

Mound City District Fisheries Report

Spring 2016

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism: Fisheries Division

District impoundments include: Pomona Reservoir; La Cygne Reservoir; Bourbon State Fishing Lake; Richmond City Lake; Pleasanton Old, West and East City Lakes; Parker City Lake; Prescott City Lake; Mound City Lake; Critzer Lake; Blue Mound City Lake; Linn County Strip Pits; Elm Creek Lake; Cedar Creek Lake; Ft Scott City Lake; Rock Creek Lake; Ft Scott Community College – East and West Lakes; Ft Scott Gunn Park – Fern and West Lakes.

Public Partially Accessible Rivers: Marais des Cygnes River, Marmaton River, Little Osage River.

A Brief Introduction...

Spring is here once again, bringing warm weather and numerous fishing opportunities for the Mound City District. The 2015 fall net sampling once again has kept people busy and has provided some valuable insight on the current fish populations in the district impoundments. Don George, Mound City District fisheries biologist, is currently on leave, recovering from an injury, but is eager to return and continue working towards keeping the district impoundments successful fisheries. To introduce myself, my name is Sydney Hale, I graduated from Pittsburg State University with my bachelor's degree in field and environmental biology, and was previously employed at the Farlington Fish Hatchery. I am currently filling in for Don, and have been working with him and the district to keep things flowing as normal! A big thank you to everyone who assisted with the 2015 spring and fall sampling, and took time to ensure that the district impoundments were maintained.

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News and Updates

Fish Habitat Cubes

Fisheries districts throughout the state have been provided the opportunity to receive PVC habitat cubes, the specific design also referred to as a “Georgia Cube” (as shown below). Observation has shown that not only do sportfish appear to hunt these cubes, but actually may be living in these cube clusters. Not only do the cubes provide habitat for the fish, but as we record the locations of the cubes, they are meant to create additional angling opportunities for fishermen. Mound City District received 27 Georgia Cubes, and I assembled them early spring. With the greatly appreciated help of Justin Harbit, district wildlife biologist, all of these cubes were placed in La Cygne Reservoir. The cubes were sunk in clusters of around 5, and were sunk in the coves and off the points around the marina, as well as in the Horse riding trail cove near the fish feeder on the southwest side. GPS coordinates for these clusters can be found on the ksoutdoors.com website. One of the goals was to keep these cube clusters accessible for bank fishermen, in addition to the fish feeders. A request has been made for 30 cubes for Bourbon State Fishing Lake as well.



A 2016 creel survey is being conducted at LaCygne reservoir this spring and summer. The creel survey gives us an idea of what species people are catching, and what they are wanting, as well as the size of fish, and how many fish are harvested or released. This information helps to accommodate the management of the lake towards meeting the needs of anglers, and keeping fishermen satisfied. It also can help determine regulation effectiveness and stocking efforts.

Walleye Egg Collection

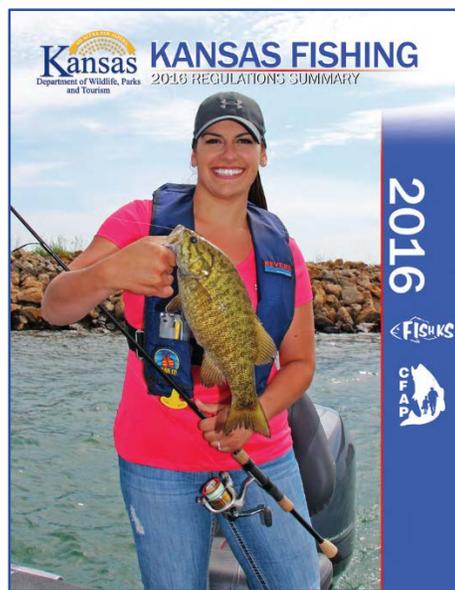
Every year, Mid-March, means the coming of the statewide walleye egg collection. This was my first year participating and a great experience! Hillsdale reservoir is the nearest location to the Mound City District involved in the egg harvest, and last spring 31 million walleye eggs were collected, fertilized, and shipped to the Milford Fish Hatchery. We look forward to even higher numbers of production this spring! Collection also occurs at Cedar Bluff and Milford Lake. Nets are set and removed daily to harvest live percids. Eggs are stripped from ripe females, and then fertilized with milt from the males. The fertilized eggs are then sent in coolers to the Milford Hatchery where the eggs are hatched, to produce walleye fry and fingerlings to stock waterbodies statewide, enhancing walleye angling opportunities. This spring, 2 million walleye fry have been stocked in Pomona Reservoir, in hopes to boost and improve the walleye population, providing additional angling opportunities at this impoundment. When stocking fry we are looking at the long term, as these fish will take years to reach harvestable size. Yearly sampling efforts will provide some insight on the developing population.



Kansas City District Fisheries Biologist Lucas Kowalewski with large female walleye during Hillsdale egg harvest

Fishing License Fee Increase

As you go to purchase your 2016 fishing license, be prepared for a slight cost increase since last year. KDWPT Commission approved a proposal to raise fees for fishing and hunting licenses at their public meeting in Burlington on October 22, 2015. The new fees became effective January 1, 2016. Fee increases were deemed necessary to ensure pivotal programs important to hunters and anglers can be maintained and enhanced. Basic hunting and fishing license fees haven't increased since 2002, and the price of resident deer and turkey permits haven't increased since 1984. Inflation has increased the cost of doing business by almost 30 percent since 2002. License and permit revenues go into the Wildlife Fee Fund to pay for wildlife and fisheries programs, which receive no State General Fund money. The approval of this proposal ensured that programs such as Walk-in Hunting Access (WIHA), Community Fisheries Assistance (CFAP), Pass It On, Fishing Impoundment and Stream Access (FISH), and Wildlife Habitat Improvement (WHIP) will continue to provide hunters and anglers with high-quality outdoor opportunities. Increased revenues will also help fund day-to-day business such as operation of four fish hatcheries, law enforcement, public lands management and private land programs. A resident annual hunting or fishing license now costs \$25. The previous fee is \$18. Pick up a copy of the 2016 fishing regulations to stay up to date on changes!



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Eurasian Watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an exotic species most likely introduced in the United States by the aquarium industry. It is considered one of the most aggressive and problematic plants in the U.S. because of the dense colonies which it forms. Many people have questions about the control of this species, and there is no easy, cheap, secret solution for eradicating this species. Many people go to the old affordable standby of the grass carp, which in this case, is completely useless. Mechanical removal such as rakes work temporarily, but can fragment the plant producing more colonies. Chemical treatment is the most effective thus far, but be ready to reach for your wallet. There are many options to choose from, using Sonar RTU as an example, one quart treats 1/8 of an acre of pond, and one quart averages around \$150.00. This is only one of many invasive species to stay aware of, people often also have problems with curly-leaf pondweed, and don't forget the spread of species such as zebra mussels and white perch. Cleaning, draining, and drying boating equipment is a good way to avoid spreading invasive species, as well as not transporting and relocating fish to different impoundments than they were caught.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Fishing Forecasts

Interested in Crappie fishing this spring?

Try **La Cygne reservoir**, there is an excellent (white) crappie population here, with an abundance of quality size and larger fish, including some memorable and trophy crappie.

Pomona reservoir has an abundant crappie population as well, although not quite as comparable in size as La Cygne, fish are in good condition. Likely to catch numerous 10 inch and under fish, small percentage larger.

Bourbon State Fishing Lake black and white crappie population numbers are moderate, however, our sampling data showed that the majority of the crappie population is fairly large in size, and opportunities of 10 inch plus fish are readily available.

Bourbon Co. Cedar Creek Lake has a great population of white crappie, with many preferred and memorable sized crappie, with a small percentage of trophy fish. Lots of cover to fish around at this lake, be cautious when boating in these areas.

Fort Scott Lake, Pleasanton Old and West, Elm Creek Lake: All provide crappie angling opportunities, however, crappie size on average tends to be smaller in these impoundments.

Mound City Lake: Although not at the top of the list, some nice crappie are harvested from this lake every year, varying in size.



Bass Fishing

There are bass fishing opportunities throughout the district, but as for the best, **La Cygne Reservoir** is an exceptional Largemouth bass fishery.

Population abundance is high, and size is great. Sampling has shown it's not rare to see 5 to 6 lbs. bass, up to 8 lbs. in this impoundment.

I like to remind people that **Bourbon State Fishing Lake**, although not abundant with trophy and memorable bass, has a respectable largemouth as well as *spotted bass* population, which is fairly unique for this area. As a newer lake it may take some time before we see memorable or trophy fish, but keep in mind **Critzer Lake** has been stocked multiple years with smallmouth bass, most recently in 2015.



Above: Fisheries section chief Doug Nygren with 6.14 lbs bass from LaCygne Reservoir during sampling.

Left: Image of large school of fish on the move, presumably crappie, as the fishermen already harvested 7 nice crappie from this location, and released several smaller crappie. Captured on the fish finder of local anglers boat, at Mound City Lake.

Fishing Forecasts (continued)

Catfishing Opportunities

The good news is, the Mound City District has an assortment of catfishing impoundments to choose from, as channel cat are stocked in the majority of the district impoundments yearly. If you are looking for a change of pace, try fishing for Blue Catfish at **LaCygne**, where there is a decent population, although not overly abundant, sizable fish are seen taken out of this impoundment yearly. Also, respectable Flathead catfish can be found at **Pomona and LaCygne Reservoirs**.

Walleye

Walleye have been stocked throughout the years in multiple district impoundments, although not always extremely successful, it is nice to know there are some additional angling opportunities available. **Pomona reservoir** is at the top of the list, followed by **Bourbon State Fishing Lake** (which was last stocked in 2009, but a request has been made for 2016), **Critzer Lake**, **Elm Creek Lake**, **Mound City Lake**, and **Pleasanton East**.

White Bass and Wiper

Pomona and LaCygne Reservoir both provide great white bass and wiper populations. Also **Pleasanton East Lake**, which we will hopefully have new data on after 2016 sampling.



Identification Tips!



If fishing at someplace like Bourbon State Fishing Lake or Critzer, where you may harvest more than one species of bass, it's good to keep in mind there may be differing regulations for different species. These identification tips could be a great help!

"takemefishing"

Identification Tips!

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Myriophyllum spicatum



Tip may have a reddish cast

Leaves typically in a whorl of 4 around stem



Cross-section



Feathery leaves with more than 12 leaflets

Leaflet

Leaf



Water Quality Division

(802) 241-3777

www.vtwaterquality.org

Eurasian watermilfoil is sometimes misidentified as parrot feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*), or Coontail (*Ceratophyllum demersum*). It's good to correctly identify the aquatic vegetation so the correct treatment is used and effective.

Thanks for reading the Spring 2016 Mound City Fisheries District Newsletter!

Electrofishing season is upon us once again and I am looking forward to participating in this year's sampling. The fall newsletter will report back to you with the data we collect sampling this spring! Fish feeders are soon to be up and running again, it's warming up and the fish are biting, have fun and go fishing!

Questions or concerns in your fisheries district?

You can contact

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