

Upper Mississippi River species specific regulations. Click on individual state to link to their regulations page.

| Species | Illinois | Iowa | Minnesota | Missouri | Wisconsin/Minnesota Boundary Waters | Wisconsin/Iowa Boundary Waters |
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| Catfish | 15" minimum length limit for whole fish, 12" minimum length limit for dressed fish and 10.7" minimum length limit for dressed fish with the first vertebrae removed. | 15" minimum length. | 15" minimum length. Not more than 100 lbs. per seine haul Oct. 1 - April 30. | 15" minimum length. | 15" minimum length, 12" dressed. May not take more than 100 lbs. plus one fish of catfish per day with seines regardless of the number of seine hauls made in one day, from the Saturday nearest October 1 to April 30. May only take 100 pounds catfish plus one fish from any single seine haul even if the seine haul takes more than one day to complete. | 15" minimum length, 12" dressed. May not take more than 100 lbs. plus one fish of catfish per day with seines regardless of the number of seine hauls made in one day, from the Saturday nearest October 1 to April 30. May only take 100 pounds catfish plus one fish from any single seine haul even if the seine haul takes more than one day to complete. |
| Paddlefish | Open to harvest downstream of Lock and Dam 19. Harvest season from October 1 – May 31. Roe harvest permit required in addition to commercial fishing license. Minimum length limit 28" measured eye to fork. Ovaries may be removed from the fish on the water providing the carcass is retained for identification purposes. | Prohibited | Prohibited | 24" minimum length (measured from eye to fork in tail). Roe fish harvest permit required. Ovaries must remain intact and accompany the fish from which they were removed. | Prohibited | Prohibited |
| Shovelnose Sturgeon | Harvest allowed upstream of Lock and Dam 26 (excluding the area from Lock and dam 19 to the State Highway 9 bridge in Niota). Harvest season from October 1 - May 31. Roe harvest permit required in addition to commercial fishing license. Harvest slot limit of 24" - 32" measured snout to fork. Ovaries must remain whole, intact and in the body cavity of the fish while on the water. | The minimum fork length for shovelnose sturgeon measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail is 27 inches. You cannot possess shovelnose sturgeon less than 27 inches in Iowa waters. You cannot harvest shovelnose sturgeon longer than 34 inches fork length from waters of the Mississippi River bordering Wisconsin. You cannot harvest shovelnose sturgeon from May 16 – Oct 14. You cannot harvest shovelnose sturgeon from gear set before midnight on October 15. | Prohibited | Upstream from Melvin Price Locks and Dam: Harvest slot: 24" to 32" (measured from tip of snout to fork of tail). Season: Oct 15 - May 15. Fish must remain whole and intact while on the waters of the state and adjacent banks. Downstream from Melvin Price Locks and Dam: Prohibited | Setlines harvest only. Length limit: 25" total length. Sturgeon Harvest permit required. No person may remove roe from a commercial fish while on the water, ice, bank or shore. Commercial fish shall remain intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility or place of business of the commercial fisher. | Harvest slot: 27" to 34". Measured from tip of snout to fork in tail. Season: Open all year. Sturgeon Harvest permit required in addition to commercial fishing license.. No person may remove roe from a commercial fish while on the water, ice, bank or shore. Commercial fish shall remain intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility or place of business of the commercial fisher. |
| Bowfin | Roe harvest permit required in addition to commercial fishing license from October 1 - May 31. Commercial fishing license only required from June 1 - September 30. No minimum length limit. Ovaries must remain whole, intact and in the body cavity of the fish while on the water. | Fish must remain intact until they reach the final processing facility. | | Fish must remain whole and intact while on waters of the state and adjacent banks. | No person may remove roe from a commercial fish while on the water, ice, bank or shore. Commercial fish shall remain intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility or place of business of the commercial fisher. | No person may remove roe from a commercial fish while on the water, ice, bank or shore. Commercial fish shall remain intact until the fish reaches the final processing facility or place of business of the commercial fisher. |

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| Turtles | Prohibited | <p>Allow only common snapper, smooth softshell, spiny softshell and painted turtle harvest with a commercial fisher license on the Mississippi River. Turtles can only be harvested from July 16 to May 14. The turtle harvest season is closed May 15 to July 15. You cannot harvest turtles from gear set before midnight on July 15. Daily catch limit and possession limit respectively by species: Common Snapping Turtle: 4 and 20, Spiny Softshell Turtle OR Smooth Softshell Turtle: 1 and 5, and Painted Turtle: 1 and 5. You cannot take turtle eggs from the wild. You can possess turtles or their parts which have been lawfully taken. You cannot sort, cull, high-grade, or otherwise replace any turtle in your possession. You can only take turtles by hand, turtle hook, turtle trap, hook and line or licensed commercial fishing gear in the Mississippi and Missouri rivers only. Turtle traps cannot have more than one throat or funneling device. The last hoop to the tail-line of turtle traps must have a functional escape hole with a minimum diameter in all directions of 7-1/2 inches to let fish and small turtles pass through. Barrel and floating type turtle traps must</p> | <p>Allow snapping turtle (12" minimum), spiny softshell and painted turtle.</p> | Prohibited | <p>Turtles taken incidental to licensed commercial fishing operations may be possessed and sold.</p> | <p>Turtles taken incidental to licensed commercial fishing operations may be possessed and sold.</p> |

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| Harvestable Species | Common carp, buffalo spp., freshwater drum, channel catfish, flathead catfish, blue catfish, bullhead spp., sucker and redhorse spp., carpsuckers, quillback (white carp), shovelnose sturgeon, paddlefish, bowfin, gar, eel, gizzard shad, grass carp, Asian carp. | Common carp, buffalo spp., freshwater drum, channel catfish, flathead catfish, bullhead spp., sucker and redhorse spp., carpsucker and quillback (white carp), shovelnose sturgeon, bowfin, grass carp, Asian carp. | Common carp, smallmouth buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, freshwater drum, flathead catfish, channel catfish, bullhead spp., bowfin, redhorse spp., carpsucker spp., (white carp), mooneye, gar spp., grass carp, gizzard shad. All invasive fish species must be harvested. | (13) Commercial fish: All fish except endangered species as listed in 3 CSR 10-4.111(3) and game fish as defined in this rule. Includes those species for which sale is permitted when legally obtained. Commercial fish include crayfish taken from waters open to commercial fishing. In the Mississippi River and that part of the St. Francis River which forms the boundary between the states of Arkansas and Missouri, commercial fish also include channel, blue, and flathead catfish at least fifteen inches (15") in total length. In the Mississippi River only, commercial fish also include paddlefish at least twenty-four inches (24") in length (measured from eye to fork of tail) and shovelnose sturgeon twenty-four inches to thirty-two inches (24"-32") in length (measured from tip of snout to fork of tail) upstream from Melvin Price Locks and Dam. | Common carp, smallmouth buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, freshwater drum, flathead catfish, channel catfish, bullhead spp., bowfin, shovelnose sturgeon, suckers and redhorse spp., quillback and carpsucker (white carp), mooneye, gar spp., grass carp. All invasive fish species must be harvested. | Common carp, smallmouth buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, freshwater drum, flathead catfish, channel catfish, bullhead spp., bowfin, shovelnose sturgeon, suckers and redhorse spp., quillback and carpsucker (white carp), mooneye, gar spp., grass carp. All invasive fish species must be harvested. |