

2016 Omaha Area

Fishing Forecast



NEBRASKA

— GAME



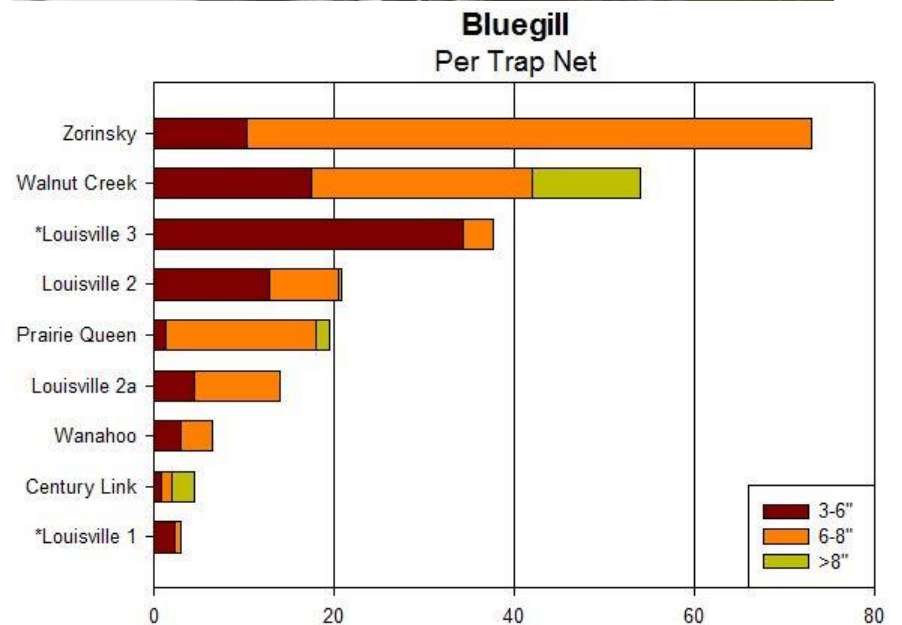
PARKS —

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 *2014 and 2015. 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

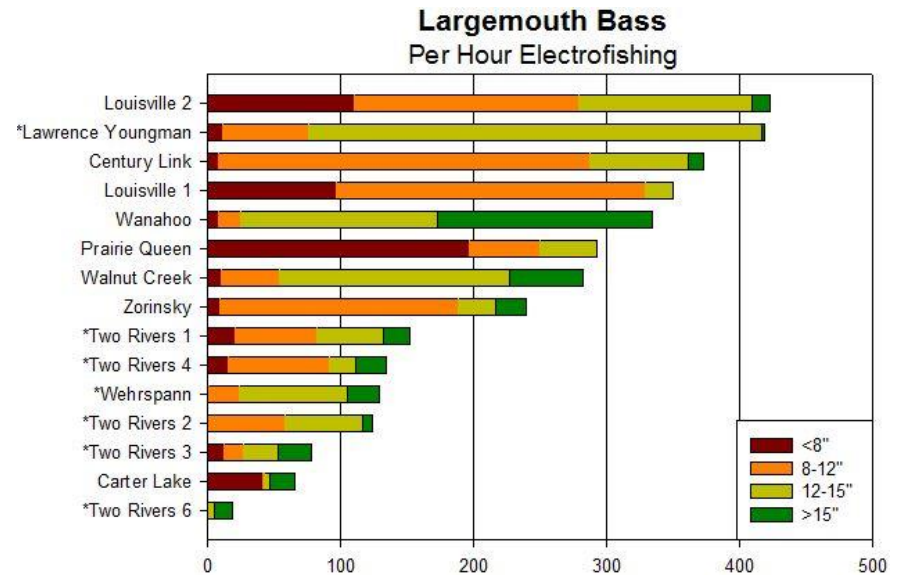
Bluegills prefer clean water and an abundance of aquatic plants. They are an excellent fish for beginning anglers to pursue. **Zorinsky** will again provide a great place for beginners or kids learning how to fish with the abundance of smaller fish in the lake. **Walnut Creek, Louisville 2, and Prairie Queen** will also provide some good bluegill fishing in 2016.



* 2014 Survey

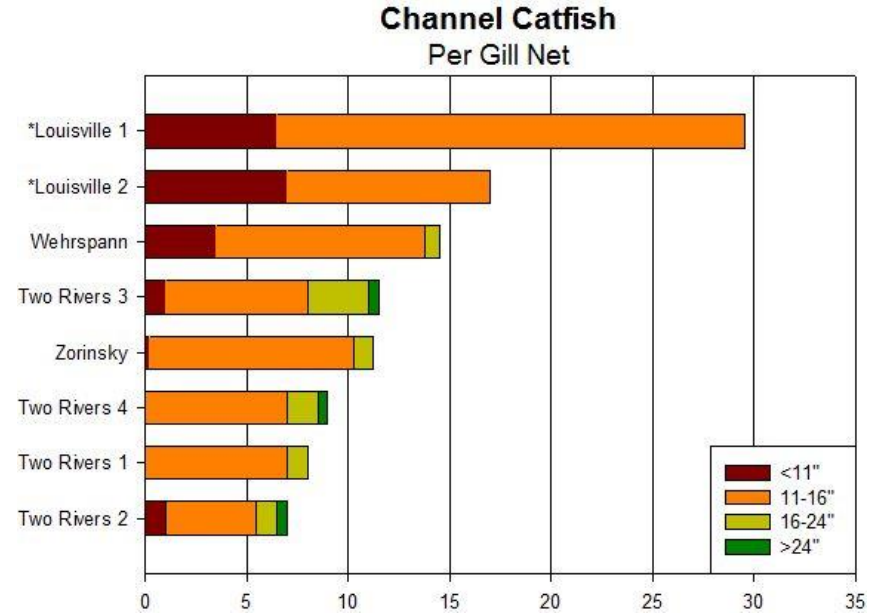
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are routinely targeted by anglers and are known for their aggressiveness and fighting ability. Largemouth bass, like bluegills and other members of the sunfish family, prefer clean water and an abundance of shallow water cover. Metro reservoirs such as **Lawrence Youngman** and **Walnut Creek** will offer a good opportunity to catch a largemouth bass of all sizes with some greater than 15 inches. **Lake Wanahoo** near Wahoo will also provide excellent bass fishing in 2016. Sand pits, such as those found within **Louisville SRA**, will provide great opportunity for both numbers and size.



Channel Catfish

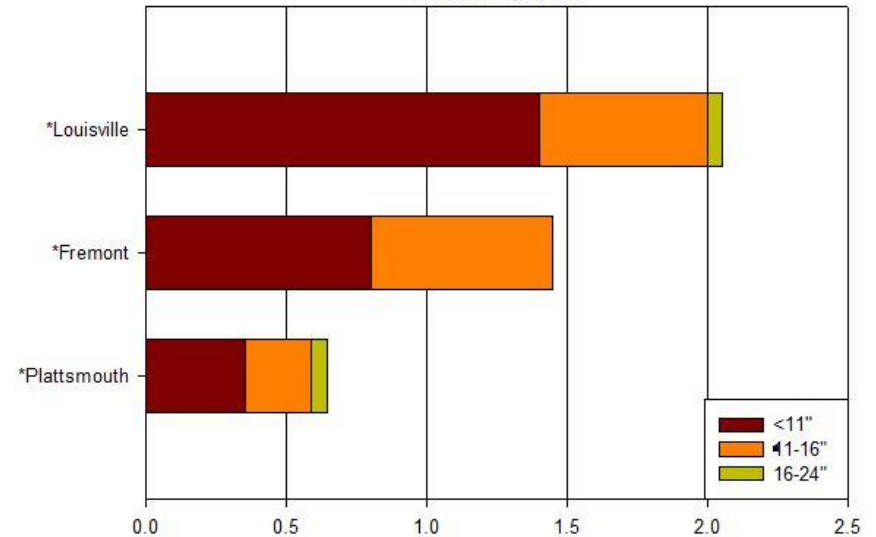
Channel catfish are popular throughout Nebraska and can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area. **Louisville SRA** and **Wehrspann** should provide good fishing for catfish anglers. Additionally, anglers fishing **Two Rivers SRA** have the potential to catch some large channel catfish. Anglers should note that all catfish are catch and release on lakes #3 and #4 at **Two Rivers SRA**.



The **Platte River**, water willing, will also provide some good catfishing opportunities. Anglers should target log jams in deep holes or channel drop offs. Nightcrawlers, stink bait, or cut bait are all good bait options. Public access on the Platte River around Omaha can be found at **Schilling WMA, Louisville SRA, Schramm Park SRA, Two Rivers SRA, Platte River Landing** near Valley and **Hormel Park** in Fremont.

The **Elkhorn** and **Missouri Rivers** will also offer some excellent fishing for channel catfish. The University of Nebraska - Lincoln is conducting a tagging study on channel and flathead catfish in the Platte, Elkhorn and Missouri Rivers and requests all anglers to report tagged fish to the phone number on the tag.

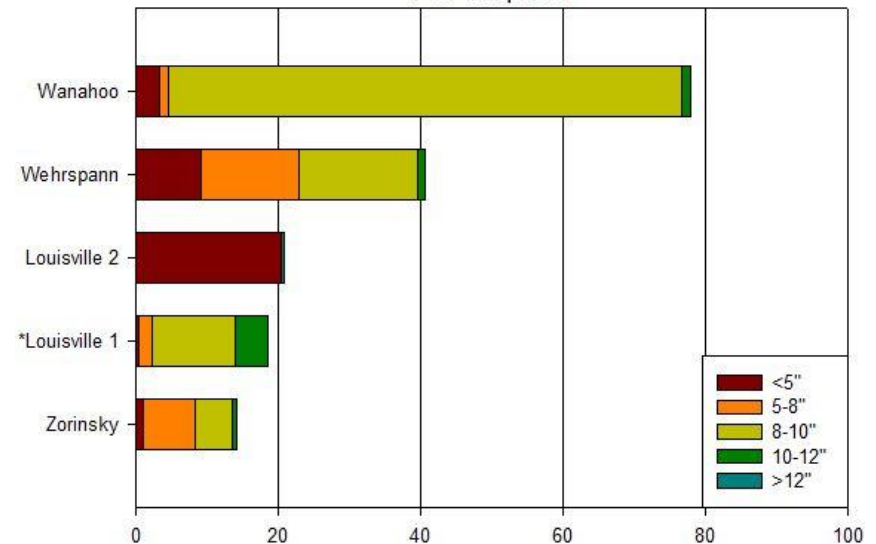
Channel Catfish (Platte River)
Per Hoop Net



Crappie

Crappies are highly regarded by anglers and are often considered to be among the best tasting freshwater fish. Crappies prefer habitat with sheltered coves or bays with an abundance of cover and aquatic vegetation. Anglers looking for eating-size crappies should head to **Wanahoo, Wehrspann** or **Louisville 1**. Although they weren't sampled in the last two years, anglers shouldn't forget about **Cunningham** or **Prairie View** for crappies.

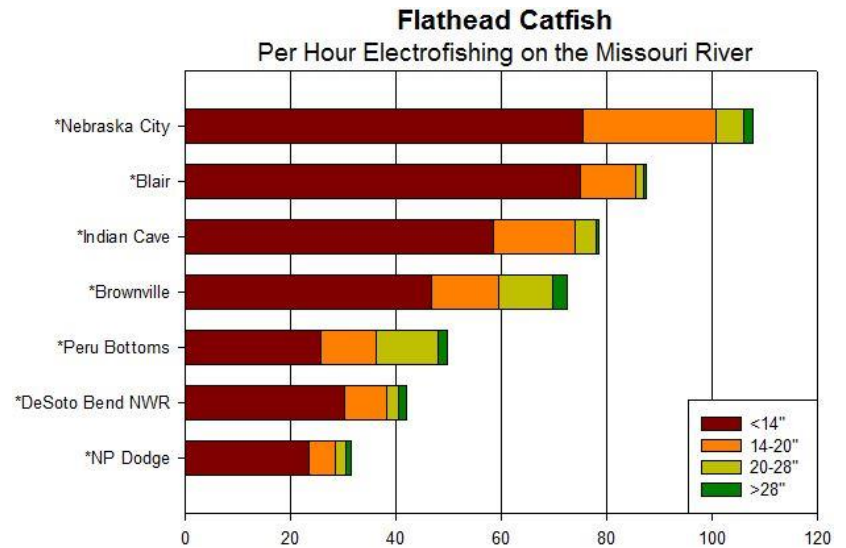
Crappie
Per Trap Net



* 2014 Survey

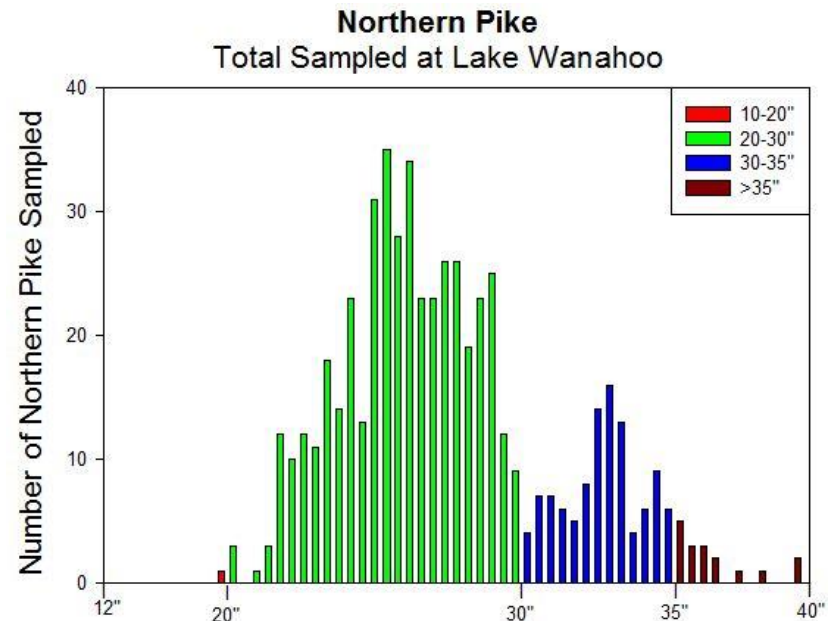
Flathead Catfish

Flathead catfish are a true trophy fish and provide a great battle on a rod and reel. Flathead catfish can be found throughout the **Missouri, Elkhorn, and Platte Rivers**, and thanks to the University of Nebraska sampling crew, we have some catch data from the Missouri River from 2014. Areas near the **Blair** or **NP Dodge Park** boat ramps will be good places to fish near Omaha. However, further to the south, areas near **Indian Cave State Park, Nebraska City** and **Peru Bottoms** will also provide anglers a chance at some larger fish.



Northern Pike

Glenn Cunningham will provide metro anglers a chance to catch northern pike; however, **Lake Wanahoo** is the premier destination near the metro area for pike anglers. Larger fish are becoming more abundant and anglers will have a chance to catch fish greater than 35 inches. The northern pike tagging study will continue in 2016 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV or 402-471-7647. Anglers are required to release all northern pike caught at both **Cunningham** and **Lake Wanahoo**.



* 2014 Survey

Other Species

Walleye

Anglers targeting walleyes in the Omaha metro will want to try **Wehrspann** and **Wanahoo**. The **Missouri River** will also provide opportunity to catch walleye or sauger. Also, in order to improve Metro walleye fishing, advanced fish (8") were stocked at **Lawrence Youngman, Standing Bear, Walnut Creek, Wehrspann, Prairie Queen** and **Zorinsky** in the fall of 2015. Additionally, advanced saugeye were also stocked in **Glenn Cunningham**.

Bullheads

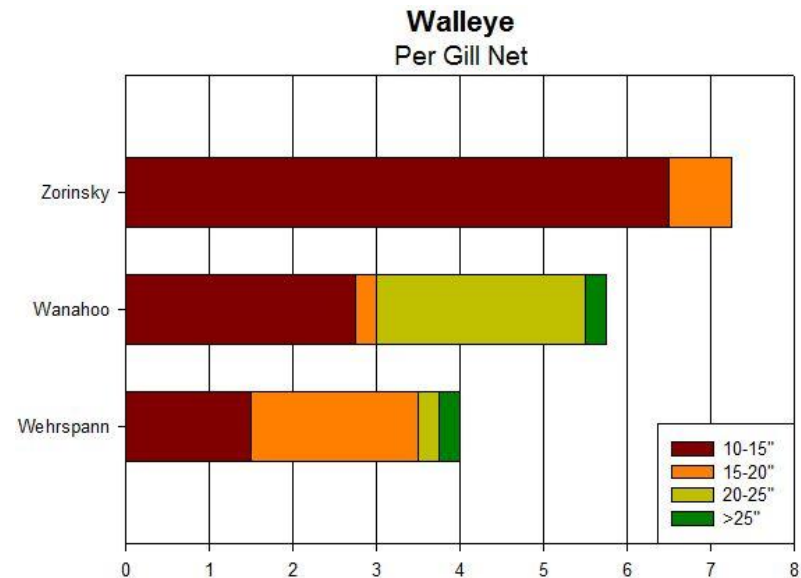
Bullheads provide a great fishing opportunity for beginners and children because they are easy to catch and a simple hook and worm is all you need. Bullheads have been stocked previous years at **Louisville 2A, Two Rivers 6**, and **Two Rivers 7**. Anglers seeking larger bullheads should try **Lake Wanahoo**.

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.

Tiger Trout

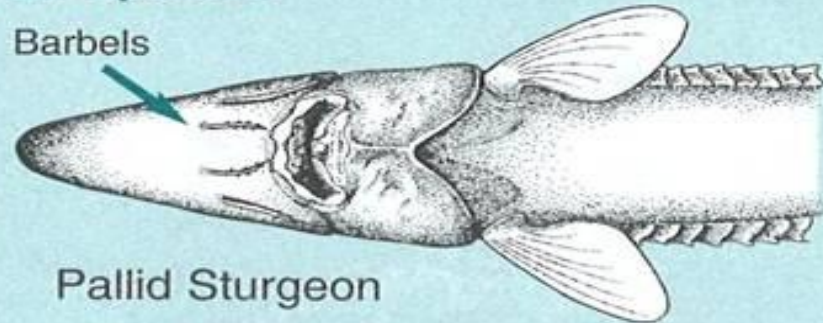
A new opportunity will exist at **Two Rivers 5** this spring as we will be stocking Tiger trout (hybrid of brown and brook trout).



KNOW YOUR CATCH

Pallid Sturgeon - An Endangered Species

- Illegal to possess
- Outer barbels twice as long as inner barbels
- Base of barbels "U" shaped, inner two set out in front



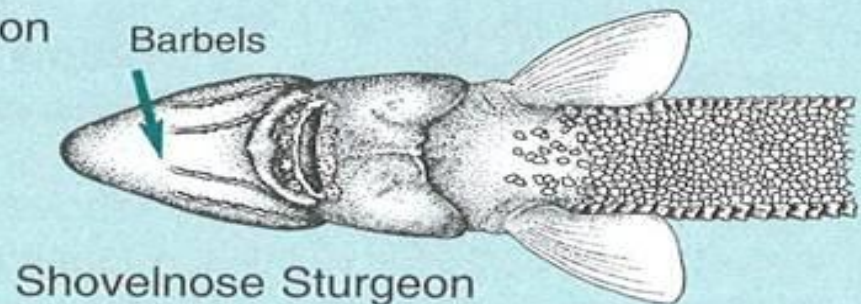
Lake Sturgeon - A Threatened Species

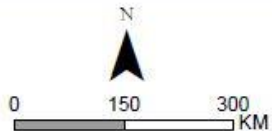
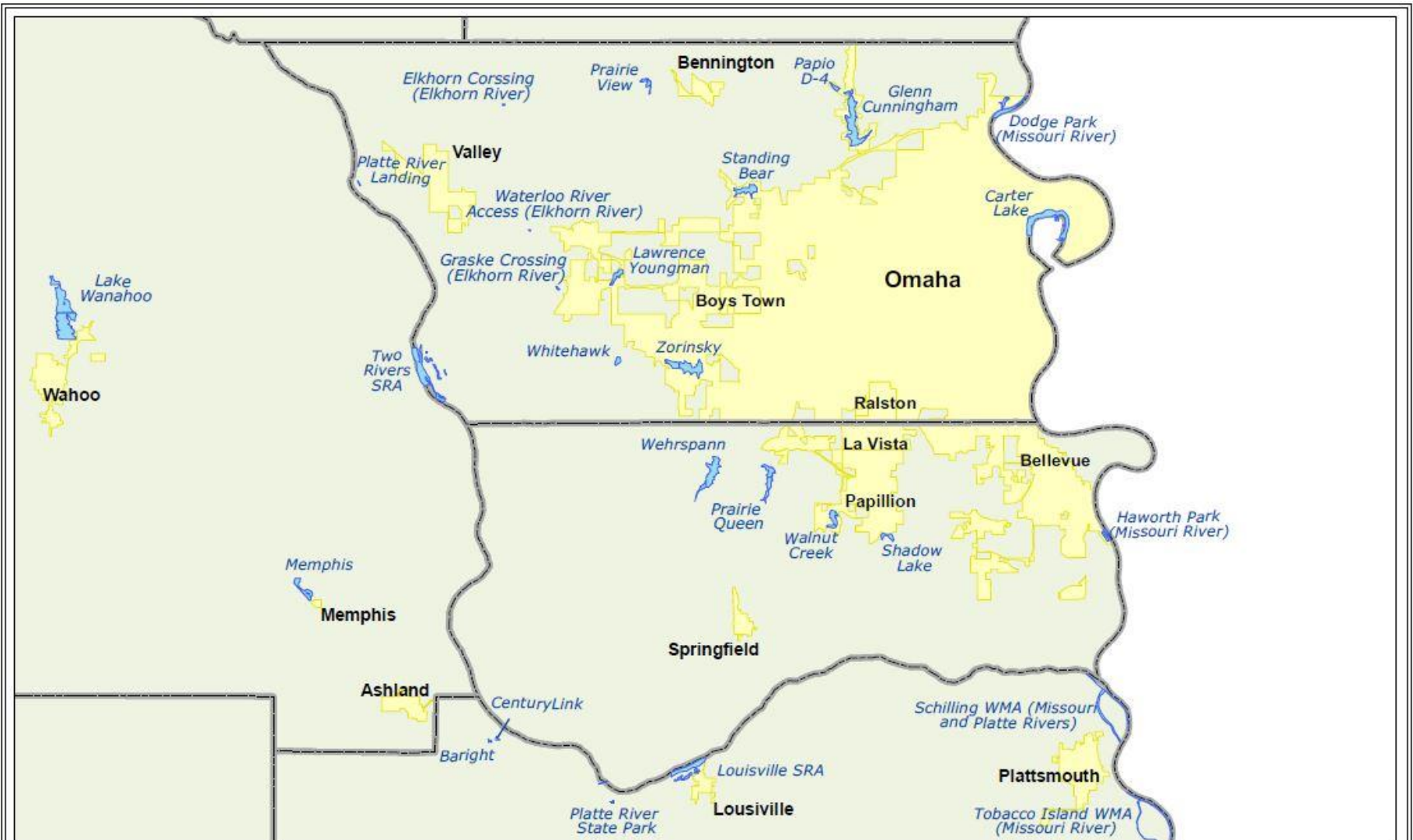
- Illegal to possess
- Short snout turns up at end
- Barbels are not fringed



Shovelnose Sturgeon

- Nebraska's most common sturgeon
- Barbels all the same length
- Barbels straight across
- Smallest Nebraska sturgeon, rarely exceeds 4 pounds





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 - GAME PARKS -

Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 1/6/2016

