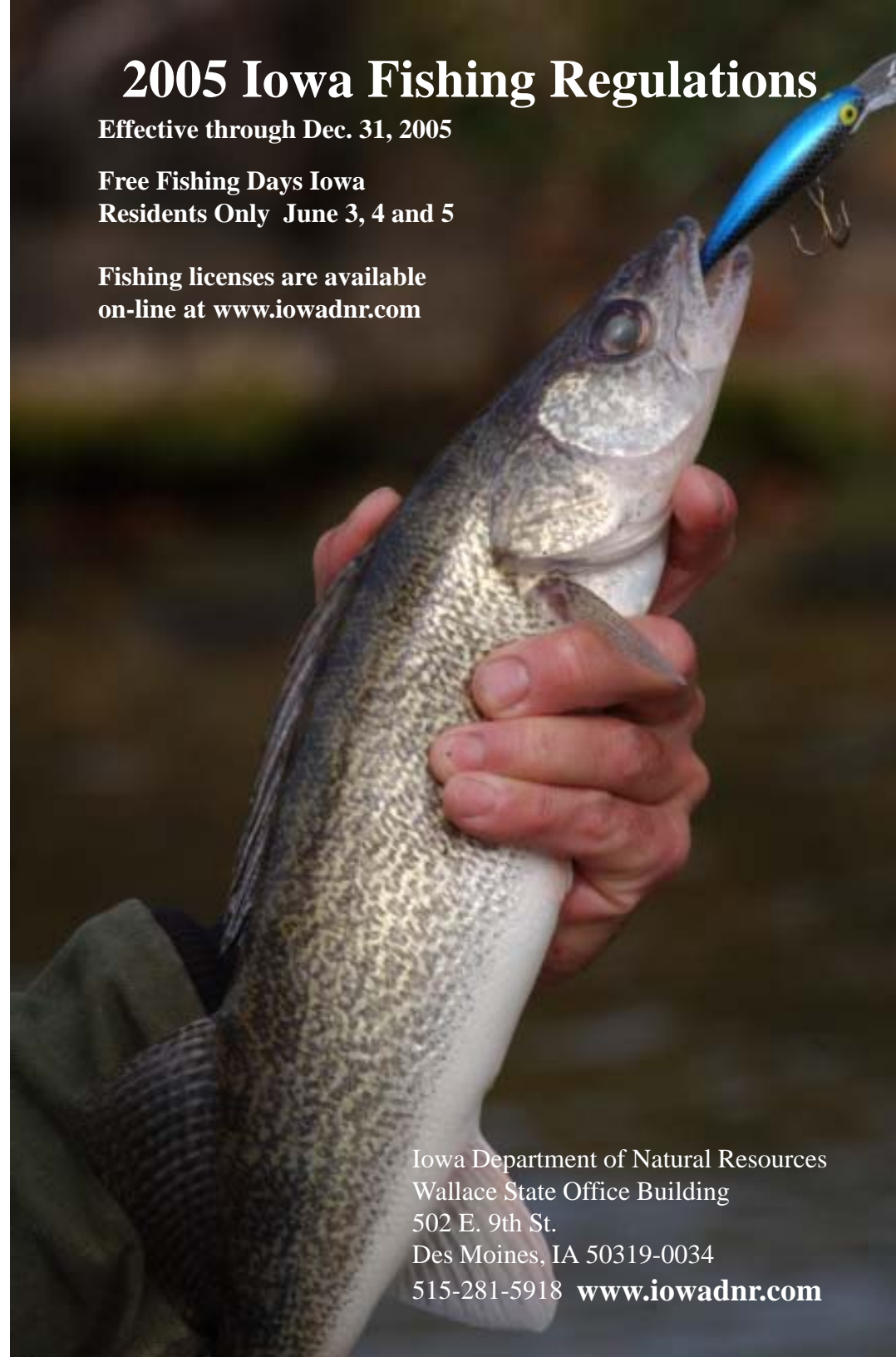


2005 Iowa Fishing Regulations

Effective through Dec. 31, 2005

**Free Fishing Days Iowa
Residents Only June 3, 4 and 5**

Fishing licenses are available
on-line at www.iowadnr.com



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

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2005 License Fees

Resident Fishing

Annual 16 years old and older	\$17.50
7-Day	\$12.00
1-Day	\$8.00
Trout Fee	\$11.00
Lifetime (65 years old and older)	\$51.00
Boundary Water Sport Trotline	\$11.00

Nonresident Fishing

Annual 16 years old and older	\$39.50
7-Day	\$30.50
3-Day	\$16.00
1-Day	\$9.00
Trout Fee	\$13.50
Boundary Water Sport Trotline	\$21.00

Turn In Poachers

Report fishing violations. Call **1-800-532-2020**. You can remain anonymous.

2005 Regulation Changes

1. It is prohibited to sort, cull, high-grade, or replace any fish already in possession. See p. 12.
2. In West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit lakes, there shall be a closed season on muskellunge and tiger muskie from Dec. 1 through May 20. There is no longer a closed northern pike season in these three lakes.
3. Fishing in any manner is prohibited from Dec. 1 through March 15 in the Mississippi River from Lock and Dam 11 downstream to the railroad bridge near river mile 579.9.
4. A bag and possession limit of 10 and 20 shovelnose sturgeon is allowed on the Missouri River. No harvest of shovelnose sturgeon is allowed in the Big Sioux River.
5. There is an aggregate daily bag limit of 4 and possession limit of 8 for walleye and sauger in the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers.
6. It is illegal to possess, introduce, purchase, sell or transport aquatic invasive species. See p. 21.

Special Licenses for Residents

- 1) Annual Free Fishing or Combination 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 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 and assistance for these special licenses are available at DNR offices (p. 24) that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

IMPORTANT

Iowa law requires the DNR to collect social security numbers from all licensees primarily 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 using the electronic system for the first time.

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

Requirements for Purchasing Resident Licenses

Anglers must meet at least one of the following criteria to purchase a resident fishing license in Iowa:

- Have an Iowa driver's license or Iowa non-operator's identification card and have physically resided in Iowa 30 consecutive days immediately before applying for or purchasing a resident license.
- 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.
- Be a fulltime student at an educational institution located in Iowa and reside in Iowa while attending the educational institution.
- Be a nonresident under 18 years of age whose parent is a resident of Iowa.

License and Fees

Iowa residents and nonresidents 16 years and older are required to have a valid fishing license on their person, and have paid all the applicable fees while fishing.

Exceptions: The following persons do not need a fishing license:

- Residents and nonresidents under 16 years old.
- Minor pupils of the state school for the deaf, or minor inmates of other state institutions under the Department of Human Services (not including inmates in state penal institutions).
- Patients of substance abuse facilities provided they are supervised by an employee of the facility while fishing and that facility has been issued a permit from the DNR. Employees of the facility are not covered by the permit and must have a fishing license.
- 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. 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

fishing. In lieu of the earnings statement, they may claim residency by being registered to vote in Iowa.

Trout Fee

Iowa residents and nonresidents regardless of age must pay the Trout Fee to fish for or possess trout. Exception: Iowa residents under 16 years old may possess trout without having paid the Trout Fee if they fish with a properly licensed adult who has paid the Trout Fee and together they limit their catch to the daily limit for one person.

Trash the bait, not the lake!



It is against the law to dump bait in Iowa lakes, rivers or streams. You can introduce a problem species, such as common carp. The Iowa DNR has spent more than \$500,000 in recent years to kill lakes because rough fish have taken over. Help stop the stocking of problem species. The DNR would rather spend money to improve habitat than to remove these fish. Do yourself and other anglers a favor:
Trash the bait, not the lake!



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HITCHHIKERS!**
Protect the heritage of outdoor sports.
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For more information, call the Iowa DNR at 515-432-2823
or go to www.iowadnr.com

Iowa Fishing Seasons, Bag Limits and Length Limits

Black Bass	Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted bass combined
Season	All waters - Continuous except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland waters* - combined daily 3 and possession of 6; Boundary rivers** - combined daily 5 and combination possession of 10.
Length limits	Inland waters* Public lakes, including Coralville, Rathbun, Saylorville and Red Rock reservoirs - 15-inch minimum except as otherwise posted. There are 18 exceptions. A. Catch and release only at Lake Wapello (Davis Co.) and Brown's Lake (Jackson Co.); B. 16-inch minimum at Swan Lake (Carroll Co.); C. 18-inch minimum at Casey Lake (Tama Co.), Little Wall Lake, (Hamilton Co.), Pleasant Creek Lake (Linn Co.), Lakes Ahquabi and Hooper (Warren Co.), Thomas Mitchell, Yellow Banks and Big Creek lakes (Polk Co.), South Prairie Lake (Black Hawk Co.), Krumm Pond (Jasper Co.), Lake Hendricks (Howard Co.), Lake Keomah (Mahaska Co.), and Ada Hayden Heritage Park (Story Co.); D. 22-inch minimum at Green Valley Lake (Union Co.); E. All 12 to 16-inch fish must be immediately released alive at Hawthorn Lake (Mahaska Co.); F. All 12 to 18-inch fish must be immediately released alive at Lake Sugema (Van Buren Co.). Interior streams and river impoundments - 12-inch minimum length limit except all black bass caught from the following stream segments must be released alive immediately: 1. Middle Raccoon River (Guthrie Co.) extending downstream from below Lennon Mills Dam at Panora as posted to the dam at Redfield. 2. Maquoketa River (Delaware Co.) extending downstream from below Lake Delhi Dam as posted to the first county gravel road bridge. 3. Cedar River (Mitchell Co.) extending

Black Bass Length limits (continued)	downstream from below the Otranto Dam as posted to the bridge on county road T26 south of St. Ansgar. 4. Upper Iowa River (Winneshiak Co.) extending downstream from the Fifth Street bridge in Decorah as posted to the upper dam. Boundary rivers** - 14-inch minimum length limit on the Mississippi River and a 12-inch minimum length limit on the Missouri River. Associated chutes and backwaters of the border rivers are included where intermittent or constant flow occurs. No length limit on the Big Sioux River. Browns Lake (Jackson Co.) - catch and release only.
Catfish	Channel, Blue, Flathead catfish combined
Season	All waters - Continuous except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland lakes - Combined daily 8 and combined possession of 30. Inland streams, Rathbun, Red Rock, Saylorville and Coralville reservoirs - Combined daily 15 and combined possession of 30. Boundary rivers** same as streams except no bag or possession limit on the Mississippi River.
Length limits	All waters - None.
Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye	
Season	Inland lakes - Continuous except there is a closed season on West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit lakes (Dickinson Co.) from Feb. 15 through May 6, 2005. Boundary rivers** - Continuous except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland waters* - Combined daily 5 and combined possession limit of 10, except a walleye daily bag limit of 3 and possession limit of 6 for those inland waters listed below in the length limit category. Boundary rivers** - Mississippi River combined daily 6 and combined possession of 12. Big Sioux and Missouri rivers - combined

	daily of 4 and possession of 8.
Length limits (Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye)	Inland waters* - None except a 14-inch minimum applies for West Okobojo, East Okobojo, Spirit, Upper Gar, Minnewashta and Lower Gar lakes (Dickinson Co.) and Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo Co.). A 15-inch minimum length limit applies for Storm Lake (Buena Vista Co.) and Big Creek Lake (Polk Co.). You cannot take more than one walleye longer than 20 inches in length per day from the above lakes except in Clear Lake and Storm Lake where no more than one walleye above 22 inches in length may be taken per day. A 15-inch minimum length limit applies on walleye in Black Hawk Lake (Sac Co.) and Viking Lake (Montgomery Co.). Boundary rivers** - None, except a 15-inch minimum length limit applies to walleye on all pools of the Mississippi River. In addition, all walleye from 20 to 27 inches caught from Mississippi River Pools 12 through 20, must be immediately released alive, and, no more than one walleye above 27 inches may be taken per day on these pools.

Bluegill, Crappie, Yellow bass, White bass, Rock bass, Pumpkinseed, Bullhead

Season	Inland waters* - Continuous. Boundary rivers** Continuous except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland lakes* - None. Boundary rivers** Missouri and Big Sioux rivers - None. Mississippi River and connected backwaters; daily bag limit of 25 and possession limit of 50 for each of the following: bluegill and pumpkinseed combined, white and yellow bass combined, crappie, and rock bass. No bag or possession limit on bullheads.
Length limits	All waters - None

Yellow Perch	
Season	All waters - Continuous, except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - Combined daily of 25 and possession of 50 except there is no daily or possession limit on the Missouri River.
Length limit	All waters - None

Muskellunge including Hybrids (Tiger)	
Season	All waters - Continuous except there is a closed season on West Okobojo, East Okobojo and Spirit lakes (Dickinson Co.) from Dec. 1 through May 20, 2005, and for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - Daily and possession of 1.
Length limits	All waters - 40 inches.

Northern Pike	
Season	All waters - Continuous except there is a closed season for those areas described on p. 12 and 19.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland waters* - Combined daily of 3 and possession of 6. Boundary rivers** - Combined daily of 5 and possession of 10 on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and a combined daily of 6 and possession of 12 on the Big Sioux River.
Length limit	All waters - none

Trout	
Season	All waters - Continuous
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - Combined daily of 5 and possession of 10.
Length limits	All waters - None, except a 14-inch minimum length limit applies to all trout in Spring Branch Creek (Delaware Co.), from the spring source to County Hwy. D5X as posted, and on brown trout only in portions of Bloody Run Creek (Clayton Co.) where posted. Catch and release only - All trout caught from the posted portion of Waterloo Creek (Allamakee Co.); Hewett and Ensign

	<p>creeks (Clayton Co.); South Pine Creek (Winneshiek Co.); and McCloud Run (Linn Co.), and brown trout caught from French Creek (Allamakee Co.) must be released alive immediately.</p>
Artificial lure only	<p>Fishing in the posted areas of Waterloo Creek, Bloody Run Creek, South Pine Creek, Spring Branch Creek, French Creek, Hewett Creek, Ensign Creek and McCloud Run must be by artificial lure only. Artificial lure means lures that do not contain or have applied to them any natural or human-made substance designed to attract fish by the sense of taste or smell.</p>
All other species (except threatened and endangered species)	
Season	All waters - Continuous except for those areas described on p. 12.
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - None, except the daily bag limit for hybrid striped bass in Big Creek Lake (Polk Co.) is 3 with a possession limit of 6.
Length limits	All waters - None, except the minimum size limit for hybrid striped bass in Big Creek Lake (Polk Co.) is 18 inches.
Paddlefish	
Season	All waters - Continuous except the Missouri or Big Sioux rivers and any tributary of these rivers within 200 yards immediately upstream of their confluence, where the season is closed year-round. Snagging for paddlefish on the Mississippi River is restricted to the area within 500 yards below the navigation dams and their spillways and those areas listed on p. 12. The open season on the Mississippi River is Jan.1 through April 15. Paddlefish snagging is not permitted in the eight areas closed to snagging (p. 18).
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - Combined daily of 2 and possession of 4.
Length limits	All waters - None

Shovelnose Sturgeon	
Season	All waters - Continuous except no harvest allowed in Big Sioux River.
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - None except daily bag limit of 10 and possession limit of 20 in the Missouri River.
Length limit	All waters - None
Frogs except for the endangered crayfish frog	
Season	All waters - Continuous
Daily bag & possession limit	All waters - All frogs except bullfrogs and crayfish frogs combined daily of 48 and possession of 96. Bullfrogs combined daily and possession of 12.
Length limits	All waters - None
Threatened and endangered species (p. 18)	
Season	All waters - Closed
Mussels - All mussels except for those listed as threatened or endangered (p. 18) and the zebra mussel	
Season	All waters - Continuous but the taking of mussels is restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset.
Daily bag & possession limit	Inland waters* , Missouri River and Big Sioux River - Only dead shells may be harvested, live and dead shells may be taken from the Mississippi River. The possession limit for all waters is 24 whole mussels or 48 shell halves.
Length limits	All waters - None

***Inland waters** of the state include all interior lakes and streams including: Green Island Lake and Slough (Jackson Co.), Middle and Upper Sabula (Jackson Co.) and Lake Odessa (Louisa Co.).

****Boundary rivers** of the state include the Mississippi, Missouri and Big Sioux and their backwater lakes and sloughs.

CLOSED SEASON

There is a closed season for all fishing on the Mississippi River in the tailwaters at three navigation dams from Dec. 1 of each year through March 15 of the following year. These closed fishing areas are:

1. from Dam 11 at Dubuque downstream to the railroad bridge near river mile 579.9
2. from Dam 12 at Bellevue downstream to the mouth of Mill Creek, near river mile 556.0, and
3. from Dam 13 at Clinton downstream to the downstream end of Stamp Island near river mile 521.5.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

Definition of “Limits”

“Daily bag limit” or “possession limit” is the number of fish permitted to be taken or held in a specified time. Fish immediately released unharmed are not considered part of either limit.

Culling or Sorting

It is prohibited to sort, cull, high-grade or replace any fish already in possession. Participants in permitted black bass tournaments are exempted. Any fish taken into possession by holding in a live well, on a stringer, or in other fish holding devices is part of the daily bag limit. Once the daily bag limit of a particular species is reached, fishing for that species is permitted as long as all fish of that species caught are immediately released.

Artificial Light

Artificial light may be used in the taking of any fish except those species listed as threatened or endangered (p. 18).

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 inch) including the scales left on each fish or filet, 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, mussels or animal or any part of which is protected.

Showing License and Catch to Officer

When requested, you must show your license 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 asked.

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, mudminnows, redhorse, blunt-nose and fathead minnows.

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 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. “Commercial purposes” means selling, giving or furnishing to others. 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 and Selling

There is a continuous open season on frogs except for the endangered crayfish frog. 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 own private use.

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 must have a special license to sell live or dressed turtles.

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 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.

Mussel Taking

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. 18). Zebra mussels (p. 23) shall not be taken or possessed. Mussels may be taken by hand or pole and line. The sale of mussels or shells is not permitted with a sport fishing license.

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 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.

Tip-up Fishing Device

A "tip-up fishing device" is an ice fishing mechanism with an attached flag or signal to indicate fishing action, used to hold fishing line and a hook. 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, Missouri and Big Sioux rivers and their connected backwaters, 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," "banklines," "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 fol-

lowing 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 its use. One end of the line must be set from the shore and visible above the shore waterline. 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 have the owner's name and address on a metal tag affixed above the waterline. You cannot sell fish with a boundary water sport trotline license.

Fishing Tournaments - Permits 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 (p. 24).

A tournament held on a boundary water area (p. 19 - 20) must be permitted by the Iowa DNR for anglers to legally fish Iowa water. This is regardless in which state the tournament is based.

Unlawful Means

Gaff hooks or landing nets may be used to assist in landing fish. You cannot use any grabhook, snaghook, any kind of 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, silver carp (see p. 23), grass 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, shortnose 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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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.

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, 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.

SNAGGING IS NOT permitted in the following areas: 1. Des Moines River from directly below Saylorville Dam to Southeast 14th St. bridge in Des Moines; 2. Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the 5 in 1 Dam under I-380 to the 1st Ave. bridge; 3. Cedar River in Cedar Rapids from directly below the "C" St. Roller Dam to 300 yards downstream; 4. Iowa River from directly below the Coralville Dam to 300 yards downstream; 5. Chariton River from directly below Lake Rathbun Dam to 300 yards downstream; 6. Spillway area from directly below the Spirit

Lake outlet to the confluence at East Okobojo Lake; 7. Northeast bank of the Des Moines River from directly below the Ottumwa Dam, including the catwalk, to the Jefferson St. bridge. Snagging from the South Market St. bridge is also prohibited; 8. Missouri River and the Big Sioux River from the I-29 bridge to the confluence with the Missouri River.

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 Co.), Iowa Lake (Osceola Co.), Burt (Swag) Lake (Kossuth Co.), and Iowa and Tuttle (Okamanpedan) lakes (Emmet Co.), 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 April 29, 2005. 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 April 29, 2005.

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 the elements of the boundary water 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 water 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.

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 of these waters. You can fish from boats or from the bank. 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.

Littering Public Waters

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

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Bighead carp, silver carp, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and other nonnative aquatic species threaten Iowa waters. These aquatic invaders do not occur naturally in our lakes and rivers. When transplanted into them, these exotic species can cause ecological and economic harm by displacing native plants and animals, damaging water resources, and interfering with water-based recreation, including fishing.

The good news is that most of Iowa waters are not infested with aquatic nuisance species. The main way these invasive species spread between waterbodies is by hitching a ride with anglers, boaters and other water recreationists on boats and equipment, on aquatic plants, and in water. If you leave a waterbody without taking precautions, you may be spreading the invasive species from one waterbody to another.

Fortunately, there are a few simple actions you can take to prevent their spread.

- Inspect your boat, trailer, and equipment and remove any visible plants, animals, or mud before leaving a waterbody.
- Drain water from your boat, motor, live well and bilge before leaving a waterbody.
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. Never release fish, animals or plants into a waterbody unless they came from that waterbody.
- Rinse or dry your boat, trailer, and fishing equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when you left a waterbody. Before transporting to another waterbody, rinse with high pressure and/or hot (104 degrees) water or dry for at least five days.
- Learn to identify aquatic nuisance species and report any suspected sightings to the nearest DNR fisheries station (p. 24).

Aquatic Nuisance Species Laws

It is illegal for anglers to possess, introduce, purchase, sell, or transport aquatic invasive species in Iowa except when a species is being removed from watercraft and equipment, is caught and immediately killed or returned to the water from which it came, or is being transported in a sealed container for identification purposes. **It is also illegal to introduce any live fish, except for hooked bait, into public waters.**

Iowa waters infested or previously infested with:

Eurasian watermilfoil

Black Hawk - Mitchell Avenue Pit, South Prairie Lake; **Bremer** - Sweet Marsh, Martens Lake, Wilson Grove Pond; **Buchanan** - Kounty Lake; **Chickasaw** - Airport Lake; **Floyd** - Rudd Lake; **Franklin** - Beeds Lake; **Fremont** - Scott A Lake; **Grundy** - Grundy County Lake; **Hancock** - Crystal Lake; **Kossuth** - Siems Park Ponds, St. Benedicts Ponds; **Marion** - Red Rock Pond; **Mills** - Keg Creek Lake, Mile Hill Lake; **Palo Alto** - Sportsman's Lake; **Ringgold** - Walnut Creek Marsh; **Woodbury** - Snyder Bend; **Multiple Counties** - Mississippi River



- Eurasian Watermilfoil

Brittle Naiad

Benton - Hannen Lake; **Crawford** - Nelson Park Pond, Yellow Smoke Lake; **Davis** - Lake Wapello; **Fayette** - Volga Lake; **Harrison** - Willow Lake; **Henry** - Lake Geode; **Ida** - Crawford Creek Lake, Moorehead Park Pond; **Linn** - Pleasant Creek Lake; **Tama** - Casey Lake; **Van Buren** - Lacey-Keosauqua Lake, Lake Sugema, Morris Park Pond; **Woodbury** - Little Sioux Park Pond; **Multiple Counties** - Mississippi River

Zebra Mussels

Multiple Counties - Mississippi River

Silver Carp

Lee - Mississippi River; **Multiple Counties** - Des Moines River



- Zebra Mussels

Bighead Carp

Wapello - Ottumwa Lagoon; **Multiple Counties** along the Mississippi, Chariton, Des Moines, Skunk, Iowa, Cedar, Missouri, Big Sioux, Nodaway and Platte rivers



- Bighead Carp

For more information, contact the DNR's aquatic nuisance species program at 515-432-2823.

Fisheries Phone Numbers

DNR Central Office - Des Moines _____	515-281-5918
Mt. Ayr Fish Hatchery _____	641-464-3108
Mississippi Monitoring Station _____	563-872-5495
Boone Research Station _____	515-432-2823
Chariton Research Station _____	641-774-2958
Big Springs Hatchery _____	563-245-2446
Rathbun Fish Hatchery _____	641-647-2406
Black Hawk Station _____	712-657-2638
Bellevue Fisheries Station _____	563-872-4976
Fairport Fish Hatchery _____	563-263-5062
Guttenberg Fisheries Station _____	563-252-1156
Clear Lake Station _____	641-357-3517
Lake Macbride Station _____	319-624-3615
Decorah Fisheries Station _____	563-382-8324
Manchester Fish Hatchery _____	563-927-3276
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery _____	712-336-1840
Cold Springs Regional Office _____	712-769-2587
Lake Darling Regional Office _____	319-694-2430

Contacting Conservation Officers

Conservation officers can be reached through the six Department of Public Safety communication centers listed below.

Atlantic _____	712-243-3854
Cedar Falls _____	319-277-4761
Cedar Rapids _____	319-396-4414
Des Moines _____	515-281-3561
Fairfield _____	641-472-5001
Storm Lake _____	712-732-1341

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 (FDA) 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 FDA standards are exceeded.

From all of this monitoring, only two consumption advisories 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 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.

Mercury and Iowa Fish

Mercury is a naturally occurring element in the environment and is also released into the air through industrial pollution. Mercury that falls from the air can accumulate in streams, rivers, lakes and the ocean. Fish can absorb mercury as they feed in these waters. So how much mercury is too much in the fish we eat? The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) states that mercury levels in fish are safe up to one part per million (ppm). This means the general population can eat fish with mercury present up to 1 ppm with no adverse health effect.

Since 1980, the Iowa DNR has collected and analyzed fish tissue samples to determine the presence of mercury and other chemicals. Since 1996, all Iowa fish sampled and tested have had levels below the FDA safe levels for mercury.

However, the FDA and the Environmental Protection Agency recommend the following groups limit their consumption to one meal per week of larger size predator fish, such as walleye and bass, which are more likely to have higher concentrations of mercury: pregnant and nursing women, those planning to become pregnant and children 12 years of age and younger.

Official Big Fish Registry

If you catch a fish eligible for a big fish award, please fill out the entry blank below. For many species, you may release the fish and still receive a big fish award by meeting the length criteria. Length is measured from 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 DNR fisheries personnel. One witness must attest to the weight of the fish to the nearest ounce on scales legal for trade.

The entry blank should be filled out and mailed with a photo or color slide of the angler and fish. (Photo will be returned.) Large fish are recognized each year and all-time records are posted until broken. An angling award certificate and shoulder patch will be sent for each qualifying entry. The top 10 record fish of each species will be listed in a spring issue of the *Iowa Conservationist* magazine.

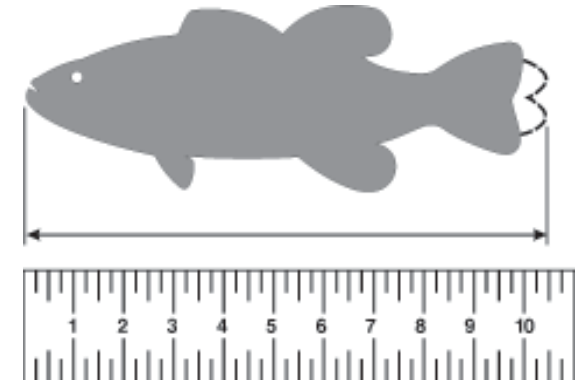
Official Big Fish Registry (clip and mail)

Name _____			
Street/RFD _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Species _____	Date _____		
Name of lake/stream _____	Total length _____		
County where caught _____	Total weight _____		
Bait or lure used, etc. _____	Was fish released	Y	N
Witness			
Name _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	

Entries must be submitted by Jan. 15 of the following year. Mail to: Fish Records, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

How to Measure Fish Length

Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.



Minimum weight or length limitations are as follows:

Bass (Largemouth) .22" or 7 lbs	Gar (Shortnose)..... 2 lbs
Bass (Rock)..... 1 lb	Goldeye/Mooneye..... 1 1/4 lb
Bass (Smallmouth) 20" or 4 lbs	Green Sunfish 1 lb
Bass (Spotted)16 1/2" or 2 1/2 lbs	Muskellunge40" or 15 lbs
Bass (White) ... 16" or 2 1/2 lbs	Northern Pike..... 34" or 10 lbs
Bass (Wiper)20" or 4 lbs	Paddlefish 25 lbs
Bass (Yellow)..... 10" or 3/4 lb	Perch (Yellow) 12" or 1 lb
Bluegill 10" or 1 lb	Redear Sunfish..... 1 lb
Bowfin (Dogfish)5 lbs	Sauger 18" or 2 1/2 lbs
Buffalo 20 lbs	Saugeye25" or 6 lbs
Bullhead2 1/2 lbs	Sturgeon (Shovelnose) 3 lbs
Carp (Misc.) 25 lbs	Suckers (Misc.) 4 lbs
Carp (Bighead)..... 25 lbs	Sunfish (Misc.) 1 lb
Catfish (Blue)35" or 20 lbs	Trout (Brook) .. 15" or 1 1/2 lbs
Catfish (Channel) .30" or 15 lbs	Trout (Brown) 18" or 3 lbs
Catfish (Flathead) 35" or 20 lbs	Trout (Rainbow) 18" or 3 lbs
Crappie..... 15" or 2 lbs	Walleye28" or 8 lbs
Freshwater Drum 15 lbs	White Amur (Grass Carp)25 lbs
Gar (Longnose) 6 lbs	

Iowa All-Time Record Fish

Species	Weight	Length	Caught
Bass (Largemouth)	10 lbs. 12 oz.	23 1/2"	Lake Fisher
Bass (Ocean Striped)	9 lbs. 4 oz.	29"	Lake Rathbun
Bass (Rock)	1 lb. 8 oz.	10 1/2"	Mississippi River
Bass (Smallmouth)	7 lbs. 12 oz.	22 3/4"	West Okoboji
Bass (White)	3 lbs. 14 oz.	20"	West Okoboji
Bass (Wiper)	18 lbs. 15 oz.	33 1/4"	Des Moines River
Bass (Yellow)	1 lb. 9 oz.	14 1/2"	Lake Manawa
Bass (Yellow) (tie)	1 lb. 9 oz.	13 1/2"	Lake Anita
Bluegill	3 lbs. 2 oz.	12 7/8"	Farm Pond
Bowfin (Dogfish)	11 lbs. 9 oz.	31 1/2"	Mississippi River
Bullhead	5 lbs. 8 oz.	22"	Farm Pond
Buffalo	62 lbs. 8 oz.	48 1/2"	Mississippi River
Carp (Misc.)	50 lbs.	44"	Glenwood Lake
Carp (Bighead)	54 lbs.	48"	Red Rock Tailwater
Catfish (Blue)	101 lbs.	53"	Missouri River
Catfish (Channel)	36 lbs. 8 oz.	40 1/2"	Mid. Raccoon River
Catfish (Flathead)	81 lbs.	52"	Lake Ellis
Crappie	4 lbs. 9 oz.	21 1/4"	Green Castle Lake
Freshwater Drum	46 lbs.	38 1/2"	Spirit Lake
Gar (Longnose)	17 lbs. 8 oz.	51"	Mississippi River
Gar (Shortnose)	4 lbs. 15 oz.	30 1/4"	Des Moines River
Goldeye/Mooneye	2 lbs. 7 oz.	19 1/8"	Mississippi River
Green Sunfish	2 lbs. 1 oz.	12 1/2"	Farm Pond
Muskellunge`	50 lbs. 6 oz.	52"	Spirit Lake
Muskie (Tiger)	27 lbs. 2 oz.	47"	West Okoboji
Northern Pike	25 lbs. 5 oz.	45"	West Okoboji
Paddlefish	107 lbs.	69 1/2"	Missouri River
Perch (Yellow)	2 lbs. 3 oz.	14 3/4"	Morse Lake
Perch (Yellow) (tie)	2 lbs. 3 oz.	15 1/2"	Bussey Lake
Sauger	6 lbs. 8 oz.	25"	Missouri River
Saugeye	12 lbs. 4 oz.	29 1/2"	Des Moines River
Sturgeon (Shovelnose)	12 lbs.	33"	Des Moines River
Suckers (Misc.)	15 lbs. 1 oz.	32 1/4"	Missouri River
Sunfish (Misc.)			
Trout (Brook)	7 lbs.	19 3/4"	Fountain Springs
Trout (Brown)	15 lbs. 6 oz.	29"	North Prairie Lake
Trout (Rainbow)	19 lbs. 8 oz.	35"	French Creek
Walleye	14 lbs. 8 oz.	30 1/2"	Des Moines River
White Amur	64 lbs.	50 1/2"	Winterfield Pit

Length Limits - Not Only a Good Idea - But the Law

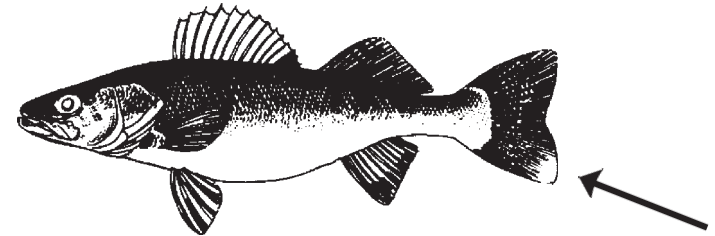
Length limits are an important tool in fish management. Length limits are used in Iowa to protect important predator species such as bass, walleye, muskie and trout from overharvest.

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

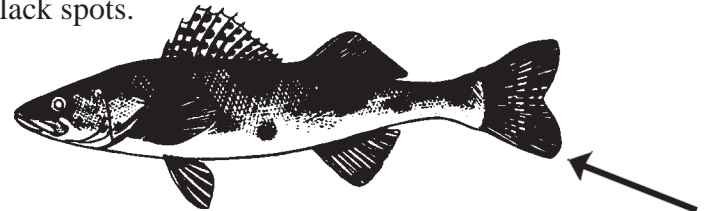
FISH IDENTIFICATION

Walleye and Sauger

Mississippi River anglers need to know the difference between walleye and sauger due to differences in length and bag limits. 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 on the lower tail fin are sauger.



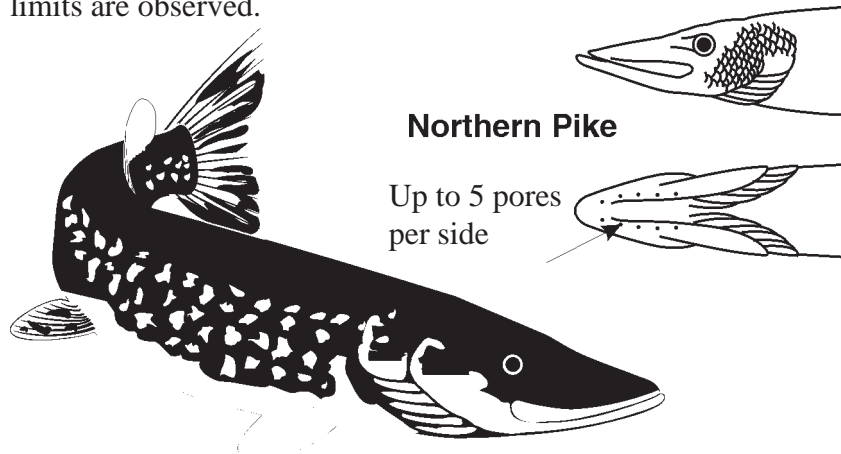
Walleye. Walleye have a white tip on the lower tail fin; do not have distinct blotches or mottling on the sides; forward (spiny) portion of the dorsal fin has dark streaks or blotches rather than distinct black spots.



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.

Iowa's Pike Family

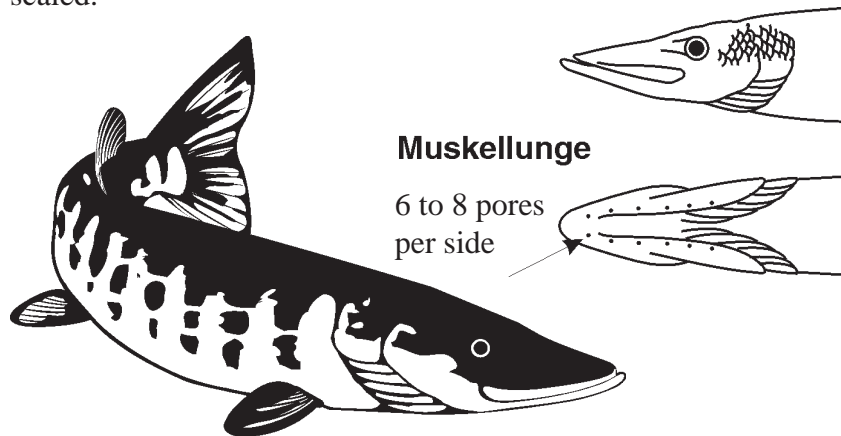
Lakes and streams may contain muskie and northern pike. It is important for anglers to know the difference among members of the pike family in order that appropriate size, catch and possession limits are observed.



Northern Pike

Up to 5 pores per side

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.



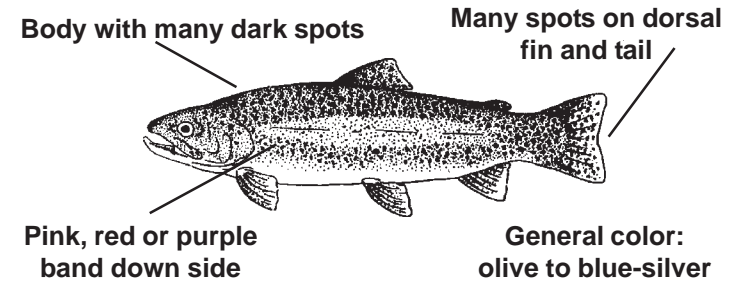
Muskellunge

6 to 8 pores per side

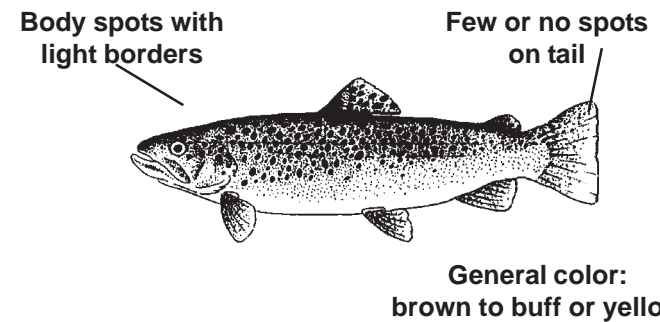
Muskellunge. Muskies usually are olive to dark gray with tiger-like vertical markings on the side. They have 6 to 8 pores on each side of the lower jaw. Only the upper half of both the cheek and gill cover is scaled.

Trout

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.

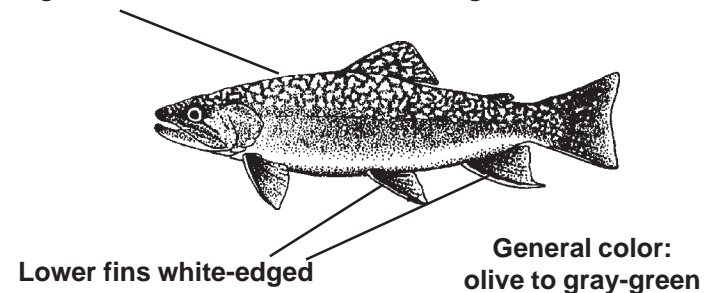


Brown Trout. They are olive to greenish-brown. The large black and reddish-orange spots on the sides of the fish have a pale border. The lower portions of the fish are yellow, fading to gray or white beneath. Browns have few or no spots on the tail fin.



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 "wormlike" markings on the back.

Light "wormlike" marks on darker background on back



Visit the DNR fisheries website at www.iowadnr.com/fish/ to find out more about Iowa fish and fishing. Looking for information on hunting, boating and camping? Go to www.iowadnr.com.

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 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

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 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034.

Water works wonders

FOR FISHING, BOATING, AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

