

NEBRASKA TECHNICAL NOTE



U. S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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BIOLOGY TECHNICAL NOTE NO. 11 (Revised)

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PRIVATE FISH POND STOCKING ASSISTANCE FROM THE NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) can often provide private land owners with technical assistance on fish pond management and in many cases fish for stocking. The attached materials provide information on the NGPC policy for stocking privately owned ponds as well as an application form to be completed by pond owners wishing to get largemouth bass and bluegills fingerlings for stocking.

A list of sources to buy fish for stocking is available from the NGPC. As of the date of this publication the NGPC contact person is Jeff Blaser, 402-471-5435.

Please remove Biology Technical Note No. 11 (Revised) dated April 17, 2000, from your files and replace it with this revision.

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NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
PRIVATE WATERS STOCKING POLICY
11-08-00

Although the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC) provides fish for stocking privately owned ponds, the pond owner is not obligated to give up trespass rights. Therefore, angler access to the pond can be denied. However, the pond owner cannot charge a fee to fish the pond. In order for the pond to be stocked with largemouth bass and bluegill fingerlings, the pond must meet the following minimum requirements:

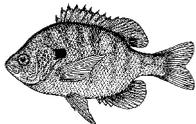
- **one-half surface acre or larger**
- **25% of the pond at least 10 feet deep (exceptions could be spring fed ponds, natural lakes, and those at the discretion of inspecting biologist)**
- **no other fish present at the time of stocking (with the exception of recently stocked channel catfish)**
- **minimum water clarity of 8 inches, since high turbidity hinders development of a largemouth bass-bluegill fishery**
- **fencing to exclude livestock from the pond will be required under certain circumstances**

A valid Nebraska fishing license is required of every person 16 years old or older who fishes these ponds as well as compliance with current state fishing regulations. A file of stocked ponds will be available in each NGPC District office. All applications must be received no later than June 1 to be considered for stocking during that calendar year.

The fish provided by NGPC for the stocking of private ponds will be available only after all needs of the state's public waters have been supplied. Applications for fish will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis as long as fish are available. If a shortage of fish exists, all unfilled applications will be canceled and the pond owner will be notified and included on the list for the next year.

The fish available for stocking of private ponds will be bluegill and largemouth bass. They will be delivered on a split-stocking basis. Bluegill will be stocked at a rate of 500 fingerlings per surface acre in September the first year. Largemouth bass fingerlings will be stocked in July at a rate of 100 per surface acre the second year. It will likely be necessary for the pond owner to meet the distribution truck at a point determined by the state's district biologist in order to receive the fish. Other fish species that are considered suitable for existing habitat may be included for the stockings of spring fed ponds and natural lakes.

Since Nebraska is currently not spawning channel catfish, pond owners desiring channel catfish for their pond must purchase them from a private aquaculturist. A list of licensed aquaculturists is available. When channel catfish are stocked in combination with largemouth bass and bluegill, it is recommended that fingerlings (2-3") be stocked at a rate of 100 per surface acre in the fall of the first and second years. No other species of fish are recommended to be stocked when using the largemouth bass - bluegill - channel catfish combination. If channel catfish only are stocked, the stocking rate should be 200-300 fingerlings per surface acre the first year. Refer to the pond manual for fish management guidelines.



**NEBRASKA GAME AND PARKS COMMISSION
APPLICATION FOR FISH AND
POND MANAGEMENT REPORT FORM**

Pond Owner/Operator: _____ Phone: _____ (Home)
Address: _____ (Work)
City: _____ Zip: _____

Pond Location (from nearest town): _____

County: _____ Quarter _____ Section _____ Township _____ Range _____
(Illustrate location on reverse side)

Surface Acres: _____ Depth: _____ Date constructed: _____

Use by livestock: _____

Watershed: % grassland _____ % crop _____ % other (describe) _____

Is pond open to fishing by permission without charge? _____

Fish present in pond: _____

Instructions: The kind and number of fish provided will be determined after review of the application and a pond inspection. The deadline for receiving applications in this office is **June 1** for stocking during that calendar year. Applications will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please complete this form accurately and completely for each pond you want stocked, failure to do so will mean disqualification.

Mail to: Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, P. O. Box 30370, Lincoln, NE 68503.

I herein make application for fish. It is understood and agreed that all fish secured are to be used for initial stocking in the pond described above, which will be posted with the sign provided and open to fishing by permission without charge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

FOR STATE USE ONLY Private Pond Activity Report Form

Type of Contact: Walkin _____ Letter _____ Phone _____ Field investigation _____

Date: _____ Time Spent: _____

Activity and/or Summary of Recommendation: _____

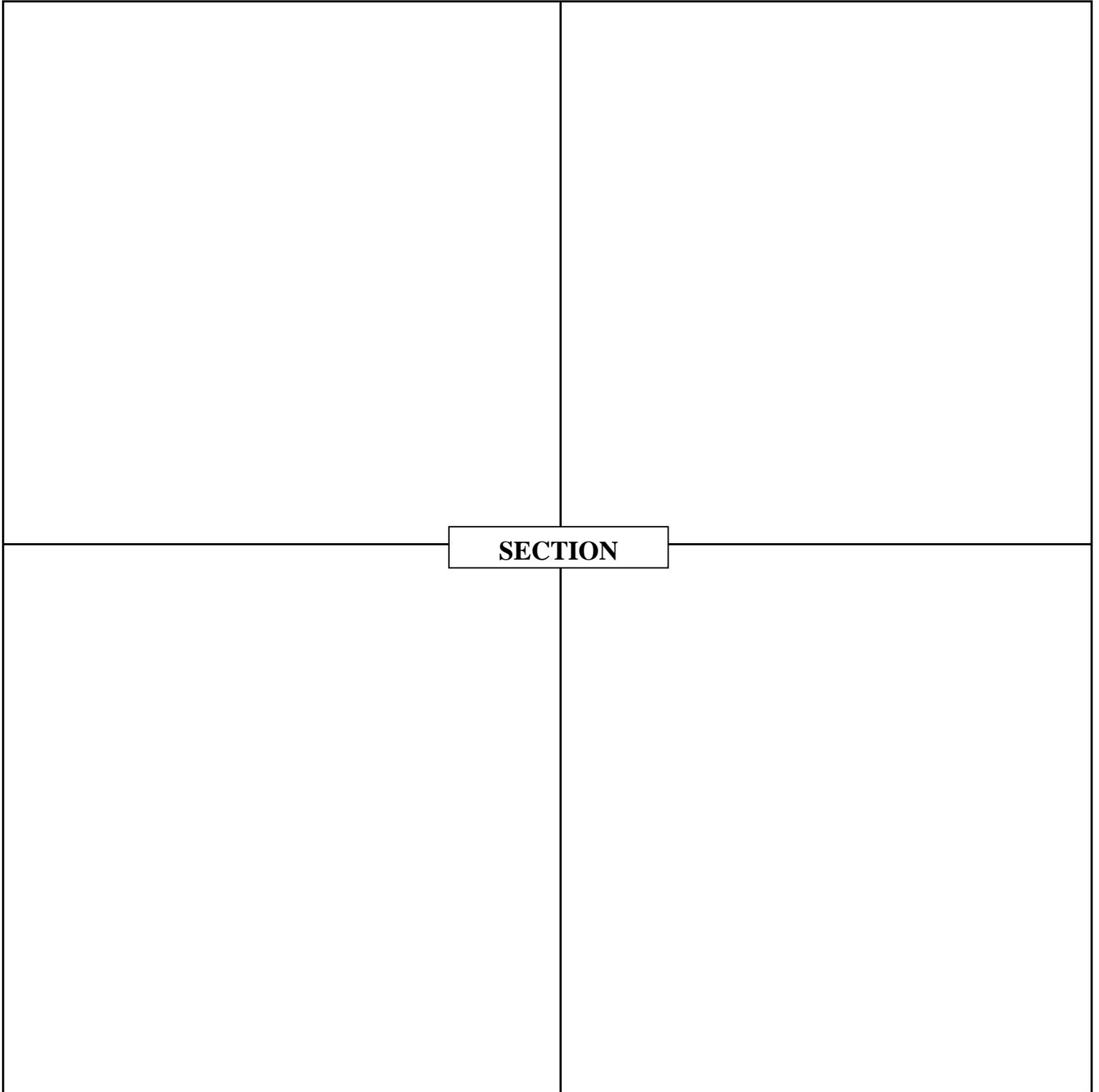
Approved for stocking _____ Disapproved for stocking _____

Biologist: _____

| Stocking Date | | Number | Received by: | Source of fish/delivered by |
|---------------|-----|--------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | BLG | | | |
| | LMB | | | |
| | | | | |

3/9/00

PLEASE DRAW IN LOCATION OF THE POND, IN RELATION TO QUARTER
SECTION



Section _____ Township _____ Range _____

