

Dodge City District Fisheries

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

Spring 2020

Kansas Master Angler Program

Whether you take some fish home to eat or practice catch and release, all anglers enjoy preserving the memories of special catches. A neat way to remember your biggest catches is to get a Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT) Master Angler Award.

The Master Angler Award program recognizes anglers' catches that meet or exceed minimum lengths for 36 fish species. A Master Angler Award application form is also available on page 39 in the 2020 Kansas Fishing Regulations Summary, and at www.ksoutdoors.com under Special Fishing Programs.



Baylee Tisdale with a 24.25-inch master angler largemouth bass she caught at Centennial Pond in Pratt on August 18, 2019.

If you catch a fish, by any legal means, that is at least as large as the lengths shown below, you are entitled to a Master Angler Award. Measurements are in inches.

When a fish that meets the requirement is caught, for example a 16-inch white bass, the angler must measure it and take a color photograph. In case of doubt, contact a local Wildlife and Parks employee. Then, mail the completed application and photograph to Education and Public Affairs or Information Services, KDWPT, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt, KS, 67124. A digital image and application can be emailed to annie.fischer@ks.gov. When the species is confirmed, a certificate suitable for framing will be mailed to the applicant.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Inches</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Inches</u>
Bass, Largemouth	23	Gar	48
Bass, Smallmouth	18	Goldeye	15
Bass, Spotted	18	Paddlefish	41
Bass, Striped	35	Perch, Yellow	12
Bass, Warmouth	10	Pike, Northern	34
Bass, White	16	Sauger	20
Bluegill	10	Saugeye	24
Buffalo, Bigmouth	30	Sturgeon, Shovelnose	25
Buffalo, Smallmouth	30	Sunfish, Green	11
Carp	30	Sunfish, Hybrid (green/bluegill)	12
Catfish, Blue	37	Sunfish, Redear	11
Catfish, Bullhead	15	Trout	20
Catfish, Channel	33	Walleye	27
Catfish, Flathead	41	White Amur (Grass Carp)	34
Drum	25	Wiper	25
Yellow Bass	11	Crappie (black and white)	15
Eel, American	30		

A Master Angler Award is a great way to remember your biggest fish, and since fish that meet or exceed the minimum lengths are considered trophy-sized, each certificate you earn is a testament to your angling skill.



Habitat Structures at Horsethief

On Wednesday March 12, all the fish management guys in western Kansas converged in Scott City. The mission was to load a bunch of donated 8-inch pvc irrigation pipe that was no longer being used and convert it to fish habitat throughout western Kansas.



Loads of pvc pipe loaded for destinations throughout western Kansas.



Game wardens Matt Hanvey and Tanner Dixon helping unload at the Dodge City office.

In the Dodge City district, the intent is to build structures that imitate trees. These structures will be anchored in various water depths in several lakes in southwest Kansas. For now, sizes will range from 3 to 10 feet in height and the structures will be deployed in groups of 3 to 5 structures per location.

Currently, we anticipate placing these structures in Horsethief Reservoir as well as Clark, Meade and Ford state fishing lakes.



Meade State Fishing Lake

The first state lake in Kansas, Meade Lake is an oasis in the agricultural lands of Southwest Kansas. Year in and year out some of the biggest largemouth bass that we sample come from Meade SFL. In addition to largemouth bass, channel catfish, bluegill, white crappie and flathead catfish are popular with anglers. In 2017, saugeye were stocked in Meade SFL to act as a biological control on the stunted white crappie population. This species should provide a welcome new component to the anglers.

The table below shows the number of fish that have been stocked into Meade SFL since 2017.

Species	Size	Number
Channel catfish	Intermediates (approx. 3/lb.)	16,588
Channel catfish	Adult (1 lb. or larger)	200
Bluegill/Green sunfish hybrid	Adult	163
Redear sunfish	Fingerlings	19,618
Saugeye	Fry	8,000
Saugeye	Fingerlings	3750

Meade State Fishing Lake and State Park is located twelve miles southwest of Meade on Highway K23. The lake and state park total 443 acres and provides visitors with fishing, camping and swimming. Boating is restricted to fishing boats, and campers can enjoy electrical hookups, a dumping station, bathhouses and a beach.

From April 15 to October 15, Meade State park is open to accommodate campers, fishermen and park users. Vehicle and camping permits are available at the park office along with fishing licenses, hunting licenses, and 30-day boating permits. A boat ramp is located on the east/southeast side of the lake.



Spring 2020 Water levels in southwest Kansas

It has not been a very wet winter this year but our water levels in southwest Kansas are in pretty good condition as we move into springtime. Water levels in some of our State fishing lakes and larger Community Lakes as of **March 5, 2020**, can be seen below. The numbers in parentheses are the surface acreage when the lakes are full and at conservation pool.

State Fishing Lakes	Community Lakes
Barber State Fishing Lake – (51) - Full	Coldwater City Lake – (250) – Full
Clark State Fishing Lake – (337) – 9 feet low	Jetmore City Lake – (110) – Full
Concannon State Fishing Lake – (50) – dry	Pratt County Lake – (51) – Full
Ford State Lake – (40) – 2 feet low	Larned City Pond – (2) - Full
Goodman State Lake – (40) acres – Full	HorseThief Reservoir – (450) – 1 foot low
Hain State Fishing Lake – (53) - 20 feet low	
Kiowa State Fishing Lake - 21 acres - Full	
Meade State Lake – (80) - Full	



A RECENT STUDY FOUND THAT
PEOPLE WHO GO FISHING



CATCH MORE FISH THAN THOSE
WHO DON'T GO FISHING



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

Please remember:

CLEAN • DRAIN • DRY

Boats and Equipment

www.kdwp.state.ks.us

