

2019 Omaha Area Fishing Forecast

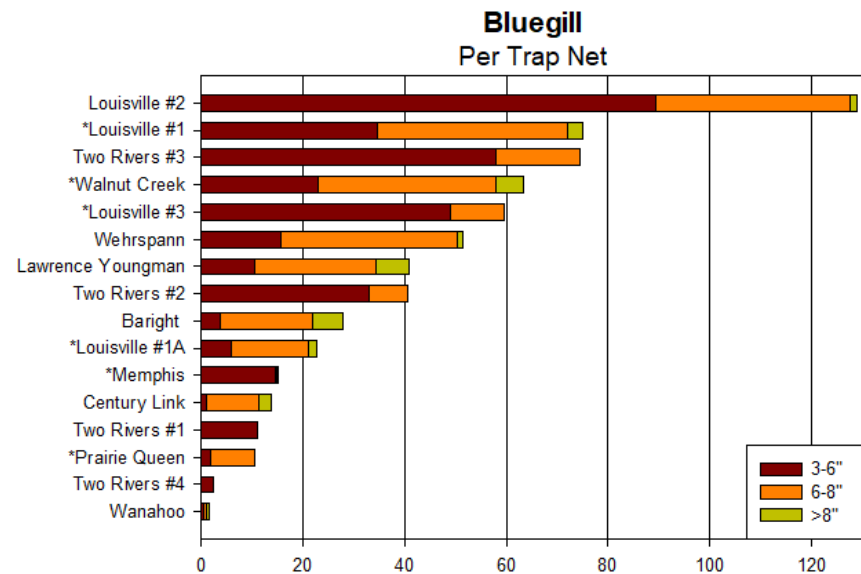


This is a fishing forecast for the Omaha area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during *2017 and 2018. Therefore, there may be other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included in this forecast (see map). The following information will help anglers decide on where the best fishing for a variety of species can be found based on survey results. Anglers seeking more information on area lakes such as locations, lake maps, regulations and stocking reports are encouraged to browse the Nebraska Game and Parks website at www.outdoornebraska.gov.



Bluegills

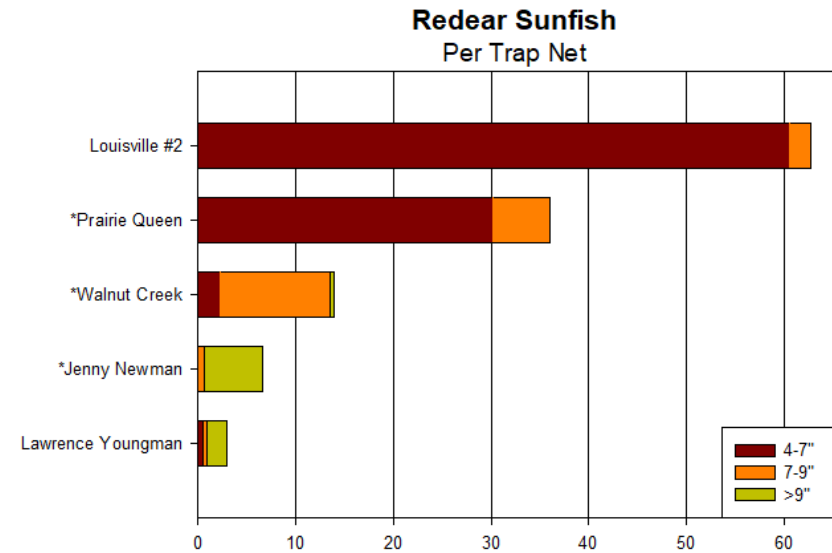
Anglers in the Omaha area will have plenty of lakes to choose from for bluegills in 2019. Lakes with good water quality and habitat such as **Walnut Creek** and **Lawrence Youngman** will provide quality bluegill fishing in 2019. **Wanahoo** and **Prairie Queen** will also provide some great bluegill fishing even though net survey results were low. All of the lakes at **Louisville SRA** will provide excellent catch rates for both young and beginner anglers.



* 2017 Survey

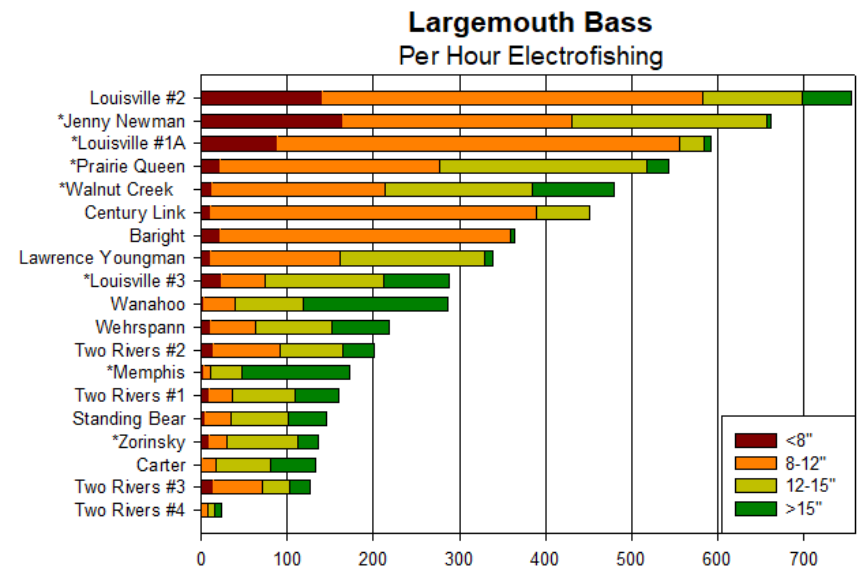
Redear Sunfish

Redear sunfish continue to thrive in our southeast Nebraska waters and 2019 will offer anglers a chance at some master anglers in multiple lakes. The redears at **Lawrence Youngman** and **Jenny Newman** have really taken off in the last couple of years and will provide the best chance at a master angler. Higher abundances can be found at **Louisville #2** and **Prairie Queen**. Take note that **Jenny Newman**, in Platte River State Park, is now a catch and release fishery open to all anglers.



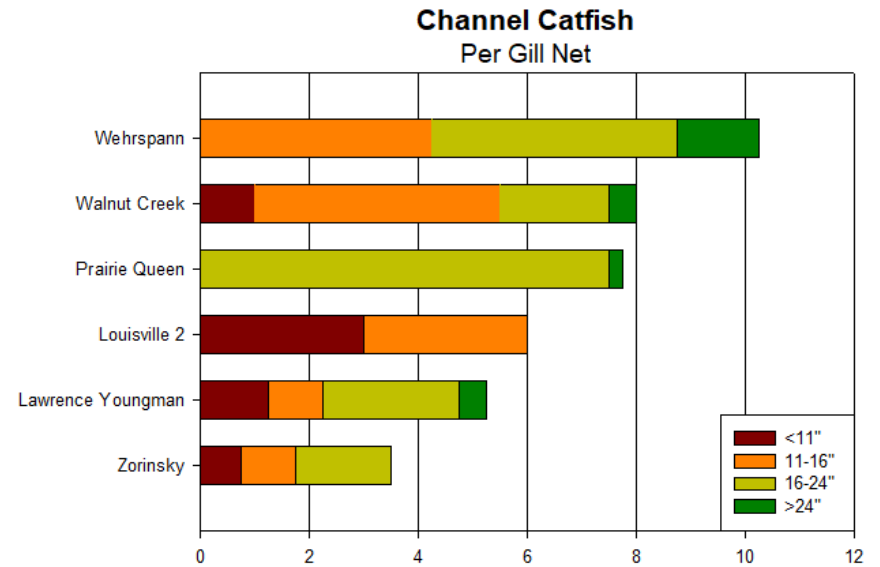
Largemouth Bass

Similarly to bluegills, largemouth bass flourish in lakes with dense vegetation and good water quality. Lakes that possess these qualities, such as **Louisville #2** and **#1A**, **Jenny Newman**, **Prairie Queen**, and **Lawrence Youngman** should provide high catch rates of sub 15" fish. Anglers seeking larger fish should head to **Walnut Creek**, **Wanahoo**, or **Wehrspann**.



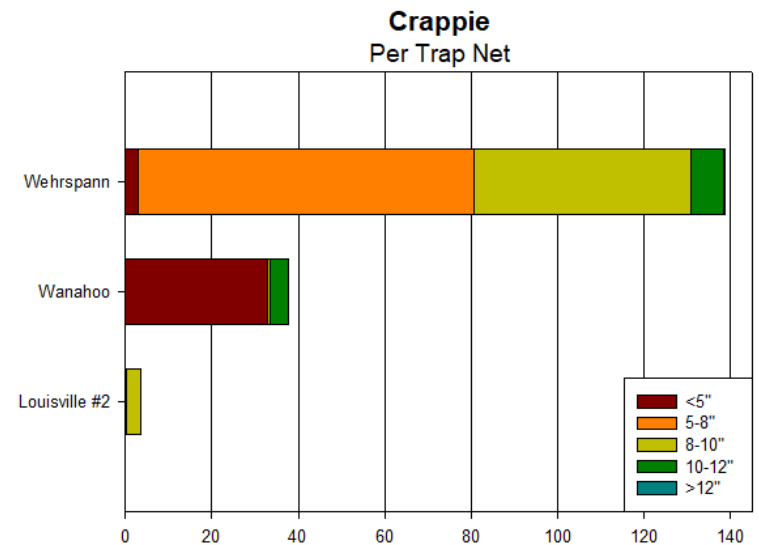
Channel Catfish

Channel catfish can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area; however, **Wehrspann**, **Walnut Creek**, and **Lawrence Youngman** will be an angler's best bet at large channel catfish. Anglers can also find eater sized fish at all of the lakes mentioned above as well as **Prairie Queen**, **Zorinsky**, and all the lakes at **Louisville SRA**.



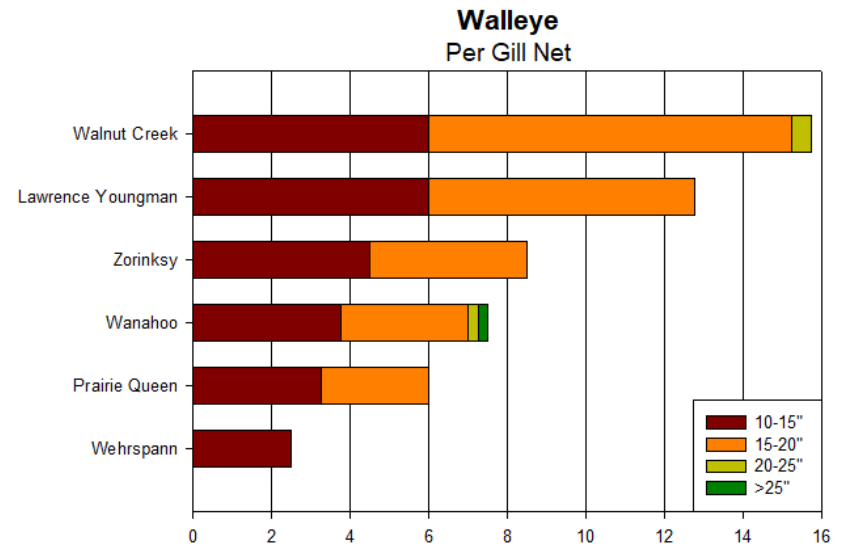
Crappie

Anglers targeting crappie should have no trouble finding fish at either **Wehrspann** or **Wanahoo**. **Lawrence Youngman** and **Walnut Creek** also will provide a chance at some 10-12" crappies. Anglers will also find plenty of crappie at **Prairie View** and **Zorinsky** in 2019



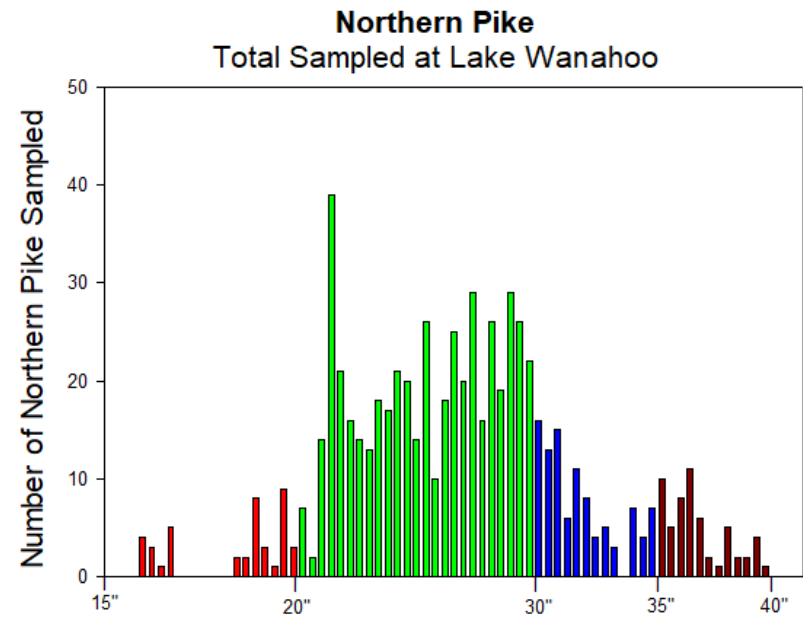
Walleye

We are now going on the fourth year of our advanced walleye stocking program and multiple reservoirs in the metro have benefitted. **Walnut Creek, Lawrence Youngman, Zorinsky, Prairie Queen, and Wanahoo** will all provide anglers a chance at some legal 15" walleyes in 2019.



Northern Pike

Lake Wanahoo will again provide a unique fishing opportunity to catch northern pike in eastern Nebraska. A multitude of fish in the 35-40" range were caught and tagged in the spring of 2018. The northern pike tagging study will continue in 2019 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV. Anglers are required to release all northern pike caught at **Lake Wanahoo**.

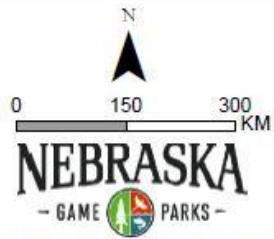
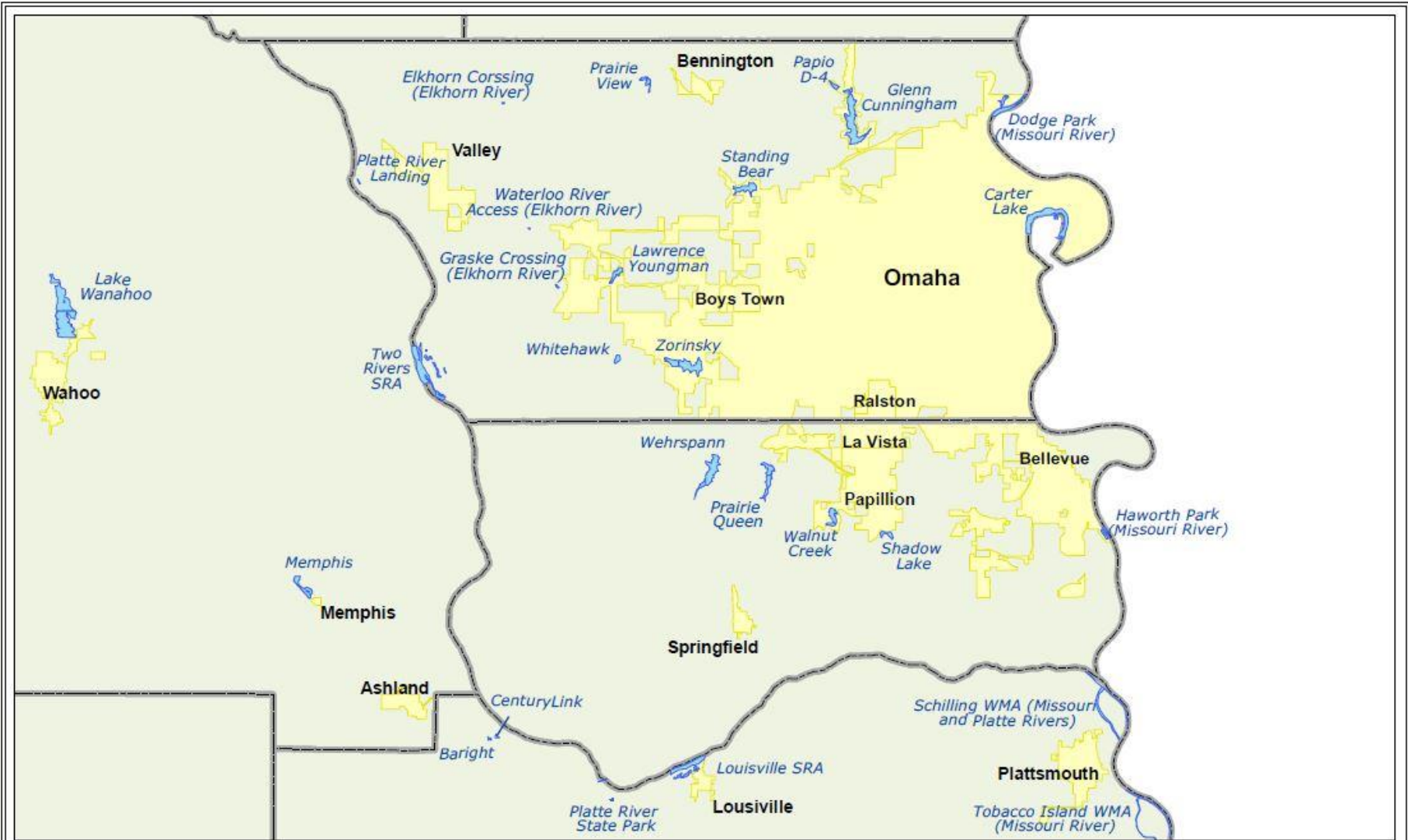


Other Species

Rainbow Trout

Although the Omaha metro doesn't have cold-water streams that support trout, there is still plenty of opportunity in and around Omaha to catch them. Rainbow trout are routinely stocked in the spring at **Two Rivers 5** while **Standing Bear, Benson Lake, Hitchcock Lake, Towl Lake** receive fall stockings and **Lake Halleck** and **CenturyLink Lake (in Mahoney SP)** receive spring and fall stockings. Anglers can check the stocking database on the Game and Parks website to see the exact date rainbow trout were stocked.





Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 1/6/2016

