

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, August 17, 2017, at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. At that time, regulations and business pertaining to the operation of the Game and Fish Commission and other fiscal and administrative matters will be considered and acted upon, and all interested persons are invited to attend. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held throughout the day on Wednesday, August 16, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Enforcement Training Center, 213 B. Highway 89 South, Mayflower, AR 72106, and all interested persons are invited to attend.

Items on the agenda for the August 17, 2017, 9:00 a.m. meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the July 20, 2017 Commission Meeting, plus various Hunting and Fishing Regulations and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including but not limited to:

2017-18 Fishing Regulations – Adoption of general fishing regulations, to become effective on January 1, 2018, including, but not limited to:

- Amend regulations to prohibit use of live wild-caught baitfish unless such baitfish was caught within the same waterbody being fished or from a tributary entering upstream of the waterbody, and require that no baitfish may be moved upstream past a dam or barrier that prohibits the normal passage of fish; plus include an exception to allow use of baitfish purchased from a licensed dealer selling only certified, farm-raised baitfish.
- Amend regulation prohibiting the taking or attempted taking of baitfish for commercial purposes in certain waters to allow Gizzard and Threadfin Shad to be taken for commercial use in certain listed counties in compliance with Code 26.27.
- Amend regulations for game fish daily limits to: (1) remove exception for Striped Bass/Hybrid Striped Bass on Lake Maumelle; (2) increase limits for Catfish and Crappie on Lower White Oak Lake; (3) decrease limit for Catfish to statewide limits on Millwood Lake; (4) and establish exception for no daily limit for Crappie on Lake Charles.
- Amend regulations for length and protected length limits on certain lakes and rivers to: (1) clarify the boundary applicable to Lake Conway for Crappie 10-inch minimum length limit; (2) implement 18-21 inch slot limit (with one fish over 21 inches) for Largemouth Bass on Lower White Oak Lake; (3) remove 13-16 inch slot limit for Largemouth Bass on Dierks Lake; (4) remove 13-inch minimum length limit on Lake Ouachita for Spotted Bass; and (5) remove 15-inch minimum length limit for Largemouth Bass on Caddo Pond (Montgomery County) and Shady Lake (Polk County).
- Amend regulation for restricting Trout retention to make culling of all species of Trout unlawful on all waters in the state. The amended regulation prohibits release of any Trout after it has been placed on a stringer, within a fish basket, live well, ice chest or retained by any other device.
- Amend regulations for specific Trout waters to: (1) reduce the number of rods permitted on Narrows Tailwater (Little Missouri River below Narrows Dam) and Spring River from two rods to one rod per individual; (2) remove requirement for Big Spring (at Cotter) that fishing derbies must be requested and permitted in writing by AGFC District 2 fisheries

biologist; and (3) close access within 100 yards below Dam Number 3 on Spring River, including prohibiting any fishing, boating, or wading in the main channel of Spring River within 100 yards of Dam No. 3.

- Amend regulations for commercial fishing season restrictions to: (1) prohibit possession of commercial fishing tackle on all closed waters; (2) close all commercial fishing in Dallas County; and (3) close commercial fishing in Ouachita County, with exception of the Ouachita River south of Highway 79 Bridge.
- Amend Alligator Gar regulations, including closing the Alligator Gar commercial fishery, prohibiting possession of Alligator Gar by commercial fishermen, and establishing Alligator Gar trophy fishing regulations.
- Amend regulation for commercial fishing restrictions in certain waters to require commercial fishermen to register with local district fisheries biologist at Hope Regional Office prior to fishing Millwood Lake and submit monthly catch records.
- Amend regulations for commercial fisherman's permit and reporting requirements, and for commercial tackle tag requirements, to clarify commercial fisherman helper's permit conditions and use of metal tags for fishing tackle.
- Amend regulation for restricting possession or use of fiddler size hoop nets and slat type fish traps to allow use of fiddler nets and slat traps in Boeuf River from the Louisiana state line to the point of origin.
- Amend regulation for baitfish tackle restrictions to allow baitfish to be caught in traps with up to 3/4 inch wire or mesh.
- Amend regulation for restricting hogging and noodling to change season opening dates (from June 1 to May 15) for portion of the state south and east of U.S. Highway 67 and on the Arkansas River.
- Establish new regulation to prohibit the taking of Grass Carp on Lake Columbia.

Also, to become effective on November 1, 2017, amend regulations for commercial fishing restrictions in certain waters to open a special commercial fishing season on Lake Chicot to address Silver Carp, including requiring commercial fishermen to register prior to fishing with the local district fisheries biologist, submit monthly catch records, and remove all species of carp and all rough fish, excluding Alligator Gar (Alligator Gar must be released back into the lake).

2017-18 Hunting Regulations – Adoption of general hunting regulation changes including, but not limited to:

- Amend regulation for Alligator, Bear, Deer, and Turkey tagging requirements to clarify that harvest information reflecting the name, address, species, sex, date taken, and check confirmation number must remain with all portions of the game until reaching the point of final storage.
- Amend regulation for permit requirements on certain WMAs to clarify that it is unlawful to hunt, trap, boat or fish on any WMAs without first obtaining the required permit or permits, as specified in the regulation, including a WMA General Use Permit, which is required for all persons 16 years and older to hunt, fish, boat or trap on any WMAs.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the August 17, 2017, meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing

to this office on or before August 7, 2017. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office, at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

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