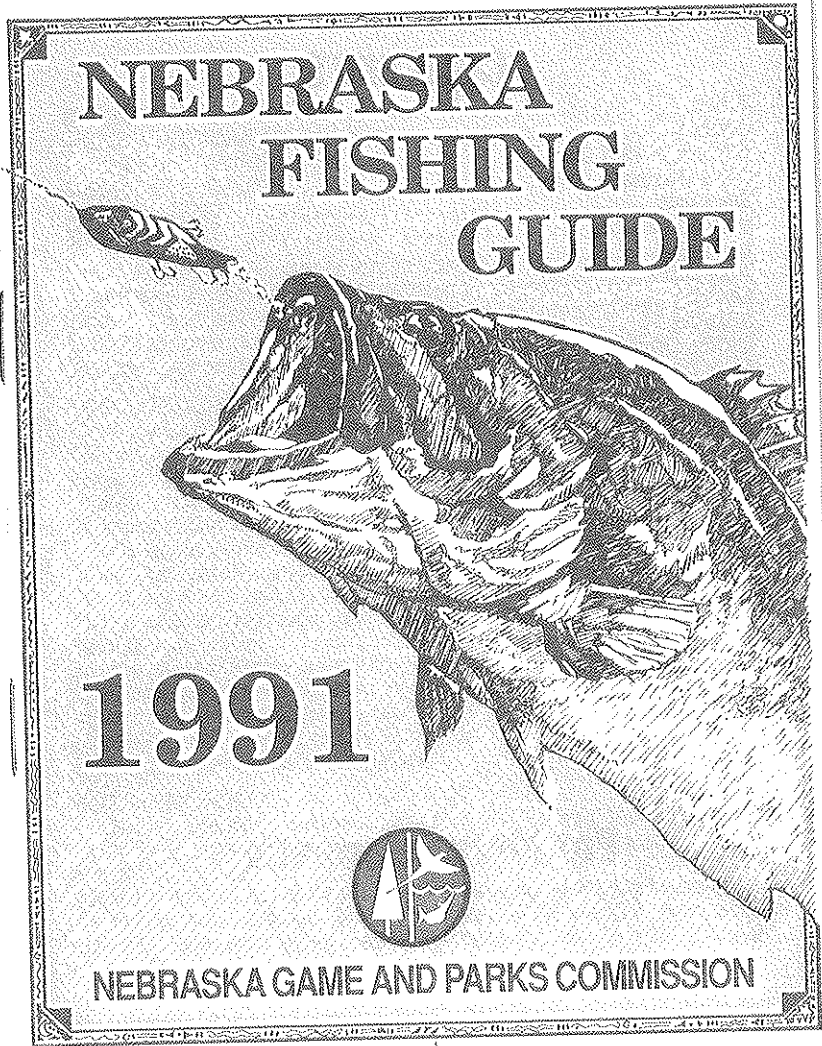


NEBRASKA FISHING GUIDE

1991



NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION



CONTENTS

Permits	3
Seasons	4
Synopsis of 1991 Changes	4
Bag & Possession Limits	5-6
Size Limits	6-7
Hook & Line Limits	8
Ice Fishing	8
Trout Stap	8
Snapping Turtles	9
Snagging	9
Bullfrogs/Mussels/Game/Nongame Fish	9
Grass Carp	9
Spearfishing	10-11
Bait & Minnows	12-13
Fish Stocking/Fish Kill Reports	13
Tournaments	14
Bass Limits	14-15
The Walleye Issue	18-19
Special Areas	20-23
State Records	24-28
Master Angler Award	29
The Advantage of Catch and Release	30
Operation Game Thief	31

For More Information

If you need additional information on fishing, write to Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503, or call one of our offices at: Alliance, 308-762-5605; Bassett, 402-684-2921; Lincoln, 402-471-0641; Norfolk, 402-371-4950; North Platte, 308-532-6225, and Omaha, 402-595-2144.

Permits

RESIDENT ANNUAL FISH	\$11.50
RESIDENT COMBINATION FISH-HUNT	19.50
NONRESIDENT ANNUAL	25.00
NONRESIDENT 3-DAY	7.50
RESIDENT 3-DAY	7.50
TROUT STAMP	5.00

A fishing permit is required to take or attempt to take any fish, frogs, turtles, amphibians, and mussels, including minnows, by any method, except the owner or invitee of any body of water which (1) is located entirely on private land, (2) is entirely privately stocked, (3) does not connect by inflow or outflow with any outside water, and (4) when such water is not operated on a commercial basis.

WHAT PERMIT IS REQUIRED?

A resident fishing permit is required for all Nebraskans 16 years of age or older. A "resident" is 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.

Others who may obtain a resident permit include: (1) servicemen officially stationed in Nebraska and on active duty here for at least 30 consecutive days; (2) nonresident students upon proof they have attended classes full-time for at least 30 consecutive days at any Nebraska college, university, junior college, or vocational school, and (3) any person duly enrolled in and attending a civilian conservation center or similar government work or training facility for 30 consecutive days.

A nonresident fishing permit is required of all persons who are not residents of Nebraska, except those listed and those under 16 years of age who are accompanied by a person possessing a valid permit.

See the section on "Boundary Waters" for permit requirements for persons fishing the waters of the Missouri River.

LIFETIME PERMITS

Nebraska residents can now enjoy a lifetime of fishing or hunting on a single permit and support outdoor recreation at the same time. Fees are: Lifetime Fish, \$230; Lifetime Hunt, \$200, or Lifetime Fish and Hunt, \$400. Funds from these permits go into a special fund, with the interest each year going to help support fisheries and wildlife management in Nebraska. For an application or more information, write to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Seasons

WIND-AND-LINE — Open year-round throughout the state, except as noted or as posted.

ARCHERY — Game fish may be taken from July 1 through December 31 from sunrise to sunset. Nongame fish may be taken year-round from sunrise to sunset and 24 hours per day April 1 through August 31 in Inland Waters. See section on Archery/Surface Spearing for exceptions.

SNAGGING — Missouri River only . . . downstream from Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile marker 734) beginning Oct. 15 and ending Nov. 15 or when an estimated 1,600 paddlefish have been harvested, whichever comes first. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging at all times. See section on Snagging for details.

SURFACE SPEARING — Only nongame fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset year-round and 24 hours a day from April 1 through August 31.

UNDERWATER SPEARING — Game fish may be taken from sunrise to sunset from July 1 through December 31. Nongame fish may be taken year-round, sunrise to sunset. See Underwater Spearing section for open waters.

Synopsis of Changes for 1991

Set a daily bag of 3 hybrid striped bass (wipers) at Branched Oak, Conestoga and Bluestem reservoirs.

Extend the 3-fish daily bag on northern pike statewide and reduce the size limit on Clear Lake to 30 inches.

Group tiger muskie with muskellunge for bag and size limit purposes.

Move bullfrog season opening date to Aug. 15.

Require that all set, limb and float lines be labeled with name, address and permit number of angler.

Prohibit snagging and bowfishing in the Gavins Point Dam stilling basin.

Add Swan Creek 5A to list of lakes having a 15-inch size limit on bass.

Bag & Possession Limits

Sport fishing is permitted year-round on all Nebraska waters, except for those areas closed by the Game and Parks Commission by posting or by Commission regulation, federal or state law, or city ordinance.

Bag and possession limits may vary between "Inland Waters" and "Waters of the Missouri River." For this purpose only, "Inland Waters" include all waters of the state except the waters of the Missouri River, and "Waters of the Missouri River" include all of the river within Nebraska and all reservoirs, oxbows, sloughs, chutes, backwaters, and marshes that have annual surface water connection to the river, and the first 300 yards upstream from the mouth of all tributary streams.

	Bag	Pos-session
Inland Waters		
Largemouth, Spotted Bass (combined) <i>(only one fish in daily bag may exceed 21 inches in length)</i>	4	8
Channel/Blue Catfish (combined)	10	20
Flathead Catfish	4	4
Paddlefish	1	1
Waters of Missouri River		
Largemouth, Spotted Bass (combined)	5	10
Blue Catfish	1	1
Channel Catfish	10	20
Flathead Catfish	10	20
Paddlefish		
Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux	1	1
Statewide		
Trout (all species)	7	7
Striped Bass/White Bass/Striped Bass Hybrid <i>(no more than 3 fish over 20 inches long; 3-fish daily bag at Branched Oak, Conestoga and Bluestem reservoirs)</i>	25	50
Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie (combined)	1	1
Bait Minnows/Tiger Salamander	100	100
Shovelnose Sturgeon	10	20
Walleye/Sauger (in combination)	6	12
Northern Pike	3	6

Bag & Possession Limits (continued)

Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass	30	60
(ch)	—No Limit—	
Other fish, mussels, and clams	8	8
Bluefrogs	10	10
Snapping Turtles		

DAILY BAG — Fish taken from midnight to midnight. No person may possess more than one day's limit of fish while on the water or actively engaged in fishing.

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.

THREATENED SPECIES — Lake Sturgeon and Pallid Sturgeon. Season closed.

SPECIAL LIMITS — In the following state-owned lakes, the daily bag and possession limit is 10 fish in combination: Two Rivers Carp Lake, Douglas County; Olin Park Lake, Knox County; West Lake No. 3, Louisville, Cass County; Fremont Lake No. 5 and Dead Timber Lake, Dodge County. Note: Many cities limit the take to less than 10. In Papio Lake No. 18, there is a daily bag limit of 10 panfish (bluegill and crappie) in combination.

Size Limits

Where size limits apply, fish may not be filleted prior to transport. Only the gills, guts, and scales may be removed before transport. Where bag limits but not size limits apply, fish may be filleted before transport, provided that fillets are kept in one piece until cooked so bag and possession limits can be determined. Fish placed in public storage must be labeled with the owner's name, address, fishing license number, species and number of fish, and the date placed in storage.

Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted): 21-inch minimum: Buckskin Hills Lake, Dixon County.
15-inch minimum: Summit Lake, Burt County; Timber Point, Butler County; Lake Yankton, Cedar County; Wolf Wildcat, Gage County; Elwood Reservoir, Gosper County; Alexandria Lakes No. 1, 2, & 3, Jefferson County; Conestoga, Cotton-tail, Stagecoach, Wagon Train, Wild Plum, Wildwood (Oak Creek 1A), and Yankee Hill, all in Lancaster County; Calamus Reservoir, Loup County; Skyview

Lake, Madison County; Burchard Lake, Pawnee County; Swan Creek 5A, Saline County; Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County; Meadowlark, Seward County; DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge lake, and all lakes on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.
12-inch minimum: Statewide except those waters where other limits apply and the Missouri River where there is no size limit.

Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie: 30 inches minimum statewide.

Northern Pike: 24 inches minimum in all inland waters east of U.S. 281.

30-inch minimum: Clear Lake on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

36-inch minimum: Pelican and Dewey lakes on the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

Walleye: 15 inches minimum at Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek in Scotts Bluff County and at Oliver Reservoir in Kimball County.

Bullfrog: 4½ inches from snout to vent.

All Other Species: None.

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, except during snagging season in the Missouri River where any paddlefish caught must be counted in the bag. Any fish placed on a stringer, or in a container, or not returned immediately to the water, must be counted in the bag.

Notice

This is a guide only. For sources, consult Nebraska statutes and official regulations.

Help Wanted

You can help fisheries managers by returning the tags from any tagged fish you may catch. The tag will be returned to you, along with data on where the fish was tagged.

Hook and Line Limits

Anglers are limited to 2 lines with 2 hooks on each line in any pond, lake, or reservoir, and for one-half mile in their inlets, outlets, and canals.

In stream fishing, the limits are 5 hooks on a line or 15 hooks in the aggregate. Only 5 lines with 2 hooks on each line are permitted when ice fishing. Only 1 hook may be used when snagging.

One hook means a single, double, or treble-pointed hook. All hooks attached to an artificial bait or lure are counted as one hook.

These limits apply to all fishing, including rod and reel, poles, float lines, bank lines, setlines, and all other types. The name, address and fishing permit number of the angler shall be attached to floats of all float lines, and to all limb lines and set lines.

Float lines may be used only on streams, rivers, and Lewis and Clark Lake. They must be personally attended. The use of glass floats is unlawful. Bag and possession limits are the same as for hook and line.

Note limitations listed in Special Areas.

Ice Fishing

When ice fishing, only 5 lines with no more than 2 hooks on each line are permitted. Holes made for ice fishing may not exceed 10 inches in diameter on any game and Parks Commission-controlled area.

A special \$5 permit is required to place a permanent ice shelter on all state recreation area and wildlife management area lakes. Application forms and shelter regulations are available from conservation officers, Commission offices, or by mail from the Parks Division, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503. This does not apply to temporary, portable shelters used and removed each day.

Trout Stamp

Everyone, 16 years of age or older, resident and nonresident alike, is required to have a \$5 Nebraska Trout Stamp, if they have trout taken in Nebraska in their possession. Holders of free permits are exempted, as are those who fish for trout in the put-and-take lake at Two Rivers State Recreation Area near Valley.

Funds derived from the sale of this stamp are dedicated to the support of Nebraska's trout management programs. For more information, write to: Fisheries Division, Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503.

Snapping Turtles

Snapping turtles may be taken year-round, and limits are 10 in the daily bag and in possession. They may be taken only by hand, hand net, hook and line, bow and arrow, or gaff hook.

Snagging

Snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish only is permitted in the Missouri River downstream from Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile marker 734) from sunrise to sunset beginning Oct. 15 and ending Nov. 15 or when an estimate of 1,600 paddlefish have been harvested, whichever comes first. The quota shall be determined by creel survey estimates. Only one (1) hook may be used when snagging. The daily bag and the possession limit is one paddlefish. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging for all species at all times. Any other game fish snagged accidentally must be returned to the water immediately.

Any paddlefish caught must be counted in the bag, and may not be cut up except for field dressing (removal of intestines, head, and tail) until arrival at the angler's residence or commercial preservation facility. Snagging for any fish is prohibited after the limit of paddlefish is reached.

Bullfrogs

Bullfrog season runs from August 15 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, and hook-and-line. Artificial light may be used when taking bullfrogs. Bullfrogs must measure 4½" from snout to vent or be released. *Only the entrails may be removed prior to transport.*

Mussels (Clams)

Mussels may be taken year-round by hand, hand net or hook and line. There is no limit.

Game/Nongame Fish

Nebraska law defines game fish as all species of fish except buffalo, carp, gar, quillback, sucker, and gizzard shad.

Grass Carp

The triploid grass carp is approved for use in private waters for aquatic weed control by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. These fish are available from licensed fish culturists, but they must be certified as 100% triploid by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service inspection.

Archery/Surface Spearfishing

Game fish may be taken by bow and arrow from July 1 through December 31 from sunrise to sunset, statewide, except that paddlefish may be taken by archery from July 1 through July 31 in the Missouri River downstream from Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile marker 734). Remaining stretches of Missouri River are closed to the taking of paddlefish. Game fish may not be taken with surface spears.

Nongame fish may be taken by archery or surface spear year-round from Inland Waters, sunrise to sunset, and may be taken 24 hours a day from April 1 through August 31.

The following areas are closed year-round — all put-and-take lakes stocked by the Game Commission; Two Rivers, Louisville, Fort Kearny, Fremont, Mormon Island and Windmill state recreation areas, and trout streams (see Special Areas).

With archery, only long bows (including compoud bows), drawn by hand, are legal. A crossbow may be used by a handicapped person who has a medical certificate on file with the Game and Parks Commission Fisheries Division. Arrows must be attached by a line to the bow and must have only one point, which must be barbed. Arrows with more than one point are prohibited. For surface spearing, only hand spears are legal. Any spearing device must be barbed.

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

SEASONS

Game fish — July 1 through December 31 in waters listed below. Bag and possession limits are the same as for hook and line. Hours are sunrise to sunset.
Nongame fish — Open year-round in waters listed below. There are no size, bag or possession limits. Hours are sunrise to sunset.

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. Sherman Reservoir, Sherman County
17. Elwood Reservoir, Gosper County
18. Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County
19. Calamus Reservoir, Loup County

DIVER'S FLAG

The Diver's Flag must be displayed on the water on a float or buoy when diving or underwater-powered spearfishing. A diver and underwater spearfisherman must remain within 150 feet of his flag.

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.

Bait and Minnows

It is unlawful to take minnows from any lake, reservoir, or bayou. Digging, seining and trapping for bait or any other purpose is prohibited on all state-owned or controlled areas. All game fish of whatever size taken while netting or seining for bait must immediately be returned to the waters from which taken.

GIZZARD SHAD AND ALEWIFE — Shad and alewife may be taken for use as bait by legal minnow dip nets in any number from 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 landing net, or dip net in any number in streams except those streams closed to the taking of minnows or bait by such method.

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, provided, however, that legal minnow dip nets may be used to take minnows for bait.

RESTRICTED SPECIES — It is unlawful to sell, transport, or offer for sale as bait, any live carp, carpsucker, buffalo, gar, quillback or bowfin. Live fish of those species may be used for bait only in the same waters from which they are legally taken. Dead carp, carpsucker, buffalo, gar, quillback or bowfin may be sold, transported or offered for sale as bait.

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

IMPORTING — It is unlawful to import or transport carp, carpsucker, buffalo, quillback, gar, or bowfin into the state for use as bait. Special permits are required for a person to import and sell bait or bait minnows.

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

FISH NETS AND TRAPS — The possession or use of any nets, traps, *electrical gear capable of stunning fish*, 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. Neither length or width may exceed 36 inches.
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.

CLOSED WATERS — See Special Areas section.

Fish Stocking

It is unlawful to release any non-native fish, reptile, or amphibian in waters of the state or to release any fish in any public waters in the state except those taken therefrom without written authorization from the Game and Parks Commission.

NOTICE — Do NOT transfer any minnows or other fish from one lake or stream to another. You may be destroying your own fishing!

Fish Kill Reports

Reports of dying fish populations may be made by notifying your local conservation officer, district Game and Parks Commission office, or the 24-hour State Patrol pollution complaint number (402) 471-4545, as soon as possible. Prompt notification will make it easier to determine the cause.

Tournaments/Contests/Derbies

When they involve tagged or otherwise marked fish, fishing tournaments, derbies, or contests are prohibited on (1) waters owned or controlled by the Alaska Game and Parks Commission and (2) waters stocked by the Game and Parks Commission during the preceding 24 months, excluding private lakes not owned by the state or other governmental entity.

The Importance of Bass Size Limits

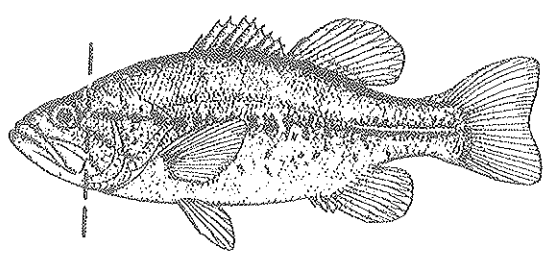
To achieve the Game and Parks Commission goal of providing ample opportunities for all anglers to enjoy their sport, a balanced fishery is required. A balanced fishery contains catchable crappie, bluegill and other panfish as well as the largemouth bass.

Size limits allow largemouth bass within the lake to grow large enough to help control populations of panfish and nongame prey fish species. This is important because maintaining a balanced fishery is the only way to meet the demands of all anglers.

Studies have shown that without regulation anglers will keep 7 or 8-inch bass. An unregulated harvest like that leaves behind too few pounds of bass to regulate the fishery.

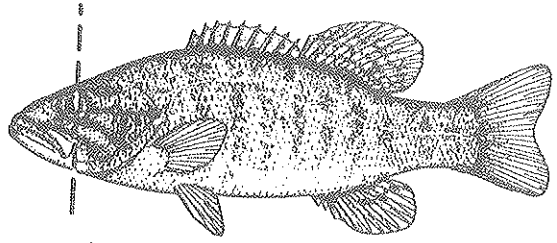
A 12-inch largemouth bass can eat four times the weight of panfish that an 8-inch largemouth bass can. A 15-inch largemouth bass can eat double the weight of panfish that a 12-inch bass will.

Removing largemouth bass which are under the size limit reduces the average size of the fish in a body of water, which in turn reduces the total weight of the bass population. When this occurs, the largemouth bass population cannot consume the quantity of panfish needed to adequately control their numbers and the fishery becomes upset.



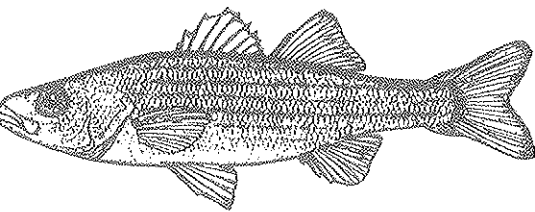
LARGEMOUTH BASS

The upper jaw extends beyond the rear margin of the eye. Blochy, dark lateral band tends to break up in older fish.



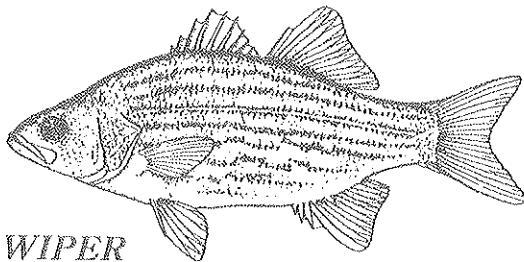
SMALLMOUTH BASS

The upper jaw does not extend behind the rear margin of the eye, distinguishing this fish from the largemouth. The body is marked with vertical bands, which tend to fade and disappear on older fish.



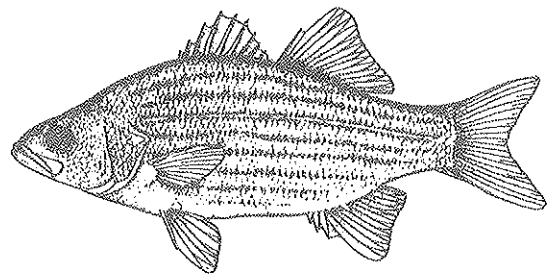
STRIPED BASS

Striped bass appear more streamlined than white bass, and horizontal lines are distinct and unbroken. Stripers are large fish, capable of topping 50 pounds in Nebraska, but five is tops for white bass.



WIPER

White bass/striped bass hybrid ("wiper") shows characteristics of both parents. The wiper is deep-bodied like white bass, but distinct markings are mostly unbroken. It usually has two tooth patches like a striper, rather than one as in white bass.



WHITE BASS

White bass have a rather deep, chunky body, compared to its larger cousin, the striped bass. It is silvery colored, with about seven horizontal stripes, some of which may be faint and broken.

REMEMBER . . .

- ... To distinguish white bass from striped bass and hybrid bass, check center tooth patches on tongue.
- ... Stripes on white bass are faint with 1st stripe below the lateral line not distinct or complete to the tail.
- ... First stripe below the lateral line is distinct and complete to the tail on the striped bass and hybrids.

Broken lines on the side do not necessarily mean it's a hybrid. Some striped bass have broken lines.

From Samuel Eddy, *How to Know the Freshwater Fishes*, 2nd ed. Copyright © 1969. Wm. C. Brown Publishers, Dubuque, Iowa. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by special permission.

The Walleye Issue: Size Limit Or Not

Imposing a size limit on walleye in Nebraska is a complex issue, which deserves an explanation to those anglers who feel a statewide limit should be established.

At issue first is what size limit should be imposed. Studies from on-site surveys of Nebraska anglers show that less than 5 percent of anglers will keep a walleye smaller than 12 inches. In other words, more than 95 percent of Nebraska anglers already have a self-imposed size limit of 12 inches.

Nebraska walleye growth rates are considerably faster than northern states. A one-year old walleye in Nebraska is normally 9-11 inches; a two-year-old walleye 12-15 inches and a three-year-old walleye 16-18 inches.

Most walleye in Nebraska are harvested as two-year-old fish or from 12-15 inches in size. Growth rates differ across the state with the faster rates found in the southern reservoirs. A length limit of 15 inches essentially restricts harvest of two-year-old fish. A belief is held that if all two-year-old walleye were protected by a size limit that they then would be available to anglers in the future as 16-18-inch fish.

This simply will not happen due to natural and hooking mortality. For instance, studies have shown that in Lake McConaughy, about half of all walleye in the lake die of natural causes each year. A reduction in the number of walleye caught does not affect this natural death pattern.

If a size limit were imposed on Lake McConaughy, many of the 13-14-inch fish would be wasted. Allowing anglers to catch some of these walleye then, is a wise use of the resource.

Hooking mortality also, can be as high as 50 percent if a large percentage of anglers use live bait. Imposing a size-limit would force anglers to release under-sized fish, which likely would increase the rate of hooking mortality. Again, it would be a wise use of the resource to allow anglers to count these fish toward their limit.

Another misnomer is that if a size limit works for black bass, it then should work for walleye.

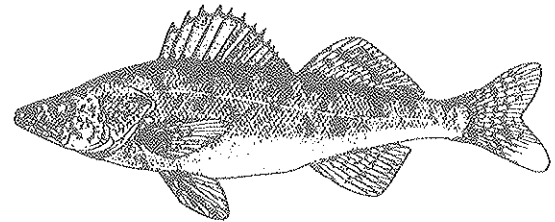
A look at the difference in the species illustrates why this is not true.

Black bass typically inhabit shoreline areas, have a low natural mortality, serve as an important pond predator, produce approximately 15,000 eggs per five-pound female and are nest builders and care-givers to young.

Conversely, walleye prefer open water areas, have a high rate of natural mortality, are mainly a reservoir species, produce approximately 200,000 eggs per five-pound female and do not give care to eggs, which are spread randomly over rocks or gravel.

Based on these biological differences, justification exists to support size limits on bass, but not on walleye.

Fisheries regulations are enacted with considerable study and biological information. The objective of any regulation is to allow the maximum use of resources within guidelines for sustaining future generations of fish. The Game and Parks Commission's regulation of walleye, which does not include a size limit, attempts to do just that.



WALLEYE

White marking on lower lobe of tail fin, black membranes between last two or three spines of first dorsal fin, separate the walleye from its look-alike sauger cousins.

Special Areas

SMOOTH WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA — This area is open to fishing from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily from April 15 through September 15 except during the waterfowl hunting season, closed by the Commission by posting.

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

SKIN HILLS LAKE — This lake is designated as catch-and-release lake for largemouth bass. All bass caught in this lake must be immediately returned to the water, except that one fish that is MORE THAN 21 inches long may be kept in the bag.

LAKES (Seward County) — This wildlife management area is closed to all fishing from October 15 until the end of the dark goose season.

CLEAR LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Fishing is permitted during daylight hours in Island Lake from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31. Electric-type outboard motors are permitted on lakes open to fishing; the use of internal combustion motors is prohibited. The possession or use of live or dead minnows and the possession of any fish not taken from refuge waters are unlawful. However, frozen and dead smelt may be used for bait. Overnight camping is not permitted.

DEWEY NATIONAL REFUGE — Fishing is permitted year-round during daylight hours, unless otherwise posted. Electric-type outboard motors are permitted on lakes open to fishing; the use of internal combustion motors is prohibited. The possession or use of live or dead minnows and possession of any fish not taken from refuge waters are unlawful. However, frozen or dead smelt may be used for bait. There is a 15-inch size minimum on black bass on all refuge lakes, and a 30-inch minimum applies to northern pike and tiger musky on Dewey and Pelican lakes. Overnight camping is not permitted. A 30-inch minimum applies to northern pike on Clear Lake.

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Lake Minatare and Winters Lake Creek are open to fishing from January 15 through September 30 or as posted. Waters within 150 feet of the dam at Lake Minatare are closed to fishing from sunset to sunrise from March 1 through April 30.

BUFFALO CREEK WMA (Scotts Bluff and Banner counties) — It is unlawful to use more than two lines with two hooks per line when fishing in Buffalo Creek Pond, including ice fishing.

FORT ROBINSON STATE PARK (Dawes County) — It is unlawful to use more than two lines with two hooks on each line when fishing in Cherry Creek, Icehouse and Grabel ponds, and Carter P. Johnson Lake. This includes ice fishing.

FREMONT STATE RECREATION AREA (Dodge County) — Lake No. 20 is closed to fishing from a boat from 10 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset year-round.

NIORARA STATE PARK (Knox County) — Largemouth bass fishing is limited to catch and release on two park lakes; possession is prohibited.

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. Lake No. 5 is designated as a put-and-take trout fishing lake and is subject to special regulations. A daily trout tag is required to possess trout on the entire Two Rivers area. Check at area office.

TROUT WATERS — It is unlawful to take or attempt to take game or nongame fish by bow and arrow or spearing and to take or attempt to take by seine or trap any bait or minnows in any of the following trout streams: ANTELOPE COUNTY, Verdigre Creek and all tributaries. BROWN COUNTY, Bone Creek and all tributaries, Long Pine creek and all tributaries, Plum Creek and all tributaries, Fairfield Creek. BOX BUTTE COUNTY, Niobrara River. CHERRY COUNTY, Middle Loup River and all tributaries, North Loup River and all tributaries, Schlagel Creek, Fairfield Creek and Snake River and all tributaries, Plum Creek and all tributaries. CHEYENNE COUNTY, Lodgepole Creek west of Brownson. 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, Squaw 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 Lonergan Creek and all tributaries. KIMBALL

Special Areas (continued)

...NTY, Lodgepole Creek and all tributaries. KNOX COUNTY, North, Middle, and ...th Verdigre and all tributaries above the town of Verdigre, and Steel Creek. ...P COUNTY, Gracie Creek. MORRILL COUNTY, all streams and tributaries ...ept the channel or channels of the North Platte River. ROCK COUNTY, Long ...e Creek. SIOUX COUNTY, Sheep Creek Drain, Dry Sheep Creek Drain, and ...otted Tail Creek, Spotted Tail Creek, Niobrara River and all tributaries, White ...er, Soldiers Creek and all tributaries, Monroe Creek, Sowbelly Creek, and Hat ...ek. SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, Nine Mile Creek, Winters Creek, Tub Springs, Wet ...otted Tail Creek, Dry Spotted Tail Creek, Sheep Creek, Dry Sheep Creek, ...ickenhole Creek, Akers Draw, Mitchell Drain, Moffett Drain, Alliance Drain, and ...yard Drain. SHERIDAN COUNTY, Snake River, Larrabee Creek, White Clay ...ek, Pine Creek, Deer Creek, and Little Bordeaux Creek. WEBSTER COUNTY, ...n Creek.

It is unlawful to possess a net or seine of any type on trout spawning streams ...Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, and Keith counties that are tributary to the ...rth Platte River and Lake McConaughy, including: Pumpkin, Red Willow, ...ildhorse, Stuckenhole, Nine Mile, Tub Springs, Winter, Sheep, Dry Sheep, ...otted Tail, Dry Spotted Tail, Otter, Clear, Lonergan, Upper Dugout, Indian, ...lvernaill Drain, and Cedar Creeks.

Boundary Waters

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 ...e two states. "Waters of the Missouri River" are defined to include all oxbows, ...oughs, chutes, and backwaters that draw water from the Missouri River proper. ...xbows, chutes, and backwaters separated from the Missouri River by land are ...cluded only if the state boundary line passes through some part of such waters. ...ouths of streams are not included. Fishing may be from boats or from the bank. ...All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state in which they are ...ishing, unless the regulations of the licensee's state are more restrictive. Then, the ...icensee must conform to the more restrictive regulations. Anglers may transport ...ish taken from the waters of the Missouri River through the neighboring state, ...provided they return to their home state by the most direct route.

DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Sport fishing by hook-and-line and ...archery is permitted as designated by area regulations. The use of trot lines and ...float lines is unlawful. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the state ...in which they are licensed, either Nebraska or Iowa, and federal refuge regulations ...as posted.

MISSOURI RIVER (South Dakota) — Nebraska or South Dakota residents, holding ...a valid sport fishing permit from their home state, may fish that part of the Missouri ...River that constitutes the legal boundary between the two states. This includes ...Lewis and Clark Lake, Gavins Point Dam, and its tailwaters. However, anglers must ...conform to the regulations of the state in which they are fishing, unless the ...regulations of their home state are more restrictive. Then, the angler must ...conform to the more restrictive regulations. At Lewis and Clark Lake, it is unlawful ...for any person to use more than two lines with more than two hooks on each line; ...this restriction applies to all water area from Gavins Point Dam upstream to the ...Santee boat ramp in Knox County, Nebraska. In no case may an angler licensed in ...only one state fish in tributaries in the other state. *Fishing is permitted from boat or ...bank.*

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.

State Record Rules

Fish must exceed current record by at least one ounce or it will be considered as tie.

Fish must be taken from Nebraska waters.

Fish must be legally taken by hook-and-line, underwater spearfishing, surface spearing, or archery. Fish must be caught, played, and landed by the applicant. Fish must be weighed on a certified scale and witnessed by a Game and Parks Commission employee. If not witnessed by a Commission employee, a notarized affidavit, signed by two witnesses and giving the requested information, may be substituted.

Species of fish must be verified by a Commission fisheries official. The fish may be gutted and frozen, but the head, fins, and skin must remain intact until the species has been verified.

Angler must display fishing permit to the individual verifying the application. Application forms are available from any Commission office or permit vendor.

HOOK AND LINE

MUCKY SPOTTED BASS 3 lbs. 11 oz.
 Tom Pappas, North Platte, Lincoln County sandpit, 3/24/68

SMALLMOUTH BASS 10 lbs. 11 oz.
 Paul Abegglen, Sr., Columbus, sandpit near Columbus, 10/2/65

SMALLMOUTH BASS 2 lbs. 4 oz.
 Tina Zuege, Haigler, Dundy County farm pond, 5/6/72

SMALLMOUTH BASS 6 lbs. 1½ oz.
 Sally Allison, North Platte, Merritt Reservoir, 5/17/78

SMALLMOUTH BASS 44 lbs. 10 oz.
 Steve Hifferty, Grant, Lake McConaughy, 8/27/86

SMALLMOUTH BASS HYBRID 13 lbs. 9 oz.
 Mike Howard, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 10/13/88

SMALLMOUTH BASS 5 lbs.
 Dan Kilcoin, Aurora, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 11/12/83

SMALLMOUTH BASS 2 lbs. 13 oz.
 Gary Ralston, Creighton, Grove Lake, 4/26/77

SMALLMOUTH BUFFALO 44 lbs. 8 oz.
 Marvin Messman, Omaha, Carter Lake, 4/27/78

SMALLMOUTH BUFFALO 41 lbs.
 Bob Eaton, Omaha, Carter Lake, 4/29/82

SMALLMOUTH BUFFALO 45 lbs.
 Bruce F. Baete, Beatrice, Big Blue River, 6/15/84

BOWFIN 8 lbs.
 Ronald Evenson, Omaha, Dead Timber Lake, 8/7/82

BULLHEAD 3 lbs. 14 oz.
 Dick Dunn, Beatrice, Pawnee County farm pond, 7/22/74

BURBOT 5 lbs. 13 oz.
 Terry Freeman, Omaha, Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters, 4/28/79

CARP 33 lbs. 12 oz.
 Toni C. Baete, Beatrice, Gage County farm pond, 5/12/83

GRASS CARP 33 lbs. 8 oz.
 Leslie J. Nelson, Jr., Omaha, Private lake, 5/4/90

BLUE CATFISH 100 lbs. 8 oz.
 Raynold Promes, Wynot, Missouri River near Wynot, 11/29/70

CHANNEL CATFISH 41 lbs. 8 oz.
 John Cuning, Valentine, Merritt Reservoir, 7/26/85

FLATHEAD CATFISH 80 lbs.
 William Swanson, Silver Creek, Loup Power Canal near Genoa, 6/14/88

BLACK CRAPPIE 4 lbs. 2 oz.
 Joe L. Citta, Hershey, Red Willow Reservoir, 5/30/81

WHITE CRAPPIE 4 lbs. 1 oz.
 Elsie M. Jensen, Broken Bow, Red Willow Reservoir, 5/18/80

FRESHWATER DRUM 28 lbs. 4 oz.
 Vincent Prazak, Clarkson, Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, 10/1/71

AMERICAN EEL 5 lbs.
 George Sweisberger, South Sioux City, Missouri River, 8/2/83

LONGNOSE GAR 16 lbs. 10 oz.
 Bob Mostek, Duncan, Duncan Lakes in Polk County, 5/1/86

SHORTNOSE GAR 19 lbs.
 Ronald Hardin, Omaha, lake in Cass County, 6/29/74

GOLDBEYE 3 lbs. 15½ oz.
 Gary Kumm, Bloomfield, Lewis & Clark, 8/13/88

SKIPJACK HERRING 1 lb. 10 oz.
 Scott Wessel, Wayne, Gavins Point tailwaters, 8/23/87

MUSKELLUNGE 35 lbs. 8 oz.
 Wayne Porath, Merritt Reservoir, 8/17/90

TIGER MUSKY 24 lbs. 4 oz.
 Roy Barnhart, Lodgepole, Lake McConaughy, 10/28/90

LEFISH 91 lb. 8 oz.
 Warren Yelkin, Lincoln, Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters, 11/18/78
 MEMENTO PERCH 2 lbs. 8 oz.
 John A. Bush, Valentine, Clear Lake on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, 6/20/71
 BLUE PERCH 1 lb. 6 oz.
 Curtis Kadlick, Lincoln, Wagon Train Lake, 5/16/72
 BOW PERCH 2 lb. 10 3/4 oz.
 John D. Skrdla, Stuart, Hackberry Lake, 2/11/84
 NORTHERN PIKE 29 lbs. 12 oz.
 Gary Jones, Royal, Grove Lake, 7/6/84
 PINKSEED 10 3/4 oz.
 John Johnson, Minatare, Box Butte Reservoir, 9/23/87
 BLACKBACK 12 lbs.
 Norman Grabenstein, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 5/3/87
 COCK SALMON 2 lbs. 8 oz.
 Jack Heppner, Norfolk, Lewis and Clark Lake, 9/14/85
 GOLD SALMON 5 lbs. 12 oz.
 Julie Fry, Gering, Lake McConaughy, 7/3/71
 KING SALMON 4 lbs. 2oz.
 Neal Dunbar, North Platte, Lake McConaughy, 7/11/71
 BASS 8 lbs. 5 oz.
 Mrs. Betty Tepner, Plainview, Missouri River near Niobrara, 10/22/61
 BROAD SHAD 4 lbs. 7 3/4 oz.
 Joe Rinbauer, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 3/26/89
 BELTNOSE STURGEON 3 lbs. 11 oz.
 Robert C. Byers, Omaha, Missouri River, Cass County, 5/30/84
 BASS 18 lbs. 14 oz.
 Bob J. Thoene, Hartington, Missouri River, 11/16/86
 BROWN SUNFISH 1 lb. 4 oz.
 Jeff Knajdl, Riverdale, Buffalo County sandpit, 7/13/80
 BROWN SUNFISH 1 lb. 10 oz.
 Charles I. Jones, Eckley, CO, Rock Creek Lake, 6/8/90
 BROOK TROUT 5 lbs. 1 oz.
 Joe Gray, North Platte, Pawnee Springs near North Platte, 11/3/65
 BROWN TROUT 20 lbs. 1 oz.
 Benny Doolittle, Valentine, Snake River, 7/26/73
 THROAT TROUT 4 lbs. 4 oz.
 Devin Needham, Sidney, N. Platte River, 6/16/90

RAINBOW TROUT 14 lbs. 2 oz.
 Frank Aloy, North Platte, canal in Keith County, 3/18/75
 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
 ROCK BASS 1 lb. 6 oz.
 Harlan L. Worden, North Platte, Interstate 80 lake in Lincoln County, 5/8/72
 SMALLMOUTH BASS 3 lbs.
 Michael Lange, Gibbon, Interstate 80 lake in Buffalo County, 6/5/71
 STRIPED BASS 8 lbs. 5 oz.
 Michael Dorris, Arthur, Lake McConaughy, 4/14/73
 WHITE BASS 3 lbs.
 Lonnie Miller, Hastings, Harlan County Reservoir, 4/14/73
 BLUEGILL 14 oz.
 Michael J. Christiansen, North Platte, thomas County farm pond, 6/13/75
 BUFFALO 43 lbs.
 Ronald Meyers, Columbus, Linoma Beach near Ashland, 6/17/67
 BULLHEAD 1 lb. 11 oz.
 Cory Hardin, Rushville, Smith Lake, 7/13/78
 CARP 38 lbs. 8 oz.
 Ronald A. Meyers, Columbus, Platte County lake, 5/9/85
 GRASS CARP 20 lbs. 4 oz.
 Marilyn Wiebelhaus, Wynot, Missouri, Missouri River, 7/18/90
 RIVER CARPSUCKER 7 lbs. 4 oz.
 Quinton Wagoner, Broadwater, North Platte River, 6/1/89
 CHANNEL CATFISH 21 lbs. 12 oz.
 Mike Lacey, Gering, Lake Minatare, 7/23/82
 FLATHEAD CATFISH 46 lbs. 2 oz.
 Jim Foral, Lincoln, Bluestem Creek, Sprague, 10/13/84
 BLACK CRAPPIE 1 lb. 14 oz.
 Tim McQuade, North Platte, Shoupe Lake, Cherry County, 6/1/74
 WHITE CRAPPIE 2 lbs. 13 oz.
 David Medinger, Bellwood, sandpit in Butler County, 6/2/73
 FRESHWATER DRUM 20 lbs.
 Gerald Tramp, Crofton, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 6/15/82

R.....22 lbs.
 Gary Trofholz, Columbus, Polk County sandpit, 6/13/74
 LDEYE.....2 lbs. 1 oz.
 Bill Schwarting, Fremont, Platte River, Dodge County, 5/17/85
 BER MUSKY.....13 lbs. 14 oz.
 Brent J. Wesemann, Pierce, Willow Creek Reservoir, 7/3/88
 DDLEFISH.....86 lbs.
 Gene R. Haswell, Omaha, sandpit in Cass County, 4/16/72
 LLOW PERCH.....1 lb. 2 oz.
 Tim McQuade, North Platte, Cody Lake, 4/19/75
 RTHERN PIKE.....21 lbs. 4 oz.
 Allen Splichal, Scottsbluff, Lake Minatare, 5/2/70
 HILLBACK.....11 lbs. 2 oz.
 Tim Smith, Benkelman, Dundy County sandpit, 7/14/84
 ZARD SHAD.....3 lbs. 9 oz.
 Mike Remmenga, Elwood, Elwood Reservoir, 5/19/87
 CKER.....3 lbs. 3 oz.
 Mike Lauby, Lexington, Platte River, Dawson County, 7/14/74
 REEN SUNFISH.....8 oz.
 Marty Guthrie, McCook, sandpit near Bartley, 7/22/76
 OWN TROUT.....5 lbs. 4 oz.
 Richard Thompson, Lincoln, Lake McConaughy, 4/11/70
 INBOW TROUT.....11 lbs.
 Kevin Pierce, Ogallala, NPPD Canal in Keith County, 10/19/86
 ALLEYE.....11 lbs. 1 oz.
 Bradley M. Heck, Brady, Jeffrey Reservoir, 4/11/70

Record Fish Display

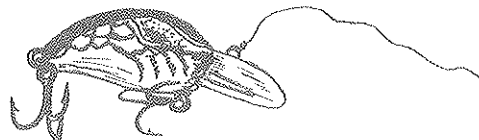
If you take a game fish by hook-and-line that breaks a state record, you may wish to donate it to the Game and Parks Commission for display at the Commission's Ak-Sar-Ben Aquarium at Schramm Park State Recreation Area near Gretna. The Commission will mount the trophy, complete with engraved plate with your name, species of fish, weight, when and where it was taken. To make such a donation, contact the Aquarium within 24 hours at (402) 332-3901. Aquarium hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Any current hook-and-line record-holder who would like to donate their trophy game fish should also contact the Aquarium.

Master Angler

If you take an outstanding catch, it may qualify for a Game and Parks Commission Master Angler Award. Application forms are available from any Commission office, conservation officer, or permit vendor. Rules include:

- All fish must be taken from Nebraska waters.
- Fish must be taken by hook and line. Fish caught on banklines are not eligible. Fish must be hooked, played, and landed by the applicant.
- Fish may qualify for a Master Angler award based on length if they are released.
- The catch must be verified with signature and address by a Commission employee, a hunting-fishing permit vendor, or witness.
- Angler must display fishing permit to the individual verifying the application.
- Minimum weights or lengths to qualify for an award include:

American Eel.....	1 lb.	Crappie.....	2 lbs.
Largemouth Bass . . .	20½ in. or 5 lbs.	Drum.....	5 lbs.
Kentucky Spotted Bass . . .	3 lbs.	Goldeye.....	1½ lbs.
Rock Bass.....	1 lb.	Musky/Tiger Musky... .	35 in. or 10 lbs.
Smallmouth Bass . . .	18 in. or 3 lbs.	Paddlefish.....	30 lbs.
Striped Bass.....	10 lbs.	Yellow Perch.....	1¼ lbs.
Striper Hybrid.....	5 lbs.	White Perch.....	1 lb.
White Bass.....	2½ lbs.	Northern Pike	36 in. or 10 lbs.
Bluegill.....	1 lb.	Sauger.....	3 lbs.
Buffalo.....	10 lbs.	Shovelnose Sturgeon	2½ lbs.
Bullhead.....	2 lbs.	Sucker.....	2 lbs.
Burbot.....	1 lb.	Sunfish.....	1 lb.
Carp.....	15 lbs.	Brook Trout.....	14 in. or 1 lb.
Blue Catfish.....	30 lbs.	Brown Trout.....	22 in. or 4 lbs.
Channel Catfish.....	12 lbs.	Rainbow Trout	22½ in. or 5 lbs.
Flathead Catfish.....	15 lbs.	Walleye.....	28 in. or 8 lbs.



The Advantages Of Catch And Release

Voluntary catch and release of large or trophy-size fish appears to be the most promising method of maintaining and improving the fishing in many of Nebraska's lakes.

A belief held by some anglers is that the solution to the lack of big fish is to increase stocking of the fish species they demand and in the sizes they want. To do this, in effect, would make lakes and reservoirs in the state put-and-take fisheries. Given our state's resource limitations and the fish production facilities operated by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, this would not only be impossible, but also very expensive.

A more acceptable approach is the encouragement of voluntary catch-and-release by anglers. By catching and releasing fish, particularly large ones, anglers are almost stocking a body of water themselves, simply by not removing the fish available. These fish then are capable of further growth, contributing to the overall balance of life in a lake, and providing a lunker catch for another person fishing or that same angler in the future.

This does not mean anglers who like to take fish home to eat are being pressured into leaving dinner in the lake. However, it is important to point out that under high fishing pressure, it is not possible to provide both quality sport fishing and a full stringer for every angler.

In order to come as close as possible to meeting everyone's fishing demands it is imperative a compromise be reached. Perhaps anglers with large fish would be willing to release a portion of their catches, or the angler who takes in several smaller fish would see the benefit of putting some of them back for the future.

By presenting the concept of catch-and-release, the Game and Parks Commission is suggesting that in an ever-increasing number of lakes, angler harvest already exceeds the surplus of quality-size fish. If anglers expect these waters to become more than marginal fisheries, a reduction in harvest is inevitable.

The Game and Parks Commission would prefer voluntary rather than mandatory harvest reduction. Voluntary action means you, the angler, recognize the problem and the corresponding solution that is in the best interest of all involved.

It Is Unlawful

- ...to borrow or use the permit of another or lend your permit to another.
- ...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 a crossbow or similar device, with the exception of handicapped person who has a medical certificate on file.
- ...to seine game fish of any size.
- ...to leave minnows in a minnow trap for more than 24 hours.
- ...to use float lines, except on rivers, streams, and Lewis and Clark Lake. They must be personally attended, and name and address must be attached.
- ...to use glass floats on float lines.
- ...to attach limb lines with nails or more than 12 inches above the water to trees on any lake or reservoir.
- ...to possess live diploid grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*), also known as white amur.

Operation Game Thief

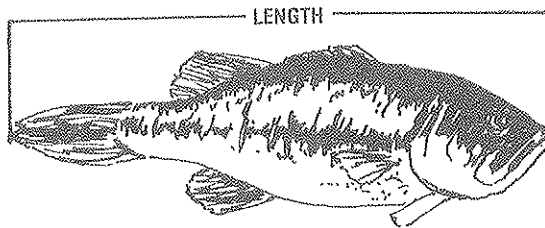
If you observe a violation of Nebraska fish and game regulations, you can now report it by calling the Operation Game Thief toll-free hotline, sponsored by the Nebraska Wildlife Protectors in cooperation with the Game and Parks Commission. That number is 800-742-SNAP. Your call will be kept completely confidential. You may also report a violation by contacting the local conservation officer. Hotline hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

This agency receives federal funds. Under federal law, discrimination is prohibited on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the Equal Opportunity Officer, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P.O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503, or the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

A contribution of Federal Aid in sport fish restoration Project F-82-AE

How to Measure Length Of Fish

Lay the fish on its side, with the mouth closed and the tail lobes pressed together. Measure the length from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.



Put Them Back Alive

When size limits are in effect, it's important to release a fish so that it has the best chance to survive.

- Wet hands and keep fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing the hook.
- Remove hook gently. Don't squeeze fish or put fingers into the gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut line. Don't pull hook out.
- Release fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, hold fish gently upright and move it slowly back and forth.
- Do not play fish to exhaustion.