

Perry District Fisheries Newsletter

Spring 2018

What's New at Perry Reservoir?

Special points of interest:

- Perry Reservoir Happenings
- Beautifully Grottesque Fish
- Possession and Creel Limits
- Leavenworth Repairs
- Fishing Reports

I was about to write another article about a project that is going to take place at Leavenworth SFL but then I thought two newsletters in a row on the front page is enough. So turn to page three if you are looking for that.

Instead, we will talk about the namesake of this newsletter, the mighty Perry Reservoir. There are a few things that I thought were newsworthy.

FLOATLINES: As some may know, Perry Reservoir was stocked with Blue Catfish a few years ago and some anglers are beginning to catch some keeper sized fish. Biologists across the state are beginning to sample some of these fish but current sampling protocols do not sample the larger fish.

So, this summer many biologists across the state will try to sample the larger fish using float lines or jug lines including here at Perry. Most of the work this summer will be targeted around the upper reaches of each reservoir as this is where we believe the best success will be. (If you have a better idea of locations, give me a call.)

The lines will have an orange bullet-nosed float similar to our nets and will be marked with KDWPT and **DO NOT DISTURB**.

The main purpose of the sampling is to try and get our hands on some of the larger Blue Catfish. Like previously stated, our current gear does not frequently sample these larger fish so it is difficult to determine if we are providing a

harvestable fish or not. We obviously hope that the sampling is a success and if so, should help provide information to biologist which in turn will lead to more productive and healthy fisheries for the angling public.

FISH CLEANING STATION:

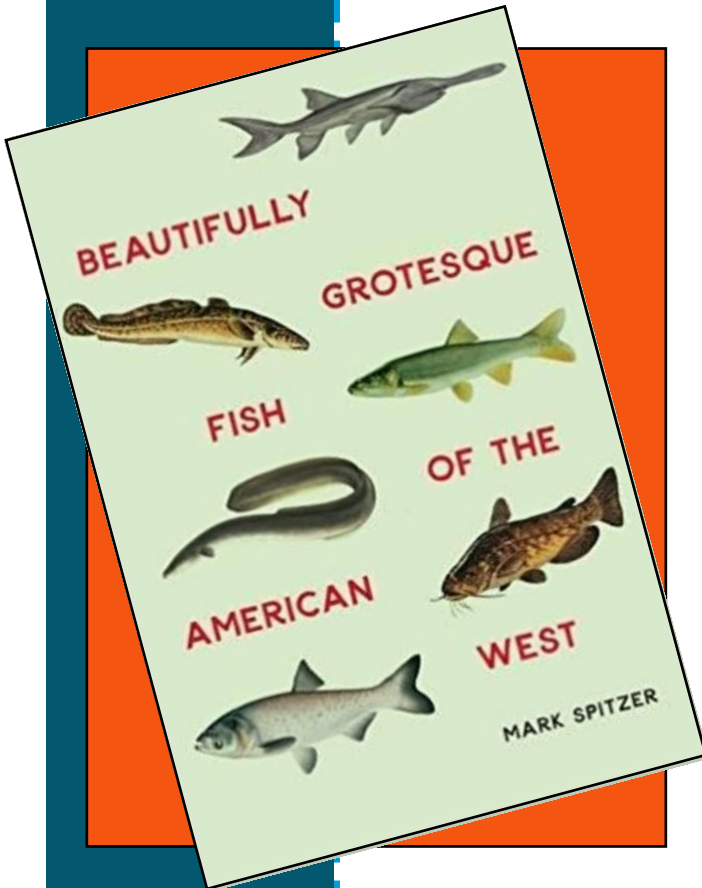
This past year, the state park at Perry had their lagoons inspected by KDHE. During that process some of the lagoons were graded in poor condition. One of which was the lagoon that the fish cleaning station dumped in to due to a large pile of fish bones and scales that are unable to be broken down in that kind of system. This has caused lots of problems in the past and despite special grinder pumps, is still an issue that needs immediate attention. So, much to the angling publics dismay **THE FISH CLEANING STATION IN PERRY STATE PARK IS CLOSED FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.**

There are plans to move the structure to another location in the park but there is no timeline as to when that task will be accomplished, likely not this summer. So, people who fish Perry will have to clean their fish on their tailgate or at home and feed your tomatoes or the neighborhood cats with the carcasses.



Pile of fish bones and scales at outlet in to lagoon

Book Review: Beautifully Grotesque Fish of the American West



If there is one thing that fishermen enjoy doing as much as fishing, it is talking about fishing and hearing other peoples stories about fishing adventures. I recently stumbled across a review of this book and immediately ordered it. I don't usually have an urge to read but this book made me want to read each night or whenever I had some free time. Mark Spitzer has put together 232 pages of easy to follow and captivating fish stories targeting some unusual fish.

As you could deduce from the title and cover art, these are not stories about guided Walleye trips in Canada or Bass fishing in Florida. The book is broken down into 13 chapters with 11 different species highlighted between overarching introduction and conclusion chapters. Species that the author targets and mostly lands in his adventures include:

- American Eel
- Burbot
- White Sturgeon
- Paddlefish
- Asian Carp
- Bowfin and Bullhead
- Flathead Catfish
- Muskie
- Alligator Gar
- Razorback Chub
- Colorado Pikeminnow

And keep in mind that these adventures are easily repeatable by the average Joe. He does hire a guide every once in a while but he also spends a good deal of each trip fishing on his own too, usually from the bank or from his own boat.

He travels to a Burbot fishing tournament in Utah, fishes for giant White Sturgeon in urban Portland, Oregon, catches a state record Bullhead in Nebraska, noodles Flathead Catfish in Oklahoma using his feet, hooks into

numerous giant Alligator Gar Texas, and he even makes a trip to Kansas! He goes out with a crew from Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism to shock up some Silver and Bighead Carp in the Kansas River.

In most of the chapters he also keeps a few fish and tries to clean and cook up some of his catch. His conclusion, even though the fish are "beautifully grotesque" they are edible and in some cases delicious. (Side note: I do not think he cleaned the Asian Carp the best way. If you really want to learn, search youtube for Filleting Silver Carp Boneless or bring a dead one to me and I'll show you.)

So, if you fill your freezer with enough Crappie this spring or you're sitting around waiting for the next thing to bite, pick up this book. If you're like me you'll be intrigued in pursuing some of the same adventures that the author went on and catching some of your own beautifully grotesque fish. Although I'd consider most of the fish just plain beautiful and in most cases a real fun target to pursue. Speaking from experience, I've had a bigger smile catching some of these "non-game" fish than crappie or bass any day. Give it a read and then give them a try. You'll be glad you did.

Possession and Creel Limits: Explained

I don't get told about all of the fishing adventures that go on in my district but I am pretty good at noticing what cars are at the boat ramps each time I visit. I'm not pointing any fingers or accusing any anglers of breaking any laws, the purpose of this article is simply to provide information on perhaps a little known regulation, or, at least in my opinion, one that is hidden in plain sight in our regulation booklet.

I am referring to the possession limit or how many fish you can have in your freezer. The creel limit is how many fish you can catch per day

and this varies between waters. The possession limit is simply three times the daily creel limit as stated on page 12 of the 2018 regulations summary.

This is to prevent one angler from going out and keeping a limit every single day for a week or a month or longer. Without a possession limit, creel limits don't do as much good at preventing over harvest. It is similar to sale ads that often have a limit per household; you can't have take too many or else the store will run out,

harvest too many fish and the lake may run out.

Contact myself or your local game warden if you have any questions about this topic.



Leavenworth State Fishing Lake spillway being reconstructed

In the coming weeks, there will be a lot of hustle and bustle going on in the area along the dam and spill way at Leavenworth State Fishing Lake. It does not take an engineer to look at the spillway and see that it is not in the best of shape.

They will be working on many aspects of the spillway and the tower that controls the outflow.

They will begin by replacing a valve in the tower which will allow them to draw the lake down about 8 feet. This drawdown will allow them to tear up and reconstruct the spillway so it does not wash away underneath itself during an high flow event.

So how will this affect the fish? It likely won't. Leavenworth is a deep impoundment and there will be plenty of water traveling more than half-way up the arms of the lake.

However, some of the fish feeders may become inaccessible from the shore and due to the drawdown I may not be able to access the feeders to refill them. Once the drawdown begins, I will have a better idea of how far out the ramp goes and if boats will be able to launch. Pay attention to the fishing reports for more information.

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Fishing Reports: Help Me Help You



Have you ever caught a mess of Crappie and thought to yourself, "Man, I wish I could share this experience with someone else." or "The fishing is just too good right now to keep a secret." Perhaps you had some thoughts more along the lines of, "The fishing here just plain stunk today, I hope nobody else has plans of coming out here."

Those of you who frequent the fishing report pages on www.ksoutdoors.com may have noticed that some of the fishing reports leave something to be desired. If you have some information that you would like to contribute to make the reports better, give your biologist a call. We rely on the anglers to provide us with information from each waterbody about what is or isn't biting.

Despite the popularity of social media, the fishing reports section on the website is still one of the most widely travelled portions of the website. In an attempt to provide a better product, I am asking for your help in providing the information for area lakes. Just give me a call and talk fishing. I'm not going to give your secret spot away, I won't even ask for it! I'm just asking that you help your fellow angler out.

You could be providing information that helps a dad give his little boy or girl the opportunity to catch their first fish or help a teenage boy stay out of trouble.

If you're still reluctant to pass along your information, that's fine, you're entitled to that. Just keep in mind, it takes more than you think to completely fish out a population and length and creel limits are in place for a reason and backed by hours and hours of sampling and research.