

As of January 4, 2023

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

34.04 Commercial Aquatic Turtle Harvest Conditions

- A. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take aquatic turtle eggs from the wild.
- B. It is unlawful to take or attempt to take aquatic turtles for commercial purposes by any means other than hoop nets or box type (basking) turtle traps.
- C. It is unlawful to possess commercial aquatic turtle harvest gear in closed waters.
Commercial aquatic turtle harvest is closed in all waters other than in the following counties and/or bodies of water, which are open except as specified in Exception A:

1. Counties:

- i. Arkansas,
- ii. Ashley,
- iii. Chicot (Exception A),
- iv. Clay (Exception A),
- v. Craighead,
- vi. Crittenden (Exception A),
- vii. Cross,
- viii. Desha,
- ix. Drew (Exception A),
- x. Greene (Exception A),
- xi. Independence (Exception A),
- xii. Jackson,
- xiii. Jefferson,
- xiv. Lawrence (Exception A),
- xv. Lee,
- xvi. Lincoln,
- xvii. Lonoke,
- xviii. Mississippi,
- xix. Monroe,
- xx. Phillips,
- xxi. Poinsett,
- xxii. Prairie,
- xxiii. Pulaski,
- xxiv. Randolph (Exception A),
- xxv. St. Francis,
- xxvi. White, and
- xxvii. Woodruff counties.

2. Bodies of water:

- i. Arkansas River, from its mouth to the Arkansas/Oklahoma state line, and
 - ii. Arkansas waters between the main levees of the Mississippi River.
- D. When a river or stream forms the boundary between opened and closed areas, that boundary segment shall be closed to commercial aquatic turtle harvest.

EXCEPTIONS:

- A. The following waters are closed to commercial aquatic turtle harvest:
1. Bayou Meto Bayou in compliance with Code [38.01](#),
 2. All waters owned by Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Arkansas State Parks, or Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission,
 3. Horseshoe Lake (Crittenden County),
 4. Lake Wallace (Drew and Chicot counties),
 5. Upper and Lower Lake Chicot (Connerly Bayou to Ditch Bayou Dam inclusive) (Chicot County),
 6. St. Francis River (Clay and Greene counties),
 7. Eleven Point River (Randolph County),
 8. Spring River (Lawrence and Randolph counties),
 9. Strawberry River (Lawrence County),
 10. White River above Dam 1 at Batesville (Independence County), and
 11. Property-owner association and municipally-owned lakes, except with written approval from owner.
 12. Those portions of Lake Dardanelle: north of the Union Pacific Railroad in Franklin, Johnson, and Pope counties; Dardanelle Bay in Yell County; Delaware Bay south of Arkansas Highway 22; and south of signs posted on Shoal Bay, Cane Creek Bay, and Six Mile Creek at O'Kane Island access in Logan County.
- B. Private landowners in closed counties can obtain from the Commission a Private Land Commercial Aquatic Turtle Permit. This permit allows the harvest of Common Snapping Turtles (*Chelydra serpentina*), Redear Sliders (*Trachemys scripta*), and Spiny Softshells (*Apalone spinifera*) for commercial purposes on private property under the following conditions:
1. Only from manmade lakes and ponds,
 2. Only by a licensed commercial aquatic turtle harvest permittee,
 3. Only with legal commercial turtle harvest gear as defined above, and
 4. All harvested turtles shall be reported on aquatic turtle harvest report forms as specified in Code [34.07](#).

PENALTY: Class 2; Second offense shall result in the revocation of the permit.