The fall trout season provides an alternative fishing option at 37 locations throughout Illinois. October 16th is a date circled on calendars around the state. Long before the start time—as early as 5 a.m. at some locations—crowds will have gathered around 37 Illinois lakes as anglers anxiously await the opening of the 2010 fall trout season.

“Our catchable trout program is a fun and popular family activity, and a great opportunity to introduce children to fishing,” remarked Steve Pallo, head of the DNR Division of Fisheries.

“For many people, the attraction of the fall trout season is simply the chance to enjoy a crisp, autumn day and the opportunity to enjoy the fall weather and a limit of colorful trout.”

Anglers interested in fishing for trout at one of the 37 participating sites must possess a valid fishing license and an inland trout stamp (see Side bar for exemptions).
outdoors,” Pallo continued. “Others enjoy reeling in a good-fighting, colorful fish, which many claim tastes better than many other species.”

Illinois’ trout program began in 1982 and the annual stocking of more than 130,000 fish continues to be a self-sufficient program, with the revenues raised from the sale of Inland Trout Stamps supporting both the spring and fall trout seasons.

Go ahead; circle October 16th on your calendar.

Make this the year you add a little variety in your fall fishing creel or a new experience for the family.

For more information on fall trout season and other Illinois fishing opportunities, visit ifishillinois.org.

To take trout legally beginning at 5 a.m. Oct. 16, anglers must have a fishing license and an inland trout stamp, unless they are under the age of 16, blind or disabled, or are an Illinois resident on leave from active duty in the Armed Forces. The daily catch limit for each angler is five trout.

Illinois fishing licenses and inland trout stamps are available at DNR Direct license and permit locations, including many bait shops, sporting goods stores and other retail outlets. Fishing licenses and trout stamps can also be purchased by using a credit card through DNR Direct online at dnr.illinois.gov or by calling DNR Direct toll-free at 1-888-6PERMIT (1-888-673-7648).

For more information about site regulations and specific start times, anglers should contact the individual sites stocked with catchable-size trout.

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