

*A SUMMARY OF*  
**Missouri Fishing Regulations**



*Serving nature and you*

*EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2007*

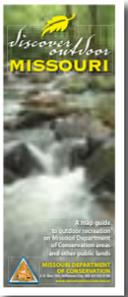
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Cover photo by Cliff White*

## In Your Hands

The information in this booklet is only a summary of the fishing rules and contains only those rules that affect the ordinary sport angler. It is NOT a legal document and is subject to revision during the current year. Refer to the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* or the Missouri Code of State Regulations for complete rules at [www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp](http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp).



## Discover a new fishing hole

“Discover Outdoor Missouri” map is your free guide to conservation areas around the state, numerous urban fishing lakes and other spots to float a bobber. Just write to “Discover Outdoor Missouri” map, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

# Sport Fishing in Missouri

When it comes to fishing, Missouri has a lot to offer the angler. While there are more than 200 species of fish in the Show-Me State, anglers focus their attention on about two dozen species. The seasons are long and the daily limits are generous; but there are regulations to improve and maintain the quality of fishing, ensuring that everyone has an equal chance of catching fish, while protecting fisheries resources.

The *Wildlife Code of Missouri* is a permissive code. This means that you may take or attempt to take only those species of fish and other aquatic wildlife permitted by the *Code*, and only by those methods, and only at the times and under the circumstances mentioned. As one angler put it: "If they don't say you can, you can't!"

A permissive code means that rather than giving you an endless list of "thou shalt nots," we keep it simple by telling you what you may do. The reason for this is to make access to Missouri fishing as fair and as uncomplicated as possible.

## What's New for 2007

- Price of the Daily Fishing Permit is now \$7 a day and the Nonresident Fishing Permit is now \$40. See page 4.
- Resident National Guard and Reserve Service Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit provides a reduced-price permit for certain military personnel. See page 4.
- On Joachim Creek from Highway V bridge to Highway A bridge in Jefferson County, there is an 15 inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass, and the daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.
- Shovelnose sturgeon may not be taken by snagging, snaring or grabbing.
- A trout permit is no longer needed when fishing in Stone Mill Spring Branch in Pulaski County, unless you want to keep trout.
- The atlatl may be used as a fishing method for nongame fish. See pages 9 and 42.
- Bighead carp and silver carp may not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.
- More lakes have been added to the winter trout fishing program, and one regulation has been changed at five St. Louis area lakes. See page 17.
- Maramec Spring Park is now open seven days a week during the winter catch-and-release season. The other trout parks are open four days a week. See page 16.

*Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.*

# Permits: General Information

Everyone who fishes must have the appropriate lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit or qualify for an exemption.

The following do not need a lifetime, annual or daily fishing permit, but must purchase a daily fishing tag or trout permit when or where required:

- any Missouri resident landowner and resident lessee of land, and all members of their immediate households (see definition on page 43), when fishing on the land they own or on which they lease and reside;
- any Missouri resident (whether or not meeting the definition of a landowner) who owns land that completely encloses a body of water, or any member of his or her immediate household, when fishing in those waters;
- any Missouri resident 65 years of age or older, and any person (resident or nonresident) 15 years of age or younger. (Note: Youngsters fishing without a permit are limited to the following methods—pole and line, gig, longbow, crossbow, snaring, grabbing and snagging);
- any Missouri resident with a visual acuity not exceeding 20/200 in the better eye with maximum correction, or having 20 degree or less field of visual concentric contraction. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician;
- any Missouri resident who is so severely and permanently disabled as to be unable to move freely without the aid of a wheelchair. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician;
- any Missouri resident with cerebral palsy or mental retardation as defined in Missouri Revised Statutes, section 630.005, and who is so severely disabled that he or she cannot fish alone. Must be accompanied by a licensed adult angler and possess a certified statement of eligibility from a licensed physician qualified to evaluate and treat the developmentally disabled;
- any Missouri resident who is an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-related disability of 60 percent or greater, or who was a prisoner of war during military service. Must carry a certified statement of eligibility from the Veterans Administration.

Any person—without permit and prescribed area daily fishing tag—may fish during Free Fishing Days, June 9 and 10, 2007. Also, a fishing permit is not required to fish privately stocked waters. On private licensed trout fishing areas, customers and guests may fish for trout without a permit.

A Missouri resident, for permit purposes, is a person who does not claim resident privileges in another state or country, and whose actual residence and legal permanent home address are both in Missouri, and have been for at least 30 days before applying for the permit. Owning real estate or attending a Missouri school does not in itself make you a legal resident. Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card may receive resident permit privileges if they meet the resident requirements listed above.

Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces, and all members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri, and their immediate families, can purchase resident permits.

Accepting a permit means that you:

- agree to observe all the rules of the Wildlife Code;
- will not loan your permit to another;
- will allow inspection of your permit, picture identification, catch and equipment by an agent of the Conservation Department;
- will carry your permit while fishing. If you ordered your permit by telephone or on the internet and have not received it by mail, you must carry the permit authorization number and picture identification with you while fishing until your permit arrives.

## Purchasing Permits

You can purchase or replace your permits:

- at local permit vendors
- by calling 1-800-392-4115  
(additional \$2 fee per person applies)
- online at [www.wildlifelicence.com](http://www.wildlifelicence.com)  
(additional \$2 fee per person applies).

Allow 10 days for delivery of telephone and online purchases.

Lost or mutilated permits can be replaced by any vendor after verifying through a computer file that you had purchased a permit. A replacement permit costs \$2.

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, a Missouri Conservation identification number, social security number or driver license number is required to purchase all permits except daily tags.

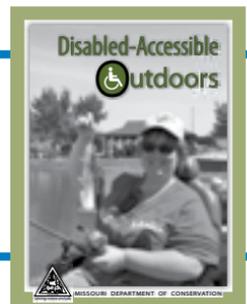
The Heritage Card, similar in appearance to a credit card, stores registration information on a magnetic strip. The vendor scans the card and keys in the type of permit needed. A printer then issues the permit. The card also can be purchased to replace a lost hunter education card when the certification can be verified through Department records.

The Heritage Card owner will receive a 15 percent discount on selected retail merchandise sold at Conservation Department facilities. Heritage Cards can be purchased for \$2 wherever permits are sold. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

**Note:** The Heritage Card is not a permit.



*Many lakes in Missouri have docks that provide easy access to good fishing. For a comprehensive list of disabled-accessible fishing spots and other facilities around the state, write for the free booklet: "Disabled-Accessible Outdoors," P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.*



**New! Resident National Guard and Reserve Service**

**Small Game Hunting and Fishing Permit.....\$5**

For Missouri residents who are currently, or have in the previous 12 months, been mobilized and serving on full-time active military duty in the National Guard (federal status) or reserve forces of the United States to take fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds (*except turkey*), mammals (*except deer*), and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.<sup>1,2</sup>

To apply, fill out an application, which is available:

- at <http://mdc.mo.gov/9213>
- by calling call 573/522-4115, ext. 3574
- or by writing to National Guard Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Allow 10 days after sending in your application for your permit to be delivered. This permit is not available at vendors or online.

## Missouri Fishing Permits

Anglers have a variety of permits from which to choose. The permits, unless noted otherwise on the permit itself, are valid from date of purchase through the last day of February 2008. To pursue, take, possess and transport fish, live bait, mussels, clams, crayfish, frogs and turtles, you will need, unless otherwise exempted, one or more of the following:

**Daily Fishing Permit *Price change!*..... \$7**

For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait. May be purchased by residents and nonresidents for multiple days.

**Resident Fishing Permit.....\$12**

For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

**Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit.....\$19**

For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, birds except turkey, mammals except deer, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting. See hunting regulations booklets for additional permits needed to hunt migratory birds.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Nonresident Fishing Permit *Price change!*.....\$40**

For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait.

**Trout Permit .....\$7**

To possess trout, except in trout parks where a daily trout fishing tag is required. A Trout Permit is required for all winter fishing in trout parks and for all fishing year 'round in Lake Taneycomo upstream from U.S. Highway 65 bridge. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. See pages 16-20.

**Hand Fishing Permit .....\$7**

For the experimental catfish hand fishing season. Must also have a prescribed fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. Applications are available from the Department by calling 573/522-4115, ext. 3579, or by writing to Hand Fishing Permit, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. See page 14.

**White River Border Lakes Permit..... \$10**

Allows Missouri and Arkansas residents to pursue, take, possess (except trout) and transport fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish and live bait from the other state's portion of the impounded waters of Bull Shoals, Norfolk and Table Rock lakes without purchasing a Nonresident Fishing Permit. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption issued by the state of residence.

## Lifetime Permits show commitment to conservation

For anglers who want to make a long-term commitment to supporting Missouri wildlife, the following permits are available.

Lifetime permits are available to Missouri residents only. Proof of residency, such as a photocopy of a valid Missouri driver's license, is required. For children under the age of 18, the parents' residency will be used. All lifetime permit holders receive an attractive, durable plastic permit card to carry in the field and special mailings to keep them updated on seasons, regulation changes and other information. Periodic validation of these permits will be required.

You must apply for lifetime permits by filling out a lifetime permit form, which is available:

- at <http://mdc.mo.gov/8849>
- by calling call 573/522-4115, ext. 3574
- or by writing to Lifetime Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Please allow 10 days after sending in your application for your permit to be delivered to you. Lifetime permits are not available at permit vendors or on line. Periodic validation of lifetime permits will be required

**Resident Lifetime Fishing Permit**—For fish including trout, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait.

Age 15 and under .....	\$275
Age 16-29 .....	\$400
Age 30-39 .....	\$350
Age 40-59 .....	\$300
Age 60 and over .....	\$35

**Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit**—For fish including trout, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, live bait, migratory and other birds except turkey, mammals except deer, and to sell furbearers taken by hunting.<sup>1</sup>

Age 15 and under .....	\$550
Age 16-29 .....	\$800
Age 30-39 .....	\$700
Age 40-59 .....	\$600
Age 60 and over .....	\$70

<sup>1</sup> A federal duck stamp also is required for hunting waterfowl.

<sup>2</sup> A Missouri Migratory Bird Hunting Permit also is required for hunting waterfowl, doves, snipe, woodcock and rails.

# Sport Fishing: General Rules

## ■ Methods

You may take fish by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. If you use more than 3 poles (or two poles on the Mississippi River) at any one time, the additional poles must be labeled with your full name and address. Regardless of the method or number of poles, you may not use more than a total of 33 hooks at any one time; except on the Mississippi River the maximum is 50 hooks at one time. If fishing on the Mississippi River and on other Missouri waters at the same time, no more than 50 hooks may be used and not more than 33 on waters other than the Mississippi. Hooks on trotlines must be staged at least 2 feet apart. Hooks on any type of line, as well as the line itself, must be attended every 24 hours or removed.

Certain species in designated waters may be taken by the use of longbow, crossbow, gig, atlatl, snare or by underwater spearfishing, snagging, grabbing or by hand. (See pages 9-14.) However, game fish not hooked in the mouth or jaw must be returned to the water unharmed immediately, except:

- paddlefish legally taken during the paddlefish snagging season, and
- catfish taken by hand during the experimental hand fishing season.

All of the above methods of taking fish are considered sport fishing methods.

Of course, no one may use any explosive, poison, chemical or electrical equipment to kill or stupefy fish. Such material or equipment may not even be possessed on waters of the state or adjacent banks. Spearguns may not be possessed on unimpounded waters or adjacent banks, and spears may not be propelled by explosives. It also is illegal to attempt to take fish by hand, with or without a hook, except catfish during the experimental hand fishing season, and to intentionally leave or abandon any commonly edible portion of any fish.

Fish traps, including slat and wire ones, may not be possessed on waters in Missouri or on adjacent banks. However, live-bait traps are allowed. See live-bait section on pages 10-12.

**Labels Required:** You must place a tag of a durable material with your full name and address on live-bait traps, trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines and live boxes.

**Use of Lights:** As an aid to fishing methods, an artificial light may be used only above the water surface. However, while fishing by pole and line only, underwater lights may be used to attract fish.

## ■ Daily and Possession Limits

You may possess no more than the daily limit of any given species while you are on waters, or on the banks of waters, where daily limits for those species apply. **Where only catch-and-release fishing is allowed, fish must be returned unharmed immediately to the water after being caught.** See regulations on culling on page 42.

## Jug Line Regulations

Anchored jug lines may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours. The anchor must be sufficient to render a jug immobile so that wind, current or large fish will not move the jug. A line that does not meet this standard is considered unanchored. Under normal fishing conditions, a 2-pound weight for a 2-liter soda bottle would be an appropriate anchor. Use a heavier weight to anchor larger floats or during times of high wind and current.

Unanchored jug lines must be personally attended at all times. Complying with this regulation will reduce catfish waste and jug line litter on our public lakes and rivers. Anglers who cannot personally attend their jug lines at all times can still enjoy jug fishing by using anchors. Personally attended means that the angler whose name is labeled on the jug line:

- is in visual sight of and close proximity to the jug line
- can see the jug line bob and move when a fish is hooked and can retrieve it
- can see and talk to a conservation agent checking the line
- can get the attention of or deter anyone who is tampering with the jug line.

The possession limit is twice the statewide daily limit. See page 8. Fish you take and possess must be kept separate or distinctly identifiable from fish taken by another person. If you are away from your catch, the device holding the fish must be plainly labeled with your full name and address.

### ■ Length Limits

A minimum length limit means that fish below a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. A slot length limit or protected length range means that fish within a designated length range must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. A maximum length limit means that fish above a designated length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. See page 27 for details on how to measure fish.

Regardless of where taken, fish that are not of a legal length cannot be possessed on the waters or banks where length limits apply. The head and tail must remain attached to the fish while you are fishing on waters where length limits apply.

### ■ Transportation

The fish you catch in Missouri, or elsewhere, may be possessed and transported as your personal baggage, if you have the required permit. Fish may be stored, preserved or refrigerated only at your home, camp, place of lodging or in a commercial establishment. Stored fish must be labeled with your full name, address, permit number, species of fish and the date placed in storage. Fish taken in another state by methods not permitted in Missouri may not be possessed on waters of the state.

<b>Game Fish</b>	Open Season	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Black bass ( <i>largemouth, smallmouth, spotted/Kentucky</i> ) From impoundments	all year	6 <sup>1</sup>	none <sup>1</sup>
From Ozark streams <sup>2</sup>	May 26, 2007– Feb. 29, 2008		12" minimum <sup>1</sup>
From other streams <sup>2</sup>	all year		12" minimum
Catfish Channel	all year	10 <sup>1</sup>	none <sup>1</sup>
Blue	all year	5 <sup>1</sup>	none <sup>1</sup>
Flathead	all year	5 <sup>1</sup>	none <sup>1</sup>
Crappie ( <i>black &amp; white</i> )	all year	30 <sup>1</sup>	none <sup>1</sup>
Muskellunge	all year	1	36" minimum <sup>1</sup>
Northern pike	all year	1	none
Paddlefish ( <i>spoonbill</i> ) <sup>3</sup>	March 15– April 30 <sup>1</sup>	2 <sup>1</sup>	24" minimum <sup>1</sup>
Pickerel ( <i>chain &amp; grass</i> )	all year	6	none
Rock bass ( <i>goggle-eye</i> ) & warmouth	all year	15	none <sup>1</sup>
Shovelnose sturgeon <sup>3,4</sup>	all year <sup>1</sup>	10 <sup>1</sup>	30" maximum
Trout	all year	4 <sup>1</sup>	Rainbow: none <sup>1</sup>  Brown: 15" minimum in streams
Walleye & sauger	all year <sup>5</sup>	4 <sup>1</sup>	15" minimum <sup>1</sup>
White, yellow & striped bass & their hybrids	all year	15 <sup>1</sup>	no more than 4 longer than 18" <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Applies on all waters, except those listed on pages 16-20 and 28-39 and on areas that are posted with special regulations.

<sup>2</sup> Black bass fishing and possession is open year 'round on the Mississippi River, all waters north of the south bank of the Missouri River, the St. Francis River downstream from Wappapello Dam and on streams in that portion of southeast Missouri bounded by a line from Cape Girardeau following Missouri highways 74 and 25, U.S. highways 60, 67 and 160, and the west bank of the Little Black River to the Arkansas state line. In the rest of the state referred to as the Ozarks, black bass from streams may not be possessed from March 1–May 25.

<sup>3</sup> Extracted paddlefish and shovelnose sturgeon eggs may not be possessed while on waters of the state or adjacent banks, and may not be transported. They also may not be bought, sold or offered for sale.

<sup>4</sup> Shovelnose sturgeon must remain intact while on waters of the state or adjacent banks.

<sup>5</sup> From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger can be taken and possessed only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. CST in the unimpounded portions of all streams, except the Missouri and Mississippi rivers.

## Game Fish

The fish species listed at left may be pursued and taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line. Catfish, however, may be taken by hand during the experimental hand fishing season. Paddlefish may be taken by snagging and grabbing from March 15 to April 30. See pages 36-37 for special regulations for paddlefish on the Mississippi River. Game fish are defined on page 43.

Seasons and limits listed on page 8 apply statewide unless the body of water has special regulations as listed on pages 16-20 and 28-39 or if the area is posted with special regulations.

## Nongame Fish

Nongame fish include bluegill, green sunfish, carp, carpsuckers, suckers, buffalo, drum, gar and all other species other than those defined as game fish or listed as endangered. See page 43.

■ **Methods and Seasons:** Nongame fish may be taken as described below. See Special Area Regulations on pages 28-39 for restrictions on certain waters. To find out when sunrise and sunset occurs in the area you are fishing, go to the U.S. Naval Observatory website at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/>.

- ✓ Using pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line and jug line throughout the year.
- ✓ Using snagging, snaring or grabbing from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Jan. 31.
- ✓ Using a longbow between sunrise and midnight on streams and during all hours throughout the year on impounded waters; except that from Feb. 1 through March 31 on impounded waters, fish may be taken only between sunrise and midnight.
- ✓ **New method!** Using a gig or atlatl on streams and impounded waters between sunrise and midnight from Sept. 15 through Jan. 31, and from impounded waters between sunrise and sunset throughout the remainder of the year.
- ✓ Using crossbow or underwater spear on impounded waters between sunrise and sunset throughout the year.
- ✓ **New method!** In temporary overflow waters, nongame fish may be taken outside the banks of a river or ditch by gig, atlatl, underwater spearfishing, longbow, crossbow, snagging or grabbing between sunrise and sunset throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limits:** The daily limit for nongame fish, except for carp and goldfish listed below, is 50 in the aggregate if taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line or underwater spear. If taken by other methods, the daily limit is 20 in the aggregate. See pages 33 and 36 for exceptions on the Current and Mississippi rivers.

There is no limit on bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp. Bowfin must remain whole and intact while on waters of the state or adjacent banks.

## Attention Giggers and Anglers: Help Protect the Hellbender



Hellbenders are harmless, nonpoisonous aquatic salamanders that live in clear, swift-flowing rivers and streams throughout the Ozarks. These large amphibians, 11-20 inches long, live under large flat rocks, venturing out at night to feed. Ninety percent of hellbenders' diet is crayfish, but occasionally they feed on minnows and earthworms. Due to declines in hellbender numbers, they are protected and cannot be taken from the wild or killed. If you catch one on hook and line, release it unharmed by removing the hook or simply cutting the line. If you gig fish or frogs, remember it is illegal to gig hellbenders. Thank you for helping to protect this unique Ozark amphibian, which is part of our natural heritage. Report sighting by calling 573/522-4115, ext. 3201.

## Bullfrogs & Green Frogs

■ **Methods:** Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken by hand, handnet, gig, longbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. An artificial light may be used.

■ **Season:** Sunset June 30 through Oct. 31.

*Note: On June 30, 2007, sunset is at 8:37 p.m. Daylight-Saving Time in Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. For example, St. Louis is 106 miles east, so you need to subtract 8 minutes; Kansas City is 133 miles west, so add 10 minutes. Or see the U.S. Naval Observatory website at <http://aa.usno.navy.mil/>.*

■ **Daily Limit:** 8 in the aggregate.

## Live Bait

Live bait includes: crayfish, freshwater shrimp, southern leopard frogs, plains leopard frogs, cricket frogs and nongame fish. Bullfrogs and green frogs taken under season limits and methods listed above also may be used as bait.

■ **Methods:** Live bait may be taken by trap, dip net, throw net, pole and line or seine. Live-bait traps must have a throat opening not more than 1½ inches in any dimension, and must be labeled with your full name and address. Traps must be removed if they cannot be checked at least once every 24 hours. Seines must not be more than 20 feet long and 4 feet deep, with a mesh of not more than ½ inch bar measure. Live bait, except fish, may be taken by hand. Crayfish also may be taken by trap with an opening not to exceed 1½ inches by 18 inches.

## Frogs included as live bait



*Southern leopard frog*



*Plains leopard frog*



*Blanchards cricket frog*



*Bullfrog*



*Green frog*

*Your purchase of hunting and fishing equipment and motorboat fuels supports wildlife and sport fish restoration and boating access facilities.*



All bluegill, green sunfish and bullheads more than 5 inches long and other species of nongame fish more than 12 inches long must be returned to the water immediately after being caught by any of the methods listed above except pole and line. The daily limits for nongame fish apply to the large fish taken by pole and line.



**Don't Dump Bait!**  
It is illegal to dump bait into Missouri waters.

**Throw unused bait in the trash.**  
Unwanted animals and plants can invade local water, damage habitat and ruin your fishing.

To learn more about protecting Missouri's streams, rivers and lakes from invasive species, visit [www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org).

Image courtesy of Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. W00000

**New!** Bighead carp and silver carp may not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

There is no length limit on bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp when used as bait.

Live bait taken from public waters of Missouri may not be sold or transported from the state.

■ **Seasons:** Live bait may be taken throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limit:** The daily limit is 150 in the aggregate for crayfish, freshwater shrimp and non-game fish. The daily limit is 5 each of the following amphibians: southern leopard frog, plains leopard frog and cricket frog. The daily limit is 8 bullfrogs or green frogs in the aggregate, and they must be taken during the bullfrog and green frog season from sunset June 30 through Oct. 31. See page 10. There is no daily limit on bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp. Live bait, when purchased or obtained from a source other than the waters of the state or a licensed commercial fisherman, must be species on the Approved Aquatic Species List and may be possessed in any number as long as you carry a dated receipt for the fish.

■ **Other species that may be used as bait include:**

- ✓ Nongame fish of any size, except bowfin, if taken according to the methods and seasons listed on page 9.
- ✓ Mussels and clams legally taken by sport fish methods.

Game fish or their parts may not be used as bait.

## Mussels and Clams

■ **Methods and Season:** May be taken by hand, handnet or pole and line throughout the year.

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 in the aggregate. This limit applies to live and dead animals. Two

shell halves (valves) shall be considered 1 mussel or clam. Asiatic clams may be taken and possessed in any number.

Mussels listed in the *Missouri Species and Communities of Conservation Concern Checklist* may not be taken or possessed. The checklist is online at [www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/nathis/endangered/).

## Turtles

■ **Methods:** Common snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles may be taken by hand, handnet, longbow, crossbow, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line, snagging, snaring, grabbing or pole and line. Shooting turtles with firearms is prohibited.

■ **Seasons:** Common snapping turtles throughout the year; soft-shelled turtles from July 1 through Dec. 31.

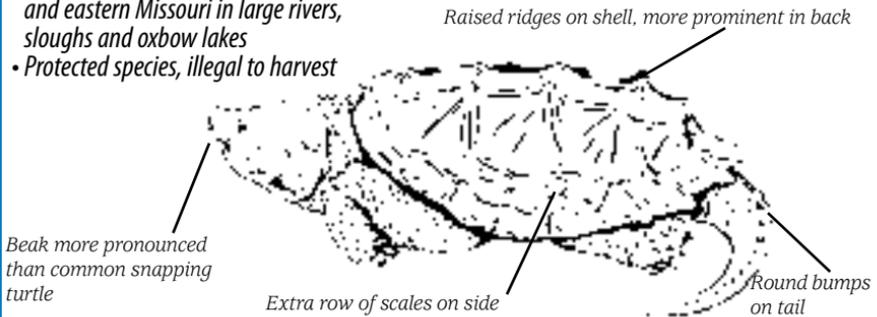
**Note:** *There is no open season on the rare alligator snapping turtle.*

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 common snapping turtles; 5 softshell turtles.

### Know the differences between snapping turtles

#### Alligator Snapping Turtles

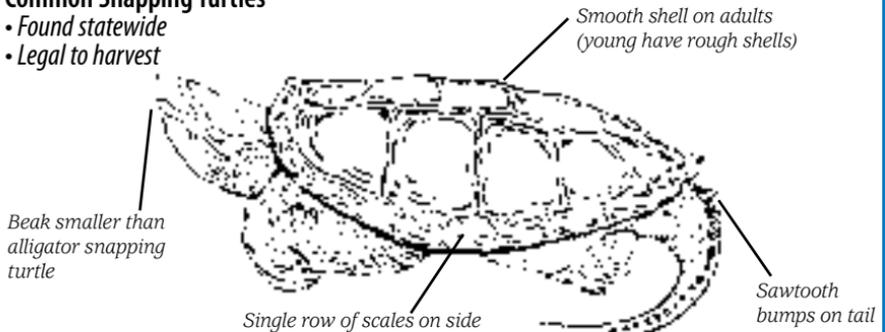
- Found in southern, southeastern and eastern Missouri in large rivers, sloughs and oxbow lakes
- Protected species, illegal to harvest



**Report sightings of alligator snapping turtles to 573/522-4115, ext. 3201.**

#### Common Snapping Turtles

- Found statewide
- Legal to harvest



# Experimental Hand Fishing Season

An experimental hand fishing season for catfish began in 2005 to determine what effect hand fishing will have on catfish populations and whether such a season can be permitted without harm to the resource. Only waters that also are open to commercial fishing for catfish, or closely tied to such waters, have been opened to hand fishing. These areas are:

- ✓ Fabius River system from the mouth to the Highway 61 bridges and the South Fabius River in Marion County from the Highway 61 bridge upstream to Dunn Ford Access.
- ✓ Mississippi River from the mouth of the Fabius River upstream to the mouth of the Des Moines River.
- ✓ That part of the St. Francis River that forms the boundary between the states of Arkansas and Missouri.

To hand fish in Missouri, you must:

- ✓ obtain a Hand Fishing Permit, in addition to a fishing permit (unless exempt). See page 4.
- ✓ keep an up-to-date fishing report and submit it, within 10 days following the close of the season, on a form furnished by the Department. Failure to submit an accurate and complete season record shall be sufficient cause for denial of a Hand Fishing Permit the following year.

■ **Methods:** Only feet and bare hands may be used without the aid of hooks, snorkeling or scuba equipment, or other man-made devices. Catfish may be taken by hand fishing only from natural objects or natural cavities. Catfish may not be taken from any man-made object except from *bona fide* construction such as bridges, docks, boat ramps and rock rip rap. No part of any object may be disturbed or altered to harvest a catfish by hand.

Hand fishers may not possess fishing equipment, except a stringer, while on designated hand fishing waters or adjacent banks. However, stringers may not be used as an aid for taking catfish and may not be used until the fish is in possession at or above the surface of the water.

Natural sticks may be used to locate catfish, but may not be used as an aid for taking the fish. Catfish taken by hand fishing methods may not be possessed on waters closed to hand fishing.

■ **Season:** From sunrise to sunset, June 1 through July 15

■ **Daily Limit:** 5 channel, blue or flathead catfish, in the aggregate

■ **Length Limit:** 22 inches for flathead and blue catfish; no length limit on channel catfish

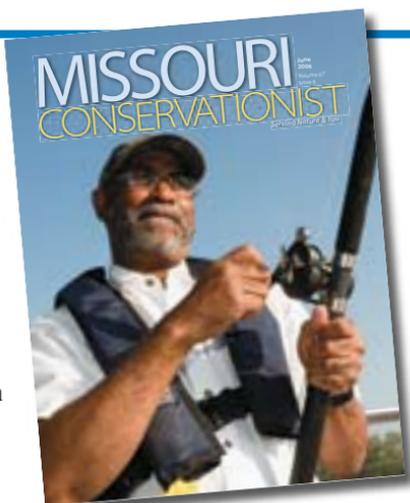
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You'll begin receiving the magazine in about 6 to 8 weeks. One magazine per household, please.



## Poachers lose privileges across state lines

Missouri is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator's Compact, an agreement whereby 24 participating states share information about game law violators and honor each other's decisions to deny permits to perennial poachers. In the past, poachers whose hunting, fishing or trapping privileges were suspended in one state could drive to another state and purchase a permit. Now, if your permit is revoked in Missouri, you will lose privileges in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Missouri, in turn, will honor revocations in these same states.

## Handle lead fishing sinkers carefully

To prevent exposure to lead while fishing, take the following precautions:

- Wash hands with soap after holding lead sinkers, especially before eating.
- Never bite down or chew lead sinkers.
- Take proper precautions when melting lead and pouring sinkers at home.
- Use sinkers made of other materials, such as steel, bismuth, tungsten, resin and glass. Avoid sinkers made from zinc, as they are toxic to waterfowl.

# Trout Fishing Areas

Missouri has several types of trout fishing areas, each with its own special rules. In addition to a fishing permit, you will need a trout permit to possess trout on all waters outside of the trout parks and a daily tag while fishing in the trout parks. Unless otherwise indicated, the season is open all year.

## ■ Trout Parks

**Maramec Spring Park, Bennett Spring State Park, Montauk State Park and Roaring River State Park** are open and stocked daily from March 1 through Oct. 31. Anglers need a fishing permit, unless exempt, as well as a daily trout tag. The tag is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 15 years of age or younger.

The daily limit is 4, and you must stop fishing for any species after having 4 trout in possession. Area regulations, fishing methods and zones vary. Ask for details when you purchase your tag.

Catch-and-release fishing only is available from Nov. 9, 2007, through Feb. 11, 2008. *New!* Maramec Spring Park is open daily from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The three state parks are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday through Monday. A trout permit and a fishing permit are required. Only flies may be used.

## ■ Winter Trout Fishing Areas

As part of the Kansas City and St. Louis Urban Fishing programs, rainbow trout are stocked from November through March in the city, county and Department lakes listed in the chart on the following page. Fishing is permitted year 'round during normal park or area hours. Trout permits are required if trout are kept.

Working in cooperation with cities around the state and local fishing groups, winter trout fishing also is offered in other Missouri towns. Trout are stocked one time at the beginning of November. See chart on the following page.

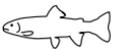
# Trout Management Categories



**Blue Ribbon Trout Areas** include parts of large, cold rivers with excellent trout habitat and smaller streams that support naturally reproducing rainbow trout populations. Harvest is limited to maintain the maximum density of adult trout, create excellent catch-and-release fishing and provide the occasional chance to harvest a trophy. Blue Ribbon Trout Areas on the Current and North Fork of the White rivers are stocked with brown trout. The Blue Ribbon Area on the Eleven Point River is stocked with rainbow trout.



**Red Ribbon Trout Areas** have high-quality trout habitat stocked primarily with brown trout. They provide good catch-and-release fishing and a chance to harvest quality-size trout.



**White Ribbon Trout Areas** are coldwater streams capable of supporting trout populations year 'round. All receive periodic stockings of rainbow trout, and some also receive brown trout. They provide great opportunities for catching and harvesting trout and the occasional chance to harvest a large trout.

# Regulations for Winter Trout Fishing Areas

Statewide methods and limits apply, except during the dates listed below.

<b>Kansas City Area</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alex George Lake in Jackson County</li> <li>Chaumiere Lake in Kansas City</li> <li><b>New!</b> Coot and Plover lakes at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area</li> </ul>		Statewide methods and limits apply year 'round.
<b>St. Louis Area</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lakes 22, 23, 24 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</li> </ul>	Nov. 1–Oct. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>
	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 1 pole may be used</li> <li>Use of chum is prohibited</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carondelet Park Boathouse Lake in St. Louis</li> <li>January-Wabash Park Lake in Ferguson</li> <li>Suson Park Lakes 1, 2, 3 in St. Louis County</li> <li>Vlasis Park Lake in Ballwin</li> <li>O'Fallon Park Lake in St. Louis</li> </ul>	<b>New!</b> year 'round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>
	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 1 pole may be used</li> <li>Use of chum is prohibited</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jefferson in St. Louis</li> <li><b>New!</b> Koeneman Park Lake in Jennings</li> <li>Lakes 21, 28 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area</li> <li>Tilles Park Lake in St. Louis County</li> <li>Walker Lake in Kirkwood</li> <li>Wild Acres Park Lake in Overland</li> </ul>	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> <li>Only 1 pole may be used</li> <li>Use of chum is prohibited</li> </ul>
	Feb. 1–Oct. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.</li> </ul>
<b>Other Cities around the State</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cosmo-Bethel Lake in Columbia</li> <li>McKay Park Lake in Jefferson City</li> <li>Kiwanis Lake in Mexico</li> <li><b>New!</b> Liberty Park Pond in Sedalia</li> <li><b>New!</b> Spur Pond in Kirksville</li> </ul>	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rotary Lake in Jackson</li> </ul>	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catch &amp; release only for trout</li> <li>Flies, artificial lures and unscented soft plastic baits only</li> <li>Use of chum is prohibited</li> </ul>

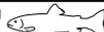
# Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams and Lakes

Area name & type Directions/Total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
<b>Barren Fork Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  County Road A-D to its junction with Sinking Creek – 3.2 miles	Shannon	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Blue Springs Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  From Blue Springs to its junction with Meramec River – 4 miles	Crawford	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Capps Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  4 miles upstream from its junction with Shoal Creek	Barry & Newton	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15”	4	All
<b>Crane Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  Upstream from Quail Spur Road crossing on Stone County Road 13-195 – 8 miles	Stone & Lawrence	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Current River</b> <sup>1</sup>  River and its tributaries from lower boundary of Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove Bridge – 9 miles	Dent	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Current River</b> <sup>1</sup>  Downstream from Cedar Grove Bridge crossing – 7.7 miles	Dent	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15”	4	All
<b>Eleven Point River</b> <sup>1</sup>  Greer Spring Branch junction to Turner Mill Access – 5.5 miles	Oregon	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Eleven Point River</b>  Downstream from Turner Mill Access – 14.2 miles	Oregon	None	4	All
<b>Hickory Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  From Highway 86 bridge to Shoal Creek – 2.7 miles	Newton	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15”	4 (from March 1-Oct. 31) 1-Oct. 31)	All (from March 1-Oct. 31)
		Catch and release	0 (from Nov. 1 - Feb. 29)	Artificial lures and flies only from Nov. 1- Feb. 29

Definitions of Blue, Red and White Ribbon Trout Management  
Areas are on page 16.



**Don't trespass! Many trout streams flow through private land.  
Before entering, ask landowners for permission.**

<b>Area name &amp; type Directions/Total miles</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Length Limit</b>	<b>Daily Limit</b>	<b>Authorized Lures</b>
<b>Lake Taneycomo &amp; its tributaries</b> <sup>1,2,3</sup> From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek – 3 miles	Taney	Rainbows: less than 12” or greater than 20”  Browns: at least 20”	4 (only 1 brown)	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Lake Taneycomo</b> <sup>1,4</sup> Mouth of Fall Creek to Powersite Dam and tributaries to Lake Taneycomo – 19.7 miles	Taney	Rainbows: none  Browns: at least 20”	4 (only 1 brown)	All
<b>Little Piney Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  From Phelps County line in Sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access – 9.9 miles	Phelps	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Little Piney Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  Downstream of Milldam Hollow Access – 3.7 miles	Phelps	Rainbows: none  Browns: at least 15”	4	All
<b>Meramec River</b> <sup>1</sup>  From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford and in Dry Fork Creek from the elevated cable crossing to its confluence with the Meramec River – 8.2 miles	Phelps & Crawford	At least 15”	2	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Mill Creek</b> <sup>1</sup>  Yelton Spring to its junction with Little Piney Creek including Wilkins Spring and spring branch – 7.7 miles	Phelps	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Niangua River</b> <sup>1</sup>  From Bennett Spring Branch to Prosperine Access – 11.5 miles of stocked stream	Dallas	Rainbows: none  Browns: at least 15”	4	All
<b>North Fork, White River</b> <sup>1</sup>  Upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge – 8.6 miles	Ozark	At least 18”	1	Artificial lures and flies

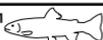
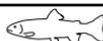
<sup>1</sup> While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

<sup>2</sup> Lake Taneycomo is stocked monthly with rainbow trout and annually with brown trout.

<sup>3</sup> Must also have trout permit to fish for any species.

<sup>4</sup> Must also have trout permit upstream of U.S. Highway 65 bridge to fish for any species.

## More Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams and Lakes

Area name & type Directions/Total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
<b>North Fork, White River</b>  <sup>1</sup> Unimpounded river and its tributaries from Patrick Bridge to Norfork Lake – 7.0 miles	Ozark	At least 15"	2	All
<b>Roaring River</b>  <sup>1</sup> From the lower boundary of Roaring River State Park to Table Rock Lake – 4 miles	Barry	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
<b>Roubidoux Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup> Upstream of the elevated utility cable crossing approximately ½ mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville – 0.9 miles	Pulaski	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
<b>Roubidoux Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup> Downstream of the elevated utility cable crossing about 0.5 mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to its junction with the Gasconade River – 2.2 miles	Pulaski	At least 15"	2	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Spring Creek</b>  <sup>1</sup> Relfe Spring to its junction with Big Piney River – 6.2 miles	Phelps	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
<b>Stone Mill Spring</b>  <sup>1</sup> Entire spring branch – 0.3 mile	Pulaski	Rainbows: none Browns:at least 15"	4 (from March 1— Oct. 31)	All (from March 1— Oct. 31)
		Catch and release	0 (from Nov. 1— Feb. 29)	Artificial lures and flies (from Nov. 1—Feb. 29 or as posted)

<sup>1</sup> While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail and skin intact.

### Go Online for Missouri Trout Fishing Guide & Maps

Find a new trout fishing spot online. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/trout/7248](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/trout/7248) to learn more about the state's four trout parks, 120 miles of spring-fed cold water managed trout streams, urban lakes and Lake Taneycomo.

# Reciprocal Fishing Privileges

Fishing privileges on boundary waters common to Missouri and an adjoining state are mutually agreed upon by the two states. It is your responsibility to know which state you are fishing in and the regulations that apply to the waters that you are fishing. You must be licensed in Missouri to fish in Missouri tributaries of the Mississippi, Missouri and St. Francis rivers. You may not fish in the tributaries of these rivers in a state where you are not licensed.

Properly licensed or exempted anglers from Missouri:	Missouri River (Kansas, Nebraska)	Mississippi River (Illinois, Kentucky*, Tennessee)	St. Francis River (Arkansas)	Des Moines River (Iowa)
May fish in the flowing waters of either state.	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes</b>
May fish in either state's adjacent backwaters and shared oxbow lakes	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes*</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>yes</b>
May fish from the bank or attach to the bank of either state.	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes*</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>no</b>
Must abide by the regulations of the state in which you are fishing, regardless of where you are licensed.	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>yes</b>
Must abide by the regulations of the state where you are licensed, regardless of where you are fishing.	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>
Must abide by the most restrictive of the two states' regulations when fishing the other state's waters.	<b>yes</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>yes</b>

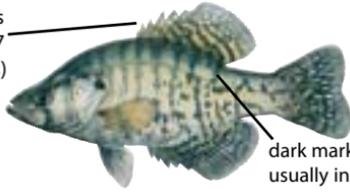
*\* For the purposes of these reciprocal fishing privileges with Kentucky, the Mississippi River is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels or chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes, or backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or up tributaries when the river level exceeds 33 feet at the Cairo, Ill., gauging station.*

For more information on adjacent states' regulations and permits, contact:

- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission: 800/364-4263
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources: 217/782-6302
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: 515/281-5918
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks: 785/296-2281
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources: 800/858-1549
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: 402/471-0641
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: 615/781-6500

### White crappie

5 or 6 dorsal fin spines  
(Black crappie have 7  
or 8 dorsal fin spines)



dark markings  
usually in bars

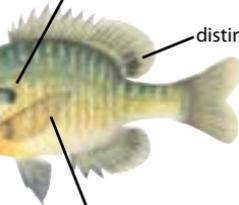
### Bluegill

distinct ear flap  
without border  
or orange spot

distinct blotch

very  
small  
mouth

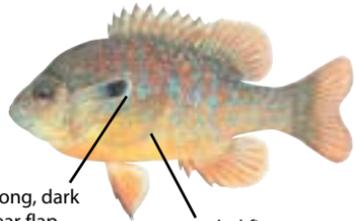
long, pointed fin



### Longear sunfish

long, dark  
ear flap

rounded fin



### Rock bass (Goggle-eye)

usually no  
dark blotch

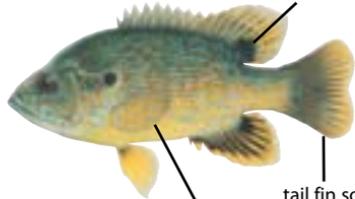
tail fin mottled



### Green sunfish

usually dark  
blotch

rounded fin



### Channel catfish

tail fin forked

upper jaw extends  
beyond lower jaw

anal fin margin rounded  
with 24-29 rays



### Flathead catfish

upper fin lighter  
than remainder of fin

lower jaw extends  
beyond upper jaw

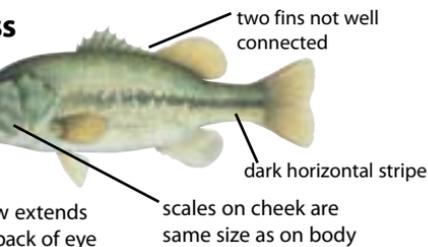
tail fin  
square



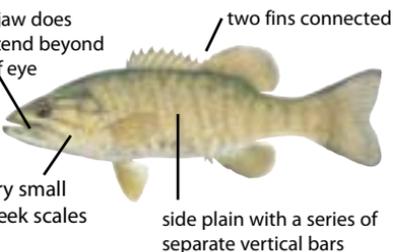
Joseph R. Tomelleri illustrations

It is important to correctly identify the fish you catch so you can abide by the seasons, daily limits, length limits and other regulations.

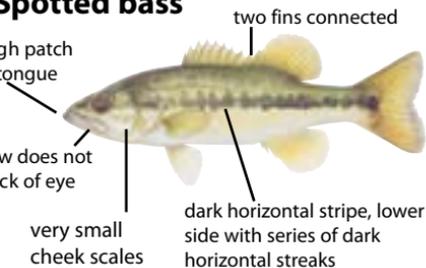
# The Fishes of Missouri?



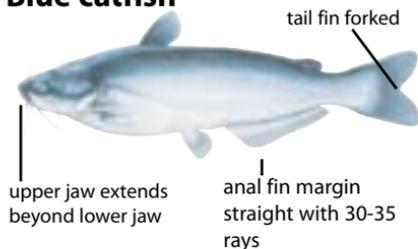
## Smallmouth bass



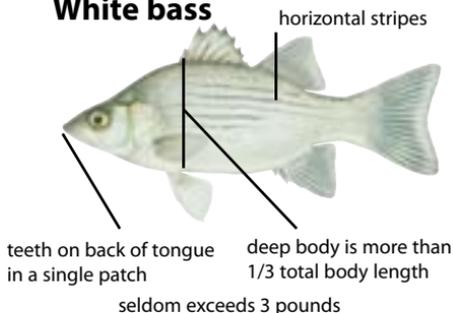
## Spotted bass



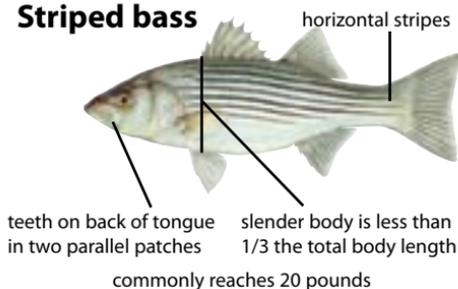
## Blue catfish



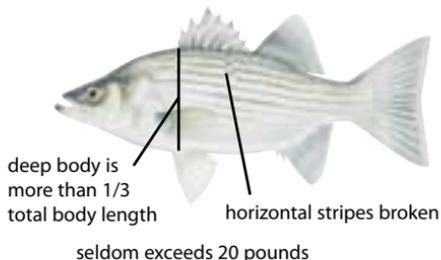
## White bass



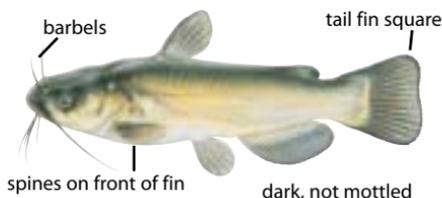
## Striped bass



## White bass-striped bass hybrid



## Black bullhead

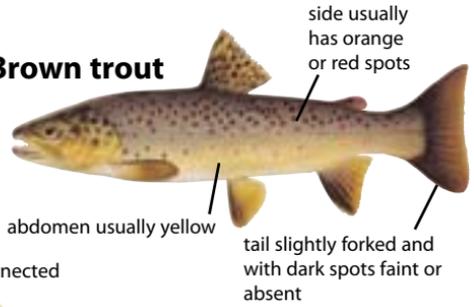


When in doubt about the identity or legal length, play it safe and return the fish to the water unharmed immediately.

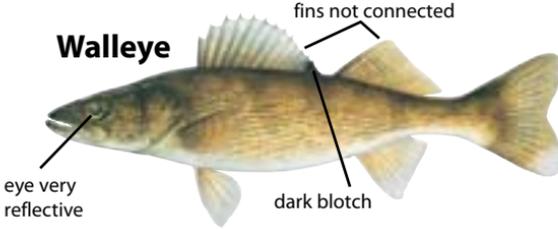
## Rainbow trout



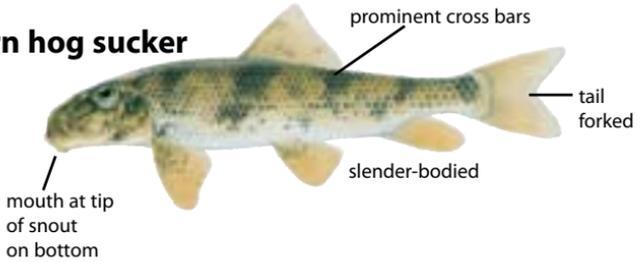
## Brown trout



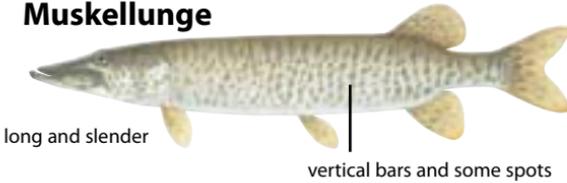
## Walleye



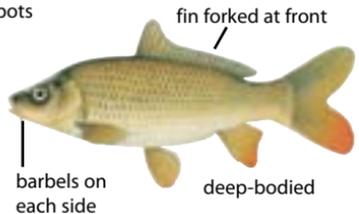
## Northern hog sucker



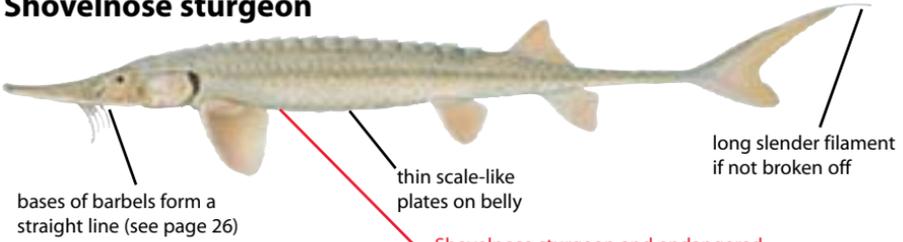
## Muskellunge



## Common carp

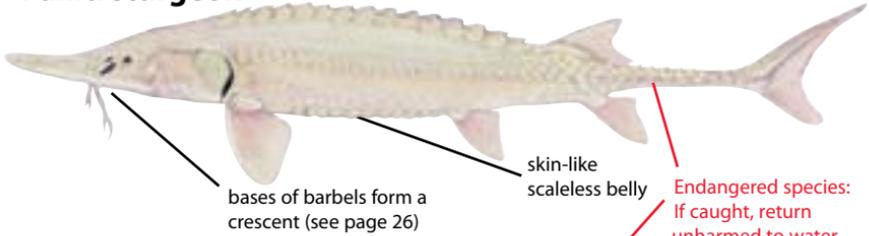


## Shovelnose sturgeon



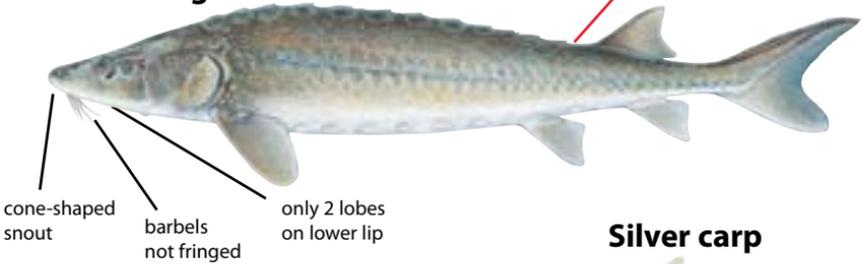
Shovelnose sturgeon and endangered pallid sturgeon are similar. See identification tips on page 26.

## Pallid sturgeon

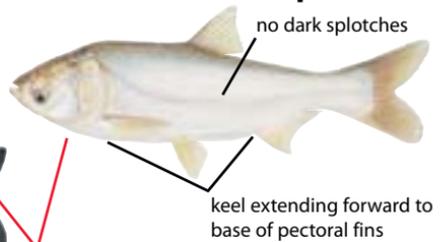


Endangered species: If caught, return unharmed to water immediately.

## Lake sturgeon

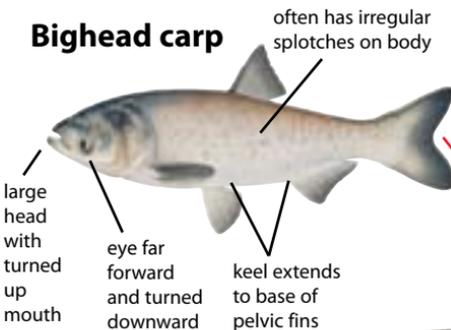


## Silver carp

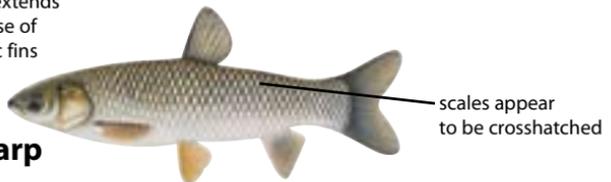


Non-native species: May not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

## Bighead carp



## Grass carp

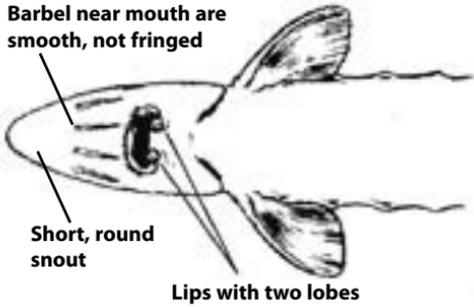


# How to Identify Sturgeon

There are three species of sturgeon in Missouri. The pallid and lake sturgeon are endangered and need to be protected. Use the information listed below to learn the key differences so you can always return pallid and lake sturgeon unharmed to the water immediately.

## Endangered lake sturgeon

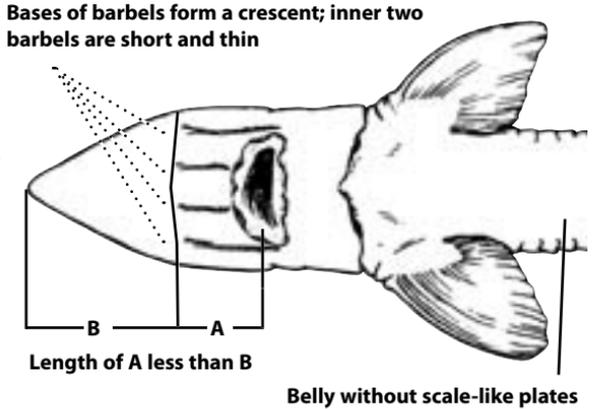
- Sides and back range from dark slate to light brown or yellowish-olive; white belly
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- May reach 8 feet in length and more than 300 pounds



Rebecca Haefner - illustrations

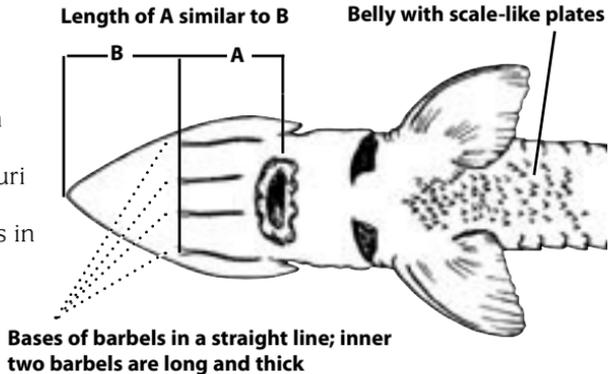
## Endangered pallid sturgeon

- Grayish-white color
- Found in the Missouri River and in the Mississippi downstream from the mouth of the Illinois River
- May exceed 30 inches in length and reach 10 pounds or more



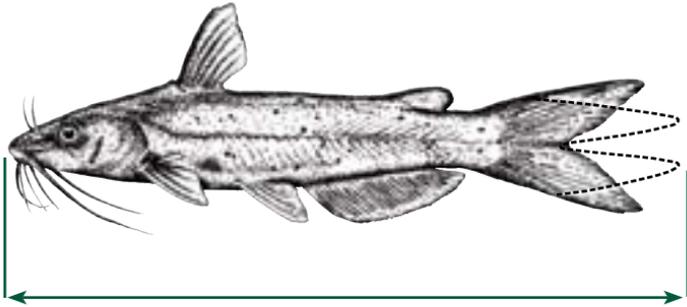
## Shovelnose sturgeon

- Reddish-brown or buff color. See illustration on page 25.
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- Rarely exceeds 30 inches in length or 5 pounds



If you catch a pallid or lake sturgeon, release it immediately, then report the sighting to: Missouri Department of Conservation, 1907 Hillcrest Drive, Columbia, MO 65201, or 573/884-6861.

## How to Measure a Fish (total length)



Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with the fish laid flat on the ruler, with the mouth closed and the tail lobes pressed together.

## How to Measure a Paddlefish



Paddlefish are measured from the eye to the fork of the tail.

## How to Measure a Sturgeon



Sturgeon are measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Only shovelnose sturgeon are legal to keep. See pages 25 and 26 for identification tips.

# Special Area Regulations

Most public fishing areas have methods, seasons, limits or other fishing regulations that are different than the statewide rules on page 8. These special regulations are posted at the areas. It is your responsibility to know what regulations apply to the waters you are fishing. Please refer to area brochures, signs and bulletin boards before fishing these waters.

Special regulations on large reservoirs, rivers, streams and trout areas are summarized below. Special regulations also apply to the tributaries of some large reservoirs. These rules are listed under the name of the lake or stream. **Statewide regulations apply unless otherwise indicated below.**

## Large Reservoirs

### Blue Springs Lake

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit

### Bull Shoals Lake

#### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—10 fish daily limit in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

#### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

#### In the Swan Creek Arm above U.S. Highway 160:

- From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger may be taken and possessed only between 6:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Central Standard Time.

#### From Powersite Dam to Highway 76:

- Trotlines, throwlines and limb lines are prohibited.

### Lake of the Ozarks

#### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

#### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length

#### Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:

- No fishing is allowed.

**From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no-boating zone (look for signs and buoys):**

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4 in the aggregate and only 1 may be more than 24” in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed.

**From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

**Lake Taneycomo**

**On the lake and its tributaries:**

- Brown trout—20” minimum length limit; the daily limit of 4 trout in the aggregate may include only 1 brown trout.

**Within 760 feet below Table Rock Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed.

**From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to the mouth of Fall Creek:**

- Rainbow trout—12” to 20” slot length limit
- Pole and line fishing only
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

**From the closed zone 760 feet below Table Rock Dam to U.S. Highway 65 bridge:**

- Fishing permit (unless exempt) and a trout permit are required to fish for any species.

**Long Branch Lake**

- Black bass—15” minimum length limit
- Hybrid striped bass—20” minimum length limit; daily limit of 4 in the aggregate
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18” minimum length limit

**Become a Master Angler**

The Conservation Department recognizes anglers who catch selected fish species that meet minimum weight or length requirements. To be eligible for a Master Angler award, anglers must catch fish in Missouri by legal sport-fishing methods. The catch does not need to be verified. Anglers are on their honor to provide accurate information.

To apply, write to Master Angler, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180; call 573/522-4115, ext. 3594; or look on the web at: [www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/records](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/records).



## Longview Lake

- Pole and line fishing only, except that shad may be taken by dip net or throw net.
- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Flathead catfish—24" minimum length limit; 1 fish daily limit

## Mark Twain Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

## Montrose Lake

- Black bass—18" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit

## Norfolk Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass; 12" minimum length limit on spotted bass
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—Daily limit of 10 fish in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

## Pomme de Terre Lake

- Black bass—13" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Smithville Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—9" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Stockton Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

## Table Rock Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Catfish (channel, blue and flathead)—Daily limit of 10 fish in the aggregate
- Crappie—10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34" minimum body length

## Thomas Hill Lake

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit
- Crappie—15 fish daily limit
- Hybrid striped bass—20" minimum length limit; daily limit of 4 in the aggregate

## Truman Lake

### Lakewide:

- Black bass—15” minimum length limit
- Crappie—9” minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit
- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

### On the lake and its tributaries:

- Paddlefish—34” minimum body length
- No person shall continue to snag, snare or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

## Wappapello Lake

### Lakewide:

- Crappie—9” minimum length limit

### On the lake and its tributaries including the St. Francis River and its tributaries above Wappapello Dam

- Walleye and sauger—18” minimum length limit

## Help stop zebra mussels



Zebra mussels have been found in the Lake of the Ozarks, the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, and in the Meramec River near St. Louis. Although less than 2 inches long, these exotics:

- **CLOG** the cooling systems of boat motors causing them to overheat.
- **PLUG** intake pipes, cutting off water supplies to cities and power plants.
- **RUIN** beaches with their sharp shells and rotting carcasses.
- **SPREAD** quickly. A single female can produce 1 million eggs a year.

### *To help stop the invasion of this European mussel: Inspect, Drain, Dump, Rinse, Dry!*

- **INSPECT** your boat for mussels after each use, remove and trash mussels and water weeds before leaving any body of water.
- **DRAIN** all water from your boat, bait buckets and equipment before leaving any body of water. disinfect them.
- **DUMP** leftover bait on land, away from water, before leaving any body of water.
- **RINSE** in hot water your boat's hull, drive unit, livewell and pump, bilge, trailer, bait bucket, engine cooling system and all other parts and accessories that get wet.
- **DRY** your boat, motor and trailer thoroughly for 5 days before boating again.

*Report sightings to Mussel Biologist, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, or call 573/882-9880. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in isopropyl alcohol or by freezing them.*

# Rivers and Streams

## Barren Fork Creek

### In Shannon County from County Road A-D to Sinking Creek:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Big Piney River

### From Highway 17 to the Gasconade River:

- Rock bass—8" minimum length limit

### From Slabtown Access to Ross Access:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Big River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### From Leadwood Access to the Meramec River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Black River

### Within the wing walls of Clearwater Dam:

- No fishing is allowed.

### Within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Clearwater Dam:

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing and gigging are prohibited.

## Stop Fish and Wildlife Thieves and Arsonists

Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson are privately funded programs to help combat poaching and arson-caused forest fires in Missouri. Rewards are available for information leading to the arrest of game law violators and forest arsonists.

If you see a possible violation in progress, call your county conservation agent immediately or dial toll-free 1-800-392-1111. All information is kept in strict confidence.

*Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.*



## Blue Springs Creek

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### In Crawford County from Blue Springs to the Meramec River:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Bourbeuse River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

## Courtois Creek

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

## Crane Creek

### In Stone and Lawrence counties upstream from Quail Spur Crossing on Stone County Road 13-195



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Current River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### From Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

### From Cedar Grove to the Arkansas line:

- Nongame fish—The daily limit may include no more than 5 hogsuckers.

## Dry Fork Creek

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### In Crawford and Phelps counties from the elevated cable crossing to the Meramec River:



Part of the Meramec River Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### In Phelps and Dent counties, upstream from the elevated cable crossing:

- Trout—15" minimum length limit; daily limit 2.

## Eleven Point River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger—18" minimum length limit

### From Thomasville Access to the Arkansas line:

- Rock bass—8" minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

### From Greer Spring Branch to Turner Mill:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Elk River

- Black bass—15" minimum length limit; 2 fish daily limit

## Report Stream Pollution



If you find dead fish, leaking barrels of unknown chemicals, municipal or livestock lagoons discharging poorly treated effluent, broken pipelines or unauthorized dredging or bulldozing polluting a stream, report it as soon as possible to the Department of Natural Resources' 24-hour environmental emergency response number (573/634-2436) if the situation requires immediate action. Or call your county conservation agent, listed in the yellow pages under "Government Offices—State Conservation Department," or the Environmental Services Unit of the Conservation Department at 573/882-9880.

## Fabius River

**Mainstem and its tributaries from mouth to U.S. Highway 61 and South Fabius River from U.S. Highway 61 to Dunn Ford Access:**

- Hand fishing for catfish allowed during experimental catfish hand fishing season. See page 14.

## Gasconade River

**From Highway Y in Pulaski County to Highway D in Phelps County:**

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Greer Spring Branch

**As posted upstream from the south boundary of the private reservation:**

- No fishing is allowed.

## Hickory Creek

**Mainstem and its tributaries**



White Ribbon Trout Area—See page 18 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species from Nov. 1 through Feb. 29.

## Huzzah Creek

**Mainstem and its tributaries:**

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

## Jacks Fork River

**From Highway 17 to Highway 106:**

- Smallmouth bass—18" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## James River

**From Hooten Town bridge on Stone County Road A-90 to Highway 13:**

- Largemouth bass—15" minimum length limit
- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Joachim Creek

**From Jefferson County Highway V bridge to Highway A bridge:**

- **New!** Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Little Piney Creek

**From the Phelps County line in sections 9 and 16 of T35N, R8W, including Piney Spring Branch and Lane Spring Branch to Milldam Hollow Access:**



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Giggling and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Little Platte River

### Between Smithville Dam and U.S. Highway 169:

- Pole and line fishing only
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

## Meramec River

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### From Highway 8 bridge to Scott's Ford:



Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### From Scott's Ford to the railroad crossing at Bird's Nest:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Mill Creek

### From Yelton Spring to Little Piney Creek, including Wilkins Spring and spring branch:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

## Mineral Fork

### Mainstem and its tributaries:

- Black bass—The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate.
- Spotted bass—No minimum length limit.

### From Highway F in Washington County to the Big River:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass in the aggregate, may include only 1 smallmouth bass

## Mississippi River, including Pools 20-26

- Black bass—12" minimum length limit
- Channel catfish and blue catfish—The daily and possession limit is 20 in the aggregate.
- Flathead catfish—The daily and possession limit is 10 fish.
- Paddlefish—The open season is March 15 through May 15 and Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Walleye and sauger—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 8 in the aggregate. No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.
- White bass, yellow bass, striped bass and their hybrids—No minimum length limit. The daily and possession limit is 30 in the aggregate.

- Nongame fish—The daily and possession limit is 100 in the aggregate, except that bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp and silver carp may be taken and possessed in any number. Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through May 15 and from Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.
- Limit of 2 poles per licensed angler
- Limit of 50 hooks on a trotline

#### **From the mouth of the Fabius River upstream to the mouth of the Des Moines River:**

- Hand fishing for catfish allowed during experimental catfish hand fishing season. See page 14.

### **Missouri River**

- Walleye and sauger—No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession.

#### **Downstream from Carl R. Noren Access to Chamois Access**

- All shovelnose sturgeon must be returned to the water immediately after being caught.

### **North Fork of the White River**

#### **From the upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge:**

-  Blue Ribbon Trout Area—See page 19 for special regulations.
- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Giggging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

#### **From the unimpounded portion of river and its tributaries in Ozark County from Patrick Bridge to Norfolk Lake:**

-  Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 20 for special regulations.

### **Osage River**

#### **Within 525 feet on the left descending bank and 977 feet on the right descending bank below Truman Dam in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restricted zone:**

- No fishing is allowed.

#### **From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam throughout the no-boating zone (look for signs and buoys):**

- Catfish—The daily limit of channel, blue and flathead catfish is 4 in the aggregate and only one 1 may be more than 24" in total length.
- Paddlefish may not be possessed on the water or adjacent banks.

#### **From the downstream end of the no-fishing zone below Truman Dam to U.S. Highway 65:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, jug lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

#### **Within 225 feet below Bagnell Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed.

#### **From the no-fishing zone below Bagnell Dam to U.S. Highway 54:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, snagging, snaring and grabbing are prohibited.

### **From U.S. Highway 54 to the Missouri River:**

- Nongame fish—Snagging, snaring and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.

### **Osage Fork of the Gasconade River**

#### **From Skyline Drive bridge near Orla in Laclede County to the Gasconade River:**

- Rock bass—8” minimum length limit.
- Smallmouth bass—15” minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

### **Roubidoux Creek**

#### **From the elevated utility cable crossing approximately 1/2 mile below the Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville to the Gasconade River:**



Red Ribbon Trout Area—See page 20 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.

### **Sac River**

#### **From below Stockton Dam to Highway 32:**

- Pole and line fishing only

### **St. Francis River**

#### **Above Wappapello Dam, from the lake and its tributaries including the St. Francis River and its tributaries:**

- Walleye and sauger—18” minimum length limit.

#### **Along the border between the states of Missouri and Arkansas:**

- Hand fishing for catfish allowed during experimental catfish hand fishing season. See page 14.

#### **Within 225 feet below Wappapello Dam:**

- No fishing is allowed.

#### **From within 700 feet below the spillway walls of Wappapello Dam:**

- Trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bowfishing and gigging are prohibited.

### **Salt River**

#### **On the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool within 400 feet below Clarence Cannon Dam in the no boating zone:**

- No fishing is allowed.

#### **From the downstream end of the no fishing zone below Clarence Cannon Dam to the posted powerline crossing on the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool:**

- Pole and line fishing only.

#### **From the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool below Mark Twain Lake dam:**

- Black bass—12” minimum length limit

#### **From the no-boating zone 1,100 feet below the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool Dam to Route A:**

- Fishing by pole and line and longbow only

## Spring Creek

### In Phelps County from Relfe Spring to the Big Piney River:



Blue Ribbon Trout Area—see page 20 for special regulations.

- Only flies and artificial lures may be used, and soft plastic baits and natural and scented baits are prohibited when fishing for any species.
- Gigging and bowfishing are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

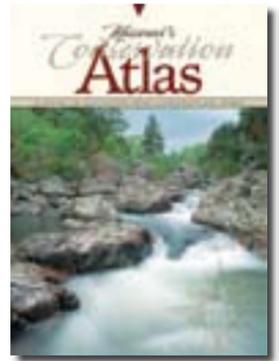
## Tenmile Creek

### From Highway B in Carter County to Cane Creek:

- Smallmouth bass—15" minimum length limit. The daily limit of 6 black bass may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

## Looking for a new place to fish?

The *Missouri's Conservation Atlas: A Guide to Exploring Your Conservation Lands* features more than 900 areas owned, managed or leased by the Department. The color maps include information on recreational opportunities, driving directions, facilities and disabled accessibility. The atlas can be purchased at Department offices and online at [www.mdcnatureshop.com](http://www.mdcnatureshop.com). For individual maps of Department areas, check out the free online atlas at [www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/atlas).

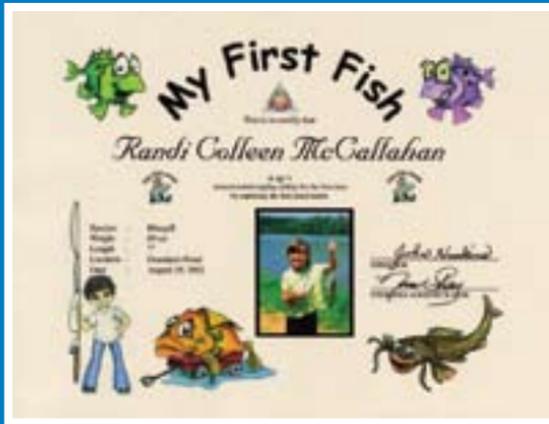


## Catch on to catch-and-release fishing

Often, fishing is for pleasure rather than for food on the table. Practicing catch-and-release, by releasing fish immediately after they are caught, is a conservation measure that contributes to fish populations, rather than decreases them. Following a few basic guidelines will increase the chances of a fish's survival:

- Whenever possible, do not take the fish out of the water.
- Filing the barbs off hooks makes removal much easier.
- Never pull a hook from the fish's throat or stomach; it is better to cut the line—many hooks will rust away.
- Avoid excessive handling of fish.
- If handling is necessary, make certain not to squeeze or drop the fish.
- Never put your fingers in the gills or eye sockets.

Many anglers are starting to "catch on" to catch-and-release. Releasing fish helps maintain a fishery for the future!



## Showcase Your First Catch

The First Fish Award commemorates that special moment in every anglers' career, the landing of their first fish. The award certificate, suitable for framing, is available to any first time angler regardless of age. There is no time limit on when the fish was caught; so whether your first fish was caught last week or 50 years ago, send for an application by writing to:

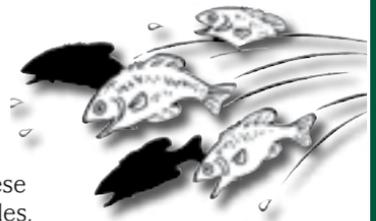
First Fish Program  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180  
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180

Applications also are available at: [www.mdc.mo.gov/62](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/62).

## We'll Stock Your Pond

The Conservation Department provides fingerling largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish for stocking new or renovated ponds that meet minimum qualifications. These "state" fish remain under statewide fishing rules. If you prefer, we'll help you locate a commercial source. Either way, you decide who can or can't fish on your property.

Applications are available at the regional office near you and on the Department's website: [www.mdc.mo.gov/67](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/67).





Free Fishing Days, June 9 and 10, are a great time to introduce kids to the joys of fishing. No permits or prescribed area daily fishing tags are required for that weekend.

# “take me fishing”™

## Attention ATV Users:

To help protect fish and other aquatic wildlife, it is illegal for anyone (except landowners and lessees on land they own or lease and some agricultural workers) to drive ATVs in Missouri’s streams and rivers unless the ATV is on a crossing that is part of the highway system. Violators may lose their fishing and hunting privileges.

## Team Up For Streams

You can help protect Missouri’s valuable stream habitat by starting a Stream Team in your area. By becoming a part of this program, you can stay updated on current stream issues and improve our aquatic resources.

Among other activities, team members clean up trash, plant trees, stencil storm drains and monitor water quality.

For more information, contact the Missouri Department of Conservation, Stream Unit, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180. Or call 573/522-4115, ext. 3169, or 1-800-781-1989. Or go online at [www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/strteam](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/programs/strteam).



## Definitions

- **New! Atlatl:** A rod or narrow board-like device used to launch, through a throwing motion of the arm, a dart 5 to 8 feet in length. See page 9.
- **Backwater:** Any flowing or nonflowing water lying exclusively within the floodplain of a river and connected to that river at any water level below official flood stage for the portion of river where the backwater occurs. Backwater does not include tributary streams and ditches, but may include side channels, chutes, sloughs, bayous, oxbows and blew holes.
- **Flies, Lures and Baits:** The following classes of lures are authorized for use, except where restricted. See pages 16-20 and 28-39.

(A) **Natural and scented baits**—A natural fish food such as bait fish, crayfish, frogs permitted as bait, grubs, insects, larvae, worms, salmon eggs, cheese, corn and other food substances not containing any ingredient to stupefy, injure or kill fish. Does not include flies or artificial lures. Includes dough bait, putty or paste-type bait, any substance designed to attract fish by taste or smell and any fly, lure or bait containing or used with such substances.

(B) **Soft plastic bait (unscented)**—Synthetic eggs, synthetic worms, synthetic grubs and soft plastic lures.

(C) **Artificial Lure**—A lure constructed of any material excluding soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait defined in (A) or (B) above.

(D) **Fly**—An artificial lure constructed on a single-point hook, using any material except soft plastic bait and natural and scented bait as defined in (A) or (B) above, that is tied, glued or otherwise permanently attached.

- **Days or Dates:** All days and dates are inclusive. A day begins or ends at midnight, unless otherwise specified.

### A Few Words About Culling

Any fish you catch is included in your daily limit unless you release it unharmed immediately. You may not replace smaller fish in your possession with larger ones caught later. You need to make a keep-or-release decision as soon as the fish is caught.

There is one exception: If, from September through June, you are a participant in a *bona fide* catch-and-release black bass tournament (one after which all bass are released alive), which requires entrants to have a boat livewell with adequate capacity and a pump constantly adding fresh or recirculating water, the black bass you release unharmed from the livewell need not be included in your daily limit. At no time may the daily limit be exceeded.

## Free Guide to Smallmouth Bass

“Ozark Smallmouth Bass Fishing” map is your guide to streams where these game fish can be found. Included are directions to river accesses, angling tips, regulations and more. To get a copy, write to: “Ozark Smallmouth Bass Fishing” map, Missouri Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

- **Endangered Fish:** Lake sturgeon, pallid sturgeon, taillight shiner, Neosho madtom, spring cavefish, harlequin darter, goldstripe darter, cypress minnow, central mudminnow, crystal darter, swamp darter, Ozark cavefish, Niangua darter, Sabine shiner, mountain madtom, redbfin darter, longnose darter, flathead chub, Topeka shiner. *These fish may not be kept.*
- **Game Fish:** Rock bass (goggle-eye), warmouth, northern pike, muskellunge, tiger muskie, muskie-pike hybrid, chain pickerel, grass pickerel, all species of catfish except bullheads, all species of black bass (largemouth, smallmouth and spotted), paddlefish (spoonbill), all species of crappie, white bass, yellow bass and striped bass, trout, walleye, sauger and shovelnose sturgeon.
- **Grabbing:** Snagging or attempting to snag a fish by means of a pole, line and hook manipulated by hand.
- **Hand fishing:** See page 14 for experimental hand fishing regulations and methods.
- **Hook:** Single- or multiple-pronged hooks and ordinary artificial lures with attached single- or multiple-pronged hooks and dropper flies. A multiple-pronged hook, or 2 or more hooks used to hold a single bait are considered a single hook.
- **Lessee:** Any Missouri resident who lives on and leases at least 5 acres of land in one single tract owned by others. This also includes any member of the immediate household whose legal residence is the same as the lessee for at least the past 30 days.
- **Resident Landowner:** Any Missouri resident who is the owner of at least 5 acres in one continuous tract or any member of the immediate household of such owner.
- **Nongame Fish:** All species other than those listed as endangered or defined as game fish. Nongame fish are referred to as “other fish” in the *Wildlife Code*.
- **Pole or Rod and Line:** Fishing tackle normally held in the hand, such as a cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod or fly rod, to which not more than 3 hooks with bait or lures are attached. Does not include snagging, snaring, grabbing, trotlines, juglines or other tackle normally attached in a fixed position.
- **Take or Taking:** Killing, trapping, snaring, netting or capturing in any manner any wildlife, and also refers to pursuing, molesting, hunting, wounding; or the placing, setting, or use of any net, trap, device, contrivance or substance, in an attempt to take wildlife; and every act of assistance to every other person in taking or attempting to take any wildlife.

# Fish Consumption Advisory

Annually the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services evaluates the level of contaminants in fish to make sure they are safe to eat. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and persistent pesticides, such as chlordane, in fish tissue have been around for many years and Missouri has seen a slow decrease in their concentrations. However, levels of these and other contaminants, especially lead and mercury, occur at levels in certain fish species that require consumption advisories.

There are benefits to eating fish but everyone should be aware of the potential damage to the central nervous system and cardiovascular system from methylmercury and other chemicals.\* Eating smaller fish is generally safer because these fish have not lived long enough to accumulate harmful chemicals in their bodies. Below is a summary of the advisory as of December 2006.

Location— Contaminant	Species	Length	Serving Advice	Advisory Population
Statewide—mercury	Largemouth, spotted, smallmouth bass	greater than 12"	1 per month	Sensitive populations: Pregnant women, women of childbearing age, nursing mothers and children under the age 13
	Carp species	greater than 21"	1 per week	
Clearwater Lake in Reynolds County—mercury	White bass	greater than 15"	1 per month	
All other waters—mercury	All other fish not covered under an advisory because all fish have various levels of mercury*	all sizes	1 per week	
Mississippi & Missouri rivers—PCBs, chlordane, mercury	Shovelnose sturgeon (excluding eggs)	all sizes	1 per month	All consumers
	Sturgeon eggs (collected from these waters)		Do not eat	
	Flathead, channel, blue catfish	greater than 17"	1 per week	
	Carp species	greater than 21"	1 per week	
Blue River from Minor Park to confluence with Brush Creek in Jasper County—PCBs, chlordane	Carp species	greater than 23"	1 per month	
	Channel catfish	greater than 19"	1 per week	
Turkey Creek near Hwy. P in Jasper County—PCBs, chlordane	Buffalo species	greater than 21"	1 per week	
Big River in St. Francois & Jefferson counties—lead	Sunfish, carp, redbone species and other suckers	all sizes	Do not eat	

Location— Contaminant	Species	Length	Serving Advice	Advisory Population
Flat River in St. Francois County from Hwy. B, 6 miles downstream to where it enters Big River—lead	Sunfish, carp, redhorse species and other suckers	all sizes	Do not eat	All consumers
Big Creek near Glover in Iron County—lead	Sunfish	all sizes	Do not eat	
Middle Fork of the Black River in Reynolds County—lead	Smallmouth bass	all sizes	Do not eat	

\* For the benefits of eating fish and mercury's health effects, go to: [www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/MethylmercuryBrochure.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/MethylmercuryBrochure.pdf).  
 For EPA's 1-meal-per-week recommendation on all other sport fish, go to: [www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishadvice/1-meal-per-week.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/fishadvice/1-meal-per-week.pdf)

This advisory may be revised throughout the year. For updates, contact: Fish Advisory, Missouri Department of Conservation, 1110 S. College Ave., Columbia, MO 65201, phone: 573/882-9880, or go to: [www.dhss.mo.gov](http://www.dhss.mo.gov).

## Regional Offices

### Administrative Office

P.O. Box 180 (zip 65102)  
 2901 W. Truman Blvd.  
 Jefferson City 65109  
 573/751-4115  
 Fax: 573/751-4467

### Northeast

3500 S. Baltimore  
 Kirksville 63501  
 660/785-2420  
 Fax: 660/785-2553

### Kansas City

3424 N.W. Duncan  
 Road  
 Blue Springs 64015  
 816/655-6250  
 Fax: 816/655-6256

### Central

1907 Hillcrest Drive  
 Columbia 65201  
 573/884-6861  
 Fax: 573/882-9807

### Northwest

701 James McCarthy Drive  
 St. Joseph 64507  
 816/271-3100  
 Fax: 816/271-3107

### St. Louis

2360 Highway D  
 St. Charles 63304  
 636/441-4554  
 Fax: 636/926-9125

### Ozark

551 Joe Jones Blvd.  
 P.O. Box 138  
 West Plains 65775  
 417/256-7161  
 Fax: 417/256-0429

### Southwest

2630 N. Mayfair  
 Springfield 65803  
 417/895-6880  
 Fax: 417/895-6910

### Southeast

2302 County Park Drive  
 Cape Girardeau 63701  
 573/290-5730  
 Fax: 573/290-5736



Web address: [www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)

## Think you've got a record?

The Department of Conservation maintains a list of Missouri State Record Fish and recognizes anglers who catch them. To be eligible for an award, your fish must be taken legally and you must:

- Weigh it in the presence of Conservation Department personnel on an accurate scale subject to verification at any time.
- Have your fish identification verified by a Conservation Department fisheries biologist.

### Weights of Selected Missouri State Record Fish

Species	Pole, Line & Lure		Alternative Methods	
Largemouth bass	13 lb.	14 oz.	8 lb.	2 oz.
Smallmouth bass	7 lb.	2 oz.	4 lb.	3 oz.
Spotted bass	7 lb.	8 oz.		
<b>World Record!</b> Black crappie	5 lb.	0 oz.		
Bluegill	3 lb.	0 oz.		
Common carp	50 lb.	6 oz.	55 lb.	1 oz.
Blue catfish	103 lb.	0 oz.	117 lb.	0 oz.
Channel catfish	34 lb.	10 oz.	29 lb.	14 oz.
Flathead catfish	77 lb.	8 oz.	94 lb.	0 oz.
White crappie	4 lb.	9 oz.		
Muskellunge	41 lb.	2 oz.		
Paddlefish			139 lb.	4 oz.
Rock bass	2 lb.	12 oz.		
Rainbow trout	18 lb.	1 oz.	15 lb.	6 oz.
Brown trout	27 lb.	10 oz.		
Walleye	21 lb.	1 oz.		

Record Fish forms and information are available on the web at [www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/records](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/fish/records); by writing Missouri Department of Conservation, Fisheries Division, State Record Fish, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; or by calling 573/751-4115.

*Note: All Missouri State Record Fish must meet the minimum requirements for Master Angler Awards. See page 29.*

## Earn a patch for releasing lunker trout

If you legally catch a trout at least 18 inches long in one of Missouri's trout parks and release it in the presence of a witness between March 1 and Oct. 31, you can receive a free patch for your fishing vest. Pick up an "I Released a Lunker" program application from the fish hatchery at the park. Once you and your witness have signed the application, hatchery staff will present your patch. Catch and release a lunker at all four parks and win the Grand Slam patch. Arrange the four patches around the colorful Grand Slam patch, and show the world you're serious about fishing Missouri's trout parks and releasing lunker trout for other anglers to enjoy.

