

# New Strawn District Fisheries News

Spring 2015

Woodson Wildlife Area 738 Fegan Rd. Toronto, KS 66777

[www.kdwpt.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwpt.state.ks.us) [justin.morrison@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:justin.morrison@ksoutdoors.com) Office: 620-637-2748

## 2015 Fishing Forecast

### John Redmond Reservoir



**Crappie - Excellent** – John Redmond ranks number one among reservoirs in Kansas for white crappie. The 2 ft. pool rise in 2013 has benefitted the crappie fishery substantially. We caught 1,203 crappie in 12 trap nets. A large proportion of the sample was young crappie indicating the production of a strong year class. We also saw a large percentage of fish over 10” and a good percentage over 12”. There is no doubt that the current population of crappie is probably the best it has been in several years. As long as Mother Nature cooperates and we can avoid large flushing rates this population should be really good for a few years. Places to target

should include the rip rap on the dam and around the boat ramp area or the flooded willows in Otter Creek Cove or Hickory Creek. If you have a small boat Otter Creek, Eagle Creek, or the river itself should also offer some great opportunities just beware of shallow water and submerged timber.

**White Bass – Excellent** – The white bass are also doing really well. There are some large fish available as we caught one fish in the gill nets that weighed nearly 3 lbs. and we caught one in a trap net that was 18” and weighed 3.5 lbs. Most fish will be around 15”. Trolling crankbaits along the dam or throwing bucktail jigs and small spinners in the creek arms or below the dam may be the most productive methods.



**Blue Catfish – Poor** – Blue cats were stocked in 2003, 2006, and 2010 and to my knowledge this is the first documentation of young fish. We captured 18 plump young blue cats (pictured above) in the gill nets, but we did not capture any adults. I get some reports of anglers catching a blue here and there but not many. There is an abundant supply of prey in the reservoir so the fish should do well. The one thing that will hold this population back is the high flushing rate of the reservoir and the blue cat’s affinity for moving water. A few opportunities may exist but I would not expect large catches of blue cats.

**Channel Catfish – Fair** – The gill net catch rate of channel catfish has been surprisingly low the last two years. We only caught 7 fish in the nets, and 4 of the 7 fish were stock length (11”) or below. Angler catch rates seem to be consistent from year to year and fishing below the dam is usually good when water is being released.

# Coffey County Lake

**Blue Catfish – Fair to Good** – Blue cat opportunities will be very similar to last year. According to the gill net samples the population is still dominated by fish in the 20-30” range. We did catch 4 fish in the 35-45” range with the largest fish weighing over 27 lbs. The other three fish were just over 22 lbs. I did reduce the creel limit for this year in an effort to reduce some of the harvest. Below is a chart that illustrates the harvest and number of fish released throughout 2014.

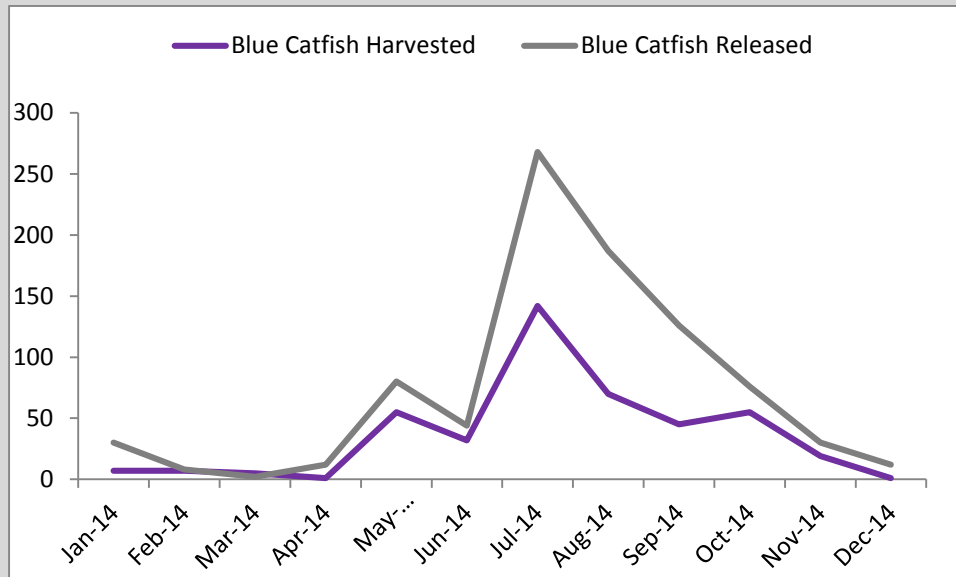


Chart 1. In 2014 there were 875 blue cats caught and released and 439 blue cats were harvested.

**Channel Catfish –Fair to Good** – There is a pretty good population of channel catfish in Wolf Creek. The gill net samples show the population consists mainly of fish that are 11-24” long. The largest fish caught was just over 5 lbs. Channel Catfish should remain as one of the top three harvested species in the lake.

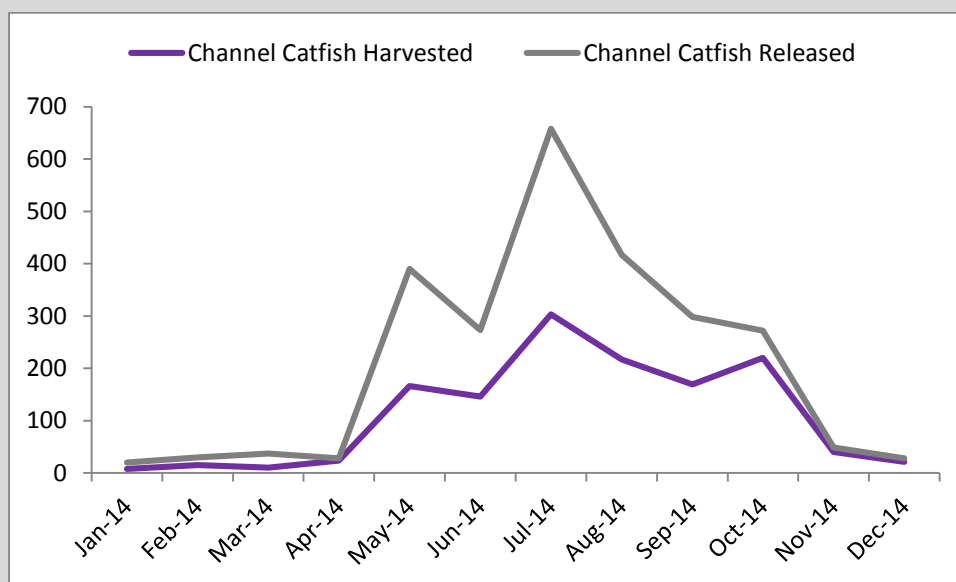
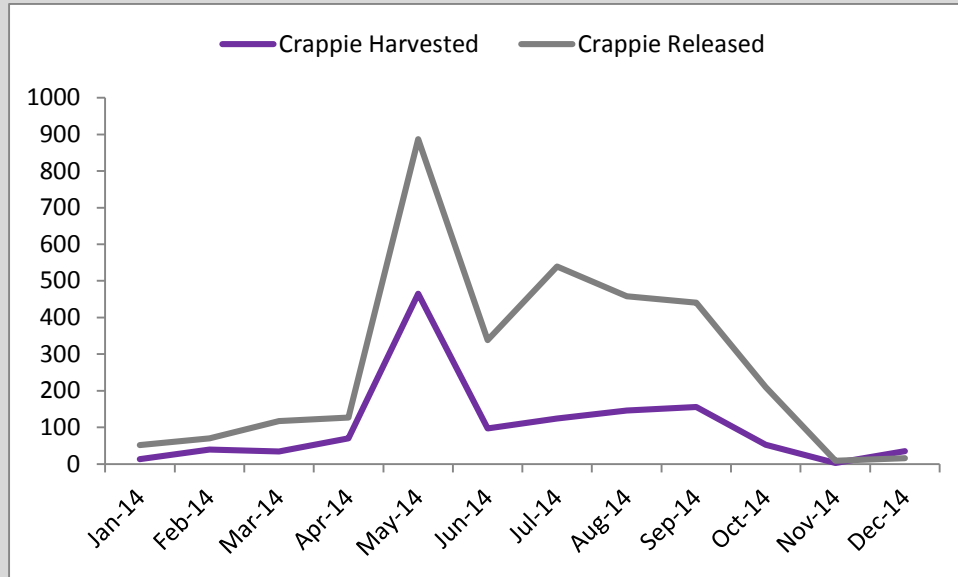


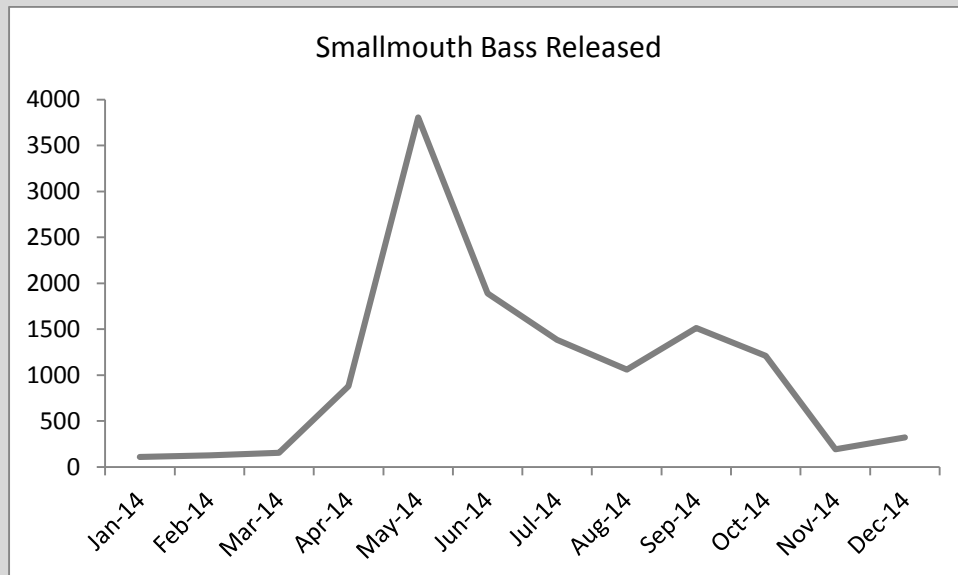
Chart 2. There was a total of 1,339 channel catfish harvested in 2014 and 2,500 channel catfish were caught and released.

**Crappie – Good** – There continues to be a good population of large crappie in Wolf Creek. Most of the fall trap net sample consisted of fish over 12” and we also saw a decent number of young fish in the sample indicating some fair production. The graph below suggests that May is the best time of year to fish for crappie.



Graph 3. There were a total of 1,236 crappie harvested in 2014, and 3,264 fish were caught and released.

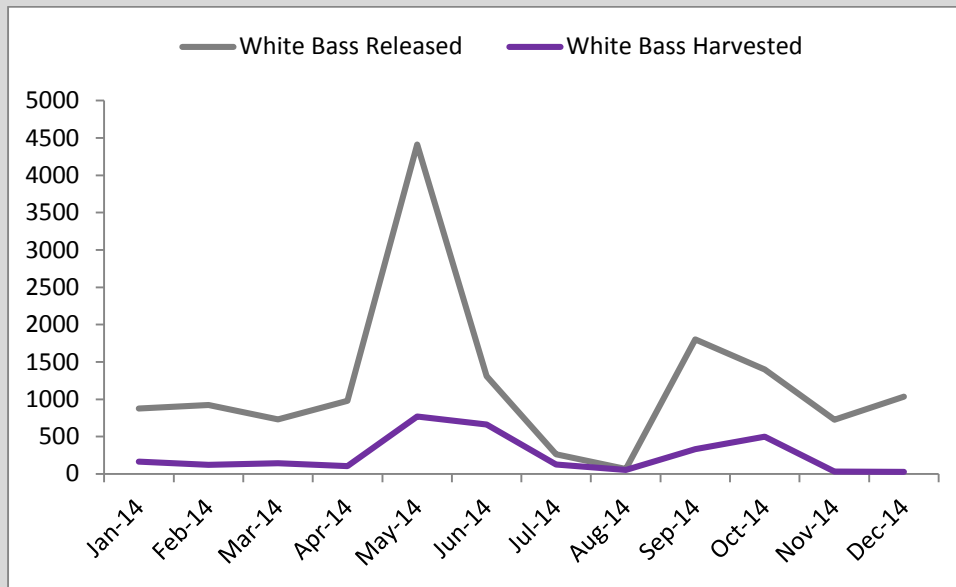
**Smallmouth Bass – Excellent** – According to the exit creel data, smallmouth bass are second only to the white bass in terms of number of fish caught and released. The spring sample results indicated a real good population of smallmouth bass. The number of 14-17” fish increased from last year as did the number of 17-20” fish. The number of fish caught per hour increased to 76 compared to 66 last year.



Graph 4. This graph shows the monthly catch and release numbers of smallmouth bass throughout 2014. There was a total of 12,646 smallmouth caught and released. There were only 48 fish harvested so those numbers were left off the graph.



**White Bass – Excellent** – The fall gill net sample showed a decrease in white bass from the previous year’s sample. However, the exit creel data suggests that the population is still in real good condition. Most of the population consists of fish in the 12-15” range, but fish in the 15-18” range are available. White bass are consistently caught throughout the year and provide some great angling opportunities.



Graph 5. In 2014 there was a total of 3,034 white bass harvested and 14,519 white bass were caught and released.

For the complete Statewide 2015 fishing forecast [CLICK HERE](#).

Yates Center City Lake has a low density population, but this was a good one.



This 10.75” yellow perch was sampled at Yates Center City Lake.

## Winter Weather Means Trout Fishing Weather



Don't forget about the winter fishing opportunities available for trout. Trout are stocked in Garnett Crystal Lake, Lebo Kid's Pond, and New Strawn City Lake. Each of these waters has different regulations for trout fishing so be sure to check the regulation book before you go. New Strawn City Lake and Lebo Kid's Pond both require a city permit in addition to the trout permit, whereas, Garnett does not require a city permit but a Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism trout permit is required.



All articles are copyright of Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism and cannot be copied or distributed without permission from KDWP.