

Department of Energy & Environment
Recreational Angling Records Program – Official Rules (2023 Revision)

I. OFFICIAL RULES

1. To be considered for a District of Columbia recreational angling record, the following conditions shall be satisfied:

- a) Fish shall be caught in District waters;
- b) Fish shall be a species commonly pursued with rod and reel;
- c) Fish shall have been caught by a legal angler;
- d) Fish shall be caught in accordance with angling methods and regulations in 19 DCMR § 1502;
- e) Fish shall be caught during an open season in the District posted by DOEE;
- f) With the exception of injury that may have occurred during landing, or tags that may have been placed on the fish by a managing enterprise, the catch shall not have been altered in any way from its natural integrity;
- g) Anglers shall complete and sign an Angling Records Intake Form. Forms may be found in the attachments section at the bottom of this webpage;
- h) The gear used to land the fish shall be presented to, and inspected by a DOEE Biologist;
- i) Prospective entries shall be submitted to DOEE within seventy-two (72) hours of the catch; and,
- j) All fish shall be identified by a DOEE Biologist.

2. Fish caught in private ponds, lakes, or impoundments are only eligible to receive a photo entry certificate.

3. Official District angling records shall be based solely on weight.

4. Photo entry certificates (i.e., “Trophy Fish Awards”) shall be based solely on length; all lengths shall be considered unofficial.

5. All catches shall be subject to inspection by DOEE Biologists.

6. DOEE maintains the right to investigate or reject any certification that appears to be erroneous or fraudulent.

7. Record categories are as follows: Youth (age 15 years and younger) and Adult (age 16 years and older).

II. HELPFUL HINTS

1. To report a potential record catch, please email Chris Campo at christopher.campo@dc.gov.

2. Record an unofficial weight prior to reporting your catch.

3. Consult the current records after recording an unofficial weight and prior to contacting DOEE. Current records may be found online at <https://www.doe.dc.gov>. Select Fisheries & Wildlife.

4. If an official weight cannot be obtained in a reasonable amount of time, pack the catch in ice until an official weight can be obtained.

5. Potential record catches shall be weighed-in at the DOEE Aquatic Resources Education Center in Anacostia Park. See Section VI for additional information.

III. PHOTO ENTRY CERTIFICATES

1. Anglers may submit a photo entry to receive a Trophy Fish Award certificate provided that a full-length photo of the fish next to a standard United States measuring instrument is submitted to DOEE.

2. The photo shall not be altered in any way.

3. See Section V to view Minimum Length Considerations. All lengths unofficial.

4. Please submit photos via email to christopher.campo@dc.gov.

IV. MINIMUM WEIGHT CONSIDERATIONS FOR DISTRICT ANGLING RECORDS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Youth (lbs.)	Adult (lbs.)
Black Crappie ⁺	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	$\frac{3}{4}$	1
Blue Catfish ⁺	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	30	40
Bluegill ⁺	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Brook Trout ⁺	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	No Minimum Weight	No Minimum Weight
Brown Bullhead ⁺	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	$\frac{3}{4}$	1
Brown Trout ⁺	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	No Minimum Weight	No Minimum Weight
Channel Catfish [#]	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	5	6
Common Carp ⁺	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	12	15
Golden Redhorse ⁺	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>	2	3
Green Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Largemouth Bass [#]	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	4	5
Longear Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Muskellunge ⁺	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>	8	10
Northern Snakehead ⁺	<i>Channa argus</i>	6	8
Pumpkinseed ⁺	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Quillback Carpsucker ⁺	<i>Carpodes cyprinus</i>	3	4
Rainbow Trout ⁺	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	No Minimum Weight	No Minimum Weight
Redbreast Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Redear Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Rock Bass ⁺	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
Smallmouth Bass [#]	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	2	3

Striped Bass [@]	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	20	25
Walleye [#]	<i>Sander vitreus</i>	5	6
White Catfish ⁺	<i>Ameiurus catus</i>	1 ½	2
White Crappie ⁺	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	¾	1
White Perch ⁺	<i>Morone americana</i>	½	½
White Sucker ⁺	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>	2	3
Yellow Bullhead ⁺	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>	¾	1
Yellow Perch [#]	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	¾	1

--- Open season with restrictions. Please consult the District fishing guide.

+ --- Open season without restrictions.

@ --- Size and season restrictions. Please consult the District fishing guide.

V. MINIMUM LENGTH CONSIDERATIONS FOR TROPHY FISH AWARDS

Common Name	Scientific Name	Length (in.) *
Black Crappie ⁺	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>	13
Blue Catfish ⁺	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>	40
Bluegill ⁺	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>	8
Brook Trout ⁺	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>	No Minimum Length
Brown Bullhead ⁺	<i>Ameiurus nebulosus</i>	12
Brown Trout ⁺	<i>Salmo trutta</i>	No Minimum Length
Channel Catfish [#]	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>	30
Common Carp ⁺	<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	36
Golden Redhorse ⁺	<i>Moxostoma erythrurum</i>	20
Green Sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>	8
Largemouth Bass [#]	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>	19
Longear Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>	8
Muskellunge ⁺	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>	24
Northern Snakehead ⁺	<i>Channa argus</i>	30
Quillback Carpsucker ⁺	<i>Carpionodes cyprinus</i>	20
Rainbow Trout ⁺	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	No Minimum Length
Redbreast Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis aurochirus</i>	8
Redear Sunfish ⁺	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>	8
Rock Bass ⁺	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>	10
Smallmouth Bass [#]	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>	17
Striped Bass [@]	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>	36
Walleye [#]	<i>Sander vitreus</i>	20
White Catfish ⁺	<i>Ameiurus catus</i>	15
White Crappie ⁺	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>	13
White Perch ⁺	<i>Morone americana</i>	11
White Sucker ⁺	<i>Catostomus commersonii</i>	20
Yellow Bullhead ⁺	<i>Ameiurus natalis</i>	12
Yellow Perch [#]	<i>Perca flavescens</i>	12

- # --- Open season with restrictions. Please consult the [Regulated Fishing Activities webpage](#).
+ --- Open season without restrictions.
@ --- Size and season restrictions. Please consult the [Regulated Fishing Activities webpage](#).
* --- All lengths shall be considered unofficial.

VI. WEIGH-IN LOCATION

Location	Address	Contact
DOEE Aquatic Resources Education Center	1900 Anacostia Dr SE Washington, DC 20020	Please contact Chris Campo at christopher.campo@dc.gov to schedule a weigh-in.

§ 8-103.03. Protection of aquatic life

(a) While regulating against water pollution and except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Mayor shall protect aquatic animals and plants, and shall preserve and restore aquatic life in District waters for aesthetic enjoyment, for recreation, and for industry.

(b) (1) The Mayor shall study the number and the well-being of aquatic plants and animals, and shall determine the need to license or otherwise limit fishing and other forms of hunting, sports or industry which take or destroy aquatic life or the aquatic habitat. The Mayor shall consider the economic impact upon the various segments of the public before establishing fees for licenses.

(2) The Mayor may establish fishing seasons and other seasons for hunting, sports or industry, which take or destroy aquatic life or the aquatic habitat.

(3) Revenues from licensing regulatory schemes under this section shall not be used for purposes other than the administration and management of the District's fisheries and wildlife resources. License fees paid by anglers and other users of these resources shall not be used for purposes other than the administration of the District's Fisheries and Wildlife Division.

(c) The Mayor may enter into agreements with state and federal agencies to manage and protect aquatic life. (d) The Mayor may protect against aquatic life which creates a nuisance in the District.