

# 4 ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
John Thurston  
500 Woodlane, Suite 026  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094  
(501) 682-5070  
[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)



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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 \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person April Soman

Contact E-mail April.Soman@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

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Name of Rule N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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Final Date for Public Comment Oct. 15, 2020

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock AR 72205, 9:00 a.m.

## N1.01 GAME FISH DAILY LIMITS

Species	Statewide Daily Limit
Alligator Gar	1 Under 36 Inches 1 Over 36 Inches Annually with Tag
Black Basses	10 (including no more than 4 Smallmouth)
Bream (over 4 inches length)	50
Catfish (except Bullhead)	10
Crappie	30
Rock Bass	10
<del>Muskellunge</del>	<del>6</del>
Paddlefish	2
<del>Pickereel</del>	<del>6</del>
Sauger	6
Saugeye	6
Shovelnose Sturgeon	No Limit
Striped Bass or Hybrid (Combination)	6
Trout	5 (including no more than 2 Brown, 2 Cutthroat, 2 Brook)
Walleye	6
White Bass	25

### EXCEPTIONS:

A. The following bodies of water are restricted as follows:

1. **Horseshoe Bend Pool** (Strawberry River in Izard County) – 1/2 the daily limit for all sportfish.
2. **Lake Chicot** – 1/2 the Lake Chicot daily limit for all sportfish (except no limit on channel catfish) during lake drawdown (July 9 – December 31, 2019).
- ~~3. **Lake June** – all black bass, crappie, and bream must be released immediately.~~
3. **Lake Poinsett** – no daily limit for harvest of game fish.
4. **Mercer Bayou** (Sulphur River WMA) – no daily limit for harvest of game fish.
5. **Lake Monticello** – EXEMPT FROM ALL GAME FISH DAILY LIMITS.
  - i. Pursuant to Emergency Proclamation on July 29, 2019, and Emergency Minute Order adopted on August 22, 2019, there are no game fish daily limits for Lake Monticello during the draining of the lake. This emergency action shall remain in effect for a period of one-hundred twenty (120) days (from July 29, 2019 until November 26, 2019) and then shall terminate.

### B. BLACK BASS (LARGEMOUTH, SPOTTED, SMALLMOUTH):

1. **Smallmouth bass:**
  - i. **Ozark Zone** (Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Newton, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren and Washington counties) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches with a daily limit of 4, except Bull Shoals, Beaver, Greers Ferry, Table Rock, and Norfolk lakes (see Ex. 1(B) below). Greers Ferry Lake – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit 6.

- ii. **Ozark Zone Blue Ribbon Streams** – Crooked Creek from Arkansas Highway 101 bridge downstream to the confluence with the White River; between the U.S. Highways 62-412 and U.S. Highway 62 Spur bridges at Pyatt – smallmouth bass minimum length limit 18 inches, daily limit of 1; Buffalo River from confluence with Clabber Creek downstream to the confluence with the White River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of Crooked Creek and Buffalo River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.
  - iii. **Ozark Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – Crooked Creek, along boundary of Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation property near Kelley’s Slab Access.
  - iv. **Ozark Zone Quality Streams** – Kings River from Trigger Gap to U.S. Highway 62 bridge –smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of the Kings, Illinois, Spring, South Fork of the Spring and Eleven Point rivers and War Eagle Creek – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.
  - v. **Ouachita/Boston Zone** (all Arkansas counties not included in the Ozark Zone) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 10 inches, daily limit of 4.
  - vi. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Quality Streams** – (Mulberry, Caddo above DeGray Lake, DeGray Lake, Cossatot River, Ouachita River upstream from Lake Ouachita, Ouachita River downstream from Remmel Dam, Saline River, including its 4 headwater forks in Saline, Perry and Garland counties, South Fork/Ouachita, Little Missouri above Lake Greeson) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit of 2.
  - vii. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – all smallmouth bass caught in ~~Lake Ouachita including the Ouachita River upstream to the River Bluff access and the South Fork of the Ouachita River upstream to Hovel Branch Lake Catherine~~ must be immediately returned to the **stream water**.
2. **Largemouth bass:**
- i. Lake Terre Noire, ~~Lake June~~ and Lake Sylvia – daily limit 5.
  - ii. Lake Millwood – daily limit 6.
  - iii. Mallard Lake – daily limit 1.
  - iv. Marion McCollum Lake, Lake Sylvia – Largemouth bass caught must be immediately returned to the water.
3. **3. Black Bass (all species combined):**
- i. Beaver, Bull Shoals, DeGray, ~~DeQueen~~, Norfork, Table Rock lakes, Lake Jack Nolen, Ouachita, Ashbaugh – daily limit 6.
  - ii. Lake Lou Emma – daily limit 5
  - ~~iii. Lake Atkins – daily limit 4~~
  - iii. War Eagle Creek – daily limit 2

- iv. Lakes Ouachita, DeGray, and Greeson – in addition to the daily limit of black basses, 10 spotted bass may be taken.

**C. BREAM:** No limit on bream 4 inches or shorter.

**D. CATFISH:**

1. No limit on catfish on Grand Lake – Chicot County, Lake Chicot (including that portion of Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou’s mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam) and between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi/Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge.
2. No limit on blue and channel catfish from Little River (below Millwood Dam) Red and Sulphur rivers.
3. No limit on channel catfish on Marion McCollum Lake Greenlee – Monroe County ~~, Lake Chicot (including that portion of Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou’s mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam) and Lake Erling.~~
4. Catfish daily limit – 5 in DeWitt City Park Lake (Arkansas County); Lake Atalanta (Benton County); Hidden Lake (Carroll County); Big Timber Lake and Gurdon Lake (Clark County); Hubble Lake (Clay County); Lake Bailey (Conway County); Lake Cambadelle and Lake Lou Emma (Crawford County); Marion City Park Lake (Crittenden County); Village Creek State Park Lakes (Cross and St. Francis Counties); Lake Bennett (Faulkner County); Lake Clearfork (Garland County); Crowley Ridge State Park Lake and Reynolds Park Lake (Greene County); Newark City Lake (Independence County); Lake June (Lafayette County); Ward City Park Lake (Lonoke County); Hindsville Lake (Madison County); Blytheville City Park Lake (Mississippi County); Donald Branch Fishing Pond (Monroe County); Lake Sylvia (Perry County); Shady Lake (Polk County); Twin Lakes A and B, Camp Ferncliff (Pulaski County); Old Davidsonville State Park Lake (Randolph County); Forrest City Park Lake (St. Francis County); Truman Baker Lake (Scott County); Cave City’s Lakes (Sharp County); Gunner Pool and Hayden Bend Pond (Stone County); Devils Den State Park (Washington County); Spring Lake, Kingfisher, Clubhouse Lakes in Petit Jean WMA (Yell County) and posted USDA Forest Service ponds and lakes.
5. In addition to daily limit, 10 channel catfish ~~under 16 inches~~ may be taken on the Arkansas River.
6. In addition to daily limit, ~~10 channel catfish and~~ 10 blue catfish ~~any size~~ may be taken in Lake Erling.

**E. CRAPPIE:**

1. Crappie daily limit – 15 in Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk reservoirs, Cane Creek Lake (Lincoln County) Gurdon Lake (Clark County) and Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d’Arc Lake.
2. Crappie daily limit – 50 between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad

Bridge, from the confluence of the Mississippi/Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge and on Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County).

3. Crappie daily limit – 20 in Lake Chicot **and Blue Mountain Lake**.
4. No crappie daily limit on Lake Charles, **Lake Frierson and Lake Hogue**.

#### **F. WALLEYE:**

1. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; Table Rock Lake and its tributaries to Beaver Dam; Bull Shoals Lake, and Norfolk Lake – minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit 4.
- ~~2. Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries – protected slot limit of 20-28 inches minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 6 (only 1 of which may be longer than 28 inches).~~
2. In compliance with Addendum N1.02 and Code Chapter 28.00.

#### **G. WHITE BASS, STRIPED BASS, HYBRID STRIPED BASS:**

1. **White bass:**
  - i. Between the main levees of the Mississippi river, from the confluence of the Mississippi and White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge – daily limit of 50, possession limit of 100.
  - ii. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; **Bob Kidd Lake, Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries, Lakes Ashbaugh, Sequoyah and Monticello** – no limit.
2. **Striped bass and hybrid striped bass (combined):**
  - i. Beaver, ~~Bull Shoals~~ and Norfolk ~~Lakes~~; Lake Ouachita – daily limit 3.
  - ii. Arkansas River and connecting lakes – daily limit 10.
  - iii. Lake Monticello – no limit.

#### **H. ALLIGATOR GAR:**

1. Alligator gar longer than 36 inches may not be harvested from noon May 1 – noon July 1 statewide.
- ~~2. Alligator Gar Permit is required to harvest alligator gar up to 36 inches.~~
2. Alligator Gar **Permit and Tag are is** required to harvest alligator gar over 36 inches (Code 26.28).

#### **I. TROUT (BROOK, BROWN, CUTTHROAT, RAINBOW, TIGER):**

1. **Brown trout:**
  - i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
  - ii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 **and Spring River** – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit 2.
  - iii. **Spring River (from 100 yards below Dam No.1 at Mammoth Spring State Park to the mouth of Myatt Creek.)** – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.

- iv. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
- v. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches, daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
- vi. Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to Arkansas Highway 27 Bridge (Narrows Tailwater) – all brown trout must be released immediately.

**2. Cutthroat trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit of 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- ii. North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater), Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59, ~~Spring River~~ – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit of 2.
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches.
- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

**3. Brook trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit of 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- ii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59, ~~Spring River~~ – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 2.
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches.
- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

**4. Rainbow trout:**

- i. Lake Atalanta (Benton County) – daily limit of 5.
- ii. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater), ~~Spring River~~ – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches).
- iii. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).

- iv. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – protected slot limit of 13-16 inches, daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 16 inches).
5. **Tiger trout**
- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfork Tailwater) – minimum length 24 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.

**All fish measurements must follow procedures listed in the definition of "Length Limits" in Code 01.00-C.**