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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

28.00 Spearfishing Game Fish Regulations

28.01 Spearing Game Fish Restricted

It is unlawful to take game fish with spearguns other than as specified below:

A. June 15-March 15 from sunrise to sunset in the following waters: Beaver, Blue Mountain, Bull Shoals, Catherine, Conway, DeGray, DeQueen, Dierks, Erling, Gillham, Greers Ferry, Greeson, Hamilton, Harris Brake, Millwood, Nimrod, Norfork, Ouachita, and Table Rock lakes,and all impoundments created by the locks and dams on the Arkansas River;
B. The taking of black bass is prohibited in the following waters: Beaver, Bull Shoals, Norfork, and Table Rock lakes;
C. The taking of flathead catfish is prohibited March 15-July 15;
D. No more than half of the daily game fish limit (Codes 25.01, 25.02) may be taken by speargun, or the lesser whole number nearest half when the limit is an odd number; and
E. The possession of spearguns in public waters other than waters specified in this section is prohibited.

PENALTY: Class 1

28.02 Diver's Flag Requirement For Spearfishing

It is unlawful to spearfish:

A. Without displaying a standard diver's flag (no less than 12 inches wide and 12 inches long, red and white diagonal stripe)from the boat or other flotation device at least 12 inches above the surface of the water; or
B. More than 300 feet from the diver's flag.

PENALTY: Class 1

28.03 Cleaning Speared Fish Before Leaving Water Prohibited

It is unlawful for spearfishermen to clean fish while on the body of water where the fish were taken.

PENALTY: Class 1