

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State  
John Thurston  
500 Woodlane Street, Suite 026  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094  
(501) 682-5070  
[www.sos.arkansas.gov](http://www.sos.arkansas.gov)



---

Name of Department \_\_\_\_\_

Agency or Division Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Contact E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name of Rule \_\_\_\_\_

Newspaper Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publishing \_\_\_\_\_

Final Date for Public Comment \_\_\_\_\_

Location and Time of Public Meeting \_\_\_\_\_

**Proposal:** 1. Define American Eel as a Gamefish and Set Daily Limits 2. Elimination of Alligator Farmer Regulations 3. Create a Bass Management Assistance Program (BMAP) that allows private landowners to harvest more than statewide daily limits from waterbodies that have no public access and are fully surrounded by private land. 4. Game Fish, Commercial Fish, Bait Fish, Rough Fish, and Redeye Bass definition corrections 5. Update the definition of a disabled angler to any individual who is 100% permanently and totally disabled as declared by one or more of the following agencies: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disability Services, or an Arkansas disability service provider. 6. Define camping to clarify that parking vehicles, boats, etc. in WMA parking lots for extended periods of time is camping and prohibited outside designated camping areas. 7. In code stating use of dogs to chase "wildlife for pleasure", replace pleasure with "for training." 8. Clarify definition of Hunt or Hunting 9. Define Hunting Assistance 10. Clarified definition of buck 11. Define big bore air rifles.

**Justification:** 1. American eel is a species of greatest conservation need that is declining in Arkansas. To offer protections for harvest they are being added to the game fish species list and a 2-fish daily creel limit is being established. 2. No alligator farmer permit applications have been received in over 15 years because it is not profitable to rear them in Arkansas due to heating costs throughout much of the year. 3. The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's Bass Management Assistance Program (BMAP) aims to provide technical assistance with black bass management for private landowners with lakes and ponds ten acres or greater in size. An issue private lake or pond owners commonly face is the overabundance of bass, which, left unaddressed, can lead to stunting or a reduction in the quality of the fishery. In this instance, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Fisheries Division will permit private lake or pond owners to legally harvest above Arkansas's black bass daily and possession limits as long as they comply with the terms and provisions of the permit. 4. Several recent taxonomic changes to Arkansas fish species names necessitates edits to these lists. Several of the species listed in these definitions no longer occur in Arkansas. Redeye Bass are non-native to Arkansas. The only Redeye Bass stockings within Arkansas occurred over 40 years ago and biologists have not collected any since that time. Furthermore, the recent edition of the Fishes of Arkansas does not list Redeye Bass occurring within the state. Thus, we request that Redeye Bass be removed from the black bass definition because they no longer inhabit Arkansas. 5. The new definition would allow the following agencies: Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disability Services, or an Arkansas disability service provider to obtain a valid license for the clients they serve. 6. People occupying WMA parking lots for multiple days before duck season opening day has become more common recently. This behavior violates the intent of bans on camping outside designated areas on WMAs. However, enforcement is difficult without a definition of camping in code. This addition would allow citations to be issued to individuals staying outside designated campsites for multiple days, including WMAs without any designated campsites. 7. Chasing for pleasure could be considered harassment. Eliminate exceptions A and B, "It is unlawful to use a dog to chase any wildlife for pleasure during the day from April 1-May 15, any muzzleloader deer season, and any deer modern gun season where hunting with dogs is prohibited or to possess a killing device while using a dog to chase wildlife for pleasure." Also eliminate "for pleasure." 8. Currently, there is a need to better define what does in fact constitute "hunting," and in concert define what would be considered to be "hunting assistance." Current understanding of this issue is that in order to be "hunting" an individual would need to be in possession of a killing device, and this should be clarified as such in the definition of "hunting." To clarify what another individual who may participate in a hunt would or

could be doing necessitates the addition of a “hunting assistance” definition. This would need to cover how an individual could assist another individual in the act of “hunting” by methods such as, but not limited to, searching, pursuing, chasing, tracking, luring, or attracting. In addition, there may be a need to define whether or not some or all of these practices would require an individual providing “hunting assistance” to be in possession of a valid hunting license which would better clarify that individuals whose hunting license was suspended could not participate on another individual's hunt. This would eliminate confusion on this issue and address persistent questions from the public as to what a “non-hunting” individual may be allowed to do while accompanying another hunter on their hunt. 9. Individuals assisting or mentoring a permit holder are allowed to enter the WMA. 10. To provide additional hunting opportunity. 11. Definition needed.

**Code Change:** 1.00-C

## FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

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

**DEPARTMENT:** Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

**DIVISION:** Wildlife

**PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT:** Sandee Schultz

**TELEPHONE #:** 501-382-9092

**FAX #:**

**EMAIL:**

**sandee.schultz@agfc.ar.gov**

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:** 01.00C Definition Of Terms

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.

### Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
Total	\$	

### Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
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:** \$ 0

**Next Fiscal Year:** \$ 0

Party Subject to Rule: Hunters in Arkansas

Effect on Party Subject to Rule:

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: \$ 0**

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

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts:

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM:**

The Division responsible for a regulation proposal must complete this form and include it as the last page(s) of a regulation proposal that is submitted to the Commission for review, and again when the proposal is submitted to the Commission for a vote. After regulation adoption, Legal Division will submit the form to the appropriate State offices.

## 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 #:** 501.8021112.0431 **FAX #:** N/A **EMAIL:** sean.lusk@agfc.ar.gov

**SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE:** Revise various definitions in 1.00-C Definitions of Terms.

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.

### Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
Total	\$	

### Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$	
Federal Funds	\$	
Cash Funds	\$	N/A
Special Revenue	\$	
Other (Identify)	\$	
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:** \$0

**Next Fiscal Year:** \$0

Party Subject to Rule: **Stakeholders that read and use the AGFC Codebook.**

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: **The definition of various terms has been revised.**

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:

## 01.00-C Definition of Terms

For the purposes of the Arkansas State Game and Fish Code of Regulations, the following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean and include:

**ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY** – Members of active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training), may participate.

**ADULT GOBBLER** – Male turkeys having at least 1 of the following characteristics:

- A. Tail feathers which are the same length,
- B. Wing feathers that have white barring all the way to the tip, or
- C. A beard more than 6 inches in length.

**AGFC LICENSE SYSTEM**—The point-of-sale system that the Commission uses to sell and dispense Commission-issued licenses, permits, stamps, tags, and other privileges to the public.

~~**ALLIGATOR DEALER** – Any person, firm, or corporation engaging in the sale, purchase, barter, or exchange of an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) or other crocodilian species, or any part, nest, or eggs thereof in Arkansas.~~

~~**ALLIGATOR FARMER** – Any person, firm, or corporation possessing an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) or other crocodilian species, or any part, nest or eggs thereof in Arkansas for the purpose of propagation, production, or rearing.~~

**ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE DEALER** – Any person, firm, or corporation engaged in the sale or purchase of alligator snapping turtles.

**ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE BREEDER** – Any person, firm, or corporation possessing alligator snapping turtles for the purpose of propagation, production, rearing, or sale.

**ANIMAL** – An organism of the animal kingdom, as distinguished from the plant kingdom, including any part, product, egg, or offspring thereof.

**ANTLERLESS DEER** – A doe or a buck having less than 2 inches of hardened bone antler.

**ANTLERLESS ELK** – Any elk (male or female) not meeting requirements to be a legal bull elk.

**AQUACULTURE SPECIES** – Any species listed on the Approved Aquaculture Species List (Addendum Chapter J1.00) and species not listed but allowed under Unlisted or Restricted Species Possession Permits.

**AQUATIC WILDLIFE** – All aquatic species, including aquatic snails, aquatic turtles, crayfish (crawfish and crawdads), fish (including minnows), frogs, mussels, and salamanders.

**ARKANSAS RIVER BOUNDARY (Sportfishing Only)** – The Arkansas Post Canal from Norrell Lock and Dam No. 1 to the Arkansas River and the Arkansas River from Wilbur D. Mills Dam No. 2 upstream to the Oklahoma state line, including all lakes, bays, and tributary streams accessible by boat from the main channel except:

- Big Bayou Meto upstream from Arkansas Highway 11;
- Plum Bayou upstream from U.S. Highway 79;
- Little Maumelle River upstream from Pinnacle Mountain State Park;



- Maumelle River upstream from Lake Maumelle Dam;
- Fourche LaFave upstream from Arkansas Highway 113;
- Palarm Creek upstream from Interstate 40;
- Cadron Creek upstream from the weir;
- Point Remove Creek upstream from Arkansas Highway 113;
- Petit Jean River upstream from Pontoon Boat Ramp at Arkansas Highway 154;
- Illinois Bayou upstream from Russellville Waterworks Dam;
- Big Piney and Little Piney creeks upstream from Arkansas Highway 359;
- Horsehead Creek upstream from Interstate 40;
- Mulberry River upstream from Interstate 40;
- Frog Bayou upstream from Arkansas Highway 162 and Lee Creek upstream from Lee Creek Dam; and
- From the first non-navigable shoal for streams entering the Arkansas River along the right bank descending from the Oklahoma state line to Lake Dardanelle Dam.

**ARTIFICIAL LURE OR FLY** – Terminal fishing tackle made entirely of rubber, wood, metal, glass, feathers, hair, synthetic fibers, or plastic, with hook attached.

**BAITFISH** – Minnows, logperch, gizzard and threadfin shad, gar (other than alligator gar), bullhead catfish, crayfish, drum, bowfin under 6 inches, skipjack herring, ~~brook and inland~~ silversides, bigmouth, smallmouth and black buffalo, river carpsucker, spotted sucker, black redhorse, golden redhorse, banded and Ozark sculpin, bream 4 inches and under, and bream over 4 inches that are caught by hook and line.

**BAITING** – The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attractant for wildlife to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

**BIG GAME** – Alligator, black bear, deer, elk, and turkey.

**BLACK BASS** – Largemouth bass, ~~red-eye bass~~, smallmouth bass, and spotted bass.

**BASS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BMAP)** – An AGFC program that provides education and technical assistance to private landowners, clubs, leases, government agencies, corporations, municipalities and other land managers interested in managing black bass populations.

**BASS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WATERS** – Lakes or reservoirs that are completely surrounded by private property and enrolled in BMAP.

**BIG BORE AIR RIFLES** – Air rifles which fire a single, expandable slug .40 caliber or larger, produce a minimum of 400 foot pounds of muzzle energy, and are charged via an external tank.

**BLOCKING OUT** – The removal of the head or tail associated with the processing of a commercial fish. The blocked-out carcass (bullet) must be at least the minimum length required for the body of water

where the commercial fish was harvested (Code [30.11](#)).

**BONUS DEER** – A harvested deer that is not included in a hunter’s statewide bag limit.

**BOX TYPE TURTLE TRAP** – A floating trap designed to capture aquatic turtles, but does not permit capture of fish (Code [34.07](#)).

**BREAM** – A species of the genus *Lepomis*, including bluegill, redear, warmouth, and other sunfish.

**BUCK** – A male deer (see **LEGAL BUCK** definition).

**BUCK DEER SEASON** – A deer season in which no deer other than legal buck deer may be taken.

**BUY** – To purchase, barter, exchange, or trade, including any offer to purchase, barter, exchange, or trade.

**CAMPING** – An activity by which a person takes up a position in a tent, recreational vehicle, or other temporary shelter, typically along with belongings for remaining overnight, and includes, but not limited to sitting or sleeping in a parked vehicle or boat overnight, whether at designated campsite, public access area, or other outdoor area.

**CAPTIVITY OR HOLD CAPTIVE** – The holding of living wildlife in a controlled environment that is manipulated by man for the purpose of exercising ownership, possession, or control of the wildlife, and that has boundaries designed to prevent selected species from entering or leaving the controlled environment.

**CARCASS** – The body of a dead animal.

**CASE** – A container specifically designed to hold a firearm which completely encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened with no portion of the firearm exposed.

**CATCH-AND-RELEASE** – The requirement that fish of a designated species must be immediately released into the water where caught.

**CERVID** – A member of the Family Cervidae, including without limitation deer, reindeer, moose, elk, and caribou.

**CHASE FOR ~~PLEASURE~~RETRAINING** – To search for, pursue, or chase game animals or other wildlife with the use of dogs for recreational purposes only, with no intent of hunting such game animals or wildlife.

**CHECKING WILDLIFE** – The accurate and complete reporting of specific information to the Commission concerning harvest of alligator, bear, deer, elk, and turkey by one of the following methods: phoning a designated number to report bear, deer, or turkey harvests, or electronically through the Commission’s online deer, bear, elk, alligator, and turkey checking web site or mobile applications.

**CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)** – Fatal disease affecting the brain of cervids that belongs to a group of diseases called transmissible spongiform encephalopathies.

**CHUMMING** – To dislodge or deposit any substance not attached to a hook which may attract fish.

**CITES TAG** – A permit that allows shipping of certain animal pelts outside the State of Arkansas and assures compliance with the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species.

**CLEAN** – Having no meat matter or tissue attached to the carcass.

**COMPUTER-ASSISTED HUNTING** – The use of a computer or any other device, equipment, or software to remotely control the aiming and discharge of a firearm, bow, or crossbow to kill wildlife located in Arkansas.

**COMMERCIAL FISH** – Bowfin (over 6 inches), paddlefish, shovelnose, sturgeon, and all species of buffalo, catfish, carp, drum, gar, and sucker family (except **highfin carpsucker**, silver redhorse, and **pealip redhorse**).

**COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN** – Any person who fishes with tackle designated as commercial tackle

requiring a license or tag issued by the Commission.

**COMMERCIAL TACKLE** – Properly licensed tackle used to catch aquatic wildlife for commercial purposes.

**COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE HUNTING RESORT** – A facility, location, business, or operation that offers, for pay or other consideration, an opportunity to hunt native wildlife, other than pen-raised game birds, held in captivity. Includes all contiguous land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land, used for the hunting activities.

**COMMERCIAL WILDLIFE PERMIT** – Any or all of the following permits: ~~Alligator Farmer/Dealer~~, Alligator Snapping Turtle Breeder/Dealer, Resident Shell Taker and Seller, Shell Buyer, Non-Resident Shell Buyer, Resident Roe Taker/Seller, Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter, Non-Resident Roe Buyer, Resident Fur Dealer, Non-Resident Fur Dealer, Special Commercial Quail, Game Bird Shooting Resort, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer, and Wildlife Importation.

**COMMISSION** – The Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission, unless otherwise designated.

**CONSERVATION CARD** – A physical card that the Commission issues to a person and that is linked to that person's AGFC licenses, permits, stamps, and tags. Before engaging in an activity requiring an AGFC license, permit, stamp, or tag, the cardholder must purchase and verify issuance and valid expiration date of all required AGFC licenses, permits, stamps, and tags via [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) or 1-800-364-GAME. The card itself is not a license and conveys no independent right or privilege beyond the extent of any license, permit, stamp, or tag that has been linked to the card by purchase and has not been suspended, revoked, or expired.

**CUSTOMER IDENTIFICATION (CID)** - A unique number assigned by the Commission to customers through the AGFC Point-of-Sale License System.

**DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** – An AGFC program that provides education and technical assistance to private landowners, clubs, leases, government agencies, corporations, municipalities and other land managers interested in managing deer populations.

**DEFERRED HUNTER EDUCATION (DHE)** – Designates a holder of a valid Arkansas hunting license/permit who has deferred completion of the hunter education program.

**DISABLED** – Any individual who is 100% permanently and totally disabled as declared by one or more of the following federal agencies: the U.S. Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, or the U.S. Railroad Retirement Board.

**DISABLED VETERAN**– Any individual who is a resident of Arkansas and a military veteran, who has been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to have a:

- A. 100% total and permanent service-connected disability rating (applies to licenses VLF, VLH, VLC, VLD, and VLT in Addendum [D1.01](#)); or
- B. 70%or higher service-connected disability rating (applies to license VLL in Addendum [D1.01](#)); or
- C. 50%or higher service-connected disability rating and is a recipient of the Purple Heart medal (applies to license VLL in Addendum [D1.01](#)).

**DOE** – A female deer.

**DOE DEER SEASON** – A deer season in which a doe may be taken.

**DROWNING SET** – Any leg-hold trap that uses one or more of the following techniques to retain the target animal in water of suitable depth for drowning: a slide wire with lock, a tangle stake, or a drowning weight.

**DUCKS**— All species of teal, merganser, whistling duck, scaup, American wigeon, American black duck, bufflehead, canvasback, gadwall, common goldeneye, mallard, mottled duck, northern shoveler, redhead, ring-necked duck, ruddy duck, northern pintail, and wood duck.

**EDIBLE PORTIONS** – Portions of the following animals are considered edible as stated below:

- A. **Game Mammals:** front quarters, hind quarters, loins, and tenderloins.
- B. **Game Fish:** fillets of fish.
- C. **Game Birds:** breasts.
- D. **Frogs:** hind legs.
- E. **Alligators:** tails, legs, flanks, loins, and tenderloins.

**ELECTRIC BICYCLE** – A bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than seven hundred fifty watts (750 W) that meets one of the following classifications:

- “Class 1 electric bicycle” means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour (20 m.p.h.).
- “Class 2 electric bicycle” means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the electric bicycle and that is not capable of providing assistance when the electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour (20 m.p.h.).
- “Class 3 electric bicycle” means an electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the operator is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour (28 m.p.h.).

**EITHER-SEX** – A male or a female.

**EITHER-SEX DEER SEASON** – A deer season in which a doe or a legal buck may be taken.

**EMERGENCY CONDITION** – Any condition involving:

- A. Imminent peril to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or the wildlife resources of the State; or
- B. Immediate action mandated by federal law or regulation.

**ENCLOSE** – To surround wildlife using man-made barriers, including but not limited to fencing, walls, structures, or other devices, so that the wildlife are not free to leave a particular environment.

**ENCLOSURE** – Any area surrounded by a man-made barrier, including but not limited to fencing, walls, structures, or other devices that prevent wildlife from leaving a particular environment.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES** – A wildlife species or subspecies endangered or threatened with extinction that is listed or proposed as a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or any native species or subspecies listed as endangered by the Commission (Addendum Chapter [P1.00](#)).

**EVISCERATED** – Internal organs, excluding the brain and gills, have been removed.

**FALCONRY** –The caring for and training of raptors for pursuit of wild game, and hunting wild game with raptors. It includes the taking of raptors from the wild to use in the sport and caring for, training, and

transporting raptors held for falconry.

**FEDERAL WATERS** – Waters designated by federal law as federally controlled or under the jurisdiction of a department or agency of the United States Government.

**FEE LAKE** – A lake in which there is a fee for fishing rights. All persons 16 years of age and older must possess an Arkansas fishing license. Daily limits apply.

**FEEDING WILDLIFE** – The direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain or other feed that serves or could serve as a lure, attractant, or supplemental food source for wildlife.

**FERAL HOG** – Any hog, including but not limited to Russian and European wild boar, any Old World swine, or the family Tayassuidae, including without limitation peccary, javelin, and New World swine, which is roaming freely and is living in a wild or feral state, and is not conspicuously identified as required under Arkansas Code Annotated § 2-34-101 and § 2-34-102.

**FIREARM** – Any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile through a barrel, including without limitation modern guns, air guns and muzzleloaders (see **LOADED FIREARM**).

**FISH OR FISHING** – To lure, attract, collect, or pursue fish species or aquatic wildlife for the purpose of taking or attempting to take such species by any method.

**FISH DEALER** – Any person who sells live fish, including baitfish.

**FISH FARM** – Waters and adjacent premises confined within a pond, tank, or lake, not connected with public waters and under management of a fish farmer.

**FISH FARMER (AQUACULTURIST)** – A person, firm, partnership, or corporation engaged in the propagation or rearing of aquaculture species for sale.

**FREEFLOATING FISHING DEVICE** – A floating fishing device unanchored or unattached to a stationary object.

**FURBEARERS** – Badger, beaver, bobcat, coyote, gray fox, red fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, raccoon, river otter, spotted skunk, striped skunk, and weasel.

**GAFF** – To take or attempt to take fish with a hand-held or handled hook.

**GAME ANIMALS** – Alligator, black bear, bobcat, coyote, deer, elk, gray fox, red fox, mink, opossum, eastern cottontail rabbit, swamp rabbit, raccoon, gray squirrel, and fox squirrel.

**GAME BIRD SHOOTING RESORT** – A facility, location, business, or operation that offers, for pay or other consideration, an opportunity to hunt captive-raised game birds. Includes all contiguous land, structures, other appurtenances, and improvements on the land used for the hunting activities.

**GAME BIRDS** – Turkey, northern bobwhite quail, pheasant, chukar Eurasian collared dove, and all birds classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as migratory game birds.

**GAME FISH** – Alligator gar, **American eel**, largemouth bass, spotted bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, longear sunfish, redear sunfish, green sunfish, warmouth, Ozark bass, rock bass, shadow bass, white bass, striped bass, black crappie, white crappie, blue catfish, channel catfish, flathead catfish, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, tiger trout, walleye, sauger, paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and hybrids of these species.

**GAME FISH PARTS** – Any part of a game fish including muscle (fillets), organs (guts), skin, fins, bones, blood, and gametes (including fresh or frozen eggs or milt).

**GEOCACHE** – Items in a container (cache) placed or hidden for individuals to subsequently find using a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver.

**GEOCACHING** – An outdoor sport, similar to “high-tech treasure hunting,” involving use of a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver to find a cache.

**GUIDE** – A person who provides, for monetary or any other compensation, that person's personal services for the purpose of assisting others to locate, pursue, catch, or hunt wildlife.

**HACKING** – The temporary release of a raptor held for falconry to the wild so that it must survive on its own.

**HARASS** – An intentional or negligent act which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavioral pattern which include but are not limited to breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

**HAZARDOUS WAKE** – Wash or wake upon an approaching, passing, or stationary vessel, including but not limited to a wake that causes other vessels to take on water, or a wash or wake that is sufficient to toss occupants of other vessels about in a manner that causes injury or the risk of injury.

**HARVEST/HARVESTING** – To reduce to possession.

**HEN TURKEY** – Female turkey with or without a beard.

**HIGH-FENCE ENCLOSURE** – An enclosure that contains an area of at least 500 contiguous acres, with at least 60 percent of the acreage in forested cover that has been classified as timberland by the local county tax assessor, that has a perimeter fence at least 8 feet high, with no cross-fencing that has the effect of reducing the size of the area to less than 500 contiguous acres with at least 60 percent of the acreage in forested cover as herein provided.

**HOGGING** – The taking of fish by the use of hands only, in or under the water.

**HUNT OR HUNTING** – Taking or attempting to take wildlife by any method including but not limited to searching, pursuing, chasing, tracking, luring, or attracting- while in possession of, or using, a killing or capture device.

**HUNTING ASSISTANCE** – Accompanying and assisting another person with taking or attempting to take wildlife by any method including but not limited to searching, pursuing, chasing, tracking, trapping, luring or attracting.

**HUNTING INCIDENT** – When bodily injury above basic first aid or death occurs due to an activity directly related to a hunting or trapping excursion in the field. Examples of such activities would include discharge of a firearm, bow, or crossbow, and falls from an elevated platform (tree stand, tower stand, or elevated duck blind).

**HUNTING PARTY** – 2 or more persons hunting together.

**HYBRID RAPTORS** – A raptor produced from cross-breeding birds of two different taxa, one or both of which are listed in [50 CFR 10.13](#), and any offspring of such raptors.

**IMPORT OR IMPORTATION** – To ship, convey, carry, transport, bring, or introduce into Arkansas anything from outside its borders.

**IMPRINT** – A bird that is hand-raised in isolation from other raptors from 2 weeks of age until it has fledged and will be considered to be an imprinted bird for its entire life.

**JAKE** – Sub-adult male turkey having all these characteristics:

- A. Longer central tail feathers,
- B. Outermost one or two wing feathers lacking white barring all the way to the tip, and
- C. A beard 6 inches or less in length.

**KILLING DEVICE** – Any firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, compressed gas or spring-powered pistol or rifle, blowgun, speargun, hand-thrown spear, slingshot, irritant gas device, explosive device, or any

other implement designed to discharge a projectile capable of killing wildlife.

**LARGE CARNIVORE** – Mountain Lion (*Puma concolor*), Tigers (*Panthera tigris*), African Lions (*Panthera leo*), or any hybrid thereof, and all species of bears (family *Ursidae*).

**LEGAL BUCK** – A male deer may be considered legal under the following rules as applied by this Code:

- A. **Antlered Buck:** A male deer with 2 inches, or more, of ~~hardened bone~~ antler.
- B. **Buck of Choice:** A male deer.
- C. **Button Buck:** A male deer with less than 2 inches of ~~hardened bone~~ antler.
- D. **3-point Rule:** A male deer having both antlers under 2 inches (including button buck) or at least 1 antler with at least 3 points, each a minimum of 1 inch long, including the tip of the main beam. (Code [21.03](#)).
- E. **12/15 Rule:**
  - 1. A male deer having both antlers under 2 inches (including button buck),
  - 2. A male deer having an inside spread of at least 12 inches or more in width, or
  - 3. A male deer having at least one main beam 15 inches or more in length (Code [21.03](#)).
- F. **15/18 Rule:**
  - 1. A male deer having both antlers under 2 inches (including button buck),
  - 2. A male deer having an inside spread of at least 15 inches or more in width, or
  - 3. A male deer having at least one main beam 18 inches or more in length. (Code [21.03](#)).
- G. **WMA Special Restrictions:** Special restrictions may apply on certain WMAs (Code [21.03](#)).

**LEGAL BULL ELK** – An elk having at least 1 antler visible above the hair line.

**LEGAL TURKEY** – A turkey may be considered legal under the following rules as applied by this Code:

- A. Hunters 16 years and older: A legal turkey is an adult gobbler.
- B. Hunters 6 to 15 years of age: A legal turkey is an adult gobbler or jake.

#### **LENGTH LIMITS –**

- A. **Minimum Length Limit:** The shortest length of a fish of a designated species that can be kept.
- B. **Maximum Length Limit:** The maximum length of a fish of a designated species that can be kept.
- C. **Protected Length:** A species/size limit that prohibits anglers from keeping fish within a designated size group.

Unless otherwise specified, all fish are measured from the front of the lower jaw with the mouth closed to the tip of the tail with tail lobes pressed together when laid flat on a rule, on its side. All fish not meeting the length limit requirements for a particular water or species must be immediately released into the water where caught.

**LIMBLINE** – A line anchored to a stationary object above the water surface and extending into the water with two or fewer hooks attached to that line.

**LIMITS** –

- A. **Daily Limit:** The maximum number of a species allowed to be taken during a specific 24-hour time period (midnight to midnight, unless otherwise specified).
- B. **Seasonal Limit:** The maximum number of a species allowed to be taken during a specific season.
- C. **Possession Limit:** The maximum number of species allowed to be possessed at any time. Any fish or wildlife, excluding migratory game birds, legally taken for personal consumption and stored in processed form within a residence of the possessor shall not count toward the possession limit.

**LITTER** – All waste which has been discarded or otherwise disposed of, including but not limited to, convenience food and beverage packages or containers, trash, garbage, all other product packages or containers, and other post-consumer solid wastes as referenced in State Law, or discarded animal carcasses.

**LOADED FIREARM**– Firearms are considered loaded if shells or cartridges are in the chamber, magazine, or cylinder. Percussion cap muzzleloading firearms are considered loaded if the percussion cap is on the nipple. Flintlock muzzleloading firearms are considered loaded if there is powder in the flashpan. Electronic pulse ignition muzzleloaders are considered loaded if the ignition circuit is charged.

**MEDICALLY SIGNIFICANT VENOMOUS REPTILE SPECIES** – The following reptiles, including their taxonomic successors, subspecies, or hybrids thereof, are designated as medically significant: *Daboia russelii*, *Dendroaspis* spp., *Naja* spp., *Oxyuranus* spp., *Pseudonaja* spp., *Notechis* spp., *Pseudechis* spp., *Boulengerina* spp., *Echis* spp., *Bothrops* spp., *Aspidelaps* spp., *Atheris* spp., *Proatheris* spp., *Dispholidus* spp., *Pseudohaje* spp., *Atropoides* spp., *Crotalus* spp., *Lachesis* spp., *Walterinnesia* spp., *Calliophis* spp. or *Maticora* spp., *Bungarus* spp., *Ophryacus* spp., *Porthidium* spp., *Deinagkistrodon* spp., *Azemiops* spp., *Bitis* spp., *Gloydus* spp., *Protobothrops* spp., *Vipera* spp., *Ophiophagus* spp., *Vermicella* spp., *Eristocophis* spp., *Cerrophidion* spp., *Ovophis* spp., *Trimeresurus* spp., *Tropidolaemus* spp., *Sistrurus* spp., *Agkistrodon* spp., *Bothrocophias* spp., *Bothriechis* spp., *Hypnale* spp., *Bothriopsis* spp., *Calloselasma* spp., *Mixcoatlus* spp., *Cerastes* spp., *Pseudocerastes* spp., *Micrurus* spp., *Micruroides* spp., and subfamily *Hydrophiinae* and *Heloderma* spp.

**MIGRATORY BIRDS** – All birds protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and subsequent amendments.

**MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS** – Coots, crows, doves, Eurasian collared doves, ducks, gallinules or moorhens, geese, rails, snipe, and woodcock.

**MILITARY RETIREE** – Any individual at least 60 years of age who is entitled to retired pay as a result of his or her United States military service.

**MINNOWS** – Small nongame fish commonly used for bait including bluntnose minnows, bullhead minnows, chubs, dace, fatheads, common carp under 6 inches, goldfish, shiners, and stonerollers.

**MOBILITY IMPAIRED** – A designation made by the Commission based upon a satisfactory showing that a person has a permanent physical condition, verified by a physician duly licensed to practice medicine by a state medical board, which severely impairs the person's mobility and prevents him or her from being



able to engage in hunting or fishing activities without the use of an ATV or similar specialized device for transportation.

**MOTORIZED BICYCLE** – A bicycle with a transmission and a motor of any type which propels the bicycle.

**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (NWR)** – Designated areas of land and water managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the conservation and, where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats.

**NATIVE WILDLIFE** – Those species and ~~sub-species~~ **subspecies** of wildlife that have established, naturally reproducing, free-ranging, wild populations within Arkansas.

**NIGHT** – The time period 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.

**NOODLING** – The taking of fish by the use of a pole-mounted breakaway hook that detaches at the time of the strike or catch, or snare type device, with an attached line manipulated by hand when a person is in or under the water.

**NONGAME WILDLIFE** – All wildlife other than furbearing or game animals, game birds, and game fish.

**NON-NATIVE WILDLIFE** – Any wildlife not defined as native wildlife.

**NONRESIDENT** – A person not defined as a resident.

**NUISANCE WILDLIFE** – Any wildlife creating a problem by committing damage to personal property or crops.

**OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV)** – A motorized vehicle designed or adapted for use on unimproved roads or trails to include three and four wheeled ATVs, 4x4 vehicles, amphibious vehicle UTVs, dune buggies, ~~go-carts~~ **go-karts**, scooters, and motorcycles.

**OPEN SEASON** – A time frame established by the Commission during which a designated species may be lawfully taken.

**PEN-RAISED QUAIL** – Northern bobwhite raised or hatched in captivity.

**PERSON** – Any individual, firm, corporation, association, partnership, or other legal entity in singular or plural as the context requires. All pronouns shall include the masculine, feminine, and neuter.

**PERSONAL WATERCRAFT** – A jet-driven or motorized vessel boat less than 13 feet long that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the craft rather than within the confines of a hull.

**PORTABLE HUNTING STAND** – Any device or structure used for the purpose of hunting that can be carried in its entirety and erected by hand, including but not limited to tripod stands, lean-to stands, lock-on stands, ladder stands, and climbing stands (box stands are not portable hunting stands).

**PORTABLE POP-UP BLIND** – A structure used to conceal a person that can be collapsed and carried in its entirety by 1 person.

**POSSESS OR POSSESSION** – Having or holding wildlife or any property in one's power; the exercise of dominion over property. Possession includes actual possession (physical occupancy or control over property) and constructive possession (control or dominion over property without actual possession or custody of the property).

**PRIMATE** – A live individual animal of the taxonomic order Primates, excluding humans.

**PROPAGATE OR PROPAGATION** – To allow plants or animals to breed or multiply.

**PUBLIC ROAD** – The traveled portion and the shoulders on each side of any road maintained for public travel by a city, county, state, or federal government and includes all structures within the limits of the right-of-way of any such road.

**PUBLIC WATERS** – Waters that members of the public have a legal right to access and use for recreational purposes, including all legally navigable waters.

**PUT-AND-TAKE PAY LAKE** – Private waters open to public fishing for a fee, after being licensed by the Commission and where no fishing license or daily limit of fish is imposed.

**RAPTOR** – Migratory bird of the Order Falconiformes, Accipitriformes, or the Order Strigiformes.

**REAR OR REARING** – To maintain plants or animals to increase their size or development.

**REHABILITATION** – Providing medical treatment or other care to orphaned, sick, or injured wild animals that have come into human possession with the goal of returning the animal to the wild.

**RESIDENCE** – Any dwelling such as a house, manufactured home, or apartment that is permanently fixed in place and is owned, leased, or rented fully or in part by an individual. This term does not include tents; temporary lodging or rental units such as hotels, motels, resorts, or commercial campgrounds; recreational vehicles; mobile travel trailers; or motor vehicles.

**RESIDENT** –

- A. A natural person whose domicile currently is in Arkansas and has been for at least 60 consecutive days qualifies as a "resident" under this Code. "Domicile" means the one and only place where a person has physically established a true, fixed and permanent home, and to where, whenever the person is briefly and temporarily absent, the person intends to return. Children younger than 18 are presumed to have the same resident status as their parent or legal guardian. A person is not considered a "resident" under this Code if the person:
  1. Resides in the state only for a special or temporary purpose, but not limited to, engaging in hunting, fishing, or trapping, or
  2. Has been issued any resident license, permit, or tag (except ones that are designated as non-expiring) to hunt, fish or trap in another state or country that is still valid in that state or country.
- B. The following natural persons also qualify as a "resident" under this Code for so long as they meet the listed criteria:
  1. Persons who are enrolled as a full-time student at a college or university outside of Arkansas, provided they qualified as an Arkansas resident at the time of enrollment.
  2. 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.
  3. Nonresident foreign exchange students attending school in Arkansas.
  4. Resident foreign exchange students attending school outside of Arkansas.
  5. Active-duty military personnel assigned to duty stations in Arkansas.
  6. Active-duty military personnel who were Arkansas residents at the time of entering service, regardless of where currently stationed.
  7. Members of the National Guard who are assigned to an Arkansas Guard Unit.
  8. Nonresidents residing and working at least 60 consecutive days in Arkansas pursuant to a written commitment as full-time employees or volunteers of a nonprofit charitable

organization (other than one established principally for the recreational benefit of its stockholders or members) that (a) is registered and in good standing with the Arkansas Secretary of State, and (b) has received a 501(c)(3) designation from the United States Internal Revenue Service.

- C. Applicants for Commission-issued resident, licenses, permits, and tags have the burden of proving they qualify as a “resident” under this Code. Facts that may be considered in establishing proof of current Arkansas residency for the purpose of purchasing Commission-issued resident licenses, permits, and tags include, but are not limited to:
1. Possession of a valid Arkansas driver’s license or official, state-issued Arkansas identification card;\*
  2. Possession of a valid Arkansas vehicle registration in the applicant’s name and display of current Arkansas license tags on the applicant’s vehicle;\*
  3. Two documents bearing the applicant’s current name and address, not issued by himself or herself, including but not limited to:
    - i. Arkansas voter registration card,\* and
    - ii. Income tax returns issued by the Internal Revenue Service and/or the State of Arkansas.
  4. Documentation from a college or university in Arkansas verifying that the applicant currently is enrolled as a full-time student;
  5. Documentation from any branch of the United States Military or the duty station or unit in Arkansas; and
  6. In the case of a child under 18, identification from a parent or legal guardian proving the parent or legal guardian qualifies as a “resident” under this Code.
    - \*Items marked with a \* must have been issued at least 60 days prior to the license, permit, or tag application.
- D. In addition to qualifying as a "resident" under one or more of the above criteria, to be eligible to be issued any of the following resident licenses, permits, or tags, an applicant must provide proof that his or her domicile is currently in Arkansas and has been for at least the past 1 continuous year;
0. All Non-Expiring Lifetime Licenses and Permits (Addendum [D1.01](#));
  1. Resident Special Guide License (Code [03.14](#));
  - ~~2. Alligator Farmer/Dealer Permit (Code [33.01](#));~~
  3. Alligator Snapping Turtle Breeder/Dealer Permit (Code [34.02](#));
  4. Commercial Fisherman’s Permit & Sportfishing License (Code [30.01](#));
  5. Commercial Fisherman’s Helper Permit (Code [30.01](#));

6. Junior/Senior Commercial Fishing Permit (Code [31.01](#));
7. Resident Shell Taker/Seller's License (Code [31.01](#));
8. Shell Taker Helper Permit (Code [31.01](#));
9. Shell Buyer's License (Code [31.01](#));
10. Resident Fish Dealer License (Code [31.01](#));
11. Resident Roe Taker/Seller Permit (Code [30.17](#));
12. Resident Roe Taker/Helper Permit (Code [30.17](#)); and
13. Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter Permit (Code [30.18](#))

- E. The Commission's director or his or her representative shall make the final determination as to whether a license, permit, or tag applicant qualifies as a "resident" under this Code.

**ROUGH FISH** – Shortnose gar, longnose gar, spotted gar, bowfin, yellow bullhead, black bullhead, common carp, goldfish, grass carp, bighead carp, silver carp, black carp, black buffalo, bigmouth buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, creek chubsucker, river carpsucker, quillback, northern hog sucker, spotted sucker, river redhorse, black redhorse, blacktail redhorse, golden redhorse, ~~shorthead redhorse~~, freshwater drum, gizzard shad, threadfin shad, skipjack herring, yellow perch, white perch, and yellow bass.

**SEINE** – A fishing net that hangs vertically in the water where the ends can be drawn together to entrap fish.

**SEINING** – The act of moving a seine by boat or human power to capture fish.

**SELL OR SALE** – To exchange or deliver for money or its equivalent; to offer for sale, barter, exchange, or trade; or the act of selling, bartering, consigning, exchanging, or trading.

**SHELL BUYER** – Anyone who buys mussels or mussel parts from a Taker. An agent purchasing for a licensed buyer is not a buyer.

**SIMULATED WING MOVEMENT DECOY** – Any electric, mechanically-operated, wind-powered, or manually-powered apparatus or device that simulates wing movement, including any device that spins one or more fixed- or stationary-winged decoys around a central axis.

**SMALLGAME** – Furbearers, migratory game birds, quail, rabbit, and squirrel.

**SNAG** – To take fish or other aquatic animals using conventional rod-and-reel tackle by a repeated drawing motion rather than enticement by live bait or artificial lure, regardless of what terminal tackle is attached to the fishing line.

**SNAGLINE** – Commercial tackle consisting of a horizontal line with hooks or drops less than 24 inches apart.

**SPORTFISH** – See **GAME FISH**.

**TACKLE** – An apparatus or device used to take wildlife.

**TAKE** – To shoot, kill, injure, trap, net, snare, spear, catch, capture, or reduce to possession.

**TAXIDERMY** – The art of preparing, stuffing, or mounting wildlife and parts thereof.

**TRAP OR TRAPPING** – A device to catch and hold wildlife.

**TROTLINE** – A line anchored to a stationary object at one or more points and with more than two hooks attached at intervals along that line.

**TROUT** – Any members of the Salmonidae family including rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, lake

trout, cutthroat trout, salmon, and char.

**VESSEL** – Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation, including motorboats and personal watercraft.

**VETERAN** – (As defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) served in the active military, naval, air service or Reserves or National Guard serving on title 32 orders in a combat zone and was discharged or released under Honorable.

**WATERFOWL** – All species of coots, ducks, geese, and swans.

**WATERS OF THE STATE** – All streams, lakes, ponds, sloughs, bayous, marshes, or any other waters either permanent or intermittent located wholly or partially within Arkansas. Provided, however, “waters of the state” shall not include pay lakes and fish farms or any waters that are confined within a pond, tank, or lake, situated entirely on the premises of a single private owner and which, except under abnormal flood conditions, are not connected with any of other flowing stream or body of water that extends beyond the premises of such owner.

**WILD** – To be living in a state of nature and not domesticated.

**WILDLIFE** – All wild birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, other wild aquatic forms, and all other wild animals, regardless of classification, whether resident, migratory or imported, protected or unprotected, dead or alive, and shall extend to and include any and every part of any individual species of wildlife, including animals living in a captive state.

**WILDLIFE CHECK METHODS** – The following are the official wildlife check methods:

- A. The Commission's online deer, elk, bear, and turkey checking web site and mobile applications;
- B. The Commission's online alligator checking website; and
- C. The designated bear checking telephone number or the designated deer, bear, and turkey checking telephone number.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (WMA)** – Designated areas owned or controlled by the Commission and distinguished by certain markers and considered a separate zone with regard to wildlife regulations including: wildlife management area (WMA), waterfowl rest area (WRA), wildlife demonstration area (WDA), special use area (SUA), and state park-conservation area (SP-CA).

**YOUTH** –

- A. For sections of this Code pertaining to big game, “youth” means any individual between the ages of 6 and 15 years old.
- B. For all other sections of this Code, “youth” means any individual less than 16 years of age.

**ZONE** – A geospatial area defined by the Commission where hunting or fishing activities are regulated (includes, but is not limited to, individually designated: creeks, lakes, rivers, streams, and other waterbodies; catch-and-release areas; special regulation areas; WMAs; and specific lands and waters described in Addendum Chapter [E1.00](#))

## LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Arkansas Game & Fish 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, April 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Arkansas Game & Fish Headquarters located at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on April 11 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 April 11, 2024 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that will be considered at the March 20-21, 2024 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 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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 regulations include, but are not limited to:

### Furbearer/Depredation

- Clarify which Commission-owned properties are open to hunting and trapping.
- Specify that striped skunks are not subject to wanton waste restrictions on wildlife.
- Specify that the requirements to possess another's wildlife are met by current fur dealer reporting requirements.
- Add an exception that would allow raccoon, opossum, or bobcat to be taken at night with the use of any caliber of rifle in accordance with a Predator Control Permit.
- Clarify that otter and bobcat tagging requirements apply to pelts or carcasses.
- Specify that only live red fox, gray fox, and coyote can be sold with a Live Fox and Coyote Permit.
- Clarify depredation permit information and requirements. Specify that nuisance birds, deer, and elk cannot be live captured and moved by the public.
- Authorize riding horses on Commission-owned WMAs for coon hunting or other purposes that are deemed to be appropriate and not in conflict with the agency's management of resources, permit hunts, etc.

### Captive Wildlife

- Clarify that game birds are covered under Game Bird Shooting Resorts code and not under Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort code.
- Clarify who needs to register animal sales with the agency.

- Add an exception for customers with fewer than 100 Bobwhite Quail for personal consumption that will not be moved off the property and that are either from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or an NPIP flock.
- Combine similar codes to reduce confusion and number of regulations.
- Clarify the requirement for movement of wildlife across the state.
- Clarify that any non-prohibited species that is permitted can be imported with a Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Clarify that sanctioned field trials require a special permit letter from the Chief of Wildlife Management, not a shoot-to-kill permit.
- Update the details of CWD testing requirements for Commercial Hunting Resort Requirements.
- Update the Captive Wildlife Species Lists for those species that have been evaluated since the past regulation cycle.
- Clarify that unlisted species are prohibited until evaluated.
- Adjust reporting requirements to semi-annual reporting.
- Clarify that a current and valid veterinarian exam form is required.
- Clarify rules for exhibition of imported wildlife.
- Make a declaration of the agency's right to inspect wildlife being imported into the state.
- Revise code to reflect that shoot-to-kill bird dog training permits are valid from date of issuance to December 31 of that calendar year.
- Add an annual reporting requirement for Venomous Reptile Possession Permit.
- Add a stipulation that you must be an Arkansas resident to apply for a Conservation Education Permit.
- Clarify that permits are required for breeding, sale, and importation of certain species.
- Clarify process of interim approvals for captive wildlife species list and handling of species not listed.
- Adjust fees of various captive wildlife permitting to account for inflation, to include, but not limited to: Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit, and Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Allow temporary exhibits of prohibited species for display, education, or conservation purposes to those with USDA permits.
- Remove requirement of Wildlife Importation Permit for Game Bird Shooting Resorts while ensuring birds are obtained from an NPIP source or a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permittee.
- Allow for the revocation of Wildlife Importation Permits if requirements are not met.

#### Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- Remove regulation regarding geocaching permits on WMAs because geocaching has since been prohibited.
- Affirm the prohibition of non-permit holders being on WMAs during permit hunts.
- Revise the end date for quail and rabbit dog training on WMAs from April 1 to March 31.
- Define camping to clarify that parking vehicles, boats, etc. in WMA parking lots for extended periods of time is camping and is prohibited outside designated camping areas.
- Allow tree hooks to be used on WMAs.
- Specify that all dog training and field trial activities on a WMA require a hunting license.
- Remove the unnecessary exception that allows for waterfowl retrievers to be used during open migratory bird seasons as these dogs are already allowed.
- Remove references to Ozark National Forest WMA as this WMA no longer exists.

- Expand incidental take of feral hogs on WMAs during open deer, elk, and bear seasons with weapons allowed during those seasons.
- At Camp Robinson SUA:
  - Add muzzleloader permit deer hunt.
  - Add early permit youth deer hunt.
  - Open waterfowl season.
- At Bell Slough WMA:
  - Add early permit youth deer hunt.
  - Add late youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Stone Prairie WMA:
  - Add late youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA:
  - Move modern gun permit deer hunt to statewide opener for gun season.
  - Move deer muzzleloader season up one week to match regular muzzleloader season.
  - Add early permit youth modern gun deer hunt.
  - Change the late youth modern gun deer hunt to an open youth modern gun deer hunt.
- At Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA:
  - Require that the head from all does harvested be left at the WMA work center for verification of harvest.
  - Clarify that access restrictions do not apply to Lake Cargile.
- At J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA:
  - Allow trapping with enclosed pull-activated or “dog proof” type traps.
  - Move the modern gun deer permit hunt from the second Wednesday in November to the second Thursday in November.
  - Allow hunting of Mourning, White-Winged and Eurasian Collared Dove while field trials are in progress.
  - Allow walk-in hunting of small game (rabbits and squirrel), migratory birds and archery deer while field trials are in progress.
- At Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D’Arc WMA:
  - Modify dates of muzzleloader permit hunt to no longer overlap with modern gun youth hunt.

#### Deer/Elk

- Allow the use of rifles which fire straight-walled cartridges .30 caliber and larger in Deer Zones 4 and 5 for modern gun deer season.
- Remove private lands antlerless-only modern gun hunt.
- Limit the bull elk harvest to one bull per landowner property during the private land elk hunt.
- Modify the public land elk hunt quota to issue 6 either-sex and 12 antlerless elk permits while closing Elk Zone 1 to hunting.
- Modify the private land elk hunt quota to 6 bulls and 12 antlerless elk.
- Allow spears for deer, elk, and bear hunting.
- Adjust buck deer restrictions on Big Lake (Mississippi County) and Harold E. Alexander/Spring River (Sharp County).

#### Turkey



- Prohibit the use of electronic decoys for hunting wild turkeys.
- Require Non-Resident Lifetime License Holders to add a no-cost turkey hunting permit to their license before turkey hunting in Arkansas.
- Create a mandatory no-cost resident turkey tag product that is required to hunt wild turkeys in Arkansas, and require all Resident Hunting License Holders and Resident Lifetime License Holders who hunt turkey to manually add this to their license each year.
- Open Camp Robinson SUA to spring turkey hunting by permit and manage permit hunt in combination with Stone Prairie WMA.
- Add a hybrid permit hunt on R.L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA.

#### Migratory Birds

- Include boat motor exhaust restrictions on the Cache River, Dale Bumpers White River, Felsenthal, and Overflow National Wildlife Refuges.
- Allow the taking of Egyptian geese and their eggs.
- Require hunters to have a federal migratory bird hunting stamp to harvest light geese during snow goose season.
- Clarify that the light goose conservation order is exempt from proof of Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration.
- Clarify that geese may be harvested during any open youth and veteran/military hunt with bag limits.
- Implement a waterfowl draw permit hunt on portions of Frog Bayou WMA.
- Clarify the rules of waterfowl permit hunts.
- Remove requirements for boat motors at Frog Bayou WMA as boat motors are not allowed on Frog Bayou.
- Clarify non-resident waterfowl hunting permit requirements.
- Allow non-resident duck hunters to purchase up to ten (10) three-day non-resident WMA waterfowl hunting permits throughout the regular duck season.
- Clarify the rules of veteran/military waterfowl hunts.
- Propose 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 duck season dates.
- Restrict access times at Nimrod Lloyd Millwood WMA Special Regulatory Area.
- Allow non-motorized boat access to all designated water trails.
- Establish a 25-shell limit for waterfowl hunters on all WMAs with a waterfowl-hunting focus, with an exception during special youth waterfowl hunts.
- Restrict waterfowl hunting east of Hwy 7 at Petit Jean River WMA to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and the last day of duck season.
- Revise the end date on early Canada goose season from September 15 to October 15.
- Allow an electronic copy of the federal migratory bird hunting stamp to be valid for the entirety of waterfowl season.
- Clarify that the prohibition of guiding waterfowl hunters exists on both Commission-owned or -controlled WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges.
- Clarify resident/non-resident eligible hunting days for landowners owning inholdings on WMAs.

#### Miscellaneous

- Define the term “hunting assistance” and clarify that individuals with a suspended hunting license cannot provide “hunting assistance.”
- Clarify what anatomical parts of wildlife are legal to sell and which parts are illegal to sell.

- Define the term “customer identification (CID)” and allow CID numbers to be used as a method of labeling personal items (tree stands, trotlines, etc.) and tagging harvested game.
- Increase violation points for obstructing hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting over bait.
- Clarify that wildlife baiting prohibitions apply to Federal lands in addition to state-owned WMAs.
- Reduce the violation for failing to label or remove a tree stand every 7 days from Class 2 to Class 1.
- Increase the number of days a tree stand can remain in one location from 7 days to 14 days to match regulations on Federal lands.
- Create consistency in the penalty for road hunting by making all road hunting violations Class 3.
- Extend WMA-entry restrictions for boating violations to National Wildlife Refuges.
- Restrict individuals with revoked/suspended hunting and/or fishing licenses from being able to mentor or assist youths in hunting and fishing-related activities.
- Clarify legality of waterfowl hunting on Lake Catherine and Lake Hamilton.
- Clarify the term “written permission” and when written permission is required.
- Clarify rules regarding hunting from a vessel so that it is clearly prohibited with an exception for alligator and waterfowl.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting from a vessel by making all violations Class 3.
- Modify verbiage regarding dogs chasing wildlife for “pleasure” to dogs chasing wildlife for “training.”
- Modify requirements for tracking wounded game.
- Remove code requiring individuals to immediately disclose the possession of a concealed handgun.
- Reduce handgun restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property or while hunting, fishing, or trapping on private property.
- Reinstate the ban on harvesting a collared bear.
- Allow use of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for wildlife surveys on private lands and for game recovery if equipped with thermal capabilities.
- Require that dogs not under physical restraint and used for pursuing wildlife be equipped and monitored with devices (e.g. collars) that allow remote tracking and behavior correction.

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

Alligator

- Remove alligator farmer and dealer permit regulations.
- Remove alligator hunter radio room call requirement.
- Clarify rules regarding non-residents hunting alligators on private lands in zones where alligator hunting is allowed.

American Eel

- Add American Eel to the list of sportfish with a creel limit of 2.

Bass

- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Barnett (White County) from 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Brewer from a 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Cane Creek Lake from statewide regulations to a 15 inch minimum length limit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Poinsett to allow a daily limit of 10, only 1 of which may be larger than 16 inches.
- Remove the Smallmouth Bass special regulation areas on Crooked Creek.
- Remove Redeye Bass from the Black Bass definition.
- Implement a Bass Management Assistance Program and Permit which aims to provide technical assistance with black bass management for private landowners with lakes and ponds 10 acres or greater in size. The permit would allow private lake or pond owners to legally harvest above Arkansas's black bass daily and possession limits as long as they comply with the terms and provisions of the permit.

#### Blue Sucker

- Add Blue Sucker to the list of rare species illegal to possess by Commercial Fishers.

#### Bullfrog

- Modify current hunting season to begin after breeding season (late May) while reducing daily bag and possession limits to allow more breeding adults to survive for reproduction.

#### Catfish

- Modify catfish hogging and noodling season based on openness of waterbody to commercial fishing versus geographic location. Waterbodies that are not open to commercial fishing are generally less productive and can benefit for postponing hogging and noodling until after catfish have had the opportunity to spawn.

#### Commercial Fishing

- Modify commercial fishing fee structure to reflect two separate user groups (for-profit & personal use). Create a recreational netting permit (RNP) to provide an opportunity for recreational netters to keep fish for personal use. The new RNP would permit harvesting commercial fish species and three daily limits of catfish with netting gear on waters open to commercial fishing while prohibiting the sale of catch. The RNP permit would not have any reporting requirements.
- Decrease the commercial tackle checking rule for SNS (e.g. gill nets, trammel nets, and seines) & TL (e.g. trot lines, limb lines, snaglines, throw lines, and set hooks) gear from 48 hours to 24 hours while increasing HN (e.g. hoop nets) and FS (e.g. fiddler nets and slat traps) to 72 hours.
- Prohibit the overland transport of commercially-harvested fish alive in water.

#### Crappie

- Set Crappie daily limit on Lake Poinsett.

#### Crayfish

- Modify importation restrictions on crayfish to minimize impacts to interstate commerce.

#### Paddlefish

- Establish Paddlefish Snagging Season below Houseman Access on White River to Missouri State Line.

- Implement a 34 inch minimum length limit for Paddlefish during new snagging season on the White River below the Houseman Access downstream to the Missouri State Line and in the current snagging area below Beaver Dam.
- Establish Paddlefish Permit System & Tagging Requirements for Upper White River above Beaver Lake with a 2 fish annual limit.

#### Tournaments

- Implement fishing tournament registration to improve agency's knowledge of such tournaments to help with management efforts on the waterbodies where these tournaments occur.

#### Trout

- Modify special regulations for Cutthroat Trout on the North Fork White River.
- On the Beaver, Bull Shoals, Norfork, and Greers Ferry, and Spring River Tailwaters, prohibit the nighttime harvest of any fish other than Rainbow Trout.

#### Miscellaneous

- Modify definitions for bait fish, game fish, rough fish, and disabled angler.
- Modify the prohibited aquatic species list and clarify that it applies to more than just Live Fish Trade regulations.
- Restore statewide game fish regulations for Mercer Bayou beginning January 1, 2025.
- Reduce use of unused passive gear, clarify the number of hooks that may be used on various types of passive gear, and add additional methods of labeling fishing devices.
- Differentiate violations for non-residents illegally possessing a resident hunting license from non-residents illegally possessing a resident fishing license. A non-resident illegally possessing a resident fishing license would be a Class 2 offense.
- Require unattended portable live bait containers to be labeled.
- Shift Mattocks Park Lake, Lake Village Community Fishing Pond, Mom's Lake, Monticello High School Pond, Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Fishing Pond, Monticello High School Pond, and Walnut Ridge City Lake from the Family Fishing Program Restrictions to the Community Fishing Program Waters Restrictions.
- Increase the spearfishing limits on currently legal species from half the daily limit to full daily limit.
- Require resident and non-resident hunting and fishing guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.
- Redefine the downstream boundary of the Beaver Tailwater.
- Remove game fish daily limit exceptions from Lake Poinsett while establishing a crappie daily limit of 15 fish.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 11, 2024 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 1, 2024. 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.

If you need assistance to participate in this public meeting due to a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact AGFC's ADA Coordinator in Human Resources

at 501-382-3813 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accommodation. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your request.

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

## LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the El Dorado Union County Chamber of Commerce located at 111 W. Main St., El Dorado, AR 71730. 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, May 15, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at El Dorado Union County Chamber of Commerce located at 111 W. Main St., El Dorado, AR 71730. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on May 16<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 May 16, 2024, meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the April 10-11, 2024, 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** – Adopt general hunting regulations for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 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 regulations include, but are not limited to:

### Furbearer/Depredation

- Clarify which Commission-owned properties are open to hunting and trapping.
- Specify that striped skunks are not subject to wanton waste restrictions on wildlife.
- Specify that the requirements to possess another's wildlife are met by current fur-dealer reporting requirements.
- Add an exception that would allow raccoon, opossum, or bobcat to be taken at night with the use of any caliber of rifle in accordance with a Predator Control Permit.
- Clarify that otter and bobcat tagging requirements apply to pelts or carcasses.
- Specify that only live red fox, gray fox, and coyote can be sold with a Live Fox and Coyote Permit.
- Clarify Depredation Permit information and requirements. Specify that nuisance birds, deer, and elk cannot be live-captured and moved by the public.
- Authorize riding horses on Commission-owned WMAs for coon hunting or other purposes that are deemed to be appropriate and not in conflict with AGFC's management of resources, permit hunts, etc.

### Captive Wildlife

- Clarify that game birds are covered under Game Bird Shooting Resorts code and not under Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort code.

- Clarify who needs to register animal sales with AGFC.
- Add an exception for persons with fewer than 100 Bobwhite Quail for personal consumption that will not be moved off the property and that are either from a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer or an NPIP flock.
- Combine similar codes to reduce confusion and number of regulations.
- Clarify the requirement for movement of wildlife across the state.
- Clarify that any non-prohibited species that are permitted can be imported with a Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Clarify that sanctioned field trials require a special permit letter from the Chief of Wildlife Management, not a Shoot-to-Kill Permit.
- Update the details of CWD testing requirements for Commercial Hunting Resort Requirements.
- Update the Captive Wildlife Species Lists for those species that have been evaluated since the past regulation cycle.
- Clarify that unlisted species are prohibited until evaluated.
- Adjust reporting requirements to semi-annual reporting.
- Clarify that a current and valid veterinarian exam form is required.
- Clarify rules for exhibition of imported wildlife.
- Make a declaration of AGFC's right to inspect wildlife being imported into the state.
- Revise code to reflect that Shoot-to-Kill Bird Dog Training Permits are valid from date of issuance to December 31<sup>st</sup> of that calendar year.
- Add an annual reporting requirement for Venomous Reptile Possession Permit.
- Add a stipulation that a person must be an Arkansas resident to apply for a Conservation Education Permit.
- Clarify that permits are required for breeding, sale, and importation of certain species.
- Clarify process of interim approvals for captive wildlife species list and handling of species not listed.
- Adjust fees of various captive wildlife permitting to account for inflation, to include, but not limited to: Game Bird Shooting Resort Permit, Commercial Wildlife Hunting Resort Permit, Wildlife Breeder/Dealer Permit, and Wildlife Importation Permit.
- Allow temporary exhibits of prohibited species for display, education, or conservation purposes to those with USDA permits.
- Remove requirement of Wildlife Importation Permit for Game Bird Shooting Resorts while ensuring birds are obtained from an NPIP source or a Wildlife Breeder/Dealer permittee.
- Allow for the revocation of Wildlife Importation Permits if requirements are not met.

#### Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)

- Remove regulation regarding Geocaching Permits on WMAs because geocaching activity has been prohibited.
- Affirm the prohibition of non-permit holders being on WMAs during permit hunts.
- Add muzzleloader permit deer hunt at Camp Robinson SUA.
- Add early permit youth deer hunt at Camp Robinson SUA and Bell Slough WMA.
- Add late youth modern gun deer hunt at Stone Prairie WMA and Bell Slough WMA.
- Move modern gun permit deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA to statewide opener for gun season.
- Move deer muzzleloader season at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA up one week to match regular muzzleloader season.

- Create an early permit youth modern gun deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA.
- Switch the late youth modern gun deer hunt to an open youth modern gun deer hunt at Spring River/Harold E. Alexander WMA.
- Open waterfowl season on Camp Robinson SUA.
- Require that the head from all does harvested at Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA be left at the WMA Work Center for verification of harvest.
- Revise the end-date for quail and rabbit dog training on WMAs from April 1 to March 31.
- Add and/or amend definitions for multiple terms, including “Big Bore Air Rifles”, “Camping”, “Chase for Training”, “Customer Identification Number”, “Disabled”, “Hunt or Hunting”, and “Hunting Assistance”.
- Clarify that access restrictions do not apply to Lake Cargile at Ed Gordon Point Remove WMA.
- Allow trapping with enclosed pull-activated or “dog proof” type traps on J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA.
- Move the modern gun deer permit hunt at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA from the second Wednesday in November to the second Thursday in November.
- Allow hunting of Mourning, White-Winged and Eurasian Collared Dove at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA while field trials are being conducted.
- Allow walk-in hunting of small game (rabbits and squirrel), migratory birds and archery deer while field trials are in progress at J. Perry Mikles Blue Mountain SUA.
- Modify dates of muzzleloader permit hunt to no longer overlap with modern gun youth hunt at Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois D’Arc WMA.
- Allow tree hooks to be used on WMAs.
- Specify that all dog training and field trial activities on a WMA require a hunting license.
- Remove the unnecessary exception that allows for waterfowl retrievers to be used during open migratory bird seasons as these dogs are already allowed.
- Remove references to Ozark National Forest WMA, as this large geographic area has been redesignated.
- Remove restrictions for motion decoys (including spinning-wing decoys) for waterfowl hunting on AGFC-owned WMAs.

#### Deer/Elk

- Allow the use of rifles that fire straight-walled cartridges .30 caliber and larger in Deer Zones 4 and 5 for modern gun deer season.
- Remove private lands antlerless-only modern gun hunt.
- Limit the bull elk harvest to one bull per landowner property during the private land elk hunt.
- Modify the public land elk hunt quota to issue 6 either-sex and 12 antlerless elk permits while closing elk zone 1 to hunting.
- Modify the private land elk hunt quota to 6 bulls and 12 antlerless elk.
- Allow spears for deer, elk, and bear hunting.
- Adjust buck deer restrictions on Big Lake (Mississippi County) and Harold E. Alexander/Spring River (Sharp County) within Mississippi and Sharp Counties.
- Allowing weapons capable of firing straight-walled ammunition statewide during all muzzleloader seasons. Certain weapon restrictions will apply.



- Implement a 3-day velvet buck archery hunt the first Saturday in September for 3 days on private lands and AGFC-owned and leased-land WMAs.
- Limit nonresident deer hunting with dogs to the last 9 days of modern gun deer season - excluding the Christmas modern gun deer hunt - with a one-deer bag limit.

#### Turkey

- Prohibit the use of electronic decoys for hunting wild turkeys.
- Require Non-Resident Lifetime License Holders to add a turkey hunting permit at no-cost to their license before turkey hunting in Arkansas.
- Create a mandatory no-cost resident turkey tag product that is required to hunt wild turkeys in Arkansas, and require all resident hunting license holders and resident lifetime license holders who hunt turkey to manually add this to their license each year.
- Open Camp Robinson SUA to spring turkey hunting by permit and manage permit hunt in combination with Stone Prairie WMA.
- Add a hybrid permit hunt on R.L. Hankins Mud Creek WMA.

#### Migratory Birds

- Include boat motor exhaust restrictions on the Cache River, Dale Bumpers White River, Felsenthal, and Overflow National Wildlife Refuges.
- Allow the taking of Egyptian geese and their eggs.
- Require hunters to have a federal migratory bird hunting stamp to harvest light geese during snow goose season.
- Clarify that the light goose conservation order is exempt from proof of Harvest Information Program (HIP) registration.
- Clarify that geese may be harvested during any open youth and veteran/military hunt with bag limits.
- Implement a waterfowl draw permit hunt on portions of Frog Bayou WMA.
- Clarify the rules of waterfowl permit hunts.
- Remove requirements for boat motors at Frog Bayou WMA as boat motors are not allowed on Frog Bayou.
- Clarify non-resident waterfowl hunting permit requirements.
- Allow non-resident duck hunters to purchase up to ten (10) three-day non-resident WMA waterfowl hunting permits throughout the regular duck season.
- Clarify the rules of veteran/military waterfowl hunts.
- Propose 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 duck season dates.
- Restrict access times at Nimrod Lloyd Millwood WMA Special Regulatory Area.
- Allow non-motorized boat access to all designated water trails.
- Establish a 25-shell limit for waterfowl hunters on all WMAs with a waterfowl-hunting focus with an exception during special youth waterfowl hunts.
- Restrict waterfowl hunting east of Hwy 7 at Petit Jean River WMA to Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday, and the last day of duck season.
- Revise the end date on early Canada goose season from September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Allow an electronic copy of the federal migratory bird hunting stamp to be valid for the entirety of waterfowl season.
- Clarify that the prohibition of guiding waterfowl hunters exists on both Commission-owned or controlled WMAs and National Wildlife Refuges.
- Clarify resident/non-resident eligible hunting days for landowners owning inholdings on WMAs.

- Reduce the daily bag limit for mallard hens from two to one per day.
- Modify white-fronted goose season to be 69 days and reduce daily bag limit to two per day.

#### Miscellaneous

- Define the term “hunting assistance” and clarify that individuals with a suspended hunting license cannot provide “hunting assistance.”
- Clarify what anatomical parts of wildlife are legal to sell and which parts are illegal to sell.
- Define the term “customer identification (CID)” and allow CID numbers to be used as a method of labeling personal items (tree stands, trotlines, etc.) and tagging harvested game.
- Increase violation points for obstructing hunting, fishing, or trapping.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting over bait.
- Clarify that wildlife baiting prohibitions apply to Federal lands in addition to state-owned WMAs.
- Reduce the violation for failing to label or remove a tree stand every 7 days from Class 2 to Class 1.
- Increase the number of days a tree stand can remain in one location from 7 days to 14 days to match regulations on Federal lands.
- Create consistency in the penalty for road hunting by making all road hunting violations Class 3.
- Extend WMA-entry restrictions for boating violations to National Wildlife Refuges.
- Restrict individuals with revoked/suspended hunting and/or fishing licenses from being able to mentor or assist youths in hunting and fishing-related activities.
- Clarify legality of waterfowl hunting on Lake Catherine and Lake Hamilton.
- Clarify the term “written permission” and when written permission is required.
- Clarify rules regarding hunting from a vessel so that it is clearly prohibited with an exception for alligator and waterfowl.
- Create consistency in the penalty for hunting from a vessel by making all violations Class 3.
- Modify verbiage regarding dogs chasing wildlife for “pleasure” to dogs chasing wildlife for “training.”
- Modify requirements for tracking wounded game.
- Remove code requiring individuals to immediately disclose the possession of a concealed handgun.
- Reduce handgun restrictions on Commission-owned or controlled property or while hunting, fishing, or trapping on private property.
- Require resident and nonresident hunting guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.

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

#### Alligator

- Remove alligator farmer and permit regulations to close the loop hole that would allow someone to purchase this permit to possess a crocodilian as a pet.
- Remove alligator hunter radio room call requirement.

- Clarify rules regarding nonresidents hunting alligators on private lands in zones where alligator hunting is allowed.

#### American Eel

- Add American Eel to the list of sportfish with a creel limit of 2 fish.

#### Bass

- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Barnett (White County) from 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Brewer from a 13-16 inch protective slot limit to no minimum length limit with only 1 Largemouth Bass over 16 inches.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Cane Creek Lake from statewide regulations to a 15 inch minimum length limit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Poinsett to allow a daily limit of 10, only 1 of which may be longer than 16 inches.
- Remove the Smallmouth Bass special regulation areas on Crooked Creek.
- Remove Redeye Bass from the Black Bass definition.
- Implement a Bass Management Assistance Program & Permit which aims to provide technical assistance with black bass management for private landowners with lakes and ponds ten acres or greater in size. The permit would allow private lake or pond owners to legally harvest above Arkansas's black bass daily and possession limits as long as they comply with the terms and provisions of the permit.
- Modify Largemouth Bass limits for Lake Pickthorne to allow a daily limit of 2, only 1 of which may be longer than 21 inches.

#### Beaver Tailwater Boundary

- Redefine the downstream boundary of the Beaver Tailwater.

#### Blue Sucker

- Add Blue Sucker to the list of rare species illegal to possess by Commercial Fishers.

#### Bullfrog

- Modify current hunting season to begin after breeding season (June 1-Dec. 31) and maintain 18 frog daily limit.

#### Catfish

- Modify catfish hogging and noodling season based on openness of waterbody to commercial fishing versus geographic location. Waterbodies that are not open to commercial fishing are generally less productive and can benefit for postponing hogging and noodling until after catfish have had the opportunity to spawn.

#### Commercial Fishing

- Modify commercial fishing fee structure to reflect two separate user groups (for-profit & personal use). Create a recreational netting permit (RNP) to provide an opportunity for recreational netters to keep fish for personal use. The new RNP would permit harvesting commercial fish species and three daily limits of catfish with netting gear on waters open to commercial fishing while prohibiting the sale of catch. The RNP permit would not have any reporting requirements.
- Prohibit the transport of live commercial fish in water.

#### Crayfish

- Modify importation restrictions on crayfish to minimize impacts to interstate commerce.

#### Paddlefish

- Establish Paddlefish Snagging Season below Houseman Access on White River to Missouri State Line.
- Implement a 34 inch minimum length limit for Paddlefish during new snagging season on the White River below the Houseman Access downstream to the Missouri State Line and in the current snagging area below Beaver Dam.
- Establish Paddlefish Permit System & Tagging Requirements for Upper White River above Beaver Lake.

#### Tournaments

- Implement fishing tournament registration to improve agency's knowledge of such tournaments to help with management efforts on the waterbodies where these tournaments occur.

#### Trout

- Modify special regulations for Cutthroat Trout on the North Fork White River.
- Adopt restriction for only Rainbow Trout to be harvested from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise (no other trout species permitted during those times).

#### Miscellaneous

- Modify definitions for bait fish, game fish, rough fish, and disabled angler.
- Modify the prohibited aquatic species list and clarify that it applies to more than just Live Fish Trade regulations.
- Restore statewide game fish regulations for Mercer Bayou beginning January 1, 2025.
- Reduce use of unused passive gear, clarify the number of hooks that may be used on various types of passive gear, and add additional methods of labeling fishing devices.
- Differentiate violations for nonresidents illegally possessing a resident hunting license from nonresidents illegally possessing a resident fishing license. A nonresident illegally possessing a resident fishing license would be a Class 2 offense.
- Require unattended portable live bait containers to be labeled.
- Shift Mattocks Park Lake, Lake Village Community Fishing Pond, Mom's Lake, Monticello High School Pond, Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Fishing Pond, Monticello High School Pond, and Walnut Ridge City Lake from the Family Fishing Program Restrictions to the Community Fishing Program Waters Restrictions. Craighead Forest Park Fishing Pond to remain listed under the Family Fishing Program Restrictions.
- Increase the spearfishing limits on currently legal species from half the daily limit to full daily limit.
- Allow use of nets (up to 5 nets) for holders of a recreational fish netting license.
- Decrease the passive tackle requirements for TL (e.g. trot lines, limb lines, snaglines, throw lines, and set hooks) gear from 48 hours to 24 hours.
- Remove game fish size restrictions and daily limits on Lake Conway and Lake Wilhelmina (to apply during the planned renovation process at each lake).
- Require resident and nonresident fishing guides to carry in their possession proof of \$100,000 general liability insurance.
- Increase fees for various licenses and permits, including fee for Resident Guide Fishing License, Resident Commercial Fishing Permit, and Resident Commercial Fishing Helper's Permit.

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the May 16, 2024 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 May 6, 2024. 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.

If you need assistance to participate in this public meeting due to a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact AGFC's ADA Coordinator in Human Resources at 501-382-3813 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accommodation. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your request.

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