

1998 Indiana

FISHING

Regulations
Guide



Make fishing elementary

Kids are long on excitement and short on patience when it comes to fishing. So, if you want to take kids fishing, it's important to get fish on the line fast and often.

Fishing can be a highly technical hobby. The choices in rods, reels, bait, lures and lines can be mind boggling. When you're fishing with kids, though, it's important to keep it simple and keep it light. The less time you spend fighting equipment, the more time you will have for fighting fish on the line.

Light lines, small hooks, and small floats can help you put some excitement on the end of the line fast. To kids, the size of the fish is not as important as the frequency of catches. Kids tire quickly – and often give up – while waiting for lunker bass to bite. Most kids would rather pull in 25 minnow-sized bluegills than wait for one trophy catch.

Combining activities can also help get kids hooked on angling. For instance, try making your own fishing rods from willow branches and a length of fishing line. Or find your own bait under rocks or in the weeds around lakes and streams. Make catching fish a learning experience and an adventure.

Avoid the kid's stuff

A quality ultra-light bait cast or spin cast rod and reel combo is usually easier for kids to use.

Small hooks = big catches

Avoid hooks larger than size 10 (hook sizes run backwards - size 12 is smaller than size 10). Fish won't readily take large hooks unless they are feeding voraciously. Most of the time, a subtle presentation is needed to catch wary fish. Tiny hooks also allow small fish to "inhale" the bait, rather than nibble the bait off the hook. If a fish swallows the hook and you want to return it to the water, simply cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the fish.

Lighten up your line

Light line will do the job, preferably 6 pound test line or less. Unless you're targeting monster catfish or marauding muskies, light line is your best bet.

Bag the big bobbers

Bobbers (or floats) are used to suspend your bait in the water and to alert you when to set the hook. The harder the bobber is to pull under, the harder it will be to hook a fish. Small floats will help convince the fish to take your tasty bait and run.

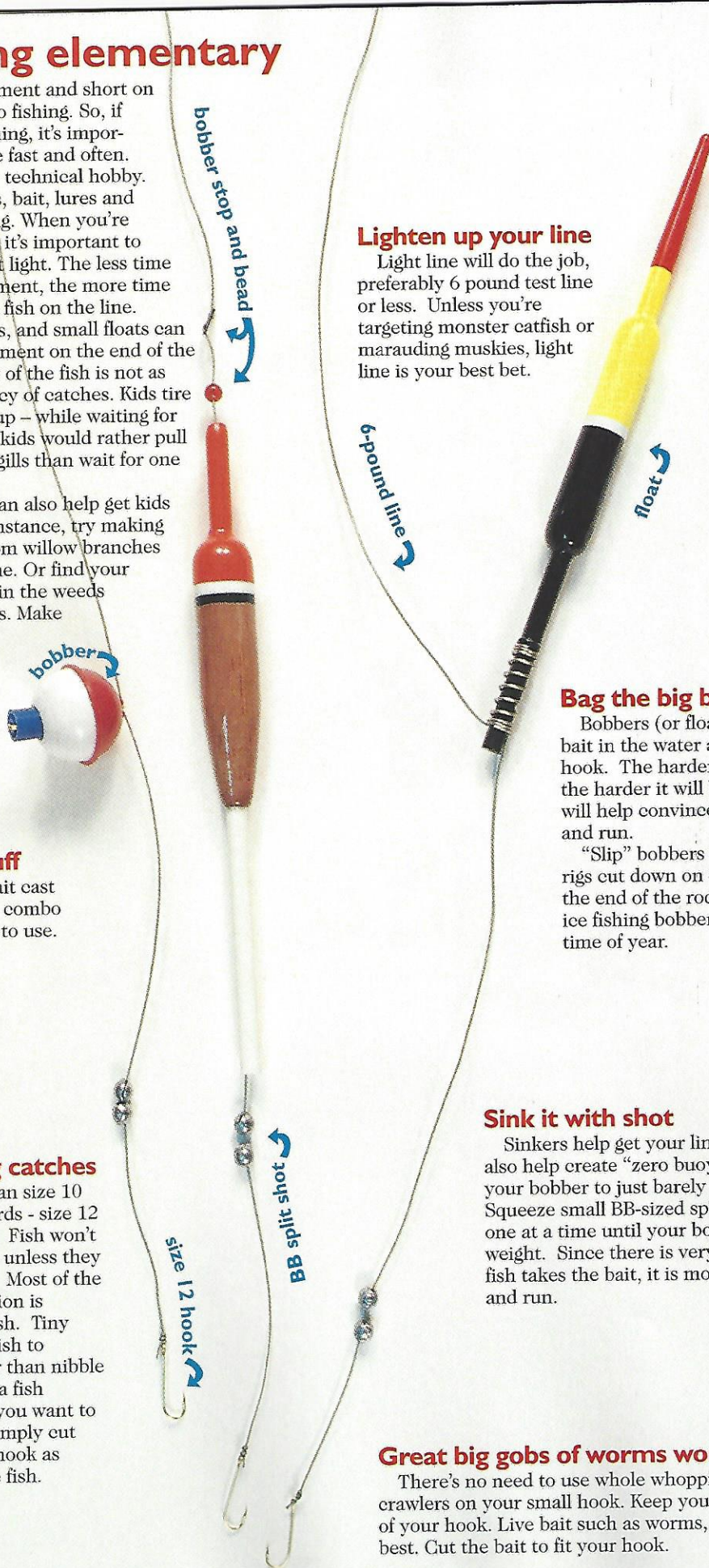
"Slip" bobbers work well for kids. Slip bobber rigs cut down on the amount of line needed at the end of the rod and are easier to cast. Small ice fishing bobbers can provide a light touch any time of year.

Sink it with shot

Sinkers help get your line down to the fish. They can also help create "zero buoyancy." Ideally, you want your bobber to just barely float on the top of the water. Squeeze small BB-sized split shot onto your line one at a time until your bobber nearly sinks from the weight. Since there is very little resistance when the fish takes the bait, it is more likely to swallow the bait and run.

Great big gobs of worms won't do

There's no need to use whole whopping-big, writhing night crawlers on your small hook. Keep your bait approximately the size of your hook. Live bait such as worms, beemoths or crickets work best. Cut the bait to fit your hook.





Visit the DNR website at:
www.ai.org/dnr/

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www.dnr.state.in.us/fishwild/index.htm

This 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. Contact the
Division of Fish and Wildlife
before reproducing any part of
this booklet.



This program receives federal aid in fish
and/or wildlife restoration. Under Title
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prohibits discrimination on the basis of
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or sex. If you believe that you have been
discriminated against in any program,
activity or facility as described above,
please write to the Office for Human
Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(DOI) Washington, D.C. 20240

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New for 1998

Record Fish Program

New guidelines for Fish of the Year program allow anglers to submit an entry without weighing the fish. This change should make it easier for catch and release anglers to report their fish and minimize handling stress. Entries for State Record Fish still require a weight on certified scales. See page 10 for more information about submitting entries for both award programs.

Lake Michigan

See page 8 for current information on trout and salmon size limits and bag limits. A 14-inch size limit is in effect for Lake Michigan and all tributaries including the St. Joseph River in St. Joseph County. A five fish trout and salmon aggregate bag limit, of which no more than two can be lake trout, is in effect for these same waters. The daily bag limit for the sport harvest of yellow perch on Lake Michigan remains at 15.

Public Access Sites

Seven new public access sites were constructed in 1997 in an ongoing effort to provide additional access to Indiana's lakes and streams. New sites were acquired by direct purchase, lease agreement or donation. The construction and maintenance of approximately 300 sites in Indiana is provided through a statewide public access program. The seven new sites built last year are: 1. Attica, IN (Fountain County) on the Wabash River, two blocks west of U.S. 41; 2. Benton Landing, on the Elkhart River off U.S. 33 near Benton, IN (Elkhart County); 3. North Chain Lake, Lentz Landing, north of Lydick, IN off of Quince Road (St. Joseph County); 4. Pulaski, on the Tippecanoe River off State Road 119 (Pulaski County); 5. Shanklin Park on the Elkhart River in Shanklin Park off State Road 119 in Goshen, IN (Elkhart County); 6. Shelby site on the Kankakee River (Lake County), northeast of SR 55 bridge; and 7. Sage's Ferry on the Muscatatuck River southwest of the SR 39 bridge (Washington County). To notify the Division of lake or river property available for public access contact the Public Access Coordinator at (219) 426-2009.

On the front cover:

Katie Maxwell of Indianapolis patiently waits for a nibble.

License Regulations

To fish in public lakes, streams, rivers or tributaries in the state of Indiana or its boundary waters, you must have a valid fishing license. License holders must carry their license while fishing and present it to a conservation officer (or any authorized law enforcement official) upon request. There are fines and penalties for fishing without a license.

You must also have a valid trout and salmon stamp in your possession to legally take trout and salmon from public waters. *All anglers under the age of 17, or residents 65 years and older are not required to purchase a trout/salmon stamp.*

There are exceptions where a fishing license and trout and salmon stamp are not required:

- Indiana residents 65 years of age or older do not need a license. However, you should carry your driver's license or other identification to verify your age and residency.
- A fishing license is not required for anglers under the age of 17.
- A fishing license is not required for residents who are legally blind.
- Residents of a state-owned mental rehabilitation facility are not required to have a license.
- Residents of any licensed health care facility in Indiana taking part in a supervised fishing activity sponsored by the facility do not need a license.
- Fishing a private pond does not require a license. However, the angler must have permission from the property owner to fish.
- Residents of Indiana who are engaged in full-time military service may fish without a license while on approved military leave. However, the angler must carry leave orders and a valid Indiana driver's license or voter registration card. Non-resident military personnel stationed within Indiana must obtain a resident license to fish or hunt in Indiana.

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

Purchasing a License

In Person . . .

Most licenses, including youth hunting licenses, are available from independent agents, county clerks and most Department of Natural Resources properties throughout the state.

Non-resident licenses are available at the state's Customer Service Center in Indianapolis and at most DNR properties.

The DNR Customer Service Center is in the Indiana Government Center South, Room W160, 402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, Ind. Customer Service Center hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

By Mail . . .

To purchase fishing licenses by mail, send your order with the following:

- Name, date of birth
- Complete address, city, state, zip
- Height, weight, color of hair and color of eyes
- Phone number
- Specify the licenses that you need

Send check or money order for licenses (see price table), made payable to Indiana DNR to:

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

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. For more information, call the Indiana DNR Customer Service Center at (317) 233-4976. **All licenses issued by the DNR are non-transferable and non-refundable.**

Avid Indiana resident hunters and anglers may purchase

Lifetime Licenses

lifetime hunting and fishing licenses. The licenses are only available at the DNR Indianapolis office.

Discounts apply for lifetime license buyers older than 50 years old. For an application and information, write to DNR Customer Service Center, 402 W. Washington St., Room W160, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or call (317) 233-4976.

Purchasing Licenses By Mail

To purchase licenses by mail, send your order with the following:
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY.

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Complete address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone number _____

Height _____ Weight _____

Hair color _____ Eye color _____

Specific license(s) needed:

☐ Resident

☐ Non-resident

Send check or money order for licenses (see price table), payable to Indiana DNR: (Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.)

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

Basic Fishing **\$175.00**
Equivalent to annual resident fishing license. Does not include trout / salmon stamp.

Basic Hunting **\$175.00**
Equivalent to annual resident hunting license. Does not include stamps, deer and turkey licenses.

Comprehensive Fishing **\$262.50**
Includes the basic fishing license plus trout/ salmon stamp.

Comprehensive Hunting **\$525.00**
Includes all required hunting licenses and stamps. Does not include trapping license and federal migratory bird hunting stamp.

Comprehensive Hunting and Fishing **\$708.75**
Includes all licenses and stamps covered by Comprehensive Fishing and Comprehensive Hunting licenses.

Trapping **\$175.00**
Equivalent to annual resident trapping license.

Limb Lines

A limb line (or drop line) involves suspending a fishing line from a limb extending beyond the bank of a body of water. You may fish with no more than 10 limb or drop lines at any one 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. All lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours. It is illegal to use a limb or drop line within 300 yards of any partial or full dam structure on any stream, river or non-flowing public water.

Float Fishing

Float or jug fishing is the use of any buoyed container (made of any material other than glass) that suspends a single fishing line and a single or multi-barbed hook.

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, and all lines must be in constant visual contact.

Float fishing is not allowed on lakes and reservoirs.

Motorboats

All motorboats used in public waters must be registered. For a copy of Indiana boating laws or a boating guide, write to Law Enforcement Division, 402 W. Washington St., Room W255D, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device is required for each person in any boat. Lake Michigan, the Ohio River and boundary waters of the Wabash River have special regulations. Call the USCG at 1-800-368-5647 for a copy of federal boating regulations.

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.

Hand or Pole Fishing and Hooks

You may fish with no more than three poles or hand lines at any one time. Each line may have no more than two single or multi-barbed hooks, two artificial baits or two harnesses for live bait.

Single or multi-barbed hooks may be used for hand or pole lines, float or jug fishing, limb, drop or trot lines. Special hook size and barb regulations apply to Lake Michigan and its tributaries. Refer to page 8 for hook information for these waters.

Trot Lines

A trot line (also called a set line or throw line) is a fishing line with smaller lines attached to it extending out into the water from a fixed point, such as a boat dock or tree. You may fish with no more than one trot line at any one time. The trot line must have no more than 50 single or multi-barbed hooks, one hook per smaller line. Trot lines must bear a readable tag clearly showing the name and address of the user, and be checked at least once every 24 hours. It is illegal to use a trot line within 300 yards of any partial or full dam structure on any stream, river or non-flowing public water.

Ice Fishing

When ice fishing, no more than three lines may be used at any one time. Each line may contain no more than two hooks (single, double or treble) or two artificial baits per line.

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, and must be in constant visual contact by the person using them.

All ice shanties must have the owner's name and address in three-inch block letters posted on at least one side of the shanty. At least one red reflector must be mounted to each side. All ice shanties must be removed from public waters before ice-out. If used after Feb. 15, all shanties must be removed daily.

Resident Licenses*

Fishing	\$8.75
One-day Fishing	\$4.75
(includes trout/salmon fishing)	
Hunting	\$8.75
Hunting and Fishing	\$13.75
Trapping	\$8.75
Deer Hunting	\$13.75
Youth Consolidated Hunting	\$6.00
Turkey Hunting	\$14.75
Trout/Salmon Stamp	\$6.75
Waterfowl Stamp	\$6.75
Game Bird Habitat Stamp	\$6.75
Lifetime Licenses	varies
Limited Edition Licenses	\$50.00

Non-resident Licenses

Annual Fishing	\$15.75
One-day Fishing	\$4.75
(includes trout/salmon fishing)	
Three-day Fishing	\$6.75
Seven-day Fishing	\$8.75
Annual Hunting	\$40.75
Five-day Hunting	\$13.75
Annual Trapping	\$76.75
Deer Hunting	\$76.75
Turkey Hunting	\$76.75
Trout/Salmon Stamp	\$6.75
Waterfowl Stamp	\$6.75
Game Bird Habitat Stamp	\$6.75
Shooting Preserve	\$8.75

*A resident is a person who has lived in Indiana continuously for a full period of 60 days preceding the date of a license purchase.

1998 licenses and stamps are valid from Jan. 1, 1998 through Feb. 28, 1999

1998 Trapping Licenses are valid through Mar. 31, 1999

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.

Snagging

Except for the Ohio River (see page 9), it is illegal to snag fish from public waters in Indiana. Snagging is the practice of dragging or jerking a hook (or hooks), baited or unbaited, through the water with the intention of snagging fish on contact.

Gaffs, Grab Hooks and Landing Nets

Landing nets, gaff hooks or grab hooks may be used only to assist in the landing of a legally caught fish. They may not be used as the method of catching fish.

Spear Fishing

Suckers, carp, gar, bowfin, buffalo and shad may be taken at the locations below with the equipment listed, and only during the hours noted. There are no bag limits for these fish. See page 8 for restrictions on Lake Michigan tributaries.

Large Streams

(1,500 cfs minimum flow)

- White River from the Wabash River upstream to the junction of East and West Forks
- West Fork of White River, upstream to the dam below Harding Street in Indianapolis
- East Fork of White River, upstream to the dam at the south edge of Columbus
- The Wabash River, upstream to the town of Wabash
- The Tippecanoe River, upstream to 1/2 mile below its confluence with Big Creek
- The Maumee River, upstream to the Anthony Blvd. Bridge in Ft. Wayne
- The Kankakee River, upstream to Highway 55 bridge
- The St. Joseph River (upstream from Twin Branch dam) in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties

Equipment: Fish spear, gig, spear gun, underwater spear can be used all year, day or night.

A pitchfork and bow and arrow can be used only between sunrise and sunset. (Crossbows are illegal.)

Small Streams

(less than 1,500 cfs flow)

Any and all streams or partial streams not listed above.

Equipment: Pitchfork, and bow and arrow only. (Crossbows are illegal.)

Time: All year, sunrise to sunset.

Non-flowing Waters

(including lakes, ponds and reservoirs)

Equipment: Fish spear, gig, spear gun, underwater spear, pitchfork, and bow and arrow. (Crossbows are illegal.)

Time: All year, day or night.

Walleye Size Limits

Walleye and hybrid walleye taken from all waters in Indiana must be 14 inches in length or longer. Exceptions apply to Sullivan Lake (Sullivan Co.) and the Ohio River where there are no minimum size limits. The St. Joseph River has a special size limit (see below).

15 Inch Walleye Size Limit for St. Joseph River

In cooperation with the State of Michigan, a 15 inch minimum size limit has been established for walleye and hybrid walleye taken from the St. Joseph River (St. Joseph and Elkhart counties).

Smelt Fishing

Smelt may be taken from Lake Michigan and Oliver Lake in Lagrange County 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 six feet in depth nor have a stretch mesh larger than 1-1/2 inches. A dip net may not exceed 12 feet in diameter.

Sorting Fish

The practice of sorting fish is illegal. Sorting is the release of one fish in order to keep a larger fish of the same species to stay within the daily catch limit for that species. For example: if you catch two striped bass (daily catch limit is two) and later that day you catch a larger striped bass, it is illegal to release either of the smaller fish in order to keep the larger one.

Tagged and Marked Fish

Fisheries biologists attach external tags or mark fish using finclips for research projects. Please report all tags to a District Fisheries Management Biologist. At some waters voluntary tag return boxes have been installed. If you cannot locate one of these tag return boxes mail the tag to the nearest, fisheries biologist (see page 30). Provide the biologist with the type of fish caught, the length, date, location and weight of fish and the tag number. If a tagged fish is released, the tag should be reported but left in the fish in good condition. The following waters have active tagged fish projects under way:

Tri-County Fish and Wildlife

Area (largemouth bass),

Lake Wawasee (large-

mouh bass) and

Lake Michigan

(yellow perch,

trout and

salmon).

Some fish such as paddlefish on the Ohio River

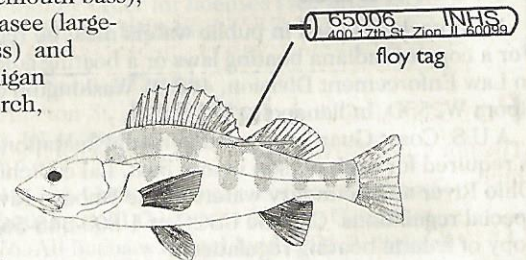
and trout and

salmon on Lake

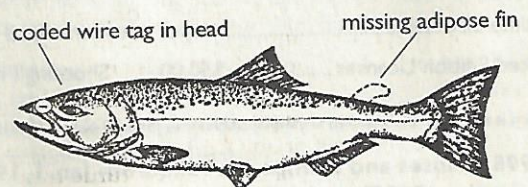
Michigan and its

tributaries, have internal tags, about the size of a hyphen on this page. The adipose fin on trout and salmon has been removed to make it easier to determine whether the fish you catch has an internal tag. Your cooperation is needed to recover these tags from trout and salmon missing an

adipose fin. The adipose fin is the small fleshy fin on the backs of some fish between the dorsal fin and the tail (caudal fin). If you legally catch trout or salmon with a missing adipose fin, please record the length, weight and species, as well as the date and location where the fish was caught. The nose area of trout and salmon with a missing adipose fin contains a micro wire containing important research information. Please save the head of a trout and salmon you catch and keep, then contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (317) 232-4080 for instructions on what to do with the head. The micro wire tags can be recovered and reused. Remember only trout and salmon with a missing adipose fin contain micro tags.



Lake Michigan perch research



Lake Michigan trout and salmon research

Indiana's Size and Bag Limits

SPECIES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	MINIMUM SIZE
Bluegill	None	None
Redear Sunfish	25	None
Yellow Bass	None	None
White Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass	12 singly or in aggregate*, no more than two fish may exceed 17 inches	None
Striped Bass	2	None
Crappie	25	None
Rock Bass	25	None
Walleye, Walleye-Sauger Hybrid, Sauger	6 singly or in aggregate*	14 inches (exceptions on page 4)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge	1 singly	30 inches
Northern Pike	3	20 inches
Yellow Perch	None (**15 on Lake Michigan only)	None
Catfish (in streams)	None	10 inches
Catfish (in lakes and reservoirs)	10	None
Bullheads	None	None

* Singly or in aggregate means that the daily bag limit includes any combination of the species.

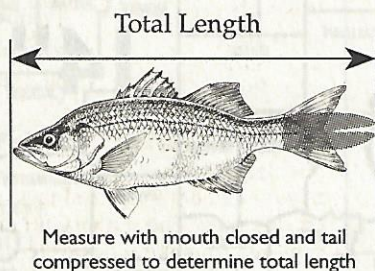
** Lake Michigan is closed for the commercial harvest of perch. The daily bag limit for sport fishing on Lake Michigan is 15.

Possession Limit

The limit on all sport fish and frogs is two day's daily bag limit.

Total Length

To determine the accurate length of a fish, measure a straight line from the tip of the jaw (mouth closed) to the tip of the compressed tail fin.



Frogs and Turtles

You must have a valid hunting or fishing license to take frogs and turtles. Any species of frog or turtle listed as threatened or endangered may not be taken or possessed at any time. Frogs and turtles may not be taken from certain public owned property such as state parks, state fish hatcheries and nature preserves.

Artificial lights may be used for hunting those species not considered threatened or endangered.

Frogs may be taken from June 15 through April 30 with a daily bag limit of 25. The possession limit for frogs is two day's daily bag.

Frogs may be taken with a gig, or spear, with a head no more than three inches wide 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 used for frog hunting are limited to a .22 caliber firearm loaded with bird shot only. Air rifles may not be used.

Turtles may be taken at any time with no bag limit. You may use hands alone, gaff or any legal sport fishing methods described on pages 3 and 4 of this booklet. Turtle traps may also be used, but these must not have an opening below the water's surface.

Bait Fish

Minnows may be collected at any time throughout the year. You must have a bait dealer's license to sell minnows or possess more than 500 minnows.

If you plan to catch your own minnows, the following restrictions apply:

- Minnow seines cannot be larger than 12 feet in length and four feet deep with mesh no larger than 1/2 inch stretch.
- Minnow dip nets cannot exceed three feet square, without sides or walls, and may not have a mesh larger than 1/2 inch stretch.
- Minnow traps cannot exceed 24 inches in length, with the opening of the trap no larger than one inch in diameter.
- Cast nets may be used, provided the net is no larger than 10 feet in diameter and the mesh stretch is no larger than 3/4 inch.

You may use a wild fish in Indiana as live bait as long as the fish was caught legally and meets any size, catch or possession limits established by DNR for that species. Goldfish may be used as live bait. Live carp and gizzard shad cannot be used as bait, except at Brookville Lake where live shad may be used.

All minnows purchased from bait shops or taken from public waters cannot be of any species considered threatened or endangered.

Minnows should not be released into the water after you finish fishing. Emptying bait buckets can provide an easy way for undesirable fish to contaminate a body of water.

See page 9 for special regulations for collecting minnows and crayfish on the Ohio River.

Bass Regulations

There is no closed season on bass fishing. Smallmouth bass size limits are currently in effect at two streams in northern Indiana: Pigeon and Eel Rivers (see next page).

Largemouth bass size limits are in effect at most lakes and reservoirs.

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

Waters where special largemouth bass size limits are in effect are listed on page 6 and 7.

Regulations for bass fishing differ on the Ohio River. See Sport Fishing on the Ohio River (page 9) for more information.

Largemouth Bass

12 and 14 inch size limit waters

You may not take a largemouth bass smaller than 14 inches from any public lake south of State Road 28 or a largemouth bass smaller than 12 inches from any lake north of State Road 28, except where noted in this section.

No largemouth bass smaller than 14 inches in length may be taken from any lake, pond, impoundment or other property owned by, leased or licensed to the DNR. These include:

- State Fish and Wildlife Areas†
- State Parks†
- State Public Fishing Areas†
- State Forests
- State Recreation Areas
- State Reservoirs†

† See exceptions in following sections

The 14 inch size limit also applies to:

- Beaver Dam Lake (Kosciusko County)
- Big and Little Chapman lakes (Kosciusko County)
- Caldwell Lake (Kosciusko County)
- Cedar Lake (Whitley County)
- Crane Lake (Noble County)
- Cree Lake (Noble County)
- Koontz Lake (Marshall & Starke counties)
- Lake of the Woods (Marshall County)
- Palestine Lake (Kosciusko County)
- Round Lake (Whitley County)
- Sacarider Lake (Noble County)
- Simonton Lake (Elkhart County)
- Skinner Lake (Noble County)
- Sylvan Lake (Noble County)

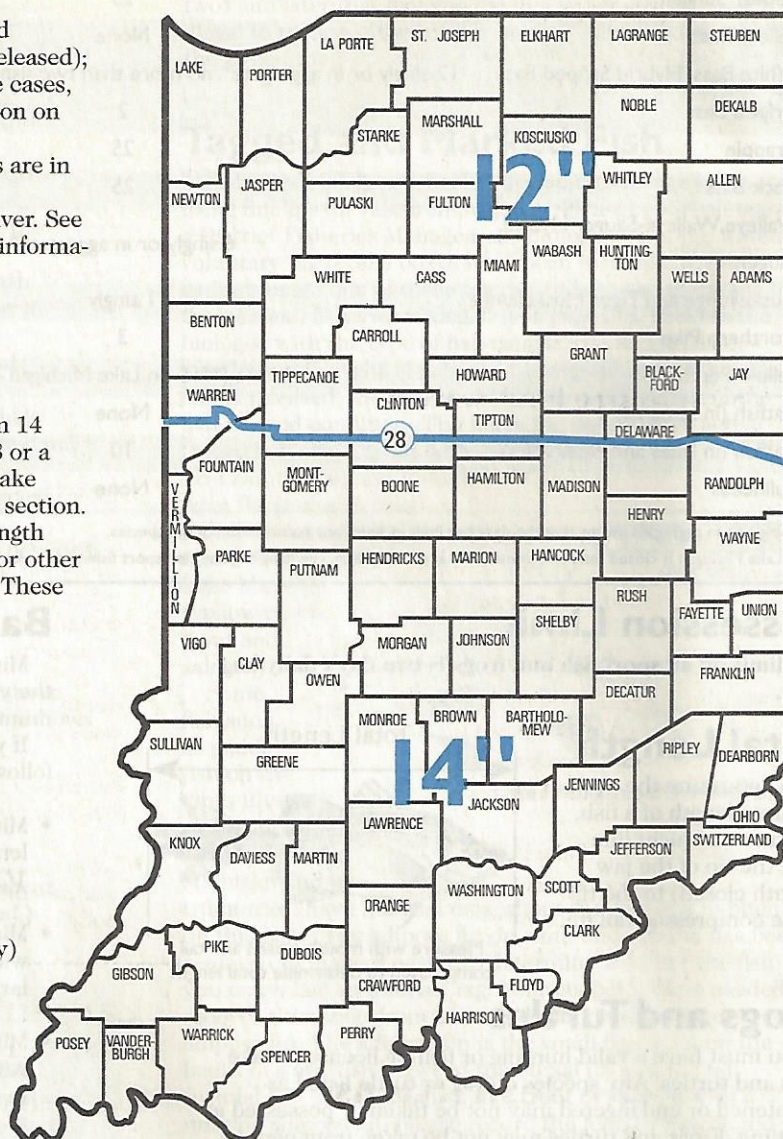
15 inch minimum size limit on Patoka Lake

The minimum size limit for bass taken from Patoka Lake (Orange, Dubois and Crawford counties) is 15 inches.

16 inch minimum size limit at Cecil M. Harden Lake

The minimum size limit for bass taken from Cecil M. Harden Lake (Parke Co.) is 16 inches.

Statewide Largemouth Bass Size Limit



18 inch minimum size limits

The minimum size limit for largemouth bass at Gibson Lake (Gibson Co.), Ball Lake (Steuben Co.), Robinson Lake (Whitley Co.) and all Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area lakes is 18 inches.

A daily catch limit of two bass is in effect for all these waters.

20 inch minimum size limit on Turtle Creek Reservoir

The minimum size limit for largemouth bass at Turtle Creek Reservoir (Sullivan Co.) is 20 inches. The catch limit is one largemouth bass per day.

12 to 15 inch slot size limits

No largemouth bass are between 12 and 15 inches in length may be taken from the following:

- Buffalo Trace Lake (Harrison County)
- Celina Lake (Perry County)
- Delaney Park Lake (Washington County)
- Dogwood Lake (Daviness County)
- Indian Lake (Perry County)
- John Hay Lake (Washington County)
- Saddle Lake (Perry County)
- Scales Lake (Warrick County)
- Shakamak State Park lakes (Clay, Greene and Sullivan counties)
- Tipsaw Lake (Perry County)
- Westwood Run Lake (Henry County)

No minimum size limit waters

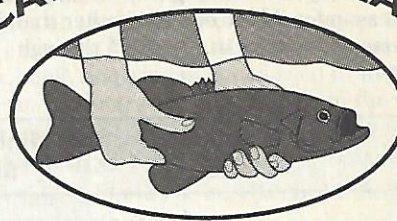
No size limits for largemouth bass are in effect for:

- Brownstown State Fishing Area (Jackson County)
- Burdette Park lakes (Vanderburgh County)
- Chandler Town Lake (Warrick County)
- Cypress Lake State Fishing Area (Jackson County)
- Deming Park lakes (Vigo County)
- Garvin Park Lake (Vanderburgh County)
- Glen Miller Pond (Wayne County)
- Hayswood Lake (Harrison County)
- Henry County Memorial Park Lake (Henry County)
- Hovey Lake at Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area (Posey County)
- Krannert Lake (Marion County)
- Lake Sullivan (Marion County)
- Ruster Lake (Marion County)
- Schnebelt Pond (Dearborn County)

Dove Hollow Restrictions

No largemouth bass may be taken from Dove Hollow Lake at Glendale Fish and Wildlife Area.

CATCH AND RELEASE



Anglers across the state have discovered the enjoyment and importance of catch and release fishing. The following techniques are recommended for anglers who want to catch and release their fish.

- Always wet your hands before touching the fish.
- Handle the fish gently and quickly. Keep it in the water as much as possible. Do not put your fingers in the gill slits or in the eye sockets. Do not squeeze the fish or cause the loss of scales.
- Remove the hook carefully. If the hook cannot be removed easily cut the line or leader and leave the hook in the fish. Eventually the hook will dissolve. Artificial lures are recommended because they usually hook the fish in the lip area, the easiest place to remove the hook.
- Gently hold the fish in the water until it begins to move back and forth and swims away.
- Remember to land and release your fish as quickly as possible.
- Never release live bait into a fishing area. The release of an undesirable or unknown species can easily contaminate a body of water.

Largemouth Bass Bag Limits

A bag limit of one largemouth bass is in effect at Turtle Creek Reservoir (Sullivan Co.). The bag limit is two largemouth bass from Gibson Lake (Gibson Co.), from all lakes at Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Area, Robinson Lake (Whitley Co.) and Ball Lake (Steuben Co.).

Species	Daily Bag Limit	Minimum Size
Spotted bass	6 singly or in aggregate	None
Smallmouth bass		None*
Largemouth bass		Varies — see pages 6 and 7

*Smallmouth Bass 12 inch Size Limit

A 12 inch minimum size limit is in effect for smallmouth bass from the Pigeon River (Steuben and Lagrange counties) and the Eel River (Whitley, Kosciusko, Wabash, Miami and Cass counties).

Inland Trout Sizes and Limits

There is no closed season for taking trout from inland lakes. The trout season for inland streams, other than Lake Michigan tributaries, is from 5 a.m., April 25 through December 31, 1998.

Species	Daily Bag Limits	Minimum Size
Brook Trout Brown Trout Rainbow Trout Lake Trout	10 singly or in aggregate no more than 3 may be Lake Trout	7 inches

Closed Seasons

Commercial fishing for yellow perch in Lake Michigan is closed.

Fishing is closed from April 20 to the last Saturday in April in the following waters:

- Pigeon River (and Pigeon Creek) in LaGrange County from the Steuben County line to County Road 410 East (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 the Pigeon River) in LaGrange County.
- Turkey Creek north of County Road 100 South in LaGrange County.
- Rainbow Pit located on Pigeon River Fish & Wildlife Area, just over one mile east of Ontario in LaGrange County.

Lake Michigan and Tributaries Sizes and Limits

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 include:

- Trout and salmon fishing is permitted year round.
- Minimum size 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 from Aug. 1 through May 31.
- No fishing is allowed at any time from the fish ladders located on the South Bend or Mishawaka Uniroyal Dams. No fishing is allowed within 100 feet of the entrances and exits of the fish ladders from Aug. 1 through May 31.
- From Aug. 1 to May 31, no fishing is allowed by boat or other watercraft in the St. Joseph River below the South Bend Dam for a distance of 200 feet, and from the Mishawaka Uniroyal Dam downstream to the State Road 331 bridge.
- Any fish 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.

Fishing Hot Lines

Lake Michigan (219) 874-0009
Select option 1, then ext. 1048.
Updated weekly March through December.

St. Joseph River (219) 257-TIPS
Updated weekly mid-February through April and mid-June to mid-December.

Species	Daily Bag Limits	Minimum Size
Chinook, Coho, Atlantic and Pink Salmon Brown, Steelhead and Lake Trout	5 total Trout and Salmon no more than 2 may be Lake Trout	14 inches Lake Michigan, streams and St. Joseph River
Yellow Perch	15 on Lake Michigan only no commercial harvesting on Lake Michigan	None

Lake Michigan Tributary Restrictions

You may not possess a fish spear, gig, gaff, pitchfork, bowfishing equipment, crossbow, grab hook, spear gun, club, snag hook or underwater spear 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 Camp 133 (Lake County) or the tributaries to these waterways.

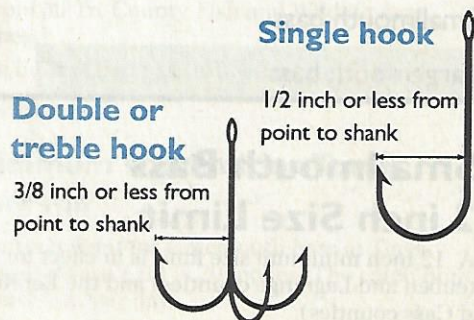
Tributary Closings

While there is no closed season for taking trout and salmon from Lake Michigan, certain tributary streams are closed to all fishing from April 1 through June 15. These streams are stocked annually with trout and salmon. The closed fishing period allows these small, vulnerable fish to migrate safely downstream to Lake Michigan. The closed season applies to:

- The east branch of Little Calumet River in Porter County from U.S. 12 upstream to U.S. 20.
- Trail Creek in LaPorte County from the Franklin Street Bridge in Michigan City upstream to U.S. 35.

Hook Restrictions

In the waters listed above, and from the St. Joseph River and its tributary streams from the Twin Branch Dam downstream to the Michigan state line (St. Joseph County), you may not fish with more than one single hook per line or one artificial bait or harness for use with live bait. Single hooks, including those on artificial baits, cannot exceed 1/2 inch from point to shank. Double and treble hooks on artificial baits shall not exceed 3/8 inch from point to shank.



Hooks are shown at actual size.

Sport Fishing on the Ohio River

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 any tributaries or embayments, where general Indiana fishing regulations apply.

While fishing for sport fish, you may use poles or hand lines, float fishing methods, set lines with one single or multi-barbed hook, or up to two trot lines with no more than 50 single or multi-barbed hooks per line. These lines must be spaced at least 18 inches apart. Trot lines must be checked at least once every 24 hours.

Ohio River sport fish include:

- largemouth bass
- smallmouth bass
- spotted bass
- rock bass
- white crappie
- black crappie
- walleye
- sauger
- striped bass
- trout
- hybrid striped bass
- yellow bass
- northern pike
- tiger muskellunge
- muskellunge
- chain pickerel
- salmon
- saugeye

Other Fish

All other fish, except those classified as threatened or endangered, may be taken with the same sport fishing methods described above as well as with the following methods:

- Long or compound bow with an arrow having one or more barbs and an attached line. Catfish and paddlefish cannot be taken with bow and arrow during nighttime hours (1/2 hour after sunset until 1/2 hour before sunrise.) Cross-bows are illegal.

- Gigging from February 1 through 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.
- Snagging on the Ohio River for non-sport fish is allowed from February 1 through May 10 using one single or treble hook. Snagging is not allowed from a boat or platform or along a bay or tributary to the Ohio River.

Minnows and Crayfish

You may take minnows or crayfish from the Ohio River by the following methods:

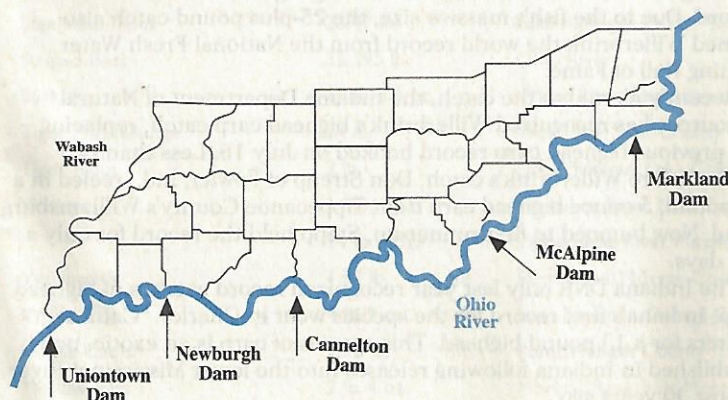
- A minnow trap not to exceed three feet long and 18 inches in diameter nor having a throat opening greater than one inch in diameter.
- A dip net no more than three feet in diameter.
- A minnow seine no more than 30 feet long and six feet deep nor having mesh size larger than 1/4 inch bar mesh.
- A cast net not to exceed nine feet in diameter nor having mesh size larger than 3/8 inch bar mesh.

Ohio River – Daily, Possession and Size Limits

Species	Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Size
Largemouth Bass	6*	12*	12 inches
Smallmouth Bass			
Spotted Bass			No size limit on Spotted Bass
White Bass	30*	60*	No more than four fish may be 15 inches or longer
Yellow Bass			
Striped Bass			
Hybrid Striped Bass			
Rock Bass	15	30	None
Crappie	30	60	None
Muskellunge	2*	2*	30 inches
Tiger Muskellunge			
Walleye	10*	20*	None
Sauger			
Saugeye			

* Singly or in aggregate, which means the catch limit includes any combination of the species. For instance, your daily bag could include 30 white bass or 30 hybrid striped bass or any combination of the two species equalling no more than 30.

Where to Fish on the Ohio River



Much of the best fishing on the Ohio River is concentrated near dams. Below is a list of such sites. Access fees may be charged at some sites.

For more information on Ohio River access sites, call 317 / 232-4080 and request a copy of the *Ohio River Fishing Guide*.

Uniontown Dam — 15 miles southwest of Mt. Vernon in Posey County. Accessible at Hovey Lake Fish and Wildlife Area.

Newburgh Dam — in the town of Newburgh off of SR 66.

Cannelton Dam — follow Taylor Street south from SR 66 in Cannelton.

McAlpine Dam — located at Clarksville. Access at Falls of the Ohio State Park. Handicapped accessible boat ramp located at George Rogers Clark Homesite in Clarksville.

Markland Dam — near Markland in Switzerland County. Accessible at the DamVue River Camp or the Vevay boat ramp.

Record Fish Programs

The Division of Fish and Wildlife sponsors two award programs recognizing outstanding catches by sport fishermen. The "Indiana Record Fish" program recognizes new state record catches. The "Fish of the Year" program recognizes anglers who catch and report the largest fish of each species each year, short of a new state record.

New procedures implemented in 1998 make it easier for catch and release anglers to report their fish. Weight is no longer required for Fish of the Year entries. A weight measurement is still required for State Record Fish entries. Both programs have the same fish divisions and use the same entry blank and rules below. Award recipients receive a certificate and colorful jacket patch. To be considered for the record fish programs:

- Fish must be taken legally by hook and line from Indiana waters. Fish taken from the main stem of the Ohio River between Kentucky and Indiana, or from the Wabash River between Illinois and Indiana will be considered for the Indiana Record Fish Program provided the angler possessed an Indiana fishing license at the time of the catch (a photocopy of the license must accompany entries from these boundary waters).
- Fish must be caught in public or private fishing waters where no charge is made for fish taken.
- Entry must be made by Dec. 31 of the calendar year.
- A good quality photograph of the fish must accompany the entry. Blue catfish must be photographed from the side against a light background. For record fish entries, applicants may wish to consider hiring a photographer.
- The weight measurement for the State Record Fish entries must be taken before fish is frozen and on a scale that has been certified by the State of Indiana to be accurate to one ounce (meat market or produce scales). No weight is needed for the Fish of the Year entries.
- Entry must be accompanied by signatures of two persons (not relatives) who witnessed weighing and measuring. After weighing, the fish may be gutted and iced, but do not fillet or otherwise cut it up. The fish must be available for inspection and identification.
- Fish entries may require verification by a Division of Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist. This is the responsibility of the angler to obtain. See page 30 for a list of fisheries biologists.

Record Fish Entry

☐ STATE RECORD
(weight required)

☐ FISH OF THE YEAR
(no weight required)

INFORMATION ON THE FISH

Species of fish _____
Weight (lbs., oz.) _____
Length _____ Girth _____

INFORMATION ON ANGLER

Name of angler _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

WHERE, WHEN, HOW

Date caught _____
Name of lake, pond or stream _____
County where caught _____
Type of tackle used _____
Lure or bait used _____

WITNESSES

Where measurement was taken _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Measurement witnessed by:

First witness signature _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Second witness signature _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Mail entry and photos to: Record Fish Program, Division of Fish and Wildlife,
402 W. Washington St., Room W273, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Ohio River catch knocks recent record off the hook

When Henry Willerbrink, Jr. launched into the Ohio River in July, he had little idea he would land a world record as well as two state records – all in one fish. But on July 29, Willerbrink pulled in a bighead carp weighing 25 pounds, 3 ounces from the river. The catch has become a world record, set new records in Indiana and Kentucky and edged out an Indiana record less than two weeks old.

The Louisville, Ky., resident hooked the fish on the Ohio River in the Falls of the Ohio State Park area. With Indiana on one side and his home state on the other, Willerbrink was fishing in reciprocal waters, making it a legal catch in both states. To eliminate any questions, Willerbrink was carrying an Indiana annual non-resident fishing license and his Kentucky senior fishing permit.

He knew he had a big one when the fish tugged his line. Then, when he pulled the 38-inch-long fish out of the water, Willerbrink wondered what kind of fish it was. In search of the answer, Willerbrink returned to Kentucky.

Kentucky biologist Kerry Prather identified the fish as a bighead carp and began the process to recognize the angling feat as a Kentucky state record. Due to the fish's massive size, the 25-plus pound catch also earned Willerbrink the world record from the National Fresh Water Fishing Hall of Fame.

Recently alerted to the catch, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources has recognized Willerbrink's bighead carp catch, replacing the previous bighead carp record hooked on July 16. Less than two weeks before Willerbrink's catch, Don Strepp of Fowler, Ind., reeled in a 15 pound, 5 ounce bighead carp from Tippecanoe County's Williamsburg Pond. Now bumped to first runner-up, Strepp held the record for only a few days.

The Indiana DNR only last year recognized record catches of bighead carp. Indiana's first record for the species went to Charley "Catfish" Walters for a 13 pound bighead. This species of carp is an exotic, now established in Indiana following releases into the lower Mississippi River almost 30 years ago.

Indiana State Fish Records

This list includes all official state records as of November 30, 1997.

Species	Weight	Where	Angler	Year
Atlantic Salmon	14 lb. 4 oz.	Lake Michigan, Lake County	Gene Tarrant	1979
*Bighead Carp	25 lb. 0.3 oz.	Ohio River, Clark County	Henry J. Willenbrink	1997
Blue Catfish	75 lb.	Wabash River, Gibson County	Dennis Hoehn & Steve Carner	1996
Bluegill	3 lb. 4 oz.	Pond, Greene County	Harold L. Catey	1972
Bowfin (dogfish)	16 lb.	Pine Lake, La Porte County	Barry Biederstadt	1988
Brook Trout	3 lb. 15 1/2 oz.	Lake Gage, Steuben County	Sonny Bashore	1973
Brown Trout	22 lb. 11 oz.	Lake Michigan	Ben Krenkel	1993
Buffalo	50 lb.	Lake Freeman	Larry Warner	1993
Bullhead	4.9 lb.	Potato Creek State Park, St. Joseph County	Darren Robertson	1994
Burbot	7 lb. 11 oz.	Lake Michigan	Larry Malicki	1990
Carp	43 lb. 4 oz.	Pine Lake, Kosciusko County	Russell Long	1989
Channel Catfish	37 lb. 8 oz.	Lake, Vanderburgh County	Randy E. Jones	1980
Chinook Salmon	38 lb.	Trail Creek, La Porte County	Rich Baker	1980
Cisco	3 lb. 12 oz.	Big Cedar Lake, Whitley County	Phillip Wisniewski	1980
Coho Salmon	20 lb. 12 oz.	Lake Michigan, La Porte County	John Beutner	1972
Crappie	4 lb. 11 oz.	Private lake, Jennings County	Willis Halcomb	1994
*Flathead Catfish	79 lb. 8 oz.	White River, Lawrence County	Glen T. Simpson	1966
Flier	3 1/2 oz.	Stream, Jackson County	Harold H. Otte	1983
Freshwater Drum (white perch)	30 lb.	White River, Martin County	Garland Fellers	1963
Green Sunfish	1 lb. 10 oz.	Pit, Fountain County	Terry Keller	1987
Hybrid Striped Bass	18 lb. 1 oz.	Tippecanoe River, Tippecanoe County	Carl Albuquerque	1993
Hybrid Walleye	7.98 lb.	Huntingburg Reservoir, Dubois County	David Braun	1995
Lake Trout	29 lb. 4 oz.	Lake Michigan	Harold Rodriguez	1993
Largemouth Bass	14 lb. 12 oz.	Lake, Harrison County	Jenifer Schultz	1991
Muskellunge	35 lb. 8 oz.	James Lake, Kosciusko County	George Webster	1994
Northern Pike	30 lb. 2 oz.	Clear Lake, Steuben County	Jack Barnes	1992
Paddlefish	106 lb. 4 oz.	Sand Pit, Knox County	John Kotter	1996
Pink Salmon	2 lb. 12 1/2 oz.	Lake Michigan, Lake County	Richard J. Lisac	1985
Rainbow Trout	18 lb. 8 oz.	Clear Lake, Steuben County	Bill Bigger	1988
Redear Sunfish	3 lb. 10 oz.	Lake, Brown County	R. Peckman	1974
Rock Bass	3 lb.	Sugar Creek, Hancock County	David Thomas	1969
Sauger	6 lb. 1 oz.	Tippecanoe River, Carroll County	Mark Bigger	1983
Smallmouth Bass	7 lb. 4 oz.	Twin Lake, Lagrange County	Dana Yoder	1992
Spotted Bass	5 lb. 1 1/2 oz.	Lake, Howard County	John William Pio	1975
Steelhead Trout	26.47 lb.	Lake Michigan, Porter County	Jason Robert	1990
Striped Bass	35.395 lb.	Ohio River	Tony Campisano	1993
Sucker	12 lb. 3.3 oz.	White River, Bartholemew County	John Britton	1991
Tiger Muskellunge	24 lb.	Wolf Lake, Lake County	Michael Senics	1995
Tiger Trout	3 lb.	Lake Michigan, Lake County	Mike Ratter	1978
Walleye	14 lb. 4 oz.	Kankakee River, Lake County	Leon Richart	1974
	14 lb. 4 oz.	Tippecanoe River, Pulaski County	Donald Tedford	1977
Warmouth	1.37 lb.	Farm pond, Morgan County	Brett Borges	1989
White Bass	4 lb. 3 oz.	Lake Freeman, Carroll County	James Wagner	1965
White Catfish	9.72 lb.	Pond, Wabash County	Melissa Grimes	1985
*Yellow Bass	2 lb. 4 oz.	Monroe Reservoir, Monroe County	Don Stalker	1977
Yellow Perch	2 lb. 8 oz.	Gravel Pit, Vigo County	Roy W. Burkel Jr.	1981

*World Record

The Go FishIN Program



Mark Twain's classic characters Tom and Huck made an art of avoiding formal education by goin' fishin'. Through the Indiana DNR's new Go FishIN aquatic education program, many teachers and youth leaders are finding that fishin' and learnin' are not as mutually exclusive, as Tom and Huck thought. In fact, when fishing activities are combined with classroom curriculums, educators have learned to reel in results.

If Tom's and Huck's teachers had the Go FishIN program, the boys may have taken in more education.

"Fishing is a great way to hook kids on learning about the environment," says Pam Bradbury, 8th grade earth science teacher from Maconequah Middle School and Go FishIN crew captain. "Fishing is a hands-on experience with nature rather than classroom theory work."

Go FishIN is aimed at middle school-aged kids; however, the program can be easily modified for any age group. Go FishIN is not isolated to schools either. The multi-disciplinary program has also lured in local parks and recreation departments, church groups, community groups and other civic organizations who are working to engage kids.

A trained volunteer network of "crew captains" is being established to cast Go FishIN throughout the state. Go FishIN coordinator Dave Kellam, a long-time angler himself, is training crew captains to share their enthusiasm and knowledge of fishing and Indiana's aquatic resources. During a four-hour training course, crew captains learn educational games and activities aimed at teaching kids about aquatic science, biology, environmental quality, ecosystems and angling skills. The program also stresses outdoor ethics, responsibility and safety. After the training, crew captains receive copies of educational materials and loaner fishing equipment to conduct their Go FishIN presentations.

Go FishIN participants can join in activities like an educational tug-of-war that demonstrates species adaptations to environmental changes. Kids learn that not all fish are equal in their ability to survive and that fish adapt to their environment in different ways.

Another activity has participants role-playing as bluegills, plankton, bass and other aquatic organisms. Each person becomes a specific fish species or aquatic organism and receives beans related to the amount of energy the organism requires. Players then take beans from lower life forms as they "feed," or they give back beans as an explanation of the food chain and life cycles.

Kids also learn specific angling skills, such as how to tie fishing knots, and how to catch and release fish. These fun activities on aquatic ecology, angling techniques and outdoor ethics provide the educational framework that will help create the fishers of the future.

The program is not just fishing fun, according to Walt Jones, director of Cope Environmental Education Center, Centerville, Ind. Jones points out, "Go FishIN puts a lot of people in direct contact with aquatic resources. They learn about the diversity and the delicate balance that exists in Indiana's waterways. Fishing also gives anglers a vested interest in water quality and makes them watch for potential problems."

The Go FishIN program benefits Indiana's aquatic resources. Young anglers who go through Go FishIN are more aware of the threats to Indiana waters and are more likely to defend and protect fragile aquatic resources. Go FishIN participants are trained to obey all fishing regulations and not to litter waterways.

The program is administered by the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife. Funding for Go FishIN originates at local bait and tackle shops with the sales of fishing licenses. Each time you purchase a fishing license, the majority of the cost is directed to the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Each time you buy a new rod and reel, tackle or other fishing equipment, a portion of the purchase goes to the federal Sport Fish Restoration Fund, which assists Indiana with fisheries enhancement and angling education. Due to this funding, Go FishIN activities are open and free to all Hoosiers.

"In situations where adult family members are not available to introduce kids to fishing, Go FishIN is an excellent way to provide mentoring to kids and teach them about stewardship, fishing and life skills."

—Randy Dickson
4-H Youth Educator