LANSING—The DNR reminds everyone the annual Summer Free Fishing Weekend is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10.

On that weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply.

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Since 1986, Michigan has annually celebrated the Summer Free Fishing Weekend as a way to promote awareness of the state's vast aquatic resources and the sheer fun of fishing.

With more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, 36,000 miles of rivers and 11,000 inland lakes, Michigan and fishing go hand in hand.

"This summer's Free Fishing Weekend is a great way to get outdoors and experience some of the finest freshwater fishing in the world," said DNR Director Rodney Stokes.

"Fishing is such an affordable activity – anyone can pursue it – so get out this June and try it yourself, for free!"

To encourage involvement in Free Fishing Weekends, organized activities are being scheduled in communities across the state.

In Iron County, there will be a kids fishing derby at Bewabic State Park.

The Kids' Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the park's day use area.

"We have received welcome support from the community including many donations, said Jim Peace, park officer.

"We invite families to come out to Bewabic Park for a day of fishing fun. Don't worry if you don't know how, we will teach you."

Ages 0 to 15 will be able to enter the fishing derby divided into three age groups. Top prizes will be awarded for the largest fish caught, longest cast and most accurate cast.

While the event itself is entirely free of charge, there is the recreation passport requirement for vehicular entry into the park.