

## **CHAPTER 10. IOWA FISHING TOURNAMENT PERMIT PROCEDURE GUIDELINES**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Organized fishing tournaments have grown significantly in number and popularity over the last twenty years in Iowa. These tournaments range in size from a few boats where a small club or business get together for some camaraderie and friendly competition to the national tournaments with hundreds of participants and large amounts of prize money and prizes. These tournament participants, in addition to the regular anglers at a given lake, tend to concentrate an above average number of people at a given boat ramp or area. It is therefore imperative to have some form of permitting or tournament regulation in place to properly manage the fisheries resource as well as prevent overcrowding of the boat ramps and potential confrontation.

The increased number of tournaments, possible user conflicts and the protection of the resource have dictated the need for some form of regulation of tournament activities. A permitting system has been developed to serve and inform all interested parties of the facility use, daily management and law enforcement related to the recreational and fisheries resources of Iowa.

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

A Fishing Tournament Application, Permit and Report Form may be obtained from any Iowa DNR Fisheries Office or can be obtained online at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov). The tournament applicant must mail the completed application to the fisheries biologist managing the respective water body at least thirty (30) days prior to the event. The biologist will return approved original applications to the applicants as well as sending copies to the area parks manager and the conservation officer of the county where the tournament is to be held. The fisheries biologist can stipulate any special conditions or limitations that they deem necessary for the safety of the participants or the protection of the resource.

### **POST TOURNAMENT INFORMATION**

The biologist may require information related to the completed tournament from the tournament sponsor. This information may include but is not limited to the number of anglers, tournament hours, numbers and sizes of fish caught or any immediate mortality. This report must be returned to the biologist within thirty days of the tournament completion.