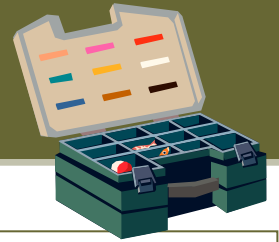


LAWRENCE DISTRICT NEWS



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2010 Fishing Outlook

Clinton Reservoir

White crappie numbers at Clinton continue to be lower than normal. Good production occurred in 08 and 09. These young crappie should help rebuild the fishery as they grow and mature. Currently, Clinton has some big fish over 12" and smaller fish below 10", with few crappie in between. High numbers of channel catfish (#1 Statewide Ranking) were sampled. Most channel catfish are 16-20" in length. Baiting with soybeans in the summer yields many limits of catfish. Good numbers of white bass are present at Clinton, but most are young and small (9-12"). Once these fish get a little growth, look-out it should be good! Wiper continue to maintain and grow, all fish exceed 15" with 4% over 20". Walleye numbers are up dramatically at Clinton. The 09 sample number exceeded the goal by 50%. Most of



these fish resulted from an excellent year class established in 2008. These fish have grown exceptionally well, almost half exceed 15" already.

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Douglas State Fishing Lake

Douglas reopened to fishing January 2009, after being closed for an extended time for renovation. The lake contains high numbers of small largemouth bass. Good numbers of quality bluegill are present, some of which exceed 8" in length. Redear sunfish numbers



are good, but fish need to grow. Channel catfish numbers and sizes are good. Black crappie adults were stocked during the fall of 08 to establish the population. Black crappie spawned the following spring, as young crappie were sampled in fall 09. Fish populations at Douglas are young and still developing and will be for the next 2-5 years. Eventually a good all around fishery should develop.

Miami State Fishing Lake

Fishing for largemouth bass, crappie and channel catfish should be good this year. About 31% of bass sampled were in the 15-20" length range. Almost ¼ of all crappie sampled were in the 10-12" range. Around



1/3 of channel catfish collected were 16-24" in length. All species exhibited good condition, obviously benefiting from good gizzard shad production over the past 2 years.

Leavenworth State Fishing Lake

Largemouth bass, channel catfish, and walleye were rated good according to 2009 samples. Bass numbers continued to remain high, with most fish measuring 12-15" long. High numbers of channel catfish were netted, with 30% present in 16-24" and 15% in 24-28" ranges, respectively. Seven feeders dot the lake, dispensing 12,000 lbs of feed from the first of May through mid September. Many catfish are taken off feeders. Eighty percent of walleye netted exceeded the 15" minimum length limit.



Lonestar Lake

The good news at Lonestar is the largemouth bass fishery is still going strong, with high numbers of quality fish. Largemouth bass virus was detected at this lake in 08, but to date the virus has not negatively impacted the population. The



channel catfish population provides a good fishery with 38% of fish exceeding 16" in length. Channel catfish up to 10 lbs were sampled. High numbers of wiper were netted indicating the population has rebounded after many were flushed out in 07.

Lake Miola

Lake Miola posted a record sample catch rate of 194/hr for largemouth bass, normally anything above 70-75 can be considered decent. Good reproduction and high survival of young bass has increased numbers. Bluegill and crappie exhibited moderate numbers and average size characteristics. White bass numbers have increased, but most fish are less than 12" in length.



Rainbow Trout

One more trout stocking this spring is scheduled for Auburndale Park Stream in Topeka, and Lake Henry at Clinton State Park. This stocking should be completed mid March, with the spring season ending April 15. Lake Shawnee received 7000 lbs of trout February 27 and the lake will reopen for fishing at 6 AM March 6. Trout fishing can be a welcome respite from cabin fever, something that I think we all have suffered from this year. Trout love cold water and are very active this time of year. So if you are in need of a fishing fix to help kick the winter blues, give trout angling a try. Be sure to pick up your trout permit. Check out the State record!



Lake Shawnee

Good numbers and sizes (up to 7.6 lbs) of largemouth bass were sampled in 09 and should continue to provide good angling. Channel catfish numbers were moderate with 57% exceeding 16" in length. White and black crappie were present in low to moderate numbers, with most larger adults measuring 8-10" in length. Good size characteristics and moderate numbers exist for bluegill. White bass numbers shot up in 09, and 20% exceed 12" in length. Wiper numbers rebounded in 09, after 2 low catch years due to largescale flushing in 07. Wiper of varied sizes were present up to 25" in length. Moderate numbers of walleye were collected, likewise quality was fair, as 31% exceeded 15" in length.

Paddlefish Season

Paddlefish season opens March 15 and ends May 15. The area in my District open to paddlefish snagging is on the Marais des Cygnes River below Osawatomie Dam. A paddlefish permit (\$12.50, youth \$7.50) is required and includes 6 carcass tags. The daily creel limit is 2 paddlefish, and there is a 34" minimum length limit (measured from the eye to the fork in the tail) at this location. Paddlefish may be snagged using pole and line with not more than two single or treble hooks. Anglers must stop snagging once the daily creel limit for paddlefish is reached. Non sport fish (carp, drum, grass carp, gizzard shad, goldfish, gar, suckers including carpsucker and buffalo, goldeye, and bowfin) may be snagged in waters posted open to snagging during the paddlefish season.