

Pittsburg District Fisheries Newsletter

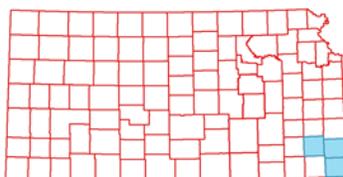
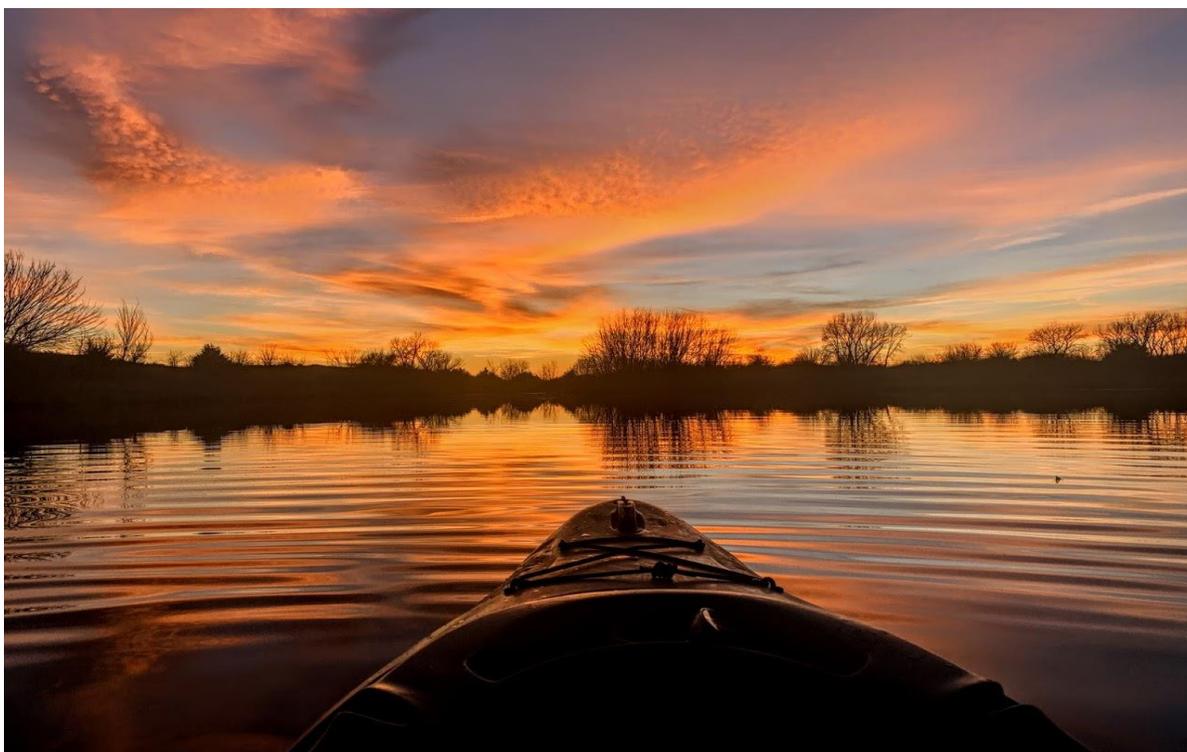
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism

Spring 2021

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2020 Fish Stocking & Sampling

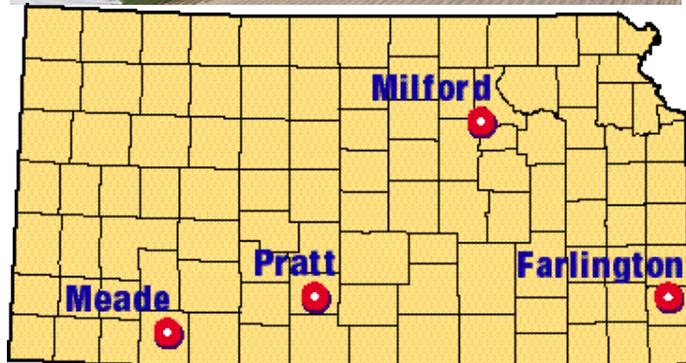
The Pittsburg District includes Cherokee, Crawford, and Neosho counties. Three water bodies were sampled in the Pittsburg district in October of 2020 to monitor the fish populations: Bone Creek, Crawford State Fishing Lake, and Neosho State Fishing Lake. You will see the fish stocking report of 2020, highlights from the 2020 fall sampling effort in the Pittsburg district, and photos from my fishing trips and sampling of 2020.



2020 Fish Stocking Report

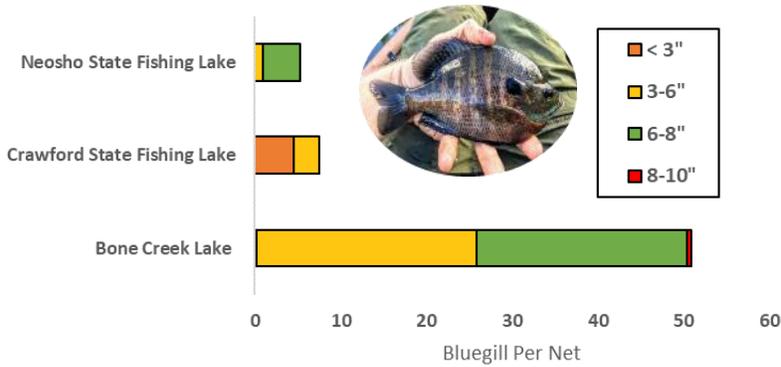
Impoundment	Species	Size	Stocking Month	Quantity Stocked
(FISH) CHEROKEE CO - OPLOTRIK	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	175
(FISH) CHEROKEE CO OPLOTRIK 2	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	276
(FISH) CRAWFORD CO-MICHAELS #1	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	351
Arma City Lake	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	269
Bone Creek Lake	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	10813
Chanute City Lake	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	4806
CHANUTE-HIGHLAND PARK POND	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	200
COLUMBUS VFW	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	222
CRAWFORD STATE FISHING LAKE	Bluegill	4-6"	October	3168
CRAWFORD STATE FISHING LAKE	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	2502
CRAWFORD STATE FISHING LAKE	Largemouth Bass	Phase II Fingerlings	May	7815
CRAWFORD STATE FISHING LAKE	Wiper - W x S Bass	8-10"	September	1070
FRONTANAC-LAKE #2	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	152
FRONTANAC-LAKE #3	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	51
FRONTENAC-LAKE #1	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	300
GREENBUSH EDUCATION CENTER	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	250
GREENBUSH EDUCATION CENTER #2	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	152
MINED LAND WA-CK/CR CO	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	7064
MULBERRY CITY LAKE	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	202
Neosho State Fishing Lake	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	4623
NEOSHO WILDLIFE AREA POND	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	310
PITTSBURG-LAKESIDE PARK LAKE	BLUEGILL X GREEN SUNFISH	6"	June	520
PITTSBURG-LAKESIDE PARK LAKE	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	300
PITTSBURG-UNIVERSITY POND	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	402
PITTSBURG-WILDERNESS PARK	Channel Catfish	10-12"	September	152
THAYER CITY LAKE	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	1002
THAYER CITY LAKE (NEW)	Channel Catfish	10-12"	October	1004

As you can tell from above, a lot of effort is placed into stocking fish that are raised from our state fish hatcheries in the Pittsburg district. A total of 36,267 fish were stocked in 2020 in nearby waters from Pittsburg with the following totals for species: 35,578 channel catfish, 7,815 largemouth bass, 520 hybrid sunfish, and 1,070 wipers. Thank you to our hatchery biologists and KDWP staff who assisted with the stocking efforts!



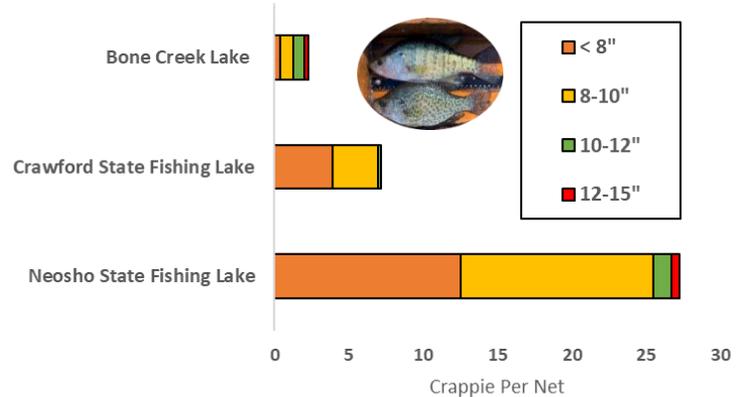
2020 Fish Sampling Results

Bluegill



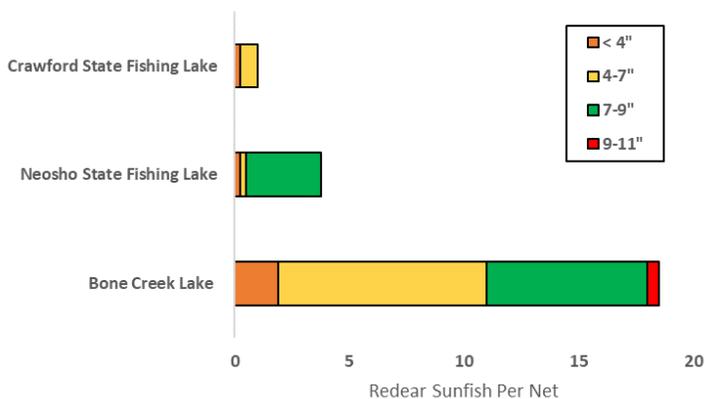
Quality bluegill fishing is how most of us got our start in fishing. The highest quality lakes in the Pittsburg district will be Bone Creek and Neosho State Fishing Lake. The Mined Land Wildlife Area strip pits will provide quality bluegill fishing. Crawford State Fishing Lake remains at the bottom of the list. However, with recent habitat enhancement effort, it is of hope that the quality will improve in the near future.

Crappie



Neosho State Fishing Lake is the place to be for crappie in 2021. Winter drawdowns the past two years and increased habitat have helped the crappie population at Neosho SFL. Crawford State Fishing Lake has a stunted crappie population. Anglers are encouraged to keep their daily creel limit of 50 per day to open up space for the crappie to grow. Bone Creek doesn't lend itself well for sampling with trap nets, but quality crappie can be caught in 2020.

Redear Sunfish



Redear sunfish are tenacious fighters when hooked on a fly rod, or bobber and worm. The highest quality lakes this year will be Bone Creek and Neosho State Fishing Lake. Crawford State Fishing Lake falls at the bottom, however 28,000 redear sunfish were stocked in April 2019 to bolster the current population. Lakes not sampled, but provide redear sunfish fishing opportunities are Mined Land Wildlife Area and Thayer City Lakes.

Other Fishing Opportunities:

Wiper: Crawford State Fishing Lake has a population of wipers that reach sizes up to 24". An open water predator, it will be advantageous to focus on drop offs, coves, creek channels, and the wind blown side of the lake when they are congregated feeding on gizzard shad. The Mined Land Wildlife Area has wipers on Unit #21, currently.

Saugeye: Bone Creek Lake has a population of saugeye that reach sizes up to 26". The population has established and is ranked 3rd in the 2021 KDWPT fishing forecast.

Channel Catfish: Bone Creek Lake has a high quality channel catfish population. Neosho State Fishing Lake and Crawford State Fishing Lake also have quality channel catfish populations. The Mined Land Wildlife Area is stocked every year and is where the current state record was caught. All CFAP properties are stocked each year.

Flathead Catfish: Crawford State Fishing Lake has an underrated flathead catfish population with sizes up to 40 pounds. Neosho State Fishing lake has flathead catfish up to 20 pounds. Don't forget about the Neosho River as well.

2020 Fish Sampling Photos



A white crappie sampled in trap nets from Neosho State Fishing Lake being held by Logan Meyer, Seasonal Fisheries Aide.



A couple of black crappie sampled with trap nets at Bone Creek!



Saugeye sampled in gill nets from Bone Creek being held by Keifer Shipley, Farlington SFH biologist, and Logan Martin, District Wildlife Biologist. Thanks for the help, guys!

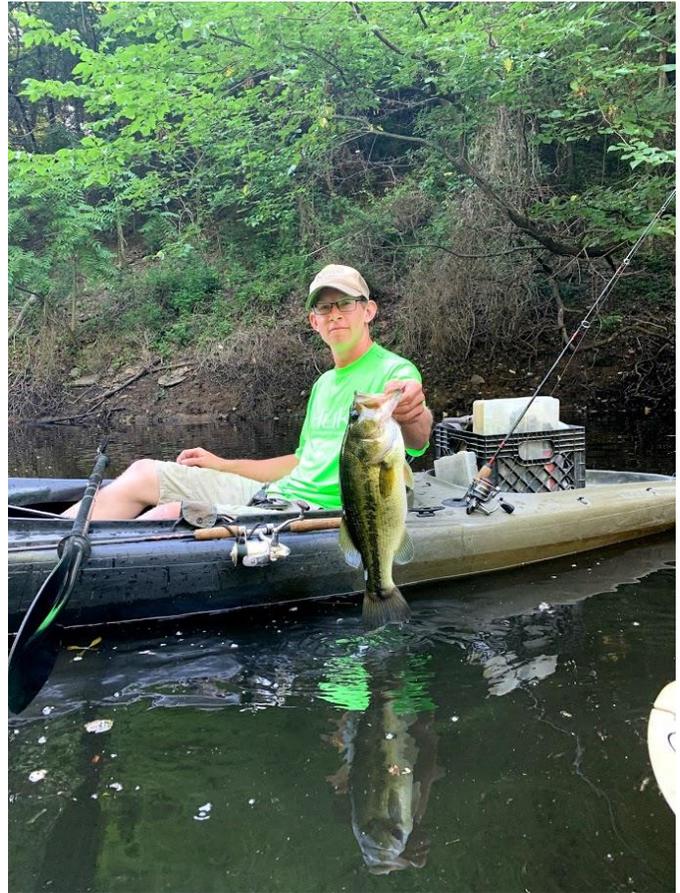


A couple very healthy 18" Largemouth Bass sampled with gill nets at Bone Creek. Very rare to see in a gill net, this proves there's still quality bass and lots of them to be caught at Bone Creek.

2020 Fishing Photos



My best friend, Eric, was able to come down from Wisconsin to fish the strip pits on the Mined Land Wildlife Area. He outfished me that day with the wacky rig. Pictured is the biggest of the day for him – a 20.5" Largemouth Bass.



My good friend and KDWPT seasonal employee, John, holding up a 21" Largemouth Bass from a strip pit on the Mined Land Wildlife Area.



Myself holding a 21.5" Largemouth Bass caught out of a strip pit on the Mined Land Wildlife Area.



Myself holding a stringer of Channel Catfish caught at Glen Elder Reservoir. Special trip with my dad last June that I'll always cherish.

One Last Cast!



Last June, I was able to go to Glen Elder with my dad, Dale, and family friend, “Grandad” Pete. We fished overnight for channel catfish that weekend just like the good ol’ days! I would venture a guess that a hundred, or more, fishing trips have been had with this trio and many channel catfish caught. I’m very thankful that every weekend we were able, we were on a shoreline fishing somewhere. The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed for many to take advantage to get outside and enjoy fishing this year. Perhaps other trios like this were able to form bonds through fishing in 2020 that will last a lifetime!

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