

Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission

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ITEM

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DECISION

TOPIC

Chapter 81, Fishing Regulations - Notice of Intended Action

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The Commission is requested to approve a Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 81, "Fishing Regulations."

The proposed changes limit anglers fishing the Mississippi River to a maximum 5/0 treble hook size when snagging paddlefish, reduces the length of the paddlefish season and establishes a maximum size limit on paddlefish.

There is an observed increase in the number of anglers fishing for paddlefish with more sophisticated electron devises that has the potential to over exploit paddlefish populations. Although the Mississippi River is closed to the commercial harvest of paddlefish; high market prices (\$80 – \$100 per pound) for paddlefish roe create the potential to illegally market roe. These factors with an absence of a size limit places greater pressure on paddlefish populations. A 33" maximum size limit will protect female paddlefish as they reach sexual maturity and minimize the harvest of sexually mature fish. A maximum 5/0 treble hook size will minimize injury to snagged fish.

Joe Larscheid, Fisheries Bureau Chief  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
July 09, 2009

Attachment: Chapter 81, Fishing Regulations - Notice of Intended Action Rule

**NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION[571]  
Notice of Intended Action**

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6), the Natural Resource Commission hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 81, "Fishing Regulations," Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendments limit anglers to a maximum 5/0 treble hook size when snagging paddlefish, reduces the length of the fishing season and establishes a maximum size limit on paddlefish.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed amendment on or before September 1, 2009. Such written materials should be directed to Martin Konrad, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; fax (515)281-6794; or E-mail [Martin.Konrad@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Martin.Konrad@dnr.iowa.gov). Persons

who wish to convey their views orally should contact the Fisheries Bureau at (515)281-6976 or at the Bureau offices on the fourth floor of the Wallace State Office Building.

Also, there will be a public hearing on August 26, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Clinton County Administration Building, Room D, 1900 N. 3rd Street, Clinton, Iowa. At the public hearing, persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the amendments.

Any persons who attend the public hearing and have special needs such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments should contact the Department of Natural Resources and advise of specific needs.

These amendments are intended to implement section 456A.25 of the Code of Iowa.

The following amendments are proposed.

ITEM 1. Amend 571--81.1(481A) as follows:

**571---81.1(481A) Seasons, territories, daily bag limits, possession limits, and length limits.**

KIND OF FISH	INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE			BOUNDARY RIVERS	
	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMITS	MISSISSIPPI RIVER MISSOURI RIVER BIG SIOUX RIVER
Rock Sturgeon	Closed	0	0		Same as inland waters
Shovelnose Sturgeon	Continuous	None	None	None	Same as inland waters except no harvest allowed in the Big Sioux River and aggregate daily bag limit 10, aggregate possession limit 20, in the Missouri River
Paddlefish*	Continuous	2	4	None	Same as inland waters <b><u>except for an open season and length limit in the Mississippi River</u></b> See below*
Yellow Perch	Continuous	25	50	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in the Missouri River
Trout	Continuous	5	10	None*	Same as inland waters
Catfish*	Continuous	15 Streams	30	None	Same as inland waters except no bag or possession limit in the Mississippi River
Black Bass (Largemouth Bass) (Smallmouth Bass)	Continuous	3 In Aggregate	6	See below*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 5, aggregate possession limit 10 See below*

INLAND WATERS OF THE STATE					BOUNDARY RIVERS	
(Spotted Bass)						
Combined Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye	Continuous *	5*	10*	None*	Continuous open season; aggregate daily bag limit 6, aggregate possession limit 12; except aggregate daily bag limit 4, aggregate possession limit 8, in the Big Sioux and Missouri Rivers	See below*
Northern Pike	Continuous *	3	6	None	Continuous open season; daily bag limit 5, possession limit 10; except daily bag limit 6, possession limit 12, in the Big Sioux River	
Muskellunge or Hybrid Muskellunge	Continuous *	1	1	40"		Same as inland waters
Crappie	Continuous	25*	None	None		Same as inland waters except 50 in possession
Bluegill	Continuous	25*	None	None		Same as inland waters except in aggregate with pumpkinseed on the Mississippi River
All other fish species*	Continuou s	None	None	None		See below*
Frogs (except Bullfrogs)	Continuou s	48	96	None		Same as inland waters
Bullfrogs (Rana Catesbeiana)	Continuou s	12	12	None		Same as inland waters

\*Also see 81.2(481A), Exceptions.

ITEM 2. Amend subrule 81.2(4) as follows:

**81.2(4)** Paddlefish snagging is permitted in all waters of the state, except as follows:

*a.* There shall be no open season in the Missouri River and Big Sioux River, nor in any tributary of these streams within 200 yards immediately upstream of its confluence with the Missouri or Big Sioux Rivers.

*b.* Snagging for paddlefish on the Mississippi River is restricted to the area within 500 yards below the navigation dams and their spillways. No hooks larger than 5/0 treble or measuring more than 1¼ inches in length when two of the hook points are placed on a ruler is

permitted when snagging. The open season on the Mississippi River is the period from ~~January~~ March 1 through April 15.

c. Snagging for paddlefish is not permitted at any time in those areas where snagging is prohibited as a method of take as listed in subrule 81.2(11).

d. On the Mississippi River, a 33-inch maximum length limit shall apply; any paddlefish measuring 33-inches or more when measured from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail must be immediately released alive.

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DATE

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Richard A. Leopold, Director

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