A Summary of

Missouri Fishing Regulations

Effective March 1, 2014

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What's New in 2014

- The statewide daily limit for nongame fish taken by underwater spearfishing is now 20. See the table on Page 10.
- To improve blue catfish populations in Lake of the Ozarks, Truman Lake, and their tributaries, three new regulations apply to these waters. Blue catfish 26 to 34 inches long must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being caught. An angler's daily limit may not contain more than two blue catfish longer than 34 inches. And, the daily and possession limit for blue catfish on these waters will be 10. See pages 28 and 31.

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Attention Smartphone Users

The Conservation Department's website, **mdc.mo.gov**, gets more than 1.5 million views each month by people looking for information about hunting, fishing, hiking, birdwatching, and all things nature. These topics are now easier to access than ever for users of smartphones and other mobile devices. Just point your iPhone, Android, or other device to **mdc.mo.gov**, and you'll be offered a mobile version of the website optimized to fit smaller screens. This enhancement is one more way the Conservation Department is improving technology to match the needs of connected users. Some smartphones even allow users to save a bookmark of the mobile website as an icon on their home screen for easy access.

Sport Fishing in Missouri

When it comes to fishing, Missouri has a lot to offer. While there are more than 200 species of fish in the Show-Me State, anglers focus on only about two dozen. Seasons are long, and daily limits are generous. Regulations exist to improve and maintain the quality of fishing, ensure that everyone has an equal chance of catching fish, and protect aquatic 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*, only by permitted 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 tell you what you may do. The reason for this is to make access to Missouri fishing as fair and as uncomplicated as possible.

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 **sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp**.

Note: According to rule 3 CSR 10-5.216 of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*, if you have been convicted of multiple or major violations of the *Code* in the past five years, the Conservation Commission may consider suspending or revoking your hunting, trapping, and/or fishing privileges regardless of any previous court action. The point system the Commission uses to assess *Code* violations is explained at **mdc.mo.gov/node/16861**.

Help a new angler discover the fun of fishing.

Free Fishing Days, June 7 and 8, 2014, are a great time to introduce family and friends to the joys of fishing. No permits or prescribed area daily fishing tags are required for that weekend.

Along with the fish, you'll catch some priceless memories.

Visit mdc.mo.gov/fishing for more information.

Permits: General Information

Everyone who fishes must have the appropriate lifetime, annual, or daily fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. The following qualify for an exemption, but must purchase a daily trout 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 45), 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
- Any person (resident or nonresident) 15 years of age or younger. Youth fishing without a permit are limited to the following methods: pole and line, gig, bow, 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 resident or nonresident 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 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Any member of the U.S. military currently assigned as a patient to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or a military medical center. Must carry orders showing assignment to a Warrior Transition Brigade, Warrior Transition Unit, or admissions verification to a military medical center

Any person — without permit or prescribed area daily fishing tag — may fish during Free Fishing Days, June 7 and 8, 2014. 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.

Who may purchase resident permits?

- Any 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.
- Missouri residents employed by the United States in the District of Columbia or serving in the U.S. armed forces. (Immediate family members who reside with them also may purchase resident permits.)

- All members of the U.S. armed forces stationed and residing in Missouri on permanent change-of-station status and immediate family members residing with them.
- Nonresidents who are registered students attending a public or private secondary, post secondary, or vocational school in Missouri and who live in Missouri while attending school; must carry evidence of a Missouri residence and student status while fishing. **Note:** Nonresident students who qualify for resident permits must purchase them at Conservation Department offices.
- Immigrants who possess an I-551 Resident Alien Card and who do 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.

Permit Obligations

Accepting a permit means that you:

- Agree to observe all the rules of the *Wildlife Code of Missouri*.
- 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 sign and carry your permit while fishing. If you purchased your permit by telephone 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 may purchase fishing permits:

- Over the counter from any permit vendor.
- By telephone at 800-392-4115. Use your credit card, and pay a $2 surcharge. Allow 10 days for delivery of your permits.
- Online using the e-Permits System at **mdc.mo.gov/epermits**. Use your credit card, and pay a $1 surcharge. Print your permit at home and have it in hand immediately.

The Missouri Conservation Heritage Card, a Missouri Conservation Number, social security number, or driver's license is required to purchase all permits.

The Conservation Heritage Card looks similar to a credit card and stores information that can speed up the permit-buying process. The Heritage Card also can be purchased to replace a lost hunter-education card when certification can be verified through Department records. Heritage Card owners receive a 15 percent discount on selected merchandise sold at Conservation Department facilities. Heritage Cards can be purchased using any of the methods above. Please allow 4–6 weeks for delivery. **Note:** The Heritage Card is not a permit.

Lost permits can be replaced using any of the methods above. A replacement permit costs $2 plus any applicable surcharge. E-Permits can be saved on a personal computer and reprinted for free if the original permit is lost or damaged. As with other permits, e-Permits may not be shared, and additional copies of an e-Permit do not provide additional valid permits for the buyer or others to use.

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 2015**. 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 $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.

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 served 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. See hunting regulations booklets for additional permits needed to hunt migratory birds.
To apply, fill out an application, which is available:

- At **mdc.mo.gov/9213**.
- By calling 573-522-4115, ext. 3579.
- By writing to National Guard Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO 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.

Nonresident Fishing Permit $42
For fish, frogs, mussels, clams, turtles, crayfish, and live bait.

Trout Permit
Age 16 and older $7
Age 15 and younger. $3.50
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 the U.S. Highway 65 bridge. Must also have a fishing permit or qualify for an exemption.

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, Norfork, 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 a durable plastic permit card to carry in the field and special mailings to keep them updated on seasons, regulation changes, and other information.

Lifetime permits cannot be purchased at permit vendors, by telephone, or through the online e-Permits System.

You must apply for lifetime permits by filling out a lifetime permit form. Get the form:

- Online at **mdc.mo.gov/8849**.
- By calling 573-522-4115, ext. 3574.
- By writing to Lifetime Permits, Missouri Department of Conservation, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180.

Please allow 10 days after sending in your application for your permit to be delivered.

Resident Lifetime Fishing Permit — This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Fishing Permit and the Trout Permit.

Age 15 and younger $275
Age 16–29. . . . . $400
Age 30–39. . . . . $350
Age 40–59. . . . . $300
Age 60 and older. $35

Resident Lifetime Conservation Partner Permit — This permit carries the same privileges as the Resident Hunting and Fishing Permit, Trout Permit, Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, and Conservation Order Permit. Deer and turkey hunting privileges are not included. A federal duck stamp is required for hunting waterfowl.

Age 15 and younger $550
Age 16–29. . . . . $800
Age 30–39. . . . . $700
Age 40–59. . . . . $600
Age 60 and older. $70

General Rules

Methods

You may take fish by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, and jug line. Ice fishing tackle, or tip-ups, are considered a pole-and-line method.

Certain species in designated waters may be taken by the use of bow, crossbow, gig, atlatl, snare, or by underwater spearfishing, snagging, or grabbing. (See Page 10 for nongame fish regulations.) 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. All of the above methods of taking fish are considered sport fishing methods. See pages 44–45 for method definitions.

If you use more than three poles (or two poles on the Mississippi River) at any one time, the additional poles must be labeled with your full name and address, or Conservation Number. 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 (see hook, and pole and line definitions on pages 44–45). 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.

No one may use any explosive, poison, chemical, or electrical equipment to kill or stupefy fish. Such material or equipment may not 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, 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 the live-bait section on Page 12.

Labels required: You must place a tag of a durable material with your full name and address, or Conservation Number on live-bait traps, trotlines, throwlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, and live boxes. Your Conservation Number is nine digits long and can be found on your fishing permit or on the back of your Heritage Card.

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. Underwater lights also may be used when bowfishing on lakes, ponds, and other impoundments.

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 to the water unharmed immediately after being caught.** See culling regulations on Page 40.

The possession limit is twice the statewide daily limit. See pages 8 and 10. 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.

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.

Keeping track of your unanchored jug lines reduces catfish waste and jug-line litter. Unanchored jug lines in streams must be personally attended at all times. Unanchored jug lines in lakes must be personally attended at least once per hour. Anglers who cannot personally attend their jug lines 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, and
- Can get the attention of or deter anyone who is tampering with the jug line.

Game Fish

The fish species listed below may be pursued and taken by pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, and jug line. Paddlefish may be taken by snagging and grabbing from March 15 to April 30. See Page 37 for special regulations for paddlefish on the Mississippi River. Game fish are defined on Page 45.

Seasons and limits apply statewide unless the body of water has special regulations as listed on pages 16–20 and 28–40 or if the area is posted with special regulations.

Species		Open Season	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Black bass (*largemouth, smallmouth, spotted/ Kentucky*)	From impoundments	All year	6[1]	None[1]
	From Ozark streams[2]	May 24, 2014–Feb. 28, 2015		12" Minimum
	From other streams[2]	All year		12" Minimum
Catfish	Channel	All year	10[1]	None[1]
	Blue	All year	5[1]	None[1]
	Flathead	All year	5[1]	None[1]
Crappie *(black and white)*		All year	30[1]	None[1]
Muskellunge		All year	1[6]	36" Minimum[1]
Northern pike		All year	1[6]	None
Paddlefish *(spoonbill)*[3]		March 15–April 30[1]	2[1]	24" Minimum[1]
Pickerel *(chain and grass)*		All year	6	None
Goggle-eye *(rock bass)* and warmouth		All year	15	None[1]
Shovelnose sturgeon[3,4]		All year[1]	10[1]	30" Maximum
Trout		All year	4[1]	Rainbow: none[1] Brown: 15" minimum in streams
Walleye and sauger		All year[5]	4[1]	15" Minimum[1]
White, yellow, and striped bass and their hybrids		All year	15[1]	No more than 4 longer than 18"[1]

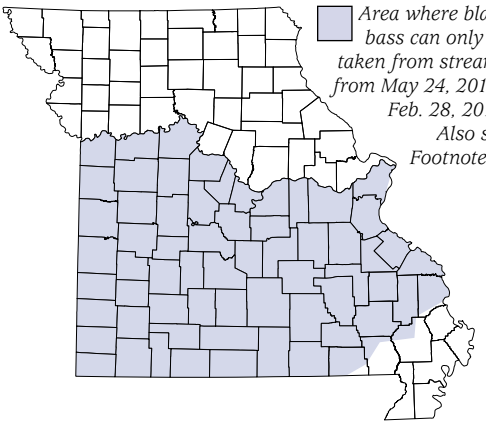
Conservation Area Regulations Available Online

Before traveling to your favorite conservation area to fish, check the online regulations database at **mdc.mo.gov/atlas**.

Footnotes for Chart on Page 8

1 Applies on all waters, with the exception of those with more specific regulations found on pages 16–20 and 28–40 and on areas that are posted with special regulations.

2 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 23, 2014.



3 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.

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

5 From Feb. 20 through April 14, walleye and sauger can be taken and possessed only between 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset in the unimpounded portions of all streams, except the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. To calculate the sunrise and sunset times in your area, visit **usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications** *or pick up a copy of the* Wildlife Code of Missouri, *which is available at permit vendors.*

6 Daily limit is 1 muskellunge **or** *1 northern pike.*

Stop Rock Snot

Didymo, or rock snot, is a single-celled alga that can take over a stream making it impossible to fish. Help keep rock snot out of Missouri. Use wader wash stations at trout areas before entering a stream. Check your waders and fishing gear for algae. Clean all gear in a 2 percent bleach solution or with dishwashing detergent, or dry any item that's been in the water by exposing it to sunlight for 48 hours. **Note:** To minimize the spread of didymo, porous-soled waders are prohibited in trout parks and certain streams as specified on pages 18–20 and 29–40.

courtesy of Fish and Game New Zealand

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. Nongame fish may be taken as described in the chart. See Special Area Regulations on pages 28–40 for restrictions on certain waters.

Method	Season	Time[1]	Location	Daily limit[2]
Pole and line, trotline, throwline, limb line, bank line, jug line	All year	24 Hours	Streams and impounded waters	50[2,3]
Bow	April 1–Jan. 31	24 Hours	Impounded waters	20[2,3]
	Feb. 1–March 31	Sunrise to midnight	Impounded waters	
	All year	Sunrise to midnight	Streams, except portions of Missouri, Mississippi, St. Francis rivers (see pages 37–39)	
		24 Hours	Portions of Missouri, Mississippi and St. Francis rivers (see pages 37–39)	
		Sunrise to sunset	Temporary overflow of a river or ditch	
Crossbow	All year	Sunrise to sunset	Impounded waters and temporary overflow of a river or ditch	
Gig, atlatl[4]	Sept. 15–Jan. 31	Sunrise to midnight	Streams and impounded waters	
	Feb. 1–Sept. 14	Sunrise to sunset	Impounded waters	
	All year	Sunrise to sunset	Temporary overflow of a river or ditch	
Snagging, grabbing[4]	March 15–May 15 Sept. 15–Jan. 31[5,6]	24 Hours	Streams and impounded waters	
	All year	Sunrise to sunset	Temporary overflow of a river or ditch	
Snaring[4]	March 15–May 15 Sept. 15–Jan. 31[5,6]	24 Hours	Streams and impounded waters	
Underwater spear	All year	Sunrise to sunset	Impounded waters and temporary overflow of a river or ditch	

- There is no limit on goldfish and bighead, common, grass, and silver carp.
- Bighead carp, common carp, grass carp, and silver carp can be taken by hand net. Those that jump from the water into a boat or onto land may also be taken and possessed in any number.
- Bowfin must remain whole and intact while on state waters or adjacent banks.

Footnotes for Chart on Page 10

1 *For sunrise and sunset tables, go to* **usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications** *or pick up a copy of the* Wildlife Code of Missouri *where permits are sold.*

2 *The possession limit is twice the daily limit, except on the Mississippi River which has a daily and possession limit of 100. Goldfish, bighead carp, common carp, grass carp, and silver carp may be possessed in any number and do not count in the daily or possession limit.*

3 *The daily limit is the combined total of all nongame species, except that goldfish, bighead carp, common carp, grass carp, and silver carp may be possessed in any number and do not count in the daily or possession limit. On the Current River from Cedar Grove downstream to the Arkansas line, only 5 hogsuckers may be included in a daily limit.*

4 *On Lake of the Ozarks and its tributaries, Osage River below U.S. Highway 54, and Truman Lake and its tributaries, gigging, snaring, and snagging for any species is not allowed after taking and possessing the daily limit of 2 paddlefish.*

5 *In the Osage River downstream from U.S. Highway 54 to the Missouri River and in the Lake of the Ozarks and Truman Lake, nongame fish may be taken by snagging, snaring, and grabbing from March 15 through April 30.*

6 *On the Mississippi River, nongame fish may be taken by snagging, snaring, and grabbing from March 15 through May 15 and Sept. 15 through Dec. 15.*

Giggers, Anglers: Protect Hellbenders

Hellbenders are harmless, non-venomous aquatic salamanders that live in clear, swift-flowing rivers and streams throughout the Ozarks. These large amphibians, 11–20 inches long, live under flat rocks, venturing out at night to feed. Ninety percent of a hellbender's 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 gently 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.

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 on Page 14 also may be used as bait.

- Bighead carp and silver carp may **not** be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.
- Live bait taken from public waters of Missouri may **not** be sold or transported from the state.
- Game fish or their parts may **not** 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 1 1/2 inches in any dimension, and must be labeled with the user's full name and address, or Conservation Number.
- 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 1/2 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 1 1/2 inches by 18 inches.

Length Limits

- 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 unharmed immediately after being caught by any of the methods listed above except pole and line. Daily limits for nongame fish apply to the large fish taken by pole and line.
- There is no length limit on bighead carp, common carp, gizzard shad, goldfish, grass carp, and silver carp when used as bait.

Seasons: Live bait may be taken throughout the year.

Daily Limit

- A combined total of 150 crayfish, freshwater shrimp, and non-game fish
- 5 each of southern leopard frog, plains leopard frog, and cricket frog
- A combined total of 8 bullfrogs and green frogs. Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken only from sunset June 30 through Oct. 31. See Page 14.
- Any number of goldfish and bighead, common, grass, and silver carp
- Any number of 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 angler must carry a dated receipt for the bait

Other Species That May be Used as Bait

- Nongame fish of any size, except bowfin, if taken according to the methods and seasons listed on Page 10
- Mussels and clams legally taken by sport fish methods

Frogs included as live bait

Southern leopard frog

Plains leopard frog

Cricket frog

Bullfrog

Green frog

Bullfrogs and Green Frogs

Methods: Bullfrogs and green frogs may be taken by hand, hand net, atlatl, gig, bow, 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, 2014, sunset is at 8:37 p.m. daylight saving time in Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For calculating other locations, go to **usno.navy.mil/USNO/astronomical-applications**. This information can also be found in the *Wildlife Code of Missouri,* which is available at permit vendors.

Daily limit: 8, combined total of both species

Mussels and Clams

Methods and season: May be taken by hand, hand net, or pole and line throughout the year

Daily limit: 5, combined total of all species (except Asiatic clams, which may be taken and possessed in any number). This limit applies to live and dead animals. Two shell halves (valves) shall be considered 1 mussel or clam.

Mussels listed in the *Missouri Species and Communities of Conservation Concern Checklist* may not be taken or possessed. The checklist is online at **mdc.mo.gov/node/4070**.

Turtles

Methods: Common snapping turtles and soft-shelled turtles may be taken by hand, hand net, bow, 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 alligator snapping turtles.*

Daily limit: 5 common snapping turtles; 5 softshell turtles

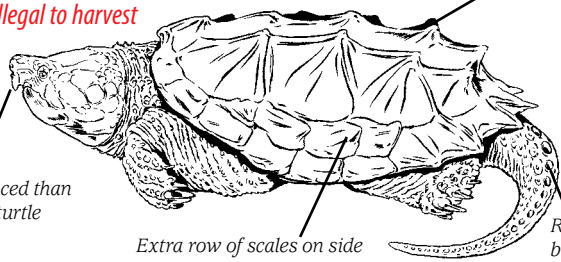
Report Stream Pollution

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 Resource's 24-hour environmental emergency response number: 573-634-2436.

Know the differences between snapping turtles.

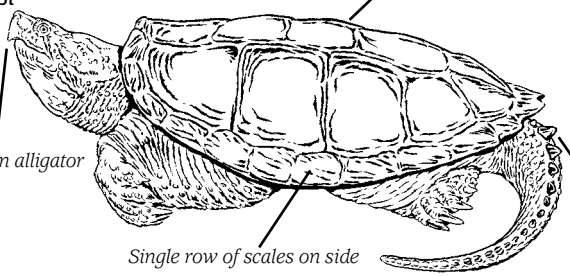
Alligator Snapping Turtles

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



Common Snapping Turtles

- *Found statewide*
- *Legal to harvest*



Alligator Snapping Turtle Hatchling

- *Typically orange-brown color*
- *No white spots on shell*

Common Snapping Turtle Hatchling

- *Gray-brown color*
- *White spots on edge and bottom of shell*

Trout Fishing

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.

To prevent the spread of didymo, an invasive alga, the use of shoes, boots, or waders with porous soles of felt, matted, or woven fibrous material is prohibited at all trout parks and where specified on pages 18–20 and 29–40.

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 daily trout tag is $3 for adults and $2 for those 15 and younger.
Note: At Roaring River State Park, a daily tag or a trout permit may be used for fishing from the first bridge below the old dam in Zone 3 to the downstream park boundary.

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. 14, 2014, through Feb. 9, 2015. 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 fishing permit, unless exempt, and a trout permit are required. Only flies may be used.

Trout Management Categories for Ozark Streams

Approximately 120 miles of Ozark streams provide quality trout angling. Below are the three types of management provided in these areas. See pages 18–20 for locations and regulations.

Blue Ribbon Trout Areas include parts of large, cold rivers with excellent trout habitat and smaller streams that support naturally reproducing rainbow trout. 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. These areas on the Current and North Fork of the White rivers are stocked with brown trout, and the Eleven Point River is stocked with rainbows.

Red Ribbon Trout Areas have high-quality habitat stocked primarily with browns. They provide 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.

Winter Trout Fishing Areas

Rainbow trout are stocked in the winter beginning in early November in the lakes listed in the following table. Fishing is permitted year-round during normal park or area hours. Unless indicated in the chart, trout may be taken by pole and line using all types of lures and baits under statewide limits. A trout permit is required to keep trout.

Kansas City Area		
• Fountain Bluff Sports Complex in Liberty • Chaumiere Lake in Kansas City • Coot and Plover lakes at the James A. Reed Memorial Wildlife Area	Year-round	Statewide methods and limits
St. Louis Area		
• Lakes 3, 22, and 23 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area	Year-round	• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.
	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Only 1 pole may be used. • Use of chum is prohibited.
• Boathouse Lake in St. Louis • January-Wabash Park Lake in Ferguson • Carp and Island lakes in St. Louis County • Vlasis Park Lake in Ballwin • O'Fallon Park Lake in St. Louis	Year-round	• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.
	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Only 1 pole may be used. • Use of chum is prohibited.
• Jefferson Lake in St. Louis • Koeneman Park Lake in Jennings • Lakes 21 and 28 at August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area • Tilles Park Lake in St. Louis County • Walker Lake in Kirkwood • Wild Acres Park Lake in Overland	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Catch and release only for trout • Flies, artificial lures, and unscented soft plastic baits only • Only 1 pole may be used. • Use of chum is prohibited.
	Feb. 1–Oct. 31	• You must stop fishing for all species after having 4 trout in possession.
Other Cities Around the State		
• McKay Park Lake in Jefferson City • Kiwanis Lake in Mexico • Liberty Park Pond in Sedalia • Spur Pond in Kirksville • Cosmo-Bethel Lake in Columbia	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Catch and release only for trout • Flies, artificial lures, and unscented soft plastic baits only
• Rotary Lake in Jackson	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Catch and release only for trout • Flies, artificial lures, and unscented soft plastic baits only • Only 1 pole may be used. • Use of chum is prohibited.
• Everyday Pond at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Catch and release only for all species including trout
	Nov. 1–Jan. 31	• Flies, artificial lures, and unscented soft plastic baits only

Trout Fishing in Ozark Streams and Lakes

Area name and type Directions and total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
Barren Fork Creek[1,2] County Road A-D to its junction with Sinking Creek — 3.2 miles	Shannon	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Blue Springs Creek[1,2] From Blue Springs to its junction with Meramec River — 4 miles	Crawford	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Capps Creek[1,2] 4 miles upstream from its junction with Shoal Creek	Barry and Newton	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
Crane Creek[1,2] Upstream from Quail Spur Road crossing on Stone County Road 13-195 — 8 miles	Stone and Lawrence	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Current River[1,2] River and its tributaries from lower boundary of Montauk State Park to Cedar Grove Bridge — 9 miles	Dent and Shannon	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Current River[1,2] Downstream from Cedar Grove Bridge crossing — 7.7 miles	Dent and Shannon	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
Eleven Point River[1,2] Greer Spring Branch junction to Turner Mill Access — 5.5 miles	Oregon	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Eleven Point River[1] Downstream from Turner Mill Access — 14.2 miles	Oregon	None	4	All
Hickory Creek[1,2] From Highway 86 bridge to Shoal Creek — 2.7 miles	Newton	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. 28)	Artificial lures and flies only from Nov. 1–Feb. 28

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.

Area name and type Directions and total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
Lake Taneycomo and its tributaries[1,2,3,4] 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
Lake Taneycomo[1,2,3,4] 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
Little Piney Creek[1,2] 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
Little Piney Creek[1,2] Downstream of Milldam Hollow Access — 3.7 miles	Phelps	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
Meramec River[1,2] 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 and Crawford	At least 15"	2	Artificial lures and flies
Mill Creek[1,2] 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
Niangua River[1,2] From Bennett Spring Branch to Prosperine Access — 11.5 miles of stocked stream	Dallas	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
North Fork, White River[1,2] Upper outlet of Rainbow Spring to Patrick Bridge — 8.6 miles	Ozark	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies

1 The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.
2 While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail, and skin intact.
3 Lake Taneycomo is stocked monthly with rainbow trout and annually with brown trout.
4 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 and type Directions and total miles	County	Length Limit	Daily Limit	Authorized Lures
North Fork, White River[1,2] Unimpounded river and its tributaries from Patrick Bridge to Norfork Lake — 7.0 miles	Ozark	At least 15"	2	All
Roaring River[1,2] From the lower boundary of Roaring River State Park to Table Rock Lake — 4 miles	Barry	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
Roubidoux Creek[1,2] Upstream of the elevated utility cable crossing approximately 1/2 mile below Business I-44 bridge in Waynesville — 0.9 miles	Pulaski	Rainbows: none Browns: at least 15"	4	All
Roubidoux Creek[1,2] 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
Spring Creek[1,2] Relfe Spring to its junction with Big Piney River — 6.2 miles	Phelps	At least 18"	1	Artificial lures and flies
Stone Mill Spring[1,2] 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. 28)	Artificial lures and flies (from Nov. 1–Feb. 28 or as posted)

1 The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.
2 While on any waters with length limits, all trout you possess must be kept with head, tail, and skin intact.

Discover New Fishing Spots Online

To find conservation areas to fish, visit **mdc.mo.gov/atlas**. Find out what to expect at more than 100 fishing areas based on the results of fish population monitoring at **mdc.mo.gov/fish/prospects**.

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.	✓	✓	✓	✓
May fish in either state's adjacent backwaters and shared oxbow lakes	✓	✓*		✓
May fish from the bank or attach to the bank of either state.	✓	✓*		
Must abide by the regulations of the state in which you are fishing, regardless of where you are licensed.	✓	✓		✓
Must abide by the regulations of the state where you are licensed, regardless of where you are fishing.			✓	
Must abide by the most restrictive of the two states' regulations when fishing the other state's waters.	✓	✓		✓

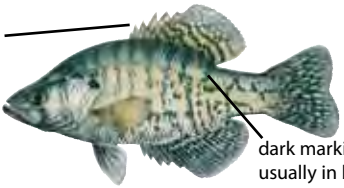
**For the purposes of these reciprocal fishing privileges with Kentucky, the Mississippi River is defined as the main channel and immediate side or secondary channels or chutes. It does not include oxbow or floodplain lakes, or backwaters that extend onto the floodplain or up tributaries when the river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

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

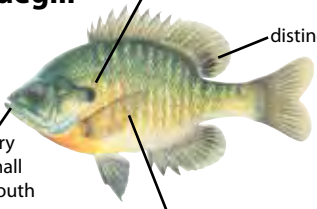
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission: 800-364-4263
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources: 217-782-6302
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: 515-281-5918
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks: 620-672-5911
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources: 800-858-1549
- Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: 402-471-0641
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency: 615-781-6500

Do you know the fishes of Missouri?

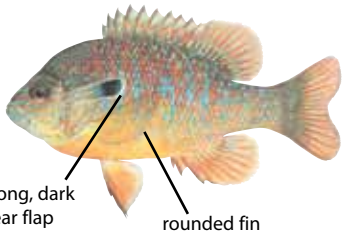
White crappie



Bluegill

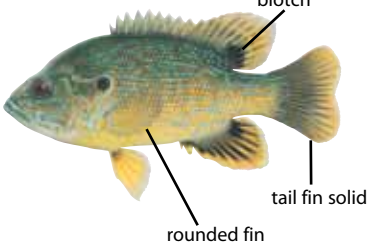


Longear sunfish

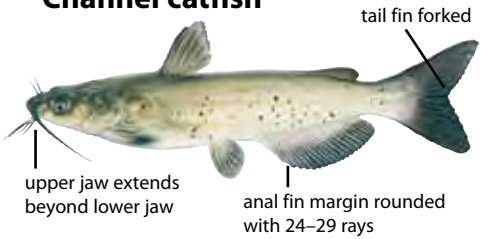


Goggle-eye (Rock bass)

Green sunfish



Channel catfish

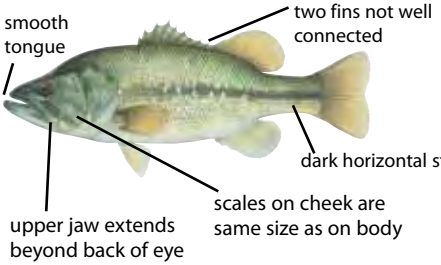


Flathead catfish

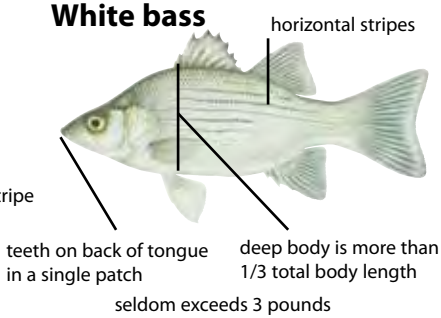
Joseph R. Tomelleri illustrations

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

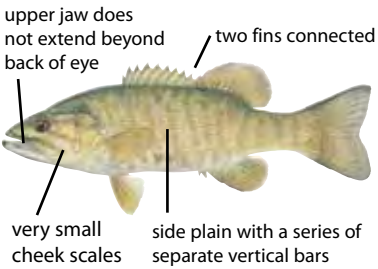
Largemouth bass



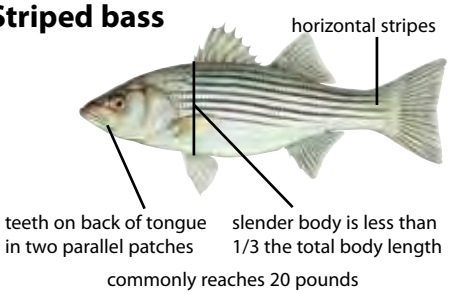
White bass



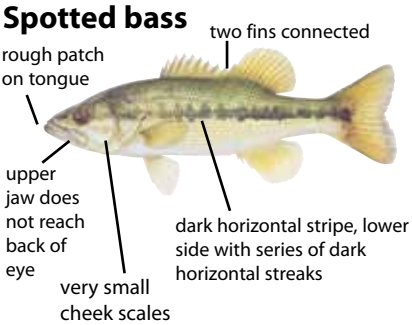
Smallmouth bass



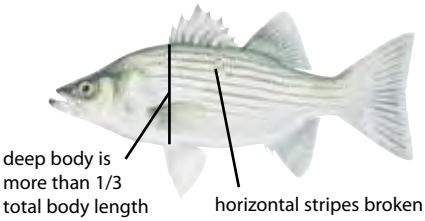
Striped bass



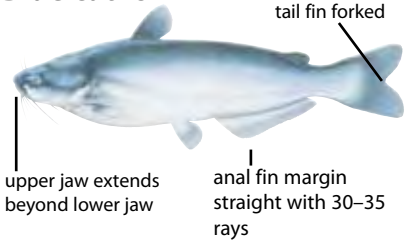
Spotted bass



White bass-striped bass hybrid



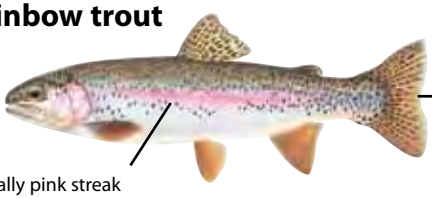
Blue catfish



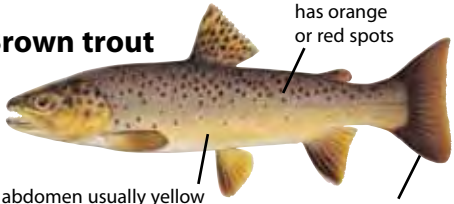
Black bullhead

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

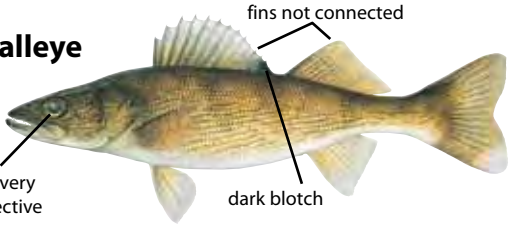
Rainbow trout



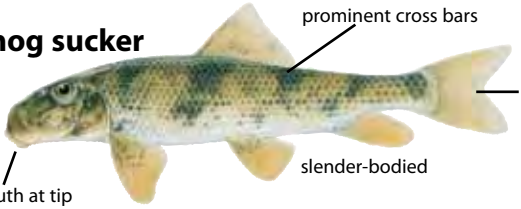
Brown trout



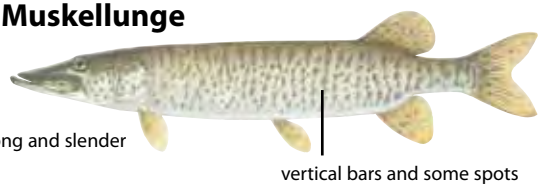
Walleye



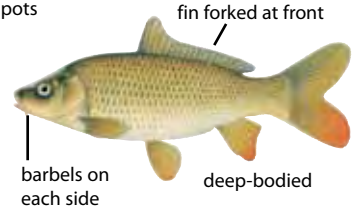
Northern hog sucker



Muskellunge



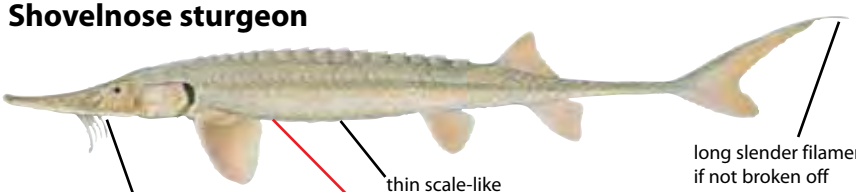
Common carp



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.

Shovelnose sturgeon



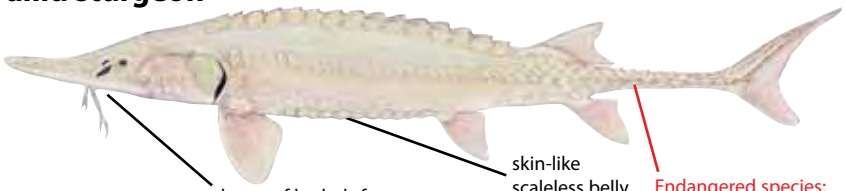
bases of barbels form a straight line (see Page 26)

thin scale-like plates on belly

long slender filament if not broken off

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

Pallid sturgeon



bases of barbels form a crescent (see Page 26)

skin-like scaleless belly

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

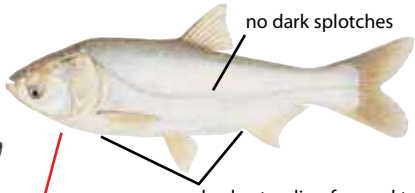
Lake sturgeon

cone-shaped snout

barbels not fringed

only 2 lobes on lower lip

Silver carp



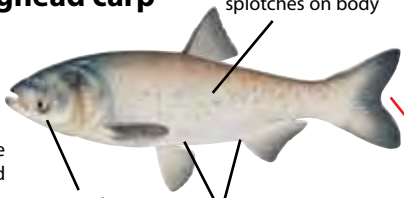
no dark splotches

keel extending forward to base of pectoral fins

Invasive species: May not be used as live bait but may be used as dead or cut bait.

Bighead carp

often has irregular splotches on body



large head with turned-up mouth

eye far forward and turned downward

keel extends to base of pelvic fins

scales appear to be crosshatched

Grass carp

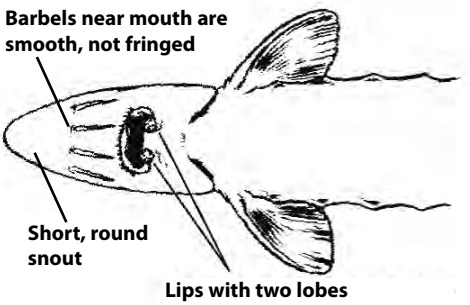
When in doubt about the identity or legal length, play it safe and return the fish to the water unharmed immediately.

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

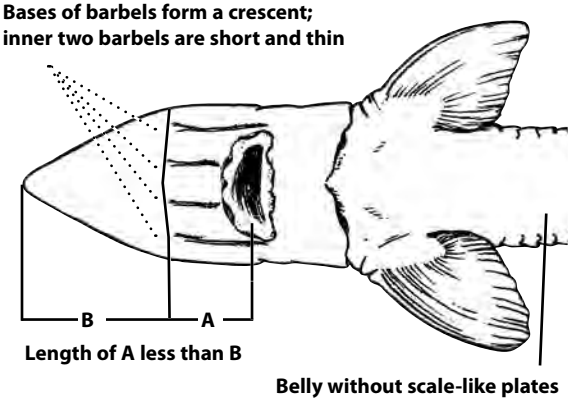
- Sides and back range from dark slate to light brown or yellowish-olive; white belly
- Found throughout Missouri and Mississippi rivers
- May reach 8 feet in length and more than 300 pounds



Rebecca Haefner illustrations

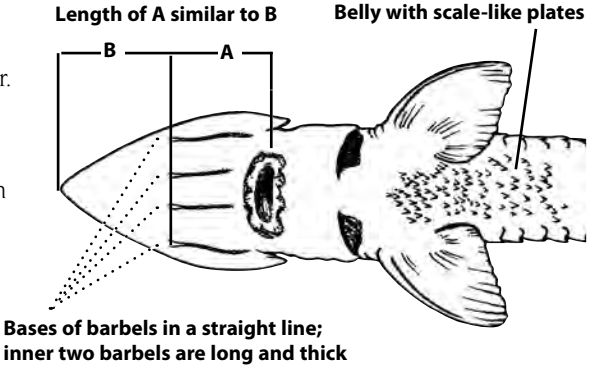
Endangered pallid sturgeon

- 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

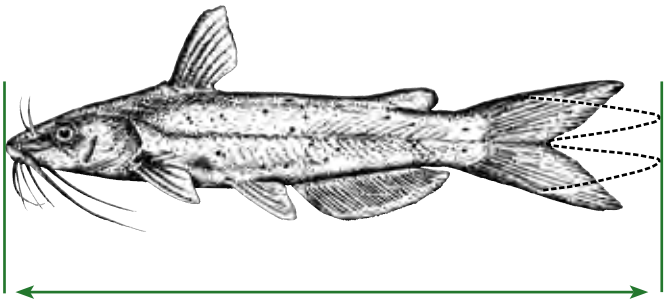


Shovelnose sturgeon

- 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

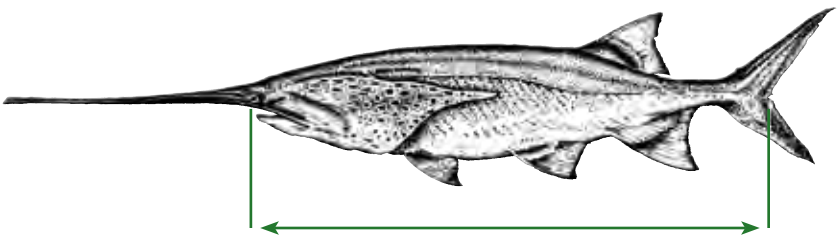


How to Measure a Fish (Total Length)



Total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with the fish laid flat on a ruler, 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 Shovelnose 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.

Your purchase of fishing equipment and boat motors helps fund restoration and management of fish and aquatic resources, development of public fishing accesses, and aquatic resource education.

Special Area Regulations

Most public fishing areas have methods, seasons, limits, or other fishing regulations that are different than the statewide rules. These special regulations are posted at the areas and also can be found at **mdc.mo.gov/atlas**. 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.

Special regulations on large reservoirs, rivers, streams, and trout areas are summarized below. ***Statewide regulations apply unless otherwise indicated.***

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, combined total of these three species
- Crappie — 10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger — 18" minimum length limit
- Striped bass — 20" minimum length limit; only 3 striped bass may be included in the aggregate. There are no length limits for white bass, yellow bass, or their hybrids.

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 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

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, measured from eye to fork of tail
- No person shall continue to snag, snare, or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.
- **New!** Blue catfish — 26" to 34" protected slot length limit; 10 fish daily and possession limit; the daily limit may not contain more than 2 blue catfish more than 34".

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):

- 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, combined total of both species, may include only 1 brown trout.
- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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" protected 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
- 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, visit **mdc.mo.gov/fish/records**; write to Master Angler, PO Box 180, Jefferson City MO 65102-0180; or call 573-751-4115.

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

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

Norfork 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, combined total of these species
- Crappie — 10" minimum length limit; 15 fish daily limit

On the lake and its tributaries:

- Walleye and sauger — 18" minimum length limit
- Striped bass — 20" minimum length limit; only 3 striped bass may be included in the aggregate. There are no length limits for white bass, yellow bass, or their hybrids.

Help Stop Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels have been found in several lakes and rivers in Missouri. These exotics:

- Disrupt native aquatic animals and communities.
- 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.

When moving from one water body to another:
Clean, Drain, Dry, and Dispose!

- **Clean** all plants, animals, and mud from your boat, putting plants and other debris in the trash. Thoroughly wash your boat and gear in hot water, especially crevices and other hidden areas.
- **Drain** all water from your boat before leaving the area, including wells, ballast, and engine cooling water.
- **Dry** your boat completely before launching it in other waters.
- **Dispose** of unused bait in a trash can.

Report sightings to Invasive Species Coordinator, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180, or call 573-522-4115, ext. 3371. Save several mussel shells for identification by placing them in rubbing alcohol or by freezing them.

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, combined total of these species
- 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, measured from eye to fork of tail

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

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, measured from eye to fork of tail
- No person shall continue to snag, snare, or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.
- **New!** Blue catfish — 26" to 34" protected slot length limit; 10 fish daily and possession limit; the daily limit may not contain more than 2 blue catfish more than 34".

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

Rivers and Streams

Barren Fork Creek

In Shannon County

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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:

- Goggle-eye — 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, except as noted below:

- Black bass — The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- 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, combined total of both species, 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, gigging, and atlatls are prohibited.

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, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

In Crawford County

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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, combined total of both species.
- 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, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

From Highway 8 bridge in Crawford County to Huzzah Creek:

- Goggle-eye — 8" minimum length limit

Crane Creek

In Stone and Lawrence counties:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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

In Dent, Texas, and Shannon counties:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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.

Many lakes in Missouri have docks that provide easy access to good fishing. For a list of disabled-accessible fishing spots and other facilities around the state, visit mdc.mo.gov/node/15283.

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, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

In Crawford and Phelps counties:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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

In Oregon County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

From Thomasville Access to the Arkansas line:

- Goggle-eye — 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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

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 **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

OPERATION FOREST ARSON

STOP POACHING

OPERATION GAME THIEF

Elk River

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

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. 28.
- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

From Willhite Road in Crawford County to the Meramec River:

- Goggle-eye — 8" 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 (the Loop Road at Route O) to the Highway 413/ Highway 265 bridge at Galena:

- 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:

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

Little Piney Creek

In Phelps County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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.
- Gigging, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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, except as noted below:

- Black bass — Daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

In Crawford and Phelps counties:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

From Highway 8 bridge to Scotts 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 Scotts Ford to the railroad crossing at Bird's Nest:

- Smallmouth bass — 15" minimum length limit. Daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species, may include only 1 smallmouth bass.

From Highway 19 bridge in Dent County to Pacific Palisades Conservation Area:

- Goggle-eye — 8" minimum length limit

Mill Creek

In Phelps County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

All-terrain vehicle users: Don't risk losing your fishing and hunting privileges!

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 all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in Missouri's streams and rivers unless the ATV is on a crossing that is part of the highway system. Violators could lose their fishing and hunting privileges.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

Mineral Fork

Mainstem and its tributaries, except as noted below:

- Black bass — The daily and possession limit is 12 fish and may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species.
- Spotted bass — No minimum length limit

From Highway F in Washington County to the Big River:

- Smallmouth bass — 15" minimum length limit. Daily and possession limit of 12 black bass, which may include no more than 6 largemouth bass and smallmouth bass, combined total of both species, 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, combined total of these species.
- Flathead catfish — The daily and possession limit is 10 fish.
- Paddlefish — The season is open from 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, combined total of both species. 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, combined total of these species.
- Nongame fish — The daily and possession limit is 100, combined total of these species, 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.
- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in all flowing portions, except in Sand Chute below the mouth of the Salt River in Pike County where they may only be taken by bow from sunrise to midnight.
- Limit of 2 unlabeled poles per licensed angler
- Limit of 50 hooks on a trotline

Temporary overflow waters east of the Missouri Pacific Railroad between Cape Girardeau and Scott City

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day.

Temporary overflow waters east of the mainline and setback levees between Commerce and the Arkansas state line

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day.

Missouri River

- Walleye and sauger — No seasonal restrictions on the hours for take and possession
- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in all flowing portions.

Downstream from Carl R. Noren Access to Chamois Access

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

Niangua River

In Dallas and Laclede counties:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

North Fork of the White River

In Ozark County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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.
- Gigging, bowfishing, and using an atlatl are prohibited, and fish taken by these methods may not be possessed on these waters or their banks.

The unimpounded portion of river and its tributaries in Ozark County from Patrick Bridge to Norfork Lake:

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

Osage River

Within 225 feet below Bagnell Dam:

- No fishing is allowed, except live bait may be taken by dip net and throw net only.

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

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

Catch on to Catch-and-Release Fishing

Often, fishing is for pleasure rather than food. Catch and release, or releasing fish immediately after they are caught, is a conservation measure that helps maintain a fishery for the future. Follow these guidelines to 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 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.

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

- Nongame fish — Snagging, snaring, and grabbing are allowed from March 15 through April 30 only.
- No person shall continue to snag, snare, or grab for any species after taking a daily limit of 2 paddlefish.

Osage Fork of the Gasconade River

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

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

Roaring River

In Barry County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

Roubidoux Creek

In Pulaski County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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

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, gigging, and atlatls are prohibited.

Within that part of the river that forms a boundary between Arkansas and Missouri

- Nongame fish may be taken by bow and possessed at any hour of the day in the flowing portions.

Poachers, beware!

If your permit is revoked in Missouri, you will lose privileges in 39 other states. Missouri, in turn, will honor revocations from these other states.

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 all adjoining backwaters and from the main channel beginning 1,000 feet below the Clarence Cannon Reregulation Pool Dam to Route A:

- Fishing by pole and line and bow only

Spring Creek

In Phelps County:

- The use of porous-soled waders is prohibited. See Page 16.

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, bowfishing, and using an atlatl 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.

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.

Director,
Department of Conservation
Robert L. Ziehmer

The Conservation Commission
Don C. Bedell
James T. Blair, IV
Marilynn J. Bradford
Tim E. Dollar

Missouri Department of Conservation
PO Box 180
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
573-751-4115

mdc.mo.gov

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, PO 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.

Contact Information

Central Region
3500 East Gans Road
Columbia, MO 65201
573-815-7900

Kansas City Region
12405 SE Ranson Road
Lee's Summit, MO 64082
816-622-0900

Northeast Region
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-785-2420

Northwest Region
701 James McCarthy Drive
St. Joseph, MO 64507
816-271-3100

Ozark Region
551 Joe Jones Blvd.
West Plains, MO 65775
417-256-7161

Southeast Region
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-290-5730

Southwest Region
2630 N. Mayfair
Springfield, MO 65803
417-895-6880

St. Louis Region
2360 Highway D
St. Charles, MO 63304
636-441-4554

Fish Consumption Advisory

Fish is a good source of high-quality protein and essential nutrients that contribute to a healthy diet. Fish is low in cholesterol, and some types of fish have omega-3 fatty acids that are essential for the development of the nervous system and may be beneficial in reducing heart disease. However, there are occasions when limited or even no consumption of fish is appropriate.

Annually, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) evaluates the amount of contaminants in sport-caught fish and determines whether or not there are any health risks associated with eating fish from Missouri water bodies. All fish contain some small amount of chemical contaminants. In most instances and for most people, the health benefits of eating fish outweigh the potential health risks from contaminants.

In general, eat smaller, legal-size, younger fish because they tend to have lower levels of contamination than larger fish of the same species. To minimize the amount of contaminants in the fish you eat, fillet your fish, remove the skin, and trim away fatty portions. The meal advice in the summarized advisory table on the next page is based on this preparation technique.

Because children are particularly sensitive to some contaminants, DHSS makes special recommendations for pregnant women, women of childbearing age, nursing mothers, and children under 13 years old. Other recommendations are for everyone. On the next page is a summarized advisory table for 2014.

The fish advisory may be revised throughout the year. For updates and for the complete fish advisory, which provides further details on contaminants and preparation techniques to minimize contaminants, go to **health.mo.gov/living/environment/fishadvisory/index.php** or contact the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Environmental Epidemiology, PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65109-0570; 573-751-6102.

Team Up For Streams

Protect Missouri's valuable stream habitat by starting a Stream Team in your area. Becoming a part of this program helps you to stay updated on current stream issues and improve Missouri's 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, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; call 573-522-4115, ext. 3591, or 800-781-1989 (voice mail); or go online at **mostreamteam.org**.

Advisory Population	Location[1] — Contaminant	Species	Length	Serving Advice
Sensitive populations: Pregnant women, women of childbearing age, nursing mothers, and children under the age 13	**All U.S. water bodies** — mercury	All fish	All sizes	1 per week
	Because all fish have various levels of mercury, the Environmental Protection Agency recommends sensitive populations consume no more than one fish meal per week when no other advisory is present.			
	Statewide — mercury	Largemouth, spotted, smallmouth bass, and walleye	Greater than 12"	1 per month
		Flathead, channel, blue catfish	Greater than 30"	1 per month
	Clearwater Lake in Reynolds County — mercury	White bass	Greater than 15"	1 per month
		Crappie	Greater than 9"	1 per month
All consumers	**Mississippi and Missouri rivers** — PCBs, chlordane, mercury	Shovelnose sturgeon (excluding eggs)	All sizes	1 per month
		Sturgeon eggs		Do not eat.
		Flathead, channel, blue catfish	Greater than 17"	1 per week
		Common carp	Greater than 21"	1 per week
	Blue River from Minor Park to the Missouri River in Jackson County including Indian Creek up to Holmes Road — PCBs, chlordane	Common carp and catfish	All sizes	1 per month
	Turkey Creek near Hwy. P in Jasper County — PCBs, chlordane	Buffalo species	Greater than 21"	1 per week
	Big River in St. Francois and Jefferson counties — lead	Sunfish[2], carp, redhorse, and other suckers	All sizes	Do not eat.
	Flat River in St. Francois County from Hwy. B, 6 miles downstream to where it enters Big River — lead	Sunfish[2], carp, redhorse, and other suckers	All sizes	Do not eat.
	Big Creek near Glover in Iron County — lead	Sunfish[2]	All sizes	Do not eat.
	Simpson Park Lake at Simpson Park in St. Louis County — mercury, chlordane, PCBs	Buffalo species	Greater than 16"	1 per month
	Lake Buteo in Johnson County — mercury, chlordane	Largemouth and smallmouth bass	All sizes	Do not eat.
		Carp and catfish	All sizes	Do not eat.

1 If you fish at a location with warning signs posted, follow those specific local guidelines. The locations in this summary table do not include local warnings.

2 Sunfish included in this advisory are bluegill, green sunfish, longear sunfish, warmouth, and rock bass.

Definitions

- **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.
- **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.
- **Bow:** A device drawn and held by hand and not fastened to a stock nor to any other mechanism that maintains the device in a drawn position. This definition includes longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows.
- **Days or Dates:** All days and dates are inclusive. A day begins or ends at midnight, unless otherwise specified.
- **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, redfin darter, longnose darter, flathead chub, Topeka shiner. ***These fish may not be kept.***
- **Flies, Lures and Baits:** The following classes of lures are authorized for use, except where restricted. See pages 16–20 and 28–40.

  (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.

Think you have 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 a certified scale.
- Have your fish identification verified by a Conservation Department fisheries biologist.

Record fish forms and information are available at **mdc.mo.gov/fish/records**; by writing Missouri Department of Conservation, Fisheries Division, State Record Fish, PO Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180; or by calling your nearest regional office, see Page 41.

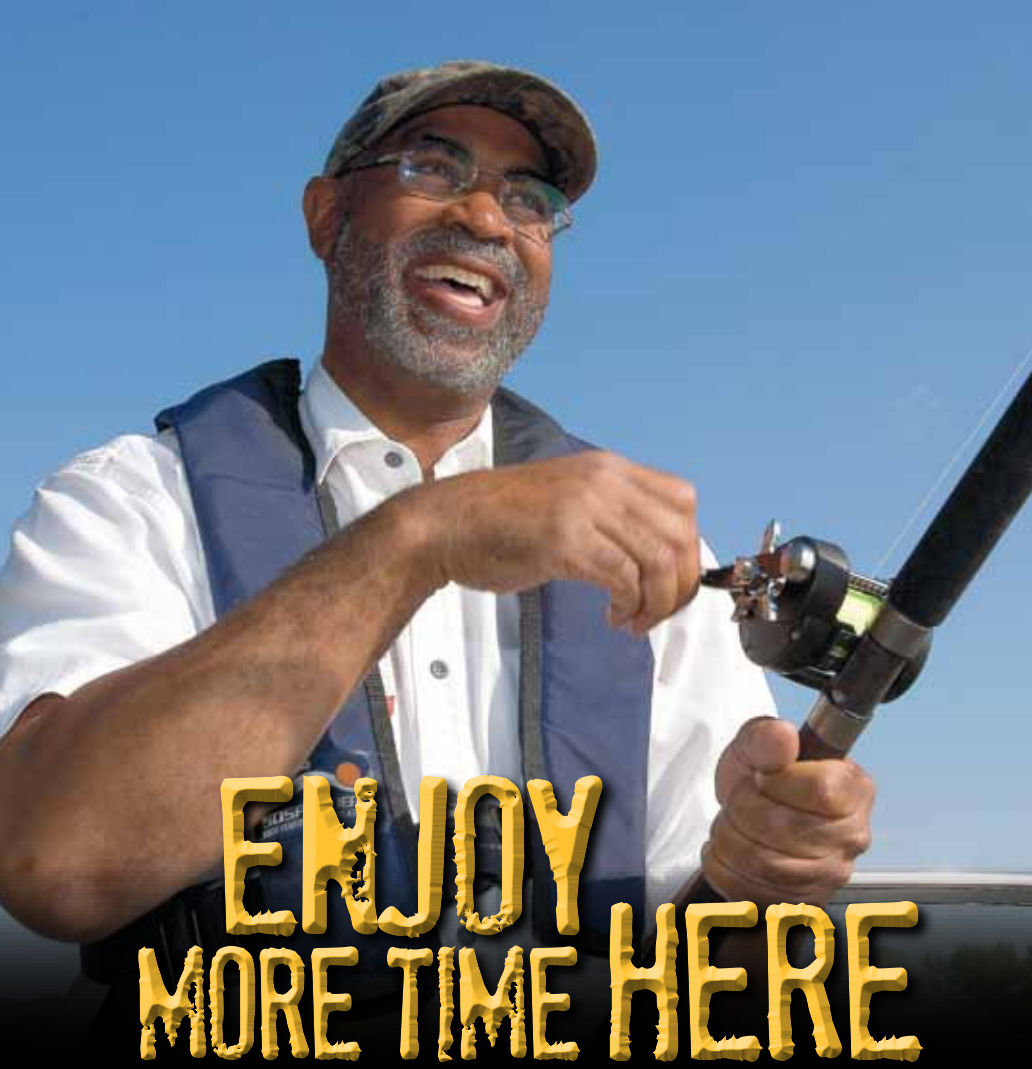
Note: *All Missouri State Record Fish must meet or exceed the minimum weight requirements for Master Angler Awards. See Page 29.*

(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.

- **Game Fish:** Goggle-eye (commonly known as Ozark bass, rock bass, and shadow bass), 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.
- **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.
- **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 of Missouri.*
- **Pole and Line:** Fishing methods using tackle normally held in the hand, such as a cane pole, casting rod, spinning rod, or fly rod, or ice fishing tackle commonly known as a tip-up, 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.
- **Resident Landowner:** Any Missouri resident who owns at least 5 continuous acres, and his or her immediate household members whose legal residence is the same as the landowner's for at least the past 30 days. In the case of corporate ownership, only registered officers of corporations meet this definition, and they are not required to reside on the land. Persons who own stock in a corporation (shareholders) do not meet this definition.
- **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.

Showcase Your First Catch

The First Fish Award commemorates that special moment in each angler's life, the landing of the first fish. The award certificate 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, print your own certificate at **mdc.mo.gov/node/17964**.



ENJOY MORE TIME HERE

Ever had a lost or forgotten permit spoil your fishing plans? Not anymore. The Conservation Department's e-Permits System lets you buy online, print your permit at home, and have it in hand immediately. You can even reprint the permit if you lose or damage it.

Find out how to use and enjoy e-Permits at

mdc.mo.gov/epermits

Then head to your favorite fishing spot!

Not comfortable with online purchases? You can still buy your fishing, hunting, and trapping permits by phone, at any MDC office, or from your usual vendor.

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