

Fishing Tournament Survey Results

On July 10, 2019, BLPA mailed out 1,725 surveys to members, and to non-member lake property owners. 7 were returned unable to forward. 429 surveys were completed and sent back to BLPA. Here are the results:

1. Do you own property or care for property on Burt Lake? Yes 380 No 49
Unknown 2

2. Have you had Bass anglers in front of your property in the past two years?
Yes 273 No 126

3. Was there communication exchange between you and the anglers?
Yes 48 No 260

4. Please describe this exchange. 48

Full Comment List to Follow

5. Please provide any other input that would help BLPA consider taking actions regarding Bass Tournaments and Bass Fishing in general. 199

Full Comment List to Follow

6. Are you in favor of BLPA taking a position regarding Fishing Tournaments?
Yes 258 No 89

7. If your input is favorable, we may not take any further actions. If your input is not favorable, it is likely BLPA will consider taking the next step which may include various actions, yet to be determined. Would you be supportive if

BLPA takes action that balance the rights of anglers and property owners?

Yes 254 No 49

8. OPTIONAL. Your name and address:

Signed 196

Unsigned 219

Question 4 Comments, "Please describe this exchange" :

- Casual, semi hostile
- Purposely did not engage in any dialog to avoid potential altercations
- It was friendly
- They were rude to us and our neighbors
- They should be advertised so we can be prepared
- It is very annoying and an invasion of our privacy
- They harass the female bass on their nests
- They were at the end of my dock and casting under our PWC
- There has been a marked decrease in the number of small mouth bass
- Love to see fishing boats on the lake
- They got mad when I told them they could not come into my yard to let their dog go potty
- Less than two feet away from my dock
- When I asked them to move off my dock they said "We know where you live." Threat
- No common sense
- The Sheriff needs to enforce the rules
- Bass fishermen are very bold
- Lures have hit my dock. Lures snagged on canopy
- Nasty exchange. They were holding on to my dock. When I asked them to put distance between their boat and my dock, they began calling me very foul names
- Good conversation

- Positive. Good impact on our economy
- I told them to leave the spawning fish alone
- I told them they were too close to the dock. They ignored me
- I asked them to not touch my dock. They gave me a dirty look and left. I fear they will return to my property and do damage for revenge
- Not nice. I was told to go to H###
- Extremely rude and foul language with the tournament fishermen. Never have issues with casual fishermen
- Foul language when I asked them to move away
- Tried to explain they needed to maintain 100 foot away from docks and hoists. They said they had every right to fish wherever they wanted
- I didn't go outside because their boat was so close and not moving
- Not pleasant. Verbal confrontation
- It wasn't good
- I asked them why they were so close to my dock. They just kept fishing
- I requested they stay a respectful distance from our dock. The verbal exchange then became very unpleasant
- Peeping Tom situation
- They were right on our dock. I have pictures

Question 5 Comments, lakefront property owners. "Please provide any other input that would help BLPA to prepare a fair and objective summary of the views of our stakeholders regarding Bass Tournaments and Bass fishing in general" :

- Please be respectful of lakefront properties. Recommend fishing 25 foot from my dock
- Seems like a simple fix. Simply schedule all bass tournaments during July and August. In May and June, bass are spawning. During this time they make their nests in shallow water. The male protects the fry at the nest. The males are easy to catch at this time thus leaving the fry exposed and unprotected. Even if the male is released it is too late. Predators will have eaten the young

fry. Summer tournaments would do two things: it gets the fish and fishermen into deeper waters and away from your docks; and it also saves the young fry for the future. Also, weighing in of the bass caught during these tournaments is many miles away, thus males caught are not able to return to their nests

- The fishermen need to respect the swimming areas and the safety of children in the swimming areas
- Do not over regulate people enjoying the lake and having fun
- Fishing is for food and fun. Competition is increasing the hostile mindset Normal fishermen do not come as close to our docks and are pleasant
- They leave a constant stream of garbage
- I worry about my children swimming
- When we are sitting on our sundeck, they are right next to us, gawking, rude, and intrusive
- The bass beds that have been on our shoreline for 50 years have all disappeared
- They are casting lures on our dock
- When the boats begin and end the day, they do not observe the no wake zone on the river. 30 boats going too fast, often 3 or 4 abreast
- Work with the people running tournaments, including disqualifying violators - those that do not follow the rules
- There needs to be mutual respect
- Speed. There is a large wake in the river
- Business owners want more people
- People put buoys in front of docks. This is illegal.
- Boats only have to stay 100 foot from docks
- Not requesting any actions
- Let them fish if they stay clear of boat docks and lifts
- I do not like them so close to the dock. Why can't they fish out deeper?
- Zero fishing tournaments are my preferences
- Limit the number of tournaments
- Release the fish caught immediately back in Burt Lake, not the river
- Lighten up. The lake should be shared by all

- Lures stuck into my dock, dock line, boat
- I'm not opposed to fishing but be respectful of others' property
- Most property owners are ornery
- They don't listen
- They should keep 100 foot distance
- Too many tournaments. Protect the lake
- Fisherman was holding his boat against my dock in order to fish under my dock
- Establish a reasonable distance from private property
- I see how the tournaments are good for the economy, but overfishing can negatively impact the lake. I would like to see a balance
- If there are not rules regarding proximity to docks and shore stations please encourage such legislation
- They fish more than once a year. Too often
- I think these events are fine
- A responsible fisherman would not cast his lure in the proximity of anyone on their dock or in the water
- BLPA should communicate with fishing groups
- We do not want bass fishermen to come close to our dock. We have grandchildren playing on the dock and in the water next to our dock
- How about saying to the fishermen "have a great time"
- Very friendly exchange
- BLPA should step aside. What authority do they have?
- We all have to get along
- Tournament rules should be civil and polite
- Some of the tournament proceeds should go to restoring fish
- Has not been a problem
- Tournament fishermen and organizers have no respect for residents
- The tournament fishermen are rude and aggressive. This is not something we want to deal with year after year
- They think they own the river and lake with no respect for no wake. They block the river during loading and unloading
- There should be no bass tournaments on Burt Lake. The die-off released fish are horrific. I have pictures. I have witnessed the

demise of Bass fishing. Also, bass fishing should take place after spawning, not taking fish off their spawning beds

- Would prefer catch, weigh, immediate release to protect the fish stock
- This is overreach for BLPA. Work through the DNR
- If they are rude, they should be reported to tournament officials
- They have a right to use the lake
- What would the lake say? Fish wherever you want. People should stop being so crabby and possessive about the lake
- The drop off is 400 feet from my dock, so no problem
- They should stay 100 foot from my dock
- They hit my boat which was on the hoist with their boat. Never said a thing to me. Just acted like it never happened.
- The 100 foot rule. Unless slow no wake speed, watercraft must stay 100 foot away from all boats, docks, hoist, buoyed swimming areas and persons wading or swimming
- Property owners should be a little more patient
- Sheriff needs to give citation to foul mouth boaters
- It is not an issue at the high banks
- All people should respect everyone's property
- I do not approve of fishing tournaments of any kind. Bass fishing is catch and release but many die. Way too much fishing pressure.
- Invasion of privacy. Disrespectful
- Not in favor of taking fish off their beds. When they are removed, predators move in, eat their fry or eggs
- Don't punish all bass fishermen
- The survey is a waste of BLPA funds
- There needs to be common sense
- Why would we impede visitors
- We don't own the water
- Wish they didn't come so close to shore
- It is shallow, sandy bottom, so we don't have fishermen
- There needs to be civility between fishermen and property owners
- We should promote our lake for visitors
- Too close. Our kids were swimming and they were casting in the same area

- They are too close. If their equipment failed, they would crash into our dock
- If this is an issue, start with education
- Fishermen should be self-regulating in a responsible manor
- The north arm is mostly sand
- Happy to have them
- We should not do anything that harms jobs in our area
- Balance is the key
- People who run tournaments need to step up and get fishermen in line with proper protocol
- Fishermen have pressure to win prize money, but should also respect property owner rights
- A recent scientific article states that 60% of the bass caught and released die from the trauma of their removal from the nest
- I do not oppose anyone's right to fish. I do oppose infringing on other people's docks
- I was on my dock trying to read. They were right next to me. Disruptive and intrusive
- There should be some restrictions in the tournament rules
- Take actions to support tournaments
- The problem is with Bass fishermen. Not a problem with Walleye fishermen
- Alarming to see the number of Bass boats parading back and forth over and over in the same spot all day
- Taking Bass that are guarding their nests is wrong. Pure and simple
- The tournaments are part of the tourism of the community. Let's put up with the inconvenience and support our local economy
- Bass are on their beds. This is like shooting fish in a barrel
- A non-tournament angler was unable to launch his boat. The Bass anglers were rude and obnoxious to him
- We own the shore. The water is public. Let them fish
- Removed 5 lures from our swim area
- Please stay out of our swim area
- They were right next to us when we are sunning on our docks. Awkward and uncomfortable

Question 5 comments, non-lakefront property owners. “Please provide any other input that would help BLPA to prepare a fair and objective summary of the views of our stakeholders regarding Bass Tournaments and Bass Fishing in general” :

- Communicate with sponsors to discuss concerns
- Expressing some general lake courtesies both ways. Mutual respect. Both sides love the lake
- Do not legislate for a few bad apples
- Fishermen have the same right to use the water as everyone else
- The water is a local resource and should be respectfully shared by all
- A few days a year. Live with it
- What about no fishing zones inside buoys
- If rights are not being respected appropriate action is warranted
- Fishing tournaments are a boost to the local economy
- Navigable waters are public
- Too much of one thing can be disruptive to other activities: swimming, boating, water toys
- The lake and rivers are here for all of us to enjoy
- We need to engage the tournament organizers
- Limit fishing locations to where neighbors are not offended
- Releasing Bass in different areas from where they were caught is not good for the species
- Make it a tournament rule. Violators will be disqualified