

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

30.15 Commercial Fishing Season Restrictions

- A. The following waters are open year-round to legal commercial tackle as defined in Code [30.05](#):
1. ARKANSAS RIVER from its mouth to the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line including that part of the Arkansas River from the Ozark Dam to the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line, bounded on the north by the Union Pacific Railroad and on the south by Arkansas Highway 22 in compliance with Codes [30.24](#), [30.25](#);
 2. ARKANSAS WATERS between the main levees of the Mississippi River;
 3. BLACK RIVER from its mouth to the Missouri state line;
 4. CACHE RIVER and lakes accessible by boat from the river;
 5. FOURCHE LaFAVE RIVER from its mouth to the Arkansas Highway 7 bridge in Perry County;
 6. LITTLE RIVER from its mouth in Hempstead and Little River counties upstream to the Corps of Engineers boat ramp on west bank of river below Millwood Lake Dam;
 7. OUACHITA RIVER from the Louisiana state line to U.S. Highway 79B bridge (Camden);
 8. PETIT JEAN RIVER from its mouth to the Arkansas Highway 10 bridge in Yell County;
 9. RED RIVER in Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River, and Miller Counties;
 10. ST. FRANCIS RIVER upstream to the mouth of the Left Hand Chute of Little River in Poinsett County;
 11. SALINE RIVER from its confluence with the Ouachita River upstream to the Stillion railroad bridge in Ashley and Bradley Counties;
 12. SULPHUR RIVER from its mouth to the Texas state line;
 13. WHITE RIVER upstream from its mouth to 100 yards below Dam No. 1 at Batesville in Independence County;
 14. All lakes, bays or other bodies of water, other than tributary streams, connected to waters as specified above, when accessible by boat, from the main channel except as limited by Addendum Chapter [H1.00](#);
 15. **EXCEPTIONS:**
 - i. Emergency Closures listed in Chapter [38.00](#).
 - ii. Flathead catfish, bowfin, drum, and gar may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen on the Ouachita River from Smackover Creek to the northern boundary of Felsenthal NWR.
 - iii. Blue catfish, flathead catfish, bowfin, drum, and gar may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen on the Ouachita River from the northern boundary of Felsenthal NWR to the Louisiana state line, all waters within Felsenthal NWR, and from the Saline River from its mouth within Felsenthal NWR upstream to the Stillion railroad bridge.
 - iv. Island 40 Chute in Crittenden County is closed to commercial fishing except noonNovember1 - noonMarch 30, or when accessible by boat from the Mississippi River.

- B. The following waters are closed year-round to commercial fishing and possession of commercial fishing tackle is prohibited while on these waters:
1. Lake Erling, including all tributaries upstream from 100 yards below Lake Erling Dam to Arkansas Highway 313 in Lafayette County;
 2. All lakes owned and/or operated by Arkansas State Parks, USDA Forest Service, or AGFC;
 3. Columbia County Lake in Columbia County;
 4. Dorcheat Bayou from its headwaters in Nevada County to the Arkansas/Louisiana state line;
 5. Horseshoe Lake in Crittenden County;
 6. Saline River above the Arkansas Highway 278 in Bradley County;
 7. Lake Wallace in Drew and Chicot Counties;
 8. Hensley Lake in Jefferson County;
 9. Lake Maumelle in Pulaski County;
 10. White Oak Bay (Ozark Lake/Arkansas River);
 11. Little Missouri River;
 12. White River above the mouth of the Black River;
 13. Grand Lake in Chicot County; and
 14. All lakes in the Hot Springs Village Area of Saline County.
- C. The following counties or other parts are open year-round to commercial fishing unless noted closed in Section B or other codes in Chapter [30.00](#):
1. Arkansas (Emergency Closure Code [38.01](#));
 2. Ashley (Emergency Closure Codes [38.04-38.06](#));
 3. Bradley (Emergency Closure Codes [38.03](#), [38.06](#));
 4. Calhoun (Emergency Closure Codes [38.03](#), [38.04](#), [38.06](#));
 5. Chicot;
 6. Clay;
 7. Columbia (Dorcheat Bayou closed in (B) above; also see Emergency Closure Code [38.02](#));
 8. Craighead;
 9. Crittenden;
 10. Cross;
 11. Desha;
 12. Drew (see Emergency Closure Codes [38.04](#), [38.05](#));
 13. Greene;
 14. Hempstead;
 15. Independence;
 16. Jackson;
 17. Jefferson (see Emergency Closure Code [38.01](#));
 18. Lafayette;
 19. Lawrence;
 20. Lee;
 21. Lincoln;
 22. Little River;
 23. Lonoke (see Emergency Closure Code [38.01](#));
 24. Miller;
 25. Mississippi;
 26. Monroe;
 27. Nevada (Dorcheat Bayou closed in (B) above);
 28. Ouachita;
 29. Phillips;

30. Poinsett;
31. Prairie (see Emergency Closure Code [38.01](#));
32. Pulaski (see Emergency Closure Code [38.01](#));
33. Randolph;
34. St. Francis;
35. Union (see Emergency Closure Code [38.06](#));
36. White;
37. Woodruff;

38. **EXCEPTIONS:**

- i. Legal gill and trammel nets may be fished in the above counties only from noon September 30 to noon May 1.
- ii. For waters in the above counties located within the Dale Bumpers White River NWR below Arkansas Highway 1, gill and trammel net season is from noon September 30 - noon November 30 and from noon March 1 - noon September 30 when accessible by boat from the White River and the White River is above 23.5 feet on the St. Charles gauge. All commercial fishermen must obtain a special use permit from the Dale Bumpers White River NWR manager prior to fishing refuge waters.
- iii. Saline River and backwaters from Stillion railroad bridge in Ashley and Bradley Counties to the Arkansas Highway 278 bridge in Bradley County are closed all year to gill and trammel nets.
- iv. Open waters in Independence County include White River, Black River, and oxbow lakes that are north of Arkansas Highway 14 and east of Arkansas Highway 122 and Arkansas Highway 25. Landowner permission will be required for oxbow lakes that are not accessible from the Black River.
- v. The Little Red River in White County is closed year-round to commercial fishing upstream of the Arkansas Highway 367 Bridge at Searcy.

D. The following counties are closed year-round to commercial fishing unless noted open in Section A or other codes in Chapter [30.00](#):

1. Baxter;
2. Benton;
3. Boone;
4. Carroll;
5. Clark;
6. Cleburne;
7. Cleveland;
8. Conway;
9. Crawford;
10. Dallas;
11. Faulkner;
12. Franklin;
13. Fulton;
14. Garland;
15. Grant;
16. Hot Spring;
17. Howard;

18. Izard;
19. Logan;
20. Johnson;
21. Madison;
22. Marion;
23. Montgomery;
24. Newton;
25. Ouachita;
26. Perry;
27. Pike;
28. Polk;
29. Pope;
30. Saline;
31. Scott;
32. Searcy;
33. Sebastian;
34. Sevier;
35. Sharp;
36. Stone;
37. Van Buren;
38. Washington; and
39. Yell.

40. **EXCEPTIONS:**

- i. When a river or stream forms the boundary between opened and closed counties, that boundary segment shall be open to tackle legal in the open county, unless closed in other Codes.
- ii. That part of Saline River south of Arkansas Highway 371 (old Arkansas Highway 24) in Howard and Sevier Counties is open year-round to hoop nets.

PENALTY: Class 2