



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fishing News

Conservation and Recreation



Temperatures are plunging - ice anglers love it!

Get outside and enjoy some of the best fishing experiences of the year.

Here's some tips:

- Check the [weekly DNR fishing report](#) for ice conditions across the state - we recommend a minimum of four inches of quality ice for fishing. Trust your instincts - if the ice does not look right, don't go out.
- Go with someone who has experience and equipment to use.
- Add a third line fishing permit when you buy your [fishing license](#) - perfect for ice fishing.
- Contact your local [Iowa DNR Fisheries Biologist](#), bait shop or fishing tackle dealer for the latest tips on places to fish, what depth and areas of the lake they are biting and hot baits.
- Fish early and late in the day. Fish are more active during these times.
- View a structure map of the lake you are going to fish - download [fishing structure maps](#) from our website.
- Check the ice often as you make your way to your favorite fishing spot.
- Use small jigs, spoons or minnows and light line.

- Learn to use spring bobbers (a piece of metal or wire that extends off the rod tip). Fish use less energy during the winter and are less aggressive. Spring bobbers let you set the depth of line and see when you have a bite, often before you even feel it on your line.
- Bring along ice picks, about 50 feet of rope, a floatable seat cushion you can throw to someone in case of a rescue, and your cell phone.

Ice Fishing Podcast

Learn ice fishing basics

New to ice fishing and need a little help to get started? Learn the basics at an ice fishing clinic scheduled across Iowa this winter. Dress for the weather - hats and mittens are essential along with a good pair of boots.

Find an ice fishing clinic near you on our [fishing calendar](#).



Winter Urban Trout Stockings - fun for everyone

Catch trout through the ice at one of our winter urban trout stockings. These winter stockings are a great place to take kids to catch their first fish. Snap a photo of your child and their catch and submit it for a [First Fish certificate](#).

Learn more about trout fishing in urban lakes on the [DNR trout fishing webpage](#).

Urban Trout Stocking Schedule