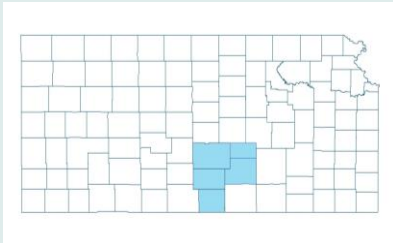


FALL 2019

CHENEY DISTRICT FISHERIES

Volume 10, Issue 1



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In February earlier this year, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism staff mourned the loss of Andrew Schaefer. Andrew served as the Cheney District Fisheries Biologist and a friend to many of his colleagues. He was dedicated to his job and was passionate about the outdoors. A memorial has been established in his Honor. May he rest in peace.



INTRODUCTION

Hello, my name is Micah Waters and I am the new District Fisheries Biologist for the Cheney district which includes Kingman, Harper, Harvey, Reno, and Sedgwick counties. As a native of Goddard KS, I grew up fishing many of the lakes I now have the privilege of managing. I attended Kansas State University where I earned a bachelor's degree in Fisheries biology. While attending K-State I worked in the fish ecology lab assisting with research on aquatic invertebrates and stream fish. I also assisted the Manhattan district biologist Ely Sprenkle who showed me the ropes of fisheries management. Upon graduating, I migrated south to take a position with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife in their Fisheries Research Lab. While doing research in OK was a lot of fun, I couldn't be more excited to be back in my hometown managing the lakes I fished as a child and where I will teach my son to fish.



FISHING PROGRAMS

Master Angler Award Program

Are you a Master Angler? Prove it! Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism has a program called the Master Angler Award Program. If you catch a fish in Kansas large enough to qualify, you will receive a Master Angler Award certificate! Certified catches will also be featured in future newsletters for extra bragging rights! Sizes of each species as well as a certificate application form can be found here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Master-Angler-Award-Program>

Trout Program

Trout season starts November 1st and runs through April 15th. For more information on the Trout program including stocking locations and stocking dates click here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Trout-Fishing-Program>

Remember that KDOT East, Vic's Lake, and Slough Creek are Type 1 trout waters and all anglers fishing those waters November 1st - April 15th must have a trout permit.



500lbs of Channel Catfish being stocked into KDOT East lake Aug 16th, 2019.

Urban Fishing Program

KDWP&T has created the Urban Stocking Program to provide local fishing opportunities. Adult sized Channel Catfish (3/4lb-3lbs) are stocked in many public waters in Reno and Sedgwick counties. These fish are harvestable size and ready to catch. For more information on stocking locations and dates click here:

<https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Urban-Fishing-Program>

SAMPLING RESULTS*

*The data shown in these results was collected in 2018 by Andrew Schaefer RIP.

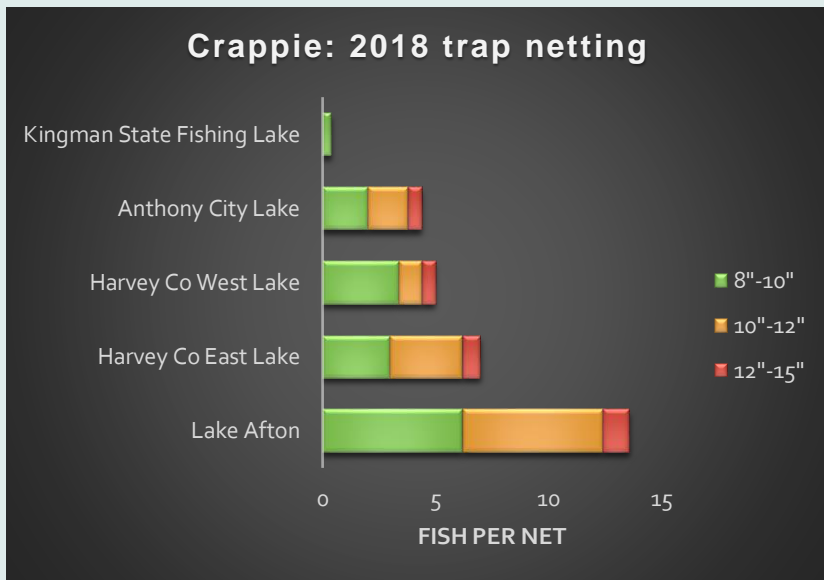


Figure 1. Crappie size classes sampled per trap net. Fall 2018.

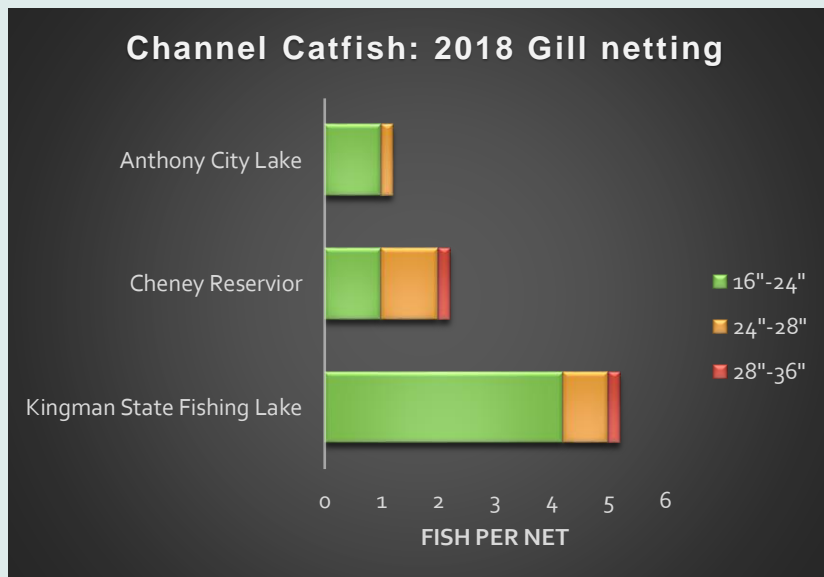


Figure 2. Channel Catfish size classes sampled per gill net. Fall 2018.

2018 Netting results

Crappie populations were sampled via trap nets in the fall of 2018 at Kingman State Fishing Lake, Anthony City Lake, Harvey Co East and West Lakes, and Lake Afton. Figure 1 shows the numbers of Quality fish (>8in) caught per net broken down into different size classes. Lake Afton had the highest numbers of Crappie per net in each size class above 8 inches.

Channel Catfish populations at Anthony City Lake, Cheney Reservoir, and Kingman State Fishing Lake were sampled using gill nets. Figure 2 shows the numbers of Quality fish (>16in) caught per net broken down into different size classes. Of the three water bodies sampled, Kingman State Fishing Lake had more fish per net over 16 inches while Cheney had more fish per net over 24 inches.

SAMPLING RESULTS

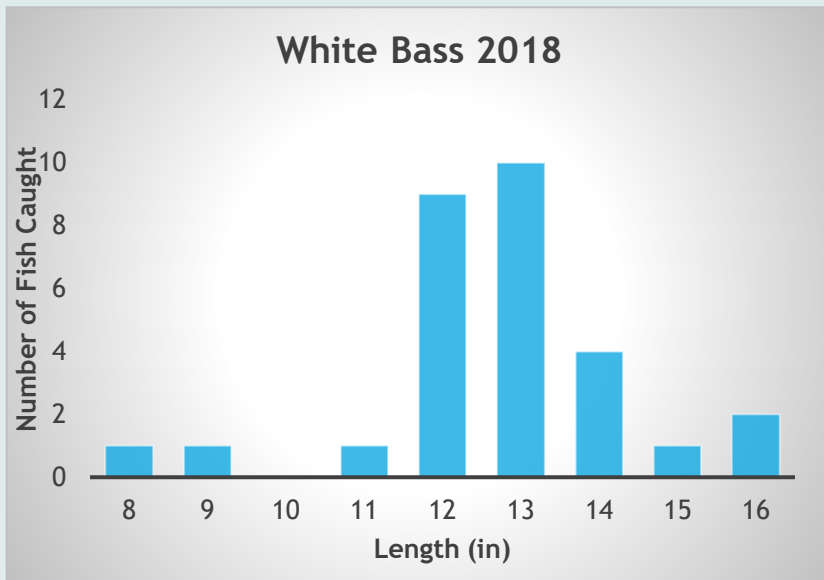


Figure 3. White Bass size structure from fall gill netting at Cheney reservoir in 2018.



Figure 4. Wiper size structure from fall gill netting at Cheney reservoir in 2018.

2018 Netting: Cheney

The White Bass population at Cheney was last sampled in the fall of 2018 using gill nets. Figure 3 shows the size structure of White Bass with the majority over 12 inches up to 16 inches. The numbers of bigger White Bass that were seen in 2017 were not seen in 2018. The upcoming 2019 netting will determine if the 12-14in fish from 2018 have grown to larger sizes.

There are good numbers of Wipers in Cheney as seen by the fall gill netting in 2018. Figure 4 shows the size structure of Wipers. While many fish were sub-legal in 2018, it is possible that those fish may have grown to legal size by now as Wiper fishing at Cheney is good right now with lots of decent sized fish being caught. The 21in minimum length limit of Wipers at Cheney is to help control White Perch in the reservoir.

SAMPLING RESULTS

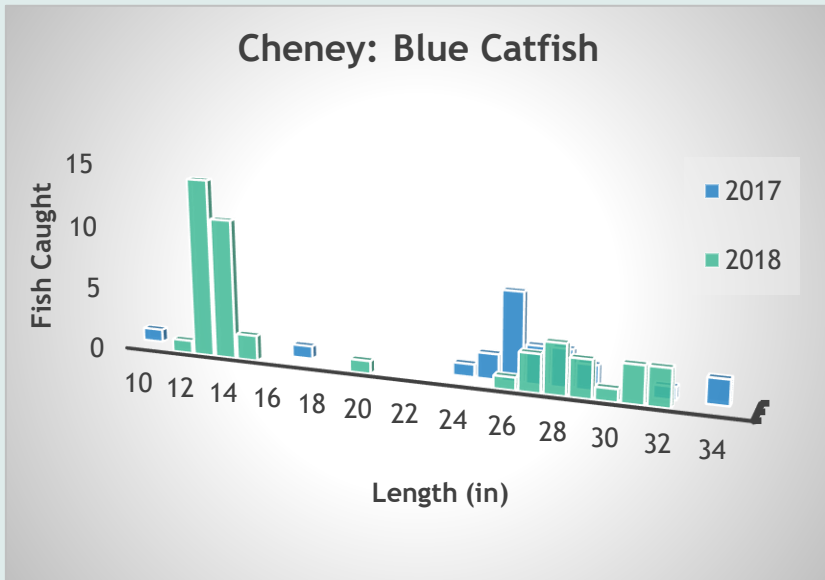


Figure 5. Blue Catfish size structure from Electrofishing at Cheney reservoir in both 2017 and 2018.

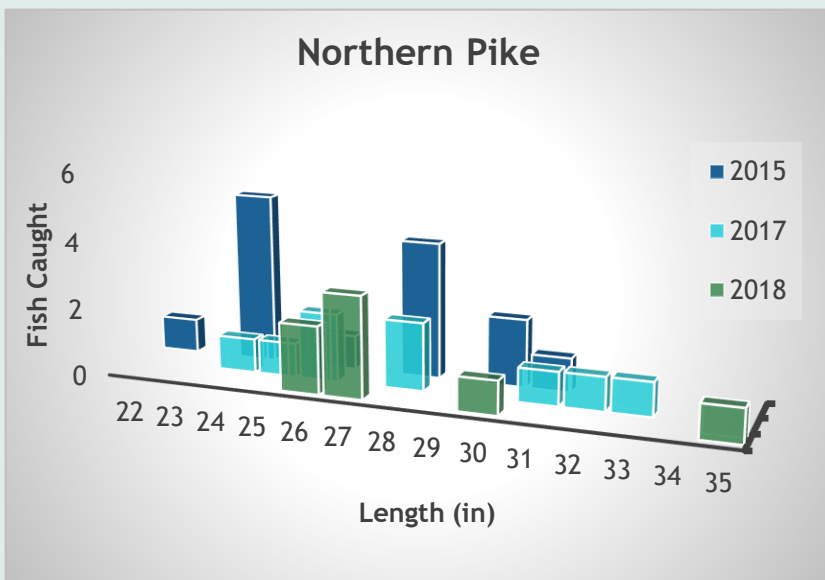


Figure 6. Northern Pike size structures from fall gill netting at Kingman State Fishing Lake from 2015 to 2018.

2018 Species Highlights

Blue Catfish were sampled at Cheney reservoir in 2017 and 2018 with Low Frequency electrofishing. Figure 5 shows the size structure of Blue Catfish sampled in both 2017 and 2018. 2018 showed more fish 12-15 inches in length that were not present in 2017. While this may look like a good sign for the future, there still has been no documentation of Blue catfish reproducing in Cheney and these “smaller” fish are likely a result of stocking. Ideally, Blue Catfish need to be naturally reproducing to produce a healthy population.

Kingman State Fishing Lake has a small population of Northern Pike. This population was sampled with gill nets in 2015, 2017, and 2018. Figure 6 shows the size structure over those years shifting toward fewer but larger fish. This is because Northern Pike are not reproducing in Kingman. This may be due a lack of habitat during infrastructure projects or turbid waters caused by an abundance of Common Carp in the lake. If habitat conditions improve, hopefully we will see Northern Pike reproducing again.

Spread the word!

If you know someone who would be interested in receiving this newsletter, they can do so by clicking here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/News/Newsletter-Request-Forms> and then selecting Cheney Fishing District. If you would no longer like to receive this newsletter, you can do so here: <https://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Contact-us> and put “unsubscribe Cheney District Fisheries Newsletter”. If you would like to see something different in future newsletters, please feel free to contact me.

Go rip some lip!



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Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!

