

NEBRASKA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

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Title 163 - NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

Chapter 2 - Fisheries Regulations

006 Sport Fishing Regulations. The following regulations are prescribed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, State of Nebraska, in addition to State Statutes concerning sport fishing, in accordance with Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 37-301, 37-304, 37-305, 37-308, 37-314, 37-315, 37-344, 37-411, 37-426, 37-4,104, 37-4,107, 37-4,109, 37-4,111. 37-501, ~~37-502, 37-503,~~ through 37-504, 37-508, and 37-543, ~~37-544,~~ and through 37-545 For purposes of these regulations, unless context otherwise requires, the definitions found in Chapter 37, sections 207 through 247 of the Game Law, are used. These regulations are effective following enactment by the Commission, approval by the Attorney General and Governor, and when five days have elapsed since filing with the Secretary of State.

Definitions: In addition to the definitions provided in Chapter 37 the following shall apply to this Chapter.

INLAND WATERS shall include all waters of the State, excluding waters of the Missouri River.

WATERS of the MISSOURI RIVER shall include all that portion of the Missouri River within Nebraska and all reservoirs, oxbows, sloughs, chutes, backwaters, and marshes, which have annual surface water connections to the river, and the first 300 yards upstream from the mouth of all tributary streams.

STATEWIDE shall include both inland waters and waters of the Missouri River.

SPORT FISH shall be defined as the following species.

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name
Sturgeon	<i>Scaphirhyncus platyrhynchus</i>	shovelnose sturgeon
Paddlefish	<i>Polyodon spathula</i>	paddlefish
Mooneye	<i>Hiodon alosoides</i>	goldeye
Freshwater eel	<i>Anguilla rostrata</i>	American eel

Herring	<i>Alosa chrysochloris</i>	skipjack herring
Catfish	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	blue catfish
	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	channel catfish
	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>	flathead catfish
Pike	<i>Esox americanus</i>	grass pickerel
	<i>Esox lucius</i>	northern pike
	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>	muskellunge
	<i>Esox masquinongy</i> x <i>Esox lucius</i>	tiger muskellunge
Trout	<i>Oncorhynchus clarki</i>	cutthroat trout
	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	rainbow trout
	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	chinook salmon
	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	brown trout
	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	brook trout
Cod	<i>Lota lota</i>	burbot
Temperate bass	<i>Morone chrysops</i>	white bass
	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	striped bass
	<i>Morone chrysops</i> x <i>M. saxatilis</i>	striped bass hybrid
Sunfish	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	rock bass
	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	green sunfish
	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	pumpkinseed
	<i>Lepomis humilis</i>	orangespotted sunfish
	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	bluegill
	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	redeer sunfish
	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	smallmouth bass
	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>	spotted bass
	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	largemouth bass
	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	white crappie
Perch	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	black crappie
	<i>Sander canadense</i>	sauger
	<i>Sander vitreus</i> x <i>canadense</i>	saugeye
	<i>Sander vitreus</i>	walleye

BAITFISH shall be defined as those listed in Section 009.

006.01 AREA OPEN: The entire state is open to fishing, except those areas closed by the Commission by posting, or by regulations, by federal or state law, or by city ordinance.

006.02 SEASON: Open the entire year on all species of fish. (Except specific closures as defined in the following Sections; 006.030, 006.04, 006.05 006.06, 006.08, 006.09, and 006.12).

006.03 BAG, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS:

006.03A Daily bag limit shall be defined as the number of fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, or mussels, that may be taken **by all legal methods (combined)** from midnight to the following midnight. Any organism that is not to be counted in the bag limit must be returned immediately into the water with as little injury as possible. Any organism placed on a stringer or in a container, or not returned immediately into the water must be counted in the bag. Any fish in possession while actively fishing will be subject to length and bag limits that apply to the water being fished.

006.03B Possession limit shall be defined as the number of fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles, or mussels that an individual may have in physical control and/or storage.

006.03C Length limit shall be defined as the approved length an individual organism can be harvested, being it either a maximum or minimum length or a protected length range (slot).

006.03D It shall be unlawful to:

006.03D1 give, put or leave any fish, bullfrogs, snapping turtles or mussels at any place or in the custody of another person unless they are tagged by the angler with the following information: (1) Name of owner; (2) Address; (3) Phone number; (4) Date of birth; (5) Permit number; (6) Species of fish; (7) Total number of fish and pounds of fillets; (8) Date taken; and (9) Signature of owner and name of recipient if gifted.

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p><u>006.03E TROUT</u> All species singly or in the aggregate (Except Fee Fishing Areas, see below.) <u>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River Statewide</u></p> <p><u>Except that</u> The daily bag limit shall include no more than one trout 16 inches or greater in length <u>except that the Sutherland Supply (Keystone) Canal below Lake Ogallala to Sutherland Reservoir will be exempt.</u></p> <p>Except the bag limit will be twelve (12) trout at Two Rivers Lake #5 with the possession of three (3) tags. There is no restriction on the number of trout in the daily bag limit that can be over 16 inches.</p>	None	5 12	10 <u>12</u> <u>24</u>
<p><u>006.03F BLACK BASS</u> Largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p><u>INLAND WATERS</u> Black bass in all government or publicly owned, controlled and managed waters, as well as in privately owned waters.</p> <p>Except that the daily bag limit shall include no more than one black bass 21 inches or greater in length.</p> <p>Except there shall be a minimum length limit of 21 inches on black bass in Adams Park Pond (Douglas County), Ansley City Lake (Custer County), <u>Archway Lakes (Buffalo County), Arnold Lake (Custer County),</u> Auble Pond (Valley County), Auburn Rotary Club Lake (Nemaha County),</p>	15 21	<u>4</u> 5 1	<u>8</u> <u>10</u> <u>2</u>

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p>Bader Memorial County Park Pits (Merrick County), Baright Lake (Cass County), Barnett Park Pond (Red Willow County), Bennington Lake (Douglas County), Bennington Lion Club Pond (Douglas County), Benson Park Pond (Douglas County), Bethphage Pond (Kearney County), Big Springs City Pond (Deuel County), Birdwood Lake (Lincoln County), Buckskin Hills Lake (Dixon County), Burchard Lake (Pawnee County), Carter Lake (Douglas County), Central City Lake (Merrick County), Century Link Lake (Cass County), (Cheyenne State Recreation Area (Hall County), Columbus Hospital Pond (Platte County), Cornhusker Wildlife Management Area Pond (Hall County), Cottontail Lake (Lancaster County), Cottonmill Lake (Buffalo County), Crystal Cove Lake (Dakota County), Crystal Lake (Adams County), David City Park Ponds (Butler County), Fontenelle Park Pond (Douglas County), Friend City Lake (Saline County), Glenn Cunningham Reservoir (Douglas County), Grand Island Eagle Scout Lake (Hall County), Grand Island Gun Range Pond (Hall County), Grand Island Such's Lake (Hall County), Hanscom Park Pond (Douglas County), Heartwell Park Lake (Adams County), Hedgefield Lake (Lancaster County), Henderson Park (York County), Hitchcock Park Pond (Douglas County), Holdrege City North Lake (Phelps County), Holmes Lake (Lancaster County), Hooper City Lake (Dodge County), Humboldt City Park Lake (Richardson County), Humphrey Pond (Keith County), Indian Creek Wildlife Management Area Pond (Webster County), Iron Horse Trail Lake (Pawnee County), Johnson Park Lake</p>			

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
(Dodge County), Kramer Park Lake (Sarpy County), Laing Lake (Box Butte County), Lake Halleck (Sarpy County), Lake Helen (Dawson County) , Lake Wanahoo (Saunders County), Lawrence Youngsman Lake (Douglas County), Lexington City Lake (Dawson County), L. E. Ray Lake (Hall County), Lincoln Park Pond (Nuckolls County), Lone Star Recreation Area (Fillmore County), Louisville State Recreation Area (Cass County), Meadowlark Lake (Seward County), Melham Park Pond (Custer County), Memphis State Recreation Area Lake (Saunders County), Merganser Lake (Lancaster County), Midlands Lake (Sarpy County), Miller Park Pond (Douglas County), Morman Island State Recreation Area (Hall County), Neligh Park Pond (Cuming County), Niobrara State Park Ponds (Knox County), North Platte I-80 Lake (Lincoln County), Olive Creek Lake (Lancaster County), Open Fields and Waters lakes and ponds (Statewide), Papio D-4 (Douglas County), Pawnee City Pond (Pawnee County), Pawnee Park East and West (Platte County), Pawnee Prairie Wildlife Management Area (Pawnee County), Plattsmouth City Lake (Cass County), Powder Creek Reservoir (Dixon County), Prairie View Lake Recreation Area (Douglas County), Qwest Lake (Cass County) , Oxford City Lake (Harlan County), Ravenna Lake (Buffalo County), Sacramento Wilcox Wildlife Management Area (Phelps County), Schwer Park Pond (Sarpy County), Stagecoach Lake (Lancaster County), Steinhart Park Ponds (Otoe County), Shadow Lake (Sarpy County), Silver Creek City Lake (Merrick County), Skyview Lake (Madison County),			

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p>Stanton Lake (Richardson County), Sutton Clark Pond (Clay County), Swan Creek Lake 5A (Saline County), Swan Creek 67 (Saline County), Ta-Ha-Zouka Park Pond (Madison County), Tecumseh City Pond (Johnson County), Tilden City Pond (Antelope County), Timber Point Lake (Butler County), Towl Park Pond (Douglas County), Two Rivers State Recreation Area (Douglas County), Verdon Lake (Richardson County), Victoria Springs Lake (Custer County), Wagon Train Lake (Lancaster County), Walnut Creek Lake Recreation Area (Sarpy County), Walnut Creek 2A (Saline County), Walnut Grove Park Pond (Douglas County), War Axe State Recreation Area (Buffalo County), Weeping Water Pond (Cass County), Wehrspann Lake Recreation Area (Sarpy County), West Wood River Wildlife Management Area (Hall County), Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County), Willard L. Meyer Recreation Area (Saline County), Wolbach City Pond (Greeley County), Yankee Hill Lake (Lancaster County), Yanney Park Lake (Buffalo County), York Recharge Lake (York County), and Zorinsky Lake Recreation Area (Douglas County).</p>			
<p>Check other special regulation listed under special use and high use fishing areas in 006.12 and 006.13.</p>			
<p>Waters of the Missouri River Except that the daily bag limit shall include no more than one black bass 21 inches or greater in length.</p>	None	5	10

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p>Except that there shall be a 12-inch minimum length limit on all black bass in that section of the Missouri River between Nebraska and Iowa and Nebraska and Missouri and that there shall be a 15-inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass in DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge Lake (Washington County), Snyder Bend Lake, (Dakota and Thurston counties), and Lake Yankton (Cottonwood Lake) (Cedar County).</p>			
<p><u>006.03G</u> STRIPED BASS, WHITE BASS, and STRIPED BASS HYBRID, singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p> <p>Except that the daily bag shall include no more than one fish 18 16 inches or greater in length, statewide.</p> <p>Except that in Elwood Reservoir (Gosper County), Stagecoach Reservoir (Lancaster County), Wagon Train Reservoir (Lancaster County) and Willow Creek Lake (Pierce County), the daily bag limit is three (3) fish.</p>	None	15 3	30 6
<p>Except no harvest allowed at Branched Oak Reservoir (Lancaster County) and Zorinsky Reservoir (Douglas County).</p>		0	0

<p>006.03H CHANNEL CATFISH</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River Statewide Rivers, streams, and canals</p> <p>Standing waters (reservoirs, lakes, ponds, and pits)</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>5</p>	<p>10 20</p>
<p>Except no harvest allowed at Fort Kearny State Recreation Area Lake #2 (Kearney County), Two Rivers State Recreation Area Lakes 3 and 4 (Douglas County), Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County), and Windmill State Recreation Area Lake #3 (Buffalo County).</p> <p>Check other specific regulations on special use and high use fishing areas in 006.12 and 006.13.</p>		<p>0</p>	
<p>006.03J FLATHEAD CATFISH</p> <p>Statewide Except that the daily bag limit shall include no more than one fish 30 inches or greater in length.</p> <p>Except no harvest allowed in Branched Oak Reservoir (Lancaster County), Fort Kearny State Recreation Area Lake #2 (Kearney County), Two Rivers State Recreation Area Lakes 3 and 4 (Douglas County), Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County), and Windmill State Recreation Area Lake #3 (Buffalo County)..</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>5</p> <p>0</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>006.03K BLUE CATFISH</p>			

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p>Statewide</p> <p>Except no harvest allowed at Fort Kearny State Recreation Area Lake #2 (Kearney County), Two Rivers State Recreation Area Lakes 3 and 4 (Douglas County), Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County), and Windmill State Recreation Area Lake #3 (Buffalo County).</p>	None	1 <u>0</u>	2
<p><u>006.03L</u> WALLEYE, SAUGER and SAUGEYE singly or in the aggregate.</p> <p>Inland Waters Except that the daily bag shall include no more than one fish 22 inches or greater in length.</p> <p>Exceptions:</p> <p><u>Elwood Reservoir — In addition to the minimum length, bag, and possession limits listed, fish ranging from 18 inches through 24 inches are protected and may not be possessed. Except that the daily bag limit shall include no more than one fish of greater than 24 inches in length.</u></p>	15 <u>15</u>	4 <u>4</u>	8 <u>8</u>

Species	Minimum Length Limit Inches	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
<p>Calamus Reservoir (Garfield and Loup counties), Elwood Reservoir (Gosper County), Harlan County Reservoir including Republican River upstream to the Highway 46 bridge (Harlan County), and Merritt Reservoir (Cherry County) - The daily bag limit may include one (1) fish 15 inches through 18 inches and three (3) over 18 inches or four (4) over 18 inches. Except that the daily bag limit shall include no more than one fish 22 inches or greater in length.</p>	See explanation	4	8
<p>Branched Oak Lake (Lancaster County)</p> <p>Except there shall be a slot length limit protecting walleye with lengths ranging from 20 inches to 28 inches at Sherman Reservoir (Sherman County). The daily bag limit can include two (2) fish between 15 inches and not greater than 20 inches and one (1) fish greater than 28 inches.</p>	22	1	2
<p>Check other specific regulations on special use areas (006.12M G1).</p>	See explanation	3	6
<p>Waters of the Missouri River Except the minimum length limit shall be 15 inches on that portion of the Missouri River from Gavins Point Dam upstream to the Nebraska-South Dakota border and that there shall be a 15-inch minimum length limit on DeSoto Bend National Wildlife Refuge Lake (Washington County).</p>	None	4	8

<p><u>006.03M</u> NORTHERN PIKE Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide Except there shall be a slot length limit protecting northern pike with lengths ranging from 28 inches to 34 inches at Goose Lake, Holt County.</p> <p>Except there shall be a slot length limit protecting northern pike with lengths ranging from 28 inches to 34 inches at Box Butte Reservoir, Dawes County. The daily bag limit of ten (10) pike can include only one (1) fish over 34 inches and nine (9) or ten (10) fish less than 28 inches. The possession limit is 20.</p> <p>Except there shall be a minimum length limit of 30 inches at Alda DOR (Hall County), Cottonmill Lake (Buffalo County), Enders Reservoir (Chase County), Grove Lake, (Antelope County), Maskenthine Lake (Stanton County) Red Willow Reservoir (Frontier County), Sherman Reservoir (Sherman County).</p> <p>Except no harvest allowed at Glenn Cunningham Lake (Douglas County) and Lake Wanahoo (Saunders County).</p> <p>Check special regulations on high use fishing areas and the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge in <u>006.13</u> and <u>006.09A</u>.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p> <p>30</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>10</p> <p>3</p> <p>0</p>	<p>6 10</p> <p>6</p> <p>20</p> <p>6</p>
<p><u>006.03N</u> MUSKELLUNGE MUSKELLUNGE X NORTHERN PIKE HYBRID (tiger muskellunge). Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p>	<p>40</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><u>006.03O</u> PADDLEFISH</p>			

Inland waters (Closed to harvest)	None	0	0
Waters of Missouri River, downstream from Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River at mile marker 734, except for closed area(s) as defined in 006.04L K and 006.08A. Special permits are required (See Sections 006.04G and 006.08C)	See text	2	2
Except that there shall be a 35-45 inch (eye to fork length) protected slot limit during the snagging season only.			
<u>006.03P</u> BAITFISH, TIGER SALAMANDERS, PLAINS LEOPARD FROG, AND NORTHERN LEOPARD FROG.			
Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide	None	100	100
<u>006.03Q</u> SHOVELNOSE STURGEON Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River downstream from the mouth of the Big Sioux River.	None	10	20
Waters of the Missouri River upstream from the mouth of the Big Sioux River.	None	0	0
<u>006.03R</u> PALLID AND LAKE STURGEON			
Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide	None	0	0
<u>006.03S</u> BULLFROGS (Open season August 15 - November 1) It shall be unlawful to take bullfrogs by any means other than hand, handnet, or hook and line. Length shall be measured from snout to vent.			
Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide	4½	8	16

<p>006.03T SNAPPING TURTLES It shall be unlawful to take snapping turtles except by hand, handnet, hook and line, bow and arrow or gaff, and it shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, trade or barter any snapping turtle. In waters located entirely on private land, snapping turtles may also be taken as described in Section 004 and with legal traps as described below.</p> <p>006.03T1 Legal trap(s) shall allow turtles to reach the surface to breathe; must be personally checked at least every 24 hours; and must be tagged with a metal tag listing the owner's name, address, and fishing permit number or driver's license number. Traps containing a throat or funnel shall be constructed of netting that is at least 4 inches square mesh.</p> <p>The take of any turtle(s) exceeding the daily bag limits shall be released immediately.</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p>	None	10 <u>5</u>	20 <u>10</u>
<p>006.03U BLACK CRAPPIE, WHITE CRAPPIE, BLUEGILL, YELLOW PERCH, ROCK BASS, GREEN SUNFISH, PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH, ORANGE-SPOTTED SUNFISH and REDEAR SUNFISH and their hybrids, singly or in the aggregate. This group of fish is defined as panfish.</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p> <p>Except that the minimum length limit for crappie shall be 10 inches at Branched Oak (Lancaster County), Czechland (Saunders County), and Sherman (Sherman County).</p>	None 10	15	30

<p>Check special fishing regulations on high use fishing areas 006.13.</p>			
<p><u>006.03V BULLHEADS</u> Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p> <p>Except the bag limit will be five (5) at Fremont SRA (Dodge County), Louisville SRA (Cass County), and Two Rivers SRA (Douglas County).</p>	None	None	None
<p><u>006.03W All other game fish,</u> and nongame fish.</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p>	None	5	10
<p><u>006.03X MUSSELS (clams)</u> It shall be unlawful to take mussels (clams) except by hand, handnet or hook and line.</p> <p>Inland waters and waters of the Missouri River. Statewide</p>	None	10	20

006.03Y TRANSPORTATION AND POSSESSION

006.03Y1 It shall be unlawful to transport or possess live white perch away from the water body from which they were captured.

006.03Y2 It shall be unlawful to possess fish that are subject to a length limit while wading or engaged in fishing from any shore or boat with more than the gills, viscera, and scales having been removed.

006.03Y3 It shall be unlawful to possess bullfrogs while frogging with more than the viscera removed.

006.03Y4 It shall be unlawful to possess or transport fish that are subject to a bag and possession limit, but not a length limit, if the fillets have not been retained in one piece. Fish may be filleted prior to transport however the fillets must be kept in one piece until eaten so that bag and/or possession limits can be determined.

006.04 BOW AND ARROW FISHING

006.04A Inland waters are open to the taking of game fish by bow and arrow from sunrise to sunset July 1 through December 31. The taking of nongame fish by bow and arrow is allowed from January 1 through December 31, twenty four hours per day

006.04B Waters of the Missouri River are open to the taking of game fish by bow and arrow from sunrise to sunset July 1 through December 31 except for that portion from Gavins Point Dam downstream to a line that extends from the east end of the south cement wall of the discharge canal northwest to the east end of the north wall of the stilling basin during the archery paddlefish season (006.04G). Waters of the Missouri River are open to the taking of nongame fish by bow and arrow January 1 through December 31, twenty four hours per day, except for the portion from Gavins Point Dam downstream to a line that extends from the east end of the south cement wall of the discharge canal northwest to the east end of the north wall of the stilling basin during the archery paddlefish season (006.04G).

~~006.04C~~ It shall be unlawful to take or possess more than the daily bag and possession limits or individual fish outside the legal length range as prescribed in ~~006.03~~.

~~006.04~~**DC** It shall be unlawful to fish with an arrow that has more than one point which shall be barbed. Arrows shall be attached to a line from the bow at the time the arrow is released.

~~006.04~~**ED** It shall be unlawful to use any bow which is not drawn and held by hand. Except that any person who has lost the use of an arm through amputation or lacks use of an arm through permanent impairment which renders the person incapable of drawing a long bow shall be permitted to use a crossbow or a bow fitted with a draw lock type device to fish. The disabling condition described above must be verified in writing by a physician. The medical certificate shall be carried by permittee while fishing and a copy filed with the Fisheries Division of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

~~006.04~~**FE** The following areas are closed to bow and arrow fishing: Platte River State Park and Mahoney State Park (Cass County),

~~006.04~~**GF** PADDLEFISH: Paddlefish may be taken by bow and arrow and possessed on open waters of the Missouri River only during the season beginning on the second Saturday of July and running for thirty (30) consecutive days.

~~006.04~~**HG** It shall be unlawful to take paddlefish by bow and arrow without the possession of a paddlefish permit and an open paddlefish tag in addition to a valid Nebraska fishing permit as required. Those anglers with a non-resident paddlefish permit must also possess a valid non-resident Nebraska fishing permit.

~~006.04~~**HG1** Applications: Anglers applying for a paddlefish permit must provide the following information: name, address, daytime telephone number, last four digits of their Social Security Number, date of birth, gender, hair color, eye color, height, and weight. Application forms to submit such information to the Commission are available at the Commission headquarters, at all District Offices, on the Commission website, and in the Fishing Guide. The first application period will run from 1 P.M. CDT April 1 to April ~~30~~ **14**. Mail applications must be received in the Lincoln office, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, by 5 p.m. CDT on April ~~30~~ **14**; internet applications

must be received by 11:59 p.m. CDT on April 30 14. If there are permits remaining after the first drawing, the remaining permits will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis with sales starting at 1:00 p.m. CDT on the first working day of June.

006.04HG2 Permits will be distributed to eligible applicants through a random drawing based on preference points earned.

006.04HG3 Preference Points: Any eligible person who properly applies for and is denied a paddlefish permit during the first application period, beginning in 2007, shall receive a preference point, and one additional point shall be added or awarded for each year he or she is unsuccessful in the drawing. Such preference points shall be used to determine priority in the permit drawing, with persons having the most points receiving the greatest priority. If two applicants submit a joint application (buddy permit), priority will be given based on the lowest number of points possessed by either applicant. Any person who is issued a paddlefish permit shall lose all accumulated preference points and any person who does not apply at least once during five consecutive years shall lose all accumulated points.

006.04HG4 An individual may not submit more than one application for an archery paddlefish permit during any archery paddlefish application period.

006.04HG5. Two anglers may submit a joint application (buddy permit) but both must be either residents or non-residents. A resident cannot submit a joint application with a non-resident.

006.04HG6 An individual must be 12 years old by the second Saturday of July to apply for an archery paddlefish permit.

006.04IH A harvest quota will be managed by issuing a maximum of two-hundred seventy-five paddlefish permits with a limit of no more than two permits per person.

006.04IH1 Ninety-five percent of the paddlefish permits available (rounded to the nearest whole number) will be reserved for residents. If the number of residents applying for permits exceeds the number of permits available, any of the five percent of the permits reserved for non-residents remaining

after the first application period will be issued to resident anglers identified by the random draw.

006.04JI Any paddlefish landed must be tagged immediately in the dorsal fin with the anglers tag. Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment, altered, or modified shall be void and not be replaced.

~~006.04KJ Only the head, viscera, and tail may be removed from archery harvested paddlefish during transport until the place of residence is reached or the paddlefish is consumed. After completion of the fishing trip and upon leaving the Missouri River, an angler can process harvested paddlefish down to two whole fillets. Both the closed paddlefish tag and permit would need to remain with the fillets.~~

006.04LK Paddlefish may be taken by bow and arrow on waters of the Missouri River only on that portion downstream from the Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River at mile marker 734, except for a closed area immediately below Gavins Point Dam downstream to a line that extends from the east end of the south cement wall of the discharge canal northwest to the east end of the north wall of the stilling basin.

006.05 SURFACE WATER SPEARFISHING:

006.05A The entire state is open to the taking of nongame fish by surface spearing January 1 through December 31. The fishing hours shall be sunrise to sunset September 1 through March 31 and shall be unrestricted April 1 through August 31.

006.05A1 Any device used for surface spearing shall be barbed.

006.06 UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING:

006.06A The following lakes only are open to underwater spearfishing, sunrise to sunset, for game fish July 1 through December 31, and for nongame fish - January 1 through December 31.

Calamus Reservoir (Loup and Garfield counties)
Elwood Reservoir (Gosper County)
Enders Reservoir (Chase County)

Harlan County Reservoir (Harlan County)
Harry Strunk Reservoir (Frontier County)
Hugh Butler Reservoir (Frontier County)
Jeffrey Reservoir (Lincoln County)
Johnson Reservoir (Gosper County)
Lake Minatare (Scotts Bluff County)
Lake Ogallala (Keith County)
Lewis and Clark Lake (Knox and Cedar counties)
Maloney Reservoir (Lincoln County)
McConaughy Reservoir (Keith County)
Merritt Reservoir (Cherry County)
~~Privately owned lakes with permission of owner~~
Sherman Reservoir (Sherman County)
Sutherland Reservoir (Lincoln County)
Swanson Reservoir (Hitchcock County)

006.06B The following lakes only are open to underwater spearfishing, sunrise to sunset, for game fish June 1 through December 31, and for nongame fish - January 1 through December 31.

Box Butte Reservoir (Dawes County)
~~Privately-owned lakes with permission of owner~~

006.06C The following lakes only are open to underwater spearfishing, sunrise to sunset, for nongame fish only - January 1 through December 31.

Alda DOR (Hall County)
Bassway WMA (Buffalo County)
Blue Hole West WMA (Buffalo County)
Bufflehead WMA (Buffalo County)
Cheyenne SRA (Hall County)
Cozad WMA (Dawson County)
Cozad West WMA (Dawson County)
Dogwood East & West WMA (Dawson County)
East Gothenburg WMA (Dawson County)
East Odessa WMA (Buffalo County)
Kea Lake WMA (Buffalo County)
Kea West WMA (Buffalo County)
North Kearney Rest Stop (Buffalo County)
Sandy Channel SRA (Phelps County)
Union Pacific SRA (Buffalo County)
War Axe SRA (Buffalo County)

West Elm Creek WMA (Buffalo County)
West Wood River WMA (Hall County)
Willow Island WMA (Dawson County)

006.06D It shall be unlawful to underwater spearfish within 100 yards (300 feet) of any designated swimming or water ski jump area, boat dock, boat ramp, or spillway.

006.06E Only hand spears, rubberband-powered spear guns, compressed air, and spring-loaded power spear guns are legal. Spear guns may be attached to a float or buoy using any length of line.

006.06F All spears shall be attached to a lanyard shooting line with a maximum length of twenty feet.

006.06G The Divers Flag shall be displayed on the water on a float or buoy during any diving or underwater spearfishing. Any diver or underwater spear fisherman shall not exceed a distance of greater than 150 feet from his divers flag. The flag shall be square and not less than 12" square. The color shall be red background and with white diagonal stripe one-fifth of the flag width. The diagonal stripe shall extend from the top of the hoist to the bottom of the flag.

006.06H It is unlawful to display the Divers Flag when diving or underwater spearfishing is not in progress.

~~006.06I It shall be unlawful to take or possess more than the daily bag and possession limits or individual fish outside the legal length range as prescribed in 006.03.~~

006.06J Recognition of this flag by regulation will not be construed as conferring any rights or privileges on its users nor be construed as restricting the use of the water so marked. Operators of boats shall exercise precaution commensurate with conditions indicated.

006.06KJ Underwater spearfishing regulations shall not apply to authorized agents of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission when engaged in experimental studies or fish management projects.

006.06LK Upon written approval of the Director, specified species and specified waters may be opened for a limited time to underwater spearfishing for special events, and for fish management purposes.

006.07 SET LINES, LIMB LINES AND ICE FISHING

FLOAT JUG LINES shall be defined as any line not attached to the shoreline or pole.

SET LINES shall be defined as a long, heavy fishing line to which one to five hooks are attached in series.

LIMB LINES shall be defined as a fishing line attached to any trees or brush along a bank.

006.07A It shall be unlawful to use **float jug** lines in any waters of the state.

006.07B It shall be unlawful to use set lines or limb lines in any pond, lake or reservoir.

006.07C The angler's name, address, fishing permit number and/or driver's license number shall be attached legibly to all limb and set lines.

006.07D It shall be unlawful to use more than five lines while ice fishing and it shall be unlawful to use more than two hooks on each line while ice fishing.

006.07E Each ice fishing line used must be under the direct supervision and within the unaided observation of the angler.

006.08 SNAGGING:

006.08A It shall be unlawful to take any fish by snagging fish externally by hook and line except that paddlefish and nongame fish in open waters of the Missouri River downstream from Gavins Point Dam to the mouth of the Big Sioux River at mile marker 734 except for a closed area immediately below Gavins Point Dam downstream to a line that extends from the east end of the south cement wall of the discharge canal northwest to the east end of the chalk point. The snagging season starts on October 1st and ends on October 31st with legal snagging hours running from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Any other game fish accidentally snagged must be returned to the water immediately.

006.08A1 Paddlefish harvested by snagging may be possessed only on that section of the Missouri River where paddlefish harvest is allowed during the open season.

006.08A2 Only one hook per line may be used when snagging. Hook size must be no larger than ½ inch from point to shank.

006.08A3 It shall be unlawful to use a gaff hook or other penetrating device while landing snagged paddlefish.

006.08B A harvest quota will be managed by issuing not more than one-thousand six hundred paddlefish permits with a limit of no more than two permits per person. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of permits allocated as authorized by the Commission, successful applicants will be determined by a random draw.

006.08C All snaggers must obtain and have in their possession while fishing a paddlefish permit and an open paddlefish tag in addition to a valid Nebraska fishing permit to be actively snagging. Those anglers with a non-resident paddlefish permit must also possess a valid non-resident Nebraska fishing permit.

006.08C1 Applications: Anglers applying for a paddlefish permit must provide the following information: name, address, daytime telephone number, last four digits of their Social Security Number, date of birth, gender, hair color, eye color, height, and weight. Application forms to submit such information to the Commission are available at the Commission headquarters, at all District Offices, on the Commission website, and in the Fishing Guide. The first application period will run from 1 P.M. CDT July 1 to July 31 14. Mail applications must be received in the Lincoln office, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, by 5 p.m. CDT on July 31 14; internet applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. CDT on July 31 14. If there are permits remaining after the first drawing the remaining permits will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis, with sales starting at 1:00 p.m. CDT on the first working day of September.

006.08C2 Permits will be distributed to eligible applicants through a random drawing based on preference points earned.

006.08C3 Preference points: Any eligible person who properly applies for and is denied a paddlefish permit during the first application period beginning in 2007 shall receive a preference

point, and one additional point shall be added or awarded for each year he or she is unsuccessful in the drawing. Such preference points shall be used to determine priority in the permit drawing, with persons having the most points receiving the greatest priority. If two applicants submit a joint application (buddy permit), priority will be given based on the lowest number of points possessed by either applicant. Any person who is issued a paddlefish permit shall lose all accumulated preference points, and any person who does not apply at least once during five consecutive years shall lose all accumulated points.

006.08C4 An individual may not submit more than one application for a paddlefish snagging permit during any paddlefish snagging application period.

006.08C5 Two anglers may submit a joint application (buddy permit) but both must be either residents or non-residents. A resident cannot submit a joint application with a non-resident.

006.08C6 An individual must be 12 years old by October 1 to apply for a paddlefish snagging permit.

006.08D Ninety-five percent of the paddlefish permits available will be reserved for residents. If the number of residents applying for permits exceeds the number of permits available, any of the five percent of the permits reserved for non-residents remaining after the application period, will be issued to resident anglers identified by the random draw.

006.08F A paddlefish must be tagged immediately in the dorsal fin upon addition to the creel with the anglers paddlefish tag. Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment, altered, or modified shall be void and not be replaced.

006.08F1 A snagger must cast for and hook their own fish.

006.08F2 ~~Only the snout anterior to the eyes and viscera may be removed from snagged paddlefish during transport until the place of residence is reached or the paddlefish is consumed. After completion of the fishing trip and upon leaving the Missouri River, an angler can process the harvested paddlefish down to two whole fillets. Both the closed paddlefish tag and permit would need to remain with the fillets.~~

006.09 REFUGE LAKES:

006.09A VALENTINE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LAKES (Cherry County): It shall be unlawful to fish in any manner other than by hook and line, bow and arrow and hand spear during daylight hours, January 1 through December 31, unless otherwise posted.

Refuge lakes open to fishing, a 15 inch minimum length limit is in effect for largemouth bass. For northern pike there is a maximum length limit of 28 inches on all refuge lakes.

The possession or use of live or dead baitfish and the possession of any fish not taken from these waters is unlawful. However, frozen or dead smelt may be used for bait.

006.09B CRESCENT LAKE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE LAKES (Garden County): Fishing is permitted during daylight hours on Island Lake from January 1 through December 31, as per refuge regulations.

Fishing is permitted during daylight hours on Smith Lake from November 1 through February 15, as per refuge regulations.

The possession or use of live or dead baitfish and the possession of any fish not taken from these waters is unlawful. However, frozen or dead smelt may be used for bait.

006.09C NORTH PLATTE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Scotts Bluff County): Fishing is permitted from January 15 through October 14 as posted, except that the dam at Lake Minatare and an area paralleling the shoreline at the dam and extending 150 feet lakeward to points of intersection with the shoreline zones shall be closed to fishing March 1 through April 30 from sunset to sunrise.

006.09D DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Sport fishing by hook and line and archery is permitted as designated by refuge regulations. The use of trot lines and float lines is unlawful. All fishermen shall conform with the regulations of the State in which they are licensed, either Nebraska or Iowa.

006.10 BORDER WATERS:

06.10A Any person possessing a valid fishing license or permit issued by the state of South Dakota, Iowa or Missouri, or who is legally exempted from those license or permit requirements, without further permit or license, may fish for any species except paddlefish with hook and line, bow and arrow and surface spears in the flowing portions and backwaters, sloughs and chutes that draw water from the Missouri River proper within the boundary of Nebraska adjacent to the state where they possess a valid fishing license or permit or are exempted from having one. These anglers may also fish with hook and line, bow and arrow, and surface spears in the Nebraska portion of any oxbow lakes through which a state boundary passes for a state where they possess a valid fishing license or permit or are exempted from having one. Any person possessing a valid fishing license or permit issued by the state of Iowa or Missouri or is legally exempted from those license or permit requirements without further permit or license, may fish all waters of the Hamburg Bend Wildlife Management Area and the Nebraska portion of the Missouri River between the Hamburg Bend chute entrance structure (River Mile 555.5) and chute exit structure (River Mile 552.1).

Except that in the tailwaters of Gavins Point Dam from the dam to 0.6 miles downstream, a non-resident Nebraska fishing permit is required of persons who are not residents of Nebraska or South Dakota when fishing from boat or either bank.

006.10A1 All reciprocal privileges in Section 006.10A shall be contingent upon a grant of like privileges by the appropriate neighboring state to the permitted, licensed or exempted hook and line, bow and arrow, or surface spearfishing anglers of Nebraska.

006.10A2 Regulations regarding method of take, size, bag and possession limits of the more restrictive state between the licensing state and the State of Nebraska shall apply in South Dakota, Iowa and Missouri boundary waters.

006.10A3 Anglers licensed, permitted, or exempted in South Dakota, Iowa or Missouri may fish from or attach devices or equipment to land under the jurisdiction of Nebraska adjacent to the state where they possess a valid fishing license or permit or are exempted from having one.

006.11 LEGAL NETS, TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES: It shall be unlawful to possess or use any and all nets, traps, electrical gear

capable of stunning fish, or other devices except legal baitfish methods of take described in Section 009.04 or under authorization of special permits as follows:

6.11A Commercial Fishing Permit

6.11B Private Pond Authorization

6.11C Salvage

06.11D Scientific Collectors

006.11E Landing nets, made of non-metallic mesh used only for the landing of fish caught on hook and line.

006.11F. Legal turtle traps as described in Section 006.03T.

006.12 SPECIAL AREAS: Special regulations are in effect on the following areas:

006.12A TWO RIVERS STATE RECREATION AREA (Douglas County):

006.12A1 A daily trout fishing tag is required to possess trout on the Two Rivers State Recreation Area (fee \$4.00).

006.12A2 FEE FISHING AREA: Lake No. 5 within the Two Rivers State Recreation Area (Douglas County), is designated as a special trout fishing area, subject to the following regulations:

006.12A2a Each daily trout fishing tag allows the angler to harvest four (4) trout. A maximum of three tags can be purchased per angler day with a possession limit set at twelve (12) trout.

006.12A2b The open season dates will be prescribed and posted by the Commission with fishing allowed between sunrise and one-half hour after sunset.

006.12A2c Each fisherman shall wear the trout tag or tags, on his person in a conspicuous place while fishing during the time period of March 1 through June 30.

006.12A2d Up to two children, under the age of 16, are allowed to fish with an adult holding a valid trout tag. The bag limit of four trout per tag is maintained for the group.

006.12A2e Each fisherman shall be limited to the use of one rod and reel or fishing pole, and bow and arrow fishing, snagging and spearing are prohibited.

006.12A2f All fish, live or dead, are prohibited as bait.

006.12A2g Each fisherman shall keep his fish on a separate stringer or container under his control.

006.12A2h Each trout caught shall be counted in the bag limit, and no trout caught shall be returned to the water.

006.12A2i Each fisherman shall report his catch at the Administration Building and return his tag or tags each day when finished.

006.12A2j Each fisherman's resident or nonresident fishing permit will be held until his tag or tags and catch report are returned.

006.12B TROUT SPAWNING STREAMS tributary to the North Platte River and McConaughy Reservoir (Sioux, Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Garden and Keith counties): it shall be unlawful to possess a net or seine of any type on the following streams.

Upper Dugout Creek	Silvernail Drain Creek
Pumpkin Creek	Dry Sheep Creek
Wildhorse Creek	Spotted Tail Creek
Stuckenhole Creek	Dry Spotted Tail Creek
Nine Mile Creek	Otter Creek
Tub Springs Creek	Clear Creek
Winter Creek	Lonergan Creek
Indian Creek	Cedar Creek

006.12B1 Legal landing nets shall have a maximum diameter of 12 inches, a maximum depth of 15 inches and a maximum handle length of 3 feet.

~~006.12C Wildwood Wildlife Management Area (Lancaster County)~~

~~006.12C1 It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish, while fishing Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County). Provided further, that while fishing Wildwood Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

~~006.12DC~~ EUGENE T. MAHONEY STATE PARK, BARIGHT LAKE (Cass County):

It shall be unlawful to fish in the lake EXCEPT:

~~006.12D1C1~~ Children under 16 years of age, handicapped adults, and adults (parents or guardians) assisting children fishing under their supervision are permitted to fish the entire lake, except the immediate marina area.

~~006.12E CLEAR LAKE (Brown County): It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use baitfish, alive or dead, while fishing in Clear Lake (Brown County). Provided further, that while fishing in Clear Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from this lake.~~

~~006.12FD~~ SHERMAN RESERVOIR (Sherman County) Sherman Dam and the area paralleling the shoreline at the dam extending 150 feet lakeward, along with the constructed artificial spawning reef located on the southwest corner of the dam, shall be closed to fishing from sunset to sunrise April 1 through April 20th.

~~006.12GE~~ SCHRAMM PARK (Sarpy County) Fishing is prohibited on all areas of Schramm Park except for the Platte River and for events sponsored by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

~~006.12HF~~ PLATTE RIVER STATE PARK, JENNY NEWMAN LAKE (Cass County)

006.12H1F1 Children under 16 years of age and adults (parents or guardians) assisting children fishing under their supervision are permitted to fish the entire lake, except the immediate marina area.

006.12H2F2 Possession of any fish species while fishing this lake is prohibited. This lake is designated a "No Kill Lake," thus all species must be returned unharmed to the lake immediately by the angler.

~~006.12I OLIVE CREEK LAKE SRA (Lancaster County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish, while fishing Olive Creek Lake SRA (Lancaster County). Provided further, that while fishing Olive Creek Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

~~006.12J PIBEL LAKE (Wheeler County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Pibel Lake (Wheeler County). Provided further, that while fishing Pibel Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

~~006.12K CHALKROCK LAKE (Cedar County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Chalkrock Lake (Cedar County). Provided further, that while fishing in Chalkrock Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from this lake.~~

006.12LG LAKE MCCONAUGHY (Keith County)

006.12L1G1 It shall be unlawful to have in possession walleye on that portion of Otter Creek from its junction at the lake shore of Lake McConaughy upstream to and including the culvert under Highway 92.

006.12L2G2 From sunset to sunrise, April 1 through April 30, fishing from a boat within 30 yards of the dam shall be allowed only on that portion of the dam 200 feet north of the morning glory (outlet), with boat travel in a south-to-north (counter clockwise) direction required.

~~006.12M FRYE LAKE (Grant County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Frye Lake (Grant~~

County). Provided further, that while fishing Frye Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.

~~006.12N YANKEE HILL LAKE (Lancaster County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Yankee Hill Lake (Lancaster County). Provided further, that while fishing Yankee Hill Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

~~006.12O HOLMES LAKE (Lancaster County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Holmes Lake (Lancaster County). Provided further, that while fishing Holmes Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

006.12PH BLUE LAKE (Garden County) Blue Lake is closed to access during the nine-day firearm deer season.

~~006.12Q HEDGEFIELD LAKE (Lancaster County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Hedgefield Lake (Lancaster County). Provided further, that while fishing Hedgefield Lake, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

~~006.12R LAKE WANAHOO (Saunders County) It shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish while fishing Lake Wanahoo (Saunders County). Provided further, that while fishing Lake Wanahoo, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from the lake.~~

006.12SI Kea West WMA Lake (Buffalo County) It shall be unlawful to harvest any fish species. This lake is managed as a total catch and release fishery.

006.12TJ East Hershey WMA (Lincoln County) It shall be unlawful to harvest any fish species. This lake is managed as a total catch and release fishery.

006.12UK West Brady WMA (Lincoln County) It shall be unlawful to harvest any fish species. This lake is managed as a total catch and release fishery.

006.13 On the following fishing areas it shall be unlawful to have in possession or use live baitfish, while fishing on that waterbody. Provided further, that while fishing that waterbody, it shall also be unlawful to have in possession any live fish other than those taken from that waterbody. These waterbodies are as follows:

Ansley City Lake (Custer County),
Arnold Lake (Custer County),
Bethphage Pond (Kearney County),
Chalkrock Lake (Cedar County),
Clear Lake (Brown County),
Cottonmill Lake (Buffalo County),
Frye Lake (Grant County),
Grand Island Such's Lake (Hall County),
Heartwell Park Pond (Adams County),
Hedgefield Lake (Lancaster County),
Holdrege City North Lake (Phelps County),
Holmes Lake (Lancaster County),
Iron Horse Trail Lake (Pawnee County),
Lake Wanahoo (Saunders County),

Lexington City Lake (Dawson County),
Lincoln Park Pond (Nuckolls County),
North Platte I-80 Lake (Lincoln County),
Olive Creek Lake (Lancaster County),
Pibel Lake (Wheeler County),
Ravenna Lake (Buffalo County),
Meadowlark Lake (Seward County),
Skyview Lake (Madison County),
Ta-Ha-Zouka Park Pond (Madison County),
Victoria Springs (Custer County),
Wildwood Lake (Lancaster County),
Yankee Hill Lake (Lancaster County),
Yanney Park Lake (Buffalo County).