

Stockton District Fisheries Newsletter

2017, Issue 2

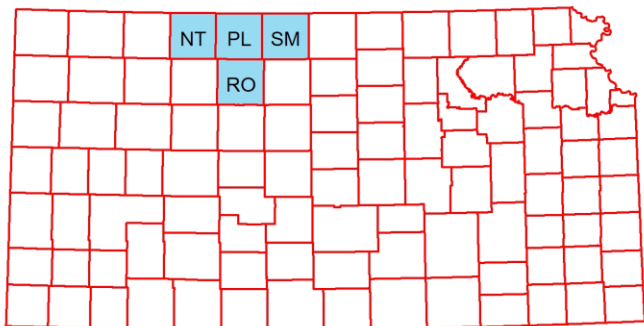
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Fisheries Division

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Welcome to the Stockton Fisheries District

The Stockton District consists of four counties in northwest Kansas: Rooks (RO), Phillips (PL), Smith (SM) and Norton (NT). The district consists of three main reservoirs – Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius; one state fishing lake – Rooks State fishing lake; two Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) lakes – Logan City lake and Plainville Township lake; and various Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) properties which comprise 62.5 acres of ponds in Phillips, Smith and Rooks counties and 3.80 miles of stream access on the North and South Fork Solomon rivers.



2018 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR WEBSTER RESERVOIR



* Webster 2013 smallmouth bass

BLACK BASS - Fair.

The black bass population will hopefully be on the increase this year. This is due to the fact that Webster Reservoir started the year above conservation pool and a lot of terrestrial habitat was inundated, creating an excellent habitat for the bass. Also, 64,385 fingerling largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to help boost this population. Three largemouth bass were collected during the bass sample and quite a few of the fingerling fish were observed while performing other sampling. No smallmouth bass were sampled or observed this year. Spinnerbaits, crankbaits and other artificials should work well along Rock Point and Old Marina coves, along the dam and bluffs and between Rock Point and the outlet gates. **A 15-inch length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is in effect.**

2018 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR KIRWIN RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Fair.

The black bass population will hopefully be on the increase this year as Kirwin Reservoir started the year approximately 4.5 feet below conservation pool and a lot of terrestrial habitat got inundated when it came up 14 feet, creating lots of bass habitat. Also, 86,555 fingerling largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to boost this population. Two largemouth bass were collected during the bass sample and quite a few of the fingerling fish were observed while performing other sampling. With lower water levels, best locations for finding bass are going bass should be concentrated along Crappie Point and back toward Scout cove, the cove by the North Shore and South Shore ramps and along the dam and outlet area. **A 15-inch length limit is in effect.**



* Kirwin largemouth bass

Protect Our Waters

Stop aquatic hitchhikers!



Clean. Drain. Dry.

Every lake, every time.

Use it where you catch it.

One bait, one lake: Do it for the future's sake.

Know the rules. Visit: ProtectKSwaters.org

2018 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR SEBELIUS RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Good.

This largemouth bass population is dominated by 3- to 7-inch fish, which account for 45 percent of the fish sampled. Largemouth bass in the 8- to 11-inch size range accounted for 18 percent of the sample, fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range accounted for 8 percent and fish over 15 inches made up 29 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled weighed in at 3.12 pounds. Good numbers of spotted bass are also present with 11 percent being in the 3- to 7-inch size range, 18 percent being in the 8- to 10-inch size range, 50 percent being in the 11- to 13-inch size range and 21 percent being in the 13- to 16-inch size range. The biggest spotted bass sampled weighed in at 1.74 pounds. Spinnerbaits and other artificial baits should work well in Leota Cove, along the dam, Shoen's Cove and up the river channel by the sandpit. Fish the rocky areas for the spots. **A 15-inch length limit on largemouth and spotted bass is in effect.**



*Sebelius spotted bass

Rainbow Trout Season Starts November 1

The Webster Stilling Basin, a 6-acre impoundment below the dam, is stocked five times (Nov., Dec., Jan, Feb., and Mar.) each trout season. Each stocking consists of 2,100 trout averaging approximately ½-pound each with an occasional bigger fish thrown in to make it exciting. Projected stocking dates are usually around the first of the month.

Fishing Information

You can visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism website at <http://ksoutdoors.com> for a wealth of fisheries information. When you click on the fisheries tab at the top of the page, you can access all kinds of information such as where to fish, reports and forecasts, seasons and limits, species and fish records, fishing regulations, aquatic nuisance species, fishing instruction, special fishing programs, certified bait dealers, tournaments, fish consumption advisories, blue-green algae and you can also report violators. If you cannot find the information you are looking for from on the website, you can call or stop by any of the area, park or regional offices.



Young of the Year Shad Sampling Results

Young of the year (YOY) shad sampling was completed this past August at Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius reservoirs. Young of the year shad are sampled at 10 random sites throughout the water body and then sampled for 360 seconds of EFT (energized field time). When all is said and done, one hour of effort is expended at each impoundment. This sample is performed to determine what size the shad are and how many are available for the larger fish to utilize. These YOY fish are the ones that help sustain all the other fish and maintain them through the winter. The goal is typically around 250 fish per site with 50 percent of them being under 70 mm. All three reservoirs are looking good with most of the sport fish being able to utilize them for food. However, we would like to see more numbers at Webster and smaller sized shad at Keith Sebelius.



* Young of the year shad sampling 2014

At Webster 54 fish were caught at each site with 57 percent of the sample being under 70 mm. Kirwin produced 448 fish per site with 53 percent being under 70 mm and Keith Sebelius produced 653 fish with 11 percent being under 70 mm.

New Fish Cleaning Station at Kirwin Reservoir

A joint partnership project involving four different entities has culminated in a much-needed facility that will benefit anglers who fish Kirwin Reservoir in Phillips County. A new, modern fish cleaning station was recently completed just east of the dam at Kirwin and is now available for use by the angling public.

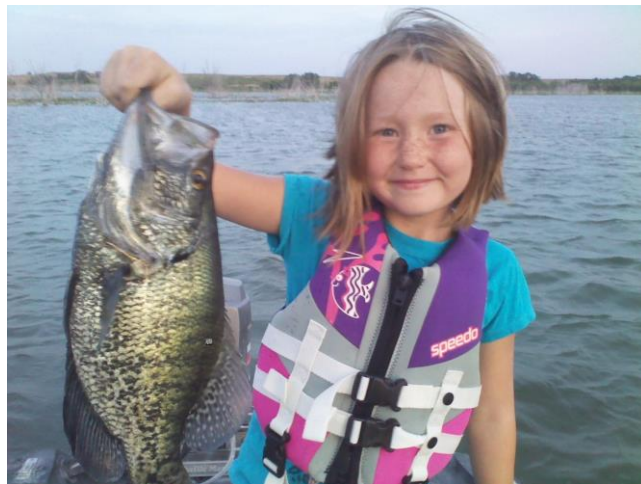


The National Wildlife Refuge (US Fish & Wildlife Service) located at Kirwin Reservoir, the Stockton Correctional Facility (KS Dept. of Corrections), the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR-McCook, NE office), and KDWPPT all worked together over the past 15 months to design, construct, and fund the structure.



The new station is located on BOR property, 1/2-mile west of the town of Kirwin. It features a "Barracuda" model fish carcass disposal mechanism designed to minimize maintenance and down-time in the future. Ample parking for all sized vehicles and trailers supplements the facility. All ADA (American Disabilities Act) considerations were incorporated into the design to accommodate all anglers.

The fish cleaning facility will remain open through mid-October when it will close for the winter to prevent damage from freezing. For more information about the project and/or the facility, contact the USFWS-Kirwin NWR at 785-543-6673.



* A very satisfied Kirwin angler

The summer is ending, schools are starting back up and football and hunting seasons are quickly approaching. However, there is still a lot of good fishing to be had as the water starts to cool down and the fish begin feeding up for winter. So, don't put the boat and fishing poles away just yet. Get out and enjoy the cooler days catching some fish.

Hopefully this newsletter has given you some information that will make your outings more pleasurable and memorable. So, get out there, take a friend with you and take advantage of the many opportunities that are available. Good luck, be careful and enjoy the great outdoors.

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**Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!**

