

Milford Fisheries Newsletter

Summer 2011

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New state record smallmouth bass caught at Milford Reservoir

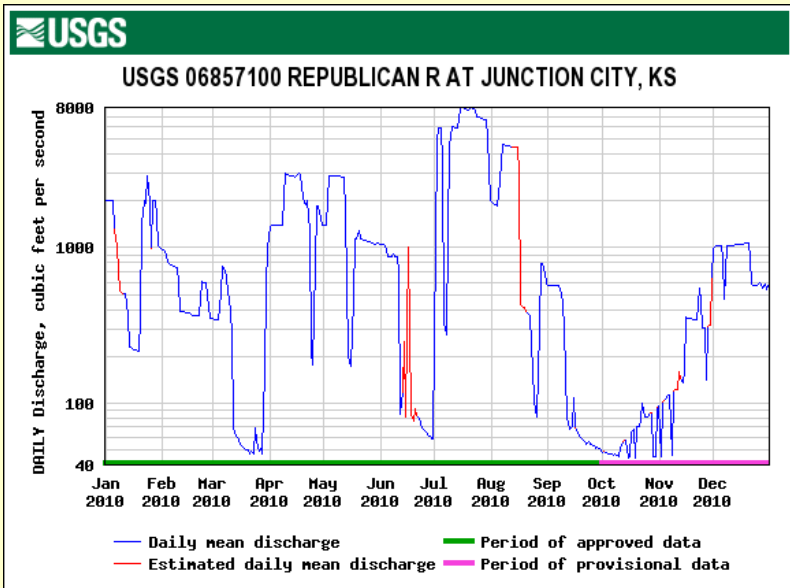
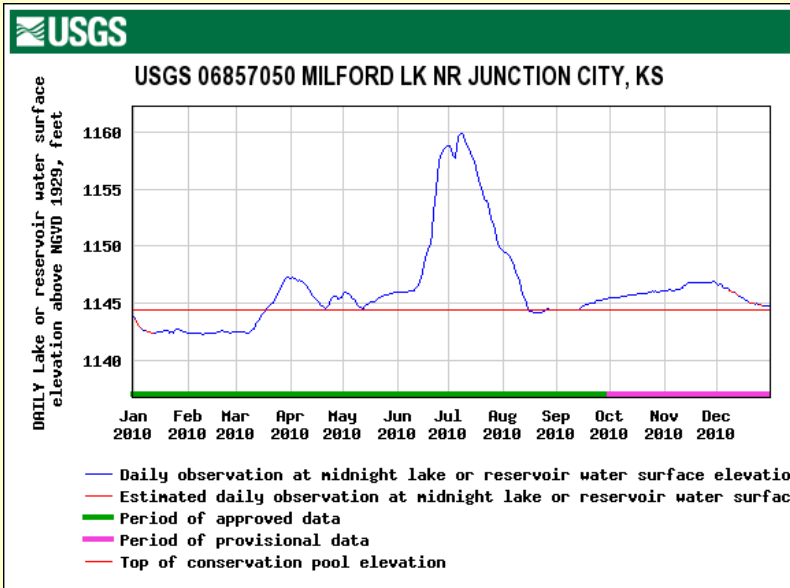
2011 MILFORD RESERVOIR FISHING FORECAST

WIPER—Good. 4.3 million fry were stocked in 2010, producing a fair year class without fingerling stockings. 55 percent of wipers sampled were over 15 inches, while numbers of fish over 20 inches increased to 18 percent. Trophy wiper longer than 25 inches were not sampled. The possibility of catching a real trophy does still exist though, and the lake record remains at 17 pounds!

WHITE BASS—Fair/Good. White bass density decreased from 2009, which was the highest ever recorded for Milford. Thirty-six percent of white bass sampled were 9-12 inches long, which is double that of 2009. White bass 12-18 inches long made up 33 percent of the sample, and the 2010 year class appears strong. Fall fishing in 2010 was excellent, and it should be worthwhile throughout 2011.

CATFISH—Good. Channel catfish abundance was highest for 17- to 24-inch fish, and a good 2010 year class was also evident. The channel cat creel limit remains 10/day. Flathead numbers remain constant and provide a high-quality angling opportunity. Flathead creel limit remains 5/day. Blue cat numbers were highest for 18- to 26-inch fish. Although only in its second year, the reduced creel limit on blues appears to be maintaining the numbers of brood fish. *The blue catfish creel remains 5/day.* The lake record blue cat still stands in the upper 50-pound range, and natural reproduction continues to maintain the population at desirable levels. Catfish anglers at Milford should have a productive 2011, with chances of hooking into a real monster blue as good as ever, if not better.

BLACK BASS—Good. Largemouth abundance is slightly higher than the previous sample, with more 8- to 12-inch fish and improved recruitment. Spotted bass abundance is still relatively low. Spots over 15 inches are available for anglers primarily in the southern third of the reservoir. Smallmouth numbers are similar to the two previous samples, but numbers of fish over 17 inches are highest since 2001. A new



Milford Reservoir Fishing Forecast

state record smallmouth bass weighing 6.88 pounds was caught in 2010, while three others broke the old record -- all from Milford! Black bass anglers should find good success, with the chance of catching a trophy smallmouth or spotted bass a real possibility. (15-inch length limit)

WALLEYE—Fair/Good. Legal fish over 18 inches increased for only the third time in the last 10 years, with 30 percent of walleye sampled over 18 inches and 11 percent over 20 inches. 4.5 million walleye fry and 128,000 fingerlings were stocked in 2010, resulting in a poor year class as of fall sampling. Legal and sub-legal walleye - 34 percent were 15-18 inches -- should provide good fishing in 2011, and with good growth, should allow for ample harvest. (18-inch length limit)

CRAPPIE—Good. Crappie abundance increased due to the numbers of 5- to 8-inch fish; however, few were over 12 inches. Twenty-two percent sampled were over 10 inches, though. The 2010 and 2009 year classes are good but below the 2007 and 2008 year classes, which were the best ever recorded. These 4 year classes should provide good angling during the 2011 transition periods and the 2012 spawn.

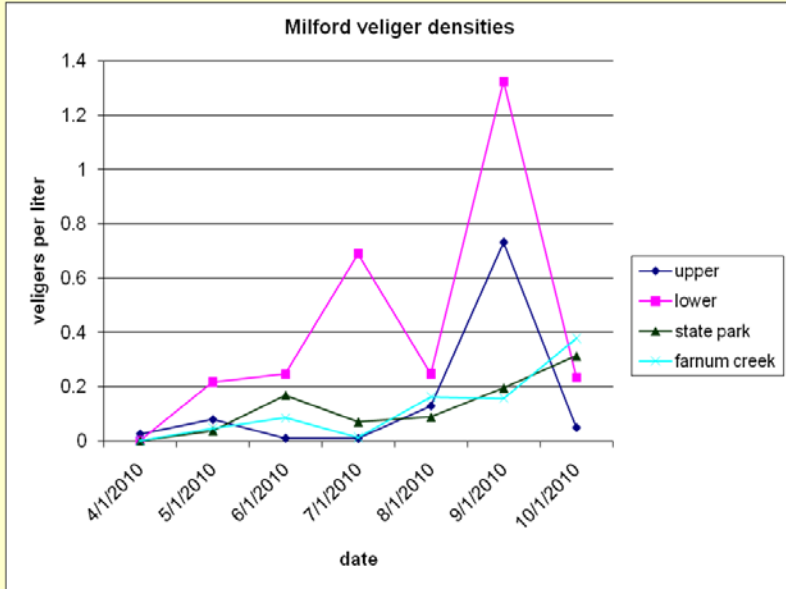
Zebra Mussels at Milford

Adult Zebra Mussels on outlet gates



Zebra mussels were found in Milford Reservoir in November of 2009. In an attempt to protect the Milford Fish Hatchery from infestation, access to the supply lake, or the Gathering Pond, has been closed. The hatchery operates on water pumped in from the supply lake, so until a system is put in place to prevent them from entering the hatchery, the lake will remain closed. Construction on this system will begin in fall of 2011, so, hopefully the supply lake will be open for spring of 2012 angling.

In Milford Reservoir, more zebra mussels are being discovered throughout the lake. Monthly sampling of zebra



Zebra Mussel Update

mussel veligers, or offspring, in 2010 found very low concentrations present. Unlike other infested waters with densities of 300/liter, Milford’s highest density was 1.3/liter. Extremely high water levels, 16 feet high, and high release rates of 8000 cfs may have masked the actual concentration of veligers present, though. Continued sampling in 2011 will provide more data on zebra mussel densities present.



Milford Reservoir 2010 flooding

C.F.A.P.

The Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) provides for anglers to fish local public waters with only a state of Kansas fishing license. In return, local communities get technical assistance from state fisheries biologists, including the stocking of sport fish. This year’s highlights include:

Junction City - Channel catfish were stocked into the Bluffs, Homer’s, and Riverwalk ponds. Riverwalk pond was opened with a successful children’s fishing clinic, and the Republican River boat ramp was completed. Fishing can be good in the city park ponds for bass, bluegill, and channel catfish that are stocked annually.

Ogden - Channel catfish were stocked into the city lake, and the new Kaw River boat ramp was opened. Fishing can be good for bass, bluegill, crappie, and channel catfish that are stocked annually into the city lake.

Fort Riley - Channel catfish were stocked in multiple ponds, and trout were stocked in Moon Lake and Cameron Springs. Fishing on Post can be good in many of the ponds for catfish, bass, and bluegill and excellent for trout during the cold weather months in both Moon Lake and Cameron Springs.

Herington - Channel catfish, walleye, and wiper were stocked. All three city waters received fish stockings in 2010. Fishing can be good in Father Padilla pond for catfish, bass, and bluegill. The old city lake excels for crappie, while the reservoir should have very good fishing for crappie and wiper in 2011.



Big trout!

GEARY (STATE OF THE STATE) FISHING LAKE

Fishing should be good for largemouth bass and crappie in 2011. Smallmouth bass are also present but not as abundant the largemouth. Channel and flathead fishing will be good at times, although the channel cats are not very big. Bluegill fishing will be excellent for smaller fish, and saugeye are available in limited numbers, although keepers (18 inches) are present. White bass were unfortunately stocked by anglers, and fishermen are encouraged to remove all that they catch. The expansion of the white bass population in this small lake may be very detrimental in the future.



Nice smallie!



Monster Milford blue cat!