

- FREE Fishing Days
- 2021 Fish of the Year Winners
 & Updated Record Fish
- Fishing and Mental Health
- Healthy Bluegill Recipe

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

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How fishing can improve your mental and overall well-being.



Healthy Bluegill Recipe

Enjoy broiled lemon bluegill with a sweet pepper medley.



Common Fishing Questions

Find answers to common questions about fishing in Indiana.

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Division of Fish & Wildlife 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. To seek permission to reproduce any part of this booklet, call 317-233-3853.

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On the Cover:

Ed Stoepler of Greenfield fishes with grandchildren Cylas and Emery Mouser of Plainfield.

Photo by John Maxwell

MESSAGES



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

For me, fishing means all of the above and more—spending time outdoors with family and friends, relaxing and sharing memories of

past fishing trips while making new ones, and experiencing some of the most treasured, beautiful spaces the Hoosier state has to offer, from Lake Michigan to the Ohio River.

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

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



Dan Bortner

Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



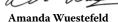
Our cover photo sends me down memory lane and makes me look toward the future. Some of my fondest memories are of fishing with my family when I was young. I spent hours on a pontoon fishing with my brother, parents, and grandparents. I hope my kids feel the same happiness when they remember the similar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

As I look forward to our Division of Fish & Wildlife's work in 2022 to help create memorable fishing trips, staff across the state are striving to raise fish in our hatcheries, collect fish status and trends data, and meet specific habitat needs of fishing communities. We are testing a system to

increase production of larger walleye in northern Indiana to improve stocking success of that species. In lakes where aquatic plants are lacking, we are installing artificial habitat. Those are just two examples.

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

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



Director, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife



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



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DON'T LET YOUR FIRST RIDE BE YOUR LAST! TAKE A BOATING SAFETY COURSE.

To Our Anglers

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

This guide provides a summary of Indiana fishing regulations. These regulations apply only to fish that originate from or are taken from Indiana's public waters. Fish from public waters that migrate into or from private waters are still covered by these regulations. These regulations do not apply to fish in private waters that did not originate from public waters.

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

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

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

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

License Fee Increases

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



Why did license fees increase?

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

license revenue will allow DFW to obtain more money from USFWS and to better protect and conserve Indiana's natural resources.

What do you do with these funds?

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

Have questions?

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Who Needs a Fishing License

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

A licensee must hold an ink-signed copy of a license while fishing. Signed printed copies and signed electronic copies are acceptable. You must present the license to an Indiana Conservation Officer (or any other authorized law enforcement official) upon request. There are fines and penalties for fishing without a license. To legally fish for or take trout and salmon from public waters, you must have a valid trout/salmon stamp and a valid fishing license.

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

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

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

How to Purchase a License

Online

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

In Person

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

By Mail

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

Licenses

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

2022 LICENSE FEES

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

Licenses	Resident'	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 or call 317-232-4200.

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Include:

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

By Phone

Call 317-232-4200

License Exemptions

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

- Indiana residents born before April 1, 1943.
 Such residents should carry their valid Indiana Driver's License or other identification to verify age and residency.
- · Residents and nonresidents under age 18.
- Residents who are legally blind. Proof of being legally blind is not required while fishing.
- Residents of a state-owned mental rehabilitation facility.
- Residents of any licensed health care facility in Indiana taking part in a supervised fishing activity sponsored by the facility.
- Residents who have a developmental disability as defined by IC 12-7-2-61. Proof of the disability is not required while fishing.
- Fishing in a private pond that does not allow fish entry from or exit to public waters. An angler must have permission from the property owner to fish in that pond.

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

Military & Veterans

Nonresident military personnel on active duty and stationed in Indiana may purchase an Indiana resident license. Indiana disabled American veterans can get a DAV fishing and hunting license application form from the County Service Officer where they live or they can download the application form at **fishing.IN.gov** by clicking "Buy online, in person or by mail" then "Disabled Veterans' (DAV) License."

Mail the completed form to:

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

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

² Must have been born after March 31, 1943 and be at least 64 years old. N/A = not available

Hunt and Fish Where Only Those Eligible Can

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

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

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

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

To find out how to hunt/fish on Army installations go to:

https://isportsman.net/Locations.aspx

For a look at locations of Army Installations go to:

https://www.goarmy.com/about/post-locations.html











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INDIANA'S STATEWIDE SIZE & BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Bluegill	None (exceptions: page 11)	None
Redear Sunfish	25 (exceptions: page 11)	None
Black Bass: largemouth, small- mouth, and spotted bass (in lakes)	5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches (exceptions: page 12)
Black Bass: largemouth, small- mouth, and spotted bass (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 13)
Black Bass: largemouth, small- mouth, and spotted bass (in Lake Michigan)	3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches
Yellow Bass	None	None
White Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	12, any combination of white bass or hybrid striped bass	No more than two fish may exceed 17 inches
Striped Bass	2	None
Rock Bass	25	None
Crappie	25 (exceptions: page 11)	None ¹
Walleye, Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye), Sauger	6, any combination of walleye, walleye-sauger hybrid, and sauger	For Walleye: 14 inches south of SR 26; 16 inches north of SR 26 For sauger and saugeye: No size limit (exceptions: page 11 & 20)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1 muskellunge or 1 tiger muskellunge	36 inches²
Northern Pike	33	24 inches; no more than one 30 inches or longer ⁴
Yellow Perch	None (15 only on Lake Michigan)	None
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in streams)	None	13 inches; no more than one blue or one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer, and no more than one channel catfish 28 inches or longer may be kept
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in lakes, reservoirs)	10 ⁵ (exceptions: page 11)	None; no more than one blue or one flathead catfish 35 inches or longer and no more than one channel catfish 28 inches or longer may be kept
Bullhead	None	None
Lake Whitefish	12	None
Shovelnose Sturgeon	None	25 inches

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

Bag & Possession Limits

It is illegal to take more than the daily bag limit of a wild fish in a calendar day. The possession limit is two times the daily bag limit and does not apply to a wild fish that is processed and stored at an individual's primary residence.

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

Illegal Stocking, Aquarium Release

It is illegal to take any live fish and release it into any public waters without a stocking permit. DNR fisheries biologists approve stocking of fish only after careful consideration of the potential impacts of new fish on the existing habitat and fish populations. The release of fish from an aquarium would be considered the stocking of fish, which a permit is required for.

Hooks for Pole Fishing or Hand Lines

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

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

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

Gaffs, Grab Hooks, & Landing Nets

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

Snares

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

Limb Lines

A limb line (also known as a drop line or bank pole) is a passive fishing device consisting of a line with not more than one hook that is affixed to a stationary object suspended over the water.

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

Snagging Fish

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

Trot Lines

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

(or snoods). Droppers may be attached to the main line with knots, clips, or swivels. Floats and weights may be added to the main line to suspend it at desired depths. You may fish with no more than one trot line at a time. The trot line must have no more than 50 single- or multi-barbed hooks. Each drop line on a trot line may have only one hook. Trot lines must bear a readable tag showing the name and address of the user or the user's DNR-issued Customer ID number. Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours. It is illegal to use a trot line in Lake Michigan or within 300 yards of any dam structure located on any stream, river, ditch, canal, or reservoir.

Umbrella Rigs

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

Float Fishing

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

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

Ice Fishing

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

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

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

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

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

Freshwater Mussels

It is illegal to collect or take live native mussels or dead native mussel shells from public

waters. A ban on harvesting shells has been in effect since 1991 to protect against a rapid decrease in freshwater mussel populations. Please do not disturb living mussels.

Bow Fishing

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

Spear Fishing

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

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

Fishing Near Dams

State law does not allow the taking of fish by trot line, set line, throw line, net, trap, or seine within 300 yards of a dam on an Indiana waterway or boundary water (which includes the Ohio River). Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam. Minnows can only be taken by seines, minnow traps, cast nets and dip nets meeting all legal requirements (page 10).

Wanton Waste

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

Sale of Aquatic Life

No fish, frogs, turtles, or other reptile or amphibian taken under a fishing or hunting license may be bought, sold, or bartered. You may keep fish that you catch for an aquarium if that fish meets legal size and bag limit requirements.

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

Smelt Fishing

Smelt may be taken from Lake Michigan from March 1 through May 30. Smelt may be taken only with a single seine or net. The seine or net may not exceed 12 feet in length and 6 feet in depth, nor have a stretch mesh larger than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. A dip net may not exceed 12 feet in diameter.

Endangered Fish

The following fish species are classified as endangered in Indiana: cisco, bantam sunfish, Hoosier cavefish (formerly Northern cavefish), channel darter, gilt darter, greater redhorse, lake sturgeon (page 22), Western sand darter, pallid shiner, redside dace, and variegate darter.

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

If these fish are captured, immediately return them unharmed to the water in which they were found.

Species Illegal to Possess

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

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



BASIC FISHING INFORMATION

Boating

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

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

Life Preservers

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

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

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 (DFW) before marking or tagging occurs.

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

Lake Michigan Trout & Salmon

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

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

Illegal Devices

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

Sorting Fish

Anglers are responsible for maintaining fish in a healthy condition. Dead and dying fish cannot be released back into the water. At no time may anglers have more than a bag limit in their possession while engaged in a day's fishing. However, sorting of fish may be allowed within the bag limit if fish are in healthy condition at the time of release. For example, if you catch five largemouth bass (daily bag limit is five) and catch a bigger largemouth bass

later that day, it is legal to release any of the other fish in good condition in order to keep the larger one. Fish must be released into the water from which they were taken and be able to swim away normally. All fish in possession must meet legal size limits.

Gifting Fish

A person cannot gift fish taken under a sport fishing license to another person for the purpose of stocking a private lake.

Holding Baskets, Live Boxes, Live Nets, Etc.

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

Minnows & Crayfish

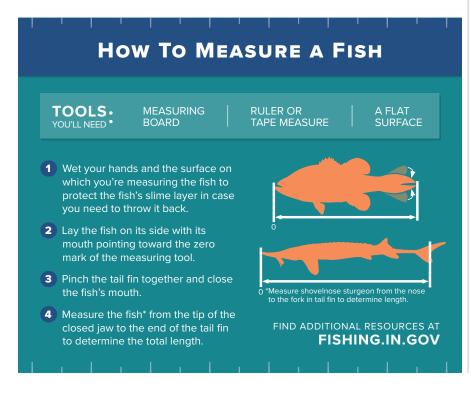
Minnows and crayfish may be collected any time through the year if a valid sport fishing license is possessed. Minnows and crayfish collected from public waters cannot be sold.

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

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

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

- Seines cannot be larger than 12 feet in length and 4 feet deep with mesh no larger than ½ inch stretch. Stretch is the distance between two opposite knots of a net mesh when the net is stretched tight.
- Minnow dip nets cannot exceed 3 feet square (without sides or walls) and may not have mesh larger than ½ inch stretch.
- Minnow traps cannot exceed 24 inches in length with the opening of the trap no larger than 2 inches in diameter. Traps for crayfish also must comply with these requirements.
- Cast nets may be used, provided the net is no larger than 20 feet in diameter and the mesh stretch is no larger than ¾ inch.
- Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam and may only be taken by seines, minnow traps, cast nets, and dip nets meeting all legal requirements.



• See page 20 for special minnow and crayfish collecting regulations on the Ohio River.

Do not release minnows into the water after fishing. Emptying bait buckets can contaminate a body of water. In addition, bait and bait buckets exposed to lake or stream water could get contaminated with zebra mussel larvae, fish pathogens, or other aquatic invasive species. Anglers are encouraged to dispose of baitfish in the trash after each outing and buy new bait for their next outing. Fishing worms should be discarded in trash containers.

Wild fish may be used as live bait as long as the fish was caught legally and meets any size, catch, or possession limits established for that species. Goldfish may be used as live bait. Carp cannot be used as live bait at any location.

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

Gizzard Shad & Threadfin Shad

Gizzard shad and threadfin shad can be collected and used as live bait on the following waters: Brookville, Cecil M. Harden (Raccoon SRA), Freeman, Hardy, Monroe, Patoka, and Shafer lakes, and the Ohio River mainstream

(excluding all embayments). Live gizzard shad and threadfin shad may not be transported away from the location where collected.

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

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

Hooks on East Fork White River

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

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

Walleye Size Limits

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

- Bass Lake (Starke County) and Wolf Lake (Lake County); minimum size 14 inches
- Lake George (Steuben County); minimum size 15 inches
- Wall Lake (LaGrange County); minimum size 16 inches with a daily bag limit of two walleye taken from public waters (lakes, rivers, and streams). Walleye taken south of State Road 26 must be 14 inches or longer.

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

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

Special Regulation Waters

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



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AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

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

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

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

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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 largmouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches

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

Special Lake Regulations

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

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

Regulations on bass fishing differ on the Ohio River (page 20).

Lake Limits by County

15-inch minimum size limit:

Patoka Lake (Orange, Dubois, and Crawford counties)

16-inch minimum size limit:

· Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke County)

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

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

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

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

• Big Long Lake (LaGrange County)

No minimum size limit waters:

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



BLUE BANK RESORT





- · 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).







INLAND TROUT REGULATIONS

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

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

Streams: The opening day of trout season for inland streams, other than Lake Michigan tributaries, is the last Saturday in April. The season runs through Dec. 31. The start time is 6 a.m. local time. For a list of trout stockings, see **fishing.IN.gov**

Catch-and-release applies to all trout streams from Jan. 1 through April 14. See page 18 for special tributary restrictions and closure information for Lake Michigan streams.

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

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

INLAND TROUT SIZES & LIMITS

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

- *18-inch minimum size limit for brown trout at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County
- Rainbow Pit located on Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area, approximately one mile east of Ontario in LaGrange County
- Little Elkhart River and Rowe-Eden Ditch in LaGrange County
- Solomon Creek and Cobus Creek in Elkhart County
- Little Kankakee River in LaPorte County from CR 800 E upstream to Division Road
- Spy Run Creek within Franke Park in Allen County
- Mississinewa River within the boundaries of the Randolph County Wildlife Management Area
- Big Blue River within the boundaries of Wilbur Wright Fish & Wildlife Area in Henry County

The following three streams in Elkhart County (totaling 2.8 miles) are designated as year-round "catch-and-release only" and "artificial lures or flies only" trout fishing areas:

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

Brown Trout Minimum Size Limit Waters: There is an 18-inch minimum size limit at Oliver, Olin, and Martin lakes in LaGrange County, and the Brookville Lake tailwater in Franklin County.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's also true that fishing of any kind can help almost anyone else cope with plain old every-day, nagging stress.

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

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

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

"Movements like casting, reeling, and rowing engage muscles in our body that release endorphins, which are brain chemicals that can reduce pain and increase positive feeling in the body," Oliver said. Some of those actions, she says, can even allow our brain to process information better through bilateral stimulation, which is any action that takes the form of left-right pattern that allows the two sides of the brain to communicate more effectively. An example is operating the two paddles if fishing from a rowboat.

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

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

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

"This can even allow us to shift our focus away from stressors that we carry with us that increase our anxiety and depression," she said.

If you fish with someone else, particularly someone with whom you are emotionally close, the benefits multiply beyond the obvious pleasure from engaging in positive social interactions.

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

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

"The stories and friendships developed are the strength of PHWFF, not the fish count," he said.

So there really is no such thing as a bad day of fishing, just good and better.





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LAKE MICHIGAN & TRIBUTARIES SIZES AND LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size			
Atlantic Salmon					
Chinook Salmon					
Coho Salmon		14 inches for			
Pink Salmon	5 total salmon and trout No more than 3 may be lake trout	Lake Michigan, streams, and St. Joseph River			
Brown Trout	The more than 6 may be take treat				
Lake Trout					
Steelhead Trout					
Yellow Perch	15 on Lake Michigan only	None			
Lake Whitefish	12 (statewide)	None			

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

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

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

Lake Michigan bass regulations can be found on page 12.

Tributary Restrictions

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

gun, club, snag hook, or underwater spear is prohibited in the following water bodies: in or adjacent to the Galena River (LaPorte County), Trail Creek (LaPorte County), the East Branch of the Little Calumet River (LaPorte and Porter counties), Salt Creek (Porter County), the West Branch of the Little Calumet River (Lake and Porter counties), Burns Ditch (Lake and Porter counties), Deep River downstream from the dam at Lake George (Lake County), and the tributaries to these waters.

Hook Restrictions

Fishing with more than one single hook or artificial lure is prohibited in the following waters:

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

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

St. Joseph River

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

- The minimum size limit for trout and salmon is 14 inches.
- No fishing is allowed at any time in the East Race Waterway in South Bend. No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrance and exit of the East Race.
- No fishing is allowed at any time from the fish ladders located on the South Bend or Mishawaka Central Park dams.
- No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrances and exits of the fish ladders.
- No fishing is allowed from boat or other watercraft in the St. Joseph River below the South Bend Dam for a distance of 200 feet, and from the Mishawaka Central Park Dam downstream to the Main Street Bridge in Mishawaka.

Tributary Closures

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

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



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





SPEAR LAKE

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



LASALLE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

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



GROUSE RIDGE PUBLIC FISHING AREA

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



DOGWOOD LAKE

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



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OHIO RIVER DAILY BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size	
Largemouth Bass	6, any combination of	12 inches	
Smallmouth Bass	largemouth, small- mouth, or spotted	No size limit on spotted bass	
Spotted Bass	bass	140 size ilitiit off spotted bass	
Hybrid Striped Bass			
Striped Bass	30, any combination of hybrid, white, or	No more than four fish may be 15	
White Bass	yellow bass	inches or longer	
Yellow Bass	•		
Rock Bass	15	None	
Blue Catfish	None	13 inches; no more than one may be 35 inches or longer	
Channel Catfish	None	13 inches; no more than one may be 28 inches or longer	
Flathead Catfish	None	13 inches; no more than one may be 35 inches or longer	
Crappie	30	None	
Muskellunge	2, any combination of		
Tiger Muskellunge	muskellunge or tiger muskellunge	30 inches	
Walleye	6, any combination		
Sauger	of walleye, sauger, or	14 inches	
Walleye-Sauger Hybrid (Saugeye)	hybrid walleye		
Shovelnose Sturgeon	None	25 inches	

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.

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

Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours. Each set line and trot line must have affixed at least one legible tag marked with the name and address of the user or the individual's DNR-issued Customer ID number.

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

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

Paddlefish may not be taken from any portion of Indiana waters of the Ohio River

on a sport fishing license. It is illegal to take paddlefish from any waters of Indiana on a sport fishing license.

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

- Long bow, compound bow, and crossbow with an arrow having one or more barbs and attached to a line.
- Gigging from Feb. 1 to May 10 with any pronged or barbed instrument attached to the end of a rigid object. You cannot take a fish by gigging from either a boat or platform.
- Fish spear, spear gun, and underwater spear.

Where to Fish on the Ohio

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

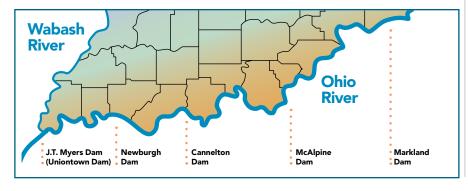
- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam) 15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off State Road 66
- Cannelton Dam—follow Taylor Street south from State Road 66 in Cannelton
- McAlpine Dam—located at Clarksville
- Falls of the Ohio State Park—accessible boat ramp located at George Rogers Clark 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			4, 12 inch mini- mum carapace length 8, 12 inch minimum carapace length	
Smooth Softshell Turtle	July 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023	mum carapace		Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface.
Spiny Softshell Turtle		length		, š
Game frogs				
Bull Frog				Frogs may be taken with gig or spear with a head not more than 3
Green Frog	June 15, 2022 to April 30, 2023	25, any combina- tion of bull or green frog	50, any combina- tion of bull or green frog	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 birdshot only or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second.

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.



Broiled Lemon Bluegillwith Sweet Pepper Medley

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



Ingredients:

For the marinade:

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

For the pepper medley:

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

Directions:

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

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

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

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

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

WHAT TO KNOW: ENDANGERED LAKE STURGEON VS. SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

LAKE STURGEON (STATE ENDANGERED)

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



SNOUT:

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

Монтн

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

OTHER BODY FEATURES:

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

RANGE

• Typically in lower Wabash and White rivers and Lake Michigan

SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

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



SNOUT:

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

MOUTH:

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

OTHER BODY FEATURES:

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

RANGE

Wabash and White Rivers; occasionally other large rivers

VISIT **FISHING.IN.GOV** FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Five Record Fish Caught in 2021

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

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

Wyatt Small of Lanesville set a record in early April with a 2.15-pound skipjack herring on the Ohio River. That record was broken 11 days later with a 2.51-pound skipjack caught on the Ohio by Gary Davis, Jr. of Florence.

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

If you think you have caught a state record fish, follow the steps below to get it certified:

- Both weight and length measurements are required for Record Fish entries. The weight measurement must be taken before the fish is frozen, on a scale certified by the State of Indiana to be accurate to 1 ounce. Each DNR fisheries biologist has a certified scale, or you can also find certified scales at meat markets, or farm-related retailers.
- If a DNR scale is not used, obtain and submit a copy of the Scale Inspection Report from the owner of the store where the fish was weighed.
- Submit a photo or printed meat packaging label (if available) showing the weight of the fish and the location where it was weighed.
- After weighing, the fish may be gutted and iced, but not filleted or otherwise cut up.
 The fish must be available for inspection and identification and may require verification by a DFW fisheries biologist. It is the responsibility of the angler to schedule a time to have the fish examined by a DFW fisheries biologist.
- Two witnesses who are not relatives of the angler and who observed the weight and length measurement must sign the entry form, which can be found at fishing.IN.gov.
- Provide side-view photograph(s) of the fish and a copy of the angler's fishing license, if required.

INDIANA FISH RECORDS

	l			
Species	Weight	Water, County	Angler	Year
Atlantic Salmon	14 lb., 4 oz.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Gene Tarrant	1979
Bighead Carp	53 lb., 8 oz.	White River (Pike)	Duane Stafford	2000
Blue Catfish	104 lb.	Ohio River	Bruce Midkiff	1999
Bluegill	3 lb., 4 oz.	Pond (Greene)	Harold L. Catey	1972
Bowfin (Dogfish)	16.52 lb.	Mutton Creek (Jackson)	Paul Huber	2009
Brook Trout	3 lb., 15 1/2 oz.	Lake Gage (Steuben)	Sonny Bashore	1973
Brown Trout	29.3 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Glen Duesing	2006
Buffalo	53.9 lb.	Oak Hill Pond (Gibson)	Kenneth Houchin	2002
Bullhead	4.9 lb.	Potato Creek SP (St. Joseph)	Darren Robertson	1994
Burbot	7 lb., 11 oz.	Lake Michigan	Larry Milicki	1990
Channel Catfish	37 lb., 8 oz.	Lake (Vanderburgh)	Randy E. Jones	1980
Chinook Salmon	38 lb.	Trail Creek (LaPorte)	Rich Baker	1980
Cisco	3 lb., 12 oz.	Big Cedar Lake (Whitley)	Phillip Wisniewski	1980
Coho Salmon	20 lb., 12 oz.	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	John Beutner	1972
Common Carp	43 lb., 4 oz.	Pike Lake (Kosciusko)	Russell Long	1989
Crappie	4 lb., 11 oz.	Private Lake (Jennings)	Willis Halcomb	1994
Flathead Catfish	79 lb. 8 oz.	White River (Lawrence)	Glen T. Simpson	1966
Flier	3 1/2 oz.	Stream (Jackson)	Harold H. Otte	1983
Freshwater Drum	30 lb.	White River (Martin)	Garland Fellers	1963
Goldeye	2.3 lb.	Wabash River (Vermillion)	Brock Marietta	2008
Grass Carp	69.0 lb.	Pond (Hamilton)	Daniel Goss	2018
Green Sunfish	1 lb., 10 oz.	Pit (Fountain)	Terry Keller	1987
Hybrid Striped Bass	22 lb., 2 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	David G. Coffman	2005
Hybrid Walleye	8 lb., 8 oz.	Scottsburg Reservoir (Scott)	Doug Young	1999
Lake Trout	37.55 lb.	Lake Michigan	Tyler Kreighbaum	2016
Lake Whitefish	9.34 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Phillip Duracz	2021
Largemouth Bass	14 lb., 12 oz.	Lake (Harrison)	Jenifer Schultz	1991
Longnose Gar	22.32 lb.	White River/East Fork (Pike)	Mark Brittain	2008
Mooneye	0.36 lb.	Ohio River (Clark)	Gerald Gallagher	2019
Muskellunge	42 lb., 8 oz.	James Lake (Kosciusko)	Darrin Conley	2002
Northern Pike	30 lb., 2 oz.	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Jack Barnes	1992
Pink Salmon	2 lb., 12 1/2 oz.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Richard J. Lisac	1985
Rainbow Trout	18 lb., 8 oz.	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Bill Bigger	1988
Redear Sunfish	3 lb., 10 oz.	Lake (Brown)	R. Peckman	1974
Redfin Pickerel	0.86 lb.	Coffee Creek Park Pond (Porter)	Dunkan Fischer	2020
Rock Bass	3 lb.	Sugar Creek (Hancock)	David Thomas	1969
Sauger	6 lb., 1 oz	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Mark Bigger	1983
Shortnose Gar	2.35 lb.	Wabash River (Wabash)	Kyle Hammond	2021
Shovelnose Sturgeon	14 lb., 8 oz.	Wabash River (Fountain)	Mike Latoz	1999
Silver Carp	15 lb, 8 oz.	White River/West Fork (Greene)	Daniel Keller	2003
Skipjack Herring	2.51 lb.	Wabash River (Carroll)	Gary Davis Jr.	2021
Smallmouth Bass	7 lb., 4 oz.	Twin Lake (LaGrange)	Dana Yoder	1992
Spotted Bass	5 lb., 5 oz.	Private Lake (Vigo)	Larry Hinesley Jr.	2006
Spotted Gar	6.78 lb.	Gravel Pit (Vermillion)	Nick Waugh	2017
Steelhead Trout	26.62 lb.	Trail Creek (LaPorte)	Evan Nicholson	1999
Striped Bass	39.08 lb.	Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke)	Jonathan VanHook	2010
Sucker	12 lb., 3.3 oz	White River (Bartholomew)	John Britton	1991
Tiger Muskellunge	24 lb.	Wolf Lake (Lake)	Michael Senics	1995
Tiger Trout	3 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Mike Ratter	1978
Walleye	14 lb., 4 oz.	Kankakee River (Lake)	Leon Richart	1974
•	14 lb., 4 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Pulaski)	Donald Tedford	1977
Warmouth	1.4 lb.	North Dugger Pit (Sullivan)	Jack Tolbert	2002
White Bass	4 lb., 3 oz.	Lake Freeman (Carroll)	James Wagner	1965
White Catfish	9.72 lb.	Pond (Wabash)	Melissa Grimes	1985
Yellow Bass	2 lb., 15 oz.	Morse Reservoir (Hamilton)	Jim Raymer	2000
Yellow Perch	2 lb., 8 oz.	Gravel Pit (Vigo)	Roy W. Burkel Jr.	1981

2021: FOTY Grows Again

2021 FISH OF THE YEAR CONTEST WINNERS

Family	Species	Length (inches)	Location (County)	Angler
Black Bass	Largemouth Bass	22.5	Private Lake (Elkhart)	Brock Yoder
DIACK Dass	Smallmouth Bass	22.0	Lake Gage (Steuben)	Mike Grime
	Black Crappie	16.0	Pine Lake (LaPorte)	Ron Ryba II
	Bluegill	10.9	Yellowwood Lake (Brown)	Blake Thompson
	Longear Sunfish	5.5	Mud Creek (Daviess)	Will Burch
	Pumpkinseed	9.3	St. Joseph River (Elkhart)	Craig Baumgardner
Sunfish	Redear Sunfish (tie)	11.8	Frog Pit (Pike)	Cynthia Wells
	Redear Sunfish (tie)	11.8	Wampler Lake (Greene)	Vern Fisher
	Rock Bass	11.0	Tippecanoe R. (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Warmouth	9.8	Private Lake (Warrick)	Brian Ranes
	White Crappie	17.3	Private Lake (Ripley)	Chris Buelter
	Brindled Madtom	4.0	Sugar Creek (Parke)	Ron Anderson
	Brown Bullhead	14.5	Lake Manitou (Fulton)	Randy Hazen
Catfish	Channel Catfish	33.0	Martin Lake (Lagrange)	Joshua Sheets
	Flathead Catfish	51.0	EF White River (Lawrence)	Carl McCarty
	Yellow Bullhead	12.5	Round Lake (Whitley)	Dan Bickel
	Logperch	6.0	Boggs Creek (Martin)	Robert Bradley
Perch	Sauger	19.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Jonah Switzer
Percn	Walleye	26.0	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Yellow Perch	13.5	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Anthony Talarico Jr.
Trout/	Coho Salmon	32.0	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Sean Coffer
Salmon	Steelhead	44.0	Salt Creek (Porter)	Danny Lunn
	Hybrid Striped Bass	19.8	Tippecanoe River (White)	Liu He
T D	White Bass (tie)	18.0	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
True Bass	White Bass (tie)	18.0	Mississinewa Lake (Wabash)	Mike Fleshood
	Yellow Bass	10.8	Private Pond (Lawrence)	Kaylee Myers
	Muskellunge	54.0	Lake Webster (Kosciusko)	Paul Reschke
Pike	Northern Pike	42.8	Pigeon River (LaGrange)	Stu Swink III
	Redfin Pickerel	10.9	Loomis Lake (Porter)	Joe Loewe
	Common Carp	26.0	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Grass Carp	50.8	Geist Reservoir (Hamilton)	Brock Holmes
	Silver Carp	31.0	Wabash River (Huntington)	Dan Bickel
24.	Creek Chub	10.5	Salt Creek (Porter)	Anthony Talarico Jr.
Minnow	Hornyhead Chub	7.5	Salt Creek (Porter)	Liu He
	Silver Chub	6.3	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Joe Johnson
	Common Shiner	9.6	Turkey Creek (LaGrange)	Stu Swink III
	Golden Shiner	10.0	Yellowwood Lake (Brown)	Dennis Thompson
	Bigmouth Buffalo	38.0	Wabash River (Huntington)	Dan Bickel
	Black Buffalo	38.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Carl Theede
	Smallmouth Buffalo	23.5	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
	Blue Sucker	28.0	Tippecanoe River (White)	Liu He
	Northern Hogsucker	13.0	EF White River (Jackson)	Ron Anderson
Sucker	Quillback	15.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Jonah Switzer
	Golden Redhorse	18.0	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Shorthead Redhorse	17.5	EF White River (Jackson)	Ron Anderson
	Silver Redhorse	23.3	Kankakee River (Starke)	Stuart West
	White Sucker	20.5	Whitewater River (Franklin)	Ron Anderson
	Bowfin	22.5	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Burbot	29.0	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Anthony Talarico Jr.
	Freshwater Drum	27.5	Private Pond (Huntington)	Dan Bickel
	Gizzard Shad	17.0	Tippecanoe River (White)	Liu He
Other	Goldeye	16.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Joe Johnson
JJ	Longnose Gar	41.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Jonah Switzer
	Mooneye	11.3	EF White River (Jackson)	Ron Anderson
	Shovelnose Sturgeon	24.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Joe Johnson
	Skipjack Herring	14.5	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
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Four new species made the list in 2021.

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

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

The Wabash had the most record fish in 2021, yielding eight winning entries. Four winners each came from the Tippecanoe River, the Kankakee River, and the East Fork of the White River. Rivers and streams accounted for 35 of the 56 awards.



Anglers who plan to submit entries in 2022 must provide a photo showing the full length of their catch while on a measuring board or tape to be eligible.

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

- Online: Enter the required information using the online Record Fish entry form on fishing.IN.gov, then submit a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.
- By Mail: Print and complete an entry form from the Record Fish page on fishing.IN.gov. Mail the completed form to Record Fish Program, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Room 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204, and include a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if required).
- By email: Submit an electronic version of the entry form and attach a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if required) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.

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



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!"

Prevent transport of aquatic invasive species.

Clean all recreational equipment.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

- 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 or hot water, OR
- **DRY** everything for at least five days before going into another body of water.
- NEVER release organisms from one waterbody into another.



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Sunfish



Bluegill

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



Redear

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



Black Crappie

True Bass

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.



tongue are joined, first stripe below lateral line complete to tail, stripes above lateral line usually broken.



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.

Spotted Bass

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

Catfish



Blue Catfish

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



Channel Catfish

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



Flathead Catfish

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

Perch



Sauger

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



Walleye

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

Salmon



Chinook Salmon or King Salmon

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



Coho Salmon

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

Trout

Brown Trout

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



Rainbow Trout or Steelhead

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



Lake Trout

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

Northern Pike & Muskellunge



Northern Pike

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



Muskellunge

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

Fish Identification Form

Caught a fish and need help identifying the species?

If you have caught a fish and cannot determine what species it is, we can help. Email a photo of the fish to fishid@dnr.IN.gov. Visit fishing.IN.gov for more information.



FISH CONSUMPTION



Is it Safe to Eat Your Fish?

Eating recreationally caught fish from Indiana waters can be healthy and tasty when you have the proper information.

Anyone can eat fish. Fish is a lean protein that is a major source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, selenium, and other vitamins and minerals. Omega-3 fatty acids are linked with reducing the risk of cardiovascular disease and are important for brain and eye development. Fish is a part of a healthy diet, but should be consumed in moderation. To ensure safe eating, consult the full Indiana fish consumption guidelines for wild-caught and commercial fish found at IN.gov/isdh/FCA.

It's all about a person's exposure to contaminants over time. The two contaminants that primarily drive the fish consumption guidelines are mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). Some guidelines are driven by perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), which is a chemical in the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) family. These contaminants are generally persistent in the environment at low enough levels that they do not pose a health risk from direct contact with the water; however, these contaminants accumulate in fish tissue. The contaminants accumulate in human tissue like they do in fish and can build to levels that could pose a health risk.

These risks are based on the consumption of fish over a lifetime of exposure. A determination can then be made from concentrations of contaminants in fish tested as to how frequently they can be safely eaten (see the Wild Fish Consumption Guidelines table). The consumption recommendation groups range from 1 to 5 with 1 being unrestricted consumption and 5 being do not eat.

When it comes to fish consumption, the primary concern is for the sensitive population. This population comprises women of childbearing years, nursing and pregnant mothers, and children age 15 and younger. There is evidence of developmental problems in infants and young children from consuming contaminants at levels lower than what can safely be eaten by the general population.

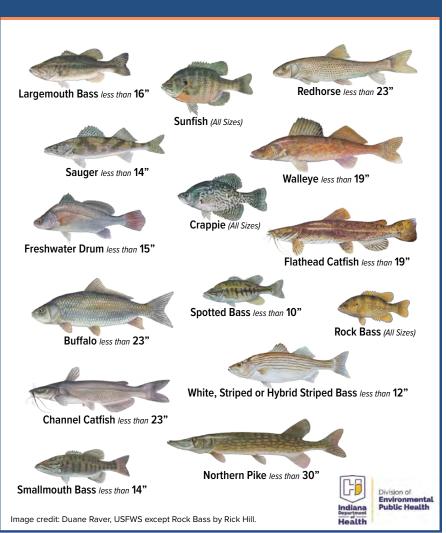
WILD FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES GROUPS

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

Fish Consumption Guidelines Interactive Map

The Indiana Fish Consumption Guidelines is available as a mobile friendly, interactive map at IN.gov/isdh/FCA. Users can search by address, waterbody, or county to find guidelines.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Water	County	Species	Size (inches)	Group
Clear Lake	LaPorte	Common Carp	All	5
East Fork White River	Daviess/Dubois/Lawrence/ Martin	Largemouth Bass	All	4
	D 111	Channel Catfish	All	5
Mississinewa River	Randolph	Common Carp	30+	4
Wississificwa River	Delaware/Grant/Miami/ Wabash	Flathead Catfish	29+	4
Muscatatuck River	Jackson/Washington	Channel Catfish	18+	4
	St. Joseph (Baugo Bay Area to the Twin Branch Dam)	Channel Catfish	20+	4
St. Joseph River	St. Joseph	Channel Catfish	All	5
·	(Twin Branch Dam to IN/MI	Common Carp	All	5
	State Line)	Redhorse Species	All	4
Sugar Creek	Parke County to Wabash River	Flathead Catfish	All	4
Wabash River	Fountain/Parke/Tippecanoe/ Vermillion/Warren	Carpsucker Species	All	4
West Fork White River	Delaware/Hamilton (to Stony Creek)/Madison	Channel Catfish	All	5
	Marion (downstream of Broad Ripple Dam)/Morgan	Flathead Catfish	23+	4

^{*}Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines for a complete listing.

Eating fish from rivers and streams is generally a much higher concern. Most bodies of water that have do-not-eat consumption guidelines for all species are streams. The Fish Consumption Guidelines has an extensive list of rivers and streams that have species with group 4 and 5 consumption guidelines; however, many streams contain species with low levels of contaminants. Several of the major fished rivers that have some group 4 and 5 species are listed. Many of these rivers and streams contain catch-and-release fishing.

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

Guidelines to reduce risks of eating fish include consuming smaller, less fatty fish like panfish and removing fat near the skin of the fish before cooking. Baking, broiling, or grilling fish also allows fat from the fish to drip away. To view some healthy recipes, visit **chooseyourfish.org/fish/recipe**.

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

LAKE MICHIGAN FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Bloater Chubs	One meal per month
Brown Trout	One meal per month
Chinook Salmon	One meal per month
Coho Salmon	Up to 27" One meal per week
	27"+ One meal per month
Lake Trout	Up to 22" One meal per week
	22–30" One meal per month
	30"+ Do Not Eat
Lake Whitefish	One meal per week
Rainbow Smelt	One meal per week
Rainbow Trout	One meal per week
Yellow Perch	One meal per week

OHIO RIVER FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Largemouth Bass Smallmouth Bass Spotted Bass	Up to 15" One meal per week
	15"+ One meal per month
Blue Catfish	One meal per week
Channel Catfish	Up to 18" One meal per month
	18"+ Six meals per year
Common Carp	One meal per month
Crappie Species	One meal per week
Flathead Catfish	One meal per month
Freshwater Drum	One meal per month
Hybrid Striped Bass	Six meals per year
Sauger	One meal per week
Striped Bass	Six meals per year
Sucker Species	One meal per month
Walleye/Saugeye	One meal per week
White Bass	One meal per month

Answers to Common Questions about Fishing in Indiana

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

Do I need a license to fish in Indiana?

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

Where can I fish in Indiana?

Indiana is home to many rivers, lakes, and creeks that are great for fishing. Visit **on.IN. gov/Where2Fish** to find public fishing spots near you.

I want to go fishing for a specific species, like walleye or Northern pike. How can I find bodies of water with different species?

Visit **fishing.IN.gov** for species-specific information, maps, and a list of possible sites. On the Where to Fish map, you can click on a site to see what sport fish are common at that location.

Where and when are fish stocked in lakes, rivers, and streams in Indiana?

We stock fish to improve fishing quality, provide additional fishing opportunities, or restore a population. Fish are stocked if the environment can support the stocked

fish, there are minimal impacts to Indiananative fish, and stocking will achieve management objectives.

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

What should I do if I catch an exotic fish like an invasive carp?

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

How are size and bag limits created?

Size and bag limits protect several fish species. Before a fishing regulation is proposed by DFW, staff study potential biological and social impacts. Fishing regulations are listed in Indiana Administrative Code (312 IAC 9) and must pass review and approval by the Natural

Resources Commission, which includes a public input process, as well as the State Budget Agency and Attorney General's office. Regulations are normally reviewed once every two years. A temporary rule can be signed by the DNR director in emergency situations such as to protect a fish population or increase the bag limit in a lake or pond where the water is lowered and fish need to be removed.

Are fish in Indiana safe to eat?

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

I saw a lot of dead fish in a body of water. What caused that?

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





District Fisheries Biologists

1. District 1

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

2. District 2

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

3. District 3

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

4. District 4

Vacant Cikana State Fish Hatchery 2650 SR 44 Martinsville, IN 46151 765-342-5527

5. District 5

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

6. District 6

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

Lake Michigan Office

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

Big Rivers Fisheries Program

Sarah Molinaro Sugar Ridge FWA 2310 E. SR 364 Winslow, IN 47598 812-789-2724

Nongame Fisheries Program

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

gh, IN 461 -5816

State Fish Hatcheries

A. Bodine State Fish Hatchery

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

B. Cikana State Fish Hatchery

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

C. Curtis Creek Trout Rearing Station

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

D. Driftwood State Fish Hatchery 4931 S. CR 250 W.

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

E. East Fork State

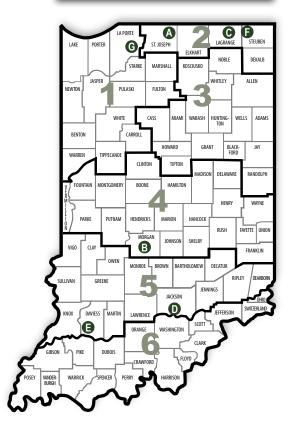
Fish Hatchery 5807 E. 825 S. Montgomery, IN 47558 812-644-7717

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

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 F SR 225

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

4. District 4 Headquarters 3734 Mounds Road

Anderson, IN 46017 765-649-1062

5. District 5 Headquarters

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

6. District 6 Headquarters

11 Durbin St. Edinburgh, IN 46124 812-526-4101

7. District 7 Headquarters

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

8. District 8 Headquarters

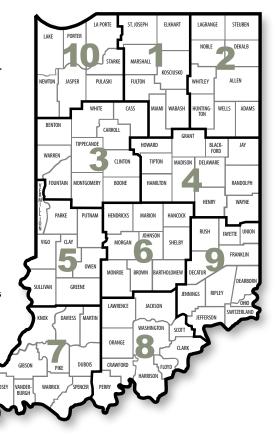
1504 Schlamn Lake Road Henryville, IN 47126 812-639-4148

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 Contact Sugar Ridge FWA
- 3. Chinook FWA Contact Deer Creek FWA
- 4. Crosley FWA 2010 S. SR 3 North Vernon, IN 47265 812-346-5596
- 5. Deer Creek FWA 2001 W. CR 600 S. Greencastle, IN 46135 765-653-0453
- **6. Fairbanks Landing FWA**Contact Goose Pond FWA
- 7. Glendale FWA 6001 E. 600 S. Montgomery, IN 47558 812-674-0168
- 8. Goose Pond FWA 13540 W. CR 400 S. Linton, IN 47441 812-512-9185

- Hillenbrand FWA Contact Goose Pond FWA
- **10. Hovey Lake FWA** 8401 SR 69 S. Mt. Vernon, IN 47620 812-838-2927
- **11. J.E. Roush Lake FWA** 517 N. Warren Road Huntington, IN 46750 260-468-2165
- **12. Jasper-Pulaski FWA** 5822 Fish & Wildlife Ln Medaryville, IN 47957 219-843-4841
- **13. Kankakee FWA** 4320 W. Toto Road North Judson, IN 46366 574-896-3522
- **14. Kingsbury FWA** 5344 S. Hupp Road LaPorte, IN 46350 219-393-3612
- **15. LaSalle FWA** 4752 W. 1050 N. Lake Village, IN 46349 219-992-3019

- **16. Pigeon River FWA** 8310 E. 300 N. Howe, IN 46746 260-367-2164
- **17. Splinter Ridge FWA**Contact Crosley FWA
- **18. Sugar Ridge FWA** 2310 E. SR 364 Winslow, IN 47598 812-789-2724
- **19. Tri-County FWA** 8432 N. 850 E. Syracuse, IN 46567 574-834-4461

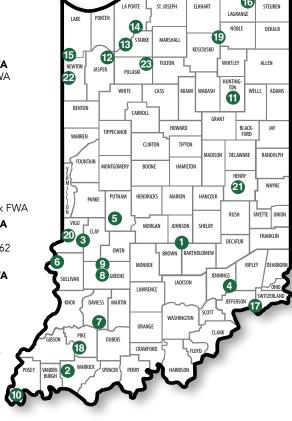
20. Wabashiki FWA

Contact Deer Creek FWA

21. Wilbur Wright FWA

2239 N. SR 103 New Castle, IN 47362 260-468-2165

- **22. Willow Slough FWA** 1803 S. 700 W. Morocco, IN 47963 219-285-2704
- **23. Winamac FWA** 1493 W. 500 N. Winamac, IN 46996 574-946-4422



State Lakes & State Forests

- **A. Brookville Lake** 14108 SR 101 Brookville, IN 47012 765-647-2657
- B. Cagles Mill Lake 1317 W. Lieber Road Suite 1 Cloverdale, IN 46120 765-276-0194
- C. Cecil M. Harden Lake 1588 S. Raccoon Parkway Rockville, IN 47872 765-344-1412
- D. Hardy Lake 5620 Hardy Lake Road Scottsburg, IN 47170 812-794-3800
- E. Mississinewa Lake 4673 S. 625 E. Peru, IN, 46970 765-473-6528
- F. Monroe Lake 4850 S. SR 446 Bloomington, IN 47401 812-837-9546
- **G. Patoka Lake** 3084 N. Dillard Road Birdseye, IN 47513 812-338-5589
- **H. Salamonie Lake** 9214 W. Lost Bridge W. Andrews, IN 46702 260-468-2125

1. Clark SF

#2 Service Road Henryville, IN 47126 812-294-4306 **2. Deam Lake SRA**

- 1217 Deam Lake Road Borden, IN 47106 812-246-5421
- **3. Ferdinand SF** 6583 E. SR 264 Ferdinand, IN 47532 812-827-2857
- **4. Greene-Sullivan SF** 2551 S. SR 159 Dugger, IN 47848 812-648-2810
- 5. Harrison-Crawford SF 7240 Old Forest Road S.W. Corydon, IN 47112 812-738-7694
- Jackson-Washington SF 1278 E. SR 250 Brownstown, IN 47220 812-358-2160
- 7. Martin SF 14040 Williams Road Shoals, IN 47581 812-247-3491
- 8. Morgan-Monroe SF 6220 Forest Road Martinsville, IN 46151 765-792-4654
- 9. Mountain Tea SF Pumpkin Ridge Road Nashville, IN 47448 812-988-7945

10. Owen-Putnam SF 2153 Fish Creek Road Spencer, IN 47460

812-829-2462 **11. Pike SF** 5994 E. SR 364

Winslow, IN 47598

812-827-2857

12. Ravinia SFN. Duckworth Road
Paragon IN, 46166
765-792-4654

13. Salamonie River SF 5400 E. Salamonie Forest Road

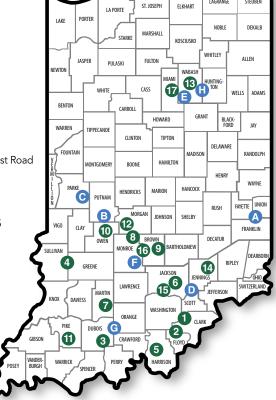
Lagro, IN 46941 260-782-0430

14. Selmier SF 905 E. CR 350 N. North Vernon, IN 47265 812-346-2286

15. Starve Hollow SRA 4345 S. 275 W. Vallonia, IN 47281 812-358-3464

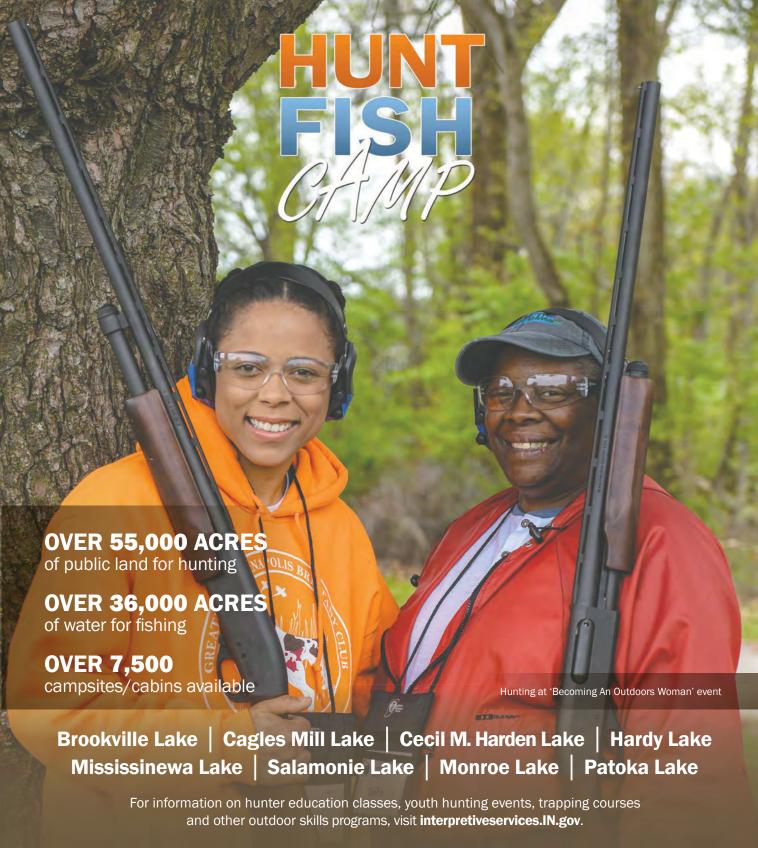
16. Yellowwood SF 772 Yellowwood Road Nashville, IN 47448 812-988-7945

17. Frances Slocum SF CR 510 E. Peru, IN 46970 260-782-0430



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



stateparks.IN.gov

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 wellstocked bait and tackle shops and get out there!









