

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

31.01 Mussel Shell Taker/Seller And Shell Buyer License And Reporting Requirements

It is unlawful to take, attempt to take, buy, sell, or offer for sale freshwater mussels for commercial purposes without a current Resident Shell Taker/Seller License, a Resident Shell Buyer License, or a Nonresident Shell Buyer License. A person with a Shell Taker's Helper Permit may harvest or assist only in the immediate presence of a licensed shell taker. Licensed resident or nonresident shell buyers may purchase up to four Shell Buyer's Agent Permits which may be transferred between employees of the licensed shell buyer. Only residents can hold an agent permit, and agents can purchase only for their licensed buyer. For the purposes of this chapter, "resident" means any person who has established a bona fide residence in Arkansas for at least 12 months and declares themselves a citizen of Arkansas.

BUYERS: Quarterly reports of mussel-buying transactions must be submitted by shell buyers on or before the 1st of January, April, July, and October on forms provided by the Commission.

SELLERS: Shell Taker/Seller License holders shall furnish the Commission the number of pounds of each species of mussels taken in Arkansas and sold out of state on or before February 1 on forms provided by the Commission. Failure to maintain accurate reports will result in license revocation and no renewal. These records shall be maintained monthly and made available for inspection by authorized Commission personnel at any reasonable time.

PENALTY: Class 3