

# INDIANA FISHING REGULATIONS GUIDE

2024-2025

Rods, Reels,  
& Relief:  
Fishing  
Encourages  
& Empowers  
Women

## INSIDE

- **FREE** Fishing Days
- 2023 Record Fish Winners Profile
- Conservation Funding for You
- Responsible Angling Practices
- Casting for Recovery & Bass'N Gals
- French-style Walleye with Butter and Capers

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# INDIANA FISHING REGULATIONS GUIDE



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Indiana Department of Natural Resources  
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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. Contact the Division of Fish & Wildlife before reproducing any part of this booklet.

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### On the Cover:

Erica Elliott and Tracy Woods of Casting for Recovery fish together at Coxhall Gardens.

Photo by John Maxwell



## MESSAGES



Fishing has always been a part of our lives in the Bortner household, and this guide's theme of women and fishing reminds me of the joy it has brought us.

It's not only the activity of getting on or around the water and throwing in a line and hoping they are biting, but the entire process before, during, and after. When our two daughters were young, we lived just a few miles from what was then a State Fish Hatchery in Avoca. In our many visits there, they learned how the DNR raises various fish species to stock Indiana waters for Hoosiers to catch.

Inspired by that knowledge, we spent many Saturday mornings joining the local Girl Scout troops to bank fish at Spring Mill State Park's lake. Now that our daughters—and new daughter-in-law—have families of their own, we still enjoy getting together for a fish fry of our catches!

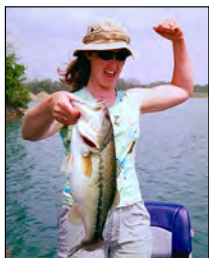
It's "all in the family" when it comes to making memories from fishing. This year, find a family who doesn't fish. Do what you can to get them interested, particularly the female head of the household. Research has shown that women are the pathway to getting their family involved in an activity, and that includes fishing.

I invite you to help us get more women, and by extension the rest of the family, involved in fishing. Doing so will put smiles on a lot of faces.

Best of luck on the water.

**Dan Bortner**

Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



My love for fishing started at a very young age. As I was growing up, my mom, dad, brother, and I would take our little aluminum bass boat out on Hardy Lake. Mom taught me how to fish, helping my brother and I hook our baits, place our lines in the water, and remove fish from our hooks. She taught us how to cast and tie on hooks so we could fish independently, how to use slip bobbers so we weren't constantly tangled, and how to be patient so we could relax while on the water.

We grew with our fishing adventures, advancing to bigger boats and fishing for different species with my dad. I cherish these memories and now get to re-create these experiences with my husband and sons.

During the first eight years of my career, I ran DNR's fishing education program and learned many new things about fishing, people, and Indiana's natural resources. We're lucky to have a bountiful system of rivers, streams, reservoirs and natural lakes in Indiana, as well as dedicated volunteers, individuals, and organizations who provide community for those without family or friends to teach them to fish. I see their dedication at the State Fair Fishin' Pond, in our Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program, and in fishing clubs and chapters like Casting for Recovery and Bass'N Gals.

While I encourage everyone to share the joys of fishing with their families, I also urge you to broaden your horizons and fish with other groups that can support or even accompany you on your outdoor adventures.

**Amanda Wuestefeld**

Director, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife



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WELCOME

## Free Fishing Days

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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.

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## Looking for a place to fish?

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- ▶ See if sites have a boat ramp, motor restrictions, and launch fees
- ▶ Read fish survey reports

**[on.IN.gov/where2fish](https://on.IN.gov/where2fish)**



## To Our Anglers

Welcome to the 2024 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](https://iga.IN.gov)) or in Indiana Administrative Code Title 312 ([IN.gov/legislative/iac](https://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](https://fishing.IN.gov).

All funds made from selling Indiana hunting and fishing licenses go directly back to

conservation. Your license funds are used to conduct fish research, maintain fish and wildlife areas, educate new anglers, maintain public access sites, stock fish in Indiana waters, acquire land, 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 2024 fishing endeavors. We hope you get your best catch yet.



**2024 DATES**  
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**2025 DATES**  
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## WEST BOGGS

### CAMPGROUND

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## GLENDALE

### CAMPGROUND 812-295-3421

Located in Glendale State Fish & Wildlife Area



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## Who Requires 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 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 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 must be at least sixty four (64) years of age to be 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. Indiana residents who were born before April 1, 1943, do not need a fishing license when fishing in Indiana waters.

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](https://on.IN.gov/INHuntFish). Online license purchases have a 40 cents per license fee for system support maintenance, and an additional \$1 plus 1.96% credit card company fee (Visa, MC, Discover) on each transaction.

### In Person

Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at [on.IN.gov/HuntFishLicenseRetailers](https://on.IN.gov/HuntFishLicenseRetailers).

### By Mail

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

**DNR Customer Service, Attention: Licenses**  
402 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include:

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

## 2024 LICENSE FEES

Fees listed below are valid from April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025.\*

Licenses	Resident <sup>1</sup>	Nonresident	Resident Apprentice
Annual Fishing	\$23	\$60	N/A
One-Day Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon)	\$10	\$15	N/A
Seven-Day Fishing	N/A	\$35	N/A
Senior Annual Fishing (includes Trout/Salmon) <sup>2</sup>	\$3	N/A	N/A
Senior Fish for Life <sup>2</sup> (includes Trout/Salmon)	\$23	N/A	N/A
Trout/Salmon Stamp	\$11	\$11	N/A
Annual Hunting and Fishing	\$32	N/A	\$32
Disabled American Veterans Hunt/Fish	\$2.75	N/A	N/A
Disabled American Veterans 10-Year Hunt/Fish	\$27.50	N/A	N/A

\* For a list of current license fees, go to [wildlife.IN.gov](https://wildlife.IN.gov) or call 317-232-4200.

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

<sup>2</sup> Must be at least 64 years old. Indiana residents who were born before April 1, 1943, do not need a fishing license when fishing in Indiana waters.

N/A = not available

- 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 or 877-463-6367 (toll-free). Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.

## 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.

- 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

Residents of Indiana engaged in full-time military service while on approved military leave are exempt from needing a fishing license; the person must carry leave orders and a valid Indiana Driver's License or voter registration card to prove residency. Nonresident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may purchase an Indiana resident license. Resident disabled American veterans can get an annual DAV fishing and/or small game hunting license for \$2.75 or 10-year license for \$27.50 by first completing an application form available from the County Service Officer where they live or by downloading the application at [fishing.IN.gov](https://fishing.IN.gov) and clicking "Fishing License," then "Licenses and Permits for Hunters and Anglers with Disabilities."

**Mail the completed form to:**  
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### **Indiana's Clean Marinas**

- Doyne's Marine, Inc., Portage
- Hammond Marina, Hammond
- Izaak Walton League Miller Chapter, Portage
- Lake Monroe Sailing Association, Bloomington
- Lieber State Recreation Area Marina, Cloverdale
- Marina Shores, Portage
- Sammie L. Maletta Public Marina, Portage
- Sprague Point Marina, Michigan City
- Two Herons Marina, Bloomington
- Washington Park Marina, Michigan City

## INDIANA'S STATEWIDE SIZE & BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Bluegill <sup>7</sup>	Unlimited <sup>7</sup> (exceptions: page 12)	None
Redear Sunfish <sup>7</sup>	25 <sup>7</sup> (exceptions: page 12)	None
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass (in lakes)	5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches (exceptions: page 16)
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass <sup>6</sup> (in rivers and streams)	5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	No fish 12 to 15 inches may be kept, and no more than two fish over 15 inches may be kept (exceptions: page 17)
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass (in Lake Michigan)	3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches
Yellow Bass <sup>6</sup>	Unlimited	None
White Bass <sup>6</sup> , Hybrid Striped Bass <sup>6</sup>	12, any combination of white bass or hybrid striped bass	No more than two fish may exceed 17 inches
Striped Bass <sup>6</sup>	2	None
Rock Bass <sup>6</sup>	25	None
Crappie <sup>6,7</sup>	25 <sup>7</sup> (exceptions: page 12)	None <sup>1</sup>
Walleye <sup>6</sup> , Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye), Sauger	6, any combination of walleye, walleye-sauger hybrid, and sauger	For Walleye: 14 inches south of SR 26; 16 inches north of SR 26 For sauger and saugeye: No size limit (exceptions: pages 11 & 12)
Muskellunge <sup>6</sup> and Tiger Muskellunge	1 muskellunge or 1 tiger muskellunge	36 inches <sup>2</sup>
Northern Pike	3 <sup>3</sup>	24 inches; no more than one 30 inches or longer <sup>4</sup>
Yellow Perch	Unlimited (15 only on Lake Michigan)	None
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in streams)	Unlimited	13 inches; not more than one blue catfish that's at least 35 inches, one flathead catfish at least 35 inches, and one channel catfish at least 28 inches or longer may be kept
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in lakes, reservoirs)	10 <sup>5</sup> (exceptions: page 12)	None; not more than one blue catfish that's at least 35 inches, one flathead catfish at least 35 inches, and one channel catfish at least 28 inches or longer may be kept
Bullhead	Unlimited	None
Lake Whitefish	12	None
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Unlimited	25 inches (fork length)

<sup>1</sup> 9-inch minimum size at Dogwood Lake (Davies County) and Hardy Lake (Scott County).

<sup>2</sup> 44-inch minimum size at Backwater, Kiser, and Webster lakes (Kosciusko County).

<sup>3</sup> No more than 6 per day from Hamilton Lake (Steuben County).

<sup>4</sup> No minimum size limit for Northern pike at Hamilton Lake (Steuben County), with no more than 1 per day more than 30 inches long.

<sup>5</sup> No bag limit for channel catfish at Turtle Creek Reservoir.

<sup>6</sup> See the Ohio River Regulations on page 24.

<sup>7</sup> Daily bag limit at J.C. Murphey Lake (Newton County) is 25 singly or in aggregate.

## 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.

## 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 three 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 22).

## 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 22 for Lake Michigan tributary restrictions.

## Snares

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

## Limb Lines

A limb line (also known as a drop line or bank pole) is a passive fishing device consisting of a line with not 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 (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 one 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 & Spear Fishing

A bow and arrow or crossbow can be used year-round at any time of day to take invasive (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. See page 22 for Lake Michigan tributary restrictions on bow and spear fishing equipment.

A gig, fish spear, spear gun, or underwater spear can be used year-round at any time of day to take invasive (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 from the Illinois border to the SR 55 bridge
- Maumee River, upstream from the Ohio border to the Anthony Boulevard bridge in Fort Wayne
- St. Joseph River, in Elkhart and St. Joseph counties
- Tippecanoe River, from confluence with Wabash River upstream to a half mile below its confluence with Big Creek in Carroll County. Fish spears and fish gigs cannot be used in, on, or adjacent to Tippecanoe River from a half mile below its juncture with Big Creek in Carroll County upstream to the Oakdale Dam.
- Wabash River, from confluence with Ohio River upstream to SR 13 in Wabash
- White River, upstream from confluence with the Wabash River to the junction of East and West Forks
- White River/East Fork, from the junction of East and West Forks upstream to the dam at the south edge of Columbus
- White River/West Fork, from the junction of East and West Forks upstream to the dam below Harding Street in Indianapolis

## Fishing Near Dams

### All waters except the Ohio River:

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. Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam. Unless a warning sign is present at a low head dam, there are no distance regulations for using a fishing pole or hand line. If warning signs are present, a person may not access a low head dam within 50 feet.

### Ohio River:

No fish may be taken within 200 yards of a dam except by fishing pole or hand line. (see page 24—Ohio River).

## Wanton Waste

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

## Sale of Aquatic Life

No fish, frogs, turtles, or other reptiles or amphibians 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 25), Western sand darter, pallid shiner, reddsides dace, and variegated darter.

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

If 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.

## Border Waters

- Indiana and Kentucky — Ohio River

## BASIC FISHING INFORMATION

— The reciprocal agreement allows residents of either state to fish the river proper (main stem) with either state's fishing license. If you are fishing in a connecting tributary/embayment you'll need to have a fishing license for that particular state.

- **Indiana and Illinois — Wabash River** — Officers of Illinois and Indiana will recognize and accept valid sport fishing licenses of either state when legally possessed and used on the Wabash River forming a common boundary between Illinois and Indiana. Sport anglers shall not fish on water beyond the natural and ordinary river banks of the state in which they are not licensed to fish. Sport anglers shall not fish from land attached to or taxed by the state in which they are not licensed or fish in tributaries, bayous, or backwaters of the state. Sport anglers must abide by the laws of the state in which they are fishing.
- **Indiana and Illinois — Wolf Lake** — There is no reciprocal license agreement. Each state's fishing license is needed to fish their respective waters.
- **Indiana and Ohio — Great Miami River** — There is no reciprocal license agreement for this river. Each state's fishing license is needed to fish in their respective waters.
- **Indiana and Michigan** — Residents of Indiana or Michigan may fish the whole lake, but must abide by the regulations in the waters they are fishing. Nonresident license holders (for either state) may only fish in the waters under which the jurisdiction applies for that nonresident license. Nonresidents would need Indiana and Michigan non-resident licenses to fish both sides.
  - » **Clear Lake** — Indiana, St. Joseph Co./South Clear Lake — Michigan, Berrien Co.,
  - » **Indiana Lake** — Indiana, Elkhart Co./Michigan, Cass Co.,
  - » **Fish Lake** — Indiana, LaGrange Co./Michigan, St. Joseph Co.,
  - » **Lake George** — Indiana, Steuben Co./Michigan, Branch Co.,
  - » **Long Lake** — Indiana, Steuben Co./Michigan, Hillsdale Co.
  - » **Lake Michigan** — We share Lake Michigan borders with Illinois and Michigan. There

is a reciprocal zone in Calumet Harbor with Illinois ([https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/files/fw-calumet\\_harbor\\_reciprocal\\_zone.pdf](https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/files/fw-calumet_harbor_reciprocal_zone.pdf)).

There is NO license reciprocity anywhere else on our Lake Michigan border waters. Indiana licensed anglers will need an Illinois license to fish Illinois waters of Lake Michigan, and a Michigan license to fish Michigan waters of Lake Michigan, even if launching out of Indiana.

## Boating

All motorboats used in public waters must be registered. For a copy of Indiana boating laws, visit [boat-ed.com/Indiana/handbook](http://boat-ed.com/Indiana/handbook).

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

## Life Preservers

A U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved wearable 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](http://uscgboating.org) for a copy of federal boating regulations.

## Sinkers

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 before marking or tagging occurs.

An application must be processed 21 days before the scheduled start date. For more

information, call 317-232-4200.

## Lake Michigan Trout & Salmon

Trout or salmon with a missing adipose fin contain a small microwire tag in their head, which holds 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

## MAKING IT LAST

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Each year, DNR Fish & Wildlife renovates and constructs new Public Access Sites for Indiana's anglers. Learn more about our public access sites at [on.IN.gov/where2fish](http://on.IN.gov/where2fish).





suckers (carpsuckers, redhorses, hog suckers, white suckers, and chubsuckers), brook stickleback, gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and alewife. Live gizzard shad, threadfin shad, and alewife may only be collected, used, possessed, and disposed of in accordance with 312 IAC 9-6-8.

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

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

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



## AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

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

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

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

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## RECORD FISH

- 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.

Sauger are added to the aggregate bag limit for walleye and saugeye. Check the Ohio River regulations on page 24 as they have different regulations.

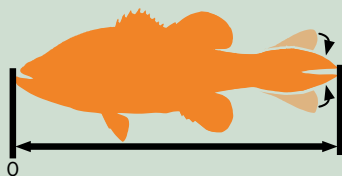
## Special Regulation Waters

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

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

## How to Measure a Fish

- 1 Wet your hands and the flat measuring surface to protect the fish's slime layer.
- 2 Lay the fish on its side.
- 3 Pinch the tail fin together and close the fish's mouth.
- 4 Measure the fish from the tip of the closed jaw to the end of the tail fin to determine the total length.



FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AT **fishing.IN.gov**

## Fishing Partners Break Striped Bass State Record

Cousins Ciara Hawkins and Emily Hatfield didn't expect to catch a state record striped bass. They had been catfishing from a favorite riverbank in southern Indiana all day, and the two women hadn't felt a bite yet. Then Hawkins' pole got stuck in a tree.

But as it suddenly started to fall, she saw that she had a fish, and set her hook. Instantly, the pair saw that the fish was massive.

The ground below them was so slick that Hawkins couldn't grip the rod by herself and stay up, so Hatfield held her steady as Hawkins reeled. The momentary adrenaline rush energized them as they heaved the fish to shore. This tug-of-war while keeping a fish on the hook was their favorite part of the sport—the bigger the struggle, the greater the satisfaction. With their last bits of strength, they excitedly hauled the fish ashore. Each had caught big catfish before, but none had compared to the 40-pound, 3.8-ounce striped bass that ultimately proved to be a state record.

Thanks to their family ties, Hawkins and Hatfield have been fishing partners for almost all their lives. Although they often fish with the rest of their family, they're inspired most by Hawkins' father, Jasper. When Hawkins and Hatfield caught their record striped bass, he helped them certify their catch with DNR. Setting a state record may be an end goal for some anglers, but Hawkins and Hatfield aren't leaving their favorite fishing spot anytime soon—they're always looking forward to getting back on the water and fishing again.



Emily Hatfield and Ciara Hawkins with their state record 40-pound, 3.8-ounce striped bass.

If you think you've caught a state record fish, follow the steps below:

- Both weight and length 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 district's DNR fisheries biologist (listed at [on.IN.gov/fisheriesbiologist](https://on.IN.gov/fisheriesbiologist)) has a certified scale. 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 is weighed.
- Submit a photo or printed meat packaging label (if available) showing the weight of the fish and 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 DNR fisheries biologist. It is the responsibility of the angler to schedule a time to have the fish examined by a DNR fisheries biologist.
- Two witnesses who are not relatives of the angler must observe the weight and length measurement and sign the entry form, which is at [on.IN.gov/recordfish](https://on.IN.gov/recordfish).
- Provide side-view photograph(s) of the fish and a copy of the angler's fishing license, if the angler requires a license.

These records are waiting to be broken, so go fish!

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# 42 Anglers Submit 199 Entries in 2023

Indiana's Fish of the Year (FOTY) program continues to be popular, with 42 anglers submitting entries for 72 species in 2023.

The longest was a 49-inch flathead catfish caught by Connor McKanna from Otter Creek in Vigo County. The smallest winner was a 2.25-inch rainbow darter caught by Steven Kellett from McCormick's Creek in Owen County. Anglers collectively submitted entries for 72 different species. Black crappie was the species with the most entries, with 10. Other notable species entries were a 40-inch steelhead caught by Jeff Winegardner from Lake Michigan in LaPorte County, a 29-inch

freshwater drum caught by Jonah Switzer from the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County, and an 11-inch bluegill caught by Megan Wagner from Lake of the Woods in Marshall County.

The Wabash River had more winning entries than any other body of water, including freshwater drum, goldeye, highfin carpsucker, shovelnose sturgeon, small-mouth buffalo, spotted bass, and yellow bass. Other bodies of water with multiple winning entries included Lake Michigan, the Ohio River, and the Tippecanoe River.

Anglers planning to enter in 2024 must remember that their entry must include a photo showing the full length of their catch while on a measuring board or tape.

If you think you've caught a winner, you can enter online or via email.

- For online entries, enter the required information using the online entry form (found at [fishing.IN.gov](https://fishing.IN.gov); click Record Fish) and submit a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to [recordfish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:recordfish@dnr.IN.gov).
- For email entries, submit an electronic version of the entry form and attach a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to [recordfish@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:recordfish@dnr.IN.gov).

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

## Conservation Funding

All wildlife, harvestable or not, need great habitats to thrive. Conservation funding keeps these habitats and species flourishing.

The Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950 requires manufacturers and importers to pay an excise tax on sport fishing tackle, watercraft, boat fuel, and other fishing equipment. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service distributes a part of these funds to each state. To qualify and receive funds, Indiana must provide a 25% match with locally generated revenue, which primarily comes from fishing licenses purchased by anglers.

Whether you're an angler, hunter, birder, wildlife viewer, or an outdoor enthusiast of any type, you benefit from conservation funding. A conservation project created for one species benefits others, and one of those benefitted species may be the one that you love the most. To all of you—anglers and nonanglers—who contribute to this important work, thank you.

### Conservation Funding For You

IF YOU ARE A...



Angler or Boater



YOU RECEIVE...

- Fishing access
- Boating access
- Fish stockings



Hunter or Trapper



- Hunting and trapping habitat
- Shooting ranges



Birder or Wildlife Viewer



- Thriving wildlife
- Bird habitat



Outdoor Enthusiast



- Observation areas
- Healthy waterways
- Natural areas

## Netting & Trapping Rules

Find out the legal netting & trapping collection methods and species.

SCAN FOR GUIDELINES



[on.IN.gov/fish-netting](https://on.IN.gov/fish-netting)





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**-SFC Dustin Tolbert**



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INFORMATION





# BLACK BASS REGULATIONS

## STATEWIDE BLACK BASS REGULATIONS

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

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 24).

### 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)

- 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)
- J.C. Murphey Lake at Willow Slough Fish & Wildlife Area (Newton County)

#### 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 (Daviness County)

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

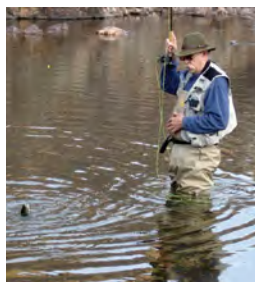
- Big Long Lake (LaGrange County)

#### No minimum size limit waters:

- Brownstown Pit (Jackson County)
- Burdette Park lakes (Vanderburgh County)
- Chandler Town Lake (Warrick County)
- Cypress Lake (Jackson County)



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- Deming Park lakes (Vigo County)
- 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's Responsible Anglers CAST!

In addition to mastering fishing techniques and skills, anglers must know responsible angling practices. A responsible angler is someone who can **Catch** and handle fish properly, **Allow** space for everyone, **Stick** their trash and plastics in the proper bins, and **Train** up on fish identification and regulations.

**Catch** and handle fish properly. Don't keep fish out of the water too long. Use barbless hooks when practicing catch-and-release. Handle fish with care, supporting them with two hands, one by the mouth and the other under the belly. Don't hold the fish vertically by the jaw, as this can hurt the fish. Don't handle them for too long. Gently place fish back in the water after a short time.

**Allow** space for others; don't overcrowd. Many anglers enjoy the solitude of a quiet river, while others enjoy time outside with their families. Make it clear that all are welcome in the outdoors, regardless of their background.

**Stick** trash and plastics, especially fishing line that can't be used again, in a proper trash or recycling bin. Leftover fishing line can tangle boat propellers and injure or kill wildlife that may accidentally consume it.

**Train** up on fish identification and regulations in the area. If you can't identify a catch, it's best to release it using the guidelines above. Consider carrying a digital or physical copy of your fishing license as well as this guidebook in your tackle box.

Find more information at [IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/fishing-best-practices](http://IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/fishing-best-practices).

## Magnet Fishing

Magnet fishing involves using magnets to catch and reel in lost objects from a body of water. Because of safety concerns, a free permit is required to magnet fish on Indiana DNR properties and must be obtained from the property. No permit from the DNR is required to magnet fish outside of DNR properties.



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# INLAND TROUT REGULATIONS

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 22.

**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 [on.IN.gov/fish-stocking](http://on.IN.gov/fish-stocking).

Catch-and-release applies to all trout streams from Jan. 1 through April 14. See page 22 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

## INLAND TROUT SIZES & LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Brook Trout	5, any combination of brook, rainbow, or brown trout; no more than one may be brown trout	7 inches*
Rainbow Trout		
Brown Trout		

\*There is no minimum size limit for trout caught from lakes, except for an 18-inch size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County and Brookville Lake tailwater (East Fork Whitewater River) in Franklin County.

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

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 the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County.



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- **NEVER** release organisms from one waterbody into another.

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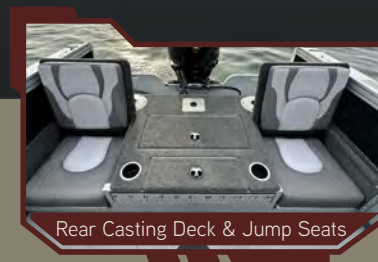
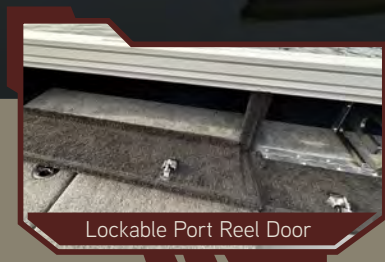


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# Rods, Reels, & Relief: Fishing Encourages & Empowers Women

Two of Indiana's fishing groups for women anglers create confidence and community.

## Casting for Recovery: Fostering Friendships for Women with Breast Cancer and Breast Cancer Survivors

As a child, Amie Lieurance would wake up early many summer days with her family to fish for bluegill with her Snoopy pole.

As she got older, she fished less and less, eventually stopping altogether. When diagnosed with breast cancer in 2015, she hadn't fished in years. Like many women who receive such news, she asked, what's next?

For Lieurance, this was only a medical question, as in which treatments, tests, and services she might pursue. She didn't realize one of her next steps might be a return to her childhood sport.

In 2017, after a year-and-a-half of being cancer-free, she attended her first Casting for Recovery (CfR) retreat. The Indiana chapter of CfR provides these no-cost outdoor events for women diagnosed with breast cancer to connect with nature and fellow breast cancer patients and survivors from all over the Hoosier State. Participants receive the space to heal through community, counseling, and the nurturing of a new hobby—fly fishing.

Founded by a breast reconstruction surgeon and a fly fisher in 1996, CfR is based on a single action, the motion of fly casting. The reason is simple. Repeating this gentle action over time can increase mobility in the arm and upper body of women who have had lymph nodes removed, a common part of breast cancer treatment.

Most of the retreats are open to women at every stage of breast cancer, but Indiana's chapter also offers an exclusive retreat for women at the most severe stage of breast cancer. It provides an open space for women with stage IV (metastatic) breast cancer to support each other. Combining the physical therapy of casting with emotional support and time spent in the outdoors allows such women to have some of the best weekends of their lives.

Connections formed through CfR are lifelong. Erica Elliott, a fly fisher who volunteers as a casting instructor and river guide for CfR, appreciates the angling community she's found in the group. Elliott has traveled with Lieurance and other CfR participants to some of the nation's best fishing areas. Before she discovered CfR, Elliott had fly fished for nearly 20 years—even teaching her husband the sport. Like CfR participants, Elliott also experiences therapeutic results.

"(Fly fishing) helps me release the worries of the world; it's pretty special," Elliott says, also noting how CfR's sole focus on women allows for more vulnerability for those learning to fish. She says mixed-gender fishing can be intimidating, but, in comparison, when women practice fishing alongside only other women, "There are no preconceived notions of what to do."

While women anglers enjoy fishing for the love of the sport, they also acknowledge that the purpose of their time spent on the water is twofold, because engaging with other women who fish is just as meaningful. Viewing fishing as a contest is "missing the point," says river guide and retreat leader, Desi Shidler. "It's not a competition. It's camaraderie. We want to support each other."

Leaving their competitive edges on shore doesn't lessen the thrill of fishing for CfR participants; rather, it seems to empower them to experience the joys of angling without the stress of hooking the perfect catch. The accomplishment Lieurance says she feels when she sees the bend in her rod and a fish on her hook affirms her strength, reminding her that "(I) caught this all on my own!"

"What's next" for CfR in Indiana this year and beyond is more retreats that will provide women with hope, healing, and a new hobby.

Now that Lieurance is cancer free, she says her "next steps" when attending a CfR event differ from what they were before.

"Next is connecting with other patients and survivors, my pink sisters," she says. "The retreat is a gift of love."

Learn more at [castingforrecovery.org](http://castingforrecovery.org).



From left to right: Amie Lieurance stands with her rod. Desi Shidler poses with her CfR cap. Erica Elliott holds a fish.





Pictured from left to right are Rebecca Hubbard, Bre (Breanna) Dyer, Leigh Ann Pittman, Janice Parker-Smith, Erika Daniels, Amy King, Emily Loveall, Sandra Lugo, and Nikki Davis.

### Bass'N Gals: Indiana's All-women Fishing Club Connects Women Anglers

Although fishing is a male-dominated activity, female anglers make up an integral part of the sport.

According to the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation's 2023 report, female fishing participation in 2022 was at an all-time high, with half of the women anglers surveyed saying they would like to fish more often.

In Indiana, some may have difficulty finding fishing groups with an exclusive focus on women; however, one has been creating opportunities for women anglers since 1985.

Called Indiana Bass'N Gals, it's the state's first and only all-women fishing club. For more than three decades, the group has been dedicated to serving women who fish for bass. Today, members of this still-thriving club focus on conservation, youth, and community service. They meet monthly to plan their own tournaments as well as services such as an annual tournament for youth, clothing drives, habitat builds, and shoreline clean-ups.

Bass'N Gals holds several statewide annual tournaments from April through September. The top eight finishers in each can compete in the Indiana Bass Federation's statewide regionals, and two qualifying club members can compete in national tournaments. While these opportunities may seem like they require a mastery of bass fishing, members emphasize that all skills levels are welcome in their club and in club tournaments.

"Do we fish hard?" asks Rebecca Hubbard, vice president of Bass'N Gals. "We do. But the ladies help each other feel comfortable. We don't want to intimidate anyone."

Instead, members connect with one another in an open and honest way, starting at their love for bass fishing.

"The friendship kicks off with the core hobby, then grows on the water and off the water," says Amy King, the club's tournament director.

Many of the women's involvement with the club has evolved from an introduction at the Bass'N Gals' booth at the annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport, and Travel Show to evenings spent sharing a cabin with each other before taking off for a tournament at sunrise.

Not only has Bass'N Gals allowed the women to create friendships with one another, but it's also strengthened their beliefs in their angling skills, allowing them to seek new opportunities and challenges.

"Bass'N Gals has helped me build enough confidence to go out and compete with men," Leigh Ann Pittman says.

Although she started with Bass'N Gals only two years ago, Pittman now serves as club president.

Although all of the women now fish frequently, they found their way to fishing for various reasons. Some were influenced by their families and friends. Others had worm-and-bobber fished most of their lives and wanted to try something different. Because bass fishing uses particular baits and techniques, the women could use their foundational angling skills to hone their knowledge and abilities for catching a different species.

While they appreciate the biggest catches the most, they also value the practice of catch-and-release, as this allows the bass to stay healthy and grow even larger for the next anglers who may come across them at a later tournament.

And there will always be more tournaments. The women have no plans to quit angling as a group anytime soon, especially considering how their sisterhood emboldens their passion for fishing.

"(Our group) empowers women," says Sandra Lugo, club treasurer. "We're all like-minded. We're able to admit when we forget something and build each other up."

Although conservation and bass fishing are the primary focus of Bass'N Gals, members appreciate the bonds they've created with other bass fishers from all walks of life. Asked what angling advice they could give their younger selves, all seem to agree: They only wish they'd started fishing sooner.

Learn more at [indianabassngals.org](http://indianabassngals.org).



Leigh Ann Pittman, Bass'N Gals' president, prepares to head out on the water for a Bass'N Gals bass fishing tournament on Brookville Lake.

# LAKE MICHIGAN REGULATIONS

## LAKE MICHIGAN & TRIBUTARIES SIZES AND LIMITS

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

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 16.

### Tributary Restrictions

Possession of a fish spear, gig, gaff, bowfishing equipment, crossbow, grab hook, spear

gun, club, snag 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 ¾ inch from point to shank.

## St. Joseph River

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

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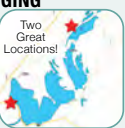
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FLAT, ROUND HEAD



### Hellbenders

*State Endangered Species*

- Aquatic salamanders; can reach 2½' in length
- Last known population in the Blue River
- Prefer cool, rocky, swift streams



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### Mudpuppies

*Species of Special Concern*

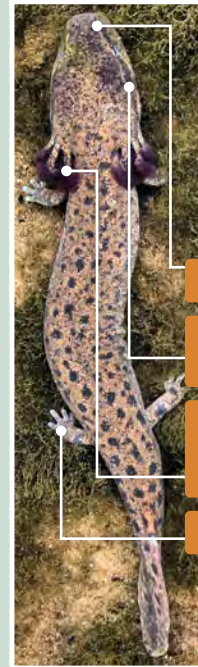
- Aquatic salamanders that can reach 16" in length
- Found throughout Indiana
- Live in lakes, rivers, and streams

NARROW SNOUT

STRIPE FROM NOSE  
THROUGH EYE TO GILLS

EXTERNAL GILLS, WHICH  
MAY APPEAR FLATTENED  
WHEN OUT OF WATER

SMALL, POINTED TOES



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## OHIO RIVER DAILY BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Largemouth Bass	6, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	12 inches No size limit on spotted bass
Smallmouth Bass		
Spotted Bass		
Hybrid Striped Bass	30, any combination of hybrid, white, or yellow bass	No more than four fish may be 15 inches or longer
Striped Bass		
White Bass		
Yellow Bass		
Rock Bass	15	None
Blue Catfish	Unlimited	13 inches; no more than one may be 35 inches or longer
Channel Catfish	Unlimited	13 inches; no more than one may be 28 inches or longer
Flathead Catfish	Unlimited	13 inches; no more than one may be 35 inches or longer
Crappie	30	None
Muskellunge	2, any combination of muskellunge or tiger muskellunge	30 inches
Tiger Muskellunge		
Walleye	6, any combination of walleye, sauger, or hybrid walleye	14 inches
Sauger		
Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye)		
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Unlimited	25 inches fork length

## 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 licensed, except when fishing from the bank. When fishing from the

bank, anglers shall follow the regulations of the state in which they are fishing.

An unlimited number of poles, hand lines, or free-float 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.

Invasive 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:

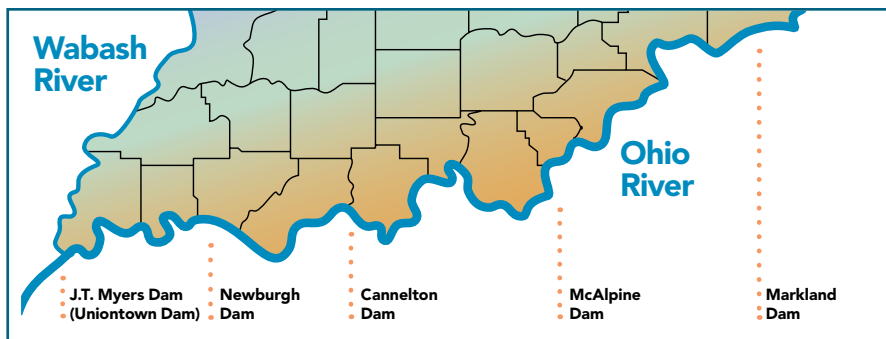
- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam)—15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off SR 66
- Cannelton Dam—follow Taylor Street south from SR 66 in Cannelton
- McAlpine Dam—located at Clarksville
- Falls of the Ohio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

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

## Minnows &amp; 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 ¾ inch stretch
- Legal sport fishing methods listed on this page





## REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS SEASONS & LIMITS

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Restrictions
Game turtles				
Eastern Snapping Turtle	July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025	4, 12 inch minimum carapace length, any combination of game turtle	8, 12 inch minimum carapace length, any combination of game turtle	Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface.
Smooth Softshell Turtle				
Spiny Softshell Turtle				
Game frogs				
Bull Frog	June 15, 2024 to April 30, 2025	25, any combination of bull or green frog	50, any combination of bull or green frog	Frogs may be taken with gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; long bow and arrow; club; hands alone; or pole or hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached. Firearms for frog hunting are restricted to .22-caliber loaded with bird-shot only or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second where legal to use.
Green Frog				

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.

## What To Know

### ENDANGERED LAKE STURGEON vs. SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

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#### LAKE STURGEON (STATE ENDANGERED)

*\*It is illegal to take or possess this fish at any time.*



##### SNOUT:

- Cone-shaped, rounded
- Four smooth barbels under snout

##### MOUTH:

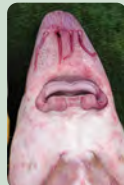
- No lobes on upper lip
- Two lobes on lower lip

##### OTHER BODY FEATURES:

- Small opening (spiracle) above and slightly behind eye
- Caudal peduncle is rounded and not fully scaled
- Adults normally are between 45-55 inches and 25-45 lbs.

##### 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
- Four fringed barbels under snout

##### MOUTH:

- Four lobes on upper lip
- Four lobes on lower lip

##### OTHER BODY FEATURES:

- Spiracle not visible
- Caudal peduncle is thin and fully scaled
- Adults are normally between 30-40 inches and 3-7 lbs.

##### RANGE:

- Wabash and White rivers; occasionally other large rivers



## Sunfish



### Bluegill

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



### Redear

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



### Black Crappie

7 to 8 dorsal spines, random blotches on sides.



### White Crappie

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

## Black Bass



### Largemouth Bass

Upper jaw extends beyond back of eye.



### Smallmouth Bass

Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye.



### Spotted Bass

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

## True Bass



### Hybrid Striped

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



### White Bass

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



### Striped Bass

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

## Catfish



### Blue Catfish

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



### Channel Catfish

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



### Flathead Catfish

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

## Perch



### Sauger

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



### Walleye

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



### Yellow Perch

Green back, yellow-green sides marked by 6 to 8 darker vertical bars, white belly, pale orange fins.

## Salmon



### Chinook Salmon or King Salmon

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



### Coho Salmon

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



## Trout



### Brown Trout

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



### Rainbow Trout or Steelhead

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



### Lake Trout

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

## Northern Pike & Muskellunge



### Northern Pike

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



### Muskellunge

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

## Fish Identification Form

**Caught a fish and need help identifying the species?**

We can help. Email a photo of the fish to [fishid@dnr.IN.gov](mailto:fishid@dnr.IN.gov). Visit [on.IN.gov/fish-id](http://on.IN.gov/fish-id) for more information.

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THIS INNOVATIVE PLATFORM FEATURES A VARIETY OF RELIABLE ADD-ON BLADES DESIGNED TO MAKE CLEAN WORK OF THE DIRTY WORK ALL THE WAY FROM SHIP TO SHORE.

10 DIFFERENT STYLES OF BLADES AVAILABLE

**TALON** BY **HAVALON** KNIVES

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## Is it Safe to Eat Caught Fish?

Eating recreationally caught fish from Indiana waters can be a healthy, tasty part of your diet when you have the proper guidance. Because fish is lean in protein and low in saturated fat, it is a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, selenium, and other vitamins and minerals. Consuming fish maintains heart health, aids in healthy brain function, promotes bone health, and supports fetal development. While fish is a part of a healthy diet, it should be consumed in moderation, as some fish may contain chemicals which could lead to negative health outcomes.

Indiana has developed recommendations for the consumption of recreationally caught fish to help individuals make informed, healthy decisions about eating the fish that they catch. To ensure safe eating for both wild-caught and commercial fish, consult the full Indiana fish consumption guidelines at [on.IN.gov/FishConsumption](http://on.IN.gov/FishConsumption).

## Health Considerations

The Indiana fish consumption guidelines are driven by two primary contaminants: mercury and PCBs. Perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), which is a chemical in the per- and polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) family, and pesticides are also considered when issuing guidelines.

These contaminants persist in the environment at low levels. While these low levels of contaminants do not pose a health risk in humans from direct contact with water bodies, they can accumulate in fish tissue over time. Similarly, the contaminants can accumulate in human tissue through the consumption of fish, potentially building to levels that pose a health risk.

## Who is Most at Risk?

Anyone can be affected by chemicals found in certain fish; however, those most at risk for harmful health effects include individuals who

are/could become pregnant or breastfeeding, and children under the age of 15.

## What Should I Catch?

Some fish may contain higher levels of chemicals than others. Panfish and younger, smaller fish are generally less contaminated than larger fish of the same species. Indiana's fish consumption guidelines are rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being "unrestricted consumption" and 5 being "do not eat."

## Where Should I Fish?

Eating fish from lakes and reservoirs is generally less of a concern than eating fish from rivers and streams. You can protect yourself by following recommendations provided in the fish consumption guidelines and fishing in waterbodies that have been tested for environmental contaminants. If a waterbody you are fishing does not have an advisory, or the advisory does not include information on the fish species you plan to eat, follow the Indiana Statewide Safe Eating Guidelines.

## How Do I Prepare My Fish?

Fish should be cooked until they are flaky, opaque, and 145°F. To cut your fish, cut away the fat along the back, the fatty area along the side, and the belly fat.

## How Much Fish Should I Eat?

A fish meal serving size is about 6 ounces of cooked wild-caught or commercial fish for a 150-pound person. To adjust meal serving size for a heavier or lighter weight person, add or subtract 1 ounce of fish for every 20 pounds of body weight.



### Eating Local Fish in Indiana Waterways

As a general rule, females under 50 and males under 15 can safely eat these fish species and sizes once per week from nonlisted waters; anyone else can eat them more frequently.



Largemouth Bass less than 16"



All Sunfish



Redhorse less than 23"



Sauger less than 14"



All Crappie



Walleye less than 19"



Flathead Catfish less than 19"



Buffalo less than 23"



Freshwater Drum less than 15"



Spotted Bass less than 10"



Channel Catfish less than 21"



White, Striped or Hybrid Striped Bass less than 12"



Smallmouth Bass less than 14"



All Rock Bass



Northern Pike less than 30"

## Fish Consumption Guidelines Interactive Map

The Indiana Fish Consumption Guidelines are available as a mobile friendly, interactive map at [on.IN.gov/FishConsumption](http://on.IN.gov/FishConsumption). Users can search by address, body of water, or county to find guidelines.

Image credit: Duane Raver, USFWS except Rock Bass by Rick Hill.





## WILD FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES GROUPS

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

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

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

## MAJOR LAKES & RIVERS WITH GROUP 4 & 5 SPECIES GUIDELINES\*

Water	County	Species	Size (inches)	Group
Clear Lake	LaPorte	Common Carp	All	5
		Largemouth Bass	All	4
East Fork White River	Daviess/Dubois/Lawrence/Martin	Largemouth Bass	All	4
Lake James Chain (James, Snow, Jimmerson, Big & Little Otter)	Steuben	Northern Pike	All	5**
Mississinewa River	Randolph	Channel Catfish	All	5
	Delaware/Grant/Miami/Wabash	Flathead Catfish	29+	4
Muscatatuck River	Jackson/Washington	Channel Catfish	18+	4
St. Joseph River	St. Joseph (Twin Branch Dam to IN/MI State Line)	Channel Catfish	20+	4
		Common Carp	All	5
		Redhorse Species	All	4
Sugar Creek	Parke County to Wabash River	Flathead Catfish	All	4
Wabash River	Fountain/Parke/Tippecanoe/Vermillion/Warren	Carp sucker Species	All	4
West Fork White River	Delaware/Hamilton (to Stony Creek)/Madison	Channel Catfish	All	5
	Marion (downstream of Broad Ripple Dam)/Morgan	Flathead Catfish	23+	4

\* Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines for a complete listing.

\*\* Group 5 for the sensitive population, group 3 for all others.

## LAKE MICHIGAN FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Bloater Chubs	One meal per month
Brown Trout	One meal per month
Chinook Salmon	One meal per month
Coho Salmon*	One meal per month
Lake Trout*	Up to 23" One meal per week
	23–29" One meal per month
	29"+ Do Not Eat
Lake Whitefish	One meal per week
Rainbow Smelt	One meal per week
Rainbow Trout	One meal per week
Yellow Perch	One meal per week

\* Indicates recent updates. Future updates to the Indiana Fish Consumption Guidelines can be found at [on.IN.gov/FishConsumption](https://on.in.gov/FishConsumption)

## OHIO RIVER FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Largemouth Bass*	One meal per month
Smallmouth Bass*	
Spotted Bass*	
Blue Catfish	One meal per week
Channel Catfish*	Up to 18" One meal per week
	18"+ Six meals per year
Common Carp*	One meal per week
Crappie Species	One meal per week
Flathead Catfish	One meal per month
Freshwater Drum	One meal per month
Hybrid Striped Bass	Six meals per year
Sauger	One meal per week
Striped Bass*	One meal per month
Sucker Species	One meal per month
Walleye/Saugeye*	One meal per month
White Bass	One meal per month

\* Indicates recent updates. Future updates to the Indiana Fish Consumption Guidelines can be found at [on.IN.gov/FishConsumption](https://on.IN.gov/FishConsumption)


# French-style Walleye with Butter and Capers

What's better than sizzling hot walleye inspired by French cuisine? This recipe is rich in flavor and a great way to cook your latest catch!

Recipe and photo provided by the Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports R3 Community Clearinghouse and chef Jenny Nguyen-Wheatley

## Walleye with Butter and Capers

 2 SERVINGS

 20 MINUTES

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 to 4 boneless walleye filets, skin on or off
- 2 tablespoons of capers, drained
- 2 tablespoons of all-purpose flour
- Kosher salt, to taste
- 6 tablespoons of butter, separated
- 1 lemon

### MEET THE CHEF

Jenny Nguyen-Wheatley, who immigrated to the US from Vietnam, was first introduced to hunting in college and started a cooking website, Food for Hunters. Since then, Jenny has written for numerous hunting and outdoor magazines, and co-authored—with her husband, Rick Wheatley—the book, *Hunting for Food: Guide to Harvesting, Field Dressing and Cooking Wild Game*.

[on.IN.gov/fishingguide](https://on.IN.gov/fishingguide)



### Instructions:

Rinse filets under cold water and dab dry with paper towels. Season with kosher salt and lightly dredge in flour. Set aside.

Add 4 tablespoons of butter to a pan and heat over medium-high. Allow plenty of room between filets. The butter will be hot enough when bubbles become small and sizzling stops.

Add the fish flesh-side down and cook until golden brown, aiming to cook three-quarters of the way through on this side. Add the capers between the filets to get crispy, stirring occasionally. If the capers brown too quickly, transfer them to a plate or bowl.

When the flesh side of the walleye becomes golden, carefully flip with a fish spatula and cook the skin side another 2-3 minutes until cooked through.

Add the remaining butter to the hot pan and baste the fish.

Squeeze lemon juice, to taste, over the filets. Serve hot with capers and leftover butter in the pan drizzled on top.

## GET INVOLVED WITH THE INDIANA DNR

**Be a DNR Volunteer**  
[on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer](https://on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer)

**Attend DNR Events**  
[events.IN.gov/dnr](https://events.IN.gov/dnr)

**Monitor Wildlife**  
[on.IN.gov/wildlife-monitoring](https://on.IN.gov/wildlife-monitoring)

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INDIANA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE  
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



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[on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund](https://on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund)

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources



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

### 3. District 3

Tyler Delauder  
Northeast Regional Office  
1353 S. Governors Drive  
Columbia City, IN 46725  
260-244-7049

### 4. District 4

Nathan Klein  
Cikana State Fish Hatchery  
2650 SR 44  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
317-864-1642

### 5. District 5

Dave Kittaka  
Bloomington Field Office  
5596 E. SR 46  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
812-287-8306

### 6. District 6

Andy Bueltmann  
Sugar Ridge FWA  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
812-817-0263

### Lake Michigan Office

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

### Big Rivers Fisheries Program

Phil Kacmar  
Sugar Ridge FWA  
2310 E. SR 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
812-817-0222

### Nongame Fisheries Program

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

## State Fish Hatcheries

State hatcheries do not sell fish. For a list of commercial fish suppliers, visit [dnr.IN.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/commercial-fish-suppliers](http://dnr.IN.gov/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/commercial-fish-suppliers).

### 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 46567  
574-457-8092

### 2. District 2 Headquarters

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

### 3. District 3 Headquarters

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

### 4. District 4 Headquarters

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

### 5. District 5 Headquarters

1317 W. Lieber Road  
Suite 2  
Cloverdale, IN 46120  
765-276-0196

### 6. District 6 Headquarters

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

### 7. District 7 Headquarters

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

### 8. District 8 Headquarters

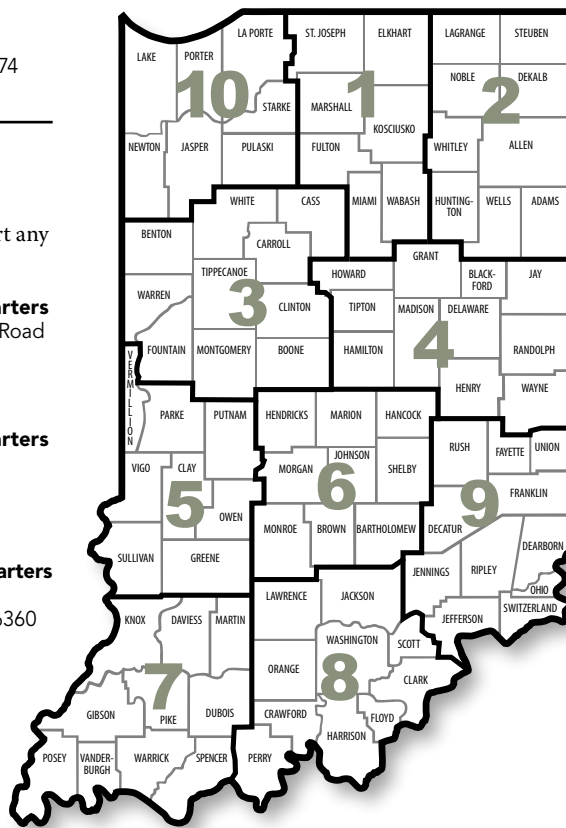
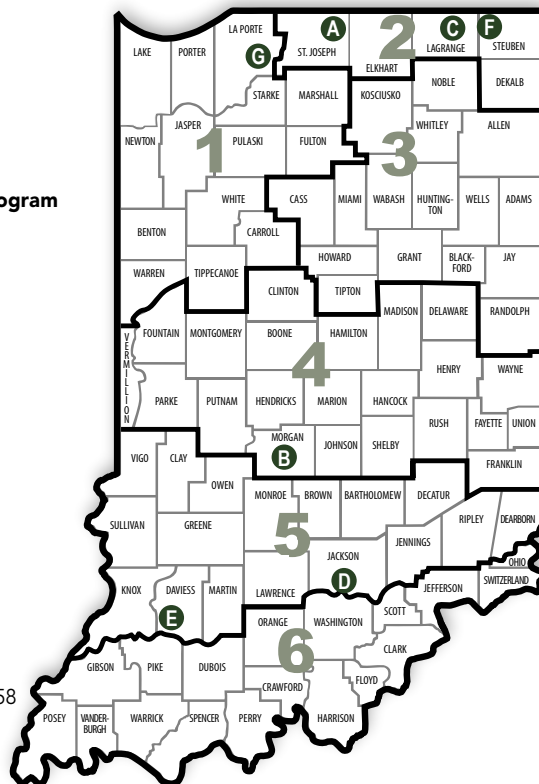
1504 Schlamm Lake Road  
Henryville, IN 47126  
812-639-4148

### 9. District 9 Headquarters

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

### 10. District 10 Headquarters

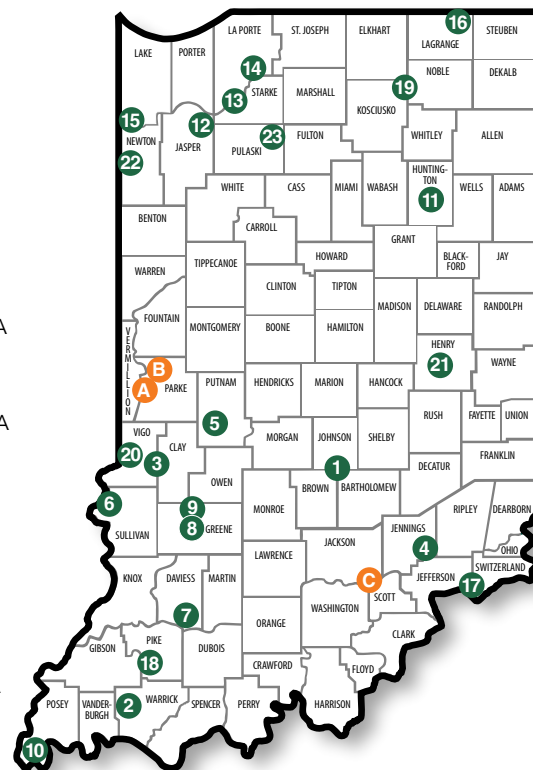
100 W. Water St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219-879-5710



## Fish & Wildlife Areas

1. **Atterbury FWA**  
7970 S. Rowe St.  
Edinburgh, IN 46124  
812-526-2051
2. **Blue Grass FWA**  
11699 New Harmony Rd  
Elberfeld, IN 47613  
Contact Sugar Ridge FWA
3. **Chinook FWA**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
4. **Crosley FWA**  
2010 S. SR 3  
North Vernon, IN 47265  
812-346-5596
5. **Deer Creek FWA**  
2001 W. CR 600 S.  
Greencastle, IN 46135  
765-653-0453
6. **Fairbanks Landing FWA**  
925 N. & N. County Road  
800 W.  
Fairbanks, IN 47849  
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**  
700 N. & SR 59  
Jasonville, IN 47438  
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 364  
Winslow, IN 47598  
812-789-2724
19. **Tri-County FWA**  
8432 N. 850 E.  
Syracuse, IN 46567  
574-834-4461
20. **Wabashiki FWA**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
21. **Wilbur Wright FWA**  
2239 N. SR 103  
New Castle, IN 47362  
Contact J.E. Roush Lake FWA
22. **Willow Slough FWA**  
1803 S. 700 W.  
Morocco, IN 47963  
219-285-2704
23. **Winamac FWA**  
1493 W. 500 N.  
Winamac, IN 46996  
574-946-4422

- A. Wabash River (HRI)**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- B. Sugar Creek (HRI)**  
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- C. Austin Bottoms (HRI)**  
Contact Crosley FWA



## State Lakes, Parks, and Forests

- A. Brookville Lake** – 765-647-2657
- B. Cagles Mill Lake** – 765-276-0194
- C. Cecil M. Harden Lake** – 765-344-1412
- D. Hardy Lake** – 812-794-3800
- E. Mississinewa Lake** – 765-473-6528
- F. Monroe Lake** – 812-837-9546
- G. Patoka Lake** – 812-338-5589
- H. Salamonie Lake** – 260-468-2125

### ● - State Forests with Fishing:

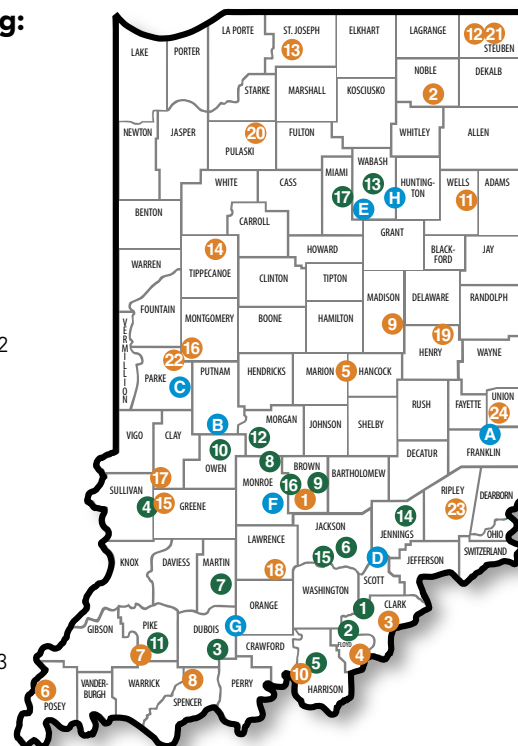
1. **Clark SF** – 812-294-4306
2. **Deam Lake SRA\*** – 812-246-5421
3. **Ferdinand SF** – 812-827-2857
4. **Greene-Sullivan SF** – 812-648-2810
5. **Harrison-Crawford SF** – 812-738-7694
6. **Jackson-Washington SF** – 812-358-2160
7. **Martin SF** – 812-247-3491
8. **Morgan-Monroe SF** – 765-792-4654
9. **Mountain Tea SF** – 812-988-7945
10. **Owen-Putnam SF** – 812-829-2462
11. **Pike SF** – 812-827-2857
12. **Ravinia SF** – 765-792-4654
13. **Salamonie River SF** – 260-782-0430
14. **Selmier SF** – 812-346-2286
15. **Starve Hollow SRA\*** – 812-358-3464
16. **Yellowwood SF** – 812-988-7945
17. **Frances Slocum SF** – 260-782-0430

\* Managed by Indiana State Parks.  
For state parks offering fishing, see  
[on.IN.gov/recguide](http://on.IN.gov/recguide) or [stateparks.IN.gov](http://stateparks.IN.gov).

### ● - State Parks with Fishing:

1. **Brown County SP** – 812-988-6406
2. **Chain O'Lakes SP** – 260-636-2654
3. **Charlestown SP\*** – 812-256-5600
4. **Falls of the Ohio SP\*** – 812-280-9970
5. **Fort Harrison SP** – 317-591-0904
6. **Harmonie SP** – 812-682-4821
7. **Interlake OSRA** – 812-922-0002
8. **Lincoln SP** – 812-937-4710
9. **Mounds SP\*** – 765-642-6627
10. **O'Bannon Woods SP\*** – 812-738-8232
11. **Ouabache SP** – 260-824-0926
12. **Pokagon SP** – 260-833-2012
13. **Potato Creek SP** – 574-656-8186
14. **Prophetstown SP** – 765-567-4919
15. **Redbird OSRA** – 812-847-0146
16. **Shades SP** – 765-435-2810
17. **Shakamak SP** – 812-665-2158
18. **Spring Mill SP** – 812-849-3534
19. **Summit Lake SP** – 765-766-5873
20. **Tippecanoe River SP\*** – 574-946-3213
21. **Trine SRA** – 260-833-2012
22. **Turkey Run SP\*** – 765-597-2635
23. **Versailles SP** – 812-689-6424
24. **Whitewater Memorial SP** – 765-458-5565

\* River or stream fishing only; no lakes





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or 1-877-LODGES 1

**Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations**  
**[camp.IN.gov](http://camp.IN.gov)**

or 1-866-622-6746

**DNR**  
Indiana Department  
of Natural Resources

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



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# *The fishing is GREAT in Northern Indiana Lakes Country!*

**T**he 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!



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