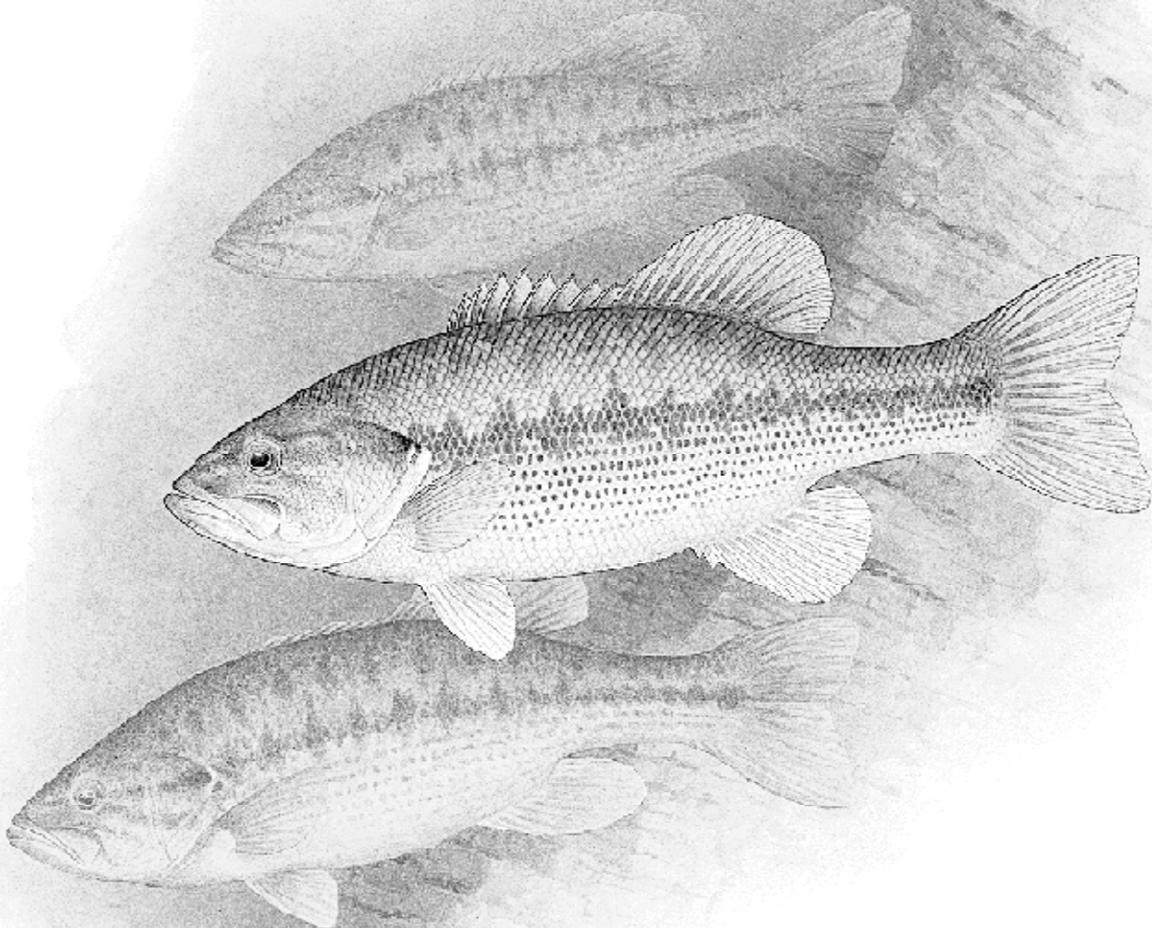




Bass Tournament Results 2009



**Kentucky Department of Fish
and Wildlife Resources**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participation in the Tournament Reporting Program totaled 355 black bass fishing tournaments in 2009. This was an increase over the 308 reported tournaments in 2008 and a new high total since the program started in 1999. For other years, the total number of reported black bass fishing tournaments ranged from anywhere between 110 in 1999 to 284 in 2007. Catch data statistics were obtained from 61% of all registered tournaments in 2009. This was also an increase from the previous high of 58% observed in 2008. Black bass tournament information was obtained from 15 different large reservoirs (> 1000 acres), 10 small lakes (< 1000 acres), the Ohio, Cumberland, Kentucky, and Tennessee rivers.

The vast majority of black bass tournaments in 2009 reported both the creel limits and size limits that were used during their tournaments. Most tournaments followed the regulations set for the specific water body that was fished, although some enforced more stringent regulations. Creel limits of 5 or 6-fish were used by 91.6% of all black bass tournaments; however, 1.7% and 5.1% reported using creel limits of 1 and 3 fish, respectively. Twelve inch and 15-inch minimum size limits were the most commonly used. The percentage of bass anglers who reported catching a limit during a tournament decreased slightly from 16.2% in 2008 to 14.2% in 2009, but it was still higher than the low of 11.9% that was reported in 2007. The average length of a bass fishing tournament was 8.5 hours in 2009, which was the same average length of tournaments in 2008. This is still down from those reported in 2007 (9.1 hours). Tournament length ranged from 3.0 to 29.0 hours in 2009. Obviously, a 29.0 hour tournament is comprised of a 3-day tournament that was predominantly hosted by larger tournament organizations.

By season, both spring and summer again hosted the majority of the 2009 bass fishing tournaments with 45.3% and 33.6%, respectively. Bass tournaments held during the fall and winter comprised 18.5% and 2.3% of the total number of tournaments, respectively. Daytime tournaments comprised 86.0% of all bass fishing tournaments, while night tournaments comprised 14.0%. Approximately 83.3% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In 2009, a total of 15,549 bass anglers caught 22,587 bass in registered bass tournaments in Kentucky (these numbers are based only upon those tournaments that supplied the KDFWR with catch information). The average tournament had a total of 44 anglers. The average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 13.30 pounds. This was an increase from that in 2008 (13.14 pounds), 2006 (11.1 pounds), 2005, and (8.12 pounds) but was still lower than those reported in 2007 (13.80 pounds). The largest 1st place weight (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) was 29.00 pounds and was registered at Kentucky Lake on March 14, 2009. The biggest bass (8.51 pounds) caught in 2009 was from Guist Creek Lake on April 11, 2009.

Lake Beshear was the lake to beat in 2009 when it came to the rankings for all the tournament waters. It was in the top 2 for all six categories and ranked highest in angler success (79.7%), hours to catch a \geq 4.0 pound bass (16 hours), hours to catch a \geq 6.0 pound bass (78 hours), and average 1st place weight per 8 hour tournament (20.73 lbs). It ranked second in average weight of bass (3.40 lbs) and only trailed Cedar Creek Lake (4.91 lbs) because of the latter's 20 inch minimum size limit and thus its greater tendency to host "Big Fish" tournaments that have a 1 fish creel. Lake Beshear also ranked 2nd in catch rate (0.24 fish/hour) to the Kentucky River (0.25 fish/hour), which had a high catch rate, but was last in average weight of bass (1.41 lbs). Lake Beshear broke the mold from past years where a high success and catch rate usually meant smaller bass with a low average weight. When it comes to numbers, Kentucky Lake still saw the most bass at \geq 4.0 pounds (808 fish) and bass at \geq 6.0 pound (73 fish) in 66 total tournaments. For the average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament), again Lake Beshear was first with 20.73 pounds, but rounding out the top 5 was Kentucky Lake (16.86 lbs), Lake Cumberland (16.85 lbs), Green River Lake (16.39 lbs), and Lake Barkley (16.18 lbs).

Anglers, in 2010, will likely continue to see Lake Beshear produce bass numbers that are usually associated with large reservoirs. Also, perennial favorites, like Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Lake Cumberland will probably see good tournament results. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy, we suggest Lake Beshear, Lake Malone, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Cedar Creek Lake. Good luck fishing in 2010, we hope to see you out on the water!

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources began to collect data from black bass tournament anglers fishing Kentucky's waters. The objective of this project was to obtain statewide data on fishing pressure, catch, and success rates of black bass tournament anglers. Data will be used to build a long-term database to monitor trends in black bass fisheries by lake and on a statewide basis. These data, in combination with survey data collected by biologists during routine sampling, will increase the ability of resource managers to explain and forecast changes in black bass population abundance throughout the state. In addition, the summarized data will also be useful to bass anglers when planning future fishing trips and help them understand that normal fluctuations (small increases or decreases) that occur in bass populations.

Addresses of known organized bass fishing clubs in Kentucky were obtained and sent packets concerning the project. Included was the Tournament Report Card, instructions, and recommended handling procedures for catch-and-release bass tournaments. Tournament directors were asked to complete and mail Tournament Report Cards to the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources in Frankfort, Kentucky.

Tournament data was also collected utilizing the Department's web page for voluntary tournament scheduling. This web page is <http://fw.ky.gov/app1/tournamentschedule.aspx>. This new service allows bass clubs and tournament directors across the state to schedule and report the results of tournaments held throughout the year.

We asked that the Tournament Report Cards be mailed or results be reported online by 24 January 2010 to allow for data entry and analyses prior to the beginning of the 2010 fishing season. This completed report, compiling all data reported in 2009, will be sent to all clubs reporting tournament results. Organizations that have not provided results will be able to access the report online as we need to let everyone know why we need to collect as much data as possible.

This report summarizes the 2009 bass tournament data by water body and season when available. Months included in each season are: spring = March – May; summer = June – August; fall = September – November; winter = December – February. Because the length of many bass fishing tournaments differs (i.e. one-day vs. two-day tournaments, 6-hour vs. 8-hour tournaments), the average 1st place weights have been adjusted to a standard length tournament fishing day of 8.0 hours (1-day tournament; simply multiply this value by 2 to get a 2-day tournament weight). By doing this, we can now compare all tournaments to each other because they are now based on the same length of fishing time (8.0 hours). For example, if the 1st place weight for a 10-hour tournament was 20 pounds, then 20 pounds divided by 10 hours would equal 2 pounds per hour. Based on the standard length fishing day of 8.0 hours, used in this report, the 1st place weight for this tournament would be 2 pounds times 8.0 hours or 16 pounds (1st place weight). Angler catch rates are reported as the number of tournament legal fish caught per hour of fishing. For example, at Kentucky Lake, the catch rate for the entire year was 0.20 bass/hour of fishing. This translates into 100 divided by 20, which equals 5.0 hours of fishing to catch one keeper sized bass. It is important to remember that the data presented may be confounded by the use of different size and creel limits from one tournament or water body to the next. In general, length limits used in the reported tournaments followed minimum limits currently in place at each water body. **All tournaments must adhere to the minimum size and creel limits posted at each lake. However, tournaments may enact stricter regulations if they choose.** For example, at Kentucky Lake, the minimum size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass is 15-inch. At minimum, the lowest size limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass must be 15-inches, however, tournaments could enforce a 16-inch or greater minimum size limit if they choose.

As was started in 2005, this report will show the amount of time it takes to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds and ≥ 6.0 pounds. Earlier reports displayed this information as the number of bass ≥ 4.0 pounds that were caught per hour. This number is usually extremely low (i.e. catch rate of bass ≥ 4.0 pounds was 0.007 bass/hour). This means that every hour, 0.007 bass of this size were caught during tournament angling. We have since started reporting the number of hours of fishing it takes to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds. For example, at Lake Beshear in 2009, it took approximately 16 hours of fishing to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds, while it took over

800 hours to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds at Taylorsville Lake. While these numbers may sound high, consider that a 50 angler tournament fishing for 8.0 hours equals 400 fishing hours of effort ($50 \times 8 = 400$). And if it takes 16 hours of fishing at Lake Beshear to catch a ≥ 4.0 pound black bass, we would expect to see at least 25 fish greater than 4 pounds be weighed in at that tournament. This is simply a prediction based on an average taken from all Lake Beshear tournaments in 2009, and it is not a guarantee; some will weigh in more and others will weigh in less.

This database and report are intended to be helpful to tournament directors, tournament anglers, non-tournament anglers, and resource managers. We have implemented some changes to the database for the 2010 tournament season. ***There are 2 major changes that tournament directors should look out for (Figure 1).*** First, is that we are no longer needing the number of bass in two different size classes (≥ 4.0 and ≥ 6.0 lbs). Instead, tournaments only need to keep track of bass that are ≥ 5.0 lbs. The second major change is that team and individual tournaments will be reported in different groups this year. The variables for each type of tournament are virtually the same, except that after you login in to report tournament data, the first question that you will see is whether the tournament was fished in teams or as an individual. The computer will then take you to a form for the corresponding tournament type. We hope this will increase the accuracy and interpretation of the data. Any suggested improvements will be incorporated into future reports. If you would like to obtain information on how to get your club involved in the Tournament Report Project or have questions or comments on this year's report, please contact Chris Hickey at the following address:

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Email: chris.hickey@ky.gov

Your participation in this project is greatly appreciated. We also extend a very warm welcome to all clubs not already participating in the Tournament Report Project. With increased participation, it will result in a more complete and reliable understanding of bass populations and fishing opportunities in Kentucky's lakes and rivers. We hope that the information provided in this report will benefit you and your organization.

The Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources also strongly recommends that all tournament directors utilize the tournament website for scheduling of their tournaments. This website was created to help reduce user conflict that may develop as a result of multiple tournaments scheduling a tournament on the same day at the same ramp at the same time. During the registration process, tournament directors will be able to verify if a tournament has already registered for an event on that day from that ramp on a water body. Since 1999, the Department has received numerous calls concerning conflicts about multiple tournaments occurring at the same ramp. **We kindly ask that in those situations where a tournament is already scheduled, the additional tournaments either seek a different ramp, or choose a different date for their tournament.** As interest in the sport of fishing and recreational boating increases, we ask for everybody's participation to help reduce potential user conflict. On behalf of the Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources, I would like to wish everybody a great fishing season in 2010, and hope to see you out on the water!

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Participation in the Tournament Report Program totaled 355 black bass fishing tournaments in 2009. This is higher than the tournaments reported in the past 6 years, including 2008 when 308 tournaments reported their catch data. Catch data statistics were obtained from 61.0% of all tournaments that were registered online in 2009. Again, this is an increase over 2008 (58.0%), in fact, it was the highest reporting rate since the program started. The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) would like to remind tournament directors that incomplete tournament data cannot be used in this report. KDFWR therefore asks that anglers contact us with any questions that you might have when entering tournament catch data. With increased participation, correct report entry, and an understanding of the importance of this program, a more complete and reliable picture of the black bass fisheries throughout the state can be obtained.

In 2009, a total of 355 black bass fishing tournaments were reported from 29 different water bodies in Kentucky. At least one bass fishing tournament report was obtained from each of 15 different lakes \geq 1,000 acres (large reservoirs) (Table 1). This was higher than 2008, but it is still a lower reporting rate for large reservoirs compared to 2006 and earlier, including 2004 (17 lakes), 2005 (16 lakes), and 2006 (16 lakes). Bass fishing tournament reports were also obtained from 10 small lakes ($<$ 1000 acres) (Table 2). A small decline from the 11 tournaments reported in 2008. Finally, bass tournament catch data was obtained from the Ohio (Cannelton, Greenup, Markland, McAlpine, and Meldahl pools), Cumberland, Kentucky, and Tennessee rivers (Table 3).

The majority of black bass fishing tournaments used a daily creel limit of either 5 or 6 fish in 2009. Approximately 75.4% of all bass tournaments utilized a 5-fish daily creel, while 16.9% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2008, 68.5% of all tournaments used a 5-fish daily creel and 29.2% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2009, 1.7% of all bass tournaments reported utilizing a 1-fish daily creel limit which is slightly up from 1.3% in 2008, but is a large decrease from the high of 6.1% in 2005. The 1-fish creel limits were used by simple "Big Fish" tournaments. There were also a few fishing tournaments that reported using a 3 or 4 fish daily creel limit.

In 2009, 14.2% of all tournament bass anglers reported catching their creel limit during the course of a tournament. This number is a decline from the 16.2% that reported catching their limits in 2008, but it is still higher than the 11.9% who caught their limits in 2007. This puts a stall in the trend where the number of anglers catching their limits basically increased each year since 2001, when only 2.8% of bass anglers reported a limit. Similar to previous years, size limits were used in all tournaments and predominantly followed the regulations posted at each lake. Most size limits were comprised of either 12-inch or 15-inch minimum limits. Anglers should be aware that tournament size limits must follow the regulations posted for each lake they are fishing. Tournament size limits may be more strict (i.e. a tournament may chose to have a 18-inch size limit on a lake where the minimum size limit is only 15-inch), however, tournaments may not utilize lesser size limits (i.e. a tournament may not chose to have a 12-inch size limit on a lake where the minimum size limit is 15-inch).

Tournament length varied from 3.0 to 27.0 hours with an average time of 8.5 hours (h) in 2009, which is identical to the average tournament length in 2008. It is still a decrease from 2007 (9.1 h) and 2006 (9.3 h). Of the 355 bass tournaments that were reported in 2009, 82.9% were 1-day fishing events, 16.8% were 2-day fishing events, and 1.0% were 3 days. The 3-day fishing events were large tournaments hosted by major bass tournament organizations. By season, both spring and summer hosted the majority of the 2009 bass fishing tournaments with 45.3% and 33.6%, respectively. Bass fishing tournaments held in the fall comprised 18.5% of the total number of tournaments, only 2.3% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the winter months. Approximately 86.0% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the day, while 14.0% were held at night. Approximately 83.3% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In the 355 bass fishing tournaments held in 2009, a total of 15,456 anglers caught 22,587 bass that weighed 54,883 pounds. The number of anglers in 2009 tournaments was higher than that in both 2008 (14,821) and 2007 (13,317). But oddly, the catch of bass decreased by 12.4% in 2009, compared to 2008 (25,793 bass

were caught). The catch rate of black bass in 2009 was 1.46 bass per angler, which is down from 2008 (1.74 bass/angler) but very similar to 2007 (1.45 bass/angler). This is a bit of a disappointment, because 2008 had the highest catch rate observed since this program began, surpassing the previous high in 2006 (1.69 bass/angler). The average tournament size in 2009 was 44 anglers, which is down slightly from 2008 and 2007, which both averaged 48 anglers/tournament. The average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 13.30 pounds in 2009 which was up slightly from 2008 (13.14 lbs). Although 2009 did not approach the weight the 2007 had (13.80 lbs), it was still a significantly higher than earlier years like 2006 (11.01 lbs), 2005 (8.12 lbs), 2004 (9.9 lbs), and 2003 (9.6 lbs). The largest 1st place weight (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) in 2009 was 29.00 pounds and was registered at Kentucky Lake on March 14, 2009.

The black bass species predominantly caught during fishing tournaments were largemouth bass. Largemouth bass comprised 86.4% of the total tournament angler catch, with smallmouth and spotted bass accounting for 6.3 and 7.3% of the remaining catch, respectively (Table 4). Catch of largemouth bass increased in 2009, compared to 2008 (85.0% of the total black bass catch was largemouth bass). Catch of smallmouth bass in tournament angler's catch was greatest at Lake Cumberland (31.0% of the total black bass catch), and Laurel River Lake (18.0%). Catch of spotted bass in the tournament angler's catch was greatest at Dale Hollow Lake (63.0%), Herrington Lake (33.0%), and Lake Cumberland (31.0%).

Six quality indicators were used to rank all water bodies with three or more tournaments reported in 2009 (Table 5). The use of different size limits on the various water bodies will affect several of these indicators and should be considered.

The 2009 results showed that tournament anglers were most successful (success = number of anglers weighing fish divided by the number of anglers in the tournament) at Lake Beshear (Table 5). At Beshear, 79.7% of all tournament anglers weighed in legal size fish. This was a decrease over the highest success rate in 2008 (and for the history of the project), which was 87.8% at Willisburg Lake. Additional waterbodies that ranked high in angler success included Nolin River Lake (76.6%), Kentucky River (70.5%), Willisburg Lake (71.7%), and Lake Barkley (67.3%). Again, anglers should remember that minimum size limits differ between lakes throughout Kentucky and this difference can and does influence the number of fish that are weighed in during a bass fishing tournament. In 2008, angler success was highest at Willisburg Lake (87.8%), while in 2007, angler success was highest at Elmer Davis Lake (80.8%).

Cedar Creek Lake ranked highest in terms of the average weight per bass (4.91 pounds) weighed in during a bass tournament in 2009 (Table 5). This would have been expected because all tournaments at Cedar Creek Lake had to abide by 1 fish and 20 inch regulation, which only allows anglers to weigh in 1 big fish per tournament. The rest of the top five included Lake Beshear (3.40 pounds), Laurel River Lake (3.02 pounds), Lake Malone (2.84 pounds), and Kentucky Lake (2.75 pounds). In 2008, Laurel River Lake had the highest average weight per bass (3.14 pounds), while in 2007, Lake Cumberland and Lake Barkley shared the honor with an average weight per bass of 2.62 pounds. Lake Beshear is back in this year's ranking after several years of not meeting the minimum number of tournaments needed to be included. This lake has an excellent bass fishery and routinely produces big tournament catches despite the fact that it has a 12-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass. Also, Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake have consistently been in the top 5 for highest average weight per bass since the reporting program began in 1999.

Catch rates (in terms of the number of bass caught per hour by bass tournament anglers) were highest at the Kentucky River (0.25 bass per hour of fishing) (Table 5). Other top lakes included Lake Beshear (0.24 bass per hour), the Ohio River (0.24 bass per hour), and Green River Lake (0.22 bass per hour). In 2008, Elmer Davis and the Ohio River shared the top spot with 0.25 bass per hour. And before that in 2007 and 2006, Elmer Davis and Herrington lakes had the highest catch rates for bass, respectively (both had 0.21 bass per hour, respectively). Anglers should note that lakes and rivers with high catch rates routinely abide by the 12 inch minimum length limit, and are usually comprised of smaller fish, with the exception being Lake Beshear in 2009.

Lake Beshear averaged the least amount of time (16 angler hours) to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds (Table 5). Lake Cumberland ranked second and averaged 36 hours to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds in 2009. Other top lakes include Kentucky Lake (48 hours), Lake Barkley (64 hours), and Green River Lake (76 hours). In 2008, Lake Barkley (61 hours) was ranked first in this category. Lake Beshear is back in the rankings in 2009 after several years of lacking the amount of tournament data necessary to be included. Prior to these years, Beshear, along with Lake Malone, had consistently ranked high in this category since 2002. In 2009, Lake Cumberland ranked high again as was the case for the last couple of years, but early on in the bass tournament project it was routinely found in the middle of the pack. This leads us to speculate that the drawdown that is necessary for the dam repair has led to an increased catch of larger bass during tournaments at Lake Cumberland. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley probably possess the two highest densities of large (≥ 4.0 pound) bass as a result of the type of system they are and the amount of habitat and forage they contain. Kentucky Lake, alone, produced 808 bass ≥ 4.0 pounds during 2009, while Lake Barkley produced 229 bass ≥ 4.0 pounds. A total of 27 waterbodies in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 4 pounds in 2009.

Again, Lake Beshear averaged the least amount of time (73 angler hours) to catch a bass ≥ 6.0 pounds (Table 5). Lake Malone (275 angler hours), Nolin River Lake (320 angler hours), Laurel River Lake (367 angler hours), and Green River Lake (459 angler hours) rounded off the top 5 in this category in 2009. In terms of numbers, Kentucky Lake produced 73 bass ≥ 6.0 pounds in 2009, while Lake Barkley came in with 31 bass ≥ 6.0 pounds. The reason why Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley do not rank in the top 5 simply relies on the amount of fishing pressure. For instance, Kentucky Lake held the most tournaments this year with 66 (totaling 4238 anglers) and even with the high numbers of bass caught that were ≥ 6.0 pounds it cannot make up enough ground on other lakes where fishing pressure was significantly less, but where the big bass were still brought to the scales. A total of 15 waterbodies in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 6 pounds in 2009, a notable increase over the past few years including 2008 (11 waterbodies), 2007 (12 waterbodies) and 2006 (13 waterbodies).

And finally, Lake Beshear ranked highest in yet another category. The average 1st place weight for a Beshear tournament (based on a standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 20.73 pounds in 2009 (Table 5). Rounding out the top five lakes were Kentucky Lake (16.86 pounds), Lake Cumberland (16.85 pounds), Green River Lake (16.39 pounds), and Lake Barkley (16.18 pounds). A total of 15 different waterbodies produced an average 1st place weight in excess of 10 pounds during 2009, which was an increase over 2008 and 2007 which had 12 and 10 lakes, respectively. In fact, this number has been steadily increasing each year since 2003 when only 7 lakes met this standard. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley have always produced 1st place weights for 1-day tournaments in excess of 10 pounds since the bass tournament project started 8 years ago.

KDFWR also follows trends in five of these variables at selected tournament water bodies throughout Kentucky (Table 6). The influence of normal yearly fluctuations will have an impact on these variables and should be taken into account when discussing possible trends.

The majority of Kentucky's water bodies have produced either variable or steady tournament catch rates (number of bass caught per hour) over the last eight years (Table 6). This year a lot of waterbodies experienced a decrease in catch rates, however anglers appear to be catching bigger fish, as was illustrated in the higher average weight it took to win a tournament. The more popular tournament waterbodies (i.e. Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Green River Lake) did not experience a decrease like many other lakes as their catch rate for bass were exactly the same as they were in 2008. Although, there appeared to be a stall in catch rates in 2009, there is no reason to believe that tournaments this year will not see catch rates reverting back to their previous trends. And yet, there were a couple of waterbodies that continued with the trend that had been developing over the past few years. For instance, the catch rates for the Kentucky River have still risen steadily, moving from 0.12 bass/hour in 2007 to 0.25 bass/hour in 2009.

Tournament angler success had a near split in terms of the waterbodies that saw an increase and those that experienced a decrease. In total, 10 waterbodies saw an increase in angler success, while 8 waterbodies saw that number decrease. Again, the success of anglers may have decreased more than what was hoped for, but the overall size of the bass that were caught was higher. A couple waterbodies continue to

experience increasing trends for the past several years including the Kentucky and Ohio rivers. The angler success at the rivers continue to increase, which is likely due to an increase in angler pressure in combination with increased supplemental bass stocking efforts.

Changes in the average weight per bass also varied across water bodies throughout Kentucky. Increasing trends are still being observed at Lake Barkley while Lake Cumberland, Barren River Lake, Rough River Lake, and Guist Creek Lake appear to be leveling off. As was mentioned in previous years, a decreasing trend has been observed at Cave Run Lake. But these decreases are not always indicative of drop in the quality of the bass fishing, as we already know that average weight of bass in Cave Run Lake coincides with the implementation of the slot limit on largemouth bass.

Changes in the average weight per bass also varied across water bodies throughout Kentucky. But the majority of them experienced either a very light decrease or a noticeable increase. For instance, of the 19 waterbodies that have yearly data, 16 of them saw either an increase in average weight per bass, or a decrease of less than $\frac{1}{4}$ pound. Some waterbodies like, Cave Run and Green River lakes, experienced substantial increases in average weight per bass, despite several years of level or decreasing trends.

Catch rates of bass ≥ 4.0 and ≥ 6.0 pounds are difficult to trend because so many factors go into their calculation. But Green River Lake still happens to be one of those waterbodies that have shown a noticeable increase in the catch of both quality and trophy sized bass. In the earlier years of this project, Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake routinely required less time to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds than any other lake, but since 2007 several lakes have been giving the previous leaders a run for their money. Although, Kentucky and Barkley are still always in or around the top five for both number of bass ≥ 4.0 and ≥ 6.0 pounds, several other lakes like Lake Cumberland and Green River Lake have become just as common. The catch of bass ≥ 6.0 pounds is still rare outside of the bigger reservoirs, which makes it difficult to describe any real trend that could not simply be attributed to chance.

If the trends observed in 2009 continue into the 2010 fishing season, anglers should continue to see the average weight of bass caught in tournaments to remain high. Green River Lake has established itself as one of the top bass tournament lakes in Kentucky, and that should continue into 2010. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley is expected to be just as good as ever, as these lakes seem to be able to consistently produce outstanding catches, as well as numbers of big bass. Lake Cumberland has had some excellent tournament results over the last couple of years, and as long as the lake doesn't experience any major changes, it should continue in the same direction. And every year that data for Lake Beshear is included, it shows how well the lake produces for big tournament catches. It is likely to continue this way in 2010 and for many years to come. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy bass, we again suggest targeting Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Lake Beshear during 2010, but do not discount some of last year's success at Green River Lake, Laurel River Lakes, and Lake Cumberland

Once again, KDFWR thanks all those who participated in the 2009 Tournament Reporting Project. We look forward to your continued involvement. This information is a valuable management tool and will help assist the KDFWR in managing the bass resources in the state of Kentucky. Good luck with your fishing in 2010 and we hope to see you out on the water!

Table 1. Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. \geq 4.0 lbs caught	No. \geq 6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Barren River Lake										
Spring	13	477	635	0.16	68.7	2.29	53	3	6.44	14.34
Summer	5	276	762	0.23	71.4	2.16	23	1	6.18	14.00
Fall	8	451	562	0.16	61.7	2.37	38	2	6.55	14.20
Winter	1	6	6	0.14	66.7	1.70	0	0	2.70	4.35
Total	27	1210	1965	0.17	67.0	2.27	114	6	6.55	13.87
Cave Run Lake										
Spring	2	96	157	0.15	49.2	2.69	2	0	5.74	17.40
Fall	1	18	9	0.07	22.2	1.66	1	0	4.97	6.46
Total	3	114	166	0.12	40.2	2.36	3	0	5.74	13.75
Dale Hollow										
Spring	1	61	112	0.20	67.2	1.85	3	0	4.57	18.82
Fall	1	91	58	0.07	18.7	2.21	2	0	4.59	12.14
Total	2	152	170	0.14	42.9	2.03	5	0	4.59	15.48
Dewey Lake										
Spring & Total	1	125	37	0.04	34.4	2.43	2	0	5.47	12.52
Grayson Lake										
Spring & Total	1	50	13	0.03	24.0	2.61	1	0	5.29	5.29
Green River Lake										
Spring	11	511	796	0.20	62.7	2.35	65	12	8.19	16.58
Summer	2	135	155	0.14	31.3	2.30	8	2	6.44	17.84
Fall	4	154	249	0.32	57.0	1.74	12	0	5.70	15.14
Total	17	800	1200	0.22	57.7	2.20	85	14	8.19	16.39
Herrington Lake										
Summer & Total	1	9	14	0.22	77.8	1.11	0	0	2.10	13.41

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. \geq 4.0 lbs caught	No. \geq 6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Kentucky Lake										
Spring	24	2552	5864	0.19	66.7	3.03	506	38	8.02	18.41
Summer	24	766	1526	0.21	62.6	2.64	213	18	7.02	15.74
Fall	14	813	1514	0.18	67.8	2.35	45	6	6.15	12.58
Winter	4	107	108	0.15	33.1	3.25	44	11	6.56	20.55
Total	66	4238	9012	0.20	63.4	2.75	808	73	8.02	16.86
Lake Barkley										
Spring	25	728	1018	0.17	65.8	2.58	93	12	7.59	15.44
Summer	19	903	1934	0.22	72.6	2.69	132	18	7.03	17.93
Fall	4	62	59	0.11	51.7	2.79	4	1	6.38	12.46
Total	48	1693	3011	0.19	67.3	2.64	229	31	7.59	16.18
Lake Cumberland										
Summer	13	682	1224	0.17	64.2	2.45	154	3	6.38	17.55
Fall	1	76	80	0.13	39.5	1.50	2	0	4.33	7.69
Total	14	758	1304	0.17	62.4	2.38	156	3	6.38	16.85
Laurel River Lake										
Spring & Total	4	653	419	0.09	38.3	3.02	74	16	8.21	15.31
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	7	357	475	0.17	68.9	1.87	26	3	7.10	12.06
Summer	7	275	247	0.11	66.5	1.71	10	1	6.25	8.89
Fall	6	182	235	0.17	94.9	1.62	10	2	7.68	10.26
Winter	1	54	60	0.14	92.6	1.24	3	1	6.64	8.84
Total	21	868	1017	0.15	76.6	1.71	49	7	7.68	10.34

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Rough River Lake										
Spring	7	382	330	0.11	56.7	1.92	19	1	6.50	11.67
Summer	4	148	147	0.12	74.3	1.98	14	0	5.84	10.51
Fall	11	585	488	0.14	71.5	1.69	11	2	6.38	10.07
Total	23	1115	965	0.13	67.3	1.82	44	3	6.50	10.66
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	4	129	56	0.08	34.7	2.25	0	0	3.78	9.83
Summer	13	887	209	0.06	28.9	2.26	4	1	6.10	12.42
Fall	6	179	65	0.07	39.6	2.49	3	0	5.25	8.36
Total	23	1195	330	0.07	32.7	2.32	7	1	6.10	10.91
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	2	56	35	0.08	40.5	2.72	2	1	6.14	8.85
Summer	1	20	6	0.04	19.2	1.81	0	0	2.95	5.33
Fall	1	6	8	0.15	83.3	1.11	0	0	2.02	2.71
Total	4	82	49	0.09	45.9	2.09	3	1	6.14	6.43

Table 2. Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes <1000 acres by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. ≥4.0 lbs caught	No. ≥6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Boltz Lake										
Spring & Total	1	13	4	0.04	15.4	3.47	2	0	5.53	12.65
Carr Creek Lake										
Spring & Total	1	22	5	0.03	18.2	2.71	0	0	3.97	4.28
Cedar Creek Lake										
Spring	2	54	5	0.02	11.1	4.12	5	2	7.76	8.55
Summer	3	46	9	0.03	18.5	5.43	8	0	5.40	8.80
Total	5	100	14	0.02	15.5	4.91	13	2	7.76	8.70
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	6	152	55	0.06	27.0	2.16	3	1	8.51	6.41
Summer	4	98	115	0.12	46.2	1.77	5	0	5.95	9.87
Fall	3	41	63	0.20	76.4	1.90	3	0	5.73	11.41
Total	13	291	233	0.11	44.3	1.98	11	1	8.51	8.63
Kincaid Lake										
Spring	7	181	105	0.14	36.2	2.04	11	0	5.70	16.92
Summer	10	292	126	0.11	23.0	1.49	3	0	4.79	13.13
Total	17	473	231	0.12	28.5	1.72	14	0	5.70	14.69
Lake Beshear										
Spring	6	130	244	0.23	87.6	3.50	80	15	7.90	20.64
Summer	2	28	56	0.26	45.8	3.31	6	2	6.86	20.62
Winter	1	17	35	0.26	100.0	2.95	6	3	6.80	21.50
Total	9	175	335	0.24	79.7	3.40	92	20	7.90	20.73

Table 2 (cont.) Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes <1000 acres by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. \geq 4.0 lbs caught	No. \geq 6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Lake Malone										
Spring	2	26	18	0.09	41.1	2.25	1	0	4.26	9.08
Summer	2	122	113	0.09	42.3	2.93	10	5	7.22	12.65
Winter	1	23	11	0.04	12.1	3.87	3	2	7.60	17.60
Total	5	171	142	0.08	35.8	2.84	14	7	7.60	12.21
Spurlington Lake										
Spring & Total	1	9	13	0.24	88.9	1.34	0	0	3.09	5.80
Williamstown Lake										
Summer & Total	1	42	122	0.24	81.0	1.37	0	0	3.24	9.65
Willisburg Lake										
Spring	3	33	35	0.15	62.2	1.88	2	0	4.08	7.49
Summer	1	7	19	0.34	100.0	1.83	1	0	5.10	10.52
Total	4	40	54	0.19	71.7	1.87	3	0	5.10	8.25

Table 3. Summary of bass tournament data from the Ohio River (by pool and total) by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. \geq 4.0 lbs caught	No. \geq 6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Ohio River										
Greenup Pool										
Spring	1	21	12	0.06	33.3	1.49	0	0	3.01	7.60
Summer	1	33	58	0.15	66.7	1.16	0	0	3.49	4.24
Total	2	54	70	0.10	50.0	1.33	0	0	3.49	5.92
Markland Pool										
Spring	10	241	335	0.26	58.4	1.55	9	1	6.25	14.62
Summer	7	153	261	0.26	66.7	1.32	1	0	4.85	8.63
Total	17	394	596	0.26	61.7	1.45	10	1	6.25	12.15
McAlpine Pool										
Fall & Total	1	18	30	0.21	61.1	1.67	0	0	2.79	10.01
Meldahl Pool										
Spring	4	118	286	0.27	87.5	1.54	0	0	3.93	12.02
Summer	6	292	428	0.20	57.7	1.33	0	0	3.45	9.31
Fall	3	65	179	0.25	59.5	1.28	1	0	4.10	9.56
Total	13	475	893	0.23	67.3	1.38	1	0	4.10	10.20
Smithland Pool										
Summer & Total	2	57	96	0.21	79.5	1.83	2	0	4.50	12.12
Ohio River Total										
Spring	15	380	633	0.25	64.5	1.54	9	1	6.25	13.46
Summer	16	535	843	0.22	64.8	1.38	3	0	4.85	9.04
Fall	4	83	209	0.24	59.9	1.28	1	0	4.10	9.67
Total	35	998	1685	0.24	64.1	1.44	13	1	6.25	11.01

Table 3 (cont.). Summary of bass tournament data from the Cumberland, Kentucky and Tennessee rivers by season and overall for 2009.

Water Body	No. events	Total no. anglers	No. bass caught	No. per hour caught	Percent successful	Average weight per bass (lbs)	No. \geq 4.0 lbs caught	No. \geq 6.0 lbs caught	Big bass (lbs)	Average 1 st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Cumberland River										
Spring & Total	1	34	71	0.26	47.1	2.59	11	1	8.19	12.44
Kentucky River										
Summer	1	12	28	0.33	83.3	1.41	0	0	2.66	11.41
Fall	2	46	64	0.21	73.2	1.41	1	0	4.21	10.82
Total	3	58	92	0.25	76.6	1.41	1	0	4.21	11.02
Tennessee River										
Summer & Total	1	12	56	0.58	100.0	1.51	2	0	4.65	10.28

Table 4. Species composition (%) at each tournament site reported in 2009. Size limits used by the tournaments varied and it can affect the composition of the catch.

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass
Barren River Lake	94	1	5
Boltz Lake	100	0	0
Carr Creek Lake	100	0	0
Cave Run Lake	93	7	0
Cedar Creek Lake	100	0	0
Cumberland River	94	6	0
Dale Hollow Lake	31	6	63
Dewey Lake	100	0	0
Grayson Lake	100	0	0
Green River Lake	82	10	8
Guist Creek Lake	100	0	0
Herrington Lake	67	0	33
Kentucky Lake	91	6	3
Kentucky River	72	3	25
Kincaid Lake	97	0	3
Lake Barkley	93	6	1
Lake Beshear	100	0	0
Lake Cumberland	38	31	31
Lake Malone	100	0	0
Laurel River Lake	64	18	18
Nolin River Lake	96	0	4
Ohio River - Greenup	72	12	16
Ohio River - Markland	83	3	14
Ohio River - McAlpine	77	0	23
Ohio River - Meldahl	71	6	23
Ohio River - Smithland	100	0	0
Ohio River - All Pools	77	4	19
Rough River Lake	94	0	6
Spurlington Lake	100	0	0
Taylorsville Lake	99	<1	<1
Tennessee River	89	11	0
Williamstown Lake	100	0	0
Willisburg Lake	100	0	0
Yatesville Lake	96	0	4

Table 5. Rankings of all tournament waters based on the 2009 Bass Tournament Reports. Yearly data from a minimum of three tournaments was needed from each body of water to make the rankings.

Percent successful anglers		Average weight (lbs) per bass		No. bass caught per hour		Hrs. to catch a bass \geq 4.0 lbs ^A		Hrs. to catch a bass \geq 6.0 lbs ^B		Average 1st place weight (lb) per 8 hour day	
Lake Beshear	79.7	Cedar Creek Lake	4.91	Kentucky River	0.25	Lake Beshear	16	Lake Beshear	73	Lake Beshear	20.73
Nolin River Lake	76.6	Lake Beshear	3.40	Lake Beshear	0.24	Lake Cumberland	39	Lake Malone	275	Kentucky Lake	16.86
Kentucky River	76.6	Laurel River Lake	3.02	Ohio River	0.24	Cedar Creek Lake	46	Cedar Creek Lake	300	Lake Cumberland	16.85
Willisburg Lake	71.7	Lake Malone	2.84	Green River Lake	0.22	Kentucky Lake	48	Nolin River Lake	320	Green River Lake	16.39
Lake Barkley	67.3	Kentucky Lake	2.75	Kentucky Lake	0.20	Lake Barkley	64	Laurel River Lake	367	Lake Barkley	16.18
Rough River Lake	67.3	Lake Barkley	2.64	Lake Barkley	0.19	Green River Lake	76	Green River Lake	459	Laurel River Lake	15.31
Barren River Lake	67.0	Lake Cumberland	2.38	Willisburg Lake	0.19	Laurel River Lake	79	Lake Barkley	483	Kincaid Lake	14.69
Ohio River	64.1	Cave Run Lake	2.36	Barren River Lake	0.17	Barren River Lake	89	Kentucky Lake	533	Barren River Lake	13.87
Kentucky Lake	63.4	Taylorsville Lake	2.32	Lake Cumberland	0.17	Lake Malone	137	Yatesville Lake	672	Cave Run Lake	13.75
Lake Cumberland	62.4	Barren River Lake	2.27	Nolin River Lake	0.15	Nolin River Lake	150	Barren River Lake	1694	Lake Malone	12.21
Green River Lake	57.7	Green River Lake	2.20	Rough River Lake	0.13	Kincaid Lake	157	Lake Cumberland	2021	Kentucky River	11.02
Yatesville Lake	45.9	Yatesville Lake	2.09	Cave Run Lake	0.12	Rough River Lake	204	Guist Creek Lake	2337	Ohio River	11.01
Guist Creek Lake	44.3	Guist Creek Lake	1.98	Kincaid Lake	0.12	Guist Creek Lake	212	Rough River Lake	2989	Taylorsville Lake	10.91
Cave Run Lake	40.2	Willisburg Lake	1.87	Guist Creek Lake	0.11	Cave Run Lake	298	Taylorsville Lake	5909	Rough River Lake	10.66
Laurel River Lake	38.3	Rough River Lake	1.82	Laurel River Lake	0.09	Yatesville Lake	336	Ohio River	7574	Nolin River Lake	10.34
Lake Malone	35.8	Kincaid Lake	1.72	Yatesville Lake	0.09	Kentucky River	438	Cave Run Lake	N/A	Cedar Creek Lake	8.70
Taylorsville Lake	32.7	Nolin River Lake	1.71	Lake Malone	0.08	Ohio River	583	Kentucky River	N/A	Guist Creek Lake	8.63
Kincaid Lake	28.5	Ohio River	1.44	Taylorsville Lake	0.07	Taylorsville Lake	844	Kincaid Lake	N/A	Willisburg Lake	8.25
Cedar Creek Lake	15.5	Kentucky River	1.41	Cedar Creek Lake	0.02	Willisburg Lake	N/A	Willisburg Lake	N/A	Yatesville Lake	6.43

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

^A This metric relates to the amount of fishing hours reported to catch a bass \geq 4.0 lbs. A 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours equals a total of 400 hours of fishing effort (8 x 50 = 400). For example, at Lake Beshear, it takes about 50 hours to catch a bass \geq 4.0 lbs. This means that an average 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours, should catch 8 bass \geq 4.0 lbs during each tournament.

^B This metric relates to the amount of fishing hours reported to catch a bass \geq 6.0 lbs. A 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours equals a total of 400 hours of fishing effort (8 x 50 = 400).

Table 6. Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Barren River Lake										Beaver Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.14	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.20	0.20	0.17	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.06	--	--	--	--	
Percent successful	49.3	52.5	61.3	70.4	63.1	55.6	63.1	60.2	67.0	19.4	16.2	16.7	10.5	28.4	--	--	--	--	
Average weight per bass	1.75	2.25	2.20	1.89	2.09	2.56	2.32	2.29	2.27	2.05	2.43	3.00	2.48	2.55	--	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	500	250	167	200	143	184	53	137	89	333	>1000	167	>1000	200	--	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	333	--	--	--	--	

Variable	Cave Run Lake										Dale Hollow Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.12	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.18	0.10	0.07	0.17	0.14	
Percent successful	24.2	21.1	27.1	55.8	59.4	71.6	65.5	59.4	40.2	30.8	41.8	37.8	26.1	54.7	57.1	30.0	60.7	42.9	
Average weight per bass	1.99	2.74	2.37	1.28	1.18	0.71	0.68	0.80	2.36	1.72	1.78	1.80	2.11	1.57	2.34	2.30	2.05	2.03	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	500	250	500	333	333	440	>1000	>1000	298	333	500	>1000	125	143	401	290	161	274	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	n/a	

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Dewey Lake									Grayson Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	--	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.01	--	--	--	0.11	0.02	--	--	0.03
Percent successful	--	41.8	35.9	25.0	39.9	59.5	n/a	26.5	34.4	9.9	--	--	--	42.3	12.5	--	--	24.0
Average weight per bass	--	2.14	1.76	2.90	1.86	2.86	2.59	1.49	2.43	2.89	--	--	--	0.75	2.71	--	--	2.61
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	500	500	77	167	38	n/a	>1000	500	1000	--	--	--	n/a	128	--	--	400
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	382	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a

Variable	Green River Lake									Guist Creek Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.18	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.06	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.11
Percent successful	73.4	60.9	36.1	49.7	49.0	44.8	56.5	63.3	57.7	40.0	45.6	38.2	45.1	51.5	50.1	46.6	49.6	44.3
Average weight per bass	1.38	1.56	1.74	2.10	1.51	1.74	1.65	1.48	2.20	1.59	2.07	1.58	1.69	1.82	2.33	1.90	1.88	1.98
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	200	333	1000	111	500	184	179	108	76	1000	250	>1000	1000	250	229	119	154	212
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	>1000	n/a	500	>1000	>1000	>1000	344	459	1000	>1000	n/a	1000	n/a	688	894	n/a	>1000

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Herrington Lake									Kentucky Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.09	0.07	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.11	0.22	0.22	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.20
Percent successful	54.0	40.0	54.4	76.5	58.5	75.8	50.2	63.3	77.8	37.8	49.2	65.7	56.0	56.5	63.5	57.1	71.4	63.4
Average weight per bass	1.51	1.76	1.44	1.57	1.63	1.30	1.80	1.48	1.11	2.56	2.72	2.37	2.72	2.52	2.48	2.60	2.58	2.75
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	500	500	n/a	500	n/a	339	380	n/a	500	167	200	100	143	127	81	86	48
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	795	818	>1000	533

Variable	Kentucky River									Kincaid Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.09	0.08	0.09	--	0.07	0.14	0.12	0.21	0.25	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.17	0.12
Percent successful	54.3	38.2	41.2	--	35.3	73.1	43.2	60.2	76.6	32.5	24.4	42.7	41.7	44.7	39.2	42.6	32.7	28.5
Average weight per bass	1.56	1.56	1.52	--	1.82	1.38	1.17	1.36	1.41	2.24	1.99	1.66	1.66	1.89	1.53	1.96	1.55	1.72
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	>1000	1000	--	333	259	n/a	n/a	438	143	333	250	333	167	231	124	226	157
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	n/a	333	n/a	248	>1000	n/a

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Lake Barkley										Lake Cumberland								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.20	0.12	0.17	
Percent successful	59.9	51.8	51.1	55.0	53.2	55.6	65.2	70.5	67.3	23.0	41.1	31.7	45.9	45.0	46.4	79.8	51.7	62.4	
Average weight per bass	1.69	2.54	2.54	2.27	2.55	2.56	2.62	2.67	2.64	2.43	2.10	1.93	2.02	2.21	2.09	2.62	2.33	2.38	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	1000	125	143	125	100	84	53	61	64	333	125	500	167	125	440	39	91	39	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	610	518	573	483	>1000	>1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	709	972	>1000	

Variable	Lake Malone										Laurel River Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	--	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.07	--	--	--	0.08	0.02	--	0.05	--	--	n/a	--	0.18	0.09	
Percent successful	--	36.9	39.6	41.9	38.4	--	--	--	35.8	28.7	--	20.7	--	--	61.1	--	62.2	38.3	
Average weight per bass	--	2.92	2.58	2.02	3.31	--	--	--	2.84	1.89	--	1.82	--	--	n/a	--	3.14	3.02	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	91	59	83	43	--	--	--	137	>1000	--	>1000	--	--	72	--	106	79	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	--	250	333	333	333	--	--	--	275	>1000	--	n/a	--	--	n/a	--	n/a	367	

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Nolin River Lake										Paintsville Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.15	--	0.11	0.07	0.25	0.28	0.35	--	--	--	
Percent successful	63.8	67.5	44.2	66.2	63.9	64.7	61.3	64.8	76.6	--	42.0	32.9	67.0	75.6	63.2	--	--	--	
Average weight per bass	1.55	1.84	1.83	2.03	1.96	1.89	1.73	1.79	1.71	--	0.81	1.09	0.77	0.75	0.4	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	>1000	500	1000	500	167	176	127	140	150	--	1000	500	1000	500	n/a	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	320	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	--	--	--	

Variable	Rough River Lake										Stoner Creek								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.13	0.15	--	0.14	0.21	--	0.26	--	--	--	
Percent successful	62.8	69.0	56.8	62.4	56.6	57.5	57.2	50.3	67.3	53.6	--	42.9	60.5	--	54.5	--	--	--	
Average weight per bass	1.61	1.63	1.95	1.96	1.79	2.03	2.02	1.91	1.82	1.12	--	1.41	1.32	--	1.53	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	250	500	333	167	143	176	126	159	204	n/a	--	500	n/a	--	88	--	--	--	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	>1000	969	>1000	>1000	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	--	88	--	--	--	

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Taylorsville Lake										Yatesville Lake								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
No. bass caught per hour	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.09	
Percent successful	23.0	35.2	26.1	30.6	46.4	40.3	34.3	29.9	32.7	41.6	28.1	45.2	30.3	40.6	35.7	39.1	49.9	45.9	
Average weight per bass	2.40	2.26	2.30	2.23	2.32	2.16	2.36	2.38	2.32	2.23	2.66	2.67	2.43	2.22	2.24	2.07	2.38	2.09	
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	333	1000	500	333	932	195	299	844	167	250	111	143	143	352	>1000	516	336	
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	>1000	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	672	

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Cannelton Pool									Greenup Pool								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.07	0.06	0.17	--	--	0.10	0.11	0.07	--	0.07	0.07	0.16	--	--	--	--	0.17	0.1
Percent successful	34.9	35.2	42.9	--	--	50.0	43.1	46.4	--	27.9	37.2	64.3	--	--	--	--	53.5	50.0
Average weight per bass	1.55	1.42	1.30	--	--	1.37	1.48	0.28	--	1.49	1.42	1.24	--	--	--	--	1.36	1.33
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	>1000	333	--	--	n/a	539	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--	n/a	n/a
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--	n/a	n/a

Variable	Markland Pool									McAlpine Pool								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.07	0.12	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.27	0.26	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.25	0.21
Percent successful	36.7	33.4	46.1	40.0	51.2	70.9	42.7	62.0	61.7	65.4	49.2	55.0	48.6	25.0	47.7	37.8	62.0	61.1
Average weight per bass	1.67	1.50	1.42	1.36	1.50	1.25	1.29	1.55	1.45	1.47	1.43	1.33	1.58	1.58	1.62	1.54	1.16	1.67
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	1000	500	500	1000	1000	n/a	249	510	242	n/a	333	1000	1000	n/a	352	446	n/a	n/a
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Table 6 (cont). Trends in each variable at selected tournament water bodies from 2001-2009. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Meldahl Pool									Ohio River - All Pools								
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
No. bass caught per hour	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.24	0.23	0.08	0.10	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.24
Percent successful	42.6	36.0	49.0	40.8	42.5	43.6	42.1	63.3	67.3	51.9	35.0	48.4	40.7	45.8	55.6	41.2	62.6	64.1
Average weight per bass	1.41	1.26	1.33	1.36	1.37	1.41	1.40	1.42	1.38	1.54	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.44	1.36	1.42	1.48	1.44
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	289	n/a	>1000	>1000	1000	500	1000	1000	>1000	317	968	583
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	>1000

n/a = no fish of this size were caught during the year. Therefore catch rates could not be calculated.

Figure 1. This is a screenshot from our online tournament reporting system. The screen may have different entries depending on whether it was an individual or team tournament. The other major change is that we are now only looking for the total number of largemouth bass > 5 pounds, instead of the number > 4 pounds **and** the number > 6 pounds.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife - Tournament Manager - Windows Internet Explorer

http://kydevfw01/TournamentManager/TMTournCatchData.aspx?tid=6164

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Tournament Catch Report

Ramp: Yellowbank WMA
Start Date: 1/1/2010 8:00:00 AM

Tournament Type: Individual

Tournament Time:	Day	# Days:	
Total Hours Fished Per Day:		# Anglers	
Creel Limit Per Angler		# Anglers With Limit	
# Anglers Weighing Bass		Total # Bass Weighed In For Tournament:	
Weight of Big Bass (ie. [4],[65] lbs)		First Place Weight (ie. [15],[30] lbs):	
Total Weight For Tournament (ie. [40],[02] lbs)		# Bass Over 5 Lbs:	
Total # Smallmouth Bass:		Total # Largemouth Bass:	
Total # Kentucky Bass:			

Size Limits (inches):

Size Limits Example: Largemouth Bass 12" limit 6, Smallmouth Bass 15" limit 6, Spotted Bass 10" limit 6

Comments:

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Tournament Catch Report

Ramp: Yellowbank WMA
Start Date: 1/1/2010 8:00:00 AM

Tournament Type: Team

Tournament Time:	Day	# Days:	
Total Hours Fished Per Day:		# Teams	
Creel Limit Per Team		# Teams With Limit	
# Teams Weighing Bass		Total # Bass Weighed In For Tournament:	
Weight of Big Bass (ie. [4],[65] lbs)		First Place Weight (ie. [15],[30] lbs):	
Total Weight For Tournament (ie. [40],[02] lbs)		# Bass Over 5 Lbs:	
Total # Smallmouth Bass:		Total # Largemouth Bass:	
Total # Kentucky Bass:			

Size Limits (inches):

Size Limits Example: Largemouth Bass 12" limit 6, Smallmouth Bass 15" limit 6, Spotted Bass 10" limit 6

Comments:

Submit Cancel

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SUMMER TOURNAMENT BASS HANDLING GUIDELINES

The following recommended guidelines are from the B.A.S.S manual, "Keeping Bass Alive". KDFWR Fisheries Division endorses these procedures and recommends that all bass tournament sponsors and anglers adopt these as standard practices in their summer tournaments. For a full copy of the updated "Keeping Bass Alive" manual visit the B.A.S.S website at: http://sports.espn.go.com/outdoors/bassmaster/conservation/news/story?page=b_con_KBA_landing

- Stress caused by handling and livewell confinement is the major factor that increases mortality of tournament caught bass. Hot water and low oxygen increase stress.
- Stress can be reduced by **continual** operation of the aerator in a closed livewell. **Do not pump hot lake water into the livewell.**
- Keeping livewell temperature 5-10 degrees F cooler than the lake water greatly reduces stress. Cool water holds more oxygen.
- Two frozen ½ gallon jugs of water or an 8 pound ice block will cool a 30 gallon livewell by 10 degrees F for about 3 hours. To avoid temperature shock, do not cool by more than 10 degrees. Livewell temperature should never be allowed to rise above 85 degrees F. Extra jugs or blocks can be carried in a cooler or insulated boat compartment.
- Livewell temperatures should be checked every hour with ice added or removed as needed.
- Non-iodized salt (available at farm supply stores) helps reduce stress. Add 1/3 cup per 5 gallons of livewell water. Salt can be pre-measured for the size of your livewell and put in small plastic bags.
- If you have more than 10 pounds of bass in your livewell you should exchange ½ the water at the half way through your tournament day. Remember to adjust the temperature and add ½ a dose of salt when you add fresh water.

These simple procedures can significantly increase the survival of tournament caught and released bass and will keep next year's winning sack alive.

Helpful Tournament Guidelines

- Schedule all tournaments through the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife's Tournament Scheduling Web Page. Tournaments should be scheduled 30-60 days in advance.
- Avoid scheduling dates, lakes, or ramps where other tournaments are already scheduled. On most reservoirs, multiple ramp sites are available each day.
- Contact the marina or agency controlling the launching ramp when your tournament schedule is confirmed. Confusion and conflict is avoidable with adequate planning and communication. Many ramps have a launch fee.
- Avoid scheduling tournaments on major holiday weekends.
- Respect the rights of other anglers who are using the same ramp at the time of launching and loading.
- Minimize noise and disturbance of nearby campsites and docked boats where folks are staying overnight.
- Make the most effective use of parking space to allow for use by non-tournament anglers. Marina operators may suggest 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 extremely 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.
- Tournament anglers must possess a valid fishing license, proper boat registration, personal floatation devices, other required equipment, and have knowledge of fishing and boating regulations pertaining to the waters where they are fishing.
- Avoid daytime tournaments during the hot summer months if possible. This will minimize fish mortality.
- Tournament anglers and organizers should handle fish responsibly. Procedures outlined in "Summer Tournament Bass Handling Guidelines", should be followed.