



Ranking 8 NFL teams' odds of making huge leap in '26

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Recreational fishing outpaces estimates



Collecting data on recreational fisheries is challenging. Unlike commercial fisheries that unload their catch at centralized ports, it is impossible to know where recreational fishers are and what they are catching across the entire country. HECTOR RETAMAL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Finding has implications for policymakers, ecosystems, more

Matthew Robertson Memorial University of Newfoundland | THE CONVERSATION

One of the United States' largest fisheries is hiding in plain sight. Recreational freshwater anglers in the lower 48 states catch – and keep – far more fish than any official body has estimated, according to new research from our team of North American fishery scientists.

Specifically, our analysis, which integrated thousands of recreational fishing surveys across the United States, found that people who engage in recreational fishing in the country's lakes, ponds and reservoirs catch between 2 billion and 6 billion fish each year. Many of them practice catch-and-release fishing, but even after accounting for all the fish released, we estimated that they keep between 230,000 and 670,000 metric tons of fish in the United States alone.

That's between 17 and 48 times more fish than prior U.S. estimates that have been reported to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

And it's about 20% of the United States' total recorded annual consumption of fresh fish that has not been frozen. We estimated the value of the recreational fish catch is roughly \$3 billion a year. By contrast, domestic commercial processed fishery products are valued at about \$12 billion a year.

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Even researchers' most conservative assumption of harvested fish – 236,000 metric tons – is much higher than the prior U.N. estimates of 13,388 metric tons.

ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

GAMBLING MACHINES



Two "no-chance" gambling machines await customers in 2021 at a Columbia convenience store.

RUDI KELLER/MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

Lawsuits challenge MO AG's crackdown

Rudi Keller MISSOURI INDEPENDENT

Two lawsuits filed in Cole County accuse Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway of unlawfully using threats of criminal prosecution to force bars and gas stations to shut down slot machine games.

The latest case, filed Friday, June 26 by an entity founded last year called the Missouri Licensing Advocacy Group based in Osage Beach, argues Hanaway and the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Control are threatening the liquor and other licenses of businesses that host the machines.

While state law requires anyone receiving a liquor license to be "of good moral character," that phrase is undefined in the statute and can't be invoked just because there is a game on the premises that the state believes is illegal.

According to the lawsuit, the organization has members who include liquor suppliers, convenience stores, bars and other licensees. The case was filed by the organization and not by any individual member.

The problem with the enforcement effort is that it treats all games as though they are illegal, said Samuel Trapp, co-founder of the organization.

"They come in and claim you're breaking the law, and suddenly you're tried, found guilty, convicted and there's no due process," Trapp said.

In a case filed June 18, a St. Charles County restaurant called Tuners Bar & Grill asked for class action status to sue Hanaway to block her from threatening prosecution if retailers do not turn off games at their locations.

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Parking, sidewalks to close for North Village Park construction

Charles Dunlap Columbia Daily Tribune USA TODAY NETWORK

Work to construct North Village Park will impact sidewalks and parking

starting July 1.

Sidewalks and parking spaces will close on the perimeter of the park, which includes areas along Orr Street, St. James Street, Ash Street and Park Avenue.

The city will remove existing infrastructure and construct new sidewalks and parking lanes on all four sides of the park. Work will include the installation of tree wells, porous paver parking spaces, concrete walkways, box

culvert, stormwater inlets, concrete parking spaces and underground utilities.

Sidewalks will reopen in stages as construction allows. All work should finish by December.

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