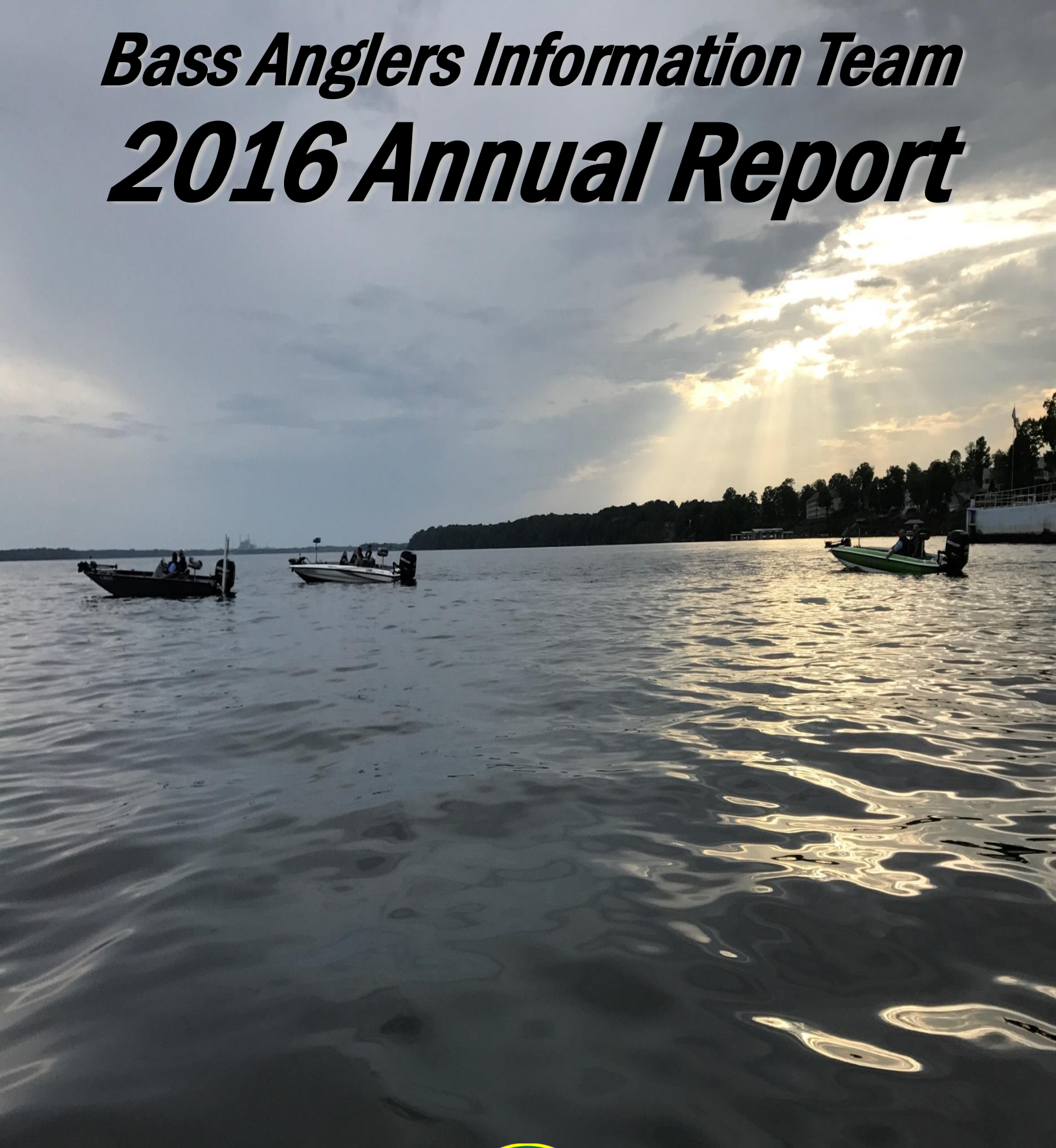
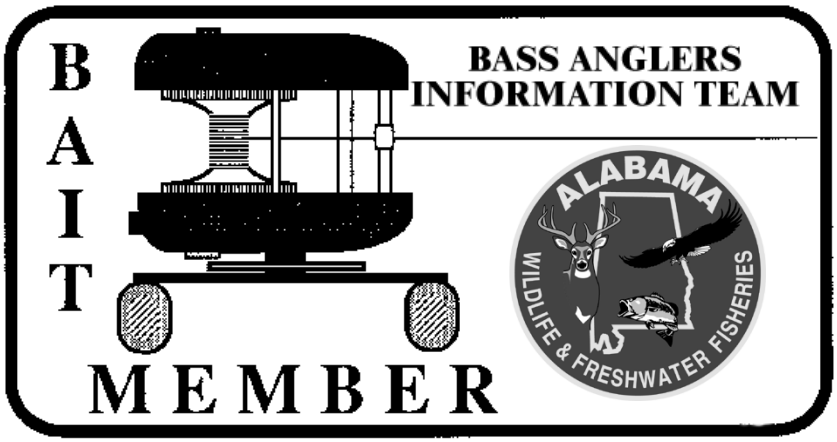
Bass Anglers Information Team

2016 Annual Report



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

B.A.I.T.
Bass Anglers Information Team
2016
Annual Report



By

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Fisheries Biologist

Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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Alabama DJ/WB Project F-38

CONTENTS 2016 B.A.I.T. REPORT

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…
http://www.eregulations.com/alabama/guide/

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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2016 B.A.I.T. Summary

Bass fishing in the State of Alabama has remained excellent for the past several years. During 2016, three of five quality indicators improved over the previous year (Average Bass Weight: increased 8%, Percent Success: decreased 7%, Bass/Angler-Day: decreased 9%, Pounds/Angler-Day: increased 0.3%, and Hours to catch a 5lb. Bass increased 13%). All five quality indicators (percent success, average weight, number of bass per angler-day, pounds per angler-day and number of hours to catch a 5 pounder) remained above the 30 year average. The number of 8 lb. bass caught increased from 15 in 2015, to 25 in 2016. The number of fishing hours also increased by 16% in 2016. Although the larger Tennessee River impoundments have always been traditional angler favorites, Wilson has turned the most heads recently, finishing No. 1 overall the past three years in the Quality Indicator Ranking. Smith Lake was again 2nd overall. Guntersville showed improvements in four of five quality indicators in 2016, after concerns arose from some members of the public and media in 2015 regarding a decline in the sizes and numbers of bass caught. The bass fishery has likely "reset", so numbers and sizes should gradually improve in the coming years.

- ***Wilson*** **remained on top in the overall quality indicator rankings.**
- ***Martin*** **and** ***Weiss*** **both showed considerable improvement in the quality indicator rankings, moving up 13 and 10 spots, respectively; while** ***Eufaula***, ***Millers Ferry*** **and** ***Neely Henry*** **(down 8) fell in the overall rankings.**
- ***Wilson, Smith, Martin, Weiss and Lay*** **were the top five lakes in the overall quality indicator rankings.**
- ***Harris, Pickwick, Wilson, Eufaula,*** **and** ***Guntersville*** **were the top five big bass lakes in Alabama.**
- ***Winning Weight*** **data was added in 2016.**

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2016 Statewide B.A.I.T. Statistics

13.83 – Average winning weight (5 fish)
3.48 – Number of bass caught per angler-day
7.28 – Pounds of bass caught per angler-day
2.09 – Average weight of bass caught
259 – Hours required to catch a 5 pound bass
11.19 – Weight of the largest bass caught
25 – Number of bass 8 pounds and larger
462 – Number of bass 5 pounds and larger

Introduction & Methods

The printing of the 2016 B.A.I.T. Annual Report marks the 31st 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.

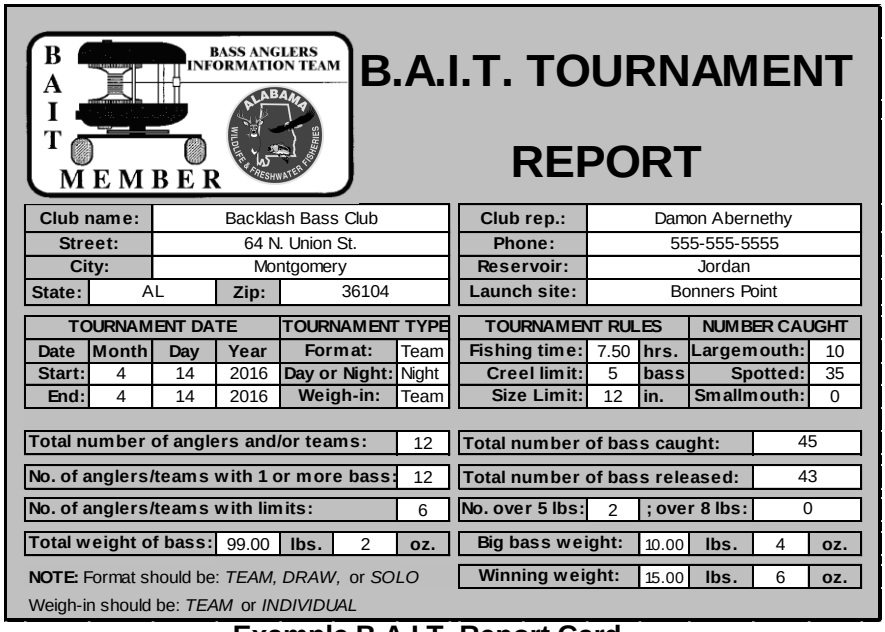
Through 2016, we have summarized 14,778 tournament reports. Anglers have spent 3,371,226 hours collecting data for this program. They have contributed data from 891,777 bass that weighed 1,669,693 pounds.

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 Habitat Enhancement and Restoration Team (HEART) program is also included. The accomplishments made by these programs during 2016 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 — BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM — ALABAMA WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES

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:**	Bonners Point

TOURNAMENT DATE				TOURNAMENT TYPE	
Date	**Month**	**Day**	**Year**	**Format:**	Team
Start:	4	14	2016	**Day or Night:**	Night
End:	4	14	2016	**Weigh-in:**	Team

TOURNAMENT RULES			NUMBER CAUGHT	
Fishing time:	7.50	**hrs.**	**Largemouth:**	10
Creel limit:	5	**bass**	**Spotted:**	35
Size Limit:	12	**in.**	**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 **; over 8 lbs:**	0
Total weight of bass: 99.00 **lbs.** 2 **oz.**		**Big bass weight:** 10.00 **lbs.** 4 **oz.**	
NOTE: Format should be: *TEAM, DRAW,* or *SOLO*		**Winning weight:** 15.00 **lbs.** 6 **oz.**	
Weigh-in should be: *TEAM* or *INDIVIDUAL*			

Example 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 466 tournament reports during 2016, up from 410 in 2015 (Tables 1 and 3). Club representatives did a fine job filling out the cards and no reports were rejected due to incomplete or erroneous information. We want to thank the participants of the B.A.I.T. Program and urge them to keep up the good work! Forty-nine clubs provided data in 2016. One hundred and two 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 39 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.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Big Bass in 2016

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	No. ≥5lbs.
Boyd's Marine Tournament Trail	Eufaula	Mar. 5	11
Alabama Children's Classic	Eufaula	Jun. 11	9
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	Mar. 19	9
Collinsville Bass Club	Gainesville	Apr. 30	8
Alabama Bass Nation High School	Wheeler	Jun. 9-10	8
AL-TN Bass Club	Wilson	Mar. 12	7
Alabama Bass Trail	Lay	Mar. 12	7
Alabama Bass Nation High School	Lay	May 14	7
BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	Feb. 13	6
Alabama Bass Trail	Weiss	Jun. 18	6

In 2016, tournament reports were received from 29 bodies of water that were fished 134,194 hours. B.A.I.T. anglers caught 46,687 bass that weighed 97,734 lbs. (Table 1). A total of 462 bass five pounds and larger were reported for an overall catch rate of one bass five pounds or larger for every 259 hours of fishing. Tournament anglers weighed in 25 bass eight pounds and larger in 2016. The largest bass caught in 2016 came from Lake Guntersville, and weighed 11.19 pounds. With 97 bass weighing five pounds or larger, Guntersville led this category. Eufaula was next in line with 89 big bass over five pounds.

Alabama's Top 10 Tournaments For Single-Day Winning Weight in 2016

CLUB	LAKE	DATE	WEIGHT
Alabama Bass Trail	Eufaula	Oct. 8	33.10 lbs.
Pickwick Winter Bass Trail	Pickwick	Dec. 31	32.44 lbs.
Dannelly Air National Guard	Guntersville	Apr. 11	29.35 lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	Apr. 30	29.13 lbs.
BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	Mar. 5	27.81 lbs.
South Lanier Bassmasters	Guntersville	Mar. 5	27.39 lbs.
Alabama Children's Classic	Eufaula	Jun. 11	27.05 lbs.
Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	Mar. 19	26.87 lbs.
Pickwick Winter Bass Trail	Pickwick	Dec. 17	26.69 lbs.
Lost Mountain Bassmasters	Guntersville	Feb. 27	26.06 lbs.

Of the 49 organizations that submitted data during 2016, 67% submitted five or more tournament reports, and 35% submitted 10 or more reports. Eleven contributors submitted only one report. A list of contributing clubs for the 2016 B.A.I.T. Report is presented in Table 4.

Average catch rates in 2016 for number of fish caught per angler/day (3.5) was down slightly from 2015, while pounds per angler/day were nearly identical from 2015. Compared to 2015, nine lakes improved in overall fishing success in 2016. Most notably, Martin, Weiss and Lay all moved from the bottom third into the top 5 in the overall rankings (Table 2). Martin ranked 3rd overall, while in 2015 was 3rd from last. The average size bass caught from the Mobile Delta steadily increased from 1.40 to 1.79 pounds over the last 5 years. Success rates (anglers who caught at least one bass per tournament) for Logan Martin (95%), Martin (93%) and Wheeler (93%) all reached record highs.

Most 2016 reports were received from Eufaula (52), Pickwick (50), Mobile Delta (46) and Guntersville (38), accounting for 40% of reports. Logan Martin had 27, while Jones Bluff, Jordan, Lay, Martin, Millers Ferry, Mitchell, Neely Henry and West Point each had 15 or more reports (Table 1). The other 16 reservoirs contributed only 21% of the total for 2016. 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 29 reservoirs from which reports were received, 21 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 55% at Demopolis to 95% at Logan Martin. The average weight of bass caught ranged from 1.53 pounds at Bartlett's Ferry to 2.83 pounds at Guntersville (Table 1). Catch rates expressed as bass per angler-day ranged from 2.52 at Guntersville and Eufaula to 5.17 at Martin. Catch rates as pounds per angler-day ranged from 5.19 at Bartlett's Ferry to 9.45 at Smith. The statewide average weight for bass caught on all 29 reservoirs was 2.09 pounds.

Statewide Tournament Results

Overall, Wilson accumulated more quality indicator points (86) than any other reservoir in Alabama, keeping the top spot for the third consecutive year. Smith (77), Martin (69), Weiss (68), and Lay (67) 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 Harris, Pickwick or Wilson would be good choices. Clubs interested in having all its members catch good quality stringers would look at the pounds per angler-day rankings to find that Smith, Wilson, and Martin offered the best opportunity. If catching lots of bass is important, then Martin, Logan Martin, or Smith 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 2016 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 largemouth or 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 limit of 10 black bass may be smallmouth bass.

Lake Records Set in 2016

(31 Year History of B.A.I.T. Reporting)

Waterbody	Record	2016 Value	Lake Average
Harris	Pounds Per Angler-day	7.1	3.81
Harris	Hours to Catch a 5 pounder	88	390
Logan Martin	Percent Success	95%	84%
Martin	Percent Success	93%	84%
Martin	Bass Per Angler-day	5.2	3.4
Martin	Pounds Per Angler-day	8.4	4.7
Mobile Delta	Average Weight	1.79	1.59
Weiss	Pounds Per Angler-day	7.9	4.8
Wheeler	Percent Success	93%	79%

Bass fishing in Alabama has been excellent in recent years, with 62% of reservoirs with five or more reports received being above the 30 year average in all quality indicators. We're seeing improvements in waterbodies where the bass fishing has historically been subpar. Prime examples are Smith, Martin, and the Mobile Delta fisheries.

Although there have been no recent outbreaks of Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV), there are indications that this disease may impact 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 water bodies that have not been included in the quality indicator rankings in Table 2. These graphs can be used to predict future fishing quality 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 2016 B.A.I.T. Reports

Date	Organization	Lake	Big Fish
Feb. 13	BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	11.19*
Dec. 3	Pickwick Winter Bass Trail***	Pickwick	10.36
Jun. 4	Alabama BASS Nation	Pickwick	10.22
Aug. 27	Pickwick Winter Bass Trail***	Pickwick	9.54
May 20-21	Carroll Bassmasters**	Guntersville	9.51
Mar. 5	BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	9.44
Mar. 5	Boyd's Marine Tournament Trail	Eufaula	9.29*
Mar. 19	Carroll Bassmasters**	Harris	9.24*
Mar. 19	BFL Bama Div.	Martin	9.13
Apr. 30	BFL Choo Choo Div.	Guntersville	9.06
Mar. 12	Pickwick Winter Bass Trail***	Pickwick	8.91*
Apr. 23	Alabama Bass Trail	Pickwick	8.47
Mar. 5-6	South Lanier Bassmasters**	Guntersville	8.25
Mar. 14	Belmont Bass Anglers	Guntersville	8.18
Mar. 19	Alabama Bass Trail	Guntersville	8.11
Mar. 12	Alabama Bass Trail	Lay	8.08*
Feb. 27	Lost Mountain Bassmasters**	Guntersville	8.06
Dec. 31	Pickwick Winter Bass Trail***	Pickwick	8.02

* Indicates two bass over eight pounds weighed in

**Submitted by GADNR

***Submitted by MDWFP

Monthly Tournament Stats

In this section, reservoirs with at least 20 reports are discussed in detail and the monthly tournament results listed in Table 6 are frequently referenced. This table provides monthly catch information for all reservoirs with at least 10 reports.

Eufaula

Fifty-two (52) tournaments were reported during 2016. All months except January and December were represented by at least one report with the majority occurring in April (12). One thousand six hundred and forty (1,640) anglers fished for 13,676 hours to catch 3,445 bass that weighed 8,674 pounds, with an average size of 2.52 pounds. Largemouth bass made up 76% of the total catch, while spotted bass accounted for 24%.

The quality of fishing on Eufaula has shown a pattern of inconsistency throughout the 31 year history of BAIT reporting, and that trend has continued into the 2010's. However, the past six years have offered 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, then dropped significantly in 2016 to 68%. The average sized bass (2.52 lbs.) caught by tournament anglers was above the post-LMBV average. Catch-rates of bass larger than five pounds (152 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.

March and April were the most popular fishing months, with 21 out of 52 tournaments for the year. Months with the lowest percent success were July and August.

Guntersville

Thirty-eight (38) tournaments were reported during 2016, with most tournaments occurring in April (11). No tournaments were reported for January, August, November and December. One thousand nine hundred and forty-two (1,942) anglers fished for 16,561 hours to catch 4,172 bass that weighed 11,787 pounds, with an average size of 2.83 pounds. Largemouth bass accounted for 90% 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 the native Northern strain is attaining the larger sizes.

Jones Bluff

2016 is the first year that Jones Bluff has been included in the monthly tournament stats section. We're happy to see the Jones Bluff fishery gain in popularity, and appreciate the dedicated club members who consistently submit reports.

Twenty-two (22) tournaments were reported during 2016. Most were in May-June. No reports were received during February, March, November or December. Two hundred and four (204) anglers fished for 1,736 hours to catch 667 bass that weighed 1,116 pounds, with an average weight of 1.67 pounds. Spotted bass comprised 60% of the catch. For 2016, all five quality indicator values were above post-LMBV averages.

Logan Martin

Twenty-seven (27) tournaments were reported in 2016, with most occurring in June (7). No tournaments were reported in January, March or July. Four hundred and thirty-two (432) anglers fished for 4,002 hours to catch 1,834 bass that weighed 2,952 pounds, with an average size of 1.61pounds. Spotted bass made up 70% of the total catch, while largemouth bass accounted for 30%.

Percent success (95.4%) in 2016 was the highest ever recorded in the BAIT program's history, and was ranked 1st in the quality indicators. The month where anglers had the least success (76%) was August. Every angler which fished October-December, as well as April, all caught fish. Of the anglers who fished Logan Martin in 2016, 57% had at least 5 fish in their bag, and on average, it took 11.58 pounds to win a tournament.

Alabama Children's Classic Tournament – Lake Eufaula

Monthly Tournament Stats

Mobile Delta

Forty-six (46) tournaments were reported during 2016 (down 35 from a year ago), with a fairly even distribution among seasons. One thousand four hundred and twenty-eight (1,428) anglers fished for 13,082 hours to catch 4,986 bass that weighed 8,945 pounds, with an average size of 1.79 pounds (up 2% from 2015). Largemouth bass comprised 90% of the reported total catch.

The number of reports received the past four years (81, 50, 81 and 46) has 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 a consecutive all time record for average weight in the Delta (1.79 lbs.). 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

Mitchell

In 2016, twenty-three (23) reports were received, which is the most for Mitchell in the 31 year history of BAIT reporting. We're happy to see increased reports for this popular Coosa River reservoir.

Most reports were received from April (4). Tournaments were reported in every month except July. Four hundred and seventy-two (472) anglers fished for 4,093 hours to catch 1,659 bass that weighed 3,179 pounds, with an average size of 1.92 pounds. Spotted bass comprised 67% of the catch, with largemouth bass accounting for 33%.

Percent success (92%) was the 2nd highest value ever reported. Only 3% lower than 2014's value. All quality indicator values were well above the 31 year averages. The average 5-fish limit weighed 12.44 pounds, however, it took an average of 16.4 pounds to win a spring tournament.

Neely Henry

Twenty (20) tournaments were reported in 2016, with most occurring in October (8). No tournaments were reported in March, November or December. Seven hundred and fifty-nine (759) anglers fished for 6,878 hours to catch 2,641 bass that weighed 5,009 pounds, with an average size of 1.9 pounds. The largemouth to spotted bass catch ratio was 1:1.

Neely Henry dropped 8 positions in the quality indicator rankings from 2015, but all values are still above the 31 year average.

Pickwick

Fifty (50) tournaments were reported during 2016 (up 16 from a year ago), with the majority being held in May (9). Otherwise, tournaments were generally dispersed evenly throughout the year. Two thousand one hundred and sixty-seven (2,167) anglers fished for 18,340 hours to catch 5,246 bass that weighed 13,594 pounds (the most for 2016), averaging 2.59 pounds apiece. Largemouth bass comprised 76% of the total catch, smallmouth bass accounted for 15% and spotted bass comprised 9%.

The percent of anglers who caught at least 1 fish was 75% in the spring months, on average, while summer months showed 82%. The average big bass weighed 6.2 pounds Anglers reported 58 bass over 5 pounds, seven were over 8 pounds. Pickwick earned the heaviest average winning weight (18.2 lbs.) of all 29 reservoirs reporting tournaments.

Quality indicators were slightly lower than 2015 values, with the exception of average weight (up 6%). 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

Twenty-two (22) tournaments were reported during 2016, with the majority occurring in March (8). This number was down by 13 from last year. Three hundred and thirty-seven (337) anglers fished for a total of 3,102 hours to catch 1,124 bass that weighed 1,792 pounds. The average weight of bass was 1.59 pounds (0.16 pounds below average for West Point). Spotted bass comprised 73% of the total catch, while largemouth bass accounted for 27%. Only four (4) bass weighing more than 5 pounds were caught.

Percent success (86.4%), number of bass per angler-day (3.62) and pounds of bass per angler-day (5.8) are all well above the 30 year average for the reservoir.

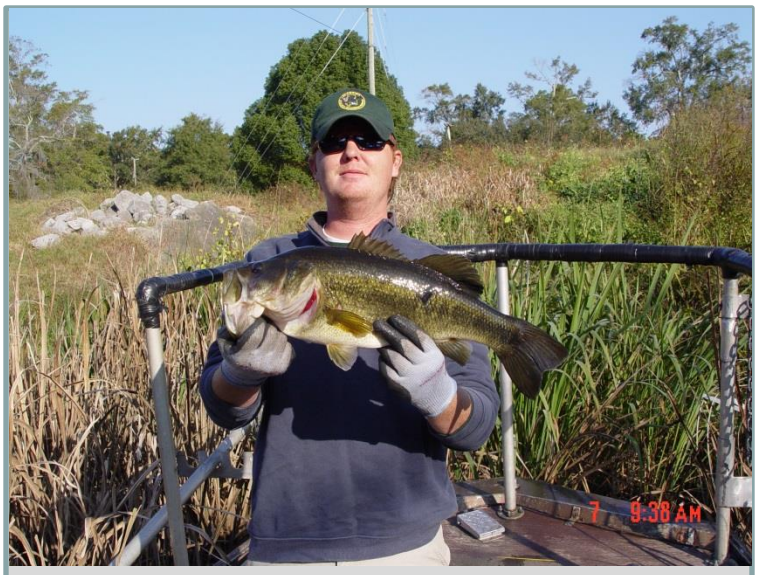
Alabama Bass Trail

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 with good management, reservoirs with low fertility or poor water quality do not have the potential to produce outstanding fisheries. Depending on the results of these investigations, some management objectives may include the reduction of small bass through the use of slot limits, or increasing the number of larger fish using minimum length limits, which can also reduce the effects of variable recruitment.

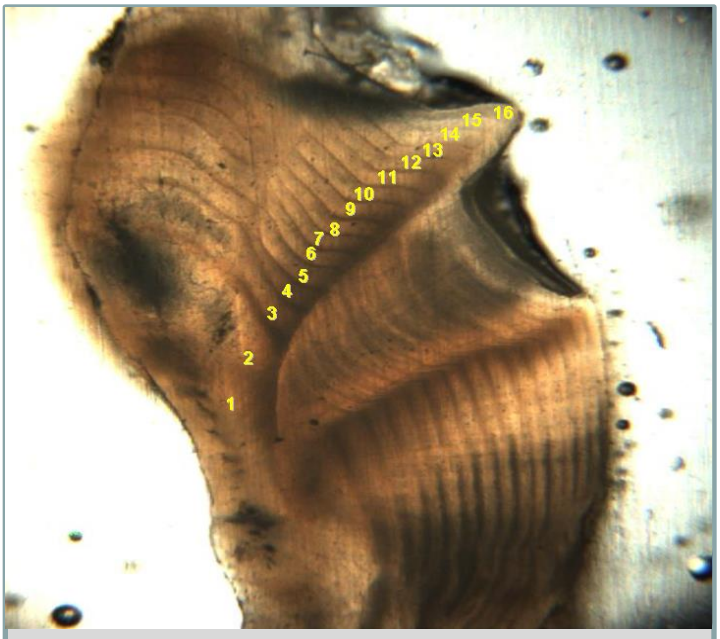
A careful review of the information in this section reveals certain fishery trends that are reflected in the tournament reporting data. For example, reservoirs that consistently produce good numbers of trophy bass are usually those with populations that exhibit low annual mortality and rapid growth.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



Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries biologists conduct a standardized electrofishing sample on 3-Mile Creek, a Mobile River tributary.

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

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



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

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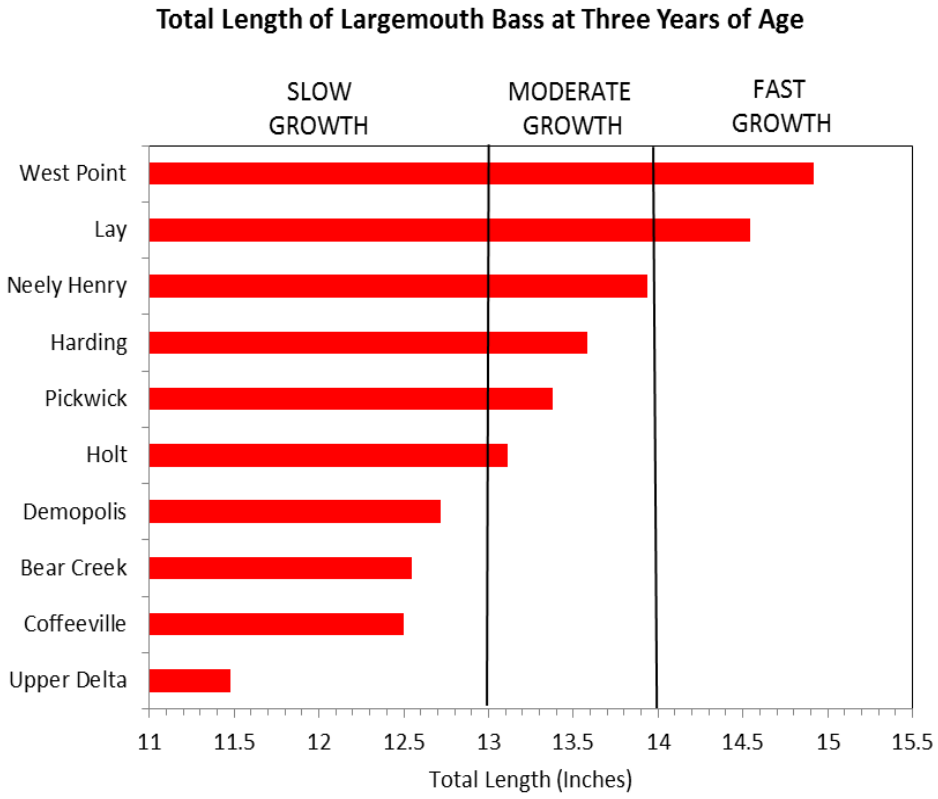
Growth

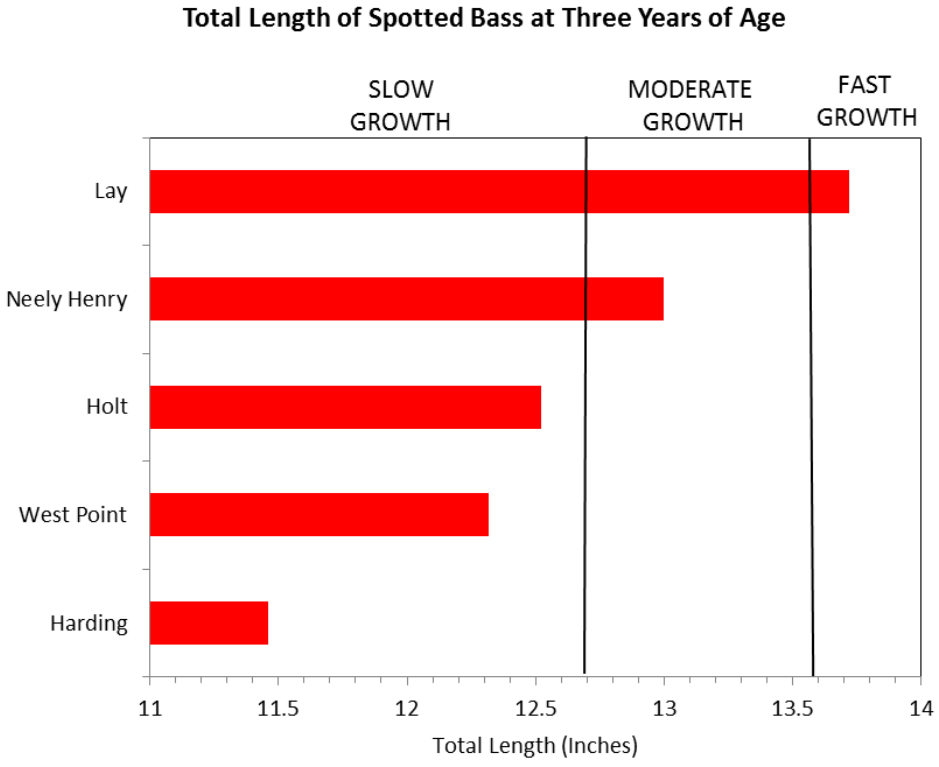
One of the three most important objectives of fisheries biologists' assessments of a fish population is to determine the growth-rates for the fish being studied. There are many factors that can affect the rate at which fish grow. The most important are prey abundance, size, and nutritional value; and 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 increases 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 2016.

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





Standardized Electrofishing Results

Mortality

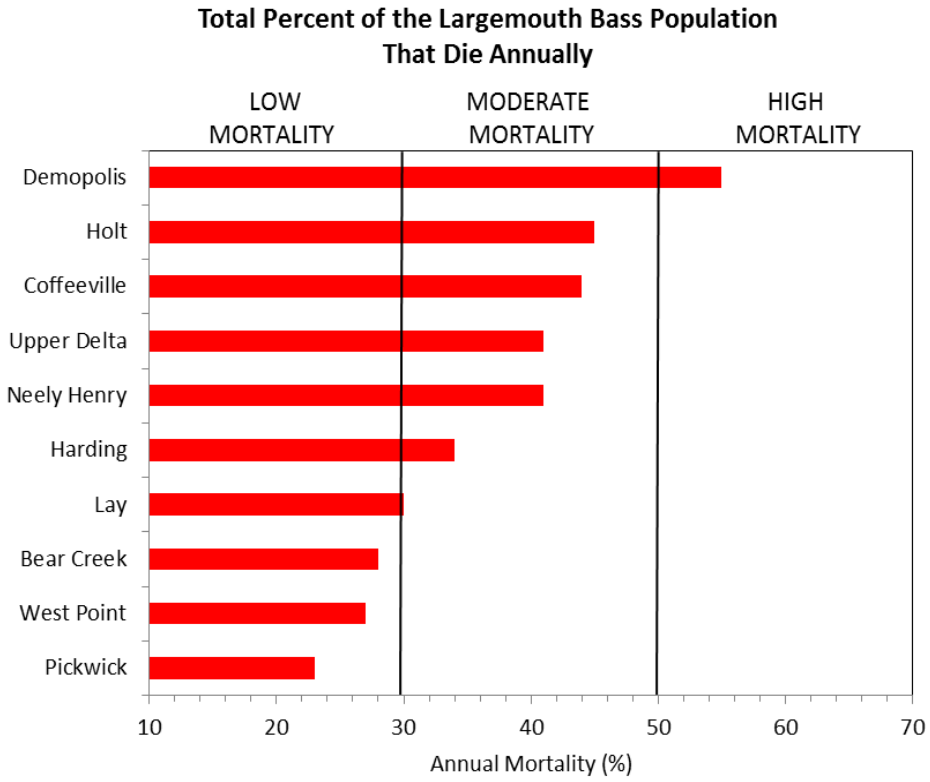
The second of the three most important objectives in fishery assessments is to determine the mortality rate for the population. Mortality is the death of fish, which can be caused by a wide range of things that include both natural causes, and fishing-related causes. In this section, it is total annual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

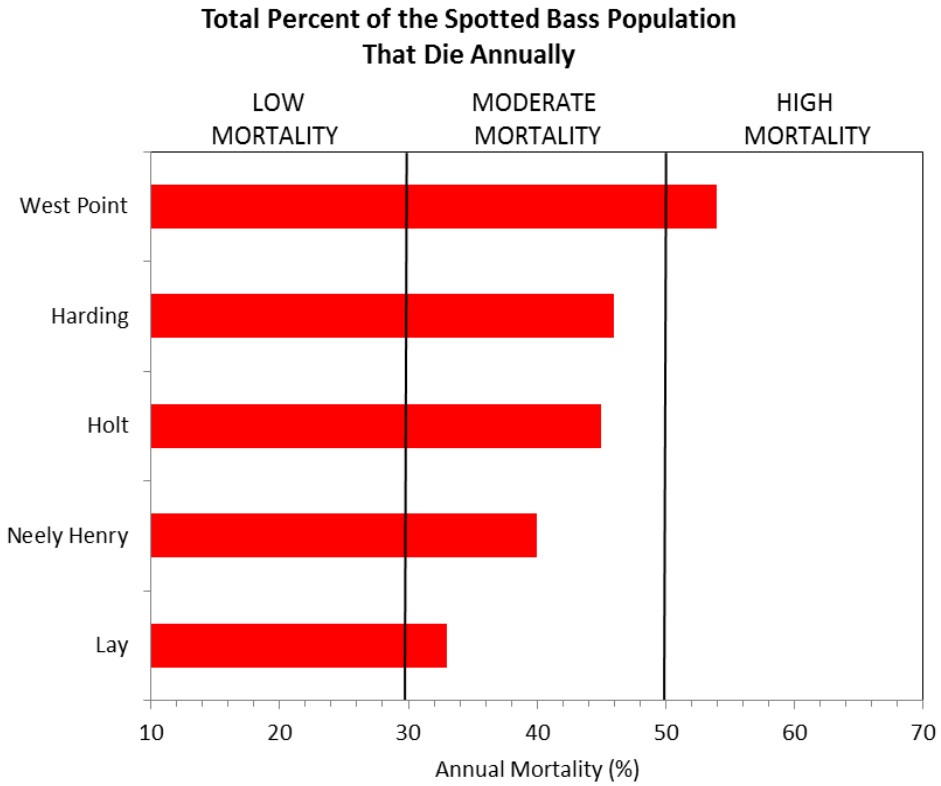
The most common way that biologists determine the mortality rate of a fish population is to measure the rate of decline in the number of fish represented in each age group in the collection. For example, from a collection of fish with a mortality rate of 50%, you might expect to see a decline similar 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 2016. 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.





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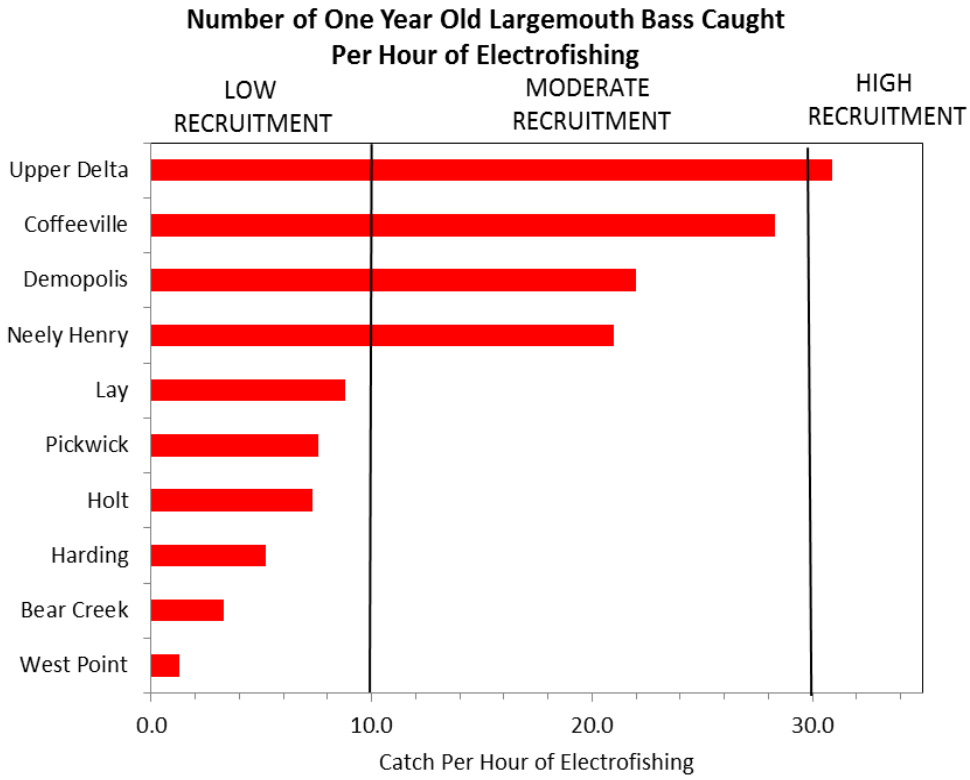
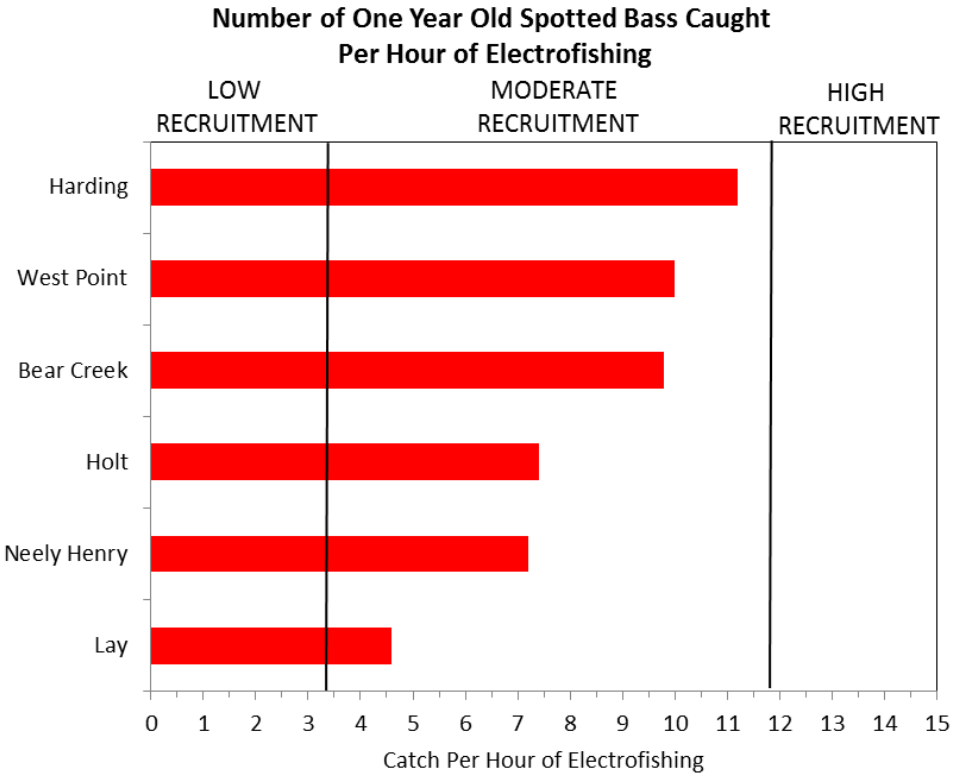
Recruitment

The final critical objective in fishery assessments is to determine recruitment of the population into the fishery. This is generally defined in two ways: 1) the number of fish surviving to reach one year of age, or 2) the number of fish surviving to reach harvestable size. The first is important because fish that do not reach 3 to 3 ½ inches before their first winter are less likely to survive to the following spring. The second is important because it is a measure of the percentage of fish that reach sizes large enough to be caught or harvested by anglers. Recruitment can be impacted by density-dependent and/or density-independent factors.

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

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



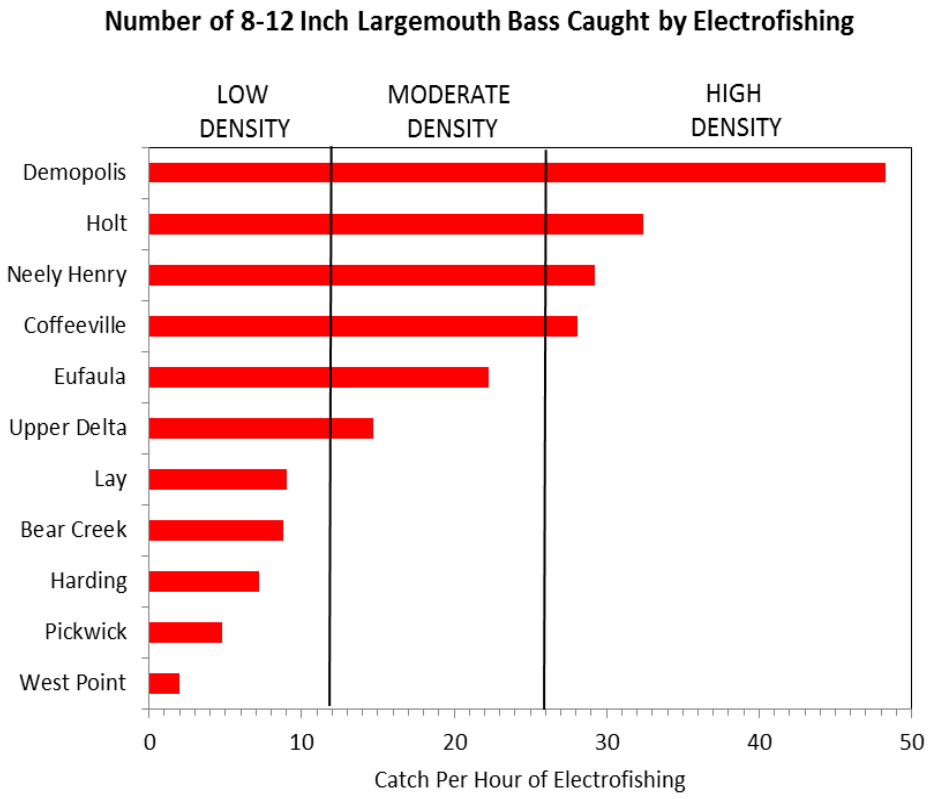


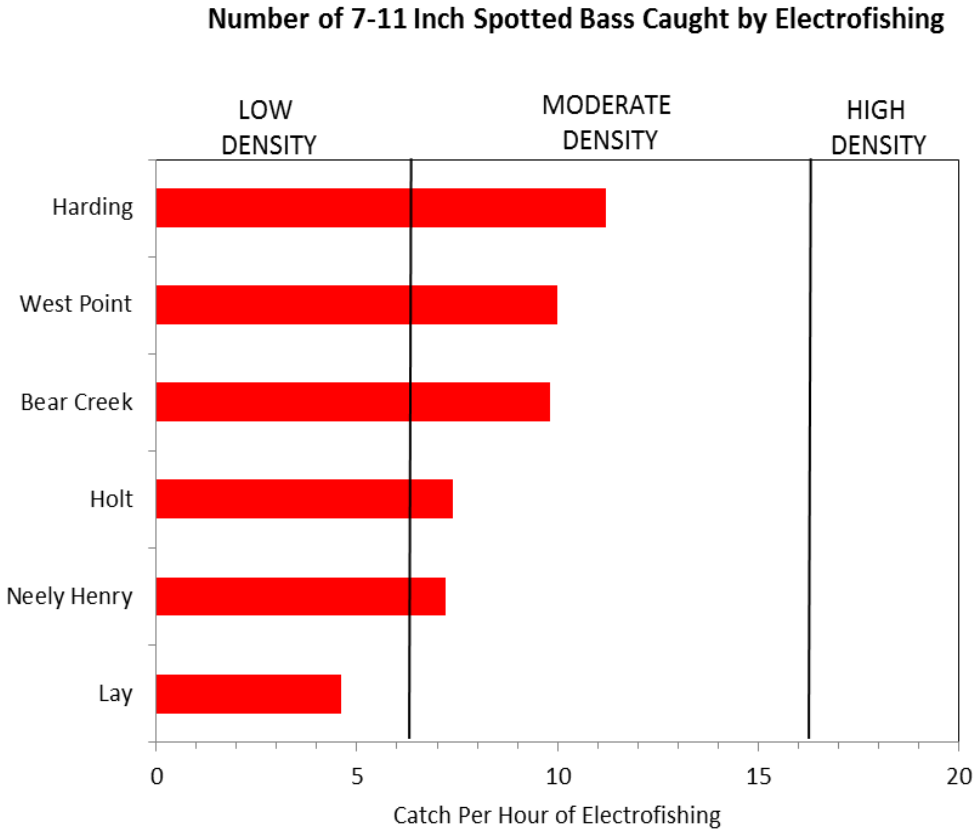
Standardized Electrofishing Results

Abundance

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

The number of 8 – 12 inch 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 2016.





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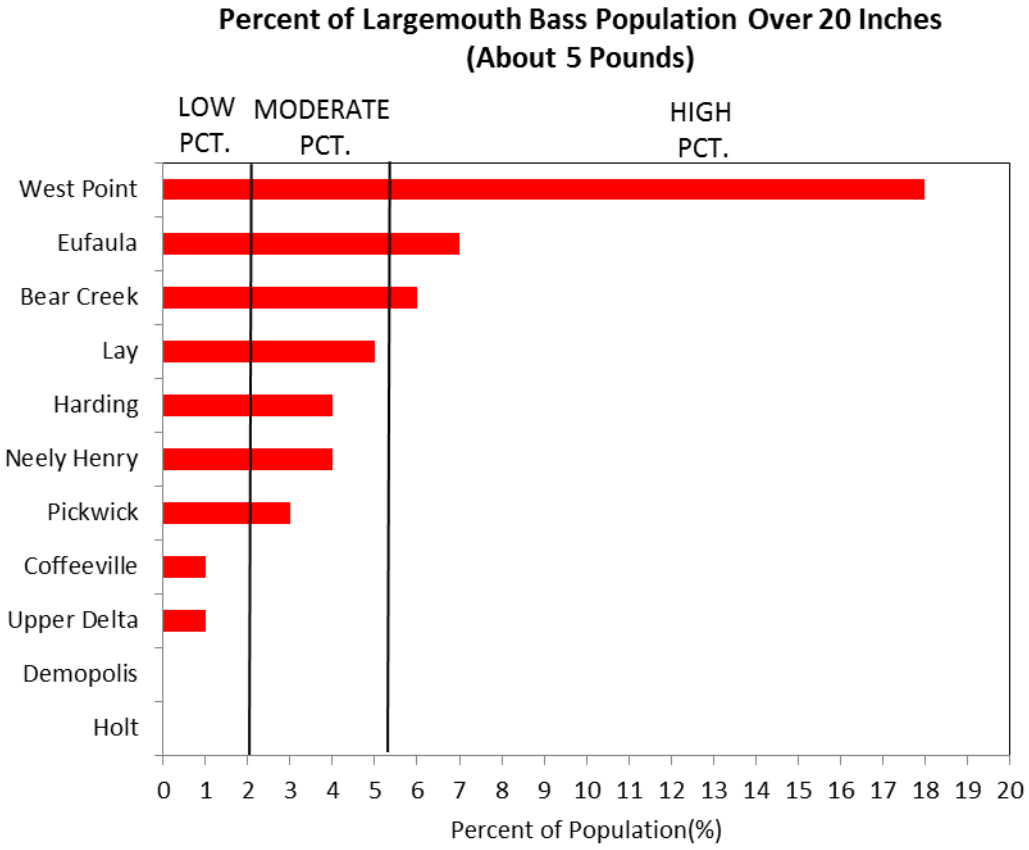


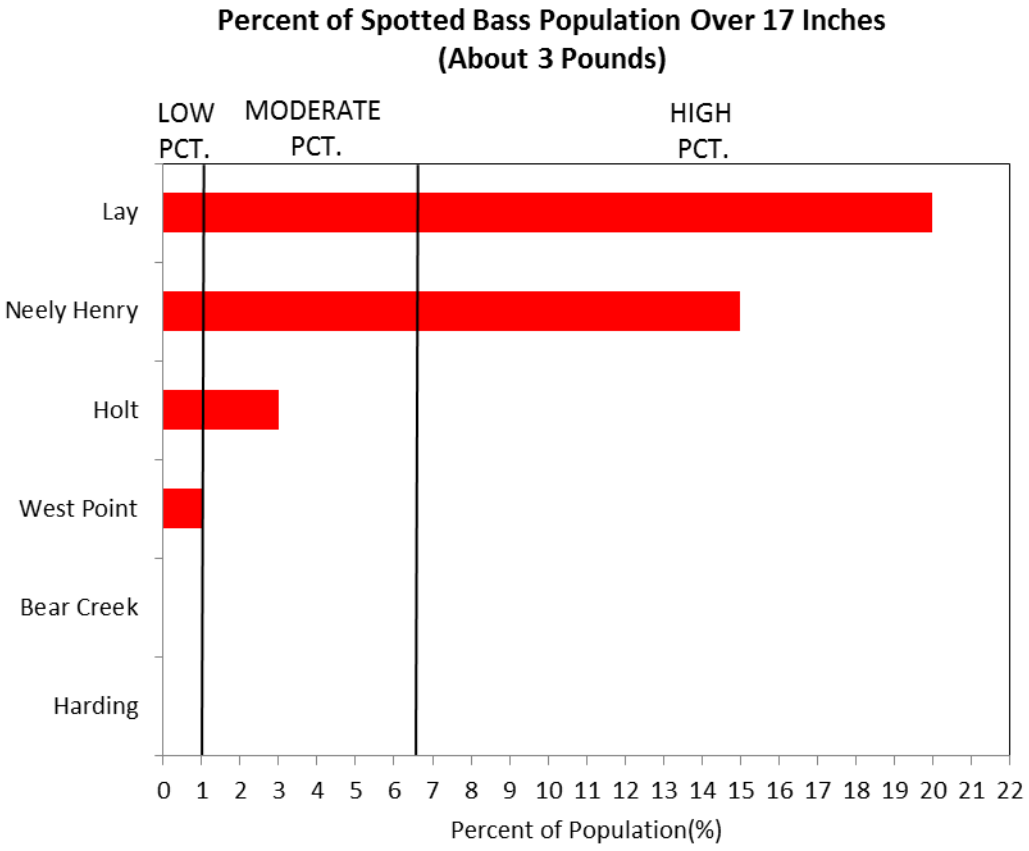


Table 1. Statewide summary of tournaments for bass clubs participating in the 2016 B.A.I.T. Program.

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	Avg. winning 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	3	56	94.6	94.6	448	209	76.2	23.8	0.0	98	353	1.69	3	0	5.39	15.06	94.64	4.67	7.89	149	15
Big Creek	1	16	43.8	0.0	136	12	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	21	1.73	0	0	3.08	.	43.75	0.88	1.53	.	.
Bartletts Ferry	8	129	79.8	31.0	1032	350	44.0	56.0	0.0	99	535	1.53	3	0	4.91	10.24	79.85	3.39	5.19	344	34
Cedar	2	31	87.1	51.6	226	74	71.6	28.4	0.0	97	78	1.06	0	0	2.95	4.31	87.10	3.27	3.46	.	.
Claiborne	3	40	80.0	30.0	327	105	64.8	35.2	0.0	96	144	1.37	0	0	3.60	10.59	80.00	3.22	4.40	.	.
Demopolis	7	446	54.5	37.4	4036	1057	82.1	17.9	0.0	96	2344	2.22	7	0	5.18	14.13	54.48	2.62	5.81	281	28
Eufaula	52	1640	67.6	20.9	13676	3445	75.6	24.4	0.0	97	8674	2.52	89	2	5.45	14.13	67.62	2.52	6.34	152	15
Gainesville	5	173	80.9	46.2	1572	553	92.8	7.2	0.0	98	993	1.80	8	0	4.68	12.91	80.93	3.52	6.32	196	20
Guntersville	38	1942	72.5	18.2	16561	4172	89.5	10.0	0.4	98	11787	2.83	97	12	6.40	17.86	72.50	2.52	7.12	166	17
Harris	13	235	85.5	52.3	1965	800	25.0	75.0	0.0	94	1395	1.74	19	1	5.78	12.43	85.53	4.07	7.10	88	9
Holt	3	75	73.3	60.0	593	240	44.8	55.2	0.0	99	468	1.95	2	0	5.48	16.12	73.33	4.05	7.90	296	30
Jones Bluff	22	204	79.9	37.7	1736	667	39.9	60.1	0.0	96	1116	1.67	2	0	3.83	11.12	79.90	3.84	6.43	868	87
Jordan	15	319	78.7	49.8	2620	1029	38.5	61.5	0.0	97	2149	2.09	0	0	3.85	13.05	78.68	3.93	8.20	.	.
Lay	15	717	80.5	43.7	5906	2157	51.2	48.8	0.0	98	4768	2.21	32	2	5.13	14.62	80.47	3.65	8.07	185	18
Logan Martin	27	432	95.4	56.7	4002	1834	29.9	70.1	0.0	90	2952	1.61	3	0	4.05	11.58	95.37	4.58	7.38	1227	123
Martin	19	876	93.2	76.8	7154	3699	39.0	61.0	0.0	99	5970	1.61	14	1	5.03	12.79	93.15	5.17	8.35	511	51
Mobile Delta	46	1428	81.7	52.7	13082	4986	90.3	9.7	0.0	99	8945	1.79	15	0	3.76	11.87	81.65	3.81	6.84	872	87
Millers Ferry	17	765	80.0	54.0	6494	2446	71.5	28.5	0.0	98	4707	1.92	21	0	5.12	15.44	80.00	3.77	7.25	309	31
Mitchell	23	472	91.9	47.9	4093	1659	32.7	67.3	0.0	98	3179	1.92	6	0	4.32	12.78	91.95	4.05	7.77	629	63
Neely Henry	20	759	84.6	46.6	6878	2641	49.6	50.4	0.0	98	5009	1.90	16	0	4.59	12.44	84.59	3.84	7.28	430	43
Pickwick	50	2167	75.2	30.5	18340	5246	75.9	9.0	15.1	97	13594	2.59	58	7	6.21	18.18	75.22	2.86	7.41	141	14
Smith	13	986	93.2	71.8	7886	3459	44.5	55.5	0.0	99	7449	2.15	6	0	4.95	13.48	93.21	4.39	9.45	1314	131
Tuscaloosa	1	21	81.0	28.6	168	36	47.2	52.8	0.0	100	46	1.27	0	0	3.38	.	80.95	2.14	2.72	.	.
Upper Bear	2	43	81.4	37.2	344	81	27.2	72.8	0.0	98	130	1.60	2	0	4.24	.	81.40	2.35	3.76	172	17
Weiss	14	416	86.5	38.0	3546	1333	49.2	50.8	0.0	97	2791	2.09	15	0	5.31	15.22	86.54	3.76	7.87	236	24
Wheeler	11	425	93.2	60.2	5125	1943	66.6	14.9	18.5	98	3637	1.87	19	0	5.55	15.29	93.18	3.79	7.10	228	23
Wilson	12	348	90.5	62.9	3000	1288	92.8	0.3	6.9	97	2617	2.03	21	0	5.22	14.80	90.52	4.29	8.72	143	14
West Point	22	337	86.4	32.9	3102	1124	27.4	72.6	0.0	91	1792	1.59	4	0	4.13	9.83	86.35	3.62	5.78	719	72
Yates	2	15	100.0	33.3	150	42	52.4	47.6	0.0	100	90	2.14	0	0	4.35	11.12	100.00	2.80	6.00	.	.
Grand Total	**466**	**15513**	**80.1**	**42.5**	**134194**	**46687**	**61.3**	**36.8**	**1.9**	**97**	**97734**	**2.09**	**462**	**25**	**4.92**	**13.83**	**80.12**	**3.48**	**7.28**	**259**	**26**

[a]a 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 2016 B.A.I.T. Program.

Rank	Percent Success	Average Bass Weight	Bass per Angler-Day	Pounds per Angler-Day	Hours per Bass > 5 lbs.	Overall	Value
1	Logan Martin	Guntersville	Martin	Smith	Harris	Wilson	86
2	Smith	Pickwick	Logan Martin	Wilson	Pickwick	Smith	77
3	Wheeler	Eufaula	Smith	Martin	Wilson	Martin	69
4	Martin	Demopolis	Wilson	Jordan	Eufaula	Weiss	68
5	Mitchell	Lay	Harris	Lay	Guntersville	Lay	67
6	Wilson	Smith	Mitchell	Weiss	Lay	Mitchell	66
7	Weiss	Weiss	Jordan	Mitchell	Gainesville	Harris	66
8	West Point	Jordan	Jones Bluff	Pickwick	Wheeler	Pickwick	62
9	Harris	Wilson	Neely Henry	Logan Martin	Weiss	Wheeler	60
10	Neely Henry	Millers Ferry	Mobile Delta	Neely Henry	Demopolis	Logan Martin	56
11	Mobile Delta	Mitchell	Wheeler	Millers Ferry	Millers Ferry	Neely Henry	56
12	Gainesville	Neely Henry	Millers Ferry	Guntersville	Bartletts Ferry	Jordan	53
13	Lay	Wheeler	Weiss	Harris	Neely Henry	Guntersville	53
14	Millers Ferry	Gainesville	Lay	Wheeler	Martin	Millers Ferry	52
15	Jones Bluff	Mobile Delta	West Point	Mobile Delta	Mitchell	Eufaula	45
16	Bartletts Ferry	Harris	Gainesville	Jones Bluff	West Point	Gainesville	43
17	Jordan	Jones Bluff	Bartletts Ferry	Eufaula	Jones Bluff	Mobile Delta	41
18	Pickwick	Martin	Pickwick	Gainesville	Mobile Delta	Jones Bluff	37
19	Guntersville	Logan Martin	Demopolis	Demopolis	Logan Martin	Demopolis	37
20	Eufaula	West Point	Guntersville	West Point	Smith	West Point	31
21	Demopolis	Bartletts Ferry	Eufaula	Bartletts Ferry	Jordan	Bartletts Ferry	23

Table 3. Tournament summary for bass clubs participating in the 2016 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	Avg. winning 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	9	119	78.2	21.0	1030	258	70.6	29.4	0.0	100	390	1.51	0	0	2.97	7.82	78.15	2.50	3.79	.	.
2	11	314	76.1	31.8	2457	814	24.8	75.2	0.0	98	1306	1.60	6	0	4.76	10.72	76.11	3.31	5.31	409	41
3	13	143	86.0	37.1	1264	433	83.8	13.9	2.3	99	701	1.62	2	0	3.08	8.29	86.01	3.43	5.55	632	63
4	12	193	90.7	48.2	1651	684	71.3	28.7	0.0	99	1241	1.81	1	0	3.80	10.88	90.67	4.14	7.52	1651	165
5	2	21	76.2	23.8	159	47	0.0	100.0	0.0	100	97	2.06	0	0	3.78	10.01	76.19	2.96	6.09	.	.
6	3	92	80.4	75.0	736	363	27.5	72.5	0.0	99	672	1.85	2	0	5.32	16.08	80.43	4.93	9.14	368	37
7	11	129	81.4	45.7	1133	419	23.2	76.9	0.0	98	699	1.67	1	0	4.14	10.33	81.40	3.70	6.17	1133	113
8	9	87	89.7	49.4	776	375	.	.	.	99	737	1.96	5	0	4.51	16.94	89.66	4.83	9.49	155	16
9	7	122	80.3	27.9	976	322	9.8	90.2	0.0	100	610	1.89	1	0	4.27	11.83	80.33	3.30	6.25	976	98
10	8	148	66.9	18.9	1162	309	68.0	32.0	0.0	96	573	1.86	11	0	5.26	13.90	66.89	2.66	4.93	106	11
11	8	571	77.2	55.5	5139	1921	88.9	11.1	0.0	97	3632	1.89	12	0	5.31	16.05	77.23	3.74	7.07	428	43
12	8	271	85.6	63.5	2439	1026	86.9	13.1	0.0	99	1868	1.82	5	0	4.74	14.68	85.61	4.21	7.66	488	49
13	1	58	87.9	62.1	1044	384	.	.	.	100	729	1.90	1	0	5.06	25.10	87.93	3.68	6.98	1044	104
14	8	105	70.5	14.3	992	218	85.6	8.1	6.2	95	424	1.95	6	1	4.77	11.23	70.48	2.20	4.28	165	17
15	13	627	91.7	43.4	5704	2517	.	.	.	98	4947	1.97	23	0	5.81	15.79	91.71	4.41	8.67	248	25
16	9	272	86.8	58.5	2360	887	91.7	0.3	8.0	98	1928	2.17	21	0	5.78	16.74	86.76	3.76	8.17	112	11
17	1	230	33.5	26.1	2070	356	.	.	.	99	835	2.35	.	0	6.20	.	33.48	1.72	4.03	.	.
18	4	716	95.4	82.8	5728	2608	.	.	.	99	5614	2.15	3	0	6.69	15.54	95.39	4.55	9.80	1909	191
19	10	881	82.5	37.7	7048	2538	.	.	.	99	4764	1.88	10	1	6.44	17.26	82.52	3.60	6.76	705	70
20	6	80	87.5	55.0	626	283	72.0	28.0	0.0	95	486	1.72	1	0	4.56	13.88	87.50	4.52	7.77	626	63
21	1	54	57.4	42.6	432	142	.	.	.	100	413	2.91	11	2	9.29	24.96	57.41	3.29	9.56	39	4
22	1	38	50.0	31.6	380	74	100.0	0.0	0.0	93	222	3.00	6	0	6.69	.	50.00	1.95	5.85	63	6
23	10	1159	68.0	14.3	9272	2087	.	.	.	99	6061	2.90	38	7	8.68	22.80	67.99	2.25	6.54	244	24
24	7	53	73.6	52.8	339	174	.	.	.	98	281	1.62	0	0	3.07	8.54	73.58	5.13	8.30	.	.
25	1	68	51.5	47.1	578	172	70.9	29.1	0.0	98	404	2.35	5	0	5.55	.	51.47	2.98	6.98	116	12
26	7	273	88.3	54.2	2553	978	91.4	8.6	0.0	95	1932	1.98	14	0	5.25	15.04	88.28	3.83	7.57	182	18
27	11	624	88.6	56.7	5356	1937	58.1	41.4	0.5	99	3571	1.84	18	0	5.31	14.43	88.62	3.62	6.67	298	30
28	10	96	74.0	15.6	779	190	61.6	38.4	0.0	99	367	1.93	5	0	4.26	9.82	73.96	2.44	4.71	156	16
29	1	24	54.2	45.8	192	61	19.7	80.3	0.0	95	94	1.55	0	0	4.53	.	54.17	3.18	4.91	.	.
30	7	217	87.6	72.8	1953	897	99.6	0.4	0.0	100	1716	1.91	1	0	3.96	12.83	87.56	4.59	8.79	1953	195
31	6	37	64.9	24.3	328	81	59.3	39.5	1.2	100	201	2.48	3	0	4.77	14.39	64.86	2.47	6.13	109	11
32	1	62	88.7	50.0	496	212	.	.	.	97	794	3.74	9	0	7.61	27.05	88.71	4.27	16.00	55	6
33	12	1718	84.9	61.4	13744	6336	54.3	43.6	2.1	99	14623	2.31	50	4	6.82	21.61	84.92	4.61	10.64	275	27
34	11	225	92.4	76.0	2217	948	.	.	.	98	2006	2.12	11	0	5.11	15.70	92.44	4.28	9.05	202	20
35	1	65	49.2	23.1	520	128	53.1	46.9	0.0	100	394	3.08	2	0	6.19	22.80	49.23	2.46	7.58	260	26

[a]a 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	Avg. winning 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	24	62.5	29.2	144	44	79.5	20.5	0.0	100	95	2.15	0	0	4.62	14.86	62.50	3.06	6.58	.	.
37	1	10	50.0	40.0	80	21	90.5	9.5	0.0	90	37	1.75	0	0	3.50	10.50	50.00	2.63	4.59	.	.
38	9	298	83.9	57.0	2384	1086	37.5	62.5	0.0	85	1981	1.82	8	0	5.16	13.73	83.89	4.56	8.31	298	30
39	4	130	97.7	80.0	1040	586	.	.	.	.	1153	1.97	4	0	6.07	17.16	97.69	5.63	11.09	60	6
40	8	1134	71.2	28.0	10576	2878	59.8	29.7	10.5	99	5914	2.05	33	1	6.90	18.28	71.16	2.72	5.59	320	32
41	12	235	80.9	46.4	1880	455	60.0	38.2	1.8	98	807	1.77	7	0	4.62	15.16	80.85	2.42	4.29	269	27
42	1	29	86.2	37.9	232	98	.	.	.	100	209	2.13	0	0	4.50	14.20	86.21	4.22	8.99	.	.
43	8	209	78.9	56.0	1672	602	.	.	.	.	1126	1.87	7	0	5.24	13.91	78.95	3.60	6.73	239	24
44	3	41	65.9	36.6	321	108	.	.	.	95	168	1.56	0	0	3.49	9.99	65.85	3.37	5.24	.	.
45	13	99	89.9	36.4	1150	334	51.2	48.5	0.3	95	580	1.74	3	0	4.33	11.60	89.90	2.90	5.05	383	38
46	11	160	86.9	50.6	1310	560	.	.	.	97	1158	2.07	7	0	4.84	14.00	86.88	4.27	8.84	187	19
47	39	1710	73.0	24.0	14535	3855	.	.	.	.	10373	2.69	36	5	6.19	18.67	73.04	2.65	7.14	122	12
48	14	127	78.0	33.1	1016	333	.	.	.	100	622	1.87	2	0	3.75	11.23	77.95	3.28	6.12	508	51
49	102	1415	86.1	30.1	14223	4548	50.0	49.9	0.1	93	8179	1.80	71	4	4.71	11.69	86.08	3.20	5.75	176	18
Grand Total	**466**	**15513**	**80.1**	**42.5**	**134194**	**46687**	**61.3**	**36.8**	**1.9**	**97**	**97734**	**2.09**	**462**	**25**	**4.92**	**13.83**	**80.12**	**3.48**	**7.28**	**259**	**26**

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

Table 4. Clubs supporting the 2016 B.A.I.T. annual report.

Club Name	City	State	Representative	Phone
4:19 Bass Club	Clanton	AL	Mike Graham	205-294-1882
Alabama Association of General Contractors (AGC)	Irondale	AL	Josh West	205-451-1400
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	Clay Baldis	256-309-9852
Alabama Children's Classic Bass Tournament	Eufaula	AL	Sam Williams	334-355-5057
ALA-TENN Bass Club	Lawrenceburg	TN	Jonathan Edwards	931-762-5531
Auburn Anglers	Auburn	AL	Logan Parks	334-332-6211
BASS Open	Birmingham	AL	Gene Gilliland	405-317-9488
Bass Whackers	Cusseta	AL	Don Hollingsworth	334-745-5238
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	Leroy Hensley	270-252-1589
BFL Choo Choo Division	Benton	KY	Alan Gray	270-703-5441
Bluff City Bassmasters	Eufaula	AL	Jim Howard	334-616-1918
Boyd's Marine Tournament Trail	Dothan	AL	Todd Schell	334-794-2598
Carbon Hill Bass Club	Eldridge	AL	Mark Edmonds	205-389-2505
Christian Bassmen of Montgomery	Pike Road	AL	Brian Selix	334-328-8163
Collinsville Bass Club	Collinsville	MS	George Little	601-513-0429
Cullman Bassmasters	Cullman	AL	Heath Laney	256-339-1901
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	Earnest Rachel	251-599-3727
Fayette Bass Club	Bankston	AL	Todd Tucker	
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 Resources	Social Circle	GA	Clint Peacock	478-988-7191
Goldsmith Sunday River Tournament	Lowndesboro	AL	Robert Brown	334-850-0338
Kowaliga	Tallassee	AL	Hank Golden	334-354-3387
Lake Guntersville Bass Masters	Grant	AL	Pete Pinkerton	530-604-2215
Last Chance Bass Club	Montgomery	AL	Allen Coker	334-399-6734
Mediabass AL	Foley	AL	Lloyd Bullock	251-550-5948
Miss. Div. Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks	Jackson	MS	Stan Crider	601-432-2400
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
Nucor / Holt High School Alumni	Cottondale	AL	Araina C. Champion	205-556-2065
OGS Tournament Trails	Opelika	AL	Mike Oglesbee	386-546-3614
Panther Fishing Club	Vance	AL	Tim Bentley	205-504-0675
Pine Level Bassmasters	Prattville	AL	Jim Sparrow	334-201-4135
Pride of the South	Vancleave	MS	Jeremy Bass	228-327-5941
Relay for Life	Midland	GA	Timothy Watford	706-587-5996
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 Academy Booster Club	Greensboro	AL	Mike Hall	334-624-7799
Southern Masters	Mobile	AL	Robin Clark	251-605-3073
West Alabama Bass Fishermans Association	Northport	AL	Stephen Wood	205-242-1236

Table 5. Statewide summary of bass tournaments by month for bass clubs participating in the 2016 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	Avg. winning 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	20	284	77.1	38.0	2317	774	22.2	77.8	0.0	100	1424	1.84	10	0	4.73	13.43	77.11	3.34	6.14	232	23
FEB	41	1640	75.9	34.9	14002	4453	51.5	48.1	0.4	99	9568	2.15	58	4	5.54	15.55	75.91	3.18	6.83	241	24
MAR	54	1876	80.5	45.8	15839	5878	62.5	37.0	0.5	99	12680	2.16	93	14	5.42	15.57	80.49	3.71	8.01	169	17
APR	66	3796	78.0	43.8	31653	10831	63.2	33.7	3.1	98	23686	2.19	103	2	5.54	15.28	78.03	3.42	7.48	258	26
MAY	51	2117	84.3	47.0	18478	6933	69.0	30.7	0.3	97	15057	2.17	58	1	5.05	15.07	84.27	3.75	8.15	212	21
JUN	40	1252	85.6	56.9	12233	4669	60.6	32.7	6.7	96	9718	2.08	46	1	4.99	13.64	85.62	3.82	7.94	257	26
JUL	32	600	79.3	35.2	5258	1573	81.3	18.5	0.2	94	3235	2.06	18	0	4.66	11.94	79.33	2.99	6.15	292	29
AUG	30	794	74.1	34.1	6553	2012	82.9	16.4	0.7	94	3825	1.90	10	1	4.65	12.21	74.06	3.07	5.84	575	58
SEP	45	1077	81.2	32.9	9249	2903	70.6	29.0	0.4	92	5617	1.93	25	0	4.16	11.71	81.15	3.14	6.07	357	36
OCT	46	1460	80.4	37.5	13123	4501	52.5	46.7	0.7	98	8758	1.95	20	0	4.15	12.20	80.41	3.43	6.67	579	58
NOV	26	399	83.2	46.6	3650	1380	45.6	54.4	0.0	99	2443	1.77	10	0	4.31	12.39	83.21	3.78	6.69	344	34
DEC	15	218	88.5	49.5	1841	780	51.0	49.0	0.0	100	1725	2.21	11	2	5.06	16.16	88.53	4.24	9.37	167	17
Grand Total	**466**	**15513**	**80.1**	**42.5**	**134194**	**46687**	**61.3**	**36.8**	**1.9**	**97**	**97734**	**2.09**	**462**	**25**	**4.92**	**13.83**	**80.12**	**3.48**	**7.28**	**259**	**26**

[a]a 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 2016 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	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day[1]	Pounds per day[1]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Eufaula	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	6	97	62.9	896	188	86.2	13.8	0.0	99	418	2.22	6	0	5.66	13.42	2.10	4.67	149
	MAR	9	137	73.7	1245	423	82.9	17.1	0.0	99	1004	2.37	18	2	5.62	14.46	3.40	8.07	62
	APR	12	624	66.0	5255	1237	77.8	22.2	0.0	97	2996	2.42	31	0	6.07	16.61	2.35	5.70	170
	MAY	1	13	84.6	117	38	89.5	10.5	0.0	97	72	1.90	0	0	4.62	10.80	3.25	6.17	.
	JUN	1	62	88.7	496	212	.	.	.	97	794	3.74	9	0	7.61	27.05	4.27	16.00	55
	JUL	3	44	61.4	438	72	83.3	16.7	0.0	85	167	2.32	2	0	4.58	12.23	1.64	3.81	219
	AUG	8	291	60.8	2299	436	97.4	2.6	0.0	92	943	2.16	4	0	5.11	12.99	1.90	4.10	575
	SEP	4	69	62.3	523	94	72.3	27.7	0.0	94	182	1.94	4	0	4.51	9.17	1.80	3.48	131
	OCT	5	259	73.4	2072	645	63.4	36.6	0.0	99	1902	2.95	10	0	4.64	14.58	3.11	9.18	207
	NOV	3	44	72.7	335	100	74.0	26.0	0.0	100	196	1.96	5	0	5.92	13.84	2.99	5.86	67
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Guntersville	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	5	349	66.8	2794	565	96.1	2.0	2.0	100	1799	3.18	20	4	8.06	20.70	2.02	6.44	140
	MAR	7	506	67.8	4327	1023	85.2	14.4	0.5	100	3168	3.10	29	6	7.47	24.08	2.36	7.32	149
	APR	11	638	77.3	5159	1525	92.2	7.1	0.6	98	4097	2.69	21	1	5.75	16.80	2.96	7.94	246
	MAY	5	103	92.2	1439	411	95.3	4.7	0.0	96	1067	2.60	13	1	6.56	19.16	2.86	7.42	79
	JUN	1	17	88.2	136	45	.	.	.	.	127	2.82	2	0	5.94	.	3.31	9.34	68
	JUL	1	14	71.4	98	28	.	.	.	86	74	2.64	2	0	6.78	12.41	2.86	7.53	49
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	7	301	70.4	2496	562	100.0	0.0	0.0	80	1425	2.54	10	0	5.54	13.36	2.25	5.71	250
	OCT	1	14	50.0	112	13	92.3	7.7	0.0	100	29	2.21	0	0	3.46	15.16	1.16	2.57	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Harris	JAN	2	24	95.8	192	107	21.5	78.5	0.0	100	185	1.73	4	0	6.66	14.16	5.57	9.64	48
	FEB	2	45	86.7	360	138	15.9	84.1	0.0	99	227	1.65	4	0	4.72	11.98	3.83	6.31	90
	MAR	2	38	94.7	337	160	27.2	72.8	0.0	93	283	1.77	8	1	7.72	16.34	4.75	8.39	42
	APR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAY	3	44	79.5	352	125	40.0	60.0	0.0	86	258	2.07	2	0	4.86	11.04	3.55	7.34	176
	JUN	1	10	60.0	90	16	31.3	68.8	0.0	88	24	1.50	.	0	5.63	7.25	1.78	2.67	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	30	70.0	240	74	58.1	41.9	0.0	80	115	1.56	1	0	5.82	11.82	3.08	4.80	240
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	2	44	93.2	394	180	8.3	91.7	0.0	100	303	1.68	0	0	5.46	12.22	4.57	7.69	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Jones Bluff	JAN	1	22	63.6	176	37	.	.	.	100	92	2.49	0	0	4.53	17.59	2.10	5.24	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	10	90.0	60	44	.	.	.	98	97	2.20	0	0	4.55	13.55	7.33	16.13	.
	MAY	5	52	82.7	394	180	31.3	68.8	0.0	96	307	1.71	2	0	4.38	12.16	4.57	7.80	197
	JUN	4	25	68.0	193	72	90.5	9.5	0.0	94	115	1.60	0	0	3.64	9.00	3.73	5.98	.
	JUL	3	33	84.8	266	98	37.5	62.5	0.0	95	138	1.41	0	0	3.88	7.43	3.68	5.19	.
	AUG	3	21	66.7	187	40	22.6	77.4	0.0	93	57	1.42	0	0	2.89	7.06	2.14	3.03	.
	SEP	2	14	92.9	108	47	.	.	.	96	70	1.49	0	0	2.90	14.40	4.35	6.50	.
	OCT	3	27	92.6	352	149	.	.	.	100	240	1.61	0	0	3.90	14.80	4.23	6.81	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day[1]	Pounds per day[1]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Jordan	JAN	3	25	72.0	210	70	5.6	94.4	0.0	100	115	1.65	0	0	3.64	12.83	3.33	5.49	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	4	51	84.3	408	152	.	.	.	100	334	2.20	0	0	4.19	13.35	3.73	8.19	.
	APR	2	22	95.5	195	83	26.5	73.5	0.0	100	180	2.17	0	0	3.76	12.53	4.26	9.24	.
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	1	143	76.9	1144	508	41.5	58.5	0.0	97	1134	2.23	0	0	4.95	18.37	4.44	9.91	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	3	44	77.3	391	105	37.7	62.3	0.0	97	187	1.78	0	0	3.40	11.75	2.69	4.77	.
	OCT	1	28	75.0	224	92	39.1	60.9	0.0	89	167	1.81	0	0	4.36	14.36	4.11	7.44	.
	NOV	1	6	66.7	48	19	.	.	.	100	32	1.69	0	0	3.13	10.31	3.96	6.69	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Lay	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	198	62.6	1584	323	65.0	35.0	0.0	100	730	2.26	4	0	6.16	19.15	2.04	4.61	396
	MAR	1	160	93.1	1280	657	42.6	57.4	0.0	100	1659	2.53	7	2	8.08	25.29	5.13	12.96	183
	APR	3	26	92.3	218	86	22.2	77.8	0.0	100	191	2.22	2	0	4.01	13.93	3.94	8.74	109
	MAY	6	287	85.0	2432	960	54.6	45.4	0.0	96	1958	2.04	18	0	5.78	15.29	3.95	8.05	135
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	3	39	74.4	337	106	66.7	33.3	0.0	95	188	1.77	1	0	4.01	10.39	3.15	5.58	337
	NOV	1	7	100.0	56	25	28.0	72.0	0.0	100	43	1.71	0	0	3.91	10.18	4.46	7.61	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Logan Martin	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	2	42	92.9	359	154	27.0	73.0	0.0	100	340	2.21	2	0	5.07	17.23	4.29	9.48	180
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	3	84	100.0	685	384	12.0	88.0	0.0	99	656	1.71	0	0	4.40	13.69	5.61	9.58	.
	MAY	3	29	96.6	232	118	38.6	61.4	0.0	97	170	1.44	0	0	4.01	10.04	5.09	7.34	.
	JUN	7	99	94.9	1031	448	39.1	60.9	0.0	90	726	1.62	1	0	4.40	12.26	4.35	7.04	711
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	2	41	75.6	328	93	46.2	53.8	0.0	91	148	1.59	0	0	4.78	11.39	2.84	4.51	.
	SEP	1	33	97.0	297	147	34.7	65.3	0.0	27	226	1.54	0	0	4.12	12.38	4.95	7.61	.
	OCT	5	69	100.0	676	305	35.7	64.3	0.0	94	417	1.37	0	0	3.28	7.87	4.51	6.17	.
	NOV	3	23	100.0	298	143	14.0	86.0	0.0	97	199	1.39	0	0	3.04	8.65	4.80	6.67	.
	DEC	1	12	100.0	96	42	23.8	76.2	0.0	100	70	1.66	0	0	3.90	11.76	4.38	7.28	.
Martin	JAN	4	78	88.5	624	290	6.2	93.8	0.0	100	451	1.56	2	0	5.26	12.14	4.65	7.23	312
	FEB	4	242	92.1	1936	1071	37.7	62.3	0.0	97	1894	1.77	4	0	4.84	13.46	5.53	9.78	484
	MAR	3	252	98.0	2027	1180	7.2	92.8	0.0	99	1769	1.50	2	1	6.00	14.00	5.82	8.73	1013
	APR	3	190	93.7	1638	758	56.1	43.9	0.0	100	1202	1.59	6	0	6.13	13.94	4.63	7.34	273
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	1	30	86.7	240	59	13.6	86.4	0.0	97	77	1.30	0	0	4.17	8.39	2.46	3.20	.
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	9	88.9	90	39	15.4	84.6	0.0	97	62	1.59	0	0	4.08	11.93	4.33	6.88	.
	OCT	1	43	93.0	344	198	50.5	49.5	0.0	99	354	1.79	0	0	4.62	15.15	5.76	10.28	.
	NOV	1	19	84.2	152	62	43.5	56.5	0.0	100	92	1.48	0	0	3.10	10.88	4.08	6.05	.
	DEC	1	13	69.2	104	42	.	.	.	100	70	1.67	0	0	3.78	10.97	4.04	6.76	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day[1]	Pounds per day[1]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Mobile Delta	JAN	2	27	85.2	230	64	100.0	0.0	0.0	98	81	1.27	0	0	3.28	6.81	2.79	3.54	.
	FEB	5	175	75.4	2076	685	93.0	7.0	0.0	100	1220	1.78	3	0	4.20	16.39	3.30	5.88	692
	MAR	5	104	91.3	915	352	96.6	3.4	0.0	100	593	1.68	0	0	2.99	9.74	3.85	6.48	.
	APR	3	259	75.3	2189	792	62.8	37.2	0.0	99	1345	1.70	3	0	5.48	15.38	3.62	6.15	730
	MAY	4	161	89.4	1449	667	97.3	2.7	0.0	99	1321	1.98	1	0	4.58	14.54	4.60	9.11	1449
	JUN	4	156	79.5	1393	564	96.5	3.5	0.0	96	1051	1.86	2	0	4.09	10.91	4.05	7.55	697
	JUL	5	153	85.0	1367	551	96.4	3.6	0.0	98	1031	1.87	4	0	4.44	13.57	4.03	7.54	342
	AUG	3	124	72.6	1116	396	93.9	6.1	0.0	97	680	1.72	0	0	3.86	12.71	3.55	6.09	.
	SEP	6	125	88.8	1110	424	95.3	4.7	0.0	99	823	1.94	2	0	3.31	11.06	3.82	7.41	555
	OCT	3	67	79.1	587	215	98.1	1.9	0.0	100	380	1.77	0	0	2.64	8.15	3.66	6.47	.
	NOV	3	39	87.2	347	140	99.0	1.0	0.0	99	215	1.53	0	0	3.14	9.16	4.03	6.19	.
	DEC	3	38	92.1	304	136	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	206	1.52	0	0	2.81	9.72	4.47	6.79	.
Millers Ferry	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	4	286	68.9	2360	711	63.1	36.9	0.0	100	1454	2.04	9	0	5.83	17.29	3.01	6.16	262
	APR	2	29	96.6	221	111	36.9	63.1	0.0	99	195	1.76	0	0	4.38	14.38	5.02	8.83	.
	MAY	1	162	76.5	1296	601	.	.	.	99	1201	2.00	5	0	6.27	19.13	4.64	9.27	259
	JUN	3	74	97.3	687	339	85.0	15.0	0.0	94	669	1.97	4	0	5.19	15.60	4.93	9.74	172
	JUL	1	17	94.1	170	70	.	.	.	94	129	1.85	1	0	5.00	14.30	4.12	7.60	170
	AUG	1	27	85.2	216	64	.	.	.	.	115	1.80	0	0	4.44	.	2.96	5.32	.
	SEP	4	156	89.1	1404	489	76.9	23.1	0.0	98	820	1.68	2	0	4.91	13.53	3.48	5.84	702
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	14	92.9	140	61	.	.	.	100	124	2.03	0	0	4.02	12.82	4.36	8.84	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Mitchell	JAN	1	9	100.0	72	40	.	.	.	100	97	2.43	0	0	4.50	18.82	5.56	13.47	.
	FEB	3	28	78.6	233	76	8.3	91.7	0.0	100	147	1.93	0	0	3.99	15.68	3.26	6.31	.
	MAR	1	26	100.0	247	123	.	.	.	99	307	2.49	1	0	5.40	18.92	4.98	12.41	247
	APR	4	85	89.4	728	350	37.1	62.9	0.0	96	791	2.26	1	0	4.60	13.60	4.81	10.87	728
	MAY	2	173	98.8	1384	564	.	.	.	100	995	1.76	2	0	4.94	17.35	4.08	7.19	692
	JUN	2	16	81.3	144	52	65.4	34.6	0.0	92	81	1.56	1	0	4.51	11.78	3.61	5.65	144
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	1	4	100.0	32	8	50.0	50.0	0.0	100	15	1.86	0	0	3.14	5.16	2.50	4.65	.
	SEP	3	43	76.7	504	116	17.1	82.9	0.0	97	194	1.67	0	0	4.06	8.49	2.30	3.85	.
	OCT	3	39	94.9	337	139	25.4	74.6	0.0	99	230	1.65	1	0	4.79	12.02	4.12	6.82	337
	NOV	2	29	86.2	232	104	.	.	.	100	156	1.50	0	0	2.95	9.42	4.48	6.71	.
	DEC	1	20	90.0	180	87	.	.	.	100	167	1.92	0	0	4.58	16.38	4.83	9.27	.
Neely Henry	JAN	1	13	76.9	104	27	.	.	.	100	56	2.06	1	0	5.44	12.36	2.60	5.36	104
	FEB	3	109	61.5	872	174	.	.	.	100	419	2.41	2	0	5.54	13.65	2.00	4.81	436
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	26	92.3	260	74	67.6	32.4	0.0	96	167	2.25	3	0	5.61	16.42	2.85	6.41	87
	MAY	1	146	87.7	1168	615	46.5	53.5	0.0	98	1359	2.21	3	0	5.61	18.12	5.27	11.64	389
	JUN	1	30	96.7	270	131	79.4	20.6	0.0	92	256	1.96	2	0	5.36	13.49	4.85	9.49	135
	JUL	2	21	90.5	168	64	51.6	48.4	0.0	95	104	1.62	0	0	3.69	10.51	3.81	6.17	.
	AUG	2	18	88.9	144	39	82.1	17.9	0.0	97	62	1.60	0	0	3.52	8.20	2.71	4.33	.
	SEP	1	14	92.9	112	48	.	.	.	100	92	1.92	0	0	3.31	14.23	4.29	8.24	.
	OCT	8	382	88.0	3780	1469	44.1	55.9	0.0	99	2494	1.70	5	0	4.44	11.69	3.89	6.60	756
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day[1]	Pounds per day[1]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Pickwick	JAN	2	28	46.4	238	36	.	.	.	.	124	3.46	3	0	6.93	16.35	1.51	5.23	79
	FEB	3	71	77.5	590	132	.	.	.	.	361	2.74	2	0	6.28	17.19	2.24	6.13	295
	MAR	3	50	72.0	461	141	75.0	15.0	10.0	100	392	2.78	6	2	5.77	17.24	3.06	8.51	77
	APR	4	513	71.7	4307	1179	80.2	2.2	17.6	99	2865	2.43	7	1	7.29	18.32	2.74	6.65	212
	MAY	9	721	79.3	6129	1907	.	.	.	.	4935	2.59	4	0	5.37	19.28	3.11	8.05	85
	JUN	4	147	85.7	1242	430	64.4	22.1	13.4	93	1053	2.45	9	1	6.71	19.89	3.46	8.48	138
	JUL	5	86	82.6	702	228	96.2	0.0	3.8	90	695	3.05	8	0	5.61	17.72	3.25	9.90	88
	AUG	3	44	77.3	362	107	76.1	10.9	13.0	98	273	2.55	1	1	6.35	18.15	2.96	7.54	362
	SEP	2	12	83.3	102	49	.	.	.	.	120	2.45	1	0	3.89	14.01	4.80	11.78	102
	OCT	4	312	66.0	2652	524	.	.	.	.	1260	2.41	1	0	6.07	14.27	1.98	4.75	1105
	NOV	5	95	68.4	808	209	.	.	.	100	537	2.57	5	0	5.54	15.38	2.59	6.65	162
	DEC	6	88	84.1	748	304	.	.	.	.	977	3.21	11	2	7.31	23.83	4.06	13.06	68
Smith	JAN	3	42	78.6	336	91	12.1	87.9	0.0	100	201	2.20	0	0	3.81	11.67	2.71	5.97	.
	FEB	2	159	91.2	1263	615	58.5	41.5	0.0	99	1387	2.25	2	0	5.83	15.49	4.87	10.98	632
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	5	723	95.2	5791	2623	6.7	93.3	0.0	99	5645	2.15	4	0	6.14	13.20	4.53	9.75	1448
	MAY	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	JUL	1	19	73.7	152	21	14.3	85.7	0.0	100	36	1.72	0	0	4.42	.	1.38	2.38	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	2	43	90.7	344	109	3.7	96.3	0.0	94	181	1.66	0	0	4.28	13.97	3.17	5.25	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Weiss	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	9	66.7	72	17	70.6	29.4	0.0	94	44	2.58	1	0	5.33	15.57	2.36	6.09	72
	MAY	1	9	88.9	72	30	63.3	36.7	0.0	100	69	2.30	2	0	5.19	18.75	4.17	9.59	36
	JUN	3	150	78.0	1214	496	37.9	62.1	0.0	98	1181	2.38	7	0	5.73	17.59	4.09	9.73	173
	JUL	3	66	89.4	702	161	66.5	33.5	0.0	88	326	2.02	0	0	5.10	14.32	2.29	4.64	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	5	170	92.9	1384	569	69.7	30.3	0.0	98	1048	1.84	5	0	5.44	13.32	4.11	7.57	277
	OCT	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	NOV	1	12	100.0	102	60	.	.	.	100	123	2.05	0	0	4.16	16.43	5.88	12.07	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Wheeler	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	1	34	82.4	272	75	85.3	1.3	13.3	100	127	1.69	4	0	6.31	17.88	2.76	4.66	68
	MAR	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	APR	1	10	100.0	160	67	76.1	16.4	7.5	99	131	1.96	1	0	5.13	.	4.19	8.20	160
	MAY	1	6	50.0	57	12	91.7	0.0	8.3	100	30	2.51	0	0	4.13	13.56	2.11	5.29	.
	JUN	1	188	94.1	3008	972	58.5	19.5	21.9	98	1785	1.84	8	0	7.46	17.52	3.23	5.93	376
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	4	130	97.7	1040	586	.	.	.	.	1153	1.97	4	0	6.07	16.58	5.63	11.09	60
	SEP	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	OCT	3	57	89.5	588	231	90.5	0.0	9.5	97	410	1.78	2	0	4.92	12.54	3.93	6.98	294
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.

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

Table 6. Cont'd.

Lake	Month	No. of tournaments	No. of anglers	% success (anglers w/ at least 1 fish)	Total hrs. fished	Total bass caught	% largemouth	% spotted bass	% smallmouth	Percent of bass released alive	Total lbs. of bass	Avg. bass weight	Bass over 5lb.	Bass over 8lb.	Avg. big bass weight	Avg. winning weight	Bass per day[1]	Pounds per day[1]	Hrs. to catch a bass over 5 lb.
Wilson	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	1	37	97.3	333	162	93.2	0.6	6.2	100	401	2.48	7	0	7.00	20.00	4.86	12.05	48
	APR	4	141	98.6	1156	613	89.7	0.9	9.3	97	1169	1.91	8	0	5.29	13.90	5.30	10.11	145
	MAY	4	101	85.1	890	339	96.0	0.0	4.0	97	635	1.87	5	0	5.13	14.45	3.81	7.14	178
	JUN	1	31	87.1	279	79	86.1	0.0	13.9	95	206	2.61	1	0	6.56	.	2.83	7.40	279
	JUL	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	AUG	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	SEP	1	24	75.0	216	69	91.3	0.0	8.7	97	170	2.46	0	0	4.75	20.09	3.19	7.87	.
	OCT	1	14	64.3	126	26	100.0	0.0	0.0	100	35	1.36	0	0	2.64	8.58	2.06	2.82	.
	NOV	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	DEC	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
West Point	JAN	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	FEB	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	MAR	8	118	92.4	1004	471	29.3	70.7	0.0	93	829	1.76	4	0	4.69	12.67	4.69	8.26	251
	APR	1	28	85.7	224	63	38.1	61.9	0.0	87	93	1.48	.	0	5.53	8.14	2.81	4.16	.
	MAY	2	41	90.2	455	136	36.8	63.2	0.0	96	239	1.76	0	0	4.51	9.23	2.99	5.27	.
	JUN	1	13	69.2	104	19	52.6	47.4	0.0	100	30	1.58	0	0	4.84	7.20	1.83	2.89	.
	JUL	3	27	48.1	216	24	62.5	37.5	0.0	92	37	1.53	0	0	4.04	4.40	1.11	1.70	.
	AUG	1	13	69.2	104	22	27.3	72.7	0.0	73	30	1.36	0	0	3.25	7.81	2.12	2.88	.
	SEP	2	23	73.9	184	41	22.0	78.0	0.0	56	46	1.12	0	0	2.20	5.60	2.23	2.50	.
	OCT	2	38	97.4	360	182	17.6	82.4	0.0	87	264	1.45	0	0	3.12	11.75	5.06	7.33	.
	NOV	1	17	100.0	281	99	12.1	87.9	0.0	99	130	1.31	0	0	3.88	14.94	3.53	4.63	.
	DEC	1	19	100.0	171	67	17.9	82.1	0.0	100	94	1.40	0	0	3.98	9.84	3.92	5.47	.

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

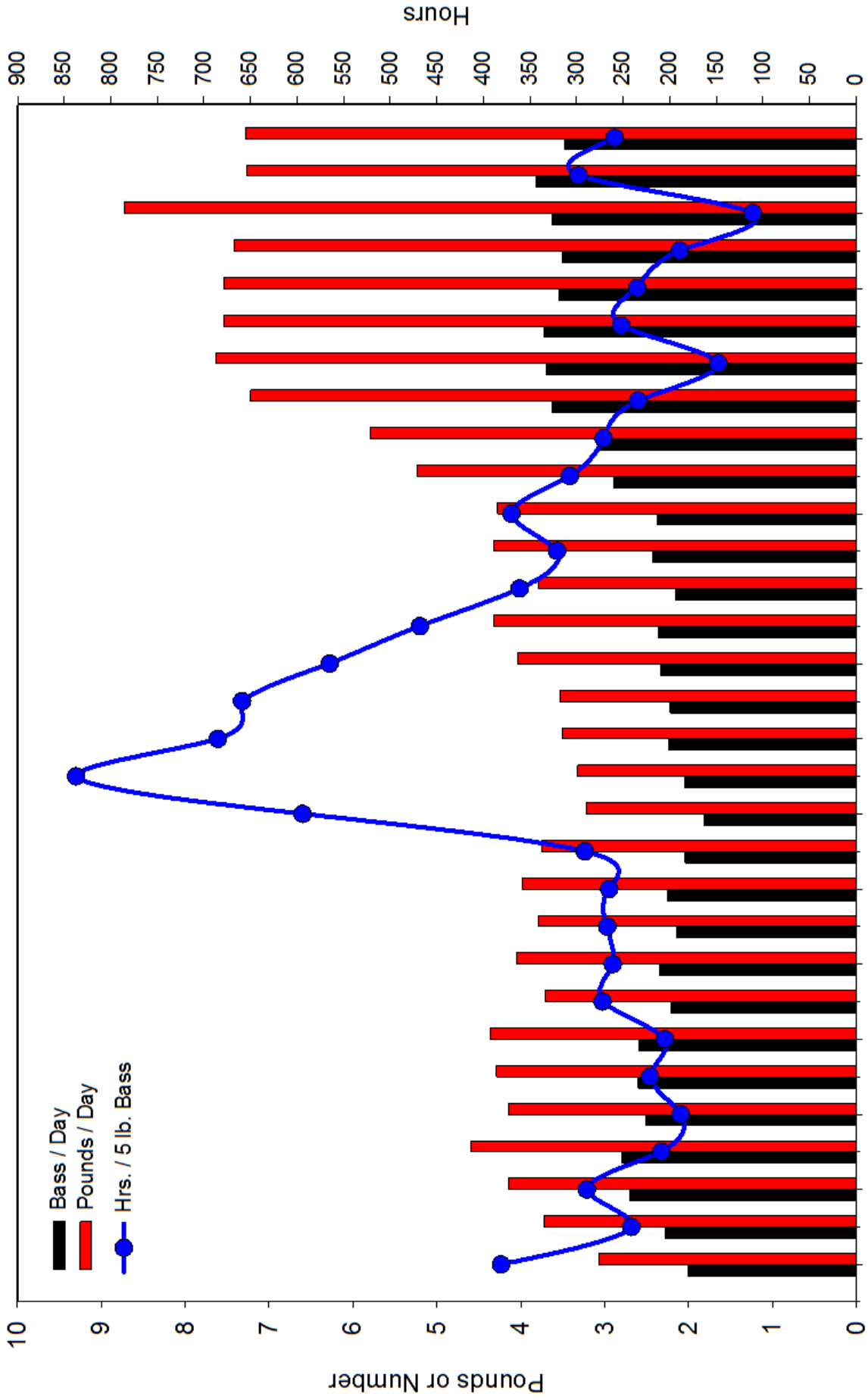


Figure 1. Annual catch for B.A.I.T. tournaments, 1986 - 2016.

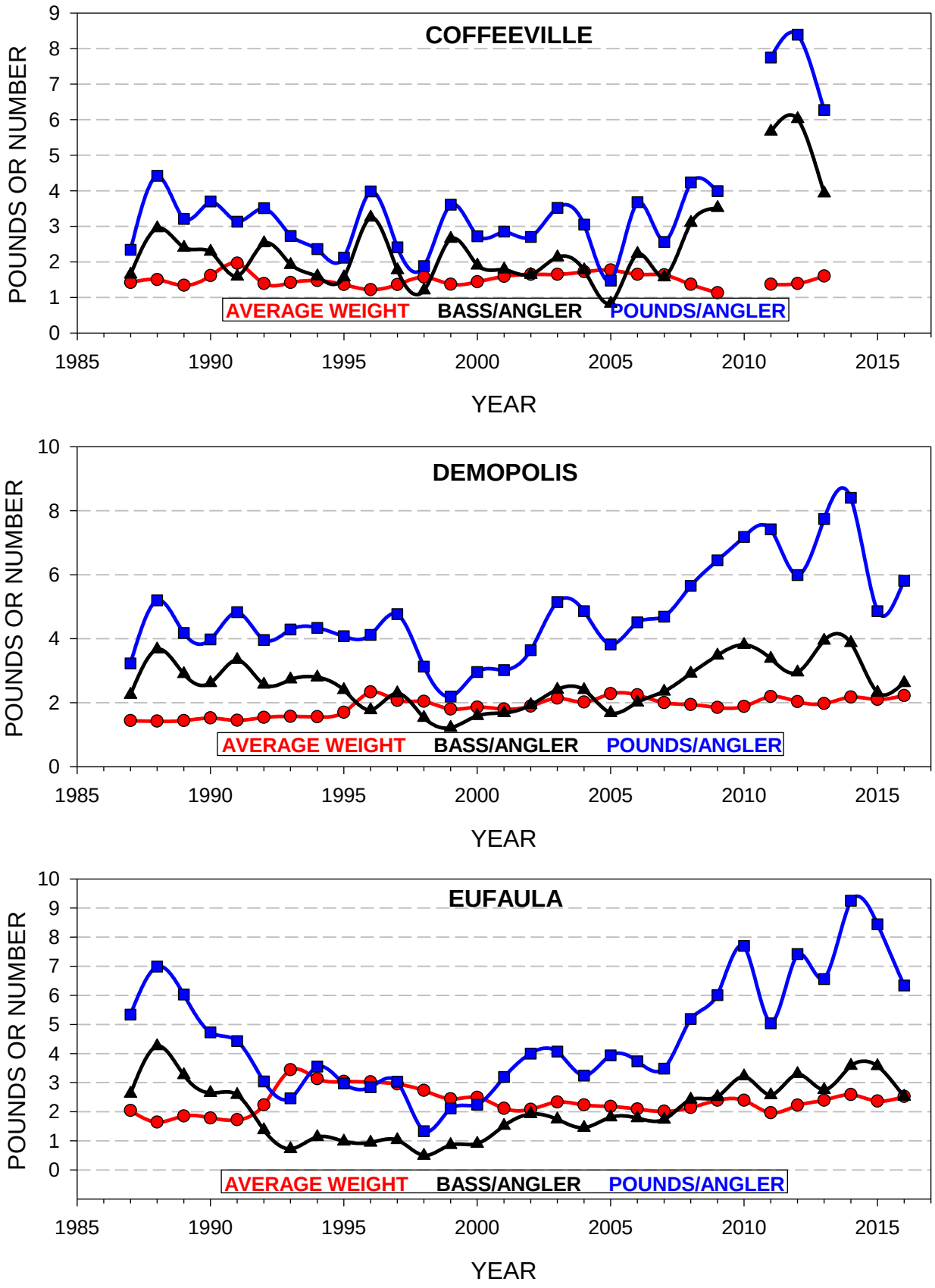


Figure 2. Annual quality indicators for Coffeeville, Demopolis, and Eufaula, through 2016.

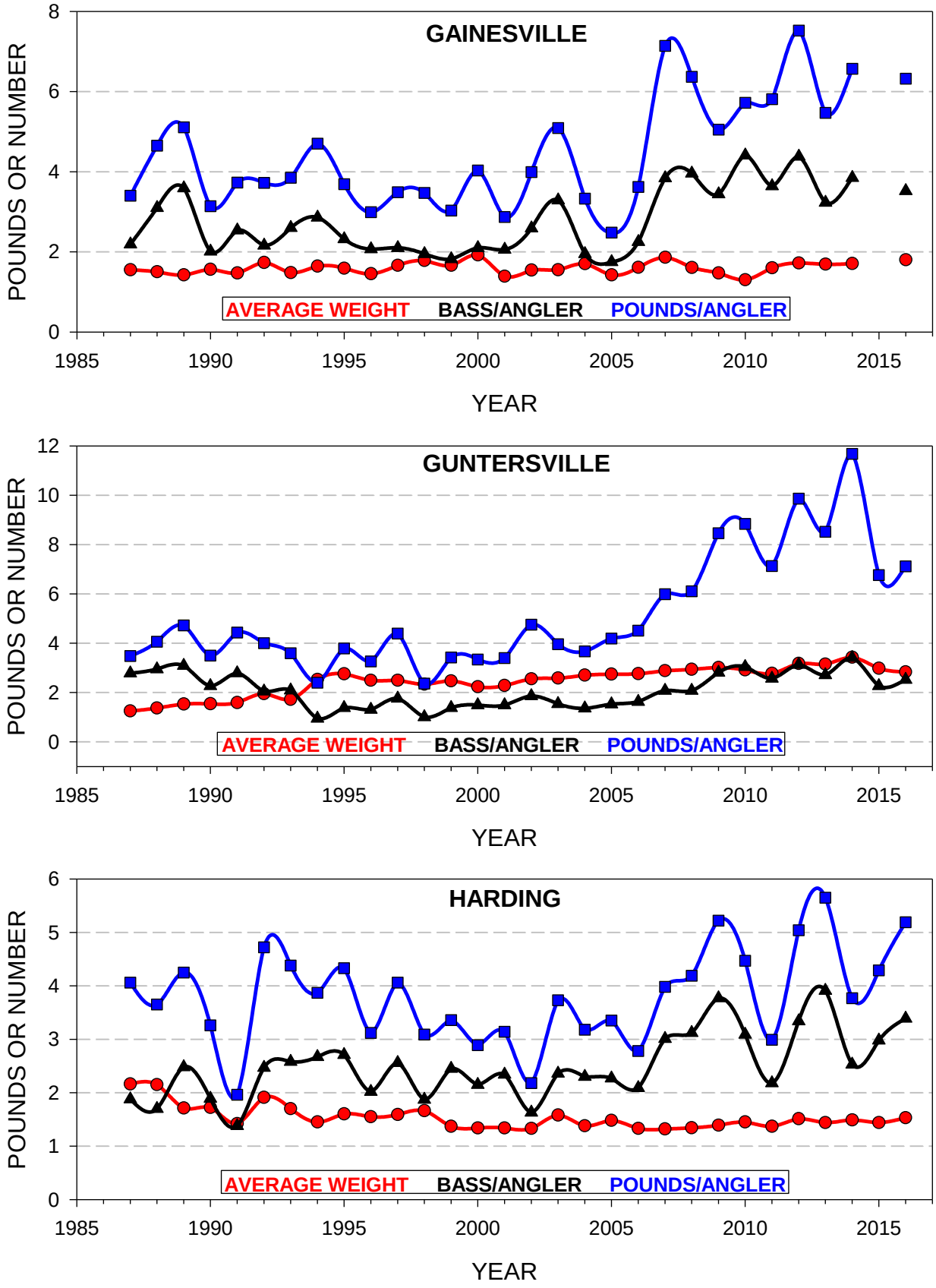


Figure 3. Annual quality indicators for Gainesville, Guntersville, and Harding, through 2016.

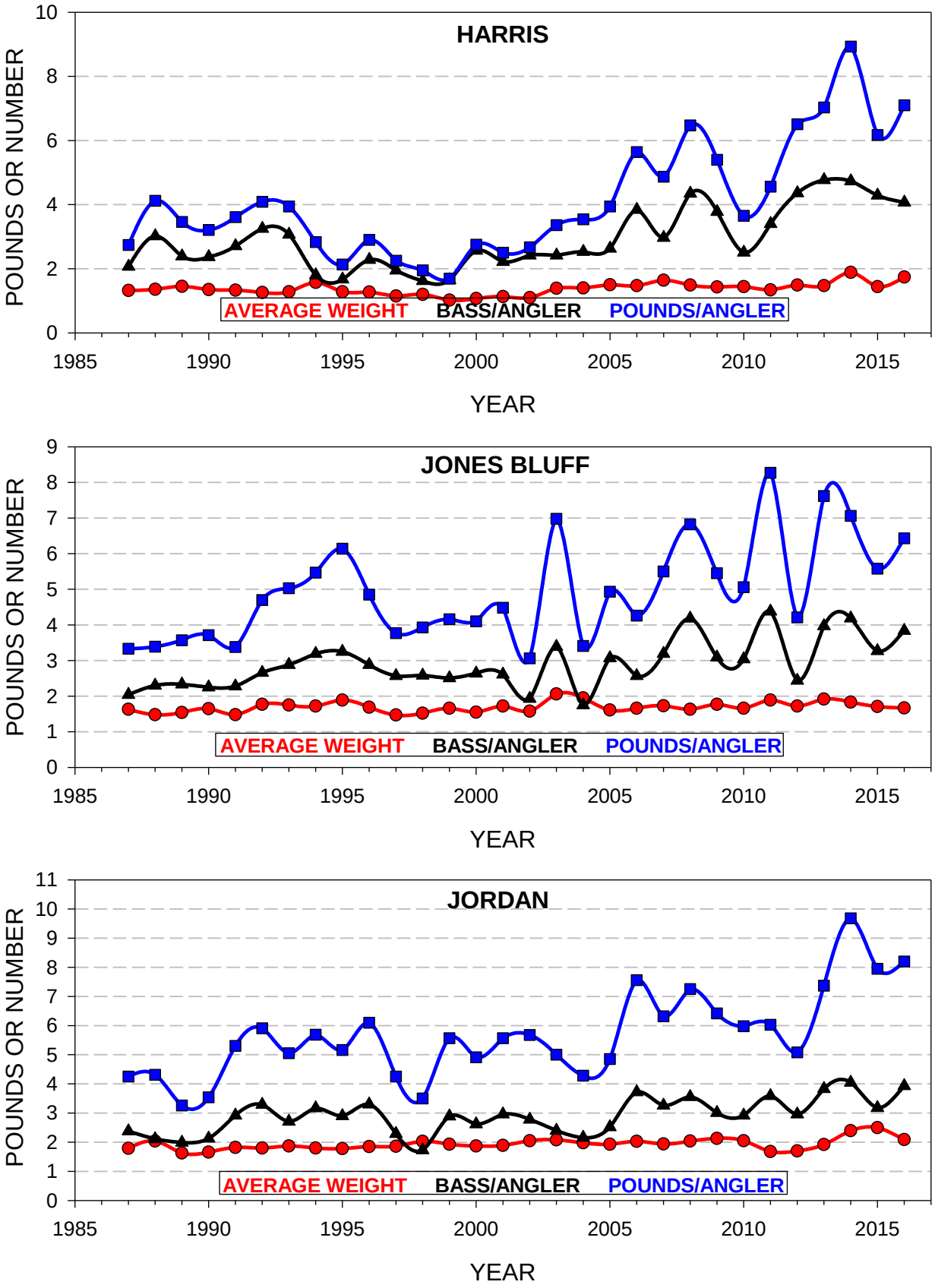


Figure 4. Annual quality indicators for Harris, Jones Bluff, and Jordan, through 2016.

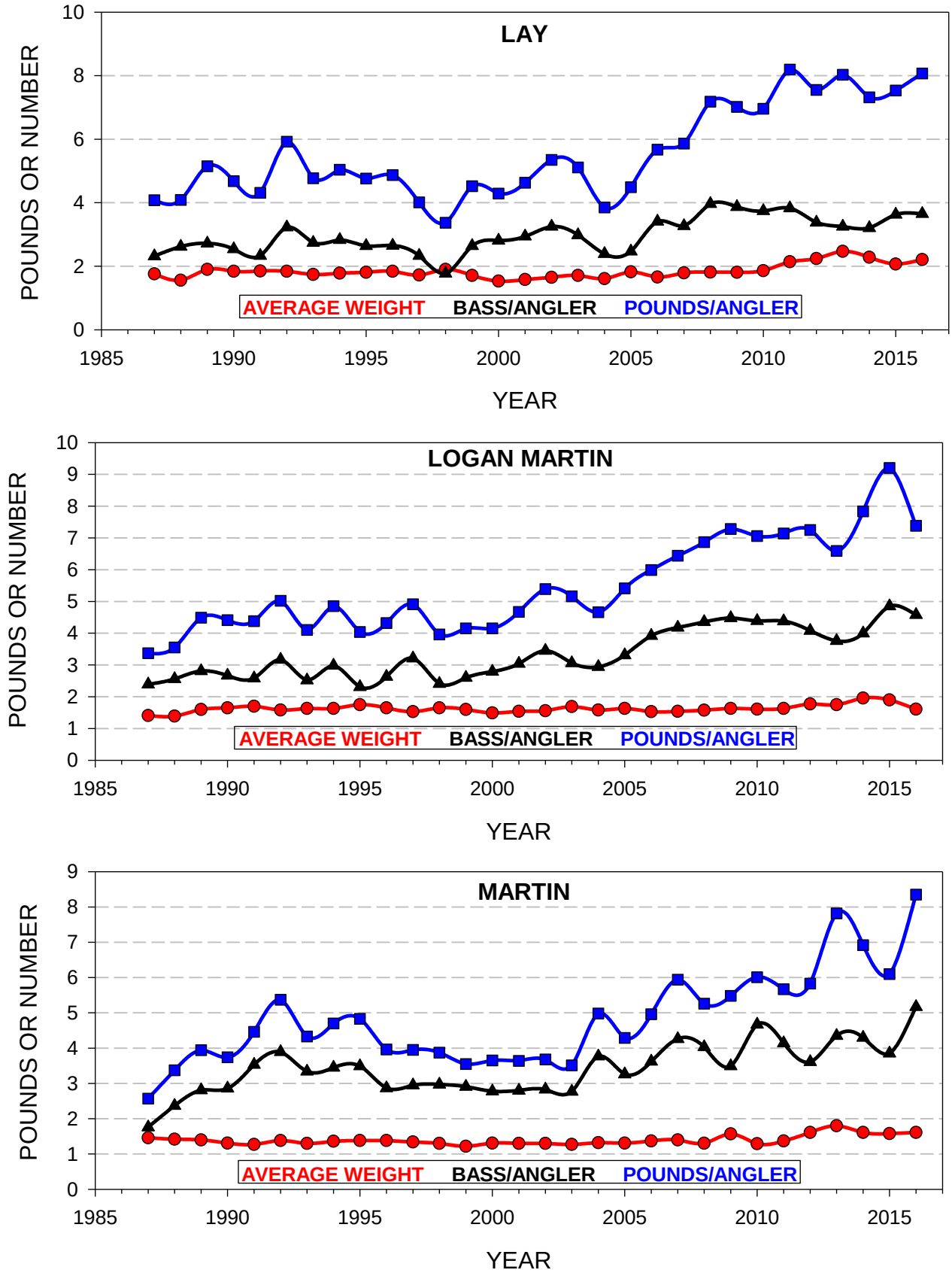


Figure 5. Annual quality indicators for Lay, Logan Martin, and Martin, through 2016.

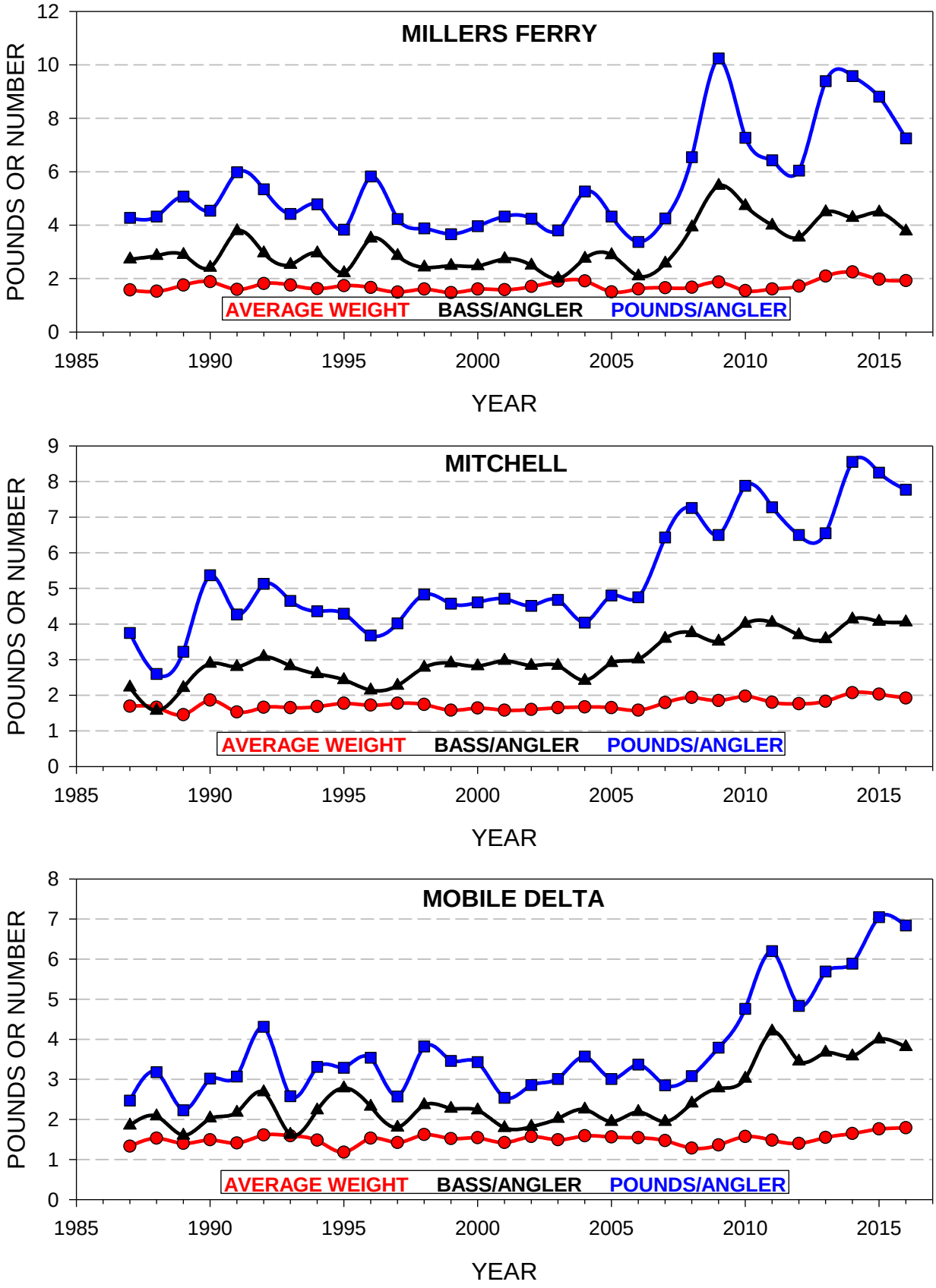


Figure 6. Annual quality indicators for Millers Ferry, Mitchell, and the Mobile Delta, through 2016.

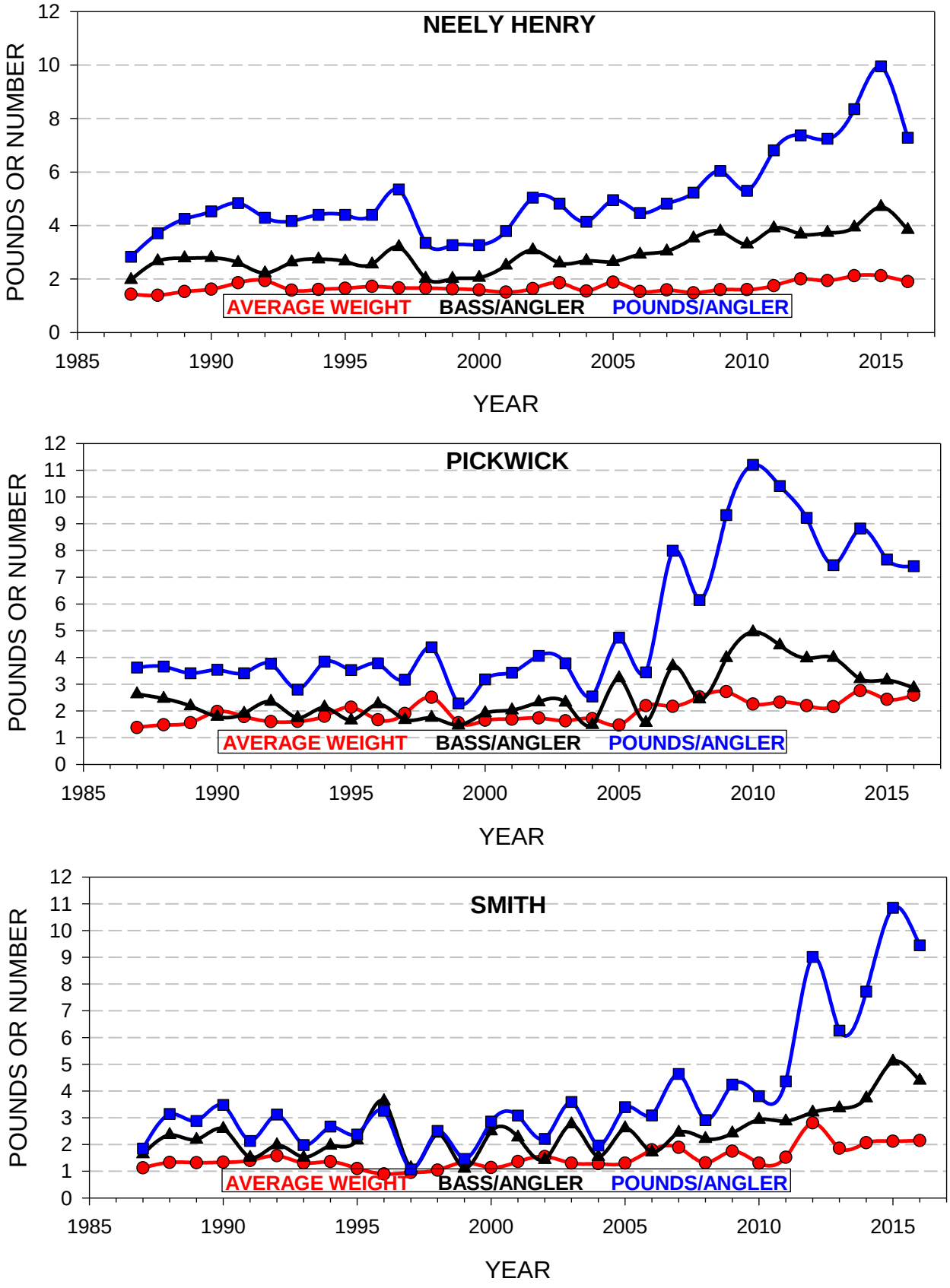
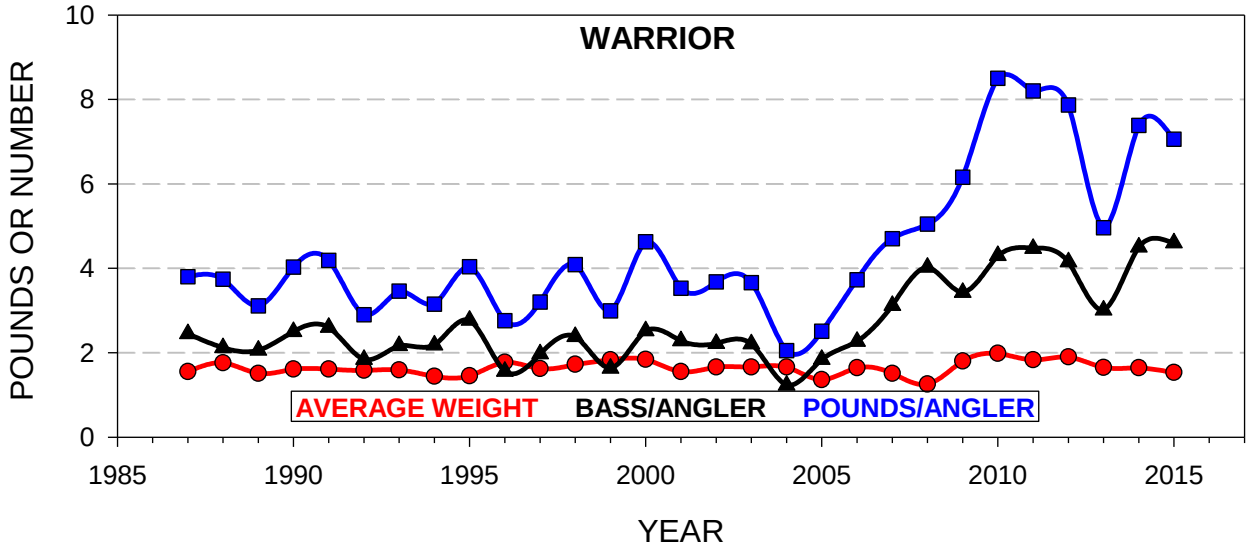
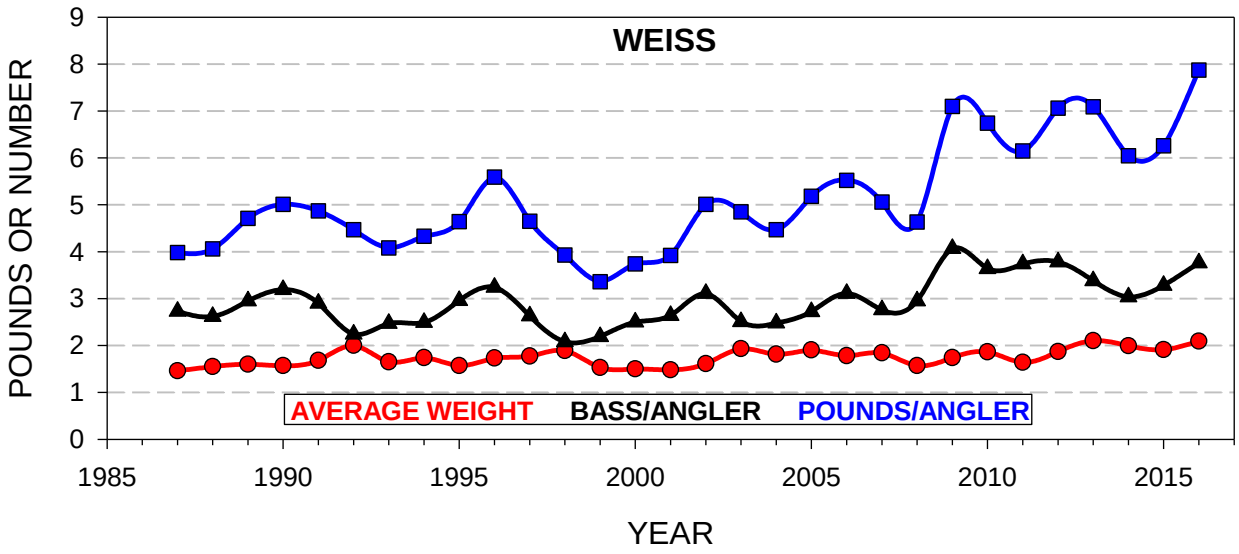


Figure 7. Annual quality indicators for Neely Henry, Pickwick, and Smith, through 2016.





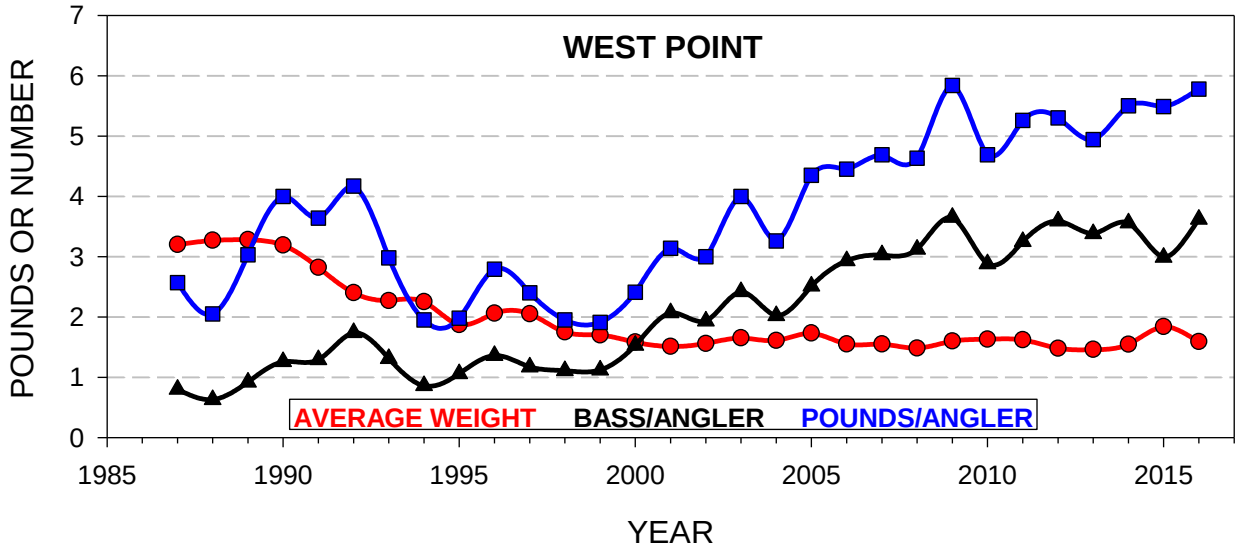


Figure 8. Annual quality indicators for Warrior, Weiss, and West Point, through 2016.

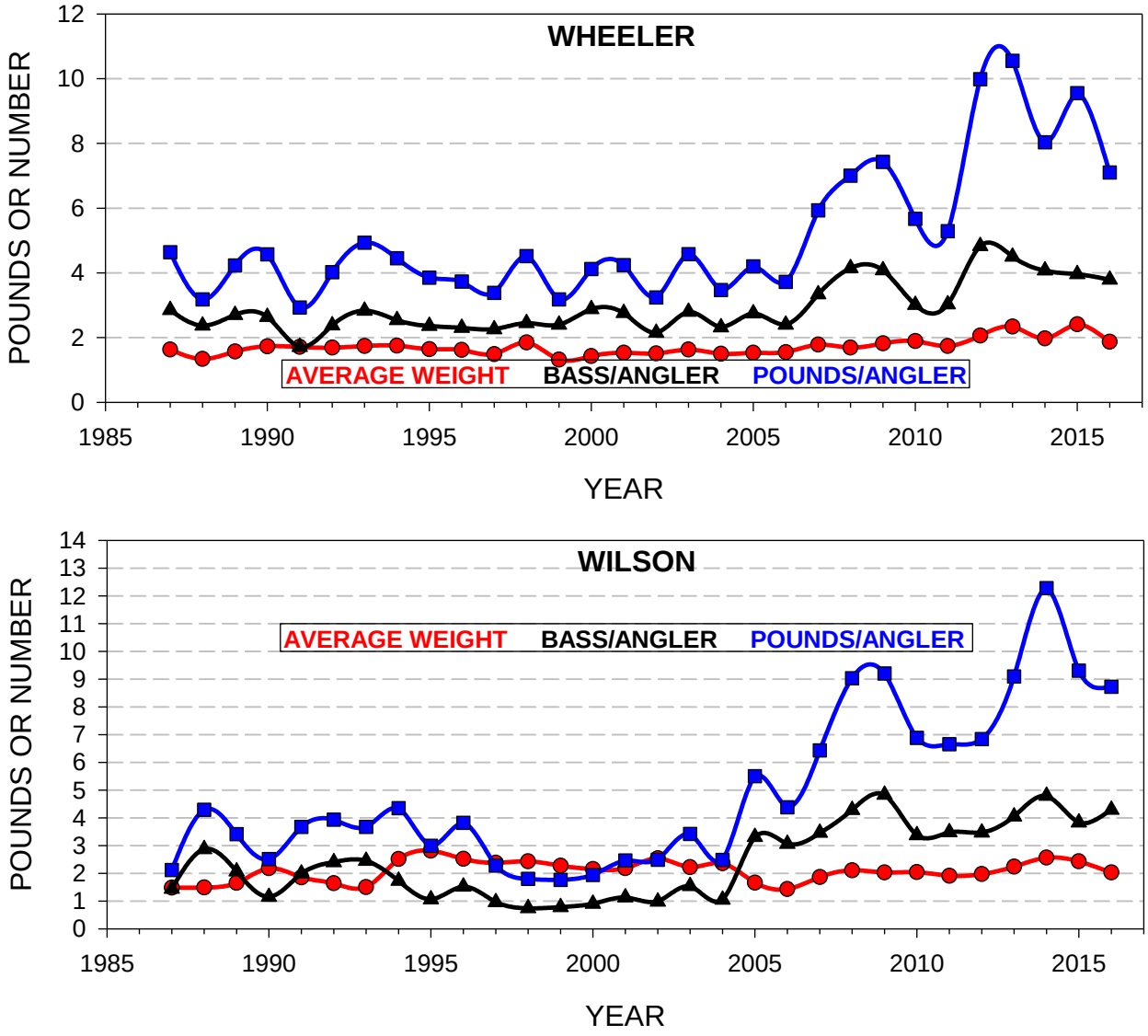


Figure 9. Annual quality indicators for Wheeler and Wilson, through 2016.

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 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://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS ANNUAL DAY USE PERMITS

Annual passes can be obtained from the guard station 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 $40 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.

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 2016, 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.

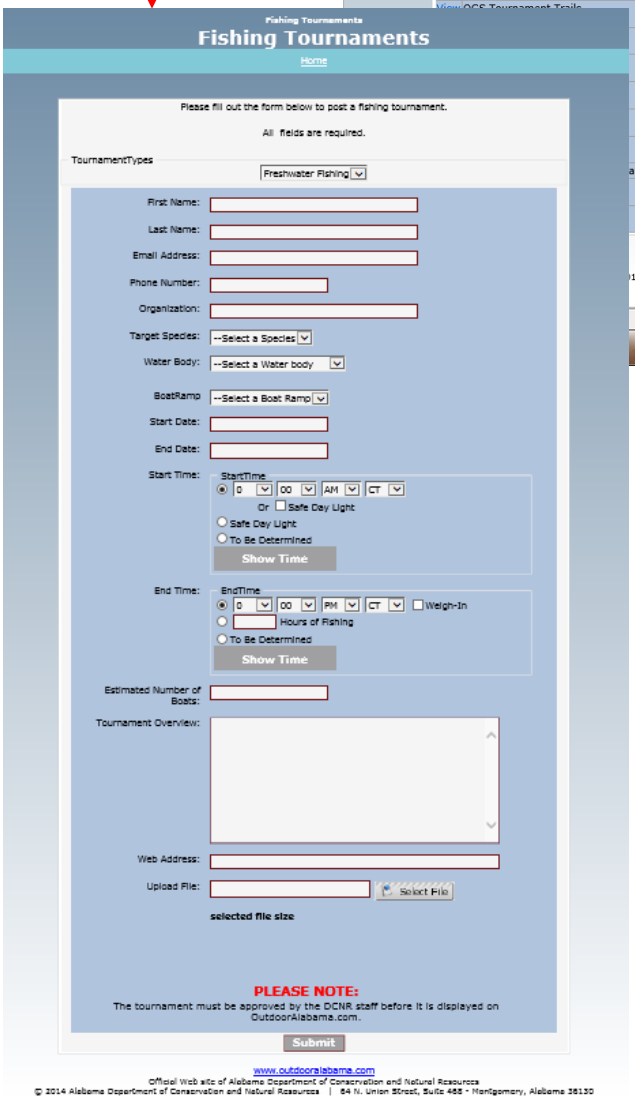
Tournament Website

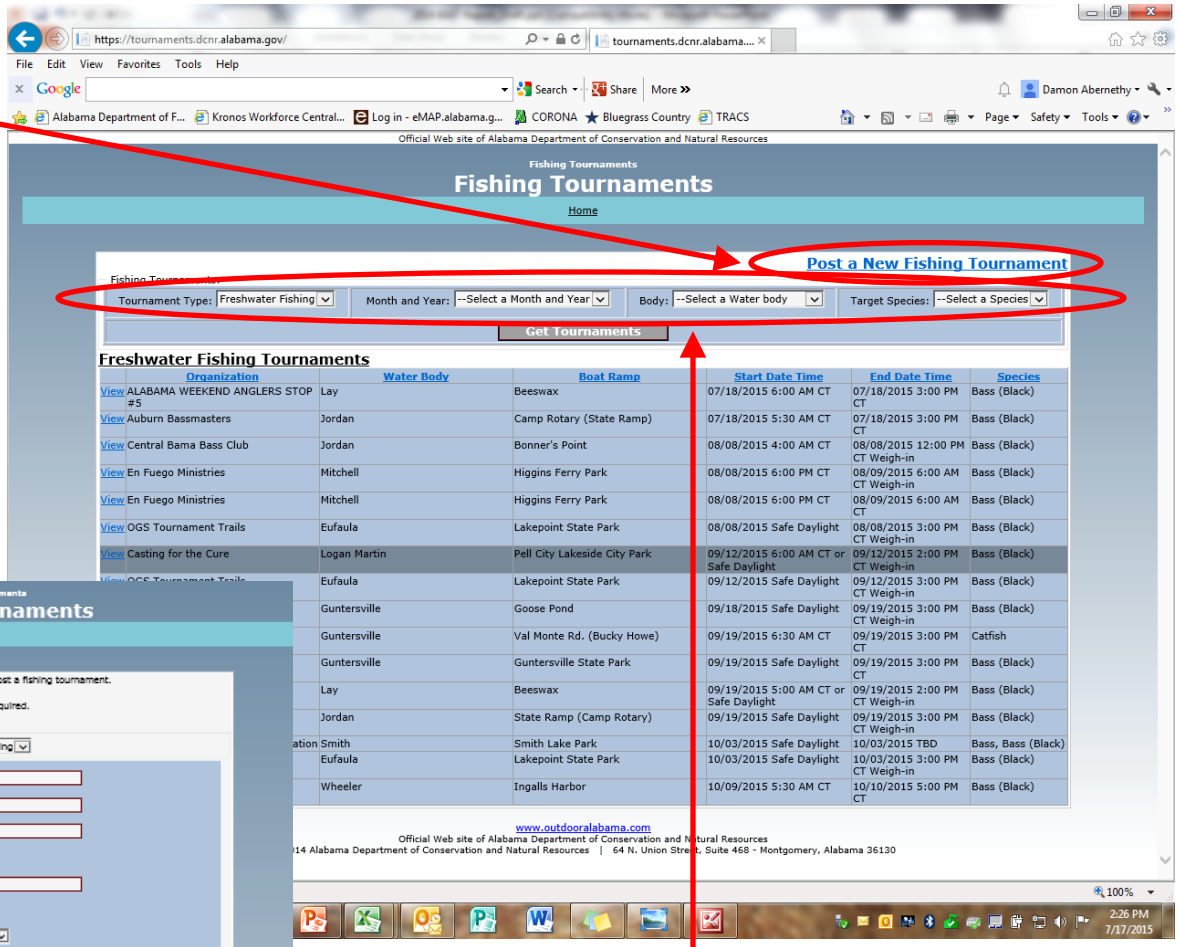
www.outdooralabama.com/tournaments

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.





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

Please let other tournament anglers 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 2016, and two new facilities were completed. For more information on ADCNR freshwater boating access, visit boatramps.dcnr.alabama.gov/.

Pollard Landing (Conecuh River)

A new boat ramp at Pollard Landing near Brewton was completed winter 2016. The facility includes a 15' wide launching slab and paved parking for 17 truck and trailer rigs. The project was completed in cooperation with the Escambia County Commission.

Pollard Landing (Conecuh River)

Cedar Bluff (Weiss)

Alabama Power Company repaved the parking lot with asphalt and ADCNR restriped the parking lot with thermoplastic striping in a configuration that makes it more boater friendly. The parking lot now accommodates 71 truck and trailer rigs.

Shoal Creek (Wilson)

Construction was completed on a new boat landing directly across Hwy. 72 from the old Shoal Creek Boat Landing. The ramp includes 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 was completed in cooperation with the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Shoal Creek (Wilson)

Chocolatta Bay Boat Ramp (Mobile Delta)

A new 4'x80' stationary access pier with thru-flow decking was installed to replace an old pier that had received significant flood damage.

Claysville (Guntersville)

A new 6'x20' floating access pier was installed to replace an old pier that had received significant flood damage.

Second Creek (Wheeler)

A new 8'x30' floating access pier was installed to replace an old pier that had received significant flood damage

Hokes Bluff (Neely Henry)

Alabama Power Co. constructed new sidewalks to provide handicap access to the existing pier.

Leesburg (Weiss)

ADCNR is working in cooperation with the Town of Leesburg to provide a major boat ramp facility on Weiss Lake. The property containing the boat ramp is leased to ADCNR from Alabama Power Co. Phase one of two will be completed by summer 2018 and phase two will be completed fall of 2020. Phase one of the project includes construction of a new 60' wide concrete launching slab, paved entrance / exit roads with make ready and tie down areas, paved parking for approximately 113 truck and trailer rigs, a gravel overflow parking area to accommodate approximately 150 parking spaces for truck / trailer rigs and construction of two 50' floating piers. Phase two will include the construction of a 412' wharf style pier with 18 finger piers.

Canoe Creek (Neely Henry)

Construction is ongoing at Canoe Creek to build a new boating access facility. The ramp is anticipated to be opened in summer 2017 and will include a 4 lane boat ramp, paved parking for 80 truck and trailer rigs, prep areas to accommodate 12 truck and trailer rigs, two 100' floating access piers and two fixed boardwalk piers. The project is under construction in cooperation with St. Clair County Commission.

Three bulldozers ready to push in ramp slab at Canoe Creek (Neely Henry)

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 2016, 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) over 2,600 fish attractors have been installed throughout the state.

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 in 2016.

Waterbody	Type	Amount	Install Date
Eufaula	Large cedar trees	55	Feb. 2016
West Point	Bamboo	50	Feb. 2016
Logan Martin	Christmas Trees	40	Feb. 2016
Mitchell	Christmas Trees	100	Mar. 2016
Upper Bear	Bamboo	50	Jun. 2016
Martin	Water willow	600 ft²	Jun. 2016
Smith	Water willow	600 ft²	Jul. 2016
Smith	Spiderblocks	100	Aug. 2016
Cedar	Spiderblocks	100	Aug. 2016
Little Bear	Spiderblocks	100	Aug. 2016
Yates	Porcupine®Fish Attractors	150	Aug. 2016
Martin	Porcupine®Fish Attractors	150	Sep. 2016
Smith	Porcupine®Fish Attractors	150	Sep. 2016
Mitchell	Porcupine®Fish Attractors	150	Sep. 2016
Holt	Porcupine®Fish Attractors	150	Oct. 2016
Martin	Buttonbush	200	Nov. 2016
Martin	Stakebeds (PVC)	100	Nov. 2016
Logan Martin	Buttonbush	200	Dec. 2016
Weiss	Buttonbush	200	Dec. 2016
Smith	Buttonbush	200	Dec. 2016

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

Planting Buttonbush on Smith Lake

Constructing fish attractors on Lake Martin

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.


SPORT FISH
RESTORATION