

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

August 2013

Issue 9

Special points of interest:

- 20 fish tagged with orange Cabela's tags!
- State wide Sauger and Saugeye requests were met!
- KSU purple in the chart means big bass!
- 4 State hatcheries provide millions of fish for Kansas fishermen!

Was there a Million dollar fish in Perry?

The past several years some of the lakes in Kansas had been asked to participate in the Cabela's fish for millions. Perry had been left off that list and I felt a little disgruntled by that. However this spring I received 20 bright orange tags in a Cabela's envelope but I couldn't tell anyone! After competing our sauger collection at Perry my faithful assistant Marty and I fired up the electrofishing boat to chase down 20 suitable fish. The instructions from Cabela's said that a

certain species had to be tagged and that the fish had to be 1" over legal length limit. We tagged crappie, white bass, channel catfish and largemouth bass like the one below. There were 2 tags from Perry and 21 from the other lakes in Kansas that were turned in. According to Cabela's a Chevy truck, two Ranger Boats

and a ton of Cabela's merchandise and gift certificates were given out during the contest. It is over now but I sure hope Perry is asked to participate again next year. A total of 3,600 Kansas fishermen registered with Cabela's for the possible \$2,000,000 prize!



Inside this issue:

- Spring Sauger Collection at Perry 2
- Spring electrofishing results for my District. 3
- Locations of 4 State Fish Hatcheries. 3
- Hatcheries working hard to better Kansas Fishing. 4



Spring Sauger Collection!

Last winter after running nets all I could talk about were the sauger we collected at Perry. We nearly doubled the previous record high of sauger collected and these were nice fish. I looked forward to seeing them in the spring and boy did we. Late February I start getting equipment ready in the Luv Shack along with nets and cages and watching the

weather and Reservoir temperature. Sauger typically spawn a few degrees cooler than walleye so we are usually setting nets the second week of March. As you know weather can be crazy in early March, this year was no exception. While pulling the nets one day a snow storm blew in and we ended up with sev-

eral inches of snow in the boat by the time we got off the water. The flakes were huge and there was no wind, postcard perfect! Pictured below and to the left is a net full of sauger being moved into the truck. Pictured below is a nice female sauger being pulled out of the multifilament gill net.

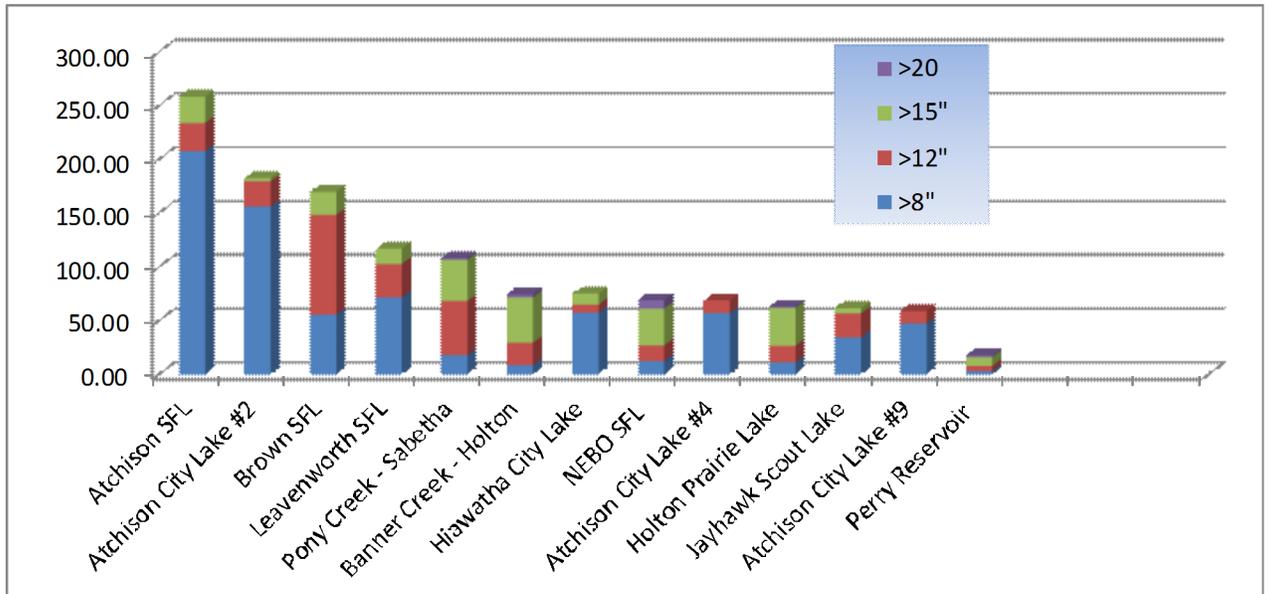
“Collection was almost too easy this year but you need one of those every now and then.”



We started setting nets on March 11th and by the end of that week had collected the 90 large females we needed and over 800 males. Collection was almost too easy this year but you need one of those every now and then. The females and the water they were shipped to Milford Hatchery in were treated for zebra mussels. The males were kept in cages, which no one bothered this year, and were used as necessary. Statewide Sauger and Saugeye production exceeded requests which means there were extra fish to be stocked as needed. Colorado also benefited by our collection of so many males in their production of saugeye. Pictured to the left are a couple of young sauger, they usually make 5” by the end of the first year. These two are second year fish in the 7-8” range. Perry has a good number of keeper sauger just waiting to be caught by you!

Spring 2013 Largemouth Bass Information

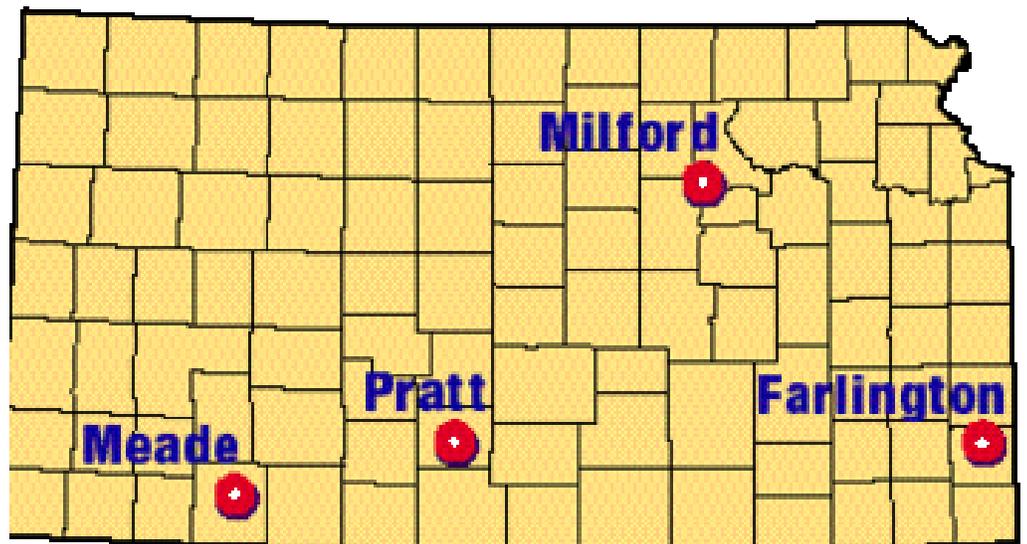
S
t
o
c
k
L
M
B
A
S
S
/
H
R



Stock catch rate (>8") is a factor we use to evaluate largemouth bass populations however we also look at the size distribution of the population. The KSU purple in the bar graphs indicates fish over 20", 5 of the lakes I sampled this spring had fish over 20". The largest bass we sampled was at NEBO SFL and was 8.36 lbs! If numbers are your thing and you want to compare other lakes that were electrofished around Kansas click on [Lots of Bass](#) which will take you to the updated Fishing Forecast information.

Kansas Fish Hatcheries: These four make millions of fish for you!

The State has 4 warm water hatcheries: the newest Just below Milford Dam near Junction City, the oldest in Pratt adjacent to our Operations Office, Farlington in the SE corner of the state and Meade in the SW corner of the state. Each one of these is manned by Fish Biologist that are experts in the field of spawning and growing fish to meet stocking requests to enhance our states waters.





Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Perry State Park
Kirk Tjelmeland
5441 West Lake Rd.
Ozawkie, KS 66070

Phone: 785-246-4514
Fax: 785-246-0224
E-mail: kirk.tjelmeland@ksoutdoors.com

Improving your chances of catching fish

Each one of the Hatcheries specializes in certain species of fish due to it's water supply or configuration either pond /concrete raceways or some of both. Annually these hatcheries produce approximately 39.5 million fry, 3.5 million fingerlings and 385,000 intermediate fish for stocking in Kansas public waters. The Pratt hatchery is primarily pond production so it is the sole location for channel catfish spawning. However walleye fry, largemouth and smallmouth bass, wiper, black crappie and hybrid sunfish like those Brett has in the dip net are also produced. Milford hatchery has many concrete raceways and is the major producer of intermediate channel catfish. The hatching jars below show just a few of the millions of walleye eggs handled annually. Wipers are also produce here and the Mobile Aquarium and it's fish housed there as well.



concrete raceways and is the major producer of intermediate channel catfish. The hatching jars below show just a few of the millions of walleye eggs handled annually. Wipers are also produce here and the Mobile Aquarium and it's fish housed there as well.



The Meade hatchery has ponds but also a large metal building which is climate controlled to induce largemouth bass to spawn earlier than native fish. In the ponds largemouth bass, hybrid sunfish and channel catfish are grown. The Farlington hatchery is also mainly pond production with channel catfish, hybrid sunfish, wipers and redear fish. Fish they provide to Perry are sauger fingerlings and blue catfish. There is something to be said about not keeping all your eggs in one basket, this applies to fish eggs also! Pictured to the bottom right is the reason I do what I do which is made possible by our hatchery system.



The next Perry News will be available early in 2014. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to kdwpt so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.