

Stockton District Fisheries Newsletter

2013, Issue 2

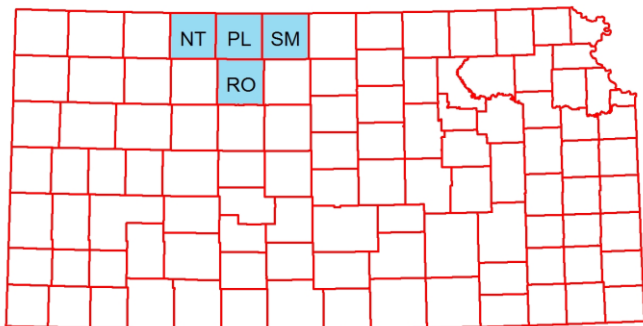
Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

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Welcome to the Stockton Fisheries District

The Stockton District consists of four counties in northwest Kansas. They are Rooks (RO), Phillips (PL), Smith (SM) and Norton (NT). The district consists of three main Reservoirs; Webster, Kirwin and Keith Sebelius, one state fishing lake; Rooks State fishing lake, two Community Fisheries Assistance Program (CFAP) lakes; Logan City lake and Plainville Township lake; and various Fishing Impoundments and Stream Habitats (FISH) properties which consist of 97.5 acres of ponds in Phillips, Smith and Rooks counties and 5.80 miles of stream access on the North and South Fork Solomon rivers.



2014 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR WEBSTER RESERVOIR



*Webster 2013 smallmouth bass

BLACK BASS - Fair.

The largemouth bass population is dominated by 15 to 18 inch fish accounting for 58 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 3 to 7 inch size range accounted for 3 percent of the sample, fish in the 8 to 11 inch size range accounted for 3 percent, fish in the 12 to 14 inch size range accounted for 36 percent and fish over 15 inches accounted for 58 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled weighted 3.15 pounds. Also, one smallmouth bass was sampled that was 13 inches in length and weighted 1.28 pounds. Spinner, crank and artificial bait's should work well in Rock Point and Old Marina coves, along the dam and bluff's and the coves between Rock Point and the outlet gates. With the lower water levels the bass should be concentrated to the areas mentioned above. **A 15 inch length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass is in effect.**

2014 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR KIRWIN RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Fair.

The largemouth bass population is in a lot better shape than what the sampling results show. While sampling we had some equipment issues and after the equipment was fixed Mother Nature decided to turn on the gale force winds from the North and South. However, we did catch some fish but what was caught did not represent the population very well. Fish in the 12 to 14 inch size range accounted for 50 percent and fish over 15 inches accounted for 50 percent. The biggest largemouth sampled weighted 2.52 pounds. The best locations for finding bass are going to be along Crappie Point and back toward Scout cove, the cove by the North Shore and South Shore ramps and along the dam and outlet area. With the lower water levels the bass should be concentrated to the areas mentioned above. **A 15 inch length limit is in effect.**



* Kirwin largemouth bass

2014 BASS FISHING FORECAST FOR SEBELIUS RESERVOIR

BLACK BASS - Good.

The largemouth bass population is dominated by 11 to 15 inch fish accounting for 69 percent of the sample. Largemouth bass in the 7 to 11 inch size range accounted for 12 percent of the sample, fish in the 11 to 15 inch size range accounted for 69 percent and fish over 15 inches made up 19 percent. The biggest largemouth bass sampled weighted in at 3.39 pounds. Good numbers of spotted bass are also present with 6 percent being in the 6 to 9 inch size range, 23 percent being in the 9 to 11 inch size range, 45 percent being in the 11 to 13 inch size range and 26 percent being in the 13 to 16 inch size range. The biggest smallmouth bass sampled weighted in at 1.99 pounds. Spinner and artificial bait's should work well in Leota cove, along the dam, Shoen's cove and up the river channel by the sandpit. Fish the rocky areas for the spots. **A 15 inch length limit on largemouth and spotted bass is in effect**



*Sebelius spotted bass

Protect Our Waters

Stop aquatic hitchhikers!



Clean. Drain. Dry.

Every lake, every time.

Use it where you catch it.

One bait, one lake: Do it for the future's sake.

Know the rules. Visit: ProtectKSwaters.org

Rainbow Trout Season Starts November 1st

The Webster Stilling Basin, a 6-acre impoundment below the dam, is stocked five times (Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb, & Mar) each trout season. Each stocking consists of 2,100 trout averaging approximately ½ pound each with an occasional bigger fish thrown in to make it exciting. Projected stocking dates are usually around the 1st of the month.

Drought Continues to Cripple Webster District Fisheries

The 2013 summer has been fairly mild and a relief from last years nonstop triple digit days. Throw in a few days in the 80's, and not to mention some rain here and there and all is good. Even with the more favorable weather we have been experiencing the reservoirs, state fishing lakes, and FISH properties within the Webster district are feeling the heat. Just two years ago a lot of these fishing hot spots were thriving fishing destinations. Looking at some of these locations now, it is hard to watch them vanish day in and day out. The smaller state and township lakes are really starting to show signs that the on going drought is just too much. Rooks State Fishing Lake, Logan City Lake, and Plainville Township Lake are going to be the main focus in this article along with current water levels and conditions for all three reservoirs within the Webster district.

Rooks State Fishing Lake experienced a fish kill this past winter due to the low water conditions from the harsh summer. With extremely low levels going in to this summer and a lack of rain Rooks is nothing more than a small pot hole.

Logan City Lake is still holding a little water but has had a mild fish kill. However, it still has a fishable fish population. With low water conditions and warm weather, the lake's surface temperature is higher. With warm stagnant water and a history that tends to repeat itself it has been on the state's radar for the past couple of years in regards to high levels of blue-green algae. The conditions have been pretty much

the same with the past few years, and a common occurrence that comes along with blue-green algae is that once a body of water gets it, it is hard to get rid of it. One misconception of blue-green algae is that the lake is off limits. The fish are not harmed at all and the lake is still very fishable. Keep contact with the fish and water to a minimum and clean all fish fillets well and there will be nothing to worry about.

Plainville Township Lake just recently had a fair sized fish kill. Walking around all sides of the lake there were great numbers of small crappie and bluegill. Also among the dead fish were quite a few nice channel catfish as well as some respectable four to six pound largemouth bass. The low oxygen levels and warmer water temperatures were the main cause. It is suspected that there are still some fish that are still alive in the deeper areas of the lake but they soon will run out of time. The township has been doing some really great work out here dredging and moving dirt.

Within the Webster district there are three reservoirs. Webster, Kirwin, and Keith Sebelius reservoirs are all currently releasing water for irrigation. With that and rain not there to refill these bodies of water, they are quickly starting to drop. Webster is without a doubt taking the drought the hardest and is the lowest of the three measuring 20' below conservation pool. Keith Sebelius comes in at 13' below conservation pool, and Kirwin is 10' below conservation pool. Webster is currently 27.6% full and water is being released at 104 cfs (cubic feet per second). Keith Sebelius is currently 38.7% full with no water being released at this time. Kirwin is the fullest at 56.9% full with water being released at 105cfs. As if low water conditions were not bad enough news already. Due to the low conditions at Kirwin reservoir, there is a high possibility that boats will not be allowed on the water starting October 1, 2013 to April 1, 2014. This decision is made by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service that operate the Kirwin National Wildlife Refuge.

Creel Survey at Kirwin Reservoir

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will be conducting a creel survey at Kirwin Reservoir this season, which starts on March 1, 2013 and runs thru October 31, 2013. Therefore, we would appreciate it if anglers get approached by our creel clerk Ali Hadley, they take a few minutes to answer some questions so that we can get some good harvest and fishing pressure data for this impoundment. Thank You for your patience and cooperation with this year's creel survey. Hope everyone gets out to do some fishing and especially to enjoy the great outdoors.



Fishing Information

You can visit the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks website at www.kdwpt.state.ks.us for a wealth of fisheries information. When you click on the fisheries tab at the top of the page you can access all kinds of information like fishing in Kansas, where to fish in Kansas, how to fish, fishing frequently asked questions (FAQ's), are fish safe to eat, tournaments, special fishing programs, aquatic nuisance species (ANS), hatcheries, fish stocking records, state record fish, fishing reports, fishing forecast, fish regulations, fishing fees, fish identification and public fishing images. If you can not find the information you are looking for from the website, you can call or stop by any of the area, park or regional offices.

The summer is coming to a close, schools are starting back up and football and hunting seasons are quickly approaching. However, there is still a lot of good fishing to be had as the water starts to cool back down and the fish begin feeding up for winter. So don't put the boat and fishing poles away just yet, get out and enjoy the cooler days catching some fish. If you get out fishing and would like to post a fishing report you can do so at <http://ksfishing.blogspot.com/>. We would really like to hear about your fishing trip.

Hopefully this newsletter has given you some information that will make your outings more pleasurable and memorable. So get out there, take a friend with you and take advantage of the many opportunities that are available. Good luck, be careful and enjoy the great outdoors.

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Get your friends, get your family
... and FISH KANSAS!

