

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State
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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 Sarah Milligan

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Contact Phone 501-382-3807 Legal Division

Name of Rule NI.02 Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing December 18, 19, & 20, 2022

Final Date for Public Comment January 19, 2022

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

2023

Fishing Regulations

Summary of Digital Codebook Revisions/Corrections

1. Proposal: Clarify euthanasia requirements regarding Silver Carp, Bighead Carp, and Black Carp.

Justification: Current language implies invasive carp species must be euthanized if captured. However, the intent of this regulation is to require euthanasia if these species will be kept after capture.

Code Change: 26.30

2. Proposal: Correct grammar and punctuation.

Justification: Correct grammar and punctuation.

Code Change: 27.01

3. Proposal: Remove Lake Sylvia from N1.01 EXCEPTION B.2.iv.

Justification: Lake Sylvia was removed from N1.01 EXCEPTION B.2.iv by Commission action prior to 2018, but that change was inadvertently omitted from the version that was codified into the official AGFC Digital Code in 2018.

Code Change: N1.01 EXCEPTION B.2.iv.

4. Proposal: Remove Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) from N1.01 EXCEPTION E.2.

Justification: Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) was removed from N1.01 EXCEPTION E.2 by Commission action prior to 2018, but that change was inadvertently omitted from the version that was codified into the official AGFC Digital Code in 2018.

Code Change: N1.01 EXCEPTION E.2.

5. Proposal: Remove Lake Austell from N1.02 A.5.

Justification: Lake Austell was removed from N1.02 A.5 by Commission action prior to 2018, but that change was inadvertently omitted from the version that was codified into the official AGFC Digital Code in 2018.

Code Change: N1.02 A.5.

6. Proposal: Remove Lake Greenlee from N1.02 A.9.

Justification: Lake Greenlee was removed from N1.02 A.9 by Commission action prior to 2018, but that change was inadvertently omitted from the version that was codified into the official AGFC Digital Code in 2018.

Code Change: N1.02 A.9.

7. Proposal: Remove Lake Charles from N1.02 B.1.

Justification: Lake Charles was removed from N1.02 B.1 by Commission action prior to 2018, but that change was inadvertently omitted from the version that was codified into the official AGFC Digital Code in 2018.

Code Change: N1.02 B.1.

burdensome to small business? Yes:

No: X

Why were such alternatives not proposed: N/A

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: N/A

N1.02 Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers

A. **BLACK BASS:** It is unlawful to possess black bass as follows:

1. Largemouth bass less than 12 inches on Lake Frierson and Greers Ferry Lake.
2. Spotted bass (Kentucky bass) less than 12 inches on Bull Shoals and Table Rock lakes.
3. All black bass less than 12 inches in Horseshoe Bend Pool on the Strawberry River.
4. Largemouth less than 13 inches on Norfolk and Ouachita lakes.
5. Largemouth bass 13-16 inches on lakes ~~Austell (Cross County)~~; Barnett (White County), Brewer, Wilhelmina (Polk County), Bear Creek Lake, Bob Kidd, and Lee Creek.
6. Largemouth bass less than 13 inches on DeGray Lake and within the boundaries of Felsenthal NWR.
 - i. **EXCEPTION:** No restriction in Woodland Trail Pond – located at the Felsenthal NWR Headquarters on U.S. Highway 82 (Ashley County); Locust Ridge Pond – located at Locust Ridge on U.S. Highway 82 (Union County); Eagle Lake Pond – located north of Eagle Lake on Bradley County Road 53 (Bradley County); and Shallow Lake Field Pond located west of Shallow Lake (Union County). Person(s) keeping largemouth bass less than 13 inches from these waters must exit the NWR boundaries immediately upon leaving these ponds and may not enter NWR campgrounds or fish other NWR waters with largemouth bass less than 13 inches from these 4 ponds in their possession.
7. Largemouth bass less than 14 inches on the Arkansas River and its tributaries.
8. Smallmouth bass less than 15 inches on Beaver, Bull Shoals, and Table Rock lakes.
9. Largemouth bass less than 15 inches on Beaver Lake, Blue Mountain, Bull Shoals, Georgia Pacific, Kingfisher, and Table Rock lakes; Upper and Lower Lake Chicot (including Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou's mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam); ~~Lake Greenlee~~ and Moss Creek Pond.
10. Black bass greater than 16 inches in Lake Winona.
11. Largemouth bass 16-21 inches on Lake Atkins. Daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 21 inches).
12. Largemouth bass less than 16 inches on Lake June.
13. Largemouth bass daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 20 inches) on Lake Columbia, Lake Austell (Cross County), Lake Dunn (Cross County), and Lower White Oak Lake.
14. Largemouth bass daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 18 inches) on Lake SWEPCO.
15. Smallmouth bass less than 18 inches on the lower Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to its mouth. Daily limit 1.
16. Largemouth bass 14-17 inches on Mallard Lake. Daily limit 10, only 1 of which may be larger than 17 inches.
17. RESERVED.

- B. **CRAPPIE:** It is unlawful to possess crappie as follows:
1. Less than 10 inches in Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, and Norfolk reservoirs; Cane Creek Lake in Lincoln County; Lake Chicot (including Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou's mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam); ~~Lake Charles~~; Lake Conway (including Gold Creek downstream from the Sturgis Road Bridge, Stone Dam Creek downstream of Interstate 40 Bridge, Caney Creek/Little Creek downstream from the Arkansas Highway 286 Bridge, and Palarm Creek downstream from the Arkansas Highway 286 Bridge), Lake Erling, Lake Overcup, Harris Brake Lake, Lake Dardanelle, and Lake Atkins.
 2. Less than 9 inches on Blue Mountain Lake.
- C. **CATFISH (channel, blue and flathead):** It is unlawful to possess flathead catfish less than 20 inches on the Ouachita River from Sandy Beach Access (Ouachita County) to Rammel Dam.
- D. **STRIPED BASS:** It is unlawful to possess striped bass less than 20 inches on Lake Norfolk and Beaver Lake
- E. **SHOVELNOSE STURGEON:** It is unlawful to possess shovelnose sturgeon less than 21 inches. Shovelnose sturgeon may not be taken from the Mississippi River.
1. **EXCEPTION:** Sportfish may be snagged (except in catch-and-release areas) in compliance with Codes [26.05](#) and [26.17](#), and within the restrictive size limits in this Addendum chapter.
- F. **WALLEYE:** It is unlawful to possess walleye less than 14 inches on Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries.

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, January 19, 2023, 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 throughout the day on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, 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 Commission meeting on January 19th 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 January meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the January 19, 2023 meeting will include 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:

- Clarify what to do with certain prohibited live carp when caught;
- Clarify list of waters where a trout permit is required to keep trout;
- Remove Lake Sylvia as an exception to the statewide daily limit for largemouth bass;
- Remove Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County) as an exception to the statewide daily limit for crappie;
- Remove Lake Austell (Cross County) and Lake Greenlee from the length limit restrictions on keeping largemouth bass;
- Remove Lake Charles from the length limit restrictions on keeping crappie;
- Clarify the deer season bag limits for Zone 9;
- Clarify the effective dates of waterfowl hunting restrictions on specific WMAs and lakes; and
- Correct a technical error in the spelling of Dyer Lake regarding waterfowl hunting restrictions on specific WMAs and lakes.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the January 19, 2023 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 January 9, 2023. 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.

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