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

White Crappie

What’s the difference?
Black crappie have 7–8 dorsal spines.
White crappie have 5–6 dorsal spines.

State Record
4lb 11oz
Willis Halcomb
1994

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