

Johnson Reservoir 2022 Fall Survey Summary



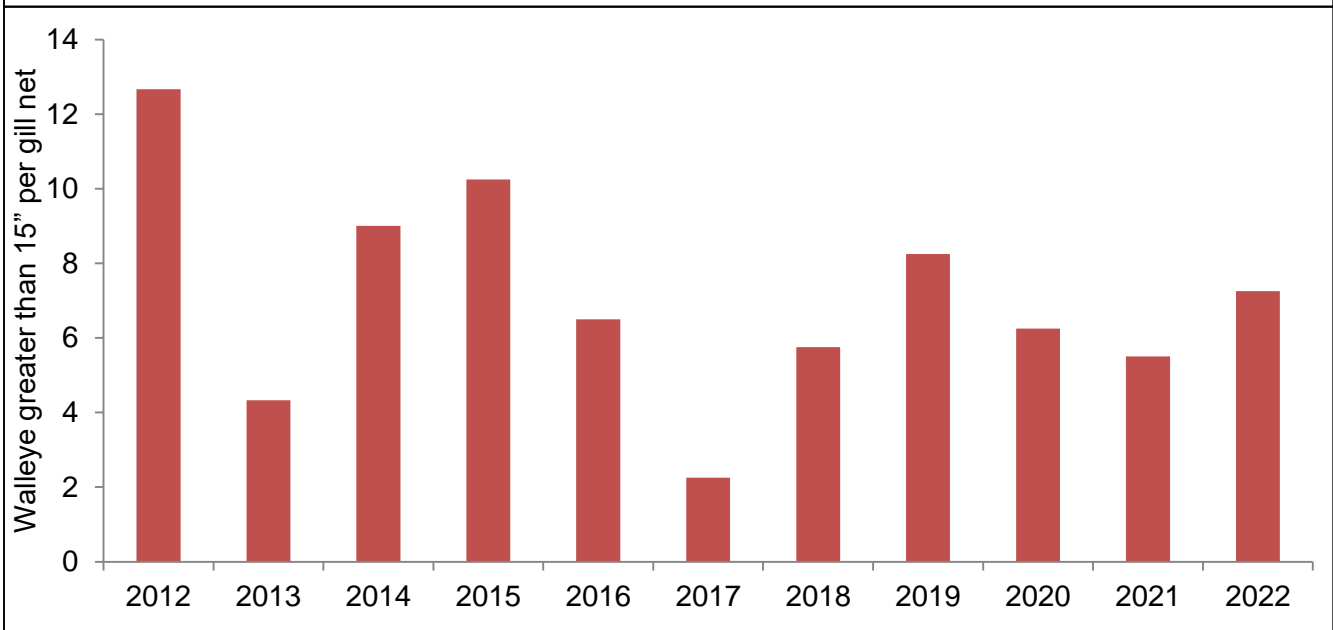
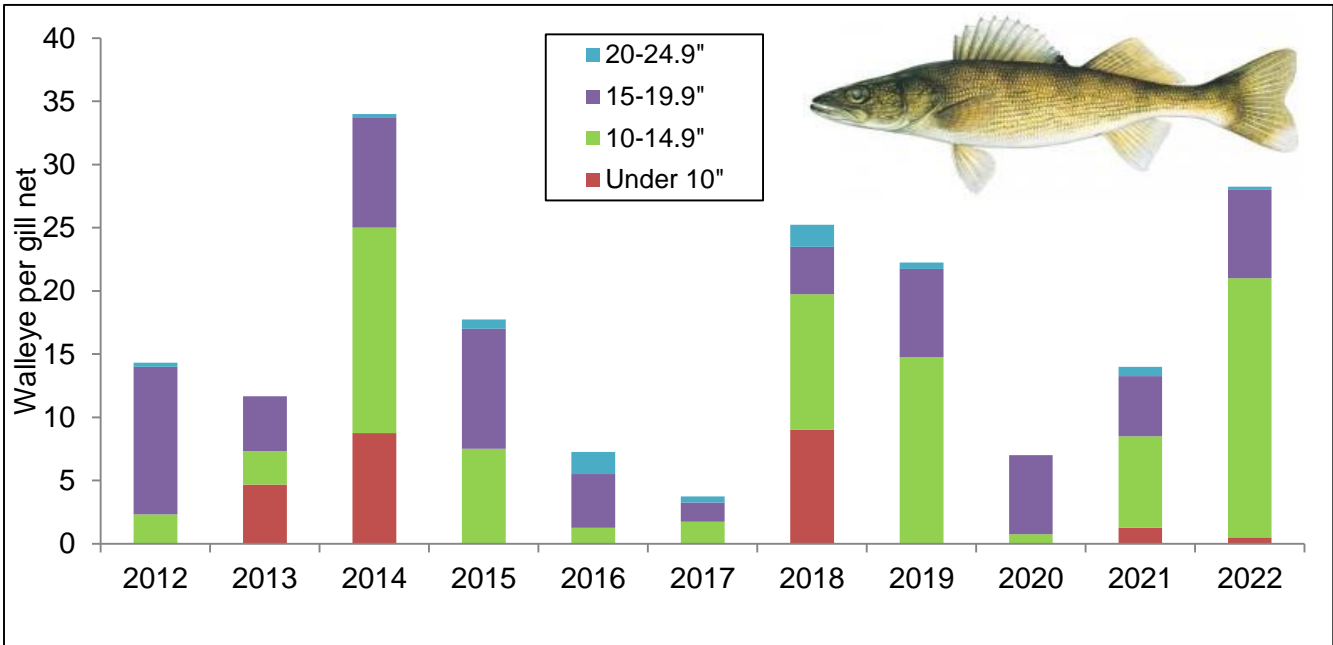
Jared Lorensen, Fisheries Biologist

Johnson Reservoir is a 2,189 surface acre reservoir on Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District's (CNPPID) Supply Canal System. CNPPID manages Johnson Reservoir for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation purposes. There is an inlet with improved angler access amenities at this site. Notice other characteristics utilizing [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Page](#).

Information collected from [standard surveys](#) allows 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.

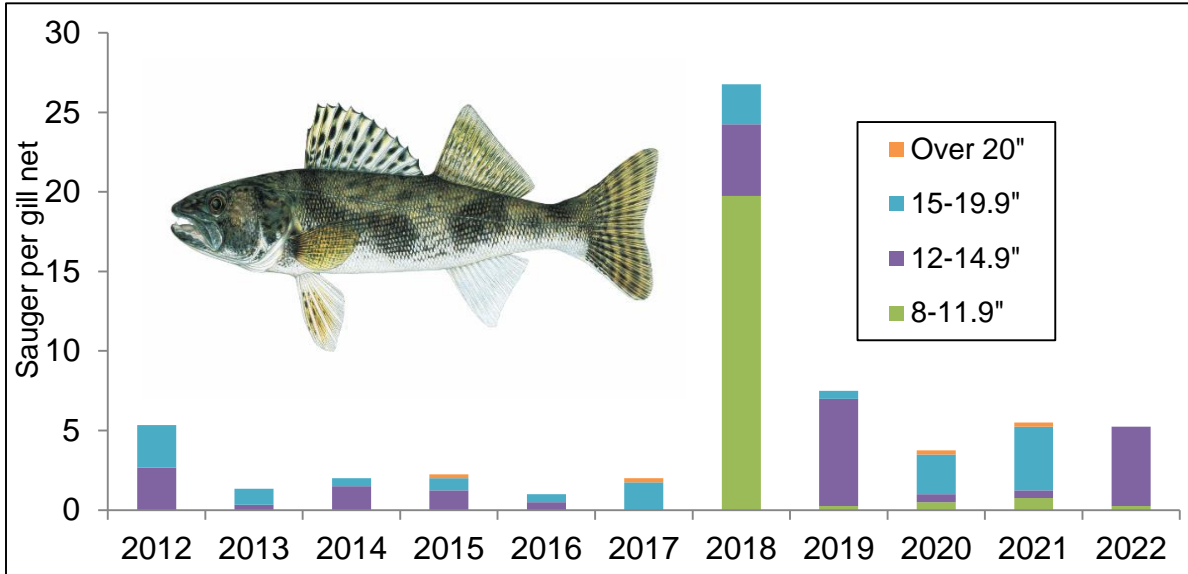


Walleye



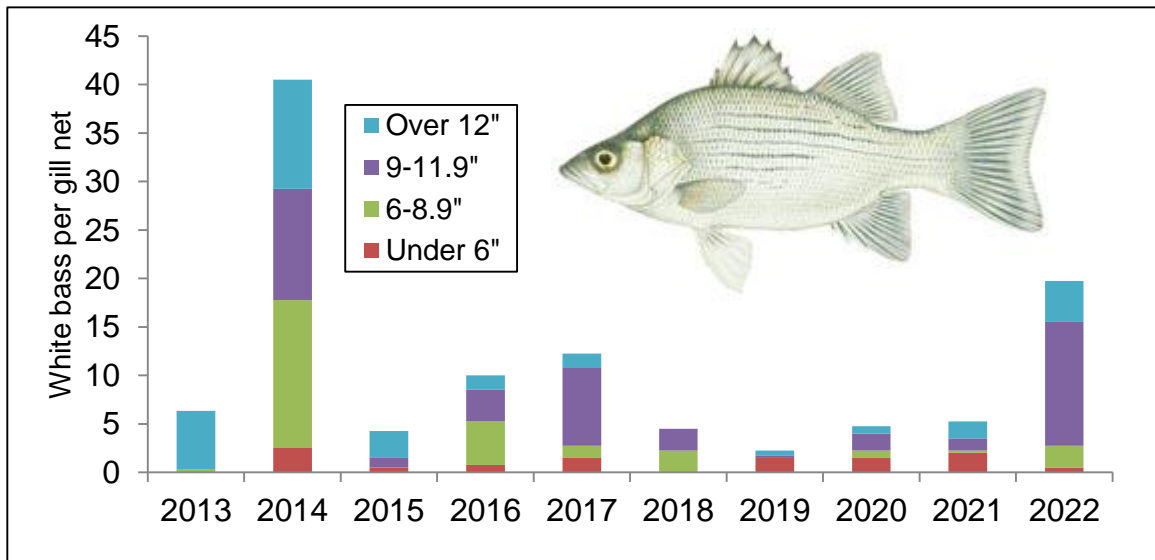
The 2022 survey was improved with 28.25 walleye sampled per gill net as average catch is approximately 17. Of those sampled in 2022, 2% were less than 10 inches, 72% were 10 to 14.9 inches, 25% were 15 to 19.9 inches and 1% were 20 to 24.9 inches. The overall average length was 14". Data collected from the survey indicates that the majority of walleye sampled were one. Walleye typically reach 15 inches in 2.5 years.

Sauger



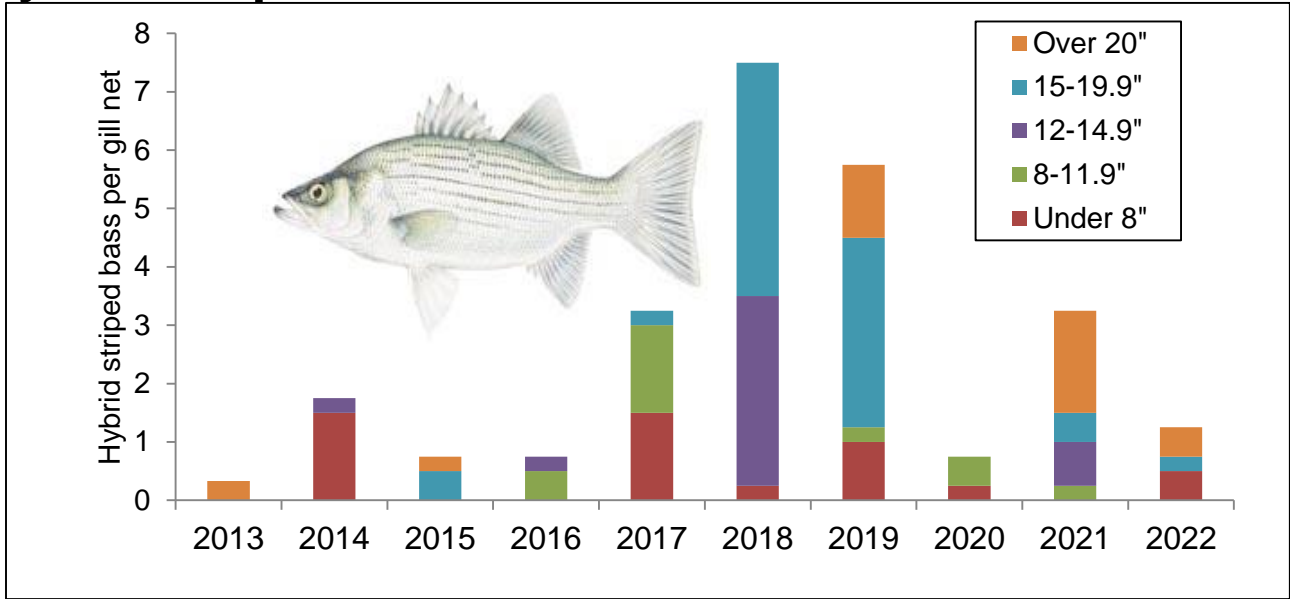
Average catch since 2012 is 5.7 per net. During 2022, 5.25 sauger per net were sampled. Average length of fish was 16.25". Current data suggests that sauger in Johnson have the potential to reach 15" after approximately two and a half years of age. This species is not stocked in Johnson, but are stocked annually in upstream reservoirs. Sauger appear quite similar to walleye and harvest is regulated in combination for these two species. Access [NGPC's Fish Identification Tool](#) and the [2023 Fishing Guide](#).

White bass



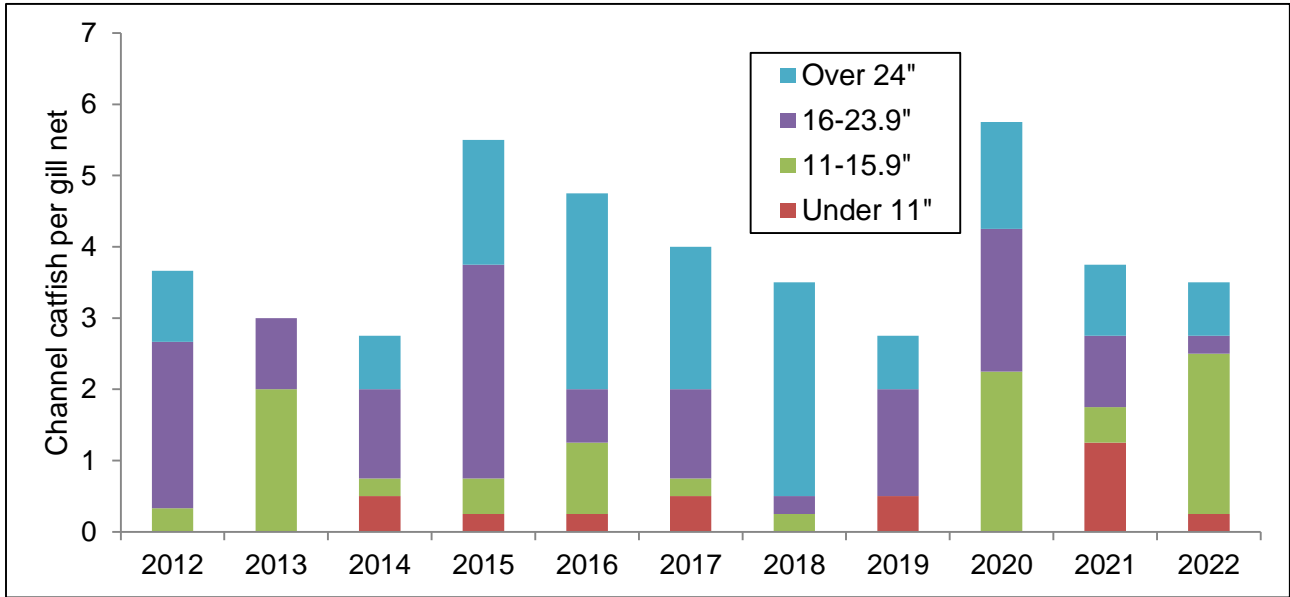
White bass reproduction and recruitment is often sporadic in Nebraska reservoirs. The 2022 white bass catch was 19.75 fish per net and was the highest catch since 2014. Of these surveyed, 3% were under 6 inches, 11% 6 to 8.9 inches, 65% 9 to 11.9 inches and 21% over 12 inches.

Hybrid Striped Bass



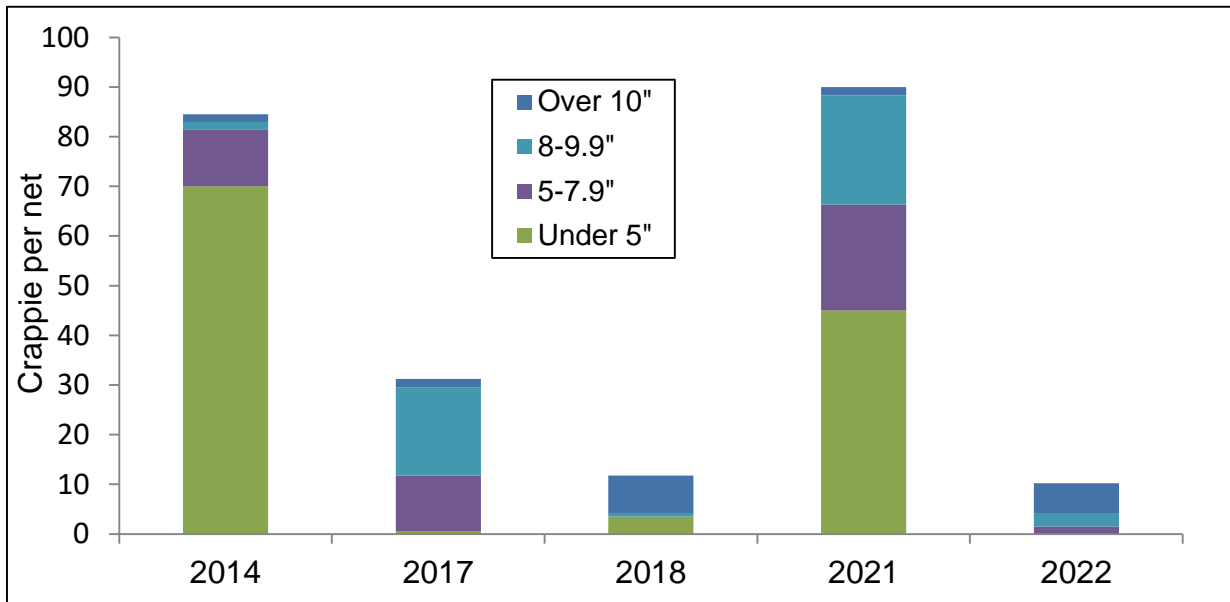
The 2022 hybrid striped bass (wiper) survey data indicates a desirable population with 1.25 per gill net. These fish averaged 14.6" in length and the longest was 23". Access [NGPC's Fish Identification](#) tool for hybrid striped bass and white bass differentiation and the [2023 Fishing Guide](#) as only one white bass or wiper over 16" is allowed.

Channel catfish



Channel catfish survey data from 2022 is encouraging for the future of angling as a large portion were Under 15.9". The largest sampled was 29.6".

Crappie



Crappie surveys take place when water elevation is sufficient for trap net usage. Of the 41 crappie collected 15% were under 8 inches, 27% 8 to 10" and 58% over 10 inches. Both species of crappie are included in the graph. Black crappie composed 95% of the 2022 sample.



Stockings

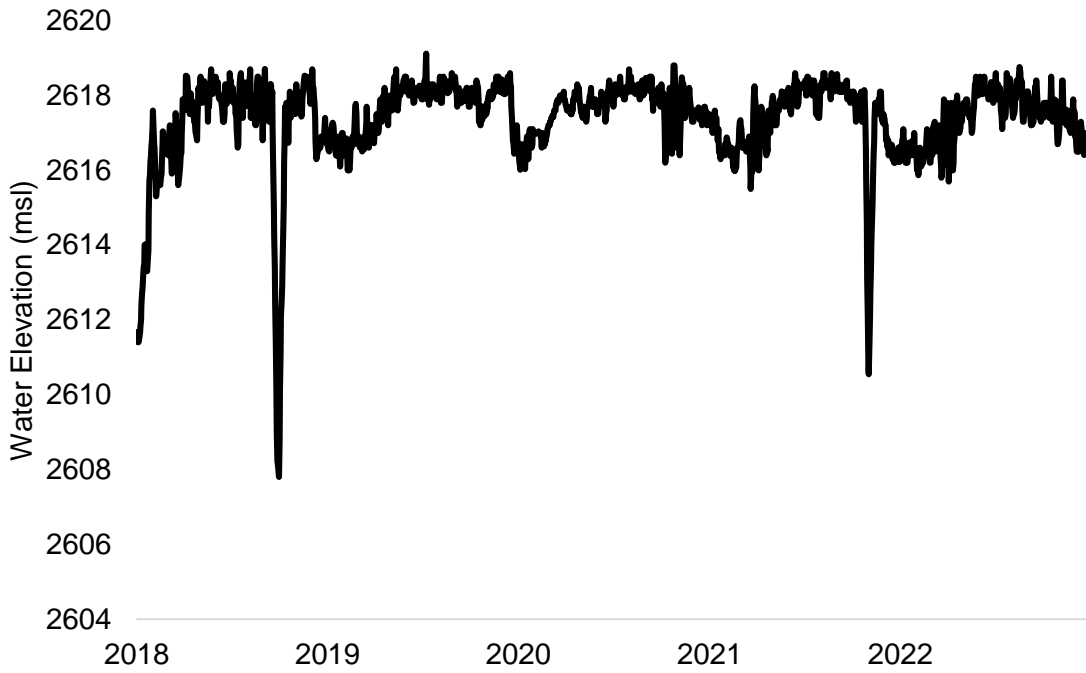


Johnson Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC’s Hatchery System every year. Many factors can affect eventual stockings such as inclement weather, gear failure and changes in strategies. For this reason, 2023’s request is tentative (*). For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Reports](#).

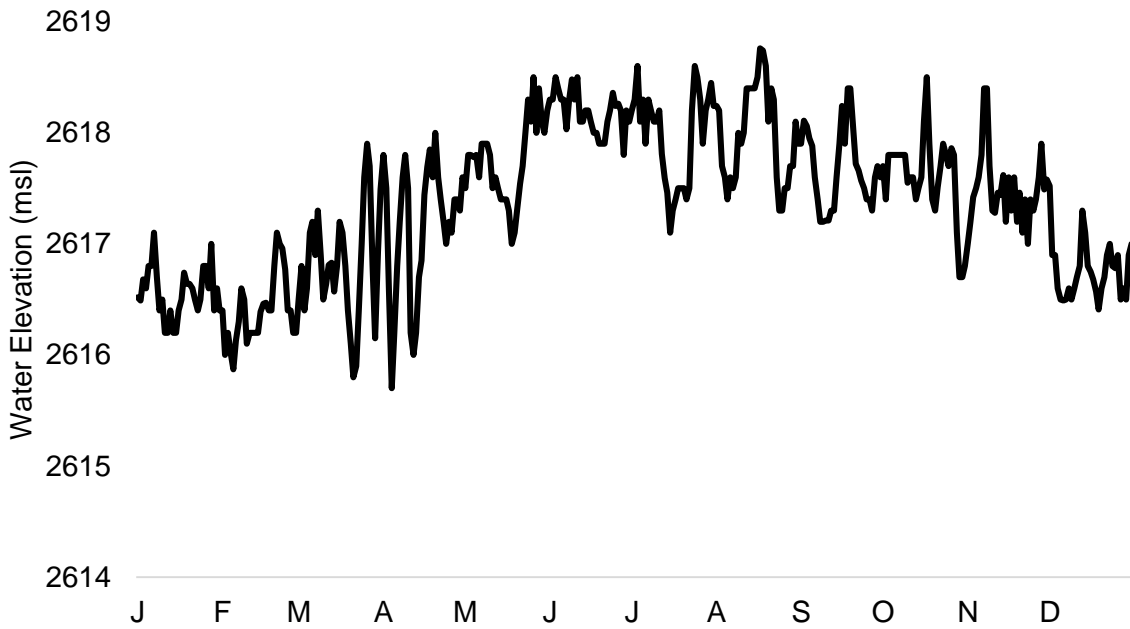
<u>Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)</u>	<u>Yellow Perch</u>	<u>Channel catfish</u>
2012	219,375-1.3-1.4:"			37,470-5"
2013	239,082-1.2"	10,963-1.2"	60,048-3"	
2014	168,295-1.5"	21,890-1.3"		
2015	219,317-1.5"	10,945-1.3"	85,078-2.6-2.8"	
2016	218,872-1.5"			
2017	219,143-2"		73,4489-3"	
2018	218,820-1.5"			
2019	237,497-1.75"		85,528-2.75	
2020	218,888-1.25"	11,000-1.25"		
2021	3,277,000-fry 135,293-1.5"		64,812-1.5"	13,135-5.5"
2022	219,904-1.25 2,063,457-fry			
2023*	2,189,000-fry 109,450-2"			

Water Elevation

2018-2022



2022

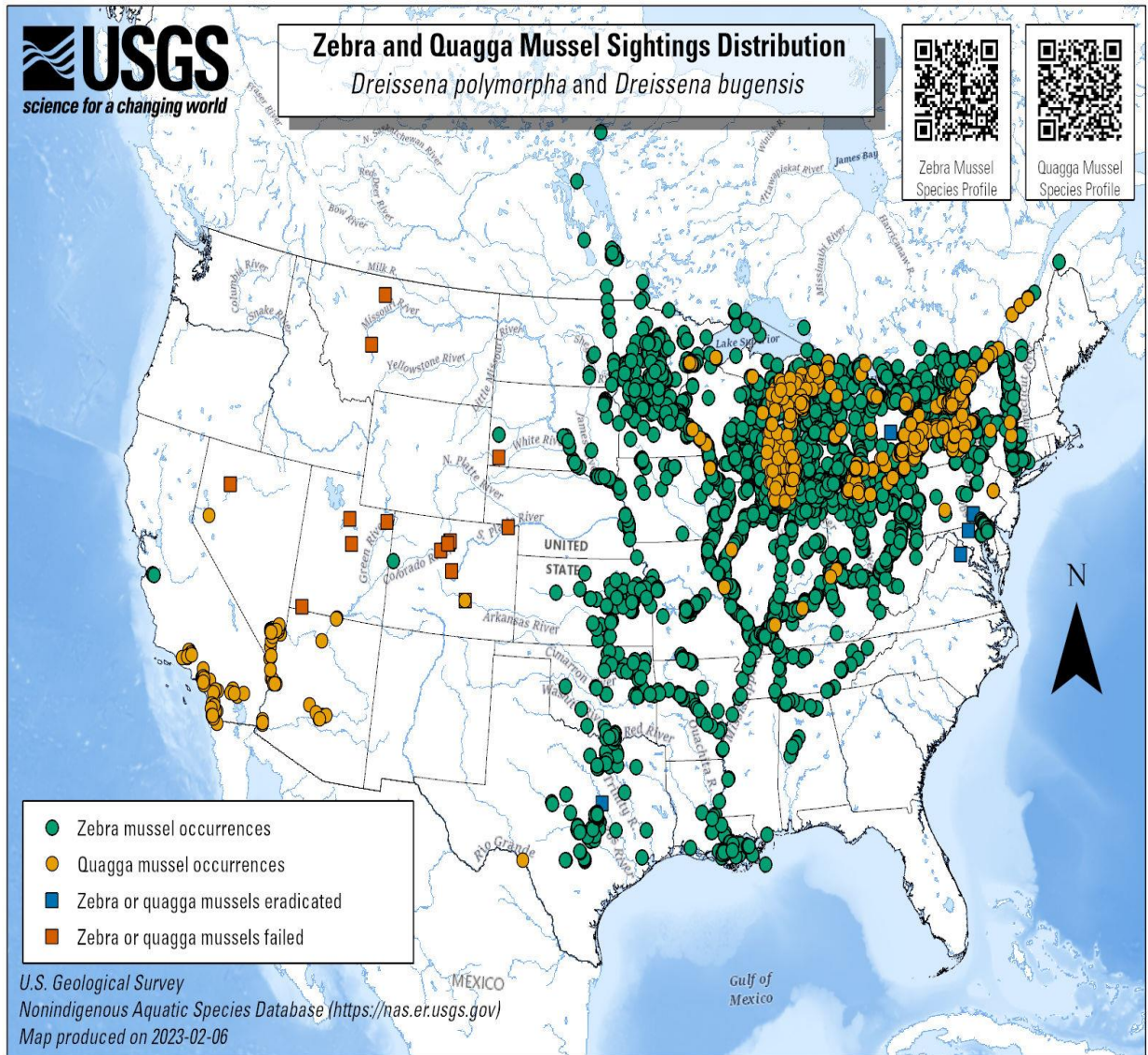


Phillips Canyon Lake

Downstream of Johnson Lake is 142 acre Phillips Canyon Reservoir. The existing boat launch facility has been in poor condition for many years and has been a cause of many complaints. A new boat launch facility in a new location is planned to be constructed during 2023. CNPPID is heavily involved in this project along with NGPC. The new location will be managed as a [State Recreation Area](#).



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)



- **Zebra mussel** distribution is expanding, especially in Kansas and South Dakota. Currently the only waterbodies in Nebraska with confirmed zebra mussel infestations are the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark Lake, Lake Yankton and Offutt Base Lake.
- NGPC employs technicians to inspect watercraft for AIS with the goal of preventing infestations. In 2022, 6,627 watercraft were inspected statewide and more are planned in 2023.
- **To report AIS utilize 402-471-7602 or ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov**

If you have questions or concerns about Johnson's fishery please contact Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025, jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov
Brad Eifert, District Mgr. 308-865-5331, brad.eifert@nebraska.gov