

Alabama Department of  
Conservation & Natural Resources  
**PRESS RELEASE**

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**ALABAMA**

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## Record Largemouth Bass Celebrates Twenty Year Anniversary

Size is one reason that largemouth bass are Alabama's most popular sport fish. Alabama's largest known bass, 16 lbs., 8 oz., was caught 20 years ago on November 3, 1987. T. M. (Thomas) Burgin caught the behemoth from a private pond, Mountain View Lake, in Shelby County.

Although a state record fish is hard to beat, the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) has other recognitions for anglers. Anglers can be recognized for catching unusually big fish with lake record recognition and through Master and Trophy Angler recognition.

### **WFF District III Biologist Jerry Moss inspects Thomas Burgin's state record largemouth bass.**

Lake records are now kept for largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass from all reservoirs and state public fishing lakes where these fish are native or have been stocked by WFF. The largest largemouth bass and spotted bass from a private pond are also recognized. Since the Lake Record Program's inception this year, most lakes have not yet had a minimum size fish submitted. Rules and applications for submitting a lake record bass are posted at [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com). A picture of the fish against a ruler is one requirement for lake record recognition.

Two sizes of large sport fish are eligible for certificates and decals: Master Angler and Trophy Angler. The size recognition can be based upon length or weight. The length recognition is important for anglers wishing to release a fish. The species considered for master angler and trophy angler are: largemouth bass, redeye bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, white bass, bluegill, blue catfish,

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channel catfish, flathead catfish, black crappie, white crappie, redear sunfish, sauger, and walleye. Lengths and weights needed for recognition are listed below. A completed application, available from [www.OutdoorAlabama.com](http://www.OutdoorAlabama.com), is required, as is a picture of the fish lying against a ruler.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources promotes wise stewardship, management and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources through five divisions: Marine Police, Marine Resources, State Lands, State Parks, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. To learn more about ADCNR, visit [www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com).

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#### MINIMUM QUALIFYING SIZES FOR ALABAMA'S ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

<b><u>SPECIES</u></b>	<b>Master Angler</b>		<b>Trophy Angler</b>	
	<b>Weight (lbs.-oz.)</b>	<b>Length<sup>a</sup> (inches)</b>	<b>Weight (lbs.-oz.)</b>	<b>Length<sup>a</sup> (inches)</b>
<a href="#"><u>Black Crappie</u></a>	3-00	16"	4-00	17"
<a href="#"><u>Blue Catfish</u></a>	50-00	46"	70-00	51"
<a href="#"><u>Bluegill</u></a>	1-00	10"	2-00	13"
<a href="#"><u>Channel Catfish</u></a>	15-00	32"	25-00	37"
<a href="#"><u>Flathead Catfish</u></a>	30-00	38"	50-00	44"
<a href="#"><u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u></a>	12-00	27"	16-00	29"
<a href="#"><u>Largemouth Bass</u></a>	8-00	23"	10-00	25"
<a href="#"><u>Redear Sunfish</u></a>	1-00	11"	2-00	13"
<a href="#"><u>Redeye Bass</u></a>	0-12	11"	1-00	13"
<a href="#"><u>Sauger</u></a>	2-00	17"	3-00	19"
<a href="#"><u>Smallmouth Bass</u></a>	5-00	20"	7-00	22"
<a href="#"><u>Spotted Bass</u></a>	4-00	19"	6-00	21"
<a href="#"><u>Striped Bass</u></a>	25-00	38"	35-00	42"
<a href="#"><u>Walleye</u></a>	5-00	22"	8-00	26"
<a href="#"><u>White Bass</u></a>	3-00	17"	4-00	19"
<a href="#"><u>White Crappie</u></a>	3-00	16"	4-00	18"