

Regulatory Analysis

Notice of Intended Action to be published: 571—Chapter 15
“General License Regulations”

Iowa Code section(s) or chapter(s) authorizing rulemaking: 483A.1(1)
State or federal law(s) implemented by the rulemaking: Iowa Code section 483A.1

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows:

January 27, 2026
1 to 2 p.m.

6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa

Free language assistance: If you need assistance in a language other than English, contact the Department of Natural Resources (Department) at joe.larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov or civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov or by telephone at 515.782.0358 at least seven days before the event.

Asistencia lingüística gratuita: Si necesita ayuda en un idioma que no sea inglés, comuníquese con el Departamento al joe.larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov o civilrights@dnr.iowa.gov o por teléfono a 515.782.0358 al menos siete días antes del evento.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit written comments concerning this Regulatory Analysis, which must be received by the Department no later than 4:30 p.m. on the date of the public hearing. Comments should be directed to:

Joe Larscheid
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
6200 Park Avenue, Suite 200
Des Moines, Iowa 50321
Email: joe.larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov

Free language assistance: If you speak a non-English language, the Department offers language assistance services free of charge. Contact the Department at joe.larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov.

Servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística: Si habla un idioma que no sea el inglés, los servicios de asistencia lingüística están disponibles de forma gratuita. Comuníquese con el Departamento al joe.larscheid@dnr.iowa.gov.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 15 governs hunting, fishing, and trapping license sales, fees, and general administration and a framework for license revocation and suspension. This proposed rulemaking seeks to increase hunting, fishing, and trapping resident and nonresident license fees by 5 percent, consistent with the statutory cap. These fees are only paid by persons who choose to participate in these recreational activities. License fees are deposited into the State Fish and Game Protection Fund (commonly known as the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund), which also receives certain federal funds generated by excise taxes on outdoor sporting equipment. The Trust Fund is dedicated to Iowa’s natural resources by and protected by the Iowa Constitution. The Department is charged by law to use the Trust Fund dollars to fund its natural resource protection, management, research, and enhancement activities.

While funded by a specific user group, the Trust Fund pays significant dividends to all Iowans. The Department’s three Trust Fund-managing bureaus (Wildlife, Fisheries, and Law Enforcement)

ensure the health and abundance of Iowa's natural heritage, which underpins substantial economic activity. Simply put, the fees paid by sportsmen and sportswomen support the conservation infrastructure that benefits the State's economy, the environment, and Iowans' quality of life.

Analysis of Impact

1. Persons affected by the proposed rulemaking:

• Classes of persons that will bear the costs of the proposed rulemaking:

Sportsmen and sportswomen who purchase hunting, trapping, or fishing licenses will bear the costs.

• Classes of persons that will benefit from the proposed rulemaking:

Iowans and all visitors to this State will benefit. Iowa's protected and enhanced natural resources benefit the State's economy, the environment, and residents' quality of life.

2. Impact of the proposed rulemaking, economic or otherwise, including the nature and amount of all the different kinds of costs that would be incurred:

• Quantitative description of impact:

Economic impacts of this proposed rulemaking are constrained by the Iowa Code to a 5 percent increase. This is a modest increase; for example, current resident fishing licenses will change from \$20 to \$21. However, every cent is important: license fees are a vital source of revenue for the Department's active promotion, management, research, and protection of Iowa's natural resources.

• Qualitative description of impact:

There is no qualitative impact beyond what is anticipated in the Iowa Code.

3. Costs to the State:

• Implementation and enforcement costs borne by the agency or any other agency:

No costs are borne by the agency or any other agency. Raising license fees will not result in increased costs to the Department. Rather, the license fees are a vital revenue source for the Department's natural resource management and protection activities.

• Anticipated effect on State revenues:

The proposed rulemaking will increase hunting, trapping, and fishing license fees by 5 percent, generating more revenue for the Trust Fund. These fees are only paid by persons who choose to participate in these recreational activities. License revenue along with federal funds generated by excise taxes on outdoor sporting equipment are deposited into the Trust Fund, which is dedicated to Iowa's natural resources by and protected by the Iowa Constitution.

4. Comparison of the costs and benefits of the proposed rulemaking to the costs and benefits of inaction:

The public will benefit from the Department's continued management of Iowa's natural resources. A two-prong approach is essential to maintaining status quo services: license fees need to be modestly increased, but the Department also needs to strategically reduce operational expenses. Both are necessary to bridge the growing gap between revenues and expenses and ensure the long-term viability of the Trust Fund. More information can be found in the 2025 Trust Fund Report found here (beneath the "Recreation" header): www.iowadnr.gov/about/grants-funding.

5. Determination whether less costly methods or less intrusive methods exist for achieving the purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

No less costly or less intrusive methods exist. Importantly, the Department is, simultaneously with this proposed rulemaking, developing comprehensive spending adjustments to reduce operational expenditures and maximize efficiency. The two-pronged approach of raising license fees by a modest 5 percent paired with cost-containment measures is essential to bridging the revenue/expense gap and ensuring the long-term viability of the Trust Fund.

6. Alternative methods considered by the agency:

- **Description of any alternative methods that were seriously considered by the agency:**

The Department is actively working to reduce costs and improve efficiencies.

- **Reasons why alternative methods were rejected in favor of the proposed rulemaking:**

Not applicable. The Department is mandated by law to protect and manage Iowa's wildlife and natural resources, and funding for this important work comes from the constitutionally protected Trust Fund, which is populated with license fees and dedicated federal dollars.

Small Business Impact

If the rulemaking will have a substantial impact on small business, include a discussion of whether it would be feasible and practicable to do any of the following to reduce the impact of the rulemaking on small business:

- Establish less stringent compliance or reporting requirements in the rulemaking for small business.
- Establish less stringent schedules or deadlines in the rulemaking for compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Consolidate or simplify the rulemaking's compliance or reporting requirements for small business.
- Establish performance standards to replace design or operational standards in the rulemaking for small business.
- Exempt small business from any or all requirements of the rulemaking.

If legal and feasible, how does the rulemaking use a method discussed above to reduce the substantial impact on small business?

The proposed rulemaking does not have any impact on small business.

Text of Proposed Rulemaking

ITEM 1. Amend rule 571—15.10(483A) as follows:

571—15.10(483A) Licenses—fees. Except as otherwise provided by law, a person shall not fish, trap, hunt, harvest, pursue, catch, kill, take in any manner, use, have possession of, sell, or transport all or a part of any wild animal, bird, game, turtle, or fish, the protection and regulation of which is desirable for the conservation of resources of the state, without first obtaining a license for that purpose and paying a fee as follows:

15.10(1) Residents.

- Fishing license, annual — ~~\$20~~ \$21.
- Fishing license, three-year — ~~\$60~~ \$63.
- Fishing license, seven-day — ~~\$13.50~~ \$14.
- Fishing license, one-day — ~~\$8.50~~ \$8.75.
- Third-line fishing permit, annual — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
- Fishing license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
- Fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran or POW — \$5.
- Paddlefish fishing license, annual — ~~\$23.50~~ \$24.50.
- Trout fishing fee — ~~\$12.50~~ \$13.
- Boundary waters sport trotline license, annual — ~~\$24~~ \$25.
- Hunting license, annual — ~~\$20~~ \$21.
- Hunting license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$33~~ \$34.50.
- Hunting license, three-year, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$99~~ \$103.75.
- Hunting license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
- Combination hunting and fishing license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$53~~ \$55.50.
- Combination hunting and fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran or POW — \$5.

- q. Deer hunting license — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
 - r. First antlerless deer license — ~~\$25.50~~ \$26.75.
 - s. Additional antlerless deer license — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
 - t. Wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$13~~ \$13.50.
 - u. Migratory game bird fee — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
 - v. Wild turkey hunting license — ~~\$26.50~~ \$27.75.
 - w. Fur harvester license, annual — ~~\$24~~ \$25.
 - x. Fur harvester license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$37~~ \$38.75.
 - y. Fur harvester license, annual, under 16 years of age — ~~\$5.50~~ \$5.75.
 - z. Fur harvester license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$59.50~~ \$62.
 - aa. Fur dealer license, annual — ~~\$264~~ \$277.
 - bb. Aquaculture unit license, annual — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
 - cc. Retail bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$36~~ \$37.75.
 - dd. Wholesale bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.
 - ee. Game breeder license, annual — ~~\$18~~ \$18.75.
 - ff. Taxidermy license, annual — ~~\$18~~ \$18.75.
 - gg. Trout fishing license, lifetime, 65 years of age or older — ~~\$63~~ \$66.
 - hh. Trout fishing license, lifetime, disabled veteran — ~~\$63~~ \$66.
 - ii. Fishing license, annual, veteran — \$5.
 - jj. Combination hunting and fishing license, annual, veteran — \$5.
- 15.10(2) Nonresidents.**
- a. Fishing license, annual — ~~\$46~~ \$48.
 - b. Fishing license, seven-day — ~~\$35.50~~ \$37.
 - c. Fishing license, three-day — ~~\$18.50~~ \$19.
 - d. Fishing license, one-day — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
 - e. Third-line fishing permit, annual — ~~\$12~~ \$12.50.
 - f. Paddlefish fishing license, annual — ~~\$47~~ \$49.
 - g. Trout fishing fee — ~~\$15.50~~ \$16.
 - h. Boundary waters sport trotline license, annual — ~~\$47.50~~ \$49.75.
 - i. Hunting license, annual — ~~\$129~~ \$135.
 - j. Hunting license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$142~~ \$149.
 - k. Hunting license, annual, under 18 years of age — ~~\$30~~ \$31.50.
 - l. Hunting license, annual, under 18 years of age, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$43~~ \$45.
 - m. Hunting license, five-day (not applicable to deer or wild turkey seasons) — ~~\$75~~ \$78.50.
 - n. Hunting license, five-day, including the wildlife habitat fee (not applicable to deer or wild turkey seasons) — ~~\$88~~ \$92.
 - o. Deer hunting license, antlered or any-sex deer — ~~\$345.50~~ \$362.75.
 - p. Deer hunting license, antlerless-deer-only, required with the purchase of an antlered or any-sex deer hunting license — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.
 - q. Deer hunting license, antlerless-deer-only — ~~\$263.50~~ \$276.50.
 - r. Preference point issued under Iowa Code section 483A.7(3)“b” or 483A.8(3)“e” — ~~\$58.50~~ \$61.
 - s. Holiday deer hunting license issued under Iowa Code section 483A.8(6), antlerless-deer-only — ~~\$88~~ \$92.
 - t. Wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$13~~ \$13.50.
 - u. Migratory game bird fee — ~~\$10~~ \$10.50.
 - v. Wild turkey hunting license, annual — ~~\$117~~ \$122.75.
 - w. Fur harvester license, annual — ~~\$232~~ \$243.50.
 - x. Fur harvester license, annual, including the wildlife habitat fee — ~~\$245~~ \$257.
 - y. Fur dealer license, annual — ~~\$586.50~~ \$615.75.
 - z. Fur dealer license, one-day, one location — ~~\$292.50~~ \$307.

- aa.* Location permit for fur dealer — ~~\$66~~ \$69.
- bb.* Aquaculture unit license, annual — ~~\$66~~ \$69.
- cc.* Retail bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$146.50~~ \$153.75.
- dd.* Wholesale bait dealer license, annual — ~~\$292.50~~ \$307.
- ee.* Game breeder license, annual — ~~\$30.50~~ \$32.
- ff.* Taxidermy license, annual — ~~\$30.50~~ \$32.