

MILFORD DISTRICT FISHERIES NEWSLETTER

KDWPT

Fisheries Division

Fall 2020

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Fishing Pressure Remains High During Pandemic

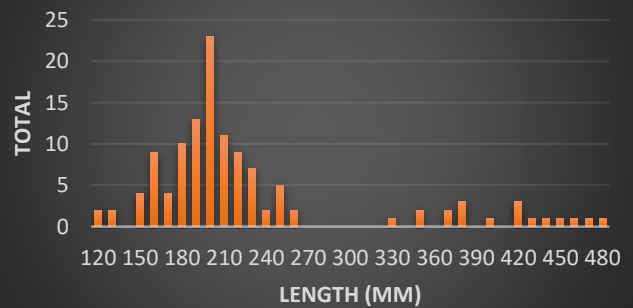
As the COVID-19 pandemic swept across the globe, our typical way of life was drastically changed with stay-at-home orders, working from home, online education, and wearing of masks. While social distancing became a common practice, the outdoors was a great escape for many people across the country. Kansas waterbodies were heavily utilized across the state throughout the spring and summer months. Several species (i.e., crappies and catfish) provided excellent angling opportunities for those looking for much needed recreation.

Milford Reservoir Results

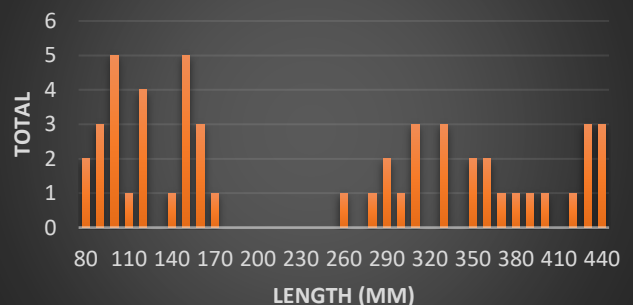
Largemouth bass catch rates (fish/hr) were the highest in 2020 over the past five years with 120 individuals collected. However, only 10% of those collected individuals were above 15". The largest fish sampled was 4.68 lbs. Smallmouth bass

catch rates (fish/hr) have remained consistent over the past five years. 51 individuals were collected in 2020 with 20% of those fish above 15". The largest fish was 2.51 lbs. Spotted bass remain in low abundance with only 12 individuals being collected. No fish were collected over 15".

Largemouth Bass

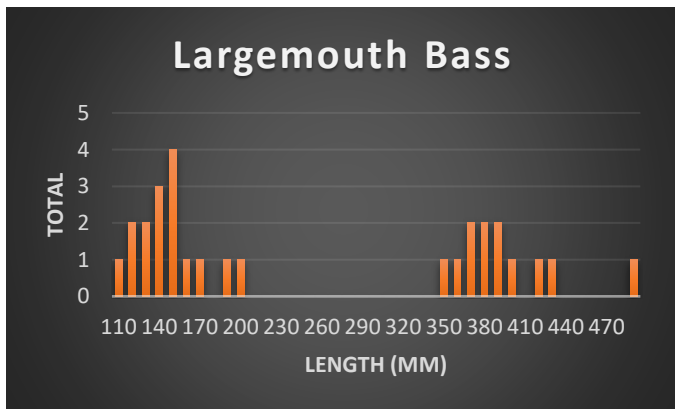


Smallmouth Bass



Geary State Fishing Lake Results

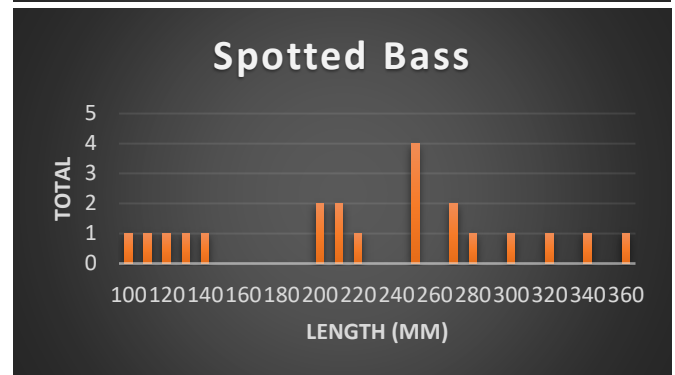
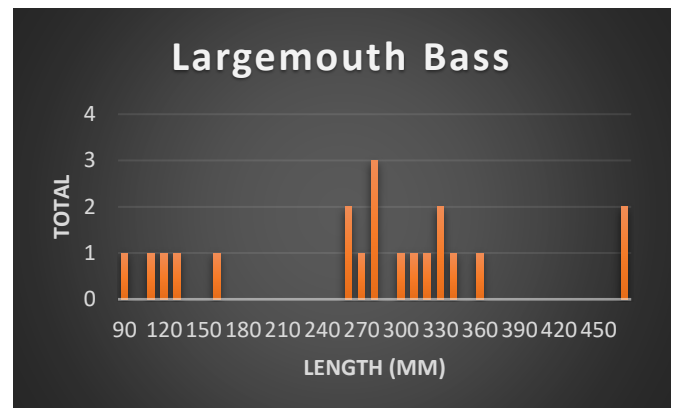
Largemouth bass catch rates (fish/hr) in 2020 were the second lowest in the past five years. However, 29% of the 28 individuals collected were above 15". While catch rates were lower, larger fish were being collected which can be enticing to anglers. The largest fish collected was 3.19 lbs. Smallmouth bass continue to remain in low abundance, and only one smallmouth bass was collected which weighed 1.98 lbs.



Clint Thornton, KDWPT wildlife biologist, pictured with a nice largemouth bass from Geary State Fishing Lake

Council Grove City Lake Results

Largemouth bass catch rates (fish/hr) have remained consistent over the past five years. 20 individuals were collected with four of those fish in the 13"-18" protected slot and two fish above 18". The largest fish collected was 3.52 lbs. Spotted bass catch rates (fish/hr) were the second highest in the past five years. 21 individuals were collected. However, no fish was collected over 15". The largest fish collected was 1.21 lbs.



Milford Reservoir Habitat Locations

Twenty-six Fishing artificial habitat structures were placed in Rush Creek at Milford Reservoir. These structures are aimed to provide additional habitat for fish

where natural habitat is lacking. The locations are listed below.

Milford Reservoir habitat locations		
Set of 4	N 39°07.168'	W 96°53.304'
Set of 3	N 39°07.244'	W 96°53.423'
Set of 2	N 39°07.168'	W 96°53.583'
Set of 3	N 39°07.223'	W 96°53.774'
Set of 3	N 39°07.229'	W 96°53.336'
1 structure	N 39°07.120'	W 96°53.546'
Set of 2	N 39°06.944'	W 96°53.881'
Set of 3	N 39°06.908'	W 96°53.713'
Set of 3	N 39°06.832'	W 96°53.707'
Set of 2	N 39°07.138'	W 96°53.611'



Brett Andersen, volunteer, deploying Fishiding habitat in Milford Reservoir



KDWPT Keeping an “Eye” on Goldeye

A new research project is being conducted at Milford Reservoir. Two of our staff from our research office in Emporia and myself are taking a closer look at an understudied species in Kansas. The goldeye is a species native to the Kansas River drainage and commonly found in Milford and Lovewell Reservoirs. We wanted to investigate some life history characteristics of these fish including age, growth, size structure, and body condition to name a few. This information will provide fisheries biologists a basic understanding of this species and the role they play in Milford Reservoir. Future studies may investigate if blue catfish utilize goldeye as a prey source.



My Final Thoughts

While we continue to live through this pandemic, I hope everyone stays safe and healthy during this time. I encourage anglers to continue to enjoy the outdoor opportunities that Kansas works hard to provide with the fall quickly approaching. If possible, take a kid fishing! They are the future to one of our favorite pastimes. Also, keep an eye out for tagged blue catfish on Milford Reservoir! If you want anymore information please feel free to visit our website at <http://ksoutdoors.com/>. Have fun and good fishing!

