

2021 Lincoln Area Fishing Forecast



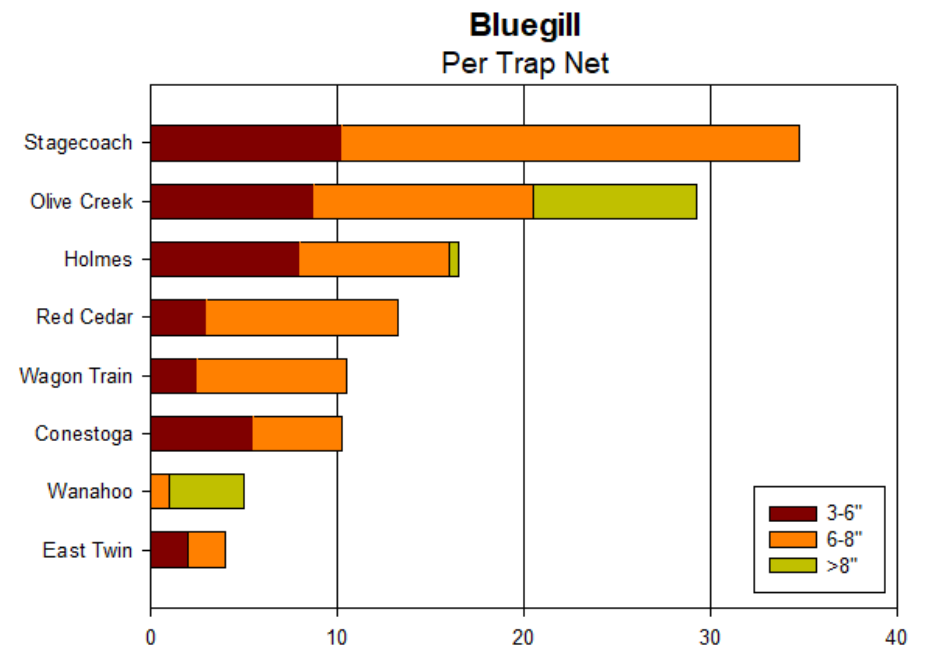
This is a fishing forecast for the Lincoln area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during 2020. Therefore, there may be other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included 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



Photo 1. Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

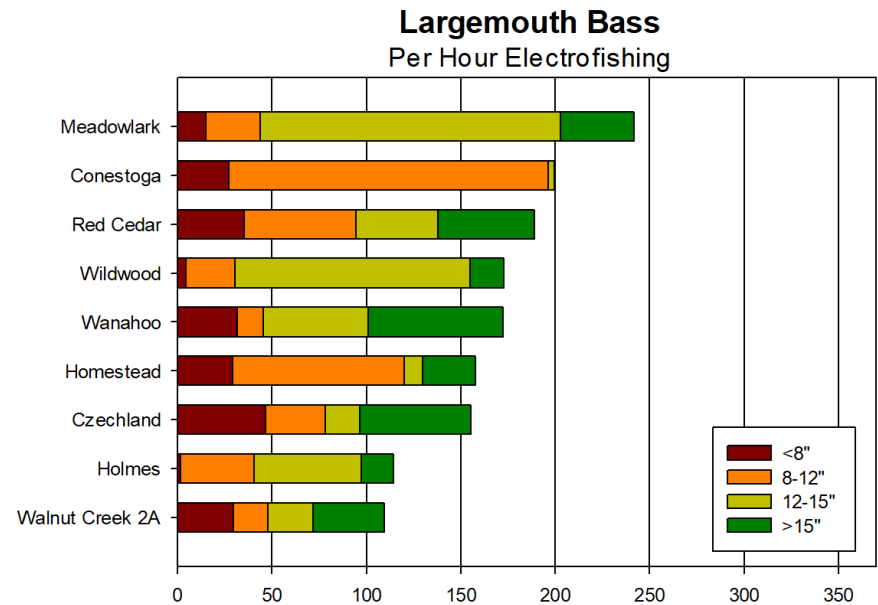
Bluegill

Multiple lakes in 2020 were sampled for Bluegills in the Lincoln area. **Stagecoach** had the highest catch rates of Bluegills per trap net in the area, followed by **Olive Creek, Holmes, and Red Cedar**, respectively. **Olive Creek** and **Wanahoo** will provide the best opportunity for anglers to catch larger Bluegills.



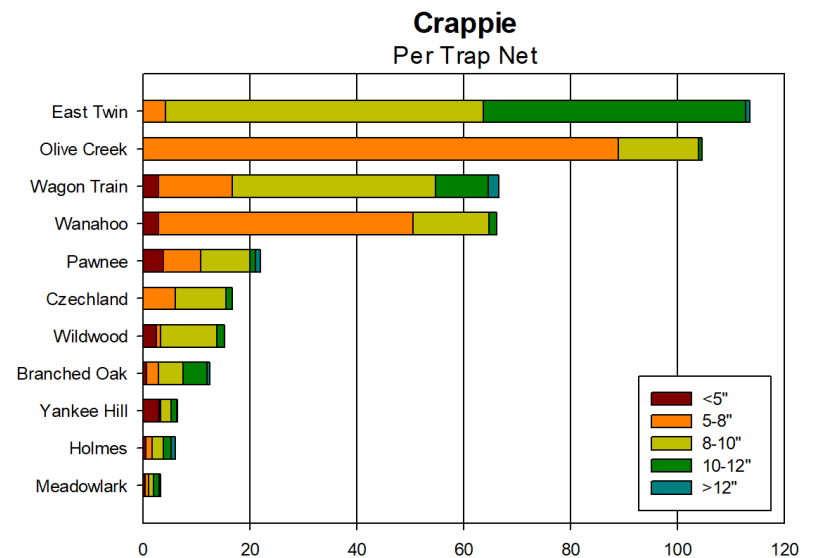
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass fishing will continue to be good in the Lincoln area in 2021. **Meadowlark** yielded the highest catch rates with a majority of the fish between 12 and 15 inches. The recently constructed **Conestoga Lake** is also producing high numbers of 8 to 12 inch fish as well as the recently renovated **Stagecoach**. For anglers targeting larger fish, **Red Cedar**, **Wanahoo**, and **Czechland** will be great lakes to target.



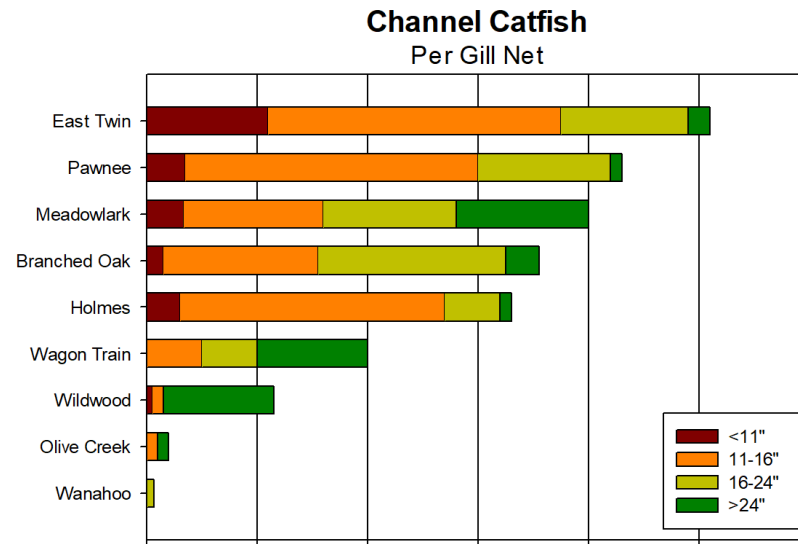
Crappie

Anglers seeking crappies in the Lincoln area will have excellent opportunities in 2021. **East Twin** yielded the highest catch rates in the 2020 sampling and a large proportion of the fish are between 10 and 12 inches. **Olive Creek**, **Wagon Train**, and **Wanahoo** will also be places to target crappies in 2021.



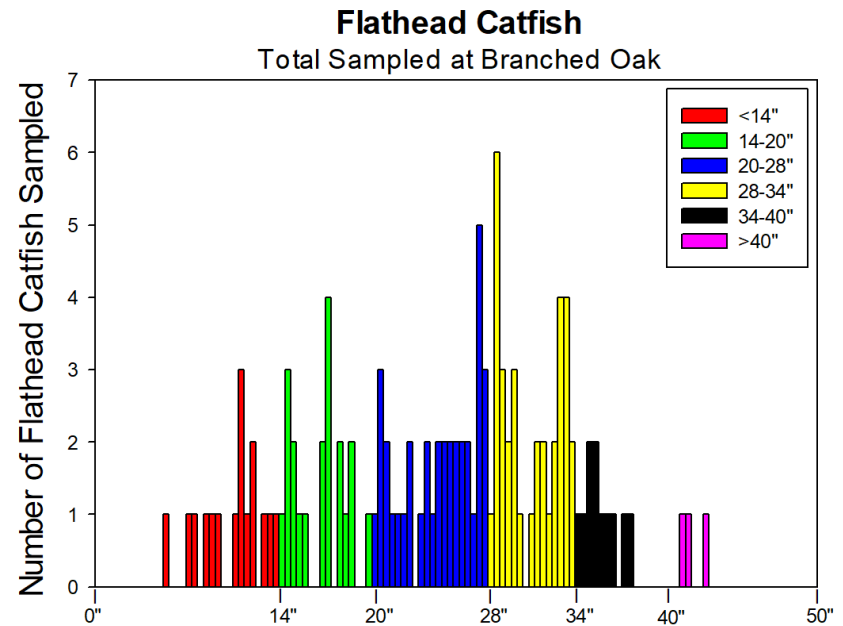
Channel Catfish

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** and **Meadowlark**. The catch and release regulation at **Wildwood** continues to provide a great opportunity to catch a trophy Channel Catfish.

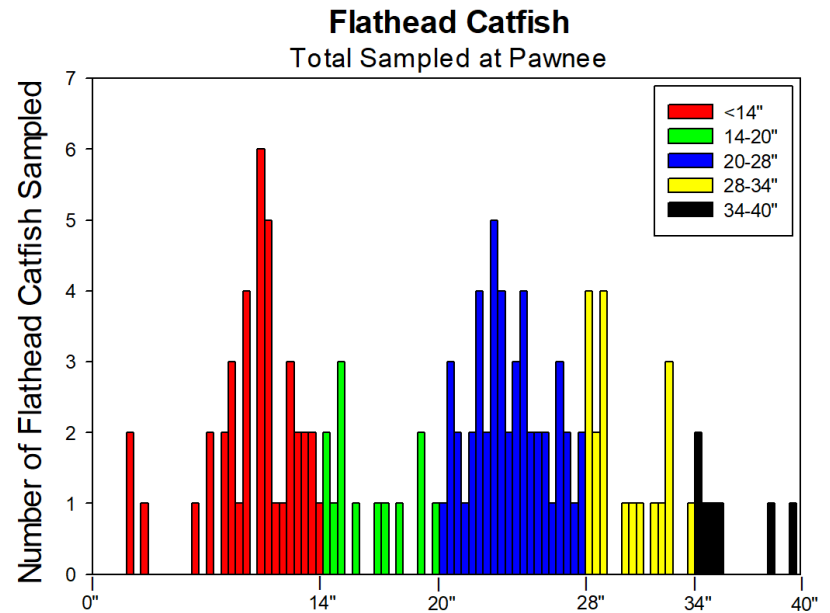


Flathead Catfish

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**.

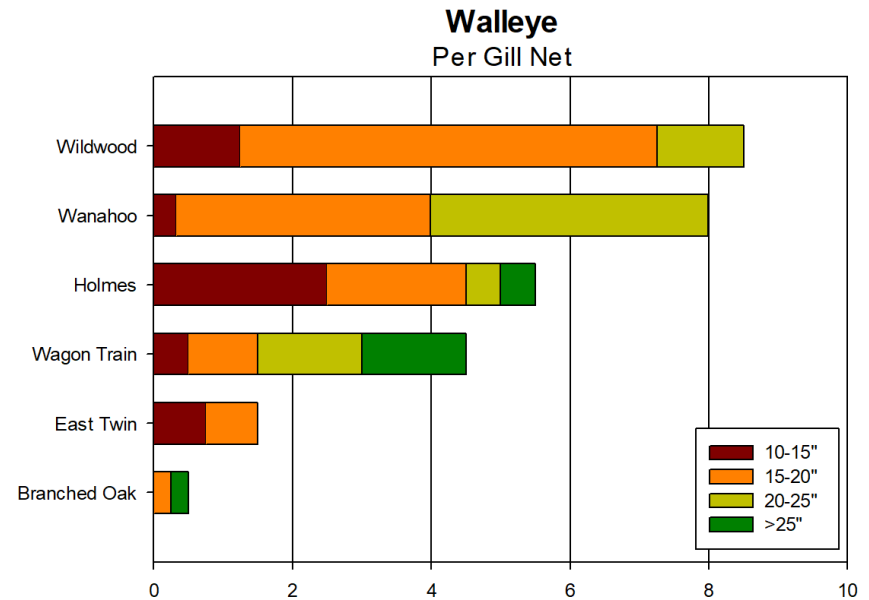


Pawnee Lake will also provide some good flathead fishing in 2021. Unlike **Branched Oak**, anglers are able to harvest up to five flatheads at Pawnee; however, only one can be over 30 inches.



Walleye

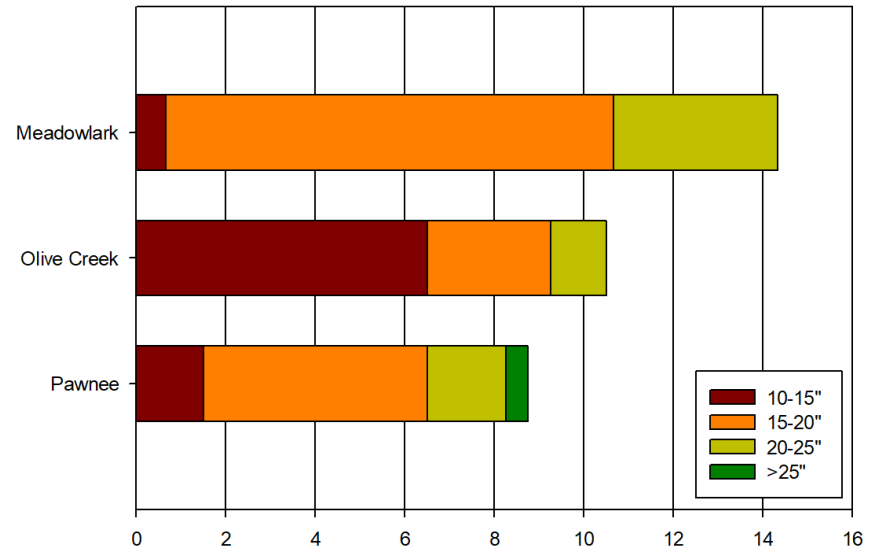
Anglers should have a good chance at catching some keeper sized $\geq 15''$ Walleyes at **Yankee Hill, Wildwood, Wanahoo, and Czechland** in 2021. Although net results were low, anglers can still expect to catch a few Walleyes at **East Twin, Pawnee, Holmes, and Branched Oak**.



Saugeye

Saugeye (a hybrid between Sauger and Walleye) were first stocked in a few area reservoirs in 2015, and results have been pretty good so far. Anglers looking to catch legal Saugeye (≥ 15 inches) in the Salt Valley should head to **Meadowlark**, **Olive Creek**, and **Pawnee**. **Olive Creek** experienced a fish kill in 2018, but has rebounded well.

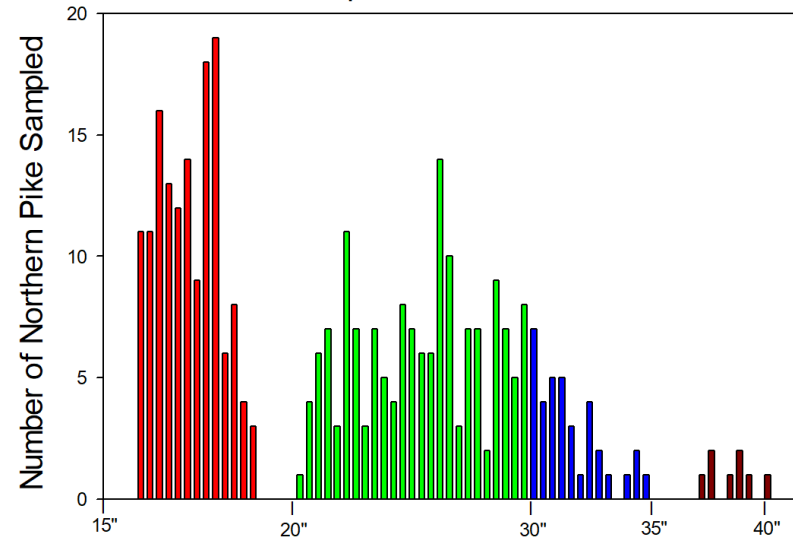
Saugeye
Per Gill Net



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 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 2021 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV.

Northern Pike
Total Sampled at Lake Wanahoo



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 Blue Catfish as well.

Bullhead

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

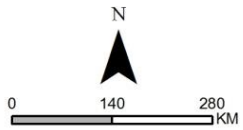
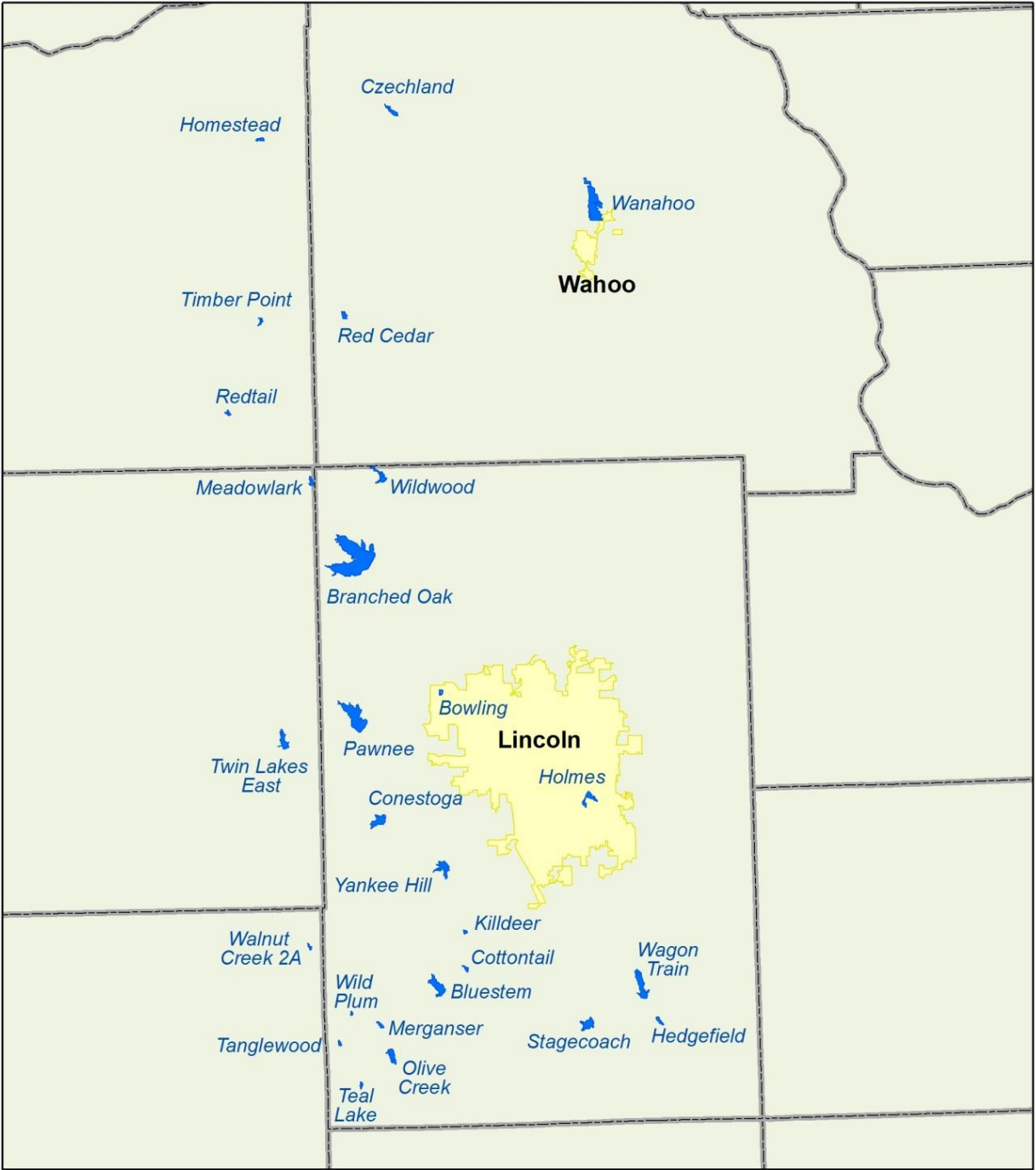
Rainbow Trout also provide a great fishing opportunity for children or beginners. Rainbow Trout are stocked in the Spring, Fall and Winter at **Holmes Lake** and in the Fall and Winter in the south pond at **Bowling Lake**.

Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)

Salt Valley reservoirs such as **Branched Oak** and **Wagon Train** will again provide anglers an opportunity to catch Wipers. Advanced Wiper stockings in **Wagon Train** have experienced varied success, but the stockings are doing well in **Branched Oak** with some Wipers over 25 inches residing in the reservoir. Anglers are reminded that they can keep only one White Bass, Striped Bass or Wiper that is 16" or longer per day, 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 water body as they



Photo 2. Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)



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Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 12/18/2012

