

# Dodge City District Fisheries

Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Fisheries Division

Fall 2017

## Jetmore City Lake Update



Jetmore City Lake went dry during of one of the worst droughts in the state’s history. This severe drought began in the summer of 2010 and continued into 2015. In late 2014, scattered rains began to replenish some of the water bodies in southwest Kansas, including Jetmore City Lake. When the lake began to hold water, fish stocking efforts were resumed to once again develop a fishery.

The table below shows the number of fish that have been stocked into Jetmore City Lake since 2014.

Species	Size	Number
Channel catfish	Intermediates (approx. 3/lb)	21,450
Channel catfish	Adult (approx. 4 lbs each)	810
Bluegill	Fingerlings	55,500
Redear Sunfish	Fingerlings	20,781
Largemouth Bass	Fry	8,858
Largemouth Bass	Fingerlings	12,447
Largemouth Bass	Adult	150
Wiper	Intermediate (approx. lbs each)	511

As evidenced by the nice largemouth and wiper at the top of this page that were both caught there this summer, the fish populations are well established. Largemouth bass and bluegill usually maintain their populations naturally and plans are to continue to stock channel catfish, redear sunfish and wipers periodically to ensure good opportunities for anglers in the future.



### Continuing Effort to stock Hybrid crappie at Horsethief Reservoir

If you recall the 2016 fall newsletter, about 400 hybrid crappies, a cross between the female black crappie and the male white crappie, were introduced into Horsethief. That first year was kind of a

learning process for us and it seems that we may have learned a little from it. On Tuesday September 12, over 3,000 hybrid crappies were stocked into Horsethief Reservoir.



A sample of fingerling hybrid crappie that were stocked on September 12.

As mentioned previously, hybrid crappies do occur naturally and most often look like a normal black crappie. These fish may be able to reproduce but less frequently than the pure strain white or black crappie. The hope is that the hybrids will grow faster than the parental species, especially through the first two growing seasons.

You can go to the Horsethief Reservoir Facebook page to see video of the stocking on September 12. If you care to watch the video of these fish being produced, there is also a video of that on their Facebook page on May 9 of this year.



### **Fall Channel Catfish Stockings**

Stocking fish is the very foundation from which the present-day Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism emerged. In 1877, the governor of Kansas appointed the state's first commissioner of Fisheries and one of his most important duties was the stocking of fish in the rivers, lakes and streams of Kansas. One job fish biologists have each year is to request fish for stocking the following year. We enter our fish stocking requests into a database each December to give the folks in the fish culture section time to plan for production, pond space, and fish food to produce all species requested. Channel catfish requests are some of the biggest numbers requested each year.



Day 1 of channel catfish intermediate harvest at Meade Fish Hatchery.

As shown above, September 5 and 6 was the beginning of the annual channel catfish harvest at the Meade Fish Rearing Station (MEFR). This is one of two ponds that will be harvested there this fall. Many of the channel catfish stocked throughout southwest Kansas each year come from MEFR. Several ponds of 1 acre in size get stocked with fingerling channel catfish each spring. These fish are usually around 25 fish per pound when they arrive at MEFR and will grow to around 3.5 fish per pound when they get stocked each fall. The table below shows the numbers of channel catfish intermediates that have been requested for water bodies in southwest Kansas in 2017.

Water Body	Number	Water Body	Number
Barber S.F.L.	3,060	Meade SFL	8,000
Clark SFL	4,500	Cimarron National Grasslands	1,500
Concannon SFL	2500	Lake Coldwater	6,000
Finney SFL	11,000	Horsethief Reservoir	12,000
Ford SFL	2,400	Jetmore City Lake	2,600
Goodman SFL	4,000	Warren Stone Lake – LaCrosse	1,000
Hain SFL	2,650	Larned Pond	200
Hamilton SFL	9,400	Pratt County Lake	4,000
Hodgeman SFL	4,400	Pratt Backwaters	400
Kiowa S.F.L.	2,100	Sam’s Pond	2,500



### Fall 2017 Water levels in southwest Kansas

Rainfall has been abundant in some areas and sparse in other parts of southwest Kansas this summer. Water levels in some of our state fishing lakes and larger community lakes as of September 8, 2017, can be seen below. The numbers in parentheses are the surface acreage when the lakes are at full and at conservation pool.

State Fishing Lakes	Community Lakes
Barber State Fishing Lake – (51) - 1 foot low	Coldwater City Lake – (250) – 1 foot low
Clark State Fishing Lake – (337) – 2.5 feet low	Jetmore City Lake – (110) – 2 feet low
Concannon State Fishing Lake – (50) – dry	Pratt County Lake – (51) – Full
Ford State Lake – (40) – 1.5 feet low	Larned City Pond – (2) - Full
Goodman State Lake – (40) acres – 2 feet low	HorseThief Reservoir – (450) – 4.5 feet low
Hain State Fishing Lake – (53) - 2 feet low	
Kiowa State Fishing Lake - 21 acres - full	
Meade State Lake – (80) - 1 foot low	

