

NEBRASKA



2024 Lincoln Area Fishing Forecast

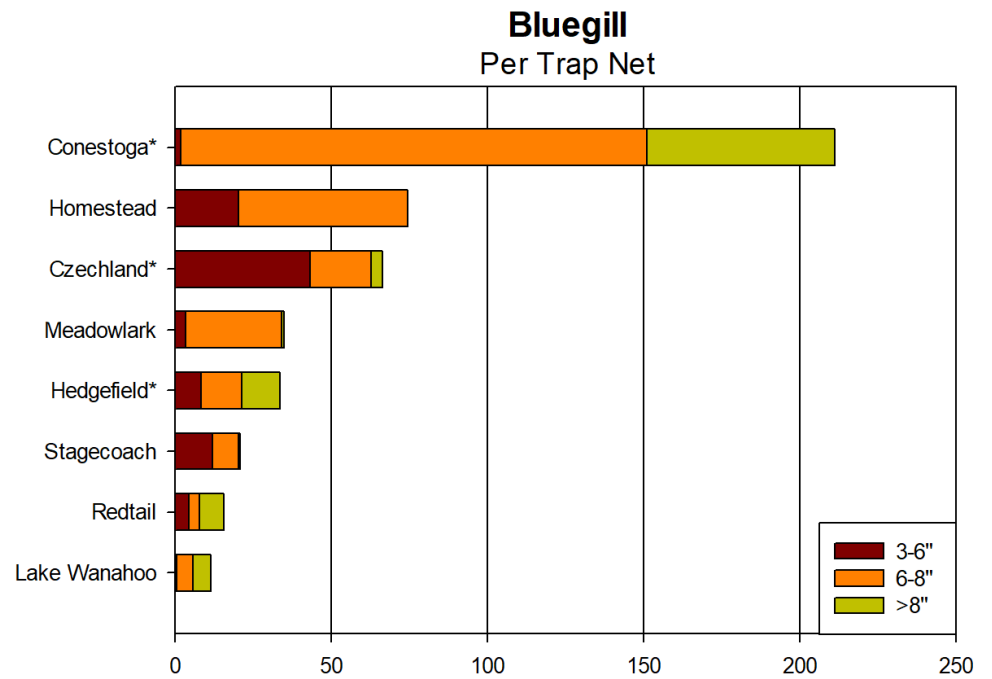
This is the fishing forecast for the Lincoln area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) in 2023. Additional public water bodies exist in the area, but were not all sampled. Therefore, there are other water bodies 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.gov.



Photo 1. Bluegill (*Lepomis macrochirus*)

Bluegills

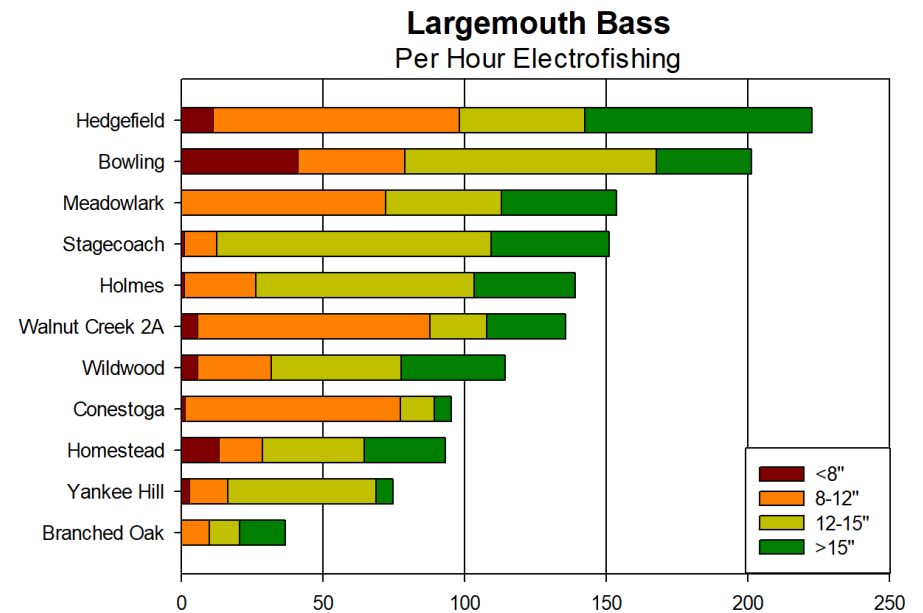
Multiple lakes in 2023 were sampled for Bluegills in the Lincoln area. In 2023, **Homestead** had the highest catch rates of Bluegills per trap net in the area, followed by **Meadowlark**, **Stagecoach** and **Redtail**. **Conestoga**, **Czechland**, **Hedgefield** and **Redtail** exhibited a proportion of fish greater than 8 inches in length which should provide anglers with the opportunity to catch larger Bluegill.



*denotes 2022 sampling results

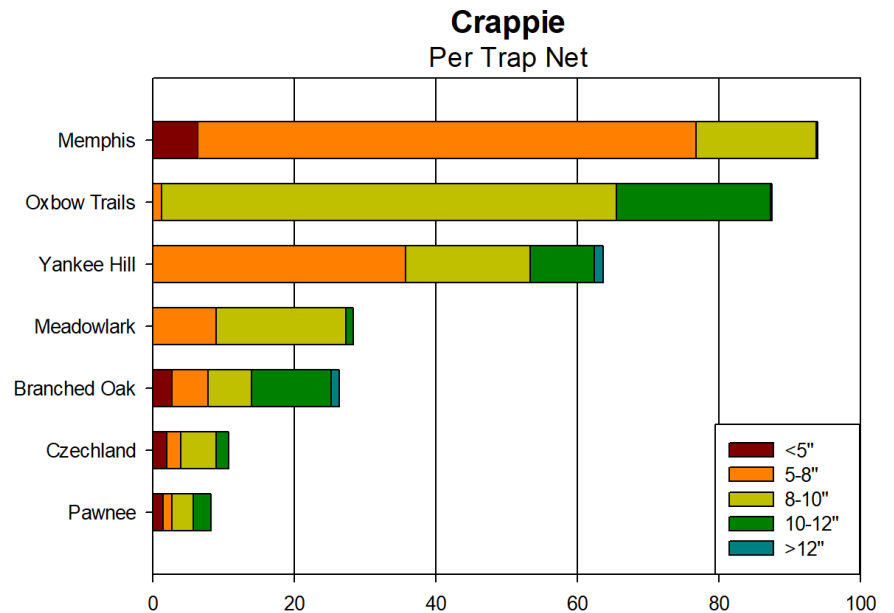
Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass fishing opportunities will continue in the Lincoln area in 2023. **Hedgefield** yielded the highest catch rates with a large proportion of the fish population over 15 inches. **Bowling, Meadowlark, Stagecoach,** and **Holmes Lake** will be good lakes to target larger bass.



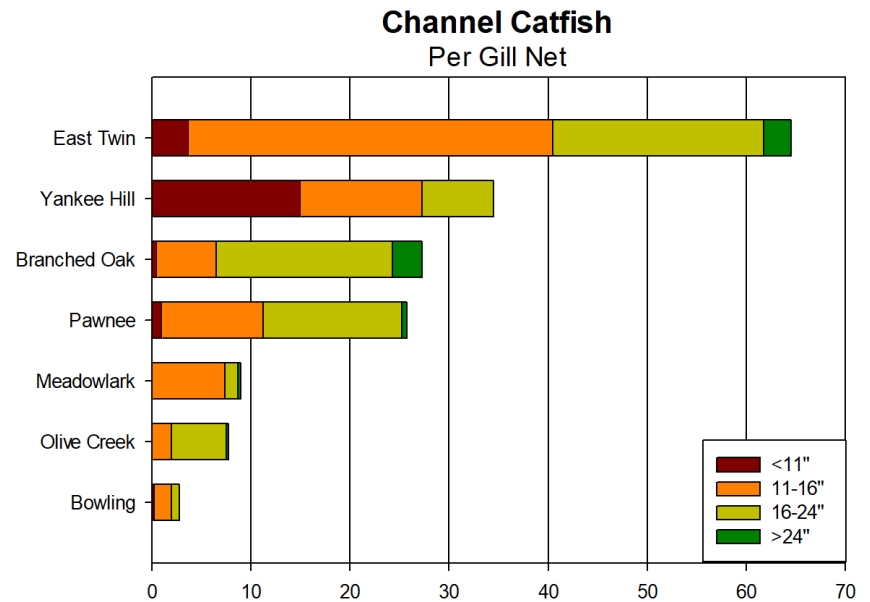
Crappie

Anglers seeking crappies in the Lincoln area will have excellent opportunities in 2024. **Memphis** yielded the highest catch rates in the 2023 sampling. **Oxbow Trails, Yankee Hill,** and **Branched Oak** will also be great places to target larger crappies in 2024.



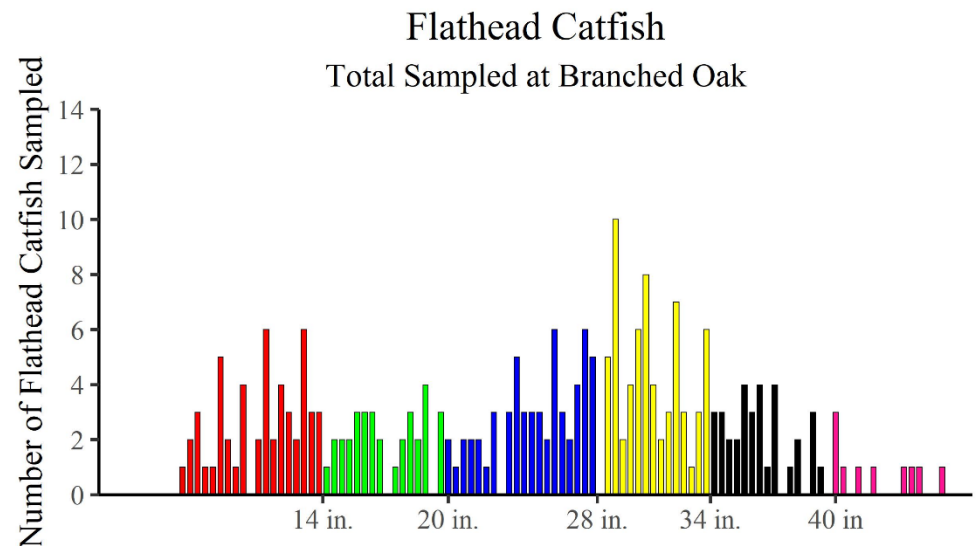
Channel Catfish

Anglers seeking Channel Catfish have great opportunities around Lincoln. **East Twin** is a consistent producer of nice fish. Anglers seeking a catfish supper should head to **Stagecoach, Pawnee** or **Branched Oak**. Anglers seeking larger catfish may want to try **Wildwood** and **Meadowlark**. The catch and release regulation at **Wildwood** continues to provide a great opportunity to catch a trophy Channel Catfish.

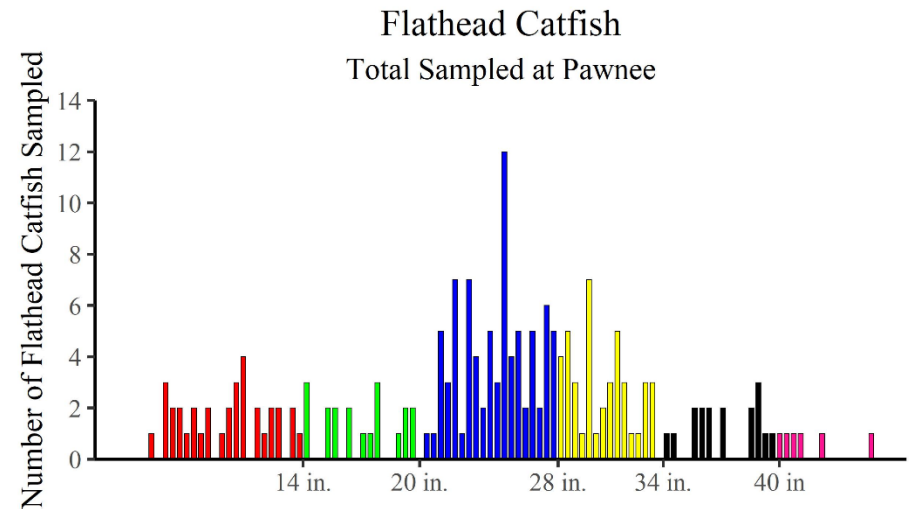


Flathead Catfish

In 2024, **Branched Oak** will continue to be a top destination in the state with multiple fish over 40", giving anglers a chance to catch a true trophy. Anglers should also note that there is a catch and release regulation on Flathead Catfish at **Branched Oak**.

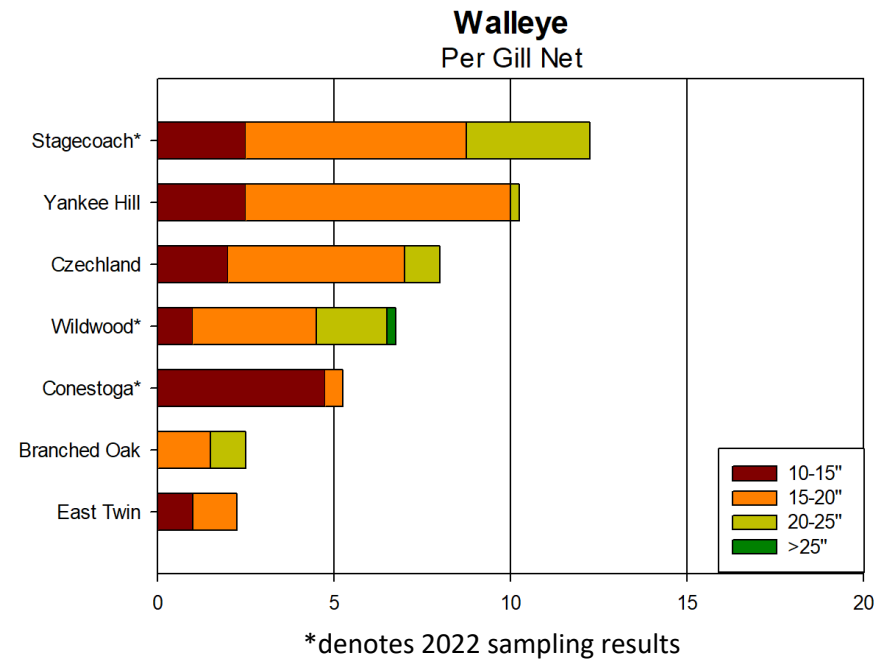


Pawnee Lake will also provide some good Flathead fishing in 2024. Unlike **Branched Oak**, anglers are able to harvest up to five Flatheads at Pawnee; however, only one can be over 30 inches.



Walleye

Anglers should have a good chance at catching some keeper sized $\geq 15"$ Walleyes at **Czechland** and **Yankee Hill** in 2023. Although net results were low, anglers can still expect to catch Walleye at **Branched Oak** and **Wanahoo**. Other lakes in the Salt Valley to target Walleye include **Stagecoach**, **Wildwood**, and **Conestoga**.

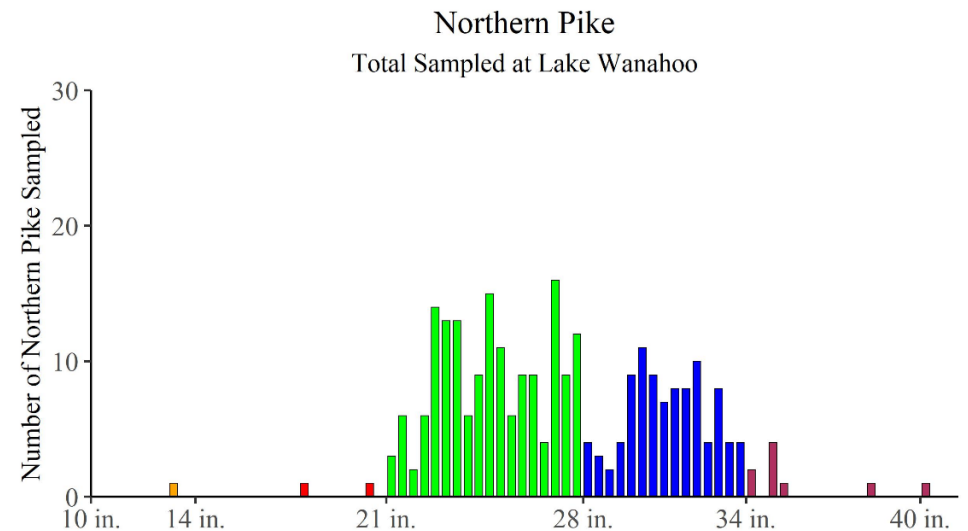
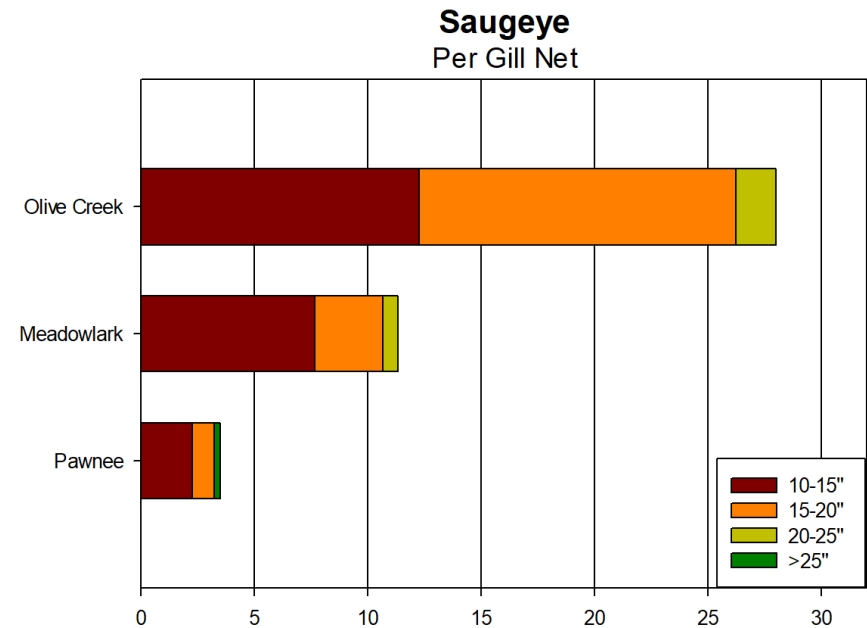


Saugeye

Saugeye (a hybrid between Sauger and Walleye) are doing very well in southeastern Nebraska. Anglers looking to catch legal sized Saugeye (≥ 15 inches) in the Salt Valley should head to **Olive Creek**. Anglers seeking master angler quality Saugeye should target **Pawnee**.

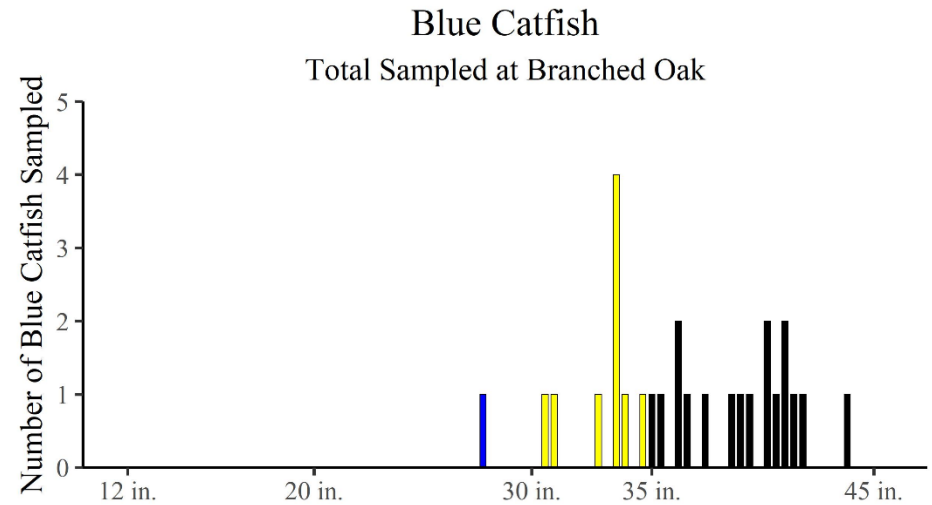
Northern Pike

The Northern Pike in **Lake Wanahoo** continue to grow and provide anglers with a unique fishing experience. Multiple fish over 40" have been sampled and supplemental stockings have yielded additional recruitment. Remember that all Northern Pike caught must be released immediately. The Northern Pike tagging study will continue in 2023 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV.



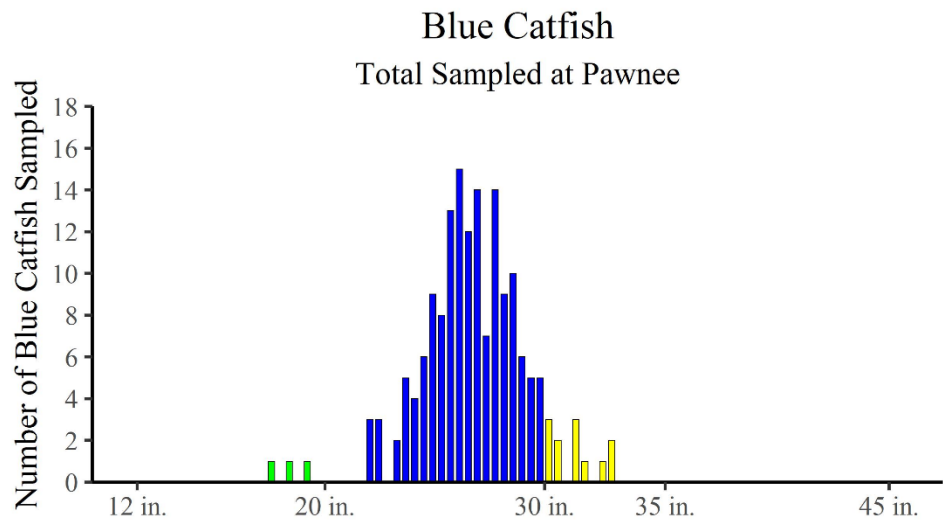
Blue Catfish

Branched Oak continues to produce some really nice Blue Catfish. The Blue Catfish stocked in **Pawnee** over the last few years appear to be doing quite well also. Anglers can expect these fish to be around 20-35" from the 2015 stocking.



Bullheads

Catchable sized Bullheads can be found at **Lake Wanahoo**. Several master angler Bullheads (>15") were sampled at **Lake Wanahoo** during the Spring sampling efforts. Bullheads can also be found throughout most lakes in the Salt Valley.



Rainbow Trout

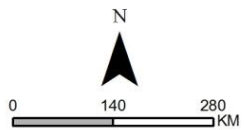
Rainbow Trout also provide a great fishing opportunity for children or beginners. Rainbow Trout are stocked in the Spring, Fall and Winter at **Holmes Lake** and in the Fall and Winter in the south pond at **Bowling Lake**.

Hybrid Striped Bass (Wipers)

Salt Valley reservoirs such as Branched Oak will again provide anglers an opportunity to catch Wipers. Advanced Wiper Stockings are doing well in Branched Oak with some Wipers over 25 inches residing in the reservoir. Anglers are reminded that they can only keep one White Bass, Striped Bass or Wiper that is 16" or longer per day, except at **Branched Oak** where a catch and release regulation is in place. Remember White Perch, a similar looking species to White Bass, Striped Bass and Wipers, cannot be possessed live from any water body as they are an Aquatic Invasive Species.



Photo 2. Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*)



NEBRASKA
— GAME PARKS —

Trisha Schlake, IT Division, 12/18/2012

