

# 2025 Omaha Area Fishing Forecast

# NEBRASKA



This is a fishing forecast for the Omaha area. The forecast includes figures for area public water bodies that were surveyed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) during 2024. Therefore, there may be other water bodies referenced in this document that provide good fishing opportunities that are not included on the graphs. 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](http://www.outdoornebraska.gov).

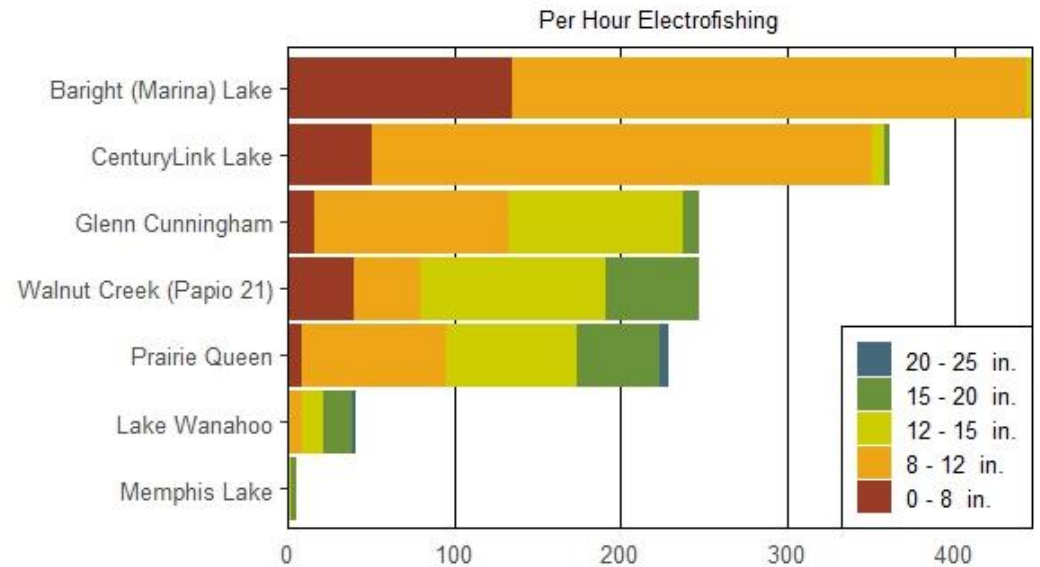
Electrofishing for **Largemouth** and **Smallmouth Bass** is conducted in the spring, during the evening shortly after nightfall. Transects are typically 10 minutes in length. The data is then converted to number of bass sampled per hour. The data presented is the average number of bass in each size category sampled per one hour of electrofishing. Trap nets for **Bluegill**, **Yellow Perch**, and **Redear Sunfish** are set in the spring while trap nets for **Crappie** are set in the fall. The data presented is the average number of fish in each size category sampled per trap net. **Walleye**, **Saugeye**, **Wipers**, and **Channel Catfish** are sampled in the fall using gill nets and the data presented is the average number of fish in each size category sampled per gill net.



## Largemouth Bass

Largemouth Bass fishing opportunities will continue in the Omaha area in 2025. **Baright Lake** and **Century Link Lake** in **Mahoney State Recreation Area** had the highest catch rates with most fish between 8 and 12 inches in length. **Glenn Cunningham, Walnut Creek, Prairie Queen, and Flanagan** should provide high catch rates of fish. **Lawrence Youngman, Wehrspann, and Zorinsky** should provide good opportunities for fish 15 inches and larger. **Prairie Queen and Prairie View** will have a protected slot limit starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 where anglers are required to release all Largemouth Bass caught **between 15 to 18 inches** in length. Anglers are allowed to keep up to 5 Largemouth Bass from **Prairie Queen** and **Prairie View**, with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 18 inches in length.

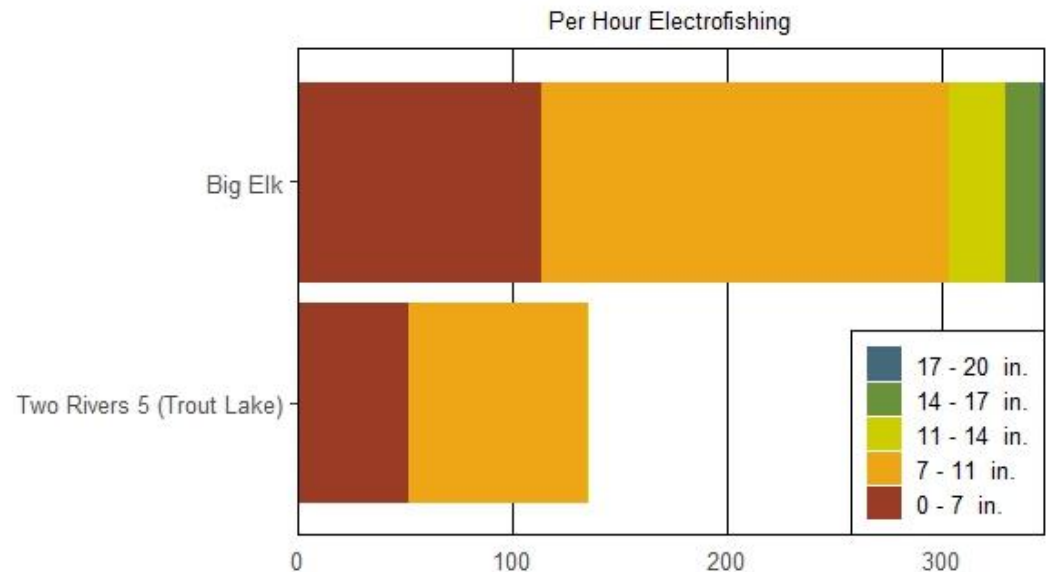
## Largemouth Bass



## Smallmouth Bass

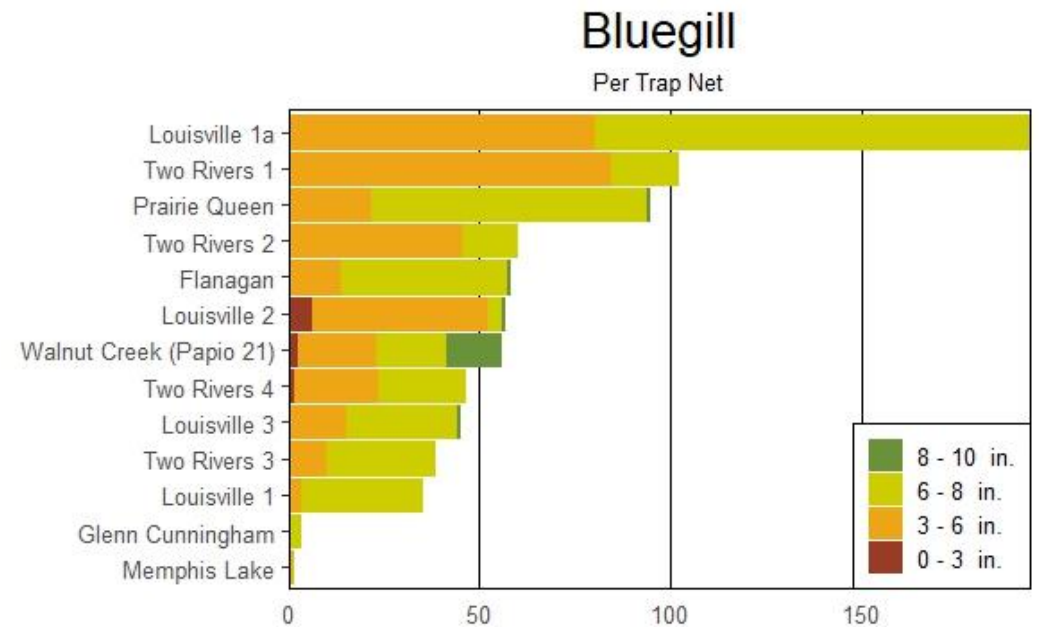
Smallmouth Bass were stocked in **Big Elk** and **Portal** in 2021 to create another unique fishing opportunity in the Omaha metro area. It is imperative to keep Largemouth Bass out of **Big Elk** and **Portal** to avoid competition between Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass. Smallmouth were stocked into **Two Rivers #5** in **Two Rivers State Recreation Areas** after the renovation in 2021. **Big Elk** will provide anglers with opportunities to catch fish >11 inches in 2025. Anglers are allowed to keep **two Smallmouth Bass less than 12 inches** in length from **Big Elk** and **Portal**. Anglers are allowed to keep **five Smallmouth Bass greater than 15 inches with only one fish being over 21 inches** from **Two Rivers #5**.

## Smallmouth Bass



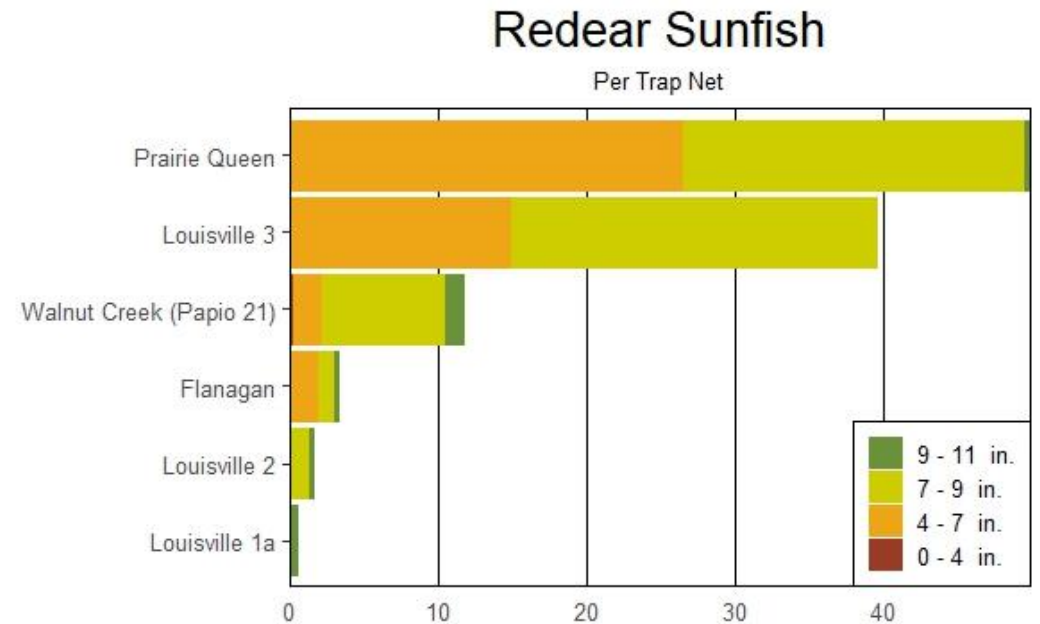
## Bluegill

Anglers in the Omaha metro will have plenty of lakes to choose from for Bluegills in 2025. All the lakes at **Louisville State Recreation Area** and **Two Rivers State Recreation Area** (except Lake 5) have ample opportunity for anglers targeting Bluegill, with **Louisville 1a** and **Two Rivers 1** having the highest catch rates. **Flanagan** and **Prairie Queen** also offer anglers fisheries with higher catch rates of Bluegill while **Walnut Creek** and **Glenn Cunningham** will provide better chances of catching fish >8 inches in length. Anglers are required to release all Bluegill **greater than 8 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**. Anglers are required to **release all** Bluegill caught at **Jenny Newman**.



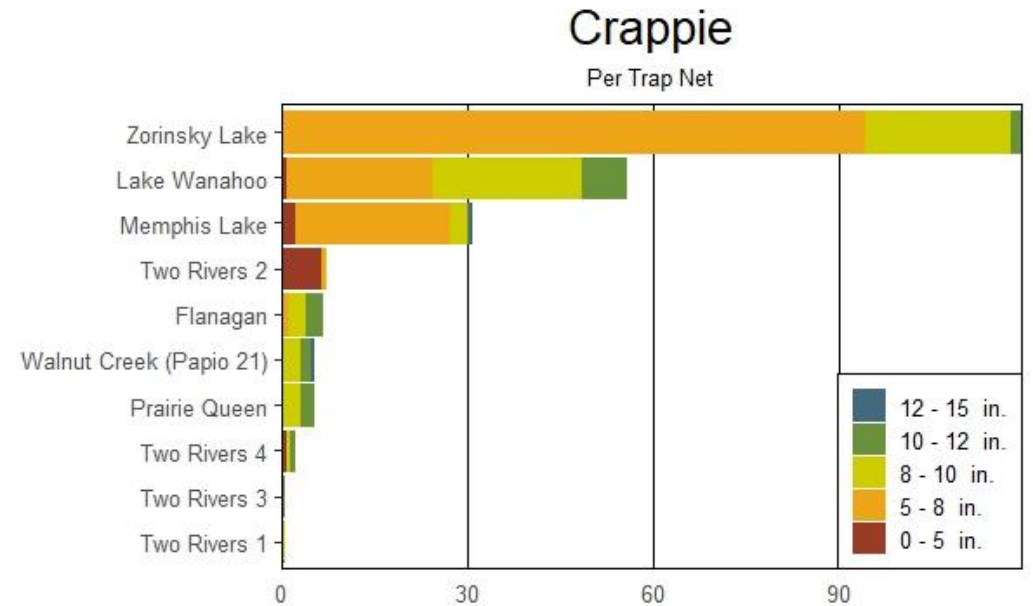
## Redear Sunfish/Redear Sunfish Hybrids

Redear Sunfish continue to thrive in our southeast Nebraska waters and 2025 will offer good fishing opportunities at multiple lakes. Higher abundances can be found at **Prairie Queen** and **Louisville 3** in **Louisville State Park**. The Redear Sunfish at **Jenny Newman** and **Walnut Creek** will provide the best chance at a master angler. Anglers are required to release all Redear Sunfish **greater than 8 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**. Anglers are required to **release all** Redear Sunfish caught at **Jenny Newman**.



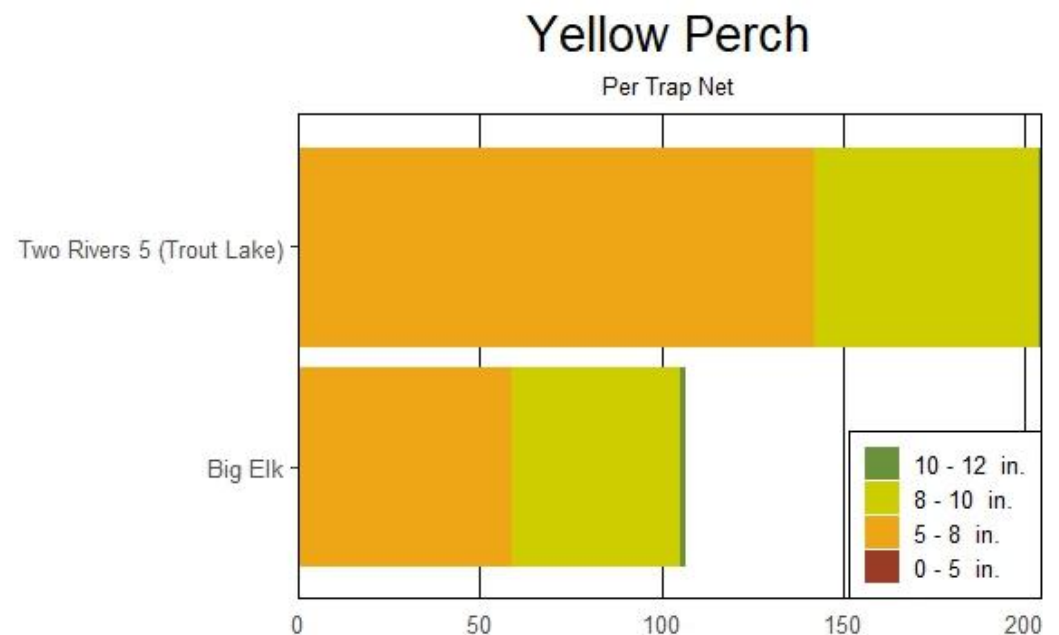
## Crappie

Anglers seeking crappie should have ample opportunity targeting abundant fish at **Zorinsky, Wanahoo, or Wehrspann**. Anglers will also find plenty of crappie at **Walnut Creek, Prairie Queen, and Flanagan** in 2025 despite low survey results. Anglers seeking to target larger crappie should head to **Glenn Cunningham, Flanagan, or Walnut Creek**. Anglers are required to release all Crappie **greater than 10 inches** in length caught at **Flanagan**.



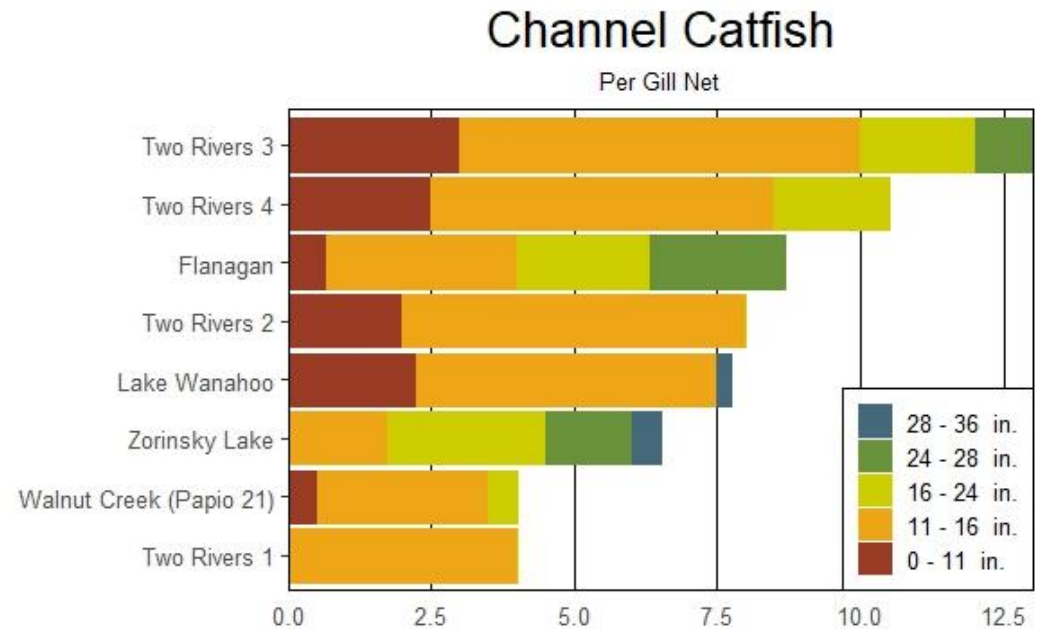
## Yellow Perch

Yellow Perch were stocked in **Big Elk** and **Portal** in 2021 to create another unique fishing opportunity in the Omaha metro area. It is imperative to keep Bluegill and Crappie out of **Big Elk** and **Portal** to avoid competition between Yellow Perch and other panfish. Yellow Perch were also stocked in **Two Rivers #5** in Two Rivers State Park after the renovation in 2021. **Big Elk** and **Two Rivers #5** will provide opportunities to catch Yellow Perch >8 inches in length. Anglers are allowed to keep **5 perch per day of any length** at **Big Elk** and **Portal**. Anglers are allowed to **keep 15 Yellow Perch per day of any length** from **Two Rivers #5**.



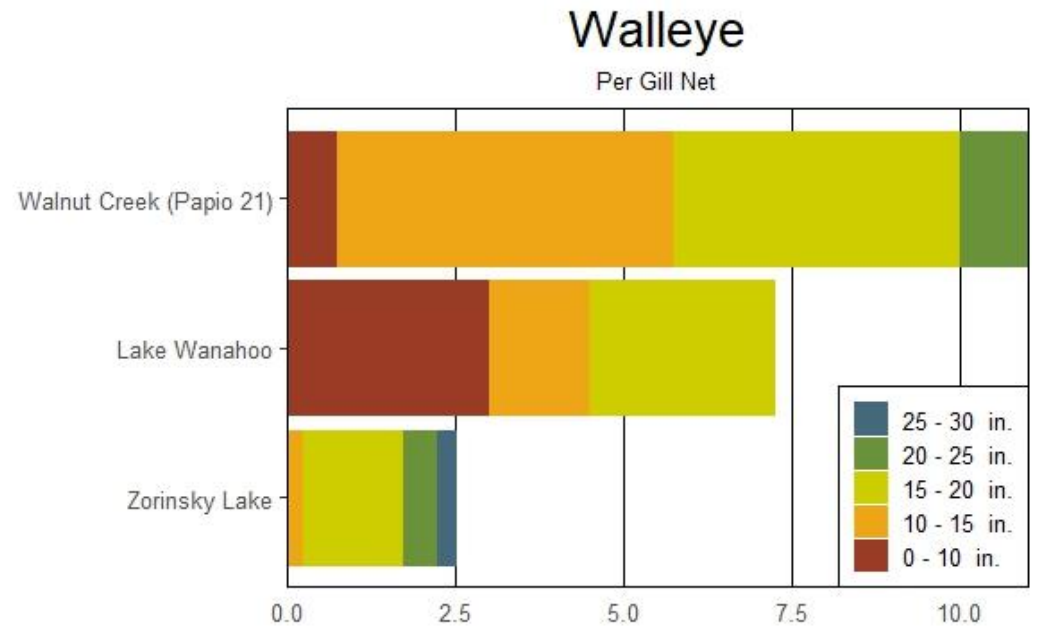
## Channel Catfish

Channel Catfish can be found in almost every reservoir and river in the metro area; however, **Zorinsky, Walnut Creek, and Lawrence Youngman** will be an angler's best bet at large Channel Catfish. Anglers can also find eater sized fish at all the lakes mentioned above as well as **Flanagan, Wehrspann, Glenn Cunningham, and Prairie Queen**. Anglers are required to **release all** Channel Catfish caught at **Two Rivers #4 and Two Rivers #3**.



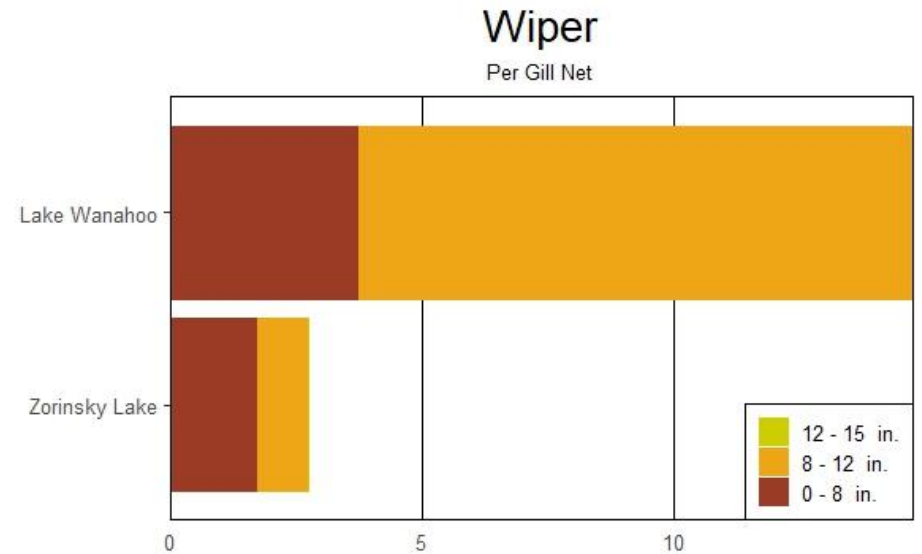
## Walleye/Saugeye

We are now going on the ninth year of our advanced Walleye/Saugeye stocking program and multiple reservoirs in the metro have benefitted. **Walnut Creek, Wanahoo, and Zorinsky** will all provide anglers with a chance at some legal 15-inch walleye in 2025. Anglers seeking larger Walleye should head to **Walnut Creek** or **Zorinsky**. **Prairie Queen, Lawrence Youngman, Wehrspann, and Glenn Cunningham** will also provide anglers with opportunities for legal Walleye (or Saugeye in **Glenn Cunningham**).



## Striped Bass Hybrid (Wiper)

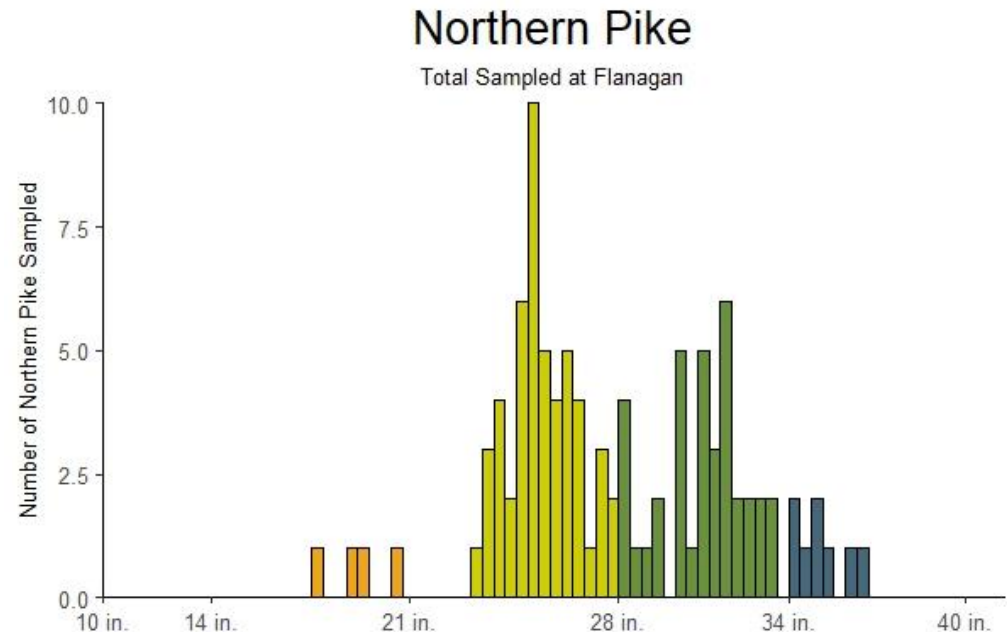
Wipers were stocked into **Wanahoo** in the spring of 2024 for the first time. **Wanahoo** will provide anglers with a new lake to target wipers that could be over 10-inches in length in 2025. **Zorinsky** will provide anglers with opportunity for adult wipers over 15-inches in length, despite low catches in the gill nets in 2024.



## Northern Pike

Northern Pike catches at **Flanagan** were lower in 2024 than previous years. Several of the fish that were sampled were over 34 inches with most of fish sampled between 20 and 30 inches. The Northern Pike tagging study at **Flanagan** and will continue in 2025 and anglers are asked to report all tagged fish to [NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV](mailto:NGPC.FISHTAGS@NEBRASKA.GOV). Anglers are required to **release all Northern Pike** caught at **Flanagan**.

Unfortunately, no Northern Pike were sampled at **Lake Wanahoo** in 2024, and the Northern Pike stocking program at **Lake Wanahoo** has ceased. Changes to the reservoir over the last several years including changes in water quality, habitat degradation, and invasive species has altered the ecosystem to the point where the lake won't support a thriving population anymore. Anglers at **Wanahoo** can **keep up to three Northern Pike** with **one being over 34 inches** in length starting on **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025**.



## Other Species

### Rainbow Trout

Although the Omaha metro doesn't have cold-water streams that support trout, there is still plenty of opportunity in and around Omaha to catch them. Rainbow trout are routinely stocked in the spring at **Two Rivers 5** while **Louisville #1a**, **Benson Lake**, **Hitchcock Lake**, and **Towl Lake** receive fall stockings. **Lake Halleck** receives spring and fall stockings, and **CenturyLink Lake (in Mahoney SP)** receives spring, winter, and fall stockings. Anglers can check the stocking database on the Game and Parks website to see the exact date rainbow trout were stocked.

### Musky

**Zorinsky** and **Glenn Cunningham** are stocked with pure Musky. **Zorinsky** provides anglers with opportunities for Musky greater than 30-inches in length. The Musky fishery in **Glenn Cunningham** is still young and developing, but this lake likely will provide anglers with opportunities Musky greater than 20-inches in length.

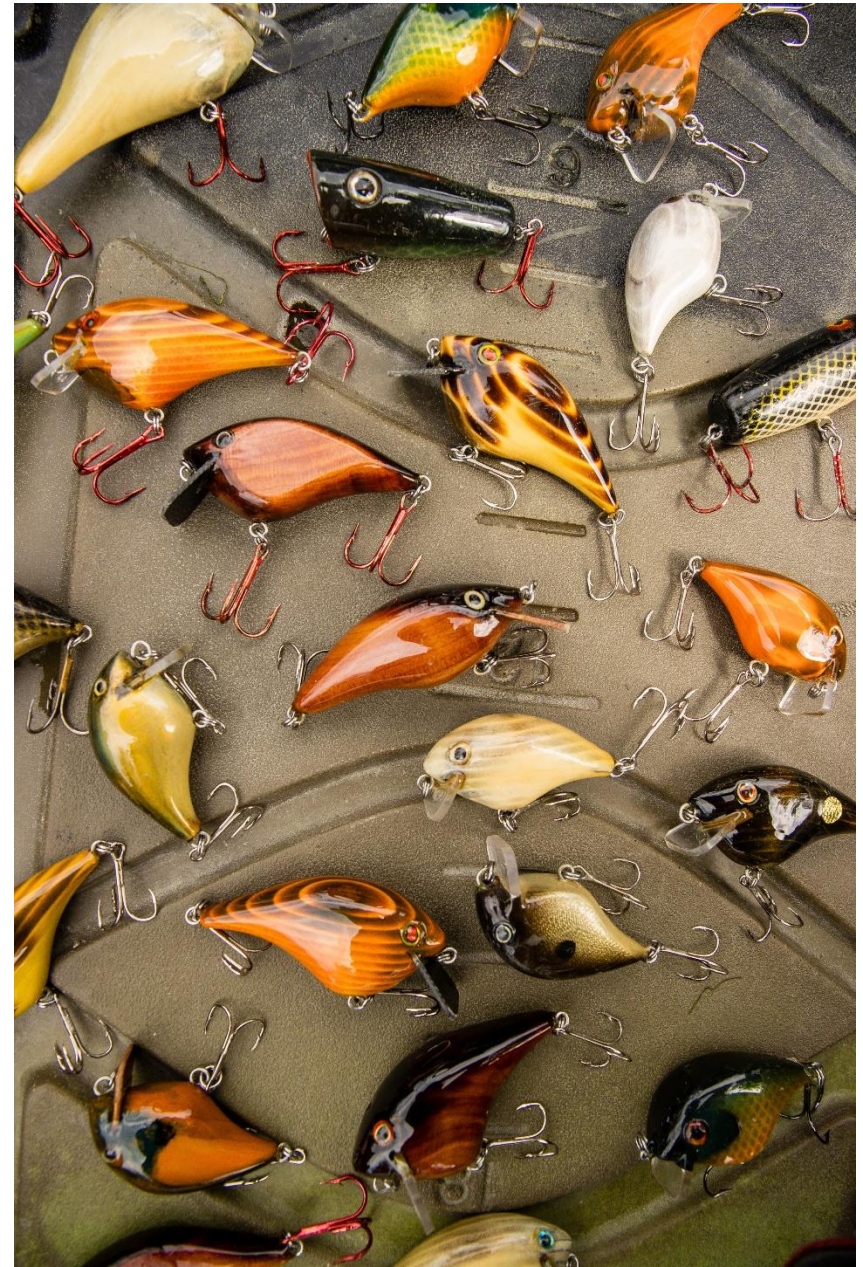




Table indicates what species were sampled at each lake in the Omaha area in 2024. Not all lakes will be sampled for every species each year and are on different rotations. Big Elk, Portal, and Two Rivers 5 will be sampled for Smallmouth Bass and Yellow Perch on an annual basis as water levels allow.

Lake	Largemouth Bass	Bluegill	Crappie	Walleye/Saugeye	Channel Catfish
Baright	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Carter					
Century Link	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
Flanagan		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Glenn Cunningham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Jenny Newman					
Lawrence Youngman					
Louisville 1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Louisville 1a		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Louisville 2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Louisville 3		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Memphis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Prairie Queen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Prairie View					
Standing Bear					
Two Rivers 1		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Two Rivers 2		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Two Rivers 3		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Two Rivers 4		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Walnut Creek	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wanahoo	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wehrspann					
Zorinsky			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

