

2025 WAFS Photo Fishing Contest Info and Rules

Contest details and rules are as follows:

Who can participate?: All WAFS members. Note: You must have **paid your dues** for that year to submit entries.

How long does the contest run?: The contest will be **open year round** and begins January 7, 2025 (1 day after the last day to submit entries for 2024) and officially ends 2 weeks prior to the WI AFS Meeting in 2026 (date still to be determined). Last day to submit photos will be announced on our Facebook page and via Google Groups.

What fish qualify?: Any fish caught legally (within an open season, not in refuges) with hook and line methods and from **public waters of Wisconsin** will be eligible for entry. This includes WI portions of Lake Michigan and Superior and border rivers such as the Mississippi, St. Croix, St. Louis, and Menomonie in stretches where they border WI. Any species of fish can be entered (point system discussed below). Fish caught while working (when you are on the clock) or for the purpose of research do not count.

How do I enter a fish?: All submissions must consist of a photograph of the angler and the fish ("fish selfies" are acceptable). Photos of "fish only" will be disqualified if they affect angler standings. For very small fish, a second close-up photo that does not include the angler is suggested for species verification. **Each submitted fish must include a measured length** (down to the half or tenth inch OR mm) and the location of catch. This can be as simple as "Vilas County Lake" if you don't want to give up a honey-hole (need to at least have a county). This will predominantly be an honor system, but a photograph of the fish on a measuring board may be submitted if the angler chooses and these photos may be used in tie-breaker situations. The contest administrator reserves the right to call B.S. or the right to convene a panel of B.S. experts to review submissions.

ALL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO: **wafsfishing@gmail.com or via Facebook Messenger (WAFS Fishing Contest)**

Scoring: ANY species of fish can be submitted. The angler possessing the largest specimen of any species will be awarded a minimum of 1 point. The angler who holds the largest specimen for the following high-profile species will receive 3 points: Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Black Crappie, Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Channel Catfish, and Flathead Catfish. We will award 2 points each for the largest inland and great lakes (+tributaries) catch for Brown Trout, Lake Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Brook Trout. 2 points will be awarded for all the Wisconsin American Fisheries Society's Top 10 Unglamorous Fish. These species are: Black Bullhead, Bowfin, Burbot, Central Mudminnow, Common Carp, Freshwater Drum, Longnose Gar, Northern Hog Sucker, Pirate Perch, and Slimey Sculpin. Once a bigger specimen is caught by another angler, the points for that species transfer to the new angler. Identifiable hybrids including Tiger Musky, Tiger Trout, Saugeye, and Splake will count as a unique species (panfish or minnow hybrids will not). In the case of a legitimate tie, points will be awarded to both anglers for that species. The angler with the most points at the end of the contest will be declared the winner.