

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT™

Bass Tournament Results 2016



**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 2016 program participants. The data that each of these organizations provided is valuable for the completion of this publication.

2016 Program Participants

- Active Heroes
- American Bass Anglers Inc.
- Anglers Outpost & Marine
- Backwater Outfitters
- Barboursville Bass Club
- Bass For Gas
- Bullitt East HS Fishing Team
- Caveland Bassmasters
- Early Bird Bassmasters
- FLW Outdoors
- FLW Outdoors- College Fishing
- Green River Bass Club
- Illini Team Trail
- Illinois Bass Anglers Assn.
- Indy Bass Club
- Jet-A-Marina
- Ken-Bar Bass Club Inc.
- Kentucky Bass Federation
- Lip Ripper's Bass Club
- Lyon County Bass Club
- Montgomery Co. HS Fishing Team
- Murray Rotary Club
- Murray State Bass Anglers
- National Bass Anglers Association
- Ohio River Senior Bass
- Port Oliver Bass Club
- River Rat Series
- SMMC MAINT
- The Bass Federation
- The Steel City Bassmasters
- Trinity HS Bass Team
- United Automobile Workers Local 862
- USA Bassin
- USA Bassin- Barkley Division
- USA Bassin- Cave Run Division
- USA Bassin- Cave Run Spring Division
- USA Bassin- Cedar Creek Division
- USA Bassin- Paintsville Lake
- USA Bassin- Little River Division
- USA Bassin- Team Tournament Trail
- Wabash Valley Bass
- WKU Bass Fishing
- Zoneton Fire Department

INTRODUCTION

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) began the voluntary tournament-reporting program in 1999. After 17 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 a tournament 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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SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 2016, 471 tournaments were scheduled on the KDFWR tournament-scheduling site. Of those tournaments, only 155 (32.9%) reported their catch data. Additional tournament data was collected online increasing the sample size to 320 bass tournaments. Of the 320 events there was at least one tournament hosted at 26 different water bodies, which included 15 large ($\geq 1,000$ acres) reservoirs, 7 smaller (< 1000 acre) lakes and 4 river systems. However, only 23 of the 26 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 2016 was 8.0 hrs with tournaments ranging from 4.0-9.5 hrs. The majority of tournaments lasted only 1 day (92.5%) while 2-day (6.9%) and 3-day (0.6%) 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 80.0% of reported tournaments while individual angler tournaments comprised 20.0% of the events. The average tournament in 2016 average 31 angling-units (number of individual anglers or teams). Data collected determined that 94.7% 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, 75.6% of anglers successfully weighed in a bass during a tournament. The average angling-unit weighed in 2.69 keeper size bass that had an average weight of 2.45 lbs. The average statewide winning weight based on a standard 8-hour day was 13.83 lbs with the average angling unit weighing in 6.60 lbs. On average, only 27.7% of all angling-units successfully weighed in a full limit of bass. The average big bass per tournament statewide was 4.70 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 2016 were Lake Barkley Tailwater (94.6%), Kentucky River (87.5%) and Herrington Lake (85.7%).

Lake Barkley (3.92), Kentucky Lake (3.31) and Lake Beshear (2.89) 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 (4.87 lbs); keep in mind this lake has a trophy bass regulation allowing only 1 bass over 20 inches to be weighed in. Lake Beshear (3.10) was the only other lake 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. Lake Beshear recorded the highest average winning weight of 22.98 lbs, followed by Lake Barkley Tailwater (17.16 lbs) and Lake Barkley (16.41 lbs). Six of the top 10 waterbodies in this category had a winning weight that exceeded 15.00 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 Lake Barkley Tailwater (9.48 lbs), Lake Beshear (8.98 lbs) and Kentucky Lake (8.87 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 (40.9%) and summer (40.3%), followed by fall (13.1%) and winter (5.7%). Seasonal results for individual waterbodies can be found in Table 2.

Waterbodies that had data collected for at least 4 years from 2007-2016 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 2016. 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	Lake Barkley Tailwater	94.6	Lake Barkley Tailwater	3.92	Cedar Creek Lake	4.87	Lake Beshear	22.98	Lake Barkley Tailwater	9.48	Lake Beshear	6.66
2	Kentucky River	87.5	Kentucky Lake	3.31	Lake Beshear	3.1	Lake Barkley Tailwater	17.16	Lake Beshear	8.98	Kentucky Lake	6.13
3	Herrington Lake	85.7	Lake Beshear	2.89	Grayson Lake	2.93	Lake Barkley	16.41	Kentucky Lake	8.87	Cedar Creek Lake	5.86
4	Nolin River Lake	85.1	Kentucky River	2.88	Yatesville Lake	2.89	Kentucky Lake	16.31	Lake Barkley	7.89	Green River Lake	5.45
5	Dale Hollow Lake	83.6	Lake Barkley	2.87	Laurel River Lake	2.87	Green River Lake	16.07	Laurel River Lake	7.4	Lake Barkley	5.41
6	Lake Beshear	81.9	Herrington Lake	2.8	Lake Barkley	2.75	Laurel River Lake	15.8	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	7.1	Lake Barkley Tailwater	5.4
7	Lake Barkley	81.2	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	2.79	Dale Hollow Lake	2.7	Barren River Lake	14.76	Dale Hollow Lake	6.38	Grayson Lake	5.21
8	Laurel River Lake	80.8	Nolin River Lake	2.75	Kentucky Lake	2.68	Nolin River Lake	14.25	Green River Lake	6.24	Barren River Lake	5.02
9	Ohio River	80.2	Laurel River Lake	2.58	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	2.54	Dale Hollow Lake	14.15	Nolin Lake	5.63	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	4.92
10	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	77.9	Green River Lake	2.54	Carr Creek Lake	2.46	Kentucky Lake Tailwater	13.39	Barren River Lake	4.78	Dale Hollow Lake	4.92
Statewide Average		75.6		2.69		2.45		13.83		6.6		4.7

Table 2. Summary of 2016 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	9	2	7	281	672	68.7	2.39	2.43	13.99	5.17
Summer	3	2	1	278	546	80.6	1.96	2.21	17.90	5.39
Fall	4	1	3	294	615	82.0	2.09	2.02	15.30	5.16
Total	16	5	11	853	1405	77.1	2.15	2.23	14.97	5.21
Cave Run Lake										
Spring	1	0	1	5	13	100.0	2.60	1.39	8.80	2.10
Summer	5	0	5	190	495	66.8	2.61	1.22	14.49	4.97
Fall	4	0	4	57	84	57.9	1.47	0.82	6.03	2.40
Total	10	0	10	252	592	65.5	2.35	1.17	10.46	3.66
Cedar Creek Lake										
Spring	3	0	3	34	15	38.2	0.44	5.09	8.67	6.19
Summer	2	0	2	24	12	37.5	0.50	4.60	7.76	5.38
Fall	1	0	1	6	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	6	0	6	64	27	34.4	0.42	4.87	8.31	5.86
Dale Hollow Lake										
Spring & Total	3	2	1	55	130	83.6	2.36	2.70	14.15	4.92
Grayson Lake										
Spring & Total	3	2	1	78	52	41.0	0.67	2.93	9.68	5.40
Green River Lake										
Spring	10	2	8	240	647	72.1	2.70	2.85	17.65	6.22
Summer	9	0	9	153	353	67.3	2.31	2.13	14.33	5.07
Total	19	2	17	393	1000	70.2	2.54	2.45	16.07	5.67
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	62	92	56.5	1.48	2.18	14.31	5.77
Summer	2	0	2	17	63	94.1	3.71	2.17	13.82	4.56
Fall	5	0	5	49	80	81.6	1.63	1.92	7.94	4.19
Winter	1	0	1	9	18	66.7	2.00	2.28	11.72	2.90
Total	12	0	12	137	253	70.8	1.85	2.10	11.36	4.67
Herrington Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	19	62	94.7	3.26	1.64	9.28	3.87
Summer	1	0	1	4	13	100.0	3.25	1.23	5.42	1.90
Fall	5	0	5	26	62	76.9	2.38	1.56	8.06	4.00
Total	10	0	10	49	137	85.7	2.80	1.57	8.28	3.71

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2016 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)
Kentucky Lake										
Spring	19	7	12	2588	7641	73.1	2.95	2.71	18.27	6.38
Summer	10	6	4	563	2675	89.7	4.75	2.62	13.39	5.57
Fall	1	1	0	360	1321	83.6	3.67	2.62	15.68	6.80
Winter	1	0	1	34	96	85.3	2.82	2.82	11.80	6.23
Total	31	14	17	3545	11733	77.0	3.31	2.68	16.31	6.13
Kentucky Lake Tailwater										
Summer	4	1	3	41	135	87.8	3.29	2.59	15.62	5.15
Fall	5	1	4	27	55	63.0	2.04	2.43	11.60	4.91
Total	9	2	7	68	190	77.9	2.79	2.54	13.39	5.02
Kentucky River										
Spring	3	0	3	12	39	91.7	3.25	1.33	6.56	2.78
Summer	2	0	2	12	30	83.3	2.50	1.36	6.44	2.65
Total	5	0	5	24	69	87.5	2.88	1.34	6.51	2.72
Kincaid Lake										
Spring	6	0	6	43	39	34.9	0.91	1.10	7.23	2.57
Summer	1	0	1	14	9	35.7	0.64	1.86	8.60	4.30
Total	7	0	7	57	48	35.1	0.84	1.24	8.48	2.81
Lake Barkley										
Spring	20	6	14	492	1456	81.9	2.96	2.80	16.19	5.07
Summer	29	8	21	755	2255	82.9	2.99	2.74	17.81	5.70
Fall	8	2	6	117	208	66.7	1.78	2.43	12.38	5.47
Total	57	16	41	1364	3919	81.2	2.87	2.75	16.41	5.45
Lake Barkley Tailwater										
Spring	1	1	0	8	31	100.0	3.88	2.02	20.01	5.65
Summer	2	0	2	21	89	95.2	4.24	2.67	18.52	5.42
Fall	1	1	0	8	25	87.5	3.13	2.03	11.60	5.16
Total	4	2	2	37	145	94.6	3.92	2.42	17.16	5.41
Lake Beshear										
Spring & Total	10	0	10	226	654	81.9	2.89	3.10	22.98	6.66

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2016 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)
Lake Cumberland										
Spring	8	3	5	404	793	71.5	1.96	2.49	15.06	4.60
Summer	2	0	2	60	75	53.3	1.25	2.16	7.15	4.14
Fall	1	0	1	46	72	69.6	1.57	2.10	14.38	4.56
Total	11	3	8	510	940	69.2	1.84	2.44	13.02	4.52
Laurel River Lake										
Spring	3	0	3	22	58	81.8	2.64	3.03	17.92	4.94
Summer	1	0	1	4	9	75.0	2.25	1.87	9.42	2.50
Total	4	0	4	26	67	80.8	2.58	2.87	15.80	4.33
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	5	0	5	113	297	83.2	2.63	2.16	13.33	4.67
Summer	4	0	4	77	200	87.0	2.60	2.04	13.43	4.81
Fall	4	0	4	165	452	84.8	2.74	1.97	14.76	5.07
Winter	2	0	2	48	159	87.5	3.31	2.06	17.19	4.83
Total	15	0	15	403	1108	85.1	2.75	2.05	14.25	4.84
Ohio River										
Spring	11	2	9	139	442	92.1	3.18	1.55	9.86	3.44
Summer	25	10	15	572	1227	79.0	2.15	1.40	7.13	3.44
Fall	9	1	8	192	464	75.0	2.42	1.69	7.57	2.89
Total	45	13	32	903	2133	80.2	2.36	1.50	7.85	3.34
Rough River Lake										
Spring	3	0	3	81	260	86.4	3.21	2.19	17.59	5.37
Summer	3	0	3	76	175	81.6	2.30	2.19	11.74	6.17
Fall	5	0	5	147	272	64.6	1.85	1.80	10.94	3.68
Winter	1	0	1	42	97	81.0	2.31	2.17	13.92	6.03
Total	12	0	12	346	804	75.4	2.32	2.06	13.05	4.92
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	2	0	2	44	107	79.5	2.43	2.42	15.55	4.36
Summer	4	0	4	62	151	82.3	2.44	2.30	10.97	3.57
Fall	4	1	3	50	37	44.0	0.74	2.29	7.03	3.33
Total	10	1	9	156	295	69.2	1.89	2.34	10.31	3.63
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	6	2	4	197	195	43.1	0.99	2.90	8.85	5.00
Summer	2	0	2	20	14	45.0	0.70	2.65	8.97	3.83
Total	8	2	6	217	209	43.3	0.96	2.89	8.88	4.71

Table 3. Historical trend data (2007-2016) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three tournaments had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Barren River Lake										Cave Run Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	40	32	27	27	24	28	21	17	15	16	3	--	3	--	--	--	3	--	3	10
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.57	3.95	3.11	2.71	3.07	2.61	2.91	3.03	2.62	2.15	2.9	--	0.26	--	--	--	0.84	--	0.15	2.35
Percent successful	55.7	58.2	71.8	84.9	91.4	74.2	84.3	83.0	81.3	77.1	68	--	37.7	--	--	--	52.3	--	12.8	65.5
Average weight per bass	2.34	2.25	2.28	2.31	2.19	2.41	2.29	2.21	2.20	2.23	0.69	--	2.7	--	--	--	1.58	--	2.54	1.17
Average weight of big bass	5.02	5.03	4.82	5.15	5.29	5.19	5.21	5.82	4.68	5.21	2.06	--	5.34	--	--	--	4.85	--	3.49	3.66
Average 1 st place weight	14.13	13.32	13.24	15.18	15.48	15.91	16.07	15.80	14.66	14.76	3.22	--	13.48	--	--	--	5.53	--	4.37	9.33

Variable	Cedar Creek Lake										Grayson Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	--	6	--	5	15	15	--	--	--	6	--	--	--	--	--	--	4	3	5	3
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	--	0.25	--	0.18	0.39	0.78	--	--	--	0.42	--	--	--	--	--	--	0.25	0.38	0.23	0.67
Percent successful	--	5.6	--	15.4	22.2	21.5	--	--	--	34.4	--	--	--	--	--	--	19.7	26.0	15.4	41.0
Average weight per bass	--	4.43	--	4.85	3.48	2.97	--	--	--	4.87	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.46	2.45	2.99	2.93
Average weight of big bass	--	5.21	--	5.36	4.66	4.44	--	--	--	5.86	--	--	--	--	--	--	3.34	5.02	3.29	5.40
Average 1 st place weight	--	5.21	--	5.51	6.39	6.04	--	--	--	5.93	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.39	7.88	6.21	9.68

Variable	Green River Lake										Guist Creek Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	26	20	17	22	16	7	33	9	3	19	8	10	13	7	--	--	--	--	--	12
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.34	1.21	2.87	2.63	2.31	3.21	3.13	2.61	2.75	2.54	2.08	0.66	1.55	1.45	--	--	--	--	--	1.85
Percent successful	49.0	42.8	44.7	64.9	63.8	87.0	81.9	67.3	74.5	70.2	84.5	37.7	41.9	67.7	--	--	--	--	--	70.8
Average weight per bass	1.66	2.05	2.29	2.23	2.25	2.23	2.32	2.52	2.26	2.45	1.82	1.93	2.01	2.02	--	--	--	--	--	2.10
Average weight of big bass	4.82	5.22	5.32	5.00	4.66	4.13	5.28	5.44	4.96	5.67	5.36	4.25	4.63	5.13	--	--	--	--	--	4.67
Average 1 st place weight	10.92	11.53	14.00	13.82	11.55	11.10	14.53	14.76	14.19	16.07	10.46	7.75	7.78	9.81	--	--	--	--	--	11.36

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2007-2016) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three tournaments had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Herrington Lake										Kentucky Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	3	7	--	3	6	5	--	--	--	10	36	46	67	59	60	24	55	17	23	31
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.93	1.85	--	3.02	2.26	3.55	--	--	--	2.80	1.78	2.74	3.12	2.14	3.29	4.06	3.86	2.12	2.62	3.31
Percent successful	46.5	69.2	--	95.7	64.0	89.4	--	--	--	85.7	59.0	87.1	70.4	71.7	72.4	80.9	73.2	64.2	72.0	77.0
Average weight per bass	1.72	1.42	--	1.58	1.81	1.63	--	--	--	1.57	2.58	3.20	3.66	2.80	2.59	2.60	2.85	3.31	2.34	2.68
Average weight of big bass	4.31	4.72	--	4.13	4.16	3.93	--	--	--	3.71	5.52	5.89	5.34	5.54	5.45	6.12	5.71	5.54	6.01	6.13
Average 1 st place weight	5.35	10.36	--	12.02	11.81	9.20	--	--	--	8.28	11.86	14.17	13.31	15.97	14.09	15.11	18.43	15.92	15.20	16.31
Variable	Kentucky River										Kincaid Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	--	5	3	3	--	3	--	--	--	5	5	14	17	11	7	3	--	--	--	7
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	--	1.52	3.07	0.88	--	1.48	--	--	--	2.88	1.82	0.72	0.87	1.18	1.42	1.16	--	--	--	0.84
Percent successful	--	55.9	75.9	40.8	--	59.6	--	--	--	87.5	69.6	29.5	27.1	54.1	60	58.1	--	--	--	35.1
Average weight per bass	--	1.35	1.4	1.47	--	1.44	--	--	--	1.34	2.06	1.56	1.72	1.94	1.42	1.95	--	--	--	1.24
Average weight of big bass	--	3.13	3.28	3.63	--	3.05	--	--	--	2.72	4.23	3.77	3.79	4.56	4.26	3.43	--	--	--	2.81
Average 1 st place weight	--	10.5	10.04	6.53	--	8.56	--	--	--	6.51	8.54	7.94	7.63	11.9	7.42	5.96	--	--	--	8.48
Variable	Lake Barkley										Lake Beshear									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	37	35	48	70	67	14	28	29	32	57	--	--	9	8	6	9	11	9	6	10
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.74	1.68	3.33	2.17	2.63	3.48	2.95	2.93	2.33	2.87	--	--	3.53	3.07	2.71	2.89	2.24	2.95	3.31	2.89
Percent successful	61.6	71	65.7	70.4	75.3	80.8	80.3	80.6	77.6	81.2	--	--	82.9	83.1	81.1	80.4	74	79.6	86.3	81.9
Average weight per bass	2.62	2.76	2.69	2.76	2.49	2.58	2.77	2.76	2.91	2.75	--	--	3.47	2.94	3.15	2.96	2.96	2.93	2.97	3.1
Average weight of big bass	5.45	5.37	5.51	5.16	4.79	5.42	5.54	5.76	5.41	5.45	--	--	6.58	6	6.84	6.3	5.83	5.29	6.41	6.66
Average 1 st place weight	14.2	14.87	15.25	14.67	13.66	16.53	18.04	17.17	15.1	16.41	--	--	17.53	16.98	20.11	18.01	22.29	15.84	22.71	22.98

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2007-2016) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three tournaments had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Lake Cumberland										Laurel River Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	9	15	14	10	10	7	17	3	3	11	--	4	4	--	--	4	--	--	--	4
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.62	0.84	3.28	1.90	1.40	2.28	1.81	1.78	2.46	1.84	--	1.59	1.23	--	--	1.95	--	--	--	2.58
Percent successful	73.0	43.6	63.7	67.7	58.3	72.4	62.7	67.8	80.7	69.2	--	61.8	35.7	--	--	77.9	--	--	--	80.8
Average weight per bass	2.55	2.57	2.26	1.98	2.09	2.01	2.25	2.05	2.27	2.44	--	2.8	3	--	--	2.3	--	--	--	2.87
Average weight of big bass	4.88	4.72	5.20	4.79	4.97	4.32	5.02	4.63	5.60	4.52	--	5.35	6.84	--	--	3.99	--	--	--	4.33
Average 1 st place weight	13.84	10.78	16.85	15.24	11.41	15.18	15.12	13.68	18.01	13.02	--	9.9	14.16	--	--	11.75	--	--	--	15.8
Variable	Nolin River Lake										Ohio River									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	29	25	21	22	14	20	21	4	--	15	15	45	34	49	32	18	20	21	12	45
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.21	1.18	1.85	2.42	3.08	2.87	2.27	2.65	--	2.75	1.25	1.32	3.20	1.63	2.02	3.33	2.95	1.55	1.61	2.36
Percent successful	56.4	64.5	76.3	77.7	89.4	88.4	84.7	77.5	--	85.1	33.8	62.2	66.1	65.2	68.3	92.7	80.9	66.7	64.8	80.2
Average weight per bass	1.75	1.71	2.03	1.99	2.03	1.93	1.79	1.83	--	2.05	1.57	1.47	1.38	1.35	1.36	1.43	1.40	1.53	1.37	1.50
Average weight of big bass	4.48	4.74	4.99	5.00	4.60	4.62	4.69	4.50	--	4.84	3.98	2.92	3.52	3.00	3.26	3.30	3.26	3.39	3.95	3.34
Average 1 st place weight	10.58	9.22	8.24	12.05	11.89	11.78	11.00	12.14	--	14.25	7.83	8.06	9.20	7.07	8.26	9.41	8.85	7.77	8.65	7.85
Variable	Rough River Lake										Taylorsville Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	25	17	23	24	17	14	21	--	--	12	6	5	23	24	20	21	21	--	3	10
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.08	0.85	1.7	2.27	2.36	2.26	2.48	--	--	2.32	0.38	0.63	0.52	0.65	0.82	0.73	0.89	--	3.07	1.89
Percent successful	52	53.6	66.4	79	76.2	70.9	70.2	--	--	75.4	27.1	28.6	29.4	37.6	46.5	44.2	51.3	--	80	69.2
Average weight per bass	3.9	1.87	1.82	1.75	2.04	2.18	1.97	--	--	2.06	2.56	2.46	2.3	2.1	2.15	2.21	2.15	--	2.76	2.34
Average weight of big bass	5.12	4.46	4.42	4.04	4.64	5.2	5.3	--	--	4.92	3.38	3.28	3.69	3.33	3.85	3.91	3.88	--	4.14	3.63
Average 1 st place weight	11.02	9.96	9.02	10.61	11.92	14.01	16.11	--	--	13.05	5.66	6.81	6.16	6.01	7.74	12.84	14.47	--	15.91	10.31

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2007-2016) describing black bass angler success on Kentucky waterbodies as reported from tournament directors. A minimum of three tournaments had to be recorded for the lake to appear in this table.

Variable	Yatesville Lake									
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
No. of tournaments	4	--	4	--	--	--	6	6	9	8
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	0.46	--	1.16	--	--	--	1.42	0.59	1.17	0.96
Percent successful	28.9	--	38.6	--	--	--	65.9	38.7	42.6	43.3
Average weight per bass	2.17	--	2.15	--	--	--	2.34	2.61	2.37	2.89
Average weight of big bass	3.39	--	3.82	--	--	--	4.45	4.16	3.66	4.71
Average 1 st place weight	5.29	--	6.46	--	--	--	11.72	8.86	6.73	8.88

"--" 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 25 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.