MFFA Angling Awards – Program Overview s Rules

Welcome to the MFFA Annual Angling Awards Program! The awards recognize achievement, promote exploration, and encourage participation across all experience levels.

Submission Rules s Process

Submission Process:

- All entries must be submitted using the ***official online form***
- **Deadline:** October 31 at 11:59 PM, each year.
- Required info: species, length, date, location. Photos are optional, but encouraged.

General Eligibility s Rules:

1. Only current **MFFA members** may enter.
2. All fish must be caught **on a fly** between **November 1 – October 31**.
3. **Unlimited entries** may be submitted throughout the season.
4. **Pay-to-fish facilities** are not eligible.
5. Members can only receive **one medal per species in a lifetime**; additional entries will be recognized with a certificate in other years.
6. Medals are only awarded for Manitoba fish; fish caught elsewhere receive certificates.
7. Out-of-province fish are not eligible (exception: Species awards where certificates will be awarded for out of province fish)
8. The MFFA executive reserves the right to disqualify any entry if catch-and-release best practices are clearly disregarded or if there is evidence of improper fish handling. Please ensure you are following *Keep Fish Wet Principles* to the best of your abilities.

Award Categories

1. Species Awards

Purpose:
To recognize the individual who catches the longest fly-caught fish per eligible species.

How it works:

- Awards follow the Travel Manitoba Master Angler style but use MFFA's own species list and size thresholds.
- The longest fish per qualifying species receives **Gold**.
- The next two longest qualifying entries receive **Silver** and **Bronze**, respectively.
- All Manitoba freshwater species listed in *The Freshwater Fishes of Manitoba* (Stewart C Watkinson, 2004) are eligible. The list is not considered closed.
- Entries must meet or exceed **species-specific minimum size** requirements *(See Table)*
- Fish caught outside of Manitoba may be submitted but only qualify for certificates (not medals).

Prize: Medal and/or certificate.

2. Species of the Year Award

Purpose:
To recognize the longest fly-caught fish of a designated species chosen annually by the executive.

How it works:

- One species is announced as "Fish of the Year" at the start of the season.
- The longest entry for that species wins this award, in addition to any medal earned under the Species Awards.
- Entries must meet or exceed **species-specific minimum size** requirements *(See Table)*
- All Manitoba species are eligible for selection

Prize: Trophy

3. Big Fish Award

Purpose:
To reward the angler who catches the largest single fish by length, fairly assessed across all species.

How it works:

- Fish are scored using the **Interspecies Comparison Index (ISCI)**, based on provincial standards but tailored for fly fishing. *(See Table)*
- The fish with the **highest ISCI score** wins.
- Entries must meet or exceed **species-specific minimum size** requirements (see table)

Prize: Trophy

4. Kingfisher Award

Purpose:
To honor the most well-rounded angler of the year.

Requirements:

- Submit 5 fly-caught fish of **5 different species**, in Manitoba.
- **Species breakdown:**
    - At least **2 cold-water species** (e.g., trout, Arctic char, Arctic grayling, lake whitefish).
    - At least **2 warm-water species** (e.g., pike, walleye, perch, catfish, bass, carp, etc).
    - The fifth may be from either category.
- All five fish are scored using ISCI. The highest **combined score** wins.
- Entries must meet or exceed **species-specific minimum size** requirement. *(See Table)*

Additional Rules:

- Previous winners may not win in back-to-back years.
- Past recipients must beat their own previous winning score to win again.

Prize: Trophy

5. Hidden Species / Hidden Length Award

Purpose:
Encourages participation from all members, especially newer or casual anglers, by de-emphasizing size and competition.

How it works:

- Before the season begins, a secret species and target length are chosen by the executive.
- All Manitoba species are eligible for selection, but it must be different from Species of the Year
- At season's end, the entry **closest to the secret length** for that species wins.
- If no eligible fish are submitted, a **random draw** will be held among all who submitted fish entries.

Eligibility:

- Executive members and winners of any other fishing award in the same year are **ineligible**.

Prize: $50 Fishing supply store gift card

6. The Wanderlust Award

Purpose:
To reward anglers who explore and fish the greatest number of **different Manitoba water bodies**.

How it works:

- Members may submit **one fish per species, per calendar day, per water body**.
- Each unique lake or river will count once toward the final tally
- Members can submit multiple entries from the same water body across different days (or for different species), but only one unique submission per water body will count toward the award total.
- However, in the event of a tie, the angler with the highest total number of submissions (from any lakes or rivers) will win.

Prize: $50 gas gift card