

# Sutherland Reservoir

## 2013 Fall Survey Summary



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Sutherland Reservoir is the first canal reservoir downstream from Lakes McConaughy and Ogallala. This reservoir is utilized for cooling of Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) Gerald Gentleman Station. This results in warmer water temperatures earlier in the spring and later into the fall than other reservoirs. Sutherland Reservoir offers unique fishing opportunities as a result of its functionality. Notice these aspects and special regulations at [http://www.nppd.com/assets/public\\_recreation.pdf](http://www.nppd.com/assets/public_recreation.pdf).

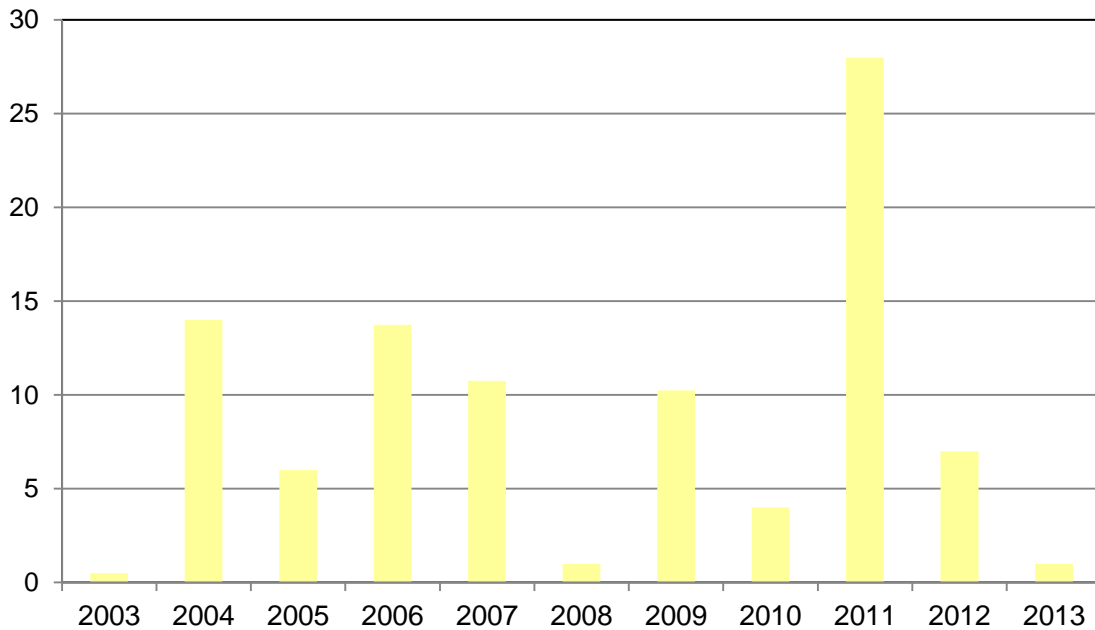
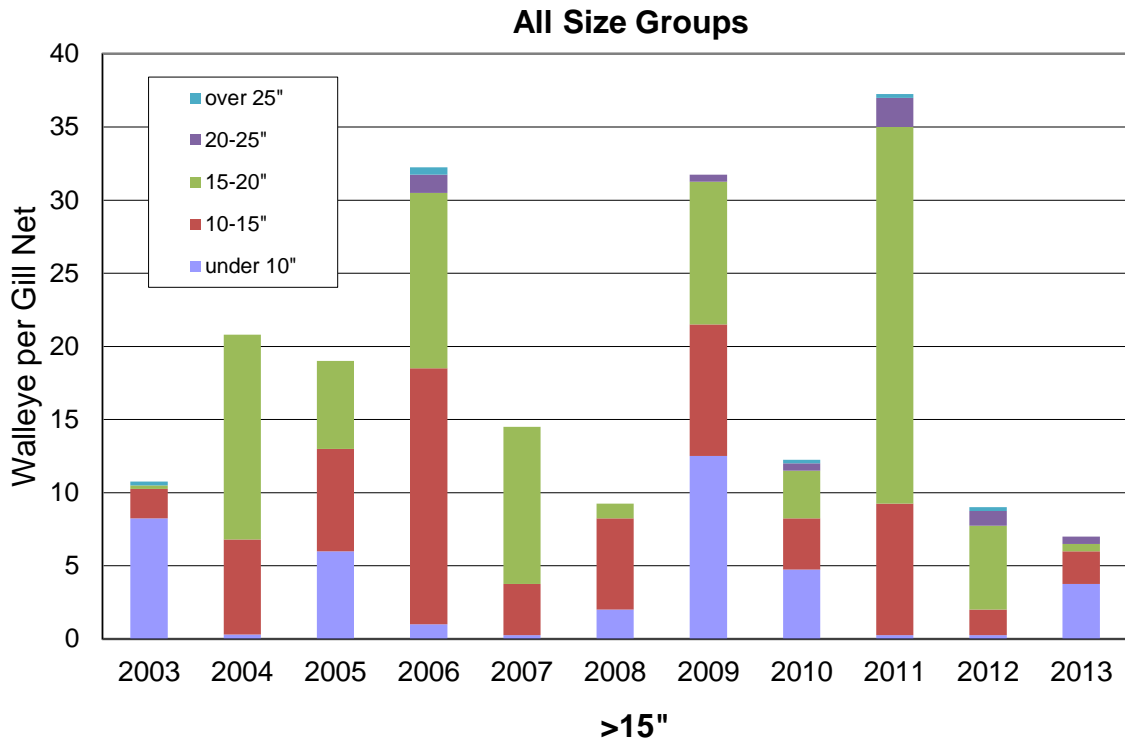


Data collected from standard surveys allow biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for several species. This data provides valuable information to guide decision making scenarios that include fish species stocked, stocking rates and fishing regulations. This information also assists Game and Parks staff in guiding anglers to waterbodies that have the desired populations for fishing.

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

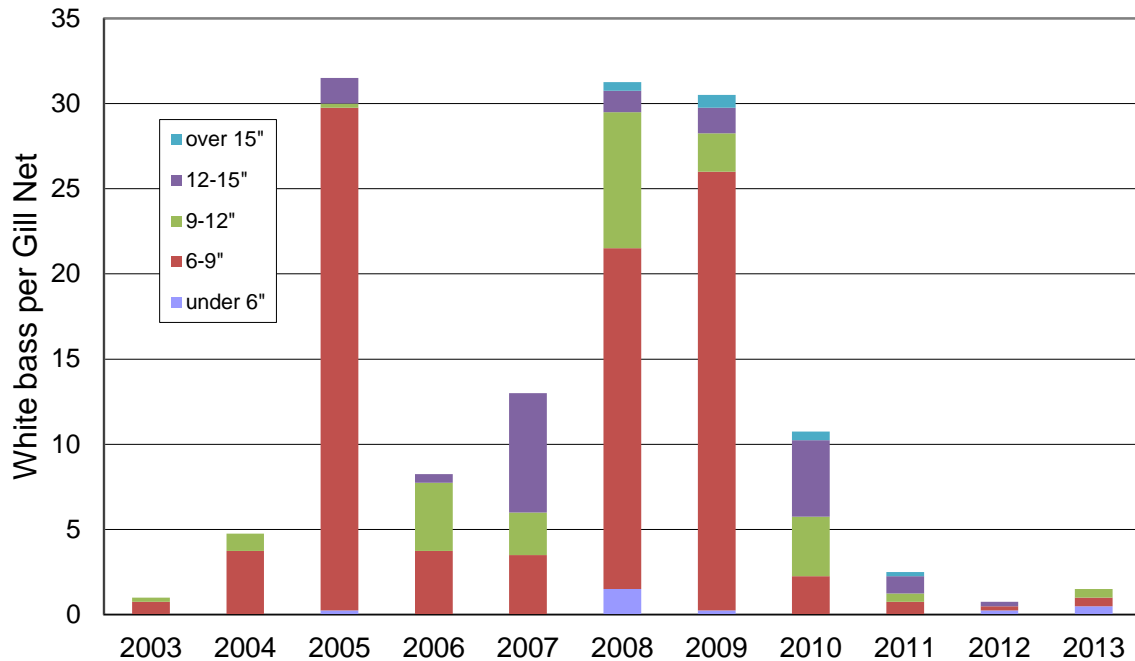
# Standard Population Survey Results

## Walleye



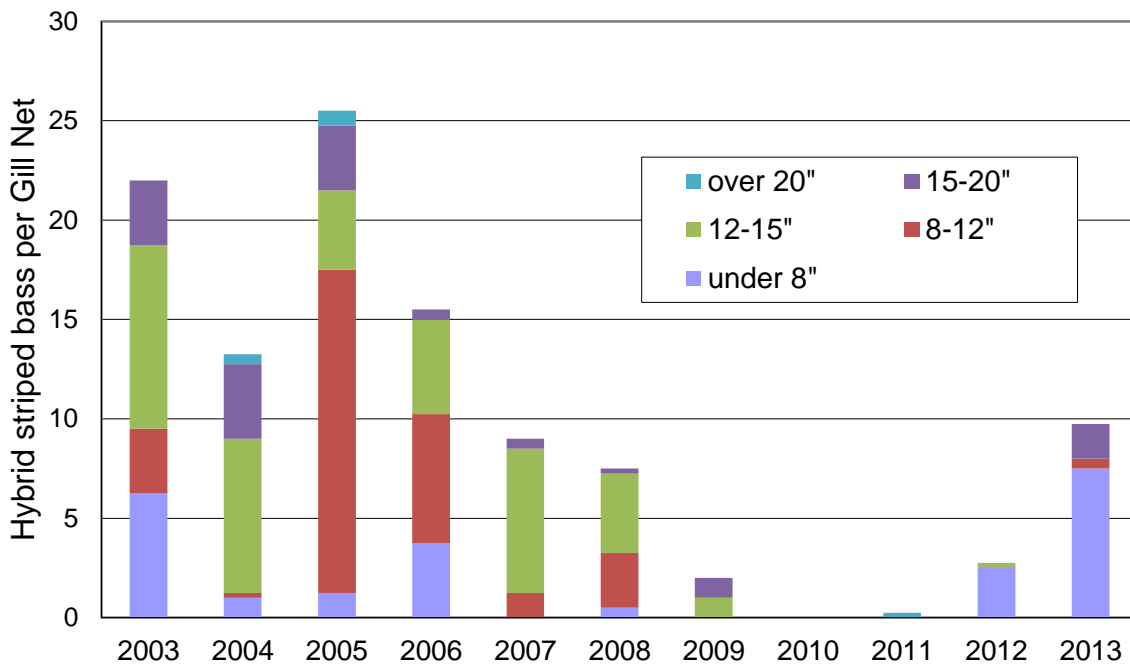
In 2013, seven walleye were sampled per gill net with 54% less than 10", 32% 10-15", and 14% of them over 15" with 7% over 20". The mean length was 11.6". Walleye are stocked annually into Sutherland. In 2013, 75,048 fingerlings (1.3") were stocked and a stocking of 75,000 fingerlings is requested for 2013.

# White bass



White bass catch rate was low with only six sampled (in total) with a mean length of 8.2". Natural recruitment supports the white bass fishery and angling success is typically observed by anglers at the inlet and boat anglers follow gulls to find feeding white bass.

# Hybrid striped bass

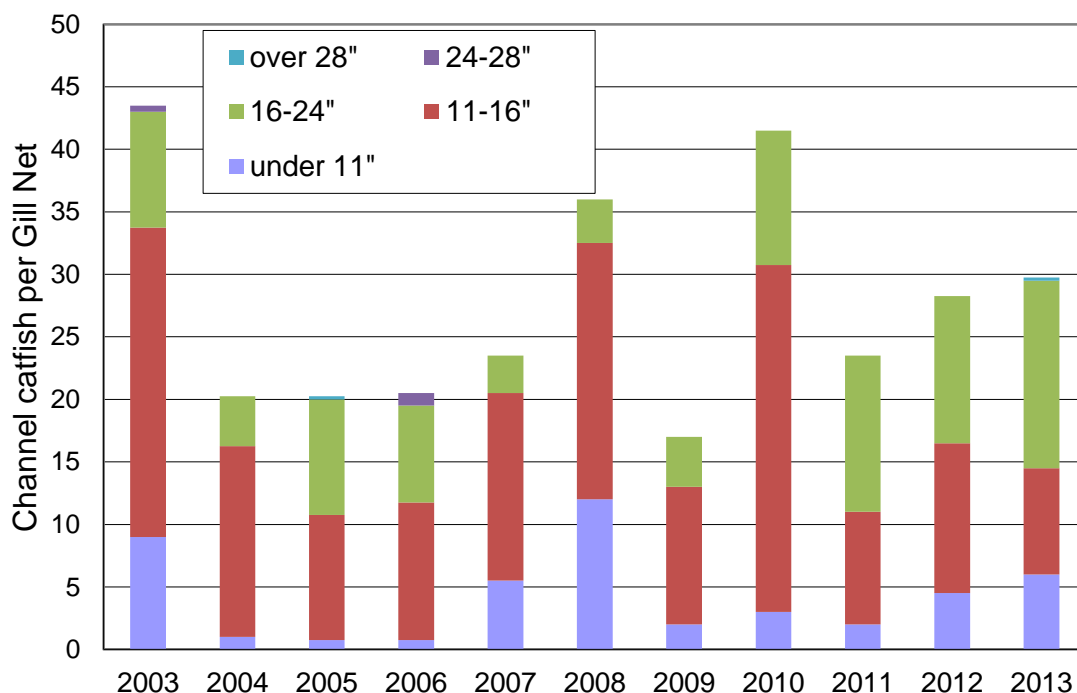


In 2013, 29,594 hybrid striped bass fingerlings (1") were stocked into Sutherland Reservoir. The 2013 survey was comprised of individuals from the 2012 and 2013 stockings. A low density population consisting of large individuals (> 20") is desired. In 2014, 30,000 hybrid striped bass fingerlings are requested to be stocked.

- **Note**

**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 this link <http://outdoornebraska.ne.gov/Fishing/guides/fishguide/pdf/FishGuide.pdf> or pick up a print copy at your local vendor or NGPC office.

## Channel catfish



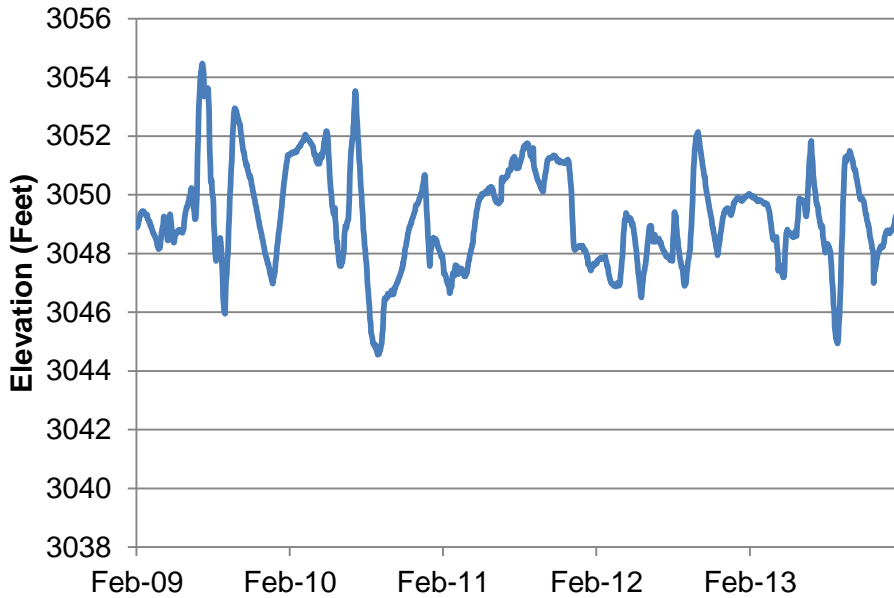
Channel catfish were sampled in above average quantity in 2013 with approximately 30 sampled per gill net with an average length of 15.2". Approximately 51% were longer than 16" and they ranged from 7 to 28" in length. Channel catfish are not stocked into Sutherland Reservoir as natural recruitment supports the fishery.



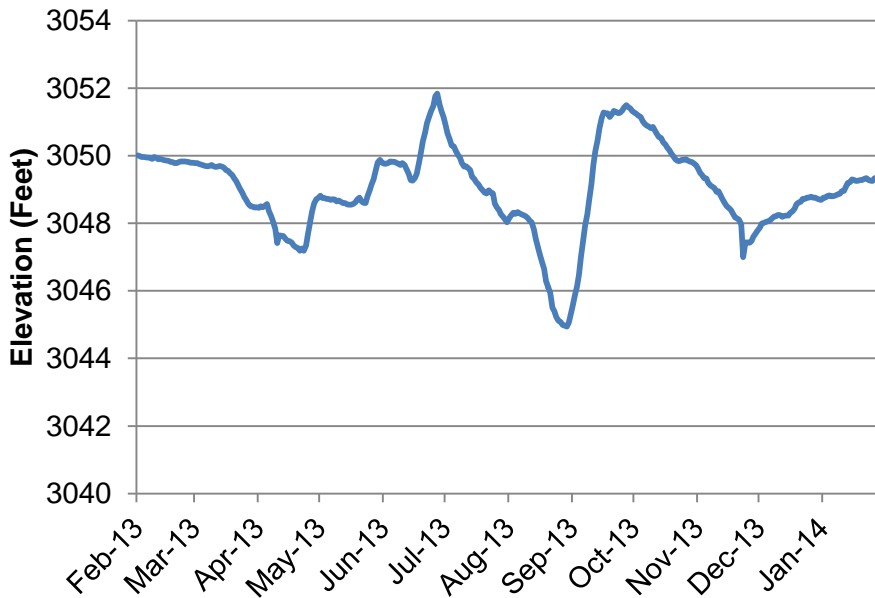
Sutherland Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System every year. Many factors are at play when stocking selections are made. Below you will find Sutherland's stocking history for the past eleven years excluding some adult stockings during 2009. For this and more stocking details on Sutherland and other public waterbodies access <http://outdoor.nebraska.gov/fishing/guides/fishguide/FGstocking.asp>.

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)</u>	<u>White bass</u>
2003	153,100-1.2"	21,079-1.25"	
2004	75,000-1.25"	30,000-1.25"	460,000-0.1"
2005	80,738-1.5"	30,000-1"	
2006	75,950-1"	30,000-1.25"	
2007	75,225-1"	60,000-1.25"	
2008	83,300-1"	21,000-1.25"	
2009	79,299-1.5"		
2010	76,842-1.3"		
2011	79,988-1"		400,000-0.1"
2012	74,308-1.35"	9,889-2"	
2013	75,048-1.3"	29,594-1"	

### Sutherland Reservoir Water Level February 2009 - January 2014



### Sutherland Reservoir Water Level February 2013 - January 2014



Sutherland Reservoir's water level fluctuates often. Follow water 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. 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 during 2011, 2012 and 2013 including Sutherland Reservoir. No evidence of zebra or quagga mussels was found. To report a finding of invasive mussels or for more information access <http://neinvasives.com/report-a-sighting/>.

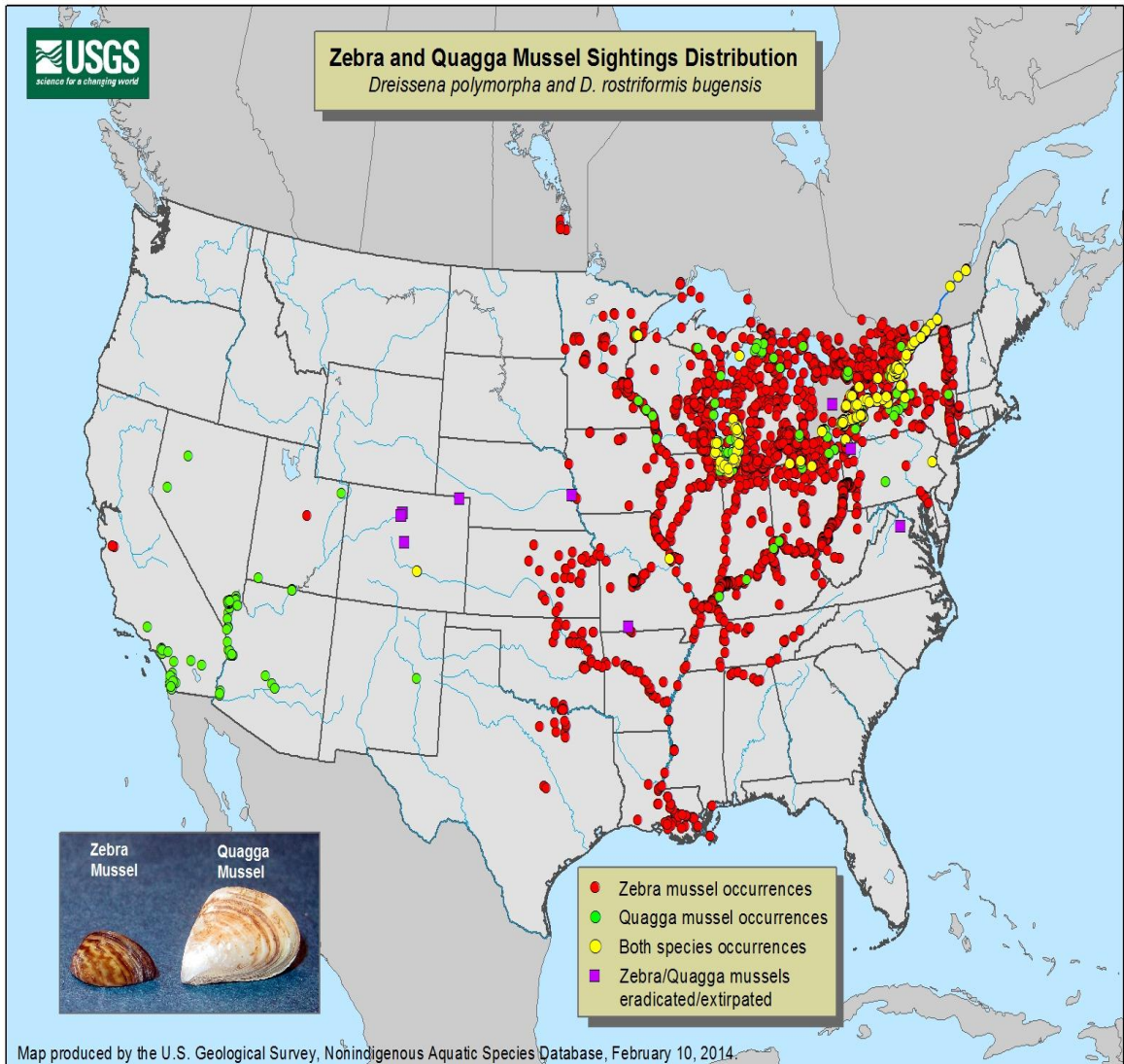
Anglers and boaters using Nebraska waters this season need to be aware of **new regulations** dealing with aquatic invasive species. Signs similar to that on the previous page are posted at Sutherland Reservoir's boat ramps. Starting January 1, 2013 the following regulations went into effect to help 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 about Sutherland Reservoir 's fishery please contact Jared Lorensen, Biologist 308-535-8025, [jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:jared.lorensen@nebraska.gov) OR Brad Newcomb, District Mgr. 308-865-5330, [brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov](mailto:brad.newcomb@nebraska.gov)