

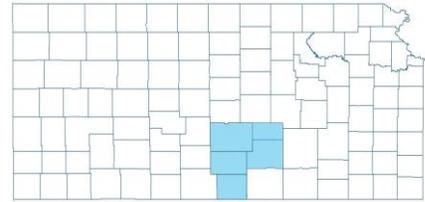
# Cheney District Fisheries

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## District News: Cheney, Hutchinson and Wichita Fishing



*After an unusually wet spring, the weather is beginning to dry out and area lakes have returned to normal levels. Most species of fish (except catfish) are done spawning and have moved into their summer patterns. Although the potential for finding a red-hot bite is lower now than in the spring, summer fishing is more predictable. If you can determine a pattern, it will likely persist through the summer.*

### Inside This Issue

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## New Fisheries Biologist for Cheney District



Hello everyone, my name is Andrew Schaefer and I'm the new District Fisheries Biologist for the Cheney District. I was born and raised in Waterloo, IA and attended Iowa State University, where I received a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences in 2009. Prior to moving to Kansas, I was a Freshwater Fisheries Biologist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for several years. While in Florida, I completed a Master's Degree in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences at the University of Florida. In my free time, I enjoy waterfowl and upland bird hunting, as well as all manner of fishing, of course! I am excited to be back in the Midwest and I am looking forward to experiencing all the outdoor opportunities Kansas has to offer!

## Cheney Reservoir

### Spring *Morones* Run a Success

Biologists often use the Latin designation *Morones* (MO-RO-NEEZ) when referring to all members of the temperate bass family, which includes White Bass, White Perch, and Wiper. *Morones* prefer to spawn in current, and will usually run up tributary streams to spawn in the spring. The 2017 spawning run was a great success for anglers at Cheney Reservoir. High rainfall during the spring spawning season allowed fish to move upstream from the lake into the Ninescah River, where anglers were able to catch them. Many anglers had success fishing from shore at the Deweese Park Boat Ramp, and at the river access south of Parallel Road. Other anglers found success using waders or a small boat to get away from the crowd.

### Georgia Cubes

KDWPT placed 30 Georgia Cube structures in Cheney Reservoir this spring. These structures have been effective at attracting and concentrating fish for anglers in other lakes. The cubes were placed with both boat anglers and shore anglers in mind. Most were placed near the east side State Park Marina. They should provide some good White Crappie fishing throughout the year. Anglers can also expect to find an occasional catfish near these structures. To get GPS coordinates of the structure locations, visit <http://ksoutdoors.com/KDWPT-Info/Locations/Hunting-Fishing-Atlas/Fishing-Atlas/GPS-KML-Information-Files/Google-KMZ-file-of-Fish-Attractor-GPS>.



### Wichita Area

#### Urban Catfish Stocking Underway

District staff have been busy stocking catfish around the Wichita area. KDWPT stocks keeper-size Channel Catfish in 32 urban fisheries in the Wichita and Hutchinson area. Each fishery is stocked once a month in April through September. The catfish average about 1 lb., but some fish up to 3 lbs. are included for extra rod bending action. East and West KDOT Lakes, Cruiser Lake, Chisholm North Lake, Watson Park Lake and Lake Afton are all good bets. To view a full list of lakes in the urban catfish program, visit <http://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Urban-Fishing-Program>.

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*Over 48,000 pounds of keeper-size Channel Catfish will be stocked in the Wichita and Hutchinson area this year!*

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### Elsewhere in the District

#### Spring Electrofishing Completed

District staff finished up Largemouth Bass electrofishing surveys in June. Kingman State Fishing Lake is a perennial hotspot for good bass fishing, and this year's survey indicated that the bass population remains strong there. Biologists sampled an average of 12.5 bass per 10-minute electrofishing run, and 48% of the bass collected were greater than 15 inches.

Harvey County East Lake was also sampled this spring. East Lake is not known for having high bass densities, and this year's electrofishing survey supports that notion. Biologists sampled 5.5 bass per 10-minute electrofishing run, which is below average. On a positive note, the size structure of the bass population in East Lake is good, and bass up to 22 inches were sampled this year. East Lake would be an excellent place to go for anglers who want to catch one big bass rather than lots of small bass. Biologists located the highest number of bass along the dam and on the ends of the rock jetties.

## Fishing Q&A

Q: What should I do if a fish swallows the hook?

A: This is a common problem for anglers releasing fish. The short answer is you should cut the line as close to the hook as possible in order to give the fish the greatest chance of survival. Contrary to popular belief, hooks do not rust away or dissolve within a few days if left in fish. Scientific studies that have been done on this subject show that one of three things usually happens: 1) The fish is able to pass the hook through its digestive system, 2) The fish is able to dislodge the hook and cough it up, or 3) The hook stays lodged in the fish's stomach or esophagus. In the case of the first two situations, the fish will likely go on living a normal life; in the case of the third situation, a lot depends on the location and the severity of the hooking wound. In the most severe cases, the fish dies from acute trauma when the hook pierces the stomach and damages nearby organs such as the liver or heart. In other cases, the fish may be able to survive the acute injury, but its ability to feed efficiently is reduced because the hook is obstructing the esophagus. The reduction in feeding efficiency can be minor (reduced growth and body condition) or major (the fish dies from starvation). Although some of these outcomes sound pretty bad, an angler attempting to remove a hook from the esophagus or stomach of a fish is likely to further injure the fish, resulting in death, therefore the best practice is to cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the fish.



*A typical circle hook design. Note the orientation of the hook point.*

There are some things you can do to reduce to incidence of deep-hooked fish. If a lot of fish are swallowing your hooks, try to set the hook as soon as you have an indication that a fish is biting rather than letting the fish take line before setting the hook. You can also try switching to a larger hook size. The larger hook will be more difficult for the fish to swallow. Another option is to try fishing with circle hooks. Circle hooks are designed with the hook point pointing at the shank, the result is that the hook almost always catches the corner of the mouth. Circle hooks take some getting used to, since the angler does not set the hook like with traditional J-hooks, rather the fish sets the hook on itself when it pulls away against a tight line. Circle hooks are especially effective for catfish, and many expert catfishermen only use circle hooks.

## Hook, Line and Sinker

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There's no place like home, so *Fish Kansas!* - Andrew