

Lawrence District Fisheries

KDWPT Fisheries Division Newsletter

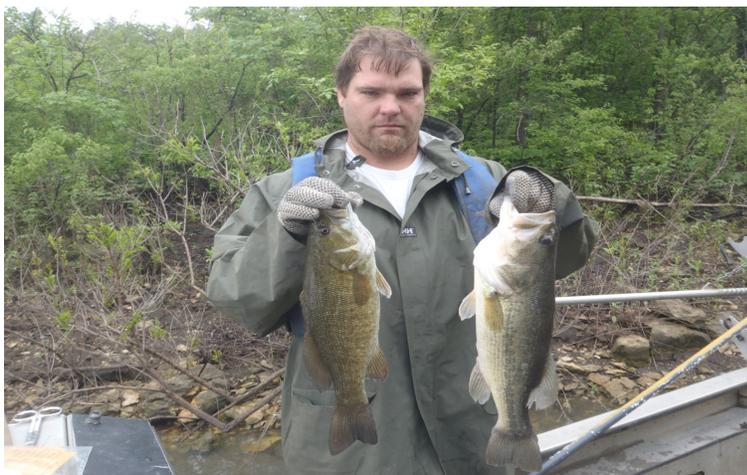
Summer 2018

2018 Largemouth Bass Sample Results

The best lake to fish for bass without regard to size is Douglas SFL, as it yielded the highest catch per hour of bass greater than 8 inches long. Carbondale City Lake had the highest catch rate of bass greater than 12 inches in length, and Osage City Lake was first as far as bass greater than 15 inches. In terms of reservoirs, Melvern was far better than Clinton in all three catch-rate categories.

Table 1. Black Bass Summary based on 2018 electrofishing data (numbers reflect catch per hour)

Lake	Greater than 8 inches	Greater than 12 inches	Greater than 15 inches
Clinton	15	14	5
Melvorn	42	27	13
Carbondale CL	138	113	12
Douglas SFL	150	103	6
Lonestar	110	54	9
Melvorn River Pond	22	19	10
Osage SFL	85	37	7
Lake Shawnee	86	71	8
Osage City Lake	52	28	14
Baldwin Spring Cr. Lk.	90	60	8



Largemouth Bass Virus Detections Within The Lawrence District

Largemouth bass virus is a pathogen that can cause severe declines in largemouth bass fisheries. It is not transferable to humans. Usually this virus affects older, larger individuals within a largemouth bass population. Mortality is sometimes observed during warm summer months. Resistant members of a largemouth bass population typically rebuild the population over time. Largemouth bass virus was detected in Lonestar Lake in 2008 and Lake Shawnee in 2012. Follow-up samples this year revealed that the virus is still present in these populations. This virus was found at Douglas SFL in 2017. This year, largemouth bass virus was discovered in Melvern River Pond. It was not detected in Carbondale City Lake or Osage SFL.

Blue Catfish Samples

Clinton and Melvern reservoirs were sampled via electrofishing to assess blue catfish populations this summer. Both lakes appear to have low-density populations. More restrictive regulations (such as a 35-inch minimum length limit and 5 daily creel limit) were imposed to improve density and number of young breeding stock. The goal is to improve blue catfish natural production to improve overall numbers of blue catfish in these populations. Ten sites were sampled at each reservoir this summer, resulting in 18 and 17 blue catfish, respectively for Clinton and Melvern. Only one juvenile was captured at Clinton, but at Melvern the rate was much better as 15 juveniles were sampled. Hopefully, within the next few years the numbers of small blue catfish will increase, providing stable building blocks to improve potential trophy fisheries at both Clinton and Melvern.



Gizzard Shad Production

Higher numbers of small shad were sampled at Melvern in 2018 than in the past six years, and should help all predators survive and grow well. There were two main sizes; one was about 2 inches long and the larger one was about 6 inches in length. Smaller shad should provide excellent prey for crappie, white bass, as well as other small and intermediate-sized sportfish (like walleye/sauger). Larger shad should help grow bigger catfish and other large predators. Shad production likewise was high at Clinton, with most in the 2- to 3-inch range. Overall at both lakes, conditions were greatly improved over the past couple of years in terms of shad production.



New Fish Habitat Structures at Melvern Reservoir

A few days were recently spent constructing and placing fish habitat into Melvern Reservoir. Structures included Georgia Cubes and cedar tree brush piles. GPS coordinates are listed below.

N38.49654	W095.74588	6-15'	Cedars/4 cubes	12/12/2017	NAD83	677
N38.49593	W095.74588	6-15'	Cedars/4 cubes	12/12/2017	NAD83	677
N38.49629	W095.74604	6-15'	Cedars/4 cubes	12/12/2017	NAD83	677
N38.49466	W095.74716	6-15'	Cedars/4 cubes	12/20/2017	NAD83	676
N38.49506	W095.74677	6-15'	Cedars/ 4 cubes	12/20/2017	NAD83	676
N38.49531	W095.74652	6-15'	Cedars/4 cubes	12/20/2017	NAD83	676
N38.49557	W095.74638	6-15'	Cedars/ 8 cubes	12/20/2017	NAD83	676
N38.49676	W095.74477	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N38.49653	W095.74469	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N38.49630	W095.744757	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N3849617	W095.74451	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N38.49593	W095.74442	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N38.49573	W095.74419	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	687
N38.49838	W095.74696	6-15'	Cedars	3/14/2018	NAD83	677



Fish Feeders Provide Enhanced Catch Possibilities

Automatic feeders dispense a set amount of feed at consistent times during the day to concentrate fish, so that anglers have an easier time catching them. These can be good places to catch channel catfish, bluegill, and carp. Since fishing can be fast and furious when the feeders goes off, they can be great places to take kids fishing. There are a number of district lakes that have feeder(s) including: Melvern River Pond, Melvern Reservoir, Eisenhower State Park Kids' Pond, Osage SFL, Carbondale City Lake, Overbrook City Lake, Overbrook Kid's Pond, and Clinton Reservoir.



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