

2021 Fall Survey Summary

Canyon Reservoirs



Jared Lorensen, Fisheries Biologist

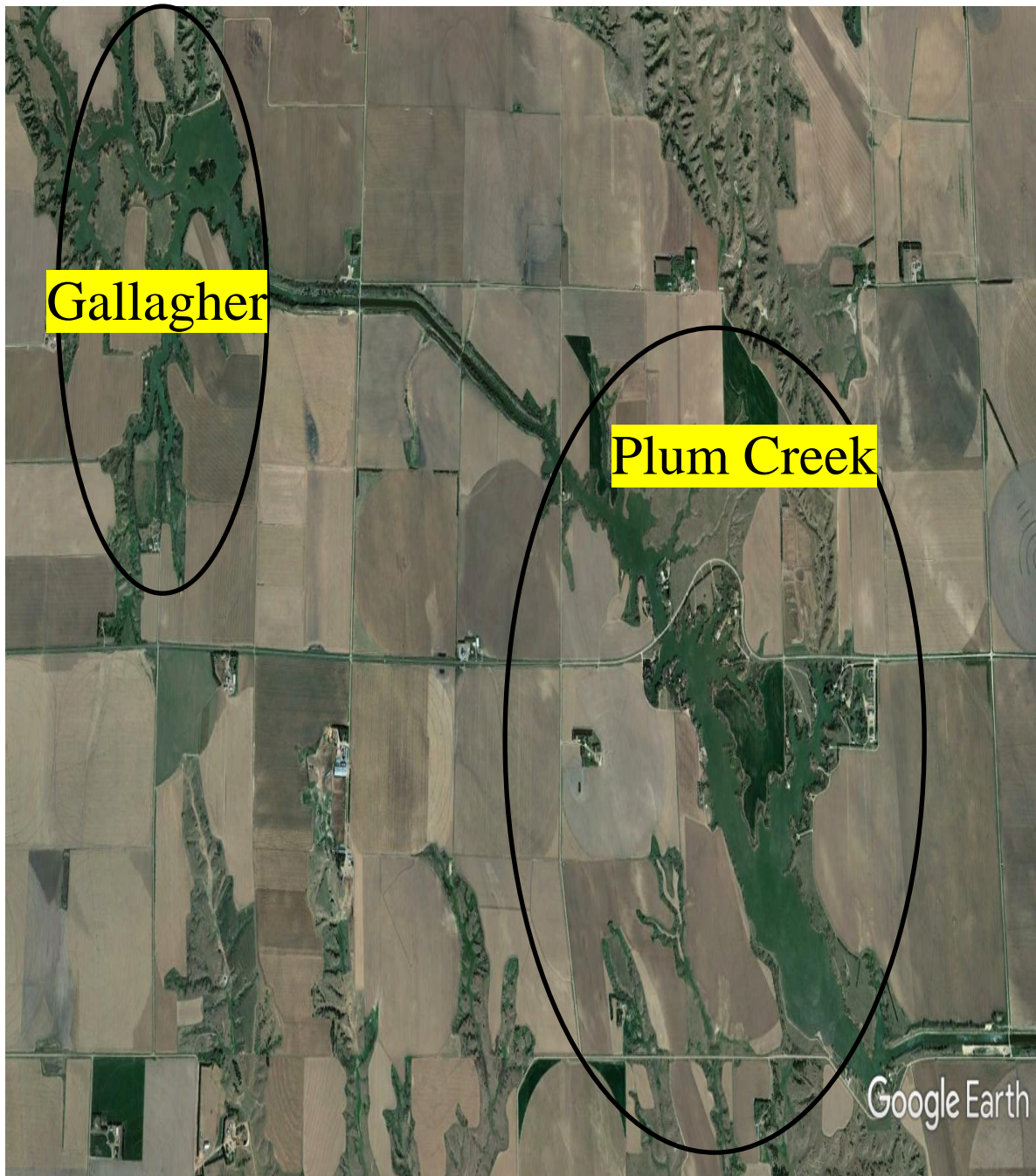
Jeffrey, Midway, Gallagher and Plum Creek Reservoirs are generally referred to as the “Canyon Reservoirs”. They are located along the Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District’s (CNPPID) Supply Canal between Brady and Lexington. These reservoirs experience high flow rates that allow for unimpeded downstream fish movement. This factor makes fisheries management challenging but it also makes them unique fisheries. Access [Land-use Maps](#) of these reservoirs to understand their layouts.

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 2021, Plum Creek and Gallagher Reservoirs were surveyed.



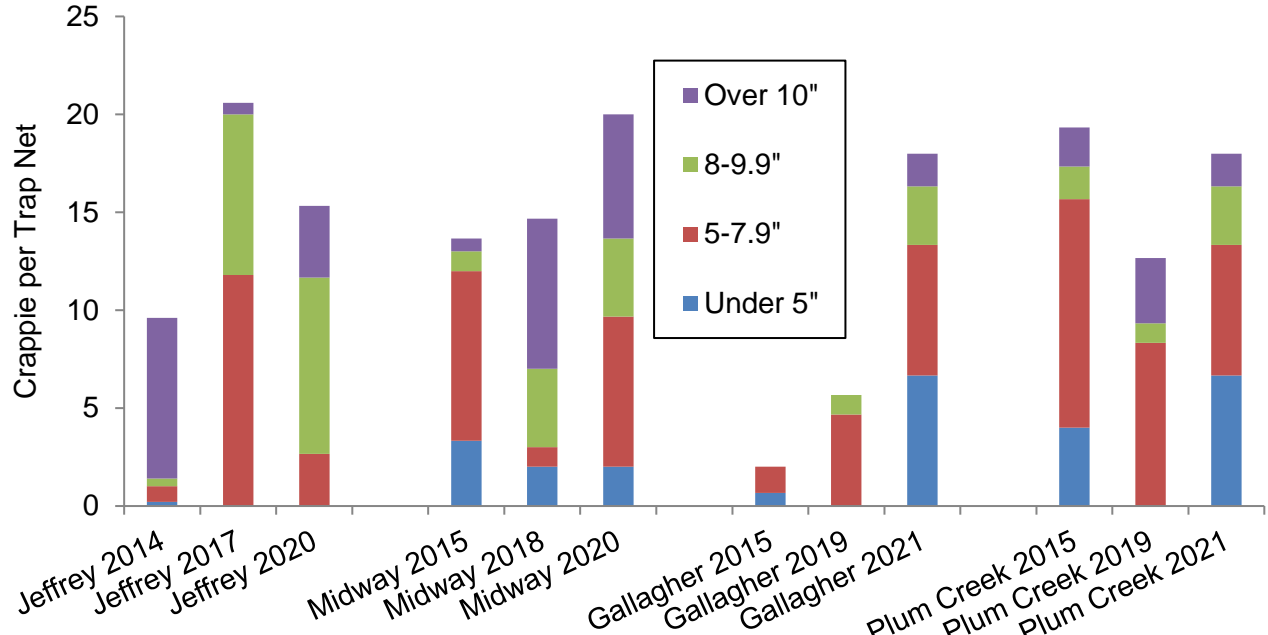
Gallagher - 2007

Information collected from standard surveys allows biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for several species. This data provides valuable information to guide decision making scenarios that include fish species stocked, stocking rates and fishing regulations. This information also assists Game and Parks staff in guiding anglers to waterbodies that have the desired populations for fishing.



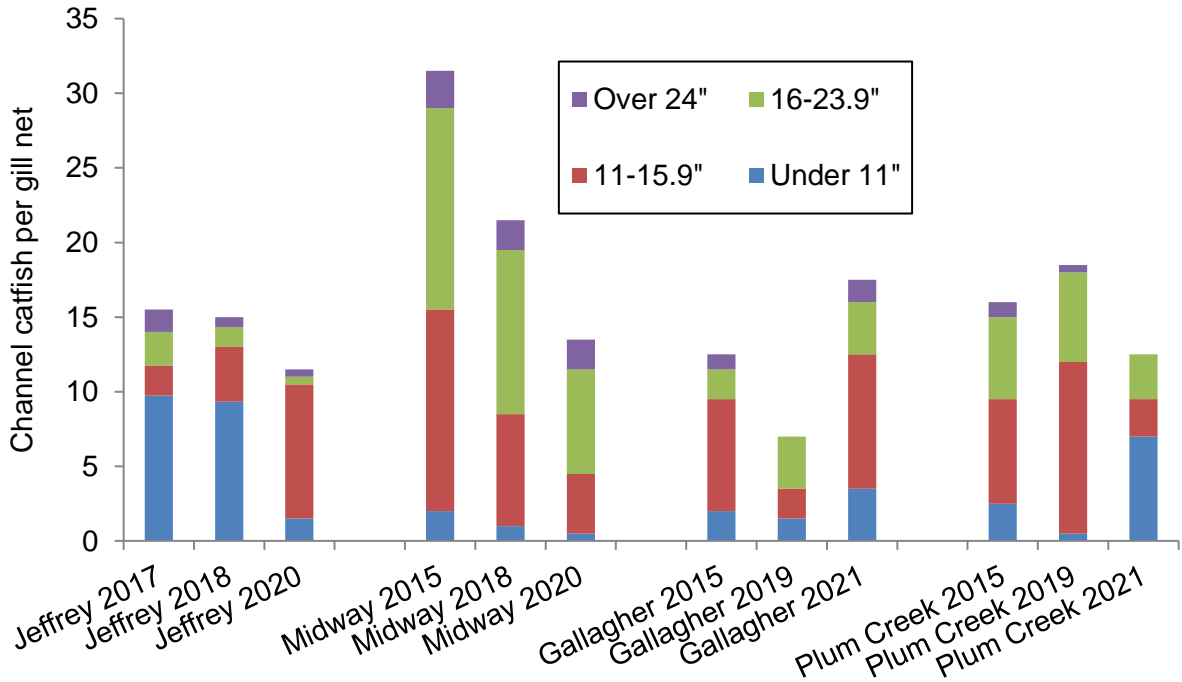
The following text and graphs are the result of the 2021 gill netting survey. Graphs represent number of each species captured per gill net by length group. For comparative purposes it also shows results from previous surveys.

Crappie



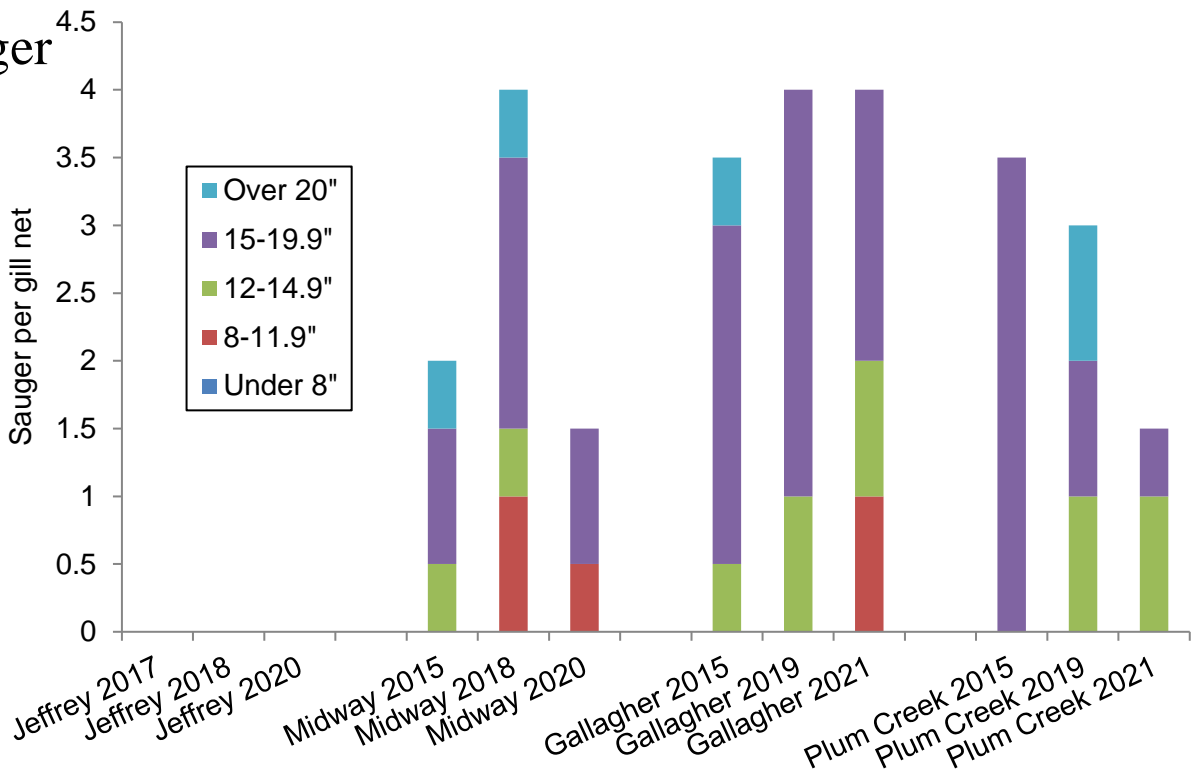
The Canyon Reservoirs possess quality cove habitats. Crappie do well in all of these waterbodies due to this quality. The diverse size structures observed in their populations indicate self sustaining populations. Recent survey data reveals an average length of crappie at Gallagher as 8.5" and at Plum Creek as 8".

Channel catfish

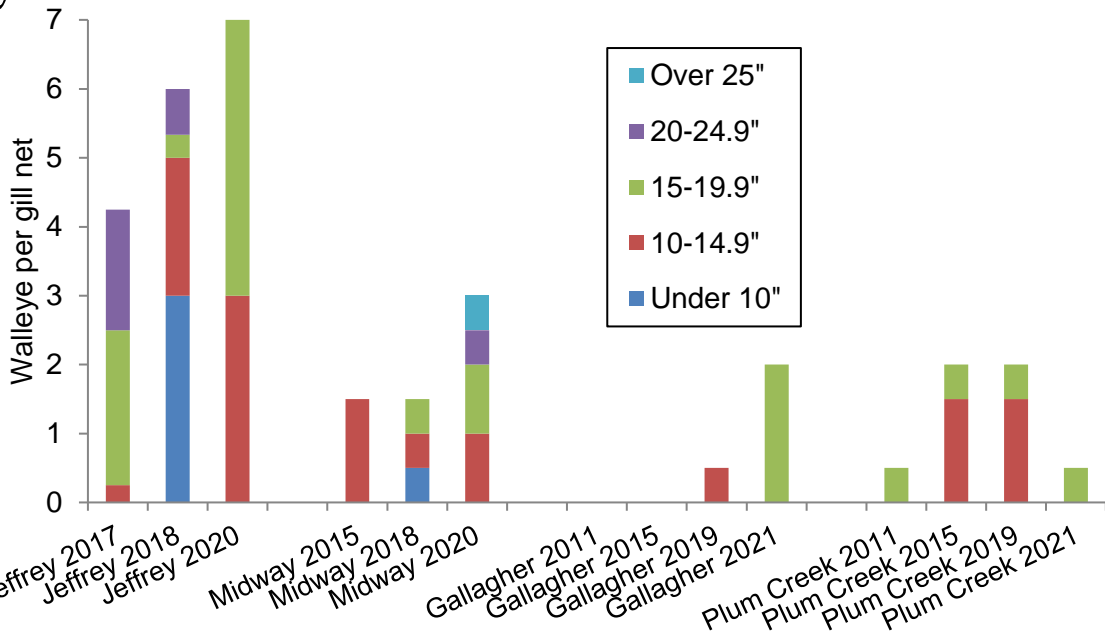


The Canyon Reservoirs contain excellent populations of channel catfish. These populations are typically some of the strongest in Nebraska. Survey results indicate that Midway consistently has the highest net catch of the Canyon Reservoirs. Excellent spawning habitat and stable water levels allow for consistent reproduction and recruitment. The Canyon Reservoirs are known for producing large channel catfish.

Sauger



Walleye



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

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



On February 22, 2021 a pile of 19 cedar trees were placed in Gallagher at the below coordinates with permission from Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District (CNPPID). This pile was allowed to sink during thaw to congregate game species and enhance angler's experiences.

N 40°43'30.0" / W 099°58'41.1"

Below is a list of recent NGPC stockings into the Canyon Reservoirs. For more detailed records visit NGPC's [Stocking Reports](#).

Jeffrey

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Sauger</u>
2012			
2013	38,540-1.25"	7,718-1.2"	52,385-1.25"
2014	54,820-1.5"	6,300-1.3"	
2015	27,500-1.5"	6,300-1.3"	
2016	28,600-1.5"		
2017	27,680-1.25"		
2018	27,500-1.5"	5,578-1.25"	
2019	29,500-1.25"	5,564-1"	
2020	27,529-1"	5,000-1.25"	
2021	29,642-1"		

Midway

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Northern Pike</u>	<u>Paddlefish</u>
2012	20,066-1.9"		36,550-1.4"	
2013	346,010-0.1-1.25"			
2014	383,435-0.1-1.9"			495-12.9"
2015	286,306-0.1-1.9"			422-12"
2016	156,686-fry & 25,267-2"			
2017	249,453-fry & 92,630-1.25"			270-18"
2018	418,700-fry & 71,475-1.5"			2,060-9.5-12"
2019	607,538-fry & 36,860-1.25"			
2020	471,345-fry & 19,165-1"	3,000-1.25"		
2021				

Gallagher

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Northern Pike</u>	<u>Paddlefish</u>
2012			11,000-1.4"	
2013	130,350-0.1-1.25"			
2014	242,125-0.1-1.9"			495-12.9"
2015	126500-0.1-1.8"			404-12"
2016	5,870-2"			2,524-8.5
2017	134,105-fry & 52,020-1.25"			
2018	130,624-fry & 22,472-1.5"			623-9.5"
2019	256,898-fry & 12,600-1.25"			
2020	145,000-fry & 5,780-1"	900-1.25"		
2021	100,455-fry			

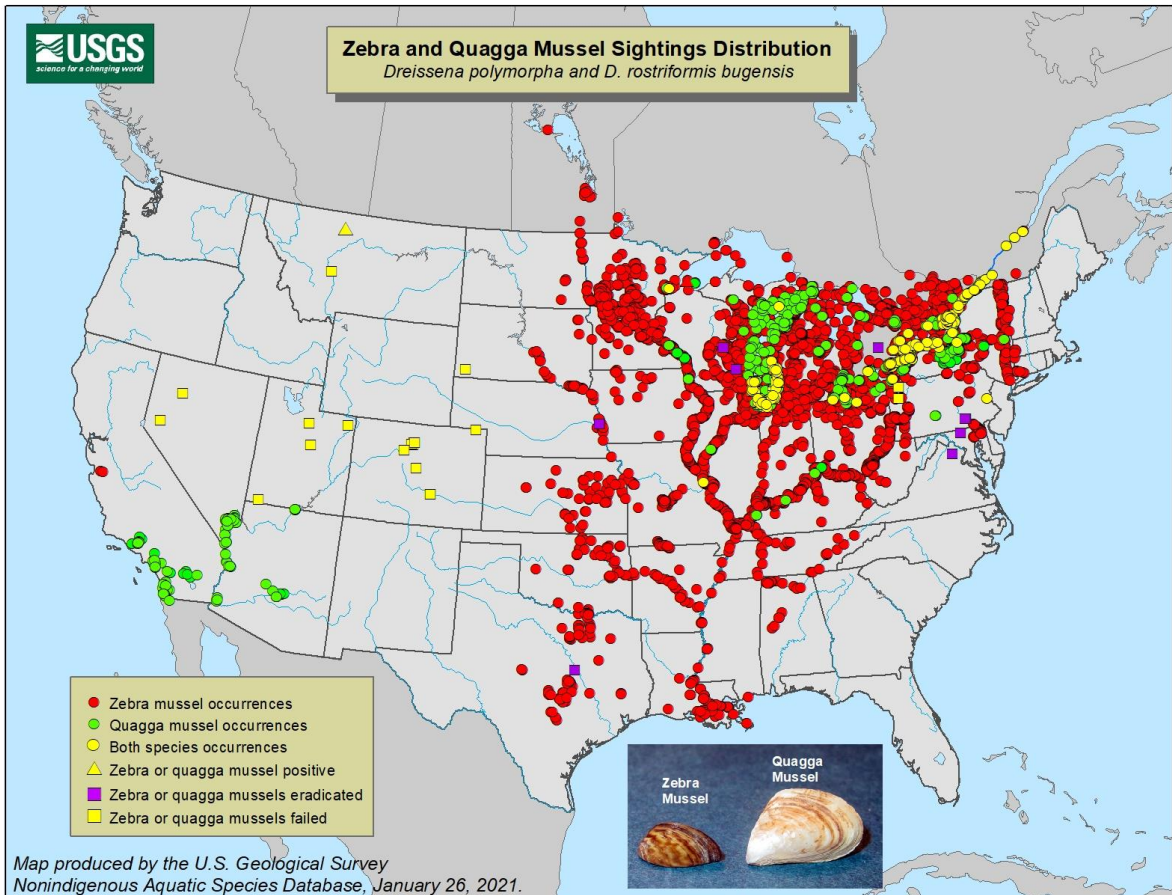
Plum Creek

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sauger</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Northern Pike</u>	<u>Paddlefish</u>
2012			15,120-1.4"	
2013	152,900-0.1-1.25"			
2014	144,260-0.1-1.9"			
2015	154,500-0.1-1.9"			621-11"
2016	6,927-2"			
2017	121,999-fry & 48,960-1.25"			
2018	159,125-fry & 7,310-1.5"			
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			

For additional information about these fisheries please contact

Brad Eifert, District Mgr. 308-865-5331, brad.eifert@nebraska.gov
Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025, jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



- Distribution of [zebra mussels](#) surrounding Nebraska 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, and Offutt Base Lake.
- NGPC employs technicians every year to inspect watercraft for AIS with the goal of preventing infestations into Nebraska waterbodies. In 2021 over 2,000 watercraft were inspected and four were infested with live zebra mussels.
- Eurasian watermilfoil is an invasive aquatic plant is now found in 18 waterbodies across Nebraska including East Hershey I-80 Lake and Ironhorse City Park Lake (North Platte I-80). This plant spreads through tiny fragments of leaves and can grow up to 20 feet deep. New infestations are often caused by boaters not following the **Clean, Drain, and Dry** protocol and introducing fragments into new lakes. Make sure you clean all aquatic vegetation from your boat to prevent this invasive aquatic plant from spreading to new waterbodies.
- To report AIS utilize 402-471-7602\ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov

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Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Silver & Bighead carp have found their way into every tributary of the Missouri River in Nebraska, including the Platte, Elkhorn, Loup and Nemaha rivers. Obstacles to their continued spread are vital as these species cause substantial damage. These obstacles include physical structures and angler awareness. Silver carp have invaded the Platte to Lexington, NE as the below known distribution map indicates.

Bighead & Silver Carp Estimated Species Distribution

(As of Fall 2021)

Rapid City

Invasive Carp Range

- Rivers and Streams
- Salt Creek Basin

Survey Sites 2020-2021

Occurrence

- None Observed
- Silver or Bighead Carp Present



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

According to Nebraska State Law, **it is illegal for watercraft to enter a Nebraska waterbody or leave a launch area while containing water.** This includes all containers, compartments, and equipment that are permanently attached to the watercraft.

AND

All aquatic vegetation must be removed from watercraft and trailers before leaving a launch area.

Protect Your Waters—Remember to **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY!**