

INDIANA

FISHING

REGULATIONS GUIDE

2023-2024

Get Hooked on
a New Hobby:

**LEARN TO
ICE FISH**

INSIDE

- **FREE** Fishing Days
- 2022 Fish of the Year Winners
- Ice Fishing Safety
- Crispy Crappie & Potato Balls
- Netting & Trapping Rules
- Magnet Fishing Guidelines

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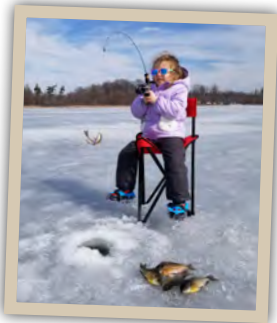
Amanda Wuestefeld

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:

Young Claire makes a catch while ice fishing.

Photo by Ben Dickinson



Like so many other Hoosiers, I was introduced to the joys of fishing at a young age. But it wasn't until much later that I went ice fishing. I found it just as fun but significantly different from the warm-weather version. As many of you know, success on the frozen stuff takes much more than time and bait, but it's worth the extra effort.

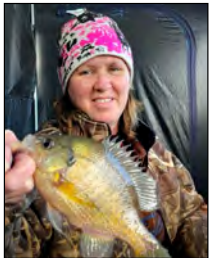
Our usual winter spot was Starve Hollow State Recreation Area, in the southeastern part of our great state. Whether we caught any keepers or not, ice time was time well spent, getting away from the daily grind, enjoying the fresh air, and shooting the breeze.

Although fun was the goal, safety came first, and it needs to for you, too—whether it's your first or umpteenth time out. Follow these tips from our conservation officers: Leave a note of where you're going with someone dependable. Pack a life jacket or flotation coat, ice picks, and rope gear. Upon arrival, put that flotation device on and take the ice picks and rope gear to where you want to fish. With another person present, test the ice with an ice auger—at least 4 inches thick is recommended. For more on how to safely enjoy this great sport, see on.IN.gov/ice-fishing.

Remember, you don't have to wait for warm weather to fish. If you haven't gone ice fishing, make this the year, and if it's been a while since you've been out, it's time to get back on the ice—safely—and remember to keep the magic going come spring, summer, and fall.

Dan Bortner

Dan Bortner
Director, Indiana Department of Natural Resources



I love to fish, whether it's stream fishing, casting from the shore, or sitting in a shanty on the ice. For me, it always comes back to spending time with family and friends and, hopefully, hooking a wonderful meal.

My two boys and I have winter birthdays. They know the best birthday present they can give me is a day with them on the ice. Since they were itty bitty, my husband and I would take them to our local hole, set up the shanty, and enjoy a day of ice fishing. As the boys grew, so did our shanty and snack pile, the friendly competition, and our memories of our time together in the outdoors.

Many anglers overlook ice fishing. Our latest angler survey shows less than 20 percent of respondents went ice fishing last year. This means there's plenty of room for more anglers to extend their season and learn a new skill. I've introduced a lot of young people to fishing via ice fishing. It's simple, low-cost, and safe if you go prepared. Gear-wise, you just need an auger to drill the hole, a bucket to sit on, and an ice fishing pole. Ice fishing itself is even easier, no casting required! It's my favorite way to spend wintertime outdoors with family—talking football, high school wrestling, and who has the most fish in their pile!

I encourage you to give it a try. While you're at it, check out our new angler survey dashboard at on.IN.gov/angler-survey.

As always, thank you for your contributions to fish and wildlife conservation in Indiana!

Amanda Wuestefeld

Amanda Wuestefeld
Director, DNR Division of Fish & Wildlife



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WELCOME

Free Fishing Days

May 7
June 3-4
Sept. 23

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

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



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Indiana Department
of Natural Resources



How To Hold a Fish



DO Wet your hands before handling to protect the fish's slime layer. Hold large fish with two hands to avoid injuring the fish.

DO NOT Hold a fish by the gills. Use the lip and grip technique with large fish or hold the fish vertically.

To Our Anglers

Welcome to the 2023 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 to conduct fish research, maintain fish and wildlife areas, educate new anglers, maintain public access sites, stock fish in Indiana waters, acquire land, and more. We thank all anglers, hunters, trappers, boaters, and recreational shooters in Indiana for their continued support of the Division of Fish & Wildlife. The funding stream you provide helps make conservation of Indiana's natural resources a success.

Finally, we wish you luck in your 2023 fishing endeavors. We hope you get your best catch yet.

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Who Requires a Fishing License

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

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

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

Indiana residents 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 \$.40 per license fee for system support maintenance, and an additional \$1 plus 1.96% credit card company fee (Visa, MC, Discover) on each transaction.

In Person

Visit one of more than 500 retailers statewide listed at on.IN.gov/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

2023 LICENSE FEES

Fees listed below are valid from April 1, 2023 through March 31, 2024.*

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

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

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

² Must have been born after March 31, 1943 and be at least 64 years old.

N/A = not available

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.

- Resident owners or lessees of Indiana farmland who farm that land and their spouses and children living with them while fishing on the farmland they own or lease. This exemption does not apply to land owned by a business, corporation, or partnership unless the shareholders, partners, members, or owners are composed solely of an immediate family and farm that land. Farmland means agricultural land that is devoted to or best adaptable to the production of crops, fruits, timber, or raising livestock, or is assessed as agricultural land for property tax purposes.
- Some nonresident landowners, while fishing in public waters from the farmland they own, according to the exemptions that their state provides to Indiana residents.

Military/Veterans

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

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

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INDIANA'S STATEWIDE SIZE & BAG LIMITS

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Bluegill	Unlimited (exceptions: page 12)	None
Redear Sunfish	25 (exceptions: page 12)	None
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass (in lakes)	5, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches (exceptions: page 14)
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, 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 15)
Black Bass: largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass (in Lake Michigan)	3, any combination of largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass	14 inches
Yellow Bass	Unlimited	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 12)	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: pages 11 & 12)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1 muskellunge or 1 tiger muskellunge	36 inches ²
Northern Pike	3 ³	24 inches; no more than one 30 inches or longer ⁴
Yellow Perch	Unlimited (15 only on Lake Michigan)	None
Catfish: Channel, Blue, Flathead (in streams)	Unlimited	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 12)	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	Unlimited	None
Lake Whitefish	12	None
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Unlimited	25 inches

Hooks for Pole Fishing or Hand Lines

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

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

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

Bag & Possession Limits

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

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

Illegal Stocking, Aquarium Release

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

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

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

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

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

⁵ No bag limit for catfish at Turtle Creek Reservoir.

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

Umbrella Rigs

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

Float Fishing

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

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

Ice Fishing

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

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

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

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

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

Freshwater Mussels

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

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

Bow Fishing

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

Spear Fishing

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

- Kankakee River, upstream 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 a half mile below its confluence with Big Creek in Carroll County. Fish spears and fish gigs cannot be used in, on, or adjacent to Tippecanoe River from a half-mile below its juncture with Big Creek in Carroll County upstream to the Oakdale Dam.
- Wabash River, 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

All waters except the Ohio River:

State law does not allow the taking of fish by trot line, set line, throw line, net, trap, or seine within 200 yards of a dam on an Indiana waterway or boundary water. Minnows may not be taken within 500 yards of a dam. There are no distance regulations for using a fishing pole or hand line.

Ohio River:

No fish may be taken within 200 yards of a dam except by fishing pole or hand line. (see page 22—Ohio River).

Wanton Waste

The intentional waste and destruction of fish is prohibited unless the fish is required by law to be killed. Fish must not be mutilated and returned to the water unless the fish is lawfully

used as bait. Fish parts, including entrails, must not be discarded into any state waters but should be disposed of in a sanitary manner that does not pollute the water or become detrimental to public health or comfort.

Sale of Aquatic Life

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

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

Smelt Fishing

Smelt may be taken from Lake Michigan from March 1 through May 30. Smelt may be taken only with a single seine or net. The seine or net may not exceed 12 feet in length and 6 feet in depth, nor have a stretch mesh larger than 1½ inches. A dip net may not exceed 12 feet in diameter.

Endangered Fish

The following fish species are classified as endangered in Indiana: cisco, bantam sunfish, Hoosier cavefish (formerly Northern cavefish), channel darter, gilt darter, greater redhorse, lake sturgeon (page 24), Western sand darter, pallid shiner, reddsides dace, and variegated darter.

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

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

Species Illegal to Possess

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

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

Border Waters

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

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

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

Boating

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

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. For more information, call 317-232-4200.

Lake Michigan Trout & Salmon

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

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

Illegal Devices

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

Sorting Fish

Anglers are responsible for maintaining fish in a healthy condition. Dead and dying fish cannot be released back into the water. At no time may anglers have more than a bag limit in their possession while engaged in a day's fishing. However, sorting of fish may be allowed within the bag limit if fish are in healthy condition at the time of release. For example, if you catch five largemouth bass (daily bag limit is five) and catch a bigger largemouth bass later that day, it is legal to release any of the other fish in good condition in order to keep the larger one. Fish must be released into the water from which they were taken and be able to swim away normally. All fish in possession must meet legal size limits.

Gifting Fish

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

Holding Baskets, Live Boxes, Live Nets, Etc.

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

Minnows & Crayfish

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

"Minnow" is defined as a species of the minnow family *Cyprinidae*, except for exotic species identified in 312 IAC 9-6-7 and endangered species identified in 312 IAC 9-6-9, as well as

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Each year, DNR Fish & Wildlife hatcheries rear and stock over 20 million fish into Indiana's waterbodies. Learn more about our fish hatcheries at on.IN.gov/dfwproperties.



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

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

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

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

- See page 22 for special minnow and crayfish collecting regulations on the Ohio River.

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

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

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

Gizzard Shad & Threadfin Shad

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

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

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

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

Hooks on East Fork White River

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

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

Walleye Size Limits

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



AN OUTDOORSMAN'S PARADISE

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

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

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

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RECORD FISH

- 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.

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

Looking for a place to fish?

USE OUR WHERE TO FISH MAP TO:

- ▶ Explore public access sites and public fishing areas
- ▶ Discover urban fishing locations
- ▶ See if sites have a boat ramp, motor restrictions, and launch fees
- ▶ Read fish survey reports



on.IN.gov/where2fish

New Burbot State Record Set Just Before Turn of New Year

As the end of the year approached, it appeared there would be no State Record fish caught in 2022. That was until Scott Skafar reeled in a burbot weighing 10.2 lbs from Lake Michigan, surpassing the previous mark set in 1990 by 2.5 lbs. Scott was targeting lake trout out of Portage on December 30, when he landed what turned out to be a memorable fish.

Of the 55 species recognized by the program, Lake Michigan currently holds more records than any other body of water. Other state record catches from Lake Michigan include Atlantic salmon, brown trout, pink salmon, tiger trout, coho salmon, lake trout, and lake whitefish. Other bodies of water that have produced multiple state records include the Wabash, White, Tippecanoe, and Ohio rivers, Clear Lake, and Trail Creek.

If you think you've 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 district's DNR fisheries biologist (on.IN.gov/fisheriesbiologist) has a certified scale. You can also find certified scales at meat markets or farm-related retailers.
- If a DNR scale is not used, obtain and submit a copy of the Scale Inspection Report from the owner of the store where the fish is weighed.
- Submit a photo or printed meat packaging label (if available) showing the weight of the fish and 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 must observe the weight and length measurement and sign the entry form (found at fishing.IN.gov).
- Provide side-view photograph(s) of the fish and a copy of the angler's fishing license, if the angler requires a license.

These records are waiting to be broken, so get out on the water and go fish!

INDIANA FISH RECORDS

Species	Weight	Water, County	Angler	Year
Bighead Carp	53 lb., 8 oz.	White River (Pike)	Duane Stafford	2000
Bowfin (Dogfish)	16.52 lb.	Mutton Creek (Jackson)	Paul Huber	2009
Brown Trout	29.3 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Glen Duesing	2006
Buffalo	53.9 lb.	Oak Hill Pond (Gibson)	Kenneth Houchin	2002
Burbot	10.2 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Scott Skafar	2022
Goldeye	2.3 lb.	Wabash River (Vermillion)	Brock Marietta	2008
Grass Carp	69.0 lb.	Pond (Hamilton)	Daniel Goss	2018
Hybrid Striped Bass	22 lb., 2 oz.	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	David G. Coffman	2005
Lake Trout	37.55 lb.	Lake Michigan	Tyler Kreighbaum	2016
Lake Whitefish	9.34 lb.	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Phillip Duracz	2021
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
Redfin Pickerel	0.86 lb.	Coffee Creek Park Pond (Porter)	Duncan Fischer	2020
Shortnose Gar	2.35 lb.	Wabash River (Wabash)	Kyle Hammond	2021
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
Spotted Bass	5 lb., 5 oz.	Private Lake (Vigo)	Larry Hinesley Jr.	2006
Spotted Gar	6.78 lb.	Gravel Pit (Vermillion)	Nick Waugh	2017
Striped Bass	39.08 lb.	Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke)	Jonathan VanHook	2010
Warmouth	1.4 lb.	North Dugger Pit (Sullivan)	Jack Tolbert	2002
Yellow Bass	2 lb., 15 oz.	Morse Reservoir (Hamilton)	Jim Raymer	2000

To view all Indiana Fish Records dating back to 1962, please visit us online at <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/indiana-record-fish-program/records/> or scan this QR code.



FOTY Anglers Submit 55 Species in 2022

Indiana's Fish of the Year (FOTY) program continues to be popular, with 71 anglers submitting 139 entries in 2022.

The longest fish of 2022 was a 56-inch long-nose gar caught by Hayden Baker in Aikman Creek in Daviess County. The smallest FOTY winning entry was a 3-inch mottled sculpin caught by Greg Porter in the Big Blue River in Henry County. Anglers collectively submitted entries for 55 different fish species. Smallmouth bass was the species that received the most entries from anglers in 2022. Several species made their first appearance to the program, including blue tilapia, emerald shiner and mottled sculpin. Notable species that did not receive entries in 2022 were muskellunge, Northern pike and white crappie.

The Tippecanoe River had more winning entries than any other body of water in 2022. Winning entries for the Tippecanoe River included bigmouth buffalo, blue sucker, gizzard shad, hybrid striped bass, quillback, rock bass, smallmouth bass, smallmouth buffalo and white bass. Other popular bodies of water with multiple winning entries included the Wabash, White, and Ohio rivers, and Lake Michigan.

Anglers who plan to submit entries in 2023 must remember that to be eligible, they are required to submit a photo showing the full length of their catch while on a measuring board or tape.

If you think you've caught a winner, there are three easy ways to enter: online, U.S. mail, or email.

- For online entries, enter the required information using the online entry form (found at fishing.IN.gov; click Record Fish) and submit a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.
- For mail entries, print and complete an entry form (found at fishing.IN.gov; click Record Fish) and include a photo of the fish showing the measurement and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to Record Fish Program, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 402 W. Washington St., Room 273, Indianapolis, IN 46204
- For email entries, submit an electronic version of the entry form and attach a photo of the fish and a copy of your fishing license (if you are required to have one) to recordfish@dnr.IN.gov.

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

2022 FISH OF THE YEAR CONTEST WINNERS

Family	Species	Length (inches)	Location (County)	Angler
Black Bass	Largemouth Bass	22.0	Loon Pit (Warrick)	Matthew Kiefer
	Smallmouth Bass	21.3	Tippecanoe River (Pulaski)	Alex Deneau
	Spotted Bass	14.5	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
Sunfish	Black Crappie	16.0	Elk Creek Lake (Washington)	Ray Bateman
	Bluegill	11.0	Private Pond (Newton)	Anthony A Talarico Jr
	Green Sunfish	8.8	Private Lake (Henry)	Michele Porter
	Hybrid Sunfish	12.0	Private Pond (Dubois)	Sam Sermersheim
	Pumpkinseed (tie)	9.3	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Sally Pagorek
	Pumpkinseed (tie)	9.3	St. Joseph River (Elkhart)	Bruce Buteyn
	Pumpkinseed (tie)	9.3	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Anthony A Talarico Jr
	Redear Sunfish	12.4	Private Lake (Putnam)	Will Lloyd
	Rock Bass	11.0	Tippecanoe River (White)	Liu He
	Warmouth	9.0	Clear Lake (Steuben)	Roger Voirol
Catfish	Brown Bullhead	17.0	Private Pond (Johnson)	Gregory Zentz
	Channel Catfish	33.0	Private Pond (Huntington)	Dan Bickel
Perch	Sauger	18.5	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Saugeye	23.0	Sullivan Lake (Sullivan)	Wayne Witkowski
	Walleye	30.0	Sylvan Lake (Noble)	Kenneth Barden
	Yellow Perch (tie)	14.0	St. Joseph River (Elkhart)	Aaron Voirol
	Yellow Perch (tie)	14.0	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Greg Saylor
Trout/Salmon	Brown Trout	25.0	Lake Michigan	Sean Allwardt
	Chinook Salmon	40.5	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Kenny Barden
	Coho Salmon	33.3	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Jeff Brown
	Lake Trout	36.5	Lake Michigan (Lake)	Bryan G Odom
	Lake Whitefish	22.0	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Hogir Saeed
	Rainbow Trout (tie)	19.0	Strip Pit (Greene)	Steven Kellett
	Rainbow Trout (tie)	19.0	Lake Gage (Steuben)	Micheal Grime
True Bass	Steelhead	32.0	Trail Creek (LaPorte)	Liu He
	Hybrid Striped Bass	30.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Hao Wu
	Striped Bass	15.5	Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke)	Liu He
Minnow	White Bass	16.5	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	Common Carp (tie)	30.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Jonah Switzer
	Common Carp (tie)	30.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Creek Chub	10.1	Crooked Creek (Porter)	Max Odom
	Emerald Shiner	3.4	Otter Creek (Vigo)	Steven Kellett
	Golden Shiner	10.3	Airline Lake (Greene)	Travis Rowe
	Grass Carp	30.5	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
	Silver Chub	6.4	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
	Striped Shiner	8.5	Fawn River (Steuben)	Greg Enyart
Sucker	Bigmouth Buffalo	24.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	Black Buffalo	26.8	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Blue Sucker	27.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	Golden Redhorse	20.3	Kankakee River (Starke)	Mark Holbrook
	Northern Hogsucker	15.5	White River (Lawrence)	Ron Anderson
	Quillback	18.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	River Carpsucker	17.0	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
	Shorthead Redhorse	18.0	White River (Lawrence)	Ron Anderson
	Silver Redhorse	19.5	Ohio River (Clark)	Joe Johnson
	Smallmouth Buffalo	26.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	White Sucker	20.8	Lake Michigan (LaPorte)	Anthony A Talarico Jr
Other	Gizzard Shad	18.0	Tippecanoe River (Carroll)	Liu He
	Goldeye	17.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Skipjack Herring	16.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Bowfin	30.0	Pine Lake (LaPorte)	Ronald Ryba II
	Freshwater Drum	23.5	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Liu He
	Longnose Gar	56.0	Aikman Creek (Daviess)	Hayden Baker
	Shortnose Gar	28.0	White River (Greene)	Jeffrey Kellett
	Blue Tilapia	17.5	Dowling Park (Lake)	Eric Alegre
	Mottled Sculpin	3.0	Big Blue River (Henry)	Greg Porter
	Shovelnose Sturgeon	31.0	Wabash River (Tippecanoe)	Joe Johnson

BASS REGULATIONS

STATEWIDE BLACK BASS REGULATIONS

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

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

Special Lake Regulations

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

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

Regulations on bass fishing differ on the Ohio River (page 22).

Lake Limits by County

15-inch minimum size limit:

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

16-inch minimum size limit:

- Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke County)

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

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

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

20-inch minimum size limit and one fish daily bag limit:

- Turtle Creek Reservoir (Sullivan County)

12- to 15-inch slot size limits:

At the following lakes, largemouth bass that are from 12 to 15 inches in length may not be harvested. The daily bag limit applies to bass under 12 inches and over 15 inches.

- Buffalo Trace Lake (Harrison County)
- Ferdinand State Forest Lake (Dubois County)
- Montgomery City Park Lake (Davies County)

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

- Big Long Lake (LaGrange County)

No minimum size limit waters:

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



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- 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).

Magnet Fishing on DNR Properties

What is magnet fishing, you ask?

It involves attaching a strong magnet to a length of sturdy rope, then throwing the magnet into a body of water with the hopes of 'catching' a lost object. Once the magnet hits the lake or riverbed, you simply pull in the rope, dragging the magnet along the bottom of the body of water, and reeling in any finds. Items typically recovered can include wheel rims, bicycles, and keys; but flashier items are also sometimes recovered.

In the last two years, the popularity of magnet fishing has skyrocketed, leading to rising safety concerns. These concerns include decreased water quality due to excessive stirring of sediment by large magnets that require a mechanical reel. Other concerns include the presence of unsightly debris and the staining of sidewalks by items left behind.

DNR encourages people to pursue a variety of outdoor recreation activities and works hard to accommodate those activities in a manner that is safe and compatible with others. To magnet fish on bodies of water on state property, DNR requires individuals to obtain a free permit from the property they want to use.

DNR encourages magnet fishers to be responsible in their efforts by carrying out and correctly disposing of found items, rinsing the magnet-fished shoreline area when finished, being respectful of other visitors using public land, and reporting any finds of firearms or other dangerous items that could cause a potential criminal investigation involving the property.

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 20.

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

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

Catch-and-release applies to all trout streams from Jan. 1 through April 14. See page 20 for special tributary restrictions and closure information for Lake Michigan streams.

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

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

INLAND TROUT SIZES & LIMITS

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

*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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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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Get Hooked on a New Hobby: Learn to Ice Fish

By Matt Horsley, Fisheries Management Biologist

Photo Credit: Mike Schoof

As fall ends and Indiana's water begins to rapidly cool, many anglers hang up their hats and quit fishing for the year. But some just trade their ball caps for toboggans.

While the thought of sitting on the ice bundled up may not appeal to everyone, many appreciate winter for its angling opportunities. They have found that once the lakes and rivers freeze over, fish will likely bite just as well, and sometimes better, than in summer.

Even though fish metabolisms slow down during the winter, fish still feed, and with the scarcity of forage, they may be more eager to strike at bait. All of this and more makes ice fishing a simple and inexpensive hobby that can be fun for the whole family.

If you go, be sure to put safety first. Whether you are the first one on the lake or are moving to a new area of the water to fish, use extreme caution, especially during early icing. Remember that ice thickness varies around a lake—in many places ice may not be thick enough to walk on. Shorelines, bays,

and channels always tend to freeze earlier than other large parts of a lake. Use an ice spud or auger to determine thickness. Four inches of clear, solid ice is the minimum recommended to safely walk on. Below are a few other tips to follow to stay safe on the ice.

- Fish with a partner so that someone can call for help in case of an emergency.
- Carry ice picks to help pull yourself out if you fall through the ice.
- Wear ice cleats to avoid slipping, falling, and hurting yourself.
- Notify others where you will be fishing and when you expect to return.
- Wear a life jacket or flotation device and carry rope in case of an emergency.

Once you have thought through your safety plan, you may wonder what equipment you need. Don't worry about cost—ice fishing doesn't have to be expensive. If you want to

target panfish like bluegill or crappie, all you need to get started is an ice auger and ice scoop; a short, sensitive fishing rod; jigs; bait; and a bucket or sled to haul everything onto the ice. You can easily drill a hole with a hand-crank auger. For panfish, a 6-inch auger will suffice, and small micro jigs, like teardrops tipped with a wax worm or spike, which you can buy at your local bait and tackle shop, typically work best.

If you want to fish for other species like bass, walleye, or pike, you may need heavier equipment, such as a medium- to heavy-action jigging rod with a larger spoon or a jig tipped with a minnow. But don't let the tools fool you—catching bigger fish doesn't have to be complicated. Many anglers stick with the passive technique of using a plastic or wood tip-up, set over a hole, equipped with a signal flag, and tipped with a minnow. When a fish bites and begins to run, it trips the flag. This technique can work in combination with jigging for a successful day.

As you get more familiar with the sport, upgrading your tools can help improve your odds of catching more fish. Check out one of the several brands of sonars and flashers on the market that can sense your bait in the water as well as the fish near it. These devices can help you find fish faster and tell you if there are any structures under your hole in the ice near which fish could be congregating. In general, fish tend to prefer places with weed beds, logs, or breaks, so knowing where these areas are may help increase your catch.

If you aren't catching fish in one hole, don't be afraid to move around, keeping safety in mind, of course. You can drill more holes in other areas, starting at depths of 10 to 15 feet of water and adjusting from there. You can even sneak a peek at other anglers near you—their locations may provide a good sense of where fish may be.

Remember to stay toasty between catches. With the proper equipment, ice fishing can be a warm and comfortable experience. You can bring a small heater and use an ice shanty or other easily set-up portable shelter to stay out of the wind, making your ice fishing trip much more enjoyable.

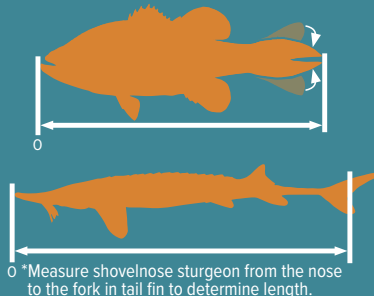
Whether you are working to catch a mess of bluegills or standing around telling stories with your friends or family as you wait for the next flag on your tip-up, ice fishing is an excellent way to spend a winter day.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

TOOLS YOU'LL NEED

- ▶ MEASURING BOARD
- ▶ RULER OR TAPE MEASURE
- ▶ A FLAT SURFACE

- 1 Wet your hands and the surface on which you're measuring the fish to protect the fish's slime layer in case you need to throw it back.
- 2 Lay the fish on its side with its mouth pointing toward the zero mark of the measuring tool.
- 3 Pinch the tail fin together and close the fish's mouth.
- 4 Measure the fish* from the tip of the closed jaw to the end of the tail fin to determine the total length.



FIND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AT
fishing.IN.gov

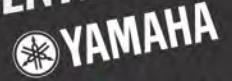


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LAKE MICHIGAN REGULATIONS

LAKE MICHIGAN & TRIBUTARIES SIZES AND LIMITS

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

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

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

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

Lake Michigan bass regulations can be found on page 14.

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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Ice Fishing Safety



DNR
Indiana Department
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on.IN.gov/ice-fishing



- **Know the body of water** that you're going to fish on. Be mindful of creeks or springs along lakes and ponds, which could make ice unsafe. Beaver lodges will often have weak ice around them.
- **Stay off of moving water**, because Indiana doesn't have cold enough winters to safely freeze our rivers and streams.
- **Never walk on less than 4 inches of ice.** Know that 4 inches, late in the season, may not be safe. Ice can be waterlogged or honeycombed at these times.
- **ATVs need 8 to 12 inches of ice.**
- **Small vehicles need 12 to 15 inches of ice.**
- **Trucks need 15 inches or more of ice.**
- **Snow insulates ice.** This can cause weak spots and slow the freezing process.
- **Dress appropriately for the day.** Wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device, brightly colored clothes, ice creepers, wool clothing, a hat, and sunglasses.
- **Never fish alone.** Tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return.
- **Make sure everyone with you has a fully charged cellphone.**

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OHIO RIVER DAILY BAG AND SIZE LIMITS

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

Fishing on the Ohio

These regulations are the result of a cooperative effort by Indiana and five other Ohio River states. In many cases, these rules differ significantly from other laws and regulations in Indiana. These rules and regulations apply only to the main stem of the Ohio River and do not include the tributaries or embayments for which general Indiana fishing regulations apply.

An agreement between Indiana and Kentucky allows that each state will recognize the fishing license issued by the other state on the main stem of the Ohio River, excluding embayments and tributaries. This means anglers can fish the Ohio River bank to bank with a license issued by either state. To fish Indiana or Kentucky embayments or tributaries, a license from that state must be obtained. An angler must abide by the regulations of the state by which they are licensed, except when fishing from the bank. When fishing from the

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Where to Fish on the Ohio

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

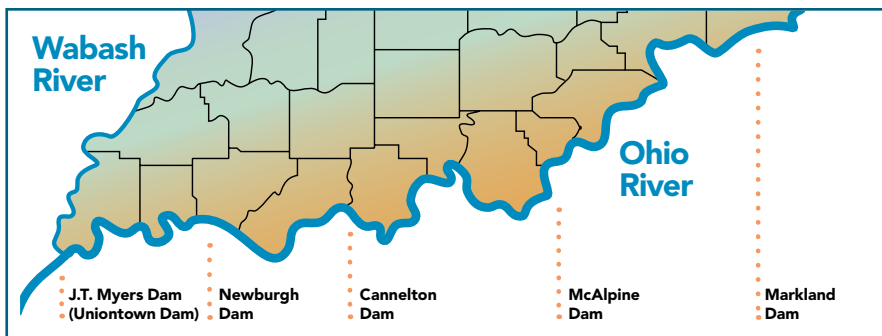
- J.T. Myers Dam (Uniontown Dam)—15 miles southwest of Mount Vernon in Posey County, accessible at Hovey Lake Fish & Wildlife Area
- Newburgh Dam—in the town of Newburgh off SR 66
- Cannelton Dam—follow Taylor Street south from SR 66 in Cannelton
- McAlpine Dam—located at Clarksville
- Falls of the Ohio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

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

Minnows & Crayfish

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

- A minnow trap that does not exceed 3 feet long and 18 inches in diameter and does not have a throat opening greater than 2 inches in diameter
- A dip net no more than 3 feet in diameter
- A minnow seine no more than 30 feet long and 6 feet deep that does not have a mesh size larger than ¼ inch bar mesh
- A cast net not to exceed 20 feet in diameter that does not have a mesh size larger than ¾ inch stretch
- Legal sport fishing methods listed on this page



REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS SEASONS & LIMITS

Species	Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Restrictions
Game turtles				
Eastern Snapping Turtle	July 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024	4, 12 inch minimum carapace length	8, 12 inch minimum carapace length	Turtle traps may be used but may not have an opening below the water surface.
Smooth Softshell Turtle				
Spiny Softshell Turtle				
Game frogs				
Bull Frog	June 15, 2023 to April 30, 2024	25, any combination of bull or green frog	50, any combination of bull or green frog	Frogs may be taken with gig or spear with a head not more than 3 inches in width and a single row of tines; long bow and arrow; club; hands alone; or pole or hand line with not more than one hook or artificial lure attached. Firearms for frog hunting are restricted to .22-caliber loaded with birdshot only or an air rifle that fires a lead pellet (.177 diameter minimum) at least 500 feet per second.
Green Frog				

All reptiles and amphibians native to Indiana are regulated species.

A license is required to take a reptile or amphibian from the wild. Species of frogs, lizards, salamanders, snakes, toads, or turtles on the state or federally endangered species list may not be taken at any time. Eastern box turtles cannot be collected from the wild at any time.

Eastern snapping turtles, smooth softshell turtles, and spiny softshell turtles can be taken only between July 1 and March 31 of the following year and must have a carapace (shell) length of at least 12 inches.

Carapace length is the straight line measurement along the top surface of the shell

from the central point of the front edge directly behind the turtle's neck to a central point on the back edge directly above the turtle's tail.

Indiana residents 18 years of age or older must possess a valid hunting or fishing license while collecting species of reptiles or amphibians from the wild.

All nonresident adults and nonresident youth must possess a nonresident annual hunting license while collecting reptiles or amphibians from the wild.

License holders must obey season dates and bag limits, and use legal methods. Excluding state parks, an individual with a valid fishing or hunting license may take game frog and turtle

species from a DNR property where fishing and hunting is authorized. Other species of reptiles and amphibians may not be taken from any DNR property, including state parks.

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

Reptiles and amphibians collected from the wild in Indiana may not be sold.

Only legally collected amphibians or reptiles held for fewer than 30 days may be released at their original capture site if they have never been housed with another animal.

Have you seen these rare salamanders?

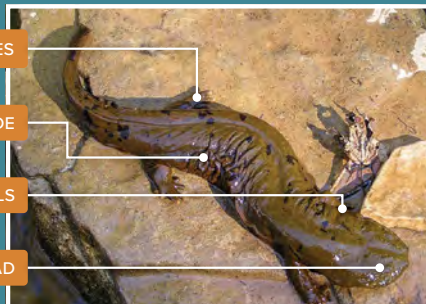
If caught, cut the line, release unharmed, and email HerpSurveys@dnr.IN.gov or call 812-334-1137.

ROUND PROMINENT TOES

WRINKLES ON SIDE

NO EXTERNAL GILLS

FLAT, ROUND HEAD



Hellbenders

State Endangered Species

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



LEARN MORE ABOUT REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

endangeredwildlife.IN.gov

Mudpuppies

Species of Special Concern

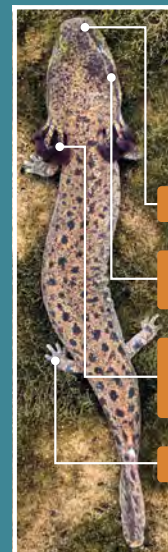
- Aquatic salamanders that can reach 16" in length
- Found throughout Indiana
- Live in lakes, rivers, and streams

NARROW SNOUT

STRIPE FROM NOSE THROUGH EYE TO GILLS

EXTERNAL GILLS, WHICH MAY APPEAR FLATTENED WHEN OUT OF WATER

SMALL, POINTED TOES



DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Crispy Crappie & Potato Balls

This cold-water crappie recipe is inspired by a fantastic Spanish preparation that uses salt cod. These flavorful bites are great as an appetizer or as a main dish, if the ice fishing has been particularly good.

Recipe and photo courtesy of Neal Brown of Howe & Brown Hospitality.

Connect on social: @nealbrown

Directions:

Bake the potatoes in the oven until tender. When they are cool enough to handle, peel the potatoes.

While the potatoes bake, bring the milk and crappie to a very gentle simmer just until the crappie is tender and cooked through—about 4-5 minutes. Remove from the heat and allow to cool.

Add the fish to the potatoes and mash with a fork so the potatoes and fish flake apart and begin to combine. Add half the warm milk and stir.

Reserve the other half of the milk for later.

Add one egg, the sliced onions, lemon juice, and nutmeg to the mixture, and stir until well blended.

Using your hands, or a #3 cookie scoop, ball up the mixture the size of a golf ball.

Dredge the balls in flour.

Refrigerate for 30-40 minutes until cool.

Heat a fryer or a pot of oil to 375 degrees.

Combine the second egg and reserved milk mixture in a bowl and dip each ball into the mixture, then put them in another bowl with the bread crumbs.

Coat well and fry the balls until they are golden brown and hot inside.

Serve these with horseradish sauce or garlic mayonnaise.



Ingredients:

- 1 pound crappie fillets, skinned, and seasoned with salt
- 2 medium potatoes
- 3 green onions, chopped
- 2 to 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 to 1 ¼ cups milk
- 3 tablespoons parsley, chopped
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- Juice of half a lemon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 large eggs, divided
- 1 cup panko breadcrumbs

What To Know

ENDANGERED LAKE STURGEON vs. SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES
fishing.IN.gov



LAKE STURGEON (STATE ENDANGERED)

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



SNOUT:

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

MOUTH:

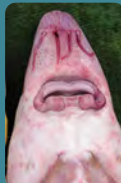
- No lobes on upper lip
- Two lobes on lower lip

OTHER BODY FEATURES:

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

RANGE:

- Typically in lower Wabash and White rivers and Lake Michigan



SHOVELNOSE STURGEON

**Must be 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



STARCRAFT

MARINE



For 2023 Starcraft continues to push boundaries and drive innovation by introducing the all-new Storm Series. From pro-style fishing to father-and-son outings, Starcraft Fishing boats feature the most impressive amenities. Better yet, they all come standard. Substantial rod storage, portable aerated Engel Live Bait Coolers, Integrated Gunnel Track System, accessible rigging, cockpit floor drains, automotive-style consoles and spacious floorplans deliver a great boating experience for all types of anglers.



The all-new Starcraft Storm series features the Vertex Performance Strake (VPS) hull, setting the standard for high performance in aluminum fishing design. The VPS Hull provides the highest ride quality in the industry including:

- UNDISTURBED WATER TO PROP
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- QUICKER TIME TO PLANE
- HIGHER & DRIER RIDE
- GREATER STABILITY
- LESS HP REQUIRED



SCAN ME

[STARCRAFTMARINE.COM](https://www.starcraftmarine.com)

Sunfish



Bluegill

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



Redear

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



Black Crappie

7 to 8 dorsal spines, random blotches on sides.



White Crappie

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

Black Bass



Largemouth Bass

Upper jaw extends beyond back of eye.



Smallmouth Bass

Upper jaw does not extend beyond back of eye.



Spotted Bass

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

True Bass



Hybrid Striped

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



White Bass

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



Striped Bass

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

Catfish



Blue Catfish

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



Channel Catfish

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



Flathead Catfish

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

Perch



Sauger

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



Walleye

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



Yellow Perch

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

Salmon



Chinook Salmon or King Salmon

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



Coho Salmon

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

Trout



Brown Trout

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



Rainbow Trout or Steelhead

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



Lake Trout

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

Northern Pike & Muskellunge



Northern Pike

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



Muskellunge

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

Fish Identification Form

Caught a fish and need help identifying the species?

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 on.in.gov/fish-id for more information.

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

10 DIFFERENT STYLES OF BLADES AVAILABLE

TALON BY **HAVALON** KNIVES

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Is it Safe to Eat Your Fish?

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

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

It's all about a person's exposure to contaminants over time. The two contaminants that primarily drive the fish consumption guidelines are mercury and polychlorinated

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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



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



Fish Consumption Guidelines Interactive Map

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

WILD FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES GROUPS

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

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

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

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

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

* Consult the Fish Consumption Guidelines for a complete listing.

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

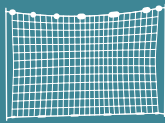
OHIO RIVER FISH CONSUMPTION GUIDELINES

Species	Meal Frequency
Largemouth Bass	Up to 15"
Smallmouth Bass	One meal per week
Spotted Bass	15"+ One meal per month
Blue Catfish	One meal per week
Channel Catfish	Up to 18"
	One meal per month
Common Carp	18"+ Six meals per year
	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

Netting & Trapping Rules

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

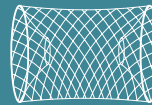
COLLECTION METHODS



Seine



Cast Net

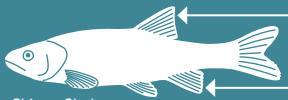


Trap



Dip Net

LEGAL SPECIES



Shiner, Chub, Dace, Minnow

SOFT FINS

SUCKER MOUTH



Sucker

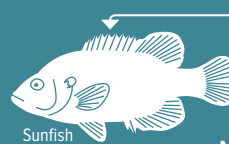


CLAWS

Crayfish

EXOSKELETON

ILLEGAL SPECIES



Sunfish

SPINY FIN

LARGE MOUTH



Bass

NO SCALES

ADIPOSE FIN

BARBELS

Catfish



Catfish

ELONGATED BODY

TOOTHY, DUCKBILL MOUTH



Pike

In addition to these examples, all fish listed on pg. 26 and 27 are illegal.

Detailed information is on pg. 10 and 11 under "Minnows & Crayfish" and pg. 22 for Ohio River specific regulations. For other collection questions, see pg. 31 to find contact information for your district fisheries biologist.

GET INVOLVED WITH THE INDIANA DNR

Be a DNR Volunteer
on.IN.gov/dnrvolunteer

Attend DNR Events
events.IN.gov/dnr

Monitor Wildlife
on.IN.gov/wildlife-monitoring

HELP INDIANA'S RARE WILDLIFE



GIVE \$5

FISH & WILDLIFE WILL RECEIVE \$14

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

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

American Eel photo by Sam Stukel/USFWS

DONATE AT:
on.IN.gov/nongamewildlifefund

District Fisheries Biologists

- 1. District 1**
Tom Bacula
Kankakee FWA
4320 W. Toto Road
North Judson, IN 46366
574-896-3673
- 2. District 2**
Matt Horsley
Fawn River State
Fish Hatchery
6889 N. SR 327
Orland, IN 46776
260-829-6241
- 3. District 3**
Tyler Delauder
Northeast Regional Office
1353 S. Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-7049

- 4. District 4**
Seth Bogue
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
812-287-8306
- 6. District 6**
Andy Bueltmann
Sugar Ridge FWA
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-817-0263

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

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

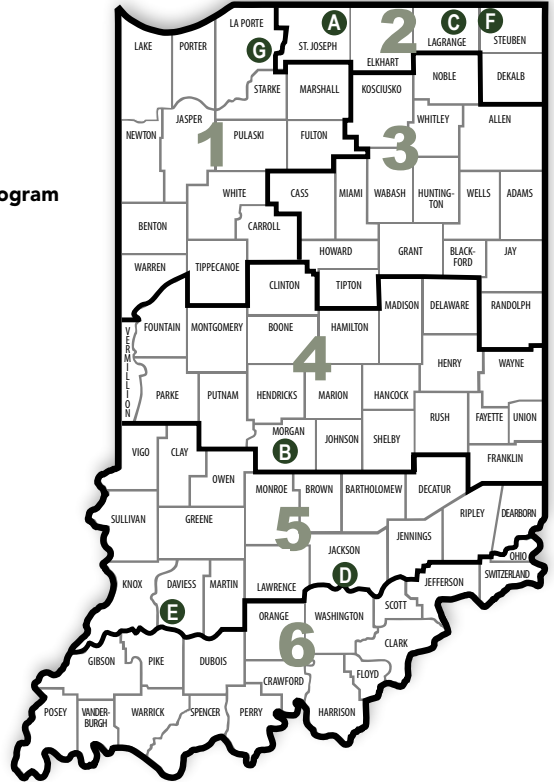
Nongame Fisheries Program
Brant Fisher
Atterbury FWA
7970 S. Rowe St.
Edinburgh, IN 46124
812-526-5816

State Fish Hatcheries

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

- D. Driftwood State Fish Hatchery**
4931 S. CR 250 W.
Vallonia, IN 47281
812-358-4110
- E. East Fork State Fish Hatchery**
5807 E. 825 S.
Montgomery, IN 47558
812-644-7717
- F. Fawn River State Fish Hatchery**
6889 N. SR 327
Orland, IN 46776
260-829-6241

- G. Mixsawbah State Fish Hatchery**
5500 S. CR 675 E.
Walkerton, IN 46574
219-369-9591



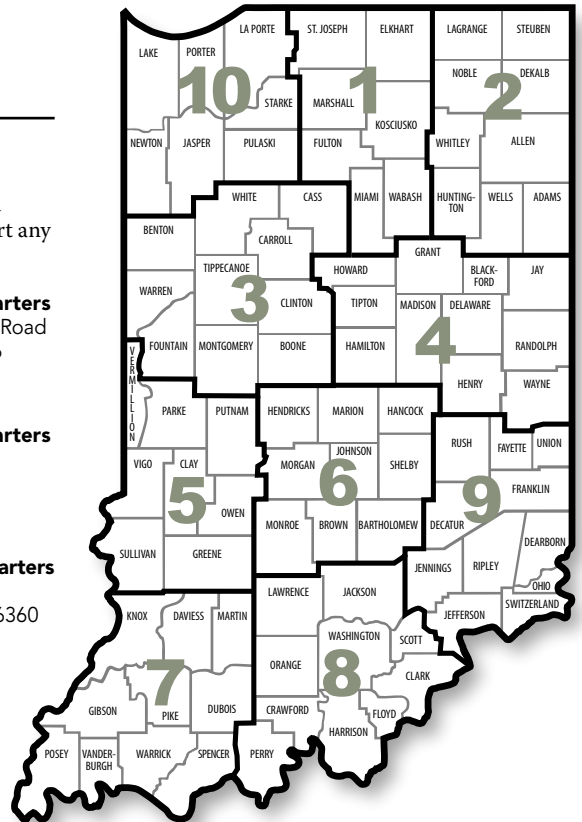
DNR Law Enforcement Districts

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

- Central Dispatch**
4850 S. SR 446
Bloomington, IN 47401
812-837-9536
- 1. District 1 Headquarters**
9822 N. Turkey
Creek Road
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-457-8092
 - 2. District 2 Headquarters**
1353 S. Governors Drive
Columbia City, IN 46725
260-244-3720
 - 3. District 3 Headquarters**
4112 E. SR 225
West Lafayette, IN 47906
765-567-7859

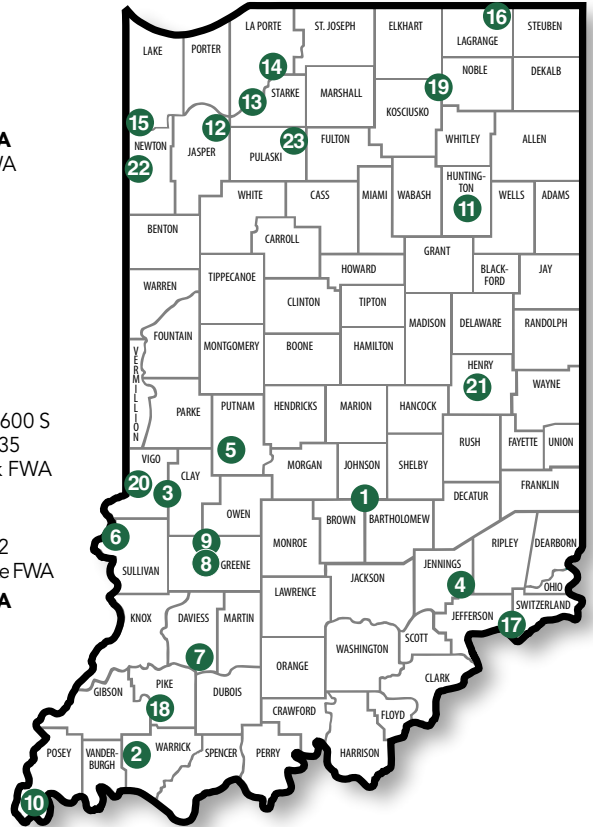
- 4. District 4 Headquarters**
3734 Mounds Road
Anderson, IN 46017
765-649-1062
- 5. District 5 Headquarters**
1317 W. Lieber Road
Suite 2
Cloverdale, IN 46120
765-276-0196
- 6. District 6 Headquarters**
7937 Durbin St., Bldg. 9A
Edinburgh, IN 46124
(812) 526-4101
- 7. District 7 Headquarters**
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-789-9538

- 8. District 8 Headquarters**
1504 Schlamm Lake Road
Henryville, IN 47126
812-639-4148
- 9. District 9 Headquarters**
1387 E. U.S. 50
Versailles, IN 47042
812-689-4370
- 10. District 10 Headquarters**
100 W. Water St.
Michigan City, IN 46360
219-879-5710



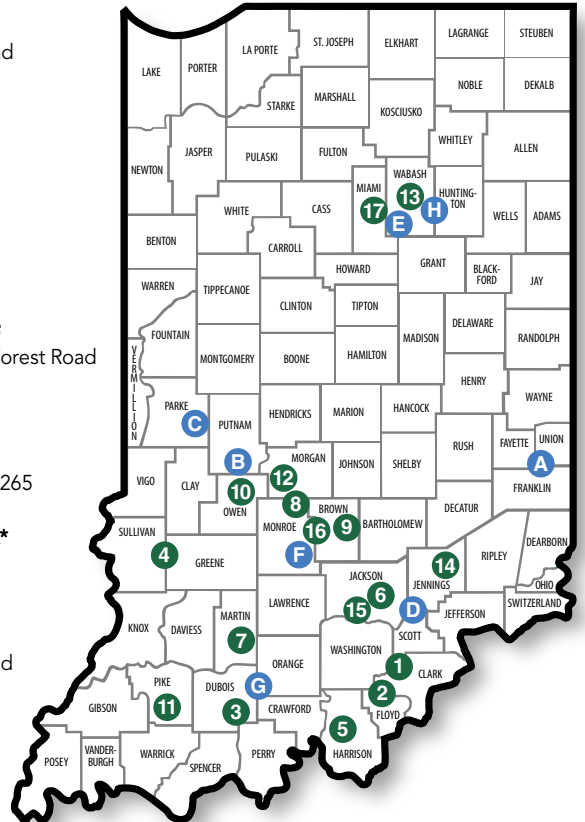
Fish & Wildlife Areas

- 1. Atterbury FWA**
7970 S. Rowe St.
Edinburgh, IN 46124
812-526-2051
- 2. Blue Grass FWA**
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**
13540 W County Road
400 S
Linton, IN 47441
Contact Goose Pond FWA
- 7. Glendale FWA**
6001 E. 600 S.
Montgomery, IN 47558
812-674-0168
- 8. Goose Pond FWA**
13540 W. CR 400 S.
Linton, IN 47441
812-512-9185
- 9. Hillenbrand FWA**
Contact Goose Pond FWA
- 10. Hovey Lake FWA**
8401 SR 69 S.
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
812-838-2927
- 11. J.E. Roush Lake FWA**
517 N. Warren Road
Huntington, IN 46750
260-468-2165
- 12. Jasper-Pulaski FWA**
5822 Fish & Wildlife Ln
Medaryville, IN 47957
219-843-4841
- 13. Kankakee FWA**
4320 W. Toto Road
North Judson, IN 46366
574-896-3522
- 14. Kingsbury FWA**
5344 S. Hupp Road
LaPorte, IN 46350
219-393-3612
- 15. LaSalle FWA**
4752 W. 1050 N.
Lake Village, IN 46349
219-992-3019
- 16. Pigeon River FWA**
8310 E. 300 N.
Howe, IN 46746
260-367-2164
- 17. Splinter Ridge FWA**
Contact Crosley FWA
- 18. Sugar Ridge FWA**
2310 E. SR 364
Winslow, IN 47598
812-789-2724
- 19. Tri-County FWA**
8432 N. 850 E.
Syracuse, IN 46567
574-834-4461
- 20. Wabashiki FWA**
2001 W County RD 600 S
Greencastle, IN 46135
Contact Deer Creek FWA
- 21. Wilbur Wright FWA**
2239 N. SR 103
New Castle, IN 47362
Contact J.E. Roush Lake FWA
- 22. Willow Slough FWA**
1803 S. 700 W.
Morocco, IN 47963
219-285-2704
- 23. Winamac FWA**
1493 W. 500 N.
Winamac, IN 46996
574-946-4422



State Lakes & State Forests

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 6. 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 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 SF
N. 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 |
|--|---|--|



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

HUNT FISH CAMP

OVER 55,000 ACRES

of public land for hunting

OVER 36,000 ACRES

of water for fishing

OVER 7,500

campsites/cabins available

Hunting at 'Becoming An Outdoors Woman' event

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

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

Prefer a little more comfort than a tent or a camper?

Check out Indiana State Park Inns.

Inn Reservations
Indianalnns.com

or 1-877-LODGES 1

Camping/Shelter/Cabin Reservations
camp.IN.gov

or 1-866-622-6746

DNR
Indiana Department
of Natural Resources

stateparks.IN.gov



Memories made naturally.

The fishing is GREAT in Northern Indiana Lakes Country!

The best fishing in the state can be found in Steuben County, home of 101 lakes. Steuben County has more natural lakes than any county in Indiana, ranging from small uninhabited lakes to some of Indiana's largest well-known natural lakes such as Lake James, Snow Lake and Crooked Lake, shown in the aerial photo.



Bass, bluegill, perch, crappies, walleye, Northern pike - we've got them all, and many more. We have numerous public access boat launching sites and are also home to Trine State Recreation Area, where you can fish right off the dock. Stop at one of our well-stocked bait and tackle shops and get out there!



Steuben County Tourism Bureau
lakes101.org