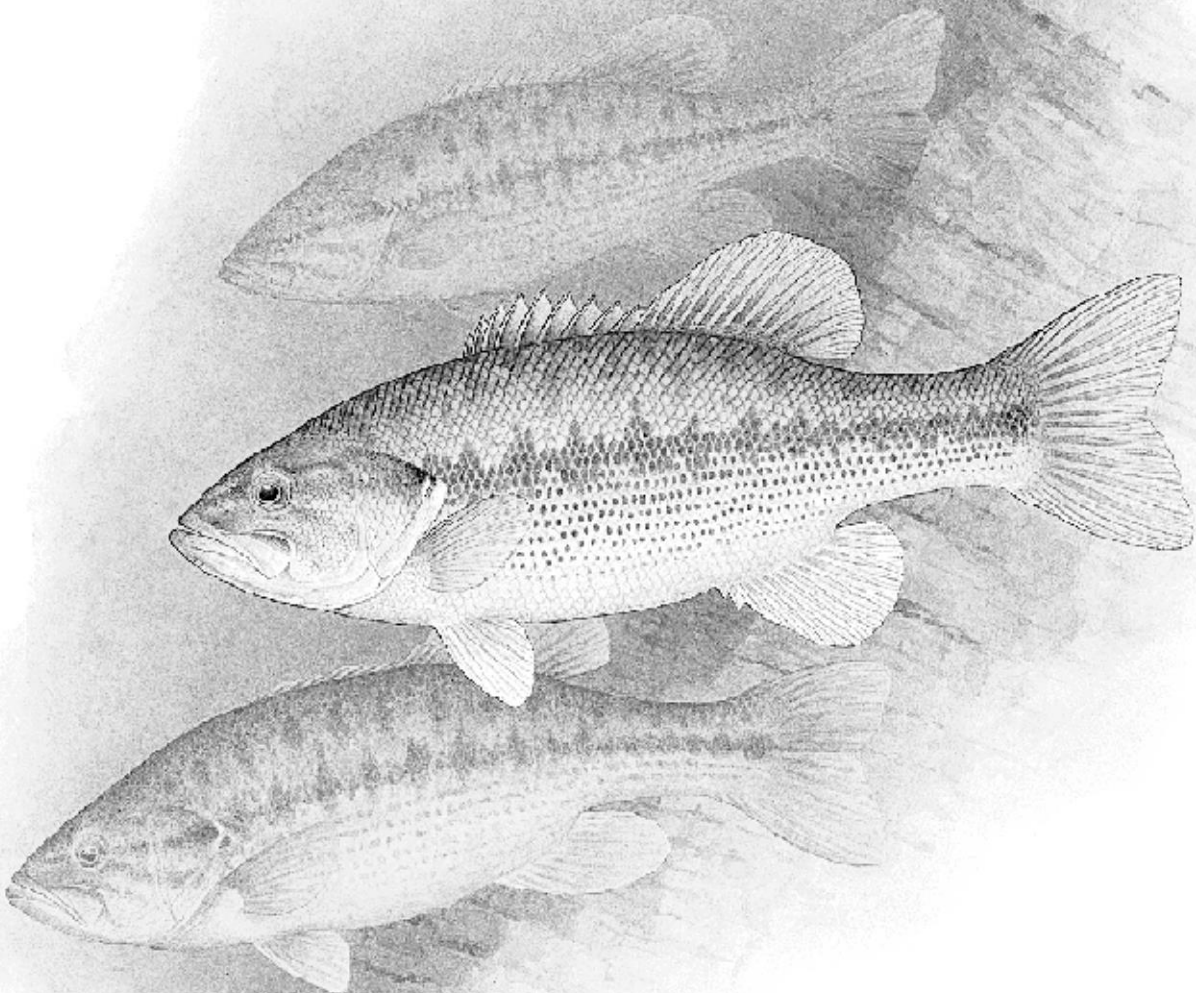




Bass Tournament Results 2018



**Kentucky Department of Fish
and Wildlife Resources**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) would like to thank all the tournament organizers that participated in the voluntary tournament scheduling system and reported their tournament catch data following each event. This program would not be possible without their participation. Listed below are the 2018 program participants. The data that each of these organizations provided is valuable for the completion of this publication.

2018 Program Participants

- American Bass Anglers Couple Series
- American Bass Anglers Inc.
- Anglers Outpost and Marine
- Backwater Outfitters
- Barbourville Bass Club
- Bass For Gas
- Brandeis Machinery and Supply Co.
- Casey County High School Fishing Team
- Chad Coleman
- Champaign-Urbana (IL) Bass Club
- Early Bird Bassmasters
- FLW
- FLW Outdoors- College Fishing
- FLW Outdoors
- GCHS Bass Fishing Team
- Greater Muhlenberg Chamber of Commerce
- Green River Bass Club
- Greenbo Bass Club
- Hawg Hawlers Bass Club
- Indy Bass Club
- KCAA- KY Christian Athletic Assoc.
- Ken-Bar Bass Club Inc.
- Kentucky Bassmasters Bass Club
- KY Bass Nation Team Trail
- LOF
- Mid-State Illinois Bass Anglers
- Montgomery Co. HS Fishing Team
- North Oldham HS Fishing Team
- Oldham County HS Bass Team
- Prestonsburg Healthcare Center
- Rodbenders Bass Club
- The Steel City Bassmasters
- Trail of Dreams Tournament Series
- USA Bassin
- USA Bassin- Beaver Lake Division
- USA Bassin- Beaver Lake Division
- USA Bassin- Cave Run Spring Division
- USA Bassin- National Team Tournament Trail
- USA Bassin- Summer Division
- USA Bassin- Team Tournament Trail
- W. KY. Animal Rescue
- Wabash Valley Bass
- Weekend Warriors Bass Club of SEMO

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) began the voluntary tournament-reporting program in 1999. After 19 years, the primary objective of collecting data from bass tournaments across the state and summarizing that data into an annual publication has remained the same. In this publication, anglers will find information on the average winning weights, average weight of big fish, average weight per keeper bass, average number of keeper bass weighed per boat, angler success rates, catch rates by season and historical trend data broken down by each waterbody reporting three or more events. This is valuable information when planning tournaments for the upcoming year.

KDFWR encourages everyone to participate in our voluntary tournament scheduling/reporting program to help relieve congestion issues at boat ramps and on the water. This system will assist tournament organizers identify if a ramp is over capacity, provides another avenue to promote tournaments and makes other recreational boaters aware of scheduled events so they can use another ramp that may be less crowded. Furthermore, at the end of each event the tournament organizer will receive a follow-up email reminding them to submit the catch data for that event. This useful tool and other valuable information pertaining to tournament registration requirements, tournament guidelines, proper bass handling and archived annual bass tournament statistics can be found at (<http://fw.ky.gov/Fish/Pages/Tournament-Fishing.aspx>). This program was designed to avoid the need to regulate fishing tournaments in Kentucky. The success of this program is very dependent on everyone's participation.

For additional information pertaining to scheduling tournaments or reporting catch data, feel free to contact KDFWR at:

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Frankfort, KY. 40601
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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 2018, 460 tournaments were scheduled on the KDFWR tournament-scheduling site. Of those tournaments, only 136 (29.6%) reported their catch data. Additional tournament data was collected online increasing the sample size to 312 bass tournaments. Of the 312 events, there was at least one tournament hosted at 28 different water bodies, which included 14 large ($\geq 1,000$ acres) reservoirs, 11 smaller (< 1000 acre) lakes and 3 river systems. However, only 22 of the 28 waterbodies hosted three or more events, which is required to be included in these lake specific statistics and rankings.

Overall, the average length of a 1-day tournament in 2018 was 7.8 hours with tournaments ranging from 3.0- 10.0 hrs. The majority of tournaments lasted only 1 day (94.2%) while 2-day (5.4%) and 3-day (0.4%) events were less common. Ninety-four percent of tournaments occurred during daylight hours compared to the 6.0% of tournaments occurring at night. Team format tournaments (2 anglers fishing for a single limit) represented 79.2% of reported tournaments while individual angler tournaments comprised 20.8% of the events. On average, there were 21 angling-units (number of individual anglers or teams) per tournament in 2018. Data collected determined that 93.6% of the tournaments utilized a 5-fish daily limit, however, some tournaments enforced smaller daily limits to either comply with special fishing regulations, adapt to a shorter tournament duration, or adopt a “Big Fish” format.

Based on all reported tournaments statewide, 67.9% of anglers successfully weighed in a bass during a tournament. The average angling-unit weighed in 2.00 keeper size bass that had an average weight of 2.36 lbs. The average statewide winning weight based on a standard 8-hour day was 11.58 lbs with the average angling unit weighing in 4.72 lbs. On average, only 15.6% of all angling-units successfully weighed in a full limit of bass. The average big bass per tournament statewide was 4.60 lbs (Table 1).

Tournament data was used to rank the top 10 Kentucky waterbodies in six categories relating to angler success, number of keeper bass weighed in per angling-unit, size of the bass being weighed in and winning weights (Table 1). Keep in mind that different creels and minimum length limits across the state can affect how a waterbody ranks in each category.

The percent of successful angling-units was determined by dividing the total number of tournament participants weighing in a legal-size bass by the total number of participants at each waterbody. The top three water bodies in this category in 2018 were Laurel River Lake (93.3%), Lake Linville (90.9%) and Barren River Lake (85.7%).

Lake Linville (3.36), Green River Lake (3.06) and Barren River Lake (2.80) had the highest average number of keeper-size bass weighed in per angling-unit across the state. This average was calculated using the total number of keeper size fish weighed in for the year divided by the total number of angling-units for each waterbody.

The average weight per bass weighed in was determined by dividing the total pounds of fish weighed in by the total number of fish weighed in for each waterbody. The highest average weight per bass was recorded at Cedar Creek Lake (4.72 lbs); keep in mind this lake has a trophy bass regulation allowing only 1 bass over 20 inches to be weighed in. Lake Barkley (3.19) and Kentucky Lake (3.00) were the only other lakes that averaged over 3.00 lbs/bass.

In order to rank the waterbodies based on the average 1st place winning weight, all the tournaments were standardized to a 1-day, 8-hour event. Green River Lake recorded the highest average winning weight of 17.38 lbs, followed by Kentucky Lake Tailwater (16.27 lbs) and Lake Barkley Tailwater (15.49 lbs).

The average total weight of an angling-unit in an event at each waterbody was determined by multiplying the average number of keeper bass caught per angling-unit at each waterbody by the average weight of a bass weighed in at that waterbody. This weight is representative of what the average angling-unit would expect to weigh in. The top three average total weights per angling-unit

by waterbody include Green River Lake (7.41 lbs), Laurel River Lake (6.81 lbs) and Barren River Lake (6.01 lbs).

Tournament data was also broken down into seasons: spring (March – May), summer (June – August), fall (September – November) and winter (December – February) to provide more detailed information on how each of these waterbodies fish throughout the year. Overall, the largest majority of tournaments occur during the spring (41.3%) and summer (35.6%), followed by fall (18.6%) and winter (4.5%). Seasonal results for individual waterbodies can be found in Table 2.

Waterbodies that had data collected for at least 3 years from 2009-2018 are represented in Table 3. This information allows tournament organizers and anglers to look at trend data over the past 10 years, illustrating waterbodies that are trending up, down or remaining constant year after year.

Table 1. Top 10 rankings for Kentucky's bass tournaments based on catch data from 2018. A minimum of three tournaments was required in be included in these ranking.

Ranking	Percent of Successful Anglers/Teams	Average Number of Keeper Bass Caught per Boat	Average Weight (lbs) per Bass Weighed In	Average 1st Place Weight (lbs) per 8 Hour Day	Average Total Weight (lbs) per Boat	Average Weight (lbs) of Big Bass
1	Laurel River Lake 93.3	Lake Linville 3.36	Cedar Creek Lake 4.72	Green River Lake 17.38	Green River Lake 7.41	Lake Beshear 6.05
2	Lake Linville 90.9	Green River Lake 3.06	Lake Barkley 3.19	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 16.27	Laurel River Lake 6.81	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 5.70
3	Barren River Lake 85.7	Barren River Lake 2.80	Kentucky Lake 3.00	Lake Barkley Tailwater 15.49	Barren River Lake 6.01	Lake Barkley 5.42
4	Rough River Lake 83.7	Nolin River Lake 2.68	Laurel River Lake 2.92	Lake Beshear 15.22	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 5.98	Kentucky Lake 5.37
5	Nolin River Lake 81.8	Rough River Lake 2.61	Lake Beshear 2.67	Lake Barkley 14.35	Kentucky Lake 5.51	Green River Lake 5.21
6	Green River Lake 78.2	Cave Run Lake 2.59	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 2.58	Dale Hollow Lake 14.01	Nolin River Lake 5.04	Cedar Creek Lake 5.13
7	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 77.6	Beaver Lake 2.43	Dale Hollow Lake 2.46	Rough River Lake 12.87	Lake Barkley 4.89	Yatesville Lake 4.78
8	Guist Creek Lake 77.1	Laurel River Lake 2.33	Green River Lake 2.42	Barren River Lake 12.52	Lake Linville 4.79	Lake Barkley Tailwater 4.70
9	Beaver Lake 76.2	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 2.32	Dewey Lake 2.39	Nolin River Lake 11.72	Lake Barkley Tailwater 4.76	Rough River Lake 4.63
10	Cave Run Lake 74.7	Lake Barkley Tailwater 2.11	Taylorville Lake 2.36	Kentucky Lake 11.36	Rough River Lake 4.56	Laurel River Lake 4.51
Statewide Average	67.9	2.00	2.36	11.58	4.72	4.6

Table 2. Summary of 2018 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes by season. A minimum of three tournaments were required for the lake to appear in this table.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Weighed-In	Percent Success	Average # of Keeper Bass per Boat	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)	Average Weight of Big Bass (lbs)
Barren River Lake										
Spring	6	4	2	168	470	86.9	2.80	2.15	11.67	4.56
Fall	3	0	3	70	196	82.9	2.80	2.13	14.49	4.38
Total	9	4	5	238	666	85.7	2.80	2.15	12.52	4.50
Beaver Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	42	102	76.2	2.43	1.19	7.57	4.15
Total	4	0	4	42	102	76.2	2.43	1.19	7.57	4.15
Cave Run Lake										
Spring	7	1	6	102	210	64.7	2.06	1.30	9.07	3.58
Summer	6	0	6	79	246	79.7	3.11	1.14	9.85	3.91
Fall	3	0	3	76	209	82.9	2.75	0.79	6.90	3.27
Total	16	1	15	257	665	74.7	2.59	1.08	8.96	3.64
Cedar Creek Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	51	14	21.6	0.27	4.85	6.47	5.19
Summer	2	0	2	15	9	53.3	0.60	4.52	6.94	5.00
Total	6	0	6	66	23	28.8	0.35	4.72	6.63	5.13
Dale Hollow Lake										
Spring	3	2	1	59	181	84.7	3.07	2.67	15.31	4.32
Fall	1	0	1	167	71	32.3	0.43	1.93	10.13	4.00
Total	4	2	2	226	252	46.0	1.12	2.46	14.01	4.24
Dewey Lake										
Spring	3	2	1	59	64	40.7	1.08	2.39	9.20	4.06
Total	3	2	1	59	64	40.7	1.08	2.39	9.20	4.06
Green River Lake										
Spring	6	1	5	101	248	63.4	2.46	2.57	17.70	5.77
Summer	9	1	8	151	677	86.8	4.48	1.92	18.99	5.33
Fall	3	0	3	28	76	85.7	2.71	1.80	11.94	3.73
Total	18	2	16	280	1,001	78.2	3.06	2.42	17.38	5.21
Greenbo Lake										
Spring	1	0	1	9	7	33.3	0.78	1.29	5.13	1.15
Summer	2	0	2	9	26	100.0	2.89	1.22	7.50	3.53
Total	3	0	3	18	33	66.7	1.83	1.24	6.71	2.74

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2018 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes by season. A minimum of three tournaments were required for the lake to appear in this table.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Weighed-In	Percent Success	Average # of Keeper Bass per Boat	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)	Average Weight of Big Bass (lbs)
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	7	1	6	54	103	70.4	1.91	2.15	11.52	5.04
Summer	4	1	3	39	104	92.3	2.67	1.73	8.70	4.17
Fall	6	0	6	56	103	75.0	1.84	1.71	8.04	4.04
Winter	1	0	1	8	8	62.5	1.00	1.74	7.86	3.27
Total	18	2	16	157	318	77.1	2.03	1.86	9.53	4.42
Kentucky Lake										
Spring	12	2	10	1,066	2,278	63.8	2.14	3.11	11.70	6.17
Summer	14	9	5	269	375	63.9	1.39	2.93	11.37	4.91
Fall	4	3	1	427	584	55.3	1.37	2.61	10.16	4.54
Total	30	14	16	1,762	3,237	61.7	1.84	3.00	11.36	5.37
Kentucky Lake Tailwater										
Summer	4	1	3	58	151	81.0	2.60	2.47	16.99	5.91
Fall	2	0	2	18	40	83.3	2.22	2.83	18.74	5.77
Winter	3	0	3	22	36	63.6	1.64	2.76	13.66	5.38
Total	9	1	8	98	227	77.6	2.32	2.58	16.27	5.70
Lake Barkley										
Spring	28	11	17	471	636	61.8	1.35	3.39	14.50	5.86
Summer	23	5	18	382	676	67.5	1.77	3.17	15.50	5.34
Fall	11	3	8	166	248	61.4	1.49	2.76	11.81	4.53
Total	62	19	43	1,019	1,560	63.9	1.53	3.19	14.35	5.42
Lake Barkley Tailwater										
Spring	5	1	4	163	318	67.5	1.95	2.27	15.58	4.96
Summer	3	1	2	37	87	81.1	2.35	2.17	14.81	4.17
Winter	1	0	1	44	110	75.0	2.50	2.28	17.07	4.97
Total	9	2	7	244	515	70.9	2.11	2.26	15.49	4.70
Lake Beshear										
Spring	5	0	5	124	159	59.7	1.28	2.80	14.52	6.18
Fall	1	1	0	12	35	91.7	2.92	2.06	18.71	5.35
Total	6	1	5	136	194	62.5	1.43	2.67	15.22	6.05
Lake Cumberland										
Spring	2	2	0	24	54	62.5	2.25	2.03	9.87	3.57
Fall	2	0	2	86	172	60.5	2.00	1.52	9.52	3.52
Winter	4	0	4	59	51	42.4	0.86	2.44	10.26	4.22
Total	8	2	6	169	277	54.4	1.64	1.79	9.97	3.88

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2018 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes by season. A minimum of three tournaments were required for the lake to appear in this table.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Weighed-In	Percent Success	Average # of Keeper Bass per Boat	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)	Average Weight of Big Bass (lbs)
Laurel River Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	10	25	90.0	2.50	3.34	12.19	5.03
Summer	1	0	1	3	7	100.0	2.33	1.80	8.20	4.70
Fall	1	0	1	2	3	100.0	1.50	1.98	3.69	2.24
Total	6	0	6	15	35	93.3	2.33	2.91	10.11	4.51
Lake Linville										
Spring	1	0	1	10	40	100.0	4.00	1.46	10.68	3.12
Fall	3	0	3	23	71	87.0	3.09	1.41	10.77	3.36
Total	4	0	4	33	111	90.9	3.36	1.43	10.75	3.30
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	6	0	6	148	442	86.5	2.99	1.97	12.97	4.43
Summer	4	0	4	74	217	75.7	2.93	1.71	12.99	4.35
Fall	5	0	5	89	221	89.9	2.48	1.75	10.32	3.46
Winter	3	0	3	47	78	61.7	1.66	2.28	9.86	4.75
Total	18	0	18	358	958	81.8	2.68	1.88	11.72	4.16
Ohio River										
Spring	7	3	4	70	187	81.4	2.67	1.42	8.13	3.08
Summer	18	7	11	187	355	70.6	1.90	1.32	6.48	2.74
Fall	5	0	5	41	71	75.6	1.73	1.20	4.77	2.24
Total	30	10	20	298	613	73.8	2.06	1.34	6.58	2.74
Rough River Lake										
Spring	5	0	5	99	271	83.8	2.74	2.08	11.75	4.50
Summer	5	0	5	131	341	85.5	2.60	2.13	16.34	4.30
Fall	5	1	4	208	583	88.0	2.80	1.35	11.15	4.79
Winter	1	0	1	28	22	42.9	0.79	2.23	11.46	6.16
Total	16	1	15	466	1,217	83.7	2.61	1.74	12.87	4.63
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	4	1	3	77	154	77.9	2.00	2.41	11.86	5.15
Summer	5	1	4	76	172	77.6	2.26	2.31	11.71	4.28
Fall	5	0	5	49	72	63.3	1.47	2.37	11.13	3.99
Winter	1	0	1	10	10	60.0	1.00	2.44	8.75	4.65
Total	15	2	13	212	408	73.6	1.92	2.36	11.36	4.44
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	5	0	5	141	235	58.2	1.67	2.26	12.77	4.74
Summer	3	0	3	24	52	91.7	2.17	2.53	7.56	4.86
Total	8	0	8	165	287	63.0	1.74	2.30	10.45	4.78

Table 3. Historical trend data (2009-2018) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three years of tournament data had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Barren River Lake										Cave Run Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	27	27	24	28	21	17	15	16	21	9	3	--	--	--	3	--	3	10	16	16
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.11	2.71	3.07	2.61	2.91	3.03	2.62	2.15	2.77	2.8	0.26	--	--	--	0.84	--	0.15	2.35	2.15	2.59
Percent successful	71.8	84.9	91.4	74.2	84.3	83.0	81.3	77.1	86.4	85.7	37.7	--	--	--	52.3	--	12.8	65.5	69.3	74.7
Average weight per bass	2.28	2.31	2.19	2.41	2.29	2.21	2.20	2.23	1.97	2.15	2.7	--	--	--	1.58	--	2.54	1.17	1.23	1.08
Average weight of big bass	4.82	5.15	5.29	5.19	5.21	5.82	4.68	5.21	4.82	4.50	5.34	--	--	--	4.85	--	3.49	3.66	3.92	3.64
Average 1 st place weight	13.24	15.18	15.48	15.91	16.07	15.80	14.66	14.76	14.16	12.52	13.48	--	--	--	5.53	--	4.37	9.33	8.44	8.96

Variable	Cedar Creek Lake										Dale Hollow Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	--	5	15	15	--	--	--	6	10	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	3	4	4
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	--	0.18	0.39	0.78	--	--	--	0.42	0.20	0.35	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.36	2.77	1.12
Percent successful	--	15.4	22.2	21.5	--	--	--	34.4	16.5	28.8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	83.6	81.6	46.0
Average weight per bass	--	4.85	3.48	2.97	--	--	--	4.87	4.48	4.72	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.70	2.65	2.46
Average weight of big bass	--	5.36	4.66	4.44	--	--	--	5.86	5.12	5.13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.92	5.14	4.24
Average 1 st place weight	--	5.51	6.39	6.04	--	--	--	5.93	6.84	6.63	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14.15	16.05	14.01

Variable	Grayson Lake										Green River Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	--	--	--	--	4	3	5	3	4	--	17	22	16	7	33	9	3	19	28	18
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	--	--	--	--	0.25	0.38	0.23	0.67	0.23	--	2.87	2.63	2.31	3.21	3.13	2.61	2.75	2.54	2.80	3.06
Percent successful	--	--	--	--	19.7	26.0	15.4	41.0	18.3	--	44.7	64.9	63.8	87.0	81.9	67.3	74.5	70.2	78.2	78.2
Average weight per bass	--	--	--	--	2.46	2.45	2.99	2.93	2.59	--	2.29	2.23	2.25	2.23	2.32	2.52	2.26	2.45	2.35	2.42
Average weight of big bass	--	--	--	--	3.34	5.02	3.29	5.40	4.12	--	5.32	5.00	4.66	4.13	5.28	5.44	4.96	5.67	5.49	5.21
Average 1 st place weight	--	--	--	--	5.39	7.88	6.21	9.68	5.73	--	14.00	13.82	11.55	11.10	14.53	14.76	14.19	16.07	16.00	17.38

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2009-2018) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three years of tournament data had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Guist Creek Lake										Herrington Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	13	7	--	--	--	--	--	12	18	18	--	3	6	5	--	--	--	10	--	--
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.55	1.45	--	--	--	--	--	1.85	2.05	2.03	--	3.02	2.26	3.55	--	--	--	2.80	--	--
Percent successful	41.9	67.7	--	--	--	--	--	70.8	75.5	77.1	--	95.7	64.0	89.4	--	--	--	85.7	--	--
Average weight per bass	2.01	2.02	--	--	--	--	--	2.10	2.27	1.86	--	1.58	1.81	1.63	--	--	--	1.57	--	--
Average weight of big bass	4.63	5.13	--	--	--	--	--	4.67	4.59	4.42	--	4.13	4.16	3.93	--	--	--	3.71	--	--
Average 1 st place weight	7.78	9.81	--	--	--	--	--	11.36	12.03	9.53	--	12.02	11.81	9.20	--	--	--	8.28	--	--
Variable	Kentucky Lake										Kentucky Lake Tailwater									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	67	59	60	24	55	17	23	31	34	30	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	9	23	9
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.12	2.14	3.29	4.06	3.86	2.12	2.62	3.31	2.37	1.84	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.79	4.01	2.32
Percent successful	70.4	71.7	72.4	80.9	73.2	64.2	72.0	77.0	80.9	61.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	77.9	91.5	77.6
Average weight per bass	3.66	2.80	2.59	2.60	2.85	3.31	2.34	2.68	3.22	3.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.54	2.58	2.58
Average weight of big bass	5.34	5.54	5.45	6.12	5.71	5.54	6.01	6.13	6.19	5.37	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.02	5.17	5.70
Average 1 st place weight	13.31	15.97	14.09	15.11	18.43	15.92	15.20	16.31	16.34	11.36	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	13.39	16.41	16.27
Variable	Kentucky River										Kincaid Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	3	3	--	3	--	--	--	5	--	--	17	11	7	3	--	--	--	7	--	--
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.07	0.88	--	1.48	--	--	--	2.88	--	--	0.87	1.18	1.42	1.16	--	--	--	0.84	--	--
Percent successful	75.9	40.8	--	59.6	--	--	--	87.5	--	--	27.1	54.1	60	58.1	--	--	--	35.1	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.4	1.47	--	1.44	--	--	--	1.34	--	--	1.72	1.94	1.42	1.95	--	--	--	1.24	--	--
Average weight of big bass	3.28	3.63	--	3.05	--	--	--	2.72	--	--	3.79	4.56	4.26	3.43	--	--	--	2.81	--	--
Average 1 st place weight	10.04	6.53	--	8.56	--	--	--	6.51	--	--	7.63	11.9	7.42	5.96	--	--	--	8.48	--	--

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2009-2018) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three years of tournament data had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Lake Barkley										Lake Beshear									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	48	70	67	14	28	29	32	57	53	62	9	8	6	9	11	9	6	10	6	6
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.33	2.17	2.63	3.48	2.95	2.93	2.33	2.87	2.36	1.53	3.53	3.07	2.71	2.89	2.24	2.95	3.31	2.89	2.62	1.42
Percent successful	65.7	70.4	75.3	80.8	80.3	80.6	77.6	81.2	75.9	63.9	82.9	83.1	81.1	80.4	74.0	79.6	86.3	81.9	76.4	62.5
Average weight per bass	2.69	2.76	2.49	2.58	2.77	2.76	2.91	2.75	2.92	3.19	3.47	2.94	3.15	2.96	2.96	2.93	2.97	3.10	2.93	2.67
Average weight of big bass	5.51	5.16	4.79	5.42	5.54	5.76	5.41	5.45	5.58	5.42	6.58	6.00	6.84	6.3	5.83	5.29	6.41	6.66	6.23	6.05
Average 1 st place weight	15.25	14.67	13.66	16.53	18.04	17.17	15.10	16.41	17.25	14.35	17.53	16.98	20.11	18.01	22.29	15.84	22.71	22.98	20.27	15.22

Variable	Lake Cumberland										Laurel River Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	14	10	10	7	17	3	3	11	19	8	4	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	7	6
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.28	1.90	1.40	2.28	1.81	1.78	2.46	1.84	3.83	1.64	1.23	--	--	1.95	--	--	--	2.58	2.54	2.33
Percent successful	63.7	67.7	58.3	72.4	62.7	67.8	80.7	69.2	83.5	54.4	35.7	--	--	77.9	--	--	--	80.8	82.4	93.3
Average weight per bass	2.26	1.98	2.09	2.01	2.25	2.05	2.27	2.44	2.43	1.79	3	--	--	2.3	--	--	--	2.87	2.82	2.92
Average weight of big bass	5.20	4.79	4.97	4.32	5.02	4.63	5.60	4.52	4.62	3.88	6.84	--	--	3.99	--	--	--	4.33	4.32	4.51
Average 1 st place weight	16.85	15.24	11.41	15.18	15.12	13.68	18.01	13.02	12.12	9.97	14.16	--	--	11.75	--	--	--	15.8	12.76	10.11

Variable	Nolin River Lake										Ohio River									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	21	22	14	20	21	4	--	15	19	18	34	49	32	18	20	21	12	45	35	30
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.85	2.42	3.08	2.87	2.27	2.65	--	2.75	3.16	2.68	3.20	1.63	2.02	3.33	2.95	1.55	1.61	2.36	2.21	2.06
Percent successful	76.3	77.7	89.4	88.4	84.7	77.5	--	85.1	87.1	81.8	66.1	65.2	68.3	92.7	80.9	66.7	64.8	80.2	77.6	73.8
Average weight per bass	2.03	1.99	2.03	1.93	1.79	1.83	--	2.05	1.88	1.88	1.38	1.35	1.36	1.43	1.40	1.53	1.37	1.50	1.38	1.34
Average weight of big bass	4.99	5.00	4.60	4.62	4.69	4.50	--	4.84	4.50	3.93	3.52	3.00	3.26	3.30	3.26	3.39	3.95	3.34	2.87	2.74
Average 1 st place weight	8.24	12.05	11.89	11.78	11.00	12.14	--	14.25	12.07	11.72	9.20	7.07	8.26	9.41	8.85	7.77	8.65	7.85	7.05	6.58

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2009-2018) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three years of tournament data had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Rough River Lake										Taylorsville Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	23	24	17	14	21	--	--	12	12	16	23	24	20	21	21	--	3	10	41	15
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.70	2.27	2.36	2.26	2.48	--	--	2.32	2.57	2.61	0.52	0.65	0.82	0.73	0.89	--	3.07	1.89	1.84	1.92
Percent successful	66.4	79.0	76.2	70.9	70.2	--	--	75.4	82.1	83.7	29.4	37.6	46.5	44.2	51.3	--	80	69.2	58.2	73.6
Average weight per bass	1.82	1.75	2.04	2.18	1.97	--	--	2.06	2.21	1.74	2.30	2.10	2.15	2.21	2.15	--	2.76	2.34	2.46	2.36
Average weight of big bass	4.42	4.04	4.64	5.2	5.3	--	--	4.92	5.84	4.63	3.69	3.33	3.85	3.91	3.88	--	4.14	3.63	3.91	4.44
Average 1 st place weight	9.02	10.61	11.92	14.01	16.11	--	--	13.05	15.95	12.87	6.16	6.01	7.74	12.84	14.47	--	15.91	10.31	10.24	11.36

Variable	Yatesville Lake									
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
No. of tournaments	4	--	--	--	6	6	9	8	10	8
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.16	--	--	--	1.42	0.59	1.17	0.96	1.91	1.74
Percent successful	38.6	--	--	--	65.9	38.7	42.6	43.3	55.5	63.0
Average weight per bass	2.15	--	--	--	2.34	2.61	2.37	2.89	2.39	2.30
Average weight of big bass	3.82	--	--	--	4.45	4.16	3.66	4.71	4.75	4.78
Average 1 st place weight	6.46	--	--	--	11.72	8.86	6.73	8.88	11.92	10.45

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

TOURNAMENT BASS HANDLING GUIDELINES

Tournament anglers and organizers should be aware of proper bass handling needs, especially during the hot summer months. KDFWR recommends that all bass anglers and tournament organizers review the B.A.S.S. sponsored manual, "Keeping Bass Alive", at the link below. KDFWR Fisheries Division endorses these procedures and recommends that all bass tournament sponsors and anglers adopt these as standard practices, especially during June – August tournaments when water temperatures are high. Additional detailed information on each of the key points can be found at the link provided below. These simple procedures can considerably decrease the amount of stress that a bass experiences throughout a tournament. Reducing this stress can increase the chance of survival once the fish are released.

<http://www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive>

Key Points:

- **Protect the Slime Coat**
 - Avoid dropping fish on floor of boat
 - Use soft knotless nylon or rubber landing nets
 - Hold fish vertically by lower jaw without touching fish's body

- **Minimize Hook Removal Injury**
 - Use pliers or hemostat to remove hooks
 - Learn hook-reversal techniques

- **Minimize Air Exposure**
 - General Rule: Fish should not be out of water any longer than you can hold your breath

- **Culling**
 - Separate small fish into separate compartment
 - Use spring clip culling systems to mark fish, do not use clips that require punching a hole in the fish's mouth
 - Avoid hoisting fish from livewell with culling system.

- **Livewell Basics**
 - Do not exceed at ratio of 1 pound of bass per gallon of water
 - Distribute fish between livewell compartments to reduce crowding
 - Livewell pumps should pump at least 500 gallon of water per hour (gph)
 - Maintain good oxygen levels through continual aerator operation
 - Reduce livewell temperatures by 5-10°F using blocks of ice when water temperatures are above 75°F
 - Add non-iodized salt at 1/3 cup per 5 gallons of livewell water
 - Exchange water half way through tournament to reduce carbon dioxide and ammonia levels
 - Monitor livewell and fish conditions throughout the day.

OTHER HELPFUL TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES

- All tournaments should be scheduled through [KDFWR's Tournament Scheduling](#) web site at least 30-60 days in advance.
- Avoid dates and locations where other tournaments are already scheduled; remember that larger reservoirs usually have more than one ramp available each day.
- Contact the marina or agency in charge of the ramp where your tournament is scheduled. Confusion and conflict can be avoided when adequate planning and communication is used. Many ramps have a launch fee.
- Avoid scheduling tournaments around major holidays.
- Respect the rights of other anglers who are using the same ramp as your tournament.
- Minimize the disturbance to campsites and docked boats that could be used for overnight stays.
- Make a plan for the most effective use of available parking spaces to allow non-tournament anglers access to the ramp. Check with Marina operators as they may have alternate parking arrangements for tournament participants.
- Plan the tournament so participants know where and when to launch and park. This avoids confusion and conflict at ramps and marinas.
- Shotgun starts are very unsafe and should be avoided.
- Large tournaments should stagger launch and weigh-in times to prevent "gridlock" at the ramp. Organizers should use support personnel to direct traffic during launching, parking, weigh-in and boat retrieval.
- Each tournament angler should be knowledgeable of all local fishing and boating regulations. They must also possess a valid fishing license, proper boat registration, personal floatation devices and other required equipment.
- If possible, avoid scheduling daytime tournaments during the hotter summer months, which will help reduce extra stress on the fish and minimize mortality.

Kentucky State Parks Registration Requirements

- All tournaments with more than 45 boats held at KY State Park ramp/marina must schedule their tournament using [KDFWR online tournament scheduling site](#).
- Within 15 days of scheduling tournament, the tournament organizer must register with the Kentucky Department of Parks for a special user permit.
- For information and registration forms, contact Kentucky Department of Parks in Frankfort at 800-255-7275.