

Stockton District Fisheries Newsletter

2016, Issue 2

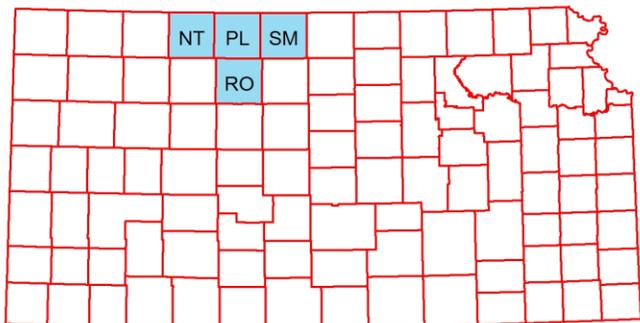
Kansas Dept. of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism, Fisheries Division

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Welcome to the Stockton Fisheries District

The Stockton Fisheries District consists of four counties in northwest Kansas – Rooks (RO), Phillips (PL), Smith (SM) and Norton (NT). The district consists of three main reservoirs – Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius; one state fishing lake, Rooks State fishing lake; two Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) lakes, Logan City lake and Plainville Township lake; and various Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) properties, which consist of 97.5 acres of ponds in Phillips, Smith and Rooks counties and 3.80 miles of stream access on the North and South Fork Solomon rivers.



2017 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR WEBSTER RESERVOIR



* Webster 2013 smallmouth bass

BLACK BASS - Poor.

The black bass population has really taken a nosedive this past year. This is due to the fact that Webster Reservoir was approximately 22 feet below conservation pool at the start of the year and the habitat that the bass rely on is pretty much gone. No largemouth bass were collected during the bass sample; however, a few fish were observed while sampling other species. Spinnerbaits, crank baits and artificial lures should work well along Rock Point and Old Marina coves, along the dam and bluffs and between Rock Point and the outlet gates. With the lower water levels the bass should be concentrated to the areas mentioned above. **A 15-inch length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is in effect.**

2017 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR KIRWIN RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Poor.

Kirwin's largemouth bass population is in a little better shape than what the sampling results show. Only one largemouth bass was sampled this year at Kirwin; however, I had reports of bass being caught by anglers throughout the summer. Also, while performing our shad sample in August, we did observe some largemouth bass. We did not see or sample any smallmouth bass this year. The best locations for finding bass include 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. With the lower water levels, the bass should be concentrated to the areas mentioned above. **A 15-inch length limit is in effect.**



* Kirwin largemouth bass

2017 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR SEBELIUS RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Good.

The largemouth bass population is dominated by 15- to 18-inch fish, which accounted for 40 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 3- to 7-inch size range accounted for 15 percent of the sample, fish in the 8- to 11-inch size range accounted for 9 percent of the sample, fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range accounted for 36 percent and fish over 15 inches made up 40 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled weighed 2.48 pounds. Good numbers of spotted bass are also present with 10 percent being in the 8- to 10-inch size range, 50 percent being in the 11- to 13-inch size range and 40 percent being in the 13- to 16-inch size range. The biggest spotted bass sampled weighed in at 1.55 pounds. Spinnerbaits and artificial lures 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

Protect Our Waters

Stop aquatic hitchhikers!



Clean. Drain. Dry.

Every lake, every time.

Use it where you catch it.

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

Know the rules. Visit: ProtectKSWaters.org

Rainbow Trout Season Starts November 1st

The Webster Stilling Basin, a 6-acre impoundment below the dam, is stocked with trout five times (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, & Mar) each trout season. Each stocking consists of 2,100 trout weighing approximately ½ pound each, with an occasional bigger fish thrown in to make it exciting. Projected stocking dates are usually around the first of the month.

Webster District Fisheries Water Conditions Greatly Improve

The rains during September have greatly improved the area reservoirs, SFLs (state fishing lakes) and CFAP (community fisheries assistance program) lakes. Webster Reservoir was too low for the Webster Irrigation District to release water from this year; however, it is now approximately 7.9 feet below conservation pool and still rising. The Kirwin Irrigation District did release water this year for irrigation but the elevation at Kirwin is approximately 9.1 feet below conservation pool and still rising. The Almena Irrigation District was not able to withdraw water for irrigation from Keith Sebelius; however, the reservoir is now approximately 13.4 feet below conservation pool and still rising. Boats are still able to get onto all the reservoirs at this time. However, it is likely that on October 1, NO boats will be allowed on Kirwin due to the seasonal boat closure unless the water elevation gets above 1722.5.

Rooks State Fishing Lake has filled up and currently has water flowing over the spillway. The two CFAP lakes, Logan City Lake and Plainville Township Lake also caught water. Plainville Township Lake is currently full and Logan City Lake is approximately ¾ full.

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. Ten random sites are selected throughout the water body and then sampled for 360 seconds of EFT (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 less than 70 mm. All three reservoirs are looking pretty good with most sportfish being able to utilize them for food.



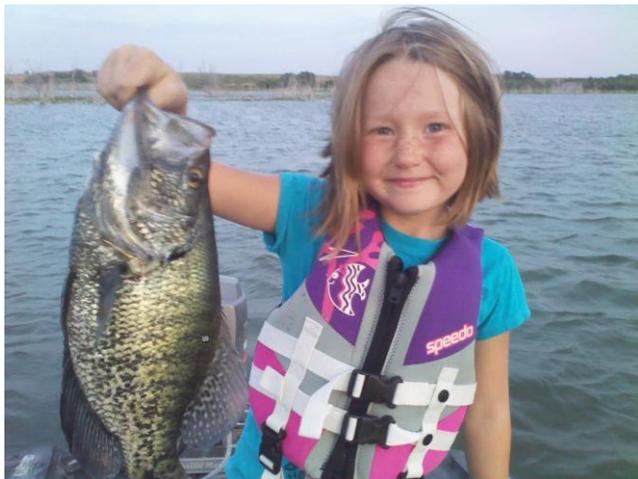
* Young of the year shad sampling 2014

At Webster 617 fish were caught at each site with 62 percent of the sample being less than 70 mm. Kirwin produced 485 fish per site with 68 percent being less than 70 mm and Keith Sebelius produced 318 fish with 46 percent being less than 70 mm.



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 the website, you can call or stop by any of the area, park or regional offices.



* A very satisfied Kirwin angler



*Brian with 44 pound 2016 Keith Sebelius flathead



*Rooks State Fishing Lake with water going over spillway



*Rooks State Fishing Lake Full 9-8-2016

The summer is coming to a close, schools are starting back up and football and hunting seasons are quickly approaching. However, there is still a lot of good fishing to be had as the water starts to cool down and 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. This year, 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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**Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!**

