

Lawrence District Fisheries

Newsletter

Fall 2022



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District Overview

My name is Jim Miazga, and I was recently hired as the Lawrence District Fisheries Biologist in January 2022. As a lifelong angler and avid outdoorsman, I am thrilled to apply my passion to fisheries management in the Lawrence District. I have completed my master's degree in fisheries management and have a diverse set of experiences in fisheries biology and management. My expertise is in management of crappie populations, as my master's thesis investigated crappie population dynamics and harvest regulations in Kansas.

The Lawrence District encompasses Shawnee, Douglas, and Osage counties, inclusive of Melvern and Clinton Reservoirs, state fishing lakes, urban ponds, and community lakes. Throughout the spring and summer, fisheries staff were busy conducting a variety of activities including fish stocking, black bass surveys, Blue Catfish surveys, constructing habitat, and much more. This fall, fisheries staff will be conducting annual netting surveys on all area lakes. Data collected during 2022 will help inform harvest regulations, stocking rates, and develop management plans for each waterbody within the district. Additionally, the spring 2023 newsletter edition will include a fishing forecast developed from the 2022 fall netting surveys.

Stocking Report

Percids

Walleye and Saugeye are stocked annually in several area lakes. These populations experience minimal natural reproduction, making stocking efforts critical for maintaining quality populations. Walleye and Saugeye were stocked in Melvern and Clinton Reservoirs as part of an ongoing research study to determine which species performs best. Results of the study will provide guidance for future management. Walleye are stocked in Lake Shawnee to provide additional angling opportunities. Saugeye were stocked in Overbrook City Lake and Carbondale City Lake as a biological control to prevent an over-abundance of stunted White Crappie and Gizzard Shad, while also maintaining popular sport fish populations. Below is a table of Walleye and Saugeye stocked within Lawrence District lakes in 2022.

Percid Stocking in 2022				
Waterbody	Date Stocked	Species	Size	Quantity
Carbondale	4/11/2022	Saugeye	Fry	300,000
Clinton	4/13/2022	Saugeye	Fry	1,750,000
Clinton	4/13/2022	Walleye	Fry	1,750,000
Shawnee	4/18/2022	Walleye	Fry	600,000
Melvern	4/15/2022	Saugeye	Fry	1,750,00
Melvern	4/15/2022	Walleye	Fry	1,750,000
Overbrook	4/11/2022	Saugeye	Fry	70,000

Wiper

Wiper (male White Bass x female Striped Bass) are stocked in several area lakes including Carbondale City Lake, Lonestar Lake, Osage State Fishing Lake, Overbrook City Lake, and Clinton Reservoir. Wiper are voracious predators that provide control on prolific Gizzard Shad populations. Additionally, these aggressive sport fish put up a great fight on rod and reel. Below is a table of Wiper stocked within Lawrence District Lakes in 2022.

Wiper Stocking in 2022			
Waterbody	Date Stocked	Size	Quantity
Carbondale	not yet stocked	Fingerlings	6,625
Clinton	5/11/2022	Fry	350,000
Lonestar	not yet stocked	Intermediates	975
Osage SFL	not yet stocked	Intermediates	700
Shawnee	9/22/2022	Intermediates	1,051

Channel Catfish Stocking

Channel Catfish are widely distributed and can be caught in all area lakes. The species ranks third most preferred species among Kansas anglers and accounts for the most harvested weight compared to other species. Due the large amount of harvest associated with Channel Catfish populations; they are stocked annually in many area lakes. Below is a table of Channel Catfish stocking within the Lawrence District in 2022.

Channel Catfish Stocking in 2022			
Waterbody	Date Stocked	Size	Quantity
Douglas SFL	9/28/2022	Intermediates	1,801
Lonestar	9/28/2022	Intermediates	5,061
Osage SFL	9/28/2022	Intermediates	3502
Shawnee	not yet stocked	Intermediates	8,320

Urban Channel Catfish Stocking

Adult Channel Catfish are stocked each month from April to September in urban ponds through Topeka and Lawrence. These stocking events provide urban residents with close to home angling opportunities. Many of these urban ponds have docks and good shoreline access making them ideal locations for children learning how to fish. Below is a table of total weight of adult Channel Catfish stocked throughout the summer of 2022 in Topeka and Lawrence urban ponds.

Urban Catfish Stocking in 2022		
City/Location	Waterbody	Total Weight (lbs.)
Clinton State Park	Lake Henry	540
Clinton State Park	Kids Fishing Pond	260
Lawrence	Pat Dawson Billings - North	300
Lawrence	Pat Dawson Billings - South	170
Lawrence	Sandra Shaw Park	365
Lawrence	Oregon Trail Park	200
Lawrence	Mary's Lake	1,280
Topeka	Governor's Cedar Crest Pond	875
Topeka	Governor's Pond East	875
Topeka	Governor's Pond West	45
Topeka	Shawnee State Fishing Lake	3,380
Topeka	Shawnee Jr.	1,145
Topeka	Gage Park West Lake	1,780
Topeka	Clarion Park	170
Topeka	Horseshoe Bend Park	350
Topeka	Central Park	675

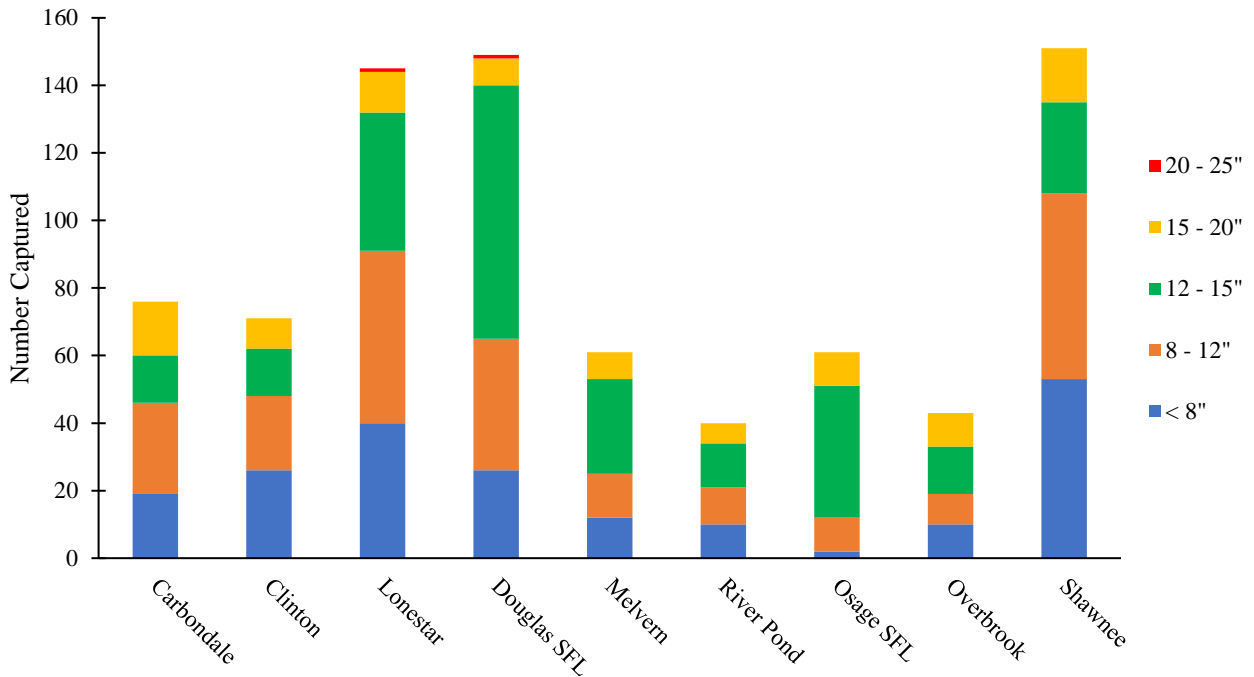
Recent Fisheries Surveys

Spring Black Bass Surveys

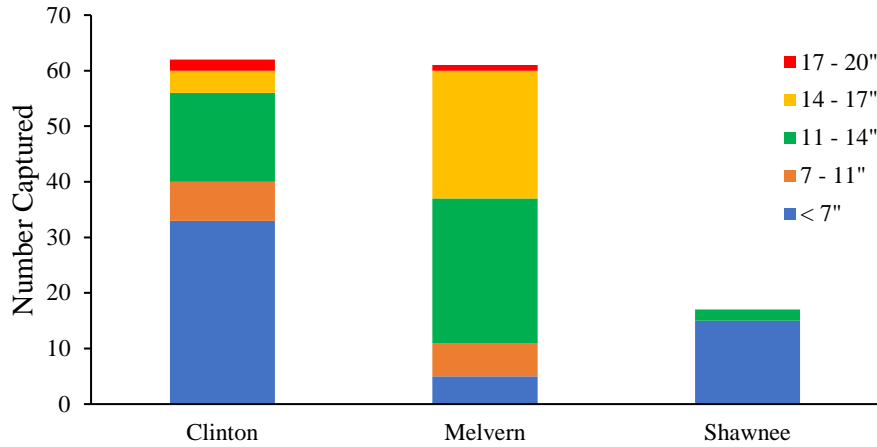
In May, fisheries staff used boat electrofishing to survey black bass populations. The term “black bass” collectively refers to Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass. In general, high quality Largemouth Bass populations occur in small impoundments containing abundant aquatic vegetation and woody debris. On the other hand, Smallmouth Bass are most common in large reservoirs containing rocky shorelines. It is important to note that 37,966 Largemouth Bass fingerlings were stocked in Melvern Reservoir on 6/2/2022. Below are graphs describing total catch and size structure of Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass captured during electrofishing surveys within the Lawrence District.



Largemouth Bass Sampled in 2022



Smallmouth Bass Sampled in 2022

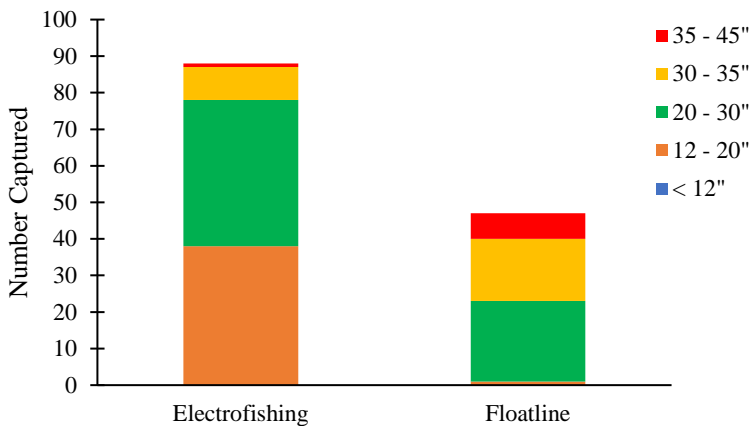


Summer Blue Catfish Surveys

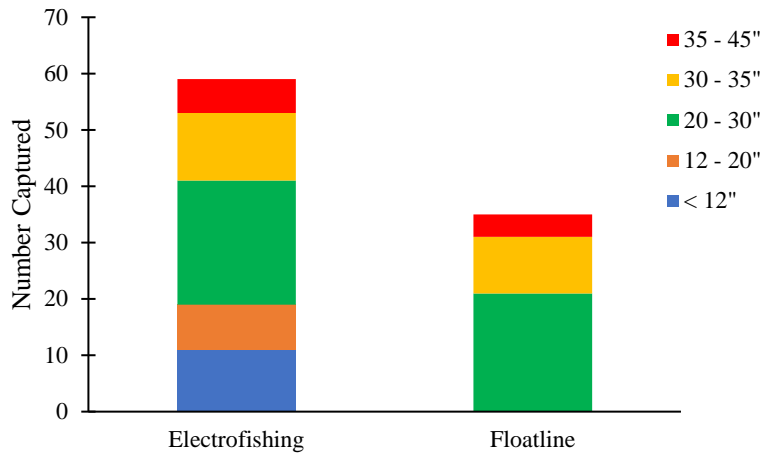
Blue Catfish were initially stocked at Melvern Reservoir in 2002 and Clinton Reservoir in 2006. Stocking ceased for Melvern Reservoir in 2012 and Clinton Reservoir in 2013. Current harvest regulations (5 fish/day, 35-in minimum length limit) are designed to protect the brood stock while the populations are establishing. It is important that several years of natural reproduction are observed before harvest regulations can be changed. In recent years, fisheries staff have been closely monitoring these populations to determine if natural reproduction is occurring. Two techniques are used to survey Blue Catfish populations. Low frequency electrofishing is an effective technique for targeting smaller individuals; whereas, floatline angling is the best way to target the larger individuals. Combined, these techniques provide a holistic sample of the population.



Melvorn Blue Catfish Sampled in 2022



Clinton Blue Catfish Sampled in 2022



Fish Habitat Work on Lonestar Lake

This summer fisheries staff focused on improving fish habitat in Lonestar Lake. Many of the old brush piles had decomposed and there was opportunity for improvement. In June, cedar tree brush piles were assembled and placed throughout the lake. Additionally, fisheries staff constructed crappie jacks. Crappie jacks are PVC structures that are more resistant to snags, making them ideal for kids fishing areas and ADA docks.

Brush piles were placed at the following location on 6/22/22:

- 2 west side of dam (~13ft): N 38 50.370', W 95 22.964'
- 2 north west cove (~12 ft): N 38 50.348', W 95 22.947'
- 4 east side of dam (~14ft): N 38 50.418', W 95 22.647'
- 2 big tree east cove near boat ramp (~12 ft): N 38 50.122', W 95 22.632'4
- 1 east point near boat ramp (~20ft): N 38 50.155', W 95 22.693'

Crappie jacks were placed around the new ADA dock on 9/21/22.

