

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094  
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[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)



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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person Sarah Milligan

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Contact Phone 501-223-6327 Legal Division

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Name of Rule N1.02 – Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing June 18, 19, & 20, 2023

Final Date for Public Comment July 20, 2023

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

**2023**  
**Fishing Regulations**  
**Summary of Proposals**

**06/14/2023**

**General Fishing Regulations**

- 1. Proposal:** Temporarily suspend all game fish daily limits on Lake Conway.

**Justification:** The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has identified multiple issues with the Lake Conway dam that are in need of immediate attention. To properly resolve these issues it is necessary to fully draw down the lake in order to gain access to both sides of the dam. During this draw down, game fish daily limits will be temporarily suspend to allow anglers to harvest fish that would otherwise expire during this process.

**Code Change:** N1.01, N1.02

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

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: Temporarily suspend Lake Conway game fish daily limits.**

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 Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?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.

**Next Fiscal Year: \$0**

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

**Effect on Party Subject to Rule: This regulation reduces harvest restrictions for game fish.**

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.

**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: ☒

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.

## 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

As of May 3, 2023  
 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 SWECO.
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

As of May 3, 2023  
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 Norfork 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, July 20, 2023, at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters located at 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, July 19, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Headquarters located at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup> 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 meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the July 20, 2023 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the June 14-15, 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** – Take emergency action to amend existing regulations to temporarily suspend all game fish daily limits and length limits on Lake Conway during drainage of the lake for making repairs to the dam to allow anglers to harvest fish that would otherwise expire during this process. This emergency action shall remain in effect from July 21, 2023 until January 16, 2024, and then shall terminate.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the July 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 July 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](http://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