

Johnson Reservoir

2023 Fall Survey Summary



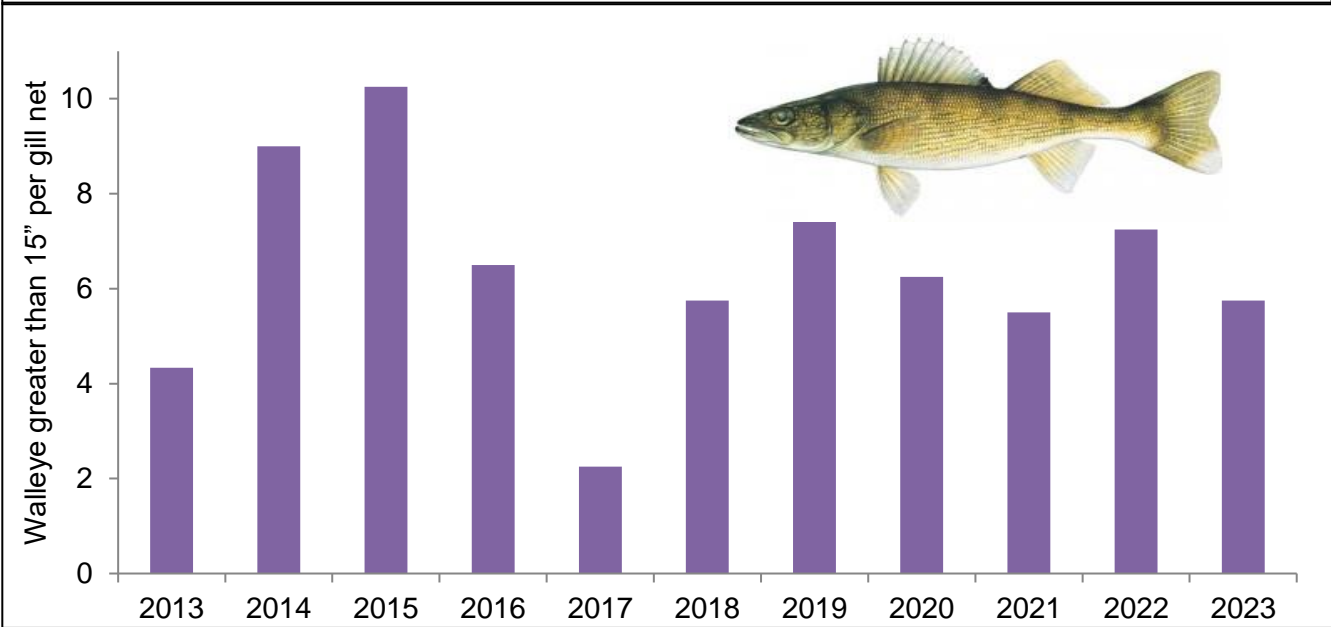
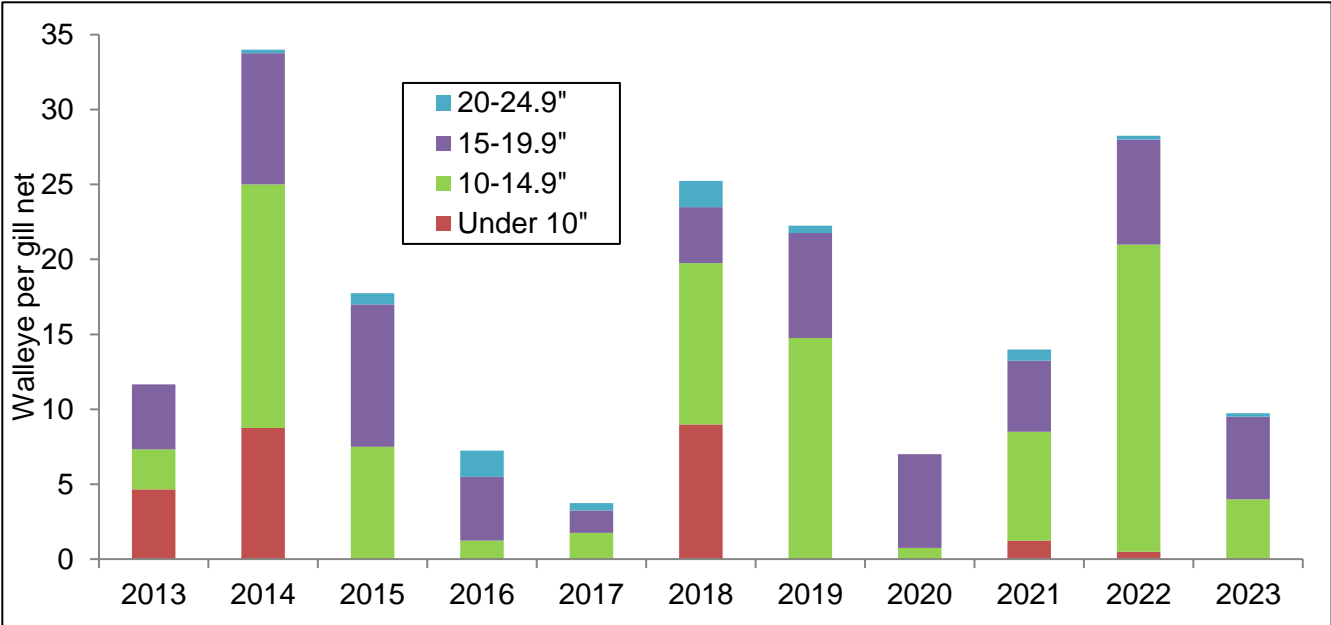
Johnson Reservoir is a 2,189 surface acre reservoir on Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District's (CNPPID) Supply Canal System. CNPPID manages Johnson Reservoir for hydroelectric power generation and irrigation purposes. There is an inlet with improved angler access amenities at this site. Notice other characteristics such as lake contours utilizing [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Page](#).

Information collected from [Standard Surveys](#) allows biologists to evaluate the population density, size structure, and growth rates for 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.

Abundance of walleye, sauger, white bass and hybrid striped bass in gill net catches were lower during 2023's survey. Escapement and angler harvest are likely culprits for this observation but environmental factors may have played a role too. Rebound of these values is expected and may have already improved since this survey, due to downstream migration.

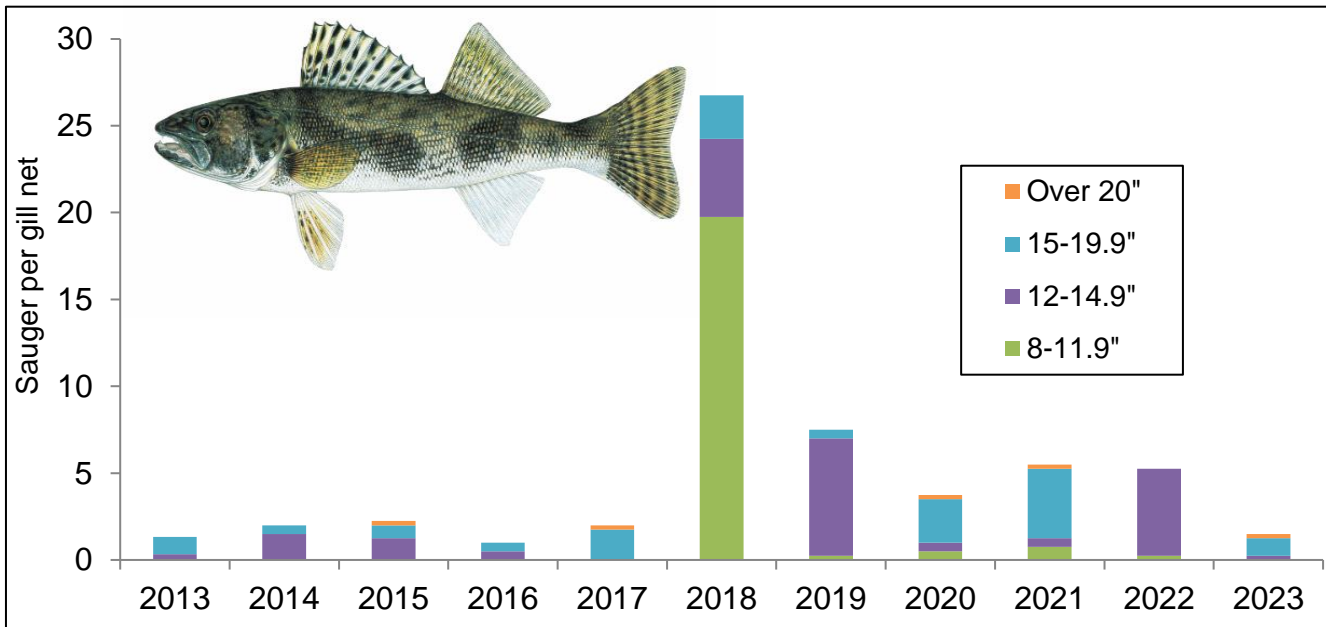


Walleye



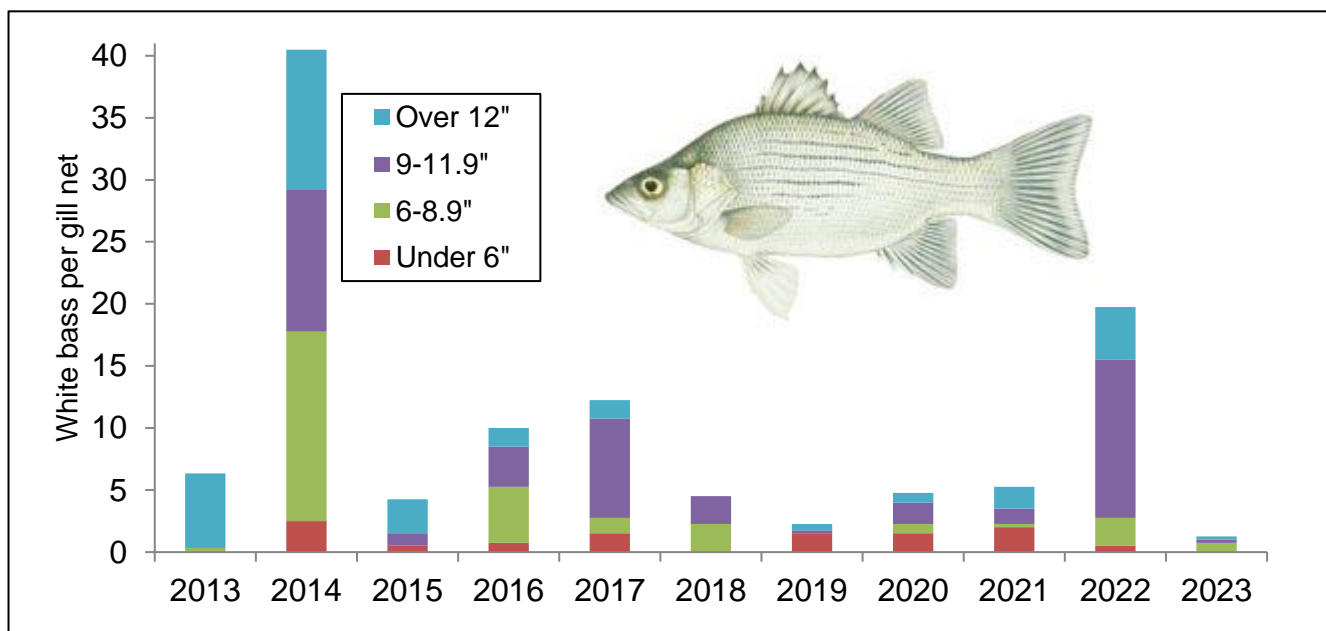
The 2023 survey was below average with a catch of 9.75 as the average from 2013 through 2022 was 17.3. Of those sampled in 2023 ,41% were 10 to 14.9 inches, 56% were 15 to 19.9 inches and 3% were 20 to 24.9 inches. The average length was 12.9 inches. Current age analysis indicates that walleye are reaching 15 inches in 2.5 years.

Sauger



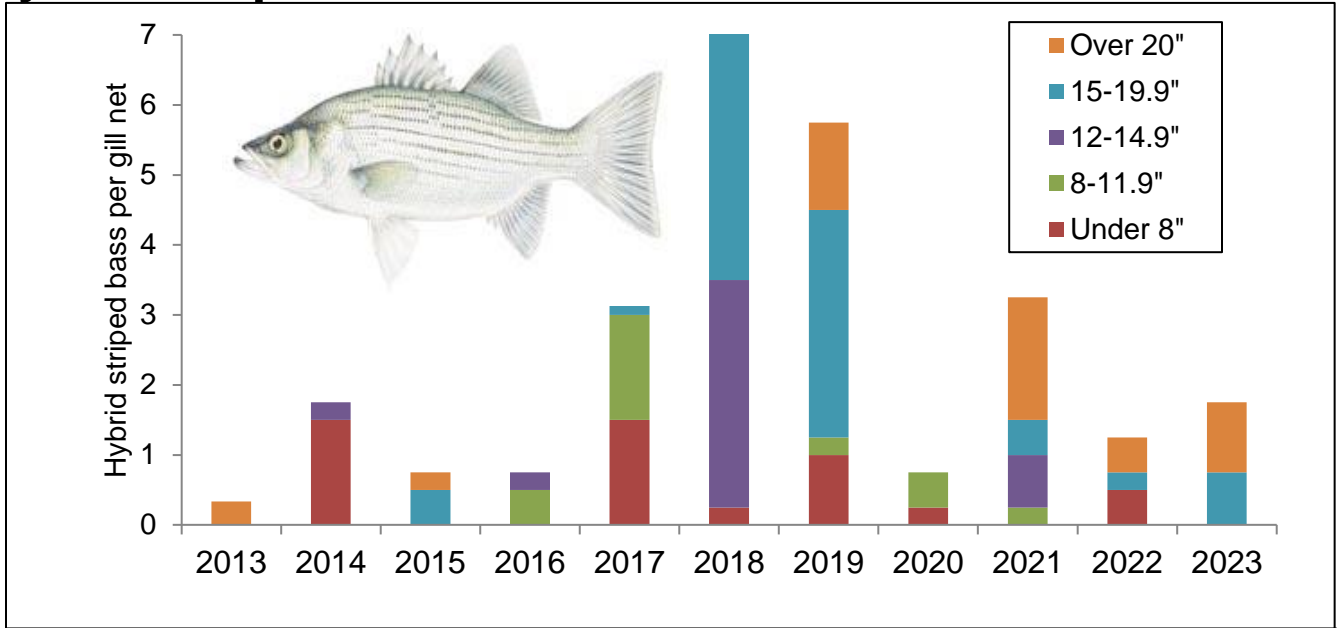
During 2023, 1.5 sauger per net were sampled with an average length of 17". Current data suggests that sauger in Johnson have the potential to reach 15" after two and a half years of age. This species is not stocked in Johnson but are stocked at the upstream Canyon Reservoirs. Sauger harvest is regulated in combination with walleye. Access [NGPC's Fish Identification Tool](#) and the [2024 Fishing Guide](#) for more information.

White bass



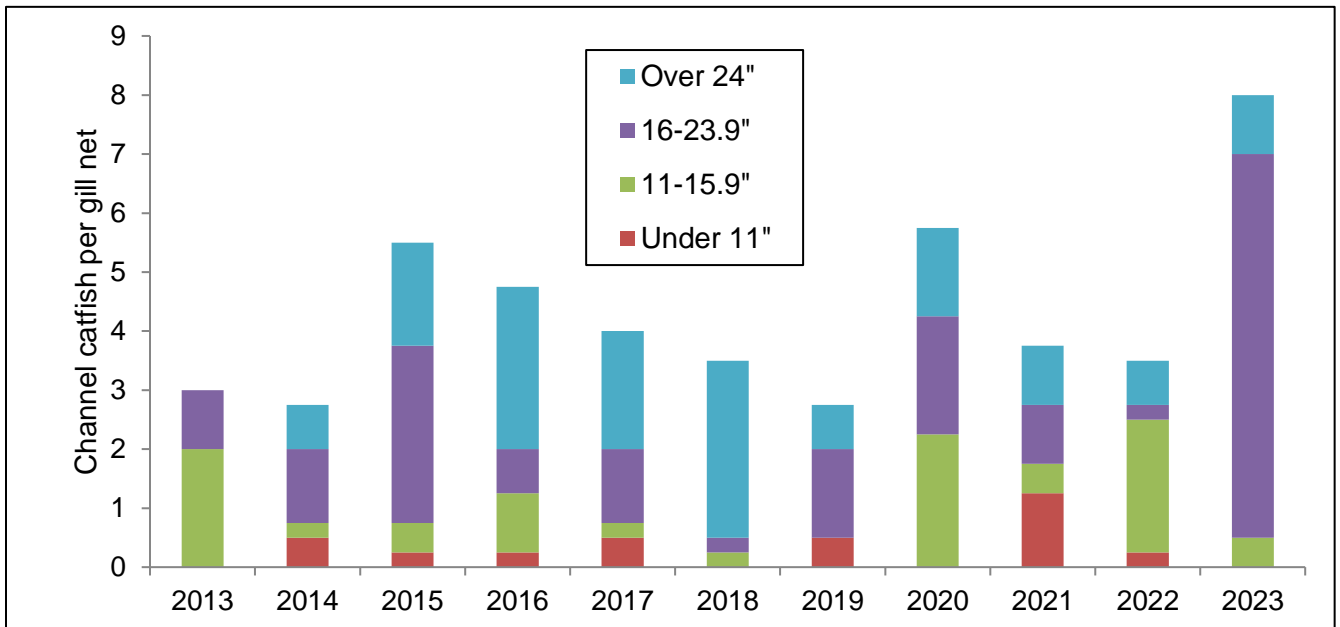
The 2023 white bass catch was below the average of 10 with only 1.5 caught. Of those surveyed, the largest was 13.25" and 3 years old.

Hybrid Striped Bass



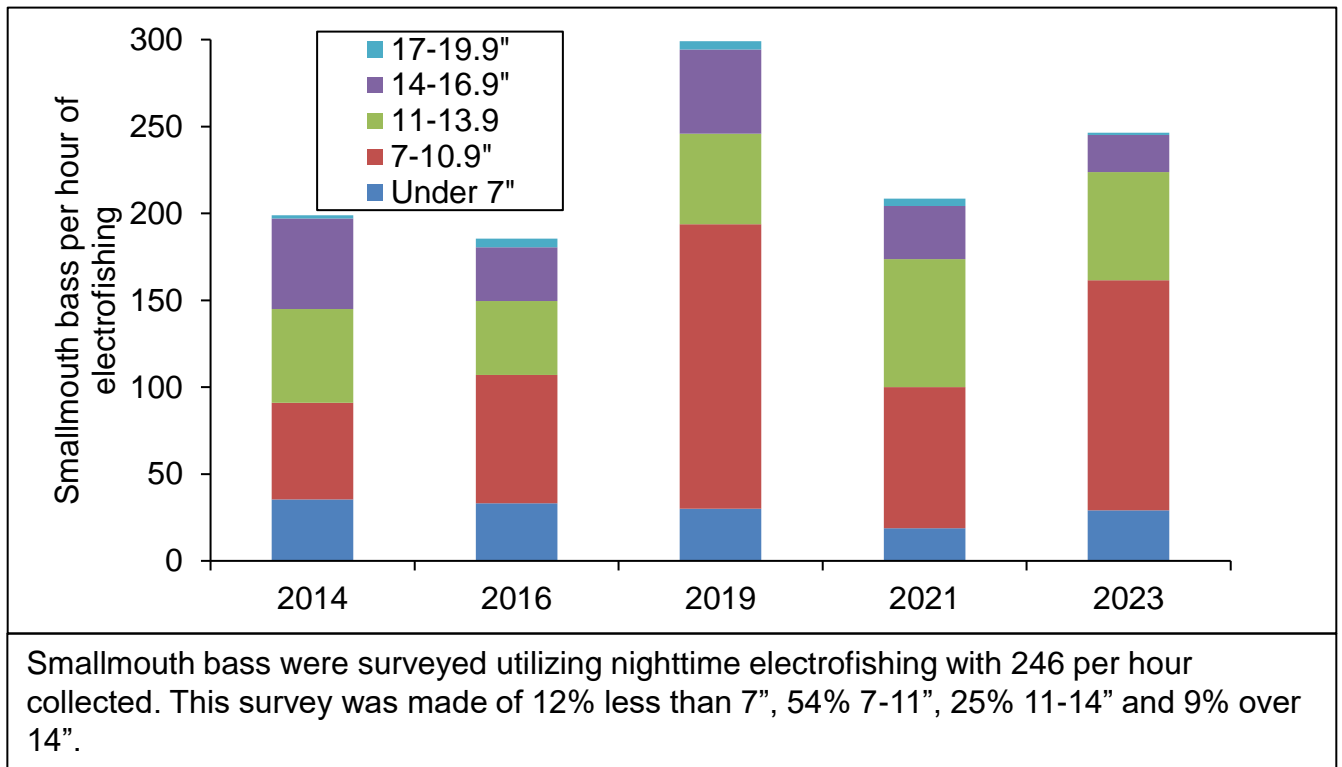
The 2023 hybrid striped bass (wiper) survey data was lower than average but when compared to 2022, an increase was observed. These fish averaged 20" in length and the longest was 24.5". Access [NGPC's Fish Identification](#) tool for hybrid striped bass and white bass differentiation and the [2024 Fishing Guide](#) as harvest size restrictions apply.

Channel catfish



The 2023 Channel catfish survey was one of the largest in history with 8 caught per net. Of these, 81% were 16-24" and the longest was 29.75". Substantial recruitment of age length classes contributed to this observation.

Smallmouth bass



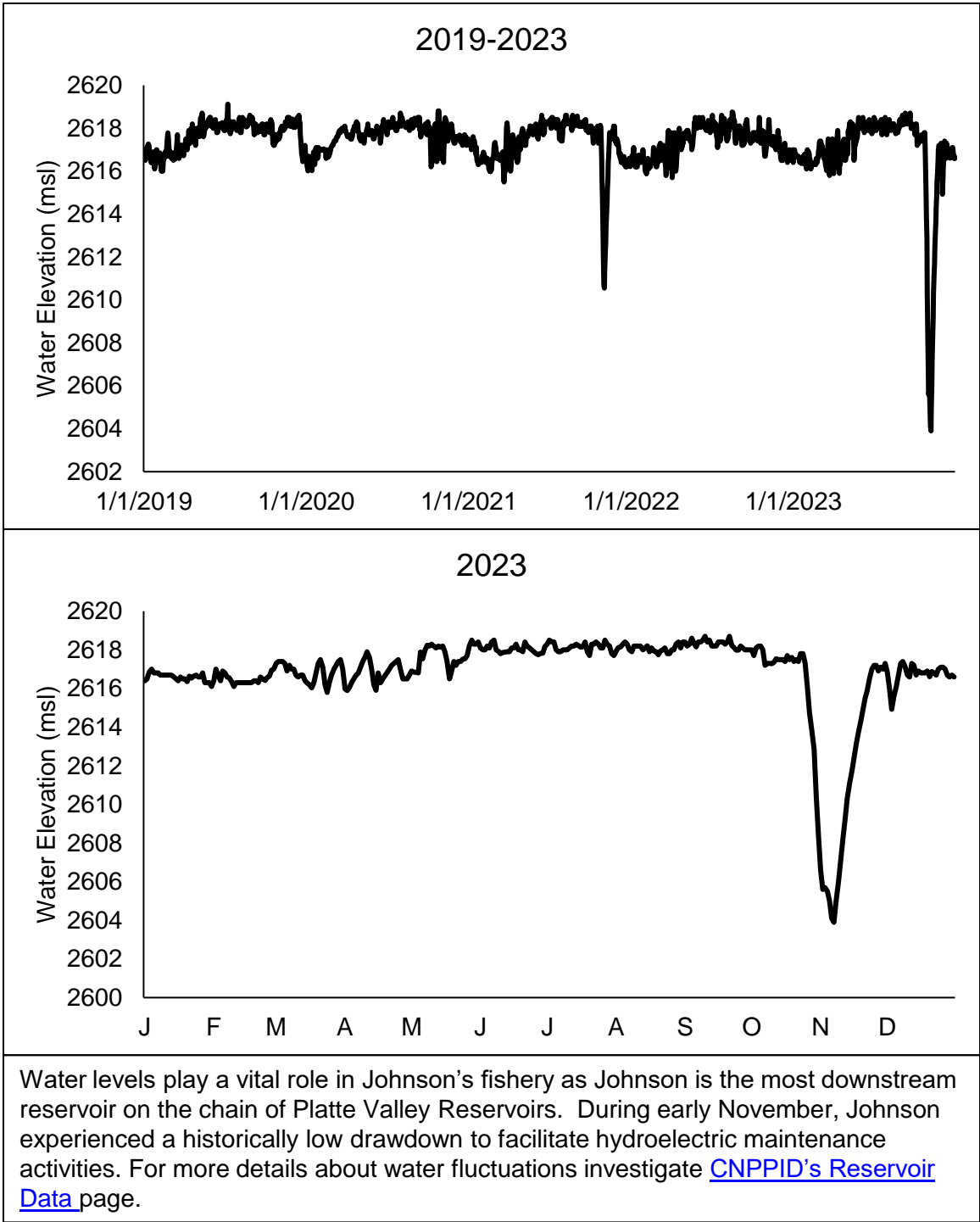
Stockings



Johnson Reservoir receives stockings from NGPC’s Hatchery System every year. Many factors can affect eventual 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 Reports](#).

<u>Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Yellow Perch</u>	<u>Channel catfish</u>
2014	168,295-1.5"	21,890-1.3"		
2015	219,317-1.5"	10,945-1.3"	85,078-2.6-2.8"	
2016	218,872-1.5"			
2017	219,143-2"		73,4489-3"	
2018	218,820-1.5"			
2019	237,497-1.75"		85,528-2.75	
2020	218.888-1.25"	11,000-1.25"		
2021	3,277,000-fry 135,293-1.5"		64,812-1.5"	13,135-5.5"
2022	219,904-1.25 2,063,457-fry			
2023	2,189,000-fry 120,342-1.5"			
2024*	2,189,000-fry 109,450-1.5"		65,670-4"	

Water Elevation

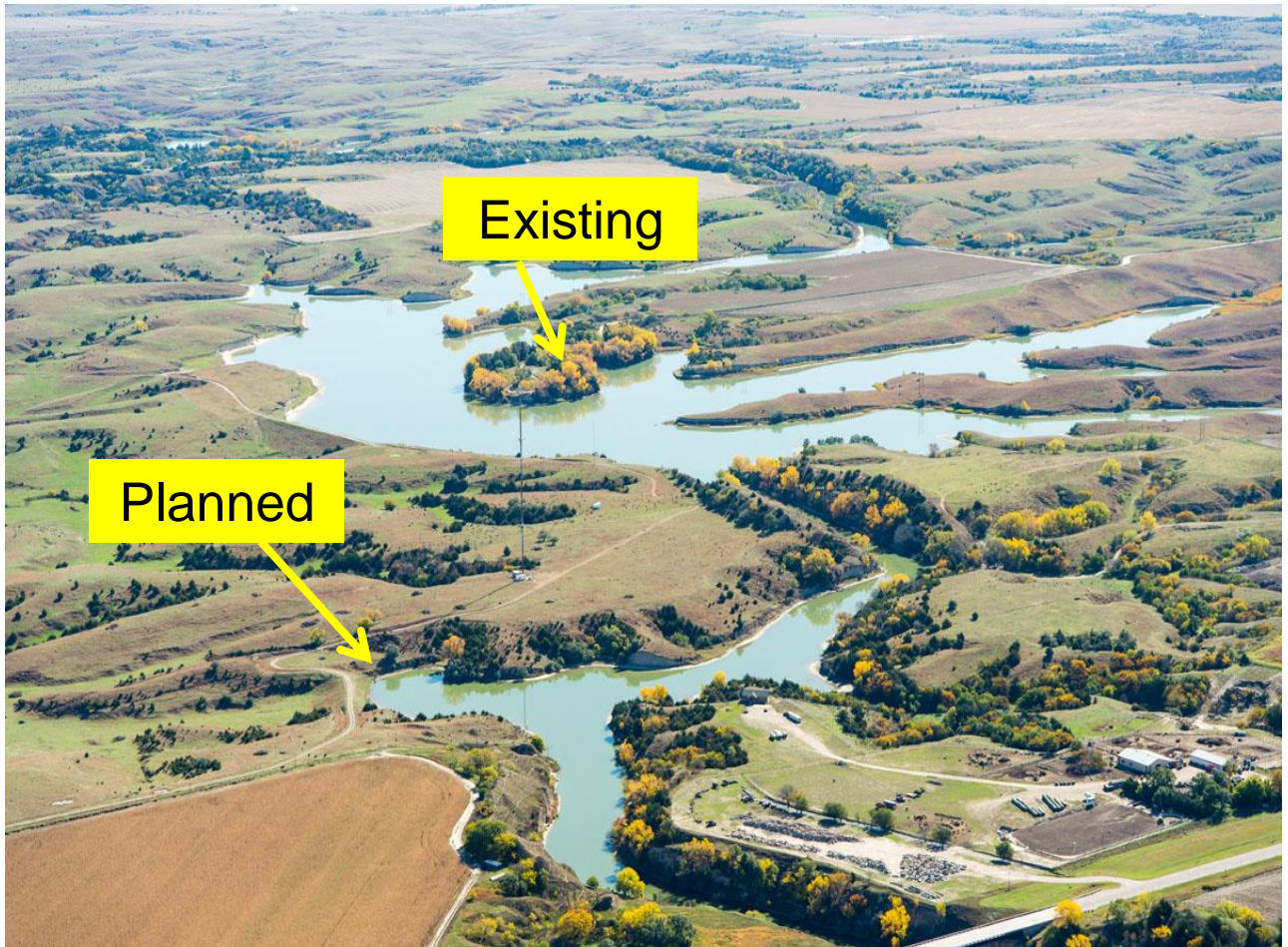


Commercial removal efforts were made during mid-May. These efforts were permitted by NGPC's Fisheries Division. To facilitate removal efforts, NGPC temporarily restricted bowfishing in the vicinity of commercial removal activities. According to the mandated commercial fisherman's report, 3,889 common carp, 100 grass carp and 6 freshwater drum were removed. In addition, 18,000 lbs. of buffalo were also removed. Game species were incidentally collected but released immediately.



Phillips Canyon Lake

Downstream of Johnson Lake is 142 acre Phillips Canyon Reservoir. The existing boat launch facility has been in poor condition and has been a cause of many complaints. A long-awaited new boat launch facility in a new location is planned to be constructed during 2024. CNPPID is heavily involved in this project along with NGPC. The new location will be managed as a [State Recreation Area](#).



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 Johnson'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