

Enders Reservoir 2023 Survey Summary

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Fish populations are sampled each fall at Enders Reservoir using gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish and wipers. Gill nets are set on approximately the same dates and locations each year to reduce variability.

The elevation at Enders has continued to hover around the top of the inactive pool. After Enders fell almost 6 feet in 2014, the lake levels have struggled to return to previously observed elevations. Due to continued, consistent lake elevation levels, a boat ramp improvement project was completed in fall 2022. Included in the boat ramp project was a new two-lane concrete ramp and kayak launch at No Name Bay and a two-lane concrete ramp, boat dock, and parking area at Area-A. Unfortunately, major rain events in 2023 damaged the Area-A ramp before vegetation could stabilize the area. Repairs began in late fall 2023 and continued into 2024.

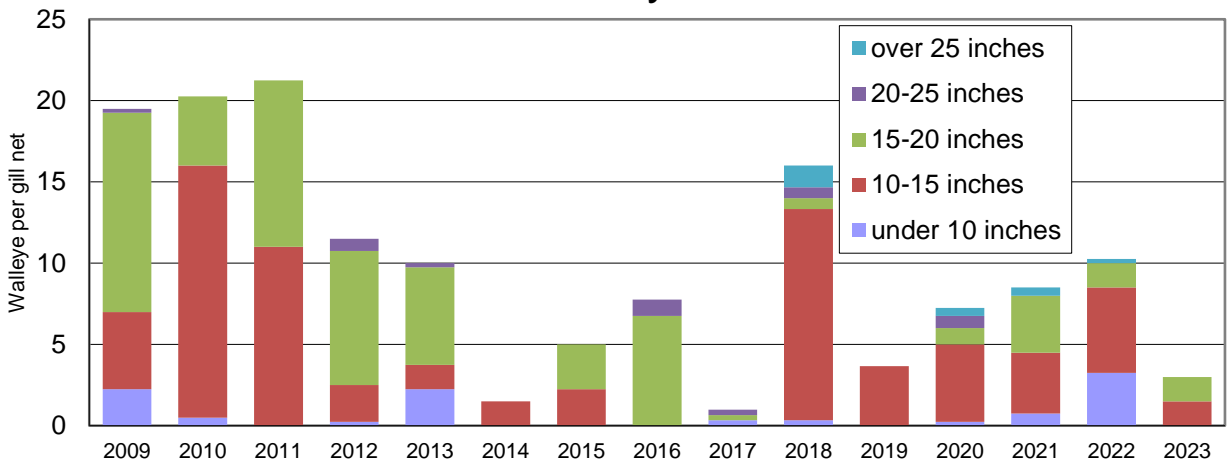
Enders was home to an extensive fish kill in the fall of 2022 that seemed to impact mainly gizzard shad, crappie, and a few channel catfish. There were several reports of dead crappie being observed under the ice the following winter. The fish kill was likely caused by a large algal bloom and may have impacted fish populations in 2023. In response, there are 62,500 white crappie fingerlings requested for summer 2024 to help that population recover.

Walleye catch rates dipped to 3 per net in 2023. Evaluation of the alternate year advanced fingerling stocking, which began in 2019, is ongoing and will be adjusted if deemed necessary. Surveys showed multiple year classes with nearly half of the fish surveyed over 15 inches. There are 625,000 walleye fry requested for spring 2024.

White bass catch was just over 4 per net in 2023, down from the 15 per net sampled in 2022. Biologists observed a healthy population with multiple year classes and several fish between 12 to 15 inches. Channel catfish were sampled at just over 4 per net in 2023 and will provide a quality fishery for anglers in 2024. There are no channel catfish requested for 2024.

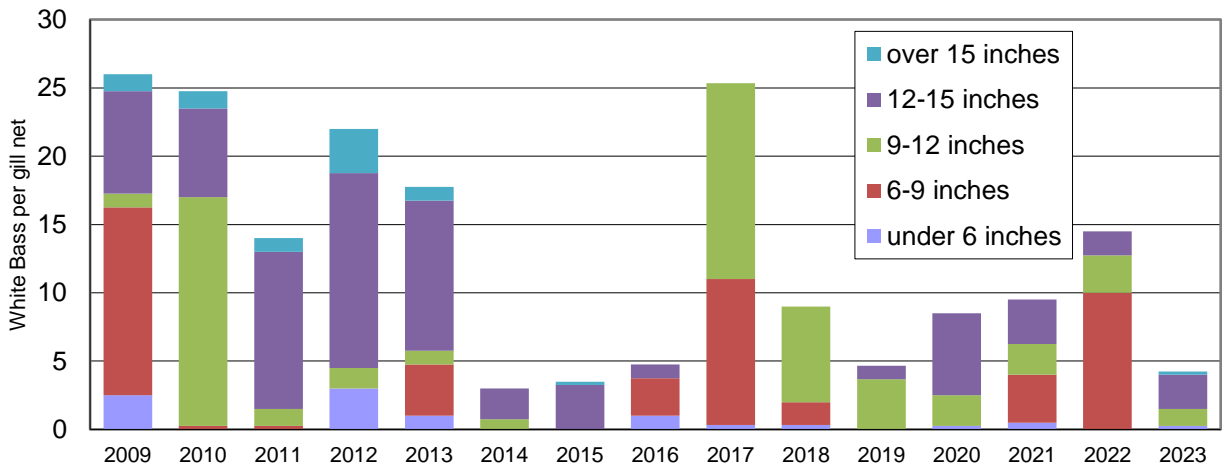
The following graphs show the average number of fish caught per net and the relative abundance of fish within several length categories. The text provides a brief explanation of the information shown in the graphs.

Walleye



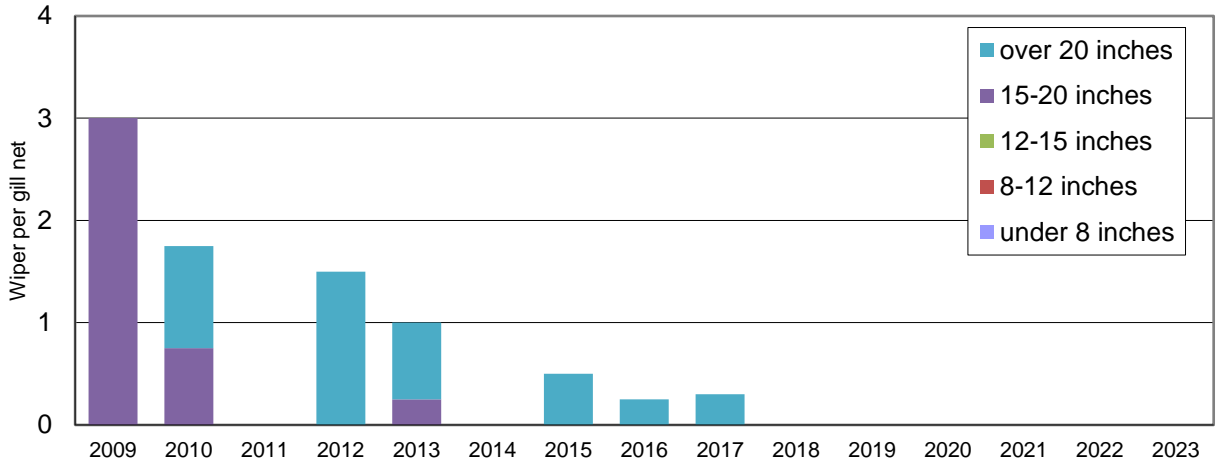
To help boost walleye numbers, the stocking strategy was altered to include advanced fingerlings that are approximately 8 inches in length on alternate years. Initial results have been positive, however, numbers dipped to 3 per net in 2023. There are 625,000 walleye fry requested for spring 2024.

White Bass



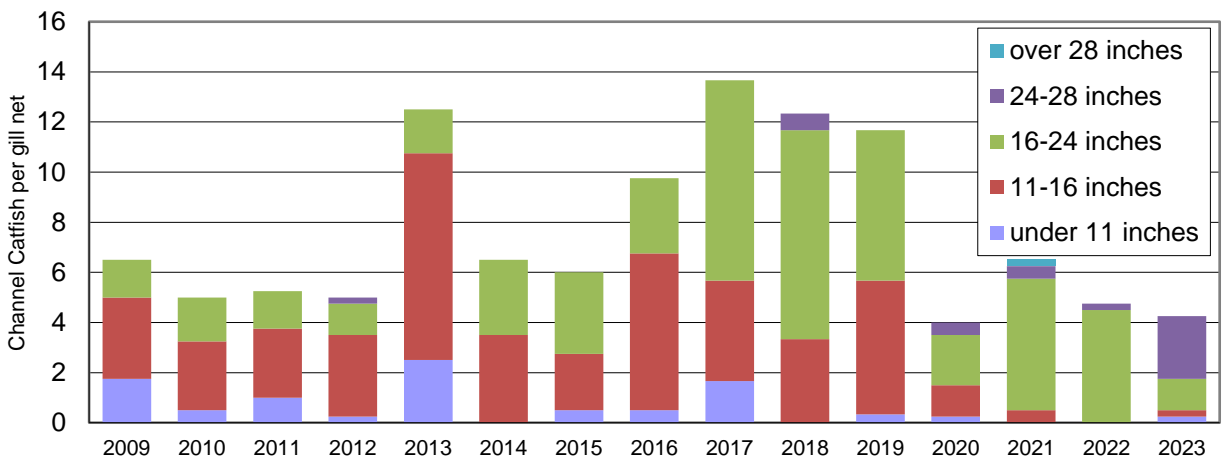
White bass survey numbers dipped to just over 4 per net in 2023. Length frequency showed good size quality for anglers looking to harvest white bass. There are no white bass requested for 2024.

Wiper



Wipers have not been stocked in Enders since 2005 due to an increased emphasis on white bass production and low water levels. They have not been sampled since one fish was caught in 2017. This suggests the last of the 2005 stocking has either been caught or died from old age. Currently, there are no plans to reintroduce wipers into Enders.

Channel Catfish



In 2023, channel catfish were sampled at just over 4 per net. Anglers should have a good opportunity to catch channel catfish in 2024. Stocking strategies will continue to be evaluated and there are no channel catfish requested for 2024. New in 2024, channel catfish are now protected with only 1 fish over 30" allowed within the daily bag limit of 5 fish.

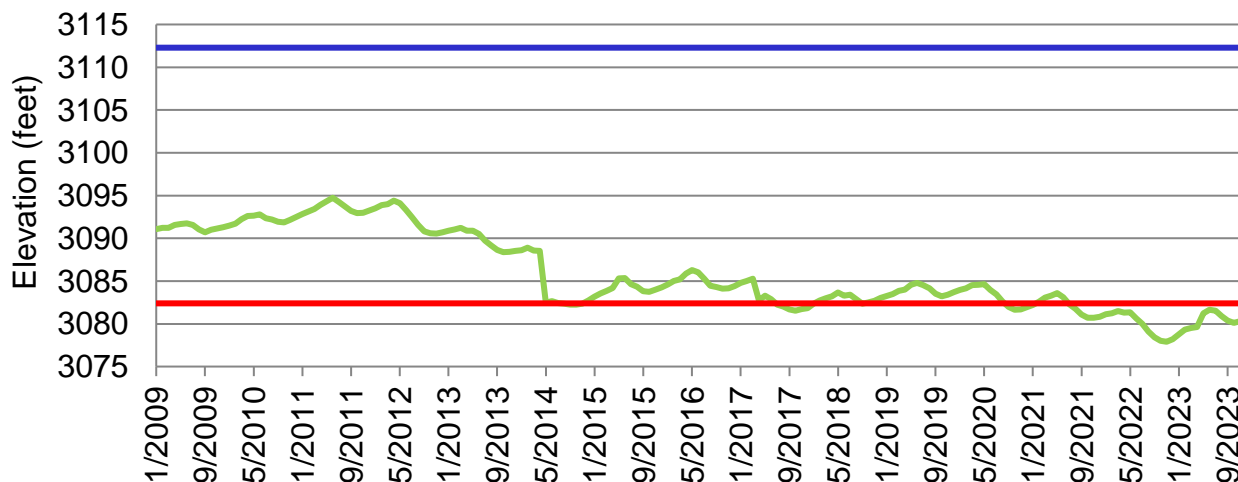
Enders Reservoir Fish Stocking Summary

Year	Walleye	Channel Catfish	White Bass	Yellow Perch	Gizzard Shad
2023	3,401 (8.25")	3,565 (5")		24,450 (1.5")	100 (14")
2022	625,000 (fry)				
2021	1,997 (9")	3,362 (4.25")	10,114 (1")		
2020	33,931 (1")				86 (12")
2019	3,486 (7.75")		10,380 (1")		

Above is a table of fish stockings over the last 5 years at Enders Reservoir. The species stocked, number stocked, and fish size are presented in the table. Multiple species are stocked annually, and a comprehensive database of fish stockings can be found on the Nebraska Game and Parks website or by following the link below.

[Stocking Database](#)

End of Month Elevation, Enders Reservoir 2009-2023



Water elevation is a constant management concern at Enders Reservoir. The dark blue line indicates the top of the active conservation pool, the green line indicates the end of month elevation, and the red line indicates the top of the inactive pool. Current elevation data can be found at this link: [Current Elevation](#)

Southwest Reservoir Georgia Cube Project



As part of a grant awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation a fish attractor project was completed in the Southwest Reservoirs in 2023. Using this funding, a total of 100 Georgia Cubes (25 at each reservoir) were constructed with the help of the McCook Work Ethic Camp. These cubes were placed in deep water to provide structure for fish as reservoir elevations decline in dry years when habitat becomes limited. To create a larger footprint, 6 to 7 cubes were attached to one another and sunk creating four cube complexes in each reservoir that anglers can target. Below are the GPS locations of each cube complex to assist anglers in finding this new structure.

Enders		Medicine Creek		Red Willow		Swanson	
N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W
40.42028	-101.52442	40.39978	-100.23357	40.35930	-100.68447	40.16356	-101.06689
40.42202	-101.52390	40.39761	-100.23526	40.35819	-100.67515	40.16517	-101.06628
40.42833	-101.52896	40.39441	-100.23548	40.35502	-100.68016	40.16706	-101.06657
40.43204	-101.52546	40.38652	-100.22448	40.36283	-100.67201	40.16874	-101.06654



Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have reached Nebraska! Zebra mussels are currently established in Lewis and Clark Reservoir, Lake Yankton, Offutt AFB pond, Beaver Lake, and the Missouri River. Anglers and boaters should be on the look out for personnel performing boat inspections and decontaminations statewide. Please email: ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-7602 to report any possible AIS sightings or for more information about AIS in Nebraska.

Preventative Steps and Regulations

- It is unlawful for a boat to arrive at or leave any body of water in Nebraska with water other than from a domestic source except for fire-fighting purposes. Drain water before leaving an area
- It is unlawful for a boat or trailer to arrive or leave a launch area with any aquatic vegetation from that waterbody still attached. Boat blinds cannot use plants listed as invasive species or noxious weeds
- Wash mud off waders. Felt-sole waders are not allowed

Nonresident Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp

Motorized watercraft registered outside Nebraska are required to purchase and display the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp before launching from any Nebraska boat ramp. Stamps must be affixed on the starboard side toward the rear of the boat above the waterline. The fee for each stamp is \$18 dollars and includes the \$3 issuing fee. Stamps can be purchased online or at Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Offices.



Left: Zebra Mussel
Right: Quagga Mussel