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## Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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December 12, 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](mailto:arkansasregister@sos.arkansas.gov)

RE: Legal Notice for Proposed Rules or Regulations – January 14-15, 2026 meetings

Dear Arkansas Register:

Included is one (1) proposed regulation change that will be published in the Legal Notice to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on December 14-16, 2025. Should you have any questions or comments concerning this filing, please do not hesitate to contact April Soman or me at (501) 382-3807 at your convenience.

Sincerely,



John P. Marks  
General Counsel

JPM/ams  
Attachment

cc: Ms. Rebecca Miller-Rice, Bureau of Legislative Research  
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*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.*

# ARKANSAS REGISTER

## Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State

**Cole Jester**

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Name of Department Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Agency or Division Name Legal Division

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

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

Contact Person April Soman

Contact E-mail April.Soman@agfc.ar.gov

Contact Phone (501) 382-3807 - Legal Division

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Name of Rule N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits

Newspaper Name Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Date of Publishing December 14-16, 2025

Final Date for Public Comment January 15, 2026

Location and Time of Public Meeting 2 Natural Resources Dr., Little Rock, AR 72205; 8:00 am

## Regulation Proposals

**Proposal:** N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits (for January approval)

**Justification:**

**LAKE MONTICELLO CATCH AND RELEASE:** Lake Monticello has undergone complete renovations. The gamefish populations in the restocked reservoir have had enough time to re-establish themselves. As a result, sustainable angler harvesting of these populations can now commence. Therefore, the catch-and-release regulation is no longer necessary, and we propose its removal from the code. This change will revert the regulations to statewide rules unless alternative proposals are made below.

**LAKE MONTICELLO BASS:** To restore Lake Monticello as a premier trophy bass fishery, the AGFC staff has implemented a trophy-focused strategy for the Largemouth Bass population following the lake's renovation. To ensure that Largemouth Bass have enough resources to reach their trophy potential, a sustainable harvest of some fish in the reservoir is now deemed appropriate. The staff aims to direct the harvest toward the abundant smaller fish while protecting the faster-growing bass that have the greatest potential to attain trophy size. Therefore, we propose a daily limit of five Largemouth Bass on Lake Monticello.

**LAKE MONTICELLO CRAPPIE:** Following the renovation of Lake Monticello, the AGFC is working to establish a balanced crappie fishery that offers a variety of angling opportunities. Current data indicate that the crappie population is becoming overabundant and stunted, which can lead to competition for resources and other issues. The high density of small crappie not only compromises the quality of the fishery but also creates undesirable competition with the young Largemouth Bass in the lake. To address these issues, a targeted harvest regulation is necessary to reduce the overall population density by encouraging anglers to harvest the abundant smaller crappie while protecting the larger individuals. Therefore, we propose a daily limit of 15 crappie for Lake Monticello.

**TROUT:** On October 16, 2025, AGFC enacted a 120-day emergency order modifying existing fishing regulations for the Bull Shoals, Norfolk, Beaver, and Greers Ferry Tailwaters. Significant losses (approximately 50% and 85%) at Arkansas's two most productive trout hatcheries prompted the order due to concerns about how limited stocking could affect trout populations and angler success. The emergency order does not expire until February 13, 2026, but we expect stocking impacts to extend well into 2026. Therefore, we propose enacting the following regulations in January which would remain in place indefinitely: Bull Shoals Tailwater (from Bull

Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access) and Norfolk Tailwater, daily limit of two rainbow trout, maximum length limit 14 inches, all other trout species must be immediately released; Bull Shoals Tailwater (from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge), daily limit of two trout (any species), only one trout over 14 inches may be harvested; Beaver and Greers Ferry Tailwaters, daily limit of two trout (any species), maximum length limit 14 inches. These regulations would take effect 10 days after official filing with the Secretary of State, with an estimated effective date of January 27, 2026.

**Code(s) affected:** N1.01



Why were such alternatives not proposed:

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

## N1.01 Game Fish Daily Limits

### Statewide Daily Limit

Species	
Alligator Gar	1 Under 36 Inches
American Eel	1 Over 36 Inches Annually with Tag
Black Basses	2
Bream (over 4 inches length)	10 (including no more than 4 Smallmouth)
Catfish (except Bullhead)	50
Crappie	10
Rock Bass	30
Paddlefish	10
Sauger	2
Saugeye	6
Shovelnose Sturgeon	6
Striped Bass or Hybrid (Combination)	No Limit
Trout	6
Walleye	5 (including no more than 2 Brown, 2 Cutthroat, 2 Brook)
White Bass	6
	25

### EXCEPTIONS:

#### A. BASS MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WATERS:

1. Private landowners or their designees, with a valid fishing license and Bass Management Assistance Program (BMAP) permit are exempt from the game fish daily and possession limits in BMAP enrolled waters.

#### B. The following bodies of water are restricted as follows:

1. **Horseshoe Bend Pool** (Strawberry River in IZARD County) – 1/2 the daily limit for all sportfish.
2. **Lake Poinsett** – Crappie daily limit of 15 fish.

~~3. **Lake Monticello** – Game fish creel limit is 0; all game fish caught must be immediately returned to the water.~~

4.3. **Lake Conway** – No gamefish daily limits.

5.4. **Lake Wilhelmina** - No gamefish daily limits.

**C. BLACK BASS (LARGEMOUTH, SPOTTED, SMALLMOUTH):**

**1. Smallmouth bass:**

- i. **Ozark Zone** (Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Cleburne, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, Newton, Randolph, Searcy, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren and Washington counties) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches with a daily limit of 4, except Bull Shoals, Beaver, Greers Ferry, and Table Rock lakes (see Ex. 1(B) below). Greers Ferry Lake – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit 6. Norfolk Lake – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 13 inches, daily limit 6.
- ii. **Ozark Zone Blue Ribbon Streams** – Buffalo River from confluence with Clabber Creek downstream to the confluence with the White River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of Crooked Creek and Buffalo River – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.
- iii. **Ozark Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – Crooked Creek, along boundary of Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation property near Kelley’s Slab Access.
- iv. **Ozark Zone Quality Streams** – Kings River from Trigger Gap to U.S. Highway 62 bridge –smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit of 1; all other water of the Kings, Illinois, Spring, South Fork of the Spring and Eleven Point rivers and War Eagle Creek – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 14 inches, daily limit of 2.
- v. **Ouachita/Boston Zone** (all Arkansas counties not included in the Ozark Zone) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 10 inches, daily limit of 4.
- vi. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Quality Streams** – (Mulberry, Caddo above DeGray Lake, DeGray Lake, Cossatot River, Ouachita River upstream from Lake Ouachita, Ouachita River downstream from Rammel Dam, Saline River, including its 4headwater forks in

Saline, Perry and Garland counties, South Fork/Ouachita, Little Missouri above Lake Greeson) – smallmouth bass minimum length limit of 12 inches, daily limit of 2.

vii. **Ouachita/Boston Zone Catch-and-Release Area** – all smallmouth bass caught in Lake Catherine must be immediately returned to the water.

**2. Largemouth bass:**

- i. Lake Terre Noire, Lake June, and Lake Sylvia – daily limit 5.
- ii. Lake Millwood – daily limit 6.
- iii. Mallard Lake – daily limit 1.
- iv. Marion McCollum Lake – Largemouth bass caught must be immediately returned to the water.

v. Lake Pickthorne - Daily limit 2.

v.vi. Lake Monticello - Daily limit 5.

**3. Black Bass (all species combined):**

- i. Beaver, Bull Shoals, DeGray, Norfolk, Table Rock lakes, Lake Jack Nolen, Ouachita, Ashbaugh – daily limit 6.
- ii. Lake Lou Emma – daily limit 5.
- iii. War Eagle Creek – daily limit 2.
- iv. Lakes Ouachita, DeGray, and Greeson – in addition to the daily limit of black basses, 10 spotted bass may be taken.

D. **BREAM:** No limit on bream 4 inches or shorter.

**E. CATFISH:**

- 1. No limit on catfish on Grand Lake – Chicot County, Lake Chicot (including that portion of Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou’s mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam) and between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi/Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge.
- 2. No limit on blue and channel catfish from Little River (below Millwood Dam) Red and Sulphur rivers.

3. No limit on channel catfish on Marion McCollum Lake Greenlee – Monroe County and Lake Erling.
4. Catfish daily limit – 5 in DeWitt City Park Lake (Arkansas County); Lake Atalanta (Benton County); Hidden Lake (Carroll County); Big Timber Lake and Gurdon Lake (Clark County); Hubble Lake (Clay County); Lake Bailey (Conway County); Lake Cambadelle and Lake Lou Emma (Crawford County); Marion City Park Lake (Crittenden County); Village Creek State Park Lakes (Cross and St. Francis Counties); Lake Bennett (Faulkner County); Lake Clearfork (Garland County); Crowley Ridge State Park Lake and Reynolds Park Lake (Greene County); Newark City Lake (Independence County); Lake June (Lafayette County); Ward City Park Lake (Lonoke County); Hindsville Lake (Madison County); Blytheville City Park Lake (Mississippi County); Donald Branch Fishing Pond (Monroe County); Lake Sylvia (Perry County); Shady Lake (Polk County); Twin Lakes A and B, Camp Ferncliff (Pulaski County); Old Davidsonville State Park Lake (Randolph County); Forrest City Park Lake (St. Francis County); Truman Baker Lake (Scott County); Cave City's Lakes (Sharp County); Gunner Pool and Hayden Bend Pond (Stone County); Devils Den State Park (Washington County); Spring Lake, Kingfisher, Clubhouse Lakes in Petit Jean WMA (Yell County) and posted USDA Forest Service ponds and lakes.
5. In addition to daily limit, 10 channel catfish may be taken on the Arkansas River.
6. In addition to daily limit, 10 blue catfish may be taken in Lake Erling.

**F. CRAPPIE:**

1. Crappie daily limit – 15 in Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, Norfolk reservoirs, Cane Creek Lake (Lincoln County), ~~and~~ Gurdon Lake (Clark County), and Lake Monticello.
2. Crappie daily limit – 50 between the main levees of the Mississippi River, from the confluence of the Mississippi/White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi/Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge.
3. Crappie daily limit – 20 in Lake Chicot and Blue Mountain Lake.

4. No crappie daily limit on Lake Charles, Lake Frierson, and Lake Hogue.

**G. Paddlefish:**

1. Paddlefish under 34 inches Eye to Fork Length must be released immediately on the Paddlefish Snagging Areas below Beaver Dam.
2. Paddlefish Tag is required to harvest Paddlefish in the Upper White River above Beaver Lake (Code 26.31).
3. Paddlefish yearly limit – 2 in Upper White River above Beaver Lake between Highway 45 Bridge and Lake Sequoyah Dam

**H. WALLEYE:**

1. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; Table Rock Lake and its tributaries to Beaver Dam; Bull Shoals Lake, and Norfolk Lake – minimum length limit of 18 inches, daily limit 4.
2. In compliance with Addendum N1.02 and Code Chapter 28.00.

**I. WHITE BASS, STRIPED BASS, HYBRID STRIPED BASS:**

**1. White bass:**

- i. Between the main levees of the Mississippi river, from the confluence of the Mississippi and White rivers upstream to the Benzal Railroad Bridge, and from the confluence of the Mississippi and Arkansas rivers upstream to the Yancopin Railroad Bridge – daily limit of 50, possession limit of 100.
- ii. Beaver Lake and its tributaries; Bob Kidd Lake; Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries; Lakes Ashbaugh, Sequoyah, and Monticello – no limit.

**2. Striped bass and hybrid striped bass (combined):**

- i. Beaver and Norfolk Lakes; Lake Ouachita – daily limit 3.
- ii. Arkansas River and connecting lakes – daily limit 10.
- iii. Lake Monticello – no limit.

**J. ALLIGATOR GAR:**

1. Alligator gar longer than 36 inches may not be harvested from noon May 1 – noon July 1 statewide.
2. Alligator Gar Tag is required to harvest alligator gar over 36 inches (Code 26.28).

**K. TROUT (BROOK, BROWN, CUTTHROAT, RAINBOW, TIGER):**

## 1. **Brown trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – all fish caught must be immediately released.
- ii. White River from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) – minimum length limit 24 inches, daily limit 1.
- iii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit 2.
- iv. Spring River (from 100 yards below Dam No.1 at Mammoth Spring State Park to the mouth of Myatt Creek.) – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 1; only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches.
- v. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.
- vi. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.
- vii. Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to Arkansas Highway 27 Bridge (Narrows Tailwater) – all brown trout must be released immediately.

## 2. **Cutthroat trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – all fish caught must be immediately released.
- ii. White River from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) – minimum length limit 24 inches, daily limit 1.
- iii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 16 inches, daily limit of 2.

- iv. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.
- v. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches. .

### 3. **Brook trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – all fish caught must be immediately released.
- ii. White River from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit of 1.
- iii. Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) west of Arkansas Highway 59 – minimum length 14 inches, daily limit 2.
- iv. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.
- v. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.

### 4. **Rainbow trout:**

- i. Lake Atalanta (Benton County) – daily limit of 5.
- ii. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access (Bull Shoals Tailwater), North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – ~~all fish caught must be immediately released~~daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches.
- iii. White River from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) — daily limit of 2, (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches) .
- iv. Spring River - daily limit of 5 (only 1 of trout daily limit may be longer than 14 inches).

- v. Little Red River from Greers Ferry Dam to Arkansas Highway 305 Bridge (Greers Ferry Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit of 14 inches.
- vi. White River from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access (Beaver Tailwater) – daily limit of 2, maximum length limit 14 inches. .

**5. Tiger trout:**

- i. White River from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access (Bull Shoals Tailwater) and North Fork White River (Norfolk Tailwater) – all fish caught must be immediately released.
- ii. White River from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge (Bull Shoals Tailwater) –minimum length limit 24 inches, daily limit 1.

**All fish measurements must follow procedures listed in the definition of "Length Limits" in Code 01.00-C.**

## LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, January 15, 2026, 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, January 14, 2026, beginning at 8:00 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 January 15<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 January 15, 2026 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the November 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:

- Continuing the 120-day emergency trout regulation changes to Addendum N1.01 that the Commission approved October 16, 2025, indefinitely with the following changes:
  - Bull Shoals Tailwater (from Bull Shoals Dam to boat ramp at Norfolk Access) and Norfolk Tailwater, daily limit of 2 rainbow trout, maximum length limit 14 inches, all other trout species must be immediately released;
  - Bull Shoals Tailwater (from boat ramp at Norfolk Access to Arkansas Highway 58 Bridge), daily limit of 2 trout (any species), only 1 trout over 14 inches may be harvested;
  - Beaver and Greers Ferry Tailwaters, daily limit of 2 trout (any species), maximum length limit 14 inches; and,
- Changing sportfish harvest limits in Addenda N1.01 and N1.02 for Lake Monticello as follows:
  - Eliminate the catch and release regulation for all sportfish;
  - Implement a daily limit of 5 Largemouth Bass (only 1 of which may be over 16 inches); and,
  - Implement a daily limit of 15 crappie (only 7 of which may be over 12 inches).

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the January 15, 2026 meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing to this office on or before January 5, 2026. 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.

DOUG SCHOENROCK, DIRECTOR  
Arkansas Game & Fish Commission  
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205