

Recent Changes to the Rules for the Permit to Sell Nongame Fish Taken from Public Fresh Water

Any permits applied for after the rule changes became effective will be authorized under the new rules.

This summary has been provided as information only; for a current copy of the rules, please go to PERMITS TO SELL NONGAME FISH TAKEN FROM PUBLIC FRESH WATER at [Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 57, Subchapter E](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=2&ch=57&sch=E&rl=Y) at: [https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=2&ch=57&sch=E&rl=Y](https://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=31&pt=2&ch=57&sch=E&rl=Y)

| Change | Date | Explanation of the Change |
|---|--------------|---|
| Permit Required for Shad Harvest for Non-commercial Use | Revised 2019 | <p>If a person is collecting shad for personal use (for use as bait or stocking in private ponds) and is transporting the shad from the public water body in a container or containers that total 30 gallons or more in volume, they will be required to get a permit. Prior to 2019, the container size was 82 quarts.</p> <p>A TPWD-licensed fishing guide who catches shad ONLY for use as a part of the guide’s services will not be required to possess a nongame fish permit. <u>A nongame fish permit and bait dealer-individual license is still required if a TWPD-licensed fishing guide is selling his catch in addition to using shad for guide services.</u></p> |
| Increase to Number of Assistants Allowed per Permit | Revised 2017 | <p>Previously, the primary permit holder was allowed to add up to two assistants to their permit. Now, the number of assistants is increased up to a maximum of eight assistants per permit. As before, assistants can only be listed on one nongame fish permit.</p> <p>Persons issued permits before April 13, 2017 can request to add up to eight total assistants by submitting the revised Permit to Possess and Sell Nongame Fish Taken from Public Waters application form (PWD-1027). The permit can be amended two times per year.</p> |
| Supervision of Assistants | Revised 2017 | <p>Assistants MUST be under the supervision of the primary permit holder while conducting activities authorized by the nongame fish permit. The rule changes more clearly define the range of the supervision.</p> <p>If fishing from a boat, the permit holder is required to be on the boat with the assistants.</p> <p>If not fishing from a boat, assistants are required to be within the line-of-sight of the permit holder.</p> |
| Restrictions on Permitted Activities in Water Bodies with Aquatic Invasive Species | Revised 2017 | <p>Given the increasing threat posed by aquatic invasive species and their spread, TPWD has imposed restrictions to minimize these risks. The rules now include restrictions on activities covered by the permit such as transfer of live fish from particular water bodies. As an example, to reduce the risk of transferring invasive species to new areas, TPWD restricts transfer of all species of live nongame fish by permit holders when zebra mussels have been repeatedly detected in a water body.</p> |

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