

OKLAHOMA BASS TOURNAMENTS

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



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, Murray and Sooner. **Largemouth Bass Virus** has spread to over 30 Oklahoma lakes. **White Perch** have invaded Kaw and Keystone with unknown impacts to native fish. Blooms of toxic **Golden Alga** hit Texoma causing fish kills and threatening sport fisheries. **Asian Carp** have been caught in several Oklahoma rivers.



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

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

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INTRODUCTION

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) has gathered standardized statewide data on competitive bass fishing for 14 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 2007.

We especially want to thank the many organizations that voluntarily return cards or enter tournament data via our Internet website following their events. Two-thirds of the reports we received in 2007 came in via the on-line system.

This report may be reproduced and distributed freely to other interested parties. For more information, call, write or E-mail:

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SUMMARY OF 2007 RESULTS

We received reports from 457 tournaments. This is down from 588 in 2006 and 723 in 2005. Reports came from 49 lakes compared to 61 lakes in 2006. Table 1 shows averages for each lake. It represents what you can expect to see from typical tournaments.

- There were **24,678 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 (180,149 angler-hours) attributed to tournament anglers in events that were reported. This value declined by 7% from last year. This is likely due to the flooding that closed access to many lakes during the summer months.



- The **average tournament had 27 boats**, up slightly from previous years. Draw-for-partner or individual angler tournaments made up 22% of the reports. This percentage is slightly below the historic average of 25%.
- A total of **21,622 bass were weighed in 2007**. Those fish weighed 47,417 pounds. This was a 21% decrease from 2006. Obviously with fewer tournaments reporting, these totals were lower than average.



- Tournaments averaged weighing **47 bass per event** for an average total weight per tournament of 104 pounds, similar to 2006 results of 110 pounds per event.
- The overall **success rate** (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) was **61%**, down 4% from last year but equal to the long-term average.
- The **average angler caught 2.3 bass per day that weighed 2.3 pounds**. These values were up from 1.9 bass per angler and 2.2 pounds per fish in 2006. The 2007 numbers more closely match the long-term averages.

- **Average winning weight** rose again in 2007 to **11.89 pounds**, gaining over a pound in the last four years.
- The heaviest one-day **5-bass limit weighed 26.30 pounds** from Sooner Lake caught during a PC Team Bass tournament.
- **The largest bass reported this year weighed 11.80 pounds from Arbuckle** caught during a Little Dixie Bass Club tournament in March (Table 3).
- Total numbers of **bass over 5 pounds** increased slightly over last year and bass over 8 pounds were considerably more abundant (19 in 2007 versus 12 in 2006).



Lakes were ranked on the Top-20 List if we received a minimum of 9 reports (Table 2). The ranking combined



- **Ft. Gibson** reclaimed the top spot in our tournament list after being knocked out of the Top-10 last year. While it was not tops in any of the five categories used to rank the lakes, it was among the top ten lakes in each category.
- Second place went to **Sooner Lake** followed in 3rd by newcomer to the Top-20 **Wes Watkins**.
- **Grand Lake and Lake Murray** tied for fourth place, followed by **Texoma, Arbuckle, Eufaula, and Keystone** in fifth through eighth places, respectively.
- **Eucha, Tenkiller and Thunderbird** tied for ninth place with **McGee Creek** rounding out the Top-10.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS BY LAKE FOR 2007.

LAKE	REPORTS RECEIVED	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
AM. HORSE	2	12	48	1.6	96	0.95	0	0	2.20	6.30
ARBUCKLE	12	19	38	2.2	79	1.96	1.3	0.1	5.51	15.88
ARDMORE	1	15	33	1.1	87	1.67	1	0	5.02	10.43
BIRCH	13	14	28	1.2	72	1.21	0.4	0	3.35	7.49
BROKEN BOW	3	11	103	2.5	94	1.74	0	0	3.95	11.73
CANTON	1	11	14	1.2	50	2.79	1.0	0	5.38	13.76
CARL BLACKWELL	4	24	19	0.8	51	1.94	1.0	0	3.58	6.89
CHOUTEAU	1	9	40	1.0	100	2.02	0	0	4.80	15.70
CLAREMORE	18	13	8	1.7	45	2.75	3.0	0	3.93	6.20
CLEAR CREEK	1	18	10	0.2	28	2.60	1.0	0	5.30	6.40
COPAN	8	13	6	0.6	43	2.67	0	0	3.63	3.63
CROWDER	1	13	26	1.0	69	0.98	0	0	2.20	6.30
CUSHING	1	13	13	0.4	54	2.38	1.0	0	5.39	7.13
DUNCAN	1	12	9	0.8	50	1.79	0	0	2.10	3.96
ELLSWORTH	7	12	8	1.3	33	1.89	0	0	2.21	4.22
ELMER THOMAS	7	8	15	0.6	68	1.69	0.4	0	4.31	9.80
EUCHA	11	13	20	2.9	57	2.02	0.6	0	4.77	9.77
EUFAULA	24	55	155	2.2	73	2.29	3.3	0.1	5.71	17.20
FT COBB	2	30	39	0.9	41	2.65	3.5	0	7.24	15.92
FOSS	3	19	34	1.7	64	2.35	1.0	0	4.64	11.64
FT GIBSON	14	31	87	2.2	74	2.48	1.9	0	5.66	14.71

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FUQUA	3	20	14	2.6	47	2.58	0.7	0	4.43	13.67
GRAND	14	48	202	2.2	80	2.41	4.1	0	6.17	18.13
GUTHRIE	14	12	3	0.3	18	2.23	0.1	0	2.48	2.95
HUDSON	6	22	72	2.8	93	2.70	2.8	0	6.91	17.58
HUGO	5	31	29	1.5	65	2.48	1.2	0.2	6.19	15.80
HUMPHREYS	2	13	3	0.2	22	1.99	0	0	2.48	2.48
KAW	1	15	45	3.0	80	2.25	0	0	4.40	13.90
KEYSTONE	9	15	26	2.2	53	2.57	0.7	0.1	4.68	11.09
KONAWA	5	17	55	2.3	79	1.50	0.6	0	4.81	11.93
LAWTONKA	14	10	8	2.0	42	2.42	0.3	0.1	4.30	8.50
McGEE CREEK	14	17	73	3.1	86	1.28	0.4	0.1	3.70	9.43
McMURTRY	3	11	9	1.0	37	2.35	0	0	3.97	9.57
MURRAY	17	18	97	3.1	90	1.38	0.7	0.1	5.10	12.12
OKEMAH	3	25	75	2.7	96	1.84	0.3	0	4.17	10.55
OOLOGAH	3	7	15	2.3	66	2.82	1.0	0	5.18	14.08
PINE CREEK	1	17	71	4.2	94	2.90	2.0	0	6.30	17.10
PONCA CITY	1	12	10	1.0	58	2.15	0	0	3.18	5.47
SARDIS	11	20	52	1.4	70	2.18	1.0	0.2	5.69	12.92
SCOTT KING	1	12	26	0.9	92	1.99	0	0	3.89	12.57
SHELL CREEK	12	6	5	2.2	43	2.19	0	0	3.35	5.48
SKIATOOK	5	17	43	2.4	78	1.59	0.2	0	3.86	10.11
SOONER	39	20	33	3.1	85	2.32	1.6	0.1	5.90	11.54

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TENKILLER	66	22	43	2.5	56	2.27	0.8	0	4.51	11.98
TEXOMA	20	23	71	2.8	82	2.12	1.1	0.1	5.16	15.18
THUNDERBIRD	19	25	17	1.9	40	3.01	1.4	0	5.67	9.78
WAURIKA	3	21	9	0.5	37	2.38	1.0	0	4.35	6.25
WEB. FALLS	4	35	35	0.8	73	2.25	0.3	0	4.03	10.37
WES WATKINS	26	9	17	2.9	47	3.14	1.0	0	4.95	8.77
AVG. FOR ALL TOURNAMENTS		27	47	2.3	61	2.3	1.0	0.04	4.75	11.89
TOTALS	457	24,678	21,622				475	19		
	REPORTS	ANGLERS	BASS				BASS>5	BASS>8		

TABLE 2. THE TOP-20 TOURNAMENT LAKES IN OKLAHOMA BASED ON 2007 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	
McGEE CREEK	3.1	MURRAY	90	WES WATKINS	3.14	GRAND	18.13	LAWTONKA	26	FT GIBSON	76
MURRAY	3.1	McGEE CREEK	86	THUNDERBIRD	3.01	EUFAULA	17.20	WES WATKINS	31	SOONER	73
SOONER	3.1	SOONER	85	FT GIBSON	2.84	ARBUCKLE	15.88	THUNDERBIRD	38	WES WATKINS	69
EUCHA	2.9	TEXOMA	82	CLAREMORE	2.75	TEXOMA	15.18	FT GIBSON	40	GRAND	64
WES WATKINS	2.9	GRAND	80	ELMER THOMAS	2.60	FT GIBSON	14.71	CLAREMORE	43	MURRAY	64
TEXOMA	2.8	ARBUCKLE	79	KEYSTONE	2.57	SARDIS	12.92	EUCHA	46	TEXOMA	62
TENKILLER	2.5	FT GIBSON	74	LAWTONKA	2.42	MURRAY	12.12	KEYSTONE	63	ARBUCKLE	59
ARBUCKLE	2.2	EUFAULA	73	GRAND	2.41	TENKILLER	11.98	SOONER	66	EUFAULA	58
EUFAULA	2.2	BIRCH	72	SOONER	2.32	SOONER	11.54	GUTHRIE	84	KEYSTONE	57
FT GIBSON	2.2	SARDIS	70	EUFAULA	2.29	KEYSTONE	11.09	BIRCH	88	EUCHA	56
GRAND	2.2	EUCHA	57	TENKILLER	2.27	THUNDERBIRD	9.78	TENKILLER	105	TENKILLER	56
KEYSTONE	2.2	TENKILLER	56	GUTHRIE	2.23	EUCHA	9.77	ARBUCKLE	119	THUNDERBIRD	56
SHELL CREEK	2.2	KEYSTONE	53	SHELL CREEK	2.19	McGEE CREEK	9.43	MURRAY	128	McGEE CREEK	55
LAWTONKA	2.0	WES WATKINS	47	SARDIS	2.18	WES WATKINS	8.77	TEXOMA	169	LAWTONKA	51
THUNDERBIRD	1.9	CLAREMORE	45	TEXOMA	2.12	LAWTONKA	8.50	McGEE CREEK	196	CLAREMORE	47
CLAREMORE	1.7	SHELL CREEK	43	EUCHA	2.02	BIRCH	7.49	GRAND	293	SARDIS	39
SARDIS	1.4	LAWTONKA	42	ARBUCKLE	1.96	ELMER THOMAS	6.40	ELMER THOMAS	340	BIRCH	32
BIRCH	1.2	THUNDERBIRD	40	MURRAY	1.38	CLAREMORE	6.20	EUFAULA	368	ELMER THOMAS	27
GUTHRIE	0.3	ELMER THOMAS	28	McGEE CREEK	1.28	SHELL CREEK	5.48	SARDIS	422	GUTHRIE	25
ELMER THOMAS	0.2	GUTHRIE	18	BIRCH	1.21	GUTHRIE	2.95	SHELL CREEK	568	SHELL CREEK	24

TABLE 3. TROPHY BASS REPORTED IN 2007 TOURNAMENTS.

LAKE	DATE	ORGANIZATION	WEIGHT (lbs.)
Arbuckle	3/10/07	Little Dixie	11.80
Grand	6/02/07	Skeeter Couples	10.69
Hudson	4/14/07	Skeeter Couples	11.75
Lawtonka	3/20/07	Lawton/Ft. Sill Bass Anglers	8.10
McGee Ck	4/11/07	Hawg Haven	8.20
Murray	3/10/07	Backyard Bassin	8.35
Murray	3/17/07	OKC Bass Trail	11.45
Sardis	4/20/07	Bartlesville Bassmasters	8.25
Sardis	4/15/07	Hawg Haven	9.24
Sooner	3/25/07	Good Old Boys Bassin	9.80
Sooner	6/24/07	PC Team Bass	8.70
Sooner	9/12/07	PC Team Bass	8.80
Texoma	3/11/07	Charger Fisherman's Choice	9.11



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

Log on to:

<http://129.15.97.41/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.