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2018 Iowa Fishing Regulations

**Free Fishing Days June 1, 2 & 3
Iowa Residents Only**

This booklet lists rules and regulations you need to fish in Iowa. 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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What's New for 2018?

- New turtle harvest season and catch limits started March 22, 2017. See p. 12.
- Changes to Missouri River Paddlefish season start Feb. 4, 2018. See p. 11.
- Changes to special event fishing tournament rules; allow culling during restrictive catfish tournaments; no length limit and up to five fish bag for bass tournaments started July 1, 2017. See p. 5.

Invite a kid, your best friend or a spouse to go fishing on Iowa's Free Fishing weekend, June 1, 2 and 3. Iowa residents may fish without a license or trout fee; all other regulations remain in place.

2018 License and Permit Fees

Resident Fishing (On Sale Dec. 15, 2017)

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, 2018)

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

LICENSES are available online at www.iowadnr.gov, at any of the 800 retail outlets or by calling 1-800-367-1188

Paying for our natural resources

The Fish & Game Trust Fund

There's been a lot of discussion recently on license fees and who pays for our natural resources. I'd like to share a little background on financial support for Iowa's natural resources.

Two primary funding sources support management of natural areas for Iowa's hunting and fishing activities – fees from hunting, trapping and fishing licenses and federal excise taxes on firearms and ammunition (Pittman-Robertson) and federal aid to states for management and restoration of fish (Dingell-Johnson).

Those revenues go to the Fish and Game Trust Fund for use by the Iowa DNR's Fisheries, Wildlife and Law Enforcement bureaus to provide high quality and diverse resources, and to make sure everyone plays by the rules.

In 1996, 88 percent of Iowa voters approved adding the Iowa Fish and Game Trust Fund to the state constitution, creating a fund that can only be used for fish and wildlife purposes. The fund does **not** pay for trails, campgrounds, state parks or state forests.

Revenues in the fund have gone from \$66 million in 2011 to \$58 million in 2016. The Iowa Legislature has provided money for specific projects but the bulk of Iowa's work to support wildlife and fish habitat, management and research is supported by you – the license buyer.

Thank you for buying a license and your continued support of Iowa's wild places.



Chuck Gipp
Director, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Golden Rules for Anglers

- Be considerate of anglers with 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.
- Obey 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 concerned about using lead tackle.

License and Permit Requirements

You can take fish, mussels, turtles, frogs and bait with a sport fishing license according to the regulations listed in this booklet. **You cannot buy or sell, dead or live, a fish, mussel, turtle, frog or bait with a sport fishing license.**

Special Licenses for Residents

Applications for and help with these special licenses are available at the DNR central office by calling 515-725-8200, or DNR offices (p. 20) that sell hunting and fishing licenses.

1) Free Annual Fishing or Combination Hunting and Fishing licenses - Available to low-income Iowa residents 65 years or older, or low-income permanently disabled residents.

2) Disabled Veteran's License - Available to Iowa residents who served for a minimum aggregate of 90 days of active federal service **and** who have a service-connected disability, **or** were a prisoner of war during their military service.

Buying a License

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is required to collect social security numbers from anyone getting 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 is your principal identification number to determine if you are eligible 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 to Buy Resident Licenses

A **nonresident** does not live in Iowa. NOTE: Iowa residents who have previously hunted, fished and/or trapped as nonresidents should plan ahead to get license privileges as soon as possible. The electronic licensing system for hunting, fishing and trapping automatically identifies people who have previously bought licenses as nonresidents. This law change was made to identify a growing problem in Iowa of nonresidents falsifying records to illegally get (invalid) resident licenses. If you previously bought a nonresident Iowa license, but are now eligible for resident licenses, you must fill out and return a form available at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing. License vendors CANNOT make this change at the point of sale and it cannot be done over the phone. Contact the local conservation officer for more information (p. 23).

A **resident** must meet one of the following criteria.

1. Iowa has been your principal and main residence or domicile for at least 90 consecutive days **immediately** before you apply for or buy a resident license and you have an Iowa driver's license or non-operator's ID. Factors to determine your domicile include, but are not limited to, place of employment, mailing (street) address, utility records, real estate records, vehicle registrations and addresses listed on your state and federal income tax records.

You are not considered a resident under this paragraph if you live in Iowa only for a special or temporary purpose including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing or trapping.

2. You are a full-time student at an accredited educational institution in Iowa and live 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 main residence in Iowa.

3. You are a student who qualifies as a resident pursuant to the above paragraph only for the purpose of buying any resident license specified in section 483A.1 or 484A.2.

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

5. You are a member of the armed forces of the United States who is serving on active duty, claims residency in Iowa, 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, you cannot buy or apply for any resident license or permit if you have claimed residency in any other state or country.

License and Fees

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

Exceptions: The following 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 who are supervised by an employee of the facility while fishing, and 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 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 qualify as an Iowa resident. 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 can buy their own trout privilege, which lets them fish without a properly licensed adult and keep their own daily limit (5).

Littering Public Waters

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

Threatened & Endangered Species

You cannot take, possess, transport, import, export, process, sell or offer for sale, buy or offer to buy, nor can 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: Crawfish 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 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.

Stay Connected

Sign up to get the weekly fishing report and tips and hot spots delivered to your e-mail inbox.
www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/Fishing-Tips-How-Tos

General Fishing Regulations

Artificial Light

You may use artificial light to take 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. You can only take live mussels from the Mississippi River and its connected backwaters. The daily and possession limit is 24 live mussels (p. 10).

Bait Collection

You need a valid sport fishing license to collect bait for individual use. You can use minnow traps not more than 3 feet long. Each trap, when in use, must 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 with mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch bar measure. **You cannot possess live Gizzard Shad at any lake.**

You cannot take or try to take bait for commercial purposes from any Iowa waters, or transport minnows without a bait dealer’s license. “Commercial purposes” are selling, giving or furnishing to others. Bait dealers must notify their DNR conservation officer before operating. The licensee must 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. Throw away unwanted bait in the trash. **If keeping bait**, you must exchange water in the bait buckets with tap or bottled water before you leave any waterbody to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (p. 18).

Boundary Water Sport Trotline

You can use a maximum of four trotlines with 200 hooks with a boundary water sport trotline

license in the Mississippi, Missouri and Big Sioux Rivers. All boundary water sport trotlines must have the owner’s name and address on a metal tag attached above the waterline. You cannot sell fish with a boundary water sport trotline license.

Culling or Sorting

You cannot sort, cull, high-grade or replace any fish already in your possession. Participants in DNR-permitted Black Bass and catfish (five fish per boat restriction) 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 you reach the daily bag limit of a species, you can still fish for that species, but you must immediately release all fish caught.

Participants in a DNR-permitted catch and release bass fishing tournament can possess five Black Bass of any species (Largemouth, Smallmouth or Spotted) of any length.

Definition of “Limits”

“Daily bag limit” or “possession limit” is the number of fish a license holder can take or hold in a specified time. 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 is 20 or more and the number of participants is 40 or more; (2) an entry fee is charged; and (3) prizes or other inducement are awarded. You must submit your application via the centralized special events application system at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing more than 30 days before the event. 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 permission from the property owner. **Iowa residents and nonresidents 16 years old and older must have a valid Iowa fishing license to fish private ponds and lakes, and trout streams.** 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 obey 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 the DNR stocked a pond, does not open that pond to public fishing. When fishing privately owned waters, ask the property owner for permission to fish, do not block lanes and drive-ways, 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 stops frogs from having free access to and from the water. You cannot transport any frogs taken in Iowa across state lines. You can buy, 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. You can use a third line if you have 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 is a single, double or treble-pointed hook, and all hooks attached as a part of an artificial bait or lure are 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. Attach reflectors to all sides of any shelter left on the ice after sundown. Keep shelters unlocked while in use. Remove shelters 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 easily 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. You can fish with one pole with line and one jug or two jugs and no pole with line. You can fish a third line or jug if you have 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. Remove zebra mussels 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 are fishing. You also must show your catch to the conservation officer if asked.

Tip-Up Fishing Device

A “tip-up” is an ice fishing device with an attached flag or signal to show 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. You can use an additional line or tip-up if you have 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 each person uses cannot exceed three. Each tip-up fishing device 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 lines commonly called “tagged lines,” “throw lines,” “banklines,” “ditty lines,” “ditty poles” and other names.

You can use trotlines in all Iowa rivers and streams, 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.

You cannot use more than five trotlines with a valid sport fishing license. 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. Remove all trotlines and parts from the shore if they are not being actively fished. A trotline is 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. Any conservation officer can remove untagged or unlawful lines.

Turtles

You can take and possess a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles with a valid sport fishing license. 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. You cannot take turtle eggs from the wild.

Nonresidents can only take common snapping turtles, spiny softshells, smooth 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, spiny softshells, smooth softshells and painted turtles.

Turtles can only be taken by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap or hook-and-line. You cannot sort, cull, high-grade or replace any turtle in your possession. Turtle traps must have no more than one throat or funneling device. All turtle traps must have a functional escape hole with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches to let fish and small turtles pass through. The 7-1/2 inch escape hole on hoop style traps must be in the last hoop to the tail-line. Any unattended gear used to take turtles must have an all-weather gear tag with 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

You can use gaff hooks or landing nets to help you land fish. You cannot use any grabhook, snag-hook, any kind of net, seine, trap, firearm, dynamite or other explosives, or poisonous or stupefying substances, lime, ashes or electricity to take or try to take any fish.

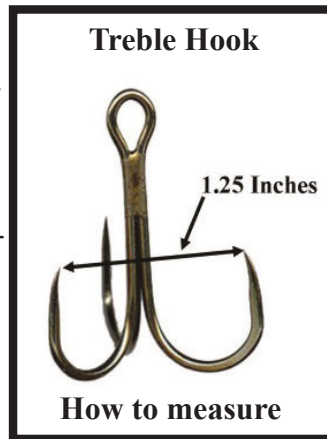
You must return to the water immediately all game fish not hooked in the mouth, except Paddlefish, with as little injury as possible.

Bow Fishing & Spearing

You can take rough fish and frogs by bow and arrow and spear with a valid sport fishing license. Bow fishing and spearing are allowed on public lakes, reservoirs and rivers, private ponds with permission and border waters described on p. 16. Some state parks, federal refuges and lakes controlled by city and county governments may have additional regulations specific to bow fishing and spearing.

Bow Fishing, Spearing & Snagging

A valid sport fishing license lets you 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, Short-head 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. You cannot use a hook larger than a 5/0 treble hook or measuring more than 1 ¼ inches long when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler.



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.** Chari-

ton 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.

Health Benefits of Eating Fish

Eating fish is an important part of a healthy diet for all ages. Fish are low in saturated fats, have high quality protein, and important vitamins and minerals. Some fish can also have omega-3 fatty acids. Eating fish can help with a healthy heart and a child's proper growth and brain development. The American Heart Association recommends that people enjoy at least two servings of baked or grilled fish each week, especially oily fish. Eating fish may protect against many 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

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 (Winneshie) 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.

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.

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.

Frogs , except for the endangered crawfish frog
Season: All waters - Continuous
Length Limits: All waters - None
Daily Bag & Possession Limits: All waters - All frogs except bullfrogs and crawfish frogs combined daily: 48 and possession: 96. Bullfrogs combined daily and possession: 12. Crawfish frogs are protected as an endangered species. See p. 4.

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 County) 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.

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."

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** you cannot snag 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 Feb. 4 through April 30. The open area is limited to Iowa waters only, starting 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 starting at its confluence and extending below its I-29 bridge, starting 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. You cannot use hooks larger than 5/0 treble or measuring more than 1-1/4 inch long when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler (p. 8).

Length Limits: None, **except** for the Mississippi River where there is a 33-inch maximum length limit; and on the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers, there is a 35-45-inch protected slot limit. You must immediately release alive all fish measuring 33 inches or more on the Mississippi River and 35-45 inches on the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers. Measure the length of a Paddlefish from the front of the eye to the natural unaltered fork of the tail. (See illustration below). Use a flexible tape to measure along and over the center line contour of the fish while it is lying flat. You must immediately release alive all fish you do not take into possession.

Daily Bag & Possession Limit: All waters - daily of 2 and possession of 4 except the daily and possession limit is two in the Big Sioux River, Missouri River and any Missouri River tributary to its I-29 bridge.

Big Sioux & Missouri Rivers Special License and Regulations:

You must have a valid resident or nonresident fishing license in addition to the Paddlefish fishing license with unused tag(s) to fish for Paddlefish in the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers. Residents and nonresidents under 16 years of age must have a Paddlefish fishing license and unused tag(s) to fish for Paddlefish. Licenses are available first come, first served - 950 resident licenses and 50 nonresident licenses are available each year. You can buy up to two tags per year - one from Dec. 15 to Dec. 31 and an additional tag from Jan. 1 to Jan. 7, or two tags if you didn't buy one in December. To buy a license, go to www.iowadnr.gov/fishing. Anglers with a Paddlefish fishing license and unused tag(s) can snag fish to catch Paddlefish and rough fish (see p. 8 for list). You cannot use a gaffe hook or other penetrating device to help land a snagged fish. Once you have caught and tagged a Paddlefish, you must stop snagging. Immediately upon taking into possession a legal Paddlefish, attach the valid current year transportation tag issued with the license to the fish's lower jaw in a way 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. You cannot 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 must be attached before you can move the carcass from the place of harvest and remain attached to the Paddlefish until it is processed for consumption. The Paddlefish must 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 angler's residence or the location where consumption occurs. The transportation tag is proof of possession of the carcass by the 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. You cannot sell eggs with a sport fishing license.

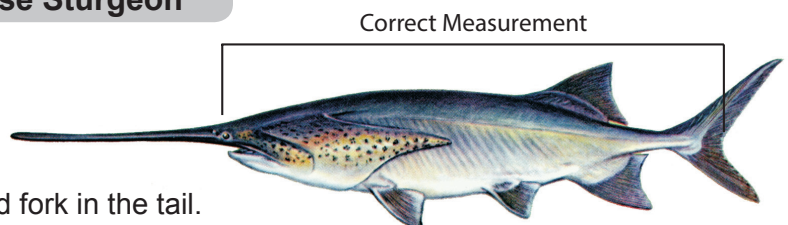
Measuring a Paddlefish and Shovelnose Sturgeon

Measuring a Paddlefish

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

Measuring a Shovelnose Sturgeon

Measure from the tip of the snout to the unaltered fork in the tail.



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 for 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: You must release alive immediately all trout caught from the posted portion of Hewett and Ensign Creeks (Clayton); McCloud Run (Linn), South Pine Creek (Winneshie); and Waterloo Creek (Allamakee); and Brown Trout caught from French Creek (Allamakee).
Special Restrictions: Artificial Lure Only: You can only use artificial lures 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 . Artificial lures 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.
Turtles Common Snapping, Spiny Softshell, Smooth Softshell and Painted
Season: All waters - Continuous for common snapping turtles; Open season for spiny softshell, smooth softshell and painted turtles is July 16 to May 14.
Length Limits: None
Daily Bag & Possession: Daily of 4 common snapping, 1 spiny softshell or smooth softshell, 1 painted and possession of a maximum of 100 pounds of live turtles or 50 pounds of dressed turtles; the daily catch limit cannot exceed the possession limit.
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 5, 2018 through Feb. 14, 2019.
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 lakes listed below 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) immediately release alive all 17 to 22-inch Walleyes; no more than one Walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day.
Boundary Rivers ²
Season: Continuous
Length Limit: A 15-inch minimum length limit applies to Walleye on all pools of the Mississippi River. In addition, you must immediately release alive all walleye from 20 to 27-inches caught from below Lock and Dam 11 at Dubuque to the Missouri state line, 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.

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) 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.

IOWA'S ONLINE FISHING ATLAS
WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/FISHING

- 200 county and state lake contour maps
- 1,500 fish structure locations
- Mobile friendly -- sync with your current GPS location
- Free and updated annually!

DNR IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TAKE ME FISHING™

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 instead of 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

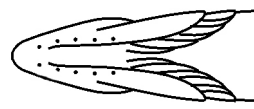
Lakes and streams may contain muskie and Northern Pike. It is important for anglers to know the difference among members of the pike family to obey appropriate size, catch and possession limits.

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.

License Agreements with Bordering States

Fish privileges on boundary waters common to Iowa and a bordering state are mutually agreed upon by the neighboring states. You can fish boundary waters common to Iowa with a valid fishing license, but it is your responsibility to know which state you are fishing in and the regulations for 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

¹Wisconsin-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.

²Nebraska-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 obey federal refuge regulations.

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

⁴Minnesota-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: Walleye, 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 tissue samples of fish for laboratory analyses. Results of these analyses 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 usually focus on predator and bottom-feeding species. Panfish (crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch) are generally safe to eat with almost 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 <https://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm393070.htm>); however, consumption of panfish by these higher risk individuals is considered safe unless otherwise posted.

Find the most up to date list of consumption advisories 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.

Safe Eating Guidelines

<i>Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of</i> , 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)
<i>Do not eat more than 1 meal/week of</i> , Advisory contaminant River Reaches (County)
Any Predator Fish , Mercury Cedar River from HWY 218 bridge at Floyd (Floyd) to the IA/MN 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 near 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 HWY15 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) near Decorah (Winnebago)
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, they 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



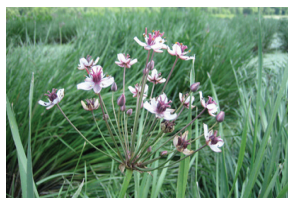
Eurasian Watermilfoil

Black Hawk, George Wyth Lake **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 **Marion**, Ted Johnson Pond **Mills**, Mile Hill Lake, 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 Lake, Black Hawk Slough, Arrowhead Lake **Shelby**, Prairie Rose Lake **Tama**, Casey Lake **Van Buren**, 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



Bighead 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

Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations

You cannot possess, introduce, buy, 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 you leave a waterbody.
- **DRAIN** water from all equipment (motor, live well, bilge, transom well) before you leave 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.

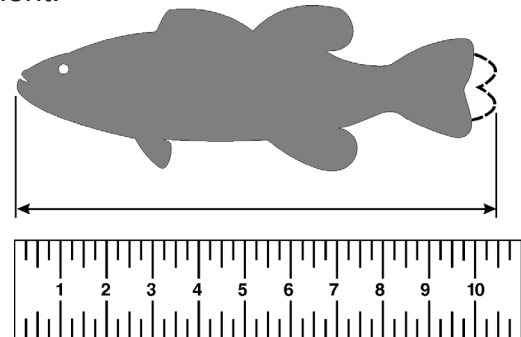
Length Limits

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 obey the law and return fish outside the length limit unharmed to grow and be caught again.

How to Measure Fish Length

Measure total length 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 with 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 Spring 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
Southwest Regional Office _____	712-769-2587
Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery _____	712-336-1840

Poaching is A Crime!

If you see 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 individual, vehicle and the time and location of the violation.

A conservation officer will be sent to investigate. Since the TIP program began in 1985, about \$230,000 has been approved in reward payments.

Turn In Poachers

1-800-532-2020

or online at

www.iowadnr.gov/tip

You can remain anonymous!



Become a Master Angler

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 form 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 your local DNR personnel for verification. One witness must verify the length of the fish to the nearest ¼ inch.

Fish must be taken with a valid Iowa fishing license and be caught by legal methods conforming to provisions of the Iowa Code. A witness must verify fish size; a DNR Fisheries official must verify any fish believed to be a new state record. You can submit the application via the Master Angler website at <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/masterangler/>; the online application available at www.iowadnr.gov/fishing/masterangler-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 medallion.

Please Note: Only one lifetime award will be given for each Silver and Gold Master Angler

level achieved. Once you have achieved the Species Specialist level for a species, you cannot earn additional Master Angler awards for that species.

Master Angler Levels

1. **Species Specialist** - catch five of the same species meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22.
2. **Master Angler** - catch one fish meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22.
3. **Silver Master Angler** – catch five different species meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22.
4. **Gold Master Angler** - catch ten different species meeting the minimum length criteria listed on p. 22.

Your name and Master Angler fish will appear at the time your registration is processed on the Master Angler website at <https://programs.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. DNR fisheries personnel must examine and verify all new state record fish. One witness must verify 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. Submit electronic applications and photos 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

Find more information on lengths and species at www.iowadnr.gov/masterangler.

First Fish Award

First Fish Awards are for budding anglers to remember their first catch. If you catch your first fish, the Iowa DNR would like to celebrate the event with a certificate of your accomplishment. Species, size of the fish or age of the angler is not important, 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 _____
E-mail _____	

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.

Submit electronic applications
and photos to fish.awards@dnr.iowa.gov.

Online application is available
at www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish.

Conservation Officers

County	Officer	Cell Phone	County	Officer	Cell Phone
Adair	Grant Gelly	712-250-0303	Jefferson	Chris Flynn	641-919-9115
Adams	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508		Dan Henderson	319-653-1636
Allamakee	Burt Walters	563-880-0108	Johnson	Erika Billerbeck	319-330-9710
Appanoose	Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164		Brad Baker	319-430-1630
	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163	Jones	Vacant	319-480-0397
Audubon	Jeremy King	712-250-0061		Jared Landt	563-920-5764
Benton	Brett Reece (west 1/2)	641-751-0931	Keokuk	Wesley Gould	641-660-3441
	Ron Lane (east 1/2)	319-350-2871	Kossuth	Virginia Schulte	712-260-1003
Black Hawk	Mike Bonser	319-240-5034	Lee	Ben Schlader	319-470-0788
	Dakota Drish	563-920-0566	Linn	Vacant	319-350-2863
Boone	Matt Bruner	515-290-0527		Ron Lane	319-350-2871
	Brandon Bergquist	515-290-0177	Louisa	Lucas Dever	563-260-1225
Bremer	Mike Bonser	319-240-5034	Lucas	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
	Chris Jones	319-939-4448	Lyon	Tait Anderson	712-260-1006
Buchanan	Dakota Drish	563-920-0566	Madison	Craig Lonneman	515-238-5005
Buena Vista	Brent Koppie	712-260-1010	Mahaska	John Steinbach	641-660-0741
Butler	Jordon Hansen	319-240-8033	Marion	Eric Hoffman	641-891-2004
Calhoun	Nathan Haupt	712-330-8462		Ken Kenyon	641-891-1246
Carroll	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422	Marshall	Tyson Brown	641-751-5246
Cass	Grant Gelly	712-250-0303	Mills	Richard Price	712-520-0121
Cedar	Eric Wright	319-530-6121	Mitchell	Eric Johnston	319-240-9174
Cerro Gordo	Matt Washburn	641-425-0822	Monona	Gary Sisco	712-420-1486
	Ben Bergman	641-425-0828	Monroe	Dallas Davis	641-777-2163
Cherokee	Brent Koppie (east 1/2)	712-260-1010		Jacob Fulk	641-777-2164
	Chad Morrow (west 1/2)	712-260-1023	Montgomery	Adam Arnold	712-520-0507
Chickasaw	Marc Waterlander	319-240-6662	Muscatine	Joe Fourdyce	563-260-1223
Clarke	Michael Miller	641-414-2174	O'Brien	Joe Yarkosky (east 1/2)	712-260-1004
Clay	Joe Yarkosky	712-260-1004		Jon Sells (west 1/2)	712-260-1019
Clayton	Jerry Farmer	563-880-0422	Osceola	Tait Anderson	712-260-1006
	Burt Walters	563-880-0108	Page	Adam Arnold	712-520-0507
Clinton	Lucas Webinger	563-357-1078	Palo Alto	Chris Subbert	712-260-1009
Crawford	Gary Sisco	712-420-1486	Plymouth	Chad Morrow	712-260-1023
Dallas	Craig Lonneman	515-238-5005	Pocahontas	Nathan Haupt	712-330-8462
	Dustin Eighmy (north 1/2)	515-238-5006	Polk	Nate Anderson	515-238-4849
Davis	Bob Stuchel	641-777-2169		Dustin Eighmy	515-238-5006
	Matt Rush	641-777-7805	Pottawattamie	Adam Gacke	712-520-5570
Decatur	Michael Miller	641-414-2174		Richard Price (west 1/2)	712-520-0121
Delaware	Jared Landt	563-920-5764	Poweshiek	John Steinbach	641-660-0741
Des Moines	Paul Kay	319-759-0751	Ringgold	Corey Carlton	641-414-2173
Dickinson	Jeff Morrison	712-260-1017	Sac	Kirby Bragg	712-661-9237
	Steve Reighard	712-260-1018	Scott	Jeff Harrison	563-349-9418
Dubuque	Andrew Keil	563-590-1945		Vacant	563-349-8953
	Nate Johnson	563-590-1944	Shelby	Dave Tierney	712-249-2015
Emmet	Chris Subbert	712-260-1009	Sioux	John Sells	712-260-1019
Fayette	Chris Jones	319-939-4448	Story	Brandon Bergquist	515-290-0177
Floyd	Eric Johnston	319-240-9174		Matt Bruner	515-290-0527
Franklin	Jordon Hansen	319-240-8033	Tama	Brett Reece	641-751-0931
Fremont	Marlowe Wilson	712-520-0506	Taylor	Andrea Bevington	712-520-0508
Greene	Dan Pauley	515-370-0422	Union	Corey Carlton	641-414-2173
Grundy	Tyson Brown	641-751-5246	Van Buren	Chris Flynn	641-919-9115
Guthrie	Jeremy King	712-250-0061	Wapello	Bob Stuchel	641-777-2169
Hamilton	Joli Vollers	515-238-2047		Matt Rush	641-777-7805
Hancock	Ken Lonneman	641-425-0823	Warren	Craig Cutts	515-238-4847
Hardin	Joli Vollers	515-238-2047		Nate Anderson (north 1/2)	515-238-4849
Harrison	Dave Tierney	712-249-2015	Washington	Wesley Gould	641-660-3441
Henry	Dan Henderson	319-653-1636	Wayne	Kyle Jensen	641-414-2175
Howard	Marc Waterlander	319-240-6662	Webster	Bill Spece	515-571-0127
Humboldt	Bill Spece	515-571-0127	Winnebago	Vacant	641-425-0821
Ida	Kirby Bragg	712-661-9237	Winneshiek	Brian Roffman	563-380-0496
Iowa	Brad Baker	319-430-1630	Woodbury	Stacey Bragg	712-301-6735
Jackson	Vacant	319-480-0397		Steven Griebel	712-301-4009
	Andrew Keil	563-590-1945	Worth	Vacant	641-425-0821
Jasper	Deb Vitko	641-521-2003	Wright	Ken Lonneman	641-425-0823

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, Mississippi River	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	Saylorville Reservoir	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, Mississippi River	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	Pool 13, Mississippi River	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	12.4	Williamson Pond	8/17	Susan Pyner
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, Mississippi River	3/12	Travis Peterson

Find additional state record fish species 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: Director, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Jobs Information go to www.iowadnr.gov/employment

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

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