



# Kansas City District Fisheries Newsletter

## *Biologist's Notes*

It has been a very active summer here in the Kansas City District, it has made time seem to pass very fast. Summer started off on a good note with the completion of the spring largemouth bass sampling. Several area waterbodies can boast very nice largemouth bass populations, with a number of impressively large fish sampled (more details on Page 2). The research project involving stocking of early-spawned largemouth bass at Hillsdale Reservoir has continued for the fourth year. KDWPT fisheries biologists collected fin clips for genetic analysis from over 300 sampled and tournament caught largemouth bass this spring. The genetic analysis allows us to differentiate between hatchery reared or wild spawned largemouth bass. It will be interesting to see the contribution of the early-spawned largemouth bass to the overall bass population at Hillsdale Reservoir especially as some of these fish are reaching older ages.

The Kansas City District received some disappointing news in June when an angler detected a zebra mussel and a population was confirmed at Hillsdale Reservoir (more on Page 3). We must all do our part to stop the spread of this aggressive invader. Zebra mussels are microscopic during their early-life stage (veligers), and hundreds of veligers can occupy one liter of water. **DO NOT TRANSPORT WATER** is the one action everyone can do, not in a boat, bucket, livewell, bilge, or any other container. Currently the zebra mussel population in Hillsdale Reservoir appears to be at low density and hopefully the reservoir can avoid the large population explosion and the effects to the fish community will be minimal.

As summer draws to a close and transitions to fall, remember that great fishing opportunities exist this time of year. Forage fish, such as young-of-year gizzard shad, are very abundant in the fall. As water temperatures cool, game fish become more active and feed on forage fish to

fatten up for winter. For best success, match baits to the prey base of your particular waterbody and hold on for some action. Good luck and **get out there and fish!**

*"takemefishing"*

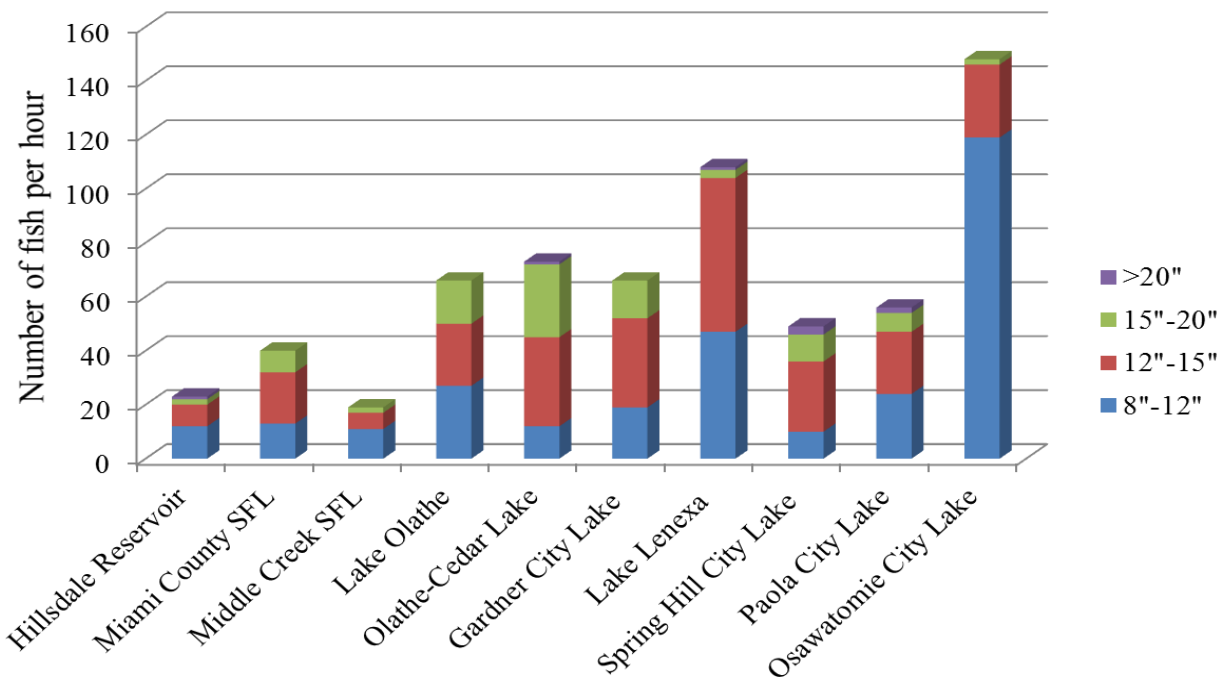


### Inside this issue:

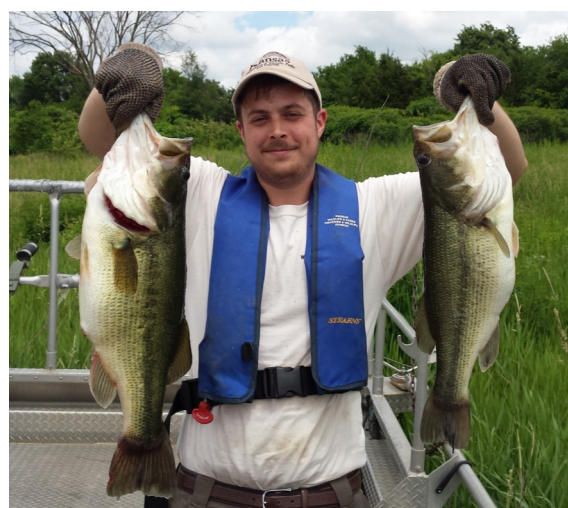
<i>Biologist's Notes</i>	1
<i>KC District Largemouth Bass Spring Sampling Summary</i>	2
<i>Zebra Mussels Discovered in Hillsdale Reservoir</i>	3
<i>An Update on KC District's "Georgia Cube" Fish Habitats</i>	4

## 2016 Kansas City District Largemouth Bass Spring Sampling Summary

Fisheries biologists use a variety of gear to sample fish depending on species, season, and environmental conditions. Every spring, district fisheries biologists around the state use electrofishing boats to assess black bass populations. Black bass sampling is conducted during the spring when the bass are in shallow waters and more efficiently caught. This sampling allows biologists to assess relative abundance, length structure, and condition of black bass populations. Below is the largemouth bass sampling summary for the Kansas City District in 2016. Some real “lunkers” were sampled this year with several bass > 6 lbs. As the figure below shows, several waterbodies have real good largemouth bass size structure (e.g., Olathe-Cedar Lake, Gardner City Lake, and Spring Hill City Lake), and several waterbodies with high abundance of smaller largemouth bass (e.g., Lake Lenexa and Osawatomi City Lake).



*KDWPT State Park  
 Ranger Drew Bolton and  
 technician Michael Parr  
 display nice fish from  
 Hillsdale Reservoir and  
 Spring Hill City Lake.*





## *Zebra Mussels Discovered in Hillsdale Reservoir*



This past June an angler was fishing the Wade Branch arm of Hillsdale Reservoir when he found one adult zebra mussel attached to a tree limb. He immediately reported it to the State Park office and one day later KDWPT aquatic nuisance species staff subsequently found more zebra mussels on rocks and trees in the same area.

Hillsdale Reservoir is now a designated aquatic nuisance species waterbody. This means, legally, no water or live organisms can be transported from the waterbody. Prevention is the best way to stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species. Zebra mussels are just one of the non-native aquatic species that threaten our waters and native wildlife. After using any body of water, people must remember to follow regulations and precautions that will prevent their spread:

- Clean, drain, and dry boats and equipment between uses.
- Use wild-caught bait only in the waterbody where it was caught.
- Do not move live fish from waters infested with zebra mussels or other aquatic nuisance species.
- Drain livewells and bilges and remove drain plugs from all vessels prior to transport from any Kansas waterbody on a public highway.



### **A little information about zebra mussels**

Zebra mussels are dime-sized mollusks with striped, sharp-edged, two-part shells. They can produce huge populations in a short time and do not require a host fish to reproduce. A large female zebra mussel can produce 1 million eggs that, when fertilized, develop into microscopic veligers that are invisible to the naked eye. Veligers drift in the water for at least two weeks before they settle out as young mussels which quickly grow to adult size and reproduce within a few months.

After settling, zebra mussels develop byssal threads that attach their shells to submerged hard surfaces such as rocks, piers, and flooded timber. They also attach to pipes, water intake structures, boat hulls, propellers, and submerged parts of outboard motors. As populations increase, they can clog intake pipes and prevent water treatment and electrical generating plants from drawing water. Removing large numbers of zebra mussels to ensure adequate water flow can be labor-intensive and costly.

Zebra mussels are native to the Black and Caspian seas of western Asia and eastern Europe and were spread around the world in the ballast water of cargo ships. They were discovered in Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River in 1988 and quickly spread throughout the Great Lakes and other rivers including the Mississippi, Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, Arkansas and Hudson. They were first discovered in Kansas in 2003 at El Dorado Reservoir. Despite public education efforts to alert boaters about the dangers of zebra mussels, and how to prevent spreading them, the species continues to show up in new lakes every year. There are currently 27 waterbodies in the state of Kansas that have zebra mussel populations.

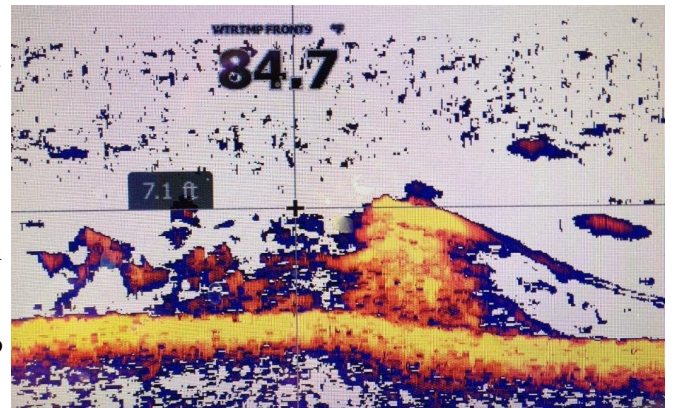
## An Update on Kansas City District's "Georgia Cube" Fish Habitats



In the spring newsletter I introduced the "Georgia Cube" fish habitats, and now I am happy to announce that a good number of them have been constructed and placed in area waterbodies. Starting in 2015, KDWPT has been adding "Georgia Cube" synthetic fish habitats to numerous statewide waterbodies. The "Georgia Cubes" were originally designed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and consist of black corrugated pipe on a PVC frame in the shape of a cube three feet tall, four feet wide, and four feet deep. The structures quickly accumulate periphyton, a complex mix of algae, fungi, and bacteria, which in turn attracts insects and fish. The "Georgia Cubes" have numerous advantages compared to traditional added habitat structures (e.g., cedar trees) which include: cost efficient, easy to place, and will last up to 3 times longer than natural brush piles with no deleterious effects on water quality.

Ten "Georgia Cubes" were placed in Lake Olathe with the assistance of the Kansas City B.A.S.S. Club, and 20 "Georgia Cubes" were placed in Middle Creek State Fishing Lake with the assistance of the Leavenworth B.A.S.S. Club. Local Kansas B.A.S.S. Nation chapters and other bass clubs have been instrumental in the construction and

placement of these structures statewide, and I cannot thank the Kansas City and Leavenworth B.A.S.S. Clubs enough for their involvement with this project. I especially want to thank Richard Kiblinger (KC) and Dan Senterfitt (Leavenworth) for coordinating their respective groups. Ten more structures will be added to Lake Olathe by the end of September 2016. GPS locations of all statewide fish attractors (natural and artificial) are available at the KDWPT website, [www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com). Click on "Fishing" then click on "Google KMZ file of KS Fish Attractors" under the "Fishing Opportunities" menu. Anglers can also find the file by entering "fish attractor GPS" in the search box on the home page. Check out this informative video link of KDWPT staff installing "Georgia Cubes" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed-S7ky4cXI>.



*Sonar image of fish holding to Lake Olathe  
"Georgia Cube"*

KDWPT, Luke Kowalewski, Fisheries Biologist  
8304 Hedge Lane Terrace  
Shawnee, KS 66227  
Phone: 913-422-1314

We're on the web!

[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)