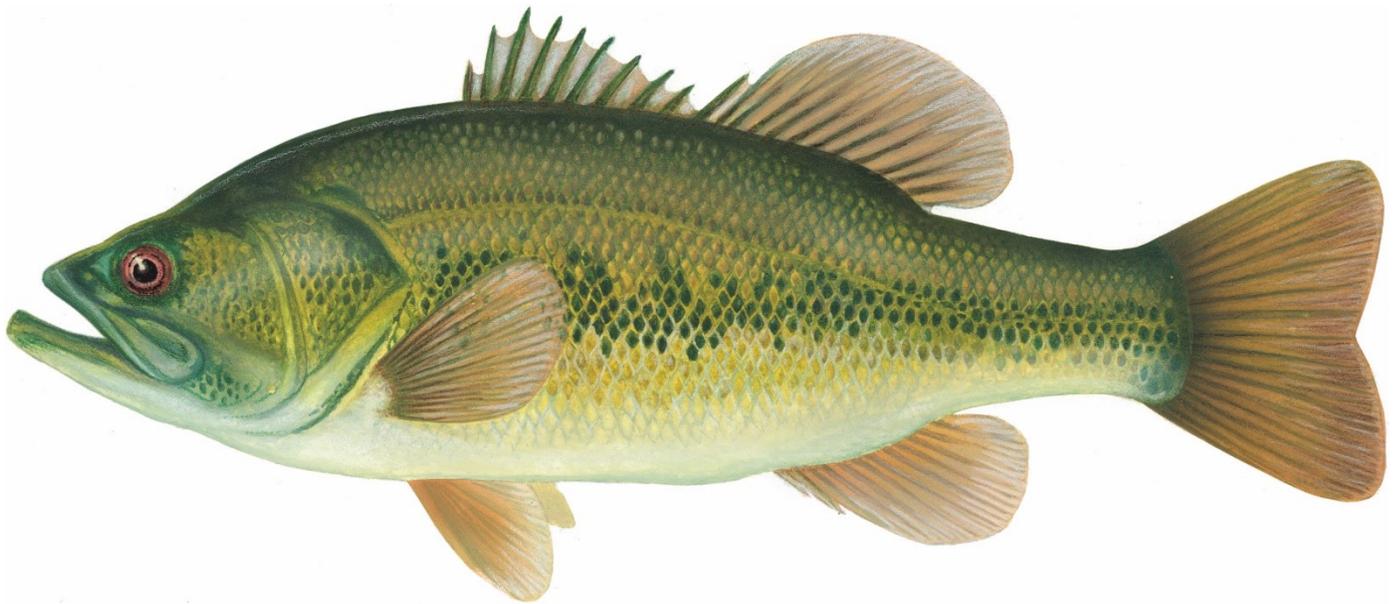


Summary Report of Black Bass Fishing Contests Held in 2021



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 Flower Moyer, Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program, for more information at jessica.moyer@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, along with appropriate processing fee, 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 2021 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	9	306	120	1,024	6	2.32
Amador	2	38	12	63	6	2.39
Antelope	1	15	9	54	0	2.27
Bass	6	74	49	218	4	1.90
Berryessa	5	151	64	331	3	2.00
Butt Valley	1	19	9	33	0	3.07
Cachuma	6	194	46	482	0	2.19
California Delta	110	7,483	948	15,057	118	2.49
Camanche	17	575	169	1,337	15	2.36
Camp Far West	1	8	8	10	0	1.78
Casitas	12	494	88	983	0	2.99
Clear	53	5,266	564	17,185	235	3.10
Colorado River	8	340	62	626	11	2.36
Diamond Valley	15	587	108	1,029	6	3.54
Don Pedro	34	2,753	325	6,177	63	1.87
Eastman	2	27	16	68	1	1.13
El Capitan	8	366	60	753	6	2.70
Havasu	2	70	25	125	0	2.53
Hodges	3	109	24	95	0	4.00
Irongate	1	30	17	29	0	2.11
Isabella	7	146	48	297	0	2.73
Kaweah	6	149	55	268	2	1.67
Lopez	2	95	17	184	2	2.48
Margarita	1	50	12	109	3	2.02
McClure	25	985	217	2,720	33	1.37
Millerton	1	33	8	89	0	1.36
Murray	1	6	8	20	0	1.77
Nacimiento	15	787	128	1,716	2	1.60
New Bullards Bar	2	36	17	39	0	1.42
New Hogan	5	117	40	167	3	1.72
New Melones	5	131	36	354	1	1.80
Oroville	13	714	122	1,819	39	2.15
Otay	6	115	44	306	2	2.12

Pardee	6	157	50	340	5	1.93
Perris	1	16	8	32	0	1.97
Pine Flat	24	761	201	1,424	21	1.36
Piru	8	185	56	270	2	1.53
Pyramid	8	334	64	735	4	2.47
Ruth	1	78	9	165	6	2.00
Salt Springs	2	61	17	139	4	2.93
San Vicente	4	64	33	225	3	2.62
Santa Margarita	1	70	8	157	7	2.65
Shasta	28	1,254	294	4,272	25	1.64
Silverwood	4	52	32	86	0	2.59
Skinner	2	44	22	94	1	3.24
Sonoma	2	43	16	128	2	1.57
Success	5	178	46	317	5	2.39
Thermalito Afterbay	1	21	6	18	0	2.83
Trinity	6	159	64	410	5	3.01
Tulloch	22	465	138	992	5	2.68
Whiskeytown	1	13	8	66	1	2.39
Grand Total	511	26,224	4,545	63,637	657	2.31

Table 2

Summary of 2021 “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.)
Almanor	1	36	16	54	0	2.28
Amador	1	14	6	16	0	2.13
Cachuma	6	194	46	482	0	2.19
California Delta	40	5,626	350	10,626	89	2.79
Camanche	7	322	64	866	10	2.80
Casitas	12	494	88	983	0	2.99
Clear	24	4,600	272	15,202	199	3.30
Diamond Valley	10	509	70	871	6	3.80
Don Pedro	19	2,381	189	5,035	58	1.97
Eastman	2	27	16	68	1	1.13
El Capitan	4	293	32	560	1	2.99
Hodges	1	30	8	27	0	4.27
Isabella	7	146	48	297	0	2.73
Kaweah	5	138	47	243	1	1.70
Lopez	2	95	17	184	2	2.48
Margarita	1	50	12	109	3	2.02
McClure	11	742	86	1,889	22	1.46
Nacimiento	11	723	88	1,552	1	1.74
New Hogan	1	14	8	29	0	2.11
New Melones	1	18	8	38	0	1.74
Oroville	11	671	108	1,728	38	2.15
Otay	5	105	38	281	2	2.11
Pardee	2	36	16	97	1	1.86
Pine Flat	8	479	70	833	13	1.36
Piru	6	142	40	186	0	1.65
Pyramid	8	334	64	735	4	2.47
Ruth	1	78	9	165	6	2.00
San Vicente	1	7	8	30	0	2.54
Santa Margarita	1	70	8	157	7	2.65
Shasta	9	716	88	2,481	19	1.75
Silverwood	4	52	32	86	0	2.59
Success	5	178	46	317	5	2.39
Tulloch	2	42	12	101	0	3.06
Grand Total	229	19,362	2,009	46,328	488	2.45

Table 3

Summary of 2021 “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	8	270	104	970	6	2.32
Amador	1	24	6	47	6	2.64
Antelope	1	15	9	54	0	2.27
Bass	6	74	49	218	4	1.90
Berryessa	5	151	64	331	3	2.00
Butt Valley	1	19	9	33	0	3.07
California Delta	70	1,857	599	4,431	29	2.32
Camanche	10	253	105	471	5	2.06
Camp Far West	1	8	8	10	0	1.78
Clear	29	666	292	1,983	36	2.94
Colorado River	8	340	62	626	11	2.36
Diamond Valley	5	78	38	158	0	3.02
Don Pedro	15	372	136	1,142	5	1.75
El Capitan	4	73	28	193	5	2.41
Havasu	2	70	25	125	0	2.53
Hodges	2	79	16	68	0	3.86
Irongate	1	30	17	29	0	2.11
Kaweah	1	11	8	25	1	1.56
McClure	14	243	131	831	11	1.29
Millerton	1	33	8	89	0	1.36
Murray	1	6	8	20	0	1.77
Nacimiento	4	64	40	164	1	1.22
New Bullards Bar	2	36	17	39	0	1.42
New Hogan	4	103	32	138	3	1.62
New Melones	4	113	28	316	1	1.81
Oroville	2	43	14	91	1	2.14
Otay	1	10	6	25	0	2.17
Pardee	4	121	34	243	4	1.96
Perris	1	16	8	32	0	1.97
Pine Flat	16	282	131	591	8	1.36
Piru	2	43	16	84	2	1.18
Salt Springs	2	61	17	139	4	2.93
San Vicente	3	57	25	195	3	2.65
Shasta	19	538	206	1,791	6	1.59
Skinner	2	44	22	94	1	3.24

Water Name	Number of Contests	Total Participants	Total Duration (hrs.)	Total Fish Caught	Total Fish Dead	Average Weight (lbs.)
Sonoma	2	43	16	128	2	1.57
Thermalito Afterbay	1	21	6	18	0	2.83
Trinity	6	159	64	410	5	3.01
Tulloch	20	423	126	891	5	2.64
Whiskeytown	1	13	8	66	1	2.39
Grand Total	282	6,862	2,536	17,309	169	2.19