

# Glen Elder District Fisheries

Volume 6, Issue 1

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Spring 2015

## New Fish Attractors for District Reservoirs

With the help of over 20 volunteers from the Salina and Hays bass clubs, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks staff was able to place 30 of the new Georgia cubes in Wilson Reservoir on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

These PVC structures are 3 foot cubes with 4 inch corrugated pipe strung through them that will provide excellent fish habitat for both young fingerlings and larger adult fish. The target species in Wilson are largemouth and smallmouth bass, but crappie, bluegill, white perch, and catfish will all utilize them.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources designed these habitat cubes and research has shown they will attract fish as well or better than brush, but will last more than three times as long. They also have the benefit of not affecting water quality.

Members of the Waconda Lake Association worked with KDWPT to help purchase and construct 20 of these cubes for Glen Elder Reservoir. These structures were placed in 8-10 feet of water in clusters of 10 to provide habitat for the young crappie, largemouth bass, and smallmouth bass in the reservoir.

We hope to continue to add more cubes each year to these reservoirs as well as expand to other water bodies. They are cost-effective, simple to construct and easy to deploy. They will continue to provide many years of benefit to the fisheries in these reservoirs and help the angler be more successful on the water.



Members of the Hays and Salina bass clubs construct 30 Georgia Cubes in March 2015.



Local bass anglers prepare to haul Georgia cubes to several locations in Wilson Reservoir.



The first five Georgia cubes placed in Wilson. They will eventually sit in 11 feet of water when the reservoir refills.



# Glen Elder Reservoir

## 2015 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

[scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com) /785-545-3345

**General Information:** The reservoir is approximately 2.3 feet low as of April 2015. All boat ramps and facilities will be open and usable again this year. Also, be on the lookout for blue catfish which we have stocked each of the last five years.

**Don't forget the new 35 inch length limit on blue catfish at Glen Elder!**

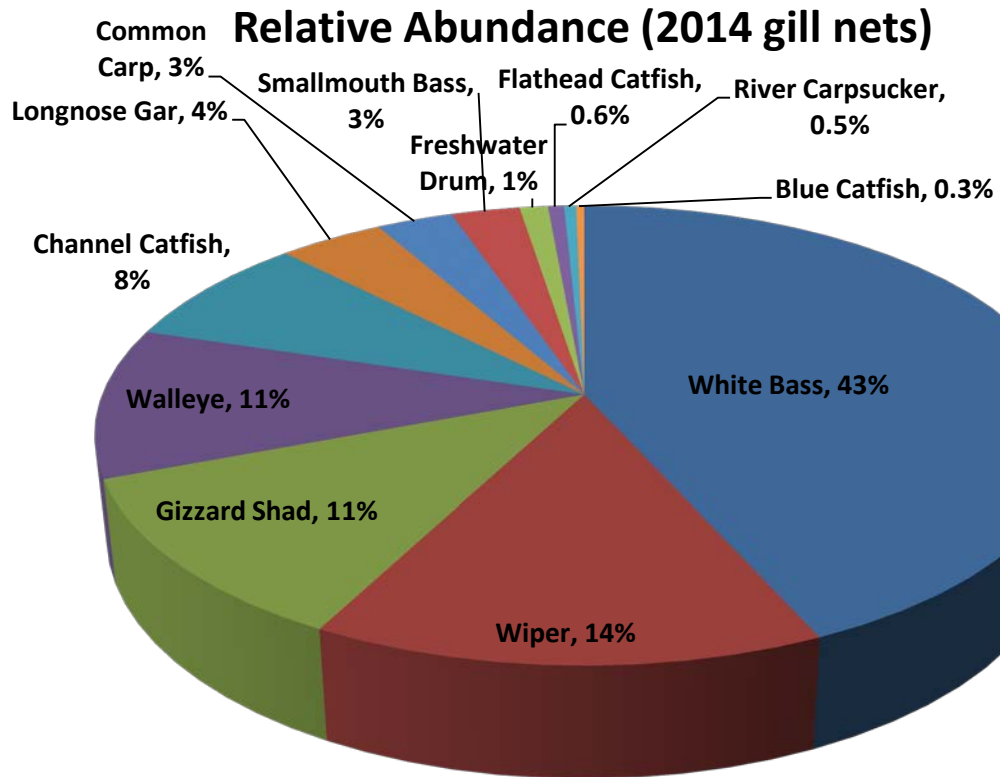


### Special Regulations:

- Blue Catfish—35 inch minimum length limit
- Crappie—Daily creel limit of 20 fish
- Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit
- Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass—18 inch minimum length limit

# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014)



	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Black Crappie	4	3.1	3.0-3.3	0.1	0.1-0.1
Blue Catfish*	41	21.0	15.2-24.6	3.5	1.3-6.0
Channel Catfish	50	20.6	13.2-28.5	3.2	0.7-9.6
Flathead Catfish*	226	16.3	4.9-45.2	3.4	0.1-49
Gizzard Shad	73	16.2	10.8-18.3	N/A	N/A
Smallmouth Bass**	135	11.1	3.8-19.5	0.9	0.1-3.9
Walleye	67	17.0	8.1-24.2	2.0	0.2-4.4
White Bass	274	12.6	4.9-15.9	1.1	0.3-2.1
White Crappie	189	10.7	2.6-13.2	0.7	0.1-1.2
Wiper	91	16.3	13.5-25	2.1	1.4-5.6

\*Collected during summer electrofishing

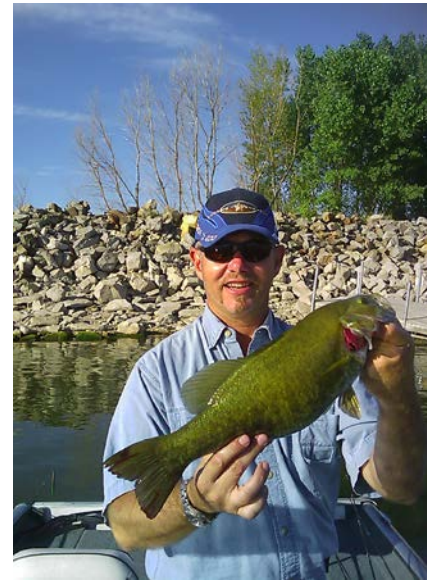
\*\*Collected during spring electrofishing

# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

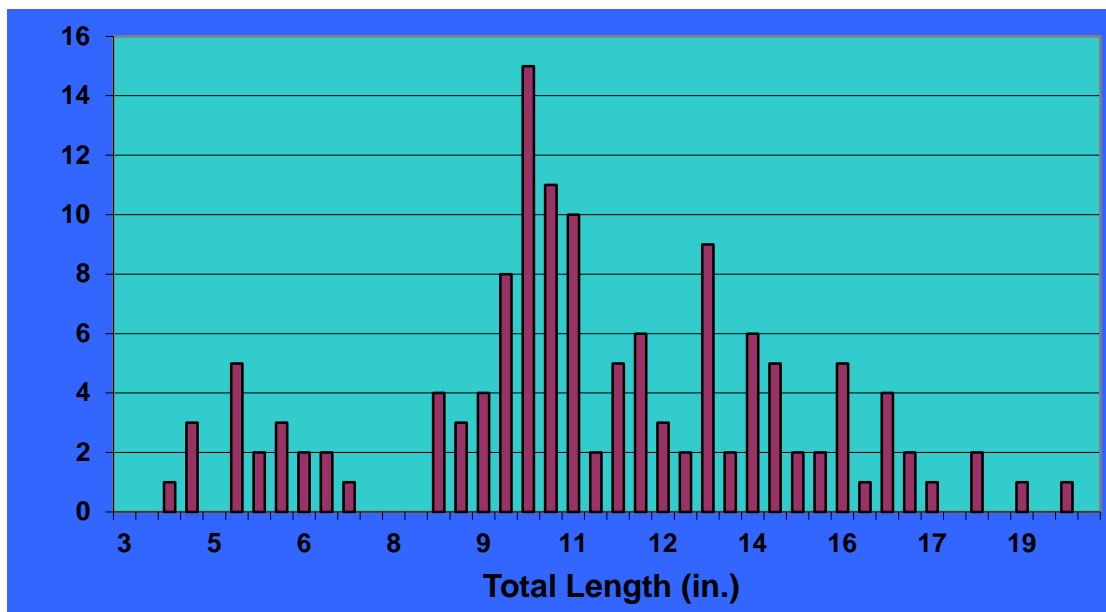
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## BLACK BASS--GOOD

Smallmouth bass numbers were similar to the 2014 sample with 135 fish collected ranging from 4 to 19.5 inches and up to 3.9 pounds. The catch rate of fish over 8 inches increased 42%, however, indicating size structure is getting larger. This was the best catch rate since 2010. Fish between 8 and 12 inches dominated the sample accounting for 54%, fish between 4 and 7 inches were 14%, 13 to 16 inch fish comprised 28% of the catch, and very nice fish between 17 and 20 inches were 4%. The big 2012 year class of smallies is growing well with an average length of 10 inches. These fish will continue to grow and should provide some quality fish in the next 2-3 years. Trophy fish numbers were also improved with the highest catch rate collected since 2010, and these fish should provide some quality fishing. No largemouth bass were collected during the electrofishing sample. Anglers reported catching largemouth



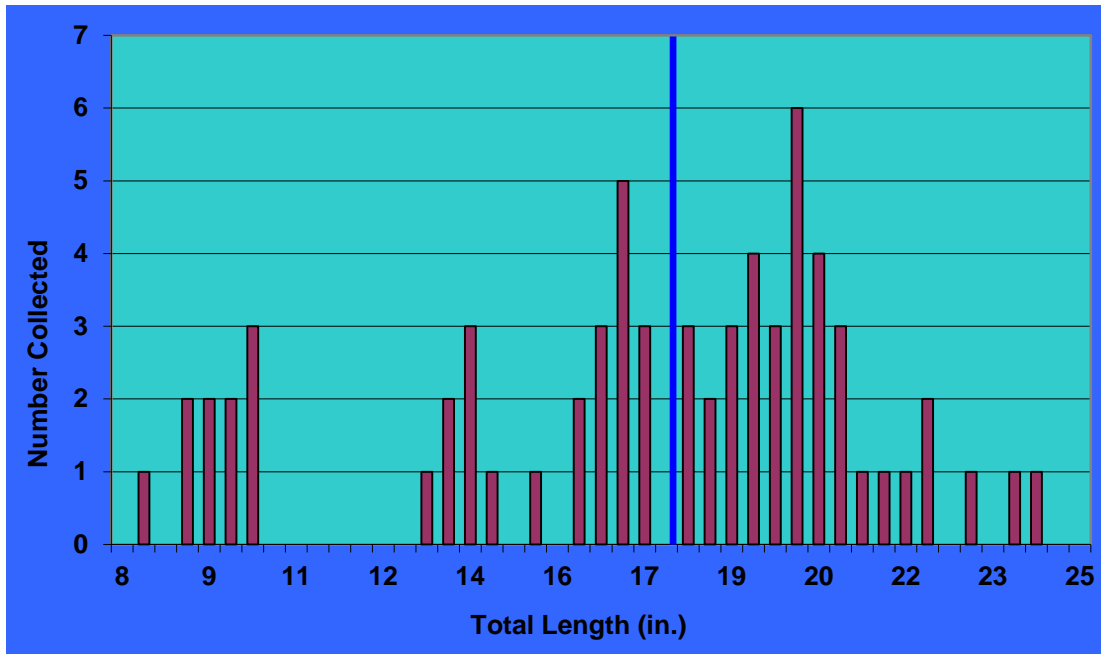
between 12 and 18 inches, though, so there are still a few left to supplement the smallmouth catch. Glen Elder ranks among the top five reservoirs in the state for smallmouth bass density (11 inches) and preferred size (14 inches) when compared with the other reservoirs. **18 inch minimum length limit in effect.**



# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WALLEYE--GOOD



The walleye catch rate in 2014 was down 35% compared with the 2013 sample, and 46% lower than the 2012 sample. While the number of walleye in the reservoir is down, there are still good numbers of fish that will provide quality angling in 2015. Anglers should have an equal chance of catching short fish and legal fish as the sample showed a 50:50 ratio is available. Glen Elder currently ranks among the top eight reservoirs in the state in terms of walleye density (15 inches) and preferred (20 inches) size fish. Approximately 42% of the population is between 18 and 21 inches with 26% between 15 and 17 inches, 25% between 8 and 14 inches, and 7% between 22 and 24 inches. Fish

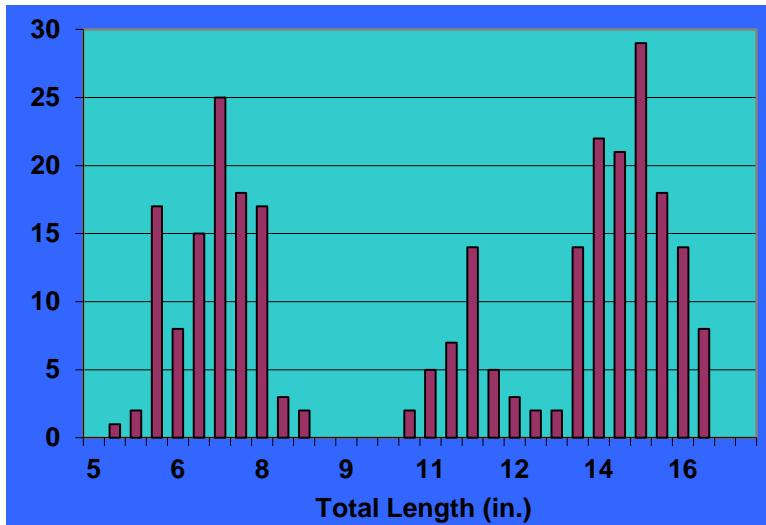


condition was good to excellent this past fall due to a very large gizzard shad year class. The 2013 year class (13-15 inches) accounted for 12% while the 2014 year class (8-10 inches) represented 15%. These young year classes are the foundation for continued walleye population growth and should boost this population in future years. The best fishing usually occurs during an 8 week period between late April and June. The fish move to the flats on the west end of the reservoir and can be caught using a variety of methods.

# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WHITE BASS--GOOD



Total white bass numbers were 25% lower in the fall 2014 sample while the number of fish 12 inches and bigger was 44% lower. These values represent the lowest recorded in the past 5 years. However, Glen Elder continues to rank among the top five reservoirs in the state for density (9 inches), preferred (12 inches), and lunker (15 inches) size fish. The adult sample consisted of fish between 10 and 16 inches with 47% of the total catch between 13 and 16 inches. Anglers will notice strong numbers of young fish in 2015 with 5 to 8 inch fish



representing 39% of the catch. Fish between 10 and 12 inches accounted for 14%. Fish condition was again excellent as the white bass had no problem finding shad this past year. Anglers can try a variety of methods to catch white bass with the spring spawning period up both river forks an excellent bet given adequate inflows. Hot summer days will find whites schooling in open water and chasing shad on the surface while night anglers do very well using floating lights. Fall is often a great time to pull out the slabs and fish along rocky points and other areas, while winter ice fishing may be the best time to catch these guys when they stack up along the river channels.

# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

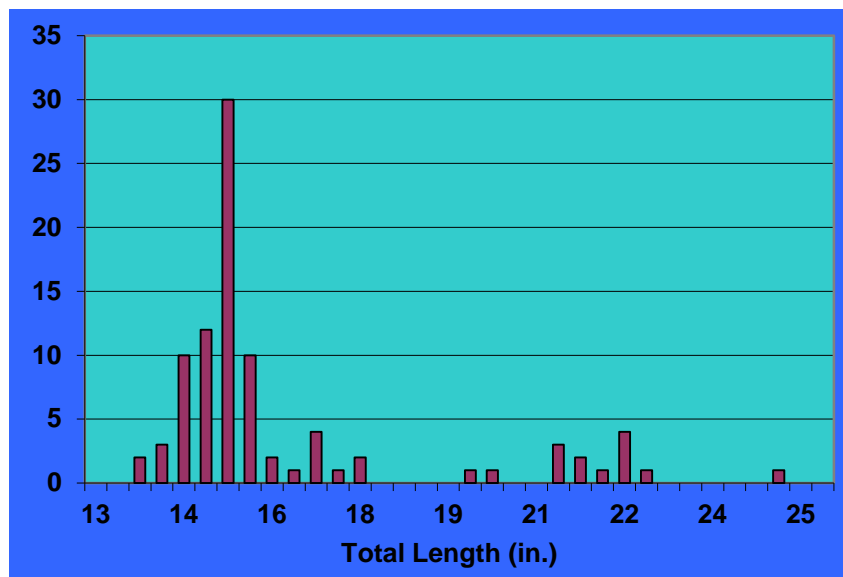
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WIPER--FAIR



Wipers were not stocked in 2014 and as a result the catch rates declined 39% compared with the 2013 sample. The fish from the previous two stockings are growing very well, however, with the 2013 fish between 14 and 15 inches, and the 2012 fish between 16 and 18 inches. Overall, the 2014 year class accounted for 63% of the catch, the 2013 year class comprised 22%, wipers between 19 and 23 inches were 14%, and fish over 25 inches were 1%. Anglers reports indicated a few of the

original stocked fish (2006) remain and have grown up to 12 pounds, but their numbers are low. Body condition of these wipers is down from last year, but remains good overall. A few large stripers (9-20 pounds) can also be found with ice anglers catching most of them. Stripers were stocked in 2014 and a handful of 8 inch fish were sampled last fall. Anglers can find wipers mixed in with white bass throughout the year, but in general, the wipers tend to occupy the lower end of the reservoir near the dam and hang out in Walnut Creek much of the year. Slabbing over humps, trolling crankbaits, or casting bucktail jigs off windy points are some of the better methods for catching wipers. Wipers will not be stocked again for several years as their numbers have reached the management objective for now.



# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

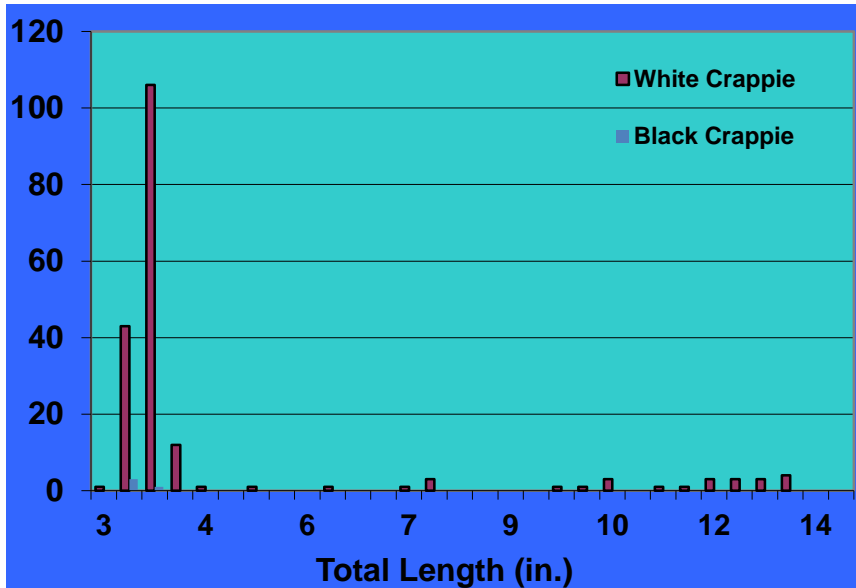
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CRAPPIE--FAIR

Anglers will notice a continued decline in the number of crappie at Glen Elder in 2015, but the average size remains very good and enough crappie remain to provide fair angling during the spawn and winter months. The low recruitment since 2009 has not been able to keep pace with the harvest



and natural mortality of older fish, thus the population numbers have declined. The large number of young crappie collected in fall 2013 did not show up this past fall as hoped, likely due to poor habitat conditions throughout the year. There are still a fair number of 10-13 inch fish remaining, but that number is much smaller than what was available from 2009-2012. Very few crappie from the 2014 year class were collected with a catch rate of only 7 age-0 (3-5 inch) crappie per net compared with 125 in 2013. Approximately 60% of adults were between 10 and 12 inches, 16% were 13 inches and larger, and 24% were 6 to 9 inches. Fish condition for crappie was good this year. Fishing will be fair



to good from mid-April through early June during the spring spawning activities. Fall and winter fishing is best at the brush piles near swim beach point, Campground 3, Harrison Point, and the Cawker causeway.

**Don't forget there is a 20 fish/day creel limit at Glen Elder Reservoir!**

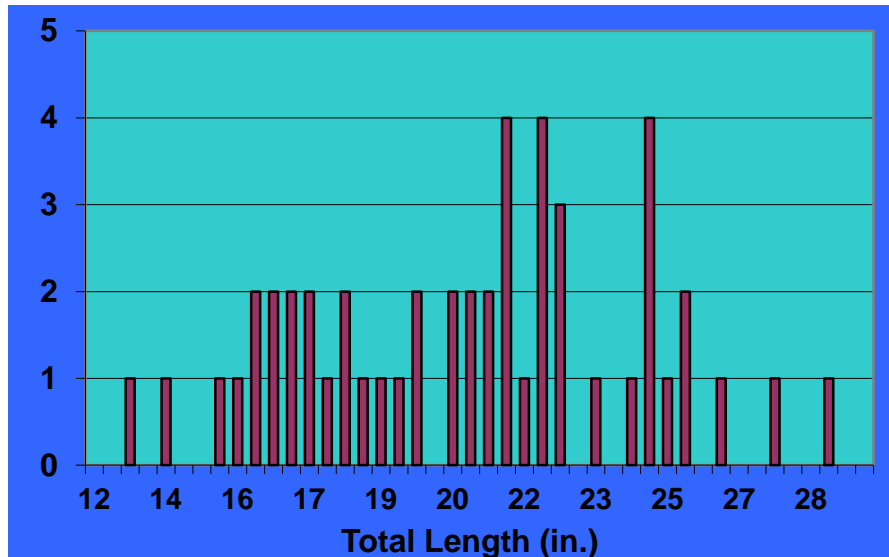
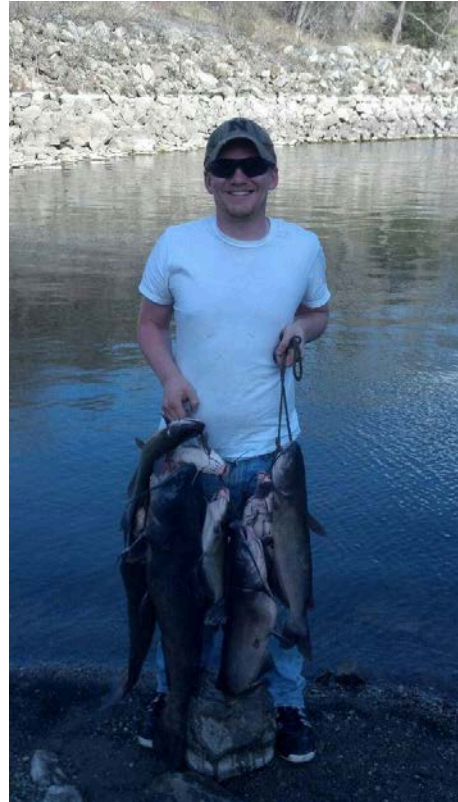


# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CHANNEL CATFISH

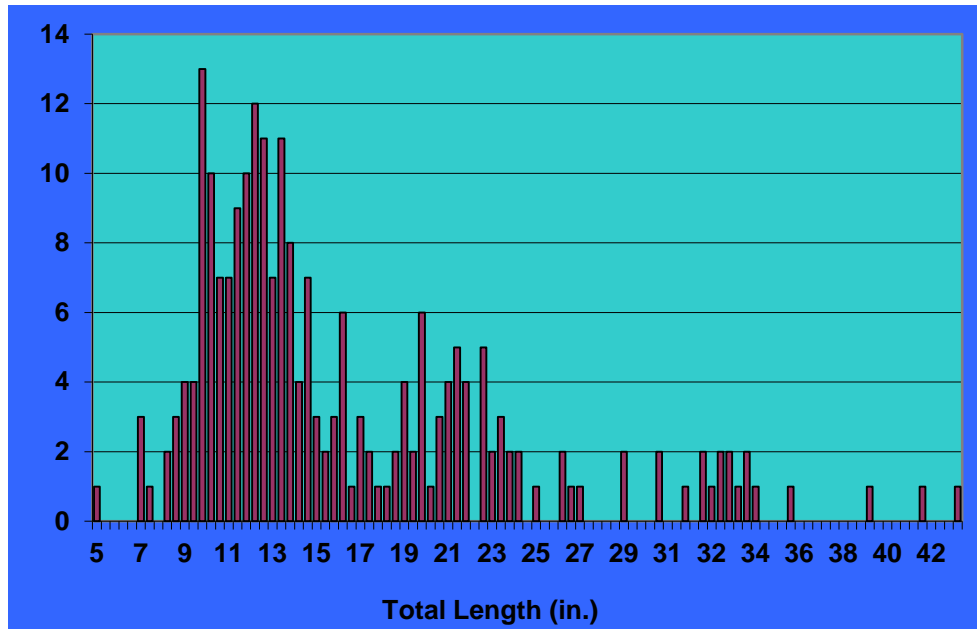
The catch rate of channel catfish continues to decline with a 33% reduction in the 2014 sample compared to 2013 and a 75% reduction compared with the 2009 sample. This trend can quickly be reversed with a couple strong year classes, but is something we will be keeping an eye on over the next several years. There is the possibility of overharvest occurring, but this could more likely be explained by poor recruitment over recent years. Size structure will be similar to last year with the best numbers of fish between 20 and 25 inches as this size group accounted for 42% of the catch. Fish between 13 and 19 inches comprised 52% of the sample, and fish over 25 inches represented 6%. Catfish condition remains good for smaller fish and excellent for larger fish. Fishing over chum piles is the most popular method during the summer. Fishing the south bluffs, Cawker City causeway, Granite Creek causeway, and other rocky areas during the spawn can yield nice limits of catfish.



# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## FLATHEAD CATFISH



Flathead catfish are sampled each summer using low frequency electrofishing as the best method for sampling all sizes of flatheads. This year's sample collected 226 flathead catfish ranging from 5 to 45 inches with the biggest fish weighing 49 pounds. Fair numbers of fish over 10 pounds were collected, but the majority of the catch was much smaller with fish between 10 and 14 inches accounting for 51% of the catch. Flatheads can be caught along the rocky banks during the spawn in June and July and are often found in the brush piles throughout the year. Set line anglers annually have success for both channels and flatheads fishing up west, around Mill Creek, and Walnut Creek.



# GLEN ELDER RESERVOIR

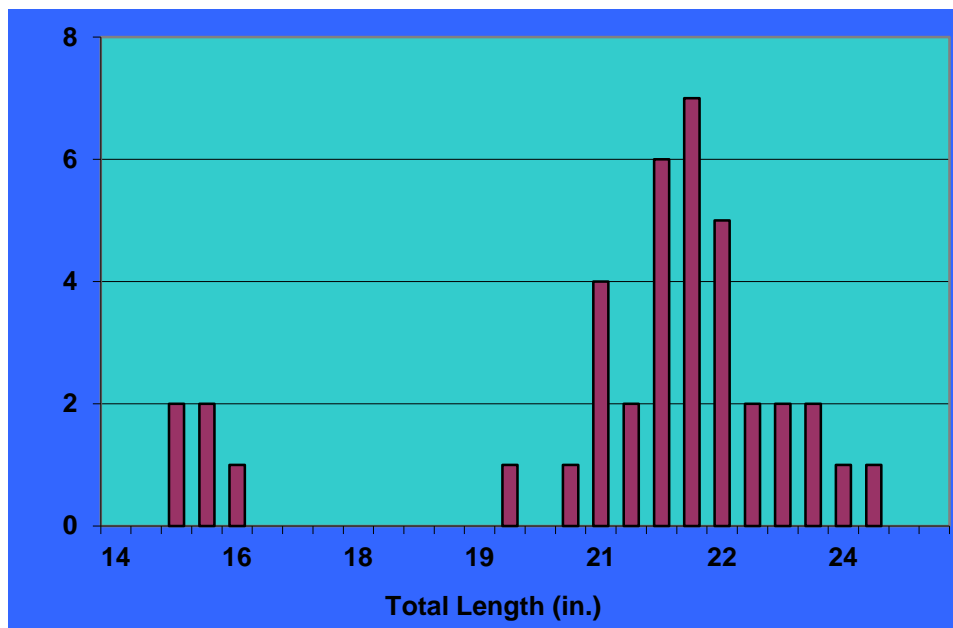
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## BLUE CATFISH

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Glen Elder since 2010 with 60,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we implemented a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish until they can reproduce naturally. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years.



Blue catfish numbers are increasing with fish up to 25 inches and 6 pounds collected this past year. The new 35 inch minimum length limit will protect these fish until they reach reproductive size and the population can be self-sustaining. For now, anglers are required to release all blue catfish less than 35 inches! We will continue to stock blue catfish for a couple more years to increase their numbers with the hope that they will eventually become self-sustaining.





# Wilson Reservoir

## 2015 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

[scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com) /785-545-3345

**General Information:** The water level began 2014 at 5.8 feet below conservation. Drought persisted throughout the year and caused the water level to drop to 8.2 feet low by year's end. The previous record was 7.2 feet low in December 2006. There is not much flooded vegetation around the shoreline with the lowered water levels. **“Clean, Drain, Dry” will continue to be the phrase to remember for this year as we don't want to spread the Zebra Mussels around.**



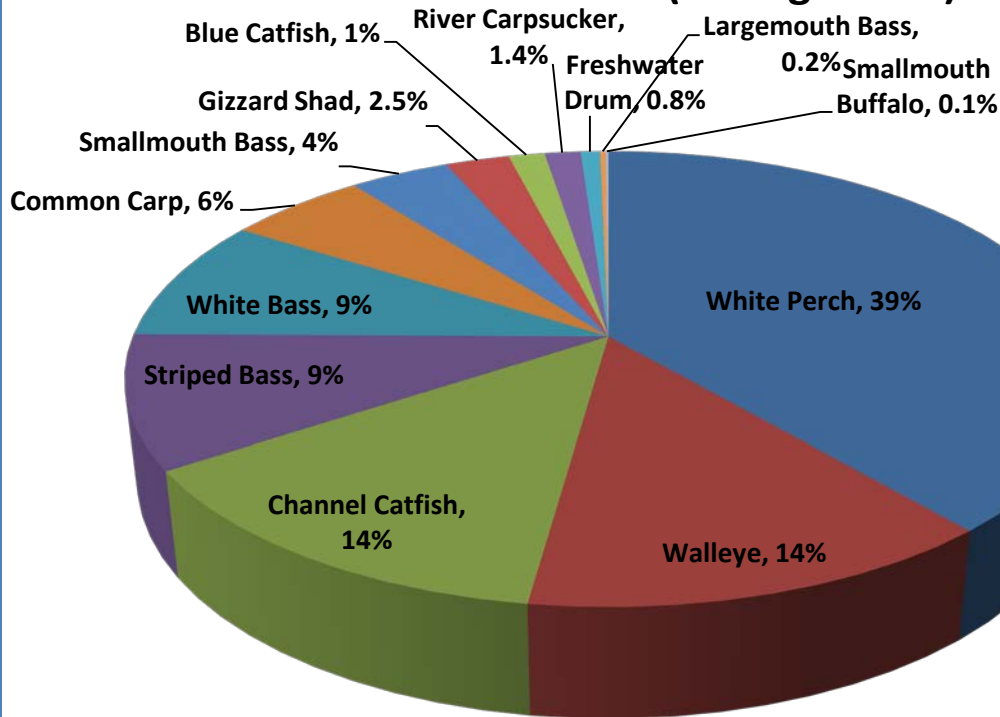
### 2014 Stocking Records

• Striped Bass	Fry (Fingerlings)	2.7 million (23,980)
• Largemouth Bass	Advanced Fingerlings	4,974
• Redear Sunfish	Fingerlings	202,241
• Blue Catfish	Fingerlings	9,112

# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014)

## Relative Abundance (2014 gill nets)



	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Blue Catfish	13	25.4	21.9-27.4	6.4	4.0-8.5
Channel Catfish	122	19.4	8.9-30.1	2.5	0.2-12.3
Flathead Catfish*	39	15.8	10.1-41.9	2.4	0.4-36.0
Gizzard Shad	23	9.6	5.3-20.3	N/A	N/A
Largemouth Bass**	29	14.5	8.1-17.1	1.4	0.2-2.2
Smallmouth Bass	36	12.1	6.1-15.9	1.0	0.1-2.0
Striped Bass	85	22.0	6.8-29.3	3.6	0.1-9.4
Walleye	122	13.6	9.3-25.8	0.9	0.3-4.0
White Bass	79	13.8	6.9-17.5	1.4	0.2-2.4
White Crappie	12	11.7	8.8-14.4	1.0	0.4-1.7
White Perch	349	9.8	5.3-12.8	0.6	0.1-1.2

\*Collected during summer electrofishing

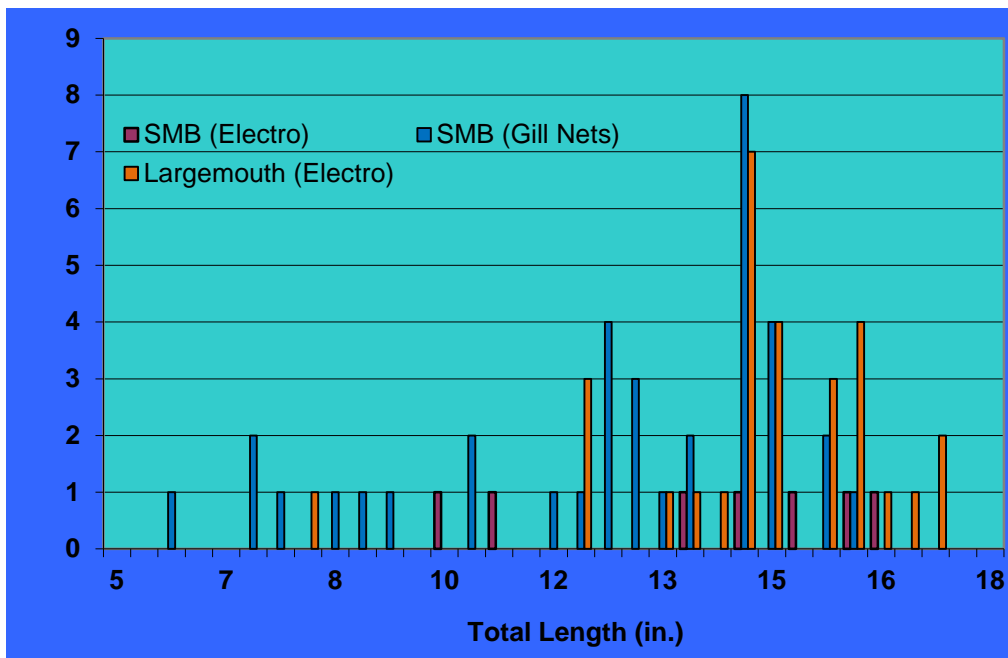
\*\*Collected during spring electrofishing

# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## BLACK BASS--GOOD

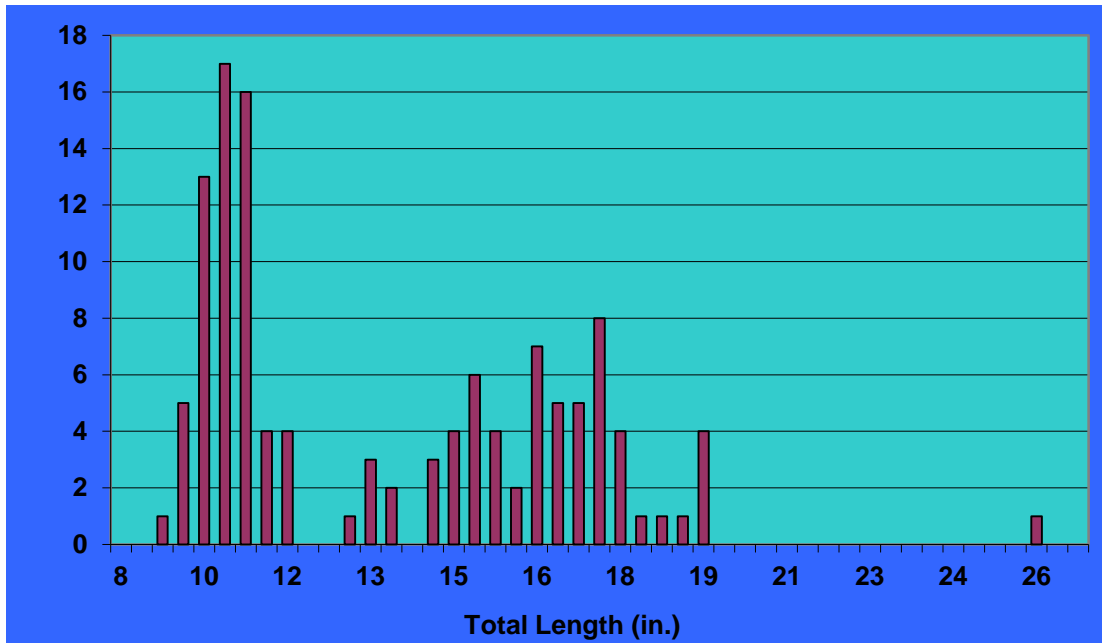
Wilson will continue to rank among the top 5 reservoirs in the state for both largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing. All black bass species (including spotted bass) are available in Wilson with good numbers over the 15 inch legal limit, and fish close to 5 pounds available. Lowered water levels and a lack of aquatic vegetation have led to poor recruitment over the past several years and most of the largemouth will be 12 to 18 inches. We did collect a handful of young bass that averaged 8 inches and are likely the result of the 39,000 large fingerlings we stocked in June 2013. Other young fish were observed, but not collected due to the high water conductivity which makes electrofishing difficult in Wilson. An additional 5,000 fingerlings were stocked in 2014. Largemouth body condition is poor to fair now due to a lack of bluegill and minnow production during the drought. Smallmouth bass numbers look good now, but were again underrepresented in the spring sample with only seven fish collected. We saw good numbers during our fall netting, however, with fish between 6 and 16 inches sampled, and the largest weighing 2 pounds. Smallmouth bass recruitment and body condition do not seem to be as affected by the low water levels, and both continue to remain strong. Anglers should again be satisfied with the number of black bass available in 2015, but will continue to notice a decline until water levels return and provide the necessary habitat for abundant largemouth bass and bluegill recruitment.



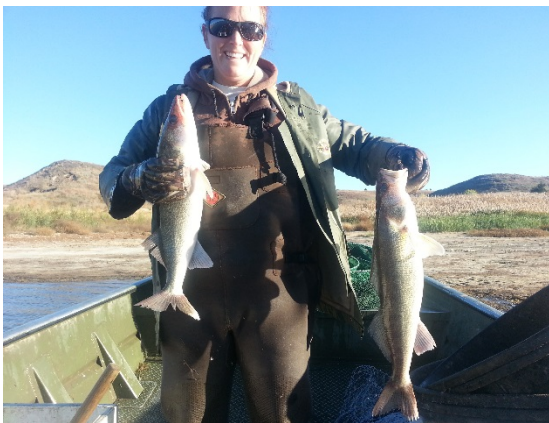
# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WALLEYE--GOOD



Total walleye catch exhibited an 18% increase compared with the last sample, and angling prospects for 2015 will remain good. The catch rate of walleye over the 15 inch length limit was similar to last year, but two good year classes were produced in 2013 and 2014 with natural reproduction that increased the number less than 15 inches by 71%. The 2014 year class is the best since 2008 and will provide a much needed boost to the walleye population. Most of these fish will be over 15 inches by fall 2015. The majority of the population is comprised of fish 3 years old and younger. A handful of fish up to 25 inches were also collected, but their numbers were few. Overall, 60% were 9 to 14

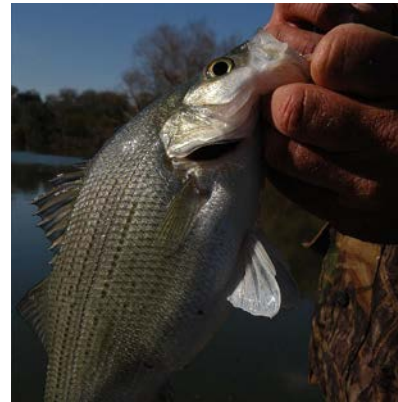
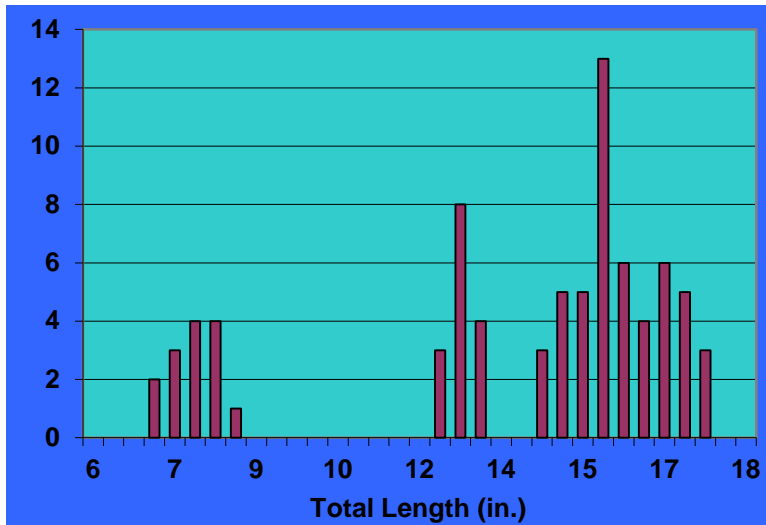


inches, 34% were between 15 and 17 inches, and 6% were over 18 inches. Anglers will notice similar numbers of legal size fish in 2015, but an increase in the number less than 15 inches. Body condition was good for smaller fish, but poor for the large fish. Natural recruitment continues to produce good numbers of young fish that have allowed for strong walleye harvest over the past decade and the total numbers will increase with continued production of these young fish. There is a **15 inch minimum length limit** in effect for walleye at Wilson.

# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WHITE BASS--FAIR



White bass numbers decreased slightly in our fall sample and numbers continue to remain down from the early years of Wilson. There is a diversity of sizes available with some very healthy fish in the 2-2.5 pound plus range and up to 18 inches. Fish condition was excellent this past fall and anglers will be happy with the quality of fish they catch. We continue to see some small whites coming on so they are spawning successfully but the numbers of smaller fish never seem to be very high. The white perch have certainly taken up a portion of the niche that the white bass used to occupy.





# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

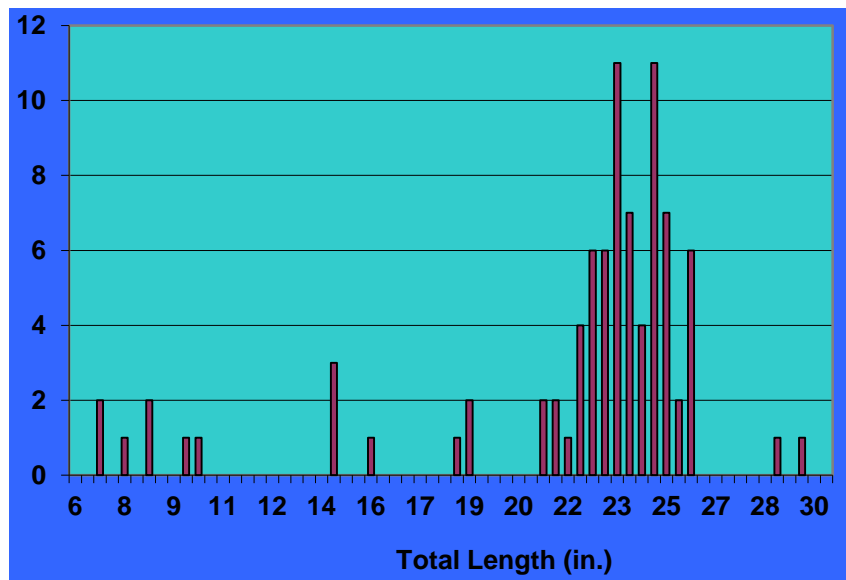
## STRIPERS--GOOD



The catch rate for stripers this fall was up 33% compared with the 2013 sample, in large part because of young fish coming into the population. Body condition, however, was very poor with fish up to 18 inches in good shape, but fish between 21 and 29 inches were very skinny and growth rates have likely been suppressed. The population continues to be dominated by those 3 to 5 pounders, but there are still some big fish showing up every year based on angler reports. Our

biggest striper in the fall sampling weighed 9.4 pounds, but anglers are still catching fish over 20 pounds each year. And of course, the state record striper (44 pounds) still stands at Wilson. We stocked 14,000 fingerlings in 2012 and collected a handful around 19 inches. The 2013 stocking consisted of 700,000 fry that showed up as 14 to 15 inch fish this fall. Fry and fingerlings were stocked in 2014 with many showing up between 7 and 10 inches. This is the first good striped bass year class since 2010 and anglers should be excited about the number of young fish coming into the

population. The management plan includes stocking stripers heavily as a predator on the white perch and so far they have been doing a pretty good job. Wilson is the #1 striper reservoir in the state and should provide lots of exciting striped bass angling in 2015.



# WILSON RESERVOIR

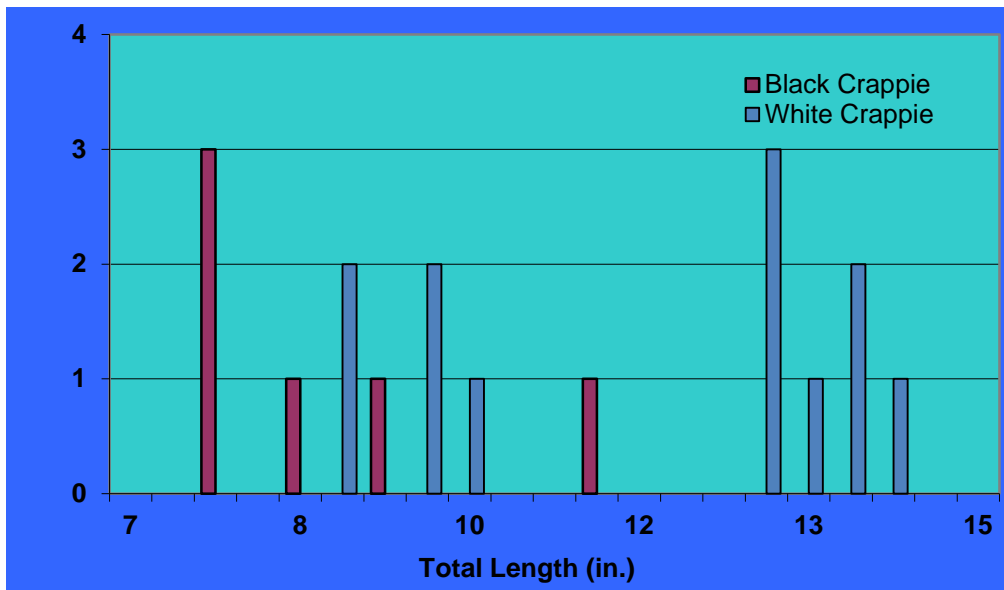
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CRAPPIE--POOR

Crappie numbers remain low even with the high water and flooded vegetation between 2008 and 2010 which proved beneficial to the largemouth bass and bluegill. There were several good angler reports this past year, however, so there are some fish to be caught out there. We did not collect any age-0 fish this year indicating poor recruitment of young crappie into the population. There are some adults, mostly 10-14 inches, at the



current time with some of the crappie ranging up to nearly 2 pounds. Black crappie prefer the clearer waters on the lower end of the lake, white crappie are mostly found in the upper end. Crappie are scattered all over the lake but just not in any big concentrations. Anglers have some success catching crappie during the fall and winter months near the fish attractors by Minooka and Elm Creek, and around the marina.



# WILSON RESERVOIR

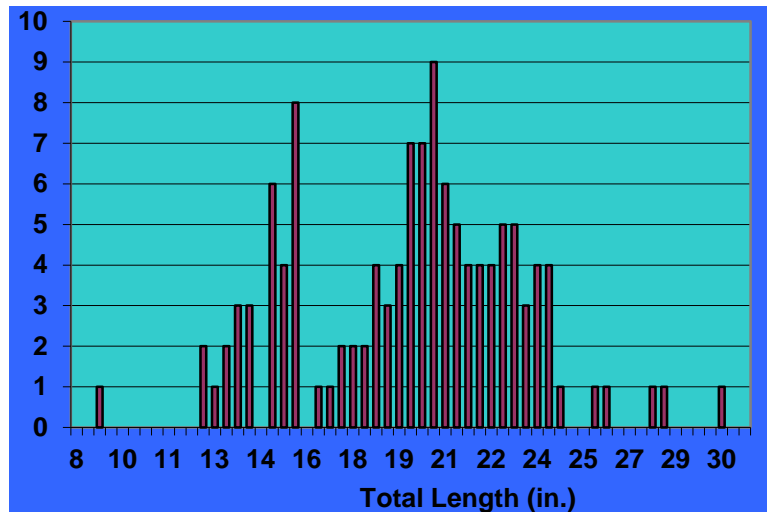
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

Channel catfish are plenty abundant in Wilson and blue catfish numbers are stable. There are all size ranges and the larger fish look very chunky. Wilson has moved up to #5 in catfish density when compared to other reservoirs in the state after coming in at #12 last year. There are a few flatheads showing up every year so don't be surprised if you tie into one of them too. Fifteen percent of the fish were 9-14 inches, 49% were between 15 and 20 inches, 33% were



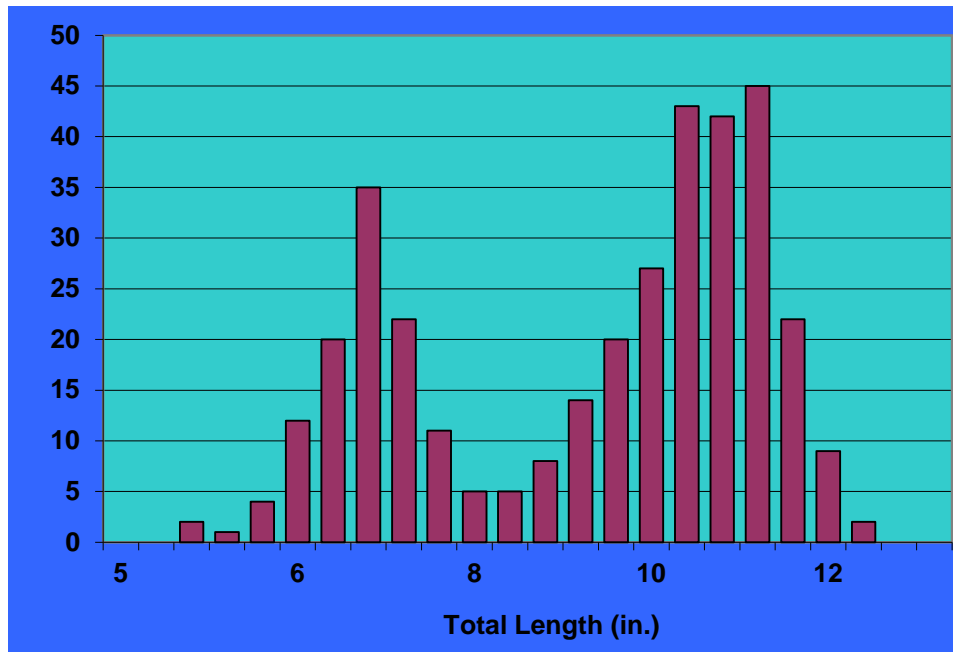
21-25 inches, and 3% were between 25 and 30 inches. The biggest channel catfish weighed 12 pounds. Fish condition was excellent for all sizes and this population appears to be very strong. We collected channel catfish throughout the reservoir in the fall, but anglers may have the best success fishing for them on the upper end in the spring followed by targeting rocky banks where the fish will congregate to spawn in late May and June. Chumming over soybeans, wheat, and milo is by far the most productive method to catch a stringer of cats in the summer. Floatline fishing will again be allowed during the daylight hours from July 15 through September 15.



# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WHITE PERCH--GOOD



White perch numbers decreased slightly in 2014 with a 14% decrease compared with 2013 and numbers continue to remain around half of what we saw through 2011. The average size continues to increase with a 10 inch average for all white perch, and some fish up to 13 inches available. The proportion of the population less than 8 inches did increase, however, as a large 2013 year class is evident with many 6 to 8 inch fish collected. This is the first large year class since 2010. Anglers continue to report that many of the sportfish collected this past fall had plenty of white perch in their stomachs indicating they remain an important prey species in Wilson. Fish condition improved slightly compared with the 2013 sample with the biggest fish in excellent condition. Approximately 60% of the catch was between 10 and 12 inches with 12% between 8 and 9 inches, and 28% less than 8 inches. **The white perch is an Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) on the prohibited species list which means they must be dead if you keep them in your possession for consumption or if you keep them for bait or any other reason. Cut the small ones in half and feed the other fish if you catch ones you don't want to keep – do not throw any live white perch back!**

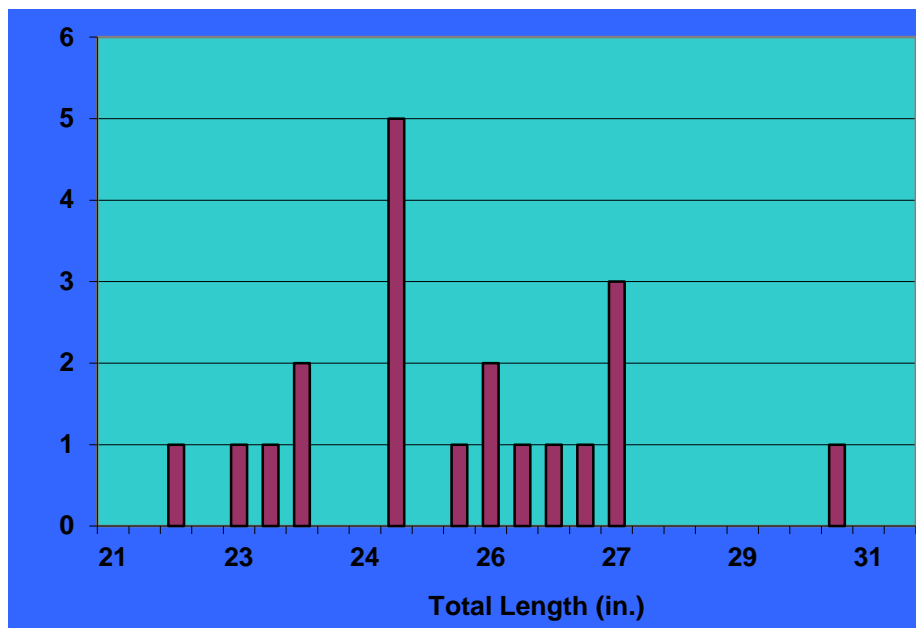
# WILSON RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Wilson since 2006 with 90,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, these fish are protected by a minimum length limit of 35 inches and anglers will need to release most of the blue catfish they catch this year. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years. Anglers have reported catching a few of these blues occasionally and we caught thirteen in our nets this past fall (22-27 inches), and sampled a 30 inch, 13 pound fish last summer.

**Reminder of the 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish.**





# Lovewell Reservoir

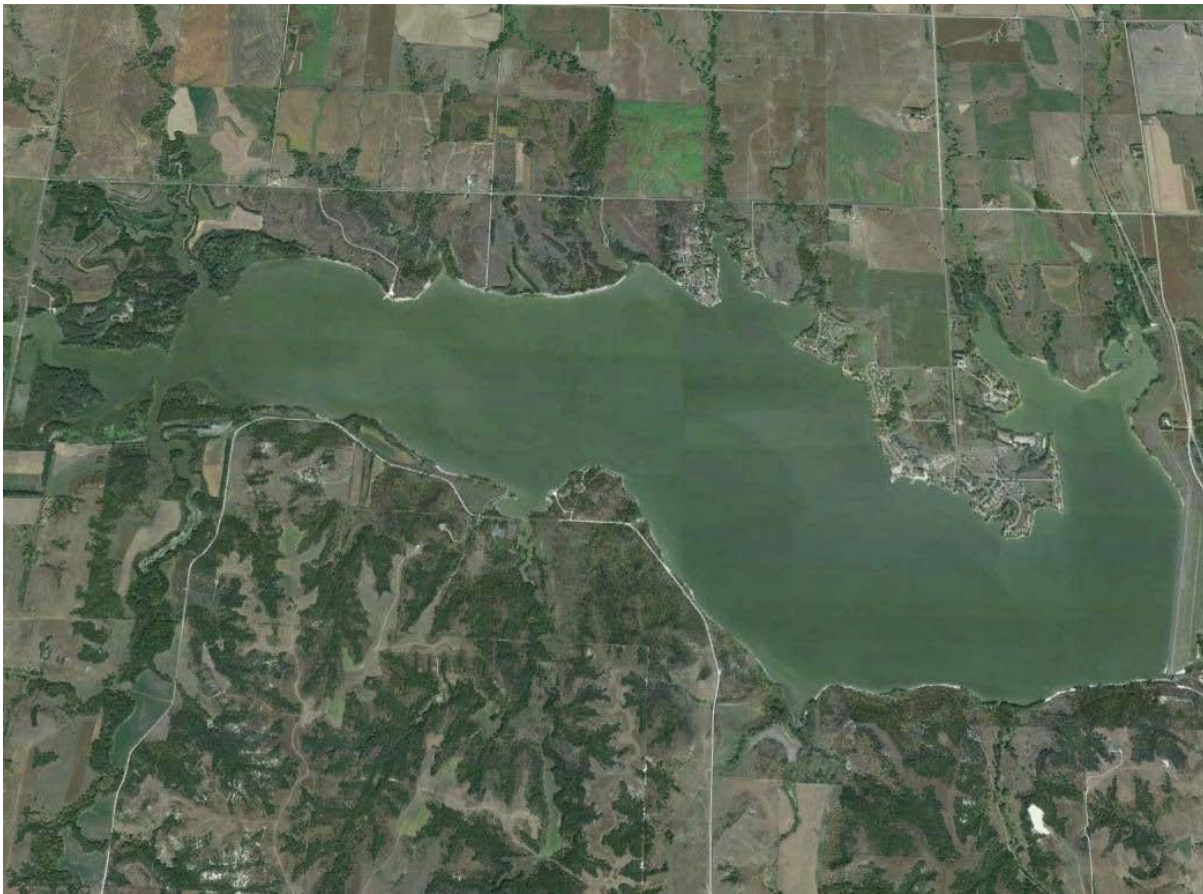
## 2015 Fishing Forecast

Scott Waters—District Fisheries Biologist

[scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com) /785-545-3345

**General Information:** The reservoir is at full pool as of March 2015. Be on the lookout for blue catfish which have been stocked since 2010. The fish barrier will be in operation again this year beginning in April so keep an eye out for it near the outlet. **Please stay away from the barrier and don't fish next to it!**

**Don't forget the new 35 inch length limit on blue catfish at Lovewell!**



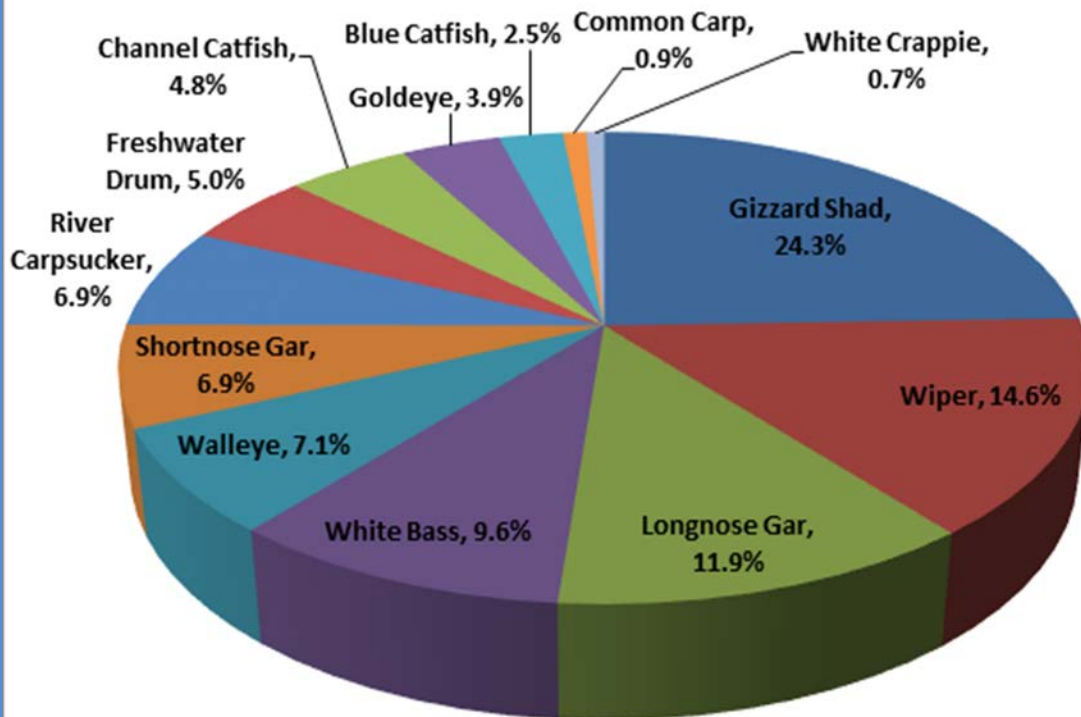
### Special Regulations:

- Walleye—18 inch minimum length limit
- Blue Catfish—35 inch minimum length limit

# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014)

## Relative Abundance (2014 gill nets)



	# Caught	Length (in)		Weight (lb)	
		Average	(Range)	Average	(Range)
Black Crappie	40	9.8	2.9-11.6	0.6	0.1-1.0
Blue Catfish*	112	18.8	9.6-24.1	2.4	0.3-4.8
Bluegill	71	7.2	1.4-9.3	0.4	0.1-0.7
Channel Catfish	21	20.2	14.0-28.1	2.9	0.6-7.7
Flathead Catfish*	62	28.7	6.5-44.7	16.6	0.1-51.5
Gizzard Shad	106	14.1	4.9-17.9	N/A	N/A
Walleye	31	18.2	8.9-27.0	2.6	0.2-7.1
White Bass	42	12.5	5.3-15.2	1.1	0.1-1.7
White Crappie	472	10.4	2.6-12.4	0.6	0.1-1.0
Wiper	64	14.8	5.3-24.2	1.9	0.1-5.9

\*Collected during summer electrofishing

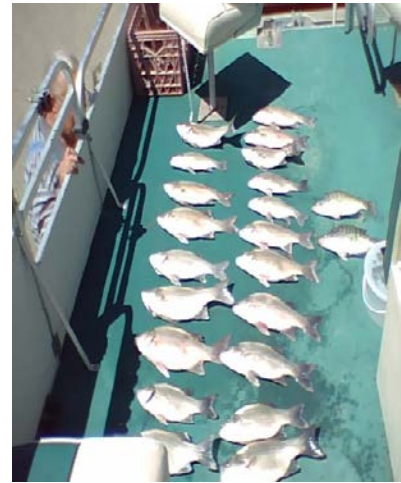
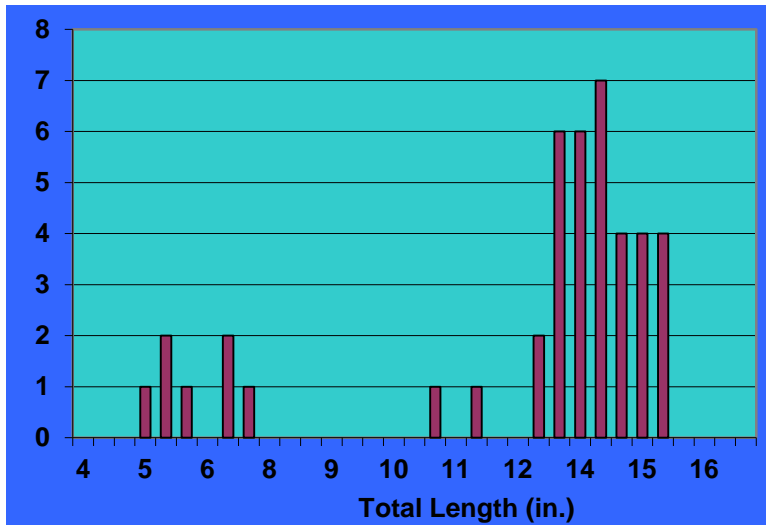




# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## WHITE BASS--FAIR



White bass numbers declined for the third consecutive year after a strong rise in 2011. Total numbers declined 65% compared with the 2013 sample and are 89% lower than the 2011 catch. This was actually the lowest recorded catch in the past 10 years. Lack of adequate reproduction over the past couple of years is evident with very few fish less than 12 inches in the sample. Anglers will again notice reduced catch rates in 2015, but there should still be enough quality fish to provide fair angling. A large fish kill occurred in May 2013 which resulted in approximately 3,500 dead white bass, mostly large adults. This, combined with good 2013 harvest and low recruitment that past 2 years led to the



decline in numbers. On a positive note, a fair year class was produced in 2014 as evidenced by fish between 5 and 7 inches. The biggest fish sampled weighed 1.7 pounds and the fish were in excellent body condition. Overall, 74% of the sample was between 13 and 15 inches, 9% were 9-12 inches, and 17% were 5-7 inches. As in the past, the best time to fish for Lovewell whites will be in the summer, during peak irrigation releases. The inlet and outlet areas historically produce the vast majority of whites harvested while summer topwater activity can also be productive. Night fishing using floating lights was fair in 2014, and drifting or slabbing over submerged roadbeds and humps throughout the year is also an effective method for hooking into a nice stringer of whites.

# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

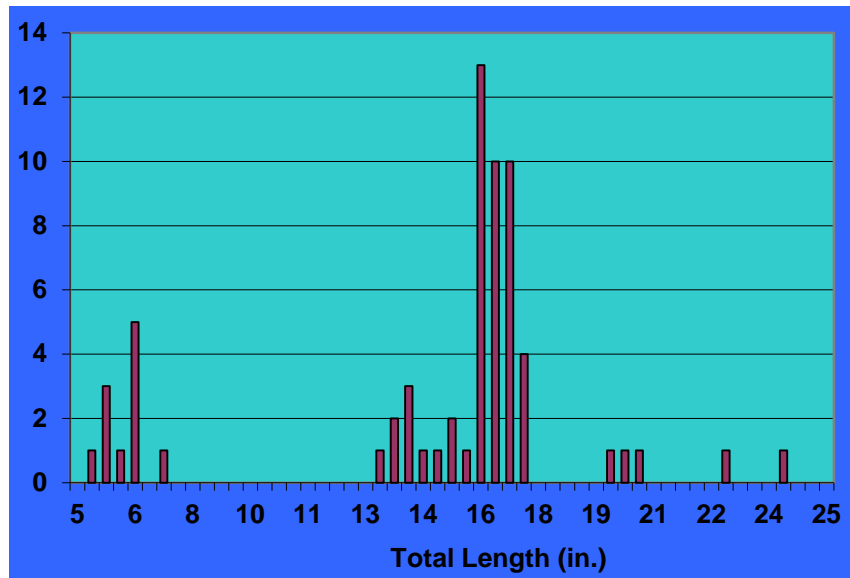
## WIPER--FAIR



Wiper numbers increased for the third consecutive year with a 26% increase compared with the fall 2013 sample. Wipers have been stocked every year since 2010 after stocking on alternate years for a short period. A strong year class was produced in 2012 with fish between 12 and 14 inches accounting for 60% of the catch. This year class is now 16 to 17 inches and still dominates the population. Only five older fish were collected, however, illustrating the poor wiper production between

2007 and 2011. Fish between 5 and 7 inches accounted for 17% of the catch, one year old fish between 13 and 15 inches were 16%, the 2012 year class represented 59%, and fish between 19 and 24 inches accounted for 8% with the biggest fish weighing 5.9 pounds. Fish condition was good to very good for the smaller fish, but only fair for the larger fish. Anglers will have limited success this year targeting large wipers, but good numbers of 2-3 pound fish should be available. Approximately 15,000 fingerling and 3,000 intermediate wipers were stocked in 2014, but there will not be a stocking in 2015 due to

improved numbers of wipers in the reservoir. Similar to white bass, decent numbers of wipers can be caught during the irrigation season as the fish migrate to the inlet and outlet areas. Other anglers report good success for bigger wipers trolling crankbaits and deep-diving rapalas along the north shore and the dam.

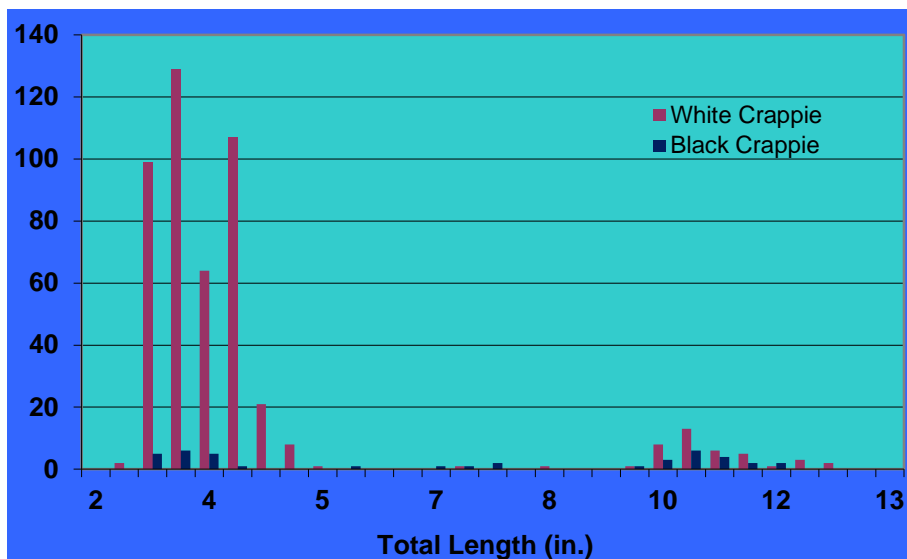


# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CRAPPIE--FAIR

The crappie population will be down in 2015 as the number of fish sampled was much less this past fall than in previous years. The catch rate of crappie over 8 inches declined from 30 per net in 2013 to 4.5 in 2014. While part of this can be attributed to higher water during the 2014 sample, anglers should expect lowered catch rates of crappie in 2015. Of the adults, 73% are between 10 and 12 inches and 27% are between 7 and 9 inches. There was a nice year class of white crappie produced in 2014 with an average catch of 29 3-5 inch crappie per net which can hopefully recruit into the fishery. A handful of black crappie were also collected with most of these fish between 9 and 12 inches. They will offer some additional opportunities along with the white crappie. These fish all appear to be very healthy with excellent body condition measured. Several brush piles are maintained to help concentrate fish for anglers, and decent success can be found fishing around the flooded vegetation in Montana Creek and other coves during late April and May when the fish are spawning. We added another 280 trees to the fish attractors recently and will likely add more this year.

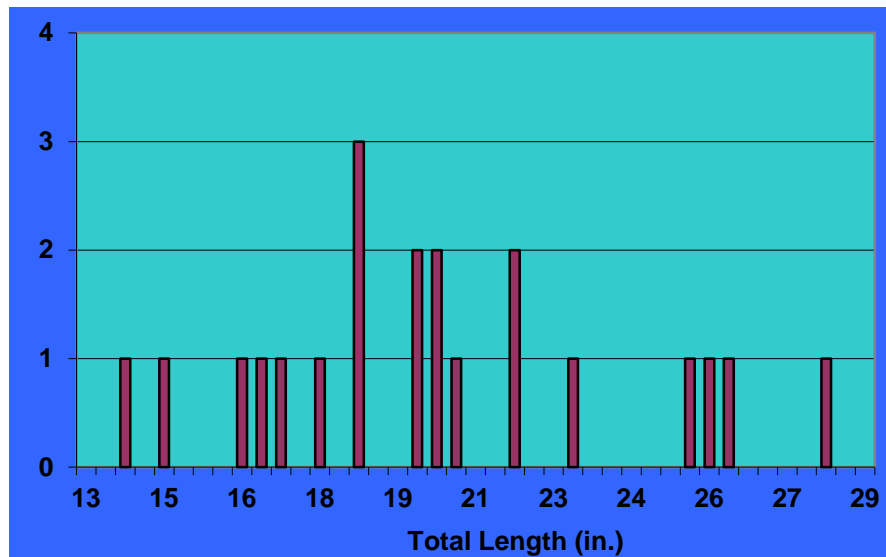


# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## CHANNEL CATFISH--GOOD

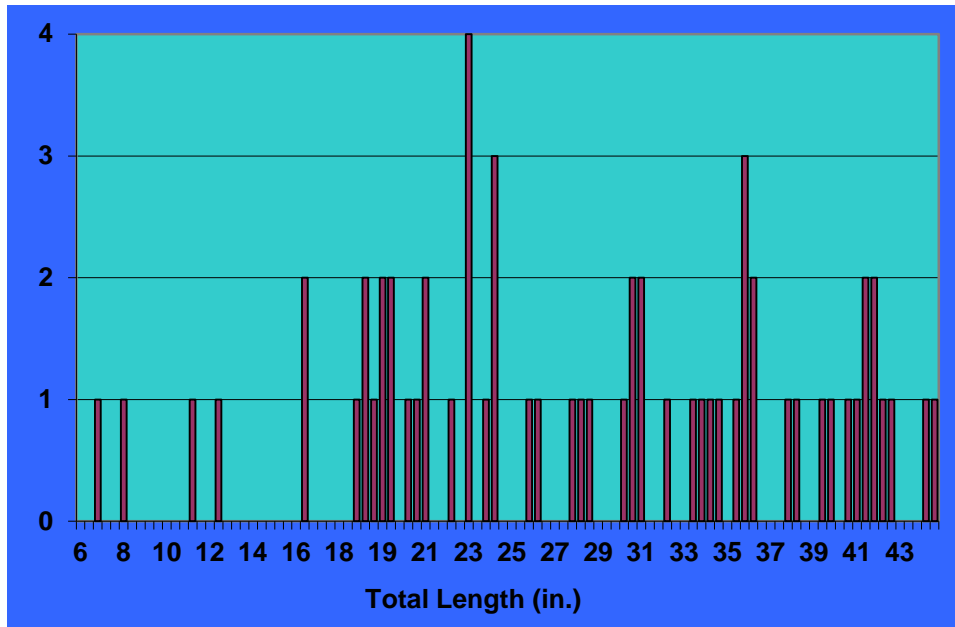
The catfish population will remain good again in 2015 with all sizes of channel cats available to anglers. The fall 2014 channel catfish catch rate was down 50% from the previous year while the number of fish over 24 inches was down 59%, but the number over 28 inches was similar. Fifty-two percent of the fish were between 19 and 23 inches, 29% were 14-18 inches, and 19% were between 25 and 28 inches. Channel catfish will be vulnerable in all arms of the reservoir, including Montana, Windmill, and Prairie Dog Creek, as well as up White Rock Creek near the Highway 14 bridge. During peak irrigation releases, catfish can be readily caught close to the inlet and outlet structures, and are susceptible along the dam and other rocky areas during the spawn. Summertime anglers annually have good success chumming over piles of soybeans, wheat, and milo.



# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## FLATHEAD CATFISH--GOOD



Flathead catfish are sampled each summer using low frequency electrofishing as the best method for sampling all sizes of flatheads. This year's sample collected 62 flathead catfish ranging from 6 to 45 inches with the biggest fish weighing 52 pounds. Approximately 35% of the catch was over 20 pounds, 18% were between 10 and 20 pounds, 31% were between 5 and 10 pounds, and 16% were less than 5 pounds. Flatheads can be caught along the rocky banks during the spawn in June and July and are often found in the brush piles throughout the year. Set line anglers annually have success for both channels and flatheads fishing up west, around the inlet, in Prairie Dog Creek, and Montana Creek.



# LOVEWELL RESERVOIR

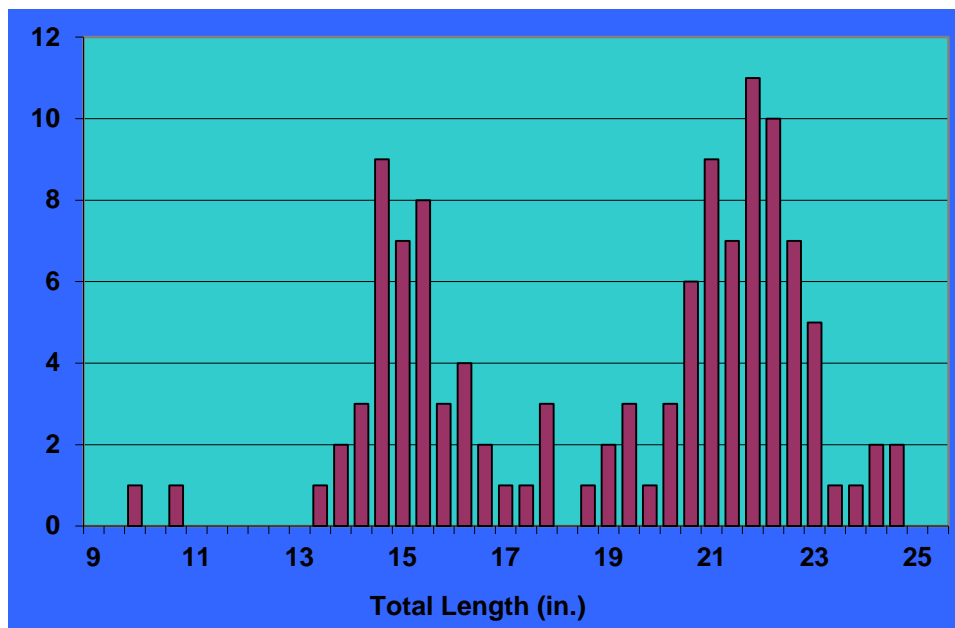
FALL SAMPLING DATA (2014) AND 2015 FISHING FORECAST

## BLUE CATFISH--POOR

Blue catfish have been stocked annually in Lovewell since 2010 with 15,000 fish stocked thus far. This population will remain at low numbers until the fish reach sexual maturity and are able to reproduce on their own. For that reason, we implemented a 35 inch minimum length limit on blue catfish until they can reproduce naturally. Catch rates are generally low for most anglers, but a few have been caught each of the past several years.



Summer electrofishing results yielded the highest catch to date with 112 fish collected. The majority of these fish were found along the river channel between Walleye Point and Oak Hill, and near the dam. Fish size ranged from 10 to 24 inches with the biggest fish weighing 4.8 pounds. Growth rates appear to be good and fish condition was excellent. We will continue to stock blue catfish for a couple more years to increase their numbers with the hope that they will eventually become self-sustaining.



## City of Beloit offering Family Fishing Nights

Fishing is one of the best ways to spend time with the kids, but parents often find limitations to taking their kids fishing when they want to go. Finding a place to fish, having the right equipment, knowing the laws, or even just knowing proper techniques can make this activity difficult.

Fortunately, the City of Beloit has teamed with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, & Tourism to provide three nights during the summer where families can fish together.

This year's events are scheduled from 6:00-8:30 pm on May 28<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup>, and July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Participants meet at the Parks and Recreation office and caravan to a local FISH pond or other state property. All equipment and bait is provided and several instructors are on hand to assist with knot tying, baiting, casting, fish removal, etc.

Our previous events have been very successful with the kids nearly always catching a handful of fish apiece. Not only are these events great learning experiences for the kids and parents alike, they are terrific bonding opportunities since a parent is required to attend with their child.

To register, simply call the Beloit Parks and Recreation office at 785-738-2270.



## Fishing Events in 2015

### Glen Elder

May 3 U.S.A. Bassin  
May 31 WLA Walleye Tournament  
June 6 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Fishing Tour.  
June 7 KWA Governor's Cup Tournament  
August ?? 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Catfish Tournament  
Sept. 13-14 Western Nebraska Bass

### Lovewell

April 25 Open House and Free Park  
Entrance  
June 7 Kids Fishing Clinic  
July 19 "Float Your Boat" Contest  
August 1 Lovewell Fun Day

### Wilson

April 15 Earth Day Celebration  
May 3 KWA Walleye Tournament  
June 20 OK Kid's Day/Free Park Entrance  
August 8-9 Knotheads Bait Shop/Kansas  
Bowfishing Night Series  
August 19 Big Bass Challenge

**Free Fishing Weekend  
is June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  
statewide!**

This is the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder, Wilson, and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Rocky Pond in Belleville, and Jewell City Lake. Don't forget to check out the many FISH properties in the area as well. They can offer some great fishing for those without a boat.

If you know someone who would like to subscribe to the newsletter, they can do so [HERE](#). If you would like to unsubscribe, please send your info to [Contact Us](#) with "unsubscribe to Glen Elder District Fisheries newsletter" and we'll get you taken off of the list. If you have any questions or comments feel free to send them in.

### Scott Waters

District Fisheries Biologist  
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks &  
Tourism  
2131 180 Road  
Glen Elder, KS 67746  
785-545-3345  
[scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com](mailto:scott.waters@ksoutdoors.com)