



**2024 Louisiana Annual Tournament Report Information
Project
(LATRIP)**

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The Louisiana Annual Tournament Report Information Project (LATRIP) is a voluntary project administered by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF). Developed in 2021, the project promotes public awareness for the bass fishery resources of the State and establishes effective lines of communication between LDWF and the public.

Specific goals for LATRIP include: (1) gathering information that is of interest to LDWF and to bass anglers, (2) building relationships and fostering open lines of communication with bass fishing organizations, (3) providing an efficient and low-cost method to generate data that can be used to track trends in bass angling success rates over time, and (4) promoting Louisiana's quality fisheries.

Data collection and reporting for this project was modeled after similar successful programs from the neighboring states of Arkansas and Mississippi.

Overview

A total of 38 tournament trails and/or organizations participated during the 2024 calendar year. Participating organizations either emailed their weigh-in data to LDWF, submitted data through the LATRIP data portal, or gave LDWF permission to gather the data from publicly available sources such as websites or social media postings. Data were submitted from 246 tournaments representing 40 waterbodies.

Only tournaments that were roughly 8 hours long with 5-fish limits were included. Some data were available for both 3-fish limit tournaments and shorter night tournaments, but the overall datasets for both were too limited for inclusion in this report.

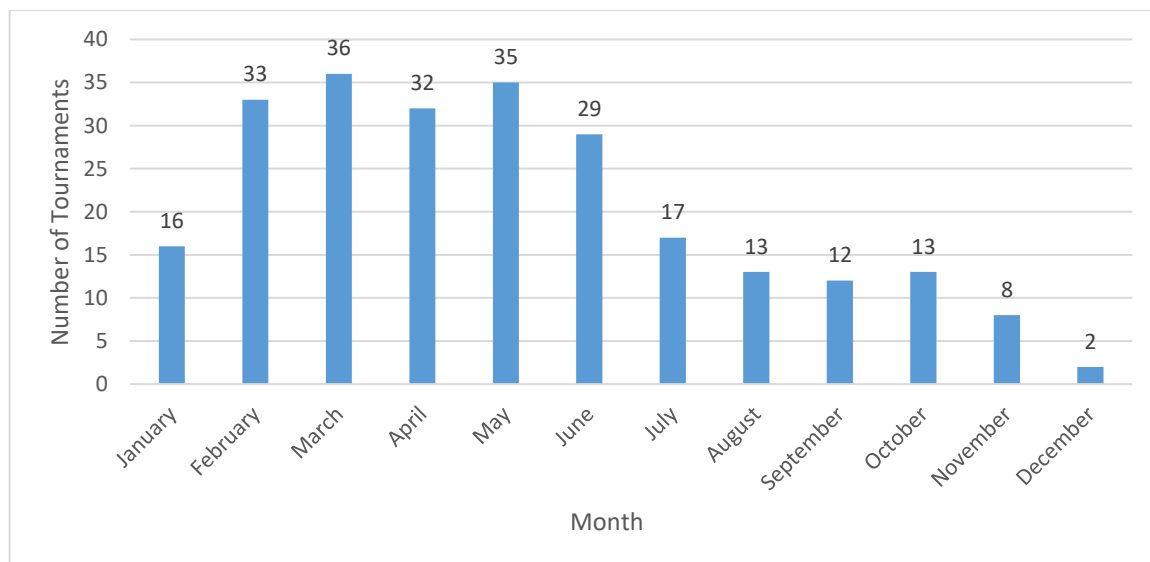


Figure 1. Monthly distribution of LATRIP tournaments during the 2024 tournament season.

Table 1. Number of LATRIP tournaments during the 2024 tournament season by waterbody. If multiple waterbodies are listed, the total applies to each waterbody.

Waterbodies	# of Tournaments
Toledo Bend	23
Lake Verret/Lake Palourde/Atchafalaya Basin Complex	20
Caddo Lake	18
Lake Claiborne	15
Lake D'Arbonne	14
Caney Lake (Caney Creek Reservoir) & Pearl River	12
Lake Bistineau & Maurepas Complex	11
Cross Lake, Delacroix Marsh, & Lake Des Allemands	9
Black Lake Campti, Cane River, & Black Bayou Lake (Hosston)	8
Lake Providence	7
Calcasieu River	6
John K. Kelly Reservoir (Grand Bayou)	4
Bayou Segnette, Bayou Bienvenue Central Wetland Unit, Lake Bruin, Lake Concordia, False River, Ouachita River & Venice Marsh	3
Bayou Black Marsh, Bonne Idee, Chicot Lake, Cotile Lake, Henderson Lake, Red River, & Sabine River	2
Bayou Bartholomew, Crocket Point, Horseshoe Lake, Mill Creek Reservoir, Poverty Point Reservoir, Turkey Creek, & Woolen Lake	1

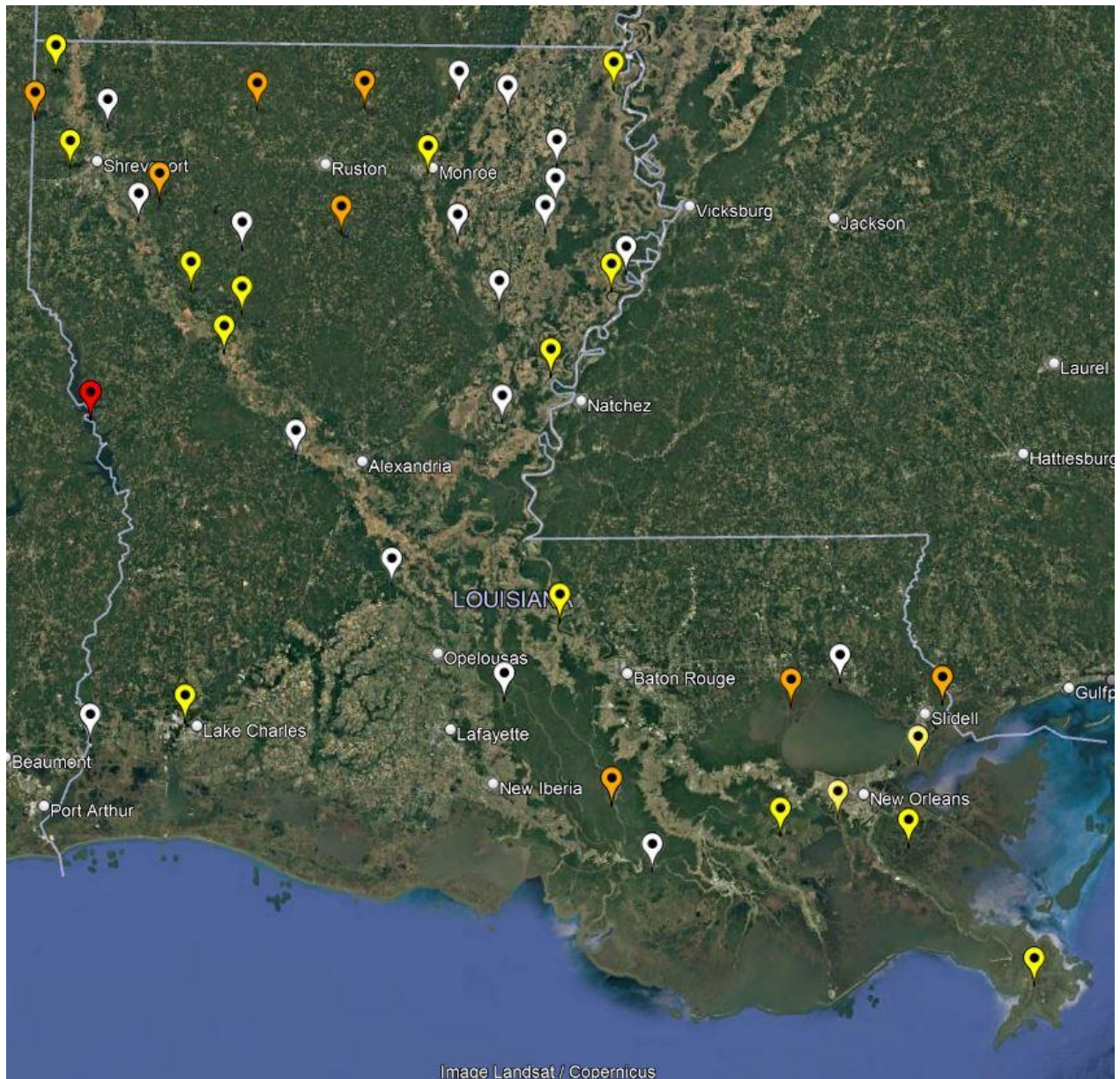


Figure 2. Distribution of 2024 LATRIP tournaments throughout Louisiana. The white markers indicate 1-2 tournaments reported, yellow markers 3-10 tournaments reported, orange markers 11-20 tournaments reported, and the red markers indicate greater than 20 tournaments were reported.

Data Analysis and Methods

Data were entered into an Excel spreadsheet for each tournament organization and grouped by waterbody. Fourteen individual metrics were calculated from the available data for each waterbody.

1. Average Number of Bass Weighed In per Boat
2. Average Weight per Bass Weighed In
3. Average Bag Weight per Boat
4. Percentage of Boats Weighing in at Least One Fish
5. Percentage of Boats with a 5 Bass Limit
6. Average Weight of Winning Big Bass
7. Average 1st Place Weight (Winning Weight)
8. Number of Angler Hours to catch a 5+ Pound Bass
9. Average 3rd Place Weight (i.e. "In the Money")
10. Average 2nd Place Big Bass Weight
11. Percentage of Boats with 10+ Pound Bags
12. Percentage of Boats with 15+ Pound Bags
13. Percentage of Boats with 20+ Pound Bags
14. Percentage of Boats with 25+ Pound Bags

In order to be considered for comparisons (Figures 3-15), waterbodies had to have a minimum of 3 tournaments to reduce biases from limited datasets. Twenty-five waterbodies were eligible for comparisons.

Because many of south Louisiana waterways are interconnected, many tournaments are not held on traditional, closed systems. Therefore, results from tournaments in these locations were lumped together where it was logical to provide sufficient data for waterbody comparisons. Tournament locations were combined from multiple launches within the same basins and in some locations for various reasons such as where competitors are typically limited by organizers from crossing a large body of water.

In addition to comparing the individual metrics listed above, waterbodies were ranked in different categories (see "Category Rankings" section below) by combining applicable individual metrics. For overall rankings by category, each waterbody was assigned points based upon its rank for each individual metric. Therefore, the first place waterbody for each individual metric received 25 points, the second place waterbody received 24 points and so on. Points were added up for all applicable statistics and the waterbodies ranked based upon total points.

Several lakes had special regulations in place that affect the number and size of fish that can be brought to the scales. Such regulations influence all individual metrics used in this report except the estimated number of hours to catch a bass greater than 5 pounds. Waterbodies included in LATRIP with special

regulations are Grand Bayou Reservoir (14"-17" slot), Caddo Lake (14"-18" slot), Toledo Bend and False River (14" minimum length), and Sabine River (12" minimum length).

All tournaments were converted to a standardized 8 hours before calculating angling hours. Although most lasted 7-9 hours, official start and end times were not available for all tournaments.

RESULTS

Total Tournament Statistics

- LATRIP tournaments averaged 29.36 boats per tournament, including championship tournaments with reduced fields.
- Approximately 75% of anglers were successful at weighing in at least one bass.
- Tournament anglers brought an average of 2.69 bass to the scales per boat, per tournament.
- The average individual weight was 2.13 pounds for all bass coming to the scales.
- The average bag weight per boat was 5.97 pounds.
- The average winning Big Bass per tournament was 5.43 pounds.
- On average, it took a bag weight of 15.14 pounds to win a tournament.
- Third Place bag weights were tracked throughout the year in an attempt to estimate what it would take to "be in the money." Average 3rd Place bag weight for all tournaments was 11.46 pounds.
- Only 0.2% of boats weighed in more than 20 pounds of bass.
- It took 303.84 angler hours to catch a 5+ pound bass.

Individual Metric Rankings

Average Number of Bass Weighed In per Boat

Black Bayou Hosston ranked the highest for the average number of bass weighed in per boat, with 4.32 fish per boat. Grand Bayou, Toledo Bend, False River and Caddo Lake ranked lower, and likely were influenced by slot limits and minimum length limits.

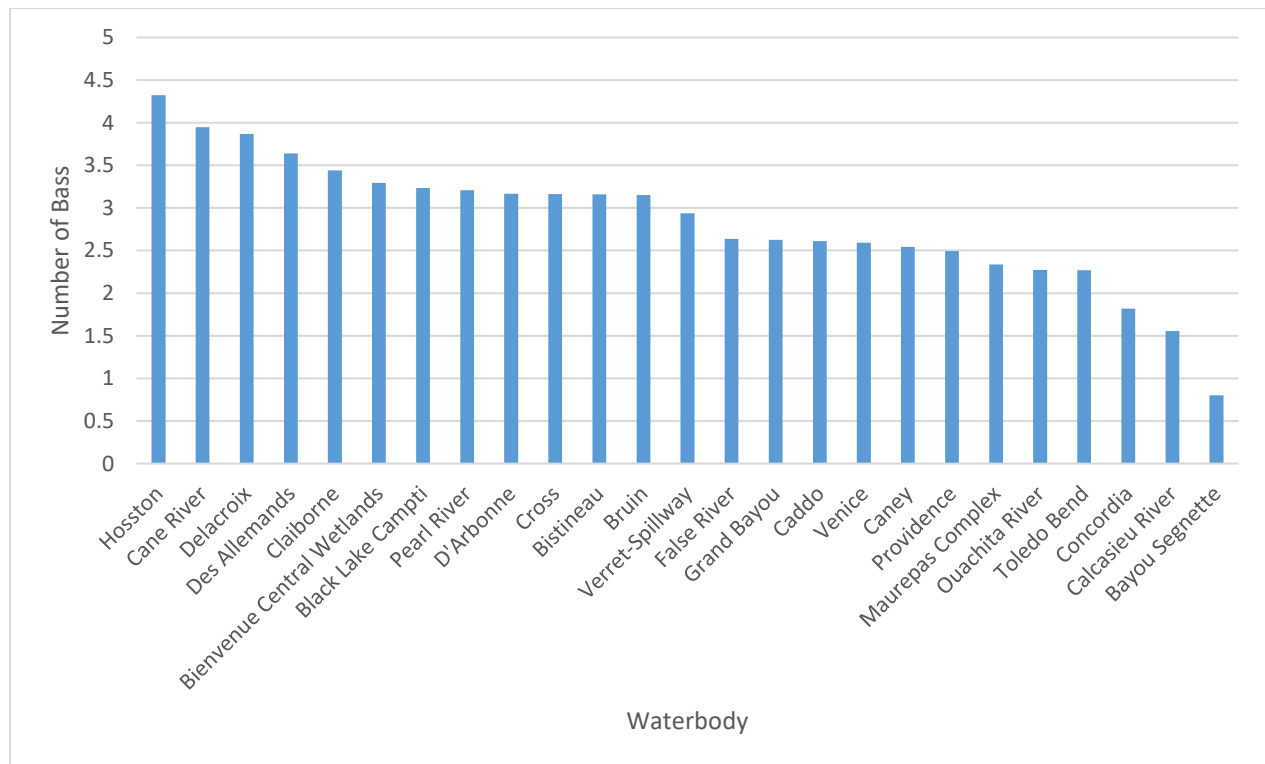


Figure 3. Average number of bass weighed in per boat at LATRIP tournaments on 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Average Weight per Bass Weighed In

Black Bayou Hosston provided the largest average weight per bass of 2.79 pounds. The Calcasieu River had the lowest average weight of 1.23 pounds.

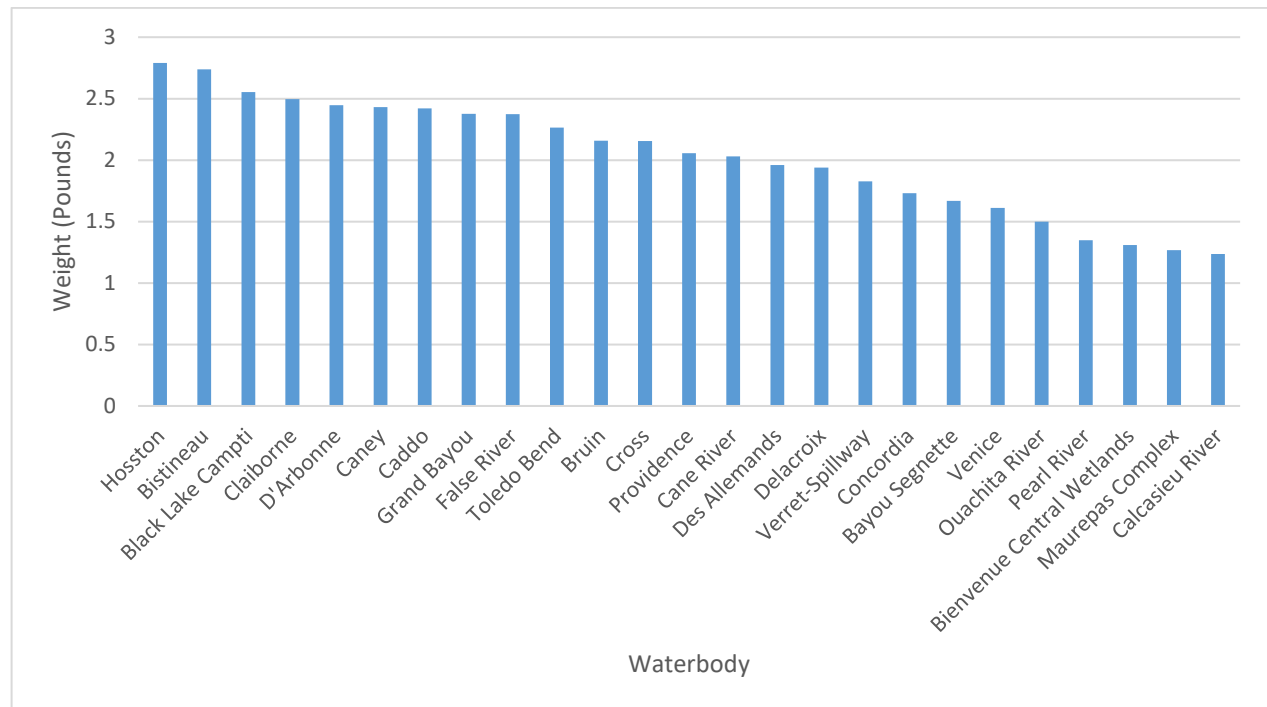


Figure 4. Average weight per bass weighed in at LATRIP tournaments from 25 different waterbodies in 2024.

Average Bag Weight per Boat

Black Bayou Hosston ranks highest in the average bag weight per boat, since it performed best in both numbers of fish weighed-in as well as average size of bass. Bayou Segnette had the lowest average of 1.33 pounds.

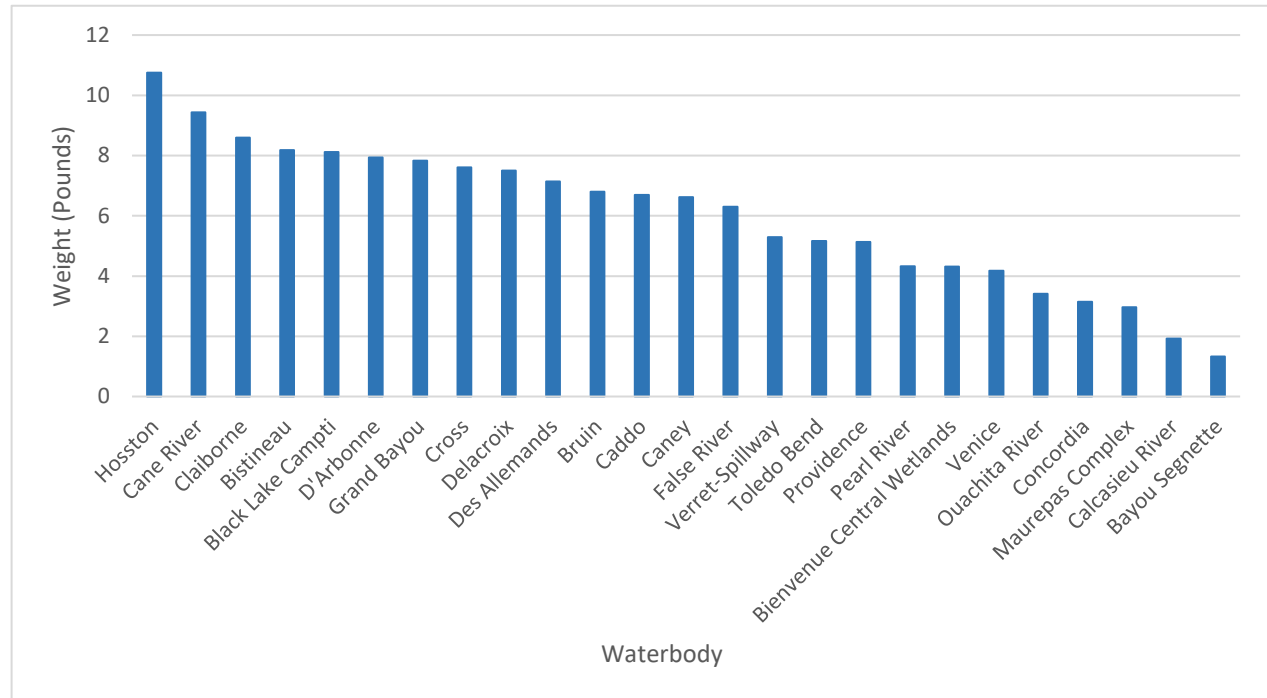


Figure 5. Average bag weight per boat at LATRIP tournaments from 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Percentage of Boats with Zero Bass to Weigh In

The Bienvenue Central Wetlands area near New Orleans ranked highest in this category with all competitors catching at least one bass to weigh in. Contrarily, success was much harder to come by for anglers in the nearby Bayou Segnette area. Data for this area is strongly influenced by a tough January tournament with a very large field of anglers.

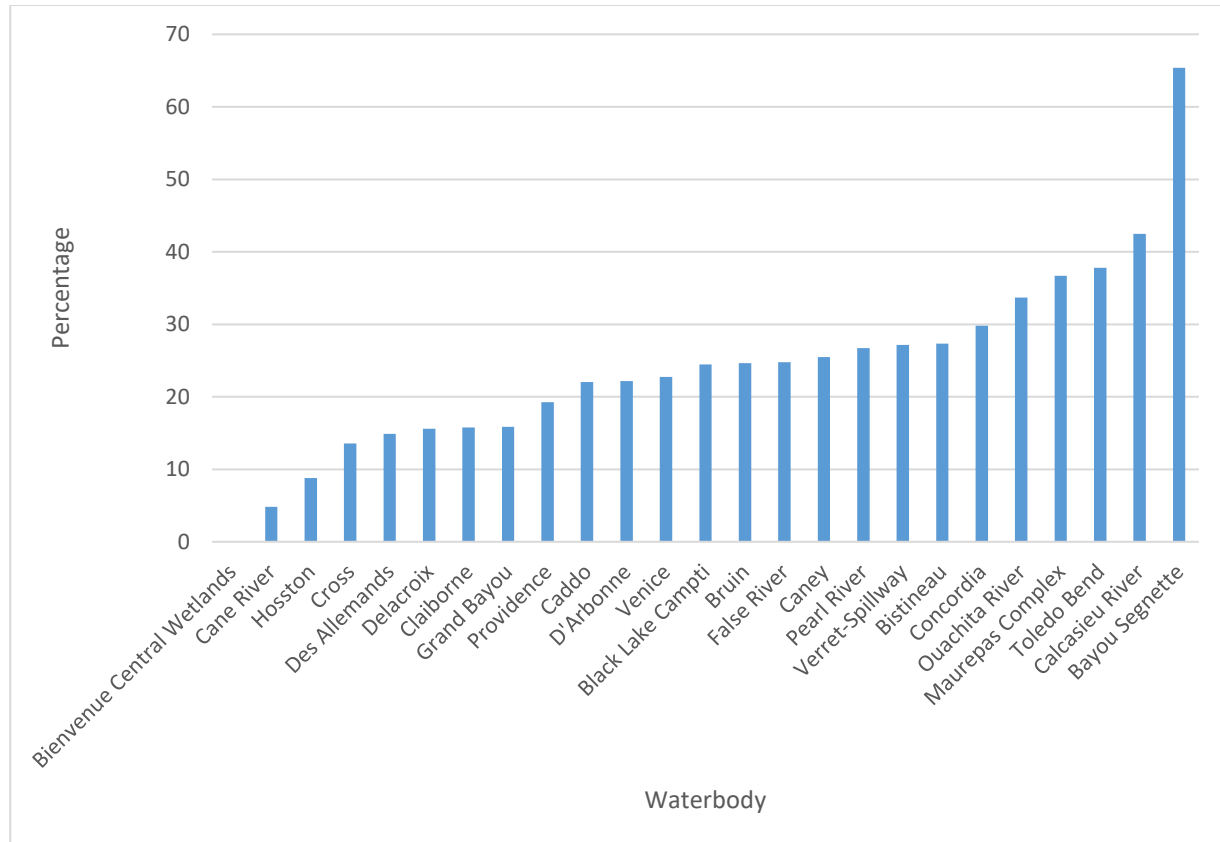


Figure 6. Percentage of boats with zero bass to weigh at LATRIP tournaments from 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Percentage of Boats with a 5 Bass Limit

The Delacroix marsh ranked highest in the percentage of boats with a 5 bass limit (72.95%), while the Calcasieu River, Lake Concordia and Bayou Segnette ranked near the bottom.

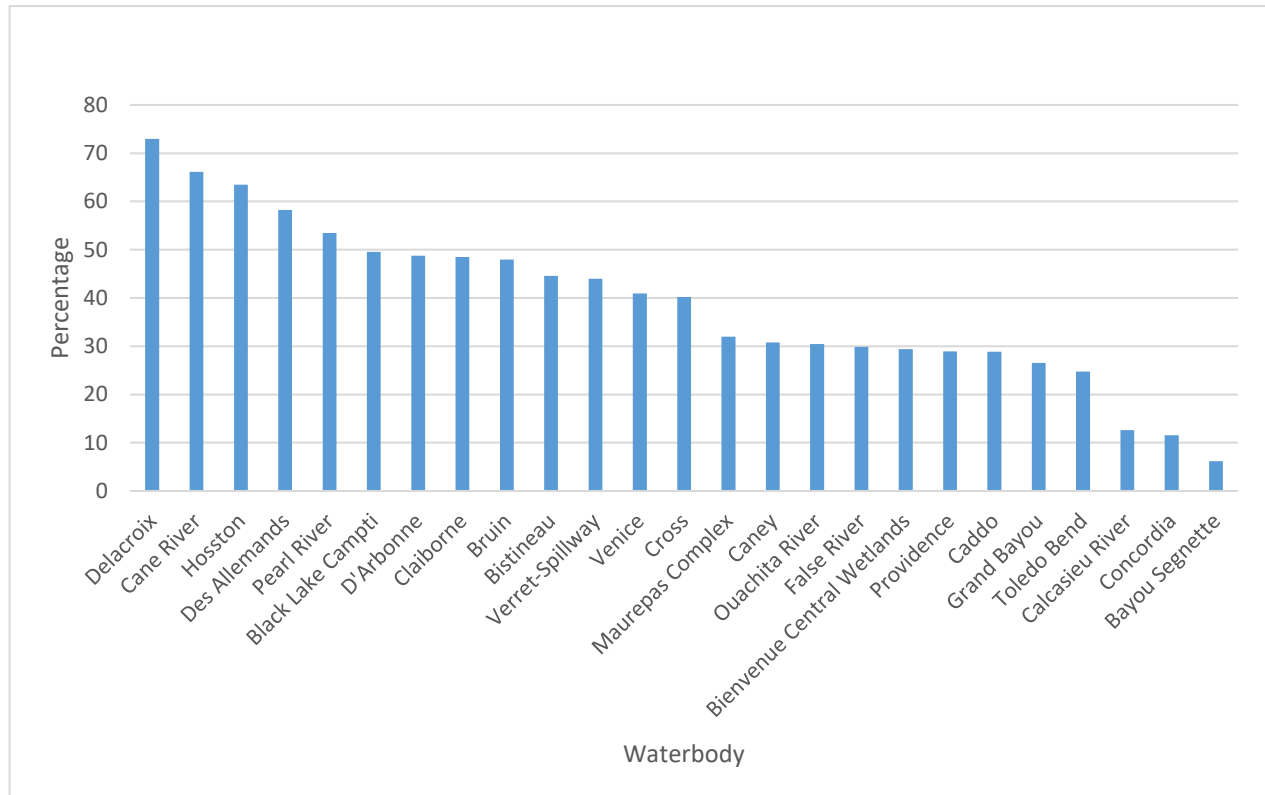


Figure 7. Percentage of boats with a 5 bass limit at LATRIP tournaments from 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Number of Angler Hours to Catch a Bass 5+ Pounds

Black Bayou Hosston ranked highest in this category with the least amount of angler hours required to catch a 5+ pound bass. Note that six waterbodies included in LATRIP did not report catching a 5+ pound bass during a tournament. The number of angler hours needed to catch a 5+ pound bass is unknown for these waterbodies and therefore they are not represented in Figure 8 below.

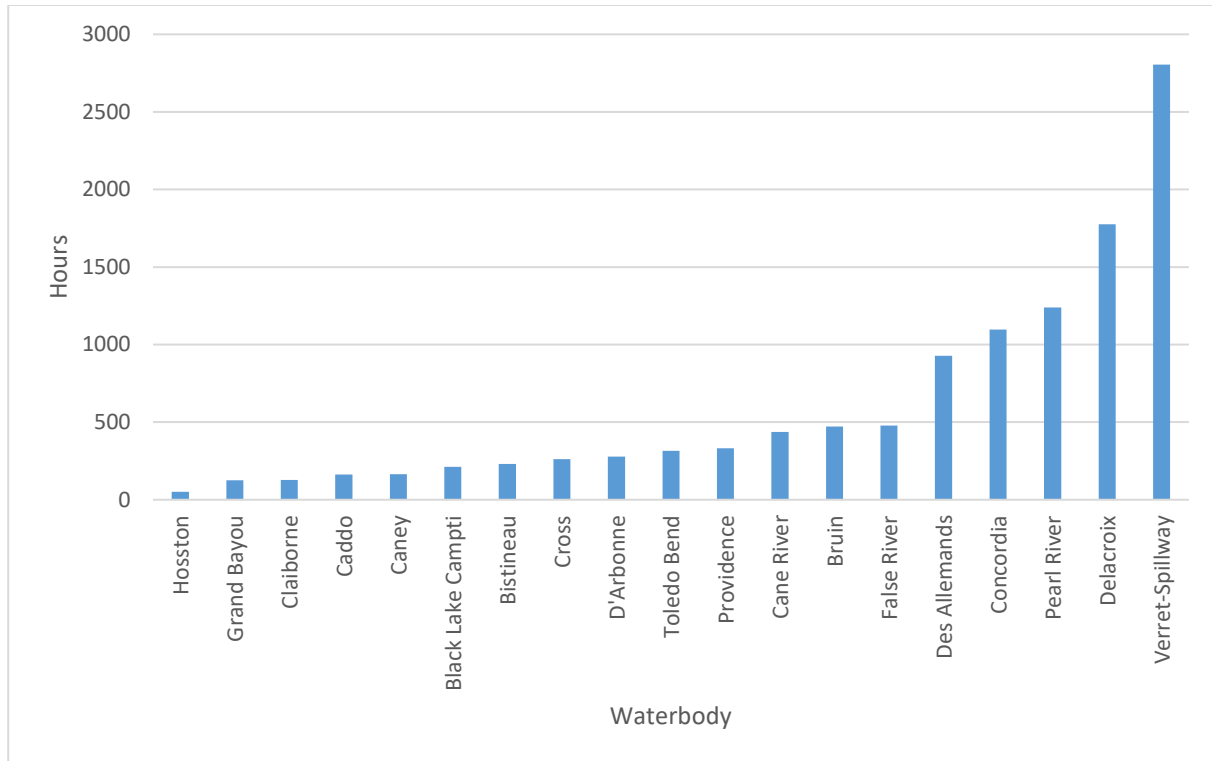


Figure 8. Number of angler hours necessary to catch a bass 5+ pounds at LATRIP tournaments from 19 waterbodies in 2024.

Average 1st Place Weight

Black Bayou Hosston (23.59 lbs.) and Caney Lake (23.13 lbs.) were ranked highest for the largest average 1st place weight for the 2024 LATRIP tournament season.

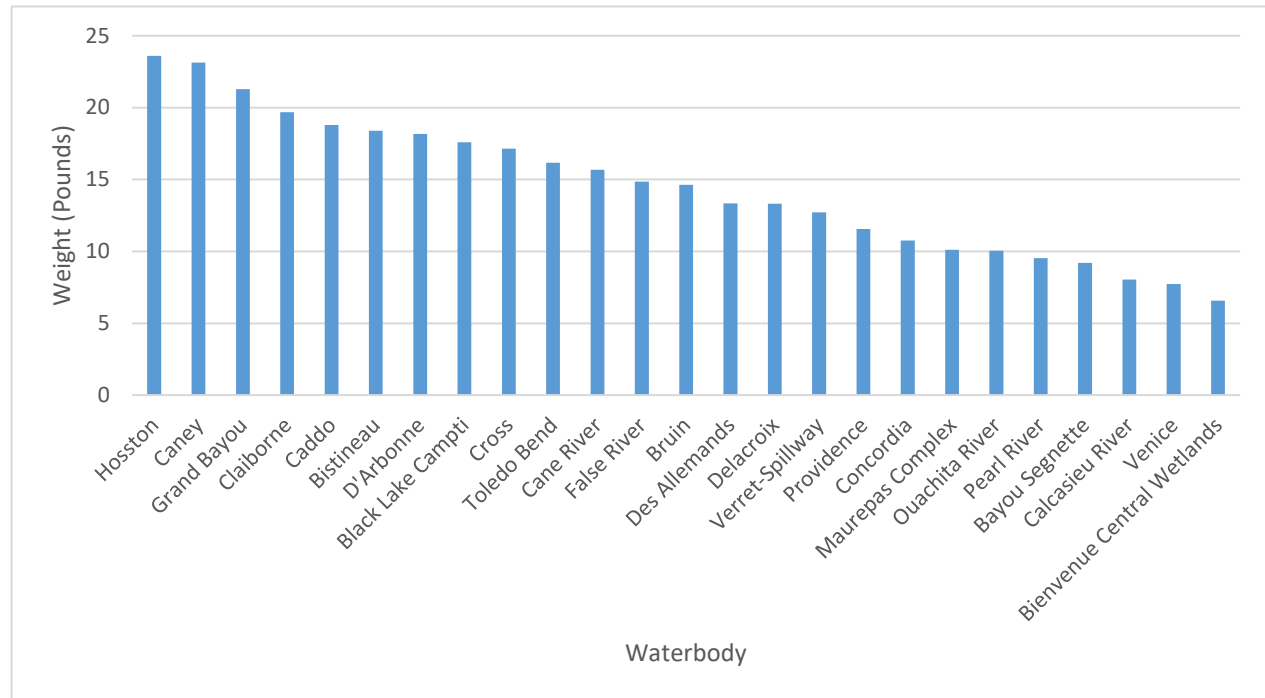


Figure 9. Average 1st place weight (winning weight) at LATRIP tournaments from 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Average Weight of Winning Big Bass

Black Bayou Hosston had the highest average winning big bass of 9.12 pounds. Grand Bayou aka John K. Kelly Reservoir (8.44 lbs.), Caney Lake (8.28 lbs.) and Lake Claiborne (7.58 lbs.) all had impressive showings for this metric. Additionally; Caddo Lake, Lake Bistineau, and Lake D'Arbonne all boasted winning averages between 6-7 pounds.

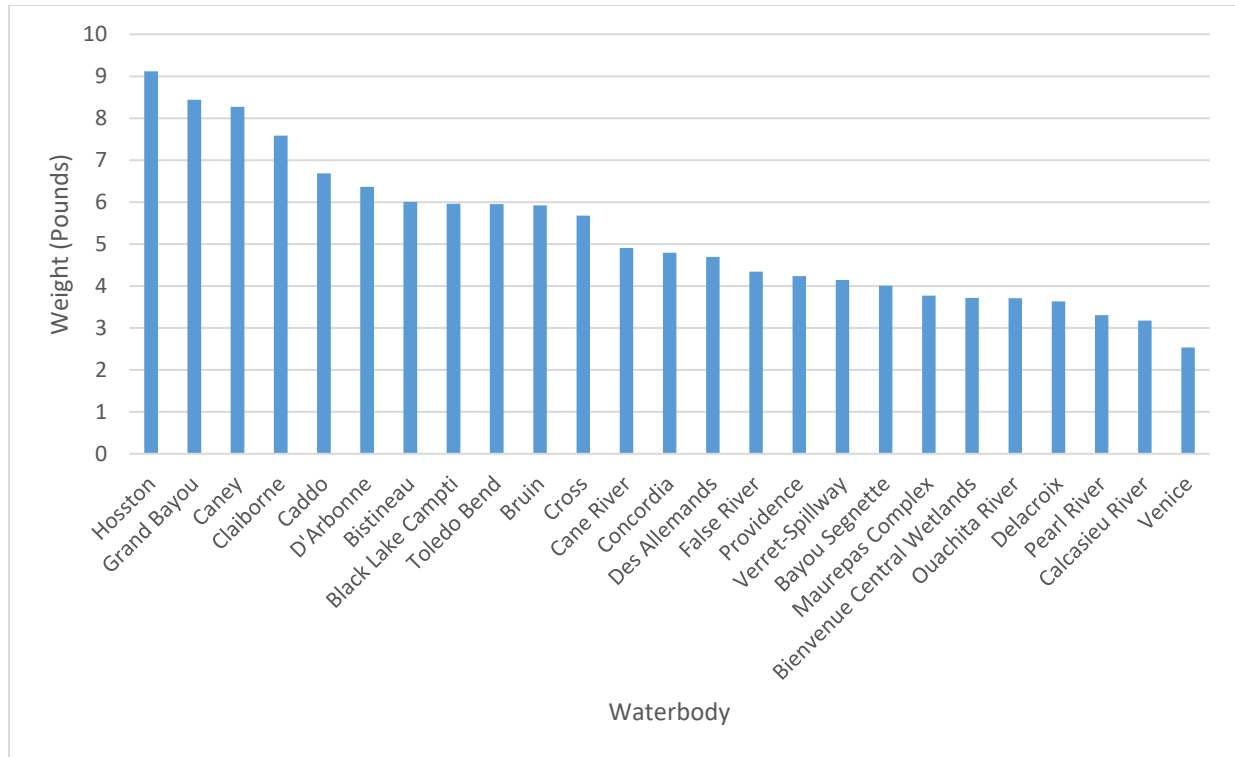


Figure 10. Average weight of winning Big Bass at LATRIP tournaments from 25 waterbodies in 2024.

Percentage of Boats with Bag Weights of 20+ Pounds

Black Bayou Hosston led the field with 8.38% of boats bringing in bags of 20+ pounds. Fifteen waterbodies failed to produce any bags of 20 pounds or more during LATRIP tournaments.

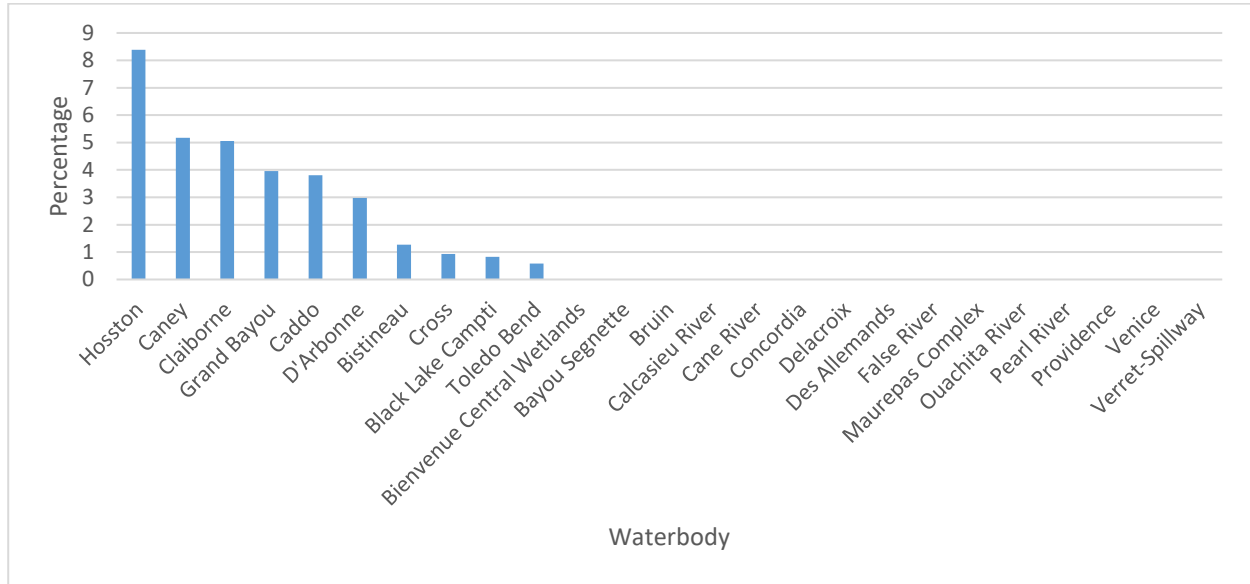


Figure 11. Percentage of boats at LATRIP tournaments with bags that were equal to or greater than 20 pounds in 2024.

Category Rankings

Overall Tournament Performance

In order to create a ranking system to evaluate which lake performed the best overall in 2024 LATRIP bass tournaments, all 14 individual metrics were included in this category. This ranking gives weight to waterbodies that not only perform well for winning weights, but also for high angler success. The graph below shows that Black Bayou Lake (Hosston) ranked top in the state, scoring an impressive 346 out of a possible 350 points. The average winning weight for the lake was 23.60 pounds and an average winning big bass of 9.12 pounds. Marsh and river systems generally ranked lower, likely due to less stable water conditions. Additionally, many coastal systems were recovering following major fish kills from recent tropical storms and were temporarily, adversely affected by severe drought conditions in 2023.

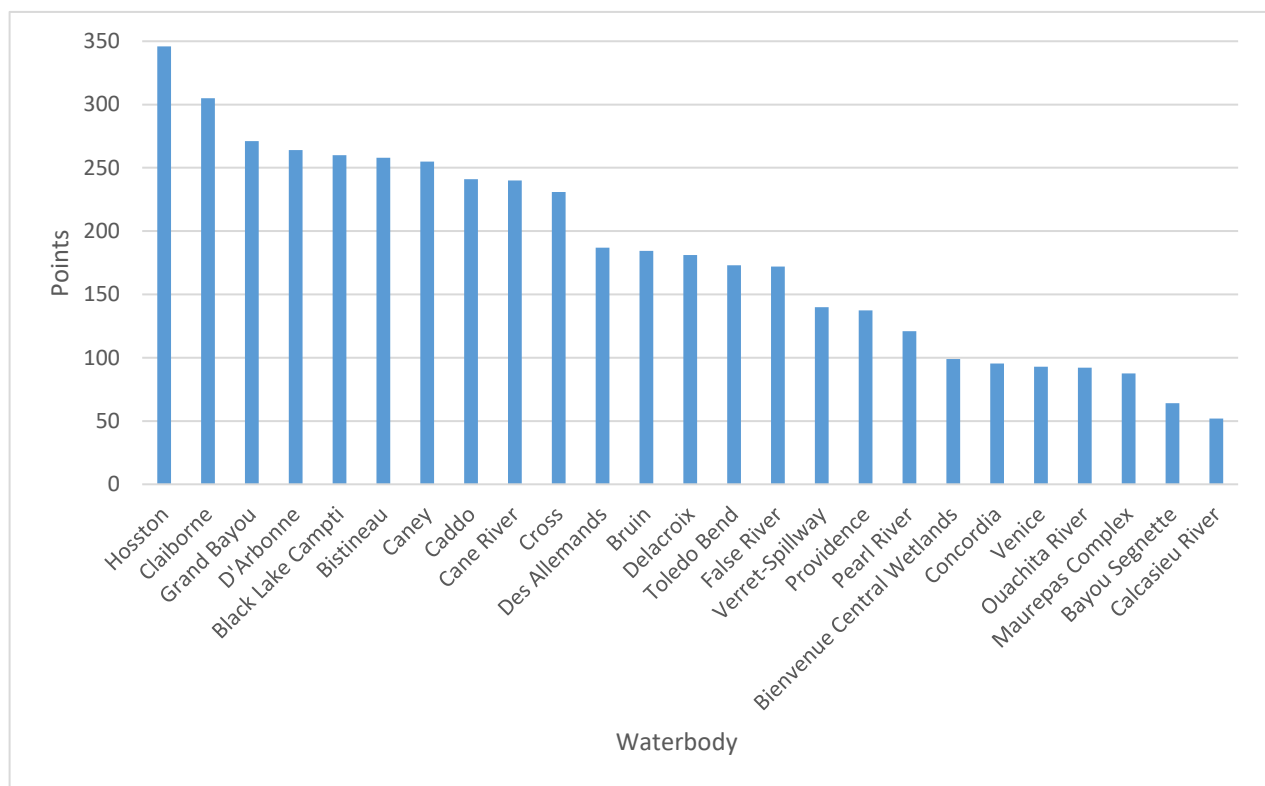


Figure 12. Comparison of 25 waterbodies based on overall LATRIP bass tournament performance in 2024.

Heavyweight Division

The Heavyweight Division ranking attempts to identify waterbodies that provide the best opportunity for tournament anglers to catch larger-size bass. Seven individual metrics were included: average weight per bass, average big bass, average 1st place weight, number of angler hours to catch a 5+ pound bass, average 2nd place big bass, percentage of boats with a 20+ pound bag, and percentage of boats with a 25+ pound bag. Black Bayou Hosston ranked first in each metric scoring 175 out of a possible 175 points. The lake boasted the three largest bass weighed in during 2024 LATRIP tournaments and an impressive 30.4 pound winning stringer from a LA Bass Nation College Series event held in late February. Caney Lake, Grand Bayou and Lake Claiborne performed admirably in this category as well.

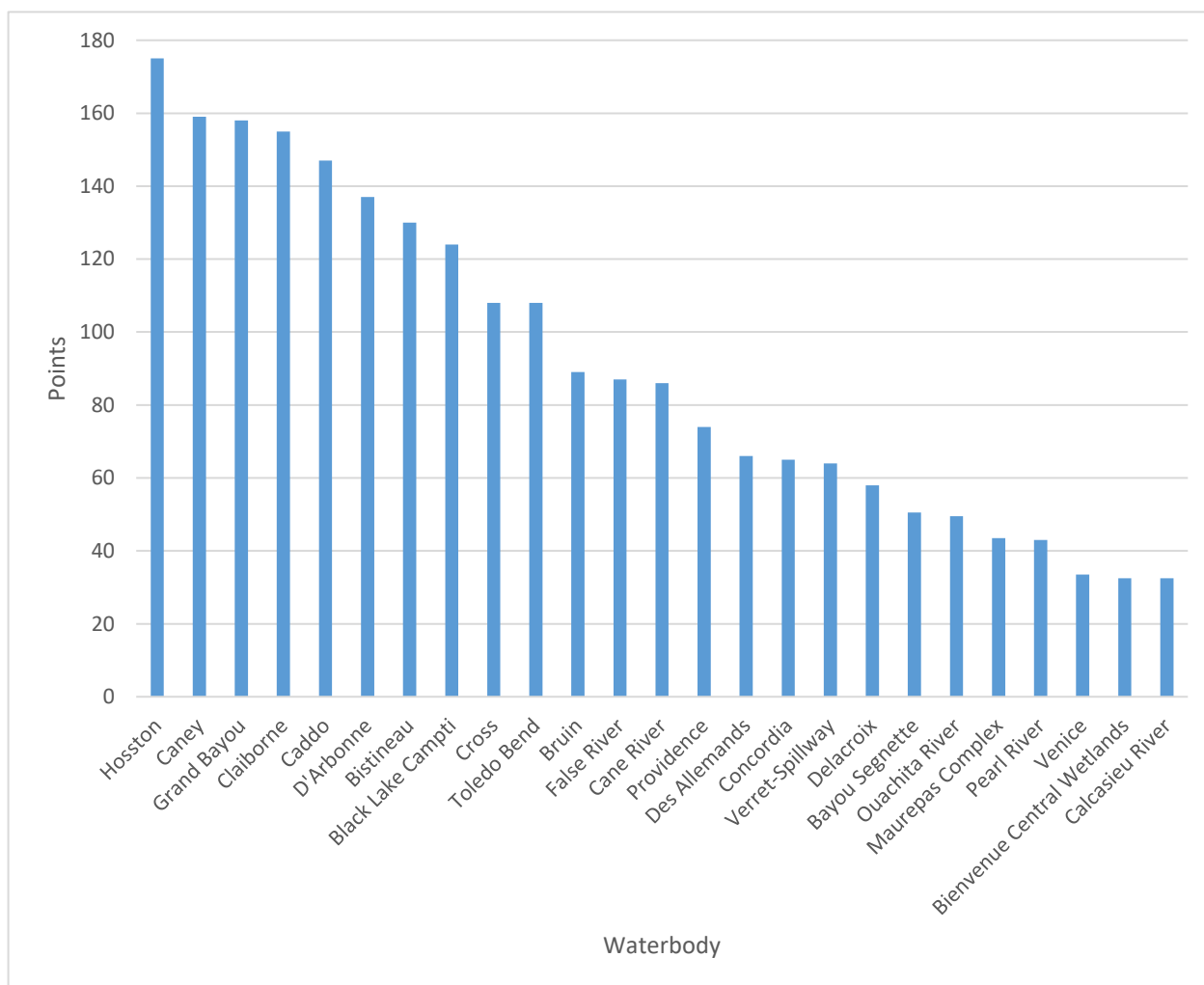


Figure 13. Comparison of 25 waterbodies focused on larger sized bass from LATRIP tournaments in 2024.

Toughest Waters to Fish

Waterbodies were ranked in an effort to determine which was the toughest to fish during the 2024 LATRIP tournament season. Five individual metrics were used to define this category: average number of bass per boat, percentage of boats with a limit, number of angler hours to catch a 5+ pound bass, percentage of boats with 10+ pound bags, and percentage of boats with 0 fish. Bayou Segnette, the Calcasieu River, and Lake Concordia were the waterbodies in which anglers had the most difficulty catching fish in 2024 LATRIP tournaments.

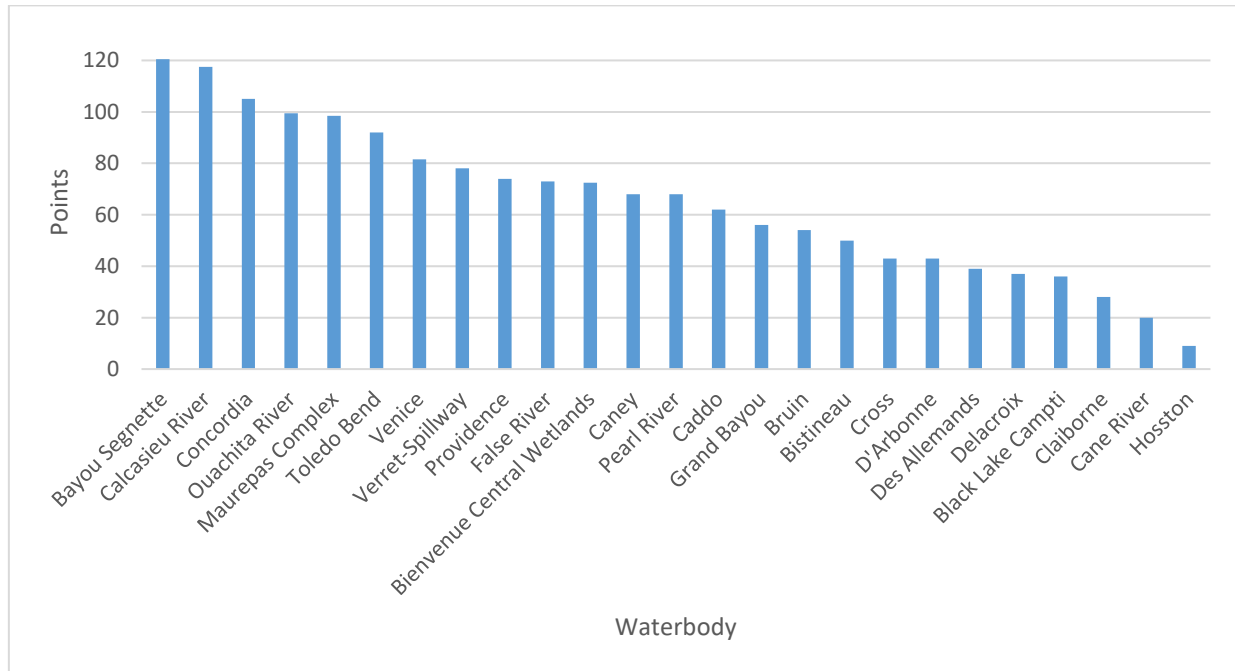


Figure 14. Comparison of 25 waterbodies focused on the toughest waterbodies to catch fish from at LATRIP tournaments in 2024. Waterbodies with a higher point total are more difficult to fish.

Fun Fishing Lakes (i.e., Easiest to Catch Numbers of Fish)

In an attempt to determine which lakes might be the best to hold a “fun” tournament, where more anglers have success, the following individual metrics were ranked: average number of bass per boat, percentage of boats with fish to weigh, percentage of boats with a limit, and percentage of boats with at least 10 pounds. The Cane River and Black Bayou Hosston tied for 1st place in this category with 96 out of a possible 100 points. Anglers on the Cane River had success averaging 3.94 bass per boat, 95.2% of boats had fish to weigh, 66.1% of boats weighed in a limit of bass, and 47.2% of competitors weighed in limits in excess of 10 pounds.

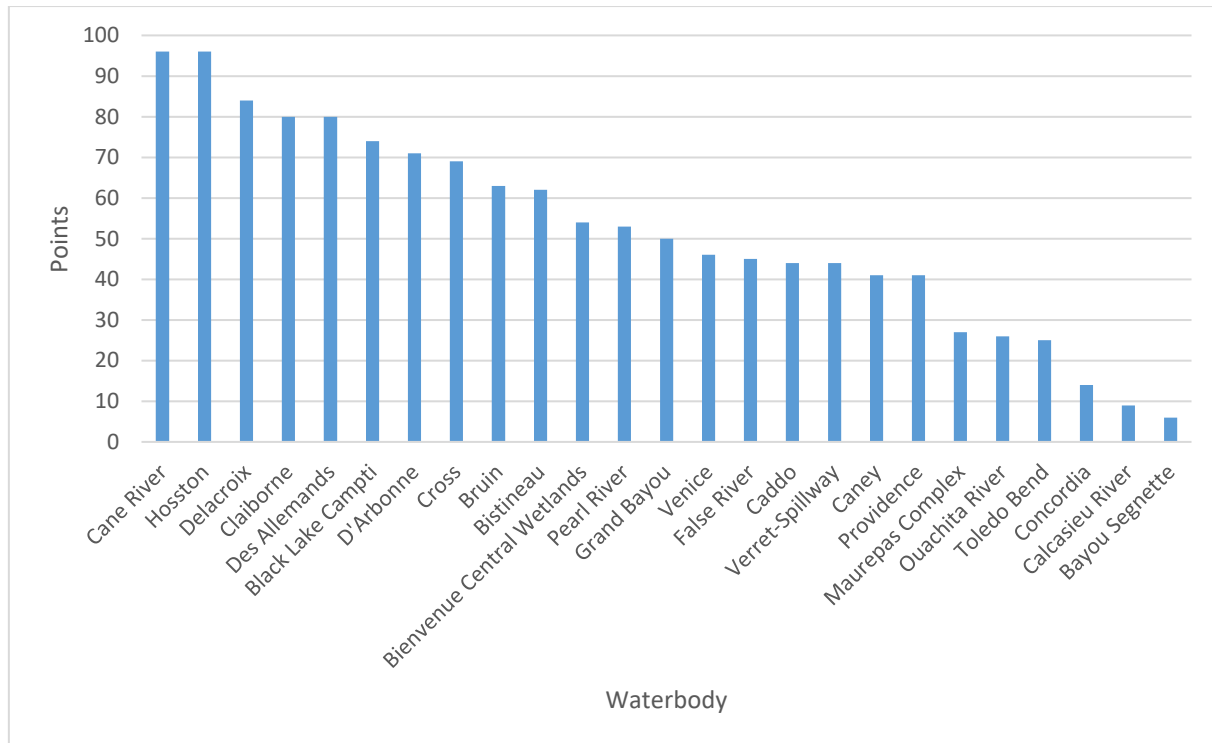


Figure 15. Comparison of angler success from 2024 LATRIP tournaments across 25 waterbodies.

Top Ten Big Bass

Table 2 below includes the 10 heaviest bass weighed in during a 2024 LATRIP tournament. Seven bass were over 10 pounds.

Table 2. Heaviest Big Bass caught during 2024 tournament season.

Lake	Date	Big Bass	Tournament Club/Trail
Black Bayou Hosston	2/24/24	12.34	LA Bass Nation College
Black Bayou Hosston	8/17/24	12.14	Ultimate Bass Singles
Black Bayou Hosston	2/17/24	11.92	Ultimate Bass Singles
Lake Claiborne	9/7/24	11.43	Bayou State Bass Club
Toledo Bend	3/2/24	10.7	LA Bass Nation High School
Caney Lake	3/2/24	10.25	Louisiana Team Trail
Lake Claiborne	7/20/24	10.2	Fishers of Men North
Caney Lake	4/6/24	9.67	Media Bass North (Teams)
Grand Bayou (John K. Kelly Reservoir)	3/16/24	9.57	S'Port City Bass Club
Caddo Lake	2/24/24	9.41	High School Fishing League

Top Ten 1st Place Weights

Caney Lake was represented four times in the Top 10 heaviest bag weights, including the top three places. Additionally, Black Bayou Hosston and Caddo Lake were each represented twice (Table 3).

Table 3. Top 10 heaviest, 5-bass bag limits weighed in during the 2024 LATRIP tournament season.

Lake	1 st place weight (Lbs.)	Date	Club
Caney Lake	32.41	4/6/24	Media Bass North (Teams)
Caney Lake	32.27	6/15/24	Bayou State Bass Club
Caney Lake	31.58	6/1/24	Holloway Hookers
Caddo Lake	31.55	4/6/24	H&W Team Trail
Black Bayou Hosston	30.4	2/24/24	LA Bass Nation College
Caddo Lake	29.96	3/30/24	Louisiana Team Trail
Lake Claiborne	29.56	2/17/24	Media Bass North (Teams)
Black Bayou Hosston	28.97	2/17/24	Ultimate Bass Singles
Grand Bayou (John K. Kelly Reservoir)	28.58	5/11/24	Fishers of Men North
Caney Lake	28.4	4/7/24	Media Bass North (Singles)

Number of Bass 5+ Pounds per Tournament

Table 4. Top lakes producing 5+ pound bass per LATRIP tournament in 2024.

Waterbody	Number of Bass 5+ Pounds per Tournament
Black Bayou Hosston	4.88
Caney Lake	4.25
Caddo Lake	2.61
Grand Bayou (John K. Kelly Reservoir)	2.25
Black Lake (Campti) & Lake Claiborne & Turkey Creek	2.0

2024 Tournament Club Statistics

Table 5. Summary statistics for each club from which LATRIP data were collected during the 2024 tournament season. Top ranks in each category listed in **BOLD**.

Clubs	Average # of boats per tournament	Percent of Boats with a limit	Average Winning weight (lbs.)	Average Big Bass (lbs.)	Average bag weight per boat (lbs.)
Bass Busterz Bass Club	13.5	55.07	14.05	4.49	7.26
Bastrop Bass Club	18.17	37.17	11.94	4.35	5.28
Bayou State Bass Club	28.88	37.98	17.42	7.01	6.27
Caernarvon Team Trail	17.33	77.52	14.47	3.95	7.92
Delhi Bass Club	11.8	40.58	12.00	4.29	6.09
Eagle Claw Bass Club	6.9	40.71	7.62	3.02	4.13
Fishers of Men North	7	64.74	19.2	6.53	9.92
Fishers of Men South	38.6	46.91	15.32	5.48	6.48
Funkbuster Team Trail	34.75	NA	22.27	7.81	10.69
H&W Team Tournament Trail	65.17	56.07	21.68	6.34	9.32
Hawgherders Bass Club	25.33	28.76	16.83	6.14	5.49
Jr. Southwest Bassmasters	34.6	15.35	9.86	3.89	2.52
King of the Honey Hole	13	NA	19.34	8.21	8.51
LA Bass Nation	42	43.9	15.42	5.2	6.58
LA Bass Nation College	31.67	52.08	22.36	7.86	8.68
LA High School Bass Nation	145.88	17.95	14.05	5.80	3.51
LA Youth Bass Nation	37.57	7.86	10.23	3.98	2.49
Liars and Lunkers	16	18.75	19.66	7.23	3.59
Lock Jaw Bass Club	20.25	25.26	8.83	3.34	3.24
Louisiana Team Trail	46.2	64.15	23.61	7.98	9.97
Media Bass North (Individual)	27.13	35.94	18.39	5.88	6.46

Clubs	Average # of boats per tournament	Percent of boats with a limit	Average Winning weight (lbs.)	Average Big Bass (lbs.)	Average bag weight per boat (lbs.)
Media Bass North (Team)	53.5	50.62	21.95	7.59	8.04
Media Bass South (Individual)	39	50.03	14.09	4.46	6.08
Media Bass South (Team)	26.33	69.66	13.93	4.77	7.41
National Bass Anglers Association	12.5	32.67	16.16	6.12	6.67
North Louisiana High School Fishing League	67.2	25.05	18.06	7.36	5.48
North Louisiana Junior Fishing League	38.8	14.12	14.17	6.07	3.32
North Webster Bass Club	8.64	72.85	18.69	6.00	11.27
Southeast Bass Association	8.08	73.95	9.75	3.46	5.38
S'Port City Bass Club	22.6	33.28	18.32	5.93	6.71
T.A.B.A.	7.63	35.71	8.9	3.13	4.26
Tallulah Bass Club	10	10	10.85	5.29	4.82
Twin City Bass Club	20.17	NA	19.62	7.45	8.71
Ultimate Bass Singles	27.91	45.71	20.45	7.95	8.34
Weekend Warriors*	5	NA	14.2	4.58	9.25
Well Hooked Bass Club	19.28	31.73	14.67	5.58	6.51
Westside Bassmasters	19.75	NA	11.79	3.58	4.75

*Calculated on a 4 fish limit

General Trends, Observations and Discussion

Generally speaking, the man-made reservoirs in central and north Louisiana rank higher for many of the individual metrics calculated in LATRIP. These lakes rank higher for largest bag weights, largest winning big bass, larger average size bass, higher percentage of boats with 20+ pound bags, and other desirable metrics. These waterbodies offer more stable water quality and a less stressful environment to bass than many of the swamps, marshes and coastal rivers in the southern portion of the state. Additionally, these lakes generally have a higher percentage of Florida bass genetics in the population. Bass in swamps, marshes and coastal rivers are often subjected to periods of stress from environmental conditions that can limit growth and survival, such as saltwater intrusion and extended periods of low dissolved oxygen. Louisiana experienced significant drought conditions across the state in the summer and fall of 2023, causing reduced water levels in many systems which altered aquatic habitats.

Additionally, many coastal systems are recovering from major fish kills following Hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, Ida and Nicholas in 2021, and Francine again in 2024. Historical fish kills from hurricanes may be a limiting factor in LDWF's attempts to get Florida bass genetics introduced into many of these systems

([https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Freshwater_Inland_Fish/2011_Evaluation_of_the_14-](https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Freshwater_Inland_Fish/2011_Evaluation_of_the_14-Inch_Minimum_Length_Limit_for_Largemouth_Bass_in_the_Atchafalaya_Basin_and_Surrounding_Waters_Louisiana.pdf)

[Inch Minimum Length Limit for Largemouth Bass in the Atchafalaya Basin and Surrounding Waters Louisiana.pdf](https://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/assets/Resources/Publications/Freshwater_Inland_Fish/2011_Evaluation_of_the_14-Inch_Minimum_Length_Limit_for_Largemouth_Bass_in_the_Atchafalaya_Basin_and_Surrounding_Waters_Louisiana.pdf)). In those locations frequently impacted by hurricane related fish kills, bass are less

likely to reach ages of 5+ years old where the advantages of Florida genetics become apparent. The populations must start over from nearly scratch every few years. Fish populations naturally recover quickly following catastrophic kills by increased reproduction and recruitment rates of the fish that remain alive. During this recovery phase, anglers can experience high catch rates of bass (see Delacroix Marsh in Figure 7). It is more difficult to integrate Florida bass fingerlings into the population when native bass are reproducing at such a high rate. Therefore, native northern bass dominate these populations and may explain the lower performance in some of the size or weight-related LATRIP individual metrics. It will be interesting to track the recoveries of these systems over time in tournament performances if additional storm related kills can be avoided.

Through the process of collecting and compiling tournament data, several improvements were identified as needed and should be implemented in the future. A uniform format for reporting data to LDWF was implemented by way of our online reporting portal which proved to be beneficial but usage amongst participating tournaments is not widespread. In the 2024 season, the following variables were sometimes missing from the dataset: 1) number of fish per boat, 2) number and weights of any fish over 5 pounds, 3) official start and end time of the tournament. Unfortunately, omissions of this information caused some data to be excluded in the analyses, or some assumptions to be made. Having a more complete dataset would be beneficial.

Acknowledgements

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries acknowledges the bass clubs and tournament organizers who voluntarily submitted information for this effort. Without their participation and desire to contribute to improving the natural resources of the Sportsman's Paradise, this effort would not have been possible. These efforts were funded in part by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Sport Fish Restoration Program.