# Guaranteeing a Level Playing Field - the B.A.S.S. Perspective



#### **Gene Gilliland, Conservation Director**

ATTACHMENT A - B.A.S.S. Presentation-MINUTES 20190219



**Bassmaster Tournaments Sabine River, Orange, Texas** 

**Bassmaster Elite Series 2013** 

**Bassmaster Elite Series 2015** 

**Bassmaster Open Series 2017** 











# The 2018 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Elite at Sabine River presented by Econo Lodge

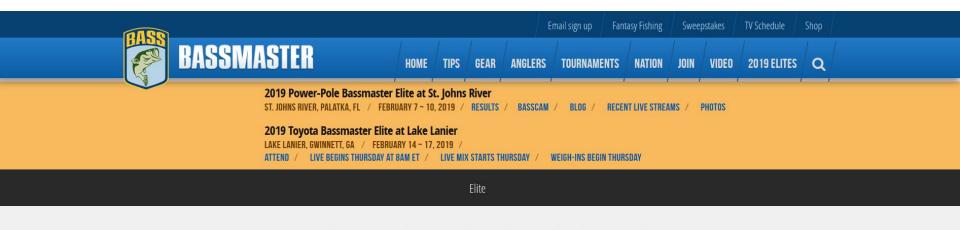
Bassmaster Elite Tournament in 2015 drew more than 33,000 fans.











#### Louisiana waters off limits for 2018 Sabine Elite Tournament

August 10, 2017

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"In two previous Elite Series tournaments, and one Bassmaster Open out of Orange, Louisiana's unusual laws governing access to navigable waters have created conflict and confusion among anglers

Due to the grey areas in the Louisiana Delta/Tidal waters that could create an uneven playing field, the 2018 Elite event in Orange will be restricted to Texas waters only.

Similar problems exist in the Atchafalaya Basin area of south-central Louisiana, a large portion of which is privately owned. B.A.S.S. has also decided not to schedule professional tournaments in that area until and unless the public access issues are resolved."



Trip Weldon, B.A.S.S. Tournament Director











"Posting is not required of private waters nor are there good landmarks on public waters so it is easy to be in the wrong place and be charged out of negligence for trespassing in <u>unmarked</u> marsh areas"



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#### LCBA Attends Lt. Gov. Tourism Summit

CHARTER BOAT ASSOCIATION

Posted Aug. 31, 2018

By Richard Fischer LCBA Communications Manager

LCBA Communications Manager Richard Fischer attended the 2018 Lt. Governor's Tourism Summit in Lake Charles last week.

Richard promoted wonderful Louisiana charter fishing experiences to tourism professionals who work tirelessly to bring visitors (AKA potential customers) to our great state.

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser capped the event with a recap of his office's work in the past year and previewed next year's tourism campaign.

LCBA enjoys our relationships with Louisiana's tourism professionals, and we look forward to continuing to work together to bring more visitors to your regions.



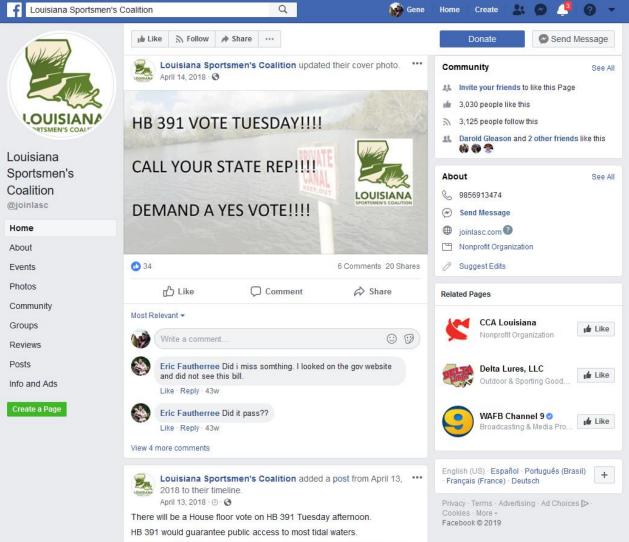


### House bill addresses public access

GAMBIT

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	and the second		Two bills filed in the State House of Representatives directly affect Louisiana's outdoorsmen.								
	2		One of them, House Bill 391, could alter a lately changing								
	f 🔤	acaluso	landscape for recreational fishermen, especially in the coastal parishes.								
			HB 391, files by Rep. J. Kevin Pearson, R-Slidell, seeks to put a halt								
		to the current problem of closed waters and waterways. It involves								es	
			Louisiana Revised Statutes 9:1251.1.								
			According to the file on record, the bill is "relative to the navigable								
		waters; to provide aquatic life; to provide for applicability to									
			ownership of banks or water bottoms of waterways; to prohibit								
			the restriction of the right to access running waters in certain								
			circumstances; to provide exceptions; to provide for the definition								
			of 'running wate	ers'; to pr	ovide for l	imitations	of lia	bility; a	and to		RASS
			provide for rela	ted matte	ers."						





LaSC needs you to call your State Rep and as many other State Reps as

Chat (Off) 🗹 🐉 🌼



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HOME \ NEWS \ NATIONAL

#### Bassmaster tournaments seek calmer waters as La. trial lawyers spoil 'sportsmen's paradise'







WHY Quicken Loans EXPERTS RECOMMEND







FREE[ER] AT DAWN





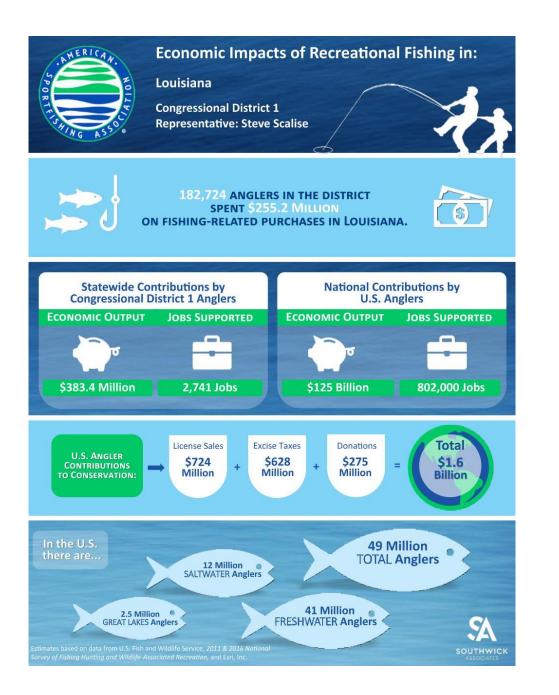






## ECONOMICS



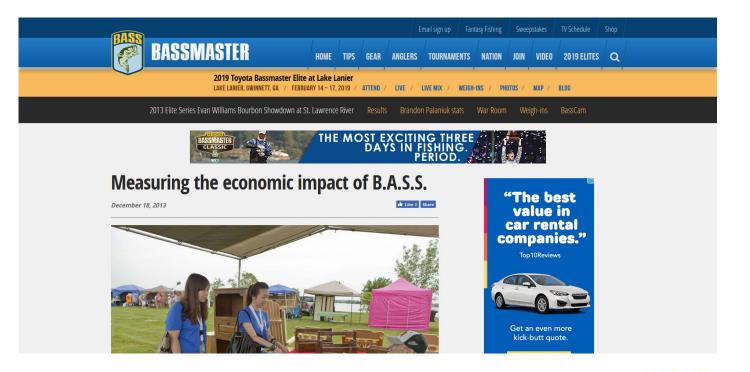








Bass fishing is the most popular type of fishing in the United States. Thirty-eight percent of all freshwater anglers in the United States fish for black bass.





## \$2.5 million impact from each Elite Series tournament

## \$2.1 million impact from each Open Series event.



CBS NEWS | June 19, 2017, 8:56 AM

## Small Tennessee town reels in bass fishermen

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On a cool Thursday morning, before sunrise, nearly 200 bass fishing boats launched from a small dock in Dayton, Tennessee.

While the anglers compete to hook the biggest bass in Chickamauga Lake, the town is cashing in. So says Dennis Tumlin, the head of the Rhea County Economic & Tourism Council.

"Our statistics show us that about \$14 million came into town last year," Tumlin told CBS News' Dana Jacobson.



In 2015 Gabe Keen broken a Tennessee state record when he caught a bass weighing 15 pounds, three ounces, in Chickamauga Lake. ELMER HARRIS/COURTESY RHEA COUNTY ECONOMIC & TOURISM COUNCIL

That's \$14 million in things like food, lodging, and new tax revenue. That's a big deal for this small town of 7,200 in southeastern Tennessee.

Mayor Gary Louallen was raised in Dayton. It was, he said, "just a small country town, had little country stores" when he was growing up.

It's also a town that's been struggling since the recession.

Dayton is in the heart of Rhea County, one of the more depressed areas of Tennessee, based on statistics that include poverty rate, household income and unemployment. But when Mayor

Louallen was elected four years ago, he had a plan to turn around Dayton's economy.

A fisherman, Louallen went to the council and said, "Guys, if you'll just trust me and run with me on this, fishing could really make it good for us."

Turns out Dayton was sitting on a secret: Chickamauga Lake is more than 50 miles long, and boasts some of the best bass fishing in the South.

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Prosecutors cast EI Chapo as a larger-than-life drug kingpin, at one time one of the world's richest men, yet a cold-blooded executioner; with testimony from 56 witnesses, the government proved to the jury that drugs and weapons were EI Chapo's wares cbsn.ws/2TMh25g



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### The Super Bowl of Bass Fishing Returns to the Louisiana Delta

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Top bass anglers are gearing up for the 41st edition of the Bassmaster Classic to be held on the Louisiana Delta Feb. 18-20..Known as the Super Bowl of bass fishing, the Bassmaster Classicincludes 50 of the world's best anglers and draws spectators from around the country.

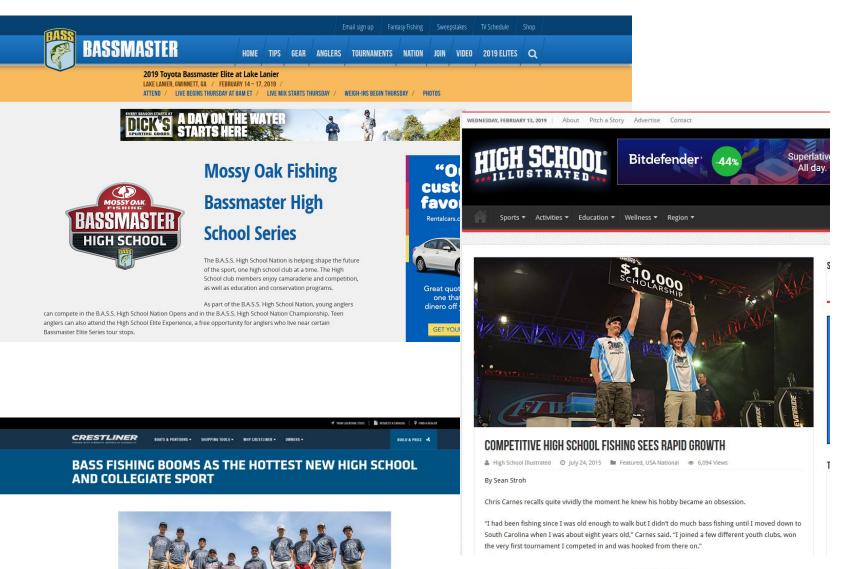
The competition will feature daily launches at Bayou Segnette State Park, and official weigh-ins will take place at the New Orleans Arena. During the tournament, the Ernest Morial Convention Center will also play host to the 2011 Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo presented by Dick's Sporting Goods, which expands 200,000 square feet. The expo is free to the public and features hundreds of boat, motor and tackle manufacturers for freshwater and saltwater anglers.

"Louisiana is truly a sportsman's paradise, and we have some of the best fishing waters in the world here inthe New Orleans area," said Mayor Mitch Landrieu. "I would like to thank B.A.S.S. for hosting the Classic here again and welcome all those who are visiting."

Last time the Classic was in Louisiana, in Shreveport and Bossier Clty, the competition attracted a record 137,700 visitors and had an estimated economic impact of \$27 million, according to economists at LSU-Shreveport.

"New Orleans has a longstanding reputation as a favorite destination city for major sporting events, and the Greater New Orleans Sports Foundation has a rich history of hosting these events. Add to that the popularity of Louisiana as







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Why the fight over access to public waters in Louisiana, and across the country, is fundamental to the future of hunting and fishing in America



### IMAGE











