

Elwood Reservoir

2023 Fall Survey Summary



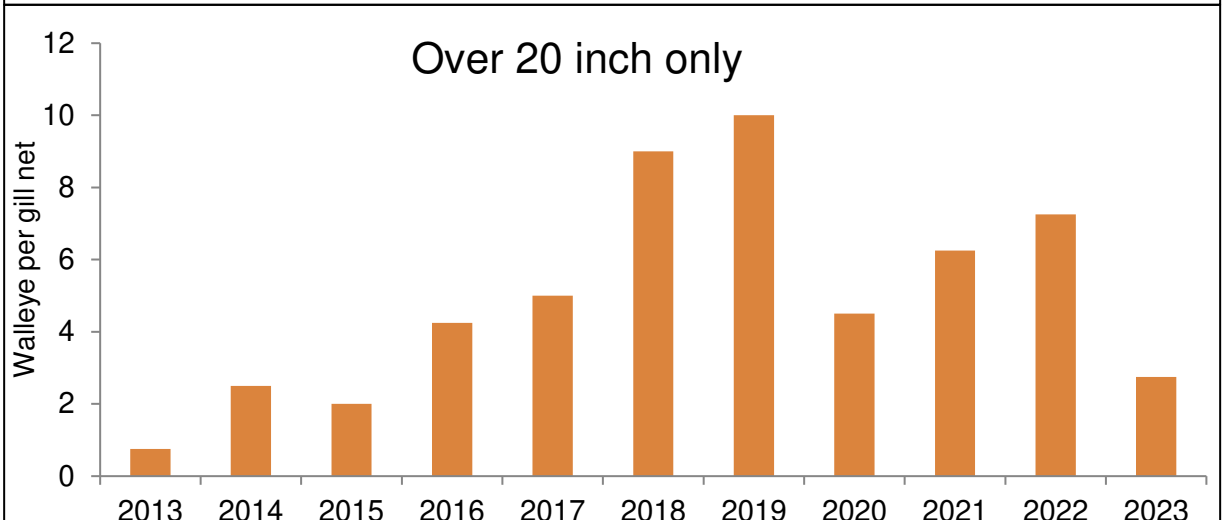
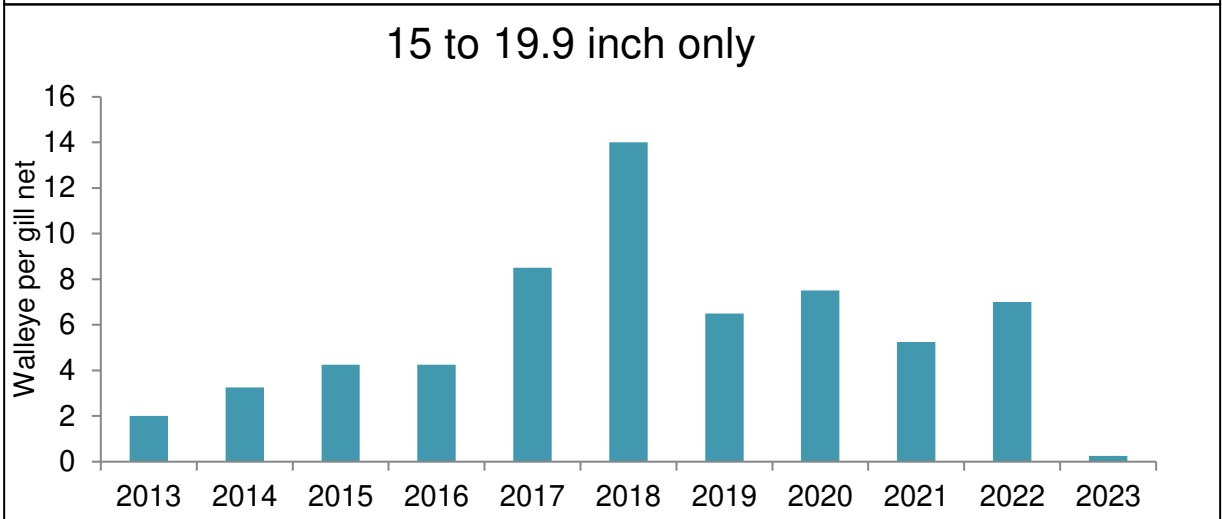
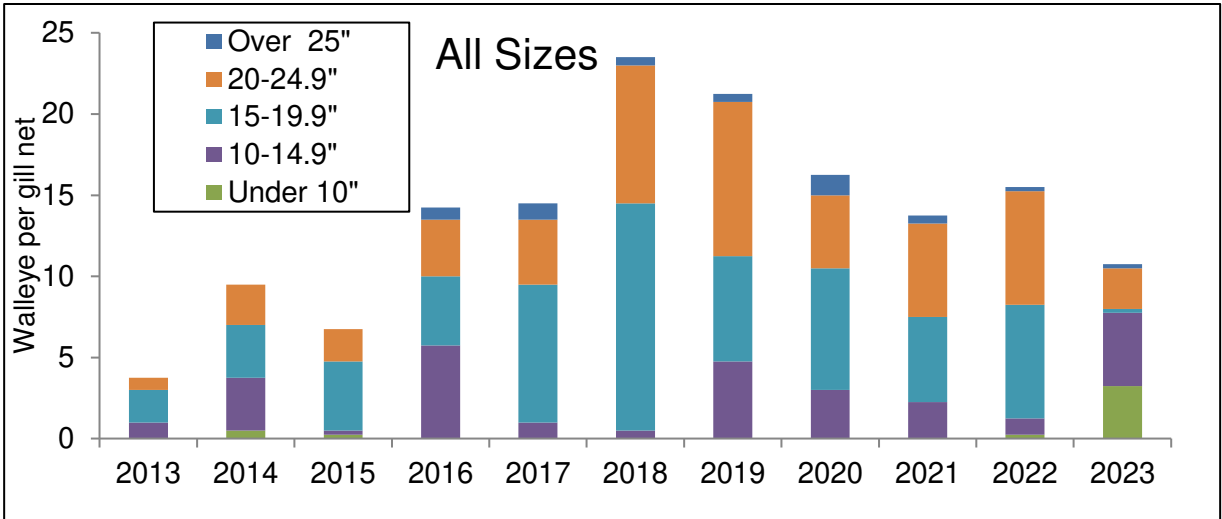
Elwood Reservoir is utilized by Central Nebraska Irrigation & Public Power District (CNPPID) to store irrigation water and provide groundwater recharge. This reservoir is located approximately five miles south of Johnson Reservoir. The public access area is located along the east shoreline and provides a boat launching facility with lighting and a pit toilet. Investigate these characteristics on [NGPC's Public Fishing Atlas](#).

Coves are abundant but they are remote, have steep shorelines and are heavily vegetated making them accessible only by boat. Limited shoreline access for bank angling is available. Boat speed at Elwood Reservoir is limited to 5 mph/no wake.

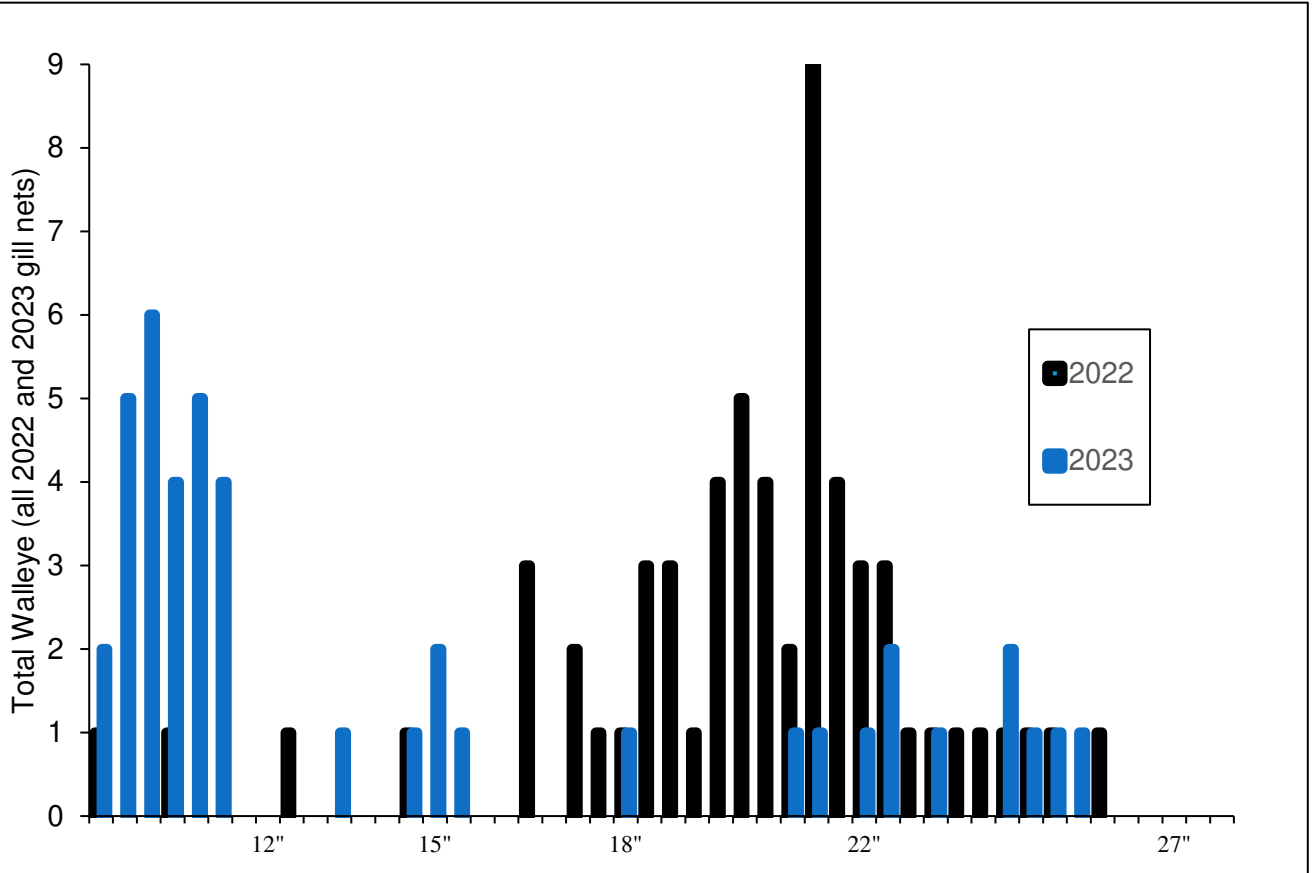


Information collected from standard surveys allows biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates of several species. This data provides valuable information to guide decision making scenarios that include fish species stocked, stocking rates and fishing regulations. This information also assists Game and Parks staff in guiding anglers to waterbodies that have the desired populations. To further investigate what comprises a survey access NGPC's [Survey Says](#) article.

Walleye



Walleye

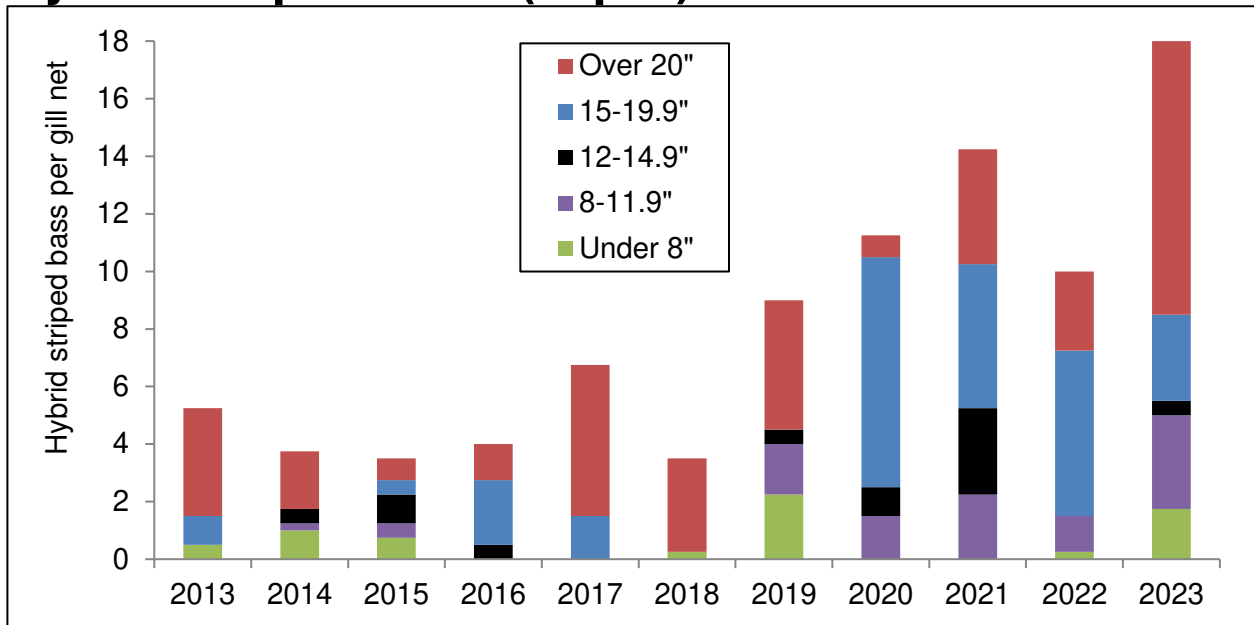


The 2023 survey revealed 10.75 walleye per gill net. The sample included 30% under 10 inches, 42% in the 10 to 14.9 inch length group, 3% in the 15 to 19.9 inch length group, 23% in the 20 to 24.9 inch group and 2% over 25 inches. Those greater than 15 inches declined but the quantity of young-of-year captured was large. In total, 17 young-of-year were captured and measured 8.6 to 10.5 inches. The 4th walleye graph displays 2023 and 2022 data.

Evaluation efforts are being made to determine the most efficient size and quantity of walleye fingerling to stock. Requests for larger fingerlings will continue as current evaluations indicate their positive impacts to the walleye fishery. Check [NGPC's Fish Stocking](#) website for updates.

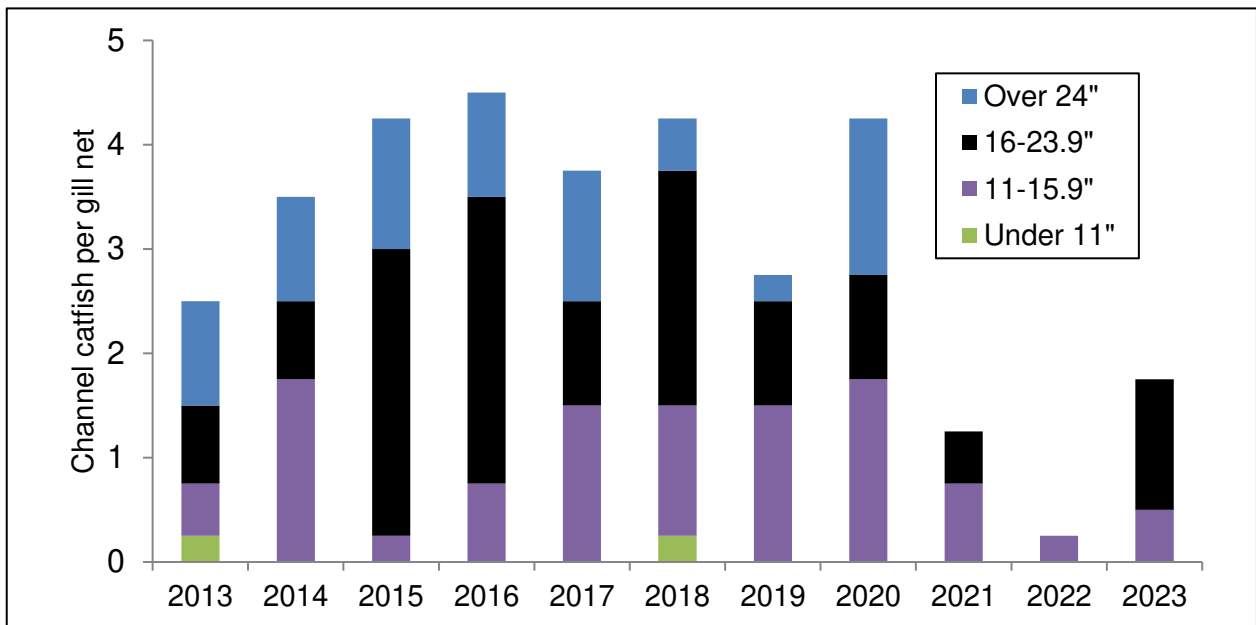
Elwood walleye regulations allow for the daily harvest of four walleye which may include one walleye from 15 to 18 inches and three larger than 18 inches OR four larger than 18 inches. Anglers are only allowed one walleye larger than 22 inches per day. For more information concerning regulations consult the [2024 Fishing Guide](#).

Hybrid striped bass (wiper)



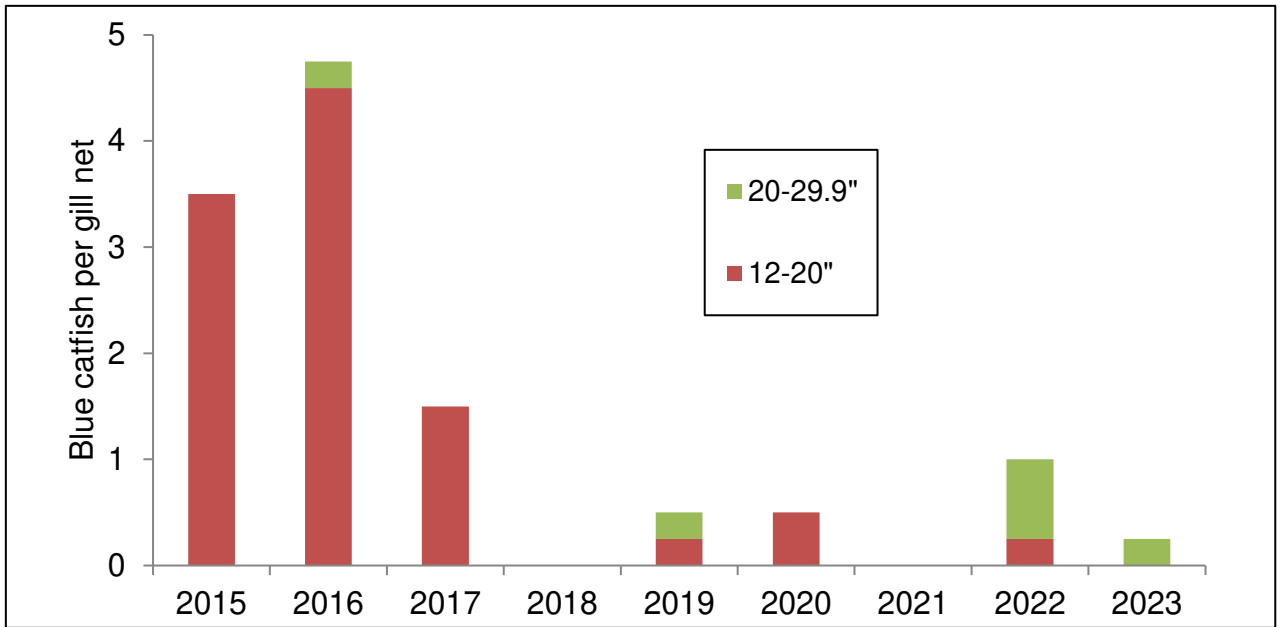
The 2023 data reveals an abundant hybrid striped bass population. Average length was 17.4 inches and the largest observed in 2023's catch was 25.3 inches. Hybrid striped bass are annually stocked to provide a trophy fishery. Elwood has a daily bag limit of three hybrid bass in combination with white bass; with only one fish longer than 16 inches. To investigate Elwood's regulations visit the [2024 Fishing Guide](#).

Channel catfish



Fewer channel catfish were caught when compared to prior years. Of the seven captured during 2023, the largest was 19.5". Stockings are completed on an alternating basis.

Blue catfish



Blue catfish were first introduced into Elwood in 2014. Additional stockings have occurred in 2017, 2022 and 2023. During the 2023 survey there was one blue catfish sampled, this fish measured 22.8 inches and weighed 3.8 pounds. Blue catfish have large growth potential that may be expressed at Elwood. The daily bag limit for blue catfish is one. Check the [2024 Fishing Guide](#) for details.

Muskellunge



Although muskellunge aren't captured in Elwood's annual survey, they can provide a quality fishery. Muskellunge stockings have been sporadic but are scheduled to continue in the future. Elwood received a muskellunge stocking in 2022. Another request for muskellunge stocking is in place for 2024.

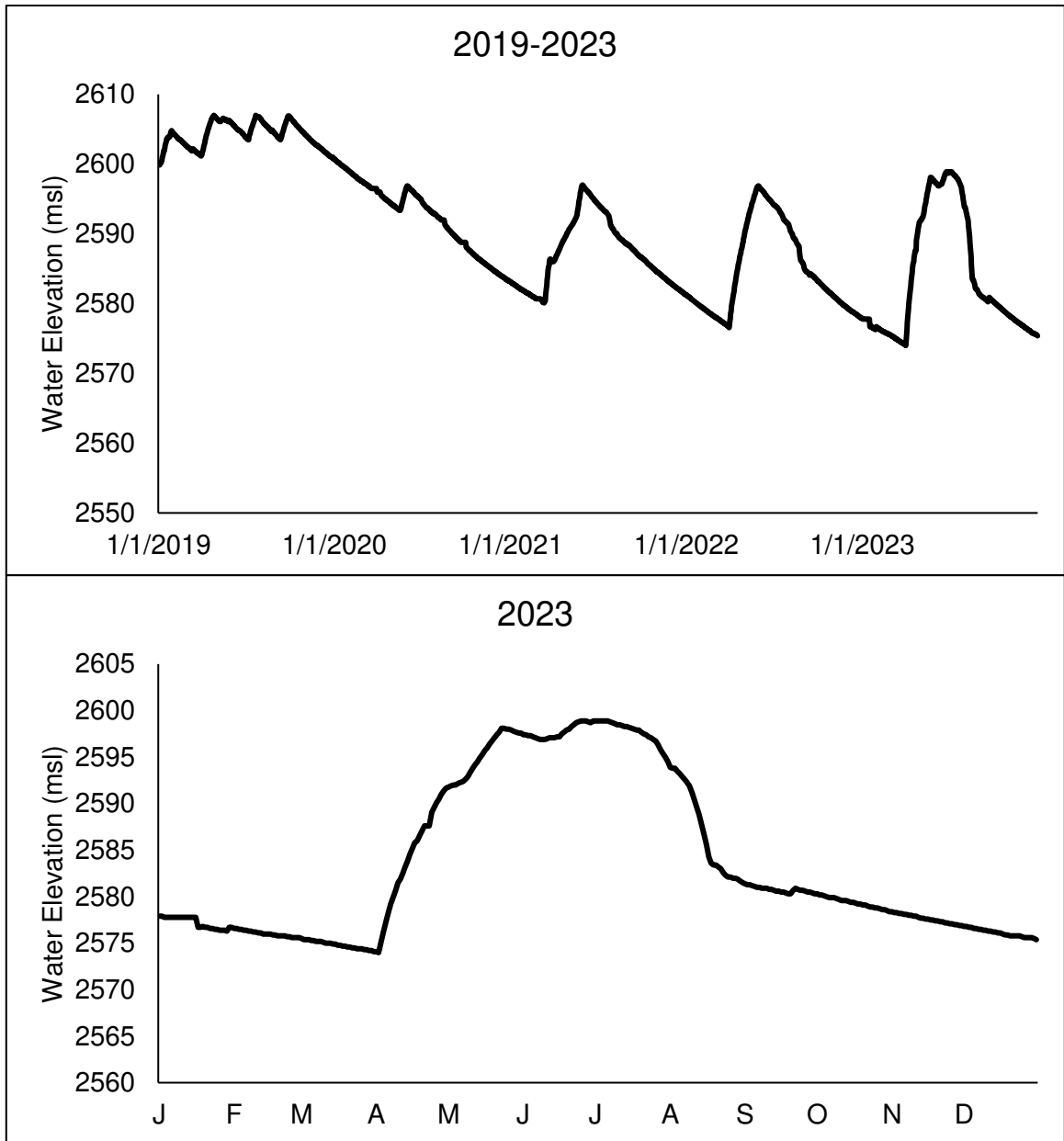
Stockings



Elwood Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC's Hatchery System annually. The species, rates and sizes of stocking vary. Below you will find Elwood's stocking history by species for the past four years. Many factors can affect future stockings such as inclement weather, gear failure and changes in strategies. For this reason, 2024's request is tentative (*). For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Database](#).

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Channel catfish</u>	<u>Muskellunge</u>	<u>Yellow Perch</u>	<u>Hybrid Crappie</u>	<u>Blue Catfish</u>
2020	34,136 2"	6,650 1.25"			13,219 3.25"	16,103 1.25"	
2021	200,114 1.5"	8,690 1.25"			13,257 1.5"		
2022	94,611 1.25" 5,183 2.75" 10,715 3"	4,750 1.5"	2,820 10.5"	450 11"			17,162 4.5"
2023	28,800 1.5" 23,124 2.5" 23,841 1.5"	10,038 1.25"					9,400 5.5"
2024*	47,000 3" 47,000 2"	4,700 2"		470 12"			9,400 8"

Water Levels



Elwood's water level changes frequently. As of January 31, 2024 this reservoir was at elevation 2574.0 inundating approximately 538 surface acres. Investigate [CNPPID's water data page](#) for updates.

Currently, construction is ongoing at Elwood to address seepage issues. In the future, an inflow reconstruction project will influence water elevation dynamics. During 2024, Elwood will be filled no higher than 2597'. Please follow [CNNPID's News Releases](#) for details.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Bigheaded carp have found their way into every major tributary of the Missouri River in Nebraska, including the Platte, Elkhorn, Loup and Nemaha rivers. Obstacles to their continued spread are vital as these species cause substantial damage. These obstacles include physical structures and angler awareness.



Zebra Mussel distribution is expanding, especially in Kansas and South Dakota. Currently the only waterbodies in Nebraska with confirmed zebra mussel infestations are the Missouri River, Lewis and Clark Lake, Lake Yankton and Offutt Base Lake and a private waterbody (Beaver Lake).

Asian clam is commonly confused for zebra mussel and are ubiquitous in many locations. This mussel is listed as a **Category II Priority Aquatic Invasive Species** by NGPC. This indicates that they are highly unwanted and all efforts should be taken to prevent their expansion.



To report AIS utilize 402-471-7602 or ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov

If you have questions or concerns about Elwood's fishery please contact
North Platte Southwest District office at 308-535-8025 or 308-221-6242

OR

Kearney Service Center at 308-865-5331