

2019 Lincoln Area

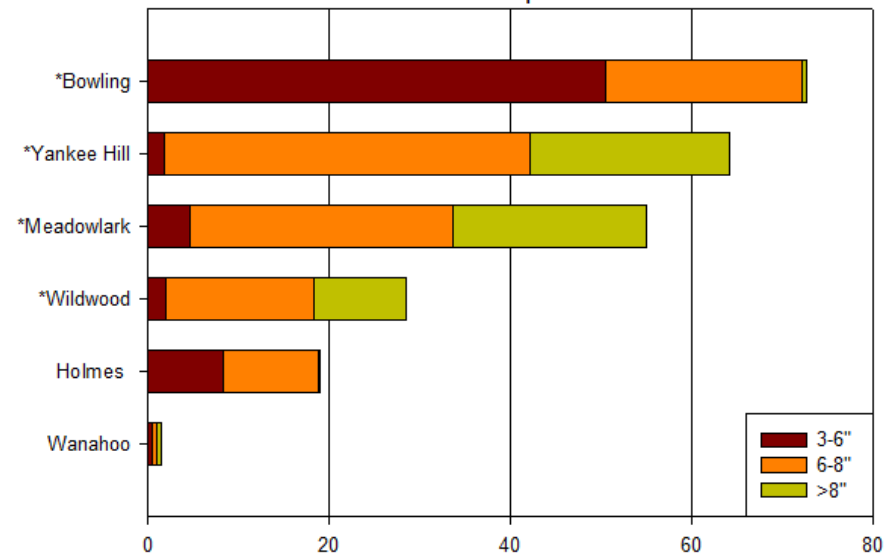
Fishing Forecast



This is a fishing forecast for the Lincoln 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



Bluegill
Per Trap Net



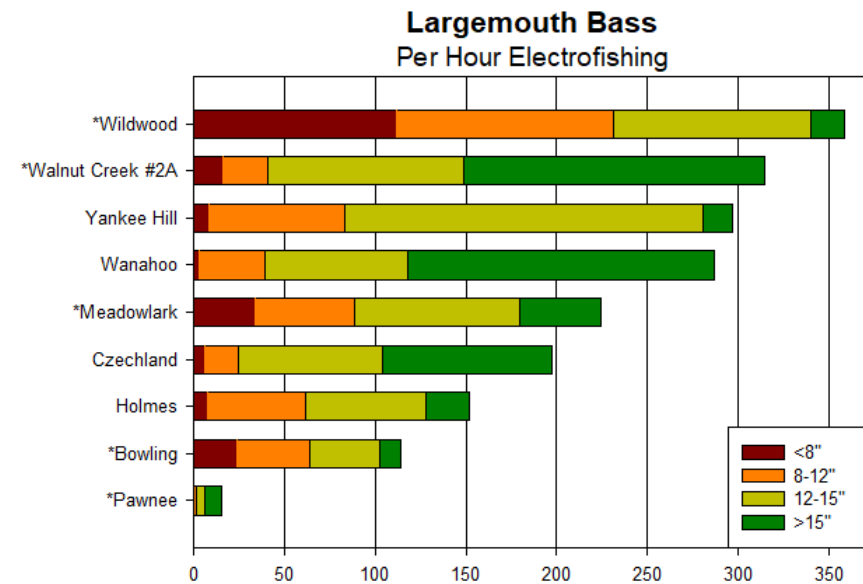
Bluegills

Holmes and **Lake Wanahoo** were the only lakes sampled for bluegills in the Lincoln area in 2018; however, past samples can still point anglers in the right direction. **Yankee Hill**, **Meadowlark** and **Wildwood** will all provide good fishing in 2019. Further to the north, **Wanahoo** and **Czechland** should also offer anglers some >8" bluegills in 2019. It should also be noted that **Olive Creek** and **Homestead** had significant fish kills in 2018. It will likely take a few years for the bluegill fishing to rebound.

* 2017 Survey

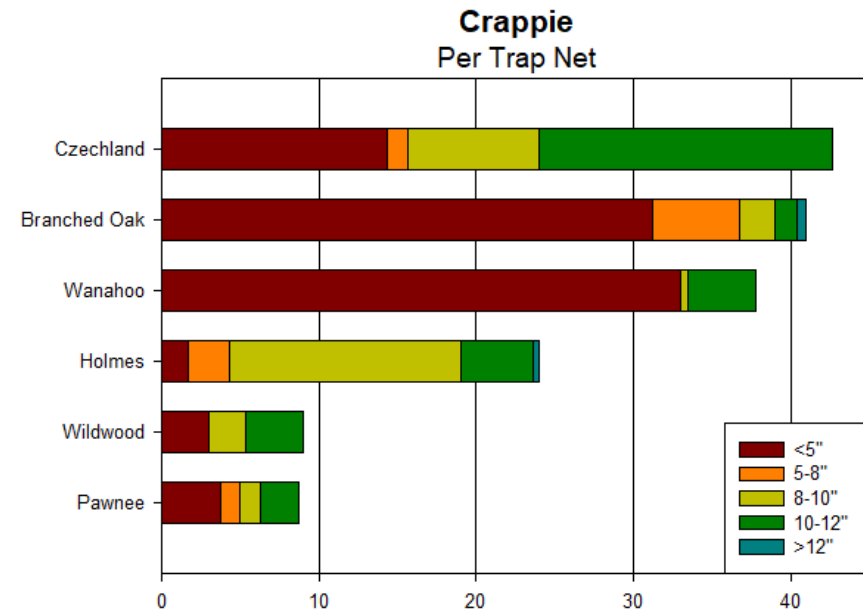
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass fishing will be very similar to the last few years in the Lincoln area. **Wanahoo** continues to produce a lot of larger bass along with **Walnut Creek 2A** and **Czechland**. **Yankee Hill**, **Wildwood** and **Meadowlark** should also give up quite a few bass with chances at some larger fish.



Crappie

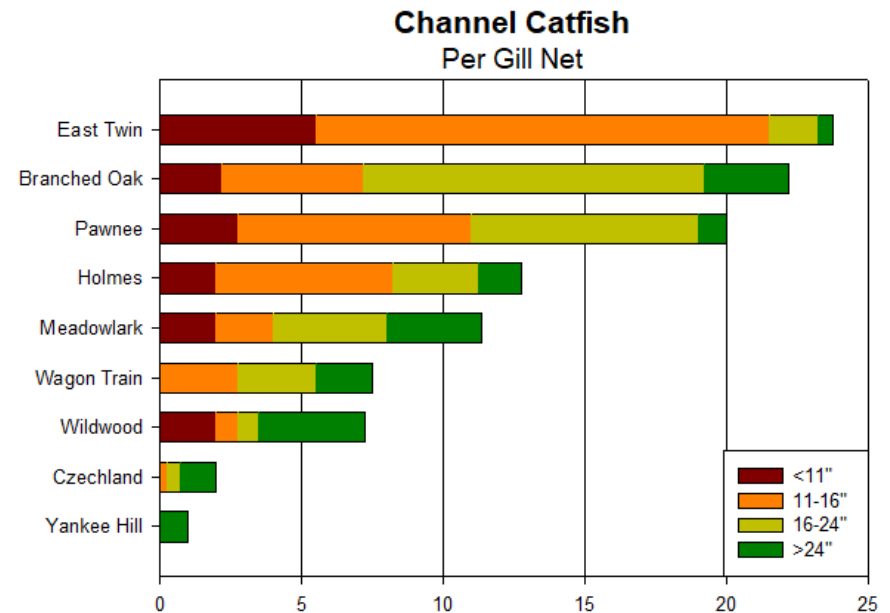
Anglers seeking crappies in the Lincoln area will have plenty of opportunity. **Czechland** lake had the greatest sample of fish over 10"; however, **Branched Oak** and **Holmes** were home to the largest crappies sampled in 2018. Just as in the past 5 years, **Wanahoo** and **Wildwood** will again be some of the best spots to target crappies in 2019. Anglers are reminded of the 10" minimum length limit at **Branched Oak** and **Czechland**.



* 2017 Survey

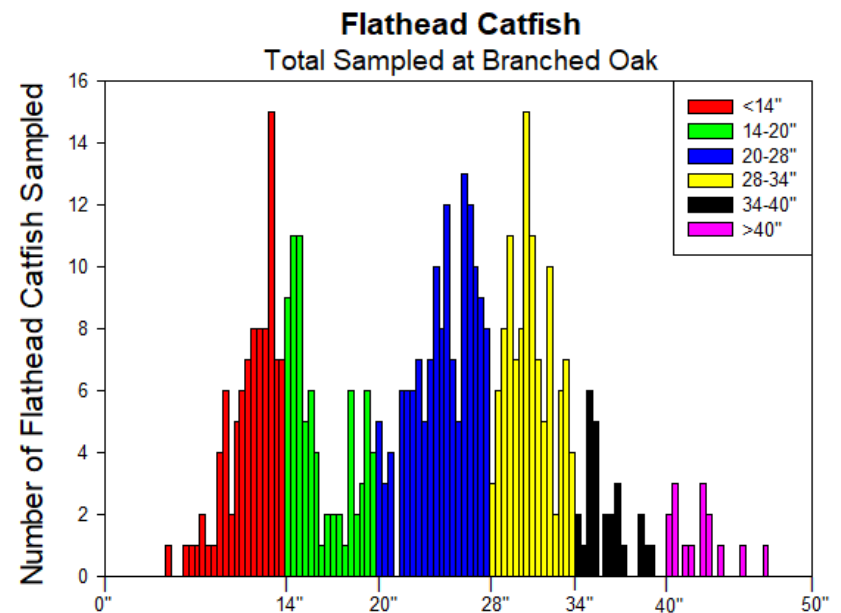
Channel Catfish

Similarly to last year, anglers seeking eater-sized catfish should head to **East Twin, Branched Oak, or Pawnee**. Anglers seeking larger catfish may want to try **Wagon Train, Meadowlark, or Czechland**. The catch and release regulation at **Wildwood** continues to provide a great opportunity to catch a trophy channel catfish.



Flathead Catfish

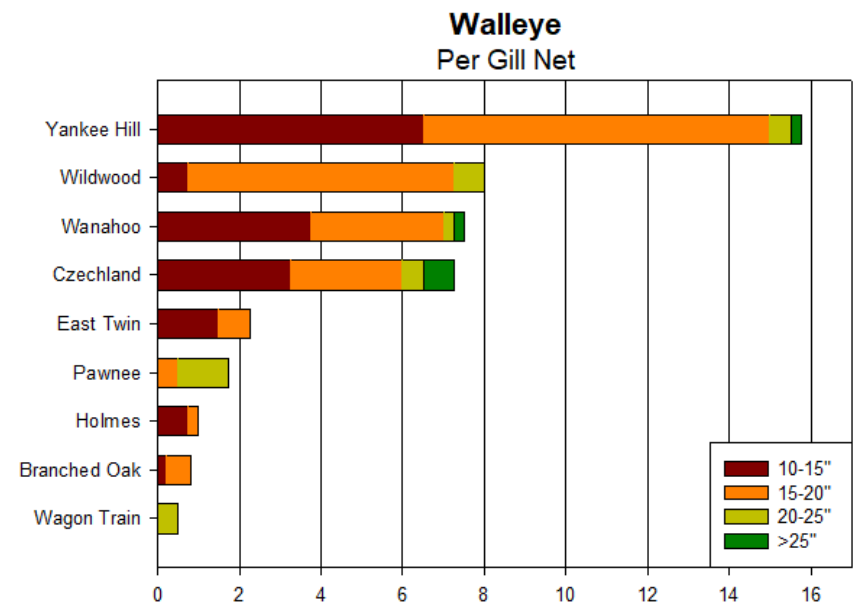
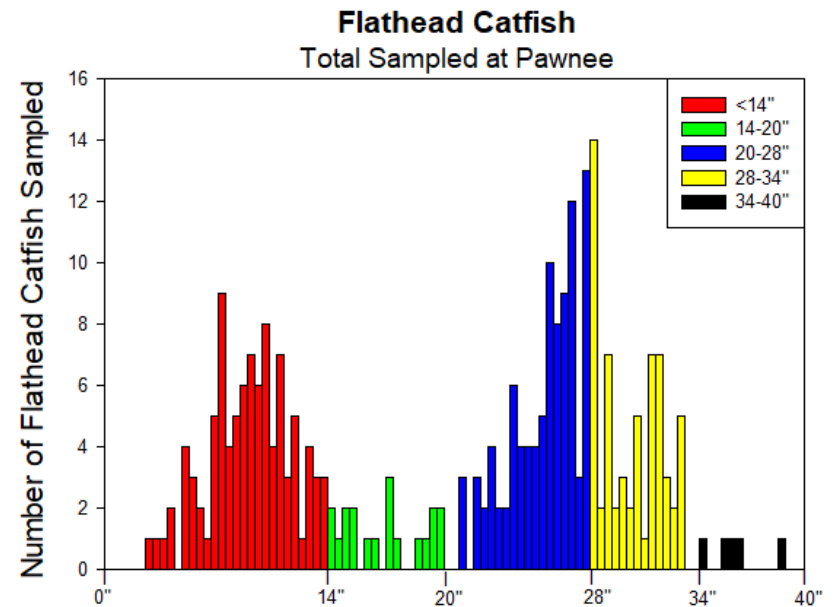
Branched Oak continues to be one of the top flathead destinations in the state with numerous fish over 40", giving anglers a chance to catch a true trophy. Anglers should also note that there is a catch and release regulation on flathead catfish at Branched Oak.



Pawnee Lake will also provide some good flathead fishing in 2019. Unlike Branched Oak, anglers are able to harvest up to five flatheads at Pawnee; however, only one can be over 30 inches.

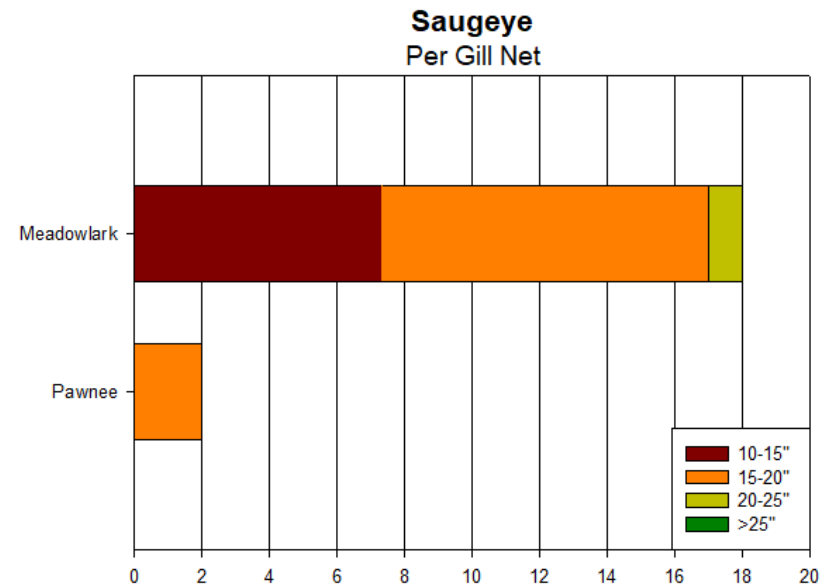
Walleye

Anglers should have a good chance at catching some keeper sized $\geq 15''$ walleyes at **Yankee Hill, Wildwood, Wanahoo, and Czechland** in 2019. Although net results were low anglers can still expect to catch a few walleyes at **East Twin, Pawnee, Holmes and Branched Oak**.



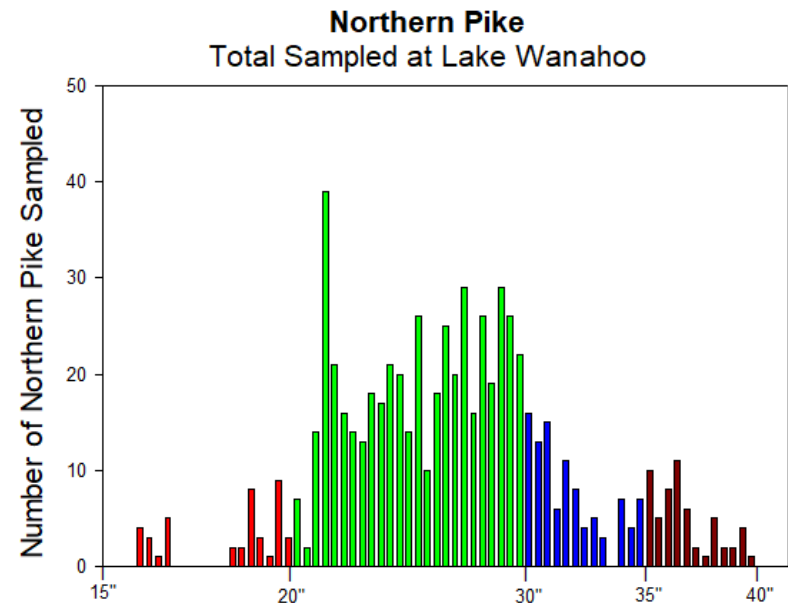
Saugeye

Saugeye were first stocked in a few reservoirs in 2015, and results have been pretty good so far. Anglers looking to catch legal saugeye ($\geq 15''$) in the Salt Valley should head to **Meadowlark**. Unfortunately, **Olive Creek**, which had one of the best saugeye fisheries in the area experienced a severe fish kill in 2018. Advanced fingerling (8-10'') saugeyes were restocked during the fall of 2018, so look for this saugeye fishery to rebound in short order.



Northern Pike

The northern pike in **Lake Wanahoo** continue to grow and provide anglers with a unique fishing experience. Multiple fish over 40'' have been sampled in the in the last few years along with a multitude of fish in the 35-40'' range. Remember that all northern pike caught must be released immediately. The northern pike tagging study will continue in 2019 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV.



Blue Catfish

The Blue catfish stocked in **Pawnee** over the last few years appear to be doing quite well. Anglers can expect these fish to be around 15-20" now. **Branched Oak** continues to produce some really nice blues and a large stocking of fish last year will hopefully continue that trend in the future.

Bullheads

Catchable sized bullheads can be found at **Yankee Hill**, and **Lake Wanahoo**. Several master angler bullheads (>15") were sampled at **Lake Wanahoo** during the spring.

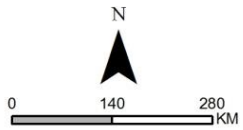
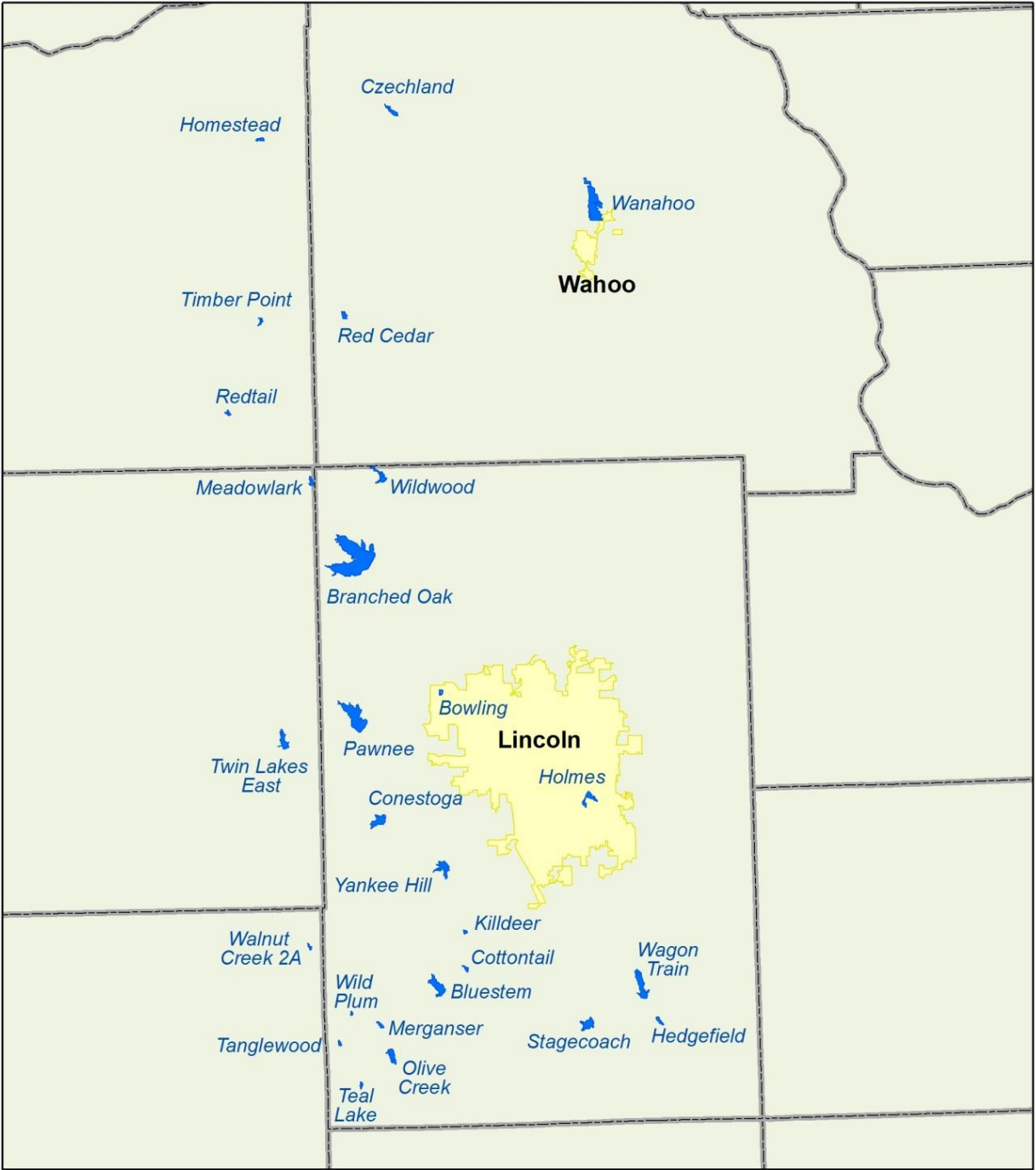
Rainbow Trout

Rainbow trout also provide a great fishing opportunity for children or beginners. Rainbow trout are stocked in the spring, fall and winter at **Holmes Lake** and in the fall and winter in the south pond at **Bowling Lake**.

Wipers

Salt Valley reservoirs such as **Wagon Train** and **Branched Oak** will again provide anglers an opportunity to catch wipers in eastern Nebraska. The wiper stocking of 2016 continues to look like a success as many wipers up to 20" have been sampled in the last couple years. Anglers are reminded that they can keep only one white bass, striped bass or wiper that is 16" or longer in their daily bag limit, except at Branched Oak where a catch and release regulation is in place. Remember white perch, a similar looking species to white bass, striped bass and wipers, cannot be transported live from any waterbody as they are an aquatic invasive species.





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Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 12/18/2012

