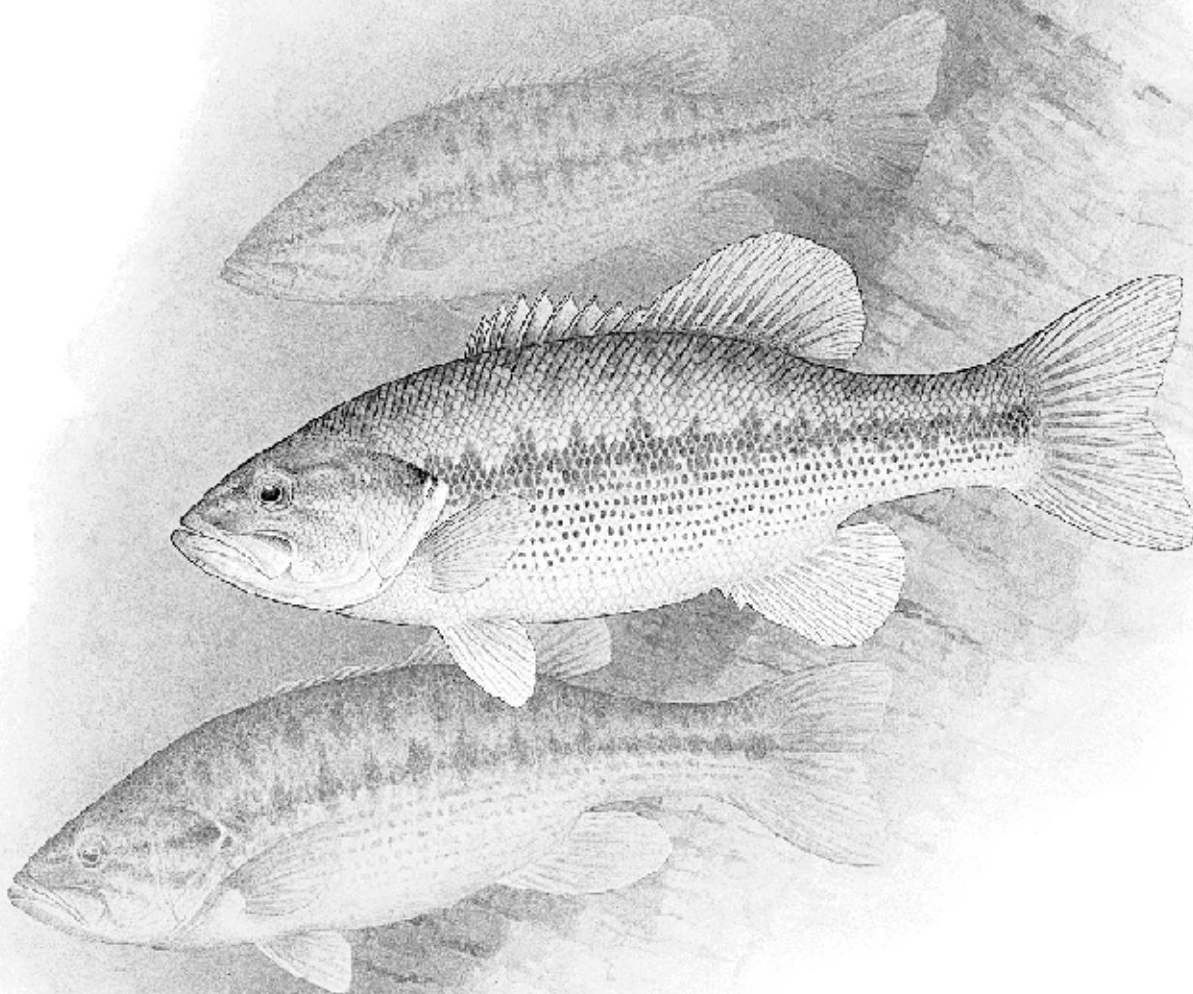




Bass Tournament Results 2010



**Kentucky Department of Fish
and Wildlife Resources**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Participation in the Tournament Reporting Program totaled 376 black bass fishing tournaments in 2010. This was an increase from 2009 when 355 tournaments reported their catch data. The truth is that ever since the program began in 1999, there has been an increase in the number of tournaments participating than from the year before. For example, in the first year of the program, only 110 tournaments reported their catch data; however, by 2008, 308 tournaments participated. Catch data statistics were obtained from 59% of all scheduled tournaments in 2010. This was just a small drop from the all-time high of 60%, in 2009. There were nearly 50 more tournaments that scheduled with Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's online system in 2010, so a 1% drop in participation was not unexpected. Black bass tournament information was obtained from 15 different large reservoirs (> 1000 acres), 14 small lakes (< 1000 acres), and the Ohio, Cumberland, Kentucky, and Tennessee rivers.

With the onset of the 2010 tournament season, there were several changes implemented to the type of data that was reported by the 376 bass tournaments. In past years, the catch data was entered the same way, regardless of whether the tournament was fished by individuals or in a team format. This would not have made much of an impact on this report had the teams in these tournaments been allowed to weigh in a limit of fish for each angler on the team. However, the majority of tournaments that use this type of format only allow the two (2) anglers on a team to weigh in a single limit of bass, which could have lead to some error in past reports. In order to produce the most accurate report possible, tournaments organizers were asked to input catch data differently in relation to what type of tournament format was used. Also in 2010, tournaments reported the number of bass that weighed 5 pounds or more, which is unlike previous years where they had to keep track of the number of bass over 4 pounds and the number over 6 pounds. Overall, the changes implemented in 2010 were important to increase the accuracy of this report and hopefully decrease the amount of data that each tournament had to keep track of.

Nearly all of the black bass tournaments in 2010 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 91.8% of all black bass tournaments; however, 1.3% and 6.9% reported using creel limits of 1 and 3 fish, respectively. Twelve inch and 15-inch minimum size limits were the most commonly used length limits. The percentage of bass anglers who reported catching a limit during a tournament increased considerably from 14.2% in 2009 to 18.7% in 2010. In fact, the 18.7% is now the highest since the start of this program, and a dramatic change from 11.9% of anglers that reported catching a limit in 2007. This measurement was influenced by the new way of reporting team and single angler tournaments, but the 2010 value likely reflects the true number of limits caught.

The average length of a bass fishing tournament was 8.2 hours in 2010, which was slightly lower than the average length of 8.5 hours, which was observed in 2009 and 2008. These are all still a decrease from the average tournament lengths in 2007 and 2006, which were both longer than 9 hours. Tournament lengths ranged from 3.0 to 24.0 hours in 2010. Obviously, a 24 hour tournament is comprised of a 3-day tournament that is predominantly hosted by larger tournament organizations. The majority of the 2010 tournaments were hosted in spring (41.4%) and summer (38.2%). Bass tournaments held during the fall and winter comprised 19.1% and 1.3% of the total number of tournaments, respectively. Daytime tournaments comprised 83.3% of all bass fishing tournaments, while night tournaments comprised 16.7%. Approximately 84.1% of all night tournaments were held during the warmer summer months.

In 2010, a total of 16,410 anglers weighed in 22,009 bass in the 376 bass tournaments reported to the KDFWR's Tournament Reporting Program. The average 8 hour tournament had 44 anglers in attendance and normally required around 13.11 pounds to take 1st place. This is actually a slight decrease from 2009, where it took approximately 13.3 pounds to win 1st place. However, the 2010 average was nearly identical to 2008 (13.14 lb) and still better than the lower weights in 2006 (11.1 lb) and 2005 (8.12 lb). The largest 1st

place weight in 2010 (for a 1-day, 8.0 hour tournament) was 27.2 pounds and was reported from a tournament at Kentucky Lake on March 13, 2010. The biggest single bass brought to the scales during a 2010 tournament weighed 8.56 pounds and was caught at Lake Barkley on March 20.

Lake Beshear was a top bass tournament lake once again in 2010, and was ranked in the top 3 lakes in each of the 5 main tournament statistics. It was ranked highest in the average 1st place weight per 8 hour tournament with 17.49 lbs and the amount of hours needed to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds (lbs) with only 41 hours. Cedar Creek Lake, with its strict regulations that only allows for “big fish” tournaments, again ran away with the average weight per bass category at 4.79 lbs. Lake Beshear’s average weight of 2.97 lbs came in a distant 2nd, with Lake Malone, Kentucky Lake, and Lake Barkley close behind. The other two categories, which were most influenced by the changes made to how tournament data was reported, saw a couple newcomers come in at the top. Catch rate, which is described as the number of bass caught per hour, found Fagan Branch Lake at the top with a rate of 0.70 bass/hour. Lake Beshear came in second in this category as well with a catch rate of 0.40 bass/hour. And finally, the percent of anglers/teams that were successful at catching and weighing in a bass during a tournament was highest at Herrington Lake (95.4%). As a category that is often correlated with catch rate, Fagan Branch Lake was a close second with 94.4% of angler/teams weighing in at least one bass during a tournament. As usual some perennial competitors, like Barkley, Kentucky, Barren River, and Green River lakes, were often found in the top half for all these categories as well.

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources began collecting data from black bass tournament anglers fishing in Kentucky's waters. The objective of this program is to obtain large amounts of data on the fishing pressure, catch, and success rates of bass tournament anglers. The numbers reported from these tournaments will be used to create a long-term database and to monitor trends in the black bass fisheries, both on a lake-by-lake basis and for the state as a whole. Combining this tournament data with the annual survey data collected by fisheries biologists will increase the ability of resource managers to understand and forecast changes in black bass populations throughout the state. Additionally, when this data is summarized into a yearly report, it can be used effectively by bass anglers to plan future fishing trips and to understand why fluctuations (small increases or decreases) can occur in the black bass populations.

The bass tournament program officially started to take shape when biologists obtained the contact information for many of the well-known bass clubs in Kentucky. These clubs received packets that not only contained a detailed explanation of the program and why it was so important, but specific items, like tournament report cards and the instructions on how to collect the data. The directors of these bass clubs were asked to fill in a report card for each tournament held during the year, and then mail them back to biologists at Kentucky Fish & Wildlife headquarters in Frankfort, Kentucky. These biologists then analyze the data from the various tournaments and compose a report that summarized all the data reported that year. Every club and tournament that participated in the program would get a copy of the report mailed to them by the spring of the next year.

Soon participation in the program was bolstered by the introduction of a new tournament scheduling system that was made available on the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources website. The system was completely voluntary, but it became popular among the different tournament organizations as a new way to check for and avoid conflicts with other tournaments that were scheduled on the same date and the same launch site. This website, <http://fw.ky.gov/app1/tournamentschedule.aspx>, could also be used by tournament organizers to report the results from their tournaments exactly as had been done in the past, but without having to mail anything into the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife headquarters.

For the 2010 Kentucky Bass Tournament Report, the biologists working in this program asked that the tournament report cards be mailed in or reported online by 1 February 2011 to allow enough time for data entry and analyses before the 2011 fishing season got into full swing. The completed report that compiles all the catch data from 2010 bass tournaments will be rushed out to all organizations that reported their tournament results. However, unlike previous years, a copy of the report will also be sent out at a later date to all tournaments that use the voluntary scheduling system, but did not report their data. This will hopefully illustrate to all tournament directors just how important their catch data can be to the program regardless of the size of the tournament or what the final results are. Finally, as in the past, the Bass Tournament Report will also be online at <http://fw.ky.gov/navigation.aspx?cid=143&navpath=C742>.

This report summarizes the 2010 bass tournament data by water body and season. 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).

For this report, angler catch rates are reported as the number of legal fish caught per hour of fishing. For example, if at Kentucky Lake, the catch rate for an entire year was 0.20 bass/hour of fishing then the amount of time needed to catch a legal bass would be 5 hours (100 divided by 20). 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.

During the 2010 tournament season, a couple important changes were made to how the data was reported and analyzed. First, there was an adjustment to the way big fish were tracked and reported. In previous years, biologists requested data which included both the number of fish that weighed more than 4 pounds and the number of fish that weighed more than 6 pounds. In 2010, this request was changed to only the number of bass that weighed 5 pounds or more. This would still allow biologists to determine the estimated number of angling hours it would take to catch a large bass (≥ 5.0 lbs), but also reduce the amount of tracking that tournament directors needed to do. In addition, this change hopefully reduced the amount of stress placed on bass during a weigh-in.

The most notable change in how the tournament data was reported and analyzed came from a need to adapt to the increasing number of tournaments that were using a team format. These changes were not required for those tournaments where both anglers on the team were allowed to keep their own limit of fish. Essentially, the anglers in these tournaments were the same as those in the individual angler tournaments, with the exception that they happen to be in the same boat. These changes were needed to adapt to the tournaments where the anglers on a team are fishing for one limit of bass. In previous years of this program, certain statistics in the report (i.e. angler catch rates) would naturally error on the low side as it was impossible to identify those tournaments where both anglers fished as a team working towards a single limit. With the new, modified way of reporting results, tournaments that only allow a team to weigh in a single limit of bass will be analyzed as if the teams were one angler, which is similar to the way that tournaments with individual anglers are approached.

When calculating the amount of time it takes for anglers to catch a large bass (i.e. ≥ 5.0 lbs), the initial idea was to report it as the number of large bass caught per hour of fishing. However, this number normally comes out to be extremely low and difficult to understand (i.e. the catch rate of bass ≥ 5.0 pounds was 0.004 bass/hour). As it is written, this means that for every hour fished, 0.004 bass ≥ 5.0 pounds are caught. This has since been changed to a measurement that is more user-friendly. This current measurement estimates the number of hours fished that is needed to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds. For example, in a past report, it took approximately 20 hours of fishing at Lake Beshear to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds, while it took over 800 hours to catch the same size bass at Taylorsville Lake. Initially, these numbers may seem high, but consider that in a 50 angler tournament that runs for 8.0 hours the total amount of time fished is 400 hours ($50 \times 8 = 400$). If it takes 20 hours of fishing to catch a ≥ 5.0 pound black bass, then anglers could expect to see approximately 20 fish greater than 5 pounds brought to the weigh-in at that tournament ($400 \text{ h fished} \div 20 \text{ h to catch a } \geq 5.0 \text{ lb bass}$). This statistic is simply a prediction of how many ≥ 5.0 lb bass could be expected to be caught in a given tournament. It should never be considered a guarantee; some tournaments could weigh in more bass ≥ 5.0 pounds and others might weigh in far less.

This database and report are open for use by tournament directors, tournament anglers, non-tournament anglers, and resource managers. It is intended to be just as much as a tool, as it is a record of bass tournament results over the years. All users, including anglers, have the ability to suggest any improvements that they would like to see incorporated into future reports. If you have any suggestions, would like to get information on how to get your tournament involved in the program, or simply have some comments that

need to be heard, then feel free to contact Chris Hickey, the black bass research biologist, through any of the following contact information:

Chris Hickey
KY Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources
Fisheries Lab
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, KY. 40601
Phone: 800-858-1549 ext. 4467
Email: chris.hickey@ky.gov

Your participation in this program is greatly appreciated. We also extend a very warm welcome to all clubs not already participating in the Tournament Report Program. Increased participation 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 be of benefit to 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 and time at the same ramp. During the registration process, tournament directors will be able to verify if a tournament has already registered for an event on the day, ramp, and waterbody that they are interested in. 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 to schedule your tournament either at a different ramp or date to help reduce conflicts associated with multiple tournaments using the same ramp.** 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 2011, and hope to see you out on the water!

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Participation in the Tournament Report Program totaled 376 black bass fishing tournaments in 2010. This is higher than the number of tournaments reporting in the past 6 years, including 2009 when 355 tournaments reported their catch data. Catch statistics were obtained from 59.2% of the tournaments that were registered online in 2010. This is a small decrease from the 61.0% of scheduled tournaments that reported their catch data in 2009, which was the highest reporting rate since the program began. This makes the 59.2% in 2010 the second highest rate as it is still greater than what was reported in 2008 (58.0%) and 2007 (51.7%). The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) would like to remind tournament directors that if any of the required tournament data is missing results of that tournament cannot be used in this report. KDFWR therefore asks that if there are any questions/problems with entering catch data that tournament directors contact us for assistance. With the increased participation, effective data entry, and a real understanding of the importance of this program, we can obtain a more complete and reliable picture of black bass fisheries in various lake and rivers throughout Kentucky.

In 2010, a total of 376 black bass fishing tournaments were reported from 33 different water bodies in Kentucky. At least one tournament report was obtained from each of 15 different lakes $\geq 1,000$ acres (large reservoirs) (Table 1). This was identical to what was observed in 2009, and although it was still higher than 2008 (14 lakes), it is a lower reporting rate compared to a stretch in 2004 (17 lakes), 2005 (16 Lakes) and 2006 (16 lakes). The number of small lakes (< 1000 acres) is where the noticeable increase came in 2010 (Table 2). The 14 small lakes with bass tournaments in 2010 was a considerable increase over 2009 (10 small lakes) and 2008 (11 small lakes). And to finished it up in 2010, bass tournament catch data was obtained from the 4 large river systems in Kentucky, including the Ohio (Cannelton, Greenup, Markland, McAlpine, and Meldahl pools), Cumberland, Kentucky, and Tennessee rivers (Table 3).

With the changes in how data was reported in 2010, we are able to report on the different tournament formats that were commonly used. The more recognizable, individual angler format made up only 22.8% of all the tournaments. In this format, anglers are fishing for their own daily limit of bass and they will usually fish out of separate boats. On the other hand, the team format was much more common (76.7%) in 2010 bass tournaments and often consisted of 2 anglers using the same boat and working together for a single limit of bass. However, there is a different type of team format that was not commonplace in 2010 (0.5%). In this format, the team members fish together, but instead of working towards one limit they are allowed to weigh in what would constitute two limits, one attributed to each angler on the team. This specific format was only used by 2 of the 376 bass tournaments that reported their catch data in 2010.

The majority of black bass fishing tournaments used a daily creel limit of either 5 or 6 fish in 2010. Approximately, 78.8% of all bass tournaments utilized a 5-fish daily creel, while 13.0% used a 6-fish daily creel limit. This was nearly identical to what was observed in 2009, where 78.4% of tournaments used the 5-fish daily creel and 16.9% used the 6-fish limit. Also in 2010, 6.9% of all bass tournaments reported utilizing a 3-fish daily creel limit and 1.3% used a 1-fish limit. Tournaments that used a lower limit, like 3 fish, were usually much shorter in length and often scheduled in the evening on a week day. However, the 1-fish limits could be used by "Big Fish" tournaments held at lakes with highly restrictive regulations (i.e. Cedar Creek Lake). With trophy regulations, like a 1-fish and 20 in minimum length limit for largemouth bass, Cedar Creek Lake in Lincoln County is not suitable for the "standard" bass tournament format, but the fishing is often good enough that several clubs will employ a "big-fish" format in order to fit the lake into its annual schedule.

In 2010, 18.7% of all anglers/teams reported weighing in a full daily limit of black bass during the course of a tournament, considerably more than in 2009 (14.2%). In fact, this percentage of anglers/teams that caught their limit surpassed the previous high mark of 16.2%, which was observed in 2008. However, this calculation is substantially influenced by the recent change in how tournaments report their data. In the previous years of this program, including 2008 and 2009, the percentages were calculated by simply dividing the number of anglers that weighed-in a limit by the total number of anglers in the database. In this method,

teams (usually 2 anglers) fishing for a 5 or 6 fish limit were not differentiated from an individual angler fishing for the same limit. For example, if the teams were not accounted for in 2010, then the same number of limits reported would have to be divided by the total number of anglers in the database, a higher number when it is assumed that there are usually 2 anglers on a team. If the original formula had been used, the percentage of “anglers” catching their limit in 2010 would have been 12.3%, which is actually lower than both 2008 (16.2%) and 2009 (14.2%). But now when the number of limits caught are reported, they can be connected to either an individual angler or a team (2 anglers) depending on that tournament’s chosen format. This new approach will result in higher, but actually more accurate, percentages of anglers/teams that caught their limit of bass during a tournament.

Similar to previous years of the program, size limits used were reported for all the tournaments and in most cases followed the regulations that are set for each lake. Most tournaments used either a 12-inch or 15-inch minimum size limit. Directors and anglers should be aware that the size limits that are set for each tournament must follow at minimum 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 24.0 hours (h) with an average time of 8.2 h in 2010, which is a slight drop from the 8.5 h average in both 2009 and 2008. A decrease in the average length of the tournaments in 2010 simply means that there were less multiple day events and an increase in the number of smaller bass clubs reporting catch data from weekday tournaments. Of the 376 bass tournaments that were reported in 2010, 90.7% were 1-day fishing events, 8.8% were 2-day fishing events, and 0.5% were held over 3 days. The 3-day tournaments are usually larger, individual angler events that are hosted by major bass tournament organizations. By season, the majority of the 2010 bass fishing tournaments were held during the spring (41.4%) and summer (38.2%). Bass fishing tournaments held in the fall comprised 19.1% of the total number of tournaments, only 1.3% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the winter months. Approximately 83.3% of all bass fishing tournaments were held during the day, while 16.7% were held at night. Of all the night tournaments reported, 84.1% were held during the summer months when day-time temperatures are usually around 90° F.

Regardless of what tournament format was used and assuming that there were 2 anglers on every team, there were a total of 16,410 anglers that fished in the 2010 bass tournaments. As would be expected with the increase in tournaments that reported their catch data, the total number of anglers in 2010 was a good deal higher than those in the past several years, including 2009 (15,456 anglers), 2008 (14,821 anglers) and 2007 (13,317 anglers). Nonetheless, when this total is broken down by tournament format, there were actually 10,739 “angling-units” reported in 2010. These “angling-units” consisted of the total number of anglers (5,068) in individual tournaments and the total number of pairs (5,671) in the team tournaments. This is not a measure that can be compared to the tournaments from previous years because it was not part of the data until 2010. However, this specific information will be required from now on and there will soon be enough data that it can be evaluated using the new reporting methods.

In 2010, the 16,410 anglers, or 10,739 angling-units, weighed in a total of 22,009 bass. The total weight for all the 2010 bass tournaments came to 52,332 pounds (lbs), which when divided by the total number of bass that were brought to the scales, resulted in an average weight of 2.38 lbs. Even though more anglers/tournaments reported their catch data in 2010, there was actually a 2.6% decrease from the 22,587 bass that were caught in 2009 tournaments. Bass numbers in 2010 were also 14.7% lower than the 25,793 bass reported in 2008, which still stands as the highest number of bass caught in one tournament year since this program began in 1999.

Catch rate of black bass, described as the number of bass caught per angler, is another one of those measurements that can be substantially influenced by the different ways that tournament results were reported in 2010. Using the previous method of considering every tournament angler as an individual, the

catch rate of black bass in 2010 was 1.26 bass/angler. It was already noted that despite the higher number of anglers participating in 2010, the total number of bass caught was lower than in previous years, which is also true for the catch rate in 2010 when compared to 2009 (1.46 bass/angler), 2008 (1.74 bass/angler), and even 2007 (1.45 bass/angler). However, when the total number of anglers is broken down into individuals and teams, all fishing for the same limit of fish, it results in a more accurate measure of the catch rate. From data reported for 2010 bass tournaments, the new catch rate for black bass is 2.11 bass/angling-unit, which is the first time any yearly catch rate was able to surpass the 2 bass mark. If these changes had been in place near the start of this program, then the catch rates from previous years would have likely been much higher as well, and the 2, or even 3, bass mark could have been reached prior to 2010.

The average size of a tournament in 2010 was 44 anglers, which is identical to what was found in 2009 and slightly less than 2008 and 2007 when both years averaged 48 anglers/tournament. When 2010 tournaments are analyzed according to their format, it was determined that the individual tournaments averaged 60 anglers and the team tournaments averaged only 20 teams. These results demonstrate that the team format appears to be more popular with the smaller bass clubs/tournaments, which was already reinforced by the fact that the vast majority (77.2%) of tournaments in 2010 adopted the team format.

In 2010, the average weight it took to win a “standard” 8.0 hour tournament, regardless of the water body, was 13.11 pounds. This standard 1st place weight was down slightly from the 13.30 pounds in 2009, but almost identical to the 13.14 pounds it took to win in 2008. In fact, the 13.11 pounds is very respectable when it is considered that with the exception of 2007 (13.80 lbs), this average 1st place weight was substantially larger than in earlier years of the program where from 2003 through 2006, the highest average weight it took to win the “standard” tournament was only 11.01 pounds. The highest individual 1st place weight (1-day, 8 hour tournament) that was reported in 2010 was on March 13 when it took 27.2 pounds to win a tournament held at Kentucky Lake.

The black bass species predominantly caught during 2010 tournaments were largemouth bass. Largemouth bass comprised 87.4% of the total angler catch, with spotted and smallmouth bass accounting for 7.5% and 5.1% of the remaining catch, respectively. The catch of largemouth bass continued to increase over the past few years with this species making up 86.4% of the 2009 tournament catch and 85.0% in 2008. In 2010, the highest percentages of spotted bass came from tournaments held at Dale Hollow (55.0%), Lake Cumberland (34.0%), and Herrington Lake (32.0%). As for the smallmouth, Lake Cumberland (24.0%), the Tennessee River (16.0%) and Laurel River Lake (10.0%) were the only waterbodies that had 10% or more of the tournaments catch consisting of smallmouth bass.

During the first ten years of this program, all waterbodies that had 3 or more tournaments that reported their catch data were included in the ranking system. This system ranked the waterbodies in 6 specific categories that related to the success of the anglers and the size of the fish that were caught (Table 5). However, recent changes to how bass tournament data was reported meant the elimination of one of the original categories. In 2010, this category was replaced by one that ranked the lakes & rivers according to the number of bass tournaments that were held there. This new category does not directly relate to the anglers’ success or the size of the bass, but it is helpful in identifying how the number of tournaments can impact other results in this report. It is also very important to keep in mind that there are other aspects of a particular waterbody (i.e. different creel and minimum length limits) that can have a negative or positive impact on where they rank in the different categories.

The analysis of the number of tournaments held at each waterbody showed that the larger reservoirs and the Ohio River around North-Central Kentucky were the preferred locations for 2010 bass tournaments. The top 3 reservoirs holding the most bass tournaments in 2010 were Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake and Barren River Lake (Table 5). Along with the Ohio River, these were the only waterbodies with 25 or more bass tournaments that reported their catch data to this program. The Ohio River, Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley often occupy a perennial spot on the top of this list with other larger reservoirs, like Barren River, Rough River, Green River, and Taylorsville lakes, coming in close behind. However, another one of the

larger reservoirs in Kentucky, Lake Cumberland, often falls in the middle of the rankings for its number of bass tournaments. Despite its large size, several features of Lake Cumberland are more conducive to cooler water fisheries (i.e. striped bass and walleye) and, according to the data reported to this program, it is usually not the top choice for black bass tournaments.

The next category in the 2010 rankings looked at bass catch rates for each waterbody that had 3 or more tournaments. Catch rates are calculated in terms of the number of bass caught per hour of fishing by tournament anglers/teams. These catch rates can be best illustrated by considering a bass tournament that has 100 anglers/teams in the competition. If the lake where the tournament is being held has an average catch rate of 0.40 bass/hour, then for every hour of the tournament it can be expected that approximately 40 “keeper” bass are caught by the anglers/teams (100 anglers/teams X 0.4 bass/h = 40 fish). This 8-hour tournament would then have an average of 320 bass brought in to the weigh-in. In 2010, bass catch rates were highest at Fagan Branch Lake (0.70 bass/hour) (Table 5). Other waterbodies that were in the top 5 included Lake Beshear (0.40 bass/hour), Herrington Lake (0.37 bass/hour), the Ohio River (0.34 bass/hour), and Green River Lake (0.34 bass/hour). Last year, in 2009, the Kentucky River held the top spot with 0.25 bass/hour, while both Lake Beshear and the Ohio River were very close behind with 0.24 bass/hour. The catch rate is one of those statistics that was influenced by the changes to the way tournament data was reported in 2010, which is illustrated by the higher average catch rates than what was observed in 2009. Also, many of the lakes and rivers that are routinely found at the top of the catch rate rankings often abide by the lower 12 inch minimum length limit, which often allows anglers/teams to weigh in higher numbers of smaller bass.

The average percent success is the percentage of anglers/teams that were able to weigh in a bass at a tournament, and it is calculated by dividing the number of angler/teams that weighed in a bass by the total number of anglers/teams in that tournament. For instance, if a 100 team bass tournament reported that 83 teams weighed in at least one bass, the percent success for this particular tournament was 83% ($83 \div 100 = 0.83$). The 2010 results showed that tournament anglers were most successful at Herrington Lake (Table 5). At Herrington, 95.4% of all tournament anglers/teams weighed in a legal size fish. This was a considerable increase over the highest success rate seen in 2009, which was 79.7% at Lake Beshear. Other waterbodies that ranked high in percent success during 2010 bass tournaments included Fagan Branch Lake (94.4%), Lake Beshear (85.3%), Barren River Lake (83.4%), and Rough River Lake (81.6%). The minimum length limits that vary from one lake to another can have an impact on the success of the anglers/teams. However, in 2010, this tournament statistic was influenced more by the recent changes made to the way that tournament data is collected. The average percent success at each tournament waterbody is likely more accurate, and higher, in 2010 now that individual anglers and teams are reported appropriately.

A statistic that was not altered by the recent changes to the tournament data is the average weight per bass. However, the average weight is still influenced by both differences in minimum length limits and creel limits. As is the case with Cedar Creek Lake that once again tops the list for the average weight per bass at 4.79 pounds (lbs) (Table 5). Cedar Creek Lake is a relatively young reservoir that is being developed as a trophy bass fishery with highly restrictive regulations that include a 20-inch minimum length limit and 1 fish/angler creel limit. So the most that can be brought to a tournament weigh-in is a single 20+ inch bass per angler (or 2 per team), which would greatly increase the average weight per bass. The other lakes in the top 5 include Lake Beshear (2.97 lbs), Lake Malone (2.92 lbs), Kentucky Lake (2.78 lbs), and Lake Barkley (2.69 lbs). All these lakes have statewide creel limits and, with the exception of Lake Beshear (12-inch minimum length limit), have the higher 15-inch minimum length limit. In 2009, Cedar Creek Lake ranked highest in average weight per bass with 4.91 lbs with Lake Beshear (3.40 lbs) and Laurel River Lake (3.02 lbs) coming in second and third, respectively. Aside from Cedar Creek Lake, lakes with well-known bass fisheries like Beshear, Kentucky, and Barkley, are perennially found near the top of this list since the program began in 1999.

Another change to the tournament data in 2010 was how the numbers of big bass were reported. Previously, tournaments were asked to keep track of the number of bass that weighed 4 lbs or more and the number of bass that weighed 6 lbs or more. This was simplified in 2010 by only requesting the number of bass that weighed 5 pounds or more. It turned out to be Lake Beshear that averaged the least amount of time (41 angler/team hours) to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds (Table 5). This lake also took the top spot in 2009 for both the amount of time it took to catch a bass ≥ 4.0 pounds (16 angler hours) and a bass ≥ 6.0 pounds (73 angler hours). When Lake Beshear has enough tournaments reported to be included in the rankings, it often outranks other waterbodies in the amount of time it takes to catch a large bass. Those waterbodies that finished off the top 5 in 2010 for the least amount of hours to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds were Cedar Creek Lake (65 hours), Green River Lake (101 hours), Lake Malone (102 hours), and Nolin River Lake (109 hours). Just missing the top 5 are both Lake Barkley (127 hours) and Kentucky Lake (148 hours), which are generally always near the top of the list. In 2010, these two lakes held twice as many tournaments than any other lake, which can tend to stretch out the hours it takes to catch a bass ≥ 5.0 pounds. However, when talking about numbers, Barkley and Kentucky saw 183 and 201 bass ≥ 5.0 pounds, respectively, brought to the tournament scales while the next highest, Green River Lake, only had 42 bass ≥ 5.0 pounds weighed in. Of the 33 waterbodies turning in tournament catch data in 2010, 21 reported at least 1 bass weighing ≥ 5.0 pounds.

The last category used to rank the waterbodies that reported data for 3 or more bass tournaments was the average weight required to take 1st place in a standard 1-day, 8-hour tournament. This statistic was another one of those that was not influenced by changes in the tournament data, and in 2010, Lake Beshear and its average of 17.49 lbs it took to win a standardized 8.0 hour tournament that stood on top of the list (Table 5). It was Lake Cumberland (16.57 lbs), Kentucky Lake (15.34 lbs), Lake Barkley (14.65 lbs), and Kincaid Lake (14.54 lbs) that finished off the top 5. Overall, 13 waterbodies produced an average 1st place weight in excess of 10 lbs during 2010 bass tournaments. This was down from the 15 waterbodies in 2009 that produced average 1st place weights ≥ 10.0 lbs, but was still higher than 2008 (12 lakes) and 2007 (10 lakes). A few waterbodies, like Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley, have produced 1st place weights for standardized bass tournaments well in excess of 10 lbs every single year that this program was active, starting in 1999 through today.

KDFWR has been following trends in five of these statistics at the most popular tournament waterbodies since the program started in 1999 (Table 6). It is recognized that aside from changes in tournament data, normal yearly fluctuations will also have an impact on these statistics. This should always be considered when discussing any possible trends that appear in the years of bass tournament data.

As was mentioned previously, the changes that were made to how bass tournament data was reported and analyzed in 2010 could have a substantial impact on several of the statistics that have been used in these reports since 1999. All but one of the statistics in the trend data are probably those that are most noticeably affected by these changes. Catch rate (number of bass caught per hour) and the percent of anglers who successfully weighed-in a bass at a tournament will likely be higher in 2010 because now teams that are fishing for a single limit are now looked at the same way as a single angler participating in an individual tournament. However, these changes make it impossible to effectively use these statistics from 2010 data when analyzing past trends. Fortunately, these changes will result in more accurate analysis for years to come and after a couple more years of data, new trends that are recognized could be more reliable as well.

The average weight per bass is one statistic that is not affected by the new way of reporting and analyzing bass tournament data. However, this is a statistic that does not vary much from year to year in any particular water body. Subtle changes may be observed, but can be attributed to a number of possible reasons, such as an increase/decrease in the amount of tournaments reported and the movement of a strong/weak year class of bass through the size range caught by tournament anglers. These changes may be noticeable but only seem to last for a few years before reverting back to a level that the water body is accustomed to. There may be occurrences where the average weight per bass does make a drastic change over a period of several years. If this were to happen, then the lake as a whole needs to be studied to determine what caused such a drastic

shift in growth and/or condition of the fish. Such changes could include the introduction of a new forage species, the introduction of a new competitor, or a noticeable change in water quality, all that could either help or hurt the growth and condition of bass.

The amount of time it takes to catch a big bass is difficult to trend because so many factors go into the calculation. In 2009, it appeared that some waterbodies, like Green River Lake and Lake Cumberland, were becoming regular producers of big bass, but as was already noticed in 2010, Green River Lake continued to do well while Lake Cumberland was already falling substantially. This description has all been in reference to the catch of "big bass", because the actual weight of the big bass has changed in 2010, from those bass weighing ≥ 4.0 and ≥ 6.0 pounds in the first years of the program to bass weighing ≥ 5.0 pounds in 2010 and for future years of the program. Regardless of the actual weight, big bass are most commonly found in the same waterbodies year after year, and it would take some drastic changes like those described previously, during the discussion of the average weight per bass, to notice a substantial and permanent shift in the number of big bass that are caught by tournament anglers.

If the data observed in 2010 continues into the 2011 fishing season, anglers should continue to see the more popular tournament waterbodies like Lake Barkley, Kentucky Lake, the Ohio River, Barren River Lake, and even, Lake Beshear produce outstanding catches. Good numbers of big bass can potentially be caught in lakes throughout Kentucky, from the biggest reservoirs to the smaller state-owned lakes. And as Fagan Branch Lake has illustrated in 2010, lakes that have not always been known for tournament fishing can still have the potential to make for a very exciting event.

As always, KDFWR greatly appreciates all those who participated in the 2010 Tournament Reporting Program. We definitely look forward to your continued involvement. Hopefully, now that this program is entering its 12th year tournament anglers have come to realize just how valuable their catch data can be to the continued management of Kentucky's priceless bass fisheries. Good luck to you and your continued fishing success in 2011 and we hope to see you out on the water!

Table 1. Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes (> 1000 acres) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Barren River Lake											
Spring	8	0	8	222	635	0.28	77.1	2.58	15	6.70	13.89
Summer	8	3	5	313	762	0.26	84.5	2.30	9	5.40	13.88
Fall	11	1	10	411	562	0.33	87.2	2.12	17	8.26	12.90
Total	27	4	23	946	2562	0.30	83.4	2.31	41	8.26	13.49
Cave Run Lake											
Spring	1	0	1	6	14	0.29	83.3	1.25	0	3.75	7.75
Fall	1	1	0	10	12	0.15	70.0	0.47	0	1.20	2.40
Total	2	1	1	16	26	0.22	76.7	0.86	0	3.75	5.08
Dale Hollow											
Spring & Total	2	0	2	49	189	0.36	80.7	1.69	2	8.54	11.15
Grayson Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	33	16	0.06	39.4	3.33	5	6.22	13.67
Green River Lake											
Spring	9	2	7	186	380	0.27	65.6	2.16	25	8.24	13.92
Summer	9	0	9	170	394	0.39	73.5	2.62	10	6.34	16.54
Fall	5	1	4	123	528	0.36	82.1	1.62	7	6.76	11.07
Total	23	3	20	479	1302	0.34	72.3	2.22	42	8.24	14.33
Herrington Lake											
Spring	2	0	2	29	101	0.40	93.1	1.68	1	5.17	12.49
Summer	1	1	0	17	38	0.32	100.0	1.32	0	3.44	9.99
Total	3	1	2	46	139	0.37	95.4	1.56	1	5.17	11.66
Kentucky Lake											
Spring	23	8	15	1620	3397	0.23	73.3	2.77	88	8.19	14.93
Summer	19	4	15	700	1787	0.33	79.9	2.88	59	6.99	18.42
Fall	14	3	11	454	1072	0.19	63.1	2.66	37	6.30	11.60
Winter	3	0	3	56	122	0.29	70.0	2.88	17	7.74	16.51
Total	59	15	44	2830	6378	0.26	72.8	2.78	201	8.19	15.34

Table 1 (cont). Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes (> 1000 acres) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Lake Barkley											
Spring	31	11	20	897	1560	0.22	66.5	2.70	90	8.56	14.56
Summer	26	10	16	728	1978	0.27	74.4	2.83	88	6.70	16.67
Fall	13	4	9	437	938	0.20	72.5	2.40	5	5.20	10.81
Total	70	25	45	2062	4476	0.23	70.5	2.69	183	8.56	14.65
Lake Cumberland											
Spring	9	4	5	475	902	0.26	71.2	2.14	5	5.81	17.21
Fall	1	0	1	33	64	0.24	75.8	1.61	0	4.95	10.87
Total	10	4	6	508	966	0.26	71.7	2.09	5	5.81	16.57
Laurel River Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	240	90	0.06	25.8	2.80	1	5.80	15.20
Nolin River Lake											
Spring	10	2	8	250	570	0.28	75.7	2.19	26	6.69	15.34
Summer	6	0	6	112	257	0.29	83.2	2.16	2	6.03	12.30
Fall	5	1	4	99	268	0.33	91.9	1.64	5	5.95	9.93
Winter	1	0	1	23	76	0.41	78.3	2.21	6	6.10	20.54
Total	22	3	19	484	1171	0.30	81.5	2.05	39	6.69	13.52
Paintsville Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	22	69	0.22	54.5	0.75	1	5.00	6.94
Rough River Lake											
Spring	12	2	10	209	537	0.29	85.6	1.74	2	5.15	10.59
Summer	6	1	5	106	185	0.23	77.5	1.43	2	6.38	8.69
Fall	6	0	6	299	673	0.27	77.8	1.66	5	6.29	13.78
Total	24	3	21	614	1395	0.27	81.6	1.64	9	6.38	10.91
Taylorsville Lake											
Spring	4	0	4	45	32	0.11	29.7	2.21	0	3.97	10.76
Summer	16	0	16	521	338	0.16	38.5	2.17	1	5.09	13.46
Fall	3	0	3	94	60	0.14	41.1	2.13	1	5.02	11.08
Total	23	0	23	660	430	0.15	37.3	2.17	2	5.09	12.76
Yatesville Lake											
Spring & Total	2	1	1	47	44	0.15	61.2	2.36	0	3.81	10.78

Table 2. Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes (< 1000 acres) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Bullock Pen Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	14	16	0.16	50.0	2.64	1	5.54	11.05
Carr Creek Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	14	3	0.03	21.4	2.17	0	2.60	2.60
Cedar Creek lake											
Spring	2	0	2	38	6	0.03	13.2	4.73	2	6.10	9.00
Summer	2	0	2	38	10	0.04	23.7	4.85	5	5.90	9.36
Total	4	0	4	76	16	0.04	18.4	4.79	7	6.10	9.18
Elmer Davis Lake											
Spring & Total	1	1	0	19	16	0.12	68.4	0.82	0	3.31	4.50
Fagan Branch											
Spring	1	0	1	11	47	0.71	100.0	0.68	0	1.94	6.59
Summer	1	0	1	9	39	0.72	100.0	0.80	0	2.69	7.51
Fall	1	0	1	6	24	0.67	83.3	0.85	0	3.06	8.59
Total	3	0	3	26	110	0.70	94.4	0.78	0	3.06	7.56
Guist Creek Lake											
Spring	3	1	2	70	54	0.10	48.7	1.95	1	5.47	7.06
Summer	4	1	3	63	139	0.27	87.9	2.07	2	6.61	11.87
Total	7	2	5	133	193	0.20	71.1	2.01	3	6.61	9.81
Kincaid Lake											
Spring	6	1	5	93	92	0.22	53.3	2.08	6	7.69	14.30
Summer	5	1	4	79	111	0.32	67.1	1.69	0	4.80	14.84
Total	11	2	9	172	203	0.26	59.6	1.90	6	7.69	14.54
Lake Beshear											
Spring	7	1	6	79	242	0.40	84.6	2.95	15	6.92	17.40
Summer	1	0	1	10	31	0.44	90.0	3.14	2	5.69	18.09
Total	8	1	7	89	273	0.40	85.3	2.97	17	6.92	17.49

Table 2 (cont). Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky lakes (< 1000 acres) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Lake Malone											
Spring	2	0	2	15	27	0.23	66.7	2.77	1	5.97	11.11
Summer	1	0	1	40	76	0.19	40.0	3.16	5	7.62	13.51
Winter	1	0	1	25	12	0.06	32.0	2.99	1	5.57	7.71
Total	4	0	4	80	115	0.18	51.3	2.92	7	7.62	10.86
Salem Lake											
Spring & Total	1	0	1	6	10	0.28	83.3	1.16	0	2.10	6.59
Springfield Reservoir											
Spring	1	0	1	11	12	0.18	54.5	1.27	0	2.31	7.00
Fall	1	0	1	5	17	0.57	100.0	0.97	0	1.38	6.92
Total	2	0	2	16	29	0.37	77.3	1.12	0	2.31	6.96
Spurlington Lake											
Summer & Total	1	0	1	7	18	0.43	85.7	1.31	0	3.81	12.33
Williamstown Lake											
Summer & Total	1	0	1	21	86	0.41	76.2	1.48	0	4.22	12.15
Willisburg Lake											
Spring	2	1	1	18	15	0.13	65.0	1.69	0	3.71	5.09
Summer	1	1	0	16	23	0.18	100.0	1.94	0	3.02	8.46
Total	3	2	1	34	38	0.14	76.7	1.78	0	3.71	6.21

Table 3. Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky rivers (w/ pool, if available) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Ohio River											
Cannelton Pool											
Fall & Total	1	0	1	22	27	0.15	40.9	1.92	0	4.05	10.15
Markland Pool											
Spring	7	0	7	97	205	0.47	76.4	1.40	1	5.21	15.18
Summer	21	3	18	311	568	0.38	71.9	1.33	0	4.66	12.96
Fall	3	0	3	53	38	0.23	49.1	1.31	0	3.37	8.89
Total	31	3	28	461	811	0.39	70.7	1.35	1	5.21	13.07
McAlpine Pool											
Summer & Total	1	1	0	17	20	0.13	76.5	1.26	0	1.79	5.20
Meldahl Pool											
Spring	4	0	4	53	212	0.44	90.2	1.45	0	3.77	10.81
Summer	7	3	4	282	290	0.20	66.5	1.34	0	4.10	5.60
Fall	3	0	3	23	45	0.25	69.6	1.29	0	4.02	6.18
Total	14	3	11	358	547	0.28	73.9	1.36	0	4.10	7.22
Smithland Pool											
Fall & Total	2	2	0	28	35	0.14	49.0	1.43	0	2.90	5.97
Ohio River (All Pools)											
Spring	11	0	11	150	417	0.46	81.4	1.42	1	5.21	13.59
Summer	29	7	22	610	878	0.33	70.8	1.33	0	4.66	10.92
Fall	9	2	7	126	145	0.21	55.0	1.40	0	4.05	7.44
Total	49	9	40	886	1440	0.34	70.3	1.36	1	5.21	10.88

Table 3 (cont). Summary of 2010 bass tournament data from Kentucky rivers (w/ pool, if available) by season and overall.

Water Body	Total # of Events	# of Ind. Events	# of Team Events	Total # of Angling-units	# Bass Caught	# Bass per Hour	Percent Success	Average Weight per Bass (lbs)	# of Bass >5.0 lbs	Big Bass (lbs)	Average 1st Place Weight (Standard 8h Day)
Cumberland River											
Summer & Total	1	1	0	7	13	0.23	85.7	1.92	0	4.74	8.81
Kentucky River											
Summer	1	0	1	16	19	0.14	50.0	1.44	0	4.48	6.25
Fall	2	1	1	33	24	0.11	40.8	1.42	0	4.19	7.20
Total	3	1	2	49	43	0.12	43.8	1.43	0	4.48	6.89
Tennessee River											
Summer & Total	2	1	1	26	105	0.46	91.0	1.96	1	6.04	12.83

Table 4. Species composition (%) at each tournament site reported in 2010. Size limits used by tournaments varied and can affect the composition of the reported catch.

Water body	Largemouth bass	Smallmouth bass	Spotted bass
Barren River Lake	85	4	11
Bullock Pen Lake	100	0	0
Carr Creek Lake	100	0	0
Cave Run Lake	100	0	0
Cedar Creek Lake	100	0	0
Dale Hollow Lake	40	5	55
Elmer Davis Lake	100	0	0
Fagan Branch Lake	77	3	20
Grayson Lake	100	0	0
Green River Lake	75	7	18
Guist Creek Lake	100	0	0
Herrington Lake	68	0	32
Kentucky Lake	91	7	2
Kentucky River	95	0	5
Kincaid Lake	100	0	0
Lake Barkley	93	5	2
Lake Beshear	100	0	0
Lake Cumberland	42	24	34
Lake Malone	100	0	0
Laurel River Lake	68	10	22
Nolin River Lake	97	0	3
Ohio River - Cannelton	100	0	0
Ohio River - Markland	91	1	8
Ohio River - McAlpine	100	0	0
Ohio River - Meldahl	75	5	20
Ohio River - Smithland	97	0	3
Ohio River - All Pools	85	3	12
Rough River Lake	93	2	5
Salem Lake	80	0	20
Springfield Reservoir	90	0	10
Spurlington Lake	89	0	11
Taylorsville Lake	100	<1	0
Tennessee River	84	16	0
Williamstown Lake	100	0	0
Willisburg Lake	97	0	3
Yatesville Lake	95	0	5

Table 5. Rankings of all tournament waters based on the catch data reported from 2010 bass tournaments. Data from a minimum of three tournaments was required for a water body to be included in these rankings.

Total Number of Tournaments	Number of bass caught per hour	Percent of Anglers/Teams who were successful	Average weight (lbs) per bass	Hrs. to catch a bass \geq 5.0 lbs ^A	Average 1st place weight (lb) per 8 hour day
Lake Barkley	70	Fagan Branch Lake 0.70	Herrington Lake 95.4	Cedar Creek Lake 4.79	Lake Beshear 41
Kentucky Lake	59	Lake Beshear 0.40	Fagan Branch Lake 94.4	Lake Beshear 2.97	Cedar Creek Lake 65
Ohio River	49	Herrington Lake 0.37	Lake Beshear 85.3	Lake Malone 2.92	Green River Lake 101
Barren River Lake	27	Ohio River 0.34	Barren River Lake 83.4	Kentucky Lake 2.78	Lake Malone 102
Rough River Lake	24	Green River Lake 0.34	Rough River Lake 81.6	Lake Barkley 2.69	Nolin River Lake 109
Green River Lake	23	Barren River Lake 0.30	Nolin River Lake 81.5	Barren River Lake 2.31	Lake Barkley 127
Taylorsville Lake	23	Nolin River Lake 0.30	Willisburg Lake 76.7	Green River Lake 2.22	Kentucky Lake 148
Nolin River Lake	22	Rough River Lake 0.27	Kentucky Lake 72.8	Taylorsville Lake 2.17	Kincaid Lake 198
Kincaid Lake	11	Kentucky Lake 0.26	Green River Lake 72.3	Lake Cumberland 2.09	Barren River Lake 226
Lake Cumberland	10	Kincaid Lake 0.26	Lake Cumberland 71.7	Nolin River Lake 2.05	Guist Creek Lake 355
Lake Beshear	8	Lake Cumberland 0.26	Guist Creek Lake 71.1	Guist Creek Lake 2.01	Herrington Lake 373
Guist Creek Lake	7	Lake Barkley 0.23	Lake Barkley 70.5	Kincaid Lake 1.90	Rough River Lake 571
Lake Malone	4	Guist Creek Lake 0.20	Ohio River 70.3	Willisburg Lake 1.78	Lake Cumberland 870
Cedar Creek Lake	4	Lake Malone 0.18	Kincaid Lake 59.6	Rough River Lake 1.64	Taylorsville Lake 1413
Kentucky River	3	Taylorsville Lake 0.15	Lake Malone 51.3	Herrington Lake 1.56	Ohio River 6101
Willisburg Lake	3	Willisburg Lake 0.14	Kentucky River 43.8	Kentucky River 1.43	Willisburg Lake N/A
Fagan Branch Lake	3	Kentucky River 0.12	Taylorsville Lake 37.3	Ohio River 1.36	Fagan Branch Lake N/A
Herrington Lake	3	Cedar Creek Lake 0.04	Cedar Creek Lake 18.4	Fagan Branch Lake 0.78	Kentucky River N/A

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 effort that it takes to catch a bass \geq 5.0 lbs. Total fishing effort is determined by multiplying the number of anglers/teams by the length, in hours, of the tournament. (Example: At Lake A, it takes about 100 hours to catch a bass \geq 5.0 lbs, which means that a 50 angler tournament fishing for 8 hours, could weigh in 4 bass \geq 5.0 lbs during the tournament (400 divided by 100 = 4 bass).

Table 6. Tournament statistics that are used to identify trends at selected water bodies from 2002-2010. A dash indicates no tournaments were reported in that year. In 2010, there were changes made to what tournament data was collected, which had a noticeable impact on all the following statistics with only one exception, the "Average weight per bass".

Variable	Barren River Lake									Cave Run Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	0.20	0.20	0.17	0.30	0.05	0.04	0.13	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.12	0.22
Percent successful	52.5	61.3	70.4	63.1	55.6	63.1	60.2	67.0	83.4	21.1	27.1	55.8	59.4	71.6	65.5	59.4	40.2	76.7
Average weight per bass	2.25	2.20	1.89	2.09	2.56	2.32	2.29	2.27	2.31	2.74	2.37	1.28	1.18	0.71	0.68	0.80	2.36	0.86
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	250	167	200	143	184	53	137	89	--	250	500	333	333	440	>1000	>1000	298	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	226	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	--	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--
	Dale Hollow Lake									Dewey Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.06	0.05	0.18	0.10	0.07	0.17	0.14	0.36	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.07	0.10	0.05	0.04	0.04	--
Percent successful	41.8	37.8	26.1	54.7	57.1	30.0	60.7	42.9	80.7	41.8	35.9	25.0	39.9	59.5	n/a	26.5	34.4	--
Average weight per bass	1.78	1.80	2.11	1.57	2.34	2.30	2.05	2.03	1.69	2.14	1.76	2.90	1.86	2.86	2.59	1.49	2.43	--
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	500	>1000	125	143	401	290	161	274	--	500	500	77	167	38	n/a	>1000	500	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	289	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	500	382	n/a	n/a	n/a	--
	Grayson Lake									Green River Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	--	--	--	0.11	0.02	--	--	0.03	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.10	0.11	0.14	0.19	0.22	0.22	0.34
Percent successful	--	--	--	42.3	12.5	--	--	24.0	39.4	60.9	36.1	49.7	49.0	44.8	56.5	63.3	57.7	72.3
Average weight per bass	--	--	--	0.75	2.71	--	--	2.61	3.33	1.56	1.74	2.10	1.51	1.74	1.65	1.48	2.20	2.22
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	--	--	--	n/a	128	--	--	400	--	333	1000	111	500	184	179	108	76	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	101
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a	--	>1000	n/a	500	>1000	>1000	>1000	344	459	--

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

Table 6 (cont). Tournament statistics that are used to identify trends at selected water bodies from 2002-2010. A dash indicates no tournaments were reported in that year. In 2010, there were changes made to what tournament data was collected, which had a noticeable impact on all the following statistics with only one exception, the "Average weight per bass".

Variable	Guist Creek Lake									Herrington Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.10	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.11	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.20	0.07	0.13	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.11	0.22	0.22	0.37
Percent successful	45.6	38.2	45.1	51.5	50.1	46.6	49.6	44.3	71.1	40.0	54.4	76.5	58.5	75.8	50.2	63.3	77.8	95.4
Average weight per bass	2.07	1.58	1.69	1.82	2.33	1.90	1.88	1.98	2.01	1.76	1.44	1.57	1.63	1.30	1.80	1.48	1.11	1.56
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	250	>1000	1000	250	229	119	154	212	--	500	500	n/a	500	n/a	339	380	n/a	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	355	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	373
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	>1000	n/a	1000	n/a	688	894	n/a	>1000	--	>1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	--
Variable	Kentucky Lake									Kentucky River								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.13	0.15	0.13	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.2	0.26	0.08	0.09	--	0.07	0.14	0.12	0.21	0.25	0.12
Percent successful	49.2	65.7	56.0	56.5	63.5	57.1	71.4	63.4	72.8	38.2	41.2	--	35.3	73.1	43.2	60.2	76.6	43.8
Average weight per bass	2.72	2.37	2.72	2.52	2.48	2.60	2.58	2.75	2.78	1.56	1.52	--	1.82	1.38	1.17	1.36	1.41	1.43
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	167	200	100	143	127	81	86	48	--	>1000	1000	--	333	259	n/a	n/a	438	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	148	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	795	818	>1000	533	--	n/a	n/a	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	--
Variable	Kincaid Lake									Lake Barkley								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.08	0.11	0.11	0.12	0.11	0.12	0.17	0.12	0.26	0.09	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.23
Percent successful	24.4	42.7	41.7	44.7	39.2	42.6	32.7	28.5	59.6	51.8	51.1	55.0	53.2	55.6	65.2	70.5	67.3	70.5
Average weight per bass	1.99	1.66	1.66	1.89	1.53	1.96	1.55	1.72	1.90	2.54	2.54	2.27	2.55	2.56	2.62	2.67	2.64	2.69
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	333	250	333	167	231	124	226	157	--	125	143	125	100	84	53	61	64	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	198	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	127
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	>1000	>1000	n/a	333	n/a	248	>1000	n/a	--	>1000	>1000	>1000	>1000	610	518	573	483	--

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

Table 6 (cont). Tournament statistics that are used to identify trends at selected water bodies from 2002-2010. A dash indicates no tournaments were reported in that year. In 2010, there were changes made to what tournament data was collected, which had a noticeable impact on all the following statistics with only one exception, the "Average weight per bass".

Variable	Lake Beshear									Lake Cumberland								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	--	0.10	0.14	0.16	0.10	--	0.08	0.24	0.40	0.07	0.11	0.11	0.10	0.13	0.20	0.12	0.17	0.26
Percent successful	--	34.1	75.6	60.9	56.2	--	45.5	79.7	85.3	41.1	31.7	45.9	45.0	46.4	79.8	51.7	62.4	71.7
Average weight per bass	--	2.50	2.69	2.92	2.59	--	2.42	3.40	2.97	2.10	1.93	2.02	2.21	2.09	2.62	2.33	2.38	2.09
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	--	67	35	50	43	--	n/a	16	--	125	500	167	125	440	39	91	39	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	41	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	870
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	--	n/a	500	n/a	>1000	--	n/a	73	--	>1000	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	709	972	>1000	--
Variable	Lake Malone									Laurel River Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.07	0.06	0.12	0.07	--	--	--	0.08	0.18	--	0.05	--	--	n/a	--	0.18	0.09	0.06
Percent successful	36.9	39.6	41.9	38.4	--	--	--	35.8	51.3	--	20.7	--	--	61.1	--	62.2	38.3	25.8
Average weight per bass	2.92	2.58	2.02	3.31	--	--	--	2.84	2.92	--	1.82	--	--	n/a	--	3.14	3.02	2.80
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	91	59	83	43	--	--	--	137	--	--	>1000	--	--	72	--	106	79	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	102	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	>1000
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	250	333	333	333	--	--	--	275	--	--	n/a	--	--	n/a	--	n/a	367	--
Variable	Nolin River Lake									Rough River Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.13	0.11	0.10	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.15	0.30	0.10	0.12	0.13	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.11	0.13	0.27
Percent successful	67.5	44.2	66.2	63.9	64.7	61.3	64.8	76.6	81.5	69.0	56.8	62.4	56.6	57.5	57.2	50.3	67.3	81.6
Average weight per bass	1.84	1.83	2.03	1.96	1.89	1.73	1.79	1.71	2.05	1.63	1.95	1.96	1.79	2.03	2.02	1.91	1.82	1.64
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	500	1000	500	167	176	127	140	150	--	500	333	167	143	176	126	159	204	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	109	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	571
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	>1000	>1000	320	--	>1000	>1000	1000	1000	>1000	969	>1000	>1000	--

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

Table 6 (cont). Tournament statistics that are used to identify trends at selected water bodies from 2002-2010. A dash indicates no tournaments were reported in that year. In 2010, there were changes made to what tournament data was collected, which had a noticeable impact on the following statistics with only one exception, the "Average weight per bass".

Variable	Taylorsville Lake									Yatesville Lake								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.05	0.04	0.04	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.15	0.04	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.10	0.09	0.15
Percent successful	35.2	26.1	30.6	46.4	40.3	34.3	29.9	32.7	37.3	28.1	45.2	30.3	40.6	35.7	39.1	49.9	45.9	61.2
Average weight per bass	2.26	2.30	2.23	2.32	2.16	2.36	2.38	2.32	2.17	2.66	2.67	2.43	2.22	2.24	2.07	2.38	2.09	2.36
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	333	1000	500	333	932	195	299	844	--	250	111	143	143	352	>1000	516	336	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	>1000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	>1000	--	>1000	>1000	>1000	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	672	--
	Ohio River - Cannelton Pool									Ohio River - Greenup Pool								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.06	0.17	--	--	0.10	0.11	0.07	--	0.15	0.07	0.16	--	--	--	--	0.17	0.1	--
Percent successful	35.2	42.9	--	--	50.0	43.1	46.4	--	40.9	37.2	64.3	--	--	--	--	53.5	50.0	--
Average weight per bass	1.42	1.30	--	--	1.37	1.48	0.28	--	1.92	1.42	1.24	--	--	--	--	1.36	1.33	--
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	>1000	333	--	--	n/a	539	n/a	--	--	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	--	n/a	n/a	--	--	--	--	n/a	n/a	--
	Ohio River - Markland Pool									Ohio River - McAlpine Pool								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.12	0.18	0.13	0.11	0.13	0.10	0.27	0.26	0.39	0.11	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.10	0.11	0.25	0.21	0.13
Percent successful	33.4	46.1	40.0	51.2	70.9	42.7	62.0	61.7	70.7	49.2	55.0	48.6	25.0	47.7	37.8	62.0	61.1	76.5
Average weight per bass	1.50	1.42	1.36	1.50	1.25	1.29	1.55	1.45	1.35	1.43	1.33	1.58	1.58	1.62	1.54	1.16	1.67	1.26
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	500	500	1000	1000	n/a	249	510	242	--	333	1000	1000	n/a	352	446	n/a	n/a	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	>1000	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	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	>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). Tournament statistics that are used to identify trends at selected water bodies from 2002-2010. A dash indicates no tournaments were reported in that year. In 2010, there were changes made to what tournament data was collected, which had a noticeable impact on the following statistics with only one exception, the "Average weight per bass".

Variable	Ohio River - Meldahl Pool									Ohio River - All Pools								
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
No. bass caught per hour	0.11	0.14	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.17	0.24	0.23	0.28	0.10	0.17	0.11	0.12	0.14	0.13	0.25	0.24	0.34
Percent successful	36.0	49.0	40.8	42.5	43.6	42.1	63.3	67.3	73.9	35.0	48.4	40.7	45.8	55.6	41.2	62.6	64.1	70.3
Average weight per bass	1.26	1.33	1.36	1.37	1.41	1.40	1.42	1.38	1.36	1.42	1.37	1.39	1.44	1.36	1.42	1.48	1.44	1.36
Hours to catch bass > 4 lbs	n/a	1000	n/a	n/a	n/a	289	n/a	>1000	--	1000	500	1000	1000	>1000	317	968	583	--
Hours to catch bass > 5 lbs	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	n/a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	>1000
Hours to catch bass > 6 lbs	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	>1000	n/a	n/a	--	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.

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 the full text of "Keeping Bass Alive" manual and a copy of the pocket guide 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.