

## 2022 Fall Survey Summary Canyon Reservoirs

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Jeffrey, Midway, Gallagher and Plum Creek Reservoirs are generally referred to as the “Canyon Reservoirs”. They are located along the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District’s (CNPPID) supply canal between Brady and Lexington. These reservoirs experience high flow rates that allow for unimpeded downstream fish movement which makes them challenging and unique fisheries to manage. Access CNPPID’s [Land-use Maps](#) and NGPC’s [Public Fishing Areas Map](#) to investigate further.

The Canyon Reservoirs are sampled using experimental gill nets, a method commonly used to sample species found primarily in open water, such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and hybrid striped bass. In addition to gill nets, trap nets are used to sample shoreline oriented species such as crappie. For more information about survey methods access the [Survey Says](#) article. Currently, two Canyon Reservoirs are surveyed per year. During 2022, Jeffrey and Midway Reservoirs were surveyed.





# JEFFREY



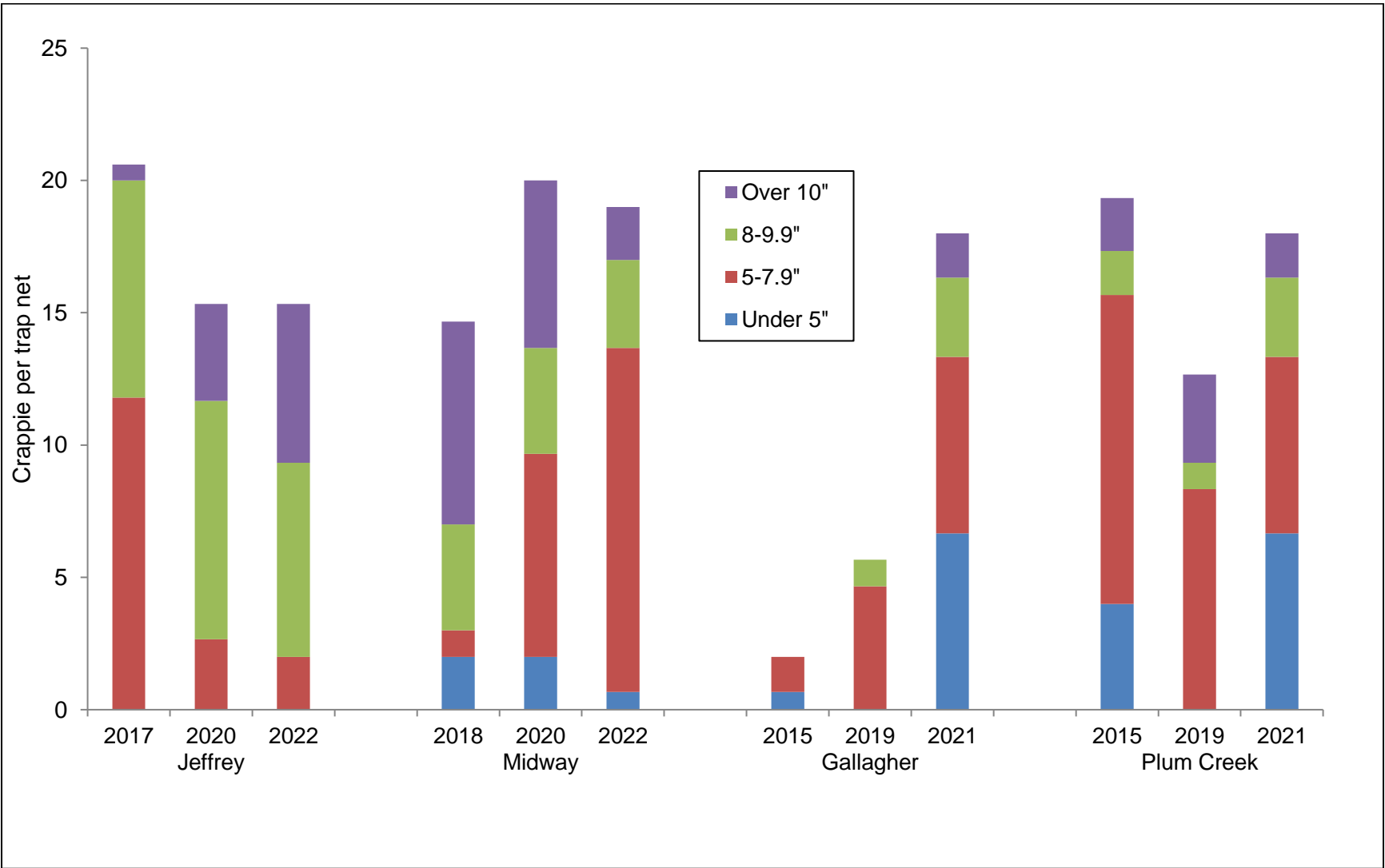
Jeffrey is a 900 acre reservoir located south of Brady. To visit this site from Interstate 80, take Exit 199, drive south 2.8 miles on S Banner Rd, turn west on Brady Moorfield Rd and travel 1.35 miles until WMA turn on right and travel a short distance downhill where a public access boat ramp exists. For more layout details access [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Map](#).



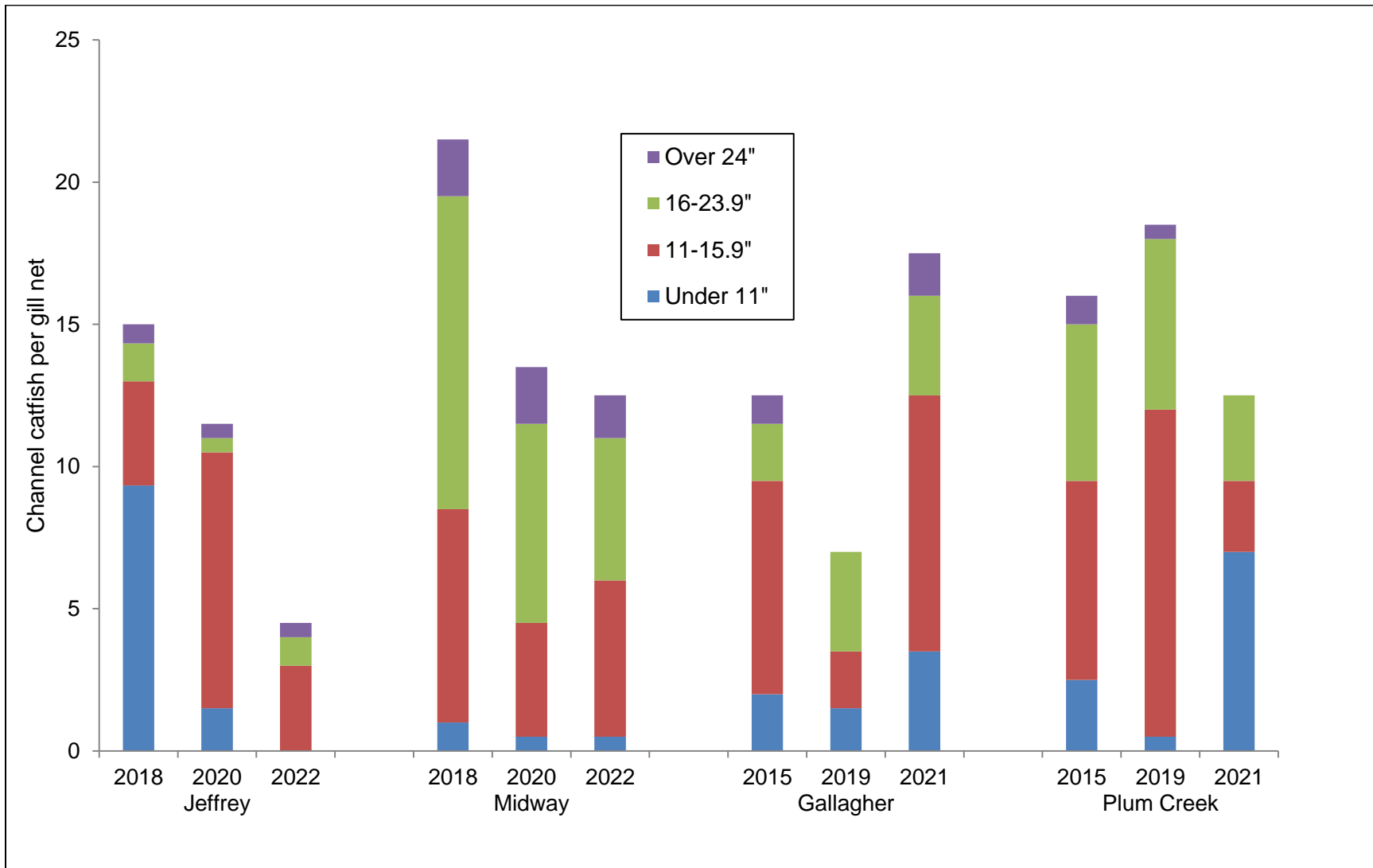
Midway is a 609 acre reservoir south of Cozad. To visit this site from Interstate 80, take Exit 222, drive south approximately 4 miles on Hwy 21, turn east on Rd 757 and travel 2 miles and turn south on Rd 418 and travel 0.4 miles, turn east on Cedar Point Rd and travel 0.2 miles. The public access ramp site is located North of the canal bridge. For more layout details access [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Map](#).

The following text and graphs are the result of the 2022 gill and trap netting surveys at Jeffrey and Midway. Graphs represent number of each species captured per net by length group. For comparative purposes it also shows results from previous surveys.

**Crappie** do well in all of these waterbodies as the Canyon Reservoirs possess quality cove habitats. The size structures observed in their populations indicate self-sustaining populations. Survey data at Midway was composed of 21% white, while at Jeffrey 15% were black and 85% white crappie. Recent surveys have revealed bountiful amounts of 10"+ crappie.

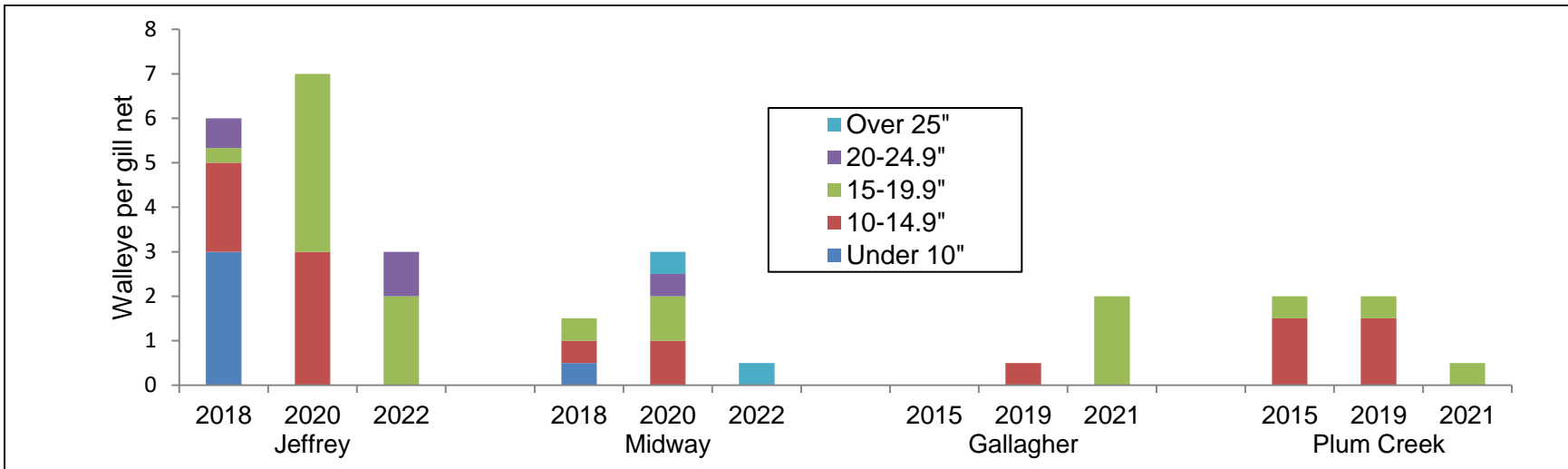
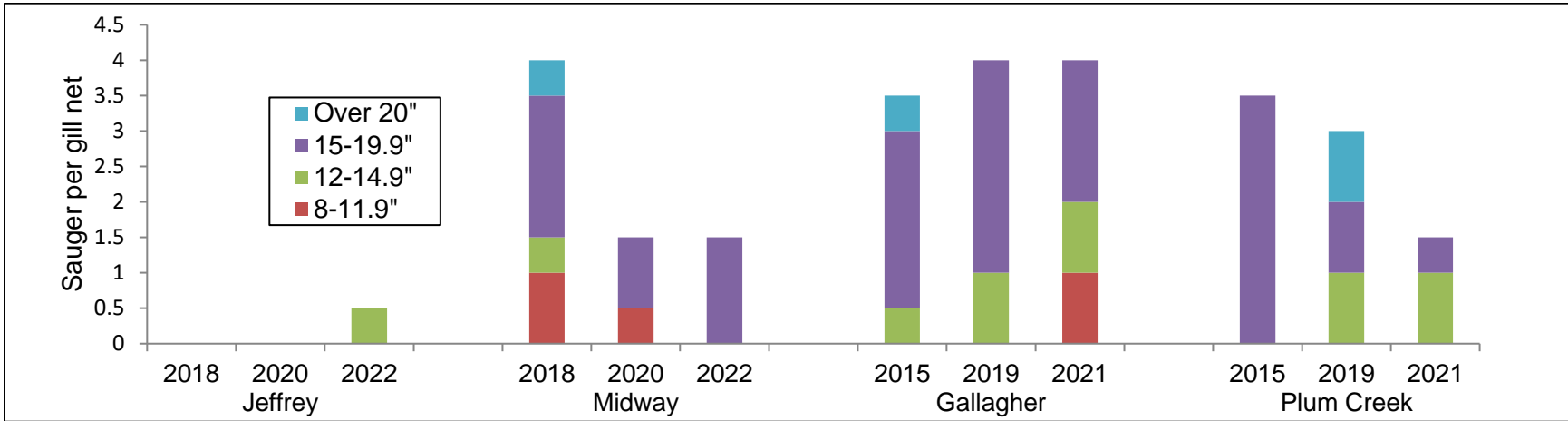


**Channel catfish** have excellent populations in the Canyon Reservoirs. These populations are typically some of the largest in Nebraska. The longest channel catfish sampled at Midway was 26.5" and 28.5" at Jeffrey.



**Sauger** and **walleye** are present in all the Canyon Reservoirs. Sauger are adapted to habitat conditions present in the Canyon Reservoirs (high flows and turbid water) and do best in Midway, Gallagher and Plum Creek while walleye are more abundant in Jeffrey. Natural recruitment of sauger has not been identified thus far. Angling for sauger is popular below check structures within the canal.

The walleye and sauger regulation at the Canyon Reservoirs includes a daily bag of 4 (in combination) with a 15 inch minimum length limit and no more than one over 22 inches. Access NGPC's online [Fish Identification Tool](#) for identification information.



# Stockings (2023\* requests are tentative)

## Jeffrey

<u>Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>
2019	29,500-1.25"	5,564-1"
2020	27,529-1"	5,000-1.25"
2021	29,642-1"	
2022	27,700-1.25"	
2023*	27,500-2"	

## Midway

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>
2019	607,538-fry & 36,860-1.25"	
2020	471,345-fry & 19,165-1"	3,000-1.25"
2021		
2022	374,233-fry & 19,225-1.25"	
2023*	384,500-fry & 19,225-2"	

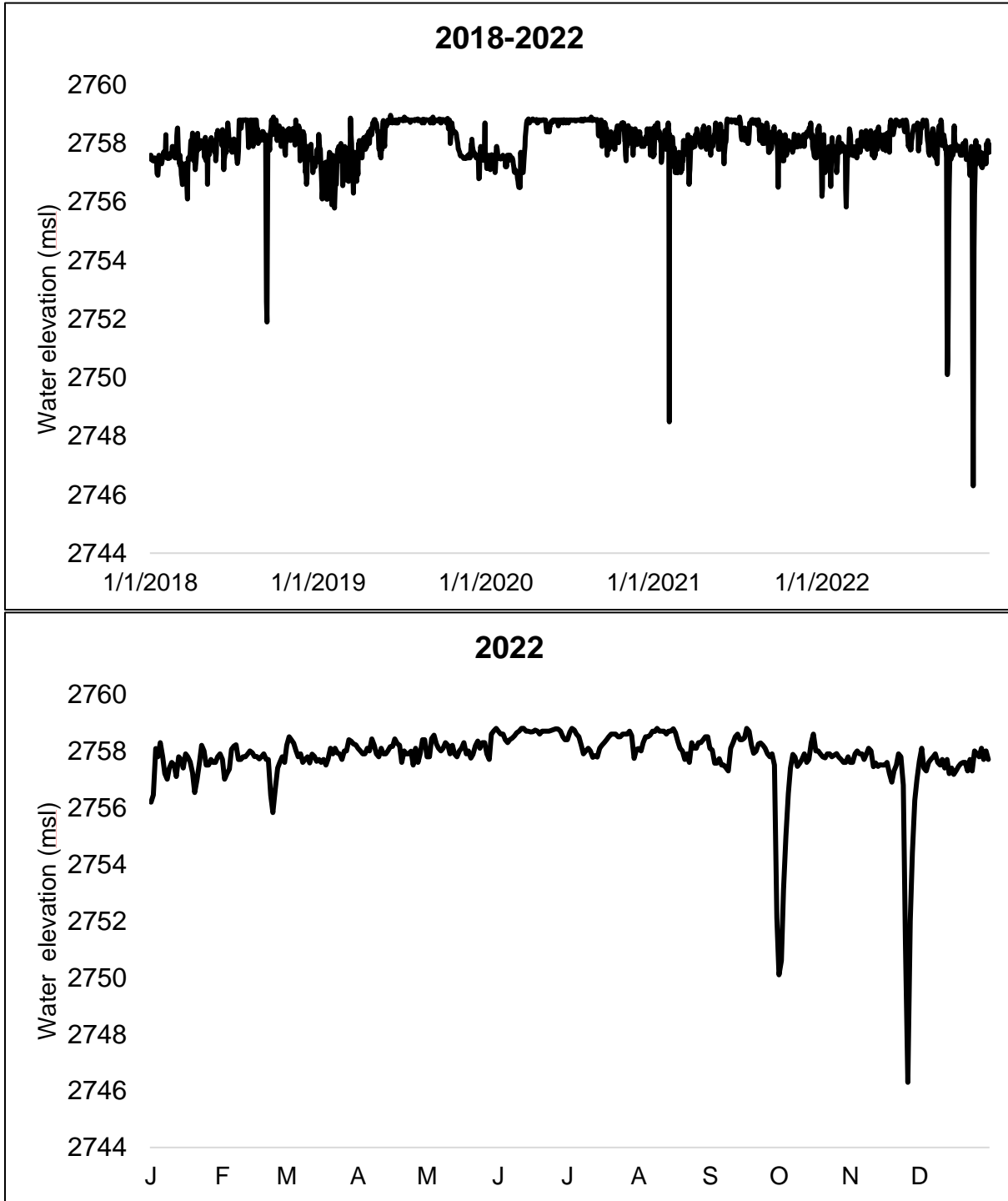
## Gallagher

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>
2019	256,898-fry & 12,600-1.25"	
2020	145,000-fry & 5,780-1"	900-1.25"
2021	100,455-fry	
2022	77,000-fry & 5,925-1.25"	
2023*	118,500-fry & 5,925-2"	

## Plum Creek

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>
2019	286,347-fry & 12,600-1.25"	
2020	155,000-fry & 6,692-1.25"	60,000-fry & 1,260-1.25"
2021	100,455-fry	
2022	6,950-1.25" & 91,205-fry	
2023*	139,000-fry & 6,950-2"	

# Water Elevation (Jeffrey)



Jeffrey and Midway's water levels play a vital role in their fisheries as their water elevations can be lowered significantly. Follow water level fluctuations at [CNPPID's Reservoir Data](#) page.

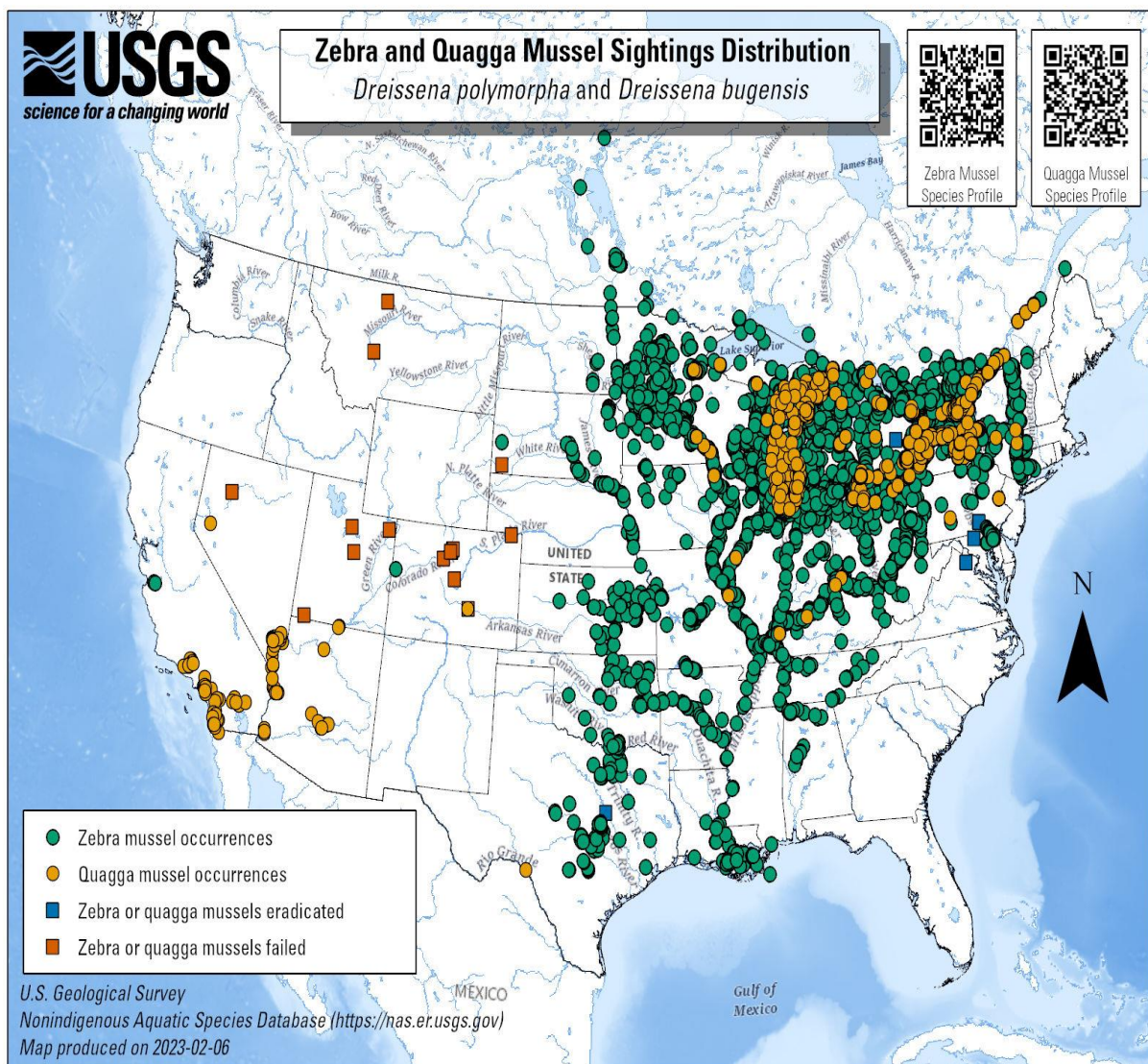


# Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

**Zebra mussel** distribution is expanding, especially in Kansas and South Dakota. Currently the only waterbodies in Nebraska with confirmed zebra mussel infestations are the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark Lake, Lake Yankton and Offutt Base Lake.

NGPC employs technicians to inspect watercraft for AIS with the goal of preventing infestations. In 2022, 6,627 watercraft were inspected statewide and more are planned in 2023.

**To report AIS utilize 402-471-7602 or [ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov](mailto:ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov)**



If you have questions or concerns about Canyon Reservoir fisheries please contact Jared Lorenzen, Biologist 308-535-8025, [jared.lorenzen@nebraska.gov](mailto:jared.lorenzen@nebraska.gov)  
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