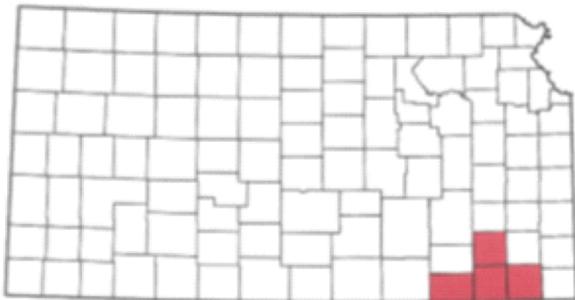


Independence District Fisheries

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Area Happenings

It has been a busy fall and winter in the Independence District. This past fall was spent sampling the area lake and reservoirs with trap nets and gill nets. It was a little choppy on some of the larger bodies of water some days, but we were able to get all the scheduled sampling done. The lakes that we were able to complete included: Elk City Reservoir, Big Hill Reservoir, Montgomery State Fishing Lake, Wilson State Fishing Lake, Sedan City Lake-South and Parsons City Lake.



Area Fish Stocking

In addition to our fall sampling, channel catfish, grass carp and rainbow trout were stocked in many area lakes and ponds. Channel catfish were stocked on October 17, 2017 into Montgomery State Fish Lake, Wilson State Fishing Lake, Elk City Kids Pond, Elk City Wildlife Area Ponds, Cherryvale City Pond (Tanko), Coffeyville City Pond (LeClere), Grand Osage Wildlife Area Pond #31, Sedan City Lake- North and Sedan City Lake- South (See Table on next page).



Fish Stocking Continued...

Fish Stocking Locations and Numbers

Lake	Species	Number
Montgomery SFL	Channel Catfish	3,679
Wilson SFL	Channel Catfish	2,756
Elk City Kids Pond	Channel Catfish	100
Tanko	Channel Catfish	630
Tanko	Grass Carp	75
Tanko	Rainbow Trout	511
LeClere	Channel Catfish	254
Elk City WA Ponds	Channel Catfish	352
Grand Osage	Channel Catfish	350
Sedan-North	Channel Catfish	1,382
Sedan-South	Channel Catfish	1,752

These channel catfish generally take a couple of years to get to a size most anglers see as desirable to keep. However, these lakes and ponds have been stocked many times in the previous years and offer fish of all sizes. Also, if anyone wants any further information on which Elk City Wildlife Area ponds have been stocked, feel free to contact me and I will point you in the right direction.

In September, Cherryvale City Lake (Tanko) also received a one-time stocking of sterile grass carp. These grass carp were introduced with the intention of controlling some of the vegetation that was limiting fishing and boating activities. In most cases aquatic vegetation is beneficial to fish populations; however in this instance, the vegetation has almost complete coverage of the lake.

The City of Cherryvale has also taken advantage of the Winter Fishing Opportunities (WFO) program and has been stocking trout during the winter months. The WFO program reimbursed the City of Cherryvale for two stockings of rainbow trout, one in November and another in January. These rainbow trout have been ranging in size from 12 to 20 inches, and at the time of this publication are still available for anglers.



Above: 22 inch 4 1/4 pound Saugeye from Sedan City Lake-South.

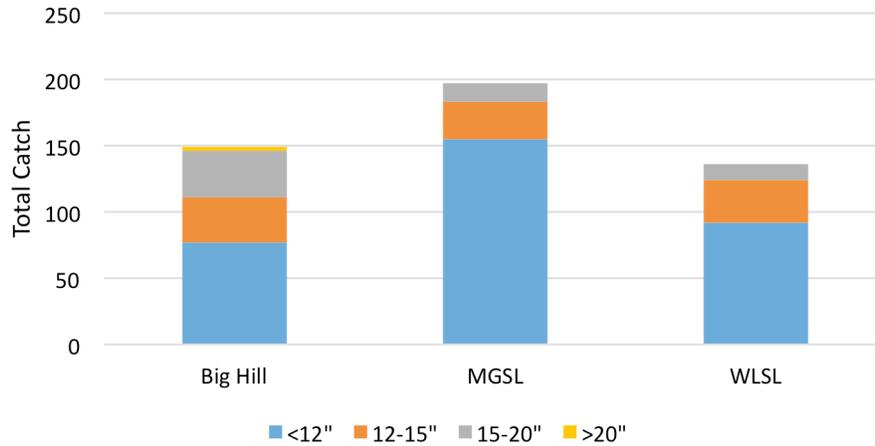
Below: Stocking channel catfish into the Elk City Kids Fishing Pond.



Fishing Forecast

Largemouth Bass

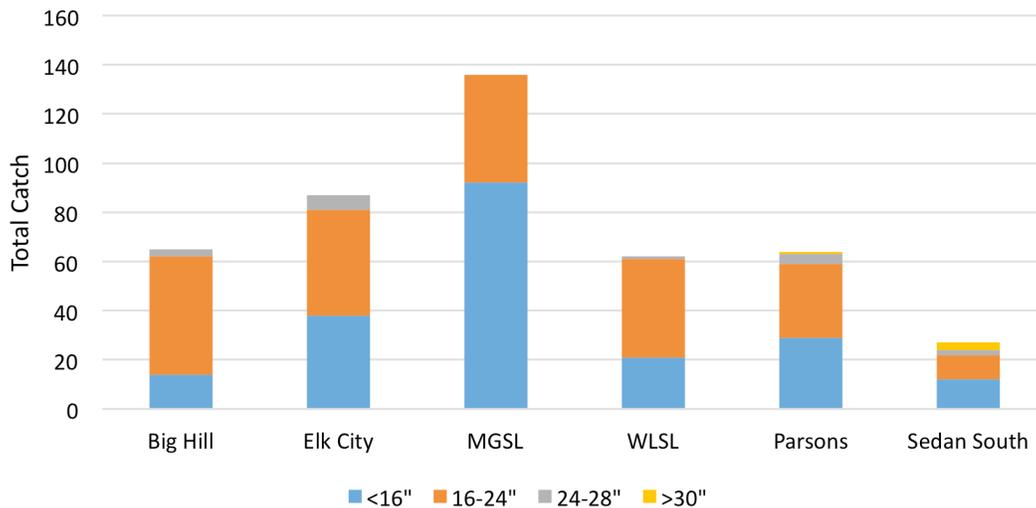
2017 Electrofishing Data



The sampling data we collected from 2017 shows that there are large numbers of largemouth bass in Big Hill, Montgomery State Fishing Lake and Wilson State Fishing Lake. If you are looking for larger bass I would head over to Big Hill, where there is an abundance of fish over 15 inches in length and even some over the 21 inch minimum length limit. If you just want a quiet day catching fish or want to get the kids out to fish, Montgomery or Wilson State Fishing Lakes offer large numbers of bass with many easy shore access points.

Channel Catfish

2017 Fall Sampling

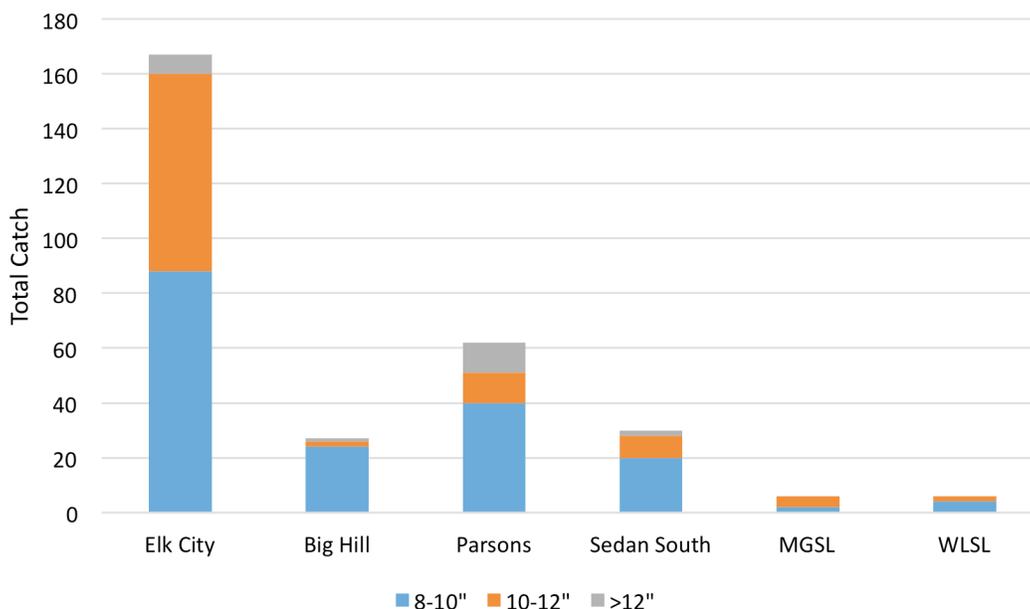


Channel Catfish Continued...

We sampled six different lakes and ponds for channel catfish in 2017, and found that each had good to excellent numbers of channel catfish in them. Channel Catfish are generally easier to fish for than other fish species, and will readily bite on worms, chicken livers, or cut bait. If you are simply looking to catch channel catfish I would head to Montgomery State Fishing Lake or Elk City Reservoir. However don't drive past Wilson State Fishing Lake, Parsons City Lake or Big Hill Reservoir, as they have plenty of channel catfish available for fisherman as well. If you are looking for larger channel catfish I would head to Sedan City Lake-South, where we sampled channel catfish over 20 pounds.

Crappie

2017 Fall Crappie Sampling



If you are looking for crappie, Elk City has a lot of crappie in the 10- to 12-inch size range, with some over 12 inches. Parsons City Lake also had good numbers of crappie available for anglers, including a good numbers over 12 inches long. Big Hill and Sedan City Lake-South also can provide some angling opportunities for crappie this spring. Sedan-South appears to have a few more of the larger individuals, but I have heard of some 15-inch-plus crappie being caught at Big Hill, as well. Montgomery and Wilson state fishing lakes have smaller populations of crappie; however they are worth a try if you're close to either lake.



Above: 23 ½-inch, 5-pound Saugeye from Parsons City Lake.

Fishing Forecast Continued...

Bluegill/Redear Sunfish

If you are searching for some bluegill or redear sunfish I would head out to Montgomery or Wilson state fishing lakes. In Montgomery State Fishing Lake, there is a good population of redear sunfish that are around 8 inches, along with some bluegill reaching that length, too. Wilson State Fishing Lake has a similar bluegill population and a good number of redear sunfish reaching up to 10 inches. Sedan City Lake-South is also worth a try as bluegill and redear sunfish up to 8 inches were sampled.

Saugeye

For those of you who like to chase walleye, there are a couple of options for you to find some saugeye this spring. Sedan City Lake-South and Parsons City Lake both have populations of saugeye reaching up to 5 pounds.



Above: 16-inch white crappie caught from Elk City.

White Bass

Elk City has a great population of white bass with a large portion of the fish between 12-15 inches, with some reaching over 16 inches. Big Hill is also a destination to try for white bass, with a respectable number of fish in the 12- to 15-inch size range and fish reaching up to 17 inches in length. Wilson State Fishing Lake and Sedan City Lake- South also have populations of white bass, and although there may not be as many, the ones that are there are usually over 15 inches.

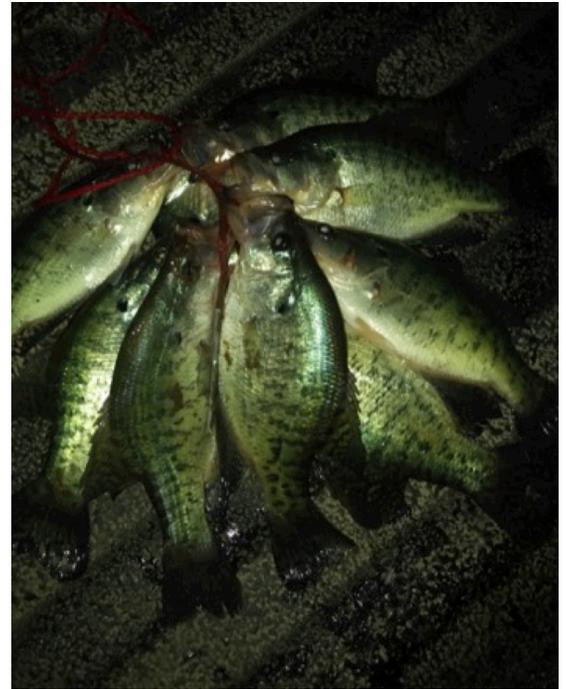


Above: 10 inch redear sunfish from Wilson State Fishing Lake.



Above: Montgomery County Game Warden Brandon Sanders and Public Lands Assistant Evan Orr hold two flathead catfish sampled from Elk City.

Below: 15-inch white bass from Big Hill.



Above: An angler shows off his stringer of Elk City white crappie.

Final Thoughts

I want to wish everyone good luck this spring with their fishing adventures and other outdoor activities. Whether you are a seasoned fisherman, a novice, or just going to give it a try this year, I hope this newsletter helps you find the fish you are looking for. Also, if you get a chance, take a kid fishing. They will remember catching their first fish and making memories long after they have forgotten a lot of other things. If you want any more fishing information please feel free to contact me at the information listed above or visit our website at <http://ksoutdoors.com/>

Happy Fishing!