



# 2008 TENNESSEE FISHING GUIDE



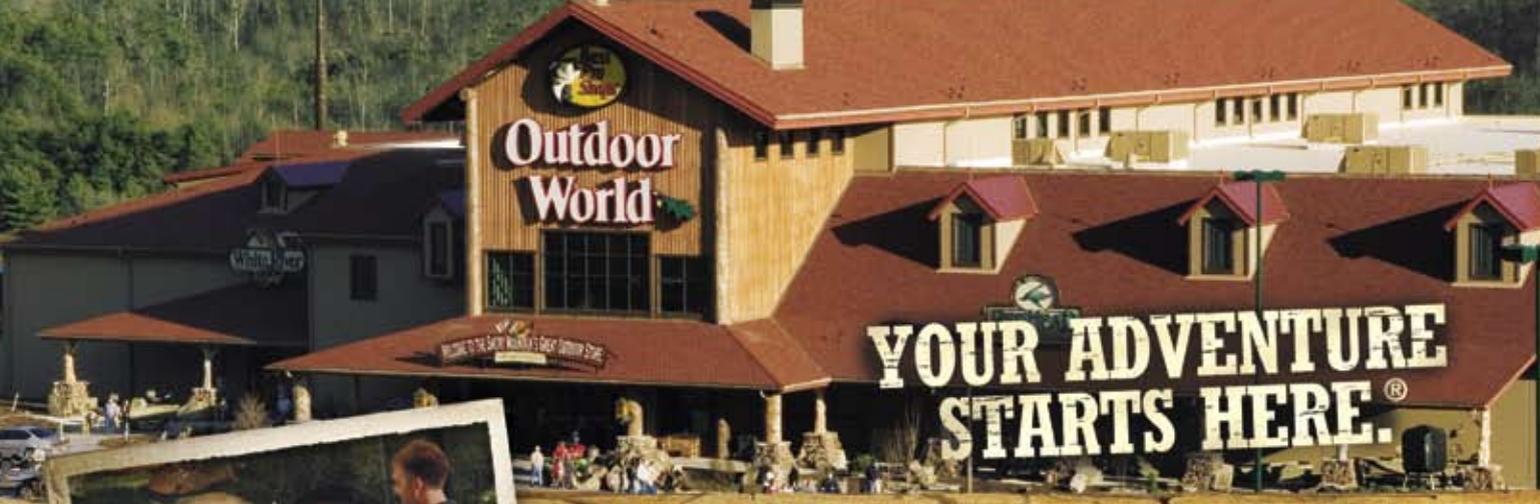
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JUNE 7, 2008

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)

**Funding Fisheries Programs • Tennessee's Lake Sturgeon Project**  
**Bill Dance's Three Key Words • Aquatic Nuisance Species**  
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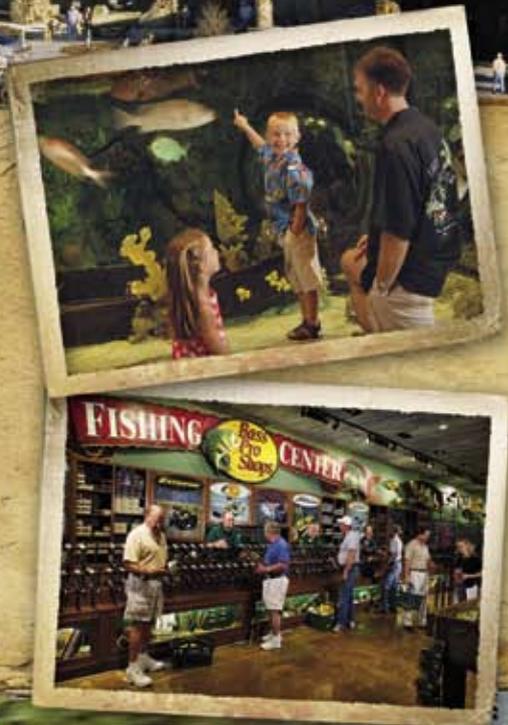


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# FEATURES

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Have you ever wondered how your fishing license revenue is spent? Hopefully after reading this article you will understand not only where it is spent but also how and why it is spent as it is.

## 17 TENNESSEE'S LAKE STURGEON PROJECT

Lake sturgeon stockings are part of a long term program designed to restore this primitive fish to its native waters in Tennessee.

## 18 BILL DANCE'S THREE KEY WORDS

I learned very early in my fishing career that remembering three key words on all fishing trips was far more important than most other factors . . .

## 28 AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Aquatic nuisance species are plants and animals that can wreak havoc on our aquatic natural resources and on the human use of these resources.



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### NEW REGULATIONS FOR 2008

#### Statewide Reservoirs – Smallmouth Bass

Most reservoirs have a new 18 – inch minimum length limit on smallmouth bass. Please check the limits for your favorite reservoir on pages 22 – 27.

#### Region 1

**Beech River Watershed Lakes** – no minimum length limit on crappie.

**Glenn Springs Lake** – Crappie- 8-inch minimum length limit; Bass- 14-18 inch protected length range with a creel limit of 10 bass, allowing only one bass in creel to be greater than 18 inches.

**Gibson County Lake** – Bass- 14-20 inch protected length range with a creel limit of 10 bass, allowing only one bass in creel to be greater than 20 inches.

**Mississippi River** (includes reciprocal zone in Arkansas)

- ◆ **Black bass**- creel limit 10, no length limit
- ◆ **Bream**- creel limit 50, no length limit
- ◆ **Catfish**- no creel limit, only one per day over 34 inches
- ◆ **Crappie**- creel limit 50, no length limit
- ◆ **Striped bass and Cherokee Bass/Hybrids**- creel limit 6, no length limit
- ◆ **Sauger**- creel limit 6, no length limit
- ◆ **White Bass** - creel limit 30, no length limit

#### Region 2

**Normandy Reservoir** - Walleye- 16-inch minimum length limit with a creel limit of 5 fish.

**Laurel Hill Lake- Black bass** - 13-18 inch protected length range.

#### Region 3

**Upper Nickajack Lake from Chickamauga Dam downstream to mouth of South Chickamauga Creek** – Spotted bass-increase daily creel limit to 15 fish.

**Watts Bar Reservoir** - Striped Bass- November through March- 36-inch minimum length limit with a 1 fish creel limit; April through October- 15-inch minimum length limit with a creel limit of 2 fish. Creel limits are in combination with Cherokee bass.

**Big Lost Creek**: closed Fridays from March 1 to July 1 and only single hooks lures or bait are allowed.

#### Region 4

**Norris Reservoir**- Spotted bass- no creel or size limit.

**Chilhowee Reservoir**- Largemouth bass- 14-inch minimum length limit with a creel limit of 5 black bass.

**Douglas Reservoir**- Sauger daily creel limit of 5, only one over 16 inches; no minimum length limit. The daily creel limit of sauger and walleye in combination is 5 fish. The minimum length limit on walleye will remain 15 inches.

**Cherokee Reservoir**- Walleye- 18-inch minimum length limit with a creel limit of 5 fish; Sauger- 15-inch minimum length limit with creel limit of 10 fish.

**Boone Reservoir** - Striped Bass- November through March- 36-inch minimum length limit with a 1 fish creel limit; April through October- 15-inch minimum length limit with a creel limit of 2 fish. Creel limits are in combination with Cherokee bass.

**Clinch River** from Norris Dam downstream to Hwy. 61 bridge, including tributaries - 14-20 inch protected length range on trout, with a 7 trout creel limit allowing only one trout in creel limit to be greater than 20 inches.

**River smallmouth bass regulations:** 13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches. This regulation would apply to the following locations:

- ◆ **Nolichucky River**- ENKA dam upstream to state line, includes Davy Cockett Reservoir.
- ◆ **French Broad River**- Hwy. 168 to state line, excluding Douglas Reservoir.
- ◆ **Holston River**- I-40 bridge upstream to Cherokee Dam and John Sevier Dam upstream to North Fork Holston River.
- ◆ **Clinch River**- Hwy. 25E upstream to state line.
- ◆ **Powell River**- Gap Creek confluence upstream to state line.
- ◆ **North Fork Holston River**- Confluence with South Fork Holston River upstream to state line.

This Digest is designed and produced by J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC; 430 Main St., Suite 5, Williamstown, MA 01267, www.jfgriffin.com

For inquiries regarding advertisement in this publication, call (413) 884-1001.

**Cover image:** Bill Dance with Largemouth Bass.

**Photographer:** Courtesy of Bill Dance Outdoors.

**Contributing writer:** Bill Dance

TWRA thanks Bill Dance for contributing an article to this year's fishing guide.

#### This publication is not a legal document.

It is a summary of Tennessee's fishing regulations. More detailed information on fishing is available from local wildlife officers and all TWRA offices.

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is available to all persons without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or military service. TWRA is also an equal opportunity/equal access employer. Questions should be directed to TWRA, Human Resources Office, P.O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204, (615) 781-6594 (TDD 781-6691), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office for Human Resources, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22203.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Authorization No. 328668, 500,000 copies, January, 2008. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$.09 per copy.

## HELP STOP POACHING REPORT GAME VIOLATIONS

THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE FOR REPORTING GAME VIOLATIONS ONLY.

DO NOT CALL FOR GENERAL INFORMATION.

CALL BETWEEN 7:00 A.M. AND MIDNIGHT,  
SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

West Tennessee (Region I)

**1-800-831-1173**

Middle Tennessee (Region II)

**1-800-255-8972**

Cumberland Plateau (Region III)

**1-800-241-0767**

East Tennessee (Region IV)

**1-800-831-1174**

*"The real leader has no need to lead —  
he is content to point the way."*

— HENRY MILLER



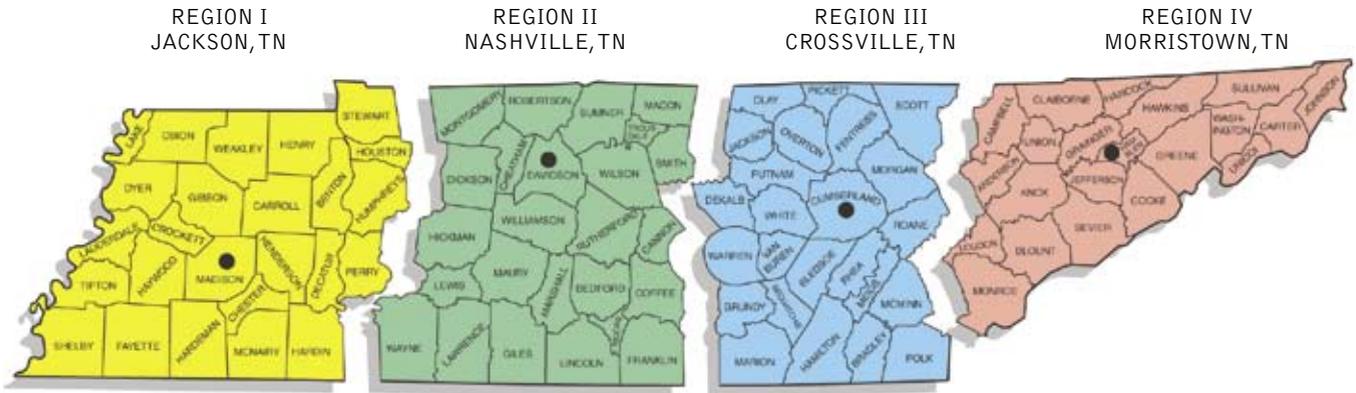
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# TWRA OFFICES



**All Office Hours: 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**

**Monday-Friday (local time)**

**Web site: [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)**

## CENTRAL OFFICE - NASHVILLE

Ellington Agricultural Center  
P. O. Box 40747  
Nashville, TN 37204 ..... 615-781-6500  
Boating Education ..... 615-837-6013  
Boat Registration ..... 615-781-6585  
Boating Safety ..... 615-781-6682  
Director's Office ..... 615-781-6552  
Fisheries Division ..... 615-781-6575  
Information & Education ..... 615-781-6538  
Law Enforcement ..... 615-781-6580  
General Counsel ..... 615-781-6606  
License Sales ..... 615-781-6585  
Personnel Division ..... 615-781-6594  
Quota Hunts ..... 615-781-6621  
Wildlife Division ..... 615-781-6610

## WEST TENNESSEE - REGION I

200 Lowell Thomas Drive  
Jackson, TN 38301 ..... 731-423-5725  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-372-3928  
Fax ..... 731-423-6483  
Poaching Hotline ..... 1-800-831-1173

## MIDDLE TENNESSEE - REGION II

Ellington Agricultural Center  
P. O. Box 41489  
Nashville, TN 37204 ..... 615-781-6622  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-624-7406  
Fax ..... 615-831-9995  
Poaching Hotline ..... 1-800-255-8972

## CUMBERLAND PLATEAU - REGION III

464 Industrial Blvd.  
Crossville, TN 38555 ..... 931-484-9571  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-262-6704  
Fax ..... 931-456-1025  
Poaching Hotline ..... 1-800-241-0767

## EAST TENNESSEE - REGION IV

3030 Wildlife Way  
Morristown, TN 37814 ..... 423-587-7037  
Toll Free ..... 1-800-332-0900  
Fax ..... 423-587-7057  
Poaching Hotline ..... 1-800-831-1174

## AFTER HOURS INFORMATION

For general information, the following numbers may be called between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and midnight.

West Tennessee - Region I  
1-800-372-3928

Middle Tennessee - Region II  
1-800-624-7406

Cumberland Plateau - Region III  
1-800-262-6704

East Tennessee - Region IV  
1-800-332-0900

**TDD** ..... 615-781-6691  
(Telecommunications Device for the Deaf)

### R. B. "Buddy" Baird

Term of Office: 2007-2009  
211 South Depot Street  
Rogersville, TN 37857  
423-272-0301  
Represents: Statewide

### Michael Chase

Term of Office: 2005-2011  
P. O. Box 50370  
Knoxville, TN 37950  
865-522-3500  
Represents District #2: Anderson, Blount, Campbell, Cumberland, Knox, Loudon, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier, Union.

### Johnny Fred Coleman

Term of Office: 2005-2011  
9190 Bradford Hicks Drive  
Livingston, TN 38570  
931-823-7345  
Represents District #3: Clay, DeKalb, Fentress, Grundy, Jackson, Macon, Overton, Pickett, Putnam, Smith, Trousdale, Van Buren, Warren, White.

### Thomas H. "Bub" Edwards

Term of Office: 2003-2009  
1085 Herrondale Road East  
Paris, TN 38242  
731-642-4186  
Represents District #7: Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Perry.

### James Fyke

Dept. of Environment & Conservation  
401 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37243  
615-532-0104  
Represents: Statewide.

### Ken Givens

Department of Agriculture  
P. O. Box 40627  
Nashville, TN 37204  
615-837-5202  
Represents: Statewide.

### Mike Hayes

Term of Office: 2005-2011  
3330 State Route 21E  
Tiptonville, TN 38079  
731-253-6878  
District #8: Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Lake, Madison, Obion, Wayne, Weakley.

### Gary Kimsey

Term of Office: 2003-2009  
444 Allen Road  
Sweetwater, TN 37874  
423-337-7713  
Represents District #4: Bledsoe, Bradley, Hamilton, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie.

### Boyce C. Magli

Term of Office: 2003-2009  
P. O. Box 448  
Franklin, TN 37065  
615-794-5484  
Represents District #6: Cheatham, Dickson, Giles, Hickman, Houston, Humphreys, Lawrence, Lewis, Maury, Montgomery, Stewart, Wayne, Williamson.

### Mitchell S. Parks

Term of Office: 2007-2013  
4101 West Hamilton Road  
Nashville, TN 37218  
615-876-3046  
Represents District #5: Bedford, Cannon, Coffee, Davidson, Franklin, Lincoln, Marshall, Moore, Robertson, Rutherford, Sumner, Wilson.

### Todd A. Shelton

Term of Office: 2007-2013  
100 South Main Street  
Greeneville, TN 37743  
423-639-5183  
Represents District #1: Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Jefferson, Johnson, Grainger, Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, Hawkins, Sullivan, Unicoi, Washington.

### Hugh T. "Skip" Simonton, Jr.

Term of Office: 2007-2009  
211 Old Fulton Road  
Henning, TN 38041  
731-738-1061  
Represents: Statewide.

### Danya L. Welch

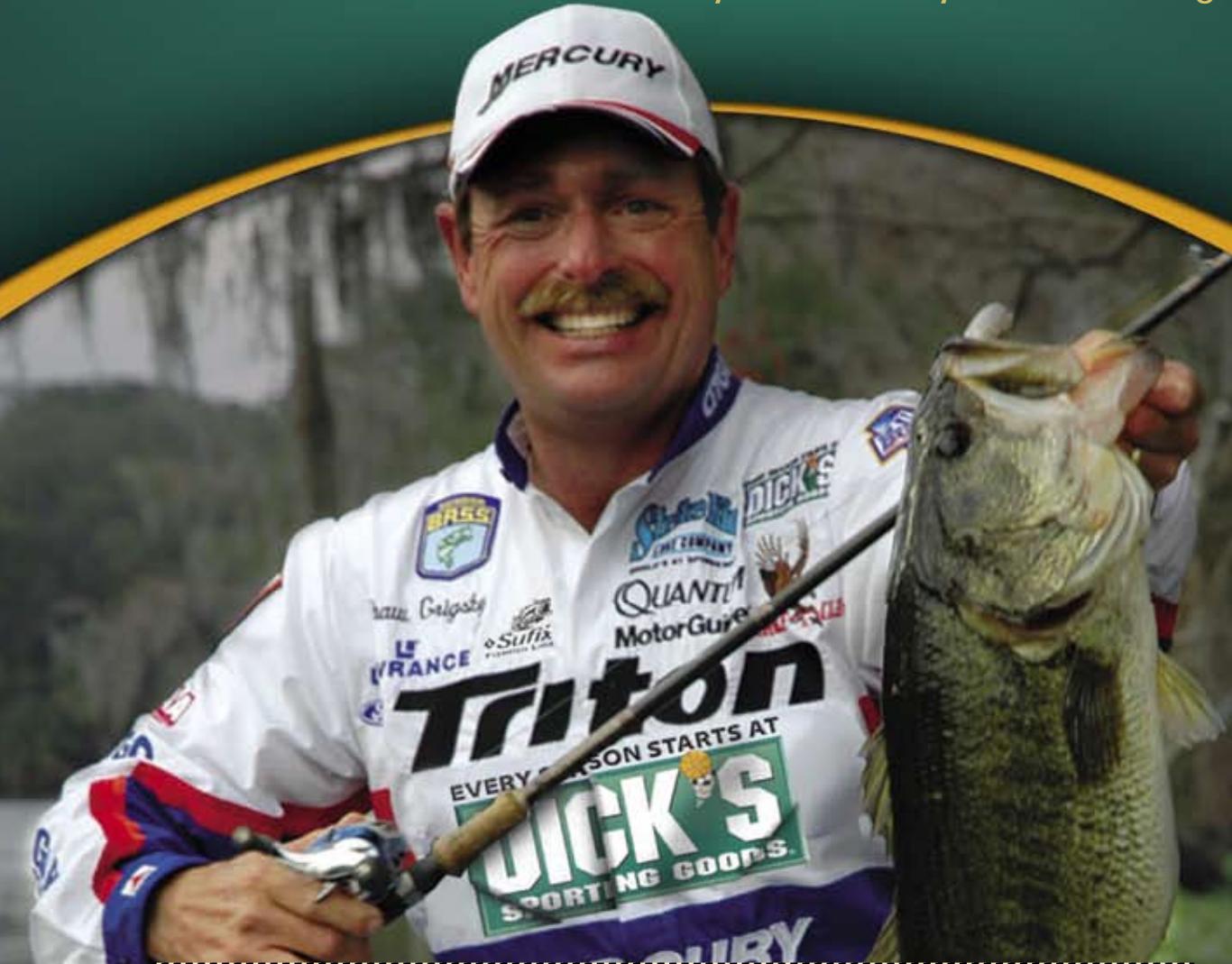
Term of Office: 2007-2013  
7751 Wolf River Boulevard  
Germantown, TN 38138  
901-759-5100  
Represents District #9: Fayette, Hardeman, Haywood, Lauderdale, McNairy, Shelby, Tipton.

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# FUNDING FISHERIES PROGRAMS

**TWRA fisheries programs are funded from two sources. The first is license dollars, as you probably guessed. The second source may not be familiar to you....**

BY BILL REEVES, CHIEF OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

**H**ave you ever wondered how your fishing license revenue is spent? Hopefully after reading this article you will understand not only where it is spent but also how and why it is spent as it is. First you need to know that TWRA fisheries programs are funded from two sources. The first is license dollars, as you probably guessed. The second source may not be familiar to you. Each year TWRA receives money from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. This Act was first passed by Congress in 1950 (Dingell-Johnson Act) and has been amended several times since. The most significant change occurred in 1984, the Wallop-Breaux Amendment, which increased funding significantly to states. This amendment expanded the items of fishing tackle subject to the 10 percent excise tax and imposed a new 3 percent excise tax on fish finders and electric trolling motors. In addition, it added motorboat fuels tax revenues and the import duties on fishing tackle, yachts and pleasure craft. Amendments to the Act provide funds to the states for aquatic education, wetlands restoration, boat safety and clean vessel sanitation devices (pumpouts). All states are allotted funding based on a land area/license sales formula and federal dollars must be matched with state dollars on a 75:25 basis. This year the allotment for fisheries programs exceeds \$6.4 million. When combined with state license dollars for fisheries (approximately \$2.1 million), the total budget exceeds \$8.5 million.

**How are these dollars allocated within TWRA Fisheries programs?** The following page provides a breakdown by percent on major fisheries programs. All costs, including personnel, are rolled into these program areas.

The two programs expending over 50% of the budget are reservoirs and hatchery operations. Reservoir costs include sampling, habitat improvement, and creel surveys

on most major reservoirs in Tennessee. Both warmwater and coldwater hatcheries are included in hatchery operations. Major cost areas, beside personnel, include feed, fertilizer, fuel, vehicles, and electricity. The hatchery improvement program ranks third in expenditures and is relatively new in budgetary terms. These improvements include major projects to either repair existing facilities or construct new facilities (ponds and raceways) for increased production of fish to stock in Tennessee waters. Several of these improvements will bring the latest hatchery technology to our facilities. We hope to continue this program until all the stocking needs in public waters are met. Eleven percent of the annual fisheries budget is spent sampling and managing the small streams and rivers in Tennessee. These costs include both warm and coldwater streams, rivers and tailwaters. Our community lakes programs (6%) includes all TWRA agency lakes, technical advice for pond owners, including private, county and city ponds and lakes. State Park lakes management and fishing events for kids are also in this program. Land acquisition (5%) provides access to public waters where access is severely limited. It also purchases land for hatchery expansion. Our fish acquisition program (2%) provides funding to purchase catfish and trout from private hatcheries for spring and summer kid's events and winter trout stocking programs. Research (2%) provides our fisheries scientists the information needed to better manage the fisheries resources in Tennessee and the anglers that utilize them. One percent of annual expenditures are spent on managing commercial mussels and fishing. And finally 6% is spent on administration of all the previously discussed programs.

I hope this gives you a greater understanding of how and where your license dollars are spent. And, as always, we welcome your input on ways we can improve what we do for you.

**The hatchery improvement program ranks third in expenditures**

# HOW AND WHERE

## YOUR LICENSE DOLLARS ARE SPENT

### 26%

#### Hatchery Operations

Both warmwater and coldwater hatcheries are included in hatchery operations. Major cost areas, beside personnel, include feed, fertilizer, fuel, vehicles, and electricity.

### 27%

#### Reservoirs

Reservoir costs include sampling, habitat improvement, and creel surveys on most major reservoirs in Tennessee.

### 14%

#### Hatchery Improvements

Hatchery improvements include major projects to either repair existing facilities or construct new facilities (ponds and raceways) for increased production of fish to stock in Tennessee waters.

### 11%

#### Streams

Monitoring and management of stream and river fisheries.

### 6%

#### Community Lakes

Includes all TWRA agency lakes, technical advice for pond owners, including private, county and city ponds and lakes. State Park lakes management and fishing events for kids are also in this program.

### 5%

#### Land Acquisition

Provides access to public waters where access is severely limited. It also purchases land for hatchery expansion.

### 2%

#### Fish Acquisition

Provides funding to purchase catfish and trout from private hatcheries for spring and summer kid's events and winter trout stocking programs.

### 2%

#### Research

Provides our fisheries scientists the information needed to better manage the fisheries resources in Tennessee and the anglers that utilize them.

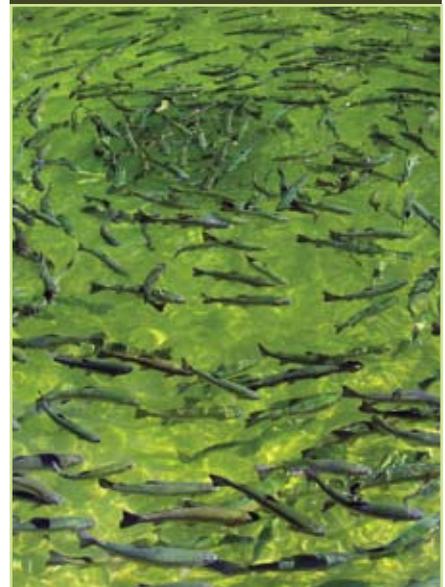


## SHOW YOUR SUPPORT WITH A TWRA LICENSE PLATE!

Money from the sale of specialty plates is available to the TWRA to fund wildlife habitat protection and enhancement programs, provide public hunting and fishing access, support law enforcement efforts, and improve youth education projects.

TWRA's smallmouth bass license plate is available at county clerk's offices throughout the state. This plate features a smallmouth bass created by renowned wildlife artist Al Agnew from a print titled "Sunlight on Bronze".

As with other specialty license plates such as the ones mentioned above, the new smallmouth bass plate will cost \$35.00 above the regular cost of registering a vehicle.



# LICENSE INFORMATION

**H**unting and fishing license sales and federal excise taxes comprise over 90 percent of the TWRA's operating funds. Thank you for buying a hunting and fishing license. Without you, Tennessee would not have the abundance of fish and wildlife that we all enjoy.

Fishing licenses go on sale February 18 each year and are valid through the last day of February of the following year. You can purchase most licenses from county clerks, sporting goods stores, hardware stores, boat docks, the TWRA web site ([tnwildlife.org](http://tnwildlife.org)) and all TWRA regional offices.

To purchase your licenses online, log on to [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) and click on the link, "online licensing." Regular license fees plus a \$3.25 processing fee will be charged to your credit card.

You may also purchase licenses by calling 1-888-814-8972. An authorization number will allow you to begin fishing or hunting the minute you hang up. Regular license fees plus a \$3.95 processing fee will be charged to your credit card.

You can also order your license by mail. Just send your name, address (including zip code), social security number, date of birth, physical features (height, weight, eye and hair color), and enclose the correct fee to: TWRA Sales Office, P.O. Box 41729, Nashville, TN 37204-1729.

*All license and permit fees are subject to change.*



## GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

A valid fishing license obtained from the state of Tennessee or the state of North Carolina is required and honored throughout the park for all persons 13 years of age and older. A Tennessee trout license is not required. The National Park Service sets fishing regulations within the park. For detailed fishing information, contact Park Headquarters, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. (865) 436-1200.

**Now charge your license(s) to Visa, Discover, or MasterCard!**

**Call Toll Free: 1-888-814-8972.**

Regular license fees plus a \$3.95 processing fee will be charged to your credit card. Licenses may also be purchased online at TWRA's web site:

[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

## RESIDENT LICENSES

Can be purchased by:

- Persons who possess a valid Tennessee driver's license.
- Persons who have lived in Tennessee for 90 consecutive days with the genuine intent of making Tennessee their permanent home.
- Military personnel on active duty in this state and their immediate families, who reside with them, regardless of resident status.
- Students who are enrolled in a Tennessee school, college, or university for at least six months (must present a student ID card or other proof of enrollment).

**Annual Hunting and Fishing Combination (Type 001) \$28**

Minimum license required to fish and/or hunt small game.

**Junior Hunt/Fish/Trap (Type 002) \$8**

Ages 13-15. Good for hunting all game, fishing, and trapping. Must be purchased prior to 16th birthday. No supplemental licenses are required, but special season and WMA Big Game permits will need to be purchased in addition to this license.

**One-Day Fishing (Type 021) \$5.50**

**Annual Trout (Type 022) \$18**

(Type 022 is a supplemental license required to fish for trout in addition to Type 001, Type 020 or Type 021)

**Sportsman (Type 004) \$136**

An all inclusive license valid for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing without any state supplemental licenses or permits. Sportsman licenses can be purchased from all license agents.

**County of Residence Fishing (Type 020) \$9**

This license allows an angler to fish in his/her county of residence with natural bait (worms, crickets, corn, etc.), but not minnows. No artificial baits can be used. A supplemental license (Type 022) is required to fish for trout.

**Permanent Senior Citizen Hunt/Fish/Trap (Type 166) \$11**

Available from any license agent for a one-time fee, and valid for the rest of the license holder's life. Not a Lifetime Sportsman License. Additional permits may be required. Can only be purchased when 65th birthday is reached. A valid Tennessee driver's license or proof of age and residency is required. A trout license is not required.

**Annual Senior Citizen Supplement (Type 167) \$41**

May be purchased as a supplement to Type 166 to cover all permits needed in the current license year.

**Lifetime Sportsman** AGE DETERMINES THE COST

An all-inclusive lifetime license valid for hunting, trapping and sport fishing without any state supplemental licenses or permits. Allows holders to apply for quota permits at no additional fee. Applications are available at your local TWRA office and the TWRA Web site. Applications may only be submitted by mail, Fax (615-837-4262) or TWRA Offices.

**Type 401 (Under 3 years) \$200**

**Type 406 (Ages 3-6) \$540**

**Type 402 (Ages 7-12) \$810**

**Type 403 (Ages 13-50) \$1,620**

**Type 404 (Ages 51-64) \$945**

**Type 405 (Ages 65 & over) \$270**

## NONRESIDENT LICENSES

These do not include WMA or special season permits.

**Junior Hunt/Fish (Type 070) \$9**  
(Required for nonresidents age 13-15 fishing and small game only)

**Annual Fishing (Type 076) no trout \$41**

# LICENSE INFORMATION

<b>Three-Day Fishing (Type 077) no trout</b>	<b>\$16.50</b>
<b>Ten-Day Fishing (Type 079) no trout</b>	<b>\$25.50</b>
<b>Three-Day All Fish (Type 078)</b>	<b>\$33.50</b>
<b>Ten-Day All Fish (Type 080)</b>	<b>\$50.50</b>
<b>Annual All Fish (Type 081)</b>	<b>\$81</b>

## SPECIAL PERMITS

If you purchase one of the following special permits, you must also have all applicable licenses.

<b>Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Annual (Type 089)</b>	<b>\$17</b>
<b>Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Three-Day (Type 088)</b>	<b>\$10.50</b>
<b>Reelfoot Preservation Permit-Daily (Type 090)</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
<b>Tellico-Citico Trout-Daily (Type 098)</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>

(Required for all ages. See page 31.)

<b>Agency Lake-Daily Permit (Type 191)</b>	<b>\$5</b>
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Valid on all Agency lakes, this permit is sold at Agency Lake offices.

<b>Agency Lake-Annual Permit (Type 193)</b>	<b>\$40</b>
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Valid on all Agency lakes, this permit is sold at Agency Lake offices.

<b>Bedford Lake-Daily Permit (Type 65)</b>	<b>\$5.50</b>
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## GATLINBURG TROUT FISHING

<b>Gatlinburg Three-Day Trout Permit (Type 096)</b>	<b>\$9.50</b>
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Required for both residents and nonresident ages 13-64 in addition to the appropriate fishing licenses except for nonresidents who purchase the (Type 097) permit.

<b>Nonresident Gatlinburg One-Day Trout Permit (Type 097)</b>	<b>\$11.50</b>
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Only requirement for nonresidents ages 13 and up to fish in Gatlinburg for one day.

<b>Gatlinburg Trout-Daily (Type 099)</b>	<b>\$3.50</b>
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Required for both residents and nonresident ages 13-64 in addition to the appropriate fishing licenses except for nonresidents who purchase the (Type 097) permit.

For information on fishing in the Gatlinburg area, contact the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-568-4748 or the Gatlinburg trout facility at 865-436-4558.

## RESIDENT PERMANENT LICENSES

The following licenses are available only by application from the TWRA Sales Office located in Nashville. Applications are available at regional offices. A doctor's statement will be required as defined on the application. Licenses are available for a one-time fee and are valid for the rest of the license holder's life. They are not Lifetime Sportsman Licenses. Additional permits may be required. A trout license is not required.

<b>Sport Fishing License for the Blind (Type 197)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
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<b>Permanent Wheelchair Hunting and Fishing (Type 189)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
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Application must be accompanied by a doctor's statement stating that the applicant is permanently confined to a wheelchair.

<b>Permanent DAV Hunting and Fishing (Type 198)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
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Available to resident veterans certified by the VA as 30 percent disabled by reason of war service or 100% service connected.

<b>Mentally Challenged (Type 199)</b>	<b>\$10</b>
---------------------------------------	-------------

Must be receiving SSI Benefits due to mental retardation.

## MISPLACE YOUR LICENSE?

If you misplace your fishing license, go to any license agent and ask for a duplicate license. There is a \$7.00 replacement fee (\$6.00 goes to the TWRA; \$1.00 to the agent).

## WHO MUST HAVE A TENNESSEE LICENSE?

If you take, or attempt to take fish (including crayfish) by any method or if you assist someone else to do so, you must have a valid fishing license.

### There are some exceptions:

- ◆ If you are under 13 years of age (resident or nonresident).
- ◆ Landowners, their spouses and children, who fish on their farm land which is owned by an individual or a family. Landowners, their spouses and children must be residents of Tennessee but need not reside on the land.
- ◆ Tenants, their spouses and dependent children who fish on farm land owned by an individual or a family. Tenants, their spouses and dependent children must be residents of Tennessee and must actually reside on the land and have permission of the landowner to fish. A tenant is a person who, for money, free rent, or other consideration, cares for farmland. The tenancy must be agricultural in nature.
- ◆ Resident grandchildren (under 16) and resident great-grandchildren (under 16) who fish on farm land which is owned by their resident grandparents or great-grandparents.
- ◆ First cousins who own farmland jointly or in common may fish on the farmland. Their children may fish as well.
- ◆ You are on military leave, carrying a copy of your leave orders. A pass does not meet this requirement.
- ◆ You are a resident who was born before March 1, 1926. (To qualify for this exemption, you must carry proof of your age and residency to show to a wildlife officer, if requested.)
- ◆ It's Free Fishing Day! This year it falls on June 7 (see page 11).
- ◆ It's Free Fishing Week! All children, ages 15 and younger can fish free between June 7-13 inclusive (see page 11).

*NOTE: Giving false information to obtain a license is a misdemeanor punishable by fine and loss of license. Licenses are not transferable.*

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cell 731-693-7770

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

**Notice of inspection law:** It is the duty of every person participating in the privileges of taking or possessing wildlife to permit agency officers to ascertain whether the requirements of this title are being faithfully complied with, including the possession of a proper license. It is a violation of law to refuse such inspection or to interfere with an officer attempting such inspection. TCA 70-6-101(b)(1)

## BASIC LAWS AND DEFINITIONS

- ♦ Stocking of any fish into public waters is strictly prohibited.
- ♦ Explosives, chemicals and electrical shocking devices are strictly forbidden, and their use carries heavy penalties.
- ♦ Shooting in the water with any type of firearm to injure or take fish or turtles is prohibited.
- ♦ All boaters and passengers must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket within the area designated and appropriately marked as a hazardous area below any dam and/or lock.
- ♦ It is illegal to take any fish or turtle that is endangered, threatened or listed as in need of management.
- ♦ It is illegal to sell or offer to sell fish or turtles without a commercial fishing license.

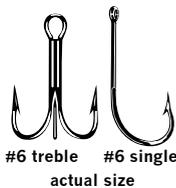
**Umbrella rig restriction** - Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than 3 artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook.

**Single hook** - a hook with only one point.

**Bait** - Any living or dead organism, or prepared substance designed to attract fish by taste or odor. For the purpose of this proclamation bait includes, but is not limited to, fish, fish eggs, crayfish, worms, grubs, crickets, corn, cheese, bread, pork rinds, putty or paste-type products, and flavors or scents applied to or impregnated into artificial lures.

**Gigging** - The taking of fish by means of a hand-held pole or spear with a tip consisting of a single, sharpened point or one or more sharpened barbed points. This includes, but is not limited to gear known as the Hawaiian sling.

**Spear gun** - Any device designed to propel a spear through water and is drawn or held by a mechanical device.



## RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

Tennessee has several reciprocal agreements with adjacent states. These agreements have been arranged so that any fishing license from either Tennessee or the corresponding state is valid in the following waters.

### Alabama/Mississippi: Pickwick Lake

- Applies to anyone with a valid Sport Fishing License from Tennessee, Alabama or Mississippi. Resident anglers of the three states may fish without purchasing a nonresident license anywhere within the boundaries covered by the agreement. The reciprocal area includes all impounded water from Pickwick Dam upstream to Tennessee River Mile 224.8 at the mouth of Bear Creek but does not include Bear Creek and does not include that portion of Yellow Creek above the Hwy. 25 Bridge. Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations of the state in whose waters they are fishing.

**Arkansas and Tennessee** agree to honor either license on the flowing waters of the *Mississippi River*, adjacent sloughs, bayous and old river runs, which are accessible by boat from the river proper, and the old river chutes forming a common boundary, *excluding* all wildlife management areas established by either state and the Wolf, Loosahatchie, Hatchie, Forked Deer and Obion rivers. The following common regulations apply:

- Black bass- creel limit 10, no length limit
- Bream- creel limit 50, no length limit
- Catfish- no creel limit, only one per day over 34 inches
- Crappie- creel limit 50, no length limit
- Striped bass and Cherokee Bass/Hybrids - creel limit 6, no length limit
- Sauger- creel limit 6, no length limit
- White Bass- creel limit 30, no length limit

All anglers must follow Arkansas regulations governing creel and size limits, trotlines, and other equipment requirements on Ikes Chute, Hopefield Chute, Mosquito Lake, Mound City Lake, Island 40 Chute and Lake Neark.

**Kentucky: Dale Hollow Lake** - Sportfishing licenses from either state are recognized in Wolf River including Illwill Creek, beginning at a line crossing the Wolf River at its mouth where it joins the Obey River. Creel limits and other regulations of the state where the license was issued apply.

**Big South Fork of the Cumberland River** - Sportfishing licenses from either state are recognized from Leatherwood Ford Bridge (Hwy. 279) in Tennessee, downstream to the Hwy. 92 bridge at Yamacraw, Kentucky. Creel limits and other regulations of the state where the license was issued apply.

**Kentucky Lake** - Each state will recognize the sport fishing licenses for the other state on the portion of Kentucky Lake south of the Eggners Ferry Bridge (US 68 & Hwy. 80) in Kentucky and north of the Governor Ned McWherter Bridge (US 79 & Hwy. 76) in Tennessee. This includes all embayments and tributaries within this portion of Kentucky Lake except the Blood River embayment. Blood River embayment shall be defined as a straight line between opposite points where the embayment connects to the main body of Kentucky Lake. A sport fishing license holder from either state may fish from the bank or attach legal sport fishing trot or limb lines in this described portion of Kentucky Lake. Sport fishing license holders shall abide by the regulations of the state in whose waters they are fishing. Wildlife enforcement officials in either state shall have the right to inspect the licenses, permits, catches and equipment of any person on this portion of Kentucky Lake subject to the laws of either state.

**Missouri:** Persons possessing a valid sportfishing license in either state may fish in the Mississippi River and its backwaters within the boundaries of the other state and any oxbow lakes through which the Missouri-Tennessee boundary passes. They may fish from or attach any device or equipment to land under the jurisdiction of the other state. Persons licensed in only one state may not fish in the Mississippi River tributaries of the other state. Anglers must comply with the fishing regulations of the state where they are fishing and when fishing where they are not licensed will comply with the most restrictive state's regulation. Persons legally exempted from license requirements of either state are entitled to these privileges and provisions.

Except where it is shown to be elsewhere, the center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers navigation channel will be the boundary between Tennessee and Missouri.

**North Carolina:** All of *Calderwood Reservoir* while fishing from a boat and in that portion of Slickrock Creek which constitutes the boundary between the two states. (See chart on page 32 for trout regulations on Calderwood Reservoir and Slickrock Creek.)

# GENERAL INFORMATION



## FREE FISHING DAY/WEEK

Saturday, June 7, is Free Fishing Day in Tennessee and anyone (resident or non-resident) of any age may fish free without a license in Tennessee's public waters! Even better, if you are 15 years old or younger, you may fish free the entire week, beginning on Free Fishing Day, June 7, and running through the following Friday, June 13.

This day and week are annual events in Tennessee and are great opportunities to introduce children to the joys and excitement of a day on the water catching fish! Not only is fishing a great family activity, it helps make us more aware of our natural environment.

Finding a place to fish is easier than ever. Starting in late spring, all you need to do is go to [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) to view the 2008 Kid's Fishing Events. There you will find a variety of activities planned across the state with details as to event locations and times. You can also contact your regional TWRA office to find out what's going on in your area or let them know you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering to help with an event. Anglers and would-be anglers should check the events list often since more fishing rodeos are frequently added. Whatever you do, don't miss the fun!

Free Fishing Day and Week apply to Tennessee's public waters, Agency owned and operated lakes, and state park facilities. Some privately owned pay lakes continue to charge during this special day and week. Please consult with lake operators if you have any questions about the status of a particular facility.

### ACCESS TO PRIVATE LAND FOR FISHING STREAMS AND PONDS

Most of the access to Tennessee streams and rivers and all farm ponds are under private ownership. Access to private property is a privilege, not a right. Taking time to request permission to private property can lead to some great fishing opportunities.

#### Ask permission in advance. Don't wait until the last minute.

- Visit the landowner in person, rather than a phone call. This allows the landowner to see you and makes it much easier to get permission.
- Visit at a convenient time for the landowner. Right after lunch or early evening may be a good opportunity to catch the landowner. Don't go at night.
- Ask permission for a specific day and number of anglers. Keep that number as low as possible.
- Go by yourself or with your child when asking.
- The way you dress is important, so dress appropriately.

#### If you get permission, follow these guidelines:

- Be sure you know where you can and can't go, and any specific rules the landowner may have. Some pond owners need you to remove certain fish, while releasing others.
- Be sure you know where their property lines are located.
- Drive only on roads the landowner has designated.
- Leave gates just as you found them.
- Keep away from all houses, barns and livestock, and respect crops.
- Thank the landowner before you go fishing.
- Offer to return their favor with another. For example, offer to help fix a broken fence or gate.
- Report any damages to fences or livestock you see – even if it isn't your doing.
- Leave the property cleaner than you found it.
- Offer to share your catch with the landowner, preferably cleaned.
- Lastly, don't assume that permission granted one time means that you automatically have permission to return. Situations change so you should check in with the landowner regularly.

### BE AN ETHICAL ANGLER

- Learn how to fish responsibly to protect and conserve our natural resources.
- Practice catch and release and selective harvest methods. These methods increase survival rates of released fish and help maintain fishing success for future generations.
- Be courteous and respect the rights of all resource users, including other anglers, swimmers, boaters, and land owners.
- Sincerely appreciate the environment and work hard to keep it clean.
- Harvest fish responsibly, keeping only what you can eat.
- Know and abide by fishing regulations. They enhance and protect the resource and more evenly distribute harvests among anglers.

### PICK UP YOUR TRASH!

Beverage bottles, bait containers, tackle packaging, and fishing line are common sights at many fishing holes. Besides trashing the area, littering has other consequences. Littering by relatively few anglers is ruining fishing opportunities for everyone. Many landowners refuse access to their land because they do not want to pick up after anglers. Littering also makes it more costly to manage public areas. We must clean up or we will lose even more access for fishing.

Fishing line may seem like a relatively harmless item to discard. But there is no excuse for littering. Discarded fishing line could injure or kill wildlife, and can even entangle people resulting in injuries. Take the time to put your excess line in a small plastic bag, and take it home with you. Some tackle shops accept old line for recycling.

<b>WATER RELEASE SCHEDULES FOR DAMS</b>	Water release schedules of TVA and US Army Corps of Engineers dams and observed lake elevations of TVA impoundments can be determined by calling the following number:	
	1-800-238-2264	
	<a href="http://www.lakeinfo.tva.gov">www.lakeinfo.tva.gov</a>	
	For lake information on US Army Corps of Engineers impoundments, call:	
	J. Percy Priest Lake .....	615-883-2351
	Old Hickory Lake .....	615-824-7766
	Cordell Hull Lake .....	615-735-1050
	Center Hill Lake .....	931-858-4366
	Dale Hollow Lake .....	931-243-3408
	Lake Barkley .....	270-362-8430
Cheatham Lake .....	615-883-2351	
	<a href="http://WWW.ORN.USACE.ARMY.MIL">WWW.ORN.USACE.ARMY.MIL</a>	

# ATTENTION ANGLERS: HELP PROTECT TENNESSEE'S LARGEST GAR

West Tennessee is home to four species of gar: alligator, spotted, shortnose, and longnose gar. Alligator gar are a protected species in Tennessee. If you catch an alligator gar it must be released immediately.

**Alligator gar are being restored in West Tennessee to improve fish diversity.**

## HOW CAN YOU HELP PROTECT ALLIGATOR GAR?

- 1. KNOW YOUR GAR!** All four species of gar are similar in appearance, especially the alligator gar and shortnose gar. Learn how to distinguish the four species from one another (see diagram below).
- 2.** Report sightings of alligator gar to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, to help us restore a lost fishery.
- 3.** Release alive any alligator gar you catch.

**Note:** color can vary among individuals within each species.

### ALLIGATOR GAR

(MAX. WEIGHT 300 LBS., LENGTH UP TO 10 FT.)



SNOUT SHORT AND WIDE



### SHORTNOSE GAR

(MAX. WEIGHT 5 LBS., LENGTH UP TO 32 IN.)

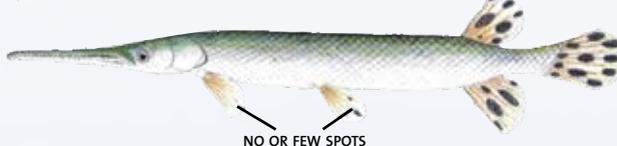


SNOUT SHORT AND NARROW



### LONGNOSE GAR

(MAX. WEIGHT 50 LBS., LENGTH UP TO 78 IN., TN RECORD IS 38 LBS.)



LONG SLENDER SNOUT



### SPOTTED GAR

(MAX. WEIGHT 12 LBS., LENGTH UP TO 44 IN.)



SPOTTED HEAD



For more information or to report sightings of alligator gar contact TWRA at 731.423.5725 or write to 200 Lowell Thomas Dr. Jackson TN 38301



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# LIMITS AND REGULATIONS



## STATEWIDE CREEL AND SIZE LIMITS

The following are the creel and size limits that apply statewide in Tennessee. These regulations apply unless exceptions apply to that body of water. See exceptions below.

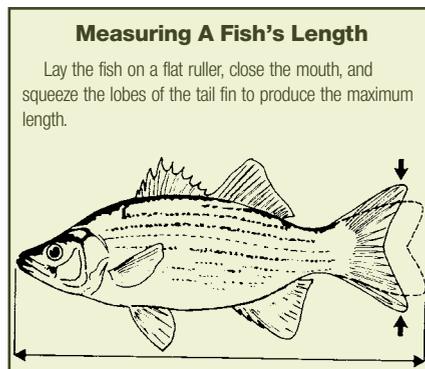
SPECIES	CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT
<b>Black Bass</b> (includes Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted and Coosa) Any Black Bass with a tooth patch to be considered a Spotted Bass.	5 No more than 5 black bass per day in any combination may be taken.	none
<b>Crappie</b> (All species combined)	15	10 inches
<b>Rock Bass /Redeye</b>	20	none
<b>Striped Bass or Cherokee Bass* (any combination)</b> (*Striped Bass-White Bass Hybrid)	2	15 inches
<b>White Bass</b>	15	none
<b>Muskellunge</b>	1	36 inches
<b>Sauger or Sauger/Walleye hybrids</b>	10	15 inches
<b>Walleye</b>	5	16 inches
<b>Trout</b> (all trout species combined)	7	none
<b>Lake Trout</b>	Only 2 trout may be lake trout.	-
<b>Brook Trout</b>		6 inches
<b>Redear Sunfish/Shellcracker</b>	20	none
<b>Yellow Bass, Bluegill, Bream, Pickerel, Northern Pike, Yellow Perch, and nongame species</b>	no limit	none

**Statewide Catfish Regulation** - Only one catfish over 34 inches may be harvested per day. No harvest limit on catfish less than 34 inches.

**Paddlefish** - Paddlefish may be harvested from April 24 through May 31. Daily creel limit is 2 fish per day with no size limit. Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is not allowed. For exceptions on Center Hill and Cherokee reservoirs, see pages 23 and 25.

## REFER TO THE FOLLOWING PAGES FOR EXCEPTIONS TO THE STATEWIDE LIMITS AND OTHER REGULATIONS

- Streams and Rivers..... this page
- Small Impoundments..... page 15
- State Park Lakes..... page 16
- TWRA Fishing Lakes ..... page 20
- Reservoirs .....pages 22-27
- Trout Fisheries.....pages 30-32



**Possession Limits** - The total possession limit is twice the daily creel limit. You may not have more than the daily creel limit with you while afield. It is unlawful to have, while afield, any fish which has been altered so that its species and/or total body length cannot be determined.

**Pole Limit** - There is no limit on the number of poles, with some exceptions.

## LENGTH LIMITS AND SLOT LIMITS

TWRA's goal is to manage each species of fish with statewide creel and length limits where possible. However, certain waters, because of their unique characteristics, require individual creel and length limits. These regulations improve fishing for all anglers.

**Minimum length limits** restrict the harvest of fish below a specified minimum length. For example, a 15-inch minimum length limit allows the angler to keep fish 15 inches or greater. Fish less than 15 inches cannot be harvested. In waters where length restrictions are in place, anglers may not be able to harvest quite as many fish, but they will enjoy catching more fish—as many as two to three times more.

**Slot limits or Protected Length Ranges (PLRs)** allow anglers to harvest fish above and below a specified length range. For example, a 14–18" PLR protects fish in the 14- to 18-inch length group. Anglers may harvest fish that measure 14 inches or less and they may harvest fish that measure 18 inches or more. For a protected length range to be effective, anglers must harvest fish below the protected range.

## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS ON STREAMS AND RIVERS

ALSO SEE TROUT STREAMS PAGES 30-32

### Buffalo Creek (Grainger County)

Closed to all fishing and minnow seining upstream from the mill dam.

### Caney Fork River (headwaters of Center Hill Reservoir)

Walleye run regulation in effect on the upper end of Center Hill Reservoir, including the Caney Fork River beginning at the boat ramp at Rock Island State Park and extending upstream to Great Falls Dam. Anglers restricted to use of one hook having a single barb or lure containing a single hook with one barb from Jan. 1 through Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used.

### Clear Creek (tributary to the Clinch River – Anderson County)

Closed to fishing and minnow seining from Hwy. 441 upstream to the second dam (adjacent to the city of Norris water tower), as posted from Nov. 1 – Mar. 31.

# LIMITS AND REGULATIONS

## Clinch River

Norris Reservoir upstream to Grissom Island: Sauger and Walleye (in combination) – 5 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

Hwy. 25E upstream to state line: 13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## East Fork of the Obey River (headwaters of Dale Hollow Reservoir)

Walleye run regulation in effect on the East Fork of the Obey River from Compton Boat Ramp upstream to the Hwy. 52 bridge.

Anglers restricted to use of one hook having a single barb or lure containing a single hook with one barb from Jan. 1 through Apr. 30. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used.

## Forked Deer, Hatchie, Loosahatchie, Obion and Wolf Rivers

- Crappie – 30 per day, no length limit

## French Broad River (Hwy. 168 to state line, excluding Douglas Reservoir)

13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## Holston River (I-40 bridge upstream to Cherokee Dam and John Sevier Dam upstream to North Fork Holston River)

13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## Little Buffalo River (Laurel Hill WMA)

Closed to fishing during big game hunts.

## Little Pigeon River (from mouth upstream to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary, including the West Prong and East Fork of the Little Pigeon River)

- Smallmouth Bass – 1 per day, 20 inch minimum length limit

## Mississippi River – (includes adjacent sloughs, bayous, and all river runs and chutes, that are accessible by boat from the river proper).

- Black Bass – 10 per day, no length limit
- Bream – 50 per day, no length limit
- Catfish – no creel limit, only one per day over 34 inches
- Crappie – 50 per day, no length limit
- Stripped Bass and Cherokee Bass/Hybrids – 6 per day, no length limit
- Sauger – 6 per day, no length limit
- White Bass – 30 per day, no length limit

## Nolichucky River (ENKA Dam upstream to state line, includes Davy Crockett Lake)

13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## North Fork Holston River (confluence with South Fork Holston River upstream to state line)

13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## Pigeon River (from mouth at French Broad River upstream to North Carolina state line)

- Smallmouth Bass – 1 per day, 20 inch minimum length limit

## Powell River (Gap Creek confluence upstream to state line)

13-17 inch protected length range for smallmouth bass, with a creel limit of 5 black bass, allowing only one smallmouth bass in creel to be greater than 17 inches.

## Wolf River (South Ford Road Bridge downstream into Dale Hollow Reservoir)

- Smallmouth Bass – 2 per day, 16-21 inch PLR (one under 16 inches and one over 21 inches)

## EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FISHING REGULATIONS ON SMALL IMPOUNDMENTS

### Allen Branch Pond (Cocke County)

- Catfish – 5 per day, no minimum length

### Beech River Watershed Lakes

- Catfish – 5 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit
- Crappie - no length limit

### Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA Ponds

Designated as youth fishing ponds. Fishing is permitted for youths 16 years of age or younger who are accompanied by a non-fishing adult (18 years of age or older). Youths are limited to using one (1) pole or rod while fishing. Fishing is permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

- Bluegill – 10 per day
- Channel catfish – 5 per day
- Largemouth Bass – catch and release only

### Campbell Lake (Maury County)

Special regulations apply. See regulations posted at the lake.

### Casper Lake (Shelby County)

- Largemouth Bass – 2 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

## Catoosa Wildlife Management Area

All streams and ponds are open from Apr. 1 – Dec. 31, except on the dates of managed big game and turkey hunts.

## Davy Crockett Lake (Greene County)

- Crappie - 30 per day, no length limit
- Smallmouth Bass – 13-17 inch protected length range, creel limit of 5 black bass, only one smallmouth bass over 17 inches
- Spotted Bass – 15 per day, no length limit

## Dickson City Lakes (Dickson County)

- Catfish - 5 per day

## Doakes Pond (on Norris Reservoir)

The portion of Norris Reservoir known as Doakes Pond, located adjacent to Hwy. 63 approximately 9 miles NE of LaFollette, is closed to fishing.

## Douglas Reservoir

Henderson Island WMA Rearing Pond is closed to fishing year-round.

## Federal Refuges

Some federal wildlife refuges have closed seasons. For details contact the office of the national wildlife refuge where you wish to fish.

## Gooch Unit E Lake

- Largemouth Bass – 5 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

## Hiwassee Refuge

Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Nov. 1 – Feb. 28. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

## Indian Boundary Lake (in Cherokee National Forest)

- Largemouth Bass – 2 per day, 14 inch minimum length limit
- Catfish – 5 per day
- Crappie – 30 per day, no length limit

## Kingston Wildlife Refuge

Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Oct. 15 – Feb. 28. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

## Lake Kefauver (Madisonville, Monroe County)

- Bass - 2 per day, 14 inch minimum length limit
- Catfish - 5 per day

# LIMITS AND REGULATIONS

## Land Between the Lakes

All waters are open year round with the following provisions:

- Farm ponds are open to fishing unless otherwise posted.
- Bards Lake – Trotlines and limblines are prohibited. Jugs are permitted from Oct. 1 – Mar. 21, with a limit of 10 jugs per person.

## New Lake (Lewisburg, in Marshall County)

- Largemouth Bass – 5 per day, 13 inch minimum length limit
- Catfish - 5 per day
- Crappie - 15 per day, no length limit

Open one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. Only rods and reels and cane poles permitted.

## Paint Rock Refuge (on Watts Bar Reservoir)

Trespassing and fishing are prohibited in embayments and sub-impoundments from Oct. 15 – Feb. 1. Boats must remain within the river channel defined by navigational buoys.

## Reelfoot Watershed Lake # 18

- Largemouth Bass – 5 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

## STATE PARK LAKES

State Park Lakes are managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation (888-867-2757). Unless otherwise posted, statewide fishing regulations apply with the following exceptions:

### Crappie (all species combined)

- All lakes, daily creel limit of 15, no minimum length limit, except:
- Pin Oak Lake, daily creel limit of 30, no length limit.

### Channel or blue catfish or in combination:

- All lakes, daily creel limit of 5 fish

### Black bass from the following lakes must be a minimum of 15 inches:

- Falling Water (Burgess Falls) Lake, Burgess Falls Natural Area
- Lake Lajoie, Chickasaw State Park
- Lake Placid, Chickasaw State Park
- Byrd Lake, Cumberland Mountain State Park
- Fall Creek Lake, Fall Creek Falls State Park
- Sullivan's Pond, Ft. Pillow State Historic Area

- Indian Mt. "B" Lake, Indian Mountain State Park
- Acorn Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
- Creech Hollow Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
- Kelly (Standing Stone) Lake, Standing Stone State Park

### Black bass from:

- Big Ridge Lake, Big Ridge State Park, must be a minimum of 14 inches
- Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, 14-18 inch PLR (slot limit)
- Travis McNatt Lake, Big Hill Pond State Park, daily creel limit of 10 bass (no length limit)
- Lake Woodhaven (Montgomery Bell State Park) is catch-and-release only. All black bass caught must be immediately released, unharmed.

### Bluegill and redear sunfish in combination:

- Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, daily creel limit of 20 fish

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# Tennessee's Lake Sturgeon Project

By George Scholten, Fisheries Biologist

Since 2000, more than 50,000 lake sturgeon have been stocked into the French Broad and Holston rivers near Knoxville. Lake sturgeon were also stocked into Cheatham Reservoir on the Cumberland River at Nashville in 2006. These stocking efforts are part of a long-term program designed to restore reproducing populations of this primitive species to Tennessee waters. Ultimately, if the program succeeds, TWRA will be able to allow a managed sport fishery for the largest of Tennessee's fish species, capable of reaching eight feet in length, weighing 300 pounds, and living up to 150 years.

The TWRA monitors stocked lake sturgeon by sampling them with multiple gear types including gillnets, electrofishing boats, and trotlines. When lake sturgeon are recaptured, researchers measure and weigh the fish, take a genetic sample, and then implant a small chip (similar to those used by veterinarians in dogs and cats) so they can identify the fish if it is later recaptured. Occasionally, larger fish that have been implanted with a radio or sonic transmitter are stocked. These transmitters give off a signal that can be detected by special antennas and receivers. Researchers use boats and airplanes equipped with this detection equipment to locate the fish. By locating these fish repeatedly, researchers can determine things like how fast, far, and often lake sturgeon move, which habitats lake sturgeon use, and how many of the lake sturgeon pass downstream through dams. This information helps TWRA maximize the survival of future stockings of lake sturgeon.

Several of these movement studies found that lake sturgeon travel long distances after being stocked, so it is very likely that anglers could catch lake sturgeon in waters of the state other than where they were stocked. The TWRA received one report from an angler who caught a lake sturgeon below Nickajack Dam. This fish had to pass downstream through 4 dams and travel nearly 250 miles from the stocking site to reach the area where the angler caught and released it. Angler reports like this are important to TWRA because they provide important movement and growth information which helps TWRA monitor the success of Tennessee's lake sturgeon reintroduction program.

If you catch a lake sturgeon, please be as careful as possible not to harm the fish - avoid holding lake sturgeon by their tails and remember that fish cannot breathe while they are out of the water. *Lake sturgeon are endangered in Tennessee and should be released immediately.* If possible, note an approximate length before the

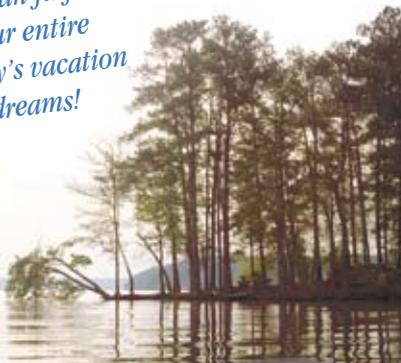


fish is released. Additionally, TWRA would appreciate a picture of your lake sturgeon catch if you can take one without harming the fish or delaying its release. In appreciation of your report, TWRA will issue you a numbered Lake Sturgeon Certificate (below) that features a color reproduction of a lake sturgeon drawn by renowned wildlife artist Joseph R. Tomelleri. If you catch a lake sturgeon please call the toll free number for your regional office (see page 4 of this fishing guide) or the Fish Management Division at (615) 781-6575. You will be asked to provide your name, address, and phone number and the following information about your catch: when and where you caught it, an approximate length, and what you were using for bait. ✖

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# BILL DANCE'S

## Three Key Words

I learned very early in my fishing career that remembering three key words on all fishing trips was far more important than most other factors . . .



Hey, I'm often asked "Where's a good place to catch really big bass in Tennessee?" Well, at least part of the answer is easy, especially when it comes to smallmouth. Beautiful Dale Hollow lake situated along the Kentucky border in middle Tennessee has to be my number one choice and the reason is simple. It's where the world record smallmouth (11 lbs 15 oz) was caught in 1955 and some great fish are caught here regularly.

Pickwick Lake on the Tennessee River in west Tennessee is another great choice for big brownies as are Tim's Ford and Center Hill reservoirs.

For big largemouth bass, the answer is harder, because when all is considered, my home state of Tennessee offers numerous destinations for quality bass fishing. There just aren't any bad places, in my opinion, so look over the choices and flip a coin. Check out the TWRA web site for latest news on what's happening where.

Perhaps more important than me trying to advise you on which particular lakes to visit in Tennessee, is sharing some tips that can help wherever you fish here. I learned very early in my fishing career that remembering three key words on all fishing trips was far more important than most other factors. I want to share them and some important information about each which I hope you'll keep in mind wherever you fish in our beloved state. I'm talking about Depth, Location, Presentation. Those three words must be applied on every fishing trip you make if you're going to be successful.

### DEPTH

Finding the right depth is perhaps the single most important factor in bass fishing. If you're not fishing the correct depth, you're really wasting your time. Sure, you may catch a fish here and one there, but you

can bet, the majority of fish in the area you're fishing will select and use a preferred depth.

Naturally, the better you know a lake, the easier it's going to be to determine the correct depth on a given day. There really isn't an easy way to find the right depth, but there are a few tips that might shorten the time.

One would be trial and error. Begin fishing different depth levels until you catch at least a couple of fish. Then concentrate your time fishing that depth in that area. If you change areas to a different part of the lake, you may have to repeat the same procedure.

Another way is to ask the boat dock operator or a local fishing guide, or even an angler whom you see on the lake or who has just returned to the dock. The most important question you can ask is what depth he caught his fish and what area of the lake he's fishing. Surprisingly, many will share this information with you.

Another key way to establish a depth is perhaps the best of all, and that's relying on a depth finder.

This unit will not only show you the depth, it'll show you fish, the depth they're using and even the cover they're positioned in.

The best fisherman around can fish the best bait in the world, but if he's fishing the wrong depth, he won't catch many fish. At the right depth, almost anyone can catch fish, if he's fishing the right location with the proper lure for that location and using the correct presentation. Depth is dictated by the food supply, oxygen content, water temp, time of day and even time of year.

*(Continued on page 42)*

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*Wall Street Journal*

# TWRA FISHING LAKES

**E**ighteen TWRA managed lakes, located in Middle and West Tennessee, are open year-round. Some of these lakes are operated by private concessionaires under contract and offer complete services for the fishing public.



## Hours

The lakes are open to fishing all week. Lakes will open one-half hour before sunrise and close one-half hour after sunset, except Garrett Lake which is open 24 hours a day. Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day the following lakes are closed: Carroll, Gibson Co., Glenn Springs, Herb Parsons, and Lake Graham.

## Permits

A daily lake permit of \$5.00 (available at most lakes), in addition to the regular fishing license, is required to fish most of these lakes. All residents 16 through 64 years of age, except holders of a Sportsman License and Lifetime Sportsman license, and nonresidents 16 years of age or older must have this permit. Resident anglers 65 years of age and older do not need a lake permit, but do need a fishing license. A \$40.00 Annual Lake Permit may also be purchased at the individual lakes, and is good at all TWRA fishing lakes.

**Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake** daily lake permit should be purchased from a license agent in the surrounding area before going to the lake.

**Alcoholic beverages are prohibited** at all Agency lakes.

**Speed boating, personal water craft, water skiing and swimming are prohibited** (except in the recreational zone of Gibson County Lake). Houseboats, sailboats and inboard cruisers are prohibited. On Coy Gaither-Bedford, Marrowbone, VFW, and Williamsport lakes, only trolling motors can be used.

**Boats may be rented** for \$8.00 per day at some lakes. There is no charge for boat cushions or paddles.

## Tackle

Only rods and reels, poles, hand-held lines, and jugs may be used (see page 35 for jug fishing rules at TWRA lakes). Jugging is not allowed on Gibson County Lake. Cast nets, trotlines and limblines are illegal on Agency lakes.

## TWRA FISHING LAKES

### LOCATIONS AND FACILITIES

See more details at [tnwildlife.org](http://tnwildlife.org)

	Licenses sold	Permit required	Rental boats	Outboards permitted	Launching ramp	Fishing piers	Picnic areas	Vending machines	Bait & tackle
1. <b>Brown's Creek Lake</b> - 731-423-5725 - Henderson Co. 10 miles S of I-40 in the Natchez Trace State Park. 167 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
2. <b>Carroll Lake</b> - 731-352-3133. Carroll Co. 4 miles E of McKenzie on Hwy 22. 100 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
3. <b>Coy Gaither-Bedford Lake</b> - 615-781-6622. Bedford Co. 10 miles SE of Shelbyville on Hwy 269. 47 acres.		X			X	X	X		
4. <b>Davy Crockett Lake</b> - 731-784-3889. Crockett Co. 5 miles W of Humboldt on Hwy 152. 87 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
5. <b>Garrett Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Weakley Co. 7 miles E of Dresden on Hwy 54. 183 acres.					X	X	X		
6. <b>Gibson County Lake</b> - 731-855-2990. Gibson Co. 5 miles E of Trenton off of Vaughns Grove Rd. 560 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
7. <b>Glenn Springs Lake</b> - 901-835-5253. Tipton Co. 12 miles NE of Millington on Glenn Springs Rd. 310 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
8. <b>Herb Parsons Lake</b> - 901-861-5087. Fayette Co. 15 miles N of Collierville on Collierville-Arlington Rd. 177 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
9. <b>Lake Graham</b> - 731-422-0950. Madison Co. 9 miles E of Jackson on Cotton Grove Rd. 500 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X
10. <b>Laurel Hill Lake</b> - 931-762-7200. Lawrence Co. 15 miles W of Lawrenceburg on Hwy 64. 325 acres.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. <b>Maples Creek Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Carroll Co. 4 miles N of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park. 90 acres.		X	X	X	X	X	X		
12. <b>Marrowbone Lake</b> - 615-876-6012. Davidson Co. 6 miles N of Joelton off of Hwy 41-A. 60 acres.	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
13. <b>VFW Lake</b> - 931-762-7200. Lawrence Co. 12 miles W of Lawrenceburg off of Hwy 64. 22 acres.		X	X		X	X	X	X	
14. <b>Whiteville Lake</b> - 731-423-5725. Hardeman Co. 2 miles S of Whiteville on Hwy 64. 158 acres.					X	X	X		
15-18. <b>Williamsport Lakes</b> - (4 lakes) 931-583-2477. Maury Co. 8.5 miles NW of Columbia on Hwy 50. 164 acres total	X	X	X		X	X	X		X



## Take it to the bank

Tennessee bank fishing opportunities



Contact your TWRA Office  
or log on to  
[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)  
for a list of bank fishing  
locations.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

# TWRA FISHING LAKES

◆ Statewide regulations apply for any species not listed.

◆ PLR is a Protected Length Range, fish in this length range may not be harvested and only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

## BROWN'S CREEK LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, 16-21 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## CARROLL LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## COY GAITHER-BEDFORD LAKE

**Largemouth Bass** – 5 per day, 14-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, 14 inch minimum length limit

## DAVY CROCKETT LAKE

**Black Bass** – 10 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## GARRETT LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## GIBSON COUNTY LAKE

**Largemouth Bass** – 10 per day, 14-20 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## GLENN SPRINGS LAKE

**Black Bass** – 10 per day, 14-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 8 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## HERB PARSONS LAKE

**Black Bass** – 10 per day, 14-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## LAKE GRAHAM

**Black Bass** – 10 per day, 14-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## LAUREL HILL LAKE

One embayment is for juvenile fishing, only youths 16 and under may fish. Nursery ponds may be closed as posted.

**Largemouth Bass** – 10 per day, 13-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, 14 inch minimum length limit

## MAPLES CREEK LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## MARROWBONE LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, 14-18 inch PLR. Only one (1) fish longer than the listed range may be harvested.

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## VFW LAKE

**Largemouth Bass** – 5 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, 14 inch minimum length limit

## WHITEVILLE LAKE

**Black Bass** – 5 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill** – No creel or length limit

**Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

## WILLIAMSPORT LAKES (4 LAKES)

Whippoorwill Lake is for juvenile fishing, only youths 16 and under and an accompanying adult may fish. Two wetland ponds, Egret and Heron, are closed to fishing.

**Largemouth Bass** – 1 per day, 20 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Redear** – 20 per day in combination, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Blue/Channel Catfish** – 5 per day in combination, 14 inch minimum length limit

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# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## REGION 1

## REGION 2

**F**ull pool elevation is the reservoir/stream boundary for harvest restrictions unless otherwise noted.

Statewide regulations apply for any species not mentioned under each listed reservoir section.

### REGION 1

#### BARKLEY

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

#### KENTUCKY

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 14 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Redear Sunfish** – 30 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit



#### PICKWICK

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 9 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

#### REELFOOT

Preservation Permit required for all users except those under 16 years of age and residents 65 years or older. The use of gasoline powered boats is prohibited in TWRA posted areas during April and May.

**Largemouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, no length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

### REGION 2

#### CHEATHAM

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

#### NORMANDY

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

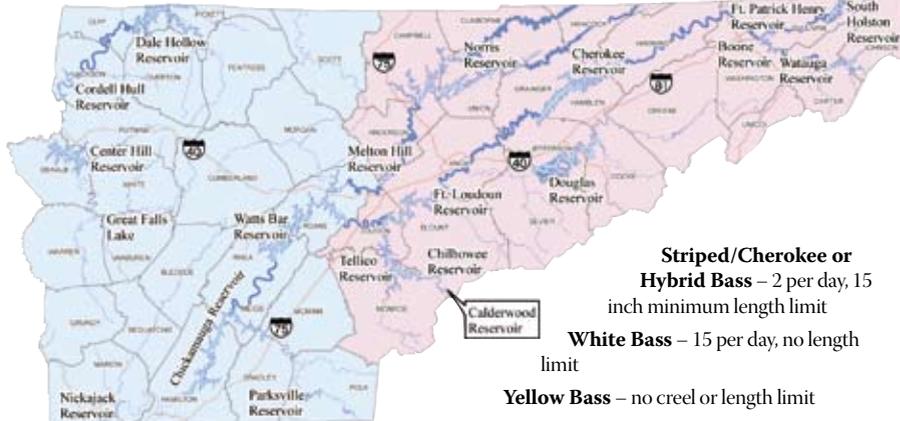
**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day in combination, 16 inch minimum length limit.

# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## REGION 3

## REGION 4



*Normandy Cont.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

### OLD HICKORY

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

### PERCY PRIEST

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

### TIMS FORD

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

### WOODS

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth/Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination,

10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit.

CLOSED TO FISHING  
FROM DEC. 1 - JAN 31



## REGION 3

### CENTER HILL

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – Reservoir and its tributaries are closed to taking or possessing paddlefish

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Special Restrictions** – January 1 through April 30, on Caney Fork River from Rock Island State Park boat ramp upstream to Great Falls Dam, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point, or one lure with a single hook with one point. No more than three rods and reels or poles per angler may be used.



**NORRIS DAM**

# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## CHICKAMAUGA

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination, only one may be a smallmouth bass.

**Largemouth bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth bass** – 1 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## CORDELL HULL

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth/Spotted Bass** – no minimum length

**Smallmouth bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped Bass** – 2 per day, 32-42 inch PLR. Only one fish may be over 42 inches.

**Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## DALE HOLLOW

**All Species** – 3 pole limit per angler from boat and 6 pole limit per angler from bank may be used.

**Largemouth/Spotted/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination, only two may be smallmouth bass.

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 2 per day, 16-21 inch PLR. One fish may be under 16 inches and one may be over 21 inches. Includes Wolf River upstream to South Ford Road bridge.

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit.

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – April 1-October 31, 7 per day but no more than 2 may be lake trout. No length limit.

November 1-March 31, 2 per day in combination, 22 inch minimum length limit

**Special Restrictions** – January 1 through April 30, on the east fork of the Obey from Compton boat ramp upstream to Hwy. 52 bridge, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point, or one lure with a single hook with one point. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles per angler may be used.

## GREAT FALLS

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/ and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## GUNTERSVILLE

**Largemouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination, no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 1 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 30 per day in combination, 9 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## NICKAJACK

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination, only one may be smallmouth bass

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 1 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – From Chickamauga Dam downstream to mouth of South Chickamauga Creek, 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

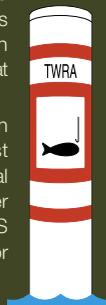
**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

## FISH ATTRACTORS

On many reservoirs the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, other government agencies, and local sportsmen have constructed hundreds of "fish attractors" which help put fish and anglers together. These underwater structures work by providing cover that attracts small fish, which in turn attract big fish, which attract anglers. They appeal primarily to crappie, but bass, bluegill, and catfish are also found in and around them. There is no guarantee that you will catch a fish from a fish attractor, but they are great places to start.

Anglers who wish to place fish attractors in public waters must obtain site and construction material approval from the appropriate water regulating agency (e.g. TVA, US Army Corps of Engineers, etc.) prior to placing the attractors.



# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## Nickajack Cont.

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## PARKSVILLE

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## WATTS BAR

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped Bass /Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – April - October, 2 per day in combination. November - March, 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

**Striped Bass** –

- April - October, 15 inch minimum length limit
- November - March, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## REGION 4

## BOONE

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination. This regulation applies from dam upstream to Hwy. 11E Bridge at Bluff City on South Fork Holston arm and upstream to new Austin Springs Bridge on Watauga arm.

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 16 inch minimum length limit, to increase to 18 inch minimum limit on March 1, 2009.

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped Bass /Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – April - October, 2 per day in combination. November - March, 2 per day in combination, only one may be a striped bass.

**Striped Bass** – April - October, 15 inch minimum length limit  
November - March, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## CALDERWOOD

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## CHEROKEE

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination. Size restrictions apply from the dam upstream to the John Sevier Dam (includes tributaries).

**Largemouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – 10 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

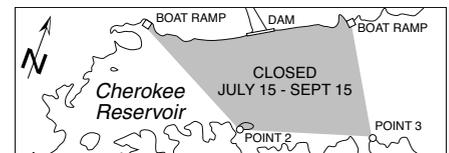
**Paddlefish** – 1 per day, 30 inch minimum length limit. Season is open from March 1-15. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Special Restrictions** – A closed fishing Zone will be in effect from July 15 through September 15. This Zone is enclosed by lines from the boat ramp at the south end of the dam across the lake to Point 2, from Point 2 to Point 3, and from Point 3 back across the lake to the TWRA boat ramp at the north end of the dam. All bank fishing will be open and the coves along the southeast shoreline will be open to boat fishing, but no fishing for any species will be allowed by boat in the described Zone from July 15 through September 15.



## CHILHOWEE

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Walleye/Sauger** – 10 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit, only two may be lake trout

# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## DOUGLAS

Restrictions on **Crappie, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye and Sauger** extend from Douglas dam upstream to the ENKA dam on the Nolichucky River and the mouth of the Pigeon River on the French Broad.

**Largemouth/Smallmouth/Spotted Bass** – 5 per day in combination, only one may be smallmouth bass

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 20 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye/Sauger** – 5 per day in combination, includes tributaries.

**Walleye** – 15 inch minimum length limit

**Sauger** – no minimum length limit but only one sauger may be over 16 inches per day

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## FT. LOUDOUN

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye/Sauger** – 10 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit. Includes tributaries.

**Paddlefish** – 2 per day, season is open from April 24 through May 31. *Culling, the releasing of harvested fish, is prohibited.*

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## FT. PATRICK HENRY

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination.

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 16 inch minimum length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## JOHN SEVIER

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 13-17 inch protected length range, only one Smallmouth bass over 17 inches per day

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

## MELTON HILL

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no minimum length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**Striped Bass** – 2 per day, 32-42 inch PLR. Only one fish may be over 42 inches.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye/Sauger** – 10 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit.

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 44 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## Want better fishing in your stream?

By restoring streamside habitat to trees, shrubs and native grasses, you:

- stabilize the streambank
- reduce soil erosion
- cool the water temperature by shading the stream

The result? An improved stream that better supports fish and other aquatic life.

In many cases we can help pay for streamside habitat restoration.

Contact a local TWRA Private Lands Biologists:

- **West:** Aubrey Deck  
731-668-0700, ext. 110
- **Middle:** Clint Borum  
615-893-9295, ext. 111
- **East:** Wally Akins  
865-671-3830, ext. 112

[www.TWRPrivatelands.org](http://www.TWRPrivatelands.org)

# RESERVOIR REGULATIONS

## NORRIS

Includes tributaries and extends from the dam upstream to the the Hwy. 25E bridge on the Clinch River arm and upstream to Gap Creek on the Powell River arm

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 10 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

### Striped Bass

- April–October, 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit
- November–March, 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye/Sauger** – 5 per day in combination, 15 inch minimum length limit (upstream to Grissom Island on the Clinch River)

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Muskellunge** – 1 per day, 36 inch minimum length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – 30 per day, no length limit

## SOUTH HOLSTON

**Largemouth/ Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – no length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 16 inch minimum length limit, to increase to 18 inch minimum length limit on March 1, 2009

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit. Includes tributaries.

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, only two may be Lake Trout. No length limit. Dec. 1-Feb. 28, closed to trout fishing.

## TELLICO

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 14 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 18 inch minimum length limit

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**Striped/Cherokee or Hybrid Bass** – 2 per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Yellow Bass** – no creel or length limit

**Walleye/Sauger** – 10 per day in combination but no more than 5 may be walleye. 15 inch minimum length limit. One walleye may be 24 inches or larger. Includes tributaries.

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit

## WATAUGA

**Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass** – 5 per day in combination

**Largemouth Bass** – 12 inch minimum length limit

**Smallmouth Bass** – 16 inch minimum length limit, to increase to 18 inch minimum length limit on March 1, 2009

**Spotted Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Crappie (all species)** – 15 per day in combination, 10 inch minimum length limit

**Catfish (all species)** – No harvest limit for fish under 34 inches in length, only one fish over 34 inches in length may be harvested per day.

**White Bass** – 15 per day, no length limit

**Walleye** – 5 per day, 18 inch minimum length limit. Walleye run regulation from Jan. 1–Apr. 30, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait) on the following waters: Elk River from the Hwy. 321 Bridge downstream to RM 3.0 (Pt. 11) on the Elk River Arm of Watauga Reservoir, Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek), Roan Creek (Mountain Lake Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek), and Watauga River (NC line downstream to the end of Cownstown Road).

**Rock Bass** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Redear Sunfish** – 20 per day, no length limit

**Bluegill/Warmouth/and other sunfishes** – no creel or length limit

**Trout** – 7 per day, no length limit, only two may be lake trout

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# Aquatic Nuisance Species

by Bobby Wilson, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Management



Numerous silver carp

## What is an “aquatic nuisance species”?

Aquatic nuisance species are non-native plants and animals that can wreak havoc on our aquatic natural resources and on the human use of these resources. Examples of these in other parts of the United States include the sea lamprey in the Great Lakes, giant salvinia in the marshes of Louisiana, and the snakehead fish in the Potomac River. In Tennessee over 55 aquatic nuisance species (ANS) have been identified including the bighead and silver carp, zebra mussels, and Eurasian water milfoil.

## Are all non-native species bad?

Not all non-native plants and animals in Tennessee are considered to be a nuisance. In fact, some non-native fish, such as brown trout and striped bass, are considered to be desirable and highly sought after in Tennessee. However, more often than not, most non-native plants and animals cause more harm than good. Bighead and silver carp compete directly for plankton with native fish such as paddlefish and buffalo. Silver carp also pose a threat to human health due to their leaping ability, colliding into boaters, water skiers, and personal watercraft when startled. Although they are more of a concern in the Great Lakes region, zebra mussels have impacted some areas of Tennessee economically by fouling intake pipes as well as ecologically by competing with the native mussels for food and space. Eurasian water milfoil provides excellent cover for many species of fish, however its ability to grow and proliferate makes it a nuisance to boaters and dock owners in some bodies of water in Tennessee.

## How did they get here?

The term used to describe how ANS are introduced into new environments or how they are spread is “pathway”. Pathways can be defined as “the means by which species are transported from one location to another”. These “means” can be natural or man-made, accidental or intentional, and include many activities, media, and occurrences. Natural pathways may be our interconnected waterways, waterfowl, or pond breaches. Examples of accidental pathways are recreational boaters, bait distribution, and fishing gear. Intentional pathways include fish and aquatic plant stockings, aquaculture, and aquarium and water garden markets.

## So what’s the big deal?

As far as the environment is concerned, Tennessee is one of the most biodiverse states in the nation. Currently there are over 315 species of fish, 120 species of freshwater mussels, and 84 species of crayfish in

our State. Aquatic nuisance species pose serious problems to many of these species in Tennessee. They can affect the economy of our state as well. It is estimated that the economic impact of sport fishing in Tennessee is over a billion dollars and the wholesale value of commercial fishing is almost 3 million dollars. As mentioned previously, silver carp also threaten human health and recreational boating due to jumping into boaters and skiers when startled. These species are already abundant in the Mississippi River, but they have been found in the Cumberland and Tennessee River systems as well.

## What is Tennessee doing to address the problem?

In February 2005, Governor Phil Bredesen approved the formation of a committee to develop a management plan for aquatic nuisance species. The group, with members representing governmental as well as non governmental interests, met during 2005-2007 to develop a management plan. The Tennessee ANS Task Force has completed the final draft of the plan and it will soon be signed by Governor Bredesen. The main focus of the ANS management plan is to prevent new introductions.

Prevention however, will only assist in reducing the number of new species entering Tennessee waters. Management and control of existing nuisance species must also be undertaken to limit their negative impacts.

## What will the ANS plan do?

The goal of the plan is “to control existing aquatic nuisance species in Tennessee in order to minimize the adverse impacts on native species, water quality, and economies by preventing the introduction and spread of any invasive species and by managing the impacts of those that are already in Tennessee.” As mentioned previously, to accomplish this goal, the Tennessee ANS task

force identified two major objectives: 1. Prevention of new aquatic nuisance species, and 2. Management of existing aquatic nuisance species.

There are 26 strategies and 67 actions listed in the plan to address the objectives. Some of the first actions are anticipated to be the development of educational materials such as pamphlets, posters, DVDs, and an ANS web site; hiring a statewide ANS coordinator; improving enforcement and regulations that prohibit the possession, purchase, and transport of ANS in Tennessee; developing a rapid response plan to control or eradicate priority ANS populations; and developing plans and coordinate responses with full partner participation.

**Silver carp also pose a threat to human health due to their leaping ability, colliding with boaters, water skiers, and personal watercraft when startled.**



Silver carp jumping in the Mississippi River.



Boat motor fouled with aquatic vegetation.



Northern snakehead fish.

Photo provided by: Michigan Sea Grant Archives

### How will the plan be implemented?

Implementation of this plan will be evaluated to determine progress toward achieving its goal, and funding will be necessary to accomplish many of its tasks. Evaluation will be shared by leaders in the agencies with primary jurisdiction over wildlife and resource issues related to ANS –the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission, the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture. The information upon which evaluation will be based will be provided by the ANS Coordinator. Securing and hiring a person to fill that position will be one of the first actions taken after the management plan has been approved. The funding mechanism, undoubtedly including partnerships, will be developed by the ANS Coordinator.

Approval of this plan will allow the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the lead agency in the plan development process, and its partners to apply for federal grants and other assistance to implement the various strategies described in the ANS document.

### What can anglers do to help?

Many aquatic nuisance species are introduced and spread accidentally by anglers and boaters. Taking a few extra precautions can stop these occurrences. Anglers should follow a few rules and practices such as: always clean their gear when moving from one water body to another; never release live bait of any kind into the water; never move any aquatic species or even water from one body of water to another; never stock fish into public waters such as reservoirs, rivers, streams, or small creeks. Only TWRA can legally stock fish into a public water body. Boaters should follow a few rules and practices as well: always remove plants, zebra mussels, or debris that are attached to the boat or trailer; always drain all bilge and livewells before leaving the parking lot. Boaters and stream anglers should clean anything that comes in contact with the water (boots, boat, anchor, nets) with 5% dishwashing detergent or make sure everything stays dry for at least two days. For more information on cleaning methods check out this web site: [www.protectyourwaters.net](http://www.protectyourwaters.net).

### Stream Anglers:

Dirty wading boots are the most common and preventable way tiny plants and organisms move from one watershed to the next. It is critical that you clean your boots between trips to different waters. Follow these steps:

- 1) Rinse off your boots as you leave the river, and clean them at your house with 5% dishwashing detergent.
- 2) Allow them to dry completely and keep them dry for an additional 2 days. Or– Completely immerse them in hot tap water (110-120° F) containing 2% dishwashing liquid for 30 minutes. Or– Freeze them solid.

If you frequently fish new waters, rotate between two sets of boots to assure that one pair is always completely clean and dry. If you have a regular fishing location, dedicate one pair to use in that waterbody.

### Banned In Tennessee:

It is unlawful to possess or transport live specimens of the following animals.

- Silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*)
- Bighead carp (*Aristichthys nobilis*)
- Black Carp (*Mylopharyngodon piceus*)
- Blueback Herring (*Alosa aestivalis*)
- New Zealand mud snail (*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*)
- Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*)
- Rudd (*Scardinius erythrophthalmus*)
- Ruffe (*Gymnocephalus cernua*)
- Snakeheads (all members of the Family Channidae)
- Swamp eels (all members of the Family Synbranchidae)
- Zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*)

# TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS



## STATEWIDE REGULATIONS

Any combination of trout species

**Daily Limit** ..... 7

**Minimum Length** ..... None

Exceptions:

- Only 2 trout in a creel may be lake trout
- Brook trout – 6 inch min. length limit
- See the following specific regulations

## SPECIAL TROUT REGULATIONS

### South Holston Reservoir

- ◆ Closed to trout fishing from December 1 to the last day of February

### Dale Hollow Reservoir

- ◆ Apr. 1-Oct. 31 – 7 per day (no more than 2 may be Lake Trout). No length limit.
- ◆ Nov. 1-Mar. 31 – 2 per day (in any combination). 22 inch minimum length limit.

### Caney Fork River (Center Hill Dam to Cumberland River, including tributaries)

- ◆ 18 inch minimum length limit on brown trout
- ◆ Only 2 trout in daily creel limit may be brown trout

### Clinch River (Norris Dam, downstream to Hwy. 61 bridge, including tributaries)

- ◆ 14-20 inch protected length range on all trout
- ◆ 7 trout creel limit, only one trout may be greater than 20 inches

### Clear Creek (tributary to Clinch River - Anderson Co.)

- ◆ Closed to fishing and minnow seining from Hwy. 441 upstream to the second dam (adjacent to the city of Norris water tower), as posted from Nov. 1 - Mar. 31.

### Hiwassee River

- ◆ Apalachia Powerhouse to USFS Big Bend Parking Area
  - ◆ 14 inch minimum length limit on brown trout
  - ◆ Only 2 trout in daily creel limit may be brown trout
- ◆ Quality Trout Fishing Area – USFS Big Bend Parking Area downstream to L&N railroad bridge:
  - ◆ Daily creel and possession limit is 2 trout
  - ◆ 14 inch minimum length limit
  - ◆ use or possession of any bait is prohibited
  - ◆ Trout less than 14 inches may not be in possession

### South Holston River: (South Holston Dam to Hwy. 37 Bridge at Bluff City)

- ◆ No trout between 16 and 22 inches may be harvested
- ◆ Creel limit of 7 trout, any combination of species, only one trout may be over 22 inches
- ◆ Closed to all fishing Nov. 1-Jan. 31 in the following areas:
  - 1) Hickory Tree Bridge upstream to the confluence with Bottom Creek
  - 2) downstream point of Boy's Island (first island downstream of Weaver Pike Bridge) upstream to the top of the first island above Webb Road Bridge.

### Watauga River (Quality Trout Fishing Area Smallings bridge downstream to CSX railroad bridges):

- ◆ 14 inch minimum length limit
- ◆ 2 trout creel limit
- ◆ Use or possession of any bait is prohibited.
- ◆ Trout less than 14 inches may not be in possession

### Polk County – Big Creek, Big Lost Creek, Goforth Creek, Spring Creek, and their tributaries in Polk County

- ◆ Closed to fishing on Fridays from Mar. 1-Jul. 1 except for state and federal holidays
- ◆ Only one single hook lure or baited single hook is permitted.
- ◆ The use or possession of lures or baits with multiple hooks is prohibited.
- ◆ Fishing is permitted from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.
- ◆ Fishing equipment or tackle is prohibited on the stream banks except during legal fishing hours.

### Horse Creek (Greene County, US Forest Service Boundary Line upstream to the junction of Squibb Creek):

- ◆ Daily limit: 7 per day except from May 1-Sep. 30 daily limit is 2. Fishing is limited to ages 12 and under, ages 65 and older, and physically challenged individuals.

## DELAYED HARVEST AREAS

In the areas listed below, the harvest or possession of trout will be prohibited during the catch-and-release season. During the catch-and-release season, only artificial lures are permitted and the use or possession of bait is prohibited.

**Paint Creek:** (Paint Creek Campground downstream to mouth at French Broad River): Catch-and-release season is October 1 through February 28.

**Tellico River:** (Mouth of Turkey Creek upstream to the mouth of North River): Catch-and-release season is October 1 through March 14.

## GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

Most of the streams in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide trout fishing opportunities. For detailed fishing information and regulations, contact Park Headquarters, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. (865) 436-1200.

## FORT CAMPBELL MILITARY RESERVATION

Several streams on Fort Campbell Military Reservation including Noah's Spring Branch, Little West Fork and Fletcher's Fork are stocked with rainbow and brown trout. Special fishing regulations apply and a Post Fishing Permit is required in addition to a valid Tennessee fishing license and trout stamp. For details, contact the Community Recreation Division, Hunting and Fishing Unit, Fort Campbell, KY 42223-5000; phone: (270) 798-2175.

## WINTER TROUT PROGRAM

Several waters are stocked with rainbow trout from December through March. Statewide regulations apply. Schedules are posted on [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) in November.

## TAILWATER TROUT

TWRA stocks fingerling and adult trout into coldwater tailwaters below dams to provide fishing opportunities. In many tailwaters trout fishing can be good year-round. Catchable size fish are stocked routinely during the following months. Use caution below dams. Call TVA at 1-800-238-2264 to check dam discharge and generation schedules.

RIVER	BELOW	TROUT SPECIES	STOCKING SCHEDULE
Elk River	Tims Ford Dam	rainbow & brown	March through November
Duck River	Normandy Dam	rainbow & brown	March through June, November and December
Caney Fork River	Center Hill Dam	rainbow & brown	March through December
Stones River	J. Percy Priest Dam	rainbow	December through March (Trout fishing is only productive during the stocked period.)
Obey River	Dale Hollow Dam	rainbow & brown	January through December
Hiwassee River	Appalachian Dam	rainbow & brown	January through December
Ocoee River	Ocoee Dam #1 - Parksville	rainbow	March and April
Clinch River	Norris Dam	rainbow & brown	March through September
S. Holston River	S. Holston Dam	rainbow & wild brown	March through September
Watauga River	Wilbur Dam	rainbow, brown & brook	March through September
Wilbur Reservoir	Watauga Dam	rainbow	February through May
Holston River	Cherokee Dam	rainbow & brown	November through April
S. Holston River	Fort Patrick Henry Dam	rainbow & brown	March and April

# TROUT FISHING REGULATIONS

## GATLINBURG TROUT FISHING

TWRA and the City of Gatlinburg offer a variety of trout fishing opportunities in four streams. All streams are closed on Thursdays each week and a Gatlinburg permit is required (pg. 9). Some areas are managed especially for children 12 and under. For more information contact the Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-568-4748 or the Gatlinburg trout facility at 865-436-4558.

The taking of trout is permitted within the streams designated below and under the limits and during of the times listed below.

### General Streams:

- ◆ West Prong Little Pigeon River from Park Boundary to Gnatty Branch except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
- ◆ Dudley Creek from Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River, except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.

- ◆ Roaring Fork from the Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River.
- ◆ Leconte Creek from Painter Branch to West Prong Little Pigeon River.

**Children's Streams:** (May only be fished by children 12 and under, unless otherwise posted.)

- ◆ Leconte Creek from Painters Branch upstream to Park Boundary.
- ◆ West Prong Little Pigeon River from 100 yards above entrance of Herbert Holt Park downstream to Gatlinburg By-pass Bridge.
- ◆ Dudley Creek from Highway 441 Bridge to West Prong Little Pigeon River.

Fishing permitted year-round, except on Thursday, from 1/2 hour before official sunrise to 1/2 hour after official sunset. Fishing is permitted with one hand-held rod and single hook only.

### Season and Creel Limits:

#### 1) From December 1 through March 31:

- ◆ Possession of any trout shall be prohibited.

- ◆ All trout caught must be immediately returned to the water.
- ◆ Use or possession of any artificial lures other than single hook artificial flies, spinners, and spoons is prohibited. The use of one dropper fly having a single hook which is separated from a legal lure by a length of line is permissible.

#### 2) From April 1 through November 30:

- ◆ General Streams - The creel limit is five (5) trout per day.
- ◆ Children's Streams - The creel limit is two (2) per day.
- ◆ Total possession limit shall not exceed twice the daily creel limit
- ◆ While fishing or when afield, possession of more than the daily creel limit shall be prohibited, regardless of whether the trout are fresh, stored in an ice chest, in a vehicle, or otherwise preserved.

TROUT REGULATIONS ON CHEROKEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA	NAME OF TROUT STREAM	TELLICO-CITICO DAILY PERMIT REQUIRED	CLOSED THU/FRI EXCEPT STATE & FEDERAL HOLIDAYS	CREEL LIMIT	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT	HOURS OPEN	GEAR/TACKLE ALLOWED
	Only one rod or pole permitted per angler on the waters listed below except Calderwood						
	<b>TELLICO RIVER</b> upstream from Turkey Creek to NC state line*	3/15 - 9/15	3/15 - 9/15	7	6" Brook only	One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset	All
	<b>CITICO CREEK</b> upstream from Little Citico Creek*	3/15 - 9/15	3/15 - 9/15	7			All
	<b>GREEN COVE POND</b> - Fishing limited to handicapped** individuals, children under age 13, and adults 65 years of age and older.	Year-round	Year-round	7			All - No minnows
	<b>NORTH RIVER</b> and tributaries	No	No	3	6" Brook, 9" Brown and Rainbow	Only single-hook artificial lures and flies are permitted. Use or possession of multiple hook lures, or bait is prohibited. One single-hook lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (e.g. a dropper fly) is also permitted.	
	<b>BALD RIVER</b> and tributaries	No	No	3			
	<b>NORTH FORK CITICO CREEK</b> and tributaries	No	No	3			
	<b>SOUTH FORK CITICO CREEK</b> and tributaries	No	No	3			
	<b>LAUREL FORK CREEK</b> and tributaries beginning at cable crossing 1/2 mile upstream from Dennis Cove Recreation Area and extending upstream	No	No	3			
	<b>GEE CREEK</b> and tributaries in Polk County	No	No	3			
	<b>WOLF CREEK</b> and tributaries in Polk County	No	No	3			
	<b>BEAVERDAM CREEK</b> and tributaries from its confluence with Birch Branch downstream to Tank Hollow Road (USFS Rd. 300)	No	No	3			
	<b>PAINT CREEK</b> and tributaries in Greene Co. from USFS campground upstream to US Forest Service boundary line south of Hwy 70 near Munday Gap	No	No	3			
	<b>ROCKY FORK</b> and tributaries	No	No	7 trout, only 3 Brook trout			
	<b>HIGGINS CREEK</b> and tributaries	No	No				
	<b>SQUIBB CREEK</b>	No	No				
	<b>SARVIS COVE</b>	No	No				
	<b>DRY CREEK</b> and tributaries (Greene Co.) upstream from US Forest Service boundary	No	No				
	<b>SYCAMORE CREEK</b> and tributaries	No	No				
	<b>ROUGH RIDGE CREEK</b> and tributaries	No	No				
	<b>LITTLE JACOB CREEK</b> (Sullivan Co.)	No	No	7 trout, only 3 Brook trout			
	<b>LEFT PRONG HAMPTON CREEK</b> (Carter Co.)	No	No				
	<b>SLICKROCK CREEK</b> that portion which constitutes boundary between NC and TN	No	No	4	All trout 7"		
	<b>CALDERWOOD RESERVOIR</b> (limblines and trotlines prohibited)	No	No	7	None	24 hrs.	All
	<b>ALL OTHER STREAMS IN CHEROKEE WMA</b> (not listed above)	No	No	7	Gen. Reg.	24 hrs.	All

\*The possession of fishing equipment and/or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.

\*\*Handicap - Any person who is mentally or physically impaired (including blindness) because of injury or disease, congenital or acquired, which permanently renders him/her so severely disabled as to be unable to move without aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or a person who has 80% permanent impairment of a hand or arm as determined by a physician using standards outlined in the "Guide to Evaluation of Permanent Rating," published by the AMA or other accepted rating system.



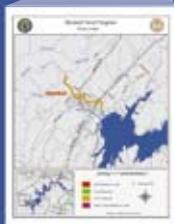
# CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

## Where Does TWRA Stock Trout?



Finally an answer.

Go online at [tnwildlife.org](http://tnwildlife.org) to get a map of every stream, tailwater, lake or pond where TWRA stocks trout.



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The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation's (TDEC) Division of Water Pollution Control issues advisories for the consumption of fish from certain Tennessee waters. The following information is subject to change and was copied from TDEC's site. Concerned individuals should visit TDEC's site for more information about these advisories, bacteriological advisories, and tips on how to reduce risks from contaminated fish.

Contact your local TWRA office or TDEC's Water Pollution Control office at (615) 532-0699 and <http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/advisories.pdf> for specific information regarding aquatic contaminants or affected waters.

### Fish Tissue Advisories (April 2007. This list is subject to revision)

Stream	County	Portion	Polutant	Comments
<b>West Tennessee</b>				
Loosahatchie River	Shelby	Mile 0.0 - 20.9	Chlordane, other Organics, Mercury	Fish should not be eaten.
McKellar Lake	Shelby	Entirety	Chlordane, other Organics, Mercury	Fish should not be eaten.
Mississippi River	Shelby	MS state line to just downstream of Meeman-Shelby State Park	Chlordane, other Organics, Mercury	Fish should not be eaten, commercial fishing prohibited by TWRA.
Nonconnah Creek	Shelby	Mile 0.0 - 1.8	Chlordane, other Organics	Fish should not be eaten, advisory ends at Horn Lake road bridges
Wolf River	Shelby	Mile 0.0 - 18.9	Chlordane, other Organics, Mercury	Fish should not be eaten.
<b>Middle Tennessee</b>				
Woods Reservoir	Franklin	Entirety	PCBs	Catfish should not be eaten.
Buffalo River	Humphreys, Perry	Mouth upstream to Highway 438	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for smallmouth bass.*
<b>East Tennessee</b>				
Boone Reservoir	Sullivan, Washington	Entirety	PCBs, Chlordane	Precautionary advisory for carp and catfish.*
Chattanooga Creek	Hamilton	Mouth to GA State line	PCBs, Chlorade	Fish should not be eaten.
East Fork of Poplar Creek and Poplar Creek Embayment	Anderson, Roane	Mile 0.0 - 15.0	Mercury, PCBs	Fish should not be eaten, also avoid contact with water.
Emory River	Roane, Morgan	Highway 27 upstream to Camp Austin Road Bridge	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for all fish.*
Fort Loudon Reservoir	Loudon, Knox, Blount	Entirety	PCBs	Commercial fishing for catfish prohibited; catfish, largemouth bass over two pounds, or any largemouth bass from the Little River Embayment should not be eaten.
Hiwassee River	Meigs, McMinn, Bradley	Highway 58 upstream to railroad bridge upstream of Highway 11	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for largemouth bass.*
Holston River	Sullivan, Hawkins	Mouth of Poor Valley Creek Embayment upstream to confluence of the North and South Forks of the Holston	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for all fish.*
Melton Hill Reservoir	Knox, Anderson	Entirety	PCBs	Catfish should not be eaten.
Nickjack Reservoir	Hamilton, Marion	Entirety	PCBs	Precautionary advisory for catfish.*
Norris Reservoir	Anderson, Union, Claiborne, Grainger	Clinch River portion (Powell River not included)	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for largemouth bass.*
North Fork Holston River	Sullivan, Hawkins	Mile 0.0 - 6.2	Mercury	Fish should not be eaten. Advisory goes to TN/VA state line.
South Holston Reservoir	Sullivan	Portion in TN	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for largemouth bass.*
Tellico Reservoir	Loudon, Monroe	Entirety	PCBs, Mercury	Catfish should not be eaten.
Watauga Reservoir	Carter, Johnson	Entirety	Mercury	Precautionary advisory for largemouth bass and channel catfish.*
Watts Bar Reservoir	Roane, Meigs, Rhea, Loudon	TN River portion	PCBs	Catfish, striped bass, and hybrid striped bass should not be eaten. Precautionary advisory for white bass, sauger, carp, smallmouth buffalo, and largemouth bass.*
Watts Bar Reservoir	Roane, Anderson	Clinch River Arm	PCBs	Striped bass should not be eaten, precautionary advisory for catfish and sauger.*

\*Precautionary Advisory - Children, pregnant women, and nursing mothers should not eat the fish species named. All other persons should limit consumption of the named species to one meal per month.

# HARVESTING & RELEASING GUIDELINES

**M**any anglers carefully release their catch rather than taking it home. This effort has contributed greatly to the quality of fishing in Tennessee. Likewise, keeping fish (harvest) at the right times contributes to fishing quality. Here are some things to consider as you decide whether to keep or release fish.

## RELEASING FISH

A poorly handled fish will most likely die after it swims away, even if it appears healthy. If you choose to release a fish, help it by following these tips that apply to all species:

- ◆ Don't play the fish to exhaustion.
- ◆ Release the fish quickly.
- ◆ If the fish swallows the hook or lure simply cut the line.
- ◆ Keep the fish in the water as much as possible.
- ◆ Keep the fish's slime coat intact by wetting your hands or gear that will touch the fish.
- ◆ Take pictures, but do not hold a fish out of water longer than you can hold your breath.

**Bait fishing** with circle hooks can greatly improve the survival of released fish. These hooks are designed to only hook fish in the mouth.



Circle hook

Circle hooks reduce the number of gut-hooked fish and have been shown to greatly increase survival of smallmouth bass, striped bass, and trout. Rather than a quick hook set, when using circle hooks slowly pull the line tight to set the hook.

**Use of artificial baits** over live bait can also increase survival. Artificial lures generally hook fish in the mouth. Live bait is more likely to be swallowed by fish, which is much more lethal than mouth hooking. Anglers may also enjoy the challenge of learning to catch fish on the wide variety of artificial baits.

Fish caught from deep water may be depressurized. Common symptoms include over-inflated swim bladders, red coloration in fins, and the inability to submerge when released. If you routinely fish deep water, you should know how to handle these fish.

- ◆ Do not attempt to deflate the fish's swim bladder with a needle (fizzing).
- ◆ Quickly release the fish; many will return to their depth of capture on their own.
- ◆ If the fish cannot submerge on its own, use a weighted releasing device to help it return to its depth of capture.



**Striped Bass** are stocked in many of Tennessee's large reservoirs to provide trophy fishing opportunities. Striped bass are extremely sensitive to warm temperatures. Water temperature is key to deciding how and when to release striped bass. Here are a few guidelines:

- ◆ Harvest fish if water temperature exceeds 70°F. Striped bass have high oxygen requirements and survival is low for fish returned to warmer water. Larger fish are more likely to die from oxygen deprivation than smaller fish.
- ◆ Do not cull striped bass. If water temperatures are above 70 °F, keep your legal number of fish for the day. Do not keep fishing after you have caught your limit.
- ◆ Use circle hooks to avoid gut-hooking fish; sizes 9/0 and 10/0 are recommended.
- ◆ Reel striped bass in as fast as possible and do not play to exhaustion. Release as quickly as possible.
- ◆ Handle quickly with wet hands and hold fish by the lip with tail pointed directly toward the ground.



## COVERAGE UP TO \$10,000 ON FISHING EQUIPMENT.

# METHODS OTHER THAN ROD & REEL

## TROTTLINES, LIMBLINES AND JUGS

Trotlines consist of a main line with drop lines to which single hooks are attached. Drop lines must not be closer than 24 inches. Nongame fish, except paddlefish, may be taken without limit; game fish, except catfish, may not be taken. There is no limit on catfish, except only 1 fish may exceed 34 inches.

Trotlines, limblines and jugs must be tagged and/or marked with the owner's name and address. Trotlines attached to the bank must be tagged on the line within five feet of the bank. Other trotlines must be tagged within five feet of either end, and floating trotlines must be marked on floats. The holder of a sport fishing license may use one or more trotlines not having a combination of more than 100 hooks. Limblines (including yo-yos) must be tagged above water level and are allowed only one hook per line. Sport anglers are limited to 25 limblines. Sport anglers are limited to 50 jugs or blocks and each with only one hook.

Trotlines, limblines and jugs must be run at least once each day and are prohibited within 1,000 yards below any TVA or Corps of Engineers dam. Trotlines may not be set within 100 yards of the mouth of any river, creek or slough.

### EXCEPTIONS:

**Allen Branch Pond and Chilhowee (McKamy) Pond in Cherokee WMA** - Closed to jugs and trotlines.

### Bards Lake on Land Between the Lakes

- Closed to trotlines and limblines. Jugs permitted from October 1-March 21.

### Beech River Watershed Development

**Authority** - 20 jugs or blocks per boat. Trotlines prohibited.

### Calderwood

- Trotlines and limblines prohibited.

### Danville Railroad Bridge Dikes

- Trotlines prohibited within 50 yards of dikes.

### Indian Boundary Lake

- Closed to trotlines, jugs and limblines.

### New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbor

- 10 jugs or blocks per angler. Trotlines prohibited.

### Norris Reservoir

- From January 1 through April 30, trotlines, limblines and jugs are prohibited between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Powell River arm and Between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Clinch River arm.

### TWRA Lakes

- 10 jugs or blocks per boat daily except, from April 1-September 30, jug fishing is not allowed on Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Trotlines and limblines prohibited. **Exception: No jugging allowed on Gibson County Lake.**

## SLAT BASKETS

Holders of annual sport fishing license, Sportsman License, Lifetime Sportsman License, Jr. Fishing license, Lifetime Senior Citizens license or residents 65 and over (prior to March 1,

1991) or under 13 may fish with one slat basket, provided the slat basket is marked with a metal tag, obtainable from the TWRA for an annual fee of \$8.00. Possession or use of more than one slat basket is prohibited. A slat basket is defined as a device used for taking nongame fish and catfish only. Slat baskets may have only one outside funnel opening and must be made of wood, plastic or cane slats which are placed lengthwise and so constructed that there must be a minimum of four openings in the catching area, each being at least 1-1/2" wide and 6" long. **Fish taken may not be sold.**

Slat baskets may not be set within 100 yards of the mouth of any river, creek or slough.

Applications for metal tags can be obtained by writing to: Administrative Services, TWRA, P. O. Box 40747, Nashville, TN 37204. If you are applying in person and need directions to the TWRA central office, call 615-781-6585.

## GRABBLING, GIGGING, GRAB HOOKS, SNAGGING, TUBBING, ARCHERY, CROSSBOW, SPEARGUN, DIPPING AND CAST NETTING

Nongame fish, except paddlefish, may be taken without limit; game fish, except catfish, may not be taken. Season open year round in all waters except:

A. where closed to fishing or expressly prohibited.



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# METHODS OTHER THAN ROD & REEL

- B. within 100 yards below dams. At Pickwick Dam the closed area extends downstream to the first moorage cell across from ramp.
- C. at John Sevier Steam Plant the discharge channel is closed.

*B and C do not apply to cast netting or dipping.*

**Cast nets** must be no more than 10 feet in radius with a mesh size no smaller than one quarter inch, and no larger than one inch on the square.

**Gigging** is prohibited in Bedford, Giles, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, and Wayne counties. Snagging, grabbling, grabhooks, tubing, archery, speargun, dipping, and cast nets are legal methods in these counties.

**Gigging** is closed on the East Fork of the Obey River and its tributaries from Jan. 1 - Apr. 30.

**Snagging** is prohibited year round on the South Holston tailwater (from South Holston Dam to the headwaters of Boone Reservoir), Center Hill Reservoir, and the Cumberland Fossil Plant discharge channel into Barkley Reservoir.

**Grabbling, gigging, grab hooks, snagging, tubing, archery, crossbow, speargun and dipping is prohibited on the following waters from Jan. 1-Apr. 30:**

- ♦ **Norris Reservoir** - between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and the Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Powell River arm and between River Mile

137 (Point 31) and the Hwy. 25E Bridge on the Clinch River arm

- ♦ **Elk River in Carter County** - from the Hwy. 321 Bridge downstream to River Mile 3.0 (Point 11) on the Elk River arm of Watauga Reservoir
- ♦ **Doe Creek** - Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek
- ♦ **Roan Creek** - Mountain Lakes Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek.
- ♦ **Watauga River** - NC state line downstream to end of Cownstown Road

## MINNOW TRAPS AND SEINES

A legal minnow trap shall not have a mouth opening or openings that exceeds 1-1/2 inches in diameter. A legal minnow seine is a net having mesh size no greater than three-eighths inch on the square and no longer than 10 feet.

The catching of minnows for the purpose of sale in Cannon, Lincoln, Macon, Moore, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale counties is prohibited. The possession limit on minnows is 250 per person in Lincoln and Moore counties and 150 per person in Cannon, Macon, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale counties.

It is unlawful to sell, take for sale or offer for sale, Horneyhead (Stoneroller) minnows in Carter, Unicoi, Washington, Johnson, Morgan, and Sullivan counties.

## SHAD TRAWLING

Season is open year round. All waters are open except within 1,000 yards below any dam. Only threadfin or gizzard shad may be taken. A legal trawl is one having a mesh size no larger than 1- inch, a hoop diameter no larger than 48 inches, and a net length no longer than 72 inches. Fish taken may not be sold.

## TURTLES

A sport fishing license is required and only the common snapping turtle may be taken. Turtles taken by sport fishing methods may not be sold.

Common snapping turtles may be taken by all legal sport fishing methods except archery, spearguns and dipping. Daily limit is 5 with a minimum legal length of 12 inches. (Length is determined by measuring the upper shell from front to back.) Sport fishermen may also take snapping turtles by the use of up to three hoop nets, with minimum net size of three inches on the square in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Stewart, Tipton, and Weakley counties. Each net must be marked with the name and address of the owner. Each net must be set so that a portion of the catch area is above the water.

No turtle may be possessed while afield which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or length cannot be determined.

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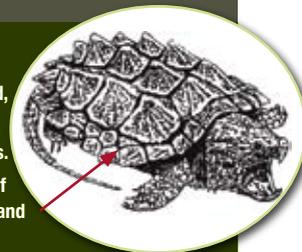


## ATTENTION ANGLERS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is conducting an alligator snapping turtle restoration project in West Tennessee which involves the release of live alligator snapping turtles. Both adult and juvenile turtles have been released to restore this rare, native species. **Alligator snapping turtles are listed in Tennessee as In Need of Management and are illegal to take.**

### ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE

- » Alligator snapping turtles have three large prominent ridges along the back, a large head, and a prominently hooked beak.
- » Often reaches weights in excess of 30 pounds.
- » Alligator snapping turtles have an extra row of scutes (scales) between the outer scale row and the large center scales.



### COMMON SNAPPING TURTLE

- » Common snapping turtles have a smoother, rounded shell (especially as adults) without the three ridges, and a smaller head and weakly hooked beak.
- » Rarely exceeds 30 pounds.
- » Common snapping turtles do not have the extra row of scutes (scales) between the outer scale row and large central scales.



For more information or to report sightings of alligator snapping turtles contact TWRA at 731.423.5725 or write to 200 Lowell Thomas Dr. Jackson TN 38301

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# IDENTIFYING YOUR FISH

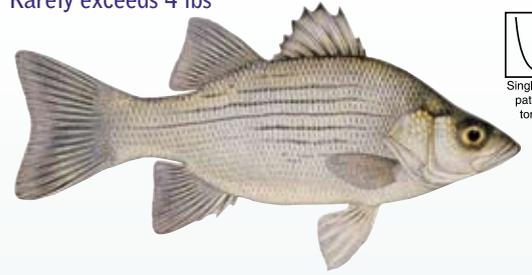
**STRIPED BASS**



Tooth patch on tongue is distinctly split

**WHITE BASS**

Rarely exceeds 4 lbs



Single tooth patch on tongue

**CHEROKEE OR HYBRID BASS**

(Striped Bass x White Bass)



Tooth patch on tongue is mostly split

**YELLOW BASS**

no tooth patch



**ROCK BASS/REDEYE**



5 anal spines

**SPOTTED BASS**

shallow notch



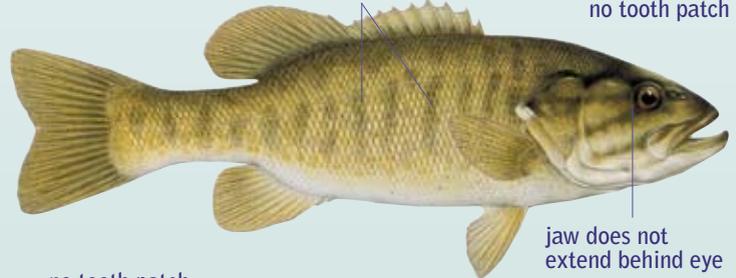
Single tooth patch on tongue

jaw does not extend behind eye

**SMALLMOUTH BASS**

vertical bars

no tooth patch



jaw does not extend behind eye

**LARGEMOUTH BASS**

deep notch

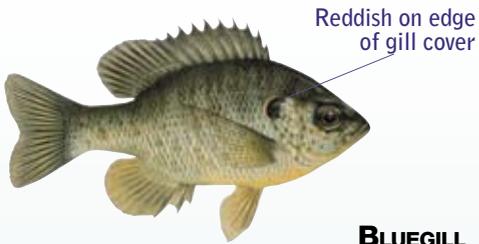
no tooth patch



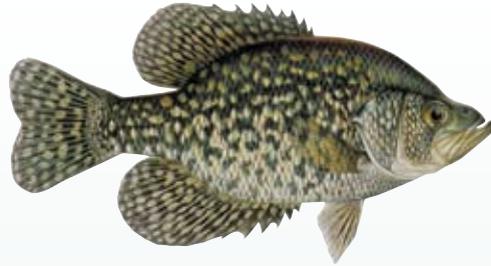
jaw extends behind eye

# IDENTIFYING YOUR FISH

**REDEAR SUNFISH/SHELLCRACKER**



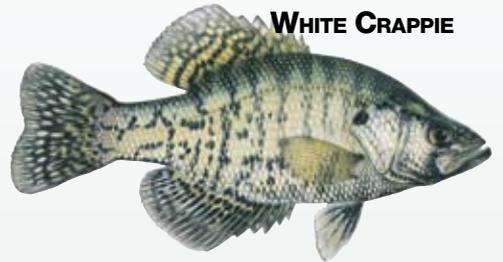
**BLACK CRAPPIE**



**BLUEGILL**



**WHITE CRAPPIE**



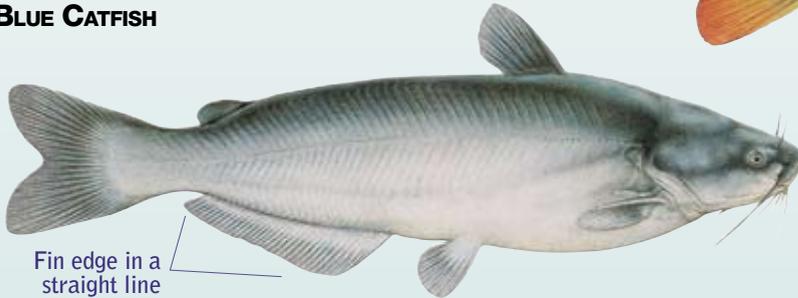
**FRESHWATER DRUM**



**COMMON CARP**



**BLUE CATFISH**



**CHANNEL CATFISH**



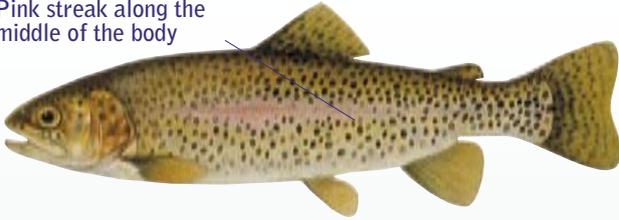
**FLATHEAD CATFISH**



# IDENTIFYING YOUR FISH

## RAINBOW TROUT

Pink streak along the middle of the body

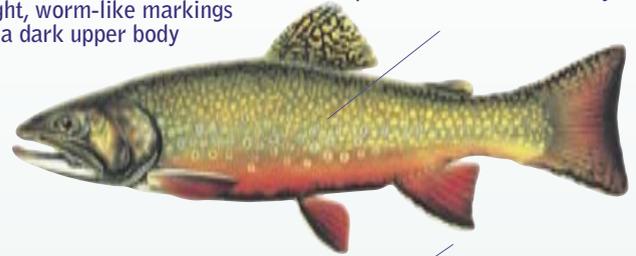


Small black dots throughout the body that extend into the bottom of the tail

## BROOK TROUT

Light, worm-like markings on a dark upper body

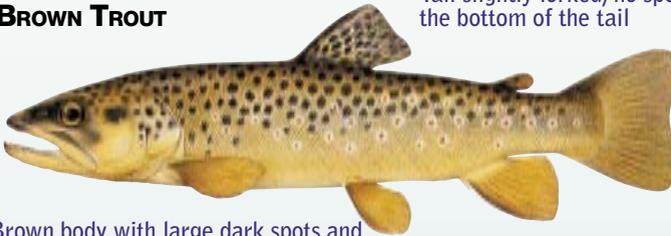
Red, yellow or orange spots on the sides and belly



Tricolor lower fins, leading edge is white followed by black and red

## BROWN TROUT

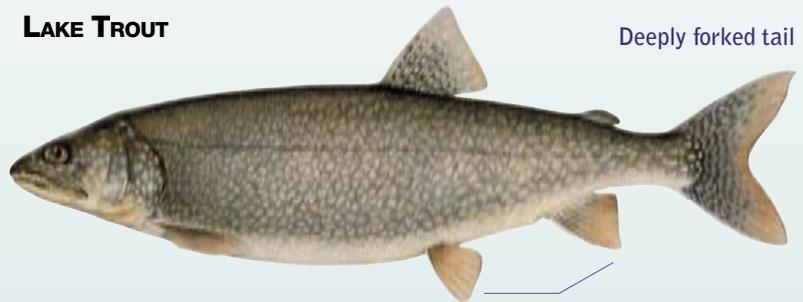
Tail slightly forked, no spots on the bottom of the tail



Brown body with large dark spots and reddish dots, many having halos

## LAKE TROUT

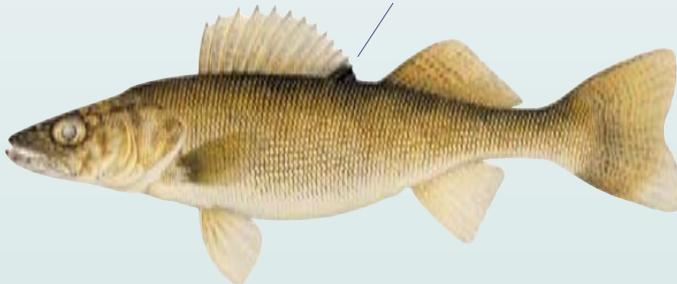
Deeply forked tail



White leading edge on lower fins

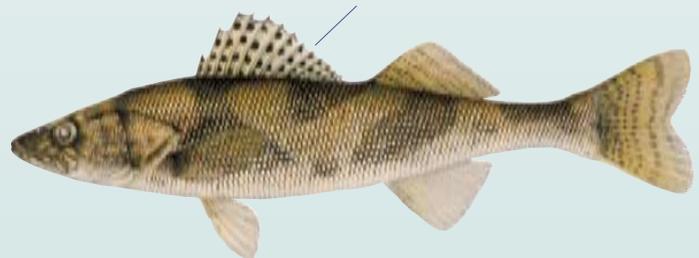
## WALLEYE

dark area at base of dorsal fin



## SAUGER

round spots on dorsal fin



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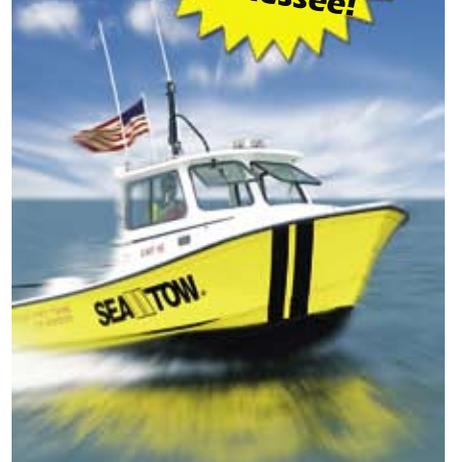


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## LOCATION

Once you learn the ideal depth, you must then learn the best location in the area of the lake you're fishing at that depth. It could be a point, a ledge, a high spot, a sloping bank, or it could be emerged, like a boat dock, bushes, vegetation or standing timber. It's important to remember whatever depth and location you fish, it should have deeper water close by. Note, I didn't say deep water. All we're talking about here is what the majority of fish are doing at the same time in a preferred depth and location.

## PRESENTATION

Now, let's discuss that other key word: presentation. Once a depth and location are found, naturally you'll have to select a lure that can be fished effectively there. Regardless of what lure you choose, a worm, crankbait, grub, spinnerbait or whatever, it must be fished in a way that's most appealing, especially when bass are inactive.

If you think about it, most of the time we're on the water, the bass' activity level is inactive or neutral more often than it's active. When they're feeding ... fishing can be fantastic, but when the action is slow, precise presentations are a must for success.

One thing I'd like to point out about lure presentation is when bass are really aggressive, your presentation doesn't have to be perfect. However, it should be presented to represent life. You want to make it look alive in a natural way.

You'll find that most underwater creatures don't

skip, jump, hop and speed around. Their movements are basically slow unless, of course, something big is hot on their trail.

Here's something else that might surprise you. If you only knew the number of bass that actually see your lure and pay little attention to it, it would absolutely blow your mind.

The disappointing fact is that most of the time, bass really don't want our bait, unless we fish the best location and present our offering just right. This is why it's so important to present it in a way that's most appealing. This takes patience, imagination and concentration.

Since we're discussing lure presentations, let me ask you this question. How many times have you been fishing with a buddy, using the same bait, same color and size, but the results were not the same? It happens all the time. Most of us think to ourselves that he's fishin' the best spots, or it's just bad luck. However, there's usually a solid answer to this question.

This is particularly true in bass fishing. By presentation I mean the way in which the bait is offered. Are you moving it too slow? Not slow enough? Too fast? Or not fast enough? Bass are finicky little creatures, and they are even more so when they're inactive.

You must establish a rhythm for that time, but keep in mind that can change from time to time and also in different locations.

Let me tell you, there's a lot more involved in your presentation than just blowin' and a-goin' down

the lake, chunking a lure here and there. It's very important to put some thought into every move you make.

When a good fisherman catches a fish, he immediately begins a mental game. What just happened here? Exactly where did the fish hit in relation to the cover? How deep was he? Did the hit occur as I changed lure speeds, or when I let it fall, rise or flutter?

Was the fish on the windy side of the cover, the outside edge or backside? How far was my cast? Do I need to reposition my boat? Am I too close or not close enough?

Good anglers can put all the pieces of this sport together quickly, and this is why they catch the majority of the fish. They analyze it all: why the bass hit, how and where it hit.

There's one thing I've learned over the years about this great sport. You can't buy, borrow, charge or steal fishing success. Success is based solely on knowledge and experience.

Good anglers work and study hard to be consistent; but even then, they're never 100 percent successful, regardless of how much they know. But you can bet those who have lots of experience, knowledge and confidence, will fish more carefully, more thoroughly, more efficiently, more comfortably; therefore, more successfully. In the end, they'll catch a lot more fish, especially if they never forget just how important those three key words are: depth, location and presentation. ✖

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## NEW SPORTS TECHNOLOGY

# New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

**Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.**

**Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.**

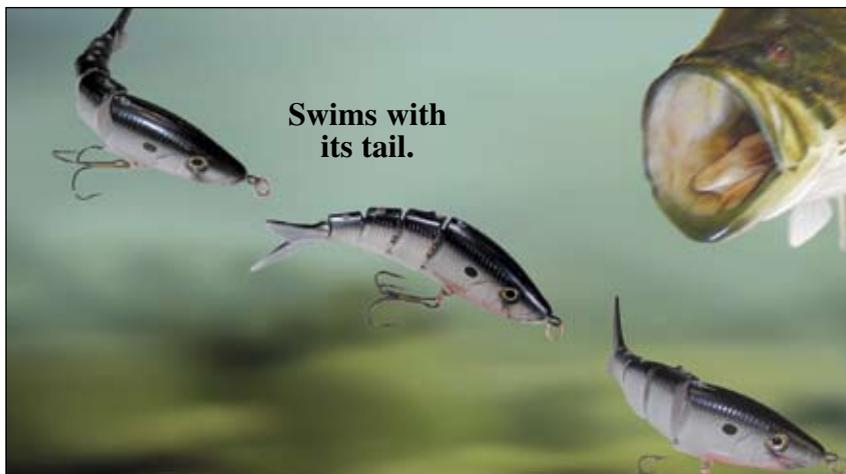
ORLANDO, FL— A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.



by Charlie Allen

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The KickTail®) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait). The four using the KickTail caught 41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail won 19 to 4. The



**New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.**

KickTail also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike.

The KickTail's magic comes from a patented technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known principle called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.

"Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail doesn't do is breathe. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail. It's like having another potato chip."

Whether you fish for fun or KTS-8

profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/h is only \$7.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call **1-800-873-4415** (Ask for item # kt), or click **www.ngc sports.com** anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept. KT-1272) 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

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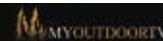
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<b>NPT</b>	Nashville Public Television - Sat, at 6:30 PM, Sun. at 9 AM
<b>WKNO</b>	Channel 10, Memphis, TN - Sat. at 2:30 and on their digital tier channel Wed. at 10 AM on WKNO-2 and Channel 910 (Comcast digital cable)
<b>ETP</b>	East TN Public Television (Channels 2 & 15), Knoxville, TN - Sat. at 6 PM EST
<b>WCTE</b>	Channel 22, Cookeville, TN - Sat. at 5:30 PM
<b>WLJT</b>	Channel 11, Martin, TN - Fri. at 10 PM
<b>i LifeTV</b>	Inspirational Life Television - Mon. and Fri. at 3:30 AM, Sat. at 1:00 PM EST
<b>WTCI</b>	Channel 45 DT29, Chattanooga, TN - Fri. at 8:30 PM, Sat. at 4:30 PM, Sun. at 12:30 PM EST and on their digital tier channel daily at 8 AM EST

Watch episodes of Tennessee's Wild Side on [MyOutdoorTV.com](http://MyOutdoorTV.com)



# TENNESSEE ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**T**he Tennessee Angler Recognition Program (TARP) gives anglers an opportunity to have their trophy-size fish recognized by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Anglers of any age, who catch large fish that meet or exceed qualifying lengths, can apply. The TWRA Fisheries Management Division sends these accomplished anglers TARP certificates featuring color reproductions of fish artwork by renowned wildlife artist Joseph R. Tomelleri.

The program is designed to acknowledge anglers for outstanding sportfishing accomplishments, to encourage catch and release of trophy size fish and to provide the TWRA with information on large fish caught throughout the state.

Not to be confused with the State Record Fish program, TARP recognizes anglers who catch trophy-size fish that are not necessarily state records.

## TROPHY FISH/MASTER ANGLER CERTIFICATES

TARP features four levels of angler recognition. Anglers catching a fish that meets or exceeds the minimum “trophy” length requirements will receive a Trophy Fish certificate. These certificates feature Tomelleri artwork representing the species caught by the applicant. After anglers submit five trophy-size fish, in any combination, a Master Angler Level I certificate and patch will be awarded at no cost to the angler. Anglers submitting five different trophy-size fish will receive a Master Angler Level II certificate and patch. The Master Angler Level III will be awarded to anglers submitting ten different trophy-size fish. In addition to a certificate and patch, the angler will receive a “tackle package,” courtesy of Bass Pro Shops - Sevierville.

## HOW DO YOU QUALIFY?

- ◆ The fish must meet or exceed the minimum Trophy Fish Length listed on the right of this page.
- ◆ Persons 13 years of age and older must be licensed anglers and must provide their license number (TWRA #) on the application.
- ◆ The fish must be caught legally (in accordance with Tennessee Sportfishing Regulations) in Tennessee waters, by sportfishing methods only (rod and reel or cane pole).
- ◆ The length of the fish must be verified by either a witness or a photograph. The witness must complete the section on the application and/or the photo must be of the fish lying flat on top of or beside a flat measuring rule or tape and included with the application. Be aware that photos may be used on the TWRA web site and in TWRA publications.

If you believe your catch exceeds the current state record for that species, you should immediately contact a TWRA Fisheries Biologist for positive identification of the fish and get the appropriate application. (see page 46)

## HOW DO YOU APPLY?

An application form is located on the opposite page. Complete one application form for each fish you are registering. You may include more than one application form per envelope. If the fish length is being verified by photo, the picture must be enclosed with the application. For Trophy Fish Certificate only, a \$5.00 processing fee, per application, must also be enclosed and mailed within 60 days from the date of catch. Make check or money order payable to TWRA and mail, with the application(s), to the address at the bottom of the application. The processing fee is non-refundable for non-qualifying applications. For further information about TARP or the State Record Fish program, call 615-781-6575, or visit [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org).

## MEASURING YOUR FISH

Please refer to the instructions on page 14.



## Minimum Trophy Fish Lengths

Species	Length (inches)
Largemouth Bass	22
Spotted Bass	18
Smallmouth Bass	20
Striped Bass	40
Cherokee Bass (Hybrid)	30
White Bass	18
Black Crappie	14
White Crappie	14
Bluegill	10
Redear Sunfish	11
Rock Bass	10
Sauger	20
Walleye	28
Muskellunge	40
Brook Trout	10
Brown Trout	26
Rainbow Trout	24
Lake Trout	28
Channel Catfish	30
Blue Catfish	34
Flathead Catfish	34
Common Carp	34
Freshwater Drum	28

## TENNESSEE FIRST FISH AWARD

The First Fish Award is designed to commemorate that special moment in every boy or girl's life, the landing of their first fish.



The award is an 8.5x11 certificate, suitable for framing, identifying the child, the fish caught, and other details of that special moment. Size of the fish and age of the angler have no bearing, only that the fish is their first.

Visit [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org),  
or call 615/781-6575  
for further information.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Can I use gamefish as bait?** Yes, you can use gamefish as bait provided the fish were legally harvested or purchased and you obey the daily creel and length limits.

**If I am casting from my own property while I fish, do I need a fishing license to fish in a public lake or reservoir?** Yes. You do not qualify for a landowner exemption because you do not own the waterbody that you are fishing.

**Can I stock fish?** No! Releasing fish or any other animal into a stream, river or reservoir can irreversibly ruin the fishing in that location. It is easy to imagine how an exotic species released from an aquarium could harm our native fish populations. But even the release of species such as a bass that might already live in that water body could introduce harmful viruses or diseases. For this reason only TWRA has the authority to stock public waters which includes all, even privately owned, streams and rivers, and all public lakes and reservoirs. It is illegal to stock the waters of Tennessee, and only privately owned ponds may be stocked without TWRA approval.

**Can I clean/dress my fish in any way, while on the water?** Yes. However, it is unlawful to possess while afield any fish which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or total body length cannot be determined.

**Do I need a trout license if I do not plan on keeping trout?** If you are fishing for trout, you need a trout license whether or not you possess trout.

**Do I need a fishing license to fish a private farm pond?** Yes, unless you are not required to have a license under a landowner, age, or military exemption. See "Who must have a license" section on page 9.

**What licenses are required to fish on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)?** No license is required if you are under the age of 13, or are military personnel on furlough with papers. Otherwise, you only need the proper fishing license. Generally there are no special WMA licenses required. However, a Tellico-Citico permit is required for all ages on certain waters within the Cherokee National Forest (Cherokee WMA). In addition, certain WMA's are periodically closed.

**As I was cleaning a fish, I noticed a black, white or yellow grub or worm in them. What are these and are the fish safe to eat?**

These are small parasites that are referred to as Trematodes. Commonly known as black spot, yellow grub and white grub, they are very common in many fish species in Tennessee and worldwide. The parasites have a complex life cycle that involves fish, fish eating birds and other invertebrates such as snails. While the appearance may be unappetizing, fish that are properly cleaned and completely cooked cannot transmit any parasite or disease to people who eat the fish. There is no known cure for the parasites in the wild and they usually do not affect the health of the fish except under unusual conditions.

**What is a thermocline and what effect does it have on reservoir fish populations?** As the surface water warms in the late spring, a distinct temperature gradient is formed between the warm surface water and the cool water below. This thermocline does not allow the cold water to mix with the warm, oxygenated water above. The cold water slowly loses oxygen

*(Continued on page 47)*

### TROPHY FISH APPLICATION FORM

FORM MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY. PLEASE PRINT.

Angler's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you qualify for a Master Angler Award?  Yes  No  
 Fishing License Number (TWRA #): \_\_\_\_\_

**FISH INFORMATION:** KIND OF FISH (SPECIES): \_\_\_\_\_ DATE CAUGHT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Length of fish (to the nearest 1/4 inch): \_\_\_\_\_ Body of Water Where Caught: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bait:  Natural  Artificial Type of Water:  Pond  Reservoir/Lake  River/Stream  
 Was the fish released?  Yes  No Length Certification: (A or B)

**A. Witness Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Photo:** Print your name, birth date, and fish species on back of photo and enclose with application. Photos become property of TWRA and are not returned. Photos may be used in publications.

(Angler sign here) I, \_\_\_\_\_ hereby affirm that the above information is true and in taking this fish I complied with all state fishing regulations and rules of the Tennessee Angler Recognition Program and that the witness actually witnessed the measuring of the fish and/or the photo is accurate and was not altered in any way.

Enclose a check or money order for \$5.00 payable to TWRA and mail to:

**TARP**  
**Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency**  
**P.O. Box 41729**  
**Nashville, TN 37204**



WR-0831

# STATE RECORD FISH

## HOW TO BE CONSIDERED FOR A STATE RECORD FISH

The following criteria must be followed when applying for a state record certificate:

- 1) The fish must be weighed on certified scales.
- 2) Two witnesses, one of which must be the scale operator/owner, must sign the application certifying they have observed the declared weight.
- 3) It is the responsibility of the angler to contact a TWRA Fisheries Biologist for positive identification of the fish. The fish should be frozen until positively identified.
- 4) Only two hybrid classifications, the Cherokee Bass (striped bass x white bass) and the saugeye (walleye x sauger), will be considered for a state record certificate.
- 5) The completed application must be forwarded to the TWRA Fisheries Management Division within 30 days of the catch in order to be considered for a state record certificate.

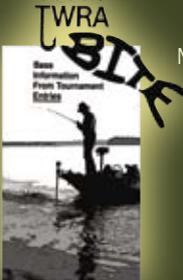
## ARE YOU A BASS TOURNAMENT ANGLER?

- ◆ What is the average size bass weighed in for tournaments?
- ◆ How many hours does it take tournament anglers to catch a 5 pound bass?
- ◆ What lake in Tennessee has the highest bass catch rate for tournament anglers?
- ◆ How many bass does the average tournament angler catch?

If you would like to know the answers to these questions and more, have your bass club join the TWRA B.I.T.E. program!

### BITE Program

Tennessee Wildlife  
Resources Agency  
Fisheries  
Management Division  
P.O. Box 40747  
Nashville, TN 37204  
(615) 781-6577  
or  
[www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org)



## TENNESSEE ANGLING RECORDS as of November 28, 2007 CLASS A - Sport Fishing Methods

	COMMON NAME	WEIGHT	LOCATION	ANGLER	DATE
BLACK BASS	Coosa (Redeye) Bass	1 lb. 15 oz.	Parksville Reservoir	Harry E. Parker	August 18, 1991
	Smallmouth*	11 lbs. 15 oz.	Dale Hollow Reservoir	D. L. Hayes	July 9, 1955
	Largemouth	14 lbs. 8 oz.	Sugar Creek (Lawrence Co.)	James "Logue" Barnett	October 17, 1954
TRUE BASS	Spotted	5 lbs. 8 oz.	Center Hill Reservoir	Gary Martin	February 4, 1989
	Striped Bass (rockfish)	65 lbs. 6 oz.	Cordell Hull Reservoir	Ralph H. Dallas	May 1, 2000
TROUT	Cherokee (Hybrid)	23 lbs. 3 oz.	Stones River	Ray Pelfrey	April 17, 1998
	White	5 lbs. 10 oz.	Mississippi River	Bill Nelson	September 29, 2003
	Yellow*	2 lbs. 9 oz.	Duck River (near Waverly, TN)	John T. Chappell	February 27, 1998
CRAPPIE	Brook	3 lbs. 14 oz.	Hiwassee River	Jerry Wills	August 15, 1973
	Brown	28 lbs. 12 oz.	Clinch River	Greg Ensor	August 30, 1988
	Cutthroat (Dale Hollow tailwater)	6 oz.	Obey River	Philip Neyman	June 1, 1969
	Rainbow	16 lbs. 15 oz.	Ft. Patrick Henry Reservoir	Ronnie Rowland	September 6, 2002
PERCH	Ohrid*	14 lbs. 5 oz.	Watauga Reservoir	Richard Lynn Carter	March 28, 1986
	Lake	20 lbs. 1 oz.	Watauga Reservoir	Eddy Southerland	April 2, 1994
	Black	4 lbs. 4 oz.	Brown's Creek Lake	Clyde Freeman	March 23, 1985
PIKE	White	5 lbs. 1 oz.	Garner Brown's Pond, Dickson County	Bill Allen	April 20, 1968
	Yellow (Tie)	1 lb. 15 oz.	Hiwassee River	Danny Casson	Dec. 6, 1992
		1 lb. 15 oz.	Melton Hill	David C. Lyons	August 25, 1996
	Sauger	7 lbs. 6 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir (Pickwick tailwater)	Rayford D. Voss	February 19, 1973
SUNFISH	Saugeye	10 lbs. 12 oz.	Melton Hill Reservoir	Chris Vittetoe	July 18, 1998
	Walleye*	25 lbs.	Old Hickory Reservoir	Mabry Harper	August 3, 1960
	Northern	24 lbs. 8 oz.	South Holston Reservoir	Frank Childers	March 28, 1995
CATFISH	Muskellunge	42 lbs. 8 oz.	Norris Reservoir	Kyle F. Edwards	April 27, 1983
	Chain Pickerel	7 lbs. 7 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Burke Williams	February 2, 1991
	Grass (Redfin) Pickerel			No Entry	
	Bluegill (Tie)	3 lbs.	Farm Pond, Bledsoe Co.	Brad Pendergrass	December 19, 1987
		3 lbs.	Fall Creek Falls Creek	Thelma Grissom	June 27, 1977
	Pumpkinseed	5 oz.	Dogwood Lake	Lynn Middleton	June 14, 1998
	Green	1 lb. 4 oz.	North Cross Creek	Dwight M. Lehman	June 8, 1991
	Longear	13 oz.	Pond, Overton Co.	Kay Forsberg	May 15, 1985
	Redbreast	1 lb. 5 oz.	Holston River	R. W. Gillespie	June 22, 1974
	Redear	3 lbs. 6 oz.	Private Pond	Annelise S. Houston	September 1, 1979
CARP	Rock Bass	2 lbs. 8 oz.	Stones River	Bill Sanford	1958
	Warmouth	1 lb. 12 oz.	Nolichucky River	Frank E. Garrett	May 26, 1984
	Flier	8 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Craig Ellis	June 8, 2001
	Orangespotted	5 oz.	Nolichucky River	Donald Daryl Fox	May 30, 1982
	Channel	41 lbs.	Fall Creek Falls Lake	Clint Walters, Jr.	July 30, 1982
	Blue	112 lbs.	Lock C, Cumberland River	Robert E. Lewis	June 7, 1998
	Flathead	85 lbs. 15 oz.	Hiwassee River	Larry Kaylor	July 25, 1993
BUFFALO	Black Bullhead	3 lbs. 6 oz.	Emberton's Pond, Cannon Co.	Hunter Chance Gaither	February 20, 1997
	Brown Bullhead	2 lbs. 14 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	John Thomas Hammond	June 5, 1980
	Yellow Bullhead	4 lbs. 8 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	Jessie R. Johnson	April 21, 1979
GAR	Bighead*	90 lbs. 0 oz.	Guntersville Reservoir	Jeffrey J. Rorex	June 2, 2005
	Common	53 lbs.	Marrowbone Lake	John R. Pepper, Jr.	May 21, 1997
	Goldfish			No Entry	
	Silver			No Entry	
GAR	Grass	70 lbs.	Guntersville Reservoir (Nickajack tailwater)	Chad A. Killian	June 4, 2005
	Bigmouth	52 lbs. 2 oz.	Percy Priest Reservoir	Greg Megibben	April 6, 2001
	Black	55 lbs. 8 oz.	Cherokee Reservoir	Ed H. McLain	May 3, 1984
GAR	Smallmouth	62 lbs. 7 oz.	Percy Priest Reservoir	Jerry W. Young	April 28, 2001
	Longnose	38 lbs. 3 oz.	Barkley Reservoir	Mathew A. Norton	April 19, 2002
	Shortnose	6 lbs. 6 oz.	Kentucky Reservoir	Kay Lynn Butterfield	June 15, 2001
GAR	Spotted	9 lbs. 5 oz.	Cross Creeks	Victor Robinson	June 27, 1999

# STATE RECORD FISH

	COMMON NAME	WEIGHT	LOCATION	ANGLER	DATE
REDHORSE	Black			No Entry	
	Blacktail			No Entry	
	Golden	2 lbs. 9 oz.	Elk River	K. Daniel Boone	October 10, 1998
	River	11 lbs.	Duck River	Cliff Crowell	April 6, 1993
	Shorthead (Smallmouth)	No Entry			
	Silver	3 lbs. 7 oz.	Nolichucky River	James E. Moore	March 15, 2002
OTHER	American Eel	4 lbs. 2 oz.	Watts Bar	Larry Alvin Reynolds	August 28, 1980
	Striped Mullet			No Entry	
	Bowfin	15 lbs. 7 oz.	Reelfoot Lake	Charles Aaron	June 22, 1983
	Paddlefish	75 lbs.	Center Hill Reservoir	Shane S. Henry	April 28, 1984
	Shovelnose Sturgeon			No Entry	
	Creek Chub (Tie)	3 oz.	Roan Creek	Danny Kurtilla	March 13, 2000
		3 oz.	White Oak Creek	Thomas R. Gould	July 23, 2003
	Central Stoneroller (Hornyhead)	10 oz.	Hiwassee River	Roy S. King	May 1, 1983
	Golden Shiner	15 oz.	Chickamauga Reservoir	Dave Littlejohn	March 26, 1999
	Gizzard Shad	1 lb., 2 oz.	Nolichucky River	Rob Lindbom	October 28, 2007
	Skipjack Herring*	4 lbs. 0 oz.	Watts Bar Reservoir	Chris Vittetoe	February 28, 2004
	Goldeye	14 oz.	Cumberland River	Harold A. Sanders	April 17, 1993
	Mooneye	1 lbs. 4 oz.	Hiwassee River	Steve D. Moss	May 5, 2005
	River Carpsucker			No Entry	
	Quillback			No Entry	
	White Sucker	1 lbs. 10 oz.	Little War Creek (Hancock Co.)	Jim Habera	April 26, 2007
	Northern Hogsucker	1 lbs. 3 oz.	Nolichucky River	Dianna Moore	January 13, 2007
	Freshwater Drum*	54 lbs. 8 oz.	Nickajack Reservoir	Benny Hull	April 20, 1972

## CLASS B - Methods other than rod and reel:

(a) trotline, (b) limblines, (c) jug, (d) slat basket, (e) grabbling, (f) grab hooks, (g) snatch hooks, (h) tubbing, (i) archery, (j) speargun, (k) dipping, (l) commercial gear.

COMMON NAME	WEIGHT	LOCATION	ANGLER	DATE
Bigmouth Buffalo	45 lbs. (i)	Nickajack Reservoir	Jerry M. Harris	June 20, 2000
Smallmouth Buffalo	64 lbs. (i)	Kentucky Reservoir	Evan Mercer	March 8, 2003
			Bobby Hensley	
			Carl Hensley	
Black Buffalo	80 lbs. (a)	Robco Lake (Shelby Co.)	Hiluard J. DeLoach	April 1, 1980
Bighead Carp	81 lbs. (g)	Cheatham Reservoir	William R. Chapman	February 21, 2003
Bowfin	21 lbs. 12 oz. (i)	Cedar Creek	Pat Johns	June 3, 1997
Common Carp	52 lbs. 14oz. (i)	Nickajack Reservoir	Allen Kimsey	July 24, 2002
River Redhorse	11 lbs. 6 oz. (f)	West Fork of Obey River	John Mark Keisling	April 28, 2007
Black Redhorse	3 lbs. 10 oz. (a)	Chilhowee Reservoir	Lewis Winters	October 26, 2007
Paddlefish	120 lbs. (g)	Center Hill Res.(Bluehole)	John T. Johnson	March 23, 1982
Flathead Catfish	92 lbs. (l)	Mississippi River	Kenneth A. Childress	November 30, 2000
			Jackie W. Stafford	
			Jerry L. Stafford	
Blue Catfish	130 lbs. (l)	Ft. Loudoun Reservoir	J. G. Garland	December 18, 1976
			Bill Norman	
			Richard Reagan	
Black Bullhead	3 lbs. 14 oz. (k)	Lakeland Trout Farm	David Tait	June 18, 1982
Longnose Gar	37 lbs. 1 oz. (i)	Chisholm Lake	Caleb Wilbanks	August 11, 2007
			Hunter Jackson	
Grass Carp	78 lbs. (i)	Nickajack Reservoir	Allen Kimsey	May 19, 2001
Shortnose Gar	8 lbs. 4 oz. (i)	Chickamauga Reservoir	Scott Simmons	April 15, 1984
Spotted Gar	10 lbs. 1 oz.(i)	Chickamauga Reservoir	David R. McClung, Sr.	April 14, 2006
Freshwater Drum	25 lbs. 7 oz. (i)	Nickajack Reservoir	Allen Kimsey	April 23, 2002
Skipjack Herring	1 lb. 6 oz. (l)	Cypress Creek	Mike Tolley	May 6, 1984
Central Stoneroller	5 oz.(g)	Doe River	Rex Timbs	November 6, 1997
Spotted Sucker	2 lbs. 10 oz. (i)	Ky. Lk.-Standing Rock Cr. Emby.	Christopher Todd	July 26, 1996
Northern Hogsucker	1 lb. 10 oz.(i)	Ky. Lk.-Standing Rock Cr.	Dale E. Brooks	Aug. 9, 1996

(\* Recognized All-Tackle World Record)



## FISH FOR POND STOCKING

TWRA provides fingerling largemouth bass and bluegill for stocking new or renovated ponds that meet minimum qualifications. To defray the cost of the program, a fee is charged, based on pond acreage. If you prefer, we can help you locate a commercial source for fish. Regardless of where you get your fish, the decision on who can or can't fish on your property is always up to the pond owner.

More information and applications are available from your local TWRA office and on the Agency's web site.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(Continued from page 45)

due to the decay of organisms and lack of photosynthesis. In certain reservoirs, the cold water loses enough oxygen during the summer that it can no longer support certain cool water species like striped bass.

**When do our reservoirs "turn over"?** Northern reservoirs experience a spring and fall "turn over", but our lakes destratify only in the fall. It occurs when the surface water cools sufficiently to mix with the cold water below. Prior to the cooling period, the warm surface water can not mix with the denser water below because of thermal stratification (see the previous question).

**What are those jelly-like masses that are attached to tree limbs, bushes and other objects in the water?** They are colonies of harmless microscopic animals called Bryozoans. They have miniature tentacles to capture prey and are permanently attached to the colony mass. Large colonies can exceed two feet in diameter, but most are less than one foot.

**How many rods or poles may an angler fish with?** There is no limit to the number of rods that can be fished in MOST of our reservoirs, but there are exceptions. Only three rods may be used when fishing for walleye in Center Hill and Dale Hollow. Also, there are certain trout waters where an angler is limited to one hand-held rod (Gatlinburg). It is always best to consult the fishing regulations for the specific water fished prior to any trip.

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