

Maloney Reservoir 2022 Fall Survey Summary



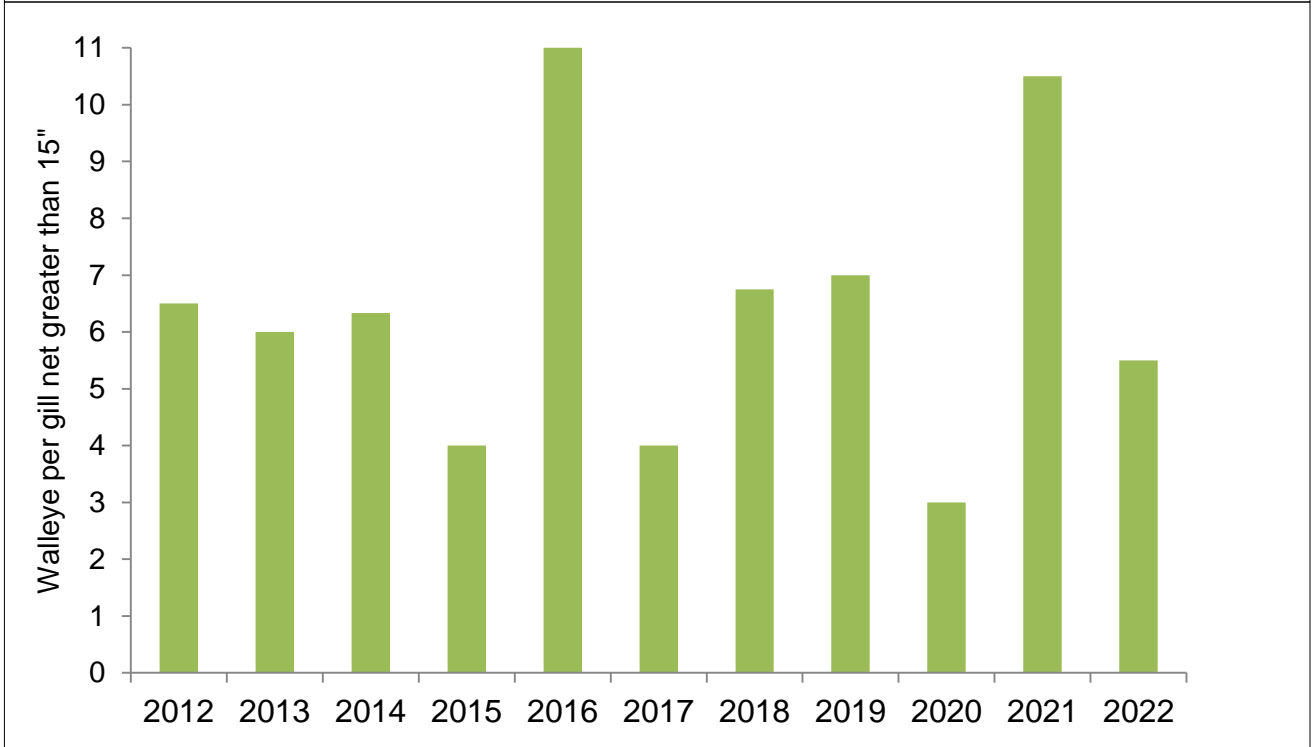
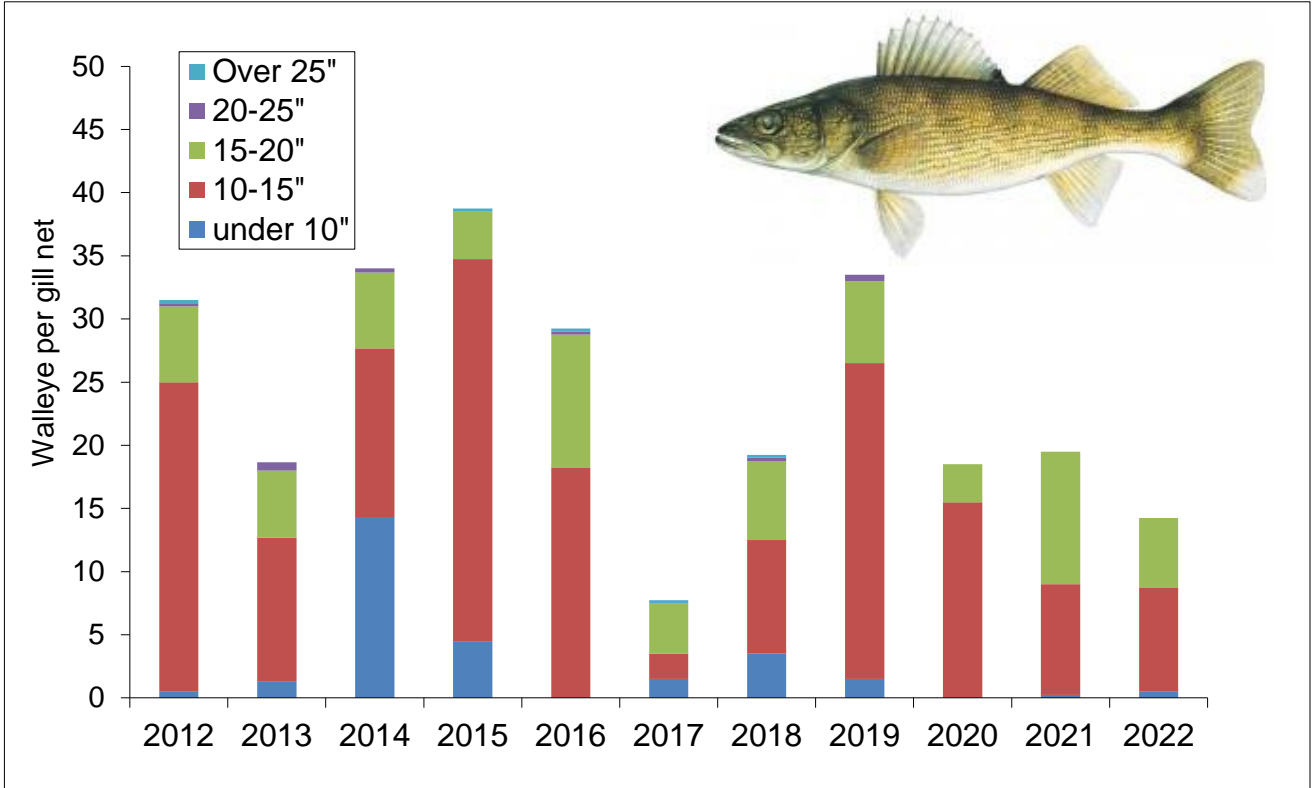
Jared Lorensen, Fisheries Biologist

Lake Maloney is the second canal reservoir downstream from Lake McConaughy. It is approximately 1,600 surface acres. This reservoir is utilized for regulation of water used by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Lake Maloney offers unique fishing opportunities due to its controlled inlet and outlet flows. These characteristics are noticeable on [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Page](#). Check the [2023 Fishing Guide](#) for regulations concerning Lake Maloney's Fishery.

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.

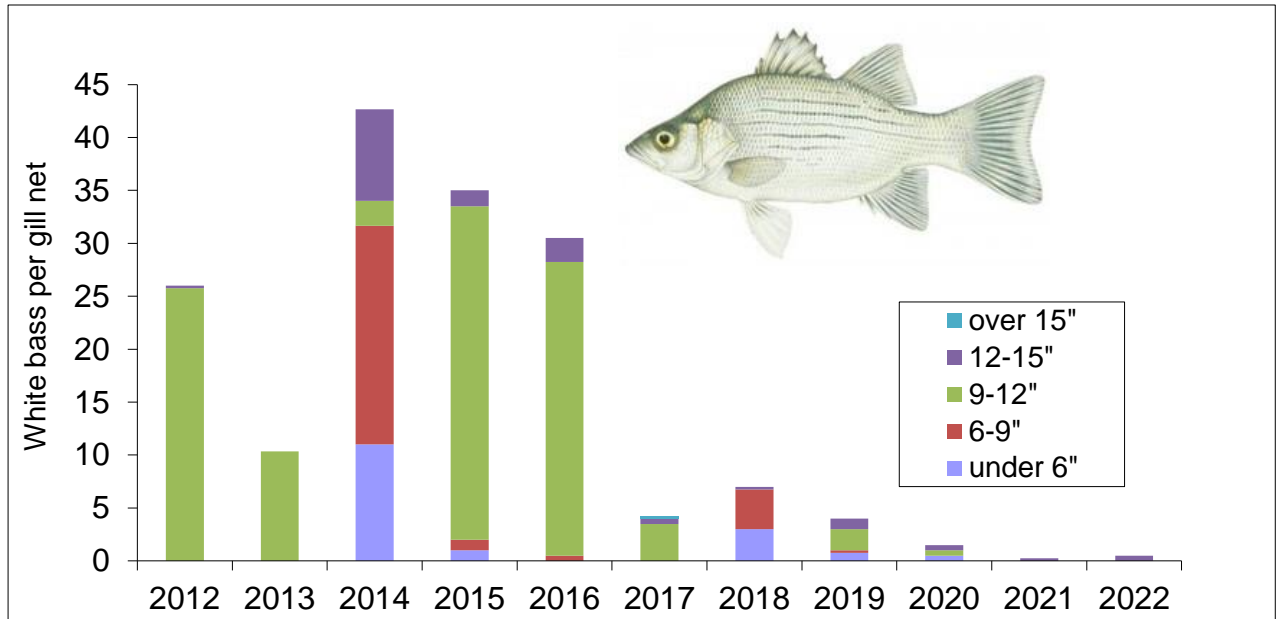


Walleye



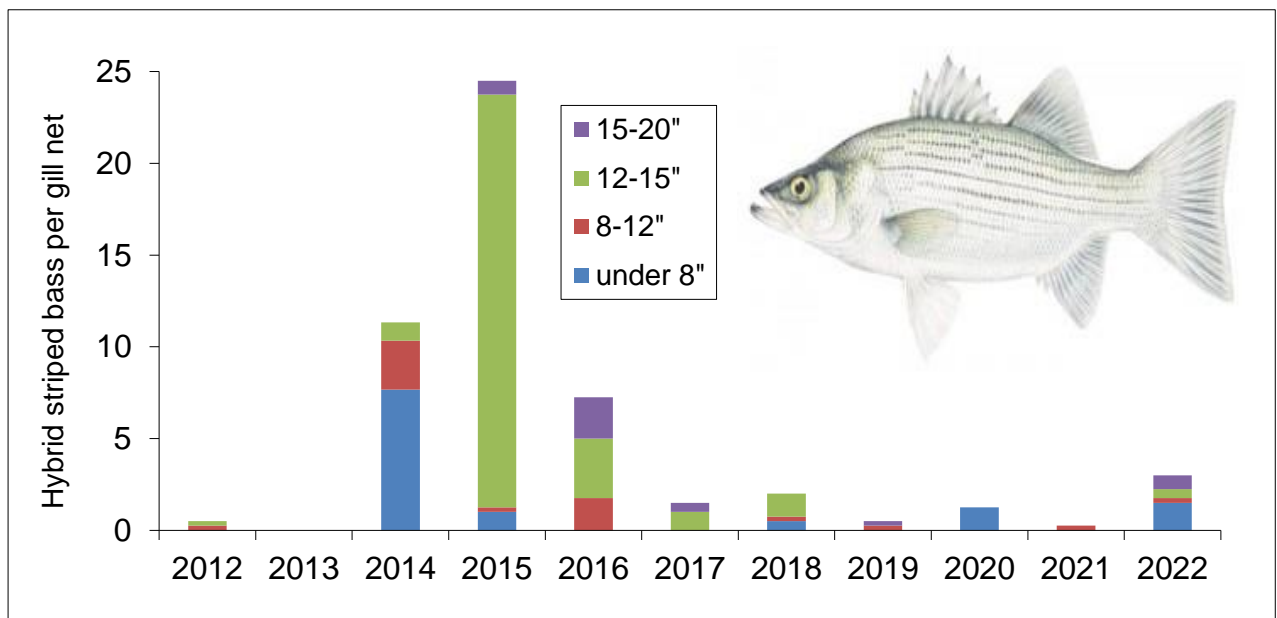
In 2022, 14.25 walleye were sampled per gill net with 3% less than 10", 58% between 10 and 15" and 39% 15 to 20". Average length was 14". Age and growth analysis indicates that 2.5 years are required for walleye to reach 15" in Lake Maloney. Walleye fingerlings are requested to be stocked again in 2023.

White bass



Only one white bass was sampled, during 2022. This specimen was 12.7". The recently observed low values haven't been observed since the early 2000's. Low catch rates can be attributed to recent fish kill events and periods of unsuitable water quality.

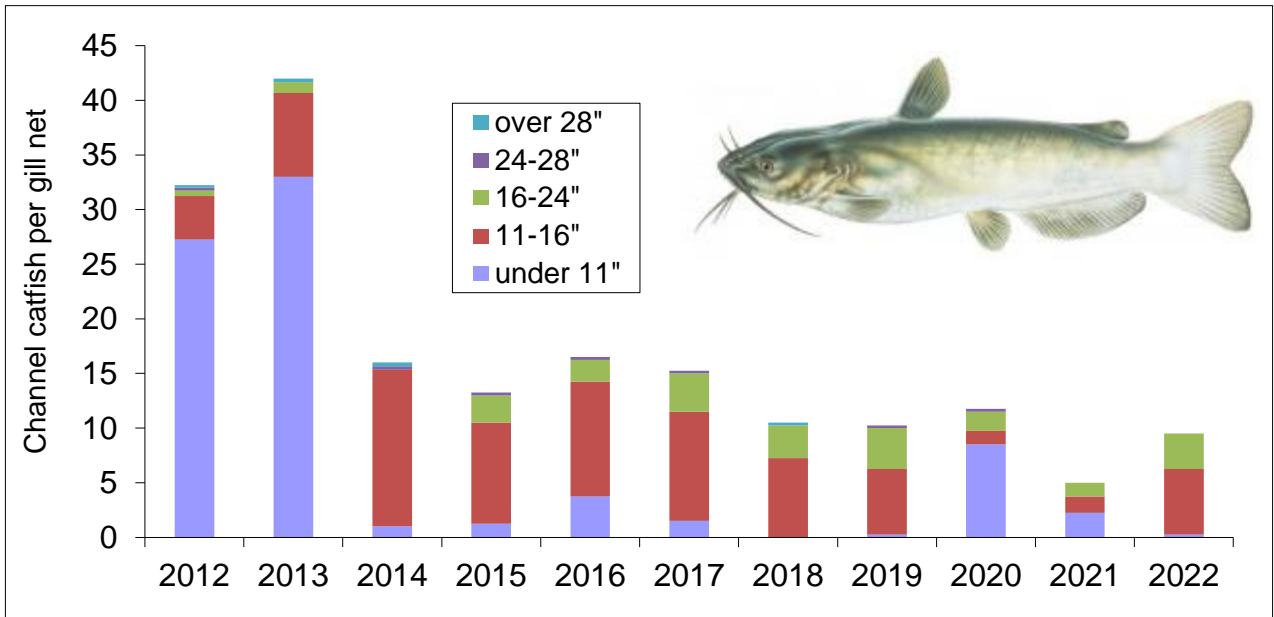
Hybrid striped bass (Wiper)



During 2022, three wiper (Hybrid striped bass) were sampled. This is the largest quantity since 2016. The increase is likely due to migration from upstream.

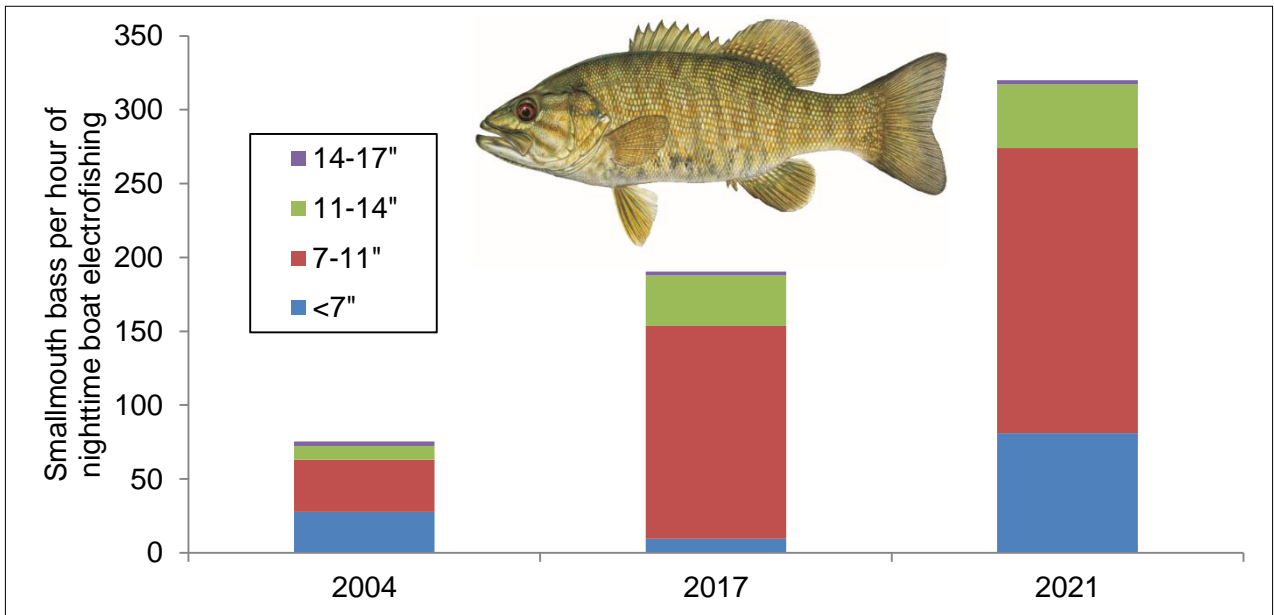
A low density population consisting of large specimens is desired for this species as they can reach great sizes. Access the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for tips on identifying these species prior to harvest.

Channel catfish



In 2022, 9.5 channel catfish were sampled per gill net. Of these, 3% were less than 11", 63% were 11 to 16" and 34% 16 to 24". The largest channel catfish sampled during 2022, was 22".

Smallmouth bass



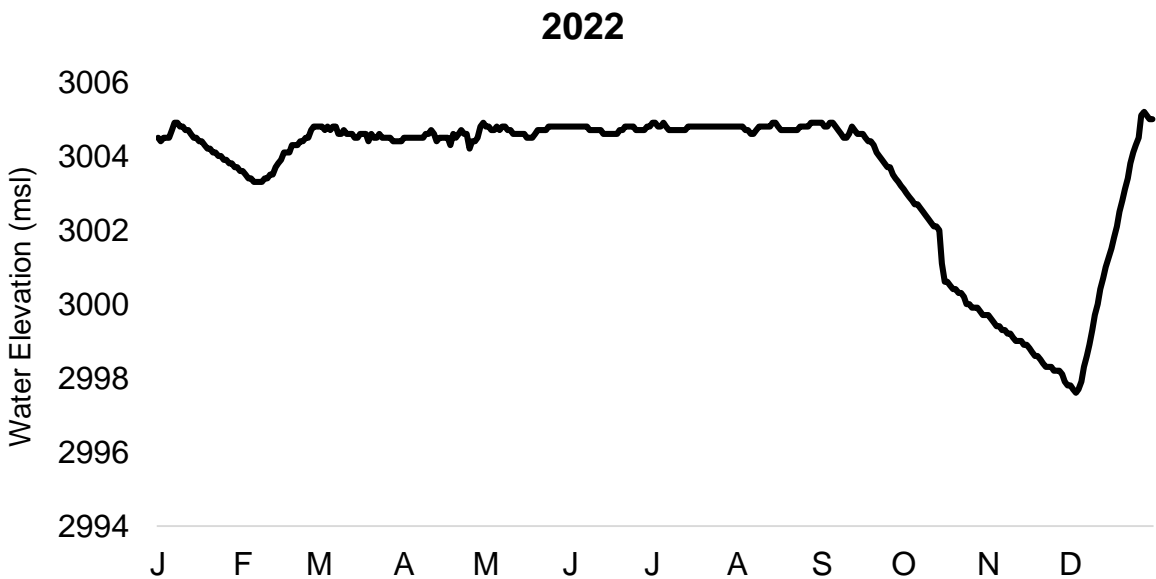
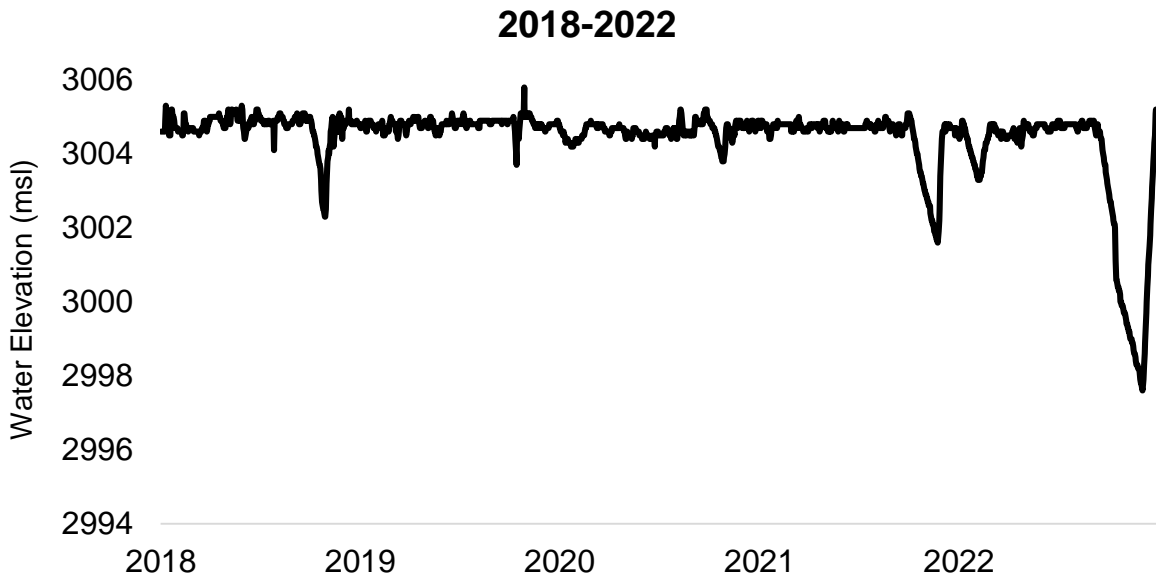
A new [regulation](#) was enacted during 2022 that eliminated the smallmouth bass minimum length limit for harvest in Lake Maloney. During 2021's survey, the average length was 8.5". Surveys targeting smallmouth bass are scheduled to occur once every 3rd year using nighttime boat electrofishing.



Lake Maloney receives stockings from NGPC’s Hatchery System every year. In many cases, stocking requests come to fruition but many dynamics can affect the outcome and for this reason, future stocking requests are tentative (*). Below you will find Lake Maloney’s stocking history for the past ten years. For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Reports](#).

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)</u>	<u>Yellow perch</u>
2013	40,160-1.3"	24,037-1"	
2014	40,170-1.5"	24,000-1.3"	
2015	40,000-1.5"	12,0000-1.5"	
2016	41,760-1.5"		29,677-4"
2017	39,983-1.25"	8,113-1.25"	
2018	80,000-1.5" & 1,925,000-fry 1,300,000-fry & 80,000-1.25"	7,968--1.25"	8,100-4"
2019	1.25"	8,160-1"	
2020	96,607-0.75"	8,000-1.25"	45,547-1.75"
2021	81,720-1"		
2022	56,000-1.25"		
2023*	80,000-2"		32,000-4"

Water Elevation



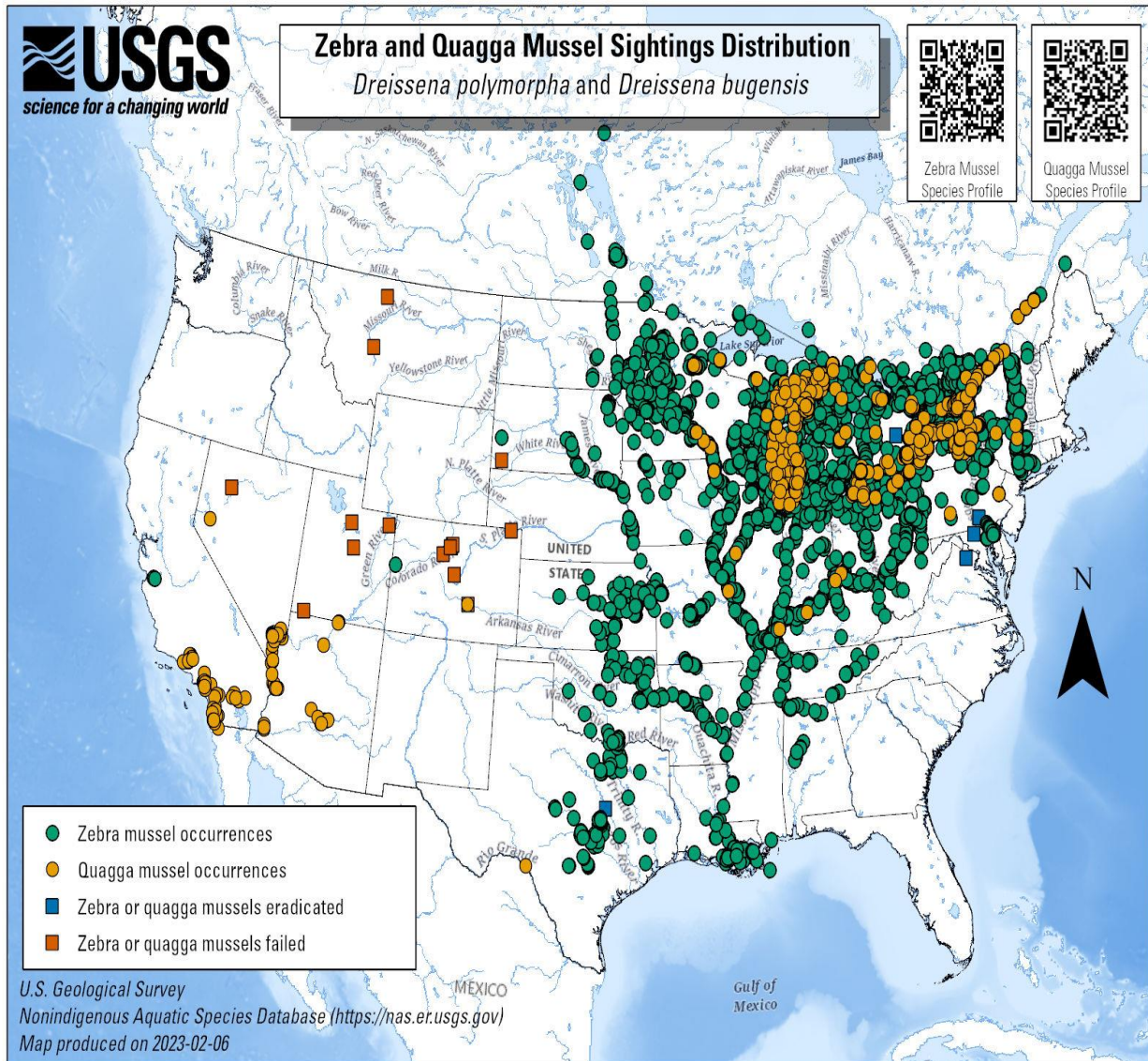
Lake Maloney's water level fluctuates often to provide water for downstream irrigation, power production and to facilitate mandated inspections and maintenance projects. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow Lake Maloney's water level and monitor [NPPD's Newsroom](#) for more details.

Carp-O-Rama



On July 23, 2022 the 8th 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 grain. Nearly all participants caught at least one hard fighting common carp. Gear, bait, advice and netting assistance was provided by NGPC employees and volunteers. The Nebraska Fish and Game Association (NEFGA) was also present representing their organization and dispersing bait. Cleaning and cooking of common carp were skills demonstrated along with Dutch oven cooking. Fried carp and side salads were served for lunch. Look for upcoming [Community Fishing Event](#) details and schedules for 2023.

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.
- [Asian clam](#) is commonly confused for Zebra mussel and is prevalent in Lake Maloney's upstream canal. This mussel is listed as a [Category II Priority Aquatic Invasive Species](#) by NGPC. This indicates that they are highly unwanted and all efforts should be taken to prevent their expansion.
- 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 Lake Maloney's fishery please contact
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