

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

26.26 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