



IOWA OUTDOORS

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION DIVISION | WWW.IOWADNR.GOV/NEWS/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: AUGUST 18, 2009

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POACHING TIPS NOW ACCEPTED ONLINE

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Turn-In-Poachers of Iowa, Inc. (TIP) have added a new tool to fight poaching and other crimes against fish and wildlife resources in Iowa – online reporting.

A communications technology project grant from the IOWAAccess program will allow poaching reports to be submitted electronically to DNR conservation officers. The program will still allow those submitting the report to remain anonymous, if they so choose.

This new option of reporting poaching activity is one more tool available to put fish and game thieves out of business.

“We still offer the ability to report information using our toll free number [800-532-2020] as we have over the past 24 years that the program has been in existence, but now people can choose which way they prefer to offer these critical pieces of information as quickly as they can,” said Steve Dermand, TIP coordinator for the Iowa DNR. “We also encourage callers to contact their conservation officer directly if they feel more comfortable.”

Dermand said there is a new TIP website linked to the DNR webpage at www.iowadnr.gov then click on TIP. He said it is helpful to add the TIP page to the favorites list and the toll free number in the cell phone for quick reference.

Whichever way the information is reported, if a conservation officer makes a case based on that information, the person who provided it is eligible for a reward from the TIP of Iowa, Inc., organization.

For more information, contact Derrand at 515-281-4515.

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FISHING REGULATIONS TO BE RELAXED AT SUMMIT LAKE

CRESTON, Iowa - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will relax fishing regulations at Summit Lake beginning August 18, 2009, to allow anglers to more freely harvest fish before a planned lake renovation later this fall. The lake's water level will be lowered about five feet beginning in middle September and will remain at this level until the day of renovation. The water release period is expected to take 30 days.

Anglers with a valid fishing license will be allowed to harvest any size or number of largemouth bass, channel catfish, and all other fish species from Summit Lake. Any number of fishing poles or jugs will be allowed. Anglers must remain in sight of these lines at all times, and follow all other fishing regulations and area rules. Trot lines will be allowed (name and address must be attached), however lines may not be set across entire water body. Nets, dynamite, poison, electric shocking devices, or any stupefying substances will not be allowed. It is illegal to sell fish or stock captured fish into public waters. Liberalized fishing regulations for Summit Lake will remain in effect until the date of the planned renovation on or about November 20, 2009.

The fishery renovation is only part of a process to improve the lake's water quality. Implementation of soil conservation practices in the watershed and investigations into other sediment and nutrient delivery sources are underway. Public meetings during the past year have explained various aspects of the project. Additional meetings are being planned and will be announced as plans are finalized. A yellow bass population and the presence of common carp have lead to slow growing sport fish populations. These two species are causing a corresponding reduction in angling and boating use and also threaten recent improvements at Green Valley Lake.

Throughout this fall and winter some in-lake construction projects completed. The lake's water elevation will be allowed to return to normal after repairs are completed and the fish will be restocked in the spring. Users should expect limited access to the lake until normal lake water elevation returns in 2010.

It is important that anglers never transport and release yellow bass, common carp, or any fish species into any water system.

For more information contact the Iowa DNR Fisheries at 641-464-3108 or Conservation Officer Marc Roberg at 641-414-2173.

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PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR PROPOSED FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources is holding a public meeting to receive comments on a proposal to change the rules covering fishing tournaments.

The DNR proposal requires fishing tournament applications to be submitted on an electronic form as part of a new special events application system and changes the time period for application submission to no earlier than six months or later than 30 days prior to the requested tournament date.

The meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m., Aug. 20, in the fourth floor conference room, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th St., in Des Moines. Any persons who attend the public hearing and have special needs, such as hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

The DNR will be accepting written comments through Sept. 1. Send comments to Martin Konrad, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or offer oral comments by calling 515-281-6976 or in person at the fisheries bureau office on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building.

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RESTORATION OF LIZARD LAKE TOPIC OF AUG. 25 MEETING

POCAHONTAS - The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will host a public meeting to discuss the future of Lizard Lake at 7 p.m., Aug. 25, at the Expo Center, in Pocahontas. The DNR will present lake restoration and water quality improvement scenarios and will listen to public comments.

Richard Leopold, director of the DNR, will be on hand to highlight project benefits and to hear public feedback. The DNR will also have Lannie Miller, fisheries biologist for the area to discuss the future of the fishery, Mike McGhee, with the lakes restoration program to discuss lake restoration, and Mark Gulick, regional supervisor for wildlife, who will discuss shallow lakes management.

State officials received a petition showing there is a need for additional public comments to discuss restoration improvements at Lizard Lake. The DNR presented the findings of a diagnostic feasibility study at a public meeting in Gilmore City in March, that outlined historic lake and water quality conditions, described the current status of the watershed and lake, and outlined potential restoration options and associated costs.

The public is invited to the meeting and to offer their comments on the future of Lizard Lake.

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CLINTON MEETING SET FOR PROPOSED REGULATIONS ON PADDLEFISH

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will host a public meeting to receive comments on a proposal to change the fishing regulations covering paddlefish.

The proposed changes limit anglers to a maximum 5/0 treble hook size when snagging paddlefish, places a 33-inch maximum length on paddlefish as measured from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail, and reduces the length of the fishing season to March 1 through April 15.

The public meeting will begin at 7 p.m., Aug. 26, in the Clinton County Administration Building, Room D, 1900 N. 3rd St., in Clinton. Any persons who attend the public hearing and have special needs, such as hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

The DNR will be accepting written comments through Sept. 1. Send comments to Martin Konrad, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, 502 E. 9th St., Des Moines, IA 50319-0034 or offer oral comments by calling 515-281-6976 or in person at the fisheries bureau office on the fourth floor of the Wallace Building.

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Clarification on IOWA PHEASANTS FACE HARD TIMES, story ran last week

The story mentioned landowners will soon have the opportunity to compete for a new CRP signup. Some landowners have asked when this will occur. No signup has been announced for sure, but USDA will have enough acres available to have a general CRP signup in 2010.

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