

Indiana DNR-Division of Fish and Wildlife
May 1, 2013

New rule changes that started in 2012 now in effect

- Nonresidents can take raccoons during the raccoon hunting & trapping season, the same as residents, regardless of the nonresident's raccoon season dates. An individual can also carry a handgun without a handgun license while chasing raccoons and opossums in accordance with state law in IC 35-47-2-1. See 312 IAC 9-3-14
- A state and federal permit is required now to take Rusty's blackbirds, even if they are causing damage. The federal law in 50 CFR 21.43 was recently amended, and a federal permit is now required to take them. Therefore, this rule was modified to comply with federal law. See 312 IAC 9-4-7.2
- Monk parakeets are now in the list of birds that are exempted and can be taken without a permit. They are an exotic species and not protected under federal law. See 312 IAC 9-4-15.
- Clarifies the area closed to fishing in the Little Calumet River in Porter county to specify that it is closed from April 1 through June 15 of each year from the confluence of the west branch and east branch of the Little Calumet River where it enters the Portage Burns Waterway (formerly known as Burns Ditch), in Porter County up the east branch to US 20, excluding its tributaries.

There is also a new closure year-round near the new sea lamprey control barrier in LaPorte County. It is illegal to fish on or along Trail Creek in Michigan City in LaPorte County from either of these locations: (A) Within one hundred (100) feet upstream (generally southeasterly) of the sea lamprey control barrier, and (B) From the sea lamprey control barrier downstream (generally northwesterly) to the Pottawatomie Country Club Golf Course property line, which is located adjacent to Springland Avenue. See 312 IAC 9-6-6

- Bowfishing equipment and crossbows are now legal to use to take suckers, carp, Asian carp, gar, bowfin, buffalo, or shad from all rivers and streams, day or night, with exception of some salmonid streams (see 312 IAC 9-7-2 subsection j). Also, smelt may no longer be taken from Oliver Lake in LaGrange County (there are few if any smelt in the lake). See 312 IAC 9-7-2.
- Removes Gibson Lake from the locations where channel catfish can be taken without regard to bag limit. Gibson Lake in Gibson County was closed to public fishing by Duke Energy in 2007 based on selenium levels in the fish, and it doesn't appear it will reopen to public fishing. See 312 IAC 9-7-3.
- Extends the 15 inch walleye size limit on the St Joseph River up the Elkhart River in Elkhart County from its confluence with the St. Joseph River to the first dam (about 0.6 miles). Regulating this defined area with a single walleye size limit (15 inches) clears up issues with different size limits nearby and supports walleye management objectives. See 312 IAC 9-7-12

- Eliminates the restrictions on taking lake trout in inland waters; the daily bag limit of trout will remain at 5 per day with no more than 1 being a brown trout. The bag limit for lake trout on Lake Michigan and its tributaries is still the same at two. See 312 IAC 9-7-13
- Adds the crossbow as a legal means of taking exempted species of fish on the Ohio River and allows bowfishing equipment, crossbow, fish spear, gig, spear gun or underwater spear to take Asian carp, carp, suckers, gar, bowfin, buffalo, or shad on the Ohio River. Additional rule language has been added that clarifies that the snagging of paddlefish is prohibited in the Ohio River. See 312 IAC 9-7-16
- The rayed bean has been added as an endangered species of mussel on the state's list. It is already on the federally endangered species list. See 312 IAC 9-9-4

These administrative rules (Indiana Administrative Code) can be found online at:

http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/iac_title?iact=312. Click on Article 9.