



# OKLAHOMA BASS TOURNAMENTS

2003 ANNUAL REPORT

Oklahoma Department  
Of Wildlife Conservation



Fisheries Division

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## INTRODUCTION

2003 marked the tenth year the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has gathered statewide data on competitive bass fishing. This report summarizes the most recent data and takes a look at the long-term trends in bass tournament catch over the last decade.



We thank the Tulsa District Corps of Engineers Project Offices, Oklahoma State Parks, the Grand River Dam Authority, and the many city offices that helped distribute *Tournament Report* cards in 2003. We especially want to thank the many organizations that voluntarily returned these cards following their events.

Tournament results continue to be a valuable addition to the data our biologists rely on to manage Oklahoma bass populations. It is the only measure we have of what anglers are actually catching. On lakes where electrofishing surveys cannot be performed each year, tournament results allow our biologists to monitor those bass populations.

In 2003 we utilized an on-line system that allowed Tournament Directors to enter results via the Internet. Nearly half of the reports we received in 2003 came in via the on-line system. Tournament organizers can submit information via the Internet using the web address: [www.biosurvey.ou.edu/fish/Tournament\\_Report.php](http://www.biosurvey.ou.edu/fish/Tournament_Report.php) and entering the user name *fishtour* and password *f1sh1ng*.

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## 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

- Controlling authorities issued 1200 tournament permits in 2003. We added 10% for non-permitted events and estimated there were about 1320 tournaments last year.
- Permit numbers were down only 4% from 2002.
- 91 organizations submitted 727 *Tournament Reports* from 49 lakes (Table 1). This is a 6% increase in report numbers over 2002. However, only 61% of the permitted tournaments returned reports.
- There were 39,124 tournament entries (Table 1). Multiply this number by the average length of a tournament day (7.4 hours) to get an estimate of fishing pressure (292,648 angler-hours) attributed to tournament anglers.
- Team tournaments averaged 30 boats and draw-for-partner events averaged 30 participants. Draw-for-partner tournaments made up 21% of the contests reporting.
- A total of 33,368 bass were weighed in 2003. Those fish weighed 68,972 pounds, a 16% increase over 2002.
- Tournaments averaged weighing 46 bass, up from 42 in 2002 for an average total weight per tournament of 91.87 pounds.



- Average winning weights rose to 10.19 pounds weights, up from 9.30 pounds last year.



- The heaviest one-day 5-bass limit weighed 24.4 pounds from Pine Creek during a Tri-Lakes Bass Club meet.
- Limits of bass were weighed by 15% of all anglers or teams.

## Top-20 Lakes

This year lakes were ranked if a minimum of 10 reports were received. Twenty five lakes were ranked into 21 places (Table 2).

- Hugo topped the tournament list with the highest *Average Winning Weight*, the highest *Percent Success* and the second highest *Average Number of Bass Caught per Day*. Biologists believe this good fishing to be a result of the water level manipulation research project that was conducted at Hugo from 1995-1999. A strong 1998 year class was produced during a planned high-water summer. Those fish have grown up to produce the fish that anglers are now catching in good numbers.



- Broken Bow and Okemah tied for second place. Broken Bow topped the list of *Bass per Day* while Okemah had the highest *Average Weight per Bass*.
- Sardis, Texoma and Greenleaf were third, fourth and fifth, respectively. The second set consisted of Eucha in sixth, McGee Creek in seventh, Pine Creek and Tenkiller, tied at eighth, followed by Thunderbird and Ellsworth to round out the Top-10 places.
- In contrast, those tournament anglers responding to an on-line survey on [www.basszone.com](http://www.basszone.com) ranked Grand Lake as the best performing lake in 2003, followed by Eufaula, the Arkansas River Navigation System (Webbers Falls & Kerr), Hudson, Texoma then Tenkiller. This was admittedly an unscientific survey and was likely biased by the fact that only BassZone viewers were responding.



- The largest bass reported this year weighed 9.40 pounds from Broken Bow, caught during a LeFlore County Bass Club tournament (Table 3). Numbers of bass over 5 pounds were up 9% compared to last year. However, bass of 8 pounds or larger were down by 50%.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF 2003 BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY LAKE.

LAKE	REPORTS RECEIVED	ENTRIES	BASS CAUGHT	BASS PER DAY	PERCENT SUCCESS	AVG WEIGHT	NUMBER > 5 lbs.	NUMBER > 8 lbs.	BIG BASS	FIRST PLACE
ARBUCKLE	28	1147	1028	1.74	53	1.32	7	0	7.38	7.6
BIRCH	9	124	262	2.20	77	1.15	1	0	5.56	6.05
BLUESTEM	1	14	63	3.60	100	1.73	0	0	4.12	13.75
BROKEN BOW	19	600	1144	2.48	85	1.81	13	1	9.40	13.98
CARL BLACKWELL	15	215	116	0.95	38	1.75	3	0	5.94	4.76
CHICKASHA	1	15	48	8.53	80	1.05	1	0	5.27	9.12
CHOUTEAU	1	14	40	1.14	79	2.05	0	0	4.44	23.25
CLAREMORE	20	576	148	0.50	36	2.45	2	0	5.13	5.57
CLEAR CREEK	2	104	23	0.53	39	2.54	1	0	7.48	9.34
COMANCHE	1	24	24	1.00	71	2.11	0	0	3.10	11.66
CUSHING	1	28	19	0.68	57	2.59	0	0	4.97	15.10
DUNCAN	2	31	21	0.68	56	2.35	1	0	5.90	11.51
ELLSWORTH	13	260	106	0.86	43	2.35	2	0	5.90	6.52
EUCHA	21	802	1070	1.47	79	1.33	3	0	6.94	9.47
EUFAULA	32	3325	4044	1.35	65	2.16	20	0	7.94	13.14
FT COBB	4	146	120	0.79	62	2.66	6	0	6.10	12.42
FT GIBSON	23	788	767	0.84	63	2.27	8	0	6.99	9.07
FUQUA	4	100	30	0.38	30	2.05	0	0	4.06	4.79

TABLE 1. STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY LAKE FOR 2003.

LAKE	REPORTS RECEIVED	ENTRIES	BASS CAUGHT	BASS PER DAY	PERCENT SUCCESS	AVERAGE WEIGHT	NUMBER > 5 lbs.	NUMBER > 8 lbs.	BIG BASS	FIRST PLACE
GRAND	77	6366	7242	1.08	63	2.31	79	1	8.38	12.49
GREENLEAF	21	590	332	1.08	48	2.43	3	0	6.20	9.46
GUTHRIE	21	500	109	.63	33	2.34	1	0	5.40	4.98
HOMINY	1	13	8	.82	62	1.58	0	0	2.64	2.64
HUDSON	30	1358	1616	.94	61	2.34	37	1	8.03	11.82
HUGO	11	264	514	1.93	88	2.13	2	0	5.57	14.56
KAW	5	92	87	1.04	49	1.72	2	0	5.80	8.66
KERR	10	473	751	1.30	58	2.10	4	0	5.44	12.27
KEYSTONE	50	2293	1855	1.05	62	2.29	12	1	9.44	10.04
KONAWA	1	40	106	2.65	100	1.24	0	0	3.45	10.95
LAWTONKA	13	202	63	0.83	34	2.35	7	0	6.10	5.10
LONE CHIMNEY	1	12	28	2.07	92	1.01	0	0	3.32	5.15
MURRAY	14	555	811	1.84	69	1.32	0	0	5.54	8.23
McGEE CREEK	19	803	1626	1.82	87	1.19	12	1	8.14	10.89
McMURTRY	3	46	40	0.88	69	1.83	0	0	4.79	6.00
OKEMAH	11	372	314	0.86	73	2.93	8	0	6.90	14.30
OOLOGAH	3	85	86	1.01	69	1.87	0	0	4.63	9.58
PINE CREEK	13	622	616	1.24	75	2.18	18	1	8.38	11.92

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PONCA CITY	1	12	7	0.67	42	2.45	0	0	3.35	4.72
SARDIS	15	394	498	1.17	67	2.19	14	0	7.35	12.55
SHAWNEE TWIN	7	266	101	1.05	43	1.74	2	0	6.99	5.87
SKIATOOK	35	2099	1674	1.18	47	1.99	28	0	7.34	8.78
SOONER	4	96	132	0.15	84	2.28	11	0	6.98	12.43
SPAVINAW	2	62	139	1.52	85	1.84	3	0	5.69	22.18
TENKILLER	88	2668	2455	1.28	63	2.09	30	0	6.80	10.38
TEXOMA	21	1150	1771	1.43	75	2.18	15	0	6.93	13.85
THUNDERBIRD	21	743	336	1.62	43	2.81	11	0	7.80	8.77
VANDERWORK	1	13	32	2.46	69	1.07	0	0	4.70	5.66
WAURIKA	9	268	205	0.90	62	2.82	16	1	8.50	15.72
WEBBERS FALLS	8	372	356	0.84	66	2.06	0	0	4.89	10.56
WISTER	3	44	140	0.39	87	2.52	3	0	5.25	16.76
TOTALS	727	39,124	33,368				391	6		
AVG. PER TOURNAMENT		54	46	1.10	60	2.10	0.54	0.01	4.34	10.19

# THE TOP-20+1 TOURNAMENT LAKES IN OKLAHOMA BASED ON 2003 REPORTS

RANKED BY "FISHING QUALITY INDICATORS" FROM LAKES SUBMITTING TEN OR MORE ODWC TOURNAMENT REPORTS

AVERAGE NUMBER CAUGHT PER 8-HOUR DAY		PERCENT SUCCESSFUL ANGLERS		AVERAGE WEIGHT PER BASS (lbs.)		AVERAGE 1 <sup>ST</sup> PLACE WEIGHT (lbs.)		ANGLER-HOURS PER BASS OVER 5 lbs.		OVERALL RANK	
BROKEN BOW	2.60	HUGO	88	OKEMAH	2.93	HUGO	14.56	GUTHRIE	27	#1 HUGO	94
HUGO	2.03	MCGEE CK	87	THUNDERBIRD	2.81	OKEMAH	14.30	ELLSWORTH	54	#2 BROKEN BOW	90
MCGEE CK	1.79	BROKEN BOW	85	CLAREMORE	2.45	BROKEN BOW	13.98	LAWTONKA	77	#2 OKEMAH	90
MURRAY	1.73	EUCHA	79	GREENLEAF	2.43	TEXOMA	13.85	GREENLEAF	114	#3 SARDIS	82
ARBUCKLE	1.68	TEXOMA	75	ELLSWORTH	2.35	EUFAULA	13.14	THUNDERBIRD	120	#4 TEXOMA	81
EUCHA	1.47	PINE CREEK	75	LAWTONKA	2.35	SARDIS	12.55	CLAREMORE	126	#5 GREENLEAF	79
TEXOMA	1.29	OKEMAH	73	GUTHRIE	2.34	GRAND	12.49	EUCHA	128	#6 EUCHA	77
GUTHRIE	1.25	MURRAY	69	HUDSON	2.34	KERR	12.27	TENKILLER	142	#7 MCGEE CK	75
TENKILLER	1.21	SARDIS	67	GRAND	2.31	PINE CREEK	11.92	SARDIS	144	#8 PINE CREEK	70
GREENLEAF	1.11	EUFAULA	65	KEYSTONE	2.29	HUDSON	11.82	ARBUCKLE	153	#8 TENKILLER	70
EUFAULA	1.08	FT. GIBSON	63	FT. GIBSON	2.27	MCGEE CK	10.89	OKEMAH	160	#9 TBIRD	69
SARDIS	1.06	GRAND	63	SARDIS	2.19	TENKILLER	10.38	BLACKWELL	221	#10 ELLSWORTH	66
KERR	1.05	TENKILLER	63	TEXOMA	2.18	KEYSTONE	9.91	BROKEN BOW	224	#11 GUTHRIE	65
PINE CREEK	1.04	KEYSTONE	62	PINE CREEK	2.18	EUCHA	9.47	MCGEE CK	227	#12 EUFAULA	64
THUNDERBIRD	1.03	HUDSON	61	EUFAULA	2.16	GREENLEAF	9.46	HUDSON	228	#13 GRAND	63
ELLSWORTH	0.95	KERR	58	HUGO	2.13	FT. GIBSON	9.07	HUGO	257	#14 HUDSON	61
KEYSTONE	0.92	ARBUCKLE	53	KERR	2.10	SKIATOOK	8.78	PINE CREEK	270	#15 KERR	58
GRAND	0.91	GREENLEAF	48	TENKILLER	2.09	THUNDERBIRD	8.77	KERR	335	#16 KEYSTONE	57
OKEMAH	0.86	SKIATOOK	47	SKIATOOK	1.99	MURRAY	8.23	KEYSTONE	360	#17 ARBUCKLE	55
BLACKWELL	0.85	ELLSWORTH	43	BROKEN BOW	1.81	ARBUCKLE	7.60	TEXOMA	400	#18 CLAREMORE	52
HUDSON	0.84	THUNDERBIRD	43	BLACKWELL	1.75	ELLSWORTH	6.52	GRAND	418	#18 MURRAY	52
FT. GIBSON	0.70	BLACKWELL	38	EUCHA	1.33	CLAREMORE	5.57	SKIATOOK	440	#19 LAWTONKA	49
SKIATOOK	0.68	CLAREMORE	36	ARBUCKLE	1.32	LAWTONKA	5.10	MURRAY	663	#20 FT. GIBSON	46
CLAREMORE	0.56	LAWTONKA	34	MURRAY	1.32	GUTHRIE	4.98	FT. GIBSON	672	#21 BLACKWELL	30
LAWTONKA	0.55	GUTHRIE	33	MCGEE CK	1.19	BLACKWELL	4.76	EUFAULA	1192	#21 SKIATOOK	30

TABLE 3. TROPHY BASS REPORTED IN 2003 TOURNAMENTS.

LAKE	ORGANIZATION	DATE	WEIGHT
Broken Bow	Leflore County Bass Club	2/22/03	9.40 lbs.
Grand	FLW Outdoors-Walmart BFL	3/15/03	8.38 lbs.
Hudson	Tulsa Bass Anglers	6/07/03	8.03 lbs.
McGee Creek	Fisherman's Choice	7/20/03	8.14 lbs.
Pine Creek	McCurtain Bassmasters	3/08/03	8.38 lbs.
Waurika	Jus Bassin'	10/26/03	8.50 lbs.