



Trace State Park Lake 2024

REEL FACTS

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General Information: Trace State Park Lake is a 565 acre lake located between the cities of Pontotoc and Tupelo in Pontotoc County. The lake was originally designed and constructed by the Soil Conservation Service as a watershed lake for flood control. The lake was drained in 2017 for repairs to the dam, and was re-opened in August of 2020. Historically known for its good bream fishery, the lake currently supports both abundant bass and bream. A seasonal fishery also exists for crappie and catfish.

Location: Trace State Park is located in Pontotoc County, 8 miles W of Tupelo off of Hwy. 6.

Fishery Management: Largemouth Bass, crappie, bream, and catfish.

Lake Depth Map: <https://www.mdwfp.com/media/5426/trace-park-lake.pdf>

Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Amenities

- 2 public concrete boat ramps with courtesy piers.
- 3 handicap accessible fishing piers.
- 5 Cabins and 3 cottages.
- Campground with 76 sites including water and electrical hookups. Primitive camping is also available.
- 2 Children's playgrounds.
- Picnic areas with grills.
- Restrooms and showers.
- 2 disc golf courses.
- 14 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Pavilion
- 35 miles of ORV and horse trails

Creel Regulations

- Largemouth Bass: 14-22" slot limit; 10 per day per angler under 14", one over 22".
- Crappie: 20 per day per angler.
- Bream: 20 per day per angler combined.
- Catfish: 10 per day per angler.

Regulations

- Fishing is not allowed from the courtesy pier adjacent to the boat ramp.
- Rod and reel fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD's, jugs, yo-yo's, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.
- Trace Lake's two main bodies are connected by a canal. Skiing is allowed on the eastern body, but once you go through the canal, it is designated as no wake.
- Licenses and permits are not required on designated free fishing days during National Fishing and Boating Week.
- Fishing licenses and permits may be purchased in the park office
- Contact the park office at (662) 489-2958.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Target main lake points with wacky rigs and Texas-rigged plastics.
- In the summer and fall, fish the weed edges with spinner baits, Texas-rigged plastics, and various topwater lures.

Crappie

- Fish sunken brush tops and laydowns.
- Target main lake points and deep weed edges with small jigs or live bait under a cork.

Bream

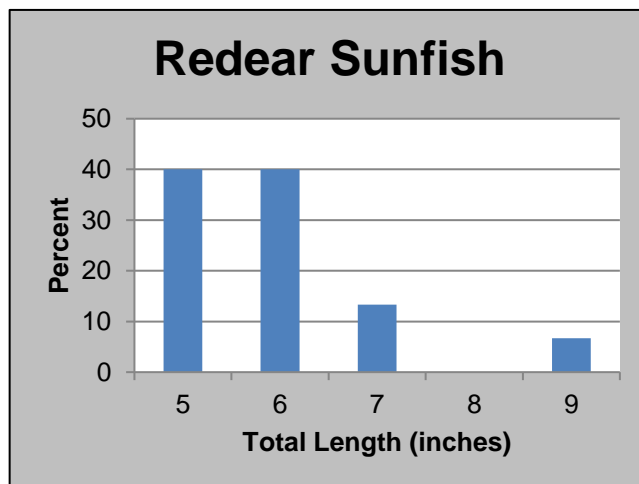
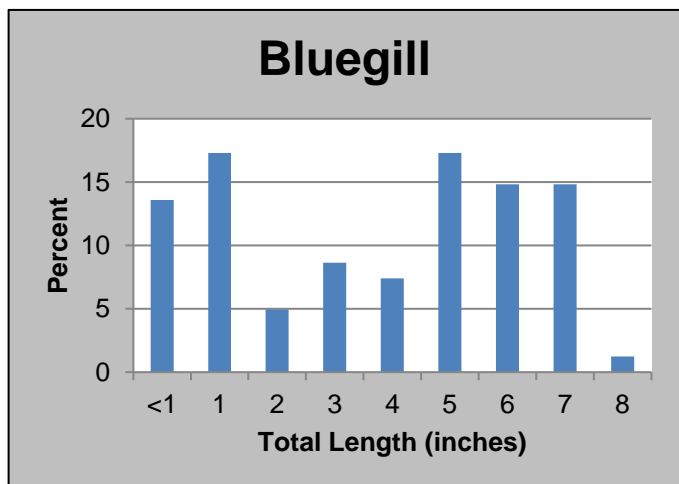
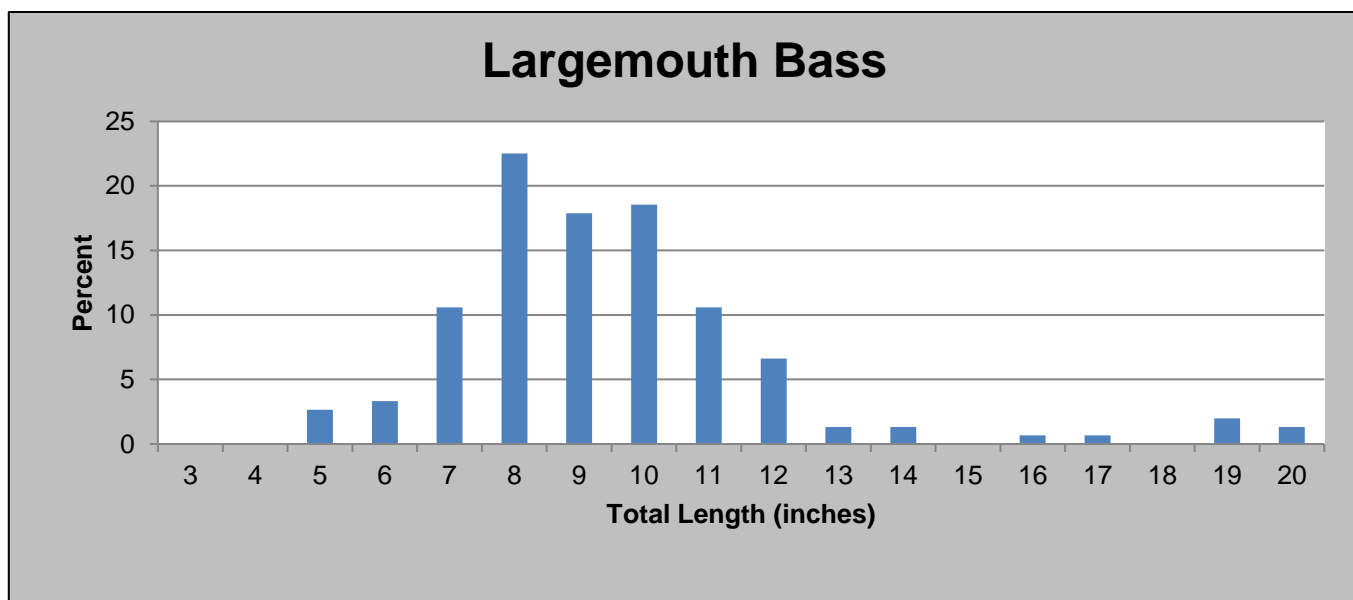
- Target coves with tightlined redworms, mealworms, and crickets.

Catfish

- Target main lake points with nightcrawlers, liver, or cutbait.
- Fish deep laydowns and brushtops on main lake .

Below: Results from the 2023 fall electrofishing survey at Trace State Park. Boat electrofishing was completed along 3.1 miles of shoreline in October. Trace Lake is bass-crowded, and anglers are encouraged to keep all bass caught under 12”.

| Species | # of Fish Sampled | % of Sample | Average Length (Inches) | Maximum Length (inches) | Average Weight (pounds) | Catch Rate Adult fish (fish/mile) |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Gizzard Shad | 29 | 10 | 11.9 | 14.2 | - | 9 |
| Channel Catfish | 2 | <1 | 23.6 | 24.0 | 5.7 | 1 |
| Bluegill | 81 | 29 | 4.3 | 8.2 | 0.2 | 17 |
| Redear Sunfish | 15 | 5 | 6.4 | 9.7 | 0.2 | 5 |
| Largemouth Bass | 151 | 54 | 10.0 | 20.4 | 0.6 | 42 |



Above: Length distributions for Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish sampled during fall electrofishing in 2023.



| Species targeted | Percentage (%) |
|---|----------------|
| Bass | 54 |
| Bream | 35 |
| Crappie | 12 |
| Anything | 0 |
| Catfish | 0 |
| How satisfied are you with the fishing at Trace? | |
| Very Satisfied | 49 |
| Satisfied | 35 |
| Neutral/No Opinion | 13 |
| Dissatisfied | 4 |
| Very Dissatisfied | 0 |
| Do you use a Livescope or similar forward-facing sonar? | |
| Yes | 19 |
| No | 81 |
| What is your county of residence? | |
| Lee | 43 |
| Pontotoc | 28 |
| Union | 15 |
| All other counties | 14 |

Right: 2023 creel data from Trace Lake. Anglers were primarily targeting bass, but there were a good number of bream anglers as well. The majority of anglers do not currently use forward-facing sonar. Anglers from 13 Mississippi counties were interviewed, but the majority came from Lee County.

Below: Graphs depicting species of fish targeted and catch rates for Largemouth Bass, bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish), and crappie at Trace Lake based on spring creel surveys.

