2020 Fish Stocking & Sampling

The Pittsburg District includes Cherokee, Crawford, and Neosho counties. Three water bodies were sampled in the Pittsburg district in October of 2020 to monitor the fish populations: Bone Creek, Crawford State Fishing Lake, and Neosho State Fishing Lake. You will the fish stocking report of 2020, highlights from the 2020 fall sampling effort in the Pittsburg district, and photos from my fishing trips and sampling of 2020.
As you can tell from above, a lot of effort is placed into stocking fish that are raised from our state fish hatcheries in the Pittsburg district. A total of 36,267 fish were stocked in 2020 in nearby waters from Pittsburg with the following totals for species: 35,578 channel catfish, 7,815 largemouth bass, 520 hybrid sunfish, and 1,070 wipers. Thank you to our hatchery biologists and KDWPT staff who assisted with the stocking efforts!
Neosho State Fishing Lake is the place to be for crappie in 2021. Winter drawdowns the past two years and increased habitat have helped the crappie population at Neosho SFL. Crawford State Fishing Lake has a stunted crappie population. Anglers are encouraged to keep their daily creel limit of 50 per day to open up space for the crappie to grow. Bone Creek doesn’t lend itself well for sampling with trap nets, but quality crappie can be caught in 2020.

Other Fishing Opportunities:

**Wiper:** Crawford State Fishing Lake has a population of wipers that reach sizes up to 24”. An open water predator, it will be advantageous to focus on drop offs, coves, creek channels, and the wind blown side of the lake when they are congregated feeding on gizzard shad. The Mined Land Wildlife Area has wipers on Unit #21, currently.

**Saugeye:** Bone Creek Lake has a population of saugeye that reach sizes up to 26”. The population has established and is ranked 3rd in the 2021 KDWPT fishing forecast.

**Channel Catfish:** Bone Creek Lake has a high quality channel catfish population. Neosho State Fishing Lake and Crawford State Fishing Lake also have quality channel catfish populations. The Mined Land Wildlife Area is stocked every year and is where the current state record was caught. All CFAP properties are stocked each year.

**Flathead Catfish:** Crawford State Fishing Lake has an underrated flathead catfish population with sizes up to 40 pounds. Neosho State Fishing lake has flathead catfish up to 20 pounds. Don’t forget about the Neosho River as well.
A white crappie sampled in trap nets from Neosho State Fishing Lake being held by Logan Meyer, Seasonal Fisheries Aide.

Saugeye sampled in gill nets from Bone Creek being held by Keifer Shipley, Farlington SFH biologist, and Logan Martin, District Wildlife Biologist. Thanks for the help, guys!

A couple of black crappie sampled with trap nets at Bone Creek!

A couple very healthy 18” Largemouth Bass sampled with gill nets at Bone Creek. Very rare to see in a gill net, this proves there’s still quality bass and lots of them to be caught at Bone Creek.
My best friend, Eric, was able to come down from Wisconsin to fish the strip pits on the Mined Land Wildlife Area. He outfished me that day with the wacky rig. Pictured is the biggest of the day for him – a 20.5" Largemouth Bass.

My good friend and KDWPT seasonal employee, John, holding up a 21" Largemouth Bass from a strip pit on the Mined Land Wildlife Area.

Myself holding a 21.5" Largemouth Bass caught out of a strip pit on the Mined Land Wildlife Area.

Myself holding a stringer of Channel Catfish caught at Glen Elder Reservoir. Special trip with my dad last June that I’ll always cherish.
One Last Cast!

Last June, I was able to go to Glen Elder with my dad, Dale, and family friend, “Grandad” Pete. We fished overnight for channel catfish that weekend just like the good ol’ days! I would venture a guess that a hundred, or more, fishing trips have been had with this trio and many channel catfish caught. I’m very thankful that every weekend we were able, we were on a shoreline fishing somewhere. The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed for many to take advantage to get outside and enjoy fishing this year. Perhaps other trios like this were able to form bonds through fishing in 2020 that will last a lifetime!

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