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Sr. Assistant General Counsel

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Assistant General Counsel

January 15, 2026

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 – January 14-15, 2026 meetings

Dear Arkansas Register:

Included are two (2) approved regulation changes that were published in the Legal Notice to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette on December 14, 15, and 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
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
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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.

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 _____ Reviewed by Legislative Council _____
(Must be more than 10 days after filing date.)

Adopted by State Agency _____

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

Contact Person

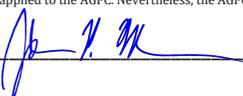
E-mail Address

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

N1.02 Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers

A. BLACK BASS: It is unlawful to possess black bass as follows:

1. Largemouth bass less than 12 inches on Lake Frierson and Greers Ferry Lake.
2. Spotted bass (Kentucky bass) less than 12 inches on Bull Shoals and Table Rock lakes.
3. All black bass less than 12 inches in Horseshoe Bend Pool on the Strawberry River.
4. Largemouth less than 13 inches on Norfolk and Ouachita lakes.
5. Largemouth bass 13-16 inches on lakes Wilhelmina (Polk County), Bear Creek Lake, Bob Kidd, and Lee Creek.
6. Largemouth bass less than 13 inches on DeGray Lake and within the boundaries of Felsenthal NWR.
 - i. **EXCEPTION:** No restriction in Woodland Trail Pond – located at the Felsenthal NWR Headquarters on U.S. Highway 82 (Ashley County); Locust Ridge Pond – located at Locust Ridge on U.S. Highway 82 (Union County); Eagle Lake Pond– located north of Eagle Lake on Bradley County Road 53 (Bradley County); and Shallow Lake Field Pond located west of Shallow Lake (Union County). Person(s) keeping largemouth bass less than 13 inches from these waters must exit the NWR boundaries immediately upon leaving these ponds and may not enter NWR campgrounds or fish other NWR waters with largemouth bass less than 13 inches from these 4 ponds in their possession.
7. Largemouth bass less than 14 inches on the Arkansas River and its tributaries.
8. Smallmouth bass less than 15 inches on Beaver, Bull Shoals, and Table Rock lakes.
9. Largemouth bass less than 15 inches on Beaver Lake, Blue Mountain, Bull Shoals, Cane Creek Lake, Georgia Pacific, Kingfisher, and Table Rock lakes; Upper and Lower Lake Chicot (including Connerly Bayou

downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou's mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam); and Moss Creek Pond.

10. Black bass greater than 16 inches in Lake Winona.
11. Largemouth bass 16-21 inches on Lake Atkins. Daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 21 inches).
12. Largemouth bass less than 16 inches on Lake June.
13. Largemouth bass daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 20 inches) on Lake Columbia, Lake Austell (Cross County), Lake Dunn (Cross County), and Lower White Oak Lake.
14. Largemouth bass daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 18 inches) on Lake SWEPCO.
15. Smallmouth bass less than 18 inches on the lower Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to its mouth. Daily limit 1.
16. Largemouth bass 14-17 inches on Mallard Lake. Daily limit 10, only 1 of which may be larger than 17 inches.
17. Largemouth bass daily limit 10 (only 1 of which may be longer than 16 inches) on Lakes Barnett, Brewer, and Poinsett.
18. Largemouth bass daily limit two (only 1 of which may be longer than 21 inches) on Lake Pickthorne.
19. Largemouth bass daily limit five (only 1 of which may be longer than 16 inches) on Lake Monticello.

B. CRAPPIE: It is unlawful to possess crappie as follows:

1. Less than 10 inches in Beaver, Table Rock, Bull Shoals, and Norfolk reservoirs; Cane Creek Lake in Lincoln County; Lake Chicot (including Connerly Bayou downstream from Connerly Dam to the bayou's mouth and Ditch Bayou from the inlet on Lake Chicot to Ditch Bayou Dam); Lake Erling (including Bodcau Creek downstream of Arkansas Highway 360 Bridge), Lake Overcup, Harris Brake Lake, Lake Dardanelle, and Lake Atkins.
2. Less than 9 inches on Blue Mountain Lake.
3. Daily limit 15 (only 7 of which may be longer than 12 inches) on Lake Monticello.

- C. **CATFISH (channel, blue and flathead):** It is unlawful to possess flathead catfish less than 20 inches on the Ouachita River from Sandy Beach Access (Ouachita County) to Rammel Dam.
- D. **PADDLEFISH:** It is unlawful to possess paddlefish less than 34 inches (Eye to Fork Length) on the White River in the special snagging area below Beaver Dam and from the Houseman Access Boat Ramp downstream to the Missouri state line.
- E. **STRIPED BASS:** It is unlawful to possess striped bass less than 20 inches on Lake Norfolk and Beaver Lake
- F. **SHOVELNOSE STURGEON:** It is unlawful to possess shovelnose sturgeon less than 21 inches. Shovelnose sturgeon may not be taken from the Mississippi River.
 - 1. **EXCEPTION:** Sportfish may be snagged (except in catch-and-release areas) in compliance with Codes 26.05 and 26.17, and within the restrictive size limits in this Addendum chapter.
- G. **WALLEYE:** It is unlawful to possess walleye less than 14 inches on Greers Ferry Lake and its tributaries.

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

ARKANSAS GAME AND FISH COMMISSION
Little Rock, Arkansas

MINUTE ORDER NO: 26 - 002 SUBJECT: Lake Monticello Game Fish Harvest
DATE PASSED: January 15, 2026 Regulations
PAGE 1 of 2 PAGES LOCATION: Statewide

WHEREAS, at its regular monthly meeting on May 19, 2022, the Commission approved (by Minute Order 22-031) fishing regulations that included implementation of catch and release for game fish in Lake Monticello; **and**

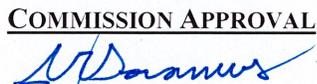
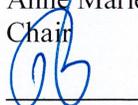
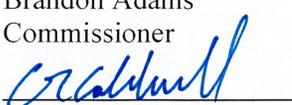
WHEREAS, the Commission and its staff have determined that conditions at Lake Monticello now warrant allowing additional game fish harvest opportunity there and have proposed the attached regulations (including Addenda N1.01 and N1.02), which remove the catch-and-release restriction on Lake Monticello and allow harvest of up to a daily limit of 5 largemouth bass (only 1 of which may be longer than 16 inches) and 15 crappie (only 7 of which may be longer than 12 inches) there; **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 Director, Commission staff, and the Regulations and Resource Management Committee, as well as comments received from the public, the Commission has determined that all of the attached regulations promote sound wildlife conservation and management and are consistent with Amendment 35 of the Arkansas Constitution and should now be approved for application statewide.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED this 15th day of January 2026, that the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission hereby approves and adopts the attached revised game fish harvest regulations (including Addenda N1.01 and N1.02) for Lake Monticello, which shall become effective February 1, 2026.

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.

	<u>STAFF APPROVAL</u>	<u>COMMISSION APPROVAL</u>	
Submitted by:	 Thomas Laird Chief	 Anne Marie Doramus Chair	 Brandon Adams Commissioner
Division:	<u>Fisheries</u>	 Rob Finley Vice Chair	 Chris Caldwell Commissioner

Approved:



Director



Philip Tappan
Commissioner



Jamie Anderson
Commissioner

Approved:

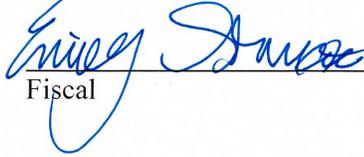


Legal



Bill Jones
Commissioner

Approved:



Fiscal

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 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 15th 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, 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
Game & Fish Commission Building
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205