

www.iowadnr.gov

2017 IOWA FISHING REGULATIONS

Free Fishing Days June 2, 3 & 4 (page 2)
Iowa Residents Only



This brochure contains rules and regulations most likely needed to fish in Iowa. However, it is not a complete list of all fishing regulations nor is it a legal document. For more information, visit www.iowadnr.gov or contact the DNR Central Office in Des Moines at 515-725-8200.

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2017 REGULATION CHANGES

There are no regulation changes for the 2017 season.

Iowa residents may fish without a license or trout fee on June 2, 3 and 4; all other regulations remain in place.



FISHING INFO ONLINE

A place to fish close to home, a weekly fishing report, trout stocking information and fishing opportunities for kids can be found at www.iowadnr.gov fishing. For more fishing and outdoors discussion, join the DNR on social media.

facebook.com/iowadnr

twitter.com/iowadnr

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2017 LICENSE AND PERMIT FEES

RESIDENT FISHING (on sale Dec. 15, 2016)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Annual 16 years old and older | \$19.00 |
| 3-Year | \$53.00 |
| 7-Day | \$13.50 |
| 1-Day | \$9.50 |
| Annual Third Line Fishing Permit | \$12.00 |
| Trout Fee | \$12.50 |
| Lifetime (65 years old and older) | \$52.50 |
| Boundary Water Sport Trotline | \$22.50 |
| Fishing Tournament Permit | \$25.00 |
| Fishing, Hunting, Habitat Fee Combo | \$47.00 |
| Paddlefish Fishing License & Tag | \$22.00 |

NONRESIDENT FISHING (on sale Jan. 1, 2017)

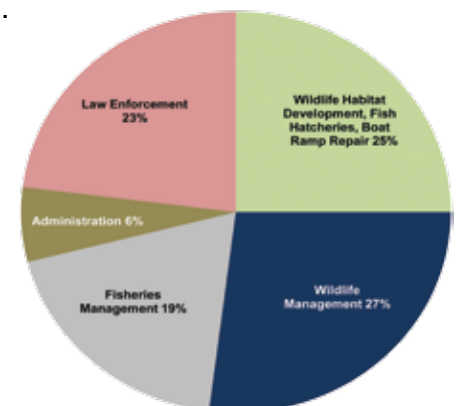
| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Annual 16 years old and older | \$41.00 |
| 7-Day | \$32.00 |
| 3-Day | \$17.50 |
| 1-Day | \$10.50 |
| Annual Third Line Fishing Permit | \$12.00 |
| Trout Fee | \$15.00 |
| Boundary Water Sport Trotline | \$42.50 |
| Fishing Tournament Permit | \$25.00 |
| Paddlefish Fishing License & Tag | \$42.00 |

LICENSED ANGLERS ARE INVESTING IN IOWA'S FUTURE

Thank you for purchasing a fishing license. Your license dollars are an investment that will protect and enhance quality fish populations and fishing opportunities in Iowa.

Each year, about 400,000 resident and nonresident anglers purchase a license to fish in Iowa waters. Your license dollars are placed in the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund where it can only be invested for the protection and enhancement of Iowa's fish and wildlife resources. This investment allows the Iowa DNR Fisheries Bureau to produce and stock more than 160 million fish annually, conduct research studies to manage fish more effectively, construct fish habitat, improve water quality, restore lakes with a history of poor fishing and improve access for anglers.

Fishing is a tremendous opportunity for family and friends to spend time together or to renew old friendships. We encourage you to enjoy this lifetime sport and share it with others. Fishing is a pastime that will last for a lifetime.



Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund
EXPENDITURES

Joe G. Larscheid, Chief of Fisheries

GOLDEN RULES FOR ANGLERS

- Be considerate of anglers having special physical needs when fishing universally accessible facilities.
- Leave the fishing site as clean or cleaner than you found it.
- Never discard trash, fishing line or old tackle on shore or in the water.
- Do not spill gas, oil or other pollutants on land or into the water.
- Take precautions not to spread invasive plants or animals (see p. 18).
- Report fishing and boating violations at 1-800-532-2020.
- Comply with all fishing regulations.
- Treat other anglers and boaters with courtesy and respect.
- Sinkers, including split shots, are now made from steel, tin, bismuth and tungsten for anglers who are concerned about using lead tackle.

LICENSE AND PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

A fishing license allows a person to take fish, mussels, turtles, frogs and bait according to the regulations set forth in this booklet. **A person cannot buy or sell, dead or live, a fish, mussel, turtle, frog or bait with a sport fishing license.**

SPECIAL LICENSES FOR RESIDENTS

Applications and assistance for these special licenses are available at DNR offices (p. 20) that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

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) Disabled Veteran's License - Available to an Iowa resident who is 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, Ch. 11.

IMPORTANT

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is required to collect social security numbers from all persons obtaining a hunting, fishing or other recreational license under section 252J.8 of the Code of Iowa and 42 U.S. Code 666(a)(13). Your social security number will serve as your principal identification number to determine your eligibility for

licenses. It will be provided to enforcement agencies to establish, modify and enforce child support and tax obligations. It WILL NOT appear on your hunting or fishing license.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PURCHASING RESIDENT LICENSES

A **nonresident** is a person who is not a resident of Iowa. NOTE: Iowa residents who have previously hunted, fished and/or trapped as nonresidents are urged to plan ahead to obtain license privileges as soon as possible. The electronic licensing system for hunting, fishing and trapping automatically identifies people who have previously obtained licenses as nonresidents. This law change was made to identify a growing problem in Iowa of nonresidents falsifying records to illegally obtain (invalid) resident licenses. Those who previously held a nonresident Iowa license but are now eligible for resident licenses, need to fill out and return a form that can be accessed at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing. License vendors CANNOT make this change at the point of sale and it cannot be done over the phone. For questions, contact the local conservation officer (p. 23).

Resident means a natural person who meets one of the following criteria.

1. Has physically resided in this state as the person's principal and primary residence or domicile for a period of not less than 90 consecutive days **immediately** before applying for or purchasing a resident license and has an Iowa driver's license or non-operator's ID. Factors to determine the domicile include, but are not limited to, place of employment, mailing (street) address, utility records, real estate records, vehicle registrations and addresses listed on the state and federal income tax records.

A person is not considered a resident under this paragraph if the person is residing in the state only for a special or temporary purpose including, but not limited to, engaging in hunting, fishing or trapping.

2. Is a full-time student at an accredited educational institution in Iowa and resides in Iowa while attending the educational institution, or are a full-time student under 25 years of age at an accredited educational institution outside the state as long as at least one parent or legal guardian maintains a principal and primary residence in Iowa.

3. Is a student who qualifies as a resident pur-

suant to the above paragraph only for the purpose of purchasing any resident license specified in section 483A.1 or 484A.2

4. Is a nonresident under 18 years of age with a parent who is a legal resident of Iowa.

5. Is a member of the armed forces of the United States who is serving on active duty, claims residency in this state, and has filed a state individual income tax return for the preceding year, or is stationed in this state.

Dual Residency Not Permitted: Unless you qualify under 2, 3, 4 or 5 in the previous section, a person shall not purchase or apply for any resident license or permit if that person has claimed residency in any other state or country.

LICENSE AND FEES

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

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 the facility has been issued a permit from the DNR. A person supervising a group may fish with the group and is not required to obtain 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.
- Resident and nonresident landowners or tenants and their children under age 18, may fish on their lands without a license.

TROUT FEE

Iowa residents and nonresidents who are required to have a fishing license must pay the Trout Fee to fish for or possess trout. Exception: Iowa

residents and nonresidents under 16 years old may possess or fish for 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 one person daily limit of five trout. Children under 16 have the option to purchase their own trout privilege, which allows them to fish without a properly licensed adult and keep their own daily limit (5).

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.

THREATENED & 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, American Brook Lamprey, Chestnut Lamprey, Grass Pickerel, Blacknose Shiner, Western Sand Darter, Black Redhorse, Burbot, Orangethroat Darter, Topeka Shiner

FROGS: Crayfish Frog

TURTLES: Yellow Mud Turtle, Wood Turtle, Ornate Box Turtle, Common Musk Turtle, Blanding's Turtle

MUSSELS: Spectacle Case, Slippershell, Buckhorn, Ozark Pigtoe, Bullhead, Ohio River Pigtoe, Slough Sandshell, Yellow Sandshell, Cylinder, Strange Floater, Creek Heelsplitter, Purple Pimpleback, Butterfly, Ellipse and the Higgin's Eye Pearly Mussel

SALAMANDERS: Blue-spotted Salamander, Central Newt and the Mudpuppy.

WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Iowa is part of the Wildlife Violator Compact which 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.

GENERAL FISHING REGULATIONS

ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Artificial light may be used in the taking of any fish except those species listed as threatened or endangered (p. 4).

BAIT DEFINITIONS

“Bait” includes, but is not limited to, minnows, Green Sunfish, Orange-spotted Sunfish, live or dead Gizzard Shad, frogs, crayfish, salamanders and mussels. “Minnows” are chubs, shiners, suckers, dace, stonerollers, mudminnows, redhorse, Bluntnose and Fathead minnows. Live mussels may only be taken from the Mississippi River and its connected backwaters. The daily and possession limit is 24 live mussels (p. 10).

BAIT COLLECTION

A valid sport fishing license is required to collect bait for individual use. Minnow traps not exceeding 3 feet in length may be used. Each trap, when in use, shall have a metal tag attached plainly labeled with the owner’s name and address. 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. Call 515-725-8200 for information on the differences of a retail bait dealer license versus a wholesale bait dealer license.

BAIT DUMPING

It is against the law to dump bait in Iowa lakes, rivers or streams. Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash. **If keeping bait**, you must exchange water in the bait buckets with tap or bottled water before leaving any waterbody to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (p. 18).

BOUNDARY WATER SPORT TROTLINE

A boundary water sport trotline license allows 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.

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.

DEFINITION OF “LIMITS”

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

FISHING TOURNAMENTS - PERMITS REQUIRED

You need a permit issued by the DNR to conduct a fishing tournament on public waters under the jurisdiction of the state. Fishing clinics and youth fishing days are excluded. “Fishing tournament” means any organized fishing event, except for department-sponsored fishing events held for educational purposes, involving any of the following: (1) six or more boats or 12 or more participants, except for water of the Mississippi River, where the number of boats shall be 20 or more and the number of participants shall be 40 or more; (2) an entry fee is charged; and (3) prizes or other inducement are awarded. All applications shall be submitted via the centralized special events application system at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing. For more information, contact any fisheries bureau office (p. 20).

A tournament held on a boundary water (p. 16) must be permitted by the Iowa DNR for anglers to legally fish Iowa water, regardless in which state the tournament is based.

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 litter free.

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. 4). Zebra mussels (p. 18) 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 Definitions 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 Asian Carp. When these species are stocked they cause ecological and economic harm by displacing beneficial native plants and animals, and destroying the quality of the fishery resource. You cannot possess live Gizzard Shad at any lake. This does not apply to privately owned ponds and lakes.

SHOWING LICENSE & 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.

TIP-UP FISHING DEVICE

A “tip-up” 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 and one additional line, or two tip-ups and no additional lines. An additional line or tip-up may be used when possessing a third line fishing permit.

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.

TROTTLINES

“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 following stream sections: Mississippi River, 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 every 24 hours. All trotlines and parts thereof shall be removed from the shore when not being actively fished. A trotline shall be considered actively fished if at least once daily the trotline is left with at least one baited hook in the water. 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.

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. It is illegal to sell turtles taken on a sport fishing license. You must have a commercial turtle license to sell turtles, including parts and eggs. The taking of turtle eggs from the wild is prohibited.

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.

Turtles can be only taken by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap or hook-and-line. Turtle traps must have no more than one throat or funneling device. All turtle traps must have a functional escape hole provided with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches to allow passage of fish and small turtles. On hoop type traps the 7-1/2 inch escape hole shall be located in the last hoop to the tail-line. 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.

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.

All game fish not hooked in the mouth, except Paddlefish, must be returned to the water immediately with as little injury as possible.

BOW FISHING & SPEARING

A valid sport fishing license allows you to take rough fish and frogs by bow and arrow and spear. Bow fishing and spearing are allowed on public lakes, reservoirs and rivers, private ponds with permission and border waters described on p. 16. Additional regulations specific to bow fishing and spearing may exist in some state parks, federal refuges and lakes controlled by city and county governments.

BOW FISHING, SPEARING & SNAGGING

A valid sport fishing license allows you to take Common Carp, Bighead Carp, Silver Carp, Grass Carp, Black Carp, Bigmouth Buffalo, Smallmouth Buffalo, Black Buffalo, Quillback, Highfin Carpsucker, River Carpsucker, Spotted Sucker, White Sucker, Shorthead Redhorse, Golden Redhorse, Silver Redhorse, Freshwater Drum, Shortnose Gar, Longnose Gar, Bowfin, Gizzard Shad and Goldfish by snagging, bow fishing and spearing and Paddlefish (p. 11) by snagging. No hook larger than a 5/0 treble hook or measuring more than 1 ¼ inches in length when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler are permitted when snagging.

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 Okoboji 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, any Missouri River tributary beginning at its confluence and extending below its Interstate 29 bridge and the Big Sioux River from the Interstate 29 bridge to the confluence with the Missouri River with the exception of snagging Paddlefish and only Paddlefish during the open season; **9.** Des Moines River from directly below the hydroelectric dam (Big Dam) to the Hawkeye Avenue bridge in Fort Dodge; **10.** Des Moines River from directly below the Little Dam to the Union Pacific Railroad bridge in Fort Dodge; **11.** Skunk River, from directly below the Oakland Mills Dam to the downstream end of the 253rd Street boat ramp.

Snagging, bow and arrow fishing and spearing is not permitted in the following areas:

1. From the Ventura Grade roadway, jetties and bridges of Clear Lake and Ventura Marsh; **2.** Within 300 feet of the concrete culvert and metal fish barrier of Lost Island Lake Inlet; **3.** Within 300 feet of the outlet and metal fish barrier of Lost Island Lake Outlet; **4.** Within 300 feet of the outlet and metal fish barrier of Barringer Slough; **5.** Beginning at 230th Avenue and extending downstream to the signed Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District property line of Lower Gar Lake outlet.

IOWA FISH ARE WHOLESOME

Eating fish is an important part of a healthy diet for all ages. Fish are low in saturated fats, contain high quality protein, and important vitamins and minerals. Some fish can also contain omega-3 fatty acids. Eating fish can contribute to a healthy heart and a child's proper growth and brain development. The American Heart Association recommends that people enjoy at least 2 servings of baked or grilled fish each week, especially oily fish. Eating fish may protect against a variety of diseases and illnesses in adults, such as cancer, heart disease, dementia, diabetes, depression, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, prostate cancer, stroke and autoimmune disease.

FISHING SEASONS AND LIMITS

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| BLACK BASS Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted bass combined |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT: All Inland Waters and Interior Streams and River Impoundments - combined daily 3 and possession of 6. See p. 16 for boundary lakes |
| Inland Waters¹ |
| Length Limits - public lakes, including Coralville, Rathbun, Saylorville and Red Rock reservoirs - 15-inch minimum except as otherwise posted; special regulations are posted at: |
| A. 16-inch minimum at Swan Lake (Carroll) |
| B. 18-inch minimum at lakes Ada Hayden (Story); Ahquabi, Hooper (Warren); Big Creek, Thomas Mitchell, Yellow Banks (Polk); Casey (Tama); Cold Springs (Cass); Green Valley (Union); Hendricks (Howard); Krumm (Jasper); Little Wall (Hamilton); Lost Grove (Scott); Mill Creek (O'Brien); Pleasant Creek (Linn); Smith (Kossuth); and South Prairie (Black Hawk) |
| C. Catch and release only at lakes Brown (Jackson) and Wapello (Davis) |
| D. All 12 to 16-inch fish must be immediately released at Lake Hawthorn (Mahaska) |
| E. All 12 to 18-inch fish must be immediately released at Lake Sugema (Van Buren) |
| Interior Streams & River Impoundments |
| Length Limits - 12-inch minimum except all Black Bass caught from the following stream segments must be released alive immediately: |
| A. Cedar River (Mitchell) extending downstream from below the Otranto Dam as posted to the bridge on county road T26 south of St. Ansgar |
| B. Maquoketa River (Delaware) extending downstream from below Lake Delhi Dam as posted to the first county gravel road bridge |
| C. Middle Raccoon River (Guthrie) extending downstream from below Lennon Mills Dam as posted to the dam at Redfield |
| D. Upper Iowa River (Winneshieki) extending downstream from the Fifth Street bridge in Decorah as posted to the upper dam. |
| Boundary Rivers² |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT: Boundary Rivers - combined daily 5 and possession of 10 |
| Length Limits - 14-inch minimum on the Mississippi River and 12-inch minimum length limit on the Missouri River . Associated chutes and backwaters of the border rivers are included where intermittent or constant flow occur. No length limit on the Big Sioux River . Browns Lake Mississippi River (Jackson) is catch and release only. |

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| BLUEGILL, CRAPPIE & PUMPKINSEED |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMITS: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS |
| Inland waters¹ - 25 daily for Bluegill and 25 daily for crappie on public waters and no possession limit for either. No daily limit for Bluegill or crappie on private waters. See p. 16 for boundary lakes. |
| Boundary rivers² - 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, and crappie. |

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| CATFISH Channel, Blue, Flathead catfish combined & bullhead |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMITS: All waters - None |
| CATFISH DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS |
| Inland lakes - Catfish combined daily 8 and possession 30, except for Iowa boundary lakes listed on p. 16. No limit for bullheads. |
| Inland streams, Coralville, Rathbun, Red Rock and Saylorville reservoirs - Catfish combined daily 15 and combined possession 30. No limit for bullheads. |
| Boundary rivers ² same as streams except no bag or possession limit on the Mississippi River. |

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| FROGS , except for the endangered crayfish frog |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMITS: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: All waters - All frogs except bullfrogs and crayfish frogs combined daily: 48 and possession: 96. Bullfrogs combined daily and possession: 12. Crayfish frogs are protected as an endangered species. See p. 4. |

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| MUSKELLUNGE including Hybrids (Tiger) (Identification p. 14) |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous except there is an open season on West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit lakes (Dickinson) and on Iowa-Minnesota boundary lakes from May 21 through Nov. 30, each year. |
| LENGTH LIMITS: All waters - 40 inches minimum length limit |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: All waters - Daily and possession of 1. |

| |
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| MUSSELS All mussels except for those listed as threatened or endangered (p. 4) and the Zebra Mussel (p. 18). The angler is responsible for the identification of the mussel species in possession. |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous but the taking of mussels is restricted to the hours between sunrise and sunset. |
| LENGTH LIMIT: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT: Inland waters ¹ , Missouri River and Big Sioux River - Only dead shells may be harvested. Mississippi River and connected backwaters, live and dead shells may be harvested. The possession limit for all waters is 24 whole mussels or 48 shell halves. See p. 6 "Mussel Taking." |

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| NORTHERN PIKE (Identification p. 14) |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMIT: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT |
| Inland waters ¹ - Daily of 3 and possession of 6. For boundary lakes , see p. 16. |
| Boundary rivers ² - Daily of 5 and possession of 10 on the Mississippi and Missouri rivers and a daily of 6 and possession of 12 on the Big Sioux River. |

PADDLEFISH

SEASON: Continuous open season on all interior waters, **except** snagging is not permitted in areas closed to snagging (p. 8). The open season on the Mississippi River is March 1 through April 15. Snagging for Paddlefish on the Mississippi River is restricted to the area within 500 yards below the navigation dams and their spillways. The open season on the Missouri and Big Sioux rivers is March 1 through April 15. The open area is limited to Iowa waters only, beginning at the Big Sioux River below the I-29 bridge to the Big Sioux River's confluence with the Missouri River and in the Missouri River, including all backwater and sloughs and any Missouri River tributary beginning at its confluence and extending below its I-29 bridge, beginning at the Big Sioux River confluence and extending to the Hamburg Landing boat ramp. Snagging hours on the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers is sunrise to sunset. No hooks larger than 5/0 treble or measuring more than 1-1/4 inch in length when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler is permitted when snagging (p. 8).

LENGTH LIMITS: None, **except** for the Mississippi River where a 33-inch maximum length limit shall apply; and on the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers, a 35-45-inch protected slot limit shall apply. All fish measuring 33 inches or more on the Mississippi River and 35-45 inches on the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers must be immediately released alive. Paddlefish length shall be measured from the front of the eye to the natural unaltered fork of the tail. (See illustration below) An angler shall use a flexible tape and measure along and over the center line contour of the fish while it is lying flat. All fish not taken into possession must be immediately released alive.

DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT: All waters - daily of 2 and possession of 4 except the daily and possession limit is one in the Big Sioux River, Missouri River and any Missouri River tributary to its I-29 bridge.

SPECIAL REGULATIONS: BIG SIOUX & MISSOURI RIVERS

A gaffe hook or other penetrating device can not be used as an aid in landing a snagged fish. There are 950 resident licenses and 50 nonresident licenses available each year. Licenses are available first come, first served from Dec. 15-Jan. 31. To purchase a license, go to www.iowadnr.gov/fishing. A valid resident or nonresident fishing license in addition to the Paddlefish fishing license with unused tag is required to fish for Paddlefish in the Big Sioux and Missouri rivers. Residents and nonresidents under 16 years of age are required to have a Paddlefish fishing license to fish for Paddlefish. An angler is limited to one license and one tag per year. Anglers possessing a Paddlefish fishing license and unused tag shall snag fish for the purpose of catching Paddlefish only. Immediately upon taking into possession a legal Paddlefish, a valid current year transportation tag issued with the license shall be visibly attached to the fish's lower jaw in such a manner that it cannot be removed without mutilating or destroying it. A damaged tag or closed tag not attached to a Paddlefish is no longer valid. An angler shall not possess a Paddlefish fishing license or transportation tag issued to another angler, or tag a Paddlefish with a transportation tag issued to another angler. The transportation tag shall be attached before the carcass can be moved in any manner from the place of harvest and remain affixed to the Paddlefish until it is processed for consumption. The Paddlefish shall remain intact except for the snout in front of the eye until the fish reaches the final processing place. The "final processing place" is defined as the anglers' residence or the location where consumption occurs. The transportation tag shall be proof of possession of the carcass by the above mentioned licensee.

SHOVELNOSE STURGEON (Identification p. 15)

SEASON: All waters - Continuous except no harvest allowed in Big Sioux River.

LENGTH LIMIT: All waters - None

DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: All waters - None, except the daily bag limit is 10 and possession limit is 20 in the Missouri River. The sale of eggs is not permitted with a sport fishing license.

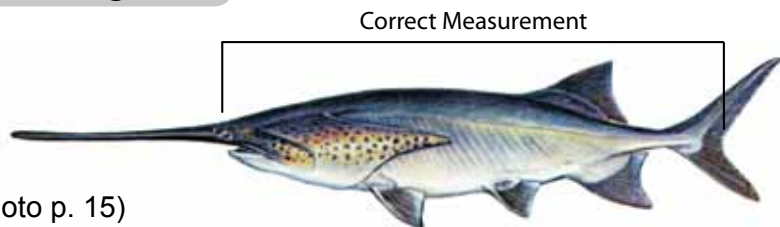
Measuring a Paddlefish and Shovelnose Sturgeon

Measuring a Paddlefish

Measure from the front of the eye to the unaltered fork in the tail.

Measuring a Shovelnose Sturgeon

Measure from the snout to the fork in the tail. (photo p. 15)



THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES (p. 4)**SEASON: All waters** - Closed**TROUT** Brook, Brown and Rainbow (Identification p. 15)**SEASON: All waters** - Continuous**LENGTH LIMITS:** None, except a 14-inch minimum length limit applies to all trout in **Spring Branch Creek** (Delaware), from the spring source to County Hwy. D5X as posted, and on Brown Trout only in portions of **Bloody Run Creek** (Clayton) where posted.**DAILY BAG & POSSESSION: All waters** - Combined daily of 5 and possession of 10.**CATCH & RELEASE ONLY:** All trout caught from the posted portion of **Hewett** and **Ensign creeks** (Clayton); **McCloud Run** (Linn), **South Pine Creek** (Winneshiek); and **Waterloo Creek** (Allamakee); and Brown Trout caught from **French Creek** (Allamakee) must be released alive immediately.**SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS:**Artificial Lure Only: Fishing in the posted areas of **Bloody Run Creek, Ensign Creek and Hewett Creek (Ensign Hollow), French Creek, McCloud Run, South Pine Creek, Spring Branch Creek and Waterloo Creek** 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.**WALLEYE, SAUGER & SAUGEYE** (Identification p. 14)**Inland Waters****SEASON:** Continuous except on West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit lakes (Dickinson). The open season on West Okoboji, East Okoboji and Spirit lakes is from May 6, 2017 through Feb. 14, 2018.**LENGTH LIMIT:** None except for the special lakes which are posted or published below.**DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT:** Combined daily 5 and combined possession limit of 10, except for special lakes listed below and boundary lakes listed on p. 16.**SPECIAL WALLEYE RESTRICTIONS:** The following lakes have a daily bag limit of 3 and possession limit of 6 in addition to special length restrictions.**Big Creek Lake** (Polk) 15-inch minimum length limit, and no more than one Walleye longer than 20 inches may be taken per day;**Clear Lake** (Cerro Gordo) 14-inch minimum, and no more than one Walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day;**Storm Lake** (Buena Vista) and **West Okoboji, East Okoboji, Spirit, Upper Gar, Minnewashta, Lower Gar** (Dickinson) all 17 to 22-inch Walleyes must be immediately released alive; no more than one Walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day.**Boundary Rivers²****SEASON:** Continuous**LENGTH LIMIT:** 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 below Lock and Dam 11 at Dubuque to the Missouri state line, must be immediately released alive, and, no more than one Walleye above 27 inches may be taken per day on these pools.**DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMIT:** Mississippi River combined daily 6 and combined possession of 12. Big Sioux and Missouri rivers - combined daily of 4 and possession of 8.

| |
|--|
| YELLOW BASS, WHITE BASS, ROCK BASS & HYBRID (WIPER) |
| SEASON: All waters ¹ - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMIT: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: |
| Inland waters ¹ - None |
| Boundary rivers ² 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: White and Yellow bass combined, and Rock Bass. |

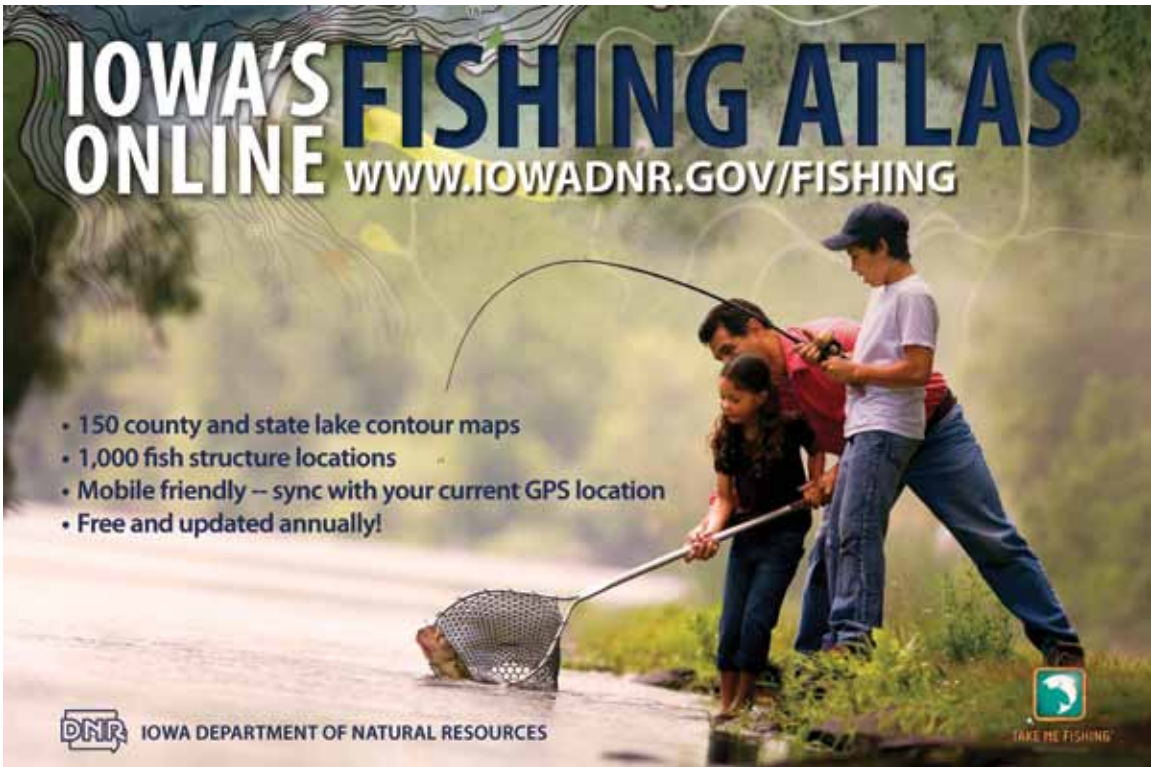
| |
|--|
| YELLOW PERCH |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMIT: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: All waters - Daily of 25 and possession of 50 except there is no daily or possession limit on the Missouri River. For Boundary lakes , see p. 16. |

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| ALL OTHER FISH |
| SEASON: All waters - Continuous |
| LENGTH LIMITS: All waters - None |
| DAILY BAG & POSSESSION LIMITS: All waters - None |

¹ **Inland waters** of the state include all interior lakes and streams including: Green Island Lake and Slough (Jackson), Middle and Upper Sabula (Jackson) and Lake Odessa (Louisa).

² **Boundary rivers** of the state include the Mississippi, Missouri, Des Moines (Van Buren and Lee counties) and Big Sioux and their backwater lakes and sloughs.

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



FISH IDENTIFICATION

WALLEYE & SAUGER

Anglers need to know the difference between Walleye and Sauger due to differences in length limits.

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.



Photo courtesy of Jim Negus, www.tnfish.org

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.



Photo courtesy of Jim Negus, www.tnfish.org

IOWA'S PIKE FAMILY

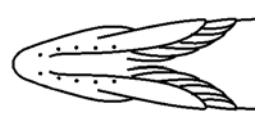
Lakes and streams may contain muskie and Northern Pike. It is important for anglers to know the difference among members of the pike family in order that appropriate size, catch and possession limits are observed.

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 fewer pores on each side of the lower jaw. The entire cheek and upper half of the gill cover is scaled.



Muskie 6 to 8 pores per side



Pike up to 5 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

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

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

Vivid white markings on the front edges of the lower fins. They also have light "worm-like" markings on the back. General color: olive to gray-green.



STURGEON

LAKE STURGEON

Endangered: If caught, release immediately, unharmed

- Short snout turns up at end
- Barbels are not fringed



PALLID STURGEON

Endangered: If caught, release immediately, unharmed

- Outer barbels twice as long as inner barbels
- Base of barbels "U" shaped, inner two set out in front
- Smooth belly



SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

- Barbels all the same length
- Barbels straight across
- Rarely exceeds 4 pounds
- Belly is scaled



Sturgeon images are courtesy of the Missouri Department of Conservation.

RECIPROcity FISHING PRIVILEGES WITH ADJOINING STATES

Fish privileges on boundary waters common to Iowa and an adjoining state are mutually agreed upon by the neighboring states. An angler having a valid fishing license may fish boundary waters common to Iowa but it is the angler's responsibility to know which state you are fishing in and the regulations that apply to the water that you are fishing. (see the following table).

| A resident or nonresident with a valid Iowa fishing license | Mississippi River | | Missouri River Nebraska | Big Sioux River South Dakota | Des Moines River Missouri ³ | Border Lakes Minnesota |
|---|------------------------|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| | Wisconsin ¹ | Illinois | | | | |
| May hook and line fish only | | X | | X | | |
| May hook and line fish, spear and archery fish | | | X | | X | X ⁴ |
| May hook and line fish, spear and take minnows and crayfish for such fishing | X | | | | | |
| May fish all sloughs and backwaters connected with the main channel | X | X | X ² | | X ³ | |
| May fish from a boat or the bank of either state | X | | X | X | | X |
| May not fish from or attach any device or equipment to the main bank of the state where you are not licensed, cannot fish any tributary | | X | | | X | |
| Must comply with the regulations of the state in which you are fishing | X | | | | | |
| When fishing in water in which you are not licensed you must comply with the state having the more restrictive regulations. | | X | X | X | X | X ⁴ |

¹**WISCONSIN-IOWA** - You only 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.

²**NEBRASKA-IOWA** - Waters of the Missouri River include all oxbows, sloughs, chutes and backwaters that draw water from the Missouri River proper. Included are any oxbows, chutes and backwaters separated from the river but through which the Iowa-Nebraska stateline passes. In Desoto Bend Lake, you must comply with federal refuge regulations.

³**MISSOURI-IOWA** - Included are any oxbow lakes separated from the river but through which the Iowa-Missouri state line passes.

⁴**MINNESOTA-IOWA** boundary lakes include Little Spirit Lake (Dickinson), Iowa Lake (Osceola), Burt (Swag) Lake (Kossuth), and Iowa and Tuttle (Okamanpeedan) lakes (Emmet). The following species have a continuous open season with a daily bag and possession limit set forth below: Wall-eye, Northern Pike and in combination Largemouth and Smallmouth bass daily bag and possession limit three. There is no length limit for bass. Channel Catfish daily bag and possession limit eight. Crappie species and sunfish species (Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Green Sunfish, Orangespotted Sunfish, Longear Sunfish, Warmouth and hybrids) in aggregate, bag and possession limit 25. Muskeg-lunge daily bag and possession limit one with an open season beginning May 21 through November 30 and a 40-inch minimum length limit shall apply on all border lakes. Spearing or archery may be used to take carp, buffalo, Bowfin, Sheepshead, gar and Quillback Carpsucker. All species not listed above are subject to the inland regulations of the state and have a continuous open season.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Every year, Iowa DNR biologists collect edible samples of fish for laboratory analysis. Results of this analysis show that most fish are safe to eat even though trace amounts of chemicals may be present in fish tissue. Mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are the chemicals most likely to accumulate in fish and exceed Iowa's risk-based advisory levels that are based on guidance provided by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

Fish consumption advisories are issued whenever it is confirmed that Iowa's advisory levels are exceeded. Consumption advisories typically focus on predator and bottom-feeding species. Panfish (crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch) are generally safe to eat with virtually no risk.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

recommend that pregnant and nursing women, those planning to become pregnant and children 12 years or younger limit their consumption to one meal per week of all larger size predator fish, such as Walleye and bass. Predator fish are more likely to have higher concentrations of mercury (see www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishadvice/advice.html); however, consumption of panfish by these higher risk individuals is considered safe unless otherwise posted.

The most up to date list of consumption advisories is found at: www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Water-Monitoring/Fish-Tissue. New advisories are issued and existing advisories are removed, based on results of annual fish contaminant monitoring in Iowa.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

| |
|---|
| Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of , Advisory contaminant Lake (County) |
| Channel Catfish , PCBs McKinley Lake (Union) |
| Largemouth Bass , Mercury Grade Lake (Clarke), Lake Geode (Henry), Lake Iowa (Iowa), Lake Keomah (Mahaska), Lake Miami (Monroe), Lake Wapello (Davis), Mormon Trail Lake (Adair), Nine Eagles Lake (Decatur), North Banner Lake (Warren), Pollmiller Park Lake (Lee), Red Haw Lake (Lucas), South Banner Lake (Warren), Upper Centerville Reservoir (Appanoose) |
| Snapping Turtle , Mercury Pollmiller Park Lake (Lee) |
| Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of , Advisory contaminant River Reaches (County) |
| Any Predator Fish , Mercury Cedar River from Hwy. 218 bridge at Floyd (Floyd) to the Iowa/Minn. state line (Mitchell), Iowa River from the upper end of Coralville Reservoir near Swisher (Johnson) to the dam in Iowa Falls (Hardin); Shell Rock River from the West Fork Cedar River confluence near Cedar Falls (Black Hawk) to the Winnebago River confluence Rockford (Floyd); Turkey River from Mississippi River confluence near Millville (Clayton) to the Volga River confluence near Garber (Clayton); and West Fork Des Moines River from the East Fork Des Moines River confluence near Dakota City (Humboldt) to Hwy. 15 south of West Bend (Humboldt/Pocahontas) |
| Any Fish , Mercury Upper Iowa River from County Road 76 near Dorchester (Allamakee) to County Road W20 (Bluffton Road) (Winneshek) |
| Common Carp over 20 inches in length , PCBs Mississippi River (Scott), Pool 15 at Davenport |
| Smallmouth Bass , Mercury Volga River from Volga (Clayton) to its headwaters near Hawkeye (Fayette) including the Little Volga and North Branch Volga rivers |

AQUATIC INVASIVE 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 stocked into them, these invasive species can cause ecological and economic harm by displacing native plants and animals, damaging water resources and interfering with water-based recreation, including fishing.

County, Waterbody



EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

Bremer, Sweet Marsh, Martens Lake, Wilson Grove Pond **Cerro Gordo**, Blue Pit **Fremont**, Percival Lake, Pinky's Glen, Scott Lakes **Kossuth**, Siems Park Ponds, St. Benedicts Ponds **Mills**, Pony Creek Lake **O'Brien**, Mill Creek Lake **Palo Alto**, Sportsman's Lake **Pottawattamie**, Carter Lake **Story**, Jennet Pond **Tama**, Otter Creek Marsh Pond **Webster**, Brushy Creek Lake **Multiple Counties**, Mississippi River



BRITTLE NAIAD

Adair, Meadow Lake **Benton**, Hannen Lake, Rodgers Lake **Black Hawk**, George Wyth Lake **Boone**, Don Williams Lake **Bremer**, Martens Lake, Plainfield Lake **Buchanan**, Koutny Pond **Carroll**, Great Western Park Pond **Crawford**, Nelson Park Pond, Yellow Smoke Lake **Davis**, Lake Wapello **Decatur**, Nine Eagles Lake, Slip Bluff Lake **Dubuque**, Bergfeld Pond **Fayette**, Volga Lake **Grundy**, Grundy County Lake **Guthrie**, Springbrook Lake **Hancock**, Eldred Sherwood Lake **Hardin**, Lower Pine Lake, Upper Pine Lake **Harrison**, Willow Lake **Henry**, Lake Geode **Howard**, Lake Hendricks **Ida**, Crawford Creek Lake, Moorehead Park Pond **Iowa**, Lake Iowa **Johnson**, Lake Macbride **Jones**, Central Park Lake **Keokuk**, Belva Deer Ponds **Linn**, Mt. Vernon Quarry, Murphy Lake, Pleasant Creek Lake **Mahaska**, White Oak Lake **Marshall**, Sand Lake **Mills**, Mile High Lake **Monroe**, Lake Miami **O'Brien**, Dog Creek Lake **Sac**, Black Hawk Slough, Arrowhead Lake **Shelby**, Prairie Rose Lake **Tama**, Casey Lake **Van Buren**,

Photo Credit: Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Indian Lake, Lacey-Keosauqua Lake, Lake Sugema, Morris Park Pond, Tug Fork West **Webster**, Brushy Creek Lake **Winneshiek**, Lake Meyer **Woodbury**, Little Sioux Park Pond, Snyder Bend, Southwood Ponds **Multiple Counties**, Mississippi River



FLOWERING RUSH

Dubuque, Mississippi River **Jackson**, Mississippi River



ZEBRA MUSSELS

Appanoose, Lake Rathbun **Cerro Gordo**, Blue Pit, Bluebill Lake, Clear Lake **Dickinson**, Okoboji/Spirit Chain of Lakes **Wright**, Lake Cornelia **Multiple Counties**, Mississippi River; Missouri River; Winnebago, Shell Rock, West Fork Cedar, Cedar, Iowa rivers between Clear Lake and Mississippi River; Maquoketa River between Delhi and the Mississippi River



Silver Carp

SILVER CARP, BIGHEAD CARP

Clay, Elk Lake Dickinson, Okoboji/Spirit Chain of Lakes, Mill Creek Harrison, Desoto Bend Palo Alto, Lost Island Lake Wapello, Ottumwa Lagoon Woodbury, Snyder Bend Multiple Counties, Mississippi, Chariton, Des Moines, Skunk, Iowa, Cedar, Missouri, Big Sioux, Little Sioux, Nishnabotna, Nodaway and Platte rivers



Bighead Carp

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES REGULATIONS

A person may not possess, introduce, purchase, sell or transport aquatic invasive species in Iowa except when a species is being removed from watercraft and equipment at a water access, 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.

DO YOUR PART; PROTECT OUR WATERS FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



Photo courtesy of Wildlife Forever

It's the LAW!

- **CLEAN** any plants, animals, or mud from your boat and equipment before leaving a waterbody.
- **DRAIN** water from all equipment (motor, live well, bilge, transom well) before leaving a waterbody. Drain plugs must be removed at the water access and remain open during transport.
- **DRY** anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, boots, clothing, dogs). Before transporting to another waterbody either: Spray your boat and trailer with hot, high-pressure water; or Dry your boat and equipment for at least five days.
- Never release plants, fish, or animals into a waterbody unless they came out of that waterbody. Empty unwanted bait in the trash.



For more information, call the Iowa DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Program at 515-432-2823 or go to www.iowadnr.gov/ais.

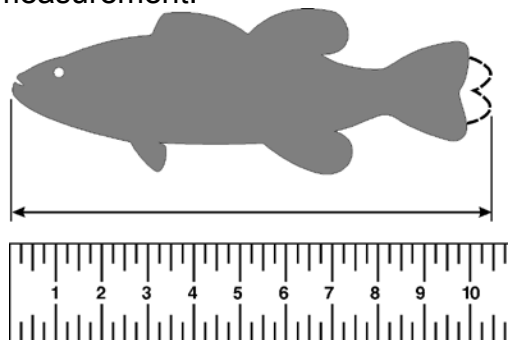
LENGTH LIMITS

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. 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.

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. See p. 11 for Paddlefish and Shovelnose Sturgeon measurement.



ESTIMATE FISH WEIGHT

Estimate the weight of a released fish using the following formula:

sunfish, Walleye, northern, muskie and Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, take the length in inches and multiply it by itself 3 times.

Divide that total by the following number for each species: sunfish, divide by 1,200; Walleye, divide by 2,700; northern and muskie divide by 3,500; Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, divide by 1,600; catfish, divide by 3,300.

For example, a 20-inch Largemouth Bass.

First multiply $20 \times 20 \times 20$ ($20 \times 20 = 400$, $20 \times 400 = 8,000$) then divide $8,000$ by $1,600 = 5$

You have just released a **5-pound** Largemouth Bass!

For trout, multiply the girth (distance around the body) by itself and then multiply that value by the fish's length and divide by 800.

Fisheries Phone Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| DNR CENTRAL OFFICE - DES MOINES _____ | 515-725-8200 |
| BELLEVUE FISHERIES STATION _____ | 563-872-4976 |
| BIG SPRINGS HATCHERY _____ | 563-245-2446 |
| BLACK HAWK STATION _____ | 712-657-2638 |
| BOONE RESEARCH STATION _____ | 515-432-2823 |
| CHARITON RESEARCH STATION _____ | 641-774-2958 |
| CLEAR LAKE STATION _____ | 641-357-3517 |
| DECORAH FISHERIES STATION _____ | 563-382-8324 |
| FAIRPORT FISH HATCHERY _____ | 563-263-5062 |
| GUTTENBERG FISHERIES STATION _____ | 563-252-1156 |
| LAKE DARLING REGIONAL OFFICE _____ | 319-694-2430 |
| LAKE MACBRIDE STATION _____ | 319-624-3615 |
| MANCHESTER FISH HATCHERY _____ | 563-927-3276 |
| MISSISSIPPI MONITORING STATION _____ | 563-872-5495 |
| MT. AYR FISH HATCHERY _____ | 641-464-3108 |
| ONAWA FISH STATION _____ | 712-249-1997 |
| RATHBUN FISH HATCHERY _____ | 641-647-2406 |
| SOUTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE _____ | 712-769-2587 |
| SPIRIT LAKE FISH HATCHERY _____ | 712-336-1840 |

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 \$200,000 has been approved in reward payments.

Turn In Poachers

1-800-532-2020

or online at

www.iowadnr.gov/tip

You can remain anonymous!

MASTER ANGLER AWARD

The Master Angler Award, sponsored by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, recognizes the accomplishment of anglers who catch memorable fish in Iowa. If you catch a fish eligible for a Master Angler award, fill out the entry blank below. For many species, you may release the fish and still receive a Master Angler award by meeting the minimum length criteria. Length is measured from tip of the snout to the tip of the tail (p. 20), except Paddlefish, which are measured from the front of the eye to the fork in the tail and sturgeon which are measured from the snout to the fork in the tail (p. 11). If there is some doubt about species identification, contact the nearest DNR personnel for verification. One witness must attest to the length of the fish to the nearest ¼ inch.

Fish must be taken with a valid Iowa fishing license and must be caught by legal methods conforming to provisions of the Iowa Code. A witness must verify fish size; any fish believed to be a new state record must be verified by a DNR Fisheries official. The application may be submitted via the Master Angler website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/masterangler/>; the online application available at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/master-angler-first-fish; or by mailing in the completed form below. All registrations must include a photo or they will be rejected. Photo will be returned. A Master Angler award certificate and car/boat decal will be sent for each qualifying entry. Silver and gold levels will also receive a medal-

lion. **Please Note:** Only one lifetime award will be given for each Silver and Gold Master Angler level achieved.

MASTER ANGLER AWARD LEVELS

1. Master Angler - catch one fish meeting the minimum length criteria of any species listed on p. 22. You will be sent a certificate with picture and a car/boat decal.
2. Silver Master Angler – catch five different species meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22. You will receive a certificate, Silver Medalion, and a car/boat decal.
3. Gold Master Angler - catch ten different species meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22. You will receive a certificate, Gold Medalion, and a car/boat decal.

In addition, your name and Master Angler fish will appear at the time your registration is processed on the Iowa DNR Flickr site linked at www.iowadnr.gov/masterangler.

STATE RECORD FISH

A new all-time state record will be recognized only if the weight of the fish exceeds one ounce or more than the weight of the previous state record for that species or recognized hybrid. New all-time state 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. All-time records are posted until broken.

| |
|---|
| Name _____ |
| Street/RFD _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ |
| Phone _____ |
| Species _____ Date _____ |
| Name of lake/stream _____ Total length _____ |
| County where caught _____ Total weight _____ |
| Bait or lure used, etc. _____ Was fish released Y N |
| DNR ID # (if 16 years old or older) _____ |
| E-mail address _____ |
| Photo enclosed (required) Y N DNR may use photo Y N |
| Witness |
| Name _____ |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ |

Official Master Angler or State Record Registry (clip and mail)

Mail entry and photo to: Fish Records, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 57744 Lewis Rd, Lewis IA, 51544. Electronic applications and photos may be submitted to fish.awards@dnr.iowa.gov

Online applications are available at www.iowadnr.gov/masterangler.

Master Angler Species

Minimum Lengths

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| Bass (Largemouth) | 20" | Northern Pike | 35" |
| Bass (Rock) | 8" | Paddlefish | 40" |
| Bass (Smallmouth) | 20" | Perch (Yellow) | 12" |
| Bass (Spotted) | 15" | Sauger | 20" |
| Bass (White) | 17" | Saugeye | 25" |
| Bass (Wiper) | 24" | Sturgeon (Shovelnose) | 26" |
| Bass (Yellow) | 10" | Sucker (Blue) | 27" |
| Bowfin (Dogfish) | 26" | Sucker (white or spotted) | 18" |
| Buffalo (Species) | 32" | Sucker (Northern Hog) | 16" |
| Bullhead (Species) | 15" | Sucker (Carp sucker) | 22" |
| Carp (Common) | 32" | Sucker (Redhorse) | 22" |
| Catfish (Blue) | 40" | Sunfish (Bluegill) | 10" |
| Catfish (Channel) | 30" | Sunfish (Green) | 10" |
| Catfish (Flathead) | 35" | Sunfish (Pumpkinseed) | 9" |
| Crappie (Black) | 14" | Sunfish (Redear) | 11" |
| Crappie (White) | 14" | Sunfish (Warmouth) | 7" |
| Freshwater Drum | 25" | Trout (Brook) | 15" |
| Gar (Longnose) | 45" | Trout (Brown) | 18" |
| Gar (Shortnose) | 26" | Trout (Rainbow) | 18" |
| Goldeye/Mooneye | 15" | Walleye | 26" |
| Muskellunge | 45" | | |



One fish meeting the minimum requirement



Silver Master Angler
Five different
qualifying species



Gold Master Angler
Ten different
qualifying species

More information on lengths and species is available at www.iowadnr.gov/masterangler.

FIRST FISH AWARD

First Fish Awards are for budding anglers to remember their first capture. If you catch your first fish, the Iowa DNR would like to commemorate the event with a frameable certificate of your accomplishment. Species, size of the fish or age of the angler is irrelevant only that it be the first fish that the angler has successfully landed.



| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Name _____ | Age _____ |
| Street/RFD _____ | |
| City _____ | State _____ Zip _____ |
| Phone _____ | |
| Species _____ | Date caught _____ |
| Name of lake/stream _____ | Length _____ |
| Enclose photo _____ | Weight _____ |
| DNR may use photo Y N | |
| Sign _____ | Date _____ |
| email _____ | |

Official First Fish Registry

(clip and mail)

Mail entry and photo to:
First Fish Program, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 57744 Lewis Rd, Lewis IA, 51544.
Electronic applications and photos may be submitted to fish.awards@dnr.iowa.gov

Online application may be submitted at www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish.

CONSERVATION OFFICERS

| COUNTY | OFFICER | CELL PHONE | COUNTY# | OFFICER | CELL PHONE |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| ADAIR | Grant Gelly | 712-250-0303 | JOHNSON | Erika Billerbeck | 319-330-9710 |
| ADAMS | Andrea Bevington | 712-520-0508 | | Brad Baker | 319-430-1630 |
| ALLAMAKEE | Vacant | 563-380-0801 | JONES | Vacant | 319-480-0397 |
| APPANOOSE | Jacob Fulk | 641-777-2164 | | Jared Landt | 563-920-5764 |
| | Dallas Davis | 641-777-2163 | KEOKUK | Wesley Gould | 641-660-3441 |
| AUDUBON | Jeremy King | 712-250-0061 | KOSSUTH | Virginia Schulte | 712-260-1003 |
| BENTON | Brett Reece (west 1/2) | 641-751-0931 | LEE | Ben Schlader | 319-470-0788 |
| | Ron Lane (east 1/2) | 319-350-2871 | LINN | Vacant | 319-350-2863 |
| BLACK HAWK | Mike Bonser | 319-240-5034 | | Ron Lane | 319-350-2871 |
| | Dakota Drish | 563-920-0566 | LOUISA | Lucas Dever | 563-260-1225 |
| BOONE | Matt Bruner | 515-290-0527 | LUCAS | Kyle Jensen | 641-414-2175 |
| | Brandon Bergquist | 515-290-0177 | LYON | Tait Anderson | 712-260-1006 |
| BREMER | Mike Bonser | 319-240-5034 | MADISON | Craig Lonneman | 515-238-5005 |
| | Chris Jones | 319-939-4448 | MAHASKA | John Steinbach | 641-660-0741 |
| BUCHANAN | Dakota Drish | 563-920-0566 | MARION | Eric Hoffman | 641-891-2004 |
| BUENA VISTA | Brent Koppie | 712-260-1010 | | Ken Kenyon | 641-891-1246 |
| BUTLER | Jordan Hansen | 319-240-8033 | MARSHALL | Tyson Brown | 641-751-5246 |
| CALHOUN | Nathan Hauptert | 712-330-8462 | MILLS | Richard Price | 712-520-0121 |
| CARROLL | Dan Pauley | 515-370-0422 | MITCHELL | Eric Johnston | 319-240-9174 |
| CASS | Grant Gelly | 712-250-0303 | MONONA | Gary Sisco | 712-420-1486 |
| CEDAR | Eric Wright | 319-530-6121 | MONROE | Dallas Davis | 641-777-2163 |
| CERRO GORDO | Matt Washburn | 641-425-0822 | | Jacob Fulk | 641-777-2164 |
| | Ben Bergman | 641-425-0828 | MONTGOMERY | Adam Arnold | 712-520-0507 |
| CHEROKEE | Brent Koppie (east 1/2) | 712-260-1010 | MUSCATINE | Joe Fourdyce | 563-260-1223 |
| | Chad Morrow (west 1/2) | 712-260-1023 | O'BRIEN | Joe Yarkosky (east 1/2) | 712-260-1004 |
| CHICKASAW | Marc Waterlander | 319-240-6662 | | Jon Sells (west 1/2) | 712-260-1019 |
| CLARKE | Michael Miller | 641-414-2174 | OSCEOLA | Tait Anderson | 712-260-1006 |
| CLAY | Joe Yarkosky | 712-260-1004 | PAGE | Adam Arnold | 712-520-0507 |
| CLAYTON | Jerry Farmer | 563-880-0422 | PALO ALTO | Chris Subbert | 712-260-1009 |
| | Burt Walters | 563-880-0108 | PLYMOUTH | Chad Morrow | 712-260-1023 |
| CLINTON | Lucas Webinger | 563-357-1078 | POCAHONTAS | Nathan Hauptert | 712-330-8462 |
| CRAWFORD | Gary Sisco | 712-420-1486 | POLK | Nate Anderson | 515-238-4849 |
| DALLAS | Craig Lonneman | 515-238-5005 | | Dustin Eighmy | 515-238-5006 |
| | Dustin Eighmy (north 1/2) | 515-238-5006 | POTTAWATTAMIE | Adam Gacke | 712-520-5570 |
| DAVIS | Bob Stuchel | 641-777-2169 | | Richard Price (west 1/2) | 712-520-0121 |
| | Matt Rush | 641-777-7805 | POWESHIEK | John Steinbach | 641-660-0741 |
| DECATUR | Michael Miller | 641-414-2174 | RINGGOLD | Corey Carlton | 641-414-2173 |
| DELAWARE | Jared Landt | 563-920-5764 | SAC | Kirby Bragg | 712-661-9237 |
| DES MOINES | Paul Kay | 319-759-0751 | SCOTT | Jeff Harrison | 563-349-9418 |
| DICKINSON | Jeff Morrison | 712-260-1017 | | Vacant | 563-349-8953 |
| | Steve Reighard | 712-260-1018 | SHELBY | Dave Tierney | 712-249-2015 |
| DUBUQUE | Andrew Keil | 563-590-1945 | SIOUX | John Sells | 712-260-1019 |
| | Nate Johnson | 563-590-1944 | STORY | Brandon Bergquist | 515-290-0177 |
| EMMET | Chris Subbert | 712-260-1009 | | Matt Bruner | 515-290-0527 |
| FAYETTE | Chris Jones | 319-939-4448 | TAMA | Brett Reece | 641-751-0931 |
| FLOYD | Eric Johnston | 319-240-9174 | TAYLOR | Andrea Bevington | 712-520-0508 |
| FRANKLIN | Jordan Hansen | 319-240-8033 | UNION | Corey Carlton | 641-414-2173 |
| FREMONT | Marlowe Wilson | 712-520-0506 | VAN BUREN | Chris Flynn | 641-919-9115 |
| GREENE | Dan Pauley | 515-370-0422 | WAPELLO | Bob Stuchel | 641-777-2169 |
| GRUNDY | Tyson Brown | 641-751-5246 | | Matt Rush | 641-777-7805 |
| GUTHRIE | Jeremy King | 712-250-0061 | WARREN | Craig Cutts | 515-238-4847 |
| HAMILTON | Joli Vollers | 515-238-2047 | | Nate Anderson (north 1/2) | 515-238-4849 |
| HANCOCK | Ken Lonneman | 641-425-0823 | WASHINGTON | Wesley Gould | 641-660-3441 |
| HARDIN | Joli Vollers | 515-238-2047 | WAYNE | Kyle Jensen | 641-414-2175 |
| HARRISON | Dave Tierney | 712-249-2015 | WEBSTER | Bill Spece | 515-571-0127 |
| HENRY | Dan Henderson | 319-653-1636 | WINNEBAGO | Michael Strauser | 641-425-0821 |
| HOWARD | Marc Waterlander | 319-240-6662 | WINNESHIEK | Brian Roffman | 563-380-0496 |
| HUMBOLDT | Bill Spece | 515-571-0127 | WOODBURY | Stacey Bragg | 712-301-6735 |
| IDA | Kirby Bragg | 712-661-9237 | | Steven Griebel | 712-301-4009 |
| IOWA | Brad Baker | 319-430-1630 | WORTH | Michael Strauser | 641-425-0821 |
| JACKSON | Vacant | 319-480-0397 | WRIGHT | Ken Lonneman | 641-425-0823 |
| | Andrew Keil | 563-590-1945 | | | |
| JASPER | Deb Howe | 641-521-2003 | | | |
| JEFFERSON | Chris Flynn | 641-919-9115 | | | |
| | Dan Henderson | 319-653-1636 | | | |

Iowa All-Time Record Fish

| Species | Lbs-oz | Inches | Waterbody | Date | Name |
|-----------------------|--------|--------|----------------------|-------|------------------|
| Bass (Largemouth) | 10-12 | 23 1/2 | Lake Fisher | 5/84 | Patricia Zaerr |
| Bass (Rock) | 1-8 | 10 1/2 | Pool 11, Miss. R. | 6/73 | Jim Driscoll |
| Bass (Smallmouth) | 7-12 | 22 3/4 | West Okoboji Lake | 9/90 | Rick Gray |
| Bass (Spotted) | 2-0 | 16 | Coralville Reservoir | 5/13 | James Steffen |
| Bass (White) | 4-3 | 18 3/4 | Big Spirit Lake | 5/11 | Josh Zylstra |
| Bass (Wiper) | 19-10 | 33 | Des Moines River | 8/05 | Youa Lovan |
| Bass (Yellow) | 1-9 | 14 1/2 | Lake Manawa | 4/91 | Bill Campbell |
| Bowfin/Dogfish | 11-9 | 31 1/2 | Pool 10, Miss. R. | 5/94 | Bill Greten |
| Bullhead (Black) | 5-8 | 22 | Farm Pond | 6/86 | Michael Hurd |
| Catfish (Blue) | 101-0 | 53 | Missouri River | 6/04 | Mike Rush |
| Catfish (Channel) | 38-2 | 40 | Missouri River | 6/05 | Dustin Curtis |
| Catfish (Flathead) | 81-0 | 52 | Lake Ellis | 6/58 | Joe Baze |
| Crappie (Black) | 3-14 | 18 | Three Mile Lake | 6/13 | Dale Klein |
| Crappie (White) | 4-9 | 21 1/4 | Green Castle Lake | 5/81 | Ted Trowbridge |
| Freshwater Drum | 46-0 | 38 1/2 | Big Spirit Lake | 10/62 | R.F. Farran |
| Gar (Longnose) | 20-13 | 57 1/4 | Pool 13, Miss. R. | 7/14 | Doug Griebel |
| Gar (Shortnose) | 7-2 | 34 | Roberts Creek Lake | 4/12 | Pat Antelman |
| Muskellunge | 50-6 | 52 | Big Spirit Lake | 8/00 | Kevin Cardwell |
| Northern Pike | 25-5 | 45 | West Okoboji Lake | 2/77 | Allen Forsberg |
| Paddlefish | 107-0 | 69 1/2 | Missouri River | 3/81 | Robert Pranschke |
| Sauger | 6-8 | 25 | Missouri River | 10/76 | Mrs. W. Buser |
| Sturgeon (Shovelnose) | 12-0 | 33 | Des Moines River | 4/74 | Randy Hemm |
| Sunfish (Bluegill) | 3-2 | 12 7/8 | Farm Pond | 7/86 | Phil Algreen |
| Sunfish (Green) | 2-1 | 12 1/2 | Farm Pond | 7/00 | Ralph Mayer |
| Sunfish (Redear) | 2-1 | 13 1/8 | Farm Pond | 9/13 | Jeff Kokemiller |
| Trout (Brook) | 7-0 | 19 3/4 | Fountain Springs | 7/96 | Doug Korvarik |
| Trout (Brown) | 15-6 | 29 | North Prairie Lake | 6/95 | Gerold Lewis |
| Trout (Rainbow) | 19-8 | 35 | French Creek | 7/84 | Jack Renner |
| Walleye | 14-8 | 30 1/2 | Des Moines River | 9/86 | Gloria Eoriatti |
| Yellow Perch | 2-7 | 16 | Pool 12, Miss. R. | 3/12 | Travis Peterson |

Additional state record fish species are available online at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/iowafishspecies/staterecordfish.aspx.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the DNR at 515-725-8200. TTY users - Contact Relay Iowa at 800-735-2942.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Federal and State law prohibits employment and/or public accommodation (such as access to services or physical facilities) discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability (mental and/or physical), gender identity, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, contact the Iowa Civil Rights Commission at 1-800-457-4416, or write to: Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034.

Jobs Information go to www.iowadnr.gov/employment

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Wallace State Office Building
502 E. 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034



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