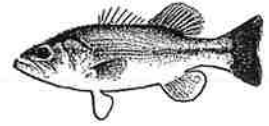




NEBRASKA GAME and PARKS COMMISSION
Private Waters Stocking Policy



To receive fish from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) for stocking privately-owned waters, the owners or associations are not obligated to give up trespass rights and can regulate angler access. However, NGPC urges owners to grant access to anglers asking permission to fish and anglers cannot be charged a fee to fish. All owners or their designee(s) must complete the "APPLICATION FOR FISH AND MANAGEMENT REPORT FORM" or the stocking request will be denied. A valid Nebraska fishing permit is required of every person 16 years old or older who fishes waterbodies stocked by NGPC as well as compliance with current state fishing regulations. A report of NGPC stocked waterbodies is available in each District Office and the Lincoln and Omaha offices.

To receive fish, the waterbody must meet the following minimum requirements:

- one-half surface acre or larger
- 25% of the waterbody at least 10 feet deep (exceptions could be spring-fed ponds, natural lakes, and others at the discretion of inspecting biologist)
- no other fish present at the time of stocking (exceptions could be recently stocked channel catfish or other compatible fish species at the discretion of inspecting biologist)
- minimum water clarity of 12 inches (turbid water limits the quality of a largemouth bass-bluegill fishery)
- fencing to exclude livestock may be required

All fish stocking applications must be received by NGPC no later than August 1 to be considered for stocking during that calendar year. The fish provided by NGPC for private waters will be available only after all needs of the state's public waters have been met. Subsequent fish allocation will then be based on number of fish available and approved requests. If a shortage of fish occurs, owners of larger waterbodies may not receive the full allotment of fish and will be advised to purchase additional fish from private fish hatcheries. If no fish are available for private waters, all applications will be cancelled and waterbody owners will be notified and included on the fish stocking list for the following year.

The fish available for stocking of private waterbodies are typically largemouth bass and bluegill fingerlings, delivered on a split-stocking basis. The first year, bluegill will be stocked in September at a density of 500 fingerlings per surface acre of water. The following year, largemouth bass will be stocked in July at a density of 100 fingerlings per surface acre of water. In order to receive their fish, owners will likely have to meet the distribution truck at a location determined by the District Fisheries Biologist.

NGPC hatcheries currently do not spawn channel catfish; therefore, they can be purchased from a licensed private aquaculturist if desired by associations or owners. When channel catfish are stocked in combination with largemouth bass and bluegill, it is recommended that fingerlings (~2-3 inches) be stocked in the second year at a density of 50-150 per surface acre of water.

Coldwater waterbodies capable of supporting trout year-round can be considered for trout stocking. Sub-catchable rainbow trout (~5 inches) will be stocked at a density depending on environmental conditions, anticipated harvest, and availability. Since trout will not reproduce in a pond environment, owners who allow reasonable public access are also eligible to receive maintenance trout stockings. Owners desiring trout larger than five inches will have to purchase them from a licensed Nebraska private aquaculturist.