

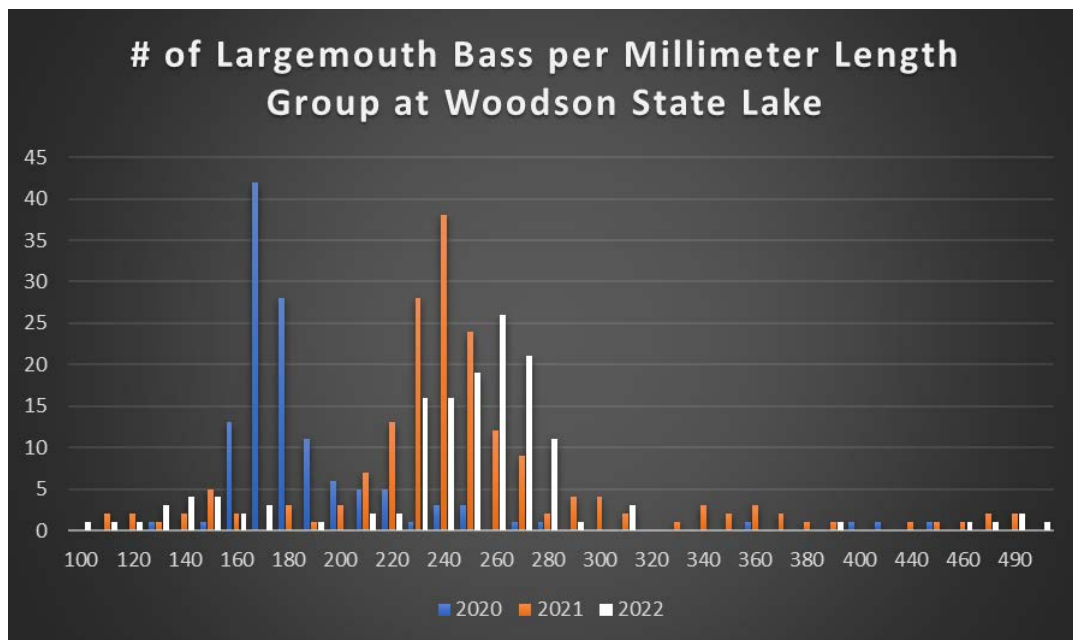


New Strawn District Fisheries News

Summer 2022

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Woodson State Fishing Lake Largemouth Bass Growth



Spring electrofishing efforts at Woodson State Fishing Lake, occurred in early May and the results were somewhat disappointing. We captured 144 fish in .82 hrs. of effort which resulted in a stock CPUE of 154 fish/hr. Both of those metrics are great numbers, however, 91% of the sample was made up of stock length fish (8-12"). That was the disappointing part of the sample, I was hoping for better growth from last year, but as the graph above illustrates the fish only grew about an inch from last year. I was hoping more fish were going to hit the 13-14" mark (330 mm), unfortunately that was not the case, and is probably due to competition for the same size or type of forage. It's common for fish growth to slow as they age and it

seems like once bass get close to 13" growth really slows and that's when we start to see populations becoming stunted. That is why it's important to take advantage of the slot limit and harvest those fish that are less than 13" to help reduce competition for resources and encourage faster growth among fish in the same size class. This fall I am planning to do some selective harvest from the population to help reduce the number of 10-12" fish and hopefully boost some growth of that size class. The fish removed will be stocked into Coffey County Lake which is still struggling to rebound from Largemouth Bass Virus. Generally, we do not like to transport fish from one impoundment to another due to the chances of introducing viruses or

zebra mussels, but since Coffey County Lake already has both things of concern, these stockings do not pose any threat to Coffey County Lake. The graph above illustrates that the adult bass are doing well and have produced successful spawns recently as fish less than 160mm showed up in the sample. The two largest fish sampled were just under 6 lbs. and were real beauties.



2022 Spring Electrofishing Results

Lake	Total Catch	Fish/hr.	# of 8-12"	# of 12-15"	# of 15-20"	# of 20-25"	Big Fish
Gridley City Lake	110	118	24	47	35	0	4.26
Garnett City Lake North	178	174	72	55	25	2	4.92
Garnett City Lake South	60	117	18	25	10	0	5.26
Yates Center City Lake	87	77	7	45	26	0	4.42
Woodson State Lake	144	154	114	3	5	2	5.85
Coffey County Lake	10	7.5	2	3	5	0	3.03

Due to the crazy spring weather we had I was only able to complete sampling efforts on the impoundments listed above in the table. Overall, the populations have not changed much with Garnett North Lake and Gridley City Lake still showing high density populations with good numbers of fish over 15". The relative abundance of fish at Garnett South Lake has decreased a little and the size structure has also decreased, but the lake has an abundant forage base so the population should recover. Yates Center City Lake has shown some improvement in size structure over the last two years as a group of fish have eclipsed the 15" mark and the fish seem to be in better condition than previous years.



The Great Kansas Fishing Derby Ends Sept. 15

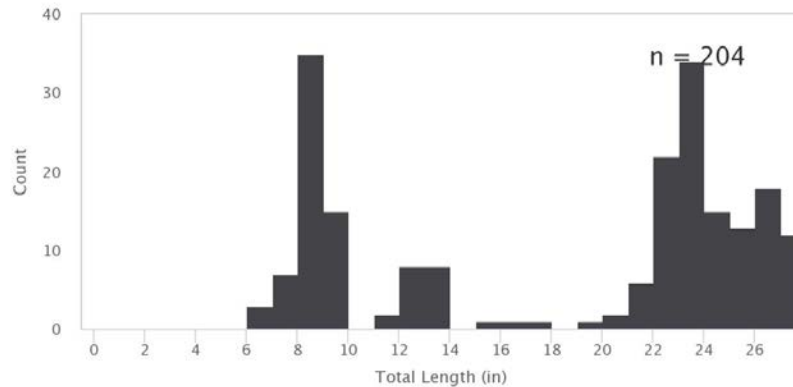
The Great Kansas Fishing Derby is still going on and 3 lakes in my district have tagged fish in them and very few have been caught. Lakes in the district participating include Gridley City Lake, Garnett City Lake North, and Yates Center City Lake. Various species at each lake are tagged. Fish tagged at Gridley City Lake include largemouth bass, channel catfish, walleye, and bluegill. Fish tagged at Garnett City Lake North include largemouth bass, channel catfish, saugeye, and redear sunfish. Tagged



Fish at Yates Center Reservoir include largemouth bass, redear sunfish, white crappie, channel catfish, and blue catfish. If you are close to one of these lakes or if you are looking for a reason to travel, get out and try to get one of these tags before the derby ends. All Derby participants must have a valid fishing license to redeem tags, unless exempt from the license regulation. With a valid license, participants can fish for prizes at any of the selected Kansas lakes. After catching a tagged fish, anglers should remove the tag and redeem online. Winners will be contacted about their prize and how to collect. If unable to [redeem online](#), anglers can contact KDWP Sportfishing Education Coordinator, David Breth, at 620-672-5911. All tags must be reported by September 15, 2022 by midnight to be eligible for prizes.



John Redmond Blue Catfish



| Date: >= 2022-01-01 and <= 2022-08-24 | Species: Blue Catfish | Impoundment: John Redmond Reservoir :JRDR |

The livewells were full several times during the summertime blue catfish sample at John Redmond Reservoir. We had our best sample to date as we captured 204 blue catfish in just under 1 hour of electrofishing for a stock CPUE of 153 fish/hr. The sample had to be cut short due to equipment malfunction with the chase boat, so it is likely the stock CPUE would be lower if I would have completed a few more sites. Regardless, this was a fantastic sample, and I am really pleased with the results. As you can see from the graph above there is a big group of fish in the 22-27" range and there is evidence of other year classes coming up in the population. We did not catch any fish larger than 27", however, several reports of fish over 30lbs. have been made. Since the population is showing good signs of reproduction and recruitment, the next step for me is to complete an age and growth study of the population and then I will be looking at changing the length and creel limits depending on the age and growth results. The bottom line from this sample is the blue catfish population looks like it's coming along strong and should provide some good angling opportunities.



John Redmond Paddlefish



The paddlefish population in John Redmond received a big boost this year by receiving almost 21,000 intermediate sized paddlefish (10-12"). This stocking was four times the amount we typically stock every year, and this was due to super successful spawning efforts at the Oklahoma Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery where these fish were reared. Since they overshot their goal, we get to reap the benefits and stock extra fish this year in John Redmond as well as Elk City Reservoir as we continue to try and reestablish these fish populations throughout the Neosho and Verdigris River basins. The John Redmond stocking should bolster the fish population in the river around Burlington for a few years and paddlefish anglers should see an increase in fish numbers over the next few years if the water conditions are right throughout the snagging season.

Thanks for reading, and if you know anybody who might be interested in receiving this newsletter or other fishing district newsletters share the following link with them. <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWP-Info/News/Newsletter-Request-Forms>



Questions or Comments?

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