



Top Targets

Black bass are the most popular sport fish species in Arkansas, and Lake Maumelle holds true to that trend. Forty-five percent of anglers surveyed during spring 2014 were pursuing black bass. Crappie anglers made up 25 percent, and anglers specifically targeting white bass made up 9 percent of those surveyed. It is important to note that this survey does not include anglers who bank fished, which make up a large percentage of panfish, catfish and white bass anglers.

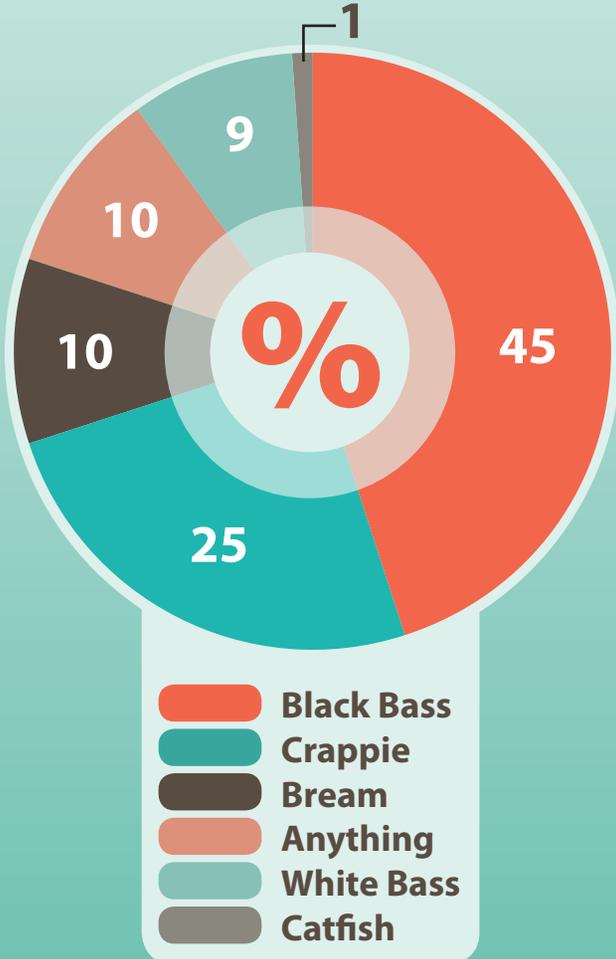
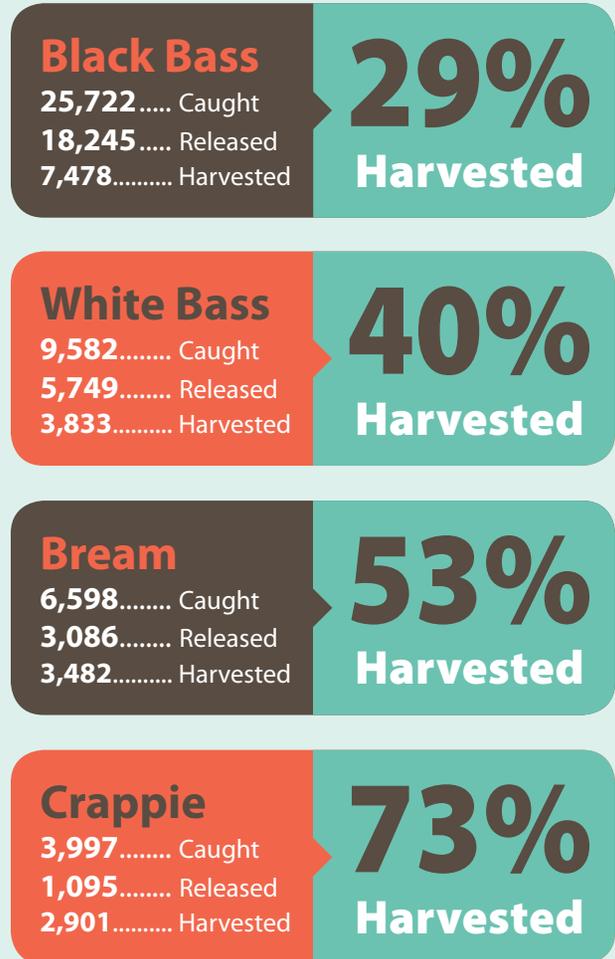


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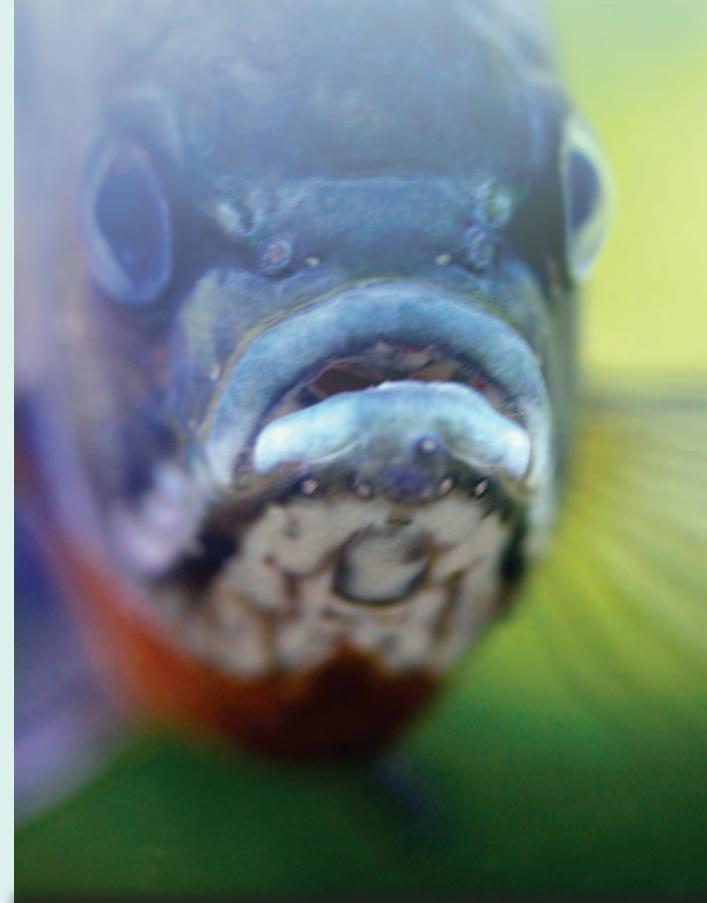
Anglers enjoy keeping a mess of fish from Maumelle's cool, clear water. About 29 percent of black bass caught were harvested. Crappie, a fish typically sought for food, were retained 73 percent of the time, while white bass and bream had harvest rates of 40 percent and 53 percent, respectively.

Estimated totals for March-May 2014



Lake Maumelle

2014 Creel Survey

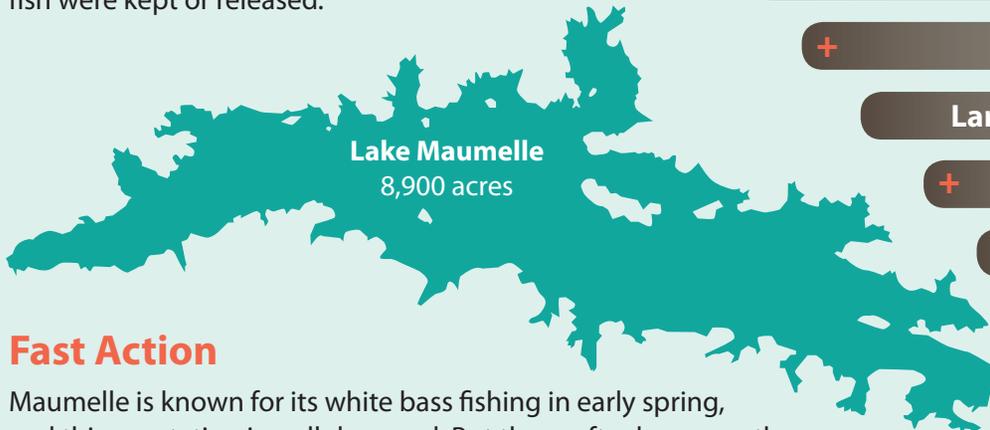


Maumelle Measures Up 2014 creel survey results



At 8,900 acres and only minutes from the largest city in Arkansas, Lake Maumelle should be one of the most popular destinations for anglers looking to wet a line without a huge investment in time or gas money. This water-supply reservoir, however, has suffered a harsh reputation with some anglers as a difficult place to catch fish.

Fisheries biologists with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission conducted random creel surveys in spring 2014 to determine actual catch rates for many species and compare them to similar reservoirs. They spoke to 614 anglers at Jolly Roger's Marina and Sleepy Hollow Access after their fishing day to determine size and number of each species anglers caught, what species they were targeting and whether the fish were kept or released.



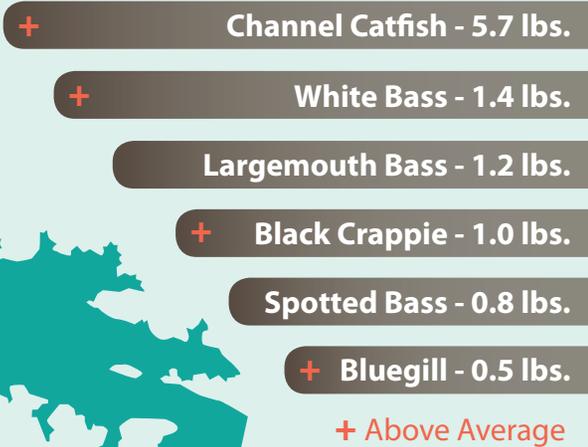
Fast Action

Maumelle is known for its white bass fishing in early spring, and this reputation is well deserved. But those after largemouth and spotted bass tend to complain about low catch rates. The creel survey shows catch rates for these two species are actually very high. Anglers averaged 1.2 fish per hour, as opposed to 0.7 fish per hour on several Arkansas and Tennessee reservoirs.

Size Matters

Largemouth bass and spotted bass in Maumelle do tend to run on the small side, but most other sport fish from the lake are larger on average than fish from similar waters in Arkansas and Tennessee. Again, white bass tend to stand out in the fishery, but channel catfish run much larger than average and are often disregarded in Lake Maumelle. Bluegill also tend to put on a few extra ounces, and anglers who target bream in a little deeper water tend to be rewarded with some nice dinner-sized fish.

Average fish weight on Lake Maumelle



Change With the Seasons

During the creel survey, biologists observed trends in angler success for each species they were after. These "prime times" usually occurred during spawning season for these species, with the only exception being catfish biting best a bit earlier than their typical spawning season.

Best Month to Target



Value Added

Aside from good fishing, Lake Maumelle helps recirculate local funds through boat launches and sales of gasoline, food and fishing equipment. Nearly all anglers surveyed (99 percent) were Arkansas residents, with 64 percent being from Pulaski County and 21 percent being from Saline County. Anglers in boats spent an average of **\$40 per fishing trip** to the lake, contributing an estimated **\$389,055 to the local economy** during March, April and May of 2014.



Catch Rates Per Hour

+ Above Average



+ White Bass



Bream



+ Black Bass



Crappie



Catfish