

# 2015 Omaha Area Fishing Forecast

**NEBRASKA**

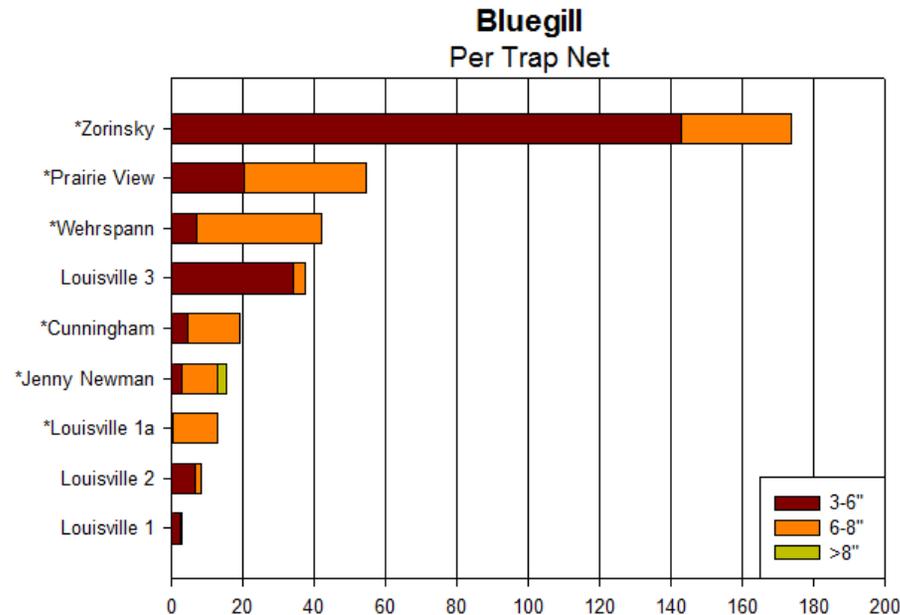
— GAME  PARKS —

This is a fishing forecast for the Omaha area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during \*2013 and 2014. Therefore, there may be other water bodies in the area that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included in this forecast (see map). The following information will help anglers decide on where the best fishing for a variety of species can be found based on survey results. Anglers seeking more information on area lakes such as locations, lake maps, regulations and stocking reports are encouraged to browse the Nebraska Game and Parks website at [www.outdoornebraska.org](http://www.outdoornebraska.org).



## Bluegills

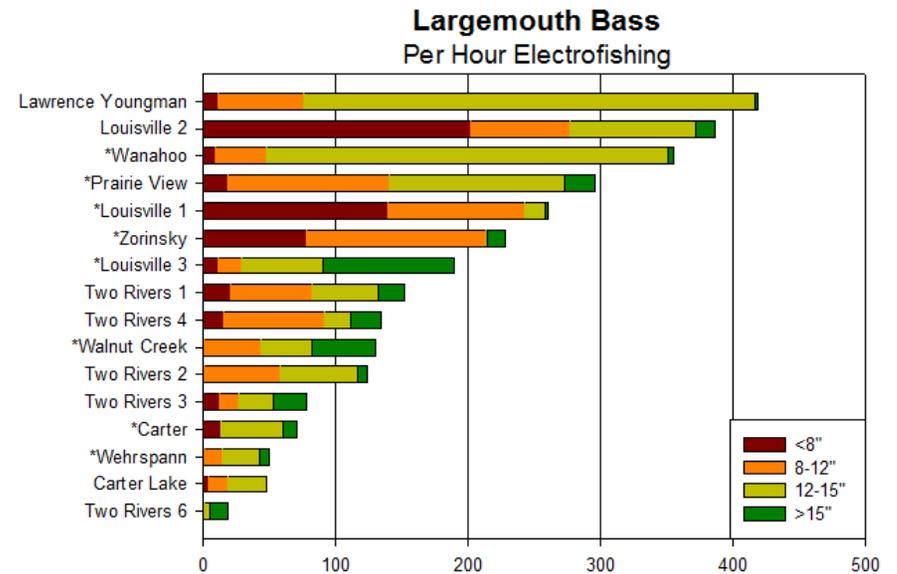
Bluegills prefer clean water and an abundance of aquatic plants. They are an excellent fish for beginning anglers to pursue. **Zorinsky** will again provide a great place for beginners or kids learning how to fish. **Prairie View** and **Wehrspann** will also provide some good bluegill fishing in 2014. **Jenny Newman**, in Platte River State Park, will offer a great opportunity to catch and release some larger bluegills. Keep in mind that only kids 15 and under, along with adults assisting kids are allowed to fish Jenny Newman.



\* 2013 Survey

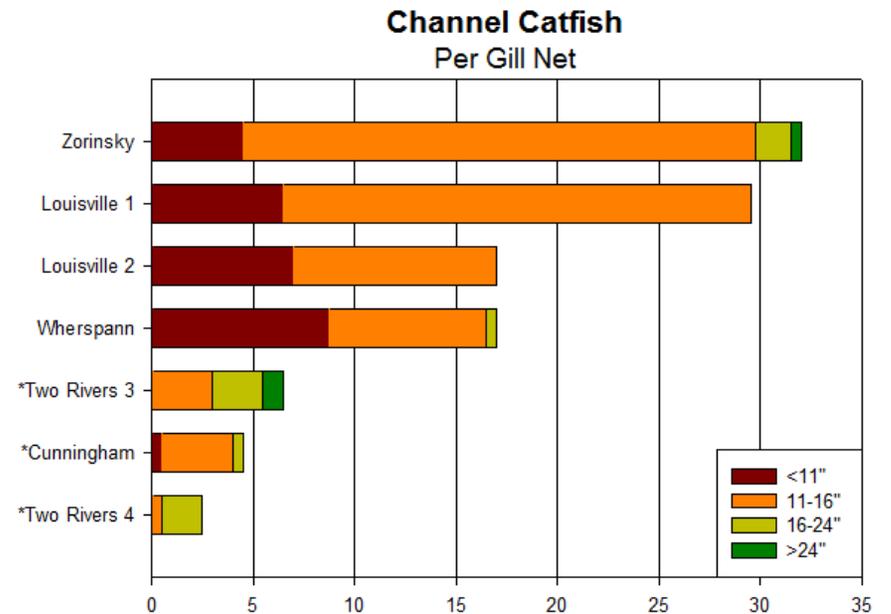
## Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are routinely targeted by anglers and are known for their aggressiveness and fighting ability. Largemouth bass, like bluegills and other members of the sunfish family, prefer clean water and an abundance of shallow water cover. Metro reservoirs such as **Lawrence Youngman**, **Prairie View** and **Wanahoo** will offer a good opportunity to catch a largemouth bass of all sizes with some greater than 15 inches. Sand pits, such as those found within **Louisville SRA**, will provide great opportunity for both numbers and size.



## Channel Catfish

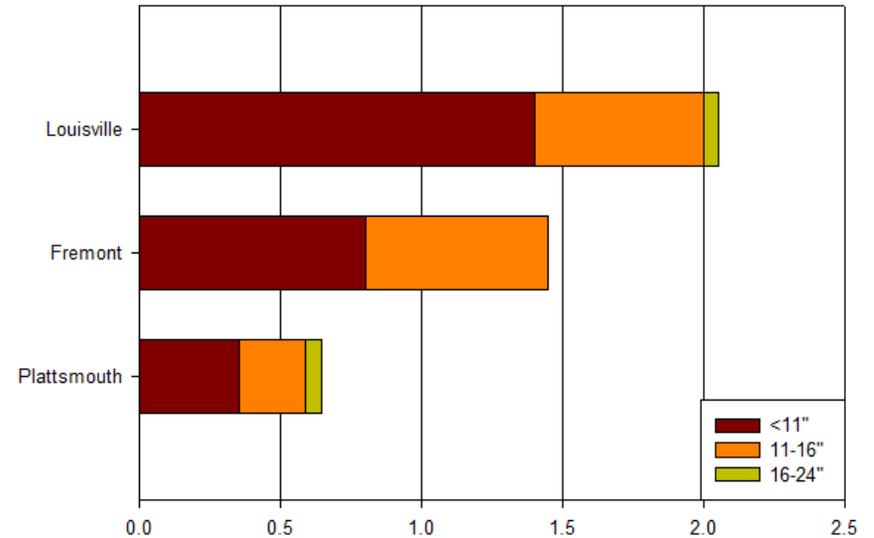
Channel catfish are popular throughout Nebraska and can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area. Some waters to note for catfish anglers in the Omaha metro area would be **Louisville SRA** and **Zorinsky**. Anglers should note that all catfish are catch and release on lakes #3 and #4 at **Two Rivers SRA**.



The **Platte River**, water willing, will also provide some good catfishing opportunities. Anglers should target log jams in deep holes or channel drop offs. Nightcrawlers, stink bait, or cut bait are all good bait options. Public access on the Platte River around Omaha can be found at **Schilling WMA, Louisville SRA, Schramm Park SRA, Two Rivers SRA, Platte River Landing** near Valley and **Hormel Park** in Fremont.

The **Elkhorn** and **Missouri Rivers** will also offer some excellent fishing for channel catfish. Anglers will be able to catch channel catfish throughout the rivers using variety of baits such as nightcrawlers, cut bait, stink bait, or shrimp. Also, the University of Nebraska is conducting a tagging study on channel and flathead catfish in the Platte, Elkhorn and Missouri Rivers and requests all anglers to report tagged fish to the phone number on the tag.

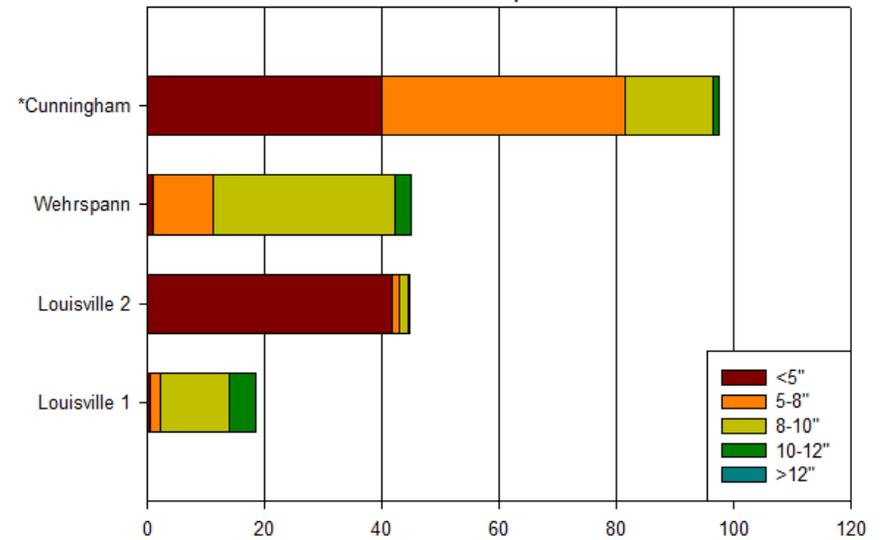
**Channel Catfish (Platte River)**  
Per Hoop Net



## Crappie

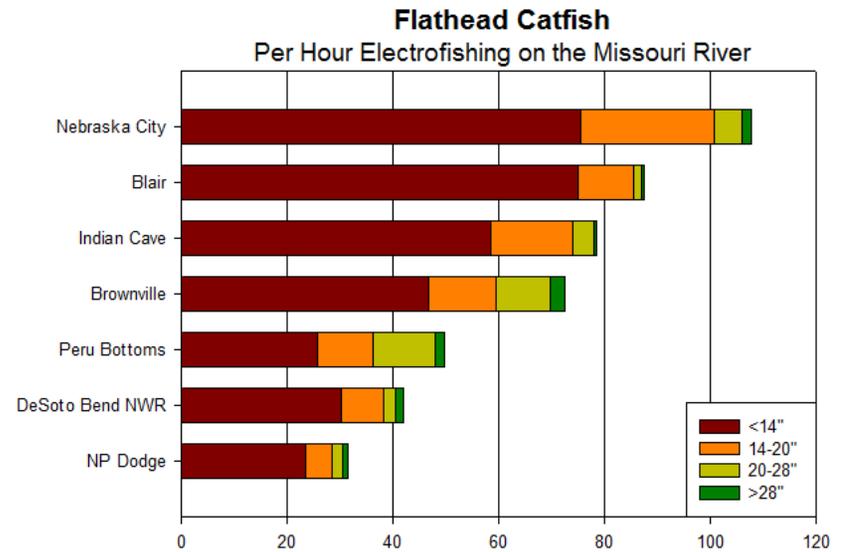
Crappies are highly regarded by anglers and are often considered to be among the best tasting freshwater fish. Crappies prefer habitat with sheltered coves or bays with an abundance of cover and aquatic vegetation. Anglers looking for eating-size crappies should head to **Wehspann, Cunningham** or **Louisville 1**. Although they weren't sampled in the last two years, anglers shouldn't forget about **Standing Bear** or **Prairie View** for crappies.

**Crappie**  
Per Trap Net



## Flathead Catfish

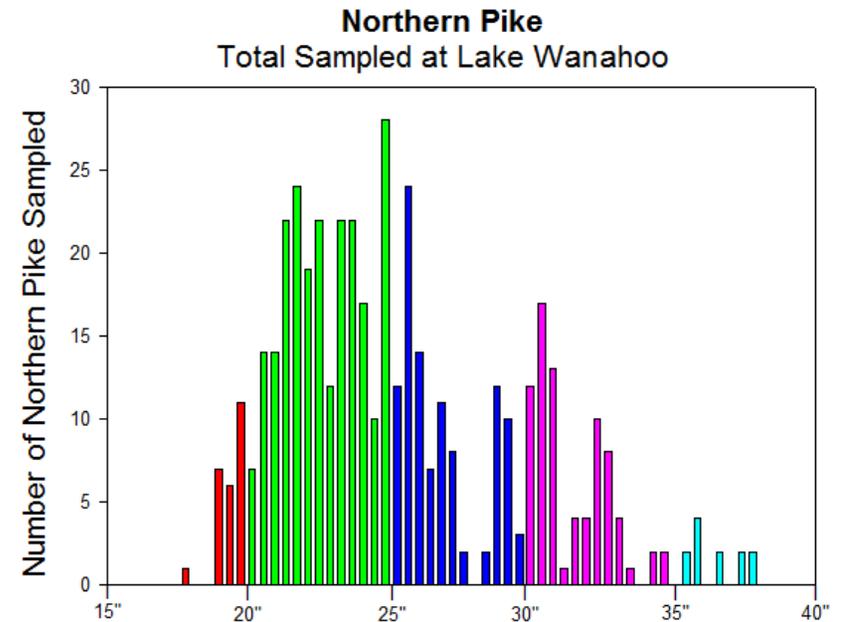
Flathead catfish are a true trophy fish and provide a great battle on a rod and reel. Flathead catfish can be found throughout the **Missouri, Elkhorn, and Platte Rivers**, and thanks to the University of Nebraska sampling crew, we have some catch data from the Missouri River from 2014. Areas near the **Blair or NP Dodge Park** boat ramps will be good places to fish near Omaha. However, further to the south, areas near **Indian Cave State Park, Nebraska City** and **Peru Bottoms** will also provide anglers a chance at some larger fish. The University of Nebraska is conducting a tagging study on channel and flathead catfish and requests all anglers to report tagged fish to the phone number on the tag.



## Northern Pike

Northern pike stocking will continue in **Glenn Cunningham** and will provide a unique fishing experience in the Omaha metro in years to come.

**Lake Wanahoo** will also provide a unique fishing opportunity to catch northern pike in eastern Nebraska. Larger fish are becoming more abundant and anglers will have a chance to catch fish greater than 35 inches. The northern pike tagging study will continue in 2015 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to [NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV). Anglers are required to release all northern pike caught at both Cunningham and Lake Wanahoo.



## Other Species

### Walleye

Anglers targeting walleyes in the Omaha metro will want to try **Wehrspann** and **Wanahoo**. The **Missouri River** will also provide opportunity to catch walleye or sauger. Anglers looking for good large-reservoir walleye fishing opportunities should look at the statewide fishing forecast.

### Smallmouth Bass

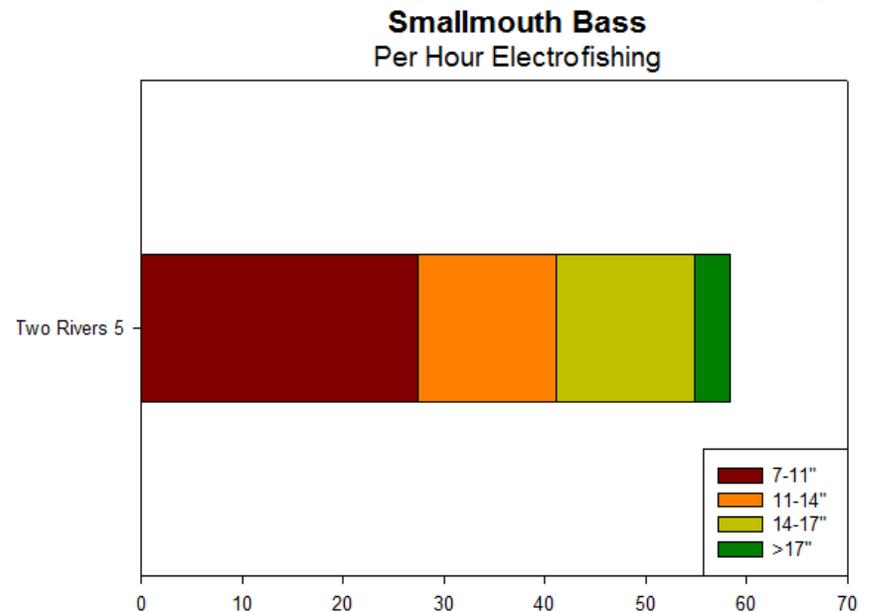
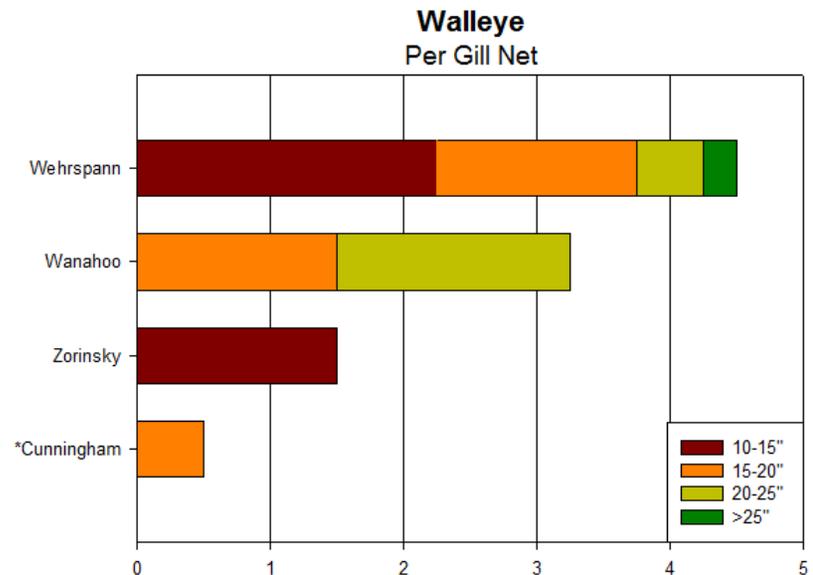
Smallmouth Bass were stocked into Two Rivers 5 in 2008 and are continuing to do well. Although the majority of fish sampled were less than 14", anglers will have a chance at some master angler sized fish. Keep in mind, anglers are required to buy a trout tag to fish Lake 5 from March 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Bullheads

Bullheads provide a great fishing opportunity for beginners and children because they are easy to catch and a simple hook and worm is all you need. Catchable sized bullheads are stocked in late August at **Louisville 2A**, **Two Rivers 6**, and **Two Rivers 7**.

### Rainbow Trout

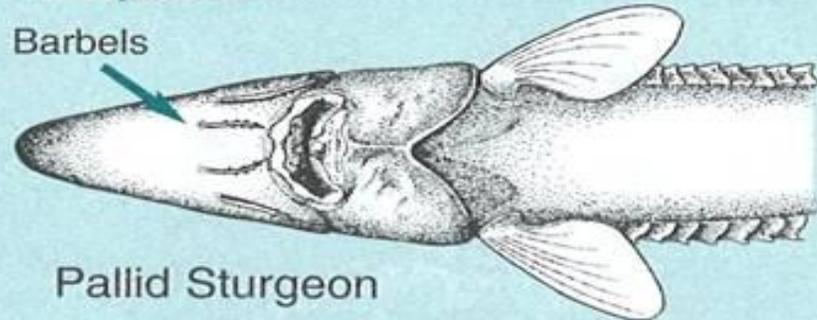
Although the Omaha metro doesn't have cold-water streams that support trout, there is still plenty of opportunity in and around Omaha to catch them. Rainbow trout are routinely stocked at **Two Rivers 5**, **Standing Bear**, **Benson Lake**, **Hitchcock Lake**, **Towl Lake**, **Lake Halleck** and **CenturyLink Lake (in Mahoney SP)**. Anglers should check the stocking database on the game and parks website to see when rainbow trout are stocked.



## KNOW YOUR CATCH

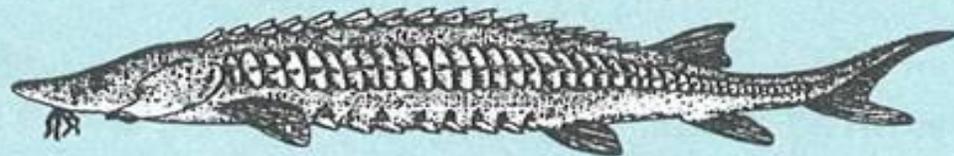
### Pallid Sturgeon - An Endangered Species

- Illegal to possess
- Outer barbels twice as long as inner barbels
- Base of barbels "U" shaped, inner two set out in front



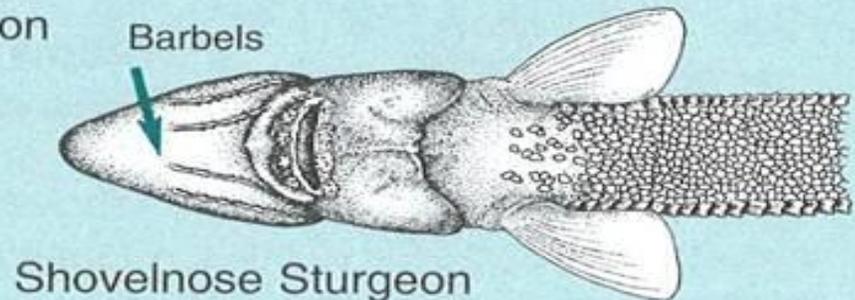
### Lake Sturgeon - A Threatened Species

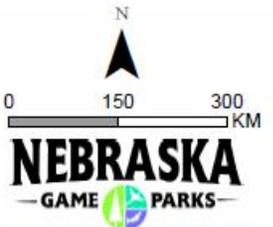
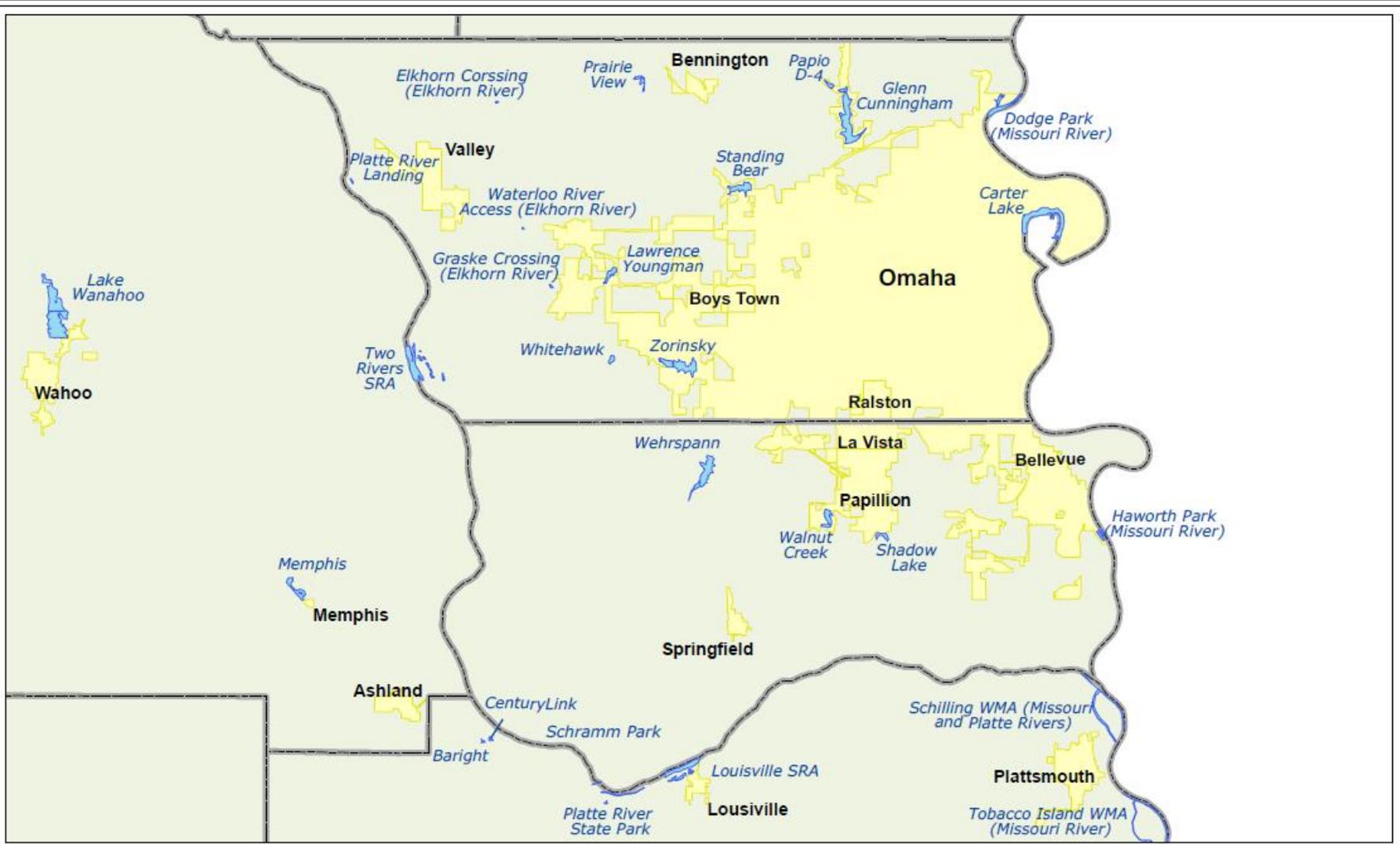
- Illegal to possess
- Short snout turns up at end
- Barbels are not fringed



### Shovelnose Sturgeon

- Nebraska's most common sturgeon
- Barbels all the same length
- Barbels straight across
- Smallest Nebraska sturgeon, rarely exceeds 4 pounds





Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 1/23/2014

