

Massachusetts Freshwater Sportfishing Awards Program Catch and Keep Affidavit

A Sportfishing Awards Program pin will be issued to qualified anglers who catch and report a freshwater fish which equals or exceeds the minimum weight for the species listed on the reverse side of this form, provided any such angler has conformed to the rules of the program. Those catching the largest fish in each category during each calendar year will be recognized at an annual award ceremony.

Save time and a stamp by submitting your entry using the easy online affidavit.

Go to Mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards to use the online form.

# ALL items on this form MUST be filled out. Please print clearly.

Angler’s Name: Age: Address:

Phone: E-mail: Fish Species: Weight: lbs. ozs.

Fish Length: Girth: Date of Catch: Type of Tackle: Bait/Lure:

Where Caught:

(name of waterbody) (city./.town of waterbody)

I hereby swear, under the pains and penalties of perjury, that the above statements are true, that this entry complies with all rules on the reverse side, that this fish was caught in a legal manner in Massachusetts.

Angler’s Signature (parent’s signature if under 18): Fishing/Sporting License Number: Name & Address of Weigh Station: Weigh Station Phone Number: Scale Certification Seal Date (Month & Year): Weigh Station Witness (Name): Witness Phone #: Comments on the Catch (optional):

Effective 4/2023



## Catch and Keep Program Rules and Eligibility

1. All legally licensed anglers are eligible for the Massachusetts Freshwater Sportfishing Awards.
2. Anglers aged 17 or under are eligible for Youth Sportfishing Awards. Anglers aged 15-17 must have a license to fish.
3. Fish must be taken from Massachusetts waters (or from one of the interstate ponds listed in the Guide to Hunting, Fishing and Trapping) that are open to the public at all times. Fish taken from private ponds or fish and game club ponds are NOT eligible for awards. This rule does not apply to the Wachusett or Quabbin Reservoirs or other public bodies of water which are closed on a seasonal basis.
4. Fish must be caught on hook and line, except carp, which may also be taken with spears or bow and arrow.
5. For the Catch and Keep category, fish must be weighed at a weigh station with a scale certified by the Massachusetts Division of Standards or a town official (no personal scales allowed), and the weighing must be witnessed by a second party. Scales must be certified the year of catch. Proof of certification must be provided to MassWildlife.
6. A clear, side view, close-up photograph of the fish against a flat, clearly labeled measuring device must be included with all affidavits. Affidavits for catfish and bullheads must also include a photograph of the top view of the fish (see website for an example).
7. Any potential Catch and Keep state record fish must be presented in its entirety (whole) to Fisheries staff at MassWildlife Field Headquarters or at any of the five district offices.
8. Transportation of live fish is prohibited without a permit. Any fish submitted for weighing must be dead.
9. Completed affidavits and all required photos must be submitted within 30 days of the date of catch. Note: December affidavits must be submitted no later than January 10th of the following year. We encourage online submissions at [www.mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards](http://www.mass.gov/dfw/sportfishing-awards) for faster processing.
10. All photos must be original and unedited. Photos that have been altered in any way or imported into a photo-editing software or otherwise changed from their original form will not be accepted.
11. All photos or images associated with the program, including those submitted by anglers or taken by MassWildlife staff, become property of MassWildlife. Names of anglers and images may be used in agency publications, promotional materials, or for other non-commercial use.
12. MassWildlife reserves the right to change or modify the program rules at any time. All decisions by MassWildlife are final.

## Minimum Weights to Qualify for an Award

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Species** | **Adult** | **Youth** | **Species** | **Adult** | **Youth** |
| [Bowfin](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/07/16/bowfin-snakehead-difference.pdf) | 6 lb. 0 oz. | 4 lb. 0 oz. | Northern Pike | 15 lb. 0 oz. | 10 lb. 0 oz. |
| Brook Trout | 2 lb. 0 oz. | 1 lb. 0 oz. | Rainbow Trout | 3 lb. 0 oz. | 2 lb. 0 oz. |
| Brown Trout | 4 lb. 0 oz. | 2 lb. 0 oz. | Shad | 5 lb. 0 oz. | 3 lb. 0 oz. |
| Bullhead | 2 lb. 0 oz. | 1 lb. 0 oz. | Smallmouth Bass | 4 lb. 8 oz. | 3 lb. 0 oz. |
| Carp | 15 lb. 0 oz. | 10 lb. 0 oz. | Sunfish\* | 0 lb. 12 oz. | 0 lb. 8 oz. |
| Chain Pickerel | 4 lb. 8 oz. | 3 lb. 0 oz. | Tiger Muskellunge | 10 lb. 0 oz. | 7 lb. 0 oz. |
| Channel Catfish | 6 lb. 0 oz. | 5 lb. 0 oz. | Tiger Trout | 2 lb. 0 oz. | 1 lb. 0 oz. |
| Crappie | 1 lb. 8 oz. | 1 lb. 0 oz. | Walleye | 4 lb. 0 oz. | 2 lbs. 0 oz. |
| Fallfish | 0 lb. 12 oz. | 0 lb. 8 oz | White Catfish | 4 lbs. 0 oz. | 2 lb. 0 oz. |
| Lake Trout | 7 lb. 0 oz. | 5 lb. 0 oz. | White Sucker | 2 lbs. 0 oz. | 1 lbs. 0 oz. |
| Landlocked Salmon | 4 lb. 0 oz. | 3 lb. 0 oz. | White Perch | 1 lb. 8 oz. | 1 lb. 0 oz. |
| Largemouth Bass | 7 lb. 0 oz.  | 4 lb. 0 oz. | Yellow Perch | 1 lb. 8 oz.  |  1 lb. 0 oz. |
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\*Includes Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Redbreast Sunfish, Green Sunfish, and Rock Bass

# If there is ANY question about the identification of the species, the fish should be presented in its entirety to a MassWildlife office. If you have questions, call us at 508-389-6300 any weekday from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. or visit mass.gov/masswildlife.

Send completed affidavits and photos to: MassWildlife

Sportfishing Awards Program

1 Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581

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