

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Code Book

The regulations in this Code Book are hereby adopted by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission under authority of Amendment 35 to the Constitution of the State of Arkansas. All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

12.00 Alligator Regulations

[12.01](#) Taking Of Alligator Prohibited

[12.02](#) Possession Of Alligator Permit Required

[12.03](#) Methods Of Taking Alligator Restricted

12.01 Taking Of Alligator Prohibited

It is unlawful to hunt, buy, sell or possess an American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*) or other crocodilian species, or any part, nest or eggs.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Any alligator or other crocodilian species seized or otherwise acquired by the Commission may be sold.
- B. Any cured and mounted trophies and articles manufactured from the lawfully acquired skins or hides or other parts of any alligator or other crocodilian species.
- C. An alligator may be possessed for display and educational purposes in compliance with a written permit issued by the Chief of Fisheries. Only established facilities such as state and federal parks, zoos, aquariums, commercial or privately operated nature centers or similar entities may possess alligators or other crocodilian species for public display or bona fide educational purposes in compliance with a letter of authorization issued by the Chief of Fisheries (facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums are exempt).
- D. Personnel authorized by the Commission and engaged in the removal of nuisance alligators in compliance with the current AGFC Nuisance Alligator Procedure.
- E. In compliance with Codes [05.01](#), [12.03](#), Chapter [33.00](#), and Addendum [A1.10](#).

PENALTY: Class 3

12.02 Possession Of Alligator Permit Required

- A. It is unlawful for any person to hunt or possess an alligator without first obtaining the required permit or special tag issued by the Commission prior to the activity.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to fail to fully comply with all provisions of his or her alligator permit and special tag.

PENALTY: Class 2

12.03 Methods Of Taking Alligator Restricted

It is unlawful to take, hunt, or possess an alligator except during the open alligator season (Addendum [A1.10](#)), or to use any method other than the following:

- A. Alligator must be captured alive and securely restrained using handheld snares or harpoons before dispatching. Hand-held snares must be constructed of steel cable with a sliding locking device and harpoon heads must be attached to a steel-cable leader.
- B. Only shotguns or shotgun-caliber bangsticks using shot size no larger than No. 4 common shot may be used to dispatch a securely restrained alligator.
- C. All shotguns and bangsticks must be cased and unloaded at all times until an alligator has been securely restrained. No other firearms or ammunition may be in possession of the permittee or hunting assistant.
- D. No firearm or bangstick may be discharged within 150 yards of any residence, building, boat ramp, or occupied campsite.
- E. All harvested alligators must be reported to the AGFC Radio Dispatch room upon harvest and checked online within 12 hours of harvest. CITES tags will be mailed to successful hunters upon verification of online checking. The permittee's assigned U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service CITES tag must be attached to the alligator approximately 6 inches from the tip of the tail immediately upon receipt of the tag and before moving the alligator or alligator parts out of state.
- F. Hunting hours during the alligator season will be from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise. The use of artificial lights is permitted during legal hunting hours.
- G. All harvested alligators must be at least 4 feet long as measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail.
- H. No electronic calls or calling devices are permitted to attract alligators.

EXCEPTION: In compliance with Codes [05.19](#), Chapter [33.00](#).

PENALTY: Class 2