

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

August 2012

Issue 7

Special points of interest:

- Bassmaster ranked Perry as #60 in nation for bass!
- Big bluegill in Perry?
- Spring electrofishing results, check out the lakes with the big bass!
- Visit Mission Lake near Horton for some fantastic fishing!

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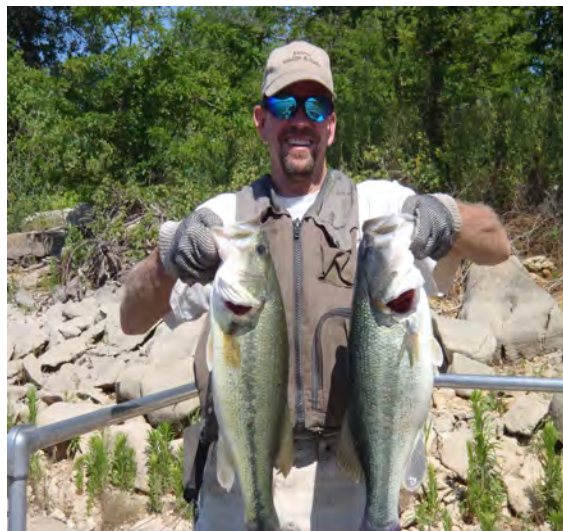
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Perry Ranked #60 in Nation for Bass!

If I was new to the area and pulled into a boat ramp parking lot at Perry I would assume there would be some good numbers of nice crappie, lots of big white bass and some line busting channel catfish. You would be right however there is another species lurking out there that demands some respect. In our May electrofishing at Perry we sampled 235 bass in 4.25 hours, 77 of these were less than 8" leaving

158 over 8" or 37.2 Stock length fish/hour. Pictured below is Marty holding up a few of the nice bass with the largest fish sampled being 7.71 lbs. The high water the last couple of years has provided great spawning and brood rearing cover. Apparently lots of fishermen have noticed how good the bass fishing is at Perry. Bassmas-

ter used shocking data, B.A.S.S. tournament results, health of the fishery and a blue-ribbon panel of experts to rank the top 100 lakes in the nation. The secret is out, Perry was rated #60 amongst some stiff competition! You can look at the complete list at [Big Bass](#)



Smallmouth Bass and Bluegill?

I had a fisherman tell me a story about how he was crappie fishing around the Thompsonville boat ramp cove and all he could catch were smallmouth bass! We've all told a fish story or two but this one is probably the real deal. After the stocking of 100 adults and one stocking of fingerlings several years ago the population continues to expand.

This spring we sampled 11 smallmouth, 4 were like the little one pictured on the right and 7 were Stock size or greater. This leaves us with a catch rate of 1.65 Stock length smallmouth/hr more than double last year's sample. The largest smallmouth we sample was 2.65 lbs, Marty

is holding up a couple of the nicer fish we saw. I wasn't sure how these fish would do in the Reservoir but I have been pleasantly surprised. So have many bass fishermen when they have tangled with one of these feisty fish.

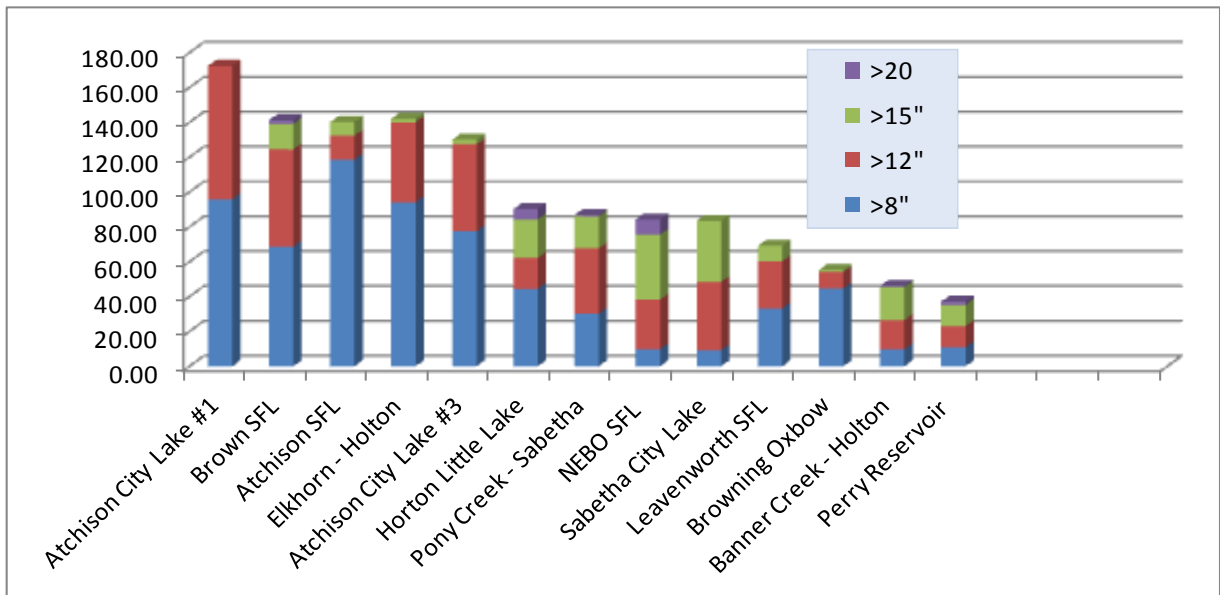
"Shocking rate for Stock length smallmouth bass has more than doubled since last year..."



Most fishermen wouldn't think twice about bluegill fishing at Perry, you better think again. Certain areas around the lake produce some really nice fish, we sampled 467 while electrofishing this spring or 109.9 Stock length fish/hr and 34.5% of those were between 6-8". With the drought conditions my pond was low and died out a few weeks back. I missed my bluegill fishing so my youngest son and I have enjoyed several trips to Perry, armed with worms and small jigs. I've also had several kids groups fishing these areas. There is nothing better than putting a big bluegill on the end of a pole especially if this is the first fish that youngster has ever caught!

Spring 2012 Largemouth Bass Information

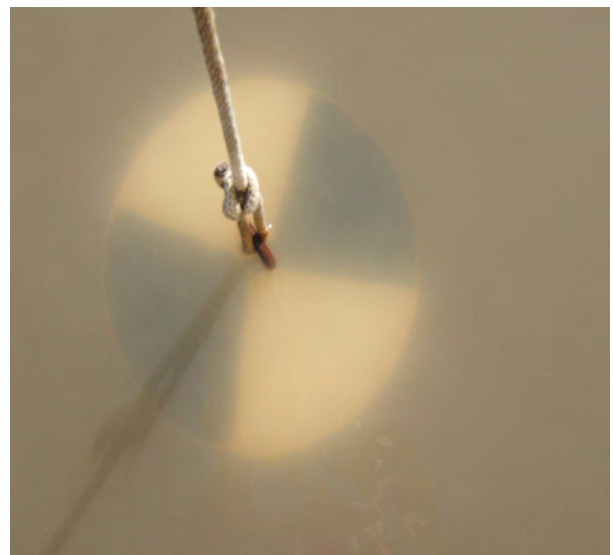
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Stock catch rate (>8") is a factor we use to evaluate largemouth bass populations however we also look at the size distribution of the population. The color purple in the bar graphs indicates fish over 20", fish that stories are made of. If you want to look at and compare other lakes that were electrofished around Kansas click on [Lots of Bass](#) which will take you to the updated Fishing Forecast information.

Featured Lake: Horton Mission Lake

Many years ago there was an idea planted to dredge out and renovate Mission Lake just northeast of Horton. The lake was constructed in the early 20's and it's original 169 surface acres been reduced to 125 acres and it's volume reduced by half. The lake had a poor fishery dominated by rough fish that kept the water very muddy. Pictured at the right is a photo of a secchi disk that is used to measure light penetration. Prior to dredging and the fishery renovation it was 4" or less most days. I often referred to this project as Mission Lake Impossible. This cooperative effort had major funding through General Obligation bonds and State Water Plan funding totaling over \$6.6 million!



Mission Complete-Lake Open to Fishing

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Pictured below is the dredge that was used at Mission Lake to remove over 1,000,000 cubic yards of silt. The 150 ton dredge was fabricated in Topeka and shipped to Horton on 9 tractor trailer rigs and reassembled. This dredge had the horsepower to pump 9,000 gallons/minute through a 20" pipe over 1.5 miles with 20% of that being solids. If you are like me it is hard to picture a 1,000,000 cubic yards of silt. This would cover a football field (100 yds x 53.3 yds) 188 feet deep! While the lake was under renovation several other improvements were made: wider concrete boat ramp, numerous fishing piers, new courtesy dock and additional campsites with electrical hookups. Two fish feeders were also installed with two more under construction.



Once the dredge was removed more water was pumped out of the lake and the fishery was poisoned out on August 16, 2011. Restocking started a couple weeks later with fathead minnows and channel catfish. Pictured at the right are some of the adult fish that were moved from other nearby waters. The largemouth bass, bluegill and black crappie were stocked last fall or early this spring so they would spawn producing hundreds of thousands of offspring. I electrofished the lake prior to opening on May 23, 2012 and saw good bass and bluegill production. I will also stock a few flathead catfish, wipers and if the water stay clear walleye or saugeye. You'll want to spend some time on the newest Great Lake in Kansas!



The next Perry News will be available early in 2013. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to [KDWPT](mailto:kdwpt@ksoutdoors.com) so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.