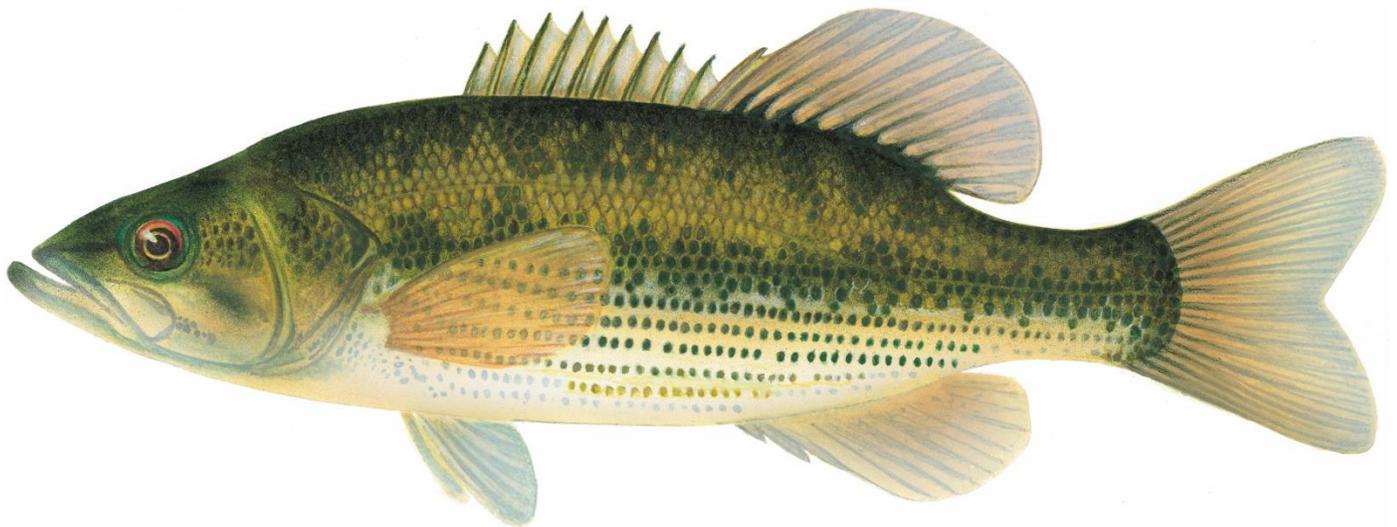


Summary Report of Black Bass Fishing Contests Held in 2018



Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program

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Introduction

Fishing contests represent an important component of recreational fishing in California, and include tournaments and derbies. Black bass tournaments typically represent 90% of all fishing contests held in California; therefore this report focuses on the black bass subset.

History of Fishing Contest Management

Beginning in 1975, organizers offering prizes for the taking of sport fish in any California water were required to obtain a fishing contest permit from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Since 1985, organizers have been required to submit a “Fishing Contest Report” to the CDFW detailing the results of each permitted contest. In 1990 regulations were established that provided two types of contests, “Event” and “Annual.” An “Event” type contest permit is designed to regulate large fishing contests often run by commercial organizations. The “Annual” type contest permit is designed to gather data from smaller organized contests, such as those offered by bass clubs or individuals.

Permitting Process

An “Event” type permit is required for contests in which more than 50 anglers will participate, or the sponsor is offering \$1,000 or more in cash or prizes. An “Event” contest permit targeting black bass may not exceed 3 days in duration, and no more than one “Event” type contest may be held on any water on the same day. The exception to this is the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta (Delta). On the Delta, up to 3 “Event” permits may be issued per day as long as only one weigh-in location appears in each of the following counties: San Joaquin, Contra Costa, and Sacramento.

An “Annual” type permit is required for contests with 50 or fewer participants and the sponsor is offering less than \$1,000 in cash or prizes. Up to 12 individual contests may appear on each “Annual” type permit, and there is no limit to the number of “Annual” type permits that can be issued for each date and/or water.

Reporting Requirement

For each permit issued, the organizer is required to complete and return a “Fishing Contest Report” to the CDFW within 30 days of the conclusion of each contest. Report compliance has varied from year to year. Beginning in 2007, in an effort to improve compliance, the CDFW began sending a “Letter of Notice” to organizers that specific contest reports were delinquent. In late 2008 CDFW improved reporting procedures by developing a writeable PDF form and e-mail submission procedures. In early 2016 CDFW instituted an online report form which allows tournament directors to submit their results directly to CDFW. This change has increased efficiency and accuracy for CDFW while streamlining the process for tournament directors.

Future of Fishing Contest Management

Fishing contests can put intense fishing pressure on black bass fisheries. Adaptive management is essential to ensure fishery health while maintaining and improving recreational fisheries. Adaptive management includes activities implemented by CDFW, water control agencies, fishing contest sponsors, and the anglers.

CDFW does its part by:

- Approving or denying permits to hold fishing contests according to regulations
- Rescinding permits of non-compliant sponsors
- Monitoring fishing contests with an observer
- Responding to angler inquiries and concerns regarding tournaments
- Assessing the effects of fishing contests on the fishery, including poor fish care, barotrauma incidence, and mortality rates

Tournament organizations can do their part by:

- Enforcing proper fish care by participants during each contest
- Enforcing any aquatic invasive guidelines for all boats, such as quagga mussel inspections, and ensuring participants are aware of any required inspections
- Supplying anglers with properly aerated tanks at weigh in to keep fish healthy while waiting to weigh in.
- Informing participants of unique conditions at any water, such as the presence of protected aquatic species, areas off limits to fishing, or non-standard length or bag limits
- Submitting all tournament contest reports in a timely manner.
- Communicating with the local marina, water control agency, or property owner to ensure you have the appropriate permits and permissions

Anglers can do their part by:

- Taking the best care of their fish possible at all points during the tournament. High mortality rates not only hurt an angler's performance in the tournament; they also negatively affect the fishery. The loss of large fish from the population reduces not only their density (and angler catch rates), but also reduces the spawning potential of the population. Larger females produce far more eggs than small females.
- Following directions from sponsors during weigh-ins
- Abiding by the special conditions identified for bass tournaments (See "Additional Resources")
- Following all guidelines and regulations relating to aquatic invasive and protected species

Additional Resources and FAQ

Where are upcoming tournaments?

Upcoming fishing contests are listed online at:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishingContests/default.aspx>

Where can I get more information on the contests scheduled in my area?

Contact Max Fish, the Lake and Reservoir Program's Warmwater Specialist, for more information at max.fish@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 375-5484.

How do I apply for a fishing contest permit?

To apply for a fishing contest permit with CDFW, complete form FG-775, accessible online at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Contests>

Mail or turn in your application at your regional CDFW headquarters, with an address line "ATTN: Fishing Contest Application." The appropriate addresses are listed on the third page of the Fishing Contest Application (FG-775).

Permit Exemptions:

Forms requesting exemption from fishing regulations are also available online at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Contests>

How do I report the results of a fishing contest?

Within 30 days of the completion of each contest submit results through the online reporting service (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Black-Bass/Contest-Report>) or complete form FG-776, accessible online at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/Contests>

Submit this report via email to contestreports@wildlife.ca.gov or mail completed form to:

ATTN: Fishing Contest Reports
Fisheries Branch
980 Riverside Pkwy, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605

***Preliminary Results:** These tables represent only a portion of submitted contest reports. Tables will be amended to reflect the total dataset when the data is available.

Table 1

Summary of all 2018 Fishing Contest Reports By Individual Water

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Almanor	7	260	90.0	647	9	1409.1	2.2
Amador	12	254	80.0	481	25	1135.2	2.4
Bass Lake	1	8	8.0	29	1	50.3	1.7
Berryessa	47	2255	384.5	5482	43	13877.3	2.5
California Delta	131	8427	1030.0	18077	155	41135.7	2.3
Camanche	20	580	167.5	1184	6	2438.2	2.1
Camp Far West	4	61	29.0	158	2	213.9	1.4
Castaic	17	530	114.0	801	13	1812.4	2.3
Castaic Lagoon	3	77	18.0	78	0	249.3	3.2
Clear	68	3869	651.5	10756	146	27602.6	2.6
Collins	3	30	21.0	83	0	147.2	1.8
Colorado River	4	173	50.5	536	13	1212.0	2.3
Diamond Valley	10	388	57.5	382	6	1223.5	3.2
Don Pedro	29	1892	254.5	6674	115	14627.5	2.2
East Park	2	91	9.0	207	0	420.9	2.0
Eastman	8	145	60.0	324	12	807.3	2.5
El Capitan	20	649	156.0	1605	20	4236.7	2.6
Folsom	6	241	39.0	364	2	714.3	2.0
Havasu	7	179	100.0	471	4	1176.4	2.5
Hensley	2	32	14.0	64	0	159.7	2.5
Hodges	6	763	49.0	124	0	366.6	3.0
Irongate	2	61	30.0	125	1	240.8	1.9
Isabella	6	20	28.0	64	5	155.3	2.4
Kaweah	20	562	129.0	995	22	1790.5	1.8
Lopez	7	291	57.0	436	3	1313.8	3.0
Lower Otay	10	169	73.5	600	5	1209.7	2.0
McClure	32	1091	265.5	3283	36	5734.8	1.7
Millerton	2	72	16.0	160	1	230.7	1.4
Murray	2	29	18.0	71	1	113.7	1.6

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Nacimiento	19	522	133.0	1573	1	3272.6	2.1
New Bullards Bar	11	234	81.5	540	1	847.7	1.6
New Hogan	7	110	48.7	300	3	481.1	1.6
New Melones	16	1046	150.5	1972	16	4622.4	2.3
Oroville	19	1089	123.0	2504	6	3094.5	1.2
Oroville Afterbay	1	10	1.0	24	0	46.4	1.9
Otay	11	447	74.0	1175	174	2533.5	2.2
Ox Bow Landing	1	37	8.0	90	0	231.9	2.6
Pardee	9	149	67.0	400	2	739.5	1.8
Perris	8	318	70.0	255	1	821.3	3.2
Pine Flat	23	569	176.0	1694	31	3015.7	1.8
Piru	3	35	16.0	23	0	74.5	3.2
Pyramid	12	285	88.0	615	1	1306.8	2.1
Ruth Lake	3	122	26.0	254	0	764.4	3.0
Salt Springs	3	85	19.5	234	5	508.4	2.2
San Antonio	4	129	32.0	112	0	370.2	3.3
San Vicente	23	999	152.0	1775	75	4177.5	2.4
Santa Margarita	6	176	47.0	372	3	951.7	2.6
Scotts Flatt	1	11	7.0	51	2	80.1	1.6
Shasta	36	2864	328.5	7660	181	12696.7	1.7
Silverwood	2	45	12.0	44	0	83.7	1.9
Skinner	12	228	76.0	309	2	887.1	2.9
Sonoma	5	80	45.0	251	0	615.4	2.5
Stony Gorge	1	34	8.0	74	1	127.0	1.7
Success	16	475	104.0	934	27	2250.5	2.4
Thermalito Afterbay	3	67	20.0	70	1	147.5	2.1
Trinity	10	398	104.0	910	48	2421.8	2.7
Tulloch	20	626	88.0	982	4	2256.0	2.3
Whiskeytown	1	12	8.0	55	1	126.6	2.3
Grand Total	777	34421	6121.7	79573	1232	175357.5	2.2

Table 2

Summary of 2018 “Event” Fishing Contest Reports By Individual Water

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Almanor	3	124	26.0	240	0	634.3	2.6
Amador	5	139	36.0	244	7	575.5	2.4
Berryessa	24	1795	187.0	4404	32	11720.5	2.7
California Delta	69	6885	530.0	13883	120	32539.0	2.3
Camanche	11	393	86.5	737	4	1593.7	2.2
Camp Far West	2	29	15.0	95	2	126.9	1.3
Castaic	8	401	62.0	619	9	1435.5	2.3
Clear	28	3057	271.0	8265	91	21914.7	2.7
Collins	2	20	13.0	60	0	103.2	1.7
Colorado River	2	68	16.0	169	1	456.2	2.7
Diamond Valley	2	288	16.0	249	5	811.3	3.3
Don Pedro	14	1510	138.0	5340	108	11986.3	2.2
East Park	1	70	8.0	155	0	338.6	2.2
Eastman	8	145	60.0	324	12	807.3	2.5
El Capitan	6	417	54.0	900	11	2551.7	2.8
Folsom	4	206	23.0	301	1	586.8	1.9
Havasu	1	27	8.0	63	0	160.7	2.6
Hensley	1	18	6.0	32	0	63.4	2.0
Hodges	2	51	16.0	31	0	102.6	3.3
Isabella	6	20	28.0	64	5	155.3	2.4
Kaweah	20	562	129.0	995	22	1790.5	1.8
Lopez	5	265	40.0	389	3	1173.8	3.0
Lower Otay	1	20	8.0	91	1	257.0	2.8
McClure	11	651	87.0	1664	21	3002.9	1.8
Millerton	2	72	16.0	160	1	230.7	1.4
Murray	1	10	10.0	38	0	59.5	1.6
Nacimiento	5	256	40.0	820	0	1742.8	2.1
New Bullards Bar	4	94	17.0	133	0	182.9	1.4
New Hogan	2	27	14.0	79	0	120.6	1.5
New Melones	7	483	72.0	1225	7	2922.3	2.4
Oroville	9	933	63.0	2102	6	2703.3	1.3
Oroville Afterbay	1	10	1.0	24	0	46.4	1.9
Otay	4	336	28.0	825	162	1779.6	2.2
Ox Bow Landing	1	37	8.0	90	0	231.9	2.6
Pardee	4	68	31.0	172	1	301.3	1.8

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Perris	2	153	16.0	138	0	481.5	3.5
Pine Flat	9	402	74.0	1178	18	2144.9	1.8
Pyramid	4	145	32.0	360	1	783.9	2.2
Ruth Lake	3	122	26.0	254	0	764.4	3.0
San Antonio	3	101	24.0	94	0	312.8	3.3
San Vicente	7	621	54.0	955	30	2475.1	2.6
Santa Margarita	5	162	38.0	346	2	894.2	2.6
Scotts Flatt	1	11	7.0	51	2	80.1	1.6
Shasta	21	2520	188.0	6369	113	10560.2	1.7
Skinner	3	68	22.0	90	1	260.0	2.9
Success	16	475	104.0	934	27	2250.5	2.4
Trinity	4	163	46.0	507	6	1550.3	3.1
Tulloch	3	56	16.0	140	3	335.4	2.4
Grand Total	358	24506	2818.5	56458	835	128102.0	2.3

Table 3**Summary of 2018 “Annual” Fishing Contest Reports By Individual Water**

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Almanor	4	136	64.0	407	9	774.8	1.9
Amador	7	115	44.0	237	18	559.8	2.4
Bass Lake	1	8	8.0	29	1	50.3	1.7
Berryessa	23	460	197.5	1078	11	2156.7	2.0
California Delta	62	1542	500.0	4194	35	8596.7	2.0
Camanche	9	187	81.0	447	2	844.6	1.9
Camp Far West	2	32	14.0	63	0	87.0	1.4
Castaic	9	129	52.0	182	4	376.9	2.1
Castaic Lagoon	3	77	18.0	78	0	249.3	3.2
Clear	40	812	380.5	2491	55	5687.9	2.3
Collins	1	10	8.0	23	0	44.0	1.9
Colorado River	2	105	34.5	367	12	755.8	2.1
Diamond Valley	8	100	41.5	133	1	412.2	3.1
Don Pedro	15	382	116.5	1334	7	2641.2	2.0
East Park	1	21	1.0	52	0	82.3	1.6
El Capitan	14	232	102.0	705	9	1685.0	2.4
Folsom	2	35	16.0	63	1	127.5	2.0
Havasu	6	152	92.0	408	4	1015.6	2.5
Hensley	1	14	8.0	32	0	96.3	3.0
Hodges	4	712	33.0	93	0	264.0	2.8
Irongate	2	61	30.0	125	1	240.8	1.9
Lopez	2	26	17.0	47	0	140.0	3.0
Lower Otay	9	149	65.5	509	4	952.7	1.9
McClure	21	440	178.5	1619	15	2732.0	1.7
Murray	1	19	8.0	33	1	54.2	1.6
Nacimiento	14	266	93.0	753	1	1529.9	2.0
New Bullards Bar	7	140	64.5	407	1	664.9	1.6
New Hogan	5	83	34.7	221	3	360.5	1.6
New Melones	9	563	78.5	747	9	1700.1	2.3
Oroville	10	156	60.0	402	0	391.2	1.0
Otay	7	111	46.0	350	12	753.9	2.2
Pardee	5	81	36.0	228	1	438.3	1.9
Perris	6	165	54.0	117	1	339.7	2.9
Pine Flat	14	167	102.0	516	13	870.7	1.7

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Total Weight (lbs)	Average Weight (lbs)
Piru	3	35	16.0	23	0	74.5	3.2
Pyramid	8	140	56.0	255	0	522.9	2.1
Salt Springs	3	85	19.5	234	5	508.4	2.2
San Antonio	1	28	8.0	18	0	57.4	3.2
San Vicente	16	378	98.0	820	45	1702.4	2.1
Santa Margarita	1	14	9.0	26	1	57.5	2.2
Shasta	15	344	140.5	1291	68	2136.5	1.7
Silverwood	2	45	12.0	44	0	83.7	1.9
Skinner	9	160	54.0	219	1	627.0	2.9
Sonoma	5	80	45.0	251	0	615.4	2.5
Stony Gorge	1	34	8.0	74	1	127.0	1.7
Thermalito Afterbay	3	67	20.0	70	1	147.5	2.1
Trinity	6	235	58.0	403	42	871.5	2.2
Tulloch	17	570	72.0	842	1	1920.6	2.3
Whiskeytown	1	12	8.0	55	1	126.6	2.3
Grand Total	419	9915	3303.2	23115	397	47255.5	2.0