



2018 IOWA LICENSED ANGLERS

A randomly selected group of more than 1,600 licensed anglers participated in a recent survey conducted by Responsive Management. Anglers were asked how often they go fishing and where, what species they fish for and their opinions on DNR fisheries management efforts.

Top 5 Fish to Catch

Most Caught

Most Preferred

- | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|
| 1 | Bluegill | Walleye |
| 2 | Crappie | Bass |
| 3 | Walleye | Catfish |
| 4 | Largemouth bass | Crappie |
| 5 | Channel catfish | Bluegill |
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Top 5 Fishing Spots

- Mississippi River
- Private ponds
- Clear Lake
- Des Moines River
- West & East Okoboji Lakes



4.59 million meals of Iowa-caught fish eaten



80% eat (or their family eats) the fish they catch at least some of the time



10.5 million days fished in 2018

Happy Anglers



68% rate fishing in Iowa as excellent or good

78% agree they are getting their money's worth for fishing license fees

76% rate Iowa's fish management and fisheries as excellent or good

58% rate fishing opportunities close to their home as excellent or good

56% typically travel no more than 20 miles to fish in Iowa

Favorite Ways to Fish



Shore – 78%

Boat – 67%

Catch-and-release – 65%

Pier or dock – 49%

Ice fishing – 27%

Wading – 17%

Fly fishing – 7%

Tournament – 6%



Angler Priorities

1. Protecting water quality in Iowa's waters
2. Conservation of streams and rivers
3. Improving fish habitat
4. Monitoring fisheries populations
5. Stocking fish
6. Enforcing fishing regulations
7. Planning for/ implementing lake and pond restoration projects
8. Improving angler access points at lakes, ponds, and streams
9. Installing fishing structures
10. Improving shore fishing opportunities at lakes, ponds, and streams
11. Conducting angler and creel surveys
12. Preparing weekly fishing reports
13. Preparing weekly social media materials

