

The Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society is asking you—

Should this Iowa Darter be the Iowa State Fish?



Image courtesy of Joe Tomelleri, copyright Joe Tomelleri

Did you know that Iowa is one of only three states in the US that does not have an official State Fish? The others are Indiana and Ohio.

There have been efforts in past years for Iowa to select a “copycat” fish and follow Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska and Tennessee and select a catfish as Iowa’s State Fish.

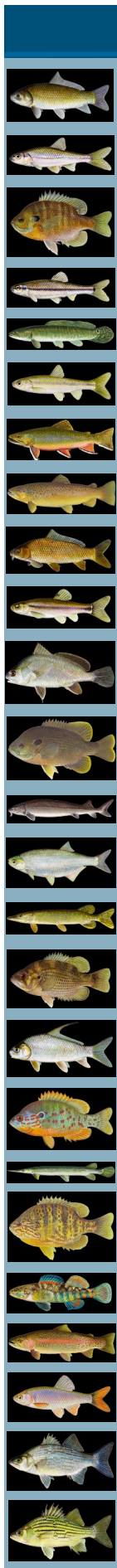
The Iowa Darter is unique in that it is the only fish that is named after the State of Iowa. Iowa also has a beetle, two fossils, a diatom, a plant, a fungus, and a bacteria.

The Iowa Darter is one of Iowa’s most colorful and beautiful fish, and grows to about 2.5 inches long. It lives in clear, sluggish, vegetated streams and weedy areas of glacial lakes, marshes and ponds. Iowa Darters are most abundant in the natural lakes in Iowa, but can be found in rivers and streams in northern Iowa, as well as the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. The Iowa Darter prefers clean water, just like many other residents of Iowa.

Iowans LOVE all things Iowa, so what better for us than the Iowa Darter!

Want to help make the Iowa Darter the Iowa State Fish? Contact your state senator or representative. You can get their email address by entering your address here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>

The Iowa Legislature is the entity that determines Iowa’s symbols, so if you would like to see the Iowa Darter become Iowa’s state fish, please email your legislators. Sample language for an email can be found at <https://iowa.fisheries.org/state-fish/>



What about Iowa's other fish?

- Fish commonly found in Iowa that are also state fish include Brook Trout (10 states), Channel Catfish (4), Large-mouth Bass (4), Walleye (3), Crappie (1), Bluegill (1), White Bass (1), Northern Pike (1), Muskellunge (1), and Paddlefish (1)
- Want to know more about the Iowa Darter, check out this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3sS8enX8nfc>
- Iowans most often go fishing for Largemouth Bass, Bluegills, Crappies, Channel Catfish and Walleyes
- While no one knows for sure, Bluegills are probably the most abundant fish in Iowa's lakes; Gizzard Shad are likely most abundant the large reservoirs; Creek Chubs, Bluntnose Minnows and Central Stonerollers are very common in Iowa's interior streams and rivers
- The Iowa DNR lists all of Iowa's 148 fish species at: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Iowa-Fish-Species>
- If you are interested in learning more about fisheries in Iowa, check out the Iowa Chapter, American Fisheries Society at: <https://iowa.fisheries.org/>

This pamphlet brought to you by the Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society

About "State Fish" -

- Many states have selected a fish with a tie to their state name or geography as their state fish, such as
 - Florida Largemouth Bass
 - Kentucky Spotted Bass
 - Guadalupe Bass (Texas)
 - Apache Trout (Arizona)
 - Bonneville Cutthroat Trout (Utah)
 - Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (Nevada)
- Of the 47 states with a state fish, 20 states selected a trout, and 10 states selected the Brook Trout
- Thirteen states have two different state fish, usually a freshwater and a saltwater species, and Georgia has three state fish
- Bass species (Largemouth, Small-mouth, etc.) are the state fish in 6 states.
- White or Striped Bass are the state fish in four states
- Channel Catfish is the state fish in four states
- The states around Iowa have the following state fish:
 - Minnesota, Walleye
 - Wisconsin, Muskellunge
 - Illinois, Bluegill
 - Missouri, Channel Catfish and Paddlefish
 - Kansas, Channel Catfish
 - Nebraska, Channel Catfish
 - South Dakota, Walleye
- Kansas (2018) and Arkansas (2019) were the two most recent states to identify a State Fish. Both of those efforts were led by students!