

Kansas City District Fisheries Newsletter

Summer 2018

Biologist's Notes

Summer 2018 in the Kansas City District was characterized by unrelenting heat and abnormally dry conditions. As a result many area waterbodies suffered from lower than normal water levels. Many local fish populations will be able to endure this, as long as drought conditions do not persist into the future. Some smaller waterbodies in the area (mostly private) experienced fish kills (of varying degree) due to low water and oxygen conditions. Even with the suboptimal summer conditions, there were still reports of good fishing within the area.

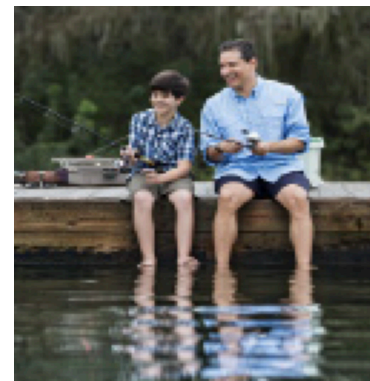
As usual, there were numerous projects and activities occurring over the past few months. Spring largemouth bass sampling was conducted (summary on Page 2). The Urban Channel Catfish Stocking Program was continued, stocking catchable-size channel catfish (12-18 inches, 0.75 to 1.5 pounds) at 20 waterbodies across the Kansas City District (15,315 pounds of channel catfish stocked in 2018). Also, numerous youth aquatic education and fishing events were held during the summer, many conducted with the outstanding assistance of the Fishing's Future organization (I personally want to express my gratitude for their

continued support). Fifty-two "Georgia Cube" fish habitats were constructed and placed in Hillsdale Reservoir early this fall (See page 4 for coordinates). A **BIG** thanks to members of the Leavenworth, Olathe, and Kickback Jr. BASS clubs for their help with this operation.

The agency has also been conducting some new research as well. One project is looking at bluegill age and growth statewide. This information will guide new management on some waterbodies aimed for development of trophy bluegill opportunities. Lake Lenexa and Miami State Fishing Lake are two waterbodies in the Kansas City District with new proposed regulations for this purpose. Another research project has been evaluating blue catfish populations statewide. There are multiple components to this project from evaluation of different sampling techniques to population dynamics. There is both a reservoir focus and a Kansas River focus to the blue catfish project as well.

As we transition to the fall season, remember that great fishing opportunities still exist. Forage fish, such as young-of-year gizzard shad are very abundant in the fall. As water temperatures cool, game fish

become more active and feed on forage fish to fatten up for winter. For best success, match baits to the prey base of your particular waterbody and hold on for some action. Good luck and **get out there and fish!**



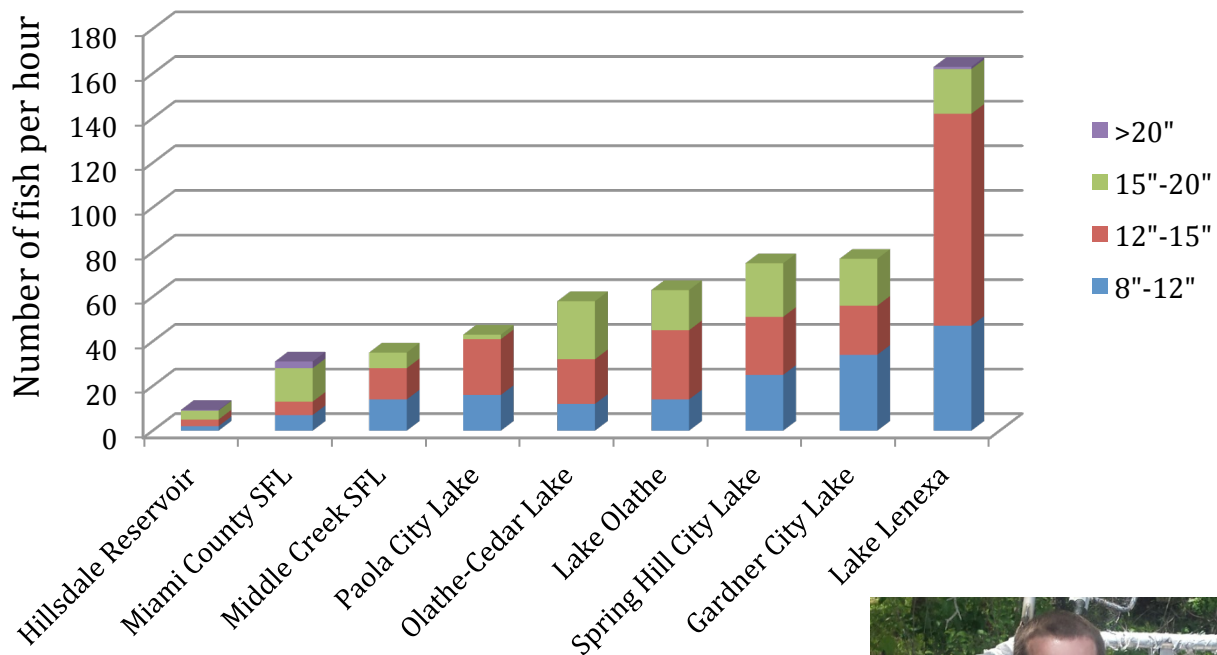
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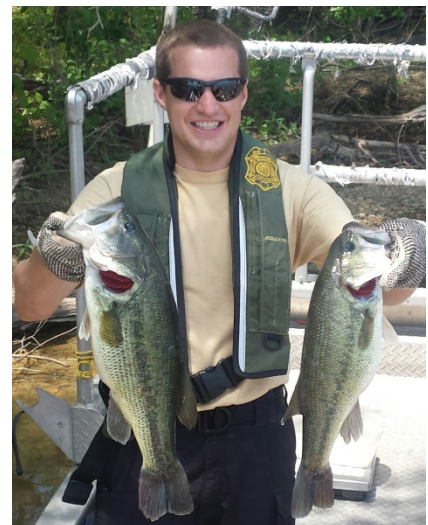
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2018 Kansas City District Largemouth Bass Sampling Summary

Fisheries biologists use a variety of gear to sample fish depending on species, season, and environmental conditions. Every spring, district fisheries biologists around the state use electrofishing boats to assess black bass populations. Black bass sampling is conducted during the spring when the bass are in shallow water and can be caught more efficiently. This sampling allows biologists to assess relative abundance, length structure, and condition of black bass populations. Below is the largemouth bass sampling summary for the Kansas City District in 2018. This information is a good guide to current largemouth bass populations at some area waterbodies. Lake Lenexa currently has a great largemouth bass population, with a really high abundance of 12-15 inch fish. Largemouth bass populations at Miami County SFL, Olathe-Cedar Lake, and Spring Hill City Lake have ideal size structure, with proportionally higher abundances of >15 inch fish.



KDWPT's Chris Tymeson displays a nice Largemouth Bass sampled at Miami SFL



KDWPT's Jaron Cox with two Hillsdale Lunkers

Statewide Bluegill Age and Growth Research



For the past year, KDWPT has been conducting bluegill research on 34 small impoundments statewide evaluating age and growth of bluegill populations. The aim of the research is focused to direct management to increase population size structure and potentially create trophy bluegill fisheries. Kansas City District waterbodies that have been involved with this study are Gardner City Lake, Lake Lenexa, Miami SFL, and Paola City Lake.

The study has shown that bluegill in Kansas' small impoundments grow fast, exceeding ecoregion mean length at age through age 3 or age 4, but annual mortality is high with an average of 64 percent of the population annually (range of 25 percent to 88 percent on study waterbodies). A slot-length limit has been proposed for 2019 on four waterbodies (Jewell SFL, Lake Lenexa, Miami SFL, and Pottawatomie SFL No. 1). The new proposed regulation will have a 6- to 9-inch protected slot length limit

on bluegill, redear sunfish, green sunfish, and their hybrids. In addition, add a five/day creel limit (single species or in combination) for any of these species greater than 9 inches and unlimited creel number for fish under 6 inches. Hopefully this new experimental regulation will lead to development of trophy opportunities and an increase in abundance of bluegill within the slot to improve recreational angling, all while allowing some harvest of bluegill for bait purposes.



Hillsdale Reservoir Habitat Cubes

As noted earlier, 52 Georgia Cube fish habitat structures were constructed and placed at Hillsdale Reservoir in September 2018. Volunteers from the Leavenworth, Olathe, and Kickback Jr. BASS clubs aided in construction and placement of these habitats. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also helped with the placement of cubes. Thank you to all who assisted as the project went smooth and was a complete success.

Following is a list of habitat coordinates for your new fishing hotspot. The locations will be posted online in the future as well as all other habitat locations following this link, <https://www.ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Fishing-Reports>.



Hillsdale Reservoir Habitat Cube Locations

N 38.65095, W 094.92537 (10 cubes)

N 38.66541, W 094.89989 (12 cubes)

N 38.68878, W 094.90406 (12 cubes)

N 38.69112, W 094.89891 (12 cubes)

N 38.68042, W 094.92248 (6 cubes)



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www.ksoutdoors.com

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