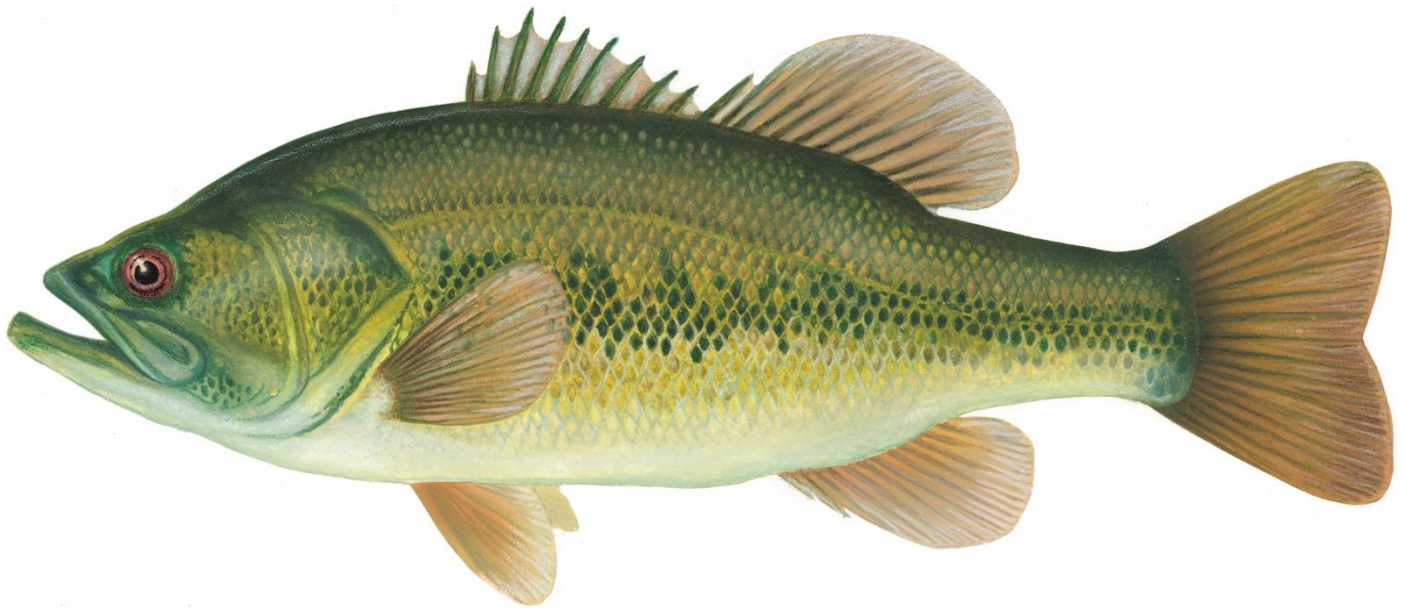


# Summary Report of Black Bass Fishing Contests Held in 2020



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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2020 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	2	43	16	53	0	2.65
Amador	4	87	27	170	5	2.21
Antelope	1	22	9	58	0	2.25
Berryessa	12	847	87	2085	11	2.02
California Delta	66	4541	561	10703	330	2.32
Camanche	9	193	96	300	2	1.90
Casitas	6	306	42	674	2	3.35
Castaic	2	70	14	71	1	1.93
Clear	40	3120	393	8138	126	2.92
Diamond Valley	14	454	102	495	3	3.62
Don Pedro	28	1212	231	2811	32	1.78
Eastman	1	6	6	14	2	1.53
El Capitan	7	323	51	728	5	2.31
Folsom	1	36	12	43	0	1.74
Havasu	1	18	16	38	0	2.66
Hodges	4	75	28	82	2	3.21
Irongate	1	19	16	44	0	2.18
Isabella	4	88	30	185	0	3.23
Kaweah	1	14	8	21	0	1.64
Lopez	3	169	24	370	0	2.58
McClure	21	762	158	2395	26	1.45
Millerton	3	95	24	320	4	1.58
Nacimiento	12	643	92	1464	1	2.12
New Bullards Bar	3	78	40	109	1	1.41
New Hogan	6	160	57	273	3	1.75
New Melones	7	243	56	868	2	2.33
Oroville	13	472	99	1260	16	1.84
Otay	11	328	80	931	7	2.27
Owens River	2	57	26	155	0	NA
Pardee	5	124	39	287	9	1.64

<b>Water Name</b>	<b>Number of Contests</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Total Duration (hrs)</b>	<b>Total Fish Caught</b>	<b>Total Fish Dead</b>	<b>Average Weight (lbs)</b>
<b>Perris</b>	1	27	6	128	0	2.18
<b>Pine Flat</b>	5	90	43	253	5	1.30
<b>Piru</b>	3	122	20	231	0	1.92
<b>Puddingstone</b>	1	10	7	11	0	NA
<b>Pyramid</b>	1	61	8	126	1	2.45
<b>Rollins</b>	1	26	16	62	0	1.48
<b>Salt Springs</b>	1	38	6	79	2	2.33
<b>San Vicente</b>	6	187	45	350	12	2.26
<b>Santa Margarita</b>	1	71	8	168	0	1.99
<b>Shasta</b>	12	404	134	1319	8	1.94
<b>Silverwood</b>	4	85	30	128	0	2.76
<b>Skinner</b>	4	86	35	70	2	2.79
<b>Sonoma</b>	3	42	24	128	1	1.46
<b>Success</b>	2	30	14	73	6	2.48
<b>Thermalito Afterbay</b>	4	94	28	192	3	2.50
<b>Trinity</b>	2	43	24	182	1	2.54
<b>Tulloch</b>	11	492	53	682	0	2.17
<b>Colorado River</b>	1	24	18	55	1	1.75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>353</b>	<b>16537</b>	<b>2958</b>	<b>39382</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2.27</b>

Table 2

Summary of 2020 “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)
Berryessa	8	748	62	1746	7	2.09
California Delta	32	3787	317	8906	320	2.51
Castaic	1	60	8	70	1	1.75
Clear	13	2378	150	6286	109	3.30
Diamond Valley	1	24	8	24	0	2.89
Don Pedro	8	710	59	1547	21	1.96
Eastman	1	6	6	14	2	1.53
El Capitan	3	205	21	458	4	2.21
Irongate	1	19	16	44	0	2.18
Isabella	1	24	8	41	0	2.60
Kaweah	1	14	8	21	0	1.64
Lopez	1	75	8	156	0	2.57
McClure	7	481	54	1514	14	1.75
Millerton	2	72	16	248	3	1.60
Nacimiento	7	443	52	969	1	2.21
New Melones	3	159	24	579	2	2.52
Oroville	2	193	14	506	15	2.03
Otay	2	77	13	207	2	2.29
Owens River	2	57	26	155	0	NA
Perris	1	27	6	128	0	2.18
Pine Flat	1	24	8	46	0	1.74
Piru	1	40	6	62	0	1.75
Pyramid	1	61	8	126	1	2.45
San Vicente	3	118	23	149	2	2.02
Santa Margarita	1	71	8	168	0	1.99
Shasta	1	68	16	312	0	1.75
Success	2	30	14	73	6	2.48
Thermalito Afterbay	1	21	6	101	2	2.62
Tulloch	1	49	4	50	0	1.67
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>10041</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>24706</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>2.36</b>

Table 3

Summary of 2020 “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	2	43	16	53	0	2.65
Amador	4	87	27	170	5	2.21
Antelope	1	22	9	58	0	2.25
Berryessa	4	99	25	339	4	1.88
California Delta	34	754	244	1797	10	2.14
Camanche	9	193	96	300	2	1.90
Casitas	6	306	42	674	2	3.35
Castaic	1	10	6	1	0	2.12
Clear	27	742	243	1852	17	2.73
Diamond Valley	13	430	94	471	3	3.68
Don Pedro	20	502	172	1264	11	1.72
El Capitan	4	118	30	270	1	2.39
Folsom	1	36	12	43	0	1.74
Havasu	1	18	16	38	0	2.66
Hodges	4	75	28	82	2	3.21
Isabella	3	64	22	144	0	3.44
Lopez	2	94	16	214	0	2.59
McClure	14	281	104	881	12	1.32
Millerton	1	23	8	72	1	1.55
Nacimiento	5	200	40	495	0	1.97
New Bullards Bar	3	78	40	109	1	1.41
New Hogan	6	160	57	273	3	1.75
New Melones	4	84	32	289	0	2.19
Oroville	11	279	85	754	1	1.80
Otay	9	251	67	724	5	2.27
Pardee	5	124	39	287	9	1.64
Pine Flat	4	66	35	207	5	1.18
Piru	2	82	14	169	0	2.01
Puddingstone	1	10	7	11	0	NA
Rollins	1	26	16	62	0	1.48
Salt Springs	1	38	6	79	2	2.33
San Vicente	3	69	22	201	10	2.41
Shasta	11	336	118	1007	8	1.96
Silverwood	4	85	30	128	0	2.76
Skinner	4	86	35	70	2	2.79



<b>Water Name</b>	<b>Number of Contests</b>	<b>Total Participants</b>	<b>Total Duration (hrs)</b>	<b>Total Fish Caught</b>	<b>Total Fish Dead</b>	<b>Average Weight (lbs)</b>
<b>Sonoma</b>	3	42	24	128	1	1.46
<b>Thermalito Afterbay</b>	3	73	22	91	1	2.46
<b>Trinity</b>	2	43	24	182	1	2.54
<b>Tulloch</b>	10	443	49	632	0	2.22
<b>Colorado River</b>	1	24	18	55	1	1.75
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>6496</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>14676</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>2.22</b>