

OKLAHOMA BASS TOURNAMENTS

2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Oklahoma Department Of Wildlife Conservation



Fisheries Division

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INTRODUCTION

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has gathered standardized statewide data on competitive bass fishing for 12 years. These results continue to be a valuable addition to the data our biologists use to manage Oklahoma bass populations. We cannot conduct electrofishing surveys every year on every lake. Tournament results allow our biologists to monitor bass populations between surveys. It is the only measure we have of what anglers are actually catching.

We want to 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 2005.

We especially want to thank the many organizations that voluntarily return cards or enter tournament data via our Internet website following their events. Over half of the reports we received in 2005 came in via the on-line system.

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SUMMARY OF 2005 RESULTS

Controlling authorities permitted 1077 tournament in 2005. We added 10% for non-permitted events and estimated there were about 1185 tournaments last year. That averages 23 tournaments each week somewhere in the Sooner State! Very few states in the nation have more tournaments than does Oklahoma.

- Permit numbers were down 3% from 2004, continuing a slow declining trend since 1998.
- Ninety-five different organizations submitted 723 *Tournament Reports* from 60 lakes (Table 1). Compared to 637 reports in 2004 from 55 lakes, this is a 13% increase.
- However... only 55% of permitted tournaments returned reports.
- There were 39,005 tournament entries (Table 1). Multiply this number by the average length of a tournament day (8.0 hours) to get an estimate of fishing pressure (312,040 angler-hours) attributed to tournament anglers. Angler-hours increased over last year by 21%. Some of this is due to the average tournament day having increased from its ten-year average of 7.4 hours to 8.0 hours in 2005.
- Team tournaments averaged 30 boats and draw-for-partner events averaged 23 participants. Draw-for-partner tournaments again made up 22% of the reports.

We saw a continuation of an upward trend in angler catch with both numbers and sizes of bass increasing for the fourth year in a row.

- A total of 38,623 bass were weighed in 2005. Those fish weighed 82,653 pounds, a whopping 18% increase over 2004.
- Tournaments averaged weighing 53 bass per event, up for the fourth year for an average total weight per tournament of 116 pounds versus 110 pounds in 2004.
- The overall success rate (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) was 62%, up 1% from last year.
- The average bass weighed 2.14 pounds, the same as in 2004.
- Average winning weights rose again in 2005 to 10.74 pounds, up from 10.54 pounds in 2004 and 10.19 pounds in 2003.
- The heaviest one-day 5-bass limit weighed 23.70 pounds from Sooner Lake during a Ark City FFA benefit tournament.
- Limits of bass were weighed by 20% of all anglers or teams. This was higher than the 10-year average of 15%.

- The largest bass reported this year weighed 11.44 pounds from Sooner, caught during the Ark City FFA benefit tournament (Table 3). Numbers of bass over 5 pounds were up 14% compared to last year. Bass over 8 pounds were up 33%, including three bass over 10 pounds! *Angler-hours per 5-pound Bass* showed a decrease, indicating that larger bass numbers continued to rebound after the lean years of 1999 through 2001.

This year we ranked our Top-25 Lakes if a minimum of 10 reports were received (Table 2).

- Ft. Gibson reclaimed the top spot in our tournament list after a few down years. It was followed in 2nd place by southwest Oklahoma smallmouth hotspot Lawtonka. Perennial favorite Grand Lake nailed down third place followed with a fourth place tie between Broken Bow and Greenleaf. Fifth place was taken by Okemah. Sardis and Hudson ties in 6th place. Konawa, Tenkiller, Texoma and Murray rounded out the Top 10.
- Notable was Sooner Lake from which we only received seven (7) reports. Had these been included in the ranking, it would have blown all the other lakes out of the race. Sooner would have placed near the top in four of the five categories we use to rank the best lakes. It also had the largest bass reported in 2005 and the heaviest 5-fish limit. Similarly, with one more tournament report, Robert S. Kerr would probably ranked in the top two or three for the year.



TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY LAKE FOR 2005.

LAKE	REPORTS REC'D(ISSUED)*	ENTRIES	BASS CAUGHT	BASS PER DAY	PERCENT SUCCESS	AVG WEIGHT	NUMBER > 5 lbs.	NUMBER > 8 lbs.	BIG BASS	FIRST PLACE
AM. HORSE	1	13	8	0.58	46	1.32	0	0	1.46	2.70
ARBUCKLE	13(15)	488	414	1.23	67	1.61	7	0	6.54	9.82
ARDMORE	4	96	124	1.09	67	1.58	2	0	5.60	8.25
BIRCH	7(25)	188	104	1.15	52	1.13	0	0	4.14	2.73
BLUESTEM	2	21	45	0.90	94	2.02	0	0	4.06	10.19
BROKEN BOW	20(37)	1637	1991	2.11	81	1.94	12	1	11.42	14.69
CANTON	1	7	7	1.00	57	1.94	0	0	2.77	6.51
CARL BLACKWELL	4	107	74	0.81	60	2.44	4	0	6.02	9.96
CHIMNEY ROCK	3(11)	108	157	2.14	82	1.75	2	0	5.60	12.86
CLAREMORE	23	856	267	0.77	45	2.52	8	0	6.40	5.79
CLEAR CREEK	2(12)	65	34	0.40	44	2.50	0	0	3.48	10.51
CUSHING	1	18	21	2.33	100	2.56	2	0	5.20	14.40
DRAPER	1	68	17	0.50	41	1.53	0	0	3.10	7.65
DUNCAN	1(11)	15	24	1.22	80	1.65	0	0	4.60	6.80
ELLSWORTH	2	58	10	0.14	24	2.57	0	0	3.97	2.91
ELMER THOMAS	1	17	22	1.29	71	2.57	2	0	7.10	10.20
EUCHA	27	719	850	1.19	69	1.69	11	0	6.82	10.56
EUFAULA	33(35)	4179	3416	0.94	59	2.15	72	1	9.20	12.39
FAIRFAX	2	50	45	1.09	78	2.21	1	0	6.16	11.22
FOSS	2(29)	91	32	0.49	42	2.62	2	0	5.12	7.25
FT COBB	4(7)	118	48	0.34	35	3.05	4	0	6.44	10.71
FT GIBSON	25(37)	1939	1919	1.67	73	2.38	22	0	6.48	13.84
FUQUA	2	38	25	0.62	61	2.09	0	0	3.60	9.33

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GRAND	56(137)	5887	7339	1.65	69	2.29	133	2	9.93	13.21
GREENLEAF	27(39)	854	511	1.05	58	2.84	19	0	6.45	13.21
GUTHRIE	23	572	84	0.41	25	1.97	2	0	5.57	3.39
HUDSON	31(92)	1449	1259	1.64	62	2.53	32	1	10.33	10.93
HUGO	11(28)	577	619	1.53	73	2.08	5	0	6.49	12.39
KAW	5(2)	176	102	0.62	37	2.75	3	0	5.90	8.38
KERR	9(6)	534	674	2.21	72	2.34	7	0	7.10	15.42
KEYSTONE	19(45)	517	574	1.09	64	2.11	4	0	6.25	11.10
KONAWA	11	524	794	3.30	74	1.30	6	0	7.32	8.79
LAWTONKA	13	108	74	2.21	58	2.21	3	2	8.48	13.93
LONE CHIMNEY	2	32	27	0.94	60	1.91	1	1	8.48	9.84
LONG LAKE	1	60	80	2.67	77	1.71	0	0	4.71	14.75
LONGMIRE	1	13	29	4.14	54	1.22	2	0	5.65	10.36
McGEE CREEK	16(73)	672	1109	1.80	81	1.21	4	1	8.67	9.12
McMURTRY	4	93	76	1.07	77	1.75	0	0	4.79	7.27
MOUNTAIN LAKE	1	35	28	6.40	91	1.13	0	0	2.85	5.97
MURRAY	18(53)	979	1973	2.01	82	1.36	7	1	9.25	11.65
NEWT GRAHAM	3	170	187	1.55	74	2.05	3	0	5.28	11.95
OKEMAH	17(25)	533	446	0.84	66	3.08	42	0	7.74	12.88
OOLOGAH	24(28)	508	207	1.08	50	2.28	1	0	5.49	5.11
PAULS VALLEY	2	66	87	1.34	86	2.54	3	0	5.80	13.91
PINE CREEK	7(15)	426	566	1.73	77	2.01	15	0	7.50	13.85
PRAGUE	1	40	14	0.28	35	2.13	1	0	5.15	7.82
SAHOMA	10	218	67	1.64	46	2.30	0	0	4.93	6.28

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SARDIS	21(27)	848	1098	1.42	74	2.03	22	0	7.70	13.81
SHAWNEE TWIN	9(30)	108	19	0.50	30	1.98	0	0	4.50	2.88
SKIATOOK	48(62)	3868	3165	2.31	58	1.60	25	0	7.40	8.86
SOONER	7	286	265	1.48	76	2.59	13	2	11.44	13.86
SPAVINAW	5	102	198	2.03	92	2.20	5	0	5.71	17.59
TENKILLER	66(90)	3310	3160	2.02	56	2.24	72	1	5.33	12.22
TEXOMA	30(41)	1705	1831	1.43	71	2.18	15	0	6.94	13.30
THUNDERBIRD	27(28)	1293	393	1.58	38	2.74	24	0	6.89	8.34
VANDERWORK	1	78	119	1.53	79	2.17	2	0	5.38	14.12
WAURIKA	2(2)	65	34	0.93	48	1.51	0	0	3.62	3.96
WEB. FALLS	18(13)	1277	1629	1.15	72	2.17	11	1	10.02	13.37
WETUMKA	1	8	1	0.02	13	2.00	0	0	2.00	2.00
WISTER	2(22)	58	32	0.48	44	2.03	0	0	3.89	7.46
TOTALS	723(1,077)	39,005	38,623				634	14		
AVG. PER TOURNAMENT		54	53	1.49	62	2.14	0.88	0.02	4.51	10.74

* Number in parentheses are numbers of tournament permits issued by Corps of Engineers, GRDA, State Parks or other controlling authorities compared to number of reports received by ODWC

TABLE 2. THE TOP-25 TOURNAMENT LAKES IN OKLAHOMA BASED ON 2005 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 ST PLACE WEIGHT (lbs.)	ANGLER-HOURS PER BASS OVER 5 lbs.	OVERALL RANK						
KONAWA	3.30	MURRAY	82	OKEMAH	3.08	BROKEN BOW	14.69	OOLOGAH	54 #1	FT. GIBSON	91
SKIATOOK	2.31	MCGEE CK	81	GREENLEAF	2.84	LAWTONKA	13.93	GUTHRIE	69 #2	LAWTONKA	89
LAWTONKA	2.21	BROKEN BOW	81	THUNDERBIRD	2.74	FT. GIBSON	13.84	THUNDERBIRD	84 #3	GRAND	81
BROKEN BOW	2.11	SARDIS	74	HUDSON	2.53	SARDIS	13.81	GREENLEAF	129 #4	BROKEN BOW	79
TENKILLER	2.02	KONAWA	74	CLAREMORE	2.52	WEB. FALLS	13.37	KONAWA	137 #4	GREENLEAF	79
MURRAY	2.01	FT. GIBSON	73	FT. GIBSON	2.38	TEXOMA	13.30	OKEMAH	138 #5	OKEMAH	78
MCGEE CK	1.80	HUGO	72	SAHOMA	2.30	GREENLEAF	13.21	LAWTONKA	140 #6	SARDIS	76
FT. GIBSON	1.67	WEB. FALLS	72	GRAND	2.29	GRAND	13.21	EUCHA	150 #6	HUDSON	76
GRAND	1.65	TEXOMA	71	OOLOGAH	2.28	OKEMAH	12.88	CLAREMORE	152 #7	KONAWA	75
HUDSON	1.64	EUCHA	69	TENKILLER	2.24	HUGO	12.39	HUDSON	175 #8	TENKILLER	73
SAHOMA	1.64	GRAND	69	LAWTONKA	2.21	EUFAULA	12.39	TENKILLER	264 #9	TEXOMA	69
THUNDERBIRD	1.58	ARBUCKLE	67	TEXOMA	2.18	TENKILLER	12.22	ARBUCKLE	293 #10	MURRAY	68
HUGO	1.53	OKEMAH	66	WEB. FALLS	2.17	MURRAY	11.65	GRAND	308 #11	THBIRD	67
TEXOMA	1.43	KEYSTONE	64	EUFAULA	2.15	KEYSTONE	11.10	SARDIS	318 #12	HUGO	66
SARDIS	1.42	HUDSON	62	KEYSTONE	2.11	HUDSON	10.93	KEYSTONE	335 #13	WEB. FALLS	63
ARBUCKLE	1.23	EUFAULA	59	HUGO	2.08	EUCHA	10.56	FT. GIBSON	390 #14	EUCHA	59
EUCHA	1.19	GREENLEAF	58	SARDIS	2.03	ARBUCKLE	9.82	EUFAULA	440 #15	MCGEE CK	58
WEB. FALLS	1.15	LAWTONKA	58	GUTHRIE	1.97	MCGEE CK	9.12	HUGO	515 #16	OOLOGAH	55
KEYSTONE	1.09	TENKILLER	56	BROKEN BOW	1.94	SKIATOOK	8.86	MURRAY	518 #17	KEYSTONE	53
OOLOGAH	1.08	SKIATOOK	53	EUCHA	1.69	KONAWA	8.79	MCGEE CK	538 #18	ARBUCKLE	52
GREENLEAF	1.05	OOLOGAH	50	ARBUCKLE	1.61	THUNDERBIRD	8.34	TEXOMA	565 #19	EUFAULA	50
EUFAULA	0.94	SAHOMA	46	SKIATOOK	1.60	SAHOMA	6.28	SAHOMA	639 #20	CLAREMORE	46
OKEMAH	0.84	CLAREMORE	45	MURRAY	1.36	CLAREMORE	5.79	WEB. FALLS	749 #20	SAHOMA	46
CLAREMORE	0.77	THUNDERBIRD	38	KONAWA	1.30	OOLOGAH	5.11	BROKEN BOW	808 #21	SKIATOOK	42
GUTHRIE	0.41	GUTHRIE	25	MCGEE CK	1.21	GUTHRIE	3.39	SKIATOOK	1070 #22	GUTHRIE	35

TABLE 3. TROPHY BASS REPORTED IN 2005 TOURNAMENTS.

LAKE	ORGANIZATION	DATE	WEIGHT (lbs.)
SOONER	ARK CITY FFA	03/20/05	11.44
BROKEN BOW	CHAMPION TEAM TRAIL	02/28/05	11.42
SARDIS	NORMAN BASSMASTERS	03/20/05	10.95
MURRAY	SOUTHERN OK BASSERS	10/08/05	9.25
EUFAULA	FISHERMAN'S CHOICE	04/10/05	9.20
MCGEE CREEK	3 RIVERS BASSMASTERS	05/01/05	8.67
LONE CHIMNEY	WESTERN OKLA BASSMASTERS	05/21/05	8.48
LAWTONKA	JUS BASSIN	04/03/05	8.38
GRAND	TRITON TEAM TRAIL	03/20/05	8.27
GRAND	BASS WEEKEND SERIES	03/13/05	8.10
SOONER	ARK CITY FFA	03/20/05	8.00



**CORPS OF ENGINEERS (COE), GRAND RIVER DAM AUTHORITY (GRDA), OKLAHOMA STATE
PARK and SELECTED MUNICIPAL LAKE AUTHORITIES**
(Updated January 31, 2006)

ARBUCKLE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1008 W. 2nd ST.
SULPHUR, OK 73086
580-622-3163, Ext. 205

BIRCH AND SKIATOOK

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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SKIATOOK, OK 74070-9107
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Timothy.crossman@us.army.mil

BROKEN BOW

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CHOUTEAU & NEWT GRAHAM

CONTACT COE @ TENKILLER

CLAREMORE CITY LAKE

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HUMPHREYS**

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EUFAULA

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EUFAULA COVE NEEDS CITY APPROVAL
(918-689-2534) THEN COE PERMIT

FORT COBB

FT COBB STATE PARK
LESLIE KNIKKEL
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ftcobbst@fourstarnet.net

FORT GIBSON

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
KURT KURL
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FOSS

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GRAND, HUDSON, CHIMNEY ROCK

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GRAND EAST SPILLWAY (CHEROKEE SP
 918-435-8066), HONEY CREEK OR
 BERNICE SP (918-786-9447) REQUIRE
 STATE PARK APPROVAL THEN GRDA
 PERMIT

GREENLEAF

GREENLEAF STATE PARK
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HUGO

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KAW

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 PONCA CITY, OK 74604
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KEYSTONE

NEW MANNFORD RAMP -
 CITY OF MANNFORD
 CECILIA WARD
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KEYSTONE STATE PARK -

KEYSTONE STATE PARK
 DAVE SMITH
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ALL OTHER COE RAMPS

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MURRAY

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LAWTONKA, ELLSWORTH

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McMURTRY LAKE

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CHEROKEE LANDING SP REQUIRES
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 THEN COE PERMIT

TEXOMA

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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OTHERS CONTACT COE @ TENKILLER

WISTER

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Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)

Largemouth Bass Virus (LMBV) has spread to over 30 of our lakes, causing fish kills and poor fishing for following outbreaks. **White Perch** have invaded Kaw Lake with unknown impacts to native fish populations. Blooms of the toxic **Golden Alga** hit Lake Texoma and Altus-Lugert Reservoir causing fish kills and threatening popular sport fisheries. Exotic **Asian Carp** have been caught in several Oklahoma rivers, threatening to out-compete many native species of fish, including sport fish. **Zebra Mussels** have now been found in Grand, Kaw, Oologah as well as the waters of the Arkansas River Navigation System.

It is likely that some of these invaders were spread by anglers & boaters! They can be transferred in bilge or livewell water, on carpeted trailer bunks or frames. Please do your part to prevent the spread of unwanted aquatic nuisance species by inspecting and cleaning your boat when you leave the lake, don't dump unused minnows or bait, and never transplant fish from lake to lake. The health of our aquatic resources depends on your efforts. Learn more about how to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species at www.protectyourwaters.net/prevention/prevention_generic.php#1



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.

Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS DIRECTLY TO ODWC VIA OUR ON-LINE SYSTEM

Log on to:

<http://fishlab.ou.edu/bass/tournament.htm>

There is no “www” in the address and there is no user name or password.

Call up the site and enter results as you would on the *TOURNAMENT REPORT CARD*. Be sure to include contact information, including an E-mail address so we can send you the end-of-the-year report when it is completed.

Enter your results as soon after the event as possible so the information is fresh and accurate. If that is not possible, you may submit reports weekly, monthly or at the end of the season (please try to get all reports submitted by November 1st).

To enter several reports at one time:

- Fill in the data from your first report and click on the “**Submit**” button at the bottom of the page. You will be taken to a “Confirmation” page.
- From the Confirmation Page click on the “**Back**” button of your browser and it will take you back to the data you just entered.
- Change the information in the appropriate fields such as “Lake Name” and “Date” and the catch statistics, leaving other information such as your organization name and address the same,
- Click on the “**Submit**” button again to send the new data. Repeat as often as necessary to get all your tournament results entered. Use the “Reset” button only if you want to start over completely with all blanks fields.

We are constantly trying to update and improve the tournament results reporting process. If you have suggestions on the data entry form or format or on how this information is presented in the end-of-the-year report, please let us know.