

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission began collecting walleye the night of April 1 at Sherman and Merritt reservoirs and will collect the following week at Lake McConaughy, weather permitting.

Closures and warnings for boaters and anglers again are in place. Those 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 McConaughy, a portion of the face of Kingsley Dam is closed temporarily to fishing from sunrise to sunset. The northern third of the dam—approximately a half mile—is off limits to bank and boat anglers. The area of the dam closed during walleye egg collection includes 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 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.