

RULES FOR SPORT FISHING AWARDS for BOWFISHING

These rules apply to **Bow Fishing** STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, MASTER ANGLER, BIG FISH, AND JUNIOR ANGLER award entries:

1. Fish must be caught legally by BOWFISHING methods from Illinois waters. Fish caught by hook and line, trot line, jugs, bank poles, gigs, spear, nets, seines, and snagging are not eligible.
2. Fish caught from Licensed Daily Fee Fishing Areas are not eligible.
3. Total length is to be measured from the tip of the snout, with mouth closed to the tip of the tail to the nearest 1/8 inch. Girth is measured at the greatest distance around the fish circumference).
4. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to reject an entry based upon its investigation on the identification, methods used in catching, and the accuracy of measurement and weighing.
5. Fish species eligible for the GRAND SLAM AWARD include: all Asian carp species (grass carp, common carp, silver carp, and bighead carp). Bowfishermen must complete an application (along with a photo documenting the catch) and mail the entry to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, no later than January 30 to cover the previous calendar year's fishing activities.
6. Fish species eligible for the MASTER ANGLER AWARD
Fish species harvested via bow fishing listed in the Eligible Species Table below which meet or exceed the qualifying minimum weights. Successful anglers must complete an application (along with a photo documenting the catch) and mail the entry to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, no later than January 30 to cover the previous calendar year's fishing activities.

Eligible Fish Species:

1. Grass Carp over 20 lbs.
 2. Common Carp over 20 lbs.
 3. Silver Carp over 15 lbs.
 4. Bighead Carp over 20 lbs.
 5. Goldfish/Hybrid over 1 lb.
8. Each Bow Fishing STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, AND MASTER ANGLER award application must be accompanied by a clear, side-view photograph for each of the fish caught, preferably of the angler with the fish. The entry and photograph become property of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Photos cannot be returned.
 9. Fish entered for a Bow Fishing STATE RECORD award must be weighed on a scale certified legal for trade in front of two witnesses.
 10. A fish entered for STATE RECORD fish must be kept intact until it has been certified, and when necessary, genetically confirmed by an Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishery Biologist.
 11. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources reserves the right to reproduce, duplicate, or otherwise copy, via a body cast, any certified STATE RECORD fish. Duplicate mounts will be used solely by the Department for display purposes and will acknowledge the record holder.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is requesting this information as outlined under the Fish Code, Chapter 515. This information is required in order for you to qualify for a Bow Fishing STATE RECORD, GRAND SLAM, OR MASTER ANGLER award.