

What? Gar? "E lawai'a kākou!" Let's go fishing!

Nebraska is home to two primary native Gar species: the Longnose Gar and the Shortnose Gar.

If you observe long, slender shadows near the water's surface, these are likely Gar.

Anglers at Hawaiian Village have reported concerns that the Gar population in the lake may be impacting our game fish population.

Gar are large, fast-growing fish that primarily feed on other fish. It is possible that annual game fish stocking efforts are simply feeding the Gar. Therefore, it has been suggested that anglers begin targeting Gar to help reduce their environmental impact.

Gar are best caught using a specialized lure with strings that tangle in their teeth, rather than a traditional hook. This is because their snout is composed of hard bone, with only a small amount of hookable flesh in the corners of their jaws. Caution! Wear gloves while handling these fish, they have sharp teeth and foul temperament.

How to Fish for Gar: <https://www.in-fisherman.com/editorial/Gar-fishing/156374>

Regulations:

- When landing a Gar, harvest the catch for population control; do not return it to the lake.
- Gar are classified as non-game fish in Nebraska, meaning there is no bag limit.
- Fishing for Gar is open year-round.
- Foul hooking (snagging) is not permitted.
- A valid *Nebraska Fishing Permit* (which includes the Aquatic Habitat Stamp) is required for bowfishing.
- A valid fishing permit is required for anyone 16 years or older.
- Permits can be purchased online via the *Go Outdoors Nebraska* portal.
- Nebraska residents pay \$41 for an annual permit.

Ways to Land a Gar:

(Remember, these methods are for non-game fish!)

If in doubt, check <https://outdoornebraska.gov/>

- Hook and Line: Year-round
- Underwater Spearfishing: Year-round
- Surface Spearfishing: Year-round
- Archery: Year-round

Gar are considered good to eat, but they can be challenging to clean. If you are only helping with population control, please follow the State of Nebraska's disposal rules.

Disposal Rules:

- It is strictly unlawful to leave dead fish or any body parts on the banks or floating in the water of any stream or lake.
- If harvested, you must pack them out and dispose of them properly at home (e.g., in the trash or garden compost).

Photo shows from top down: Longnose, Shortnose, and hybrid Gar.

