

Iowa DNR News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 3, 2024

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Missouri and Big Sioux River paddlefish license on sale Dec. 15

Iowa anglers can buy the Missouri and Big Sioux River paddlefish license and tags from Dec. 15 through Jan. 7.

Buy your special paddlefish license and tags on the Iowa DNR online licenses sales website at <https://gooutdoorsiowa.com>. A resident license sells for \$25.50 and a nonresident license is \$49. Anglers must also have a valid Iowa fishing license.

A limited number of paddlefish licenses are available - 950 resident, and 50 nonresident. Anglers may buy up to two tags – one between Dec. 15 and 31; and an additional tag between Jan. 1 and 7, or two tags if you didn't buy one in December.

The license, harvest tag(s), and regulations will be mailed to purchasers in mid-January. Purchasers will be asked to complete an electronic survey to help the Iowa DNR evaluate the success of the paddlefish season. Please complete the survey whether you harvested a paddlefish or not. The Iowa DNR is always working to improve the paddlefish season for anglers; any input provided is considered and is greatly appreciated.

The Missouri and Big Sioux River paddlefish season opens Feb. 1 and runs through April 30.

For more information about Iowa's special paddlefish season, visit the Iowa DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/paddlefish - click on Missouri River Paddlefish Season and Regulations.

Media Contact: Chris Larson, Western Iowa & Missouri River Regional Fisheries Supervisor, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 712-769-2587.

A rainbow is on the horizon

Rainbow trout attract thousands of anglers to streams and community lakes where approximately 375,000 catchable-sized trout are stocked each year.

A rainbow trout's journey to become catchable-sized stocked trout starts about 15 months before stocking. All trout broodstock are raised at the Manchester Fish Hatchery. Averaging 4-to 7 pounds, a broodstock trout's primary purpose is to produce eggs. Thousands of visitors enjoy feeding these fish while they are in the hatchery ponds each year.

Prior to the spawn, hatchery staff seine the pond and move the trout to raceways to be sorted. Two-year-old trout are separated from three-year-old trout and males are separated from females. The fish are held separately so spawning can be completed in a controlled environment at the hatchery.

Every 10 to 13 days, the three-year-old females are anesthetized in a tank in the exterior raceway and checked for ripeness.

"Without anesthetizing the fish, the process turns into a wrestling match potentially injuring the trout and hatchery staff alike," said Dan Rosauer, fisheries biologist at the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Manchester Fish Hatchery.

All ripe females and the necessary number of males are transferred to tanks inside the hatchery building. Two females and three males are anesthetized at a time. The females are held over a net to collect the eggs by gently pressing on their bellies. The eggs are placed into a dry fertilizing pan and the milt is added to the eggs. Both the eggs and milt are activated by adding water to the pan. After activation, the mixture is gently stirred for thirty seconds before milt from the final male is added to ensure sufficient fertilization. After fertilization, the eggs are rinsed and placed in incubators to develop for the next 30-36 days.

Approximately 750,000 rainbow trout eggs are incubated and hatched at the Manchester Fish Hatchery each year. The resulting fry are cared for until they reach 3-4 inches in size then stocked into streams or transferred to outdoor raceways at the Manchester, Big Spring or Chuck Gipp Decorah fish hatcheries.

The fingerlings are raised to 11-12 inch catchable-size before being stocked for anglers to enjoy. Find more information about Iowa trout streams and tips for trout fishing on the DNR website at www.iowadnr.gov/trout.

Media Contact: Dan Rosauer, Natural Resources Biologist, Manchester Hatchery, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 563-327-3276.

Applications are being accepted for Seasonal Water Patrol Officer- Law Enforcement Bureau

The temporary, summer employees of the [Iowa DNR Law Enforcement Bureau](#) are positions of high responsibility. Diverse duties include checking for compliance with Iowa's navigation and fishing regulations and helping to ensure a safe recreational environment for the public. [Water Patrol Officers](#) also provide public assistance and safety education through personal contacts and by participating in DNR's educational programs. Water Patrol Officers are often the first to respond to the scene of emergencies such as accidents, missing persons or other calls for assistance.

[Applications](#) are due by 11:59 p.m., Dec. 15, 2024.

Locations: The following are POTENTIAL positions that MAY be available. Only indicate on your application those that you are willing and able to work; i.e. only those areas that you would accept employment if offered. Housing is not available with these positions.

- IOWA LAKES/DICKINSON COUNTY (NW IOWA)
- STORM LAKE (in Buena Vista County) (NW IOWA)
- BLACK HAWK LAKE (in Sac County) (NW IOWA)
- NORTH TWIN LAKE (in Calhoun County) (NW IOWA)
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER Pool 10 @ MARQUETTE/MACGREGOR (Clayton County) (NE IOWA)
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER Pool 9 @ HARPER'S FERRY (Allamakee County) (NE IOWA)
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER Pool 11 @ DUBUQUE (Dubuque County) (NE IOWA)
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER Pool 12 @ BELLEVUE (Jackson County) (NE IOWA)
- CLEAR LAKE @ (in Cerro Gordo County) (NC IOWA)
- MISSOURI RIVER/LAKE MANAWA (in Pottawattamie County) (SW IOWA)
- MISSOURI RIVER/CARTER LAKE (in Pottawattamie County) (SW IOWA)
- MISSISSIPPI RIVER @ MONTROSE (in Des Moines and Lee Counties) (SE IOWA)

- MISSISSIPPI RIVER @ PRINCETON/CLINTON (Scott and Clinton Counties) (SE IOWA)
 - MISSISSIPPI RIVER @ FAIRPORT (Muscatine and Louisa Counties) (SE IOWA)
 - CORALVILLE RESERVOIR (in Johnson County) (SE IOWA)
 - LAKE RATHBUN (in Appanoose County) (SC IOWA)
 - LAKE RED ROCK (in Marion County) (SC IOWA)
 - SAYLORVILLE LAKE (Polk County) (C IOWA)
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Lake Restoration Program draft 2024 Report and 2024 Plan available for public comment

DES MOINES - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lake Restoration Program will accept public comments on the newly released draft 2024 Lake Restoration Report and 2025 Plan, beginning Dec. 3.

The report is available for review at: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water-Quality/Lake-Restoration>. It highlights restoration projects completed around the state in State Fiscal Year 2024 and outlines plans for upcoming restoration projects.

The Lake Restoration Program works with communities and stakeholders across Iowa to improve water quality and recreational opportunities at publicly-owned lakes. Since the program's creation in 2006, the Iowa legislature has invested more than \$166 million in the lake restoration program. To date, DNR and project partners have invested in lake improvement projects at 72 lakes in 54 counties.

Since 2006, 40 shallow lake/wetlands projects have also been completed, improving over 14,000 wetland acres. The program maintains a list of publicly-owned lakes and shallow lakes/wetlands prioritized for restoration.

Major projects completed in 2024 include a \$2.92 million investment in Casey Lake, located within Hickory Hills Park (Black Hawk County), a \$3.52 million investment at Three Mile Lake (Union County) and a \$1.2 million program investment at Rock Creek Lake (Jasper County) to stabilize eroded shorelines.

Major projects planned for 2025 include watershed and in-lake restoration work at Lake Keomah (Mahaska County), Diamond Lake (Poweshiek County), and McKinley Lake (Union County).

Additionally, several large-scale shallow lake/wetland restoration projects are underway, including projects at Pleasant Lake, and Lily Lake (both in Dickinson

County) and East Twin Lake (Hancock County).

The DNR is accepting comments from Dec. 3rd to Dec. 18th. Comments may be submitted via email to michelle.balmer@dnr.iowa.gov or sent via mail to Michelle Balmer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200, Des Moines, Iowa 50321.

Media Contact: Michelle Balmer, Iowa Department of Natural Resources Lake Restoration Program, 515.238.2458 or michelle.balmer@dnr.iowa.gov.