

# **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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.**

## 26.00 General Fishing Regulations

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### 26.01 Taking Fish With Electrical Devices, Firearms, Explosives, Toxic, Stupefying, Or Killing Substances Prohibited

It is unlawful to fish with electrical devices or possess electrical devices for taking fish; to fish with the use of firearms or explosives; or to deposit toxic, stupefying, or killing substances that can injure, stupefy, or kill fish into public waters or to take or attempt to take fish affected by such substances.

**EXCEPTION:** Under scientific permit issued by the Commission.

**PENALTY:** Class 4

## 26.02 Trapping Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful to possess or use wire baskets, wire traps, log nets, box traps or other fish-trapping devices not considered legal commercial fishing tackle.

**EXCEPTIONS:** In compliance with Codes [30.12](#), [30.13](#), [32.04](#), [35.01](#).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.03 Dip-Netting For Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful to fish from public waters by use of dip nets unless fish are first caught by hook and line.

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Properly licensed persons taking fish during biological or management operations conducted by Commission employees.
- B. In compliance with Codes [26.06](#), [26.07](#), [32.04](#).
- C. Under scientific permit issued by the Commission.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.04 Gaffing Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful to gaff fish unless fish are first caught by hook and line.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.05 Hogging And Noodling Restricted

It is unlawful to hog or noodle fish.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Buffalo, catfish, carp, and drum may be taken by these means for personal use. The portion of the state north and west of U.S. Highway 67 is open July 15 - October31, and that portion of the state south and east of U.S. Highway 67 is open May 15 - October31. The Arkansas River is open May 15 - October31. The Mississippi River is open from May 1 - July 15. While engaged in hogging in these areas, it is unlawful to raise any part of a natural or artificial device out of the water, aiding in the capture of enclosed fish. Hogging and noodling is prohibited on the Ouachita River from the confluence of the Little Missouri River to Remmel Dam.
- B. Half daily limit on catfish is allowed for hogged or noodled fish.
- C. Lake Charles and the Strawberry River below U.S. Highway 167 is open June 1 - October31.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.06 Taking Fish With Bow And Arrow Or Gig Restricted

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take fish with bow and arrow or gig.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Annual limit of 1 alligator gar longer than 36 inches may be taken per year by Alligator Gar Tag holders (Codes [25.01](#), [26.28](#)).
- B. Half the daily limit of catfish in the waters being fished may be taken per day from noon to noon with bow and arrow July 15-May 1.
- C. Rough fish may be taken with bow and arrow or gig.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.07 Fishing Below Dam Restricted

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take fish within 100 yards below dams or within the outlet channels of Arkansas Valley Electric Cooperative Hydroelectric Plant at Barling and the Murray Hydroelectric Plant in North Little Rock.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Unless otherwise posted, fishing is allowed with 1 pole or rod held in hand.
- B. In waters not otherwise restricted (Code [26.08](#)), rough fish may be taken with a bow and arrow.
- C. When taking shad with a throw net or cast net for personal use only.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.08 Waters Restricted To Certain Fishing Tackle

It is unlawful to fish with any device other than rod or pole in:

- A. The following waters (listed by county):
1. Arkansas County - DeWitt City Park Lake
  2. Benton County - Lake Atalanta and Lake Bentonville
  3. Carroll County - Hidden Lake
  4. Clark County - Big Timber Lake and Gurdon Lake
  5. Clay County - Lake Hubble
  6. Conway County - Lake Bailey and Lake Roosevelt in Petit Jean State Park
  7. Craighead County - Craighead Forest Lake
  8. Crawford County - Lake Cambadelle and Lake Lou Emma
  9. Crittenden County - West Memphis City Parks Lake and Marion City Park Lake
  10. Cross County - All lakes in Village Creek State Park
  11. Faulkner County - Lake Bennett
  12. Fulton County - Spring River and tributaries from 100 yards below Dam No. 1 to the mouth of Myatt Creek and in Spring River Lake
  13. Greene County - Crowley Ridge State Park Lake and Reynolds Park Lake
  14. Hempstead County - South Fork Lake and Lake Terre Noire
  15. Izaard County (2 pole maximum limit) - Horseshoe Bend Pool on Strawberry River
  16. Lafayette County - Lake June
  17. Lonoke County - Tommy L. Sproles Lake Pickthorne, Ward City Park Lake, and all ponds on Cypress Bayou WMA
  18. Madison County - Hindsville Lake
  19. Monroe County - Donald Branch Fishing Pond
  20. Montgomery County - North Fork Lake
  21. Perry County - Lake Sylvia
  22. Poinsett County - Upper Lake Hogue
  23. Polk County - Shady Lake
  24. Prairie County - Mike Freeze Wattensaw WMA ponds and lakes (except oxbow lakes)
  25. Randolph County - Old Davidsonville State Park Lake
  26. Scott County - Truman Baker Lake
  27. Sebastian County - Carol Cross Lake
  28. St. Francis County - All lakes in Village Creek State Park, Forrest City Park Lake, and all ponds on U of A Pine Tree Experimental Station WDA
  29. Stone County - Gunner Pool and Hayden Bend Pond
  30. Yell County - Lake Kingfisher
  31. Washington County - Devil's Den State Park Lake and posted U.S. Forest Service ponds and lakes
  32. Woodruff County - all ponds on Rex Hancock Black Swamp WMA

- B. Arkansas River from 100 yards below Dardanelle Dam to Arkansas Highway 7 bridge and 100 yards below Dam No. 2 to the mouth of Morgan Cut-Off; Fourche La Fave River from 100 yards below Nimrod Dam to Arkansas Highway 7 bridge.
- C. Waters listed in Code [26.25](#).

**EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Gigging or bowfishing for rough fish is permitted in compliance with Code [26.06](#), in waters listed in Section B above, and in other unrestricted state waters.
- B. Catching baitfish is allowed in compliance with Chapter [32.00](#).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.09 Sportfishing Season Restrictions On Certain NWRs**

It is unlawful to fish for sportfish on certain NWRs other than during the seasons specified below:

- A. Dale Bumpers White River and Holla Bend NWRs - March 1-October31
- B. Wapanocca NWR - March 15-September30 during daylight hours only

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.10 Blocking Streams Prohibited**

It is unlawful to completely block or dam streams.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.11 Screening Requirements For Pumping From Waters Of The State**

It is unlawful to withdraw, by relift or pump, water from public waters without first securely screening intake pipes of relifts or pumps with 2-inch screening.

**PENALTY:** Class 2

## 26.12 Release Of Native Or Non-Native Aquatic Wildlife Prohibited

It is unlawful to release native or non-native aquatic wildlife, including their eggs, into the waters of the state without the written permission of the Chief of Fisheries of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and in compliance with AGFC Code Chapter [35.00](#) and Addendum Chapters [I1.00](#), [J1.00](#), and [V1.00](#). Importation of live, wild caught fish prohibited.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Aquatic species may be immediately released back into the waters from which they were taken.
- B. A person may, while fishing in waters of the state, use baitfish as bait in compliance with Code [26.18](#), [26.19](#), and [26.27](#).
- C. A person who has obtained a valid Trout Stocking Permit from the Commission Chief of Fisheries (Addendum Chapter [V1.00](#)) may release trout and trout eggs into waters of the state in compliance with the terms of the permit.
- D. A permit is not required for stocking fish and fertilized fish into public waters as part of an officially coordinated project with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission with written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries.
- E. A person may stock approved farm-reared species obtained from a Commission-permitted fish farm, fish dealer, or independent hauler, into privately owned single landowner confined/impounded waters, and privately owned multiple landowner confined/impounded waters without written permission, in compliance with Addendum Chapter [I1.00](#) and Addendum [J1.03](#), provided the landowner has legal right of access to said waters and the said waters are not deemed public waters.

**PENALTY:** Class 2

## 26.13 Certain Exotic Species Prohibited

It is unlawful to import, transport, or possess prohibited species (Addendum [J1.01](#) and [J1.03](#)). These species may be possessed for public educational display purposes with written approval from the Chief of Fisheries and in compliance with AGFC Codes [35.11](#), [35.12](#), [35.13](#), and Addendum Chapter [I1.00](#).

Northern Snakehead, *Channa argus*, may be possessed once the head has been severed from the body.

**PENALTY:** Class 2



## **26.14 Transportation Of Zebra Mussels Prohibited**

It is unlawful to knowingly transport zebra mussels into or within Arkansas.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.15 Taking Suckers Restricted**

It is unlawful to take more than 20 suckers daily or to possess more than two daily limits taken by gigging, hogging or snagging. Legal methods for taking suckers are as follows:

- A. Gigging
- B. Hogging/Noodling in compliance with Code 26.05
- C. Snagging from sunrise-sunset, April 1-February 15 statewide, in compliance with Code 26.17
- D. Sport fishing tackle in compliance with Chapter 26.00
- E. Commercial tackle in compliance with Chapter 30.00

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.16 Gigging Of Game Fish Prohibited**

It is unlawful to gig game fish or to possess game fish when gigging.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.17 Snagging Game Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful to snag game fish or to possess game fish when snagging.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- A. From the bank within 100 yards below a dam (prohibited below the Upper White Oak Lake Dam)
- B. From a boat from 100 yards below all locks and dams on the Arkansas River to the downstream entrance point of the lock structure, and from 100 yards below Dam No. 2 to the boat-launching ramps immediately below the dam
- C. From the bank below Beaver Dam, from the Corps of Engineers "No Fishing Beyond This Point" sign, downstream to the first Corps of Engineers boat ramp on the left descending bank April 15-June 15
- D. Daily limit: With the exception of catfish and paddlefish, no more than half the daily game fish limit may be taken by snagging, or the lesser whole number nearest half the limit, when the limit is an odd number
- E. Where it is legal to snag game fish as described in this code, those game fish snagged must be retained for personal use and applied to the daily limit
- F. Snagging must be discontinued once the daily limit of any species of game fish has been harvested
- G. Catfish and paddlefish may be snagged January 1-February 15 on the Black River from the Missouri state line to the Spring River confluence and on the St. Francis River from the Missouri state line to the Payneway Structure, with a daily limit of 1 paddlefish and 5 catfish (no more than 2 of which may be flathead catfish). It is not legal to possess any other gamefish while snagging these waters

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.18 Sale, Possession, And Use Of Certain Bait Restricted

- A. It is unlawful to sell as bait, possess while fishing, or use as bait live aquatic animals other than insects, freshwater shrimp, worms and baitfish as defined in Code 1.00-C.
- B. It also is unlawful to use as bait game fish, dead or alive, or their parts, except bream caught by hook and line and bream 4 inches and under.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.19 Baiting With Common Carp On Certain Waters Prohibited

It is unlawful to use common carp as bait in the following waters:

- A. Benton County - Crystal Lake
- B. Calhoun County - Tri-County Lake
- C. Carroll County - Lake Keatherwood
- D. Clark County - Gurdon Lake
- E. Columbia County - Lake Columbia
- F. Conway County - Lake Cargile and Lake Overcup
- G. Drew County - Lake Monticello
- H. Faulkner County - Craig Campbell D. Lake Conway Reservoir
- I. Grant County - Cox Creek Lake
- J. Hempstead County - Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc Lake, South Fork Lake, Lake Terre Noir, and Mike and Janet Huckabee Lake
- K. Howard County - Gillham Lake
- L. Lincoln County - Cane Creek Lake
- M. Madison County - Lake Hindsville
- N. Ouachita County - Upper and Lower White Oak Lakes
- O. Perry County - Harris Brake Lake
- P. Polk County - Lake Wilhelmina and Irons Fork Lake
- Q. Pope County - Lake Atkins
- R. Scott County - Truman Baker Lake and Lake Hinkle
- S. Sebastian County - Sugarloaf Lake
- T. Washington County - Bob Kidd Lake, Devil's Den State Park Lake, Lake Elmdale, and Wilson Lake
- U. White County - Lake Barnett and Tom's Lake

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.20 Sale Of Game Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful to buy, sell, possess for sale, or offer for sale any game fish.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. In compliance with Code [30.11](#) when taken by commercial fishermen
- B. Game fish raised in licensed fish-farming operations
- C. Bream 4 inches and under

**PENALTY:** Class 3

## 26.21 Yo-Yo, Freefloating, Trotline And Limbline Fishing Requirements

It is unlawful for a person to:

- A. Fish more than 25 yo-yos or other mechanical fishing devices or to leave such unattended (out of sight or hearing) during daylight hours;
- B. Suspend more than one yo-yo or mechanical fishing device from any horizontal line, wire, limb or support;
- C. Use a stake to mount a yo-yo, limbline, or mechanical fishing device on a Commission-owned lake unless the stake is made from wood or cane;
- D. Fail to remove any mounting stake placed in a Commission-owned lake after the stake is no longer in use for fishing;
- E. Fish in excess of 25 freefloating fishing devices (jugs) and to fail to attend such devices at all times;
- F. Use trotlines and limbelines with drops or hooks less than 24 inches apart statewide;
- G. Use any trotline or snagline below any lock and dam on the Arkansas River from the dam to the nearest arrival point navigation marker downstream;
- H. Fail to run any line and remove catch every 48 hours;
- I. Fail to remove any trotline or limbline when no longer in use for fishing (not baited for 48 hours or more); or
- J. Fish any more than 100 hooks at any time between the main levees of the Mississippi River (Code [26.08](#)).

All fishing devices must be clearly labeled, in a durable manner with one of the following:

- A. the name and address;
- B. driver's license number; or
- C. current vehicle license plate number of the person using such equipment.

### **EXCEPTIONS:**

- A. Freefloating Fishing Devices are not required to be attended from sunset to sunrise.
- B. Trotlines that otherwise comply with the provisions of this regulation may be used on Lake Maumelle, except in areas where signs prohibiting use of trotlines are posted by the Commission or Central Arkansas Water Authority.
- C. Limbines may not be used within the boundaries of Buffalo River National Park.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.22 RESERVED**

RESERVED.

## **26.23 RESERVED**

RESERVED.

## **26.24 Possession Of Filleted Fish Prohibited On Length Or Protected-Length-Limit Waters**

It is unlawful to possess filleted fish or fish with head or tail removed while:

- A. Fishing from the shore or a boat; or
- B. Transporting fish by boat on a catch-and-release area or on a length or protected-length-limit water as described in Codes [25.01](#) and [25.03](#).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## **26.25 Family And Community Fishing Program Restrictions**

### **A. FAMILY FISHING PROGRAM WATERS:**

1. Chicot County - Lake Village Community Fishing Pond
2. Clay County - Mom's Lake
3. Columbia County - Armory Pond
4. Craighead County - Craighead Forest Park Youth Fishing Pond
5. Drew County - Monticello High School Pond
6. Fulton County - Salem City Lake
7. Hempstead County - Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Fishing Pond
8. Jefferson County - Pine Bluff Regional Park Youth Fishing Pond
9. Lawrence County - Walnut Ridge City Lake
10. Pulaski County - War Memorial Park Pond
11. Union County - Mattocks Park Lake

### **B. FAMILY FISHING PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS: The following restrictions apply to the Family Fishing Program Waters above:**

1. Fishing is open only to youths or persons 65 years of age or older. All other properly licensed persons may fish if accompanied by a youth who is actively fishing. Fishing is also open to holders of any Resident Disabled License or Resident Disabled Military Veteran License that permits fishing. One licensed person may assist and fish with an actively fishing disabled fishing license holder;
2. Only hand-held rod or pole allowed;
3. Largemouth bass: catch and release only;
4. Catfish daily limit: 3;
5. Bream daily limit: 25;
6. Trout daily limit: 5;
7. Hybrid striped bass: 3;
8. Lakes open to electric trolling motors only; and
9. All other sportfishing daily limit: same as statewide.

### **C. COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM WATERS:**

1. Baxter County - Amon's Lake
2. Benton County - Lake Springdale, Lake Bentonville, Lake Keith
3. Clark County - Clear Lake
4. Craighead County - Arkansas State University Pond
5. Crawford County - Van Buren Municipal Park Pond
6. Cross County - Wynne Sports Complex Pond
7. Crittenden County - Tilden Rodgers Park Pond and Marion Sports Complex Pond
8. Faulkner County - Conway Station Park Pond and Dr. James E. Moore Jr. Camp Robinson Firing Range
9. Garland County - Family Park Pond and Entergy Park Pond
10. Greene County - Reynolds Park Pond
11. Jefferson County - Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pond in Pine Bluff, White Hall Community Pond, and Redfield City Park Pond
12. Lonoke County - Cabot Community Pond and Mike Freeze England Community Pond

13. Miller County - Lake Dieffenbacher
  14. Pike County - John Benjamin Glenwood Community Pond
  15. Pope County - Pleasant View Park Pond
  16. Pulaski County - all lakes, ponds and streams managed by the City of Little Rock Parks and Recreation Department within the city limits of Little Rock, Community Center Pond, Cherrywood Lake, Lake Valencia, Little Rock Air Force Base Pond, North Little Rock City Park waters, Paradise Lake, Pinnacle Mountain State Park Pond, Sherwood Municipal City Pond, Willow Beach Park Pond
  17. Saline County - Sunset Lake
  18. Sebastian County - Carol Ann Cross Pond, Wells Lake, Fort Chaffee, and Torraine Lake
  19. Washington County - Murphy Park Pond
  20. White County - Bald Knob Community Pond and Searcy City Lake
  21. Yell County - Dardanelle City Park Ponds and Yell County Wildlife Federation Pond
- D. COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM RESTRICTIONS: The following restrictions apply to the Community Fishing Program Waters above:
1. Only hand held rod or pole allowed;
  2. Largemouth bass: catch and release only;
  3. Catfish daily limit: 3;
  4. Bream daily limit: 25;
  5. Trout daily limit: 5;
  6. Hybrid striped bass: 3;
  7. Lakes open to electric trolling motors only; and
  8. All other sportfish daily limit: same as statewide.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.26 Aquatic Wildlife Pet Restrictions

- A. It is unlawful to possess native aquatic wildlife as pets except as follows:
  - 1. No more than 6 live individuals of native fish, crayfish, or snails may be possessed per household;
  - 2. Must be taken by hand or by any method described in Code [32.04](#);
  - 3. Game fish may only be taken in compliance with codes in Chapter [26.00](#); and
  - 4. Possession of aquatic turtles and salamanders in compliance with Captive Wildlife codes in Chapter [09.00](#).
- B. It also is unlawful to sell or purchase such wildlife or their progeny, or to release them into waters other than those from which they were collected.
- C. It also is unlawful to possess alligator snapping turtles, Ozark Hellbenders, Ouachita streambed salamanders, troglodytic (cave-dwelling) species or species state or federally listed as threatened or endangered.

### EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Fish are exempt from the 6 individual pets per household provision.
- B. Commercial fish may be taken only in compliance with Chapter [30.00](#).
- C. Collecting in compliance with a scientific collection permit or other special use permit issued by the Commission.
- D. Permitted fish farms in compliance with Chapter [35.00](#).
- E. Licensed commercial fishermen in compliance with Chapter [30.00](#).

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.27 Wild-Caught Baitfish Restricted

- A. It is unlawful to use live wild-caught baitfish unless such baitfish was caught within the same waterbody being fished or from a tributary entering upstream of the waterbody.
- B. No baitfish may be moved upstream past a dam or barrier that prohibits the normal passage of fish.

**EXCEPTION:** Baitfish purchased from a licensed dealer selling only certified, farm-raised baitfish may be used.

**PENALTY:** Class 1



## 26.28 Alligator Gar Tag Requirement

It is unlawful for any person to harvest an alligator gar 36 inches in length or greater without a valid Alligator Gar Tag in their possession and complying with the following:

- A. Immediately after harvesting an alligator gar 36 inches in length or greater and before moving it, each fisherman must attach a temporary Alligator Gar Possession Tag to the dorsal fin; and
- B. Each fisherman must check each alligator gar 36 inches in length or greater within 12 hours of harvest by contacting the Commission and following all tag requirements furnished by the Commission before the season.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.29 Take Of Grass Carp Prohibited On Lake Columbia

It is unlawful to take grass carp from Lake Columbia.

**PENALTY:** Class 1

## 26.30 Possession of Certain Live Carp Prohibited

It is illegal to possess live Silver Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), Bighead Carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), or Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*). If caught, these fish must be euthanized immediately.

**PENALTY:** Class 1