

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Transmittal Sheet

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



Secretary of State

Cole Jester

500 Woodlane, Suite 026

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-1094

(501) 682-5070

www.sos.arkansas.gov



For Office

Use Only:

Effective Date _____ Code Number _____

Name of Agency _____

Department _____

Contact _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

Statutory Authority for Promulgating Rules _____

Rule Title: _____

Intended Effective Date

(Check One)

Date

☐

Emergency (ACA 25-15-204)

Legal Notice Published _____

☐

10 Days After Filing (ACA 25-15-204)

Final Date for Public Comment _____

☐

Other _____
(Must be more than 10 days after filing date.)

Reviewed by Legislative Council _____

Adopted by State Agency _____

Electronic Copy of Rule e-mailed from: (Required under ACA 25-15-218)

Contact Person

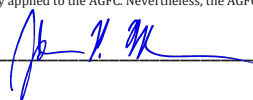
E-mail Address

Date

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER

I Hereby Certify That The Attached Rules Were Adopted

In Substantial Compliance with Act 434 of 1967 the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act. Pursuant to 2011 decision rendered by the Pulaski County Circuit Court and 2000 opinion by the Arkansas Attorney General, the rulemaking requirements in the Arkansas Administrative Procedures Act cannot be constitutionally applied to the AGFC. Nevertheless, the AGFC does substantially comply with the rulemaking provisions under Ark. Code Ann. section 25-15-204 for public notice, opportunity for comment, and filing of all regulations adopted by the Commission.



Signature

Phone Number

E-mail Address

Title

Date

B1.08 Duck, Coot, And Merganser Season And Limits

- **1st segment:** the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first Monday after Thanksgiving
- **2nd segment:** December 10 through December 23
- **3rd segment:** December 27 through January 31

EXCEPTION: Ducks, coots, and mergansers may be taken during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt (Code 11.04) and Special Veteran and Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt (Addendum B1.15).

LIMITS:

Coot: Daily limit 15, possession limit 45.

Ducks: Daily limit 6. No more than four mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 3 pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, and 2 canvasbacks. Possession limit no more than 3 daily limits.

Mergansers: Daily limit 5 (no more than 2 of which may be hooded mergansers). Possession limit no more than 3 daily limits.

ITEM NO. V-a.

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO: 25-017 SUBJECT: 2025-26 Waterfowl Regulations
DATE PASSED: April 17, 2025
PAGE 1 of 2 PAGES LOCATION: Statewide

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and its staff have proposed the attached package of Waterfowl Hunting regulations for 2025-2026, including changes to season dates and bag limits; **and**

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

WHEREAS, after carefully considering the recommendations of the Interim Director, Commission staff, and the Regulations Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that all of the attached regulations promote sound fish and wildlife conservation and management, are consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution, and should now be approved for application statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED this 17th day of April 2025, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts the attached package of 2025-2026 Waterfowl Hunting regulations, which shall become effective immediately upon public filing or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

STAFF APPROVAL

COMMISSION APPROVAL

Submitted by:

Luke Naylor
Luke Naylor, Chief

J.D. Neeley
J.D. Neeley
Chair

Bill Jones
Bill Jones
Commissioner

Division:

Wildlife Management

Anne Marie Doramus
Anne Marie Doramus
Vice Chair

Brandon Adams
Brandon Adams
Commissioner

Approved:

Chris Racey
Chris Racey
Interim Director

Rob Finley
Rob Finley
Commissioner

Chris Caldwell
Chris Caldwell
Commissioner

MINUTE ORDER NO:

25-017

PAGE

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of

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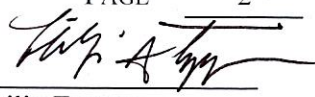
PAGES

Approved:


Legal

Approved:


Fiscal


Philip Tappan
Commissioner

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

(Attach additional pages if needed)

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

DIVISION: Wildlife Management

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Matthew Warriner

TELEPHONE #: 501-352-0925 **FAX #:** N/A **EMAIL:** matthew.warriner @agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: B1.08 – Duck, Coot and Merganser Season and Limits

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

2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: X No: If “Yes,” please explain: determining the financial impact of the proposed rule is not economically feasible.

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	\$
Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$
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: duck hunters

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: The proposed rule will increase the northern pintail bag limit from one to three as permitted by the federal framework.

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the **agency** to implement this rule?
There is no additional cost to implement the rule.

Explain the financial benefit to the agency from implementing this rule: N/A

Current Fiscal Year: \$0

Next Fiscal Year: \$0

Financial Benefit to Agency: None

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: N/A

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

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge's Convention Center located at 2027 State Park Entrance Road, Bismarck, AR 71929. 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 16, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge's Convention Center located at 2027 State Park Entrance Road, Bismarck, AR 71929. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on April 17th 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 17, 2025 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the March 19-20, 2025 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:

- Changing the Special Early Teal Season dates from the current 16-day season to a 9-day season in accordance with the federal framework. The proposed season date change is “the third Saturday of September for 9 days” (Addendum B1.02).
- Increasing the daily limit on Pintails from 1 to 3 (Addendum B1.08).

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 17, 2025 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 7, 2025. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office and at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

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.

CHRIS RACEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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- Increasing the daily limit on Pintails from 1 to 3 (Addendum B1.08).
- Changing the “Veteran and Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt” dates from “The Sunday following the first Monday in February statewide” to “The Saturday and Sunday following the first Monday in February statewide” (Addendum B1.15).
- Considering any other changes needed to “Migratory Game Bird Seasons And Limits” (Chapter B1.00) including to the “Special Youth Waterfowl Hunting Season And Limits” (Addendum B1.13) and the “Veteran And Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt” (Addendum B1.15).

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Game & Fish Commission Building
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

LEGAL NOTICE

The April 16-17, 2025 meetings of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission that were previously noticed for DeGray Lake Resort State Park are being relocated because the park has temporarily closed due to flooding. The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will now be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2025, 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 16, 2025, 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.

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

Chris Racey
Interim Director

Ben Batten
Deputy Director



Brad Carner
Deputy Director

Spencer Griffith
Deputy Director

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

John P. Marks
General Counsel

James R. Brown
Assistant General Counsel

Christian N. Parks
Sr. Assistant General Counsel

Dalton B. Swindell
Assistant General Counsel

April 18, 2025


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

RE: Legal Notice for Approved Rules or Regulations – April 2025 meetings

Dear Arkansas Register:

Included are two (2) approved regulation changes that were published in the Legal Notice to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on March 16-18, 2025. Should you have any questions or comments concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Milligan or me at (501) 382-3807 at your convenience.

Sincerely,


John P. Marks
General Counsel

JPM/srm
Attachment

cc: Ms. Rebecca Miller-Rice, Bureau of Legislative Research
miller-ricer@blr.arkansas.gov
Ms. Sheri Thomas, Bureau of Legislative Research
thomass@blr.arkansas.gov
Mr. Zane Rogers, Bureau of Legislative Research
rogersz@blr.arkansas.gov
Ms. Gina Seaton, Bureau of Legislative Research
seatong@blr.arkansas.gov
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2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205
833-345-0325 | 501-207-0326 | agfc.com

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's mission is to conserve and enhance Arkansas's fish and wildlife and their habitats while promoting sustainable use, public understanding and support.