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December 12, 2025

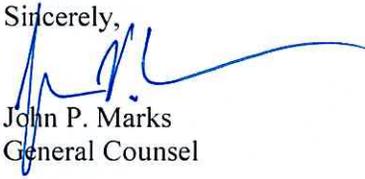
Arkansas Register
Arkansas Secretary of State, Rules & Regulation Filing
500 Woodlane Drive, Room 26
Little Rock, AR 72201
Via email only: arkansasregister@sos.arkansas.gov

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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(501) 682-5070

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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

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

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: N1.02 Length and Protected Length Limits on Certain Lakes and Rivers (for January approval)

Justification:

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 fish, allowing the harvest of only one bass that is 16 inches or longer for 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, with no more than seven of those being 12 inches or longer for Lake Monticello.

Code(s) affected: N1.02

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

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.
- 18-19. 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.
- 2-3. 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.

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