



January 2025

January 2025 President's Message

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful and meaningful Christmas. Now we all begin impatiently waiting for Spring when we can get back on the water and enjoy our beautiful Lake Jordan. I am thankful for the end of the political season and pray for God's wisdom with our new administration.

HOBO is also beginning a new year with new leadership and, hopefully, new members. Since January is the month for our Membership Dues, this would be the perfect time for us all to reach out to our friends and neighbors and invite them to join us. Certainly no one can complain about the low cost of dues, especially considering what all HOBO does to make Lake Jordan the beautiful lake we all enjoy. Membership information is always available on the website, along with the application for new members. The annual \$25 dues are conveniently payable on line with PayPal if preferred.

Here's wishing you all the best for fun and safe activities on our Lake Jordan.

William Hartley

Lake Jordan Home/Boat Owners Association

Minutes of the Quarterly Membership Meeting

October 28, 2024

The Lake Jordan Homeowners/Boat Owners Association Quarterly Membership Meeting was called to order by President William Hartley at 7:00 pm on October 28, 2024, at Camp Chandler on Lake Jordan.

President Hartley thanked everyone for being there and declared that a quorum was present to conduct business. He welcomed everyone and stated there were new members and guests and asked they introduce themselves.

Nan Butler told of Coosa River Keepers having a 30-minute presentation on October 29, 2024, with the discussion of some things they are doing in their mission to keep the water clean and the things contributing to problems with clean water especially around the Gadsden area.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2024, meeting. The motion carried.

Brett Wilkinson could not be present but sent the financial report. Kim Adams presented in Brett's absence. Kim explained the cash balance of \$76,166 is not exact since unrestricted funds of Fireworks and the Scholarship fund can only be used for those two funds. The true amount or the bottom line is \$30,353.43.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Lake Clean Up - Nothing planned at this time.

Lake Safety – Dave Kowalski was not present but sent the message which Ann Brantley presented: Dave wanted to remind everyone that if you are on a kayak or paddle board you must have a life jacket on board at all times. Also, for everyone to be mindful of kayakers and that their presence should only be during daylight hours. More information may be found at Alea.gov website.

Fire Works – Preparations will be started soon.

Water Clarity and Monitoring – Judy May discussed water quality.

Membership – Holly Baylis discussed the number of members currently at 108. Payments can be made yearly or for every 5 years. Holly does keep records of the payments that are pre-paid. The amount is \$25 yearly. Please send in your 2025 Dues! Dues can be paid via PayPal on the HOBBO website www.lakejordanhobo.org. Please continue to encourage your neighbors to join or renew! Also, please consider adding a donation for the fireworks. All dues and fireworks donations paid to the HOBBO Association are tax deductible.

Environmental – Steve Mathies was not present but had called President Hartley to update on silt in the lake especially on the Titus side. President Hartley volunteered to go with Steve to ADEM for a solution to the silt.

Minutes of the Quarterly Membership Meeting—Continued (Pg 2)

Memorial Worship – No report.

New Officer nominations:

President – Andrew Miscisin

Vice President – no nominee

Secretary – Peggy Harris

Treasurer – Joyce Wright

Discussion of some duties of the Vice President are working as the liaison to the area reps, coordinating lake clean up. We also need an area 5 rep. Motion was made and approved to accept the new officers.

There being no further business, William Hartley adjourned the business part of our meeting. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Guest speaker – Mona Dominguez, Director of AWW since 2017 and staff at Auburn University Resource Center presented information on Water Quality Monitoring and Environmental Programs. Included in the presentation:

- 132,000 miles of shoreline of rivers and streams in Alabama.
- Lake Jordan has had in the last 30 years fifty-six monitoring sites, not all those are being monitored today, but we have the data from all fifty-six monitoring sites and there is value in the records.
- The number one pollutant in Alabama is Nutrient Pollution from things like fertilizer, which makes algae grow and affects oxygen in the water. Canada geese cause Pathogen Pollution. Critters living near the streams also cause pollution.
- Training sessions are in Montgomery and information can be found at: alabamawaterwatch.org/events.

Mona may be reached at 334-844-4785.

Everyone enjoyed the information presented by Mona. After a question-and-answer session tickets numbers were called for the winners of the drawing.

Additional Information:

HOBO Newsletter and Publicity – Please send all articles and pictures to clemmons.cliff@gmail.com. the newsletter will be delivered in the same format to the HOBO members electronically and will no longer be printed and mailed. Do not Forget – The Newsletter is always available for view online at www.lakejordanhobo.org.

Website / Facebook Page – If you have suggestions for content to be included on the HOBO Website or the HOBO Facebook page, please contact Gary and Kayleen Amerson at kayleen@amerson.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Harris, Secretary



Lake Jordan HOB O Scholarship

Applicant Requirement Checklist

Eligibility and requirements for participation in the Annual Lake Jordan Homeowners and Boat Owners (HOB O) Scholarship Award

High School Seniors for the 2024-2025 school year (traditional or home school) and are relatives of members of Lake Jordan HOB O Association may submit a scholarship application. Awards of \$1,000 will be given to two high school seniors (Divided into two increments: \$500 for Fall semester, \$500 for Spring semester).

All completed applications, with criteria requirements and attachments, must be submitted by February 28, 2025.

Eligibility Criteria includes, but not limited to:

**Complete a Lake Jordan Scholarship Application Form*

**Maintain a minimum of C overall average*

**Letter of acceptance from an accredited institution of higher education (Four year college, two year college, trade school)*

** Provide an official transcript from high school grades 9-12*

** High School GPA*

**ACT or SAT scores (if available)*

**Two letters of recommendation to include contact information.*

**One page essay addressing the following question:*

What are environmental issues that you feel most affect Lake Jordan and the surrounding lakes? How do you think you could participate to help improve or resolve this problem?

**Must be a family member of Lake Jordan HOB O Association (Include family member name and contact information)*

**Participate in a minimum of 8 hours of community service volunteer activities. Preference is given for community service done at Lake Jordan. (Supervised and approved)*

Additional Criteria will include:

**Community & Civic Volunteer Services*



Lake Jordan HOBO Scholarship

Applicant Requirement Checklist

**School Extracurricular Activities*

**School or Community Leadership Roles*

**Other Volunteer or interest activities*

**Applicant Interview Process*

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any of the committee members.

Completed applications may be emailed or mailed to the following addresses:

Gayla Littlejohn
glittlejohn13@gmail.com
435 Easy St.
Wetumka, AL 26092
334-850-4087

Or

Jill Murchison
840 Driftwood Rd.
Titus, AL 36080
334-318-9471
jillatlake@gmail.com

Lake Jordan HOBO Scholarship Committee members:

Kimberly Adams, Mac Adkins, Gayla Littlejohn, Jill Murchison, Todd Reeves,



Lake Jordan HOBO Scholarship Form

Name: _____ DOB: _____
Last First Middle Initial

Email Address: _____ SSN: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

County: _____ Telephone # ()- _____ Cell # ()- _____

Name of High School: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Address of High School: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

GPA: _____ SAT or ACT Score: _____ Official Transcript Enclosed _____
100 Scale Please Attach Official Transcript to Follow _____

Have You Ever Been Arrested (including juvenile arrest? _____ Yes _____ No If Yes, please explain:

What college do you plan to attend? _____ Accepted () Pending ()

Anticipated Major/Career Interest: _____

Counselor's Name _____ Telephone # ()- _____ Email; _____

Counselor's Signature _____ (Required for verification of application)
I verify that the application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Mother's name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Home phone # ()- _____ Work phone # ()- _____ Cell # ()- _____

Father's name: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Occupation: _____

Home phone # ()- _____ Work phone # ()- _____ Cell # ()- _____



Lake Jordan HOBO Scholarship Form

Do you work now? _____ Yes _____ No If yes, where? _____

How many hours do you work per week? _____

What other scholarships have you applied for or received? _____

The number of siblings in your family that will be in college at the same time as you: _____

Community or Civic Volunteer Services in which you participate:

| Name of Activity | What did you do? |
|------------------|------------------|
| | |
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| | |
| | |

School Extracurricular Activities & Leadership Positions in which you have participated:

| | |
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Note: For above two items, use additional pages if necessary.

All candidates will be required to write an essay. Final candidates will be notified for interview.

I certify that all information on this form is accurate to the best of our knowledge. I hereby release my son's/daughter's application, photograph, and essay for media purposes should our family be awarded a scholarship.

Student Signature of Certification

Date: _____

Parent Guardian Signature of Certification

Date: _____

Officers & Board Members

PRESIDENT

Andy Miscisin 850-461-5164
Email: andrew.miscisin@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Joyce Wright, 442 Cliffside Drive, Titus, AL 36080
Email: wrightlink1@aol.com, Tel: 334-399-5100

SECRETARY

Peggy Harris 334-398-2260
pharris3159@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Holly Baylis, Email: hollybaylis@gmail.com
Tel: 205-601-3127

Past President

Kim Adams, 123 Wildwood Lane, Titus, AL 36080
Email: KKAdams88@outlook.com, Tel: 334-580-0308

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Gerald Hardy
wmgeraldhardy@gmail.com

Board Members

Kim Adams, Tel: 334-580-0308
Email: KKAdams88@outlook.com

Jane Hataway, Tel: 334-398-0913
Email: j_hataway@hotmail.com

Gay Carlisle Tel: 334-398-2514
Email: gay@gaycarlisle.com

Jill Murchison, Tel: 334-318-9471
Email: jillatlake@gmail.com

Andy Miscisin

JP Martin Tel: 334-546-0465
Email: j.p.martin@jacobs.com

Area Representatives

Areas 1 through 6 are on the east side of the lake and areas 7 through 12 are on the west side of the lake. Call your area representative if you need information.

Area 1: Softhatchee Creek (Swayback Slough) from above Collier Bridge to the public ramp on Coosa River. Betty Wood, 334-322-0261
E-mail: bettywood@elmoresr.com 140 Mallard Cove, Titus, AL 36080

Area 2: Public Ramp to and including Lake Jordan Marina Richard & Jane Hataway 334-398-0913, 334-391-48984
E-mail: j_hataway@hotmail.com
570 Dogwood Drive, Titus, AL 36080

Area 3: Lake Jordan Marina to mouth of Weoka Creek
Kim Adams, 334-580-0308
E-mail: KKAdams88@outlook.com

Area 4: Weoka Creek southeast shoreline including Holiday Shores
Open

Island Road and tributaries
Doug and Debbie Gordan 320 Circle Lane Titus AL 36080
334-462-4056

Area 5: Northwest of Island Road, mouth of Weoka Creek, through Gaddis Beach
Open

Area 6: Gaddis Beach to Mitchell Dam
Devlynne & Kelvin Barnes, ddbarnes007@gmail.com
251-714-4664, 251-714-4663

Area 7: Starting at Jordan Dam and includes Canal, Walter Bouldin Dam and back to end of Canal
Bob & Gay Carlisle 283 Canal Road, Wetumpka, AL 36092 334-398-2514 (Gay) 334-462-0792 (Bob)
E-mail: gay@gaycarlisle.com (Gay)
E-mail: bcarlisle777@gmail.com (Bob)

Area 8: West side of Canal up to and including Bonner's Point
Mike Garrity, 334-301-5408
509 Lake Region Cir, Wetumpka, AL 36092
E-mail: mikegarrity2014@gmail.com

Area 9: From Bonner's Point through Funderburg Terrace subdivision (this includes all of Donehoo Slough)
Karla Quinn, 334-569-1373
240 Myrick Dr., Deatsville, AL

Area 10: From Funderburg Terrace subdivision to but not including Shoal Creek area
John Frey, 405-397-1614
Email: frey1937@gmail.com

Area 11: The total shoreline of Shoal Creek (Blackwell Slough) and up to old Fishtails Restaurant
Tammy Kendrick
Email: tammykendrick@gmail.com

Area 12: From old Fishtails Restaurant up to Mitchell Dam
Henry Hines, 205-533-4496
544 Sugar Loaf Hill Road, Deatsville, AL 36022
E-mail: henryrh41@aol.com

Committee Membership Listing

Lake Clean-Up Committee:
James and Gayla Littlejohn
Phone: 334-657-5292 or 334-850-4087
Email: jamesklittlejohn@yahoo.com or glittlejohn13@gmail.com

Lake Jordan Water Watch Committee:
Judy May 334-567-7327 or 334-399-8330
E-mail: frudymay@elmore.rr.com

Coosa River Basin Project
Dr. Steve Mathies

Lake Safety Committee:
Dave Kowalski 334-514-0804
E-mail: the2skies@att.net

Fireworks Committee:
Alaina Starke
Ann Brantley

HOBO Publicity and Website:
Gary & Kayleen Amerson

Environmental Committee:
Linda Mathies

HOBO Newsletter
Cliff Clemmons 205-765-1060
Kim Adams

Facebook
Kim Adams

Membership Coordinator/ Newsletter Mailing List:
Holly Baylis, 205-601-3127
Email: hollybaylis@gmail.com

Nominating Committee:
Board of Directors Members of the Board Area Representatives Committee:
Chairperson: Jill Murchison, 334-318-9471
Email: jillatlake@gmail.com

Memorial and Worship Committee:
Jeff Royal

Boat Parade:
NEED VOLUNTEER

Event Coordinator:
Dee Hartley, 334- 467-9082
Email: hartwood72@ymail.com

Scholarship:
Gayla Littlejohn, 334-850-4087
Email: glittlejohn13@gmail.com

Real Estate Consultants
Greg Adams Lake Homes Realty 334-313-3165
Email: GAdams@LakeHomes.com

Kim Adams, House & Home Real Estate
Cell: 334-580-0308, Bus: 334-230-5777
KAdams88@outlook.com

Rich and Annie Cantrell, Our West Wing, LLC Nightly/
Short-term waterfront rental, 3 BR/2BA, wheelchair access.
Beachwood Nook - located on main lake one mile from
Bonner's Point All inquiries through VRBO.COM #1158676
Email: OurWestWing@gmail.com

Gay Carlisle, REMAX-PROPERTIES Cell: 334-398-2514
Email: gay@gaycarlisle.com Website:
www.gay@gaycarlisle.com Specializing in the tri-county
area for 15 years Full Time Lake Resident "Dedicated to
Service"

Tammy Kendrick RE/MAX Town Lake Realty
tammykendrick@gmail.com
334-799-5019

Heather Oates, Realty Central, LLC Cell: 334-657-3302
Email: heather@realtycentralalabama.com Website: heath-
eroates.matrix.alaml.net or Facebook: facebook.com/
HeatherOatesRealtorRealtyCentralLLC

Belyn Richardson, RE/MAX Cornerstone Realty
503C South Main St., Wetumpka, AL 36092
Office: 334-478-3825 Cell: 334-328-0249

Brant Wright - Century 21, Brandt Wright Realty, Inc.
Office: 334-495-2100 / Cell: 334 399-3700
Joyce Wright – Century 21, Brandt Wright Realty, Inc. Of-
fice: 334-514-4949 / Cell: 334 399-5100 www.C21BW.com

Property Owners Goods & Services Directory

Grady Alford, Continental Roofing Company LLC

Roof Inspector. Free Inspections and Estimates. Total roof replacements and repairs. Competitive pricing with financing available. Phone: 256-794-9742
Email: galford@continentalroofing.net

Big Green Ice Cream Boat

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334-546-2430

Ray Brazell – Shad Cove Lake Rentals

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Email: rbrazell2010@hotmail.com

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Teresa S. Bechard, CFP® Financial Advisor, Merrill Lynch

334-409-5811 teresa.bechard@ml.com

Bill Cook, VP, Southern Lawns

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Dr. Michael Crouse, Montgomery Otolaryngology-Montgomery Hearing Services

111 Olive St, Montgomery, AL 36106. 334-263-2150.

Tony Culverhouse, Kitchen Creations, Inc.

Countertops: Corian, Quartz, and Granite
1570 Geddie Loop Rd. Deatsville, AL 36022
Phone: 569-2983 Fax 569-2987
Web site: www.kitchencreationsinc.com

Don Darby, Signs To Go

1821 Eastern Blvd., Montgomery, AL
334-270-1133 signstogo@signstogomgm.com

James Hammer, Alfa Insurance

26 Cambridge Dr., Wetumpka, AL 36092
334-567-5156; 334-657-6158; jhammer@alfains.com

Tom Hinton, Coosa Pest Control

Over 20 years experience1
90 Hinton Hills Rd., Titus, AL 36080
334-567-9059

Toby Langley – Owner, River Region Boathouse & Docks

We build boathouses, lift installations, vinyl sea/retaining walls, piers and decks. Locally owned and operated.
334-320-5110

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334-478-7056

Cecil Pinson, Pinson Air Conditioning & Heating

Residential & Commercial, 24 Hour Emergency Service
1295 Thornton Rd., Titus, AL 36080 334-567-2347

Jeff Royal, Elevation Strategies, LLC.

Construction Management Consulting ELEVATION STRATEGIES, LLC (ELEVATION), provides construction management consulting services specializing in CPM scheduling and project controls to the construction industry. <https://www.elevationstrategiesllc.com>
jeff@elevationstrategiesllc.com 334-301-0730

Alan Williams, Leisure Isle Buildings

Storage buildings, Barns, Workshops, Carports, Garages, RV covers and more!
4451 Wetumpka Highway
Montgomery, AL 36110
Office: 334-262-4309 Cell: 334-318-2526

Roxanne Shuler,

Senior Placement Services of Birmingham, a free service helping families locate retirement communities for their loved ones. We work with independent living, assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing in Montgomery, Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and other cities in AL. We find the right fit for your budget and needs. Lake Jordan resident.
Cell: 205-572-1503
Email: roxanne@seniorplacementservicesllc.com

Silas Builders, LLC.,

Deatsville, AL 334-558-2993
Licensed and insured Building Contractor serving the Tri-County Area since 1998. We build new homes or will renovate/repair your existing home. Call for a free estimate.

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Raymond Turner, Larry Puckett Chevrolet Inc.

Sales Manager, 334-285-9300

Lorie Sommers, Veneer Cast Stone, Inc

125 Shadetree Dr., Clanton AL 35045
www.alluriamstone.com, (205) 280-1500 office
We manufacture and install the veneer stone on any home or business project such as fireplaces, retaining walls, home foundations, etc. We live on lake Jordan full time and have done numerous homes on the lake. Check us out on Facebook also.

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3071 Dexter Rd., Wetumpka, AL 36092
Phone: 334-567-6308 or cell: 334-399-1547
Frank and Lucie Wadsworth Email: frank@wadsworthchristmastrees.com web site: www.wadsworthchristmastrees.com Discover Central Alabama's best selection of Christmas trees! Our farm is a "choose and cut" operation.

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3700 US Hwy 231, Wetumpka 36093. 334-514-Tint (8468)
Owner Rodney Steele; Commercial, residential, marine and automotive tinting

LAKE JORDAN HOME OWNERS AND BOAT OWNERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 431 WETUMPKA, AL 36092-0431

ANNUAL DUES
\$25
PER HOUSEHOLD

FIREWORKS
\$ _____
DONATIONS

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Address Change _____

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

LAKE ADDRESS _____

LAKE SUBDIVISION NAME _____ (Hobo Area #) _____

PHONE: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Business) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING ON ANY OF THE COMMITTEES PLEASE MARK THE ONES YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH:

- Spring Clean-Up
- Water Monitoring
- "Little Church" at Bonner's
- Safety

COMMENTS _____

COOSA RIVER SLOT LIMIT

This is a letter HOBO received from Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries regarding the proposed Coosa River Slot Limit. The attachment follows.

Mr Clemmons,

We've received several calls from your HOBO members inquiring about our proposal for a 14" – 20" slot limit for live release bass tournaments on the Coosa River reservoirs. There is a lot of inaccurate information being shared, so I wanted to provide you with this document that I think will help to explain some of the results of our research and why we're recommending the slot limit. Please feel free to share this information with any of your HOBO members who may be curious about the proposal.

At this point, it is nothing but a recommendation. It will be formally proposed to the Conservation Advisory Board at its March 8, 2025 public meeting in Montgomery. Anyone who wishes to voice their opinion on this proposal is welcome to attend, or to write or call their representative on the board: [Conservation Advisory Board Map | Outdoor Alabama](#).

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call anytime. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Damon Lee Abernethy
Assistant Chief of Fisheries
Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries
64 N. Union St., Suite 551
Montgomery, Ala. 36130

Recommendation for Black Bass Regulation Changes on Coosa River Reservoirs

Introduction:

In response to persistent complaints from anglers about the declining quality of the black bass fisheries on Coosa River reservoirs, ADCNR funded a three-year research project through Auburn University to examine the impact of bass tournaments and mortality of Largemouth Bass and Alabama Bass on Neely Henry Reservoir near Gadsden, Alabama. Neely Henry Reservoir was chosen due to several factors that made it suitable for the project. Neely Henry has high tournament activity, good amenities and local lodging, boat ramps that provided access to most of the reservoir for tracking fish, as well as fishery characteristics that made it suitable for the research project. Total project cost was \$843,000. The project is complete and we have reviewed the data, although the results have not yet been published.

Methods:

Our population modeling used variables obtained from portions of the Auburn University study, and from our long-term standardized sampling database. All variables are scientific estimates based upon the results of these studies. Table 1 shows the parameters used to perform the simulation modeling.

The Neely Henry study estimated very high annual capture rates for Largemouth Bass (80%) and Alabama Bass (120%). However, only 2% of captured Largemouth Bass and 4% of captured Alabama Bass were harvested by recreational anglers. Forty percent (40%) of the total capture events occurred during tournament competitions. It was estimated that a total of 45% of bass weighed in during tournaments suffered pre- and/or post-release mortality. This is likely a conservative estimate, as research has shown that total tournament mortality can range from 50–80% during hot weather (Figure 1). As high school and collegiate tournaments have increased, the number of summertime tournaments has also increased.

Results/Discussion:

On Neely Henry, capture rates were very high for both species. For comparison, a study at Lake Guntersville estimated annual capture rates of Largemouth Bass at about 50%. Both reservoirs receive heavy tournament pressure that negatively impacts the size-structure of their bass populations. However, Neely Henry is 6-times smaller, more riverine, and does not have expansive over-bank areas that offer good black bass habitat. Because the Coosa River reservoirs are small, and more vulnerable to the effects of tournament mortality, they can only withstand a fraction of the tournament pressure that larger reservoirs receive. To put things into perspective, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan Reservoirs combined total less than 75% of the total surface acreage of Lake Guntersville.

Tournament anglers target the largest fish they can catch in an effort to have the heaviest weight and win the largest prizes. Figure 2 shows how the size of bass weighed in during Neely Neely

Henry is 6-times smaller, more riverine, and does not have expansive overbank areas that offer good black bass habitat. Because the Coosa River reservoirs are small, and more vulnerable to the effects of tournament mortality, they can only withstand a fraction of the tournament pressure that larger reservoirs receive. To put things into perspective, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan Reservoirs combined total less than 75% of the total surface acreage of Lake Guntersville.

Tournament anglers target the largest fish they can catch in an effort to have the heaviest weight and win the largest prizes. Figure 2 shows how the size of bass weighed in during Neely Henry bass tournaments compared to the population at-large. The large fish targeted by tournament anglers represent a relatively small proportion of the total population, so high mortality on this segment of the population can quickly reduce the abundance of larger fish. As an example, the relative abundance of 19-inch & 20-inch bass caught by Neely Henry tournament anglers was almost four times greater than their relative abundance in the population.

Females of both species were disproportionately selected by tournament anglers because they are heavier than males at all sizes, and because the maximum size of males is generally limited to about 18-inches (\approx 3 pounds). Therefore, to accumulate the heaviest weight possible, competitors weighed in 50% more females than males. This disparity was greatest among bass older than Age-6, where nearly 70% of all bass weighed in during tournaments were females. This resulted in female bass suffering higher rates of tournament mortality.

Tournament anglers were also unknowingly selecting for faster growing fish, which subjected them to higher rates of mortality than slow growing fish. Figure 3 helps to illustrate this by comparing mean length-at-age of electrofished vs. tournament caught bass. This difference is evident at the younger ages but disappears at the older ages because most of the faster growing fish have been eliminated from the population by Age-6 (Largemouth Bass) and Age-4 (Alabama Bass). Genes for faster growth are still present in the population and being passed on to their progeny, but fish that possess them are suffering high rates of tournament mortality before realizing their full growth potential.

Finally, it is estimated that approximately 70% of the total tournament-related mortality is being caused by competitors who do not have enough weight to earn any prizes.

In summary, Neely Henry tournament anglers are selecting for large, fast growing, females, which subjected these three groups to the highest rates of tournament mortality. High capture rates are a function of small reservoir size, which compounds the effects of tournament mortality. Harvest rates are very low, meaning tournaments are causing the majority of angling-related mortality. Therefore, reducing tournament mortality is the best way to improve bass size structure.

Management Implications:

Bass fishing has evolved over the past 30 years. Traditional length and bag limits were designed to manage harvest. These management strategies are ineffective on reservoirs with harvest rates near zero. The effectiveness of traditional length and bag limits has essentially been neutralized by the catch-and-release ethic. However, contrary to what many tournament anglers believe, released tour-

nament fish have high mortality rates, particularly during warmer weather. Numerous studies, including our Neely Henry study, have documented that catch-and-release is most effective when done at the time of catch. The benefits of catch-and-release are negated by hours spent in livewells and the subsequent live weigh-in process that is associated with typical bass tournaments.

In theory, a very high minimum length limit would help to address overall mortality, but it would severely penalize recreational anglers who are far more numerous and are responsible for a much smaller proportion of the total mortality than tournament anglers. Therefore, a restrictive tournament-only slot limit would yield better results in significantly improving size structure, particularly for Alabama Bass.

For size-structure to improve, tournament mortality must be reduced. There are a number of ways this could be accomplished: 1) limiting tournament size and/or frequency, 2) prohibiting tournaments during times when water temperatures are above 70°F (approximately May 1 – September 30), 3) mandating catch-weigh-release tournament formats, or 4) restrictive length limits. The first two options are less desirable because of their potential economic impacts to local communities. The second two options would reduce mortality within the current tournament framework, without regulating participation.

States like North Carolina and West Virginia have enacted regulations that limit the size of tournaments based upon the capacity of the access areas where tournaments are being held. Other states have developed tournament permitting protocols (Florida, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New York, South Carolina, etc.).

Trophy-sized Alabama Bass is something the Coosa River is known for, nationwide. Because of unregulated tournament mortality, our trophy Alabama Bass fisheries no longer exists. Anglers have transplanted Alabama Bass into drainages outside their native range trying to recreate what we once had in our Coosa River reservoirs. Unfortunately, their efforts have failed, and Alabama Bass have naturally hybridized with Smallmouth Bass, Shoal Bass, and Redeye Bass, which is destroying many well-known fisheries throughout the southeast. This is giving the Alabama Bass a bad reputation. Restoring our trophy Alabama Bass fisheries will make the Coosa River a destination fishery again.

Since recreational harvest is responsible for a negligible amount of the total annual mortality, regulations that change recreational angler behavior would not result in noticeable improvements in the quality of these fisheries.

It is our hope that a tournament-only regulation will encourage more tournament organizations to voluntarily adopt the catch-weigh-release formats being used by Major League Fishing (MLF) for its Pro Tour events. This model is also being used almost exclusively by the kayak tournament trails and other conservation-minded bass clubs. Catch-weigh-release would essentially eliminate tournament mortality for all ages and sizes of black bass, and result in the greatest possible improvement in the quality of these fisheries.

Most tournament trails encourage the weighing of non-competitive bags of fish in order to award points to anglers/teams to qualify them for a more exclusive, larger payout, tournament at the end of the season. Obviously, this practice is inflating mortality by encouraging all anglers/teams to weigh fish even

when they do not have enough weight to earn a prize. Eliminating this practice would not prevent lengthy livewell confinement, but it would decrease mortality directly associated with the weigh-in process.

Applying the same regulation change to all six (6) Coosa reservoirs would ensure that angling will be improved for all bass anglers who fish Coosa River reservoirs, and that no local municipalities will be disproportionately affected by a loss of tournament participation. Applying a regulation to only one Coosa River reservoir could result in tournament organizations favoring adjacent reservoirs to avoid the restrictive limits.

Recommendations:

We recommend a 14-inch to 20-inch protective slot limit for all black bass during any tournaments utilizing live weigh-ins on all six (6) Coosa River Reservoirs (Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell, and Jordan). Table 2 shows the predicted increase in abundance of bass greater than 20-inches in each reservoir under the proposed regulation, which ranges from 20 – 43% for Largemouth Bass, and from 43 – 71% for Alabama Bass.

This regulation has been discussed with and is supported by the WFF Law Enforcement Section. There would be no need for its conservation officers to distinguish between tournament and recreational anglers on the water because it could easily be enforced at the time of the weigh-in.

Initially, tournament weights will be significantly impacted as there are currently very few fish exceeding the upper end of the protective slot. However, each year, survival and growth of fish protected by the slot limit will result in increases in abundance of fish over 20-inches in length.

Perhaps the greatest benefit of this regulation would be to increase voluntary participation in catch-weigh-release tournament formats. This would allow tournament organizations to credit its competitors with catches of all fish within the protective slot limit. Their immediate release following the catch and weighing would reduce tournament mortality to near zero.

Table 1. Parameters used in simulation modeling of black bass regulations for six Coosa River reservoirs.

| Parameters for Simulation Models | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|-----------|
| Reservoir | Species | Weight to Length Relation | | Growth V-B | | | Mortality | | Max Age |
| | | slope | intercept | Linf | k | to | Z | M | Years |
| Weiss | LMB | 3.2474 | -5.4989 | 585 | 0.262 | -0.692 | -0.487 | 0.34 | 12 |
| | ALB | 3.2773 | -5.614 | 528 | 0.313 | -0.229 | -0.562 | 0.39 | 11 |
| Neely Henry | LMB | 3.3503 | -5.7368 | 585 | 0.231 | -0.365 | -0.571 | 0.38 | 10 |
| | ALB | 3.2832 | -5.6067 | 528 | 0.249 | -0.104 | -0.548 | 0.36 | 13 |
| Logan Martin | LMB | 3.2341 | -5.4511 | 585 | 0.235 | -0.482 | -0.649 | 0.34 | 9 |
| | ALB | 3.1325 | -5.2378 | 528 | 0.285 | -0.247 | -0.722 | 0.41 | 11 |
| Lay | LMB | 3.2491 | -5.4748 | 585 | 0.253 | -0.446 | -0.522 | 0.34 | 14 |
| | ALB | 3.2868 | -5.6064 | 528 | 0.338 | 0.121 | -0.51 | 0.36 | 11 |
| Mitchell | LMB | 3.1789 | -5.3122 | 585 | 0.257 | -0.278 | -0.635 | 0.38 | 10 |
| | ALB | 3.1407 | -5.2553 | 528 | 0.295 | -0.061 | -0.526 | 0.41 | 9 |
| Jordan | LMB | 3.2244 | -5.421 | 585 | 0.267 | -0.211 | -0.629 | 0.38 | 10 |
| | ALB | 3.2467 | -5.521 | 531 | 0.338 | -0.282 | -0.576 | 0.40 | 10 |

Table 2. Predicted percent increase of bass over 20-inches on the six Coosa River reservoirs managed under a 14-inch to 20-inch tournament-only protective slot limit.

| | Weiss | Neely Henry | Logan Martin | Lay | Mitchell | Jordan |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Largemouth Bass | 20 | 38 | 37 | 43 | 37 | 36 |
| Alabama Bass | 71 | 67 | 60 | 59 | 43 | 61 |

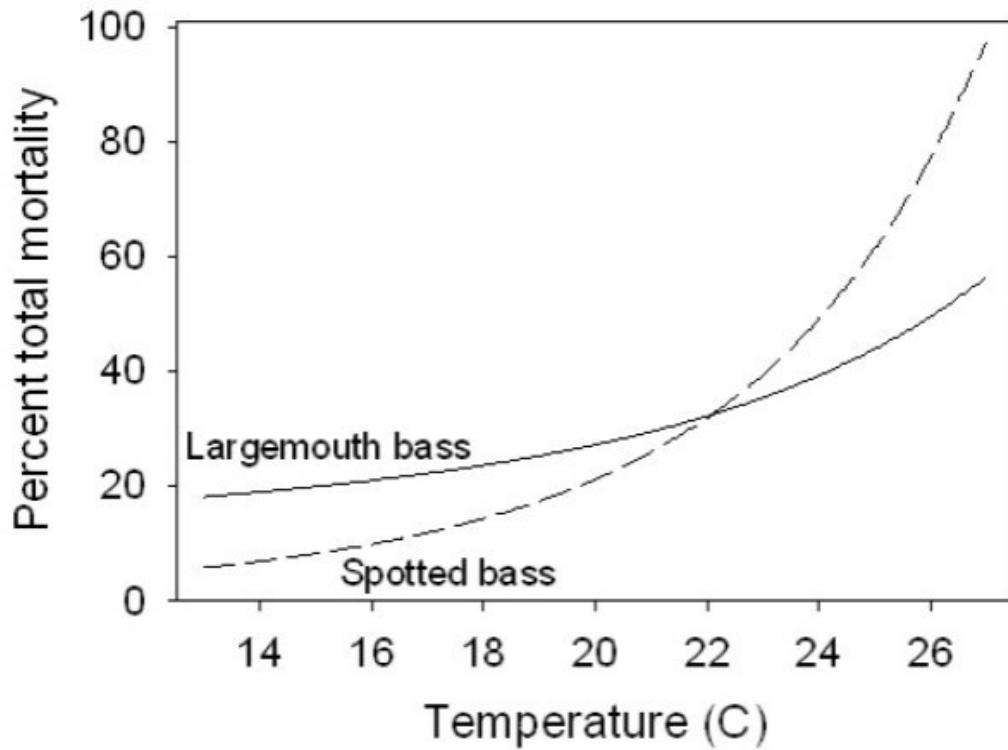


Figure 1. Predicted percent total mortality of tournament caught largemouth bass and Alabama (spotted) bass versus temperature during black bass tournaments held at Lake Martin, Alabama.

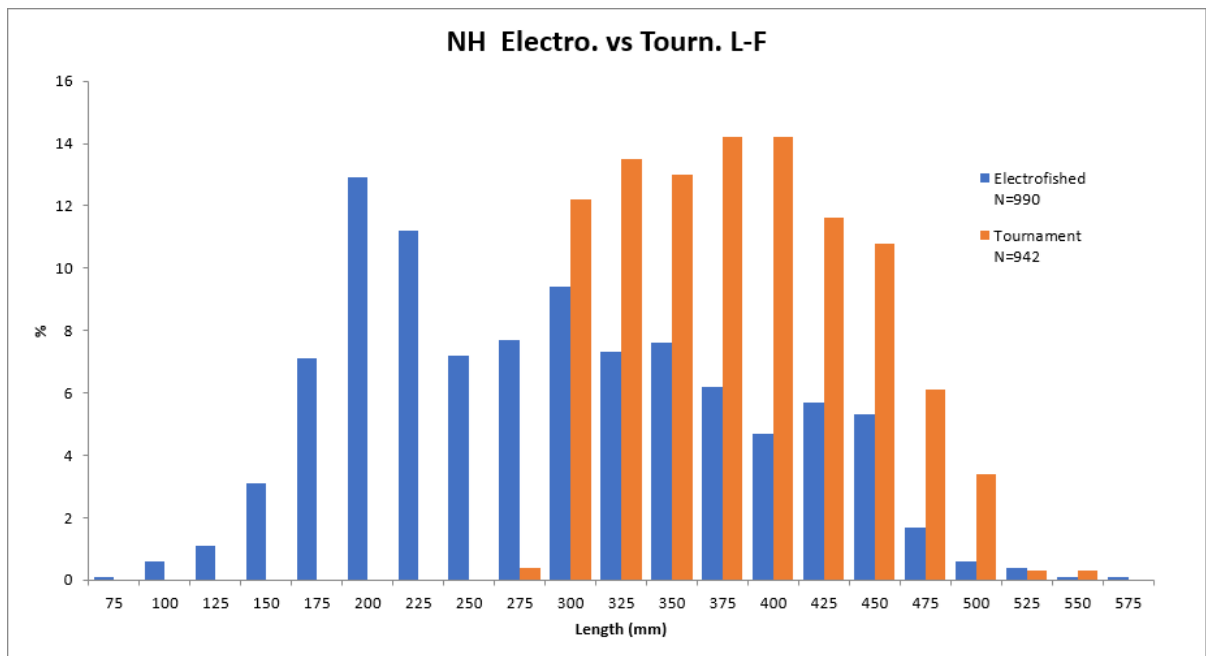


Figure 2. Length frequency of black bass in tournaments vs. standardized samples at Neely Henry Reservoir, Alabama.

