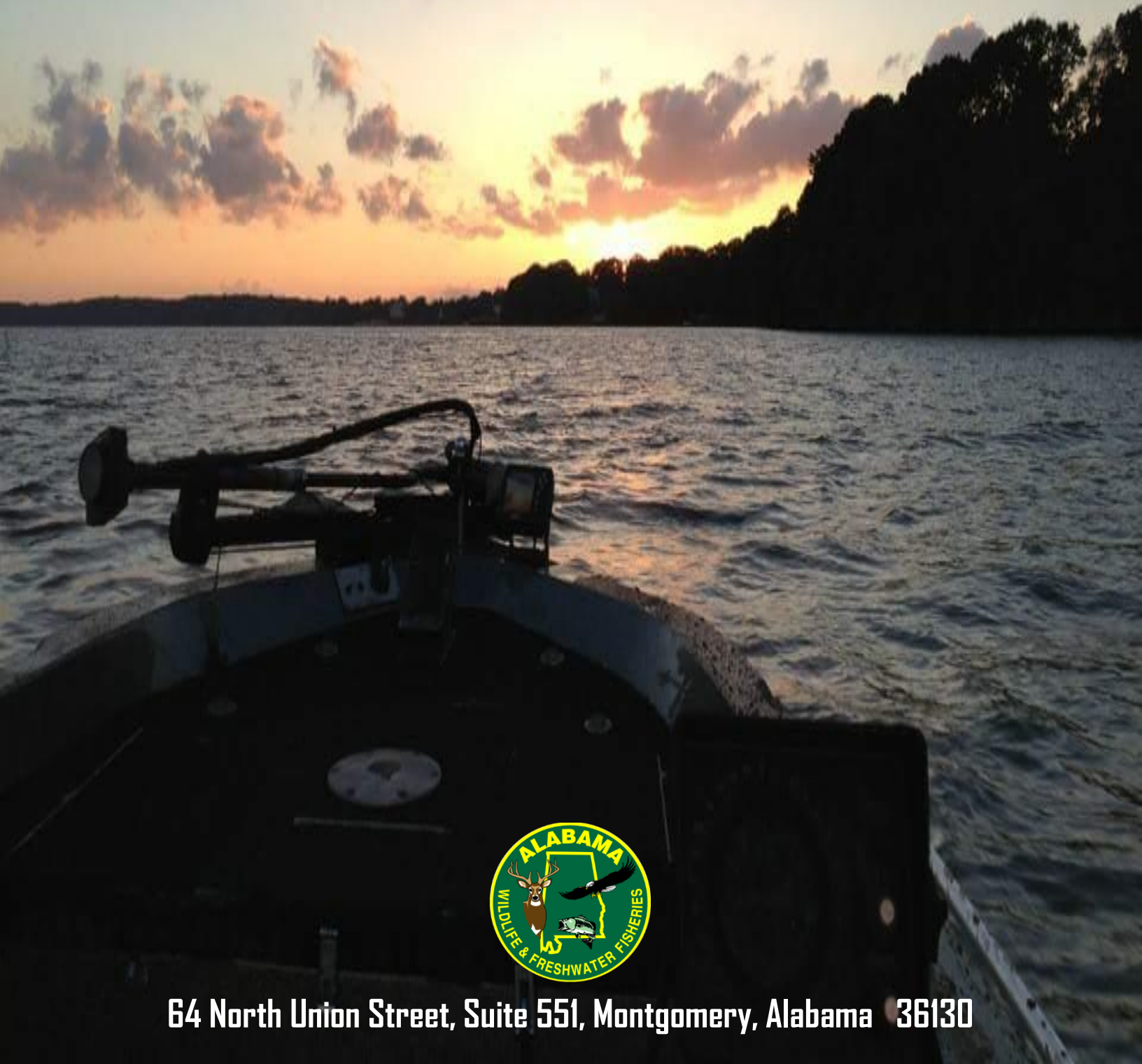


Bass Anglers Information Team 2015 Annual Report



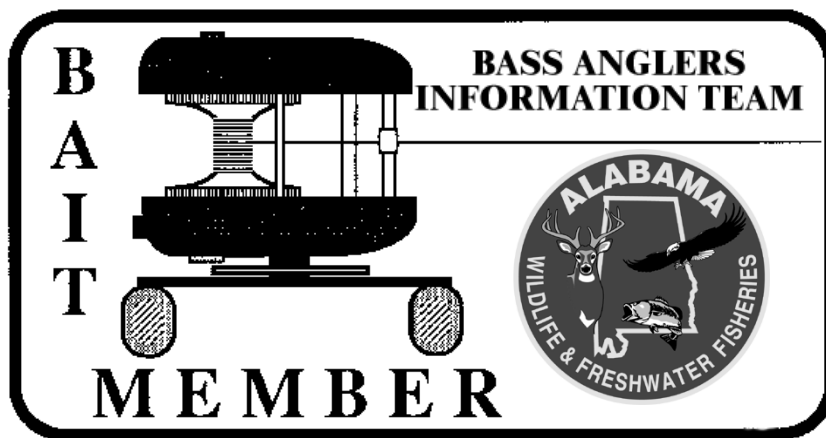
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B.A.I.T.

Bass Anglers Information Team

2015

Annual Report



By

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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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Check out what's happening with our new program

ON THE INTERNET www.outdooralabama.com

Reservoir Reports...

www.outdooralabama.com/fish-management-reports

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

www.outdooralabama.com/bass-fishing-quality-bait-reports

Limits and Regulations...

www.outdooralabama.com/content/licenses-regulations

Freshwater Boating Access...

<http://boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov>

Tournament Listings...

www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments

Interactive map with habitat structure locations & more...

<http://conservationgis.alabama.gov/dcnr/>



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2015 B.A.I.T. Summary

Bass fishing in the State of Alabama has been excellent for the past several years. During 2015, two of four quality indicators improved over the previous year (Average Bass Weight: down 20%, Percent Success: up 6%, Bass/Angler-Day: up 5%, and Pounds/Angler-Day: down 17%). Pounds/Angler-Day was reflected by the number of hours it took to catch a 5 lb. bass (298) which was up 168% from 2014. The number of 8 lb. bass caught declined from 35 in 2014, to only 15 in 2015, but was partially a product of the number of tournaments reporting. There were an additional 80 tournaments reporting in 2014. The number of bass caught per angler-day in 2015 (3.81) was the highest recorded in the history of the BAIT program. Although the Tennessee River impoundments have always been traditional angler favorites, it is Wilson that has turned the most heads during the last two years, finishing No. 1 overall the past two years in the Quality Indicator Ranking. Smith Lake was a close 2nd overall and had record catch rates, however, 6 of the 10 reports received from Smith were from the four-day FLW Tour tournament. This particular tournament was granted a slot-limit exemption, which inflated the quality indicator rankings.

- *Wilson* remained on top in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Smith* and *Logan Martin* both showed considerable improvement in the quality indicator rankings, moving up 11 and 9 spots, respectively, while *Jones Bluff* (down 11), *Guntersville* (down 7), *Harris* and *Eufaula* (down 5) fell in the overall rankings.
- *Wilson*, *Smith*, *Neely Henry*, *Wheeler*, and *Logan Martin* were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings
- *Wheeler*, *Wilson*, *Guntersville*, *Pickwick*, and *Eufaula* were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama

2015 Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

3.81 – Number of bass caught per angler-day
7.26 – Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
1.93 – Average weight of bass caught
298 – Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
10.75 – Weight of the largest bass caught
15 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
454 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

Introduction & Methods

The printing of the 2015 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the 30th 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 2015, we have summarized 14,312 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 3,237,032 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 845,090 bass that weighed 1,571,959 pounds.

This report also contains information related to the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries' Boating Access Maintenance and Development Program which maintains 112 boating access areas statewide. Information regarding the new Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team (HEART) program is also included. The accomplishments made by these programs during 2015 may be of particular interest to tournament bass anglers and their organizations.

Every year, we attempt to maintain the support of the previous year's clubs and to enlist the support of new clubs through public meetings, news releases and letters. Participating club officers or tournament directors are sent the previous year's annual report and tournament report postcards to be completed following each tournament. Clubs are assigned individual numbers to insure confidentiality. As tournament cards are received, they are checked

for accuracy and entered into a computer database. Club officers are contacted when data are suspected to be erroneous. We compile and analyze the data following receipt of December tournament reports. Statewide tournament results are sorted by reservoir and by club.

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

Tournament results were also broken down by month for each reservoir with 10 or more reports. This section 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.

B.A.I.T. MEMBER		B.A.I.T. TOURNAMENT REPORT	
Club name:	Backlash Bass Club	Club rep.:	Damon Abernethy
Street:	64 N. Union St.	Phone:	555-555-5555
City:	Montgomery	Reservoir:	Jordan
State:	AL	Zip:	36104
Launch site:	Bonnors Point		
TOURNAMENT DATE		TOURNAMENT RULES	
Date	Month Day Year	Fishing time:	7.50 hrs.
Start:	4 14 2016	Creel limit:	5 bass
End:	4 14 2016	Size Limit:	12 in.
TOURNAMENT TYPE		NUMBER CAUGHT	
Format:	Team	Largemouth:	10
Day or Night:	Night	Spotted:	35
Weigh-in:	Team	Smallmouth:	0
Total number of anglers and/or teams:		12	
Total number of bass caught:		45	
No. of anglers/teams with 1 or more bass:		12	
Total number of bass released:		43	
No. of anglers/teams with limits:		6	
No. over 5 lbs:		2	
No. over 8 lbs:		0	
Total weight of bass:		99.00 lbs. 2 oz.	
Big bass weight:		10.00 lbs. 4 oz.	
Winning weight:		15.00 lbs. 6 oz.	
NOTE: Format should be: TEAM, DRAW, or SOLO Weigh-in should be: TEAM or INDIVIDUAL			

Example of a B.A.I.T. Report Card



**Proceeds from the sale
of each Freshwater Fishing
license plate will be used to:**

- Enhance and restore aquatic habitats
- Reestablish robust wild populations of threatened species
- Promote conservation education
- Support bass genetics research
- Fund fish disease research
- Minimize the damage caused by invasive species
- Produce fish for stocking in public waters

**Purchase Your
Freshwater Fishing
License Plate
TODAY!**



**Visit our website at
www.outdooralabama.com
for details.**

Statewide Tournament Results

Bass clubs submitted 410 tournament reports during 2015, down from 490 in 2014 (Tables 1 and 3). Club representatives did an excellent job filling out the cards and no reports were rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information. We want to again, thank all of the participants of the B.A.I.T. Program and urge them to keep up the good work! Forty-six clubs provided data in 2015. Ninety-four reports from Alabama

waters were received from Fisheries Biologist Clint Peacock of Georgia DNR, who summarizes tournament data from the Georgia Bass Federation; and another 19 reports were received from Fisheries Biologist Stan Crider, with the Mississippi Department

of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks. Without their support, several Alabama reservoirs would not have been well represented in the quality indicator rankings (Table 2). Once again, we must stress that reports from more locations increase the capability of the summaries to reflect actual fish population conditions and not just a good or poor day's fishing by one or two clubs.

In 2015, tournament reports were received from 28 bodies of water that were fished 112,370 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 41,373 bass that weighed 87,683 lbs. (Table 1). A total of 454 bass five pounds and larger were reported for an overall catch rate of

one bass five pounds or larger for every 298 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 15 bass eight pounds and larger in 2015. The largest bass caught in 2015 came from Lake Guntersville, and weighed 10.75 pounds. With 106 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Eufaula led this category. Guntersville was next in line with 87 big bass over five pounds.

Of the 46 organizations that submitted data during 2015, 67% submitted five or more tournament reports, and 35% submitted 10 or more reports. Twelve contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2015 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

Average catch rates in 2015 for number of fish caught per angler/day (3.81) set an all-time record, while pounds per angler/day dropped 17% from 2014. Compared to 2014, twenty lakes improved in overall fishing success in 2015. Most notably, Smith and Logan Martin, which both moved from the bottom third into the top 5 in the overall rankings (Table 2). Smith Lake ranked 1st in three of the five quality indicators. The average size bass

caught from the Mobile Delta steadily increased from 1.40 to 1.76 pounds over the last 4 years. Success rates, number of bass per angler-day, pounds per angler-day, and the number of bass over 5 lbs. have also increased for Delta tournaments.

Most 2015 reports were received from the Mobile Delta (81), Eufaula (61), West Point (35) and Pickwick (34). These reservoirs accounted for 52% of the statewide tournament reports. Guntersville had 31 reports, while Martin and Logan Martin each had 15 or more reports (Table 1). The other 21 reservoirs contributed only 32% of the total for 2015. 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 received, 18 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 76% at Pickwick to 96% at Smith. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.44 pounds at Harris to 2.98 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.27 at Guntersville to 5.11 at Smith. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 5.49 at West Point to 10.85 at Smith. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 28 reservoirs was 1.93 pounds.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Big Bass in 2015

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. >5lbs.
BFL Bama Div. Xtreme	Eufaula	Feb. 28	21
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	Feb. 7	19
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	Eufaula	Mar. 14	18
BFL Bulldog Div.	Pickwick	Oct. 31	13
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	May 30	12
Alabama Bass Federation	Guntersville	Feb. 28	12
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Guntersville	Sep. 19	11
BFL Bama Div.	Wilson	Mar. 21	11
Alabama Bass Trail	Logan Martin	May 2	10
	Pickwick	Jun. 6	10

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Average 5-Fish Weight in 2015

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Eufaula Bass Trail	Eufaula	Mar. 11	18.34 lbs.
FLW Tour	Smith	Mar. 28	17.64 lbs.
Eufaula Bass Trail	Eufaula	Apr. 11	17.54 lbs.
Ala-Tenn Bass Club	Wilson	Mar. 21	17.08 lbs.
Pickwick Bass Trail	Pickwick	Jan. 3	16.93 lbs.
Eufaula Bass Trail	Eufaula	Jun. 6	15.90 lbs.
Fishers of Men Alabama South	Eufaula	Apr. 25	15.83 lbs.
OGS Tournament Trails	Eufaula	Apr. 11	15.72 lbs.
FLW Tour	Eufaula	May 17	15.56 lbs.
Eufaula Bass Trail	Eufaula	Jul. 11	15.54 lbs.

Statewide Tournament Results

Overall, Wilson accumulated more quality indicator points (73) than any other reservoir in Alabama, keeping the top spot the second consecutive year. Smith (72), Neely Henry (70), Wheeler (64), and Logan Martin (63) 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 Wheeler, Wilson, or Guntersville 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 Smith, Neely Henry, and Wheeler offered the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Smith, Logan Martin, or Neely Henry 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.

Length limits remained in effect during 2015 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). 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 2014 and 2015 clearly being the best years reported since 1986 when B.A.I.T. reporting began. The percent of anglers catching at least one bass in 2015 (86.1), is the highest rate since 2011, and among the top three rates since 1986.

Although there have been no recent outbreaks of Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV), there are indications that this disease may be impacting our bass fisheries by elevating natural mortality rates in some reservoirs; 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 2015 B.A.I.T. Reports

DATE	ORGANIZATION	LAKE	WEIGHT
Feb. 7	Xtreme	Guntersville	10.75 lbs.
Jan. 3	Pickwick Bass Trail	Pickwick	10.11 lbs.
Feb. 7	Xtreme	Guntersville	10.01 lbs.
Feb. 28	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	9.19 lbs.
Mar. 7	American Bass Anglers	Pickwick	8.80 lbs.
Feb. 7	Xtreme	Guntersville	8.69 lbs.
Feb. 7	Xtreme	Guntersville	8.44 lbs.
Feb. 28	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	8.41 lbs.
Feb. 28	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	8.39 lbs.
Feb. 28	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	8.22 lbs.
Mar. 14	Belmont Bass Anglers	Guntersville	8.18 lbs.
Feb. 21	West AL Bass Fisherman's Assoc.	Bankhead	8.16 lbs.
Mar. 11	Eufaula Bass Trail	Eufaula	8.13 lbs.
Feb. 28	BFL (Bama Division)	Eufaula	8.06 lbs.
Feb. 28	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	8.05 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

Sixty-one (61) tournaments were reported during 2015. All twelve months were represented by at least one report with the majority occurring in May (14). Two thousand five hundred forty three (2,543) anglers fished for 21,932 hours to catch 7,835 bass that weighed 18,519 pounds, with an average size of 2.36 pounds. Largemouth bass made up 89% of the total catch, while spotted bass accounted for 11%.

The quality of fishing on Eufaula has shown a pattern of inconsistency throughout the 30 year history of BAIT reporting, and that trend has continued into the 2010's. However, the past six years have offered good quality fishing compared to other reservoirs in the state.

Percent success hit a record high of 85.1% in 2015, up from 83% in 2014. The average sized bass (2.36 lbs.) caught by tournament anglers was similar to the post-LMBV average. Catch-rates of bass larger than five pounds (148 hours) were similar to that of the pre-LMBV era when anglers caught them at a rate of one every 14 days of fishing. In 2014, that value was only 67 hours, an all time low since 1986.

April and May were the most popular fishing months, with 26 out of 61 tournaments for the year. Months with the lowest percent success were February and October, although anglers caught 22 bass over 5 pounds in February, taking an average of only 68 hours to land one (a yearly low).

Guntersville

Thirty-one (31) tournaments were reported during 2015, with most tournaments occurring in March (6). No tournaments were reported for January, July and November. Nine hundred seventy one (971) anglers fished for 9,904 hours to catch 2,244 bass that weighed 6,696 pounds, with an average size of 2.98 pounds. Largemouth bass accounted for 93% of the total catch.

Anglers may notice that the quality indicator values are down from the previous few years, however, this fact cannot be explained based solely on BAIT data. Standardized sampling revealed very strong year classes during the drought of 2007-08. This resulted in a six to eight year "boom" period which led to exceptional fishing opportunities at Guntersville. The fish from that period have begun to die off naturally, and the population is settling back into something more akin to the long-term average. This is reflected in the BAIT data as well. When the BAIT data alone is analyzed, four out of the five quality indicators (Ave. weight, bass per angler-day, pounds per angler-day, and hours to catch a bass over 5 lbs.), all reached record highs in 2014. The quality indicators have declined from 2014, but when looking at the past 8 years, it is evident

that all values are still well above the 30 year average. Fluctuating data values are typical for most fisheries. Fish populations are subject to fluctuations that are mostly due to normal life cycles.

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.

Martin

Twenty-one (21) tournaments were reported during 2015, and most tournaments occurred in January (6). No reports were received for July-September. Four hundred fifty-six (456) anglers fished for 3,999 hours to catch 1,541 bass that weighed 2,438 pounds, with an average weight of 1.58 pounds. Spotted bass comprised almost 84% of the total catch.

Percent success in 2015 (88.6) remained about the same as the previous year (88.5), as did average weight. The number of bass and pounds of bass per angler-day dropped slightly, but were still well above average. January and December were the most popular months according to Table 6, comprising nearly half of the reports received.

Mobile Delta

Eighty-one (81) tournaments were reported during 2015, with a fairly even distribution among seasons. The number of reports increased 62% from 2014. Two thousand one hundred thirteen (2,113) anglers fished for 18,539 hours to catch 7,433 bass that weighed 13,110 pounds, with an average size of 1.76 pounds (up 6% from 2014). Largemouth bass comprised 96% of the reported total catch.

The number of reports received the past three years (81, 50, and 81) have been encouraging. Participation has been up significantly for Delta tournaments. As a result, we can achieve a higher confidence level in the catch statistics.

Catch-rates have been trending upward since 2007. This year's reporting set an all time record for average weight in the Delta (1.76 lbs.), as did pounds per angler-day (7.05), which is almost 3 pounds higher than the 30 year long-term average. The number of bass caught per angler-day (4.00) was second only to 2011 (4.20). All five quality indicators for the Mobile Delta were well above the long-term averages.

Hopefully, this trend will continue, and 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.

Monthly Tournament Stats

Pickwick

Thirty-four (34) tournaments were held during 2015, with the majority being held in September and October. Otherwise, tournaments were generally dispersed evenly throughout the year, although no tournaments were reported in February, November or December. The number of tournament reports was down 29 from last year. As a result, the numbers of anglers, bass, and pounds reported were basically cut in half. One thousand six hundred sixty-two (1,662) anglers fished for 14,209 hours to catch 4,481 bass that weighed 10,891 pounds, averaging 2.43 pounds apiece. Largemouth bass comprised 85% of the total catch, while smallmouth bass accounted for 7%.

The percent of anglers who caught at least 1 fish was 83% in the spring months, on average, while summer months showed 65%. Only 2 tournaments were reported in the winter, but success was high (96%), and the average big bass weighed 8.1 pounds. In March and April, anglers could catch a 5 pounder every 67 hours, the rest of the year that number was 210 hours. Anglers reported 67 bass over 5 pounds, two were over 8 pounds.

Quality indicators were slightly lower than last years values, with the exception of percent success (up 2%). Fishing at Pickwick peaked during 2009-2010, so quality indicators are trending more toward the 30 year average, but the bass fishery is still one of the best in the state.

West Point

Thirty-five (35) tournaments were reported during 2015, with the majority occurring in March (19). This number was up by 15 from last year. Five hundred seventy (570) anglers fished for a total of 4,958 hours to catch 1,480 bass that weighed 2,723 pounds. The average weight of bass was 1.84 pounds (up 19% from 2014). Spotted bass comprised 66% of the total catch, while largemouth bass accounted for 34%. Twenty-seven (27) bass weighing more than 5 pounds were caught.

All five quality indicators for West Point are above the 30 year average. Most notably, the number hours it took to catch a 5 pound bass (184 hours) was the lowest since 1992. This was a 180% change from last year (515 hours).



2015 Alabama Children's Classic Bass Tournament on Lake Eufaula

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 creel limits, are determined from this research. There are three key components of the fish population that biologists must characterize in order to make these decisions; they are growth, mortality, and recruitment. Another important non-biological element is bass harvest rates, which 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

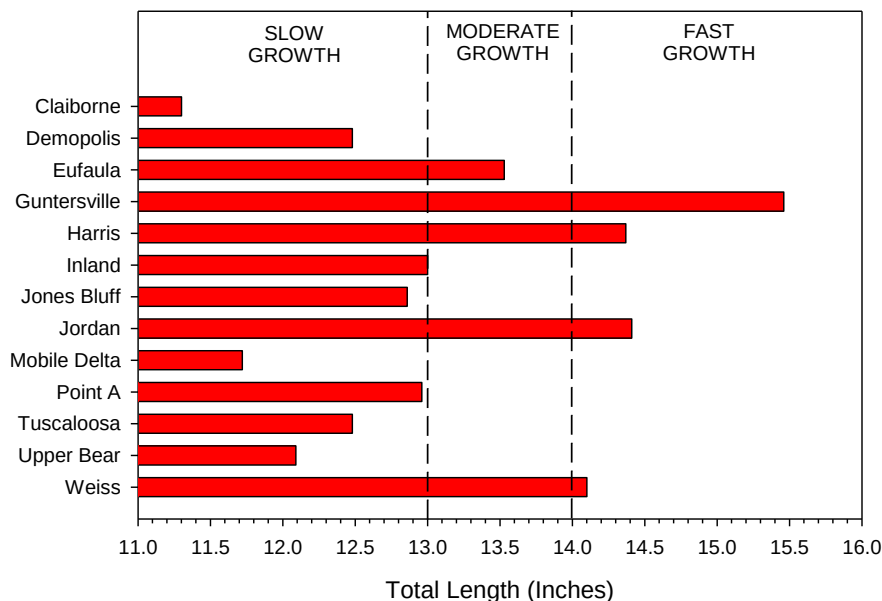
One of the three most important objectives of fisheries biologists' assessments of a fish population is to determine the growth-rates for the fish being studied. There are many factors that can affect the rate at which fish grow. The most important are prey abundance, size, and nutritional value; and 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.

Biologists determine fish growth-rates by measuring their lengths at each age represented in the sample. This is done by examining the fish's otoliths, which are free-floating bones in the inner ear that form growth-rings similar to those that are visible on the top of a tree stump. These rings are formed because calcium is deposited at a constant rate no matter how fast the fish is growing. During winter, when the fish is not actively growing, 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.

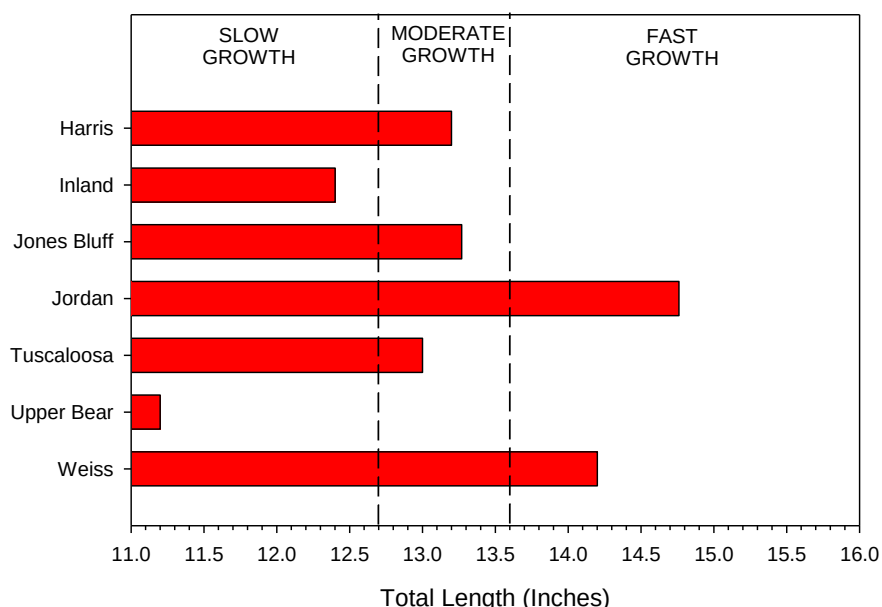
In Alabama, largemouth bass rarely exceed 10 years of age, and relatively few of the fish in these samples include fish greater than 5 years old. In warmer climates, bass grow faster but do not live as long as fish in colder climates. Additionally, a biologist's ability to impact the size structure of 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 adjacent bar charts illustrates the results of these studies on the reservoirs that were sampled by Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries biologists during Spring 2015.

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



Total Length of Spotted Bass at Three Years of Age



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.

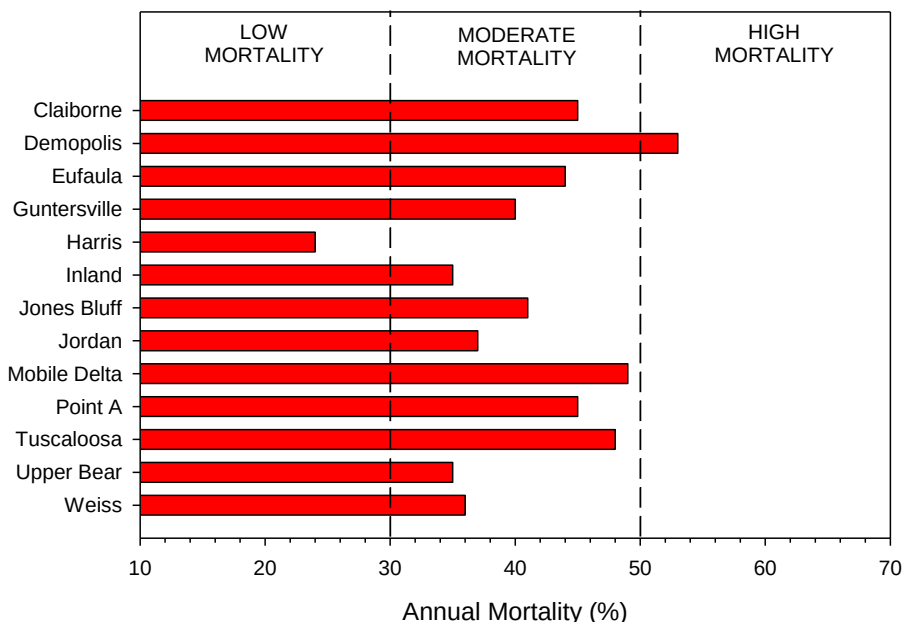
The most common way that biologists determine the mortality rate of a fish population is to measure the rate of decline in the number of fish represented in each age group in the collection. For example, from a collection of fish with a mortality rate of 50%, you might expect to see a decline similar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

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

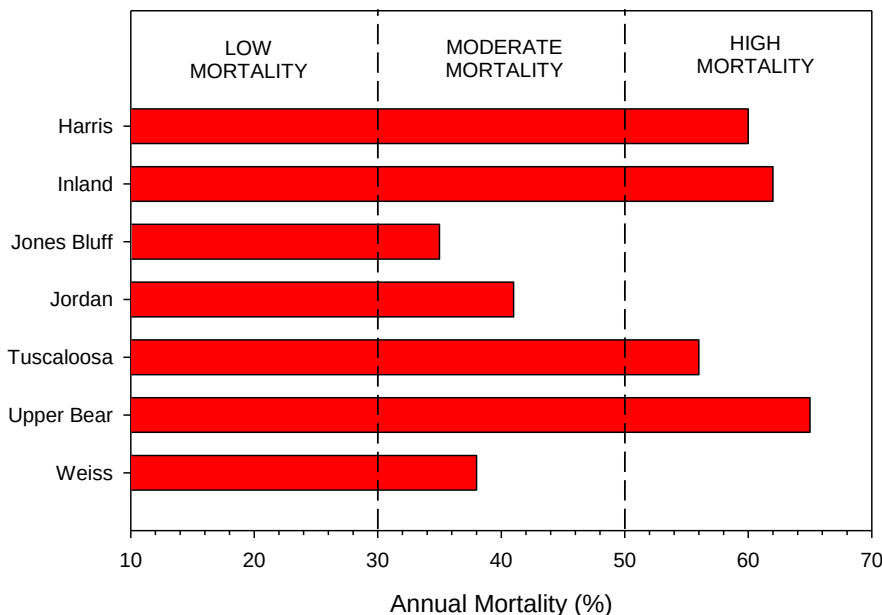
Minimum length limits are a management tool often considered by biologists if mortality-rates are high; however, they are only effective if a large portion of the total annual mortality can be attributed to fishing-related causes. Limiting angler harvest cannot reduce bass mortality from natural causes.

The adjacent chart reflects the total annual mortality rates of largemouth bass populations sampled during Spring 2015. 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



Total Percent of the Spotted Bass Population That Die Annually



Standardized Electrofishing Results

Recruitment

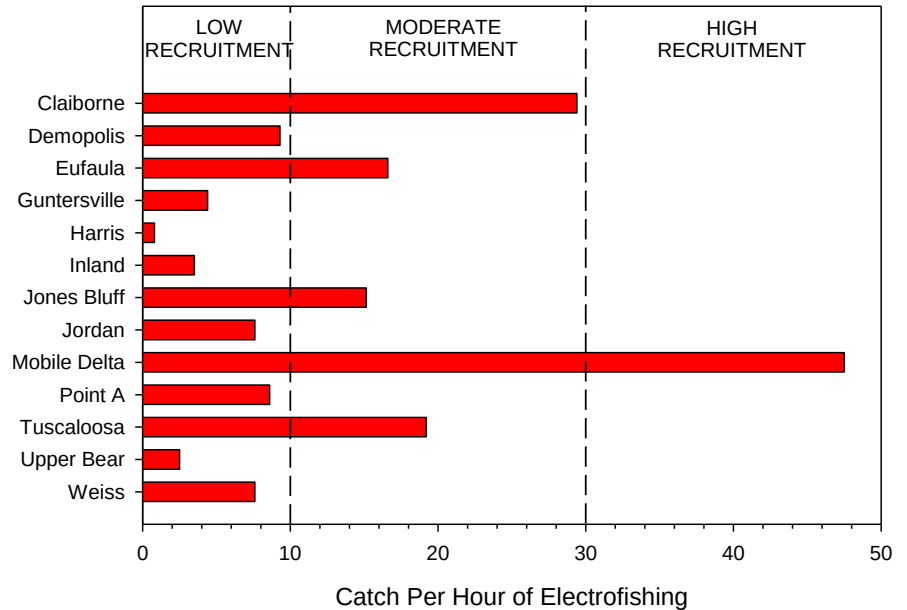
The final critical objective in fishery assessments is to determine recruitment of the population into the fishery.

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.

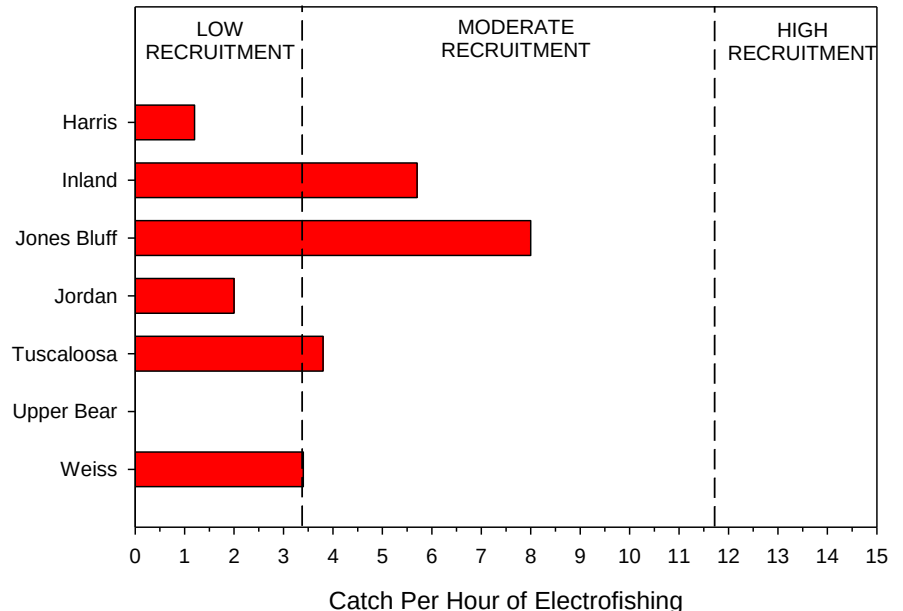
Density-dependent factors include population size, fish size and growth characteristics, reproductive fertility, cannibalism, disease, predation, and competition for food. Density-independent factors are non-biological in nature and may include floods, droughts, temperature extremes, excessive wind,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



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



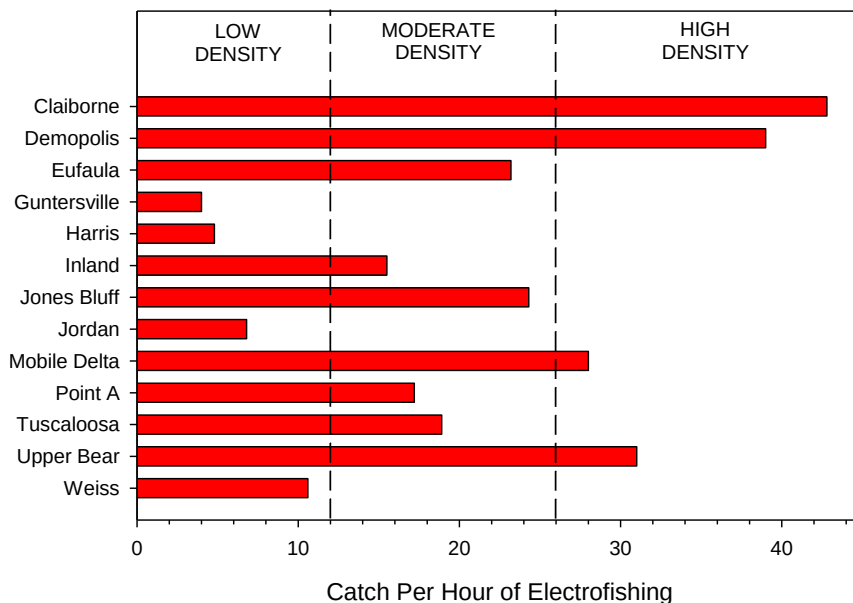
Standardized Electrofishing Results

Abundance

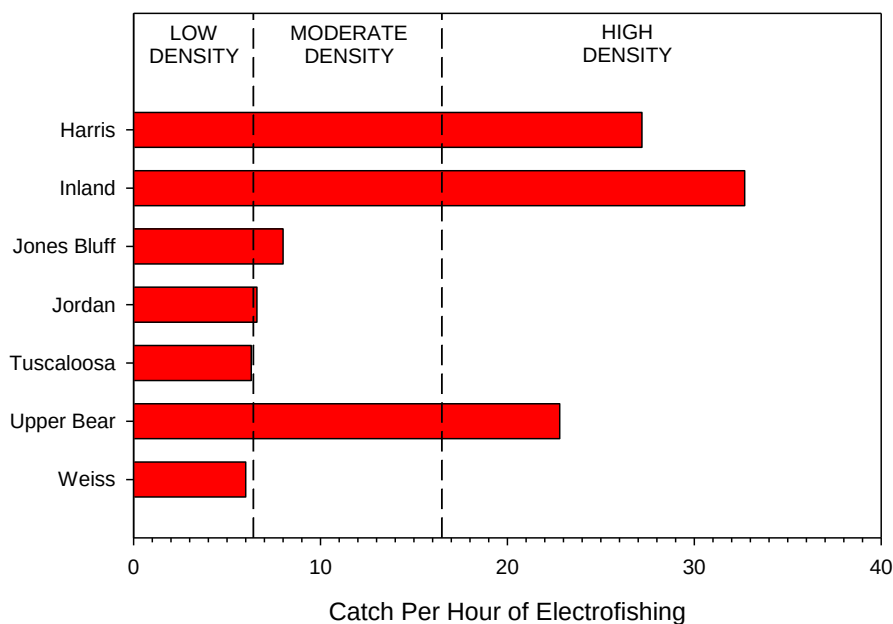
Another important population variable is the abundance of catchable sized fish in the population. Actual abundance is determined by a wide range of things, which may include survival during critical phases of life, habitat suitability, water quality, fertility, water productivity, competition with other 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 largemouth bass, and 7 – 11 inch spotted bass, collected per hour of electrofishing is a general indicator of overall population abundance. In Alabama, the majority of samples, statewide, fall within the 11 – 26 fish per hour range for largemouth bass, and 6 – 16 fish per hour for spotted bass. The adjacent chart illustrates these values for samples conducted on public reservoirs during Spring 2015.

Number of 8 - 12 Inch Largemouth Bass Caught by Electrofishing

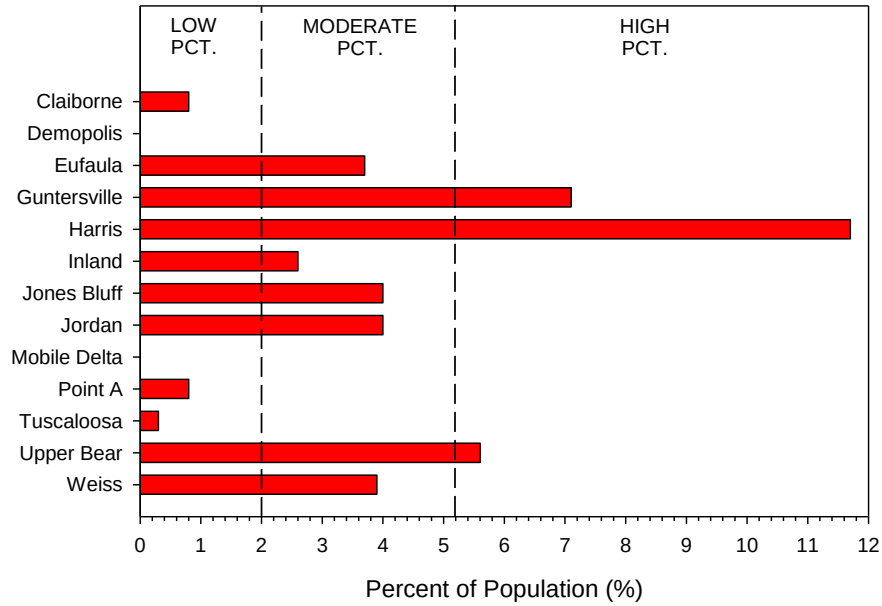


Number of 7 - 11 Inch Spotted Bass Caught by Electrofishing



Standardized Electrofishing Results

Percent of Largemouth Bass Population Over 20 Inches
(About 5 Pounds)



Percent of Spotted Bass Population Over 17 Inches
(About 3 Pounds)

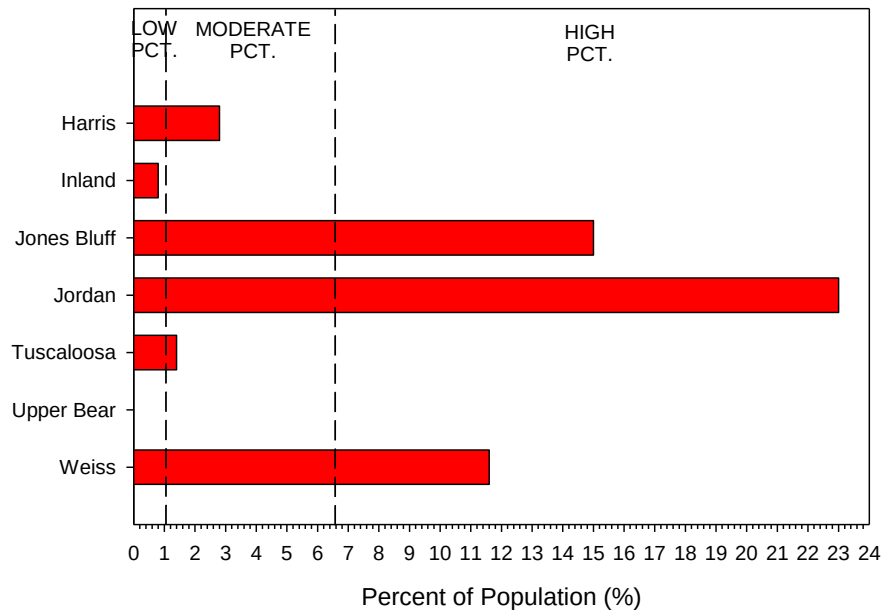


Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2015 B.A.I.T. Program.

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	4	77	89.6	67.5	638	214	67.6	32.4	0.0	99	429	2.01	6	1	5.39	89.61	3.35	6.73	106	11
Bartlett's Ferry	2	60	81.7	25.0	480	143	23.6	76.4	0.0	99	206	1.44	2	0	4.88	81.67	2.98	4.29	240	24
Cedar Creek	2	18	88.9	11.1	160	53	60.4	39.6	0.0	98	58	1.10	0	0	2.39	88.89	3.31	3.64	.	.
Claiborne	1	7	100.0	85.7	53	32	50.0	50.0	0.0	88	54	1.68	0	0	4.58	100.00	6.10	10.24	.	.
Demopolis	4	86	84.9	38.4	1209	280	81.9	18.1	0.0	93	588	2.10	4	0	4.79	84.88	2.32	4.86	302	30
Eufaula	61	2543	85.1	36.5	21932	7835	89.2	10.8	0.0	97	18519	2.36	106	2	5.58	85.14	3.57	8.44	148	15
Guntersville	31	971	66.5	18.6	9904	2244	93.4	5.9	0.7	99	6696	2.98	87	10	6.08	66.53	2.27	6.76	114	11
Harris	5	111	89.2	62.2	994	426	20.2	79.8	0.0	99	614	1.44	4	0	5.35	89.19	4.29	6.17	249	25
Holt	1	19	52.6	26.3	133	60	25.0	75.0	0.0	100	117	1.96	3	0	6.81	52.63	4.51	8.83	44	4
Jones Bluff	11	130	76.2	37.7	1080	353	35.1	64.9	0.0	97	603	1.71	3	0	4.61	76.15	3.27	5.58	360	36
Jordan	9	284	82.4	28.9	2274	723	21.8	78.2	0.0	99	1807	2.50	5	0	4.50	82.39	3.18	7.95	455	45
Lay	11	502	81.7	38.0	4095	1487	36.2	63.8	0.0	95	3082	2.07	11	0	4.52	81.67	3.63	7.53	372	37
Logan Martin	16	692	90.8	64.5	5901	2860	30.4	69.6	0.0	96	5428	1.90	20	0	4.82	90.75	4.85	9.20	295	30
Martin	21	456	88.6	38.8	3999	1541	16.3	83.7	0.0	91	2438	1.58	5	0	3.99	88.60	3.85	6.10	800	80
Mobile Delta	81	2113	84.5	55.0	18593	7433	95.7	4.3	0.0	98	13110	1.76	19	0	4.04	84.48	4.00	7.05	979	98
Millers Ferry	9	329	88.1	62.6	2825	1267	76.9	23.1	0.0	99	2490	1.97	9	0	5.18	88.15	4.48	8.81	314	31
Mitchell	13	351	87.7	50.4	2961	1204	22.9	77.1	0.0	98	2442	2.03	5	0	4.97	87.75	4.07	8.25	592	59
Neely Henry	10	416	94.0	52.9	3348	1572	46.4	53.6	0.0	97	3329	2.12	11	0	4.52	93.99	4.70	9.95	304	30
Pickwick	34	1662	76.1	33.1	14209	4481	85.3	7.5	7.3	99	10891	2.43	67	2	6.06	76.11	3.15	7.66	124	12
Smith	10	884	95.8	68.7	7219	3688	12.3	87.7	0.0	100	7831	2.12	12	0	5.49	95.81	5.11	10.85	396	40
Tuscaloosa	1	23	91.3	78.3	230	101	.	.	.	98	129	1.28	0	0	3.18	91.30	4.39	5.60	.	.
Upper Bear	3	50	90.0	70.0	400	122	42.2	57.8	0.0	98	223	1.83	3	0	5.48	90.00	3.05	5.57	133	13
Warrior	1	24	100.0	83.3	252	116	.	.	.	97	178	1.53	0	0	3.98	100.00	4.60	7.06	.	.
Weiss	13	197	89.3	26.4	1714	563	57.2	42.8	0.0	96	1073	1.91	4	0	4.36	89.34	3.28	6.26	429	43
Wheeler	10	164	81.1	51.8	1416	561	93.2	2.6	4.2	98	1352	2.41	21	0	5.16	81.10	3.96	9.55	67	7
Wilson	10	158	94.3	62.0	1326	508	85.6	0.2	14.2	95	1233	2.43	19	0	5.24	94.30	3.83	9.30	70	7
West Point	35	570	79.8	27.2	4958	1480	34.4	65.6	0.0	93	2723	1.84	27	0	4.82	79.83	2.99	5.49	184	18
Yates	1	7	100.0	57.1	70	26	76.9	23.1	0.0	77	40	1.53	1	0	5.06	100.00	3.71	5.68	70	7
Grand Total	410	12904	86.1	48.5	112370	41373	53.1	45.9	1.0	96	87683	1.93	454	15	4.85	86.08	3.81	7.26	298	30

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

Table 2. Ranking by quality indicators for all reservoirs with five or more tournament reports in the 2015 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	Smith		Guntersville	Smith		Smith		Wheeler		Wilson		73
2	Wilson		Jordan	Logan Martin		Neely Henry		Wilson		Smith		72
3	Neely Henry		Pickwick	Neely Henry		Wheeler		Guntersville		Neely Henry		70
4	Logan Martin		Wilson	Millers Ferry		Wilson		Pickwick		Wheeler		64
5	Weiss		Wheeler	Harris		Logan Martin		Eufaula		Logan Martin		63
6	Harris		Eufaula	Mitchell		Millers Ferry		West Point		Millers Ferry		56
7	Martin		Smith	Mobile Delta		Eufaula		Harris		Eufaula		55
8	Millers Ferry		Neely Henry	Wheeler		Mitchell		Logan Martin		Mitchell		48
9	Mitchell		Lay	Martin		Jordan		Neely Henry		Pickwick		45
10	Eufaula		Mitchell	Wilson		Pickwick		Millers Ferry		Harris		44
11	Mobile Delta		Millers Ferry	Lay		Lay		Jones Bluff		Guntersville		42
12	Jordan		Weiss	Eufaula		Mobile Delta		Lay		Jordan		42
13	Lay		Logan Martin	Weiss		Guntersville		Smith		Lay		39
14	Wheeler		West Point	Jones Bluff		Weiss		Weiss		Weiss		37
15	West Point		Mobile Delta	Jordan		Harris		Jordan		Mobile Delta		32
16	Jones Bluff		Jones Bluff	Pickwick		Martin		Mitchell		Martin		29
17	Pickwick		Martin	West Point		Jones Bluff		Martin		West Point		25
18	Guntersville		Harris	Guntersville		West Point		Mobile Delta		Jones Bluff		21

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2015 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	1	12	100.0	8.3	96	30	.	.	.	100	54	1.79	1	0	5.56	100.00	3.13	5.61	96	10
2	12	151	78.1	27.8	1275	381	24.1	74.3	1.6	96	655	1.72	1	0	3.93	78.15	2.99	5.13	1275	128
3	13	232	88.8	39.7	2047	759	74.2	25.8	0.0	99	1391	1.83	4	0	4.38	88.79	3.71	6.80	512	51
4	10	289	73.7	17.6	2543	572	32.9	66.8	0.3	97	943	1.65	5	0	4.60	73.70	2.25	3.71	509	51
5	9	156	76.3	19.2	1365	381	72.4	27.6	0.0	98	817	2.14	6	0	5.07	76.28	2.79	5.98	228	23
6	12	157	79.0	21.0	1342	363	100.0	0.0	0.0	99	531	1.46	5	0	3.48	78.98	2.70	3.96	268	27
7	8	194	89.2	68.0	1611	748	87.0	0.4	12.6	97	1892	2.53	34	0	6.00	89.18	4.64	11.75	47	5
8	12	148	75.0	13.5	1211	280	84.0	16.0	0.0	77	413	1.47	0	0	3.01	75.00	2.31	3.41	.	.
9	1	213	40.8	16.9	2024	304	.	.	.	100	1123	3.70	19	4	10.75	40.85	1.50	5.55	107	11
10	7	78	94.9	64.1	624	298	.	.	.	99	598	2.01	1	0	4.36	94.87	4.78	9.59	624	62
11	8	125	90.4	44.0	1000	415	.	.	.	98	696	1.68	0	0	3.77	90.40	4.15	6.96	.	.
12	10	514	80.0	31.1	4840	1615	.	.	.	99	3558	2.20	25	0	5.50	79.96	3.34	7.35	194	19
13	7	83	91.6	71.1	729	332	65.1	34.9	0.0	97	766	2.31	10	0	5.40	91.57	4.55	10.51	73	7
14	13	105	76.2	19.0	880	225	82.2	16.9	0.9	100	506	2.25	5	0	4.63	76.19	2.56	5.75	176	18
15	7	836	82.3	41.7	6688	2673	.	.	.	97	5481	2.05	36	1	6.45	82.30	4.00	8.19	186	19
16	2	80	85.0	76.3	720	327	96.9	3.1	0.0	99	606	1.85	1	0	5.42	85.00	4.54	8.42	720	72
17	94	1513	85.6	28.8	15766	5029	51.8	48.1	0.1	94	9225	1.83	65	0	4.76	85.59	3.19	5.85	243	24
18	1	39	66.7	12.8	312	67	100.0	0.0	0.0	97	135	2.01	2	0	5.86	66.67	2.15	4.32	156	16
19	1	35	51.4	42.9	350	85	.	.	.	98	227	2.67	4	0	5.69	51.43	2.43	6.49	88	9
20	8	645	79.1	55.5	5875	2241	94.0	6.0	0.0	99	4156	1.85	6	0	5.03	79.07	3.81	7.07	979	98
21	7	68	77.9	25.0	567	161	79.5	15.5	5.0	92	341	2.12	2	0	4.88	77.94	2.84	6.02	283	28
22	1	5	100.0	100.0	40	25	92.0	8.0	0.0	100	63	2.51	0	0	4.94	100.00	6.25	15.72	.	.
23	8	173	87.3	65.9	1517	676	96.2	3.8	0.0	99	1300	1.92	4	0	5.03	87.28	4.46	8.57	379	38
24	1	46	91.3	78.3	368	194	94.8	2.6	2.6	100	496	2.56	8	0	6.96	91.30	5.27	13.49	46	5
25	12	1264	96.7	55.1	10112	4758	89.8	10.2	0.0	99	10186	2.14	9	0	6.14	96.68	4.71	10.07	435	43
26	1	202	77.7	21.3	1616	454	.	.	.	95	995	2.19	12	0	6.38	77.72	2.81	6.16	135	13
27	4	588	77.7	23.5	4872	1465	89.6	5.8	4.6	99	3147	2.15	28	0	7.12	77.72	3.01	6.46	174	17
28	11	117	78.6	20.5	953	261	69.6	30.4	0.0	93	535	2.05	3	0	4.05	78.63	2.74	5.61	318	32
29	1	112	87.5	46.4	896	317	88.3	11.7	0.0	94	793	2.50	8	0	5.83	87.50	3.54	8.85	112	11
30	7	249	87.6	77.1	2241	1032	95.5	4.5	0.0	99	1899	1.84	2	0	4.83	87.55	4.61	8.47	1121	112
31	1	19	52.6	26.3	133	60	25.0	75.0	0.0	100	117	1.96	3	0	6.81	52.63	4.51	8.83	44	4
32	1	42	90.5	38.1	798	150	91.3	8.7	0.0	97	314	2.09	1	0	5.36	90.48	1.88	3.93	798	80
33	9	320	94.4	75.0	2560	1393	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	3602	2.59	.	1	5.36	94.38	5.44	14.07	.	.
34	11	243	90.1	69.1	2382	993	.	.	.	98	2114	2.13	17	1	5.46	90.12	4.17	8.87	140	14
35	6	108	84.3	63.0	972	415	96.4	3.6	0.0	99	823	1.98	4	0	4.71	84.26	4.27	8.46	243	24

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

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	11	241	82.6	57.7	1905	521	59.2	39.5	1.3	96	1026	1.97	6	0	5.24	82.57	2.74	5.39	317	32
37	8	208	90.4	63.9	1872	800	94.5	5.5	0.0	100	1388	1.73	2	0	4.67	90.39	4.27	7.41	936	94
38	1	42	100.0	59.5	336	174	.	.	.	100	301	1.73	0	0	4.25	100.00	5.18	8.96	.	.
39	1	40	100.0	67.5	380	201	95.0	5.0	0.0	100	380	1.89	0	0	4.50	100.00	5.29	9.99	.	.
40	11	231	86.1	39.4	1896	714	47.2	52.8	0.0	97	1323	1.85	7	0	4.82	86.15	3.77	6.98	271	27
41	12	77	90.9	46.8	830	298	45.8	54.2	0.0	98	519	1.74	5	0	4.44	90.91	3.59	6.26	166	17
42	8	71	88.7	56.3	639	253	100.0	0.0	0.0	97	354	1.40	0	0	2.67	88.73	3.96	5.53	.	.
43	19	863	73.6	21.2	7336	1849	.	.	.	100	5022	2.72	15	2	6.71	73.58	2.52	6.85	95	10
44	4	146	89.7	45.2	1168	469	.	.	.	87	983	2.10	11	0	6.34	89.73	4.02	8.42	106	11
45	8	114	76.3	28.1	1007	278	89.9	4.7	5.4	96	543	1.95	6	1	4.58	76.32	2.76	5.40	168	17
46	10	1710	86.2	60.6	13680	6337	.	.	.	.	15348	2.42	71	5	6.64	86.20	4.63	11.22	193	19
Grand Total	410	12904	86.1	48.5	112370	41373	53.1	45.9	1.0	96	87683	1.93	454	15	4.85	86.08	3.81	7.26	298	30

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

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2015 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	City	State	Representative	Phone
Alabama Association of General Contractors	Irondale	AL	Johnny Rouse	205-451-1435
Alabama B.A.S.S. Nation	Auburn	AL	Darryl High	334-707-7355
Alabama Bass Federation	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Alabama Bass Trail	Decatur	AL	Kay Donaldson	855-934-7425
Alabama Children's Classic Bass Tournament	Eufaula	AL	Capt. Sam Williams	334-355-5057
AL-TN Bass Club	Lawrenceburg	TN	Jonathan Edwards	931-762-5531
Anchor Cross Cancer	Mobile	AL	Daniel Meshad	251-635-6767
Bass Whackers	Cusseta	AL	Don Hollingsworth	334-745-5238
Bassmasters of North Alabama	Killen	AL	Joey Meares	256-577-6492
Bay Area Bassmasters	Robertsdale	AL	Joe Barnett	251-931-3025
Belmont Bass Anglers	Dennis	MS	Ben Davis	662-424-2405
Benning Bass Club	Fort Mitchell	AL	Cris Cox	706-570-0886
BFL Bama Division	Benton	KY	Alan Gray	270-703-5441
BFL Bulldog Division	Benton	KY	Mike Hale	270-252-1000
Bluff City Bassmasters	Eufaula	AL	Jim Howard	334-616-1918
Carbon Hill Bass Club	Eldridge	AL	Mark Edwards	205-389-2505
Christian Bassmen of Montgomery	Pike Road	AL	Brian Selix	334-271-1159
Collinsville Bass Club	Collinsville	MS	George Little	601-513-0429
Creanova Bass Club	Theodore	AL	Wayne Embree	251-689-4857
Dannelly Air National Guard(DANG Bass Club)	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Delta Rendezvous	Stapleton	AL	John Hall	251-379-6390
Dixie Bass Trail	Saraland	AL	Ernest Rachel	251-599-3727
Eufaula Bass Trail	Fort Gaines	GA	Rick Sacco	229-854-0606
Eufaula High School Bass Club	Eufaula	AL	Capt. Sam Williams	334-355-5057
Fishers of Men - Alabama NW	Tuscumbia	AL	Jered Oden	256-349-8145
Fishers of Men - Alabama South	Brewton	AL	Allen Couch	251-867-9852
FLW Tour	Benton	KY	Bill Taylor	270-703-2564
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resouces	Social Circle	GA	Clint Peacock	478-988-7191
Kowaliga	Tallassee	AL	Hank Golden	334-354-3387
Lake Guntersville Bass Masters	Grant	AL	Pete Pinkerton	530-604-2215
Mediabass	Mobile	AL	Lloyd Bullock	251-550-5948
Mediabass AL	Foley	AL	Lloyd Bullock	251-550-5948
Mediabass N. Florida	Ft. Walton Beach	FL	Tina Myrick	850-830-0022
Miss. Div. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Jackson	MS	Stan Crider	601-432-2400
Mobile Bass Association	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
Mobile Bassmasters	Mobile	AL	Bob Steele	251-661-9600
Mobile Boat Show Bass Tournament	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
National Bass Trail (GA/AL)	Cataula	GA	Blaine Souerwine	706-577-6874
Neely Henry Bassmasters	Anniston	AL	Earl Andrews	256-820-1944
OGS Tournament Trails	Opelika	AL	Mike Oglesbee	386-546-3614
Pine Level Bassmasters	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Rumbling Waters B.A.S.S. Club	Eclectic	AL	Tomy Gamble	
S.P.A.N. of Tuscaloosa County	Tuscaloosa	AL	Lindsey Holemon	205-554-0565
Southern Masters	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
West Alabama Bass Fishermans Assn.	Northport	AL	Stephen Wood	205-242-1236
Xtreme	Opelika	AL	Mike Oglesbee	386-546-3614

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2015 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.
1	17	255	85.9	31.0	2088	681	37.1	62.9	0.0	100	1421	2.09	6	1	4.85	85.88	3.26	6.81	348	35
2	25	1221	67.2	23.3	10295	2720	88.1	11.5	0.4	100	7203	2.65	78	11	5.68	67.16	2.64	7.00	132	13
3	64	2280	88.6	54.4	19636	8339	68.1	30.4	1.4	98	18351	2.20	116	3	5.65	88.55	4.25	9.35	145	14
4	49	1707	87.8	51.8	14837	6011	73.7	25.8	0.5	97	13162	2.19	69	0	5.23	87.76	4.05	8.87	167	17
5	47	2367	88.7	48.2	19797	8037	86.6	12.6	0.8	97	16768	2.09	57	0	5.11	88.72	4.06	8.47	276	28
6	43	1350	84.8	49.5	11549	4466	80.3	19.3	0.4	94	9557	2.14	45	0	4.76	84.81	3.87	8.28	248	25
7	32	597	80.7	37.2	5525	1703	73.2	26.6	0.2	94	3199	1.88	12	0	4.55	80.74	3.08	5.79	443	44
8	26	489	76.9	38.2	4186	1368	81.2	18.6	0.3	97	2627	1.92	4	0	4.41	76.89	3.27	6.28	984	98
9	45	1267	81.0	33.3	11385	3688	71.3	28.0	0.7	96	7576	2.05	20	0	4.24	80.98	3.24	6.65	405	41
10	30	839	77.5	32.5	8231	2532	71.5	23.6	5.0	97	4728	1.87	34	0	4.58	77.47	3.08	5.74	234	23
11	15	252	88.5	42.9	2355	891	72.2	27.7	0.1	100	1520	1.71	2	0	4.22	88.49	3.78	6.45	1178	118
12	17	280	88.2	41.8	2490	937	46.0	54.0	0.0	100	1572	1.68	11	0	4.38	88.21	3.76	6.31	226	23
Grand Total	410	12904	86.1	48.5	112370	41373	53.1	45.9	1.0	96	87683	1.93	454	15	4.85	86.08	3.81	7.26	298	30

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

Table 6. Summary of bass tournaments by lake and month for bass clubs participating in the 2015 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	25	100.0	189	100	83.7	16.3	0.0	100	202	2.02	0	0	4.39	5.29	10.71	.
	FEB	4	186	61.8	1495	385	83.6	16.4	0.0	100	1134	2.95	22	1	5.90	2.58	7.59	68
	MAR	6	315	86.7	3032	1264	87.0	13.0	0.0	99	3456	2.73	26	1	7.07	4.17	11.40	102
	APR	12	288	89.9	2724	1038	85.7	14.3	0.0	98	2499	2.41	18	0	5.59	3.81	9.17	118
	MAY	14	1208	88.4	9729	3493	94.2	5.8	0.0	97	7725	2.21	23	0	5.85	3.59	7.94	247
	JUN	5	190	90.0	1691	657	88.0	12.0	0.0	94	1553	2.36	8	0	5.25	3.89	9.18	175
	JUL	4	52	94.2	523	204	82.6	17.4	0.0	95	512	2.51	2	0	5.70	3.90	9.79	157
	AUG	4	97	69.1	776	199	88.9	11.1	0.0	96	443	2.22	2	0	5.76	2.56	5.70	264
	SEP	3	55	85.5	448	172	94.2	5.8	0.0	99	345	2.01	0	0	4.74	3.84	7.71	.
	OCT	4	83	62.7	790	171	91.8	8.2	0.0	99	332	1.94	1	0	3.91	2.16	4.20	502
	NOV	2	25	84.0	232	62	69.4	30.6	0.0	98	119	1.92	0	0	3.55	2.67	5.13	.
	DEC	1	19	94.7	304	90	87.8	12.2	0.0	100	199	2.22	4	0	7.41	2.96	6.56	76
Guntersville	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	414	52.7	3632	651	.	.	.	100	2493	3.83	31	9	9.97	1.79	6.87	117
	MAR	6	112	48.2	1081	147	96.5	3.5	0.0	100	420	2.86	10	1	6.02	1.36	3.88	108
	APR	5	77	88.3	658	183	96.2	3.8	0.0	98	496	2.71	11	0	6.01	2.78	7.54	60
	MAY	5	111	95.5	1049	449	96.7	3.3	0.0	97	1186	2.64	9	0	5.95	4.28	11.31	117
	JUN	3	30	86.7	464	129	95.3	4.7	0.0	94	277	2.15	5	0	5.45	2.78	5.98	93
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	12	91.7	102	32	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	90	2.80	1	0	5.56	3.14	8.78	102
	SEP	4	124	83.9	1720	494	87.9	12.1	0.0	99	1326	2.68	13	0	5.38	2.87	7.71	132
	OCT	4	80	66.3	1105	140	78.6	17.1	4.3	100	363	2.59	7	0	6.43	1.27	3.28	158
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	11	54.5	94	19	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	45	2.37	0	0	3.44	2.03	4.81	.
Jones Bluff	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	39	46.2	312	49	.	.	.	100	133	2.71	2	0	6.57	1.57	4.25	156
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	12	75.0	90	40	20.0	80.0	0.0	98	61	1.53	0	0	3.52	4.44	6.80	.
	MAY	1	11	90.9	99	50	60.0	40.0	0.0	96	80	1.61	1	0	5.23	5.05	8.11	99
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	2	28	89.3	218	76	3.3	96.7	0.0	91	107	1.40	0	0	3.81	3.49	4.91	.
	AUG	1	5	100.0	50	20	35.0	65.0	0.0	100	29	1.47	0	0	4.25	4.00	5.86	.
	SEP	3	23	95.7	206	80	51.5	48.5	0.0	99	123	1.54	0	0	3.44	3.88	5.97	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	1	12	83.3	105	38	28.9	71.1	0.0	100	70	1.83	0	0	4.27	3.62	6.62	.
Lay	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	3	53	84.9	457	162	75.0	25.0	0	99	369	2.28	4	0	5.01	3.54	8.07	114
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	2	370	81.1	2960	1134	.	.	.	94	2383	2.10	7	0	6.59	3.83	8.05	423
	JUL	1	4	75.0	40	10	70.0	30.0	0	100	16	1.58	0	0	2.44	2.50	3.94	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	4	61	80.3	515	133	35.3	64.7	0	94	230	1.73	0	0	3.81	2.58	4.47	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	14	92.9	123	48	18.8	81.3	0	100	84	1.75	0	0	3.84	3.92	6.87	.
	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	1	24	83.3	192	60	41.7	58.3	0.0	100	137	2.28	2	0	6.50	3.13	7.13	96
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	23	78.3	161	43	7.0	93.0	0.0	100	83	1.92	0	0	4.94	2.67	5.14	.
	APR	2	29	100.0	318	194	0.0	100.0	0.0	88	379	1.95	3	0	4.97	6.11	11.94	106
	MAY	3	460	91.1	3680	1932	6.3	93.8	0.0	98	3851	1.99	14	0	5.31	5.25	10.46	263
	JUN	1	5	100.0	40	14	42.9	57.1	0.0	64	18	1.30	0	0	2.80	3.50	4.55	.
	JUL	3	67	89.6	562	220	35.9	64.1	0.0	88	356	1.62	0	0	4.51	3.91	6.34	.
	AUG	1	22	86.4	176	66	25.8	74.2	0.0	89	97	1.47	0	0	4.52	3.75	5.52	.
	SEP	1	15	80.0	120	39	30.8	69.2	0.0	100	56	1.44	0	0	3.56	3.25	4.68	.
	OCT	1	18	100.0	297	120	45.8	54.2	0.0	100	178	1.48	1	0	6.45	4.04	5.99	297
	NOV	1	13	100.0	228	112	50.9	49.1	0.0	99	179	1.60	0	0	4.80	4.92	7.89	.
	DEC	1	16	93.8	128	60	16.7	83.3	0.0	100	93	1.56	0	0	4.20	4.69	7.30	.
Martin	JAN	6	107	86.0	888	297	16.3	83.7	0.0	100	560	1.89	1	0	4.22	3.34	6.31	888
	FEB	2	104	81.7	832	264	.	.	.	100	442	1.67	1	0	4.97	3.17	5.31	832
	MAR	1	40	90.0	320	164	.	.	.	63	308	1.88	0	0	4.86	5.13	9.63	.
	APR	1	10	100.0	140	57	8.8	91.2	0.0	95	78	1.37	0	0	2.94	4.07	5.57	.
	MAY	1	11	90.9	83	46	17.4	82.6	0.0	87	77	1.68	0	0	3.26	5.58	9.36	.
	JUN	2	52	88.5	416	132	15.2	84.8	0.0	91	178	1.35	2	0	5.41	3.17	4.29	208
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	3	37	97.3	530	223	20.6	79.4	0.0	79	294	1.32	0	0	2.58	4.21	5.55	.
	NOV	1	29	100.0	232	112	.	.	.	98	151	1.35	0	0	4.50	4.83	6.52	.
	DEC	4	66	90.9	559	246	13.5	86.5	0.0	99	349	1.42	1	0	3.60	4.40	6.25	559
Mobile Delta	JAN	2	30	80.0	255	66	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	88	1.34	1	0	4.02	2.59	3.46	255
	FEB	7	190	81.1	1703	598	93.1	6.9	0.0	100	1038	1.74	1	0	3.74	3.51	6.10	1703
	MAR	9	229	85.2	2046	868	94.2	5.8	0.0	99	1592	1.83	6	0	4.54	4.24	7.78	341
	APR	7	203	89.7	1856	831	98.8	1.2	0.0	99	1481	1.78	4	0	4.51	4.48	7.98	464
	MAY	9	368	83.7	3199	1329	95.8	4.2	0.0	99	2383	1.79	3	0	4.46	4.15	7.45	1066
	JUN	9	222	88.7	1993	865	94.7	5.3	0.0	98	1587	1.83	1	0	3.92	4.34	7.96	1993
	JUL	8	187	85.6	1598	637	94.8	5.2	0.0	97	1110	1.74	3	0	4.14	3.99	6.95	533
	AUG	9	210	81.0	1852	679	95.7	4.3	0.0	99	1269	1.87	0	0	3.95	3.67	6.86	.
	SEP	9	231	74.9	2029	682	95.1	4.9	0.0	96	1105	1.62	0	0	3.81	3.36	5.45	.
	OCT	5	115	92.2	963	422	97.6	2.4	0.0	94	701	1.66	0	0	3.59	4.38	7.29	.
	NOV	4	85	89.4	779	316	96.8	3.2	0.0	100	543	1.72	0	0	3.65	4.06	6.97	.
	DEC	3	43	93.0	322	140	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	211	1.50	0	0	3.15	4.35	6.55	.
Mitchell	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	11	100.0	88	47	.	.	.	100	100	2.13	0	0	4.75	5.34	11.40	.
	APR	2	43	93.0	409	179	16.8	83.2	0.0	99	430	2.40	1	0	5.01	4.38	10.53	409
	MAY	1	6	100.0	60	28	42.9	57.1	0.0	100	45	1.62	0	0	3.50	4.67	7.54	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	3	42	76.2	347	85	32.7	67.3	0.0	91	172	2.02	1	0	5.11	2.45	4.96	347
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	4	205	89.3	1640	701	.	.	.	.	1369	1.95	3	0	5.94	4.27	8.35	547
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	24	83.3	228	93	.	.	.	100	164	1.76	0	0	4.60	4.08	7.20	.
	DEC	1	20	80.0	190	71	.	.	.	100	162	2.28	0	0	4.56	3.74	8.51	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Bass per day ¹	Pounds per day ¹	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Neely Henry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	11	100.0	88	47	.	.	.	100	100	2.13	0	0	4.75	5.34	11.40	.
	APR	2	43	93.0	409	179	16.8	83.2	0.0	99	430	2.40	1	0	5.01	4.38	10.53	409
	MAY	1	6	100.0	60	28	42.9	57.1	0.0	100	45	1.62	0	0	3.50	4.67	7.54	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	3	42	76.2	347	85	32.7	67.3	0.0	91	172	2.02	1	0	5.11	2.45	4.96	347
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	4	205	89.3	1640	701	.	.	.	.	1369	1.95	3	0	5.94	4.27	8.35	547
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	24	83.3	228	93	.	.	.	100	164	1.76	0	0	4.60	4.08	7.20	.
	DEC	1	20	80.0	190	71	.	.	.	100	162	2.28	0	0	4.56	3.74	8.51	.
Pickwick	JAN	2	24	95.8	204	76	.	.	.	.	238	3.13	2	1	8.11	3.73	11.67	102
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	4	142	89.4	1160	493	57.5	40.0	2.5	100	1185	2.40	17	1	7.52	4.25	10.22	68
	APR	5	391	75.7	3333	907	96.6	0.0	3.4	98	2271	2.50	9	0	5.94	2.72	6.81	65
	MAY	2	46	84.8	621	234	86.9	11.5	1.6	93	486	2.08	3	0	5.91	3.77	7.83	207
	JUN	4	213	79.3	1723	782	.	.	.	.	2125	2.72	12	0	6.32	4.54	12.33	134
	JUL	1	20	65.0	170	29	.	.	.	.	102	3.53	1	0	5.88	1.71	6.01	170
	AUG	3	63	50.8	493	92	95.8	0.0	4.2	96	205	2.23	1	0	4.93	1.87	4.15	493
	SEP	6	358	72.1	3043	771	.	.	.	.	2038	2.64	.	.	.	2.53	6.70	.
	OCT	7	405	76.0	3463	1097	83.5	7.3	9.2	100	2239	2.04	22	0	5.12	3.17	6.47	157
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Smith	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	28	60.7	219	34	35.3	64.7	0.0	100	88	2.58	1	0	5.51	1.55	4.00	219
	MAR	6	638	98.0	5104	2678	.	.	.	100	5574	2.08	7	0	5.93	5.25	10.92	377
	APR	1	199	94.0	1592	872	.	.	.	.	2018	2.31	4	0	5.18	5.48	12.68	398
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	19	94.7	304	104	4.8	95.2	0.0	100	152	1.46	0	0	3.58	3.42	5.00	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Weiss	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	7	100.0	56	23	73.9	26.1	0.0	100	44	1.90	0	0	4.36	4.11	7.81	.
	MAY	3	17	100.0	144	44	50.0	50.0	0.0	98	80	1.82	1	0	3.85	3.06	5.57	144
	JUN	6	112	84.8	904	300	59.3	40.7	0.0	94	576	1.92	2	0	4.55	3.32	6.37	452
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	8	100.0	144	36	44.4	55.6	0.0	100	58	1.60	0	0	3.69	2.50	4.01	.
	SEP	2	53	92.5	466	160	55.6	44.4	0.0	96	316	1.97	1	0	4.89	3.43	6.77	466
	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.
Wheeler	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	32	68.8	256	79	93.7	2.5	3.8	100	216	2.73	7	0	6.94	3.09	8.43	36.6
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	2	57	86.0	462	216	92.6	4.2	3.2	100	549	2.54	9	0	6.36	4.68	11.89	51.3
	MAY	1	24	100.0	204	119	92.4	0.0	7.6	89	300	2.52	2	0	5.56	5.83	14.71	102
	JUN	3	29	69.0	244	56	96.4	0.0	3.6	98	107	1.90	0	0	3.56	2.30	4.36	.
	JUL	1	9	55.6	67.5	11	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	27	2.41	0	0	4.56	1.63	3.93	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	1	6	100.0	120	60	.	.	.	100	112	1.86	2	0	5.88	5.00	9.29	60
	NOV	1	7	100.0	63	20	90.0	10.0	0.0	100	43	2.13	1	0	5.31	3.17	6.76	63
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wilson	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	2	32	100.0	259	142	70.4	0.0	29.6	100	403	2.84	11	0	5.88	5.48	15.57	23.6
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	3	44	100.0	387	144	93.8	0.0	6.3	91	298	2.07	1	0	4.72	3.73	7.71	387
	JUN	1	27	96.3	230	78	89.7	1.3	9.0	92	226	2.90	4	0	6.00	3.40	9.86	57.4
	JUL	1	10	100.0	70	25	88.0	0.0	12.0	76	43	1.73	0	0	4.00	3.57	6.19	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	19	100.0	152	86	88.4	0.0	11.6	99	194	2.25	2	0	6.50	5.66	12.73	76
	OCT	1	12	58.3	96	8	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	24	2.97	0	0	4.13	0.83	2.47	.
	NOV	1	14	78.6	133	25	96.0	0.0	4.0	100	45	1.80	1	0	5.83	1.88	3.38	133
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
West Point	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	10	70.0	80	11	54.5	45.5	0.0	100	30	2.76	1	0	6.94	1.38	3.79	80
	MAR	19	305	83.6	2744	870	33.4	66.6	0.0	98	1733	1.99	21	0	5.21	3.17	6.32	131
	APR	2	61	95.1	520	250	31.6	68.4	0.0	95	426	1.70	1	0	4.83	4.81	8.18	520
	MAY	2	41	73.2	360	97	33.0	67.0	0.0	89	134	1.38	0	0	4.40	2.70	3.72	.
	JUN	2	25	72.0	200	38	47.4	52.6	0.0	55	60	1.59	0	0	3.26	1.90	3.01	.
	JUL	4	83	54.2	676	71	35.2	64.8	0.0	89	105	1.47	1	0	3.92	1.05	1.55	676
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	12	91.7	96	41	4.9	95.1	0.0	5	53	1.29	0	0	2.75	4.27	5.52	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	5	80.0	50	18	83.3	16.7	0.0	100	34	1.88	0	0	4.06	3.60	6.76	.
	DEC	3	28	96.4	232	84	48.8	51.2	0.0	100	149	1.77	3	0	5.12	3.62	6.41	77

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

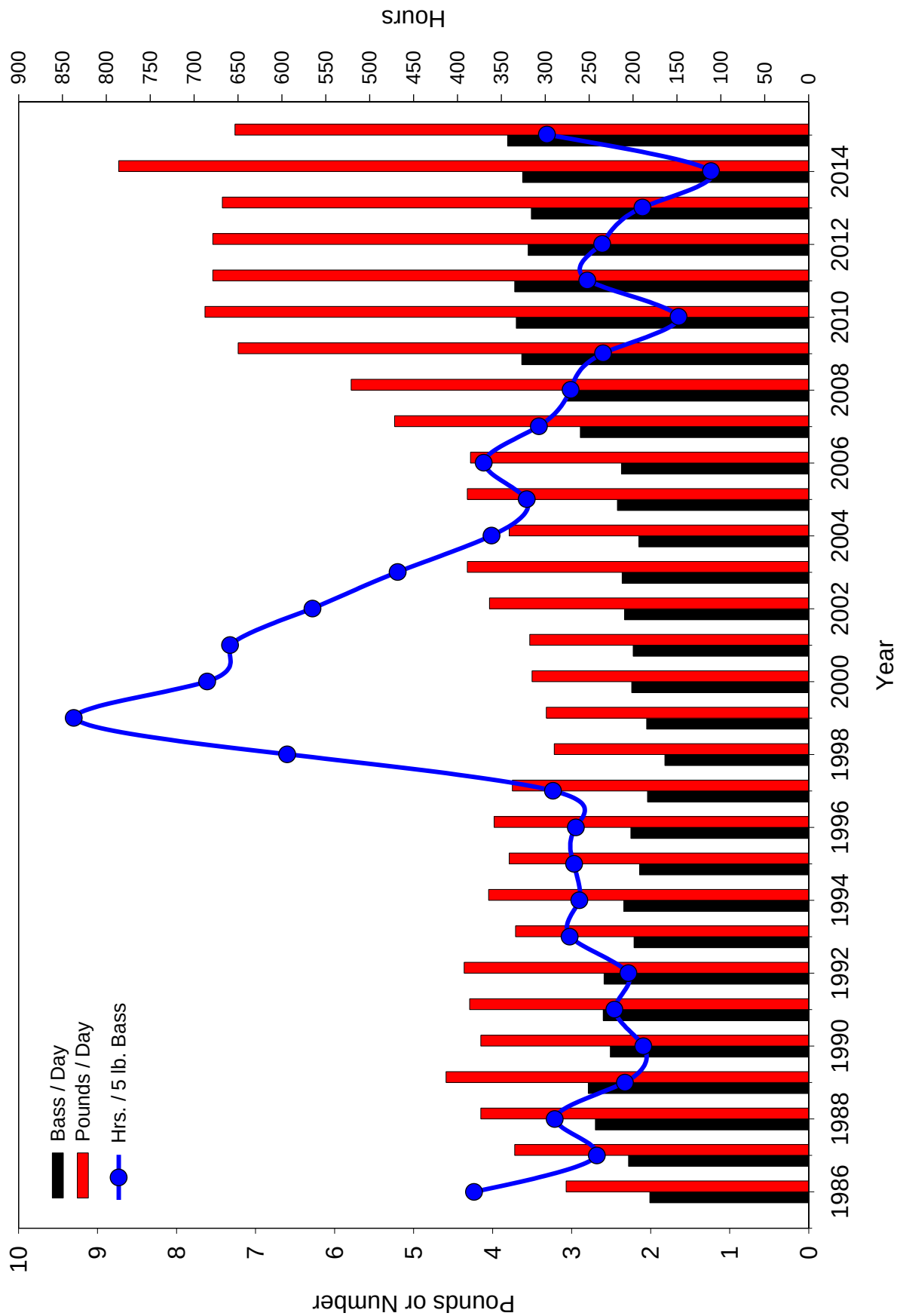


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments, 1986 - 2015.

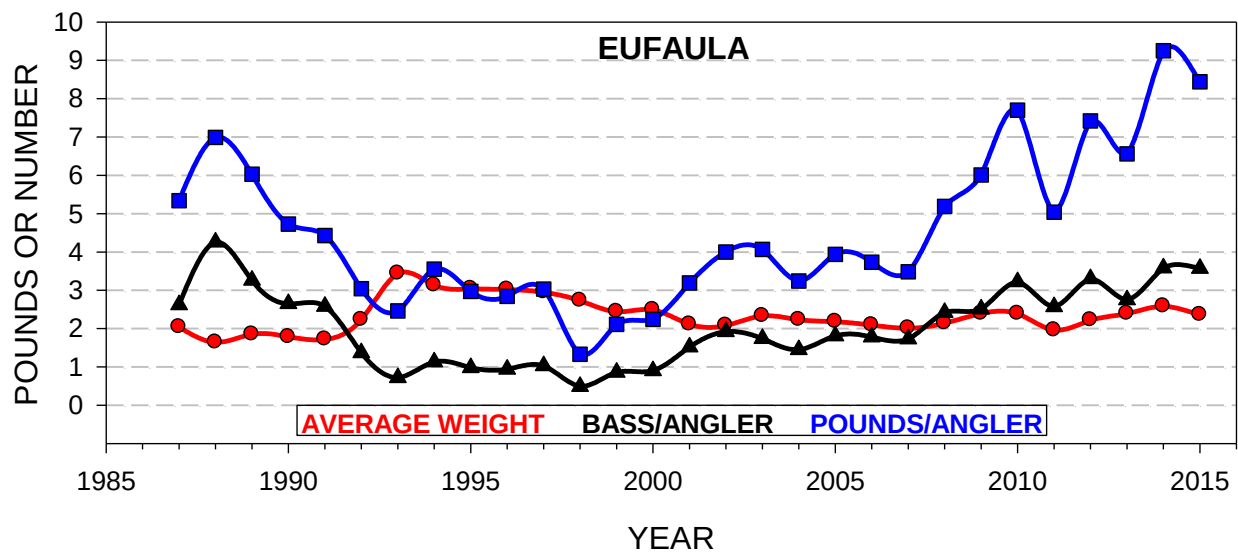
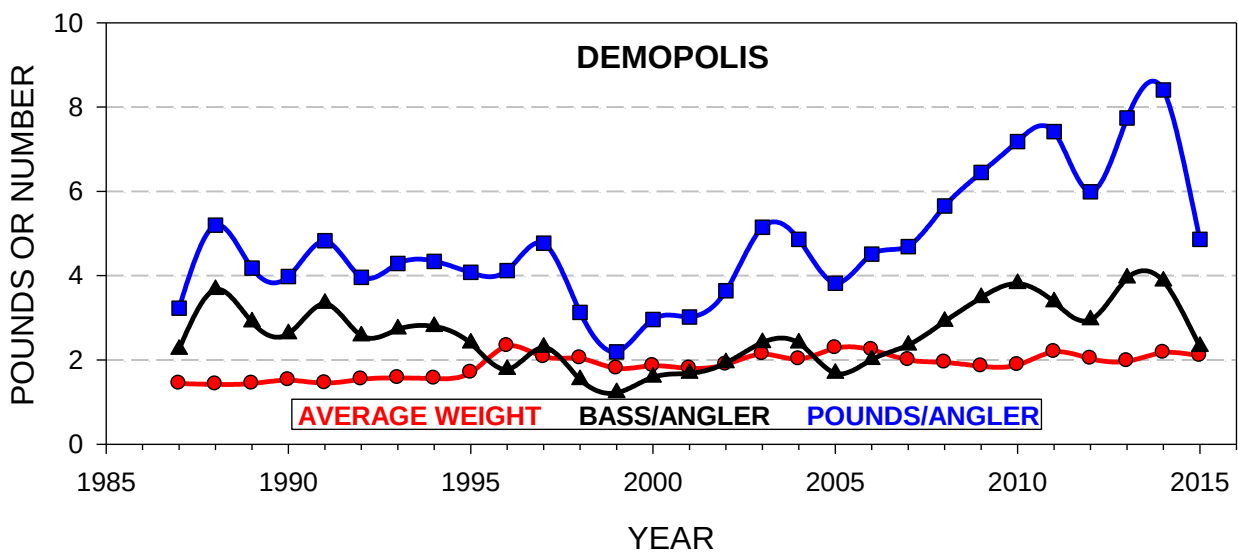
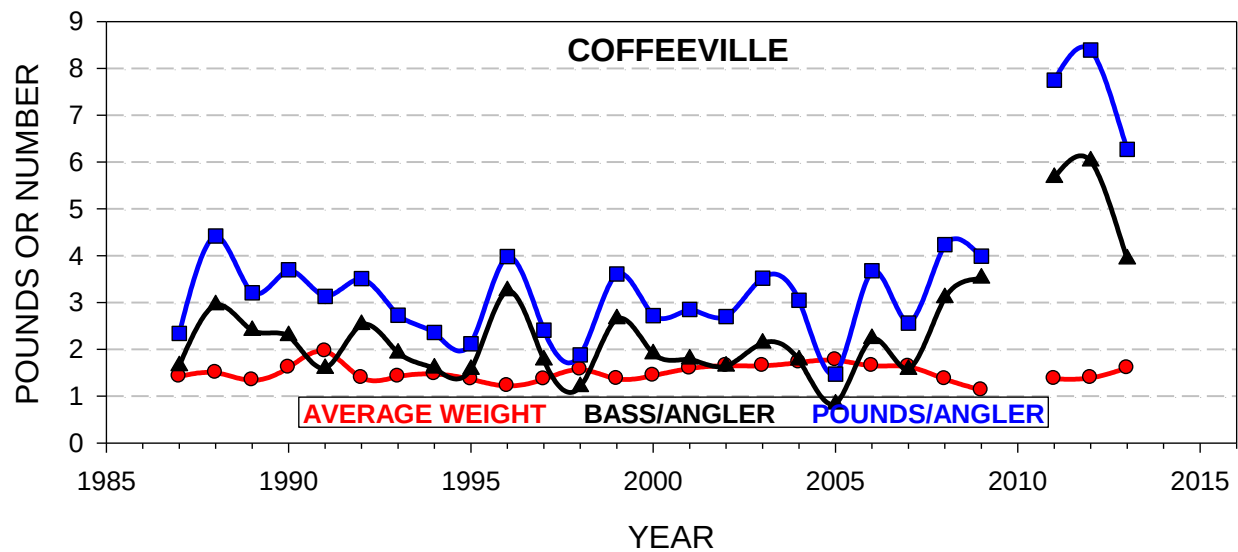


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeetown, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2015.

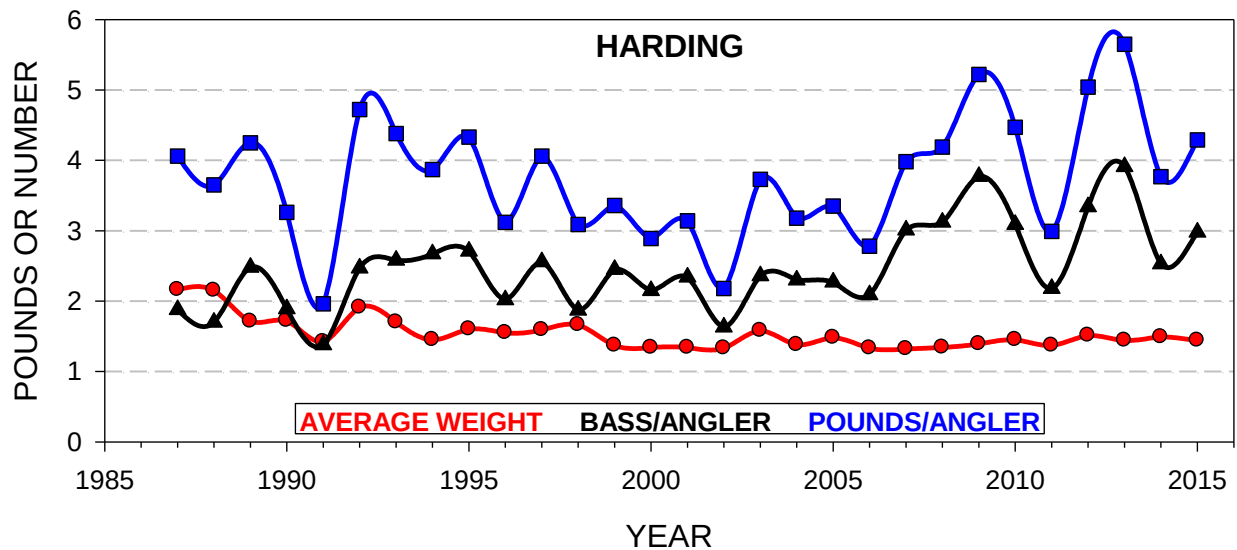
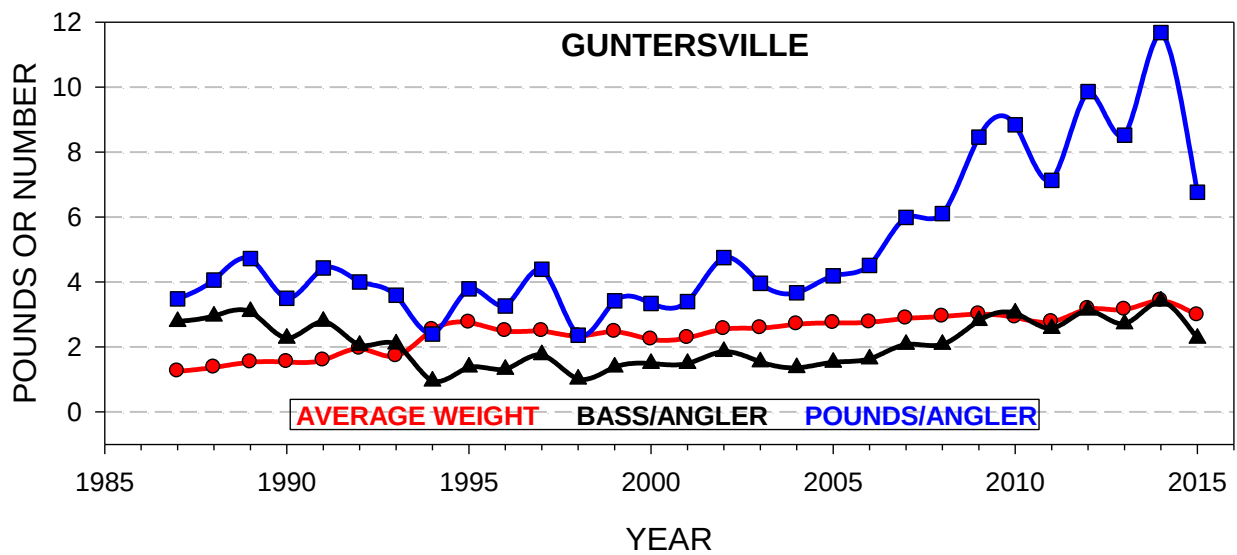
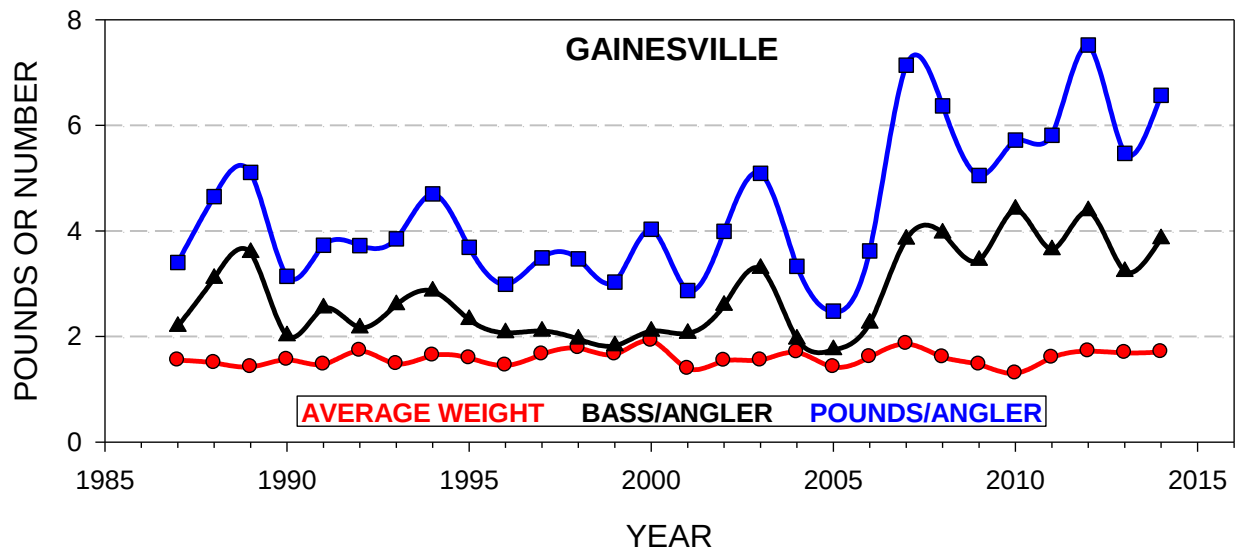


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Gunter'sville, and Harding, through 2015.

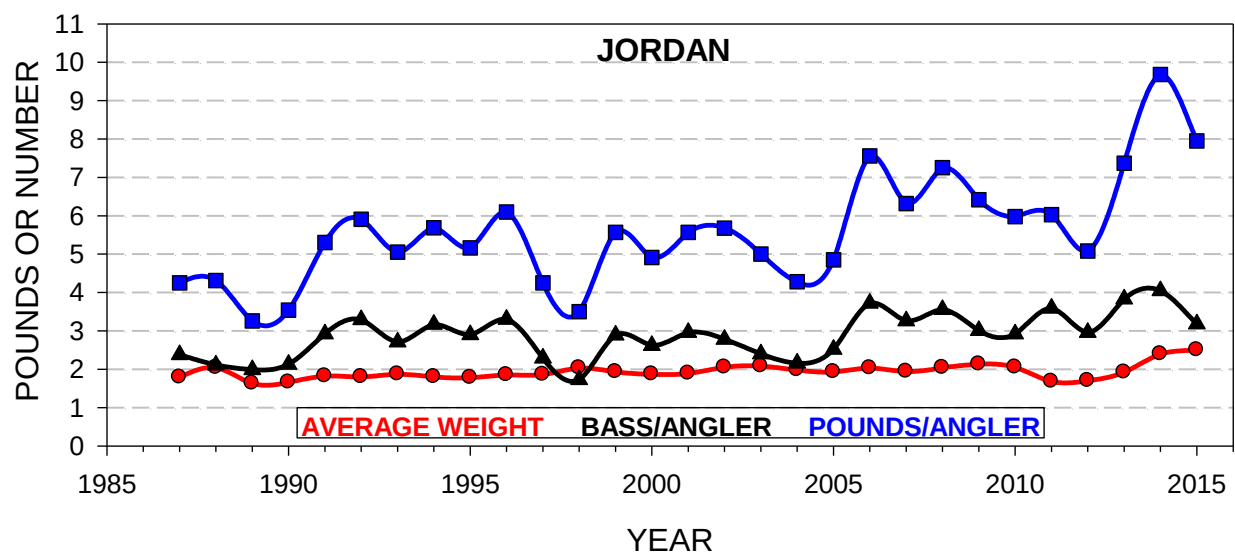
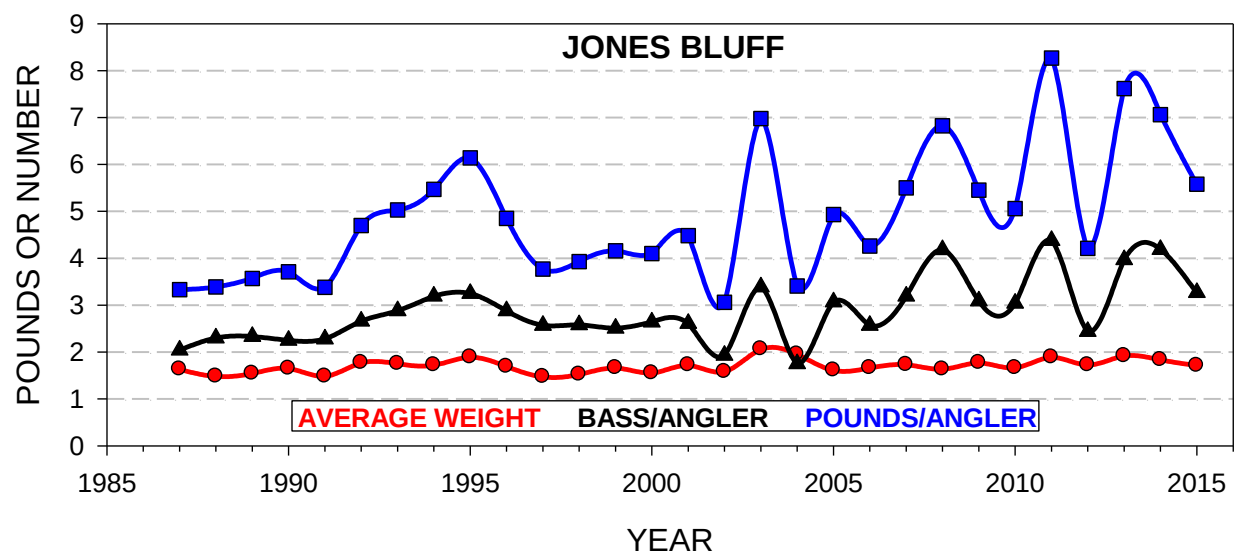
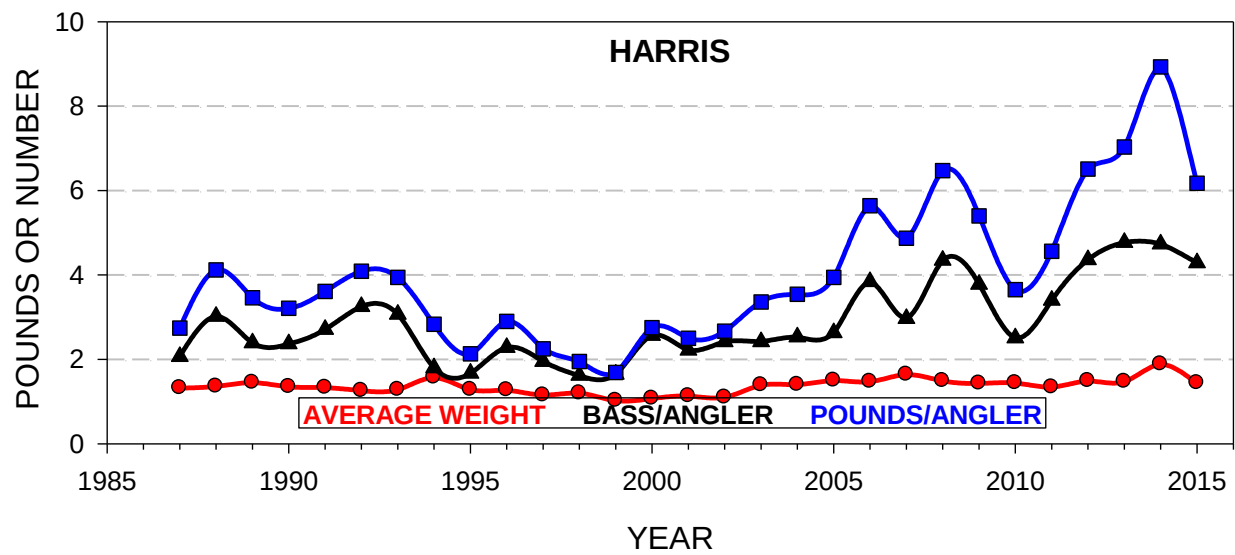


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2015.

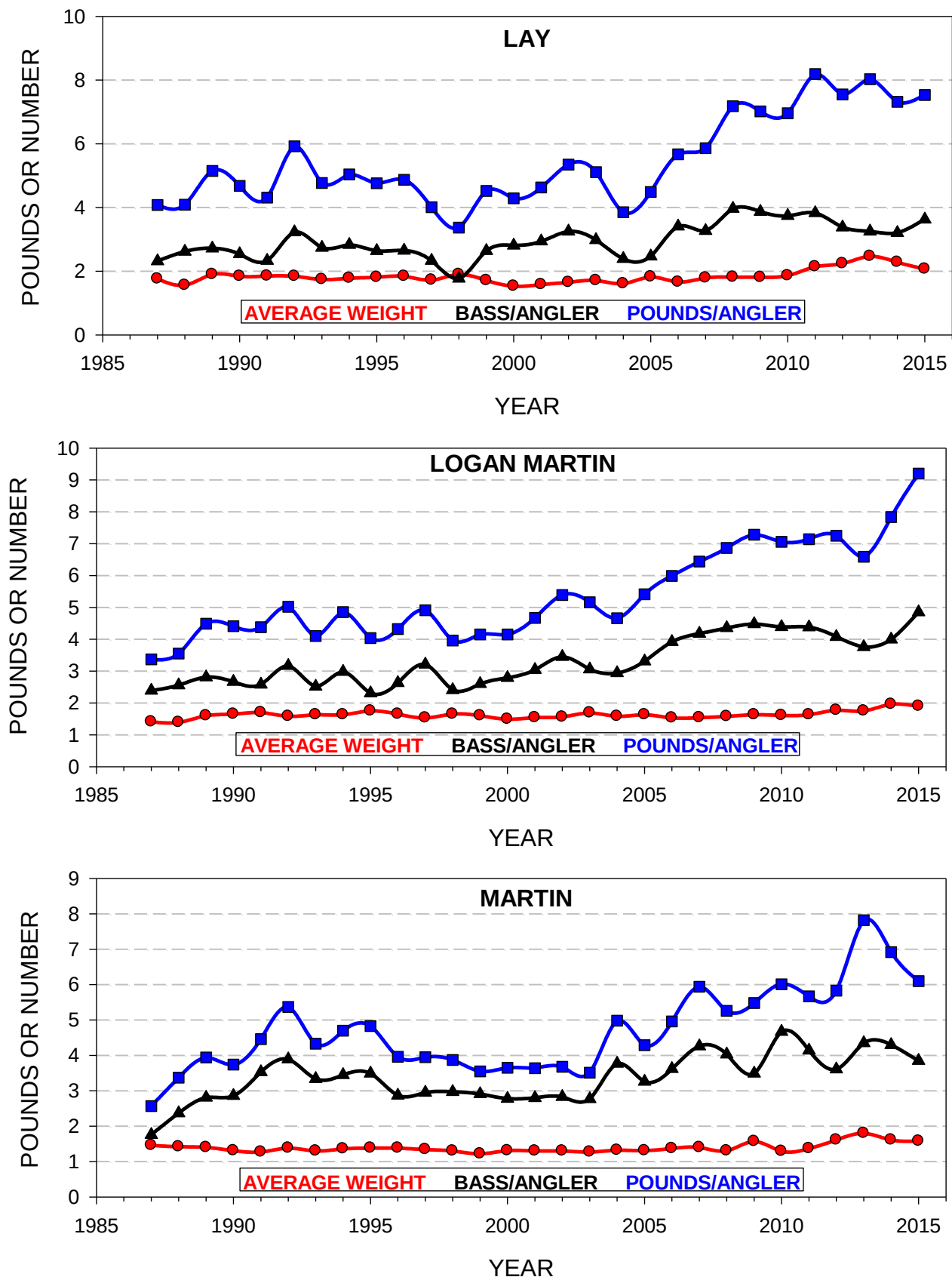


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2015.

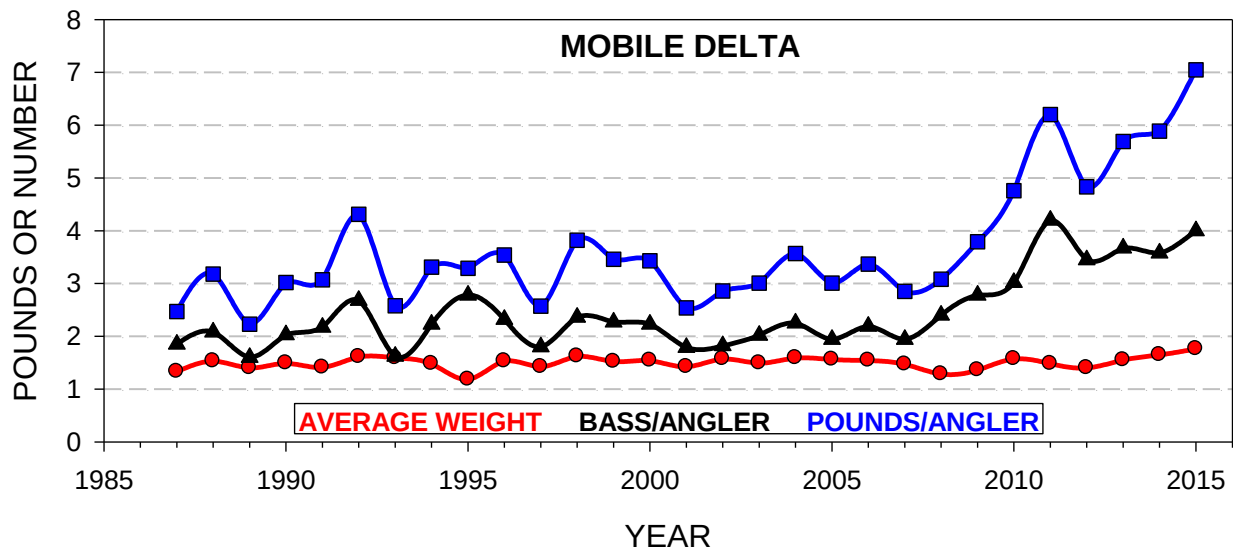
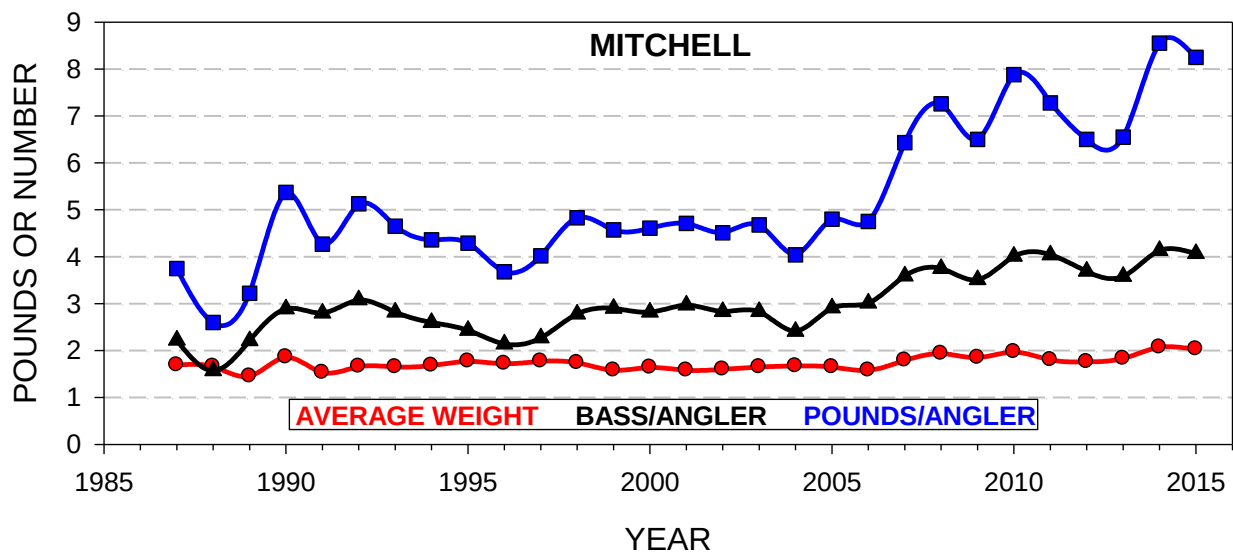
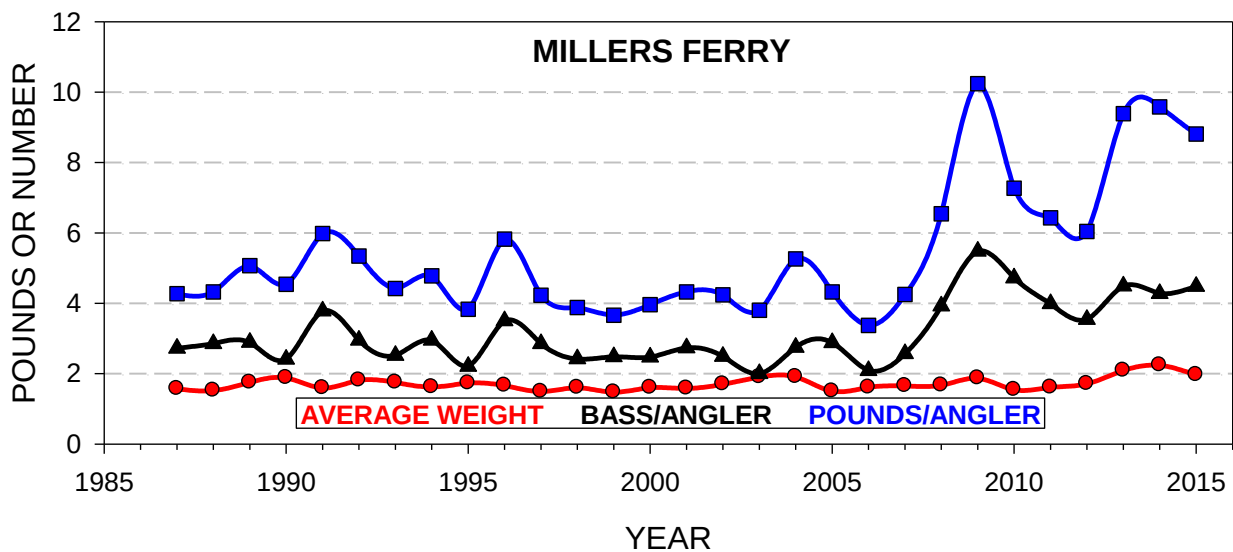


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2015.

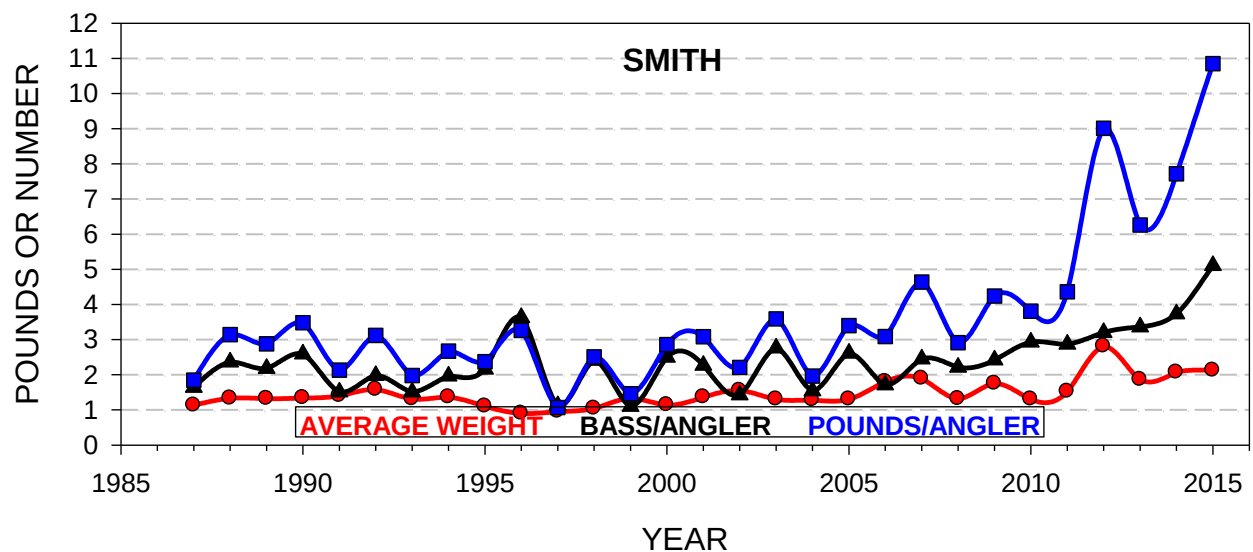
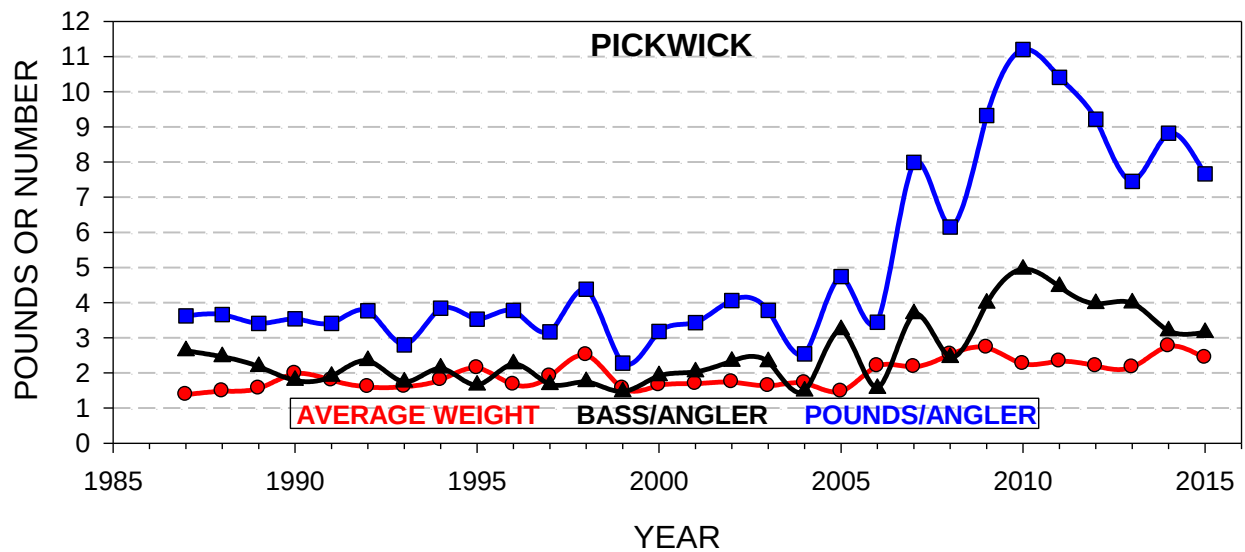
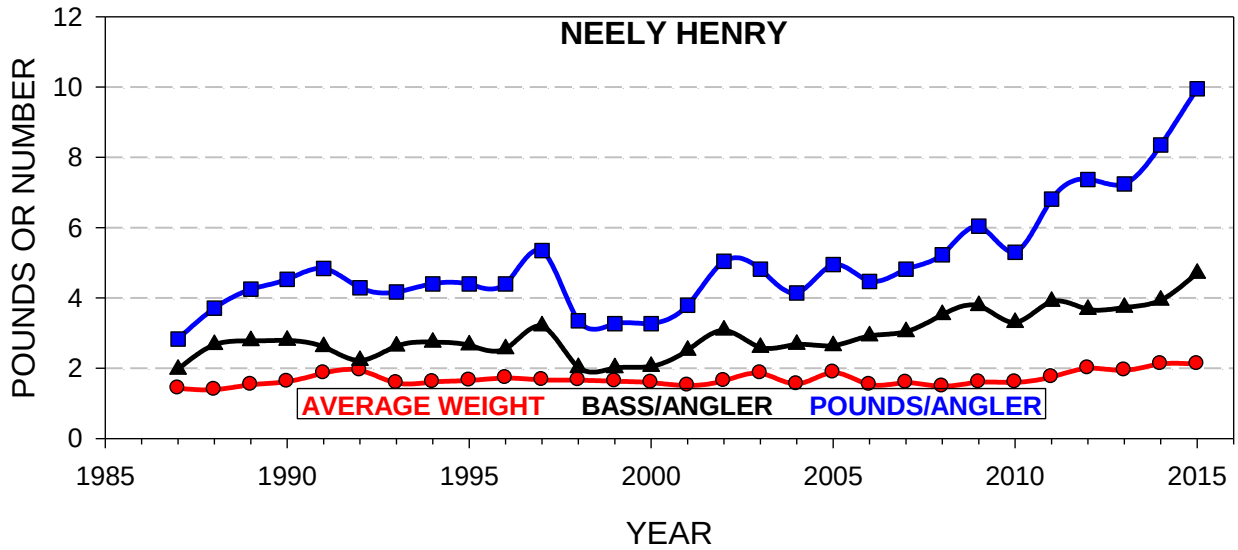


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2015.

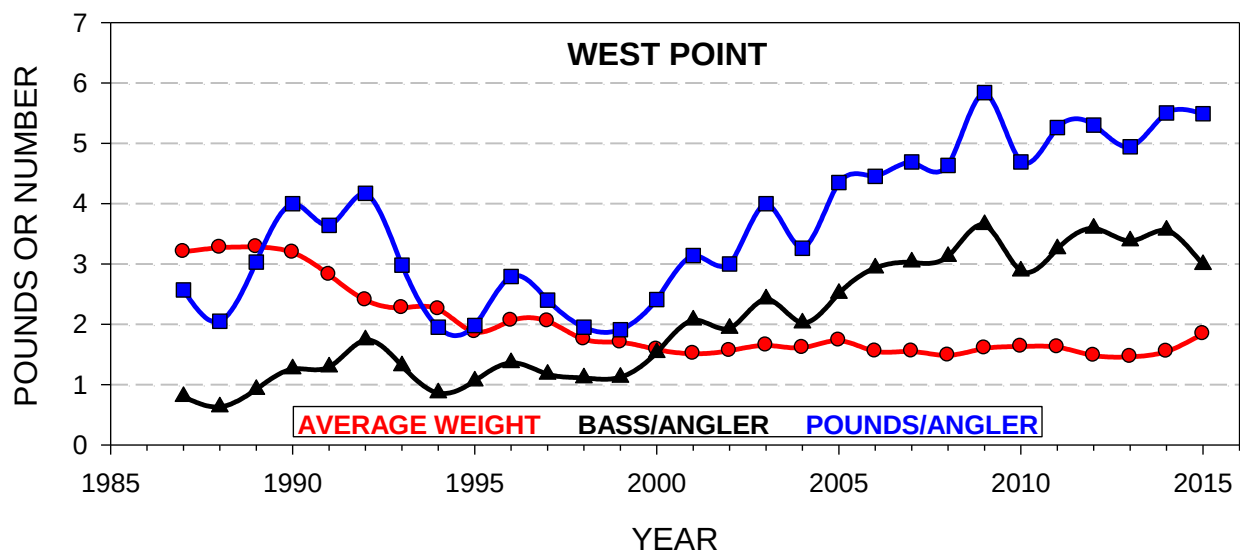
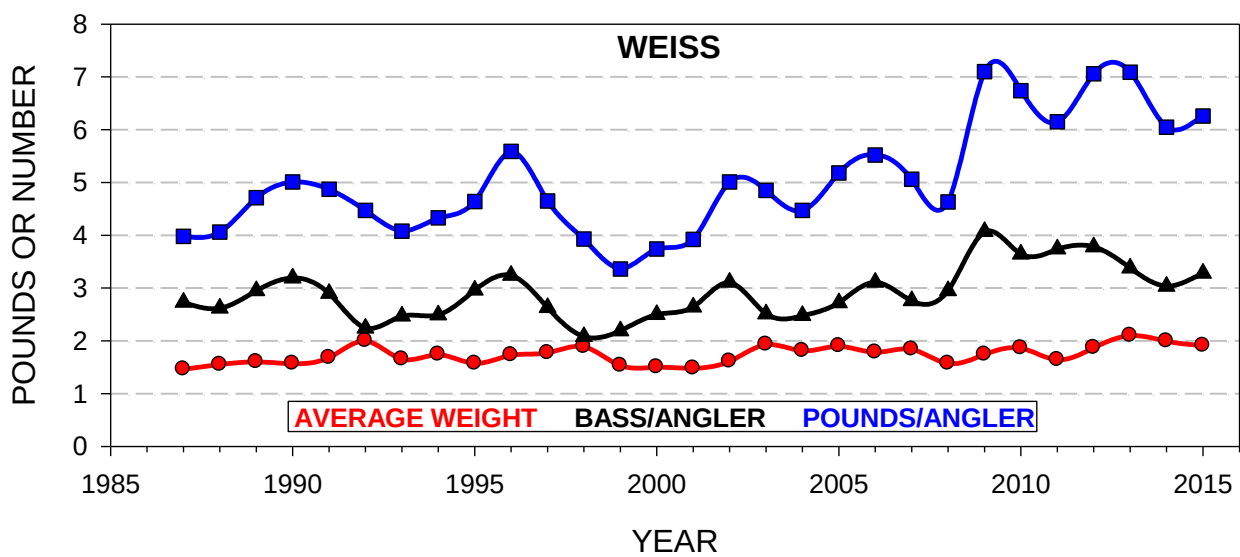
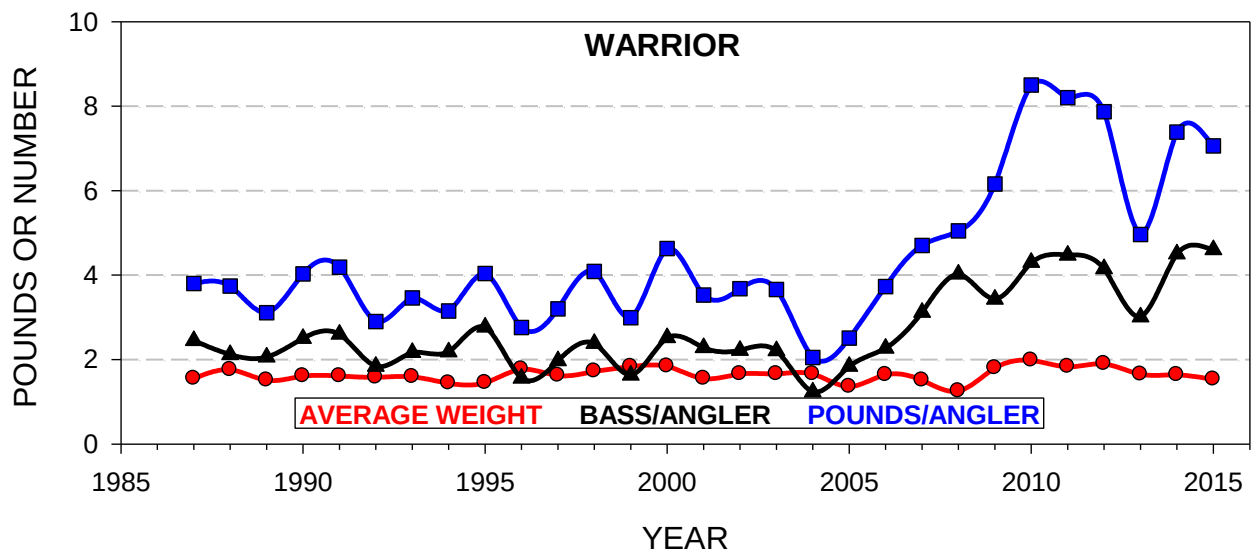


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2015.

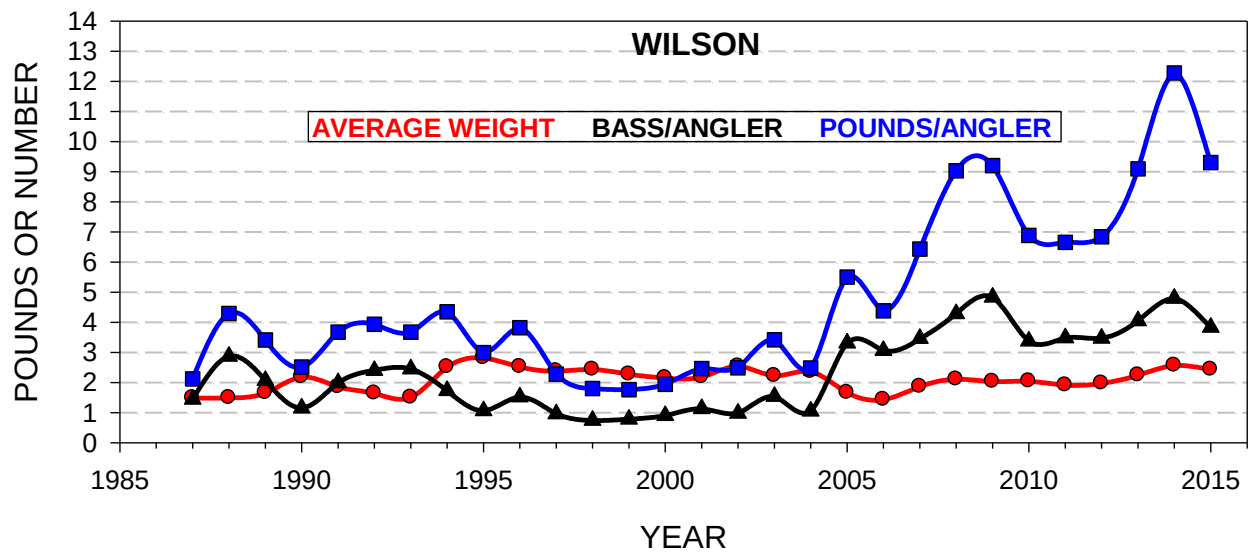
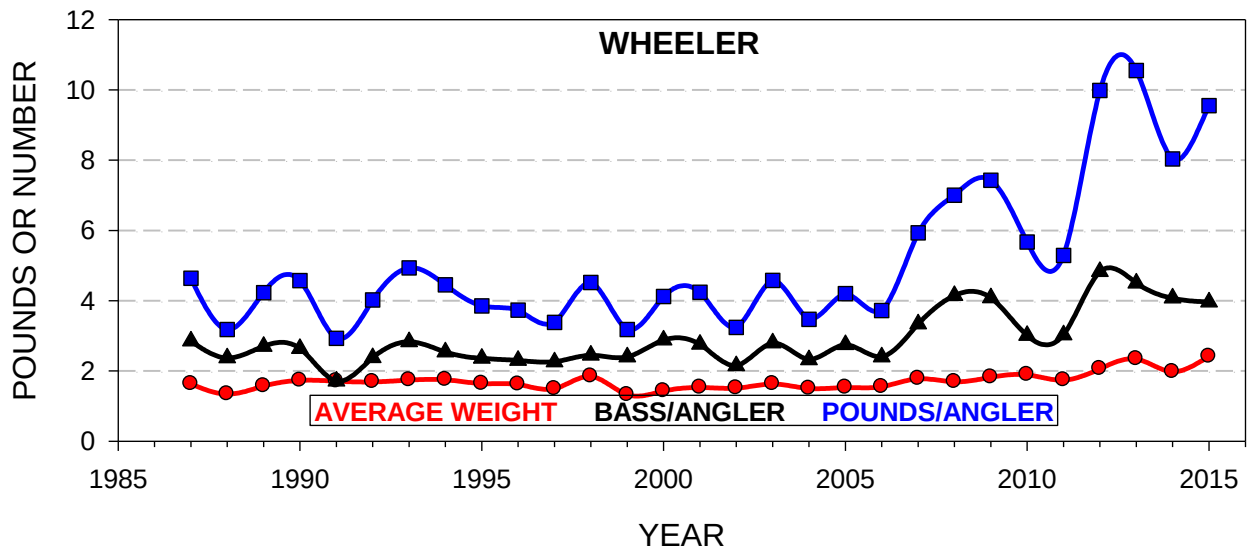


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2015.

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 Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA), Department of Public Safety (DPS), Marine Patrol requires a Marine Event Permit for any event (including bass tournaments) with more than 100 boats participating. Applications can be obtained from the ALEA Marine Patrol free of charge by calling (334) 242-3630, 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 a lake you did not catch them from**. Your fish can be eaten, donated to a charitable organization such as an orphanage, or returned to the reservoir from which they were caught. Fish can only be moved legally from one reservoir to another if they are transported by boat through a navigable lock.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE

Access area creel surveys conducted by Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries biologists have revealed a significant decline in bass harvest rates, statewide. In 2015, 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://www.outdooralabama.com/catch-and-release>.

Tournament Website

www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments

Type the above link into your web browser to access the improved "Fishing Tournaments" webpage where you can post your tournaments or view those posted by other organizations.

Click here to post information about your tournament, then . . .

enter your tournament information including contacts, a link to your website, or even a copy of the registration form.

The screenshot shows the 'Fishing Tournaments' webpage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'Home' link and a 'Post a New Fishing Tournament' button. Below this, there are filters for 'Tournament Type' (Freshwater Fishing), 'Month and Year' (Select a Month and Year), 'Body' (Select a Water body), and 'Target Species' (Select a Species). A 'Get Tournaments' button is also present. The main content area displays a table of 'Freshwater Fishing Tournaments' with columns for Organization, Water Body, Boat Ramp, Start Date Time, End Date Time, and Species. The table lists various tournaments, including 'ALABAMA WEEKEND ANGLERS STOP #5', 'Auburn Bassmasters', 'Central Bama Bass Club', 'En Fuego Ministries', 'OGS Tournament Trails', 'Casting for the Cure', and 'Wheeler'. The bottom of the page includes the website's footer with contact information for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

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

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 112 public boating access areas statewide. Several of these facilities received upgrades during 2015, and a new facility was completed on Guntersville. For more information on ADCNR freshwater boating access, visit boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov/.

Bridgeport (Lake Guntersville)

A new boating access facility at Bridgeport Ferry near the town of Bridgeport was constructed to include a 20' wide launch pad, paved parking for 25 truck / trailer rigs, security lighting, and a 8' x 30' floating courtesy pier. This project was completed in cooperation with the Town of Bridgeport.

Brown's Creek (Lake Guntersville)

In 2015, new security lighting was installed and the parking lot was re-striped with thermoplastic striping in a configuration that makes it more convenient for boaters. The parking lot now accommodates 64 truck / trailer rigs.

Shoal Creek (Wilson)

Construction began to construct a new boat landing directly across Hwy. 72 from the old Shoal Creek Boat Landing. The ramp will be opened in 2016 and will include a 20' wide launching slab, paved parking for 36 truck and trailer rigs, and a prep area to accommodate one truck and trailer rig. This project is under construction in cooperation with Alabama Department of Transportation.



Riverfront Park (Pickwick)

A new 8' x 250' floating access pier was constructed at Riverfront Park, as well as a parking lot resurfacing and demolition of the old barge located onsite.

Pollard Landing (Conecuh River)

Construction began on a new boat ramp at Pollard Landing near Brewton. The ramp will be open in 2016 and will include a 15' wide launching slab and paved parking for 17 truck and trailer rigs. The project is under construction in cooperation with the Escambia County Commission.



Leesburg (Weiss)

ADCNR is in the planning stages of a major renovation of Leesburg Public Boat Landing. The construction plans include a launching slab to accommodate four truck and trailer rigs, paved parking for 112 truck and trailer rigs, a gravel overflow lot for 150 truck and trailer rigs, two floating access piers, and a 400' floating wharf style pier. The construction will begin in 2016 and is tentatively planned to be completed in three phases over five years. Construction is in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg.

Canoe Creek (Neely Henry)

Construction began on a new facility at Canoe Creek to construct a new boating access facility. The ramp will be opened in 2016 and will include a 4 lane boat ramp, paved parking for 78 truck and trailer rigs, prep areas to accommodate 12 truck and trailer rigs, two 8' x 100' floating access piers, one 150' wharf style pier, and one 60' wharf style pier. The project is under construction in cooperation with St. Clair County Commission.



Childersburg (Lay)

New sidewalks were constructed to provide ADA access to the current access piers and fishing pier.

Habitat Enhancement

Habitat is a pillar that allows all organisms to thrive. As our reservoirs continue to age, we need to curtail loss of habitat and explore ways to effectively manage our watersheds for the benefit of our natural resources and the public. Our program intends to efficiently attract fish in our state's reservoirs, produce more fish if habitat is a limiting factor in a particular waterbody, improve water quality in our streams, rivers and reservoirs, and monitor effectiveness. Our efforts should increase angler success, improve fishery health, water quality and contribute research data and ideas for use by other resource managers.

In 2015, the Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team completed a number of reservoir habitat restoration projects, and prepared for many upcoming enhancement activities. Since the first year of the program (2015) nearly 1,200 fish attractors have been installed throughout the state. By the end of 2016, that number will reach over 2,200.

While most of the projects have focused on *fish attraction* (i.e. artificial structures), other projects are aimed to enhance *fish production*. The Environmental Affairs Division of Alabama Power Co. and other partners have assisted with many projects, including transplanting native American water willow (*Justicia americana*) on Martin and Smith Reservoirs, as well as buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) on Martin, Smith, Logan Martin and Weiss Reservoirs. These projects will greatly enhance aquatic habitat, providing cover for juvenile fishes and nesting cover for largemouth bass. Reservoirs selected for aquatic vegetation enhancement operate on an annual drawdown schedule. These unstable water levels are not conducive for "natural" establishment of aquatic vegetation, therefore, efforts to transplant native vegetation are ongoing. We expect that placing these plants in the "drawdown zone" will coax them into long-term colonization.

The following is a list of habitat projects completed thru December 2015, as well as future projects to be completed during 2016.

Waterbody	Type	Amount	Install Date
Martin	Christmas Trees	200	Apr. 2015
Dallas Co. Lake	Christmas Trees	200	Jul. 2015
Martin	Water willow	600 ft ²	Aug. 2015
Fayette Co. Lake	Misc. artificial	286	Oct. 2015
Jordan	Bamboo	50	Nov. 2015
Weiss	Bamboo	140	Dec. 2015
Weiss	Misc. artificial	25	Dec. 2015
Eufaula	Large cedar trees	55	TBD
West Point	Bamboo	50	TBD
Mitchell	Christmas Trees	100	TBD
Logan Martin	Christmas Trees	40	TBD
Logan Martin	Buttonbush	50	TBD
Martin	Buttonbush	50	TBD
Weiss	Buttonbush	50	TBD
Smith	Buttonbush	50	TBD
Upper Bear	Bamboo	50	TBD
Martin	Water willow	600 ft ²	TBD
Smith	Spiderblocks	100	TBD
Smith	Water willow	600 ft ²	TBD
Cedar	Spiderblocks	100	TBD
Little Bear	Spiderblocks	100	TBD
Martin	Stakebeds	¼ ac.	TBD
Martin	Artificial (PVC)	150	TBD
Yates	Artificial (PVC)	150	TBD
Smith	Artificial (PVC)	150	TBD
Mitchell	Artificial (PVC)	150	TBD
TBD	Artificial (PVC)	150	TBD

Visit the Outdoor Alabama Interactive Map on the web (<http://conservationgis.alabama.gov/dcnr/>) to view detailed structure locations.



A successfully planted water willow site



Buttonbush ready for transplanting

The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to manage, protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.

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