

Maloney Reservoir

2014 Fall Survey Summary

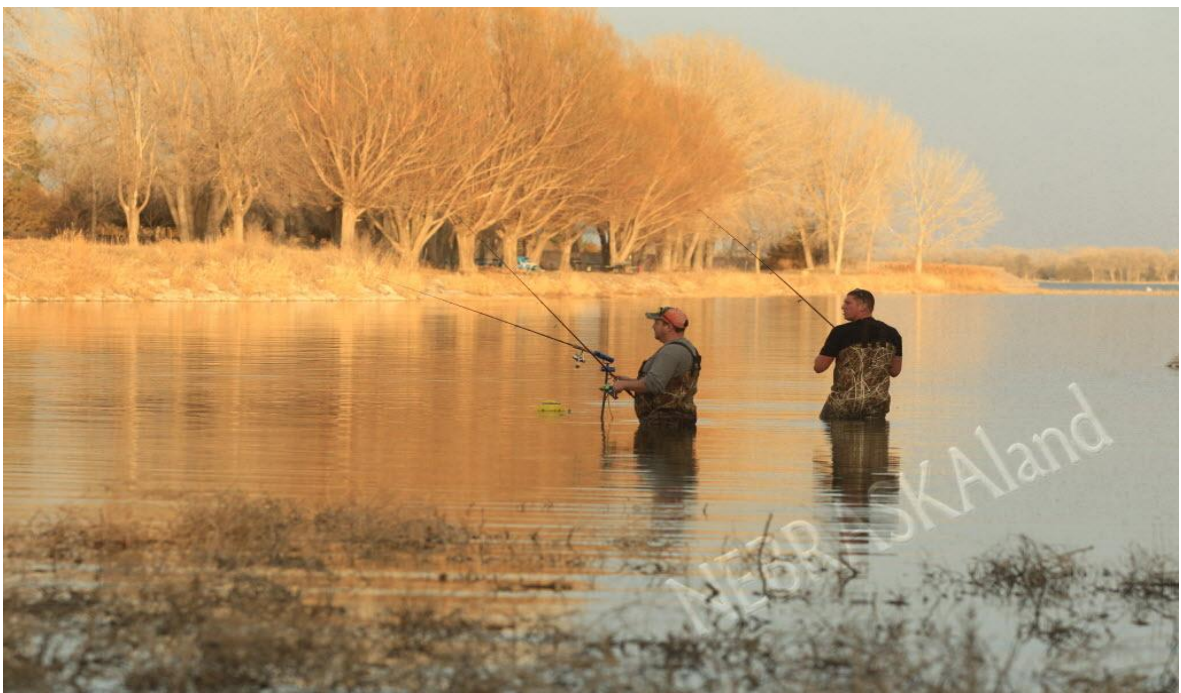


Jared Lorensen, Fisheries Biologist

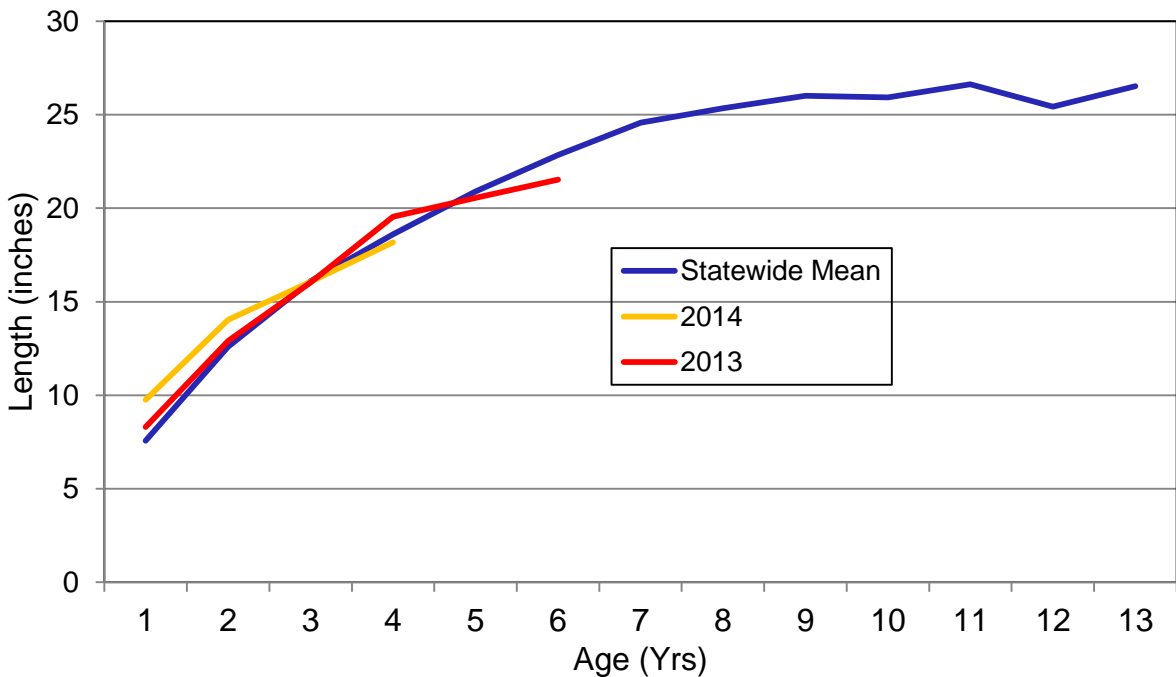
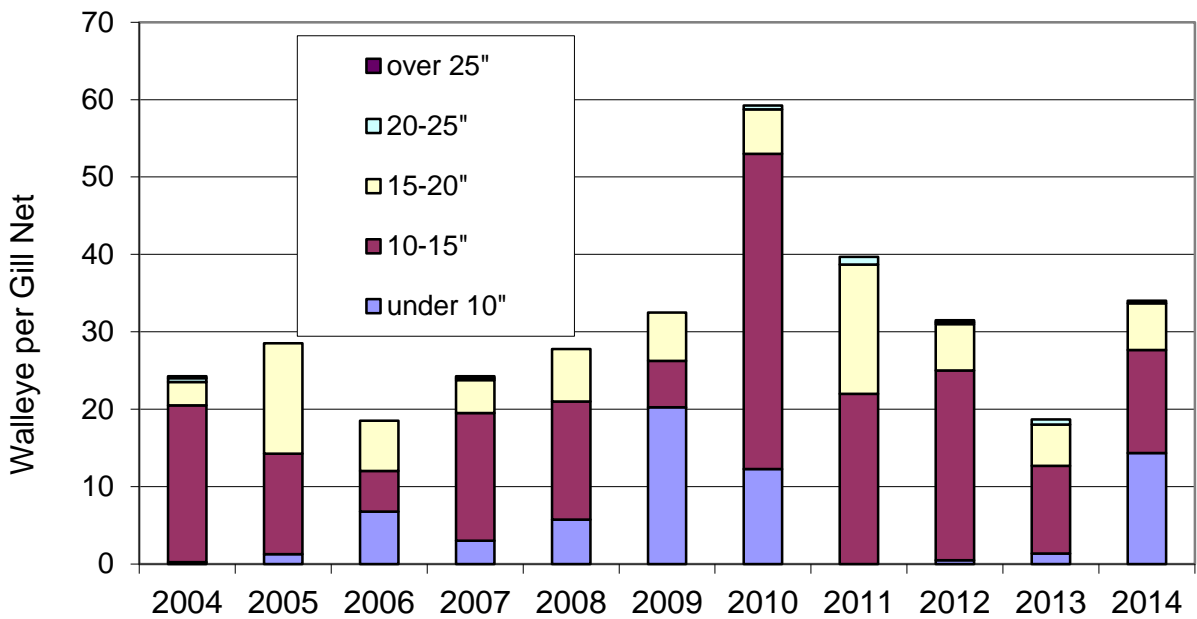
Lake Maloney is the second canal reservoir downstream from Lakes McConaughy and Ogallala. It is approximately 1600 surface acres. This reservoir is utilized for regulation of water used by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Lake Maloney offers unique fishing opportunities as a result of its functionality as noticeable on [NPPD's Publication](#) and on [NGPC's Lake Map](#).

Every fall the fishery of Lake Maloney is surveyed. For more information on survey techniques access [NEBRASKAland's Fishery Survey Article](#).

The following text and graphs are the result of the 2014 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.

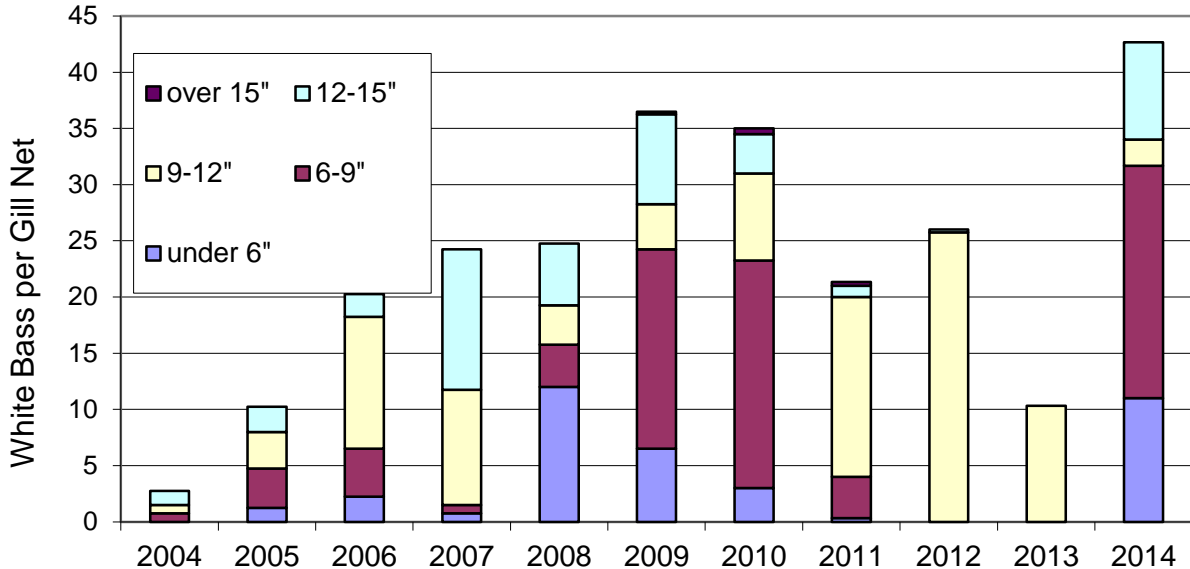


Walleye



The 2014 survey reversed the previously observed downward trend in the walleye population. The abundance of small walleye will result in angler success during the coming years. Average length of those sampled was 12". Current age and growth analysis indicates that it takes approximately three years of growth before a walleye reaches a length greater than 15" in Lake Maloney.

White bass



The downward trend observed in the white bass population was reversed in the 2014 survey data. The lack of young white bass during 2012 and 2013's survey was worrisome but the 2014 survey indicates that young white bass are plentiful again. White bass population density can be cyclical and current age and growth data indicates that it takes Lake Maloney white bass two years to reach 10".

With the current abundance of small white bass and hybrid striped bass (next page) anglers need to practice identification of these species as hybrid striped bass may reach greater sizes than white bass if allowed to grow. Tips on discriminating between these species can be found on [NGPC's Fish Identification Guide](#) online or a print booklet can be picked up at your local NGPC office.

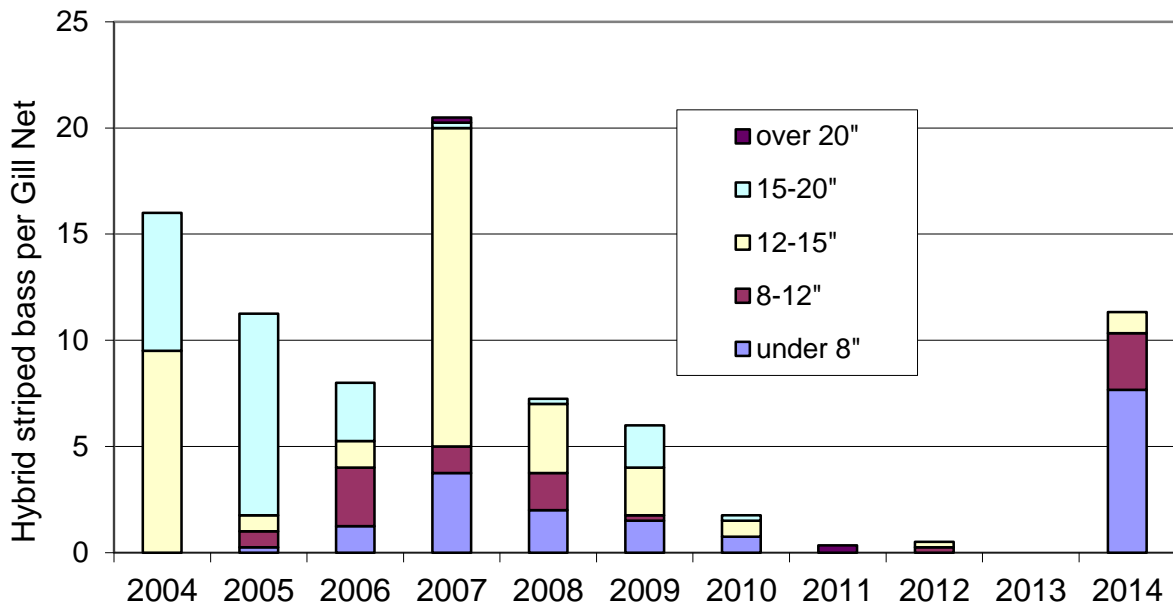


White bass



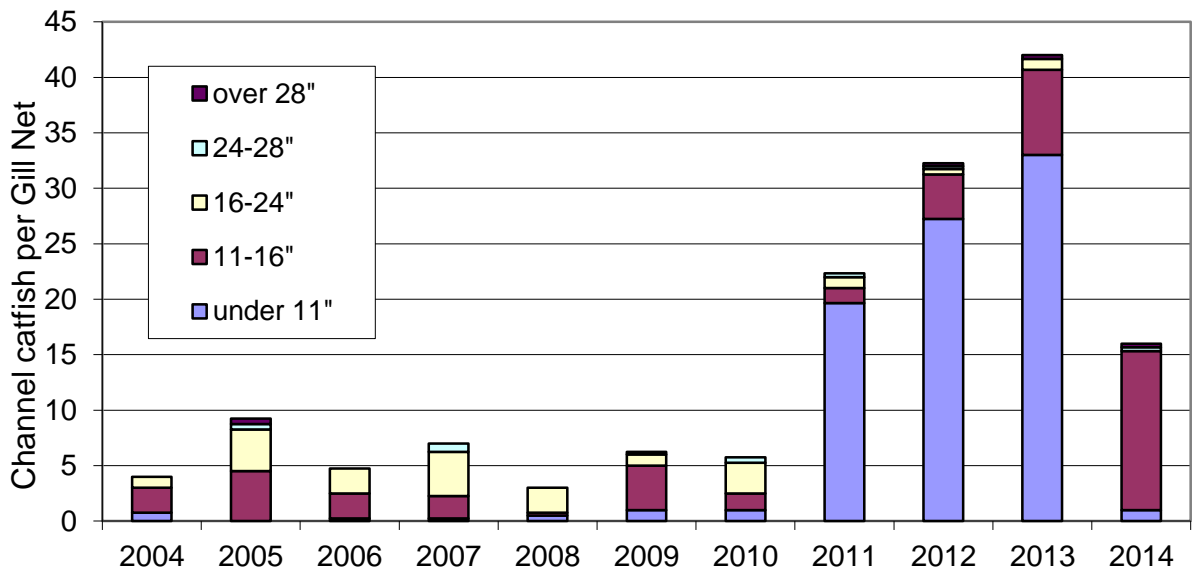
Hybrid striped bass

Hybrid striped bass



Hybrid striped bass were stocked into Lake Maloney during 2013 and 2014 and the 2014 survey data indicates this reappearance. Mean length of those sampled was 8". A relatively small population consisting of large specimens is desired for this species.

Channel catfish



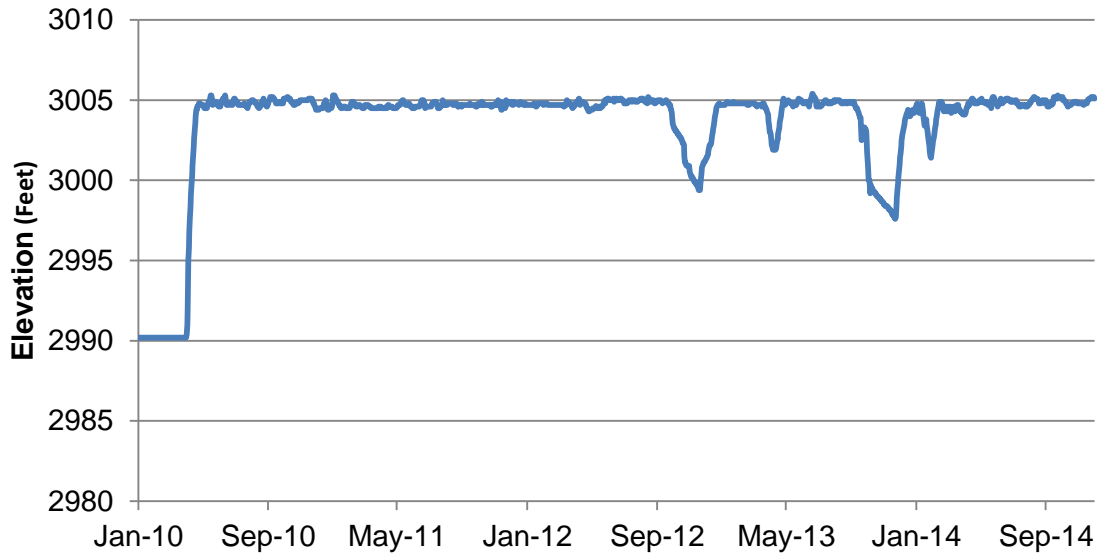
In 2014, 16 channel catfish were sampled per gill net. Of these, only 6% were less than 11". The percent over 11" doubled compared to the 2013 data. These large catch rates likely indicate an influx from the NPPD Canal System. The 2014 data indicates that these recently recruited channel catfish are growing and will provide another fishery at Lake Maloney. **The daily bag limit for channel catfish has been increased to 10 at Lake Maloney – Check the [2015 Fishing Guide](#) for details.**



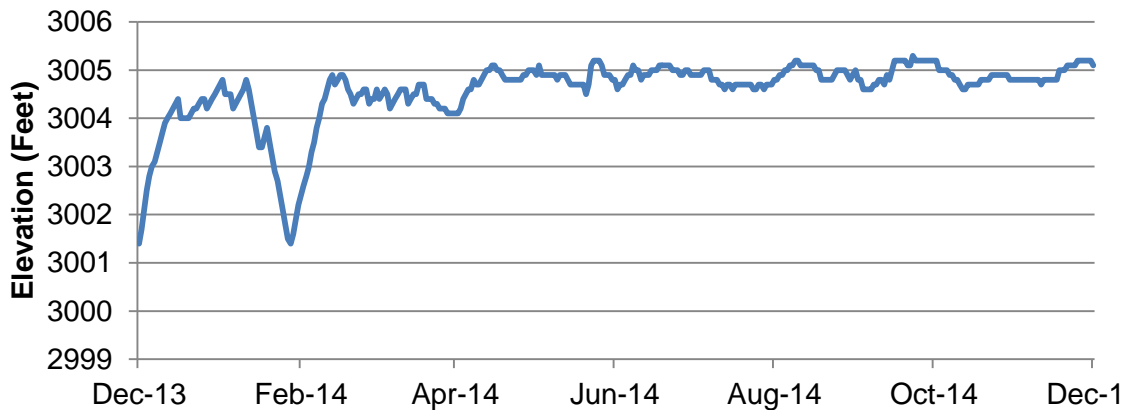
Lake Maloney receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System every year. Many factors are at play when stocking selections are made. Below you will find Lake Maloney's stocking history for the past eleven years. For more stocking details for Lake Maloney and other public waterbodies access [NGPC's Fish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

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Black crappie</u>
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"	
2014	40,170-1.5"	24,000-1.3"	

Lake Maloney Water Elevation 2010 - December 2014



Lake Maloney Water Elevation December 2013-December 2014



Lake Maloney's water level fluctuates often. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow Lake Maloney's water level.

Carp-O-Rama

On July 12th 2014 the second annual 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 100 participants caught common carp from shore. Nearly all participants who fished caught 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. Look for upcoming Family Fishing Event details at [NGPC's Family Fishing Webpage](#)..





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.

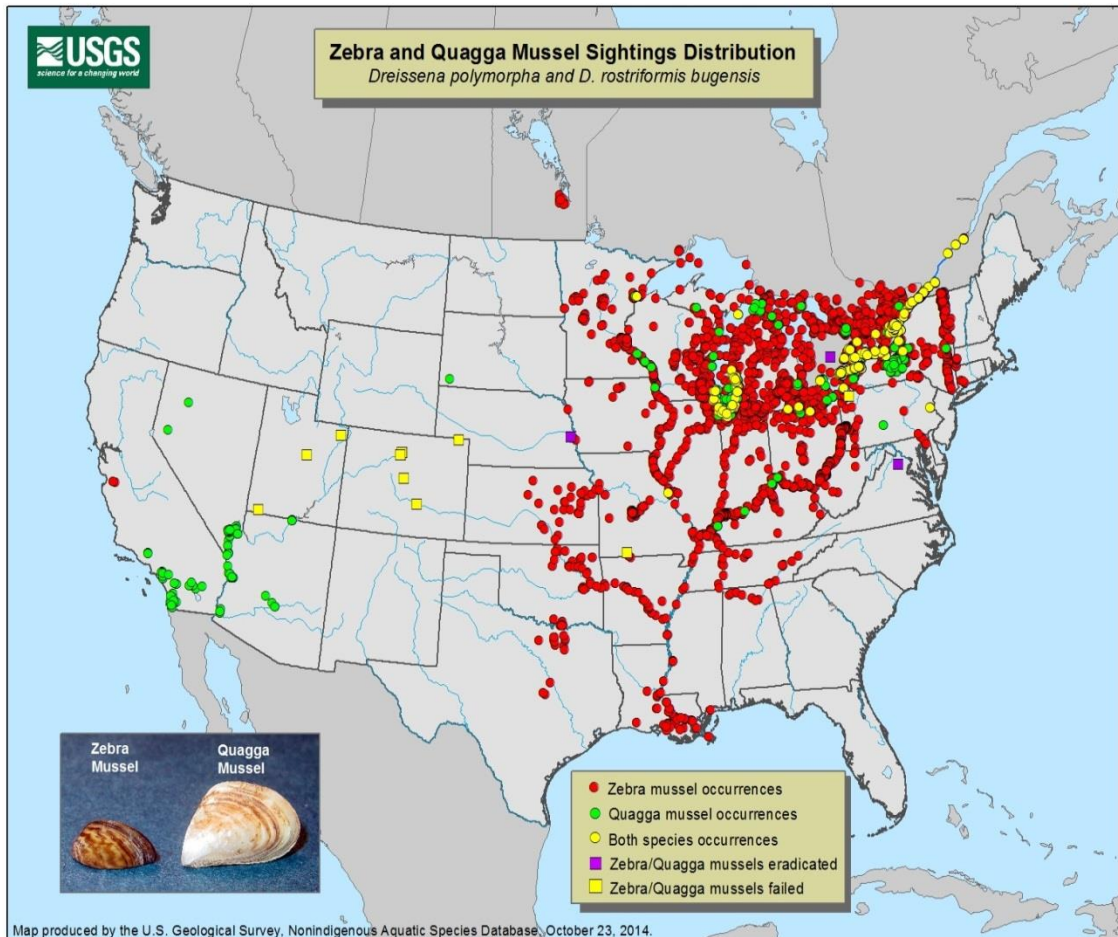
AND

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

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

New in 2015 - In addition to and to clarify the above regulation concerning Aquatic Hitchhikers - it is unlawful to arrive at or leave any waterbody in Nebraska with water other than from a domestic source (such as a water supply system, well, or bottled), except for fire-fighting purposes. This applies especially to boats, their compartments, equipment or containers that may hold water **but also** applies to bank anglers if using water holding devices to transport harvested fish.

Distribution of zebra and quagga mussels is getting nearer to SW Nebraska. The most recent finding in Nebraska was at Louis and Clark Reservoir during the fall of 2014. [USGS's Zebra and Quagga Mussel Sightings Distribution Map](#) is updated frequently.



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

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