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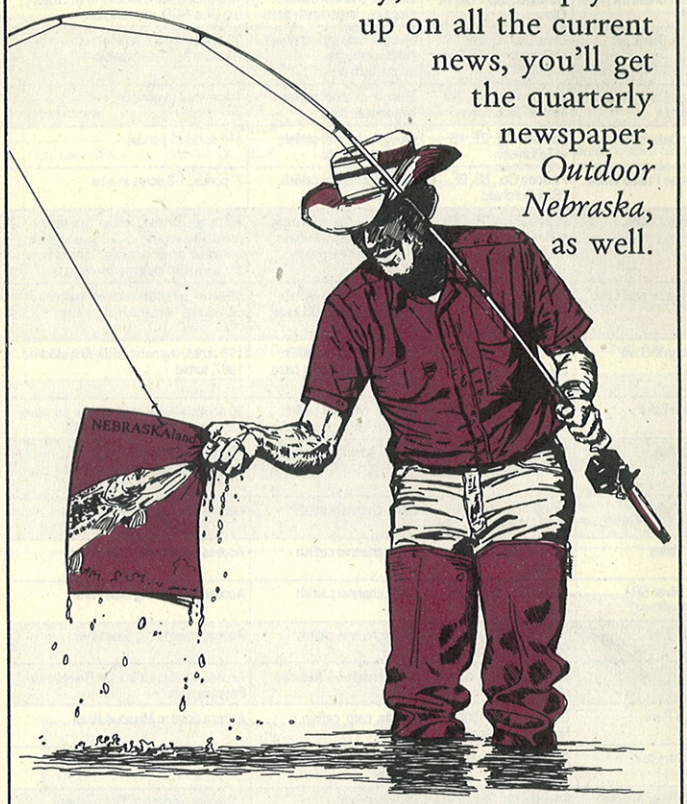

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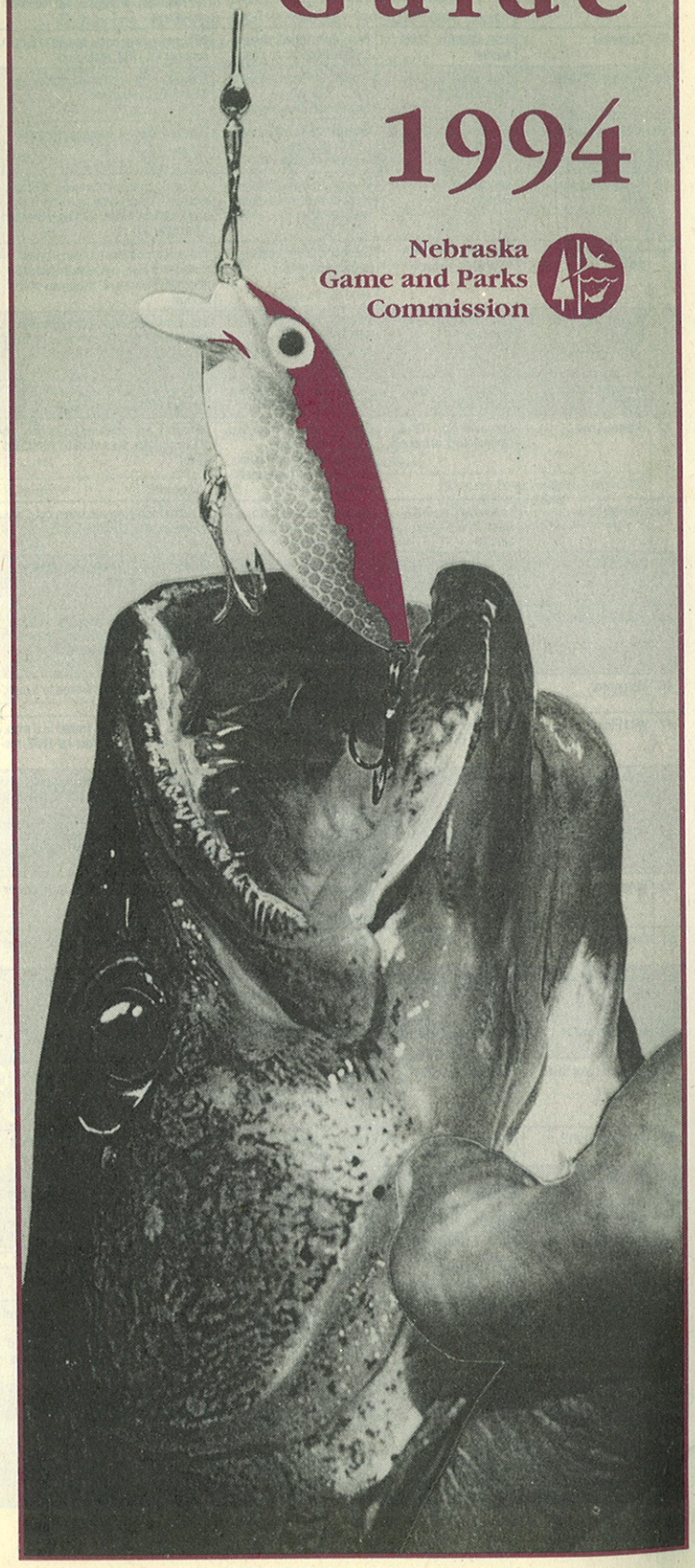
Nebraska Fishing Guide

1994

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission



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Permits

RESIDENT ANNUAL FISH	$11.50
RESIDENT COMBINATION FISH-HUNT	19.50
NONRESIDENT ANNUAL	25.00
NONRESIDENT 3-DAY	7.50
RESIDENT 3-DAY	7.50
TROUT STAMP	5.00

A fishing permit is required to take or attempt to take any fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, tiger salamanders, mussels or minnows by any method, except for the owner or the guest of the owner of any body of water which (1) is located entirely on private land, (2) is entirely privately stocked, (3) does not connect by inflow or outflow with any outside water and (4) is not operated on a commercial basis.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO HAVE A PERMIT?

A resident fishing permit is required for all Nebraskans 16 years of age and older. However, fee-exempt permits are available to resident veterans 65 years of age and older and all residents 70 years of age and older. A "resident" is a person who has resided in Nebraska continuously for at least 90 days and who has a bona fide intention of becoming a legal resident of this state.

Others who may obtain a resident permit include: (1) servicemen officially stationed in Nebraska and on active duty here for at least 30 consecutive days; (2) nonresident students upon proof they have attended classes full time for at least 30 consecutive days at any Nebraska college, university, junior college, vocational school or any foreign exchange high school student; and (3) any person duly enrolled in and attending a civilian conservation center or similar government work or training facility for 30 consecutive days.

A nonresident fishing permit is required of all people who are not residents of Nebraska, except those listed and those under 16 years of age who are accompanied by someone possessing a valid permit.

Information and application forms for fee-exempt fishing permits are available only from the Game and Parks Commission office in Lincoln. See Boundary Waters section for permit requirements for people fishing the waters of the Missouri River.

LIFETIME PERMITS

Nebraska residents can now enjoy a lifetime of fishing or hunting on a single permit and support outdoor recreation at the same time. Fees are: Lifetime Fish, $230; Lifetime Hunt, $200; or Lifetime Fish and Hunt, $400. Funds from these permits go into a special fund, with the interest each year going to help support fisheries and wildlife management in Nebraska. For an application or more information, write to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

Trout Stamp

Everyone, 16 years of age or older, resident and nonresident alike, is required to have a $5 Nebraska Trout Stamp, if they have trout taken in Nebraska in their possession. Holders of free permits are exempted, as are those who fish for trout in the put-and-take lake at Two Rivers State Recreation Area near Valley. Funds derived from the sale of this stamp are dedicated to the support of Nebraska's trout management programs. For more information, write to: Fisheries Division, Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503-0370.

Synopsis of Changes for 1994

SIZE LIMITS

Sets a statewide 15-inch minimum on largemouth bass at all publicly owned, controlled or managed waters.

Sets a 21-inch minimum on largemouth bass at Willow Lake in Brown County.

Sets an 8-inch minimum on bluegill and 10-inch minimum on crappie at Zorinsky Lake in Douglas County and Wehrspann Lake in Sarpy County.

CATCH-AND-RELEASE

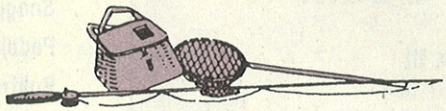
Creates an all-species catch-and-release fishery at Wildwood Lake in Lancaster County.

BAG LIMITS

Reduces the bag limit to 15 and the possession limit to 30 for striped bass, white bass and striped bass hybrid (wiper).

ICE FISHING

Requires anglers to stay within a distance from their tip-ups that allows unaided observation.



For More Information

If you need additional information on fishing, write to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503, or call one of our offices at: Alliance, (308) 762-5605; Bassett, (402) 684-2921; Gibbon, (308) 468-5132;Lincoln, (402) 471-0641; Norfolk, (402) 370-3374; North Platte, (308) 535-8025; and Omaha, (402) 595-2144.

It Is Unlawful

- to borrow or use the permit of another or lend your permit to another.
- to leave fish or any part thereof on the banks of any stream, lake or other body of water.
- to fish on any private land without landowner permission.
- to use a crossbow or similar device, with the exception of handicapped person with a medical certificate on file.
- to seine game fish of any size.
- to leave minnows in a trap for more than 24 hours.
- to use drifting float lines, except on rivers, streams and Lewis and Clark Lake. They must be personally attended, and name and address must be attached.
- to use glass floats on float lines.
- to attach limb lines with nails, or more than 12 inches above the water to trees on any lake or reservoir.
- to possess live diploid grass carp (Ctenopharyngodon idella), also known as white amur. Anyone catching a grass carp must immediately kill or release it.
- to release in public waters of the state any fish that did not originate from that body of water.
- to attempt to snag fish, except in areas designated. See section on Snagging for details.

This agency receives federal funds. Under federal law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the Equal Opportunity Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503, or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Seasons

HOOK-AND-LINE — Open year-round throughout the state, except as noted or as posted.

ARCHERY — Game fish may be taken from July 1 through December 31 from sunrise to sunset. Nongame fish may be taken year-round from sunrise to sunset and 24 hours per day April 1 through August 31 in inland waters. See section on Archery/Surface Spearing for exceptions. Hook and line limits apply.

SNAGGING — Missouri River only . . . downstream from Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile Marker 734) beginning October 8 and ending November 6 or when an estimated 1,600 paddlefish have been harvested, whichever comes first. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging at all times. See section on Snagging for details.

SURFACE SPEARING — Only nongame fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset year-round and 24 hours a day from April 1 through August 31.

UNDERWATER SPEARING — Game fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset from July 1 through December 31. Nongame fish may be taken year-round, sunrise to sunset. See Underwater Spearing section for open waters.

Bag and Possession Limits

Sport fishing is permitted year-round on all Nebraska waters, except for those areas closed by the Game and Parks Commission by posting or by Commission regulation, federal or state law or city ordinance.

Bag and possession limits may vary between "Inland Waters" and "Waters of the Missouri River." For this purpose only, "Inland Waters" include all waters of the state except the waters of the Missouri River, and "Waters of the Missouri River" include all of the river within Nebraska and all reservoirs, oxbows, sloughs, chutes, backwaters and marshes that have annual surface water connection to the river, and the first 300 yards upstream from the mouth of all tributary streams.

Inland Waters	**Bag**	**Poss.**
Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass (combined) (only one fish in daily bag may exceed 21 inches in length)	4	8
Channel/Blue Catfish (combined)	10	20
Flathead Catfish	4	8
Paddlefish	1	2
Walleye/Sauger/Saugeye (in combination)	5	10
Waters of Missouri River		
Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass (combined)	5	10
Blue Catfish	1	1
Channel/Flathead Catfish (combined)	10	20
Paddlefish		
Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux	1	1
Walleye/Sauger/Saugeye (combined)	4	8
Statewide		
Trout (all species)	7	14
Striped Bass/White Bass/Striped Bass Hybrid (no more than 1 fish over 20 inches long, 3-fish daily bag at Branched Oak, Conestoga and Bluestem reservoirs)	15	30
Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie (combined)	1	2
Bait Minnows/Tiger Salamander	100	100
Shovelnose Sturgeon	10	20
Northern Pike	3	6
Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass (each)	30	60
Mussels and clams	10	20
All other fish	No Limit	
Bullfrogs	8	16
Snapping Turtles	10	20

DAILY BAG — Fish taken from midnight to midnight. No person may possess more than one day's limit of fish while on the water or actively engaged in fishing. Fish subject to a bag and possession limit, but not a size limit, can be filleted prior to transport if the fillets are kept in one piece until cooked, so the bag and possession limits can be determined. Fish subject to a size limit can only be gilled and gutted.

POSSESSION LIMIT — Fish in a person's portable cooler, home freezer, registered in his name in a commercial cold storage locker or in any other way under his control. If given to another person, the fish must be tagged by the angler with the following information: the angler's signature; the angler's address; the total number of animals involved, by species; the date the fish or aquatic animals were taken; and the angler's permit number.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES — Lake Sturgeon and Pallid Sturgeon. Season closed. If caught, return to the water immediately. Anglers who catch either of these species are asked to notify the Game and Parks Commission's Fisheries Division so biologists can record where the species was caught.

SPECIAL LIMITS — In the following state-owned lakes, the daily bag and possession limit is 10 fish in combination. Two Rivers Carp Lake, Douglas County; Niobrara Park Lake, Knox County; West Lake No. 3, Louisville, Cass County; Fremont Lake No. 5 and Dead Timber Lake, Dodge County. **Note:** many cities limit the take to less than 10. In Zorinsky Lake, there is a daily bag limit of 10 panfish (bluegill and crappie) in combination.

NOTICE

This is a guide only. For sources, consult Nebraska statutes and official regulations.

Hook and Line Limit

Anglers are limited to 2 lines with 2 hooks on each line in any pond, lake or reservoir, and for one-half mile in their inlets, outlets and canals.

In stream fishing, the limits are 5 hooks on a line or 15 hooks in the aggregate. Only 5 lines with 2 hooks on each line are permitted when ice fishing. Only 1 hook may be used when snagging.

One hook means a single, double or treble-pointed hook. All hooks attached to an artificial bait or lure are counted as one hook.

These limits apply to all fishing, including rod and reel, poles, float lines, bank lines, setlines and all other types. The name, address and fishing permit number of the angler shall be attached to floats of all float lines, and to all limb lines and set lines. Float lines may be used only on streams, rivers and Lewis and Clark Lake. They must be personally attended. The use of glass floats is unlawful. Bag and possession limits are the same as for hook and line.

Note limitations listed in Special Areas.

Size Limits

Fish may not be filleted until fishing is completed for the day where size and bag limits apply. Fish subject to a size limit cannot be possessed while on the water, while wading or while engaged in fishing with more than the gills, viscera and scales removed. Fillets must be kept in one piece until cooked, so bag and possession limits can be determined. Any fish in possession while actively fishing will be subject to size and bag limits that apply to the water being fished. Fish placed

in public storage must be labeled with the owner's name, address, fishing license number, species and number of fish, and the date placed in storage.

BASS (LARGEMOUTH): 12-inch Minimum: All private waters.

15-inch Minimum: Statewide on all publicly owned, controlled or managed waters, except where other limits apply and parts of the Missouri River. There is a 12-inch minimum size limit on all black bass in the section of the Missouri River between Nebraska and Iowa and Nebraska and Missouri. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass on the following Missouri River lakes and oxbows: DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge lake, Washington County; Snyder Bend Lake, Dakota and Thurston counties; and Lake Yankton, Cedar County.

21-inch Minimum: Buckskin Hills Lake, Dixon County; Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County; Skyview Lake, Madison County; Burchard Lake, Pawnee County; Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County; and Willow Lake, Brown County.

BASS (SMALLMOUTH, SPOTTED): 12-inch Minimum: Statewide on all publicly owned, controlled or managed waters, except where other limits apply and parts of the Missouri River. There is a 12-inch minimum size limit on all black bass in the section of the Missouri River between Nebraska and Iowa and Nebraska and Missouri.

BLUEGILL: 8-inch Minimum: Stagecoach Reservoir, Lancaster County; Mormon Island Lakes No. 1, 2 and 3, Hall County; Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County; and Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County.

CRAPPIE: 10-inch Minimum: Branched Oak and Pawnee reservoirs, Lancaster County; Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County; and Zorinsky Lake, Douglas County.

MUSKELLUNGE/TIGER MUSKIE: 30-inch minimum statewide.

NORTHERN PIKE: 24-inch minimum in all inland waters east of U.S. Highway 281.

WALLEYE: 15-inch Minimum: Enders Reservoir, Chase County; Medicine Creek Reservoir, Frontier County; Red Willow Reservoir, Frontier and Red Willow counties; Johnson Lake, Gosper and Dawson counties; Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock County; Maloney Reservoir, Lincoln County; Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek, Scotts Bluff County; Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County; Lake McConaughy and Lake Ogallala, Keith County; and the NPPD Sutherland supply canal to, and including, Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County; and the NPPD supply canal to, and including, the South Platte River to the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District diversion dam at North Platte, Lincoln County; and from the Central Diversion Dam (Lincoln County) downstream to the J-2 return (Dawson County), including Jeffrey, Midway, Gallagher and Plum Creek reservoirs and all other NPPD and Central system waters.

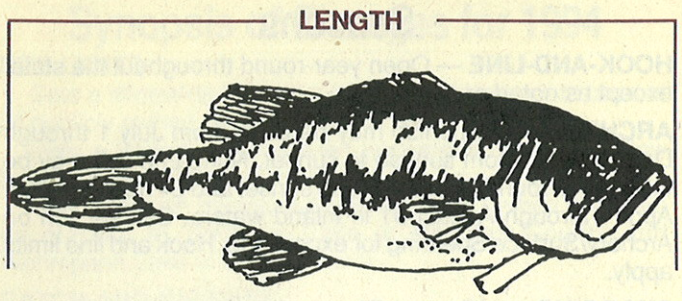
18-inch minimum: Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County; Elwood Reservoir, Gosper County; Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan County; Branched Oak Reservoir, Lancaster County; Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County; Calamus Reservoir, Loup and Garfield counties.

25-inch size limit: (only one fish longer than 25 inches allowed in bag): Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County; Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County; and Calamus Reservoir, Loup and Garfield counties.

Bullfrog: 4½ inches from snout to vent.

All Other Species: None.

Any fish caught that is not to be counted in the bag limit must be immediately released into the water with as little injury as possible. Any fish placed on a stringer, in a container or not returned immediately to the water must be counted in the bag.



How To Measure Length Of Fish

Lay the fish on a flat surface with the mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together. Measure the length from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.

Archery/Surface Spearfishing

Game fish may be taken by bow and arrow from July 1 through December 31 from sunrise to sunset, statewide. Game fish may not be taken with surface spears. Nongame fish may be taken by archery or surface spear year-round from inland waters, sunrise to sunset, and may be taken 24 hours a day from April 1 through August 31.

With archery, only long bows (including compound bows), drawn by hand, are legal. A crossbow may be used by a handicapped person who has a medical certificate on file with the Game and Parks Commission Fisheries Division. Arrows must be attached by a line to the bow and must have only one point, which must be barbed. Arrows with more than one point are prohibited.

The following areas are closed year-round — all put-and-take lakes stocked by the Game and Parks Commission; Two Rivers, Louisville, Fort Kearny, Fremont, Mormon Island and Windmill state recreation areas; Platte River State Park and Mahoney State Park; and trout streams (see Special Areas).

For surface spearing, only hand spears are legal. Any spearing device must be barbed.

Underwater Spearfishing

Lawful spear guns include hand spears, rubberband-powered spear guns, and spring-loaded spear guns. All spears used on powered spear guns must be attached to a lanyard with a maximum length of 20 feet. Underwater spearfishing is not permitted within 100 yards of any designated swimming or water ski jump area, boat dock, boat ramp or spillway.

SEASONS

Game fish — July 1 through December 31 in waters listed below. Bag and possession limits are the same as for hook and line, except that there is a daily bag limit of two walleye and a possession limit of four walleye in effect on all lakes listed below. Hours are sunrise to sunset.

Nongame fish — Open year-round in waters listed below. There are no size, bag or possession limits. Hours are sunrise to sunset.

OPEN WATERS

1. Privately owned lakes with permission of the lake owner
2. Lake McConaughy, Keith County
3. Lake Ogallala, Keith County
4. Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County
5. Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County
6. Lewis and Clark Lake

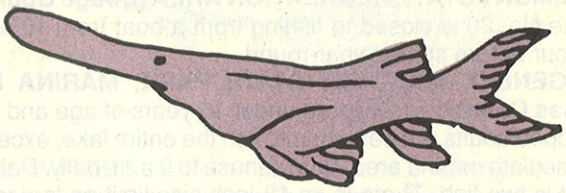
7. Harlan County Reservoir
8. Enders Reservoir, Chase County
9. Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock County
10. Hugh Butler (Red Willow) Reservoir, Frontier and Red Willow counties
11. Harry Strunk (Medicine Creek) Reservoir, Frontier County
12. Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County
13. Maloney Reservoir, Lincoln County
14. Jeffrey Canyon Reservoir, Lincoln County
15. Johnson Reservoir, Gosper and Dawson counties
16. Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County
17. Elwood Reservoir, Gosper County
18. Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County
19. Calamus Reservoir, Loup and Garfield counties

DIVER'S FLAG

The diver's flag must be displayed on the water on a float or buoy when diving or underwater-powered spearfishing. A diver and underwater spearfisherman must remain within 150 feet of his flag. The flag must be at least 12 inches square, with a red background and white diagonal stripe that is one-fifth the width of the flag. The white stripe must run from the top of the hoist to the bottom of the flag. It is unlawful to display this flag when diving or spearfishing is not in progress.

Snagging

Snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish only is permitted in the Missouri River under season dates and limits specified in the Paddlefish and Snagging of Nongame Fish section of this guide, which follows. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging for all species at all times. Any game fish that are snagged accidentally or otherwise foul hooked must be returned to the water immediately.



Paddlefish and Snagging of Nongame Fish

MISSOURI RIVER

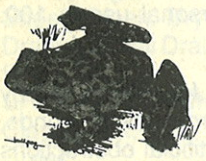
Snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish is permitted in the Missouri River from the Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse canal markers downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile Marker 734) from sunrise to sunset beginning the second Saturday of October and ending 30 days later or when an estimate of 1,600 paddlefish have been harvested, whichever comes first. The quota shall be determined by creel survey estimates, and the season shall be closed when the quota is reached. Signs will be posted, and media outlets will be contacted to notify anglers of the season closure. Only one hook may be used when snagging, and the gap between the point of the hook to the shank may not exceed 1/2-inch. The daily bag limit is one paddlefish. All paddlefish between 35 and 45 inches long (measured along the center line of the fish, laying flat, including the entire eye to the fork the tail), must be returned to the water immediately. The slot limit is aimed at protecting the majority of spawning-size fish. It is recommended that a gaff not be used to land paddlefish because it may damage its gills.

Paddlefish may be taken by bow and arrow in the Missouri River starting the second Saturday of July and ending the third Sunday of July from the Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile Marker 734).

INLAND WATERS

Paddlefish may be taken by hook-and-line methods other than snagging year-round in all inland waters. The bag limit is one paddlefish and the possession limit is two paddlefish.

Paddlefish may be taken by archery in all inland waters per regulations governing archery and surface spearing.



Bullfrogs

Bullfrog season runs from August 15 through October 31. The bag limit is 8 bullfrogs per person. They may be taken only on a fishing permit by hand, hand net, and hook-and-line. Artificial light may be used when taking bullfrogs. Bullfrogs must measure 4½" from snout to vent or be released. Only the entrails may be removed prior to transport.

Snapping Turtles

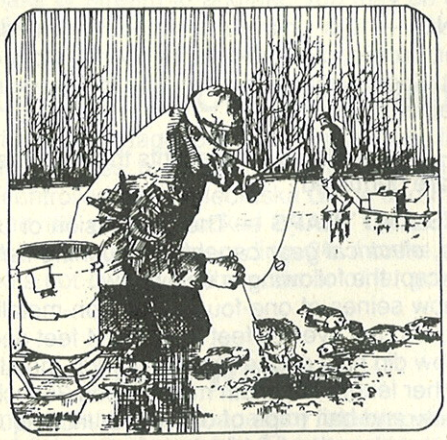
Snapping turtles may be taken year-round, and limits are 10 in the daily bag and 20 in possession. They may be taken only by hand, hand net, hook and line, bow and arrow or gaff hook.

Mussels (Clams)

Mussels may be taken year-round by hand, hand net or hook and line. The limit is 10 daily and 20 in possession.

Ice Fishing

When ice fishing, only 5 lines with no more than 2 hooks on each line are permitted. Each line or tip-up used while fishing public standing waters must be under the direct supervision and within the unaided observation of the angler. Holes



made for ice fishing may not exceed 10 inches in diameter on any area controlled by the Game and Parks Commission.

A special $5 permit is required to place a permanent ice shelter on all state recreation area and wildlife management area lakes. Application forms and shelter regulations are available from conservation officers, Commission offices, or by mail from the Parks Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503. This does not apply to temporary, portable shelters used and removed each day.

Bait and Minnows

Bait fish may not be sold except by permit. For commercial purposes (bait vendors, private fish culturists, and nonresident fish dealers), please refer to the official regulations supplied with your permit. The following regulation guidelines apply only to bait obtained for personal use.

It is unlawful to take minnows from any lake, reservoir, or bayou. Digging, seining and trapping for bait or any other purpose is prohibited on all state-owned or controlled areas. All game fish of whatever size taken while netting or seining for bait must immediately be returned to the waters from which taken. The bag limit of minnows for personal use is 100. Possession limit is 100.

GIZZARD SHAD — Shad may be taken for use as bait by legal minnow dip nets in any number from lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and below dams and other artificial obstructions for a distance of 200 yards below such obstructions. Shad can only be used in the body of water in which they were captured. Shad may be taken by legal minnow seine, landing net or dip net in any number in streams except those streams closed to the taking of minnows or bait by such method. See Special Areas.

BELOW DAMS — The seining or capturing of minnows for commercial or private purposes for a distance of 200 yards below any dam, check, spillway, or other artificial obstruction is unlawful. Individuals may take minnows for personal use as bait using a legal minnow dip net within a 200 yard distance below any dam, spillway or other artificial obstruction.

RESTRICTED SPECIES — It is unlawful to sell, transport, or offer for sale as bait, any live carp, carpsucker, buffalo, gar, quillback or bowfin. Live fish of those species may be used for bait only in the same waters from which they are legally taken. Dead carp, carpsucker, buffalo, gar, quillback or bowfin may be transported for use as bait.

EXPORTING — No more than 100 legally captured minnows may be exported by a resident for his personal use in fishing outside the state. No other minnows taken from Nebraska waters may be transported out of the state in any manner, except minnows artificially propagated in man-made impoundments by licensed fish culturists.

IMPORTING — It is unlawful to import or transport carp, carpsucker, buffalo, quillback, gar or bowfin into the state for use as bait. Special permits are required for a person to import and sell bait or bait minnows.

SCENTS — Anise oil and other scents that do not stun, kill or harm fish are permitted.

FISH NETS AND TRAPS — The possession or use of any nets, traps, *electrical gear capable of stunning fish,* or other devices except the following is unlawful:

1. Minnow seines of one-fourth inch non-metallic square mesh only, and not over 20 feet long and 4 feet deep.
2. Minnow dip nets of one-fourth inch non-metallic square mesh. Neither length nor width may exceed 36 inches.
3. Minnow and bait traps of one-fourth inch square mesh material with a length of 24 inches or less, a diameter 16 inches or less, and a throat 1½ inches or less in diameter. All minnow traps shall be raised and the minnows removed at least every 24 hours.
4. Landing nets, made of non-metallic mesh, used only for landing fish caught on hook and line.

CLOSED WATERS — See Special Area section.

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Special Area Regulations

WILDWOOD LAKE — Possession of any fish species while fishing this lake is prohibited. This lake is designated a "No Kill Lake". All species must immediately be returned to the lake unharmed.

PLATTSMOUTH WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA — This area is open to fishing from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from April 15 through September 15 except when closed by the Commission by posting.

BURCHARD STATE LAKE — It is unlawful to fish in this Pawnee County lake during the waterfowl hunting season, beginning Oct. 15 until the close of dark goose season each year, except bank fishing from the face of the dam is permitted during this closed period as posted by signs on the area.

BUCKSKIN HILLS LAKE, SKYVIEW LAKE, ZORINSKY LAKE, BURCHARD LAKE, WEHRSPANN LAKE AND WILLOW LAKE — These lakes are designated as trophy lakes for largemouth bass. All bass caught must be immediately returned to the water, except that one fish that is 21 inches or longer may be kept in the daily bag.

TWIN LAKES (Seward County) — This wildlife management area is closed to all public use from October 15 until the end of the dark goose season. East Twin Lake has a 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass.

BUFFALO CREEK WMA (Scotts Bluff and Banner counties)—It is unlawful to use more than two lines with two hooks per line when fishing in Buffalo Creek Pond, including ice fishing.

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK (Dawes County)—It is unlawful to use more than 2 lines with 2 hooks on each line when fishing in Cherry Creek, Icehouse and Grabel ponds and Carter P. Johnson Lake. This includes ice fishing.

FREMONT STATE RECREATION AREA (Dodge County)—Lake No. 20 is closed to fishing from a boat from 10 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset year-round.

EUGENE T. MAHONEY STATE PARK, MARINA LAKE (Cass County) — Children under 16 years of age and handicapped adults are permitted to fish the entire lake, except the immediate marina area, from sunrise to 9 a.m. daily. Daily bag limit is two fish. There is an 18-inch size limit on largemouth bass.

EUGENE T. MAHONEY STATE PARK, US WEST LAKE (Cass County) — Fishing is permitted daily. Largemouth bass and bluegill fishing is limited to catch and release. The daily bag limit on all trout and channel catfish is three fish per angler.

CLEAR LAKE (Brown County) — It is unlawful to have in possession or use for bait any minnows, alive or dead while fishing this lake. Further, it is unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from this lake.

SHERMAN RESERVOIR (Sherman County) — Sherman Dam and the area paralleling the shoreline at the dam extending 150 feet lakeward shall be closed to fishing from sunset to sunrise April 1 thorough April 20.

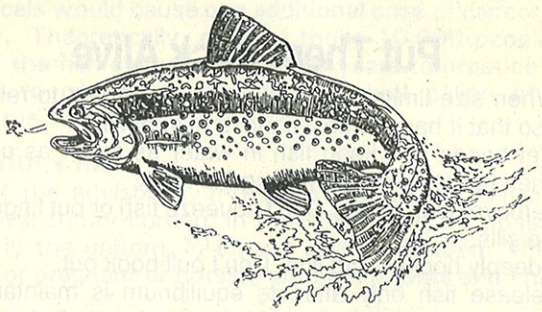
NIOBRARA STATE PARK (Knox County) — Largemouth bass fishing is limited to catch and release on two park lakes; possession is prohibited.

TWO RIVERS STATE RECREATION AREA (Douglas County) — The Platte River bordering this area and all lakes, except Nos. 3,4, and 5, are closed to fishing during the waterfowl hunting seasons. Archery fishing, snagging, spearing, jigging, snaring, and baiting are prohibited in all lakes. Lake No. 5 is designated as a put-and-take trout fishing lake and is subject to special regulations. A daily trout tag is required to attempt to take and to possess trout on the entire Two Rivers area. Check at area office.

CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Fishing is permitted during daylight hours in Island Lake year-round. Electric-type outboard motors only are permitted on lakes open to fishing. The use of internal combustion motors is prohibited. The possession or use of live or dead minnows and the possession of any fish not taken from refuge waters are unlawful. However, frozen or dead smelt may be used for bait. Overnight camping is not permitted.

VALENTINE NATIONAL REFUGE — Fishing is permitted year-round during daylight hours, unless otherwise posted. Electric-type outboard motors only are permitted on lakes open to fishing. The use of internal combustion motors is prohibited. Possession or use of live or dead minnows and possession of any fish not taken from refuge waters are unlawful. However, frozen or dead smelt may be used for bait. There is a 15-inch size minimum on black bass on all refuge lakes, except Watts Lakes, which is catch and release only for bass and muskellunge. All northern pike over 28 inches must be released. Special fishing regulations are in effect as posted. Please take note of the special regulations. Check at refuge headquarters for specific regulation information. Overnight camping is not permitted.

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek are open to fishing from January 15 through September 30 or as posted. Waters within 150 feet of the dam at Lake Minatare are closed to fishing from sunset to sunrise from March 1 through April 30. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit on walleye in Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek.



TROUT WATERS — It is unlawful to take or attempt to take game or nongame fish by bow and arrow or spearing and to take or attempt to take by seine or trap any bait or minnows in any of the following trout streams:

ANTELOPE COUNTY: Verdigre Creek and all tributaries.
BROWN COUNTY: Bone Creek and all tributaries. Long Pine creek and all tributaries, Plum Creek and all tributaries, Fairfield Creek.
BOX BUTTE COUNTY: Niobrara River.
CHERRY COUNTY: Middle Loup River and all tributaries, North Loup River and all tributaries, Schlagel Creek, Fairfield Creek, Snake River and all tributaries, Plum Creek and all tributaries.
CHEYENNE COUNTY: Lodgepole Creek west of Brownson.
DAWES COUNTY: Chadron Creek, Big Bordeaux Creek, Little Bordeaux Creek, White River above Crawford, Niobrara River from Box Butte Reservoir west to the Wyoming line and all tributaries, Dead Horse Creek, Squaw Creek, and White Clay Creek.
GARDEN COUNTY: Blue Creek.
HOLT COUNTY: Steel Creek and North, Middle, and South branches of Verdigre Creek.
HOOKER COUNTY: Dismal River and all tributaries.
KEITH COUNTY: Otter Creek, White Tail Creek. and Lonergan Creek and all tributaries.
KIMBALL COUNTY: Lodgepole Creek and all tributaries.
KNOX COUNTY: North, Middle, and South Verdigre and all tributaries above the town of Verdigre, and Steel Creek.
LOUP COUNTY: Gracie Creek.
MORRILL COUNTY: Red Willow Creek, Cedar Creek, Greenwood Creek, Wildhorse Creek, Lawrence Fork Creek, Silvernail Drain, Stuckenhole Creek and Pumpkin Creek below Highway 88.
ROCK COUNTY: Long Pine Creek.
SIOUX COUNTY: Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Spotted Tail Creek, Spotted Tail Creek, Niobrara River and all tributaries, White River, Soldiers Creek and all tributaries, Monroe Creek, Sowbelly Creek, and Hat Creek.
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY: Nine Mile Creek, Winters Creek, Tub Springs, Wet spotted Tail Creek, Dry Spotted Tail creek, Sheep Creek, Dry Sheep Creek. Stuckenhole Creek, Akers Draw, Mitchell Drain, Moffett Drain, Alliance Drain and Bayard Drain.
SHERIDAN COUNTY: Snake River, Larrabee Creek, White Clay Creek, Pine Creek, Deer Creek, and Little Bordeaux Creek.
WEBSTER COUNTY: Elm Creek.

It is unlawful to possess a net or seine of any type on trout spawning streams in Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, and Keith counties that are tributary to the North Platte River and Lake McConaughy, including: Pumpkin, Red Willow, Wildhorse, Stuckenhole, Nine Mile, Tub Springs, Winter, Sheep, Dry Sheep, Spotted Tail, Dry Spotted Tail, Otter, Clear, Lonergan, Upper Dugout, Indian, Silvernail Drain and Cedar Creeks.

Game/Nongame Fish

Nebraska law defines game fish as all species of fish except buffalo, carp, gar, quillback, sucker and gizzard shad.

Fish Stocking

It is unlawful to release any non-native fish, reptile, or amphibian in waters of the state or to release any fish in any public waters in the state except those taken therefrom, without written authorization from the Game and Parks Commission.

NOTICE — Do NOT transfer any minnows or other fish from one lake or stream to another. You may be destroying your own fishing!

Tournaments/Contests/Derbies

When they involve tagged or otherwise marked fish, fishing tournaments, derbies, or contests are prohibited on (1) waters owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and (2) waters stocked by the Game and Parks Commission during the preceding 24 months, excluding private lakes not owned by the state or other governmental entity.

Help Wanted

You can help fisheries managers by returning the tags from any tagged fish you may catch. The tag will be returned to you, along with data on where the fish was tagged.

Fish Kill Reports

Reports of dying fish populations may be made by notifying your local conservation officer, district Game and Parks Commission office or the 24-hour State Patrol pollution complaint number (402) 471-4545, as soon as possible. Prompt notification will make it easier to determine the cause.

Boundary Waters

MISSOURI RIVER (IOWA) — Anglers holding a valid sport fishing permit from either Nebraska or Iowa may fish in the waters of the Missouri River lying between the two states. "Waters of the Missouri River" are defined to include all oxbows, sloughs, chutes and backwaters that draw water from the Missouri River proper. Oxbows, chutes and backwaters separated from the Missouri River by land are included only if the state boundary line passes through some part of such waters. Mouths of streams are not included. Fishing may be from boats or from the bank. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing, unless the regulations of the licensee's state are more restrictive. Then, the licensee must conform to the more restrictive regulations. Anglers may transport fish taken from the waters of the Missouri River through the neighboring state, provided they return to their home state by the most direct route.

DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Sport fishing by hook-and-line and archery is permitted as designated by area regulations. The use of trot lines and float lines is unlawful. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state in which they are licensed, either Nebraska or Iowa, and federal refuge regulations as posted.

MISSOURI RIVER (South Dakota) — Nebraska or South Dakota residents, holding a valid sport fishing permit from their home state, may fish that part of the Missouri River that constitutes the legal boundary between the two states. This includes Lewis and Clark Lake, Gavins Point Dam, and its tailwaters. However, anglers must conform to the regulations of the state in which they are fishing, unless the regulations of their home state are more restrictive. Then, the angler must conform to the more restrictive regulations. At Lewis and Clark Lake, it is unlawful for any person to use more than two lines with more than two hooks on each line; this restriction applies to all water area from Gavins Point Dam upstream to the Santee boat ramp in Knox County, Nebraska. In no case may an angler licensed in only one state fish in tributaries in the other state. Fishing is permitted from boat or bank.

MISSOURI RIVER (Missouri) — Anglers holding a valid sport fishing permit from either Nebraska or Missouri may fish with hook and line, including personally attended jugs or floats, on the flowing portion of the Missouri River lying within the boundary of Nebraska or Missouri. In no case may the angler licensed in only one state fish in the tributaries, bayous, or backwaters of the Missouri River in the other state. Fishermen may not fish from nor attach any device or equipment to land under the jurisdiction of the state in which they are not licensed. Creel limits and methods of the state licensing the sport fisherman shall apply.

Grass Carp

The triploid grass carp is approved for use in private waters for aquatic weed control by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. These fish are available from licensed fish culturists, but they must be certified as 100% triploid by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspection.

Ethical Anglers

- Know and obey fishing regulations that are in place to protect our aquatic resources, and to spread the harvest among all anglers.
- Understand the need for a personal code of behavior since laws cannot cover all situations.
- Learn techniques to handle fish that will ensure survival if released to spawn and be caught again.
- Respect the rights of other anglers as well as the rights of property owners when access to water requires crossing private land.
- Ensure good fishing for future generations by limiting their catch, rather than focusing on catching the limit.
- Cooperate and act courteously with all resource users, including other anglers, swimmers and boaters.
- Respect the environment and leave the fishing site in the same or better condition.
- Know that deliberately discarding bait fish or plants into lakes, reservoirs and other waterways can destroy the ecological balance of the aquatic environment.

Put Them Back Alive

When size limits are in effect, it's important to release a fish so that it has the best chance to survive.

- Wet hands and keep fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove hook gently. Don't squeeze fish or put fingers into the gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut line. Don't pull hook out.
- Release fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, hold fish gently upright and move it slowly back and forth.
- Do not play fish to exhaustion.

Recycle Your Fish

Modern anglers know more about how to catch fish than ever before, and yet the fish we seek have not changed. They are as easy to catch as ever. As we fish our lakes and streams with sophisticated techniques and space-age tackle, we often create large populations of young, small fish. Yet, we anglers increasingly demand bigger fish . . . and more of them. A practical solution to our problem is voluntary catch and release. When we catch and release, it allows us to recycle fish, thus increasing our catch rate, plus it lets the fish we've recycled grow older and larger. As the logo shows, our fishing future is truly in our own hands.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES ISSUED

New advisories on health risks associated with eating fish from 14 Nebraska lakes or stream segments have been issued by the State Department of Health. Previously issued advisories on fish from two other areas also remain in effect. Fish from 114 Nebraska stream segments and lakes have been tested since the inception of the Fish Consumption Advisory Program in 1977.

NEW PROCEDURES, NOT NEW CONTAMINATION

The fact that Fish Consumption Advisories have increased from 2 to 16 **does not indicate a sudden increase in contamination** since last year. Rather, it's a result of **new procedures** followed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

The Department of Environmental Quality collects the fish samples and has them analyzed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Health interprets the findings and issues any necessary advisories, using conservative standards that are very protective of the public health.

CANCER-CAUSING AGENTS

The primary contaminants in all but two of these waters are **PCBs** and **dieldrin**, both considered probable cancer-causing agents. PCBs (Polychlorinated biphenyls) are a family of chemical compounds found in old electrical equipment such as transformers and capacitors. Dieldrin is a pesticide of the organochlorine group. Most dieldren uses were restricted beginning in 1974, and all use ended in 1987. Dieldrin is a long-lasting chemical, however, and remains in the environment.

HOW GREAT IS THE CANCER RISK?

Advisories for cancer-causing chemicals in fish are issued when concentrations reach a risk level of 1 in 10,000. This means that, under a worst-case scenario, the chemicals would cause **one additional case of cancer per 10,000 people eating those fish.** Theoretically, each of those 10,000 people would have to eat **five ounces** of the fish **every week** for **70 years** to produce that one case of cancer. According to one study, drinking one-half gallon of whole milk each week produces the same cancer risk.

THE MERCURY RISK

Two of the advisories, those for Merritt and Oliver reservoirs, were issued because of mercury content in their fish. Mercury poses a risk of **developmental problems** in the **unborn**, in **infants** and in **children**. These advisories are meant primarily for **pregnant or nursing women, infants** and **children under 15** years old.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES LOCATIONS & CONTAMINANTS

WATER BODY	LOCATION	PRIMARY CONTAMINANT
Beaver Creek	Albion	Dieldrin
Big Nemaha River	Preston	PCBs, Dieldrin
Carter Lake	Omaha	PCBs
Elkhorn River	Waterloo	PCBs, Dieldrin
Lake McConaughy	Ogallala	PCBs
** Merritt Reservoir	Valentine	Mercury
Missouri River	Omaha	PCBs, Dieldrin
* Missouri River	Plattsmouth	PCBs, Dieldrin
Missouri River	Rulo	Dieldrin
** Oliver Reservoir	Kimball	Mercury
* Papillion Creek	Bellevue	PCBs, Dieldrin
West Papillion Creek	Ralston	PCBs, Dieldrin
Platte River	North Bend	PCBs
South Platte River	Paxton	PCBs
Sutherland Reservoir	Sutherland	PCBs
West Fork, Big Blue River	Dorchester	Dieldrin

* Existing advisory

** No cancer risk level involved. Mercury advisory is for pregnant or nursing women, infants and children under 15.

NEBRASKA CONSERVATION OFFICERS

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(District Supervisor)		
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(District Supervisor)		(H) 308-532-0279
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(District Supervisor)		(H) 402-371-6625
Jim K. Zimmerman	Gering	308-436-7561
Dan A. Zuehlke	Ogallala	308-284-4815

NEBRASKA RECORD FISH

HOOK AND LINE

KENTUCKY SPOTTED BASS.....3 lbs. 12 oz.
Jerry R. Miller, North Platte, Lincoln Co. I-80 Sandpit, 3/12/90

LARGEMOUTH BASS.....10 lbs. 11 oz.
Paul Abegglen, Sr., Columbus, sandpit near Columbus, 10/2/65

ROCK BASS.....2 lbs. 4 oz.
Edna Zuege, Haigler, Dundy County farm pond, 5/6/72

SMALLMOUTH BASS.....6 lbs. 1½ oz.
Wally Allison, North Platte, Merritt Reservoir, 5/17/78

STRIPED BASS.....64 lbs. 15⅞ oz.
Gene Baker, Sutherland, Sutherland Reservoir, 8/17/93

STRIPED BASS HYBRID.....13 lbs. 9 oz.
Mike Howard, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 10/13/88

WHITE BASS.....5 lbs.
Jim Kilcoin, Aurora, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 11/12/83

YELLOW BASS.....1 lb. 7 oz.
John Ogle, Omaha, Louisville Lake #2, 7/4/93

BLUEGILL.....2 lbs. 13 oz.
Gary Ralston, Creighton, Grove Lake, 4/26/77

BIGMOUTH BUFFALO.....44 lbs. 14½ oz.
Shayne Miller, Kearney, Johnson Lake, 5/17/91

BLACK BUFFALO.....41 lbs.
Bob Eaton, Omaha, Carter Lake, 4/29/82

SMALLMOUTH BUFFALO.....45 lbs.
Bruce F. Baete, Beatrice, Big Blue River, 6/15/84

BOWFIN.....8 lbs.
Ronald Evenson, Omaha, Dead Timber Lake, 8/7/82

BULLHEAD.....3 lbs. 14 oz.
Dick Dunn, Beatrice, Pawnee County farm pond, 7/22/74

BURBOT.....5 lbs. 13 oz.
Terry Freeman, Omaha, Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters, 4/28/79

CARP.....33 lbs. 12 oz.
Toni C. Baete, Beatrice, Gage County farm pond, 5/12/83

GRASS CARP.....33 lbs. 12 oz.
Michael Nicholson-Graham, Omaha, Summit Lake, 4/18/92

BLUE CATFISH.....100 lbs. 8 oz.
Raynold Promes, Wynot, Missouri River near Wynot, 11/29/70

CHANNEL CATFISH.....41 lbs. 8 oz.
John Cunning, Valentine, Merritt Reservoir, 7/26/85

FLATHEAD CATFISH.....80 lbs.
William Swanson, Silver Creek, Loup Power Canal near Genoa, 6/14/88

STONE CATFISH.....4 oz.
Richard Schmidt, Norfolk, Elkhorn River, 8/12/93

BLACK CRAPPIE.....4 lbs. 2 oz.
Joe L. Citta, Hershey, Red Willow Reservoir, 5/30/81

WHITE CRAPPIE.....4 lbs. 1 oz.
Elsie M. Jensen, Broken Bow, Red Willow Reservoir, 5/18/80

FRESHWATER DRUM.....28 lbs. 4 oz.
Vincent Prazak, Clarkson, Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, 10/1/71

AMERICAN EEL.....5 lbs.
George Sweisberger, South Sioux City, Missouri River, 8/2/83

LONGNOSE GAR.....20 lbs. 7 oz.
John Ernst, Columbus, Wagner's Lake (Platte County), 7/14/91

SHORTNOSE GAR.....19 lbs.
Ronald Hardin, Omaha, lake in Cass County, 6/29/74

GOLDEYE.....3 lbs. 15½ oz.
Gary Kumm, Bloomfield, Lewis & Clark, 8/13/88

SKIPJACK HERRING.....1 lb. 10 oz.
Scott Wessel, Wayne, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 8/23/87

SKIPJACK HERRING.....2 lbs.
Daniel Kaup, Norfolk, Gavins Point Dam, 9/20/92

MUSKELLUNGE.....41 lbs. 8 oz.
Jared Haddix, Sidney, Merritt Reservoir, 8/9/92

TIGER MUSKIE.....24 lbs. 8 oz.
P.B. Brewer, Jr., Littleton, CO., Oliver Reservoir, 5/21/93

PADDLEFISH.....91 lb. 8 oz.
Warren Yelkin, Lincoln, Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters, 11/18/78

SACRAMENTO PERCH.....2 lbs. 8 oz.
John A. Bush, Valentine, Clear Lake on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, 6/20/71

WHITE PERCH.....1 lb. 8 oz.
Ronnie Davis, Lincoln, Branched Oak Lake, 4/4/93

YELLOW PERCH.....2 lb. 10¾ oz.
John D. Skrdla, Stuart, Hackberry Lake, 2/11/84

NORTHERN PIKE.....29 lbs. 12 oz.
Gary Jones, Royal, Grove Lake, 7/6/84

PUMPKINSEED.....10¾ oz. & 11¼ oz.
Jim Johnson, Minatare, Box Butte Reservoir, 9/23/87
Mitchell Pebley, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 3/19/93

QUILLBACK.....12 lbs.
Norman Grabenstein, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 5/3/87

CHINOOK SALMON.....2 lbs. 8 oz.
Rick Heppner, Norfolk, Lewis and Clark Lake, 9/14/85

COHO SALMON.....5 lbs. 12 oz.
Lyle Fry, Gering, Lake McConaughy, 7/3/71

KOKANEE SALMON.....4 lbs. 2oz.
Neal Dunbar, North Platte, Lake McConaughy, 7/11/71

SAUGER.....8 lbs. 5 oz.
Mrs. Betty Tepner, Plainview, Missouri River near Niobrara, 10/22/61

GIZZARD SHAD.....4 lbs. 7¾ oz.
Joe Ringbauer, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 3/26/89

SHOVELNOSE STURGEON.....3 lbs. 14½ oz.
Wayne Williams, Shubert, Missouri River (Richardson County) 4/29/91

SUCKER.....18 lbs. 14 oz.
Bob J. Thoene, Hartington, Missouri River, 11/16/86

GREEN SUNFISH.....1 lb. 4 oz.
Jeff Knajdl, Riverdale, Buffalo County sandpit, 7/13/80

REDEAR SUNFISH.....1 lb. 10 oz.
Charles I. Jones, Eckley, CO, Rock Creek Lake, 6/8/90

HYBRID SUNFISH.....1 lb. 5 oz.
Walt Hoyle, Beatrice, Pawnee Co. farm pond, 4/30/92

BROOK TROUT.....5 lbs. 1 oz.
Joe Gray, North Platte, Pawnee Springs near North Platte, 11/3/65

BROWN TROUT.....20 lbs. 1 oz.
Denny Doolittle, Valentine, Snake River, 7/26/73

CUTTHROAT TROUT.....5 lbs. 7 oz.
Arthur Larsen, Evergreen, CO, Lake Ogallala, 9/18/92

RAINBOW TROUT.....14 lbs. 2 oz.
Frank Aloi, North Platte, Keith County canal, 3/18/75

WALLEYE.....16 lbs. 2 oz.
Herbert J. Cutshall, Ogallala, Lake McConaughy, 7/5/71

GOLDEN SHINER.....14 oz.
Tom Rosencrans, Omaha, Two Rivers SRA, 4/10/92

BOW AND ARROW

LARGEMOUTH BASS.....8 lbs. 14 oz.
Jerry Grasmick, Scottsbluff, sandpit near Scottsbluff, 6/18/66

ROCK BASS.....1 lb. 6 oz.
Harlan L. Worden, North Platte, Interstate 80 lake in Lincoln County, 5/8/72

SMALLMOUTH BASS.....3 lbs.
Michael Lange, Gibbon, Interstate 80 lake in Buffalo County, 6/5/71

STRIPED BASS.....8 lbs. 5 oz.
Michael Dorris, Arthur, Lake McConaughy, 4/14/73

STRIPED BASS HYBRID.....3 lbs. 2 oz.
Philip Zimmerman, Springfield, Cass County sandpit, 8/1/92

WHITE BASS.....3 lbs.
Lonnie Miller, Hastings, Harlan County Reservoir, 4/14/73

BLUEGILL.....14 oz.
Michael J. Christiansen, North Platte, Thomas County farm pond, 6/13/75

BIGMOUTH BUFFALO.....53 lbs.
Mark Millet, Fremont, Sandpit, 5/27/93

BULLHEAD.....1 lb. 11 oz.
Cory Hardin, Rushville, Smith Lake, 7/13/78

CARP.....38 lbs. 8 oz.
Ronald A. Meyers, Columbus, Platte County lake, 5/9/85

BIGHEAD CARP.....34 lbs. 8 oz.
Marlyn Wiebelhaus, Wynot, Missouri River, 6/2/91

GRASS CARP.....36 lbs. 12 oz.
Matt Gideon, Parks, Rock Creek SRA, 5/13/93

HYBRID GRASS CARP.....43 lbs. 3 oz.
Gary Martin, Jr., Overland Park, KS, Cass Co. sandpit 6/13/92

RIVER CARPSUCKER.....7 lbs. 4 oz.
Quinton Wagoner, Broadwater, North Platte River, 6/1/89

CHANNEL CATFISH.....21 lbs. 12 oz.
Mike Lacey, Gering, Lake Minatare, 7/23/82

FLATHEAD CATFISH.....46 lbs. 2 oz.
Jim Foral, Lincoln, Bluestem Creek, Sprague, 10/13/84

BLACK CRAPPIE.....1 lb. 14 oz.
Tim McQuade, North Platte, Shoupe Lake, Cherry County, 6/1/74

WHITE CRAPPIE.....2 lbs. 13 oz.
David Medinger, Bellwood, sandpit in Butler County, 6/2/73

FRESHWATER DRUM.....20 lbs.
Gerald Tramp, Crofton, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 6/15/82

GAR.....22 lbs.
Gary Trofholz, Columbus, Polk County sandpit, 6/13/74

GOLDEYE.....2 lbs. 1 oz.
Bill Schwarting, Fremont, Platte River, Dodge County, 5/17/85

TIGER MUSKIE.....13 lbs. 14 oz.
Brent J. Wesemann, Pierce, Willow Creek Reservoir, 7/3/88

PADDLEFISH.....86 lbs.
Gene R. Haswell, Omaha, sandpit in Cass County, 4/16/72

YELLOW PERCH.....1 lb. 2 oz.
Tim McQuade, North Plate, Cody Lake, 4/19/75

NORTHERN PIKE.....21 lbs. 4 oz.
Allen Splichal, Scottsbluff, Lake Minatare, 5/2/70

QUILLBACK.....11 lbs. 2 oz.
Tim Smith, Benkelman, Dundy County sandpit, 7/14/84

GIZZARD SHAD.....3 lbs. 11 oz.
Roger DeKok, Kearney, Phelps County sandpt, 6/4/92

SUCKER.....3 lbs. 3 oz.
Mike Lauby, Lexington, Platte River, Dawson County, 7/14/74

GREEN SUNFISH.....8 oz.
Marty Guthrie, McCook, sandpit near Bartley, 7/22/76

CUTTHROAT TROUT.....2 lbs. 3 oz.
Todd Burnham, Hastings, Platte River (Keith Co.), 8/24/91

BROWN TROUT.....9 lbs. 13 oz.
John Whittle, Dalton, Klein Fish Hatchery Lake, 7/1/90

RAINBOW TROUT.....11 lbs.
Kevin Pierce, Ogallala, NPPD Canal in Keith County, 10/19/86

WALLEYE.....11 lbs. 1 oz.
Bradley M. Heck, Brady, Jeffrey Reservoir, 4/11/70

UNDERWATER POWERED SPEARFISHING

KENTUCKY SPOTTED BASS.....2 lbs. 7 oz.
William Thompson, North Platte, Lincoln Co. sandpit, 8/17/73

LARGEMOUTH BASS.....7 lbs. 4 oz.
Richard Buckley, McCook, Red Willow Co. sandpit, 7/6/88

ROCK BASS.....1 lb. 4 oz.
Terry Robbins, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 7/10/82

SMALLMOUTH BASS.....4 lbs. 10 oz.
Paul Wiezorek, North Platte, Lake McConaughy, 9/21/93

BLUEGILL.....15 oz.
Anthony Nason, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 7/3/93

STRIPED BASS.....25 lbs. 8 oz.
Mark Picker, Loveland, CO, Lake McConaughy, 7/1/89

BLACK BUFFALO.....27 lbs.
Matthew B. Donelan, Omaha, Saunders County sandpit, 5/22/82

CARP.....35 lbs.
Steven Bixenman, Colby, KS, Hitchcock County sandpit, 6/7/88

CHANNEL CATFISH.....23 lbs. 9½ oz.
Anthony Nason, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 7/6/91

BLACK CRAPPIE.....2 lbs. 2 oz.
Hershel D. Smith, Lexington, Dawson County sandpit, 12/19/82

MUSKELLUNGE/TIGER MUSKIE.....13 lbs. 9 oz.
Delbert Babitzke, Garden City, KS, Lake McConaughy, 8/18/90

GOLDEYE.....1 lb. 5½ oz.
Geo. (Mike) Fritton, Silver Creek, Merrick Co. sandpit, 7/5/82

YELLOW PERCH.....1 lb. 11½ oz.
Leroy Adamson, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 7/15/80

NORTHERN PIKE.....13 lbs. 12 oz.
Albert Cherry, St. Edward, Lake McConaughy, 8/8/75

QUILLBACK.....6 lbs. 6 oz.
Michael Dorris, Arthur, Lake McConaughy, 6/17/78

KOKANEE SALMON.....4 lbs. 2 oz.
John Williams, Omaha, Lake McConaughy, 8/26/72

GIZZARD SHAD.....2 lbs. 14 oz.
Jerry Sack, North Platte, Lake McConaughy, 7/8/89

WHITE SUCKER.....3 lbs. 13 oz.
Bill Klimek, Burwell, Loup County sandpit, 10/4/86

RIVER CARPSUCKER.....6 lbs. 13 oz.
Marlyn Erickson, Rapid City, SD, Lake McConaughy, 7/16/89

BROWN TROUT.....4 lbs. 8 oz.
Richard B. Roy, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 8/29/74

RAINBOW TROUT.....3 lbs. 9 oz.
Michael Bansall, Grand Island, Lake McConaughy, 7/7/83

WALLEYE.....13 lbs. 11 oz.
Richard Fish, Kearney, Lake McConaughy, 7/6/70

SURFACE SPEARFISHING

LONGNOSE GAR.....17 lbs. 6 oz.
David L. Werth, South Bend, Cass County sandpit, 6/13/84

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

Record Fish Display

If you take a game fish by hook-and-line that breaks a state record, you may wish to donate it to the Game and Parks Commission for display at the Commission's Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium at Schramm Park State Recreation Area near Gretna. The Commission will mount the trophy, complete with engraved plate with your name, species of fish, weight, when and where it was taken. To make such a donation, contact the Aquarium within 24 hours at (402) 332-3901. Aquarium hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Any current hook-and-line record-holder who would like to donate their trophy game fish should also contact the Aquarium.

State Record Rules

- Fish must exceed current record by at least one ounce or it will be considered as a tie.
- Fish must be taken from Nebraska waters.
- It must be legally taken by hook-and-line, underwater spearfishing, surface spearing, or archery. Fish must be caught, played, and landed by the applicant.
- Fish must be weighed on a certified scale and witnessed by a Game and Parks Commission employee. If not witnessed by a Commission employee, a notarized affidavit, signed by two witnesses and giving the requested information, may be substituted.
- Species of fish must be verified by a Commission fisheries official. The fish may be gutted and frozen, but the head, fins, and skin must remain intact until the species has been verified.
- Angler must display fishing permit to the individual verifying the application.
- Application forms are available from any Commission office or permit vendor.

Master Angler

If you take an outstanding catch, it may qualify for a Game and Parks Commission Master Angler Award. Application forms are available from any Commission office, conservation officer, or permit vendor. Rules include:

- All fish must be taken from Nebraska waters.
- Fish must be taken by hook and line. Fish caught on banklines are not eligible. Fish must be hooked, played and landed by the applicant for the award.
- The catch must be verified. This may be done by an employee of the Game and Parks Commission, a permit vendor, a witness or a photograph.
- Anglers 16 years of age or older must possess a current Nebraska fishing permit and enter the permit number on the application.
- Only fish immediately released are eligible for an award based on length. Any fish kept in a livewell or on a stringer must meet the minimum weight requirement to receive an award.
- Anglers may receive only one award based on weight, per year for each species. There is no limit on the number of awards per year based on length.
- Anglers who release a Master Angler fish will receive a "Catch and Release Master Angler" pin in addition to the Master Angler certificate.
- Minimum weight for a length Master Angler Award include:

American Eel	24 in. or 1 lb.	Crappie	15 in. or 2 lbs.
Largemouth Bass	20 in. or 5 lbs.	Drum	22 in. or 5 lbs.
Kentucky Spotted Bass	18 in. or 3 lbs.	Goldeye	16 in. or 1½ lbs.
Rock Bass	11 in. or 1 lb.	Musky/Tiger Musky	35 in. or 10 lbs.
Smallmouth Bass	18 in. or 3 lbs.	Paddlefish	45 in. or 50 lbs.
Striped Bass	32 in. or 10 lbs.	Yellow Perch	13 in. or 1¼ lbs.
Striper Hybrid	20 in. or 5 lbs.	White Perch	12 in. or 1 lb.
White Bass	17 in. or 2½ lbs.	Northern Pike	36 in. or 10 lbs.
Bluegill	10 in. or 1 lb.	Sauger	21 in. or 3 lbs.
Buffalo	26 in. or 10 lbs.	Shovelnose Sturgeon	28 in. or 2½ lbs.
Bullhead	15 in. or 2 lbs.	Sucker	18 in. or 2 lbs.
Burbot	16 in. or 1 lb.	Sunfish	10 in. or 1 lb.
Carp	32 in. or 15 lbs.	Brook Trout	14 in. or 1 lb.
Blue Catfish	40 in. or 30 lbs.	Brown Trout	22 in. or 4 lbs.
Channel Catfish	30 in. or 12 lbs.	Rainbow Trout	23 in. or 5 lbs.
Flathead Catfish	32 in. or 15 lbs.	Walleye	28 in. or 8 lbs.

Barbless Hooks Best

With the growing popularity of catch-and-release fishing, anglers should seriously consider using barbless hooks. Barbless hooks can reduce the time needed to return fish to the water. In fact, some fish may be released using barbless hooks without ever being removed from the water. Most anglers will not notice a loss of hook-ups or landed fish due to using barbless hooks.

Modifying your hooks for barbless fishing is easy: Simply pinch down the barbs with a pair of needle-nose pliers. You might also consider removing excessive numbers of hooks on plugs and spinners, and replacing treble hooks with single ones. Don't try to remove a hook that is deeply imbedded in a fish's gullet. The fish will have a much better chance of survival if you just cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

Master Angler / State Record Application

Please print legibly. See rules.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Fishing Permit No._____ Under 16_____

Species of fish_____

Weight: _____lbs. _____oz. Length: _____in.

Date caught_____ Released: Yes____ No____

Name of lake or stream_____

County where located_____

Method of fishing: ____Hook & Line ____Archery

____Surface spearfishing ____Underwater spearfishing

Type of bait or lure_____

Where weighed or measured_____

Address_____

City_____ Phone_____

Weight or length witnessed by:

1. _____
Signature
_____
Address

2. _____
Signature
_____
Address

3. _____
Notary Public (for State Record only)

4. _____
Game & Parks Comm. Official species verification for State Record only

Species may be verified after State Record application is received by the Game and Parks Commission. See State Record rules.

Mail to: Fisheries Division
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
P.O. Box 30370
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

Catch and Release Works

Minimum lengths listed for Master Angler Awards are intended to promote catch-and-release fishing. While fish populations are renewable resources and keeping some fish is good, big fish are rare. By releasing large fish, you are helping to maintain our future fishery resources.

Catch-and-release fishing only works when the fish you release survive. By using proper techniques, you give fish the best chance of survival. Here are a few guidelines:

- Wet hands and keep fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove the hook gently. Do not squeeze the fish or put your fingers into the gills.
- Consider using barbless hooks.
- If deeply hooked, cut line. Do not pull the hook out.
- Release the fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, hold fish gently upright and move it slowly back and forth.
- Do not play the fish to exhaustion.

Why Catch and Release Bass?

Much has been written and discussed concerning catch and release bass fishing in recent years. Does this practice have a niche in our management of lake fishery systems? Will it be accepted by the anglers? What effects will it have on fish species composition and abundance in Nebraska's small lakes? These are just a few questions which hope to be answered by evaluating one of Nebraska's newest fishing regulations — a 21" minimum size limit on largemouth bass.

DOMINANT PREDATOR

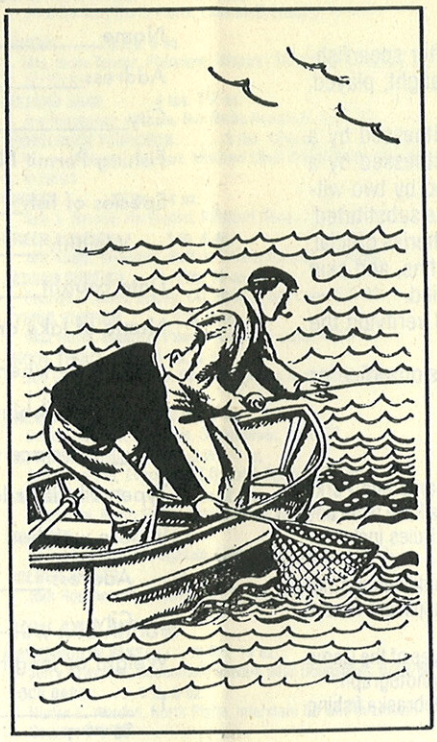
Largemouth bass are the dominant predator in the fish community in Nebraska's small lakes and ponds. They are viewed not only as an excellent sport fish but also as the control over the panfish populations (ie. bluegill and crappie). Over the years, a combination of size and bag limit restrictions have been implemented to allow enough bass to remain in a lake to effectively control panfish and, as a side benefit, to allow adequate sport fishing and harvest for bass anglers.

What would happen if the bass population were nearly totally protected from harvest? The results should be two-fold — better control of panfish which would lead to better growth rates and ultimately quality fishing for these species, and, an opportunity for anglers to enjoy the recreational aspect of bass fishing with the opportunity to potentially catch larger bass — even though they would have to be released.

21" SIZE LIMIT

Nebraska has embarked on a program to answer some questions concerning catch and release bass fishing with the implementation of a regulation allowing for harvest of one bass daily over 21" in length at Buckskin Hills, Skyview Lake, Zorinsky Lake, Wehrspan Lake, Wildwood Lake and Burchard Lake. In effect, a 21" size limit —essentially catch and release!

The catch and release bass fishing at Skyview and Buckskin Hills is designed to increase bass numbers to control small, slow-growing bluegill. At the other lakes, the theory is to maintain high bass numbers in the face of extremely heavy fishing pressure.



It should be noted that bass harvest regulations can have an impact only in those lakes suitable for bass (i. correct combination of water quality and habitat) and if the anglers comply with the regulation.

Intensive fish sampling at Buckskin Hills Lake was the first water in the state to have this special regulation, which has shown changes and benefits from the 21 inch bass size limit since its implementation in 1990. Bass numbers increased by 25% within one year after the size limit took effect from an estimated 1,770 bass in 1990 to 2,357 bass in 1991. The 1992 sampling indicated a population level similar to the 1991 numbers. The higher bass numbers mean higher fishing success for anglers, although nearly all of the fish caught must be released.

CREEL SURVEY

A creel survey conducted May-September 1991 showed anglers caught an estimated 13,068 bass during this period and released 98% of them. If this number is compared to the population estimate of bass, each fish was caught an average of 5.4 times! Obviously some fish were caught more than others, but however many times individual bass were caught, the point is they are still present in the lake to control bluegill and offer future angling opportunity.

Without catch and release fishing (large size limit) this catch would not be possible. The 21 inch size limit, and the anglers who comply with it, has shown a benefit in the form of quality recreational fishing. Of the anglers contacted in the 1991 creel, 72% supported the 21 inch bass size limit. In addition about 60% of the anglers said the size limit had a positive effect on their decision to fish at Buckskin.

EFFECT ON BLUEGILL

The higher bass density is reflected in changes in the bluegill numbers. The bluegill numbers have decreased by approximately 50% each year from 1989-1991. This decrease in bluegill numbers should be reflected in better bluegill growth rates allowing bluegill to reach a larger size to benefit the panfish angler. This was one of the original goals.

In our fishery samples, the proportion of the bluegill over six inches in length has increased from 9.2% in 1989 to 53.8% in 1991. This does not necessarily mean increased numbers of bigger bluegill but it strongly indicates the smaller fish are declining dramatically. As anglers target harvest toward these larger bluegill the numbers will probably drop and the percentage of larger bluegill present will decline.

QUESTIONS REMAIN

What remains is a numbers crunch. Will there be enough bluegill to feed a high density bass population? Will enough bluegill survive bass predation to grow to a size desired by anglers? Can a high density of bass in good body condition be supported over the long term to sustain a high-catch recreational fishery? These questions need to be answered in the near future through our continuing studies.

Quality fishing and high catch rates can be an obtainable goal through wise use of length limits and angler acceptance and compliance.

REMEMBER . . .

- To distinguish white bass from striped bass and hybrid bass, check center tooth patches on tongue.
- Stripes on white bass are faint with 1st stripe below the lateral line not distinct or complete to the tail.
- First stripe below the lateral line is distinct and complete to the tail on the striped bass and hybrids.

Broken lines on the side do not necessarily mean it's a hybrid. Some striped bass have broken lines.

VAN'S LAKEVIEW FISHING CAMP
on Lake McConaughy

Air-conditioned units, cooking facilities. Up to four adults. Campground on the beach—50 hookups, showers, playground, shade.

- MARINA
- CAMPGROUND
- GUIDE SERVICE
- LAUNCHING STORE Groceries, Beer, Pop, Tackle, Live Bait
- BOAT & PONTOON RENTALS

South Shore Big Mac at Gate 18
#1 Lakeview Brule, NE 69127
Ogallala, NE (308) 284-4965

Nebraska's Wiper Fishery

Introduction

Striped bass/white bass hybrids, or wipers, have gained the respect and attention of many Nebraska anglers. Although wiper populations have only recently been established, they have already earned a reputation as one of Nebraska's top angling challenges. Potential for trophy size and superb fighting power make wipers one of our most popular predator fish. Because this fish has gained so much attention, it is important for anglers to understand the biology and dynamics of wipers in Nebraska to best appreciate and enhance this unique sport fishery.

History

Wipers were first stocked in Nebraska waters in 1979. Throughout the 1980s, selected lakes were stocked with wipers attained from other states. As anglers became aware of this fish its popularity spread, and the demand for wipers increased. Research has shown wipers have better survival and growth rates than striped bass. Research has also shown that wipers stocked into waters and high gizzard shad populations have no negative effects on other fish populations. Thus, the biology of the wiper and the success of wiper fisheries in other states were the main factors in the selection of wipers as a trophy open-water predator in Nebraska.

Wiper fisheries exist in Branched Oak, Bluestem, Conestoga, Harlan, Sutherland, Maloney, Red Willow and Medicine Creek Reservoirs. Other lakes recently stocked with wipers that should provide good fishing in two or three years are Enders, Swanson, and McConaughy.

Biology

Wipers area hybrid fish produced by crossing white bass and striped bass. The wiper can be produced with white bass males and striped bass females. (original cross - palmetto bass) or with striped bass males and white bass females (reciprocal cross - sunshine bass). Initial wiper stockings in Nebraska were all original cross fish obtained from southern states with striped bass populations. In 1990, the first reciprocal cross wipers were produced at the North Platte Hatchery. This success made stocking wipers into additional Nebraska lakes possible.

The hybrid, or wiper, has an appearance very similar to the white bass. However, the wiper's life history is quite different from the white bass. White bass have high reproductive rates, maintain their populations with natural reproduction and usually have short life spans. On the other hand, wipers are usually sterile and may live longer than white bass. Maintenance of wiper fisheries is dependent upon stocking, which is limited by hatchery capabilities. Therefore, wiper fisheries are a more limited resource than white bass and need more conservation efforts.

Another difference between wipers and white bass is growth rate. Wipers grow significantly faster than white bass and potentially reach a much larger size. For example, at Harlan Reservoir, three-year-old white bass average 11.7 inches and .78 pounds, while three-year-old wipers average 15.5 inches and 1.88 pounds. The current Nebraska state record wiper was caught at Lake Maloney in 1988. It weighed 13 pounds 9 ounces and was from the 1981 stocking (seven years old). In comparison, the current Nebraska state record white bass is 5 pounds. Wipers over 20 pounds have been recorded in other states. Nebraska's wiper program is relatively young, and there is potential for larger fish.

Generally, wipers and white bass prey on the same forage — gizzard shad. However, wipers grow faster and consume more forage. These facts make wipers a great choice for lakes with abundant gizzard shad populations and low predator fish populations. Unfortunately, the wiper's voracious appetite also contributes to greater susceptibility to angling, thus potential for over harvest.

Identification

As stated earlier, wipers and white bass have a very similar appearance. However, identification of wipers and white bass is essential for development of trophy wiper fisheries. Small wipers can easily be mistaken for white bass and be harvested. Therefore, inspection and proper identification of each fish is important.

Identification of large fish is relatively easy by inspecting tooth patches that are oval, rough areas located near the back of the tongue. Wipers have two tooth patches and white bass have only one centrally located tooth patch (see illustration). On smaller fish, the identification can be more difficult, especially if the tooth patches are not clearly visible. With small fish, you can also check the horizontal stripes on the fish. Wipers can sometimes be distinguished by broken or incomplete stripes, and several stripes should extend completely to the tail. White bass should not have broken or incomplete stripes, and only the first stripe under the lateral line will extend to the tail.

Angling Regulations

Because of biology differences between wipers and white bass, these species should be managed with separate regulations. However, separate regulations are not feasible because of identification problems mentioned earlier. Therefore, group regulations have been adopted for white bass, wipers and striped bass. The 1993 regulation for these species is a bag limit of 25 with only one fish over 20 inches (special bag of three at three lakes near Lincoln). Unfortunately, group regulations result in some sacrifices in the management of each species. For example, group regulations allow nearly equal harvest of both wipers and white bass, although their biology is quite different.

For wipers to reach their potential trophy size, mortality and harvest of age-1 (5-8 inches) and age-2 (10-16 inches) wipers must be limited. Anglers can play a vital part in allowing wipers to develop trophy size. There has been a growing concern that significant harvest (even limits) of small wipers has taken place in Nebraska. If wipers are harvested at similar sizes as white bass (9-12 inches), their potential to reach trophy size is greatly reduced. Anglers must take responsibility to identify and practice catch-and-release of small wipers to realize their trophy potential.

Angler survey results to this point have shown various degrees of angler conservation with wipers. At Branched Oak Reservoir, about 900 wipers were caught in 1992, and 46 percent were released. This high release rate is partially because white bass are not present in Branched Oak and because the lake has a special bag limit of three wipers. At Harlan Reservoir, where both white bass and wipers are present, almost 8,000 wipers were caught in 1992, but only about 5 percent of those fish were released. The wipers harvested only averaged about 1 pound (about two years old) — hardly a trophy by anybody's standards.

Calamus Improved Outlook

With the establishment of the Calamus Fish Hatchery, the outlook for producing enough wipers necessary to sustain present fisheries is very good. However, Nebraska anglers are asked to play a major role in the future of our wiper fisheries. To develop exciting and rewarding trophy wiper fisheries, **harvest of small wipers must be limited.** In some cases, too many wipers are being harvested before they reach their potential size. Anglers can contribute greatly to trophy wiper fisheries by taking the responsibility to identify wipers from white bass and then practice catch-and-release to allow wipers to grow to trophy size. Hopefully, with proper management and angler conservation, the potential of Nebraska's wiper fisheries can be realized.

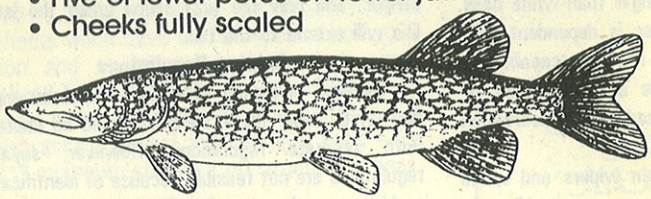
Voluntary Waterfowl Stamp

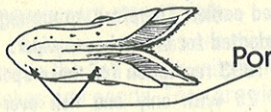
Buy Nebraska's voluntary waterfowl stamp, and help provide critical habitat for waterfowl and wetland other species. Unsigned stamps, featuring the work of Neal Anderson, are available for $6 from Game and Parks offices or from the Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503.

KNOW WHAT YOU CAUGHT

Northern Pike

- Five or fewer pores on lower jaw
- Cheeks fully scaled

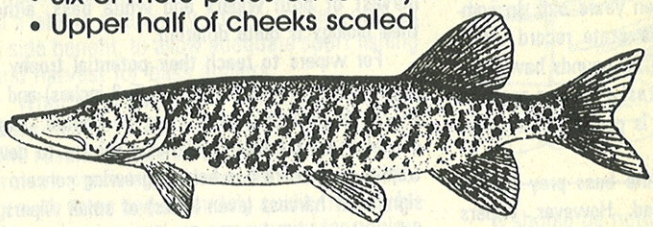


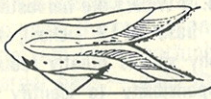


Pores for Northern Pike

Muskellunge

- Six or more pores on lower jaw
- Upper half of cheeks scaled





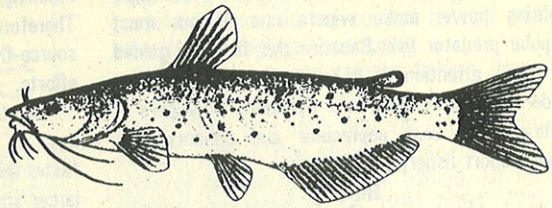
Pores for Muskellunge

Tiger Muskie

- Being a cross between northern pike and muskellunge, it has characteristics of both
- Vertical stripe pattern on side
- Usually, but not always, has an unequal number of pores on each side of lower jaw

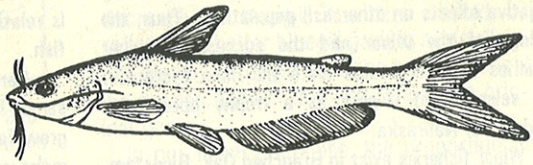
Channel Catfish

- Anal fin has 24-29 rays with outer margin rounded
- Spots not present on larger fish



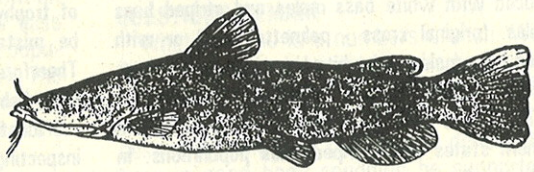
Blue Catfish

- Anal fin has 30 rays with outer margin straight



Flathead Catfish

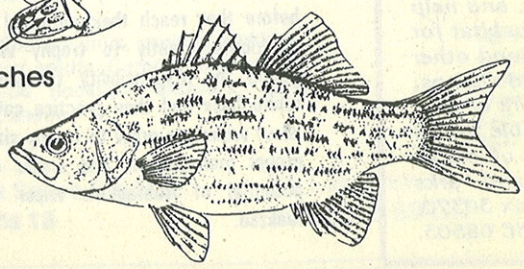
- Lower jaw extends past upper jaw
- Square, unforked tail



Wiper

- Usually two tooth patches on tongue
- Broken horizontal lines

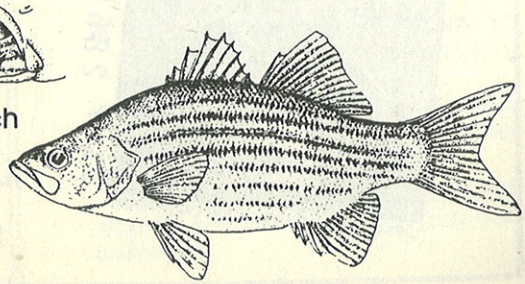
Tooth patches



White Bass

- Anal fin spines stair-stepped
- Broken lateral stripes
- One tooth patch on base of tongue

Tooth patch



WHAT ABOUT THE '93 FLOODS

The floods of 1993 demonstrated the futility of trying to control rivers using frail but expensive man-made structures. As a result, engineers and government policy-makers are now considering changes in flood management that will let rivers regain some of their natural characteristics, including access to their floodplain during high flows. Conservationists see this as an opportunity to reverse some of the ecological damage done to rivers by past flood-control strategies.

The ecological restoration of large floodplain rivers would require a return to some of their natural flow patterns. This means floods-of limited magnitude and size for economic reasons, of course, but floods all the same.

Before dams and levees were built, the flood pulse of the Missouri River, and many of its tributary streams, included an initial rise in the river's stage in March as snow melted from the plains. A second, often more intense peak occurred during June as heavy prairie rains were supplemented by melting Rocky Mountain snow packs. The ultimate strength of the year's hatch of fish depended on the magnitude and duration of the overbank, or high flow period, of the flood pulse.

Low or declining flows occurred from July through autumn and winter into March. Stream velocities declined, the river became shallower, and sandbars and mudflats were exposed as the flood drained back into the channel. The low flow phase was a period of attrition in the fish community, which began as the river receded back into its banks.

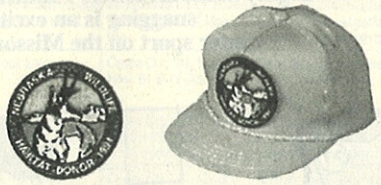
The flood pulse is essential for large floodplain rivers such as the Missouri and the Platte. Nearly all forms of fish, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants were attuned to the floods, beginning their annual reproductive cycles with the rising spring floods.

As much as 98 percent of the total weight of animal life in the river system was derived from floodplain plants such as cottonwoods, willows, grasses, sedges, reeds and cattails. All of life's energy is derived from the sun, and aquatic animals cannot obtain this energy except by consuming plants, or by eating insects, fish or other animals that eat plants. It was the leaves, branches, grass and other plant material washed into the river by spring and early summer flooding that provided the food energy that sustained all life in the river.

High spring flows also reshaped the river channel and its islands and bars. Major sediment movement in the so-called "erosion zone" did not occur until the river was at or above bankfull. When sediment in the channels began to move, plant communities growing on these bars and islands were uprooted and consumed by bacteria and aquatic insects. These lower life forms stored the sun's energy from the plants in their bodies and were, in turn, eaten by fish and birds. Meanwhile, bankfull flows exposed bars and islands where new plants could grow, and this whole process was repeated in every bend of every floodplain river over millions of years. The whole community of animal species associated with these rivers evolved with this process until man, the river engineer, disrupted the fragile system with large dams and channel control structures.

Many of the native species of plants and animals that evolved with the age-old process are today threatened with oblivion. Restoration of limited flooding is the best hope some of these species have for recovery.

Nebraska Wildlife Habitat Donors



For years, hunters and trappers have contributed to the acquisition and improvement of wildlife habitat through their purchase of Nebraska Habitat Stamps. Now, through this special program, all outdoor enthusiasts can make a contribution to wildlife and proudly wear the Nebraska Habitat Donor Patch and/or cap.

Patches and caps are available for each year (1990-94). Please specify year when ordering.

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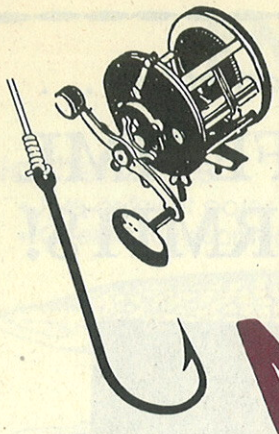
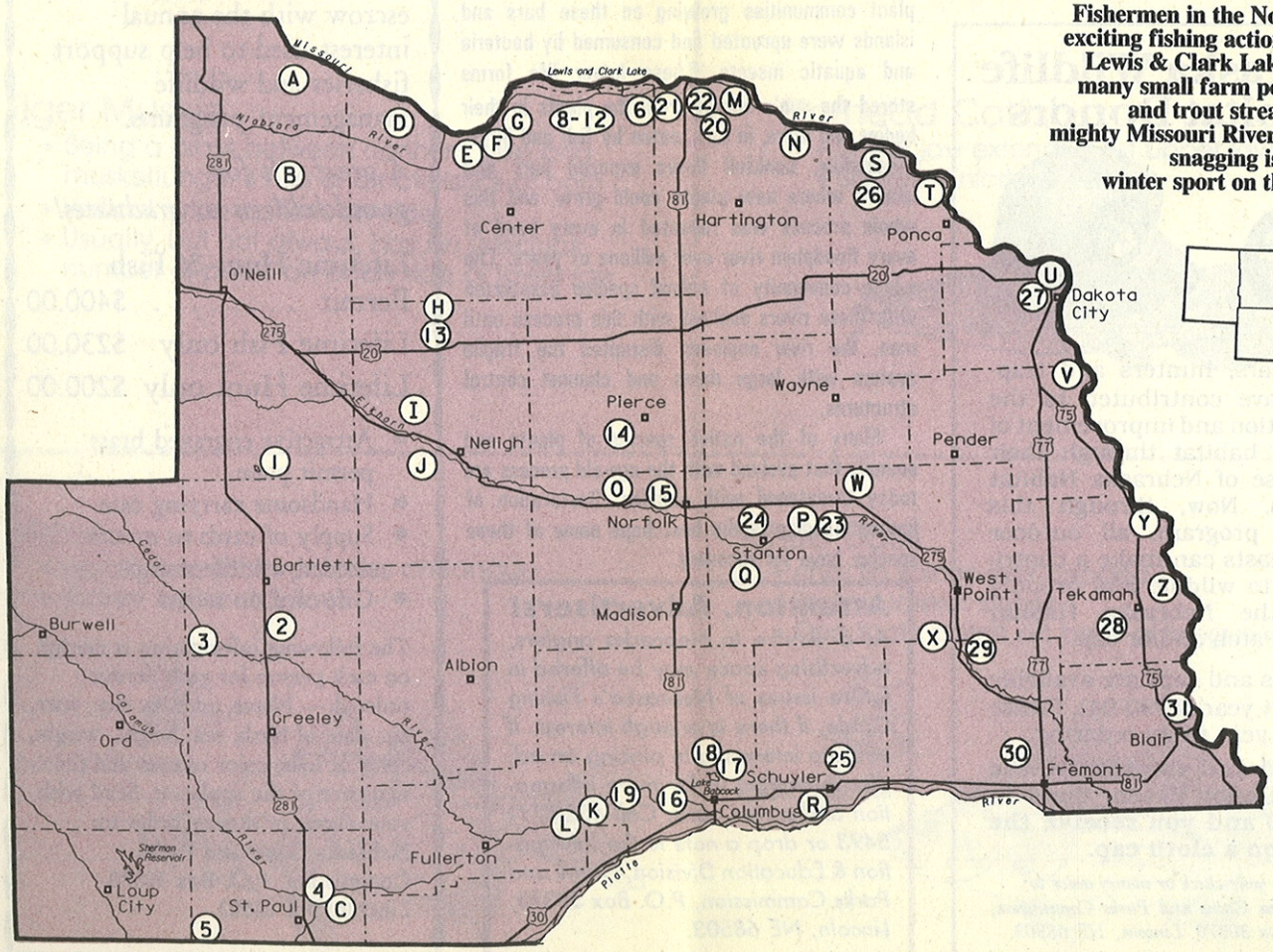


NEBRASKAland Guide To Good Fishing

This guide lists public waters and public access points to rivers and streams. Lakes and reservoirs are numbered (1-99). Trout streams and public river accesses are lettered (A-Z). Maps are numbered and lettered according to county, from north to south and west to east. Good fishing!

The Northeast

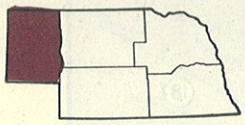
Fishermen in the Northeast find exciting fishing action at popular Lewis & Clark Lake, as well as many small farm ponds, catfish and trout streams, and the mighty Missouri River. Paddlefish snagging is an exciting winter sport on the Missouri.



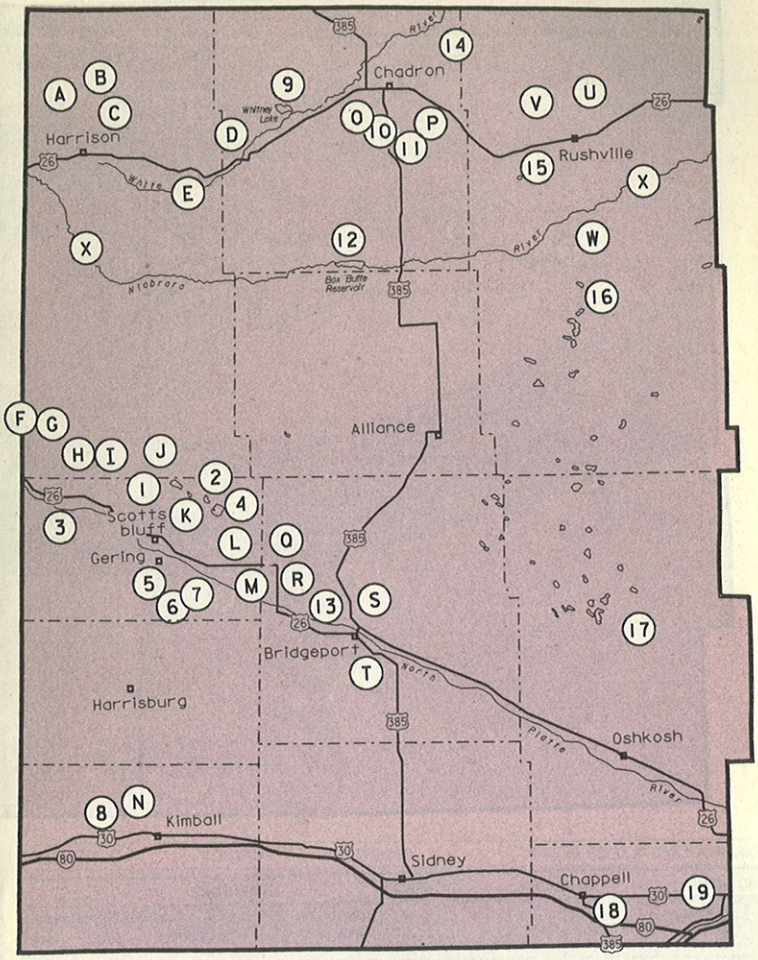
NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
1	Goose Lake	Holt Co., 18NW, 5E of Bartlett	Bass, bluegill, pike, yellow perch	200 acres, renovated 1990
2	Pibel Lake SRA	Wheeler Co., 9S, 1E of Bartlett	Bluegill, bullheads, channel catfish, largemouth bass, pike	25 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only
3	Lake Ericson	Wheeler Co., ½S of Ericson	Bass, bluegill, carp, channel catfish, crappie, pike	70 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph
4	North Loup SRA	Howard Co., 3N of St. Paul	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie	7 acres, just north of the Loup River on Hwy. 281
5	Farwell South Reservoir	Howard Co., 4W, 3S of Farwell	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie	40 acres, power boats not allowed
6	Lewis & Clark Lake SRA	Knox Co., 15N of Crofton	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	30,000 acres, modern and primitive camping on state and federal areas, all boats allowed
7	Niobrara SP	Knox Co., 1W of Niobrara	Bass & bluegill in lagoon; Channel & flathead catfish in river	Park Entry sticker required
8	Miller Creek Area	Knox Co., 10W, 6N of Crofton on Lewis & Clark Lake, River mile 821.0	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	Concrete ramp
9	Bloomfield Area	Knox Co., 8W, 7N of Crofton on Lewis & Clark Lake, River mile 819.5	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	Concrete ramp
10	Weigand Area	Knox Co., 4W, 7N of Crofton on Lewis & Clark Lake, River mile 816.0	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	Concrete ramp, modern fish cleaning station
11	Hideaway Acres Marina	Knox Co., 7N, ½W of Crofton on Lewis & Clark Lake, River mile 812.5	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	Concrete ramp
12	South Shore Area	Knox Co., 8N of Crofton, on Lewis & Clark Lake, River mile 811.5	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, sauger, walleye, white bass	Concrete ramp
13	Grove Lake	Antelope Co., 2N of Royal	Bluegill, bullheads, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike	50 acres, primitive camping, power boats limited to 5 mph
14	Willow Creek SRA	Pierce Co., 2SW of Pierce	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, tiger muskie, walleye, wipers	700 acres, camping, motorboats limited to 5 mph on west half of lake, 3 handicapped accessible piers
15	Skyview Lake	Madison Co., Norfolk	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, pike, tiger muskie, walleye	50 acres, 21" minimum on largemouth bass, handicapped accessible fishing pier, electric fishing motors only
16	Loup Canal	Genoa to Columbus	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum	Tailrace at Columbus, stilling basin W of Genoa, and tailwaters below Monroe and Columbus powerhouses most productive
17	Lake North	Platte Co., 3N of Columbus	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, drum, walleye	200 acres, camping
18	Lake Babcock	Platte Co., 1W, 3N of Columbus	Bullheads, carp, channel & flathead catfish	600 acres, power boats not allowed
19	Looking Glass WMA	Platte Co., 1S of Monroe	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	Two small lakes, 3-4 acres each
20	Chalkrock Lake WMA	Cedar Co., 5N, 1½E of Hwy. 81 & 12 Jct.	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, tiger muskie, walleye	44 acres, boats limited to 5 mph
21	Cottonwood Lake (Lake Yankton)	Cedar Co., Below Gavins Point Dam, north side of river	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, walleye	250 acres, border water area with S. Dakota, open to Nebr. permit holders, electric fishing motors only
22	Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters	Cedar Co., 1S, 4W of Yankton, SD	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, drum, eel, paddlefish, smallmouth bass, sauger, white bass, walleye	All boats allowed, life jackets must be worn at all times in tailwaters area, handicapped access
23	Red Fox Lake WMA	Stanton Co., 1¼S of Pilger on Hwy. 15	Bluegill, carp, channel catfish, crappie, large-mouth bass	25 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, primitive ramp
24	Maskenthine Reservoir	Stanton Co., 2NW of Stanton	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, pike, walleye	98 acres, primitive camping, boats limited to 5 mph
25	Schuyler City Lake	Colfax Co., In city park	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, crappie	18 acres
26	Buckskin Hills Lake	Dixon Co., 2W, 3S, ½W of Newcastle	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye	75 acres, primitive camping, boats limited to 5 mph, 21 inch minimum on largemouth bass
27	Crystal Cove Lake	Dakota Co., NE of Hwy. 20 & 77 intersection in S. Sioux City	Bass, bluegill, channel catfish, pike	30 acres, no power boats allowed
28	Summit Lake SRA	Burt Co., 4½W, ½S of Tekamah	Bass, bluegill, carp, channel catfish, crappie, pike, walleye, wipers	190 acres, motorboats limited to 5 mph, fish cleaning station
29	Dead Timber SRA	Dodge Co., 5NW of Scribner, 1½E	Bullheads, carp, channel & flathead catfish	20 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only, Park Entry sticker required
30	Fremont Lakes SRA	Dodge Co., 3W of Fremont	Bluegill, bullheads, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike	280 acres in 20 lakes, camping available, gas-powered boating on Victory Lake and Lake 20 only, all others electric fishing motors only, Park Entry Permit required
31	DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge	Washington Co., 6E of Blair on Hwy. 30	Bluegill, buffalo, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	760 acres, 5 mph speed limit for boats, open from early January through late February for ice fishing, mid-April through late September for open-water fishing

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
A	Sunshine Bottoms Ramp (Boyd County)	Boyd Co., 3E, 4N of Lynch	Carp, channel catfish, drum, goldeye, sauger, smallmouth bass, walleye	Public access to Missouri River
B	Steel Creek	NE Holt County	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
C	Loup Junction	Howard Co., 2½N, 2E, ½N of St. Paul	Carp, channel catfish	Loup River access
D	Verdel Landing	Knox Co., 2E, 2N of Verdel	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth & smallmouth bass, pike	Mo. River access
E	Niobrara Townsite Boat Ramp	Knox Co., N of old Niobrara townsite on county road, NE River mile 844.0	Buffalo, carp, crappie, pike, sauger, smallmouth bass, walleye	Double-wide concrete ramps, ample parking
F	Ferry Landing SRA	Knox Co., 2½E, 1½N of Niobrara, NE River mile 841.0	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, sauger, walleye	Boat ramp, access to Missouri River
G	Bazile Creek WMA	Knox Co., 4E, 1½N of Niobrara, NE River mile 838.8	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, sauger, walleye	Gravel road to ramp gets muddy with heavy rains, ramp subject to flooding
H	Verdigre Creek	Antelope Co., East Branch, NE of Royal above Grove Lake	Brown & rainbow trout	Public access available as posted
I	Hackberry Creek WMA, Elkhorn River	Antelope Co., 1½E, ½N of Clearwater	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
J	Red Wing WMA	Antelope Co., 5SW of Neligh	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
K	Prairie Wolf WMA	Nance Co., 1S of Genoa	Carp, channel catfish	Loup River access
L	George Syas WMA	Nance Co., 2S, 1½E of Genoa	Carp, channel catfish	Loup River access
M	St. Helena Access	Cedar Co., 6½E, 1N of Hwy. 81 & 121 Jct.	Channel & flathead catfish, paddlefish, sauger, walleye	Mo. River access, Cedar County public access allowed, gravel ramp
N	Cedar County Access	4NE of Wynot, River mile 784.9	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum, paddlefish, sauger, walleye	Cedar county, Mo. River access, public access allowed, concrete ramp
O	Yellowbanks WMA	Madison Co., 3N of Battle Creek	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
P	Red Fox WMA	Stanton Co., 1S of Pilger on Hwy. 15	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
Q	Wood Duck WMA	Stanton Co., 3SW of Stanton	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
R	Whitetail WMA	Colfax Co., ½W of Schuyler on US 30, 3S on Co. road	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, sauger	Platte River access
S	Mulberry Bend WMA	Dixon Co., 1E of Maskell on Hwy. 12 and 2½N	Carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth & smallmouth bass, pike	Ramp to be completed in '94, Mo. River access
T	Ponca State Park	Dixon Co., 2½N of Ponca, River mile 753.5	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum, sauger, walleye	Mo. River access, public access, concrete ramp
U	Scenic Park Access	Dakota Co., ½E of Hwy. 77 bridge near S. Sioux City, River mile 732.0	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum	City of S. Sioux City, Mo. River access, public access allowed, concrete ramp
V	Missouri River (Federal access areas)	Nebraska shoreline, River mile 691.3-691.9 River mile 693.0-693.4 River mile 694.5-695.3 River mile 695.2-697.4 River mile 697.7-699.6 River mile 701.1-701.5	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum, sauger, walleye	Public access points to Missouri River, camping available, area boundaries posted
W	Black Island WMA, Elkhorn River	Cuming Co., 2½E of Pilger on county road	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
X	Powder Horn WMA	Dodge Co., 4NW of Scribner on Hwy. 275	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Elkhorn River access
Y	Hightree Marina	Burt Co., ½N of Hwy. 51 bridge, east side of Decatur, River mile 691.4	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum	Mo. River access, private access, fee, concrete ramp
Z	Pelican Point SRA	Burt Co., 5E, 4N of Tekamah, River mile 672.8	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, drum, sauger, walleye	Mo. River access, public access ramp, primitive camping

The Panhandle



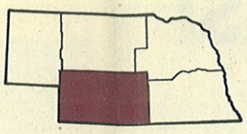
The Panhandle is a haven for trout fishermen. Rainbows and browns abound in the many Pine Ridge and North Platte Valley cold-water streams.



NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	SPECIAL REGULATIONS/REMARKS
1	University Lake	Sioux Co., 7NW of Scottsbluff	Bluegill, largemouth bass, yellow perch	30 acres
2	Lake Winters Creek	Scotts Bluff Co., N of Minatare	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch	235 acres, non-powered boats only, closed Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 15" minimum on walleye
3	Morrill Sandpits	Scotts Bluff Co., 3S of Morrill	Black crappie, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, yellow perch	25 acres in three lakes, county owned, permission required, check with Morrill City Manager or Scotts Bluff Co., no boating or camping
4	Lake Minatare SRA	Scotts Bluff Co., 12NE of Scottsbluff	Channel catfish, crappie, smallmouth bass, white bass, walleye, wipers, yellow perch	2,300 acres, camping, all boats allowed; closed Oct. 1-Jan. 15, 15" minimum on walleye
5	Terry's Pit	Scotts Bluff Co., Gering	Largemouth bass, trout	7 acres
6	Buffalo Creek WMA	Scotts Bluff Co., 5S, 1½W of Melbeta	Largemouth bass, rainbow trout	7 acres, access via 1-mile foot trail
7	Cochran Lake	Scotts Bluff Co., 2SW of Melbeta	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie, yellow perch	45 acres
8	Oliver Reservoir SRA	Kimball Co., 10W of Kimball	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, tiger muskie, walleye, yellow perch	270 acres, all boats, primitive camping, 15" minimum on walleye
9	Whitney Lake	Dawes Co., 1½W of Whitney	Channel catfish, crappie, perch, walleye, white bass	900 acres, private irrigation reservoir, access limited
10	Chadron City Reservoirs	Dawes Co., 5½S of Chadron	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, yellow perch, trout	22 acres, no boats allowed, public access
11	Chadron State Park Pond	Dawes Co., 9S of Chadron	Trout	2 acres, boats not allowed limited handicapped access
12	Box Butte Reservoir SRA	Dawes Co., 10N of Hemingford	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth & smallmouth bass, pike, walleye, yellow perch	1,600 acres, subject to severe summer drawdown; primitive camping, all boats
13	Bridgeport SRA	Morrill Co., NW edge of Bridgeport	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth & smallmouth bass, pike, rainbow trout, walleye	78 acres in 5 lakes, primitive camping, all boats allowed on middle pit
14	Isham Dam	Sheridan Co., NW of Hay Springs	Bluegill, bullheads, large-mouth bass, yellow perch	26 acres, private/permission required, all boats allowed
15	Walgren Lake SRA	Sheridan Co., 5SE of Hay Springs	Bluegill, bullheads, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch	100 acres, primitive camping, boat speed limit
16	Smith Lake WMA	Sheridan Co., 23S of Rushville	Bluegill, bullheads, large-mouth bass, northern pike, tiger muskie, walleye, yel-low perch	265 acres, primitive camping, power boats limited to 5 mph
17	Island Lake	Garden Co., Crescent Lake National Wildlife Refuge, 22N of Oshkosh	Bluegill, crappie, large-mouth bass, yellow perch, walleye	711 acres, no minnows, dead smelt allowed, no camping, electric motors only, other refuge lakes closed or insignificant for fishing
18	Chappell Interstate Lake	½S of Chappell	Black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch	30 acres
19	Goldeneye WMA	Deuel Co., 3W of Big Springs	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, yellow perch	17 acres

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
A	Monroe Creek	4½N of Harrison	Brook trout	Public access on Gilbert-Baker WMA; also private access, permission required
B	Sowbelly Creek	NE of Harrison	Brook trout	Private access, permission required
C	Hat Creek	NE of Harrison	Brook trout	Private access, permission required
D	Soldier Creek	3W of Crawford	Brook, brown & rainbow trout	Public access of Fort Robinson State Park and Fort Robinson Wood Reserve
E	White River	W of Fort Robinson	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required; public access on Ft. Robinson SP
F	Sheep Creek	NW of Morrill	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
G	Dry Sheep Creek	NW of Morrill	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
H	Dry Spotted Tail Creek	NW of Mitchell	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
I	Spotted Tail Creek	NW of Mitchell	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
J	Tub Springs	NE of Mitchell	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
K	Winters Creek	NE of Scottsbluff	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
L	Nine Mile Creek	E of Minatare	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required, public access at Nine Mile Creek WMA
M	Stuckenhole Creek	W of Bayard	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
N	Lodgepole Creek	Kimball to Wyoming border	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
O	Chadron Creek	S of Chadron	Brook & brown trout	Private access, permission required; public access on Chadron SP
P	Bourdeaux Creek	SE of Chadron	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
Q	Wildhorse Creek	N of Bayard	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
R	Red Willow Creek	E of Bayard	Brown & rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
S	Silvernail Drain	E of Northport	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
T	Greenwood Creek	SE of Bridgeport	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
U	Larabie Creek	N of Rushville	Brook & brown trout	Private property, permission required
V	White Clay Creek	NW of Rushville	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
W	Pine Creek	20S of Rushville	Brown trout	Private access, permission required
X	Niobrara River	N part of Panhandle District	Brown & rainbow trout	Extremely low water in summer, private/permission required

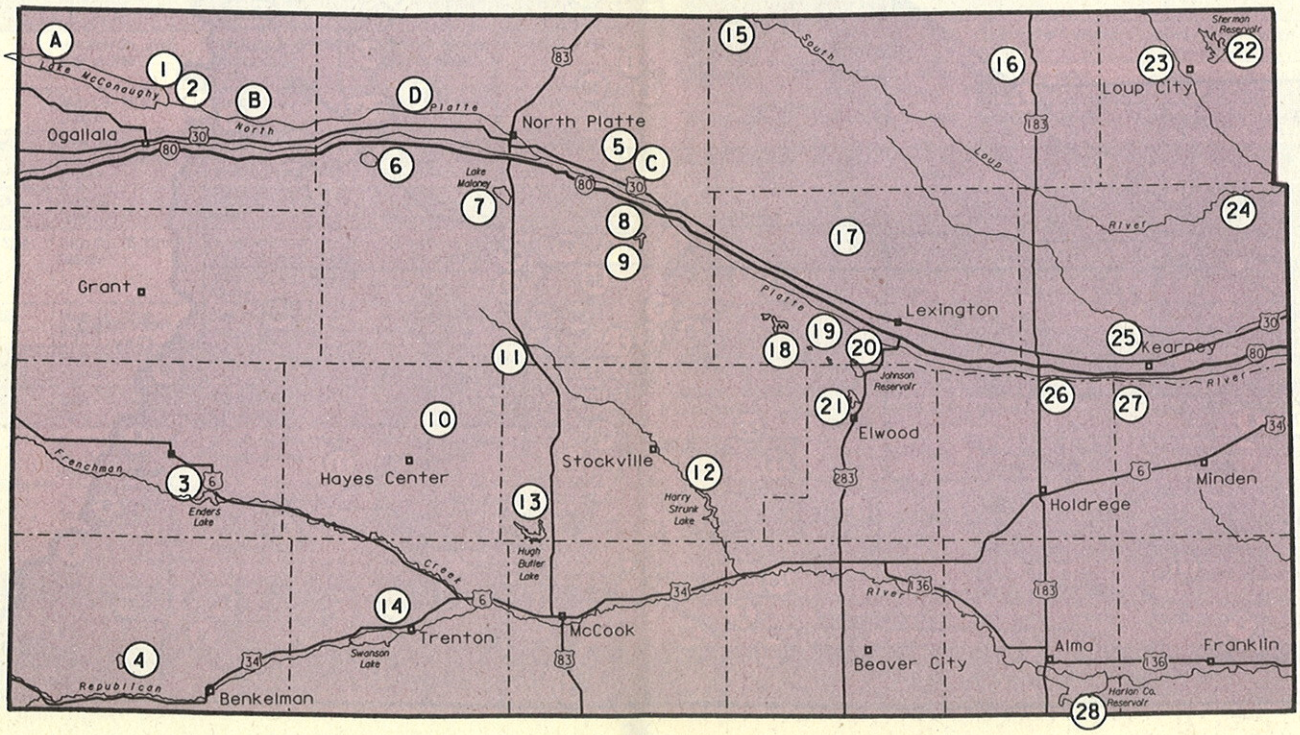
The Southwest



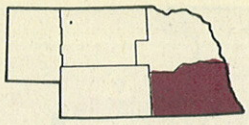
Southwest Nebraska offers large reservoirs, rivers, canals and smaller lakes for the enjoyment of anglers and campers. Anglers can try for many species, including channel catfish, bluegill, walleye, crappie, perch and bass. Most areas have both modern and primitive camping facilities available.

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
1	Lake McConaughy SRA	Keith Co., 10N of Ogallala	Channel catfish, perch, rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, striped bass, tiger muskie, white bass, walleye	30,000 acres, modern and primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
2	Lake Ogallala SRA	Keith Co., 10N of Ogallala	Rainbow trout, yellow perch	590 acres, modern/primitive camping, all boats allowed
3	Enders Reservoir SRA	Chase Co., 5E, 4½S of Imperial	Channel & flathead catfish, crappie, walleye, white bass	1700 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye, severe summer drawdown
4	Rock Creek Lake SRA	Dundy Co., 4N, 1W of Parks	Bluegill, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, rainbow trout	50 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only
5	Pawnee Slough WMA	Lincoln Co., 2W of Maxwell	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth & rock bass	30 acres
6	Sutherland Reservoir SRA	Lincoln Co., 2S of Sutherland	Channel catfish, walleye, white bass, wiper, yellow perch	3,000 acres, ice fishermen use caution due to heated discharge from power plant, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
7	Lake Maloney SRA	Lincoln Co., 6S of North Platte	Channel & flathead catfish, drum, walleye, white bass, wiper	1,600 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
8	Chester Island WMA	Lincoln Co., 2S, ½W of Brady	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	4 sandpits
9	Jeffrey Reservoir	Lincoln Co., 5S, 3W of Brady	Channel catfish, walleye, white bass	900 acres, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
10	Hayes Center Lake WMA	Hayes Co., 12NE of Hayes Center	Bullhead, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, pike	50 acres, electric fishing motors only
11	Wellfleet Lake	Lincoln Co., ½SW of Wellfleet	Bluegill, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	50 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only
12	Medicine Creek SRA (Harry Strunk Lake)	Frontier Co., 2W, 7N of Cambridge	Channel & flathead catfish, crappie, hybrid striper, walleye, white bass	1,850 acres, primitive and modern camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
13	Red Willow SRA (Hugh Butler Lake)	Frontier Co., 11N of McCook	Channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye, white bass, wiper	1,630 acres, modern camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
14	Swanson Reservoir SRA	Hitchcock Co., 2W of Trenton	Channel catfish, crappie, drum, walleye, white bass	5,000 acres, 15" minimum on walleye
15	Arnold Lake	Custer Co., ½S Arnold	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	Very weedy in summer

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
16	Ansley Lake	Custer Co., W of Ansley	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	No power boating
17	Buffalo Creek	Dawson Co., 6E, 7N of Cozad	Bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, walleye	Central Platte NRD area
18	Midway Canyon Reservoir	Dawson Co., 6S, 2W of Cozad	Channel & flathead catfish, crappie, drum, walleye, white bass	All boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
19	Gallagher Canyon Reservoir SRA	Dawson Co., 8S of Cozad	Channel & flathead catfish, crappie, drum, walleye, white bass	400 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15" minimum on walleye
20	Johnson Lake SRA	Gosper Co., 7S of Lexington	Channel & flathead catfish, drum, striped bass, walleye, white bass, wiper	2,800 acres, primitive and modern camping, all boats allowed, handicapped access, 15" minimum on walleye
21	Elwood Reservoir WMA	Gosper Co., 3N of Elwood	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, walleye, yellow perch	1,200 acres, bank fishing limited except at entrance, power boats limited to 5 mph, 18" minimum on walleye
22	Sherman Reservoir SRA	Sherman Co., 4E, 1N of Loup City	Channel catfish, crappie, pike, walleye, white bass	2,600 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, extreme summer drawdowns, 18" minimum on walleye with only 1 fish allowed over 25"
23	Bowman Lake	Sherman Co., ½W of Loup City	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	20 acres, winter killed 1993, restocked
24	Ravenna Lake SRA	Buffalo Co., 1SE of Ravenna	Bullhead, carp, channel catfish	30 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only
25	Cottonmill Lake	Buffalo Co., 1W, ½N of Kearney on Hwy. 30	Bullhead, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	No power boating
26	Sandy Channel WMA	Buffalo Co., 2S of Elm Creek, I-80 Interchange	Channel catfish, largemouth bass, rock bass	52 acres in 6 lakes, electric fishing motors only .
27	Ft. Kearny SRA	Kearney Co., ¾E, 1N of Ft. Kearny SHP	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	6 gravel pit lakes, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only, handicapped access
28	Harlan County Reservoir/Corps of Engineers	Harlan Co., S of Alma and Republican City	Channel & flathead catfish, pike, walleye, white bass, wiper	13,500 acres, modern and primitive camping, all boats allowed, 18" minimum on walleye
A	Otter Creek	12E of Lewellen	Brown & rainbow trout	Private property, permission required
B	North Platte River	Keystone to Paxton	Rainbow trout	Private access, permission required
C	CNPPID Canal	North Platte to Gothenburg	Channel & flathead catfish, walleye, white bass, wiper	Power boats limited to 5 mph, no access, 15" minimum on walleye
D	North River WMA	Lincoln Co., 2½N of Hershey	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, pike	Encompasses 2 miles of North Platte River



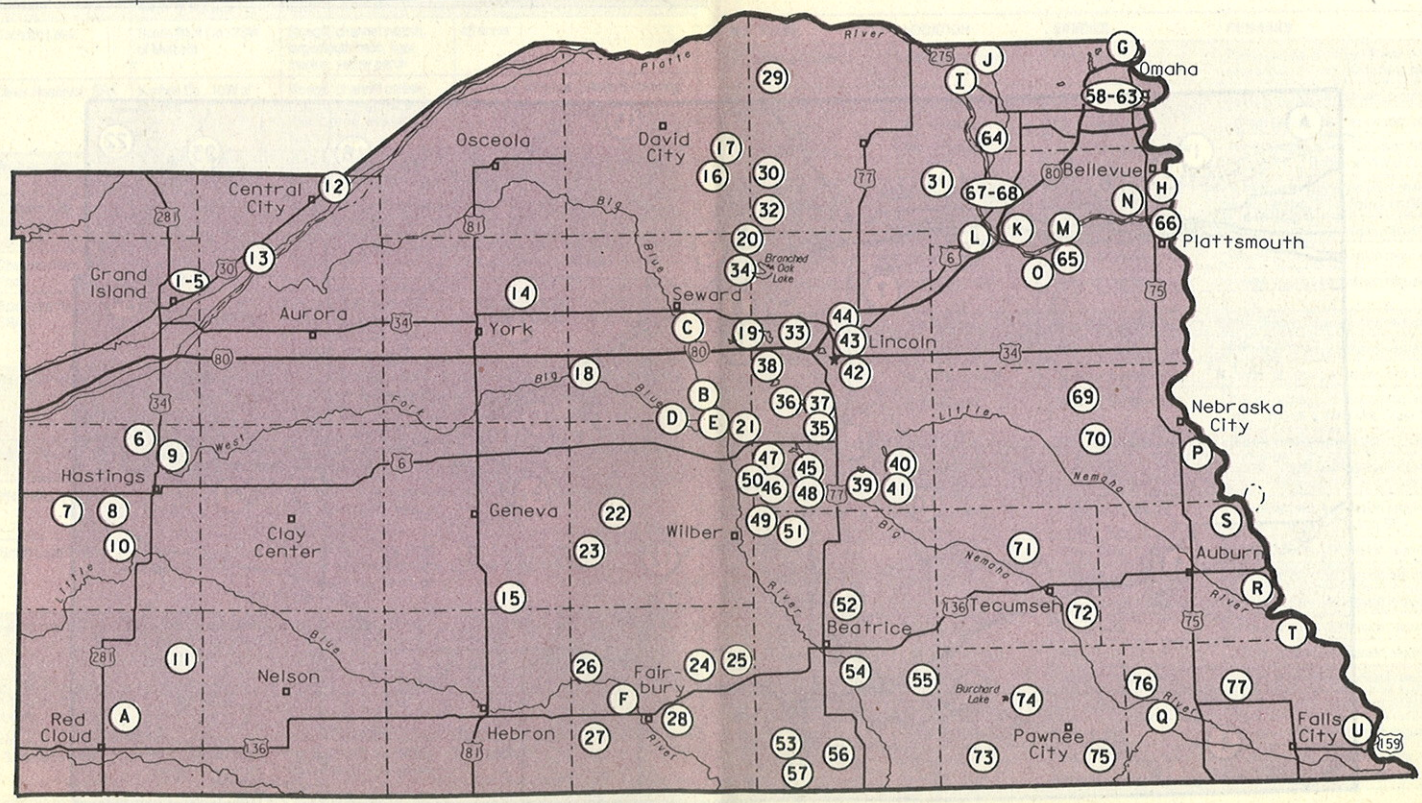
The Southeast



Fishing opportunity is increasing in the Southeast. NRD lakes are adding hundreds of acres of fishing water to the area. Farm ponds, streams and rivers are important, but under-used fisheries. A large and growing population places heavy demand on existing public areas, and more water is needed to meet their demands.

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	SPECIAL REGULATIONS & REMARKS
1	Suchs Lake	Grand Island city lake, Harrison St., S of Burlington RR	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	4.3 acres
2	L.E. Ray Lake	Grand Island city lake, N of Husker Hwy & East Blaine	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	30.1 acres
3	Pier Lake	Grand Island city lake, Ashton Ave. & Bismarck Rd.	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	8.3 acres
4	Wastewater Pond	Grand Island city lake, Swift Rd., E of Stuhr Rd.	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	7.5 acres
5	Detention Cell	Hall Co., 1N of Grand Island	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, largemouth bass	35 acres; Dept. of Roads area
6	Hastings NW Dam	Adams Co., 1N of Hastings Airport	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	63 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph, very turbid
7	32-Mile D, Juniata	Adams Co., 4½W, 1½S of Juniata	Bullhead, carp, channel catfish	66 acres, Little Blue NRD, boats limited to 5 mph, very turbid
8	32-Mile H, Prairie Lake	Adams Co., 1½E, 4½S of Juniata	Channel catfish	65 acres, Little Blue NRD, boats limited to 5 mph, very turbid
9	Lake Hastings	Adams Co., N edge of Hastings	Bullhead, channel catfish, crappie	63 acres, all boats allowed
10	Crystal Lake SRA	Adams Co., 2N, 1W of Ayr	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	10 acres, electric fishing motors only, winterkilled 1993, restocked
11	Liberty Cove	Webster Co., 2S, 2½W of Lawrence	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, pike	36 acres, Little Blue NRD
12	Hord Lake SRA	Merrick Co., 2E of Central City	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	23 acres in 2 lakes, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only, old sandpits
13	Bader Memorial County Park	Merrick Co., 1½S of Chapman	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth & rock bass	12 acres in 7 lakes, primitive camping, electric motors only, old sandpits
14	Waco Basin WMA	York Co., 1W, ½N of Waco	Black bullhead	15 acres
15	Bruning Pit	Fillmore Co., 2½E, 1N of Bruning	Bullhead, carp, channel catfish	258 acres, Little Blue NRD, very turbid
16	Redtail WMA	Butler Co., 1E of Dwight	Bluegill, crappie, channel catfish, largemouth bass	26 acres, walk-in access only
17	Timber Point	Butler Co., 1S, 2E of Brainard	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, tiger muskie	28 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Platte South NRD
18	Smith Creek	Seward Co., 2N, 2W, ¼N of Beaver Crossing	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	21 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Upper Big Blue NRD, turbid
19	Twin Lakes WMA	Seward Co., 2½N, ½W of Pleasant Dale	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, tiger muskie, walleye	210 acres in east lake, 60 acres in west lake, electric fishing motors only, area closed during waterfowl seasons

NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
20	Meadowlark	Seward Co., 6½W, 1N of Agnew	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	55 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Platte South NRD, renovated 1988
21	Walnut Creek 2A	Saline Co., ½E, 3½N of Crete	Bluegill, bullhead, channel & flathead catfish, largemouth bass	26 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Big Blue NRD
22	Swan Creek 2A WMA	Saline Co., 14W, 3N of Wilber	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	16 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph
23	Swan Creek 5A	Saline Co., 3E, 2N of Tobias	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	95 acres, area development planned in next few years, Lower Big Blue NRD
24	Cub Creek Watershed 12A	Jefferson Co., 3W, 4½S of Plymouth	Carp, channel catfish	27 acres, all boats allowed, very turbid, Lower Big Blue NRD
25	Cub Creek 9B (Leisure Lake)	Jefferson Co., 1E, 4S of Plymouth	Carp, channel catfish	25 acres, boating limited to 5 mph, Lower Big Blue NRD, very turbid
26	Alexandria SRA	Jefferson Co., 2S, 3E of Alexandria	Bluegill, bullheads, carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	43 acres, electric fishing motors only, primitive camping
27	Buckley 3F	Jefferson Co., 7W, 4½S of Fairbury	Channel catfish	22 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Little Blue NRD, very turbid
28	Crystal Springs Lakes	Jefferson Co., 1S, 1W of Fairbury	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie	18 acres in 3 lakes, no boats allowed
29	Czechland Lake	Saunders Co., 1N, ¼W of Prague	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	85-acres, Lower Platte North NRD, boats limited to 5 mph
30	Red Cedar	Saunders Co., 5N, 2½W of the north edge of Valparaiso	Bass, bluegill, channel & flathead catfish, saugeye	50 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Platte South NRD
31	Memphis Lake SRA	Saunders Co., ½W of Memphis	Bluegill, buffalo, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	45 acres, row boats and electric motors only, shallow



NO	NAME	LOCATION	SPECIES	REMARKS
32	Wildwood Lake	Lancaster Co., 1W, 11½N of Agnew	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	103 acres, electric fishing motors only, Lower Platte South NRD, catch and release fishing only for all species
33	Pawnee Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 2N, 11½W of Emerald	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, drum, largemouth & white bass, walleye	740 acres, modern camping, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 10" minimum on crappie
34	Branched Oak Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., ½E, 4N of Malcolm	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye, white perch, wiper	1,800 acres, modern & primitive camping, 5 mph boating (no wake) 750 ft. from dam & 600 ft. from all shores, handicapped access, daily bag limit 3 on wipers with no more than 1 fish over 20", 10" minimum on crappie, 18" minimum on walleye
35	Cottontail	Lancaster Co., 1N of Martell	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, largemouth bass	29 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph, summer kill 1992, restocked
36	Yankee Hill Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 2½E, 1S of Denton	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	208 acres, electric fishing motors only, 15-inch bass size limit
37	Killdeer Lake WMA	Lancaster Co., 2½N of Martell	Bluegill, bullheads, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	20 acres, electric fishing motors only
38	Conestoga Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 11½N of Denton	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye, wiper	230 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, 15-inch bass size limit, daily bag limit 3 on wipers with no more than 1 fish over 20"
39	Stagecoach Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 11½S, ½W of Hickman	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	195 acres, primitive camping, boats limited to 5 mph, renovated 1991, 15" minimum on bass, 8" minimum on bluegill
40	Wagon Train Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 2E of Hickman	Bluegill, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pike, walleye	315 acres, primitive camping, boats limited to 5 mph, 15" minimum on bass
41	Hedgefield Lake WMA	Lancaster Co., 2W, ½N of Panama	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, largemouth bass	44 acres, electric fishing motors only, summer kill 1992, restocked
42	Holmes Lake	Lancaster Co., 70th & Normal Blvd. in Lincoln	Bluegill, carp, channel, blue and flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, saugeye, trout (seasonal) walleye	100 acres, non-powered boats only, city of Lincoln lake, trout stocked in fall and winter
43	Bowling Lake	Lancaster Co., 3rd & Baker, NW Airpark, Lincoln	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	12 acres, non-powered boats only, city of Lincoln lake, shallow, turbid
44	Oak Lake	Lancaster Co., I-180 & Sun Valley Blvd., NW Lincoln	Bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, green sunfish	47-acre, city of Lincoln lake, shallow, subject to winter kill
45	Bluestem Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 2½W of Sprague	Bluegill, crappie, flathead & channel catfish, largemouth bass, saugeye, walleye, wiper	326 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, daily bag limit 3 on wipers with no more than 1 fish over 20"
46	Merganser	Lancaster Co., 6E, 2S, ¼E of Crete	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	41 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph, restocked 1992
47	Wild Plum	Lancaster Co., 4½E, 2S, ½W of Crete	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	16 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph, dam repair 1988, summer kill 1992, restocked
48	Olive Creek Lake SRA	Lancaster Co., 2E, 1S of Kramer	Bluegill, carp, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	175 acres, primitive camping, power boats limited to 5 mph, very shallow, very turbid
49	Teal Lake WMA	Lancaster Co., 4½E, 4N of Wilber	Bluegill, bullhead, channel & flathead catfish, largemouth bass	29 acres, electric fishing motors only, subject to frequent fish kills due to low levels
50	Tanglewood	Lancaster Co., 3½E, 2½S of Crete	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	33 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Platte South NRD
51	Clatonia 3A	Gage Co., 1N of Clatonia	Channel catfish	46 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Lower Big Blue NRD, turbid
52	Bear Pierce Cedar 2A	Gage Co., 2N, 2E of Hwy. 77 & Hwy. 136 Junction	Channel catfish	24 acres, turbid & shallow, Lower Big Blue NRD
53	Arrowhead WMA	Gage Co., 3E, ½S of Diller	Bullhead, carp, channel catfish	77 acres, power boats limited to 5 mph, very turbid & shallow
54	Rockford Lake SRA	Gage Co., 7E, 2S of Beatrice	Bluegill, bullhead, channel & flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, saugeye, walleye	150 acres, all boats allowed, primitive camping
55	Wolf Wildcat #12	Gage Co., 7S of Virginia	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass,	42 acres, Lower Big Blue NRD, limited access, summer kill 1992, restocked
56	Big Indian 11A	Gage Co., 3S, 3W of Wymore	Bullhead, channel catfish	76 acres, primitive camping, all boats allowed, very turbid, Lower Big Blue NRD
57	Diamond Lakes WMA	Gage Co., 3½W of Odell	Bullhead, channel & flathead catfish	43 acres in 2 lakes, electric fishing motors only, very turbid
58	Papio D-4	Douglas Co., ¼N of NE 36 & 98th St., northwest Omaha	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	30½ acres, Papio/Missouri NRD, first stocked in 1987
59	Zorinsky Lake	Douglas Co., 156th & F Sts. in Omaha	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, tiger muskie, walleye	255 acres, open January 1, 1993, city of Omaha lake, 21" minimum on largemouth bass, 8" minimum on bluegill, 10" minimum on crappie, special bag limits in effect
60	Wehrspann Lake	Sarpy Co., 1N, 1W I-80 & Hwy. 50 Junction	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	245 acres, boats limited to 5 mph, Papio/Missouri NRD, 21" minimum on largemouth bass, 8" minimum on bluegill, 10" minimum on crappie
61	Glenn Cunningham Lake	Douglas Co., 96th & State in Omaha	Bluegill & channel catfish, bullhead, largemouth, yellow & white bass	390 acres, no-wake power boating, camping, city of Omaha lake
62	Standing Bear Lake	Douglas Co., 132nd & Military in Omaha	Bass, bluegill, catfish, crappie, drum, saugeye, trout (seasonal), walleye, yellow perch	135 acres, electric fishing motors only, city of Omaha lake, trout stocked in fall and winter
63	Carter Lake	Douglas Co., Abbott Drive & Carter Blvd. in Omaha	Bluegill, buffalo, bullhead, carp, catfish, crappie, drum, largemouth bass, pike, walleye	300 acres, all boats allowed, city of Omaha lake
64	Two Rivers SRA	Douglas Co., 3½E, 1S, 1W of Yutan	Bluegill, bullhead, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, pickerel, tiger muskie in lakes #1, 2, 3 & 4; trout in lake #5; carp & bullhead in carp lake	15 acres in 6 lakes, primitive and modern camping, non-powered boats only, no boats on lake #5, access point to Platte River, handicapped access
65	Louisville SRA	Cass Co., ½NW of Louisville	Bluegill, carp, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass; tiger muskie and yellow bass in Lake #2	40 acres, primitive camping, electric fishing motors only, access point Platte River
66	Schilling WMA	Cass Co., 1NE of Plattsmouth	Carp, channel catfish in Platte & Missouri Rivers	25 acres, open April 15-Sept. 30, hours posted, no boats on lake, access to Missouri and Platte rivers
67	US West Lake	Cass Co., Mahoney State Park	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, trout (seasonal)	10 acres, catch & release only for bass & bluegill, check Park Regs. for other species, trout stocked in fall and winter
68	Marina Lake	Cass Co., Mahoney State Park	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	4½ acres, special restrictions - check Park Regs.
69	Wilson Creek 2X WMA	Otoe Co., 3E, 1½S of Otoe	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	15 acres, electric motors only, Lower Big Blue NRD, very shallow
70	Wilson Creek 4F	Otoe Co., 2S, 1W, ¼S of Dunbar	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	38 acres, electric fishing motors only, Nemaha NRD, very turbid
71	Osage Lakes Nos. 1 & 2 WMA	Johnson Co., 3N, 2W, ¾N of Tecumseh	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	1 acre lake (3 ponds)
72	Twin Oaks WMA	Johnson Co., 2E, 4S of Tecumseh	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	1½ acres (2 ponds)
73	Pawnee Prairie WMA	Pawnee Co., 6S, 2E, 2S of Burchard	Bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass	7 ponds, 1-3 acres in size
74	Burchard Lake	Pawnee Co., 3E, ½N of Burchard	Bluegill, bullhead, channel catfish, largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch	150 acres, boating limited to 5 mph; primitive camping, area closed during waterfowl season, except face of dam, 21" minimum on largemouth bass
75	Iron Horse Trail Lake	Pawnee Co., ½N, 2W of DuBois	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	85 acres, all boats allowed, camping, picnicking, Nemaha NRD, turbid
76	Kirkman's Cove	Richardson Co., 1N, 2W of Humboldt	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass, walleye	160 acres, Nemaha NRD, first stocked 1987, turbid
77	Verdon Lake	Richardson Co., ½W of Verdon	Bluegill, channel catfish, crappie, largemouth bass	30 acres, electric motors only, primitive camping, subject to summer kill
A	Elm Creek	Webster Co., 4E, 2N of Red Cloud	Brown & rainbow trout	½ mile of stream on public land, rest on private land, permission required, trout stocked three times during year
B	Blue Bluffs	Seward Co., ½N, 1E, 2S of Milford	Carp, channel catfish	Access point to Big Blue River
C	Blue Valley	Seward Co., ½S of Seward	Carp, channel catfish	Access point to Big Blue River
D	Blue River SRA	Saline Co., 5N of Dorchester	Carp, channel catfish	Access point to Big Blue River
E	Shady Trail	Saline Co., 1W, 4N, ½W, ½N of Crete	Carp, channel catfish	Access point to big Blue River
F	Fairbury	Jefferson Co., S edge of Fairbury	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Access point to Little Blue River below Fairbury dam
G	Dodge Park	Douglas Co., 11000 N River Rd. in Omaha	Buffalo, carp, catfish, crappie	Access point to Missouri River
H	Haworth Park	Douglas Co., Bellevue	Buffalo, carp, catfish, crappie	Access point to Missouri River
I	Platte River Access	Douglas Co., 4W of Valley, SE corner of Hwy. 14 bridge	River species	1.9 acres, access to Platte River
J	Elkhorn Crossing	Douglas Co., 1S, ¾E of Hwy. 36 & County Rd. 92 Junction	River species	23 acres, access point to Elkhorn River, Papio/Missouri NRD
K	Schramm Park SRA	Sarpy Co., 6S I-80 & Hwy. 31 Junction	Carp, channel, flathead & blue catfish, sauger, walleye	Access point to Platte River
L	Hwy. 6 Bridge	Sarpy Co., E of Ashland	River species	Access point to Salt Creek
M	Hwy. 50 Bridge	Cass Co., Louisville	River species	Access point to Platte River
N	Schilling WMA	Cass Co., 1 NE of Plattsmouth	Carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access point to Missouri and Platte rivers
O	Louisville SRA	Cass Co., ½NW of Louisville	River species	Access point to Platte River
P	River View Marina SRA	Otoe Co., E of Nebraska City	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access to Missouri River, ramp, primitive camping
Q	Kinter's Ford WMA	Pawnee Co., S of Humboldt	Carp, channel & flathead catfish	Access point to Big Nemaha River
R	Brownville SRA	Nemaha Co., 1E of Brownville	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access to Missouri River, ramp, primitive camping
S	Peru	Nemaha Co., Peru	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access point to Missouri River
T	Indian Cave SP	Richardson Co., 4E of Barada	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access point to Missouri River
U	Rulo	Richardson Co., S Hwy. 159 Bridge near Rulo, River mile 497.8	Buffalo, carp, channel & flathead catfish, sturgeon	Access point to Missouri River, concrete ramp