

INDIANA

FISHING

REGULATIONS GUIDE

2026-2027

ANGLING AROUND THE CORNER

How DNR Connects
Hoosiers to Fish
Close to Home

INSIDE

- **FREE** Fishing Days
- Spotlight on Fish Stocking & Public Access
- 2025 Fish of the Year Results
- Durable Hard Cards Now Available
- Record Fish Highlights
- Grilled Bass and Pea Pasta Recipe

DNR

Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

FROM THE **PROGRESSIVE** COLLECTION

INSURE YOUR PASSION[®]



He gave her fuel. She gave him thrills. Progressive gave them peace of mind—
with up to \$10,000 of optional fishing equipment coverage because rods and reels
are replaceable, even if the stories aren't.

1-800-PROGRESSIVE | [PROGRESSIVE.COM](https://www.progressive.com)

Get an online
quote in as little
as 4 minutes



Progressive Casualty Insurance Co. & affiliates. No. 1 rating based on 2023 filings with state departments of insurance.
Fishing Equipment coverage is subject to policy terms. Prices vary based on how you buy.

INDIANA
FISHING
REGULATIONS GUIDE



14

Angling Around the Corner:
How DNR Connects Hoosiers
to Fish Close to Home



16

Fish of the Year
and Record Fish



30

Grilled Bass and
Pea Pasta Recipe

Content

Welcome	4	Black Bass Regulations	18
Free Fishing Days	4	Special Regulations for Rivers & Streams	19
License Information	6	Inland Trout Regulations	20
Statewide Size & Bag Limits	8	Lake Michigan Regulations	22
Fishing Regulations	8	Ohio River Regulations	24
Basic Fishing Information	10	Reptiles & Amphibians	25
Netting and Trapping Regulations	12	Lake Sturgeon	25
DNR Program Spotlight	14	Indiana Fish Identification	26
Conservation Funding	14	Fish Consumption	28
DNR Resource Tacklebox	15	Grilled Bass and Pea Pasta Recipe	30
Record Fish and Fish of the Year	16	Contact	31

Governor:
Mike Braun

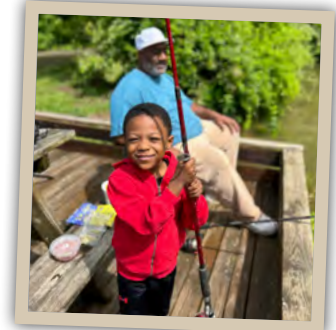
DNR Director:
Alan Morrison

**Fish, Wildlife & Nature
Preserves Director:**
Amanda Wuestefeld

Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. RM 273
Indianapolis, IN 46204



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



On the Cover:

A young angler poses with his fishing pole at Delaware Lake in Fort Harrison State Park.

Photo by Jennifer Boyce



I love teaching the next generation to fish and love fishing.

I honed my fondness of the sport growing up in northern Indiana near Lake Michigan, mostly on that Great Lake and on Salt Creek.

For the sake of convenience, now that I'm fortunate to live on a private lake in Clay County, my fishing trips usually don't take me too far. From that shore, I enjoy landing bluegill, crappie, and bass when they're biting, and just relaxing if I happen to get skunked.

Summer days and evenings are great when I have friends over and they bring their kids. Especially after that first little bluegill hits their line, they are hooked on fishing, and I'm re-hooked, again and again.

I hope these frequent get-togethers will whet their appetites for the long term as they grow older, drawing them to the huge variety of public waters the DNR works so hard to make into and manage as long term, productive fisheries for all Hoosiers.

From our many scenic rivers and streams to our reservoirs and natural lakes, as I've found and they will too, it's not just catching fish that makes fishing so enjoyable, it's being outside, unplugging, and being close to nature.

Good luck on the water throughout the year, no matter where you cast. As you enjoy, make sure to share your love of the sport with someone who may not have discovered it yet, and you'll get re-hooked, too.

Alan Morrison
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



From Lake Michigan to the Ohio River, Indiana is bordered by some of the biggest fisheries in the country. But in between, hidden gems often wait just around the corner. From old family secret fishing holes to well-stocked neighborhood ponds, our state is full of opportunities for reeling in a catch. Wherever you live, fishing is far more accessible than packing your bags for a trip to one of our more famous rivers or lakes.

Whether I'm floating down a river in east-central Indiana, fishing in the neighbors' farm pond, or enjoying a day on a local reservoir, fishing is always an adventure. It renews my love of nature and the outdoors and provides me a wonderful opportunity to clear my mind.

Opening plentiful fishing opportunities like these to Hoosiers requires both managing our resources across the state and helping inform anglers about how to use them. Our passionate staff work at every level to help fulfill these missions in innovative ways. In this year's guide, I'm thrilled to showcase this work with an inside look at how we support Indiana fisheries and spread the word about the many ways anyone can get out and fish.

There are so many different pictures that can be painted of fishing, depending on the individual angler. That's part of what makes it so exciting. Countless stories can unfold in surprising directions, each one-of-a-kind. Good luck this year as you go catch a new story of your own!

Amanda Wuestefeld
Director, DNR Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves



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



About This Guide

This high-quality guide is brought to you by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

The revenue generated through ad sales in this publication significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important agency programs and we thank the advertisers for their support.



**Have questions or feedback?
Interested in advertising?**

Please contact us at 413.884.1001

Related education & courses include:

- boat-ed.com®
- hunter-ed.com™
- bowhunter-ed.com™

ilearntoat

Visit **Kalkomey.com** to explore the complete suite of educational courses.

The fishing regulations in this guide are online at:



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

LET OTHERS KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING
KNOW AND BRING WHAT YOU'LL NEED
KNOW THE WATER CONDITIONS
KNOW THE WEATHER FORECAST



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Louisville District



To Our Anglers

Welcome to the 2026 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 to fish that originate from or are taken from Indiana's public waters. Fish from public waters that migrate into or from private waters are still covered by these regulations. These regulations do not apply to fish in private waters that did not originate from public waters.

This guide is not intended to be a complete digest of regulations. If you need complete versions of Indiana rules and regulations for fishing, they can be found in Indiana Code (iga.IN.gov) or in Indiana Administrative Code Title 312 (IN.gov/legislative/iac).

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

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 & Nature Preserves. The funding stream you provide helps make conservation of Indiana's natural resources a success.

Finally, we wish you luck in your 2026 fishing endeavors. We hope you get your best catch yet.

Indiana DFWNP Activity Hub

The Division of Fish, Wildlife & Nature Preserves' (DFWNP) Activity Hub completed its first year of serving hunters and anglers after replacing the previous license system in December 2024. Logging in through Access Indiana gives access to license sales, game check-in, HIP registration, donations, and other core functions. For resources helping navigate the new system, visit <https://www.GoOutdoorsIN.com/help-support>.

Customers who have questions regarding their accounts should call the DNR Customer Service Center at 317-232-4200 or 877-463-6367, or email INHuntFish@dnr.IN.gov.

Stay up to date with regulation changes, projects, and wildlife news by following us on YouTube, Facebook [@INFishandWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/INFishandWildlife) and Instagram [@INFishWildlife](https://www.instagram.com/INFishWildlife) and signing up for DFWNP newsletters in your Activity Hub account.

Help us make the Fishing Guide work for you by completing this survey:



Free Fishing Days

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

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.

May 10 • June 6-7 • Sept. 26

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT:
dnr.IN.gov/fishfree



Ford

INDIANAPOLIS BOAT, SPORT & TRAVEL SHOW™

INDIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

RENPRO PRODUCTIONS

2026 DATES
Feb. 20-22 & 25-Mar. 1, 2026

2027 DATES
Feb. 19-21 & 24-28, 2027

The latest in Boats, RVs, Aisles of Tackle, Fishing Guides, Charter Captains, Pro Seminars & More!

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LARGEST SPORT SHOW IN THE NATION AT INDYSPORTSHOW.COM

Dunham's

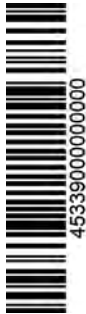
SPORTS®

Big Names....Low Prices!

15% OFF*

Regular Price Of Any One Item In Stock With Coupon

*Excludes Firearms, Ammunition, Nike & Under Armour. Additional exclusions may apply, see www.dunhamssports.com/couponexclusions.html for details. Not valid for online purchases or Gift Cards. Cannot be used with another offer, coupon, current sale, or clearance item. Only one coupon per customer. Not valid on previous purchases. Void if copied. Not for resale. Dunham's Sports reserves the right to terminate this coupon/offer/discount at any time, without prior notice.



Coupon Expires January 31, 2027

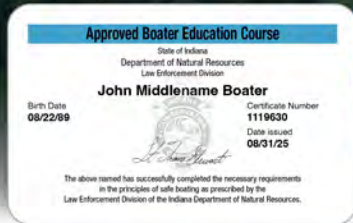
== GET IN THE ==

GAME®



26-P-200

ilearntoboat™



FISHING FROM THE BOAT IN INDIANA?

To operate a motorboat over 10 hp, anyone 15 or older without a driver's license must have a boater education card.

Get certified today at ilearntoboat.com



Cass County Fishing



France Park



Eel & Wabash Rivers



We have Kayaking Rental Too!



www.visitcasscountyin.com



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 also 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 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 GoOutdoorsIN.com. Online license purchases have an additional support system maintenance fee and credit card processing fee on each transaction. Fees are subject to change.

In Person

Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at 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., Room W255C
Indianapolis, IN, 46204

Be sure to include the \$1 tech fee.

2026 LICENSE FEES

Fees listed below are valid from April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.*

Licenses	Resident ¹	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) ²	\$3	N/A	N/A
Senior Fish for Life ² (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/licenses-and-permits/license-fees/ or call 317-232-4200.

¹ See resident description located at the left of this chart.

² 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

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include:

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

By Phone

Call 317-232-4200 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 of Indiana farmland, resident lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land, and the spouses and children living with them while hunting, fishing, or trapping 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 the members of an immediate family. Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber, or the raising of livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes. There is no acreage requirement to qualify for this exemption.
- 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 DNR at 317-232-4200 or by downloading the application at on.IN.gov/dav-licenses.

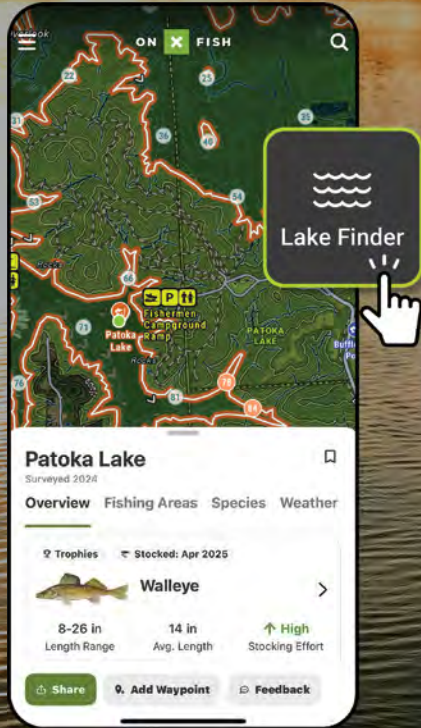
Mail the completed form to:

DNR Customer Service Center
402 W. Washington St., Room W255C
Indianapolis, IN 46204

ON X FISH

KNOW WHERE TO GO

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD ONX FISH FOR 3 MONTHS FREE



ONXFISH.COM



2380 N STATE ROAD 135, BARGERSVILLE, IN
WWW.HONEYCREEKTACKLE.COM • 317.422.0102



Authorized Service Center



**FIREARMS • TACKLE •
APPAREL • AMMO •
ARCHERY • MARINE •**

*Indiana's Outdoor Headquarters
Family-owned • Since 2005*

**\$10.00 OFF YOUR
PURCHASE**

Bring this coupon to Honey Creek Tackle and receive \$10 off any in-store purchase.

Offer Valid In-Store Only

Expires: December 31st, 2026

Limit one coupon per customer

Not valid with other discounts or promotions

No cash value

Must present coupon at time of purchase



INDIANA'S STATEWIDE SIZE & BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Bluegill	Unlimited ⁷ (exceptions: page 12)	None
Redear Sunfish	25 ⁷ (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 18)
Black Bass: largemouth ⁶ , smallmouth ⁶ , and spotted bass ⁶ (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 19)
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass (in Lake Michigan)	3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches
Yellow Bass ⁶	Unlimited	None
White Bass ⁶ , Hybrid Striped Bass ⁶	12, any combination of white bass or hybrid striped bass	No more than two fish may exceed 17 inches
Striped Bass ⁶	2	None
Rock Bass ⁶	25	None
Crappie ⁶	25 ⁷ (exceptions: page 12)	None ¹
Walleye ⁶ , Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye) ⁶ , Sauger ⁶	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: page 12)
Muskellunge ⁶ and Tiger Muskellunge ⁶	1 muskellunge or 1 tiger muskellunge	36 inches ²
Northern Pike	3 ³	24 inches; no more than one 30 inches or longer ⁴
Yellow Perch	Unlimited (15 only on Lake Michigan)	None
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in rivers and 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)	10 ⁵ (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
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Unlimited	25 inches (fork length)

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). See page 24 for Ohio River restrictions.

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. Snares are not allowed on the Ohio River.

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. Limb lines are not allowed on the Ohio River.

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. All paddlefish caught with sport fishing gear must be released. 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.

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.

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

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

³ No more than 6 per day from Hamilton Lake (Steuben County).

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

⁵ No bag limit for channel catfish at Turtle Creek Reservoir.

⁶ See the Ohio River Regulations on page 24.

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

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 200 yards of any dam structure located on any stream, river, ditch, canal, or reservoir. See page 24 for Ohio River restrictions.

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. See page 24 for Ohio River restrictions.

Ice Fishing

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 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 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 200 yards of a dam on an Indiana waterway or boundary water. Limb lines and drop lines cannot be used within 300 yards of a dam. 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 fish within 50 feet of a low head dam.

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, redbreast 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 — 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.
- 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). 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.
- 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.

Boating

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

On State-owned, leased, or managed lakes smaller than 300 acres, only electric trolling motors may be used. No more than two 12-volt batteries or one 24-volt battery can be used to power trolling motors on these waters. Idle speed is required on several lakes on Blue Grass Fish & Wildlife Area.

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 206-815-6623 for Lake Michigan, 502-779-5400 for southern Indiana, or see 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 & Nature Preserves 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

Your Conservation Dollars at Work



Beginning in 2022, DNR has planted spatterdock and water lily at Kokomo Reservoir as part of Indiana's Reservoir Habitat Enhancement program. In response to tremendous growth, staff planted 220 new water lily buds in the summer of 2025. These projects across the state keep Hoosier lakes healthy, making them better homes for fish and better destinations for anglers like you.

on.IN.gov/fishhabitat

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 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 ¼ 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.



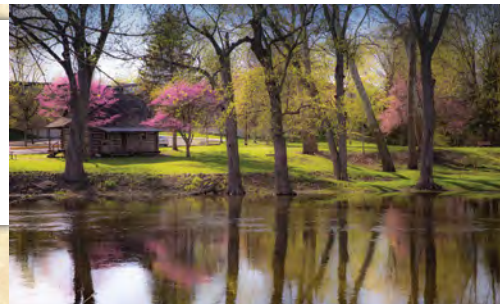
AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

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 exist for pheasant, quail and dove hunting. Wetland trapping is always permitted. Two two-acre ponds are home to bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass waiting to challenge master anglers and recreational fishers alike.

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

WWW.SIMPLYPULASKI.COM



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 bodies of water 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 3/8 inch from point to shank.

Walleye, Sauger & Saugeye Size Limits

Walleye taken from all public waters (lakes, rivers, and streams) south of State Road 26 must be 14 inches or longer. Walleye taken north of State Road 26 must be 16 inches in length or longer, except for:

- Bass Lake (Starke County) and Wolf Lake (Lake County); minimum size 14 inches
- Lake George (Steuben County); minimum size 15 inches
- Wall Lake (LaGrange County); minimum size 16 inches with a daily bag limit of two walleye

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

Find out more about the fish populations at your favorite lake at on.IN.gov/fishing-trends

(Sullivan County), where saugeye must be 14 inches in length or longer.

Sauger are included in the aggregate bag limit for walleye and saugeye.

See page 24 for Ohio River restrictions.

Special Regulation Waters

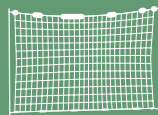
On Fidler Pond in Elkhart County, Failing Lake (also known as Gentian Lake) in Steuben County, and Flat Fork Creek Park ponds A and B in Hamilton County, a person cannot take more than:

- 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

Netting & Trapping Rules

When using nets and traps, be aware of the legal collection methods and which species can be collected legally. The following diagrams show examples of common species and attributes to look for when identifying them. **Must have a valid sportfishing license.**

COLLECTION METHODS



Seine



Cast Net

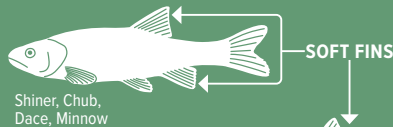


Trap

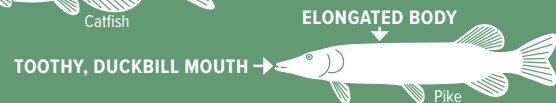
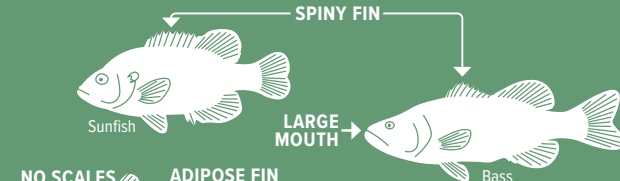


Dip Net

LEGAL SPECIES



ILLEGAL SPECIES



Additional illegal species can be found at on.IN.gov/fish-netting.

Detailed information can be found at on.IN.gov/fish-netting. For more information, please contact your district fisheries biologist.

SMOKER CRAFT

PURSuing OUR PASSION ON THE WATER FOR FIVE GENERATIONS AND OVER 100 YEARS



VIPER XR 175 PRO

SMOKER CRAFT, INC.
SMOKERCRAFTINCORPORATED.COM



SCAN TO SEE THE FULL
SMOKER CRAFT LINE-UP

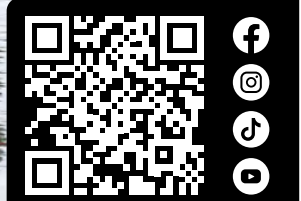
STARCRAFT MARINE

PURSuing OUR PASSION
SINCE 1903



DELTA 178 SC PRO

SMOKER CRAFT, INC.
SMOKERCRAFTINCORPORATED.COM



Angling Around the Corner: How DNR Connects Hoosiers with Fish Close to Home

By Ethan Rice

Across Indiana, in between the rivers and reservoirs, awaits an atlas of opportunity for anyone seeking fish. Hoosier anglers often don't need to journey far, as some of the best "fishin' holes" could be just down their block.

Every year, DNR works to increase access to the state's aquatic resources. Two of the main long-running programs that do so are fish stocking and public access.

Indiana's seven state fish hatcheries annually produce 23 million fish of 18 different species and strains and deliver them across the state. Anglers frequenting city ponds and lakes have likely encountered these fish, particularly channel catfish. The species' water quality tolerance and broad diet make channel cats ideal candidates for these sites.

The center of the state's channel catfish production is Cikana State Fish Hatchery in Morgan County. There, channel catfish are raised longer than other species before stocking, to protect their small young – called fry – that would be easy prey for larger fish if released in the wild. That means by the time they're stocked near you, they're already big enough to catch.

Jeff Malwitz, Cikana's property manager, has worked at the hatchery for 42 years. While a lot has changed, the mission has stayed the same.

He still enjoys watching people line up to try their luck as his team stocks their local spot.

More info on DNR's fish stocking program is at on.IN.gov/fish-stocking.

While channel cats can be caught from shore, if you're looking to fish from a boat, the DNR has been improving your opportunities to get on public waters since 1953. When things first got rolling, the public access program had big goals, including securing access points every 10 miles along Indiana's rivers. Bill Seegers, who oversees the southern portion of the program, says almost all of those goals have been met.

As a result, much of the program's work these days involves updating existing sites to meet the ever-changing nature of the waterways. While still pursuing those same goals laid out decades ago, the program's recent additions, such as canoe and kayak access for paddlers and floating piers for anglers with disabilities, continue to expand access into the future.

More information on the public access program can be found at on.IN.gov/fish-boat-access.

To learn more about the tools and services provided by DNR to help Hoosiers make a habit of fishing close to home, check out the "tacklebox" of helpful tools on the next page.

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 portion 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, boater, 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 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.



YOUR Resource Tackle Box



Where to Fish Map on.IN.gov/where2fish

Discover your next fishing spot or boat launch using the interactive Where to Fish map.



Fish & Wildlife Events IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/events

Find fishing events near you on the Events page.



Learn to Fish on.IN.gov/learn2fish

Fishing is for everyone. The Learn to Fish webpage has educational resources for all levels of anglers.



Indiana Fish Stocking on.IN.gov/fish-stocking

Learn which fish species are being stocked near you.



Fishing Species & Identification on.IN.gov/fish-id

Get to know the fish in Indiana's waters.



Free Fishing Days on.IN.gov/freefish

During Free Fishing Days, Indiana residents can fish the state's public waters for free, no fishing license needed.



Women on the Water on.IN.gov/women-anglers

Women across Indiana are casting lines, making memories, and starting new friendships, all while enjoying the benefits of fishing.



DNR App IN.gov/core/mobile/dnr-app.html

Download the Indiana DNR Mobile App to access maps, regulations, public fishing locations and more.



Indiana Fishing Reports on.IN.gov/fishing-reports

Check conditions at your favorite fishing spot, get spawning updates, and more with our fishing reports.



Fishing Trip Planner www.indianafishingplanner.com

Use the Fishing Trip Planner to organize your next Indy-area fishing adventure.



Licenses & Permits on.IN.gov/fishinglicense

Before heading out for a day of fishing, be sure to have a valid Indiana fishing license. Purchase online at the Indiana DNR webpage or in person at participating outdoor retailers or DNR properties.



Cookin' Gone Wild IN.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/files/fw-DFW_recipes.pdf

Explore the Cookin' Gone Wild recipe book for easy, locally sourced fish and wild game meals the whole family will love.



2025 Was Most Competitive Year Yet for FOTY

Indiana anglers break record with over 250 submissions

DNR received 254 Fish of the Year submissions, representing 81 fish species. The longest was a 47-inch blue catfish caught by Jeffrey Rhone in the Ohio River in Perry County. The smallest was a 2-inch black-stripe topminnow caught by Landon Kellett in Airline Lake in Greene County. The Wabash River and Lake Michigan were the sources for the most entries in 2025.

Steven Kellett captured the most FOTY records, with 17 winning entries. He was followed by Noah Haas with 9 and Nathan Cichocki with 7. Congratulations to all the winning anglers. See the complete list of winners at on.IN.gov/recordfish.

Anglers who plan to submit entries this year must remember that to be eligible, they are required to submit a quality photo showing the full length of their catch while on a measuring board or tape. If you think you've

caught a winner, there are two easy ways to enter: online or via email.

- For online entries, enter the required information using the online entry form at on.IN.gov/recordfish.
- For email entries, submit an electronic version of the entry form and attach a quality photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.

Entries must be submitted online or emailed by Dec. 15 of the calendar year the fish was caught. Entries received after the deadline will be eligible for the next year. Winners are notified by mail and receive an award certificate and a commemorative patch.



40.5 inch Northern pike from Marsh Lake caught by Jacob Phillips.

Making Record Fish History with Indiana Anglers

For 63 years, the Indiana Record Fish program has tracked the most exciting Hoosier catches by anglers across the state. Anyone can catch a record fish, from first timers to lifetime anglers. 2025 saw several records broken. On the Whitewater River in Dearborn County, Tyler Bauman caught a 9 oz. mooneye, surpassing the previous .36 lb. record from the Ohio River that had stood since 2019. The record for longnose gar was broken by Justin Brown with a 23.76 lb. catch on the Ohio River in Floyd County.

Indiana's State Record Fish and Fish of the Year programs couldn't exist without our anglers, whose ambitions maintain the stiff competition each year. Thank you for making record fish history with us!

SCAN
to check out
the Record
Fish Program



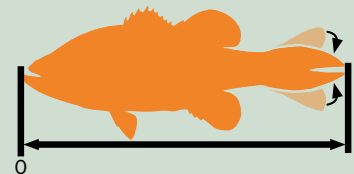
on.IN.gov/recordfish



Tyler Bauman poses with his state record mooneye.

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

FIND YOUR CATCH

IN PARKE COUNTY, INDIANA



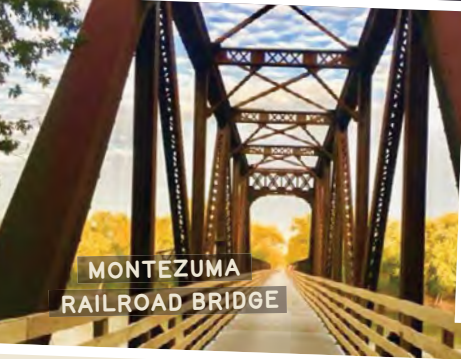
TURKEY RUN & SHADES STATE PARKS



INDIANA'S LARGEST FESTIVAL
PARKE COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL
OCT 9-18, 2026 • OCT 8-17, 2027



Indiana
Parke County
Covered Bridge Capital of the World



MONTEZUMA
RAILROAD BRIDGE



RACCOON LAKE SRA



ROCKVILLE LAKE PARK

ATTRACTIONS

- Bridgeton Mill
765-548-0106
- Covered Bridge Art Gallery
765-569-9422
- Covered Bridge Festival
765-569-5226
- Mansfield Roller Mill
765-344-0741
- Raccoon Lake
765-344-1412
- Raccoon Lake Boat Rental
765-344-1989
- Rockville Lake Park
765-569-6541
- Shades State Park
765-435-2810
- Sugar Valley Canoes
765-597-2364
- Thirty-Six Saloon
765-569-9441
- Turkey Run Canoe & Camping
765-597-2029
- Turkey Run State Park
765-597-2635

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.

See page 24 for Ohio River restrictions.

Lake Limits

15-inch minimum size limit:

- Patoka Lake (Orange, Dubois, and Crawford counties)

16-inch minimum size limit:

- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Raccoon SRA in Parke County)

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

- Ball Lake (Steuben County)
- Blue Grass Pit, 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 (Davies County)

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

- Big Long Lake (LaGrange County)

No minimum size limit waters:

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



It's not clear who coined the phrase "The Great Outdoors," but we have that in abundance in Celina and Clay County. Celina is the gateway to Dale Hollow Lake, and the abundance of outdoor activities that happen around that body of water. You need to come see the other things we have to do in The Great Outdoors!



VisitClayCountyTN.com
dalehollowlake.org • 931-243-3338

- 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).

Invasive Carp Permit Program

Indiana DNR has finalized a permanent rule to create an Invasive Carp Harvest Permit (312 IAC 9-10-28) allowing eligible fishers to use specialized gear to harvest and sell invasive carp from designated Indiana waters, with regulations to protect native fish species.



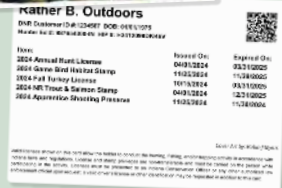
For Program & Permit Information Scan Here:



Or Email:
CarpHarvestPermit@dnr.IN.gov

Durable Hard Cards Now Available

Take your license anywhere with new cards designed by Hoosier artists!



Available to order anywhere licenses are sold.

GLENDALE

Fish & Wildlife

**PACK UP.
HEAD OUT.
MAKE MEMORIES.**



PITCH YOUR TENT UNDER STARRY SKIES, REEL IN YOUR NEXT BIG CATCH, OR SPEND A QUIET MORNING IN THE BLINDS. WHETHER YOU'RE HERE TO CAMP, HUNT, OR FISH, GLENDALE IS YOUR GO-TO GETAWAY FOR FRESH AIR AND UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS.

Visit
DAVISS COUNTY
WWW.VISITDAVISSCOUNTY.COM

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 and tributaries 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 is 6 a.m. local time on 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.

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

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.

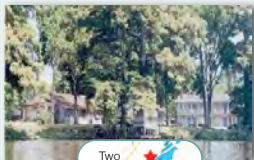
- Rainbow Pit located on Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area, approximately 1 mile east of Ontario in LaGrange County
- Little Elkhart River and Rowe-Eden Ditch in LaGrange County
- Solomon Creek and Cobus Creek in Elkhart County
- Little Kankakee River in LaPorte County from CR 800 E upstream to Division 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.

REELFOOT LAKE



www.reelfootlake.com

Fishing packages include:

Lakefront lodging, boat, motor, gas, bait & ice.

Customize your package:

Choose which day of the week you start!

Choose how many days of fishing and nights of lodging you need and we'll give you your rate!

We also have a RV campground at each site with full hookup and offer nightly camping or fishing packages!

SPORTSMAN'S RESORT

100 Sportsman's Resort Lane, Tiptonville, TN

731-253-6581

sportsmansresort@reelfootlake.com



Indiana

Life jackets
save lives.

USE THEM.

WearIt.IN.gov



STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.

StopAquaticHitchhikers.org



- INSPECT and REMOVE aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, trailer and equipment.
- DRAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, livewell, and bait containers away from landing.
- DISPOSE of unwanted live bait, fish parts, and worms in the trash.
- SPRAY/RINSE boat and equipment with high-pressure wash or hot water, OR
- DRY everything for at least five days before going into another body of water.
- NEVER release organisms from one

GROW YOUR SKILLS IN THE STATE YOU LOVE.

Advance in an exciting career while staying in your hometown with the Guard. It only takes one weekend of paid training a month to make a difference in your community.



Visit nationalguard.com/in or scan for more info



UNCOMMON IS CALLING



With you wherever you go.

The most up-to-date fishing regulations online!

eRegulations.com

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
Chinook Salmon		
Coho Salmon		
Pink Salmon		
Brown Trout		
Lake Trout		
Steelhead Trout		
Yellow Perch	15 (on Lake Michigan only)	None
Lake Whitefish	12	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 body of 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 18.

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.

The St. Joseph River's trout and salmon fishery is maintained through a series of fish ladders, including the South Bend Fish Ladder, which has guided fish upstream since 1992. DFWNP monitors fish passage here to inform management action. To learn more about the ladder and track fish movement through it, visit <https://on.in.gov/south-bend-fish-ladder>.

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.

RMA OUTFITTERS

Affordable trophy whitetail hunts in N.W. Missouri



5-Day, Fully Guided, Fair Chase Hunts with Lodging start at only \$1,800.00!

Thousands of private acres.
No trophy fees or hidden charges.

**YES YOU CAN!
CALL TODAY: (305) 606-1611**

www.rmaoutfitters.com

Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

Toll Free 814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org



Leave box turtles in the wild!

In Indiana, box turtles are protected, and it is illegal to take them from the wild.

Box turtles don't make good pets. They can live for several decades and can easily outlive their owner. They are difficult and expensive to care for and cannot legally be released into the wild after being captive. DNR does not take unwanted box turtles.

Anonymously report any collection or sale of box turtles to the DNR Division of Law Enforcement at **812-837-9536**.

on.IN.gov/box-turtle

Poachers give all hunters & anglers a bad name.

Help us stop these criminals.

If you witness poaching or know someone who is stealing Hoosiers' wildlife, call the Turn In a Poacher (TIP) hotline: **1-800-TIP-IDNR**.

- You do not have to provide your name or contact information.
- Rewards of \$500 are available if your information leads to the arrest of someone who has taken fish and/or wildlife illegally. TIP also provides rewards for pollution cases that lead to the death of fish or wildlife.
- TIP is monitored 24 hours a day—you may call any time.



tip.IN.gov



DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

Connect with us!



wildlife.IN.gov



DFW@dnr.IN.gov



317-234-8440



[@INfishandwildlife](https://www.facebook.com/INfishandwildlife)



[@INFishWildlife](https://www.instagram.com/INFishWildlife)



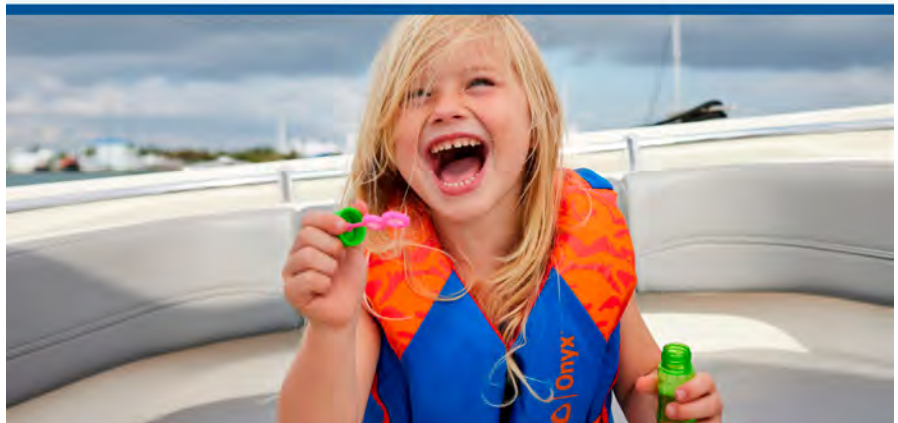
[@idnrvideos](https://www.youtube.com/@idnrvideos)



Survival Starts with the Vest

Learn proper fit, smart selection, and simple maintenance that saves lives.

Take the course at boat-ed.com/Lifejacket



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, striped, 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		

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 (hooks) attached that are placed no closer together than 18 inches and have no more than one single- or multi-barbed hook. Limb lines and bank poles are not legal to use in the Ohio River.

Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours and must be set at least 3 feet below the surface of the water. 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.

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:

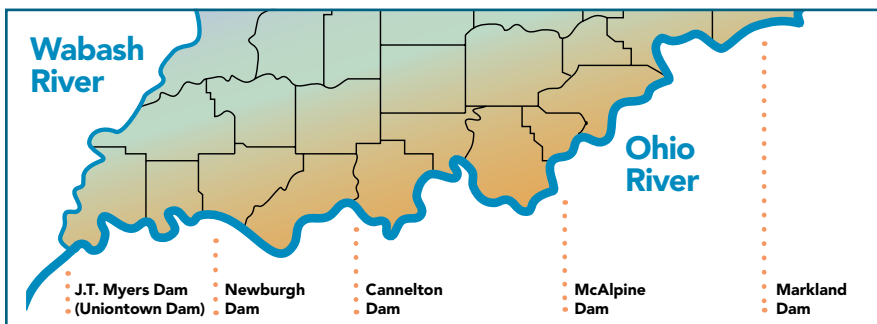
- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam)—15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off SR 66
- Cannelton Dam—follow Taylor Street south from SR 66 in Cannelton
- McAlpine Dam—located at Clarksville
- Falls of the Ohio 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 & 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, 2026 to March 31, 2027	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, 2026 to April 30, 2027	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				

Reptiles & Amphibians

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

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
fishing.IN.gov



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:

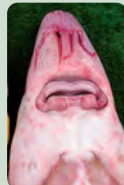
- No lobes on upper lip
- Two lobes on lower lip

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 25 inches fork length to keep; no bag limit.*



SNOUT:

- Shovel-shaped, flattened
- Four fringed barbels under snout

MOUTH:

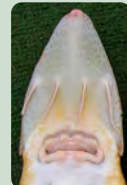
- Four lobes on upper lip
- Four lobes on lower lip

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 Sunfish

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 Bass

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. Visit on.IN.gov/fish-id for more information.

REELFOOT LAKE

TENNESSEE



REELFOOT LAKE is located in the Northwest corner of Tennessee. This 15,500-acre lake is located 5 miles from the Mississippi River, a major migratory path for waterfowl.

REELFOOT LAKE is the only large, natural lake in Tennessee and one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries making it a favorite fishing lake of America's Pro and recreational fishermen. Created by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, the shallow, cypress-filled waters are ideal for crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish.

Visit our website for more information, lodging, fishing packages and guide service www.reelfoottourism.com

REELFOOT LAKE TOURISM COUNCIL
1605 State Route 21 E
Tiptonville, TN 38079
731-253-2007



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 that 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.

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 bodies of water, 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 bodies of water that have been tested for environmental contaminants. If a body of water that 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.



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



Fish Consumption Guidelines

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

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
Fairfield Ditch*	Allen
Government Ditch	Cass/Miami
Grand Calumet River/ Indiana Harbor Canal	Lake
Hankins Ditch*	Shelby
Kokomo Creek	Howard County Downstream of the Dam in Highland Park
Little Deer Creek	Cass
Little Sugar Creek/Walnut Fork	Montgomery
Marquette/Grand Calumet/ Miller Lagoons	Lake
Salt Creek	Lawrence/Monroe
Treaty Creek*	Wabash
Tributary of Lost Creek*	Vigo
Wea Creek	Tippecanoe
Wildcat Creek	Carroll/Howard County Downstream of the Waterworks Dam #3 in Kokomo through Howard and Carroll counties

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

Water	County	Species	Size (inches)	Group
Burns Ditch*	Porter	Channel Catfish	All	4
Clear Lake	LaPorte	Common Carp	All	5
		Largemouth Bass	All	4
East Fork White River	Daviss/Dubois/Lawrence/ Martin/Pike	Buffalo Species	23 - 29	4
			29+	5
Hominy Ridge Lake	Wabash	Largemouth Bass	17+	5**
Lake James Chain (James, Snow, Jimmerson, Big & Little Otter)	Steuben	Northern Pike	All	5**
Lake Michigan	Lake/LaPorte/Porter	Common Carp	All	5
Muscatatuck River	Jackson/Scott/Washington	Freshwater Drum	20+	5**
Palestine Lake	Kosciusko	Common Carp	All	5
		Channel Catfish	28"+	4
		Common Carp	All	5
St. Joseph River*	St. Joseph (Twin Branch Dam to IN/MI State Line)	Redhorse Species	All	4
		Largemouth Bass	All	5**
Spurgeon Hollow Lake*	Washington	Largemouth Bass	All	5**
Wabash River*	Carroll/Cass/Miami/ Tippecanoe	Walleye-saugeye	All	5
	Fountain/Parke/Tippecanoe/ Vermillion/Warren	Sunfish Species	All	5
West Fork White River*	Delaware/Hamilton/Madison	Channel Catfish	Up to 21"	4
			21"+	5

* Indicates recent updates.

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

*** Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines at on.IN.gov/FishConsumption for a complete listing.

LAKE MICHIGAN FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Bloater Chubs	One meal per month
Bluegill	One meal per week
Brown Trout	One meal per month
Channel Catfish*	One meal per month
Chinook Salmon	One meal per month
Coho Salmon	One meal per month
Common Carp	Do Not Eat
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 month
Rainbow Trout	One meal per week
Redhorse Species	One meal per month
Smallmouth Bass	One meal per week
Walleye	One meal per month
White Sucker	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.

OHIO RIVER FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted)	One meal per month
Blue Catfish	One meal per week
Channel Catfish	Up to 18" One meal per week
	18"+ One meal every two months
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	One meal every two months
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

Grilled Bass and Pea Pasta

Mix your next catch with cheesy pasta for a delicious new spin on a fish dinner.

Recipe and photo provided by Council to Advance Hunting and the Shooting Sports R3 Clearinghouse.

Instructions:

1. Cook pasta in heavily salted boiling water according to package instructions.
2. 2 to 3 minutes before pasta is finished, add peas and allow them to cook as well. Drain the pasta and peas, reserving about 1 cup of the cooking water.
3. While pasta cooks, make the sauce. Melt butter in a pan over medium heat. Once melted, add minced garlic and cook for 30 sec to 1 minute. Do not allow the butter or garlic to brown.
4. Add the heavy cream, stirring slowly with a wooden spoon.
5. Once cream begins to simmer around the edge of the pan, start adding the shredded cheese ¼ cup at a time. Stir constantly until sauce is smooth. Add a pinch of freshly grated nutmeg and remove from heat.
6. Season bass filets with salt and black pepper, then lightly dust with flour. Lay filets in a pan set to high heat with a tbsp or two of olive oil. Pan sear for 2-3 minutes per side.
7. Add pasta and peas to the cream sauce and toss to combine. If the sauce is too thick, add a bit of the pasta water.
8. Top pasta with pan-seared fish, chopped fresh parsley, and a squeeze of lemon juice. Serve and enjoy.

Grilled Bass & Pea Pasta



INGREDIENTS

- 4 Bass Filets (blood line removed)
- 1 lb of Tagliatelle Pasta
- 1 cup Heavy Cream
- 1 cup grated Gruyere Cheese
- Black Pepper
- White Pepper
- Kosher Salt
- Pinch of grated Nutmeg
- 1.5 Cups Fresh Shelled Peas
- 4 tbsp Butter
- Olive oil
- 2 Cloves Garlic
- Parsley and lemon for garnish

on.IN.gov/fishingguide

GET INVOLVED WITH THE

Be a DNR Volunteer
on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer

Attend DNR Events
events.IN.gov/dnr

Monitor Wildlife
on.IN.gov/wildlife-monitoring

HELP INDIANA'S RARE WILDLIFE



Fanshell Mussel

GIVE \$50

FISH AND WILDLIFE WILL RECEIVE

\$143

thanks to a federal match program



YOU CAN HELP CONSERVE INDIANA'S FISH AND WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

DONATE AT:
on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

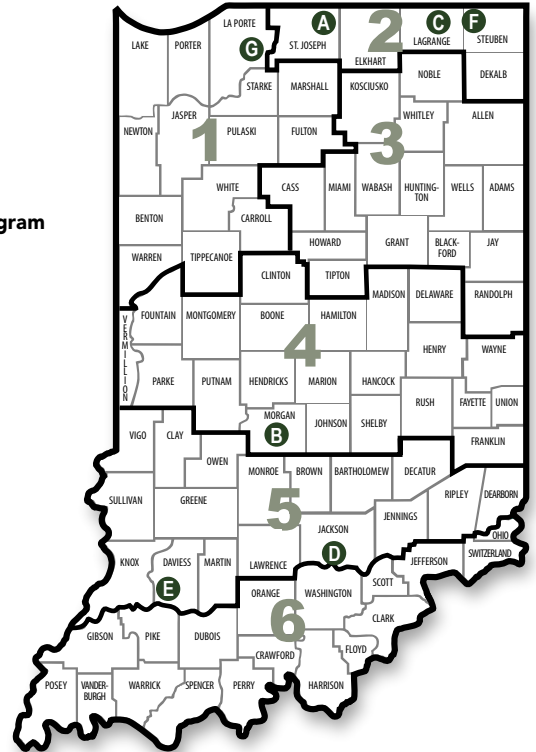
District Fisheries Biologists

- 1. District 1**
Courtney Weldon
Kankakee FWA
4320 W. Toto Road
North Judson, IN 46366
574-896-3673
D1fish@dnr.IN.gov
- 2. District 2**
Matt Horsley
Fawn River State
Fish Hatchery
6889 N. SR 327
Orland, IN 46776
260-829-6241
D2fish@dnr.IN.gov
- 3. District 3**
Tyler Delauder
Northeast Regional Office
1353 S. Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-7049
D3fish@dnr.IN.gov
- 4. District 4**
Nathan Klein
Cikana State Fish Hatchery
2650 SR 44
Martinsville, IN 46151
317-864-1642
D4fish@dnr.IN.gov
- 5. District 5**
Ethan Binkowski
Bloomington Field Office
5596 E. SR 46
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-287-8306
D5fish@dnr.IN.gov
- 6. District 6**
Andy Bueltmann
Sugar Ridge FWA
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-817-0263
D6fish@dnr.IN.gov

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

Big Rivers Fisheries Program
Phil Kacmar
Sugar Ridge FWA
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-817-0222
bigrivers@dnr.IN.gov

Nongame Fisheries Program
Brant Fisher
Atterbury FWA
7970 S. Rowe St.
Edinburgh, IN 46124
812-526-5816
bfisher@dnr.IN.gov



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.

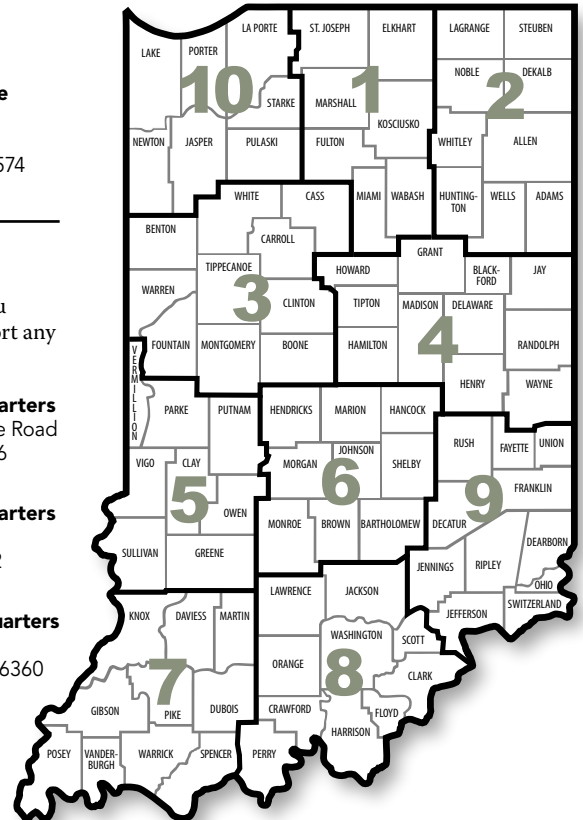
- A. Bodine State Fish Hatchery**
13200 Jefferson Blvd.
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-255-4199
- B. Cikana State Fish Hatchery**
2650 SR 44
Martinsville, IN 46151
765-342-5527
- C. Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station**
4250 E. CR 410 N.
Howe, IN 46746
260-562-3855
- D. Driftwood State Fish Hatchery**
4931 S. 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

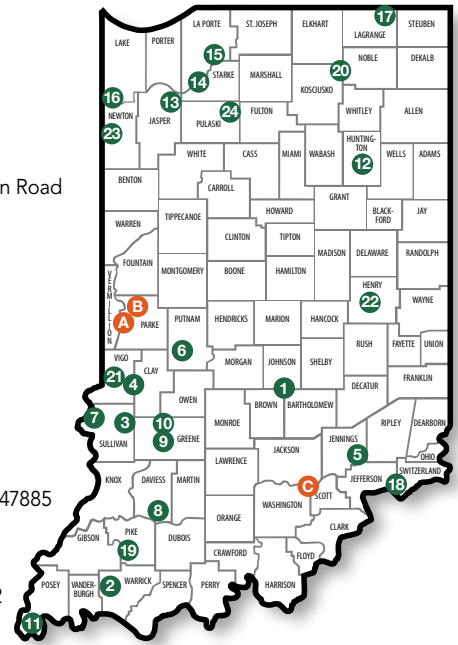
Call DNR Law Enforcement Central Dispatch (24 hours) to report violations or if you need assistance from an Indiana Conservation Officer. Call 1-800-TIP-IDNR to report any poaching activities.

- 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
812-789-2724
- 3. Busseron Creek FWA**
CR 300 N and CR 525 E
Sullivan, IN
812-512-9185
- 4. Chinook FWA**
N. Cory Staunton Road
Brazil, IN 47834
765-653-0453
- 5. Crosley FWA**
2010 S. SR 3
North Vernon, IN 47265
812-346-5596
- 6. Deer Creek FWA**
2001 W. CR 600 S.
Greencastle, IN 46135
765-653-0453
- 7. Fairbanks Landing FWA**
925 N. & N. County Road 800 W.
Fairbanks, IN 47849
765-653-0453
- 8. Glendale FWA**
6001 E. 600 S.
Montgomery, IN 47558
812-674-0168
- 9. Goose Pond FWA**
13540 W. CR 400 S.
Linton, IN 47441
812-512-9185
- 10. Hillenbrand FWA**
700 N. & SR 59
Jasonville, IN 47438
812-512-9185
- 11. Hovey Lake FWA**
8401 SR 69 S.
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
812-838-2927
- 12. J.E. Roush Lake FWA**
517 N. Warren Road
Huntington, IN 46750
260-468-2165
- 13. Jasper-Pulaski FWA**
5822 Fish & Wildlife Ln
Medaryville, IN 47957
219-843-4841
- 14. Kankakee FWA**
4320 W. Toto Road
North Judson, IN 46366
574-896-3522
- 15. Kingsbury FWA**
5344 S. Hupp Road
LaPorte, IN 46350
219-393-3612
- 16. LaSalle FWA**
4752 W. 1050 N.
Lake Village, IN 46349
219-992-3019
- 17. Pigeon River FWA**
8310 E. 300 N.
Howe, IN 46746
260-367-2164
- 18. Splinter Ridge FWA**
9935 E. Little Doe Run Road
Madison, IN 47250
812-346-5596
- 19. Sugar Ridge FWA**
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-789-2724
- 20. Tri-County FWA**
8432 N. 850 E.
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-834-4461
- 21. Wabashiki FWA**
3286 Darwin Road
West Terre Haute, IN 47885
765-653-0453
- 22. Wilbur Wright FWA**
2239 N. SR 103
New Castle, IN 47362
765-529-9581
- 23. Willow Slough FWA**
1803 S. 700 W.
Morocco, IN 47963
219-285-2704
- 24. Winamac FWA**
1493 W. 500 N.
Winamac, IN 46996
574-946-4422



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

State Lakes, Parks, and Forests

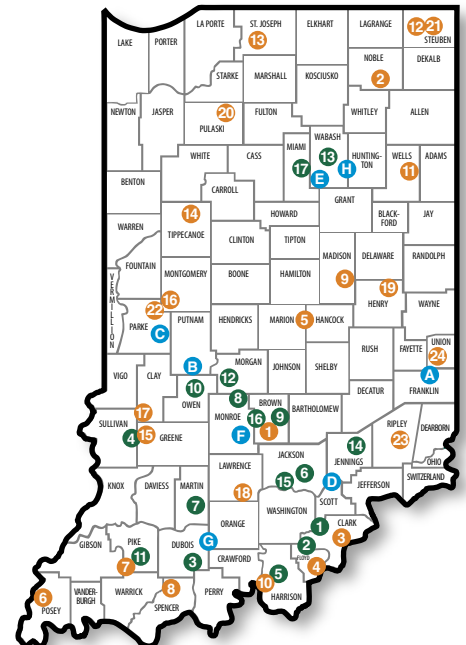
- | | |
|---|--|
| A. Brookville Lake – 765-647-2657 | E. Mississinewa Lake – 765-473-6528 |
| B. Cagles Mill Lake – 765-276-0194 | F. Monroe Lake – 812-837-9546 |
| C. Cecil M. Harden Lake – 765-344-1412 | G. Patoka Lake – 812-338-5589 |
| D. Hardy Lake – 812-794-3800 | H. Salamonie Lake – 260-468-2125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

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

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

* Managed by Indiana State Parks.
For state parks offering fishing, see on.IN.gov/recguide or stateparks.IN.gov.



Planning to Operate a Motorboat in Indiana?

Driving a motorboat over 10 hp requires a boater education card for operators 15 and older who do not have a driver's license. Take the state-approved course, 100% online.

Complete your certification at boat-ed.com



Approved Boater Education Course

State of Indiana
Department of Natural Resources
Law Enforcement Division

John Middename Boater

Birth Date
08/22/89



Certificate Number
1119630
Date issued
08/31/25

The above named has successfully completed the necessary requirements in the principles of safe boating as prescribed by the Law Enforcement Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.



The fishing is GREAT in Northern Indiana Lakes Country!

The best fishing in the state can be found in Steuben County, home of 101 lakes. Steuben County has more natural lakes than any county in Indiana, ranging from small uninhabited lakes to some of Indiana's largest well-known natural lakes such as Lake James, Snow Lake and Crooked Lake, shown in the aerial photo. Bass, bluegill, perch, crappies, walleye, Northern pike - we've got them all, and many more. We have numerous public access boat launching sites and are also home to Trine State Recreation Area, where you can fish right off the dock. Stop at one of our well-stocked bait and tackle shops and get out there!



Steuben County Tourism Bureau
lakes101.org