

# Enders Reservoir

## 2014 Survey Summary

Caleb Huber, Fisheries Biologist



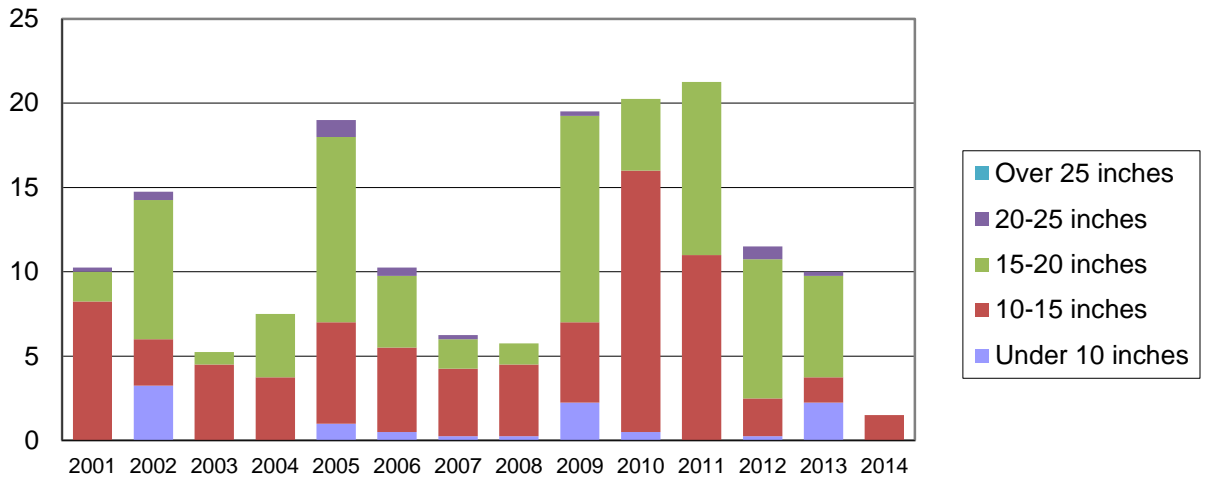
Fish populations are sampled each fall at Enders Reservoir using gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish found in open water, such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and hybrid striped bass. Gill nets are set on approximately the same dates and locations each year to reduce variability. 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.

The elevation at Enders was lowered almost 6 feet in 2014 due to compact compliance requirements. The most noticeable effect of the drawdown is that all the permanent boat launch facilities were no longer in service. A temporary boat ramp is located across the dam at Catfish Cove. This facility consists of two gravel ramps, a floating dock, and limited parking area. Four wheel drive is recommended. In addition to decreased boat access, the fish populations are starting to feel the strain. Survey numbers for walleye and white bass are both down markedly in 2014. These decreases may be due to a combination of the following factors; loss of nursery habitat, decreased recruitment, fish escapage during the release, and increased angler harvest. In an effort to combat these challenging conditions, walleye fingerlings are being requested for the spring of 2015. It is possible that survival of fingerlings will be higher than the fry that have been stocked in recent years. The current stocking plan will alternate between fry and fingerling stockings until personnel determines which strategy is most effective for the current conditions.

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 well. In 2014 biologists sampled 6 catfish per which is down from the 2013 data. However the 2013 catch rate was strongly influenced by recently stocked fish. It is also important to note that Muskellunge are stocked in very low numbers to provide a unique fishery and as a control for rough fish such as common carp and carpsuckers. Crappie, bluegill, northern pike, largemouth bass and smallmouth bass are also available in limited numbers for angler seeking other species.

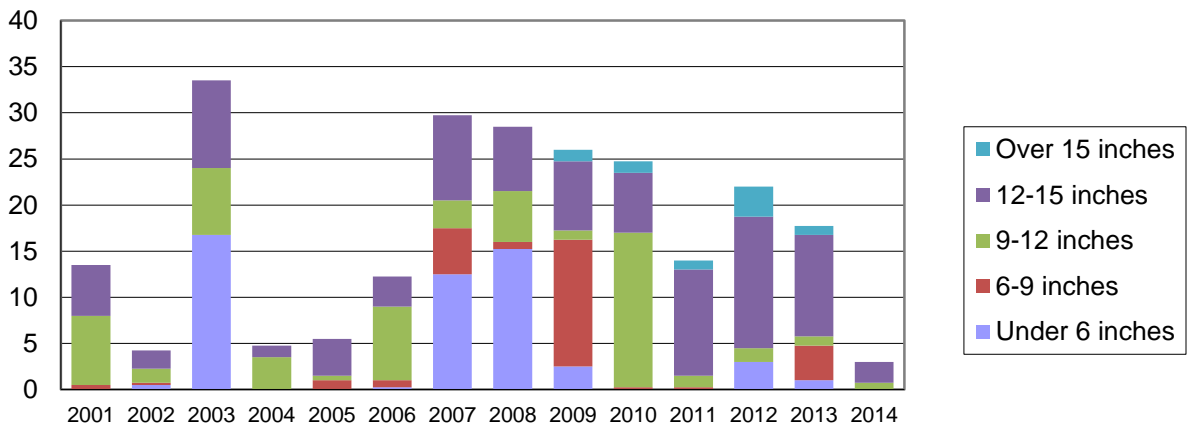
The following graphs show the average number of fish caught per net and the relative abundance of fish within several length categories. The text provides a brief explanation of the information shown in the graphs. Also included are 2014 summary graphs of some local waterbodies for comparison.

## Walleye Catch Per Unit Effort



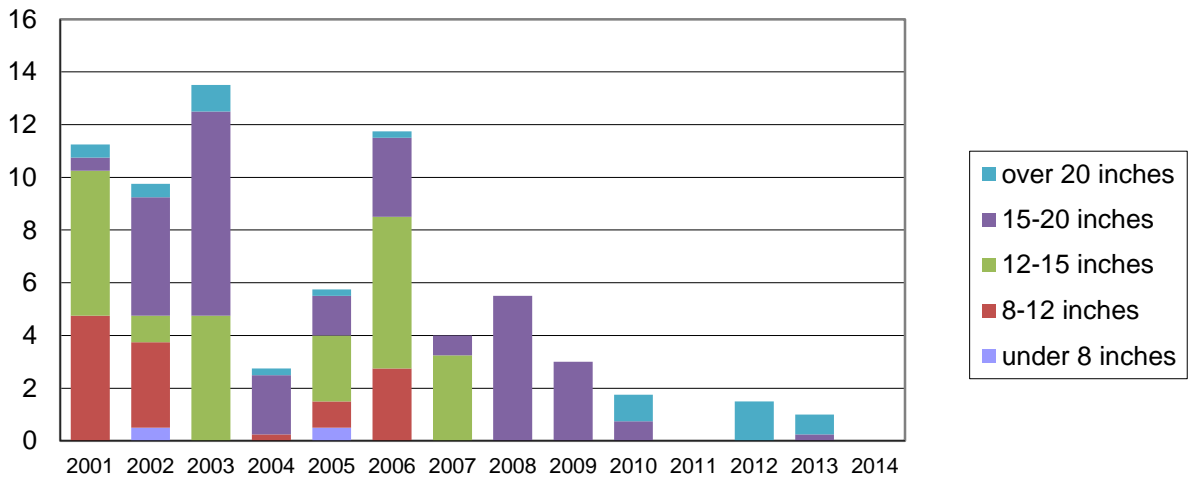
Walleye numbers at Enders reservoir have been declining for the last three years. Low water levels and increased harvest are the most likely explanation for the decrease. Biologist surveyed 2 walleye per net in 2014 compared to 10 fish per net in 2013. In an effort to determine the appropriate stocking strategy for the current low water conditions at Enders Reservoir, fingerling and fry stocking will be alternated annually. Currently there are 31,250 (50/acre) walleye requested for spring of 2015.

## White Bass Catch Per Unit Effort



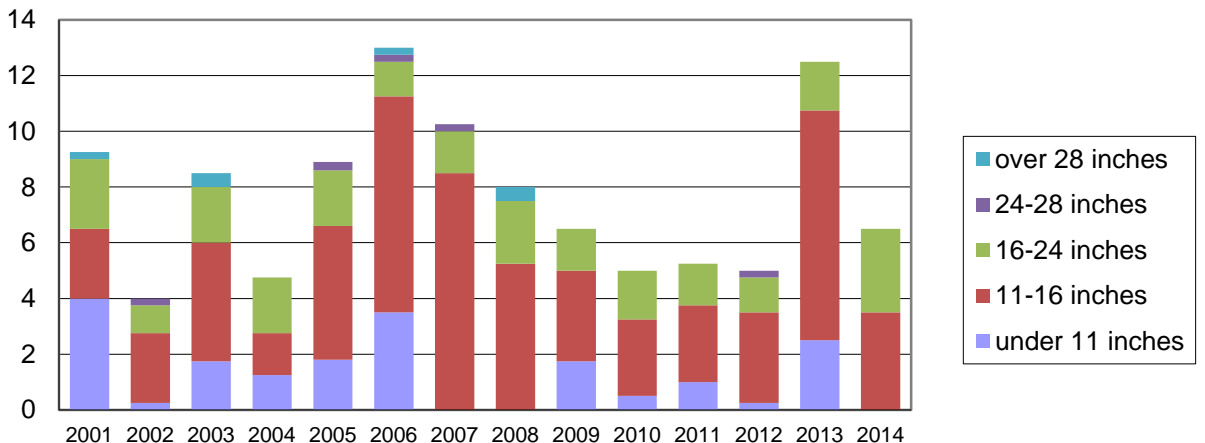
Biologists sampled 3 white bass per net in the 2014 fall survey which is down sharply from previous surveys. The fish sampled were large adults and should provide brood stock in the future. There are no plans to stock white bass in 2014 but if populations do not rebound quickly it will be necessary to supplement with hatchery fish.

## 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. There were no wipers sampled in 2014 which indicates that there are very few if any wipers remaining in Enders. There are currently no plans to reintroduce wipers at this time or in the future.

## Channel Catfish Catch Per Unit Effort



Biologist sampled 6 channel catfish per net in 2014 which is down from the 2013 survey. This is not alarming because the 2013 survey was influenced strongly by fish that were recently stocked. The data from 2014 is on par with the average survey data at Enders. There are plenty of harvestable fish and probably an occasional trophy fish available for the catfish angler. Channel catfish are stocked semiannually at Enders Reservoir.

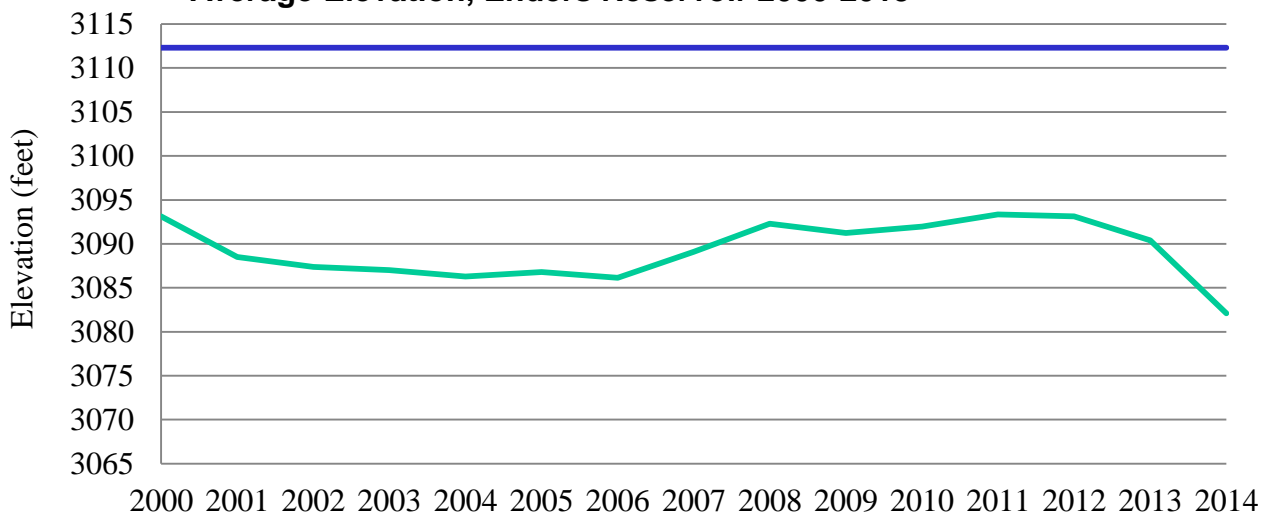
## Enders Reservoir Fish Stocking Summary

Year	Walleye	Channel Catfish	White Bass	Muskellunge
2014	1,172,488 (Fry)			
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)			

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**



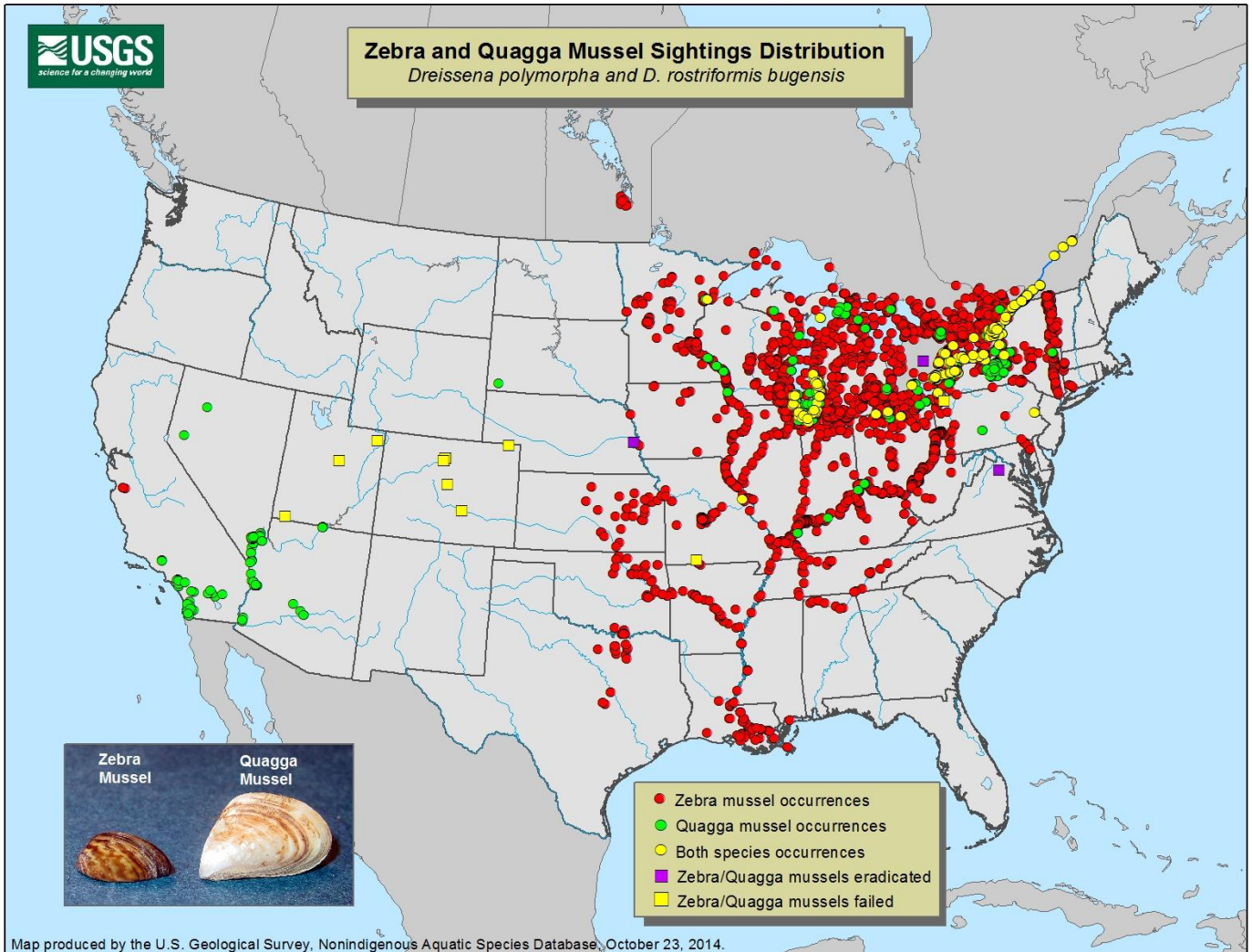
Water levels remain a management concern and contribute to reduced habitat quality, recreational opportunities, and fishing quality at Enders Reservoir. Approximately 6 feet of elevation was released in 2014 which left all permanent ramps out of service due to low water levels. A primitive ramp was installed and there is discussion about extending the current launch facilities. 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!™

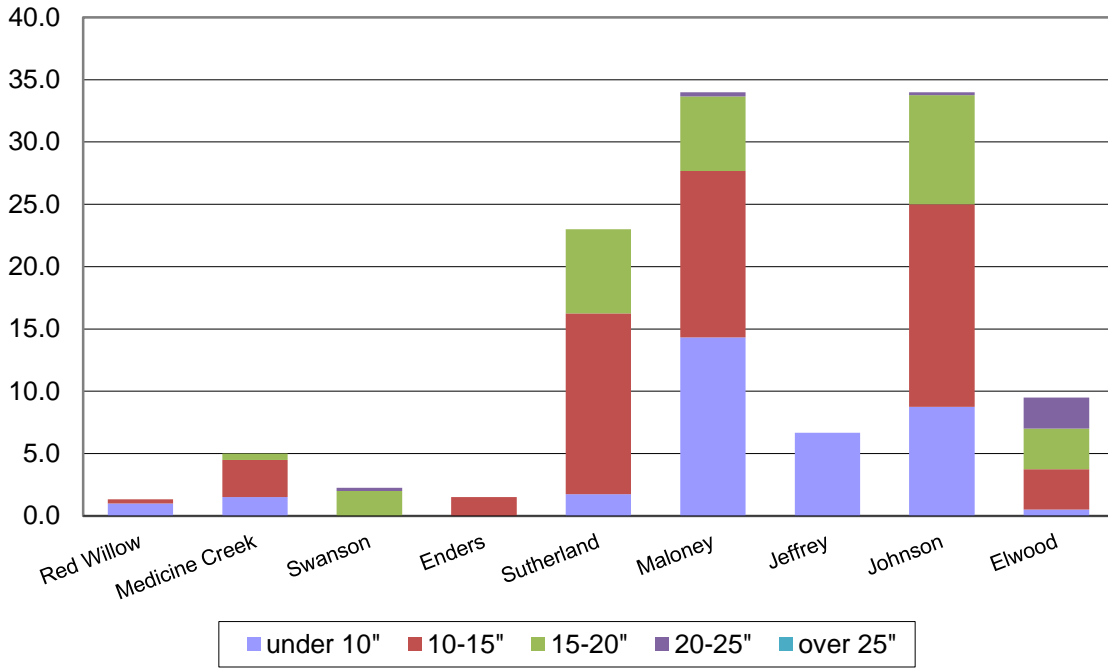
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.  
Clean all recreational equipment.

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

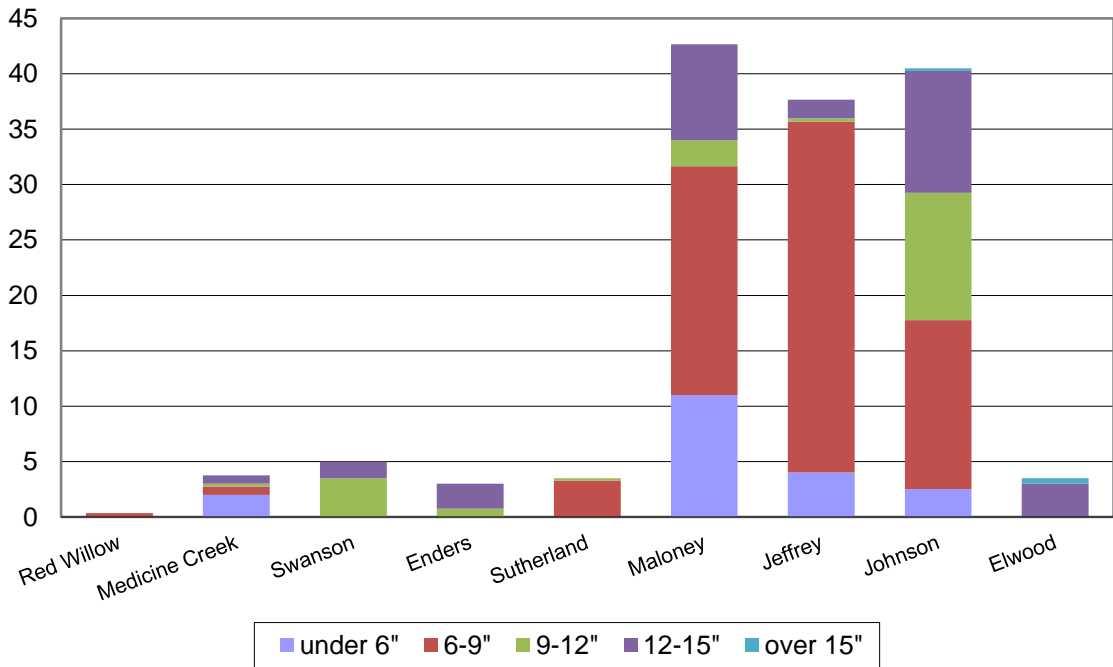


Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are getting closer to Nebraska waters all the time and have the potential for strong negative impacts on the State's aquatic resources. The spread of AIS can be prevented using the Clean, Drain, and Dry technique. Before leaving any water body make sure to drain or dump 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

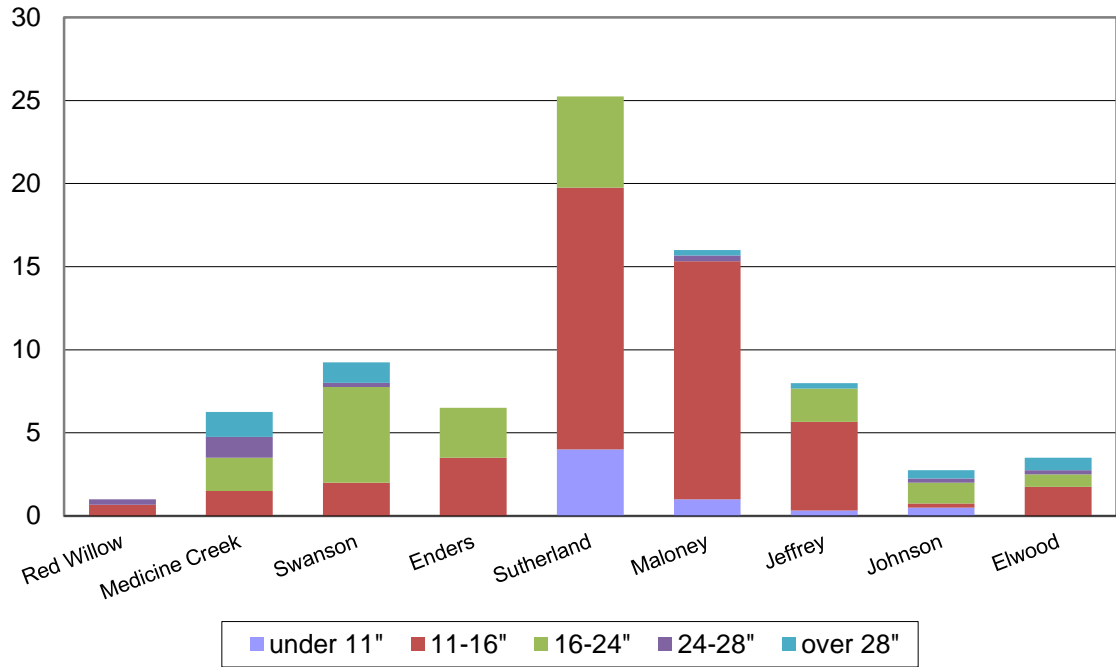
## 2014 Southwest District Walleye Catch



## 2014 Southwest District White Bass Catch



## 2014 Southwest District Channel Catfish Catch



## 2014 Southwest District Wiper Catch

