

## Cleaning and fishing



Recent rains sent water rushing into Sebelius Reservoir carrying tree limbs and trash with it. Work crews cleaned up debris while fishermen set their poles on the North shore.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## After the rains



Water collected in the conservation pool below the dam at Sebelius Reservoir. Water at the lake has not been this high since 2002. Mike Lentz, hydraulic facility superintendent for the Department of Reclamation, said levels at the lake have risen at least 6 1/2 feet but are still below the bottom of the gates. He said the lake contains about 18,928 acre feet of water. No water has been released over the spillway this year.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## The fishing report

**Keith Sebelius Reservoir**  
Updated June 26  
(Species, Rating, Size, Baits/Method/Location, in that order)

Wiper - good; 16 to 24 inches. Had reports of fish being caught this past week in Leota

Cove using night crawlers on the bottom, set lines with cut bait along the south side. Cement Cove has also been productive. Would recommend using small bluegill. Stocked 7,000 Wiper fingerlings on June 3 and 3,000 more fingerlings on June 12.

Channel Catfish - good; various. Had reports of channels being caught up to the west end by the marsh dike, and sand pit, using night crawlers, stink bait and shad off the bottom.

Reports also show that using cut bait or bluegill on set lines has been productive. The fish feeder is up and running and goes off every three hours starting at 6 a.m. through 9 p.m. The catfish should be finishing their spawn up in the rocks within the week or so.

Saugeye - fair; 16 to 25 inches. Reports are slow from the shore with boats being more productive trolling power grubs or night crawlers around the submerged road beds.

Would also recommend trolling diving lures. Were not able to stock saugeye this year; however, we did stock 35,000 wall-eye fingerlings on May 27.

Crappie - fair; 9 to 14 inches. Did have a few reports of fish being caught off the marina slips and off the public fishing dock, using minnows or tube jigs. Would also recommend trying around the fish attractors, Schoens Cove and Cement Cove using jigs and/or jigs with minnows.

Water Temperature, 79.  
Surface Elevation, 2295.64', 8.66' below conservation.

Currently, the water level is 5.18 feet higher than it was one year ago at this time.

Some additional trees have been added around the public fishing dock to help attract more fish. The reservoir has come up 6.56 feet with the rains that started at the end of May.

## Financial challenges cause concern

Traditional outdoor recreation pursuits, such as fishing, have experienced declining participation rates throughout the U.S. in recent years. The cost of fisheries management is paid for by anglers through their purchase of licenses and permits, as well as fishing equipment which generates tax dollars for state wildlife agencies through federal aid programs. With declining participation rates, the dollars needed for fisheries management are being generated by a decreasing segment of our population.

Although Kansas ranks above many other states in angling participation rates, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks faces serious challenges in generating revenues necessary to maintain high-quality fishing opportunities. Kansas lakes are aging, and many need renovation

for a variety of ailments from sedimentation to invasive species. Similarly, aging fish hatcheries will require investment in the near future. Rising costs of fuel and equipment further challenge the department's abilities to maintain and improve fishing opportunities.

Addressing these needs will require a variety of strategies to ensure adequate funding is available for future fisheries management. Among potential strategies is a proposal to modify the current fishing license exemption for Kansas 65 and older. Currently, Kansas residents age 16 through 64 must possess a fishing license to fish public waters; Kansas 65 and older are not required to purchase a license.

Removing that exemption would generate not only increased revenue from license

sales, but would allow the department to claim a greater share of federal aid revenues, which is partly based on the number of licenses sold in the state.

Potential options include removing the current senior exemption, and imposing either a reduced-price annual fishing license or a reduced-price 'lifetime' fishing license for citizens 65 and older.

What's your opinion?

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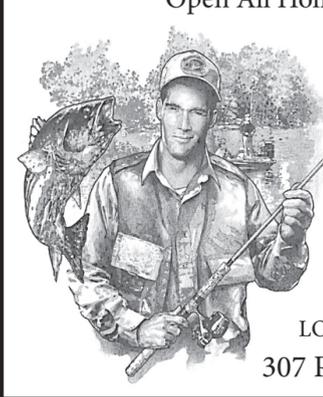
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