

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *Good year for largemouth bass production at Hillsdale*
- *Low to moderate density allows fish to grow to larger sizes*
- *To avoid the spread of zebra mussels, CLEAN, DRAIN AND DRY*

BIOLOGIST NOTES

What a spring! To say last spring was busy would be an understatement. Spring kicked off with another year of walleye egg collection at Hillsdale Reservoir. Our egg collection time was pretty short this year due to great early egg collection at Cedar Bluff Reservoir in western Kansas. However, we still saw some good walleye at Hillsdale and collected nearly 40 million eggs. Spring electrofishing went fairly well this year. The crazy weather patterns and a few boat issues sure made things interesting, but we were able to get to most lakes. You can see the highlights from the spring

electrofishing later in this issue. With the unfortunate spread of zebra mussels in Kansas reservoirs, we decided to team up with our Law Enforcement and Parks divisions to inspect boats coming into Hillsdale Reservoir on busy weekends. This was a very successful event, and similar events are planned for the future. Be sure to read more about this great event later in this issue. Finally, we have been very busy with the early-spawned largemouth bass project at Hillsdale. The Meade hatchery was able to produce early spawned largemouth bass fry for Hillsdale

this year, and they were stocked in April and early May. Since then, we have conducted weekly shad trawling and monthly seining to help evaluate the stockings. We are still in the early stages of this project, so we will need to be patient in evaluation of this project, but for now it is looking like it could be a good year for largemouth bass production at Hillsdale. Keep your fingers and toes crossed!



A bag of largemouth bass fry from Meade Hatchery being put into a holding cage to acclimate to their new home, Hillsdale Reservoir.





Two nice bass captured during spring electrofishing at Louisburg City Lake.

SPRING BASS SAMPLING RESULTS

Every spring, fisheries biologists conduct electrofishing surveys to evaluate black bass populations in Kansas waters. Although a formal report summarizing these findings will be completed this winter, I thought I would share a few highlights from this year's surveys within my district:

Louisburg City Lake: As seen in the picture, there are some nice bass cruising Louisburg City Lake. The population is low to moderate density, but this allows the fish to grow to larger sizes. The largest fish sampled from this water body this spring weighed more than 4 pounds.

Gardner City Lake: Spring electrofishing indicated the largemouth bass population is still characterized as high density. Unfortunately,

most of the fish captured this year were small (8-12 inches). Unfortunately, largemouth bass virus was discovered in this lake in 2008, and this epidemic caused the large fish to disappear. However, we did see an increase in larger fish this year. Hopefully this is a sign of a rebounding bass population!

Middle Creek State Fishing Lake: This lake has a moderate density of largemouth bass. However, nearly 60 percent of the largemouth bass collected this spring measured just 8-12 inches. Largemouth bass would benefit from water-level fluctuations, and a water-level management plan is being completed for this lake.

Hillsdale Reservoir: Spring electrofishing indicated low density of largemouth bass in Hillsdale. However, increased water levels during

sampling may have decreased our catch rate. The largest largemouth bass captured this spring weighed almost four pounds. A project aimed at improving the largemouth bass population in Hillsdale is underway. Be sure to stay tuned for more details!

CFAP Stories: Lake Olathe Habitat Improvements

Lake Olathe is a 172-acre impoundment located between 135th St. and Dennis Ave in western Olathe. In 2005, KDWP fisheries biologist Dave Spalsbury worked with the city of Olathe to install brush pile fish attractors in the lake. The brush piles are made by stacking layers of cedar trees weighted with cement blocks. These fish attractors become popular fishing locations as fish tend to concentrate near these areas. However, over time the brushpiles begin to degrade as the limbs become fragile and the trees sink further into the mud bottom of the lake. This summer we worked with the city of Olathe to restore these fish attractors. In late July, forestry crews from the city of Olathe cut cedar trees from the Hillsdale Reservoir wildlife area and transported them to the Sailing Club Beach at Lake Olathe. Personnel from the City of Olathe and KDWP, along with a couple of volunteers, fastened weights to the cedar trees and sank them over the existing brushpiles. During the three-day project, five of the seven brushpiles were restored. Be sure to get out to Lake Olathe to enjoy these fish attractors! A lake map along with GPS coordinates of the brush piles is available at the city of Olathe Parks and Recreation webpage, <http://www.olatheks.org/ParksRec/Programs/Trails/Location>.



Restored brush pile
fish attractor at
Lake Olathe.

STOP! ZEBRA MUSSEL BOAT INSPECTION POINT

The discovery of zebra mussels in Council Grove City Lake this summer marks the ninth infested water body in Kansas. Unfortunately this infestation could have major economical and environmental impacts, and it could have been prevented. As we recognize zebra mussels and other aquatic invasive species as major threats to aquatic resources, we continue to search for ways to prevent their spread. Education is currently our best defense against the spread, so we decided to increase the pressure on education by setting up a boat inspection point at Hillsdale Reservoir. The high-use and close proximity to infested waters places Hillsdale Reservoir at high risk for infestation. Therefore, KDWP's Fish and Wildlife Division teamed up with Law Enforcement and Parks divisions to set up the inspection event. On June 19, boaters coming to Hillsdale Reservoir at the Jayhawk and Marysville ramps were required to go through inspection lanes. Biologists and law enforcement officers checked the boats for aquatic nuisance species and boat safety equipment. No aquatic nuisance species were discovered during the event, but boaters were provided with information and shown key locations on their boat to check for aquatic invasives. More of these events are planned for Hillsdale and other Kansas waters to increase the awareness among lake users. Every time you leave the lake, make sure you CLEAN, DRAIN, AND DRY your boat before heading to the next water body.



KDWP personnel inspect boats at Hillsdale Reservoir for aquatic nuisance species.