

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT FISHING NEWSLETTER

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Special Points of Interest:

- *Fall netting at Cedar Lake surprised us with a "bruiser of a saugeye"*
- *Water level management plan may improve sport fish populations at Middle Creek SFL*
- *CFAP grant used to purchase buoys at Gardner City Lake*

BIOLOGIST NOTES

Welcome readers to a new year and a new fishing season! After hours behind the computer analyzing and reviewing data, I think we have a good year of fishing opportunities ahead of us. Be sure to pick up brochure or visit our website for the 2011 Fishing Forecast and the 2011 Fishing Atlas to see where you want to try this year. In the picture, a high school student interested in fisheries biology volunteered to help us with fall netting at Cedar Lake in Olathe. We were a little surprised to see that bruiser of a saugeye. As usual with the start of a new fishing season, there are many things to keep me busy. Our walleye egg collection project will be conducted at Hillsdale Reservoir again this year. The walleye pop-

ulation continues to be a great resource for statewide walleye management. I hired two new temporary employees for the upcoming summer. Both of the employees are college students trying to get experience to pursue careers in fisheries. I am excited to work with them, and using their assistance I hope we can work on a few extra projects. The fishing clinic season is quickly approaching and is looking to be a busy one for us this year. We have over 40 fishing clinics scheduled for the summer and the calls keep coming. These clinics are very important as we believe Kansas youth are the next generation of anglers in our state. We need to be sure they have the skills to enjoy the many aquatic

resources Kansas has to offer with an understanding of how to respect the resources. The early-spawned largemouth bass project will continue this year at Hillsdale Reservoir. Hopefully, the largemouth bass cooperate at Meade hatchery again this year and we receive another round of early-spawned bass fry. If it works as planned, this project will help improve the largemouth bass angling opportunities at Kansas reservoirs. Stay tuned for more details on the project. Good luck and good fishing in 2011!



Alex, a high school student interested in fisheries biology, holds a nice saugeye captured during fall netting at Cedar Lake in Olathe.





Justin holding a pair of largemouth bass from spring electrofishing 2010.

OUTLOOK: HILLSDALE RESERVOIR

Hillsdale Reservoir should offer good fishing opportunities in 2011. Below is the fishing forecast for some of the popular sport fish in Hillsdale Reservoir.

Walleye: FAIR/GOOD. Catch rate during fall netting was only four fish per net night. However, observations made during spring electrofishing surveys and walleye egg collection indicate that there are still good numbers of walleye in Hillsdale Reservoir. If you are interested in walleye angling at Hillsdale, you might consider trolling a crankbait along the dam during the spring and then switching to a jig tipped with a night crawler on the flats during the summer. Two popular flats for walleye angling include the large flat off the Hillsdale Point area and a smaller flat located near Williams Point in the Big Bull arm.

White crappie: GOOD. Good numbers of crappie were captured during fall netting in 2010. Most of the crappies are 9-11 inches in length. We will

continue to collect age and growth information from the crappie population to monitor the effects of the 10-inch minimum length limit regulation. Jigs fished over the many brush piles in the lake can offer good crappie fishing opportunities. Also, try fishing along the rocky shoreline habitat with small twisters during the spawn.

Channel catfish: FAIR/GOOD. Our catch rate of channel catfish was six fish per net night and 69 percent of the channel catfish we captured were over 16 inches in length. Our largest channel catfish captured during fall netting was 10.5 pounds. Besides the normal tactics such as stink bait or liver, try fishing with gizzard shad sides along windswept banks.

White bass: FAIR/GOOD. Catch rate of white bass during fall netting was nine fish per net night and most of the white bass were 12 to 15 inches in length. Body condition of white bass was average. If you are interested in fishing for white bass at Hillsdale Reservoir try a

jig or crankbait along mainlake points or near the Tontzville causeway in the Little Bull arm.

Largemouth bass: FAIR. Catch rate of largemouth bass was 17 fish per hour of electrofishing. However, increased water levels during sampling may have affected our catch rate. A project aimed at improving the largemouth bass population is in progress, so stay tuned. Jigs fished near the brushpiles can offer some largemouth bass angling opportunities and top water lures fished in the water willow in late summer can provide some fun bass fishing.

OUTLOOK: MIDDLE CREEK STATE FISHING LAKE

Below is the 2011 fishing forecast for Middle Creek State Fishing Lake. A water level management plan aimed at improving sport fish populations has been completed for this property.

Saugeye: FAIR. Low to moderate numbers of saugeye will offer limited saugeye angling opportunities in 2011. Try fishing a crankbait along the submerged roadbed or along mainlake points.

White bass: FAIR. 2010 was a good production year for white bass. Try fishing a shad-imitation crankbait along mainlake points for white bass.

Wiper: FAIR. Low numbers of wipers were captured during 2010. However, size structure is dominated by large individuals, so be ready for a fight if you hook into one of these creatures.

Channel catfish: FAIR/GOOD. Fall netting indicated a moderate abundance of channel catfish. Large fish are available (see picture). The fish feeder near the boat ramp is a popular catfishing location.

Largemouth bass: FAIR. Spring electrofishing indicated a moderate abundance of largemouth bass. Try fishing finesse plastics along the water willow.



A nice channel catfish captured during fall netting 2010 at Middle Creek.

CFAP STORIES: GARDNER RECEIVES GRANT FOR LAKE BUOYS

Gardner City Lake is a 100-acre impoundment located just outside of Gardner. This lake is a popular boating location for Gardner Lake Association (GLA) residents and for the public. In an effort to minimize shoreline erosion due to wave action from boats, the city of Gardner has a boat speed limit of 10 mph. In 2010, the GLA approached the city of Gardner with concerns that some boaters may not be aware of this regulation and presented the idea of installing lake buoys to increase awareness. Since city funds for projects are limited, the city of Gardner decided to apply for a competitive grant offered by KDWP for city governments enrolled in the CFAP program. The Gardner grant application was selected to receive funding for this project. The city of Gardner will use the grant funds to purchase lake buoys for Gardner City Lake. Additionally, the city will work with the GLA on the placement and installation of the new buoys. I praise the efforts by the GLA and the city of Gardner on working together to address this issue. Always remember to follow both state and city regulations while enjoying a day at the lake. Good fishing!



Gardner Lake, a 100-acre impoundment located one mile south of Gardner, KS.