

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 All laws, rules, regulations, or orders in conflict with the regulations in this Code Book are hereby repealed by the Arkansas State Game and Fish Commission.

39.00 Crayfish Regulations

[39.01](#) Crayfish Harvest Restricted

[39.02](#) Illegal Recreational Crayfish Tackle Prohibited

[39.03](#) Crayfish Harvest Locations Restriction

[39.04](#) Rearing, Propagation, Stocking, Importation,
And Exportation Of Crayfish Restricted

39.01 Crayfish Harvest Restricted

It is unlawful for a person to:

- A. Harvest crayfish (crawdads, mudbugs, crawfish) without a valid fishing license as required in Code [03.02](#);
- B. Fish more than 10 crayfish traps simultaneously;
- C. Fail to check crayfish trap(s) and remove any catch within 24 hours of setting trap(s);
- D. Fail to remove crayfish trap(s) when no longer in use for fishing (not baited for more than 24 hours);
- E. Sell Arkansas wild-caught crayfish;
- F. Retain any species taken with crayfish tackle other than crayfish and baitfish. All other species must be immediately returned to the waters where taken; or
- G. Move crayfish unless in compliance with Code [26.27](#).

PENALTY: Class 1

39.02 Illegal Recreational Crayfish Tackle Prohibited

It is unlawful to use tackle for taking or attempting to take crayfish from waters of the state except other than as specified below.

- A. Seines not in excess of 50 feet long and 4 feet in depth with square mesh with a minimum opening of 1/2 inch.
- B. Square traps or lifts not exceeding 6 feet by 6 feet by 3 feet in depth.
- C. Round traps not exceeding 3 feet in diameter and 6 feet long with throat size of 2.5 inches.
- D. Plastic or wire mesh minnow traps with throat size of not more than 2.5 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.

A person using tackle must clearly label the tackle in a durable manner with the person's name and address, driver's license number, AGFC customer identification number, or current vehicle license plate number.

PENALTY: Class 1

39.03 Crayfish Harvest Locations Restriction

It is unlawful to take or attempt to take crayfish from the following rivers or their tributaries: Eleven Point, South Fork Spring, Spring, and Strawberry Rivers.

PENALTY: Class 2

**39.04 Rearing, Propagation, Stocking,
Importation, And Exportation Of Crayfish
Restricted**

- A. It is unlawful for any individuals to possess, propagate, or offer for sale farm-reared crayfish without a valid permit for live fish trade as required in Codes [35.01](#) and [32.02](#). All crayfish obtained for seed stock and stocking must be obtained from a valid live fish trade license or permit holder. All crayfish imported must meet the requirements of Code Chapter [35.00](#) and Addenda Chapters [11.00](#) and [J1.00](#).
- B. It is unlawful to export from the state any Arkansas wild-caught crayfish.

EXCEPTION: Crayfish for immediate human consumption imported in compliance with Addendum [11.03](#).

PENALTY: Class 2