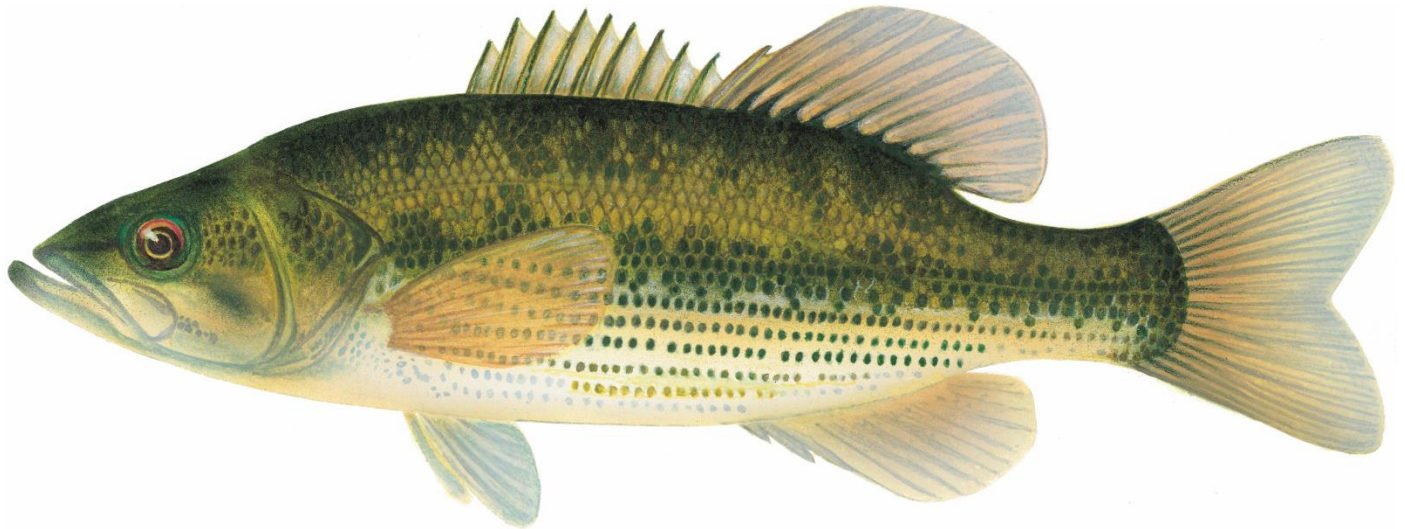


Summary Report of Black Bass Fishing Contests Held in 2019



Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program

This project was funded in part by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act,
Grant G1898040



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 that appropriate permits and permissions have been obtained.

Anglers can do their part by:

- Taking the best possible care of their fish 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 110
West Sacramento, CA 95605

***Preliminary Results:** These tables represent data available at the time of publication, not necessarily all fishing contests held.

Table 1
Summary of all 2019 Fishing Contest Reports by Individual Water

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
ALMANOR	10	243	94	480	3	2.67
AMADOR	5	149	31	266	4	2.14
ANTELOPE	1	19	8	40	0	2.51
BERRYESSA	46	2529	414	7230	61	2.06
BLACK BUTTE	1	29	8	56	0	1.40
CALIFORNIA DELTA	114	7817	1026.5	17374	135	2.35
CAMANCHE	24	748	213.5	2022	15	2.00
CAMP FAR WEST	4	61	32	98	0	1.32
CASTAIC	24	616	157	735	6	2.24
CLEAR	64	5406	674.5	14904	143	3.15
COLORADO RIVER	5	156	49	341	3	2.33
DIAMOND VALLEY	12	450	82	626	6	3.15
DON PEDRO	33	2020	290	5570	47	1.90
EAST PARK	1	73	8	127	0	2.24
EASTMAN	8	245	56.5	411	16	1.78
EL CAPITAN	13	578	94	1120	16	1.95
FOLSOM	3	115	32	429	0	1.87
HAVASU	2	29	29	104	0	2.46
HENSLEY	2	38	14	53	0	2.00
HODGES	6	116	27	147	3	2.39
ISABELLA	7	231	59	319	0	2.68
KAWEAH	6	202	47	318	2	1.68
LOPEZ	6	230	52	424	2	2.69
LOWER OTAY	13	574	88	1154	36	1.99
MCCLURE	33	1097	252	3487	28	1.71
MILLERTON	4	89	31.5	286	1	1.82
MURRAY	1	8	9	14	0	1.76
NACIMIENTO	15	549	123	1161	1	1.57
NEW BULLARDS BAR	6	105	54	182	0	1.28
NEW HOGAN	4	106	40	250	3	1.99
NEW MELONES	23	1760	219	5934	105	2.47

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
OROVILLE	17	861	134	2337	4	1.63
PARDEE	4	69	33	221	3	1.92
PERRIS	12	338	88	459	3	2.73
PINE FLAT	25	776	193	1920	27	1.61
PIRU	7	148	44	218	3	2.80
PYRAMID	14	418	106	949	4	2.45
RUTH	4	177	26	348	3	2.83
SALT SPRINGS VALLEY	2	27	16	78	0	2.07
SAN VICENTE	10	451	75	1056	9	2.33
SANTA MARGARITA	5	240	40	481	5	2.18
SHASTA	26	1325	256	5485	31	1.90
SILVERWOOD	2	43	9	49	0	2.75
SKINNER	4	78	28	92	2	2.91
SONOMA	5	122	42.5	339	0	1.81
SUCCESS	7	206	53	329	17	2.19
THERMALITO AFTERBAY	1	22	6	18	0	2.15
TRINITY	11	356	131	929	20	2.69
TULLOCH	12	312	77	603	4	2.27
WHISKEYTOWN	1	10	8	45	0	2.16
GRAND TOTAL	665	32367	5680	81618	771	2.25

Table 2
Summary of 2019 “Event” Fishing Contest Reports by Individual Water

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
AMADOR	3	136	25	241	4	2.17
BERRYESSA	27	2011	205	5845	44	2.18
CALIFORNIA DELTA	53	6219	482	13509	109	2.44
CAMANCHE	8	442	80	1396	0	2.05
CASTAIC	10	387	69	499	5	2.21
CLEAR	30	4551	318	12549	120	3.46
DIAMOND VALLEY	7	360	46	449	4	3.47
DON PEDRO	17	1555	135	4144	25	2.00
EAST PARK	1	73	8	127	0	2.24
EASTMAN	8	245	57	411	16	1.78
EL CAPITAN	7	490	51	904	11	2.19
FOLSOM	1	91	16	404	0	1.97
HAVASU	1	23	16	62	0	2.94
HENSLEY	2	38	14	53	0	2.00
HODGES	2	81	6	95	0	2.84
ISABELLA	7	231	59	319	0	2.68
KAWEAH	6	202	47	318	2	1.68
LOPEZ	3	174	24	283	2	3.03
LOWER OTAY	8	452	52	786	23	2.06
MCCLURE	17	757	125	2367	13	1.88
MILLERTON	3	59	24	228	1	1.99
MURRAY	1	8	9	14	0	1.76
NACIMIENTO	7	409	56	790	1	1.62
NEW BULLARDS BAR	2	30	15	51	0	1.33
NEW HOGAN	1	32	8	48	0	2.51
NEW MELONES	13	1507	126	5160	84	2.71
OROVILLE	8	586	62	1554	3	1.63
PARDEE	1	21	8	84	0	2.10
PERRIS	8	268	58	392	2	3.04
PINE FLAT	9	436	70	1058	8	1.80
PIRU	4	90	24	130	2	2.63
PYRAMID	6	247	48	543	1	2.65
RUTH	4	177	26	348	3	2.83
SAN VICENTE	5	401	36	900	7	2.59
SANTA MARGARITA	4	203	32	393	3	2.14
SHASTA	9	928	104	4137	19	1.97

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
SILVERWOOD	1	24	1	16	0	2.56
SKINNER	1	10	8	4	0	2.61
SONOMA	1	28	8	125	0	1.92
SUCCESS	7	206	53	329	17	2.19
TRINITY	2	98	24	300	12	3.34
TULLOCH	1	52	8	118	0	NA
GRAND TOTAL	316	24338	2642	61483	541	2.38

Table 3
Summary of 2019 “Annual” Fishing Contest Reports by Individual Water

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
ALMANOR	10	243	94	480	3	2.67
AMADOR	2	13	6	25	0	2.06
ANTELOPE	1	19	8	40	0	2.51
BERRYESSA	19	518	209	1385	17	1.89
BLACK BUTTE	1	29	8	56	0	1.40
CALIFORNIA DELTA	61	1598	545	3865	26	2.27
CAMANCHE	16	306	134	626	15	1.97
CAMP FAR WEST	4	61	32	98	0	1.32
CASTAIC	14	229	88	236	1	2.26
CLEAR	34	855	357	2355	23	2.88
COLORADO RIVER	5	156	49	341	3	2.33
DIAMOND VALLEY	5	90	36	177	2	2.71
DON PEDRO	16	465	155	1426	22	1.80
EL CAPITAN	6	88	43	216	5	1.67
FOLSOM	2	24	16	25	0	1.81
HAVASU	1	6	13	42	0	1.98
HODGES	4	35	21	52	3	2.28
LOPEZ	3	56	28	141	0	2.35
LOWER OTAY	5	122	36	368	13	1.87
MCCLURE	16	340	127	1120	15	1.56
MILLERTON	1	30	8	58	0	1.31
NACIMIENTO	8	140	67	371	0	1.53
NEW BULLARDS BAR	4	75	39	131	0	1.26
NEW HOGAN	3	74	32	202	3	1.81
NEW MELONES	10	253	93	774	21	2.16
OROVILLE	9	275	72	783	1	1.62
PARDEE	3	48	25	137	3	1.86
PERRIS	4	70	30	67	1	2.11
PINE FLAT	16	340	123	862	19	1.50
PIRU	3	58	20	88	1	3.02
PYRAMID	8	171	58	406	3	2.31
SALT SPRINGS VALLEY	2	27	16	78	0	2.07
SAN VICENTE	5	50	39	156	2	2.07
SANTA MARGARITA	1	37	8	88	2	2.35
SHASTA	17	397	152	1348	12	1.85
SILVERWOOD	1	19	8	33	0	2.94

WATER NAME	NUMBER OF CONTESTS	TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL DURATION (HRS)	TOTAL FISH CAUGHT	TOTAL FISH DEAD	AVERAGE WEIGHT (LBS)
SKINNER	3	68	20	88	2	3.01
SONOMA	4	94	35	214	0	1.78
THERMALITO AFTERBAY	1	22	6	18	0	2.15
TRINITY	9	258	107	629	8	2.55
TULLOCH	11	260	69	485	4	2.27
WHISKEYTOWN	1	10	8	45	0	2.16
GRAND TOTAL	349	8029	3039	20135	230	2.12