

GLEN ELDER DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

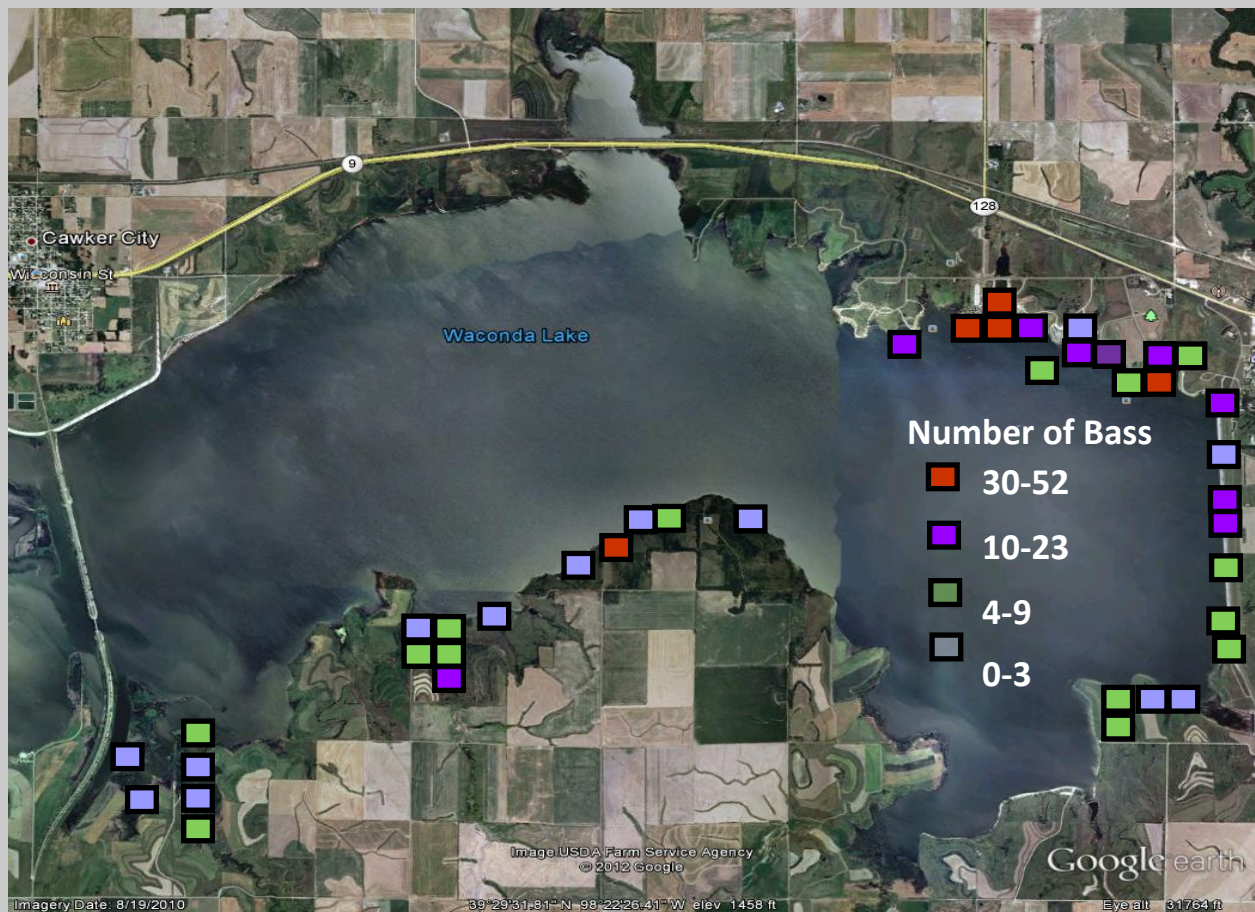
Volume 8, Issue 2

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Fall 2017

Largemouth Bass Returning to Glen Elder

The 2017 spring Glen Elder bass sample consisted of 317 smallmouth bass, 123 largemouth bass, and 4 spotted bass when conducted in April and May. The smallmouth bass density rating increased 71% compared with 2016, the preferred rating increased 56%, and the lunker rating doubled from 1.1 to 2.2. Thirty percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 35% were 9 to 12 inches, 31% were 13 to 16 inches, and 4% were over 17 inches. The biggest fish weighed 3.4 pounds. The largemouth bass density rating increased 372% compared with 2016 and the preferred rating increased 162%. Twenty-six percent of the fish were between 3 and 8 inches, 30% were 9 to 12 inches, 33% were 13 to 16 inches, and 11% were 17 to 20 inches. The biggest fish weighed 5.1 pounds. Bass anglers fishing Glen Elder should continue to notice a nice resurgence of the largemouth bass population in addition to the strong smallie numbers.



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Flathead Catfish Color Variation

Any angler who has caught and handled many flathead catfish can appreciate what a highly underrated species this is. A true top level predator that will grow to trophy weights and rivals many of the other classic species as excellent table fare. The state and world record flathead catfish was caught in Elk City Reservoir and weighed a whopping 123 pounds! A giant fish for sure and one that should be truly respected.

What I enjoy most about sampling and observing hundreds of flathead catfish each year is their unique coloration patterns. While many species we catch all look virtually identical whether they come from a lake, reservoir, stream, pond, or river, the flathead catfish can vary tremendously—even within the same brush pile we sample them from. Below are a handful of pictures representing a small subset of color schemes flathead catfish exhibit. Next time you catch a flathead, take a minute to appreciate its appearance and realize what a unique fish you were lucky enough to encounter.



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Cubes Keep Coming For District Reservoirs

Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (KDWP) employees have been constructing Georgia Cubes for the past several years to supplement habitat in Kansas reservoirs, state fishing lakes, and even



several CFAP lakes. The goal of the PVC structures is to provide long-term habitat for young largemouth bass, crappie, and bluegill. Other fish have been located near the cubes including flathead catfish, channel catfish, and white bass, thus most sportfish species are benefitting from this effort.

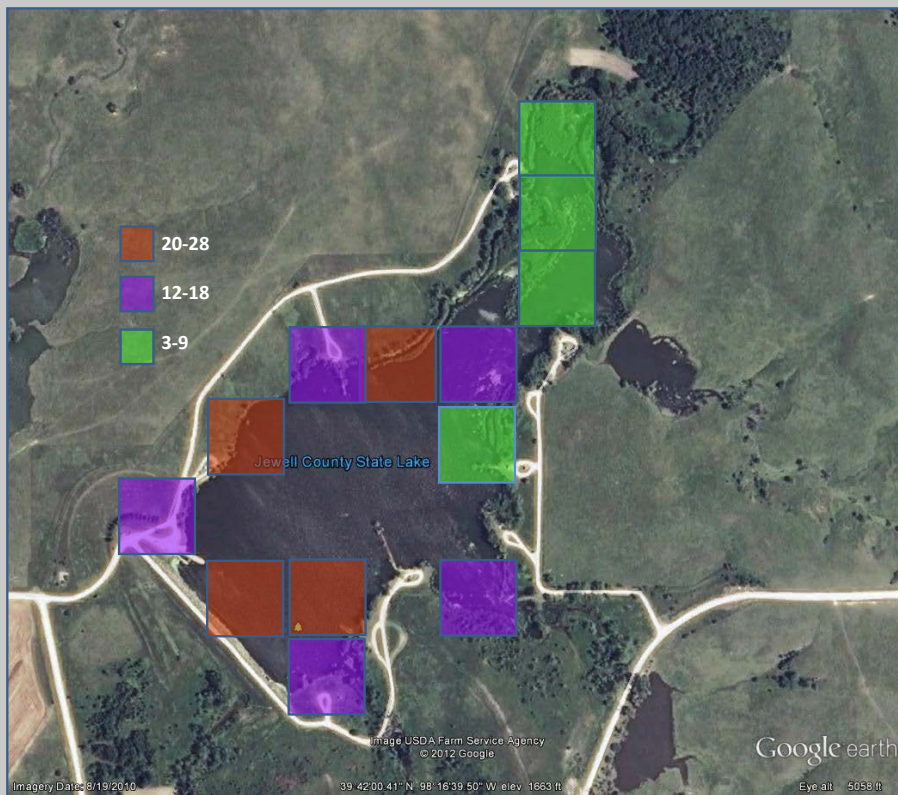
KDWP and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) partnered up this year using Title 28 grant money to purchase materials to construct 90 cubes each year for 5 years at BOR reservoirs. Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoir will realize the benefits with approximately 20 cubes placed in Lovewell and 70 cubes placed in Glen Elder annually. Cubes will continue to be placed in targeted coves with the end goal to cluster 40-50 cubes into specific areas which will help promote sportfish recruitment. Anglers can find a link to cube GPS locations at <http://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Where-to-Fish-in-Kansas>.



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Jewell State Fishing Lake 2017 Bass Sample

At Jewell, 190 largemouth bass were collected during 2.2 hours of electrofishing for a catch rate of 68 fish over 9 inches per hour of sampling. This is an increase from the 2016 catch rate of 52 per hour. The density rating increased from 35 in the 2016 sample to 64 in 2017. This large increase is partially due to more



effective sampling in 2017, but is also the result of young fish continuing to grow into the stock-length size range. Preferred rating increased 78% while lunker rating increased slightly. These fish continue to reproduce well with young fish less than 9 inches accounting for 24% of the catch. Fish between 9 and 12 inches accounted for 6% of the catch while fish in the protected 13 to 18 inch slot length limit represented 65% of the population. Ten fish greater than the slot limit were collected, up

from only two in the 2016 sample. The biggest fish weighed 4.5 pounds. Fishing prospects for 2018 look good with high amounts of catch and release and a fair to good chance of catching trophy fish. **Pending approval from the KDWPT commission, the largemouth bass length limit will change to an 18 inch minimum length limit beginning January 1, 2018.** The current 13 to 18 inch slot length limit has allowed for harvest of smaller fish and the population is now at a density which will allow for the best management of bass, bluegill, and crappie.

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13th Annual Glen Elder Tournament Results

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Waconda Lake Association hosted the 13th annual Youth Fishing Tournament at Waconda Lake on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017. Approximately 140 young anglers boarded boats on a beautiful day with bright sunshine and virtually no wind. They discovered that fishing can be challenging with no breeze to help the fish cooperate or allow for a steady drift, but by lunchtime they all returned with tales of their prize catches and, of course, the big one that got away.

The fishing proved to be better than expected thanks to large numbers of young white bass and walleye which were aggressively feeding despite the calm conditions. The young anglers indicated they had a great time and most were able to bring in at least a few with white bass, walleye, and drum leading the way. Of the 114 youth who fished on the 40 boats volunteered by local anglers and the 23 youth who fished off the bank, 108 (79%) were able to catch at least one fish. The total of 522 caught fish included 259 white bass, 79 walleye (7 legal), 76 drum, 31 smallmouth bass, 29 channel catfish, 20 crappie, 14 bluegill, 6 wiper, 5 largemouth bass, and a flathead catfish, longnose gar, and common carp.

We would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to all of the boat drivers and other volunteers who provided their time and equipment, the Waconda Lake Association for providing lunch and helping cover the cost of the t-shirts, and Wayne Miner who donated 150 dozen nightcrawlers.

Also, many thanks to the over 100 sponsors who donated nearly \$4,000 in prizes. Because of their generosity each youth was able to take home a new fishing pole, t-shirt, goodie bag of tackle and gift certificates, and other prizes. Special thanks also to Jared Ireland and the staff of the Glen Elder area office for assisting with the event.

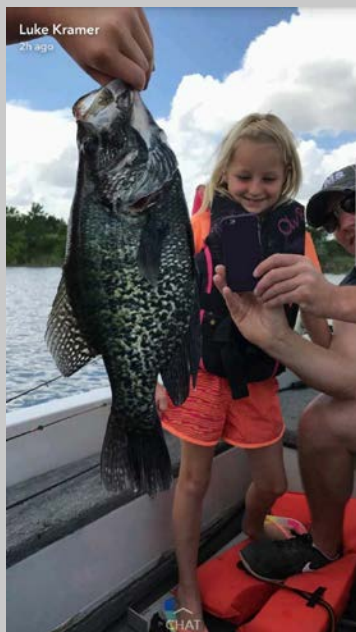
Below is a list of the winners in each of the categories:

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| Most Fish | Kristen Roth (Garden City) | 80 |
| Biggest Walleye | Sheridan Hamel (Beloit) | 23½ inches |
| Biggest Crappie | Georgia Lix (Osborne) | 14 inches |
| Biggest Channel Catfish | Abigail Miller (Glen Elder) | 15 pounds, 3 oz. |

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|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Biggest White Bass | Emma Strom (Omaha, NE) | 17 inches |
| Biggest Wiper | Nicholas Niewald (Beloit) | 25 inches |
| Biggest Smallmouth Bass | Lane Foulke (Beloit) | 18 inches |
| Biggest Largemouth Bass | Jasmine Blue (Beloit) | 12 inches |
| Biggest Drum | Samantha Zimmerman (Beloit) | 21 inches |
| Biggest Bluegill | Hannah Starbuck (Beloit) | 8 inches |
| Biggest Flathead Catfish | Leavie Riner (Osborne) | 17 inches |
| Biggest Gar | Ethan Anderson (Simpson) | 42 inches |
| Biggest Carp | Dayton Lantz (Osborne) | 30 inches |
| Smallest Fish | Kira Van Pelt (Beloit) | 3 inches (bluegill) |

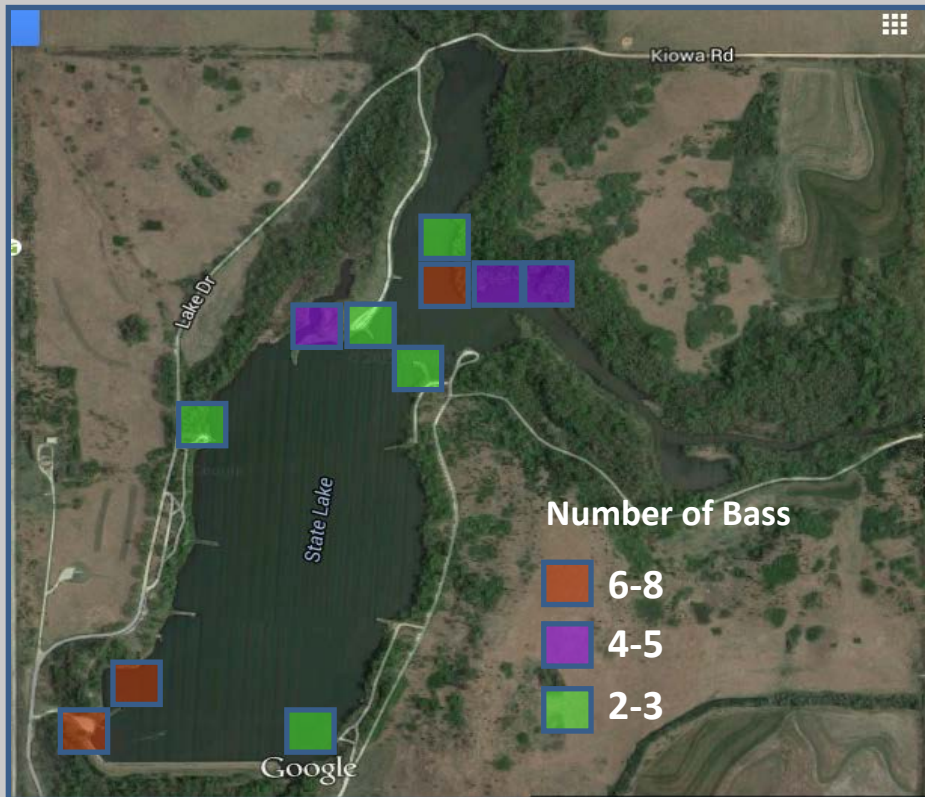
We plan on hosting this event again next year on June 2nd so mark it on your calendars and look forward to another fun-filled day at Waconda Lake!



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Ottawa State Fishing Lake 2017 Bass Sample

The 2017 spring bass sample at Ottawa State Fishing Lake was much improved over the 2016 sample, but numbers are still less than is desired at this lake. Eleven 10-minute sites were sampled with 49 largemouth bass collected. The density rating of 25.7 is improved from 6.3 the previous year while the preferred rating of 9.1 is up from 0.5 in



2016. The fish are in excellent health with very high condition rates. While improved, these catch rates are much less compared with the 2015 sample with a density rating of 49.0 and preferred rating of 24.8. A lack of suitable spawning and brood rearing habitat has reduced the spawning potential and survival of these fish as evidenced by only one fish less than 9 inches collected.

water willow, cedar tree brush piles, and construction of Georgia Cubes will improve the habitat in the lake.

Habitat projects including the placement of

Anglers bass fishing at Ottawa should expect fair fishing in 2018. Approximately 16% of the fish were less than 12 inches, 55% were between 12 and 15 inches, and 29% were 16 to 18 inches. The biggest fish collected weighed 3.7 pounds.

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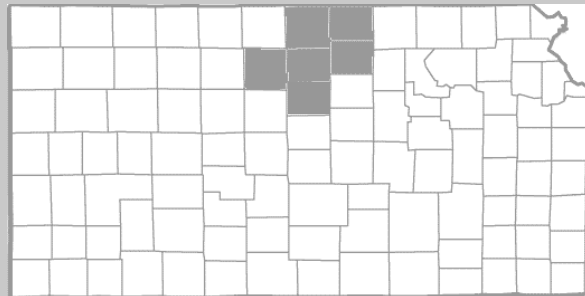
New Smallmouth Bass Regulation at Glen Elder

Pending approval from the KDWPT commissioners at the next commission meeting anglers can expect a new regulation at Glen Elder Reservoir beginning January 1, 2018.

Glen Elder smallmouth bass have been managed with an 18 inch minimum length limit for approximately 20 years, and as a result, a nice population has developed as Glen consistently ranks among the top smallmouth bass water bodies in the state.



Harvest of 18 to 21 inch smallmouth bass has limited the potential for anglers to catch more trophy fish up to 6 pounds. The new regulation will require anglers to immediately release all smallmouth bass less than 21 inches from Glen Elder Reservoir. This will allow all fish to reach their maximum growth potential and anglers should see increases in the number of large smallmouth in the reservoir.



I hope you enjoyed the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Ottawa 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.

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 67446
785-545-3345
scott.waters@ks.gov

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