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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

30.00 Commercial Fishing Regulations

<u>30.01</u> Resident Commercial Fishing Permit Requirements

<u>30.02</u> Sale of Wild-Caught Aquatic Wildlife And Transaction Requirements

<u>30.03</u> Commercial Fishing Reporting Requirements

<u>30.04</u> Commercial Tackle Tag Requirements

<u>30.05</u> Illegal Commercial Tackle Prohibited

<u>30.06</u> Net Lead Or Wing Requirements

<u>30.07</u> Blocking Streams With Nets Prohibited

30.08 Commercial Tackle Checking Requirement

<u>30.09</u> Possession of Game Fish by Commercial Fishers Prohibited

<u>30.10</u> Possession Of Undersized Commercial Fish Prohibited

<u>30.11</u> Possession Of Filleted Fish Prohibited While Commercial Fishing

<u>30.12</u> Possession Of Rare And Endangered Fish By Commercial Fishers Prohibited

30.13 Commercial Fishing Season Restrictions 30.14 Possession And Use Of Fiddler-Size Hoop Nets And Slat-Type Fish Traps Restricted To Certain Public Waters

30.15 Resident Roe Taker/Seller Permit Requirements 30.16 Roe Buyer/Exporter Requirements

30.17 Roe Buyer/Exporter Reporting Requirements

30.18 Cutting Or Mutilation Of Paddlefish And Sturgeon Prohibited

<u>30.19</u> Paddlefish And Sturgeon Harvest And Tackle Restrictions

<u>30.20</u> Paddlefish And Sturgeon Possession

Restrictions On Certain Waters

<u>30.21</u> Harvest Restriction On Sturgeon In The Mississippi River

- 30.22 RESERVED
- 30.23 RESERVED
- 30.24 RESERVED
- 30.25 RESERVED

30.26 RESERVED

30.01 Resident Commercial Fishing Permit Requirements

It is unlawful to purchase commercial tackle tags or to operate commercial tackle without a current Resident Commercial Fishing Permit and Resident Fisheries Conservation License.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Youths or individuals 65 years of age or older are required to purchase a Junior/Senior Commercial Fishing Permit instead of a Resident Commercial Fishing Permit and Resident Fisheries Conservation License.
- B. A person with a Resident Commercial Fishing Helper's Permit and a valid Resident Fisheries Conservation License in their immediate possession may operate the properly tagged tackle of the permitted commercial fisher for whom they hold the permit. The holder of a Resident Commercial Fishing Permit and a Resident Fisheries Conservation License shall be fully responsible for the actions of the person using the Resident Commercial Fishing Helper's Permit.
- C. In compliance with Codes <u>03.07</u> and <u>03.08</u>.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.02 Sale of Wild-Caught Aquatic Wildlife And Transaction Requirements

It is unlawful to sell or attempt to sell Arkansas wild-caught commercial aquatic wildlife without a current Resident Commercial Fishing Permit and Sportfishing License. A bill of sale or receipt of transfer with a Resident Commercial Fishing Permit number must accompany all sales to fish markets, processors, or retailers of Arkansas commercial fish or fish parts in each transaction. Bills of sale must be retained by the purchaser for a period of 12 months and made available for inspection by the Commission.

As of June 8, 2022 30.03 Commercial Fishing Reporting

Requirements

It is unlawful for a commercial fisher to fail to report by the 15th of each month, either electronically or on forms supplied by the Commission, commercial harvest or lack thereof.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.04 Commercial Tackle Tag Requirements

It is unlawful to fail to obtain and attach the appropriate metal tag issued with a Commercial Tackle Permit for each piece of commercial tackle used in Arkansas waters as specified:

- A. Gill net, trammel net, and seine tags must be attached to one end of the float line. If over 300 feet, an additional tag is required for each additional 300 feet or fractional part;
- B. Hoop net and fiddler net tags must be attached to first hoop at the opening of the net;
- C. Slat trap tags must be attached to the first rib nearest the front opening of each trap;
- D. Trotline, snagline, throwline, limbline, and set hook tags must be attached to each line at the bank end. If over 100 feet, an additional tag is required for each additional 100 feet or fractional part; and
- E. In compliance with Codes <u>03.07</u>, <u>03.08</u>.

30.05 Illegal Commercial Tackle Prohibited

It is unlawful to use any tackle for commercial purposes other than properly tagged tackle in waters open to commercial fishing as specified below:

- A. Slat traps (where permitted by Code <u>30.14</u>) with maximum slat trap length – 6 feet; maximum round slat trap diameter – 24 inches; maximum square trap width and height – 24 inches; maximum of seven, 1½-inch (width) by $3\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (length) unobstructed slots evenly spaced around perimeter of the rear portion of catch area; slat material must be wood or plastic;
- B. Hoop nets, leads, or wings with minimum square bar mesh size – 2½ inches when wet and with any nonmetallic thread or filament material of nylon or cotton not less than 15 gauge;
- C. Fiddler nets (where permitted by Code <u>30.14</u>) with minimum square bar mesh size 1½ inches when wet and with any nonmetallic thread or filament material of nylon or cotton not less than 15 gauge; Wings or leads prohibited;
- D. Commercial fish seines with minimum square bar mesh size 3½ inches;
- E. Commercial gill and trammel nets with minimum square bar mesh size 3½ inches; and
- F. Limb lines, set hooks, trotlines, throwlines, and snaglines.

EXCEPTIONS: In compliance with Codes <u>35.01</u> and <u>35.04</u>.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.06 Net Lead Or Wing Requirements

- A. It is unlawful to use any lead or wing, in excess of 100 yards, with any type of connection to hoop or fiddler nets.
- B. It is unlawful for any lead or wing of any type to be set within 100 yards of another lead or wing.

30.07 Blocking Streams With Nets Prohibited

It is unlawful to block horizontally from water's edge to water's edge more than half of the width of any stream with nets, leads, wings, or seines.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.08 Commercial Tackle Checking Requirement

It is unlawful to fail to check and remove catch from all commercial tackle at least once during each 48-hour period from sunrise April 1 to sunrise November 1.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.09 Possession of Game Fish by Commercial Fishers Prohibited

It is unlawful for a commercial fisher to sportfish in the same waters or possess game fish while engaged in commercial fishing or while possessing commercial tackle or commercial fish.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Catfish.
- B. Paddlefish.
- C. Bream for bait in compliance with Codes 26.18 and 26.27.

30.10 Possession Of Undersized Commercial Fish Prohibited

It is unlawful for a commercial fisher to possess any of the following fish taken from waters of the state:

- A. Catfish or buffalo less than 16 inches in length; or
- B. Paddlefish or sturgeon of any size.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Only 12-inch or longer blue and channel catfish may be taken in waters specified in Code 30.14.
- B. Only 16-inch or longer blue catfish may be taken by commercial gear in the Arkansas River from the Arkansas Highway 7 bridge in Yell County to the Oklahoma state line.
- C. Holders of a current resident Roe Taker/Seller Permit or Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter Permit in compliance with Codes 30.17 and 30.18 may possess paddlefish 37 inches or longer in Dardanelle and Ozark lakes of the Arkansas River; 36 inches or longer in the open portion of the Arkansas River, including tributaries, below Dardanelle Lock and Dam, downstream to the Yancopin railroad bridge on the Arkansas River and downstream to Norrell Lock and Dam on the Arkansas Navigation Canal; 35 inches or longer in the Mississippi River; and 34 inches or longer for all other waters open to paddlefish harvest or sturgeon when in season. Paddlefish shall be measured from the front of the eve to the fork of the tail with the fish laid flat on a rule.
- D. Sturgeon harvested from the waters legal for harvest must be at least 21 inches long, measured from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail.

30.11 Possession Of Filleted Fish Prohibited

While Commercial Fishing

- A. It is unlawful to possess filleted fish or fish with head or tail removed while commercial fishing.
- B. It is unlawful to transport by boat filleted fish or fish with head or tail removed if such fish were taken by a commercial fisherman or were taken by means of commercial tackle.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Blocking of paddlefish in compliance with Code <u>30.18</u>.
- B. Catfish may have the tail removed but the carcass must be at least the legal minimum length limit for the water being fished.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.12 Possession Of Rare And Endangered Fish By Commercial Fishers Prohibited

It is unlawful for a commercial fisher to possess rare and endangered fish. Rare fish that may not be possessed include Lake Sturgeon, Alligator Gar, American Eel, Striped Mullet, Highfin Carpsucker, Pealip Redhorse, and Silver Redhorse. Endangered fish species are listed in Addendum <u>P1.01</u>.

As of June 8, 2022 30.13 Commercial Fishing Season Restrictions

It is unlawful to fish commercial tackle in waters of the state and possession of commercial fishing tackle is prohibited while on these waters, including all lakes owned and/or operated by Arkansas State Parks, USDA Forest Service, or AGFC, except for the following:

A. The following waters, including all lakes, bays or other bodies of water, other than tributary streams, connected to waters as specified below, when accessible by boat, from the main channel except as limited by Addendum Chapter <u>H1.00</u> and in accordance with landowner permission Code <u>05.35</u>, are open year-round to legal commercial tackle as defined in Code <u>30.05</u>:

- 1. ARKANSAS RIVER from its mouth to the Oklahoma state line including that part of the Arkansas River from the Ozark Dam to the Oklahoma state line, bounded on the north by the Union Pacific Railroad and on the south by Arkansas Highway 22 in compliance with Section C codes below. It is unlawful to fish with commercial tackle in waters between arrival point signs and any lock and dam;
- 2. MISSIPPI RIVER Arkansas waters between the main levees of the river;
- 3. BLACK RIVER from its mouth to the Missouri state line;
- CACHE RIVER from its mouth to its headwaters in Clay County;
- 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; Little River upstream of Patterson Shoals boat ramp to the Oklahoma state line;

As of June 8, 2022 7. OUACHITA RIVER from the

- OUACHITA RIVER from the Louisiana state line to U.S. Highway 79B bridge (Camden) (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
- 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 mouth upstream to the Arkansas Highway 278 bridge in Bradley County; Saline River and backwaters upstream of the Stillions Railroad Bridge is closed to gill and trammel nets; Saline River above Highway 278 bridge in Bradley County closed to commercial fishing; (see Emergency Closure Code 38.01);
- 12. SULPHUR RIVER from its mouth to the Texas state line;
- 13. WHITE RIVER upstream from its mouth to the mouth of the Black River; White River above the mouth of the Black River is closed to commercial fishing;
- 14. EXCEPTIONS:
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Blue catfish, flathead catfish, bowfin, drum, and gar may not be taken or possessed by commercial fishermen on the Ouachita River from the northern

As of June 8, 2022 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.

- B. The following counties are open yearround to legal commercial tackle as defined in Code <u>30.05</u> unless noted closed in Section A above or other codes in Chapter <u>30.00</u>. When a river or stream forms the boundary between opened and closed counties, that boundary segment shall be closed to commercial tackle, unless noted open in Section A above or other codes in Chapter <u>30.00</u>. Gill and trammel nets may be fished in the following counties only from noon September 30 to noon May 1, unless noted open in Section A or other codes in Chapter <u>30.00</u>:
 - 1. Arkansas (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
 - 2. Ashley (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
 - 3. Bradley (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
 - 4. Calhoun (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
 - 5. Chicot; Lake Wallace closed; Grand Lake closed;
 - 6. Clay;
 - Columbia (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>); Dorcheat Bayou closed; Columbia County Lake closed;
 - 8. Craighead;
 - 9. Crittenden; Horseshoe Lake closed;
 - 10. Cross;
 - 11. Desha;
 - Drew (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>); Lake Wallace closed;
 - 13. Greene;
 - 14. Hempstead; Little Missouri River closed;
 - 15. Independence;
 - 16. Jackson;
 - Jefferson (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>); Hensley Lake closed;

As of June 8, 2022 18. Lafayette; Lake Erling,

- 18. Larayette; Lake Erling, including all tributaries upstream from 100 yards below Lake Erling Dam to Arkansas Highway 313 in Lafayette County closed;
- Lawrence; Strawberry River above Highway 25 closed;
- 20. Lee;
- 21. Lincoln;
- 22. Little River;
- 23. Lonoke (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
- 24. Miller;
- 25. Mississippi;
- 26. Monroe;
- 27. Phillips;
- 28. Poinsett;
- Prairie (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
- 30. Pulaski (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>); Lake Maumelle closed;
- 31. St. Francis;
- 32. Union (see Emergency Closure Code <u>38.01</u>);
- 33. White; Little Red River closed year-round to commercial fishing upstream of the Arkansas Highway 367 bridge at Searcy; and
- 34. Woodruff;
- 35. EXCEPTIONS:
 - i. 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

As of June 8, 2022 to fishing refuge waters.

- C. The following waterbodies are open to commercial tackle with certain restrictions:
 - 1. Corning Lake or Long Lake in Clay County: Trotlines, throw line, limblines, and snag lines are prohibited.

2. Lake Dardanelle:

- i. Commercial tackle of any type is prohibited from noon March 1 noon November 30 in the waters of Dardanelle Lake north of the Union Pacific Railroad in Pope, Johnson, and Franklin Counties, Dardanelle Bay in Yell County, and south of signs posted on Shoal Bay, Cane Creek Bay, Six Mile Creek at O-Kane Island Access, and south of Arkansas Highway 22 in Delaware Bay in Logan County.
- Gill and trammel nets must be anchored so they are not within 3 feet of the water surface except noon December1 - noon April 1.
- iii. Commercial tackle of any type is prohibited in the Entergy Nuclear Power Plant discharge bay from noon November 1 – noon March 1.

3. Central Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge Complex:

The following NWRs allow commercial fishing activities through Special Use Permit only. See refuge manager for As of June 8, 2022 Special Use Permit and refuge specific regulations.

i. Big Lake NWR

ii. Cache River NWR

iii. Holla Bend NWR

- Lake Millwood: Legal gill and trammel nets open noon September 30 - noon May 1, and slat traps open noon September 30 - noon June 1. Lake Millwood is open yearround to other legal commercial fishing. Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Hope Regional Office, and report their catch to the Hope Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month.
- 5. Nimrod Lake, Blue Mountain Lake, and Morgan Point Bendway Lake: Open noon October 1 noon March 1. All species of carp caught must be removed from these lakes. Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Russellville Regional Office, for Nimrod and Blue Mountain Lakes, or the Monticello Regional Office for Morgan Point Bendway Lake, and report their catch to the Regional Office from which they obtained their commercial permit by the 15th day of the following month. Only legal-sized gill and trammel nets or larger.
- 6. Cadron Creek and Point Remove Creek: Legal commercial tackle during the commercial fishing season noon September 30 – noon

As of June 8, 2022 May 1 on Cadron Creek – from its mouth to Arkansas Highway 287 on its east fork in Faulkner County, North Cadron Creek – from its mouth to Arkansas Highway 285 in Faulkner County; Point Remove Creek – from its mouth up the east fork to Arkansas Highway 95 and the Kissire Bridge on the west fork in Conway County.

7. **Sheffield Nelson Dagmar WMA:** Open noon January 1 until noon the last day of February.

8. First Old River Lake (Miller County): Open noon November 1 until noon February 28, with legal gill and trammel nets. Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Hope Regional Office and report their catch to the Hope Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month.

9. Dr. Lester Sitzes III Bois d'Arc Lake (Hempstead County): Open noon November 1 – noon February 28, with legal gill and trammel nets. Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Hope Regional Office and report their catch to the Hope Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month.

10. Lake Erling (Lafayette County): Open noon

November 1 – noon February 28, with slat traps and fiddlersize hoops nets upstream to the Highway 360 bridge. Commercial fishers must obtain and have in their As of June 8, 2022 possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Camden Regional Office, and report their catch to the Camden Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month.

11. Lake Chicot (Chicot

County): Open noon November 1- noon December Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Monticello Regional Office, and report their catch to the Monticello Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month. All species of carp and all rough fish, excluding alligator gar. caught must be removed from the lake. Alligator gar must be released back into the lake. The 16-inch minimum length limit on buffalo is waived. Only legal-sized or larger gill and trammel nets may be used.

12. Old River Lake (Pulaski

County): Open noon December 1- noon February 28. Commercial fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Brinkley Regional Office, and report their catch to the Brinkley Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month. All species of carp and all rough fish, excluding alligator gar, caught must be removed from the lake. Alligator gar must be released back into the lake. The 16-inch minimum length limit on buffalo is waived.

13. Horseshoe Lake

(Crittenden County): Open noon November 1 until noon February 28. Commercial As of June 8, 2022 fishers must obtain, and have in their possession while fishing, a commercial permit from the district biologist at the Commission's Brinkley Regional Office, and report their catch to the Brinkley Regional Office by the 15th day of the following month. All species of carp and all rough fish, excluding alligator gar, caught must be removed from the lake. Alligator gar must be released back into the lake. The 16-inch minimum length limit on buffalo is waived.

As of June 8, 2022 30.14 Possession And Use Of Fiddler-Size Hoop Nets And Slat-Type Fish Traps Restricted To Certain Public Waters

It is unlawful to use or possess fiddler-size hoop nets or slat-type fish traps in any waters of the state other than those specified below, including all lakes, bays or other bodies of water, other than tributary streams, connected to waters as specified below, when accessible by boat, from the main channel except as limited by Addendum Chapter <u>H1.00</u>, and in accordance with landowner permission Code <u>05.35</u>:

- A. Arkansas River, including all impoundments, from its mouth to the Oklahoma state line. Fiddler-size hoop nets are prohibited in the Arkansas River from the Arkansas Highway 7 Bridge in Yell County to the Oklahoma state line.
- B. L'Anguille River from its mouth to the point of origin.
- C. Little River from its mouth to the Corps of Engineers boat ramp on the west side of Little River below Millwood Dam.
- D. Little River upstream of Patterson Shoals boat ramp to the Oklahoma state line slat traps may be fished yearround. In Millwood Lake slat traps may be fished from noon Sept. 30 – noon June 1.
- E. All waters of the Mississippi River bounding Arkansas.
- F. Red River from the Louisiana state line to the Oklahoma state line.
- G. St. Francis River from its mouth to the Missouri state line in Clay County.
- H. St. Francis Floodway Diversion Ditch from its mouth upstream to U.S. Highway 63 in Poinsett County.
 - I. Bay Ditch (Cross, Poinsett, and Craighead counties) from its mouth upstream to U.S. Highway 63 in Craighead County.
- J. Old Town Lake in Phillips County: slat traps only. Fiddler-size hoop nets are prohibited.
- K. White River from its mouth to the Interstate 40 Bridge: slat traps only. Fiddler-size hoop nets are prohibited.
- L. Cypress Bayou (Whiskey Chute) in Phillips County (slat traps only).

- As of June 8, 2022 M. Sulphur River from its mouth to the Texas state line.
- N. Boeuf River from the Louisiana state line to the point of origin.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.15 Resident Roe Taker/Seller Permit Requirements

It is unlawful to take, sell, or possess paddlefish or sturgeon, or their parts, including eggs (roe), without a current Resident Roe Taker/Seller Permit, A Resident Commercial Fishing Permit is required to purchase a Resident Roe Taker/ Seller Permit.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. A person with a Resident Roe Taker/ Helper Permit may harvest or assist in the harvest of paddlefish or sturgeon when in the immediate presence of a permitted roe taker/seller. The holder of a Roe Taker/Seller Permit or Roe Buver/Exporter Permit shall be fully responsible for supervising the actions of the person using the Roe Taker/ Helper's Permit.
- B. Sportfishers in compliance with Code 25.02 may take and possess, but not sell, paddlefish.
- C. Paddlefish and sturgeon meat may be sold to individuals only for personal use as long as a bill of sale containing the name and permit number of the authorized harvester, species, total pounds of meat received, and the name of the purchaser accompanies the meat.
- D. Paddlefish and sturgeon meat and/or roe can be transported by an authorized representative of a legally permitted resident roe taker/seller if accompanied by a bill of lading or bill of sale indicating the name and permit number of the authorizing resident roe taker/seller and including the species. number of pounds of roe or meat per species, and if being sold, the name of the purchaser. A true bill of lading or bill of sale must accompany the shipment to the final destination.

30.16 Roe Buyer/Exporter Requirements

It is unlawful to buy or export across the state line paddlefish or sturgeon, or their parts, including eggs (roe), without a current Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter Permit or Nonresident Roe Buyer Permit, as applicable. Permitted commercial fishers who hold current Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter Permit may also take paddlefish and sturgeon in compliance with applicable season, size, and tackle regulations.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. In compliance with Code 25.02.
- B. Permitted fish farmers in compliance with Code <u>35.10</u>.
- C. Paddlefish and sturgeon meat may be purchased only from permitted roe taker/sellers and roe buyer/exporters in compliance with Code <u>30.02</u>.
- D. Paddlefish and sturgeon meat and/or roe can be transported by an authorized representative of a legally permitted resident buyer/exporter if accompanied by a bill of lading or bill of sale, indicating the name and permit number of the authorizing resident buyer/exporter and including the species, number of pounds of roe or meat per species, and if being sold, the name of the purchaser. A true bill of lading or bill of sale must accompany the shipment to the final destination.
- E. Paddlefish, sturgeon, or their meat (excluding eggs or roe), may be purchased for personal use without purchasing either a Resident Roe Buyer/Exporter Permit or Nonresident Roe Buyer Permit in compliance with this code.

30.17 Roe Buyer/Exporter Reporting

Requirements

Resident roe buyers/exporters or nonresident roe buyers must submit monthly, by the 15th day of each month, reports of roe-buying transactions for the preceding month on forms provided by the Commission. Resident roe buyers/exporters also must report their take of roe. Failure to maintain accurate records will result in permit revocation and non-renewal. These forms shall be completed at the time of purchase and available for inspection by Commission personnel at any reasonable time.

PENALTY: Class 3

30.18 Cutting Or Mutilation Of Paddlefish And Sturgeon Prohibited

It is unlawful to possess a cut or mutilated paddlefish or sturgeon while on the water unless the eggs have been removed and at least 2 inches of one ovary remains attached to each fish. Mutilation includes tearing or disfiguring of paddlefish in any way near the vent area. A 12-gauge needle may be used to determine the presence of eggs. Eggs must be kept in separate containers, one fish per container.

EXCEPTION: Fish may be blocked out but the carcass must be at least the legal minimum length limit for the water being fished.

30.19 Paddlefish And Sturgeon Harvest And Tackle Restrictions

It is unlawful to take, attempt to take, or possess paddlefish or sturgeon, or their parts, including eggs (roe), from waters of the state from midnight April 10 – sunrise November 20.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. Permitted resident roe buyers/ exporters and permitted nonresident roe buyers may possess processed roe only with proper reports of transactions described in Code <u>30.19</u>.
- B. In compliance with Code 25.02.
- C. Permitted fish farmers in compliance with Code <u>35.10</u>.
- D. Sturgeon may be taken midnight November 15 - sunrise May 1.
- E. Roe takers are required to use only multifilament nets from sunrise November 20 – midnight December 5, and from sunrise March 2 – midnight April 10, in the Arkansas River below James W. Trimble Dam.
- F. It is unlawful to possess for commercial purposes any nets other than 3½-inch mesh or 6-inch or larger mesh while fishing for paddlefish in the Arkansas River above Dam 2 during the paddlefish season.

As of June 8, 2022 30.20 Paddlefish And Sturgeon Possession Restrictions On Certain Waters

It is unlawful to, for commercial purposes,take, attempt to take, or possess paddlefish or sturgeon, or their parts including eggs (roe), from:

- A. That part of the White River (including any backwaters) immediately above the Newport Access and proceeding upstream to the boat ramp at Jacksonport State Park.
- B. The following border waters with Louisiana: Red River in Hempstead, Lafayette, Little River, and Miller counties; Ouachita River from the Louisiana state line to 100 yards below Felsenthal Lock and Dam; Bayou Bartholomew from the Louisiana state line to its source in Jefferson County; Bodcau Bayou from the Louisiana state line to the base of Lake Erling Dam; Boeuf River from the Louisiana state line to its source in Chicot County; and Bayou Macon from the Louisiana state line to its source in Desha County.
- C. The portion of the Arkansas River extending from Trimble Lock and Dam upstream to the Oklahoma state line except for during permitted special seasons determined by the Commission.

PENALTY: Class 3

30.21 Harvest Restriction On Sturgeon In The Mississippi River

It is unlawful to use commercial tackle to take, attempt to take, or possess any sturgeon from the Mississippi River, including the Arkansas River to Dam 2, the St. Francis River to the Huxtable Pumping Station, and the White River to Montgomery Point Lock and Dam.

PENALTY: Class 2

30.22 RESERVED

RESERVED.

[Editor's Note: Moved to Code 30.21.]

As of June 8, 2022 30.23 RESERVED

RESERVED.

[Editor's Note: Moved to Code 30.19.]

30.24 RESERVED

RESERVED.

30.25 RESERVED

RESERVED.

[Editor's Note: Incorporated into Code 30.13.]

30.26 RESERVED

RESERVED.

[Editor's Note: Moved to Code 30.11.]

30.27 RESERVED

RESERVED.

[Editor's Note: Moved to Code 30.12.]