

Ellsworth District Fisheries



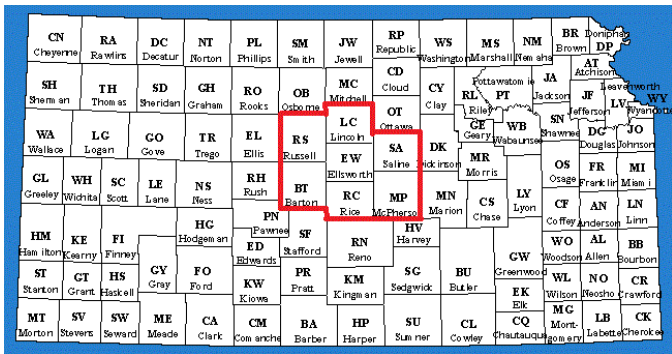
Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Fisheries Division

Fall 2018

District Information

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Counties and Reservoirs



Russell	Wilson Reservoir – 9,000 acres
Lincoln	Only leased F.I.S.H. properties
Saline	Saline State Lake (LOW)
	Lakewood Lake - Salina – 6 acres
	Indian Rock Lake – Salina – 1 acre
Barton	Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area
	Stone Lake – Great Bend - 40 acres
	Veteran’s Lake – Great Bend - 13 acres
Ellsworth	Kanopolis Reservoir – 3,550 acres
	Holyrood City Lake – 13 acres
Rice	Sterling City Lake - 10 acres
McPherson	McPherson State Lake - 47 acres
	Black Kettle State Lake – 8 acres
	Windom City Pond – 1 acre

Note: Keep in mind that there are various Arkansas River access points throughout the region and F.I.S.H. Program properties. The F.I.S.H. Program leases the angling rights from private landowners to allow you to fish their ponds. Get the latest Kansas Fishing Atlas for details.

Summer Weather Conditions

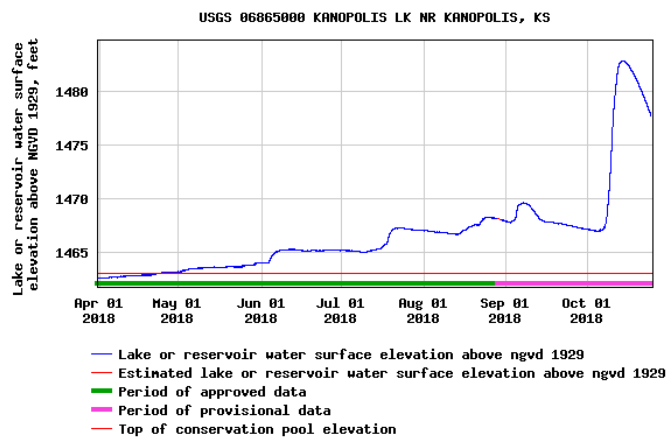
Wilson Reservoir – The reservoir finally filled to conservation pool two years ago (Sept 6, 2016), after falling to a record low of more than 10 feet below conservation pool. Wilson has remained above this elevation for the last two years. Late summer and early fall rains have the reservoir primed going into the winter.



http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/uv/?site_no=06868100&PARAMETER_cd=62614,62615,00054

Kanopolis Reservoir – The water level management plan for Kanopolis allows the lake to fill 4 feet above conservation pool, or to 1467 feet, beginning on March 1. This year, however, the reservoir struggled to reach that level due to a dry spring. Kanopolis finally reached the 1467-foot elevation in late summer. Heavy rains in early October forced the reservoir over 20 feet above conservation pool. Flooded boat ramps have precluded most lake activity for October. Lake levels are slowly falling.





http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ks/nwis/uv?site_no=06865000

Spring Largemouth Bass Samples



The KDWP uses electrofishing boats to sample largemouth bass populations throughout Kansas public lakes. The boat works by putting electricity through the water for a short distance to temporarily stun the fish. Stunned fish will come to the surface for easy collection. Random samples are collected throughout the lake. Fish are measured, weighed, and released unharmed. Remember, these are samples and not indicative of every largemouth bass in the lake. This method of sampling does, however allow us to gain an understanding of how the population is changing from year to year. This allows us to monitor the population and implement appropriate management actions to achieve the best populations for our angling constituents.

Wilson Reservoir

The Wilson Reservoir largemouth bass population has progressed to a very balanced fishery! The lake has remained full for the past two years. A full reservoir with flooded reed grass and terrestrial vegetation is a general recipe for improved black bass populations and we're witnessing it at Wilson Reservoir. Improved numbers are due to successful 2016 stockings and recent reproduction by bass within the population. These fish seem to be growing rapidly. We have seen two-year-old fish measuring 16 inches in length and many of the older

fish that survived the drought are now reaching lengths greater than 20 inches and weighing over 6 pounds!

	2017 sample	2018 sample
Total fish	119	240
8-inch fish	51%	26%
12-inch fish	18%	45%
15-inch fish	31%	28.5%
20-inch fish	0	0.5%

Increased water levels and forage availability have quickly improved the largemouth bass population at Wilson Reservoir. The population is dominated by 2-year-old fish measuring 12-16 inches in length.



Ernesto Flores with a largemouth bass and smallmouth bass collected in the 2018 sample at Wilson Reservoir.

Kanopolis Reservoir

It appears the recent stockings of early-spawned bass have made an early impact on the population. The 2016 stocked fish have made the most impact on the current population. Those fish measure 8-12 inches in their first year (2017) and have now reached sizes of 12-15 inches in their second year. These fish, along with additional stockings in 2017 and 2018, should make Kanopolis a reasonable destination for bass anglers. However, it's uncertain how the recent floods will affect the bass and other sportfish populations.

Note: A different amount of electrofishing effort was used at Kanopolis in 2017 (2017 = 3.1 hours; 2018 = 2.5 hours); therefore, a conversion was used to correct the 2017 sample.

	2017 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	27	50
8-inch fish	44%	21.5%
12-inch fish	37%	52.5%
15-inch fish	19%	26%

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smDb9LRdBSQ&feature=youtu.be>



A small sample of earlier spawned largemouth bass fingerlings stocked into Kanopolis Reservoir in early June, 2017. Nearly 60,000 were stocked.



Ryan Pinkall and Ernesto Flores with largemouth bass sampled at Kanopolis Reservoir in May 2018.

McPherson State Lake

The largemouth bass population at McPherson State Lake continues to be one of the healthiest in the state. Nonetheless, their bellies are usually full which can make them difficult for anglers to catch at times. Our 2018 sample collected an identical number of bass and very similar length group proportions.

	2017 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	193	193
8-inch fish	25.5%	31%
12-inch fish	25%	26%
15-inch fish	47.5%	42%
20-inch fish	>2%	>1%

Great Bend – Stone Lake

Stone Lake, located in southern Great Bend is a nearly 30-acre sand pit that provides good sport fishing opportunities for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, wipers, channel catfish, flathead catfish, and bluegill. Shoreline access is limited and covered with cattails. While these cattails limit shoreline access they provide quality nursery habitat for bluegill and juvenile largemouth bass. Nonetheless, these cattails have been sprayed and are not as thick as they have been and there are plenty of places to bank fish on the north side and a boat ramp for boat anglers. Smallmouth bass aren't overly abundant but there are some quality fish to be caught. The population of largemouth bass has improved dramatically, but is partly due to the use of a more efficient electrofishing boat. The population is healthy and full of potential.

Note: A different amount of electrofishing effort was used at Stone Lake in 2017 (2017 = 1.0 hours; 2018 = 0.9 hours); therefore, a conversion was used to correct the 2018 sample.

	2017 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	129	127
8-inch fish	61%	71%
12-inch fish	25%	26%
15-inch fish	14%	3%
20-inch fish	0%	0%



A sample of largemouth bass collected from Stone Lake in May, 2018.

Great Bend – Veteran’s Lake

Veteran’s Lake, located on the NW corner of McKinley and 17th Street is a 13-acre community lake. Veteran’s Lake has been plagued with blue-green algae over the years but due to recent aluminum sulfate treatments, the water quality has improved and fish management has resumed. Due to recent fish kills the largemouth bass population has been non-existent. The city stocked 100, 9-inch bass in 2016. We collected nearly 50 of these in our 2017 sample. The 2018 sample was encouraging and showed that most of these fish have grown past 12 inches in length in their second year.

	2017 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	50	95
8-inch fish	93.5%	30%
12-inch fish	4.5%	59%
15-inch fish	0%	11%
20-inch fish	2%	0%

Black Kettle State Lake

This 8-acre state fishing lake is located on the southern edge of McPherson County just east of Moundridge off I-135. It is a shallow lake that includes a boat ramp on the south side. The lake contains a good largemouth bass population consisting of many fish from 2-4 pounds and is stocked annually with channel catfish.

Note: A different amount of electrofishing effort was used at Black Kettle in 2018 (2016 = 0.85 hours; 2018 = 0.58 hours); therefore, a conversion was used to correct the 2018 sample.

	2016 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	34	45
juveniles	29%	10%
8-inch fish	12%	13%
12-inch fish	15%	29%
15-inch fish	38%	48%
20-inch fish	6%	0%

Holyrood City Lake

Holyrood City Lake is located 10 miles north of Holyrood or approximately 7 miles SSE of Wilson. The lake was renovated throughout the 2000s but never filled with enough water to begin stocking fish until 2014. The lake filled in 2017 and now provides quality bluegill,

largemouth bass, and channel catfish angling opportunities. Holyrood almost went dry in the summer but late summer and early fall rains filled it before we lost many fish. **Due to poor sampling conditions, Holyrood was not sampled in 2018.**

	2017 Sample
Total fish	79
8-inch fish	57.5%
12-inch fish	34.5%
15-inch fish	8%
20-inch fish	0%

The Holyrood City Lake 2017 largemouth bass sample yielded mostly young fish as the fish were first stocked in 2013-2014.



Tommie Berger and Riggs Walter showing off 2 largemouth bass sampled at Holyrood City Lake in May, 2017.

Sterling City Lake

Sterling City Lake is a 9-acre community lake located within the City of Sterling in Rice County. An algae bloom-induced fish kill in 2013 mostly eliminated the largemouth bass population within the lake. Subsequent stocking of bass and forage has these fish extremely healthy and growing well.

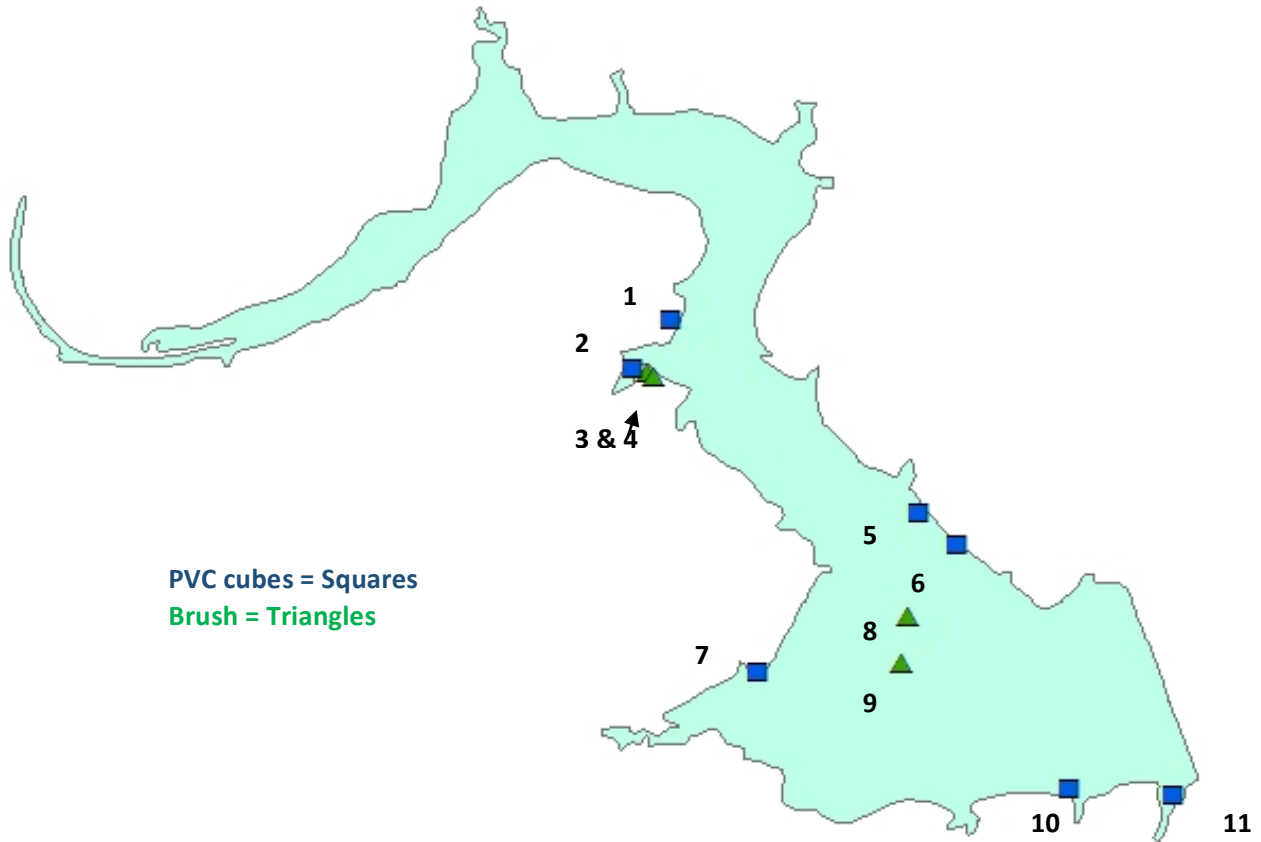
Note: A different amount of electrofishing effort was used at Sterling City Lake in 2018 (2017 = 0.7 hours; 2018 = 0.5 hours); therefore, a conversion was used to correct the 2018 sample.

	2017 Sample	2018 Sample
Total fish	98	87
8-inch fish	33%	8%
12-inch fish	54%	58%
15-inch fish	13%	34%
20-inch fish	0%	0%

The largemouth bass population at Sterling City Lake is growing. The 2018 sample indicates that most fish are now greater than 12” inches and 34% are now above the statewide 15-inch length limit.

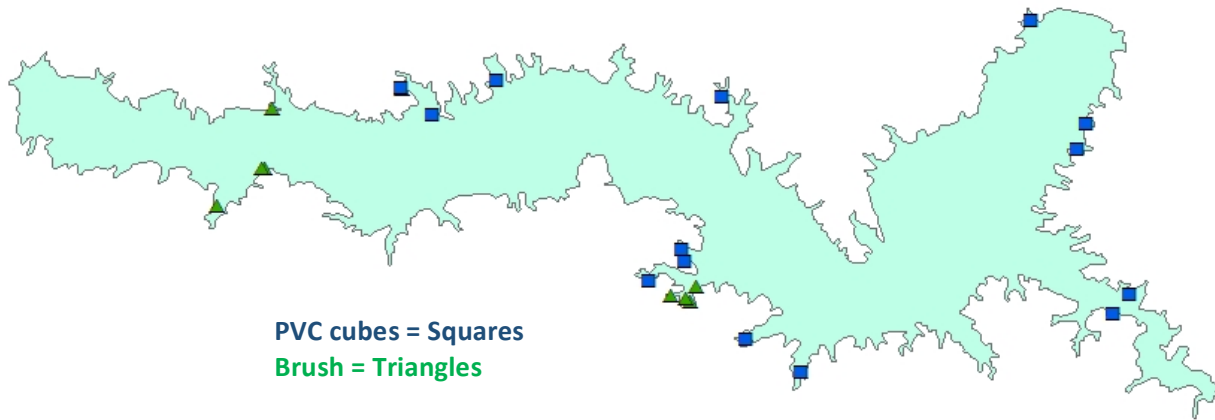
NEW FISH ATTRACTOR MAPS

Kanopolis Reservoir Fish Attractors (2015 – 2018)



#	N-latitude DMS format	W-longitude DMS format	Longitude DD format	Latitude DD format	Type	# of structures	Date
1	38° 39' 2.52"	98° 0' 49.32"	-98.0137	38.6507	PVC cubes	14	2016
2	38° 38' 46.356"	98° 1' 2.28"	-98.0173	38.64621	PVC cubes	10	2016
3	38° 38' 45.276"	98° 0' 57.24"	-98.0159	38.64591	Brush	-	2016
4	38° 38' 43.872"	98° 0' 55.439"	-98.0154	38.64552	Brush	-	2016
5	38° 37' 58.62"	97° 59' 27.599"	-97.991	38.63295	PVC cubes	5	2018
6	38° 37' 48.18"	97° 59' 14.639"	-97.9874	38.63005	PVC cubes	20	2018
7	38° 37' 5.88"	98° 0' 20.879"	-98.0058	38.6183	PVC cubes	22	2018
8	38° 37' 24.492"	97° 59' 30.84"	-97.9919	38.62347	Cubes & brush	20+	2018
9	38° 37' 8.832"	97° 59' 33.359"	-97.9926	38.61912	Cubes & brush	10+	2018
10	38° 36' 27.54"	97° 58' 37.2"	-97.977	38.60765	PVC cubes	13	2018
11	38° 36' 24.948"	97° 58' 2.639"	-97.9674	38.60693	PVC cubes	10	2016

Wilson Reservoir Fish Attractors (2012 – 2018)



Longitude	Latitude	Type	# of structures	Date
-98.55535	38.92447	brush pile	NA	2015
-98.55625	38.92205	brush pile	NA	2015
-98.55698	38.92247	brush pile	NA	2015
-98.5594	38.92307	brush pile	NA	2015
-98.62053	38.95173	brush pile	NA	2018
-98.62185	38.94242	brush pile	NA	2018
-98.62221	38.94249	brush pile	NA	2017
-98.60059	38.95458	brush pile	NA	2017
-98.62906	38.93675	brush pile	NA	2017
-98.53945	38.91135	PVC Cubes	20	2018
-98.5478	38.91637	PVC Cubes	14	2018
-98.55768	38.93	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.55727	38.92837	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.4969	38.94552	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.58617	38.95602	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.59617	38.95067	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.48895	38.92315	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.50407	38.96522	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.49557	38.94933	PVC Cubes	NA	2015
-98.55145	38.95341	PVC Cubes	10	2015
-98.56281	38.92525	PVC Cubes	4	2017
-98.60088	38.95494	PVC Cubes	6	2017
-98.49133	38.92018	PVC Cubes	7	2017

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