

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



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

Name of Rule N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing June 20, 21, 22, 2021

Final Date for Public Comment July 22, 2021

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
	1 Under 36 Inches
Alligator Gar	
	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
Paddlefish	2
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 Poinsett** – ~~no daily limit for harvest of game fish.~~ All game fish except catfish must be released immediately, with a catfish daily limit of 5. Effective January 1, 2022, all game fish except bream and catfish must be released immediately, with a bream daily limit of 25.
 3. **Mercer Bayou** (Sulphur River WMA) – no daily limit for harvest of game fish.
- 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 4headwater 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 Catherine must be immediately returned to the 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. **Black Bass (all species combined):**

- i. Beaver, Bull Shoals, DeGray, Norfork, Table Rock lakes, Lake Jack Nolen, Ouachita, Ashbaugh – daily limit 6.
- ii. Lake Lou Emma – daily limit 5.
- 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 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 may be taken on the Arkansas River.
 6. In addition to daily limit, 10 blue catfish 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. 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 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 Tag 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 – 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 – 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 – 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 22, 2021, at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205, in the auditorium. 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. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held in the Director's conference room throughout the day on Wednesday, July 21, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The AGFC Little Rock Office Complex currently is open to the public and COVID-19 guidelines recommended by the Arkansas Department of Health are applicable. The Commission meeting on July 22nd will be live-streamed and a link for easy viewing 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 as the July meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the July 22, 2021 9:00 a.m. meeting will include adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the June 16-17, 2021 Commission Meetings, 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 Regulations Concerning Resident Lifetime Hunting & Fishing Licenses and Permits, Nonresident License Requirements, and Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Permit Requirements on WMAs – Consider proposals to miscellaneous regulations including, but not limited to:

- Clarify that nonresidents are ineligible to obtain public land permits through the permit draw process for hunting elk or alligators, and include an exception for nonresidents who possess a Resident Lifetime License for either hunting or combination hunting-and-fishing obtained prior to September 1, 2021;
- Amend regulation that prohibits illegal possession of a resident license by a nonresident to provide an exception for former residents who possess a valid Resident Lifetime License for hunting, fishing, or combination hunting-and-fishing, or possess a Resident Lifetime Permit for trout or waterfowl, and increase the penalty for violation to Class 4;
- Amend regulations that prohibit counterfeiting or falsifying information on any AGFC license, permit, tag, stamp, certificate, etc. to increase the penalty for violation from Class 3 to Class 4;
- Amend regulation for Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Permit Requirements on WMAs to provide an exception for former residents who possess a Waterfowl Permit and a Resident Lifetime License for either hunting or combination hunting-and-fishing obtained prior to September 1, 2021. This exception will allow such individuals to hunt waterfowl on any WMA in compliance with Chapter 24.00 without a Nonresident WMA Waterfowl Hunting Permit and without being subject to certain date restrictions applicable to other nonresident hunters; and

- Clarify names of existing Resident Lifetime Licenses.

2021-2022 Waterfowl Hunting Regulations – Adopt amendments to adjust specific dates for waterfowl hunting seasons to conform to Federal framework and update waterfowl names, including:

- Duck, Coot and Merganser — Nov. 20-29, Dec. 11-23, and Dec. 26-Jan. 31;
- Canada Goose — Sept. 1-30, Oct. 30-Nov. 1, Nov. 20-Dec. 3, and Dec. 5-Jan. 31;
- Snow, Blue, Ross's, and White-fronted Goose — Oct. 30-Nov. 14, Nov. 20-Dec. 3, and Dec. 5-Jan. 31;
- Youth and Veteran/Active Military Hunts — Dec. 4 and Feb. 5;
- Light Goose Conservation Order — Oct. 2-22, Oct. 28-Nov. 19, and Feb. 5-April 25; and
- Renaming of "Common Snipe" to "Wilson's Snipe" and renaming "Common Moorhen" to "Gallinule" to reflect Federal references.

2021-2022 Fishing Regulations – Adopt amendments to miscellaneous fishing regulations including, but not limited to:

- Amend regulation for game fish daily limits at Lake Poinsett to require: (1) for the remainder of 2021, all game fish, except catfish, must be released immediately and the catfish daily limit is 5; and (2) effective Jan. 1, 2022, all game fish, except bream and catfish, must be released immediately and the bream daily limit is 25; and
- Amend regulation for Aquatic Animal Health Requirements to clarify definitions and listing of certain warm water fish pathogens of concern.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the July 21, 2021, 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 July 9, 2021. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office, and at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

PAT FITTS, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205