

Enders Reservoir

2021 Survey Summary

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Fish populations are sampled each fall at Enders Reservoir using gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and wipers. Gill nets are set on approximately the same dates and locations each year to reduce variability.

The elevation at Enders has continued to hover around the top of the inactive pool. After Enders fell almost 6 feet in 2014, the lake levels have struggled to return to previously observed elevations. Due to continued, consistent lake elevation levels, a boat ramp improvement project at Enders began in 2021 with a Fall 2022 expected completion date. At this time boat access is limited to a primitive gravel boat ramp located in No Name Bay. Four-wheel drive is recommended to launch and load especially following a rain event. Be mindful not to power load onto trailers when exiting on this ramp due to a highly erodible gravel substrate. In addition to the boat ramp improvement project, Enders will receive an upgraded fish cleaning station in Spring 2022.

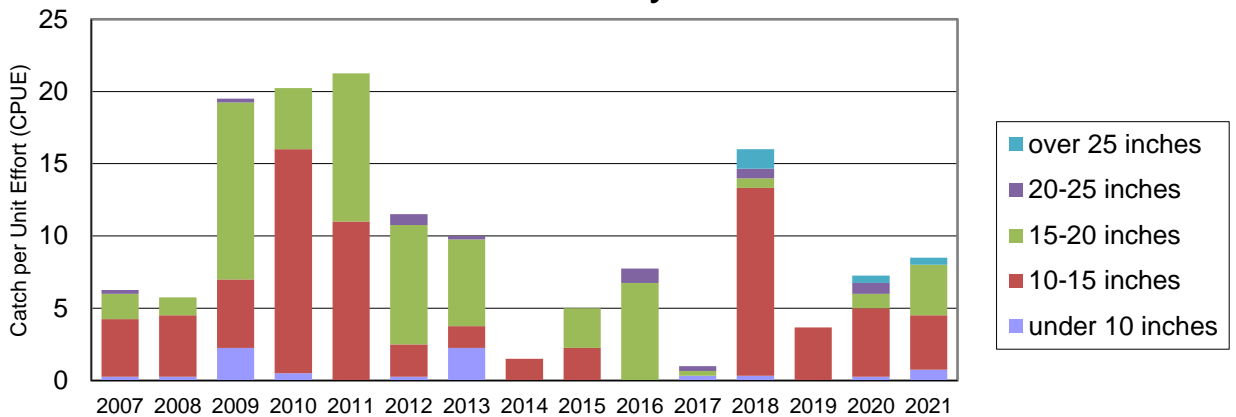
Walleye catch rates increased to just over 8 per net in 2021. Enders appears to be responding well to the advanced fingerlings that have been stocked in alternate years beginning in 2019. Surveys showed multiple year classes that are pushing up to 20 inches and a few fish over 25 inches. There are 625,000 walleye fry requested for early spring 2022.

White bass catch continued to improve with over 9 per net sampled in 2021. Biologists observed a healthy population with multiple year classes and several fish between 12 to 15 inches. There are 10,000 white bass fingerlings requested for late spring 2022.

Channel catfish numbers increased to over 6 per net in 2021. After a dip in 2020, catch returned to a more acceptable rate and will provide a quality fishery for anglers targeting channel catfish. There are no channel catfish requested for 2022.

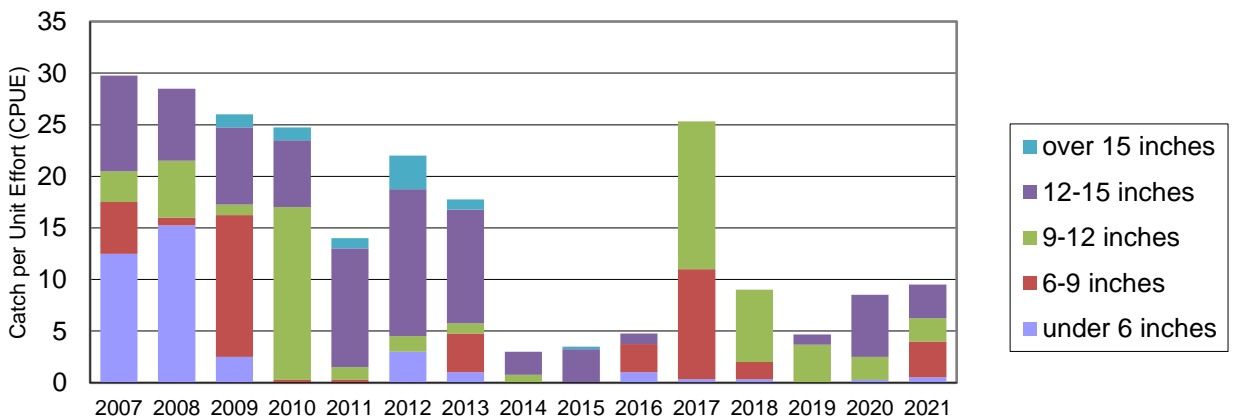
The following graphs show the average number of fish caught per net and the relative abundance of fish within several length categories. The text provides a brief explanation of the information shown in the graphs.

Walleye



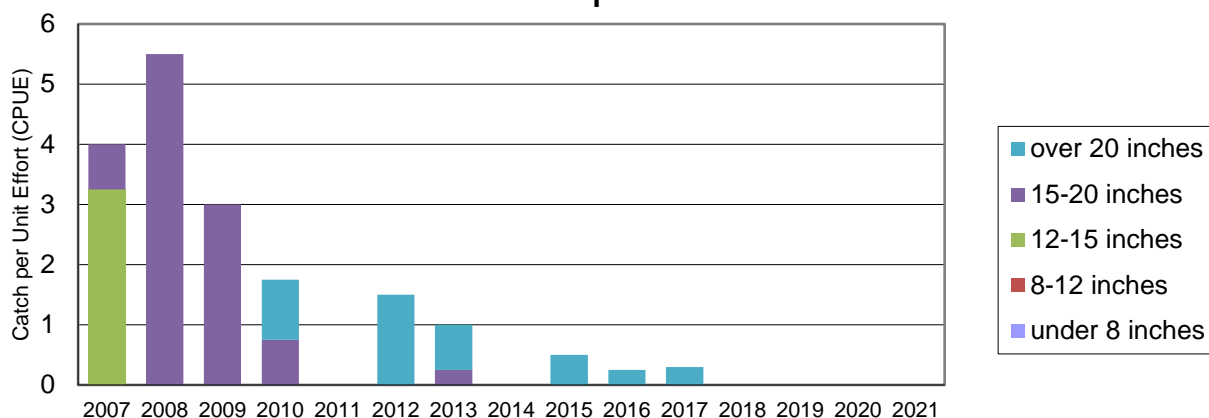
To help boost walleye numbers, the stocking strategy was altered to include advanced fingerlings that are approximately 7.75 inches in length on alternate years. Initial results have been positive with over 8 per net being sampled in 2021. There are 625,000 walleye fry requested for early spring 2022.

White Bass



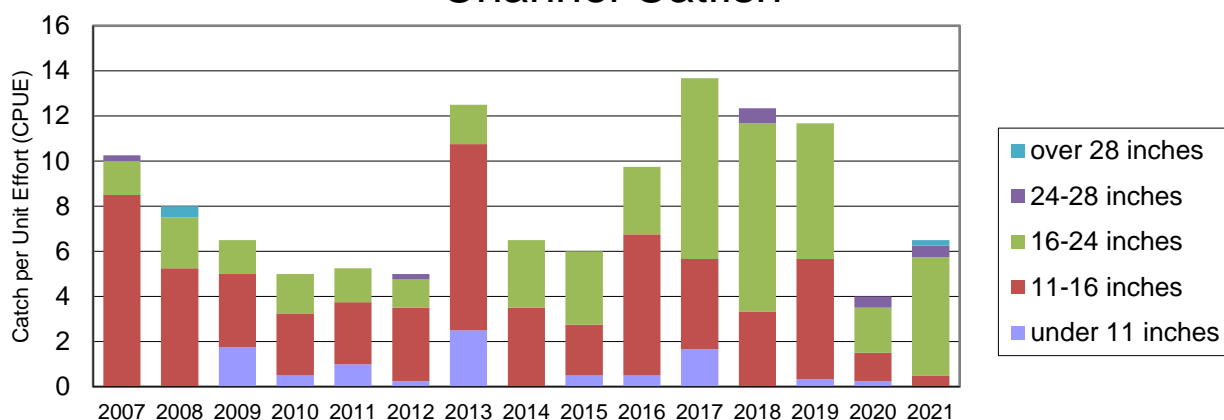
White bass survey numbers continued to improve in 2021 with over 9 per net sampled. Length frequency showed a good number of fish in the 12 to 15 inch range with a healthy balance of smaller fish behind them. To help supplement naturally recruiting white bass in Enders, we have been requesting them annually. There are 10,000 white bass fingerlings requested for spring 2022.

Wiper



Wipers have not been stocked in Enders since 2005 due to an increased emphasis on white bass production and low water levels. They have not been sampled since one fish was caught in 2017. This suggests the last of the 2005 stocking has either been caught or died from old age. Currently, there are no plans to reintroduce wipers into Enders.

Channel Catfish



In 2021, channel catfish catch returned to a more acceptable rate of over 6 per net. Multiple length categories were represented, and the population remains stable. Anglers should have a good opportunity to catch channel catfish in 2022. There are no channel catfish requested for 2022.

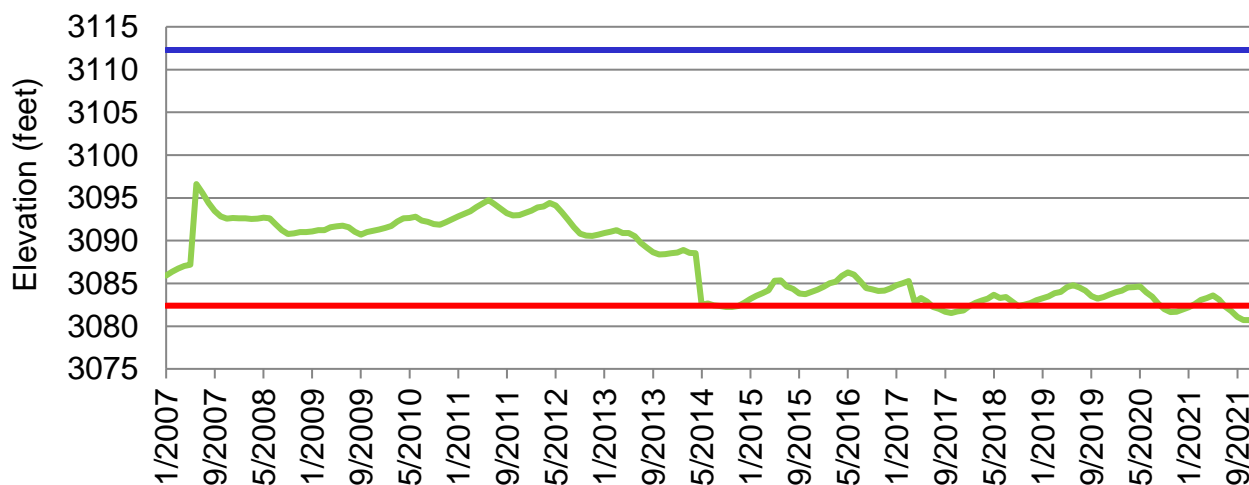
Enders Reservoir Fish Stocking Summary

Year	Walleye	Channel Catfish	White Bass	Muskellunge
2021	1,997 (9")	3,362 (4.25")	10,114 (1")	
2020	33,931 (1")			
2019	3,486 (7.75")		10,380 (1")	
2018	750,000 (fry)		9,291 (1.5")	
2017	69,956 (1.5")	3,500 (5")	10,000 (1")	

Above is a table of fish stockings over the last 5 years at Enders Reservoir. The species stocked, number stocked, and fish size are presented in the table. Multiple species are stocked annually, and a comprehensive database of fish stockings can be found on the Nebraska Game and Parks website or by following the link below.

[Stocking Database](#)

End of Month Elevation, Enders Reservoir 2007-2021



Approximately 6 feet of elevation was released in 2014 which left all permanent ramps out of service due to low water levels. A primitive ramp was installed and has served as the only launch location. In 2021, a boat ramp improvement project was begun with plans to provide a permanent solution to boating access at Enders. The dark blue line indicates the top of the active conservation pool, the green line indicates the end of month elevation, and the red line indicates the top of the inactive pool. Current elevation data can be found at this link:

[Current Elevation](#)



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Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have reached Nebraska! Zebra mussels are currently established in Lewis and Clark Reservoir, Offutt AFB pond, and the Missouri River. Anglers and boaters should be on the look out for personnel performing boat inspections and decontaminations statewide. Please email: ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-7602 to report any possible AIS sightings or for more information about AIS in Nebraska.

Preventative Steps and Regulations

- It is unlawful for a boat to arrive at or leave any body of water in Nebraska with water other than from a domestic source except for fire-fighting purposes. Drain water before leaving an area
- It is unlawful for a boat or trailer to arrive or leave a launch area with any aquatic vegetation from that waterbody still attached. Boat blinds cannot use plants listed as invasive species or noxious weeds
- Wash mud off waders. Felt-sole waders are not allowed

Nonresident Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp

Motorized watercraft registered outside Nebraska are required to purchase and display the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp before launching from any Nebraska boat ramp. Stamps must be affixed on the starboard side toward the rear of the boat above the waterline. The fee for each stamp is \$18 dollars and includes the \$3 issuing fee. Stamps can be purchased online or at Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Offices.



Left: Zebra Mussel
Right: Quagga Mussel