

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.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 Rammel 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. Gigging is allowed 10 a.m. - midnight, September 15 - February 15 statewide.
- C. 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.
- D. 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. Giggling 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. **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 Commission.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Aquatic species may be 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](#).
- C. A person who has obtained a valid Trout Stocking Permit from the Commission Chief of Fisheries (Addendum [V1.01](#)) may release trout and trout eggs into waters of the state in compliance with the terms of the permit.
- D. No permit is required for stockings of trout and trout eggs into public waters as part of an officially coordinated project of the Commission with written authorization from the Chief of Fisheries.

PENALTY: Class 2

26.13 Certain Exotic Species Prohibited

It is unlawful to import, transport, or possess any live species commonly known as snakehead (*Family channidae*), walking catfish, stickleback, Mexican banded tetra, piranha or rusty crayfish (*Orconectes rusticus*).

EXCEPTION: These species may be possessed for display and educational purposes by written permit approved by the Commission. 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 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 from 10 a.m.-midnight, September 15-February 15 statewide, in compliance with Code 26.06
- 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 andLake 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, Lake Fayetteville, andWilson 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, Setline And Limblime Fishing Requirements

It is unlawful for a person to:

- A. Fish more than 30 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, limblime, 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 20 freefloating fishing devices (jugs) and to fail to attend such devices at all times;
- F. Use trotlines, setlines and limblimes 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 daily; or
- I. 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. Limblimes 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. Crittenden County – Tilden Rodgers Park Pond
7. Faulkner County - Conway Station Park Pond and Dr. James E. Moore Jr. Camp Robinson Firing Range
8. Garland County – Family Park Pond and Entergy Park Pond
9. Jefferson County – Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pond in Pine Bluff, White Hall Community Pond
10. Lonoke County – Cabot Community Pond and Mike Freeze England Community Pond
11. Miller County – Lake Dieffenbacher
12. Pike County – John Benjamin Glenwood Community Pond
13. Pope County – Pleasant View Park Pond
14. 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
15. Saline County – Sunset Lake
16. Sebastian County – Carol Ann Cross Pond, Wells Lake, and Fort Chaffee

17. Washington County – Murphy Park Pond
18. White County – Bald Knob Community Pond and Searcy City Lake
19. 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 Pet Restrictions

- A. It is unlawful to possess native aquatic wildlife as pets except as follows:
 - 1. No more than 6 of each species per household may be possessed alive;
 - 2. Must be taken by hand or by any method described in Code [32.04](#); and
 - 3. Game fish may only be taken in compliance with all other codes in Chapter [26.00](#).
- 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.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Alligator snapping turtles, hellbenders, Ouachita streambed salamanders, troglodytic (cave-dwelling) species or those animals defined as endangered species may not be taken.
- B. Legally obtained baitfish are exempt from the 6 of each species per household provision.
- C. Commercial fish may be taken only in compliance with Chapter [30.00](#).
- D. Collecting in compliance with a scientific collection permit or other special use permit issued by the Commission.
- E. Permitted fish farms in compliance with Chapter [35.00](#).
- F. 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 Permit/Tag Requirement

- A. It is unlawful for any person to harvest any alligator gar without a valid Alligator Gar Permit in addition to a fishing license in compliance with Code 3.02.
- B. It is unlawful for any person to harvest an alligator gar over 36 inches without a valid Alligator Gar Tag in their possession and complying with the following:
 - 1. Immediately after harvesting an alligator gar over 36 inches and before moving it, each fisherman must attach a temporary Alligator Gar Possession Tag to the dorsal fin; and
 - 2. Each fisherman must check each alligator gar over 36 inches 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