

1. The following is an excerpt of an economic impact study conducted by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that was released in 1998. This study compared all counties in the State of Florida and Putnam County ranked 1<sup>st</sup> over all rural counties with the highest total impacts and ranked 10<sup>th</sup> of all Florida counties in “highest freshwater fishing” impacts. This study has not been updated, but our general tourism indicators have all shown steady growth from 1998 forward.

PUTNAM	HUNTING	FRESHWATER FISHING	WILDLIFE VIEWERS	TOTAL
Number of Participants	<b>3,124</b>	<b>33,585</b>	<b>17,400</b>	<b>54,109</b>
Retail Sales	<b>\$5,482,926</b>	<b>\$25,625,679</b>	<b>\$7,934,400</b>	<b>\$39,043,005</b>
State Sales Tax	<b>\$417,689</b>	<b>\$1,905,242</b>	<b>\$444,480</b>	<b>\$2,767,411</b>
Jobs	<b>213</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>1,019</b>
Total Economic Impact	<b>\$14,264,233</b>	<b>\$41,487,008</b>	<b>\$16,811,520</b>	<b>\$72,562,761</b>

If you combine total impacts for freshwater fishing and wildlife viewing it comes to roughly \$58 million and that was 14 years ago! You can assign some percentage to Rodman area (Kenwood, Rodman Campground, Rodman Lake, Spillway etc) as it is one of the premiere locations for both of these activities; others include Lake Crescent, Lake George, Ravine Gardens (wildlife viewing), and St. Johns River (Palatka, Welaka, East Palatka). I would think a conservative number would be 20 percent which would have been close to \$12 million per year in total economic impact from Rodman area.

2. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission publishes a list of the top bass fisheries in the State of Florida each year and Rodman has been on the list as far back as I have been tracking (2003). Rodman, Lake Crescent & the St. Johns take 3 of the top 10 consistently.

3. Rodman's reputation for large bass is one of the main reasons we are able to successfully attract large-scale tournaments (like BASS Elite) as well as the thousands of recreational anglers who visit annually.

We hold numerous bass tournaments during a year. On average they have 100 anglers and are 2-day events creating an economic impact of well over \$250,000 each. We have hosted several BASS events lasting for 5 days delivering an economic impact of over \$1,500,000. MLF/FLW, Wolfson and a few other tournaments with 200-400 anglers, average impacts of \$1,000,000 each plus as well. These dollars are vital for our county – we depend on profitable tourism!

Rodman Reservoir covers 9,500 acres of prime largemouth bass habitat. Since its creation in 1968, Rodman Reservoir has been known for trophy largemouth bass. The state's largest bass of 2000, 15 pounds and 17 pounds, came from the reservoir during March. Much of the largemouth bass fishery's success is due to abundant habitat in the form of stumps and aquatic vegetation and periodic drawdowns. Strong year classes of largemouth bass are produced following drawdowns, which allow a higher percentage of fish to reach trophy sizes.