



# Tiger Muskies

Daily bag and possession limits: One (1) tiger muskie 40 inches or longer.

## Pointers on Catch and Release

- A few key tools will make it easier for you and the fish: long-nosed pliers, small bolt cutters, hook-outs, jaw spreaders, a large landing net (hoop no smaller than 30 inches) or a cradle, floating ruler and camera.
- Don't play the fish to exhaustion. Net or cradle the fish when it's ready and leave it in the water while taking measurements and removing hooks. Cut hooks if necessary. If the hook is deep in the fish, cut the line as close to hook as possible and leave the hook inside. For this reason, fishing for tiger muskies with bait such as hotdogs is discouraged.
- Only remove the fish from the water for a quick photograph.
- Support the weight of the entire fish. Avoid holding the fish by the gill plates only, because vertical holds will injure the fish.
- To release, hold the fish upright in the water until it is ready to maintain an upright position and swim away strongly.

**With careful handling**, muskies have the potential to be recaptured several times over their lifetime. A 40-inch tiger muskie is usually about seven years old and has spent its life serving an important purpose — to control nongame fish while providing anglers an enjoyable challenge.



*Use a large landing net (hoop no smaller than 30 inches).*



*Leave the fish in the water while taking measurements and removing hooks.*



*Hold the fish upright in the water until it is ready to swim away.*

For more information visit [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)



**New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**

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