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(Neb.)-Game And Parks Says Walleye Egg Collections To Begin April 1st



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/28/2013 10:30 AM

(LINCOLN)—The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will begin collecting walleye the night of April 1st at Sherman and Merritt reservoirs and the following week at Lake McConaughy, weather permitting. Closures and warnings for boaters and anglers will be in place, which are needed to keep fishing lures and boat props from becoming entangled in nets. Anglers and boaters must avoid Game and Parks boats and nets at all three reservoirs.

At Sherman, waters within 150 feet of the dam, including the spawning reefs on the southwest end of the dam, are closed to fishing from sunset to sunrise from April 1-20.

At McConaughy, a portion of the face of Kingsley Dam will be closed temporarily to fishing from sunset to sunrise. The northern third of the dam – approximately a half mile – will be off limits to bank and boat anglers. The area of the dam closed during walleye egg collection will include the area from the beginning of the rocks on the north end to a point south on the dam that Game and Parks will mark with a flashing hazard light. In addition, there is a special boating regulation on McConaughy that applies to anglers fishing the dam area from April 1-30. From sunset to sunrise, fishing from a boat within 30 yards of the dam is allowed only on that portion of the dam starting 200 feet north of the outlet, with travel in a counterclockwise direction required. Walleye netting will take place until the egg quota has been met. Gill netting along the dams at night will capture females, while electroshocking boats will collect male walleyes. Spawning operations will take place on the reservoirs during the morning, then the fertilized eggs will be transferred to Nebraska state fish hatcheries for hatching.

It should take 5-10 days to collect the nearly 62 million eggs needed to satisfy walleye stocking requests for Nebraska waters in 2013. Inclement weather or poor catch rates could extend efforts and dam closures.

--Nebraska Game and Parks Commission