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MO State-Record Sunfish Caught

JUNE 05TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

MO State-Record Sunfish Caught

**Taney County angler catches state-record sunfish
Congratulations to Dominik Penner on breaking the state record by catching a 1-pound, 5-ounce redear sunfish on a trotline.**

Taney County, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports Dominik Penner of Merriam Woods Village became the most recent record-breaking angler in Missouri when he caught a redear sunfish on Table Rock Lake. The new “alternative method” record fish caught by Penner on May 14 weighed 1 pound, 5 ounces. Penner’s recent catch broke the previous state record of 1-pound, 1-ounce, caught earlier this year.

Penner caught the fish on a trotline. A trotline is a heavy fishing line with baited hooks attached at intervals by means of branch lines called snoods. A snood is a short length of line which is attached to the main line using a clip or swivel with the hook at the end.

MDC weighed the redear sunfish on a certified scale at Shepherd of the Hills Fish Hatchery in Branson.

“This is the sixth state-record fish this year. 2017 is shaping up to be a year for state-record fish,” said MDC Fisheries Programs Specialist Andrew Branson. “The mild weather we have had this year means more anglers are fishing, and catching big fish.”

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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Angler Catches State-Record Redear Sunfish

MAY 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Angler Catches State-Record Redear Sunfish

Congratulations to James Lucas on breaking the state record by catching a 1-pound, 1-ounce redear sunfish with a throwline.

O'Fallon, Missouri - The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reports James Lucas of O'Fallon became the most recent record-breaking angler in Missouri when he caught a redear sunfish on a private pond in Lincoln County. The new “alternative

method” record fish caught by Lucas on March 24 weighed 1 pound, 1 ounce. Lucas’ recent catch broke the previous state record of 6-ounces, caught in 1996.

“I was pretty excited when I pulled the redear sunfish out of the water because fishing that day wasn’t easy,” James Lucas said.

Lucas added the weather outside wasn’t great for fishing when he caught the new state record.

“I’m just thankful my friend drove the boat and braved the conditions with me while I caught another state-record fish,” Lucas said.

Lucas is pretty familiar with state-record fish, as he now holds two of them in Missouri.

“I caught this fish on purpose with my throwline because I want to break more state records,” Lucas said.

Lucas caught the fish with a throwline. A throwline is a method for catching fish that involves lowering or throwing a fishing line into the water without the use of a rod and reel. The line can be anchored to an object on shore or held in hand.

“I choose to use a throwline because it is very challenging, and I enjoy a challenge!” said Lucas.

MDC weighed the redear sunfish on a certified scale in O’Fallon.

“This is the fourth state-record fish this year. 2017 is shaping up to be a year for state-record fish,” said MDC Fisheries Programs Specialist Andrew Branson. “The mild weather we have had this year means more anglers are fishing, and catching big fish.”

Lucas said he released the redear sunfish back into the private pond, and now plans to go after more state-record fish.

Missouri state-record fish are recognized in two categories: pole-and-line and alternative methods. Alternative methods include: throwlines, trotlines, limb lines, bank lines, jug lines, spearfishing, snagging, snaring, gigging, grabbing, archery, and atlatl.

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MDC Sets Game Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Season

MAY 26TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

MDC Sets Game Bird and Waterfowl Hunting Season

MDC sets migratory game bird and waterfowl hunting seasons

New hunting-zone boundaries approved in 2016 will be implemented beginning this year.

Jefferson City, Missouri - At its April 7 meeting, the Missouri Conservation Commission approved recommendations from the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for the upcoming 2017 migratory-game-bird hunting season and 2017-2018 waterfowl hunting season.

2017 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING

Mourning Doves, Eurasian Collared Doves, and White-Winged Doves

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 29

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in possession combined total for all three species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Sora and Virginia Rails

Season: Sept. 1 through Nov. 9

Limits: 25 daily and 75 in possession combined for both species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Wilson's (Common) Snipe

Season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 16

Limits: 8 daily and 24 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

American Woodcock

Season: Oct. 15 through Nov. 28

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

2017-2018 WATERFOWL HUNTING

Duck-season dates for 2017-2018 provide additional late-season hunting opportunities.

Teal

Season: Sept. 9-24

Limits: 6 daily and 18 in possession

Hours: Sunrise to sunset

Ducks

Season:

North Zone: Nov. 4 through Jan. 2, 2018

Middle Zone: Nov. 4 through 10 and Nov. 16 through Jan. 7, 2018

South Zone: Nov. 23 through 26 and Dec. 4 through Jan. 28, 2018

Bag Limit: 6 ducks daily with species restrictions of:

- 4 mallards (no more than 2 females)
- 3 scaup
- wood ducks
- 2 redheads
- 2 hooded mergansers
- 1 pintail (*new limit*)
- 2 canvasbacks
- 2 black ducks (*new limit*)
- 1 mottled duck

Possession Limit: Three times the daily bag or 18 total, varies by species

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Coots

Season: Same as duck season dates in the respective zones

Limits: 15 daily and 45 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Snow, Blue, and Ross's Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2018

Limits: 20 blue, snow, or Ross's geese daily with no possession limit

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

White-Fronted Geese

Season: Nov. 11 through Feb. 6, 2018

Limits: 2 daily and 6 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Canada Geese and Brant

Season: Oct. 7-15 and Nov. 11 – Feb. 6, 2018

Limits: 3 Canada geese and brant in aggregate daily, 9 in possession

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Light Goose Conservation Order

Season: Feb. 7, 2018, through April 30, 2018

Limits: No daily or possession limits

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset

Requirements: Persons must possess a Conservation Order permit to participate in the Conservation Order.

An exception to the above permit requirement includes any person 15 years of age or younger provided either she or he is in the immediate presence of a properly permitted adult hunter 18 years of age or older with hunter-education certification or who is exempt.

Methods: For the taking of blue, snow and Ross's geese, hunters may use shotguns capable of holding more than three shells and recorded or electronically amplified bird calls or sounds or imitations of bird calls or sounds.

YOUTH HUNTING DAYS

North Zone: Oct. 28 and 29

Middle Zone: Oct. 28 and 29

South Zone: Nov. 18 and 19

Limits: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Hours: Same as during regular waterfowl season

Requirements: Any person 15 years of age or younger may participate in youth waterfowl hunting days without

permit provided they are in the immediate presence of an adult 18 years of age or older. If the youth hunter is not certified in hunter education, the adult must have the required permits and have in his or her possession proof of hunter-education unless exempt. The adult may not hunt ducks but may participate in other seasons that are open on youth hunting days.

FALCONRY SEASONS

Falconry Season for Doves

Season: Sept. 1 through Dec. 16

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession, singly, or in the aggregate (any ducks, coots, or mergansers taken by falconers must be included in these limits)

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

Falconry Season for Ducks, Coots, and Mergansers

Season: Open during duck seasons (September teal season, youth hunting days, and duck seasons) and Feb. 10 through March 10

Limits: 3 daily and 9 in possession, singly, or in the aggregate during the regular duck-hunting seasons (including teal and youth seasons) and extended falconry seasons (any doves taken by falconers must be included in these limits)

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset

HUNTING ZONE DESCRIPTIONS

New hunting-zone boundaries approved in 2016 will be implemented beginning this year. A map of the new hunting zones will be included in the MDC "2017 Waterfowl Hunting Digest," available beginning this summer where hunting permits are sold.

NORTH ZONE: That portion of Missouri north of a line running west from the Illinois border at Lock and Dam 25; west on Lincoln County Hwy. N to Mo. Hwy. 79; south on Mo. Hwy. 79 to Mo. Hwy. 47; west on Mo. Hwy. 47 to I-70; west on I-70 to U.S. Hwy. 63; north on U.S. Hwy. 63 to U.S. Hwy. 24, west on U.S. Hwy. 24 to Mo. Hwy. 10, west on Mo. Hwy. 10 to U.S. Hwy. 69, north on U.S. Hwy. 69 to Mo. Hwy. 116, west on Mo. Hwy. 116 to U.S. Hwy. 59, south on U.S. Hwy. 59 to the Kansas border.

SOUTH ZONE: That portion of Missouri south of a line running west from the Illinois border on Mo. Hwy. 74 to Mo. Hwy. 25; south on Mo. Hwy. 25 to U.S. Hwy. 62; west on U.S. Hwy. 62 to Mo. Hwy. 53; north on Mo. Hwy. 53 to Mo. Hwy. 51; north on Mo. Hwy. 51 to U.S. Hwy. 60; west on U.S. Hwy. 60 to Mo. Hwy. 21; north on Mo. Hwy. 21 to Mo. Hwy. 72; west on Mo. Hwy. 72 to Mo. Hwy. 32; west on Mo. Hwy. 32 to U.S. Hwy. 65; north on U.S. Hwy. 65 to U.S. Hwy. 54; west on U.S. Hwy. 54 to the Kansas border.

MIDDLE ZONE: The remainder of Missouri.

NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENTS

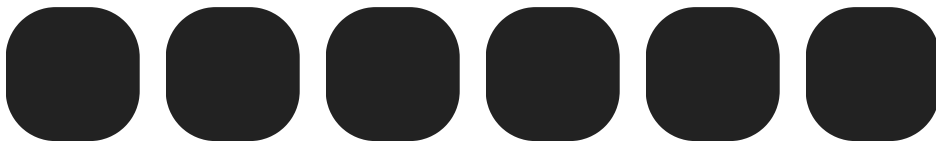
Shells possessed or used while hunting waterfowl and coots statewide, and for other species as designated by posting on public areas, must be loaded with material approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service.

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Squirrel Season Opens Memorial Day Weekend

MAY 23RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Squirrel Season Opens Memorial Day Weekend

Missouri - Memorial Day weekend brings an extra-special celebration for squirrel hunters and bass anglers in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reminds them that the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27, marks the opening of both squirrel season statewide and catch-and-keep bass season in most streams south of the Missouri River.

Hunters can pursue fox and gray squirrels from May 27 through Feb. 15, 2018, with rifles, shotguns, and other legal firearms methods, along with archery equipment, slingshots, or

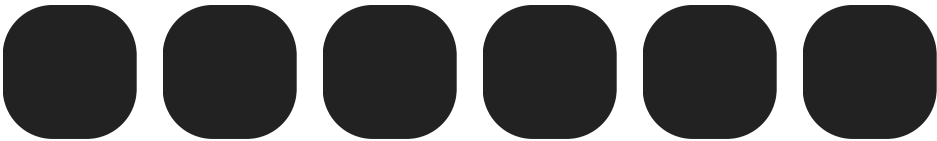
atlatls. The daily limit for hunting and trapping is 10 with a possession limit of 20. Valid permits for squirrel hunting are: Archery Hunting, Daily Small Game, Small Game Hunting and Fishing, and Small Game Hunting.

Hunters with valid permits can also take squirrels with cage-type traps. Traps must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the user's full name and address, or conservation number. Squirrel traps must have openings measuring 144 square inches or less, for instance, 12 inches by 12 inches. Hunters must attend their traps daily. The same regulations apply to rabbits and groundhogs during their respective seasons.

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Bass Season Opens on Memorial Day Weekend

MAY 23RD 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bass Season Opens on Memorial Day Weekend

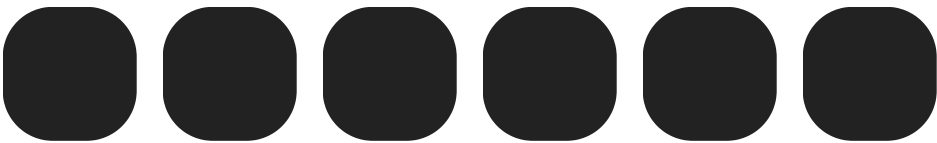
Memorial Day weekend brings an extra-special celebration bass anglers in Missouri. The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) reminds them that the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 27, marks the opening of both squirrel season statewide and catch-and-keep bass season in most streams south of the Missouri River.

The black bass catch-and-keep season applies to most streams south of the Missouri River for largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted or Kentucky bass and runs from May 27 to Feb. 28, 2018. Anglers may catch and release these species legally all year, anywhere in the state. They may keep legal-sized bass caught from impoundments and some rivers and streams all year long, statewide. In most of the state's waters, the daily limit on black bass is six. Black bass taken from rivers and streams must be at least 12 inches long in most areas. Additional specific regulations may apply to specific waters or areas. Anglers must have a valid fishing permit or be exempt.

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