

FISHING PRIVATE WATERS

Much fishing in Iowa is done on private waters with consent of the property owner. **Iowa residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older are required to have a valid Iowa fishing license to fish farm ponds, trout streams 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, except there is no daily bag limit for bluegill or crappie for private waters. Statewide length limits do not apply on private waters.

Just because a pond was stocked by the DNR does not open that pond 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 uncluttered.

FROGS - CATCHING & SELLING

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 with a bait dealer's license. Frogs may be used for food or bait. You can catch frogs on your own land for your own private use.

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. A third line may be used when possessing a valid third line fishing permit. You cannot leave fish line or lines with hooks in the water unattended by being out of visual sight of 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. An Alabama (umbrella) rig is not an artificial bait or lure.

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. Shelters 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.

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 square inch) including the 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.

JUG FISHING

When jug fishing, you cannot use more than two jugs or more than two hooks on each jug. You cannot leave the jugs in the water unattended by being out of visual sight of the jugs. When jug fishing, you can fish either with one pole with line and one jug or fish with two jugs and no pole with line. A third line or jug may be fished when possessing a valid third line fishing permit.

MUSSEL TAKING

See p. 10 for possession limit. Licensed anglers and children younger than 16 years of age may lawfully take and possess mussel species other than those listed as threatened or endangered (p. 8). Zebra mussels (p. 18-19) shall not be taken or possessed. Native mussels in the Mississippi River often have zebra mussels attached to them. Zebra mussels must be removed by scrubbing with a stiff brush before any native mussels are transported.

PROHIBITED STOCKING

You cannot stock or introduce any live fish, except for hooked bait (see Bait Definition on p. 5), into public waters without the permission of the director of the DNR. Unauthorized stocking leads to the introduction of undesirable fish species such as gizzard shad, yellow bass, common carp and