

Stockton District Fisheries Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

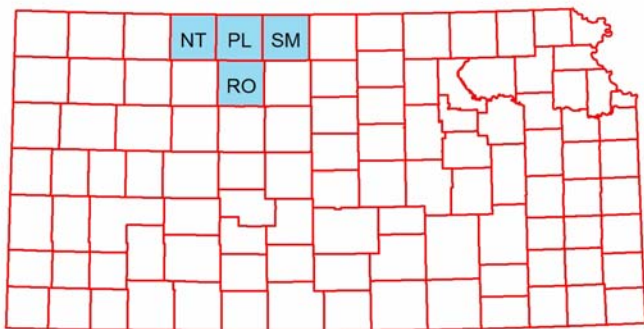
2010

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Welcome to the Stockton Fisheries District

The Stockton Fisheries District consists of four counties in northwest Kansas. They are Rooks (RO), Phillips (PL), Smith (SM) and Norton (NT). The district consists of three main reservoirs, Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius; one state fishing lake, Rooks; two Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) lakes, Logan City lake and Plainville Township lake; and various Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) properties, which consist of 41.4 acres of ponds in Smith and Rooks counties and 6.05 miles of stream access on the North and South Fork Solomon rivers.



Fish Stockings

A lot of fish were stocked this year into the Stockton District waters, which were produced by our fish hatcheries at Pratt, Milford, Farlington and Meade. The stockings occurring at Webster Reservoir included 3,714,900 walleye fry, 92,546 walleye fingerlings and 148,000 wiper fry. Kirwin Reservoir received 5,000,000 walleye fry, 125,408 walleye fingerlings and 200,000 wiper fry. Keith Sebelius Reservoir received 800,000 saugeye fry, 120,454 saugeye fingerlings, 101,250 wiper fry and 19,148 wiper fingerlings. Rooks State Fishing Lake received 6,700 intermediate channel catfish that averaged approximately three to the pound. Plainville Township Lake has received 2,000 of the 5,000 intermediate channel catfish that were requested, with the remaining 3,000 coming soon. Logan City Lake will also be receiving 2,000 intermediate channel catfish in the near future, as well.



Walleye eggs hatching at the Meade Fish Hatchery.

Information

You can visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us for a wealth of fisheries information. When you click on the fisheries tab at the top of the page you can access all kinds of information including pages about fishing in Kansas, where to fish in Kansas, how to fish, frequently asked fishing questions (FAQ's), are fish safe to eat, tournaments, special fishing programs, aquatic nuisance species (ANS), hatcheries, fish stocking records, state record fish, fishing reports, fishing forecast, fish regulations, fishing fees, fish identification and public fishing images. If you can not find the information you are looking for from the website, you can call or stop by any of the area, park or regional offices.

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Park's Fisheries Section goals are to: (1) conserve Kansas sport, non-sport, and threatened and endangered fishes, the water they rely on, and their habitat (2) increase fishing opportunity (3) increase fishing success, and (4) market our fisheries programs.



Bowfishing

Most folks think when you go fishing you take a fishing rod, however, some prefer to take their bows. Bow fishing is becoming more popular around the Stockton district, especially when water is being released for the purpose of natural bypass and irrigation releases. All waters in Kansas are open to bowfishing, unless posted otherwise. Some bowfishing is permitted at city, county, township, or private lakes, but regulations vary, so anyone bowfishing should consult local rules. Fish that can be legally taken by bowfishing are blue, channel, and flathead catfish – where no size limit exists – and non-sportfish which include carp, drum, grass carp, threadfin and gizzard shad, goldfish, gar, suckers (including carsuckers and buffalo), eel, sturgeon, goldeye, and bowfin. Bowfish anglers must have in possession a valid Kansas fishing license, unless exempt by law. Arrows must have barbed heads, and each arrow must be attached by a line to the bow. Waters within 50 yards of an occupied boat dock or ramp, occupied swimming area, occupied picnic area or camping area, and other occupied public-use areas are closed to bowfishing. Some popular bowfishing locations are the Kirwin stilling basin, South Fork Solomon River above Webster, below the Webster stilling basin around the tubes, and below the Woodston Diversion Dam.



Nice batch of channel catfish shot below the Webster stilling basin around the tubes.

Webster Water Willow

Water willow was introduced to Webster back in 2000 as a means to help maintain and/or improve aquatic vegetation habitat within the reservoir. This aquatic vegetation is used by bass, crappie and other species for spawning and cover. 2010 was a good year for water willow, because water levels inundated these original plantings and allowed them to grow in the water, verses being high and dry as they have been for the past 10 years. Water willow was found at five out of the six original planting sites this year.



Water willow is the dark green vegetation in the water. This is a planting in Old Marina Cove.



Blooming water willow.

This is the first attempt at a newsletter and hopefully it has given you some information that will make your outings more pleasurable and memorable. So get out there and take a friend with you to enjoy the outdoors, and take advantage of the many opportunities that are available. Good luck, be careful and enjoy the great outdoors.

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

