	.	.	86	664	2.56	13	0	6.23	73.49	3.90	10.00	51	5
25	4	176	87.5	34.7	1408	518	.	.	.	.	949	1.83	1	0	4.38	87.50	3.68	6.74	1408	141
26	13	132	93.2	37.9	1184	410	.	.	.	97	574	1.40	1	0	2.98	93.18	3.46	4.85	1184	118
27	6	538	80.7	16.7	4304	1201	.	.	.	.	3383	2.82	.	.	.	80.67	2.79	7.86	.	.
28	8	48	97.9	45.8	460	172	.	.	.	94	238	1.38	0	0	2.86	97.92	3.74	5.17	.	36
29	2	38	86.8	50.0	361	133	.	.	.	98	239	1.80	1	0	5.27	86.84	3.68	6.63	361	.
30	11	207	75.8	30.9	1701	615	.	.	.	98	1001	1.63	0	0	4.15	75.85	3.62	5.88	.	.
31	1	139	61.9	31.7	1112	354	.	.	.	96	935	2.64	28	0	6.23	61.87	3.18	8.40	40	4
32	2	325	85.2	28.0	2757	880	.	.	.	99	2115	2.40	14	1	7.07	85.23	3.19	7.67	197	20
33	9	149	79.9	34.2	1347	470	.	.	.	98	1118	2.38	10	0	5.58	79.87	3.49	8.30	135	13
34	1	34	97.1	97.1	272	165	97.6	0.0	2.4	100	425	2.58	5	0	6.69	97.06	6.07	15.63	54	5
35	1	6	66.7	0.0	51	8	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	26	3.20	1	0	5.63	66.67	1.57	5.02	51	5

^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 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.
36	1	13	69.2	23.1	117	31	100.0	0.0	0.0	94	77	2.49	0	0	2.49	69.23	2.65	6.61	.	.
37	3	68	86.8	17.6	736	212	.	.	.	100	363	1.71	0	0	1.71	86.77	2.88	4.93	.	.
38	2	25	100.0	68.0	290	145	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	336	2.32	5	1	2.32	100.00	5.00	11.60	58	6
39	6	81	81.5	46.9	616	262	.	.	.	97	603	2.30	10	1	2.30	91.48	4.25	9.78	62	6
40	1	15	93.3	33.3	120	53	.	.	.	100	76	1.43	0	0	1.43	93.33	4.42	6.32	.	.
41	1	90	80.0	43.3	675	281	.	.	.	94	505	1.80	1	0	1.80	80.00	4.16	7.48	675	68
42	2	91	96.7	17.6	1456	391	.	.	.	93	834	2.13	4	0	2.13	96.70	2.69	5.73	364	36
43	1	114	87.7	54.4	2052	428	.	.	.	99	721	1.69	0	0	1.69	87.72	2.09	3.51	.	.
44	1	26	100.0	84.6	234	117	.	.	.	100	182	1.55	0	0	1.55	100.00	5.00	7.76	.	.
45	8	532	78.9	64.5	4788	1928	.	.	.	100	3328	1.73	12	0	1.73	78.95	4.03	6.95	399	40
46	7	462	86.1	70.6	3927	1863	.	.	.	97	3091	1.66	4	0	1.66	86.15	4.74	7.87	982	98
47	4	90	86.7	67.8	808	360	.	.	.	89	579	1.61	1	0	1.61	86.67	4.46	7.18	808	81
48	1	51	90.2	29.4	485	183	.	.	.	99	285	1.56	1	0	1.56	90.20	3.78	5.89	485	48
49	2	130	83.8	60.0	1105	511	.	.	.	100	1375	2.69	19	0	2.69	83.85	4.62	12.45	58	6
50	11	89	83.1	22.5	741	243	.	.	.	97	432	1.78	3	0	1.78	83.15	3.28	5.83	247	25
51	9	194	89.2	71.6	1552	709	.	.	.	97	1982	2.80	33	1	2.80	89.18	4.57	12.77	47	5
52	6	412	95.4	74.0	3316	1772	.	.	.	98	4426	2.50	.	0	2.50	95.39	5.34	13.35	.	.
53	2	55	100.0	90.9	413	264	.	.	.	100	703	2.66	.	.	2.66	100.00	6.40	17.05	.	.
54	9	277	88.1	70.8	2493	936	.	.	.	.	1805	1.93	.	.	1.93	88.09	3.75	7.24	.	.
55	11	336	77.1	35.1	2964	858	.	.	.	88	1962	2.29	22	1	2.29	77.08	2.89	6.62	135	13
56	3	22	90.9	22.7	198	66	.	.	.	100	131	1.98	1	0	1.98	90.91	3.33	6.61	198	20
57	8	78	88.5	42.3	624	240	.	.	.	98	420	1.75	4	0	1.75	88.46	3.85	6.72	156	16
58	4	56	78.6	58.9	533	198	92.4	0.0	7.6	100	419	2.11	2	0	2.11	78.57	3.71	7.85	267	27
59	13	109	94.5	53.2	1250	443	89.9	5.6	4.5	98	829	1.87	2	0	1.87	94.50	3.54	6.64	530	53
60	6	77	87.0	71.4	616	307	.	.	.	99	630	2.05	4	0	2.05	87.01	4.98	10.22	154	15
61	1	16	87.5	62.5	160	67	.	.	.	99	148	2.20	1	0	2.20	87.50	4.19	9.23	160	16
62	1	19	84.2	68.4	171	74	.	.	.	100	169	2.29	0	0	2.29	84.21	4.33	9.89	.	.
63	8	31	93.5	74.2	306	133	.	.	.	98	244	1.83	1	0	1.83	93.55	4.35	7.97	306	31
64	97	1652	86.0	28.8	16741	5219	93.1	6.4	0.6	94	10087	1.93	69	1	1.93	85.96	3.12	6.03	234	23
65	20	671	.	26.1	5704	.	.	.	.	.	3897	.	51	3	.	.	.	6.83	112	11
66	12	297	93.6	37.0	2574	983	.	.	.	100	1755	1.79	4	0	1.79	93.60	3.82	6.82	537	54
Grand Total	457	13011	82.7	40.5	116295	38784	57.5	41.5	1.0	97	86260	2.12	553	22	4.90	82.67	3.51	7.42	189	19

^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 4. Clubs supporting the 2013 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
ABA Central Alabama Couples	68 Woodbury Drive	Sterrett	AL	35147	Mark and Amy Shannon	205-678-7944
ABA Couples Trail	PO Box 475	Athens	AL	35612	John Brannen	256-679-8278
Alabama Association of General Contractors	5000 Grantswood Road	Irondale	AL	35210	Johnny Rouse	205-451-1400
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	605 Farr Circle	Birmingham	AL	35226	William Gordon	850-982-5214
Alabama Bass Federation	1263 County Road 85	Prattville	AL	36067	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
AL-TN Bass Club	45 Edwards Dr.	Lawrenceburg	TN	38464	Jonathan Edwards	931-762-5531
Ambassadors Bass Club	12134 Yancey Glen Drive	Mobile	AL	36695	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
American Bass Anglers Div. 12	167 Kristie Lane	Tyrone	GA	30290	Deacon Collins	404-862-4233
Athens/Limestone Habitat for Humanity	PO Box 217	Athens	AL	35612	Amanda Garlen	256-230-6001
Bassmaster Weekend Series	PO Box 475	Athens	AL	35612	Evan Boutwell	256-232-0406
Bassmaster Weekend Series (TN-East)	PO Box 475	Athens	AL	35612	Billy Benedetti	256-230-5632
Bassmaster Weekend Series AL-South Div	PO Box 475	Athens	AL	35612	Billy Benedetti	256-230-5632
Bassmasters of North Alabama	5750 Hwy 72	Killen	AL	35645	Joey Meares	256-577-6492
Bay Area Bassmasters	29650 Co. Rd. 87	Robertsdale	AL	36567	Joe Barnett	251-931-3025
Beimont Bass Anglers	128 CR 1	Dennis	MS	38838	Seth Thomas	662-416-8613
BFL Barna Division	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Daniel Fennel	270-210-6133
BFL Regional	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Mark McWha	270-703-9551
Big River Bass Trail	8900 Tanner Williams Rd.	Mobile	AL	36608	Andy Elsworth	251-605-3073
Birmingham Bassmasters	13784 Dianne Dr.	McCalla	AL	35111	Mike Linn	205-527-3066
Bluff City Bassmasters	501 Five Mile Rd.	Eufaula	AL	36027	Jim Howard	334-616-6956
Cleanova Bassmasters	8116 Old Pascagoula Rd.	Theodore	AL	36582	Wesley Flesher	251-653-7743
Cullman Bassmasters	8570 Herring Lane	Trussville	AL	35173	Chad Durden	205-281-2030
Dekalb Bassmasters	5109 Anderson Dr NE	Ft Payne	AL	35967	Stan Blevins	256-996-6984
Dixie Bass Trail	122 Ennis St.	Saraland	AL	36571	Ernest Rachel	251-599-3727
East Walker Bass Anglers	546 Phillips Ridge Road	Empire	AL	35063	Seth Skalink	205-601-4210
Etowah Angler Bass Club	712 Church Rd	Gadsden	AL	35904	David Stephens	256-546-2798
Eufaula Bass Trail	210 Arrowhead Ln.	Fort Gaines	GA	39851	Rick Sacco	229-854-0606
Fayette Bass Club	10991 Hwy 13 N	Bankston	AL	35542	Todd Tucker	256-301-4501
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	901-G Wimberly Dr. SW	Decatur	AL	35603	Roger Boswell	251-455-7404
Fish N Fever Trail	566 Barcelona Dr.	Satsuma	AL	36572	Wayne Miller	251-867-7706
Fishers of Men - South Ala.	1721 Sowell Rd.	Brewton	AL	36426	Allen Couch	205-243-4572
Fishlife Bass Tour	PO Box 185	Warrior	AL	35180	Jody Harrison	334-858-3765
Flora High School	22114 Begonia St	Flora	AL	36442	Joy Colvin	270-252-1592
FLW	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
FLW College Fishing Southeastern Conference	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
FLW Outdoors	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Leroy Hensley	270-252-1589
FLW Tour in Lake Wheeler Tour	30 Gamble Lane	Benton	KY	42025	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
FOM Alabama South	1721 Sowell St	Brewton	AL	36426	Allen Couch	251-867-9852
FOM Alabama South, Legacy	1721 Sowell St	Brewton	AL	36426	Allen Couch	251-867-9852

Table 4. Cont'd.

Club Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code	Representative	Phone
Georgia Bass Federation	Biology Dept., 1601 Maple St.	Carrollton	GA	30118	Dr. Carl Quettermus	678-839-4035
Gilbertown Bass Club	P.O. Box 183	Gilbertown	AL	36908	Mike Thorn	251-843-2668
Hillcrest Bass Club	630 Roxie Ave.	Oxford	AL	36203	Clyde Abernathy	256-835-9412
Hub City Bassmasters	2340 6th Street	Floral	AL	36442	Evan Robins	334-804-8277
Keystone Foods	2281 Steele Station Rd.	Gadsden	AL	35906	Laurel Hale	256-413-6800
Kowaliga	474 N. Ann Ave.	Tallassee	AL	36078	Hank Golden	334-283-6117
Lake Guntersville Bassmasters	3480 Little Dr SW	Hartselle	AL	35640	Pete Pinkerton	530-604-2215
Lee King Tourney	1844 N. Eufaula Ave.	Eufaula	AL	36027	Sam Williams	334-355-5057
Miss. Div. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	1505 Eastover Dr.	Jackson	MS	39211	Larry Pugh	601-432-2200
Mobile Bass Association	12134 Yancey Glen Drive	Mobile	AL	36695	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
Mobile Bassmasters	4951 Government Blvd.	Mobile	AL	36693	Bob Steele	251-661-9600
Mobile Boat Show Bass Tournament	566 Barcelona Dr.	Satsuma	AL	36572	Wayne Miller	251-455-7404
National Bass Trail (GAVAL)	979 Kennon Dr.	Cataula	GA	31804	Blaine Souerwine	706-577-6874
North Alabama Tournament Anglers	24963 Lisa Dr.	Athens	AL	35613	Stan Sherrod	256-230-0081
Outcast Bass Club	6056 Nutmeg Ave	Pace	FL	32571	Lisa Cox	850-232-5919
Pensacola Hawg Hunters Bass Club	5680 Muldoon Rd	Pensacola	FL	32526	William Myrick	850-456-6860
R.L. Harris Tournament Trail	PO Box 134	Lineville	AL	36266	Jackson Bonner	256-343-4796
Radical Tackle	4215 Jimmy Lee Smith Pkwy Unit 1	Hiram	GA	30141	Christie Lester	678-567-1211
Rocket City Bass Busters	100 Shawnee Dr. NW	Huntsville	AL	35806	Joanthan Manteuffel	
Rumbling Waters B.A.S.S. Club	217 Woodland Drive	Eclectic	AL	36024	Tony Gamble	615-230-0394
Senior Bass Anglers	1066 Bradley Rd.	Gallatin	TN	37066	Cheryl Turner	251-402-0727
Seniors Bass Club	747 Lakeside Dr.	Mobile	AL	36693	Jimmy Sims	251-605-3073
Southern Masters	12134 Yancey Glen Drive	Mobile	AL	36695	Robin Clark	205-470-9752
The Masters Bass Club	Hwy. 150	Hoover	AL		Greg Caldwell	918-742-6424
Toyota Bonus Bucks Owners Tourney	4860 S. Lewis Ave.	Tulsa	OK	74105	Lance Peck	256-230-5632
Toyota Tundra Bassmasters Wkend American	901 South Jefferson St	Athens	AL	35612	Billy Benedetti	205-364-8530
West Alabama Bass Fishermans Assn.	P.O. Box 210	Gordo	AL	35466	Jeff Gilliam	

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2013 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	14	180	84.4	33.9	1678	586	43.9	56.1	0.0	99	995	1.70	3	0	1.70	84.44	3.49	5.93	559	56
FEB	35	1569	80.5	36.7	14083	4249	58.6	41.4	0.0	99	9509	2.18	68	6	2.18	80.48	3.08	6.75	204	20
MAR	56	2285	83.7	36.1	20478	6444	25.8	74.1	0.0	99	14548	2.20	114	7	2.20	83.71	3.24	7.10	177	18
APR	55	1882	76.8	40.9	16158	5477	67.8	31.8	0.4	99	13044	2.29	84	2	2.29	76.75	3.55	8.07	188	19
MAY	47	1601	86.0	55.4	13877	5744	85.1	13.2	1.8	97	13961	2.37	67	2	2.37	85.98	4.26	10.06	140	14
JUN	48	1217	80.7	50.0	10687	4073	87.0	7.0	6.0	96	8759	2.07	81	1	2.07	80.70	3.96	8.20	129	13
JUL	34	654	82.9	51.1	5578	1969	92.0	2.1	5.9	91	3830	1.83	34	0	1.83	82.90	3.76	6.87	155	16
AUG	30	542	85.2	44.3	4664	1466	93.6	0.9	5.5	94	2852	1.70	10	0	1.70	85.17	3.60	6.12	439	44
SEP	48	1167	87.1	34.1	11498	3457	96.3	1.2	2.5	95	6993	1.87	34	0	1.87	87.14	3.25	6.08	329	33
OCT	48	1270	83.2	28.1	11717	3426	89.1	8.5	2.4	96	8086	2.20	34	3	2.20	83.18	3.14	6.90	193	19
NOV	24	395	86.1	35.7	3616	1224	96.6	0.0	3.4	98	2315	1.75	13	0	1.75	86.07	3.70	6.40	278	28
DEC	18	249	86.2	35.3	2264	669	96.4	0.0	3.6	99	1368	1.71	11	1	1.71	86.22	3.69	6.04	201	20
Grand Total	457	13011	82.7	40.5	116295	38784	57.5	41.5	1.0	97	86260	2.12	553	22	2.12	82.67	3.51	7.42	189	19

^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 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2013 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	1	8	87.5	52	19	.	.	.	100	36	1.89	0	0	4.48	3.65	6.89	.
	FEB	2	19	84.2	172	50	.	.	.	100	116	2.32	0	0	4.01	2.91	6.73	.
	MAR	19	466	79.0	4722	1145	76.9	23.1	0.0	99	2938	2.57	29	1	5.38	2.42	6.22	163
	APR	4	317	34.1	2752	719	94.8	5.2	0.0	99	1820	2.53	9	0	5.92	2.61	6.61	306
	MAY	1	11	54.5	88	9	.	.	.	100	20	2.27	0	0	4.14	1.02	2.32	.
	JUN	6	210	67.6	1850	560	.	.	.	95	1420	2.54	31	0	4.50	3.03	7.68	60
	JUL	2	52	61.5	424	147	.	.	.	85	369	2.51	9	0	5.72	3.47	8.70	47
	AUG	2	32	84.4	260	79	.	.	.	96	145	1.83	0	0	4.43	3.04	5.57	.
	SEP	5	146	91.8	1896	523	.	.	.	93	1079	2.06	7	0	5.34	2.76	5.69	271
	OCT	3	58	82.8	554	168	.	.	.	92	394	2.35	6	0	5.54	3.04	7.12	92
	NOV	4	55	81.8	585	237	.	.	.	98	456	1.93	5	0	5.85	4.05	7.81	117
	DEC	2	38	92.1	496	149	.	.	.	100	290	1.95	1	0	5.05	3.00	5.85	496
Guntersville	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	6	424	69.8	3416	809	95.7	4.3	0.0	100	2837	3.51	30	4	7.50	2.37	8.31	114
	MAR	4	163	65.6	1456	274	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	1004	3.66	21	4	7.56	1.88	6.90	69
	APR	8	410	82.9	3466	1075	96.5	3.4	0.1	100	3613	3.36	31	2	6.16	3.10	10.43	112
	MAY	10	230	79.1	2224	741	97.0	3.0	0.0	93	2327	3.14	40	1	6.96	3.33	10.47	45
	JUN	2	41	85.4	358	104	97.1	2.9	0.0	74	343	3.30	2	0	7.82	2.91	9.58	44
	JUL	3	68	86.8	612	183	96.2	3.8	0.0	51	585	3.20	11	0	6.13	2.99	9.56	56
	AUG	1	14	78.6	112	29	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	66	2.29	0	0	4.38	2.59	5.93	.
	SEP	5	63	77.8	570	145	99.3	0.7	0.0	99	379	2.62	3	0	5.31	2.55	6.66	190
	OCT	17	704	79.3	6095	1596	90.1	9.9	0.0	99	4457	2.79	16	2	6.42	2.62	7.31	73
	NOV	1	7	85.7	63	24	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	57	2.36	1	0	5.56	3.81	9.00	63
	DEC	1	9	66.7	77	17	94.1	0.0	5.9	100	50	2.94	0	0	4.56	2.22	6.54	.
Jordan	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	11	90.9	102	38	7.9	92.1	0.0	100	79	2.09	0	0	4.04	3.73	7.79	.
	MAR	3	54	77.8	472	151	14.3	85.7	0.0	81	326	2.16	1	0	5.07	3.20	6.91	472
	APR	4	203	93.6	1908	776	5.1	94.9	0.0	98	1480	1.91	1	0	4.32	4.07	7.76	1908
	MAY	2	19	94.7	182	80	.	.	.	98	141	1.76	0	0	3.30	4.40	7.72	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	1	8	62.5	48	14	.	.	.	86	31	2.18	0	0	3.80	2.92	6.36	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	2	36	91.7	312	100	.	.	.	99	173	1.73	0	0	3.97	3.21	5.54	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lay	JAN	1	9	77.8	83	25	28.0	72.0	0.0	100	63	2.53	0	0	4.37	3.00	7.59	.
	FEB	2	64	68.8	576	168	.	.	.	100	513	3.05	4	.	6.82	2.92	8.90	144
	MAR	3	217	77.4	1748	540	10.0	90.0	0.0	100	1461	2.71	9	1	6.39	3.09	8.36	194
	APR	1	4	100.0	40	12	.	.	.	100	30	2.52	.	0	5.76	3.00	7.57	.
	MAY	2	212	64.6	1696	572	.	.	.	98	1413	2.47	6	1	6.86	3.37	8.33	283
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	5	86	83.7	735	273	.	.	.	96	491	1.80	0	0	4.49	3.71	6.67	.
	OCT	2	31	80.6	279	79	.	.	.	100	180	2.27	2	0	7.72	2.83	6.44	140
	NOV	1	9	77.8	72	30	.	.	.	100	51	1.69	0	0	2.78	4.17	7.03	.
	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.
Logan Martin	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	15	86.7	105	47	.	.	.	100	106	2.26	0	0	4.75	4.48	10.11	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	6	87	86.2	730	313	.	.	.	99	620	1.98	2	0	4.64	4.29	8.50	365
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	4	25	100.0	275	138	71.4	28.6	0.0	96	248	1.80	1	0	3.78	5.03	9.03	275
	JUL	2	21	85.7	154	76	.	.	.	96	123	1.62	0	0	3.71	4.94	7.98	.
	AUG	5	105	88.6	945	324	.	.	.	91	555	1.71	2	0	4.36	3.43	5.87	473
	SEP	2	27	100.0	227	88	.	.	.	92	125	1.42	0	0	3.65	3.89	5.52	.
	OCT	3	66	80.3	724	203	.	.	.	100	305	1.50	0	0	3.02	2.81	4.22	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Martin	JAN	3	46	100.0	525	270	.	.	.	99	484	1.79	1	0	4.26	5.14	9.22	525
	FEB	5	447	91.9	3603	1513	10.0	90.0	0.0	100	2816	1.86	19	0	5.26	4.20	7.81	190
	MAR	2	120	100.0	1024	485	25.0	75.0	0.0	100	912	1.88	4	0	7.32	4.74	8.91	256
	APR	2	15	100.0	133	66	0.0	100.0	0.0	98	94	1.42	0	0	2.89	4.97	7.06	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	10	80.0	60	16	.	.	.	100	20	1.26	0	0	2.51	2.67	3.36	.
	SEP	2	22	77.3	208	77	.	.	.	97	163	2.11	0	0	4.54	3.70	7.82	.
	OCT	3	28	96.4	461	212	.	.	.	82	281	1.32	0	0	3.33	4.60	6.09	.
	NOV	1	20	80.0	160	46	.	.	.	100	56	1.21	0	0	3.68	2.88	3.47	.
	DEC	1	12	75.0	90	41	.	.	.	100	70	1.71	0	0	4.04	4.56	7.79	.
Mobile Delta	JAN	6	70	72.9	647	164	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	241	1.47	2	0	3.72	2.54	3.72	323
	FEB	9	412	81.8	4605	1283	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	2059	1.60	0	0	3.48	2.79	4.47	.
	MAR	4	97	87.6	839	367	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	550	1.50	0	0	3.39	4.37	6.56	.
	APR	6	112	81.3	1002	410	.	.	.	98	602	1.47	1	0	4.18	4.09	6.01	1002
	MAY	8	188	81.9	1647	683	100.0	0.0	0.0	97	1052	1.54	0	0	2.76	4.15	6.39	.
	JUN	10	244	81.6	2115	861	89.7	10.3	0.0	97	1422	1.65	5	0	4.11	4.07	6.73	423
	JUL	9	212	82.5	1876	756	.	.	.	98	1156	1.53	1	0	3.53	4.03	6.16	1876
	AUG	9	158	86.7	1383	578	.	.	.	93	875	1.51	1	0	3.43	4.18	6.33	1383
	SEP	9	138	79.7	1167	456	.	.	.	90	710	1.56	1	0	2.85	3.91	6.08	1167
	OCT	3	41	90.2	366	127	.	.	.	95	180	1.41	0	0	2.54	3.47	4.91	.
	NOV	4	86	93.0	787	328	.	.	.	93	505	1.54	1	0	3.95	4.17	6.42	787
	DEC	4	49	89.8	423	164	.	.	.	100	239	1.46	0	0	3.05	3.88	5.66	.
Millers Ferry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	11	90.9	88	25	.	.	.	100	44	1.77	1	0	5.25	2.84	5.04	88
	MAR	3	82	90.2	740	357	.	.	.	100	885	2.48	11	0	5.99	4.82	11.97	67
	APR	2	80	83.8	658	302	.	.	.	99	562	1.86	1	0	5.10	4.59	8.55	658
	MAY	1	16	100.0	160	49	.	.	.	100	64	1.31	0	0	3.15	3.06	4.02	.
	JUN	1	9	88.9	72	35	.	.	.	100	73	2.09	0	0	4.10	4.86	10.15	.
	JUL	2	18	100.0	150	75	.	.	.	99	127	1.69	2	0	4.82	5.00	8.45	75
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	16	87.5	160	67	.	.	.	99	148	2.20	1	0	6.44	4.19	9.23	160
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Mitchell	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	3	73	76.7	604	177	.	.	.	98	328	1.85	0	0	4.00	2.93	5.43	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	3	27	92.6	240	94	.	.	.	96	179	1.90	1	0	4.00	3.92	7.48	240
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	5	192	88.5	1552	585	.	.	.	99	1064	1.82	1	0	3.96	3.77	6.86	1552
	OCT	1	24	87.5	216	92	.	.	.	.	153	1.67	.	.	.	4.26	7.10	.
	NOV	2	24	79.2	207	59	.	.	.	100	116	1.97	0	0	3.95	2.85	5.63	.
	DEC	1	19	84.2	171	63	.	.	.	100	117	1.85	0	0	3.94	3.68	6.82	.
Neely Henry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	2	24	95.8	204	90	40.0	60.0	0.0	100	198	2.20	0	0	4.28	4.41	9.71	.
	MAY	1	157	89.2	1413	518	.	.	.	98	1114	2.15	4	0	6.00	3.67	7.89	353
	JUN	7	291	79.4	2503	1141	.	.	.	97	2172	1.90	8	1	4.83	4.56	8.68	313
	JUL	4	64	95.3	546	273	.	.	.	94	494	1.81	0	0	4.14	5.00	9.05	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	2	133	96.2	1995	453	.	.	.	99	856	1.89	2	0	4.97	2.27	4.29	998
	OCT	1	15	93.3	120	53	.	.	.	100	76	1.43	0	0	3.58	4.42	6.32	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Pickwick	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	59	88.9	515	85	.	.	.	.	434	2.06	5	1	11.83	3.50	8.43	54
	MAR	3	177	94.4	1451	408	.	.	.	100	1357	2.35	12	1	7.12	4.72	9.35	121
	APR	4	139	70.9	1187	161	.	.	.	100	880	2.36	7	0	5.99	3.40	7.42	170
	MAY	1	46	.	391	.	.	.	.	.	375	.	4	0	7.91	.	9.58	98
	JUN	3	77	100.0	670	143	92.9	0.0	7.1	97	610	2.10	9	0	6.24	5.13	9.11	74
	JUL	2	61	81.0	508	51	.	.	.	94	352	2.45	6	0	5.95	3.04	6.93	85
	AUG	4	112	85.7	973	108	85.7	0.0	14.3	100	560	1.90	5	0	5.50	2.86	5.75	141
	SEP	2	109	71.4	921	18	72.2	5.6	22.2	100	556	1.95	10	0	6.01	3.32	6.03	92
	OCT	6	126	97.0	1253	199	86.8	9.0	4.2	95	915	1.82	5	1	6.35	4.31	7.31	251
	NOV	3	50	78.6	432	43	93.0	0.0	7.0	100	258	2.00	3	0	5.49	3.41	5.96	144
	DEC	3	53	.	451	.	.	.	.	.	227	.	7	1	7.92	.	5.04	64
Weiss	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	13	46.2	98	10	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	37	3.66	3	.	6.49	1.03	3.75	33
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	2	21	81.0	168	37	.	.	.	100	64	1.73	0	0	4.24	2.20	3.80	.
	JUN	4	125	88.8	1114	402	.	.	.	91	834	2.07	3	0	5.23	3.61	7.48	371
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	35	71.4	287	86	.	.	.	100	184	2.14	2	0	5.07	3.00	6.42	143
	SEP	3	77	89.6	693	225	.	.	.	100	470	2.09	7	0	5.86	3.25	6.78	99
	OCT	1	10	90.0	85	44	.	.	.	100	114	2.60	1	0	5.33	5.18	13.46	85
	NOV	2	33	90.9	287	120	.	.	.	100	235	1.96	0	0	4.84	4.18	8.18	.
	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	2	48	58.3	408	86	.	.	.	100	278	3.23	8	1	7.16	2.11	6.80	51
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	4	273	89.4	2222	873	97.3	0.0	2.7	98	2055	2.35	28	0	6.18	3.93	9.25	79
	MAY	11	540	96.3	4473	2407	.	.	.	98	6110	2.54	8	0	6.16	5.38	13.66	93
	JUN	3	96	76.0	864	359	89.2	6.7	4.2	99	931	2.59	14	0	6.13	4.16	10.78	62
	JUL	3	68	79.4	544	171	86.4	0.0	13.6	97	271	1.59	4	0	4.35	3.14	4.99	136
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	2	108	83.3	819	362	.	.	.	94	661	1.83	2	0	5.22	4.42	8.07	410
	OCT	4	75	86.7	708	269	88.9	4.0	7.1	99	390	1.45	0	0	4.59	3.80	5.50	.
	NOV	2	37	86.5	386	163	98.0	0.0	2.0	100	301	1.85	2	0	5.22	4.22	7.80	193
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wilson	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	2	43	90.7	358	136	98.2	0.0	1.8	99	370	2.72	9	0	7.12	3.80	10.32	40
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	3	76	93.4	681	343	92.1	0.0	7.9	99	737	2.15	2	0	4.81	5.04	10.82	165
	JUN	3	49	91.8	407	144	81.9	0.0	18.1	94	331	2.30	5	0	5.44	3.54	8.14	81
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	3	45	88.9	381	159	93.2	1.7	5.1	97	299	1.88	0	0	4.70	4.17	7.85	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	17	100.0	136	75	.	.	.	100	184	2.46	3	0	7.19	5.51	13.56	45
	NOV	1	16	50.0	128	10	90.0	0.0	10.0	100	20	2.02	0	0	3.94	0.78	1.58	.
	DEC	1	10	30.0	75	11	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	27	2.46	1	0	5.80	1.47	3.60	75
West Point	JAN	1	27	100.0	216	71	.	.	.	99	110	1.55	0	0	4.25	3.29	5.09	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	3	43	81.4	344	97	.	.	.	80	147	1.52	2	0	4.98	2.82	4.28	172
	APR	3	55	89.1	467	155	.	.	.	88	214	1.38	1	0	4.21	3.32	4.59	467
	MAY	1	11	90.9	88	31	.	.	.	97	42	1.37	0	0	4.56	3.52	4.82	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	3	34	85.3	292	100	.	.	.	82	123	1.23	1	0	4.45	3.43	4.24	292
	AUG	1	11	45.5	88	18	.	.	.	100	28	1.55	0	0	4.31	2.05	3.16	.
	SEP	2	16	87.5	248	82	.	.	.	89	122	1.48	0	0	3.71	3.31	4.91	.
	OCT	1	42	97.6	432	170	.	.	.	98	240	1.41	1	0	4.52	3.94	5.56	432
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	8	100.0	64	32	.	.	.	100	79	2.47	2	0	5.99	5.00	12.34	32

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

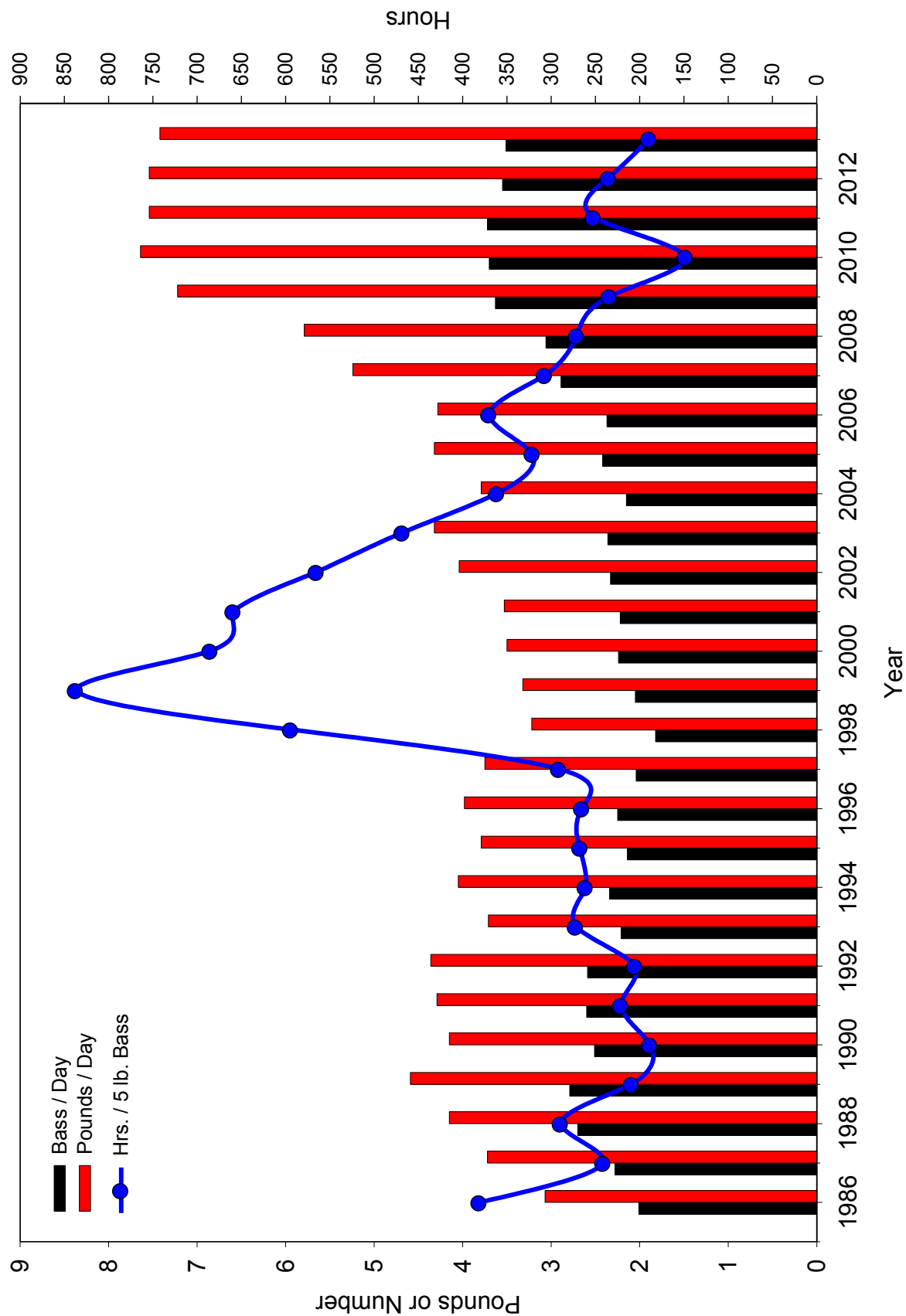


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments, 1986 - 2013.

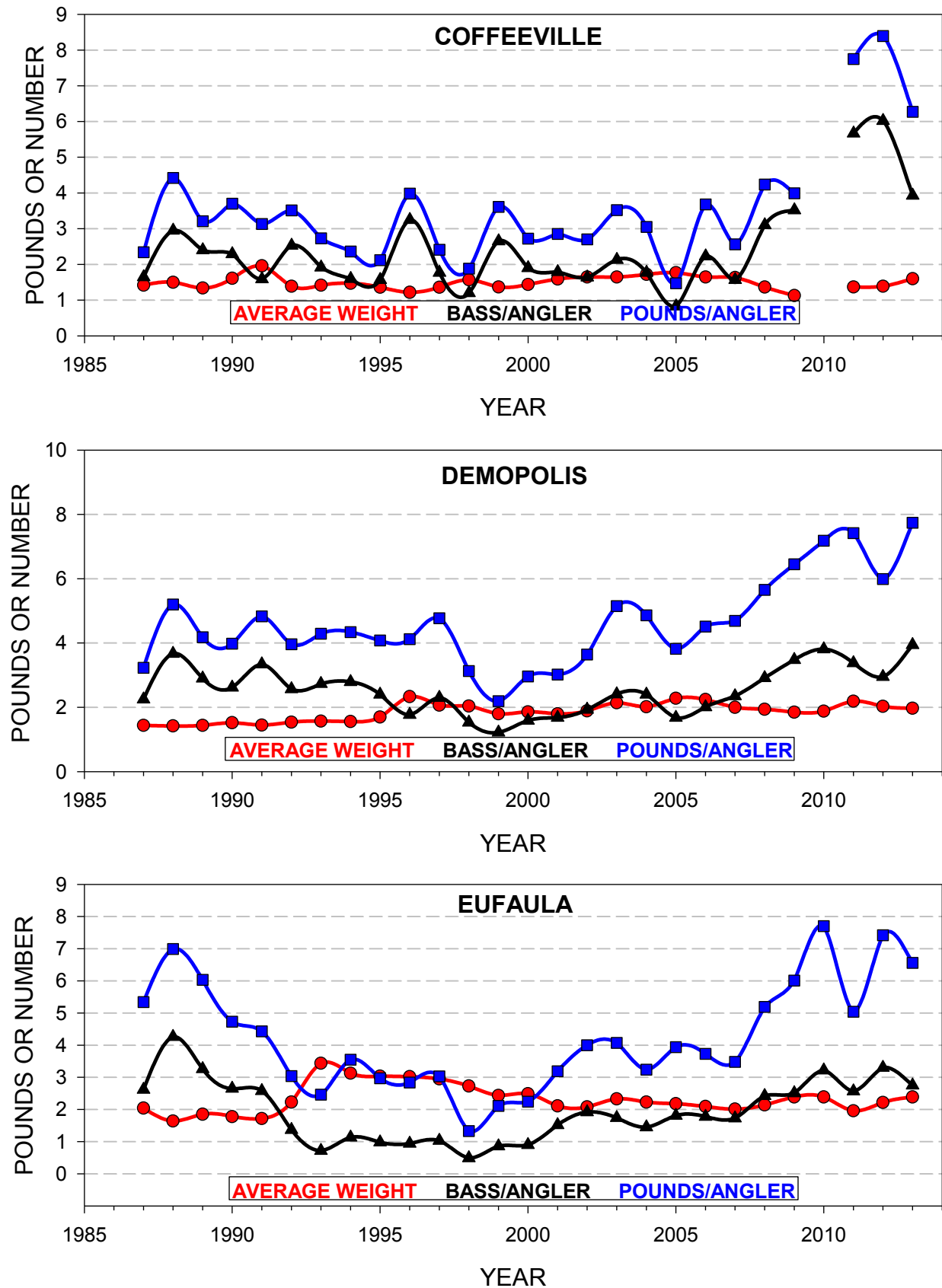


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeeville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2013.

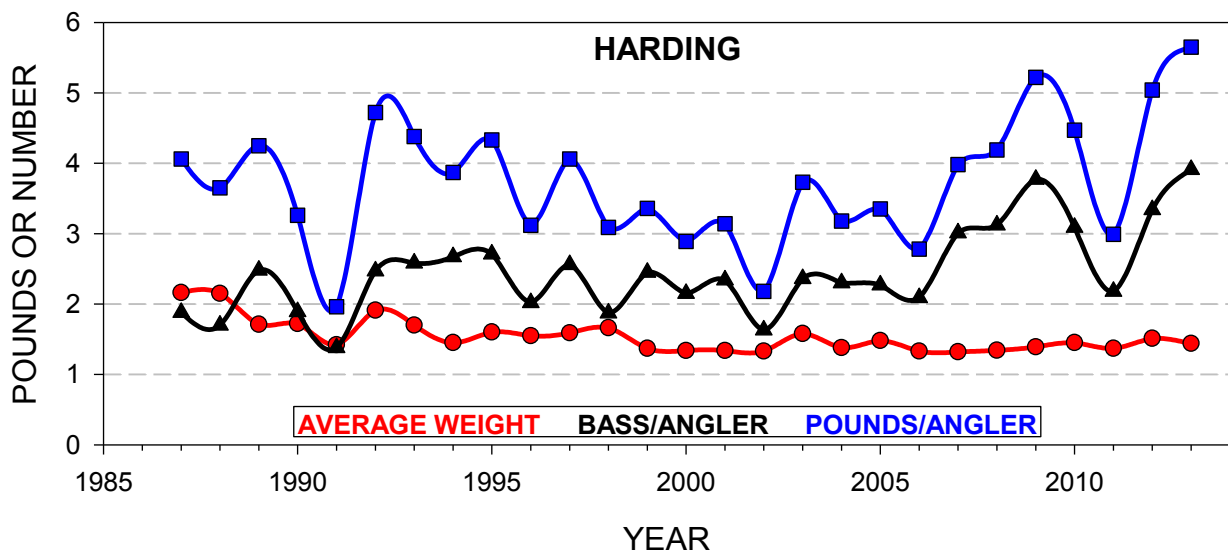
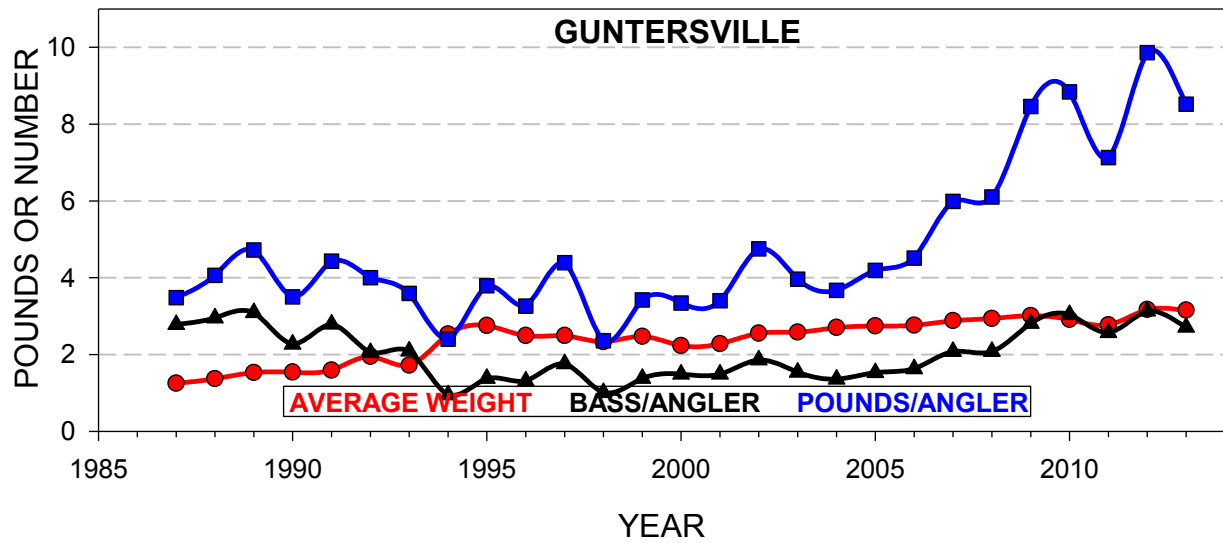
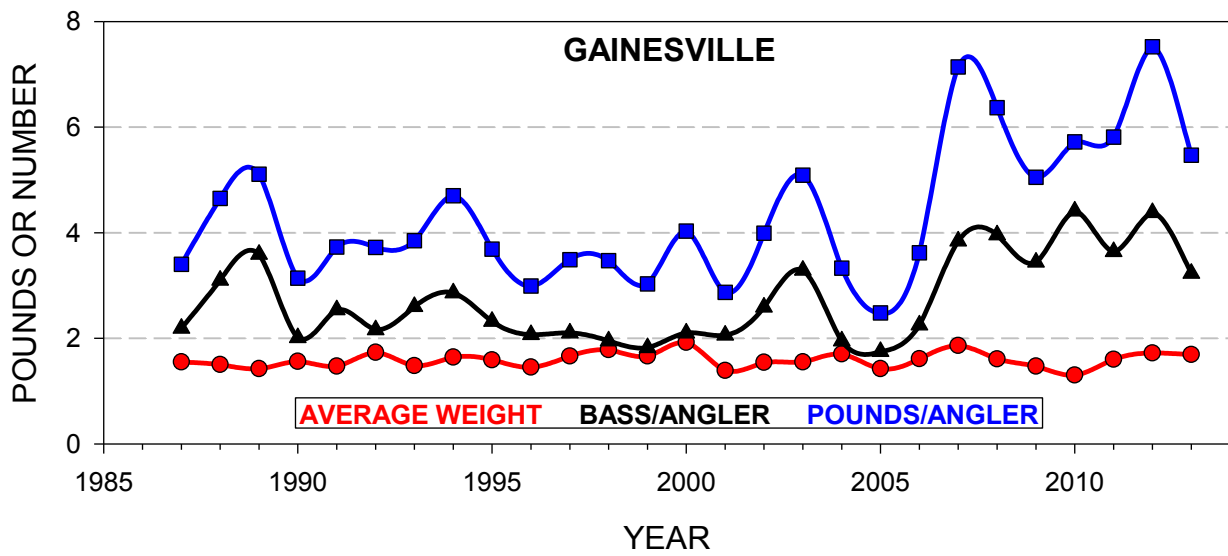


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Guntersville, and Harding, through 2013.

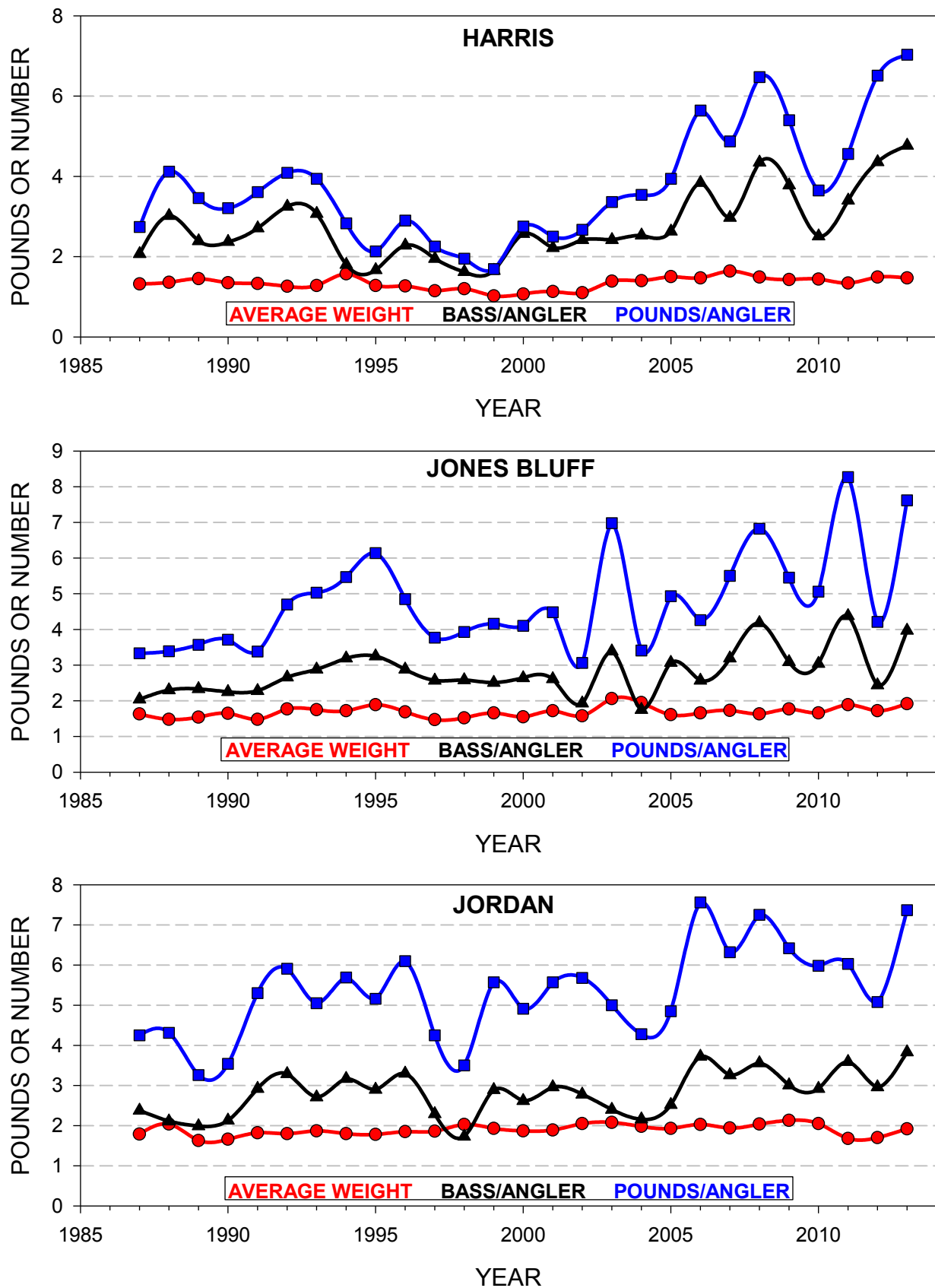


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2013.

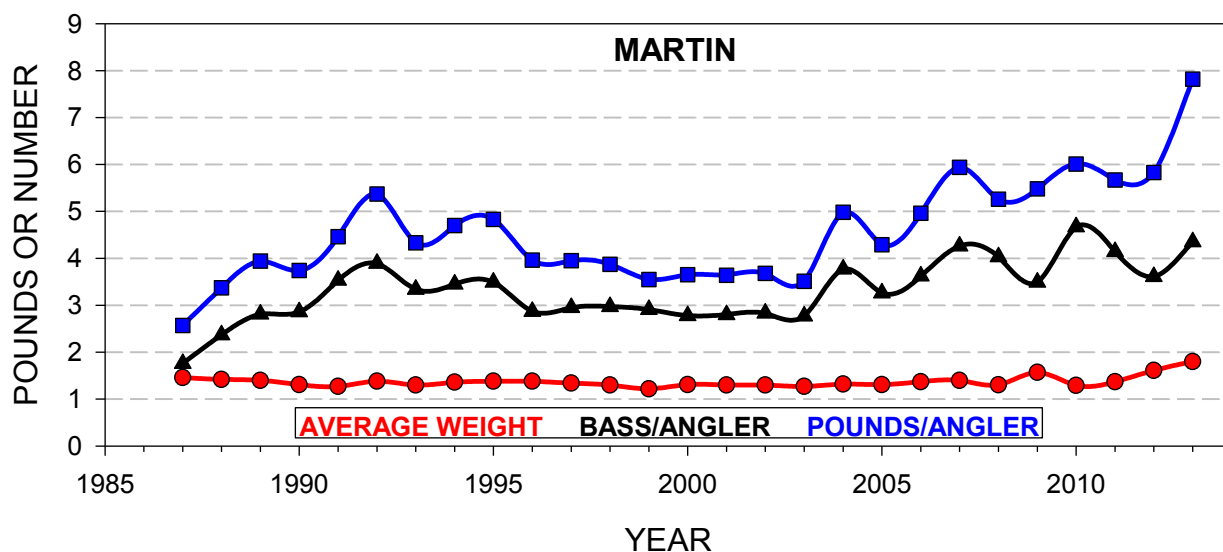
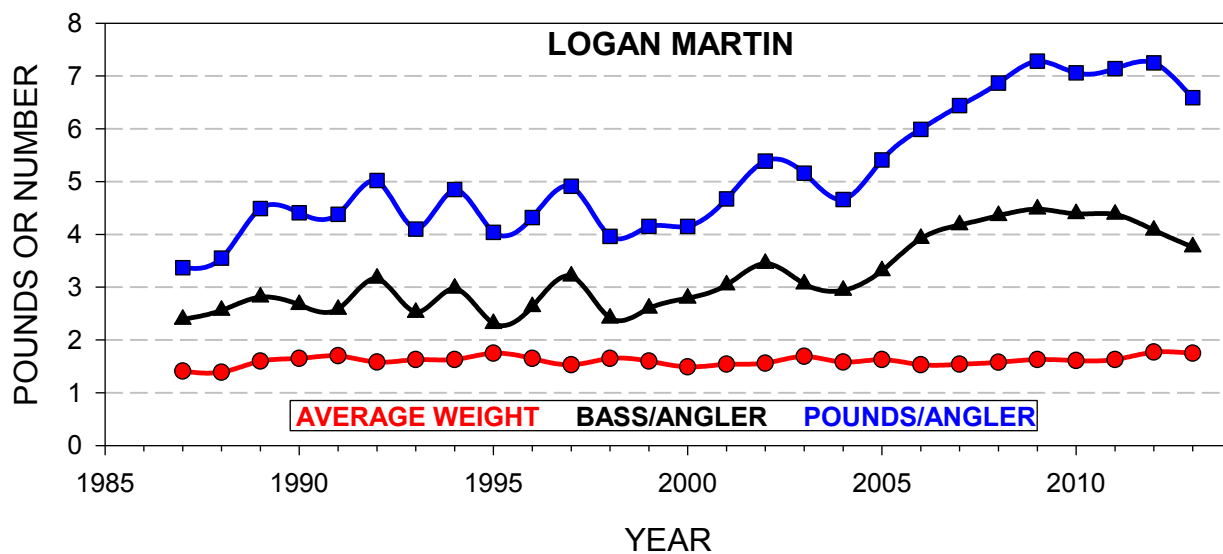
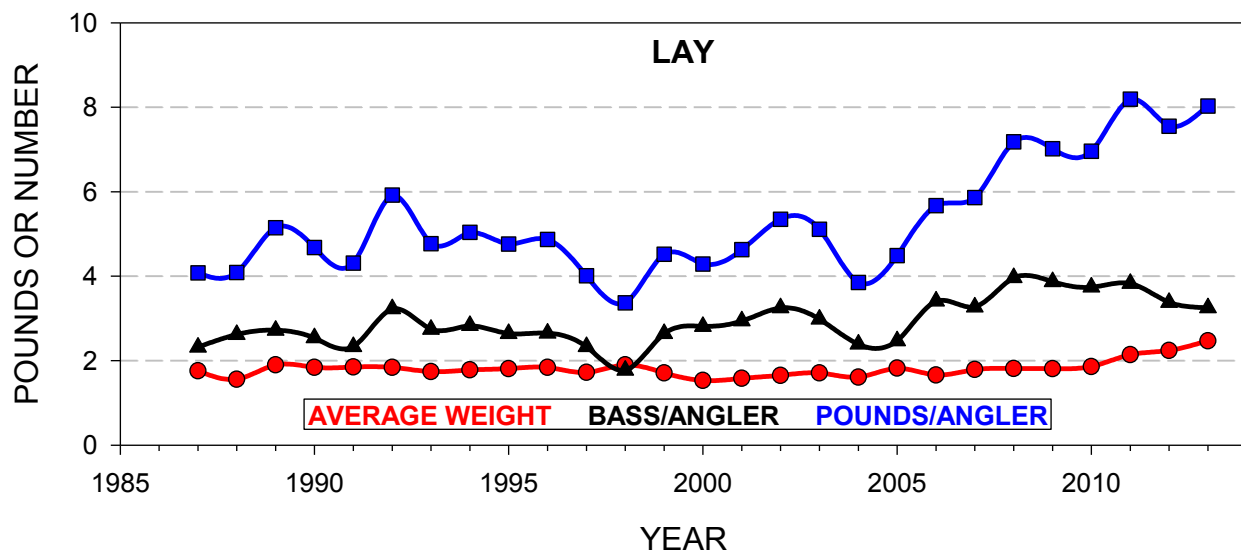


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2013.

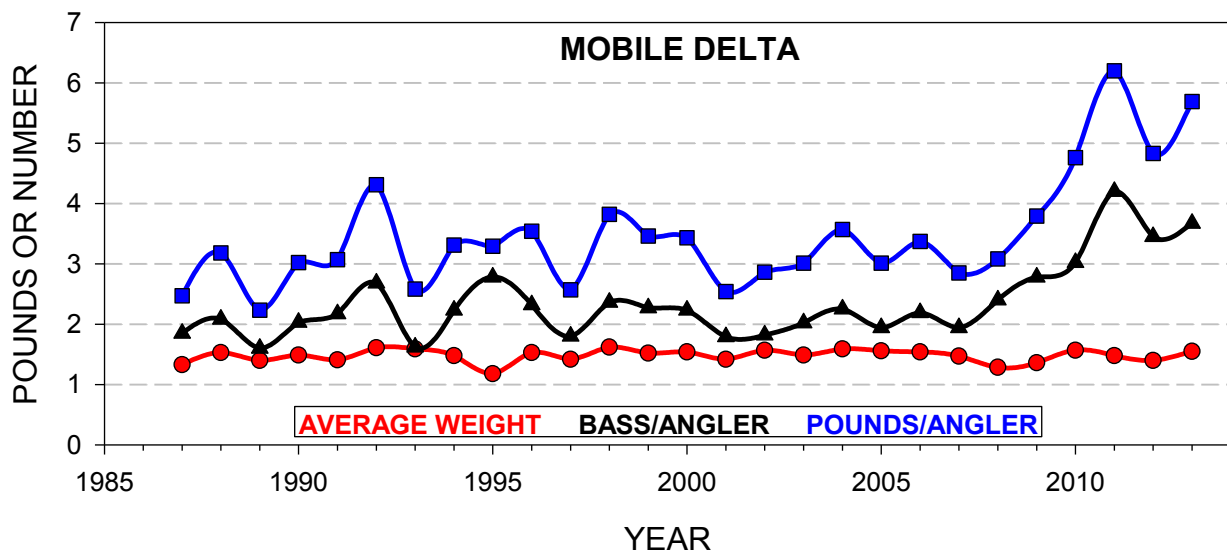
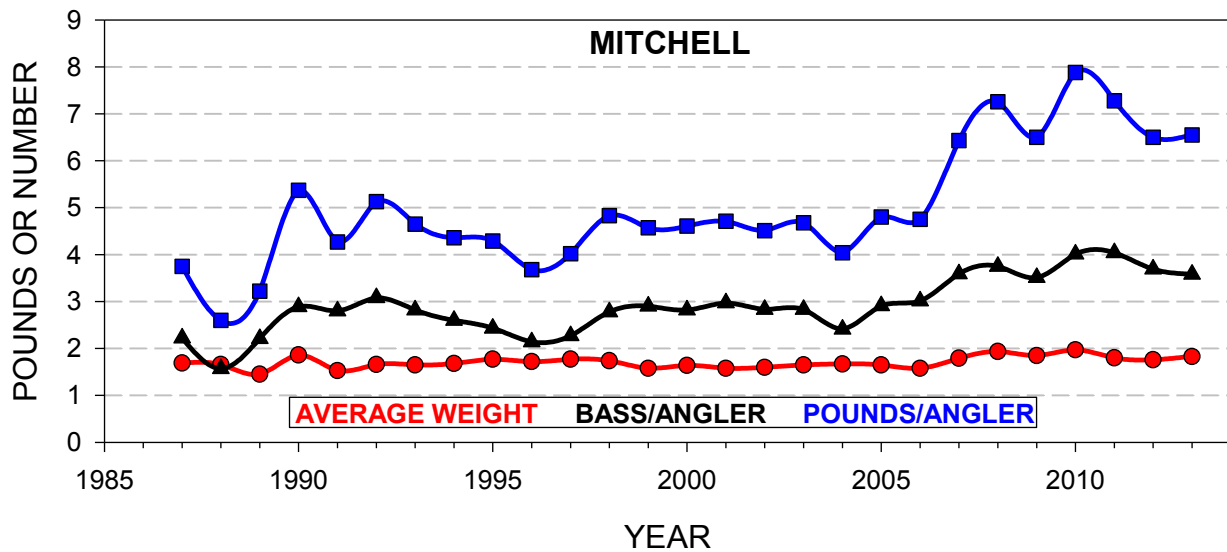
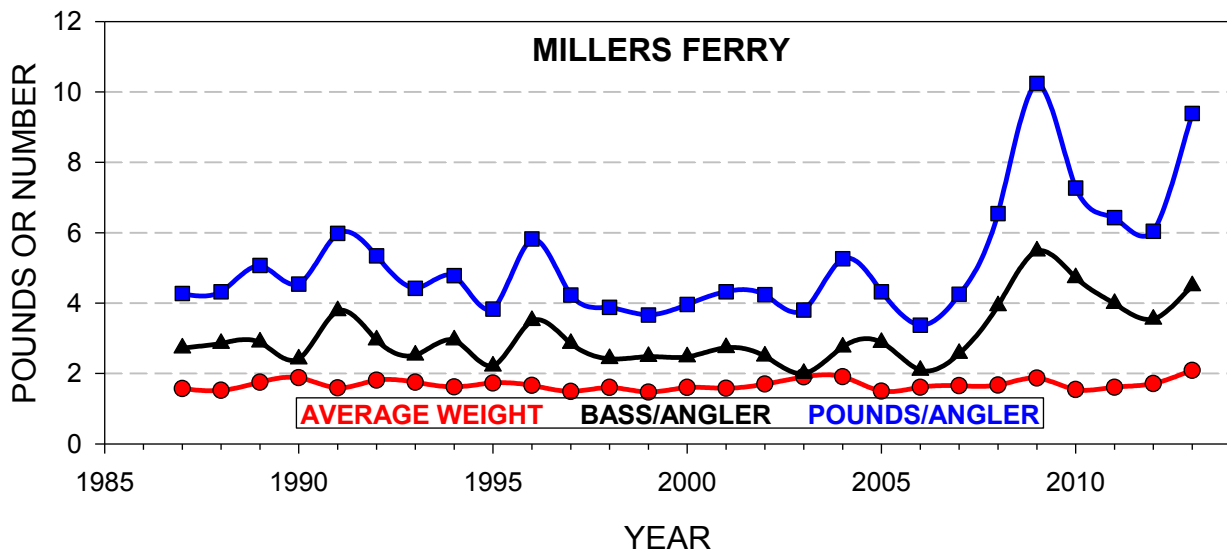


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2013.

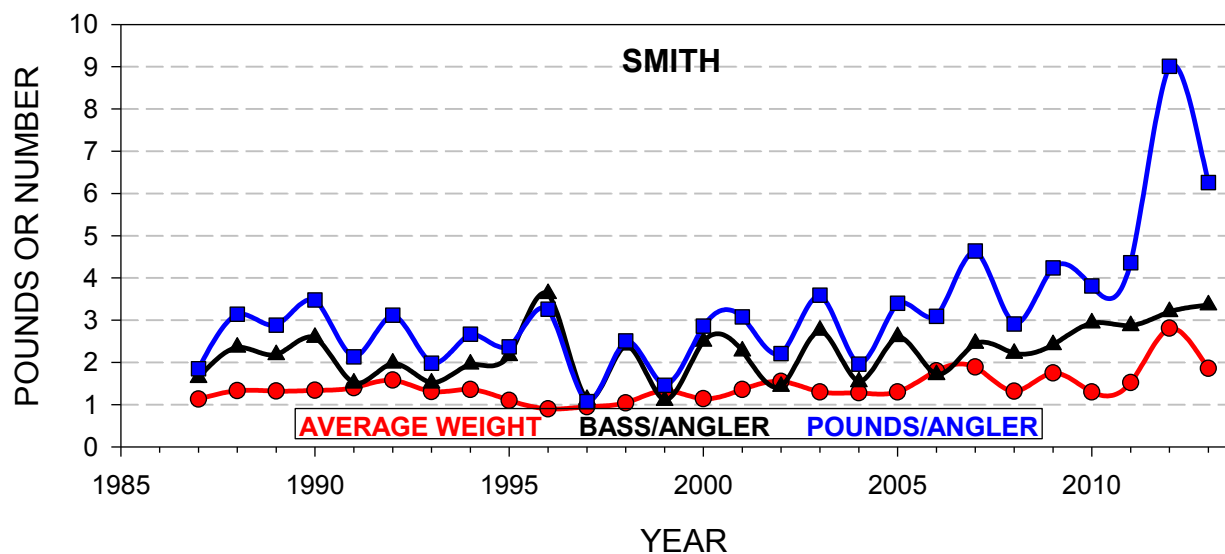
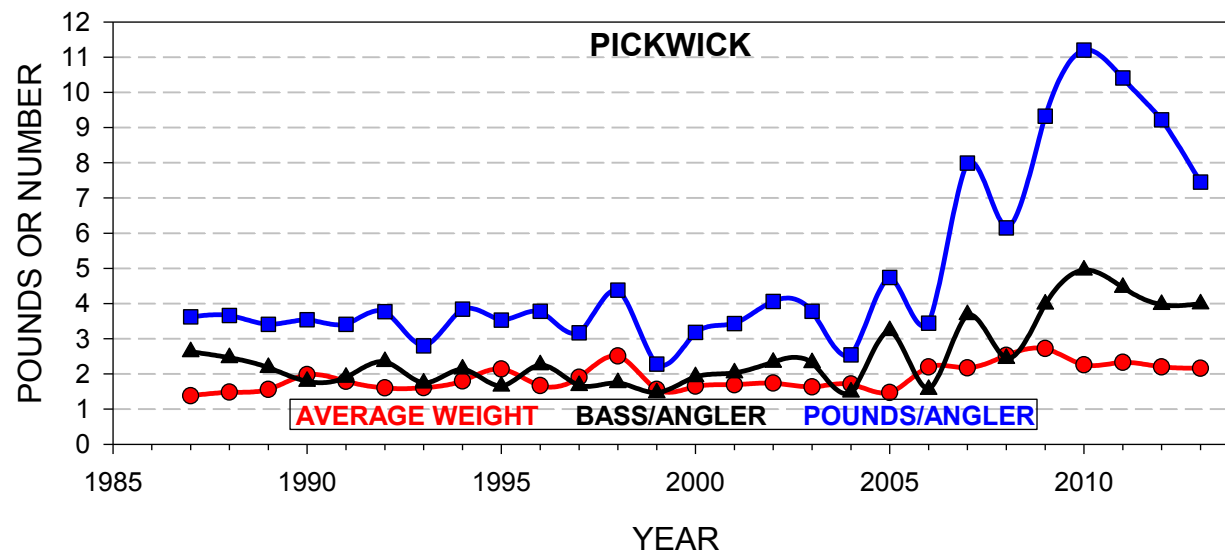
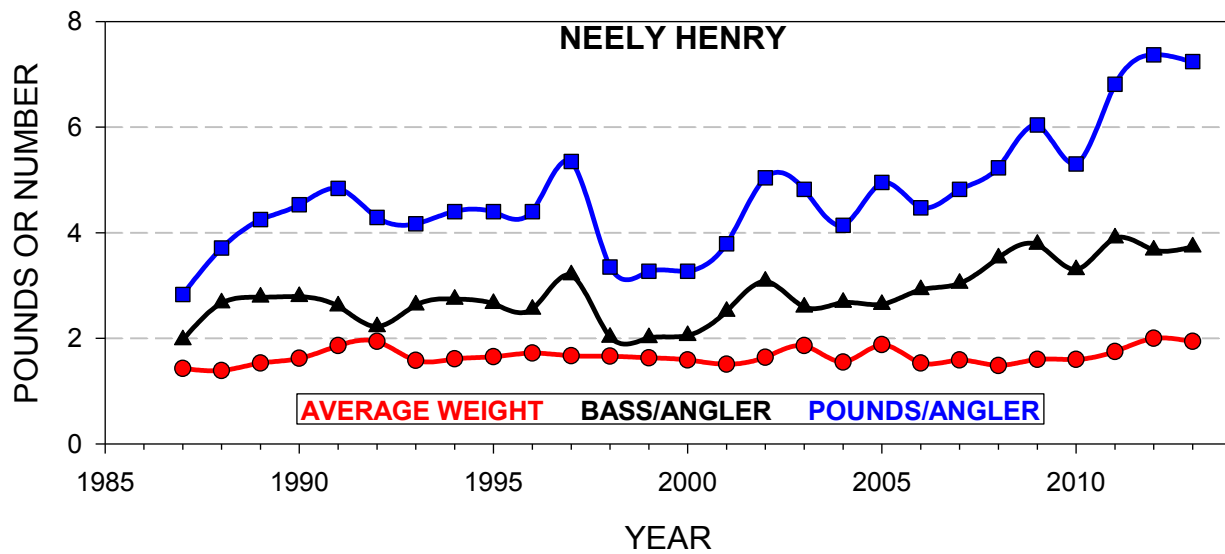


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2013.

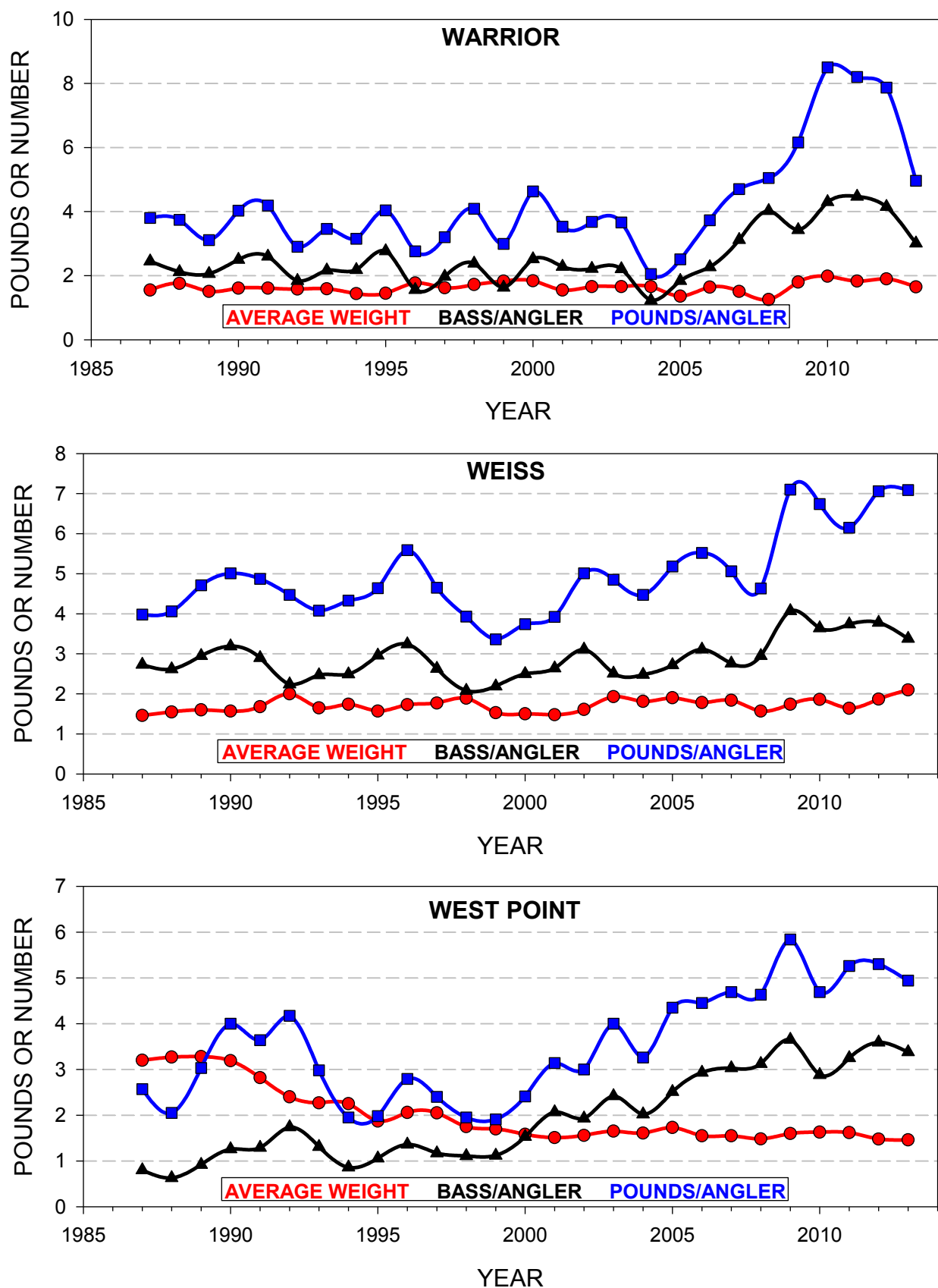


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2013.

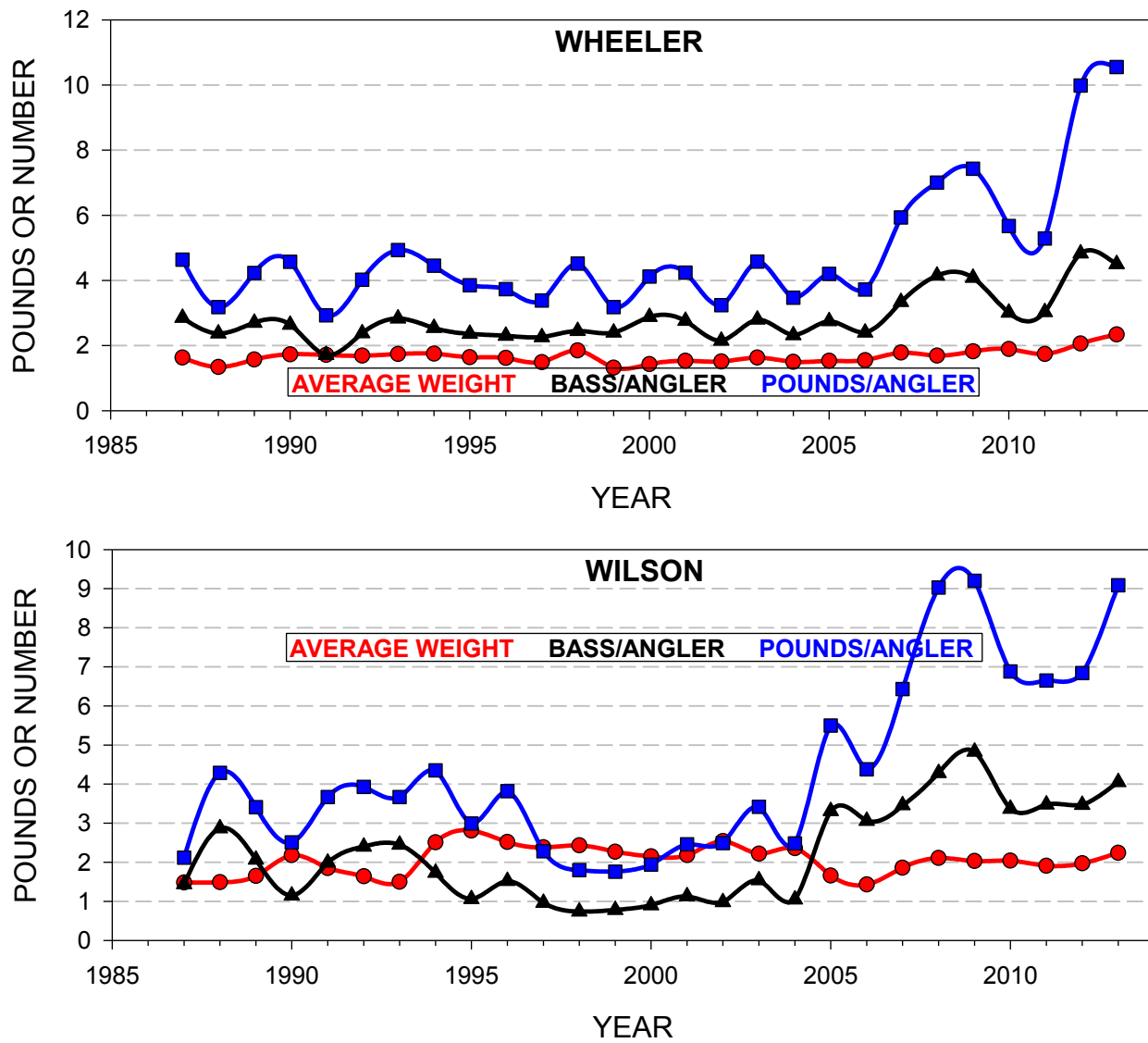


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2013.

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.

The top screenshot shows the 'View Freshwater Tournaments' page. It features a calendar for June 2010 and a list of upcoming tournaments. A red circle highlights the 'Upcoming Tournaments' section, and a red arrow points to the 'Post a Fishing Tournament' link. Another red circle highlights the 'Month and Year' dropdown menu, and a red arrow points to the 'Click here to bring up the page below and post your own tournament' text.

The bottom screenshot shows the 'Post Freshwater Tournament' form. It includes fields for First Name, Last Name, E-mail Address, Phone Number, Organization, Target Species, Water Body, Boat Ramp, Start Date, End Date, Start Time, End Time, Estimated Number of Boats, and Tournament Overview. A red arrow points to the 'Post a Fishing Tournament' link on the right side of the page.

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

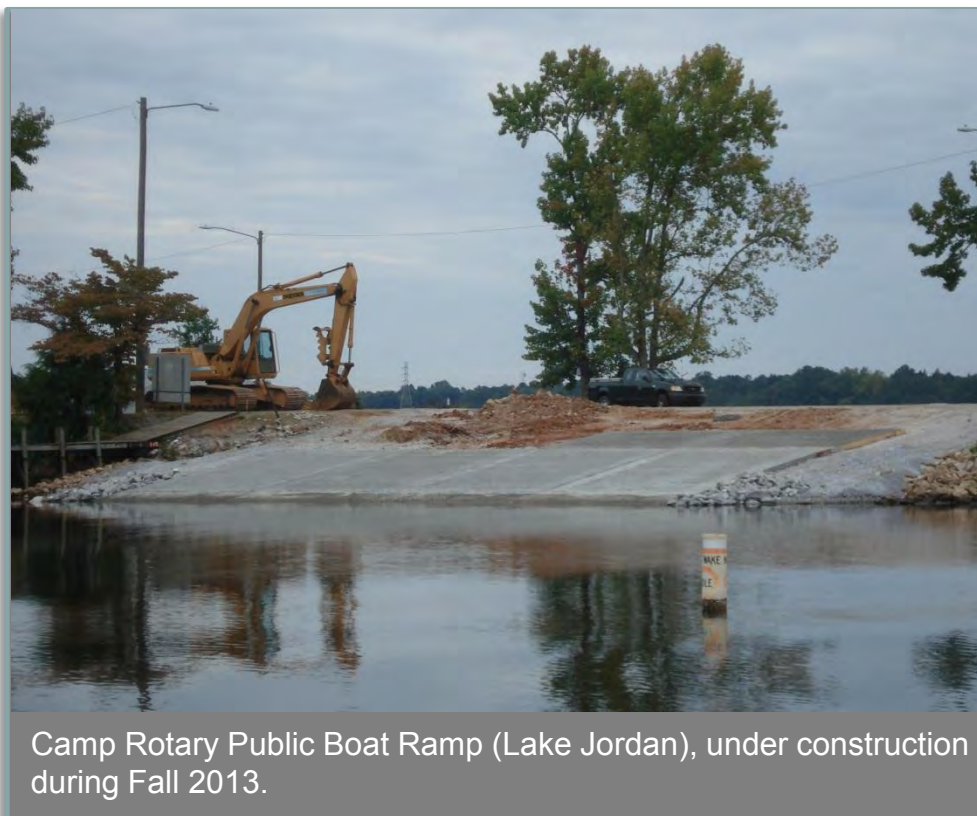
The Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries maintains 113 public boating access areas statewide. Several of these facilities received upgrades during 2013.

Camp Rotary (Lake Jordan)

During 2009, the Alabama Power Company expanded the size of the parking lot at this site to accommodate approximately 90 truck/trailer rigs in response to increasing boater activity. However, the launch area could not adequately handle the additional boater traffic with only two launch lanes. Steep ramps and small, worn out courtesy piers compounded the problem. In addition, the asphalt in the original parking lot was beginning to crack and break apart.

To correct these problems, three types of improvements were planned. The first phase, completed in 2013, was to demolish the two existing boat ramps and replace them with a single slab large enough to launch four boats, simultaneously. The grade of the launching slab was rolled from 15% to 2% so boats could be launched and retrieved more quickly and efficiently.

The final two phases will include resurfacing the original parking lot and improving the courtesy docking space. These improvements will be made during Spring 2014. Once complete, this facility will be fully ADA compliant.



Beeswax Creek (Lay Lake)

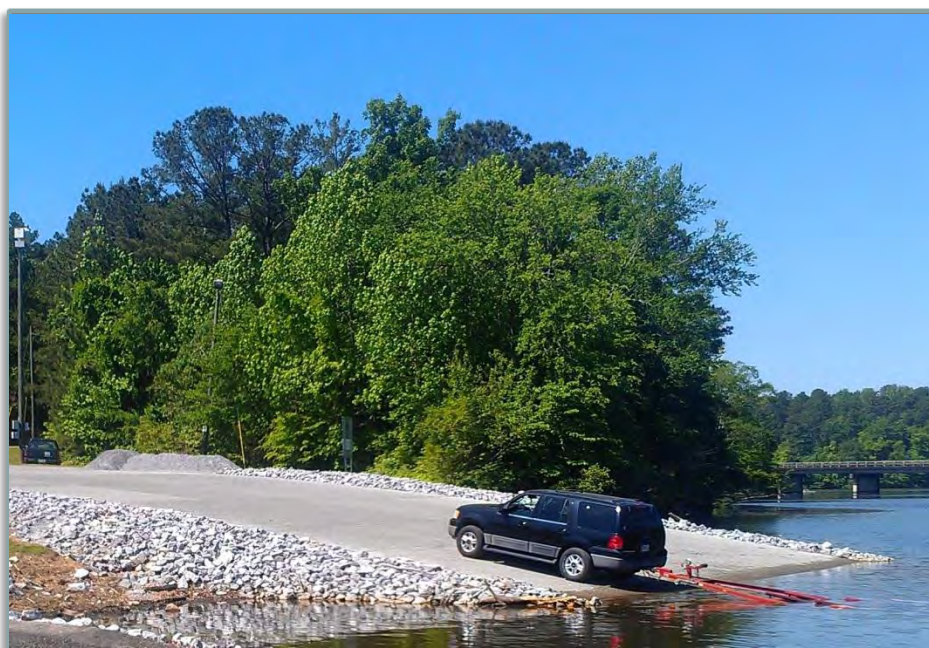
This facility was experiencing problems similar to those at Camp Rotary, which were scheduled for three renovation phases. The first was the construction of a four-lane launching slab with rolled grading, which was completed during Fall 2013. The next two phases, scheduled for Spring 2014, will include parking lot resurfacing and the addition of one new courtesy pier. All improvements will be fully ADA-compliant.

There is also an effort under way to construct a scale house for bass tournament weigh-in's at this facility. This will be a project with multiple partners which will be completed in conjunction with the other scheduled improvements.

Other Projects (Statewide)

Modifications continued at Lion's Park Public Boat Ramp (Smith Lake) to bring the facility into full ADA compliance. A number of parking lots were re-striped, courtesy piers repaired, and signage replaced, as needed, at public boat ramps, statewide.

Future plans include a parking lot expansion at Bonner's Point (Lake Jordan), and new facilities at Bridgeport Ferry (Tennessee River) and Pollard (Conecuh River).



New Launching Slab at Beeswax Creek Public Boat Ramp

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