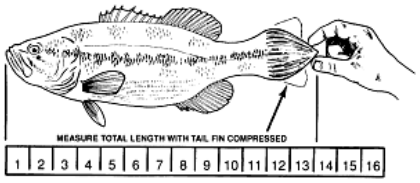
WISCONSIN'S LIVE RELEASE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

The Live Release Record Fish program accepts length-only record applications for the catch and live release of selected species in Wisconsin waters. It is designed to promote the conservation of fisheries resources and quality fishing by encouraging the careful release of trophy-size popular sport species. Among the most important outcomes will be to increase public awareness and commitment to protect our fisheries and their habitats.

Live Release Record Fish program

Official catch and release application procedures

1. Application forms for live release record certification must be completed and submitted to: Live Release Record Fish, Bureau of Fisheries Management, 101 S. Webster St., P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921 within 30 days of catch. Incomplete or illegible applications will be rejected.
2. Clear, color, side view photographs of the fish are required. Take several photos from different angles. One photo must clearly show the fish lying on its side **with a ruler or other measuring device placed beside the fish with the length number clearly visible.** Get close enough so that the image fills the frame. Another photo must show the angler with the fish. All photographs will become the property of the DNR and will not be returned. DNR fisheries biologists will identify the species from the photographs submitted with the application. If the biologists are unable to make a conclusive identification from the photographs, the record claim will not be considered.
3. Fish must be caught by legal angling methods and released in good condition in the water from which it was caught. (**Catch and release tips**: Measure the fish, take the photos and return the fish to the water. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible prior to the release. Gently place the fish back in the water. Do not hang the fish on a stringer. In necessary, revive the fish by holding it upright in the water and moving it back and forth, forcing water through its gills).
4. Fish must be caught from state waters open to public fishing.
5. **Live release records will be recognized by length only.** Fish will be determined by total length measured to the nearest 1/4 inch (longest measurement from the snout or nose to the tip of the compressed tail – see figure). To be certified, new live release records must exceed the existing record by at least 1/4 inch.



6. Witnesses to the capture of Live Release fish entries are desirable, however, the program is honor-based and witnesses are not mandatory. Fish survival is the highest priority.
7. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to further check identification or verification of documentation of catch, and to reject any applications that are questionable.

8. Record submissions will be considered for the following species:

Eligible species and minimum qualifying lengths for Wisconsin state record fish Live Release category. Lengths should be recorded by total length measured to the nearest 1/4 inch (longest measurement from the snout or nose to the tip of the compressed tail). To be certified, new live release records must exceed the existing record by at least 1/4 inch.

Species	Length (inches)
Bass, Largemouth	23″
Bass. Rock	10″
Bass, Smallmouth	22″
Bass, White	17″
Bluegill	10″
Burbot	30″
Carp, Common	35″
Catfish, Channel	35″
Catfish, Flathead	40″
Crappie, Black	15″
Crappie, White	15″
Drum, Freshwater	35″
Muskellunge	55″
Muskellunge, Tiger	45″
Northern pike	40″
Perch, Yellow	13″
Pumpkinseed	8″
Salmon, Chinook	40″
Salmon, Coho	35″
Sauger	21″
Sturgeon, Lake	70″
Sturgeon, Shovelnose	24″
Sunfish, Green	8″
Trout, Brook (inland)	15″
Trout, Brook (Great Lakes)	20″
Trout, Brown (inland)	24″
Trout, Brown (Great Lakes)	34″
Trout, Lake (inland)	34″
Trout, Lake (Great Lakes)	34″
Trout, Rainbow (inland)	24″
Trout, Rainbow (outlying)	36″
Walleye	30″