

1992 NEBRASKA FISHING GUIDE



NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION

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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, 402-370-3374; North Platte, 308-535-8025, 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.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO HAVE PERMIT?

A resident fishing permit is required for all Nebraskans 16 years of age and older. However, fee-exempt permits are available to veterans 65 years of age and older, and all residents 70 years of age and 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.

Information and application forms for fee-exempt fishing permits are available only from the Game and Parks Commission office in Lincoln.

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

Permits continued on next page

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

HOOK-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. 10 and ending Nov. 10 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.

Notice

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

Synopsis of Changes for 1992

NEW SIZE LIMITS

Walleye

- 15-inch minimum at Lake McConaughy, Swanson and Sutherland reservoirs.
- 18-inch minimum at Branched Oak, Elwood, Harlan County, Merritt, Sherman and Calamus reservoirs.
- Only one fish longer than 25 inches allowed in the bag at Merritt, Sherman and Calamus reservoirs.

Largemouth Bass

- Adding a 15-inch minimum limit at the following lakes: Chalkrock, Czechland, East Twin, Iron Horse Trail, Kirkman's Cove, Liberty Creek, Maskenthine, Recharge and Walnut Creek 2A.
- 21-inch minimum at Skyview Lake.

Striped-bass, White Bass and Hybrids

- Only one fish longer than 20 inches allowed in bag.

Bluegill

- 8-inch minimum size limit at Stagecoach Reservoir and Mormon Island Lakes No. 1, 2, and 3.

Crappie

- 10-inch minimum size limit at Branched Oak and Pawnee reservoirs.

Paddlefish

- A 35 to 45-inch protected slot size limit (measured eye to fork of tail). Only fish shorter and longer than this slot may be harvested.

NEW BAG LIMITS

- Reduce walleye daily bag from 6 to 5.
- Limit underwater powered spearfishermen to a daily bag limit of 2 walleye.
- Create a daily bag limit of 10 mussels (clams).

Synopsis of Changes (continued)

OTHER CHANGES

- Close the Sherman Reservoir Dam to night fishing from April 1-20.
- Restrict snag hook size to no larger than 1/2-inch gap from point to shank.
- Modifications made to the Master Angler Program

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.

Inland Waters

	Bag	Pos-session
Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass (combined) (only one fish in daily bag may exceed 21 inches in length)	4	8
Channel/Blue Catfish (combined)	10	20
Flathead Catfish	4	4
Paddlefish	1	2

Waters of Missouri River

Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass (combined)	5	10
Blue Catfish	1	1
Channel/Flathead Catfish (combined)	10	20
Paddlefish		
Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux	1	1
Walleye/Sauger (combined)	4	8

Statewide

Trout (all species)	7	14
Striped Bass/White Bass/Striped Bass Hybrid	25	50
(no more than 1 fish over 20 inches long; 3-fish daily bag at Branched Oak, Conestoga and Bluestem reservoirs)		
Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie (combined)	1	2
Bait Minnows/Tiger Salamander	100	100
Shovelnose Sturgeon	10	20
Walleye/Sauger (in combination)	5	10
Northern Pike	3	6
Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow Perch, Rock Bass (each)	30	60
Mussels and clams	10	20
All other fish	—No Limit—	
Bullfrogs	8	16
Snapping Turtles	10	20

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; Niobrara 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.

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.

Size Limits

Where size and bag limits apply, fish may not be filleted until fishing is completed for the day. Fillets must be 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: Bucksin Hills Lake, Dixon County; Papio Lake 18 (Zorinsky Lake), Douglas County and Skyview Lake, Madison County.

15-inch minimum: Summit Lake, Burt County; Timber Point, Butler County, Lake Yankton and Chalkrock Lake, Cedar County; Wolf Wildcat, Gage County; Elwood Reservoir, Gosper County; Alexandria Lakes No. 1, 2 and 3, Jefferson County; Conestoga, Cottontail, Stagecoach, Wagon Train, Wild Plum, Wildwood (Oak Creek 1A) and Yankee Hill, all in Lancaster County; Calamus Reservoir, Loup County; Burchard and Iron Horse Trail lakes, Pawnee County; Kirkman's Cove, Richardson County; Walnut Creek 2A and Swan Creek 5A, Saline County; Wehrspann Lake, Sarpy County; Czechland Lake, Saunders County; Meadowlark and East Twin lakes, Seward County; Maskenthine Reservoir, Stanton County; Liberty Creek Reservoir, Webster County; Recharge Lake, York County; DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge lakes and all lakes on the 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.

Bluegill: 8-inch minimum: Stagecoach Reservoir, Lancaster County; Mormon Island Lakes No. 1, 2 and 3, Hall County.

Crappie: 10-inch minimum: Branched Oak and Pawnee reservoirs, Lancaster County.

Muskellunge/Tiger Muskie: 30-inch minimum statewide.

Northern Pike: 24-inch minimum in all inland waters east of U.S. Highway 281.

Walleye: 15-inch minimum: Swanson Reservoir, Hitchcock County; Oliver Reservoir, Kimball County; Lake McConaughy, Keith County; Sutherland Reservoir, Lincoln County; Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek, Scotts Bluff County. 18-inch minimum: Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County; Elwood Reservoir, Dawson County; Harlan County Reservoir, Harlan County; Branched Oak Reservoir, Lancaster County; Sherman and Calamus reservoirs, Loup County.

25-inch bag limit (only one fish longer than 25 inches allowed in bag): Merritt Reservoir, Cherry County, Sherman and Calamus reservoirs, Loup 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. Any fish placed on a stringer, or in a container, or not returned immediately to the water, must be counted in the bag.

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 20 in possession. They may be taken only by hand, hand net, hook and line, bow and arrow, or gaff hook.

Game/Nongame Fish

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

Snagging

Snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish only is permitted in the Missouri River under season dates and limits specified in the Paddlefish and Snagging of Nongame Fish section of this guide, which follows. All other waters of the state are closed to snagging for all species at all times. Any game fish that are snagged accidentally or otherwise foul hooked must be returned to the water immediately.

Paddlefish and Snagging of Nongame Fish

Missouri River

Snagging of paddlefish and nongame fish is permitted in the Missouri River from the Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse canal markers downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile Marker 734) from sunrise to sunset beginning Oct. 10 and ending Nov. 10, or when an estimate of 1,600 paddlefish have been harvested, whichever comes first. The quota shall be determined by creel survey estimates, and the season shall be closed when the quota is reached. Signs will be posted, and media outlets will be contacted to notify anglers of the season closure. Only one hook may be used when snagging, and the gap between the point of the hook to the shank may not exceed 1/2-inch. The daily bag limit is one paddlefish. All paddlefish between 35 and 45 inches long (measured eye to fork in the tail), must be returned to the water immediately.

Paddlefish may be taken by bow and arrow in the Missouri River only on July 11-19 from the Gavins Point Dam stilling basin and powerhouse discharge canal markers downstream to the mouth of the Big Sioux River (Mile Marker 734).

Inland Waters

Paddlefish may be taken by hook-and-line methods other than snagging year-round in all inland waters. The bag limit is one paddlefish and the possession limit is two paddlefish.

Paddlefish may be taken by archery in all inland waters per regulations governing archery and surface spearing.

Bullfrogs

Bullfrog season runs from August 15 through October 31. The bag 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. The limit is 10 daily and 20 in possession.

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 Dec. 31 from sunrise to sunset, statewide. 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 Aug. 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 compound 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, except that there is a daily bag of two walleye in effect on all lakes. 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

Underwater Spearfishing (continued)

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

Bait fish may not be sold except by permit. For commercial purposes (bait vendors, private fish culturists, and nonresident fish dealers), please refer to the official regulations supplied with your permit. The following regulation guidelines apply only to bait obtained for personal use.

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 — Shad 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. (See Special Areas.)

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 personal use as 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 transported for use 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.

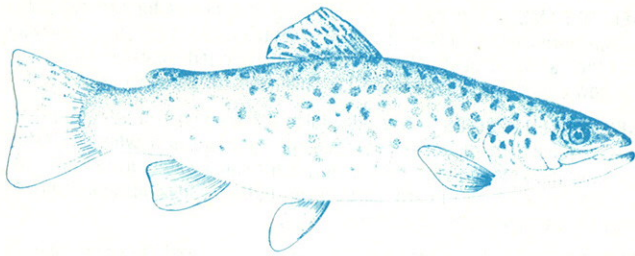
IMPORTING — It is unlawful to import or transport carp, carpsucker, buffalo, quillback, gar, or bowfin into the state for use as bait. Special permits are required for a person to import and sell bait or bait minnows.

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 nor 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 Nebraska 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 predator species like 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. Unregulated harvest like that leaves behind too few pounds of bass to regulate panfish.

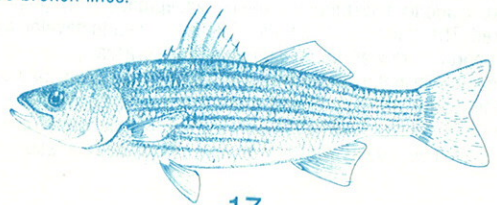
A 12-inch largemouth bass can eat four times the weight of panfish that an 8-inch largemouth bass can. A 15-inch largemouth bass can eat double the weight of panfish that a 12-inch bass will.

Taking largemouth bass which are under the size limit reduces the average size of bass 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 balance is upset.

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.



Walleye Limits

For many years, Game and Parks Commission biologists have argued against walleye size limits, but in 1992, several lakes will have minimum size limits on walleye. Biologists now believe size limits are necessary to maintain quality walleye fishing. What happened? Why have biologists changed their recommendation?

The most important factor prompting the new regulations is the significant changes in Nebraska's walleye populations. Since the mid-1980s, several lakes with walleye have shown the effects of overharvest. When harvest is too heavy, very few large, old fish will be present and populations become dominated by small, young fish. A decline in the average age and length of walleye, which has occurred in several Nebraska lakes, indicates harvest is reducing the population. Recent data collected from Nebraska's primary walleye lakes shows an overharvest trend, which has resulted in walleye populations and harvest far below each lake's potential for supporting walleye.

Without a doubt, the main cause of declining walleye populations is increasing fishing pressure on the prized species. This means more anglers are seeking walleye and/or anglers are spending more time fishing for walleye. Anglers' increasing knowledge about walleye and technological capabilities for catching walleye have contributed significantly to the rising pressure.

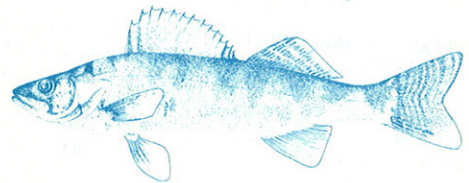
During 1990 and 1991, biologists intensively searched for methods of improving walleye populations. Long-term results from netting surveys and creel surveys were summarized to help determine possible solutions to declining walleye numbers. Computer models were used to predict the effects of different regulations. Walleye regulations used in other states were reviewed to find out what works and what doesn't. Public meetings were held across the state to find out what concerns anglers have about walleye populations, and to determine the level of acceptance for regulations being considered. The collected information has been used to develop a comprehensive approach to walleye management in Nebraska.

One major goal in the development of management plans for walleye was to provide quality walleye fishing opportunities for Nebraska anglers. In many walleye lakes, more restrictive harvest regulations are needed to provide sustained quality walleye angling. Possible regulations included

reduced bag limits and minimum size limits. A slight reduction in the bag limit and the establishment of size limits stood out as the most effective and acceptable method of protecting walleye populations for the future.

The initial phase of the new approach involves using size limits in select Nebraska waters. Lakes were chosen based on a combination of the current biological status of the walleye populations as provided by scientific data, public acceptance and enforcement potential. These lakes will offer a good chance for positive results and an opportunity to measure future changes.

Several trends are expected to result from this effort to produce better walleye fishing. Fewer fish will be taken home to eat, however, because the fish will be bigger, the overall weight of fish kept should remain the same, and in some cases increase. The number of fish caught by anglers should increase. That is because fish that are under the limit, and must be released, will be caught more than once before they are big enough to keep. Of course, this increased catch rate can only be realized if proper release techniques are used, which favors the survival of released walleye.



The success of size limits is dependent on angler acceptance and compliance. No matter how well a size limit should work, success is impossible without angler support. Law enforcement officials cannot check every single angler.

Anglers who realize that the future of Nebraska's fishing is dependent on compliance will choose to acknowledge and follow regulations. Choosing to use hooking and release techniques that favor fish survival are decisions made by ethical anglers who want to do their part for continued opportunities to fish.

We are entering a new era of walleye management in Nebraska. We expect many improvements as these new regulations take effect. Game and Parks Commission biologists will continue to monitor walleye populations and collect feedback from anglers. By continuing to work together, quality walleye fishing will be assured in Nebraska's future.

Special Areas

PLATTSMOUTH 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 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.

BUCKSKIN HILLS LAKE, SKYVIEW LAKE AND PAPIO LAKE NO. 18 — These lakes are designated as catch-and-release lakes for largemouth bass. All bass caught must be immediately returned to the water, except that one fish that is MORE THAN 21 inches long may be kept in the daily bag.

TWIN LAKES (Seward County) — This wildlife management area is closed to all public use from October 15 until the end of the dark goose season. East Twin Lake has a 15-inch minimum size limit on largemouth bass.

CRESCENT 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 or dead smelt may be used for bait. Overnight camping is not permitted.

VALENTINE 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. 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. Special fishing regulations are in effect as posted. Please take note of the special regulations. Check at Refuge headquarters for specific regulation information. Overnight camping is not permitted.

NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — Lake Minatare and Lake Winters 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. There is a 15-inch minimum size limit on walleye in Lake Minatare and Lake Winters Creek.

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 2 lines with 2 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.

NIORRARA 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, 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

Special Areas (Continued)

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 Lonerger Creek and all tributaries. KIMBALL COUNTY, Lodgepole Creek and all tributaries. KNOX COUNTY, North, Middle, and South Verdigre 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 Creek, Spotted Tail Creek, Niobrara River and all tributaries, White River, Soldiers Creek and all tributaries, Monroe Creek, Sowbelly Creek, and Hat Creek. SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY, Nine Mile Creek, Winters Creek, Tub Springs, Wet spotted Tail Creek, Dry Spotted Tail creek, Sheep Creek, Dry Sheep Creek, Stuckenhole Creek, Akers Draw, Mitchell Drain, Moffett Drain, Alliance Drain, and Bayard Drain. SHERIDAN COUNTY, Snake River, Larrabee Creek, White Clay Creek, Pine Creek, Deer Creek, and Little Bordeaux Creek. WEBSTER COUNTY, Elm Creek.

It is unlawful to possess a net or seine of any type on trout spawning streams in Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden, and Keith counties that are tributary to the North Platte River and Lake McConaughy, including: Pumpkin, Red Willow, Wildhorse, Stuckenhole, Nine Mile, Tub Springs, Winter, Sheep, Dry Sheep, Spotted Tail, Dry Spotted Tail, Otter, Clear, Lonerger, Upper Dugout, Indian, Silvernail 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 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. *Mouths 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 fishing, unless the regulations of the licensee's state are more restrictive. Then, the licensee must conform to the more restrictive regulations. Anglers may transport fish 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 a tie.
- Fish must be taken from Nebraska waters.
- It 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

- KENTUCKY SPOTTED BASS** 3 lbs. 12 oz.
Jerry R. Miller, North Platte, Lincoln Co. I-80 Sandpit, 3/12/90
- LARGEMOUTH BASS** 10 lbs. 11 oz.
Paul Abegglen, Sr., Columbus, sandpit near Columbus, 10/2/65
- ROCK BASS** 2 lbs. 4 oz.
Edna Zuege, Haigler, Dundy County farm pond, 5/6/72
- SMALLMOUTH BASS** 6 lbs. 1½ oz.
Wally Allison, North Platte, Merritt Reservoir, 5/17/78
- STRIPED BASS** 44 lbs. 10 oz.
Dave Hilferty, Grant, Lake McConaughy, 8/27/86
- STRIPED BASS HYBRID** 13 lbs. 9 oz.
Mike Howard, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 10/13/88
- WHITE BASS** 5 lbs.
Jim Kilcoin, Aurora, Gavins Point Tailwaters, 11/12/83
- YELLOW BASS** 12 oz.
Marc Ingram, Springfield, Louisville Lake No. 2, 5/5/91

- BLUEGILL** 2 lbs. 13 oz.
Gary Ralston, Creighton, Grove Lake, 4/26/77
- BIGMOUTH BUFFALO** 44 lbs. 14½ oz.
Shayne Miller, Kearney, Johnson Lake, 5/17/91
- BLACK 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 Cunning, 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, Clarkon, 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** 20 lbs. 7 oz.
John Ernst, Columbus, Wagner's Lake (Platte County), 7/14/91
- SHORTNOSE GAR** 19 lbs.
Ronald Hardin, Omaha, lake in Cass County, 6/29/74
- GOLDEYE** 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, Valentine, Merritt Reservoir, 8/17/90

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

PADDLEFISH 91 lb. 8 oz.
 Warren Yelkin, Lincoln, Gavins Point Dam Tailwaters, 11/18/78

SACRAMENTO PERCH 2 lbs. 8 oz.
 John A. Bush, Valentine, Clear Lake on Valentine National Wildlife Refuge, 6/20/71

WHITE PERCH 1 lb. 6 oz.
 Curtis Kadlick, Lincoln, Wagon Train Lake, 5/16/72

YELLOW PERCH 2 lb. 10³/₄ oz.
 John D. Skrdla, Stuart, Hackberry Lake, 2/11/84

NORTHERN PIKE 29 lbs. 12 oz.
 Gary Jones, Royal, Grove Lake, 7/6/84

PUMPKINSEED 10³/₄ oz.
 Jim Johnson, Minatare, Box Butte Reservoir, 9/23/87

QUILLBACK 12 lbs.
 Norman Grabenstein, North Platte, Lake Maloney, 5/3/87

CHINOOK SALMON 2 lbs. 8 oz.
 Rick Heppner, Norfolk, Lewis and Clark Lake, 9/14/85

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

KOKANEE SALMON 4 lbs. 2oz.
 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

GIZZARD SHAD 4 lbs. 7³/₄ oz.
 Joe Rinbauer, Alliance, Box Butte Reservoir, 3/26/89

SHOVELNOSE STURGEON 3 lbs. 14¹/₂ oz.
 Wayne Williams, Shubert, Missouri River (Richardson County) 4/29/91

SUCKER 18 lbs. 14 oz.
 Bob J. Thoene, Hartington, Missouri River, 11/16/86

GREEN SUNFISH 1 lb. 4 oz.
 Jeff Knajdl, Riverdale, Buffalo County sandpit, 7/13/80

REDEAR 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.
 Denny Doolittle, Valentine, Snake River, 7/26/73

CUTTHROAT TROUT 4 lbs. 4 oz.
 Kevin 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 46 lbs.
 Ronald Meyers, Columbus, Stiers Lake, 5/15/91

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 33 lbs.
 Trampis R. Kasten, Benkleman, Rock Creek Lake, 7/15/90

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

GAR 22 lbs.
 Gary Trofholz, Columbus, Polk County sandpit, 6/13/74

GOLDEYE 2 lbs. 1 oz.
 Bill Schwarting, Fremont, Platte River, Dodge County, 5/17/85

TIGER MUSKY 13 lbs. 14 oz.
 Brent J. Wesemann, Pierce, Willow Creek Reservoir, 7/3/88

PADDLEFISH 86 lbs.
 Gene R. Haswell, Omaha, sandpit in Cass County, 4/16/72

YELLOW PERCH 1 lb. 2 oz.
 Tim McQuade, North Platte, Cody Lake, 4/19/75

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

QUILLBACK 11 lbs. 2 oz.
 Tim Smith, Benkelman, Dundy County sandpit, 7/14/84

GIZZARD SHAD 3 lbs. 9 oz.
 Mike Remmenga, Elwood, Elwood Reservoir, 5/19/87

SUCKER 3 lbs. 3 oz.
 Mike Lauby, Lexington, Platte River, Dawson County, 7/14/74

GREEN SUNFISH 8 oz.
 Marty Guthrie, McCook, sandpit near Bartley, 7/22/76

BROWN TROUT 9 lbs. 13 oz.
 John Whittle, Dalton, Klein Fish Hatchery Lake, 7/1/90

RAINBOW TROUT 11 lbs.
 Kevin Pierce, Ogallala, NPPD Canal in Keith County, 10/19/86

WALLEYE 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 for the award.
- The catch must be verified. This may be done by an employee of the Game and Parks Commission, a permit vendor, a witness or a photograph.
- Anglers 16 years of age or older must possess a current Nebraska fishing permit and enter the permit number on the application.
- Only fish immediately released are eligible for an award based on length. Any fish kept in a livewell or on a stringer must meet the minimum weight requirement to receive an award.
- Anglers may receive only one award based on weight, per year for each species. There is no limit on the number of awards per year based on length.
- Anglers who release a Master Angler fish will receive a "Catch and Release Master Angler" pin in addition to the Master Angler certificate.

Continued on next page

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 laws or 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. The hotline operates 24 hours a day.