

This forecast is produced from data collected by fisheries management biologists during their annual lake monitoring activities (which include test netting and electroshocking). Not every impoundment is sampled each year. Impoundments with low densities of certain species may not be listed.

The data is separated into three impoundment categories – reservoirs (those larger than 1,200 acres), lakes (waters from 10 to 1,200 acres), and ponds (waters smaller than 10 acres) – because sampling on small water bodies may not be comparable with that on larger waters.

Tables have been created for popular species and include a Density Rating, Preferred Rating, Lunker Rating (based on a 3-year sampling average), Biggest Fish and Biologist's Rating.

The Density Rating is the number of fish that were high-quality size or larger sampled per unit of sampling effort. The number, listed in parentheses at the top of the Density Rating column, is the length of fish considered acceptable to most anglers and is different for each species. The higher the Density Rating, the more high-quality sized or larger fish per surface acre in the impoundment. Theoretically, an impoundment with a Density Rating of 30 has twice as many high-quality sized fish per acre as an impoundment with a Density Rating of 15.

The Preferred Rating identifies how many above-average-sized fish a water contains. For example, an impoundment may have a good density of crappie, but few fish over 10 inches. The Preferred Rating tells you which lake to go to for a chance to catch bigger fish.

The Lunker Rating is similar to the Density Rating, but it tells you the relative density of lunker-sized fish in an impoundment. A lunker is a certain length of fish considered a trophy by most anglers. It also differs with each species and is listed in parentheses at the top of the Lunker Rating column. For example, most anglers consider a channel catfish longer than 28 inches a lunker. Many impoundments may have a Lunker Rating of 0, but this does not mean there are no big fish in that impoundment. It just means that no lunker fish were caught during sampling, and they may be less abundant than in impoundments with positive Lunker Ratings.

The Density Rating and Lunker Rating can be used together. For numbers, go with the highest Density Rating. If only big fish are preferred, go with the Lunker Rating. An impoundment with a respectable rating in all three categories will provide the best overall fishing opportunities.

The Biggest Fish (lbs.) column lists the weight of the largest fish caught during sampling period.

The Biologist's Rating (BR) adds a human touch to the forecast and allows each biologist to consider environmental conditions that may have affected the sampling. They also consider previous years' data. A rating of P (poor), F (fair), G (good), or E (excellent) will be in the last column. Sometimes the Density Rating may not agree with the Biologist's Rating. This will happen occasionally and means the Density Rating may not accurately reflect the biologist's opinion of the fishery.

This brochure is designed to help improve your fishing success. Your ability to catch fish depends on many factors such as water temperature, water clarity, weather, angling skills, fishing pressure, and density of fish in the lake (i.e. number of fish/acre). You may not have much control over many of these factors, but you can use these tables to select a high-density population of your favorite species.

Be sure to keep a copy of the current Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary in your tackle box. The summary includes laws and regulations, information about aquatic nuisance species precautions and distribution, the length and creel limits for reservoirs, state fishing lakes and community lakes. The summary also has an application for Master Angler Awards, as well as a list of state records.



GoOutdoorsKS

Purchase your fishing
license with the
GoOutdoorsKS mobile app
available in the Google
Play and the Apple store.



This agency receives Federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. The U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any facility, program, or activity, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Diversity, Inclusion, and Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240
01/24



KANSAS Fishing Forecast 2024

Visit ksoutdoors.com
for a complete list
of all sampling
results.

