

GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

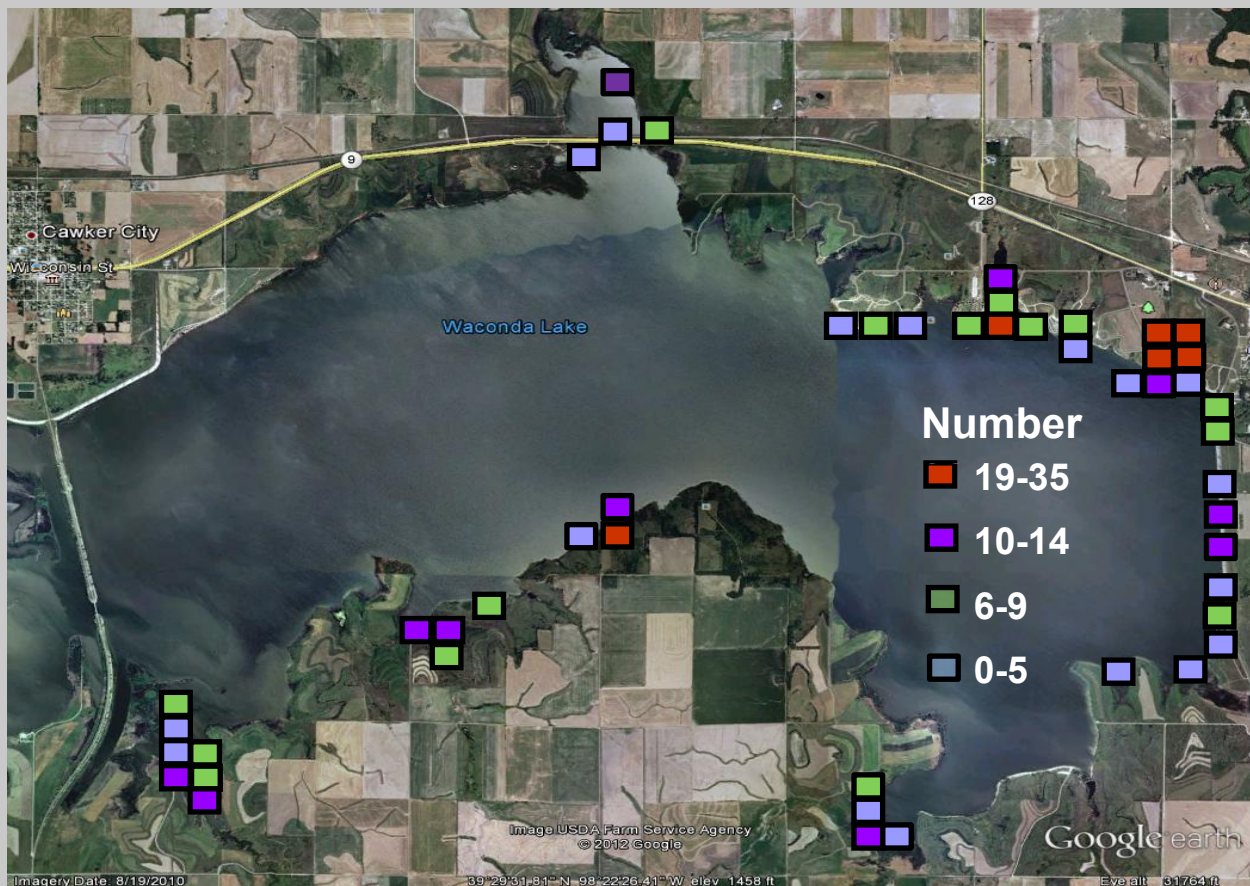
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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Fall 2018

Bass Population Improving at Glen Elder

The 2018 spring Glen Elder bass sample consisted of 190 smallmouth bass, 231 largemouth bass, and 2 spotted bass when conducted in May. The smallmouth bass density rating decreased 27% compared with 2017, the preferred rating decreased 15%, and the lunker rating increased 7%. Ten percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 32% were 9 to 12 inches, 51% were 13 to 16 inches, and 7% were over 17 inches. The biggest smallmouth weighed 3.6 pounds. The largemouth bass density rating increased 153% compared with 2017, the preferred rating increased 368%, and the lunker rating doubled. Three percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 16% were 9 to 12 inches, 74% were 13 to 16 inches, and 7% were 17 to 21 inches. The biggest fish weighed 5.2 pounds. Bass anglers fishing Glen Elder should continue to notice a nice resurgence of the largemouth bass population in addition to the strong smallie numbers.



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Blue Catfish Taking Hold in Lovewell, Glen Elder

Many anglers fishing at Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs may not realize that a new species is swimming in the waters below. Blue catfish were first stocked in 2010 at a rate of 5 per acre in each reservoir. Lovewell was stocked for five years before the fish took hold and began to show signs of natural reproduction. The fish at Glen Elder did not establish as quickly and were stocked until 2016 to assure a strong year class was produced. Total stockings included 13,000 fingerlings in Lovewell Reservoir and 100,000 fingerlings in Glen Elder.



We have been studying these fish over the past several years since introducing them to gain a better understanding of their population dynamics. Diet studies have been conducted on both reservoirs to determine seasonal feeding habits and all fish collected are tagged near the dorsal fin (see picture below) to study growth rates and movement patterns. If a tagged fish is caught, please record the tag number, total length, weight, and location caught and call the Glen Elder office at 785-545-3345. To date, we have tagged approximately 700 fish in Lovewell and 200 in Glen Elder. Pectoral

spines were removed from a sub-sample of fish to study growth rates at Lovewell which revealed one of the fastest growing populations seen in the country.

Blue catfish are sampled throughout the summer using low frequency electrofishing and in the fall with gill nets. The biggest fish collected at Glen Elder thus far was a 34.4-inch fish which weighed 20.4 pounds. The biggest fish captured at Lovewell was a 35.2-inch fish weighing in at 21.8 pounds. Each year, more legal fish are showing up in the samples.



Both reservoirs are currently managed with a 35 inch minimum length limit meaning all fish less than 35 inches must be immediately returned to the water. This regulation will likely be modified in the next several years as the fish populations take hold and more natural reproduction is documented. Until then, anglers will enjoy catching this unique fish species that should continue to grow and provide more angling success.

GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

Emerson Lake Fish Kill in Jewell

Due to severe drought conditions Emerson Lake in Jewell which normally covers 10 acres when full had been reduced to only 3 to 4 acres in early June. Heavy rainfall in late June above the lake allowed for a rapid refill which included flooding several acres of smartweed, cattails, and other vegetation. As the vegetation slowly decayed over the next couple of weeks, the oxygen levels likely dropped until the level



reached a critical level on the night of July 8th. Hot weather with little wind did not help the situation either as these conditions provided a perfect formula for a fish kill.

The morning of July 9th revealed hundreds of dead fish with all species affected. The count on the afternoon of the 9th totaled approximately 100 bass with most 15 to 20 inches, 300 bluegill, mostly 6 to 8 inches, 12 channel catfish, and over one hundred 4 to 7 inch golden shiners. More fish likely died over the next several days until oxygen levels improved. City employees turned on the aerator to circulate water and a pump was utilized for two days in an attempt to improve the oxygen levels. City employees also cleaned up the dead fish around the shoreline.

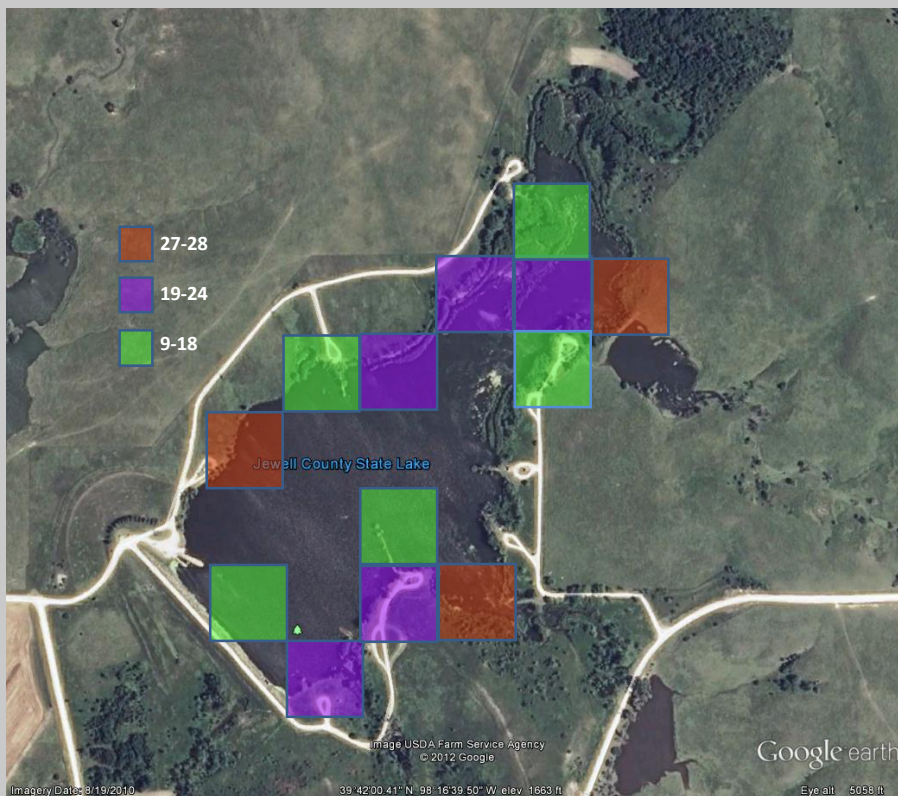
On July 23rd we sampled Emerson Lake with the electrofishing boat and were pleasantly surprised to collect fair to good numbers of channel catfish between 12 and 25 inches as well as some bass between 10 and 16 inches. Very few bluegill were collected and no other species were seen. Fish stockings have been requested with largemouth bass, bluegill, fathead minnows, and channel catfish to be stocked this fall.



GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

Jewell State Fishing Lake 2018 Bass Sample

At Jewell, 287 largemouth bass were collected during 2.4 hours of electrofishing for a catch rate of 102 fish over 8 inches per hour of sampling. This is an increase from the 2017 catch rate of 68 per hour. The density rating increased from 64 in the 2017 sample to 84 in 2018. This large increase is the result of



young fish continuing to grow into the stock-length size range. Preferred rating increased 62% while lunker rating tripled from 0.4 to 1.2. These fish continue to reproduce well with young fish less than 8 inches accounting for 16% of the catch. Fish between 8 and 12 inches accounted for 17% of the catch while fish in the former protected 13 to 18 inch slot length limit represented 64% of the population. Ten fish between 19 and 21 inches were collected, up from only five in the

2017 sample. The biggest fish weighed 6.2 pounds. Anglers have been very pleased with bass fishing this summer and this population will continue to thrive as long as water levels remain high to provide abundant amounts of flooded vegetation. Reminder that the new regulation for largemouth bass is an 18-inch minimum length limit which began in 2018.

GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

14th Annual Glen Elder Tournament Results

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Waconda Lake Association hosted the 14th annual Youth Fishing Tournament at Waconda Lake on Saturday, June 2nd, 2018. Approximately 130 young anglers boarded boats on a very windy day with north-northwest winds of 20 to 30 miles per hour welcoming anglers during the check in. Most of the boats braved the high winds and fished along the north shore. Despite the conditions limiting where the anglers could fish, most everyone reported good catches throughout the morning and by lunchtime they all returned with tales of their prize catches and, of course, the big one that got away.

The fishing proved to be better than expected thanks to large numbers of young walleye and catfish, and an abundance of drum. The young anglers had a great time and most brought in at least a few fish. Of the 131 youth who fished on the 37 boats volunteered by local anglers, 98 (75%) caught at least one fish. The 333 fish caught included 86 drum, 77 walleye (7 legal), 61 channel catfish, 32 white bass, 30 crappie, 26 smallmouth bass, 10 longnose gar, 2 wipers, and 2 bluegill.

We would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to all of the boat drivers and other volunteers who donated their time and equipment on Saturday, the Waconda Lake Association for providing lunch, and Wayne Miner who donated 140 dozen nightcrawlers.

Also, many thanks to the over 70 sponsors who donated nearly \$3,000 in prizes. Because of their generosity each youth took home a new fishing pole, t-shirt, goodie bag of tackle and gift certificates, and other prizes. Special thanks also to Clayton Moubry and the staff of the Glen Elder area office for assisting with the event.

Below is a list of the winners in each of the categories:

Most Fish	Kellen Elam (Beloit)	36
Biggest Walleye	Kristin Roth (Garden City)	25¼ inches
Biggest Crappie	Dalton Virden (Glen Elder)	13 inches
Biggest Channel Catfish	Evan Blue (Beloit) Lexi Goheen (Osborne) Preslee Marsh (Concordia) Brody Marsh (Concordia) Ayden Loomis (Jewell)	24 inches

GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

Biggest White Bass	Kayden Trimble (Beloit)	17 inches
Biggest Wiper	Hunter Meyer (Ayr, NE)	21 inches
Biggest Smallmouth Bass	Ethan Strom (Omaha, NE)	16½ inches
Biggest Drum	Johnny Schlatter (Lebanon)	22 inches
Biggest Bluegill	Jaxon Prediger (Hays)	6¾ inches
Biggest Gar	Wyatt Brockelman (Beloit)	48 inches
Smallest Fish	Katelyn Binder (Beloit)	4 inches (crappie)

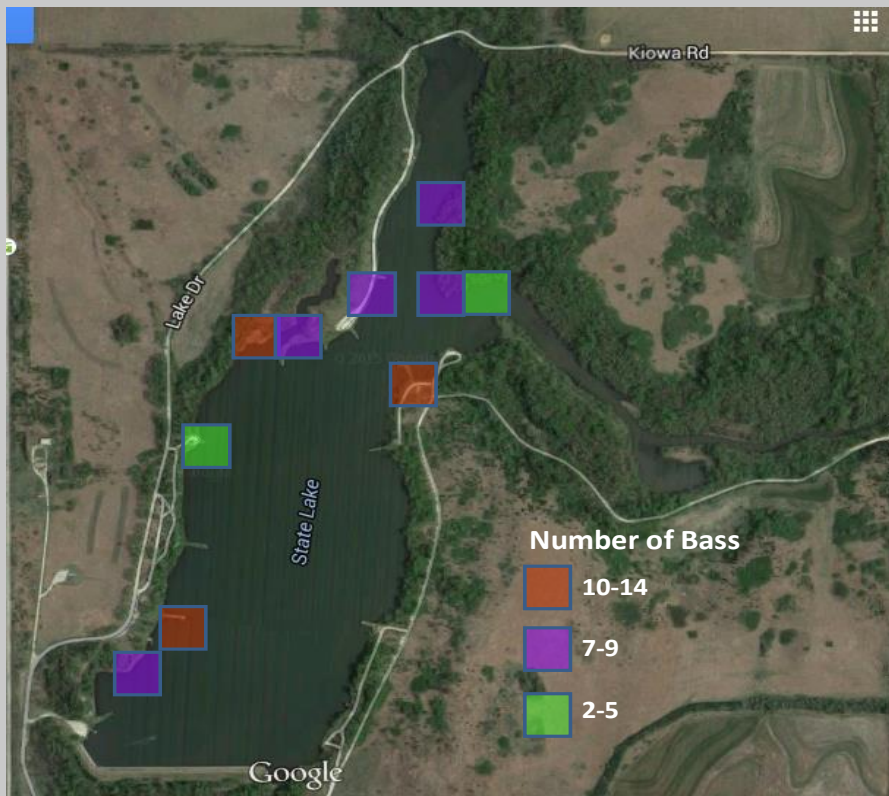
We plan on hosting this event again next year on June 1st so mark it on your calendars and look forward to another fun-filled day at Waconda Lake!



GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

Ottawa State Fishing Lake 2018 Bass Sample

The 2018 spring bass sample at Ottawa State Fishing Lake was much improved over the 2017 sample, but numbers are still less than is desired at this lake. Ten 10-minute sites were sampled with 80 largemouth bass collected. The density rating of 36.5 is improved from 25.7 the previous year while the preferred rating of 14.1 is up from 9.1 in 2017. The fish are in excellent health with very high condition rates. While improved, these catch rates are still less than the 2015 sample with a density rating of 49.0 and preferred rating of 24.8. A lack of suitable spawning and brood rearing habitat has reduced the spawning potential and survival of these fish as evidenced with few fish less than 8 inches, although the catch rate improved from 0.5 to 7.7 per hour.



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Habitat projects including the placement of water willow, cedar tree brush piles, and construction of Georgia Cubes will continue in an effort to improve the habitat in the lake. In addition, nearly 1,500 intermediate largemouth bass have been requested for stocking this fall.

Anglers bass fishing at Ottawa should expect fair fishing in 2019. Approximately 16% of the fish were 3 to 7 inches long, 19% were between 8 and 12 inches, 58% were 13 to 16 inches, and 7% were 17 to 18 inches long. The biggest fish collected weighed 3.5 pounds.

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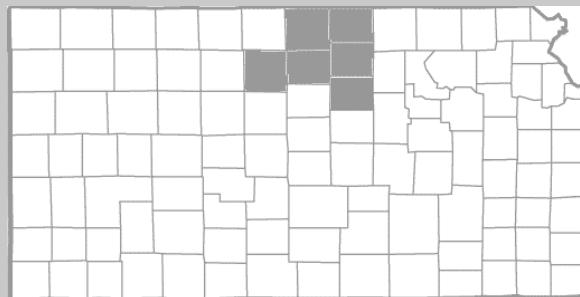
New Regulations at Glen Elder and Lovewell

Pending approval from the KDWPT commissioners at the November meeting, anglers can expect new crappie regulations at Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs to be in effect for the 2019 fishing season.

Glen Elder crappie have been managed with a daily creel limit of 20 crappie since 2013 with no length limit. A 10-inch minimum length limit has been proposed in addition to the daily creel limit.



Lovewell Reservoir has been managed with the statewide 50 fish daily creel limit. High water in recent years and excellent spawning habitat has provided improved fish recruitment, but angler harvest of these young fish has been higher than is desired to develop a sustainable population. To allow these fish to grow and become sustainable, a 10-inch minimum length limit and 20/day creel limit will be enforced at Lovewell beginning in 2019.



I hope you enjoyed 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.

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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