

Use only for **FINAL** and **EMERGENCY RULES**

Revised 7/2015 to reflect new legislation passed in the 2015 Regular Session (Act 1258). This act changed the effective date from 30 days to 10 days after filing the rule.

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 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); 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 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 (including Bodcau Creek downstream of Arkansas Highway 360 Bridge), 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.

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO: <u>23-018</u>	SUBJECT: <u>Fishing Regulation - Crappie Length</u>
DATE PASSED: <u>April 20, 2023</u>	<u>Limit for Lake Erling</u>
PAGE <u>1</u> of <u>1</u> PAGES	LOCATION: <u>Lafayette County</u>

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached amended regulation for Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers to clarify that the boundary of Lake Erling includes Bodcau Creek downstream of Arkansas Highway 360 Bridge for the purpose of applying the 10-inch minimum-length-limit for crappie; **and**

WHEREAS, the attached regulation has been communicated through a variety of media avenues to sportsmen and the general public throughout the state for review and comment for at least the past 30 days; **and**

WHEREAS, after carefully considering the recommendations of Commission staff and the Regulations Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that the attached regulation promotes sound wildlife conservation and management and is consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution and that this regulation should now be approved for application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED this 20th day of April 2023, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts the attached regulation, which shall become effective immediately upon public filing or as soon thereafter as possible.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that the Commission staff is authorized to proceed with legally certifying and filing the attached regulation with the Secretary of State, State Library, and Bureau of Legislative Research and incorporating it into the Commission Code Book and Addendum.

<p>STAFF APPROVAL</p> <p>Submitted by: <u>Jason Olive</u> Jason Olive Chief</p> <p>Division: <u>Fisheries</u></p> <p>Approved: <u>Austin Bortz</u> Director</p> <p>Approved: <u>A. F. Goodhart</u> Legal</p> <p>Approved: <u>Emily Shumoe</u> Fiscal</p>	<p>COMMISSION APPROVAL</p> <p><u>Bobby Martin</u> Bobby Martin Chair</p> <p><u>Stan Jones</u> Stan Jones Vice Chair</p> <p><u>J. D. Neely</u> J. D. Neely Commissioner</p> <p><u>Anne Marie Doramus</u> Anne Marie Doramus Commissioner</p> <p><u>Rob Finley</u> Rob Finley Commissioner</p> <p><u>Philip Tappan</u> Philip Tappan Commissioner</p> <p><u>Bill Jones</u> Bill Jones Commissioner</p>
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PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY
(Attach additional pages if needed)

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: Clarify upstream boundary for Lake Erling crappie 10 inch minimum length limit.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 20, 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, April 19, 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 April 20th 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 20, 2023 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the March 15-16, 2023 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:

- **Fishing Regulations** – Amend existing regulation for Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers to provide that the boundary of Lake Erling includes Bodcau Creek downstream of Arkansas Highway 360 Bridge for the purpose of applying the 10-inch minimum-length-limit for crappie.
- **Waterfowl Hunting Regulations** – Adjust season dates for migratory waterfowl hunting, including for ducks, coots, mergansers, White-fronted geese, Snow, Blue, and Ross geese, and Canada geese; plus adjust season dates for the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season, the Veteran and Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt, the Nonresident Waterfowl Hunting Permit Requirements on WMAs, and the Snow, Blue, and Ross's Goose Conservation Order Season.
- **Miscellaneous Rules / Regulations** – Amend the existing definition of "Resident" to clarify that: (1) children younger than 18 are presumed to have the same resident status as their parent or legal guardian; (2) persons who are enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university outside of Arkansas qualify as a resident, provided they qualified as an Arkansas resident at the time of enrollment; (3) nonresidents who are enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university in Arkansas and who reside in the state during the school year qualify as a resident; and (4) for an applicant to qualify as a resident and be eligible to be issued any of the listed resident lifetime or commercial licenses, permits, or tags, the applicant must satisfy the general resident requirements and also provide proof that his or her domicile is currently in Arkansas and has been for at least the past 1 continuous year.

Also adopt policy and procedures to establish and operate an Arkansas Game and Fish Advisory Council, having members consisting of invited citizen-volunteers and designated

AGFC employees, for the purpose of providing stakeholder-focused advisory assistance to the Commission concerning AGFC programs and other critical matters related to the control, management, restoration, conservation and regulation of the wildlife resources of the State of Arkansas.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 20, 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 April 10, 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.

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