

Maloney Reservoir

2023 Fall Survey Summary



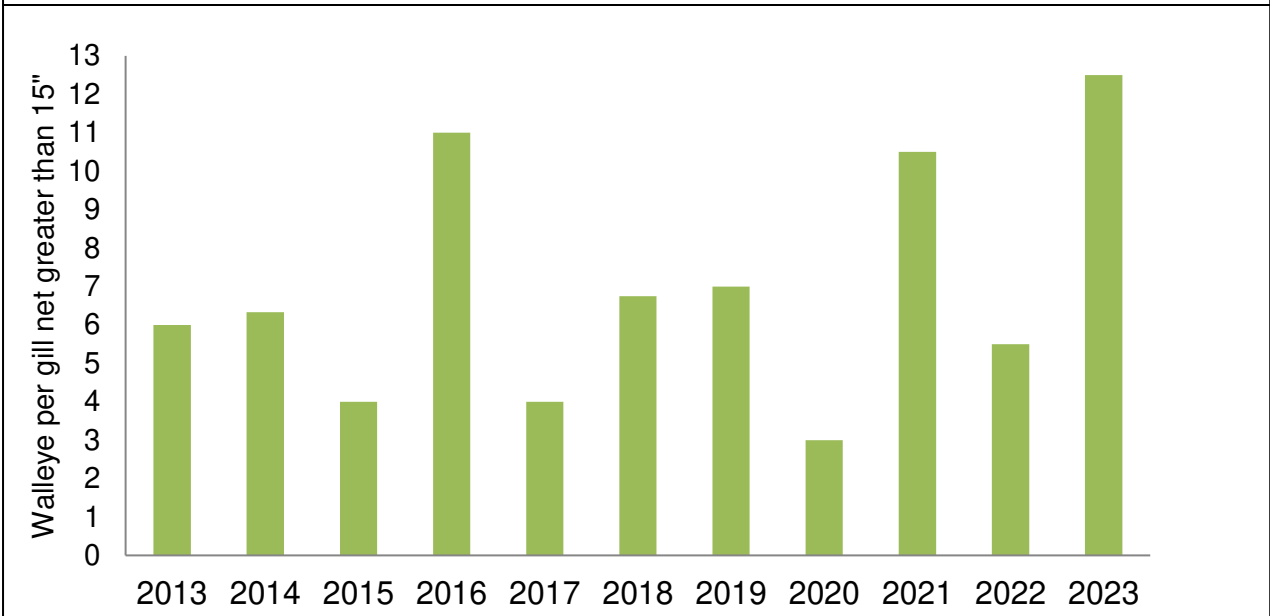
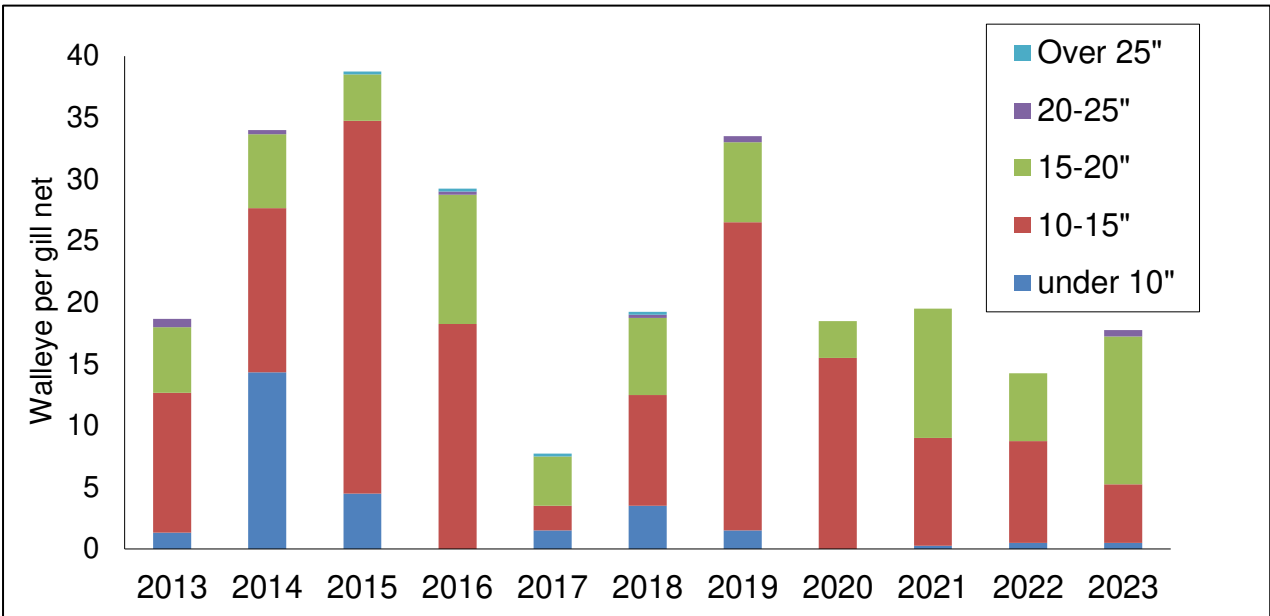
Lake Maloney is the second reservoir downstream from Lake McConaughy. It is approximately 1,600 surface acres. This reservoir is utilized for regulation of water used by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Lake Maloney offers many fishing opportunities due to its controlled inlet and outlet flows. These characteristics are noticeable on [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Page](#). Check the [2024 Fishing Guide](#) for regulations concerning Lake Maloney's Fishery.

An angler access improvement project at the Inlet Area SRA is pending. In partnership with NPPD, construction plans have been drawn and construction may take place during 2024. This project's goal involves improving ease of access for anglers by addressing steep shoreline. Expect further updates on this topic over the next couple years.

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.

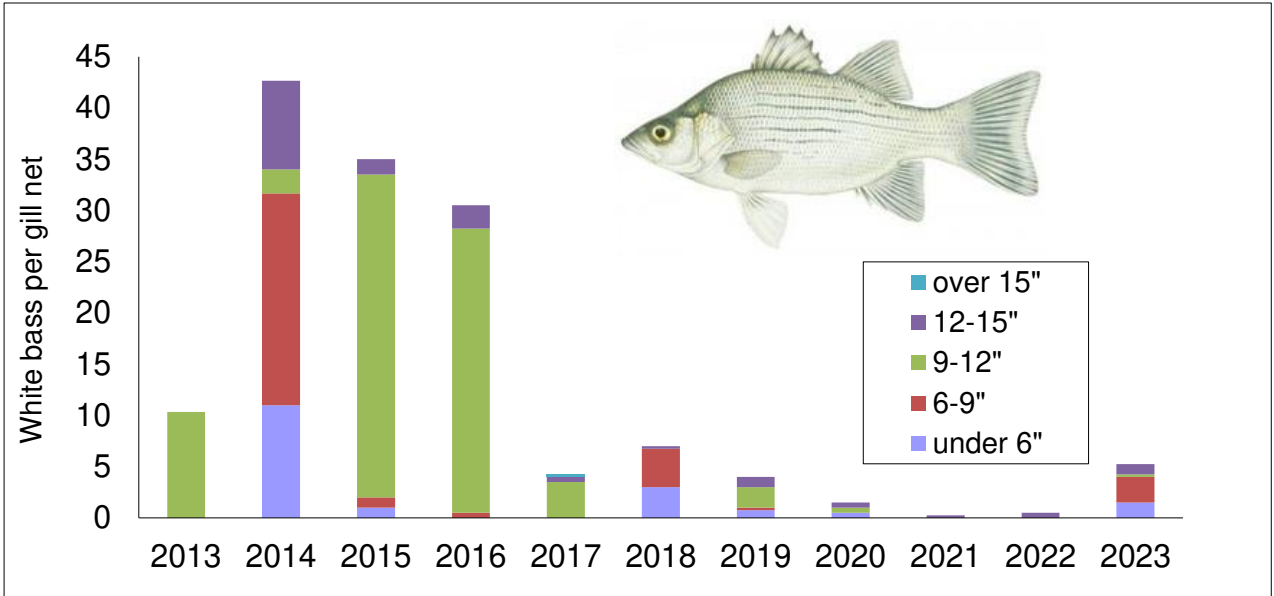


Walleye



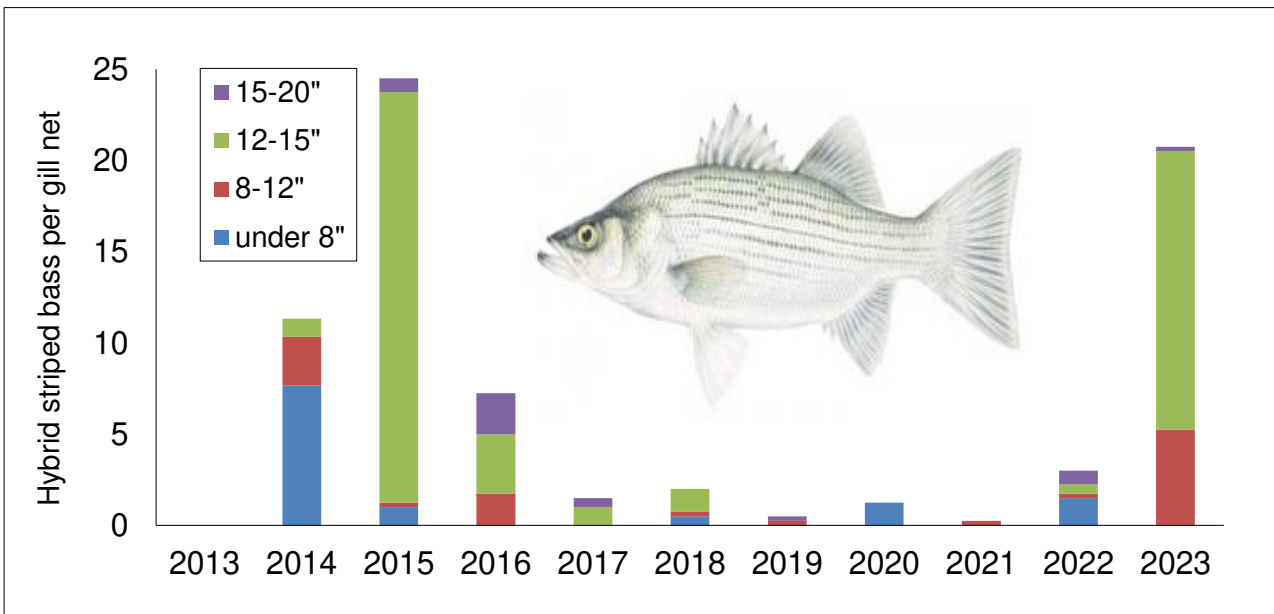
In 2023, 17.75 walleye were sampled per gill net with 3% less than 10 inches, 27% between 10 and 15 inches, 67% between 15 and 20 inches and 3% between 20 and 25 inches. Average length was 15.5 inches and the percentage greater than the minimum length limit was 70%. This percentage has previously been unseen in Lake Maloney's walleye population. Recent abundance of habitat in the form of vegetation has provided an area for refuge. Walleye fingerlings are requested to be stocked again in 2024.

White bass



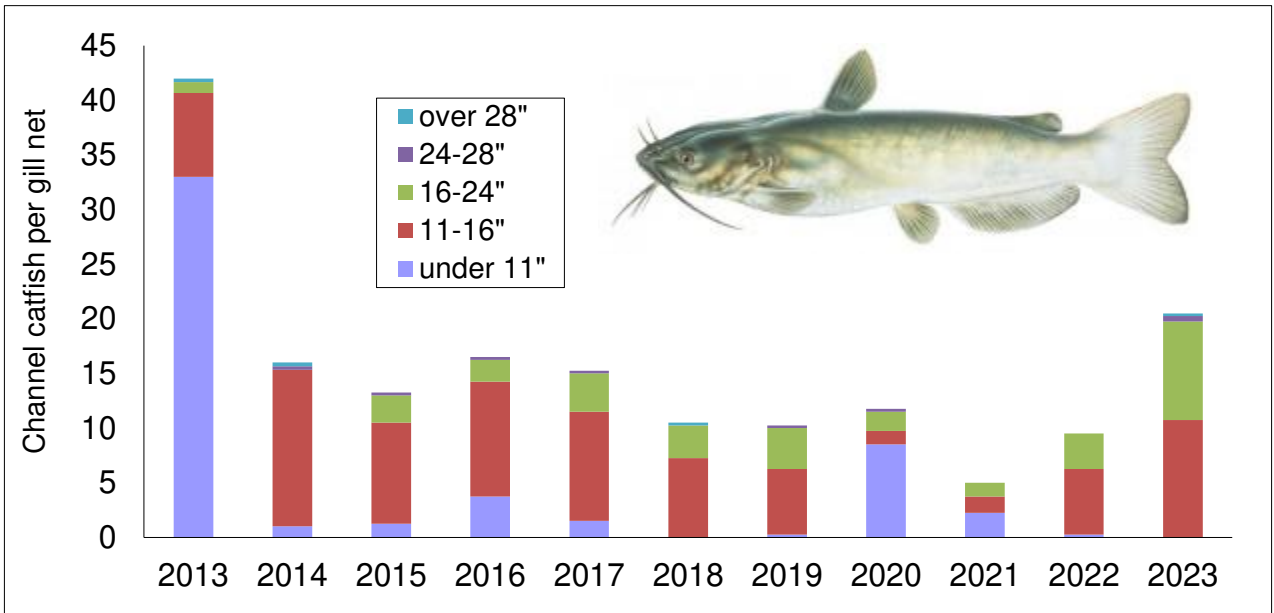
The catch of 5.25 white bass per net was the highest catch recorded since 2018. Average length of sampled fish was 7.9 inches. These improvements are encouraging and indicate an upward trend in the Maloney white bass population. An upstream reservoir (Sutherland) showed larger values of young-of-year white bass.

Hybrid striped bass (Wiper)



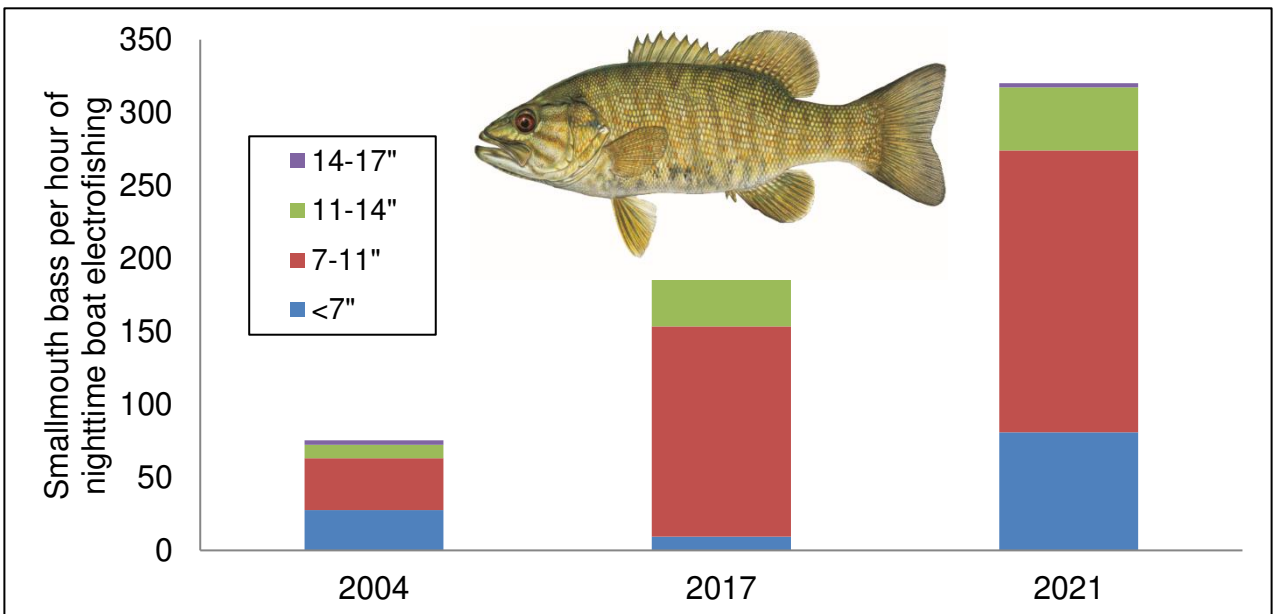
During 2023, 20.75 hybrid striped bass were sampled. This is the largest quantity since 2015 and is attributable to downstream migration from Sutherland Reservoir. Average length was 12.4". This species can likely grow to lengths well over 20" if released. Access the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for tips on identifying these species prior to harvest.

Channel catfish



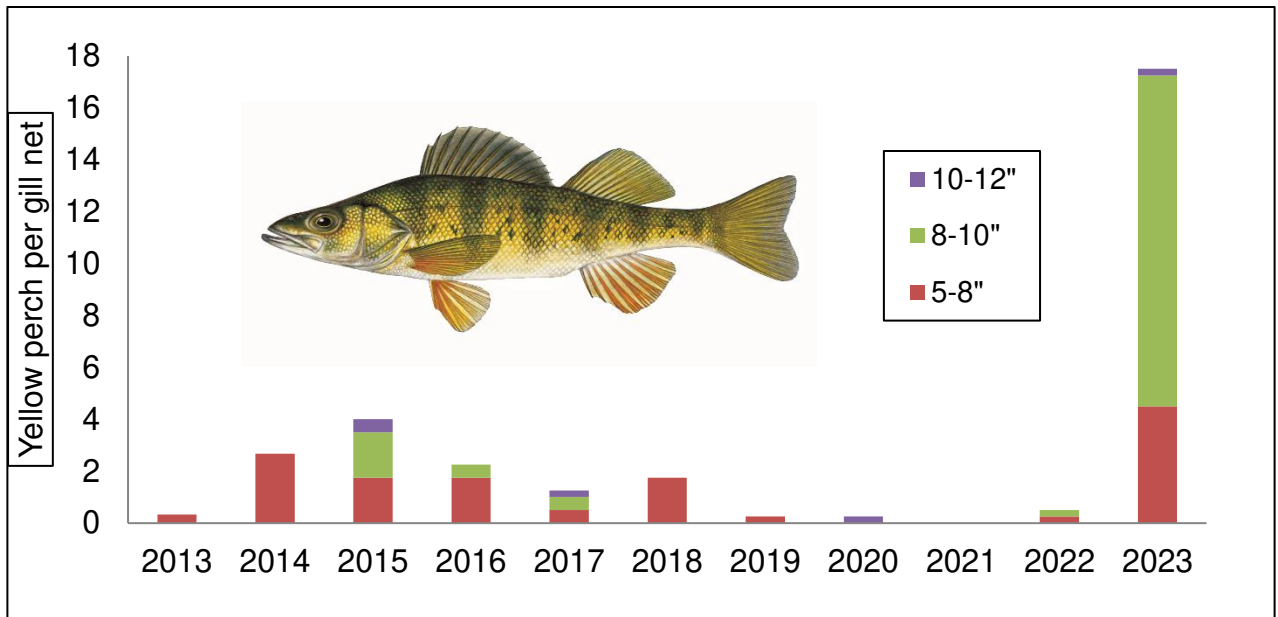
In 2023, 20.5 channel catfish were sampled per gill net. Of these, 52% were 11 to 16", 44% were 16 to 24" and 4% were over 28". The largest channel catfish sampled during 2023, was 31".

Smallmouth bass



A [regulation](#) was enacted during 2022 that eliminated the smallmouth bass minimum length limit for harvest. Surveys targeting smallmouth bass are scheduled to occur once every 3rd year using nighttime boat electrofishing.

Yellow perch



In 2023, 17.5 yellow perch were sampled per gill net. Average length was 8.25" and the largest was 10". This abundance is a rare occurrence and reflects the dynamics of Lake Maloney's fishery. A positive combination of stockings and abundance of habitat has resulted in this population explosion. Natural recruitment may be a possibility if adequate vegetation is established.



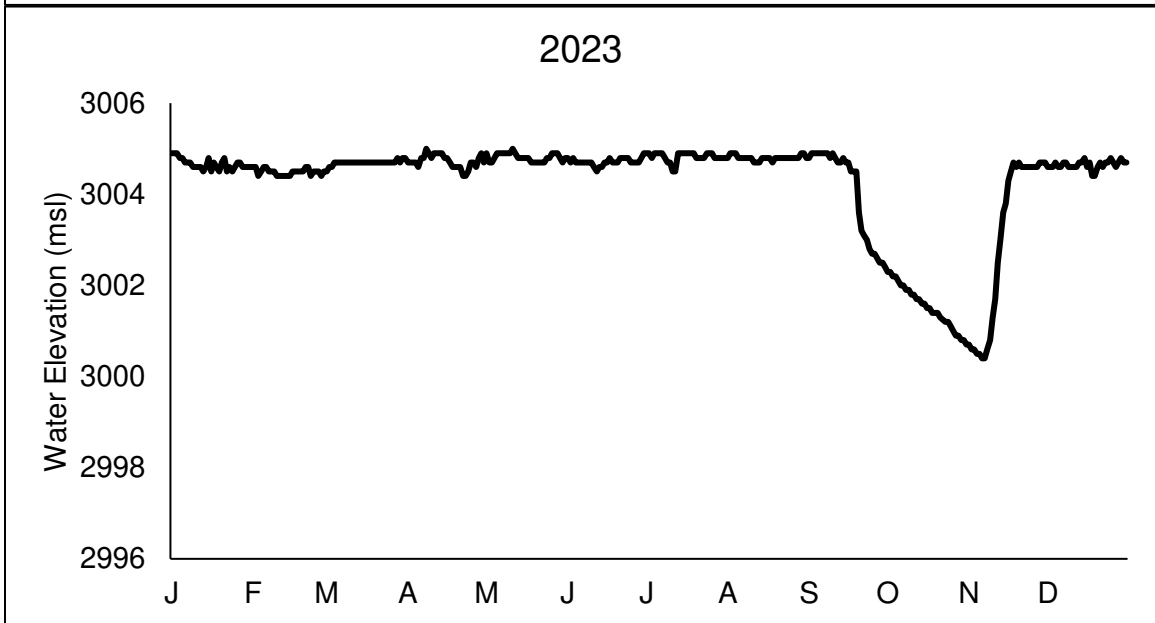
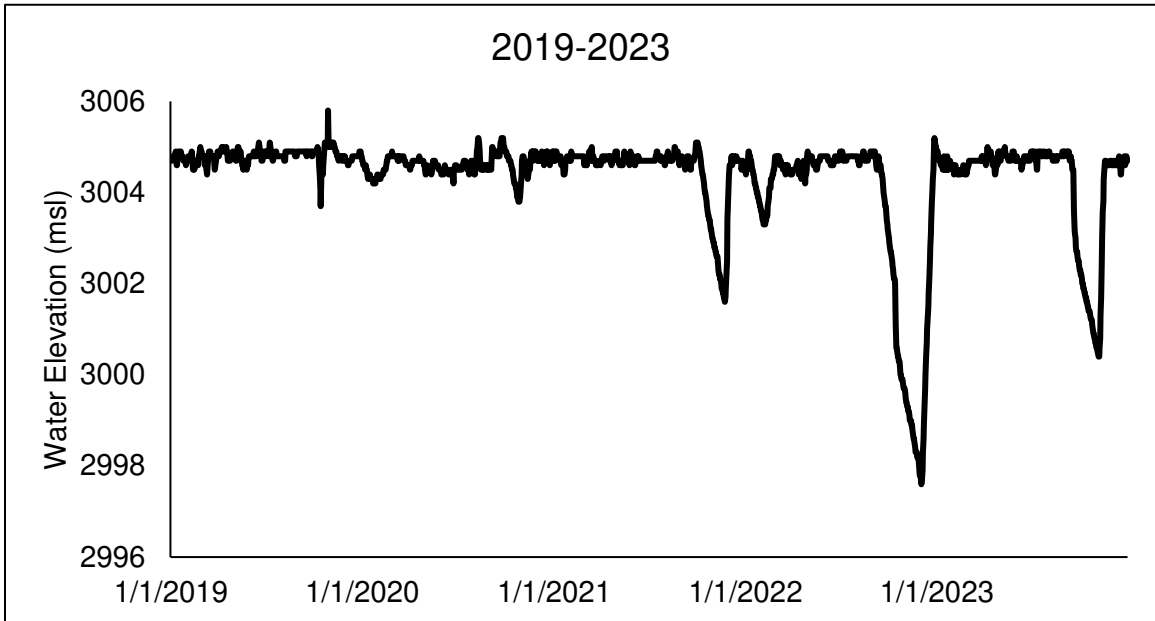
Recent abundance of spiny naiad vegetation has impacted Lake Maloney's fishery. Although this vegetation is seen negatively in some respects, it may be responsible for the upsurge of some game species and availability of valuable habitat for other game species.



Lake Maloney receives stockings from NGPC’s Hatchery System every year. In many cases, stocking requests materialize but many dynamics can affect the outcome and for this reason, future stocking requests are tentative (*). Below you will find Lake Maloney’s stocking history for the past ten years. For more stocking details access [NGPC's Fish Stocking Reports](#).

<u>Stocking Year</u>	<u>Walleye</u>	<u>Hybrid Striped Bass</u>	<u>Yellow perch</u>
2014	40,170-1.5"	24,000-1.3"	
2015	40,000-1.5"	12,000-1.5"	
2016	41,760-1.5"		29,677-4"
2017	39,983-1.25"	8,113-1.25"	
2018	80,000-1.5" & 1,925,000-fry	7,968--1.25"	8,100-4"
2019	1,300,000-fry & 80,000-1.25"	8,160-1"	
2020	96,607-0.75"	8,000-1.25"	45,547-1.75"
2021	81,720-1"		
2022	56,000-1.25"		
2023	88,000-1.25"		32,000-3.1"
*2024	56,000-2"		

Water Elevation



Lake Maloney's water level fluctuates often to provide water for downstream irrigation and power production. Dewater events like 2023's facilitate maintenance inspections and partnership projects. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow Lake Maloney's water level and monitor [NPPD's Newsroom](#) for more details.

Carp-O-Rama



On July 29, 2023 the 9th annual Carp-O-Rama Family Fishing Event was held at Lake Maloney's Outlet Area State Recreation Area. Prior to the date, common carp were baited into the area with a spoiled grain chum. Nearly all participants caught at least one hard fighting common carp. Gear, bait, advice and netting assistance was provided by NGPC employees and volunteers. The Nebraska Fish and Game Association (NEFGA) was also present representing their organization and dispersing bait. Cleaning and cooking of common carp were skills demonstrated along with Dutch oven cooking. Fried carp and side salads were served for lunch. Look for upcoming [Community Fishing Event](#) details and schedules for 2024.

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, 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 Lake Maloney's fishery please contact
North Platte Southwest District office at 308-535-8025 / 308-221-6242
OR

Kearney Service Center at 308-865-5331