

To assist in the preservation of the muskellunge population in the St. Lawrence River, Save The River and the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS) sponsor a Muskie Release Award.

The release of fish ensures a future supply of naturally reproduced muskies as well as larger trophies for years to come! Since the inception of the muskellunge release award in 1987, over 500 muskies have been successfully released. Studies by TIBS indicated recent increases in muskellunge reproductive success and in average fish size by over three inches following the promotion of "catch and release" and increases in the size limit.

To encourage this practice, anglers who release a muskie 48" or larger during the fishing season (third Saturday in June through December 15) are eligible to receive a signed, limited edition print, St. Lawrence River Muskie! by St. Lawrence River artist Michael Ringer, available only through the Muskie Release Award program.

This information from studies conducted by SUNY-ESF and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). These two agencies are cooperating in research aimed at locating and protecting muskellunge spawning and nursery habitat and improving management to protect the species and the fishery.

We are asking for your help by voluntarily completing Section 2 of the attached Muskie Release Affidavit.

This information, received and compiled by Save The River, will be considered confidential and immediately forwarded to biologists with SUNY-ESF and DEC to monitor muskellunge population status.

Good luck and good fishing!

Cut Here

## Muskellunge Release Affidavit Section 1



Please print clearly.  
Information must be legible in order to qualify.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, a licensed angler and sports-  
Print name  
 person, caught a 48" (or over) muskellunge in \_\_\_\_\_ on  
Body of water  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date

In releasing the fish, I observed the following recommended procedures for a proper release in order to insure the well-being of the muskie:

- \* I unhooked the fish without removing it from the water. I cut the hooks with wire snips because the fish was hooked badly.
- \* Because the fish had to be removed from the water, I laid it on a wet surface and covered the eyes of the fish with a wet cloth to reduce thrashing.
- \* I did not hang or hold the fish vertically for photos or weighing, as it would damage the fish's internal organs.

I have honestly reported this 48"-or-larger muskellunge release in order to qualify for the Muskie Release Award.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature                      Valid Fishing Licence No. and Place Issued

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address and Zip Code

Two witnesses present at time of release of the legal muskie:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name    Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address and Telephone

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name    Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address and Telephone

## Muskellunge Research Data Section 2



- The 48" (or over) muskellunge I released was approximately \_\_\_\_\_ inches in length. (Please do not actually weigh or measure the fish, since it puts extreme stress on the fish, thus reducing the chance for survival).
- I caught the fish near \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_.  
Location    Time of day
- I caught the muskie on a \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_  
Bait, lure    Number  
 pound test line.
- I was \_\_\_\_\_ in about \_\_\_\_\_ feet of water.  
Trolling, casting
- I have spent \_\_\_\_\_ hours fishing for muskies this year and have caught a total of \_\_\_\_\_ muskies (legal and sub-legal).
- I am interested in participating in the SUNY-ESF Thousand Islands Biological Station Muskellunge Angler Diary Program.



Save The River is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance

Please return affidavits  
within 30 days of season close to:

Save The River  
409 Riverside Dr.  
Clayton, NY 13624

Return it in person and be photographed receiving your award after documentation is validated!