

Glen Elder District Fisheries

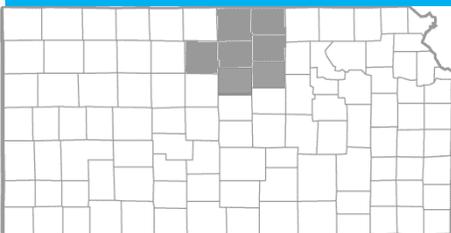
Volume 4, Issue 2 Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism Summer 2013

Well, it seems as though this year's weather has done a complete 180 from what we all experienced last year in the state. In 2012, an early hot spell warmed our lake and reservoir waters quickly and seemed to accelerate everything. This year, we were back to "normal" or maybe even a little behind thanks to a much cooler spring and early summer.

The recent wet weather pattern we've had in July has benefitted water levels in this part of the state. In fact, as I write this, Glen Elder has risen to 1453.9, just 1.7 feet below full pool and exactly the same level we saw a year ago out here. Lovewell is in the middle of its annual drawdown during the irrigation season and sits at 1577.8, 4.8 feet below full, and will likely be drawn down to 9 or 10 feet below full pool to allow for dredging of the outlet area. Wilson Reservoir has actually risen slightly in July and sits at 1511.8, 4.2 feet below full. A 1 or 2 foot rise out here would do wonders for the habitat in the reservoir and could really stimulate some amazing fish production.

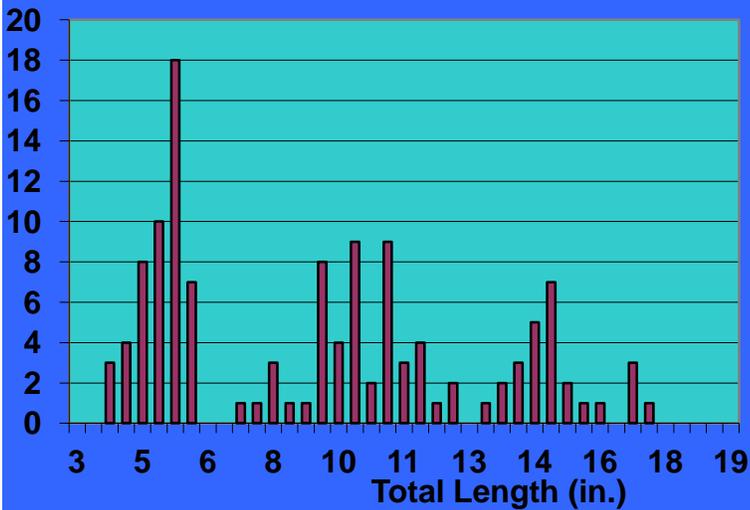
Make sure and check out the reservoirs listed above this fall as they will all offer some outstanding fishing opportunities. Don't forget to take a kid fishing!

Each spring, fisheries biologists across the state pull out the electrofishing boats for the annual black bass sample. Largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass are most effectively sampled with this technique when they are in shallow water near the shore, normally for spawn or prespawn activities. The maps that follow will allow anglers to see where the highest densities of bass were found. Each square represents 10 minutes of electrofishing time along the shoreline. The colors and labels correspond with the number of fish collected. Hopefully, this will assist you with your bass angling exploits in the future.

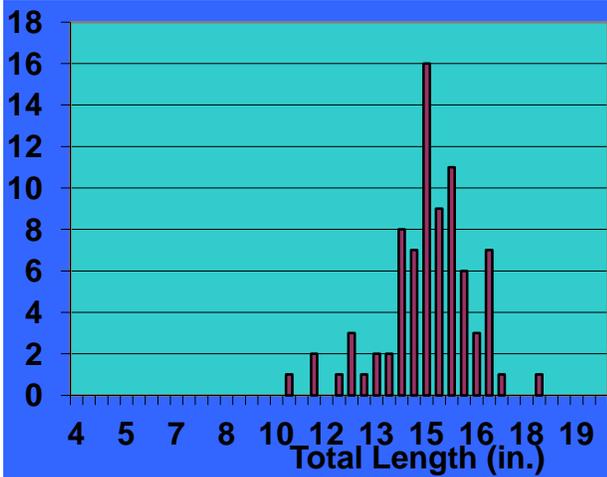


Glen Elder Smallies Dominate Again

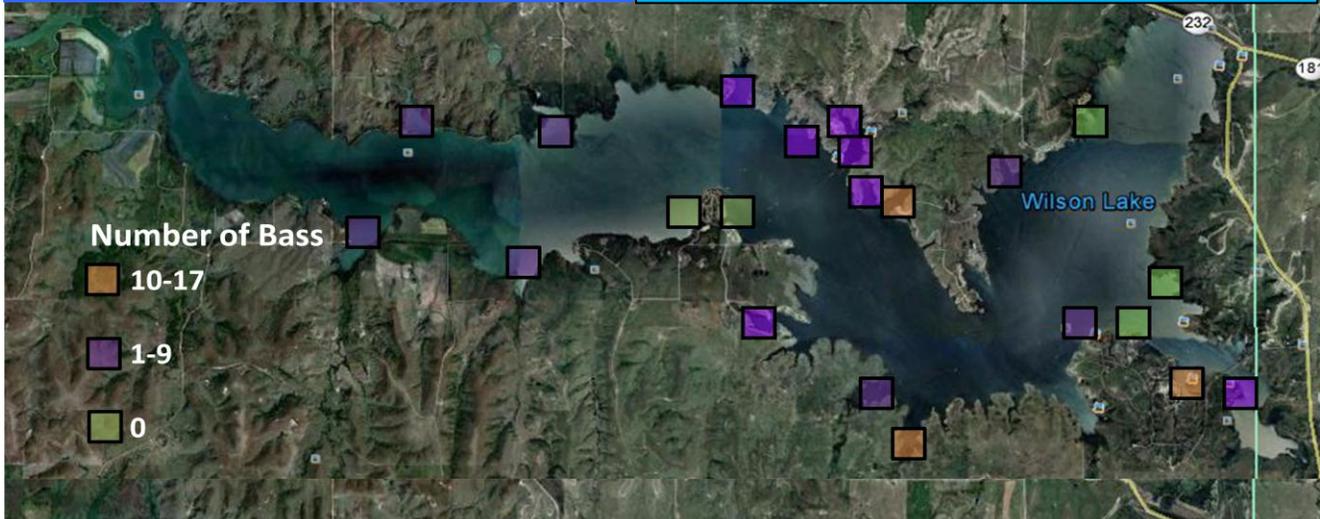
Smallmouth bass numbers were improved during the 2013 sampling with 125 fish collected ranging from 4 to 17 inches and up to 2.5 pounds. Two size groups dominated the adult catch with fish between 9 and 12 inches accounting for 34% and thirteen to seventeen inch fish comprising 21%. A very nice 2012 year class of smallies is evident by the high number of 3 to 6 inch fish. While numbers of 18 to 20 inch fish are down, the overall numbers should provide anglers with some quality fishing.



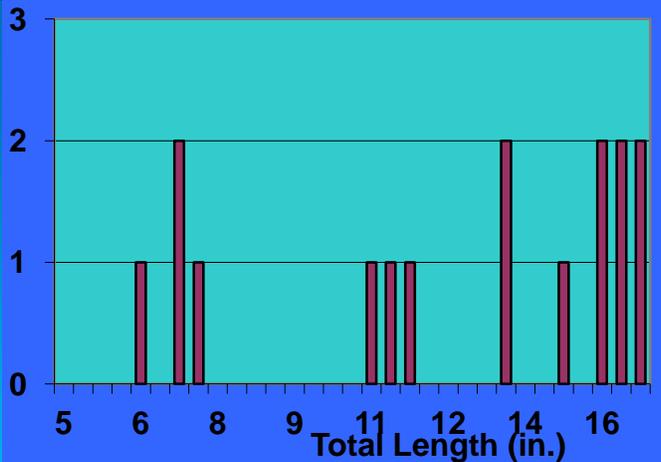
Wilson Still a Top Bass Lake



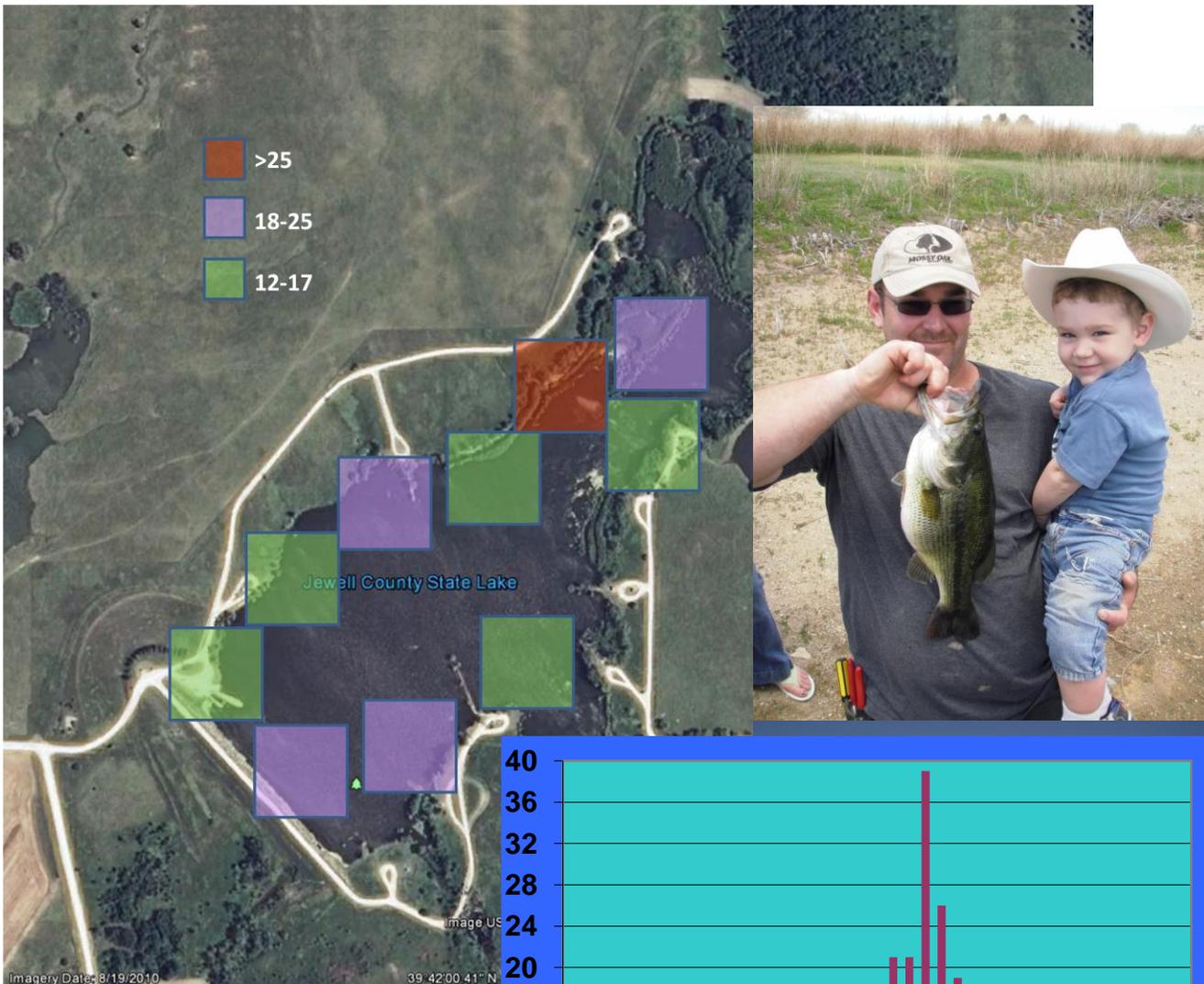
The spring 2013 sample revealed a strong population of largemouth bass with fish between 14 and 16 inches still holding strong. Recruitment has been very poor the past couple of years, and no fish under 10 inches were collected. We stocked 30,000 advanced fingerlings in June to boost recruitment. Wilson bass anglers should be satisfied again in 2014.



Smallmouth bass numbers were again underrepresented in the sample due to high water conductivity and warm water temperatures. We only collected 17 smallmouth this spring with the biggest at 2 pounds and 16.5 inches. Fall netting revealed good numbers of smallmouth between 13 and 18 inches indicating there are some very nice fish in the reservoir. Despite the low number of smallmouth bass collected, Wilson remains one of the top 3 reservoirs for this species in the state.



Jewell SFL Bass Continue to Grow



Largemouth numbers were down in the spring 2013 sample, but remain good. The large 2008 year class continues to represent a majority of the population with these

11 to 13 inch fish comprising 76% of the catch. Many of these fish are just below the lower end of the slot length limit (13 to 18 inches) and anglers have done a good job of thinning them out by harvesting many of these smaller fish. Anglers will also see a few 15 to 18 inch fish with fish over 5 pounds available in Jewell.

Exclusion Barrier Saving Fish in 2013

The fish exclusion barrier was successfully installed in April 2013 at Lovewell Reservoir and has been performing at a high level this summer. Nine large anchors were first installed with six weighing 4,800 pounds and three weighing 14,000 pounds. These are permanent and remain in the reservoir year around. The barrier was then assembled on land and towed to its location using 2 boats.



A diver was then used to secure the mooring lines between the anchors and both the top floatation and the heavy bottom ballast. The ropes and chains were adjusted mid-season to ensure proper function.



A floating log boom was also installed to reduce the amount of debris on the barrier.



The fish barrier has worked very well so far this year and anglers have done a good job of not tampering with it. The barrier will be removed for cleaning and repairs as soon as the irrigation season is complete, and will be stored until next year. Hopefully, anglers will reap the benefits with improved fishing in the next few years.

Images from the Annual Habitat Work Weekend at Glen Elder



9th Annual Glen Elder Youth Tournament Results

The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism and the Waconda Lake Association hosted the 9th annual Youth Fishing Tournament at Waconda Lake on Saturday, June 1st, 2013. Nearly 150 young anglers braved the cold, windy weather and boarded boats to hit the water for a half day of fishing. The 20-30 mph northwest winds and seasonally cold temperatures made the day a challenge for both the young anglers and the boat drivers.

Because of the weather, the fishing was tougher than the previous couple of years, but over half of the kids were able to bring in at least a few with drum and walleye leading the way. Of the 136 youth who fished on the 33 boats volunteered by local anglers and the 8 youth who fished off the bank, 76 were able to catch at least one fish. The total of 215 caught fish included 107 drum, 33 white bass, 26 walleye, 21 crappie, 11 bluegill, 6 channel catfish, 5 smallmouth bass, 4 flathead catfish, 1 wiper, 1 carp, and 6 turtles.

We would like to extend a very special THANK YOU to all of the boat drivers and other volunteers who provided their time and equipment on Saturday, the Waconda Lake Association for providing lunch and helping cover the cost of the t-shirts, and Wayne Miner who donated 140 dozen nightcrawlers.

Also, many thanks to the 80 sponsors who donated over \$2,500 in prizes. Because of their generosity each youth was able to take home a fishing pole, t-shirt, goodie bag of tackle and gift certificates, and other prizes. Special thanks also to Connor Chance and the staff of the Glen Elder area office for assisting with the event.



Below is a list of the winners in each of the categories:

Most Fish	Lilly Hartman (Glen Elder)	15
Biggest Walleye	Wyatt Eberle (Glen Elder)	24 inches
Biggest Crappie	Caleigh Hewitt (Beloit)	15 inches
Biggest Channel Cat	Hayden Griffin (Tipton) Caitlin Craig (Concordia)	15½ inches
Biggest Flathead	Taylor Cox (Beloit)	21 inches
Biggest White Bass	Devin Bergmann (Downs)	16 inches
Biggest Wiper	Trevor Bouska (Beloit)	13 inches
Biggest Smallmouth	Morgan Eberle (Glen Elder)	14½ inches
Biggest Drum	Ethan Anderson (Simpson)	19 inches
Biggest Bluegill	Jake Gray	7½ inches
Biggest Carp	Tatem Tietjens (Glen Elder)	26 inches
Smallest Fish	Grace Smith (Glen Elder)	3¾ inches (bluegill)

We plan on hosting this event again this year on June 7th, 2014 so mark it on your calendars and look forward to another fun-filled day at Waconda Lake! This will be the 10th anniversary of this tournament so be prepared for some special additions to the day.



More Habitat Work Completed

Because of the efforts of many generous volunteers, including several from the Hays Bass Club, we were able to add much needed habitat to Wilson Reservoir back in March.

Cedar trees were cut from the Lucas Point area and the Minooka park area and sunk in a variety of locations.

We primarily targeted shallow areas in several coves along the north shore as well as Indian Cove and Deer Run. A couple of loads were placed on each of the Minooka fish attractors as well.

Special thanks to those who assisted including several members of the Hays Bass Club, Tommie Berger, Fritz Berger, Bob Piatt, Vickie Cikanek, Scott Thomasson, and Scott McCobb.



I hope you enjoyed the latest edition of the Glen Elder district newsletter. I will continue to provide information for Glen Elder, Wilson, and Lovewell Reservoirs, Jewell State Fishing Lake, Rocky Pond in Belleville, and Jewell City Lake.

Don't forget to check out the many FISH properties in the area as well. They can offer some great fishing for those without a boat.

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