

**1995 Kansas Licensed Angler Use and Reference Survey and Attitudes Towards Angling
by Secondary Education Students**

by

Matthew N. Burlingame

B.S., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 1995

M.S., Kansas State University, 1997

ABSTRACT

The 1995 licensed angler survey was initiated to study the opinions of Kansas resident, lifetime and non-resident anglers. It was designed to describe the demographic patterns of these angler groups and determine if there were differences in opinions and preferences toward angling among user groups. In addition, the study determined the opinions of secondary education students with regards to angling and the outdoors. A total of 14,302 surveys were mailed to Kansas resident, lifetime, and non-resident anglers and response rates after three mailings were 56%, 75%, and 59%, respectively. Telephone follow-up interviews were conducted on 253 non-respondent resident anglers to account for non-response bias. Comparisons between non-respondent and respondent resident anglers revealed few differences; therefore the angler survey results were not adjusted for non-respondents. All licensed anglers were predominately male, 30-49 years old, with some college education, and a gross income between \$30,001 and \$50,000 in 1995. Resident and lifetime anglers ranked largemouth bass as their most favored species of fish to catch. Non-residents indicated they preferred to catch crappie more than any other species. Resident and non-resident licensed anglers selected federal reservoirs as their most preferred body of water to fish; whereas lifetime anglers selected private lakes and ponds. All three licensed-angler types indicated that habitat improvement, fish management, and fisheries research were important KDWP management activities. Anglers also expressed support for threatened and endangered species by indicating that management of these species was important. Anglers believed that their license dollars are wisely spent in Kansas. Student anglers indicated that they preferred to fish for largemouth bass. Students also preferred to fish in large lakes. Nearly half the students rates catching a big fish as "Critical" compared to the majority of residents selecting "Somewhat important" and "Not important." Students did indicate that catching any kind of fish was significantly more "Critical" to them than to resident licensed anglers. Anglers indicated that KDWP management activities such as fisheries research, habitat improvement, and fish management were important. They also were satisfied with how their license money was being spent by KDWP. The results indicate that Kansas licensed anglers appear to be relatively pleased with fishing in Kansas and support KDWP management programs.