

# Sutherland Reservoir

## 2024 Fall Survey Summary

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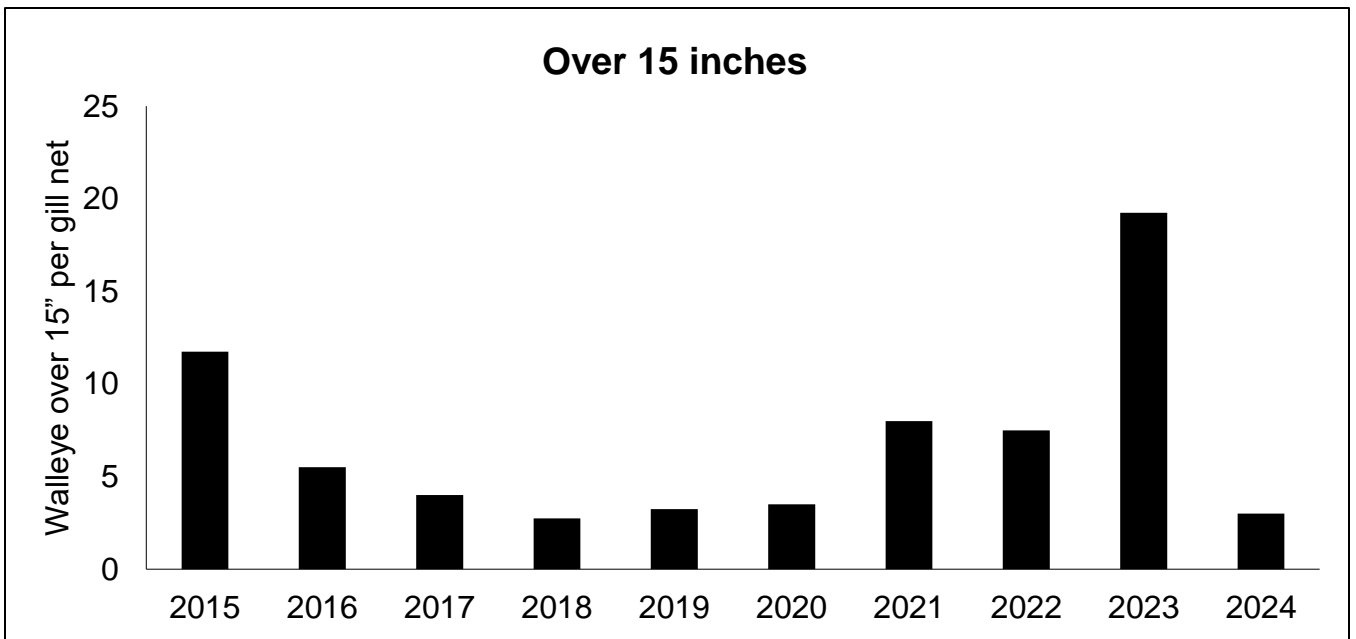
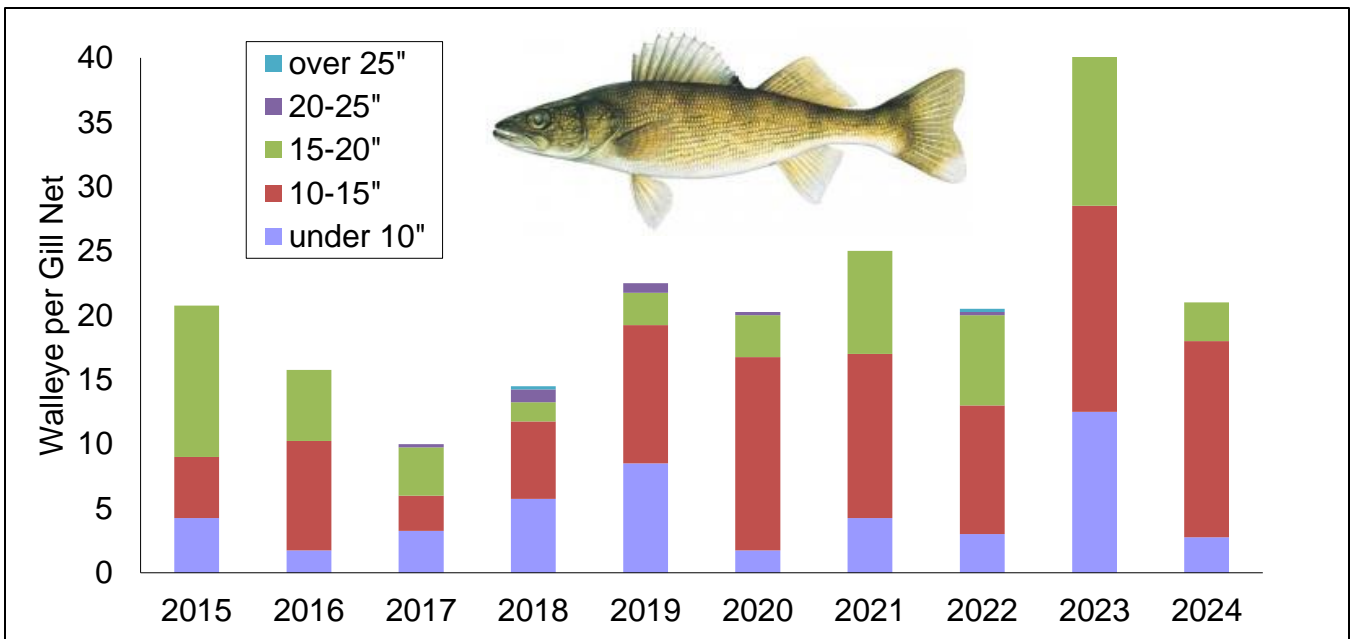
Sutherland Reservoir is the first reservoir downstream from Lake McConaughy. This 3,000-surface acre reservoir is utilized for cooling Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) Gerald Gentleman Station. Sutherland Reservoir offers additional fishing opportunities as it has characteristics such as inlet, outlet and cooling pond fisheries. Check the [2025 Fishing Guide](#) for regulations concerning Sutherland's Fishery.



October 2, 2024

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.

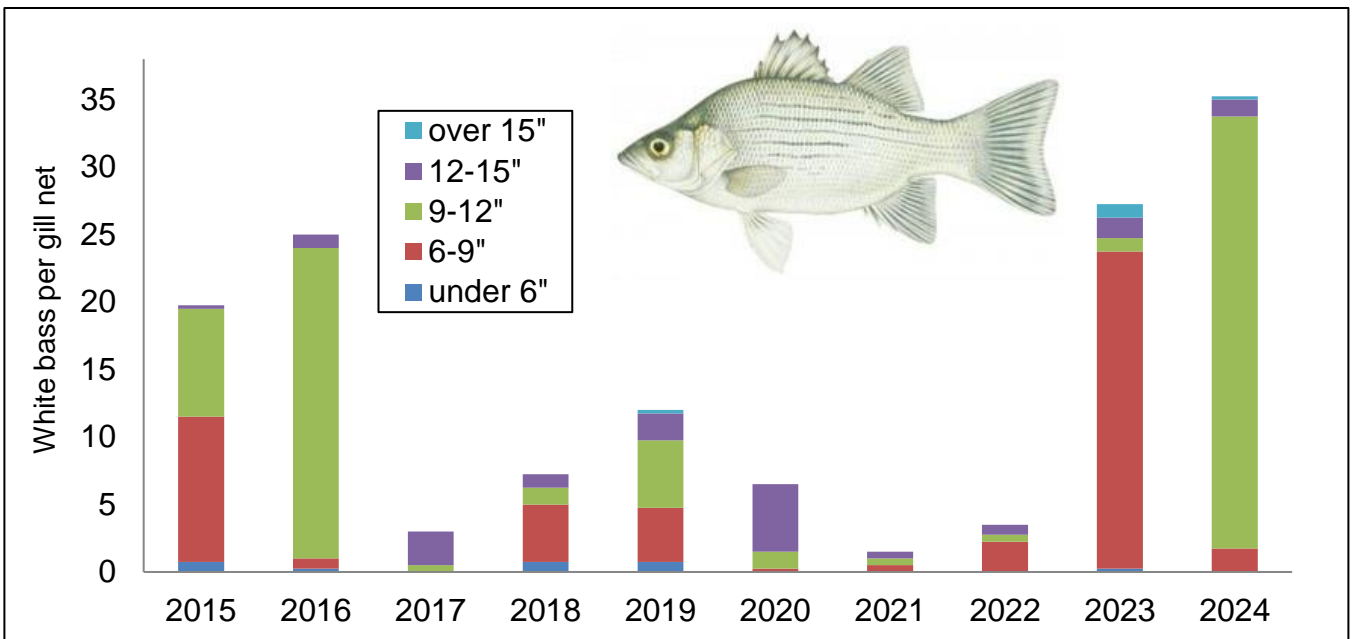
# Walleye



In 2024, 21 walleye were sampled per gill net and this survey is near the 10-year average of 21.8. The large group of young-of-year walleye in 2023 recruited into the abundant 10-15" group observed in 2024. Average length of all walleye surveyed in 2024 was 13.3".

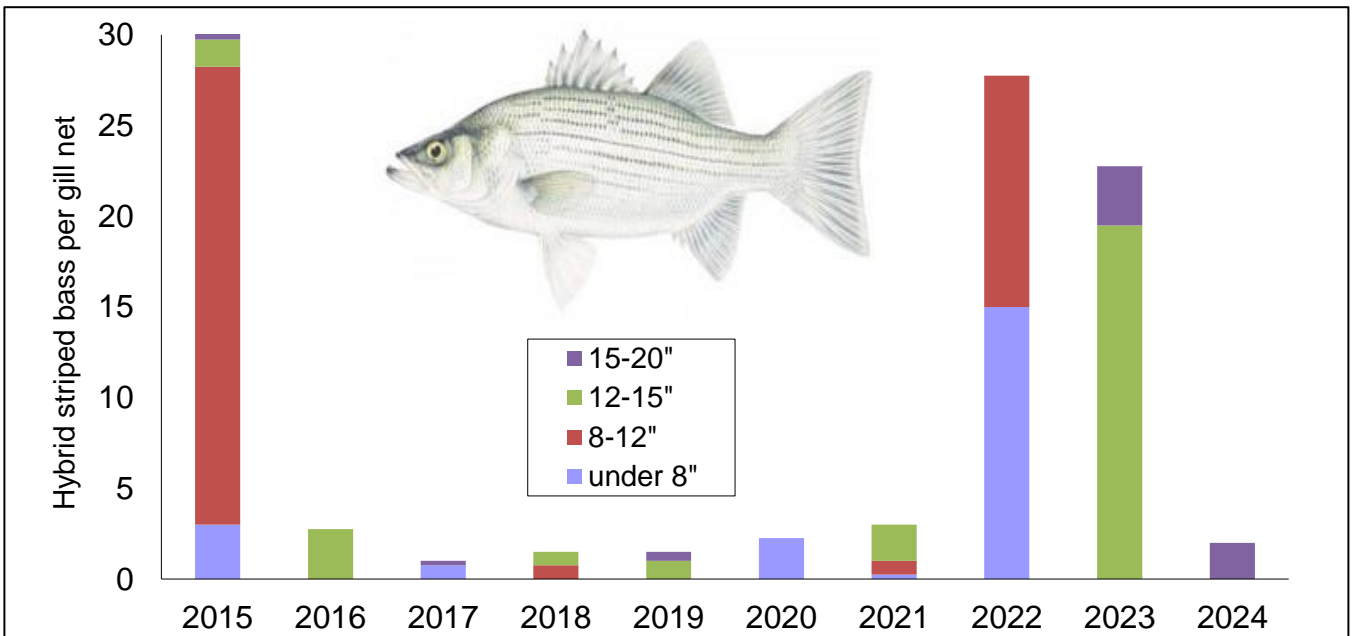
The 2<sup>nd</sup> graph depicts those greater than 15 inches. In contrast to 2023's survey, 2024's survey revealed a much lower value.

# White Bass



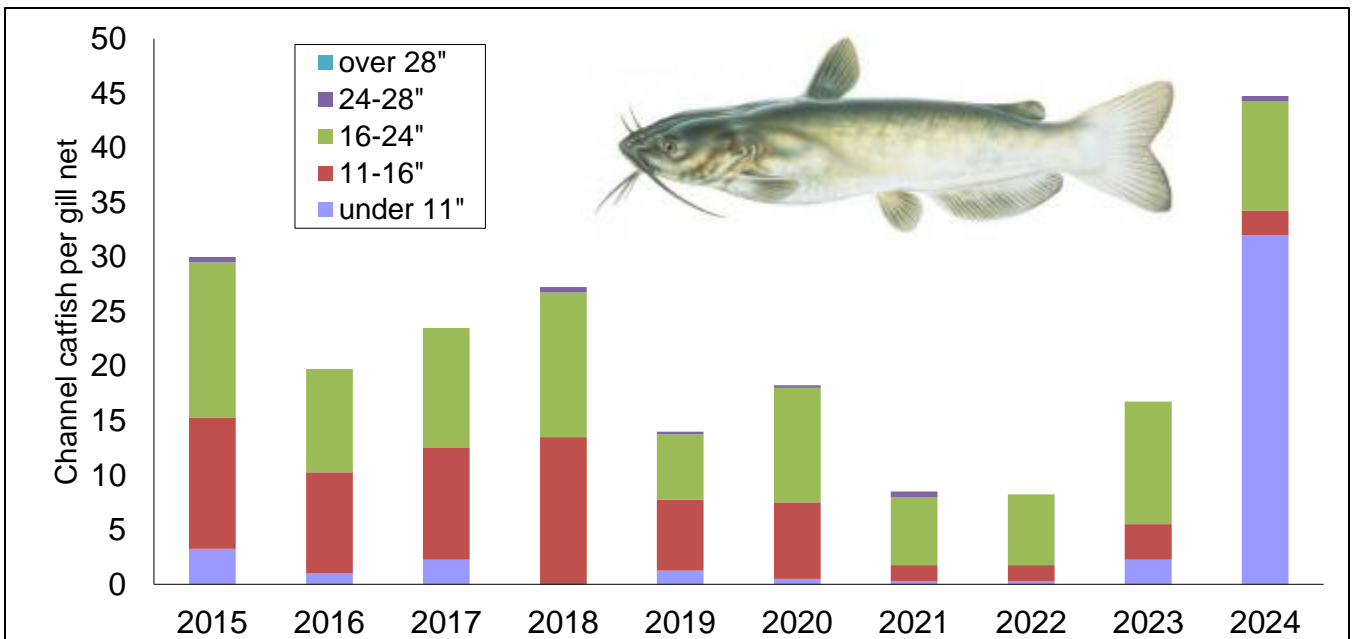
An increase in white bass abundance was observed again as 35.25 white bass were sampled per gill net. Average length in this sample was 11". The longest sampled was over 15 inches. Supplemental observations indicate that natural reproduction occurred during 2024. Effective January 1, 2025, the statewide "one-over" size restriction has increased from 16 to 18 inches. Check the [2025 Fishing Guide](#) for more detail.

# Hybrid Striped Bass (Wiper)



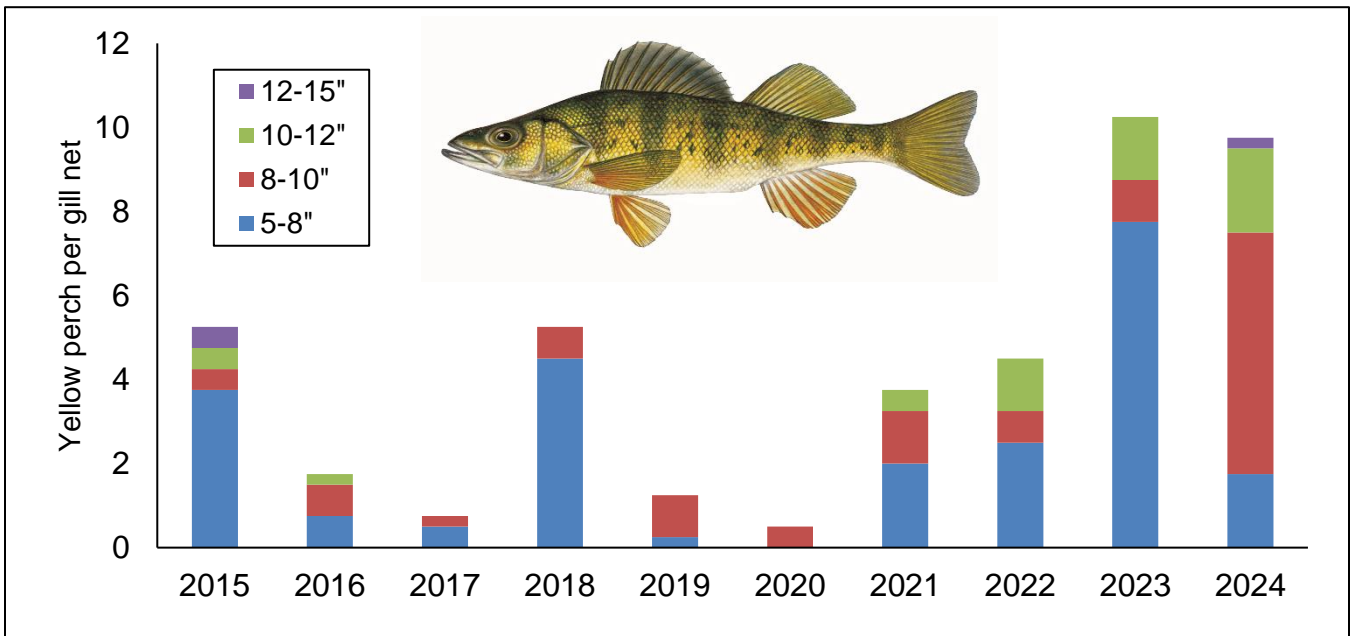
The 2024 survey captured 2 hybrid striped bass per net. Anglers should differentiate their catch as hybrid striped bass have much greater growth potential than white bass. Access [NGPC's Fish Identification](#) tool for hybrid striped bass and white bass differentiation assistance. Effective January 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



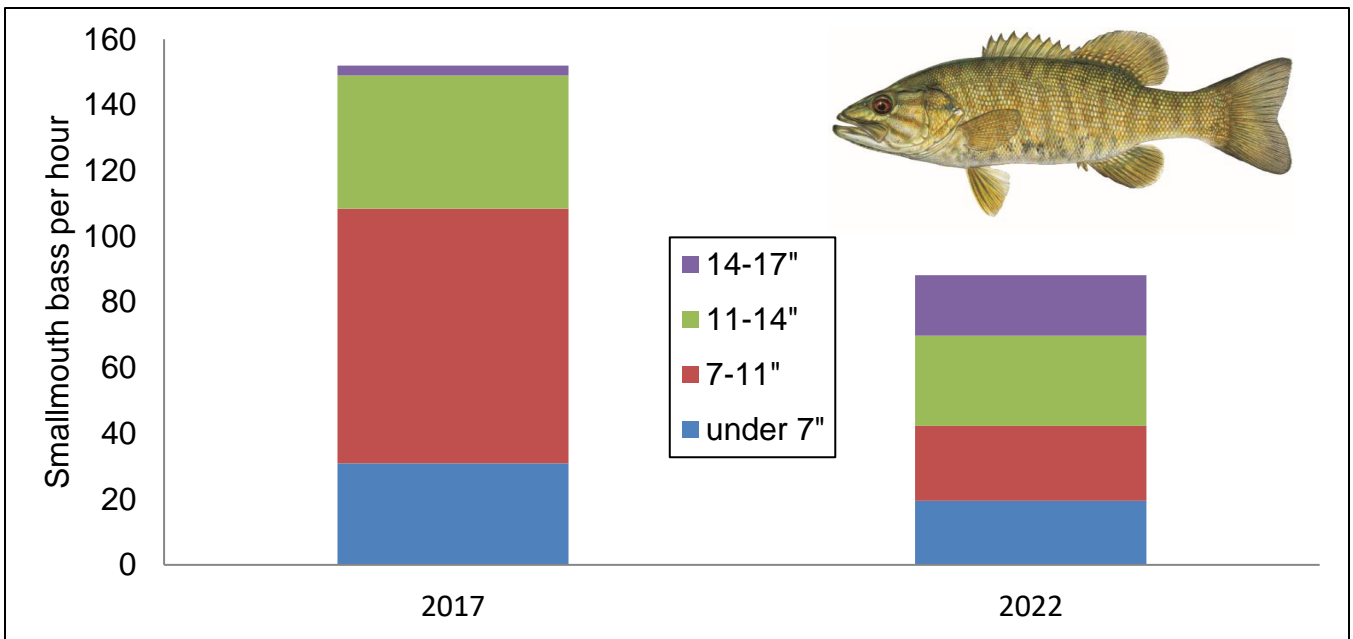
During 2024, 44.75 channel catfish were sampled per net. Of these, 72% were less than 11 inches, 5% were 11 to 16 inches, 22% were 16 to 24 inches and 1% were over 28". Channel catfish are not stocked into Sutherland Reservoir as natural recruitment supports the fishery.

# Yellow Perch



The 2024 yellow perch survey revealed 9.75 per net. This value was much higher than the average of 2.5 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. This survey indicates good growth of Sutherland's yellow perch. Most perch were 9.4" and the largest was 12". Abundance of previously scarce habitat in the form of vegetation is likely allowing this species to proliferate.

# Smallmouth Bass



Although, Sutherland's smallmouth bass were not surveyed during 2024 it does offer a good fishery as 2022's survey data indicates. Plans are to survey this fishery more frequently in the future.

# Aquatic Vegetation



Recent emergence of spiny naiad vegetation has impacted Sutherland'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.

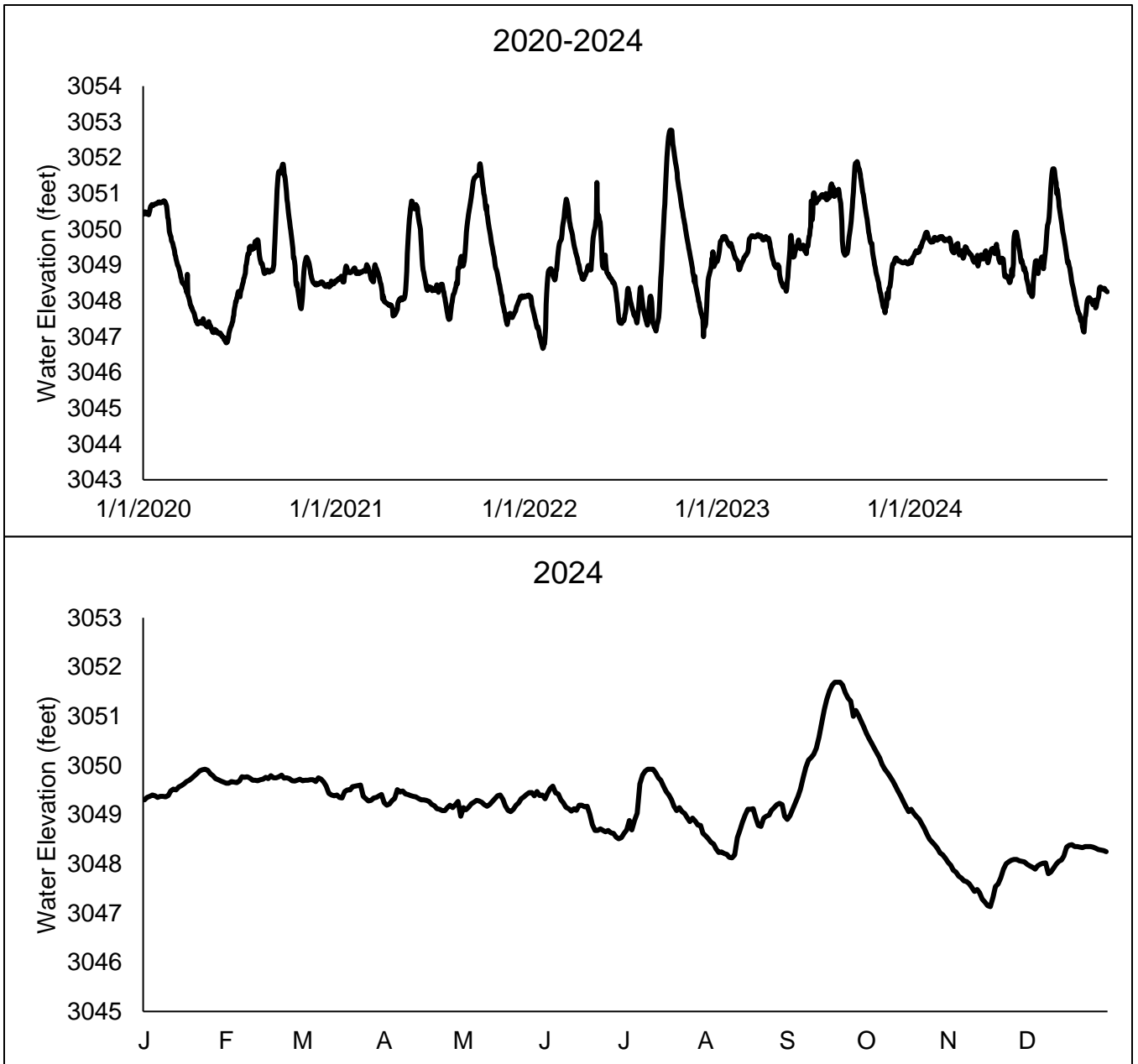
# Stockings



Sutherland Reservoir 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 (\*). For more historical stocking details access [NGPC's Stocking Database](#).

Stocking Year	Walleye	Hybrid Striped Bass
2015	105,000-1.5"	30,300-1.5-2"
2016	75,524-1.5"	
2017	104,960-1.25"	22,500-1"
2018	75,000-1.25" & 2,800,000-fry	15,370-1.25"
2019	133,890-1.25"	15,393-1"
2020	15,772-0.75" & 59,202-1"	15,000-1.25"
2021	121,156-1"	
2022	75,600-1.25"	700,000-fry
2023	109,000-1" & 3,003,500-fry	
2024	82,500-1.5"	
*2025	*105,000-2"	*700,000-fry

# Water Elevation



Sutherland Reservoir's water level fluctuates often due to its usage in cooling Gerald Gentleman Station and providing downstream flows. During 2024 the fishery benefitted due to rising water elevations in the spring. Access [NPPD's Water Data](#) to follow instantaneous water level fluctuations.

# 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](mailto:ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov)