Iowa Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations

Hunting effective through June 30, 2004

Fishing effective through Dec. 31, 2004

Free Fishing Days June 4, 5 & 6 - Iowa Residents Only

Hunting and Fishing season information is available in separate publications (see p. 2)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
515-281-5918
TABLE OF CONTENTS

This booklet does not contain hunting or fishing seasons or bag limits. Hunting seasons are published in the Upland Game, Trapping and Waterfowl Regulations available in late August. Fishing seasons are published in the Iowa Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits booklet available in early December. Deer and turkey hunting seasons and regulations are available in the Iowa Deer and Fall Turkey Hunting Regulations available in mid August. All of these publications can be found on the Iowa DNR website www.iowadnr.com. A limited supply will be available at license vendors and DNR offices across the state.

Iowa Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Regulations

DNR Regional Offices and Biologists Offices .................3
Conservation Officers .................................................4-5
Fisheries Bureau Offices ..............................................6
License and Fee Requirements ........................................7-9
Hunter Education .........................................................9
Definitions .....................................................................10
General Hunting Information ........................................11-14
Nontoxic Shot Areas ....................................................13
Liquidated Damages .....................................................14
Multiple Offender .........................................................14
Migratory Game Bird Regulations ...................................15-16
Federal Regulations -- Summary .....................................15
North-South Waterfowl Zones Maps/Description ..............15
Harvest Information Program ........................................16
Wildlife Refuges .........................................................16
Canada Goose Closed Areas ..........................................17
Sunrise-Sunset Map and Schedule ..................................18
Trapping/Hunting Furbearers .......................................19-20
Motor Vehicle Restrictions ..........................................21
Falconry .......................................................................21
Protected Nongame .....................................................21
ATV Use and Hunting ................................................21
Regulated Harvest and Sale of American Ginseng ..........22
Taxidermy ....................................................................22
Dog Restrictions .........................................................22
Fishing Regulations ....................................................23-39
Law Enforcement/Miscellaneous Information .................26
Fish Iowa! on the Web ..................................................26
Official Big Fish Registry .............................................27
Iowa All-Time Record Fish ..........................................28
Weight Estimation Formula ........................................29
Free Fishing Information .............................................29
Length Limits ............................................................30-31
Places to Fish in Iowa ................................................32-33
Fish Identification Tips ..............................................34-35
Boundary Water Regulations ......................................36
Boating Regulations and Tips ......................................37
Waterway Invaders to Watch Out For ..........................38
REAP License Plate Availability ..................................38
Sport Fish Restoration Projects ....................................39

NOTICE:
This booklet is not a complete set of hunting laws. It contains basic information needed during the hunting, fishing and trapping seasons. For specific questions not covered in this booklet, contact your local conservation officer or the DNR Central Office at (515) 281-5918. Any changes to fish and game laws will be reflected in supplemental publications.

Poaching Is A Crime!

If you observe or know of a fish or wildlife violation, report it to TIP as soon as possible by calling 1-800-532-2020. Provide as much information as possible when you call, such as a description of the possible violator, the vehicle and the time and location of the violation.

A conservation officer will be dispatched to investigate. Since the TIP program began in 1985, more than $100,000 has been approved in reward payments.

Turn In Poachers
1-800-532-2020
You can remain anonymous!
**PHONE NUMBERS**

**Wildlife Management Biologists’ Phone Numbers**

1. Bays Branch Wildlife Unit 641/332-2019
2. Big Marsh Wildlife Unit 641/456-3730
3. Big Sioux Wildlife Unit 712/336-3524
4. Black Hawk Wildlife Unit 712/657-2639
5. Coralville Wildlife Unit 319/354-8343
6. Ingham Wildlife Unit 712/362-2091
7. Maquoketa Wildlife Unit 563/652-3132
8. Missouri River Wildlife Unit 712/423-2426
9. Mount Ayr Wildlife Unit 641/464-2220
10. Odessa Wildlife Unit 319/523-8319
11. Otter Creek Wildlife Unit 641/752-5521
12. Rathbun Wildlife Unit 641/774-4918
13. Red Rock Wildlife Unit 515/961-0716
14. Rice Lake Wildlife Unit 641/324-2431
15. Riverton Wildlife Unit 712/374-3133
16. Ruthven Wildlife Unit 712/262-4177
17. Saylorville Wildlife Unit 515/432-2235
18. Sweet Marsh Wildlife Unit 563/425-4257
19. Upper Iowa Wildlife Unit 563/382-4895
20. Wapello Wildlife Unit 515/682-3552

For more information on the following species, contact:

**Waterfowl and Furbearers**
Fish and Wildlife Station, 1203 N. Shore Drive, Clear Lake, IA 50428 - 641/357-3517

**Nongame Wildlife, Pheasants, Quail and Rabbits**
Wildlife Research Station, 1436 255th Street, Boone, IA 50036 - 515/432-2432

**Deer, Wild Turkey and Ruffed Grouse**
Fish and Wildlife Station, Red Haw State Park, Chariton, IA 50049 - 641/774-2958

For questions concerning wildlife damage to private property, contact:
Greg Harns at 563/886-3767, or
Bill Bunger, Box 119AA Suite 5, Chariton, 50049-9209, 641/344-4021.

**REGIONAL OFFICES**
(DNR Fish, Game and Law Enforcement)

**HEADQUARTERS**
Wallace State Office Bldg., 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034; 515/281-5918

**NORTHWEST**
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery, 122 252nd Ave., Spirit Lake, IA 51360; 712/336-1840

**NORTH-CENTRAL**
Fish and Wildlife Station, 1203 North Shore Drive, Clear Lake, IA 50428; 641/357-3517

**NORTHEAST**
Manchester Fish Hatchery, 22693 205th Avenue, Manchester, IA 52057; 563/927-3276

**SOUTHWEST**
Cold Springs State Park, 57744 Lewis Rd., Lewis, IA 51544; 712/769-2587

**SOUTH-CENTRAL**
Wallace State Office Bldg., 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034; 515/281-8174

**SOUTHEAST**
Lake Darling State Park, 110 Lake Darling Road, Brighton, IA 52540; 319/694-2430.

Other Publications on the Iowa DNR Website

**Hunting**
Upland Game, Trapping and Waterfowl Regulations
Upland Population Distribution Map (September)
August Roadside Survey (September)
Deer and Fall Turkey (August)
Spring Turkey Hunting booklet (November)
Nonresident Deer Application Information (March)
Public Hunting Areas (listed as wildlife management areas)
Licensed Hunting Preserves
Iowa Conservationist Magazine

**Boating and Fishing**
Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits (December)
Iowa Boating Regulations
Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide
Lake Fishing Guide
Trout Fishing Guide
Trout Stocking Schedule
Fish Iowa!

**Parks**
State Park and Recreation Areas
State Park Regulations and Rate Schedule
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co. #</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Conservation Officers</th>
<th>Phone Numbers For Conservation Officers (C) = cell number</th>
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<td>-Randy Schnoeben</td>
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www.iowadnr.com

RECREATION SAFETY OFFICERS

NW - Dist 1.  Marty Eby ................................................................. 712/260-1036(C) 712/262-8379(H) |
NE - Dist 2.  Pat Jorgensen ................................................................ 319/240-8640(C) 319/472-2181(H) |
SW - Dist 3.  Dale Anderson ................................................................ 712/250-0302(C) 712/769-2231(H) |
SE - Dist 4.  Craig Jackson ................................................................ 319/357-1812(C) 319/886-2203(H) |
NC - Dist 5.  Vacant ............................................................................. 641/425-0826(C) |
SC - Dist 6.  Allen Crouse .................................................................. 515/238-4955(C) 541/942-6112(H)
Dead fish can be a sign of a natural fish kill — or a water quality problem. If you see fish floating or dead game laying in or near a stream, call the DNR Environmental Services office in your area.

**Field Office 1**
909 West Main St. Suite 4
Manchester 52057
563-927-2640

**Field Office 2**
2300 15th St. SW
P.O. Box 1443
Mason City 50401
641-424-4073

**Field Office 3**
1900 N. Grand Ave.
Spencer 51301
712-262-4177

**Field Office 4**
1401 Sunnyside
Atlantic 50022
712-243-1934

**Field Office 5**
401 SW 7th, Suite 1
Des Moines 50309
515-725-0268

**Field Office 6**
1004 West Madison
Washington 52353
319-653-2135

Iowa’s waters produce recreation for 400,000 licensed anglers who make nearly 13 million fishing trips each year and catch approximately 69 million fish. Iowa fisheries biologists may be contacted for further information regarding fishing conditions in your local area.
RESIDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2004*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>$11.00</td>
<td>17.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, 7-Day</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, 24-hour</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Habitat Fee (ages 16 to 65)</td>
<td>3.50</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout Fee</td>
<td>11.00</td>
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<td>Lifetime Fish (65 years or older)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary Water Sport Trotline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Fee (ages 16 to 65)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migratory Game Bird Fee</td>
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<td>Furharvester License (16 years or older)</td>
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<td>(Under 16 years)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting Preserve</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Hunting (65 years or older)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Combination Hunting and Fishing (Disabled military veteran or P.O.W.)</td>
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</table>

Special Licenses for Residents
1) Annual Free Fishing or, Combined Hunting and Fishing licenses are available to residents of Iowa 65 years or older with low income, or residents permanently disabled with low income.
2) Substance Abuse Facility Fishing License.
3) Disabled Veteran’s License – Available to Iowa residents that are a veteran as defined in Section 35.1, who was disabled, or who was a prisoner of war during their military service. Disabled means entitled to compensation under United States Code, title 38, chapter 11.

Applications for these special licenses and assistance may be obtained at DNR offices that sell hunting and fishing licenses, the DNR central office in Des Moines or by calling 515/281-5918.

NONRESIDENTS

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fishing, 3-Day</td>
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<td>15.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing, 24-hour</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>9.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish Habitat Fee</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trout Fee</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Boundary Water Sport Trotline</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting (18 years and older)</td>
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<td>Hunting (Under 18 years)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Habitat Fee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Migratory Game Bird Fee</td>
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<td>Furharvester License</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting Preserve</td>
<td>6.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Fee Increase is effective beginning Dec. 15, 2003

IMPORTANT

All conservation privileges, including fishing licenses, lifetime licenses, fish habitat and trout fees, are only being sold through the Electronic Licensing System for Iowa (ELSI) at more than 900 license sales agents statewide. Before purchasing an electronic license for the first time, Iowa sportsmen and sportswomen need to be aware of certain requirements.

- Under sections 252J.8 of the Iowa code and 42 U.S. Code 666 (a)(13), the DNR is required to collect social security numbers from all licensees. The primary purposes for gathering this information are to verify identity to determine applicants’ eligibility for licenses and to provide information to the Iowa Child Support Collection Unit for the purpose of establishing, modifying and enforcing child support obligations. Information may also be provided to law enforcement agencies of Iowa. Providing a social security number is mandatory when purchasing a conservation license privilege.

- Anyone currently under revocation or suspension for fish or wildlife violations will be denied purchase of a license for the activity in which they are revoked or suspended.
**LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Requirements for Purchasing Resident Licenses**

Hunters and anglers must meet at least one of the following criteria to purchase a resident fishing, hunting or trapping license in Iowa:

1. Have an Iowa driver’s license or Iowa non-operator’s identification card and have physically resided in Iowa at least 30 consecutive days immediately before applying for or purchasing a resident license.

2. Be registered to vote in Iowa. In order to do so, you must meet all of the qualifications to register to vote as outlined in Iowa Code chapter 48A.5.

3. Be a full-time student at an educational institution located in Iowa and reside in Iowa while attending the educational institution.

4. Be a nonresident under 18 years of age whose parent is a resident of Iowa.

5. Be a member of the armed forces of the United States serving on active duty, and
   a) is stationed in Iowa, or
   b) if stationed outside Iowa, claims residency in Iowa and has filed an Iowa income tax return for the preceding tax year.

**Dual Residency Not Permitted:** Unless you qualify under 3, 4 or 5 above, you may not purchase Iowa resident hunting licenses if you have done any of the following:

- Have a currently valid resident hunting, fishing, trapping or other recreational license issued in another state or country.
- Have a currently valid driver’s license issued in another state or country.
- Are legally registered to vote in another state or country.
- Claim a homestead or other state tax exemption in another state or country.
- Are receiving public assistance in another state or country.

This is not a complete list. Other privileges claimed as a resident of another state or country may also be disqualifying.

**An Iowa resident hunting license will be invalid if you:**

a) Obtain the license under false pretenses. Providing false information on a deer or wild turkey hunting license or application invalidates that license and transportation tag and all other deer or turkey licenses/tags obtained during the same year.

b) Do anything that would forfeit your eligibility for a resident license after the license is obtained, such as moving out of Iowa or purchasing a resident hunting privilege in another state or country.

**License, Fees and Stamps Required**

Iowa residents 16 years and older and nonresidents regardless of age, are required to have a valid fishing, hunting or furharvester license on their person, and have paid all applicable fees, and possess all required stamps while fishing, hunting and trapping. Exceptions are listed next.

**The following persons do not need a hunting license:**

1) Residents under 16 years old hunting under the direct supervision of their properly licensed parent or guardian. One properly licensed adult must accompany each unlicensed hunter under 16 years old. Residents 12 years old to 16 years old may hunt without adult supervision but must have a hunting license and must have passed a hunter safety course. See hunter education training requirements in the box on opposite page.

2) Owners and tenants of land in Iowa may hunt, fish, or trap on such lands and may shoot by lawful means ground squirrels, gophers or woodchucks upon adjacent roads. This applies to Iowa residents and nonresidents. Exception: Resident (or nonresident) deer and wild turkey hunting licenses are required to hunt deer and wild turkey, except that a wild turkey hunting license is not required to hunt wild turkey on a licensed hunting preserve. Persons exempted under this provision must still possess a valid Federal waterfowl stamp and have paid the Iowa Migratory Game Bird Fee in order to hunt waterfowl and other migratory game birds.

3) Military personnel on active duty with the armed forces of the U.S., on authorized leave from a duty station outside of Iowa and qualifying as a resident of Iowa. They must possess a Federal waterfowl stamp and have paid the Iowa Migratory Game Bird Fee to hunt migratory game birds. Military personnel must carry their leave papers on their person and a copy of their current earnings statement showing a tax deduction for Iowa income taxes while hunting, or fishing. In lieu of the earnings statement they may claim residency by being registered to vote in Iowa. If a deer or wild turkey is taken, an Iowa conservation officer...
must be contacted immediately to obtain a transportation tag for the animal. Conservation officer cell phone numbers are listed on pages 4 and 5.

4) Persons with a dog entered in a licensed field trial. They may participate in the event and exercise a dog on the same area where the field trial is held during the 24-hour period immediately preceding the trial.

**Trout Fee** – Iowa residents and nonresidents regardless of age must pay the Trout Fee to fish for trout.

**Wildlife Habitat Fee** – Iowa residents who are 16 to 65 years old and nonresidents regardless of age who are required to have a hunting or furharvester license must pay the Wildlife Habitat Fee to hunt or trap. Residents that have special disabled licenses are exempt.

**Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp** – Iowa residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older must have a valid Federal Migratory Waterfowl Stamp (duck stamp) on their person while hunting wild geese and wild ducks. The stamp must be signed across the face by the hunter. This stamp is required even if a hunting license is not required.

**Iowa Migratory Game Bird Fee** – All residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older must pay the Iowa Migratory Game Bird Fee to hunt wild geese, brant, wild ducks, snipe, rail, woodcock or coot. This

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**HUNTER EDUCATION**

Residents born after Jan. 1, 1972, and nonresidents born after Jan. 1, 1967, must satisfactorily complete a hunter education course in order to obtain a hunting license. A person who is 11 years-old or older may enroll in a course, but those who are 11 and successfully complete the course shall be issued a certificate of completion which becomes valid on that person’s 12th birthday. Residents under the age of 12 can be issued deer and turkey licenses, but the youth hunter must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter.

**Call 515-281-5918 or go to www.iowadnr.com for class dates and locations.**

**Alternative.** A hunter education certificate issued by another state or a foreign nation will meet the above requirement. Proof of completion is required when purchasing your first Iowa hunting license.

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You need the resident or nonresident licenses and stamps listed below to hunt or trap in Iowa. All licenses, fees and stamps must be carried on your person while hunting or trapping.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License, Fee or Stamp</th>
<th>Under 16</th>
<th>16-64</th>
<th>65 and older</th>
<th>Disabled Veteran</th>
<th>Landowner or tenant</th>
<th>Small Game</th>
<th>Waterfowl</th>
<th>Turkey</th>
<th>Furbearers</th>
<th>Deer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
<td>NR</td>
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<td>NR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hunting License</td>
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<td>Furharvesters License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deer License</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turkey License</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa Migratory Bird Fee</td>
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<td>√</td>
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<td>√</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1License not required for residents under 16 if accompanied by a licensed adult (18 years or older). See page 8. 2Lifetime hunting license available to residents who qualify. Deer and Turkey licenses, Iowa Migratory Game Bird fee and Federal Waterfowl stamp must be purchased annually. Call 515/281-5918 for more information. 3License not required for resident and nonresident landowners or tenants or their juvenile children when hunting or trapping on their own land. See page 8. 4Unless under 16 years old. 5Required for hunting and trapping all furbearers, except coyote and groundhog, which may also be taken on a hunting license. 6Except residents under 16 or over 65. See wildlife habitat fee section on page 6. 7Needed to hunt rails, snipe and woodcock but not other small game.
fee must be paid even if a hunting license is not required.

Nonresident Falconry Permit - All nonresident falconers, regardless of age, who intend to hunt with a bird of prey, must purchase and have in their possession a nonresident Falconry permit. Licenses are only available from ELSI. Call 515-281-5918 for details.

Deer and Turkey Hunters: Residents of Iowa (and nonresidents) who hunt deer or wild turkey must have a valid resident (or nonresident) deer or wild turkey hunting license in addition to a valid resident (or nonresident) hunting license and have paid the habitat fee.

Definitions

Please read the definitions of these terms, commonly used in the hunting regulations summary, before referring to the rest of the text.

“Motor vehicle” means any self-propelled vehicle having at least three wheels and which must be registered as a motor vehicle under Iowa Code Chapter 321.

“Paraplegic” means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body involving both legs, usually due to disease or injury to the spinal cord; a person who is a single or double leg amputee; or a person with any other physical affliction which makes it impossible to ambulate successfully without the use of a motor vehicle.

“Severely disabled person”, when used in reference to the Disabled Hunter deer season, means a person that qualifies as severely disabled under Iowa Code Chapter 321L.1.8, including those who have difficulty walking due to lung or heart disease or an arthritic, neurological or orthopedic condition.

“Roadway” means that portion of the highway improved, designed or ordinarily used for vehicular travel, including the shoulder (see diagram).

“One-way mobile radio transmitter” means a radio capable of transmitting a signal but not capable of transmitting a voice signal. The signal may be tracked or located by radio telemetry or located by an audible sound.

“Two-way radio transmitter” means a radio capable of transmitting and receiving voice messages, including, but not limited to, a citizen band radio or a cellular telephone. Two-way radio transmitters would also include walkie-talkies or hand held radios.

“Tenant”, for the purpose of determining license requirements, means a resident of Iowa who rents and actively farms land owned by another person. A member of the owner’s family may be a tenant. A person who works on the farm for a wage and is not a family member does not qualify as a tenant. Rent includes cash rent and sharecrop arrangements.

“Trespass” means entering property without the express permission of the owner, lessee or person in lawful possession, with the intent to commit a public offense; to use, remove therefrom, alter, damage, harass, or place anything animate or inanimate, or to hunt, fish or trap on the property.

This paragraph does not prohibit the unarmed pursuit of game or fur-bearing animals lawfully injured or killed which come to rest on or escape to the property of another. The term trespass does not mean entering the right-of-way of a public road or highway. Railroad right-of-ways are considered private property.
Hunting Accidents Must be Reported

Anyone involved in a hunting accident involving a firearm which results in a personal injury or property damage exceeding $100 must report the incident within 12 hours to the sheriff’s office where the incident occurred or to the local conservation officer. If the conservation officer is not immediately available, and it is between normal office hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F, report the incident to the law enforcement bureau of the DNR at the central office in Des Moines at 515/281-8652.

Anyone who intentionally discharges a firearm in a reckless manner is committing an offense, ranging from a simple misdemeanor to a felony, depending on the seriousness of the personal injury or damage to property.

Showing License to Officer

Upon request, you must show your license, certificate or permit to any peace officer or the owner or person in lawful control of the land or water on which you are hunting, fishing or trapping. You must have your license, certificate or permit in your possession.

Transporting Pheasants

You cannot transport a pheasant within the state without a foot, fully feathered wing or fully feathered head attached to the body.

Hunter Orange

One of the following articles of external, visible, solid blaze orange apparel is required during deer hunting with a firearm: vest, jacket, coat, sweatshirt, sweater, shirt or coverall. Although not required, hunter orange apparel is also recommended for upland game hunters. Proper use of blaze orange reduces the chances of firearm related hunting incidents.

Use of CB or Mobile Transmitter

You cannot use a mobile radio transmitter to communicate the location or direction of game or furbearing animals, or to coordinate the movement of other hunters.

Exceptions: Coyote hunters may use two-way transmitters, except during the shotgun deer seasons (including any bonus seasons). A falconer may use a one-way mobile transmitter to recover a free-flying bird of prey that is properly banded and covered on a falconry permit. Hunts with dogs may use a one-way mobile transmitter to track or aid in the recovery of the dog. (See the definitions of one-and two-way mobile radio transmitters on page 10 for more information regarding transmitters).

Laser Sights are Prohibited

You cannot use laser sights that cast a ray of light on the animal while hunting. (See the exception under the hunting by artificial light section on page 13).

Unlawful Transportation

You cannot ship, carry or transport, in any one day, game, fish, birds or animals (except furbearing animals) in excess of the number legally permitted to be possessed, unless authorized by a special license such as a taxidermy license.

Game Brought into the State

You may possess fish or game that has been lawfully taken outside the state and lawfully brought into the state, but you must be able to prove it was legally killed and legally transported into the state.

Retrieval and Waste of Game

While taking or attempting to take game or furbearing animals, you cannot abandon the injured animal without making a reasonable effort to retrieve it from the field. You cannot leave a usable portion of the game or furbearing animal in the field. “Usable portion” in this instance means the following: 1) for game, that part of an animal that is customarily processed for consumption; and 2) for furbearing animals, the fur or hide of the animal.

Possession and Storage

You cannot possess game or furbearing animals or their pelts, except deer venison, for more than 30 days after the close of the season for that species. A person in lawful possession of deer venison taken with a valid license, may hold the venison until the following September 1. From September 1 until the first day of the next deer open season for which the person holds a valid deer hunting license, the person shall not possess more than 25 pounds of deer venison. Any person may possess up to 25 pounds of deer venison if the deer was lawfully obtained. A permit to hold for a longer time period may be granted by the DNR.

Obstruction of Hunting or Trapping

No one may intentionally obstruct the participation of another in the lawful activity of hunting, fishing or trapping, including but not limited to:

A) intentionally placing oneself in a location where human presence may affect the behavior of a fur-bearing animal, game bird or fish or the feasibility of killing or taking a furbearing animal, game bird or fish with the intent of obstructing or harassing another person who is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping.

B) intentionally creating a visual, aural, olfactory or physical stimulus for the purpose of effecting the behavior of a fur-bearing animal, game bird or fish with the intent of obstructing or harassing another person who is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping.

C) intentionally affecting the
condition or altering the placement of personal property used for the purpose of taking furbearing animals, birds or fish with the intent of obstructing or harassing another person who is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping.

A person shall not interfere with the lawful hunting, fishing or trapping activities of another person where hunting, fishing or trapping is authorized by a custodian of public property or an owner or lessee of private property. This rule does not prohibit a landowner, tenant or an employee of the landowner or tenant from performing normal agricultural operations or a law enforcement officer from performing official duties.

Trespass Law

See definition on page 10.

Blinds

A blind is a constructed place of concealment for hunting, observing or photographing wildlife. You may construct a blind on a game management area using only the natural vegetation found in the area, except that no trees or parts of trees other than willows can be cut for that purpose. The use of such blinds is on a first-come, first-served basis whether or not you constructed the blind.

You cannot drive or otherwise place any nail, spike, pin or any other object, metal or otherwise, into any tree on a game management area to construct a blind or to make access to a blind or to a hunting location above the ground.

Portable blinds are prohibited on game management areas from one-half hour after sunset until midnight of each day. Portable blinds which are built on, or are part of, a boat shall be considered as removed from an area if they are in a boat or other container at an approved access site. Waterfowl decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one-half hour after sunset.

Decoys

Live animals may not be used as decoys for any type of hunting. A “decoy” is a likeness of a bird or animal used to lure game within shooting range. Motorized or mechanical decoys are legal for waterfowl hunting. Decoys are prohibited on all game management areas from one-half hour after sunset until midnight of each day. Decoys are considered removed from an area if they are in a boat or other container at an approved access site. Waterfowl decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one-half hour after sunset.

Nontoxic Shot Requirements for Public Lands

You cannot have in your possession any shotshell loaded with anything other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when hunting any migratory game birds, except woodcock, on any land or waters of the state of Iowa. Approved nontoxic shot must also be used to hunt all game animals or furbearers, except deer and wild turkey, on selected public hunting areas in north-central and northwest Iowa. See page 13 for a listing of those areas.

Selling Game

Except as otherwise provided, you cannot buy or sell, dead or alive, a bird or animal, including fish, or any part of one which is protected. This does not apply to furbearing animals and the skins, plumage and antlers of legally taken resident game. You cannot purchase, sell, barter or offer to purchase, sell or barter migratory game birds; and for millinery or ornamental use, the same applies to the feathers of migratory game birds.
General Hunting Information

Unlawful Sale

You cannot buy or sell any wild animal or part of a wild animal if the wild animal was unlawfully taken, transported or possessed.

Transporting Firearms

You may not carry a shotgun or rifle in a vehicle that is on a public highway, unless the firearm is taken down or totally contained in a securely fastened case with its barrels and magazines unloaded. Handguns must be transported unloaded in a closed container or securely wrapped package too large to conceal on your person or which is not readily accessible to any person in the vehicle. Muzzleloaders must be cased but will be considered unloaded if the cap is removed from the nipple or the primary charge is removed from the pan.

Prohibited Hunting Near Buildings

You cannot discharge a firearm or shoot or attempt to shoot a game or furbearing animal within 200 yards of a building inhabited by people or domestic livestock or a feedlot unless the owner or tenant has given consent to do so. Feedlot means a lot, yard or corral where livestock is confined for the purpose of feeding and growth prior to slaughter. Pastures, hayfields or cropfields where animals are allowed to graze are not considered feedlots.

Hunting by Artificial Light

Sights that project a light beam are not legal for hunting. You cannot cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or other artificial light on a highway or in a field, woodland or forest for the purpose of spotting, locating, taking or attempting to take or hunt a bird or animal, while having in possession or control, either singly or as one of a group of persons, any firearm, bow or other device capable of killing or taking a bird or animal. This rule does not apply to hunting raccoons or other furbearing animals when they are treed with the aid of dogs.

This rule also does not apply to deer being taken by or under the control of a local government body within its corporate limits pursuant to an approved special deer population control plan.

Chasing from Dens

You cannot have in your possession while hunting, or use while hunting, any ferret, device or substance for the purpose of chasing animals from dens.

Shooting Rifle Over Water or Highway

You cannot shoot any rifle on or over any of the public roadways or waters of the state or any railroad right-of-way. You cannot discharge a shotgun shooting a slug, pistol or revolver on or over a public roadway (see page 10 for diagram of public roadway).

Iowa Wildlife Management Areas Requiring Nontoxic Shot for All Hunting
(excluding deer and wild turkey)

Benton County, Iowa River Corridor; Boone County, Harrier Marsh WMA; Buena Vista County, all state and federal areas except Bluebird Access; Calhoun, South Twin Lake; Cerro Gordo County, all state and federal areas; Clay County, all state and federal areas except Burr Access, Dry Mud Lake, Little Sioux, Highbridge and Fen Valley WMAs, and the Ocheyedan WMA target shooting range; Dickinson County, all state and federal areas except the Spring Run WMA target shooting area; Emmet County, all state and federal areas except Birge Lake, Grass Lake and Ryan Lake WMAs, and the East Des Moines River Access; Franklin County, all state and federal areas; Greene County, all state and federal areas except Rippey Access and McMahon Access; Guthrie County, McCord Pond, Lakin Slough and Bays Branch WMAs, excluding the target shooting range at Bays Branch WMA.

Also, Hamilton County, Little Wall Lake, Gordon Marsh and Bauer Slough WMAs; Hancock County, all state and federal areas; Humboldt County, all state and federal areas except Bradgate Access and Willows Access; Iowa County, Iowa River Corridor; Jasper County, Chichaqua Wildlife Management Area; Kossuth County, all state and federal areas except Seneca Access; Osceola County, all state and federal areas; Palo Alto County, all state and federal areas; Pocahontas County, all state and federal areas except Kalsow Prairie; Polk County, Paul Errington Marsh WMA and Chichaqua WMAs; Sac County, all state and federal areas except White Horse Access and Sac City Access; Tama County, Iowa River Corridor; Winnebago County, all state and federal areas; Worth County, all state and federal areas; and Wright County, all state and federal areas.

Target shooting on these areas will also require the use of nontoxic shot.
GENERAL HUNTING INFORMATION

**Liquidated Damages**

In addition to penalties assessed by the court, a person who is convicted of unlawfully selling, taking, catching, killing, injuring, destroying or having in their possession any animal, shall reimburse the state for the value of the animal as follows:

1. For each antlered deer taken during September, October, November or December before the regular gun seasons .......... $2,000 plus 80 hours community service; or $4,000 in lieu of community service
2. For each deer ........................................................................... $1,500
3. For each wild turkey, beaver, mink, otter, red fox, gray fox or raccoon ......................................................... $200
4. For each animal or bird or the raw pelt or plumage of such animal or bird for which damages are not otherwise prescribed .......... $50
5. For each fish, reptile, mussel or amphibian ................................. $15
6. For each animal classified by the Natural Resource Commission as an endangered or threatened species .......................... $1,000
7. For each elk, antelope, buffalo or moose .......................................... $2,500
8. For each swan or crane ........................................................... $1,500

For each conviction of unlawfully harvesting ginseng, the state will be reimbursed 150 percent of the ginseng’s market value as determined by the department.

**Multiple Offender**

Effective July 1, 1990, the Iowa Legislature enabled the DNR to implement a Multiple Offender program for fish and wildlife violators.

Convictions are assigned point values as determined by the Iowa Administrative Code. Licenses will be suspended or revoked for a specific period as determined by the number of points accumulated. Point values range from one to three points depending on the seriousness of the violation. A “Multiple Offender” is any person who has equaled or exceeded five points during a consecutive three year period. This program applies even if all violations occur as a single event with no previous violations.

This program is administered by the DNR and is in addition to any penalties or revocations/suspensions imposed by the court for the same violation. Persons with suspended or revoked hunting and fishing privileges will not be allowed to purchase licenses during the suspension period.

**Wildlife Violator Compact** is an agreement between participating states that prohibits a person whose hunting or fishing privileges are suspended in one state from participating in those activities in another state. Member states include Iowa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Other states may be in the process of joining the compact.

DNR’s Charles “Butch” Olofson SHOOTING RANGE

Open Wednesdays - Sundays

Located 4 1/4 miles north of Polk City off Highway 415. Rifle, pistol, shotgun slugs, archery, blackpowder, trap and skeet shooting opportunities. Firearm shooters can shoot from 15, 25 and 50 yards with one 10-station, 100-yard bench rest range.

**FEES:** General public-$6/hour or fraction of an hour for rifle, handgun, shotgun slugs and archery; $6 per round for trap and skeet. Fee includes targets, rental of shooting glasses and protection.

For more information, about the range, call (515) 795-2067. Call the concession for range hours.
Federal Regulations

Summary

Restrictions. You cannot take migratory game birds:
- with a trap, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.
- with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.
- from a sink box (a low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water).
- from or with the aid or use of any motor vehicle or other motor-driven land conveyance or any aircraft, except that paraplegics and single or double leg amputees may take from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance.
- by the aid of bait or over a baited area. All live, tame or captive ducks and geese shall be removed for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to hunting, and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.
- by the aid of baiting or on or over a baited area where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited. A baited area is considered to be baited for 10 days after complete removal of any bait. Baiting includes placing, exposing, depositing distributing salt, grain or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Agricultural areas must be prepared in accordance with official recommendations to be legally hunted. It is a separate offense to place, or direct placement of bait, on or adjacent to an area which causes, induces or allows another to hunt by the aid of bait or over a baited area. Hunters are responsible for ensuring that an area has not been baited and should verify its legality prior to hunting. The maximum federal penalties are: for hunting over bait, $15,000/six months in jail; for placing bait, $100,000/one year in jail.
- from a motorboat or sailboat under power. A craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds, except crippled birds may not be shot from such craft under power.
- by the use or aid of recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds or recordings or electronically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds.

Closed Season

You cannot take migratory game birds during the closed season.

Shooting or Hawking Hours

You cannot take migratory game birds except during the hours open to shooting and hawking as prescribed (see page 21 for falconry information).

Daily Bag Limit

You cannot take in any one day more than one daily bag limit.

Field Possession Limit

You cannot possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or while returning from the field to the vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

Wanton Waste

All migratory game birds killed or crippled must be retrieved, if possible, and retained in the custody of the hunter in the field.

Possession of Live Birds

Wounded birds reduced to possession must be immediately killed and included in the daily bag limit.

Tagging

You cannot give, put or leave any migratory game birds at any place or in the custody of another person unless you tag the birds with the following information: 1. your signature; 2. your address; 3. the total number of birds involved, by species; 4. the dates such birds were killed.

You cannot receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

Shipment

You cannot ship migratory game birds unless the package is marked on the outside with: 1. the name and address of the person sending the birds; 2. the name and address of the person receiving the birds; and 3. the number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

Importation and Transportation Within the United States

For information regarding the importation of migratory birds killed in another country, hunters should consult the Title Waterfowl zone description

The state will be divided by a line beginning on the Nebraska-Iowa border at Iowa Highway 175, southeast to Iowa Highway 37, east to U.S. Highway 59, south to Interstate 80 and along I-80 east to the Iowa-Illinois border.
50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20. One fully feathered wing or head must remain attached to all migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, being transported between a port of entry and the hunter’s home or to a migratory bird preservation facility. You cannot import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless such birds are dressed (except as required above), drawn and the head and feet removed.

**Dual Violation**

Violation of state migratory bird regulations is also a violation of federal regulations.

**CAUTION:** National wildlife refuge regulations apply to national wildlife refuges open to hunting and trapping. On the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge: In “Closed Areas”, hunting for all legal species except migratory birds is permitted beginning the day after the final closing day of the state duck hunting season; Shotgun hunters may possess only approved nontoxic shot while hunting for all game except wild turkeys; In pools 4 through 11, you may not place or leave decoys during the time 1/2 hour after the close of legal shooting hours, until 1 hour before the start of legal shooting hours; In pools 4 through 11, construction of permanent hunting blinds using artificial materials is prohibited. At the end of each day’s hunt, you must remove all artificial materials you brought onto the Refuge. For additional information about special regulations National Wildlife Refuges, write to Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BH Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Fort Snelling, MS 55111-4056.

For additional information on federal regulations, contact Special Agent-in-Charge, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 45, Twin Cities, MN 55111. Telephone (612) 713-5320.

## Harvest Information Program (HIP)

Federal regulations require all hunters that plan to hunt migratory game birds (waterfowl, snipe, rails, woodcock) to register every year with the federal government when they buy their hunting license.

When buying the Migratory Game Bird fee, hunters will be asked the number of each species harvested last season. Hunters will no longer have to call a HIP telephone number to register or write a HIP number on their license.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will select a sample of hunters from those registered. Selected hunters will be contacted by the USFWS before the season and asked to record the number of each species of migratory game birds they bag during that year. HIP will allow for more accurate harvest estimates for each species.

## Wildlife Refuges

**Restrictions.** The following areas under the jurisdiction of the Department of Natural Resources are established as game refuges where posted as such. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, kill, trap or take any wild animal, bird or game on these areas at any time, and no one shall carry firearms thereon. It shall also be unlawful to trespass in any manner on the following areas, where posted as such, between the dates of Sept. 10 and Dec. 25 of each year, both dates inclusive, except that DNR personnel and law enforcement officials may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREA</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Icaria</td>
<td>Adams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pool Slough</td>
<td>Appanoose</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rathbun Area</td>
<td>Boone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wildlife Exhibit Area</td>
<td>Bremer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Marsh</td>
<td>Buena Vista</td>
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<td>Storm Lake Islands</td>
<td>Butler</td>
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<td>Big Marsh</td>
<td>Calhoun</td>
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<td>South Twin Lake</td>
<td>Clay</td>
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<td>Round Lake</td>
<td>Decatur</td>
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<td>Little River Rec. Area</td>
<td>Des Moines</td>
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<td>Allen Green Refuge</td>
<td>Dickinson</td>
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<td>Kettleson Area</td>
<td>Dickinson</td>
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<td>Henderson WMA</td>
<td>Dickinson</td>
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<td>Spring Run WMA</td>
<td>Emmet</td>
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<td>Ingham Lake</td>
<td>Fremont</td>
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<td>Forney Lake</td>
<td>Greene</td>
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<td>Riverton Area</td>
<td>Guthrie</td>
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<td>Dunbar Slough</td>
<td>Iowa</td>
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<td>Bays Branch</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
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<td>Iowa River</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
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<td>Green Island Area</td>
<td>Jones</td>
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<td>Hawkeye Wildlife Area</td>
<td>Lucas</td>
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<td>Muskrat Slough</td>
<td>Marion</td>
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<td>Colyn Area</td>
<td>Monona</td>
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<td>Red Rock Area</td>
<td>Monona</td>
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<td>Badger Lake</td>
<td>Monona</td>
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<td>Tieville/Decatur Bend</td>
<td>Palo Alto</td>
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<td>Five Island Lake</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<td>Big Creek/Saylorville Complex</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<td>Chichaqua Area</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<td>Cottonwood Area</td>
<td>Polk</td>
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<td>Smith Area</td>
<td>Pottawattamie</td>
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<td>Lake View Area</td>
<td>Sac</td>
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<tr>
<td>Princeton Area</td>
<td>Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prairie Rose Lake</td>
<td>Shelby</td>
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<td>Otter Creek Marsh</td>
<td>Tama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Valley Lake</td>
<td>Union</td>
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<td>Three Mile Lake</td>
<td>Union</td>
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<td>Lake Sugema</td>
<td>Van Buren</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rice Lake Area</td>
<td>Winnebago</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snyder Lake</td>
<td>Woodbury</td>
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<td>Elk Creek Marsh</td>
<td>Worth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Cornelia</td>
<td>Wright</td>
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Canada goose hunting is closed in posted portions of 25 counties (see map and list below). Maps of closed areas may be picked up from the local conservation officer, local county recorder’s office or at one of the DNR facilities contained in the Canada goose closed area list below. Telephone numbers for conservation officers (pages 4-5) and DNR offices (see page 3 & 6) are listed in this brochure. Individual closed area maps may also be ordered from the DNR by calling 515/281-5918. Be prepared to tell the area name for the map your are ordering. Allow two weeks for delivery.

1. Emmet County; Northwest Regional Office in Spirit Lake and Ingham Wildlife Unit in Estherville.
2. Clay - Palo Alto counties; Northwest Regional Office in Spirit Lake and Ruthven Wildlife Unit in Spencer.
3. Dickinson County; Northwest Regional Office in Spirit Lake and Big Sioux Wildlife Unit in Spirit Lake.
4. Worth - Winnebago counties; Northeast Regional Office in Manchester and Rice Lake Unit in Lake Mills or Northwood.
5. Rathbun Reservoir Area; Appanoose, Monroe, Lucas and Wayne counties; Southeast Regional Office in Brighton, the Rathbun Wildlife Unit in Chariton and the Corps of Engineers at Rathbun.
6. Brown’s Slough - Colyn Area; Lucas County; Southeast Regional Office in Brighton, the Rathbun Wildlife Unit in Chariton and the Corps of Engineers at Rathbun.
7. Guthrie County; Southwest Regional Office in Lewis and the Bays Branch Unit in Panora or Adel.
8. Adams County; Southwest Regional Office in Lewis, the Mt. Ayr Wildlife Unit in Mt. Ayr and the Lake Icaria Recreation Area in Corning.
9. Monona - Woodbury counties; Southwest Regional Office in Lewis or the Missouri River Unit in Onawa or Whiting.
10. No area assigned to number 10.
11. Jackson County; Northeast Regional Office in Manchester and the Maquoketa Unit in Green Island and Maquoketa.
12. Red Rock Reservoir Area; Polk, Jasper and Marion counties; Southeast Regional Office in Lewis, Red Rock Wildlife Unit in Indianola and the Corps of Engineers in Pella.
13. Davis-Van Buren counties; Southeast Regional Office in Brighton, the Wapello Wildlife Unit in Ottumwa and Lacey Keosauqua State Park.
14. Bremer County; Northeast Regional Office in Manchester and the Sweet Marsh Unit in Tripoli.
15. Butler County; Northeast Regional Office in Manchester and the Big Marsh Unit in Parkersburg or Hampton.
16. Union County; Southwest Regional Office in Lewis, the Mt. Ayr Wildlife Unit in Mt. Ayr and the Green Valley State Park in Creston.
17. Fremont - Mills counties; Southwest Regional Office in Lewis and the Riverton Wildlife Unit in Sidney or Riverton.

Be Sure of Your Target Before You Shoot

The Iowa DNR is currently restoring trumpeter swans to its native nesting grounds in Iowa. The trumpeter and the arctic nesting Tundra Swan that migrate through the state are given complete protection in Iowa. Shooting a swan could result in a stiff fine and a $1,500 liquidated damage fee. There is really no reason to mistake a trumpeter swan for a snow or Canada goose. Trumpeters swans weigh up to 35 pounds, have up to an 8-foot wing span and all primary wing feathers are white, or gray if they are immatures. Snow geese weigh up to 6 pounds and have 2- to 3 ½-foot wing span and have black on their outer primary wing feathers.

Please call the TIP hotline at 1-800-532-2020 if you see anyone committing a game violation.
The sunrise-sunset schedule above represents Zone 1 in eastern Iowa (See map at left).

Add four minutes for each zone west of Zone 1 (see map).

Each schedule is based on Central Standard Time.

Add one hour for Daylight Savings Time when in effect, from the first Sunday in April to the last Sunday in October.

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See 2003 Iowa Upland Game, Trapping and Waterfowl Guide for seasons, bag limits and more information.
TRAPPING/HUNTING FURBEARERS

Furbearing Animals
The following are considered furbearing animals: beaver, badger, mink, muskrat, raccoon, skunk, opossum, weasel, coyote, groundhog (woodchuck), red fox and gray fox.

Fur Harvester License
Residents age 16 to 65 and all nonresidents regardless of age, must have a furharvester license and have paid the habitat fee to hunt all furbearers, and to trap any furbearing animal. You do not need a hunting license when hunting furbearers. Coyote and groundhog may be hunted with a hunting or fur harvester license.

Permit to Hold Hides
You cannot possess the hides or skins of furbearing animals more than 30 days after the close of the season for that species. A permit to hold for a longer period may be granted by the DNR. The permit application will be verified in person and show the number and varieties of the skins or hides you may hold. The permit will authorize the holder to sell or otherwise dispose of such skins or hides.

Disturbing Dens
You cannot molest or disturb, in any manner, any den, lodge or house of a furbearing animal or beaver dam except by written permission of an officer appointed by the director of the DNR. You cannot use any chemical, explosive, smoking device, mechanical ferret, wire, tool, instrument or water to remove furbearing animals from their dens.

This section does not prohibit a property owner from destroying a den to protect their property.

Box Traps
A person shall not use or attempt to use colony traps in taking, capturing, trapping or killing any game or furbearing animals except muskrats as determined by rule of the commission. Box traps capable of capturing more than one game or furbearing animal at each setting are prohibited. A valid hunting license is required for box trapping cottontail rabbits and squirrels.

Removal of Animals from Traps and Snares
All animals or animal carcasses caught in any type of trap or snare, except those that are placed entirely under water and designed to drown the animal immediately, must be removed from the trap or snare, by the trap or snare user, immediately upon discovery and within 24 hours of the time the animal is caught.

Snares
For the purpose of law enforcement, snares are considered to be traps.

No person shall set or maintain any snare in any public road right-of-way so the snare, when fully extended, can touch any fence. A snare set on private land other than roadsides within 30 yards of a pond, lake, creek, drainage ditch, stream or river must have a loop size of 11 inches or less in horizontal measurement. All other snares must have a loop size of 8 inches or less in horizontal measurement, except for snares with at least one-half of the loop under water. Snares cannot be attached to a drag. All snares must have a functional deer lock which will not allow the snare loop to close smaller than 2 1/2 inches.

Mechanical Snares
It is illegal to set any mechanically-powered snare designed to capture an animal by the neck or body unless the snare is placed completely under water.

Body-gripping and Conibear-type Traps
You cannot set or maintain any body-gripping or conibear-type trap on
any public road right-of-way within 5 feet of any fence.

Humane traps, or traps designed to kill instantly, with a jaw spread as originally manufactured that exceeds 8 inches, are unlawful to use except when placed entirely under water.

Public Roadside Limitations for Snare, Body-gripping and Conibear-type Traps

Conibear-type traps and snares must not be set on the right-of-way of a public road within 200 yards of the entry to a private drive serving a residence without the permission of the occupant. You cannot set or maintain any snare or conibear-type trap within any public road right-of-way within 200 yards of buildings inhabited by humans unless a resident of the dwelling adjacent to the public road right-of-way has given permission, or unless the body-gripping or conibear-type trap is completely under water or at least one-half of the loop of the snare is under water. This does not limit the use of foothold traps or box-type live traps in public road right-of-ways.

Foothold and Leghold Traps

You cannot set or maintain, on land, any foothold or leghold trap with metal serrated jaws, metal-toothed jaws or a spread inside the set jaws greater than 7 inches.

Trap Tag Requirements

All traps and snares, whether set or not, possessed by a person who can reasonably be presumed to be trapping must have a metal tag attached, plainly labeled with the user’s name and address. Officers appointed by the DNR can confiscate such traps and snares when not properly labeled or checked.

Exposed Bait

You cannot set or maintain any foothold or body-gripping trap or snare within 20 feet of exposed bait on land anywhere in the state, or over water in the following areas:

a) Mississippi River corridor - Allamakee, Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton, Scott, Muscatine, Louisa, Des Moines and Lee counties.

b) Missouri River corridor - Those portions of Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills and Fremont counties west of Interstate 29.

c) Des Moines River corridor - Boone, Dallas, Polk, Marion, Mahaska, Wapello and Van Buren counties.

“Exposed bait” means meat or viscera of any animal, bird, fish, amphibian or reptile with or without skin, hide or feathers that is visible to soaring birds.

Trapping near beaver lodges or dens

To protect river otters, no trapping is allowed within 10 yards of active or inactive beaver lodges or dens in Linn County on the Cedar River and Indian Creek floodplains between Highway 30, Highway 151, Business 151 and Interstate 380.

Trapping on Game Management Areas

Marking Trap Sites

You cannot place on any game management area any trap, stake, flag, marker or any other item or device to trap furbearers, or to mark or otherwise claim any site to trap furbearers, except during the open season for taking furbearers other than coyote.
Motor Vehicle Restrictions

Game management areas. The use of motor vehicles on all game management areas is restricted.

Roads and parking lots. Motor vehicles are prohibited on a game management area except on constructed and designated roads and parking lots unless specifically permitted (see following paragraphs).

Physically disabled persons. Physically disabled persons may use certain motor vehicles on game management areas, according to the restrictions set out as follows, so that they may enjoy such uses as are available to others. (See the definitions of “motor vehicle” and “physically disabled person on page 10).

“Permits.” Each physically disabled person must have a permit issued by the director of the DNR to use motor vehicles on game management areas. Such permits will be issued without charge. An applicant must submit a certificate from their doctor stating he or she meets the criteria for physically disabled persons.

“Approved Areas.” A permit holder must annually contact the technician or wildlife biologist of the specific area(s) the permit holder wishes to use. The technician or wildlife biologist will determine which areas or portions of areas will not be open to use by permittees to protect the permittee from hazards or to protect certain natural resources of the area. The technician or wildlife biologist will assist by arranging access to the area and by designating specific sites on the area where the motor vehicle may be used, and where it may not be used. The technician or wildlife biologist will provide a map of the area showing the sites where use is permitted and bearing the technician’s or wildlife biologist’s signature and the date. Non-handicapped companions of permit holders are not covered under the conditions of the permit.

“Exclusive use.” The issuance of a permit does not imply that the permittee has exclusive use of the area. Permittees shall take reasonable care so as not to unduly interfere with the use of the area by others.

“Prohibited acts.” Except as provided, the use of a motor vehicle on any game management area by a person without a valid permit, or at any site not approved on a signed map, is prohibited. Permits and maps must be carried by the permittee at all times that the permittee is using a motor vehicle on a game management area, and must be exhibited to any DNR employee or law enforcement official upon request.

“Shooting from a motor vehicle.” Except where prohibited by law, a physically disabled person meeting the above conditions may shoot from a stationary motor vehicle.

Falconry

Game may be taken by licensed falconers. All falconers who pursue game need the required hunting license(s) and stamp(s) to do so. Falconry regulations for hunting, including bag and possession limits and the listing of permitted game species can be obtained by calling 515/281-5918 during the normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F.

Protected Nongame

Protected nongame species include wild fish, birds, bats, reptiles and amphibians or their eggs or nests, their dead body or dead body parts or a product made from their parts. Any bat, with the exception of the Indiana bat, that is found within a building occupied by humans is not protected.

Unprotected Nongame

The European starling, the house sparrow, and the common garter snake are not protected species. Timber rattlesnakes are protected in Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Des Moines, Dubuque, Fayette, Henry, Jackson, Jones, Lee, Madison, Van Buren and Winneshiek counties but not including an area of 50 yards around houses actively occupied by human beings in those counties.

ATV Use And Hunting

The following regulations apply when using all-terrain vehicles for hunting purposes:

- ATVs cannot be operated on roadways (except for agricultural purposes).
- It is illegal to operate an ATV on DNR Wildlife Management Areas.*
- Only one person at a time is allowed on an ATV.
- You must obtain permission from the landowner to operate an ATV on private land.
- When transporting guns on an ATV, guns must be unloaded and in a case at all times.
- It is illegal to chase or use a machine to assist in the taking of any game animal.

*Physically handicapped persons may be eligible for a permit to operate an ATV on DNR lands. See “Motor Vehicle Restrictions” on this page.

For a copy of Iowa’s ATV/Snowmobile Regulations, contact your local state conservation officer, county recorder or DNR office. The information is also posted on the DNR’s website at www.iowadnr.com.
MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

Regulated Harvest and Sale of American Ginseng

Harvest season and definitions.
The harvest season for wild or cultivated ginseng is from Sept. 1 to Oct. 31, each year. “Wild ginseng” means ginseng that is not grown or nurtured by a person beyond planting of seed at the site of collection. “Cultivated ginseng” means ginseng that is artificially propagated and maintained under controlled conditions, for example, in intensively or intermittently prepared or managed gardens or patches, under artificial or natural shade.

Permits and root retention. To harvest wild ginseng, you must have a valid harvester’s permit which costs $10 per year. The permit is also required for harvesting wild ginseng on your own land. Permits may be purchased through the ELSI system from Dec. 15 through Oct. 31. Harvesters with valid Iowa ginseng harvesters’ permits may sell wild ginseng from Sept. 1 through March 15 of the following year. All state parks and preserves are closed to the harvest of ginseng.

Only those ginseng plants with three or more true leaves (prongs) can be harvested. Harvesters with valid Iowa ginseng harvester permits may retain no more than 4 ounces of dry wild ginseng for personal consumption for one year beyond the expiration date of the permit.

If you cultivate ginseng you must have a grower’s permit valid for five years from the date of issue. A grower’s permit costs $1 and must be renewed within 60 days of expiration.

If you buy and sell wild or cultivated ginseng, you must have a dealer’s permit which costs $100. A dealer’s permit must be filed with the DNR at least 15 days prior to the Sept. 1 ginseng season opening. Dealer permits are valid from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 of the following year. Dealers must keep record of their transactions and report them annually by April 15 on forms provided by the DNR.

Shipping certificates are free to ginseng growers or dealers and can be obtained from the DNR Central Office in Des Moines. Harvesters may obtain a shipping certificate for $5 per certificate from DNR weighing stations around Iowa.

Violations of the administrative rules or the code sections regulating ginseng are subject to a scheduled fine of $100. In addition, any person convicted of unlawfully harvesting wild ginseng will be required to reimburse the state at 150 percent of the ginseng’s market value.

Taxidermy

A taxidermist is a person engaged in the business of preserving or mounting game, fish or furbearing animals. A license is required for anyone to practice taxidermy and the taxidermist must contact a DNR officer prior to operating. A licensed taxidermist may possess at any time game, fish or furbearing animals which have been lawfully taken. A taxidermist shall keep accurate records of transactions showing the numbers and kinds of specimens received for preserving, the date of acquisition and the name and address of the owner of the specimens. A taxidermy license may be revoked for good cause.

You cannot put or leave any game, fish or furbearing animal in the custody of another person for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed unless each specimen has a tag attached which is signed by the possessor and states the address of the possessor, the total number and species of the specimens and the date the specimens were killed. All transactions, tags and specimens left in the custody of the taxidermist by another person for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed unless each specimen has a tag attached which is signed by the possessor and states the address of the possessor, the total number and species of the specimens and the date the specimens were killed. All transactions, tags and specimens left in the custody of the taxidermist by another person shall be open to inspection by a conservation officer at any reasonable hour. A federal permit is required for activities involving migratory birds. Obtain the permit by contacting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 612-713-5449.

Dog Restrictions

Rabies vaccination. Hunters bringing dogs four months of age or older into Iowa must have in their possession a health certificate verifying the rabies vaccination of the dog(s).

Where restricted. Dogs are prohibited on all state-owned game management areas, between March 15 and July 15 of each year; except that dog training is permitted on designated training areas. Field and retriever meets are restricted to designated sites. A permit must be obtained from the DNR for field and retriever meets. The permit shall show the exact designated site of the meet and all dogs shall be confined to that site.

Training dogs. You need to have a valid hunting license and have paid the habitat fee to train a bird dog on game birds. An Iowa Migratory Bird fee and Federal Waterfowl Stamp are required if using waterfowl. A valid fur harvester license is required to train a coon hound, fox hound or trailing dog on any furbearing animals at any time of the year, including during the closed season on such birds or animals. The animals, when pursued to a tree or den, shall not be further chased or removed in any manner from the tree or den. You must have a hunting license to train a dog on coyote or groundhog.

Only a pistol, revolver or other gun shooting blank cartridges shall be used while training dogs during closed seasons.

If you have a dog entered in a licensed field trial you do not need any type of hunting license to participate in the event or to exercise your dog on the area on which the field trial is to be held during the 24-hour period preceding the trial.

Pen-raised game birds may be used and shot in the training of bird dogs. Before any bird is released or used in the training of dogs, the bird must be banded with a band from the DNR. Contact the DNR at 515-281-5918.
Educational Project Permit

Educators who have completed training to teach the Fish Iowa! basic spincasting module can obtain an annual educational project permit. The permit allows educators to include a fishing experience as part of the module without the purchase of individual fishing licenses for participants so long as participants adhere to the restrictions of the permit.

Definition of “Limits”

“Daily bag limit” or “possession limit” is the number of fish permitted to be taken or held in a specified time.

Artificial Light

Artificial light may be used in the taking of any fish except those species listed as threatened or endangered on page 25.

Identification of Catch

You cannot transport or possess fish on any waters of the state unless: a) the species can be identified readily by a portion of the skin (at least one-quarter inch) including scales left on each fish or fillet, and b) the length of fish can be determined when length limits apply. “Any waters of the state” includes from the bank or shoreline in addition to wading and by boat.

Selling Fish or Game

Except as otherwise permitted, you cannot buy or sell, dead or alive, a bird, fish or animal or any part of which is protected.

Showing License And Catch To Officer

When requested, you must show your license, certificate, permit and any required fee to any conservation or law enforcement officer or to the owner or person in legal control of the land or water you may be fishing. You also must show your catch to the conservation officer if you are asked to do so.

Bait Definitions

“Bait” includes, but is not limited to, minnows, green sunfish, orange-spotted sunfish, gizzard shad, frogs, crayfish, salamanders and mussels. “Minnows” are chubs, shiners, suckers, dace, stonerollers, mud-minnows, redhorse, blunt-nose and fathead minnows. “Commercial purposes” means selling, giving or furnishing to others.

Bait Usage

A valid sport fishing license is required for you to collect bait for your own individual use. You can use a minnow dip net not larger than 4 feet in diameter, a cast net not larger than 10 feet in diameter and a minnow seine not longer than 20 feet and having a mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch bar measure. You cannot possess live gizzard shad at any lake.

You cannot take or attempt to take bait for commercial purposes from any waters of the state, or transport minnows without first obtaining a bait dealer’s license. Bait dealers must notify their DNR conservation officer prior to operating. The licensee needs to be present with license in hand when bait is collected. Licensed bait dealers may use minnow seines not longer than 50 feet.

Frogs – Catching/Selling

There is a continuous open season on frogs except for the endangered crayfish frog. See Iowa Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits booklet.

You need a fishing license to take frogs. Frogs may be used for food or bait.

You cannot use any device, net barrier or fence which prevents frogs from having free access to and from the water. You cannot transport any frogs taken in Iowa across state lines.

You can purchase, sell or possess frogs or any portion of their carcasses that have been taken legally and shipped in from outside the state. You can catch frogs on your own land for your private use.
REGULATIONS

Turtles

A valid sport fishing license allows you to take and possess a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles. You cannot sell live or dressed turtles unless you have a special license to do so.

If you are a nonresident of Iowa you can only take common snapping turtles, softshells and painted turtles from the Missouri, Mississippi and Big Sioux rivers. Nonresidents cannot take any other turtles or crayfish anywhere else in the state.

Residents can take common snapping turtles, softshells and painted turtles. Map turtles may be taken only from the Mississippi River and connected backwaters.

You can take turtles only by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap or hook-and-line. Turtle traps must have no more than one throat or funneling device. They must have an escape hole provided below the water surface with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7 ½ inches. On hoop-type traps the last hoop to the trail-line must be covered by nylon web having a mesh size not less than 3 1/2 inches square. Any unattended gear used to take turtles must have a metal tag bearing the owner’s name and address. All turtle traps must be lifted and emptied of their catch at least once every 72 hours.

Hooks

When fishing by hook and line you cannot use more than two lines or more than two hooks on each line when still fishing or trolling. When fly fishing, you cannot use more than two flies on one line. When you are trolling and bait casting, you cannot use more than two trolling spoons or artificial baits on one line. You cannot leave fish line or lines with hooks in the water unattended by being out of visual sight or the lines. One hook means a single, double- or treble-pointed hook, and all hooks attached as a part of an artificial bait or lure shall be counted as one hook.

Tip-Up Fishing Device

A “tip-up fishing device” means an ice fishing mechanism with an attached flag or signal to indicate fishing action, used to hold a fishing rod or pole with line and hook. You cannot use more than two lines with two hooks while tip-up fishing on all inland waters and the Big Sioux River. You may fish a combination of one tip-up fishing device and one additional line, or, two tip-up fishing devices and no additional lines.

When fishing the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and connected backwater, the following regulations apply: you can use up to three tip-up fishing devices. You can use two or three hooks on the same line, but the total number of hooks used by each person cannot exceed three. Each tip-up fishing device used in fishing must have a tag attached, plainly labeled with the owner’s name and address. You cannot use a tip-up fishing device within 300 feet of a dam or spillway or in a part of the river which is closed or posted against use of the device. Three tip-up fishing devices may be used in addition to two lines with no more than two hooks per line.

Trotlines

“Trotlines” as used in this section refers to those lines commonly called “tagged lines,” “throw lines,” “bank lines,” “ditty lines,” “ditty poles” and other names.

You can use trotlines in all rivers and streams of the state, except those in Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee, Fayette, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson counties. Trotlines may be used in the above nine counties only in the following stream sections: Maquoketa River, mouth to Backbone State Park dam; North Fork Maquoketa River – mouth to Jones-Dubuque county line; Turkey River, mouth to Elkader dam; and Upper Iowa River, mouth to the first dam upstream in Winneshiek County.

With a valid sport fishing license you cannot use more than five trotlines. These trotlines cannot have more than 15 hooks total. Each separate line must have a tag attached, plainly labeled with the owner’s name and address. You must check the line at least once each 24 hours. You cannot use trotlines in a stocked lake or within 300 feet of a dam or spillway or in a stream or portion of stream, which is closed or posted against their use. One end of the line must be set from the shore and visible above the shore waterline, but you cannot set the line entirely across a stream or body of water. Untagged or unlawful lines can be confiscated by any conservation officer.

Boundary Water Sport Trotline

With a boundary water sport trotline license you can use a maximum of four trotlines with 200 hooks (total) in the waters of the Mississippi, Missouri and Big Sioux rivers. All boundary water sport trotlines must be tagged with your name and address on a metal tag affixed above the waterline. You cannot sell fish with a boundary water sport trotline license.

Fishing Tournaments – Permit Required

You need a permit issued by the DNR to conduct a fishing tournament on public waters that are under the jurisdiction of the state. Fishing clinics and youth fishing days are excluded. “Fishing tournament” means any organized fishing event with six or more boats or 12 or more participants or where an entry fee is charged or prizes or other inducements are awarded, except for waters of the Mississippi River where the number of boats shall be 20 or more and the number of participants shall
be 40 or more. Contact any fisheries bureau employee for a permit application and further information (see page 6).

A tournament held on a boundary water area (page 36) must be permitted by the Iowa DNR for anglers to legally fish Iowa water. This is regardless in which state the tournament is based.

**Tagged Fish**

What should you do if you catch a fish with a tag on it? To assist fisheries biologists in improving angling, please record the species, total length, weight, tag color and number, date and location of the catch, and whether the fish was released or kept. Report this information by mail or telephone to the nearest fisheries station, listed on page 6.

**Unlawful Means**

Gaff hooks or landing nets may be used to assist in landing fish. You cannot use any grabhook, snaghook, any kind of a net, seine, trap, firearm, dynamite or other explosives, or poisonous or stupefying substances, lime, ashes or electricity in taking or attempting to take any fish.

Common carp, bighead carp, grass carp, silver carp, black carp, bigmouth buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, black buffalo, quillback carpsucker, highfin carpsucker, river carpsucker, spotted sucker, white sucker, shorthead redhorse, golden redhorse, silver redhorse, sheepshead, shorthorned gar, longnose gar, dogfish, gizzard shad and goldfish may be taken by hand fishing, by snagging, by spear or by bow and arrow, day or night. You cannot take or kill, or attempt to take or kill any other fish by hand fishing. Information on paddlefish snagging can be found in the Iowa Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits booklet.

**Snagging Exceptions**

Snagging is defined as the practice of jerking any type of hook or lure, baited or unbaited, through the water with the intention of foul hooking a fish. A fish is foul hooked when caught by a hook in an area other than the fish’s mouth. Fish not designated (see Unlawful Means) to be taken by snagging and not hooked in the mouth, except paddlefish, must be returned to the water immediately.

Eight areas are closed to snagging year round:

1. The spillway area from directly below the Spirit Lake outlet to the confluence at East Okoboji Lake.
2. The Des Moines River from directly below Saylorboji Dam to the Southeast 14th Street Bridge in Des Moines.
3. The Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the 5 in 1 Dam to the 1st Avenue Bridge.
4. The Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the “C” Street Roller Dam to 300 yards downstream.
5. The Iowa River from directly below the Coralville Dam to 300 yards downstream.
6. The Chariton river from directly below Lake Rathbun Dam to 300 yards downstream.
7. Northeast bank of the Des Moines River from directly below the Ottumwa Dam, including the catwalk, to the Jefferson Street bridge.
8. Missouri River and the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence with the Missouri River.

**Prohibited Stocking**

You cannot stock or introduce any live fish, except for hooked bait, into public waters without the permission of the director of the DNR. This does not apply to privately owned ponds and lakes.

**Littering Public Waters**

You cannot throw or deposit any cans, bottles, garbage, rubbish and other debris, onto or in any of the waters, ice or land of the state.

**Ice Fishing Shelters**

Ice fishing shelters left unattended on land or water under the jurisdiction of the state, must have the owner’s name, street address and city in 4 inch or larger block letters (in a color contrasting to their background) on all sides, but do not need to be registered. Reflectors must be attached to all sides on any shelter left on the ice after sundown. Structures must not be locked while in use. Shelters must be removed from all state-owned lands and waters by Feb. 20 or ice melt, whichever comes first, unless the deadline is extended.

**Threatened and Endangered Species**

You cannot take, possess, transport, import, export, process, sell or offer for sale, buy or offer to buy, nor shall a common or contract carrier transport or receive for shipment any of the following species of fish, frogs, turtles, mussels or salamanders:

- **FISH** - Lake Sturgeon, Pallid Sturgeon, Pugnose Shiner, Weed Shiner, Pearl Dace, Freckled Madtom, Bluntnose Darter, Least Darter, Chestnut Lamprey, American Brook Lamprey, Grass Pickerel, Blacknose Shiner, Western Sand Darter, Black Redhorse, Burbot, Orangethroat Darter, Topeka Shiner

- **FROGS** - Crawfish Frog

- **TURTLES** - Yellow Mud Turtle, Wood Turtle, Ornate Box Turtle, Stinkpot Turtle

- **MUSSELS** - Spectacle Case, Slippershell, Buckhorn, Ozark Pigtoe, Bullhead, Ohio River Pigtoe, Slough Sandshell, Yellow Sandshell, Cylinder, Strange Floater, Creek Heelsplitter, Purple Pimpleback, Butterfly and Ellipse clams and the Higgin’s Eye Pearly mussel

- **SALAMANDERS** - Blue-spotted Salamander, Central Newt and the Mudpuppy.
Fishing Private Waters

Much fishing in Iowa is done on private waters with consent of the property owner. Iowa residents and nonresidents 16 years and older are required to have a valid Iowa fishing license to fish farm ponds and privately owned lakes. Only owners or tenants of land and their children under 18 may fish on such lands without a license. All anglers on private waters must abide by rules and regulations governing fishing, including bag limits. Statewide length limits do not apply on private waters.

The DNR will provide requesting landowners an initial breeding stock of fish for privately owned ponds that meet certain minimum requirements (farm pond program). However, such stockings do not open these ponds to public fishing. When fishing privately owned waters, be sure to ask the property owner for permission to fish, do not block lanes and driveways, close any gates opened, do not damage fences and leave the area clean and unlittered.

STOP!

SELLING FISH OR GAME IS ILLEGAL

Except as otherwise permitted, you cannot buy or sell, dead or alive, a bird, fish or animal, or any part of which is protected.

Iowa Fishing Reports

For the most current news on hunting and fishing in Iowa, check the DNR’s website at www.iowadnr.com and click on the news link. The information is updated every Tuesday afternoon. The fishing report is on-line at www.iowadnr.com click on Fish and Fishing.

Don’t have internet access? The same information is available by calling 1-800-ASK-FISH.

FISH IOWA! ON THE WEB

Discover the fishing forecast, current hotspots, and trout stream stocking information

Learn about Iowa fishes, angling methods, fish regulations and life history of fishes.

Discover places and locations to fish.

Learn about teaching young Iowans about aquatic life and how fish are managed in Iowa.

www.iowadnr.com/fish

LEAD SINKER NOTE

Lead is a hazardous substance and can cause health problems. Do not place lead sinkers in your mouth or bite down on them to secure them on the line. Use pliers. Children are particularly sensitive to the effects of lead poisoning and should not play with lead sinkers.
If you catch a fish eligible for submission for a big fish award, please fill out this entry blank. For many of the predator species, you may release the fish and still receive a big fish award by meeting the length criteria listed above. One witness must attest to the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade, or to the length, which is measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (total length). If there is some doubt about species identification, contact the nearest DNR personnel in your area for verification. New all-time record fish must be examined and verified by Department of Natural Resources personnel.

The entry blank should be filled out and mailed with a photo or color slide of the angler and fish to: Fish Records, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034. (The photo will be returned to the angler.) Large fish are recognized each year and all-time records are posted until they are broken. An angling award certificate and shoulder patch will be sent to the angler for each qualifying entry. The top 10 record fish of each species will be listed in a spring issue of the Iowa Conservationist magazine.

Minimum weight or length limitations are as follows:

- Bass (Largemouth) ....... 22” or 7 pounds
- Bass (Rock) .................... 1 pound
- Bass (Smallmouth) ...... 20” or 4 pounds
- Bass (Spotted) ............. 17” or 3 pounds
- Bass (White) ................ 2 1/2 pounds
- Bass (Wiper) ............... 4 pounds
- Bass (Yellow) ............. 3/4 pound
- Bluegill ...................... 1 pound
- Bowfin (Dogfish) .......... 5 pounds
- Buffalo ...................... 20 pounds
- Bullhead .................... 2 1/2 pounds
- Carp (Misc.) ............... 25 pounds
- Catfish (Blue) ............ 35” or 20 pounds
- Catfish (Channel) ...... 30” or 15 pounds
- Catfish (Flathead) ...... 35” or 20 pounds
- Crappie ..................... 2 pounds
- Freshwater Drum .......... 15 pounds
- Gar (Longnose) .......... 6 pounds
- Gar (Shorntose) .......... 2 pounds
- Goldeye/Mooneye ....... 1 1/4 pound
- Green Sunfish ............ 1 pound
- Muskellunge .............. 40” or 15 pounds
- Northern Pike ............ 34” or 10 pounds
- Paddlefish ............... 25 pounds
- Perch (Yellow) .......... 1 pound
- Redear Sunfish ......... 1 pound
- Sauger ..................... 18” or 2 1/2 pounds
- Saugeye .................... 25” or 6 pounds
- Sturgeon (Shovelnose) .. 3 pounds
- Suckers (Misc.) .......... 4 pounds
- Sunfish (Misc.) .......... 1 pound
- Trout (Brook) ........... 15” or 1 1/2 pounds
- Trout (Brown) .......... 18” or 3 pounds
- Trout (Rainbow) ......... 18” or 3 pounds
- Walleye .................... 28” or 8 pounds
- White Amur (Grass Carp) .... 25 pounds

**ENTRY BLANK FOR IOWA RECORD FISH**

(One entry per species per year)  
(Please Print)

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<td>Species</td>
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<td>Name of lake/stream</td>
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<td>Total length</td>
<td>Weight</td>
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<td>Bait or lure used, etc.</td>
<td>Was this fish released? yes no</td>
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_Witness_

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(Entries of fish caught during the current year must be sent to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources by Jan. 15 of the following year.) Mail to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Bldg., 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
Order Your Copy of Iowa Fish and Fishing Today!

Get to the bottom of successful fishing in Iowa - order your copy of Iowa Fish and Fishing, the 340-page book on fish species found in Iowa, along with the life histories, distribution and how to catch these fish.

Order your copy today - just $15!

Please send me ______ copy(ies) of Iowa Fish and Fishing.

I have enclosed $15 for each book ordered for a total of $______.

Name______________________________________________________________

Address______________________________________________________________________________

City______________________________State_________Zip_________________________

Mail to: Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Bldg., 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
You can estimate the weight of your released fish by using the following formula:

For **Sunfish, Walleye, Northern, Muskie and Black Bass**, take the length in inches and multiply it by itself three times. Divide that total by the following number for each fish species: **Sunfish**, divide by 1,200; **Walleye**, divide by 2,700; **Northern and Muskie** divide by 3,500; **Black Bass** (largemouth and smallmouth), divide by 1,600; **Catfish**, divide by 3,300.

**EXAMPLE:**

For a 20-inch largemouth bass, your calculations would first be to multiply

\[20 \times 20 \times 20 \quad (20 \times 20 = 400, \quad 20 \times 400 = 8,000)\]

Divide 8,000 by 1,600 = 5

You have just released a 5-pound largemouth bass that can both reproduce and offer other anglers a memorable fight!

For **Trout**, multiply the girth by itself and then multiply that value by the fish’s length and divide by 800. A fish’s girth is the distance around the body.

---

**IOWA FISH ARE WHOLESOME**

Every year Iowa DNR biologists collect samples of fish for laboratory analysis to determine the wholesomeness of our fish for human consumption. Edible portions of these fish are analyzed by certified labs and results compared to U.S. Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) standards.

Since 1985, about 43 lakes and an estimated 150 river locations have been monitored by collection of more than 525 samples. Fish consumption advisories are posted wherever it is confirmed USFDA standards are exceeded.

From all of this monitoring, we can report that only two consumption advisory exist in the state: 1) We recommend that no fish caught from Cedar Lake in Cedar Rapids be eaten; and 2) We recommend no channel catfish caught from the Ottumwa Lagoon in Ottumwa be eaten. Levels of contaminants in fish in Iowa continue to decrease as a result of the banning of persistent pesticides and the improved management operations in the industrial and agricultural communities.

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**Free! Fishing Information Brochures**

Contact any DNR office or call 515-281-5918 and leave your brochure request, name, address and phone number.

**Iowa Lake Fishing Guide** - Where to find more than 230 public lakes along with camping, boating and fishing information.

**Iowa Trout Fishing Guide** - Where to find 82 cold water streams and lakes containing outstanding trout fishing.

**Iowa Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide** - Locations of stream access points, fishing conditions and river features of rivers in Iowa.

**Fish Iowa! Brochure** - Fold out brochure with beautiful color pictures of 31 commonly found fish species. Excellent for identifying your catch!
Length limits are an important tool in fish management today. Length limits are used in Iowa to protect important predator species such as bass, walleye, muskie and trout from overharvest where surveys show a need to protect certain populations.

Length limits are also used to provide larger quality size fish for you to catch. Length limits are not the cure-all to better fishing in all cases. Improved fishing opportunities do exist in areas where length limits are in force, but only if you comply with the law and return fish outside the length limit unharmed to grow and be caught again.

Black Bass
(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted).

LAKES
(all public lakes including federal flood control reservoirs)
15-inch minimum limit except as posted otherwise.
There are 19 exceptions:
1. Lake Wapello, Davis County - catch and release only;
2. Brown’s Lake, Jackson County - catch and release only;
3. Swan Lake, Carroll County - 16-inch minimum;
4. Casey Lake, Tama County - 18-inch minimum;
5. Little Wall Lake, Hamilton County - 18-inch minimum;
6. Green Valley Lake, Union County - 22-inch minimum;
7. Lake Sugema, Van Buren County - 12-18-inch fish must be immediately released alive;
8. Hawthorn Lake, Mahaska County - 12-16-inch fish must be immediately released alive;
9. Pleasant Creek Lake, Linn County - 18-inch minimum;
10. and 11. Lakes Ahquabi and Hooper, Warren County - 18-inch minimum;
12. and 13. Thomas Mitchell and Yellow Banks, Polk County - 18-inch minimum;
14. South Prairie Lake, Black Hawk County - 18-inch minimum;
15. Krumm Pond, Jasper County - 18-inch minimum;
16. Lake Hendricks, Howard County - 18-inch minimum;
17. Lake Keomah, Mahaska County - 18-inch minimum.
18. Big Creek, Polk County - 18-inch minimum.
19. Ada Hayden Heritage Park / Lake, Story County - 18-inch minimum.
BORDER RIVERS
Mississippi River ................................. 14-inch minimum.
Missouri River ................................. 12-inch minimum.

INTERIOR STREAMS
12-inch minimum with four exceptions:
Catch and release (no-kill only) No-kill only is required on portions of the Middle Raccoon River, Guthrie County; Maquoketa River, Delaware County; Cedar River, Mitchell County; and Upper Iowa River, Winneshiek County. (See Iowa Fishing Seasons and Bag Limits booklet for details.)

Walleye
LAKES
- West Okoboji, East Okoboji, Spirit, Upper Gar, Lower Gar and Minnewashta, all in Dickinson County, have a 14-inch minimum length limit with no more than one walleye above 20 inches.
- Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo County, has a 14-inch minimum length limit with no more than one walleye above 22 inches.
- Storm Lake, Buena Vista County, has a 15-inch minimum length limit with no more than one walleye above 22 inches.
- Black Hawk Lake, Sac County, and Viking Lake, Montgomery County, has a 15-inch minimum length limit.
- Big Creek Lake, Polk County, has a 15-inch minimum length limit with no more than one walleye above 20 inches.

There are no other walleye size limit regulations on lakes.

RIVERS
There is a 15-inch minimum length limit in the Mississippi River. No other walleye size limit regulations exist on rivers.

Muskellunge
There is a statewide 40-inch minimum length limit.

Trout
There is a 14-inch minimum length limit on brown trout, brook trout and rainbow trout on Spring Branch Creek, Delaware County, and on brown trout in Bloody Run Creek, Clayton County as posted. All trout caught from the posted portion of Hewett and Ensign Creeks (Ensign Hollow), Clayton County and South Pine Creek, Winneshiek County, Waterloo Creek, Allamakee County, McLoud Run, Linn County, and brown trout caught from French Creek, Allamakee County, must be immediately released alive.

Hybrid Striped Bass (Wipers)
There is an 18-inch minimum length limit on hybrid striped bass (wipers) in Big Creek Lake, Polk County.

Panfish
On the waters of the Mississippi River, there is a 25 fish daily bag limit and 50 fish possession limit on panfish (crappie, yellow perch, white bass, yellow bass and rock bass individually, and bluegill and pumpkinseed in aggregate).

Handling Fish
Careful handling of fish helps ensure their survival after release (see page 35 for information and additional tips on releasing fish).

Don’t miss the boat!
For ONLY $8 you can receive 6 issues of the Iowa Conservationist, including the popular calendar issue. That’s nearly 35 percent off the original subscription price.

Order your subscription today wherever you buy your hunting or fishing license.
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<th>PLACES TO FISH</th>
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<tr>
<td>Iowa Department of Natural Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Owned or Leased Areas and Flood Control Reserves</td>
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<td><strong>Major Species</strong></td>
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<td>Backbone Lake, Delaware Co.</td>
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<td>Badger Creek Lake, Madison Co.</td>
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<td>Banner Pits, Warren Co.</td>
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<td>Black Hawk Pit, Sac Co.</td>
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<td>Blue Heron Lake, Polk Co.</td>
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<td>Blue Lake, Monona Co.</td>
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<td>Bob White Lake, Wayne Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Browns Lake, Woodbury Co.</td>
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<td>Brushy Creek, Webster Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carter Lake, Pottawattamie Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
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<td>Clear Lake, Cerro Gordo Co.</td>
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<td>Colyn North, Lucas Co.</td>
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<td>Diamond Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
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<td>East Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
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<td>Elk Lake, Palo Alto Co.</td>
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<td>Five Island Lake, Palo Alto Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fogle Lake, Ringgold Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulsom Lake, Mills Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gar (Lower), Dickinson Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gar (Upper), Dickinson Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Wyth Lake, Black Hawk Co.</td>
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<td>Green Island Lake, Jackson Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Green Valley Lake, Union Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>High Lake, Emmet Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hooper Pond, Warren Co.</td>
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<td>Ingham Lake, Emmet Co.</td>
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<td>Iowa Lake, Emmet Co.</td>
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<td>Keg Creek Lake, Mills Co.</td>
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<td>Lacey-Keosaqua, Van Buren Co.</td>
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<td>Lake Anita, Van Buren Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Aquabi, Warren Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Darling, Washington Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Geode, Henry Co.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lake Icaria, Adams Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Keomah, Mahaska Co.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lake Macbride, Johnson Co.</td>
</tr>
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<td>Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Miami, Monroe Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Miss (Tug Fork W), Van Buren Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Odessa, Louisa Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake of Three Fires, Taylor Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Sugema, Van Buren Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Wapello, Davis Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little River Lake, Decatur Co.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Places to Fish

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**

**Owned or Leased Areas and Flood Control Reserves**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Boat Rental</th>
<th>Boat Ramp</th>
<th>Motors*</th>
<th>Camping</th>
<th>Contour Map</th>
<th>Accessible Pier</th>
<th>Major Species</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Little Wall Lake, Hamilton Co.</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>N</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>E</td>
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<td>Nine Eagles Lake, Decatur Co.</td>
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<td>P.J. Lake, Mills Co.</td>
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<td>Percival Lake, Fremont Co.</td>
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<td>Pine Lake (Lower), Hardin Co.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Prairie Rose Lake, Shelby Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rathbun Lake, Appanoose Co.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Rice Lake, Winnebago Co.</td>
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<td>Saylorville Lake, Polk Co.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Shimiek Forest Ponds (4), Van Buren Co.</td>
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<td>X</td>
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<tr>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Silver Lake, Worth Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Snyder Bend Lake, Woodbury Co.</td>
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<tr>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Storm Lake, Buena Vista Co.</td>
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<td>Swan Lake, Carroll Co.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>Swan Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
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<td>N</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweet Marsh “A”, Bremer Co.</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>NW</td>
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<tr>
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<td>X</td>
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<td>Three Mile Lake, Union Co.</td>
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<td>Trumbull Lake, Clay Co.</td>
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<td>Tuttle Lake, Emmet Co.</td>
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<td>Union Grove Lake, Grundy Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viking Lake, Montgomery Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volga Lake, Fayette Co.</td>
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<td>Walnut Creek Marsh, Ringgold Co.</td>
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<tr>
<td>West Okoboji Lake, Dickinson Co.</td>
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<td>X</td>
<td>N</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Lake Macbride:** A boat with motor exceeding 10 H.P. may be used only from Sept. 8 - May 20 of each year at no wake speed.

**Fish Species:**
- B-Bullhead
- CC-Channel Catfish
- M-Muskie
- T-Trout
- WB-White Bass
- CP-Carp
- H-Hybrid Striped Bass
- NP-Northern Pike
- SB-Smallmouth Bass
- YB-Yellow Bass
- BL-Bluegill
- Sunfish
- CR-Crappie
- LB-Largemouth Bass
- P-Yellow Perch
- W-Walleye, Sauger


Obtain an [Iowa Lake Fishing Guide](https://www.iowadnr.com) or [Iowa Stream Fishing and Canoe Guide](https://www.iowadnr.com) from any DNR office for a complete listing of public fishing areas including public access areas to our rivers and streams. Interested in cold water trout fishing? Contact us for a free Iowa Trout Fishing Guide listing 79 streams and three lakes providing outstanding trout fishing.

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**Motor Permitted: N-No Size Limit, 10-10 H.P., E-Electric Motors, 10-W-10 H.P., No Wake, NW-No Size Limit at No Wake.**
Iowa’s Pike Family

Lakes and streams may contain muskie and northern pike. It is important for anglers to know the difference among members of the pike family in order that appropriate size, catch and possession limits are observed.

Northern Pike. They are normally a bluish-green to gray on the back with irregular rows of light-colored horizontal bean-shaped spots on the sides. There are five or less pores on each side of the lower jaw. The entire cheek and upper half of the gill cover is scaled.

Muskellunge. Muskies usually are olive to dark gray with tiger-like vertical markings on the side. They have six to eight pores on each side of the lower jaw. Only the upper half of both the cheek and gill cover is scaled.

Walleye and Sauger

Mississippi River anglers need to know the difference between walleye and sauger due to differences in size and bag limits. Shown below are differences between the two species. However, for purposes of length limit regulations, anglers must check the lower portion of the tail fin - fish with a white tip on the lower tail fin are walleye and fish without the white tip are sauger.

Walleye. Walleye have a white tip on the lower tail fin; do not have distinct blotches or mottling on the sides; forward (spiny) portion of the dorsal fin has dark streaks or blotches rather than distinct black spots.

Sauger. Sauger do not have a white tip on the lower tail fin; back is crossed with several darker saddles or blotches extending down on both sides; distinct black spots on the forward (spiny) portion of the dorsal fin aligned in rows.
Trout

Iowa’s 82 trout streams and ponds are located in the following counties: Allamakee, Black Hawk, Cerro Gordo, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jackson, Linn, Mitchell and Winneshiek.

Rainbow Trout. They are olive to greenish-blue above and silvery below with a prominent horizontal red band on the side. There are many small, dark spots on the body, dorsal fin and tail.

Brown Trout. They are olive to greenish-brown. The large black and reddish-orange spots on the sides of the fish have a pale border. The lower portions of the fish are yellow, fading to gray or white beneath. Browns have few or no spots on the tail fin.

Brook Trout. One of the main features which distinguishes the brook trout from the other members of the trout family is the vivid white markings on the front edges of the lower fins. They also have light “worm-like” markings on the back.

Tips on Releasing Fish

Catch-and-Release - A Worthwhile Program

1. Land the fish as quickly as possible. Playing a fish to exhaustion diminishes its chance for survival.
2. Handle the fish as little as possible.
3. Whenever possible, remove the hook while the fish is still in the water. If you must land the fish, immobilize it immediately, but remember, squeezing too hard may crush internal organs!
4. Avoid contact with the gill areas.
5. A pair of needle-nose pliers can help eliminate problems and speed up the hook removal process.
6. To immobilize bass and large crappie, use the liphold technique, insert your thumb inside the lower jaw of the fish and slide your forefinger against the outside of the lower lip.
7. To immobilize pike or muskie, reach across the head with your thumb, pressing against one gill cover and put your fingers against the other gill cover. Do not grip the fish by the eye sockets.
8. To release a deeply hooked fish, clip the line as close to the fish’s mouth as possible. Research on deeply hooked trout and other species shows that if the leader is clipped and the hook left undisturbed, nearly six times as many of those fish released survive. Please consider this when releasing undersized fish.
9. To revive a fish, hold it upright and move it back and forth gently so that water is forced over the gill filaments. This process, like artificial respiration, may take several minutes.
10. When using live bait, set the hook quickly after a bite to reduce the chance of deeply hooking the fish. Pinch down the barbs on a hook to make it easier to remove the hook from the fish. Remove treble hooks from spinners and replace with a single, barbless hook. Remove all but the rear hook on baits with multiple treble hooks.
BOUNDARY WATER REGULATIONS

Iowa-Minnesota

If you have a valid fishing license from Iowa or Minnesota (resident or nonresident) you can fish in Little Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Iowa Lake, Osceola County; Burt (Swag) Lake, Kossuth County; and Iowa and Tuttle (Okamanpedan) lakes, Emmet County, whether the waters are in Iowa or Minnesota.

There is a closed season on walleye, northern pike, catfish and black bass in these border lakes from Feb. 16 through the Friday before the Saturday closest to May 1. There is a continuous open season on all other species. Daily bag and possession limits are six walleye, three northern pike, eight catfish, six black bass, 30 yellow perch, 30 white bass, 30 sunfish and 15 crappie. There is a closed season on spearing and bow and arrow fishing for rough fish species from Feb. 16 through the Friday before the Saturday closest to May 1.

Iowa-Wisconsin

If you are a resident of Iowa or Wisconsin with a valid resident fishing license from your state or you are from another state but have a valid nonresident Iowa or Wisconsin fishing license you can fish in the waters of the Mississippi River lying between the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad tracks on the Iowa side of the river, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad tracks lying on the Wisconsin side of the river including all sloughs and backwaters connected with the main channel of the Mississippi River. This reciprocity applies only to hook-and-line fishing, spearing and the taking of minnows and crayfish for such fishing.

Where there are differences in elements of the boundary waters regulations, you must comply with the regulations of the state whose territorial waters you are fishing in.

Iowa-Illinois

Officers of Iowa and Illinois will recognize and accept valid fishing licenses of either state used by hook-and-line anglers on the Mississippi River proper, including its backwater lakes and sloughs contiguous with the flow of waters in the main channel; provided that you do not fish from or attach any device or equipment to the main bank of the Mississippi River under the jurisdiction of the state where you are not licensed to fish and you cannot fish in any tributaries of the state where you are not licensed. You must conform with the regulations of the state in which you are fishing unless the regulations of your state are more restrictive, then you must conform with the more restrictive regulations.

In DeSoto Bend Lake, you must conform with federal refuge regulations as posted under the authority of Section 33.19 of Title 50 CFR.

Iowa-Nebraska

If you have a valid sport fishing license from either Iowa or Nebraska you can fish in the waters of the Missouri River lying between the two states. Waters of the Missouri River include all oxbows, sloughs, chutes and backwaters that draw water from the Missouri River proper. Oxbows, chutes and backwaters separated from the Missouri River by land are included only if the state boundary line passes through some part of these waters. You can fish from the bank or from the boat. You must conform with regulations of the state in which you are fishing unless the regulations of your state are more restrictive, then you must conform with the more restrictive regulations. In DeSoto Bend Lake, you must conform with federal refuge regulations as posted under the authority of Section 33.19 of Title 50 CFR.

Iowa-South Dakota

The reciprocal fishing agreement applies only to the waters of the Big Sioux River that form a common state boundary. Officers of Iowa and South Dakota will accept a valid fishing license from either state used by hook-and-line anglers. You can fish from either bank of the river and transport your fish to your home provided you return home by the most direct route. You must conform with the regulations of the state in which you are fishing unless the regulations of your state are more restrictive, then you must conform with the more restrictive regulations.

In the past 50 years, Iowa anglers and boaters have contributed more than $44 million through taxes on fishing equipment and motor boat fuels. This money has gone for vegetation control, lake construction, habitat improvement, expanded public access to fishable waters and fisheries research.

Boat safety information and regulations for all other states and federal regulations can be found at www.nasbla.org.
Motor Regulations for Lakes

A boat equipped with any size motor may be operated at no-wake speed on artificial lakes under the custody of the Department of Natural Resources of more than 100 acres in size. Lake included in the regulation are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ahquabi</td>
<td>Warren</td>
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<td>Anita</td>
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<td>Badger Creek</td>
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<td>Big Creek Lake</td>
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<td>Brushy Creek</td>
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<td>Darling</td>
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<td>Geode</td>
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<td>Green Valley*</td>
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<td>Pleasant Creek</td>
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<td>Prairie Rose</td>
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<td>Swan</td>
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<td>Three Mile*</td>
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<td>Union Grove</td>
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<td>Volga</td>
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<td>Wapello</td>
<td>Davis</td>
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<td>West</td>
<td>Clarke</td>
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*Special regulations exist.

Other lakes managed by counties and municipalities also have regulations. Check local regulations.

Please note that on Lake Macbride, Johnson County, a boat with a motor exceeding 10 horsepower may be used only from Sept. 8 through May 20 of each year and operated at no-wake speed.

On artificial lakes less than 100 acres, you can operate a motorboat equipped with one or more outboard battery operated electric trolling motors.

Motors not more than 100 h.p.: Loch Ayr, Ringgold County.

There is no motor restriction on natural lakes or federal reservoirs.

Motors of any horsepower operated at no wake speed are allowed on the following lakes:
- Beaver Lake, Dallas County
- Beeds Lake, Franklin County
- Black Hawk Pit, Sac County
- Crawford Creek Lake, Ida County
- Deer Creek Lake, Plymouth County
- Fogle Lake, Ringgold County
- George Wyth Lake, Black Hawk County
- Lake Iowa, Iowa County
- Lake of Three Fires, Taylor County
- Meadow Lake, Adair County
- Otter Creek Lake, Tama County
- Silver Lake, Delaware County
- Thayer Lake, Union County
- Williamson Pond, Lucas County

Personal Watercraft (PWC) Regulations and Courtesy - Beginning Jan. 1, 2003, persons aged 12 through 17 shall not operate a PWC unless they have completed a DNR approved watercraft safety course.

- Keep peace and quiet in mind. Don't ride for long periods in a small area. Ride out in the lake away from shore and other boaters.
- Don't ride too close to other boats - especially other PWCs.
- Make gradual turns. Sharp turns can cause you to spin out and stop, giving any boat ample time to run you down.
- Look before turning. You could turn into a passing boat.
- While towing a person on water skis or other device, have an additional person on board to observe. Your PWC must have a capacity for three people in order to legally water ski.
- You must be at least 12 years of age to operate a PWC.
- Wear a US Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device (life vest).
- Have a fire extinguisher on board.
- Do not jump the wake of another boat within 100 feet of the craft.
- Obey all Iowa boating regulations.

Boating Tips

1. Wear a Personal flotation device (PFD). Make sure it is in good condition!
2. Avoid fatigue and alcohol; they slow your reactions and dull your senses. Combined with heat, glare and wave motion, they affect your balance and judgement.
3. Know the rules of the road. Be courteous and know the right-of-way rules.
4. Be prepared for the unexpected. Avoid sudden movements that can capsize your boat.
5. Let someone know where you will be boating and when to expect you back.

It is illegal to operate a motorboat or sailboat while intoxicated!

Operating a motorboat or sailboat while under the influence of alcohol (.10 alcohol level or higher), a controlled substance or other illegal chemical is unlawful.

Operators who are impaired may be required to take tests by an enforcement officer to determine sobriety. Anyone refusing to test will be charged a penalty.

All navigable waters in the state of Iowa is subject to the law.
The New Invaders

The zebra mussel (*Dreissena polymorpha*), a small bivalve mollusc native to Europe, was first discovered in North America in 1988 in a connecting channel between Lakes Huron and Erie and has spread rapidly since that time. It is now common throughout the Mississippi River. The opportunistic mussel will attach to living species with exoskeletons, such as crayfish, clams and turtles, restricting the victim’s movement and often resulting in death. Zebra mussels can eat foods important to more desirable fish, smother fish spawning grounds and foul beaches with putrid odors.

Individual zebra mussels have a fleshy foot the use to push themselves short distance very slowly. However, the zebra mussels spread rapidly because the adults produce a free-floating reproductive stage called “veligers” which are dispersed by currents and boats. Inspect your boats, motors and trailers for zebra mussels. Remove and save the mussel for identification and immediately contact your local conservation officer or fisheries station. Your help is crucial in stopping the spread of the zebra mussel to inland lakes and streams.

Eurasian water milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is a rooted aquatic plant not native to North America. Since the plant’s introduction in the 1940s, it has spread rapidly. It presents a major menace to Iowa lakes. Identified by its finely dissected, feather-like leaves which usually grow in whorls of four leaves each on long, flexible stems, milfoil grows rapidly in dense stands. These often form mats or clumps at the surface, with only the seed head emerging, in water up to 20 feet deep. The thick floating mats restrict boats, swimmers and hinder fishing. They also create nesting sites for bloodsucking insect, support massive algae blooms, clog water supply systems, replace more valuable native plants and destroy fish-spawning areas. The plant has been documented in some Iowa ponds and lakes, and is known to occur in several Minnesota lakes.

Human activity is primarily responsible for the spread of Eurasian water milfoil among lakes. You can help reduce the spread of this nuisance weed by being careful to remove plant fragments from boats, motors, trailers, anchors, live-wells, fish stringers and other equipment and disposing of them on shore well above the water line where they cannot reenter lakes and streams.

Support REAP and Dress-up Your Vehicle

Put your money to work for Iowa’s natural resources. The natural resources license plate is available at all county treasurer offices. Money from the sale of the plates goes to the Resources Enhancement And Protection (REAP) fund for fish, wildlife, forestry, soil and water conservation projects; city, county and state parks; historical preservation; highway beautification; and environmental education. Standard plates are $35 more than your registration fee, personalized are $80 more.
In April of 1984, a piece of legislation known as the Wallop-Breaux Amendment roughly quadrupled the funding for sportfish restoration, boating safety and access development and aquatic education programs. These funds come from a user-fee-based excise tax on fishing tackle and accessories, and federal motorboat fuel taxes. Annually, they amount to nearly $2.4 million for Iowa. The following is a list of projects that have been completed with Wallop-Breaux funding.

- **Acquired 3 proposed lake sites** - a total of 2,562 acres purchased.
  - Lost Grove Lake site - Scott County - 1,562 acres purchased.
  - White Water Lake site - Dubuque County - 139 acres purchased.
  - Shawtee Lake site - Fremont County - 861 acres purchased.
- **Purchased 3,893 acres containing portions of 12 trout streams in Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Jackson and Winneshiek counties.**
- **Acquired 38 acres to provide public access to the Raccoon River in Calhoun County.**
- **Purchased land to protect fish habitat at Lake Sugema, Van Buren County (1,298 acres), Beaver Lake, Dallas County (100 acres) and Lake Miami, Monroe County (138 acres).**
- **Constructed and developed Beaver Lake (34 acres) in Dallas County, Deer Creek Lake (45 acres) in Plymouth County and aided in the construction of Brushy Creek Lake (690 acres) in Webster County.**
- **Constructed shoreline accesses**, including: fishing jetties at Upper Pine Lake (3), Hardin County; Big Creek Lake (9), Polk County; Lake Macbride (2), Johnson County; Meadow Lake (2), Adair County; Storm Lake (1), Buena Vista County; Beaver Lake (5), Dallas County; Lake Icaria (8), Adams County; Green Valley Lake (7), Union County; Mormon Trail Lake (2), Adair County; Lake Cornelia (1), Wright County; Little River Lake (6), Decatur County; Lake Sugema (8), Van Buren County; Lake Wapello (3), Davis County; Lake Darling (3), Washington County; Three Mile Lake (9), Union County; Fogle Lake (2), Ringgold County; Twelve Mile Lake (7), Union County; Volga Lake (2), Fayette County; Belva Deer Lake (2), Keokuk County.

Accessible fishing piers at North Grade Spirit Lake, Dickinson County; Beaver Lake, Dallas County; Big Creek Lake, Polk County; Black Hawk Lake, Sac County; George Wyth Lake, Black Hawk County; Lake Icaria, Adams County; Lake Sugema, Van Buren County; Green Valley Lake (2), Union County; Lake Wapello, Davis County; Storm Lake, Buena Vista County; Lake Aqubabi, Warren County; Lake Manawa, Pottawattamie County; Deer Creek Lake, Plymouth County; Volga Lake, Fayette County; Three Mile Lake, Union County; Lake Keomah, Mahaska County; Belva Deer Lake, Keokuk County; East Okoboji Lake, Dickinson County; and BlueHeron Lake, Polk County.

- **Built angler access roads and parking lots at Twelve Mile Lake, Union County.**
- **Installed summer aeration systems to improve fish growth for larger fish in the creel at Viking Lake, Montgomery County; Lacey-Keosauqua, Van Buren County; Lake Geode, Henry County and Cold Springs Lake, Cass County.**
- **Improved habitat to increase angling success with the addition of fishing riffles and lake structures including a reef in Spirit Lake, habitat in Belva Deer Lake, and trout habitat improvement on Bankston Creek, Coldwater Creek, Joy Springs and Richmond Springs.**
- **Constructed basins to collect sediments and nutrient providing watershed protection at Lake Icaria (3 basins), Adams County; Little River Lake (1 basin), Decatur County; Lake Sugema (5 basins), Van Buren County; Lake Wapello (3 basins), Davis County; Deer Creek Lake (2 basins), Plymouth County; Big Creek Lake (3 basins), Polk County and Three Mile Lake (1 basin), Union County.**
- **Built boat ramps at Twelve Mile Lake, Union County; Lake Icaria, Adams County and Beaver Lake, Dallas County.**
- **Implemented an aquatic education program in the Iowa school system.**
- **Rebuilt the Decorah Trout Hatchery in Winneshiek County.**
- **Installed equipment to improve water quality at Rathbun Hatchery, Appanoose County.**
- **Constructed a fish culture research facility at Rathbun Hatchery, Appanoose County.**
- **Constructed a walleye production facility at Storm Lake, Buena Vista County.**

**IOWA ANGLERS AND BOATERS!**
Take me fishing.
Because my wedding will be sooner than you think.

Take me fishing.
And show me that worms aren’t that icky.

Take me fishing.
You can think about work later.

Take me fishing.
Because I get the giggles when the boat bounces.

Take me fishing.
Because my wedding will be sooner than you think.

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**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from, the programs and activities of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, disability or age. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to:

Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the DNR at (515) 281-5918 (TDD number 515/242-5967) or by writing the DNR at 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.