

OKLAHOMA BASS TOURNAMENTS 2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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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.
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Don't be a Law Breaker by Spreading Aquatic Nuisance Species



Oklahoma law now makes it illegal to leave a body of water with plant or animal hitch-hikers attached to your boat, trailer or gear!

- Zebra Mussels have been found in several Oklahoma lakes and rivers, including the Arkansas River Navigation System, Claremore, Eufaula, Grand, Kaw, Keystone, Oologah, Sooner, Murray and Texoma.
 - Hydrilla has become established in Arbuckle, Murray and Sooner.
 - Largemouth Bass Virus has spread to over 30 Oklahoma lakes.
 - White Perch are in Kaw, Keystone & Sooner with unknown impacts to native fish.
 - Golden Algae hit Texoma causing fish kills and threatening sport fisheries.
 - Asian Carp have been caught in the Neosho and Kiamichi rivers.
 - Invasive Didymo algae has been found in the Lower Mountain Fork River
- **Inspect** your boat, trailer & equipment at the ramp
 - **Remove** any plant or animal materials
 - **Drain** the motor, bilge, livewell, bait containers
 - **Clean** using hot pressure wash or **Dry** for five days

For more information on Aquatic Nuisance Species prevention, consult the Oklahoma Fishing Regulations Guide or www.wildlifedepartment.com/nuisancespecies.htm

SUMMARY OF 2011 RESULTS

Reporting of tournament results has declined over time, yielding only 271 useable reports for 2011 (as compared to over 1,000 per year in the late 1990's). We cannot compare totals with previous years because of the small number of reports that were processed in 2011; however, some percentages and per-tournament comparisons are still valid.



- There were **15,734 tournament entries**. This does not represent individual anglers since many anglers fish several tournaments per year. However, when we multiply the number of entries by the average length of a tournament day (7.2 hours) we get an estimate of tournament fishing pressure from these events of 113,285 angler-hours.
- The **average tournament had 30 boats**. Draw-for-partner or individual angler tournaments made up 7% of the reports. This percentage has been declining in recent years from the peak of 25% in the late 1990s.
- A total of **22,061 bass were weighed in 2011 reports**. Those fish weighed a total of 55,426 pounds.
- Tournaments averaged weighing **81 bass per event** for a total weight of 206 pounds per tournament. And despite the lower reporting rate, these values are the highest in the 18 years ODWC has been collecting tournament statistics.
- The **70% Success Rate** (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) was near the highest recorded in 18 years (71% in 2010).
- The average angler weighed in **1.6 bass per day** for an average of **2.46 pounds per fish**. The weight of the average bass was the heaviest since this program started.
- **Average First Place Weight** was **13.79 pounds**, just under the record of 14.51 pounds in 2010.
- The heaviest one-day **5-bass limit** weighed **25.10 pounds** from Grand Lake. In all, there were 27 winning bags (11% of the total) that weighed over 20 pounds.
- **The largest bass** reported weighed **11.09 pounds** from **Lake Sardis**.



Each year we use the tournament report data and rank lakes on each of five “Fishing Quality” indicators: **Average First Place Weight**, **Average Weight** per bass weighed, **Average Number** weighed per day per angler, **Percent Success** (the number of anglers or teams weighing at least one bass), and **Average Hours per 5-pound Bass** which takes into account the total hours fished by all anglers and the number of 5-pound or larger bass reported for that tournament. A first place rank in a category equals 10 points; second place gets 9 points, third place gets 8 points, and so on. We then total the points for each lake to get the winner (**Table 2**). Only lakes with at least nine tournament reports submitted were considered for ranking in 2011.

- **Grand Lake** claimed the top spot in our tournament list with the highest average first place weight in 2011, along with a high success rate (teams or individuals weighing in).
- Second place went to **Tenkiller**, with the highest average number of bass weighed per angler.
- In third place in 2011 was **Hudson**, with strong showings in first place weight, weight of the average bass, and percent success.
- Rounding out the Top-10 were **Murray, Okemah, Thunderbird, Sardis, Greenleaf, Eufaula, and Ft. Gibson**.

Many popular tournament destinations did not make the rankings this year due to low reporting. We received very few reports from perennial trophy producer Arbuckle. Others that went under-reported were the Arkansas River system (Webbers Falls and Kerr), Oologah, Keystone and Texoma.

Much of the problem of under-reporting lies with bass clubs and tournament organizations simply not providing ODWC with their results. Without this information, our biologists cannot get an accurate picture of what the bass fishing is like on Oklahoma lakes. Electrofishing can only be conducted every few years (too many lakes and not enough time or manpower). We need tournament anglers to be our partners in monitoring the health of these populations.

When your organization receives a permit for a tournament from the Corps of Engineers, GRDA, State Parks or municipalities, you should receive a bright yellow postage-paid report card that you can fill in and mail to ODWC. Or...you can submit your reports via the Internet using the on-line system explained on the last page of this report. It only takes a few minutes to provide this valuable information. Please encourage your tournament director to send in their results.



Table 1. Results from Oklahoma bass tournaments reported in 2011.

Lake	# Reports Submitted	Avg. # Boats/ Tourn	Avg. # Bass Weighed/ Tourn	Avg. # Bass >5 lbs	Avg. # Bass >8 lbs	Avg. Big Bass Weight	Avg. First Place Weight	Avg. Weight/ Bass	Avg. # Bass Weighed/Day (per angler)	Avg. Percent of Successful Entrants	Avg. # Hours/ Bass >5 lbs
Akansas River System	6	12.67	30.50	0.17	0.00	4.55	13.25	2.64	1.52	68.58	174.17
Arbuckle	6	13.50	34.67	2.00	0.83	7.49	15.58	2.04	1.30	79.60	88.22
Ardmore City Lake	1	9.00	15.00	2.00	0.00	5.85	10.46	2.91	0.83	66.67	72.00
Broken Bow	10	20.80	81.20	0.50	0.00	5.22	14.11	1.87	1.65	81.43	380.80
Canton	2	16.00	55.50	0.00	0.00	4.46	13.91	2.31	2.44	95.83	188.00
Claremore	20	19.15	18.90	0.35	0.00	4.69	6.94	2.69	1.20	61.20	124.70
Duncan Lakes	1	15.00	52.00	3.00	0.00	5.77	13.87	2.40	1.54	100.00	90.00
Ellsworth	5	14.40	37.40	1.40	0.00	5.49	16.18	2.62	2.88	78.43	78.72
Elmer Thomas	5	16.80	21.80	0.40	0.20	5.30	9.76	1.96	1.52	51.99	113.00
Eucha	3	13.33	44.33	3.00	0.00	6.07	11.55	2.60	1.41	87.75	92.43
Eufaula	18	58.56	111.89	1.94	0.06	5.37	15.59	2.33	1.54	78.83	290.08
Foss	3	19.00	30.33	0.67	0.00	4.55	11.44	2.56	0.92	58.24	254.33
Ft. Cobb	2	14.50	37.00	1.50	0.50	7.76	19.56	3.66	1.12	73.33	116.00
Ft. Gibson	12	42.17	124.25	2.00	0.00	5.29	14.12	2.42	1.36	83.12	407.53
Grand	18	124.33	442.39	5.67	0.00	5.74	17.91	2.61	1.80	86.56	405.53
Greenleaf	21	16.76	33.00	0.24	0.00	4.44	11.77	2.19	1.88	63.32	141.24
Hudson	9	25.00	83.89	2.22	0.00	5.53	15.95	2.67	1.36	82.56	304.23
Hugo	4	28.25	53.00	0.50	0.00	4.81	16.59	2.41	1.18	61.56	392.50
Kaw	1	17.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	4.15	14.14	2.58	1.32	82.35	272.00
Keystone	3	21.67	63.00	0.67	0.00	5.14	12.64	2.23	1.55	88.29	332.67
Konawa	2	23.50	55.50	0.50	0.00	4.28	10.30	1.83	1.58	71.36	274.50
Lawtonka	4	14.50	38.50	1.75	0.00	6.02	12.61	2.29	1.75	76.29	124.10
McGee Creek	9	16.11	60.33	1.33	0.00	5.06	9.37	1.34	1.57	78.40	209.39
Murray	9	20.56	70.44	0.67	0.11	5.36	12.86	1.88	1.77	90.11	289.00
Okemah	9	15.22	31.11	1.89	0.00	5.72	15.77	3.18	1.06	68.83	141.63
Pawnee	1	16.00	39.00	6.00	0.00	7.67	17.16	3.12	2.44	93.75	21.33
Pine Creek	5	23.80	100.40	3.40	0.00	6.27	22.26	3.08	2.30	87.79	185.60
Ponca	1	21.00	46.00	1.00	0.00	5.09	10.10	1.76	2.19	95.24	168.00
Sardis	9	18.44	35.89	1.67	0.44	7.00	16.42	2.28	1.26	73.93	152.59
Skiatook	1	18.00	71.00	0.00	0.00	4.10	15.02	2.25	1.97	100.00	288.00
Sooner	4	17.25	51.25	0.75	0.00	4.86	12.16	2.42	1.85	89.73	178.00
Spavinaw	3	14.67	47.67	3.67	0.00	6.10	18.69	3.32	1.87	79.30	89.00
Tenkiller	38	24.34	67.63	1.13	0.00	5.13	15.91	2.56	1.90	69.12	246.41
Texoma	5	13.60	35.20	0.40	0.00	4.74	13.32	2.23	1.32	80.04	233.60
Thunderbird	11	21.73	15.55	1.55	0.09	5.89	8.95	3.32	1.46	47.31	60.07
Webbers Falls	3	6.67	23.33	0.33	0.00	4.62	12.15	2.31	1.80	91.67	102.67
Wes Watkins	4	11.50	16.25	0.75	0.00	5.42	11.14	3.21	1.86	66.94	85.00
Wister	3	25.00	81.00	0.00	0.00	4.30	14.10	2.18	1.84	83.36	365.00
Total	271	29.72	81.41	1.49	0.05	5.33	13.79	2.46	1.62	74.09	221.77

Table 2. Top-ten Oklahoma bass lakes based on 2011 tournament reports from lakes with a minimum of nine reports submitted.

Lake	Overall Rank	Avg. First Place Weight	Avg. Weight/ Bass	Avg. # Bass Weighed/Day (per angler)	Avg. Percent of Successful Entrants	Avg. # Hours/ Bass >5 lbs
Grand	1	17.91	2.61	1.80	86.56	405.53
Tenkiller	2	15.91	2.56	1.90	69.12	246.41
Hudson	3	15.95	2.67	1.36	82.56	304.23
Murray	4	12.86	1.88	1.77	90.11	289.00
Okemah	5	15.77	3.18	1.06	68.83	141.63
Thunderbird	7	8.95	3.32	1.46	47.31	60.07
Sardis	6	16.42	2.28	1.26	73.93	152.59
Greenleaf	9	11.77	2.19	1.88	63.32	141.24
Eufaula	8	15.59	2.33	1.54	78.83	290.08
Ft. Gibson	10	14.12	2.42	1.36	83.12	407.53

Table 3. Trophy bass (>8 pounds) reported in 2011 tournaments.

Lake	Tournament Date	Organization	Weight
Sardis	05/15/11	Leflore County Bass Club	11.09
Sardis	05/15/11	Leflore County Bass Club	9.79
Thunderbird	04/27/11	Lake Thunderbird Wednesday Night Team Bass Tournament	9.52
Sardis	04/02/11	Bassin Buddies	9.36
Elmer Thomas	04/26/11	Lawton/Ft. Sill Bass Anglers	9.20
Arbuckle	04/28/11	Bass Assassins	8.81
Ft. Cobb	03/05/11	Altus Bass Busters	8.78
Arbuckle	04/30/11	Murray County Kiwanis	8.41
Eufaula	06/26/11	Skeeter XFL - Extreme Fishing League	8.20
Arbuckle	08/27/11	Bassin Buddies	8.17
Murray	03/27/11	Chisholm Trail Bass Club	8.17



PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS TO ODWC

The results in this report are only as good as the data we receive from tournament organizations. Please submit your results so we can provide accurate and fair representation of the quality of the bass fishing in Oklahoma lakes.

We still accept the postage-paid *TOURNAMENT REPORT CARD* from organizations that want to send in results. However, to save you time and us money, you can submit your results via the Internet directly to ODWC. This system enters your results directly into our database so we don't have to type them in later.

Log on to: <http://129.15.97.41/Bass/>

There is **no "www" in the address** and there is **no user name or password**.

Log on to 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 blank fields.

