

# OKLAHOMA BASS TOURNAMENTS

## 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Steve McLarty's 8 lb. 3 oz. State Record Smallmouth March 4, 2006, Eufaula, Fishers of Men Tournament



**Oklahoma Department  
of Wildlife  
Conservation**



Oklahoma Fishery Research Laboratory  
500 E. Constellation, Norman, Ok 73072

This program was funded by your fishing license dollars and the Sport Fish Restoration excise tax on fishing tackle & accessories, sonar fish finders, electric trolling motors, and motorboat fuels. Oklahoma Project F-63-D.

# HELP STOP THE INVASION!!!

## Don't be a Party to the of Spread of Aquatic Nuisance Species



**Zebra Mussels** have been found in Sooner, Grand, Kaw, Claremore, Keystone, Oologah and the Arkansas River

Navigation System. **Hydrilla** has become established in Arbuckle and Murray and has recently been found in Sooner. **Largemouth Bass Virus** has spread to over 30 Oklahoma lakes, causing fish kills and poor fishing following outbreaks. **White Perch** have invaded Kaw with unknown impacts to native fish populations. Blooms of the toxic **Golden Alga** hit Texoma causing fish kills and threatening popular sport fisheries. **Asian Carp** have been caught in several Oklahoma rivers, threatening many native fish.



ZEBRA MUSSELS CARPET THE BOTTOM OF ELDORADO LAKE DURING LOW WATER LEAVING NO PLACE FOR BASS TO SPAWN

It is likely that some of these invaders were spread by **anglers & boaters!** Some accidental, some on purpose. They can be transferred in bilge or livewell water, on carpeted trailer bunks or frames. Do your part to prevent the spread of aquatic nuisance species by inspecting, cleaning and draining your boat before you leave the lake, don't dump minnows or bait, and never transplant fish from lake to lake.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.  
[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://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.



POWER WASH BOATS & TRAILERS TO REMOVE HITCHHIKING PLANTS OR ANIMALS BEFORE YOU TRAVEL TO OTHER LAKES

# CONTENTS

Introduction .....	2
Summary of 2006 Bass Tournament Results.....	3
Table 1. Statewide Results by Lake.....	5
Table 2. The Top-20 Tournament Lakes in 2006.....	8
Table 3. Trophy Bass Weighed During 2006 Tournaments.....	9
Tournament Permit Offices for Major Oklahoma Lakes.....	10
On-line Tournament Reporting Procedures.....	13

## INTRODUCTION

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has gathered standardized statewide data on competitive bass fishing for 13 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 2006.

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 2006 came in via the on-line system.

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## SUMMARY OF 2006 RESULTS

**Controlling authorities permitted 1,251 tournaments in 2006. We added 10% for non-permitted events and estimated there were about 1,376 tournaments last year. That averages 26 tournaments each week somewhere in the Sooner State!**

- Permit numbers were up 9% reversing a declining trend we had seen since 1998.
- Ninety-nine different organizations submitted 588 *Tournament Reports* from 61 lakes (Table 1). Compared to 723 reports in 2006, this is a 19% decrease in reports submitted.
- Reporting rate dropped to an all-time low. We received reports from only 47% of the tournaments permitted in 2006.

**This year we have modified Table 1 slightly. Rather than provide the total number of anglers, total number of fish caught, weight of the biggest bass, biggest stringer, etc. for each lake, we provided average values for the various categories. The numbers are what you can expect to see from a typical tournament on that lake. But don't be surprised by how low some of the values look. Remember that tournaments take place rain or shine, wind or clam, fish biting or not. And the numbers from some lakes may have the results of weekly evening jackpots averaged in with the day-long or even two-day events. When you average the catch over all those hours of angling, the numbers sometimes look strange.**

- There were 26,490 tournament entries (Table 1). Multiply this number by the average length of a tournament day (7.3 hours) to get an estimate of fishing pressure (193,377 angler-hours) attributed to tournament anglers in events that were reported. This value declined by 49% from last year. However, if we expand this to the total number of tournaments permitted, tournament pressure amounted to 293,933 hours of angling.
- The **average tournament had 23 boats** (team tournaments averaged 27 boats and draw-for-partner events averaged 16 participants). Draw-for-partner or individual angler tournaments made up 25% of the reports. This percentage has remained steady for several years.
- A total of 29,309 bass were weighed in 2006. Those fish weighed 60,757 pounds. This was a 25% decrease from last year but is only down 7% from the long-term average. An obviously with a higher reporting rate, these totals would have been much higher.



- Tournaments averaged weighing **50 bass per event** for an average total weight per tournament of 110 pounds, similar to last year's results.
- The overall **success rate** (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) was **65%**, up 3% from last year.
- The **average angler caught 1.9 bass per day that weighed 2.2 pounds**. This weight was up slightly from 2.14 pounds in 2004 and 2005.
- **Average winning weight** rose again in 2006 to **10.90 pounds**, gaining almost a pound in the last three years.
- The heaviest one-day **5-bass limit weighed 25.04 pounds** from Waurika Lake during a *Jus' Bassin'* tournament.
- **Limits of bass were weighed by 26%** of all anglers or teams. This was the highest percentage of limit stringers seen in 10 years.
- **The largest bass reported this year weighed 10.25 pounds from Sardis** caught during a Team X-treme tournament in March (Table 3). Total numbers of bass over 5 pounds were down from last year but the number per tournament were roughly the same (0.8 per event). Bass over 8 pounds were about the same as last year despite a third fewer tournaments (14 in 2005 versus 12 in 2006). *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.

**Lakes were ranked in the Top-20 if we received a minimum of 9 reports (Table 2).**



- **Sardis Lake** reclaimed the top spot in our tournament list after placing 7th last year. Second place went to **Okemah** followed in 3rd by **Keystone**. **Lake Thunderbird** jumped into fourth place on the strength of numbers per day and heaviest average weight per bass. **Konawa, Arbuckle, Hudson, Texoma, Oologah and McGee Creek** round out the Top 10.
- **Elmer Thomas** on the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge and Fort Sill placed 11<sup>th</sup> with a strong showing of larger bass, including two over eight pounds.
- Perennial favorite **Grand Lake** fell to 12<sup>th</sup> place followed by **Ft. Gibson** in 13<sup>th</sup>. These lower rankings were in part due to large numbers of tournament with large numbers of anglers that by their nature lower the averages.

**TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY LAKE FOR 2006.**

LAKE	PERMITS RECEIVED (#ISSUED)	AVERAGE PER TOURNAMENT								
		AVERAGE # BOATS	BASS/ TOURN	BASS/ ANGLER	PERCENT SUCCESS	WEIGHT/ FISH	NUMBER > 5 lbs	NUMBER > 8 lbs.	AVG. BIG BASS	AVG. 1ST PLACE
ALTUS LUGERT	1(1)	5	6	0.6	40	2.13	1.0	0	5.30	5.30
AM. HORSE	4	7	39	2.5	91	1.12	0.3	0	3.25	7.15
ARBUCKLE	17(40)	11	35	1.7	78	1.70	1.2	0.1	5.36	11.90
ARDMORE	4	8	23	3.3	100	1.69	0	0	3.11	6.70
BIRCH	4(6)	12	42	2.0	89	0.93	0.3	0	3.97	7.92
BROKEN BOW	6(34)	14	110	2.6	80	1.76	0.3	0	4.21	12.42
CANTON	1(1)	6	24	4.0	100	2.86	1.0	0	6.81	17.45
CARL BLACKWELL	4	11	16	0.9	75	1.90	0	0	3.67	8.58
CHOUTEAU	2	6	29	2.7	62	2.25	0	0	3.35	13.45
CLEAR CREEK	4(6)	8	9	0.4	53	2.65	0.3	0	4.32	7.41
COMANCHE	2	7	14	0.9	65	3.23	0.5	0	5.61	15.16
COPAN	2(7)	21	6	0.4	27	2.38	0	0	3.64	3.64
CROWDER	2	12	15	0.7	50	1.21	0	0	2.06	5.79
CUSHING	1	5	26	1.7	80	2.68	3.0	0	6.60	17.00
DUNCAN	5(6)	11	34	1.7	92	1.28	0.3	0	3.85	6.05
ELLSWORTH	16	6	8	1.7	55	2.36	0.2	0	4.03	7.08
ELMER THOMAS	9	8	14	1.8	57	2.20	0.8	0.2	4.43	9.76
EUFAULA	48(61)	39	83	0.9	67	2.24	1.6	0	4.60	10.98
FAIRFAX	1	4	6	0.7	71	1.68	1.0	0	5.00	5.00
FT COBB	7(4)	12	12	0.9	56	2.77	0.9	0	5.25	9.52
FOSS	2(6)	14	13	1.9	42	2.60	0	0	4.27	9.55
FT GIBSON	11(41)	52	107	1.2	68	2.17	1.4	0	4.84	13.72

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FUQUA	3(8)	6	15	2.4	53	2.29	1.0	0	4.24	13.47
GRAND	23(145)	57	183	1.2	77	2.18	2.8	0	5.50	15.12
GREENLEAF	3(39)	2	5	1.0	67	2.38	0	0	3.58	9.60
GUTHRIE	18	10	7	0.6	48	2.11	0.1	0	3.18	5.08
HOMINY	1	7	3	1.8	43	2.12	0	0	2.47	2.47
HUDSON	23(113)	26	60	1.8	67	2.30	1.3	0	4.98	11.93
HUGO	1(16)	15	31	0.4	80	2.01	0	0	4.00	8.80
HULAH	4	26	7	0.8	27	2.41	0.3	0	4.08	4.08
HUMPHREYS	3(4)	11	18	1.0	57	2.18	0.7	0	4.76	12.12
KAW	3(2)	16	21	3.1	55	2.36	0.7	0	4.35	10.66
KERR	2(10)	11	32	1.5	91	2.46	1.0	0	4.93	15.06
KEYSTONE	11(75)	18	35	2.4	70	2.31	0.3	0	4.26	11.28
KONAWA	10	15	57	2.8	84	1.61	0.2	0	4.06	11.12
LAWTONKA	20	10	15	0.6	62	2.19	0.4	0	4.03	9.31
LONE CHIMNEY	2	14	18	0.7	54	1.84	0	0	3.90	7.67
LONGMIRE	1	18	26	3.3	67	2.16	0	0	7.50	17.73
McGEE CREEK	13(49)	20	95	0.5	94	1.20	1.2	0.2	5.23	12.41
McMURTRY	5(10)	9	10	2.1	40	2.15	0.2	0	4.25	7.10
MURRAY	23(60)	20	72	1.3	82	1.46	0.3	0	4.11	10.94
OKEMAH	17	14	33	1.4	75	2.88	1.9	0.1	5.79	14.68
OOLOGAH	26(30)	12	14	0.3	61	2.63	0.1	0	4.07	7.12
PAULS VALLEY	1	9	14	2.5	53	2.48	0	0	4.60	10.68

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PINE CREEK	1(19)	17	48	1.1	88	2.71	5.0	0	6.68	24.05
PONCA CITY	3	9	11	1.2	82	2.63	0.3	0	4.49	11.61
PRAGUE	4	9	38	1.5	74	2.34	1.0	0	5.22	11.77
SARDIS	19(27)	22	69	2.4	74	2.31	1.7	0.1	5.71	17.50
SKIATOOK	40(45)	42	67	1.8	55	1.64	0.5	0	4.51	7.88
SOONER	7	16	38	1.8	83	2.20	1.4	0	5.91	14.12
SPORTSMAN	1	10	19	1.0	58	1.16	0	0	1.79	4.35
TENKILLER	73(99)	21	37	2.2	54	2.25	0.6	0	4.57	11.90
TEXOMA	28(80)	21	62	1.9	76	2.07	0.4	0	4.65	14.53
THUNDERBIRD	27(30)	26	30	3.4	61	2.89	1.5	0	5.64	11.23
VANDERWORK	2	5	25	1.9	71	1.20	0.5	0	4.79	6.01
WAURIKA	3(3)	18	19	0.5	52	3.45	1.7	0	6.32	16.93
WEB. FALLS	8(12)	34	81	1.3	59	2.17	0.5	0	4.24	10.28
WES WATKINS	1	24	36	0.8	71	3.03	1.0	0	5.43	16.50
WETUMKA	1	9	16	0.6	56	1.25	0	0	3.01	5.38
WISTER	1(21)	16	27	1.7	50	2.55	0	0	4.29	13.05
<b>AVG. FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.02</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>10.90</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	588 (1,251)	26,490	29,309				495	12		
	REPORTS	ANGLERS	BASS				BASS>5	BASS>8		

Number in parentheses are numbers of tournament permits issued by controlling authorities

## TABLE 2. THE TOP-20 TOURNAMENT LAKES IN OKLAHOMA BASED ON 2006 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	
THUNDERBIRD	3.4	MCGEE CK	94	THUNDERBIRD	2.89	SARDIS	17.50	GUTHRIE	30	#1 SARDIS	79
KONAWA	2.8	KONAWA	84	OKEMAH	2.88	GRAND	15.12	OOLOGAH	132	#2 OKEMAH	77
KEYSTONE	2.4	MURRAY	82	OOLOGAH	2.63	OKEMAH	14.68	ELLESWORTH	171	#3 KEYSTONE	73
SARDIS	2.4	ARBUCKLE	78	ELLESWORTH	2.36	TEXOMA	14.53	ELMER THOMAS	340	#4 THUNDERBIRD	71
TENKILLER	2.2	GRAND	77	KEYSTONE	2.31	FT. GIBSON	13.72	KONAWA	618	#5 KONAWA	70
TEXOMA	1.9	TEXOMA	76	SARDIS	2.31	MCGEE CK	12.41	LAWTONKA	692	#6 ARBUCKLE	64
ELMER THOMAS	1.8	OKEMAH	75	HUDSON	2.30	HUDSON	11.93	ARBUCKLE	1090	#7 HUDSON	63
HUDSON	1.8	SARDIS	74	TENKILLER	2.25	ARBUCKLE	11.90	MURRAY	1109	#8 TEXOMA	62
SKIATOOK	1.8	KEYSTONE	70	EUFAULA	2.24	TENKILLER	11.90	OKEMAH	1523	#9 OOLOGAH	61
ARBUCKLE	1.7	FT. GIBSON	68	ELMER THOMAS	2.20	KEYSTONE	11.28	KEYSTONE	1538	#10 MCGEE CK	58
ELLESWORTH	1.7	EUFAULA	67	LAWTONKA	2.19	THUNDERBIRD	11.23	THUNDERBIRD	1936	#11 ELMER THOMAS	56
OKEMAH	1.4	HUDSON	67	GRAND	2.18	KONAWA	11.12	SARDIS	2326	#12 GRAND	56
MURRAY	1.3	LAWTONKA	62	FT. GIBSON	2.17	EUFAULA	10.98	HUDSON	2504	#13 FT. GIBSON	53
WEB. FALLS	1.3	OOLOGAH	61	WEB. FALLS	2.17	MURRAY	10.94	WEB. FALLS	2903	#14 MURRAY	52
FT. GIBSON	1.2	THUNDERBIRD	61	GUTHRIE	2.11	WEB. FALLS	10.28	MCGEE CK	3055	#15 TENKILLER	51
GRAND	1.2	WEB. FALLS	59	TEXOMA	2.07	ELMER THOMAS	9.76	TEXOMA	4740	#16 ELLESWORTH	47
EUFAULA	0.9	ELMER THOMAS	57	ARBUCKLE	1.70	LAWTONKA	9.31	TENKILLER	4756	#17 LAWTONKA	44
GUTHRIE	0.6	ELLESWORTH	55	SKIATOOK	1.64	SKIATOOK	7.88	FT. GIBSON	5561	#18 EUFAULA	40
LAWTONKA	0.6	SKIATOOK	55	KONAWA	1.61	OOLOGAH	7.12	GRAND	5896	#19 WEB. FALLS	37
MCGEE CK	0.5	TENKILLER	54	MURRAY	1.46	ELLESWORTH	7.08	EUFAULA	6388	#20 GUTHRIE	34
OOLOGAH	0.3	GUTHRIE	48	MCGEE CK	1.30	GUTHRIE	5.08	SKIATOOK	7188	#21 SKIATOOK	25

**TABLE 3. TROPHY BASS REPORTED IN 2006 TOURNAMENTS.**

LAKE	DATE	ORGANIZATION	WEIGHT (lbs.)
Eufaula	03/04/06	Fishers of Men (State Record Smallmouth)	8.19
McGee Creek	03/04/06	Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail	8.28
Sardis	03/11/06	Team X-Treme	10.25
Arbuckle	03/16/06	Bass Assassins	10.13
McGee Creek	03/18/06	North OKC Bassmasters	8.15
Eufaula	03/19/06	Skeeter Tour	8.66
Sardis	04/02/06	Leflore county bass club	8.33
Elmer Thomas	04/15/06	Southern Oklahoma Bassers	8.13
Murray	04/15/06	Norman Regional Hospital	8.94
Okemah	04/22/06	American Bass Anglers	8.68
Eufaula	05/06/06	TBA Stratos	8.59
McGee Creek	06/03/06	Chisholm Trail Bass Club	8.70
Elmer Thomas	07/15/06	Southern Oklahoma Bassers	8.90



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

(Updated March 31, 2007)

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**ARBUCKLE**

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

**FORT COBB**

FT COBB STATE PARK  
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**FOSS**

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**GRAND, HUDSON, CHIMNEY ROCK**

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

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KEYSTONE STATE PARK  
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ALL OTHER COE RAMPS  
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**LAWTONKA, ELLSWORTH**

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 576-A S MCGEE CREEK DAM RD  
 ATOKA, OK 74525  
 580-889-5822  
 mcgeecreek@oklahomaparks.com

**McMURTRY LAKE**

STILLWATER PARKS & REC.  
ROGER BASTION  
701 E. 12<sup>TH</sup>  
STILLWATER, OK 74074  
405-747-8085

**OKEMAH**

CITY OF OKEMAH  
RT 4 BOX 259B  
OKEMAH, OK 74859  
918-623-1539

**OOLOGAH**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
PAUL SHOCKLEY  
PO BOX 700  
OOLOGAH, OK 74053-0700  
918-443-2250  
paul.shockley@usace.army.mil

**PINE CREEK**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
CLIFF CITY  
RT 1 BOX 400  
VALLIANT, OK 74764-9615  
580-933-4239

**ROBERT S. KERR, W. D. MAYO & WISTER**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TISH LIVESY  
25334 US HWY 270  
WISTER, OK 74966  
918-655-7206  
patricia.livesy@swt03.usace.army.mil



**SARDIS**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TIM O'DANIEL  
HC 60 BOX 175  
CLAYTON, OK 74536  
918-569-4131  
Timothy.odaniel@swt03.usace.army.mil

**TENKILLER, CHOUTEAU & NEWT GRAHAM**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
DEAN ROBERTS  
RT 1 BOX 259  
GORE, OK 74435-9547  
918-487-5252  
Dean.a.roberts@usace.army.mil

CHEROKEE LANDING SP REQUIRES  
STATE PARK APPROVAL (918-457-5716)

**TEXOMA**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TOMMY HOLDER  
351 CORPS RD  
DENNISON, TX 75020-6425  
903-465-4990  
william.t.holder@usace.army.mil

CATFISH BAY REQUIRES STATE PARK  
APPROVAL (580-564-2566)

**WAURIKA**

CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
TIM ADKINS  
RT 1 BOX 68  
WAURIKA, OK 73573  
580-963-2111 EXT 27

**WEBBERS FALLS**

3 FORKS  
LEWIS MCLEMORE  
4901 HAROLD SCOGGINS DR.  
MUSKOGEE, OK 74403  
918-682-7886  
muskogeeport@muskogeeport.com

OTHER RAMPS - COE @ TENKILLER

# 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.

**The information in this report is only as good as the data we receive. With less than half of the tournaments reporting, we feel less confident that this report accurately reflects what tournament anglers are catching. There are many good lakes that we do not receive reports from. With fewer reports, our biologist have less information to make management decisions on. If problems arise, we may not be aware of them until things get really bad because we don't get the “early warning” that timely tournament reporting can provide.**

**Please take the time to send in your reports either on the postage paid card you may receive with your permit or via the on-line entry system noted above. If you are a tournament angler, urge your Tournament Director to send in their reports.**