



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Fishing News

Conservation and Recreation



August 30, 2017

## Top spots to catch big fish

Add a [Master Angler Award](#) to your fishing accomplishments this Labor Day weekend. Late summer is a great time to catch big fish.

Here's a few hot spots to catch qualifying sized bluegill, largemouth bass and channel catfish.

### **Bluegills (10 inches to qualify)**

- Farm Ponds – drift or cast small jigs (1/32nd oz.) tipped with a 1-inch piece of worm 6- to 8-feet down around weed edges and deep structure; get permission from the landowner before entering.
- [West Okoboji Lake](#), Dickinson County – jig live bait (small crayfish, Belgium worms, piece of night crawler or leech) with a split shot 8- to 10-inches above the hook in shallow areas around weed lines.
- [Yellow Smoke Park Lake](#), Crawford County – look for bluegills in 5- to 10-feet of water near the arm north of the swim beach, the flooded timber near the southwest

shoreline, and the coves on the south shore; use a 1/32 ounce to 1/64 ounce black hair jig tipped with a waxworm.

### **Largemouth Bass (20 inches to qualify)**

- [Brushy Creek Lake](#), Webster County – throw topwater lures, weedless baits, spinners and plastic worms along weed lines, near cover and wood structure.
- Farm Ponds – use top water lures at the edge of aquatic plants early and late in the day when the air is still; switch to a spinner bait or plastic worm later in the morning or late afternoon next to the weed line or around brush piles; get permission from the landowner before entering.
- [Lake Sugema](#), Van Buren County – try spinnerbaits or crawdad imitating baits along the shorelines, among vegetation and around the jetties.

### **Channel Catfish (30 inches to qualify)**

- [Des Moines River \(Saylorville to Red Rock\)](#), Polk and Marion counties – use stink baits and cut baits.
- Farm Ponds – try cut bait or prepared baits around structure and vegetation edge; get permission from the landowner before entering.
- [Red Rock Reservoir](#), Marion County – drift cut creek chubs or shad above the mile long bridge in 6-12 feet of water.



## **Insider tips to be a Master Angler**

Finding places that have big fish is key to catching big fish.

Quickly find the best spots to catch master angler qualifying fish with the electronic map on the [DNR Master Angler program website](#). Click on "Map" above the photos or search for local hot spots by species or location.

Or check out our list of [potential hot spots and tips](#).

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## **Steps to submit a state record fish entry**

If you believe you have caught an all-time state record fish in Iowa, follow these steps. Find more tips and tricks on our [state record fish website](#).

- Look up the size of the current state record in the [Iowa Fishing Regulations](#) (back cover) or on the [state record fish website](#) to see if your fish is larger than the current record. Your fish must weigh one ounce or more than the current state record fish.
- Weigh your fish on a scale certified for trade (like at a grocery store, meat locker and some bait shops), preferably while it is still alive. A witness must verify the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce.
- Contact your local [conservation officer](#) or [fisheries biologist](#). The fisheries biologist must examine and verify the fish. If you cannot reach the biologist, the conservation officer will contact someone who can help