

Master Angler Program Rules and Qualifying Fish Species List



Does Your Catch Qualify?

1. Anyone possessing a current, valid Vermont fishing license is eligible. Anglers under the age of 15 at the time of the catch are eligible to submit fish following the Youth minimum length requirements, which are lower than the Adult minimum length requirements.
2. All fish must be taken by legal sportfishing methods, during open season, and in waters that can be fished with a Vermont fishing license.
3. Fish angled in private or commercial waterbodies are not eligible.
4. The angler must measure the fish from tip of snout to tip of tail.
5. The **angler must submit a photograph of the fish** showing a clear side view of the entire fish, including the tail. Photographs intended to exaggerate the size of the fish by optical or digital means will not be accepted. If the angler is holding the fish, the angler's arms should not be extended, and the angler's fingers should be visible. The angler may also photograph the fish lying on its side next to a measuring tape or ruler.
6. After the fish is measured and photographed, it can be harvested (if within the open season) or released where it was caught.
7. Entries must be submitted no later than January 15th to be considered for the previous calendar year.
8. The Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department (VFWD) will be the sole and final judge as to the acceptance of the entries, and reserves the right to request additional information in the best interest of the program and to disqualify unverifiable entries. VFWD reserves the right to reject any entries not meeting the established criteria.
9. By submitting an entry, the angler understands that the information, including photographs, contained in each entry becomes the property of the Vermont Fish & Wildlife Department. By submitting photographs, the angler grants the department the non-exclusive right to copy, publish and distribute the image as well as the right to retain and distribute the photographs for archival and/or retrieval use, published or otherwise, in all media now known or hereafter developed. The information contained in the application and accompanying photograph may be used in, but not limited to press releases, published articles and promotional materials. Photographs will not be returned.
10. For a fish to be considered as a new Vermont State Record Fish, additional rules apply. Visit a Vermont Fish & Wildlife office or the website (www.vtfishandwildlife.com) for a Vermont State Record Fish entry form.

Fish Species	Minimum Qualifying Lengths	
	Adult	Youth
American Eel	24"	19"
American Shad	22"	18"
Bass, Largemouth	20"	18"
Bass, Rock	10"	8"
Bass, Smallmouth	19"	17"
Bluegill	9"	8"
Bowfin	28"	23"
Bullhead	14"	12"
Burbot	22"	18"
Carp	34"	27"
Channel Catfish	30"	24"
Cisco (Lake Herring)	13"	11"
Crappie, Black & White	13"	11"
Fallfish	15"	12"
Freshwater Drum	26"	21"
Gar, Longnose	36"	30"
Muskellunge	36"	30"
Northern Pike	36"	30"
Perch, White	13"	11"
Perch, Yellow	13"	11"
Pickrel, Chain	24"	19"
Pike-Pickrel Hybrid	30"	24"
Pumpkinseed Sunfish	9"	8"
Salmon, Landlocked Atlantic	24"	20"
Smelt, Rainbow	9"	8"
Sucker, Redhorse	21"	17"
Sucker, White & Longnose	19"	16"
Trout, Brook	15"	13"
Trout, Brown	22"	18"
Trout, Lake	30"	25"
Trout, Rainbow	23"	19"
Walleye	25"	20"
Whitefish, Lake	22"	18"

Enter your catch for the Vermont Master Angler Program on the Fish & Wildlife Department website:

www.vtfishandwildlife.com/masterangler.cfm

