

Elwood Reservoir

2019 Fall Survey Summary

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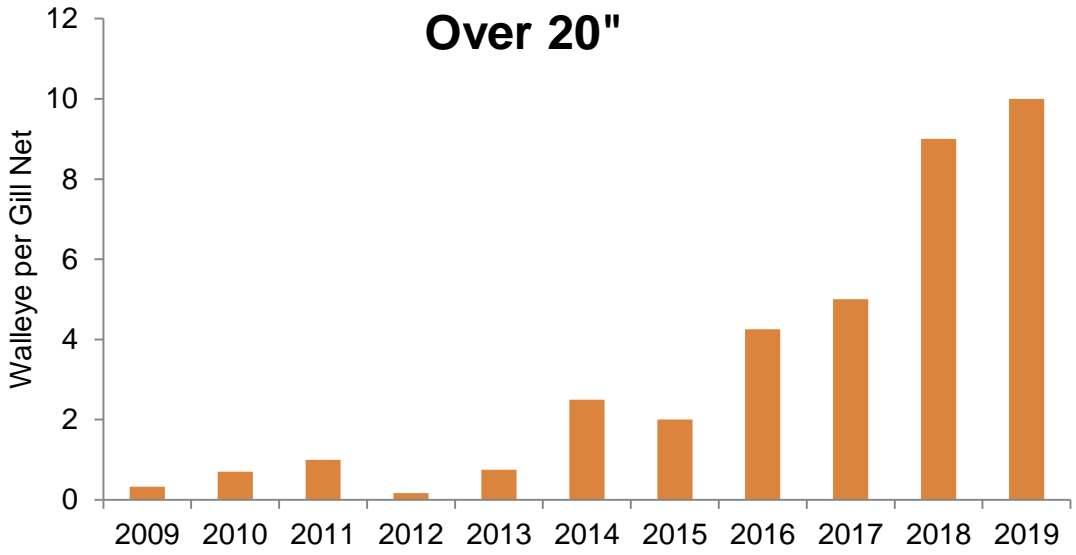
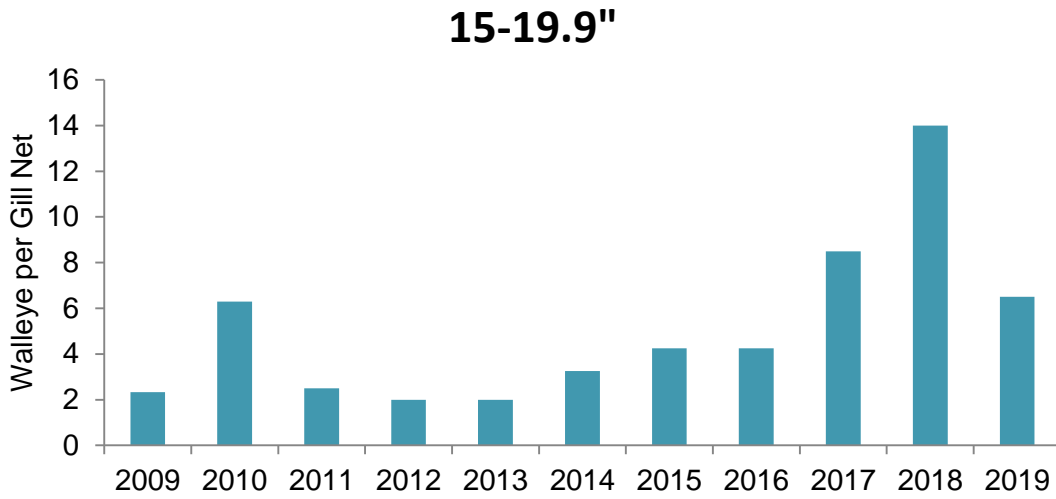
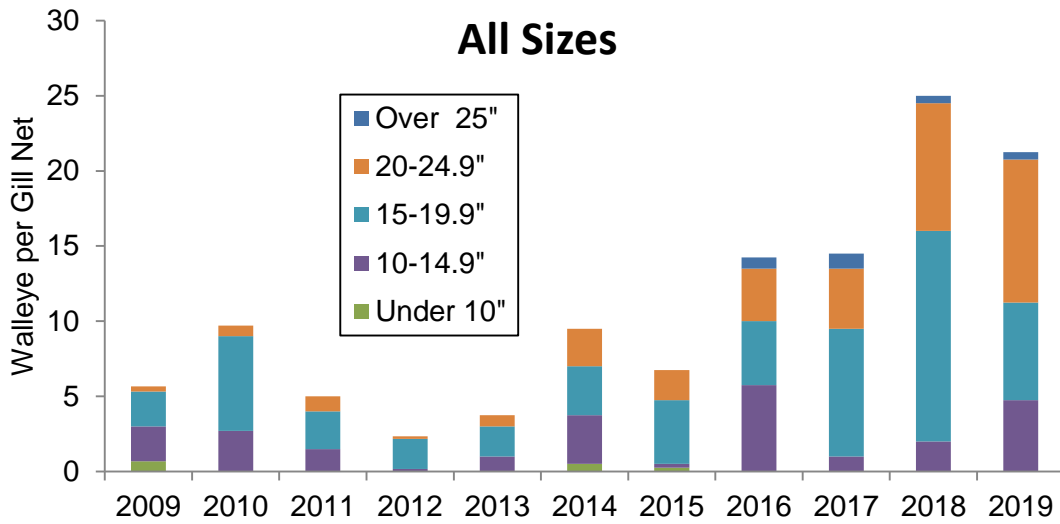


Elwood Reservoir was constructed during the late 1970s and is utilized by Central Nebraska Irrigation & Public Power District (CNPPID) for regulation of irrigation water. This reservoir is located approximately five miles south of Johnson Reservoir. A public access Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located along the east shoreline and provides a boat launching facility with nighttime lighting and a pit toilet. Coves and fingers of this reservoir are abundant but they are remote, steep and heavily vegetated making them accessible only by boat. Limited shoreline access for bank angling is available near the “bubble” and along the dam. The boating regulation allows internal combustion engines but limits speed to 5 mph and/or non wake producing speeds. As of January 10, 2020 this reservoir was at elevation 2601.2’ inundating approximately 1,026 surface acres.

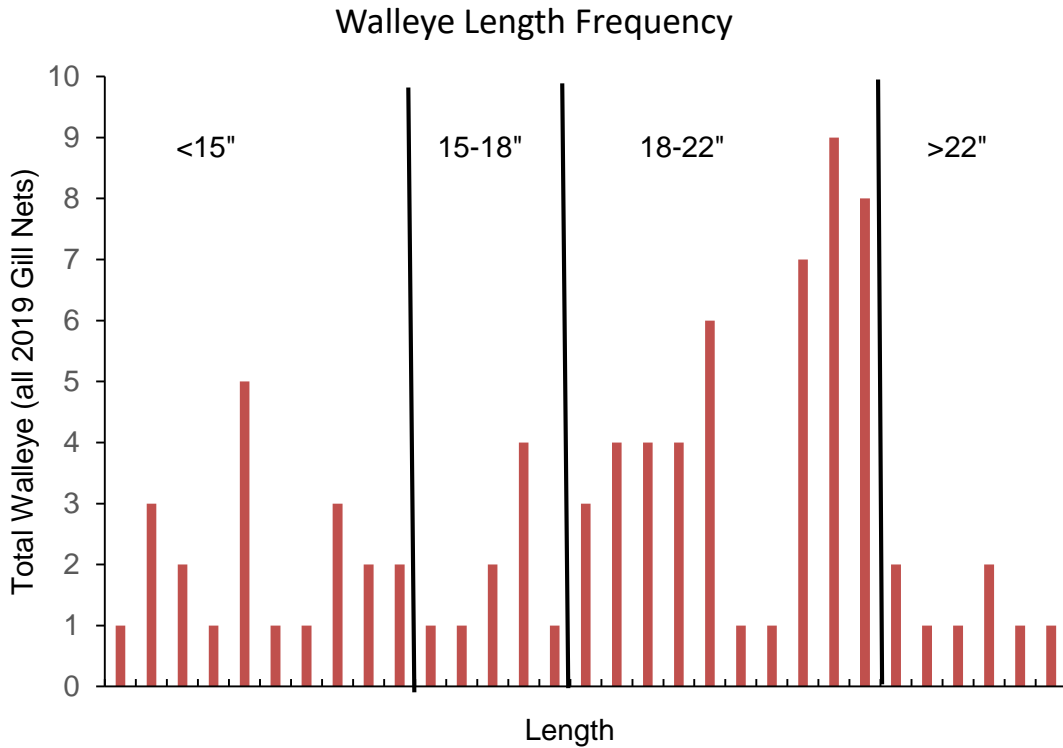


The fishery of Elwood Reservoir is sampled every fall using experimental gill nets, a method commonly used to sample species found primarily in open water. Data collected from these surveys allows biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for several species. For explanation of what constitutes a fisheries survey read this [article](#). On the following pages, 2019’s survey data is presented.

Walleye



Walleye

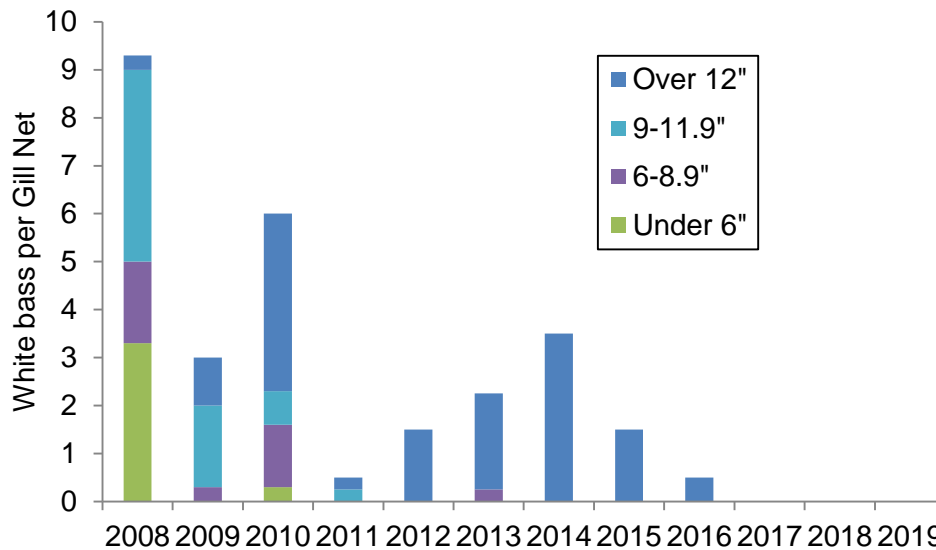


The walleye population declined during the low water years preceding 2010 due to poor habitat availability, reduced prey populations and angling mortality. Since the return of better habitat, survey data did not immediately indicate the desired population response but recent survey data has indicated a much improved walleye fishery. During 2019, survey revealed 21.25 walleye per gill net. This sample included approximately 22% in the 10-14.9" length group, 31% in the 15-19.9" length group, 45% in the 20-24.9" group and 2% over 25". 2019's survey data depicts a large portion of the population just under 22" in length.

On June 4th & 18th, walleye fingerlings were stocked. These walleye were not present in the 2019 standard gill netting effort as they were likely too small but they are expected to be doing well. Larger fingerlings have been stocked on alternate years and seem to be doing well. This strategy is likely to continue. Check [NGPC's Fish Stocking](#) website for updates.

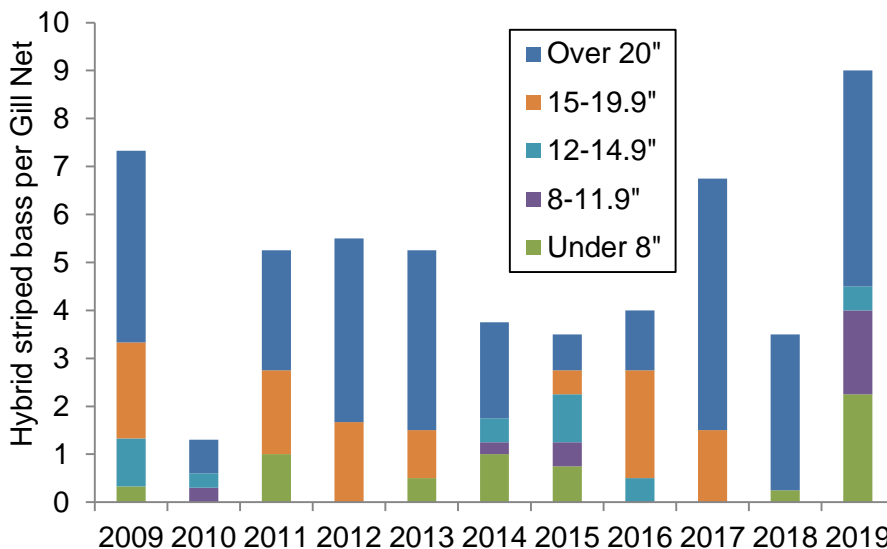
Elwood has a special walleye harvest regulation to encourage growth. A daily bag limit of four walleye may include one walleye from 15 to 18", and three or four longer than 18" and only one 22" or longer in the daily bag. The primary objective is to protect walleye through age three, thereby increasing abundance of larger fish. For more information concerning regulations consult the [2020 Fishing Guide](#).

White bass



The 2019 survey collected zero. Although density of white bass is quite low, a few large specimens likely exist. A stocking of white bass occurred during 2019. If these individuals survived they were too small to be captured. A special regulation includes white bass and wiper in conjunction. This regulation is a daily bag limit of three with no more than one 16" or greater.

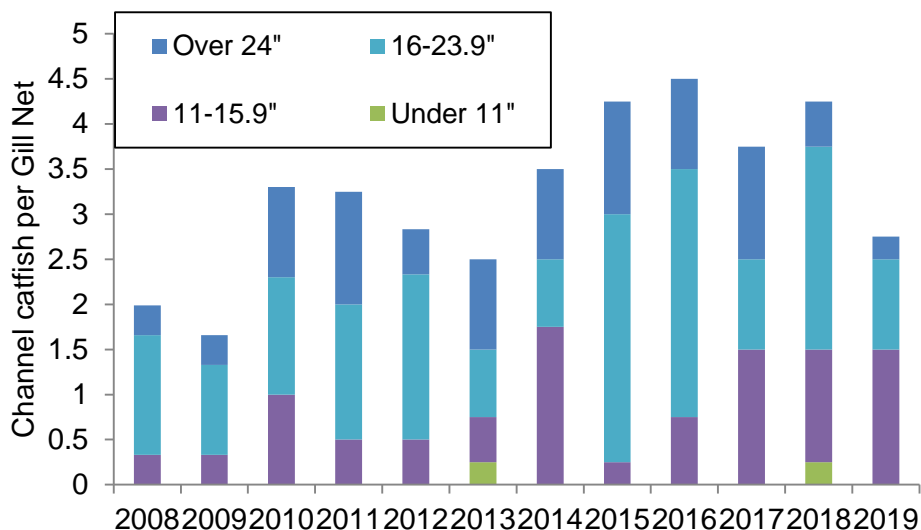
Hybrid striped bass (aka wiper)



The 2019 data reveals a large hybrid striped bass population. A large proportion (50%) were greater than 20". A mean length of 16.5" and a maximum length of 26" was observed. Presence of smaller (<12") wiper is a indicator of good wiper angling in the future. This population is maintained by annual stocking.

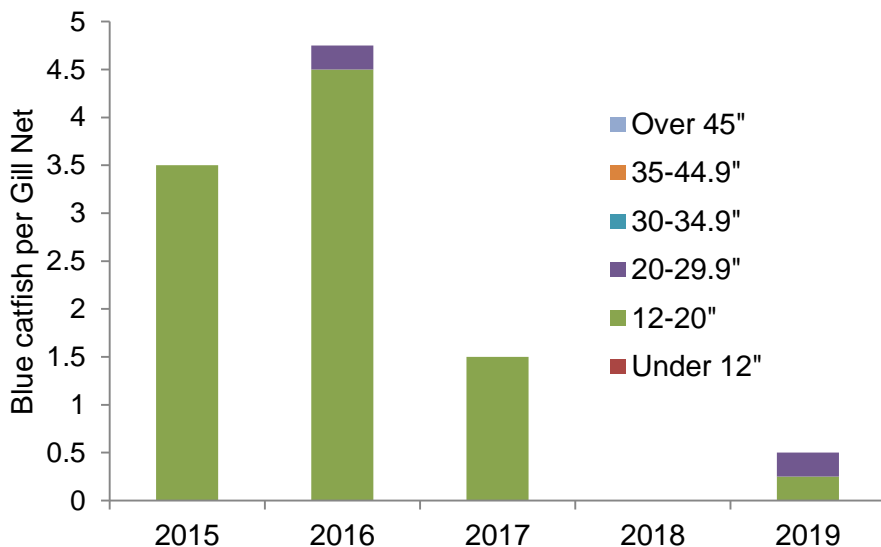
There is a special restrictive regulation pertaining to hybrid striped bass and white bass harvest at Elwood in addition to the statewide 1 over 16" regulation. To investigate Elwood's harvest regulations visit the [2020 Fishing Guide](#). Differentiation of these species is critical. Visit [NGPC's Temperate Bass ID Site](#) for aide in discerning the species. In addition to what this website states, hybrid striped bass have more than one stripe that extends to the tail.

Channel catfish



The 2019 survey data indicates a smaller channel catfish population than in 2018. The largest channel catfish sampled in 2019 was 24.5". Of those sampled during 2019, 0% were less than 11", 55% 11-15.9", 36% 16-23.9" and 9% over 24". Chances remain very good to catch a nice sized channel catfish during 2020.

Blue catfish



Blue catfish were first introduced into Elwood in 2014. Another stocking occurred in 2017. Although few were observed in 2019's standard gill net survey, there was indication of desired growth with the largest being over 20". The abundant alewife and gizzard shad populations should support these catfish and they should provide another unique angling opportunity. A stocking request has been made for 2020. The daily bag limit for blue catfish is one (1). Check the [2020 Fishing Guide](#) for details and the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for help differentiating between blue and channel catfish.

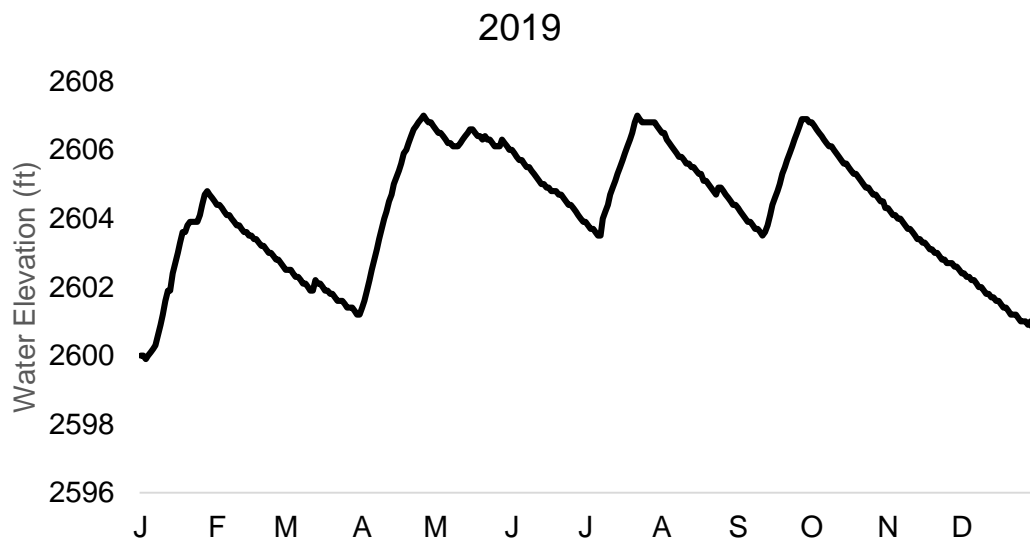
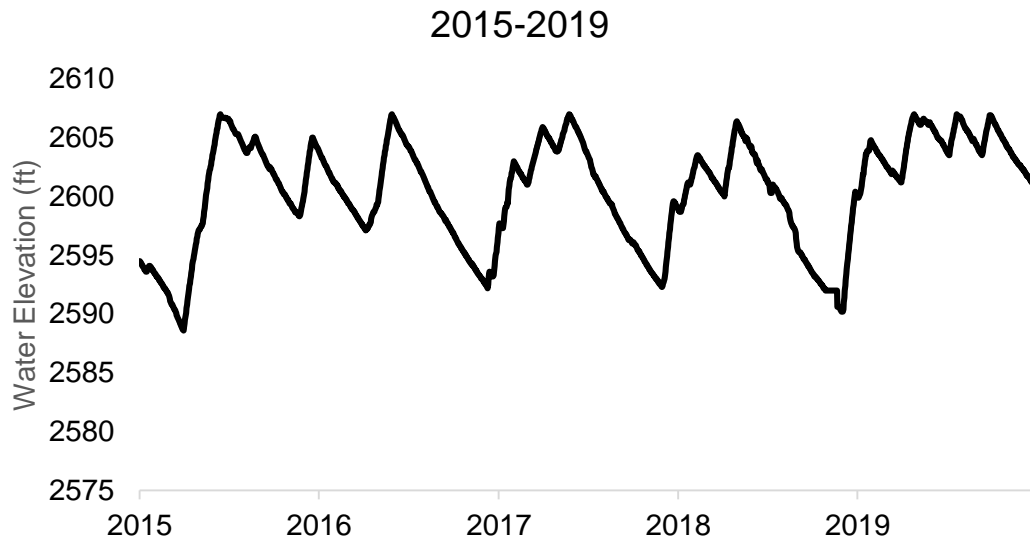
Stockings



Elwood Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System every year. Below you will find Elwood's stocking history for the past ten years. For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Reports](#).

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Walleye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hybrid striped bass		X	X	X		X	X	X
Channel catfish		X		X		X		X
Muskellunge		X		X		X		
Gizzard shad		X						
Rock bass	X							
Spotted bass	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Blue catfish			X			X		
White bass								X

Water Level



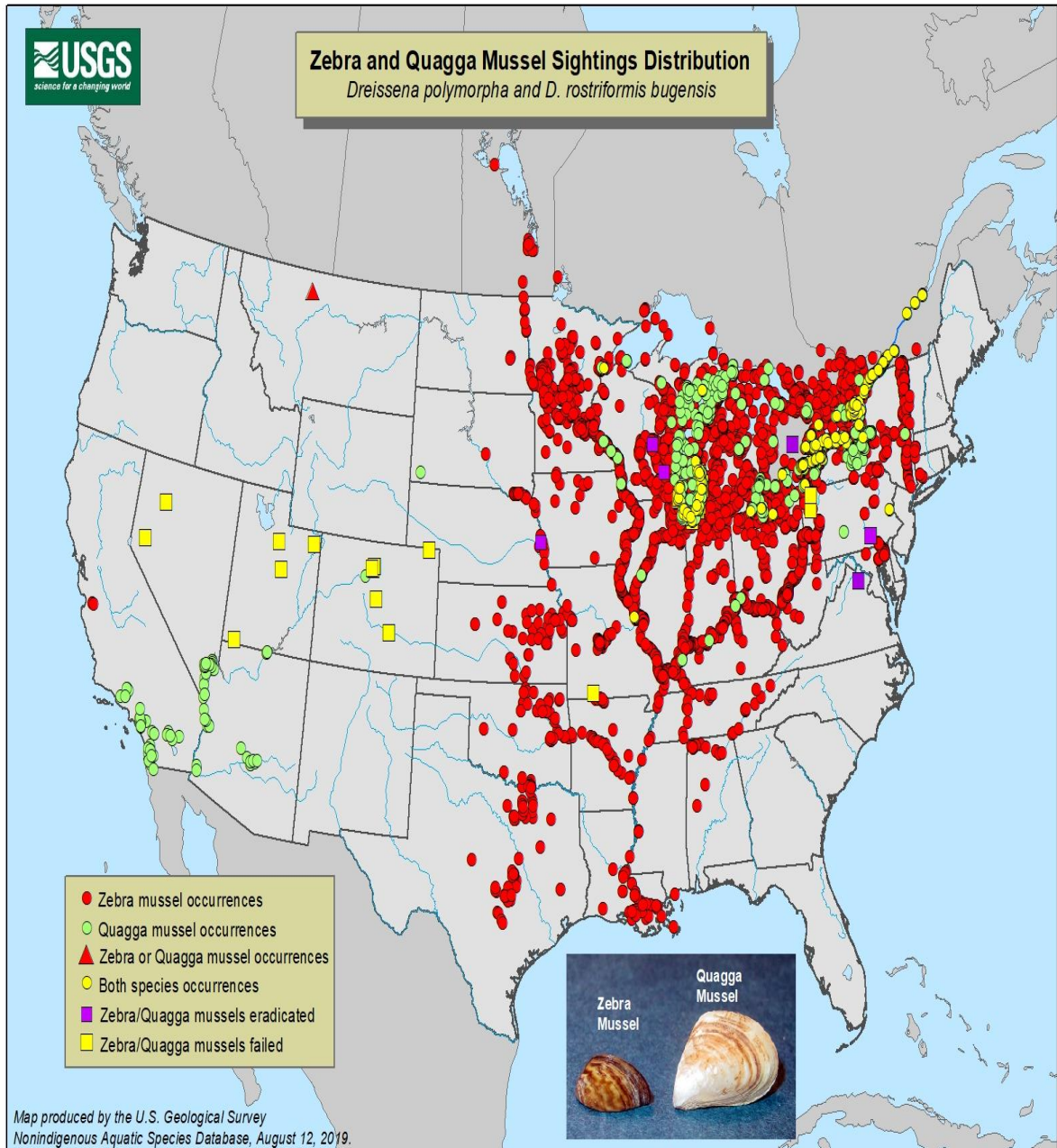
Elwood's water level changes frequently and plays a vital role in this fishery. Water elevation has benefitted from an agreement between CNPPID and Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (TBNRD) involving groundwater recharge during non-irrigation season. Follow water level fluctuations at [CNPPID's Lake & Reservoir Elevation Site](#).

For additional information about the fishery of Elwood Reservoir please contact Brad Newcomb, District Mgr. 308-865-5310, brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025, jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Distribution of invasive zebra and quagga mussels is growing. The most recent finding in Nebraska was Glen Cunningham Lake in Omaha during 2018. The below map portrays the spread of these invasive mussels. Access [U.S. Geological Society's Site](#) for more information.

In 2016, Nebraska boaters became required to possess a [Aquatic Invasive Species \(AIS\) Stamp](#). Residents acquire the stamp when registering their watercraft. Nonresidents have to purchase a physical sticker that must be displayed on their watercraft.



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



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!**

