

PERRY NEWS

"takemefishing"

Special points of interest:

- Zebra Mussel sampling results at Perry.
- Smallmouth bass sampled at majority of locations on Perry!
- KSU purple in the chart means big bass!
- Leavenworth fish population set to explode!

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September 2014

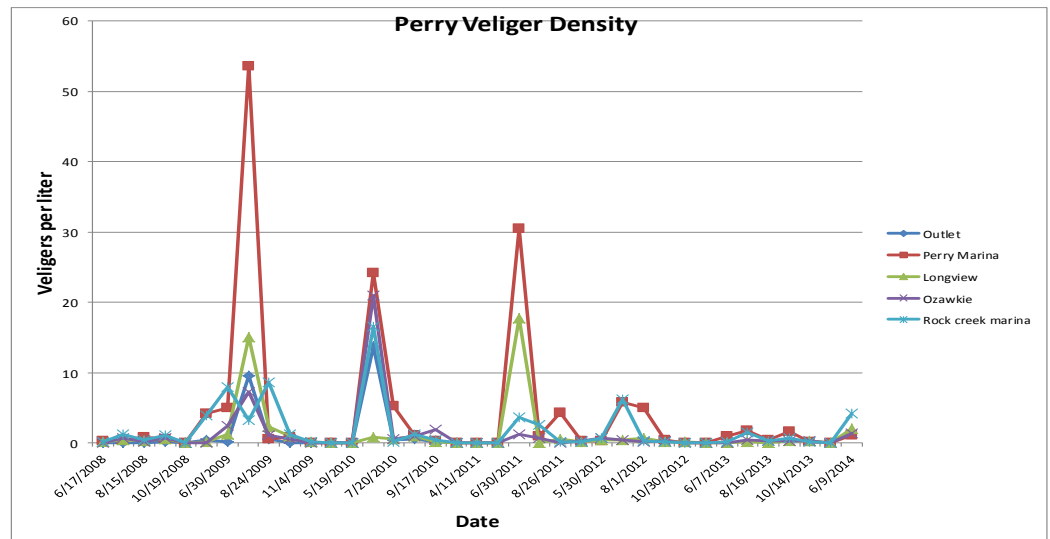
Issue 11

How are the zebra mussels impacting Perry?

Looking at the netting and electrofishing data after the documented infestation in 2007, I would say very little. Water conditions such as high water at spawning time or a cold spring or flooded vegetation during the fall appear to have a much larger impact on the fishery than the zebra mussels. However if we had a really dense population like the one that appeared in El Dorado, spawning habitat would be severely impacted. The graph below shows the

results of water samples taken at the same locations since 2008. Notice the highest veliger (young mussels) count was just over 50/liter. Some other infested reservoirs have been 1,500/liter or higher. The rock to the right was found near Devils Gap, see all the

small mussels around the edge. We don't want to move these mussels to other lakes so please remember to Clean, Drain and Dry.



May Electrofishing at Perry!

Perry Reservoir is the largest water I sample and since it is infested with zebra mussels I sample it usually around the end of May or the first few days of August. We try and electrofish when the water temperature is between 65-75 degrees. Fish use water temperature and day length for spawning cues. This spring was pretty normal after a long cold

winter. We started sampling Perry on May 27 with good water clarity we just weren't seeing that many largemouth bass. Our numbers of largemouth have declined over the last couple of years and this year appears to be no exception. We are however seeing good numbers of smallmouth bass like those pictured below. Perry is being used as a control lake as part of the

early largemouth bass study. The K-State Co-op unit will be conducting electrofishing every other week until October evaluating stomach contents. Hillsdale Reservoir is also part of the study and is being stocked with early spawned largemouth bass. The stocking success is being watched very closely to see if stocking of these larger fish can be used at other Reservoirs with success.

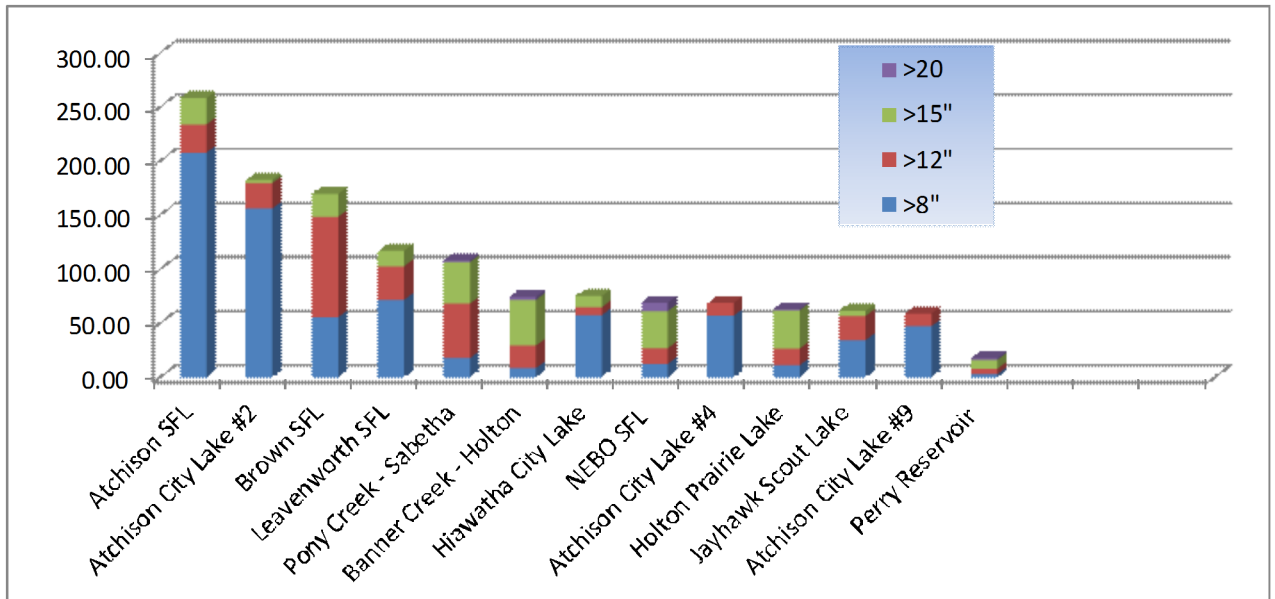
"We are however seeing good numbers of smallmouth bass."



We've been sampling blue catfish for the past several years in Perry with very limited success. I've solicited advice from the other Fish Biologists that have been sampling them for years in their Reservoirs. In July we went out and electrofished 10 sites in the upper half of the Reservoir. We sampled two sites with no blue catfish but plenty of channel catfish and flathead catfish. The third site we stepped on the pedal and waited a couple of minutes and up they came, about 50 yards away. We dipped ten blue catfish up that were around 16" and close to 2 pounds. Feeling pretty good about sampling we completed 7 more sites without seeing any more blue cats. In August I went back to see if I could find them. Of the 4 Blues I electrofished two of them were young fish, around 9". These fish are a good addition to Perry but they are slow to mature. Hopefully we'll have a big fish similar to Milford someday!

Spring 2014 Largemouth Bass Information

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Stock catch rate (>8") is a factor we use to evaluate largemouth bass populations however we also look at the size distribution of the population. The KSU purple in the bar graphs indicates fish over 20", 5 of the lakes I sampled this spring had fish over 20". The largest bass we sampled was at NEBO SFL and was 8.36 lbs! If numbers are your thing and you want to compare other lakes that were electrofished around Kansas click on [Lots of Bass](#) which will take you to the updated Fishing Forecast information.

NEBO, the proof is in the pudding!



You've heard that old saying, well you'll just have to fish it for yourself. To the left are three largemouth bass showing the growth at NEBO: small, medium and large. The extra large fish of 8.36 pounds didn't make this particular photo. This small lake offers some tremendous cover for these fish from brush piles to islands to American Lotus. The lotus has moved farther east in the lake and I intend to knock it back a little.



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Featured Lake: Leavenworth State Fishing Lake

Several years ago Leavenworth County was added to my District after the retirement of one of our Fisheries Biologist. Leavenworth State Fishing Lake is one of the main water features in that County at 160 surface acres when it is full. The Lake has been down several feet since the fall of 2011 when some work was completed on the back of the dam. The water had been so low that only the south lane of the double lane boat ramp was usable. Also both courtesy docks were sitting high and dry providing good toad habitat. Recent rains have filled the ponds in the area and the lake level has

come up several feet allowing for use of the north lane of the boat ramp. Float tubes of all shapes and sizes are the most common boat on the lake. These small vessels allow a fishermen to work the many brush piles, rock mounds and flooded vegetation with great stealth.



The Lake has good clear water which does allow the curly leaf pondweed to grown well in the spring. However it is also great for predators like the largemouth bass that Justin is holding up. With the water being down for several years we have seen the bluegill and redear sunfish populations improve, larger and plumper fish. Predators like wall-eye and wipers are there in good numbers to bend you pole. There are 7 fish feeders on the lake that have been relocated to allow easier access putting fish and fishermen together. With all the newly flooded vegetation this fishery is set to explode!



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The next Perry News will be available early in 2015. Please pass this newsletter on to your friends or send them to KDWPT so that they can receive the newsletter electronically.