

# Maloney Reservoir

## 2013 Fall Survey Summary



Jared Lorensen, Fisheries Biologist

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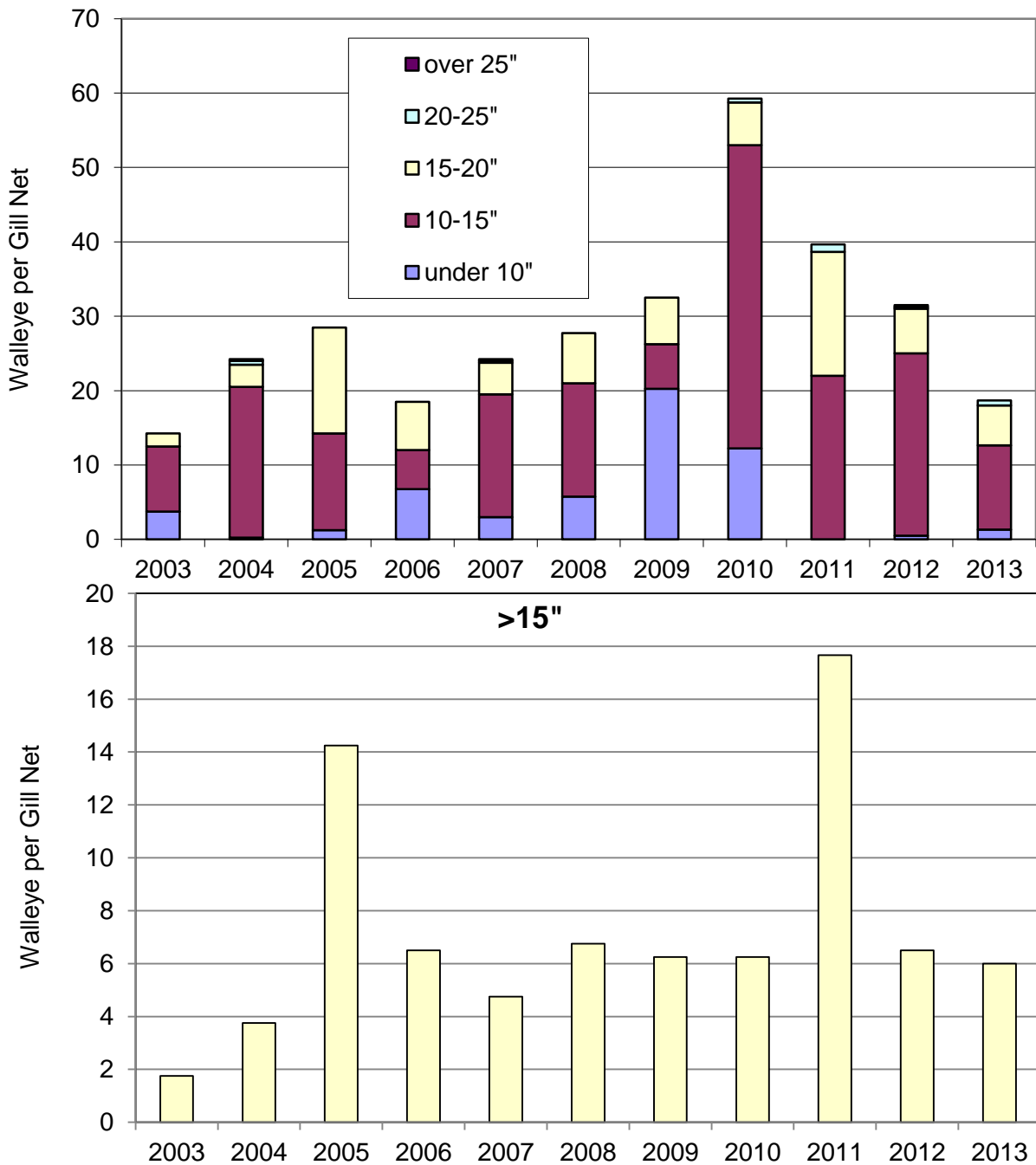
Lake Maloney is the second canal reservoir downstream from Lakes McConaughy and Ogallala. It is approximately 1600 surface acres. This reservoir is utilized for regulation of water used by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Lake Maloney offers unique fishing opportunities as a result of its functionality. Notice these aspects at [http://www.nppd.com/assets/public\\_recreation.pdf](http://www.nppd.com/assets/public_recreation.pdf) and water depth contours at <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/fishing/programs/lakemapping/pdfs/maloney.pdf>.



Every fall the fishery at Lake Maloney is sampled using experimental gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish found primarily in open water, such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and hybrid striped bass. These nets are made of clear monofilament mesh strung between a weighted line and a floating line. Mesh size ranges from  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch to 3 inches and the nets are typically set perpendicular to the shoreline in 6 to 12 feet of depth during late afternoon with an orange floating buoy on the ends to deter boats from being entangled and for ease of retrieval. Gill nets create an invisible wall in the water column that fish cannot sense so they are entangled by their gills as they attempt to move through.

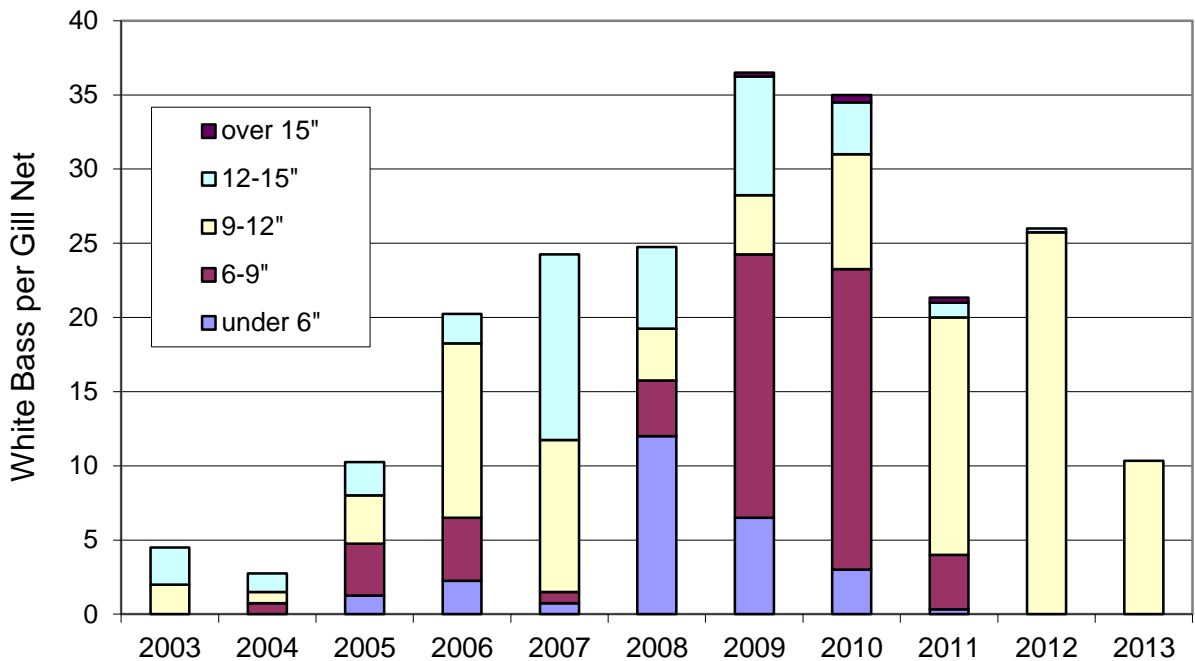
The following text and graphs are the result of the 2013 gill netting survey at Lake Maloney. Graphs represent number of each species captured per gill net by length group. For comparative purposes it also shows results from previous years.

# Walleye



Walleye abundance in survey data has been on a downward trend since the peak during 2010. Quantity greater than 15" in length has remained relatively constant over the last 7 years (excluding 2011). Only 32% of those sampled were over 15" in 2013. Average length of those sampled was 14.1". In 2013, 40,160 walleye fingerlings (1.3") were stocked and a similar stocking is requested for 2014. Current age and growth analysis indicates that it takes three years of growth before a walleye reaches a length greater than 15" in

# White bass



The quantity of white bass sampled was lower than 2011 and 2012 but all were greater than 9". The mean length was 10.9" and they were naturally produced during 2009 and 2010. White bass population density can be cyclical and current age and growth data indicates that it takes Lake Maloney white bass 3 years to reach 10".

**The statewide one-over length daily bag limit regulation has changed for striped bass, white bass and their hybrids. Starting January 1, 2013 only one may be kept over 16 inches.** This regulation change was made to decrease harvest of hybrid striped bass greater than 16 inches. Notice fishing regulation changes in the 2013-2014 Fishing Guide at <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/Fishing/guides/fishguide/pdf/FishGuide.pdf> or pick up a print copy at your local vendor or NGPC office.

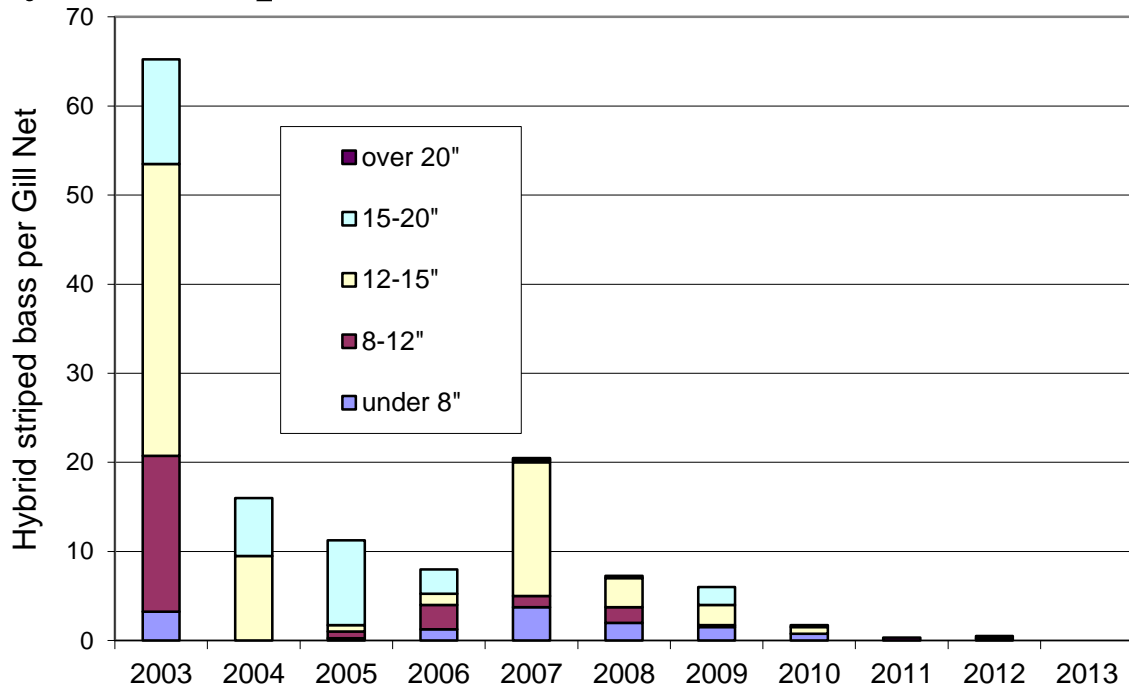


White bass



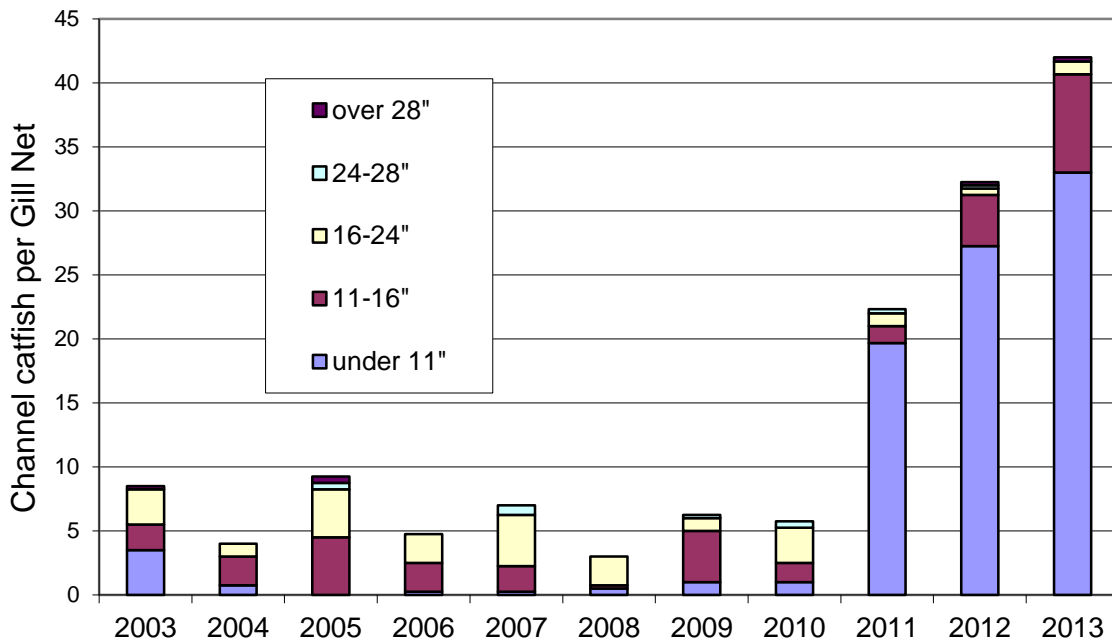
Hybrid striped bass

# Hybrid striped bass



Zero hybrid striped bass were sampled during 2013 indicating that the population exists at a very low density. 24,037 wiper fingerlings (1") were stocked into Lake Maloney in 2013 and 24,000 fingerlings are requested for 2014. A low density hybrid striped bass population consisting of large individuals is the management goal.

# Channel catfish



In 2013, 42 channel catfish were sampled per gill net. Of these, 79% were less than 11". The percent over 11" increased approximately 5% compared to the 2012 data. These large catch rates likely indicate an influx from the NPPD Canal System as channel catfish are not stocked in Lake Maloney. This will hopefully lead to desirable sized catfish in coming years.

# Carp-O-Rama

On July 13<sup>th</sup> 2013 the inaugural Carp-O-Rama Family Fishing Event was held at Lake Maloney's outlet area State Recreation Area. Previous to the date, common carp were baited into the area with spoiled corn. An estimated 75 participants caught common carp from shore. Nearly all participants who fished caught at least one hard fighting common carp. Gear, bait, advice and netting assistance was provided by NGPC employees and volunteers. Common carp cleaning and cooking were demonstrated along with fish printing and dutch oven cooking. Fried carp and sides were served for lunch. The Nebraska Fish and Game Association (NEFGA) was also present representing their organization. In 2014 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Carp-O-Rama is scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> at Lake Maloney. Look for upcoming Family Fishing Event details at <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/fishing/programs/FamFish/famfish.asp>.

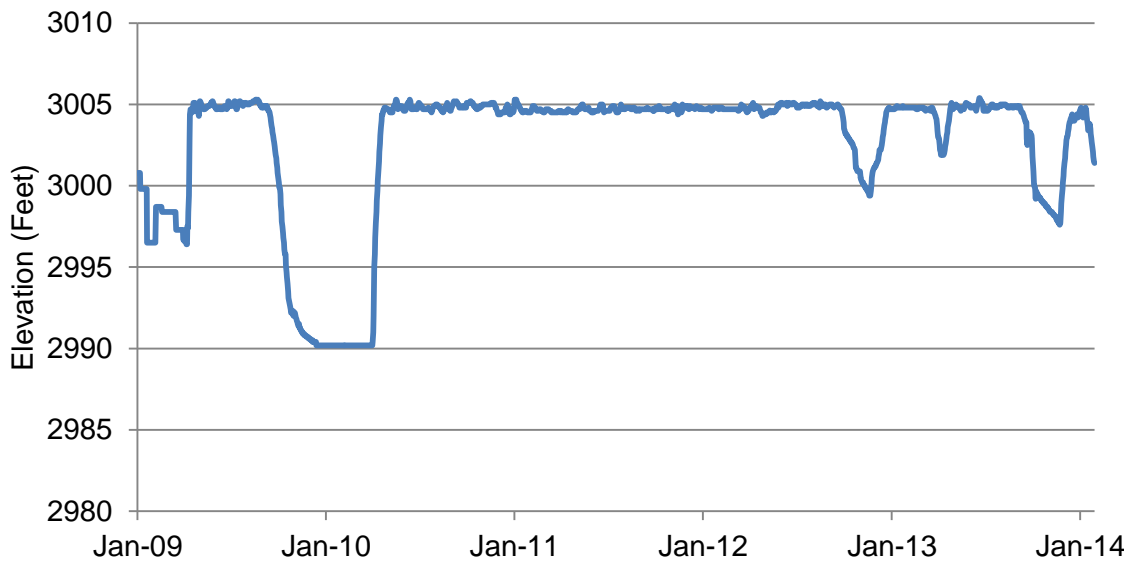




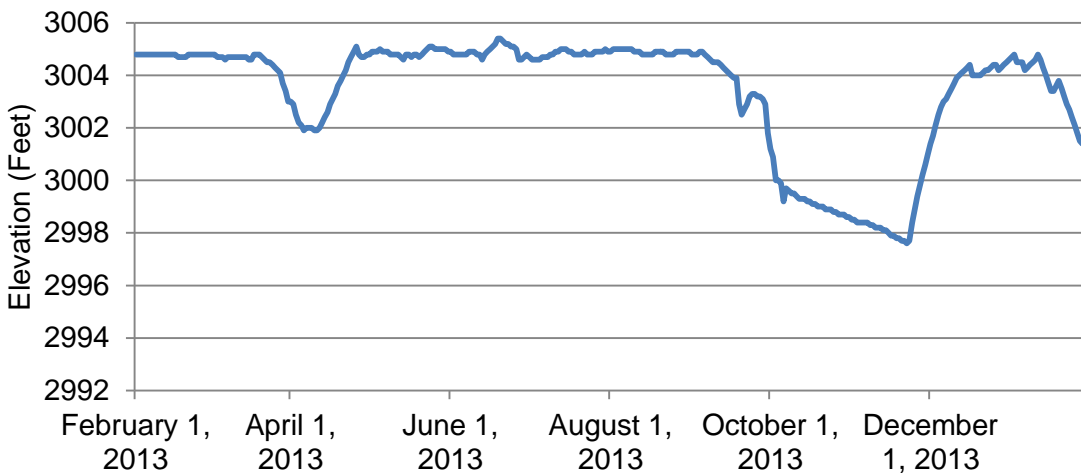
Lake Maloney receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System every year. Many factors are at play when stocking selections are made. Below you will find Lake Maloney's stocking history for the past eleven years. For more stocking details for Lake Maloney and other public waterbodies access <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/fishing/guides/fishguide/FGstocking.asp>.

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)</u>	<u>Black crappie</u>
2003	81,060-1.2"		
2004	40,000-1.25"		
2005		12,0000-1"	
2006	40,170-1"		
2007	40,000-1"	49,380-1.5"	
2008	26,800-1"	11,000-1.25"	17,500-1.25"
2009	40,166-1.5"	4,392-2"	
2010	40,611-1.3"		
2011	42,831-1.25"		
2012	40,472-1.3"		
2013	40,160-1.3"	24,037-1"	

## Lake Maloney Water Elevation 2009 - January 2014



## Lake Maloney Water Elevation February 2013 - January 2014



Lake Maloney's water level fluctuates often. Follow water level trends at [http://v1.nppd.com/About\\_Us/Energy\\_Facilities/facilities/water\\_data2.aspx](http://v1.nppd.com/About_Us/Energy_Facilities/facilities/water_data2.aspx).



## **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!**



# Zebra and Quagga Mussels

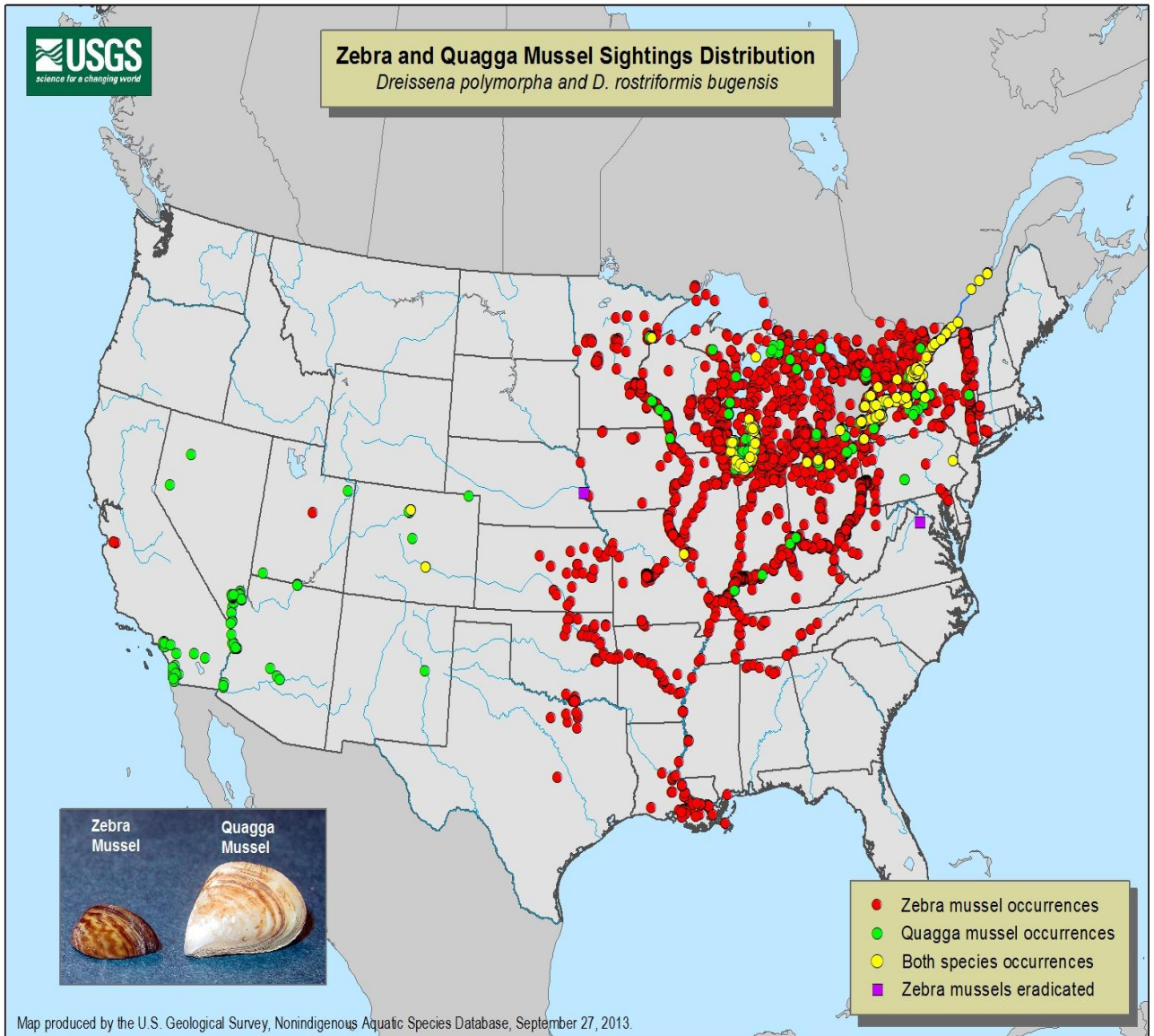
Anglers and boaters need to be aware of zebra and quagga mussels while using Nebraska Lakes and continue to **Clean, Drain and Dry** their equipment and boats prior to launching at a new waterbody. While no mussels have been identified at any of the I-80 Lakes, zebra mussels have been found at Zorinsky Lake in Omaha and are present in several reservoirs in neighboring states. Monitoring was completed at several Nebraska reservoirs including Lake Maloney during 2011, 2012 and 2013. No evidence of zebra or quagga mussels was found. For more information concerning invasive species or to report a finding of invasive mussels access <http://neinvasives.com/report-a-sighting/>.

Anglers and boaters using Nebraska waters this season need to be aware of **new regulations** dealing with aquatic invasive species. Signs similar to that on the previous page are posted at Lake Maloney boat ramps. Starting January 1, 2013 the following regulations went into effect to help prevent the spread of unwanted species.

- Any watercraft that has been on a Nebraska waterbody must drain the lake water from their compartments, equipment or containers before leaving the launch area. It is illegal to dump baitfish into a Nebraska waterbody.
- Livewells need to be drained prior to leaving a launch area: plan ahead and bring a cooler for harvested fish.
- All aquatic vegetation from that waterbody attached to the watercraft and/or trailer must be removed before leaving the launch area.



Distribution of zebra and quagga mussels is getting closer and closer to SW Nebraska. The most recent finding was at Lake Waconda near Glen Elder Kansas during the summer of 2013. This map is updated often and can be accessed at [http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/maps/current\\_zm\\_quag\\_map.jpg](http://nas.er.usgs.gov/taxgroup/mollusks/zebramussel/maps/current_zm_quag_map.jpg).



If you have questions or concerns about Lake Maloney's fishery  
please contact

Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025,  
[jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov)  
Brad Newcomb, District Mgr. 308-865-5330,  
[brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov](mailto:brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov)