



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa DNR News

## Conservation and Recreation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 11, 2023

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## Celebrate a child's first fish

Preserve the memory of your child or grandchild hooking their first fish this summer with a special certificate. Print the certificate yourself from an electronic file posted online or request a printed certificate.

Apply for a first fish certificate online at [www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish](http://www.iowadnr.gov/firstfish). It's easy and free to participate. There are no size, species or age requirements – only that it is the very first fish the angler has successfully landed.

Family and friends can join in on the celebration by viewing the first catch photos of their kids and other budding anglers on the [First Fish webpage](#) once the entry is approved.

Give your kids a lifetime of BIG memories this summer. Follow the simple tips for taking kids fishing on the Iowa DNR website at <https://www.iowadnr.gov/idnr/Fishing/Fishing-Tips-How-Tos/Taking-Kids-Fishing>.

**Media Contact:** Holly Luft, Fisheries Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-769-2587.

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## Catfish are biting across Iowa

Fishing for catfish is a fun summer tradition for many Iowa families. Invite someone new to fishing to come along to share the fun and memories.

“Catfish will bite most of the time, no matter what the water temperature,” explains Daniel Vogeler, Iowa DNR fisheries technician. “They are biting in most lakes, ponds, rivers and streams across Iowa.”

Bring along two coolers with ice, one to keep your bait firm and fresh and another to keep your catch cold and preserve that great taste.

Catfish have a great sense of smell and taste. Try prepared dip baits, chicken livers, minnows or chubs, green sunfish, bluegill, crawdads, frogs, nightcrawlers or dead, but fresh, goldeye or gizzard shad.

Lakes stratify, or form layers, this time of year, with cool, oxygen-deprived waters sinking to the bottom. Don't fish in water deeper than 8 to 10 feet on most lakes.

Look for areas with vegetation, brush piles or rock. Use the [DNR interactive fishing atlas](#) to help you quickly find these spots. Fish the upper ends of the larger reservoirs where the water is shallower and baitfish like gizzard shad gather. Use baits fished on the bottom or suspended off the bottom with a bobber and let current or breeze move the bait to find active catfish.

Iowa rivers are loaded with catfish. Look for fish around downed trees and brush piles, but don't overlook rock piles or other objects that deflect water and form a current seam. Position your bait just upstream of brush piles so the scent of the bait is carried downstream into the structure to draw the catfish out. Anchor the bait with a heavy weight so it doesn't drift into snags. If fishing the big rivers, try upstream and on the tips of wing dykes and wing dams on the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

Find more tips for catching, cleaning and cooking catfish on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Tips-How-Tos/How-to-Fish-For-/Channel-Catfish-Fishing](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Tips-How-Tos/How-to-Fish-For-/Channel-Catfish-Fishing).

**Media Contact:** Daniel Vogeler, Fisheries Bureau, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-336-1840.

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## DNR seeks comment on proposed Administrative Code revisions

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking informal comments on administrative rules for the Agricultural Lease Program (Chapter 21), Barge Fleeting Regulations (Chapter 17), Rental Fee Schedule for State-owned Property, Riverbed, Lakebed, and Waterfront Lands (Chapter 18), and Sand and Gravel Permits (Chapter 19).

Executive Order 10 (EO10), signed by Governor Reynolds on Jan. 10, 2023, requires all state agencies to identify which administrative rule chapters will be retained or rescinded. The EO10 process includes public engagement with the opportunity for meaningful input.

The Iowa DNR has reviewed the above-mentioned rule chapters. Chapter 21 has been revised to eliminate redundancies and improve efficiency. Chapters 17, 18, and 19 are proposed to be combined into Chapter 17 to eliminate redundancies, outdated language, and improve efficiency and consistency across the three programs.

The public are invited to provide informal comments on the proposed rule changes. DNR will accept written comments through July 21, 2023. Written comments or questions regarding the proposed rules should be submitted to: [Nathan.schmitz@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Nathan.schmitz@dnr.iowa.gov). Comments should be made to specific portions of the rules.

After receiving and reviewing informal comments, the DNR will create a draft Regulatory Analysis and draft Notice of Intended Action. The DNR will host a formal public comment period for these drafts, followed by a public hearing, in September 2023.

Versions of the rules, including a “clean” copy and a version showing revisions, can be found on the DNR webpage: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/About-DNR/Administrative-Rules>.