

Maloney Reservoir

2024 Fall Survey Summary



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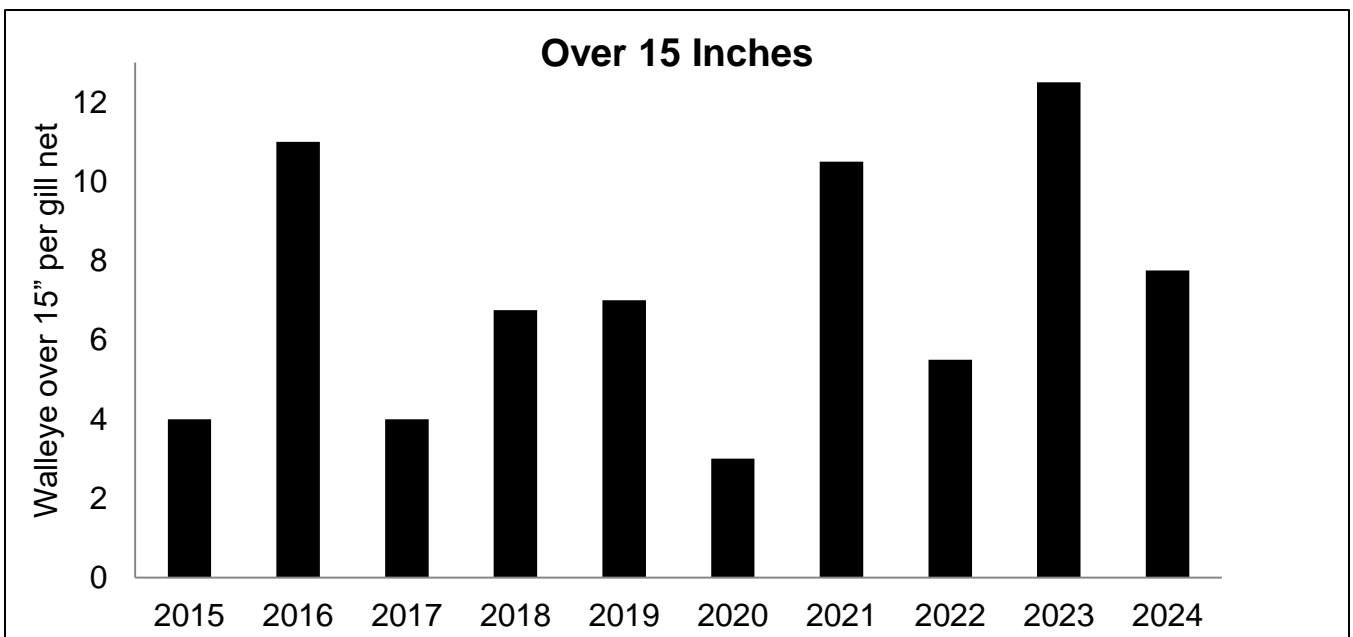
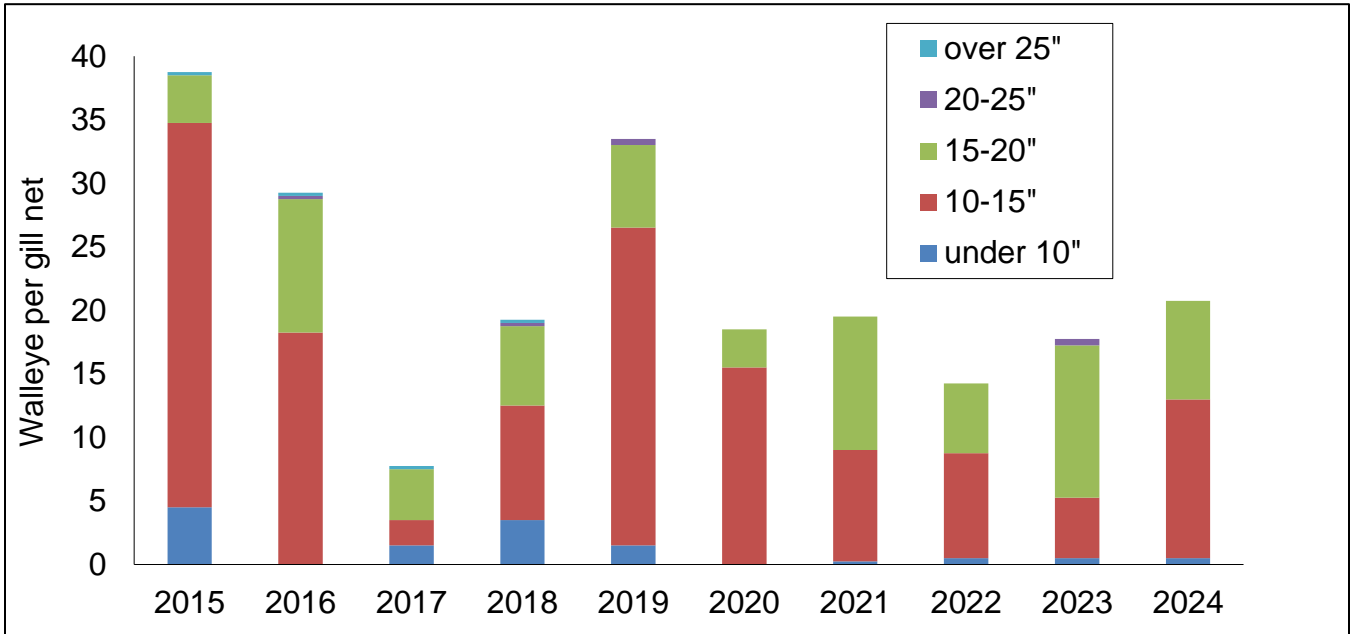
Lake Maloney is the second reservoir downstream from Lake McConaughy and is approximately 1,600 surface acres. This reservoir is utilized for regulation of water used by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). Lake Maloney offers many fishing opportunities due to its controlled inlet and outlet flows. These characteristics are noticeable on [NGPC's Public Fishing Areas Page](#). Check the [2025 Fishing Guide](#) for regulations concerning Lake Maloney's fishery.

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.



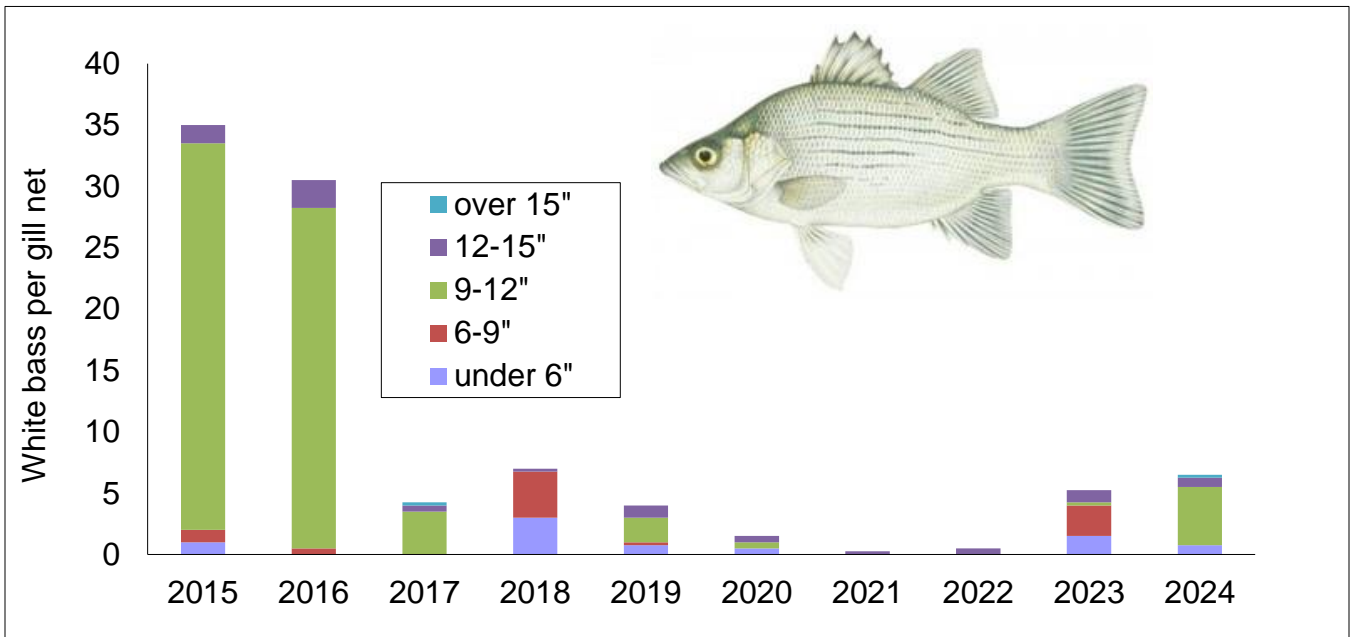


Walleye



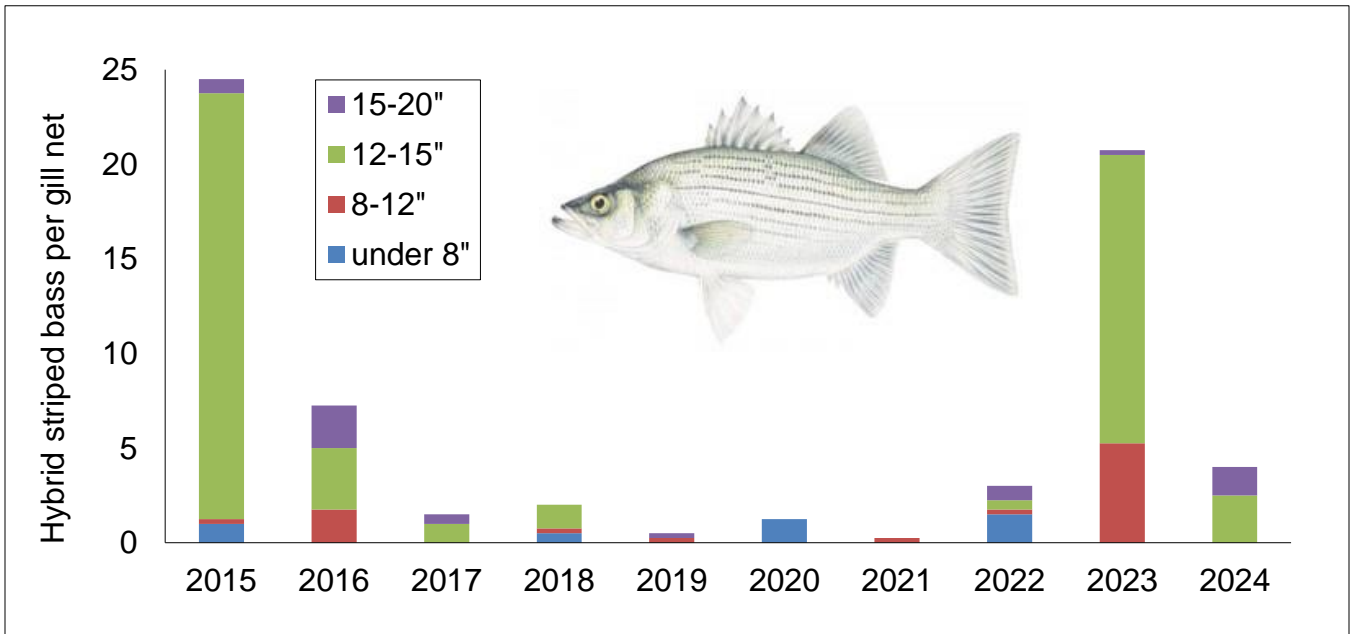
In 2024, 20.75 walleye were sampled per gill net with 3% less than 10 inches, 60% between 10 and 15 inches and 37% between 15 and 20 inches. Average length was 14.1 inches and the percentage greater than the minimum length limit was 37%.

White Bass



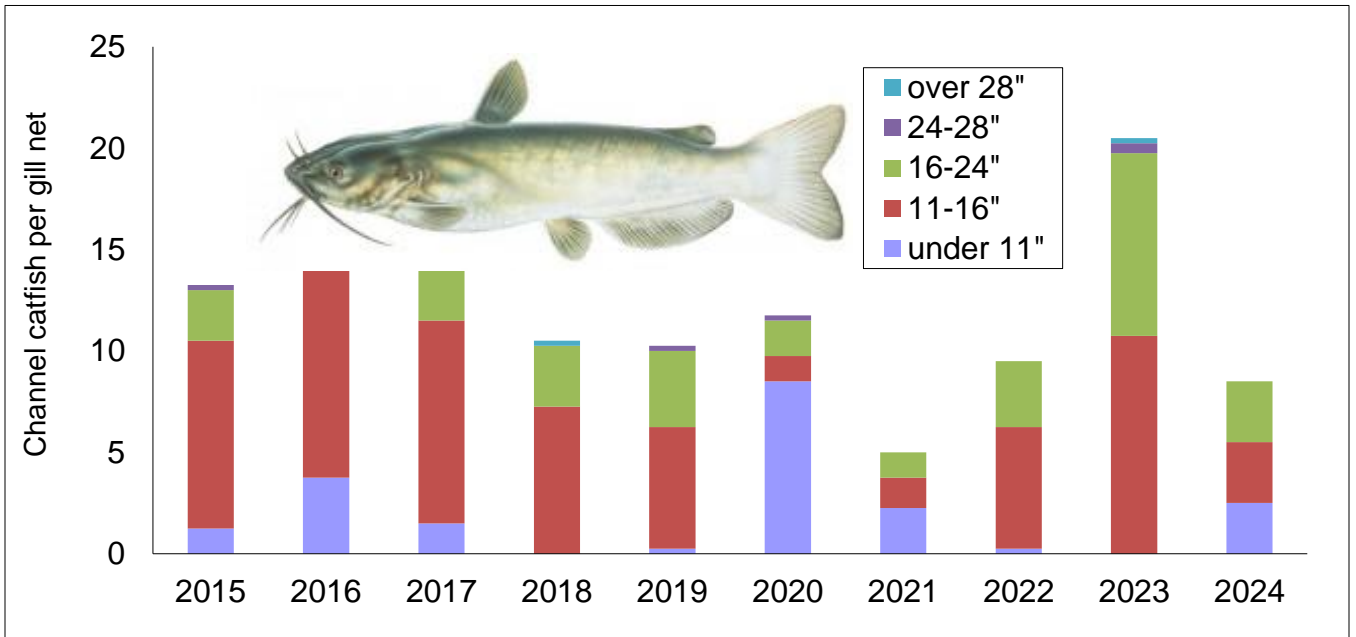
In 2024, we caught 6.5 white bass per net which was the highest catch recorded since 2018 when 7 per net were sampled. The average length of sampled fish was 10.2 inches. These improvements are encouraging and indicate an upward trend in the Maloney white bass population. Access the [NGPC Fish Identification Guide](#) for tips on identifying this species prior to harvest.

Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)



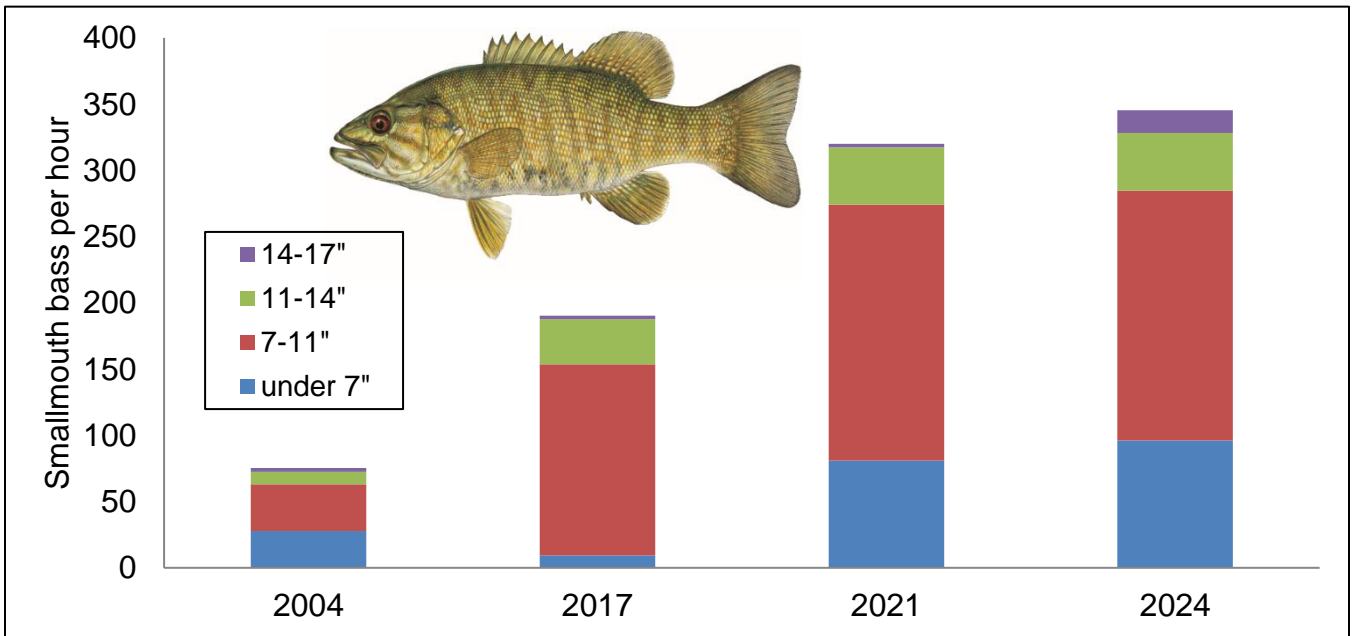
During 2024, we sampled 4 hybrid striped bass per net. This quantity is desirable and is attributed to downstream migration from Sutherland Reservoir. Average length was 14.5". This species can grow to lengths well over 20". Effective January 1, 2025, the statewide "one-over" size restriction has increased from 16 to 18 inches. Check the [2025 Fishing Guide](#) for more detail.

Channel Catfish



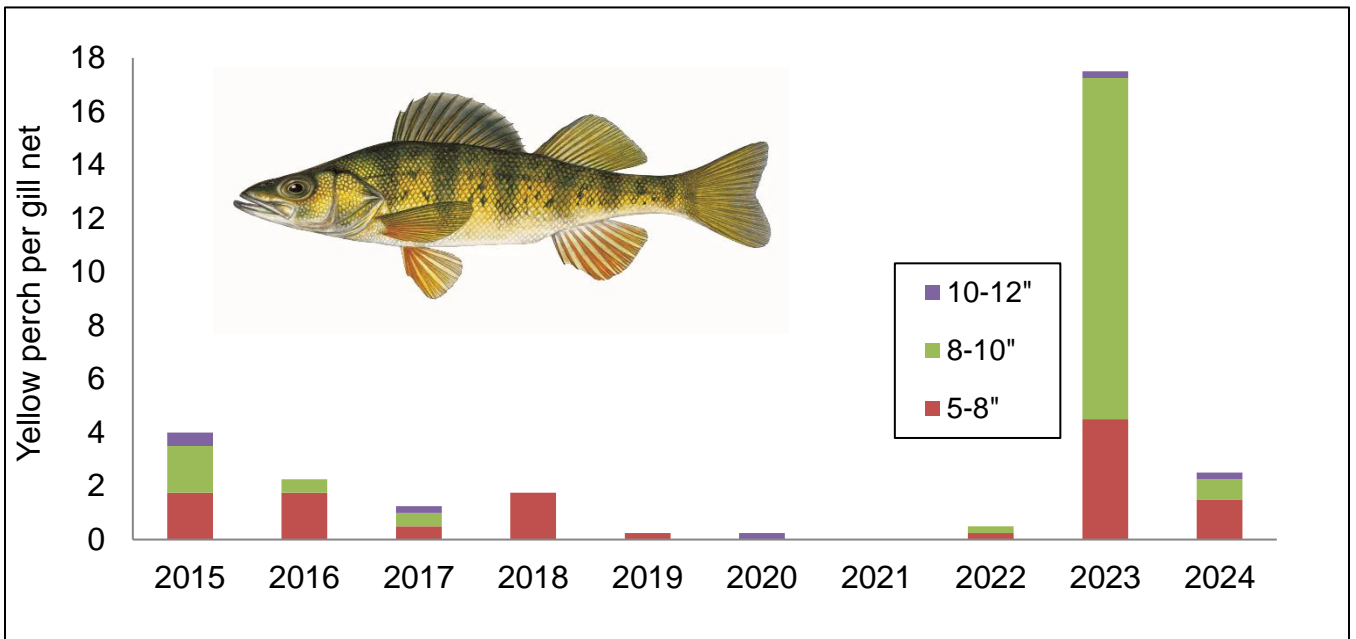
In 2024, 8.5 channel catfish were sampled per gill net. Of these, 29% were less than 11", 35% were 11 to 16" and 35% were 16 to 24". The largest channel catfish sampled during 2024, was 21".

Smallmouth Bass



A harvest [regulation](#) was enacted in 2022 that eliminated the smallmouth bass minimum length limit. Surveys targeting smallmouth bass are scheduled to occur in alternating years using nighttime boat electrofishing. Although 2024's total catch was comparable to 2021's, the quantity of larger smallmouth was higher with approximately 17 per hour of nighttime electrofishing being 14-17".

Yellow Perch



In 2024, 2.5 yellow perch were sampled per gill net. Average length was 7.5" and the largest was 10.5". Although the 2024 survey was much lower than the abundance observed in 2023, it is still the 3rd highest catch in the last 10 years.



Recent emergence 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.

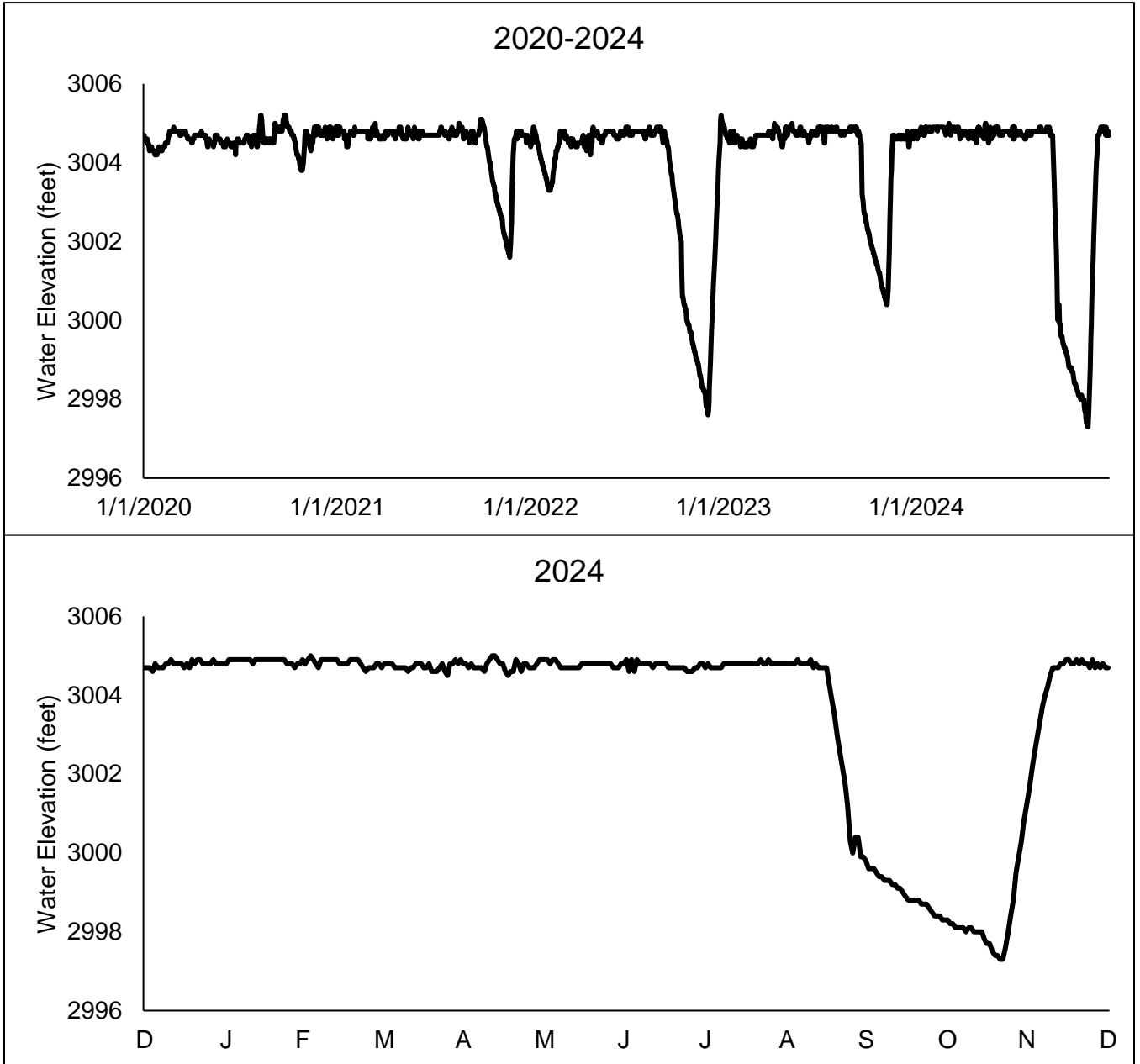
Stocking



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 Database](#).

Stocking Year	Walleye	Hybrid Striped Bass	Yellow Perch
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	80,000-1.25" & 1,300,000-fry	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	60,869-1"		
*2025	*80,000-2"		*48,000-2"

Water Elevation



Lake Maloney's water level fluctuates often to provide water for downstream irrigation and power production. Dewater events like seen in 2024 facilitate maintenance inspections and partnership projects. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow Lake Maloney's water level updates.

Angler Access

An angler access improvement project at the Inlet Area of the Lake Maloney SRA is nearing completion. In partnership with NPPD, construction began in 2024 to improve angler access in Lake Maloney's inlet. Construction is anticipated to be complete by early spring 2025. This project incorporated two major amenities, an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) approved shoreline walkway and a non-ADA wooden fishing pier near the inlet.



Angler Access

In addition to the angler access project, five rock shoals were placed underwater along the walkway. These shoals will create dynamic water flows and are marked on the adjacent walkway curb by a “fish” emblem. Also, three 40'x40' areas were covered with three inches of three-quarter inch rock. Both structures will likely congregate game fish for anglers. The two photos below were taken during 2024's drawdown while construction was ongoing.



Events



On July 27, 2024, the 10th annual Carp-O-Rama Family Fishing Event was held at Lake Maloney's Outlet Area SRA. 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 skills were demonstrated along with Dutch oven cooking. Fried carp and side salads were served for lunch. Look here for upcoming [Community Fishing Event](#) details and schedules for 2025.

To celebrate completion of the inlet's angler access project, there will be a family fishing event from 6-8 p.m. on May 3, 2025. This celebration will involve both NGPC and NPPD entities. In similar fashion to Carp-O-Rama, fishing poles and bait will be available for use by attendees.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Bighead and Silver Carp have found their way into every major tributary of the Missouri River in Nebraska, including the Platte, Elkhorn, Loup and Nemaha rivers. Recent findings near North Platte are alarming. 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 Clams are commonly confused for Zebra mussels and are prevalent in southwest Nebraska canal systems. This mussel is listed as a **Category II Priority Aquatic Invasive Species** by NGPC. This indicates that they are highly invasive, and all efforts should be taken to prevent their expansion.



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