

Neosho angler catches state-record brown trout at Lake Taneycomo



TANEY COUNTY, Mo. – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports Paul Crews of Neosho, Mo. became the most recent record-breaking angler in Missouri when he hooked a brown trout on Lake Taneycomo using a rod and reel.

The new “pole and line” record brown trout caught by Crews on Feb. 23 weighed 34-pounds, 10-ounces. The new record beats the previous state-record by 6 pounds and 2 ounces. Crews was fishing with 4-pound test line and a sculpin colored marabou jig.

“I never would of have dreamed to catch a state-record fish like this,” Crews said. “I’m still in shock that I actually caught that giant brown trout.”

Crews noted that he and his partner Jim Rayfield Sr. were out fishing in the Vince Elfrink Memorial Trout Tournament when he caught the state-record brown trout.

“I usually only trout fish one time a year and it’s this tournament,” Crews said.

Crews said once he hooked the fish he wasn’t sure it was that large until it began fighting.

“I fought the fish from one side of the lake to the other and back,” Crews said. “Finally, after about 20 minutes of fighting the trout, my partner and I were able to get it netted and bring it in the boat.”

Crews added that he knew the fish was big once it was in the boat, but he never really thought much about it being a state record.

“Once the fish was in the boat I just knew my partner and I won the tournament,” Crews said. “But I was shocked to hear I was a state record holder.”

Staff verified Crews’ record-weight fish using a certified scale at Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery.

Crews said he took pictures and got the dimensions of the fish to make a replica, and then released the giant brown trout back into Lake Taneycomo

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

In the Nevada Daily Mail, Thursday, September 6, 2001 was this article – Bigger ones wait to be caught.

State biologists net suspected record brown trout in Lake Taneycomo

BRANSON, Mo. (AP) – Everyone agrees it’s a whopper of a fish for Lake Taneycomo, but it won’t be going into the record book. There won’t be any certificates or trophies, either.

That’s because Missouri Department of Conservation biologists netted the brown trout while looking for evidence that large fish are returning to the popular fishing lake near Branson.

Needless to say, biologists got the evidence they were looking for in their annual sampling. The brown trout was 36.5 inches long, with a girth of 28.5 inches. No scales were available when it was pulled Aug. 27 from Lake Taneycomo. But based on its size, it was calculated to weigh approx-

imately 37 pounds.

That would have topped the current state record of 26 pounds, 13 ounces for a brown trout.

From a statistical standpoint, officials said it was merely a fish that was measured and released unharmed into the lake.

Biologists, however, said it represents more than numbers on their clipboard.

“A fish this size represents the growth potential that exists for trout in Lake Taneycomo,” said Chris Vitello, supervisor of Department of Conservation Southwest Regional Fisheries. “Because of length limits and catch-and-release regulations, I wouldn’t be surprised to see a new state-record brown trout caught

from Lake Taneycomo in the next few years.”

It wasn’t the first sign that there are tremendous trout swimming in the lake. In 1997, a dead brown trout weighing slightly more than 37 pounds was found there. Officials estimated that it could have weighed a world-record 40-plus pounds when alive. The present state record brown trout also was caught in 1997 near Powersite Dam.

“This fish is definitely the top predator in the lake,” said Fisheries Management Biologist Bill Anderson, who manages the fishery at Lake Taneycomo. “Anglers are the only thing it has to worry about.”