

1972 NEBRASKA FISHING GUIDE



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NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

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Sport Fishing

SEASONS

HOOK AND LINE—Open year-round throughout the state, except as noted in Special Areas section, or as posted.

ARCHERY—Game fish may be taken with bow and arrow from April 1 through November 30, sunrise to sunset. Nongame fish may be taken the year-round from sunrise to sunset.

HAND SPEARING—Nongame fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset the year-round.

UNDERWATER-POWERED SPEARFISHING—No closed season on nongame fish. Game fish may be taken from August 1 through December 31 in waters specified.

SNAGGING—October 1 through April 30 only in the Missouri River. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging at all times.

PERMITS

RESIDENT ANNUAL	\$4.00
NONRESIDENT ANNUAL	\$6.00
NONRESIDENT, FIVE DAYS	\$2.50
RESIDENT COMBINATION HUNTING-FISHING	\$8.00

RESIDENT FISHING PERMIT: Required of all residents 16 years of age or older.
NONRESIDENT FISHING PERMIT: Required of all persons who are not residents of Nebraska, except those under 16 years of age accompanied by a parent or guardian possessing a valid nonresident permit.

RESIDENT: A person who has resided in Nebraska continuously for at least 90 days and who has a bona fide intention of becoming a legal resident of this state. Members of the armed forces on active duty and officially stationed in Nebraska may purchase a resident fishing permit after residing 30 consecutive days in the state.

BOUNDARY WATERS: See permit requirements for persons fishing in any waters of Lewis and Clark Lake and the Missouri River under "Boundary Waters."

HOOK AND LINE LIMITATIONS—No more than two lines with two hooks on each line are permitted in any lake, pond, or reservoir, or for one-half mile in their inlets, outlets, and canals. In stream and ice fishing no more than 5 hooks on a line or 15 hooks in the aggregate are allowed. One hook means a single, double, or treble-pointed hook. All hooks attached to an artificial bait or lure are counted as one hook. **The above hook and line limits apply to fishing with poles, floats, bank or limb lines, or others.**

NOTICE

**THIS PUBLICATION IS INTENDED AS A GUIDE ONLY.
FOR OFFICIAL LAW SEE NEBRASKA CODE**

BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag**	Possession***
Trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow) and Salmon (Coho, Kokanee) in combination	7	7
Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky Spotted Bass) in combination	10	10
Striped Bass	2	2
White Bass	No Limit	No Limit
Channel Catfish	10	20
Flathead Catfish (mud or yellow) and Blue Catfish (silver or white) in combination	4	4
Walleye and Sauger in combination	8	16
Northern Pike	6	6
Paddlefish	2	4
Bait Minnows	100	100
Crappie, Bullheads, Yellow Perch, Sacramento Perch, White Perch, Freshwater Drum, Sand Sturgeon, Rock Bass, Bluegill, Sunfish, (green, orange-spotted, pumpkinseed, and redear), and all nongame fish	No Limit	No Limit

Special Limits—In the following state-owned lakes, the daily bag and possession limit on bullhead and carp is 10 fish in combination: All Two Rivers lakes, Douglas County; Niobrara Park Lake, Knox County; West Lake No. 3, Louisville, Cass County; Crystal Lake, Adams County; Fremont Lake No. 5, Dodge County; and all other put-and-take lakes stocked by the Game and Parks Commission the bag and possession limit is 10 fish, game or nongame, unless otherwise provided by special regulation. Note: Many cities limit the take to less than 10.

Bag and Possession Limits—Any fish caught that is not to be counted in the bag limit must be immediately released into the water with as little injury as possible. Any fish placed on a stringer, or in a container, or not returned immediately to the water, must be counted in the bag, except in Two Rivers Recreation Area Lake No. 5, where every fish caught must be counted in angler's bag limit.

****DAILY BAG**—Fish taken from midnight to midnight.

*****POSSESSION LIMIT**—Fish in a person's portable cooler, home freezer, registered in his name in a commercial cold storage locker, or in any other way under his control.

SIZE LIMITS

NORTHERN PIKE—24 inches only in that part of Nebraska east of U.S. Highway 81. This excludes the waters of the Missouri River and its oxbows.

ALL OTHER SPECIES—None.

Archery

Game fish may be taken by bow and arrow from April 1 through November 30, from sunrise to sunset. Nongame fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset the year-round. Closed waters include all put-and-take lakes stocked by the Game Commission; Two Rivers, Louisville, and Fremont state recreation areas; DeSoto National Refuge lake, portions of Lake McConaughy as posted, and trout streams (see Special Areas section).

The entire state is open, including state parks, state historical parks, state recreation areas, state special-use areas, and state wayside areas, except restricted areas listed herein or as otherwise posted.

Each arrow must have one barbed point only, and only the long bow, drawn by hand, is legal.

Snagging

Snagging of game and nongame fish is permitted only in the Missouri River from October 1 through April 30. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging at all times.

Bullfrogs

Bullfrog season runs from July 1 through October 31.

Bag and possession limit is 8 bullfrogs per person. They may be taken only on a fishing permit by hand, hand net, gig, or hook.

A hunting permit is required to take bullfrogs with bow and arrow or firearms.

Artificial light may be used for taking bullfrogs.

It Is Unlawful

- ...to borrow or use the permit of another or to lend your permit to another.
- ...to use glass floats on float lines.
- ...to use more than 5 hooks on a line or more than 15 hooks on all lines while stream or ice fishing.
- ...to use more than two lines with more than two hooks on each line while fishing in any lake, pond, or reservoir, or for one-half mile in their inlets, outlets, and canals.
- ...to leave fish or any part thereof on the banks of any stream, lake, or other body of water.
- ...to fish on any private land without permission of the owner.
- ...to use crossbow or similar device.
- ...to seine game fish of any size.
- ...to dig or seine for bait or for any other purpose in state-owned or controlled areas.
- ...to leave minnows in a minnow trap for more than 24 hours.
- ...to use float lines without attaching your name and address.
- ...to dive without properly displaying the International Divers' Flag.

Points to Remember

FISH STOCKING—It is unlawful for any person, except authorized Game Commission employees, to stock in any manner any live fish in any public waters of the state or to stock any nongame fish in any waters which overflow into or connect in any way to public waters except legal minnows used on fish hooks for fishing.

SCENTS—Anise oil or other scents that do not stun, kill, or harm fish are permitted.

FLOAT LINES—The name and address of the owner shall be on or attached to all floats when used for float line fishing. The use of glass floats on float lines is unlawful. Hook and line limitations are the same as for pole and line fishing. See page 3.

FISH NETS AND TRAPS:

The possession or use of any nets, traps, or other devices except the following is unlawful:

1. Minnow seines of one-fourth inch non-metallic square mesh only, and not over 20 feet long and 4 feet deep.
2. Minnow dip nets of one-fourth inch non-metallic square mesh.
3. Minnow and bait traps of one-fourth inch square mesh material with a length of 24 inches or less, a diameter 16 inches or less, and a throat 1½ inches or less in diameter. All minnow traps shall be raised and the minnows removed at least every 24 hours.
4. Landing nets, made of non-metallic mesh, used only for landing fish caught on hook and line.

Bait and Minnows

RESTRICTED SPECIES—It is unlawful to sell, transport, or offer for bait any carp, carpsucker, buffalo, gar, goldfish, quillback, or bowfin, and it is unlawful to use any of these fish for bait except in the water from which they are taken.

EXPORTING—No minnows taken from Nebraska waters may be transported out of the state in any manner, except: (a) Minnows artificially propagated in man-made impoundments by licensed fish culturists, and (b) No more than 100 legally captured minnows exported by a resident for his personal use in fishing outside the state.

IMPORTING—No person may import live bait minnows or live bait, including crayfish and leopard or striped frogs for commercial purposes, or in excess of 100 minnows for any purpose, without first obtaining a "certificate of inspection" from his state game and fish department which certifies the shipment free from disease and parasites. A copy of the certificate must accompany the shipment and the original must be sent to the Game and Parks Commission not less than three days before the shipment is made, along with the time, date, and place the bait will enter Nebraska. It is unlawful to import or transport carp, carpsucker, buffalo, goldfish, quillback, gar, salamanders, or bowfin into the state for use as bait. A \$25 resident bait vendor's permit or \$100 nonresident fish dealer's permit is required for a person to import and sell bait or bait minnows.

STATE AREAS—Digging and seining for bait or for any other purpose on all state-owned and controlled areas are prohibited.

GIZZARD SHAD—May be taken for use as bait by legal minnow dip nets in any number in lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and below dams and other artificial obstructions for a distance of 200 yards below such obstructions. Shad may be taken by legal minnow seine or dip net in any number in streams except those streams closed to the taking of minnows or bait by such methods.

BELOW DAMS—The seining or capturing of minnows for commercial or private purposes for a distance of 200 yards below any dam, check, spillway, or other artificial obstruction is unlawful. This does not restrict individuals from using legal minnow dip nets in these areas to capture minnows for their own personal use.

CLOSED WATERS—See Special Areas section.

Spearfishing

All individuals spearfishing in any manner must have a valid Nebraska resident or non-resident fishing permit. Only hand spears are legal and only nongame fish may be taken when spearing on the surface.

Underwater - Powered Spearfishing

Lawful spear guns include hand spears, rubberband-powered spear guns, and spring-loaded spear guns. All spears used on powered spear guns must be attached to a lanyard with a maximum length of 20 feet.

Underwater-powered spearfishing is not permitted within 100 yards of any designated swimming or water ski area, boat dock or ramp, or spillways.

Upon written approval of the director of the Game Commission, specified game species and specified waters may be opened for a limited time to underwater-powered spearfishing for special events and for fish management purposes.

SEASONS

Game fish—August 1 through December 31 in waters listed below. Bag and possession limits are the same as for hook and line.

Nongame fish—Open year-round in waters listed below. There are no size, bag or possession limits.

OPEN WATERS

1. Privately-owned lakes with permission of the lake owner
2. Lake McConaughy, Keith County
3. Lake Ogallala, Keith County
4. Lake Minatare, Scotts Bluff County
5. Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County
6. Lewis and Clark Lake
7. Harlan County Reservoir
8. Enders Reservoir, Chase County
9. Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock County
10. Hugh Butler (Red Willow) Reservoir, Frontier County
11. Harry Strunk (Medicine Creek) Reservoir, Frontier County
12. Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County
13. Maloney Reservoir, Lincoln County
14. Jeffrey Canyon Reservoir, Lincoln County
15. Johnson Reservoir, Gosper and Dawson counties
16. Bridgeport Middle (larger) Sandpit

DIVERS' FLAG

The International Divers' Flag must be displayed on the water on a float or buoy when diving or underwater-powered spearfishing. The flag must be at least 12 inches square, with a red background and white diagonal stripe that is one-fifth the width of the flag. The white stripe must run from the top of the hoist to the bottom of the flag. It is unlawful to display this flag when diving or spearfishing is not in progress.

Boundary Waters

LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE (Gavins Point Dam)—Anglers must carry a valid fishing license issued by the state from which he enters the lake or to which he returns. It is unlawful for any person to use more than two lines with more than two hooks on each line in the waters of this lake. The Lewis and Clark Lake includes all water area from the Gavins Point Dam upstream to the mouth of Bazile Creek in Knox County.

MISSOURI RIVER (South Dakota)—Any person taking fish from that part of the Missouri River which constitutes the legal boundary between South Dakota and Nebraska must carry a valid fishing license issued by the state from which he enters or to which he returns. Fishermen shall conform to the regulations of the state in which they are licensed.

MISSOURI RIVER (Iowa)—Anglers holding a valid sport fishing permit from either Nebraska or Iowa may fish in the waters of the Missouri River lying between the two states. "Waters of the Missouri River" are defined to include all oxbows, sloughs, chutes, and backwaters that draw water from the Missouri River proper. Oxbows, chutes, and backwaters separated from the Missouri River by land are included only if the state boundary line passes through some part of such waters. Fishing may be from boats or from the bank. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state in which they are fishing, unless the regulations of the licensee's state are more restrictive. Then, the licensee must conform with the more restrictive regulations. Anglers may transport fish taken from the waters of the Missouri River though the neighboring state, provided they return to their home state by the most direct route.

DE SOTO REFUGE LAKE—Fishing is permitted as posted from January 1 through February 28 and from April 15 through September 15 during daylight hours unless otherwise posted. A sports fishing license from either Nebraska or Iowa is required when fishing in this lake. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state in which they are licensed. Archery fishing and the use of trot and float lines are unlawful.

MISSOURI RIVER (Missouri)—Anglers holding a valid sport fishing permit from either Nebraska or Missouri may fish with hook and line, including personally attended jugs or floats, on the flowing portion of the Missouri River lying within the boundary of Nebraska or Missouri. In no case may the angler licensed in only one state fish in the tributaries, bayous, or backwaters of the Missouri River in the other state. Fishermen may not fish from nor attach any device or equipment to land under the jurisdiction of the state in which they are not licensed. Creel limits and methods of the state licensing the sport fisherman shall apply.

Special Areas

PLATTSMOUTH WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA—This area is open to fishing from April 15 through September 15 except when closed by the Commission by posting.

BURCHARD STATE LAKE—It is unlawful to fish in this Pawnee County lake during any waterfowl hunting season, except bank fishing from the face of the dam is permitted during this closed period as posted by signs on the area.

VALENTINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—Hook-and-line, bow-and-arrow, and hand-spear fishing is permitted during daylight hours. Fishing is prohibited during the regular duck hunting season and when posted. Use of any live or dead minnows or fish, possession of any seine or net for capturing minnows is prohibited. Overnight camping is not permitted on the refuge. Fishing through the ice is permitted as posted.

CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only in areas designated by posting in Crane or Island lakes from January 1 through September 30 or as posted. Use of any live or dead minnows or fish, possession of any seine or net for capturing minnows is prohibited.

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE—Lakes in this Scotts Bluff County refuge are open to fishing from January 15 through September 30 or as posted.

GEORGE'S LAKE—This Grant County lake is closed to all fishing.

CLEAR LAKE (BROWN COUNTY) and OVERTON LAKE (HOLT COUNTY)—The possession or use of live or dead minnows and the possession of any fish not taken from these waters is unlawful.

SPECIAL AREAS—Special regulations are in effect on the following state-owned areas:

1. **TWO RIVERS STATE RECREATION AREA (Douglas County)**—The Platte River bordering this area and all lakes (except Nos. 3, 4, and 5) are closed to fishing during the waterfowl hunting seasons. Archery fishing, snagging, spearing, gigging, snaring, and baiting are prohibited in all lakes. Live or dead minnows or fish of any species are prohibited as bait.
2. **FEE FISHING AREAS:**
 - (a) Lake No. 5 within the Two Rivers State Recreation area, Douglas County.
 - (b) Soldier Creek, as posted, within the Fort Robinson State Park complex, Sioux County.

The above areas are designated as special trout fishing areas, subject to the following regulations:

1. A daily trout fishing tag (fee \$2) is required.
2. Daily bag and possession limit is five (5) trout.
3. Open season—April 1 through November 30, between sunrise and one-half hour after sunset, or as prescribed and posted by the Commission.
4. Each fisherman shall wear the trout tag on his person in a conspicuous place while fishing.
5. Only one pole with line attached, and not more than two hooks is permitted per person.
6. Bow-and-arrow fishing, snagging, spearing, gigging, snaring and baiting are prohibited.
7. Minnows or fish, alive or dead, are prohibited as bait.
8. Each fisherman shall keep his fish on a separate stringer or container under his control.

9. Each fish caught shall be counted in the bag limit and no fish caught shall be returned to the water.
10. Each fisherman shall report his catch at the Administration Building and return his tag each day when finished.
11. Each fisherman's resident or nonresident fishing permit will be held until his tag and catch report are returned.

TROUT WATERS—It is unlawful to take or attempt to take game or nongame fish by bow and arrow or spearing and to seine or take or attempt to take bait or minnows in any manner in the following trout streams: ANTELOPE COUNTY, Verdigre Creek and all tributaries. BROWN COUNTY, Long Pine Creek, Plum Creek and all tributaries. BOX BUTTE COUNTY, Niobrara River. CHERRY COUNTY, Middle Loup River and all tributaries, North Loup River and all tributaries, Schlagel Creek, Fairfield Creek, Snake River and all tributaries, Plum Creek and all tributaries. DAWES COUNTY, Chadron Creek, Big Bordeaux Creek, Little Bordeaux Creek, White River above Crawford, Niobrara River from Box Butte Reservoir west to the Wyoming line and all tributaries, Dead Horse Creek, and White Clay Creek. GARDEN COUNTY, Blue Creek. HOLT COUNTY, Steel Creek and North, Middle, and South branches of Verdigre Creek. HOOKER COUNTY, Dismal River and all tributaries. KEITH COUNTY, Otter Creek, White Tail Creek, and Lonerain Creek and all tributaries. KIMBALL COUNTY, Lodgepole Creek and all tributaries west of the West Kimball Reservoir. KNOX COUNTY, North, Middle, and South Verdigras and all tributaries above the town of Verdigre, and Steel Creek, LOUP COUNTY, Gracie Creek. MORRILL COUNTY, all streams and tributaries except the channel or channels of the North Platte River. ROCK COUNTY, Long Pine Creek. SIOUX COUNTY, Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Spotted Tail Drain, Spotted Tail Drain, Niobrara River and all tributaries, Monroe Creek, Sowbelly Creek, Hat Creek, and Squaw Creek. SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, all streams and tributaries except the channel or channels of the North Platte River. SHERIDAN COUNTY, Snake River, Larrabee Creek, White Clay Creek, Pine Creek, Deer Creek, and Little Bordeaux Creek.

Boating

For complete information about boat registration, open waters, closed waters, restricted waters, safety regulations, required lighting, navigation rules, and special regulations for regattas, races, and water shows, consult the 1972 Guide to NEBRASKA and Boating. These handbooks are available from most boat dealers, marinas, and all Game Commission offices.

STATE RECORDS

HOOK AND LINE

- KENTUCKY SPOTTED BASS** 3 lbs. 11 oz.
Tom Pappas, North Platte, Lincoln County sandpit, 3/24/68
- LARGEMOUTH BASS** 10 lbs. 11 oz.
Paul Abegglen, Sr., Columbus, sandpit near Columbus, 10/2/65
- ROCK BASS** 2 lbs.
Violet Kelly, Sidney, Frenchman River near Imperial, 5/28/66
- SMALLMOUTH BASS** 5 lbs. 2½ oz.
Leo P. Weigel, Oakley, Kan., Red Willow Reservoir, 10/24/71
- STRIPED BASS** 10 lbs. 1 oz.
Dixie Akers, Kendall, Kan., Lake McConaughy, 9/29/70
- WHITE BASS** 4 lbs. 15 oz.
Frederick Baldwin, Grand Island, sandpit near Grand Island, 1962
- BLUEGILL** 2 lbs. 8 oz.
Charles Randolph, Atkinson, Holt County farm pond, 8/27/68
- BUFFALO** 33 lbs. 8 oz.
Mrs. Lyle Clemens, Clay Center, Seirs Lake, (Hall County), 9/4/66
- BULLHEAD** 3 lbs. 8 oz.
Alfred E. Porter, Rushville, Smith Lake, 7/28/63
- CARP** 28 lbs. 2 oz.
Harry Lassen, Grand Island, Hall County lake, 5/10/67
- BLUE CATFISH** 100 lbs. 8 oz.
Raynold Promes, Wynot, Missouri River near Wynot, 11/29/70
- CHANNEL CATFISH** 31 lbs. 12 oz.
Bob Nuquist, Broken Bow, Lake Ericson, 1944
- FLATHEAD CATFISH** 76 lbs.
Orville Sudbeck, Hartington, Missouri River near Wynot, 3/10/71
- CRAPPIE** 3 lbs. 15 oz.
Delmer Butler, Sidney, Lake McConaughy, 4/29/62
- FRESHWATER DRUM** 28 lbs. 4 oz.
Vincent Prazak, Clarkson, Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, 10/1/71
- MUSKELLUNGE** 18 lbs. 4 oz.
Kenneth Cook, Norfolk, Merritt Reservoir, 4/20/69
- PADDLEFISH** 87 lbs.
Patrick D. Fox, Omaha, DeSoto Bend Lake, 4/25/71
- SACRAMENTO PERCH** 2 lbs. 8 oz.
John A. Bush, Valentine, Clear Lake on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, 6/20/71
- WHITE PERCH** 6 oz.
Steve Triplett, Lincoln, Wagon Train Lake, 5/23/71
- YELLOW PERCH** 2 lbs.
Joe Adams, Mullen, Conway Lake (Cherry County), 1/16/66

IF YOU CATCH A RECORD FISH: Have the fish checked and weighed by a conservation officer or other Game Commission official, obtain his signature, and submit this statement and other pertinent information to the Information and Education Division, Nebraska Game Commission, P. O. Box 30370, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. If this is not possible the angler may submit a notarized affidavit signed by two witnesses, giving weight of the fish, where and when it was taken, girth, length, and other information to the agency mentioned previously. Photographs of the fish should be made where and when possible.

NORTHERN PIKE.....27 lbs. 8 oz.
Cletus Jacobsen, Big Springs, Lake McConaughy, 7/14/62

QUILLBACK.....6 lbs. ¼ oz.
Bob Vrbsky, Kearney, Johnson Lake, 5/31/71

COHO SALMON.....5 lbs. 12 oz.
Lyle Fry, Gering, Lake McConaughy, 7/3/71

KOKANEE SALMON.....4 lbs. 2 oz.
Neal Dunbar, North Platte, Lake McConaughy, 7/11/71

SAUGER.....8 lbs. 5 oz.
Mrs. Betty Tepner, Plainview, Missouri River near Niobrara, 10/22/61

STURGEON.....33 lbs.
Melvin Bourn, Niobrara, Missouri River near Niobrara, 5/22/70

SUCKER.....4 lbs.
Jack Keller, Gering, Lake Minatare, 4/29/68

GREEN SUNFISH.....1 lb. 1¼ oz.
William Fattig, Kearney, Buffalo County farm pond, 5/23/68

REDEAR SUNFISH.....1 lb. 6 oz.
Gary K. Reagan, Lincoln, Conestoga Lake, 5/4/70

BROOK TROUT.....5 lbs. 1 oz.
Joe Gray, North Platte, Pawnee Springs near North Platte, 11/3/65

BROWN TROUT.....12 lbs. 3 oz.
Richard L. Miller, North Platte, Snake River in Cherry County, 7/4/71

RAINBOW TROUT.....12 lbs. 8 oz.
Wayne Rath, Stratton, Lake McConaughy, 8/4/68

WALLEYE.....16 lbs. 2 oz.
Herbert J. Cutshall, Ogallala, Lake McConaughy, 7/5/71

BOW AND ARROW

LARGEMOUTH BASS.....8 lbs. 14 oz.
Jerry Grasmick, Scottsbluff, sandpit near Scottsbluff, 6/18/66

SMALLMOUTH BASS.....3 lbs.
Michael Lange, Gibbon, Interstate 80 lake in Buffalo County, 6/5/71

WHITE BASS.....2 lbs. 8 oz.
Richard Zierlein, Arnold, Lake McConaughy, 5/14/71

BLUEGILL.....11 oz.
Rick Sitzman, Scottsbluff, Pawnee Lake, 5/14/69

BUFFALO.....43 lbs.
Ronald Meyers, Columbus, Linoma Beach near Ashland, 6/17/67

BULLHEAD.....1 lb. 4 oz.
Clifford L. Schneider, Kearney, I-80 lake at Minden Interchange, 5/29/70

CARP.....36 lbs.
Mike Agosta, Omaha, Linoma Beach near Ashland, 6/13/65

CHANNEL CATFISH.....14 lbs. 7 oz.
Everett Hibbs, Ogallala, South Platte River in Keith County, 8/8/71

FLATHEAD CATFISH.....36 lbs. 4 oz.
Rich Christensen, Genoa, drainage ditch near Genoa, 8/17/66

CRAPPIE.....1 lb. 11 oz.
Dean Nussbaum, Falls City, Missouri River cut-off near Falls City, 5/28/66

FRESH-WATER DRUM.....7 lbs. 10 oz.
Steve Miles, Elwood, Johnson Lake powerhouse, 5/24/67

GAR.....16 lbs. 6 oz.
John J. Schuckman, Jr., Crofton, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 7/2/70

PADDLEFISH.....38 lbs. 8 oz.
John J. Schuckman, Jr., Crofton, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 7/16/70

YELLOW PERCH.....14 oz.
Rick Sitzman, Scottsbluff, Lake McConaughy, 6/21/70

NORTHERN PIKE.....21 lbs. 4 oz.
Allen Splichal, Scottsbluff, Lake Minatare, 5/2/70

QUILLBACK.....6 lbs. 8 oz.
Harold L. Bowman, York, sandpit near Central City, 6/13/71

SUCKER.....2 lbs. 14 oz.
Allen Splichal, Scottsbluff, Lake Minatare, 4/30/71

GREEN SUNFISH.....5 oz.
Larry L. Bird, Shenandoah, Ia., Interstate 80 lake in Kearney County, 6/13/71

BROWN TROUT.....5 lbs. 4 oz.
Richard Thompson, Lincoln, Lake McConaughy, 4/11/70

RAINBOW TROUT.....8 lbs. 10 oz.
Ron Cox, Mason City, Lake McConaughy, 4/18/71

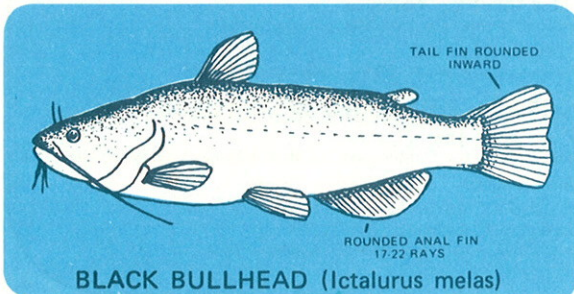
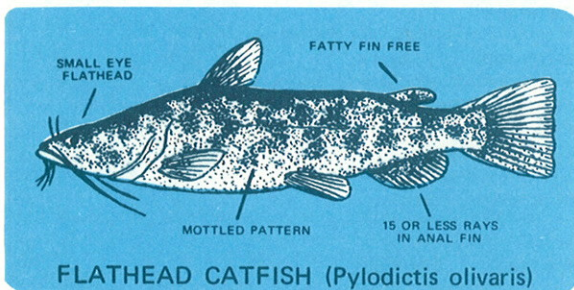
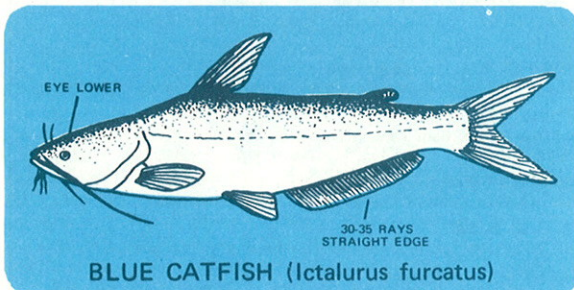
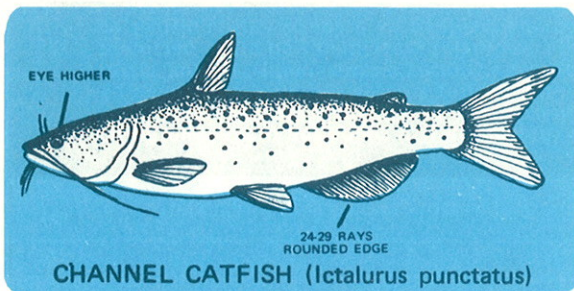
WALLEYE.....11 lbs. 1 oz.
Bradley M. Heck, Brady, Jeffery Reservoir, 4/11/70

UNDERWATER-POWERED SPEARFISHING

CARP.....32 lbs. 4 oz.
Ronald G. Hunt, Trenton, sandpit in Hitchcock County, 8/22/71

KOKANEE SALMON.....3 lbs. 7 oz.
Rock Morris, Omaha, Lake McConaughy, 8/28/71

WALLEYE.....13 lbs. 11 oz.
Richard Fish, Kearney, Lake McConaughy, 6/7/70



LOOK-ALIKE FISH

At some time or other, almost every fisherman has wondered just what he had dangling at the end of that line. Species identification, particularly on related look-alike fish, often poses problems, even for the experts. To help anglers determine what they have hooked, several pages are devoted to two groups of common, but sometimes confusing, Nebraska fish. Included are bass and catfish-bullhead. At times, though, even illustrations and tips aren't much help. If you need assistance in identifying your catch, contact the nearest Game Commission office.

CATFISH AND BULLHEAD

Channel and blue catfish are often confused, both having the same basic body proportions and a deeply forked tail. Channels are usually spotted, however, old fish often lose the spots and grow darker, taking on a deep gray coloration. The anal fin is the best means of identification. On the channel cat it has a short base, a rounded edge and 24 to 29 rays. The anal fin of a blue has a longer base, a nearly straight edge and 30 to 35 rays. The eyes of a channel are located high on the head, while those of the blue are slightly lower. Common throughout the state, channel catfish average about a pound, but fish in the 10 to 25-pound range are not uncommon. Blues are large rover fish and are abundant in the Missouri River. The top Nebraska blue, a 100-pounder, was taken from the Missouri River near Wynot.

Flatheads are also heavyweights. The state's top hook-and-line flathead, also taken from the Missouri, tipped the scales at 76 pounds. True to their name, flatheads have a broad, flat head and a wide mouth. Their tail is only slightly notched and the body is usually covered with a mottled pattern. The anal fin is rounded with about 15 rays. Flatheads, like channels and blues, feed primarily at night. Favored baits include cheese, doughballs, chicken entrails, worms, and minnows.

Black bullheads, a smaller species of the catfish family, are common in lakes, ponds and rivers throughout the state. A favorite with beginners and veterans alike, the bullhead may be confused with catfish. The best identi-

FISH

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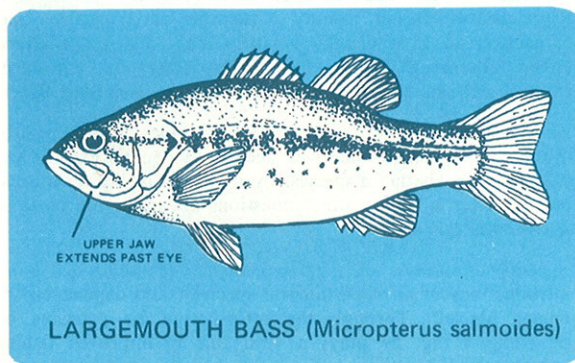
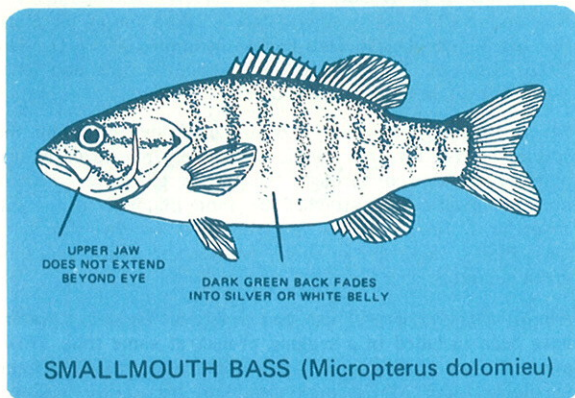
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ying marks of the black bullhead are the tail, which is slightly notched and has a light bar at its base, and the rounded anal fin with 17 to 22 rays. Black bullheads are able to survive under severe conditions, and for this reason they are often stocked in farm ponds and shallow lakes.

THE BASS

The **smallmouth** can be readily identified by the dark vertical blotches along the sides and bands extending back from the eye, one of which extends to the nose. The upper jaw does not extend beyond the eye. The back is dark green, gradually fading on the sides to white or silver on the belly. Not native to Nebraska,



the smallmouth was released in 1898 but enjoyed very restricted distribution until 1947 when released in Lake McConaughy. Starting in 1959, the distribution was widened considerably and smallmouth are now found in nearly all large reservoirs and throughout the Interstate 80 lakes. Introductions also have been made in several streams and a few Sand Hill lakes. An ever-popular sport fish, their future in Nebraska is bright.

In the **largemouth** bass the upper jaw extends past the back margin of the eye and the spiny dorsal fin is separated from the soft dorsal fin by a deep notch extending almost to the base of the fin. The largemouth bass is dark green on the back, becoming silver on the sides and belly. A native, it can be found in nearly all waters of the state and ranks as one of the most widely distributed species.

The **spotted** bass is similar to the smallmouth in that the upper jaw does not extend beyond the eye and the spiny and soft dorsal fins are not separated by a deep notch. The over-all coloration of a spotted bass is similar to that of a smallmouth. The spotted bass does have identifying marks of its own, evenly spaced rows of small dark spots so close together they appear as fine lines along the belly and lower sides. Introduced experimentally in 1961, the spotted bass currently is found in many Interstate lakes, Harlan County Reservoir, and in a few streams. The outlook is favorable and distribution will be increased.

White bass were found in Nebraska in 1892, but the population declined steadily until they became quite rare in the early 1940's. Stocked in Lake McConaughy in 1944 and in most large impoundments of the state since then, white bass are now one of the favorite game fish in the state. Six to eight dark narrow stripes run horizontally the length of its body and are more distinct and numerous above the lateral line. The white bass has two well-separated dorsal fins and the anal fin is marked by 13 or 14 rays. Lake McConaughy, Harlan County Reservoir, and Gavins Point offer the best fishing for white bass in Nebraska.

A relative newcomer to Nebraska, the **striped** bass was first introduced into Lake McConaughy in 1961. However, it was not until 1965, 1966, and 1967 that the striper was heavily stocked. It is now reaching battling size. Although similar in appearance to the white bass, the striped bass has a wider separation



SPOTTED BASS (*Micropterus punctulatus*)



WHITE BASS (*Roccus chrysops*)



STRIPED BASS (*Roccus saxatilis*)

between the dorsal fins. Generally, it also has a more slender profile than the white bass and the horizontal bars are darker and unbroken. A salt water species, strippers were first introduced into fresh waters in some of the southeastern states where they have attained weights in excess of 30 pounds.

WATCH FOR TAGS

Anglers can provide a real helping hand to biologists, who are striving to enhance the sport fishing potential in Nebraska through a variety of management techniques.

One of the most important such projects is tagging, which gives fisheries managers insights into populations, growth, survival rates, and movements. And, it doesn't take an expert to help gather the statistics.

Any angler who takes a tagged fish is asked simply to return the tag to the Game and Parks Commission, P. O. Box 30370, Lincoln, Neb., 68503, including the date and location of the catch. Biologists will take it from there.

Several different types of tags are used, depending on the species of fish involved. Some are merely plastic or aluminum bands slipped through the lip or gill cover. Others are tiny plastic tabs attached by monofilament to the gill cover or a fin. Numbers are embossed on the aluminum tags. Plastic tags vary in color, but generally have black or green numerals.

Almost every variety of fish and nearly all Nebraska waters have been included in a tagging project at some time. However, current studies deal particularly with trout at Lake Ogallala, Lake McConaughy and its tributaries; walleye, flathead catfish, and channel catfish in the Republican River below Harlan County Reservoir; carp, catfish, and carpucker in Lost Creek, Taylor Creek, and the Elkhorn River; largemouth bass at Red Willow Reservoir, and carp, channel catfish, and flathead catfish in the Big Blue River.

So check that fish over carefully for a tag. The data submitted may be just what was needed to complete a survey, to determine whether a species is suitable for Nebraska waters, or to answer a host of other questions about the life cycle of a particular species.

Success or failure of a management technique or future introductions of an experimental species could depend on the angler himself. Through the information he provides by returning a tag, he plays a vital role in improved fishing in Nebraska.



Tags like these give fisheries biologists valuable data. Check your catch carefully.