

Bullfrog



APPEARANCE

- Can be 8 inches in body length and over 1 foot long with legs outstretched
- Skin ranges from light green to dark olive to almost brown or black
- Large circular disk (tympanum, or eardrum) just behind the eyes

RANGE IN IOWA

- Statewide, though the natural range is along the Mississippi in the eastern and southern parts of the state

DIET

- Will eat anything it can fit in its mouth, including other frogs and toads, tadpoles, fish, small snakes, turtles, and even small birds and rodents

STATUS

- Valid Iowa fishing license required to possess as bait or food.

HABITAT

- Permanent bodies of water, including lakes, ponds, oxbows, backwaters, or slow parts of large rivers

FUN FACTS

- Iowa's largest frog
- Some frogs can change their skin color, becoming darker to absorb more heat
- Males will defend a territory with a 9-foot radius
- Females can lay up to 20,000 eggs in one cycle
- Bullfrog tadpoles take two years to transform into adults
- Spends the winter at the bottom of its lake or pond
- Males have a deep "rum" mating call

