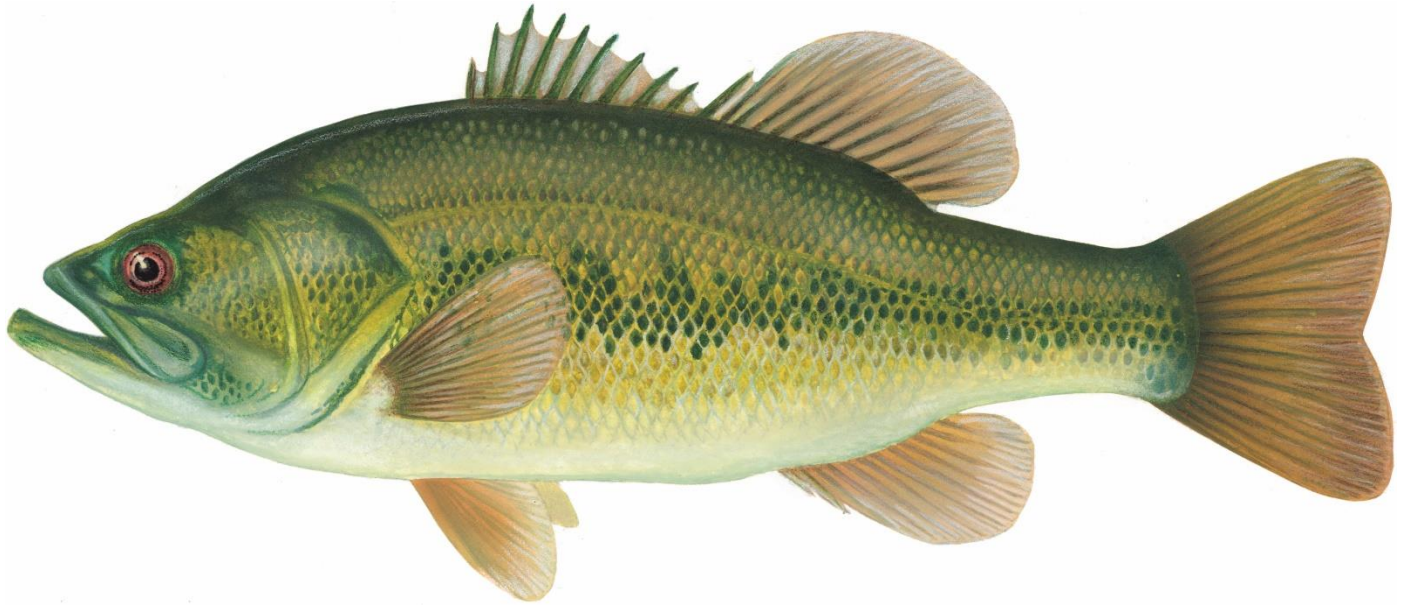


Summary Report of Black Bass Fishing Contests Held in 2022



Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program

This project was funded in part by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act,
Grant F22AF02441



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, 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 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 Chris McKibbin, Inland Fisheries Assessment and Monitoring Program, for more information at Chris.McKibbin@wildlife.ca.gov or (916) 202-9325.

How do I apply for a fishing contest permit?

To apply for a fishing contest permit with CDFW, complete form DFW-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 within the Fishing Contest Application (DFW-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 ContestReportsFB@wildlife.ca.gov or mail completed form to:

ATTN: Fishing Contest Report
Fisheries Branch
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090

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

Table 1
Summary of all 2022 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	7	186	78	491	2	2.95
Amador	2	43	14	79	2	2.34
Antelope	1	16	9	34	0	2.16
Bass	7	114	56	306	7	1.93
Berryessa	14	974	128	1679	8	2.04
Black Butte	1	51	8	112	0	1.55
Butt Valley	1	11	9	38	0	2.38
California Delta	84	6372	700	11909	149	2.31
Camanche	17	565	167	1214	8	2.13
Camp Far West	1	21	8	26	0	1.60
Castaic Lagoon	3	44	18	83	0	2.05
Clear	41	4577	480	14108	82	2.72
Diamond Valley	11	541	73	580	13	2.81
Don Pedro	23	1361	200.5	3285	54	1.82
El Capitan	10	438	79	988	14	2.51
Englebright	1	21	6	26	0	1.24
Folsom	1	22	8	40	0	1.86
Havasu	2	65	24	113	8	2.40
Hodges	1	86	8	225	0	3.50
Irongate	2	20	17	20	0	3.04
Isabella	1	30	6	41	0	2.73
Kaweah	7	263	66	485	8	1.69
Margarita	6	313	38	562	9	2.38
McClure	23	1128	183	2914	44	1.61
Merle Collins	1	18	6	25	0	1.53
Millerton	8	383	62	773	5	1.61
Nacimiento	8	499	64	1010	0	1.51
New Bullards Bar	2	26	8	45	0	2.81
New Hogan	3	53	25	133	0	1.89
New Melones	16	502	134	1452	14	1.79
Oroville	16	783	131	1917	19	1.90
Otay	6	158	39	516	55	1.66
Pardee	3	67	22	194	7	1.85
Perris	3	88	17	167	0	2.50

Pine Flat	12	363	86	846	169	1.80
Pyramid	9	386	60.5	680	0	2.36
Ruth	1	62	9	137	1	2.75
Salt Spring	1	11	8	50	0	2.67
Salt Springs	2	64	17	118	0	3.09
San Vicente	8	266	59.5	758	9	1.73
Shasta	18	1940	170.5	3718	26	1.60
Silverwood	2	37	9	44	0	3.44
Skinner	5	111	46	203	4	2.74
Success	3	145	30	207	1	2.15
Thermalito Afterbay	3	56	22	78	0	2.26
Trinity	9	223	99	1596	20	3.13
Tulloch	25	498	151	1041	5	2.59
Whiskeytown	2	38	22	114	3	2.18
Grand Total	433	24,039	3,681	55,180	746	2.19

Table 2

Summary of 2022 "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	35	9	93	0	3.37
Amador	1	27	8	46	0	2.17
Bass	1	30	8	83	3	2.11
Berryessa	6	753	48	1201	7	2.05
Black Butte	1	51	8	112	0	1.55
California Delta	40	4905	321	8458	92	2.56
Camanche	6	290	48	620	0	2.20
Clear	26	4024	285	12642	68	2.87
Diamond Valley	7	463	47	525	13	2.77
Don Pedro	8	952	72	2209	28	1.87
El Capitan	8	407	65	905	12	2.55
Hodges	1	86	8	225	0	3.50
Isabella	1	30	6	41	0	2.73
Kaweah	2	135	28	233	7	1.77
Margarita	6	313	38	562	9	2.38
McClure	9	842	72	1919	11	1.61
Millerton	3	240	23	421	1	1.54
Nacimiento	8	499	64	1010	0	1.51
New Melones	6	281	56	725	0	1.88
Oroville	3	495	25	1206	5	2.08
Otay	3	63	22	198	6	1.80
Pardee	1	17	6	39	0	1.76
Perris	2	60	9	97	0	2.62
Pine Flat	4	229	31	559	162	1.69
Pyramid	8	370	52.5	643	0	2.35
Ruth	1	62	9	137	1	2.75
San Vicente	6	247	46.5	701	9	1.77
Shasta	8	1711	82.5	2871	19	1.66
Skinner	5	111	46	203	4	2.74
Success	1	65	14	98	1	2.62
Tulloch	1	6	8	6	0	1.84
Whiskeytown	1	16	14	15	0	2.08
Grand Total	185	17,815	1,579.5	38,803	458	2.29

Table 3

Summary of 2022 “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	6	151	69	398	2	2.88
Amador	1	16	6	33	2	2.51
Antelope	1	16	9	34	0	2.16
Bass	6	84	48	223	4	1.91
Berryessa	8	221	80	478	1	2.04
Butt Valley	1	11	9	38	0	2.38
California Delta	44	1467	379	3451	57	2.09
Camanche	11	275	119	594	8	2.08
Camp Far West	1	21	8	26	0	1.60
Castaic Lagoon	3	44	18	83	0	2.05
Clear	15	553	195	1466	14	2.47
Diamond Valley	4	78	26	55	0	2.86
Don Pedro	15	409	128.5	1076	26	1.80
El Capitan	2	31	14	83	2	2.34
Englebright	1	21	6	26	0	1.24
Folsom	1	22	8	40	0	1.86
Havasu	2	65	24	113	8	2.40
Irongate	2	20	17	20	0	3.04
Kaweah	5	128	38	252	1	1.66
McClure	14	286	111	995	33	1.60
Merle Collins	1	18	6	25	0	1.53
Millerton	5	143	39	352	4	1.65
New Bullards Bar	2	26	8	45	0	2.81
New Hogan	3	53	25	133	0	1.89
New Melones	10	221	78	727	14	1.73
Oroville	13	288	106	711	14	1.86
Otay	3	95	17	318	49	1.53
Pardee	2	50	16	155	7	1.90
Perris	1	28	8	70	0	2.24
Pine Flat	8	134	55	287	7	1.86
Pyramid	1	16	8	37	0	2.44
Salt Spring	1	11	8	50	0	2.67
Salt Springs	2	64	17	118	0	3.09
San Vicente	2	19	13	57	0	1.62
Shasta	10	229	88	847	7	1.55
Silverwood	2	37	9	44	0	3.44
Success	2	80	16	109	0	1.92

Thermalito						
Afterbay	3	56	22	78	0	2.26
Trinity	9	223	99	1596	20	3.13
Tulloch	24	492	143	1035	5	2.63
Whiskeytown	1	22	8	99	3	2.27
Grand Total	248	6224	2101.5	16377	288	2.12

Table 4

Summary of 1985-2022 “Event” and “Annual” Fishing Contests Held

Year	"Event" Contests Held	"Annual" Contests Held	Year	"Event" Contests Held	"Annual" Contests Held
1985	57	NA	2004	793	903
1986	151	NA	2005	777	831
1987	156	NA	2006	765	919
1988	234	NA	2007	843	966
1989	226	NA	2008	820	1044
1990	277	485	2009	808	918
1991	265	570	2010	819	935
1992	282	704	2011	800	922
1993	303	704	2012	790	984
1994	298	814	2013	610	872
1995	327	804	2014	597	851
1996	375	808	2015	515	850
1997	422	824	2016	567	928
1998	549	887	2017	557	894
1999	596	820	2018	566	860
2000	630	889	2019	557	869
2001	724	937	2020	505	820
2002	721	934	2021	499	756
2003	843	887	2022	481	724