

No fishing license needed in Kansas on June 3 and 4

To coincide with National Boating and Fishing Week, the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks has announced that June 3-4 will be 2006 Free Fishing Days. One of the best outdoor entertainment bargains in the state, these two days give both novice and seasoned anglers a chance to get started on the fishing season without having to buy a license. The weekend is geared toward families, but anyone can participate.

Kansas has one of the most diverse systems of reservoirs and waterways in the country, along with a variety of sportfish. Black bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, flathead catfish, striped bass, walleye, white bass, and wipers are among the more popular species found throughout the state.

For those who have been wondering about these resources in Kansas, Free Fishing Days is the perfect opportunity to explore them. It's also a great time to get the kids out and enjoy family time.

For information on where to fish in Kansas or for the latest fishing reports and fishing conditions throughout Kansas, visit www.kdwp.state.ks.us. Kansas anglers are also encouraged to consult the 2006 Fishing Forecast to help decide where the best fishing prospects are in Kansas this year.

FISHING REPORT:

Sebelius Reservoir Fishing Report — Temperature: 62 degrees
Lake Elevation: 2287, 17.13' below conservation pool
Surface Acres: 2,300 — Maximum Depth: 42 feet

Saugeye — Fair (wide range) A few saugeye are starting to bite in the main body of the lake south of the State Park office and along the dam using night crawlers.

Wiper — Fair (wide range) Are catching a few on the East side of Leota Cove, North end of the dam and in Concrete Cove using worms and casting bucktail jigs into the wind.

Catfish — Fair (wide range) Have been catching a few up to the west end, off the point south of the office and off the point of Schoen's Cove using shad, worms and chicken liver on the bottom.

Crappie — Fair (9 to 14 inches) Catching a few crappie around the Public Fishing Dock and Marina Dock using jigs and jigs with minnows. Would also recommend trying the maintained fish attractors.

General Comments — Currently, the water level is 0.29' lower than it was one year ago at this time. The 15 inch Length Limit on Largemouth Bass that was temporarily removed in 2003, has been reinstated. Therefore, there is a 15 inch Length Limit in effect for

A prime place to experience the short-grass prairies of western Kansas, Prairie Dog State Park occupies 1,150 acres on the shores of Keith Sebelius Reservoir in Norton County. The park is home to a thriving prairie dog colony and is the site of the last remaining adobe house in Kansas.

Campsites at Prairie Dog include one reservable cabin, 40 electric/water sites, 18 electric-only sites, and more than 130 primitive sites. A 1.4-mile nature trail complete

with interpretive signage is a great way to explore the park and observe wildlife.

Sebelius Reservoir is well known for its excellent fishing opportunities. In recent years, anglers have found productive fishing for black bass, walleye, wiper, crappie, catfish and saugeye.

The 6,400-acre Norton Wildlife Area offers good prospects for pheasant, waterfowl and rabbits. Both whitetailed and mule deer can be found here, as well as a variety of furbearers.

The Park office is now open Sunday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Please call (785) 877-2953 before making a special trip to the park, due to our annual training requirements the office is sometimes closed during normal business hours.

The water is now on in the campgrounds. We have no reservable sites available for Memorial Day weekend, all other sites are first come, first serve. Plan ahead, we only have 8 reservable sites available for 4th of July weekend. Cabin No. 2 (Cedar Crest) is now complete and available for rent! It has heating/airconditioning, a refrigerator, and a microwave just like Cabin No. 1 (Cottonwood). Wildlife observation, including pheasant, quail, whitetailed deer, waterfowl, and of course, the prairie dogs, is excellent this time of year.

Please join us for the following special events at Prairie Dog State Park:

- June 3 & 4 — Free Fishing Days, No fishing license required.
- June 3 & 4 — Decatur COOP Fishing Derby & Customer Appreciation Picnic
- July 4 — 4th of July Fireworks Display
- July 15 & 16 — Denver Bassmasters Tournament
- July 21-31 — Baker Family Reunion
- Aug. 12 — Prairie Dog Christmas
- Oct. 8 — Angling Nebraska Tournament

If you have questions pertaining to the park, call the park office at (785) 877-2953.

Questions pertaining to the Norton Wildlife Area or hunting should be directed to Cris Mulder, Public Lands Manager at (785) 877-2953.

Questions pertaining to fishing should be directed to Mark Shaw, Fisheries Biologist at (785) 425-6775.

WATERFOWL REPORT:

Norton Wildlife Area
Waterfowl Report

Waterfowl numbers — Less than 50 light geese.

Water level — Reservoir is 17.2 ft below conservation pool.

Hunting conditions — Reservoir is open (no ice).

Expected hunting success — Poor, due to small numbers of light geese.

Comments — Light goose conservation order is the only waterfowl season currently open. **Refuge is no longer in effect**

Largemouth and Spotted Bass. KDWP is conducting a creel survey again this year so if approached by our creel clerk Larry Johnson, please take a few minutes to answer a few questions.

Limits

Bluegill — creel limit: none listed; min. length limit: none listed

Black Bullhead — creel limit: none listed; min. length limit: none listed

Channel Catfish — creel limit: 10; min. length limit: none listed

White Crappie — creel limit: 50; min. length limit: none listed

Flathead Catfish — creel limit: 5; min. length limit: none listed

Green Sunfish — creel limit: none listed; min. length limit: none listed

Largemouth Bass — creel limit: 6; min. length limit: 15

Saugeye — creel limit: 5; min. length limit: 18

Spotted Bass — creel limit: 6; min. length limit: 15

Walleye — creel limit: 5; min. length limit: 18

Wiper — creel limit: 2; min. length limit: none listed



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