

Swanson Reservoir 2024 Survey Summary

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Fish populations are sampled each fall at Swanson Reservoir using gill nets, a method commonly used to sample fish such as walleye, white bass, channel catfish, and wipers. Gill nets are set on approximately the same dates and locations each year to reduce variability.

Walleye catch improved in 2024 with 7 per net surveyed. Anglers should have good opportunities at larger fish with half of the walleye surveyed in gill nets surpassing the 15" statewide minimum regulation. The 2024 year marked the first introduction of saugeye into Swanson. Compared to walleye, saugeye thrive in more turbid waters that are common to the southwest reservoirs. Fall 2024 gill net surveys showed good growth on the initial Swanson saugeye stockings with fish surpassing 9". A total of 3,160,000 fry and 158,000 fingerling saugeye are requested for 2025. These stockings will continue to be evaluated in the years to come and will be adjusted if necessary.

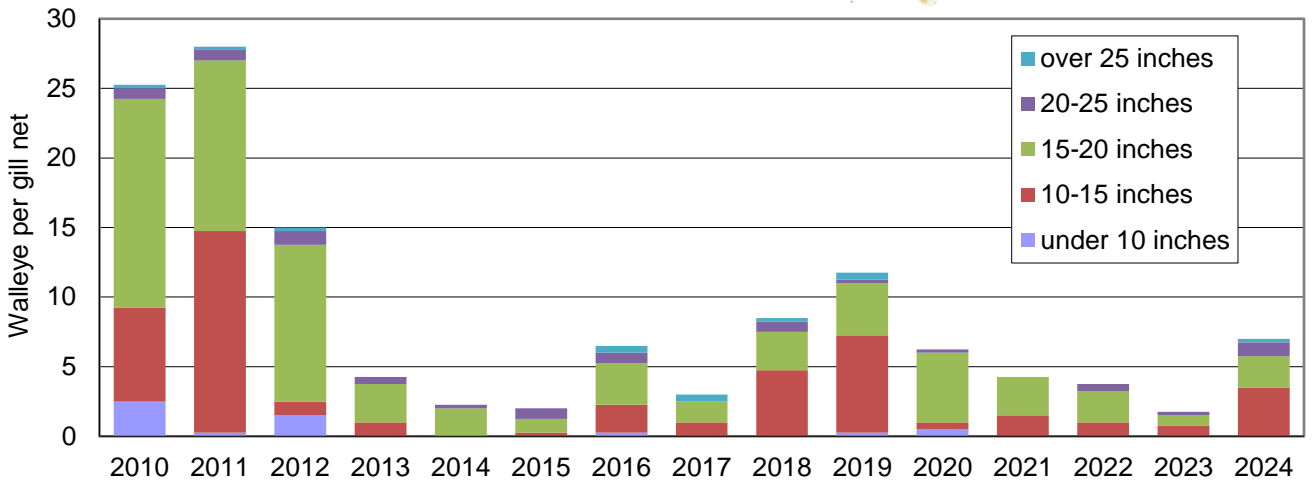
White bass catch improved in 2024 to just under 9 per net, making Swanson the 4th highest catch in the state. Most of the fish sampled were between 12 and 15 inches and will provide a trophy fishery if anglers can find them. The large 2018 wiper year class is still dominating the population. In 2024, Swanson had a record high catch of just under 32 wiper per net, claiming the top survey in the state. For anglers targeting wipers, the number and size-structure will provide an excellent opportunity. Anglers looking to harvest fish need to be aware of the new regulation change in 2025 for wiper and white bass. The statewide "one-over" size restriction has been increased from 16 to 18 inches to allow a longer harvest opportunity when large year classes are available. The statewide daily bag limit of 15 fish is still in observance. To avoid an overabundance, there are no wiper requested for 2025.

Channel catfish catch was low again with just under 4 per net caught in 2024. There are 7,900 advanced (10") channel catfish requested for fall 2025. To better understand trends within the blue catfish population of Swanson, biologists in 2023 implemented a low-frequency electrofishing survey to target these fish. This survey allows biologists to capture a wide array of fish sizes, especially larger fish that are usually not well represented with gill net surveys. The 2024 electrofishing survey resulted in just under 20 blue catfish per hour with fish surpassing the 35" mark. There are no blue catfish requested for fall 2025.

Discussions began in 2024 for an upcoming boat ramp improvement project in the Trail 3 area to improve ramp slope and improve the functionality of the breakwater. Planning is ongoing with a hope to break ground within the next 2 years.

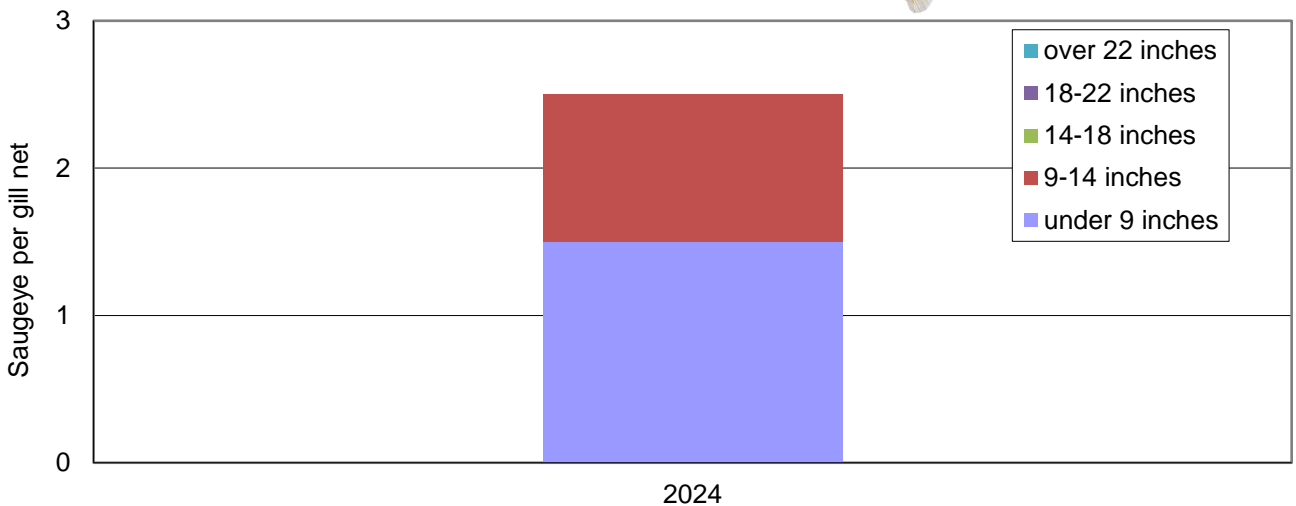
The following graphs show the average number of fish caught per net and the relative abundance of fish within several length categories. The text provides a brief explanation of the information shown in the graphs.

Walleye



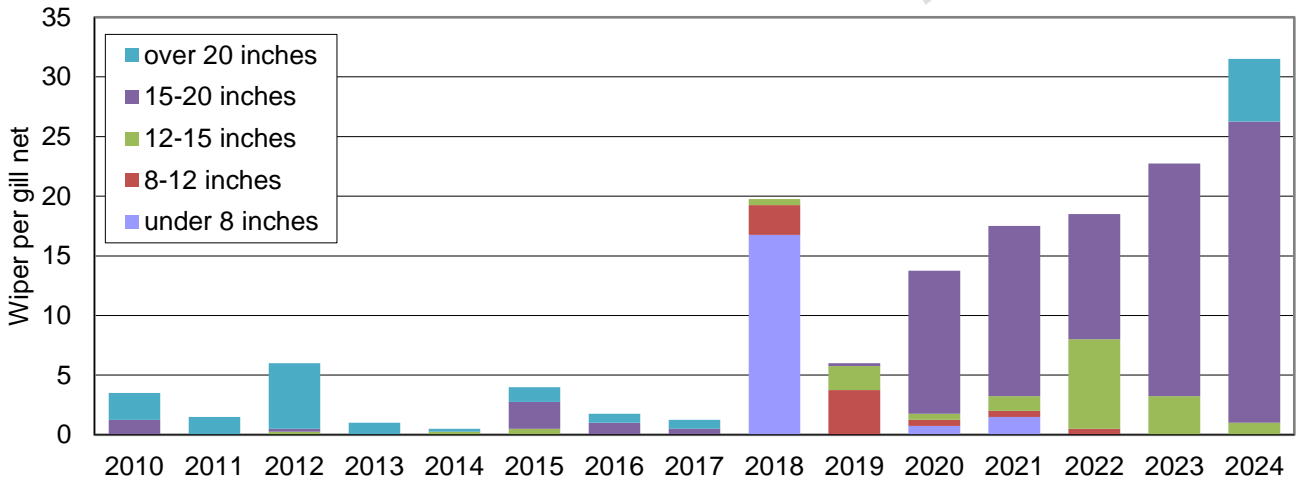
Walleye catch rebounded in 2024 with 7 per net surveyed in gill nets, representing the 3rd highest catch in the last 10 years of surveys at Swanson. Various year-classes were represented within the 2024 survey and should provide anglers with opportunities at fish exceeding the statewide 15” minimum mark. There are no walleye requested for 2025.

Saugeye



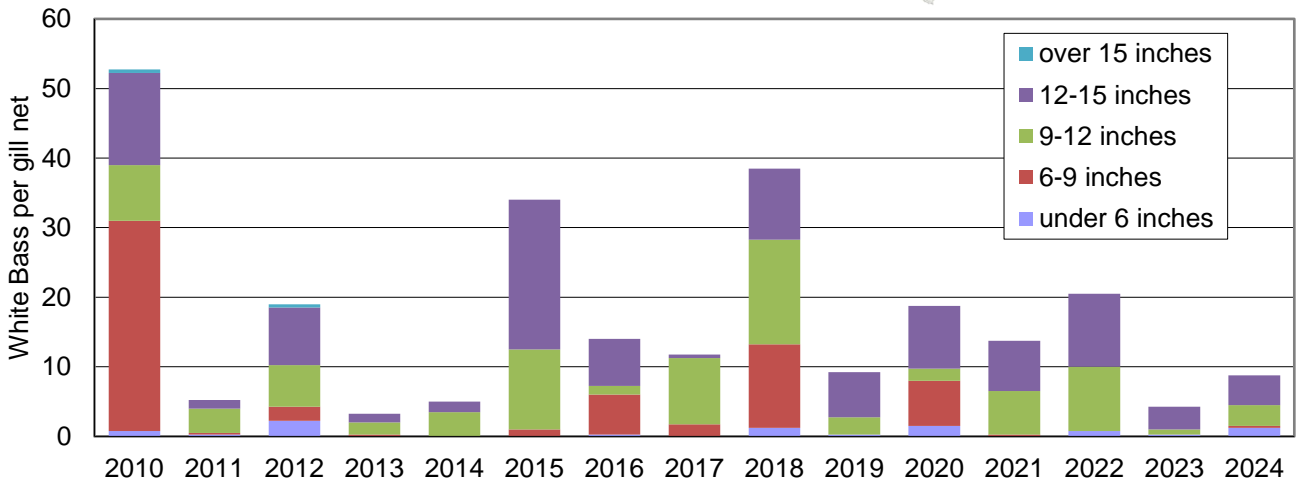
The initial Swanson saugeye stockings were represented in the fall gill net survey with just over 2 fish per net surveyed in 2024. The saugeye are growing well in Swanson with fish already exceeding 9 inches. Anglers can expect to start catching these fish in 2025 but are reminded of the statewide minimum length limit of 15”. There are 3,160,000 fry and 158,000 fingerling saugeye requested for 2025.

Wiper



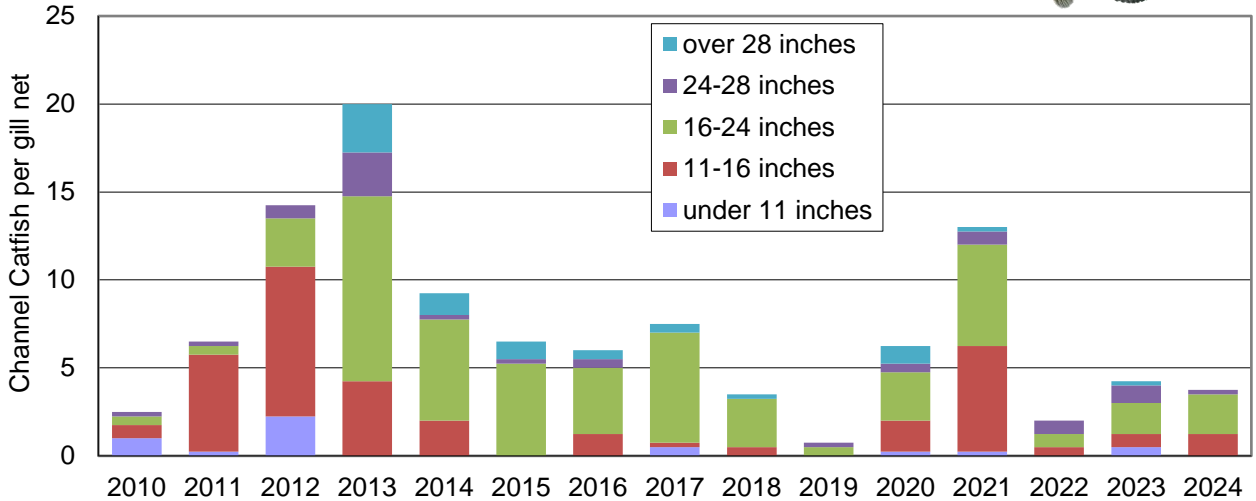
Swanson was home to the top catch rate in Nebraska in 2024, with just under 32 wipers per net sampled. Included in that catch were several fish topping the 20" mark which will provide anglers a trophy opportunity in 2025. There are no wipers requested for 2025.

White Bass



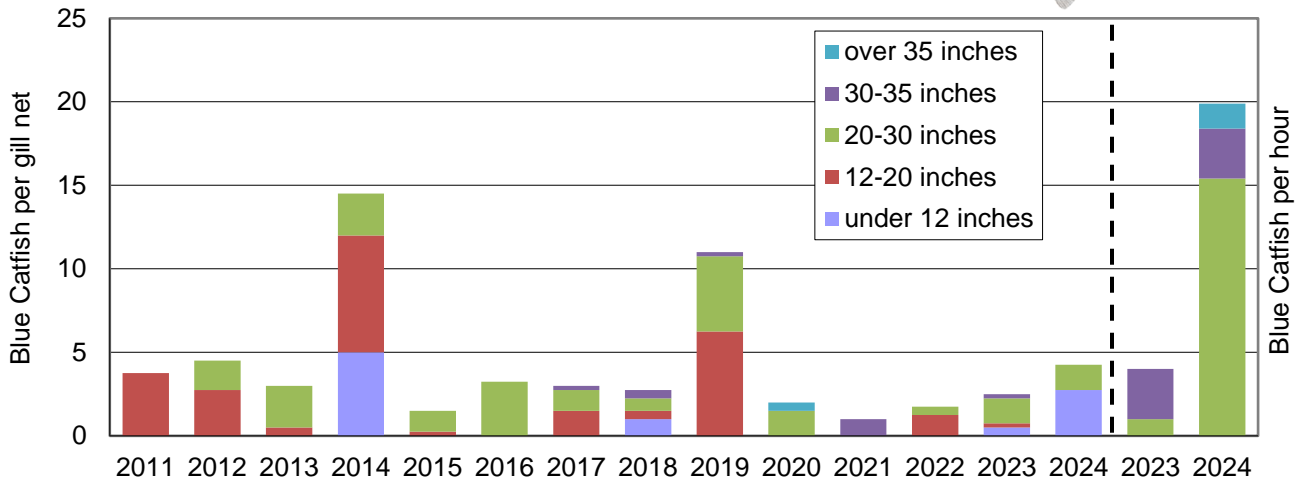
White bass catch rates rebounded in 2024 with just under 9 per net surveyed. Various year-classes were represented in the survey indicating good angling opportunities for the next few years. Anglers looking to target trophy-size white bass shouldn't overlook Swanson as it continually produces fish in the 12 to 15-inch range.

Channel Catfish



Survey results for channel catfish in 2024 were similar to the previous year with just under 4 per net surveyed. Anglers looking to target harvestable size channel catfish should find success as most of the fish sampled in 2024 were between 16 and 24 inches. There are 7,900 advanced (10") channel catfish requested for fall 2025.

Blue Catfish



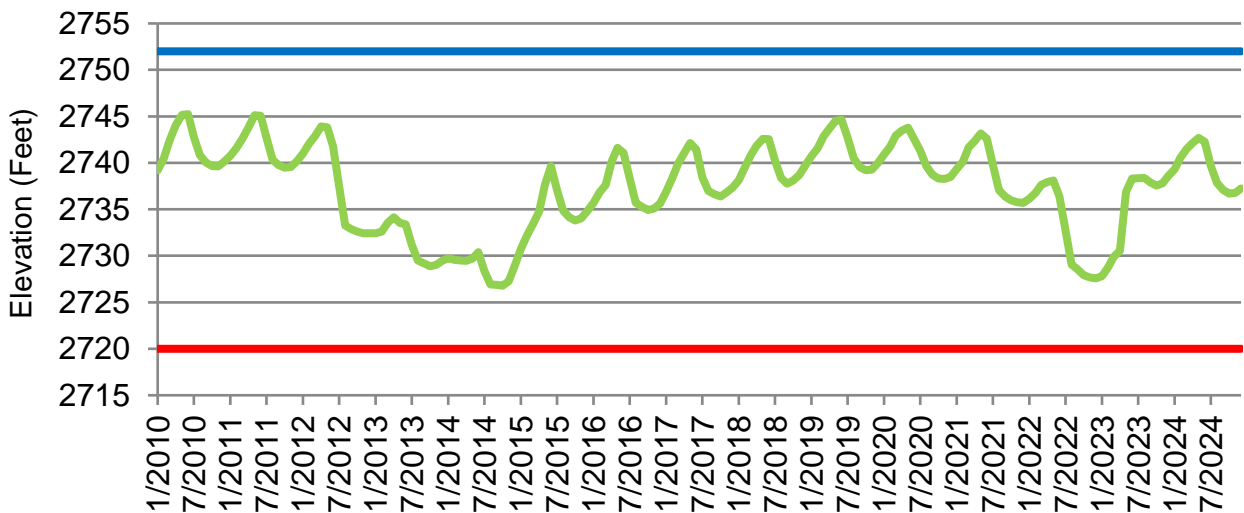
Anglers looking to take advantage of the trophy blue catfish fishery could encounter fish exceeding 30 inches in 2025. Electrofishing efforts in 2024 resulted in just under 20 blue catfish per hour. Gill net surveys reported the 2nd highest catch in the last 10 years with just over 4 per net surveyed in 2024. There are no blue catfish requested for 2025.

Swanson Reservoir Fish Stocking Summary

Year	Walleye	Saugeye	Wiper	Channel Catfish	Blue Catfish
2024		3,268,200 (fry) 326,908 (1 & 1.75")			13,600 (7")
2023	3,196,300 (fry)		200,000 (fry)	15,181 (10.25")	15,500 (6")
2022	14,968 (8")				20,389 (5")
2021	2,186,188 (fry)		425,000 (fry)	7,375 (10")	5,750 (4")
2020	13,512 (7.5")		17,500 (1")	9,000 (10.5")	

Above is a table of fish stockings over the last 5 years at Swanson Reservoir. The species stocked, number stocked, and fish size are presented in the table. Multiple species are stocked annually at Swanson and a comprehensive database of fish stockings can be found at the Nebraska Game and Parks website or by following this link. [Stocking Database](#)

End of Month Elevation, Swanson Reservoir 2010-2024



Water elevation is a constant management concern at Swanson Reservoir. The dark blue line indicates the top of the active conservation pool, the green line indicates the end of month reservoir elevation, and the red line indicates the top of the inactive pool. More detailed information and current reservoir elevation data can be obtained by following this link. [Current Elevation](#)

Southwest Reservoir Georgia Cube Project



As part of a grant awarded by the Bureau of Reclamation a fish attractor project was completed in the Southwest Reservoirs in 2023. Using this funding, a total of 100 Georgia Cubes (25 at each reservoir) were constructed with the help of the McCook Work Ethic Camp. These cubes were placed in deep water to provide structure for fish as reservoir elevations decline in dry years when habitat becomes limited. To create a larger footprint, 6 to 7 cubes were attached to one another and sunk creating four cube complexes in each reservoir that anglers can target. Below are the GPS locations of each cube complex to assist anglers in finding this new structure.

Enders		Medicine Creek		Red Willow		Swanson	
N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W
40.42028	-101.52442	40.39978	-100.23357	40.35930	-100.68447	40.16356	-101.06689
40.42202	-101.52390	40.39761	-100.23526	40.35819	-100.67515	40.16517	-101.06628
40.42833	-101.52896	40.39441	-100.23548	40.35502	-100.68016	40.16706	-101.06657
40.43204	-101.52546	40.38652	-100.22448	40.36283	-100.67201	40.16874	-101.06654

Rock Shoal Project



In 2023, a rock shoal project was completed at Swanson Reservoir using Title 28 funding provided by the Bureau of Reclamation and NGPC Aquatic Habitat Funds. In total, 43 shoals were constructed in groups of 6 or 7. Below are GPS locations of the Rock Shoals to make them easier for anglers to target as water levels rise.

N	W	N	W	N	W	N	W
40.17012	-101.08156	40.17062	-101.07875	40.17105	-101.07453	40.16884	-101.10200
40.17009	-101.08135	40.17085	-101.07756	40.17106	-101.07434	40.16891	-101.10182
40.17011	-101.08115	40.17089	-101.07731	40.16825	-101.10481	40.16901	-101.10161
40.17013	-101.08089	40.17090	-101.07711	40.16827	-101.10459	40.15172	-101.08165
40.17015	-101.08069	40.17093	-101.07693	40.16830	-101.10442	40.15159	-101.08173
40.17005	-101.08140	40.17100	-101.07672	40.16833	-101.10423	40.15150	-101.08187
40.17034	-101.07967	40.17102	-101.07648	40.16835	-101.10404	40.15137	-101.08204
40.17042	-101.07939	40.17106	-101.07544	40.16839	-101.10380	40.15127	-101.08219
40.17047	-101.07928	40.17107	-101.07519	40.16863	-101.10260	40.15110	-101.08261
40.17052	-101.07909	40.17106	-101.07498	40.16872	-101.10237	40.15107	-101.08281
40.17058	-101.07886	40.17105	-101.07474	40.16877	-101.10218		



Aquatic invasive species (AIS) have reached Nebraska! Zebra mussels are currently established in Lewis and Clark Reservoir, Lake Yankton, Offutt AFB pond, Beaver Lake, and the Missouri River. Anglers and boaters should be on the look out for personnel performing boat inspections and decontaminations statewide. Please email: ngpc.ais@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-7602 to report any possible AIS sightings or for more information about AIS in Nebraska.

Preventative Steps and Regulations

- It is unlawful for a boat to arrive at or leave any body of water in Nebraska with water other than from a domestic source except for fire-fighting purposes. Drain water before leaving an area.
- It is unlawful for a boat or trailer to arrive or leave a launch area with any aquatic vegetation from that waterbody still attached. Boat blinds cannot use plants listed as invasive species or noxious weeds.
- Wash mud off waders. Felt-sole waders are not allowed.

Nonresident Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp

Motorized watercraft registered outside Nebraska are required to purchase and display the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp before launching from any Nebraska boat ramp. Stamps must be affixed on the starboard side toward the rear of the boat above the waterline. The fee for each stamp is \$18 dollars and includes the \$3 issuing fee. Stamps can be purchased online or at Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Offices.

Zebra Mussel

Quagga Mussel

Eurasian Watermilfoil

