

## Gone Fishin'

**S**pending one's leisure time watching birds and other wildlife in the woods or fishing in one of Indiana's many lakes or streams can do a lot for the soul. More than three million people enjoyed such outdoor activities in Indiana in 1996, according to the recently released *1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Association Recreation*.

Recreation can also mean money, and \$1.7 billion was spent on wildlife-associated recreation in the state of Indiana in 1996. Most of it—\$1.25 billion—was spent on equipment purchases; another \$315 million was spent on trip-related expenses; and the remaining \$125 billion went for licenses, contributions, land ownership and leasing, and miscellaneous items and services.

Sportsmen (would that be "sportspersons"?) numbered 1.1 million in Indiana that year, including both resident and nonresident folks who fished or hunted in our Hoosier forests or fields or streams. Of these, 992,000 were anglers (81% Hoosiers) and 357,000 were hunters (94% Hoosiers). There is some redundancy between the two groups—that is, some are both hunters and anglers.

### Summary Statistics of Participants' Activities (Residents and Nonresidents 16 and Older)

#### Fishing

Number of anglers	992,000
Total days spent fishing	15,811,000
Average days per angler	16
Total expenditures	\$799,254,000
Average spent per angler	\$678
Average trip expenditure per day	\$13

#### Hunting

Number of hunters	357,000
Total days spent hunting	6,204,000
Average days per hunter	17
Total expenditures	\$272,693,000
Average per hunter	\$729
Average trip expenditure per day	\$8

#### Wildlife Watching

Number of participants	1,723,000
Total expenditures	\$285,665,000
Average per participant	\$161

 More detailed information is available at: [www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html](http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/fishing.html) 

