

1710.20 Scientific Collectors for Fisheries

Issued: January 1, 1994
Revised: July 8, 2024

PURPOSE

To provide the procedure for obtaining a scientific collectors permit.

APPLICATION

Executive Branch Departments and Sub-units, community colleges and state universities, educational institutions, zoos, nature centers, environmental consulting firms, and private citizens.

CONTACT AGENCY

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Fisheries Division

Telephone: 517--284-5830

Email: DNR-Fisheries@michigan.gov

Web: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/managing-resources/fisheries/cultural-scientific-collectors-permit-fisheries>

SUMMARY

When animals such as fish, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, and crustaceans are to be collected or possessed for research or education, and cannot reasonably be handled, obtained, or possessed under provisions of the sport or commercial fishing laws, the Director of DNR has the authority to issue permits for the handling, taking, and/or possession.

Scientific collectors' permits may be issued in any of the following requested categories:

Category 1: 5-year Permit

Limited issuance to permanent state and federal agency employees and permanently established zoos. These permits are issued on a rotating 5-year basis. Such permits may be issued at any time during the standard 5-year rotation, but all shall have the same expiration date. They remain valid from issuance through expiration or until revoked sooner.

Category 2: 2-year Permit

Limited issuance to nature centers, museums, educational institutions, and individuals for small educational displays of live animals. These permits usually involve the continued possession of animals already in possession from previous years but may also involve minor collections of common species from the wild for permanent educational display.

Also included in this category are wildlife rehabilitators that are not collecting from the wild but require permitting to accept and possess injured animals (most frequently turtles) brought in by the public for care and rehabilitation.

Category 3: Annual

Issued to any applicants not described as permittees within Category 1 or 2. Such permits may be issued at any time of the year but expire on December 31 of the year issued.

Category 4: Limited Period Permits

Issued for a specific length of time. Example: Salmon in the Classroom permits which are issued for the corresponding school year.

APPLICABLE FORMS

[Scientific Collector Permit Application](#)

PROCEDURES

Agency

- Establishes a need for the collection, culture, or scientific study of any kind of fish, reptile, amphibian, mollusk, or crustacean, when sufficient authority is not available through provisions of the sport fishing, commercial fishing, or other laws.

Applicant

- Submits a request to the Fisheries Division through the online application procedure at www.michigan.gov/scientificcollectorspermit.
 - [Scientific Collector Permit Application](#)
 - Supervisors, professors, teachers, and/or leaders desiring to have an assistant(s) permitted to work independently under the approved permit must, on his/her application for permit, document the full name(s) of each assistant and their driver's license number(s) for listing on the permit.
 - To be considered for permit approval, students must provide the name of their sponsoring professor or teacher on the online application.

Divisional Scientific Collector's Permit Program Manager

- Qualifies prospective applicant(s) in relation to permit criteria.
- Issues or denies permit within a reasonable period of time, but not more than 45 days. Issued permits shall list all restrictions or conditions.
 - In order to ensure a named responsibility to the permit conditions, permits are issued only to individual applicants, and not to companies, corporations or other business entities.

- Emails a PDF version of the permit to the permittee along with directions for submitting the required end of year online report.
- Provides information on field contacts (names, locations and phone numbers) to permittee.
- Informs large collectors, operating over a wide area of the state, if they are responsible for initiating contacts with the DNR regional office, as well as the management units involved, prior to exercising permit privileges.
- Instructs permittees to maintain collections at specified minimum requirements and advises on standard procedures for fish taken in excess of scientific needs.
 - Maintains a database with information pertinent to each permit issued that is available upon request for use throughout the Fisheries and Law Enforcement divisions.

Agency

- Notifies appropriate District Fisheries and/or Law Supervisors when and where they will be working, using the permit.

Permittee

- May have to satisfy the responsible management unit biologist with regard to sampling conditions, sampling locations, dates and types of gear utilized, as well as disposition of fish. Must submit an annual report of the previous year's activities under the issued permit online at [Scientific Collector Permit Report](#)
- At the time of permit expiration, if the permittee desires to continue activities covered by the expiring permit, they must apply online for a new permit following the process outlined above.

Fisheries Division

- Reviews annual submitted online permit collection/activity reports to determine whether collections/activities were reasonable and whether conditions of the permit were followed.
- All information contained in the application and approved permit will be kept electronically in the Survey 1-2-3 "Cultural and Scientific Collector's Permit System." It is the permittee's responsibility to apply online for a new permit at the time of permit expiration, if desired.
