

INDIANA

# FISHING

## REGULATION GUIDE

2020-2021



### FISHING FOR CRAPPIE

See page 4

#### INSIDE

- **FREE** Fishing Weekends
- '19 Fish of the Year winners
- Crappie by the Numbers
- Striped Bass Management
- Answers to FAQs
- State Record Fish



Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

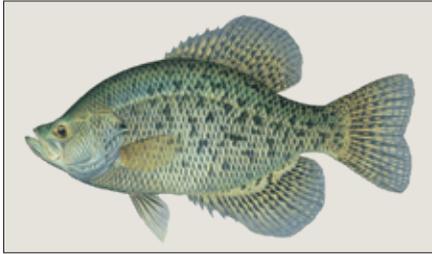
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## Features



**4**

### Crappie

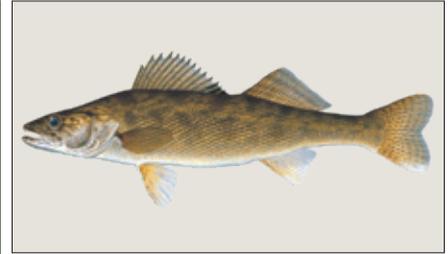
By the Numbers



**23**

### Indiana Record Fish Program

Brian Belke set the record for lake whitefish in 2019.



**26-27**

### What Fish Is It?

Color illustrations are a handy tool to help ID common Indiana fish.

## Departments

Crappie by the Numbers.....	4	Special Regulations for Rivers & Streams.....	13
License Information.....	6	Inland Trout Regulations.....	14
Statewide Size & Bag Limits.....	8	Striped Bass Management.....	17
Illegal Stocking/Aquarium Release, Hooks for Pole Fishing or Hand Lines.....	8	Lake Michigan Regulations.....	18
Gaffs, Grab Hooks & Landing Nets, Snares, Limb Lines, Snagging Fish, Trot Lines.....	8	Ohio River Regulations.....	20
Umbrella Rigs, Float Fishing, Ice Fishing, Bow & Spear Fishing...	9	Reptiles & Amphibians.....	21
Wanton Waste, Sale of Aquatic Life, Smelt, Illegal Species.....	9	Anglers Fund Conservation/New Public Access Sites.....	22
Boating, Life Preservers, Sinkers, Illegal Devices, Sorting Fish.....	10	Indiana Record Fish Program.....	23
Gifting Fish, Minnows & Crayfish.....	10	2019 Fish of the Year.....	24
Gizzard Shad & Threadfin Shad, Walleye Size Limits.....	11	Indiana Fish Identification.....	26
Bass Regulations.....	12	Fish Consumption.....	28
Lake Sturgeon.....	13	Fisheries Biologists, Hatcheries, DNR Law Enforcement.....	30
		Fish & Wildlife Areas, State Reservoirs & State Forests.....	31
		Answers to FAQs.....	32

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Amanda Wuestefeld

Division of Fish & Wildlife

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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Indianapolis, IN 46204



The Indiana Fishing Regulation Guide is a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It is a summary of Indiana fishing regulations. It is designed as a service to anglers and is not intended to be a complete digest of all fishing regulations. Most regulations are subject to change by administrative rule. For questions on the regulations, call (317) 232-4200. To seek permission to reproduce any part of this booklet, call (317) 233-3853.

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### On the Cover:

Black Crappie.

Photographed by – Eric Engbretson  
(www.underwaterfishphotos.com)

# MESSAGES



Learn to Fish.

That's not an order, except maybe to myself, if "better" were attached. Instead, Learn to Fish is the name of a series of DNR workshops I'd like to tell you about so you can spread the word. Most are geared to anyone who thinks they may have an interest in fishing, but may not know where or how to start—or find out more.

As most of you probably know, fishing provides many concrete and abstract benefits to the particular angler, ranging from food to excitement to peace and quiet. Anglers as a group also benefit because of the direct correlation between sales of licenses and fishing equipment to the funding of fishing programs. It's also proven that those who recreate outdoors tend to support conservation efforts.

In the workshops, participants learn about fish and their habitat, rules and regulations, how to catch fish in general or target certain species, and how to clean and cook their catch.

Many workshops include casting practice. Participants then go fishing under an expert's eye with poles that they each put together. By the workshop's end, participants should have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to pursue their fish of focus at a fish & wildlife area, state park, state forest, or other water of their choosing. Workshops that don't provide actual fishing time still incorporate hands-on angling skills. Most workshops are free. More details are at [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov).

Help us promote Learn to Fish to friends, family, acquaintances, and anyone else you think might be interested. Indiana needs more people enjoying the outdoors, and you can help make that happen.

**Cameron Clark**  
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



"Go FishIN, this is Amanda."

That's how I answered the phone during the 10 years I coordinated the DNR sport fishing program.

Fishing has been a big part of my personal life and work life for a long time. I remember catching and eating plenty of crappie, the species on this year's cover, from Hardy Lake. When fishing education was the focus of my job, I shared my love of the sport and the outdoors with thousands of people. Regardless of whether I was fishing for fun or teaching the sport, I made a ton of great memories.

I hope we can continue to help you create wonderful memories of fishing and the outdoors with your friends and family. One of the tools for doing so is the Learn to Fish workshops Cam mentions above. Another is Free Fishing Days, when Indiana residents can fish without a license. The dates this year are May 3, June 6-7, and Sept. 26.

May 3 kicks off Visit Indiana Week. That day, you can visit state park properties without paying a gate fee. This is a great chance to pair a fishing trip with a visit to one of our beautiful state park properties.

June 6-7, our traditional Free Fishing Weekend, coincides with National Fishing and Boating Week. We will have several events scheduled across the state. Check out [on.IN.gov/learn2fish](http://on.IN.gov/learn2fish) for details.

Sept. 26 is National Fishing and Hunting Day. This fall date is an excellent opportunity to get outside and enjoy this beautiful time of year.

Enjoy your 2020 fishing season, and share your memories with us on Facebook (@INFishandWildlife) or Twitter (@INFishWildlife).

**Amanda Wuestefeld**  
Director, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife



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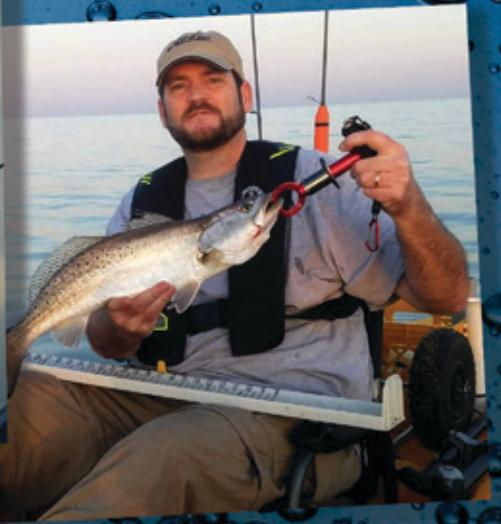
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*Produced under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.*



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# CRAPPIE

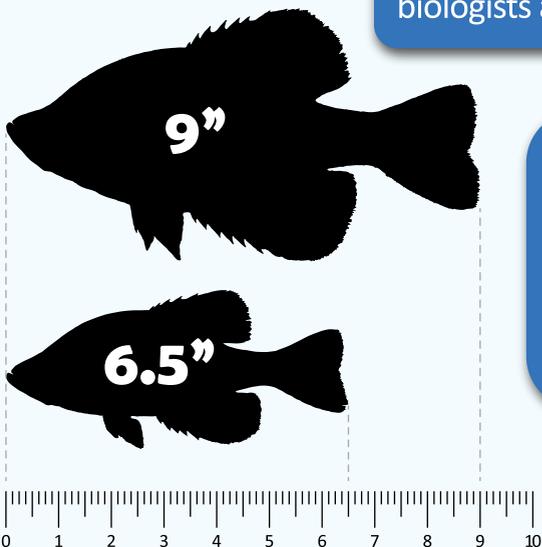
## BY THE NUMBERS



Indiana is home to both black crappie and white crappie, which are commonly referred to as panfish. They're widespread and easy to catch and clean, making them one of the most popular game fish in the state.

**24** lakes have been identified by fisheries biologists as top crappie fishing destinations.

Due to variable food resources and water levels, some crappie only reach **6.5** inches in three years, while in our best lakes crappie can reach **9** inches.



**FAST FACT:** Crappie move to shallow water and spawn when the water hits 55°F in late April and May. This is when their bite is most aggressive.

### Black Crappie



### What's the difference?

Black crappie have **7-8** dorsal spines.  
White crappie have **5-6** dorsal spines.

### White Crappie



### State Record

**4lb 11oz**  
Willis Halcomb  
1994



Illustrations by Duane Raver, US Fish & Wildlife



To entice crappie, jigs such as the one to the left should be bounced up and down while slowly reeling in.

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Located in West Boggs Park

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The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife is tasked by state law to manage fisheries resources for the benefit of all Hoosiers.

This booklet is a summary of fishing regulations that support that effort. It is designed as a service to anglers and is not intended to be a complete digest of all fishing regulations. Some rules may change after printing of this booklet, so be sure to check the DNR website ([Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov)) for updates.

These regulations apply only to fish that originate from, or are taken from, the public waters of Indiana. Fish from public waters that migrate into or from private waters are still covered by these regulations. These regulations do not apply to fish in private waters that did not originate from public waters.

## Who Needs a Fishing License

With a few exceptions (see License Exemptions), a valid fishing license issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is required to fish in public lakes, streams, rivers or tributaries in Indiana and its boundary waters.

A printed license must be signed in ink to be valid, or the licensee must produce an electronic copy of the license while fishing. You must carry it with you when fishing and present it to an Indiana Conservation Officer (or any other authorized law enforcement official) upon request. There are fines and penalties for fishing without a license. To legally fish for or take trout and salmon from public waters, you must also have a valid trout and salmon privilege and a valid fishing license while fishing.

To qualify for resident fishing licenses, a person must have established a true fixed and permanent home and primary residence in Indiana for 60 consecutive days prior to purchasing a license or permit, and not claim residency for fishing, hunting, or trapping in another state or country. All others are non-residents.

Indiana residents who were born after March 31, 1943 and are at least 64 years of age are eligible to buy a Senior Annual or Senior Fish for Life License. The Senior Fish for Life License is valid for the rest of the holder's life and includes the trout/salmon stamp.

A fishing license may be revoked if the license holder is convicted of violating fish and wildlife regulations. Any equipment used in the violation of Indiana fish and wildlife laws may be seized for evidence and be confiscated upon conviction.

## How to Buy a License

### Online ...

Go to: [on.IN.gov/INHuntFish](http://on.IN.gov/INHuntFish)

### In Person ...

To find a retailer near you, visit [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov), click "Buy online, in person or by mail" and "Find an authorized license vendor near you" or visit the DNR Customer Service Center, Indiana Government Center South, 402 W. Washington

LICENSES	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Non-Resident	Resident Apprentice	Non-Resident Apprentice
Annual Fishing	\$17	\$35	na	na
One-Day Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon)	\$9	\$9	na	na
Seven-Day Fishing	na	\$20	na	na
Senior Annual Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon) <sup>2</sup>	\$3	na	na	na
Senior Fish for Life <sup>2</sup> (includes Trout/Salmon)	\$17	na	na	na
Trout/Salmon Stamp Privilege	\$11	\$11	na	na
Annual Hunting	\$17	\$80	\$17	\$80
Annual Hunting and Fishing	\$25	na	\$25	na
Five-Day Hunting	na	\$31	na	\$31
Disabled American Veterans Hunt/Fish	\$2.75	na	na	na
DAV 10-Year Hunt/Fish	\$27.50	na	na	na

All 2020 annual licenses and stamp privileges are valid from April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. 2020 license fees are subject to change by the Natural Resources Commission. For a list of current license fees, go to [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov) or call (317) 232-4200.

<sup>1</sup> See resident description located at the left of this chart.

<sup>2</sup> Must have been born after March 31, 1943 and be at least 64 years old.  
na = not available

St., Room W160, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

### By Mail ...

Send check, money order (payable to DNR) or Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express card information (include number, expiration date) to:

Licenses  
DNR Customer Service Center  
402 W. Washington St., Room W160  
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include the following information:

- Name, date of birth, Indiana Driver's License number and Social Security Number (required by IC 14-22-11-3)
- Complete address, city, state, ZIP code, and phone number
- Height, weight, sex, color of hair, and eyes
- Specify the licenses you need and dates for one-day or multi-day licenses

### By Phone ...

Call (317) 232-4200.

## License Exemptions

A fishing license and trout/salmon stamp are NOT required for:

- Indiana residents born before April 1, 1943. Such residents should carry their driver's license or other identification to verify age and residency.
- Residents and non-residents under age 18.
- Residents who are legally blind. Proof of being legally blind is not required while fishing.
- Residents of a state-owned mental rehabilitation facility.
- Residents of any licensed health care facility in Indiana taking part in a supervised fishing activity sponsored by the facility.

- Residents that have a developmental disability as defined by IC 12-7-2-61. Proof of the disability is not required while fishing.
- Fishing in a private pond that does not allow fish entry from or exit to public waters. However, an angler must have permission from the property owner to fish.
- Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service while on approved military leave. However, the angler must carry leave orders and a valid Indiana Driver's License or voter registration card.
- Resident owners or lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land, their spouses and children living with them, while fishing on the farmland they own or lease. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation, or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members, or owners are composed solely of an immediate family and farm that land. Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted to or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber, or raising livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes.
- Some non-resident landowners, while fishing in public waters from the farmland they own, according to the exemptions that their state provides to Indiana residents.

NOTE: Non-resident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may purchase an Indiana resident license. Indiana disabled American veterans can get a DAV fishing and hunting license application form from the County Service Officer where they live or they can download the application form at [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov) by clicking "Buy online, in person or by mail" and "Disabled Veterans' (DAV) License." Place the form in a stamped self-addressed envelope and mail to the DNR Customer Service Center: 402 W. Washington St., Room W160, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

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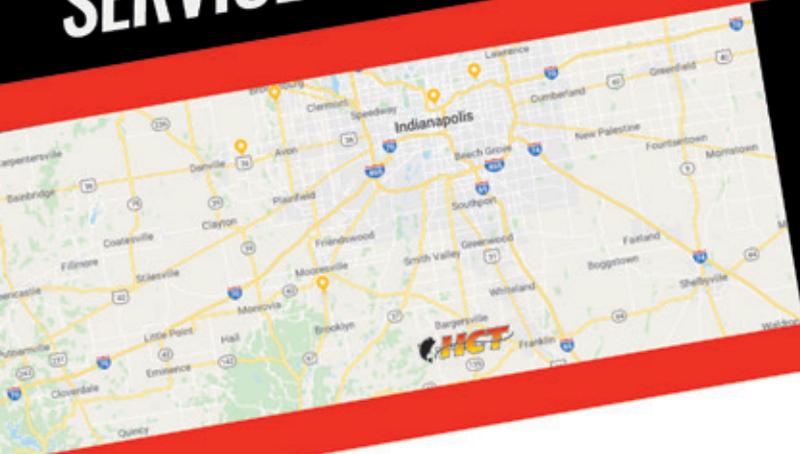


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## INDIANA'S STATEWIDE SIZE AND BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Bluegill <sup>3</sup>	None <sup>3</sup> (exceptions: page 11)	None
Redear Sunfish <sup>3</sup>	25 <sup>3</sup>	None
Black Bass (in lakes) <sup>2</sup>	5 singly or in aggregate <sup>1</sup>	14 inches (exceptions: page 12)
Black Bass (in rivers and streams) <sup>2</sup>	5 singly or in aggregate <sup>1</sup> (no more than two over 15 inches)	12 to 15 inch slot limit <sup>4</sup> (exceptions: page 12)
Black Bass (in Lake Michigan) <sup>2</sup>	3 singly or in aggregate <sup>1</sup>	14 inches
Yellow Bass	None	None
White Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	12 singly or in aggregate <sup>1</sup> ; no more than two fish may exceed 17 inches	None
Striped Bass	2	None
Rock Bass	25	None
Crappie <sup>3</sup>	25 <sup>3</sup> (exceptions: page 11)	None <sup>7</sup>
Walleye, Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye), Sauger	6 singly or in aggregate <sup>1</sup>	For Walleye: 14 inches south of SR 26; 16 inches north of SR 26 (exceptions: page 11) For sauger and saugeye: No size limit (exceptions: page 11)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1 singly	36 inches <sup>8</sup>
Northern Pike	3 <sup>11</sup>	24 inches <sup>10, 12</sup>
Yellow Perch	None (15 only on Lake Michigan)	None
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in streams)	None	13 inches <sup>5, 6</sup>
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in lakes, reservoirs)	10 <sup>9</sup> (exceptions: page 11)	None <sup>5, 6</sup>
Bullhead	None	None
Lake Whitefish	12	None
Shovelnose Sturgeon	None	25 inches

## Hooks for Pole Fishing or Hand Lines

You may not fish with more than three poles or hand lines at any one time. Each line may have no more than three single or multi-pronged hooks, three artificial lures, or no more than three of a combination of hooks and artificial lures.

A multi-prong hook or two or more single-prong hooks used to hold a single bait is considered one hook.

Single- or multi-barbed hooks may be used for hand or pole lines, float or jug fishing, limb, drop, or trot lines. Special hook size and barb regulations apply to Lake Michigan and its tributaries. Refer to page 18 for hook information for these waters.

## Gaffs, Grab Hooks and Landing Nets

Landing nets, gaff hooks or grab hooks may be used only to assist in the landing of legally caught fish. They may not be used as the method of catching fish. See page 18 for Lake Michigan tributary restrictions.

## Snares

You may use no more than one snare to take suckers, carp, gar, and bowfin. Snaring these fish may be done only between sunrise and sunset.

## Limb Lines

A limb line (or drop line) involves suspending a fishing line from a tree limb extending beyond the bank of a body of water. You may fish with no more than 10 limb lines or drop lines at any one time. Each line may have no more than one single- or multi-barbed hook attached to it. Each line must have a readable tag showing the name and address of the user or the user's DNR-issued Customer ID number. All lines must be checked at least every 24 hours. It is illegal to use a limb or drop line within 300 yards of a partial or full dam structure located on any stream, river, ditch, canal, or reservoir.

## Snagging Fish

Snagging is the practice of dragging or jerking a hook (or hooks), baited or unbaited, through the water with the intention of hooking a fish on contact. It is illegal to snag fish from public waters in Indiana, including the Ohio River. Trout and salmon that are foul-hooked — not caught in the mouth — must be released to the water and not kept.

## Trot Lines

A trot line (also called a set line or throw line) is a fishing line with smaller lines attached to it that extends into the water from a fixed point, such as a boat dock or tree. You may fish with no

## Bag and Possession Limits

It is illegal to take more than the daily bag limit of a wild fish in a calendar day.

The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit.

The possession limit does not apply to a wild fish that is processed and stored at an individual's primary residence.

It is illegal to carry, transport, or ship outside Indiana, in open season, in one day, a wild fish that the individual has taken in open season in excess of the possession limit.

## Illegal Stocking, Aquarium Release

It is illegal to take any live fish (native or non-native) and release it into any other public waters without a stocking permit. DNR fisheries biologists approve stocking of fish only after careful consideration of the potential impacts of new fish on the existing habitat and fish population. The release of fish from an aquarium would be considered the stocking of fish, and a permit is required to do so.

<sup>1</sup> Singly or in aggregate means that the daily bag limit includes any combination of the species.

<sup>2</sup> Black bass includes largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass.

<sup>3</sup> Daily bag limit for sunfish at J.C. Murphey Lake (Newton County) is 25 singly or in aggregate.

<sup>4</sup> No black bass between 12 and 15 inches may be harvested.

<sup>5</sup> No more than one blue catfish and one flathead catfish that is 35 inches or longer.

<sup>6</sup> No more than one channel catfish that is 28 inches or longer.

<sup>7</sup> 9-inch minimum size at Dogwood Lake (Davies County) and Hardy Lake (Scott County).

<sup>8</sup> 44-inch minimum size at Backwater, Kiser and Webster lakes (Kosciusko County).

<sup>9</sup> No bag limit for catfish at Turtle Creek Reservoir.

<sup>10</sup> No more than 1 per day more than 30 inches long.

<sup>11</sup> No more than 6 per day from Hamilton Lake in Steuben County.

<sup>12</sup> No minimum size limit for Northern pike at Hamilton Lake in Steuben County, with no more than 1 per day more than 30 inches long.

more than one trot line at any one time. The trot line must have no more than 50 single- or multi-barbed hooks. Each drop line on a trot line may have only one hook. Trot lines must bear a readable tag showing the name and address of the user or the user's DNR-issued Customer ID number. Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours. It is illegal to use a trot line in Lake Michigan or within 300 yards of any partial or full dam structure located on any stream, river, ditch, canal, or reservoir.

## Umbrella Rigs

You may use an umbrella rig (sometimes referred to as an Alabama rig), but hooks or lures can be attached to only three arms. Any additional arms must be left empty or can be fitted with a spinner blade or other hookless attractor.

## Float Fishing

Float or jug fishing is the use of any buoyed container (made of any material other than glass) that suspends a single fishing line and a single- or multi-barbed hook.

As many as five floats may be used, but only one hook may be attached to each float line. Each float must be marked with the user's name and address or the user's DNR-issued Customer ID number. All lines must be in constant visual contact of the person using them. Float fishing is not allowed on lakes and reservoirs for public safety reasons.

## Ice Fishing

When ice fishing, no more than three lines may be used at any one time. Each line may contain no more than three hooks (single, double, or treble) or three artificial lures.

Holes cut for ice fishing cannot be more than 12 inches in diameter.

Tip-ups must be identified with the name and address of the user or the user's DNR-issued Customer ID number. Tip-ups must be in constant visual contact of the person using them.

Ice shanties or portable ice-fishing shelters must have the owner's name and address or the owner's DNR-issued Customer ID number in 3-inch block letters on the outside of the door. Between sunset and sunrise, any ice fishing shelter or portable shelter must have at least one red reflector or a 3-inch by 3-inch reflector strip on each side of the structure.

Ice shanties and portable shelters must be removed from public waters before ice-out. If used before Jan. 1 and after Feb. 15, all structures must be removed daily.

## Freshwater Mussels

It is illegal to collect or take live native mussels or dead native mussel shells from public waters. A ban on harvesting shells has been in effect since 1991 to protect against a rapid decrease in the abundance and distribution of freshwater mussels. Please do not disturb living mussels.

## Bow Fishing

A bow and arrow or crossbow can be used year-round at any time of day to take Asian carp, bowfin, buffalo, common carp, gar, shad, and suckers from streams, rivers, and non-flowing waters (including lakes, ponds, and reservoirs). A fishing license is required to use a bow and arrow or crossbow as fishing equipment.

## Spear Fishing

A gig, fish spear, spear gun, or underwater spear can be used year-round at any time of day to take Asian carp, bowfin, buffalo, common carp, gar, shad, and suckers from non-flowing waters (including lakes, ponds, and reservoirs) and the following large streams:

- Kankakee River, upstream to the State Road 55 bridge
- Maumee River, upstream to the Anthony Boulevard bridge in Fort Wayne
- St. Joseph River, upstream from Twin Branch Dam in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties
- Tippecanoe River, upstream to one-half mile below its confluence with Big Creek in Carroll County (Fish spears and fish gigs cannot be used in, on, or adjacent to Tippecanoe River from a half-mile below its juncture with Big Creek in Carroll County upstream to the Oakdale Dam.)
- Wabash River, upstream to State Road 13 in Wabash
- White River, upstream from the Wabash River to the junction of East and West forks
- White River/East Fork, upstream to the dam at the south edge of Columbus
- White River/West Fork, upstream to the dam below Harding Street in Indianapolis

## Fishing Below Dams

State law does not allow the taking of fish by trot line, set line, throw line, net, trap, or seine (except legal minnow seines or dip nets) within 300 yards of a dam on an Indiana waterway or boundary water (which includes the Ohio River).

## Wanton Waste

The intentional waste and destruction of fish is prohibited unless the fish is required by law to be killed. Fish must not be mutilated and returned to the water unless the fish is lawfully used as bait. Fish parts, including entrails, must not be discarded into any state waters but should be disposed of in a sanitary manner that does not pollute the water or become detrimental to public health or comfort.

## Sale of Aquatic Life

No fish, frogs, turtles, or other reptile or amphibian taken under a fishing or hunting license may be bought, sold, or bartered. You

## Free Fishing Days

Indiana residents can enjoy four free fishing days in 2020 without having to buy a fishing license — May 3, June 6–7, and Sept. 26.

This year, take a friend along and introduce him or her to a new activity that could become a lifelong passion.

All other fishing rules and regulations apply.

See [dnr.IN.gov/fishfree](http://dnr.IN.gov/fishfree) for more information.

may keep fish that you catch for an aquarium if that fish meets legal size and bag limit requirements.

If you give your catch away, it's a good idea to provide the recipient a note identifying the fish you gave them. This avoids confusion with exceeding the daily bag limit or possessing fish without a fishing license.

## Smelt Fishing

Smelt may be taken from Lake Michigan from March 1 through May 30. Smelt may be taken only with a single seine or net. The seine or net may not exceed 12 feet in length and 6 feet in depth, nor have a stretch mesh larger than 1½ inches. A dip net may not exceed 12 feet in diameter.

## Endangered Fish

The following fish species are classified as endangered in Indiana: bantam sunfish, Hoosier cavefish (formerly Northern cavefish), channel darter, gilt darter, greater redhorse, lake sturgeon (see page 13), Northern brook lamprey, pallid shiner, reidside dace, and variegated darter.

It is illegal to take or possess these fish at any time. Most of these species are small and would not be caught while angling.

If captured during baitfish collection, immediately return them unharmed to the water in which they were found.

## Species Illegal to Possess

The following fish and mussels are illegal to possess alive: Asiatic clam, bighead carp, black carp, silver carp, quagga mussel, round goby, rudd, ruffe, snakehead (of the family *Channidae*), stone moroko, tubenose goby, walking catfish (of the family *Clariidae*), Wels catfish, white perch (not freshwater drum), zander, and zebra mussel.

If any of these exotic species are taken into possession, they must be killed immediately by either removing their head, removing gills from at least one side of the fish, or gutting. Your cooperation is essential to protect Indiana's native species.

## Boating

All motorboats used in public waters must be registered. For a copy of Indiana boating laws, write to DNR Division of Law Enforcement, 402 W. Washington St., Room W255D, Indianapolis, IN 46204 or go to [boat-ed.com/Indiana/handbook](http://boat-ed.com/Indiana/handbook).

On state-owned, leased or licensed lakes smaller than 300 acres, only electric motors may be used. No more than two 12-volt batteries can be used to power trolling motors on these waters.

## Life Preservers

A U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable flotation device (PFD) is required for each person on any boat. Boats 16 feet and longer, except for canoes or kayaks, must also have one USCG-approved throwable PFD on board.

Lake Michigan, the Ohio River, and Indiana-Illinois boundary waters of the Wabash River have special regulations. Call the USCG at (219) 879-8371 for Lake Michigan, (502) 779-5400 for southern Indiana, or see [uscgboating.org](http://uscgboating.org) for a copy of federal boating regulations.

## Sinkers

You may want to consider using lead-free fishing sinkers if you are concerned about your exposure to lead. Alternative sinkers are made of steel, bismuth, tungsten, and resin. Fish and wildlife health may be affected if they ingest lead or zinc sinkers.

## Tagging and Marking

Anyone interested in marking or tagging fish in public water must get approval from the DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) before marking or tagging occurs.

An application, available from DFW, must be processed 21 days before the scheduled start date. Call (317) 232-4080 for more information.

## Lake Michigan Trout and Salmon

Trout or salmon with a missing adipose fin contain a small micro wire tag in the head of the fish with information important to DNR research. Please save the head from your marked (adipose fin-clipped) trout and salmon and call the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife at (219) 874-6824 for instructions on drop-off locations.

Only trout and salmon with a missing adipose fin have micro tags. The adipose fin is along the fish's spine between the dorsal fin and caudal (tail) fin.

## Illegal Devices

It is illegal to use the following devices to take fish from public waters: a weir, electric current, dynamite or other explosive, a firearm, hands alone, or any substance that may weaken or poison fish.

## Sorting Fish

Anglers are responsible for maintaining fish in a healthy condition if they wish to return fish to the water. Dead and dying fish already kept cannot be released back into the water. At no time may anglers have more than a bag limit in their possession while engaged in a day's fishing. However, sorting of fish may be allowed within the bag limit if fish are in healthy condition at the time of release. For example, if you catch five largemouth bass (daily bag limit is five) and catch a bigger largemouth bass later that day, it is legal to release any of the other fish in good condition in order to keep the larger one. Fish must be released into the water from which they were taken and be able to swim away normally. All fish in possession must meet legal size limits.

## Gifting Fish

A person cannot gift fish taken under a sport fishing license to another person knowingly or intentionally for the purpose of stocking a private lake for which customers pay for the opportunity to fish.

## Holding Baskets, Live Boxes, Live Nets, Etc.

A fish-holding basket, live box, live net, or any other structure in which fish or other aquatic life are contained or held and left unattended must be plainly labeled with the name and address of the owner or the owner's DNR-issued Customer ID number. This does not include live wells or other devices that hang over the side of a boat or are located within the boat.

## Minnows, Crayfish

Minnows and crayfish may be collected any time through the year if you have a valid sport fishing license. Minnows and crayfish collected from public waters cannot be sold.

"Minnow" is defined as a species of the minnow family *Cyprinidae*, except for exotic species identified in 312 IAC 9-6-7 and endangered species identified in 312 IAC 9-6-9, as well as sucker, brook stickleback (*Culaea inconstans*), gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and alewife. Live gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and alewife may only be collected, used, possessed, and disposed of in accordance with 312 IAC 9-6-8.

You cannot transport more than 100 crayfish across the state line in a 24-hour period unless you are commercially raising crayfish. You may use artificial lighting to take crayfish.

If you plan to catch your own minnows or crayfish, the following rules apply:

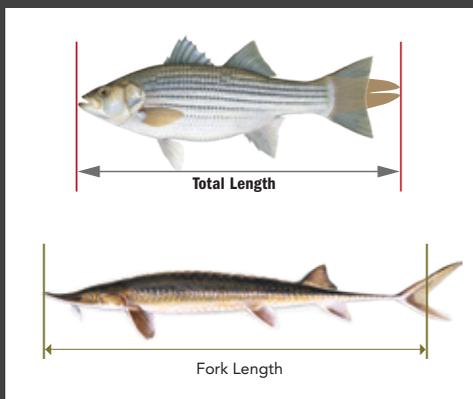
- Seines cannot be larger than 12 feet in length and 4 feet deep with mesh no larger than ½ inch stretch. (Stretch is the distance between two opposite knots of a net mesh when the net is stretched tight.)
- Minnow dip nets cannot exceed 3 feet square, without sides or walls, and may not have mesh larger than ½ inch stretch.
- Minnow traps cannot exceed 24 inches in length, with the opening of the trap no larger than 2 inches in diameter. Traps for crayfish also must comply with these requirements.
- Cast nets may be used, provided the net is no larger than 20 feet in diameter, and the mesh stretch is no larger than ¾ inch.
- See page 20 for special minnow and crayfish collecting regulations on the Ohio River.

Do not release minnows into the water after you finish fishing. Emptying bait buckets can contaminate a body of water with undesirable fish. In addition, bait and bait buckets exposed to lake or stream water could get contaminated with zebra mussel larvae, fish

## How To Measure Your Fish

To determine the accurate length of a fish, measure a straight line from the tip of the jaw (mouth closed) to the tip of the compressed tail fin. Measure with mouth closed and tail compressed to determine total length.

Measure shovelnose sturgeon from nose to fork in tail fin to determine length.



pathogens, or other aquatic invasive species. Anglers are encouraged to dispose of baitfish in the trash after each outing and buy new bait for the next outing. Fishing worms should be discarded in trash containers.

Wild fish may be used as live bait as long as the fish was caught legally and meets any size, catch, or possession limits established for that species. Goldfish may be used as live bait.

Carp cannot be used as live bait at any location.

Live alewives may be collected, possessed and used on Lake Michigan only. Alewives may not be transported away from Lake Michigan. Any unused alewives must be killed. You must immediately kill alewives collected from waters other than Lake Michigan.

## Gizzard Shad & Threadfin Shad

Gizzard shad and threadfin shad can be collected and used as live bait on the following waters but may not be transported live away from the location where collected: Brookville, Cecil M. Harden (Raccoon SRA), Freeman, Hardy, Monroe, Patoka, and Shafer lakes, and the Ohio River mainstream (excluding all embayments).

Cast nets with a maximum mesh size of 2 inches stretch can be used to collect live gizzard shad and threadfin shad at these bodies of water.

Live gizzard shad or threadfin shad collected from the tailwaters of a lake or collected from other water bodies must be killed immediately upon capture and cannot be possessed alive.

## Hooks on EF White River

Hook restrictions are in place from March 15 through April 20 on the East Fork White River from Williams Dam to the Huron and Williams Road bridge in Lawrence County.

During that time, you cannot fish with more than one single hook per line or one artificial lure. Single hooks, including those on artificial lures, shall not exceed ½ inch from point to shank. Double and treble hooks on artificial lures shall not exceed ¾ inch from point to shank.

## Walleye Size Limits

Walleye taken from all public waters (lakes, rivers and streams) north of State Road 26 must be 16 inches in length or longer, except for:

- Bass Lake (Starke County) and Wolf Lake (Lake County); minimum size 14 inches
- Lake George (Steuben County); minimum size 15 inches

- Wall Lake (LaGrange County); minimum size 16 inches with a daily bag limit of two Walleye taken from public waters (lakes, rivers and streams) south of State Road 26 must be 14 inches or longer, except from the Ohio River, where there is no minimum size.

There is no minimum size requirement for saugeye on all state waters, except for Huntingburg Lake (Dubois County) and Sullivan Lake (Sullivan County), where saugeye must be 14 inches in length or longer.

Except for the Ohio River, sauger are added to the aggregate bag limit for walleye and saugeye.

## Special Regulation Waters

On Fidler Pond in Elkhart County, Failing Lake (also known as Gentian Lake) in Steuben County, and Flat Fork Creek Park ponds A and B in Hamilton County, a person cannot take more than:

- 5 channel catfish per day
- 2 largemouth bass per day, and the largemouth bass must be at least 18 inches long
- 15 of any combination of bluegill, redear sunfish, and crappie per day



## AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

Offering opportunities for wild-dove and pheasant hunting in the heart of rural Pulaski County, Sandy Prairie Hunt Club provides more than 200 acres of ground, including 40 acres of prairie-grass strips and sunflower fields. Individuals and small parties are welcome, dogs are required, and there's no membership fee.

The Winamac Fish and Wildlife Area, in northern Pulaski County, along U.S. 35, offers tremendous opportunities for hunting deer, wild turkey, rabbit, quail, squirrel, woodcock, dove, and furbearers. Waterfowl hunting is offered, but is limited due to the small amount of wetlands, and opportunities exists for pheasant, quail and dove hunting. Wetland trapping is always permitted. Two two-acre ponds are home to bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass waiting to challenge master anglers and recreational fishers alike.

Northwestern Pulaski County's Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area is home to the Ryan Ditch (shoreline fishing), two gravel pits with boat ramps, and numerous small ponds to provide plenty of diversity as you seek the catch of the day — or just a day out of the office, communing with nature. Deer, quail, rabbit, squirrel, snipe, dove, sora rails, woodcock, waterfowl and wild turkey all inhabit the area, challenging mature marksmen and first-timers alike.

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# BASS REGULATIONS

## STATEWIDE BLACK BASS\* REGULATIONS

Type of Water	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Lakes	5 singly or in aggregate	14 inches
Rivers/Streams	5 singly or in aggregate (no more than 2 bass over 15 inches)	12 to 15 inch slot limit**
Lake Michigan	3 singly or in aggregate	14 inches

\* Black bass is a term for largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass. Certain waters have special bag limits and minimum size limits that apply to black bass. See information on this page.

\*\* No black bass between 12 and 15 inches may be harvested.

The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit. The possession limit does not apply to fish that are processed and stored at an individual's primary residence.

### Special Lake Regulations

Special largemouth bass regulations are in effect for many Indiana waters.

The expected benefits of size limits are an increase in the number of bass caught (although many must be released), an increase in size of bass, and in some cases, improvement in bluegill size and increased predation on abundant prey like gizzard shad.

Regulations on bass fishing differ on the Ohio River. See page 20.

#### Lake Limits (county)

##### 15-inch minimum size limit:

- Patoka Lake (Orange, Dubois and Crawford counties)

##### 16-inch minimum size limit:

- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke County)

##### 18-inch minimum size limit and two fish daily bag limit:

- Ball Lake (Steuben County)
- Blue Grass, Loon Pit (Warrick County)
- Fidler Pond in Elkhart County, Failing Lake (also known as Gentian Lake) in Steuben County, and Flat Fork Creek Park ponds A and B in Hamilton County
- J.C. Murphey Lake (Newton County)
- Kunkel Lake (Wells County)
- Robinson Lake (Whitley and Kosciusko counties)

- Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area, all lakes
- 20-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily bag limit:**

- Turtle Creek Reservoir (Sullivan County)

##### 12- to 15-inch slot size limits:

At the following lakes, largemouth bass that are from 12 to 15 inches in length may not be harvested. The daily bag limit applies to bass under 12 inches and over 15 inches.

- Buffalo Trace Lake (Harrison County)
- Ferdinand State Forest Lake (Dubois County)
- Montgomery City Park Lake (Davies County)

##### 12- to 15-inch slot size limit (no more than two bass larger than 15 inches):

- Big Long Lake (LaGrange County)

##### No minimum size limit waters:

- Brownstown Pit (Jackson County)
- Burdette Park lakes (Vanderburgh County)
- Chandler Town Lake (Warrick County)
- Cypress Lake (Jackson County)
- Deming Park lakes (Vigo County)
- Garvin Park Lake (Vanderburgh County)
- Glen Miller Pond (Wayne County)
- Hayswood Lake (Harrison County)

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**No minimum size limit waters (cont.):**

- Henry County Memorial Park Lake (Henry County)
- Hovey Lake at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area (Posey County)
- Krannert Lake (Marion County)
- Lake Sullivan (Marion County)
- Ruster Lake (Marion County)
- Schnebelt Pond (Dearborn County)

**Special Regulations for Rivers & Streams**

**20-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily bag limit:**

- Sugar Creek (Montgomery, Parke, Boone, Clinton and Tipton counties)

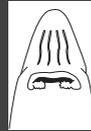
**12-inch minimum size limit (5 bass daily limit):**

- All rivers and streams in Posey, Vanderburgh, Warrick, Spencer, Perry, Crawford, Harrison, Floyd, Clark, Jefferson, Switzerland, Ohio and Dearborn counties (with the exception of the Blue River, where the slot limit applies in Crawford, Harrison, and Washington counties).

**Lake Sturgeon – Endangered Species**

**Lake Sturgeon**

**Mouth:** Upper lip without lobes, lower lip with two lobes.



**Snout:** Cone-shaped, rounded.

**Tail:** Rounded, thick caudal peduncle not fully scaled; smooth areas between rows of bony plates.

**Size:** Adults normally caught at 45–55 inches and 25–45 lbs.; can reach lengths greater than 6 feet and weights over 100 lbs.

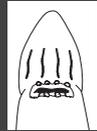
**Range:** Lower Wabash and White rivers and Lake Michigan, possibly in other large lakes or rivers.



Lake sturgeon: may have small metal tag with number on base of dorsal fin.

**Shovelnose Sturgeon**

**Mouth:** Upper lip with four lobes, lower lip with four lobes.



**Snout:** Shovel-shaped, flattened.

**Tail:** Long, thin caudal peduncle fully scaled with bony plates.

**Size:** Adults normally caught at 30–40 inches and 3–7 lbs., rarely larger.

**Range:** Wabash and White rivers and occasionally in other large rivers.



Shovelnose sturgeon.

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# INLAND TROUT REGULATIONS

Indiana anglers have two options when it comes to trout fishing: inland waters and Lake Michigan. The following information covers regulations for inland trout fishing. Lake Michigan trout and salmon regulations are on page 18.

**Lakes:** There is no closed season for taking trout from inland lakes.

**Streams:** The opening day of trout season for inland streams, other than Lake Michigan tributaries, is the last Saturday in April. The season runs through Dec. 31.

The start time is 6 a.m. local time.

For a list of trout stockings, see [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov). Catch-and-release applies to all trout streams from Jan. 1 through April 14. See page 18 for special tributary restrictions and closure information for Lake Michigan streams.

A closed season for selected trout streams (see below) runs from April 15 to the last Saturday in April (opening day) while DNR staff complete the annual trout stockings.

- Pigeon River and Pigeon Creek in LaGrange County from the Steuben County line to CR 410 E (Troxel's Bridge). This does not include the impoundment known as Mongo Mill Pond
- Harding Run, Curtis Creek, Bloody Run, and Graveyard Run (tributaries of Pigeon River) in LaGrange County
- Turkey Creek north of CR 100 S in LaGrange County

## INLAND TROUT SIZES AND LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Brook Trout	5 singly or in aggregate for all trout. No more than 1 may be brown trout.	7 inches*
Rainbow Trout		
Brown Trout		

\*18-inch minimum size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County

- Rainbow Pit located on Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area, approximately one mile east of Ontario in LaGrange County
- Little Elkhart River and Rowe-Eden Ditch in LaGrange County
- Solomon Creek and Cobus Creek in Elkhart County
- Little Kankakee River in LaPorte County from CR 800 E upstream to Division Road
- Spy Run Creek within Franke Park in Allen County
- Mississinewa River within the boundaries of the Randolph County Wildlife Management Area
- Big Blue River within the boundaries of Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area in Henry County

Three streams in Elkhart County (totaling 2.8 miles) are designated as year-round "catch-and-release only" and "artificial lures or flies only" trout fishing areas. Only artificial lures and artificial flies can be used in the following catch-and-release waters in Elkhart County:

- Little Elkhart River from CR 43 downstream to CR 16, except for waters along Riverbend Park from CR 16 upstream to the pedestrian footbridge
- Solomon Creek from CR 33 downstream to the Elkhart River
- Cobus Creek from Old U.S. 20 downstream to the St. Joseph River

**Brown Trout Minimum Size Limit Waters:**

An 18-inch minimum size limit exists at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County.

Shimano - G•Loomis - Zman - Mepps  
Jackall - Powell - Mustad - Power Pro  
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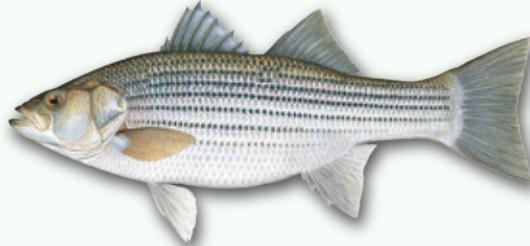
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# Striped Bass

## FOUR STEPS TO INDIANA'S MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

### Step 1

Out of state producers collect **eggs** and **milt** each spring from wild parent stock and hatch them within hatcheries.



**Striped Bass**



**Hybrid Striped Bass**



### Step 2

Newly hatched fish are transported to Indiana's East Fork State Fish Hatchery (SFH) where they grow to **2** inches in ponds.



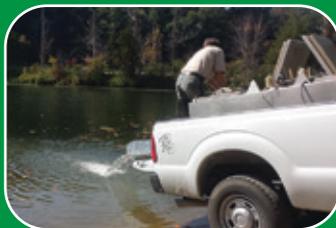
### Step 4

**Biologists** monitor stocking success, populations, and angler harvest through targeted surveys.



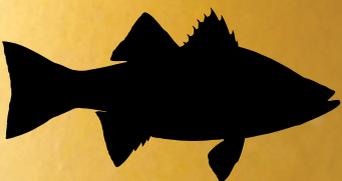
### Step 3

**62,000** hybrids and **84,000** striped bass from East Fork SFH ponds are stocked annually into **12** Indiana lakes.



**Indiana Stocking Sites**  
● Hybrid Striped Bass  
▲ Striped Bass  
■ Both Species

Illustrations by Rick Hill, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife



For more information on Indiana's Striped Bass programs visit [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov)

**DNR**  
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

## LAKE MICHIGAN AND TRIBUTARIES SIZES AND LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Atlantic Salmon	5 total salmon and trout No more than 3 may be lake trout	14 inches for Lake Michigan, streams, and St. Joseph River
Chinook Salmon		
Coho Salmon		
Pink Salmon		
Brown Trout		
Lake Trout		
Steelhead Trout		
Yellow Perch	15 on Lake Michigan only	None
Lake Whitefish	12 (statewide)	None

- No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrances and exits of the fish ladders.
- No fishing is allowed by boat or other watercraft in the St. Joseph River below the South Bend dam for a distance of 200 feet, and from the Mishawaka Central Park Dam downstream to the Main Street Bridge, Mishawaka.

### Tributary Closures

No fishing is allowed within 100 feet upstream of the Trail Creek sea lamprey barrier or downstream to the Pottawattomie Country Club Golf Course property line located adjacent to Springland Avenue in Michigan City.

Fishing is not allowed within 100 feet above or below the Praxair Dam on the East Branch of the Little Calumet River.

Lake Michigan and its tributaries in Indiana provide a number of fishing opportunities for salmon, trout, perch, whitefish, and other species.

Any trout or salmon taken from the Lake Michigan tributaries defined in this section must be hooked in the mouth. Foul-hooked fish must be returned to the water.

Additional regulations include:

- The bag limit for yellow perch is 15 while fishing Indiana waters (even if you have a fishing license from a neighboring state).
- You can take bowfin, buffalo, carp, gar, shad, and sucker from Lake Michigan with a bow and arrow.
- You cannot use a trot line, set line, or throw line to take fish from Lake Michigan.
- See page 12 for Lake Michigan bass regulations.

### Tributary Restrictions

You may not possess a fish spear, gig, gaff, bowfishing equipment, crossbow, grab hook, spear gun, club, snag hook, or underwater spear in or adjacent to the Galena River (LaPorte County), Trail Creek (LaPorte County), the East Branch of the Little Calumet River (LaPorte and Porter counties), Salt Creek (Porter County), the West Branch of the Little Calumet River (Lake and Porter counties), Burns Ditch (Lake and Porter counties), Deep River downstream from the dam at Camp 133 (Lake County), or the tributaries to these waters.

### Hook Restrictions

You may not fish with more than one single hook per line or one artificial lure in the following waters:

- Lake Michigan tributaries
- St. Joseph River and its tributary streams from the Twin Branch Dam downstream to the Michigan state line (St. Joseph County).

Single hooks, including those on artificial lures, cannot exceed ½ inch from point to shank. Double and treble hooks are allowed only on artificial lures and shall not exceed ¾ inch from point to shank.

### St. Joseph River

Special regulations apply to fishing the St. Joseph River and its tributaries from Twin Branch Dam in Mishawaka downstream to the Michigan state line. These include:

- Minimum size limit for trout and salmon is 14 inches.
- No fishing is allowed at any time in the East Race Waterway in South Bend. No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrance and exit of the East Race.
- No fishing is allowed at any time from the fish ladders located on the South Bend or Mishawaka Central Park dams.

### Fishing Reports and More

Fishing reports, public access sites and much more can be found at [on.IN.gov/where2fish](http://on.IN.gov/where2fish).



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- **DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait, fish parts, and worms in the trash.
- **SPRAY/RINSE** boat and equipment with high-pressure or hot water, **OR**
- **DRY** everything for at least five days before going into another body of water.
- **NEVER** release organisms from one waterbody into another.

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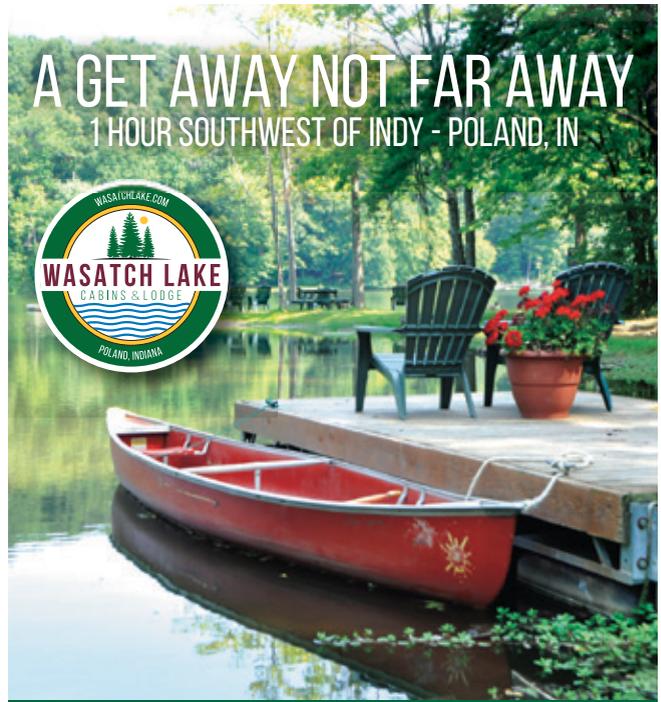
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## OHIO RIVER DAILY BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Largemouth Bass	6*	12 inches
Smallmouth Bass		No size limit on spotted bass
Spotted Bass		
Hybrid Bass		
Striped Bass	30*	No more than four fish may be 15 inches or longer
White Bass		
Yellow Bass		
Rock Bass	15	None
Blue Catfish	None**	13 inches
Channel Catfish	None***	13 inches
Flathead Catfish	None**	13 inches
Crappie	30	None
Muskellunge	2*	30 inches
Tiger Muskellunge		
Walleye	6*	14 inches
Sauger		
Hybrid Walleye (Sauger)		
Shovelnose Sturgeon	None	25 inches

\*Singly or in aggregate means that the daily bag limit includes any combination of the species.

\*\* No more than one may be 35 inches or longer.

\*\*\* No more than one may be 28 inches or longer.

## Sport Fishing on the Ohio

These regulations are the result of a cooperative effort by Indiana and five other Ohio River states. In many cases, these rules differ significantly from other laws and regulations in Indiana. These rules and regulations apply only to the main stem of the Ohio River and do not include any tributaries or embayments where general Indiana fishing regulations apply.

An agreement between Indiana and Kentucky allows that each state will recognize the fishing license issued by the other state on the main stem of the Ohio River, excluding embayments and tributaries. This means you can fish the Ohio River bank to bank with a license issued by either state. To fish Indiana or Kentucky embayments or tributaries, you must obtain a license from that state. An angler must abide by the regulations of the state by which they are licensed, except when fishing from the bank. When fishing from the bank, anglers shall follow the regulations of

the state in which they are fishing.

While fishing for sport fish, you may use only poles or hand lines, float-fishing methods, set lines with one single- or multi-barbed hooks, or up to two trot lines with no more than 50 single- or multi-barbed hooks per line. These lines must be spaced at least 18 inches apart. Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Each set line and trot line must have affixed at least one legible tag marked with the name and address of the user or the individual's DNR-issued Customer ID number.

Trot lines can be attached only to a tree limb, a tree trunk, a bank pole or the bank itself. Each drop line on a trot line can bear only one single or multi-barbed hook.

Snagging is prohibited as a sport fishing method on the Ohio River.

Ohio River sport fish include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, spotted bass, yellow bass, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, black crappie, white crappie, tiger muskellunge, northern pike, trout, and paddlefish.

Paddlefish may not be taken from any portion of Indiana waters of the Ohio River on a sport fishing license. It is also illegal to take paddlefish from any other waters of Indiana on a sport fishing license.

All other fish, except those classified as threatened or endangered, may be taken with the same sport fishing methods described above, as well as with the following methods:

- Long or compound bow with an arrow having one or more barbs and an attached line. Catfish cannot be taken with bow and arrow during nighttime hours (½ hour after sunset until ½ hour before sunrise).
- Gigging from Feb. 1 to May 10 with any pronged or barbed instrument attached to the end of a rigid object. You cannot take a fish by gigging from either a boat or platform.

## Where to Fish on the Ohio

Much of the best fishing on the Ohio River is concentrated near dams; however, a person shall not take fish within 200 yards below any dam on the Ohio River except by fishing pole or hand line.

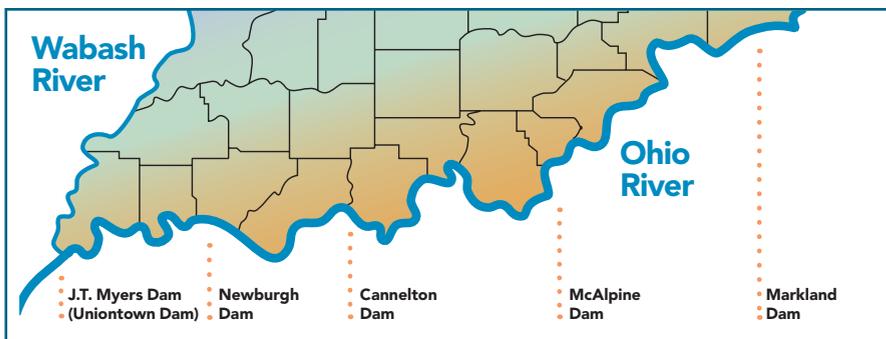
Access fees may be charged at some sites.

- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam)—15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off State Road 66
- Cannelton Dam—follow Taylor Street south from State Road 66 in Cannelton
- McAlpine Dam—located at Clarksville
- Falls of the Ohio State Park—accessible boat ramp located at George Rogers Clark Home-site in Clarksville (Access at New Albany off of Water Street in Jaycee Riverfront Park)
- Markland Dam—near Markland in Switzerland County. Accessible at DamVue River Camp or Vevay boat ramp

## Minnows and Crayfish

You may take minnows or crayfish from the Ohio River by the following methods only:

- A minnow trap not to exceed 3 feet long and 18 inches in diameter nor having a throat opening greater than 2 inches in diameter
- A dip net no more than 3 feet in diameter
- A minnow seine no more than 30 feet long and 6 feet deep nor having mesh size larger than ¼ inch bar mesh
- A cast net not to exceed 20 feet in diameter nor having mesh size larger than ¾ inch stretch
- Legal sport fishing methods listed on this page



## REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS SEASONS AND LIMITS

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Restrictions
<b>Game turtles</b>				
Eastern Snapping Turtle	July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021	4**	8**	Turtle traps may be used, but may not have an opening below the water surface.
Smooth Softshell Turtle				
Spiny Softshell Turtle				
<b>Game frogs</b>				
Bull Frog	June 15, 2020 to April 30, 2021	25*	50*	Frogs may be taken with gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; long bow and arrow; club; hands alone; or pole or hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached. Firearms for frog hunting are restricted to .22-caliber loaded with bird shot only, or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second.
Green Frog				

\* Singly or in aggregate, which means the catch limit includes any combination of the species. \*\* 12-inch minimum carapace length

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.

Species of frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, or turtles on the state or federally endangered species list may not be taken at any time. Eastern box turtles cannot be collected from the wild at any time.

Eastern snapping turtles, smooth softshell turtles, and spiny softshell turtles can be taken only between July 1 and March 31 of the following year and must have a carapace (shell) length of at least 12 inches.

Carapace length is the straight-line measure along the top surface of the shell from the central point of the front edge directly behind the turtle's neck to a central point on the back edge directly above the turtle's tail.

A license is required to take a reptile or amphibian from the wild (see table above).

Indiana residents 18 years of age or older must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while collecting species of reptiles or amphibians from the wild.

All non-resident adults and non-resident youth must possess a nonresident annual fishing or hunting license while collecting reptiles or amphibians from the wild.

License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. An individual with a valid fishing or hunting license may take game frog and turtle species from a DNR property where fishing and hunting is authorized. Other species of reptiles and amphibians may not be taken from any DNR property.

The daily bag limit is 25 for game frog species and four for game turtle species. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

Turtles, frogs, and lizards (other than endangered species, Eastern box turtles, and game species listed in the table) can be taken from the wild with the appropriate hunting or fishing license, but there is a daily bag limit of two and possession limit of four per species.

Reptiles and amphibians collected from the wild in Indiana may not be sold.

Only legally collected amphibians or reptiles held for fewer than 30 days may be released at their original capture site if they have never been housed with another animal.

## Rare Salamanders

Be on the lookout for these salamanders! **If caught, please cut the line, release unharmed, and contact (812) 334-1137.**



Photo courtesy of Greg Lipps

### Hellbenders

- A giant aquatic salamander that can reach 2 ½ feet in length
- Found in the tributaries of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers in Southern Indiana
- Prefer cool, rocky, swiftly flowing streams
- Their presence indicates good water quality
- Feed mainly on crayfish, not fish
- They are NOT venomous
- Their slime is not poisonous
- They have no negative effects on fish populations
- Endangered in Indiana

### Mudpuppies

- A large aquatic salamander that can reach 16 inches in length
- Found throughout Indiana
- Live in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams
- Their presence indicates good water quality
- Feed on crayfish, larval insects, and small fish
- They are NOT venomous
- Their slime is not poisonous
- They have no negative effects on fish populations
- Special concern in Indiana

# Angler Dollars FUND CONSERVATION

Fishing and hunting have a long history in Indiana, and Hoosiers have contributed to conservation since the first fishing license was sold in the early 1900s.

With future generations in mind, regulated fishing and hunting was established to protect fish and wildlife species from being overharvested.

Ever since, proceeds generated from licenses, including habitat and fish stamps, have gone directly into managing those species and their habitats, furthering conservation and recreation. The success of conserving our natural resources would not have been possible without this user-pay, user-benefit model, which remains in effect today.

In addition to licenses, an excise tax on fishing equipment, boat engines, motorboat fuel, and hunting equipment is collected for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) program. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers WSFR funds that are dedicated solely to the conservation of fish and wildlife.

The WSFR program began in 1937 and has distributed more than \$20 billion across the nation for the conservation of fish and wildlife species, their habitats, and associated recreational opportunities. Indiana has received

more than \$300 million, including \$16 million in 2019 alone.

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife relies on the revenue generated from these dedicated funding programs.

License sales and WSFR funds currently contribute about 87 percent of the Division's funding. In total, roughly 96 percent of all funding for the Division is from sources dedicated to fish and wildlife resources.

The majority of funds are generated from fishing and hunting activities, but the conservation programs benefit everyone. Launching canoes at public access sites, viewing sandhill cranes, and beneficial fish and habitat surveys are all types of activities supported by WSFR and license funds.

Recreation related to fish and wildlife (including wildlife watching) is a \$1.7 billion industry in Indiana that benefits businesses and contributes to the quality of life that Hoosiers desire.

Support from anglers and hunters is critical to sustaining healthy fish and wildlife populations and to providing recreational opportunities for current and future generations of Hoosiers.

## Where to Fish

Looking for a place to fish?

The DNR can get you there with Where to Fish, an online interactive map that provides a wealth of information on hundreds of public access sites in Indiana.

The toolbar features a number of functions that allow you to search for fishing locations by water body, county, or DNR property. You can also find driving directions and print your findings.

Clicking on a specific site provides additional information about motor restrictions, ADA accessibility, shoreline fishing opportunities, applicable fees, what species of fish are common, fishing reports, and the site's latitude and longitude (great for GPS users).

Check it out:

[on.IN.gov/where2fish](http://on.IN.gov/where2fish)

## Two New Public Access Sites Added

The DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) provides 437 public boat ramps on lakes and rivers, giving Hoosiers access to hundreds of miles of streams and thousands of acres of other waterways.

DFW continues to improve water access for anglers and boaters throughout the state each year. In 2019, DFW built two new sites and rehabilitated nine others due to age and accessibility needs.

The two new access sites are in Gibson County on the Patoka River and in LaPorte County on Hudson Lake. The Gibson County site provides access to a river that was previously virtually inaccessible to the public. Anglers and waterfowl hunters will benefit. Hudson was previously the largest natural lake in Indiana without public access. Now the 432-acre lake has a free boat ramp with an accessible pier and parking area.

The Indiana Public Access Program is evaluating rehabilitation needs across the state. Many state access sites require repairs

because of their age and the need for accessibility upgrades. Some access sites have been in the program for more than 50 years, and many still need improvements. In years to come, DFW will focus on public access site rehabilitations but continue to strive for new access sites.

The Public Access Program began in 1953. Three-quarters of the funding for public access comes through the federal sportfish restoration program, which is derived from excise taxes on motorboat fuel and fishing equipment. Funds also come from revenue from fishing and hunting licenses.

While the program continues to provide access at many sites, free public access remains unavailable or inadequate at many state-owned waters. DFW is always looking to expand access by acquiring sites. DFW can do so by buying property at fair market value from willing sellers, leasing property from organizations and/or local government agencies, and accepting suitable donations.



# Two Records Set in 2019

Mooneye has joined the State Record Fish list, thanks to Gerald Gallagher.

Gallagher was fishing with a cricket in the Clark County waters of the Ohio River on Aug. 15, when he reeled in the 10 inch, 0.36 pound fish. Mooneye, and their close relative, the goldeye, belong to the “toothed herring” family. Toothed herrings are distinct from other herring species (skipjack herring, alewife, gizzard shad), which lack observable teeth along the jawbone and on the tongue.

The most frequently broken record of the past decade, lake whitefish, fell again, becoming the seventh record-breaker of that species since 2012. In early December, Brian Belke was fishing the bottom of Lake Michigan with a jigging spoon at a depth of 45 feet in Porter County when he reeled in a 7.69 pounder, beating the previous record by 1.56 pounds. To put Belke’s catch into context, the average percent increase by weight (among the 10 species that have had their records broken the seventh time in their history) is 9%. Belke’s fish broke the previous record by 26%. No other fish in the history of the program has broken the previous record by such a wide margin at the same point in their recorded history.

If you think you’ve caught a State Record fish, follow the steps below to get it certified:

- Both weight and length measurements are required for Record Fish entries. The weight measurement must be taken before the fish is frozen and on a scale certified by the State of Indiana to be accurate to 1 ounce. If you can’t find a certified scale at a grocery, hardware, grain store, or propane distributor, call the Indiana Division of Weights and Measures at 317-356-7078 for the nearest location.
- Obtain and submit a copy of the Scale Inspection Report from the owner of the store where the fish is weighed.
- Submit a photo or printed meat packaging label (if available) showing the weight of the fish and the location where it was weighed.
- After weighing, the fish may be gutted and iced, but not filleted or otherwise cut up. The fish must be available for inspection and identification and may require verification by a DFW fisheries biologist. It is the responsibility of the angler to schedule a time to have the fish examined by a DFW fisheries biologist.
- Two witnesses who are not relatives of the angler and who observed the weight and length measurement must sign the entry form ([Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov)).
- Provide side-view photograph(s) of the fish and a copy of the angler’s fishing license, if required.

## INDIANA FISH RECORDS

Species	Weight	Water, County	Angler	Year
Atlantic Salmon	14 lb., 4 oz.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Gene Tarrant	1979
Bighead Carp	53 lb., 8 oz.	White River (Pike)	Duane Stafford	2000
Blue Catfish	104 lb.	Ohio River	Bruce Midkiff	1999
Bluegill	3 lb., 4 oz.	Pond (Greene)	Harold L. Catey	1972
Bowfin (Dogfish)	16.52 lb.	Mutton Creek (Jackson)	Paul Huber	2009
Brook Trout	3 lb., 15 1/2 oz.	Lake Gage (Steuben)	Sonny Bashore	1973
Brown Trout	29.3 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Glen Duesing	2006
Buffalo	53.9 lb.	Oak Hill Pond (Gibson)	Kenneth Houchin	2002
Bullhead	4.9 lb.	Potato Creek SP (St. Joseph)	Darren Robertson	1994
Burbot	7 lb., 11 oz.	Lake Michigan	Larry Malicki	1990
Channel Catfish	37 lb., 8 oz.	Lake (Vanderburgh)	Randy E. Jones	1980
Chinook Salmon	38 lb.	Trail Creek (LaPorte)	Rich Baker	1980
Cisco	3 lb., 12 oz.	Big Cedar Lake (Whitley)	Phillip Wisniewski	1980
Coho Salmon	20 lb., 12 oz.	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	John Beutner	1972
Common Carp	43 lb., 4 oz.	Pike Lake (Kosciusko)	Russell Long	1989
Crappie	4 lb., 11 oz.	Private Lake (Jennings)	Willis Halcomb	1994
Flathead Catfish	79 lb. 8 oz.	White River (Lawrence)	Glen T. Simpson	1966
Flier	3 1/2 oz.	Stream (Jackson)	Harold H. Otte	1983
Freshwater Drum	30 lb.	White River (Martin)	Garland Fellers	1963
Goldeye	2.3 lb.	Wabash River (Vermillion)	Brock Marietta	2008
Grass Carp	69.0 lb.	Pond (Hamilton)	Daniel Goss	2018
Green Sunfish	1 lb., 10 oz.	Pit (Fountain)	Terry Keller	1987
Hybrid Striped Bass	22 lb., 2 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	David G. Coffman	2005
Hybrid Walleye	8 lb., 8 oz.	Scottsburg Reservoir (Scott)	Doug Young	1999
Lake Trout	37.55 lb.	Lake Michigan	Tyler Kreighbaum	2016
Lake Whitefish	7.69 lb.	Lake Michigan (Porter)	Brian Belke	2019
Largemouth Bass	14 lb., 12 oz.	Lake (Harrison)	Jenifer Schultz	1991
Longnose Gar	22.32 lb.	White River/East Fork (Pike)	Mark Brittain	2008
Mooneye	0.36 lb.	Ohio River (Clark)	Gerald Gallagher	2019
Muskellunge	42 lb., 8 oz.	James Lake (Kosciusko)	Darrin Conley	2002
Northern Pike	30 lb., 2 oz.	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Jack Barnes	1992
Pink Salmon	2 lb., 12 1/2 oz.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Richard J. Lisac	1985
Rainbow Trout	18 lb., 8 oz.	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Bill Bigger	1988
Redear Sunfish	3 lb., 10 oz.	Lake (Brown)	R. Peckman	1974
Rock Bass	3 lb.	Sugar Creek (Hancock)	David Thomas	1969
Sauger	6 lb., 1 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Mark Bigger	1983
Shortnose Gar	1.58 lb.	Wabash River (Wabash)	Lindsey Fleshood	2010
Shovelnose Sturgeon	14 lb., 8 oz.	Wabash River (Fountain)	Mike Latoz	1999
Silver Carp	15 lb, 8 oz.	White River/West Fork (Greene)	Daniel Keller	2003
Skipjack Herring	0.55 lbs	Wabash River (Huntington)	Joseph Bickel	2017
Smallmouth Bass	7 lb., 4 oz.	Twin Lake (LaGrange)	Dana Yoder	1992
Spotted Bass	5 lb., 5 oz.	(Vigo)	Larry Hinesley Jr.	2006
Spotted Gar	6.78 lb.	Gravel Pit (Vermillion)	Nick Waugh	2017
Steelhead Trout	26.62 lb.	Trail Creek (LaPorte)	Evan Nicholson	1999
Striped Bass	39.08 lb.	Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke)	Jonathan VanHook	2010
Sucker	12 lb., 3.3 oz	White River (Bartholomew)	John Britton	1991
Tiger Muskellunge	24 lb.	Wolf Lake (Lake)	Michael Senics	1995
Tiger Trout	3 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Mike Ratter	1978
Walleye	14 lb., 4 oz.	Kankakee River (Lake)	Leon Richard	1974
	14 lb., 4 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Pulaski)	Donald Tedford	1977
Warmouth	1.4 lb.	North Dugger Pit (Sullivan)	Jack Tolbert	2002
White Bass	4 lb., 3 oz.	Lake Freeman (Carroll)	James Wagner	1965
White Catfish	9.72 lb.	Pond (Wabash)	Melissa Grimes	1985
Yellow Bass	2 lb., 15 oz.	Morse Reservoir (Hamilton)	Jim Raymer	2000
Yellow Perch	2 lb., 8 oz.	Gravel Pit (Vigo)	Roy W. Burkel Jr.	1981

# Indiana's Most Competitive Year for Big Fish

Since 2000, an average of 56 entries have been submitted for Fish of the Year. In 2019, an all-time high of 98 fish were entered, resulting in 44 awards earned among 31 anglers.

## 2019 FISH OF THE YEAR CONTEST WINNERS

Family	Common Name	Length (inches)	Water (County)	Angler
Black Bass	Largemouth Bass	26.5	Bruce Lake (Fulton)	Mark Holbrook
	Smallmouth Bass	21.1	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Craig Hulsey
	Spotted Bass	14.5	Driftwood River (Bartholomew)	Ron Anderson
Sunfish	Black Crappie	17.0	Lilly Lake (Marion)	James Kellough
	Bluegill	10.4	Lake of the Woods (Marshall)	Richard Wood
	Hybrid Sunfish	12.0	Private Pond (Bartholomew)	Logan Hoene
	Orangespotted Sunfish	4.0	Hovey Lake (Posey)	Ron Anderson
	Pumpkinseed	9.5	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Aaron Voirol
	Redear Sunfish	12.0	Hudson Lake (LaPorte)	Ken Ryan
	Redspotted Sunfish	5.0	River Deshee (Knox)	Ron Anderson
	Rock Bass	12.0	Lake Maxinkuckee (Marshall)	Stuart West
	White Crappie	18.0	Monroe Lake (Monroe)	Andrew Lee
Catfish	Blue Catfish	53.0	Ohio River (Warrick)	Trent Thompson
	Channel Catfish	33.0	Hoffman Lake (Kosciusko)	Richard Hicks
	Fathead Catfish	48.0	West Fork White River (Greene)	Randy Hennecke
	Stonecat	5.0	East Fork White River (Lawrence)	Ron Anderson
	White Catfish	12.0	Bischoff Reservoir (Ripley)	Ron Anderson
Perch	Walleye	31.8	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Ronald Ryba II
	Yellow Perch	13.5	Lake Maxinkuckee (Marshall)	Jason Weaver
Trout	Brown Trout	35.5	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Jason Speakman
	Chinook Salmon	42.2	Salt Creek (Porter)	Danny Lunn
	Cisco	16.6	Little Crooked Lake (Whitley)	Robert Ecenbarger
	Coho Salmon	33.0	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Craig Rothgeb
	Steelhead Trout	38.0	St. Joseph River (St. Joseph)	Chris Peabody
True Bass	Hybrid Striped Bass	30.0	West Fork White River (Marion)	George Morris III
Pike	Muskellunge	50.0	Bartley Lake (Noble)	Brandon Robinson
	Northern Pike	44.8	Snow Lake (Steuben)	Adam Smith
	Redfin Pickerel	14.0	Mac Joy (Lake)	Ken Wyrick
Gar	Longnose Gar	60.0	Ohio River (Spencer)	Michael King
	Spotted Gar	18.0	Beanblossom Creek (Monroe)	Ron Anderson
Minnow	Common Carp	39.0	Tippecanoe River (Pulaski)	Mark Holbrook
	Grass Carp	41.0	Wabash River (Wabash)	Hannah Fleshood
	Hornyhead Chub	7.0	Lick Creek (Orange)	Ron Anderson
	Silver Chub	6.0	East Fork White River (Martin)	Ron Anderson
	Streamline Chub	5.0	Blue River (Harrison)	Ron Anderson
	Striped Shiner	8.0	Clear Creek (Monroe)	Ron Anderson
	Sucker	Black Buffalo	26.0	East Fork White River (Lawrence)
Blue Sucker		24.0	East Fork White River (Lawrence)	Ron Anderson
Golden Redhorse		20.0	Tippecanoe River (Pulaski)	Mark Holbrook
Quillback		16.0	Wildcat Creek (Carroll)	George Seabolt
Silver Redhorse		28.0	Blue River (Crawford)	Marion Saltz
Other	Bowfin	29.5	Snow Lake (Steuben)	Kaleb Krontz
	Freshwater Drum	29.0	Lake Michigan (Porter)	Ben Maiorano
	Skipjack Herring	16.0	East Fork White River (Lawrence)	John Hodges

Ron Anderson won in 12 categories, highlighting the diversity of fishing opportunities in Indiana. Those categories included four minnows (hornyhead chub, silver chub, streamline chub and striped shiner), two sunfish (orangespotted and redspotted), two catfish (white and stonecat), two suckers (black buffalo and blue sucker), spotted bass, and spotted gar.

Black crappie, channel catfish, and largemouth bass were the most competitive categories: black crappie and channel catfish each received seven submissions and largemouth bass received eight. Black crappies ranged from 14 to 17 inches. The winning entry was caught at Lilly Lake (Marion County) by James Kellough. Channel catfish entries were between 27 to 33 inches; the largest was caught from Hoffman Lake (Kosciusko County) by Richard Hicks. Largemouth bass were between 21.5 and 26.5 inches; the largest was caught by Mark Holbrook from Bruce Lake (Fulton County) for the second year in a row.

Holbrook also won the golden redhorse category for the second year in a row. He also entered the largest common carp.

It was also a competitive year for smallmouth bass (five entries; 17.0-21.1 inches), Northern pike (five entries; 32.5-44.75 inches), and bowfin (four entries; 24.25-29.5 inches).

Robert Ecenbarger has submitted the winning cisco every year since 2012. This year he entered his largest to date, 16.5 inches, from Little Crooked Lake (Whitley County).

There were also two honorable mention entries this year.

The first was a 35.5 inch albino blue catfish entered by Sidney and Mavis Riker of Wheatland, from the White River (Daviess County). The catch marks the second time an albino of that species has been entered since the program's 1963 start. The first entry was 28 inches long, caught 20 years ago from the Ohio River (Vanderburgh County) by Brant Gish.

The second honorable mention, a 32.5 inch silver pike, was caught from Pinhook Lake (St. Joseph County) by Joel Williford of Peru. Silver pike have a uniform light gray coloration, compared to Northern pike, which have small, oval shaped white-to-yellowish spots over a dark green background. Although unique, silver pike are not recognized as a distinct species, but a color variation of Northern pike that results from a genetic mutation. DFW has no other record of silver pike being

entered, although biologists were made aware of another silver pike that was caught by an ice angler at Pinhook Lake in 2016.

Entering Fish of the Year is easy, and the rules are simple. Visit [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov) for more information.

If you think you've caught a winner, there are three easy ways (online, U.S. mail, email) to enter after you measure the fish and have at least one person who is not a relative witness the measurement and include his/her contact information.

- Online, enter the required information using the online entry form ([Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov) and click Record Fish) and submit a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to [recordfish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:recordfish@dnr.IN.gov).
- By mail, print and complete an entry form ([Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov) and click Record Fish) and include a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to Record Fish Program, Division of Fish and Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Room 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204
- By email, submit electronic version of the entry form and attach a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to [recordfish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:recordfish@dnr.IN.gov).



Spotted Gar, Ron Anderson



Northern Pike, Adam Smith



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## Sunfish



### Bluegill

5 to 9 vertical bars on sides, black opercular flap (ear) with no margin, dark spot at rear of dorsal fin.



### Redear

Opercular flap (ear) is tipped with red or orange margin.



### Black Crappie

7 to 8 dorsal spines, random blotches on sides.



### White Crappie

6 dorsal spines, black side markings form vertical bars rather than random spots.

## Black Bass



### Largemouth Bass

Upper jaw extends beyond back of eye.



### Smallmouth Bass

Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye.



### Spotted Bass

Red eye, horizontal lines of dark spots on lower sides, upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye.

## True Bass



### Hybrid Striped

Two tooth patches on back of tongue are joined, first stripe below lateral line complete to tail, stripes above lateral line usually broken.



### White Bass

Single tooth patch on back of tongue, first stripe below lateral line not complete to tail.



### Striped Bass

Tooth patches on back of tongue in two parallel patches, first stripe below lateral line complete to tail, stripes above lateral line are unbroken.

## Catfish



### Blue Catfish

30 to 35 anal fin rays, anal fin margin is straight, caudal fin is deeply forked.



### Channel Catfish

24 to 29 rays in rounded anal fin, caudal fin is deeply forked, dark spots on sides when young.



### Flathead Catfish

14 to 17 anal fin rays, caudal fin slightly rounded or slightly notched.

## Perch



### Sauger

3 or 4 saddle shaped blotches on back and sides, spotted dorsal fin.



### Walleye

No spots on dorsal fin, dusky spot at rear of spiny dorsal fin, lower tip of tail and anal fin are white.

## Salmon



### Chinook Salmon or King Salmon

Teeth are set in dark gums, black spots on back and both lobes of square caudal fin, 15 to 17 anal fin rays.



### Coho Salmon

Teeth are set in light color gums, black spots on upper lobe of slightly forked caudal fin, 12 to 15 anal fin rays.

## Trout



### Brown Trout

White mouth, teeth and gums; caudal fin margin square with no spots on upper or lower lobe; stream dwelling browns possess some orange/red spots on sides; resident brown trout in Lake Michigan possess black X-shaped markings on sides.



### Rainbow Trout or Steelhead

White mouth, teeth and gums; small black spots on back, sides, caudal and dorsal fins, caudal fin margin is square; 9 to 12 anal fin rays.



### Lake Trout

White mouth, teeth and gums; caudal fin deeply forked, body color light to dark gray with light spots.

## Northern Pike & Muskellunge



### Northern Pike

Elongated body and head with tooth-filled mouth shaped like a duck bill; white belly with green to yellow sides featuring rows of lighter horizontal spots or streaks. Coloration can vary depending on habitat — light green from lake to dark green from river.



### Muskellunge

Elongated body and head with tooth-filled mouth shaped like a duck bill; coloration varies but typically dark vertical bar markings on green or brown background.

## Fish Identification Form

Caught a fish but need help identifying the species?

If you have caught a fish and cannot determine what species it is, we can help. Use the form at this web address to submit a request along with a photo or video: [Fishing.IN.gov](http://Fishing.IN.gov).

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## Is it Safe to Eat Your Fish?

Eating recreationally caught fish from Indiana waters can be healthy and tasty when you have the proper information. The following section should alleviate most anglers' concerns about eating wild-caught fish.

**Everyone should eat fish.** Fish is a lean protein that is a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, selenium and other vitamins and minerals. Omega-3 fatty acids are linked with reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and are important for brain and eye development. Fish is a part of a healthy diet but should be consumed in moderation. Follow the commercial fish consumption table below for fish from grocery stores and restaurants and follow the Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory for wild-caught fish.

**It's all about a person's exposure to contaminants over time.** The two contaminants that primarily drive the fish consumption advisory are mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some advisories are driven by perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS),

which is a chemical in the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) family. These contaminants are generally persistent in the environment at low enough levels that they do not pose a health risk from direct contact with the water. However, these contaminants accumulate in fish tissue. The contaminants accumulate in human tissue like they do in fish and can build to levels that could pose a health risk.

These risks are based on the consumption of fish over a lifetime of exposure. A determination can then be made from concentrations of contaminants in fish tested as to how frequently they can be safely eaten (note the fish consumption advisory groups). The consumption recommendation groups range from 1 to 5 with 1 being unrestricted consumption and 5 being do not eat. Most anglers do not eat wild-caught fish nearly this frequently. As a result, if they are aware of the contaminant levels that likely are in the fish they catch, they should have little concern about eating them.

**The primary concern is the sensitive population.** This population comprises

women of childbearing years, nursing and pregnant mothers, and children age 15 and younger. There is evidence of developmental problems in infants and young children from contaminants at levels lower than what can safely be eaten by the general population. The advisory reflects this concern.

Combining consumption of wild-caught fish with frequently eaten commercial sources of fish containing contaminants could pose a health risk. Making the best choices in both sources of fish can help women and children obtain the benefits from fish while avoiding the health risks. Remember to follow the advisories for all the fish you eat.

**Eating fish from lakes and reservoirs is generally less of a concern.** Contaminant levels are generally very low in lakes and reservoirs.

**Eating fish from rivers and streams is generally a much higher concern.** Most waterbodies carrying do-not-eat consumption advisories for all species are streams. The fish consumption advisory has an extensive list of rivers and streams that have species with group 4 and 5 consumption advisories; however, many streams contain species with low levels of contaminants. Several of the major fished rivers that have some group 4 and 5 species are listed. Many of these rivers and streams contain some very good catch-and-release fisheries.

A link to the full Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory can be found at [IN.gov/isdh/FCA](http://IN.gov/isdh/FCA). To view some healthy fish recipes, see [chooseyourfish.org/fish/recipe](http://chooseyourfish.org/fish/recipe).

For more information on the fish consumption advisory or answers to questions concerning the advisory, contact:

Indiana State Department of Health  
Division of Environmental Public Health  
100 N. Senate Ave., Room N855  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
(317) 233-9264

## WILD FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY GROUPS

Group	Meal Frequency Categories
1	Unrestricted consumption
2	1 meal per week
3	1 meal per month
4	1 meal every 2 months
5	Do not eat

## COMMERCIAL FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY

Species	General Population	Sensitive Population*
Fresh or canned salmon; shellfish like shrimp, clams, crab, scallops and oysters; tilapia; herring; canned "light" tuna; sardines; pollock; cod; farm-raised catfish; flounder; farm-raised rainbow trout; haddock; squid; whitefish	Unrestricted consumption	1 meal per week
Canned albacore "white" tuna (6 oz.), freshwater perch, grouper, halibut, mahi-mahi and lobster	1 meal per week	1 meal per month
Shark, swordfish, tilefish, king mackerel, orange roughy, Spanish mackerel, marlin, Chilean sea bass, walleye (Great Lakes, Canada), fresh and frozen tuna	1 meal per month	Do not eat

\*Women of childbearing years, nursing and pregnant mothers, and children age 15 and younger. Contact the ISDH for more detailed information on the commercial fish consumption advisory.

## ALL STATE WATERS CARRYING DO-NOT-EAT ADVISORIES FOR ALL SPECIES

Water	County
Elliot Ditch	Tippecanoe
Government Ditch/Little Deer Creek	Cass
Grand Calumet River/Indiana Harbor Canal	Lake
Kokomo Creek	Howard/Tipton
Little Sugar Creek/Walnut Fork	Montgomery
Salt Creek	Lawrence
Marquette Lagoon (West Basin)	Lake
Wea Creek	Tippecanoe
Wildcat Creek	Howard/Carroll-downstream from the Waterworks Dam in Kokomo to the Tippecanoe County line

## STATEWIDE SAFE EATING GUIDELINES

Recommendations when a waterbody has not been sampled for a particular species. Fish at or below the size listed should be safe for consumption once per week. The sensitive population includes women of childbearing years, pregnant and nursing mothers, and children age 15 and younger. Visit [IN.gov/isdh/FCA](http://IN.gov/isdh/FCA) to view the complete Statewide Safe Eating Guide.

Fish Species	Sensitive Population	General Population
Bullhead	All	All
Buffalo	< 23"	< 27"
Carp suckers	< 16"	< 16"
Channel Catfish	< 21"	< 21"
Common Carp	< 20"	< 20"
Crappie	All	All
Flathead Catfish	< 19"	< 30"
Freshwater Drum	< 15"	All
Largemouth Bass	< 16"	All
Northern Pike	< 30"	All
Redhorse	< 23"	All
Rock Bass	All	All
Sauger	< 14"	< 20"
Silver Carp	All	All
Smallmouth Bass	< 14"	All
Spotted Bass	< 10"	All
Sunfish	All	All
Walleye	< 19"	All
White, Striped, Hybrid Striped Bass	< 12"	< 24"

## Fish Consumption Advisory Interactive Map

The Indiana Fish Consumption Advisory is available as a mobile-friendly, interactive map. Users can search by address, waterbody name, or county to find advisories. A pop-up window will open when a waterbody is selected, displaying specific consumption advice for that waterbody if contaminants testing has been performed. If not, Statewide Safe Eating Guidelines will display. Additional resources on fish consumption and public access locations can be found on the site.

The fish consumption map can be found at [IN.gov/isdh/FCA](http://IN.gov/isdh/FCA).

## MAJOR LAKES & RIVERS WITH GROUP 4 & 5 SPECIES GENERAL & SENSITIVE POPULATION ADVISORY\*

Water	County	Species	Size (inches)	Group
Clear Lake	LaPorte	Common Carp	All	5
		Largemouth Bass	All	4
East Fork White River	Daviess/Dubois/Lawrence/Martin	Largemouth Bass	All	4
Lake Michigan	Lake/LaPorte/Porter	Lake Trout	30+	5
Mississinewa River	Randolph	Channel Catfish	All	5
		Common Carp	30+	4
Delaware/Grant/Miami/Wabash	Flathead Catfish	Flathead Catfish	29+	4
		Muscatatuck River	Jackson/Washington	Channel Catfish
Ohio River	All counties	Channel Catfish	18+	4
		Hybrid Striped Bass	All	4
		Striped Bass	All	4
St. Joseph River	St. Joseph (Baugo Bay Area to the Twin Branch Dam)	Channel Catfish	20+	4
		Channel Catfish	All	5
	St. Joseph (Twin Branch Dam to IN/MI State Line)	Common Carp	All	5
Wabash River	Fountain/Parke/Tippecanoe/Vermillion/Warren	Redhorse Species	All	4
		Carp sucker Species	All	4
West Fork White River	Delaware/Hamilton (to Stony Creek)/Madison	Channel Catfish	All	5
	Marion (downstream of Broad Ripple dam)/Morgan	Flathead Catfish	23+	4

\*Consult the fish consumption advisory for a complete listing.

## Guidelines to Reduce Your Risk

- If a waterbody is not listed in the advisory or if a fish species is not listed for a waterbody that was sampled, you should consult the statewide "Safe Eating Guidelines."
- Eat smaller, less fatty fish like panfish (bluegill, perch and crappie).
- Remove fat near the skin of the fish before cooking and broil, bake, or grill fish so the fat drips away.
- Children and women of child-bearing age benefit from the nutrients in fish, but they are at an increased risk when eating fish contaminated with mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and should follow the sensitive population guidelines.

## District Fisheries Biologists

### 1. District 1

Tom Bacula  
Kankakee FWA  
4320 W. Toto Road  
North Judson, IN 46366  
(574) 896-3673

### 2. District 2

Vacant  
Fawn River State  
Fish Hatchery  
6889 N. SR 327  
Orland, IN 46776  
(260) 829-6241

### 3. District 3

Tyler Delauder  
Northeast Regional Office  
1353 S. Governors Drive  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
(260) 244-6805

### 4. District 4

Corey DeBoom  
Cikana State Fish Hatchery  
2650 SR 44  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-5527

### 5. District 5

Dave Kittaka  
Bloomington Field Office  
5596 E. SR 46  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 287-8300

### 6. District 6

Andy Bueltmann  
Sugar Ridge FWA  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
(812) 789-2724

### Lake Michigan Office

Ben Dickinson  
Lake Michigan Office  
100 W. Water St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 874-6824

### Big Rivers Fisheries Program

Craig Jansen  
Sugar Ridge FWA  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
(812) 789-2724

### Nongame Fisheries Program

Brant Fisher  
Atterbury FWA  
7970 S. Rowe St.  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
(812) 526-5816

## State Fish Hatcheries

### A. Bodine State Fish Hatchery

13200 Jefferson Blvd.  
Mishawaka, IN 46545  
(574) 255-4199

### B. Cikana State Fish Hatchery

2650 SR 44  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-5527

### C. Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station

4250 E. CR 410 N.  
Howe, IN 46746  
(260) 562-3855

### D. Driftwood State Fish Hatchery

4931 S. CR 250 W.  
Vallonia, IN 47281  
(812) 358-4110

### E. East Fork State Fish Hatchery

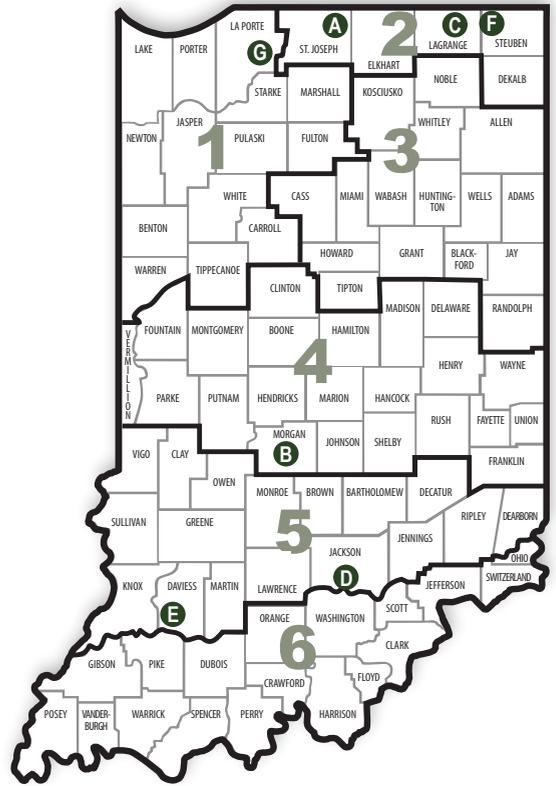
5807 E. 825 S.  
Montgomery, IN 47558  
(812) 644-7717

### F. Fawn River State Fish Hatchery

6889 N. SR 327  
Orland, IN 46776  
(260) 829-6241

### G. Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery

5500 S. CR 675 E.  
Walkerton, IN 46574  
(219) 369-9591



## DNR Law Enforcement Districts

Contact DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch (24 hours) to report violations or if you need assistance from an Indiana Conservation Officer. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR to report any poaching activities.

### Central Dispatch

4850 S. SR 446  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 837-9536

### 1. District 1 Headquarters

9822 N. Turkey  
Creek Road  
Syracuse, IN 46567  
(574) 457-8092

### 2. District 2 Headquarters

1353 S. Governors Drive  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
(260) 244-3720

### 3. District 3 Headquarters

4112 E. SR 225  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
(765) 567-7859

### 4. District 4 Headquarters

3734 Mounds Road  
Anderson, IN 46017  
(765) 649-1062

### 5. District 5 Headquarters

1317 W. Lieber Road  
Suite 2  
Cloverdale, IN 46120  
(765) 795-3534

### 6. District 6 Headquarters

7937 Durbin St.  
Bldg. 9a  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
(812) 526-4101

### 7. District 7 Headquarters

2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
(812) 789-9538

### 8. District 8 Headquarters

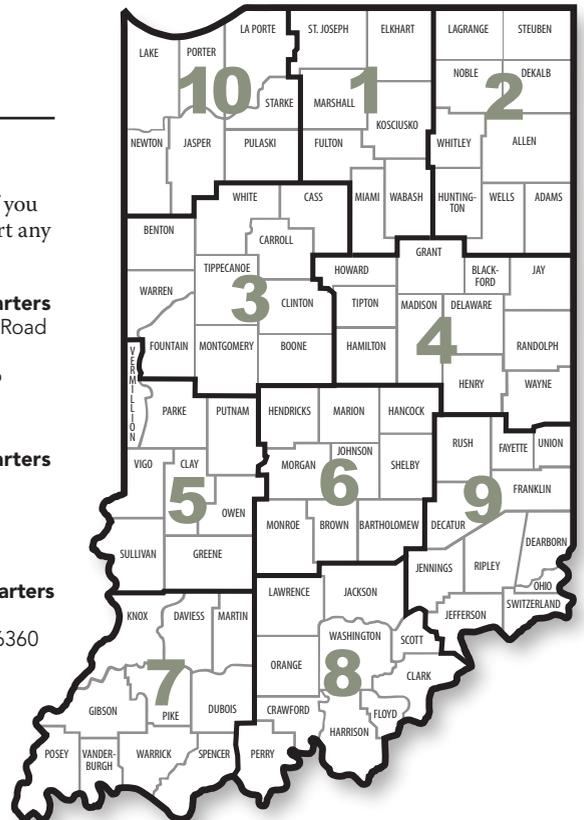
1504 Schlamm Lake Road  
P.O. Box 330  
Henryville, IN 47126  
(812) 639-4148

### 9. District 9 Headquarters

1387 E. U.S. 50  
Versailles, IN 47042  
(812) 689-4370

### 10. District 10 Headquarters

100 W. Water St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 879-5710

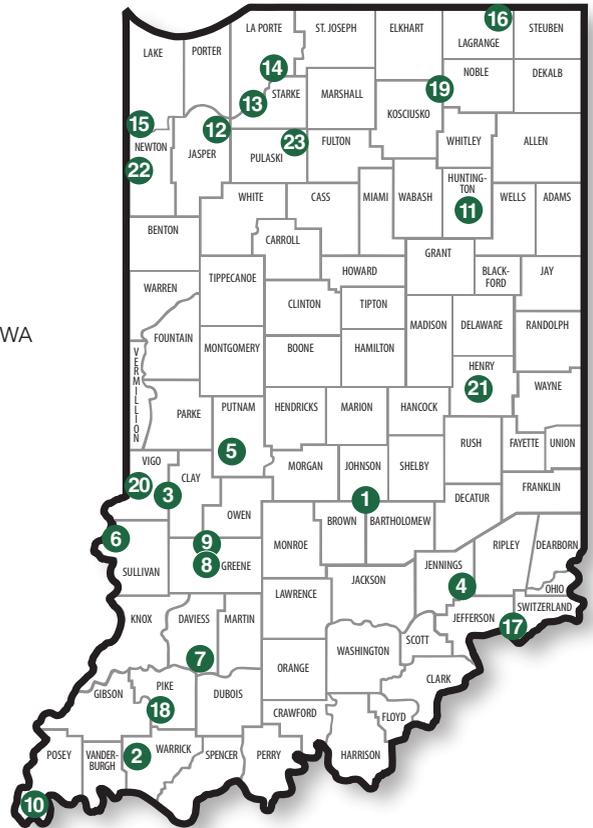


## Fish & Wildlife Areas

- 1. Atterbury FWA**  
7970 S. Rowe St.  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
(812) 526-2051
- 2. Blue Grass FWA**  
Contact Sugar Ridge FWA
- 3. Chinook FWA**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- 4. Crosley FWA**  
2010 S. State Hwy 3  
North Vernon, IN 47265  
(812) 346-5596
- 5. Deer Creek FWA**  
2001 W. CR 600 S.  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
(765) 653-0453
- 6. Fairbanks Landing FWA**  
Contact Goose Pond FWA
- 7. Glendale FWA**  
6001 E. 600 S.  
Montgomery, IN 47558  
(812) 644-7711
- 8. Goose Pond FWA**  
13540 W. CR 400 S.  
Linton, IN 47441  
(812) 512-9185
- 9. Hillenbrand FWA**  
Contact Goose Pond FWA

- 10. Hovey Lake FWA**  
8401 State Rd 69 S.  
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620  
(812) 838-2927
- 11. J. E. Roush Lake FWA**  
517 N. Warren Road  
Huntington, IN 46750  
(260) 468-2165
- 12. Jasper-Pulaski FWA**  
5822 Fish & Wildlife Ln  
Medaryville, IN 47957  
(219) 843-4841
- 13. Kankakee FWA**  
4320 W. Toto Road  
North Judson, IN 46366  
(574) 896-3522
- 14. Kingsbury FWA**  
5344 S. Hupp Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
(219) 393-3612
- 15. LaSalle FWA**  
4752 W. CR 1050 N.  
Lake Village, IN 46349  
(219) 992-3019
- 16. Pigeon River FWA**  
8310 E. 300 N.  
Howe, IN 46746  
(260) 367-2164

- 17. Splinter Ridge FWA**  
Contact Crosley FWA
- 18. Sugar Ridge FWA**  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
(812) 789-2724
- 19. Tri-County FWA**  
8432 N. 850 E.  
Syracuse, IN 46567  
(574) 834-4461
- 20. Wabashki FWA**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- 21. Wilbur Wright FWA**  
2239 N. SR 103  
New Castle, IN 47362  
(260) 468-2165
- 22. Willow Slough FWA**  
1803 S. 700 W.  
Morocco, IN 47963  
(219) 285-2704
- 23. Winamac FWA**  
1493 W. 500 N.  
Winamac, IN 46996  
(574) 946-4422

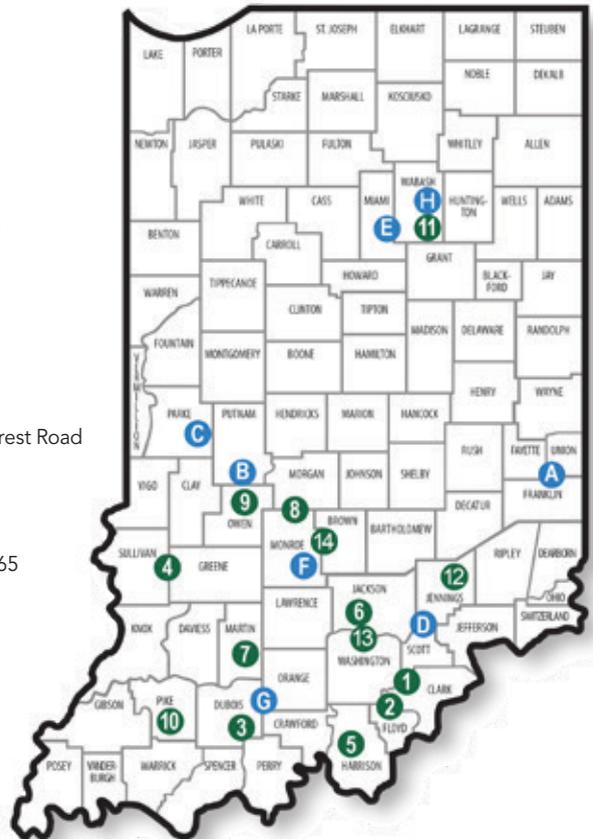


## State Reservoirs & State Forests

- A. Brookville Lake**  
14108 SR 101  
PO Box 100  
Brookville, IN 47012  
(765) 647-2657
- B. Cagles Mill Lake**  
1317 W. Lieber Road  
Suite 1  
Cloverdale, IN 46120  
(765) 795-4576
- C. Cecil M. Harden Lake**  
1588 S. Raccoon Parkway  
Rockville, IN 47872  
(765) 344-1412
- D. Hardy Lake**  
5620 Hardy Lake Road  
Scottsburg, IN 47170  
(812) 794-3800
- E. Mississinewa Lake**  
4673 S. 625 E.  
Peru, IN, 46970  
(765) 473-6528
- F. Monroe Lake**  
4850 S. SR 446  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 837-9546
- G. Patoka Lake**  
3084 N. Dillard Road  
Birdseye, IN 47513  
(812) 685-2464

- H. Salamonie Lake**  
9214 W. Lost Bridge W.  
Andrews, IN 46702  
(260) 468-2125
- 1. Clark SF**  
P.O. Box 119  
#2 Service Road  
Henryville, IN 47126  
(812) 294-4306
- 2. Deam Lake SRA**  
1217 Deam Lake Road  
Borden, IN 47106  
(812) 246-5421
- 3. Ferdinand SF**  
6583 E. SR 264  
Ferdinand, IN 47532  
(812) 827-2857
- 4. Greene-Sullivan SF**  
2551 S. SR 159  
Dugger, IN 47848  
(812) 648-2810
- 5. Harrison-Crawford SF**  
7240 Old Forest Road S.W.  
Corydon, IN 47112  
(812) 738-7694
- 6. Jackson-Washington SF**  
1278 E. SR 250  
Brownstown, IN 47220  
(812) 358-2160

- 7. Martin SF**  
14040 Williams Road  
Shoals, IN 47581  
(812) 247-3491
- 8. Morgan-Monroe SF**  
6220 Forest Road  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-4026
- 9. Owen-Putnam SF**  
2153 Fish Creek Road  
Spencer, IN 47460  
(812) 829-2462
- 10. Pike SF**  
5994 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
(812) 827-2857
- 11. Salamonie River SF**  
5400 E. Salamonie Forest Road  
Lagro, IN 46941  
(260) 782-0430
- 12. Selmier SF**  
905 E. CR 350 N.  
North Vernon, IN 47265  
(812) 346-2286
- 13. Starve Hollow SRA**  
4345 S. 275 W.  
Vallonia, IN 47281  
(812) 358-3464
- 14. Yellowwood SF**  
772 Yellowwood Road  
Nashville, IN 47448  
(812) 988-7945

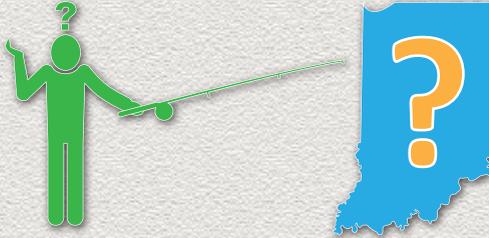


# WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW...

Find out answers to these questions and more at [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov)



## Where to Fish?



Our online **Where to Fish map** can help. **Zoom** in on **Public Access Sites** and **Public Fishing Areas**.

Search by county, water body, fish species, or access site name. See if the site has a boat ramp (and what type), motor restrictions, and launch fees. Plus, learn what fish species you can catch.

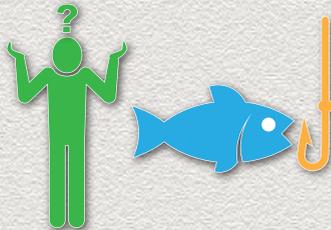
We also have an urban fishing program called



We stock catchable-size channel catfish and rainbow trout at city park ponds across the state. These parks are family-friendly, with excellent shore fishing opportunities.



## What's Biting Where?



Read a fishing report online. Search by lake or zone (North, Central or South). Want to share a fishing report? Email yours to [fishingreports@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:fishingreports@dnr.IN.gov)



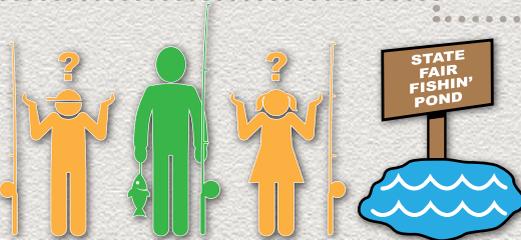
## How to Fish?



Attend **Learn to Fish** workshops across the state. Workshop types include **Family Learn to Fish**, **Learn to Fillet Fish**, **Learn to Catch & Cook**, **Learn to Stream Fish**, and **Learn to Kayak Fish**. We also offer workshops on how to catch specific species. Check out our filleting and cooking videos online.



## How to Volunteer?



Get trained as a **Go FishIN Crew Captain** and borrow fishing equipment from the DNR at no charge to help get people fishing in your community. You can also help kids fish at the **Indiana State Fair Fishin' Pond**. Email [learn2fish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:learn2fish@dnr.IN.gov) for more information on these opportunities and many others.



## Do I Need a License?



Most anglers age 18 and older are required to have a valid fishing license to fish public waters. Several exceptions exist (see License Exemptions on page 5). Visit [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov) to learn what license you need and to purchase a license online.



## When Are the FOUR FREE Fishing Days?



The Free Fishing Days in 2020 are **May 3**, **June 6-7**, and **Sept. 26**. On these special days, Indiana residents are not required to have a fishing license to fish the state's public waters. These days are excellent opportunities for you to invite a friend or family member who does not have a license to go fishing. Public fishing events are also run on Free Fishing Days. Learn more at [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov)



The sale of fishing licenses allows the DNR to manage public access and fisheries resources in Indiana.

# HUNT FISH CAMP

**OVER 55,000 ACRES**  
of public land for hunting

**OVER 36,000 ACRES**  
of water for fishing

**OVER 7,500**  
campsites/cabins available

Fishing at Salamonie Lake

**Brookville Lake | Cagles Mill Lake | Cecil M. Harden Lake**  
**Mississinewa Lake | Hardy Lake | Monroe Lake**  
**Patoka Lake | Salamonie Lake**

For information on hunter education classes, youth hunting events, trapping courses and other outdoor skills programs, visit [interpretiveservices.IN.gov](http://interpretiveservices.IN.gov).

***Prefer a little more comfort  
than a tent or a camper?***

Check out Indiana State Park Inns.

**Inn Reservations**  
**[Indianainns.com](http://Indianainns.com)**  
or 1-877-LODGES 1

**Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations**  
**[camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)**  
or 1-866-622-6746

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

**[stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov)**



Memories made naturally.

# The fishing is GREAT in Northern Indiana Lakes Country!

The best fishing in the state can be found in Steuben County, home of Northern Indiana Lakes Country. Steuben County has more natural lakes than any county in Indiana, ranging from small uninhabited lakes to some of Indiana's largest well-known natural lakes such as Lake James, Snow Lake and Crooked Lake, shown in the aerial photo (lower right). Bass, Bluegill, Perch, Crappies, Walleye, Northern Pike- we've got them all, and many more. We have numerous public access boat launching sites, and are also home to Trine State Recreation Area, where you can fish right off the dock. Stop at one of our well-stocked bait and tackle shops and get out there!



 Steuben County Tourism Bureau  
[lakes101.org](http://lakes101.org)