

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

32.00 Baitfish Regulations

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32.01 Commercial Baitfish Tackle License Requirements

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take baitfish for sale from waters of the state without a Minnow Dealer (MS) tackle license and attaching a metal tag issued with license to tackle (Addendum [D1.01](#)).

PENALTY: Class 1

32.02 Retail Bait Dealer License Requirement

- A. It is unlawful to offer for sale or to sell live baitfish in a retail bait shop in Arkansas without a Retail Bait Dealer License (Resident or Nonresident). A license is required for each separate business location. Game fish may not be taken from the wild and sold, except in compliance with Code [26.20](#).
- B. Permit holders must comply with Code [26.27](#) regarding Arkansas wild caught baitfish and health certificate requirements when importing farm reared baitfish from an AGFC permitted fish farm, fish dealer, or independent live hauler (Resident or Nonresident).
- C. It is unlawful to import live wild caught baitfish. Farm reared baitfish must be reared from egg to harvest and obtained from an AGFC-permitted Fish Farmer, Fish Dealer, or Independent Hauler.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Baitfish may be sold at the permitted aquaculture facility where grown in compliance with Code [35.01](#).
- B. Marine and tropical fish commonly distributed in the aquarium trade may be sold without special permit, as long as they are held permanently in closed aquarium systems and not otherwise prohibited.

PENALTY: Class 1

32.03 Exporting Baitfish From Waters Of The State Prohibited

It is unlawful to export any baitfish taken from waters of the state.

PENALTY: Class 1

32.04 Baitfish Tackle Restrictions

It is unlawful to use tackle for taking or attempting to take baitfish from waters of the state other than as specified below. Only baitfish may be retained for bait, and all other species of fish must be immediately returned to the waters where taken. The tackle allowed for taking baitfish is as follows:

- A. Seines not in excess of 50 feet long and 4 feet in depth with square mesh of 1/4 inch.
- B. Square traps or lifts not exceeding 6 feet by 6 feet by 3 feet in depth, and round traps not exceeding 3 feet in diameter and 6 feet long with up to 3/4 inch wire or mesh and throat size of 2 inches square.
- C. Throw nets and casting nets with square mesh not larger than 1 inch, or shad trawl nets with square mesh not larger than 1 inch.
- D. Plastic or wire mesh minnow traps not in excess of 1 gallon capacity with throat size of not more than 1.5 inches.
- E. Hand-operated dip nets or lifts with up to 1 inch square bar mesh used to take legal baitfish for personal use while in the act of sport fishing day or night.

PENALTY: Class 1

32.05 Taking Baitfish Immediately Below Dams Prohibited

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take baitfish within 100 yards below dams or similar constructions.

EXCEPTION: Shad may be taken in compliance with Code [32.04](#), Subpart C.

PENALTY: Class 1

32.06 Taking Baitfish For Commercial Purposes In Certain Waters Prohibited

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take baitfish for commercial purposes in:

- A. The Caddo River and that portion of the Little Missouri River and its tributaries above Ozan Creek in Pike County.
- B. All waters north of U.S. Highway 70 in Howard County.
- C. All waters in Benton, Carroll, Clark, Crawford, Franklin, Lawrence, Madison, Montgomery, Newton, Polk, Sebastian, Sevier, and Washington Counties.

EXCEPTION: Gizzard and Threadfin Shad may be taken for commercial use in these counties in compliance with Code [26.27](#).

PENALTY: Class 1