



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fishing News

Conservation and Recreation



Enjoy what's left of the spectacular fall colors and autumn weather

Fall fishing has a special look and feel with cool air, picturesque views of splendid scenery, and cooperative fish. Pack your gear, rig your rods and get outside in this perfect weather.

The fish are feeding like crazy to prepare for the spawn next spring. Go in the middle of the day when water temperatures are warmer. Use live bait, particularly minnows, small tackle and fish slowly.

Find a new fishing hole to explore with our interactive [Fishing Atlas](#). Check conditions before you go with our weekly [fishing report](#).

Community trout ponds - fun for everyone

Experience the thrill of trout fishing this fall at a community trout pond near you. We've released 1,000 to 2,000 rainbow trout at each of 15 locations across the state. The remaining three locations will be stocked soon.

Fall community trout 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 community trout ponds on the [DNR trout fishing webpage](#).

Visit a trout hatchery – great family fun

Stop by one of our three trout hatcheries - Manchester, Decorah, or Big Springs.

Here's a few things to see and do:

- Feed the fish – fun for everyone.
- Male brown and brook trout display their brightest, most vibrant colors in the fall. See eggs of the next generation of trout at the Manchester Fish Hatchery.
- Kids have their own trout fishing pond at the Big Spring Hatchery. Fishing poles and basic tackle is available in the shelter next to the pond.
- Just across the street from the Decorah Hatchery, you'll find Decorah's famous eagles' nest.

