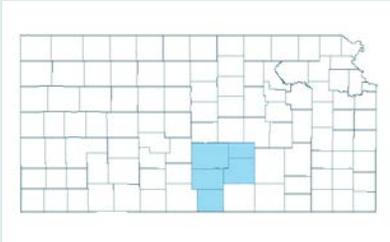


SPRING 2020

CHENEY DISTRICT FISHERIES

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CHENEY RESERVOIR: BRUSH PILES

Brush piles were added to Cheney Reservoir in late February 2020. These brush piles will help congregate fish for anglers. While the main species that use brush piles is Crappie, many other species will utilize them.

Locations of brush piles can be found here:

<http://ksdot.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3e0ba6a852d2479aa6e384b4f87a0c2b>



FISHING PROGRAMS

Master Angler Award Program

Are you a Master Angler? Prove it! Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism has a program called the Master Angler Award Program. If you catch a fish in Kansas large enough to qualify, you will receive a Master Angler Award certificate! Certified catches will also be featured in future newsletters for extra bragging rights! Sizes of each species as well as a certificate application form can be found here:

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Master-Angler-Award-Program>

Trout Program

Trout season runs from November 1st through April 15th. KDWP&T will stock certain urban waters with adult sized trout ready to be caught. For more information on the Trout program including stocking locations and stocking dates click here:

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Trout-Fishing-Program>

Remember that KDOT East, Vic's Lake, and Slough Creek are Type 1 trout waters and all anglers fishing those waters November 1st - April 15th must have a trout permit.



Urban Fishing Program

KDWP&T has created the Urban Stocking Program to provide local fishing opportunities. Adult sized Channel Catfish (3/4lb-3lbs) are stocked in many public waters in Reno and Sedgwick counties. These fish are harvestable size and ready to catch. For more information on stocking locations and dates click here:

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Urban-Fishing-Program>

SAMPLING OVERVIEW: Crappie and Catfish

Crappie: 2018 and 2019 trap netting

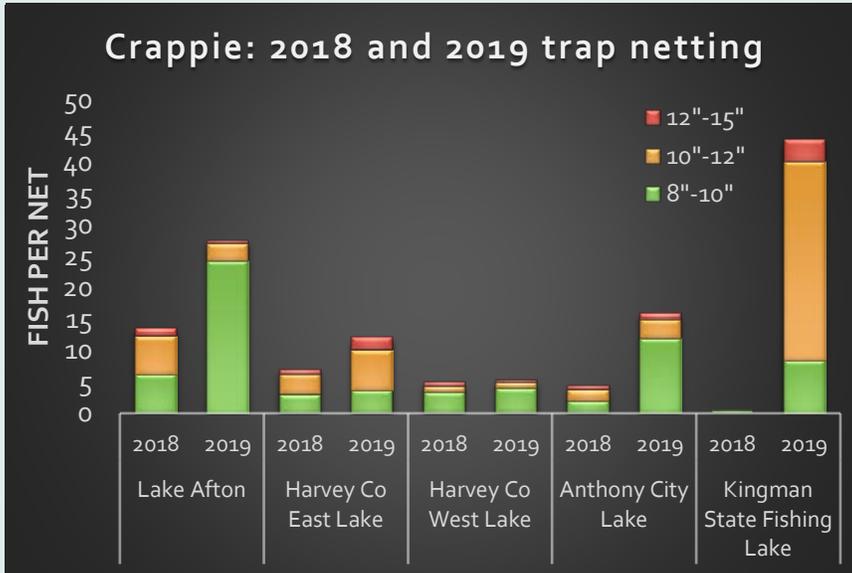


Figure 1. Crappie size classes sampled per trap net. Fall 2018 and 2019.

Channel Catfish: 2019 Gill netting

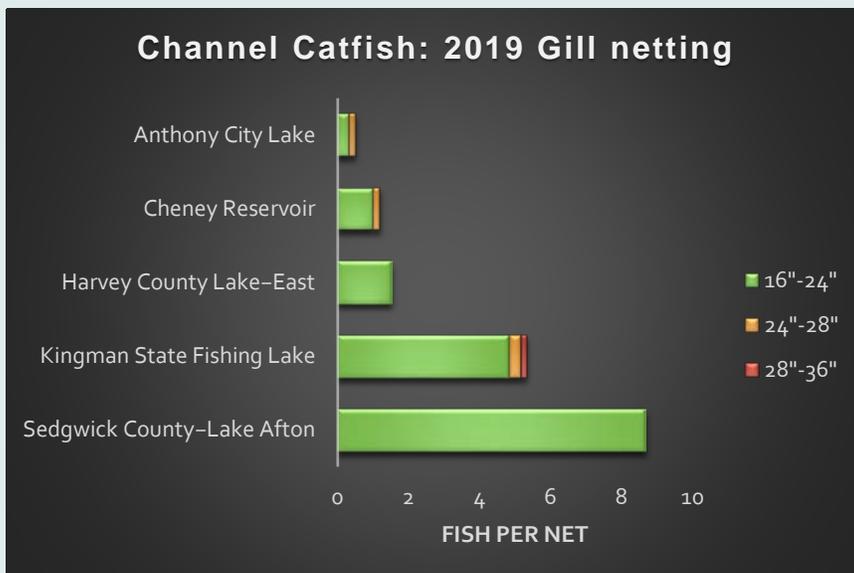


Figure 2. Channel Catfish size classes sampled per gill net. Fall 2019.

2019 Netting results

Crappie populations were sampled via trap nets in the fall of 2019 at Kingman State Fishing Lake, Anthony City Lake, Harvey Co East and West Lakes, and Lake Afton. Nearly all Crappie populations of Crappie that were sampled experienced an increase in larger individuals especially Kingman State Fishing Lake. The High precipitation events in the spring of 2019 seemed to have a positive effect on the Crappie. A few populations had very successful spawns which should provide good fishing in the years to come. It should be noted that Cheney reservoir has not been regularly sampled with trap nets because the standard nets do not work with the shallow banks that Cheney has. KDWPT is looking at alternative methods to sample Crappie at Cheney. **However, the Crappie fishing at Cheney is expected to be very good and anglers are already reporting catching fish up to 3lbs.**

Channel Catfish populations at Anthony City Lake, Cheney Reservoir, Harvey Co East, Lake Afton, and Kingman State Fishing Lake were sampled using gill nets. Lake Afton showed the highest abundance of Channel Catfish over 16". However, Kingman had more larger fish with the biggest fish sampled being 17lbs.

NETTING RESULTS: Cheney Reservoir



Walleye

Walleye were sampled in the Fall of 2019 via Gill nets. Catch rates of Walleye are still lower than desired. It should be noted that desirable numbers have not been seen in at least 5 years. However, smaller sized Walleyes (presumably young of the year) were sampled for the first time since 2015. The Walleye in Cheney are almost completely dependent on stocking to sustain the population. The prominent White Perch population, along with hatcheries' ability to produce Walleye, limits their success. Intermediate (6-8") sized Walleye were requested for stocking in 2020 with the thought that the larger size Walleyes will be less vulnerable to predation by White Perch. While numbers of Walleye are still low, the size structure (Figure 3) from last Fall suggests that most fish will be about 20in or larger, giving anglers more opportunity to catch a keeper than previous years.

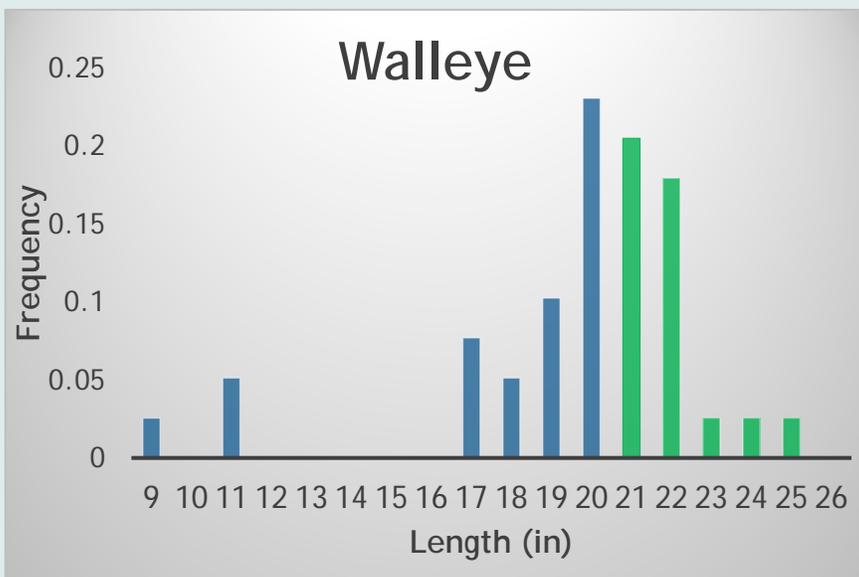


Figure 3. Walleye size structure from fall gill netting at Cheney reservoir in 2019.



NETTING RESULTS: Cheney Reservoir



Wiper

Wiper were sampled during the Fall of 2019 via Gill nets. Catch rates of Wiper in Cheney remain the highest in the state for a reservoir. While the size structure for 2019 did show less fish above 21in, there were more fish in the 18-20in range. Since this sample was taken in the fall, it is hoped that these fish will grow to keeper size (21in) by spring/summer in 2020. The main reason for the strict regulations on Wiper is to allow them to prey on White Perch to reduce their numbers and impact on other species. The larger the Wiper grow, the more effect they will have on the White Perch. These regulations also allow high numbers of fish over 16in to catch and release, while still allowing anglers to harvest a large sized fish. Wiper up to 25in and 8lbs were sampled last fall.

NETTING RESULTS. Cheney

Figure 5. White Bass size structure from Gill netting at Cheney Reservoir in 2019.

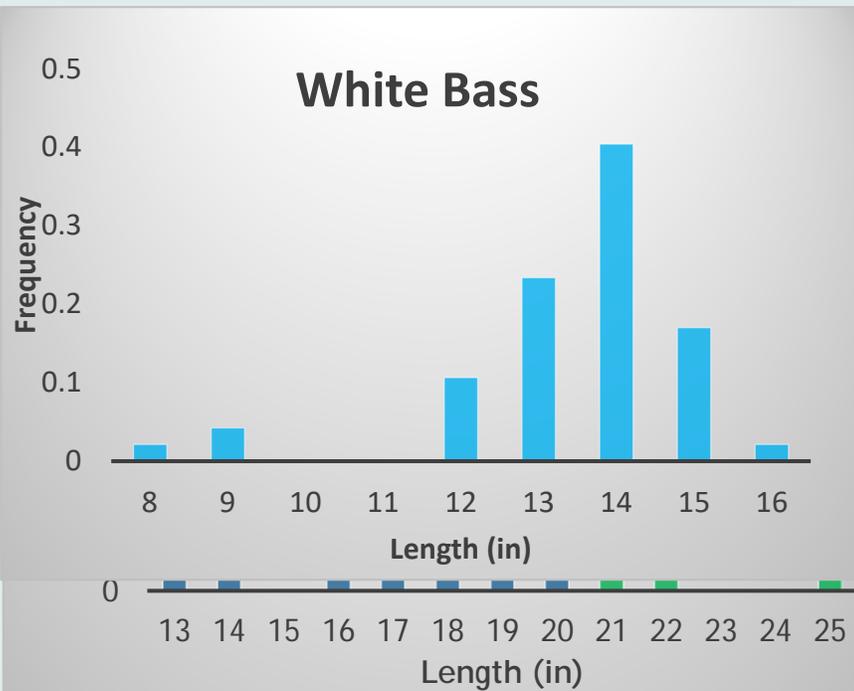
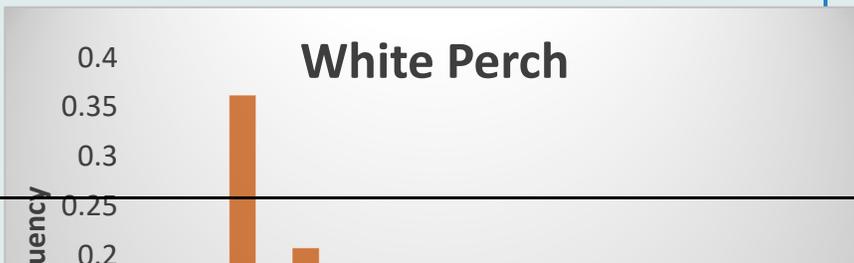


Figure 4. Wiper size structure from fall gill netting at Cheney reservoir in 2019.



White Bass

White Bass were sampled in the fall of 2019 via gill nets. Catch rates remain low similar to the previous 3 years. Figure 5 shows the size distribution of the fish sampled. While White Bass numbers are lower than Wipers or White Perch, the majority of the fish sampled are good sized (12-15in). The White Bass in Cheney should provide a good bonus fish to anglers targeting Wipers.

White Perch

White Perch were sampled in the fall of 2019 using Gill nets. Catch rates were similar to previous years. In 2019 there were more fish above 10in than were seen in the last two years. A shift in size structure towards larger fish may be due to predators reducing White Perch numbers slightly allowing them to grow. While this is better than having a stunted population of White Perch, their numbers are still higher than desired.

A guide on how to Identify White Perch, White Bass, and Wiper can be found here:

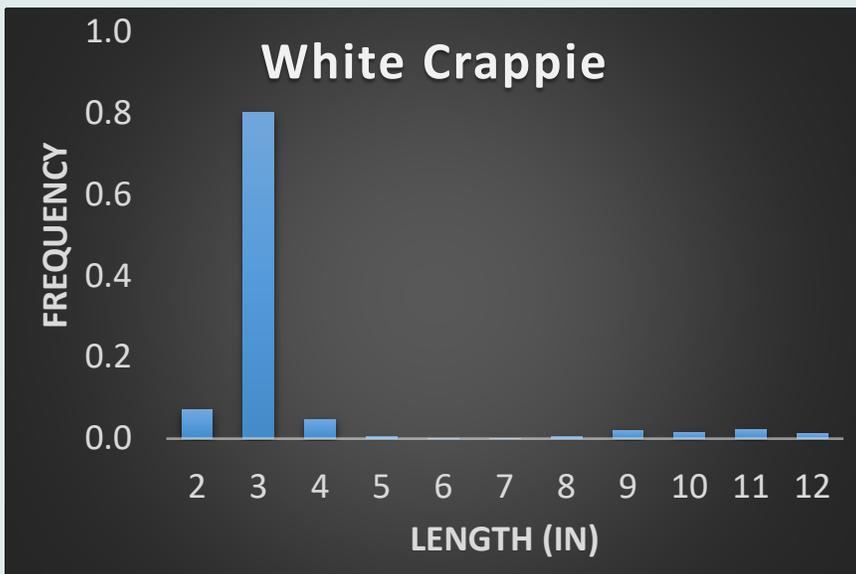
<https://ksoutdoors.com/Services/Publications>

Click on: "Fishing", then "Fish I.D. Poster - Temperate Bass Family"

Figure 6. White Perch size structure from Gill nets at Cheney reservoir in 2019.

NETTING RESULTS: Harvey County

Figure 6. White Crappie size structure from Trap nets at Harvey County East Lake in 2019.

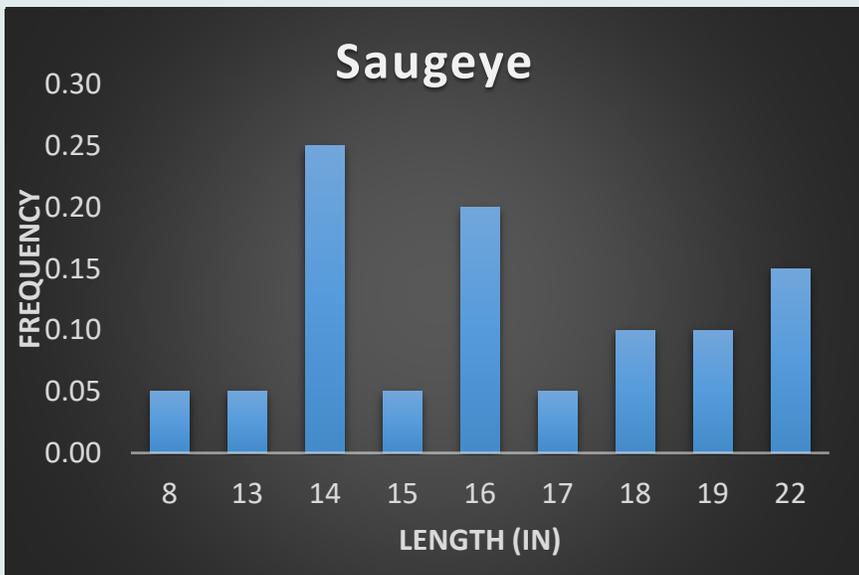


White Crappie

The high water in 2019 appears to have allowed the White Crappie in East Lake to achieve a substantial spawn. As seen by Figure 7, 80% of the fish sampled were 3" and are believed to have spawned in 2019. That is not to say that there aren't any big fish, but the number 3" crappie skew the distribution significantly. The Crappie fishing at East Lake should be good in 2020. Depending on the growth of the 2019-year class, even better fishing could be seen in a couple of years.

Saugeye

The Saugeye at East Lake showed good numbers as well as a healthy size distribution. There should be a decent chance for anglers to catch these elusive predators at East Lake this spring.



NETTING RESULTS

Kingman State Fishing Lake

Netting results at Kingman State Fishing Lake showed decent size Northern Pike (up to 35"). Unfortunately, we still have not seen signs that they have spawned meaning there are no new Pike to support the future of the population. Netting also showed good results for Crappie and Channel Catfish as seen in the Fishing Forecast on page 9. Fishing for Crappie and Channel Catfish at Kingman State Fishing Lake is expected to very good in 2020.

Anthony City Lake

The Crappie population at Anthony City Lake showed a shift in size towards more large fish and less small than 2018. 2020 should be a good year to catch Crappie at Anthony City Lake. The numbers of Channel Catfish sampled in 2019 were less than desired, but some were large. Alternative methods may be used in the future to get a better idea on Channel Catfish abundance.



Figure 6. Saugee size structure from Gill nets at Harvey County East Lake in 2019.



For more information on the Fishing Forecast can be found here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Fishing-Forecast>

Wiper		Density	Preferred	Lunker	Big Fish	Rating	3 yr avg
Rank	Reservoirs	(>16")	(>20")	(>24")	(LBS.)		(>16")
1	CHENEY	4.4	1.7	0.05	8.19	G	5.07
2	KIRWIN	3.8	0.27	0.07	8.66	G	2.79
3	WEBSTER	3	0.42	0.08	8.21	G	2.28
4	LOVEWELL	2.58	0	0	3.74	G	1.01
5	SEBELIUS	2.3	0.7	0	6.17	G	7.63

White Crappie		Density	Preferred	Lunker	Big Fish	Rating	3 yr avg
Rank	Lakes	(>8")	(>10")	(>12")	(LBS.)		(>8")
1	EUREKA CITY LAKE	50.5	40	10	1.32	G	32.75
2	CHANUTE CITY LAKE	42	10.5	0.5	1.89	G	15.5
3	KINGMAN SFL	39.5	34	3.25	2.38	G	13.7
4	OLATHE - CEDAR LAKE	36	19.5	5	1.72	G	53.17
5	NEBO SFL	35	14.33	0.67	0.85	G	18.17
6	GARNETT-CEDAR CREEK LAKE	30.63	2.5	0.25	0.95	F	28.71
7	SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	27.6	4	0.4	1.1	G	20.5
8	HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	27.5	3.5	0.5	1.38	G	24.92

9	MIAMI SFL	25.25	15	6	1.78	G	13.33
10	HERINGTON CITY LAKE-NEW	24	16.75	0.75	1.15	G	11.75
20	HARVEY CO. LAKE-EAST	10.88	7.38	2.38	1.34	G	6.63

Black Crappie

Rank	Lakes	Density (>8")	Preferred (>10")	Lunker (>12")	Big Fish (LBS.)	Rating	3 yr avg (>8")
5	ANTHONY CITY LAKE	17	5.25	1.25	1.74	G	10.32

2020 Fishing Forecast continued

Channel Catfish

Rank	Lakes	Density (>16")	Preferred (>24")	Lunker (>28")	Big Fish (LBS.)	Rating	3 yr avg (>16")
1	HOWARD-POLK DANIELS LAKE	14	1	0	6.17	G	9.25
2	PLAINVILLE LAKE	13.25	0.5	0	5.81	G	9.92
3	ROOKS STATE LAKE	10.75	0	0	4.3	G	4
4	SEDGWICK CO.-LAKE AFTON	8.33	0	0	4.62	G	8.33
5	BOURBON CO. LAKE	7.67	6.33	2.67	15.92	G	7.67
11	KINGMAN SFL	5.33	0.33	0.17	17.26	G	4.51



Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Adam Urban and Andrew Frazier who were my interns for 2019 for their help with sampling as well as everything they did behind the scenes that made sampling possible. I would like to thank David Breth, Troy Smith, Ty Schaef, and Richard Rogers for their help with fall test netting. I thank Mitchell Swartz and Ken Temaat for helping put out brush piles at Cheney reservoir.

Spread the word!

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, they can do so by clicking here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/News/Newsletter-Request-Forms> and then selecting Cheney Fishing District. If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, you can do so here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Contact-us> and put "unsubscribe Cheney District Fisheries Newsletter". If you would like to see something different in future newsletters, please feel free to contact me.

Go rip some lip!

*Bonus fish! A 42-inch
County East Lake. It*



net at Harvey

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**Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!**

