

CHAPTER 80  
SALVAGE OF FISH AND GAME

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 6/17/31

**571—80.1(481A) Salvage.** Salvage authorizes the possession of confiscated fish or game or game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle on a public highway for the purpose of human consumption or the feeding of domestic animals. Any other benefits derived from the possession of legally salvaged game (such as legal sale of hides, plumage, or antlers) is a secondary benefit only. Peace officers are not to salvage game solely for the purpose of financial gain or commercial taxidermy.

**80.1(1)** The following game when accidentally killed by a motor vehicle shall not be considered salvageable: spotted fawn deer and hen pheasants.

**80.1(2)** All salvaged game or fish shall be accompanied with a salvage tag signed by the holder and a peace officer or designee of the director of the department of natural resources and shall be valid for the time period assigned on the tag. The salvage tag shall remain with the game or fish until the game or fish is consumed. All salvage tags referred to in this chapter are not transferable.

[ARC 0270D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]

**571—80.2(481A) Game killed by motor vehicle.**

**80.2(1)** Any person wanting to possess game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle on a highway shall immediately contact the nearest conservation officer, Iowa state trooper, sheriff's department, or police department to request and receive a salvage tag prior to taking possession of said game. The whole carcass of the game animal must be removed from the scene.

**80.2(2)** When a request is made for game accidentally killed by a motor vehicle, the game shall, when salvageable, be disposed of in accordance with the following priorities:

- a. Individuals involved in the accident;
- b. Public institutions;
- c. Nonprofit organizations;
- d. Others.

[ARC 0270D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]

**571—80.3(481A) Confiscated fish or game.**

**80.3(1)** The following conditions shall apply to a person being allowed to take possession of fish or game confiscated by the department of natural resources or a court.

**80.3(2)** Confiscated fish or game, when salvageable, shall be disposed of in accordance with the following priorities:

- a. Public institutions.
- b. Nonprofit organizations.
- c. Others.

[ARC 0270D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]

**571—80.4(481A) Deadheads and shed-antlers.**

**80.4(1)** Naturally shed deer antlers may be collected and possessed at any time of year.

**80.4(2)** Found-dead deer heads with attached antlers, also known as deadheads, may be collected and possessed by individuals who possess a valid hunting license and have paid the habitat fee pursuant to Iowa Code section 483A.1 unless exempt under Iowa Code section 483A.24(1) or 483A.24(8). Collection is permitted during the following time periods under the following conditions:

- a. February 1 through July 31: an individual must electronically complete and submit a deadhead report and possession authorization through the department's website prior to collecting and possessing each deadhead. The unique authorization number shall be affixed to and remain with the deadhead.
- b. August 1 through January 31: an individual must contact the local conservation officer and request a physical deadhead tag prior to taking possession. Verbal or electronic authorization from a

conservation officer is sufficient for temporary possession until a physical tag can be issued and affixed by a conservation officer. The physical tag shall remain affixed to the deadhead.

**80.4(3)** This rule does not apply to deer that have been shot or killed by unlawful methods or means.  
[ARC 0270D, IAB 5/13/26, effective 6/17/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 481A.11, 481A.38, and 481A.39.

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