



**2025 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 36 tournament trails and/or organizations participated during the 2025 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 182 tournaments representing 42 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.

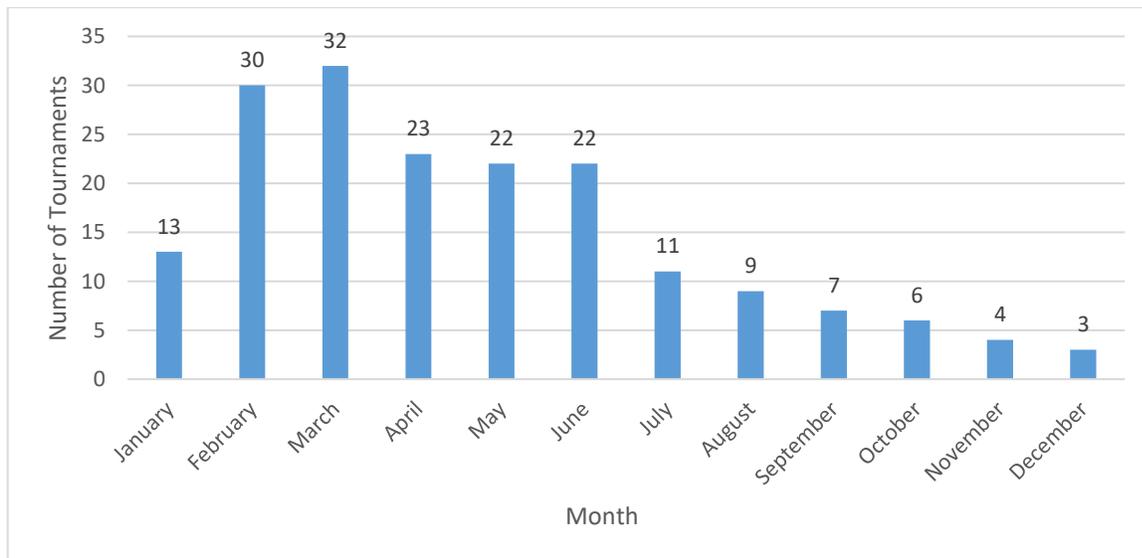


Figure 1. Monthly distribution of LATRIP tournaments during the 2025 tournament season.

Table 1. Number of LATRIP tournaments during the 2025 tournament season by waterbody. If multiple waterbodies are listed, the total applies to each waterbody.

Waterbodies	# of Tournaments
Caney Lake (Caney Creek Reservoir) & Toledo Bend	20
Lake Verret/Lake Palourde/Atchafalaya Basin Complex (aka Verret-Spillway)	18
Maurepas Complex & Caddo Lake	13
Pearl River	12
Lake Bistineau	10
Cross Lake & Lake D'Arbonne	9
Lake Claiborne	8
Lake Des Allemands & Black Bayou Lake (Hosston)	6
Cane River	5
Bayou Segnette & Delacroix	4
Bayou Bartholomew, Calcasieu River, False River, John K. Kelly Reservoir (Grand Bayou), Ouachita River, Lake Providence	3
Bayou Bienvenue Central Wetland Unit, Bayou Black Marsh, Black Lake Campti, Lake Concordia, & Mill Creek Reservoir	2
Bonne Idee, Caney Lakes (Minden), Cotile Lake, Crocket Point, Horseshoe Lake, Indian Creek Reservoir, Kepler Lake, Lake Bruin, Lake Chicot, Poverty Point Reservoir, Red River, Sabine River, Turkey Creek, Woolen Lake, & Yucatan Lake	1

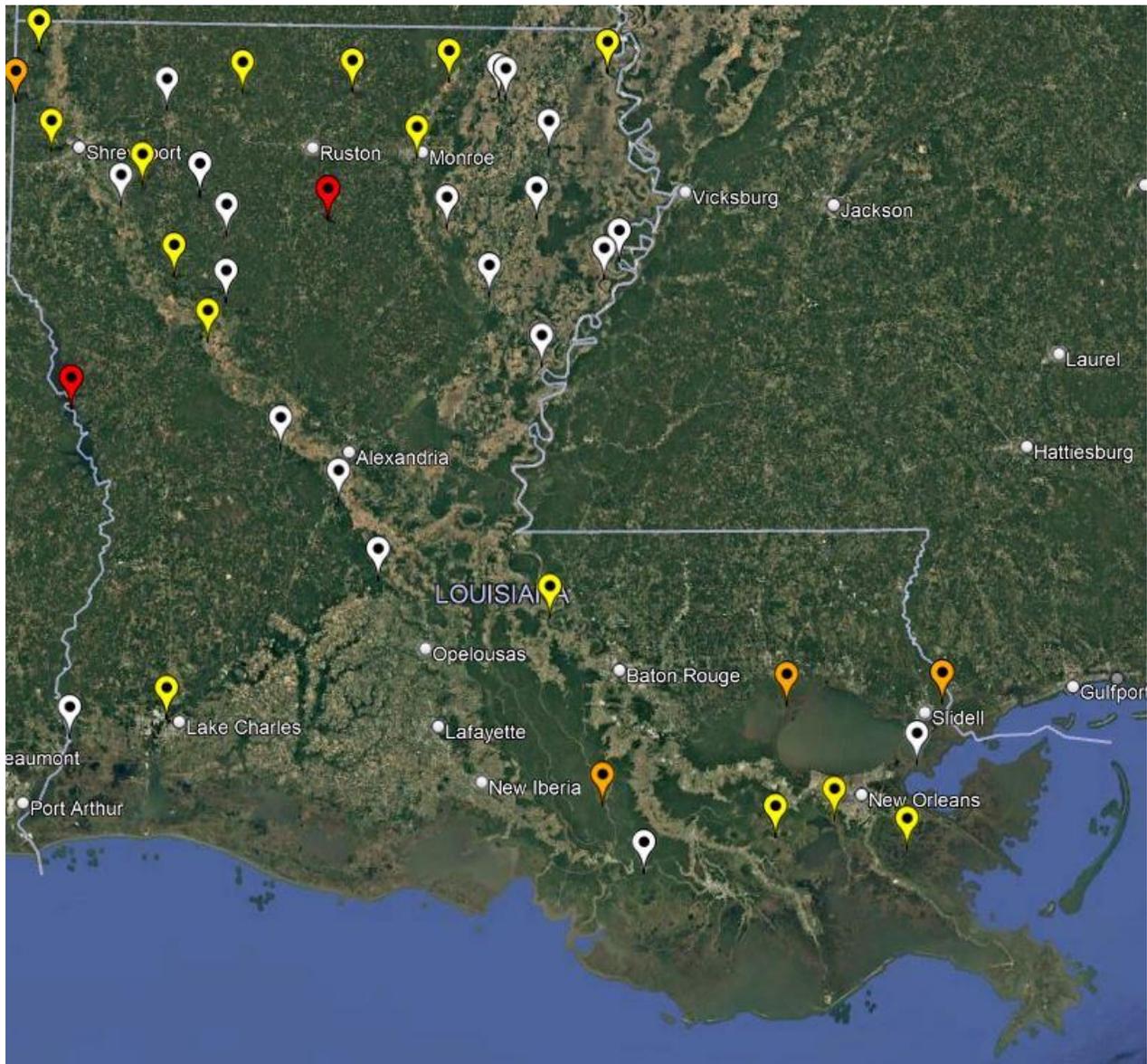


Figure 2. Distribution of 2025 LATRIP tournaments throughout Louisiana. The white markers indicate 1-2 tournaments reported, yellow markers 3-10 tournaments reported, orange markers 11-20 tournaments reported, and the red markers indicate greater than 20 tournaments were reported.

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-one 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 21 points, the second place waterbody received 20 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 27.65 boats per tournament, including championship tournaments with reduced fields.
- Approximately 76% of anglers were successful at weighing in at least one bass.
- Tournament anglers brought an average of 2.74 bass to the scales per boat, per tournament.
- The average individual weight was 2.22 pounds for all bass coming to the scales.
- The average bag weight per boat was 6.28 pounds.
- The average winning Big Bass per tournament was 5.48 pounds.
- On average, it took a bag weight of 16.03 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 12.31 pounds.
- Approximately 3% of boats weighed in more than 20 pounds of bass.
- It took 194.24 angler hours to catch a 5+ pound bass.

Individual Metric Rankings

Average Number of Bass Weighed In per Boat

The Delacroix Marsh ranked the highest for the average number of bass weighed in per boat, with 4.33 fish per boat. Grand Bayou, Toledo Bend, and Caddo Lake ranked lower, and likely were influenced by slot limits and minimum length limits. False River ranked third in this category despite having a 14-inch minimum length limit.

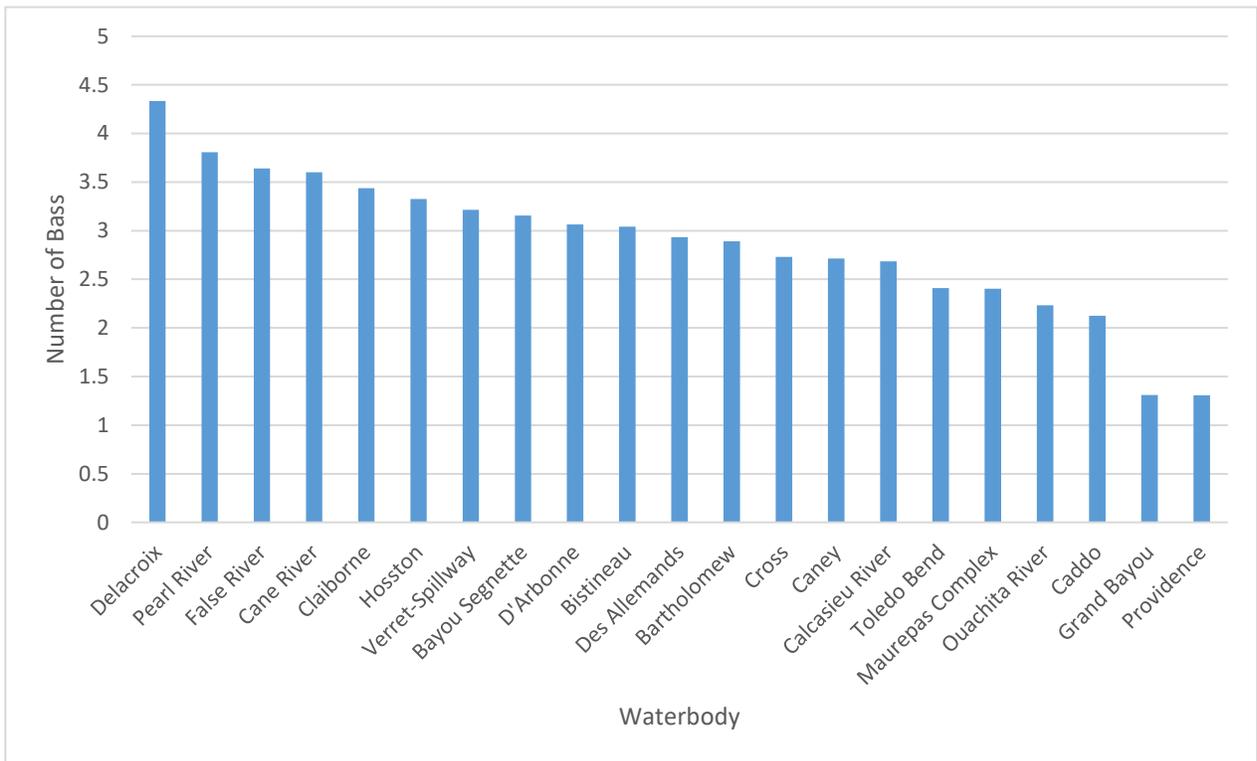


Figure 3. Average number of bass weighed in per boat at LATRIP tournaments on 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Average Weight per Bass Weighed In

Caney Lake provided the largest average weight per bass of 3.23 pounds. The Calcasieu River had the lowest average weight of 1.26 pounds.

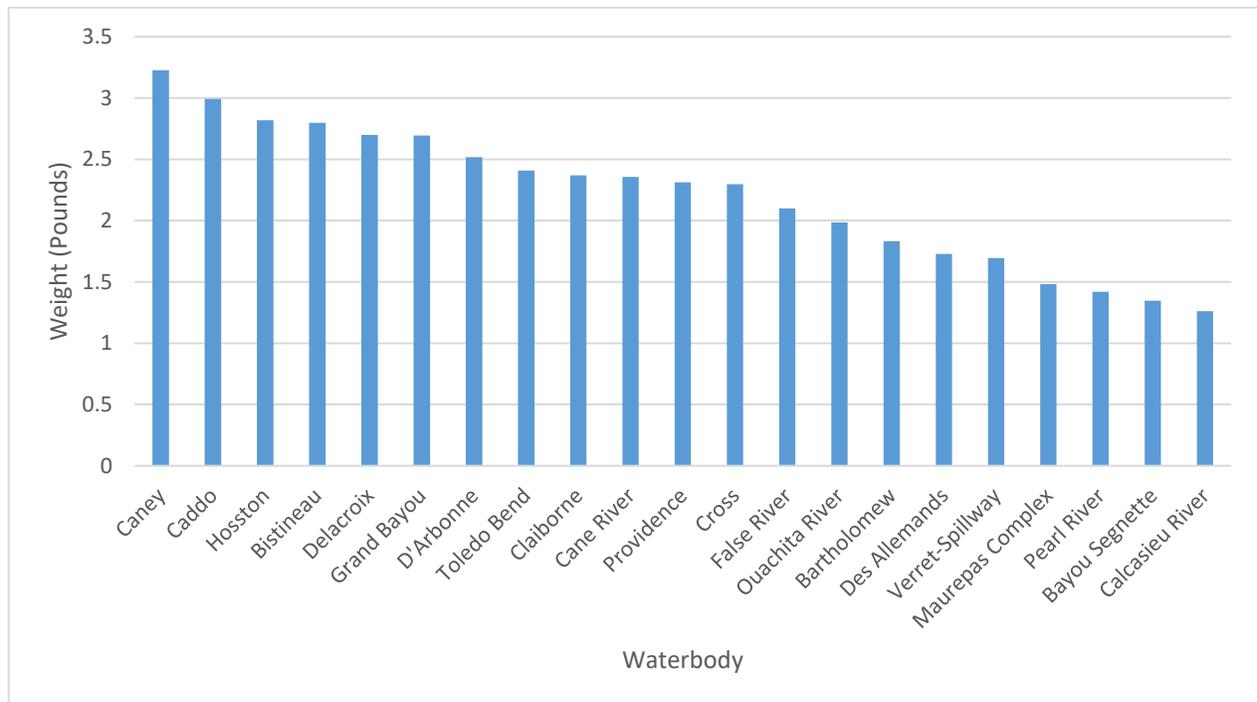


Figure 4. Average weight per bass weighed in at LATRIP tournaments from 21 different waterbodies in 2025.

Average Bag Weight per Boat

The Delacroix marsh ranks highest in the average bag weight per boat, due to an increase in average bass size coupled with a large percentage of tournament anglers weighing in a limit. Lake Providence had the lowest average with just over 3 pounds.

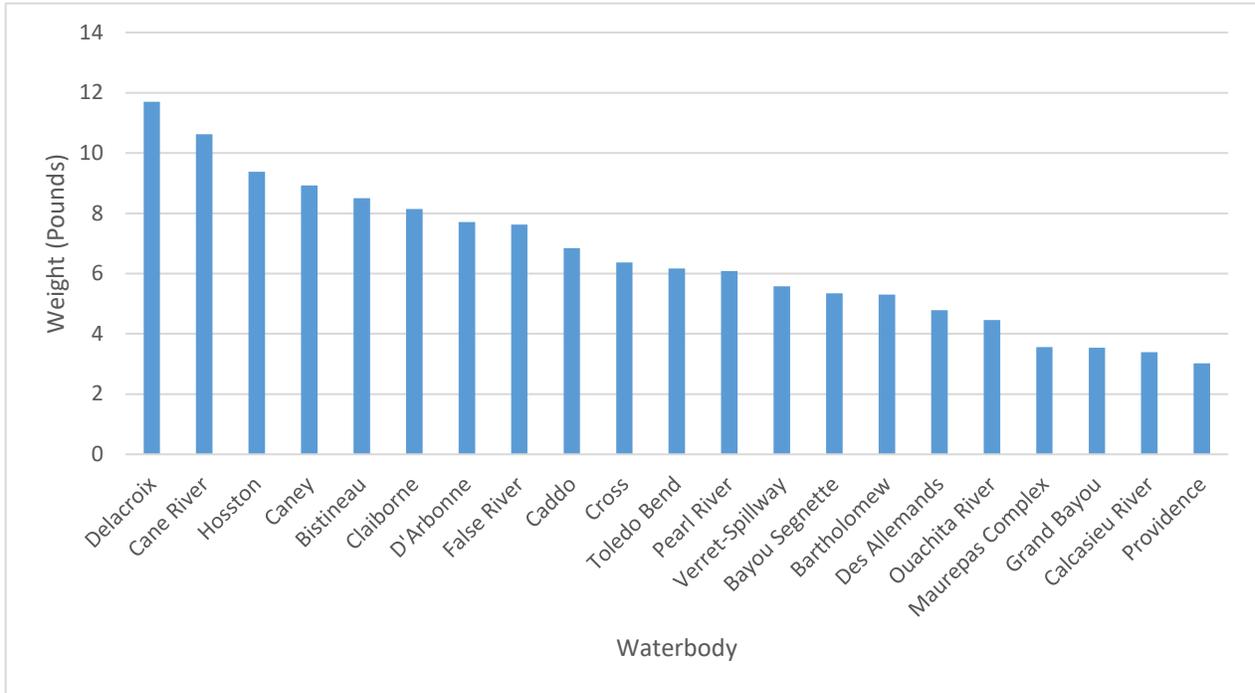


Figure 5. Average bag weight per boat at LATRIP tournaments from 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Percentage of Boats with Zero Bass to Weigh In

The Bayou Segnette area south of New Orleans ranked highest in this category with 99.22% of competitors catching at least one bass to weigh in. Anglers struggled in the same area in 2024, as the Bayou Segnette area ranked the lowest in this category the previous year.

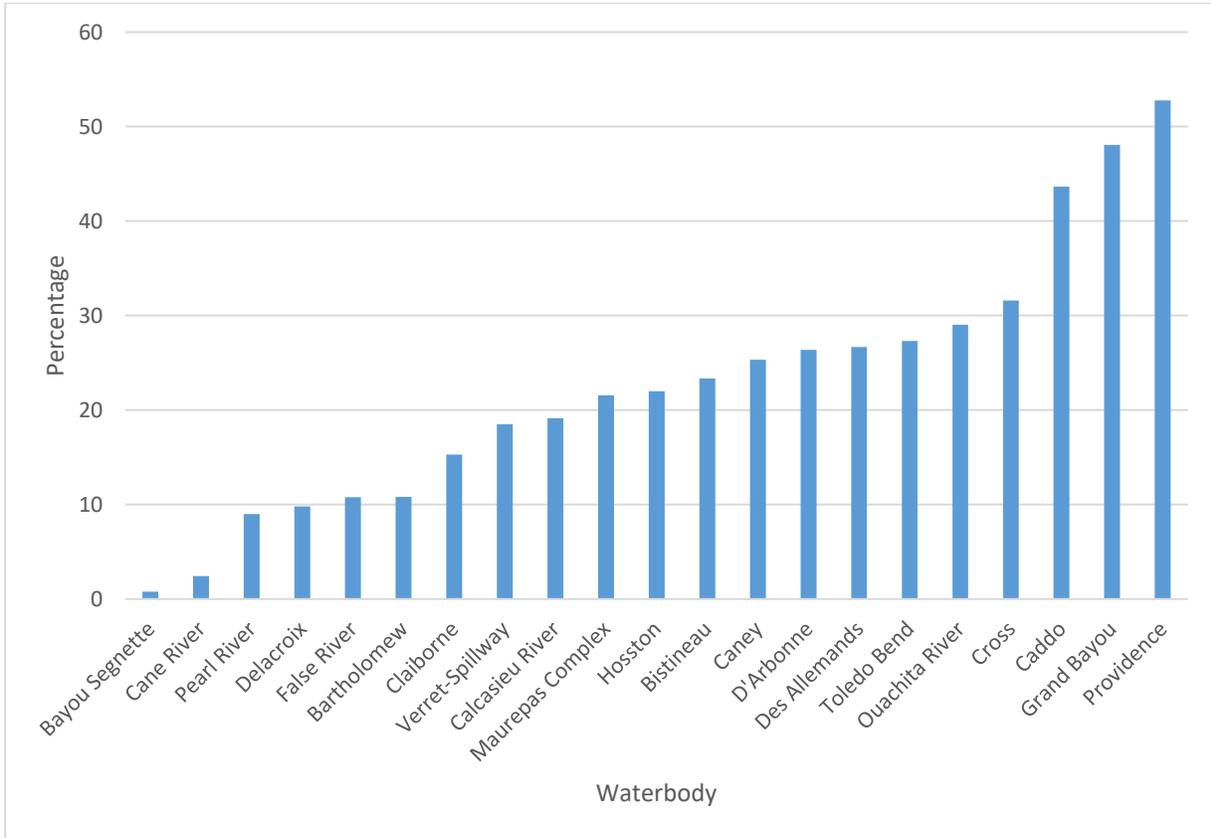


Figure 6. Percentage of boats with zero bass to weigh at LATRIP tournaments from 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Percentage of Boats with a 5 Bass Limit

The Delacroix marsh ranked highest in the percentage of boats with a 5 bass limit (84.31%), while Lake Providence and Grand Bayou Reservoir ranked near the bottom.

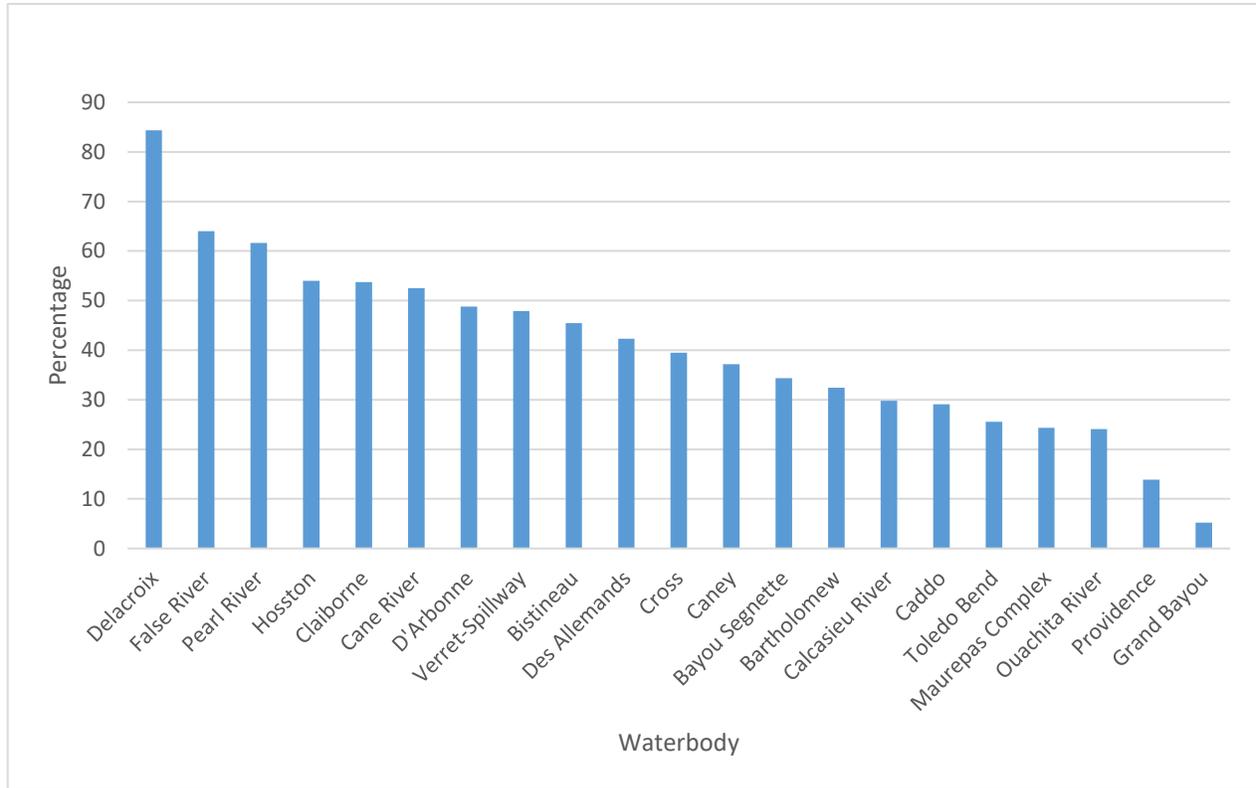


Figure 7. Percentage of boats with a 5 bass limit at LATRIP tournaments from 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Number of Angler Hours to Catch a Bass 5+ Pounds

Caney Lake ranked highest in this category with the least amount of angler hours required to catch a 5+ pound bass. For 2025 LATRIP tournaments, Caney anglers caught a bass over 5 pounds for every 53.71 hours of effort. Note that three waterbodies (Calcasieu, Providence, and Bayou Segnette) 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.

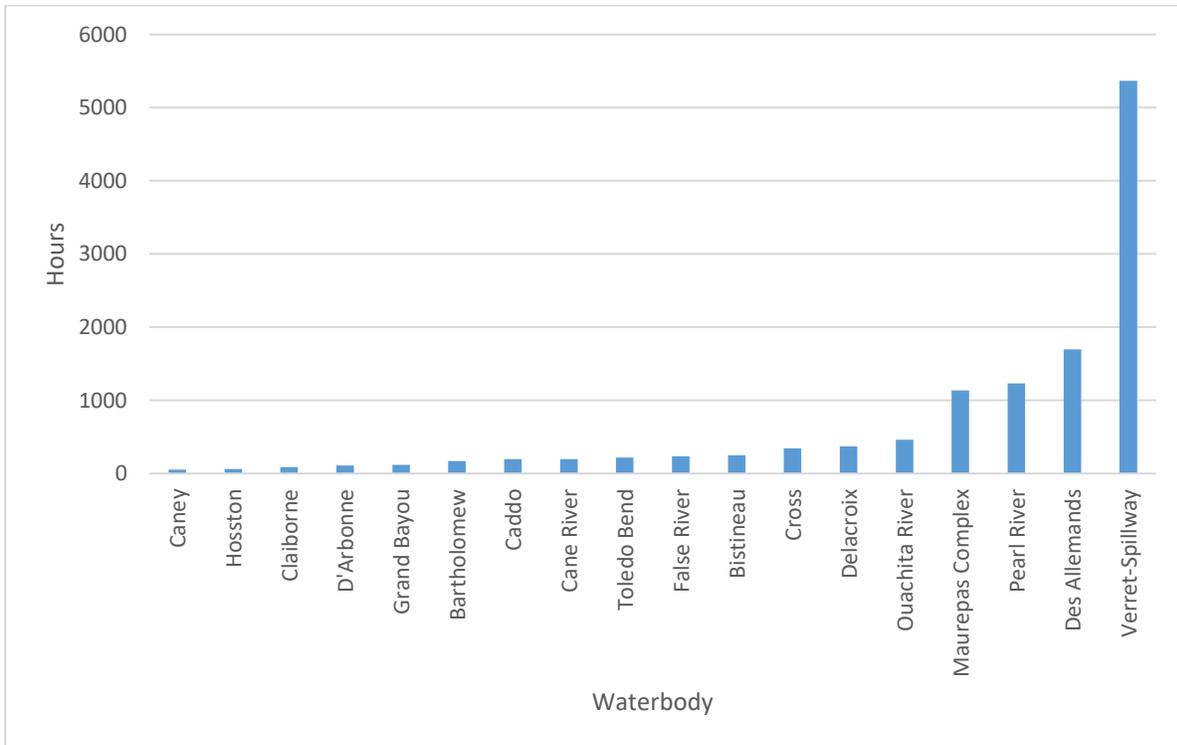


Figure 8. Number of angler hours necessary to catch a bass 5+ pounds at LATRIP tournaments from 18 waterbodies in 2025.

Average 1st Place Weight

Caney Lake (28.51 lbs.) and Black Bayou Hosston (22.67 lbs) were ranked highest for the largest average 1st place weight for the 2025 LATRIP tournament season.

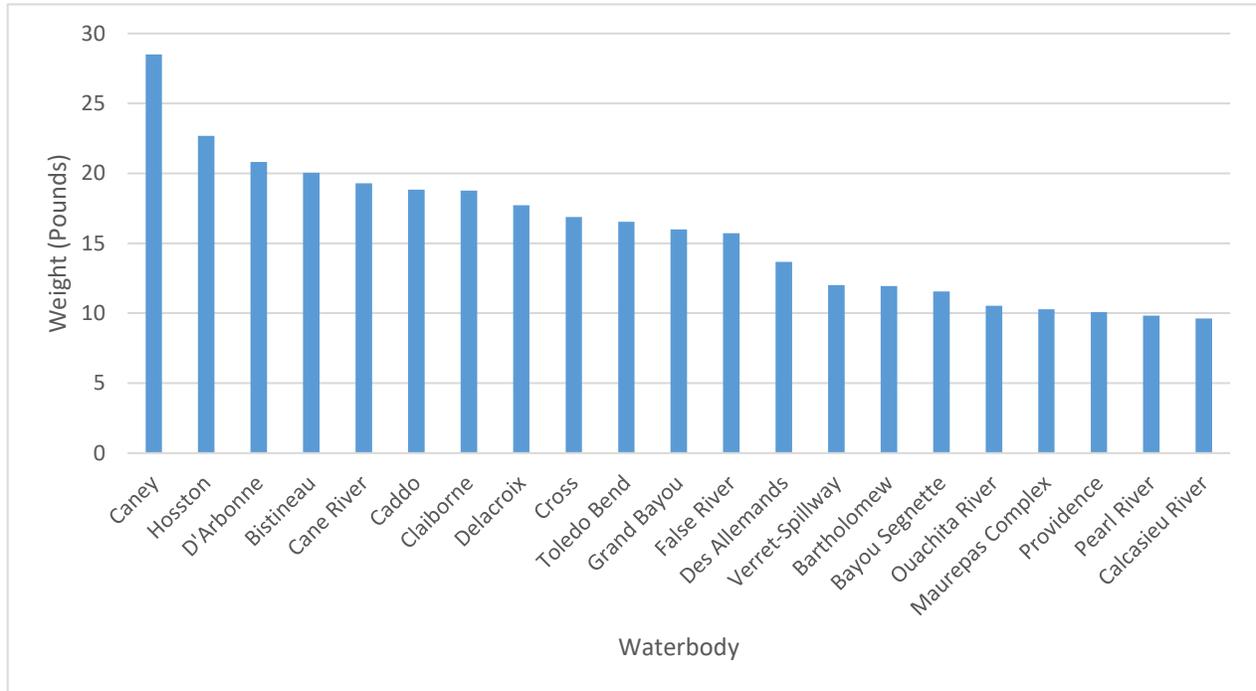


Figure 9. Average 1st place weight (winning weight) at LATRIP tournaments from 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Average Weight of Winning Big Bass

Caney Lake had the highest average winning big bass of 8.79 pounds. Black Bayou Hosston (7.62 lbs.), Lake Claiborne (7.58 lbs.), Grand Bayou aka John K. Kelly Reservoir (6.81 lbs.) and Lake D'Arbonne (6.71 lbs) all had impressive showings for this metric.

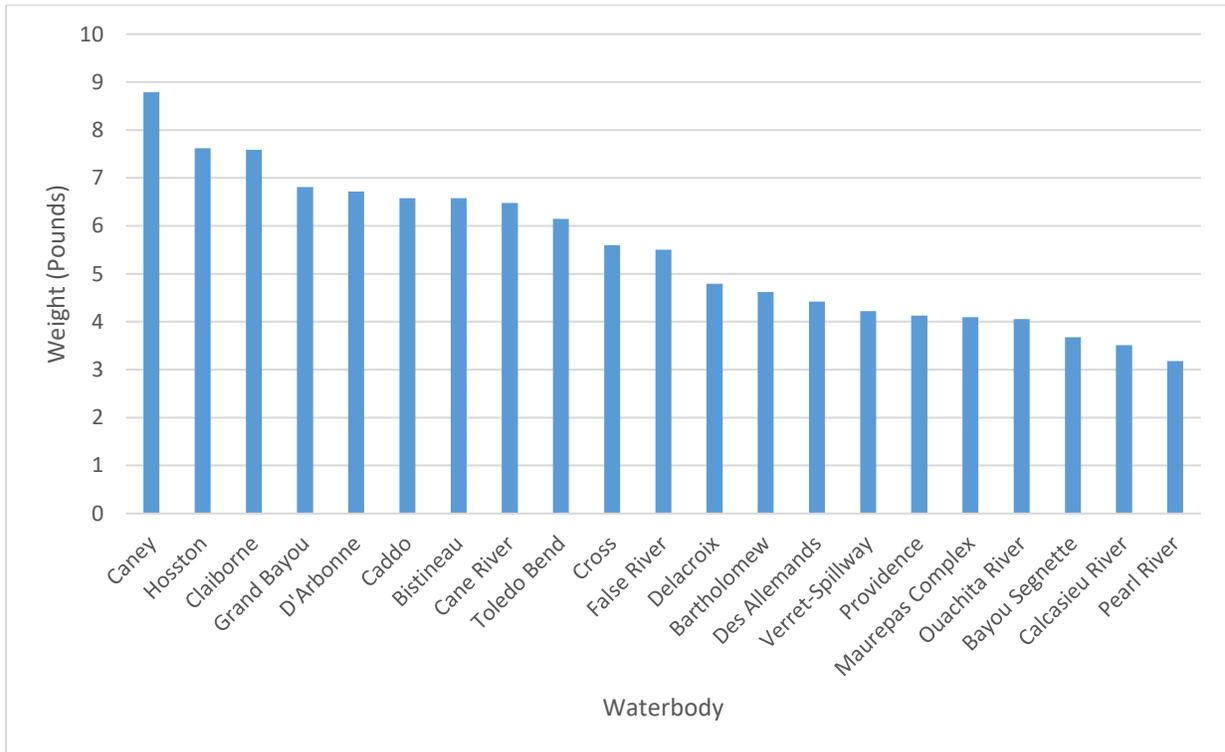


Figure 10. Average weight of winning Big Bass at LATRIP tournaments from 21 waterbodies in 2025.

Percentage of Boats with Bag Weights of 20+ Pounds

Caney Lake led the field with 13.86% of boats bringing in bags of 20+ pounds. Ten waterbodies failed to produce any bags of 20 pounds or more during LATRIP tournaments.

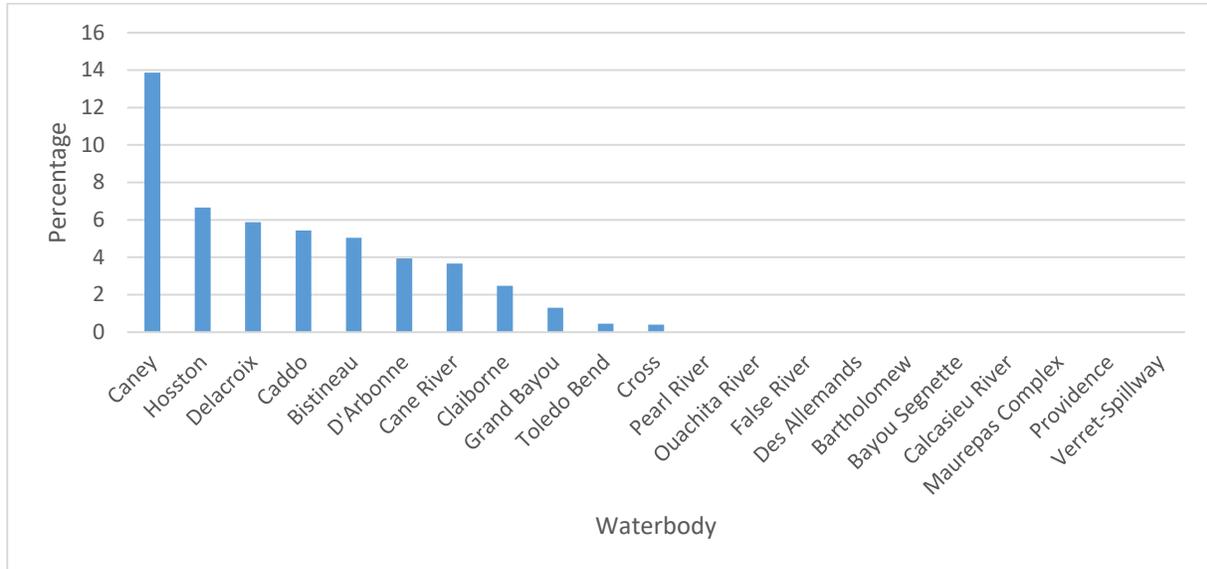


Figure 11. Percentage of boats at LATRIP tournaments with bags that were equal to or greater than 20 pounds in 2025.

Category Rankings

Overall Tournament Performance

In order to create a ranking system to evaluate which lake performed the best overall in 2025 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 260 out of a possible 294 points. The average winning weight for the lake was 22.67 pounds and an average winning big bass of 7.62 pounds. Marsh and river systems generally ranked lower, likely due to less stable water conditions. However, the Delacroix marsh ranked third overall with some impressive tournaments including three 20+ pound bags weighed in during 4 tournaments. The area may be showing signs of recovery following major fish kills from recent tropical storms and severe drought conditions in 2023.

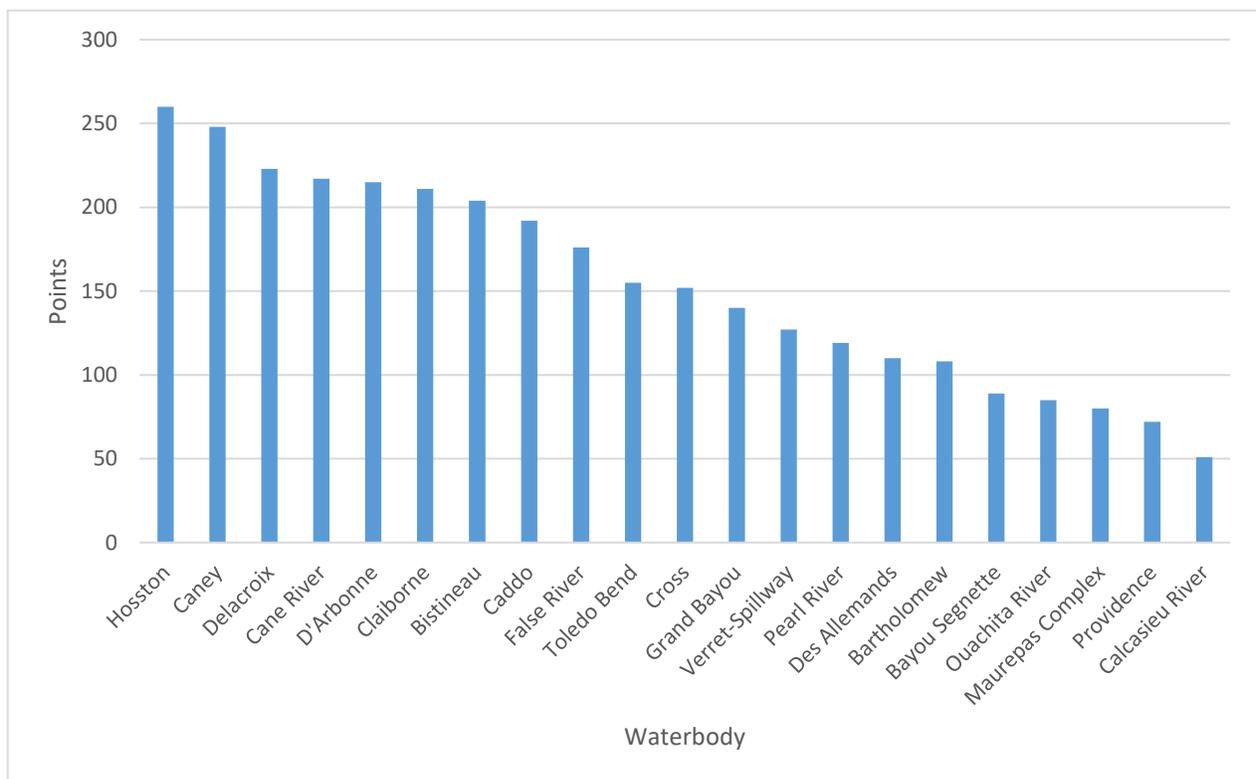


Figure 12. Comparison of 21 waterbodies based on overall LATRIP bass tournament performance in 2025.

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. Caney Lake ranked first with an impressive 146 out of a possible 147 points. The lake boasted nine of the top ten largest bass weighed in during 2025 LATRIP tournaments and seven of the top ten largest stringers weighed in all year. An impressive 42.94 pound winning stringer came from a Caney Creek Bass Club tournament in May and multiple 30+ pound stringers were weighed in during the June St. Jude Benefit tournament. Black Bayou Hosston, Lake D'Arbonne, and Caddo Lake performed admirably in this category.

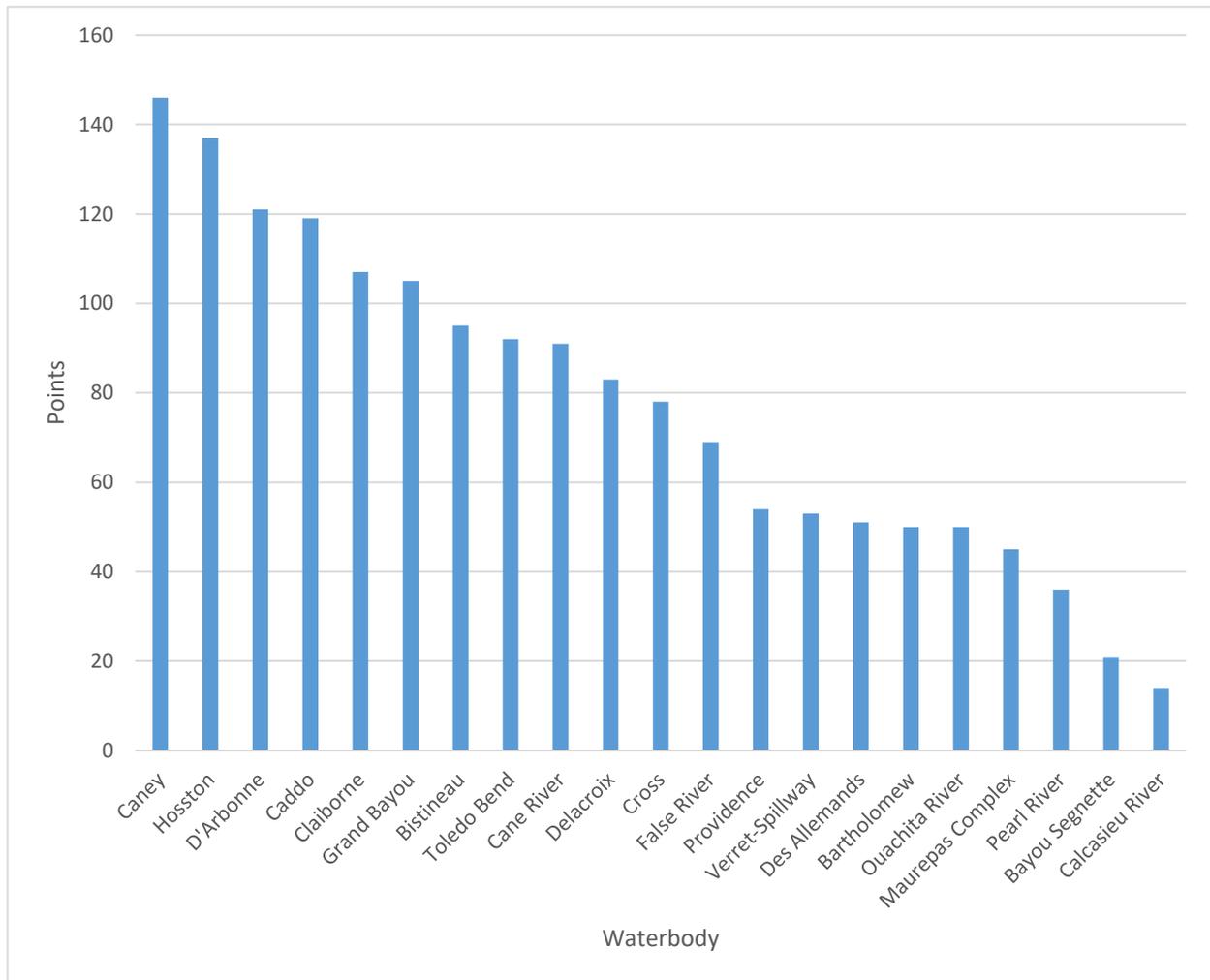


Figure 13. Comparison of 21 waterbodies focused on larger sized bass from LATRIP tournaments in 2025.

Toughest Waters to Fish

Waterbodies were ranked in an effort to determine which was the toughest to fish during the 2025 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. Lake Providence represented the toughest puzzle for anglers to solve in 2025 LATRIP tournaments, scoring 101 out of a possible 105 points for this ranking.

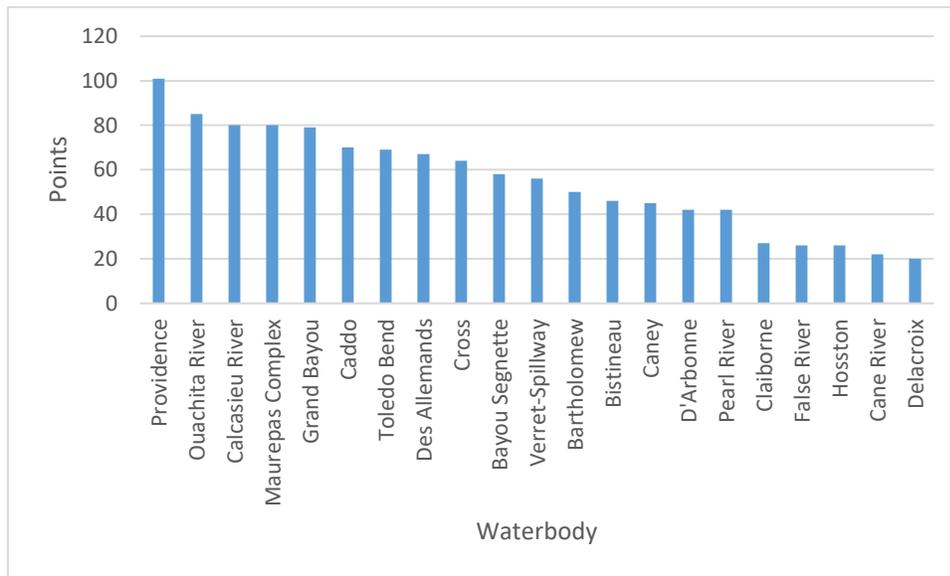


Figure 14. Comparison of 21 waterbodies focused on the toughest waterbodies to catch fish from at LATRIP tournaments in 2025. Waterbodies with a higher point total are more difficult to fish.

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 Delacroix marsh claimed 1st place in this category with 81 out of a possible 84 points. Anglers in Delacroix had success averaging 4.33 bass per boat, 90.2% of boats had fish to weigh, 84.31% of boats weighed in a limit of bass, and 70.59% of competitors weighed in limits in excess of 10 pounds.

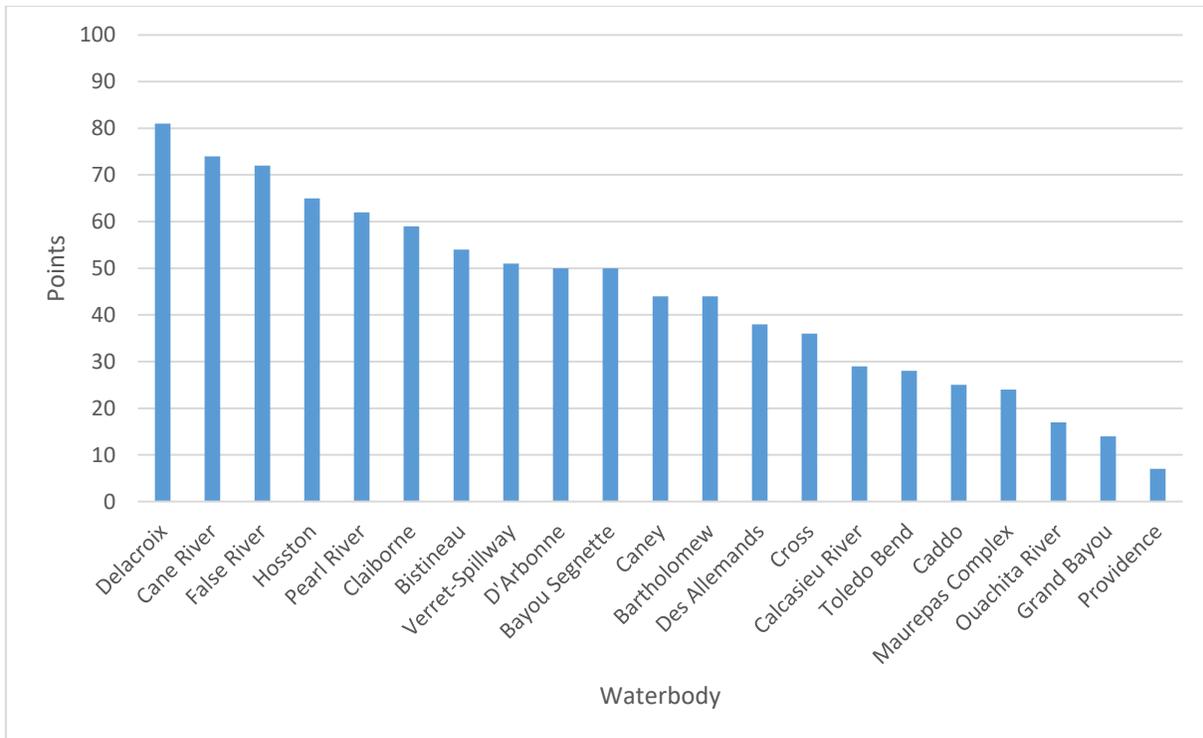


Figure 15. Comparison of angler success from 2025 LATRIP tournaments across 21 waterbodies.

Top Ten Big Bass

Table 2 below includes the 10 heaviest bass weighed in during a 2025 LATRIP tournament. Four bass were over 10 pounds and seven of the Top 10 bass came from Caney Lake.

Table 2. Heaviest Big Bass caught during 2025 tournament season.

Lake	Date	Big Bass	Tournament Club/Trail
Caney Lake	5/3/25	11.94	Caney Creek Bass Club
Caney Lake	8/25/25	11.0	LA Bass Nation-College
Caney Lake	2/22/25	10.5	Twin City Bass Club
Black Bayou Lake (Hosston)	3/14/25	10.09	Louisiana Team Trail
Caney Lake	6/14/25	9.81	St. Jude Benefit
Lake D'Arbonne	7/12/25	9.71	Bayou State Bass Club
Caney Lake	3/15/25	9.59	High School Fishing League
Toledo Bend	2/18/25	9.58	Funkbuster
Caney Lake	6/1/25	9.22	Caney Creek Bass Club
Caney Lake	4/6/25	9.2	Media Bass North - Teams

Top Ten 1st Place Weights

Caney Lake was represented nine times in the Top 10 heaviest bag weights with an impressive top stringer of 42.94 pounds during a tournament in May (Table 3).

Table 3. Top 10 heaviest, 5-bass bag limits weighed in during the 2025 LATRIP tournament season.

Lake	1 st place weight (Lbs.)	Date	Club
Caney Lake	42.94	5/3/25	Caney Creek Bass Club
Caney Lake	37.13	8/25/25	LA Bass Nation- College
Caney Lake	36.67	6/14/25	St. Jude Benefit
Caney Lake	36.1	2/22/25	Twin City Bass Club
Caney Lake	34.83	6/14/25	St. Jude Benefit
Caney Lake	34.67	2/1/25	Fishers of Men – North
Caney Lake	33.72	3/9/25	Caney Creek Bass Club
Black Bayou Hosston	32.58	3/14/25	Louisiana Team Trail
Caney Lake	32.18	2/8/25	Holloway Hookers
Caney Lake	31.73	2/9/25	Caney Creek Bass Club

Number of Bass 5+ Pounds per Tournament

Table 4. Top lakes producing 5+ pound bass per LATRIP tournament in 2025.

Waterbody	Number of Bass 5+ Pounds per Tournament
Lake Claiborne	7.8
Caney Lake	7.7
Black Bayou Lake (Hosston)	6.0
Lake D'Arbonne	3.0
Caddo Lake	2.46

2025 Tournament Club Statistics

Table 5. Summary statistics for each club from which LATRIP data were collected during the 2025 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	10.25	53.65	16.16	6.58	8.49
Bastrop Bass Club	10.5	47.62	12.46	4.28	6.09
Bayou State Bass Club	19.33	37.36	14.81	5.79	5.63
Caernarvon Team Trail	14.71	37.86	16.65	4.67	10.13
Caney Creek Bass Club	9	66.67	32.55	9.56	14.74
Delhi Bass Club	10.67	29.17	9.30	3.75	4.09
Fishers of Men North	12.6	28.57	22.66	7.20	8.31
Fishers of Men South	27.5	70.0	14.73	4.88	7.64
Funkbuster Team Trail	34.33	NA	21.58	7.23	8.94
Hawgherders Bass Club	23.8	32.77	15.57	5.31	5.0
High School Bass Trail	20	29.0	17.88	6.66	7.02
High School Fishing League	62.57	18.49	18.75	6.65	4.62
Holloway Hookers	21	NA	25.04	NA	11.85
Jimmy Granger Team Trail	46	42.61	23.07	7.39	9.12
Jr. Bass League	36.16	6.91	13.37	5.65	2.83
Jr. Southwest Bassmasters	28	8.21	8.49	3.54	2.19
LA Bass Nation	62.0	28.22	20.19	8.02	7.02
LA Bass Nation College	27.5	43.64	26.44	8.78	9.59
LA High School Bass Nation	139	27.34	13.29	5.24	3.64
LA Youth Bass Nation	10	10.0	5.78	1.9	3.03
Lake Verret Bass Club	6.5	84.62	12.19	3.22	9.40
Lock Jaw Bass Club	9.88	35.44	11.55	4.16	5.52
Louisiana Team Trail	39.5	68.67	23.68	7.93	10.47
Media Bass North (Individual)	35.25	41.84	20.83	6.92	6.82

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)	39.17	52.77	23.32	7.54	9.24
Media Bass South (Individual)	34.17	34.15	12.42	4.10	4.36
Media Bass South (Team)	30.17	59.11	13.76	5.23	7.14
National Bass Anglers Association	17.67	57.55	18.0	6.19	8.13
Southeast Bass Association	7.27	72.5	9.58	3.41	6.04
S'Port City Bass Club	36.63	27.99	16.32	6.31	5.22
T.A.B.A.	7.67	31.88	8.72	2.80	4.30
Twin City Bass Club	14	NA	20.52	6.12	8.91
Ultimate Bass Singles	23.71	55.42	20.56	6.49	9.70
Westside Bassmasters	31	NA	14.02	4.59	7.14

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 or 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 and other environmental factors may be a limiting factor in LDWF's attempts to establish Florida Bass genetics 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 and other stressors, 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 Largemouth Bass dominate these populations and may explain the lower performance in some of the size or weight-related LATRIP individual metrics. Tracking tournament performance over time should provide insight into the recovery of these systems, assuming further storm-related fish kills are 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 2025 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, and 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.