

# Enders Reservoir

## 2013 Survey Summary

Caleb Huber, Fisheries Biologist



Fish populations are sampled each fall at Enders Reservoir using gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish found in open water, such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and hybrid striped bass. Gill nets are set on approximately the same dates and locations each year to reduce variability. However, environmental factors can play a strong role in catch rate and composition data. Due to this variability biologists look at trends over time when making most management decisions rather than kneejerk decisions based on one data point.

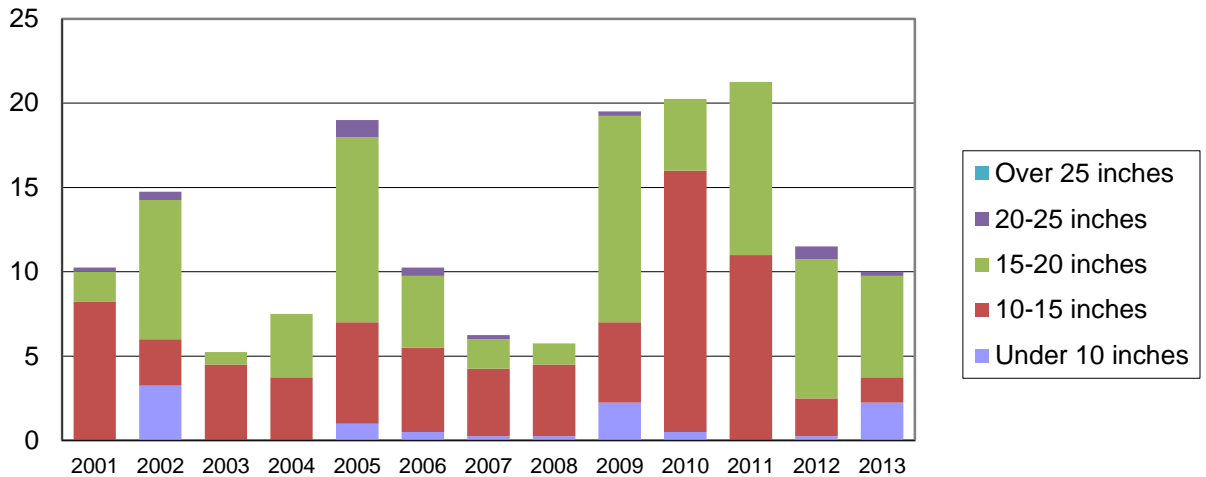
Enders Reservoir saw a sharp increase in lake elevation during the spring/summer of 2007 which really boosted the fishery and provided a “new lake” effect. There was increased recruitment and growth during this period that really led to some outstanding angler opportunities. Unfortunately, lake levels are dropping and it looks like the effects of the high water might be waning. It is estimated that Enders will lose approximately 6 feet of elevation in the 2014 year due to irrigation releases. The decrease in water levels will negatively impact both angling and recreational boating and it is possible that boat ramps will go out of service. Walleye numbers have been lower the last couple of years and there are fewer numbers of young of year fish in past surveys. This most likely indicates that recruitment is down, which will negatively affect overall population numbers in the coming years. However, recruitment looks pretty good for 2013 based on the number of small fish surveyed. Enders is stocked annually with walleye fry as natural recruitment is generally very low even under ideal circumstances. Data from the 2013 survey still shows good numbers of harvestable walleye and even a couple larger fish in excess of 20 inches.

Beginning in 2007 there was a sharp increase in white bass catch (30 fish per net) but that catch rate has been slowly declining. Biologists sampled 17 fish per net in 2013 which is still good compared to historic data but nothing like the surveys 4-5 years ago. There does appear to be at least some moderate recruitment success based on the number of small fish encountered in the fall surveys. This simply means that young fish are surviving and will be available to anglers as older fish are removed from the system.

In addition to walleye and white bass there are several other species of interest to anglers at Enders reservoir. Channel catfish are stocked regularly and do pretty well. In 2013 biologists sampled 12 catfish per net although most of the fish sampled were young and quite small (11-16 inches). Muskellunge are also stocked semiannually at Enders and in 2013 biologists sampled a large adult Muskie that would have been a great trophy.

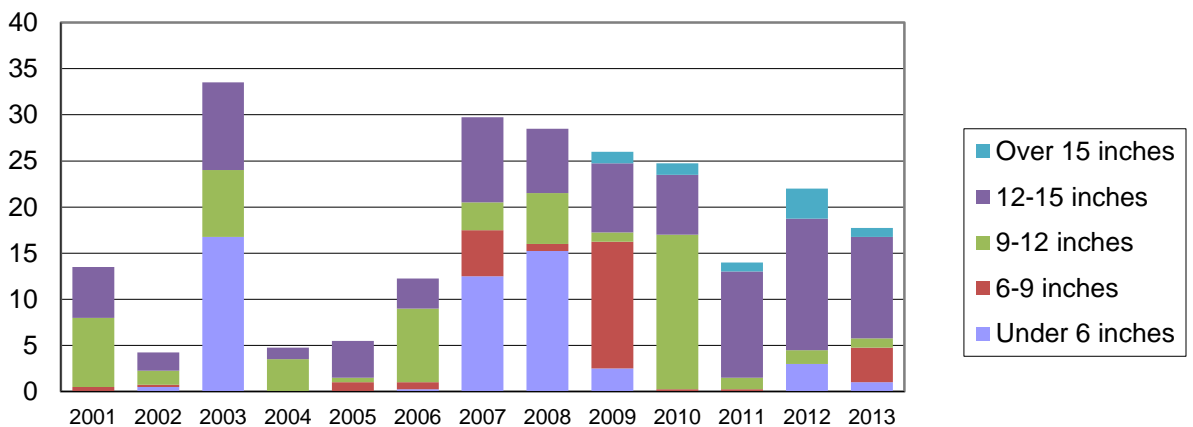
The following graphs show the average number of fish caught per net and the relative abundance of fish within several length categories. The text provides a brief explanation of the information shown in the graphs. Also included are 2013 summary graphs of some local waterbodies for comparison.

## Walleye Catch Per Unit Effort



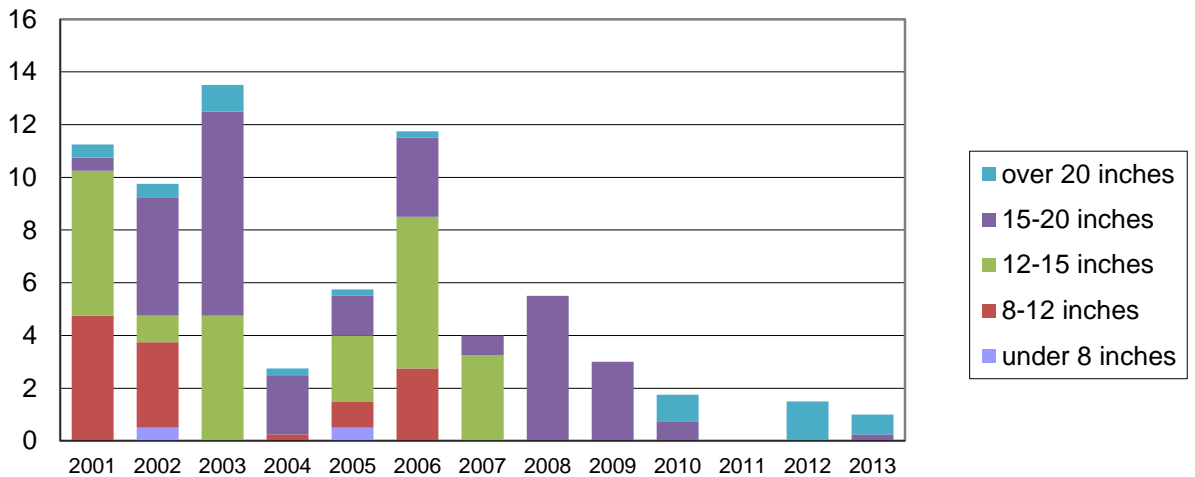
Enders has been an excellent walleye fishery beginning in 2009 but survey numbers were down a bit the last couple of years. Biologists sampled 10 walleye per net in 2013. Most of the fish sampled were over 15 inches which should mean good fishing for the 2014 season. In addition, there are good number of smaller fish in the system that will be available for harvest in the coming years. Walleye fry are stocked each year at Enders and are requested again in 2014.

## White Bass Catch Per Unit Effort



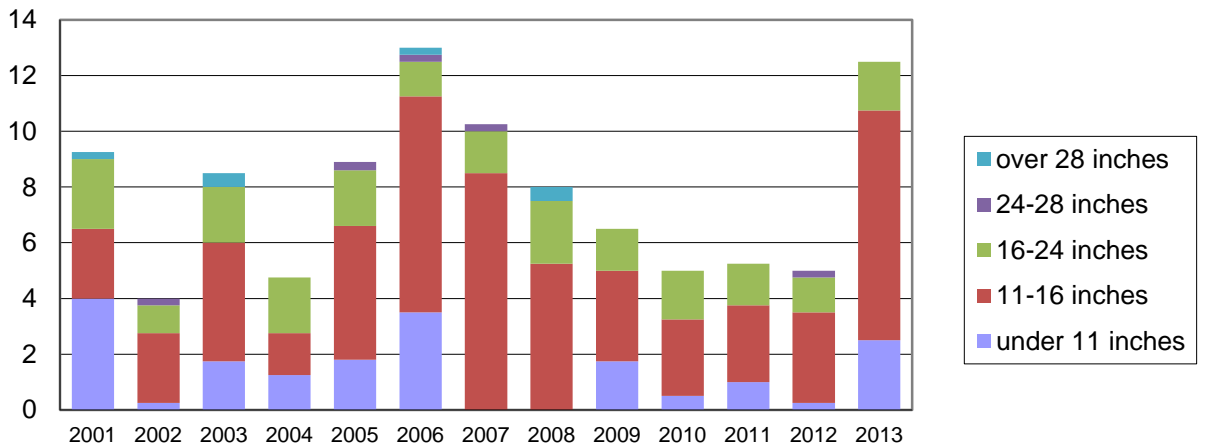
Biologist sampled 17 white bass per net in 2013. The white bass numbers have been really good for the last few years at Enders. In addition to a strong population there are also lots of big fish available. Approximately 75% of the fish sampled were over the 12 mark and a few fish were over 15 inches in length. Anglers should continue to have excellent white bass angling into the 2014 season.

## Hybrid Striped Bass Catch Per Unit Effort



Wipers have not been stocked into Enders since 2005 due to an increased emphasis on white bass production. Very few wipers were sampled in 2013. There are currently no plans to reintroduce wipers at this time or in the future.

## Channel Catfish Catch Per Unit Effort



Biologists sampled 12 channel catfish per net in 2013, which is a strong increase based on past survey results. This increase is most likely due to a timing issue related to fish stocked just prior to our survey date. Growth rates are fairly slow in this reservoir so most of these fish are still on the small size in 2014. Catfish angling should improve with time as these fish continue to grow. Channel catfish are stocked semi annually at 10-12 inches.

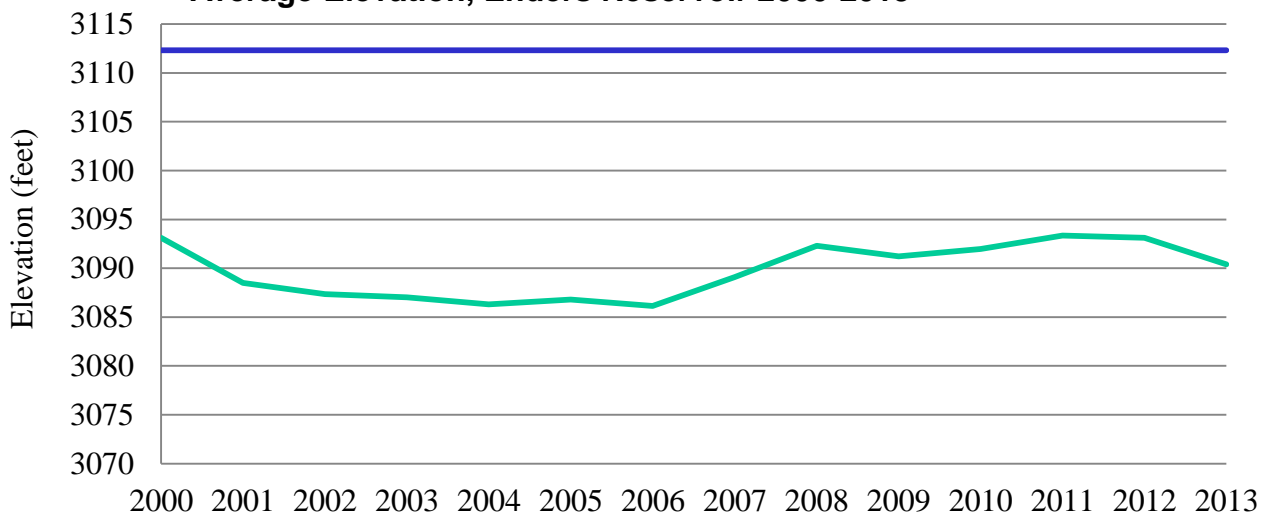
## Enders Reservoir Fish Stocking Summary

Year	Walleye	Channel Catfish	White Bass	Muskellunge	Yellow Perch
2013	1,890,400 (Fry)	4262 (10.5")		502 (13")	
2012	963,263 (Fry)		1,000,000 (Fry)		
2011	1,637,506 (Fry)	12,047 (10.5")		758 (12")	
2010	1,024,020 (Fry)				
2009	1,762,600 (Fry)	15,524 (10")			27621 (1")

Above is a table of fish stockings for the last 5 years at Enders Reservoir. The species stocked, number stocked, and fish size are presented in the table. Multiple species are stocked annually and a comprehensive database of fish stockings can be found at the Nebraska Game and Parks website or by following the link below.

[Stocking Database](#)

**Average Elevation, Enders Reservoir 2000-2013**



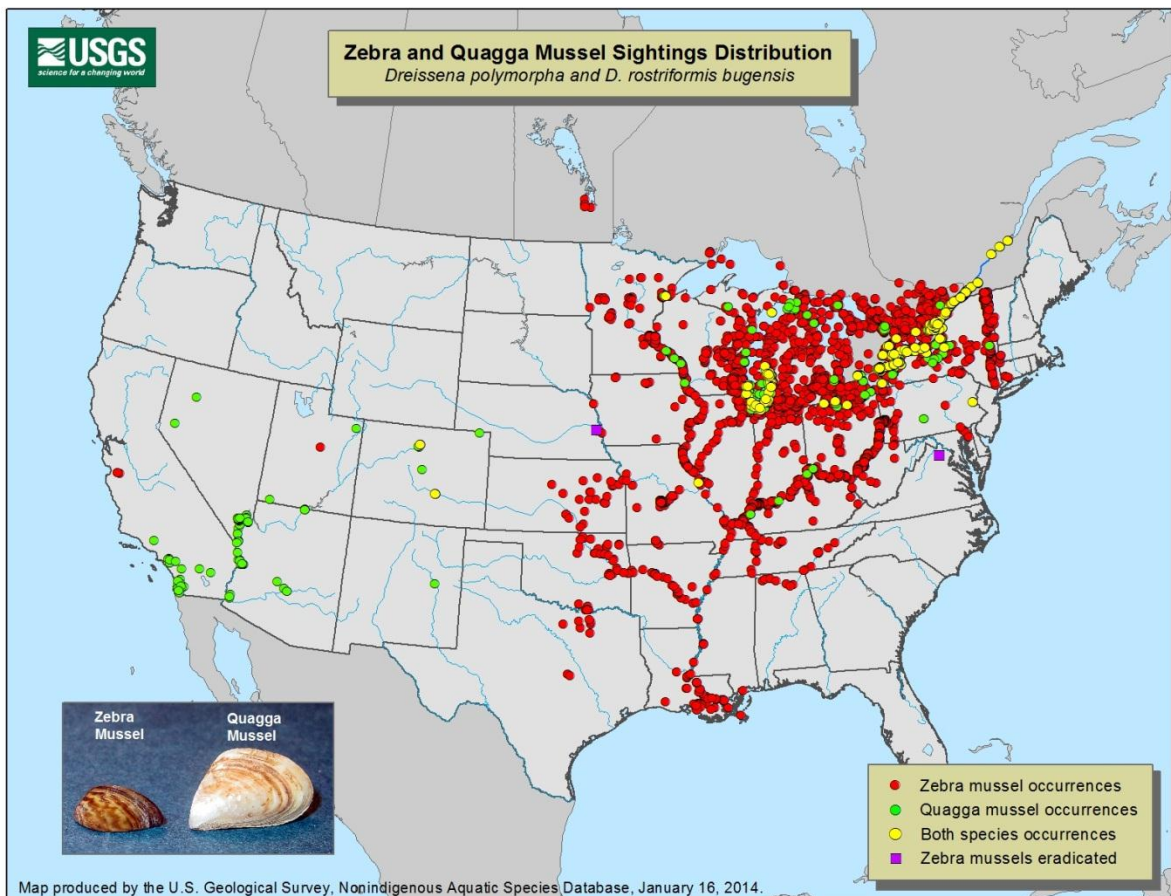
Water levels remain a management concern and contribute to reduced habitat quality, recreational opportunities, and fishing quality at Enders Reservoir. Currently the reservoir is operating at a low but stable level and has not released water for irrigation use since 2002. Unless there is a major rain event or increased inflows, Enders will probably remain at this lowered elevation. The dark blue line indicates the top of the active conservation pool and current elevation data can be found at this link: [Current Elevation](#)



# STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

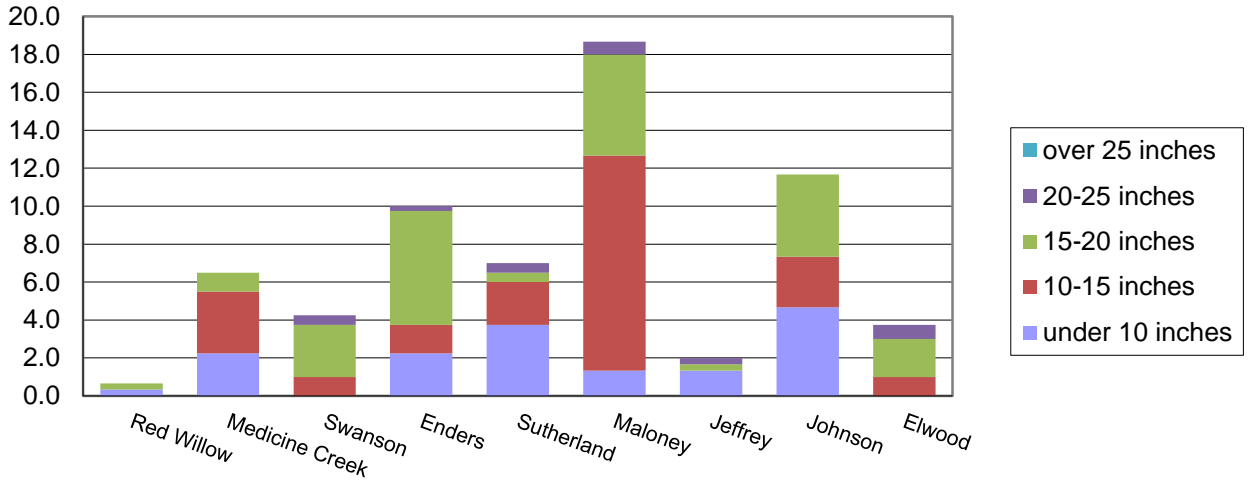
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)

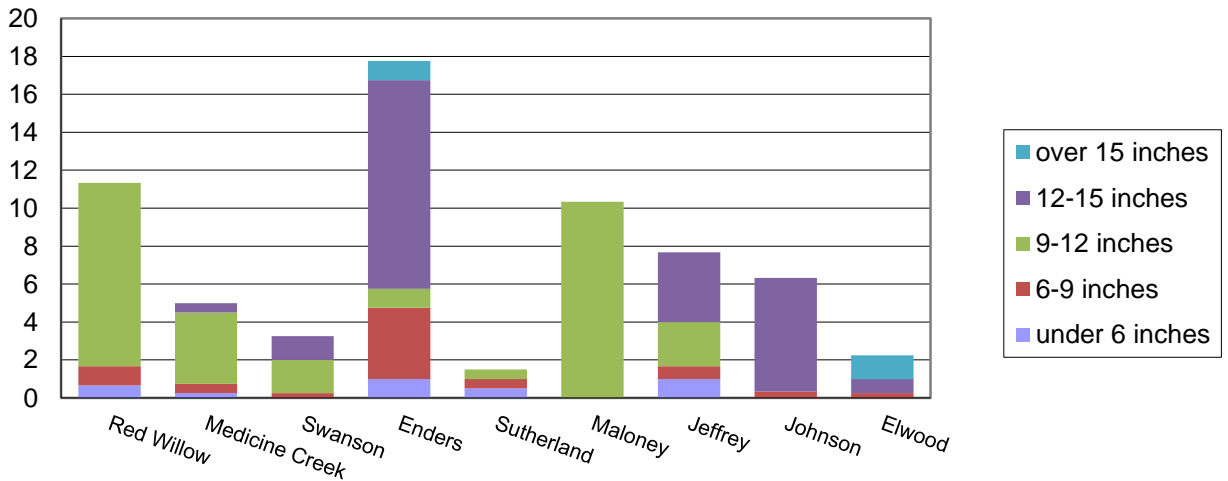


Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are getting closer to Nebraska waters all the time and have the potential for strong negative impacts on the State's aquatic resources. The spread of AIS can be prevented using the Clean, Drain, and Dry technique. Before leaving any water body make sure to drain or dump any standing water and remove debris that might be attached to the boat or trailer. If possible allow the watercraft to completely dry before launching at another area. Follow the link: [Nebraska Invasives Species Program](#) or call 402-472-3133 to report any possible AIS sightings or for more information about AIS in Nebraska

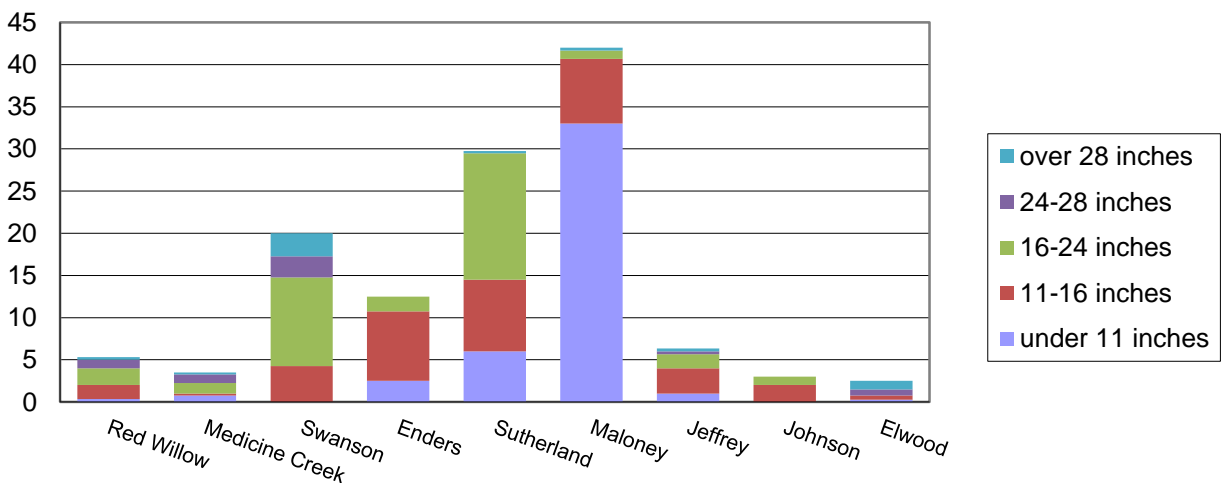
## 2013 Southwest District Walleye Catch



## 2013 Southwest District White Bass Catch



## 2013 Southwest District Channel Catfish Catch



# 2013 Southwest District Wiper Catch

