

Glen Elder District Fisheries

Volume 9, Issue 1 Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Spring 2018

District Happenings—2017-18 Edition

- ><(((°> The Lovewell Reservoir fish barrier was removed after 5 years of service. During that time shad numbers in the annual summer samples reached all-time highs and crappie numbers improved, but walleye numbers did not respond as we had hoped.
- ><(((°> A new trout stocking location was added to the list with the Glen Elder outlet receiving multiple stockings just below the dam. A fish barrier was constructed approximately 150 yards downstream of the stocking to keep the trout from migrating out of the outlet area. Anglers enjoyed this new location and the clear moving river water created a more “trout-like” experience than a pond or small lake can offer.
- ><(((°> Georgia Cubes continue to be added to district waters to enhance the long-term habitat in area reservoirs and state fishing lakes. In addition, cedar trees continue to be cut and placed in strategic locations to improve fishing success for local anglers.
- ><(((°> New regulations were passed at the October commission meeting related to two of the waters in the Glen Elder district. First, smallmouth bass at Glen Elder are now protected with a 21 inch minimum length limit. All fish less than 21 inches must be immediately returned to the water when caught. This was implemented to develop a trophy smallmouth bass fishery at Glen Elder given the growth potential of these fish and the abundant food resources and habitat. In addition, the largemouth bass at Jewell State Fishing Lake are now managed with an 18-inch minimum length limit. This replaces the former 13 to 18 inch slot length limit and will require anglers to release all largemouth bass less than 18 inches.
- ><(((°> Tremendous fishing opportunities are constantly being developed in the district including the number one ranked walleye fishery and number one ranked white bass fishery at Glen Elder Reservoir, a top 4 black bass population at Glen Elder, a top 3 crappie fishery at Lovewell Reservoir, a strong catfish population in Lovewell with a top-6 channel catfish population and a young up and coming blue catfish fishery, and a resurging crappie fishery at Glen Elder. There are plenty of excellent opportunities to get out and fish the Glen Elder district in 2018 and I hope to see you out on the water!



Glen Elder Reservoir

2018 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com /785-545-3345

General Information: The reservoir is approximately 1 foot low as of April 2018. All boat ramps and facilities will be open and usable again this year. **Reminder: There is a new 21 inch minimum length limit on SMALLMOUTH BASS!!!**

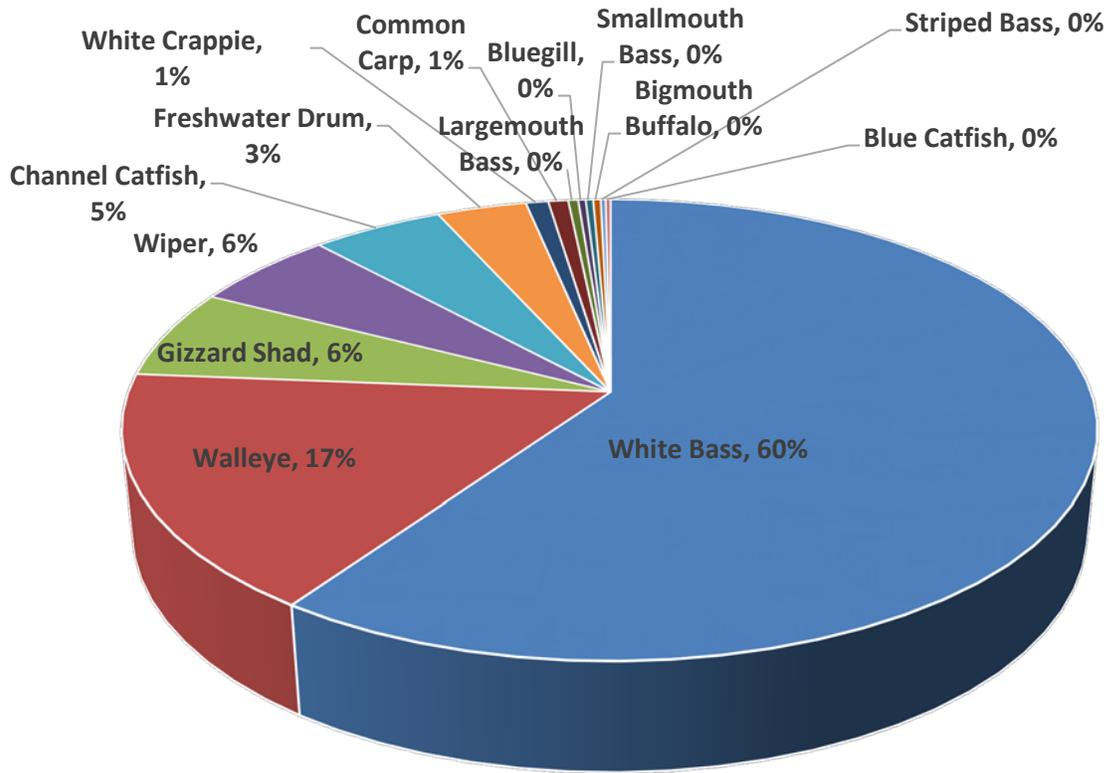


Special Regulations:

- Smallmouth Bass—21 inch minimum length limit
- Crappie—Daily creel limit of 20 fish
- Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit
- Largemouth Bass—18 inch minimum length limit
- Blue Catfish—35 inch minimum length limit

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017)



Relative Abundance (2017 gill nets)

	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish*	22	21.5	8.9-32.4	5.9	0.2-16.1
Channel Catfish	53	19.0	4.5-32.1	2.8	0.1-14.2
Crappie	1,653	9.1	2.6-13.2	0.4	0.1-1.4
Flathead Catfish*	147	18.3	3.7-43.9	5.6	0.1-45.0
Gizzard Shad	65	13.2	5.3-18.3	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass**	123	12.0	3.3-20.7	1.3	0.1-5.1
Smallmouth Bass**	317	10.9	3.3-18.7	0.9	0.1-3.4
Walleye	172	17.6	9.6-23.4	2.3	0.3-6.6
White Bass	619	12.6	4.9-17.1	1.1	0.1-2.8
Wiper	58	21.3	13.6-25.0	5.1	1.3-8.7

*Collected during summer electrofishing

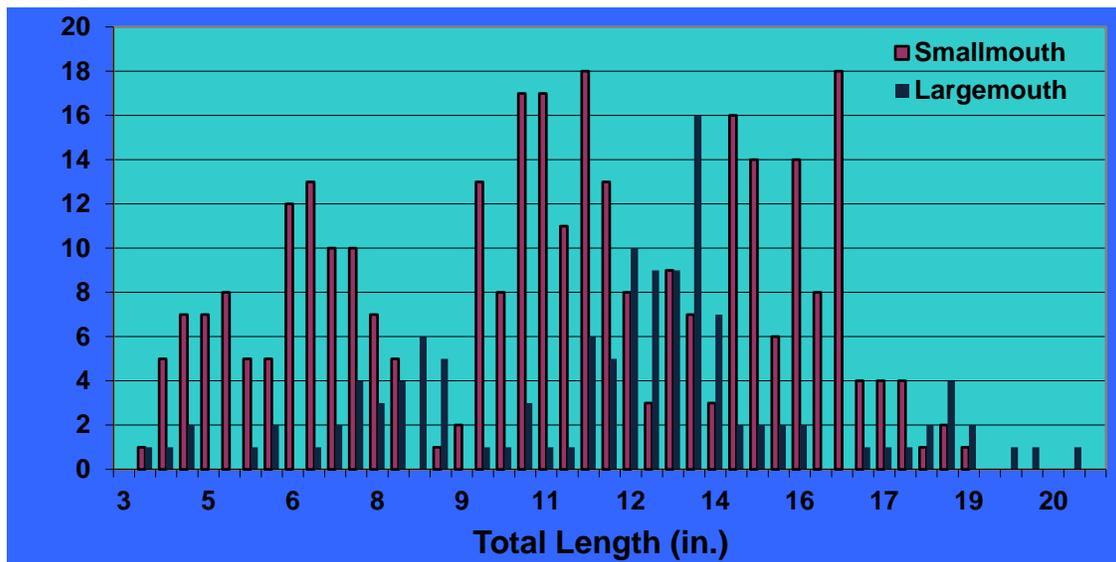
**Collected during spring electrofishing

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

BLACK BASS--GOOD

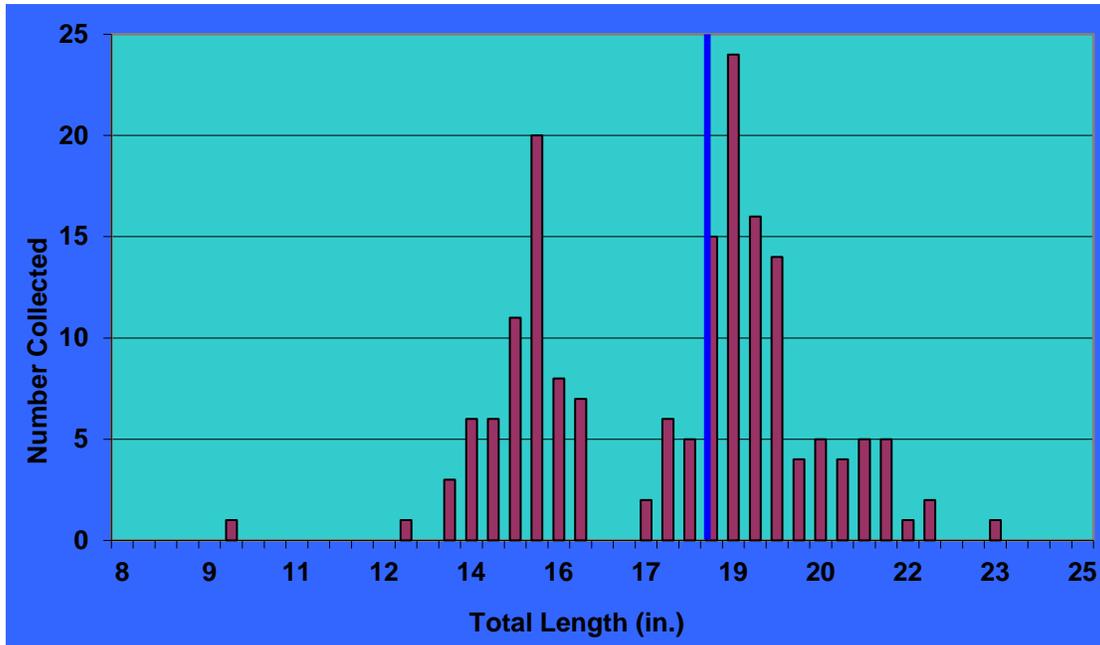
The smallmouth bass catch rate exhibited an increase with the density rating improving from 17.7 to 21.9, the preferred rating from 11.2 to 12.7, and the lunker rating from 1.1 to 1.6 compared with the 2016 sample. Glen Elder ranks second in each of these categories among the state's reservoirs. The biggest fish collected weighed 3.4 pounds and all sizes of fish were in excellent shape. Thirty percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 35% were 9 to 12 inches, 31% were 13-16 inches, and 4% were over 17 inches. Very good production has occurred the last 4 years with the number of 3 to 6 inch fish jumping from 2.3 to 9.8 per hour of sampling. The largemouth bass catch rate of fish 8 inches and greater (14.2) was the highest recorded in 20 years as recent production has boosted the numbers of fish in the reservoir. The largemouth bass density rating increased from 2.2 to 10.4 with the preferred rating improving from 0.9 to 2.2. Twenty-six percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 30% were 9 to 12 inches, 33% were 13-16 inches, and 11% were 17 to 20 inches. The biggest fish sampled weighed 5.1 pounds. Anglers should continue to notice the improved largemouth numbers to complement the strong smallmouth population. **NOTE: The new smallmouth bass length limit is 21 inches! Largemouth bass remain at 18 inches.**



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--GOOD



The 2017 fall walleye sample was one the best in the past 20 years as the density rating (15") reached 6.0, up from 1.7 the previous year, and well above the 3.5 average between 2010 and 2015. This places Glen Elder number one in terms of walleye density among the state's reservoirs. The preferred rating also increased from 0.2 to 1.0, the highest rating since 2012. Steady recruitment between 2011 and 2015 maintained a fair population, but a large 2016 year class developed, likely a result of fry and fingerling stockings. These 13 to 16 inch fish represent one of best year classes in the past 15 years, and accounted for 36% of the fall sample. Fish between 17 and 20 inches made up 55% with 21 to 24 inch fish comprising 8%. Overall, 56% of the fall catch was greater than 18 inches. Fish condition was

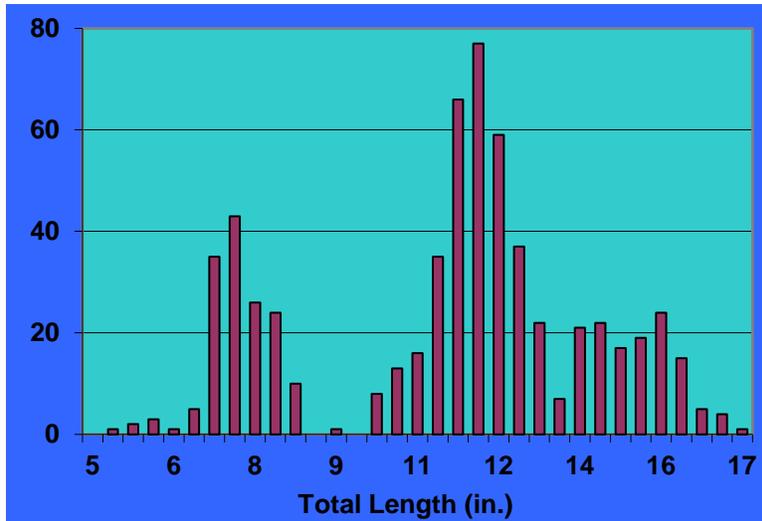


excellent this past fall as a nice gizzard shad year class produced some of the healthiest walleye you will see. Despite no stocking in 2017, a small year class was produced via natural reproduction. Walleye fry and fingerlings will be stocked again in 2018. This alternate year stocking strategy appears to be providing better recruitment, and the combination of fry and fingerlings is working well. Anglers should expect slightly better walleye angling in 2018, but there will be many short fish to be released. **18 inch minimum length limit**

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--EXCELLENT



White bass numbers continue to climb and the population looks very strong headed into 2018. Multiple years of good recruitment have produced improved numbers of young white bass that have greatly increased the catch rate. Following a drastic decline in numbers which yielded a density rating of only 3.6 in 2015, the population has rebounded to a current density rating of 19.5 which ranks first in the state. In addition, 3-4 year old fish continue to grow and improved the preferred rating from 6.2 to 13.8 in one year. The preferred and lunker ratings rank second



among the state's reservoirs. Another nice year class of fish will move into the quality size this year which will help improve numbers even more. Fish between 9 and 12 inches accounted for 50% of the catch, fish 5 to 8 inches represented 24%, fish between 13 and 15 inches comprised 21%, and 5% of fish were 16 to 17 inches. 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 channel on the west end.

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

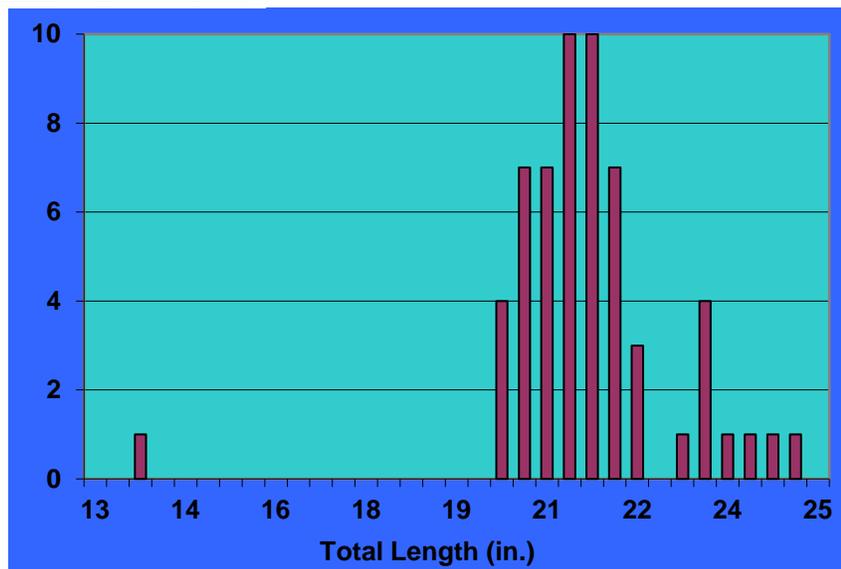
WIPER--GOOD

Wipers have been stocked only four times in Glen Elder (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 20 inches or 4 pounds with the biggest collected in the fall sample reaching 25 inches and 9 pounds. The 2017 catch rate only declined 5% and the size structure is excellent. Body condition was also excellent for all sizes. Glen Elder wipers rank 6th for density (>18"), 3rd for preferred (>20"), and 2nd 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 22 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. Wiper fingerlings will be stocked in 2018.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

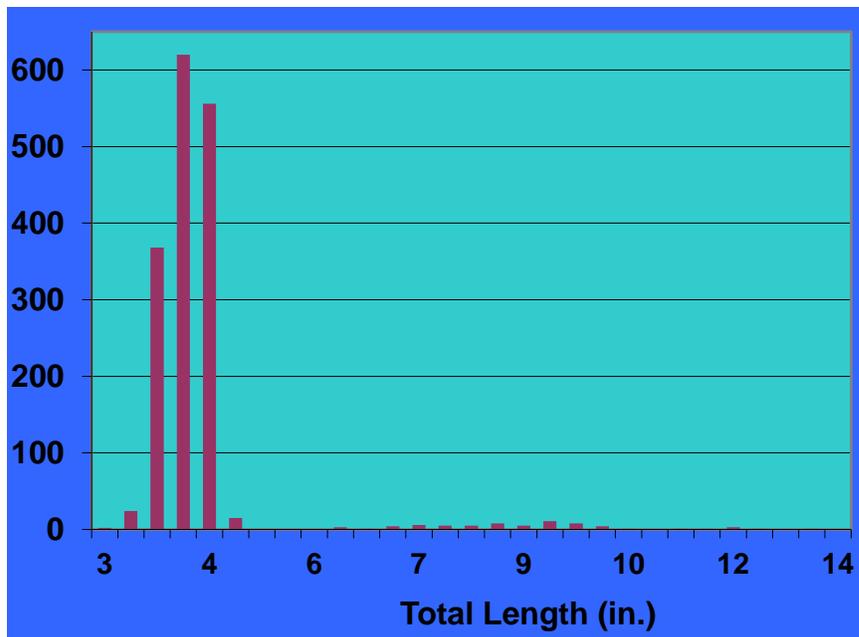
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--FAIR

The crappie population at Glen Elder continues to slowly rebound since the low point of 2014 when density rating declined to 0.8. The white crappie rating of 2.1 is the highest observed since 2011. Water levels have been favorable recently and allowed for some crappie recruitment as evidenced by the improved numbers of fish between 6 and 9 inches. In addition, high numbers of 2017 fish between 3 and 4 inches were collected and could yield another strong year class of crappie. Anglers should temper expectations again in 2018 as fishing will



still be challenging, but the population appears to be heading in the right direction. The late fall and winter 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 Cawker causeway. Anglers reported fair to good success during the 2017 spawn as more crappie returned to traditional spawning grounds. With stable water levels, 2018 should yield better results.



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

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

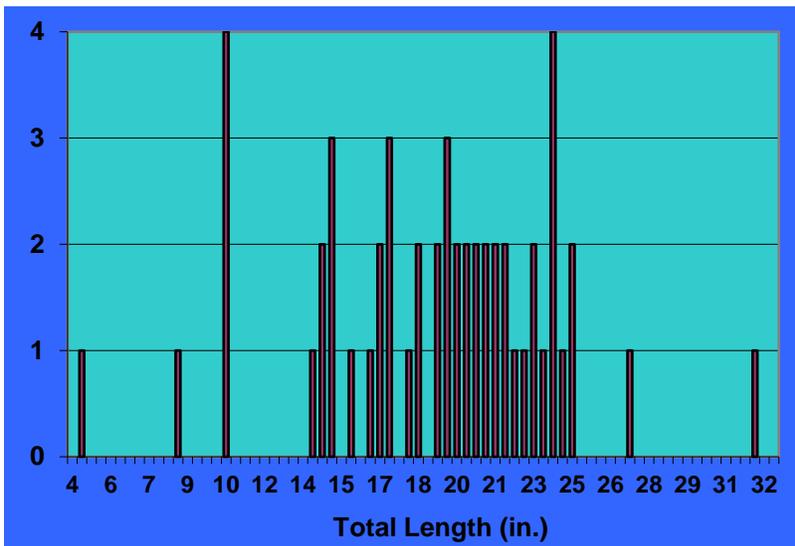
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH—FAIR/GOOD



Channel catfish catch rate (2.0) was low and only slightly better than the record low number of 1.4 in 2016. By comparison, the average catch rate from 2010-2015 was 3.5. Continued poor recruitment in recent years is evident based on the low catch rate of fish less than 15 inches, but this was slightly improved in the latest sample. Angler harvest of channel catfish continues to be high during the

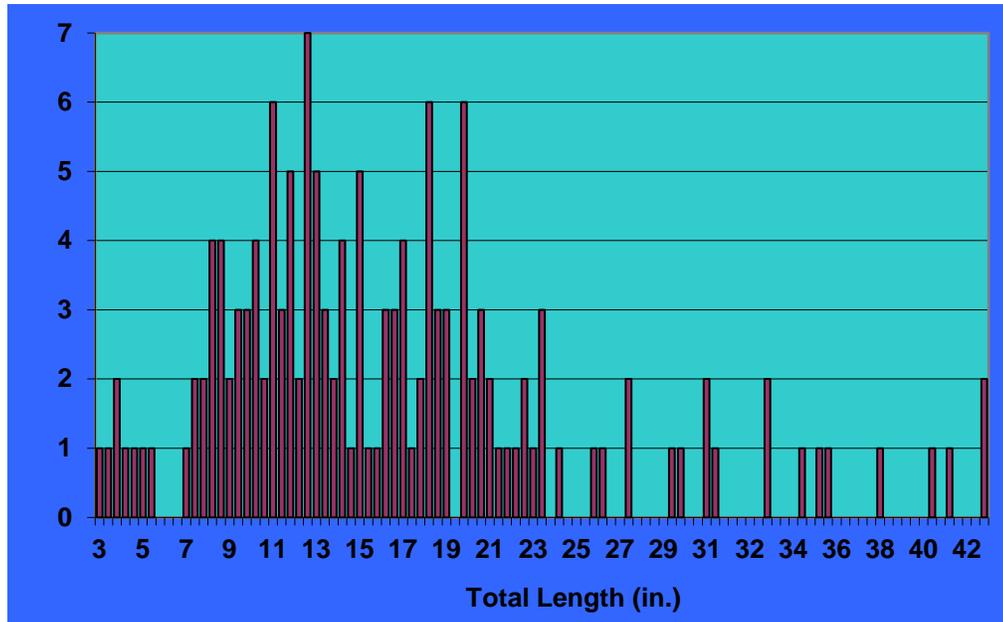
summer with chumming dominating the catch, and may be the cause of the decline in catfish numbers. Size structure will be similar to last year with the best numbers of fish between 21 and 25 inches which accounted for 34% of the catch. Fish between 17 and 20 inches comprised 32% of the sample, fish 14-16 inches were 19%, young fish between 4 and 10 inches comprised 11%, and fish 27 to 32 inches were 4%.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 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 147 flathead catfish ranging from 4 to 44 inches with the biggest fish weighing 44 pounds. Ten 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 61% 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.



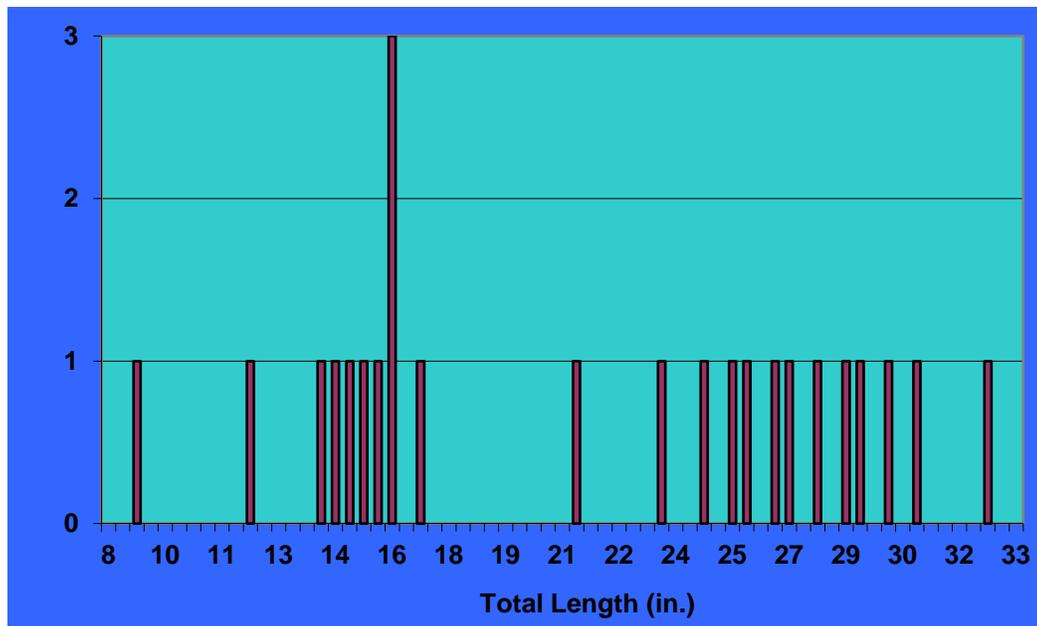
GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish were stocked annually in Glen Elder from 2010-2016 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. In 2017, the blue catfish catch rate was improved with fish from 9 to 32 inches collected, and the biggest fish weighed 15 pounds. This young population is slowly becoming established and will begin to reproduce naturally in the near future.

Reminder, anglers are required to release all blue catfish less than 35 inches!





Lovewell Reservoir

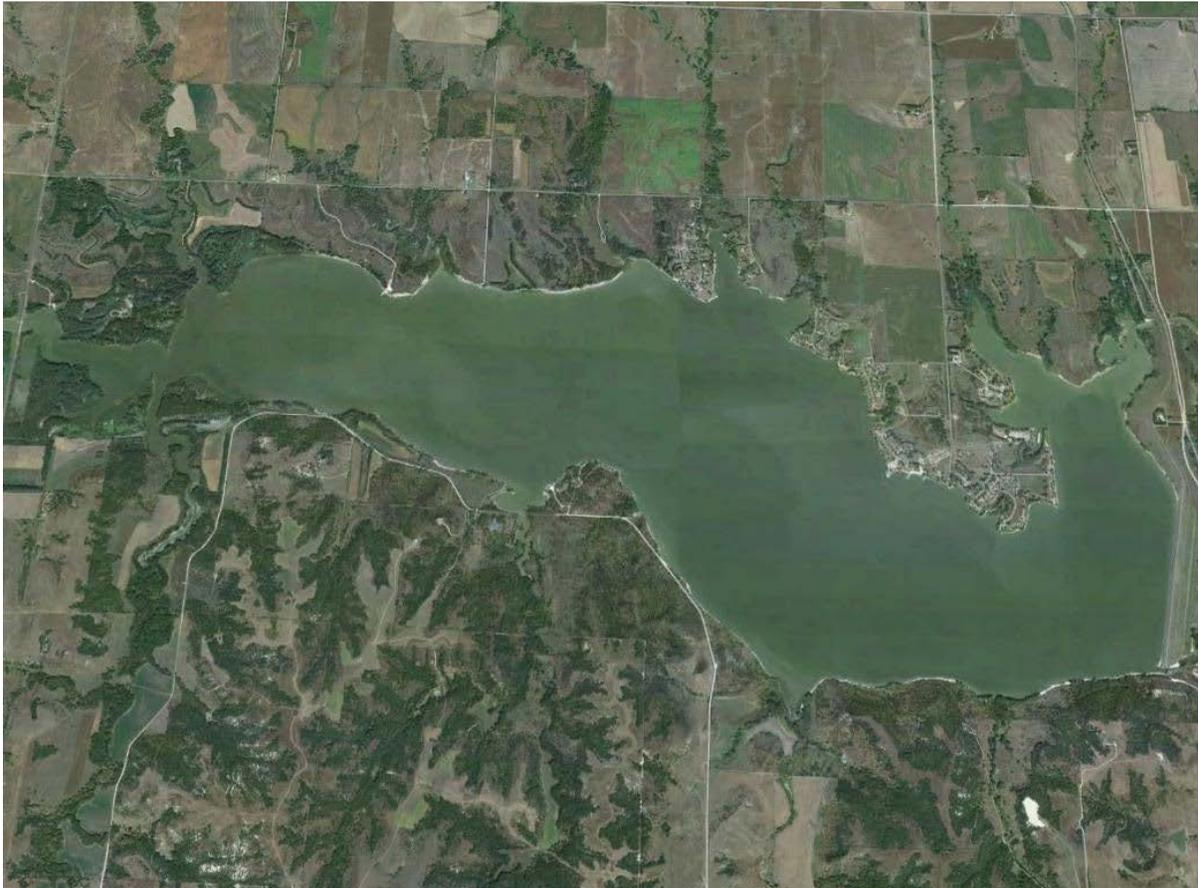
2018 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com /785-545-3345

General Information: The reservoir is approximately 1 foot low as of April 2018. Be on the lookout for blue catfish which have been stocked since 2010.

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



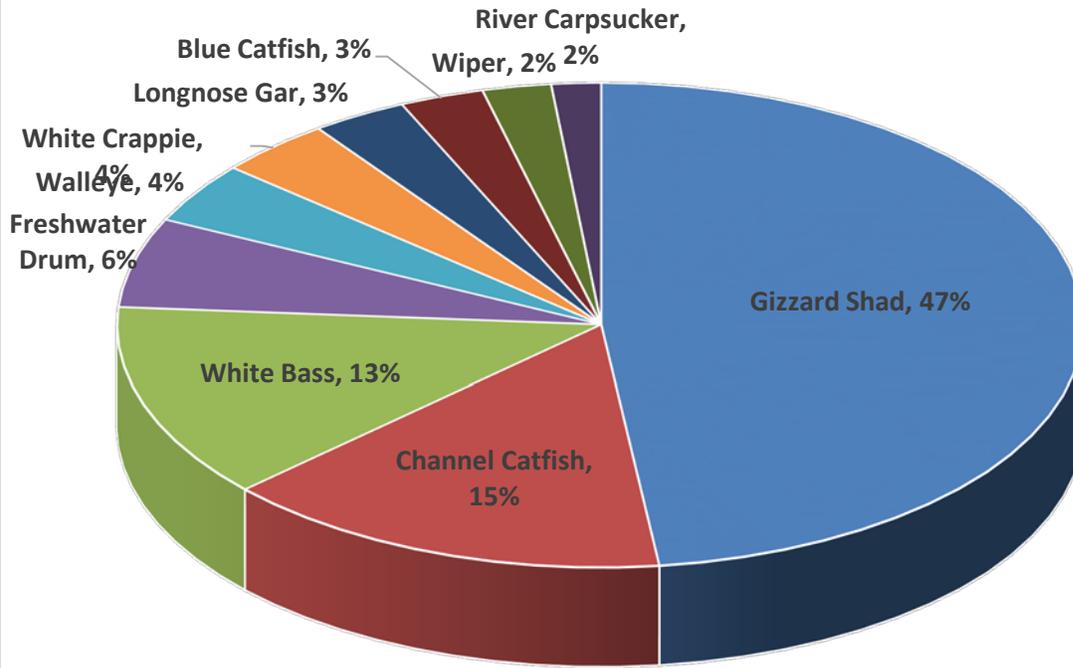
Special Regulations:

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

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017)

Relative Abundance (2017 gill nets)



	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish*	156	26.8	10.0-35.0	9.3	0.3-20.8
Bluegill	242	5.7	2.0-6.9	0.1	0.1-0.3
Channel Catfish	118	18.7	7.3-27.0	2.4	0.1-7.3
Crappie	1,261	8.0	3.0-14.0	0.3	0.1-1.5
Gizzard Shad	377	9.1	3.7-16.3	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass**	92	12.3	7.7-21.1	N/A	N/A
Walleye	32	19.1	14.4-27.4	3.0	0.9-9.0
White Bass	102	11.3	8.1-14.0	0.7	0.1-1.3
Wiper	18	11.5	5.7-18.7	1.0	0.1-3.1

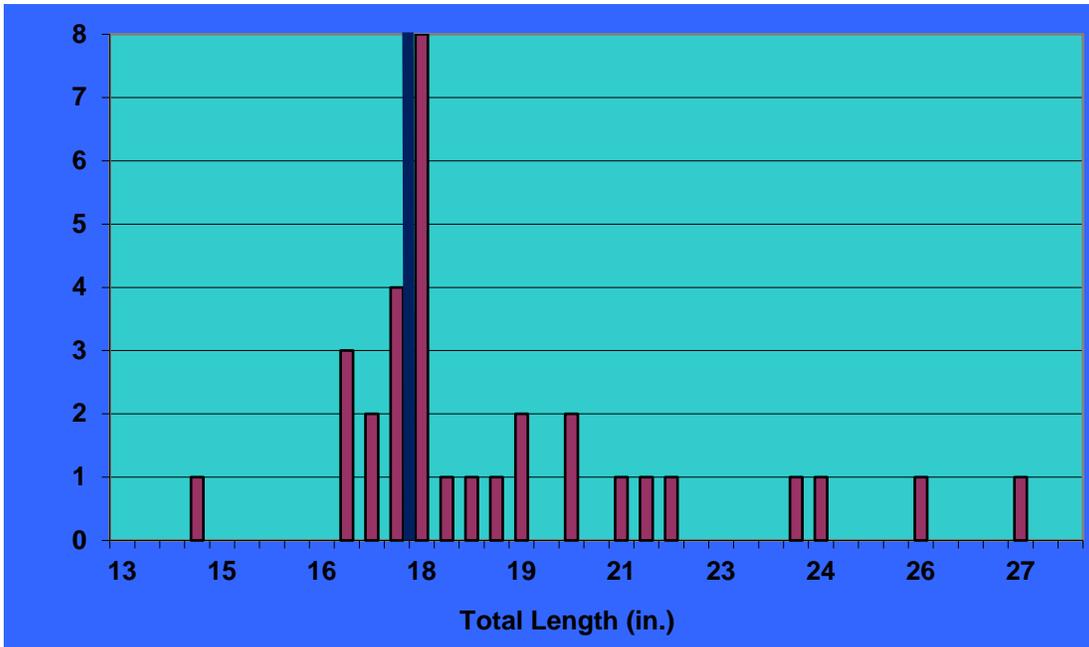
*Collected during summer electrofishing

**Collected during fall electrofishing

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--FAIR



Lovewell Reservoir will rank #4 for lunker (>25") walleye in the 2018 Kansas Fishing Forecast and anglers looking for trophy walleye will want to target Lovewell. The biggest fish in this year's sample weighed 9 pounds with several 6 to 7 pound fish also collected. Total numbers were down compared with 2016 as the density rating declined from 1.8 to 1.6 and the preferred rating dropped slightly from 0.8 to 0.5. This continues a trend of lower catch rates since the 2012 sample, but good size is available. Poor recruitment in 2016 and 2017 has decreased the number of young fish in the population. Fry

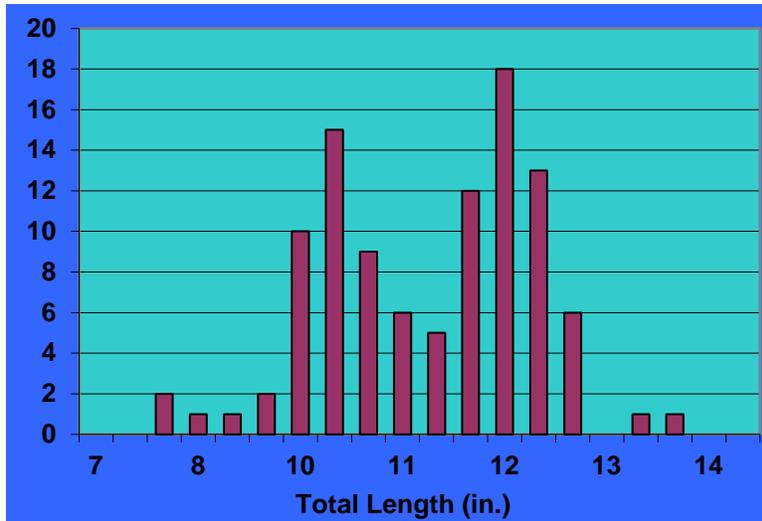


and fingerling stockings were conducted each of the past two years and young fish were produced, but the numbers were well below the objective. A combination of fry and intermediates will be requested in 2018. Fifty-seven percent of the fish in the sample were greater than 18 inches. Combined, 3% were age-1 fish between 14 and 15 inches, 40% were between 16 and 17 inches, 29% were 18-19 inches, 19% were 20 to 23 inches, and 9% were 24 to 27 inches. Fish condition was excellent. Fishing continues to be best from late April through mid-June with anglers drifting jig/nightcrawler combos having the best success.

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--GOOD



White bass density rating improved for the third consecutive year due to the strong 2016 year class growing into the population. The density rating was lowest in 2014 at 2.1, improved slightly to 2.5 in 2015, nearly doubled to 4.6 in 2016, and improved slightly to 4.9 this past fall. Anglers will likely notice success rates similar to 2018 as a result. The preferred rating also improved from 1.1 to 2.0, but is still well below the 5.9 peak collected in fall 2013. The lunker rating remained at 0 as no fish greater than 14 inches were collected. The biggest fish sampled weighed 1.3 pounds and the fish were again in excellent body condition. Overall,



16% of the sample was between 8 and 9 inches, 82% were 10-12 inches, and 2% were 13 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 2017, 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

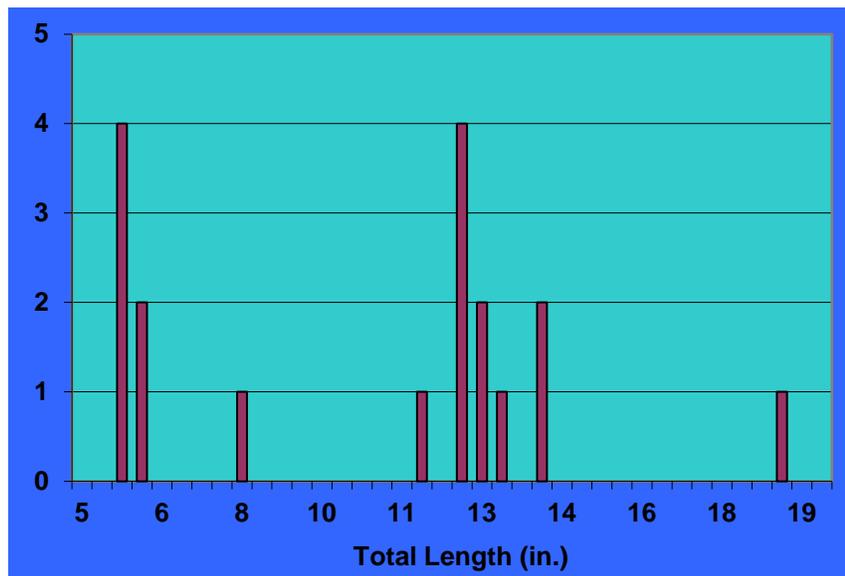
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

WIPER--FAIR



The catch rate of wipers was the lowest recorded at Lovewell in the last 15 years. The density rating declined again from an already low number of 1.3 to 0.6 in the fall sample. Preferred rating declined from 0.4 to 0 with only one fish greater than 14 inches collected. Low numbers of age-1 fish between 12 and 14 inches were collected and accounted for 56% of the catch with 2017 fish ranging from 6 to 8 inches accounting for 39%. Wiper density has never been high in Lovewell Reservoir despite annual stockings of fingerlings and intermediates. Wiper fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2017, but results were poor. Another attempt at stocking this combination will be made in 2018 to try and improve recruitment of this species. Anglers will have limited success this year targeting large wipers, but good numbers of 2-3 pound fish should be available despite netting results. Approximately 30,000 fingerling and 300,000 wiper fry will be stocked in 2018. 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

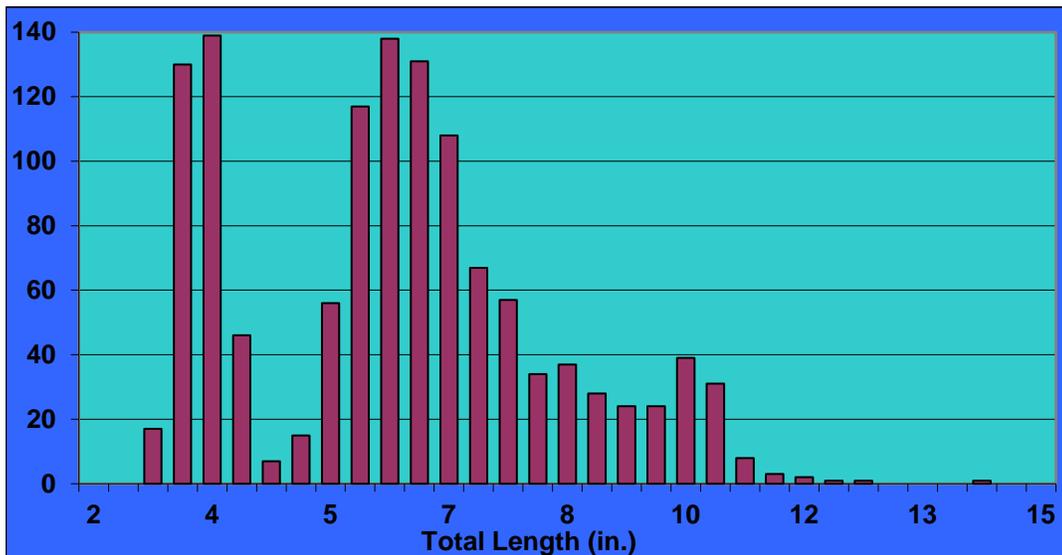
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--GOOD

The crappie population continues to improve as the fall 2017 crappie catch rate was again higher than the previous year. Catch rate of fish 8 inches and greater was 27 in 2013, 3 in 2014, 11 in 2015, 51 in 2016 and 56 in 2017. In addition, the density rating has increased from 2.7 in 2014 to 19.9 this year. Fifty-one percent of crappie were between 6 and 9 inches, 41% were 3 to 5 inches, 7% were 10 to 12 inches, and 1% were 13 to 14 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 25% of the crappie catch consisted of black crappie with age-1 fish between 5 and 7 inches dominating the catch. These fish should reach 10 inches in late 2018 or early in 2019. Biggest



white crappie weighed 1.5 pounds and biggest black crappie weighed 0.9 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.

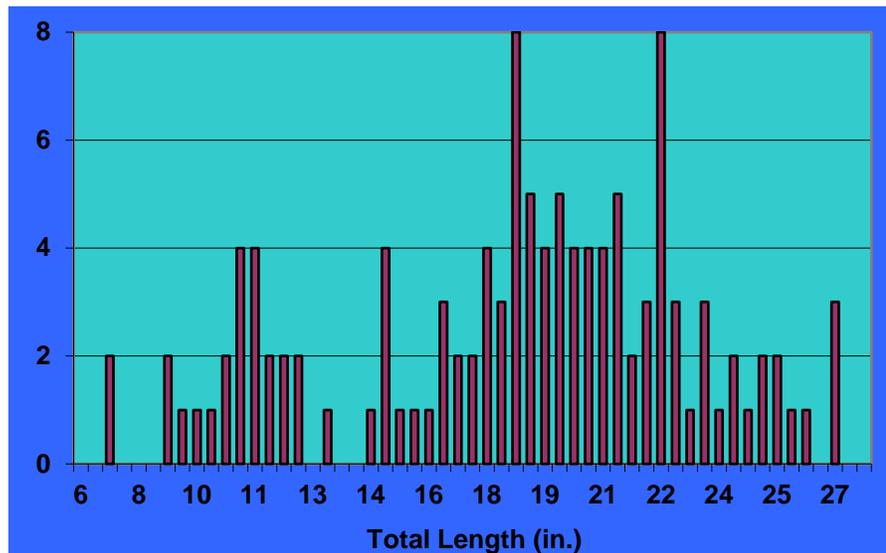


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2016) AND 2017 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

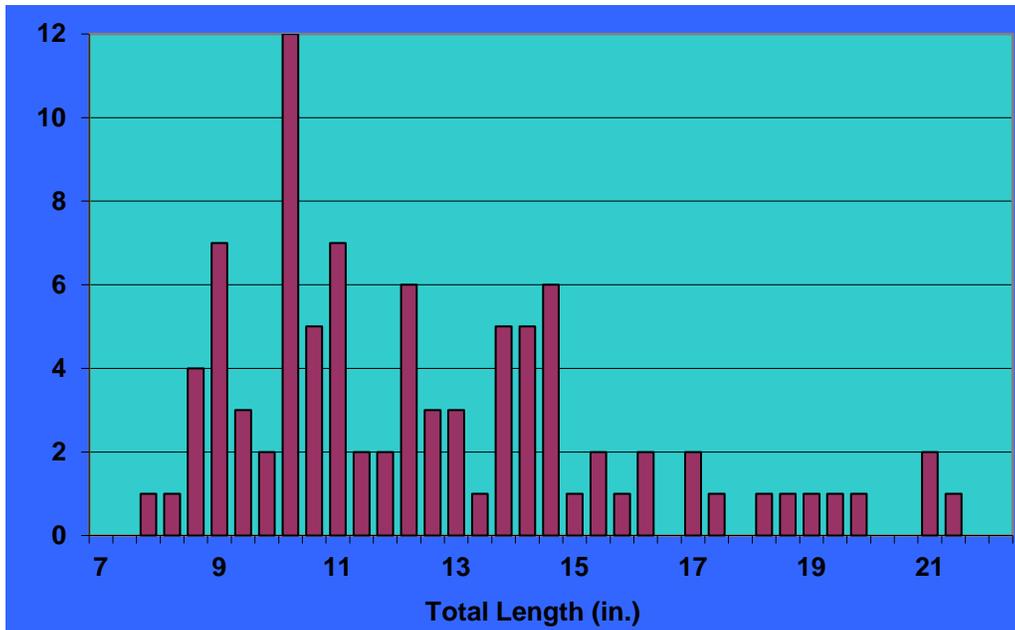
The catfish population will be very good again in 2018 with all sizes of channel cats and flatheads available to anglers. The fall 2017 channel catfish catch rate was up 31% for all sizes from the previous year and the number of fish over 24 inches doubled with the biggest fish weighing 7.3 pounds. Forty-one percent of the fish were between 14 and 19 inches, 31% were 20-24 inches, 20% were between 7 and 13 inches, and 8% were 25-27 inches. Flathead catfish were sampled this year with 59 fish collected ranging from 5 to 45 inches with the biggest fish weighing 54 pounds. Fish between 25 and 35 inches comprise the biggest portion of the catch, but all sizes are available to anglers. 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 (2017) AND 2018 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 year around. We sampled bass during fall electrofishing and collected 92 fish between 8 and 21 inches. The higher water levels in recent years have yielded good production resulting in the catch of 8 to 12 inch fish. Older fish are always available as well with 17% of the catch over 15 inches and 8% greater than 18 inches with the biggest weighing nearly 6 pounds. Fish can be caught near the marina, Montana Creek, Cabin Point, John's Creek, Cedar Point, the inlet, and outlet.

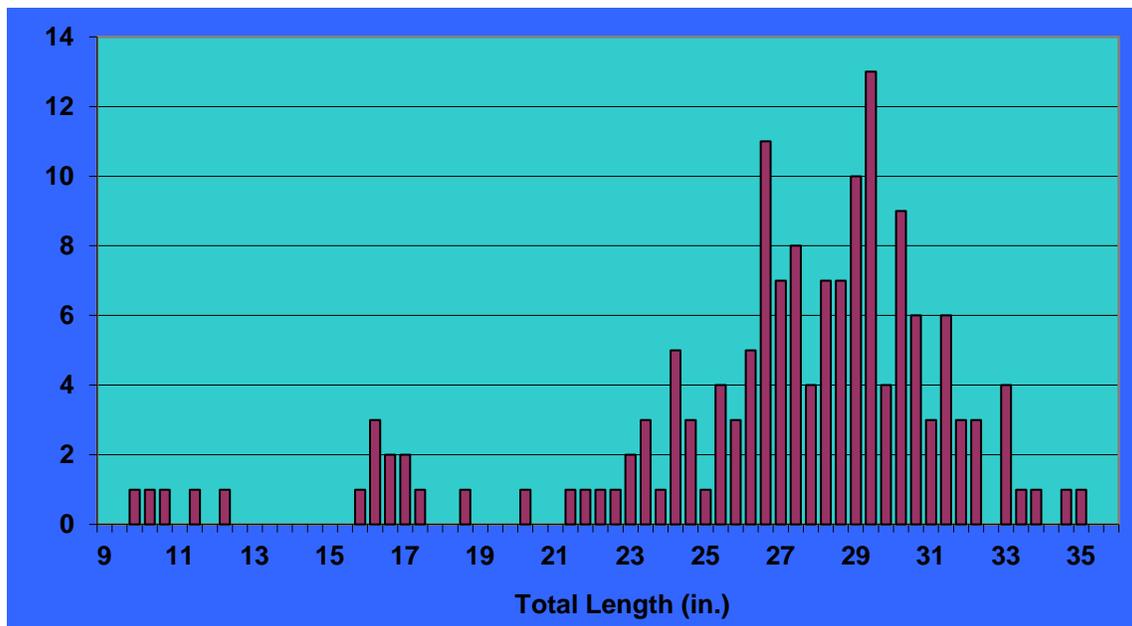


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2017) AND 2018 FISHING FORECAST

BLUE CATFISH--FAIR

We collected and tagged over 180 blue catfish in 2017 using electrofishing and fall gill nets. There are now over 600 tagged blue cats in the reservoir as we continue to study their movements and growth rates. Fish collected this year ranged from 10-35 inches and weighed up to 21 pounds. Natural reproduction of blue catfish was documented 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!**



Rocky Pond in Belleville

This 27 acre lake located in the heart of Republic County has offered anglers a wonderful resource within the Belleville city limits for many years. Unfortunately, drought caused the lake to virtually dry up and it became unusable for several years until the water returned. This refill occurred in 2016 and fish were restocked in 2017.

Nearly 700 adult bluegill, 300 intermediate largemouth bass, and 700 intermediate channel catfish were stocked in October 2017 to kick start the fishery in Rocky Pond. These larger fish will allow anglers to reap the benefits much sooner due to their bigger size. In addition, fall sampling indicated the presence of a strong black crappie population that already ranks 6th in the state's small lakes for density of fish over 8 inches and #1 for density of fish greater than 10 inches.



This 27 acre lake in Belleville offers excellent angling opportunity for surrounding residents.

The lake has a need for more renovation including dredging to increase the average depth from 2 to 3 feet to 5 or 6 feet. Improved control of sedimentation and runoff from the watershed in the form of a settling basin above the lake would greatly assist in siltation and runoff control from fertilizers that has caused fish kills in the past. Hopefully, KDWPT and the city can work together to achieve these goals.

Local Events in 2018

Glen Elder

May 19	WLA Multi-species Tournament
June 2	14 th Annual Youth Fishing Tourn.
June 15-16	KWA Governor's Cup Walleye
August 11	WLA Catfish Tournament
TBD	Youth & Women Pheasant Hunt

Lovewell

June 10	Kids Fishing Clinic
June 17	"Float Your Boat" Contest
August 4	Sand Castle Contest
August 4	Lovewell Fun Day

**Free Fishing Weekend
is June 2nd and 3rd
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.

Scott Waters

District Fisheries Biologist
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
2131 180 Road
Glen Elder, KS 67746
785-545-3345
scott.waters@ks.gov