

Dodge City District Fisheries

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

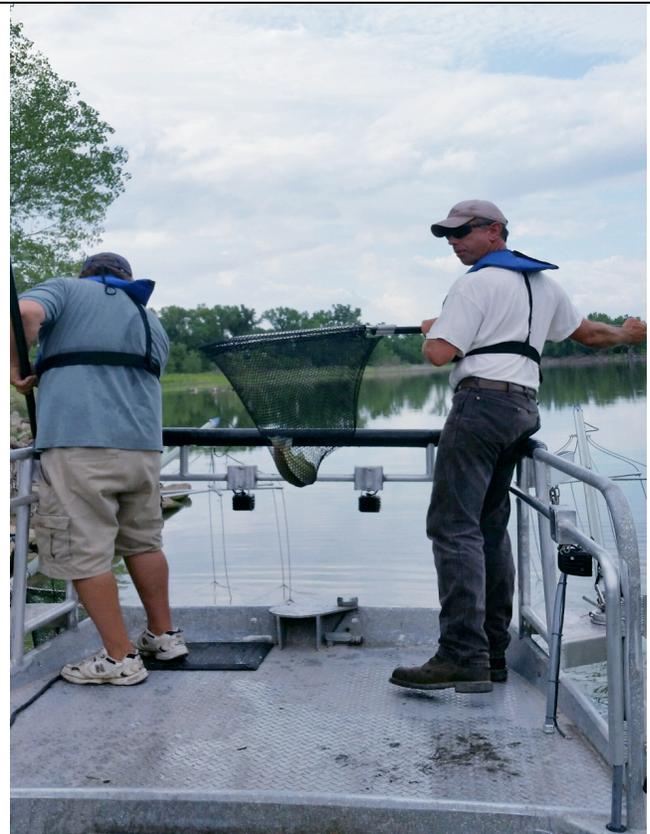
Fall 2018

Mobile Fisheries

In western Kansas, fisheries managers must be able to adapt to conditions that Mother Nature throws at us on a seasonal basis. One example of this regional cooperation is to deal not only with water bodies that are going dry as well as those that fill overnight. Due to concerns with dwindling water levels and water quality conditions at Ford County Lake early in July, it was decided that we would move largemouth bass out while we were still able to get a boat on the water. At the same time, heavy rainfall around Atwood resulted in a need for adult largemouth bass to act as predator control on undesirable carp populations in that water body. On July 5, Dave Spalsbury, fisheries biologist from northwest Kansas, came to Ford County Lake to obtain largemouth bass for Atwood. In another example of cooperation, we filled out fish hauling tanks from the well at Conservation Officer Jeff Sutton's home, we told him later that he cooperated!



Filling tanks with cool well water.



Larry Adams and Dave Spalsbury dip fish from Ford County Lake.

We relocated 150 largemouth bass and a couple hundred adult bluegill to Atwood. The largemouth bass ranged from 6 to 14 inches. I also let him have one 4-pound bass, but only one! Again, cooperation between fish managers and other divisions within the agency, often on short notice, is just another example of how fish get moved around the state throughout the year.



Goodman State Fishing Lake Update

Another water body that suffered from the drought but has managed a bit of a comeback is Goodman State Fishing Lake (GDSL). GDSL a 40-acre lake located 5 miles south and 2.5 miles east of Ness City. When the lake began refilling in 2016, fish stocking efforts were resumed to develop a fishery. Fish stocked so far include largemouth bass, channel catfish, and bluegill.

The table below shows the number of fish that have been stocked into Goodman SFL since 2016.

Species	Size	Number
Channel catfish	Intermediates (approx. 3/lb.)	4,009
Channel catfish	Adult (1 lb. or larger)	1,350
Bluegill	Adult	411
Bluegill	Fingerlings	4,800
Largemouth Bass	Intermediates (16/lb.)	400

Additional activities available at GDSL are picnicking, camping (primitive), and general outdoor recreation. Picnic shelters with tables are available for group activities and are located within easy walking distance of the parking areas. The boat ramp, dumpster, and toilet facility are also located nearby for visitor convenience.



Water Level Woes – Summer 2018

Mother Nature continues her fickle ways in southwest Kansas. It seems that each summer, we roll the dice on exactly where rainfall will benefit the fisheries scattered throughout southwest Kansas. While places such as Horsethief Reservoir and Clark State Fishing Lake are nearly full going into the fall, other locations, as seen below, had us worried for a while but have bounced back!

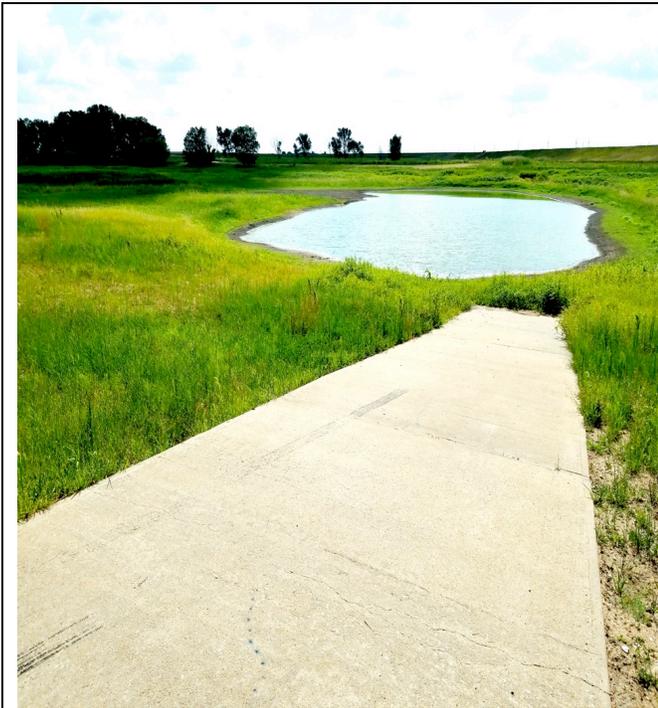


Ford County Lake was suffering on July 5, 2018



Ford County Lake was full on August 19, 2018.

Fish stocking requests for both Ford County Lake and Stone Lake at LaCrosse (pictured below) had been cancelled and have been subsequently reinstated as of the end of August.



Stone Lake at LaCrosse was nearly dry at the end of July 2018.



Stone Lake at La Crosse was full on August 21, 2018.



Clark State Fishing Lake

A major construction project is getting ready to have a huge impact on one of the jewels of angling in southwest Kansas. As this newsletter was written (9/20/18), the following information was received from KDWPT engineering staff.

As of now, the design for the repairs at Clark SFL are in permitting review. We hope to have all comments returned by the end of September. Once comments are received and incorporated into the design (as needed), the bid package will be finalized. As of now, we are planning to release for bidding near the 15th of October and assume the bids will be opened near the 15th of November. We are planning a two-week turnaround for evaluating bids and awarding the contract. Construction is tentatively planned to start near the 1st of December and continue through April. To complete the repairs on the weir wall and crib wall, we will need to drop the water level down to at least the bottom of the spillway floor elevation, which is at least 20 feet feed but no more than 25 feet.

This project must be completed to ensure the integrity of the weir/spillway wall, but it will have a major impact on angler access for an indeterminate period. While it is hoped that the lake will refill when the project is completed, as anyone from southwest Kansas knows, there are no guarantees when adequate rainfall will refill the lake. As the review process proceeds, KDWPT will issue news releases to keep the public informed.



Fall 2018 Water levels in southwest Kansas

Rainfall has been scattered in southwest Kansas this summer. Water levels in some of our State fishing lakes and larger Community Lakes as of September 19, 2018, can be seen below. The numbers in parentheses are the surface acreage when the lakes are at full and at conservation pool.

State Fishing Lakes	Community Lakes
Barber State Fishing Lake – (51) – 1 foot low	Coldwater City Lake – (250) – full
Clark State Fishing Lake – (337) – full	Jetmore City Lake – (110) – 2 feet low
Concannon State Fishing Lake – (50) – dry	Pratt County Lake – (51) – Full
Ford State Lake – (40) – full	Larned City Pond – (2) - Full
Goodman State Lake – (40) – 1 feet low	HorseThief Reservoir – (450) – full
Hain State Fishing Lake – (53) – full	
Kiowa State Fishing Lake – 21 acres – full	
Meade State Lake – (80) – 1 foot low	

