

# Kansas City District Fisheries Newsletter

Spring 2021

## Biologist's Notes

Spring is well underway and it is good to have some things returning to some sort of normalcy. We were able to collect walleye eggs again this spring at Hillsdale Reservoir after not being able to last spring due to Covid-19 precautions. The walleye egg collection effort went about as smooth as one could ask for this year, largely due to the hard work and dedication of all the biologists and agency personnel that worked along side myself on the Hillsdale walleye egg collection crew.

Size structure of the walleye population appeared great and we were able to collect over 24 million walleye eggs in 10 days of effort. The eggs are fertilized at the reservoir and shipped to our hatchery system where the eggs are then hatched and the fry are stocked in waters across the state. Collectively, from the statewide percid egg collection effort, more than 50 million walleye, saugeye, and sauger fry were stocked into Kansas waters this spring. Some fry will stay in the hatchery system and raised to fingerlings (1.25-1.7 inches in length, which will be stocked toward

the end of May) and some will be raised to "intermediate" size (8-10 inches when stocked in the fall). For more information on KDWP's intensive walleye culture process check out this link: [Kansas Walleye Initiative](#).

Angling pressure remains high at many Kansas City District waters as great angling opportunities persist (some of which are covered in the 2021 KC District Fishing forecast, page 2 and 3). Let the forecast be a guide to your next fishing adventure.



*A 27 inch walleye from the Hillsdale egg collection effort this spring*

"takemefishing"

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# 2021 Kansas City District Fishing Forecast

## Hillsdale Reservoir

Over the past year, crappie fishing has continued to be very good at Hillsdale Reservoir. During fall sampling, catch rate increased from the previous year and was 23 fish/net night, with 34% of sampled fish exceeding 10 inches, which is the minimum length for harvest at Hillsdale Reservoir. Catch rate of walleye during fall sampling continued to be moderate, however size structure of the population observed last fall and during egg collection this spring was exceptional. Forty-two percent of walleye collected this spring exceeded 18 inches and 12% exceeded 25 inches! There is also a favorable size year-class of white bass recruiting to catchable size right now at Hillsdale. Catch rate of white bass from fall sampling was 10 fish/net night and the majority of sampled fish were in the 10-12 inch length range, and 22% exceeded 12 inches. Based on catch rate from fall sampling, Hillsdale Reservoir is ranked second highest in the state for channel catfish. Most of the channel catfish population occurs in the 16- to 24-inch length range.



*Another nice Hillsdale walleye*

## Miami State Fishing Lake

Catch rate for crappie (species combined) from fall sampling in 2020 was good at 63 fish/net night, but size structure of the population was skewed towards smaller individuals. Catch rate from fall 2020 sampling for channel catfish was 4 fish/net night, with the majority of the sampled fish occurring in the 11- to 16- inch length range. Catch rate for largemouth bass in spring 2020 was 41 fish/hour of electrofishing. Size structure of the largemouth bass population was great with 65% of sampled fish exceeding 15 inches in length and 5% of sampled fish exceeding 20 inches in length. Miami State Fishing Lake does have a dense stand of curly-leaf pondweed, which is an invasive nuisance plant species. Curly-leaf pondweed grows most during the cooler months with peak density occurring in May. Warmer water temperature causes senescence in curly-leaf pondweed and the stand will be gone in early June. In the past we have combated the curly-leaf pondweed with chemical treatment which is expensive and has limited returns. I am now experimenting with stocking a high density of triploid grass carp to aid in control of the vegetation.



*Hillsdale crappie from fall 2020 sampling*

# 2021 Kansas City District Fishing Forecast

## Middle Creek State Fishing Lake

Catch rate for channel catfish at Middle Creek State Fishing Lake was 3 fish/net night in fall 2020 and most of the sampled channel catfish were in the 16- to 24-inch length range . Largemouth bass numbers are less than desired, but size structure metrics show an adequate number of largemouth bass in the 15-20 inch length range. Catch rate of crappie (both species combined, white and black) was 11 fish/net night in 2020 and fair crappie angling opportunities should be expected at Middle Creek SFL in 2021. Catch rate of saugeye was 2 fish/net night during fall sampling in 2020. A wide variety of sizes of saugeye can be caught at Middle Creek SFL, but 69% of sampled saugeye exceeded 18 inches in length. There will also be moderate opportunities to chase white bass, wiper, and flathead catfish at Middle Creek State Fishing Lake in 2021.

## 2021 Kansas City District CFAP Waterbodies Forecast

	Gardner City Lake	Lake Lenexa	Olathe Cedar Lake	Lake Olathe	Paola City Lake	Louisburg City Lake
Bluegill	<b>Good</b>	Fair	<b>Good</b>	Fair	Good	Good
Crappie	Fair	Poor	<b>Good</b>	Fair	Fair	Fair
Channel Catfish	Fair	Fair	<b>Good</b>	Good	Good	Fair
Largemouth Bass	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	Good	Good	Fair	Fair
Saugeye	Poor	N/A	Poor	<b>Good</b>	<b>Good</b>	N/A
White Bass	Fair	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>Good</b>	N/A
Wiper	N/A	N/A	N/A	Poor	<b>Poor</b>	N/A

**Bold** indicates best bet\*



*Good number of > 18 inch saugeye in Lake Olathe*

# The Great Kansas Fishing Derby

- PARTICIPATING LOCATION -





## FISH. CATCH. WIN.

MAY 1 - JULY 31, 2021

<h3 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">1</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">GET A KANSAS FISHING LICENSE</p>	<h3 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">2</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">CATCH A TAGGED FISH AT A PARTICIPATING LAKE</p>	<h3 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">3</h3> <p style="margin: 0;">REDEEM YOUR PRIZE</p>
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Register today for a chance to win weekly prizes!





Get your fishing license, register,  
and find more derby info at  
[www.KSFishDerby.com](http://www.KSFishDerby.com)

Cast a line and hook a PRIZE! Introducing the first statewide fishing derby presented by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism. The Great Kansas Fishing Derby kicked off May 1st at select waterbodies across the state. For more information and a full list of participating locations visit [www.ksfishderby.com](http://www.ksfishderby.com). Participating waterbodies near the Kansas City area are: Lake Lenexa, Lake Olathe, and Leavenworth State Fishing Lake.

**We're on the web!**  
[www.ksoutdoors.com](http://www.ksoutdoors.com)



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