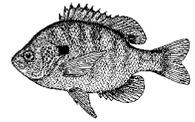




NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION



PRIVATE WATERS STOCKING POLICY

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will provide fish for stocking privately owned waterbodies that meet the following requirements:

- **one-half surface acre or larger**
- **25% of the waterbody at least 10 feet deep (exceptions could be spring-fed ponds, natural lakes, and others at the discretion of inspecting biologist)**
- **no other fish present at the time of stocking (with the exception of recently stocked channel catfish)**
- **minimum water clarity of 12 inches (turbid water will hinder development of a quality largemouth bass-bluegill fishery)**
- **fencing to exclude livestock from farm ponds will be required under most circumstances**

Lake associations and owners of state-stocked waterbodies are not obligated to relinquish trespass rights and can regulate angler access. However, anglers cannot be charged a fee to fish. The Game and Parks Commission urges owners of privately-owned waterbodies to grant access to anglers asking permission to fish. A valid Nebraska fishing permit is required of every person 16 years of age and older who fishes private waters stocked with fish from the Game and Parks Commission and all anglers must comply with current state fishing regulations. A listing of state stocked waterbodies is available for public review in each district office as well as the Commission's Lincoln and Omaha offices.

All fish stocking applications must be received by the Fisheries Division of the Game and Parks Commission no later than August 1 to be considered for stocking during that calendar year. All landowners or lake association boards have to be in concurrence with the stocking request or the application will be denied. If a shortage of fish should occur, all remaining applicants who didn't receive fish will be notified and included on the stocking list for the next year.

Young-of-the-year bluegill and largemouth bass will be available primarily on a split-stocking basis. Bluegill will be stocked at a rate of 500 fingerlings per surface acre in September the first year. Largemouth bass fingerlings will be stocked the following July at a rate of 100 per surface acre. In order to receive the fish, it will likely be necessary for the waterbody owner to meet the distribution truck at a point determined by the District Fisheries Biologist.

Channel catfish fingerlings (2-3 inches) can also be stocked in combination with largemouth bass and bluegill fingerlings at a rate of 100 per surface acre in the fall of the first or second year. Approved applicants also desiring channel catfish are encouraged to purchase them from a Nebraska private aquaculturist. A list of licensed aquaculturists will be provided. If only channel catfish are stocked (as is appropriate for waterbodies with clarity of less than 12 inches), the stocking rate should be 200-300 fingerlings per surface acre the first year.

Cold-water ponds capable of supporting trout throughout the year can be considered for trout stocking. Sub-catchable rainbow trout (up to 5 inches) will be stocked at a rate depending on environmental conditions and anticipated harvest. Stockings will depend on availability of trout - occurring either in the spring or fall. Trout will not reproduce in a pond environment. Therefore, pond owners that allow reasonable public access are eligible to receive supplemental trout stockings. These stockings will again involve sub-catchable trout at an interval and rate dependant on harvest. If trout larger than 5 inches are desired, they will have to be purchased from a licensed Nebraska private aquaculturist. If Game and Parks provides fish species other than bluegill, largemouth bass and trout, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) describing special conditions and agreements will be required.