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March 25, 2022

Ms. Gwen Nguyen
Arkansas Secretary of State, Rules & Regulation Filing
500 Woodlane Drive, Room 26
Little Rock, AR 72201
Via email only: register@sos.arkansas.gov

RE: Legal Notice for Proposed Rules or Regulations – April 2022 meetings

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

Included in this email, please find for filing and immediate publication on the Secretary of State's website the Legal Notice for Commission Meetings to be held on April 20-21, 2022, which is being published in the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on March 27, 28, & 29, 2022.

Also included are the one hundred fifteen (115) regulation proposals regarding general hunting & miscellaneous wildlife regulations along with general fishing regulations being discussed at this meeting.

Should you have any questions or comments concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Milligan or me at (501) 223-6327 at your convenience.

Sincerely,

James F. Goodhart
General Counsel

JFG/srm
Attachment

cc: Ms. Rebecca Miller-Rice, Bureau of Legislative Research
miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov
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LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 21, 2022, 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. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held in the Director's conference room throughout the day on Wednesday, April 20, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Little Rock Office Complex, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. 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 April 21st 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 April meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the April 21, 2022 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the March 15-17, 2022 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:

1. **General Hunting and Miscellaneous Wildlife Regulations** – Propose general hunting regulations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 including, but not limited to, game seasons, bag limits, geographic zones, wildlife management areas (WMAs), weapon restrictions and other manner-of-taking-game requirements for alligator, bear, deer, elk, furbearing animals, quail, rabbit, squirrel, turkey, dove, waterfowl, and other game species. Changes to regulation include, but are not limited to:

Furbearer/Depredation

- Add exception for bobcat and otter pelt tagging requirement to allow bobcat and otter pelts to temporarily be shipped out of state for tanning without attaching a CITES tag.
- Reduce length of furbearer season for trapping muskrat on WMAs.
- Amend furbearing season trap restrictions to increase maximum size of foothold traps set on land (from 6" to 6¼").
- Revise Predator Control Permit requirements for taking bobcat, coyote, gray fox, opossum, raccoon, red fox, or striped skunk on private land.
- Revise Depredation Permit requirements for consistency with Predator Control Permit requirements, including for taking of certain birds (House Sparrows, European Starlings, Rock Doves, etc.).

General

- Amend Resident and Non-Resident Hunting License requirements, including: remove references to a temporary internet license or confirmation code; and revise Non-Resident License requirements for hunting elk or alligator.

- Revise codes for listing WMAs for bear and wild turkey hunting seasons and limits, including remove from list those WMAs having “closed” seasons (only WMAs with “open” season will remain listed).
- Define types of killing devices and ammunition allowed for hunting crow.
- Provide exception for prohibited methods for hunting wildlife to allow certain live-cage-type traps for use in capturing nuisance animals.
- Amend aiding and abetting prohibition to indicate the penalty is the same as the violation committed by the person who was aided or abetted.
- Amend littering prohibition to prohibit discard of any game animal carcass within 50 yards of any stream, river, pond or lake.
- Establish or revise definitions of the following terms: “Conservation Buck Tag”; “Deer Management Assistant Program”; “Large Carnivore”; “Off Highway Vehicle”; “Personal Watercraft or Jet Boat”.
- Amend dog training restrictions on Camp Robinson Special Use Area, including: restrict dog use during reserved dog field trial events in reserved compartments, except dogs participating in the field trial event; and clarify number and types of dogs allowed to be trained.
- Amend big game checking requirements to require deer, adult turkey gobblers, or bear injured or killed by incidental contact (non-hunting activity such as vehicle accident) must be reported to the AGFC Radio Room and an official salvage tag number obtained before the animal or its parts may be possessed from the point of initial contact.
- Clarify color description for hunter orange / safety green clothing requirements.
- Revise camping restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property, including: require persons 16 years of age or older to obtain a 7-day camping permit for a fee of \$5.00, except that a daily camping permit for a fee of \$15.00 will be necessary for camping at Camp Robinson SUA; establish restrictions for large groups of 50 or more individuals; and adopt additional camping restrictions.
- Amend vehicle restrictions on WMAs, including: restrict use of off highway vehicles (OHVs), but making allowance for limited use of OHVs on certain days on designated open, maintained roads on Jack Mountain WMA.
- Amend prohibition of structures and personal property on WMAs to include prohibiting leaving any trail cameras or vehicles on a WMA, and allow a limited exception for trail cameras that have the owner’s name and address visibly and permanently affixed.
- Revise prohibition for skiing on lakes owned or controlled by the Commission to include jet boats.
- Revise prohibition for baiting or hunting over baited portions of WMAs to increase the penalty and delete exception for certain AGFC wildlife food areas.
- Amend season restrictions during permit hunts on WMAs, including: allow certain other hunting seasons to remain open during the permit hunts on Buffalo National River, Bearcat Hollow, and Gene Rush WMAs.
- Amend hunting season and limit restrictions for deer, bear, and wild turkey, including: establish open hunting seasons for Alum Fork Natural Area WMA in

Saline County and Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area WMA in Benton and Carroll Counties.

- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for deer hunting on various WMAs, including: Bearcat Hollow, Lee Creek, Wedington, and White Rock WMAs; adjust dates for start and close of archery deer season on Dardanelle WMA affecting Johnson County Waterfowl Rest Area; remove current archery deer permit requirement for Maumelle River WMA; remove permit requirements for Disabled Veteran deer hunts at Warren Prairie and Longview Saline Natural Area WMAs; add youth deer permit hunts at Camp Robinson Special Use Area, Harold E. Alexander/Spring River, and Greers Ferry Lake WMAs; remove current firearm restriction for modern gun deer permit hunt and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Steve N. Wilson Raft Creek Bottoms WMA; and add muzzleloader deer permit hunt at Stone Prairie WMA.
- Revise various regulations to remove existing designation for Ozark National Forest WMA and incorporate those lands into other adjoining cooperative WMAs.
- Amend dog restrictions on WMAs to allow use of dogs for squirrel hunting after first 9 days of modern gun deer season on Bearcat Hollow WMA.
- Delete restrictions for motorized vehicles on Commission-owned areas and consolidate with existing code for motorized vehicle restrictions on WMAs.
- Revise dates for horse and mule restrictions on certain Commission-owned and leased land WMAs and require 30 days' advance notice for large events to obtain a Special Use Permit.
- Amend codes for Maumelle River WMA, including: allow camping in designated areas only; prohibit removal of certain objects from the WMA without a permit; remove current boating/lake hours and horsepower restrictions; and clarify kayak-use areas.
- Establish dove permit requirements on certain WMAs, including: Camp Robinson Special Use Area; Dave Donaldson Black River; Shirey Bay/Rainey Brake; and Frog Bayou WMAs.
- Amend archery tackle restrictions to prohibit the use of archery equipment capable of holding and/or firing more than one arrow or bolt in succession or simultaneously without re-cocking the device, and allow limited exception during modern gun seasons for bear, deer, elk, and turkey.
- Amend existing firearms and weapons regulations to prohibit the use of blow guns and dart guns for hunting white-tailed deer, elk, bear, wild turkey or quail.
- Amend deer hunting regulations to add certain deer zones (created during 2019-20 regulation cycle) and clarify language for private lands antlerless-only modern-gun hunt and exception for retrieving wounded deer. Also create opportunity for hunters to earn a 3rd buck tag (Conservation Buck Tag).
- Revise tagging requirements for white-tailed deer and turkey to be properly tagged or checked immediately after harvest and before moving the animal.
- Amend prohibition for hunting wildlife or possessing a killing device in a state or national park to provide an exception for parks that participate in the AGFC Deer Management Assistance Program with an approved deer management plan.
- Increase fee for the Non-resident Guide Licenses for hunting and for fishing from \$150 to \$450.00.

- Adopt prohibition for any holder of a Guide License to be guiding another person while the licensed guide is intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic drug, barbiturate, or marijuana, with a Class 4 penalty for violation and suspension of hunting/fishing Guide Licenses as set forth in Codes 01.00-L and 01.00-K.

Wild Turkey

- Increase penalty for violation of hunting wild turkey by the aid of baiting.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for turkey hunting on various WMAs, including: Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita; Cut-Off Creek; Cypress Bayou; Devil's Eyebrow Natural Area; Dr. Lester Sitzes Bois D'Arc; Freddie Black Choctaw Island WMA Deer Research Area - East Unit; Longview Saline Natural Area; McIlroy Madison County; Petit Jean River; Scott Henderson Gulf Mountain; Stone Prairie; Sylamore; Trusten Holder; and Warren Prairie WMAs.
- Require a tag and notching system for turkey harvest.
- Reduce the bag limit for turkey to one bird limit.

Bear

- Amend bear season dates and limits, including: establish season framework for Bear Zones 3 and 4; modify archery and modern gun seasons for Bear Zones 1, 2, 5 and 5A; open bear archery season 10 days earlier in Bear Zones 1 and 2; and correct season dates for McIlroy Madison County WMA.
- Amend restrictions for selling wildlife to allow exception for legally harvested bear hide, skull, and claws as items that may be sold.

Elk

- Amend limit restrictions for elk hunting to reduce elk quotas, including number of public and private land elk tags.

Waterfowl

- Revise prohibition for killing devices and ammunition for hunting migratory game birds to indicate that certain non-toxic shot requirements apply to migratory waterfowl hunting only and increase the penalty for violation.
- Revise prohibition for use of non-toxic shot while hunting small game on certain WMAs to identify specific WMAs where it is unlawful to possess any shot other than federally-approved non-toxic shot while hunting migratory birds with shotguns.
- Amend season dates, limit restrictions, and permit requirements for waterfowl hunting, including for: duck, coot, and merganser; Canada Goose; Snow, Blue and Ross's Goose; and White-fronted Goose; adjust dates for special youth waterfowl hunting and veteran and active duty military waterfowl hunting; adjust dates for nonresident waterfowl hunting permit requirements on WMAs; and restrict White-fronted Goose season to 74 days to run concurrently with duck season and with a 3-bird bag limit.
- Revise special usage restrictions on certain WMAs and lakes to extend "Common Restriction A" boat access restrictions to include the 7 days preceding the first day of the first segment of regular duck season; and include waterfowl hunting restrictions on Bell Slough, Ed Gordon Point Remove, Frog Bayou, Galla Creek, and Ozark Lake (Dyer Lake Unit) WMAs.
- Amend boat motor restrictions on certain WMAs to require all boats on "Common Restriction A" WMAs to operate only with motors that have factory exhaust systems

in place effective for the 2023-24 duck season. Outboard motors must not be ported to allow exhaust to evacuate above the water line at any point during operation.

Endangered Species / Captive Wildlife

- Amend Endangered Species List to add and remove various species, including: add Red Knot and Black Rail birds; revise Red-cockaded Woodpecker name; and remove Sprague's Pipit and Magazine Mountain shagreen snail.
- Revise Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit requirements, including remove current prohibition for hunting black bear at a permitted commercial wildlife hunting resort.
- Amend Wildlife Importation Permit requirements, including: clarify this permit is necessary for import of native aquatic turtles and alligators; require disease testing and control measures; allow wildlife to be transported through Arkansas as part of interstate commerce without having to obtain a permit; and require that animals must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security, and be kept in humane and healthy conditions.
- Revise provisions prohibiting possession of certain wildlife in captivity and relocate various provisions to other captive wildlife codes for clarity.
- Amend restrictions for possession of captive non-native wildlife to indicate requirements for possession of non-native wildlife pets and mirror existing exemptions found elsewhere in the Code Book.
- Amend existing captive wildlife possession requirements and permits to allow ratites (ostriches, emus, and rheas) to be kept in uncovered pens. Also include provisions authorizing special conditions to permits (Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort, Game Bird Shooting Resort, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, Wildlife Importation, Wildlife Rehabilitation, and Venomous Reptile Permits) when deemed necessary by the Commission.
- Revise Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit requirements, including: prohibit renewal of a permit for species on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species list if a current permit holder has not had any of those species in possession for more than one year; require that wildlife shall not leave the facility except upon sale, for veterinary care, or for exhibition; require that animals being exhibited must comply with requirements for proper cages, enclosures, pens, and security; allow accredited members of the Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries to keep large carnivores in exercise areas overnight; and prohibit permit holders with species included on the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List from selling to anyone in Arkansas that doesn't already possess such a permit or to those outside of Arkansas.
- Amend Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit requirements to remove captive-reared mallards from current list of species that may be released for hunting purposes, and allow limited exceptions for retriever training and field trial events.
- Amend prohibition for release of certain wildlife and requirements for Depredation Permits and Wildlife Rehabilitation Permits to restrict release of nuisance wildlife onto private land in the county of capture or adjacent to the county of capture.
- Amend requirements for certain captive wildlife permits to require a permit holder that does not renew his or her permit to have all remaining stock of animals that cannot be kept in accordance with applicable native or non-native pet regulations either sold to a legal buyer or euthanized prior to permit expiration.

- Amend restrictions for possessing native wildlife as pets to remove bobcat, coyote, gray fox, and red fox from current list of native species that may be captured by hand in the wild and kept as pets.
- Revise the Unrestricted, Permitted, and Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species Lists (Addenda R1.01, R1.02, and R1.03), reorganize by species types, and add new species to each of these lists. Also amend the Prohibited Captive Wildlife Species List bird selection to prohibit waterfowl without exceptions.
- Amend restrictions for bird dog training and retrieving dog training, and establish requirements for a Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training Permit and a Game Bird Shoot-to-Kill Permit, including existing dog training restrictions and restrict the number of birds that may be kept at any one time to 100.
- Amend Conservation Education Permit requirements, including: require inspection of wildlife, facilities, books and records; and authorize immediate relocation of wildlife that is being given improper care or being kept in inhumane or unhealthy conditions.
- Amend Wildlife Rehabilitation Permit requirements, including: clarify landowner permission needed for all release sites; and require record keeping of the name and phone number of individuals submitting animals for rehab.
- Amend requirements for Falconry Permit to comply with federal falconry regulations required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Chronic Wasting Disease

- Amend CWD Management Zone description, including: change status of Searcy County from a Tier 2 to Tier 1 and implement carcass movement restriction; add Ashley, Bradley, Randolph, and Union Counties to the Zone, each with Tier 2 status; and include new management requirements from the 2021-2025 CWD Management and Responsive Plan.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits, including revise harvest definitions within Ashley, Bradley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12, and within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4.
- Amend restrictions for deer season and limits on WMAs, including revise harvest definitions for Robert L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA within Randolph County portion of Deer Zone 4 and Beryl Anthony Lower Ouachita WMA within Ashley and Union County portions of Deer Zone 12.

2. **General Fishing Regulations** – Propose miscellaneous fishing regulations, including, but not limited to:

- Define “Game Fish Parts” in the Definition of Terms.
- Establish that it is illegal to use “game fish parts” (which includes eggs and milt) and add an exception that commercially-prepared (i.e., cured) trout eggs will be allowed.
- Remove War Memorial Park Pond from the Family and Community Fishing Program Restrictions.

Sportfish

- Reinstate statewide crappie regulations on Bois d’Arc Lake.
- Implement catch and release only for all sportfish in Lake Monticello, including all creeks and ponds in its lakebed.
- Implement 13-inch minimum length limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass and remove length limit for Spotted Bass on Lake Norfolk.

- Increase the Lake Poinsett daily creel of Bream to the statewide limit of 50.
- Remove 13-16-inch slot length limit regulation for harvest of Largemouth Bass from Sugar Loaf Lake.
- Implement 10-inch minimum length limit for Crappie at Lake Erling.

Commercial Fishing

- Clarify that gill and trammel nets are the only legal commercial fishing gear on Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County).
- Establish special commercial fishing season on Long Slough Lake (Miller County), open noon November 1 until noon February 28 regardless of Sulphur River water level.
- Remove slat traps as a legal form of gear for fishing on Millwood Lake.

Non- Sportfish

- Require certain baitfish collection devices to be clearly labeled, in a durable manner.
- Allow recreational harvest of common snapping turtles and softshell turtles for personal consumption with a combined limit of six animals harvested per day.
- Create a new regulation specific to crayfish to establish harvest restrictions and type of gear that can be used to legally take crayfish, and close certain waters to harvest, including Eleven Point, South Fork Spring, Spring, and Strawberry Rivers.

Invasive Species

- Prohibit possession of invasive aquatic plant species on properties owned, managed, or controlled by the Commission.
- Add exception for possession of White Perch and Yellow Perch, and add White Perch and Marbled Crayfish to the list of Prohibited Species.
- Remove regulation for Transportation of Zebra Mussels Prohibited.
- Amend prohibition for possession of certain live carp to add exceptions for Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Black Carp to be possessed with a valid Conditional and/or Unlisted Species Permit.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 21, 2022 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 April 11, 2022. 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.

AUSTIN BOOTH, DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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 Sarah Milligan

Contact E-mail Sarah.Milligan@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

Name of Rule J1.01 Approved Commercial Aquaculture Species List

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing March 27, 28, & 29, 2022

Final Date for Public Comment May 19, 2022

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

J1.01 Approved Commercial Aquaculture Species List

The intent of this list is to delineate species that pose minimal threat to Arkansas' aquatic biota. These farm-reared species may be imported, traded (within the state), or used for commercial aquaculture purposes, once appropriate permits and health certificate requirements have been met. All imported species must comply with health certification requirements (see Codes [35.11](#), [35.12](#), and Addendum Chapter [11.00](#)).

* Denotes non-native species

Class Crustacea Family

Cambaridae

Procambarus acutus (White River crayfish)

Procambarus clarkii (Red Swamp crayfish)

Class Osteichthyes Family

Polyodontidae

Polyodon spathula (Paddlefish)

Family Lepisosteidae

Lepisosteus oculatus (Spotted gar) *Lepisosteus osseus* (Longnose gar) *Lepisosteus platostomus* (Shortnose gar)

Family Amiidae *Amia*

calva (Bowfin) **Family**

Anguillidae

Anguilla rostrata (American eel)

Family Clupeidae

Alosa chrysochloris (Skipjack herring)

Dorosoma cepedianum (Gizzard shad)

Dorosoma petenense (Threadfin shad)

Family Esocidae

Esox americanus (Grass pickerel)

Esox niger (Chain pickerel)

Family Cyprinidae

- * *Carassius auratus* (Goldfish, including ornamentals)
- * *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (Grass carp) – USFWS-CERTIFIED TRIPLOIDS ONLY
- Cyprinella venusta* (Blacktail shiner)
- * *Cyprinus carpio* (Common carp, including koi) – Koi must be obtained from a permitted source and spawned and reared only in the United States
- Hybognathus nuchalis* (Mississippi silvery minnow)
- Luxilus chrysocephalus* (Striped shiner)
- Lythrurus umbratilis* (Redfin shiner)
- Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Golden shiner)
- Notropis atherinoides* (Emerald shiner)
- Notropis boops* (Bigeye shiner)
- Notropis buchanani* (Ghost shiner)
- Notropis volucellus* (Mimic shiner)
- Opsopoeodus emiliae* (Pugnose minnow)
- Pimephales notatus* (Bluntnose minnow)
- Pimephales promelas* (Fathead minnow)
- Pimephales vigilax* (Bullhead minnow)
- Semotilus atromaculatus* (Creek chub)

Family Catostomidae

- Erimyzon oblongus* (Creek chubsucker)
- Erimyzon sucetta* (Lake chubsucker)
- Hypentelium nigricans* (Northern hogsucker)
- Ictiobus bubalus* (Smallmouth buffalo)
- Ictiobus cyprinellus* (Bigmouth buffalo)
- Ictiobus niger* (Black buffalo)
- Minytrema melanops* (Spotted sucker)
- Moxostoma erythrurum* (Golden redhorse)
- Catostomus commersoni* (White sucker)

Family Ictaluridae

- Ictalurus furcatus* (Blue catfish)
- Ameiurus melas* (Black bullhead)
- Ameiurus natalis* (Yellow bullhead)
- Ameiurus nebulosus* (Brown bullhead)
- Ictalurus punctatus* (Channel catfish)
- Noturus gyrinus* (Tadpole madtom)
- Noturus nocturnus* (Freckled madtom)
- Pylodictis olivaris* (Flathead catfish)

Family Aphredoderidae *Aphredoderus*

- sayanus* (Pirate perch) **Family**

Cyprinodontidae

- Fundulus notatus* (Blackstripe topminnow)
- Fundulus olivaceus* (Blackspotted topminnow)

Family Poeciliidae

Gambusia affinis (Mosquitofish)

Family Atherinidae

Labidesthes sicculus (Brook silverside)

Family Moronidae

Morone chrysops (White bass)

Morone mississippiensis (Yellow bass)

* *Morone saxatilis* (Striped bass)

Family Centrarchidae

Centrarchus macropterus (Flier) *Lepomis cyanellus* (Green sunfish) *Lepomis gulosus* (Warmouth)

Lepomis humilis (Orangespotted sunfish)

Lepomis macrochirus (Bluegill) *Lepomis*

marginatus (Dollar sunfish) *Lepomis*

megalotis (Longear sunfish) *Lepomis*

microlophus (Redear sunfish) *Lepomis*

miniatus (Red spotted sunfish)

Micropterus dolomieu (Smallmouth bass)

Micropterus punctulatus (Spotted bass)

Micropterus salmoides (Largemouth bass)

Pomoxis annularis (White crappie) *Pomoxis*

nigromaculatus (Black crappie)

Elassoma zonatum (Banded pygmy sunfish)

Family Percidae

Percina caprodes (Logperch)

Sander canadensis (Sauger)

Sander vitreus (Walleye)

Family Sciaenidae

Aplodinotus grunniens (Freshwater drum)

Family Cichlidae – Species must be obtained from a permitted source and spawned and reared only in the United States

* *Oreochromis aureus* (Blue tilapia)

* *Oreochromis mossambicus* (Mozambique tilapia)

* *Oreochromis niloticus* (Nile tilapia)

Class Bivalvia

Family Unionidae

Pyganodon grandis (Giant Floater)

VHS Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit:

It shall be unlawful for any person to import, transport or otherwise receive into the state of Arkansas live fish and/or fertilized eggs from any VHSV-positive state (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and Ontario and Quebec) without first obtaining the appropriate permit (see Code [35.01](#)) in addition to a valid Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit issued by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and complying with the provisions of said permit. All persons wishing to ship live fish or fish eggs into Arkansas from VHSV-positive states must first obtain the Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit and a copy of the permit must accompany all shipments into the state, even if the fish are transported by a third party. Furthermore, any person hauling live fish through Arkansas from VHS-positive states are prohibited from discharging water from fish-hauling tanks while within the state. All shipments of live fish or eggs coming into Arkansas must be accompanied by an invoice, bill of lading, and appropriate health certificates in compliance with Code [35.03](#). Additionally, the fish health inspection report must be no more than 60 days old from date of reported test results at time of application for Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit from Commission.

A Fish Farm Health Inspection Permit shall be an annual permit that is issued in 2 six-month intervals (refer to Addendum [D1.01](#)). The first interval will cover the period of January 1 - June 30, and the second interval will cover the period of July 1 - December 31. The second interval of the permit will be issued only after new semi-annual testing results are submitted to the Commission. For additional information, please refer to Addenda [D1.01](#), [I1.01](#), and Code [35.11](#).

Grass Carp (USFWS-Certified Triploid Only):

All grass carp sold for stocking purposes must be USFWS-certified triploid. Permitted producers participating in the USFWS-certified triploid grass carp program may transfer certification of triploidy to other holders of valid fish farm, fish dealer, or independent hauler permits that wish to sell USFWS-certified grass carp. All persons selling USFWS-certified triploid grass carp are required to maintain records for a minimum of 3 years containing the purchaser's name, contact information, and number of fish sold. All USFWS-certified triploid grass carp must be maintained in separate tanks, hauling units, and/or culture units from uncertified grass carp.

Health Certificates:

See Addendum Chapter [I1.00](#) for fish health requirements for all live fish and/or fertilized eggs being imported into the state of Arkansas. All required documents must be submitted to the Commission and reviewed prior to importation.

Hybrids:

It is our intent that production and offer for sale of any hybrid fish species is permissible if both parent species are included on the Approved Commercial Aquaculture Species List.

Wild Crayfish:

The harvest and sale of native Arkansas crayfish species that naturally colonize aquaculture ponds and are cultured incidental to production of other aquaculture species is allowed.

Wild Turtles:

Aquaculture facilities possessing a valid Resident Fish Farmer Permit may depredate or relocate aquatic turtles naturally colonizing on the premises and impacting fish production, unless the turtle species is otherwise protected. The harvest and sale of native Arkansas aquatic turtle species that naturally colonize aquaculture ponds and are cultured incidental to production of other aquaculture species is allowed with an Aquatic Turtle Harvest Permit or Aquatic Turtle **Farmer/Dealer** Permit, unless the species is otherwise protected. See Code Chapter [34.00](#).

Aquarium Species:

It is not the intent of this policy to constrain aquarium trade. Marine and tropical fish commonly distributed in the aquarium trade may be sold without special permit, as long as they are held only in closed aquarium systems (aquaria, tanks, or pools) and are not otherwise prohibited. These species cannot be released in Arkansas.

Aquaponics / Hydroponics:

It is not the intent of this policy to constrain aquaponics/ hydroponic production. If live fish and/or fertilized fish eggs are being possessed, propagated, offered for sale, or conditional species are being utilized, at minimum a fish farm permit is required. Any approved species imported for aquaponics/hydroponics must comply with all requirements set forth in Code Chapter [35.00](#) and Addenda Chapters [11.00](#), [11.00](#), and [11.00](#), including health certificate, invoice, and bill of lading requirements.

Conditional Species:

Conditional species are species that are permitted for specific purposes provided the additional terms set forth by AGFC Fisheries Division and biosecurity measures are met. Individuals possessing or desiring to possess these species are required to apply for a Conditional Species Possession Permit in addition to the appropriate permit under Code [35.01](#). The permit application will detail the location of the facility, biosecurity measures taken to prevent the possibility of escape, and the numbers and species to be held (these numbers are best estimates of broodfish and expected production for upcoming year). Some species may be limited to specific types of permit holders based on a species evaluation.

The permitted culture of any conditional aquaculture species shall be conducted in a responsible manner that minimizes the possibility of escape and adheres to any additional requirements set forth by the Commission. Permitted individuals are required to construct a barrier that prevents escape of juvenile and adult life stages. Drainpipes from holding and culture units where these species are held must be screened, with mesh sized adequately to prevent escape, at all times that water is being released. Double screening is required during water release for units with bighead carp and black carp species. The above-referenced measures and any additional measures listed on the application to eliminate the possibility of escape will be considered as part of the best management practices that the applicant agrees to implement for their facility. The Commission will maintain records of the number and location of these species in the state and will review initial applications and inspect facilities to evaluate the potential for escape.

Facilities will be randomly re-inspected once in a three-year period of time to

ensure adherence to biosecurity measures. The permittee will be notified a minimum of 5 days in advance of an inspection, and an employee of the facility is requested to accompany AGFC personnel during the inspection. This permit must be renewed annually and is non-transferrable. In the event that a conditional aquatic species is released or escapes from a permitted facility, the permittee shall notify the AGFC Fisheries Division immediately. The permittee shall **not** be responsible for unforeseen occurrences such as floods, lightning, or sabotage.

Holders of Conditional Species Possession Permits must verify that buyers of these species in Arkansas also have appropriate permits. Conditional species permit holders are required to submit an annual report, on a form provided by the Commission with the permit renewal request, indicating the number of each conditional species produced (farmers) or sold (dealers) in the state of Arkansas. Failure to comply with the terms of the permit may result in permit denial or revocation.

The species covered by these permits include:

Family Palaemonidae

**Macrobrachium rosenbergii* (Malaysian prawn) – certified disease-free (certification must be posted onsite). This species must meet the same disease certification requirements as members of Family Penaeidae.

Family Penaeidae

**Litopenaeus vannamei* (Pacific White Shrimp) – specific pathogen-free (certification must be posted onsite)

Requirements for culture of marine shrimp species *Litopenaeus vannamei* in Arkansas:

- A. All culture must be in an indoor closed recirculating system- with **NO** discharge. This will provide biosecurity protection against pathogens, predators, and undesirable species from entering or exiting the facility.
 1. Floor drains - If needed, each floor drain must have an appropriate- sized mesh/screen to prevent escape by any sized cultured organism. Triple screening is recommended. Discharge from floor drains must enter into the containment tank that can be chlorinated and dechlorinated prior to release into an approved municipal sewer system whose effluent is treated within the system.
 2. Catastrophic failure - In the event of a catastrophic failure the floor drain containment tank must be large enough to accommodate the water volume of at least 1.5 times the volume of the largest individual tank in use within the operation to prevent any escape. The containment tank must be chlorinated and dechlorinated prior to discharge. Any possible escape must be reported immediately to the AGFC Fisheries Division.
- B. All solids are to be placed in sealed containers and are for permitted landfill disposal only.
- C. Water sources must be municipal or well water source. No connection to above-ground freshwater source will be permitted.

- D. All live shrimp must be placed in ice water prior to leaving the facility, or processed prior to leaving the facility.
- E. Facilities permitted for the culture of *L. vannamei* culture will not be approved for simultaneous culture of any other crustacean species.
- F. All post-larval shrimp, nauplii, or brood imported into Arkansas must be obtained from a **Domestic** US Marine Shrimp Farming Program Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) or Specific Pathogen Resistant (SPR) certified disease free culture facility (No wild caught shrimp permitted: brood, post-larvae, or nauplii). All shrimp imported must be from a SPF or SPR certified facility with at least two consecutive years of disease free certification for all crustacean pathogens listed with the US Marine Shrimp Farming Program and OIE. All testing must be conducted by approved shrimp disease testing facilities. For facilities propagating *L. vannamei* routine disease testing must be conducted. Copies of disease certification must be submitted to AGFC and posted on-site.

USMSFP List of Pathogens & Diseases for SPF Penaeid Shrimp

<u>Pathogen</u>	<u>Pathogen</u>	<u>Pathogen</u> <u>Group</u>	<u>Category</u>
<u>Type</u> <u>VIRUS</u>	*TSV	dicistrovirus	C-1
	*WSSV	nimavirus (n.f.)	C-1
	*YHV/GAV/LOV	ronivirus (n.f.)	C-1, 2
	**IHHNV	parvovirus	C-2
	**BP	occluded baculovirus	C-
	**MBV	occluded baculovirus	C-
	**BMN	unclassified nonoccluded BV	C-
	HPV	parvovirus	C-1, 2
	IMN	totivirus	C-1, 2
<u>PROCARYOTE</u>	NHP	alpha proteobacteria	C-2
<u>PROTOZOA</u>	Microsporidians	microsporidia	C-2
	Haplosporidians	haplosporidia	C-2
	Gregarines	apicomplexia	C-3

^A C-1 pathogens defined as excludable pathogens that can potentially cause catastrophic losses in one or more American penaeid species; C-2 pathogens cause economically significant disease and are excluded from breeding centers, hatcheries, and some types of farms.

*Listed by Office of International Epizootics as a “Notifiable Disease” as of May 1999

**Listed by Office of International Epizootics with “Other Significant Diseases” as of May 1999

OIE Crustacean diseases

- Acute hepatopancreatic necrosis disease
 - Crayfish plague (*Aphanomyces astaci*)
 - Yellowhead virus
 - Infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis
 - Infectious myonecrosis
 - Necrotising hepatopancreatitis
 - Taura syndrome
 - White spot disease
 - White tail disease
- A. Propagation of species. Propagation of the species will be permitted with the requirement that an Aquaculturist develop and implement a health management plan that includes conducting, at a minimum, annual routine disease inspection through an approved shrimp disease testing laboratory. The Aquaculturist will be responsible for submitting copies of disease inspection reports to Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and having current disease inspection certificate(s) posted on-site. Additionally, the Aquaculturist must notify the AGFC Fisheries Division and the State of Arkansas Veterinarian immediately in the event that an above-listed pathogen is detected.
- B. Discharge from facility. Should a facility need to be drained in an emergency situation, the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality will provide additional information on discharge limits, site location, and any permits required regarding Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.
- C. The facility must develop a biosecurity plan, hazard analysis critical control point (HACCP) plan, and a catastrophic failure management plan to be kept on file, by the facility and by AGFC, as part of Best Management Practices.

Family Salmonidae

- * *Oncorhynchus clarki* (Cutthroat trout)
- * *Oncorhynchus mykiss* (Rainbow trout)
- * *Salmo trutta* (Brown trout)
- * *Salvelinus fontinalis* (Brook trout)

Specific requirements regarding importation or stocking salmonid species are located in Code Chapter [27.00](#) and Addendum Chapter [V1.00](#). Health certificates are required for all salmonid species. All sellers of these species are responsible for verifying that buyers have obtained appropriate permits prior to importation and/or stocking.

Family Cyprinidae

Hypophthalmichthys nobilis (Bighead carp) – Resident Fish Farm Permit holders that hold a valid conditional species permit for this species by January 31, 2021 may continue to obtain an annual conditional species permit for this species for the duration of which they are the owner of the fish farm and continue to meet the terms of the permit. Permits are non- transferrable. Stocking in Arkansas is restricted to only approved fish farms

and research/educational facilities meeting the terms and requirements for conditional species. Species may be transported by the permittee or an independent hauler with appropriate permits, if required. This regulation does not prohibit the movement of bighead carp to a legally licensed facility in another state.

* Diploid *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Black carp) – Stocking in Arkansas is restricted to only approved fish farms and research/educational facilities meeting the terms and requirements for conditional species. Species may be transported by the permittee or an independent hauler with appropriate permits, if required. This regulation does not prohibit the movement of diploid black carp to a legally licensed facility in another state.

* *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Black carp) – Triploids – Stocking in Arkansas is restricted to only approved fish farms and research/educational facilities meeting the terms and requirements for conditional species. Species may be transported by the permittee or an independent hauler with appropriate permits, if required. This regulation does not prohibit the movement of triploid black carp to a legally licensed facility in another state.

* *Ctenopharyngodon idella* (Grass carp) – Diploids – Stocking in Arkansas is restricted to only approved fish farms and research/educational facilities meeting the terms and requirements for conditional species. Species may be transported by the permittee or an independent hauler with appropriate permits, if required. This regulation does not prohibit the movement of diploid grass carp to a legally licensed facility in another state.

*****NOTE*** The species listed below are listed as injurious species by the USFWS**

Hypophthalmichthys nobilis (Bighead carp) *Hypophthalmichthys*

molitrix (Silver carp) *Mylopharyngodon piceus* (Black carp)

The injurious wildlife listing means that under the Lacey Act it is illegal to import into the United States live silver, bighead, or black carp, including viable eggs or hybrids of the species, except by permit for zoological, education, medical, or scientific purposes.

Prohibited Species:

It is unlawful to import for commercial aquaculture any specimen or hybrid from species commonly known as:

- Alewife *Alosa pseudoharengus*
- Blueback herring *Alosa aestivalis*
- Eurasian ruffe *Gymnocephalus cernua*
- Mexican banded tetra *Astyanax aeneus*
- Orfe *Leuciscus idus*
- Piranha Family *Serrasalminidae*

- Roach fish *Rutilus rutilus*
- Round Goby *Neogobius melanostrumus*
- Rudd *Scardinius erthroptthalmus*
- Snakehead *Family Channidae*
- Stickleback fish *Family Gasteroseidae*
- Walking catfish *Clarias bacrachus*
- **White Perch *Morone americana***

- Chinese mitten crab *Ericher sinensis*
- **Marbled crayfish *Procambarus virginalis***
- Everglades crayfish *Procambarus alleni*
- Redclaw crayfish *Family Cherax*
- Rusty crayfish *Orconectes rusticus*
- Smooth Marron *Cherax cainii*
- Yabby *Cherax destructor*

- Big-Ear radix *Radix auricularia*
- Channeled apple snail *Pomacea canaliculata*
- Chinese mystery snail *Cipangopaludina chinensis*
- Ghost Ramshorn snail *Biomphalaria havanensis*
- New Zealand mud snail *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*
- Quagga mussel *Dreissena bugensis*
- Quilted melania *Tarebia granifera*
- Red-rim melania *Melanoides tuberculata*
- Zebra mussel *Dreissena polymorpha*

Permits to Culture Unlisted Species:

Requests to import, possess, propagate, and culture species not listed in this policy will be scientifically evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The burden of proof will rest with the applicant to provide justification as to the need to import and culture the species, justify why currently approved species listed in this policy will not fill the need, and provide information that the requested species will have no significant ecological impact on native species or the resources of the state. The permitted culture of any unlisted aquaculture species shall be conducted in a responsible manner that excludes the possibility of escape from holding and culture units and adheres to the terms set forth in the permit issued by AGFC. Permitted individuals are required to construct a barrier that prevents escape of juvenile and adult species from culture facilities, and meets all biosecurity, containment, and health certification requirements set forth by the AGFC Fisheries Division scientific review of the requested species. In the event that unlisted aquatic organisms are released or escape from a permitted facility, the permittee shall notify the AGFC Fisheries Division immediately. Additional screening for aquatic animal health pathogens may be required for unlisted species due to country of origin, water source, or specific pathogens of concern and will be considered on a case by case basis.

Permit Processing Procedures: Permit Renewal:

Conditional Species Possession Permits and Unlisted Aquaculture Species Permits will be issued on an annual basis to correspond with expiration dates of Fish Farmer, Fish Dealer, and Independent Hauler Permits. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is responsible for providing renewal notices to permit holders six weeks in advance of permit expiration date. Existing permits will remain in

effect past listed expiration date if a renewal application is submitted by January 31st of the renewal year and processing is pending with AGFC.

Permit Review:

Conditional Species Possession Permits and Unlisted Aquaculture Species Permits are granted at the approval of the AGFC Chief of Fisheries. The AGFC may solicit input as needed in the scientific review of individual species and applications.

Modification of Lists:

Any individual may petition the AGFC Chief of Fisheries to add or remove species on the *Approved Commercial Aquaculture Species List* or the *Conditional Aquaculture Species List*. The petition must provide thorough documentation of why a species should or should not be included on a list. Petitions should address the biological threat of the species, including native range, habitats utilized, movement patterns, spawning requirements, reproductive rate, food habits, pathogens of concern, and temperature and water-quality limitations.

Documentation of any introductions or escapes outside the species' native range must be included and evaluate the potential impacts to native species through predation, competition, disease transmission, and displacement. Petitions must include copies of all pertinent reference material.

Petitions to add or remove species on the *Approved Commercial Aquaculture Species List* or the *Conditional Aquaculture Species List* will be responded to by the AGFC Chief of Fisheries after thorough scientific review of the species and a consultation with an advisory board representing appropriate AGFC staff.

General Fishing Regulations

- 1. Proposal:** Define “game fish parts” in the Definition Of Terms.
Justification: Currently regulation 26.18 bans the importation of “game fish parts” but there is not a definition of “game fish parts” in the code book. This proposed addition to the definition of terms will outline a definition of game fish parts to complement the proposed regulation change to Code 26.18.
Code Change: 01.00-C
- 2. Proposal:** Clarify that it is illegal to use “game fish parts” (which includes eggs and milt) and add an exception that commercially prepared (i.e., cured) trout eggs will be allowed.
Justification: Utilizing salmon eggs while targeting trout is a popular technique amongst many anglers; however, fresh or frozen salmonid eggs are a potential vector for a multitude of aquatic pathogens. This proposed regulation change, in conjunction with the definition of “game fish parts”, allows anglers to continue to use salmon eggs (commercially prepared only) while eliminating the potential threat of introducing aquatic pathogens.
Code Change: 26.18
- 3. Proposal:** Remove War Memorial Park Pond from the Family and Community Fishing Program Restrictions.
Justification: War Memorial Park Pond in Pulaski County is silted in and the City of Little Rock, the pond’s owner, has no plan for renovating the pond. This pond has not received regular fish stockings from AGFC in more than 4 years.
Code Change: 26.25

Invasive Species

- 4. Proposal:** Prohibit the possession of invasive aquatic plant species on properties owned, managed, or controlled by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.
Justification: One of the biggest threats to aquatic conservation, fishing quality, and even duck hunting in Arkansas is the spread of invasive aquatic plants. Prohibiting the possession of invasive species of aquatic plants on AGFC owned, managed, or controlled property is an essential step to limiting the spread of invasives.
Code Change: 19.20
- 5. Proposal:** (1) Add an exception for White Perch and Yellow Perch to be possessed, following the same requirement currently established in AGFC Code 26.13 for Northern Snakehead and (2) add White Perch and Marbled Crayfish to the list of prohibited species in Addendum J1.01 and J1.03.

Justification: White Perch, Yellow Perch, and Marbled Crayfish are three species that have the potential to negatively affect aquatic ecosystems in Arkansas. Adding an exception for White/Yellow Perch to AGFC Code 26.13 will allow anglers to harvest and possess these species once they have been properly dispatched. Similar to the possession exception for Northern Snakehead, the purpose of this regulation is to encourage anglers to remove these invasive species. To further reduce the potential for White Perch, Yellow Perch and Marbled Crayfish to spread these species should be added to the Prohibited Species in Addendum J1.01 and J1.03.

Code Change: 26.13

6. Proposal: Remove Code 26.14 - Transportation of Zebra Mussels Prohibited.

Justification: AGFC Code 26.14 is redundant because zebra mussels are on the prohibited species list, therefore AGFC Code 26.13 already prohibits the import, transport, or possession of zebra mussels in Arkansas.

Code Change: 26.14

7. Proposal: Add exceptions for Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Black Carp to be possessed, in alignment with existing language in Addendum J1.01.

Justification: Individuals possessing or desiring to possess these species for culture, research, or educational purposes are required to apply for a Conditional Species Possession Permit in addition to the appropriate permit under Code 35.01. Providing an exception to possess these three invasive carp species was an oversight when Code 26.30 was first adopted. Including the exception provides continuity between 26.30 and Addendum J1.01.

Code Change: 26.30

Commercial Fishing

8. Proposal: Clarify that gill and trammel nets are the only legal commercial fishing gear in Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County).

Justification: The intent of this regulation was to allow commercial fishermen to remove rough fish and invasive carp from Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) using only gill and trammel nets. Currently, the regulation does not state that the only legal gear is gill and trammel nets, this change will provide that clarification.

Code Change: 30.13

9. Proposal: Establish a special commercial fishing season on Long Slough Lake (Miller County) open noon November 1 until noon February 28 regardless of Sulphur River water level.

Justification: This proposed regulation would open Long Slough Lake to commercial fishing. There is an abundance of commercial species in the lake, and it serves as a potential harbor for invasive carp species. Commercial fishing in Long Slough is an important component for monitoring the establishment of an invasive carp population in the lake.

Code Change: 30.13

- 10. Proposal:** Remove slat traps as a legal form of gear for fishing Millwood Lake.
Justification: Millwood Lake special permit commercial season was originally added to assist with evaluating the catfish populations that are difficult for biologists to sample. However, limited data is available to justify allowing catfish under 16" to be harvested commercially. Removing this regulation will default catfish species to a 16-inch minimum length limit.
Code Change: 30.13

Non-sportfish

- 11. Proposal:** Require certain baitfish collection devices to be clearly labeled, in a durable manner.
Justification: This change adds continuity with label requirements of other forms of passive fishing gear found in Code 26.21.
Code Change: 32.04
- 12. Proposal:** Allow recreational harvest of common snapping turtles and softshell turtles for personal consumption with limits of six animals harvested per day.
Justification: This regulation change provides opportunities for recreational harvest of specific aquatic turtles.
Code Change: 34.12
- 13. Proposal:** Create a new code specific to crayfish.
Justification: Crayfish have long been utilized as bait for sportfish harvest and are growing in popularity for personal consumption. This proposed code will clarify harvest restrictions and the type of gear that can be used to legally take crayfish. The following waters and their tributaries are closed to harvest of crayfish based on the number of Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Eleven Point, South Fork Spring, Spring, or Strawberry rivers.
Code Change: 39.01, 39.02, 39.03, 39.05, 39.06

Sportfish

- 14. Proposal:** Reinstate statewide crappie regulations on Bois d'Arc Lake.
Justification: The half (15) daily limit for crappie is a carryover from the reduced creel limits that were enacted after the lake renovation in 2004. Lake sampling data from 2015-2020 indicate that this regulation is no longer needed and the lake should return to statewide limits.
Code Change: N1.01
- 15. Proposal:** Implement catch and release only for all sportfish in Lake Monticello including all creeks and ponds in its lakebed.
Justification: Lake Monticello has recently been renovated and will be stocked with a variety of fish species during 2022. In an effort to maximize the reproductive potential of these brood fish it is essential that all fish be released immediately until these populations become established. This catch and release regulation will be

removed when the lake is refilled and sustainable sportfish populations are established.

Code Change: N1.01-A

- 16. Proposal:** Implement a 13-inch minimum length limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass and remove the length limit for Spotted Bass on Lake Norfolk.
Justification: Over the last decade there has been a substantial increase in the abundance of Largemouth Bass in Norfolk Lake as a result of multiple high water years. This increase in abundance has led to a substantial increase in the number of Largemouth Bass that were below legal harvest limits and a reduction in growth. In an effort to improve growth of the Largemouth Bass population, this regulation will reduce the minimum length limit and open up a larger percent of the population to harvest.

Code Change: N1.01-B and N1.02-A

- 17. Proposal:** Increase the Lake Poinsett daily creel of Bream to the statewide limit of 50.

Justification: Lake Poinsett was recently renovated, and upon refilling, the regulation was set at half the statewide limit to provide a mix of opportunity and protection for these fish. The lake is ready to be at the statewide limit of 50 Fish per day.

Code Change: N1.01-C

- 18. Proposal:** Remove the 13-16-inch Slot length limit regulation for the harvest of Largemouth Bass from Sugar Loaf Lake.

Justification: A 13 -16 inch slot limit for the harvest of Largemouth Bass has been in effect on Sugar Loaf Lake since 1996. Size structure and age/growth data show that the slot is no longer an effective regulation for the management of Largemouth Bass in Sugar Loaf Lake. Sugar Loaf would now have statewide regulations for black bass.

Code Change: N1.02-B

- 19. Proposal:** Implement a 10-inch minimum length limit for crappie at Lake Erling.

Justification: Lake Erling is one of the top crappie fisheries in Arkansas and is currently managed under statewide regulations. However, modeling indicates that a 10" minimum length limit could further enhance the size structure of crappie in the lake. AGFC staff conducted an angler creel survey from 2020-2021, and results indicated broad support for additional harvest regulations for crappie.

Code Change: N1.02-B

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

**PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY
(Attach additional pages if needed)**

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

DIVISION: Fisheries

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Sean Lusk

TELEPHONE #: (877) 525-8606

FAX #: (501) 525-2265

EMAIL:

Sean.lusk@agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: 2023 Fisheries Staff Regulation Change Proposals

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?
Yes: _____ No: **X**

2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: _____ No: **X** If "Yes", please explain: _____

3. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a **federal** rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

<u>Current Fiscal Year</u>		<u>Next Fiscal Year</u>	
General Revenue	\$	General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$	Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$ N/A	Cash Funds	\$ N/A
Special Revenue	\$	Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$	Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$	Total	\$

4. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? (Estimated cost includes fees, administrative penalties, reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs associated with compliance.) Identify the **party** subject to the proposed rule, and explain how they are impacted.

Current Fiscal Year: \$ N/A Next Fiscal Year: \$ N/A

Party Subject to Rule: **Anglers in Arkansas**

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: **Positive**

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the **agency** to implement this rule? Explain the financial benefit to the agency from implementing this rule.

Current Fiscal Year: \$ N/A Next Fiscal Year: \$ N/A

Financial Benefit to Agency: **N/A**

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: _____ No: **X**

Why were such alternatives not proposed: _____

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: _____

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM:

1. ECONOMIC IMPACT - In compliance with Governor's Proclamation EO 05-04, this form must be completed for **commercial licenses and permits** and submitted at the time a regulation is proposed to the Commission. The form will be forwarded to the Chief of Fiscal Services Division for review. After review, the form will be submitted to:

Director
Arkansas Department of Economic Development
One Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

2. FINANCIAL IMPACT - After passage of any regulation changes which have a financial impact (including all sport, lifetime, and commercial licenses) this form must be completed and submitted to the Chief of the Legal Division. The form is required for filing regulation changes with the Secretary of State.