Shhhhh. No wake zone.

Protect your baby (and their toys) with coverage for fishing gear and personal property too.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE / PROGRESSIVE.COM
16 Fishing and Mental Health
How fishing can improve your mental and overall well-being.

22 Healthy Bluegill Recipe
Enjoy broiled lemon bluegill with a sweet pepper medley.

30 Common Fishing Questions
Find answers to common questions about fishing in Indiana.

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The Indiana Fishing Regulations 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.

Paid advertisements in this guide do not imply endorsement by the DNR or the State of Indiana for the businesses or products advertised. The DNR is not responsible for any advertising claims contained herein.

On the Cover:
Ed Stoeppler of Greenfield fishes with grandchildren Cylas and Emery Mouser of Plainfield.
Photo by John Maxwell
Fishing means a lot of different things to many different people. For some, it is an opportunity to unwind in solitude, get away from the hustle and bustle, and concentrate on something besides everyday responsibilities and concerns. For others, hitting the many waterways of Indiana with a rod and reel is a fun way to connect while catching fish and spending quality, uninterrupted time with those you care about most. Other folks just want to catch the wide variety of fish in our waters, from bluegill to bass and beyond.

For me, fishing means all of the above and more—spending time outdoors with family and friends, relaxing and sharing memories of past fishing trips while making new ones, and experiencing some of the most treasured, beautiful spaces the Hoosier state has to offer, from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River.

Those memories of taking in the Hoosier outdoors with loved ones are priceless. Whether it is the joy of being there when a child grins from ear to ear after catching their first fish, the taste of a healthy freshly caught meal, or landing a big one worthy of a photo, a fishing trip is an opportunity to share good times with one another and make memories that will last a lifetime.

See you on our lakes, rivers, and streams this year as you enjoy the people and the things you love most. I hope the fish are biting for you and yours every time out.

Dan Bortner
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Our cover photo sends me down memory lane and makes me look toward the future. Some of my fondest memories are of fishing with my family when I was young. I spent hours on a pontoon fishing with my brother, parents, and grandparents. I hope my kids feel the same happiness when they remember the similar moments we’ve shared, and I hope you can create those experiences with your family.

As I look forward to our Division of Fish & Wildlife’s work in 2022 to help create memorable fishing trips, staff across the state are striving to raise fish in our hatcheries, collect fish status and trends data, and meet specific habitat needs of fishing communities. We are testing a system to increase production of larger walleye in northern Indiana to improve stocking success of that species. In lakes where aquatic plants are lacking, we are installing artificial habitat. Those are just two examples.

You will notice that we have increased license fees. The fee for a fishing license had not changed in 15 years. Unlike many state agencies, the Division of Fish & Wildlife is funded almost entirely through the sale of hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses as well as the grant dollars we receive through the federal Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. We depend on your contributions, a big part of which are license purchases, to sustain the programs and services that protect Indiana’s fish and wildlife resources now and into the future.

Thank you for your participation in fish, wildlife, and habitat conservation in Indiana as you make new memories this year.

Amanda Wuestefeld
Director, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife

The Indiana DNR receives federal financial assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, and Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, and the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination the basis of race, color, nation origin, age, disability (or sex in education programs). If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Chief, Public Civil Rights; Office of Civil Rights; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; 1849 C Street NW; Washington, DC 20240.
New Boat?

Don’t let your first ride be your last!
Take a boating safety course.
To Our Anglers

Welcome to the 2022 Indiana DNR Fishing Regulations Guide. We hope you find it helpful as you prepare to set out on your next fishing journey.

This guide provides a summary of Indiana fishing regulations. These regulations apply only to fish that originate from or are taken from Indiana’s public waters. 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.

This guide is not intended to be a complete digest of regulations. If you need complete versions of Indiana rules and regulations for fishing, they can be found in Indiana Code (iga.IN.gov) or in Indiana Administrative Code (IN.gov/legislative/iac).

Any corrections or updates to information published in this guide will be made to the online version at fishing.IN.gov.

All funds made from selling Indiana hunting and fishing licenses go directly back to conservation. Your license funds are used for wildlife management, habitat management, land acquisition, shooting ranges, fish stocking, DNR law enforcement, and more. We thank all anglers, hunters, trappers, boaters, and recreational shooters in Indiana for their continued support of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. The funding stream you provide helps make conservation of Indiana’s natural resources a success.

Finally, we wish you luck in your 2022 fishing endeavors. We hope you get your best catch yet.

License Fee Increases

Indiana fishing, hunting, and trapping license and stamp fees have increased, which has not happened since 2006. To see updated license prices, see page 6 or visit wildlife.IN.gov.

Why did license fees increase?
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) collects excise taxes on hunting, fishing, boating, and recreational shooting equipment and provides these federal funds to state fish and wildlife agencies. This funding has increased in recent years, which means more money is available for state fish and wildlife agencies to receive. To receive these funds, the Indiana Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) must provide a 25% required contribution. We use a portion of our license funds to cover this requirement. Since license fees had not increased since 2006, DFW was in jeopardy of not having enough revenue to match and receive maximum federal funding. Increased license revenue will allow DFW to obtain more money from USFWS and to better protect and conserve Indiana’s natural resources.

What do you do with these funds?
The increase in license fees will help DFW receive more federal funding from USFWS, which will help protect Indiana’s natural resources through habitat development, land acquisition, fish and wildlife research, education, operation of public lands, and public access.

Have questions?
Please visit wildlife.IN.gov, email dfw@dnr.IN.gov, or call the DNR Customer Service Center at 317-232-4200.

2022 FREE FISHING DAYS

May 1
June 4-5
Sept. 24

Indiana residents can enjoy four FREE Fishing Days without having to buy a fishing license or trout/salmon stamp. All other fishing rules and regulations apply.

INDIANA

68TH ANNUAL BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW
FEB. 17-19 & 22-26, 2023
INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

Ohio

65TH ANNUAL BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW
JAN. 20-22 & 25-29, 2023
DUKE ENERGY CONVENTION CENTER
CINCINNATI, OH

Aisles & Aisles of Tackle, Fishing Guides, Charter Captains & More!
SEE YOU IN 2023!
INDYSPORTSHOW.COM  CINCYSPORTSHOW.COM
15% OFF
Regular Price Of Any One Item In Stock With Coupon

*Exclusions may be mandated by the manufacturers. *Excludes: Firearms, ammunition, licenses, Nike, Pernix, select TaylorMade, select Callaway, Carhartt, Costa, Crocs, Merrell footwear, Oakley, Ray-Ban, New Balance, Terrain Blinds, Under Armour, Yeti, Columbia, Garmin, Tennis balls, Titleist golf balls, GoPro, Nikon, Leupold, Filtib, arcade cabinets, bats and ball gloves over $149.99, shanties, large bag deer corn, GPS/Fish finders, motors, marine batteries, motorized vehicles and gift cards. Not valid for online purchases. Cannot be used with another offer, coupon, current sale or clearance item. Only one coupon per customer. Not valid on Previous purchases. Void if copied. Not for resale. Dunham's Sports reserves the right to terminate this coupon/offer/discount at any time, without prior notice.

Dunham's Rewards
Receive money saving coupons and more.
www.dunhamsrewards.com

Sportsmen Club
Are you a member of a Sportsmen's Club with 25 or more members?
www.dunhamssports.com/sportsmen

WEST BOGGS
CAMPGROUND
Located In West Boggs Park

GLENDALE
CAMPGROUND 812-295-3421
Located in Glendale State Fish & Wildlife Area

812.254.5262
Who Needs a Fishing License

With a few exceptions, a valid fishing license issued by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is required to fish in public lakes, streams, rivers, tributaries, and boundary waters in Indiana. An individual may not take another individual’s sport fishing for hire on public waters, including boundary waters like Lake Michigan, without a fishing guide license.

A licensee must hold an ink-signed copy of a license while fishing. Signed printed copies and signed electronic copies are acceptable. You must present the license 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 have a valid trout/salmon stamp and a valid fishing license.

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 may not claim residency for fishing, hunting, or trapping in another state or country. All other people are considered nonresidents.

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 Purchase a License

Online
Go to on.IN.gov/INHuntFish. Online license purchases have a $1 per license fee for system support maintenance, and an additional $1 plus 1.99% credit card company fee on each transaction.

In Person
Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at on.IN.gov/INHuntFish or visit the DNR Customer Service Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

By Mail
Send a check or money order (payable to DNR) or credit card information (include card number and expiration date) to:

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

Allow 2–3 weeks for delivery. Include:

- The licenses you need and dates for one-day or multi-day licenses
- 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

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 valid Indiana Driver’s License or other identification to verify age and residency.
- Residents and nonresidents 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 who 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. An angler must have permission from the property owner to fish in that pond.

- Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service while on approved military leave. 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 and 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 nonresident landowners, while fishing in public waters from the farmland they own, according to the exemptions that their state provides to Indiana residents.

Military & Veterans

Nonresident 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 by clicking "Buy online, in person or by mail" then "Disabled Veterans' (DAV) License."

Mail the completed form to:
DNR Customer Service Center
402 W. Washington St., W160
Indianapolis, IN 46204

2022 LICENSE FEES

Fees listed below are valid from April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licenses</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
<th>Resident Apprentice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fishing</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Day Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven-Day Fishing</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Annual Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon)</td>
<td>$3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Fish for Life (includes Trout/Salmon)</td>
<td>$23</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout/Salmon Stamp</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>$11</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Hunting and Fishing</td>
<td>$32</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled American Veterans Hunt/Fish</td>
<td>$2.75</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled American Veterans 10-Year Hunt/Fish</td>
<td>$27.50</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* For a list of current license fees, go to wildlife.IN.gov or call 317-232-4200.

1 See resident description located at the left of this chart.
2 Must have been born after March 31, 1943 and be at least 64 years old.
N/A = not available
Hunt and Fish Where Only Those Eligible Can

Did you know that there are vast areas of land, lakes and rivers largely untouched and limited to a select group of individuals that is available to those who are interested? These areas boast some of the best hunting and fishing across the U.S., with amazing game management.

For starters, there are over 650,000 acres of pristine hunting and fishing in both Alaska and Texas. There are huge reserves in Colorado, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee. All open to those who would enjoy it the most. These aren’t the only places either. In fact, there are dozens of locations across the states that have set aside areas to hunt and fish. Everything in season from waterfowl, turkey, wild pigs, several types of deer, caribou, elk, moose and bear to name a few. Plus, several species of fish including King and Silver salmon.

If hunting or fishing these areas is on your bucket list, keep this in mind. Many U.S. Army installations across the states have these grounds, tucked away available to a select population. Only active duty and reserve soldiers, and qualified civilians are authorized to venture onto these optimal areas.

There are over 150 careers available in the Army, many with incentive bonuses. The benefits of military service include health insurance, retirement plans, training and educational opportunities, family support programs and of course, access to a multitude of some of the best hunting and fishing in the U.S. To learn more about the U.S. Army, text “OUTDOOR” to “goarmy” (462769).

To find out how to hunt/fish on Army installations go to: https://isportsman.net/Locations.aspx

For a look at locations of Army Installations go to: https://www.goarmy.com/about/post-locations.html
# INDIANA’S STATEWIDE SIZE & BAG LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>None (exceptions: page 11)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish</td>
<td>25 (exceptions: page 11)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bass: largemouth, small-mouth, and spotted bass (in lakes)</td>
<td>5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>14 inches (exceptions: page 12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bass: largemouth, small-mouth, and spotted bass (in rivers and streams)</td>
<td>5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>No fish 12 to 15 inches may be kept, and no more than two fish over 15 inches may be kept (exceptions: page 13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Bass: largemouth, small-mouth, and spotted bass (in Lake Michigan)</td>
<td>3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Bass</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td>12, any combination of white bass or hybrid striped bass</td>
<td>No more than two fish may exceed 17 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Bass</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>25 (exceptions: page 11)</td>
<td>None¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye, Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye), Sauger</td>
<td>6, any combination of walleye, walleye-sauger hybrid, and sauger</td>
<td>For Walleye: 14 inches south of SR 26; 16 inches north of SR 26 For sauger and saugeye: No size limit (exceptions: page 11 &amp; 20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muskellung and Tiger Muskellung</td>
<td>1 muskellunge or 1 tiger muskellunge</td>
<td>36 inches²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Pike</td>
<td>3¹</td>
<td>24 inches; no more than one 30 inches or longer⁴</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch</td>
<td>None (15 only on Lake Michigan)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in streams)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>13 inches; no more than one blue or one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer, and no more than one channel catfish 28 inches or longer may be kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in lakes, reservoirs)</td>
<td>10¹ (exceptions: page 11)</td>
<td>None; no more than one blue or one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer and no more than one channel catfish 28 inches or longer may be kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bullhead</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whitefish</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shovelnose Sturgeon</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>25 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ 9-inch minimum size at Dogwood Lake (Davies County) and Hardy Lake (Scott County).
² 44-inch minimum size at Backwater, Kiser, and Webster lakes (Kosciusko County).
³ No more than 6 per day from Hamilton Lake (Steuben County).
⁴ No minimum size limit for Northern pike at Hamilton Lake (Steuben County), with no more than 1 per day more than 30 inches long.
⁵ No bag limit for catfish at Turtle Creek Reservoir.

## Illegal Stocking, Aquarium Release

It is illegal to take any live fish and release it into any 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 populations. The release of fish from an aquarium would be considered the stocking of fish, which a permit is required for.

## Hooks for Pole Fishing or Hand Lines

You may not fish with more than three poles or hand lines at a time. Each line may have no more than three single- or multi-pronged hooks, three artificial lures, or a combination of hooks and artificial lures. A multi-pronged hook or two or more single-pronged hooks used to hold a single bait is considered one hook. Single- or multi-barbed hooks may be used for float or jug fishing, limb, hand, pole, drop, or trot lines. Special hook size and barb regulations apply to Lake Michigan and its tributaries (page 18).

## Gaffs, Grab Hooks, & 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 a method for catching fish. See page 18 for Lake Michigan tributary restrictions.

## Snares

You may use no more than one snares to take suckers, carp, gar, and bowfin. Snares may be done only between sunrise and sunset.

## Limb Lines

A limb line (also known as a drop line or bank pole) is a passive fishing device consisting of a line with no more than one hook that is affixed to a stationary object suspended over the water. You may fish with no more than 10 limb lines or drop lines at a 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 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) 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) cannot be kept. They must be released back into the body of water from which they were foul-hooked.

## Trot Lines

A trot line (also known as a set line or throw line) is a passive fishing device consisting of a main line attached to a stationary object that is affixed to an anchor in a body of water. The main line has hooks attached via droppers.

---

Bag & 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 and 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.
(or snoods). Droppers may be attached to the main line with knots, clips, or swivels. Floats and weights may be added to the main line to suspend it at desired depths. You may fish with no more than one trot line at a 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 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 of the rig. Any additional arms must be left empty or can be fitted with a hookless attractor.

Float Fishing
Float or jug fishing is the use of an active fishing device consisting of a line with not more than 1 hook (single or multi-barbed) that is affixed to a float. Floats are often constructed from empty jugs, bottles, and pool noodles, but cannot be constructed of glass.

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 sight of the person using them. Float fishing is not allowed on lakes and reservoirs.

Ice Fishing
When ice fishing, no more than three lines may be used at a 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 sight 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 must have at least one red reflector or a 3-inch by 3-inch reflector strip on each side of the structure.

Ice fishing 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 freshwater mussel populations. 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 fish, 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 fish, common carp, gar, shad, and suckers from non-flowing waters (including lakes, ponds, and reservoirs) and the following large rivers:

- Kankakee River, upstream to the SR 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 juncature with Big Creek in Carroll County upstream to the Oakdale Dam.
- Wabash River, upstream to SR 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 Near Dams
State law does not allow the taking of fish by trot line, set line, throw line, net, trap, or seine within 300 yards of a dam on an Indiana waterway or boundary water (which includes the Ohio River). Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam. Minnows can only be taken by seines, minnow traps, cast nets and dip nets meeting all legal requirements (page 10).

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 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: cisco, bantam sunfish, Hoosier cavefish (formerly Northern cavefish), channel darter, gilt darter, greater redhorse, lake sturgeon (page 22), Western sand darter, pallid shiner, redside dace, and variegate 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 these fish are captured, 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, stone moroko, tubenose goby, walking catfish, Wels catfish, white perch (not freshwater drum), zander, golden mussel, 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, visit 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 personal 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 for a copy of federal boating regulations.

Sinks

The health of fish and wildlife may be affected if lead or zinc sinkers are ingested. Alternative sinkers are made of steel, bismuth, tungsten, and resin.

Tagging & 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 must be processed 21 days before the scheduled start date. Call 317-232-4200 for more information.

Lake Michigan Trout & Salmon

Trout or salmon with a missing adipose fin contain a small microwire tag in the head of the fish with information important to DNR research. Please save the head from your adipose fin-clipped trout and salmon and call 219-874-6824 for instructions.

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. Dead and dying fish 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 for the purpose of stocking a private lake.

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 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 a boat.

Minnows & Crayfish

Minnows and crayfish may be collected any time through the year if a valid sport fishing license is possessed. 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 ½ inch.
• Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam and may only be taken by seines, minnow traps, cast nets, and dip nets meeting all legal requirements.
• See page 20 for special minnow and crayfish collecting regulations on the Ohio River.

Do not release minnows into the water after fishing. Emptying bait buckets can contaminate a body of water. In addition, bait and bait buckets exposed to lake or stream water could get contaminated with zebra mussel larvae, fish pathogens, or other aquatic invasive species. Anglers are encouraged to dispose of baitfish in the trash after each outing and buy new bait for their 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: Brookville, Cecil M. Harden (Raccoon SRA), Freeman, Hardy, Monroe, Patoka, and Shafer lakes, and the Ohio River mainstream (excluding all embayments). Live gizzard shad and threadfin shad may not be transported away from the location where collected.

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 East Fork 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, fishing cannot occur 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). Walleye taken south of State Road 26 must be 14 inches or longer.

There is no minimum size requirement for saugeye on all state waters, except for Huntingburg Lake (Dubois County), Glenn Flint Lake (Putnam 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**

- 5 channel catfish per day
- 2 largemouth bass per day, and the large-mouth bass must be at least 18 inches long
- 15 of any combination of bluegill, redbreast 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.

**WWW.SIMPLYPULASKI.COM**
### Statewide Black Bass Regulations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Water</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lakes</td>
<td>5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivers/Streams</td>
<td>5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>No fish 12 to 15 inches may be kept and no more than two fish over 15 inches may be kept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Michigan</td>
<td>3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass</td>
<td>14 inches</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 bass size, 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 (page 20).

#### Lake Limits by 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 (Elkhart County)
- Failing Lake, also known as Gentian Lake (Steuben County)
- Flat Fork Creek Park ponds A and B (Hamilton County)
- Kunkel Lake (Wells County)
- Robinson Lake (Whitley and Kosciusko counties)

**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 (Daviess 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)
- All lakes at Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Area (Kosciusko, Noble, and Elkhart counties)
- Bixler Lake, Henderson Lake, Little Long Lake, and Round Lake (Noble County)

#### 12

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**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 (Elkhart County)
- Failing Lake, also known as Gentian Lake (Steuben County)
- Flat Fork Creek Park ponds A and B (Hamilton County)
- Kunkel Lake (Wells County)
- Robinson Lake (Whitley and Kosciusko counties)
- Garvin Park Lake (Vanderburgh County)
- Glen Miller Pond (Wayne County)
- Hayswood Lake (Harrison County)
- 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).
Indiana anglers have two options when it comes to trout fishing: inland waters and Lake Michigan and its tributaries. The following information covers regulations for inland trout fishing. Lake Michigan trout and salmon regulations can be found 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

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 runs from April 15 to the last Saturday in April (opening day) while DNR staff complete the annual trout stockings. These streams include:

- 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

The following 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:

- 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:**

There is an 18-inch minimum size limit at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County.

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**INLAND TROUT SIZES & LIMITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brook Trout</td>
<td>5, any combination of brook, rainbow, or brown trout; no more than one may be brown trout</td>
<td>7 inches*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

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Chicken Soup For The Mind

By Marty Benson, DNR Communications

You’ve seen the bumper stickers that proclaim, “I’d rather be fishing”, “A bad day of fishing (still) beats a good day of work”, or some clever variation.

We know they’re true, but why, and how can you explain the reasons to someone who doesn’t fish or questions them?

First, fishing means being outdoors, and experts say that’s good for you. Dr. Jessica Clemons is a psychiatrist recognized by Forbes magazine as a leader in making mental health a part of the national conversation. She’s also a beginning angler and a consultant for the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (RBFF).

“Exploring new wellness-sustaining activities like fishing is a great way to refill the wellness deficit you may be in following last year’s shutdowns,” said Dr. Jess, as she is best known by many. “This is especially true for people who don’t have previous fishing experience.”

“Learning new skills promotes a sense of accomplishment and getting out of your routine can help you get in touch with your friends, your family, and yourself.”

Sarah Jane Bunner, a Project AWARE mental health coordinator with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration, cites research done by the American Psychological Association on outdoor activities. A representative study of 20,000 adults found that those who spent at least two recreational hours in nature during the previous week reported significantly greater health and well-being, whether that was on one day or spread over the full two weeks of the study.

Among the study’s conclusions: “Contact with nature is associated with increases in happiness, subjective well-being, positive affect, positive social interactions and a sense of meaning and purpose in life, as well as decreases in mental distress.”

And that’s from just being outdoors. Add a rod, reel and water, and the benefits multiply.

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) provides an extreme example. It’s a national program that uses fly fishing as a rehabilitation tool to serve disabled active military service personnel and is recognized as an innovative leader in the field of therapeutic outdoor recreation for the disabled. Its Indianapolis-based chapter is one of the largest and most successful in the Midwest.

“This success is founded on the experience of our participants who notably, and noticeably, feel the change in their lives through participation,” said Jeff Reinke, who volunteers as PHWFF’s midwest regional coordinator and is a healthcare facility architect. “I have employed nature themes in my designs for the past 30 years, so it’s no surprise to me that the act of standing in nature, fly fishing, works wonders.”

PHWFF revolves around five core activities: fly tying, flyrod building, fly casting lessons, fly fishing education and, of course, fly fishing outings. The best outcomes occur when participants take part in all of them.

“We have found over the years that some vets are better at or like some activities a little more than others,” Reinke said. “That’s true of the general population of fly anglers as well.”

It’s also true that fishing of any kind can help almost anyone else cope with plain old everyday, nagging stress.

Laura Oliver is a licensed mental health counselor associate with Orenda Counseling, LLC who lives in and serves the Indianapolis area. She is also a recreational angler. Venturing out to try your luck, she says, benefits both your mind and your body—even if you don’t make a meal out of your catch.

“Fishing can be wonderful for our mental health,” Oliver said. “Spending active time outside allows us exposure to Vitamin D from the sun, which can help with increasing the production of serotonin, which is the hormone that helps us with happiness and decreasing depression and anxiety.”

Physically, some of the actions involved in fishing are exercise, but there’s a mental health aspect to those, too.

“Movements like casting, reeling, and rowing engage muscles in our body that release endorphins, which are brain chemicals that can reduce pain and increase positive feeling in the body,” Oliver said.

Some of those actions, she says, can even allow our brain to process information better through bilateral stimulation, which is any action that takes the form of left-right pattern that allows the two sides of the brain to communicate more effectively. An example is operating the two paddles if fishing from a rowboat.

The executive functioning skills and ability to solve problems can also be improved by any number of decisions an angler needs to make, such as figuring out the best location to fish, choosing the proper bait or lure, and the direction to cast.

“Doing all of those helps strengthen our brain functioning,” Oliver said.

Once the line is in the water, anglers can practice positive mental exercises, including problem-solving, sharper focus, and even mindfulness and meditation. There’s also the need to be keenly aware of changes in tension of the line and the activity in the water, which can help you enter a sharper state of focus.

“This can even allow us to shift our focus away from stressors that we carry with us that increase our anxiety and depression,” she said. If you fish with someone else, particularly someone with whom you are emotionally close, the benefits multiply beyond the obvious pleasure from engaging in positive social interactions.

“Our social engagement system can be activated through time spent face-to-face with another person, increasing our sense of safety with others and guiding us to a better state of calm,” Oliver said. “If that person is your child or partner, fishing provides an opportunity to increase your attachment and bond, which also increases feelings of safety and security in a relationship.”

According to Reinke, the mental health benefits are a constant, no matter how many or how few fish are caught.

“The stories and friendships developed are the strength of PHWFF, not the fish count,” he said. So there really is no such thing as a bad day of fishing, just good and better.
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2380 N. ST RD. 135 BARGERSVILLE, IN
LAKE MICHIGAN & TRIBUTARIES SIZES AND LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Minimum Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Salmon</td>
<td>5 total salmon and trout</td>
<td>14 inches for Lake Michigan, streams, and St. Joseph River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook Salmon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho Salmon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink Salmon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steelhead Trout</td>
<td>15 on Lake Michigan only</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch</td>
<td>12 (statewide)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whitefish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 from which they were foul-hooked.

- The bag limit for yellow perch is 15 while fishing Indiana waters (even if you have a fishing license from a neighboring state).
- Bowfin, buffalo fish, carp, gar, shad, and sucker from Lake Michigan can be taken with a bow and arrow.
- A trot line, set line, or throw line cannot be used to take fish from Lake Michigan.

Lake Michigan bass regulations can be found on page 12.

Tributary Restrictions

Possession of a fish spear, gig, gaff, bowfishing equipment, crossbow, grab hook, spear gun, club, snap hook, or underwater spear is prohibited in the following water bodies: 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 Lake George (Lake County), and the tributaries to these waters.

Hook Restrictions

Fishing with more than one single hook or artificial lure is prohibited 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 ⅛ 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 regulations include:

- The 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.
- No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrances and exits of the fish ladders.
- No fishing is allowed from 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 in 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.
SCENIC FISHING AREAS

From marshes to the hilly woodlands, Indiana’s diverse natural landscapes offer outdoor lovers peaceful escapes during all four seasons. Enjoy these beautiful Indiana fishing areas the next time you need to get away:

**Spear Lake**
Take advantage of a variety of angling opportunities at Spear Lake in Tri-County FWA during the summer while fishing for bass, bluegill, redear, crappie, Northern pike, and warmouth from the pier, the shoreline, or by boat using the boat ramp. Ice-fishing is also popular in winter.

**LaSalle Fish & Wildlife Area**
LaSalle FWA sits along the Kankakee River’s old flow, where visitors can enjoy late spring opportunities to fish for bluegill, crappie, walleye, Northern pike, and catfish from a pier, the shoreline, or by boat by using the boat ramp.

**Grouse Ridge Public Fishing Area**
A convenient, beautiful destination near I-65, Grouse Ridge offers anglers scenic fishing views in spring and fall while fishing for bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish. Shoreline fishing and a boat ramp are available.

**Dogwood Lake**
Enjoy a quiet getaway at Dogwood Lake while fishing for panfish like crappie, bluegill, and redear from March to April and in late September; bass and catfish are also present. The best fishing access is by boat, but fishing is also available at piers or designated shoreline areas.

Have questions or want to know more? We’re here to help.

wildlife.IN.gov  
DFW@dnr.IN.gov  
317-234-8440  
@INfishandwildlife  
@INFishWildlife  
@INFishWildlife  
@idnrvideos

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**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 the tributaries or embayments for which 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 anglers can fish the Ohio River bank to bank with a license issued by either state. To fish Indiana or Kentucky embayments or tributaries, a license from that state must be obtained. An angler must abide by the regulations of the state by which they are fishing, except when fishing from the Ohio River bank. When fishing from the Ohio River, anglers shall follow the regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

Only an unlimited number of poles, hand lines, or free-floating lines, and not more than 2 trot lines may be used per individual. Each trot line can have no more than 50 droppers attached that are placed no closer together than 18 inches and have no more than 1 single- or multi-barbed hook.

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

Asian carp, bowfin, buffalo fish, common carp, gar, shad, and suckers may also be taken with the following methods:

- Long bow, compound bow, and crossbow with an arrow having one or more barbs and attached to a line.
- 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.
- Fish spear, spear gun, and underwater spear.

**Where to Fish on the Ohio**

Fishing within 200 yards below any dam on the Ohio River can only be done with a fishing pole or hand line. Fishing sites include:

- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam)—15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Vevay boat ramp
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off State Road 66
- Cannelton Dam—near Cannelton in Warrick County. Accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- McAlpine Dam—located at 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

Access fees may be charged at some sites. See map below for dam locations.

**Minnows & Crayfish**

Minnows and crayfish can be taken from the Ohio River only by the following methods:

- A minnow trap that does not exceed 3 feet long and 18 inches in diameter and does not have 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 that does not have a mesh size larger than ¼ inch bar mesh
- A cast net not to exceed 20 feet in diameter that does not have a mesh size larger than ¼ inch stretch
- Legal sport fishing methods listed on this page
### REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS SEASONS & LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Daily Bag Limit</th>
<th>Possession Limit</th>
<th>Restrictions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Game turtles</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Snapping Turtle</td>
<td>July 1, 2022 to</td>
<td>4, 12 inch minimum</td>
<td>8, 12 inch minimum</td>
<td>Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smooth Softshell Turtle</td>
<td>March 31, 2023</td>
<td>carapace length</td>
<td>carapace length</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiny Softshell Turtle</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Game frogs</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bull Frog</td>
<td>June 15, 2022 to</td>
<td>25, any combination of</td>
<td>50, any combination of</td>
<td>Frogs may be taken with gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 30, 2023</td>
<td>bull or green frog</td>
<td>bull or green frog</td>
<td>width and a single row of tines; long bow and arrow; club; hands alone; or</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>pole or hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.**

A license is required to take a reptile or amphibian from the wild. 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 measurement 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.

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 nonresident adults and nonresident youth must possess a nonresident annual hunting license while collecting reptiles or amphibians from the wild. License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. Excluding state parks, 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, including state parks.

The daily bag limit is 25 for game frog species and 4 for game turtle species. The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit. 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.

---

**HAVE YOU SEEN THESE RARE SALAMANDERS?**

**Mudpuppies**  
- Species of Special Concern  
- Aquatic salamanders that can reach 16” in length  
- Found throughout Indiana  
- Live in lakes, rivers, and streams

**Hellbenders**  
- State Endangered Species  
- Aquatic salamanders; can reach 2½’ in length  
- Last known population in the Blue River  
- Prefer cool, rocky, swift streams

If caught, cut the line, release unharmed and email HerpSurveys@dnr.IN.gov or call 812-334-1137.
Broiled Lemon Bluegill with Sweet Pepper Medley

One of the most plentiful fish in Indiana, bluegill can be found in rivers, lakes, streams, and reservoirs in every corner of the state, and it tastes great when properly prepared. This recipe keeps all the inherent health qualities of the fish while incorporating seasonings, oils, and citrus that you likely already have.

**Ingredients:**

**For the marinade:**
- 1 lb bluegill fillets
- 3 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- ¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 tsp kosher salt
- ½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
- ¼ tsp garlic powder

**For the pepper medley:**
- 3 sweet bell peppers, sliced into about ½ inch sticks
- 1 medium white onion, thinly sliced
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- ½ tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

**Directions:**

Combine and whisk together olive oil, lemon juice, kosher salt, ground black pepper, and garlic powder. Pour marinade over fillets, ensuring all are coated. Cover and refrigerate for 15 minutes. Don’t marinate too long – the acid from the lemon juice can overcook fish.

Meanwhile, heat 1/2 tbsp olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. When the oil is hot, sauté onions and peppers until peppers are tender but still firm. Add minced garlic and stir for about 30 seconds so the garlic doesn’t burn. Remove from heat and set aside.

While sautéing, set broiler to high heat. Lightly coat a baking sheet with cooking spray, wiping away any excess. After fillets are marinated, place them on the sheet in a single layer, leaving space between each to allow for browning.

Place sheet on the top rack of the oven and broil for three minutes. Flip the fillets, then place pepper medley around fillets. Broil for another three minutes, or until the fish is hot and flaky and the center is opaque and cooked through.

Serve with your favorite greens. A lemon vinaigrette for the salad pairs nicely with the fish’s flaky meatiness.

---

**What To Know: Endangered Lake Sturgeon vs. Shovelnose Sturgeon**

**Lake Sturgeon (State Endangered)**
*It is illegal to take or possess this fish at any time.*

- **Snout:** Cone-shaped, rounded
- **Mouth:** No lobes on upper lip
- **Other Body Features:** Small opening (spiracle) above and slightly behind eye
- **Range:** Typically in lower Wabash and White rivers and Lake Michigan

**Shovelnose Sturgeon**
*Must be at least 25 inches long to keep; no bag limit.*

- **Snout:** Shovel-shaped, flattened
- **Mouth:** Four lobes on upper lip
- **Other Body Features:** Spiracle not visible
- **Range:** Wabash and White Rivers; occasionally other large rivers

Visit fishing.in.gov for additional resources.
Five Record Fish Caught in 2021

Five state record fish, based first on weight and then on length, were caught across Indiana in 2021.

Phillip Duracz of Chesterton set the first new state record with a lake whitefish from Lake Michigan that weighed 9.34 pounds. This broke the existing record by more than a pound and a half.

Wyatt Small of Lanesville set a record in early April with a 2.15-pound skipjack herring on the Ohio River. That record was broken 11 days later with a 2.31-pound skipjack caught on the Ohio by Gary Davis, Jr. of Florence.

The skipjack record wasn’t the only one to fall twice in 2021. Austin Gere of Washington caught a 1.69-pound shortnose gar from Veale Creek in June of 2021. Less than two months later, Fort Wayne resident Kyle Hammond’s first-ever shortnose gar out of the Wabash River, weighing 2.35 pounds, set the final state record with a lake whitefish from Lake Michigan that weighed 9.34 pounds.

If you think you have 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, on a scale certified by the State of Indiana to be accurate to 1 ounce. Each DNR fisheries biologist has a certified scale, or you can also find certified scales at meat markets, or farm-related retailers.

- If a DNR scale is not used, obtain and submit a copy of the Scale Inspection Report from the owner of the store where the fish was 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, which can be found at fishing.IN.gov.

- Provide side-view photograph(s) of the fish and a copy of the angler’s fishing license, if required.
Indiana’s Fish of the Year (FOTY) program grew for the fifth consecutive year in 2021, with 59 anglers submitting a record 117 entries of 54 species, also a record. Four species made their first appearance on the FOTY list, including brindled madtom, burbot, common shiner, and mooneye. Common catches missing from this year’s list were brown, rainbow, and lake trout, Chinook salmon, and striped bass.

Paul Reschke took top honors for the longest fish with his 54-inch muskellunge from Lake Webster. Reschke caught the giant while ice fishing and immediately released it after measurement. Ron Anderson caught the smallest FOTY winner of 2021, a 4-inch brindled madtom, a small member of the catfish family. Anderson won a total of five FOTY awards this year, tying another river angler, Liu He. Surprisingly, five was not enough to claim the most awards because Joe Johnson garnered six, catching each from either the Ohio or Wabash rivers.

The Wabash had the most record fish in 2021, yielding eight winning entries. Four winners each came from the Tippecanoe River, the Kankakee River, and the East Fork of the White River. Rivers and streams accounted for 35 of the 56 awards.
Anglers who plan to submit entries in 2022 must provide a photo showing the full length of their catch while on a measuring board or tape to be eligible.

If you think you’ve caught a winner, there are three easy ways to enter.

- **Online:** Enter the required information using the online Record Fish entry form on [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov), then submit a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.

- **By Mail:** Print and complete an entry form from the Record Fish page on [fishing.IN.gov](http://fishing.IN.gov). Mail the completed form to Record Fish Program, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Room 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204, and include a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if required).

- **By email:** Submit an 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.

Winners are notified by mail and receive an award certificate and a commemorative patch.
INDIANA FISH IDENTIFICATION

Sunfish

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

**Redef**
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.

**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.

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.

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.

**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.

Salmon

Unless noted, all illustrations by Rick Hill, Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife.
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 and need help identifying the species?
If you have caught a fish and cannot determine what species it is, we can help. Email a photo of the fish to fishid@dnr.IN.gov. Visit fishing.IN.gov for more information.
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.

**Anyone can 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. To ensure safe eating, consult the full Indiana fish consumption guidelines for wild-caught and commercial fish found at IN.gov/isdh/FCA.

**It’s all about a person’s exposure to contaminants over time.** The two contaminants that primarily drive the fish consumption guidelines are mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some guidelines are driven by perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), which is a chemical in the per- and polyfluoroalkyl 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 (see the Wild Fish Consumption Guidelines table). The consumption recommendation groups range from 1 to 5 with 1 being unrestricted consumption and 5 being do not eat.

When it comes to fish consumption, the primary concern is for 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 consuming contaminants at levels lower than what can safely be eaten by the general population.

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 guidelines 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.

### WILD FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Meal Frequency Categories</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Unrestricted consumption</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>1 meal every 2 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Do not eat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From Indiana waterways, females under 50 and males under 15 can eat these fish species and sizes safely once per week. Males 15 and over and females over 50 can eat them more frequently.

---

Image credit: Duane Raver, USFWS except Rock Bass by Rick Hill.
Eating fish from rivers and streams is generally a much higher concern. Most bodies of water that have do-not-eat consumption guidelines for all species are streams. The Fish Consumption Guidelines has an extensive list of rivers and streams that have species with group 4 and 5 consumption guidelines; 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 catch-and-release fishing.

Information on the Commercial Fish Consumption Guidelines and the full Indiana Fish Consumption Guidelines can be found at IN.gov/isdh/FCA. There, users can search by address, name of the body of water, or county to find guidelines. If a body of water is not listed in the guidelines or if a fish species is not listed for a body of water that was sampled, consult with the Statewide Safe Eating Guidelines.

For more information on the Fish Consumption Guidelines or for answers to questions concerning the advisory, call the Indiana State Department of Health at 317-233-9264.

### Major Lakes & Rivers with Group 4 & 5 Species Guidelines*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size (inches)</th>
<th>Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clear Lake</td>
<td>LaPorte</td>
<td>Common Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Fork White River</td>
<td>Daviess/Dubois/Lawrence/Martin</td>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mississinewa River</td>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muscatatuck River</td>
<td>Jackson/Washington</td>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>18+</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph River</td>
<td>St. Joseph (Baugo Bay Area to the Twin Branch Dam)</td>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Creek</td>
<td>Parke County to Wabash River</td>
<td>Flathead Catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabash River</td>
<td>Fountain/Tippecanoe/Vermillion/Warren</td>
<td>Carpsucker Species</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Fork White River</td>
<td>Delaware/Hamilton (to Stony Creek)/Madison</td>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines for a complete listing.

### Lake Michigan Fish Consumption Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Meal Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bloater Chubs</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown Trout</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinook Salmon</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coho Salmon</td>
<td>Up to 27&quot; One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27&quot;+ One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Trout</td>
<td>Up to 22&quot; One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22–30&quot; One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30&quot;+ Do Not Eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Whitefish</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Smelt</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainbow Trout</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow Perch</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Ohio River Fish Consumption Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Meal Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>Up to 15&quot; One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>15&quot;+ One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Bass</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Catfish</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>Up to 18&quot; One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18&quot;+ Six meals per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common Carp</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie Species</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead Catfish</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freshwater Drum</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hybrid Striped Bass</td>
<td>Six meals per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauger</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass</td>
<td>Six meals per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sucker Species</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye/Saugeye</td>
<td>One meal per week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Bass</td>
<td>One meal per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines for a complete listing.
Here are answers to some of the common questions the Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) receives about fishing. Our district fisheries biologists are available to answer other questions throughout the year. Their contact information is on page 31.

Do I need a license to fish in Indiana?
In general, anyone over the age of 17 needs a license to fish on public water in Indiana. A list of exemptions is on page 6. The sale of fishing licenses helps fund DFW and DNR Law Enforcement so we can help provide fishing opportunities for years to come.

Where can I fish in Indiana?
Indiana is home to many rivers, lakes, and creeks that are great for fishing. Visit on.IN.gov/Where2Fish to find public fishing spots near you.

I want to go fishing for a specific species, like walleye or Northern pike. How can I find bodies of water with different species?
Visit fishing.IN.gov for species-specific information, maps, and a list of possible sites. On the Where to Fish map, you can click on a site to see what sport fish are common at that location.

Where and when are fish stocked in lakes, rivers, and streams in Indiana?
We stock fish to improve fishing quality, provide additional fishing opportunities, or restore a population. Fish are stocked if the environment can support the stocked fish, there are minimal impacts to Indiana-native fish, and stocking will achieve management objectives.

There are normally about 400 stockings a year. These include 14 species, among which are trout, salmon, walleye, largemouth bass, muskie, hybrid striped bass, striped bass, and channel catfish. The number and size of stocked fish is based on management recommendations from the district fisheries biologist. Visit fishing.IN.gov and click on fish stocking to see when and where fish are stocked.

What should I do if I catch an exotic fish like an invasive carp?
If you catch an invasive carp like a silver or bighead carp or any other exotic fish species, immediately kill the fish. Do not release it back into the water alive. If you wish to keep the fish, one of the following must be done: (1) remove the head, (2) remove the gill arches from at least one side, or (3) gut the fish.

How are size and bag limits created?
Size and bag limits protect several fish species. Before a fishing regulation is proposed, DFW, staff study potential biological and social impacts. Fishing regulations are listed in Indiana Administrative Code (312 IAC 9) and must pass review and approval by the Natural Resources Commission, which includes a public input process, as well as the State Budget Agency and Attorney General’s office. Regulations are normally reviewed once every two years. A temporary rule can be signed by the DNR director in emergency situations such as to protect a fish population or increase the bag limit in a lake or pond where the water is lowered and fish need to be removed.

Are fish in Indiana safe to eat?
Fish are a good source of protein, low in saturated fat, and a major source of omega-3 fatty acids. In Indiana, fish are generally safe to eat by following these simple guidelines: eat smaller fish such as bluegill and crappie; avoid large predator and bottom-feeding fish; eat smaller fish such as bluegill and crappie; avoid large predator and bottom-feeding fish; remove fat when cleaning; and broil or grill fish. Visit IN.gov/isdh/FCA for more extensive information on fish consumption guidelines.

I saw a lot of dead fish in a body of water. What caused that?
The most frequent cause of fish kills in Indiana is a lack of oxygen in the water, not a chemical or pollutant spill. Low oxygen levels occur when aquatic plants do not produce enough oxygen for fish to breathe. This may occur when bodies of water ice over with heavy snow, when many plants die suddenly (including microscopic algae), or for other natural reasons. Proper aquatic vegetation management and the use of aerators can reduce the likelihood of fish kills.
District Fisheries Biologists

1. District 1
   Tom Bacula
   Kankakee FWA
   4320 W. Toto Road
   North Judson, IN 46366
   574-896-3673

2. District 2
   Matt Horsley
   Fish Hatchery
   6889 N. SR 327
   Orland, IN 46776
   260-829-6241

3. District 3
   Tyler Delaude
   1353 S. Governors Drive
   Columbia City, IN 46725
   260-244-6805

4. District 4
   Vacant
   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
Sarah Molinaro
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

Call 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 46578
   574-475-8092

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
   765-276-0196

6. District 6 Headquarters
   11 Durbin St.
   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
   Hennyville, IN 46726
   812-639-4148

9. District 9 Headquarters
   1387 E. U.S. 50
   Versailles, IN 47024
   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. Chinkook FWA
   Contact Deer Creek FWA
4. Crosley FWA
   2010 S. SR 3
   North Vernon, IN 47265
   812-346-5956
5. Deer Creek FWA
   2001 W. CR 600 S.
   Greenscastle, IN 46135
   765-653-0453
6. Fairbanks Landing FWA
   Contact Goose Pond FWA
7. Glendale FWA
   6001 E. 600 S.
   Montgomery, IN 47558
   812-674-0168
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 SR 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. 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 36
    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.
    Morriso, IN 47963
    219-285-2704
23. Winamac FWA
    1493 W. 500 N.
    Winamac, IN 46996
    574-946-4422

State Lakes & State Forests

A. Brookville Lake
   14108 SR 101
   Brookville, IN 47012
   765-647-2657
B. Cagles Mill Lake
   1317 W. Lieber Road
   Suite 1
   Cloverdale, IN 46120
   765-276-0194
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
   812-338-5589
H. Salamonie Lake
   9214 W. Lost Bridge W.
   Andrews, IN 46702
   260-468-2125
I. Clark SF
   #2 Service Road
   Henryville, IN 47126
   812-294-4306
J. Deam Lake SRA
   1217 Deam Lake Road
   Borden, IN 47106
   812-246-5421
K. Ferdinand SF
   6583 E. SR 264
   Ferdinand, IN 47532
   812-827-2857
L. Greene-Sullivan SF
   2551 S. SR 159
   Dugger, IN 47848
   812-648-2810
M. Harrison-Crawford SF
   7240 Old Forest Road S.W.
   Corydon, IN 47112
   812-738-7694
N. Jackson-Washington SF
   1278 E. SR 250
   Brownstown, IN 47220
   812-358-2160
O. Martin SF
   14040 Williams Road
   Shoals, IN 47581
   812-247-3491
P. Morgan-Monroe SF
   6220 Forest Road
   Martinsville, IN 46151
   765-792-4654
Q. Mountain Tea SF
   Pumpkin Ridge Road
   Nashville, IN 47448
   812-988-7945
R. Owen-Putnam SF
   2153 Fish Creek Road
   Spencer, IN 47460
   812-829-2462
S. Pike SF
   5994 E. SR 364
   Winslow, IN 47598
   812-827-2857
T. Ravinia SF
   N. Duckworth Road
   Paragon IN, 46166
   765-792-4654
U. Salamonie River SF
   5400 E. Salamonie Forest Road
   Lagro, IN 46941
   260-782-0430
V. Selmier SF
   905 E. CR 350 N.
   North Vernon, IN 47265
   812-346-2286
W. Starve Hollow SRA
   4345 S. 275 W.
   Vallonia, IN 47281
   812-358-3464
X. Yellowwood SF
   772 Yellowwood Road
   Nashville, IN 47448
   812-988-7945
Y. Frances Slocum SF
   CR 510 E.
   Peru, IN 46970
   260-782-0430
Prefer a little more comfort than a tent or a camper? Check out Indiana State Park Inns.

OVER 55,000 ACRES of public land for hunting

OVER 36,000 ACRES of water for fishing

OVER 7,500 campsites/cabins available

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

For information on hunter education classes, youth hunting events, trapping courses and other outdoor skills programs, visit interpretiveservices.IN.gov.

Inn Reservations
IndianaInns.com or 1-877-LODGES 1

Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations
camp.IN.gov or 1-866-622-6746

stateparks.IN.gov
The best fishing in the state can be found in Steuben County, home of 101 lakes. 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. 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!