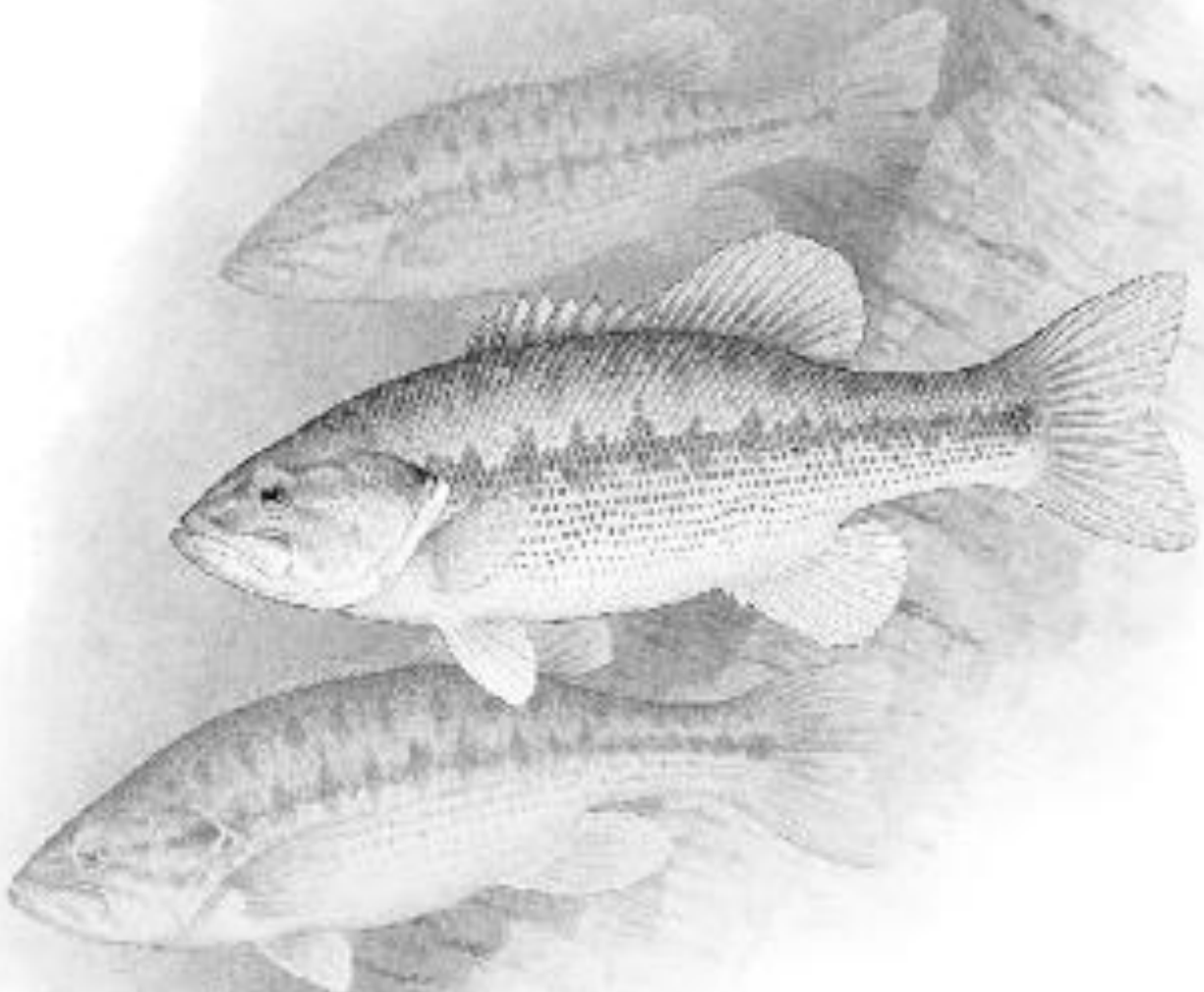




Bass Tournament Results 2017



**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 2017 program participants. The data that each of these organizations provided is valuable for the completion of this publication.

2017 Program Participants

- American Bass Anglers Inc.
- Anglers Outpost & Marine
- Bass Addicts
- Barboursville Bass Club
- Barn Owl Classic
- Bass For Gas
- Brandeis Machinery
- Bluegrass Bass Club
- Butler County Bassmasters
- David Heard Memorial Fishing Tournament
- Early Bird Bassmasters
- Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail
- FLW
- FLW Fishing
- FLW Outdoors- College Fishing
- FLW Outdoors
- Green River Bass Club
- Green River Chapter/QF
- Illini Team Trail
- Illinois Bass Anglers Assn.
- Illinois Bass Federation
- Indy Bass Club
- Jet-A-Marina
- Ken-Bar Bass Club Inc.
- Kentucky Bass Federation
- Kentucky Lake Deaf Bass Angler Inc.
- Marshall University Bass Fishing Team
- Mid-State Illinois Bass Anglers
- Monday Morning Big Bass
- Montgomery Co. HS Fishing Team
- North Bullitt Bass Club
- North Oldham HS Fishing Team
- Outdoors in the Bluegrass
- Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Prestonsburg Healthcare Center
- Shimano/G Loomis
- The Steel City Bassmasters
- Trail of Dreams Tournament Series
- United Automobile Workers Local 862
- USA Bassin Tournaments
- USA Bassin- Beaver Lake Division
- USA Bassin- Barkley Lake Summer Division
- USA Bassin- Cave Run Division
- USA Bassin- Cave Run Spring Division
- USA Bassin- Cedar Creek Division
- USA Bassin- Team Tournament Trail
- 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 18 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:

David Baker
KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
Fisheries Lab
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY. 40601
Phone: 800-858-1549 ext. 4470

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

In 2017, 528 tournaments were scheduled on the KDFWR tournament-scheduling site. Of those tournaments, only 196 (37.1%) reported their catch data. Additional tournament data was collected online increasing the sample size to 391 bass tournaments. Of the 391 events, there was at least one tournament hosted at 29 different water bodies, which included 14 large ($\geq 1,000$ acres) reservoirs, 11 smaller (< 1000 acre) lakes and 4 river systems. However, only 19 of the 29 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 2017 was 7.6 hrs with tournaments ranging from 4.0- 12.0 hrs. The majority of tournaments lasted only 1 day (91.9%) while 2-day (6.9%), 3-day (0.9%) and 4-day (0.3%) events were less common. Ninety-one percent of tournaments occurred during daylight hours compared to the 9.0% of tournaments occurring at night. Team format tournaments (2 anglers fishing for a single limit) represented 83.9% of reported tournaments while individual angler tournaments comprised 16.1% of the events. The average tournament in 2017 average 29 angling-units (number of individual anglers or teams). Data collected determined that 87.5% 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, 76.7% of anglers successfully weighed in a bass during a tournament. The average angling-unit weighed in 2.41 keeper size bass that had an average weight of 2.59 lbs. The average statewide winning weight based on a standard 8-hour day was 13.34 lbs with the average angling unit weighing in 6.24 lbs. On average, only 28.7% of all angling-units successfully weighed in a full limit of bass. The average big bass per tournament statewide was 4.71 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 2017 were Kentucky Lake Tailwater (91.5%), Nolin River Lake (87.1%) and Barren River Lake (86.4%).

Kentucky Lake Tailwater (4.00), Lake Cumberland (3.83) and Nolin River Lake (3.16) 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 (4.48 lbs); keep in mind this lake has a trophy bass regulation allowing only 1 bass over 20 inches to be weighed in. Kentucky Lake (3.22) 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 20.27 lbs, followed by Lake Barkley (17.25 lbs) and Kentucky Lake Tailwater (16.41 lbs). Eight 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 Kentucky Lake Tailwater (10.35 lbs), Lake Cumberland (9.32 lbs) and Lake Beshear (7.69 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 (47.8%) and summer (36.6%), followed by fall (14.3%) and winter (1.3%). Seasonal results for individual waterbodies can be found in Table 2.

Waterbodies that had data collected for at least 4 years from 2008-2017 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 2017. 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	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 91.5	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 4.00	Cedar Creek Lake 4.48	Lake Beshear 20.27	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 10.35	Lake Beshear 6.23
2	Nolin River Lake 87.1	Lake Cumberland 3.83	Kentucky Lake 3.22	Lake Barkley 17.25	Lake Cumberland 9.32	Kentucky Lake 6.19
3	Barren River Lake 86.4	Nolin River Lake 3.16	Lake Beshear 2.93	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 16.41	Lake Beshear 7.69	Rough River Lake 5.84
4	Lake Cumberland 83.5	Green River Lake 2.80	Lake Barkley 2.92	Kentucky Lake 16.34	Kentucky Lake 7.62	Lake Barkley 5.58
5	Laurel River Lake 82.4	Barren River Lake 2.78	Laurel River Lake 2.82	Dale Hollow Lake 16.05	Dale Hollow Lake 7.32	Green River Lake 5.49
6	Rough River Lake 82.1	Dale Hollow Lake 2.77	Beaver Lake 2.69	Green River Lake 16.00	Laurel River Lake 7.16	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 5.17
7	Dale Hollow Lake 81.6	Lake Beshear 2.62	Dale Hollow Lake 2.65	Rough River Lake 15.95	Lake Barkley 6.90	Dale Hollow Lake 5.14
8	Kentucky Lake 80.9	Rough River Lake 2.57	Grayson Lake 2.59	Barren River Lake 14.16	Green River Lake 6.60	Cedar Creek Lake 5.12
9	Green River Lake 78.2	Laurel River Lake 2.54	Kentucky Lake Tailwater 2.58	Laurel River Lake 12.76	Nolin River Lake 5.93	Barren River Lake 4.82
10	Ohio River 77.6	Kentucky Lake 2.37	Taylorsville Lake 2.46	Lake Cumberland 12.12	Rough River Lake 5.70	Yatesville Lake 4.75
Statewide Average	76.7	2.41	2.59	13.34	6.24	4.71

Table 2. Summary of 2017 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	10	2	8	232	729	90.5	3.14	2.17	15.62	4.73
Summer	5	1	4	294	762	80.3	2.59	1.81	14.20	5.15
Fall	6	2	4	596	1,626	87.8	2.73	1.96	12.51	4.70
Total	21	5	16	1,122	3,117	86.4	2.78	1.97	14.16	4.82
Beaver Lake										
Spring	11	0	11	92	38	29.3	0.41	2.74	6.01	4.36
Summer	2	0	2	14	2	14.3	0.14	1.63	1.63	1.63
Total	13	0	13	106	40	27.4	0.38	2.69	5.22	3.86
Cave Run Lake										
Spring	10	2	8	142	290	65.5	2.04	1.24	7.84	3.67
Summer	5	0	5	76	182	75.0	2.39	1.28	9.97	4.37
Fall	1	0	1	20	39	75.0	1.95	0.92	6.76	4.12
Total	16	2	14	238	511	69.3	2.15	1.23	8.44	3.92
Cedar Creek Lake										
Spring	6	0	6	74	17	17.6	0.23	4.57	8.07	5.32
Summer	3	1	2	48	8	16.7	0.17	4.27	4.79	4.79
Fall	1	0	1	5	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	10	1	9	127	25	16.5	0.20	4.48	6.84	5.12
Dale Hollow Lake										
Spring & Total	4	2	2	87	241	81.6	2.77	2.65	16.05	5.14
Grayson Lake										
Spring	3	1	2	53	13	18.9	0.25	2.70	7.26	5.11
Summer	1	0	1	7	1	14.3	0.14	1.15	1.15	1.15
Total	4	1	3	60	14	18.3	0.23	2.59	5.73	4.12
Green River Lake										
Spring	13	1	12	376	1,072	77.4	2.85	2.57	19.49	6.27
Summer	13	1	12	252	677	78.6	2.69	2.07	15.17	4.71
Fall	2	0	2	43	133	83.7	3.09	1.99	14.23	5.40
Total	28	2	26	671	1,882	78.2	2.80	2.35	16.00	5.49
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	7	0	7	97	188	72.2	1.94	2.57	14.68	5.78
Summer	6	0	6	45	93	77.8	2.07	2.11	9.52	3.87
Fall	5	0	5	42	97	81.0	2.31	1.85	11.34	3.80
Total	18	0	18	184	378	75.5	2.05	2.27	12.03	4.59

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2017 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	15	5	10	1,954	5,964	83.4	3.04	3.34	19.55	6.67
Summer	13	8	5	1,094	2,032	84.0	1.86	2.91	14.07	5.71
Fall	6	5	1	648	769	68.4	1.19	3.10	13.46	6.03
Total	34	18	16	3,696	8,765	80.9	2.37	3.22	16.34	6.19
Kentucky Lake Tailwater										
Spring	8	0	8	46	220	95.7	4.78	2.69	17.31	5.29
Summer	12	0	12	94	364	91.5	3.87	2.56	16.23	5.08
Fall	2	0	2	18	48	77.8	2.67	2.36	13.52	5.14
Winter	1	0	1	6	25	100.0	4.17	2.53	17.28	5.37
Total	23	0	23	164	657	91.5	4.01	2.58	16.41	5.17
Lake Barkley										
Spring	27	9	18	779	1,903	77.7	2.44	2.98	18.47	5.73
Summer	18	4	14	315	795	74.9	2.52	2.82	18.20	5.37
Fall	8	2	6	140	217	67.9	1.55	2.80	11.69	5.48
Total	53	15	38	1,234	2,915	75.9	2.36	2.92	17.25	5.58
Lake Beshear										
Spring & Total	6	0	6	127	333	76.4	2.62	2.93	20.27	6.23
Lake Cumberland										
Spring	13	4	9	739	2,900	85.0	3.92	2.48	13.66	4.99
Summer	5	0	5	13	19	76.9	1.46	2.09	5.75	3.05
Fall	1	0	1	92	316	72.8	1.72	1.95	11.76	6.03
Total	19	4	15	844	3,235	83.5	3.83	2.43	12.12	4.62
Laurel River Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	59	157	84.7	2.66	2.86	15.69	4.98
Summer	2	0	2	13	28	69.2	2.15	2.65	11.43	4.06
Fall	1	0	1	2	3	100.0	1.50	1.98	3.69	2.24
Total	7	0	7	74	188	82.4	2.54	2.82	12.76	4.32
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	6	0	6	95	317	86.3	3.34	1.84	10.69	3.75
Summer	8	0	8	178	591	90.4	3.32	1.89	13.43	5.04
Fall	4	0	4	109	294	82.6	2.70	1.85	11.46	4.56
Winter	1	0	1	20	67	85.0	3.35	2.05	11.98	4.38
Total	19	0	19	402	1,269	87.1	3.16	1.88	12.07	4.50

Table 2 (con't). Summary of 2017 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)
Ohio River										
Spring	14	3	11	148	329	73.0	2.22	1.50	8.12	3.09
Summer	16	7	9	244	559	80.7	2.29	1.32	6.84	2.89
Fall	5	0	5	41	71	75.6	1.73	1.20	4.77	2.24
Total	35	10	25	433	959	77.6	2.21	1.38	7.05	2.87
Rough River Lake										
Spring	4	0	4	136	329	83.8	2.42	1.98	15.24	5.88
Summer	5	0	5	117	345	82.1	2.95	2.38	16.54	5.61
Fall	2	0	2	57	141	78.9	2.47	2.27	15.33	6.36
Winter	1	0	1	47	104	80.9	2.21	2.29	17.02	5.77
Total	12	0	12	357	919	82.1	2.57	2.21	15.95	5.84
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	12	0	12	284	270	58.1	2.00	2.61	11.62	4.49
Summer	18	0	18	474	411	62.2	2.39	2.37	11.25	3.76
Fall	11	0	11	151	114	45.7	0.75	2.39	9.07	3.51
Total	41	0	41	909	795	58.2	1.84	2.46	10.24	3.91
Wilgreen Lake										
Summer & Total	3	0	3	25	61	96.0	2.44	1.70	8.11	3.40
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	8	1	7	229	376	53.3	1.64	2.38	11.15	4.41
Summer	2	0	2	25	109	76.0	1.86	2.40	13.95	6.10
Total	10	1	9	254	485	55.5	1.68	2.39	11.92	4.75

Table 3. Historical trend data (2008-2017) 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									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	32	27	27	24	28	21	17	15	16	21	--	3	--	--	--	3	--	3	10	16
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	3.95	3.11	2.71	3.07	2.61	2.91	3.03	2.62	2.15	2.77	--	0.26	--	--	--	0.84	--	0.15	2.35	2.15
Percent successful	58.2	71.8	84.9	91.4	74.2	84.3	83.0	81.3	77.1	86.4	--	37.7	--	--	--	52.3	--	12.8	65.5	69.3
Average weight per bass	2.25	2.28	2.31	2.19	2.41	2.29	2.21	2.20	2.23	1.97	--	2.7	--	--	--	1.58	--	2.54	1.17	1.23
Average weight of big bass	5.03	4.82	5.15	5.29	5.19	5.21	5.82	4.68	5.21	4.82	--	5.34	--	--	--	4.85	--	3.49	3.66	3.92
Average 1 st place weight	13.32	13.24	15.18	15.48	15.91	16.07	15.80	14.66	14.76	14.16	--	13.48	--	--	--	5.53	--	4.37	9.33	8.44

Variable	Cedar Creek Lake										Grayson Lake									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	6	--	5	15	15	--	--	--	6	10	--	--	--	--	--	4	3	5	3	4
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	0.25	--	0.18	0.39	0.78	--	--	--	0.42	0.20	--	--	--	--	--	0.25	0.38	0.23	0.67	0.23
Percent successful	5.6	--	15.4	22.2	21.5	--	--	--	34.4	16.5	--	--	--	--	--	19.7	26.0	15.4	41.0	18.3
Average weight per bass	4.43	--	4.85	3.48	2.97	--	--	--	4.87	4.48	--	--	--	--	--	2.46	2.45	2.99	2.93	2.59
Average weight of big bass	5.21	--	5.36	4.66	4.44	--	--	--	5.86	5.12	--	--	--	--	--	3.34	5.02	3.29	5.40	4.12
Average 1 st place weight	5.21	--	5.51	6.39	6.04	--	--	--	5.93	6.84	--	--	--	--	--	5.39	7.88	6.21	9.68	5.73

Variable	Green River Lake										Guist Creek Lake									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	20	17	22	16	7	33	9	3	19	28	10	13	7	--	--	--	--	--	12	18
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.21	2.87	2.63	2.31	3.21	3.13	2.61	2.75	2.54	2.80	0.66	1.55	1.45	--	--	--	--	--	1.85	2.05
Percent successful	42.8	44.7	64.9	63.8	87.0	81.9	67.3	74.5	70.2	78.2	37.7	41.9	67.7	--	--	--	--	--	70.8	75.5
Average weight per bass	2.05	2.29	2.23	2.25	2.23	2.32	2.52	2.26	2.45	2.35	1.93	2.01	2.02	--	--	--	--	--	2.10	2.27
Average weight of big bass	5.22	5.32	5.00	4.66	4.13	5.28	5.44	4.96	5.67	5.49	4.25	4.63	5.13	--	--	--	--	--	4.67	4.59
Average 1 st place weight	11.53	14.00	13.82	11.55	11.10	14.53	14.76	14.19	16.07	16.00	7.75	7.78	9.81	--	--	--	--	--	11.36	12.03

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2008-2017) 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									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	7	--	3	6	5	--	--	--	10	--	46	67	59	60	24	55	17	23	31	34
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.85	--	3.02	2.26	3.55	--	--	--	2.80	--	2.74	3.12	2.14	3.29	4.06	3.86	2.12	2.62	3.31	2.37
Percent successful	69.2	--	95.7	64.0	89.4	--	--	--	85.7	--	87.1	70.4	71.7	72.4	80.9	73.2	64.2	72.0	77.0	80.9
Average weight per bass	1.42	--	1.58	1.81	1.63	--	--	--	1.57	--	3.20	3.66	2.80	2.59	2.60	2.85	3.31	2.34	2.68	3.22
Average weight of big bass	4.72	--	4.13	4.16	3.93	--	--	--	3.71	--	5.89	5.34	5.54	5.45	6.12	5.71	5.54	6.01	6.13	6.19
Average 1 st place weight	10.36	--	12.02	11.81	9.20	--	--	--	8.28	--	14.17	13.31	15.97	14.09	15.11	18.43	15.92	15.20	16.31	16.34
Variable	Kentucky River										Kincaid Lake									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	5	3	3	--	3	--	--	--	5	--	14	17	11	7	3	--	--	--	7	--
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.52	3.07	0.88	--	1.48	--	--	--	2.88	--	0.72	0.87	1.18	1.42	1.16	--	--	--	0.84	--
Percent successful	55.9	75.9	40.8	--	59.6	--	--	--	87.5	--	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	--	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	--	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	--	7.94	7.63	11.9	7.42	5.96	--	--	--	8.48	--
Variable	Lake Barkley										Lake Beshear									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	35	48	70	67	14	28	29	32	57	53	--	9	8	6	9	11	9	6	10	6
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.68	3.33	2.17	2.63	3.48	2.95	2.93	2.33	2.87	2.36	--	3.53	3.07	2.71	2.89	2.24	2.95	3.31	2.89	2.62
Percent successful	71	65.7	70.4	75.3	80.8	80.3	80.6	77.6	81.2	75.9	--	82.9	83.1	81.1	80.4	74.0	79.6	86.3	81.9	76.4
Average weight per bass	2.76	2.69	2.76	2.49	2.58	2.77	2.76	2.91	2.75	2.92	--	3.47	2.94	3.15	2.96	2.96	2.93	2.97	3.10	2.93
Average weight of big bass	5.37	5.51	5.16	4.79	5.42	5.54	5.76	5.41	5.45	5.58	--	6.58	6.00	6.84	6.3	5.83	5.29	6.41	6.66	6.23
Average 1 st place weight	14.87	15.25	14.67	13.66	16.53	18.04	17.17	15.10	16.41	17.25	--	17.53	16.98	20.11	18.01	22.29	15.84	22.71	22.98	20.27

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2008-2017) 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									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	15	14	10	10	7	17	3	3	11	19	4	4	--	--	4	--	--	--	4	7
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	0.84	3.28	1.90	1.40	2.28	1.81	1.78	2.46	1.84	3.83	1.59	1.23	--	--	1.95	--	--	--	2.58	2.54
Percent successful	43.6	63.7	67.7	58.3	72.4	62.7	67.8	80.7	69.2	83.5	61.8	35.7	--	--	77.9	--	--	--	80.8	82.4
Average weight per bass	2.57	2.26	1.98	2.09	2.01	2.25	2.05	2.27	2.44	2.43	2.8	3	--	--	2.3	--	--	--	2.87	2.82
Average weight of big bass	4.72	5.20	4.79	4.97	4.32	5.02	4.63	5.60	4.52	4.62	5.35	6.84	--	--	3.99	--	--	--	4.33	4.32
Average 1 st place weight	10.78	16.85	15.24	11.41	15.18	15.12	13.68	18.01	13.02	12.12	9.9	14.16	--	--	11.75	--	--	--	15.8	12.76
Variable	Nolin River Lake										Ohio River									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	25	21	22	14	20	21	4	--	15	19	45	34	49	32	18	20	21	12	45	35
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	1.18	1.85	2.42	3.08	2.87	2.27	2.65	--	2.75	3.16	1.32	3.20	1.63	2.02	3.33	2.95	1.55	1.61	2.36	2.21
Percent successful	64.5	76.3	77.7	89.4	88.4	84.7	77.5	--	85.1	87.1	62.2	66.1	65.2	68.3	92.7	80.9	66.7	64.8	80.2	77.6
Average weight per bass	1.71	2.03	1.99	2.03	1.93	1.79	1.83	--	2.05	1.88	1.47	1.38	1.35	1.36	1.43	1.40	1.53	1.37	1.50	1.38
Average weight of big bass	4.74	4.99	5.00	4.60	4.62	4.69	4.50	--	4.84	4.50	2.92	3.52	3.00	3.26	3.30	3.26	3.39	3.95	3.34	2.87
Average 1 st place weight	9.22	8.24	12.05	11.89	11.78	11.00	12.14	--	14.25	12.07	8.06	9.20	7.07	8.26	9.41	8.85	7.77	8.65	7.85	7.05
Variable	Rough River Lake										Taylorsville Lake									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	17	23	24	17	14	21	--	--	12	12	5	23	24	20	21	21	--	3	10	41
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	0.85	1.70	2.27	2.36	2.26	2.48	--	--	2.32	2.57	0.63	0.52	0.65	0.82	0.73	0.89	--	3.07	1.89	1.84
Percent successful	53.6	66.4	79.0	76.2	70.9	70.2	--	--	75.4	82.1	28.6	29.4	37.6	46.5	44.2	51.3	--	80	69.2	58.2
Average weight per bass	1.87	1.82	1.75	2.04	2.18	1.97	--	--	2.06	2.21	2.46	2.30	2.10	2.15	2.21	2.15	--	2.76	2.34	2.46
Average weight of big bass	4.46	4.42	4.04	4.64	5.2	5.3	--	--	4.92	5.84	3.28	3.69	3.33	3.85	3.91	3.88	--	4.14	3.63	3.91
Average 1 st place weight	9.96	9.02	10.61	11.92	14.01	16.11	--	--	13.05	15.95	6.81	6.16	6.01	7.74	12.84	14.47	--	15.91	10.31	10.24

"--" Indicates less than 3 tournaments were reported

Table 3 (con't). Historical trend data (2008-2017) 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									
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
No. of tournaments	--	4	--	--	--	6	6	9	8	10
Average # of keeper bass caught per boat	--	1.16	--	--	--	1.42	0.59	1.17	0.96	1.91
Percent successful	--	38.6	--	--	--	65.9	38.7	42.6	43.3	55.5
Average weight per bass	--	2.15	--	--	--	2.34	2.61	2.37	2.89	2.39
Average weight of big bass	--	3.82	--	--	--	4.45	4.16	3.66	4.71	4.75
Average 1 st place weight	--	6.46	--	--	--	11.72	8.86	6.73	8.88	11.92

--" 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.