

Glen Elder District Fisheries

Volume 8, Issue 1 Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Spring 2017

Jewell State Fishing Lake Forecast

The lake is FULL as of March 2017. **We will be conducting a creel survey at Jewell in 2017. Please take a few minutes to answer the questions from the creel clerk as it will assist us in making the best management decisions for the lake.**

CATFISH - Good. A wide range of sizes were collected during fall netting and catfish numbers remained steady compared with the 2016 sample with fish between 10 and 25 inches sampled, and the biggest weighing 5.2 pounds. Size structure was smaller with 35% of the sample greater than the 15 inch minimum length limit. Fish from the previous two stockings were most abundant with these 10 to 14 inch fish accounting for 65% of the catch. There are plenty of bigger catfish, however, as catfish up to 15 pounds were reported in 2016 so be on the lookout for bigger fish as well. Another 2,500 8-12 inch fish were stocked in the fall to maintain numbers. **Remember there is a 15 inch minimum length limit on channel catfish!**

CRAPPIE – Fair/Good. Anglers harvested very high numbers of crappie in 2016 as the fish were concentrated for spawning and easy to locate and catch. Because of that, the density rating of 8.8 is much lower than the previous rating of 13.5 collected in fall 2015. Crappie are still abundant in the lake and anglers are helping to keep their numbers in check with continued harvest. Body condition of the fish in the latest sample indicated the fish are only in fair condition. The bulk of the population consists of 8-9 inch fish which accounted for 84% of the catch. A few 10-12 inch fish will also be available in 2017, but their numbers are much lower. Reproduction is sporadic and the population will likely be cyclical because of it. A strong year class may only be produced once every 3-4 years and anglers will notice as these fish grow into harvestable size. Still, crappie are very popular among anglers at Jewell and the 2017 harvest will be similar or slightly less compared with 2016. Jewell ranks #2 in terms of black crappie density among all the lakes in the state.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Good. Spring electrofishing revealed another decrease in the total number of largemouth bass collected for the second consecutive year. This is a direct result of the 13-18 inch slot length limit which has allowed harvest of fish less than 18 inches. The population is now at the desired density, and because of that, the length limit will revert back to an 18 inch minimum length limit beginning in January 2018. A wide range of sizes was collected with fish from 3 to 19 inches and up to 5 pounds in the sample. Overall, 15% were 3-7 inches, 31% were 9-12 inches, 52% were 13-18 inches, and 2% were 19 inches. Anglers will generally be pleased with the bass angling opportunities at Jewell and should have no trouble catching good numbers of medium-sized fish with the occasional lunker mixed in.



Glen Elder Reservoir

2017 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

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General Information: The reservoir is approximately 1.1 feet low as of March 2017. All boat ramps and facilities will be open and usable again this year.

Don't forget there is a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish!

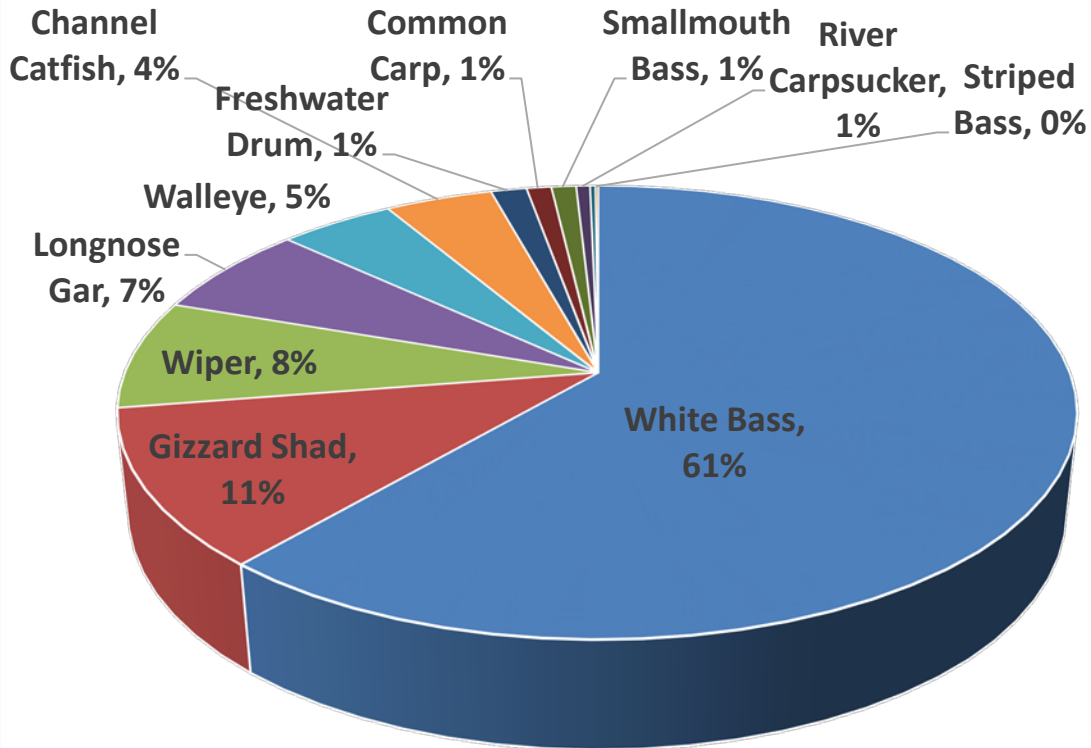


Special Regulations:

- Blue Catfish—35 inch minimum length limit
- Crappie—Daily creel limit of 20 fish
- Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass—18 inch minimum length limit

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016)



Relative Abundance (2016 gill nets)

	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish*	6	22.4	10.2-27.1	5.5	0.3-8.1
Channel Catfish	39	21.0	14.0-33.7	3.9	0.8-17.9
Crappie	224	9.9	2.6-12.4	0.6	0.1-1.2
Flathead Catfish*	116	17.1	6.5-36.8	3.5	0.1-29.0
Gizzard Shad	102	15.3	5.0-19.1	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass**	97	8.1	3.3-18.7	0.5	0.1-4.0
Smallmouth Bass**	226	10.2	4.5-19.5	0.8	0.1-3.9
Walleye	42	17.8	9.3-22.2	2.2	0.2-4.2
White Bass	560	11.0	4.9-17.1	0.8	0.1-2.7
Wiper	71	20.7	18.3-24.2	4.4	3.6-6.7

*Collected during summer electrofishing

**Collected during spring electrofishing

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

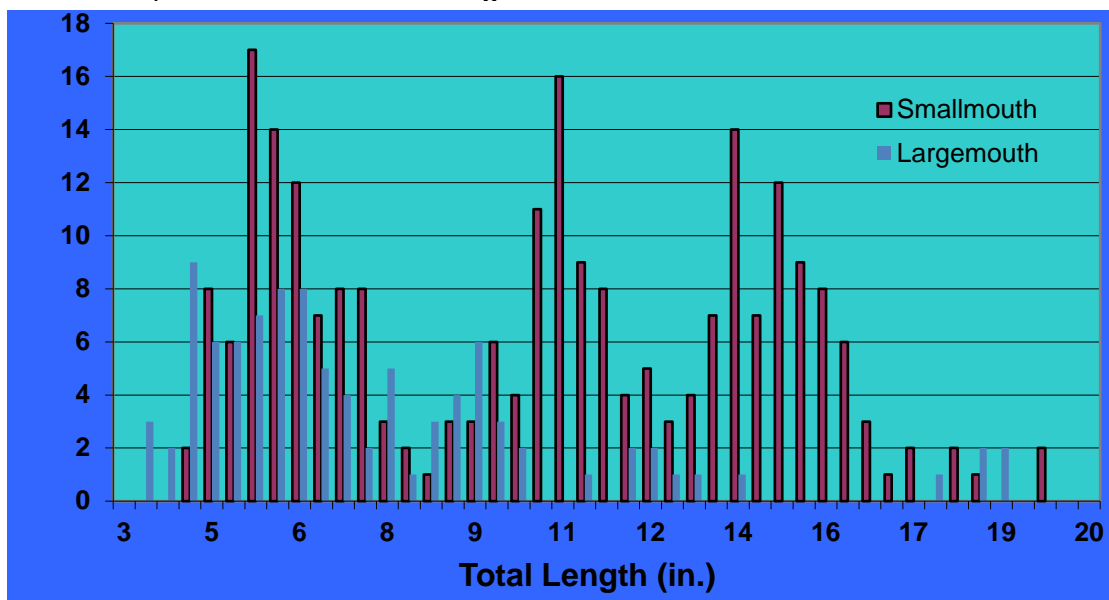
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

BLACK BASS--GOOD

Smallmouth bass catch rate remained steady in the spring 2016 sample, but the density rating improved for the third consecutive year and is the highest (17.6) since 2011 (19.3). In addition, the preferred rating of 11.2 is improved over the 8.1 value from last year and is the highest since 2010. Glen Elder ranks #4 in the state for density (>11"), #2 in the state for preferred (>14") and #3 for lunker (>17"). The biggest fish collected weighed 3.9 pounds and all sizes of fish were in excellent shape. Thirty-eight percent of the fish were between 4 and 7 inches, 31% were 8 to 12 inches, 28% were 13-16 inches, and 3% were over 17 inches. Very good production has occurred the last 4 years with improved numbers of young fish in the sample. Largemouth bass catch rate (17.8) was the highest recorded in over 20 years as recent production has



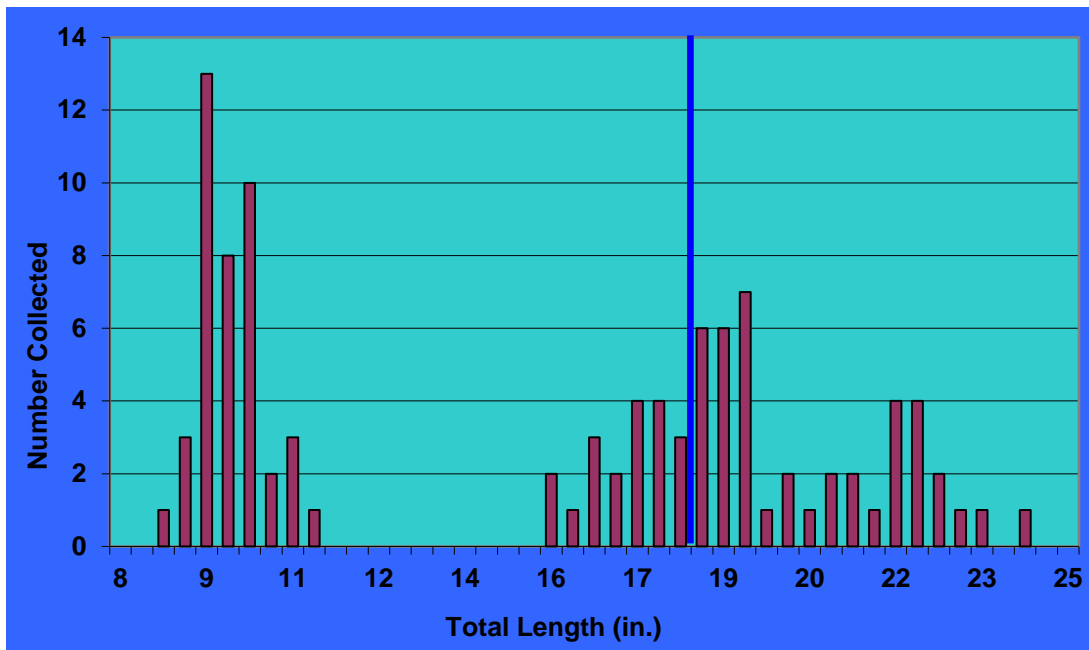
boosted the numbers of young fish in the reservoir. The largemouth bass density rating increased 130% compared with 2015 and the preferred rating increased 15%. Sixty-seven percent of the fish were between 4 and 7 inches, 26% were 8 to 12 inches, 2% were 13-16 inches, and 5% were over 17 inches. The biggest fish weighed 3.9 pounds. Anglers should notice improved largemouth numbers these next few years. **18 inch minimum length limit in effect.**



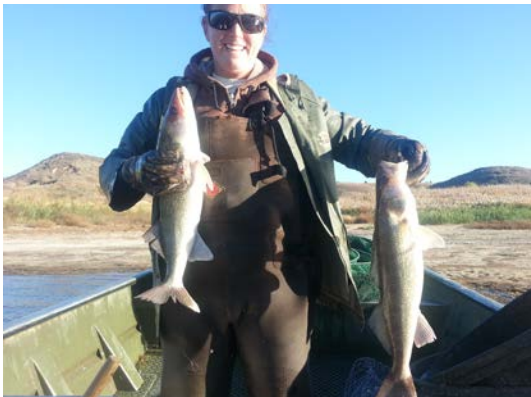
GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--GOOD



The walleye catch rate declined 42% in 2016 compared to 2015, but the density rating only declined from 2.4 to 1.7 and the preferred rating increased from 0.1 to 0.2. The total catch rate is still 65% lower than the high of 5.1 in 2012, but Glen Elder remains one of the top walleye reservoirs in the state ranking #6 in walleye density. A very nice year class of young walleye was produced in 2016 and these 8-11 inch fish will begin to replenish the population in upcoming years. While the numbers may be down, there is still a nice population of fish that will provide quality angling in 2017. Anglers should have a good chance of catching keeper 'eyes as the sample showed 44% of the fish were of legal size. Approximately 40% of the catch was between 8 and 11 inches with 31% between 18 and

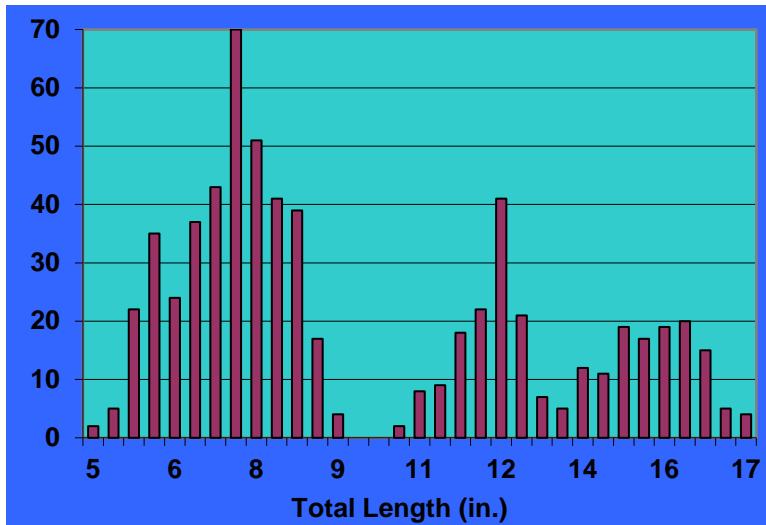


21 inches, 16% between 15 and 17 inches, and 13% between 22 and 24 inches. Fish condition was very good this past fall due to a nice gizzard shad year class. Walleye fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2016, but will not be stocked in 2017 to determine the contribution of naturally-produced fish to the population. Stocking will be resumed in 2018 with a combination of fry and fingerlings. Anglers should expect walleye angling success similar to 2016. **There is still an 18 inch minimum length limit on walleye.**

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--GOOD



Of all species sampled, white bass are showing the biggest improvement thanks to two back to back strong year classes that are quickly returning the population back to normal levels for Glen Elder. Total catch hit a low in 2014 with only 11.4 fish per net collected, but that has more than doubled in 2 years with a catch rate of 23.3 fish per net this past fall. Glen Elder currently ranks #5 among the state's reservoirs in terms of white bass density (>9"), preferred (>12"), and lunker (>15") ratings. In addition, the catch rate of fish less than 9 inches was



14.5, following a 10.5 catch rate in 2015. Fish between 9 and 12 inches accounted for 22% of the catch, with fish between 13 and 17 inches accounting for 16%, and 5 to 8 inch fish representing 62%. The spring spawning period up both river forks can be very good given adequate inflows. Hot summer days will find whites schooling in open water and chasing shad on the surface while night anglers do very well using floating lights. Fall is often a great time to pull out the slabs and fish along rocky points and other inshore areas, while winter ice fishing may be the best time to catch these guys when they stack up along the river.

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

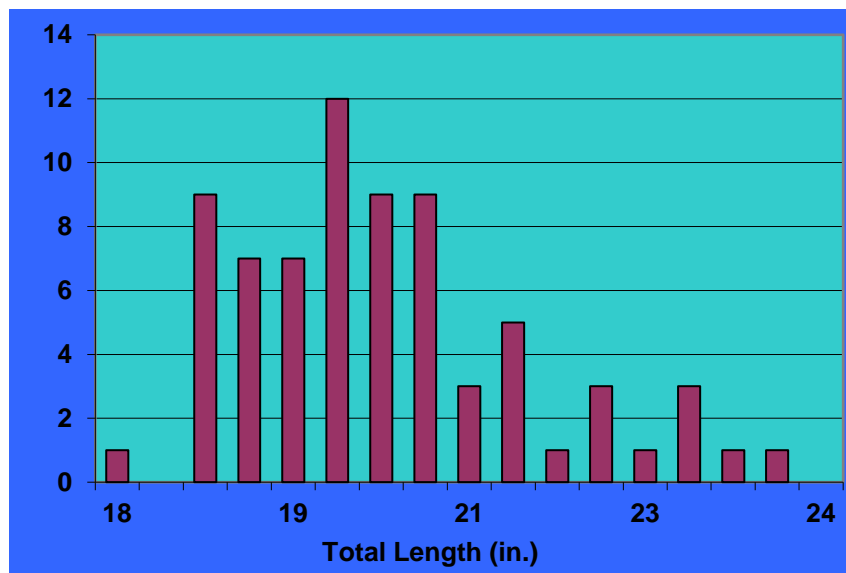
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WIPER--GOOD



Wipers have been stocked only four times in the past decade (2006, 2008, 2012, and 2013) to keep a moderate number of fish in the reservoir as a biological control for gizzard shad as well as an additional sportfish. Because wipers have not been stocked since 2013 the smallest fish are 18 inches with the biggest collected being 25 inches. Angler reports this past year indicate fish up to 10 pounds are caught on occasion. The 2016 catch rate declined 14% as expected, but the size structure is excellent. Sixty-three percent of the fish are between 18 and 20 inches while 35% are between 21 and 23 inches, and 2% are 24-25 inches. Body condition was good for all sizes. Glen Elder wipers rank #6 for density (>18"), #2 for preferred (>20"), and #3 for lunker (>24") among the state's reservoirs. A few large stripers (9-20 pounds) can also be found with ice anglers catching most of them. Stripers were stocked in 2014 and a handful of 20 inch fish were sampled last fall.

Anglers can find wipers mixed in with white bass throughout the year, but in general, the wipers tend to occupy the lower end of the reservoir near the dam and hang out in Walnut Creek much of the year. Slabbing over humps, trolling crankbaits, or casting bucktail jigs off windy points are some of the better methods for catching wipers.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

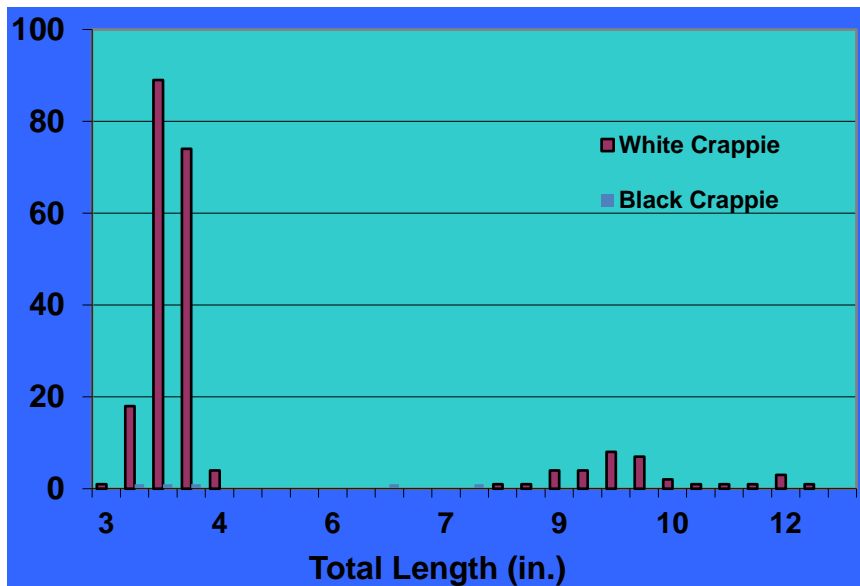
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--POOR

The crappie population at Glen Elder continues to slowly rebound since the low point of 2014 when density rating declined to 0.8. Numbers improved to 1.2 in 2015 and 1.3 in 2016. Water levels have been very good the past 2 years allowing for some crappie reproduction, although much



less than what was produced in 2008 and 2009. Fishing in late fall and winter has been improved with a few anglers reporting limits off the main lake brush piles and the river channels. Fish between 3 and 4 inches accounted for 85% of the fall sample, fish between 8 and 11 inches were 13%, and fish 12 inches and greater comprised 2% with the biggest fish collected weighing 1.2 pounds. The cold water period when they are schooled up on brush and channel breaks may be the best time to fish near Swim Beach Point, Campground 3, Harrison Point, and the causeway. The spring spawn is also a good bet to catch some fish, but they will be more difficult to locate and find fish, similar to 2016.



Don't forget
there is a 20
fish/day creel
limit at Glen
Elder
Reservoir!

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

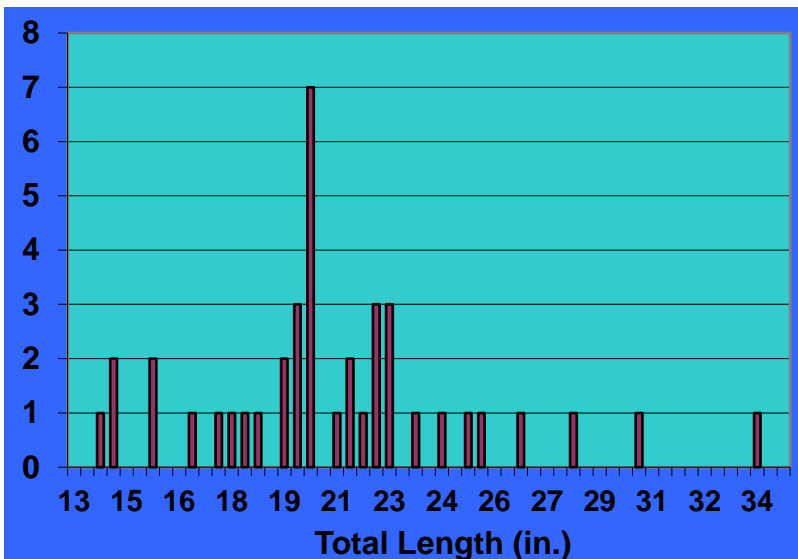
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD



Channel catfish numbers exhibited a sharp decline compared with the 2015 sample with total CPUE dropping from 3.0 to 1.6 and density rating declining from 2.6 to 1.4. This is the lowest density rating at Glen Elder in over 20 years. Poor recruitment in recent years is evident based on the low catch rate of fish less than 15 inches. Angler harvest of channel catfish continues to be relatively high during the

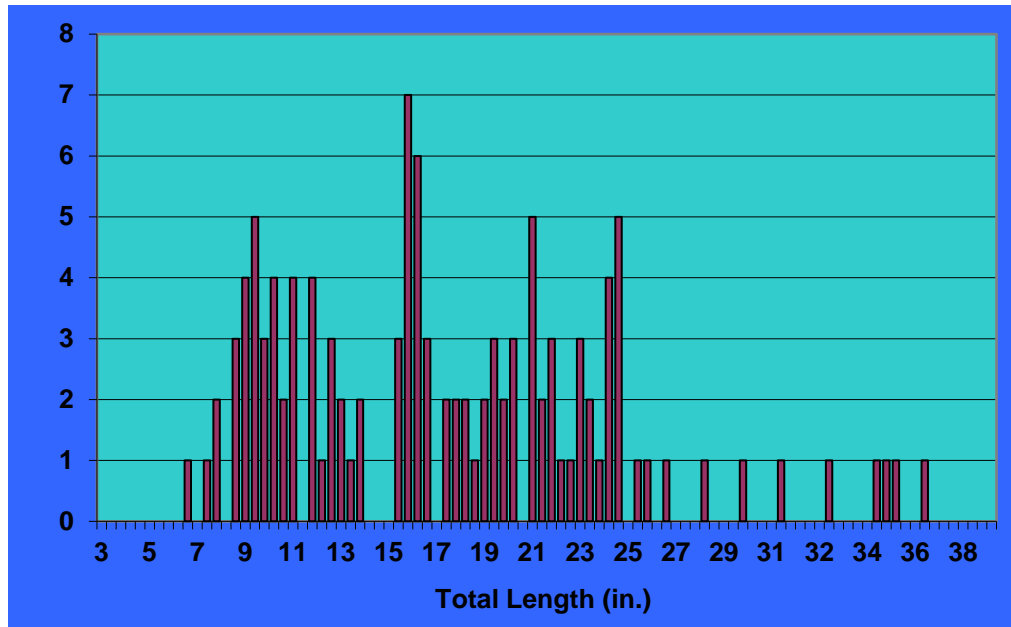
summer with chumming dominating the catch. Size structure will be similar to last year with the best numbers of fish between 17 and 20 inches as this size group accounted for 41% of the catch. Fish between 21 and 25 inches comprised 36% of the sample, fish 14-16 inches were 13%, and fish 26 to 34 inches represented 10%. Catfish condition remains good for smaller fish and excellent for larger fish.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

FLATHEAD CATFISH--GOOD



Flathead catfish are sampled each summer using low frequency electrofishing as the best method for sampling all sizes of flatheads. This year's sample collected 116 flathead catfish ranging from 7 to 37 inches with the biggest fish weighing 29 pounds. Seven percent of the fish were over 10 pounds, but the majority of the catch was much smaller with fish between 10 and 20 inches accounting for 51% of the catch. Flatheads can be caught along the rocky banks during the spawn in June and July and are often found in the brush piles throughout the year. Set line anglers annually have success for both channels and flatheads fishing up west, around Mill Creek, and Walnut Creek.

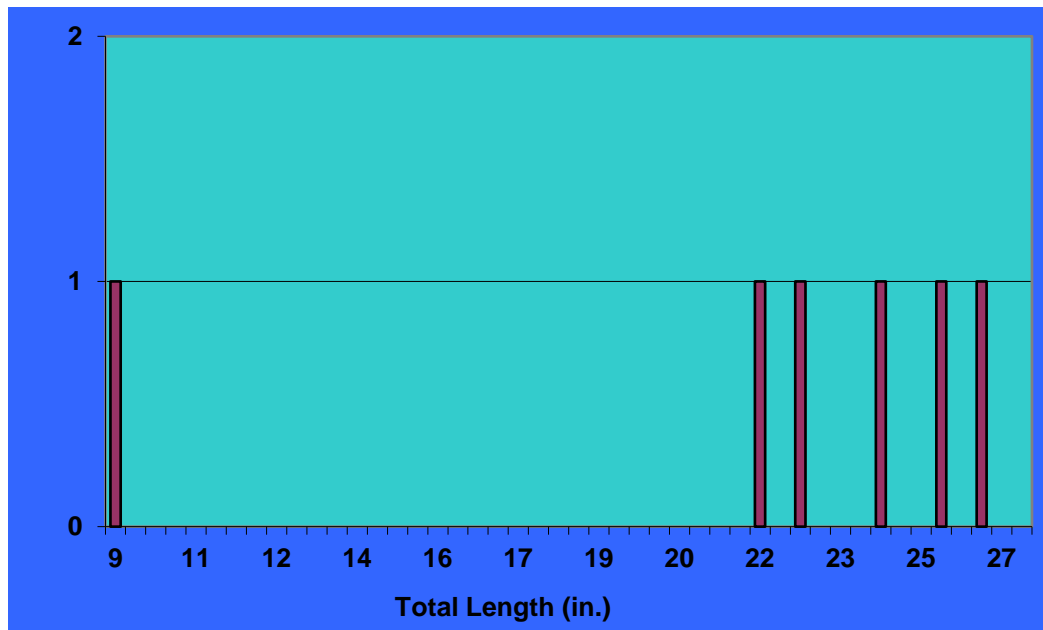


GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Glen Elder since 2010 with 100,000 fish stocked. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we implemented a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish until they can reproduce naturally. Blue catfish numbers are slowly increasing with fish up to 26 inches and 10 pounds collected this past year. The new 35 inch minimum length limit will protect these fish until they reach reproductive size and the population can be self-sustaining. For now, anglers are required to release all blue catfish less than 35 inches!





Lovewell Reservoir

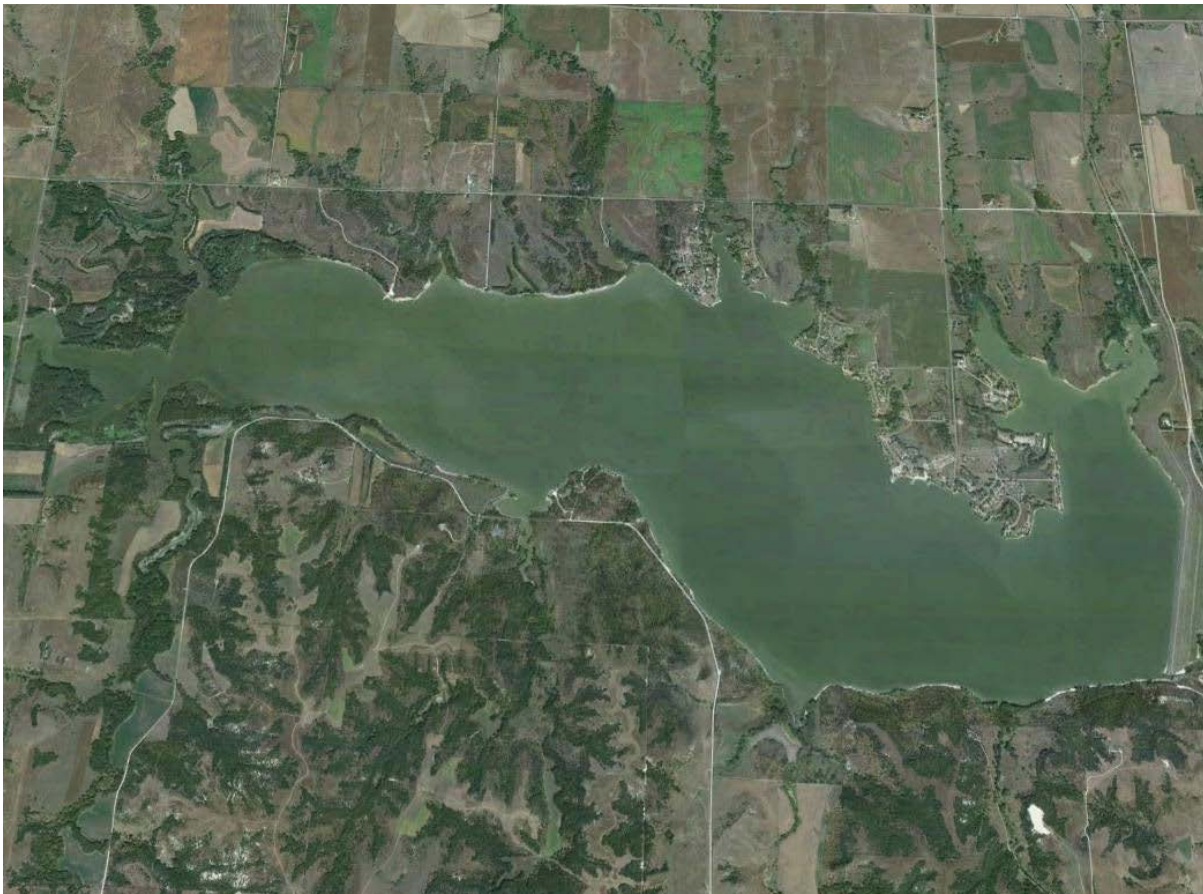
2017 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

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General Information: The reservoir is approximately 1.6 feet high as of March 2017. Be on the lookout for blue catfish which have been stocked since 2010. The fish barrier will be in operation again this year beginning in April so keep an eye out for it near the outlet. **Please stay away from the barrier and don't fish next to it!**

Don't forget the 35 inch length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell!

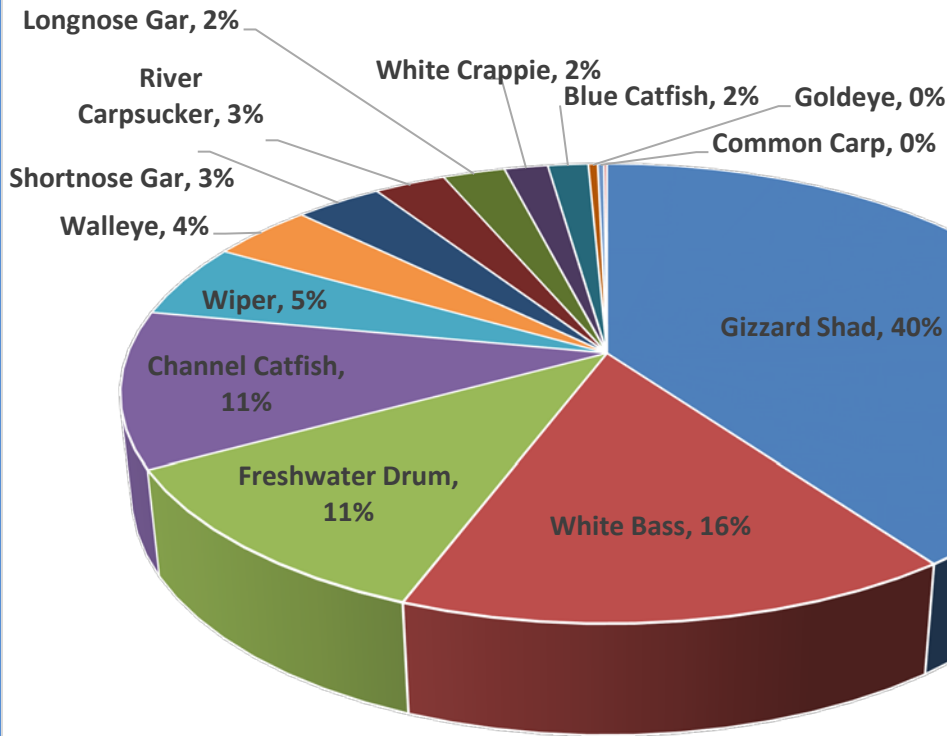


Special Regulations:

- Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit
- Blue Catfish—35 inch minimum length limit

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016)



Relative Abundance (2016 gill nets)

	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish*	141	22.2	8.9-34.1	6.1	0.2-18.2
Bluegill	101	5.6	2.2-6.5	0.1	0.1-0.2
Channel Catfish	90	17.0	6.5-26.6	1.8	0.1-6.4
Crappie	2,095	7.9	3.0-13.6	0.3	0.1-1.5
Gizzard Shad	328	8.7	4.9-18.7	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass**	17	9.9	4.1-17.5	0.8	0.1-3.2
Walleye	33	19.0	8.1-25.0	3.1	0.1-6.7
White Bass	129	9.8	5.3-14.8	9.3	0.1-1.4
Wiper	43	13.6	5.7-22.2	2.1	0.1-6.2

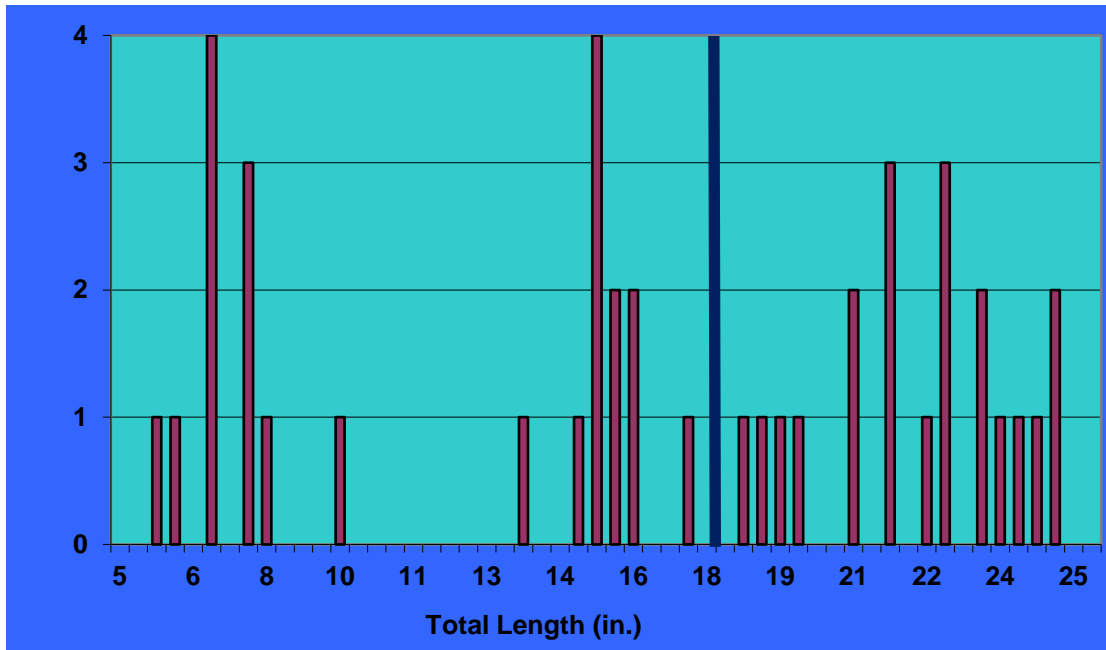
*Collected during summer electrofishing

**Collected during fall electrofishing

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--FAIR



Lovewell Reservoir will rank #3 for both preferred (>20") and lunker (>25") walleye in the 2017 Kansas Fishing Forecast thanks to improved catches of big walleye. Walleye numbers in the fall 2016 sample were much better than the 2015 sample with an average of 1.7 fish per net compared with only 0.5 in 2015. This catch rate is similar to the 2013 and 2014 catch rates, but still much less than the 5.1 walleye per net catch of 2012. Recruitment has been lacking each year since 2009 except for 2011, thus the adult numbers are still well below the management objective. Fry and fingerling stockings were conducted in 2016 and young fish were produced, but they are much smaller than normal due

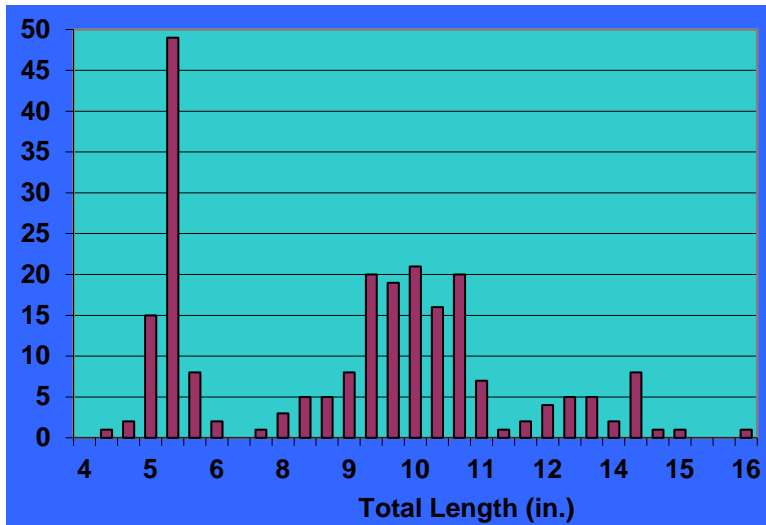


to a poor shad hatch, and only averaged 6-8 inches in the fall. Forty-eight percent of the catch was over 18 inches with some very nice fish sampled in the gill nets and trap nets. Combined, 26% of the catch consisted of age-0 fish (6-10 inches), 26% were age-1 fish between 14 and 16 inches, 12% were between 17 and 19 inches, 29% were 21-23 inches, and 10% were 24-25 inches. Fry and fingerlings will be stocked in 2017.

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--FAIR



White bass density rating improved for the second consecutive year due to another nice year class of young as this species continues to recover from two fish kills. The density rating was lowest in 2014 at 2.1, improved slightly to 2.5 in 2015, and nearly doubled to 4.6 this past fall. Anglers should notice improved white bass fishing in 2017 as a result. The preferred rating also improved moderately from 0.7 to 1.1, but is still well below the 5.9 peak collected in fall 2012. The lunker rating remained at 0 as no fish greater than 15 inches were collected. The biggest fish sampled weighed 1.4 pounds and the fish were again in excellent body



condition. Overall, 44% of the sample was between 5 and 9 inches, 47% were 10-12 inches, and 9% were 13-14 inches. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer, during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights was fair in 2016, and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

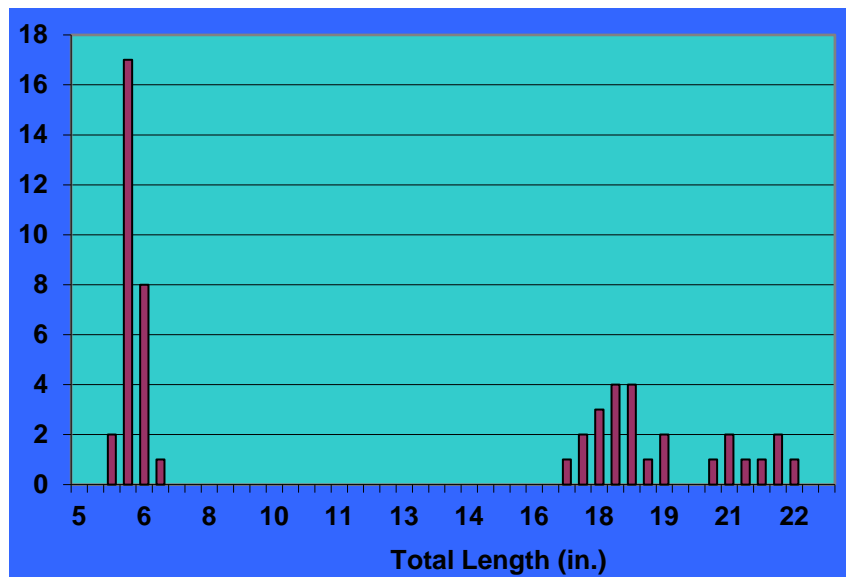
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

WIPER--FAIR



Total number of wipers collected in fall netting was down approximately 29%, but the density rating remained unchanged. In addition, the preferred rating doubled from 0.2 to 0.4 fish per net. Wipers were stocked again in 2016 with one young fish/net collected, but average size was smaller than normal (6 inches) due to the poor shad production in 2016. The 2014 stocked wipers have grown well and range from 16 to 19 inches. The 2013 wipers are between 20 and 22 inches while no bigger fish were collected. Fish condition was fair to good for the 2014 fish and was excellent for the 2013 fish. Fish between 5 and 6 inches accounted for 42% of the catch, 16 to 19 inch fish represented 39%, and 20-22 inch fish accounted for 19%. Anglers will have limited success this year targeting large wipers, but good numbers of 2-3 pound fish should be available. Approximately 30,000 fingerling wipers will be stocked in 2017 to help control the large shad numbers in the reservoir due to the addition of the fish barrier.

Similar to white bass, decent numbers of wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam. **Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those young wipers look very similar to white bass.** **The daily creel limit on wipers is 2 fish!**



LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

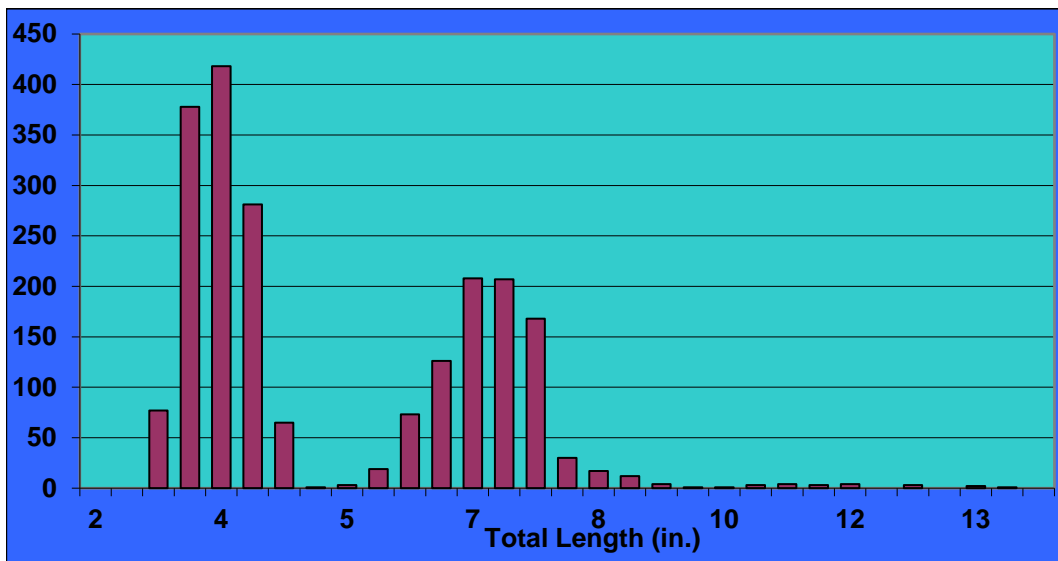
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--GOOD

The fall 2016 crappie catch was improved over the 2015 sample, but the size structure will be smaller in 2017 due to large 2015 and 2016 year classes. Overall catch rate improved 60%, but catch rate of fish 8 inches and larger decreased from 9.6 per net to only 4.4 in 2016. Fifty-four percent of white crappie were between 3 and 5 inches, 45% were 6 to 9 inches, and only 1% were between 10 and 12 inches. Higher water levels in 2015 and 2016 allowed for excellent crappie production and these two year classes should produce good to excellent fishing in the next few years. Approximately 300 black crappie were also collected with most of these fish between 3 and 7 inches. Biggest white crappie weighed 1.5 pounds and biggest black crappie weighed 0.7 pounds. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition measured.



Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish for anglers, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek and other coves during late April and May when the fish are spawning. We will likely add several hundred more trees to the existing brush piles this year.

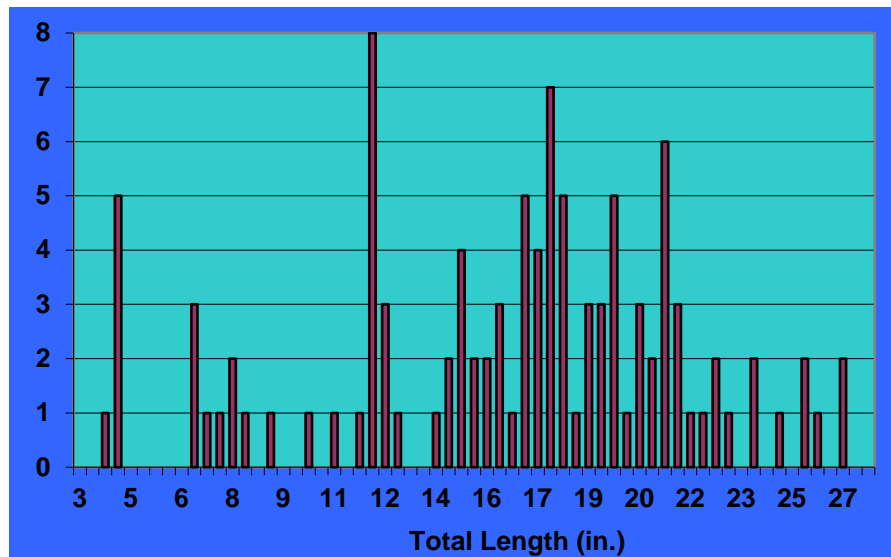


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

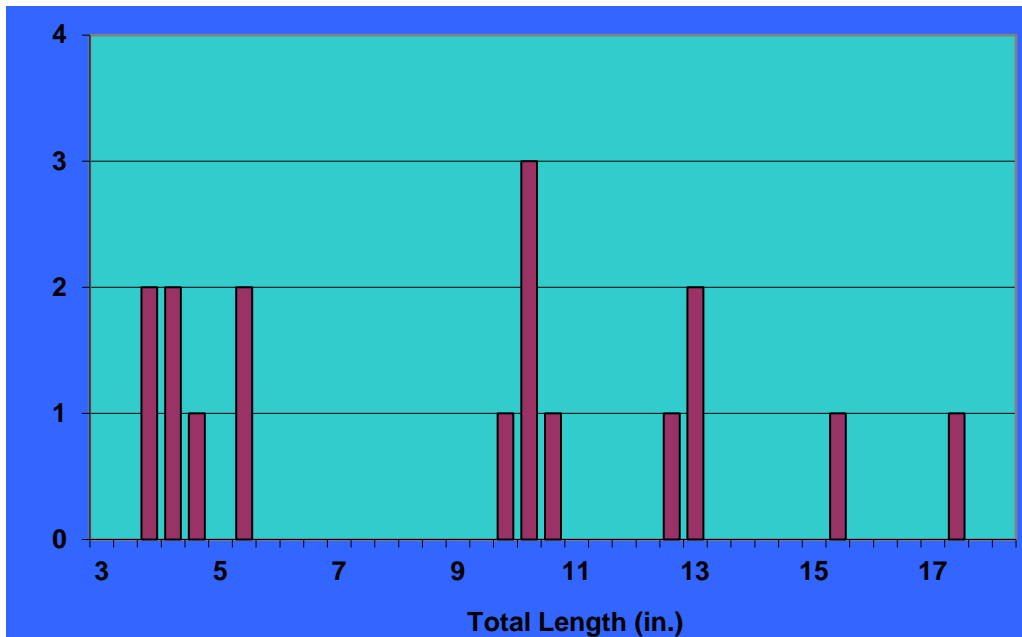
The catfish population will be very good again in 2017 with all sizes of channel cats and flatheads available to anglers. The fall 2016 channel catfish catch rate was up 114% for all sizes from the previous year and the number of fish over 24 inches was up 200% while the number of larger fish was down slightly. Forty-one percent of the fish were between 15 and 19 inches, 31% were 7-14 inches, 22% were between 20 and 24 inches, and 6% were 25-27 inches. Flathead catfish were not sampled this year, but fish between 10 and 45 inches are typically collected with the biggest fish around 50 pounds. Channels and flatheads will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir, including Montana, Windmill, and Prairie Dog Creek, as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During peak irrigation releases, catfish can be readily caught close to the inlet and outlet structures, and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn.



LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

LARGEMOUTH BASS--FAIR



Largemouth bass are not often targeted in Lovewell despite a fair population in the reservoir. Anglers will catch a few bass on occasion while fishing for crappie and other species, and some nice fish can be caught, especially in the spring. We sampled bass during fall electrofishing and collected 17 fish between 4 and 18 inches. The higher water levels in 2015 and 2016 have yielded some decent production resulting in the catch of 4 to 6 inch fish. Older fish are always available as well with fish between 10 and 18 inches found around the marina, Montana Creek, Cabin Point, John's Creek, Cedar Point, the inlet, and outlet. Best fishing will be in May during the spawn and in the fall.

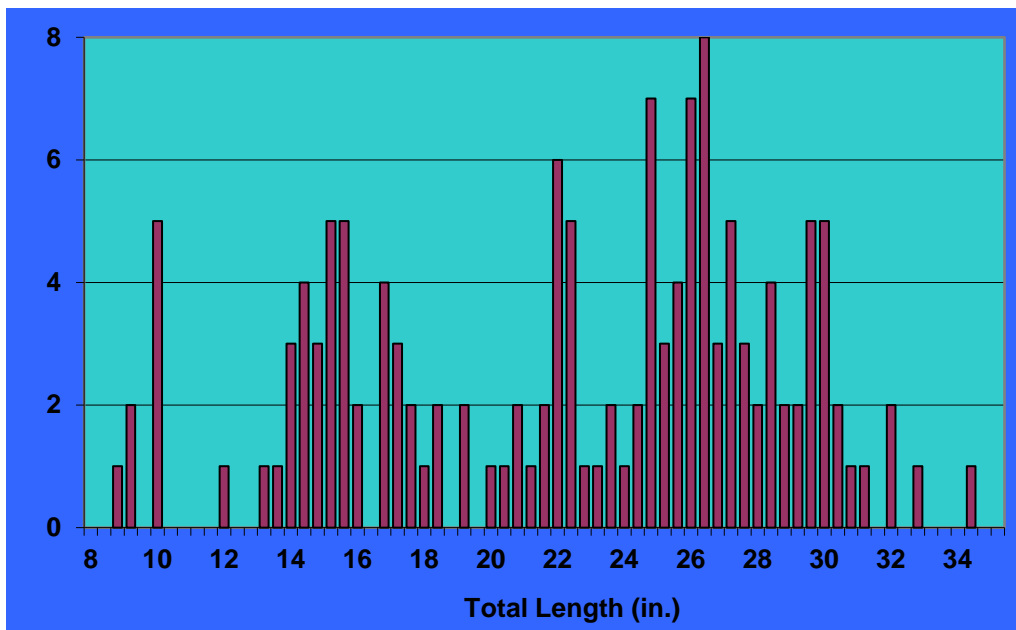


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

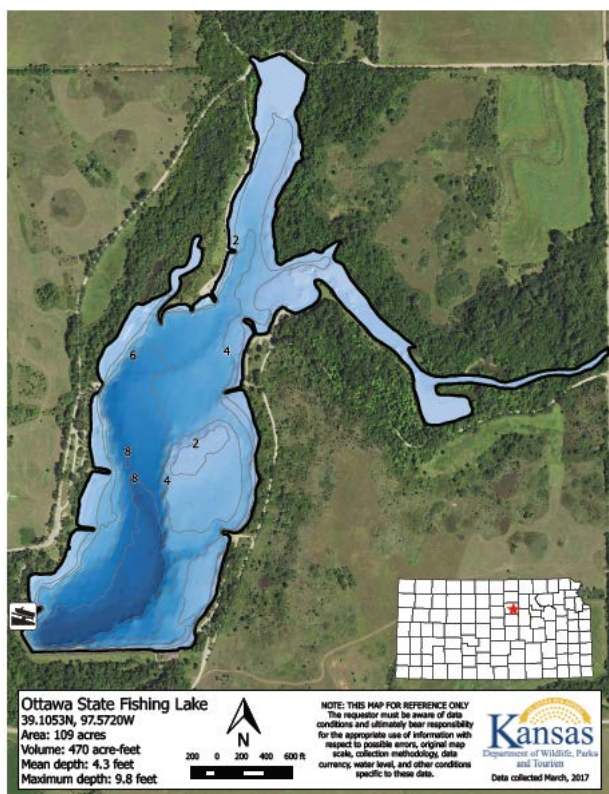
BLUE CATFISH--FAIR

We collected and tagged nearly 150 blue catfish in 2016 using electrofishing and fall gill nets. There are now over 450 tagged blue cats in the reservoir as we continue to study their movements and growth rates. Fish collected this year ranged from 9-34 inches and weighed up to 18 pounds. Natural reproduction of blue catfish was documented for the first time in Lovewell Reservoir as this species is developing a self-sustaining population. **There is still a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell. All blue catfish less than 35 inches must be released!**



KDWPT Lake Mapping

Over the past 8 months, fisheries research employees from the Emporia office have been using modern equipment and software to develop lake bathymetry maps for many of the small lakes across the state. Three of the lakes in my district (Ottawa SFL, Jewell SFL, Belleville—Rocky Pond) have been completed and the results will be very helpful for biologists and anglers alike. Below is a preview of what the maps look like. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of any of these maps simply contact me at the address below.



Ottawa State Fishing Lake bathymetry map completed in March 2017.

Local Events in 2017

Glen Elder

April 1	Youth Turkey Hunt
April 23	KS Bass Nation Tournament
June 3	13 th Annual Youth Fishing Tourn.
June 26	KWA Governor's Cup Walleye
July 1	WLA Annual Fish Fry
August 12	Catfish Tournament
TBD	Youth & Women Pheasant Hunt

Lovewell

June 11	Kids Fishing Clinic
June 18	"Float Your Boat" Contest
August 5	Sand Castle Contest
August 5	Lovewell Fun Day

**Free Fishing Weekend
is June 3rd and 4th
statewide!**

This is the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Ottawa State Fishing Lake, Rocky Pond in Belleville, and Jewell City Lake. Don't forget to check out the many FISH properties in the area as well. They can offer some great fishing for those without a boat.

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter, they can do so [HERE](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, please send your info to [Contact Us](#) with "unsubscribe to Glen Elder District Fisheries newsletter" and we'll get you taken off of the list. If you have any questions or comments feel free to send them in.

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