



# 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, 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 2013 RESULTS

Reporting of tournament results has declined over time, yielding only 206 useable reports for 2013 (Table 1), a **28.5%** decrease from 2012. Figure 1 shows the significant decline in reporting over the last decade and this year represents the *lowest* number of report cards received since the program began.



Photo courtesy of wildlifedepartment.com

- There were **10,850 tournament** entries reported in 2013. 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 (8.4 hours) we get an estimate of tournament fishing pressure from these events of **91,646 angler-hours**. Tournament pressure this year is the lowest reported since the program began, (Figure 2). This downward trend is most likely due to under-reporting.
- The **average tournament had 32.3 boats** for a total of 6,222 boats in 2013. Last year (2012) averaged 22.58 boats per tournament and 2011 averaged 30, consistent with past year's averages.
- In 2013, there were **27 tournaments** for draw-for-partner or individual angler comprising 13% of this year's report. There were **179 reported team tournaments** that made up 87% of this year's report. In 2012, there were 17.4% of draw-for-partner or individual angler tournaments, a decrease of 4.4% in 2013. This percentage has decreased in recent years from the peak of 25% in the late 1990s.
- A total of **16,289 bass** were weighed in 2013 reports. Those fish weighed a total of **41,126 pounds** (Figure 3).
- Tournaments in 2013 averaged weighing **80 bass per event** for a total weight of **201 pounds** per tournament. Despite the lower reporting rate, these statistics are near the highest statistics reported in 2011 (Figure 4).
- The **71% Success Rate** (anglers or teams bringing at least one bass to weigh-in) tied the 2010 level for the highest success rate achieved since the program began 20 years ago (Figure 5).
- The average angler weighed in **1.5 bass per day** at an average of **2.55 pounds per bass** (see Table 1 and Figure 6).



Photo courtesy of Andrea Crews

- **Average First Place Weight** was **17.96 pounds**, well above the record of 15.03 pounds in 2012. Figure 7 is a comparison over the last 13 years.
- This year's heaviest one-day **5-bass limit** weighed **27.68 pounds** from Sardis Lake caught during a Leflore County Bass Club tournament (Figure 8). Taking a look at 2012's 40 pounds and comparing it to this year's, it would appear to drastically decline. However, 2013's weight is comparable to the winning weights seen over the last twelve years. In all, there were 33 winning bags (16% of the total) that weighed over 20 pounds.
- **The largest bass reported weighed 13.86 pounds** from Texoma Lake, caught during a Red River Bass Club tournament (Figure 9). The big bass this year was well over the previous year's weight of 12 pounds and still well over the previous record of 12.18 pounds caught in 2009.

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 2013 so only 8 lakes were considered this year.

- **Texoma Lake** declared its dominance in becoming this year's winner by holding the top spot in our tournament list with the highest first place weight and the least amount of hours to catch a big bass while maintaining high marks in the other three categories.
- **Hudson Lake** claimed the second place spot by maintaining a high average over all five categories.
- In third place was **Grand Lake**, taking the top spot in two of the five categories - number of bass weighed per day and percent of successful entrants.
- Rounding out the Top-10, which only 8 lakes qualified for consideration this year, were **Sardis, Tenkiller, Okemah, Eufaula and Ft. Gibson.**



Photo courtesy of wildlifedepartment.com

*Most of the popular tournament destinations did not make the rankings this year due to **low reporting**. We received very few reports from McGee Creek with 8 reports, Broken Bow with 7, Kerr had 5 reports, Arbuckle, Murray and Webbers Falls had 4 reports, Hugo, Kaw, Skiatook and Sooner with 3 reports, Arkansas River, Keystone, Pine Creek, Spavinaw, and Wister with only 2 reports. The remaining two lakes only produced 1 report each: Eucha and Lake Murray*

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 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 2001-2013

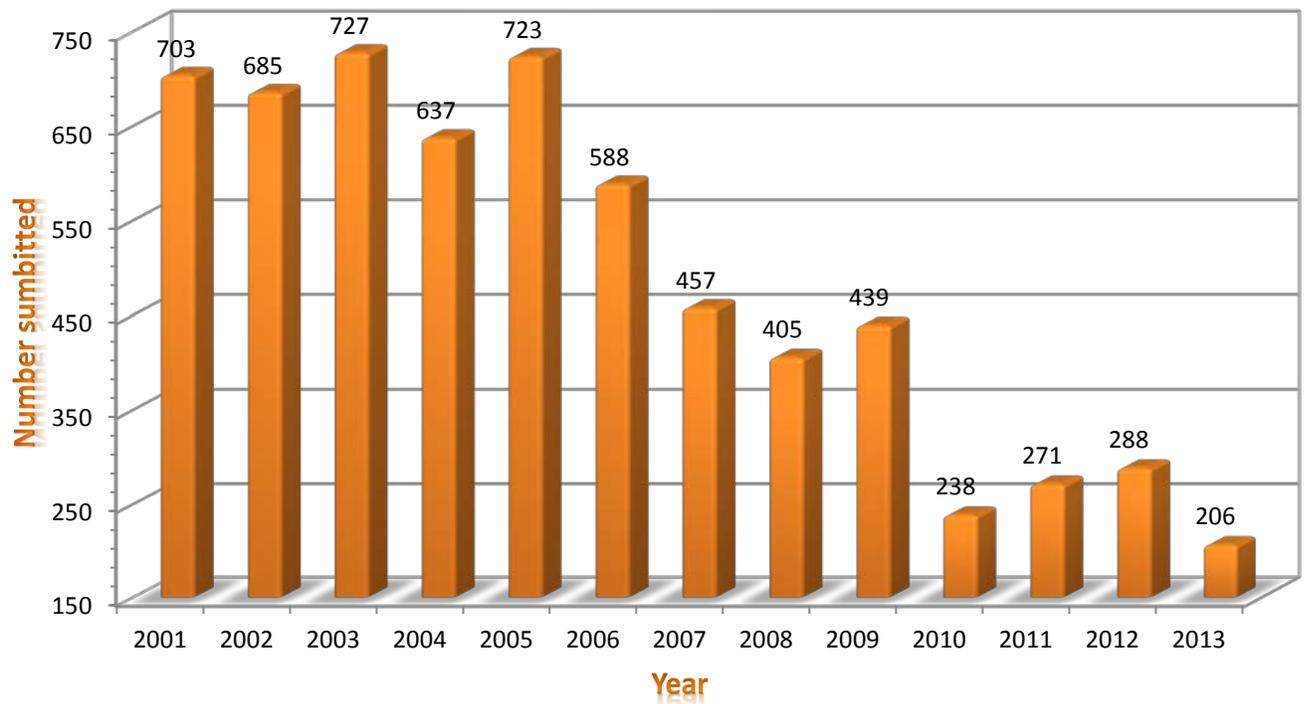


Figure 2

### Estimate of Tournament Fishing Pressure 2003-2013

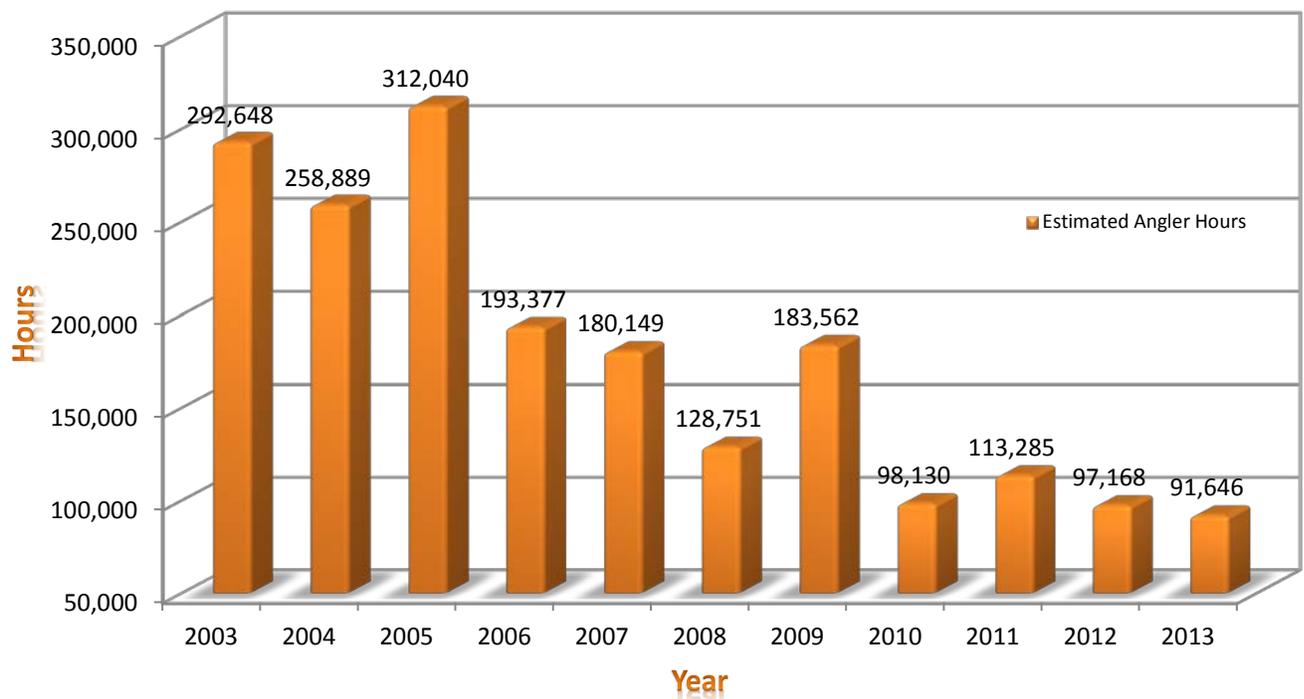


Figure 3

## Comparison of Numbers and Pounds of Bass 2001-2013

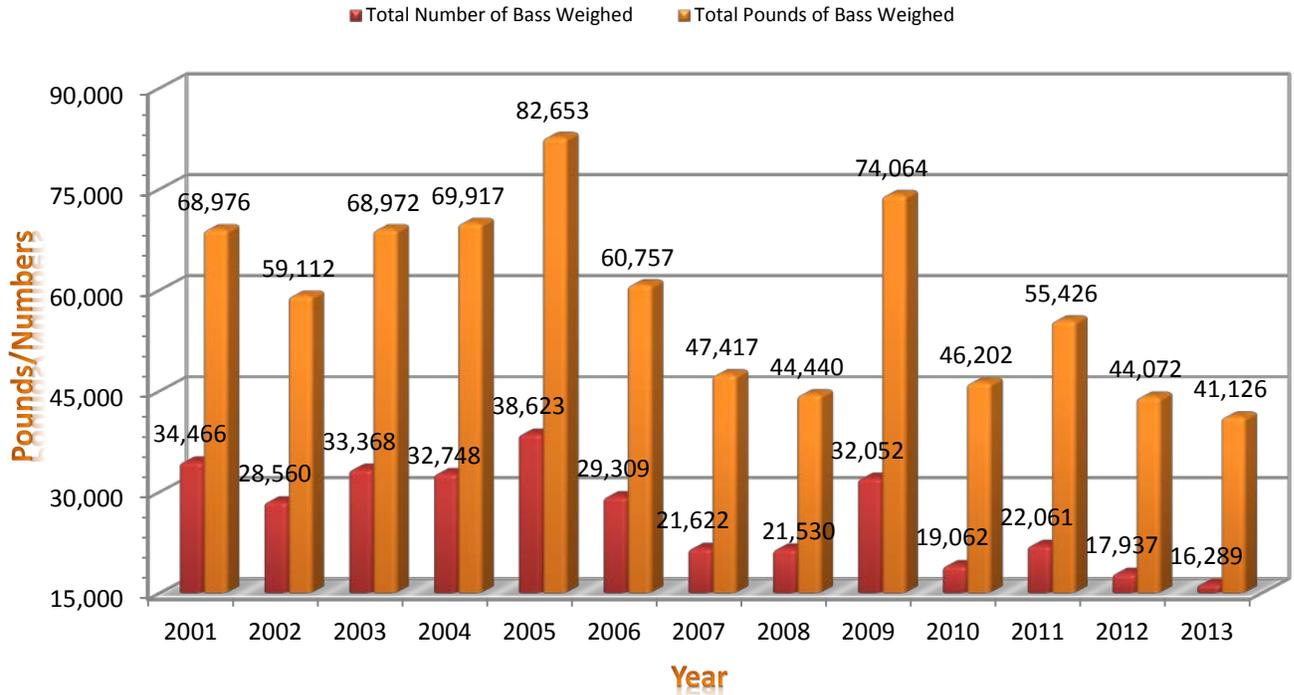


Figure 4

## Averages of Bass Weighed and Pounds Per Tournament 2001-2013

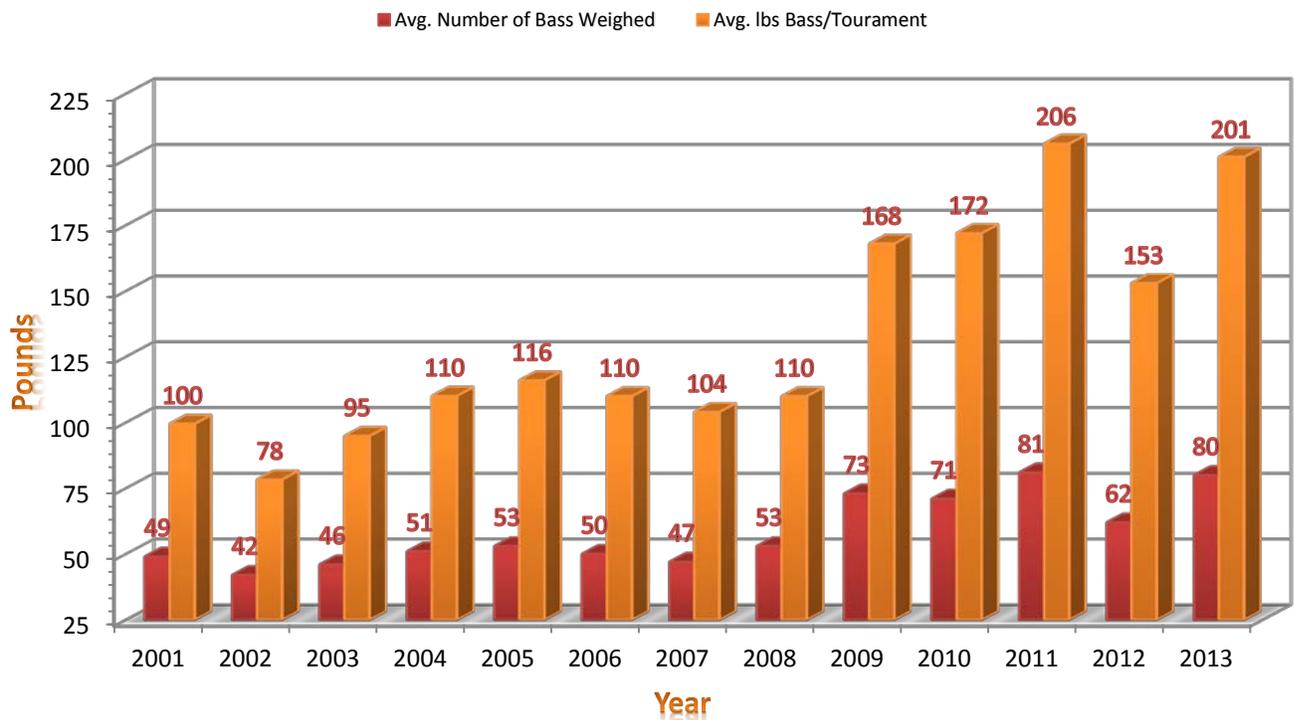


Figure 5

### Success Rate 2001-2013

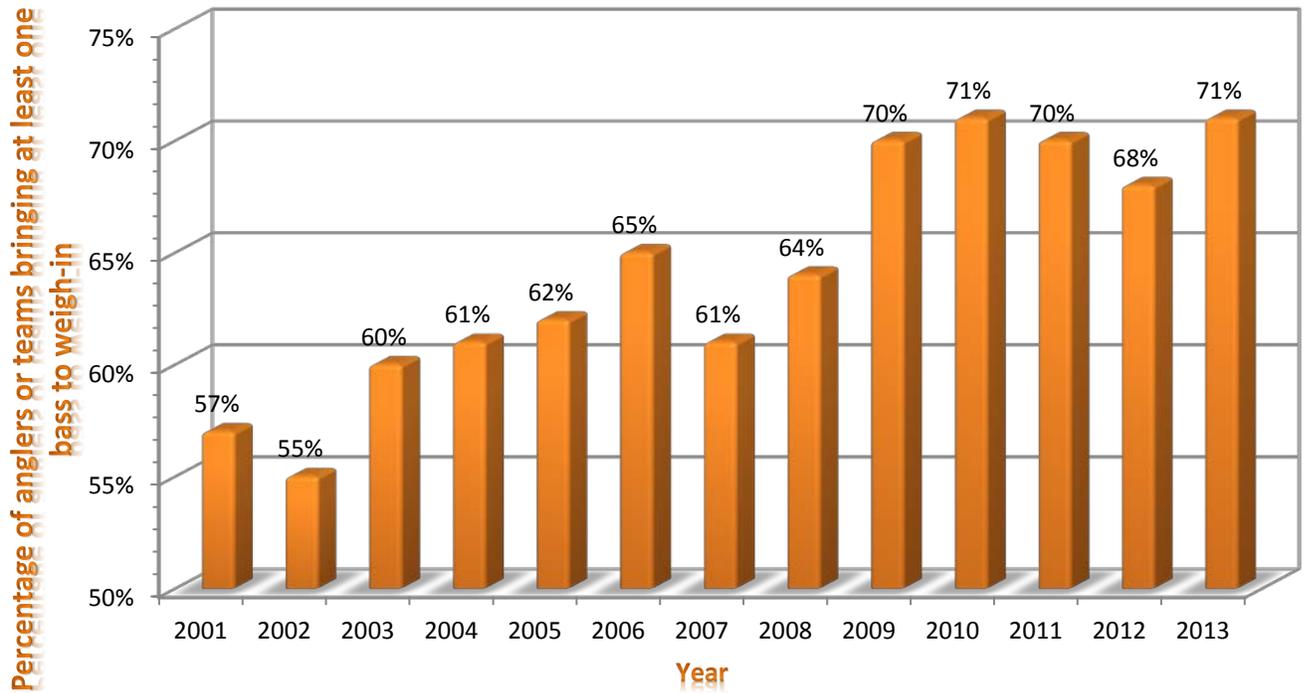


Figure 6

### Average Number and Pounds of Bass Per Tournament Over a 13 Year Period

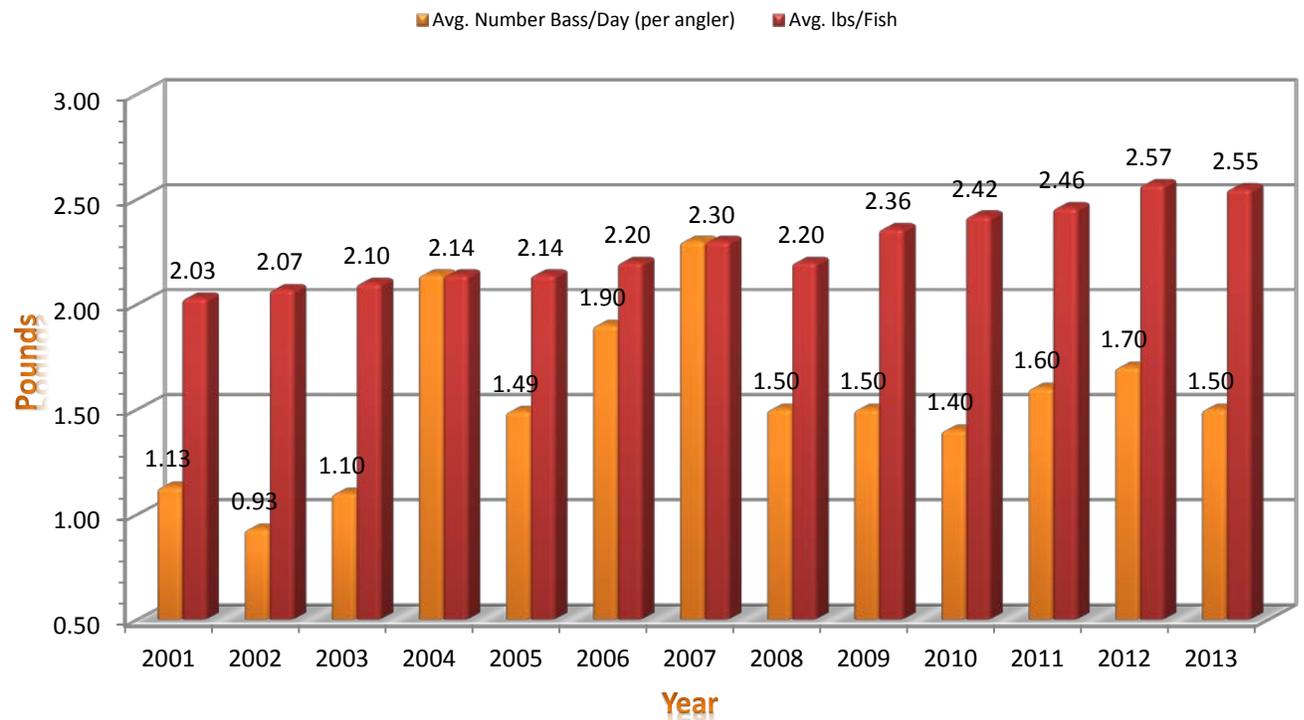


Figure 7

## Comparison of Largemouth bass First Place Weights 2001-2013

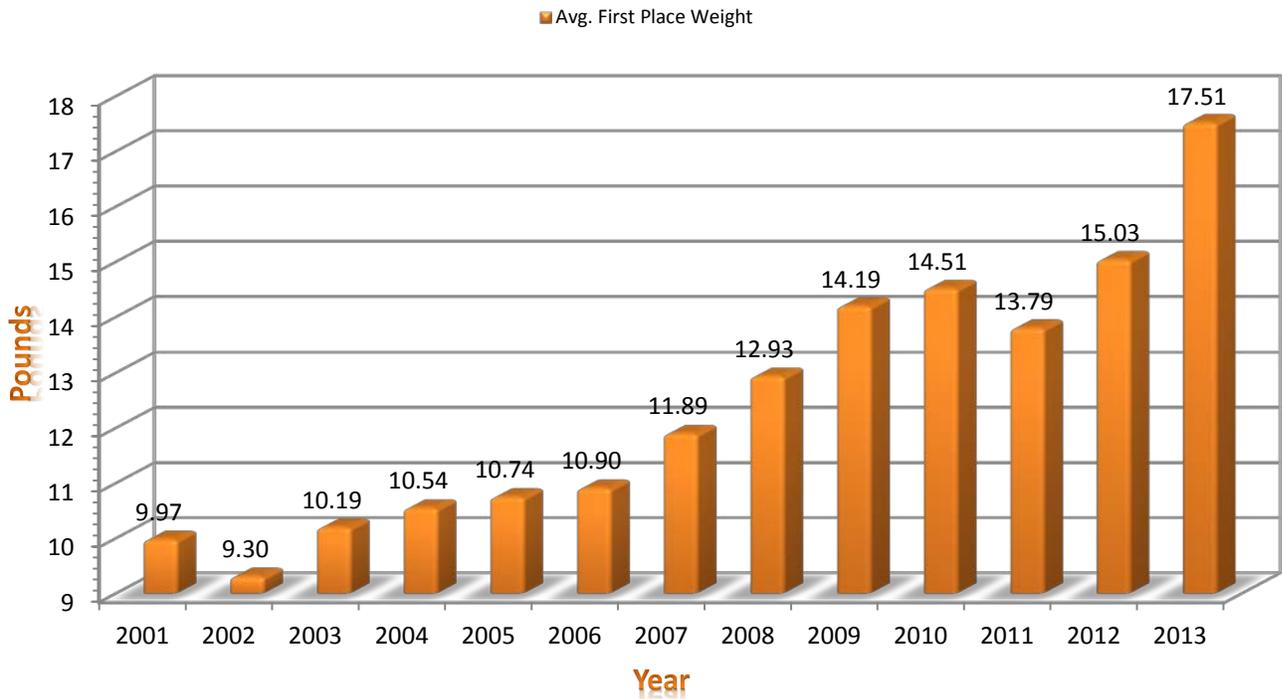


Figure 8

## Heaviest One-Day, Five-Bass Limit Bag 2001-2013

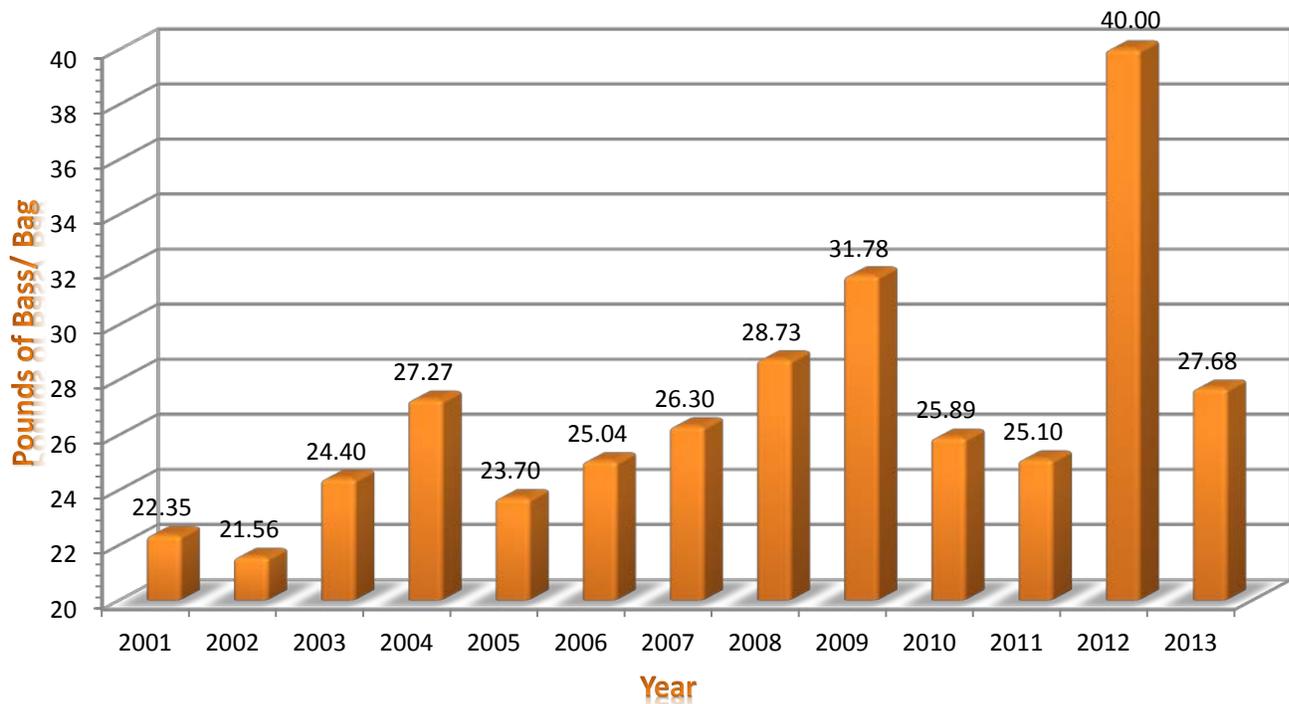
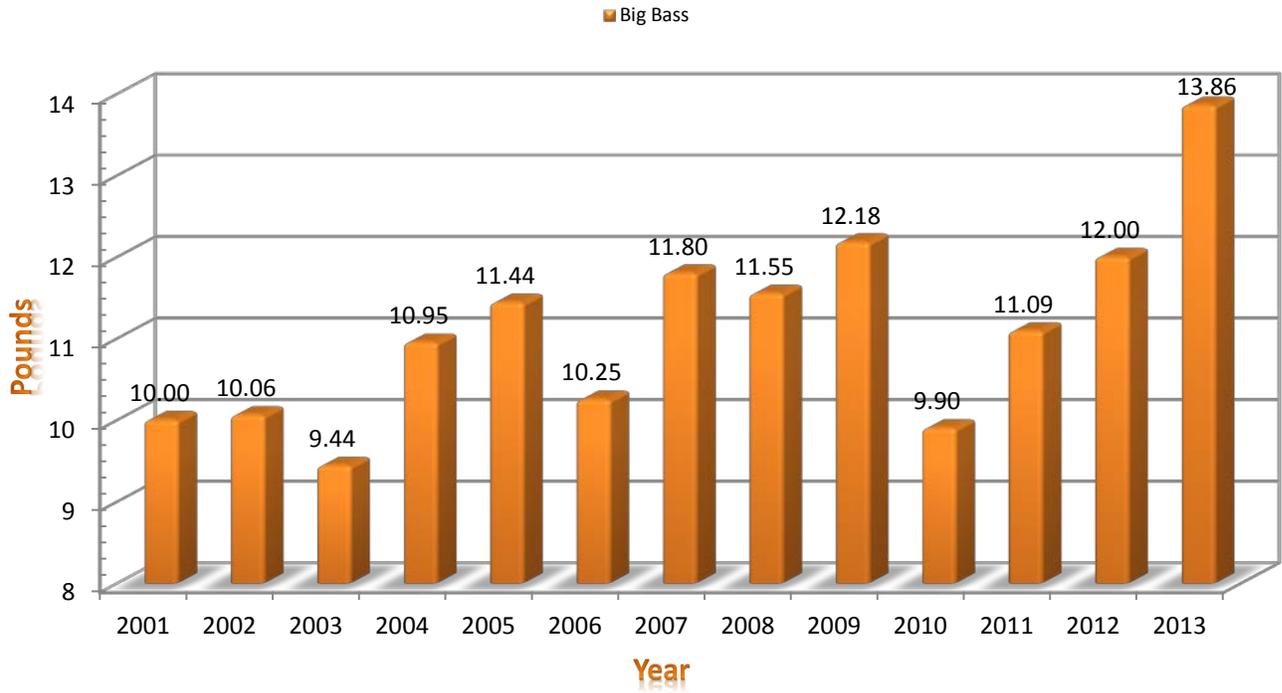


Figure 9

## Heaviest Bass Caught during tournament from 2001 to 2013



**Table 1. Results from Oklahoma bass tournaments reported in 2013.**

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	4	13.00	16.75	2.25	1.25	9.70	20.51	3.70	0.65	50.29	86.45
Arkansas River	2	275.00	898.00	1.50	0.00	5.14	28.53	2.21	1.76	80.92	4500.00
Broken Bow	7	26.00	70.71	1.14	0.14	5.87	20.54	2.05	1.85	71.12	391.91
Eucha	1	12.00	99.00	4.00	0.00	7.60	37.40	2.05	3.14	100.00	63.00
Eufaula*	13	78.69	147.23	3.62	0.08	5.82	19.35	2.41	1.30	69.91	439.76
Ft. Gibson*	11	37.82	73.73	1.64	0.00	4.77	14.15	2.66	1.15	71.50	373.45
Grand*	13	60.46	187.69	5.38	0.00	5.61	18.72	2.66	1.81	85.73	232.13
Hudson*	12	28.17	79.42	3.08	0.17	6.27	18.56	2.77	1.75	83.39	167.69
Hugo	3	17.67	31.00	0.33	0.00	4.26	12.11	2.28	1.62	56.90	159.00
Kaw	3	12.67	33.00	0.00	0.00	4.29	13.85	2.46	1.31	76.67	216.00
Kerr	5	13.60	47.20	1.00	0.00	5.26	17.00	2.83	1.76	80.95	132.80
Keystone	2	10.50	47.50	0.00	0.00	4.11	24.30	2.51	1.98	87.50	188.00
Lake Murray	1	11.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	4.06	4.06	2.37	0.14	27.27	176.00
Mcgee Creek	8	16.50	54.63	1.00	0.13	4.75	12.25	1.39	2.47	84.98	187.20
Murray	4	20.75	81.25	1.00	0.25	5.80	11.72	1.71	1.52	88.70	189.50
Okemah*	9	18.67	31.38	3.33	0.00	5.64	15.17	3.40	0.84	47.35	135.11
Pine Creek	2	16.00	44.00	4.00	0.00	6.11	27.71	2.69	1.66	83.33	52.20
Sardis*	15	24.07	45.53	3.40	0.47	7.72	19.74	2.74	0.98	57.30	131.84
Skiatook	3	14.33	47.33	3.67	0.00	5.91	16.38	2.36	1.59	86.27	87.33
Sooner	3	13.33	46.00	2.33	0.00	6.05	16.71	2.71	1.68	91.82	115.56
Spavinaw	2	5.00	7.00	1.00	0.00	7.40	12.43	3.53	0.82	80.00	65.00
Tenkiller*	55	22.78	62.75	1.44	0.00	5.19	16.38	2.69	1.58	60.62	227.21
Texoma*	22	20.64	86.18	2.73	0.14	6.67	20.53	2.74	1.71	79.51	119.54
Webber Falls	4	9.25	31.75	1.00	0.00	5.16	13.85	2.51	1.79	79.17	124.00
Wister	2	29.50	91.50	2.00	0.00	5.79	17.10	2.27	1.58	80.89	344.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>32.30</b>	<b>94.54</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>0.10</b>	<b>5.80</b>	<b>17.96</b>	<b>2.55</b>	<b>1.54</b>	<b>74.48</b>	<b>356.19</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 Oklahoma bass lakes based on 2013 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
Texoma	1	20.53	2.74	1.71	79.51	119.54
Hudson	2	18.56	2.77	1.75	83.39	167.69
Grand	3	18.72	2.66	1.81	85.73	232.13
Sardis	4	19.74	2.74	0.98	57.30	131.84
Tenkiller	5	16.38	2.69	1.58	60.62	227.21
Okemah	6	15.17	3.40	0.84	47.35	135.11
Eufaula	7	19.35	2.41	1.30	69.91	439.76
Ft. Gibson	8	14.15	2.66	1.15	71.50	373.45

**Table 3. Trophy bass (>8 pounds) reported in 2013 tournaments.**

Lake	Tournament Date	Organization	Weight
Texoma	3/16/2013	Red River Bass Club	13.86
Arbuckle	3/10/2013	Fish N' Frenzy Bass Club	11.71
Arbuckle	4/9/2013	Bassin Buddies	11.66
Sardis	6/8/2013	Pushmataha County Sportsman Club	10.98
Sardis	5/18/2013	Fisherman's Choice LLC.	10.34
Broken Bow	4/13/2013	Central Oklahoma Bassmaster	10.09
Sardis	3/23/2013	Oklahoma Oilman's Bass Club	9.19
Hudson	4/21/2013	LCA Rising Stars	8.93
Texoma	10/17/2013	FLW	8.90
Mcgee Creek	5/18/2013	Oklahoma Oilman's Bass Club	8.88
Arbuckle	8/24/2013	Bassin Buddies	8.86
Eufaula	3/16/2013	Leflore County Bass Club	8.57
Sardis	6/22/2013	Bassin Buddies	8.37
Sardis	4/6/2013	The Leflore County Bass Club	8.34
Murray	4/27/2013	Fisherman's Choice LLC.	8.33
Hudson	10/12/2013	Fishers of Men	8.04



Photo courtesy of wildlifedepartment.com

# 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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