



# AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS) ALERT

“Since their introduction to the Great Lakes in 1986 in ships’ ballast water, zebra mussels have quickly spread and are now found in at least 25 States and two Canadian Provinces” (<http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/zebramussel.htm>). **Zebra Mussels** can be found in many

Oklahoma lakes and rivers, including: the *McClellan-Kerr Navigation System from Kerr Reservoir up through the Port of Catoosa, Kaw, Sooner, Keystone, Eufaula, Oologah, Claremore, and Lynn Lane Lake in Tulsa and the Arkansas River downstream from Zink Dam in Tulsa*. Zebra mussels have been reported from *Grand Lake and Skiatook*, but populations have yet to become established. **Hydrilla** has become established in *Arbuckle, Murray and Sooner*. **Asian Carp, Bighead and Silver Carp**, have been found in the *Arkansas, Neosho, Kiamichi and Red Rivers as well as Grand and Hudson Lakes*.



**Largemouth Bass Virus** has spread to over 30 Oklahoma lakes. **White Perch** have invaded *Kaw, Sooner and Keystone Lakes*. **Golden Algae**, since 2004, has spread to four waterways including: *Texoma, Altus City Lake, Altus Pond and Elmer Pond*. **Didymo**



poses a significant threat to trout fisheries particularly because it is fond of cold water. It has been reported in the *Lower Mountain Fork River and the Lower Illinois River*.

## 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!



**Inspect** your boat, trailer & equipment at the ramp. **Remove** any plant or animal materials. **Drain** the motor, bilge, livewell and 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](http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/nuisancespecies.htm)

# SUMMARY OF 2012 RESULTS

Reporting of tournament results has declined over time, yielding only 288 useable reports for 2012 (Table 1), as compared to over 1,000 per year in the late 1990's and over 700 in 2001 and 2005. In just over a decade the reporting has declined significantly (see Figure 1).



Photo courtesy of Danny Bowen

- There were **13,578 tournament entries reported in 2012**. 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 **97,168 angler-hours**. Angler pressure appears to be declining over the last decade (Figure 2); however this downward trend is most likely the result of under-reporting.
- The **average tournament had 22.58 boats** for a total of 7,560 boats in 2012. **Previously**, 2011 averaged 30 boats per tournament and 2010 averaged 25. The 2012 results are the lowest in 12 years.
- In 2012 there were **50 tournaments** reported for draw-for-partner or individual angler comprising 17.4% of the report. There were **238 reported team tournaments** that made up 82.6% of this year's report. This percentage has decreased in recent years from the peak of 25% in the late 1990s, but reflects a significant increase compared to 7% in 2010.
- A total of **17,937 bass** were weighed in 2012 reports. Those fish weighed a total of **44,072 pounds** which is much lower than 2011's numbers of 22,061 bass and 55,426 pounds, a decrease of **23%** (Figure 3).
- Tournaments averaged weighing **62 bass per event** for a total weight of **153 pounds** per tournament. Overall from 2001 to 2012 there has been an upward trend, making this year's numbers the fourth largest in over twelve years (Figure 4).
- The **68% Success Rate** (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) was near the 2011 level and 3% away from the highest recorded percentage in 2010 as shown in Figure 5.
- The average angler weighed in **1.7 bass per day** at an average of **2.57 pounds per fish**. The weight of the average bass was the heaviest since this program started, illustrated on Table 1 and Figure 6.
- **Average first place weight was 15.03 pounds**, well over the record of 14.51 pounds in 2010! This is the average weight that it took to win first place at a bass tournament in Oklahoma in 2012. See Figure 7 for a comparison over the last 12 years.



Photo courtesy of wildlifedepartment.com

- The highest winning bag limit weight made a huge leap this year from 25.10 pounds in 2011 to 2012's **heaviest one-day 5-bass limit** weight of **40.00 pounds** from Hudson Lake, caught during a Grand Lake Association tournament. In all, there were 28 winning bag limits this year's that weighed over 20 pounds, (17.3% of all winning bag limits, Figure 8).
- **The largest bass reported this year weighed 12.00 pounds** from Arbuckle Lake caught during a Bassin' Buddies tournament (Figure 9). Overall, the big bass weight remains consistent while the average weight per fish has increased, thanks to better management techniques.

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 2012. This year a tie for third provided us with 11 lakes to consider for the top ranking. See Table 2.

- **Hudson Lake** gained the top spot in our tournament list with high first place weights and success rates (teams or individuals weighing in at least one fish).
- Second place went to **Thunderbird Lake**. **Thunderbird** ranked highest out of the eleven lakes on average weight per bass, 3.41 pounds; and average amount of hours an angler had to invest to catch a bass over 5 pounds which was only 47.36 hours.
- Third tied between **Grand Lake** and **Sardis Lake**. **Grand** scored high in four out of five categories, with strong showings in first place weight, weight of the average bass, and average number of bass weighed. **Sardis** ranked top for first place bass weight and second only to Thunderbird on hours required to catch a bass over five pounds.
- Rounding out the Top-11 lakes, due to the tie, were **Okemah, Texoma, McGee Creek, Tenkiller, Ft. Gibson, Claremore and Eufaula**.



Photo courtesy of Danny Bowen

*Many popular tournament destinations did not make the rankings this year due to **low reporting**. We received very few reports from Arbuckle, Broken Bow and Kerr with 7 reports, Hugo and Webber Falls with 4 reports, Keystone, Pine Creek and Skiatook with 3 reports each, Cushing, Ellsworth, Kaw, Murray and Sooner with 2 reports each, and all of the following with only 1 report each: Arkansas River, Canton, Duncan Lake, Eucha, Fort Cobb, Foss Lake, Heyburn, Konawa, Lawtonka, Lone Chimney, Navigation Channel (Afton Landing), Oologah, Spavinaw, Waurika and Wister.*

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 our 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 and status** 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.**

Figure 1

### Total Tournament Reports Submitted 2001-2012

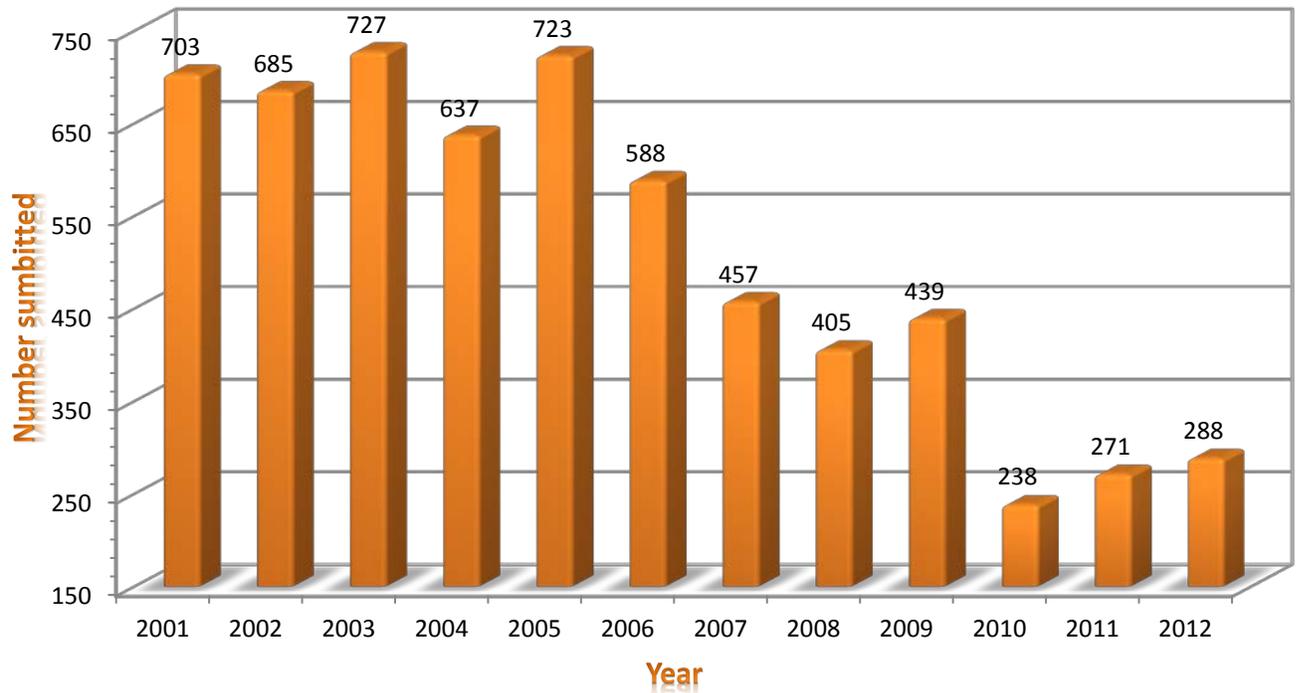


Figure 2

### Estimate of Tournament Fishing Pressure 2003-2012

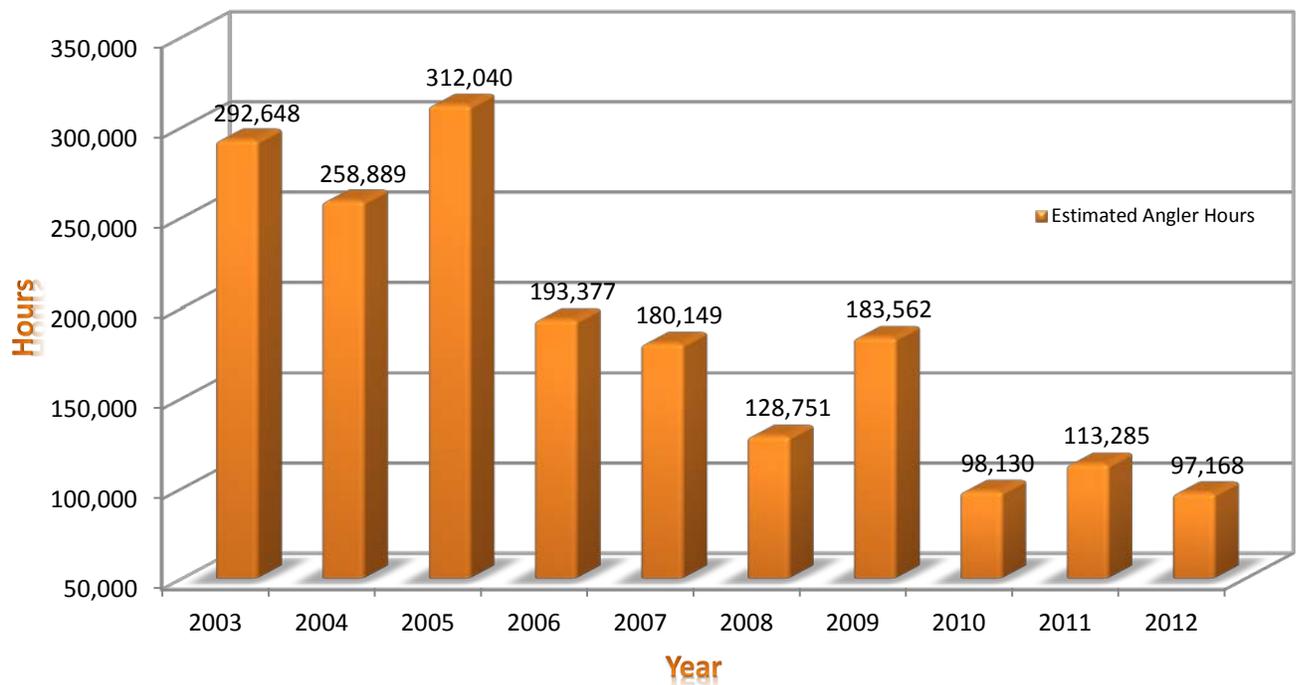


Figure 3

## Comparison of Numbers and Pounds of Bass 2001-2012

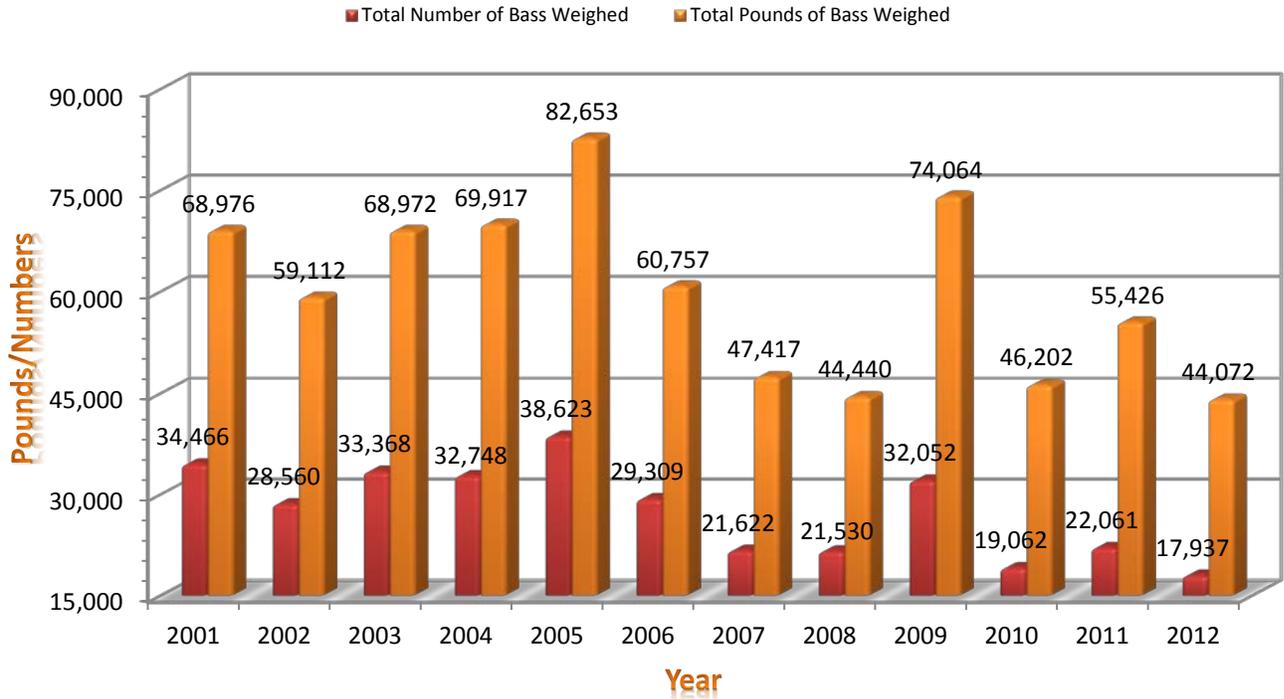


Figure 4

## Averages of Bass Weighed and Pounds Per Tournament 2001-2012

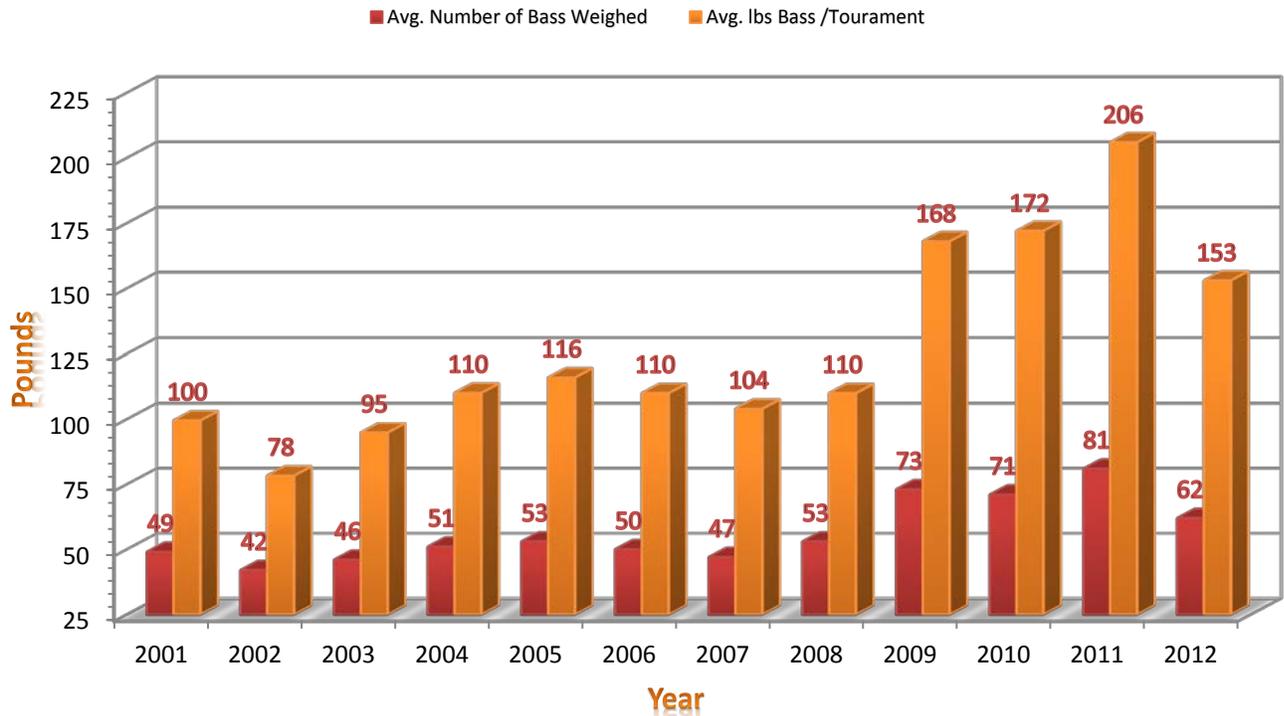


Figure 5

### Success Rate 2001-2012

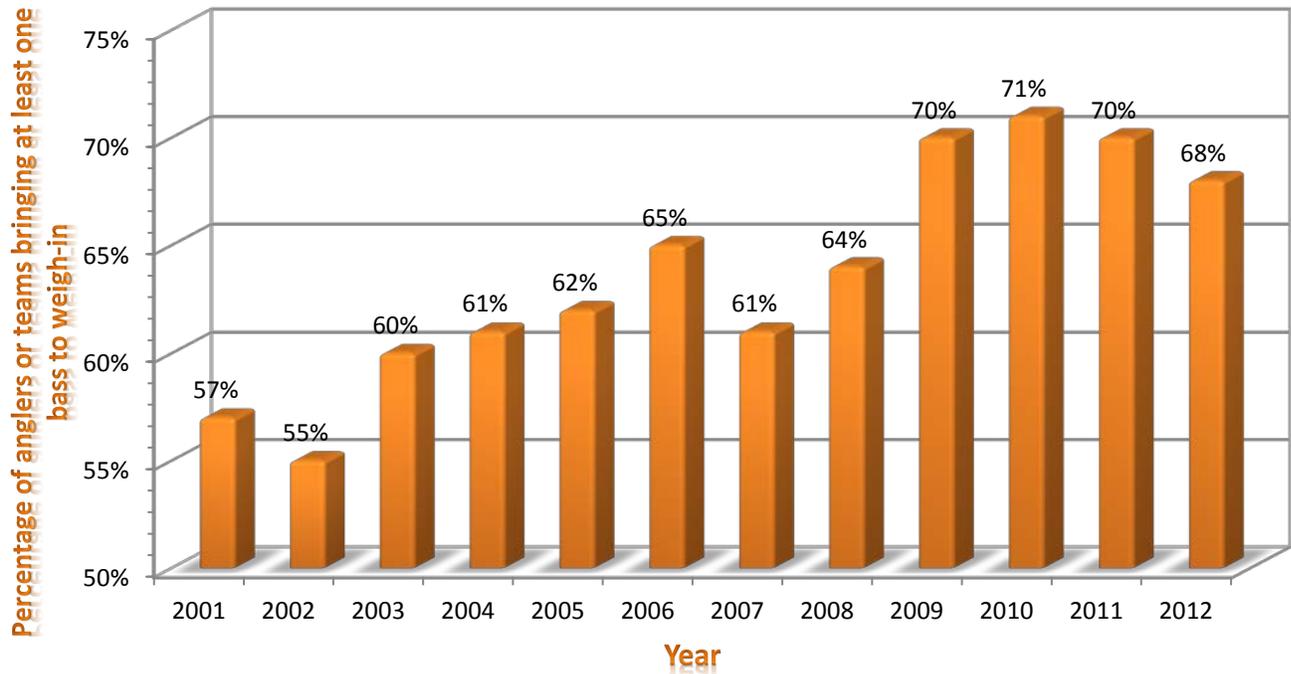


Figure 6

### Average Number and Pounds of Bass Per Tournament Over a 12 Year Period

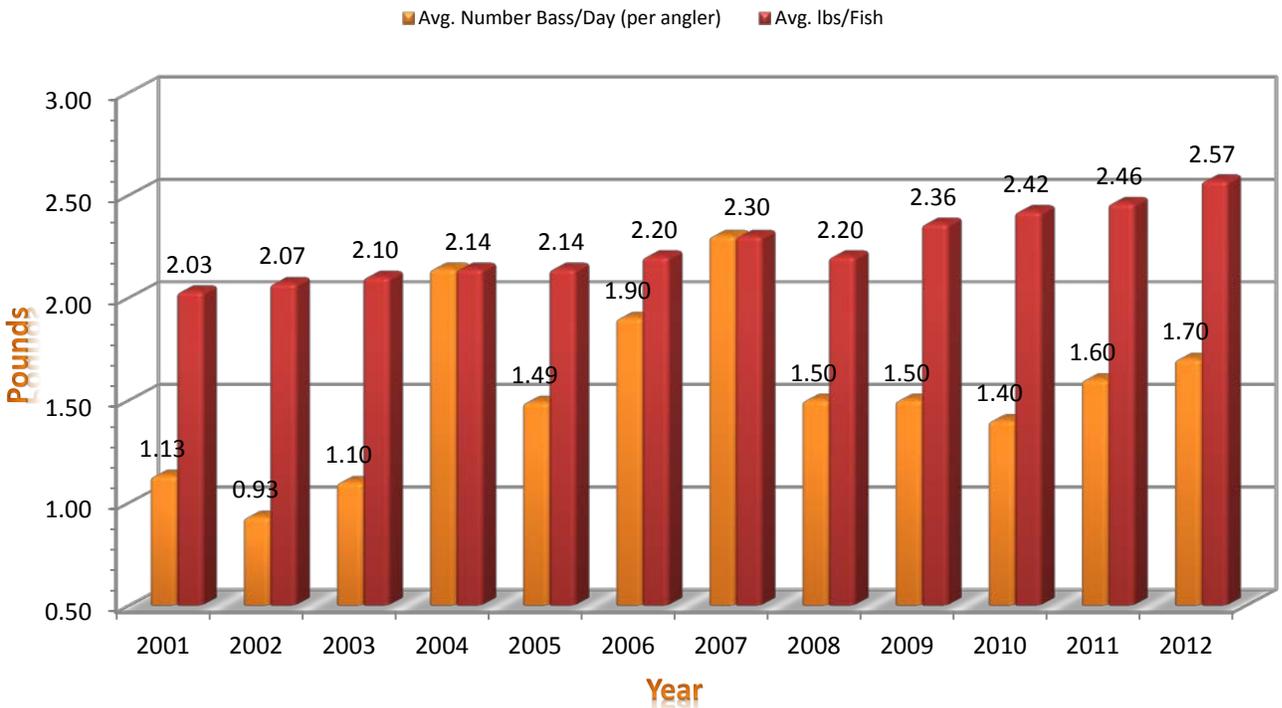


Figure 7

## Comparison of Largemouth bass First Place Weights 2001-2012

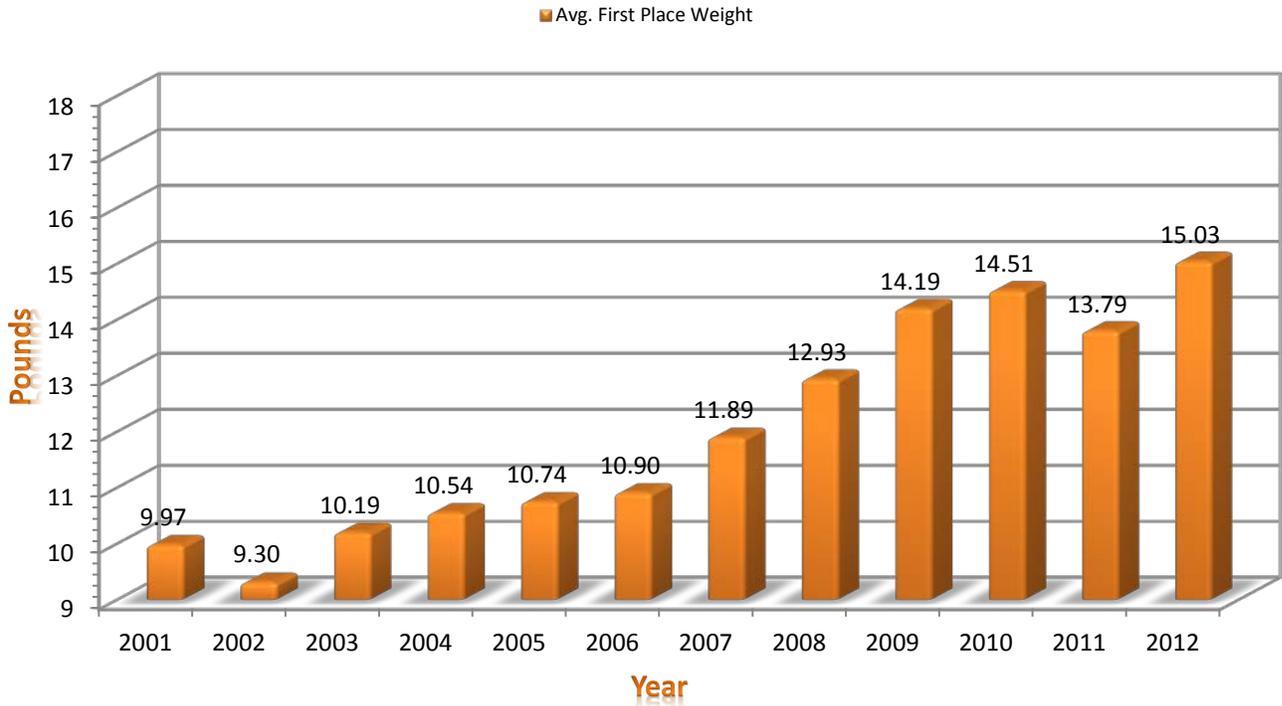


Figure 8

## Heaviest One-Day, Five-Bass Limit Bag 2001-2012

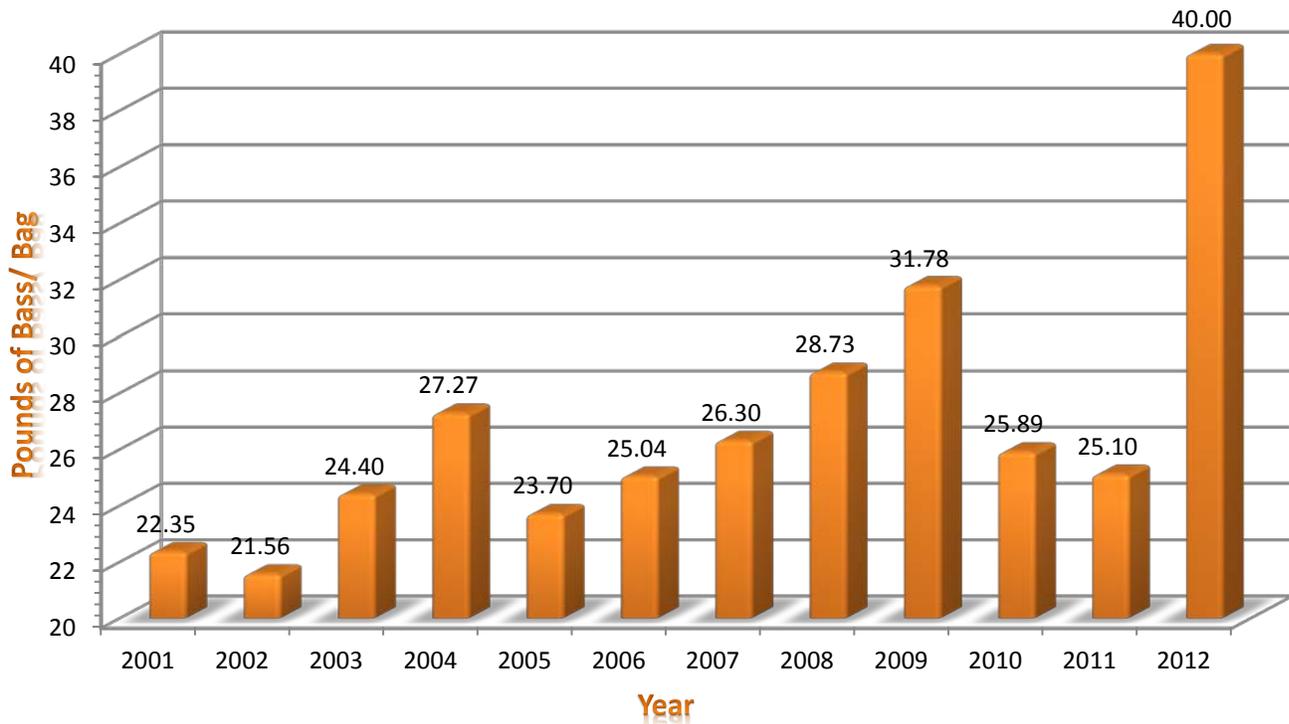
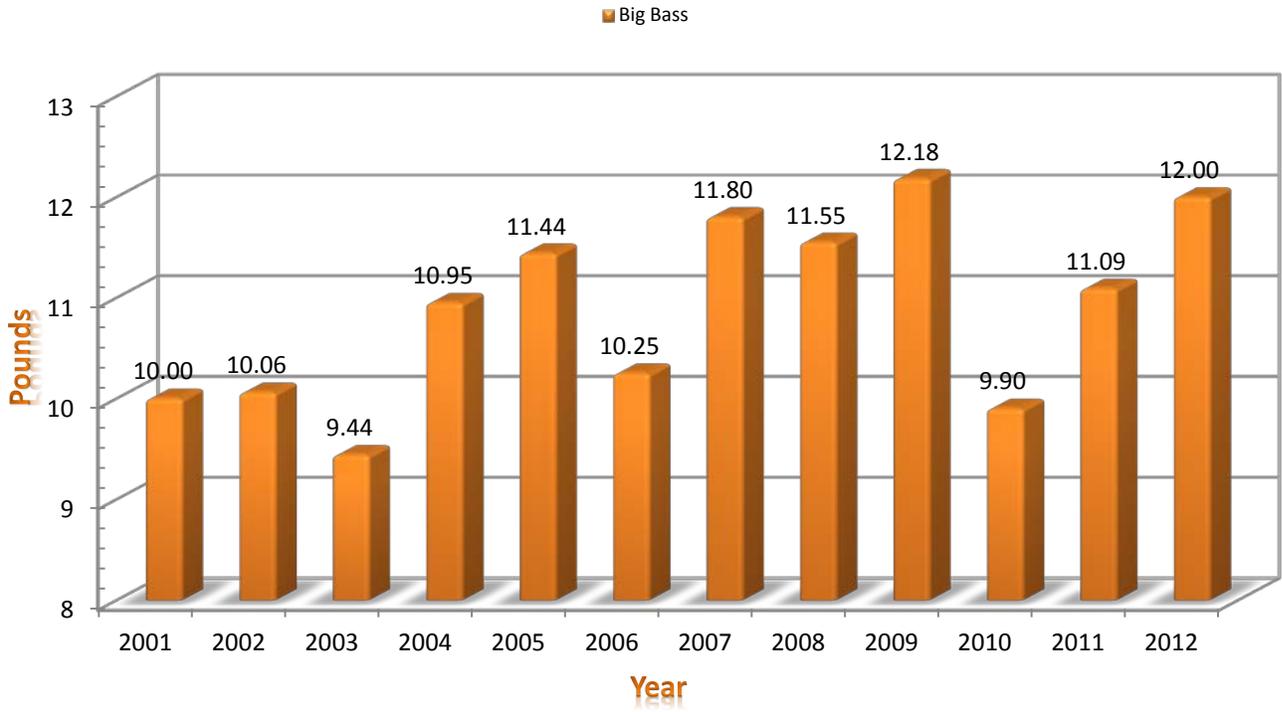


Figure 9

## Heaviest Bass Caught during tournament from 2001 to 2012



**Table 1. Results from Oklahoma bass tournaments reported in 2012.**

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
Arbuckle	7	15.29	25.14	2.00	0.71	8.33	14.14	2.64	0.90	64.96	113.24
Arkansas River	1	84.00	657.00	4.00	0.00	5.42	46.45	1.80	6.95	96.43	189.00
Broken Bow	7	45.43	63.86	0.57	0.00	4.78	14.30	1.98	1.98	80.15	658.29
Canton	1	17.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	3.32	5.12	1.93	0.63	29.41	102.00
Claremore*	18	21.33	14.17	0.83	0.00	4.96	7.00	2.72	0.79	44.25	113.89
Cushing	2	15.00	26.00	2.00	0.00	5.89	10.47	2.06	1.77	75.12	60.75
Duncan Lakes Choice of 5	1	12.00	33.00	4.00	0.00	6.84	20.10	3.11	1.38	83.33	48.00
Ellsworth	2	18.00	31.50	0.50	0.00	5.11	14.51	2.25	0.81	61.43	303.00
Eucha	1	9.00	27.00	1.00	0.00	6.24	15.73	2.80	1.00	100.00	216.00
Eufaula*	15	64.53	132.60	2.73	0.00	6.03	17.03	2.44	1.34	67.64	326.02
Fort Cobb	1	23.00	44.00	1.00	0.00	5.74	13.72	2.58	0.96	69.57	368.00
Fort Gibson*	22	34.00	94.50	1.05	0.00	4.96	16.11	2.35	1.54	80.38	403.34
Foss Lake	1	12.00	22.00	1.00	0.00	5.36	12.42	2.47	0.92	75.00	192.00
Grand*	23	40.91	139.87	2.48	0.00	5.48	17.72	2.65	1.91	71.05	232.16
Heyburn	1	11.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	3.17	8.38	1.61	1.16	81.82	110.00
Hudson*	20	19.40	74.30	1.15	0.00	5.02	17.92	2.61	1.90	85.25	220.33
Hugo	4	18.25	36.00	0.00	0.00	3.52	11.42	1.85	1.61	63.81	186.75
Kaw	2	12.50	34.00	0.00	0.00	3.38	10.35	1.84	1.79	79.81	158.00
Kerr	7	9.29	33.29	0.71	0.00	5.21	16.46	2.70	2.08	86.92	133.43
Keystone	3	12.67	38.33	0.00	0.00	4.13	12.77	3.72	1.39	45.71	203.00
Konawa	1	19.00	90.00	3.00	1.00	8.84	20.50	2.25	2.37	100.00	76.00
Lawtonka	1	15.00	38.00	3.00	1.00	10.06	17.28	2.54	1.27	80.00	60.00
Lone Chimney	1	15.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	3.91	3.91	2.50	0.21	26.67	150.00
McGee Creek*	10	19.90	69.30	1.00	0.20	5.28	10.46	1.26	2.07	97.11	192.11
Murray	2	20.50	86.50	2.50	1.00	9.29	24.79	1.86	1.96	94.83	101.25
Navigation Channel (Afton Landing)	1	14.00	36.00	1.00	0.00	7.35	21.93	2.46	1.47	78.57	196.00
Okemah*	13	19.62	48.62	2.62	0.00	5.74	16.78	3.40	1.54	67.87	144.07
Oologah	1	21.00	15.00	2.00	0.00	5.47	6.55	2.07	0.57	47.62	105.00
Pine Creek	3	47.33	49.33	2.67	0.00	5.46	17.05	3.24	0.99	64.97	372.00
Sardis*	13	30.46	50.23	2.46	0.69	8.30	18.72	2.22	1.85	70.82	96.40
Skiatook	3	12.67	40.33	0.33	0.00	4.71	12.81	1.93	1.54	81.35	212.00
Sooner	2	18.00	56.50	3.00	0.00	6.07	18.05	2.88	1.42	88.54	200.40
Spavinaw	1	14.00	27.00	1.00	0.00	7.31	9.27	2.58	1.93	78.57	112.00
Tenkiller*	66	19.09	42.56	1.15	0.00	4.95	15.23	2.67	1.74	55.80	148.31
Texoma*	9	26.44	86.11	1.44	0.00	5.38	15.88	2.40	2.15	79.11	274.94
Thunderbird*	16	31.88	16.00	2.50	0.13	6.53	11.49	3.41	1.95	55.32	47.36
Waurika	1	7.00	13.00	1.00	0.00	5.50	14.60	3.24	0.83	71.43	126.00
Webber Falls	4	5.25	20.75	0.25	0.00	4.39	12.84	2.31	2.05	86.67	81.00
Wister	1	30.00	127.00	3.00	0.00	5.33	16.66	2.38	2.12	90.00	160.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>22.58</b>	<b>63.25</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>15.05</b>	<b>2.45</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>73.26</b>	<b>184.41</b>

\*These lakes were considered for ranking according to the five "fishing quality" indicators because they met the criteria of having at least 9 tournament reports this year. See Table 2 for results.

**Table 2. Top-ten Ranking Oklahoma bass lakes based on 2012 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.
Hudson	1	17.92	2.61	1.90	85.25	220.33
Thunderbird	2	11.49	3.41	1.95	55.32	47.36
<b>Grand*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>17.72</b>	<b>2.65</b>	<b>1.91</b>	<b>71.05</b>	<b>232.16</b>
<b>Sardis*</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18.72</b>	<b>2.22</b>	<b>1.85</b>	<b>70.82</b>	<b>96.40</b>
Okemah	4	16.78	3.40	1.54	67.87	144.07
Texoma	5	15.88	2.40	2.15	79.11	274.94
McGee Creek	6	10.46	1.26	2.07	97.11	192.11
Tenkiller	7	15.23	2.67	1.74	55.80	148.31
Fort Gibson	8	16.11	2.35	1.54	80.38	403.34
Claremore	9	7.00	2.72	0.79	44.25	113.89
Eufaula	10	17.03	2.44	1.34	67.64	326.02

\*Tied for third place.

**Table 3. Trophy bass (>8 pounds) reported in 2012 tournaments.**

Lake	Tournament Date	Organization	Weight
Arbuckle	03/10/12	Bassin Buddies	12.00
Murray	05/19/12	Fisherman's Choice LLC.	11.30
Sardis	06/23/12	Pushmataha County Sportsman Club	10.30
Lawtonka	05/05/12	Hobart Anglers	10.06
Sardis	04/21/12	Bartlesville Bassmasters	9.93
Sardis	05/26/12	Oklahoma Oilman's Bass Club	9.50
Arbuckle	03/11/12	Duncan Bass Anglers	9.40
McGee Creek	03/25/12	Fish 'N Frenzy Bass Club	9.33
Arbuckle	03/11/12	Fish 'N Frenzy Bass Club	9.08
Sardis	05/19/12	Pushmataha County Sportsman Club	8.90
Arbuckle	07/21/12	Murray County Kiwanis	8.88
Konawa	03/24/12	Noel B. Rosser Memorial Team Trail	8.84
Thunderbird	06/20/12	Lake Thunderbird Wednesday Night Team Bass Tournament	8.84
Sardis	03/17/12	McGee Creek Bass Club	8.83
Sardis	05/20/12	Leflore County Bass Club	8.81
Sardis	03/24/12	Oologah Lake Area Bass Club	8.76
Arbuckle	08/25/12	Bassin Buddies	8.73
McGee Creek	08/04/12	Pushmataha County Sportsman Club	8.70
Sardis	04/28/12	Leflore County Bass Club	8.61
Sardis	03/25/12	Oologah Lake Area Bass Club	8.24
Thunderbird	06/27/12	Lake Thunderbird Wednesday Night Team Bass Tournament	8.16

# 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 or mail in the complete **ODWC Tournament Report Page** on page 13 of this report. 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.



Photo courtesy of wildlifedepartment.com

Return to:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
P.O. Box 53465  
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

## ODWC TOURNAMENT REPORT PAGE

Tournament Start Date (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_\_ Tournament End Date (mm/dd/yy): \_\_\_\_\_.

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Director: \_\_\_\_\_.

Address: \_\_\_\_\_.

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_.

Tournament Type (CIRCLE):    Individual        Team

Bag Limit (number of bass per angler or team): \_\_\_\_\_ Size Limit: \_\_\_\_\_.

Total Fishing Time (hours) for the Tournament: \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of Individuals or Teams Competing in this Tournament:  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Anglers or \_\_\_\_\_ Teams

Number of Anglers or Teams Weighing Any Bass: \_\_\_\_\_ Anglers    or \_\_\_\_\_ Teams

Number of Limits Weighed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Total Number of Bass Weighed by All Anglers: \_\_\_\_\_.

Number of Bass Over 5 Pounds: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Bass Over 8 Pounds: \_\_\_\_\_.

Total Weight (all bass): \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. & tenths    First Place Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. & tenths

Big Bass: \_\_\_\_\_ lbs. & tenths

Would you like to be sent the latest information on tournament fish care and weigh-in procedures?

Comments:

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