

Stockton District Fisheries Newsletter

2018, Issue 2

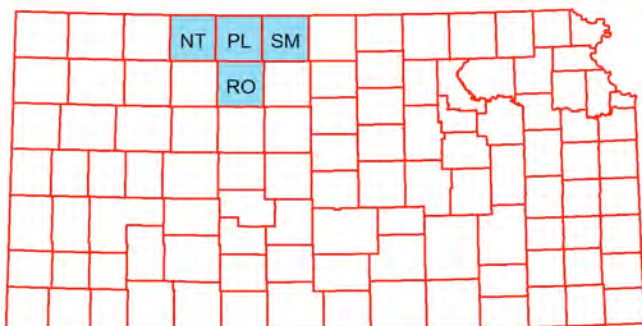
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Fisheries Division

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Welcome to the Stockton Fisheries District

The Stockton District consists of four counties in northwest Kansas. They are Rooks (RO), Phillips (PL), Smith (SM) and Norton (NT). The district consists of three main reservoirs – Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius; Rooks State Fishing Lake; and three Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) lakes; Logan City Lake, Plainville Township Lake and Agra City Lake; as well as various Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) properties, which consist of 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.



2019 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR WEBSTER RESERVOIR



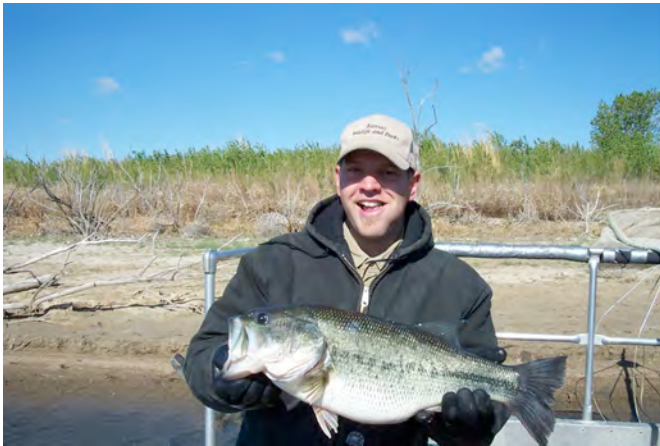
* Webster smallmouth bass sampled in 2011

BLACK BASS - Good.

The black bass population has turned around considerably from last year. This is because Webster Reservoir started the year above conservation pool and a lot of terrestrial habitat was inundated, creating great bass habitat. Also, 64,385 fingerling largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to help boost the population. Three largemouth bass were collected during the bass sample in 2017 and 110 were sampled in May of 2018. The largemouth bass population is dominated by 4- to 7-inch fish, which accounted for 60 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 8- to 11-inch size range accounted for 29 percent of the sample, fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range accounted for 8 percent and fish over 15 inches made up 3 percent. By spring, these fish should all be 2 to 4 inches bigger. No smallmouth bass were sampled or observed this year. Spinner, crank and artificial baits 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 minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is in effect.**

2019 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR KIRWIN RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Good. The black bass population has turned around considerably from last year. Kirwin Reservoir started the year approximately 1.0 feet below conservation pool and a lot of terrestrial habitat was inundated when the lake level came up 3 feet, creating a lot of habitat for the bass. Also, 86,555 fingerling largemouth bass were stocked into the reservoir to help boost the population. Two largemouth bass were collected during the bass sample in 2017 and 109 were sampled in May of 2018. The largemouth bass population is dominated by 8- to 11-inch fish, which account for 69 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 4- to 7-inch size range accounted for 28 percent of the sample and fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range accounted for 3 percent. By spring, these fish should all be 2 to 4 inches bigger. The best locations for finding bass are going to be 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.**



* largemouth bass

2019 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR SEBELIUS RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Good. The largemouth bass population is dominated by 8- to 11-inch fish, which account for 30 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 3- to 7-inch size range accounted for 25 percent of the sample, fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range accounted for 26 percent and fish over 15 inches made up 19 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled weighed in at 4.44 pounds. Good numbers of spotted bass are also present with 24 percent being in the 3- to 7-inch size range, 6 percent being in the 8- to 10-inch size range, 29 percent being in the 11- to 13-inch size range and 41 percent being in the 13- to 17-inch size range. By spring, these fish should all be 2 to 4 inches bigger. The biggest spotted bass sampled weighed in at 1.93 pounds. Spinner and 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

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Clean. Drain. Dry.
Every lake, every time.

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

Know the rules. Visit: ProtectKSwaters.org

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Rainbow Trout Season Starts November 1st

The Webster Stilling Basin, a 6-acre impoundment below the dam, is stocked five times (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, & 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 each 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 like where to fish, reports and forecasts, seasons and limits, species and fish records, fishing regulations, aquatic nuisance species, learn about fish and fishing, 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 by selecting 10 random sites throughout the water body and then sampled for 360 seconds of 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 pretty good with most of the fish being able to utilize them for food. However, I would like to see more numbers at Webster and smaller ones at Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius.



* Young-of-the-year shad sampling.

At Webster 162 shad were caught at each site with 20 percent of the sample under 70 mm in length. However, only five sites got sampled due to equipment problems. Kirwin produced 542 shad per site with eight percent being under 70 mm and Keith Sebelius produced 695 shad with 26 percent being under 70 mm.

New CFAP Lake in Agra

A new lake has been signed up into the Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP). The City of Agra has signed the Agra Lake into the program and is open to fishing. The lake is located on the West edge of Agra.



A lot of work has been done by the City to renovate the lake and buildings, and their efforts have turned out spectacular. The City applied for a CFAP grant to obtain a courtesy dock and was awarded the grant, therefore, a new dock has been added and is usable at this time. They have also applied to get a boat ramp added and the new boat ramp should be in yet this fall or early spring next year.



The fish population is still young, however, there are some keeper fish in the lake. Fathead minnows, bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish have already been stocked and more fish are requested that have not been stocked yet.



We are delighted to partner with the City of Agra in developing additional fishing waters for the angling public. However, even if you are not an angler, you should visit this historic lake for a stroll around the lake on the walking trail or just take a moment for some fresh air and enjoy all the hard work that the City has done on this renovation project. It is still a work in progress that will only just get better. Enjoy the lake and PLEASE help to keep it CLEAN.



* A very satisfied Kirwin angler

The summer is over, schools have started back up and football and hunting seasons are upon us. However, there is still a lot of good fishing to be had as the water cools 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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Webster Area Office

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... and FISH KANSAS!

