

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
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Name of Department Legal Division

Agency or Division Name Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person April M. Soman

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Name of Rule 38.01 Closure To All Commercial Harvest and Fishing

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing March 22, 23, and 24, 2020

Final Date for Public Comment April 23, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting AGFC Auditorium, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205,  
at 10:00 a.m.

### **~~38.01 Closure To All Commercial Harvest on Bayou Meto Bayou~~**

~~The Arkansas State Board of Health has quarantined Bayou Meto Bayou pursuant to law due to the contamination of the fish in the waters. The Commission has declared a closure to all commercial harvest in the waters described below: Big Bayou Meto and all tributaries extending 5 miles above their confluence with the bayou from the Arkansas Highway 11 bridge at the Jefferson/Arkansas County line to the headwaters of Bayou Meto, and all overflow lakes, sloughs and bayous, including Little Bayou Meto north of Arkansas Highway 88 and all water exchange ditches between Little Bayou Meto and Big Bayou Meto.~~

~~**EXCEPTION:** Bayou Meto and all associated overflow lakes, sloughs, and tributaries are reopened to commercial harvest from the Arkansas Highway 13 Bridge in Lonoke County downstream to the bayou's confluence with the Arkansas River.~~

~~**PENALTY:** Class 1~~

## **38.01 Closure To All Commercial Harvest and Fishing**

The Arkansas State Board of Health has issued a fish consumption advisory and closed the following bodies of water to commercial harvest and fishing:

- A. Big Bayou Meto and all tributaries extending 5 miles above their confluence with the bayou from the Arkansas Highway 11 bridge at the Jefferson/Arkansas County line to the headwaters of Bayou Meto, and all overflow lakes, sloughs and bayous, including Little Bayou Meto north of Arkansas Highway 88 and all water exchange ditches between Little Bayou Meto and Big Bayou Meto.
- B. Big Creek tributary in Columbia County from the intersection of the tributary with Arkansas Highway 82B and L&NW Railroad in Magnolia downstream to its confluence with Big Creek.
- C. Champagnolle Creek from its mouth to Arkansas Highway 4, including all of Little Champagnolle Creek in Calhoun County
- D. Moro Bay (Creek) from its mouth to Arkansas Highway 160
- E. Cut-Off Creek from the Arkansas Highway 35 Bridge in Drew County to the creek's confluence with Bayou Bartholomew in Ashley County.
- F. Bayou Bartholomew between Arkansas Highway 35 in Drew County and Arkansas Highway 82 in Ashley County, including all lakes, bays or other bodies of water, other than tributary streams.
- G. Certain fish in the lower Ouachita River and Saline River as specified below. These waters, including oxbows and overflow lakes when accessible by boat from the main channel, are open to legal commercial tackle as defined in Codes 30.05 and 30.15. The oxbows and overflow lakes within Ouachita River floodplain, when not accessible by boat from the main channel, are open from noonSeptember 30 to noon May 1 to legal gill and trammel nets.
  - A. Flathead catfish, bowfin, drum and gar may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen in the Ouachita River, oxbows, and overflow lakes from Smackover Creek to the northern boundary of Felsenthal NWR.
  - B. Flathead catfish, blue catfish, bowfin, drum and gar may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen on the Ouachita River, oxbows, and overflow lakes within Felsenthal NWR downstream to the Louisiana state line; any and all waters within Felsenthal NWR; andthe Saline River from its mouth within the Felsenthal NWR to the Stillion railroad bridge in Ashley and Bradley Counties.
  - C. Flathead catfish, blue catfish, bowfin, drum, gar and redhorse suckers may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen on the Saline River from the Stillion railroad bridge upstream to the U.S. Highway 278 Bridge in Bradley County.

### **Penalty Class 1**