

# ILLINOIS SPORT FISHING AWARDS

(Official Entry Blank)

This entry is for: **GRAND SLAM ANGLER AWARD** (only one fish catch per page) (send all 5 catches together)  
(must catch 5 of 6 fish families/meet qualifying minimums)

\_\_\_\_ Catfish    \_\_\_\_ Black Bass    \_\_\_\_ Temperate Bass

\_\_\_\_ Esocid    \_\_\_\_ Salmonid    \_\_\_\_ Perch

- Species of fish: \_\_\_\_\_
- Total length \_\_\_\_\_ inches
- Date caught: \_\_\_\_\_
- Weight of fish (A or B):    A: Spring scale or    \_\_\_\_\_ pounds    \_\_\_\_\_ ounces  
  B: Computer (digital scale):    \_\_\_\_\_ pounds    \_\_\_\_\_ ounces

## LOCATION OF CATCH

- Name of water where caught: \_\_\_\_\_
- County: \_\_\_\_\_
- Pound test of line: \_\_\_\_\_
- Bait/lure used: \_\_\_\_\_
- Color and size of lure: \_\_\_\_\_
- Type of tackle: rod \_\_\_\_\_ reel \_\_\_\_\_

## ANGLER CERTIFICATION

11. I hereby state that I have caught this fish on a pole and line and that the enclosed information is correct to the best of my ability.

Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Area code (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Illinois Sport Fish Awards  
Division of Fisheries, IDNR  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

# ILLINOIS SPORT FISHING AWARDS PROGRAM

The Division of Fisheries offers several angler recognition awards for fish caught in Illinois waters. Junior angler awards are for young anglers under 16 years of age catching their first Illinois fish. Catch and Release, Big Fish, Master Angler, Grand Slam, and State Record are available to any angler meeting the eligibility requirements outlined in the rules. Refer to the rules section for more information.

New this year and available on the [ifishillinois.org](http://ifishillinois.org) website, Jr. Angler, Catch & Release, and Big Fish certificates may be downloaded and printed from your personal computer. Completed applications with associated information for Master Angler, Grand Slam, and State Record must be sent to the Division of Fisheries for processing. Awards are returned to the angler at the end of the current fishing season.

APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT  
ANY DNR REGIONAL OFFICE OR BY CALLING 217/782-6424  
OR BY DOWNLOADING FROM THE [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) WEBSITE

## SPORT FISHING AWARDS (see RULES SECTION for further information)

- A **STATE RECORD AWARD** patch, engraved wall plaque, and certificate will be awarded to the angler who catches a fish, only of the species listed above, which equals or exceeds the weight of the current STATE RECORD. All STATE RECORD fish must be certified by a DNR fisheries biologist. Applications for the STATE RECORD award are available to download from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website. Completed applications, DNR certification, and a photo documenting your catch must be mailed into the DNR Division of Fisheries.
- A **GRAND SLAM AWARD** certificate, pin, and patch are awarded annually to anglers catching at least one representative from five (5) of the six (6) family categories of Illinois fish (Catfish, Black Bass, Temperate Bass, Esocid, Salmonid, and Perch). Applications for the GRAND SLAM award are available to download from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website and mail (along with a photo of each catch for documentation) into the DNR Division of Fisheries no later than January 30.
- A **MASTER ANGLER AWARD** certificate and pin are awarded annually to anglers catching five (5) different species of fish (see listing of eligible fish) which meet or exceed the minimum lengths or minimum weights. Applications for the MASTER ANGLER award are available to download from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website. Once completed, the application must be mailed into the DNR Division of Fisheries no later than January 30.
- A **BIG FISH AWARD** certificate will be awarded to the angler who catches and keeps a fish, only of the species listed above, which equals or exceeds the minimum qualifying weight. Applications for the BIG FISH award are available from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website. Certificates for successful anglers may be printed directly from the website.
- A **CATCH AND RELEASE AWARD** certificate will be awarded to the angler who catches and releases an eligible fish (see list), which equals or exceeds the minimum qualifying length. Award certificates for successful anglers may be printed directly from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website.
- A **JUNIOR ANGLER AWARD** certificate is available for download from the [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) website to an angler under 16 years of age who catches their first Illinois fish. Award certificates for successful anglers may be printed directly from the website.

Further information and requirements for each award is provided in the "RULES SECTION".

## ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES TABLE

Fish Species (Minimum Requirements)	BIG CATCH & FISH RELEASE (LBS.) (INS.)	Fish Species (Minimum Requirements)	BIG CATCH & FISH RELEASE (LBS.) (INS.)
Largemouth bass . . . . .	6 . . . 19	Yellow bullhead . . . . .	2 . . . 12
Smallmouth bass . . . . .	3 . . . 16	Brown bullhead . . . . .	2 . . . 12
Spotted bass . . . . .	3 . . . 16	Coho salmon . . . . .	10 . . . 25
White bass . . . . .	2 . . . 15	Chinook salmon . . . . .	18 . . . 34
Yellow bass . . . . .	1 . . . 11	Pink salmon . . . . .	2 . . . 15
Striped bass . . . . .	12 . . . 28	Atlantic salmon . . . . .	9 . . . 25
Hybrid striped bass . . . . .	7 . . . 20	Lake trout . . . . .	15 . . . 27
Northern pike . . . . .	13 . . . 30	Brown trout . . . . .	15 . . . 27
Muskellunge . . . . .	15 . . . 36	Rainbow trout . . . . .	12 . . . 30
Tiger muskie . . . . .	13 . . . 30	Brook trout . . . . .	2 . . . 15
Walleye . . . . .	5 . . . 22	Tiger trout . . . . .	3 . . . 19
Sauger . . . . .	3 . . . 18	Common carp . . . . .	15 . . . 32
Saugeye (hybrid) . . . . .	3 . . . 18	*Bighead carp . . . . .	15
Yellow perch . . . . .	1 . . . 12	Bowfin . . . . .	6 . . . 24
Bluegill . . . . .	1 . . . 10	Freshwater drum . . . . .	10 . . . 24
Redear sunfish . . . . .	1 . . . 10	Bigmouth buffalo . . . . .	15 . . . 25
Green sunfish . . . . .	1 . . . 10	Black buffalo . . . . .	15 . . . 25
Rock bass . . . . .	1 . . . 9	Smallmouth buffalo . . . . .	15 . . . 25
Warmouth . . . . .	1 . . . 9	Shovelnose sturgeon . . . . .	2 . . . 24
Other sunfish . . . . .	1 . . . 10	Longnose gar . . . . .	6 . . . 32
Hybrid sunfish . . . . .	1 . . . 10	Shortnose gar . . . . .	6 . . . 30
White crappie . . . . .	2 . . . 13	Spotted gar . . . . .	6 . . . 30
Black crappie . . . . .	2 . . . 13	Grass carp (white amur) . . . . .	15 . . . 27
Hybrid crappie . . . . .	2 . . . 13	Goldeye . . . . .	1 . . . 12
Channel catfish . . . . .	14 . . . 28	Mooneye . . . . .	1 . . . 12
Blue catfish . . . . .	20 . . . 30	Skipjack herring . . . . .	1 . . . 12
Flathead catfish . . . . .	20 . . . 30	Burbot . . . . .	5 . . . 22
Black bullhead . . . . .	2 . . . 12		

\* may not be possessed alive

## RULES FOR SPORT FISHING AWARDS

These rules apply to STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, MASTER ANGLER, BIG FISH, CATCH AND RELEASE, AND JUNIOR ANGLER award entries:

1. Fish must be caught legally by pole and line from Illinois waters. Fish caught by trot line, jugs, bank poles, gigs, spears, bow and arrow, nets, seines, and snagging are not eligible.
2. Fish caught from Licensed Daily Fee Fishing Areas are not eligible.
3. Total length is to be measured from the tip of the snout, with mouth closed to the tip of the tail to the nearest 1/8 inch. Girth is measured at the greatest distance around the fish circumference).
4. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to reject an entry based upon its investigation on the identification, methods used in catching, and the accuracy of measurement and weighing.
5. Fish eligible for all SPORT FISHING AWARDS (excluding the GRAND SLAM AWARD) are listed in the "Eligible Fish Species Table" along with qualifying minimum lengths and weights.
6. Fish species eligible for the GRAND SLAM AWARD by family category include:

- Catfish . . . . . Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish, and Flathead Catfish
- Black Bass . . . . . Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, and Kentucky Spotted Bass
- Temperate Bass . . . . . Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, and White Bass
- Esocid . . . . . Muskie and Northern Pike
- Salmonid . . . . . Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, and Rainbow Trout (Steelhead)
- Perch . . . . . Walleye and Sauger

Anglers catching at least one eligible fish species from five (5) of the six (6) above family categories meeting or exceeding the qualifying minimum lengths or weights must complete an application (along with a photo documenting the catch) and mail the entry to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, no later than January 30 to cover the previous calendar year's fishing activities.

7. Fish species eligible for the MASTER ANGLER AWARD include all listed fish species (see the "Eligible Fish Species Table") which meet or exceed the qualifying minimum lengths or weights. Successful anglers must complete an application (along with a photo documenting the catch) and mail the entry to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, no later than January 30 to cover the previous calendar year's fishing activities.
8. Each STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, AND MASTER ANGLER award application must be accompanied by a clear, side-view photograph for each of the fish caught, preferably of the angler with the fish. The entry and photograph become property of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Photos cannot be returned.
9. Fish entered for a STATE RECORD award must be weighed on a scale certified legal for trade in front of two witnesses.
10. A fish entered for STATE RECORD fish must be kept intact until it has been certified, and when necessary, genetically confirmed by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishery Biologist.
11. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to reproduce, duplicate, or otherwise copy, via a body cast, any certified STATE RECORD fish. Duplicate mounts will be used solely by the Department for display purposes and will acknowledge the record holder.

*The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is requesting this information as outlined under the Fish Code, Chapter 515. This information is required in order for you to qualify for a STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, OR MASTER ANGLER award.*