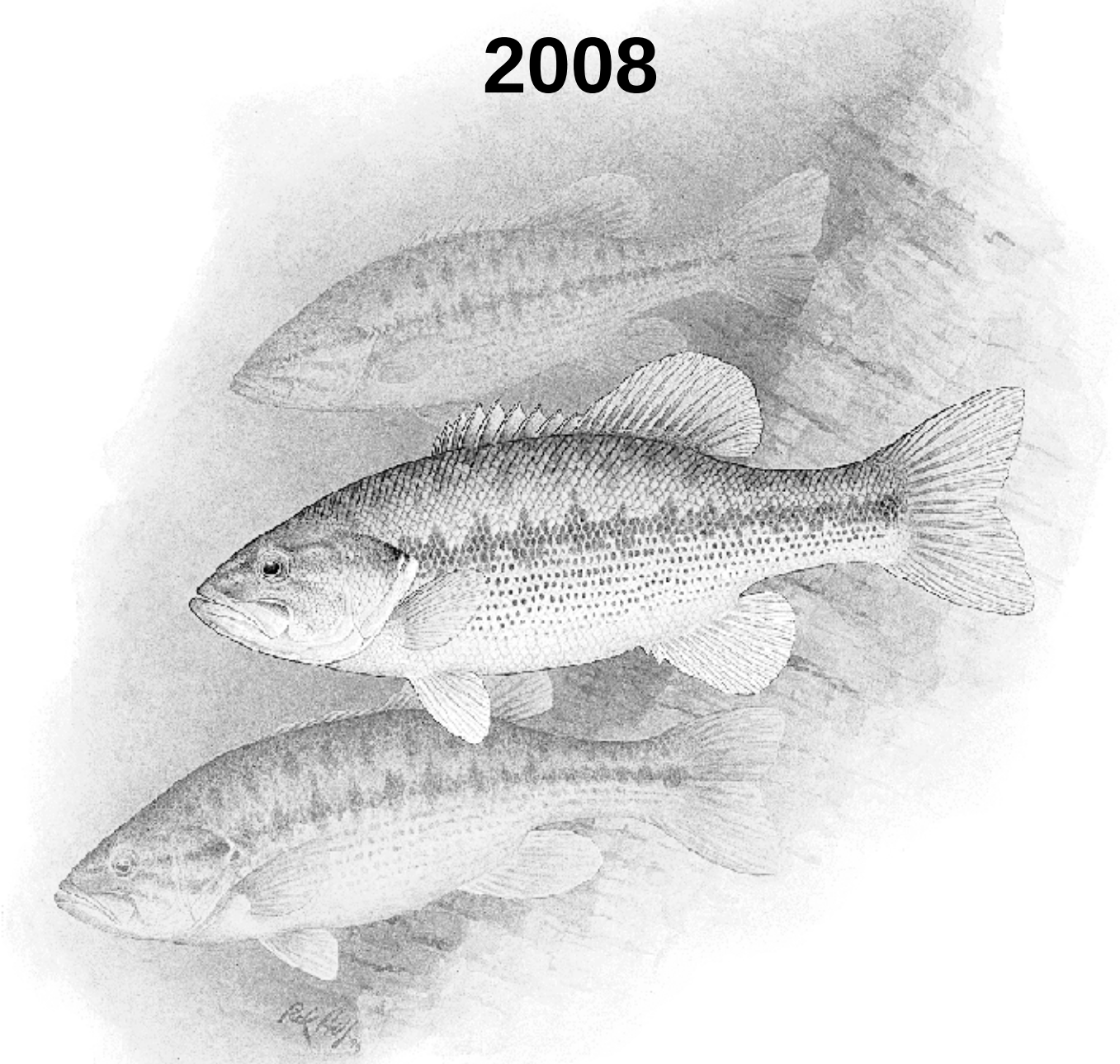
Bass Tournament Results 2008



Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participation in the Tournament Reporting Program totaled 308 black bass fishing tournaments in 2008. This was an increase over the 284 reported tournaments in 2007 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 278 in 2002. Catch data statistics were obtained from 58% of all registered tournaments in 2008. This was also an increase from the 52% observed in 2007. Black bass tournament information was obtained from 14 different large reservoirs (> 1000 acres), 11 small lakes (< 1000 acres), and the Ohio, Cumberland and Kentucky rivers.

The vast majority of black bass tournaments in 2008 reported using both creel limits and size limits 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 97.7% of all black bass tournaments; however, 1.3% reported using a creel limit of only 1-fish. Size limits most commonly used in tournaments were a 12-inch or 15-inch minimum size limit. The percentage of bass anglers who reported catching a limit during a tournament increased from 11.9% in 2007 to 16.2% in 2008. This was back on track with 2006 where 16.5% of tournament anglers caught their limit. The average length of a bass fishing tournament was 8.5 hours in 2008. This is down slightly from those reported in 2007 (9.1 hours). Tournament length ranged from 2.0 to 32.0 hours in 2008. Obviously, a 32.0 hour tournament is comprised of a 4-day tournament, and these were predominantly hosted by larger fishing organizations such as FLW and BASS/ESPN.

By season, both spring and summer hosted the majority of the 2008 bass fishing tournaments with 47.1% and 34.7%, respectively. Bass tournaments held during the fall and winter comprised 16.9% and 1.3% of the total number of tournaments, respectively. Daytime tournaments comprised 87.3% of all bass fishing tournaments, while night tournaments comprised 12.7%. Approximately 84.6% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In 2008, a total of 14,821 bass anglers caught 25,793 bass in registered bass tournaments in Kentucky that supplied KDFWR with catch information. The average tournament had a total of 48 anglers. The average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 13.14 pounds. This was a slight decrease from that in 2007 (13.8 pounds), but was still substantially higher than those reported in 2006 (11.01 pounds), 2005 (8.12 pounds), 2004 (9.9 pounds) and 2003 (9.6 pounds). The largest 1st place weight (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) was 29.69 pounds and was registered at Nolin River Lake on May 25, 2008. The biggest bass (8.75 pounds) caught in 2008 was from Kentucky Lake on March 22, 2008.

Tournament angler success (87.8%) was highest at Willisburg Lake while catch rate (0.25 bass per hour) was highest at Elmer Davis Lake. However, this high success and catch rate was comprised of mostly smaller bass with a low average weight for both Willisburg Lake (1.41 pounds) and Elmer Davis Lake (0.76 pounds). Kentucky Lake (71.4%) and Barren River Lake (70.5%) also ranked high for angler success rate. Laurel River Lake ranked highest for average weight per bass at 3.14 pounds, and averaged a catch rate of 0.18 bass per hour, which is a good combination. Lake Barkley (61 hours) and Kentucky Lake (86 hours) took the least amount of time to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds. Green River Lake (344 hours) and Lake Barkley (573 hours) took the least amount of time to catch a bass $\geq$ 6.0 pounds. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley produced the most amounts of bass greater than 6 pounds with 28 and 24, respectively, but Green River Lake was very close behind at 21 greater than 6 pounds. Kentucky Lake ranked highest for the average 1st place weight (per standardized 8.0 hour tournament) at 16.78 pounds. Rounding out the top 5 were Lake Barkley (16.19 pounds), Kincaid Lake (14.56 pounds), Barren River Lake (14.33 pounds), and the Ohio River (13.97 pounds).

Anglers, in 2009, will hopefully continue to see better fishing in waterbodies like Taylorsville Lake and Laurel River Lake, which have been stocked with largemouth bass each of the last four years. The results from the Ohio River were a bit of a surprise, but with the number of reported tournaments increasing from 15 in 2007 to 45 in 2008 it was not completely unexpected. Of course, Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, and Barren River Lake should be expected to be just as good as ever, as these lakes consistently produce outstanding catches, as well as numbers of big bass. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy, we suggest Kentucky Lake, Lake Barkley, Kincaid Lake, and even Green River Lake. Good luck fishing in 2009, 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 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) 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 23 January 2009 to allow for data entry and analyses prior to the beginning of the 2009 fishing season. This completed report, compiling all data reported in 2008, 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 2008 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 a 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 Barkley in 2008, it took approximately 61 hours of fishing to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds, while it took over 500 hours to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds at Yatesville 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 x 8 = 400). And if takes 61 hours of fishing at Lake Barkley to catch a ≥ 4.0 pound black bass, we would expect to see at least 6 fish greater than 4

pounds be weighed in at that tournament. This is simply a prediction based on an average taken from all Lake Barkley tournaments in 2008, 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 are planning to implement changes to the database at the beginning of the 2010 tournament season that will be looking at different variables (i.e. individual vs. team tournaments) the we hope 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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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 2009`, and hope to see you out on the water!

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Participation in the Tournament Report Program totaled 308 black bass fishing tournaments in 2008. This is higher than the tournaments reported in the past 6 years, including 2007 when 284 tournaments reported their catch data. Catch data statistics were obtained from 58.0% of all tournaments that were registered online in 2008. Again, this is an increase over 2007 (52.0%), 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 2008, a total of 308 black bass fishing tournaments were reported from 28 different water bodies in Kentucky. At least one bass fishing tournament report was obtained from each of 14 different lakes ≥ 1,000 acres (large reservoirs) (Table 1). This was the same as 2007, which is still the lowest reporting rate for large reservoirs in 4 years, including 2004 (17 lakes), 2005 (16 lakes), and 2006 (16 lakes). Bass fishing tournament reports were also obtained from 11 small lakes (< 1000 acres) (Table 2). This was a welcome change from the last couple years where the number of tournaments reported at small lakes had steadily decreased since 2005 (14 lakes). Bass tournament catch data was also obtained from the Ohio (Cannelton, Greenup, Markland, McAlpine, and Meldahl pools), Cumberland, and Kentucky rivers (Table 3).

Most black bass fishing tournaments used a daily creel limit of either 5 or 6 fish in 2008. Approximately 68.5% of all bass tournaments utilized a 5-fish daily creel, while 29.2% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2007, 65.0% of all tournaments used a 5-fish daily creel and 32.2% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. In 2008, 1.3% of all bass tournaments reported utilizing a 1-fish daily creel limit which is slightly up from 1.0% in 2007, 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 2008, 16.2% of all tournament bass anglers reported catching their creel limit during the course of a tournament. This number is an increase from the 11.9% that reported catching their limits in 2007, but it is right in pace with the 16.5% who caught their limits in 2006. This is heading back in the right direction 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 2.0 to 32.0 hours with an average time of 8.5 hours (h) in 2008. A decrease from 2007 (9.1 h) and 2006 (9.3 h), but similar to the hours fished per tournament in 2005 (8.7 h), 2004 (8.8 h), and 2003 (8.8 h). Of the 308 bass tournaments that were reported in 2008, 80.2% were 1-day fishing events, 18.5% were 2-day fishing events, and 1.3% were 4 days. The 4-day fishing events were large tournaments hosted by FLW and BASS/ESPN. By season, both spring and summer hosted the majority of the 2008 bass fishing tournaments with 47.1% and 34.7%, respectively. Bass fishing tournaments held in the fall comprised 16.9% of the total number of tournaments, only 1.3% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the winter months. Approximately 87.3% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the day, while 12.7% were held at night. Approximately 84.6% of all night tournaments were held during the summer months.

In the 308 bass fishing tournaments held in 2008, a total of 14,821 anglers caught 25,793 bass that weighed 61,974 pounds. The number of anglers in 2008 tournaments was higher than that in both 2007 (13,317) and 2006 (11,270). Catch of bass increased by 35% in 2008, compared to 2007 (18,835 bass were caught). The catch rate of black bass in 2008 was 1.74 bass per angler, which is a jump from 2007 (1.45 bass/angler). In fact, it is the highest catch rate observed since this program began, surpassing the previous high in 2006 (1.69 bass/angler). As in 2007, the average tournament in 2008 had a total of 48 anglers. This is a slight increase from the previous 2 years, which both averaged 45 anglers per tournament. The average 1st place weight (per

standardized 8.0 hour tournament) was 13.14 pounds in 2008 slightly down from 13.80 pounds in 2007. But it was still a significantly higher 1st place weight 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 2008 was 29.69 pounds and was registered at Nolin River Lake on May 25, 2008.

The black bass species predominantly caught during fishing tournaments were largemouth bass. Largemouth bass comprised 85.0% of the total tournament angler catch, with smallmouth and spotted bass accounting for 5.0 and 10.0% of the remaining catch, respectively (Table 4). Catch of largemouth bass decreased in 2008, compared to 2007 (86.8% of the total black bass catch was largemouth bass). Catch of smallmouth bass in tournament angler's catch was greatest at Lake Cumberland (24.0% of the total black bass catch), and the Greenup Pool of the Ohio River (15.0%). Catch of spotted bass in the tournament angler's catch was greatest at the Cannelton Pool of the Ohio River (94.0%), Dale Hollow Lake (59.0%), and Lake Cumberland (41.0%).

Six quality indicators were used to rank all water bodies with three or more tournaments reported in 2008 (Table 5). The use of different size limits on the various water bodies will affect several of these indicators and should be considered.

The 2008 results showed that tournament anglers were most successful (success = number of anglers weighing fish divided by the number of anglers in the tournament) at Willisburg Lake (Table 5). At Willisburg, 87.8% of all tournament anglers weighed in legal size fish, which surpasses the previous high of 84.8% from Elmer Davis Lake in 2003. Additional lakes that ranked high in angler success included Kentucky Lake (71.4%), Barren River Lake (70.5%), Nolin River Lake (64.8%), and Herrington Lake (63.3%). 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 2007, angler success was highest at Elmer Davis Lake (80.8%), while in 2006, angler success was highest at Herrington Lake (75.8%).

Laurel River Lake ranked highest in terms of the average weight per bass (3.14 pounds) weighed in during a bass tournament in 2008 (Table 5). The rest of the top five included Lake Barkley (2.67 pounds), Kentucky Lake (2.58 pounds), Yatesville Lake (2.38 pounds), and Lake Cumberland (2.33 pounds). It is interesting to note that all 5 of these lakes have a 15-inch minimum size limit, which is significantly higher than the statewide 12-inch minimum size limit. This has a positive influence on average weight per bass as anglers are required to weigh in bigger fish because of the more stringent size limit. In 2007, Lake Cumberland and Lake Barkley shared the highest average weight per bass (2.62 pounds), while in 2006, Lake Beshear ranked highest in terms of average weight per bass (2.59 pounds). 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 both Elmer Davis Lake and the Ohio River (0.25 bass per hour of fishing) (Table 5). Other top lakes included Herrington Lake (0.22 bass per hour), Willisburg Lake (0.21 bass per hour), and the Kentucky River (0.21 bass per hour). In 2007, Elmer Davis was at the top spot with 0.21 bass per hour. And before that in 2006 and 2005, Herrington Lake and Paintsville Lake had the highest catch rate for bass (0.21 and 0.28 bass per hour, respectively). Anglers should note that the high catch rates of bass at lakes like Elmer Davis are comprised of smaller fish which is evident by their low average weight per bass (0.76 pounds).

Lake Barkley averaged the least amount of time (61 angler hours) to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds (Table 5). Kentucky Lake ranked second and averaged 86 hours to catch a bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds in 2008. Other top lakes include Lake Cumberland (91 hours), Laurel River Lake (106 hours), and Green River Lake (108 hours). In 2007, Lake Cumberland (39 hours) was ranked first in this category. Since 2002, Lake Beshear and Lake Malone had consistently been rank high in this category, but for the last couple years there was not enough catch data reported for either lake to be included in the rankings. Lake Cumberland ranked high again this year where previously it had rarely been ranked in the top 5. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley probably possess the two highest densities of large ($\geq$ 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 797 bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds during 2008, while Lake Barkley produced 225 bass $\geq$ 4.0 pounds. A total of 24 waterbodies in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 4 pounds in 2008.

Green River Lake averaged the least amount of time (344 angler hours) to catch a bass ≥ 6.0 pounds (Table 5). Lake Barkley (573 angler hours), Taylorsville Lake (888 angler hours), Lake Cumberland (972 angler hours), and Kentucky Lake (1,005 angler hours) rounded off the top 5 in this category in 2008. In terms of numbers, Kentucky Lake produced 68 bass ≥ 6.0 pounds in 2008, while Lake Barkley came in with 24 bass ≥ 6.0 pounds. The reason why Kentucky Lake does not rank higher in the top 5 is simply relies on the amount of fishing pressure. As usual, Kentucky Lake held the most tournaments this year with 46 (totaling 4,554 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 11 lakes in Kentucky produced bass in excess of 6 pounds in 2008, slightly down from 2007 and 2006, which had 12 and 13 lakes, respectively.

Kentucky Lake ranked highest for the average 1st place weight (based on a standardized 8.0 hour tournament) at a bass tournament in 2008 (Table 5). On average, it took 16.78 pounds to capture first place at Kentucky Lake this last year. Rounding out the top five lakes included Lake Barkley (16.19 pounds), Kincaid Lake (14.56 pounds), Barren River Lake (14.33 pounds), and the Ohio River (13.97 pounds). A total of 12 different waterbodies produced an average 1st place weight in excess of 10 pounds during 2008, which was an increase over 2007 and 2006 which both had 10 lakes. This number has been steadily increasing each year since 2003 when only 7 lakes met this standard. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley have produced 1st place weights for 1-day tournaments in excess of 10 pounds for the last 7 years.

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 seven years (Table 6). However, a few lakes have shown a general increasing or decreasing trend over this time period. For instance, catch rates of bass at Cave Run Lake maintained higher catch rates, increasing substantially since 2000, more than doubling from 0.09 bass per hour to 0.20 bass per hour. This trend coincides with a 13–16 inch slot limit that was implemented in 1996, and it may have resulted in an increase of the catch of fish below 13 inches. This would also help to explain why the average weight of bass caught has decreased from 1.81 pounds in 2000 to 0.80 pounds in 2008. Kentucky Lake also continues to exhibit increasing catch rates by tournament anglers since 2001. Even with this trend, the average weight of bass during a tournament has remained consistent.

Tournament angler success increased at 61% of the water bodies assessed in 2008 (Table 6). A couple of these lakes have shown increasing trends for the past several years including Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake. It appears that angler success at Green River Lake is continuing to make a comeback from its all-time low in 2003 (36.1%) to what is considered to be more representative of the lake in 2008 (63.3%). Both success rates and catch rates of bass by tournament anglers on the Ohio River appear to have bounced back compared to a low year in 2007. This could be attributed to a couple of factors besides simply better fishing. One big difference is the number of tournaments reported from Ohio River in 2008 was the highest since the project began.

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 earlier 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.

Trends in catch rates of ≥ 4.0 and ≥ 6.0 pounds bass are difficult to follow because so many factors go into their calculation. But Green River Lake happens to be one of those waterbodies that have shown a noticeable increase in the catch of quality and trophy sized bass. Until last year, Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake required less time to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds each year for the previous three years. But with 2008 data, these two lakes may be starting to level out, but it will take a couple more years to know for sure. The catch of bass ≥ 6.0 pounds is rare outside of the bigger reservoirs like Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake, which makes it difficult to describe any kind of trend that could not simply be attributed to chance.

If the trends observed in 2008 continue into the 2009 fishing season, anglers should continue to see good catches of bass at Barren River and Green River lakes. Cave Run Lake appears to have leveled out with higher catch rates and lower average weight per bass. Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley are 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 fell some from an outstanding season in 2007, and with its history being so variable it will be difficult to predict what will happen in 2009. But with an average weight per bass easily averaging over 2.0 pounds, Lake Cumberland is hardly a disappointment. For those anglers looking to catch a trophy bass, we again suggest targeting Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley during 2009, but do not discount some of last year's success at Green River and Laurel River lakes.

Once again, KDFWR thanks all those who participated in the 2008 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 fishing in 2009 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 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Barren River Lake										
Spring	18	854	1476	0.15	61.0	2.42	70	5	7.34	14.73
Summer	7	163	230	0.17	58.9	2.18	12	0	5.53	11.76
Fall	7	616	1167	0.19	59.7	2.08	26	0	5.45	15.87
Total	32	1633	2873	0.16	60.2	2.29	108	5	7.34	14.33
Cave Run Lake										
Summer & Total	2	70	222	0.20	59.4	0.80	1	0	5.37	3.94
Dale Hollow										
Spring	1	69	143	0.26	75.4	1.84	4	0	4.89	26.52
Fall	1	100	78	0.09	46.0	2.26	5	1	6.62	18.32
Total	2	169	221	0.17	60.7	2.05	9	1	6.62	22.42
Dewey Lake										
Spring & Total	1	151	53	0.04	26.5	1.49	1	0	4.23	9.56
Green River Lake										
Spring	7	318	335	0.15	49.6	2.23	29	10	7.30	16.34
Summer	7	275	389	0.17	56.0	2.20	31	9	6.79	12.76
Fall	6	251	294	0.21	53.8	1.70	7	2	7.46	10.93
Total	20	844	1018	0.17	53.1	2.06	67	21	7.46	13.47
Herrington Lake										
Spring	4	143	222	0.17	52.8	1.65	5	1	7.03	11.89
Summer	3	97	221	0.29	77.3	1.26	0	0	3.77	12.24
Total	7	240	443	0.22	63.3	1.48	5	1	7.03	12.04

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Kentucky Lake										
Spring	22	2310	5222	0.20	66.2	2.74	342	44	8.75	17.43
Summer	14	1142	4982	0.22	88.3	2.45	356	16	7.04	18.04
Fall	9	1073	2270	0.16	62.4	2.42	97	7	7.10	13.52
Winter	1	29	21	0.10	31.0	2.59	2	1	6.10	14.40
Total	46	4554	12495	0.20	71.4	2.58	797	68	8.75	16.78
Lake Barkley										
Spring	20	1023	1689	0.19	63.2	2.86	158	20	7.50	16.97
Summer	10	449	751	0.23	77.7	2.46	57	4	7.93	16.87
Fall	5	127	242	0.15	85.2	2.30	10	0	5.66	11.76
Total	35	1599	2682	0.19	70.5	2.67	225	24	7.93	16.19
Lake Cumberland										
Spring	13	364	363	0.12	51.0	2.31	34	3	7.25	11.45
Summer	1	28	27	0.07	71.4	2.04	0	0	3.78	7.76
Winter	1	314	201	0.08	39.8	2.88	30	3	6.04	20.20
Total	15	706	591	0.12	51.7	2.33	64	6	7.25	11.77
Laurel River Lake										
Spring & Total	4	280	446	0.18	62.2	3.14	23	0	5.80	12.68
Nolin River Lake										
Spring	16	612	768	0.14	63.8	1.78	46	6	6.45	10.66
Summer	6	193	200	0.12	57.1	1.86	9	1	6.11	10.31
Fall	2	77	98	0.12	92.9	1.74	5	0	5.98	5.10
Winter	1	41	26	0.08	70.7	1.67	1	0	4.25	7.41
Total	25	923	1092	0.13	64.8	1.79	61	7	6.45	10.00

Table 1 (cont). Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes >1000 acres by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Rough River Lake										
Spring	4	129	73	0.09	41.6	2.21	7	2	6.45	8.76
Summer	7	213	264	0.14	56.0	1.70	19	0	5.73	10.86
Fall	5	400	303	0.10	56.0	1.93	14	0	5.66	12.58
Winter	1	18	3	0.02	16.7	2.14	0	0	2.87	3.28
Total	17	760	643	0.11	50.3	1.91	40	2	6.45	10.42
Taylorsville Lake										
Spring	1	60	48	0.10	26.7	2.56	3	0	5.08	13.42
Fall	4	52	22	0.05	30.7	2.22	0	0	3.46	5.16
Total	5	112	70	0.06	29.9	2.29	3	0	5.08	6.81
Yatesville Lake										
Spring	2	51	18	0.10	58.1	2.52	1	0	5.65	8.89
Summer	1	18	13	0.12	33.3	2.10	0	0	3.59	11.60
Total	3	69	31	0.10	49.9	2.38	1	0	5.65	9.79

Table 2. Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes <1000 acres by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Boltz Lake										
Spring & Total	1	18	7	0.06	22.2	2.21	1	0	4.41	8.26
Bullock Pen Lake										
Spring & Total	2	14	13	0.15	57.5	2.90	2	0	5.50	8.55
Carr Creek Lake										
Spring & Total	1	44	13	0.03	27.3	2.69	1	0	4.68	5.75
Cedar Creek lake										
Spring	4	91	8	0.01	7.4	4.87	7	0	5.58	5.31
Summer	2	70	1	< 0.01	1.8	5.11	1	0	5.11	3.41
Total	6	161	9	0.01	5.5	4.93	8	0	5.58	4.67
Elmer Davis Lake										
Spring	2	72	96	0.18	64.3	0.80	2	1	6.94	5.96
Summer	1	39	117	0.38	56.4	0.66	1	0	4.06	8.43
Total	3	111	213	0.25	61.7	0.76	3	1	6.94	6.78
Guist Creek Lake										
Spring	7	237	77	0.06	33.5	1.82	4	0	4.96	5.84
Summer	3	76	129	0.21	81.6	2.01	9	0	5.47	16.02
Total	10	313	206	0.11	49.6	1.88	13	0	5.47	9.23
Kincaid Lake										
Spring	1	24	29	0.15	33.3	1.87	3	0	4.65	13.92
Summer	10	332	220	0.14	30.0	1.57	6	1	6.80	13.13
Fall	3	64	53	0.27	41.7	1.34	0	0	2.90	19.53
Total	14	420	302	0.17	32.7	1.55	9	1	6.80	14.56
Lake Beshear										
Spring & Total	1	11	7	0.08	45.5	2.42	0	0	3.13	5.22

Table 2 (cont.) Summary of bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes <1000 acres by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Williamstown Lake										
Spring & Total	1	20	0	0.00	0.0	0.00	0	0	0.00	0.00
Willisburg Lake										
Spring	2	17	27	0.22	92.9	1.40	0	0	2.81	7.13
Summer	1	18	27	0.19	77.8	1.44	1	0	4.01	14.37
Total	3	35	54	0.21	87.8	1.41	1	0	4.01	9.54
Wood Creek Lake										
Summer & Total	1	7	1	0.02	16.3	1.1	0	0	1.10	0.98

Table 3. Summary of bass tournament data from the Ohio River (by pool and total), and Kentucky River by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Ohio River										
Cannelton Pool										
Summer & Total	1	28	16	0.07	46.4	0.28	0	0	2.08	4.40
Greenup Pool										
Summer	2	122	160	0.15	49.8	1.43	0	0	3.50	9.71
Fall	1	28	45	0.20	60.7	1.22	0	0	2.05	8.00
	3	150	205	0.17	53.5	1.36	0	0	3.50	9.14
Markland Pool										
Spring	7	147	165	0.24	55.4	1.67	2	0	4.96	14.04
Summer	20	609	712	0.27	63.4	1.53	6	0	4.73	15.38
Fall	6	111	92	0.27	64.8	1.48	2	0	5.11	16.48
Total	33	867	969	0.27	62.0	1.55	10	0	5.11	15.30
McAlpine Pool										
Summer & Total	1	8	16	0.25	87.5	1.16	0	0	2.15	8.05
Meldahl Pool										
Spring	2	48	110	0.29	46.4	1.64	0	0	3.89	13.08
Summer	3	304	492	0.22	72.1	1.37	0	0	3.50	14.25
Fall	1	27	76	0.23	70.4	1.11	0	0	2.24	5.33
Total	6	379	678	0.24	63.3	1.42	0	0	3.89	12.38
Ohio River Total										
Spring	9	195	275	0.25	53.4	1.66	2	0	4.96	13.83
Summer	28	1077	1414	0.25	64.9	1.45	6	0	4.73	14.00
Fall	8	166	213	0.26	65.0	1.40	2	0	5.11	14.03
Total	45	1438	1902	0.25	62.6	1.48	10	0	5.11	13.97

Table 3 (cont.). Summary of bass tournament data from the Cumberland and Kentucky rivers by season and overall for 2008.

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 1st place weight (lbs) per 8 hour day
Cumberland River										
Summer & Total	1	8	24	0.38	87.5	2.24	3	0	5.81	17.01
Kentucky River										
Spring	1	17	35	0.29	88.2	1.31	0	0	3.60	9.71
Summer	2	43	55	0.17	43.7	1.43	0	0	3.57	12.03
Fall	2	51	79	0.21	62.7	1.31	0	0	3.19	11.36
Total	5	111	169	0.21	60.2	1.36	0	0	3.60	11.30

Table 4. Species composition (%) at each tournament site reported in 2008. 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	73	3	24
Boltz Lake	100	0	0
Bullock Pen Lake	100	0	0
Carr Creek Lake	100	0	0
Cave Run Lake	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cedar Creek Lake	89	0	11
Cumberland River	100	0	0
Dale Hollow Lake	37	4	59
Dewey Lake	100	0	0
Elmer Davis Lake	100	0	0
Green River Lake	91	4	5
Guist Creek Lake	100	0	0
Herrington Lake	96	0	4
Kentucky Lake	90	6	4
Kentucky River - Lower	67	5	27
Kincaid Lake	99	0	1
Lake Barkley	94	4	2
Lake Beshear	100	0	0
Lake Cumberland	35	24	41
Laurel River Lake	51	14	35
Nolin River Lake	89	1	10
Ohio River - Cannelton	0	6	94
Ohio River -Greenup	50	15	35
Ohio River - Markland	84	3	13
Ohio River - McAlpine	100	0	0
Ohio River - Meldahl	69	2	29
Ohio River - All Pools	75	4	21
Rough River Lake	93	<1	7
Taylorsville Lake	100	0	0
Willisburg Lake	100	0	0
Wood Creek Lake	100	0	0
Yatesville Lake	100	0	0

Table 5. Rankings of all tournament waters based on the 2008 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 ≥ 4.0 lbs [A]		Hrs. to catch a bass ≥ 6.0 lbs [B]		Average 1st place weight (lb) per 8 hour day	
Willisburg Lake	87.8	Laurel River Lake	3.14	Elmer Davis Lake	0.25	Lake Barkley	61	Green River Lake	344	Kentucky Lake	16.78
Kentucky Lake	71.4	Lake Barkley	2.67	Ohio River	0.25	Kentucky Lake	86	Lake Barkley	573	Lake Barkley	16.19
Barren River Lake	70.5	Kentucky Lake	2.58	Herrington Lake	0.22	Lake Cumberland	91	Taylorsville Lake	888	Kincaid Lake	14.56
Nolin River Lake	64.8	Yatesville Lake	2.38	Willisburg Lake	0.21	Laurel River Lake	106	Lake Cumberland	972	Barren River Lake	14.33
Herrington Lake	63.3	Lake Cumberland	2.33	Kentucky River	0.21	Green River Lake	108	Kentucky Lake	1005	Ohio River	13.97
Ohio River	62.6	Barren River Lake	2.29	Kentucky Lake	0.20	Cedar Creek Lake	124	Nolin River Lake	1222	Green River Lake	13.47
Laurel River Lake	62.2	Taylorsville Lake	2.29	Lake Barkley	0.19	Barren River Lake	137	Herrington Lake	1900	Laurel River Lake	12.68
Elmer Davis Lake	61.7	Green River Lake	2.06	Laurel River Lake	0.18	Nolin River Lake	140	Kincaid Lake	2036	Herrington Lake	12.08
Kentucky River	60.2	Rough River Lake	1.91	Green River Lake	0.17	Guist Creek Lake	154	Barren River Lake	2964	Lake Cumberland	11.77
Lake Barkley	60.2	Guist Creek Lake	1.88	Kincaid Lake	0.17	Rough River Lake	159	Rough River Lake	3188	Kentucky River	11.30
Green River Lake	53.1	Nolin River Lake	1.79	Barren River Lake	0.16	Willisburg Lake	200	Laurel River Lake	N/A	Rough River Lake	10.42
Lake Cumberland	51.7	Kincaid Lake	1.55	Nolin River Lake	0.13	Kincaid Lake	226	Cedar Creek Lake	N/A	Nolin River Lake	10.00
Rough River Lake	50.3	Ohio River	1.48	Lake Cumberland	0.12	Elmer Davis Lake	296	Guist Creek Lake	N/A	Yatesville Lake	9.79
Yatesville Lake	49.9	Herrington Lake	1.48	Guist Creek Lake	0.11	Taylorsville Lake	299	Willisburg Lake	N/A	Willisburg Lake	9.54
Guist Creek Lake	49.6	Willisburg Lake	1.41	Rough River Lake	0.11	Herrington Lake	380	Taylorsville Lake	N/A	Guist Creek Lake	9.23
Kincaid Lake	32.7	Kentucky River	1.36	Yatesville Lake	0.10	Ohio River	510	Ohio River	N/A	Taylorsville Lake	6.81
Taylorsville Lake	29.9	Elmer Davis Lake	0.76	Taylorsville Lake	0.06	Yatesville Lake	516	Yatesville Lake	N/A	Elmer Davis Lake	6.78

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 ≥ 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 ≥ 4.0 lbs. This means that an average 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours, should catch 8 bass ≥ 4.0 lbs during each tournament.

[B] This metric relates to the amount of fishing hours reported to catch a bass ≥ 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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Barren River Lake									Beaver Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.15	0.14	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.20	0.20	0.06	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.06	--	--	--
Percent successful	45.3	49.3	52.5	61.3	70.4	63.1	55.6	63.1	60.2	24.0	19.4	16.2	16.7	10.5	28.4	--	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.89	1.75	2.25	2.20	1.89	2.09	2.56	2.32	2.29	2.29	2.05	2.43	3.00	2.48	2.55	--	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	500	250	167	200	143	184	53	137	250	333	>1000	167	>1000	200	--	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	333	--	--	--

	Cave Run Lake									Dale Hollow Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.09	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.07	0.05	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.18	0.10	0.07	0.17
Percent successful	59.3	24.2	21.1	27.1	55.8	59.4	71.6	65.5	59.4	36.6	30.8	41.8	37.8	26.1	54.7	57.1	30.0	60.7
Average weight per bass	1.81	1.99	2.74	2.37	1.28	1.18	0.71	0.68	0.80	1.94	1.72	1.78	1.80	2.11	1.57	2.34	2.30	2.05
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	500	250	500	333	333	440	>1000	>1000	143	333	500	>1000	125	143	401	290	161
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	>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 = 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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Dewey Lake									Grayson Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
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	--	--
Percent successful	--	--	41.8	35.9	25.0	39.9	59.5	n/a	27	23.7	9.9	--	--	--	42.3	12.5	--	--
Average weight per bass	--	--	2.14	1.76	2.90	1.86	2.86	2.59	1.49	3.03	2.89	--	--	--	0.75	2.71	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	--	500	500	77	167	38	n/a	>1000	167	1000	--	--	--	n/a	128	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	382	n/a	n/a	333	1000	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--	--

	Green River Lake									Guist Creek Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.15	0.18	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.19	0.22	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.11
Percent successful	65.6	73.4	60.9	36.1	49.7	49.0	44.8	56.5	63.3	30.8	40.0	45.6	38.2	45.1	51.5	50.1	46.6	49.6
Average weight per bass	1.40	1.38	1.56	1.74	2.10	1.51	1.74	1.65	1.48	1.74	1.59	2.07	1.58	1.69	1.82	2.33	1.90	1.88
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	167	200	333	1000	111	500	184	179	108	1000	1000	250	>1000	1000	250	229	119	154
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	1000	>1000	n/a	500	>1000	>1000	>1000	344	n/a	1000	>1000	n/a	1000	n/a	688	894	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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Herrington Lake									Kentucky Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	0.09	0.07	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.11	0.22	0.11	0.09	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.17	0.2
Percent successful	52.3	54.0	40.0	54.4	76.5	58.5	75.8	50.2	63.3	63.9	37.8	49.2	65.7	56.0	56.5	63.5	57.1	71.4
Average weight per bass	1.38	1.51	1.76	1.44	1.57	1.63	1.30	1.80	1.48	2.56	2.56	2.72	2.37	2.72	2.52	2.48	2.60	2.58
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	500	333	500	500	n/a	500	n/a	339	380	167	500	167	200	100	143	127	81	86
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	795	818	>1000

	Kentucky River									Kincaid Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.24	0.09	0.08	0.09	--	0.07	0.14	0.12	0.21	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.17
Percent successful	79.0	54.3	38.2	41.2	--	35.3	73.1	43.2	60.2	48.3	32.5	24.4	42.7	41.7	44.7	39.2	42.6	32.7
Average weight per bass	1.47	1.56	1.56	1.52	--	1.82	1.38	1.17	1.36	1.98	2.24	1.99	1.66	1.66	1.89	1.53	1.96	1.55
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	n/a	333	>1000	1000	--	333	259	n/a	n/a	100	143	333	250	333	167	231	124	226
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	>1000	n/a	333	n/a	248	>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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Lake Barkley									Lake Cumberland								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.07	0.05	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.20	0.12
Percent successful	43.7	59.9	51.8	51.1	55.0	53.2	55.6	65.2	70.5	43.0	23.0	41.1	31.7	45.9	45.0	46.4	79.8	51.7
Average weight per bass	2.68	1.69	2.54	2.54	2.27	2.55	2.56	2.62	2.67	2.13	2.43	2.10	1.93	2.02	2.21	2.09	2.62	2.33
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	143	1000	125	143	125	100	84	53	61	333	333	125	500	167	125	440	39	91
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	610	518	573	n/a	>1000	>1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	709	972

	Lake Malone									Laurel River Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	--	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.07	--	--	--	0.05	0.02	--	0.05	--	--	n/a	--	0.2
Percent successful	51.5	--	36.9	39.6	41.9	38.4	--	--	--	53.0	28.7	--	20.7	--	--	61.1	--	62.2
Average weight per bass	2.23	--	2.92	2.58	2.02	3.31	--	--	--	1.58	1.89	--	1.82	--	--	n/a	--	3.1
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	111	--	91	59	83	43	--	--	--	500	>1000	--	>1000	--	--	72	--	106
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	250	--	250	333	333	333	--	--	--	n/a	>1000	--	n/a	--	--	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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Nolin River Lake									Paintsville Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.16	0.11	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.13	--	--	0.11	0.07	0.25	0.28	0.35	--	--
Percent successful	84.3	63.8	67.5	44.2	66.2	63.9	64.7	61.3	64.8	--	--	42.0	32.9	67.0	75.6	63.2	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.68	1.55	1.84	1.83	2.03	1.96	1.89	1.73	1.79	--	--	0.81	1.09	0.77	0.75	0.4	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	1000	>1000	500	1000	500	167	176	127	140	--	--	1000	500	1000	500	n/a	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	--	--

	Rough River Lake									Stoner Creek								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.08	0.15	--	0.14	0.21	--	0.26	--	--
Percent successful	62.8	62.8	69.0	56.8	62.4	56.6	57.5	57.2	50.3	46.0	53.6	--	42.9	60.5	--	54.5	--	--
Average weight per bass	1.67	1.61	1.63	1.95	1.96	1.79	2.03	2.02	1.91	1.33	1.12	--	1.41	1.32	--	1.53	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	250	250	500	333	167	143	176	126	159	n/a	n/a	--	500	n/a	--	88	--	--
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	500	1000	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	>1000	969	>1000	n/a	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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Taylorsville Lake									Yatesville Lake								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.1
Percent successful	22.0	23.0	35.2	26.1	30.6	46.4	40.3	34.3	29.9	29.7	41.6	28.1	45.2	30.3	40.6	35.7	39.1	49.9
Average weight per bass	2.56	2.40	2.26	2.30	2.23	2.32	2.16	2.36	2.38	2.59	2.23	2.66	2.67	2.43	2.22	2.24	2.07	2.38
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	200	333	333	1000	500	333	932	195	299	250	167	250	111	143	143	352	>1000	516
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	n/a	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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Cannelton Pool									Greenup Pool								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.14	0.07	0.06	0.17	--	--	0.10	0.11	0.07	0.17	0.07	0.07	0.16	--	--	--	--	0.17
Percent successful	64.1	34.9	35.2	42.9	--	--	50.0	43.1	46.4	63.0	27.9	37.2	64.3	--	--	--	--	53.5
Average weight per bass	1.57	1.55	1.42	1.30	--	--	1.37	1.48	0.28	1.23	1.49	1.42	1.24	--	--	--	--	1.36
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	250	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	--	--	--	--	n/a

	Markland Pool									McAlpine Pool								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.16	0.07	0.12	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.27	0.16	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.25
Percent successful	--	36.7	33.4	46.1	40.0	51.2	70.9	42.7	62	70.2	65.4	49.2	55.0	48.6	25.0	47.7	37.8	62.0
Average weight per bass	1.77	1.67	1.50	1.42	1.36	1.50	1.25	1.29	1.55	1.47	1.47	1.43	1.33	1.58	1.58	1.62	1.54	1.16
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	--	1000	500	500	1000	1000	n/a	249	510	1000	n/a	333	1000	1000	n/a	352	446	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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>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 2000-2008. A dash indicates that not enough tournaments were reported in that year.

Variable	Meldahl Pool									Ohio River - All Pools								
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
No. bass caught per hour	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.24	0.15	0.08	0.10	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.25
Percent successful	57.0	42.6	36.0	49.0	40.8	42.5	43.6	42.1	63.3	62.9	51.9	35.0	48.4	40.7	45.8	55.6	41.2	62.6
Average weight per bass	1.32	1.41	1.26	1.33	1.36	1.37	1.41	1.40	1.42	1.54	1.54	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.44	1.36	1.42	1.48
Hours to catch a bass > 4.0 lbs	333	n/a	n/a	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	289	n/a	500	>1000	1000	500	1000	1000	>1000	317	968
Hours to catch a bass > 6.0 lbs	n/a	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

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

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.

SUMMER TOURNAMENT BASS HANDLING GUIDELINES

The following recommended guidelines are taken from the B.A.S.S. sponsored 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 June – August tournaments when water temperatures are high.

- 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.

Copies of "Keeping Bass Alive" are available to tournament directors and anglers at:

B.A.S.S. Conservation Dept.
(334) 272-9530 ext. 404
Or e-mail: conservation@bassmaster.com