

Glen Elder District Fisheries

Volume 5, Issue 1

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Spring 2014

Zebra Mussels Found in Glen Elder Reservoir

In August 2013, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWPT) confirmed the presence of zebra mussels in Glen Elder Reservoir. A local angler noticed an adult zebra mussel attached to his boat as he was washing it. The boat had been docked at the Glen Elder marina all summer and hadn't been on another water body that year.

Further investigation by KDWPT staff collected 30 adult zebra mussels in Marina Cove in less than an hour of searching confirming that this aquatic nuisance species (ANS) has become established in the reservoir. In October another 30 adults were found under rocks near the Schoen's Cove boat ramp indicating they have spread into multiple locations across the reservoir and are not confined to just Marina Cove. The most likely source for these zebra mussels is Wilson Reservoir given its proximity to Glen Elder and the routine of anglers fishing both reservoirs in the same day without taking proper precautions.

There is no known method to rid a lake of zebra mussels. According to Jessica Howell, KDWPT Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator, prevention is the best way to avoid spreading ANS. "By always cleaning, draining, and drying boats and other equipment and by not moving water around, we can stop the spread of not just zebra mussels, but most aquatic nuisance species that may be present.



The first zebra mussel detected at Glen Elder Reservoir, August 2013.

Special regulations now apply to any water body designated as an ANS water including Glen Elder.

-No bait can be caught from Glen Elder and used in another water body

-Anglers are not allowed to leave the reservoir with ANY live fish. Live fish may be cleaned at the fish cleaning station prior to leaving the state park.

-Livewells and bilges must be drained and drain plugs removed from all vessels being removed from waters of the state before transport on a public highway

Let's all try and do our part to prevent the spread of this harmful species to other bodies of water. If everyone follows the rules and makes sure to always CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY we can assure that other water bodies in the state don't suffer the same fate as Glen Elder.



Glen Elder Reservoir

2014 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com /785-545-3345

General Information: The reservoir is approximately 2.6 feet low as of April 2014. All boat ramps and facilities will be open and usable again this year. Also, be on the lookout for blue catfish which we have stocked each of the last four years. **Don't forget the 20 fish/day creel limit on crappie at Glen Elder!**

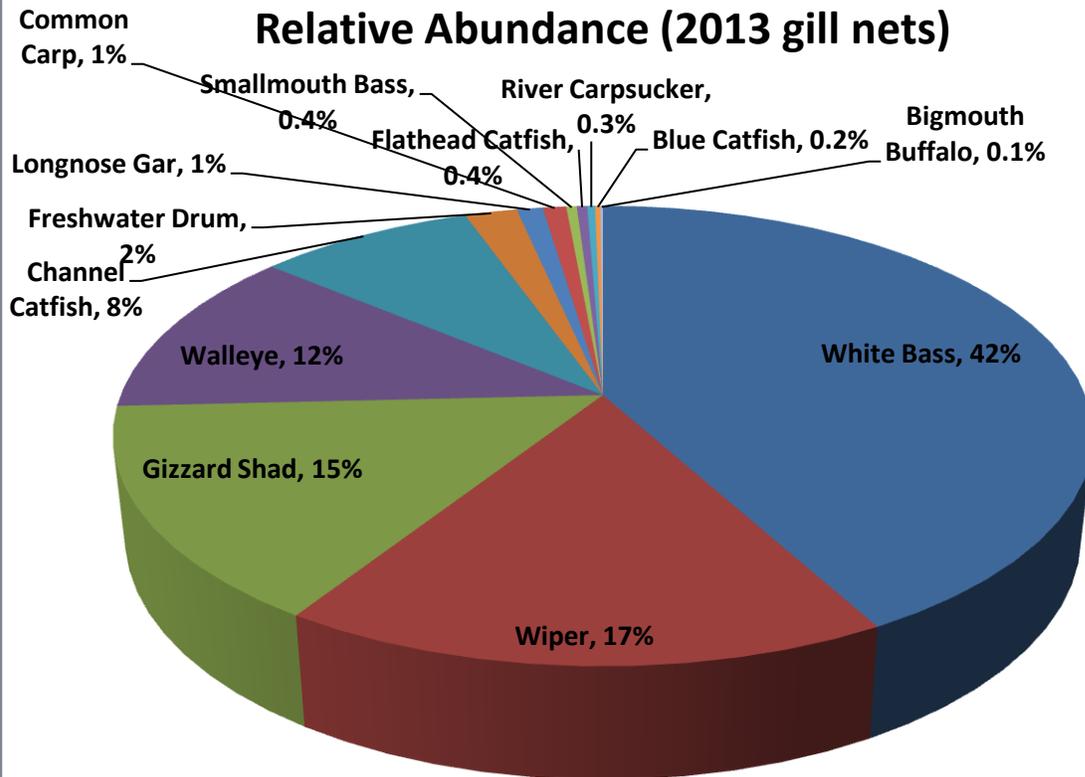


Special Regulations:

- **Crappie—Daily creel limit of 20 fish**
- **Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit**
- **Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass—18 inch minimum length limit**

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013)



	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Black Crappie	20	10.2	2.6-13.2	0.7	0.3-1.5
Blue Catfish*	17	18.5	10.0-21.1	2.2	0.3-3.0
Channel Catfish	83	19.0	8.1-30.5	2.8	0.1-12.5
Flathead Catfish*	151	15.9	4.9-47.8	3.6	.03-62.5
Gizzard Shad	148	N/A	5.3-17.9	N/A	N/A
Smallmouth Bass**	125	9.1	4.1-17.1	0.6	0.1-2.5
Walleye	116	17.4	8.5-25.4	2.1	0.2-5.8
White Bass	411	12.2	5.3-16.7	1.1	0.2-2.6
White Crappie	3,323	10.1	3.0-12.8	0.6	0.3-1.4
Wiper	167	14.7	5.7-23.4	2.1	0.1-6.8

*Collected during summer electrofishing

**Collected during spring electrofishing

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

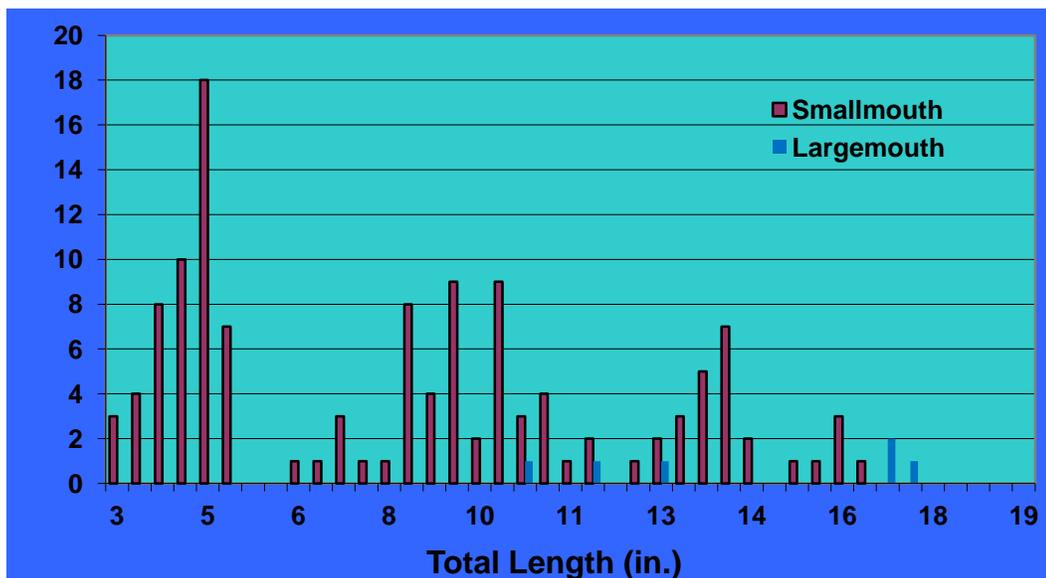
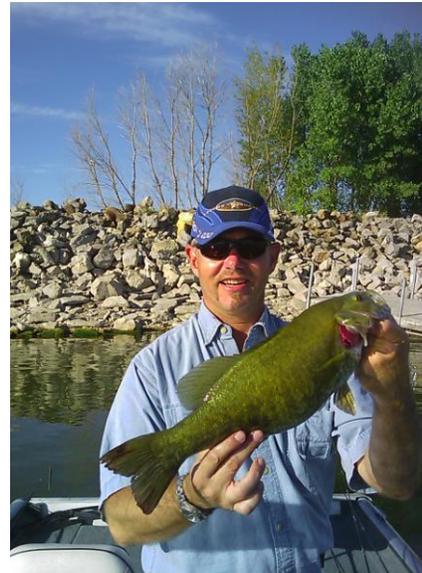
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

BLACK BASS--GOOD

Smallmouth bass numbers were improved during the 2013 sample with 125 fish collected ranging from 4 to 17 inches and up to 2.5 pounds. Two size groups dominated the adult catch with fish between 9 and 12 inches accounting for 34% and thirteen to seventeen inch fish comprising 21%. A very nice 2012 year class of smallies is evident by the high number of 3 to 6 inch fish. While numbers of 18 to 20 inch fish are down, the overall numbers should provide anglers with some quality fishing.

Largemouth bass numbers remained low with only six fish collected. These adult fish ranged from 10.5 to 17.1 inches and should supplement the smallmouth catch. Fall netting revealed a small year class of young bass

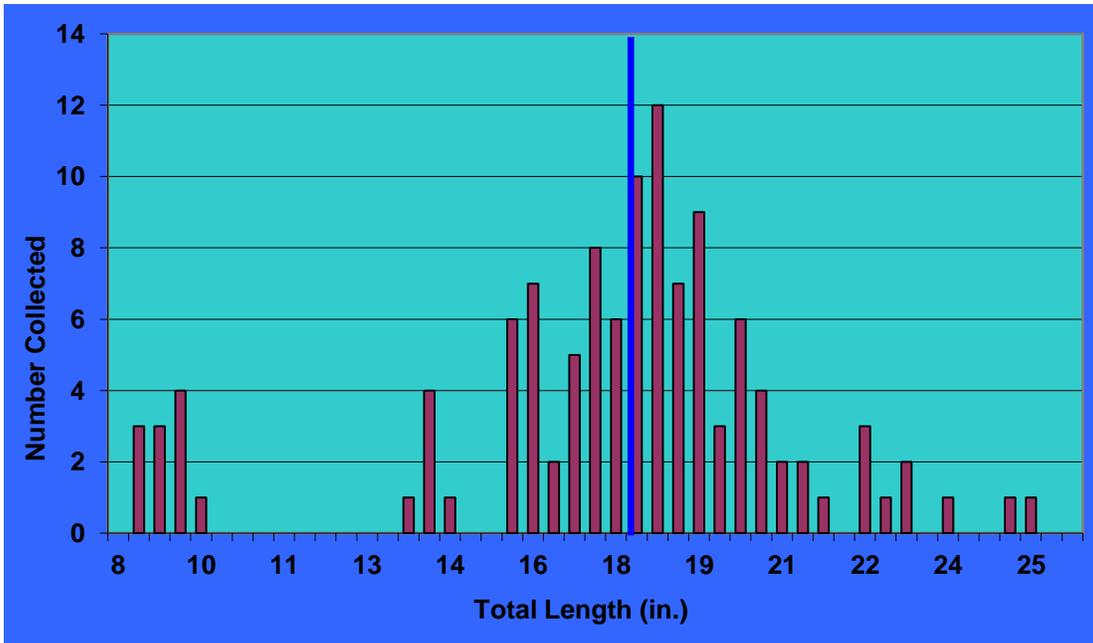
with a handful of 7 to 9 inch fish collected and anglers should only expect low to moderate success when fishing for largemouth. Glen Elder ranks among the top five reservoirs in the state for smallmouth bass density (11 inches) and preferred size (14 inches) when compared with the other reservoirs. **18 inch minimum length limit in effect.**



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--GOOD



The total number of walleye collected in 2013 was similar to the previous 2 years with 56% greater than the 18 inch length limit compared with 60% last year due to some young fish recruiting into the population. Glen Elder currently ranks among the top five reservoirs in the state in terms of walleye density (15 inches) and preferred (20 inches) size fish. Approximately 73% of the population is between 15 and 20 inches with 12% between 21 and 25 inches and 15% between 9 and 14 inches. Fish condition was again excellent this past fall due to a very large gizzard shad year class. The 2013 walleye class was well represented with fish between 8 and 10 inches accounting

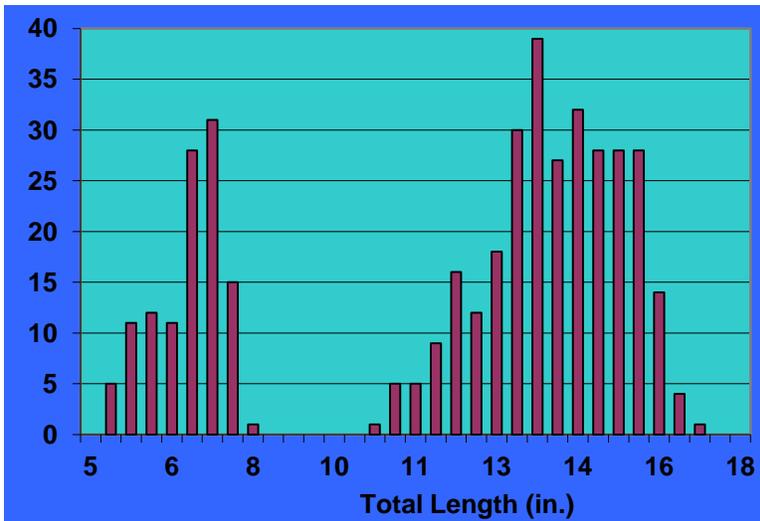


for 10% of the sample while 2012 fish only accounted for 5% of the catch. The best fishing usually occurs during an 8 week period between late April and June. The fish move to the flats on the west end of the reservoir and can be caught using a variety of methods. Nine million fry were stocked in 2013 and have been requested for stocking in 2014. Anglers should expect catches similar to the previous two years as the population continues to produce at a consistent rate.

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--GOOD



Total white bass numbers were 41% lower in the fall 2013 sample while the number of fish 12 inches and bigger was 35% lower, but remain well above the long term average. Glen Elder continues to rank among the top three reservoirs in the state for density (9 inches), preferred (12 inches), and lunker (15 inches) size fish. The adult sample consisted of fish between 11 and 16 inches with 55% of the total catch between 13 and 16 inches. Anglers will notice strong numbers of young fish in 2014 with 6 to 8 inch fish representing 28% of the catch. A handful of fish up to 17 inches were also collected with the biggest fish weighing 2.6 pounds. Fish condition was again ex-



cellent as the white bass had no problem finding shad this past year. Anglers can try a variety of methods to catch white bass with the spring spawning period up both river forks an excellent bet given adequate inflows. Hot summer days will find whites schooling in open water and chasing shad on the surface while night anglers do very well using floating lights. Fall is often a great time to pull out the slabs and fish along rocky points and other inshore areas, while winter ice fishing may be the best time to catch these guys when they stack up along the river channels. If this winter's ice fishing season is any indication, anglers should be in for another banner year of white bass angling at Glen Elder.

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

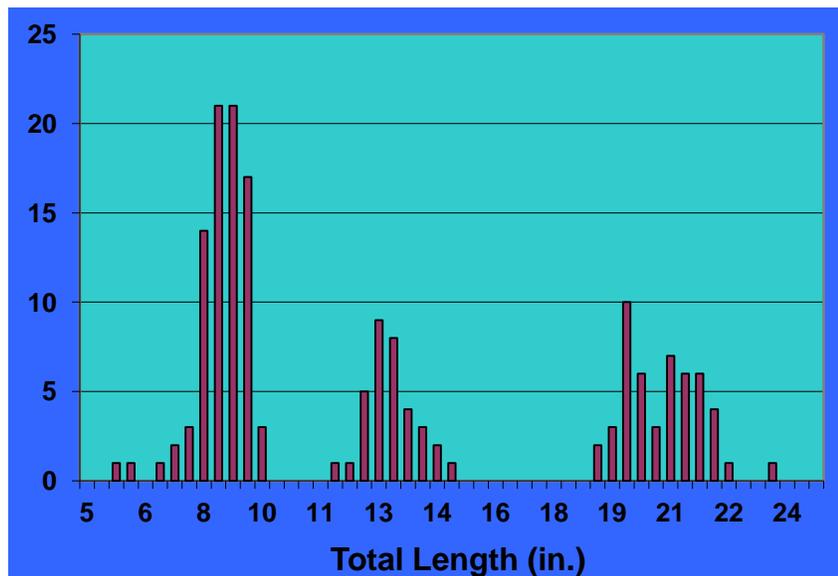
WIPER--FAIR



Wiper numbers increased for the first time since 2010 as the total catch was 261% higher this fall compared with 2012. This large increase was due to the recently stocked 2013 fish (6 to 10 inches) comprising 50% of the catch. The 2012 year class was a surprise with these 12-15 inch fish accounting for 20% of the catch. The older 2010 year class ranged from 19-24 inches and represented 29% of the population. Angler reports indicated a few of the original stocked fish (2006)

remain and have grown up to 11 pounds. Body condition of these wipers is excellent as they continue to perform the important task of reducing young gizzard shad numbers. A few large stripers (9-20 pounds) can also be found with ice anglers catching most of them. Anglers can find wipers mixed in with white bass throughout the year, but in general, the wipers tend to occupy the lower end of the reservoir near the dam. Slabbing over humps, trolling crankbaits, or casting bucktail jigs off windy points are some of the better methods for catching wipers.

Wipers will not be stocked in 2014 and possibly not in 2015, but striper fingerlings have been requested in 2014 to help boost the numbers of that population.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

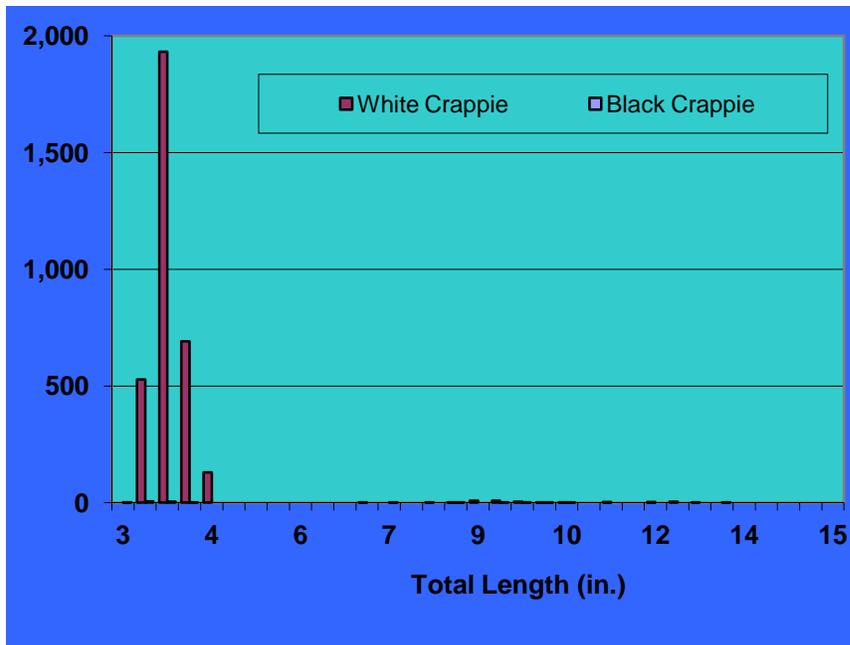
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--FAIR

Anglers will likely notice a decline in the number and average size of crappie at Glen Elder in 2014, but the numbers remain adequate for successful crappie angling. The large year classes that resulted from the reservoir refilling in 2008 and 2009 are disappearing with fewer of



the large (13 to 16 inch) fish available. There are still a fair number of 10-12 inch fish from the 2010 year class, but that number is much smaller than the prior two years. On a positive note, a surprising number of age-1 (6-7 inch) and age-2 (8-10 inch) crappie were collected this fall and have been observed in good numbers so far through the ice. In addition, over 3,000 crappie from the 2013 year class were collected this fall which shows the potential for a nice year class if these fish are able to survive the winter and spring with limited escape habitat available. The nets greatly underestimated the number of adult crappie in the reservoir again this fall, but based on these results approximately



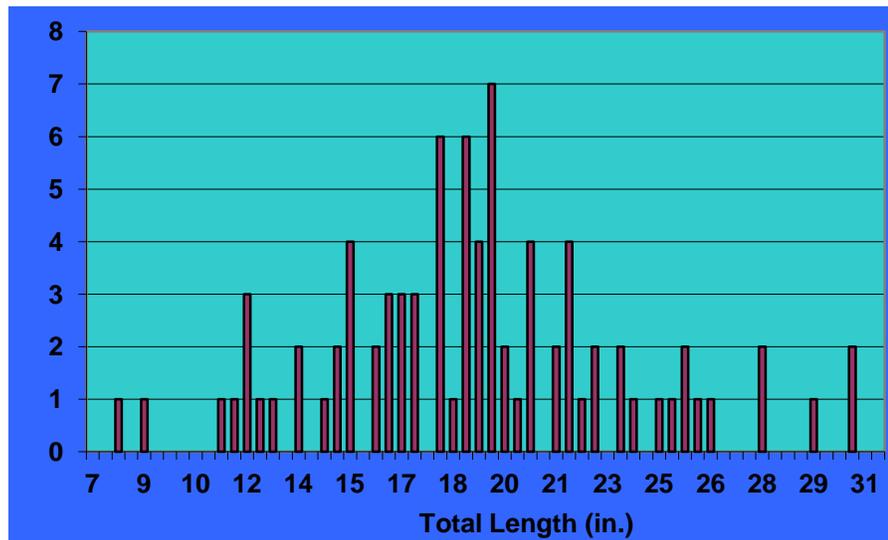
67% of adults were between 7 and 9 inches, 31% were 10 to 12 inches, and 2% were 13 inches and larger. A handful of black crappie between 7 and 13 inches were also collected, mainly on the lower half of the reservoir. Fish condition for both species was excellent again this year. **Don't forget there is a 20 fish/day creel limit at Glen Elder Reservoir!**

GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH

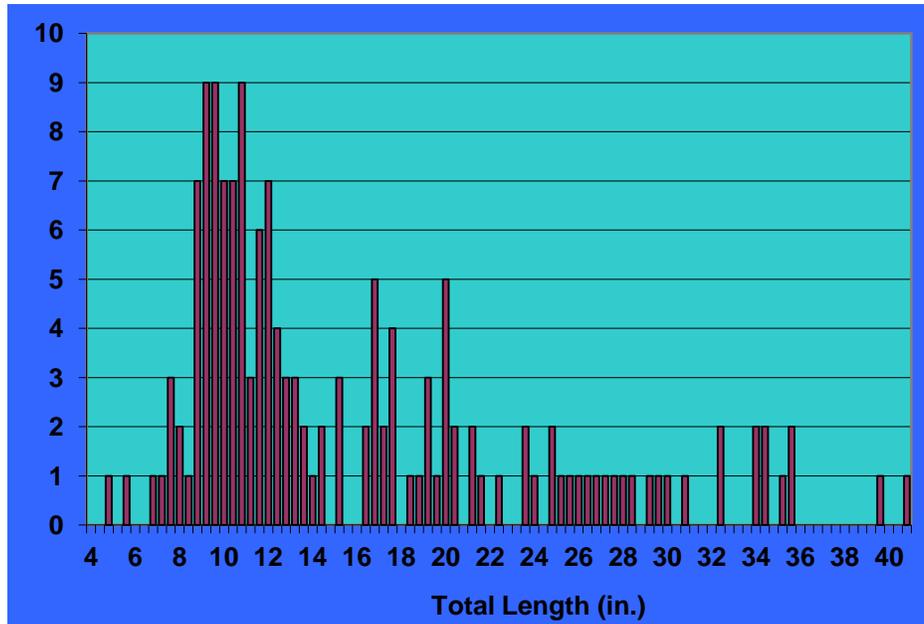
A good sample of channel catfish was collected last fall with fish of all sizes represented, but 2013 marks the 4th consecutive year with a reduced catch rate of 11 inch and larger fish. This trend can quickly be reversed, but is something we will be keeping an eye on over the next several years. Compared with the 2012 fall sample, total numbers were down 7%, but the number over 24 inches was up 8% and the number over 28 inches was up 175%. Fish between 8 and 31 inches were represented in the sample illustrating a wide range of sizes in the population. The population is fairly evenly distributed among sizes, but fish between 18 and 22 inches accounted for 48% of the catch and anglers should expect to see many in the preferred eating size range. Catfish condition remains good for smaller fish and excellent for larger fish. Fishing over chum piles is the most popular method during the summer. Fishing the south bluffs, Cawker City causeway, Granite Creek causeway, and other rocky areas during the spawn can yield nice limits of catfish.



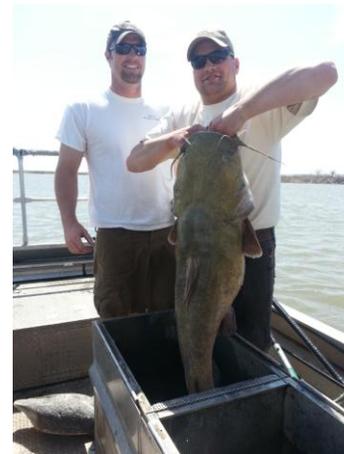
GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

FLATHEAD CATFISH



Flathead catfish are sampled each summer using low frequency electrofishing as the best method for sampling all sizes of flatheads. This year's sample collected 151 flathead catfish ranging from 5 to 48 inches with the biggest fish weighing 62 pounds. Fair numbers of fish over 10 pounds were collected, but the majority of the catch was much smaller with fish between 8 and 15 inches accounting for 58% of the catch. Flatheads can be caught along the rocky banks during the spawn in June and July and are often found in the brush piles throughout the year. Set line anglers annually have success for both channels and flatheads fishing up west, around Mill Creek and Walnut Creek.



GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

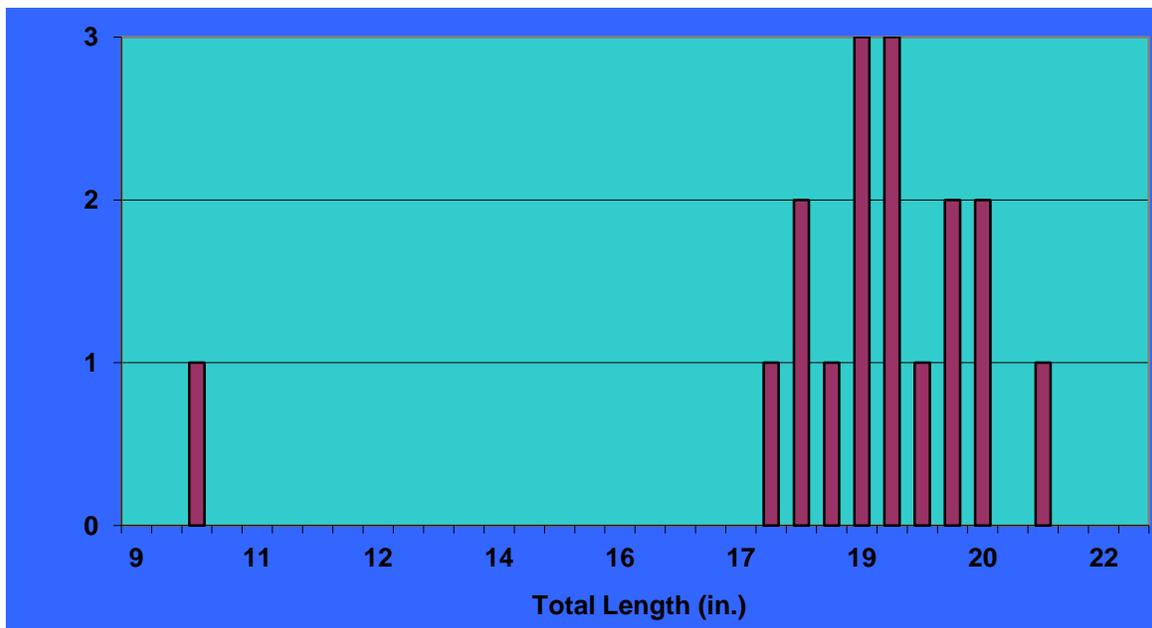
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

BLUE CATFISH

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Glen Elder since 2010 with 47,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we are asking anglers to release any blue catfish they catch this year. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years.



The summer electrofishing sample was our highest catch rate yet with 17 fish collected. The majority of these fish were found along the river channel on the upper half of the reservoir. Fish size ranged from 10 to 21 inches with the biggest fish weighing 3 pounds. Growth rates appear to be good and fish condition was excellent. We will continue to stock blue catfish for a couple more years to increase their numbers with the hope that they will eventually become self-sustaining





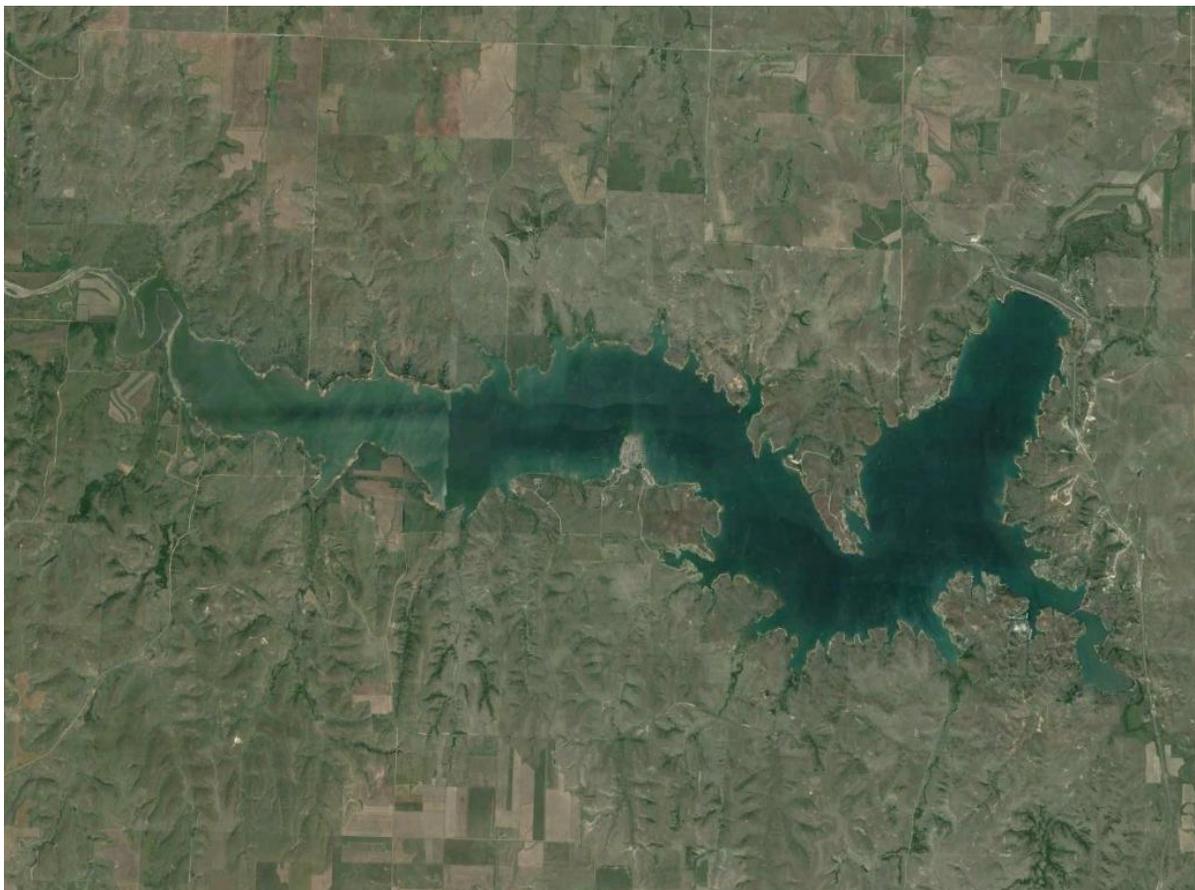
Wilson Reservoir

2014 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com /785-545-3345

General Information: In April 2013 the lake was 3.7 feet below conservation elevation and stable, but the water level declined throughout the year and is 6.2 feet low in April 2014. There is not much flooded vegetation around the shoreline with the lowered water levels. **“Clean, Drain, Dry”** will continue to be the phrase to remember for this year as we don’t want to spread the Zebra Mussels around.



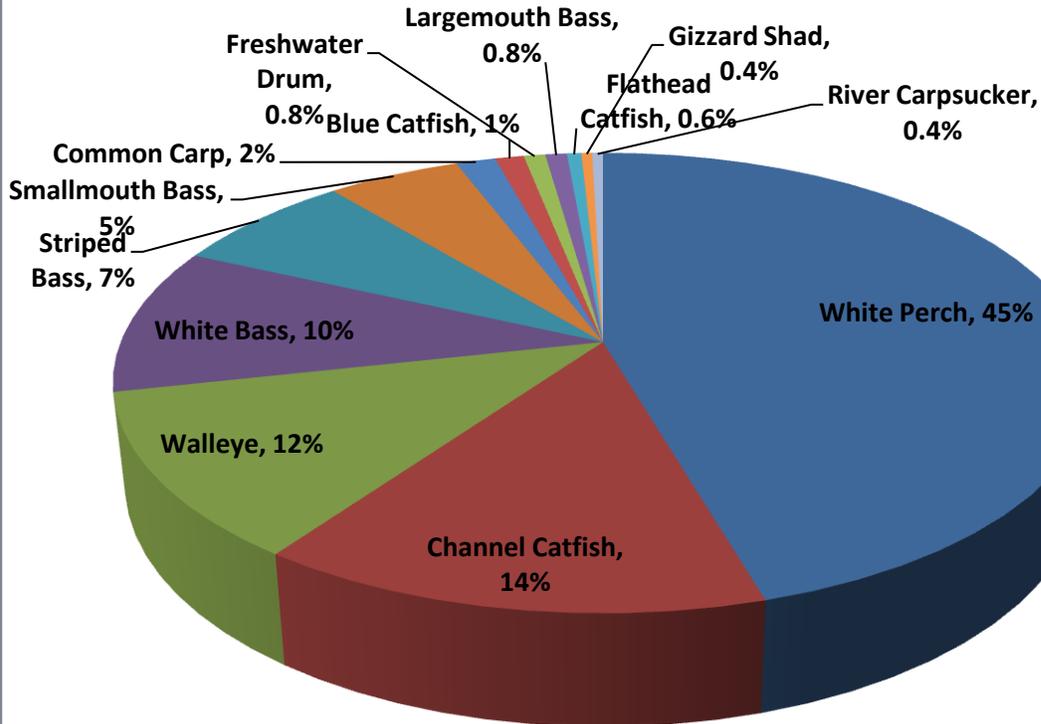
2013 Stocking Records

• Striped Bass	Fry	700,000
• Largemouth Bass	Advanced Fingerlings	39,203
• Redear Sunfish	Fingerlings	107,965
• Blue Catfish	Fingerlings	9,020

WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013)

Relative Abundance (2013 gill nets)



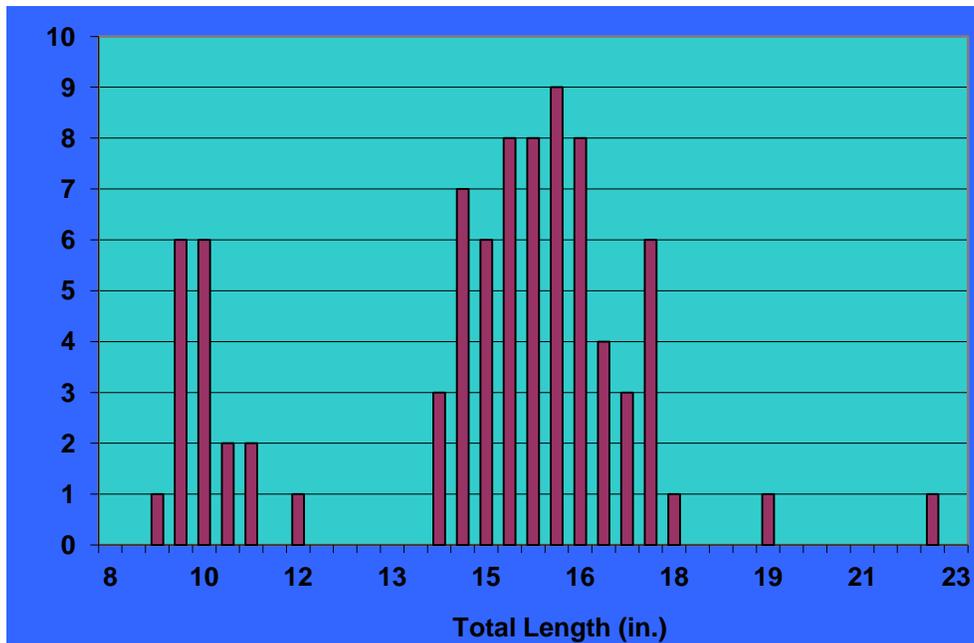
	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish	8	24.3	20.3-28.9	5.7	2.9-9.6
Channel Catfish	102	19.8	12.4-27.8	2.7	0.5-8.6
Gizzard Shad	3	13.7	5.7-18.3	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass*	81	14.8	10.4-18.3	1.6	0.6-2.8
Smallmouth Bass	37	13.8	8.1-16.7	1.3	0.2-2.5
Striped Bass	51	23.1	6.5-34.8	4.3	0.1-15.5
Walleye	83	14.6	9.3-22.2	1.1	0.3-3.7
White Bass	73	13.7	6.1-17.5	1.4	0.1-2.1
White Crappie	10	12.8	2.6-14.4	1.2	0.9-1.7
White Perch	323	10.1	6.5-12.4	0.6	0.5-1.0

*Collected during spring electrofishing

WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--GOOD



Total walleye catch exhibited a 52% decline compared with the last sample, but angling prospects for 2014 will remain good. The number of walleye over the 15 inch length limit was 52% lower than last year, but a very strong year class was produced in 2013 which will help turn around this trend. The number of age-0 fish collected in 2013 was again good as represented by the 9 to 11 inch fish which accounted for 22% of the catch. The majority of the population is comprised of one and two year old fish between 14 and 18 inches which accounted for 75% of the catch last fall. A handful of fish up to 22 inches were also collected, but their numbers were few. Wilson is currently ranked

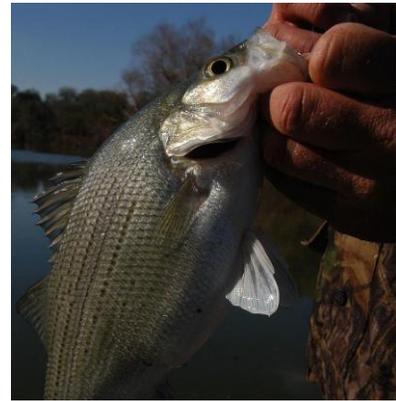
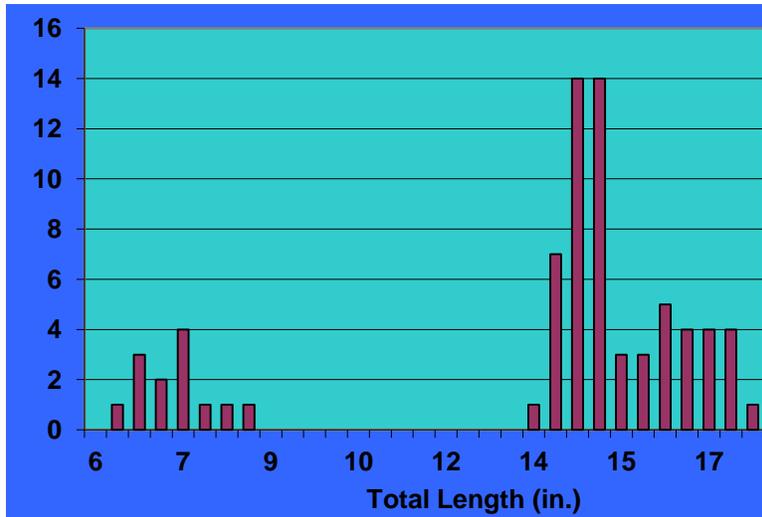


#8 in the state for walleye density as compared to other reservoirs in the state. Anglers may notice a decline in the total number and size of walleye in their creel in 2014, but the number of young fish is encouraging and is a good indication of strong recruitment in recent years. Natural recruitment continues to produce good numbers of young fish that have allowed for strong walleye harvest over the past decade and the total numbers will increase with continued production of these young fish.

WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--FAIR



White bass numbers decreased slightly in our fall sample and numbers continue to remain down compared to the early years of Wilson. There is a diversity of sizes available with some very healthy fish in the 2-3 pound plus range and up to 18 inches. Fish condition was excellent this past fall and anglers will be happy with the quality of fish they catch. We continue to see some small whites coming on so they are spawning successfully but the numbers of smaller fish never seem to be very high. The white perch have certainly taken up a portion of the niche that the white bass used to occupy. Wilson is currently #17 among reservoirs in white bass density (9"+), but is ranked #6 in terms of density of fish over 15 inches.



WILSON RESERVOIR

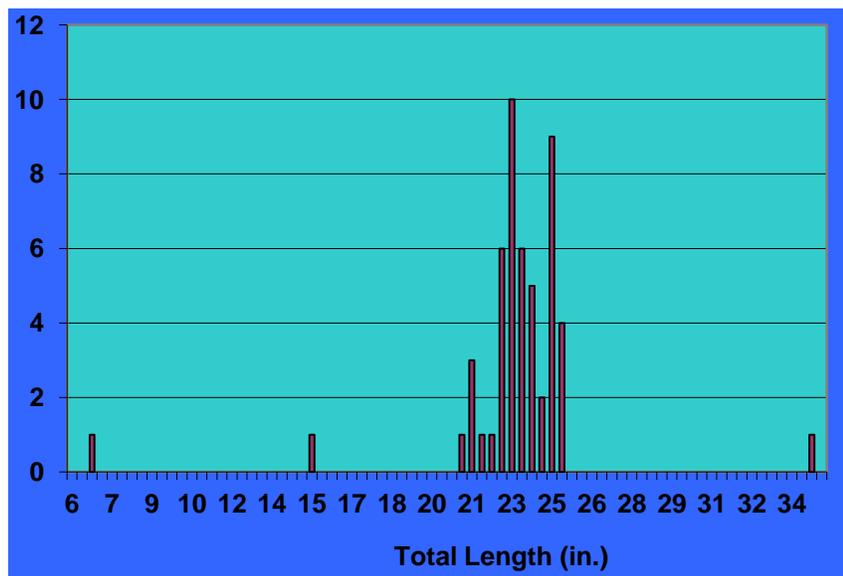
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

STRIPERS--FAIR



The number of stripers collected this fall was similar to the 2012 sample, but overall numbers remain below the management objective for this species. Body condition was much better than anticipated, however, with many of the fish collected having full stomachs of shad and white perch. The population is easily dominated by those 3 to 5 pounders but there are still plenty of big fish showing up every year as evidenced by a 15 pounder we caught last fall

and other 20-25 pound fish reported by anglers. And of course, the state record (44 pounds) fell in May 2010 and Paul Bahr says he is planning to continue to up that record again in the near future. Striper fingerlings have not been available the past 2 years with only 14,000 stocked during that time compared with the 90,000 requested. We did stock 700,000 fry last year, but only collected one 6 inch fish this past fall. We hope to make up for that this year with a healthy stocking of striper fingerlings. The management plan includes stocking stripers heavily as a predator on the white perch and so far they have been doing a pretty good job. Wilson is the #1 striper reservoir in the state and should provide lots of exciting striped bass angling in 2014 although anglers may continue to notice a slight decline in total numbers.



WILSON RESERVOIR

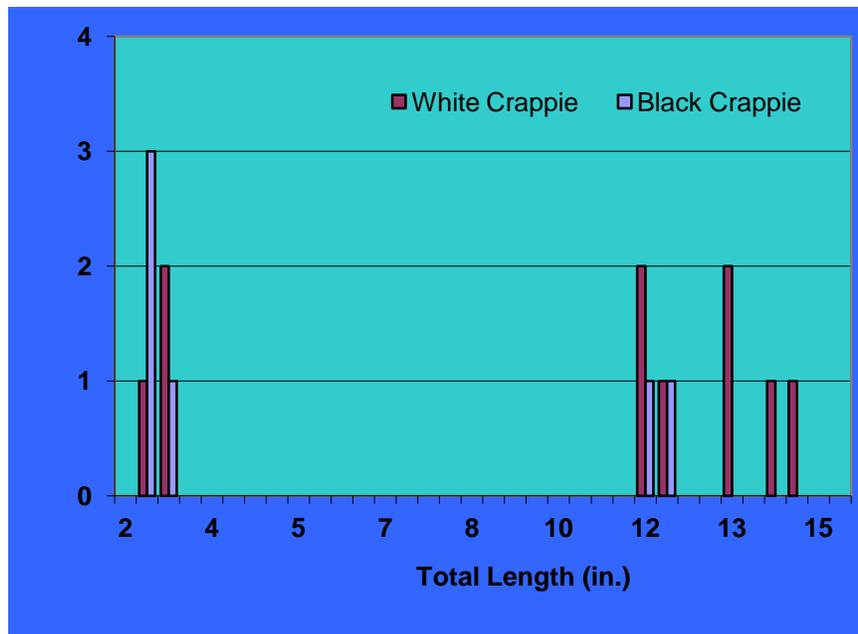
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--POOR

Crappie numbers remain low even with the high water and flooded vegetation between 2008 and 2010 which proved beneficial to the largemouth bass and bluegill. There were several good angler reports of limits this past year, however, so there are some fish to be caught out there. We only collected seven age-0 fish this year indicating poor recruitment of young crappie into the population. There are some adults,



mostly 12-14 inches, at the current time with some of the crappie ranging up to 2 pounds. Black crappie prefer the clearer waters on the lower end of the lake, white crappie are mostly found in the upper end. Crappie are scattered all over the lake but just not in any big concentrations. Anglers have some success catching crappie during the fall and winter months near the fish attractors by Minooka and Elm Creek and around the marina.



WILSON RESERVOIR

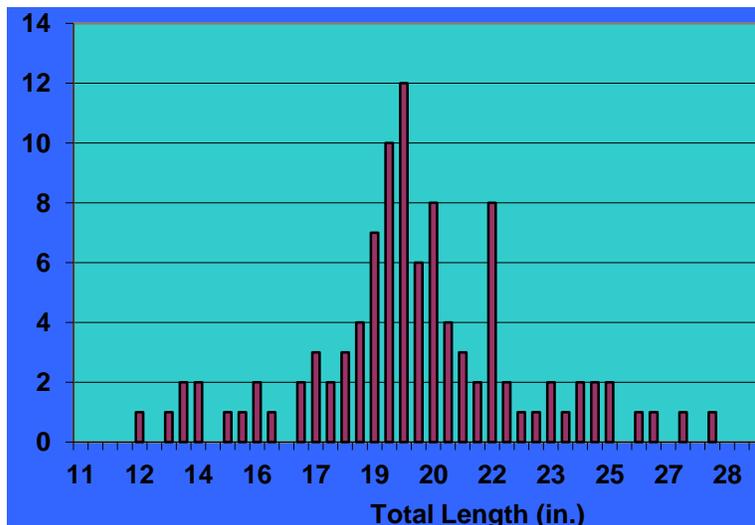
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

Channel catfish are plenty abundant in Wilson and blue catfish numbers are stable. There are all size ranges and the larger fish look very chunky. Wilson has moved up to #5 in catfish density when compared to other reservoirs in the state after coming in at #12 last year. There are a few flatheads showing up every year so don't be surprised if you tie into one of them too. Approximately 73% of the catch this past fall was between 17 and 22 inches with 15% be-



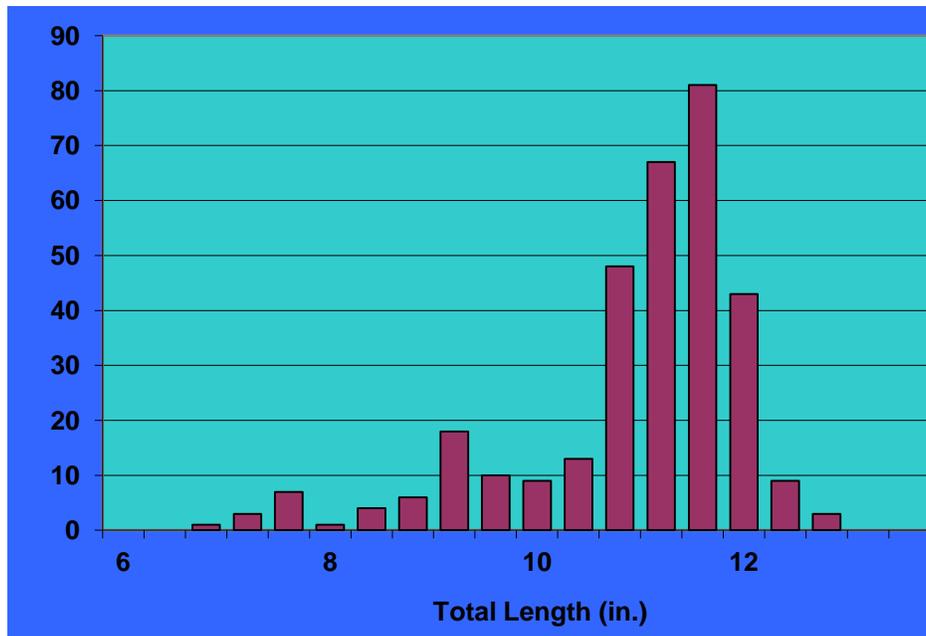
tween 18 and 28 inches, and 13% between 13 and 16 inches. Biggest fish collected weighed 8.6 pounds, but angler reports indicate fish up to 15 pounds were caught last year. Fish condition was excellent for all sizes and this population appears to be very strong. We collected channel catfish throughout the reservoir in the fall, but anglers may have the best success fishing for them on the upper end in the spring followed by targeting rocky banks where the fish will congregate to spawn in late May and June. Chumming over soybeans, wheat, and milo is by far the most productive method to catch a stringer of cats in the fall. Floatline fishing will again be allowed during the daylight hours from July 15 through September 15.



WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE PERCH--GOOD



White perch numbers increased slightly in 2013 with a 7% increase compared with 2012, but numbers continue to remain much lower than what we saw through 2011. The average size also continues to increase with very few young fish showing up in the nets. The average size of the fish remained near 10 inches. The proportion of the population less than 8 inches dropped from 15% in 2012 to only 4% in 2013. Anglers continue to report that many of the sportfish collected this past year had plenty of white perch in their stomachs indicating they remain an important prey species in Wilson. Fish condition improved slightly compared with the 2012 sample with the biggest fish in excellent condition. Approximately 82% of the catch was between 10 and 12 inches with 15% between 8 and 9 inches, and only 3% less than 8 inches. This continues to be a very nice size structure for white perch. Keep plenty of worms on hand for next summer and **remember too, keep all you catch so that we can remove as many as we can to reduce numbers as much as possible.** The white perch is an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) on the prohibited species list which means they must be dead if you keep them in your possession for consumption or if you keep them for bait or any other reason. Cut the small ones in half and feed the other fish if you catch ones you don't want to keep – do not throw any live white perch back!

WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

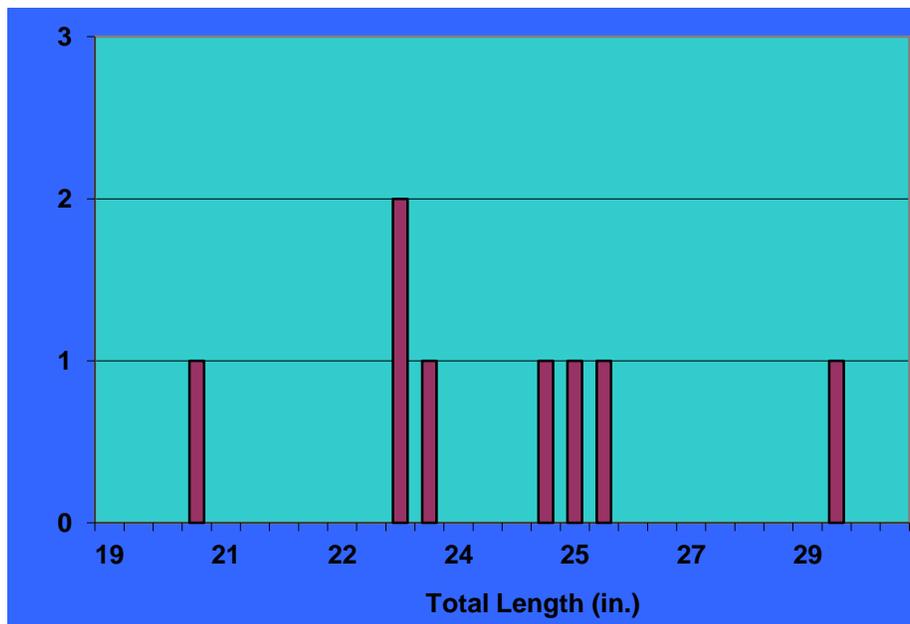
BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Wilson since 2006 with 81,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we are asking anglers to release any blue catfish they catch this year. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years.

Reminder of the 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish.



The fall 2013 sample only collected eight blue catfish with most of them coming around Lucas Point. Catch rates continue to be surprisingly low given the number we have stocked, and no recently stocked fish were collected. The sampled fish ranged in length from 20 to 29 inches with the biggest fish weighing 9.6 pounds. There are likely bigger blue cats in Wilson considering the original fish were stocked 7 years ago, but it is unlikely that there are any over the 35 inch length limit yet.





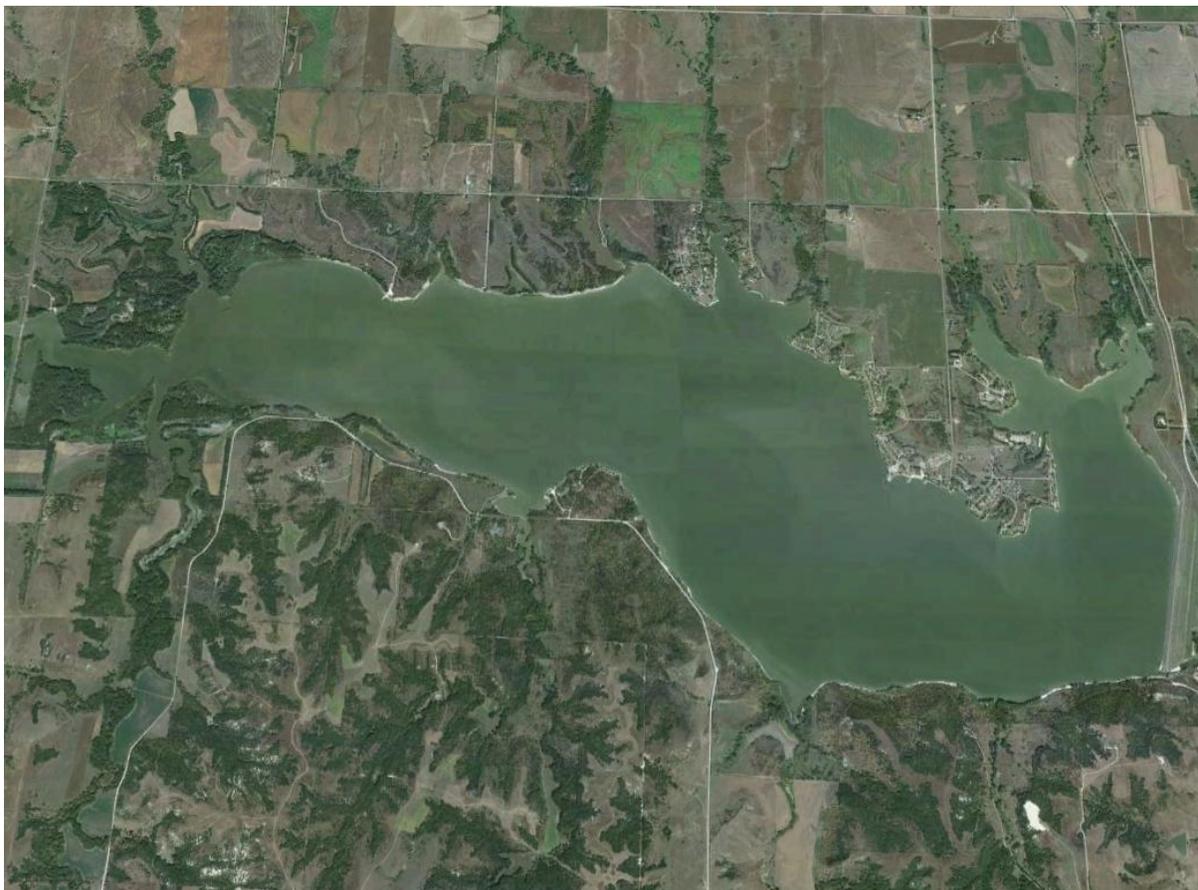
Lovewell Reservoir

2014 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com /785-545-3345

General Information: The reservoir is approximately 3.4 feet low as of April 2014. Be on the lookout for blue catfish which have been stocked since 2010 and please release any that you catch. The fish barrier will be in operation again this year beginning in May so keep an eye out for it near the outlet. Please stay away from the barrier and don't fish next to it!



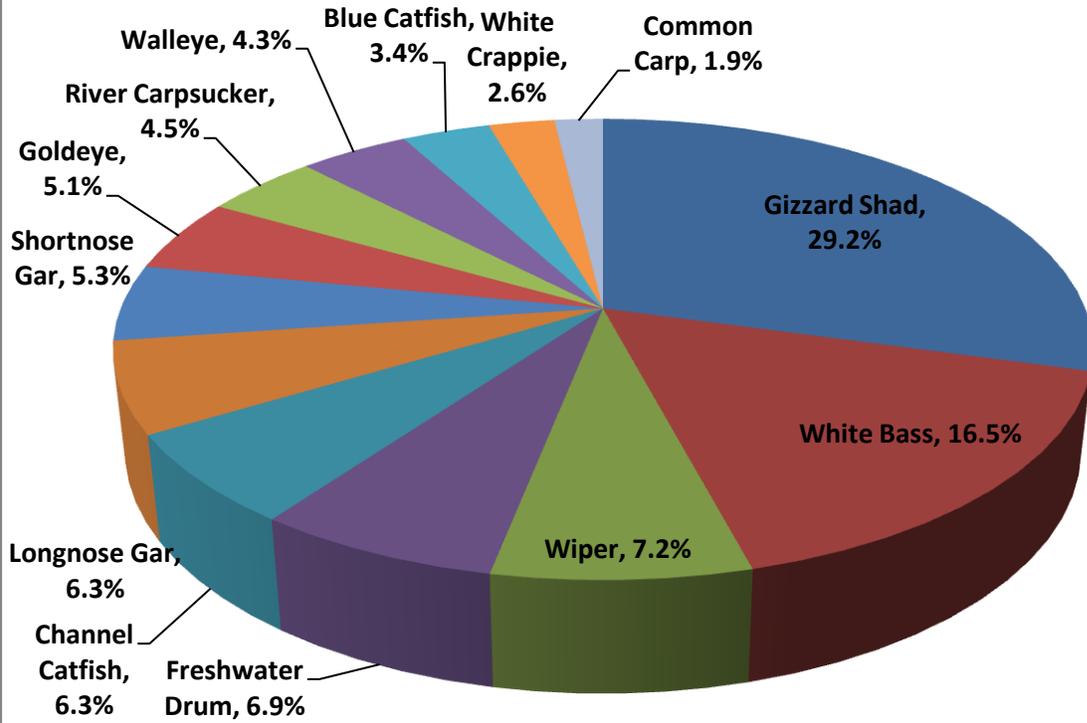
Special Regulations:

- **Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit**

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013)

Relative Abundance (2013 gill nets)



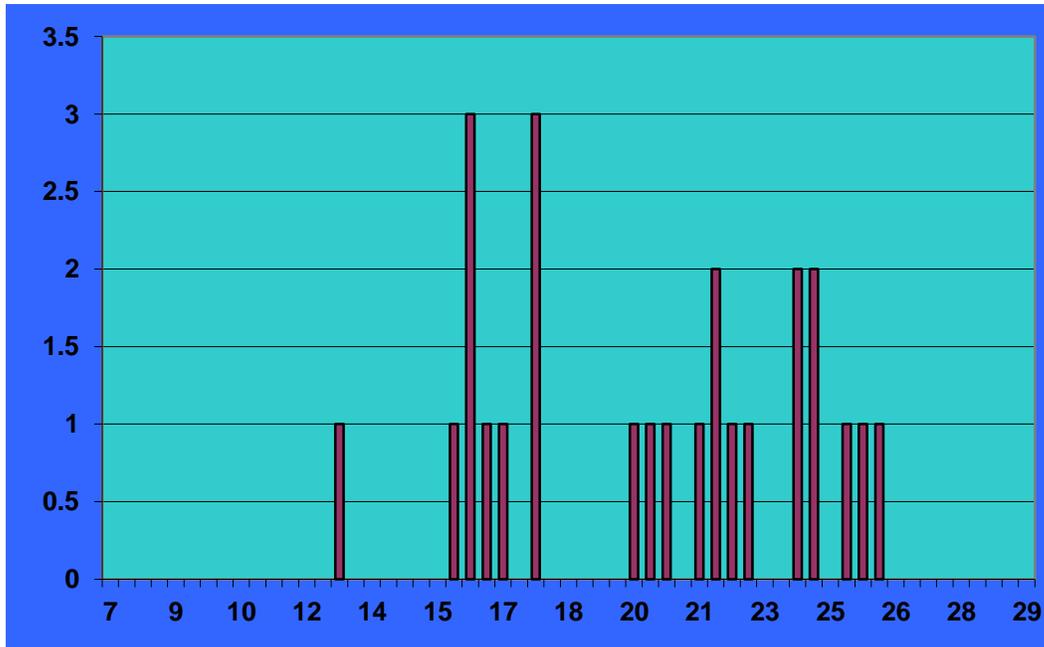
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Blue Catfish	20	18.2	11.6-21.5	2.2	0.5-3.2
Channel Catfish	37	19.6	6.9-31.3	3.0	0.1-12.0
Flathead Catfish*	39	26.7	10.4-41.5	11.6	0.4-41.0
Gizzard Shad	170	N/A	7.7-17.5	N/A	N/A
Walleye	25	20.1	12.8-25.8	3.2	0.7-6.8
White Bass	96	13.1	4.9-15.6	1.2	0.1-1.8
White Crappie	347	9.7	3.3-14.4	0.5	0.1-1.5
Wiper	42	12.9	5.7-20.3	1.3	0.1-4.3

*Collected during summer electrofishing

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WALLEYE--FAIR



Walleye numbers declined to the lowest level observed since 2010 and anglers will likely notice a reduction in the total catch in 2014. Total numbers in the 2013 sample were 65% lower than the previous year while the number over 15 inches was 45% lower, and the number over 20 inches declined 35%. Anglers harvested good numbers of large walleye in 2013 which may have led, in part, to the reduction in total numbers, but the lack of good recruitment in three of the past four years has also played a major role. Overall, 60% of the catch was over the 18 inch minimum length limit illustrating the lack of young fish in the population. No 2013 fish and only one 2012 fish were

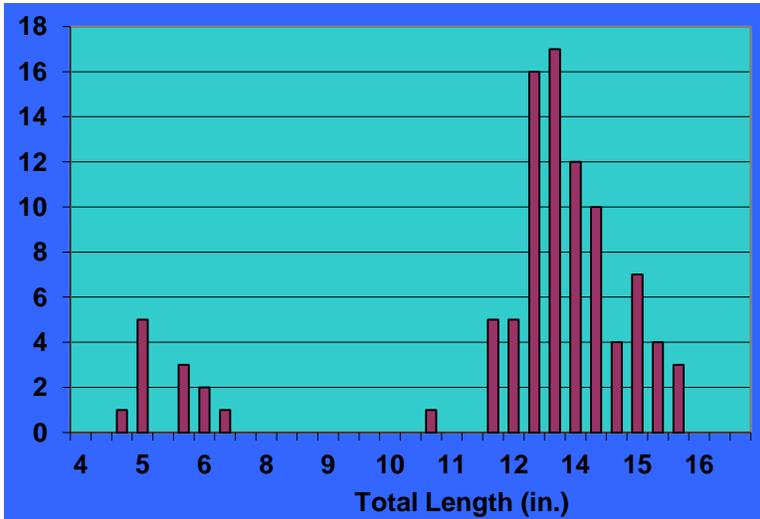


collected during fall 2013 sampling. Fish condition remains very good, but declined from the previous year which is surprising given the large shad hatch in 2013. Fish up to 26 inches and 7 pounds were collected during fall netting indicating the presence of some nice trophies. Fishing continues to be best from late April through mid-June with anglers drifting jig/crawler combos having the best success, especially along 2-mile road. Anglers are encouraged to carefully measure any questionable fish and handle sublegal fish with care.

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WHITE BASS--FAIR



White bass numbers declined for the second consecutive year after a strong rise in 2011. Total numbers and the number of fish 9 inches and greater were both 7% lower. Size structure is improved, however, as the number over 12 inches is 59% higher and the number over 15 inches is 25% improved. Anglers may again notice slightly reduced catch rates in 2014, but there should still be enough quality fish to provide fair angling. A large fish kill occurred in May 2013 which resulted in approximately 3,500 dead white bass, mostly large adults. This combined with good 2013 harvest and low recruitment that past 2 years led to the decline in numbers. The biggest fish sampled



weighed 1.9 pounds and the fish were in excellent body condition. Overall, 59% of the sample was between 13 and 15 inches, 28% were 9-12 inches, and 13% were 5-7 inches. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer, during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights was fair to good in 2013, and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

WIPER--FAIR

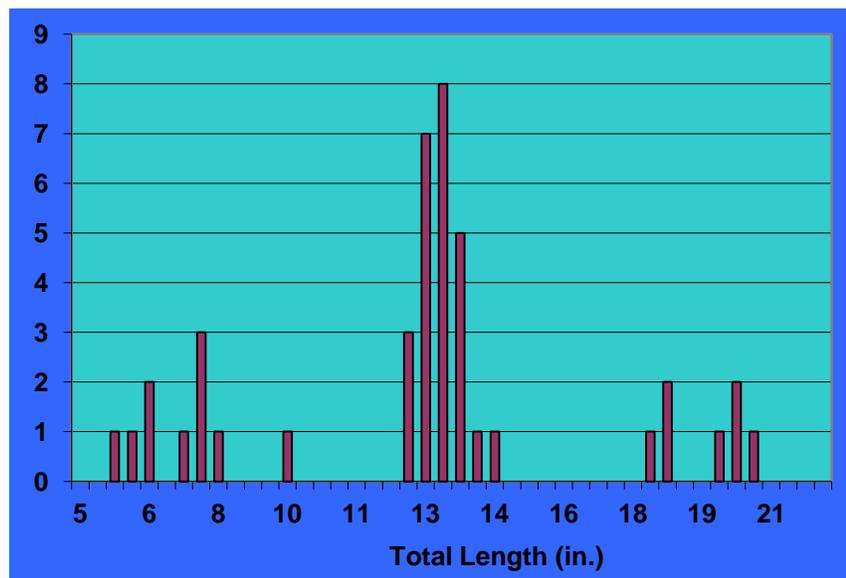


Wiper numbers increased for the second consecutive year with a 5% increase compared with the fall 2012 sample. Wipers have been stocked every year since 2010 after stocking on alternate years for a short period. A strong year class was produced in 2012 with fish between 12 and 14 inches accounting for 60% of the catch. Only seven older fish were collected, however, illustrating the poor wiper production between 2007 and 2011. Fish between 18 and 20 in-

ches accounted for 17% of the catch with the biggest fish weighing 4.3 pounds. A good year class was produced in 2013 and is represented by 23% of the population between 6 and 10 inches. Fish condition was good to very good as the fish took advantage of the large shad production in 2013. Anglers will have limited success this year targeting large wipers, but good numbers of 1-2 pound fish should be available. Approximately 15,000 fingerling and 3,000 intermediate wipers will be stocked every year in an attempt to boost the numbers. Similar to white bass, decent numbers of

wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam.

Be sure to identify your catch carefully as those 6-9 inch wipers look very similar to white bass.

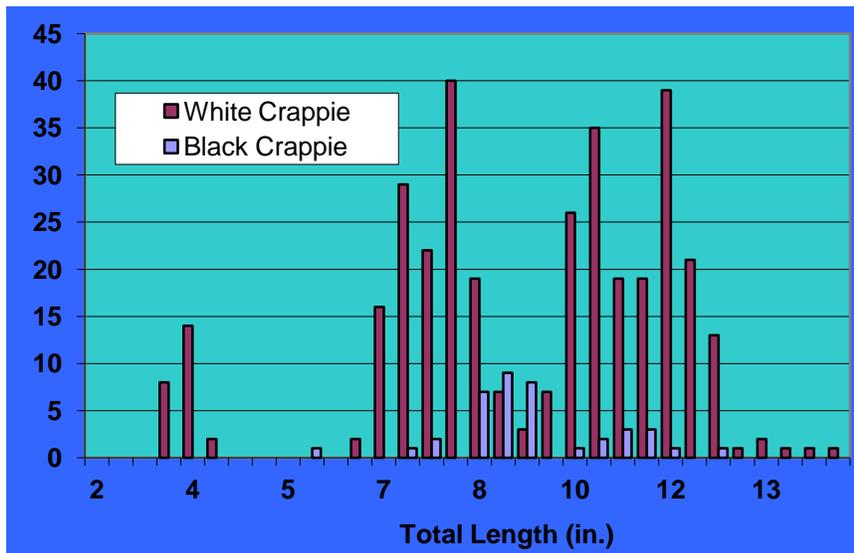


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CRAPPIE--GOOD

The crappie population looks to be very strong again in 2014 even though the number sampled was down in the fall netting. Lovewell will continue to offer some fine crappie angling over the next few years and remain among the top 5 reservoirs in the state in terms of crappie density. The catch rate of fish over 8 inches decreased 55% from the fall 2012 sample, the number of crappie 10 inches and longer decreased 36%, but the number 12 inches and longer increased 45%. Of the adults, 54% are between 10 and 12 inches, 45% are 7 to 9 inches, and 1% are over 13 inches. Only a handful of 4-5 inch crappie were collected indicating a poor 2013 year class was produced. A handful of black crappie were also collected with most of these fish between 8 and 12 inches. They will offer some additional opportunities along with the white crappie. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition measured. Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish for anglers, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek and other coves during late April and May when the fish are spawning. We added another 280 trees to the fish attractors in 2011 and will likely add more this year.

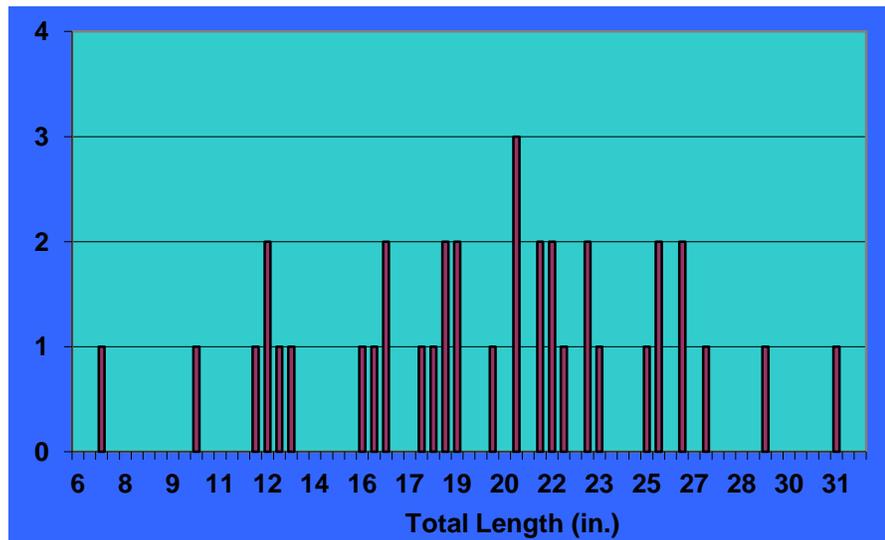


LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

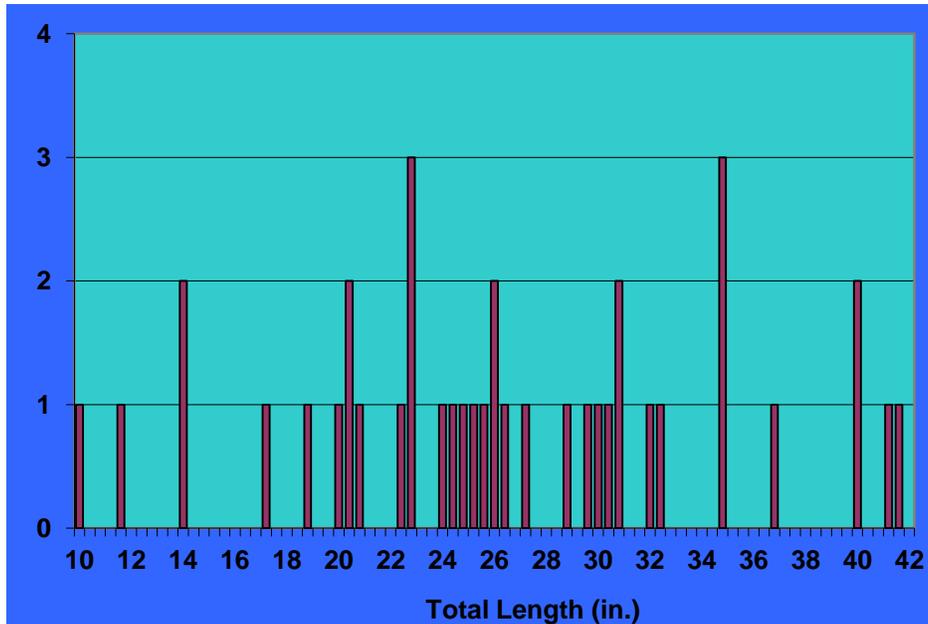
The channel catfish population will remain good again in 2014 with all sizes of channel cats available to anglers. The fall 2013 channel catfish catch rate was down 33% from the previous year while the number of fish over 24 inches was up 7% and the number over 28 inches was down 48%. Fifty-nine percent of the fish were between 15 and 23 inches, 22% were 24-31 inches, and 19% were between 7 and 13 inches. Catfish condition remains good for smaller fish and excellent for larger fish. Channel catfish will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir, including Montana, Windmill, and Prairie Dog Creek, as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During peak irrigation releases, catfish can be readily caught close to the inlet and outlet structures, and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. Summertime anglers annually have good success chumming over piles of soybeans, wheat, and milo.



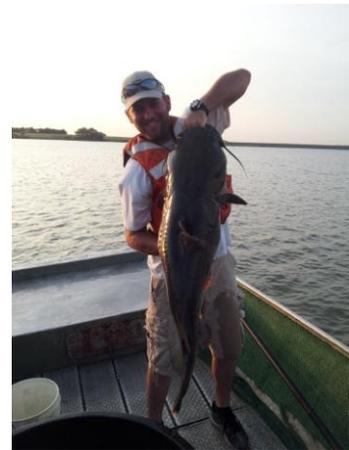
LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

FLATHEAD CATFISH--GOOD



Flathead catfish are sampled each summer using low frequency electrofishing as the best method for sampling all sizes of flatheads. This year's sample collected 39 flathead catfish ranging from 10 to 42 inches with the biggest fish weighing 41 pounds. Approximately 41% of the catch was over 10 pounds, 23% were between 5 and 10 pounds, and 36% were less than 5 pounds. Flatheads can be caught along the rocky banks during the spawn in June and July and are often found in the brush piles throughout the year. Set line anglers annually have success for both channels and flatheads fishing up west, around the inlet, in Prairie Dog Creek, and Montana Creek.



LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

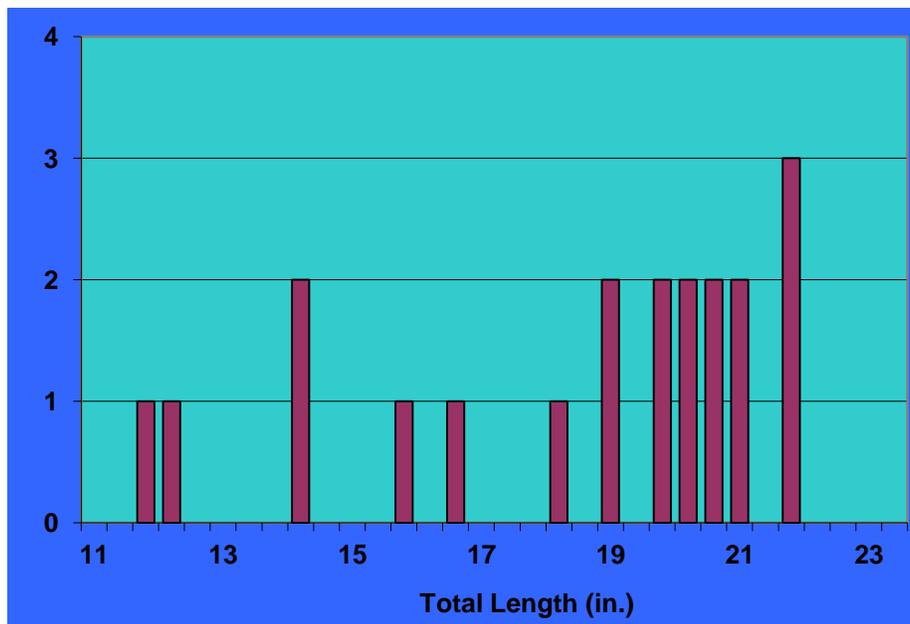
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2013) AND 2014 FISHING FORECAST

BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Lovewell since 2010 with 12,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we are asking anglers to release any blue catfish they catch this year. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years.



Fall netting results yielded the highest catch to date with 20 fish collected. The majority of these fish were found between Cedar Point and the dam on the lower half of the reservoir. Fish size ranged from 12 to 21 inches with the biggest fish weighing 3.5 pounds. Growth rates appear to be good and fish condition was excellent. We will continue to stock blue catfish for a couple more years to increase their numbers with the hope that they will eventually become self-sustaining.



Waconda Lake Association 2014 Fish-A-Thon

Nearly 400 fish worth \$15,000 have been tagged with yellow plastic tags and are swimming around Waconda Lake. Each of these fish was sponsored and named by a business and are valued from \$25 to \$600 if caught. In fact, this year there are three fish worth \$400, two worth \$500 apiece, and one good for \$600.

To be eligible, simply stop by one of 5 local merchants who are selling family tickets. These cost only \$10 for the entire family and are valid from May 1st through September 1st. Once a ticket is purchased, head out to the lake and see if you can catch one of these prized fish. Walleye, white bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, crappie, and wipers have been tagged so just about anyone fishing at the lake has a chance to catch a fish. If you are lucky enough to catch a tagged fish, simply stop by the Glen Elder Marina, Wayne's Sporting Goods, or Lakeside Convenience to claim your prize.

Come out to Glen Elder this year and try your luck at catching Waconda Willie or Glen Elder Girl and taking home some cash!



Roger Hardaway, Vice-President of the Glen Elder Dam/Waconda Lake Association, presents \$1,000 to Phoebe after she caught the Con Kid in 2012.

Fishing Events in 2014

Glen Elder

May 1 - Sept 1 Annual Fish-A-Thon
May 11 5th Annual Crappie Tournament
June 7 10th Annual Youth Fishing Tourn.
June 15 2nd Annual Poor Man's Walleye
June 22 KWA Governor's Cup Tournament
August 9 15th Annual Catfish Tournament
Sept. 13-14 Western Nebraska Bass

Lovewell

June 8 Kids Fishing Clinic
August 2 Lovewell Fun Day

Wilson

April 26-27 Kansas Bass Nation
May 20 KBF Youth Bass Tournament
May 31 USA Bassin
June 14 OK Kid's Day/Free Park Entrance
June 29 KWA Tournament
July 12-13 KBF High School State Champion.
August 2-3 Kansas Bass Federation TBFKS
August 9 Kansas Buddy Bass (KBB)

**Free Fishing Weekend
is June 7th and 8th
statewide!**

This is the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder, Wilson, and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Rocky Pond in Belleville, and Jewell City Lake. Don't forget to check out the many FISH properties in the area as well. They can offer some great fishing for those without a boat.

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter, they can do so [HERE](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, please send your info to [Contact Us](#) with "unsubscribe to Glen Elder District Fisheries newsletter" and we'll get you taken off of the list. If you have any questions or comments feel free to send them in.

Scott Waters

District Fisheries Biologist
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism
2131 180 Road
Glen Elder, KS 67746
785-545-3345
scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com