

34.01**AQUATIC TURTLE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

- A. It is unlawful for a nonresident to harvest any aquatic turtles.
- B. It is unlawful for a resident/business to: **1) import for commercial propagation or sale of aquatic turtle species native to the state; or 2) operate tackle, harvest, propagate, purchase or sell any wild-caught aquatic turtles for commercial purposes without the following permits:**
 - 1. A Commercial Fisherman Permit and Sportfishing License, and either an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit or a Junior Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit (for resident youths) are required to harvest and sell wild-caught aquatic turtles.
 - 2. The bearer of an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Helper Permit may assist in the harvest or operate the properly tagged tackle of a licensed aquatic turtle harvester or dealer.
 - 3. A Commercial Fisherman Permit and Sportfishing License, and an Aquatic Turtle Dealer Permit are required to engage in **the: 1) importation of aquatic turtle species native to the state for commercial propagation or sale; or 2) the harvest, propagation, purchase, sale or export of wild-caught aquatic turtles.**
 - 4. An Aquatic Turtle Farmer Permit is required to engage in the propagation, sale or export of propagated aquatic turtles. This permit does not allow for the purchase, barter, trade, exchange or sale of wild-caught turtles.
 - 5. An Alligator Snapping Turtle Breeder/Dealer Permit is required to possess, buy, sell or offer to sell alligator snapping turtles or their eggs. Alligator snapping turtles longer than 5 inches curved carapace length may not be sold, bartered, traded, or transferred without written approval of the Commission. An affidavit form provided by the Commission specifying the transaction type (transfer or sale), party type (individual or business), and number of turtles, shall be submitted to the Commission. All sales of wild-caught aquatic turtles shall follow all transaction and reporting requirements (Code 34.07) in this chapter.
 - 6. **A Wildlife Importation Permit (Code 9.10) is required for the importation of aquatic turtle species native to the state for commercial propagation or sale.**

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

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Name of Rule 34.01 Aquatic Turtle Permit Requirements

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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Final Date for Public Comment June 18, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting Marie's Restaurant in Hotel Seville at 302 N Main Street, Harrison AR 72601

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, June 18, 2020, at Marie's Restaurant in Hotel Seville at 302 N Main Street, Harrison AR 72601. 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. It is important to note that because of the COVID-19 coronavirus public health emergency and, depending upon public health conditions in our state at that time, social distancing and other public health measures will likely be applicable, and in-person attendance at this meeting may be limited to only Commission members, the Director, representatives of the media, and other individuals necessary to the proceedings as determined by the Commission Chairman and Director. However, the meeting is expected to be live-streamed for viewing by members of the press and the public and a link for easy access will be available on the agency website. Please visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at <https://www.agfc.com> for additional up-to-date details.

Items on the agenda for the June 18, 2020, meeting will include discussion of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the May 21, 2020 Commission Meeting, plus consideration of various Hunting and Fishing Regulations and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including but not limited to:

Miscellaneous Hunting and Fishing Regulations – Propose miscellaneous hunting and fishing regulations, including, but are not limited to:

- Change signatory for permit allowing possession of alligators for display or educational purposes to be issued by the Chief of Fisheries.
- Clarify existing Aquatic Turtle Permit Requirements to restrict importation of aquatic turtle species native to the state without a Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Add various bird and reptile species (approximately 14 species) and delete separate listing of Corn Snake to Addendum R1.01 – Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List that upon staff review do not appear to be inherently dangerous and pose no significant risk to human health and safety, native fish and wildlife health or populations, agriculture, and can be safely confined in a humane manner.
- Delete separate listing of Boa Constrictor in Addendum R1.02 – Permitted Captive Wildlife Species List and add it to Addendum R1.01 – Unrestricted Captive Wildlife Species List.
- Reduce number of dogs allowed to train at Camp Robinson Special Use Area from 4 to 2 owned by any one owner and, in event of violation, impose suspension of privilege to use the area for a minimum of 6 months.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the June 18, 2020, 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 June 8, 2020. 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.

PAT FITTS, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

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