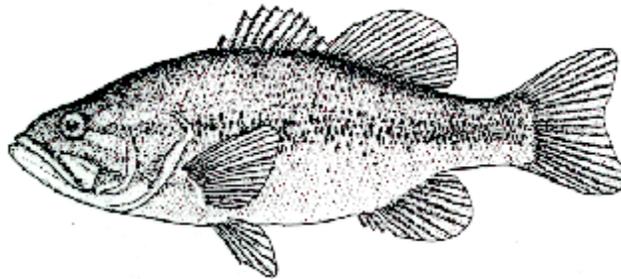


Georgia Bass Chapter Federation

2008

Tournament Creel Report



Submitted by

Carl Quertermus, Ph.D.

GBCF Tournament Report - 2008

This is the 31st year of the Georgia Bass Chapter Federation (GBCF) Tournament Creel Report. In 2008, 85 bass clubs submitted results from 833 tournaments. Several of these tournaments were not analyzed because they involved less than six anglers or lasted less than five hours. Also, Georgia reservoirs and rivers with less than six submitted tournaments were not analyzed. The data from tournaments held outside of Georgia were not analyzed. Data from 200 tournaments held at Alabama reservoirs were sent to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and became part of their annual tournament data analysis (B.A.I.T.). Data from 614 tournaments on 14 Georgia reservoirs and two rivers were analyzed for this report.

Fishing success at Georgia reservoirs and rivers are compared on the attached table and figures. Bass anglers spent 71,785 hours of effort during the 614 tournaments. The weighed-in, tournament-average catch rate was 0.268 bass / angler hour. This is the highest catch rate in the 31 years of this project. The state-wide catch rate average over the 31 years is 0.223 bass / angler hour. The record high catch rates in 2006-2008 were mainly caused by the large number of tournaments at Clarks Hill where the catch rate was above the average. **Hartwell** had the highest catch rate (0.331 bass / angler hour), the greatest percent of anglers with five bass (46.1%), the lowest percent of unsuccessful anglers (9.6%), and the highest average winning weight (15.96 lbs). This was also a good year at **Seminole**. It came in with the highest weighed-in average weight (0.630 lbs / angler hour), the greatest average largest bass (5.22 lbs), and the least number of hours to catch a 5.0 pound or larger bass (113 hours). The greatest average bass weight (2.13 lbs) was at **W. F. George**.

This was the 5th year that clubs were asked to indicate how many bass 5.0 lbs or larger were caught during each tournament. This information was given for 601 of the 614 tournaments used for this report. Only 247 bass 5.0 lbs or larger were caught during these 601 tournaments. On average, it required 285 angler hours to catch a bass of this size. This is the least number of hours to catch a 5.0 lb bass during the five years of this analysis. There was a big difference in this value for the 14 reservoirs. Whereas it took 1,984 hours at **Bartlett's Ferry** to catch a bass \geq 5 lbs, it took only 113 hours at **Seminole**. Only at **Seminole** was there an average of one 5 lb or larger bass caught in each tournament. A bass of this size was caught in only 27.6% of the 601 tournaments, and no 5 lb bass were caught in the 22 tournaments at **Allatoona** or the eight tournaments at **Carters**. The largest bass reported in 2008 was 10.63 lbs caught in the **Savannah River** in January.

The reservoir abbreviations on the attached graphs are **AL** (Allatoona), **BF** (Bartlett's Ferry), **BS** (Blackshear), **CA** (Carters), **CH** (Clarks Hill), **HW** (Hartwell), **JA** (Jackson), **LA** (Lanier), **OC** (Oconee), **RU** (R. B. Russell), **SE** (Seminole), **SI** (Sinclair), **WG** (W. F. George), **WP** (West Point).

GBCF TOURNAMENT RESULTS FOR GEORGIA RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS - 2008

Reservoir or River	Number of Tournaments Analyzed	Number of Angler Hours	Bass Weighed-in /Angler Hour	Lbs. Weighed-in/Angler Hour	Percent Anglers with Five or More Bass	Percent Anglers with Zero Bass	Average Largest Bass (lbs.)	Average Bass Weight (lbs.)	Average Winning Weight (lbs.)	Percent Bass as Largemouth	Angler-Hrs Per ≥ 5 lb Bass
<i>Allatoona</i>	22	2462	0.281	0.333	21.0	18.3	2.88	1.19	7.71	7.3	None Caught
<i>Bartlett's Ferry</i>	15	1994	0.310	0.414	23.0	12.9	3.24	1.35	7.67	43.1	1984
<i>Blackshear</i> ^a	20	2180	0.133	0.280	4.9	39.3	4.26	2.08	8.37	99.1	363
<i>Carters</i>	8	714	0.292	0.452	31.7	17.0	3.92	1.51	10.03	5.9	None Caught
<i>Clarks Hill</i>	118	12890	0.280	0.496	25.3	21.9	4.26	1.77	10.91	97.1	213
<i>Hartwell</i>	18	2198	0.331	0.599	46.1	9.6	4.13	1.88	15.96	67.9	244
<i>Jackson</i>	36	3851	0.263	0.391	18.2	22.2	4.16	1.52	7.93	37.9	467
<i>Lanier</i> ^a	43	5246	0.279	0.558	24.6	18.7	4.06	2.03	12.36	13.8	584
<i>Oconee</i> ^a	68	7774	0.241	0.443	18.0	18.6	4.20	1.88	11.21	97.3	286
<i>R. B. Russell</i>	33	3969	0.285	0.477	29.3	13.5	3.80	1.63	11.67	49.2	640
<i>Seminole</i>	40	4952	0.307	0.630	26.6	17.1	5.22	2.02	14.17	99.7	113
<i>Sinclair</i>	58	7213	0.290	0.391	28.0	18.7	3.66	1.32	8.56	96.4	278
<i>W. F. George</i> ^b	30	4221	0.220	0.467	14.9	17.1	4.80	2.13	13.05	91.3	192
<i>West Point</i> ^b	48	6325	0.303	0.451	31.7	14.0	3.99	1.47	10.36	24.7	351
<i>Altamaha River</i>	7	608	0.120	0.182	2.2	40.9	3.26	2.07	5.35	100.0	261
<i>Savannah River</i>	50	5188	0.224	0.308	14.6	27.0	3.64	1.37	8.25	99.4	424
Total	614	71785	0.268	0.450	23.3	19.8	4.08	1.70	10.54	73.4	285

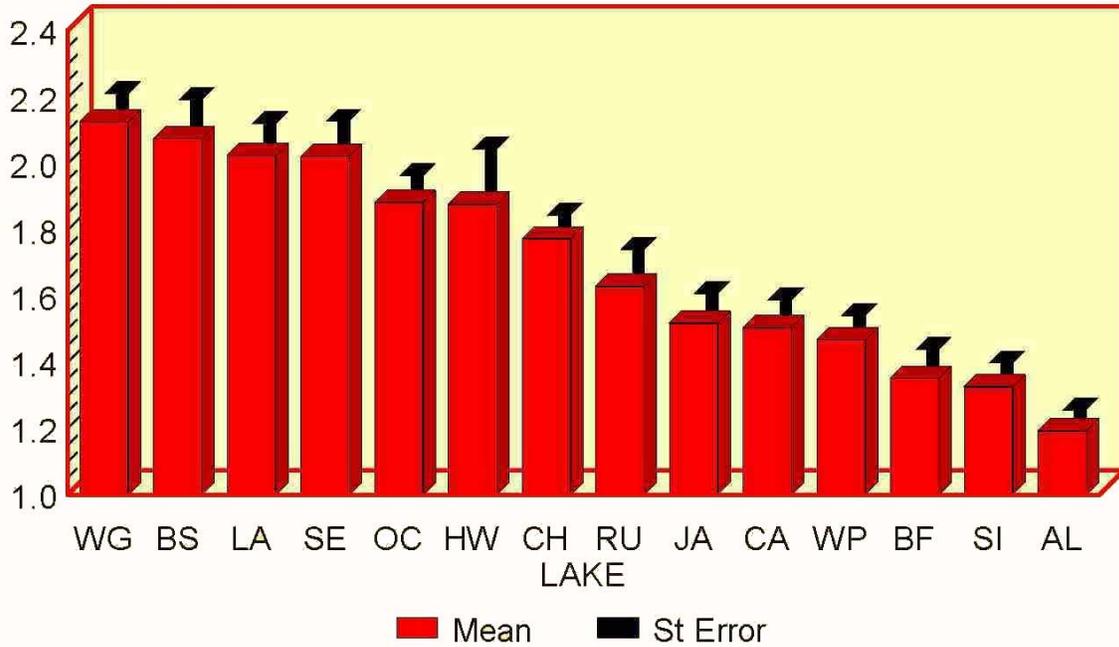
^a 14-inch size limit. ^b 12-inch size limit on spotted bass and 14-inch size limit on largemouth bass.

Note: Only tournaments with six or more anglers and five of more hours in length were analyzed.
Reservoirs or rivers with less than six tournaments were not analyzed.

Compiled and analyzed by Dr. Carl Quertermus and Margaret Kukucka, University of West Georgia.

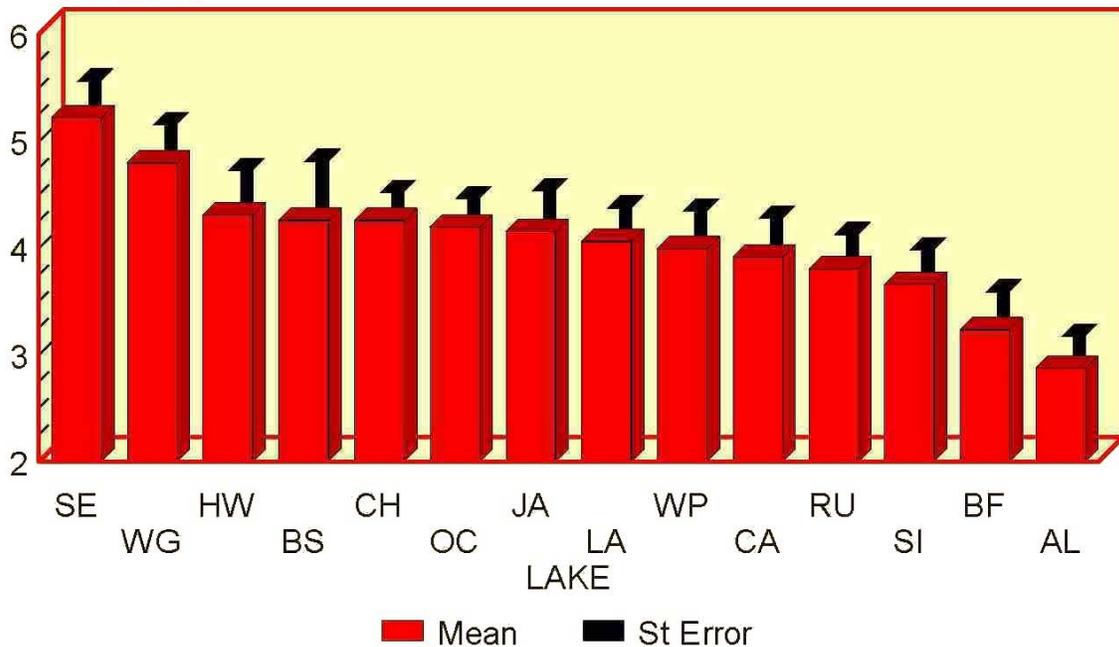
AVERAGE BASS WEIGHT - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES

POUNDS



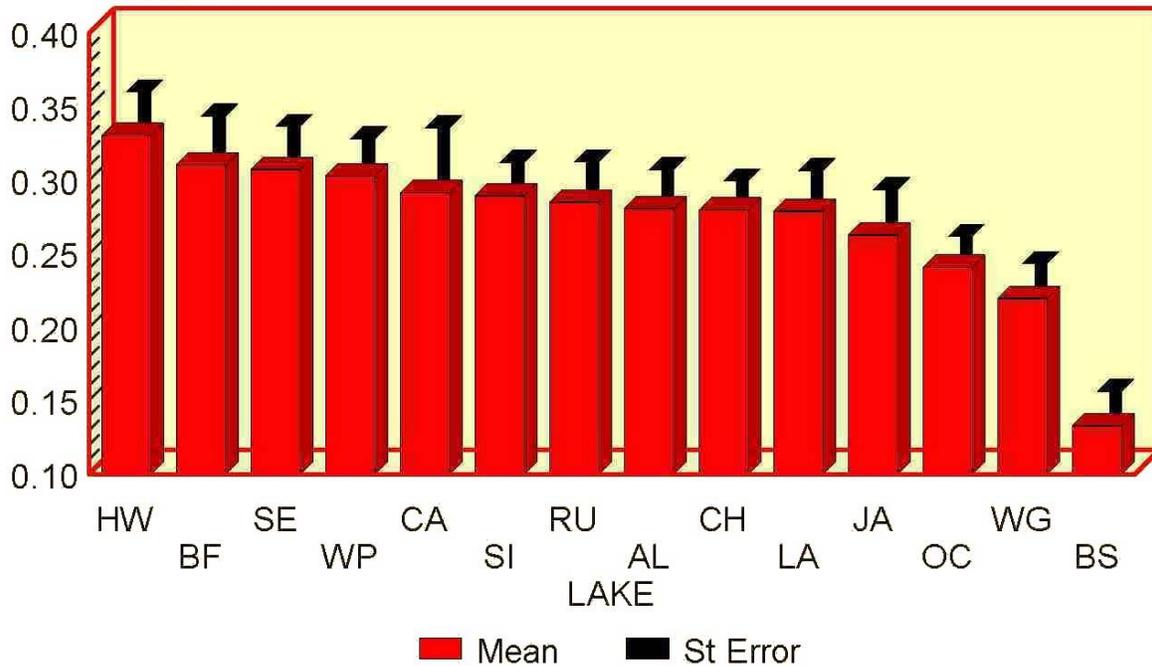
AVERAGE LARGEST BASS - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES

POUNDS



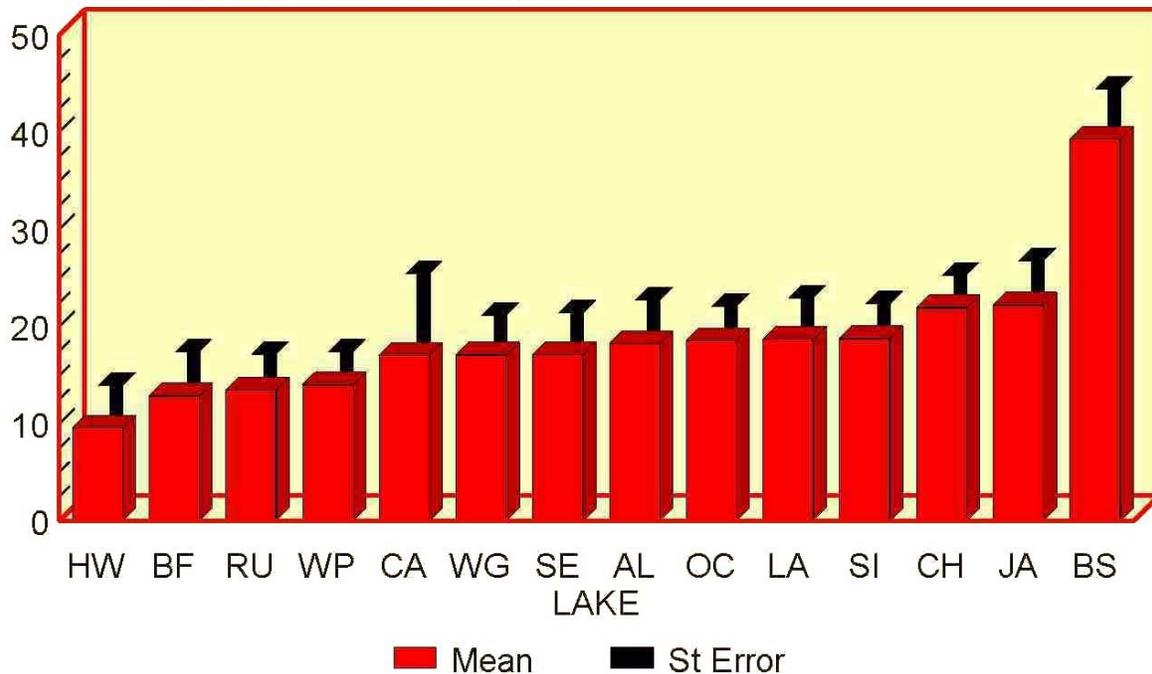
BASS / ANGLER HOUR - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES

NUMBER

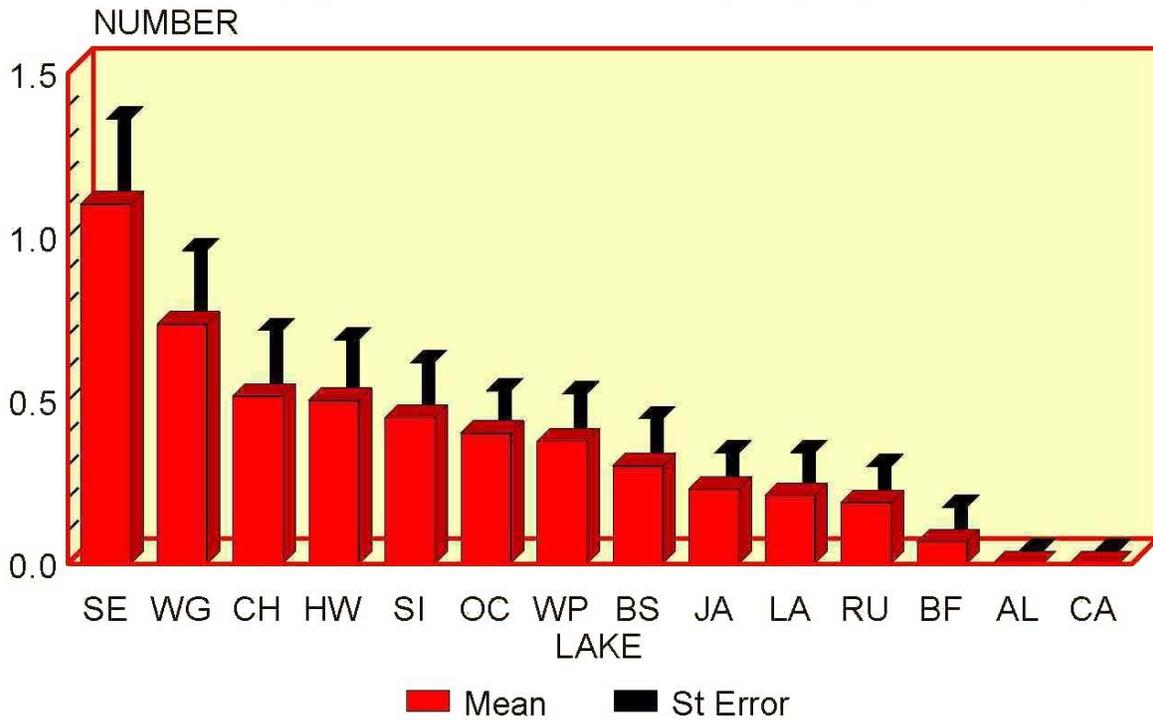


PERCENT UNSUCCESSFUL ANGLERS - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES

% ANGLERS WITH ZERO BASS



NUMBER OF 5 LB BASS / TOURNAMENT - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES



WINNING WEIGHT - 2008 GBCF TOURNAMENTS ON GEORGIA LAKES

