

Elwood Reservoir

2016 Fall Survey Summary

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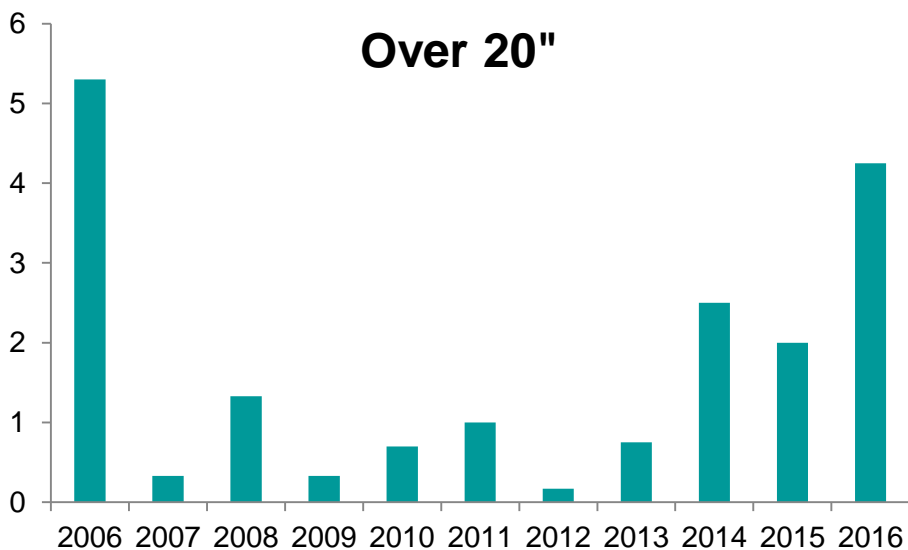
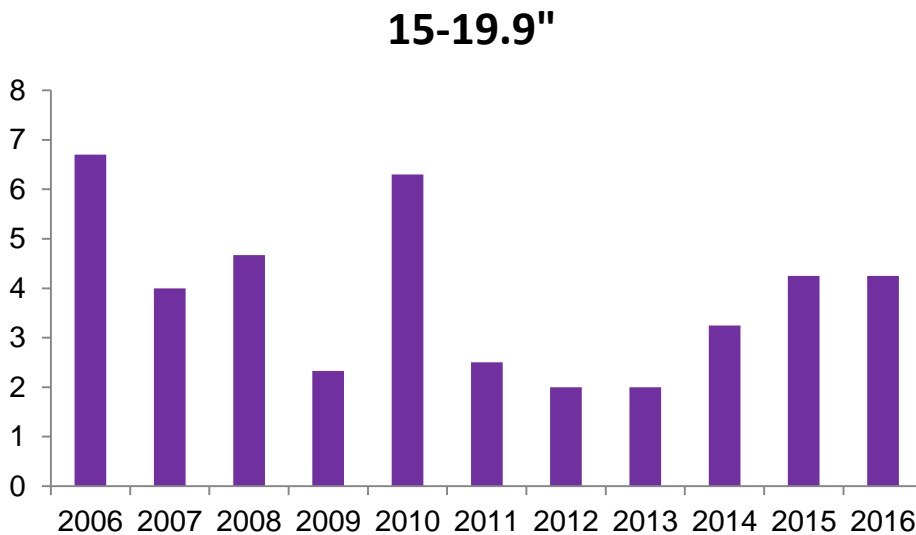
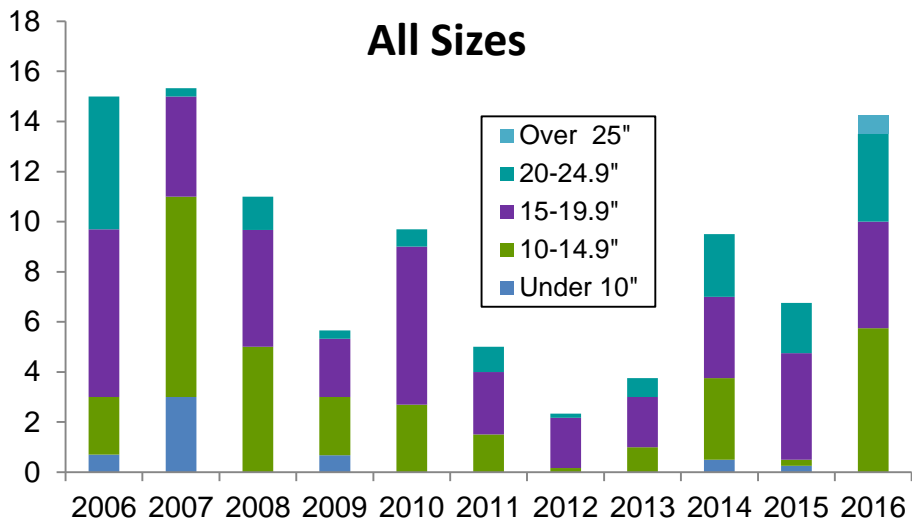


Elwood Reservoir was constructed during the late 1970s and is utilized by Central Nebraska Irrigation & Public Power District (CNPPID) for regulation of irrigation water. This reservoir is located approximately five miles south of Johnson Reservoir. A public access Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located along the east shoreline and provides a concrete boat ramp, dock, nighttime lighting, parking and an outhouse. Most of the abundant coves and fingers of this reservoir are remote, steep and heavily vegetated making them accessible only by boat. Limited shoreline access for bank angling is available near the “bubble” and along the dam. The boating regulation allows internal combustion engines but limits speed to 5 mph and/or non wake producing speeds. As of January 12, 2016 this reservoir was at elevation 2598.0’ inundating approximately 960 surface acres.



The fishery of Elwood Reservoir is sampled every fall using experimental gill nets, a method commonly used to sample species found primarily in open water. Data collected from these surveys allow biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for several species. This data provides valuable information to guide decision making scenarios that include fish species stocked, stocking rates and fishing regulations. This information also assists Game and Parks staff in guiding anglers to waterbodies that have the desired populations for fishing.

Walleye



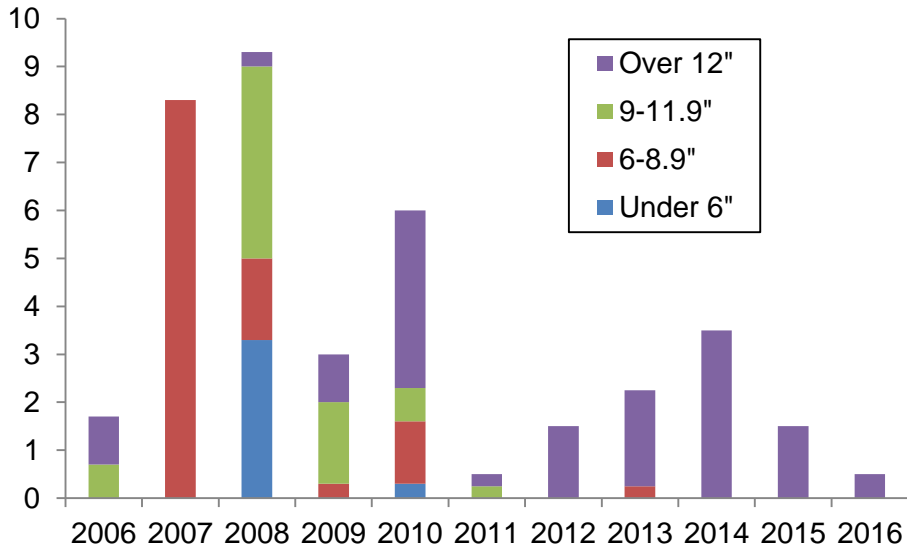
The walleye population declined during the low water years preceding 2010 due to poor habitat availability, reduced prey populations and angling mortality. Since the return of better habitat, survey data has not indicated the desired walleye population response but 2016's survey data is the best observed since 2007. Approximately 14 walleye were sampled per gill net. This sample included 40% in the 10-14.9" length group, 30% in the 15-19.9" length group, 25% in the 20-24.9" group and 5% in the over 25" group. The most abundant length group (10-14.9") were those originating from stockings during 2014 and 2015.

On June 29, 2016 walleye fingerlings (33,690 – 2 ¾") were stocked. These walleye were not present in the 2016 standard gill netting effort as they may have been too small but they are expected to be doing well as two were collected in subsidiary survey efforts. Variable walleye stocking strategies are being discussed for the future. The 2017 stocking may be different from years past. Check [NGPC's Fish Stocking](#) website for updates.

Elwood has a special walleye harvest regulation to encourage growth. A daily bag limit of four walleye may include one walleye from 15 to 18", and three or four longer than 18" and only one 22" or longer in the daily bag. The primary objective is to protect walleye through age three, thereby increasing abundance of larger fish. For more information concerning regulations consult the [2017 Fishing Guide](#).

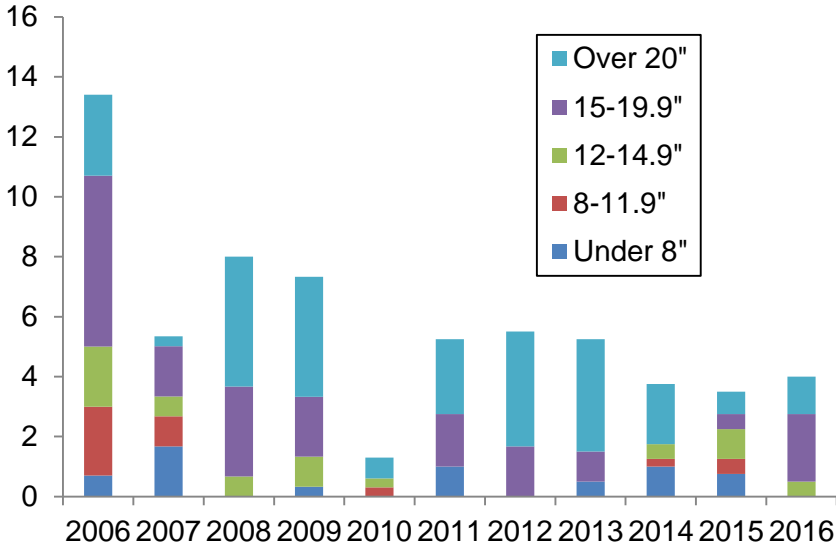


White bass



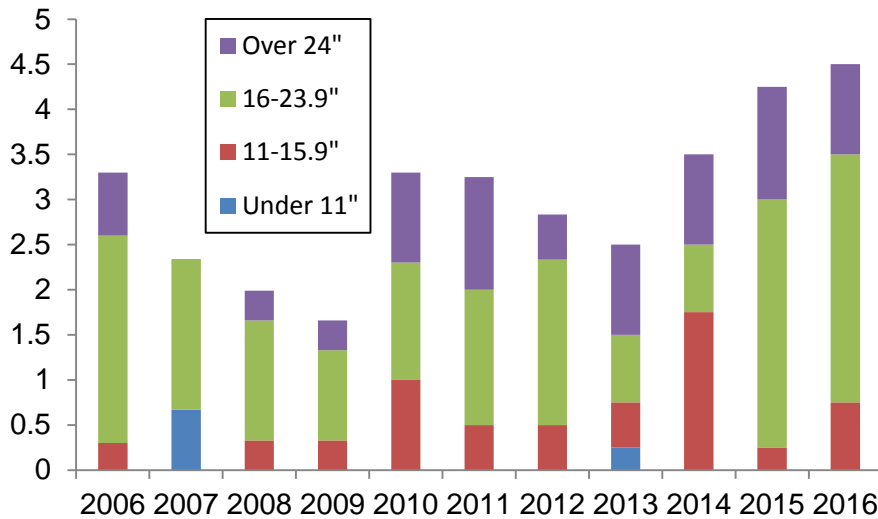
There has been a resurgence of white bass since 2003 when zero were captured but the 2016 survey only collected two 12"+ white bass. The maximum length observed was 16". These white bass were comprised of the 2013 and 2011 year classes. White bass reproduction and recruitment can be inconsistent. White bass survey data also is inconsistent from year to year due to their schooling behavior. To investigate Elwood's harvest regulations visit the [2017 Fishing Guide](#).

Hybrid striped bass



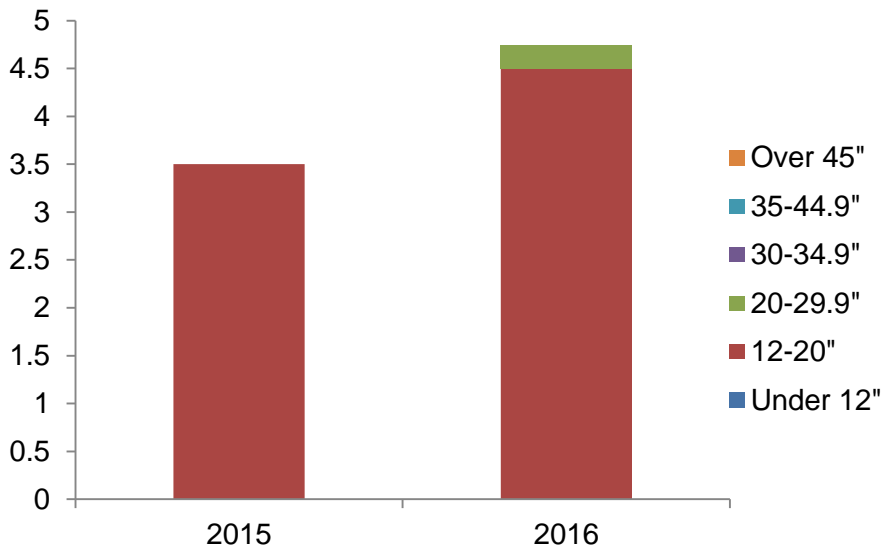
Although the 2014, '15 and '16 survey data indicates a slightly declined hybrid striped bass population the 2016 data reveals the most abundant capture of 15-19.9" hybrid striped bass since 2008. This indicates that recent stockings are recruiting into the population. A mean length of 20" and a maximum length of 26" was observed in 2016. These fish represented five age groups with year classes ranging back to 2010. Although this population has declined since the early 2000s, it will provide a good fishery in 2017.

Channel catfish



The 2016 survey data indicates a growing channel catfish population due to an increase in 11-15.9" and 16-23.9" catfish. The largest channel catfish sampled in 2016 was 25". Chances remain very good to catch a nice sized channel catfish in 2017.

Blue catfish



Blue catfish were first introduced into Elwood on September 15, 2014 with a stocking of 3,976 – 12 ½" fish. Average length of those sampled in 2016 was 16" indicating good growth. The abundant alewife and gizzard shad population should support these catfish and they should provide another unique angling opportunity. The daily bag limit for blue catfish is one (1). Check the [2017 Fishing Guide](#) for details and the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for help differentiating between blue and channel catfish.



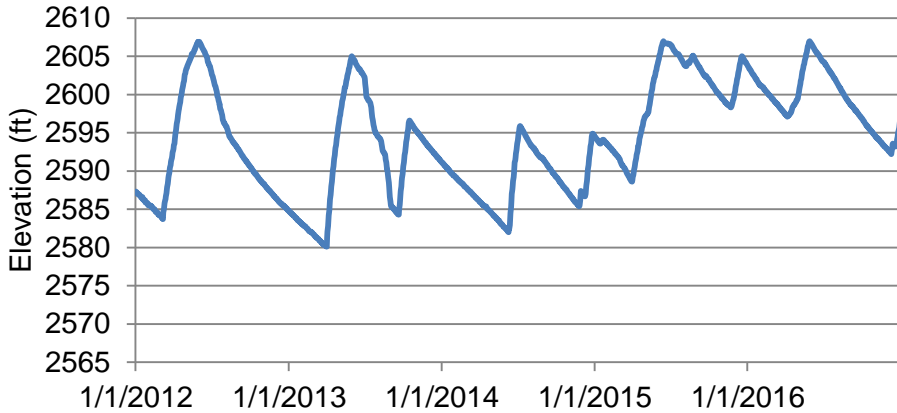
June 29, 2016 – walleye stocking

Elwood Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System every year. Many factors are at play when stocking selections are made. Below you will find Elwood's stocking history for the past eleven years. For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Reports](#).

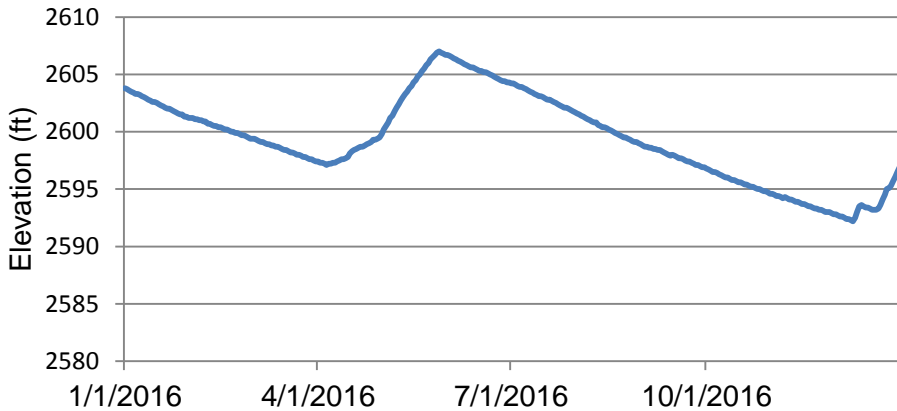
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Walleye	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hybrid striped bass	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Channel catfish		X		X				X		X	
Muskellunge						X		X		X	
Alewife		X									
Gizzard shad		X						X			
Yellow perch				X	X						
Black crappie					X						
Bluegill						X					
Largemouth bass						X					
Rock bass							X				
Spotted bass							X	X	X	X	X
Blue catfish									X		

For additional information about the fishery of Elwood Reservoir please contact Brad Newcomb, District Mgr. 308-865-5310, brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov
 Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025, jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov

Elwood Water Elevation January 2012 - December 2016

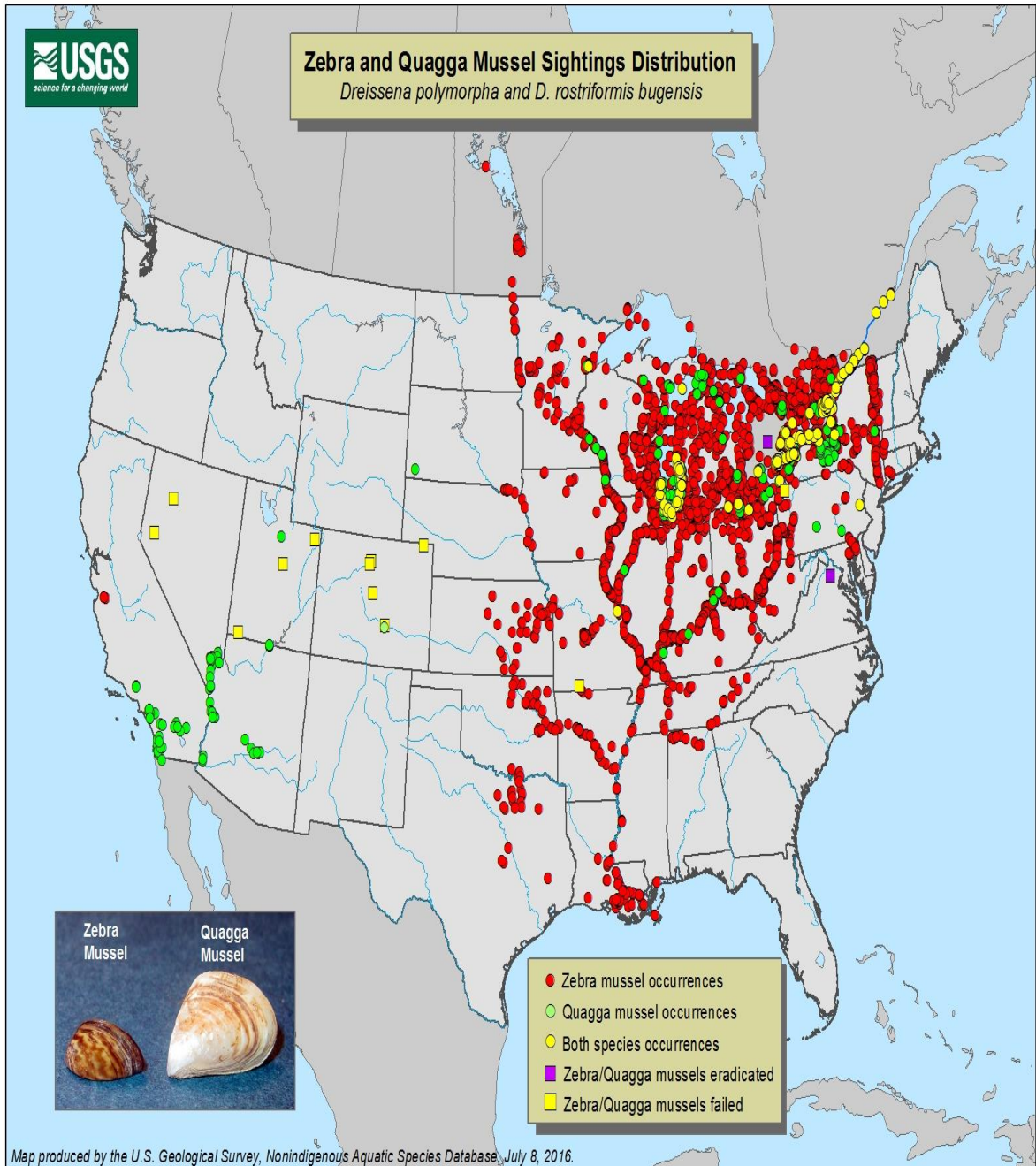


Elwood Water Elevation 2016



Elwood's water level changes frequently. Follow water level fluctuations at [CNPPID's Lake & Reservoir Elevation Site](#).

Distribution of invasive zebra and quagga mussels is getting closer and closer to SW Nebraska. The most recent finding was at Lewis and Clark Reservoir in NE Nebraska during 2015. This [map](#) portrays the spread of these invasive mussels and is updated often.





STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

According to Nebraska State Law, **it is illegal for watercraft to enter a Nebraska waterbody or leave a launch area while containing water.** This includes all containers, compartments, and equipment that are permanently attached to the watercraft.

AND

All aquatic vegetation must be removed from watercraft and trailers before leaving a launch area.

Protect Your Waters—Remember to **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY!**

