

2023-2024

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

FISHING REGULATIONS

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WILDLIFE

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 – AUGUST 31, 2024

2023-2024 SUMMARY OF FISHING REGULATIONS

OVERVIEW OF FISHING AND HUNTING LAWS

General Laws	19
Unlawful Activities.....	19
Personal Identification	19
Inspection Authority	19
Waste Of Game	19
Retrieval of Game and Hunting Dogs.....	19
Sale of Inedible Wildlife Parts	19
Harassment of Hunters, Trappers, or Anglers.....	19
Hunter Orange	19
Criminal Penalties and Civil Value Recovery	20
Civil Restitution	20
License Reinstatement.....	20
Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact.....	20
Operation Game Thief	20
Transfer and Importation of Wildlife Resources	20
Transfer of Wildlife and Aquatic Resources.....	20
Importation of Wildlife and Aquatic Resources.....	20

FISHING

General Regulations for Fresh and Salt Waters	21
Unlawful Activities.....	21
Legal Fishing Devices and Restrictions	22
Possession of Fish Taken from Public Water	26
Possession And Transport of Exotic Aquatic Species	26
Mandatory Draining of Water from Vessels Used on Public Fresh Waters.....	26
Fish Consumption Bans and Advisories	27
Reservoir Boundaries.....	27
Freshwater/Saltwater Boundaries	28
Special Restrictions for Alligator Gar.....	29
How to Measure Fish and Crabs.....	29
Tips for Catch-and-Release Fishing.....	29
Releasing Saltwater Fishes	29
Special Area Designations and Restrictions.....	29
Freshwater Fishing	30
General Freshwater Fishing.....	30
Harvest Regulations	30
Statewide Bag and Length Limits for Freshwater Fish	30
Exceptions to Statewide Bag and Length Limits for Freshwater Fish	31
Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations	31
Regulation Exception Codes and Descriptions for Freshwater Fish.....	33
Identification of Yellow, White, Striped, and Hybrid Striped Bass	35
Identification of Alabama, Guadalupe, Spotted, Largemouth, and Smallmouth Bass	36
Saltwater Fishing	37
General Saltwater Fishing.....	37
State Waters – Federal Waters.....	37
Bag and Length Limits for Saltwater Fish.....	37
How to Attach Red Drum Tag.....	39
Saltwater Freeze Events.....	39
Shellfish and Other Aquatic Life	39
Crab Regulations.....	39
Recreational Crabbing Devices and Restrictions	39
Crab Daily Bag, Possession and Length Limits	39

Recreational Oyster Regulations	39
Recreational Shrimping Regulations	40
Recreational Bait Shrimping (Major Bays and Bait Bays)	41
Recreational Shrimping for Purposes other than Bait (Major Bays only)	41
Recreational Shrimping in Outside Waters – Southern Zone	41
Recreational Shrimping in Outside Waters – Northern Zone	42
Nueces County Recreational Shrimping Restrictions	42
Other Aquatic Life (Fresh and Salt Waters)	42

Definitions - Hunting, Fishing, and Boating	84
Commonly Used Abbreviations	87
TPWD Regional and Field Law Enforcement Offices	87
Wildlife Resource Document	88
Non-core Alligator Hide Tag Report	88



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OVERVIEW OF FISHING AND HUNTING LAWS

General Laws

The following information addresses some common questions about hunting and fishing laws and regulations.

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

It is UNLAWFUL to:

- take, attempt to take, or possess wildlife resources within a protected length limit, in greater numbers, by other means, or at any time or place, other than as indicated within this guide or as may otherwise be provided by law.
- hunt on public roads or the right-of-way of public roads; except for certain reptiles and amphibians (pg. 64).
- store, transport, or abandon an unsecured firearm in a place where children can obtain (unsupervised) access to the firearm. A person under age 17 who has lawful access to a firearm may hunt with the firearm if the youth has successfully completed the hunter education course, or is accompanied by a licensed hunter age 17 or older who has complied with the hunter education requirement, if applicable.
- drive a motor vehicle in the bed of a navigable freshwater stream, unless approved by a local river access plan established by a city, county, or river authority. This law does not apply to the Canadian River and Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. Other exemptions may be found in the Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 90.
- fish on privately-owned waters, fish in public water from private land, or hunt on privately-owned lands without the permission of the owner or the owner's agent.
- fish on public water from private land without a fishing license.
- enter property that is agricultural, fenced, posted with a sign(s), or marked (purple paint) without the express permission of the owner (Texas Penal Code §30.05). Posts or trees bearing a purple paint marking of not less than eight inches in length and not less than one inch in width and not less than three or more than five feet from the ground, constitute notice that the property is posted.
- hunt any animal without landowner consent.
- kill a desert bighorn sheep, pronghorn, white-tailed deer, or mule deer without landowner consent (Parks and Wildlife Code state jail felony). Upon conviction, hunting and fishing license is automatically revoked.
- discharge a firearm on or across a public road.
- possess a deer or any part of a deer that has been hit by a motor vehicle.

PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION

While hunting, fishing or trapping, persons 17 years of age or older must carry on their person a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Non-residents must carry similar documents issued by the agency in their state or country of residence that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

INSPECTION AUTHORITY

A game warden who observes a person engaged in an

activity governed by the Parks and Wildlife Code or reasonably believes that a person is or has been engaged in such an activity may inspect:

- any license, permit, tag, or other document issued by the department and required by the Parks and Wildlife Code of a person hunting or catching wildlife resources;
- any device that may be used to hunt or catch a wildlife resource;
- any wildlife resource in the person's possession; and
- the contents of any container or receptacle that is commonly used to store or conceal a wildlife resource.

WASTE OF GAME

It is an offense if a person while hunting, kills or wounds a game bird or game animal and intentionally or knowingly fails to make a reasonable effort to retrieve it and include it in the person's daily or seasonal bag limit. It is an offense if a person intentionally takes or possesses a game bird, game animal, or a fish and intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly, or with criminal negligence, fails to keep the edible portions in an edible condition.

RETRIEVAL OF GAME AND HUNTING DOGS

No person may enter any property to pursue wounded game, retrieve a dog, or for any other purpose, without the consent of the landowner.

SALE OF INEDIBLE WILDLIFE PARTS

The following inedible wildlife parts may be purchased or sold if lawfully taken or possessed:

- Hair, hide, antlers, bones, horns, skull, hooves, or sinew from the following game animals: mule deer, white-tailed deer, pronghorn, desert bighorn sheep, gray squirrels, fox squirrels, and javelina.
- Feathers, bones, or feet of game birds (turkey, pheasant, quail, and chachalaca) may be used, purchased, or sold for making fishing flies, pillows, mattresses, and other similar commercial uses.
- Feathers from migratory birds may not be purchased or sold for hats or ornamental purposes nor may a person purchase or sell mounted migratory game bird specimens or their parts taken by hunting.

HARASSMENT OF HUNTERS, TRAPPERS, OR ANGLERS

Under the Sportsman's Rights Act (Parks and Wildlife Code, §62.0125), harassment of hunters, trappers, or anglers is punishable by a fine of \$200 to \$2,000 and/or 180 days in jail.

HUNTER ORANGE

Hunter orange is **RECOMMENDED** for hunter safety but is not required while hunting on private property.

Criminal Penalties and Civil Value Recovery

If you violate fish and wildlife laws, you may:

- be fined for misdemeanors
 - Class C – \$25-\$500
 - Class B – \$200-\$2,000 and/or 6 months in jail
 - Class A – \$500-\$4,000 and/or 1 year in jail;
- be fined for state jail felonies (\$1,500-\$10,000 and/or up to 2 years in jail);
- face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to five years; and
- forfeit hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.

CIVIL RESTITUTION

In addition to the criminal penalty for hunting and fishing violations, the department will seek the civil recovery value for the loss or damage to wildlife resources. Failure to pay the civil

recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue a future license, tag, or permit. Hunting or fishing after failing or refusing to pay civil restitution is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 - \$4,000 fine; punishment in jail (not to exceed one year); or both. For questions call (512) 389-4630.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT

A person who seeks to reinstate their license after revocation, denial or suspension must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a \$100 fee.

INTERSTATE WILDLIFE VIOLATOR COMPACT

Texas is a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC) which allows member states to share information about wildlife violators and to deny licensure to persons who have failed to comply with conservation law in member states. For more information call (512) 389-8801.

Operation Game Thief

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is an official Texas wildlife crime-stopper program and a privately funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Please consider supporting efforts to protect precious natural resources and keep the waterways safe by sending a tax-deductible donation to OGT, or by becoming an OGT member, ogtb.org. Donations can also be sent to TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or received by phone (512) 389-8801.

REWARD HOTLINE: (800) 792-4263

Make a difference by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks and intoxicated boaters! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, laws related to environmental crime, arson and intoxicated boaters.

Transfer and Importation of Wildlife Resources

TRANSFER OF WILDLIFE AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

A person may give or receive any legally taken wildlife or aquatic resource, or part of the resource, that is required to be tagged or that is protected by a daily bag / possession limit if the resource is accompanied by a **Wildlife Resource Document (WRD)** (pg. 88). A person may use the WRD provided in this guide (pg. 88) or a handwritten document that includes the same required information. The WRD is available online: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/transfer.

- For additional information for deer and pronghorn related to tagging, proof of sex, transporting animals, and processing of game animals, see pgs 46-47.
- For turkey, the WRD must remain attached until the turkey reaches its final destination and is finally processed (pg. 46).

For all other wildlife resources, a properly executed WRD must accompany the resource until it reaches the possessor's permanent residence or a cold storage/processing facility, EXCEPT, no WRD is required if a person receiving the wildlife resource does not exceed the possession limit (or bag limit if in the field) and is lawfully licensed or possesses the applicable license. **Migratory Game Birds have different documentation requirements** (pg. 58).

IMPORTATION OF WILDLIFE AND AQUATIC RESOURCES

- It is unlawful to import a wildlife or aquatic resource into this state or possess a resource taken outside this state unless:
 - the person possesses a valid hunting, fishing, or other applicable license, endorsement, tag, permit, or document for the state or country in which the resource was legally taken; and
 - a person produces, upon request of a game warden, a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate.
- See pg. 49 for information related to importation of carcasses from CWD-positive states.
- **IMPORTS FROM MEXICO:** The requirements listed above are waived if a United States Customs Officer's Statement is obtained from the United States Customs Office at the port of entry showing that the wildlife resource was brought in from Mexico. The Customs Officer's statement must accompany the wildlife resource to its final destination.

FISHING

What's New for Fishing

Fresh Water: Modified fishing regulations for community fishing lakes and applied these regulations to additional water bodies; modified blue and channel catfish harvest regulations for five lakes; returned to statewide limits for largemouth bass on Lake Nasworthy; implemented catch-and-release only for largemouth bass on Lake Forest Park; established boundaries for Choke Canyon and O.H. Ivie reservoirs.

Salt Water: Shortfin mako shark is now a prohibited species; anglers must use descending devices on reef fish with barotrauma, the bag limit for cobia is 1.

Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

Harmful algae blooms can affect fishing spots, creating "dead zones" where no aquatic life can survive. The cause is usually pollution from fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste, and sewage treatment plants. Learn more at epa.gov/nutrientpollution. Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Kills and Spills Team

To report saltwater or freshwater fish kills, please contact the Kills and Spills Team (KAST) at (512) 389-4848.

General Regulations for Fresh and Salt Waters

For purposes of this guide, "salt waters" and "coastal waters" mean the same thing.

GAME FISH (includes hybrids or subspecies of listed fish):

Bass (Alabama)	Catfish (blue)	Marlin (blue)	Spearfish (longbill)
Bass (Guadalupe)	Catfish (channel)	Marlin (white)	Swordfish (broadbill)
Bass (largemouth)	Catfish (flathead)	Pickeral	Tarpon
Bass (smallmouth)	Cobia	Red Drum	Tripletail
Bass (spotted)	Crappie (black)	Saifish	Trout (brown)
Bass (striped)	Crappie (white)	Seatrout (spotted)	Trout (rainbow)
Bass (white)	Mackerel (King)	Sharks	Wahoo
Bass (yellow)	Mackerel (Spanish)	Snook	Walleye

UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES

It is UNLAWFUL to:

- take, kill, or disturb sea turtles. Species found in the Gulf of Mexico include Green, Loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, Leatherback and Hawksbill. If you accidentally catch a sea turtle, immediately call (866) 887-8535 for information on how to help without injuring yourself or causing further injury to the animal.
- take, kill, or disturb any endangered or threatened fish species (e.g., paddlefish, shovel-nosed sturgeon, sawfish, etc.).
- take or kill diamondback terrapin or marine mammals such as porpoises, dolphins or whales. Immediately call (800) 962-6625 (800-9-MAMMAL) to report a stranded marine mammal.
 - place any game fish into public waters, other than the body of water where the fish was caught, without a valid permit issued by TPWD. This includes fish caught by pole and line. To apply for a permit to place fish into public waters (no fee required), call (800) 792-1112 (menu 4) or (512) 389-4742, or visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/FishForms.
- use any vessel to harass, herd or drive fish including, but not limited to, operating any vessel in a repeated circular course, for the purpose of, or resulting in, the concentration of fish for the purpose of taking or attempting to take fish.
- uproot or dig out any rooted seagrass plant from a bay bottom or other saltwater bottom by a propeller or any other means. For additional seagrass regulations: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/Seagrass.
- transport live, nongame fishes taken from:
 - the Red River and all tributary waters in Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River, and Bowie counties below Lake Texoma downstream to the Arkansas border,
 - Big Cypress Bayou downstream of Ferrell's Bridge Dam on Lake O' the Pines (including the Texas waters of Caddo Lake), or
 - the Sulphur River downstream of the Lake Wright Patman dam.(Nongame fishes collected **from these waters** may be used as live bait on the water bodies where they were collected.)
- intentionally or unintentionally possess or transport aquatic invasive species without a permit; see "Possession and Transport of Exotic Aquatic Species" (pg. 11) for additional information.
- use any game fish or part of a game fish as bait.

Tagging Fish

Although it is legal to place an identification tag (use caution as tags can damage fish) on the exterior of a fish and release it back into public waters, it is unlawful to release a fish with a device or substance implanted or attached to produce an audible, visual, or electronic signal used to monitor, track, follow, or in any manner aid in locating it.

Waste of Fish

It is unlawful to leave edible fish or bait fish to die without the intent to retain it for consumption or bait.

Bait Regulations

For regulations that apply to bait: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/Bait

LEGAL FISHING DEVICES AND RESTRICTIONS

Only devices and restrictions listed may be used to take OR ATTEMPT TO TAKE aquatic life. Game fish may be taken only by pole and line (which includes rod and reel), except as otherwise provided in this guide. A person may fish with multiple poles or other devices, except as provided in this guide. In fresh water, it is unlawful to fish with more than 100 hooks on all devices combined. In fresh water, it is unlawful to take fish with a hand-operated device held underwater except that a spear or spear gun may be used to take NONGAME fish.

CAST NET: a net that can be hand-thrown over an area.

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp).
- May not be greater than 14 feet in diameter.
- In SALT WATER, nongame fish may be taken for bait purposes only.

CRAB LINE: a baited line with no hook attached. No restrictions.

CRAB TRAPS (for use in SALT WATER only):

- Only six crab traps at a time may be fished for non-commercial purposes.
- May only remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.

Crab Trap Tagging Requirements

Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG, valid for 10 days (pg. 29) and attached within six inches of the buoy or pier to which the trap is tied.

Crab Trap Construction and Design Restrictions

- May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
- Must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls.
- Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inches in diameter.
- Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length, and 6 inches in width, bearing a 2-inch wide center stripe of contrasting color, attached to the crab trap.
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- Must be equipped with a degradable panel. A trap is considered to have a degradable panel if one of the following methods is used in construction of the trap:
 - the trap lid tie-down strap is secured to the trap at one end by a simple loop of untreated jute twine, sisal twine or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. The trap lid must be secured so that when the twine or wire degrades, the lid will no longer be securely closed; or
 - the trap contains at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel, with a rectangular opening no smaller in either dimension than 3 inches by 6 inches. Any obstruction placed in this opening may not be secured in any manner EXCEPT it may be laced, sewn, or otherwise obstructed by a single length of untreated jute twine, sisal twine or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller knotted only at each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar. When the twine or wire

degrades, the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed; or

- the obstruction may be loosely hinged at the bottom of the opening by no more than two untreated steel hog rings and secured at the top of the obstruction in no more than one place by a single length of untreated jute twine, sisal twine or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. When the twine or wire degrades, the obstruction will hinge downward and the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed.

Crab Trap Placement and Location Restrictions

- May not place a crab trap or portion thereof closer than 100 feet from any other crab trap, EXCEPT when traps are secured to a pier or dock.
- May not fish a crab trap in public fresh waters.
- May not fish a crab trap within 200 feet of a marked navigable channel in Aransas County; and in the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula except that up to 3 crab traps may be fished for recreational purposes only if securely tethered to a fixed object (i.e. as a dock, pier, or bulkhead).
- May not possess, use, or place more than three crab traps in waters north and west of Hwy. 146 where it crosses the Houston Ship Channel in Harris County.
- May not use or place more than three crab traps in public waters of the San Bernard River north of a line marked by the boat access channel at Bernard Acres.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

DIP NET: a mesh bag suspended from a frame attached to a handle.

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp).
- May be used to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices.
- In SALT WATER, nongame fish may be taken for bait purposes only.

FOLDING PANEL TRAPS:

- Only crabs may be taken.
- Overall surface area (including panels) may not exceed 16 square feet.

GAFF: any hand-held pole with a hook attached directly to the pole.

- May only be used to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices, means, or methods.
- Fish landed with a gaff MAY NOT be below the minimum, above the maximum, or within a protected length limit.

GIG: any hand-held shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless.

May be used to take NONGAME fish only.

HANDFISHING:

 fishing by the use of HANDS ONLY

The use of **ANY** other fishing device while handfishing (including but not limited to gaff, pole hook, trap, spear or stick) is unlawful.

- May be used to take channel, blue, and flathead catfish in fresh water only.
- No person may intentionally place a trap (including such devices as boxes, barrels or pipes) in public fresh water for the purpose of taking catfish by handfishing.

JUGLINE: fishing line with five or less hooks and a gear tag tied to a free-floating device.

- For use in FRESH WATER only.
- May be used to take NONGAME fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish only.

Jugline Tagging and Marking Requirements

- Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (pg. 29) attached within 6 inches of the free-floating device; gear tag is valid for 6 days after the date set out and must include the number of the permit to sell nongame fish taken from fresh water, if applicable. Properly-marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags.
- For non-commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with a free-floating device of any color other than orange that is not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.
- For commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with an orange, free-floating device that is not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.

Jugline Placement and Location Restrictions

Juglines **may not** be used in the following:

- Community Fishing Lakes (definition, pg. 28)
- Lake Bryan in Brazos County
- Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state park
- Bellwood Lake in Smith County
- Boerne City Lake in Kendall County
- Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line
- Canyon Lake Project #6 in Lubbock County
- Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
- South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
- Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
- Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County
- Lake Naconiche in Nacogdoches County
- Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
- North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
- Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
- Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County

LAWFUL ARCHERY EQUIPMENT: includes longbow, recurved bow, compound bow, and crossbow.

- May be used to take NONGAME fish only.
- Any fish that is edible or can be used for bait (includes all gar species, common carp, and buffalo) may not be released back into the water after being taken with lawful archery equipment. See also "Waste of Fish," pg. 6.
- State regulations permit bow fishing in most public waters ("Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations," pg. 16, and "Restricted Areas in Counties," pg. 67). Additionally, bow fishers are advised to check with local authorities that may have ordinances restricting use of archery equipment.

MINNOW TRAP:

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crayfish and shrimp).
- Trap may not exceed 24 inches in length. The throat may not exceed 1 inch by 3 inches.
- Must be marked with a floating, visible buoy of any color other than orange that is not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width. The buoy must have a gear tag attached.
- GEAR TAG (pg. 29) valid for only 6 days must be visibly attached.

OYSTER DREDGE:

May not be more than 14 inches in width.

PERCH TRAPS (for use in SALT WATER only):

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crayfish and shrimp).
- May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
- Must be marked with a floating visible orange buoy not less than 6 inches in length and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a GEAR TAG (pg. 29) valid only for 6 days attached.
- Must be equipped with a degradable panel as described for crab traps (pg. 7).
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

POLE AND LINE: a line with hook, attached to a pole (includes rod and reel).

- May be used to take GAME and NONGAME fish.
- It is unlawful to use a pole and line to take or attempt to take fish by foul-hooking, snagging, or jerking. A fish is foul-hooked when caught by a hook in an area other than the fish's mouth.
- In the Guadalupe River in Comal County starting 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release and extending downstream to the second bridge crossing on River Road, rainbow and brown trout may not be retained

when taken by any method except artificial lures. In this area only, artificial lures cannot contain or have attached either whole or portions, living or dead, of organisms such as fish, crayfish, insects (grubs, larvae or adults) or worms, any other animal or vegetable material, or synthetic scented materials. This does not prohibit the use of artificial lures that contain components of hair or feathers. It is an offense to possess rainbow and brown trout while fishing with any other device in that part of the Guadalupe River defined in this paragraph.

- Pole and line is the only lawful method for taking game fish and nongame fish from Community Fishing Lakes (definition, pg. 28), sections of rivers lying totally within boundaries of a state park, the North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam, the South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam, Wheeler Branch Reservoir, Lake Pflugerville, Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line, and Canyon Lake Project #6.

SAIL LINE: a type of trotline with one end of the main line fixed on the shore, the other end of the main line attached to a wind-powered floating device or sail (for use in SALT WATER only).

- Nongame fish, red drum, spotted seatrout, and sharks may be taken with a sail line.
- No more than one sail line may be used per fisherman.
- The sail line must be attended at all times the line is fishing.
- Sail lines may not be used for commercial purposes.
- Sail lines may be used seven days a week.

Sail Line Tagging Requirements

Must have a valid SALTWATER TROTLINE TAG for each 300 feet of mainline or fraction thereof being fished.

Sail Line Construction and Design Restrictions

- Sail line may not exceed 1,800 feet from reel to sail.
- Sail and the most shoreward float must be bright orange or red. All other floats must be yellow. No float may be more than 200 feet from the sail.
- A weight of 1 ounce or more must be attached to the line not less than 4 feet or more than 6 feet shoreward of the most shoreward float.
- Reflectors of not less than 2 square inches shall be attached to the sail and floats. They must be easily seen from all directions. This applies for sail lines operated from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
- May have no more than 30 hooks.
- There is no hook spacing requirement between hooks.
- No hook may be placed more than 200 feet from the sail.
- May be baited with either natural or artificial bait.

Sail Line Placement and Location Restrictions

Must meet placement and location requirements for saltwater trotlines (pg. 11).

SAND PUMPS: self-contained, hand-held, hand-operated suction device used to remove and capture Callinassid ghost shrimp.

- May only be manually operated.
- May not be used for commercial purposes.

SEINE: a section of non-metallic mesh webbing, with the top edge buoyed upwards by a floatline and the bottom edge weighted (includes a push net).

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp).
- May not be longer than 20 feet.
- May not have mesh exceeding 1/2-inch square.
- Must be manually operated.
- In SALT WATER, nongame fish may be taken by seine for bait purposes only.

SHAD TRAWL: a bag-shaped net which is dragged along the bottom or through the water to catch aquatic life (for use in FRESH WATER only).

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crayfish and shrimp).
- May not be longer than 6 feet or with a mouth larger than 36 inches in diameter.
- May be equipped with a funnel or throat and must be towed by boat or hand.

SPEAR: any shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless, which may be propelled by any means, but does not include arrows (may be used to take NONGAME fish only).

SPEAR GUN: any hand-operated device designed and used for propelling a spear, but does not include the crossbow. May be used to take NONGAME fish only, not a legal means to take fish in a community fishing lake.

THROWLINE: a fishing line with five or less hooks and with one end attached to a permanent fixture, a float attached at or above the water line, and a gear tag. Components of a throwline may also include swivels, snaps, rubber, and rigid support structures (for use in FRESH WATER only).

- May be used to take NONGAME fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish only.
- Must be used with a valid gear tag attached. Gear tag is valid for 6 days after the date set out.
- For non-commercial purposes, must be marked with a float of any color other than orange that is not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.
- For commercial purposes, must be marked with an orange float that is not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.

Throwlines Placement and Location Restrictions

Throwlines **may not** be used in the following:

- Community Fishing Lakes (definition, pg. 28)
- Lake Bryan in Brazos County
- Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state park
- Bellwood Lake in Smith County
- Boerne City Lake in Kendall County

- Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line
- Canyon Lake Project #6 in Lubbock County
- Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
- South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
- Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
- Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County
- Lake Naconiche in Nacogdoches County
- Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
- North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
- Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
- Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County

TRAWL (Individual Bait-Shrimp Trawl):

a bag-shaped net which is dragged along the bottom or through the water to catch aquatic life.

Only hand-operated trawls are permitted; use of mechanical devices is unlawful. For use in **SALT WATER** only.

- Only one trawl per boat is allowed.
- Must have an individual bait-shrimp trawl tag in one's possession while trawling (pg. 9).
- Must not be greater than 20 feet in width between the doors.
- Mesh size must not be smaller than 8-3/4 inches over a consecutive series of five stretched meshes.
- Boards must not be larger than 450 square inches each.
- Nongame fish (EXCEPT those species regulated by bag or size limits) taken incidental to legal shrimping operations may be retained.
- "Legal shrimping operations" means the use of a legal trawl in places, at times, and in manners as authorized by TPWD (see Shrimp section for details, pg. 25).
- 200 nongame fish taken with an individual bait-shrimp trawl may be retained per person for bait purposes only.

TROTLINE: a non-metallic main fishing line with more than five hooks attached, with each end attached to a fixture, floats attached at or above the water line, and a gear tag.

- Nongame fish, channel catfish, blue catfish, and flathead catfish may be taken by trotline.
- Red drum, spotted seatrout, and sharks caught on a trotline may not be retained or possessed.

Trotline General Construction and Design Restrictions

Trotlines may not be used with:

- a mainline length exceeding 600 feet;
- hooks spaced less than 3 horizontal feet apart;
- metallic stakes; or
- the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings placed above the water's surface.

Trotlines in FRESH WATER

Trotline (Freshwater) Tagging and Marking Requirements

- Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (pg. 29). Properly-marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags. Gear tags must be attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline and are valid for 6 days after the date set out.

- For non-commercial purposes, must be marked with floats of any color other than orange that are not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.
- For commercial purposes, must be marked with orange floats that are not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in width.

Trotline (Freshwater) Construction and Design Restrictions

May not have more than 50 hooks on any one trotline.

Trotlines (Freshwater) Placement and Location Restrictions

Trotlines **may not** be used in the following:

- Community Fishing Lakes (definition, pg. 28)
- Lake Bryan in Brazos County
- Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state park
- Bellwood Lake in Smith County
- Boerne City Lake in Kendall County
- Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line
- Canyon Lake Project #6 in Lubbock County
- Dixieland Reservoir in Cameron County
- South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
- Lake Bastrop in Bastrop County
- Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County
- Lake Naconiche in Nacogdoches County
- Lake Pflugerville in Travis County
- North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam
- Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County
- Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County

Trotlines in SALT WATER

No more than one trotline may be used per angler.

Trotline (Saltwater) Tagging Requirements

MUST have a valid SALTWATER TROTLINE TAG attached to each 300 feet of mainline or fraction thereof. MUST be purchased at coastal TPWD Law Enforcement offices (pg. 31). MUST be used with a valid GEAR TAG (pg. 29) attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline. Tag does not need to be dated.

Trotline (Saltwater) Construction and Design Restrictions

- Must be marked with a yellow floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length, and 6 inches in width, bearing a two-inch wide stripe of contrasting color, attached to end fixtures.
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- May not be baited with other than natural bait. Natural bait is a whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.
- May not be used with hooks other than circle-type hook with point curved in and with a gap (distance from point to shank) of no more than one-half inch, and with the diameter of the circle not less than five-eighths inch.

Trotline (Saltwater) Placement and Location Restrictions

- May not be used in or on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of this state.
- May not be placed closer than 50 feet from any other trotline, or set within 200 feet of the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway or its tributary channels.
- May not be used in Aransas County in Little Bay and the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine-Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
- No trotline or trotline components (EXCEPT sail lines), including lines and hooks, but excluding poles, may be left in or on coastal waters between the hours of 1 p.m. on Friday through 1 p.m. on Sunday of each week, except attended sail lines. In the event small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service are in place at 8 a.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until 6 p.m. on Friday. If small craft advisories are in place at 1 p.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until Saturday. When small craft advisories are lifted by 8 a.m. on Saturday, trotlines must be removed by 6 p.m. on Saturday. When small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories are still in place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, trotlines may remain in the water through 1 p.m. on Sunday. It is a violation to tend, bait, or harvest fish or any other aquatic life from trotlines during the period that trotline removal requirements are suspended under this provision for adverse weather conditions. For purposes of enforcement, the geographic area customarily covered by marine weather advisories will be delineated by department policy.

UMBRELLA NET: a non-metallic mesh net that is suspended horizontally in the water by multiple lines attached to a rigid frame.

- Legal only for taking NONGAME fish and other aquatic animal life (including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp).
- May not have within the frame an area that exceeds 16 square feet.

OTHER DEVICES: Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and bait launchers are approved methods for the delivery of bait. Federal regulations apply.

POSSESSION OF FISH TAKEN FROM PUBLIC WATER

Fish caught and immediately released are not considered to be in possession. Any fish that are retained by using any type of holding device such as stringer, cooler, livewell, or bucket are considered in an angler's possession and must adhere to established length and bag limits. While fishing, it is illegal to be in possession of more fish than the daily bag limit or fish that are within a protected length limit.

In order to verify length and species, a fish caught may not have the head or tail removed and may not be filleted until an angler finally lands the catch on the mainland, a peninsula,

or barrier island not including jetties or piers and does not transport the catch by boat. For broadbill swordfish and king mackerel, the head OR tail may be removed but the remainder of the carcass must remain intact and may not be filleted. For sharks, ONLY the head may be removed. The remainder of the carcass (including the tail) must remain intact and may not be filleted.

Any fish taken from public water and landed by boat or person in Texas must adhere to the length limits and daily bag and possession limits established for those fish in Texas regardless of the state or country in which they were caught.

The bag limit for a guided fishing party is equal to the total number of persons in the boat licensed to fish or otherwise exempt from holding a license minus each fishing guide and fishing guide deckhand multiplied by the bag limit for each species harvested.

POSSESSION AND TRANSPORT OF EXOTIC AQUATIC SPECIES

The intentional or unintentional possession or transportation of aquatic invasive species without a permit is illegal in Texas. For a list of harmful and potentially harmful aquatic species, visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/invasives.

Learn how to properly dispose of aquarium plants and animals at tpwd.texas.gov/oa/aquarium.

It is UNLAWFUL to:

- possess or transport any exotic aquatic plant or animal listed as harmful or potentially harmful. This includes: plants such as hydrilla, water hyacinth, and giant salvinia; fishes such as tilapia and invasive carps (grass, silver, and bighead carp); and zebra mussels.
- boats with attached zebra mussels may be moved to a maintenance shop for cleaning or other maintenance provided the department is notified at least 72 hours in advance using the Boat Maintenance Movement Notice form: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/zmform. Boats moving to another lake after maintenance may require inspection and decontamination.
- possess any tilapia, grass carp, or any other fish listed as harmful or potentially harmful without first killing the fish by gutting, beheading, gill-cutting, or other means, or placing the fish on ice, except on those waters where a valid Triploid Grass Carp Permit is in effect. In those waters, it is illegal to possess grass carp, and any grass carp caught must be immediately returned to the water unharmed. For a list of waters with a Triploid Grass Carp Permit: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/gcpermits.
- fail to immediately remove and lawfully dispose of any harmful or potentially harmful aquatic plant that is clinging or attached to a vessel, watercraft, trailer, motor vehicle, or other device used to transport or launch a vessel or watercraft. Violators are subject to a fine of \$25-\$500.

MANDATORY DRAINING OF WATER FROM VESSELS USED ON PUBLIC FRESH WATERS

Persons leaving or approaching public fresh water are required to drain all water from their vessels and on-board receptacles (includes live wells, bilges, motors and any other receptacles or water-intake systems coming into contact with public waters).

This rule applies at all sites where boats can be launched and includes all types and sizes of boats whether powered or not, personal watercraft, sailboats, kayaks/ canoes, or any other vessel used to travel on public waters.

- Live fish, including personally caught live bait, cannot be transported from the water body where the fish were caught in or aboard a vessel in water from the water body where the fish were caught. Personally-caught live bait can be used in the water body where it was caught.
- Transport and use of commercially purchased live bait in water while fishing from a vessel is allowed, provided persons in possession of the bait have a receipt that identifies the source of the bait. Any live bait purchased from a location on or adjacent to a public water body that is transported in water from that water body can only be used as bait on that same water body.
- A vessel leaving a public freshwater body may be transported on a public roadway without water being drained, provided the vessel is transported via the most direct route to another access point located on the same water body during the same day.
- Persons participating in a fishing tournament confined to one water body are allowed to transport live fish in water from that single water body to an identified off-site weigh-in location, provided all water is drained and properly disposed of before leaving that location. Participants must possess documentation provided by tournament organizers that identify them as participants in a tournament.
- Marine sanitary systems are not covered by these regulations.
- Following these procedures does not exempt persons from complying with prohibitions against transporting exotic aquatic species that are visible to the unaided eye, such as adult zebra mussels, which may be attached to boats or trailers.

RESERVOIR BOUNDARIES

- **Buchanan Reservoir** in Burnet, Lampasas, Llano, and San Saba counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from Lake Buchanan dam upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 190 bridge.
- **Caddo Lake** in Marion and Harrison counties comprises all impounded waters of Big Cypress Bayou from the Texas-Louisiana border upstream to the State Hwy. 43 bridge.
- **Canyon Reservoir** in Comal County comprises all impounded waters of the Guadalupe River from the Canyon dam upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 281 bridge.
- **Choke Canyon Reservoir** in Live Oak and McMullen counties comprises all impounded waters of the Frio River from the Choke Canyon Dam upstream to the State Highway 16 bridge, including all waters of San Miguel Creek downstream from the State Highway 16 bridge.
- **Lake Conroe** in Montgomery and Walker counties comprises all impounded waters of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River from the Lake Conroe Dam upstream to the FM Road 1791 bridge.
- **Cooper Lake** (Jim L. Chapman Lake) in Delta and Hopkins counties comprises all waters within the Corps of Engineers lands on Cooper Lake upstream from State Hwy. 19/154 and downstream from FM Road 71.
- **Falcon International Reservoir** in Starr and Zapata counties comprises all impounded waters of the Rio Grande from Falcon Dam upstream to the Zapata/Webb county line.
- **Lake Georgetown** in Williamson County comprises all impounded waters of the North Fork of the San Gabriel River from the Lake Georgetown Dam upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 183 bridge.
- **Inks Lake** in Burnet and Llano counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Roy Inks Dam (Inks Lake Dam) upstream to the Lake Buchanan Dam.
- **Lake Limestone** in Leon, Limestone, and Robertson counties comprises all impounded waters of the Navasota River from the Lake Limestone dam upstream to the Fort Parker State Park Lake Dam.
- **Lake Livingston** in Leon, Houston, Madison, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties comprises all impounded waters of the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston Dam upstream to the lock and dam near State Hwy. 7.
- **Lake Lyndon B. Johnson** in Burnet and Llano counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Alvin Wirtz Dam (Lake Lyndon B. Johnson Dam) upstream to the Roy Inks Dam (Inks Lake Dam) including the Llano River upstream to the State Hwy. 16 bridge and Sandy Creek upstream to the State Hwy. 71 bridge.
- **Lake Marble Falls** in Burnet County comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Max Starcke Dam (Lake Marble Falls Dam) upstream to the Alvin Wirtz Dam (Lake Lyndon B. Johnson Dam).
- **Lake Murvaul** in Panola County comprises all impounded waters of Murvaul Creek Bayou upstream from the Lake Murvaul Dam and Murvaul Creek Bayou downstream from the dam to the FM Road 1970 bridge.
- **Lake O' The Pines** in Camp, Marion, Morris, and Upshur counties comprises all impounded waters of Big Cypress Creek from Ferrell's Bridge Dam (Lake O' The Pines Dam) upstream to the U.S. Hwy. 259 bridge.
- **Lake Palestine** in Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Smith, and Van Zandt counties comprises all impounded waters of the Neches River from the Blackburn Crossing Dam (Lake Palestine Dam) upstream to the FM Road 279 bridge, including Kickapoo and Flat creeks in Henderson County.
- **Lake Pat Mayse** in Lamar County comprises all impounded waters of Sanders Creek from Pat Mayse Lake Dam upstream to County Road 35610.
- **O. H. Ivie Reservoir** in Concho, Coleman, and Runnels counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado and Concho rivers from the S.W. Freeze Dam upstream to: the F.M. 129 bridge on the Colorado River; and the confluence of Amos Creek and the Concho River.
- **Purtis Creek State Park Lake** in Henderson and Van Zandt counties comprises all waters within the Purtis Creek State Park boundaries.
- **Lake Somerville** in Burleson, Lee, Milam, and Washington counties comprises all impounded waters of Yegua, East Yegua and Middle Yegua Creeks upstream from the Lake Somerville Dam.
- **Lake Texoma** in Cooke and Grayson counties comprises all impounded waters of the Red River from the Denison Dam upstream to Sycamore Creek.
- **Sam Rayburn Reservoir** in Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine, and San Augustine counties comprises all impounded waters of the Angelina River from the Sam Rayburn Dam upstream to the Union Pacific railroad bridge.
- **Toledo Bend Reservoir** in Newton, Panola, Sabine, and Shelby counties comprises all impounded waters of the Sabine River from Toledo Bend Dam upstream to the Texas - Louisiana state line in Panola County.
- **Lake Travis** in Burnet and Travis counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the Mansfield Dam (Lake Travis Dam) upstream to the Max Starcke Dam (Lake Marble Falls Dam), including the Pedernales River upstream to the Hammetts Crossing-Hamilton Pool Road bridge.

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER BOUNDARIES

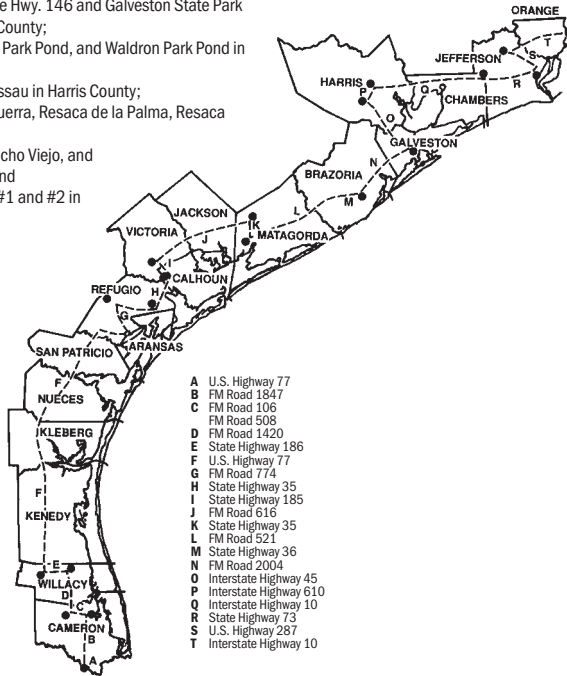
All public waters east and south of the following boundary are considered salt water:

Beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Brownsville, northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of Paredes Lines Road (FM Road 1847) in Brownsville, thence northward along FM Road 1847 to the junction of FM Road 106 east of Rio Hondo, thence westward along FM Road 106 to the junction of FM Road 508 in Rio Hondo, thence northward along FM Road 508 to the junction of FM Road 1420, thence northward along FM Road 1420 to the junction of State Hwy. 186 east of Raymondville, thence westward along State Hwy. 186 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 77 near Raymondville, thence northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of the Aransas River south of Woodsboro, thence eastward along the south shore of the Aransas River to the Junction of the Aransas River Road at the Bonnie View boat ramp; thence northward along the Aransas River Road to the junction of FM Road 136 to FM Road 2678 to the junction of FM Road 774 in Refugio, thence eastward along FM Road 774 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 south of Tivoli, thence northward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of State Hwy. 185 between Bloomington and Seadrift,

northwestward along State Hwy. 185 to the junction of FM Road 616 in Bloomington, thence northeastward along FM Road 616 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 east of Blessing, thence southward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of FM Road 521 north of Palacios, thence northeastward along FM Road 521 to the junction of State Hwy. 36 south of Brazoria, thence southward along State Hwy. 36 to the junction of FM Road 2004, thence northward along FM Road 2004 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 45 between Dickinson and La Marque, thence northwestward along Interstate Hwy. 45 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 610 in Houston, thence east and northward along Interstate Hwy. 610 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Houston, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the junction of State Hwy. 73 in Winnie, thence eastward along State Hwy. 73 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 287 in Port Arthur, thence northwestward along U.S. Hwy. 287 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Beaumont, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the Louisiana State Line.

The following public waters ARE NOT considered salt water:

1. waters of Spindletop Bayou inland from the concrete dam at Russels Landing on Spindletop Bayou in Jefferson County;
2. north of the dam on Lake Anahuac in Chambers County;
3. the waters of Taylor Bayou and Big Hill Bayou inland from the saltwater locks on Taylor Bayou in Jefferson County;
4. Galveston County Reservoir on State Hwy. 146 and Galveston State Park Ponds #1 through #7 in Galveston County;
5. Lakeview City Park Lake, West Guth Park Pond, and Waldron Park Pond in Nueces County;
6. Lake Burke-Crenshaw and Lake Nassau in Harris County;
7. Fort Brown Resaca, Resaca de la Guerra, Resaca de la Palma, Resaca de los Cuates;
8. Resaca de los Fresnos, Resaca Rancho Viejo, and Town Resaca in Cameron County; and
9. Little Chocolate Bayou Park Ponds #1 and #2 in Port Lavacain Calhoun County



FISH CONSUMPTION BANS AND ADVISORIES

For information:

- visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/seafood
- call (800) 685-0361 (shellfish) or (512) 834-6757 (fish)
- email: seafood.regulatory@dshs.texas.gov

SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR ALLIGATOR GAR

Temporary Closures

When conditions are conducive for spawning of alligator gar, the TPWD Executive Director may temporarily prohibit taking or attempting to take alligator gar in a specified area for a period up to 30 days. Examples include water temperatures between 68 to 82 °F and occurrence of moderate flood levels as defined and reported by U.S. Geological Survey gauges (tpwd.texas.gov/oa/WaterTemp). Notice of this action will be posted on tpwd.texas.gov, distributed to news media, and shared through social media. The notice will specify the area to be closed and the date by which lawful fishing for alligator gar may resume. For current closure notices, visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/GarClosure.

Mandatory Harvest Reporting

All alligator gar harvested from the public waters of the state other than Falcon International Reservoir must be reported within 24 hours to the department via mobile app or online.

Report your harvest with “My Texas Hunt Harvest” app (the App Store for IOS devices, or Google Play for Android devices), or visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/gar.

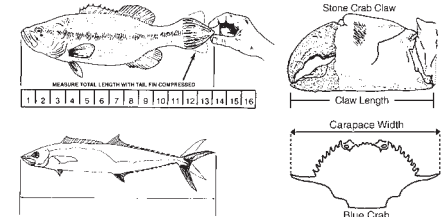
Drawing for Harvest Opportunity on Trinity River

From September 1-30, anglers can enter a drawing that will allow persons selected to harvest one alligator gar over 48 inches in length from the Trinity River. Anglers will be selected through a random draw of applicants and those selected will be notified by October 15. You would have to possess a fishing license (or be otherwise exempted) to enter the drawing. Anglers chosen would receive a non-transferable harvest authorization to harvest one alligator gar from the date of issuance through August 31, 2024. The harvest authorization could be used day or night, and alligator gar could be taken by any legal means including archery equipment and crossbows. tpwd.texas.gov/oa/GarDraw

HOW TO MEASURE FISH AND CRABS

Use these guidelines to measure fish correctly:

1. Place the fish on its side with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length.
3. Measure a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.



TIPS FOR CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING

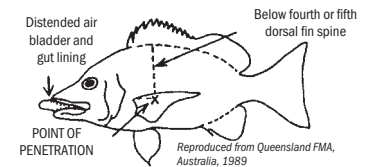
Give your fish the best chance at survival by following these tips:

- Play and land fish as quickly as possible.
- Minimize the time fish is out of the water (no longer than you can hold your breath).
- Wet your hands to avoid removing the protective mucus or “slime” on the fish.
- Hold smaller fish (under 5 lbs.) vertically by the lower jaw. Never hold fish horizontally by its jaw unless supporting the fish with a second hand under its body.
- Fish using barbless hooks, or tamp down the barb of your hook using needle-nose pliers.
- Attempt to remove all hooks before releasing a fish (most will not rust out). For details on hook removal, depressurizing overinflated air bladders, and more fish survival tips, see tpwd.texas.gov/oa/CatchAndRelease

RELEASING SALTWATER FISHES

When releasing a fish that seems unable to swim, cannot right itself or is showing a distended air bladder:

- Gently insert a thin point or an approved device through the side of the fish immediately behind the upper part of the pectoral fin base. This is usually directly below the fourth or fifth spine.
- Hold fish upright in water and face it into the current, gently forcing water through gills.



For tips on releasing sharks see: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/sharks.

For device regulations for releasing reef fish, pg. 37.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

- It is a violation to move, remove, deface, alter, or destroy any sign, depth marker, or other informational signage placed by the department within the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area or to delineate boundaries of the Redfish Bay State Scientific Area.
- Portions of the Rio Grande adjacent to the Black Gap Wildlife Management Area are designated as a National “Wild and Scenic River.” Federal fishing rules apply. nps.gov/bibe/learn/management/fishing_regulations.htm

Freshwater Fishing

GENERAL FRESHWATER FISHING

- In fresh water, it is unlawful to fish with more than 100 hooks on all devices combined.
- Please review General Regulation for Fresh and Salt Waters (pg. 6) for additional regulations, legal fishing devices, and means and methods.

HARVEST REGULATIONS

- Statewide regulations apply for all public fresh waters except for those noted in the “Exceptions to Statewide Freshwater Harvest Regulations” (pg. 16).
- Possession limits are twice the statewide daily bag limits except for striped bass from Lake Texoma and alligator gar from Falcon International Reservoir (pgs. 31-34). For locations that have larger daily bag limits for some species (Caddo Reservoir, Lake Livingston, the Sabine River below Toledo Bend Reservoir, Sam Rayburn Reservoir, and Toledo Bend Reservoir), possession limits remain twice the statewide daily bag limits (pg. 15).
- It is a violation to leave unattended for any period of time or anchor a barge, boat, or fishing platform in the Trinity River below Livingston Dam in an area 1,000 feet from the dam to a point 1,500 feet downstream from the dam:
 - for more than 10 hours in a 24-hour period without moving 100 feet or more during that time, or for five or more consecutive days, whether or not it has been moved.
- For saltwater finfish species caught in the brackish or fresh waters of this state, the same statewide bag, possession, and length limits as listed on pgs. 22-38 apply.

STATEWIDE BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR FRESHWATER FISH

SPECIES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	LENGTH IN INCHES (minimum)
Bass - largemouth <i>(listing for “Southeast Texas” for largemouth bass limit, pg. 33)</i>	5 (in any combination)	14
Bass - smallmouth		14
Bass - Alabama, Guadalupe and spotted		No Limit
Bass - striped and hybrid striped <i>(also known as palmetto or sunshine bass)</i>	5 (in any combination)	18
Bass - white	25	10
Bass - yellow	No Limit	No Limit
Catfish - Channel and blue (includes their hybrids and subspecies)	25 (in any combination - only 10 can be 20 inches or greater in length)	No Limit
Catfish - flathead	5	18
Crappie - white and black, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination)	10
Paddlefish	No harvest allowed	
Gar - alligator <i>See Special Restrictions - includes mandatory harvest reporting (pg. 29). See notes on “Lawful Archery Equipment” (pg. 8).</i>	1	No Limit
Shad - gizzard and threadfin Collection for bait or other personal use and transport from a public water body in containers that total 30 gallons or more requires the Permit to Possess or Sell Nongame Fish Taken from Public Fresh Waters, tpwd.texas.gov/oa/FishForms	No Limit	No Limit
Sunfish - Various species including bluegill, redear, green, warmouth, and longear	No Limit	No Limit
Trout - Rainbow and brown, their hybrids and subspecies	5 (in any combination)	No Limit
Walleye, Saugeye	5 (only 2 can be less than 16 inches in length)	No Limit

For fishes not listed above, there are no statewide bag or length limits. However, there are special requirements associated with the harvest of harmful or potentially harmful exotic fishes (tilapia, grass carp), pg. 11.

EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR FRESHWATER FISH

Bait Fish Exceptions

In Brewster, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Ector, El Paso, Jeff Davis, Hudspeth, Kinney, Loving, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, and Winkler counties, the only fishes that may be used or possessed for bait while fishing are common carp, fathead minnows, gizzard and threadfin shad, golden shiners, goldfish, Mexican tetra, Rio Grande cichlid, silversides (*Atherinidae* family) and sunfish (*Lepomis*).

Exceptions to Statewide Harvest Regulations

How to use the table: First, locate fishing location (listed in alphabetical order). Then check the counties listed to the right to make sure you have the correct location. If those match, note the regulation exceptions. Exception codes are listed beginning on pg. 18. EXAMPLE: Lake Bastrop is located in Bastrop County. Exceptions (to statewide regulations) are **Bass7** and **Gear3**. Please read (and comply with) each exception. MLL = Minimum Length Limit. SLL = Slot Length Limit.

If your fishing location is not listed in the exceptions table, statewide regulations apply. If the lake is 75 acres or smaller and within a municipal, city, county, or state park, it is most likely a Community Fishing Lake (CFL, definition pg. 84). See the Community Fishing Lakes listing for regulation exceptions on these water bodies.

EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS

LOCATION	COUNTY	EXCEPTIONS
Abilene State Park Lake	Taylor	Ctfsh2 Gear2
Alan Henry	Garza	Bass10
Athens	Henderson	Bass7
Bastrop	Bastrop	Bass7 Gear3
Bellwood	Smith	Bass1 Gear3
Belton	Bell, Coryell	Ctfsh1
Bob Sandlin	Titus, Camp, Franklin	Ctfsh1
Boerne City Park Lake	Kendall	Gear3
Braunig	Bexar	Ctfsh2 RDrm1
Bois d’Arc Lake	Fannin	Bass1
Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line	Williamson	Gear2 CFL1
Bryan	Brazos	Gear3
Buck	Kimble	Bass4 CFL1 Gear2
Caddo*	Harrison, Marion	Bass11 Ctfsh3 WHB1 Ctfsh4
Calaveras	Bexar	Ctfsh2 RDrm1
Canyon Lake Project #6	Lubbock	CFL1 Gear2
Casa Blanca	Webb	Bass6
Choke Canyon	Live Oak, McMullen	Ctfsh2
Cleburne State Park Lake	Johnson	CFL1 Gear2
Coffee Mill	Fannin	Gear3
Community Fishing Lakes	Various - definition, pg. 28	CFL1 Gear2
Concho River (North Concho River from O.C. Fisher dam to the Bell Street dam and South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam)	Tom Green	CFL1 Gear2
Conroe*	Montgomery, Walker	Bass5 Ctfsh1
Davy Crockett	Fannin	Bass1 Gear3
Deputy Darren Goforth Park Lake	Harris	CFL1 Gear2
Devils River (including tributaries) from State Hwy. 163 bridge downstream to the confluence with Big Satan Creek	Val Verde	Bass3
Dixieland	Cameron	CFL1 Gear3
Elm	Fort Bend	CFL1 Gear2
Fairfield	Freestone	Bass6
Falcon	Starr, Zapata	Gar2
Fayette County	Fayette	Bass8 Ctfsh2 Gear4
Forest Park	Denton	Bass4 CFL1 Gear2
Fork	Hopkins, Rains, Wood	Bass8 Crpie2
Fort Parker State Park Lake	Limestone	Gear2
Generations Park	Tarrant	Bass4

* Reservoir boundaries (pg. 12)

EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS

LOCATION	COUNTY	EXCEPTIONS
Gilmer	Upshur	Bass6
Grapevine	Denton, Tarrant	Bass10
Guadalupe River (for additional restrictions on use of artificial lures, see "Pole and Line," pg. 8)	Comal	Trout1 Trout2
Houston County	Houston	Bass7
Hubbard Creek	Stephens	Ctfsh1
Jacksonville	Cherokee	Bass10
Joe Pool	Dallas, Ellis, Tarrant	Bass7
Kirby	Taylor	Ctfsh1
Kurth	Angelina	Bass1
Kyle	Hays	C&R1 Gear2
Lady Bird (Town)	Travis	Bass7 Carp1
Lake O' The Pines*	Camp, Harrison, Marion, Morris, Upshur	Crpie2
Lavon	Collin	Ctfsh1
Lewisville	Denton	Ctfsh1
Livingston*	Houston, Leon, Madison, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker	Ctfsh3 Gar3
Lost Maples State Natural Area	Bandera	Bass3 CFL1 Gear2
Marine Creek	Tarrant	Bass6
Mill Creek Lake	Van Zandt	Bass1
Mineral Wells	Parker	Gear2
Monticello	Titus	Bass8
Moss	Cooke	Bass1
Murvaul*	Panola	Bass7
Nacogdoches	Nacogdoches	Bass1
Nacouche	Nacogdoches	Bass1 Gear3
Nasworthy	Tom Green	Crpie1
Nelson Park Lake	Taylor	Bass4 CFL1 Gear2
O.H. Ivie	Coleman, Concho, Runnels	Bass10
Palestine	Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Smith	Ctfsh1
Pflugerville	Travis	Bass6 Gear1
Pilant	Fort Bend	CFL1 Gear2
Pinkston	Shelby	Bass7 Gear4
Proctor	Comanche	Ctfsh2
Purtis Creek SP Lake*	Henderson, Van Zandt	Bass1 Gear1
Raven	Walker	Bass1 Gear2 Ctfsh2
Ray Hubbard	Collin, Dallas, Kaufman, Rockwall	Ctfsh1
Red River below Lake Texoma including Shawnee Creek	Grayson	STB3 Ctfsh6
Red River below Lake Texoma	Bowie, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River	Gar1
Richland Chambers	Freestone, Navarro	Ctfsh1
Sections of Rivers within State Parks	Various	Gear5
Sabine River (from Toledo Bend Dam to Sabine Pass)	Jefferson, Newton, Orange	Bass9
Sabine River (from Toledo Bend Dam to I.H. 10 bridge)	Newton, Orange	Ctfsh3 STB2 Ctfsh4 WHB1 Crpie1
Sam Rayburn	Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches., San Augustine	Ctfsh3
Sections of Rivers within State Parks	Various	Gear5
Sheldon	Harris	Ctfsh2 Gear2
Southeast Texas (includes public waters bordering adjacent counties)	Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Jefferson, Liberty (south of U.S. Hwy. 90), Newton, Orange	Bass12

* Reservoir boundaries (pg. 12)

EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS

LOCATION	COUNTY	EXCEPTIONS
State Park Lakes (fishing from any dock, pier, jetty, or manmade structure)	Various	Gear5
Tankersley	Titus	Gear3
Tawakoni	Hunt, Rains, Van Zandt	Ctfsh1
Texoma	Cooke, Grayson	Ctfsh6 Crpie3 Gar1 STB1 WHB1
Timpson	Shelby	Bass7
Toledo Bend*	Newton, Panola, Sabine, Shelby	Bass2 Ctfsh3 Ctfsh4 Crpie1 STB2 WHB1
Trinity River	Polk, San Jacinto	Ctfsh5 STB4 Shad1
Trinity River and all tributary waters (from the I-30 bridge in Dallas downstream to the I-10 bridge in Chambers County, including the East Fork of the Trinity River upstream to the dam at Lake Ray Hubbard and Lake Livingston)	Anderson, Chambers, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Houston, Kaufman, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Navarro, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker	Gar3
Tucker Lake	Palo Pinto, Stephens	CFL1 Gear2
Waco	McLennan	Ctfsh1
Walter E. Long	Travis	Bass7
Welsh	Titus	Bass6
Wheeler Branch	Somervell	Bass7 Gear1

* Reservoir boundaries (pg. 12)

REGULATION EXCEPTION CODES AND DESCRIPTIONS FOR FRESHWATER FISH

BASS (Alabama, Guadalupe, Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted)

Bass1 - For largemouth bass, only bass 16 inches in length or less may be retained. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination. Bass 24 inches or greater in length may be temporarily retained in a live well or other aerated holding device and immediately weighed using personal scales. Bass weighing 13 pounds or more may be donated to the ShareLunker Program; otherwise, the fish must be immediately released in the lake where caught. Anglers wishing to donate their bass must immediately cease fishing and contact TPWD at (903) 681-0550. Anglers may not remove the bass from the immediate vicinity of the reservoir unless instructed to do so by TPWD staff. Bass not accepted by TPWD must be immediately released.

Bass2 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 14 inches. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 8 bass in any combination. Possession limit = 10.

Bass3 - Catch and release only for all five species of bass.

Bass4 - Catch and release only for largemouth bass.

Bass5 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 16 inches. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

Bass6 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 18 inches. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

Bass7 - For largemouth bass, SLL = 14-21 inches. Bass 14 inches and less or 21 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only one bass 21 inches or greater may be retained. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

Bass8 - For largemouth bass, SLL = 16-24 inches. Bass 16 inches and less or 24 inches or greater in length may be

retained. Only 1 bass 24 inches or greater may be retained. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

Bass9 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 12 inches. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 8 bass in any combination. Possession limit = 10.

Bass10 - For largemouth bass, no MLL. Only 2 bass less than 18 inches may be retained. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

Bass11 - For largemouth bass, SLL = 14-18 inches. Bass 14 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 8 bass in any combination of which no more than 4 may be largemouth bass 18 inches or greater. Possession limit = 10.

Bass12 - For largemouth bass, MLL = 12 inches. Daily bag limit for all species of black bass is 5 bass in any combination.

BASS (Striped and their Hybrids)

STB1 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, no MLL, daily bag = 10 and possession limit = 20, and only 2 striped or hybrid striped bass, 20 inches or greater, may be retained each day. Culling of striped bass and hybrid striped bass is prohibited.

STB2 - For striped bass, no MLL, daily bag = 5, and only 2 striped bass, 30 inches or greater, may be retained each day.

STB3 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, no MLL and daily bag = 5. Culling of striped bass is prohibited.

STB4 - For the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston dam downstream to the FM Road 3278 bridge, striped bass MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 2.

BASS (White)

WHB1 - For white bass, no MLL and daily bag = 25.

COMMUNITY FISHING LAKE

CFL1 - Daily bag limit of 5 (all species combined) with 1 black bass 14 inches or greater in length.

COMMON CARP

Carp1 - For common carp, only 1 carp 33 inches or greater may be retained each day. There is no daily bag limit for carp less than 33 inches in length.

CATCH AND RELEASE

C&R1 - No harvest of largemouth bass, channel catfish, or any sunfish species is allowed.

CATFISH (Blue, Channel, and Flathead)

Ctsh1 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL; daily bag limit = 25 fish in any combination. In the 25-fish bag, no more than 5 fish 20 inches or greater in length may be retained, and no more than 1 of those can be 30 inches or greater in length.

Ctsh2 - For blue and channel catfish, MLL = 14 inches; combined daily bag limit = 15.

Ctsh3 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL; daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination, of which no more than 5 may be 30 inches or greater in length.

Ctsh4 - For flathead catfish, MLL = 18 inches; daily bag and possession limit = 10.

Ctsh5 - For the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston dam downstream to the FM Road 3278 bridge, blue and channel catfish MLL=12 inches; daily bag limit=10, of which only 2 fish can be 24 inches or greater in length.

Ctsh6 - For blue and channel catfish, no minimum length; combined daily bag limit = 15 fish. Only 1 blue catfish 30 inches or greater in length may be retained each day. For flathead catfish, no MLL; daily bag = 5.

CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)

Crpie1 - For black and white crappie, there is no MLL and daily bag = 25 in any combination.

Crpie2 - For black and white crappie caught from DEC. 1 through the last day of FEB., there is no MLL, daily bag = 25 in any combination, and all crappie caught must be retained. March-November, MLL = 10 inches. Year-round daily bag = 25 in any combination.

Crpie3 - For black and white crappie, MLL = 10 inches and daily bag = 37 in any combination. Possession limit = 50.

GAR (ALLIGATOR)

Gar1 - During May, no person shall take alligator gar from, or possess alligator gar while on, the Red River (including Lake Texoma) and all tributaries that drain directly or indirectly to the Red River on the Texas/Oklahoma border in Cooke, Grayson, Fannin, Lamar, Red River, and Bowie counties.

Gar2 - For alligator gar, daily bag = 5. Possession limit = 10.

Gar3 - Only alligator gar less than 48 inches in length may be retained. Daily bag limit = 1. Between one half-hour after sunset and one half-hour before sunrise, no person may take or possess an alligator gar by means of lawful archery equipment or crossbow unless they possess a harvest authorization (*Special Restrictions for Alligator Gar; Drawing for Harvest* - pg. 29).

GEAR AND METHODS

(Legal Fishing Devices and Restrictions, pg. 7)

Gear1 - Fishing is by pole and line only.

Gear2 - Fishing is by pole and line only. Anglers may use no more than two poles while fishing.

Gear3 - Use of juglines, throwlines and trotlines is prohibited.

Gear4 - Use of trotlines is prohibited.

Gear5 - Fishing is by pole and line only. Anglers may use no more than two poles while fishing from any dock, pier, jetty, or man-made structure.

RED DRUM

RDrm1 - For red drum, MLL = 20 inches and daily bag = 3 and no maximum length limit.

SHAD (GIZZARD AND THREADFIN SHAD)

Shad1 - For the Trinity River below Lake Livingston between Polk and San Jacinto counties, the daily bag for shad = 500 and the possession limit = 1,000 fish in any combination.

TROUT (RAINBOW AND BROWN TROUT)

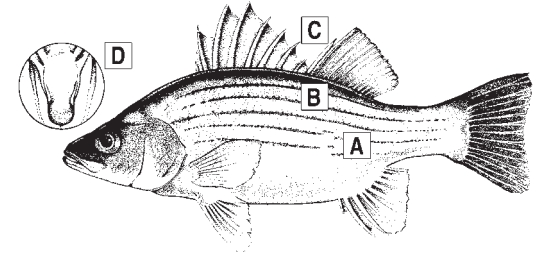
Trout1 - For rainbow and brown trout in the Guadalupe River 800 yards downstream from the Canyon Dam release and extending downstream to the easternmost Hwy. 306 bridge crossing, length limit is a 12-18-inch slot. Trout 12 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained. Daily bag = 5 trout and only 1 trout 18 inches or greater in length may be retained. Harvest of trout is by artificial lures only. Additional restrictions on use of artificial lures, pg. 8 under "Pole and Line."

Trout2 - For rainbow and brown trout in the Guadalupe River from the easternmost Hwy. 306 bridge crossing downstream to the second bridge crossing River Road, MLL is 18 inches and daily bag is 1 fish. Harvest of trout is by artificial lures only. Additional restrictions on use of artificial lures, pg. 8 under "Pole and Line."

IDENTIFICATION OF YELLOW, WHITE, STRIPED, AND HYBRID STRIPED BASS

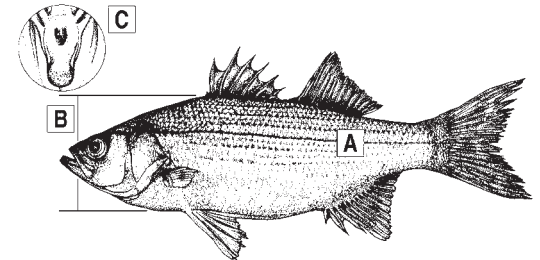
Yellow bass

- A** Stripes distinct, broken above anal fin
- B** Color - silvery yellow
- C** Dorsal fins joined
- D** Does not have a tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue



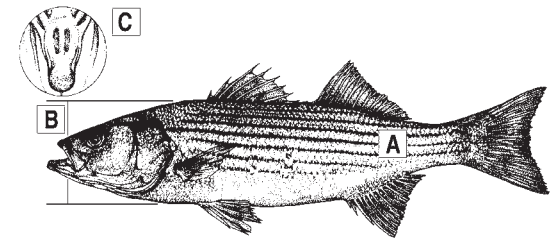
White bass

- A** Stripes faint, only one extends to tail
- B** Body deep, more than 1/3 length
- C** Has one tooth patch near the midline towards the back of the tongue



Striped bass

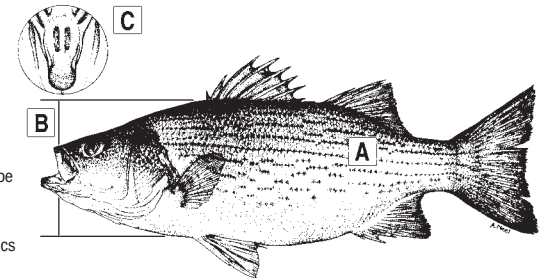
- A** Stripes distinct, several extend to tail
- B** Body slender, less than 1/3 length
- C** Has two, distinct tooth patches near the midline towards the back of the tongue



Hybrid striped bass

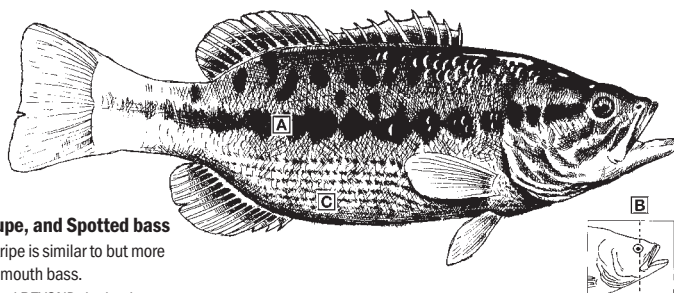
(also known as Palmetto or Sunshine bass)

- A** Stripes distinct, usually broken, several extend to tail.
- B** Body deep, more than 1/3 length
- C** Has two, tooth patches near the midline on the back of the tongue. Tooth patches may be distinct or close together



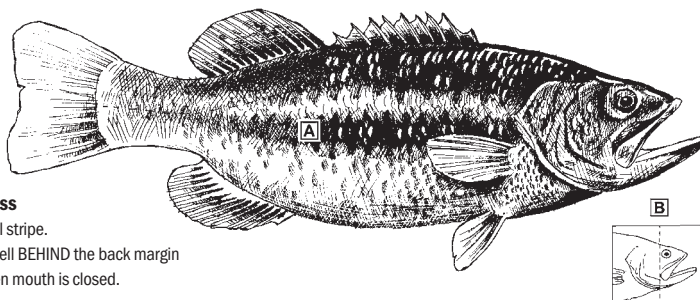
NOTE: For hybrid striped bass, all characteristics should be considered for identification, as characteristics in individual fish may vary.

IDENTIFICATION OF ALABAMA, GUADALUPE, SPOTTED, LARGEMOUTH, AND SMALLMOUTH BASS



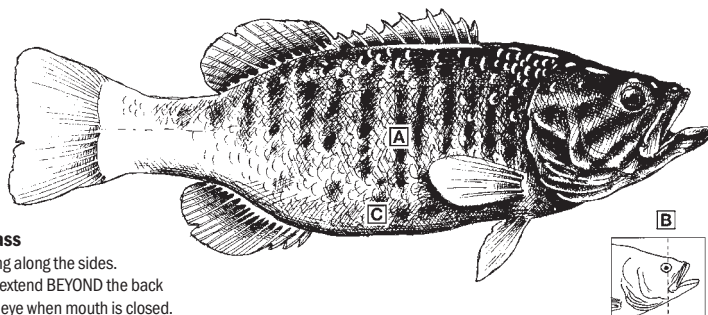
Alabama, Guadalupe, and Spotted bass

- A** Irregular lateral stripe is similar to but more broken than largemouth bass.
- B** Jaw does not extend BEYOND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.
- C** Spots on scales form "rows" of stripes on whitish belly area.



Largemouth bass

- A** Definite lateral stripe.
- B** Jaw extends well BEHIND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.



Smallmouth bass

- A** Vertical barring along the sides.
- B** Jaw does not extend BEYOND the back margin of the eye when mouth is closed.
- C** Brownish-green color; white belly area does not extend high on the sides.

Saltwater Fishing

GENERAL SALTWATER FISHING

- It is unlawful to anchor or moor a vessel, barge, or structure for a period exceeding two consecutive days within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.
- For freshwater finfish species caught in the public salt waters of this state, statewide bag, possession and length limits as listed on pg. 15 apply.
- Please review General Regulation for Fresh and Salt Waters for additional regulations, legal fishing devices, and means and methods.

STATE WATERS – FEDERAL WATERS

Anglers fishing more than 9 nautical miles off the coast of Texas are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. One example is the federal requirement to use non-stainless circle hooks when fishing for reef fish. Recreational anglers must have a Texas fishing license and saltwater endorsement to possess in state water or land in Texas any fish taken in federal waters.

TPWD has the authority to open and close the red snapper fishery in federal water. Anglers may not possess more than 4 red snapper while fishing in state waters. For the latest information regarding season dates: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/RedSnapper. Federal commercial and recreational fishing rules are available at: gulfcouncil.org/fishing-regulations.

Anglers fishing for any species of reef fish must possess a descending device or venting tool ready to be deployed on fish exhibiting signs of barotrauma. Definitions, pg. 87.

The limits and restrictions in this guide apply to aquatic life caught in the public waters of Texas out to 9 nautical miles in the Gulf of Mexico, and to aquatic life caught between 9 and 200 nautical miles in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and possessed in state waters or landed in this state. Federal law also regulates species between 9 and 200 nautical miles managed under a Federal Fishery Management Plan. Importation of Wildlife Resources, pg. 5.

Fishing on state-sponsored offshore artificial reefs is subject to the same regulations as other offshore locations: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/ArtificialReef.

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS AQUATIC LIFE IN TEXAS WATERS THAT WAS ILLEGALLY TAKEN IN FEDERAL WATERS.

BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR SALTWATER FISH

The possession limit is equal to double the bag limit unless otherwise noted.

SPECIES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	LENGTH IN INCHES		CLARIFICATION
		Minimum	Maximum	
Amberjack - greater	1	38	No limit	
Bass - Striped, its hybrids and subspecies	5 (in any combination)	18	No limit	
Catfish - Channel and blue, their hybrids and subspecies	25 (in any combination- only 10 can be 20 inches or greater in length)	No limit	No limit	
Catfish - flathead	5	18	No limit	
Catfish - gafftopsail	No limit	14	No limit	
Cobia	1	40	No limit	
Drum - black	5	14	30	No more than one black drum over 52 inches may be retained per person per day and counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit.
Drum - red	3	20	28	During a license year, one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Red Drum Tag and one red drum over the stated maximum length limit may be retained when affixed with a properly completed Bonus Red Drum Tag* Any fish retained under authority of a Red Drum Tag or a Bonus Red Drum Tag may be retained in addition to the daily bag and possession limit as stated in this section.

*Digital tags must be reported using the My Texas Hunt Harvest (MTHH) mobile or online app in lieu of being affixed.

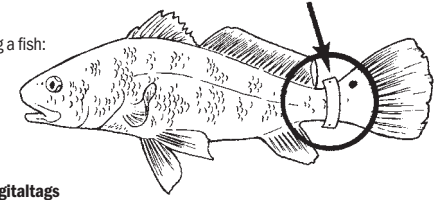
BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR SALTWATER FISH

The possession limit is equal to double the bag limit unless otherwise noted.

SPECIES	DAILY BAG LIMIT	LENGTH IN INCHES		CLARIFICATION
		Minimum	Maximum	
Flounder - all species, their hybrids and subspecies	5	15	No limit	Daily bag is 5 fish except Nov 1-Dec 14 (fishery closed; bag limit = 0). Possession limit = the daily bag.
Gar - alligator <i>See Special Restrictions - includes mandatory harvest reporting (pg. 29)</i>	1	No limit	No limit	
Grouper - black	4	24	No limit	
Grouper - gag	2	24	No limit	
Grouper - goliath (formerly called Jewfish)	0	Catch and release only		
Grouper - Nassau	0	Catch and release only		
Mackerel - king	3	27	No limit	
Mackerel - Spanish	15	14	No limit	
Marlin - blue	No limit	131	No limit	
Marlin - white	No limit	86	No limit	
Mullet - all species, their hybrids and subspecies	No limit	No limit	12 (during Oct - Jan)	May not take from public waters, or possess on board a boat, mullet over 12 inches. No limits apply during other months.
Sailfish	No limit	84	No limit	
Seatrout - spotted	5	15	25	No more than 1 spotted seatrout over the stated maximum length may be retained per person per day. Counts as part of the daily bag and possession limit. Possession = double the daily bag limit.
Shark Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead	1	24	No limit	Special Regulation: The daily bag limit is 1 fish for all allowable shark species INCLUDING Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip and bonnethead. Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks MUST be used when fishing for sharks in state waters.
Shark Allowable species		64	No limit	
Shark Hammerhead (smooth, great, scalloped)		99	No limit	
Shark Prohibited species	0	Catch and release only. Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks MUST be used.		Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Shortfin mako, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale
Sheepshead	5	15	No limit	
Snapper - lane	No limit	8	No limit	
Snapper - red	4	15	No limit	May be taken using pole and line. Only circle hooks may be used when using natural bait. Additional regulations, pgs. 8 & 37.
Snapper - vermilion	No limit	10	No limit	
Snook	1	24	28	
Tarpon	1	85	No limit	
Triggerfish - gray	20	16	No limit	
Tripletail	3	17	No limit	

HOW TO ATTACH RED DRUM TAG

For printed license holders, immediately upon retaining a fish:



1. Remove tag from license and use entire tag.
2. Fill in ALL information spaces on front of tag.
3. Cut out day and month.
4. Attach tag with a string or wire to the narrowest part of the tail, just ahead of the tail fin.

For electronic tagging instructions: tpwd.texas.gov/digitaltags

SALTWATER FREEZE EVENTS

When water temperatures on the coast are predicted to fall below 40°F, the TPWD executive director may close one or more of the sites listed on the website below for saltwater fishing until the threat from the freeze event is over. This Notice of Closure will be posted online and shared with news and social media. Names and images of coastal waters that may be closed to fishing during freeze conditions can be found at: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/SaltwaterFreeze.

Shellfish and Other Aquatic Life

CRAB REGULATIONS

- It is UNLAWFUL to place, fish, or leave a crab trap or its components in coastal waters from Feb 16-25.
- Crabs may be taken for personal use (bait or food) with a recreational fishing license but may not be sold.
- With a recreational fishing license, it is lawful to take, attempt to take, or possess crabs and ghost shrimp by means, in numbers, and of sizes ONLY as described below.

RECREATIONAL CRABBING DEVICES AND RESTRICTIONS

Crab Line	Net	Sand Pumps	Other Devices
Crab Trap	Folding Panel Traps	Umbrella Net	

Full list of definitions of these devices, pg. 7

CRAB DAILY BAG, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS

SPECIES	DAILY BAG	POSSESSION	MINIMUM LENGTH	EXCEPTIONS
Blue crab	No limit	No limit	5 inches (measured across widest point of body from tip of spine to tip of spine, pg. 14)	No more than 5% by number, of undersized blue crabs may be possessed for bait purposes only and must be placed in a separate container. May not possess egg-bearing (sponge) crabs. May not possess a female crab that has its abdominal apron removed.
Stone crab (right claw only)	No limit	No limit	2-1/2 inches claw (measured from tip of claw to first joint behind the immovable claw, pg. 14)	Only the right claw may be retained or possessed. Body must be immediately returned to the water from which it was taken.
Ghost shrimp	20	20 per person	None	

RECREATIONAL OYSTER REGULATIONS

- Oysters taken for personal use (food) with recreational licenses may not be sold.
- Oysters may be taken by hand, with tongs, or by oyster dredge. Oyster dredges may not be more than 14 inches in width.
- A vessel used while engaged in fishing with tongs or a dredge requires the purchase of an additional "sport oyster boat" commercial fishing license (Resident: Item 328, \$13; Non-resident: Item 428, \$51). For information, pg. 9.
- Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services Seafood and Aquatic Life Group. tpwd.texas.gov/oa/ShellfishHarvestMaps.
- Oysters may only be taken from marked private leases with permission of the lessee.
- Recreational Seasons: Monday-Saturday, Nov 1 - Apr 30, sunrise-3:30 p.m.

Length and Possession Limits

- Oysters must be 3 inches or larger as measured by the greatest length of the shell.
- Oysters 3/4-inch to 3 inches and dead oyster shell greater than 3/4-inch (measured along any axis) must be culled and returned to the reef from which taken.
- Oysters 3/4-inch to 3 inches and dead oyster shell greater than 3/4-inch (measured along any axis) may not make up more than 5% by number of oysters in possession.
- No more than two sacks of legal oysters may be possessed per person. A sack is defined as 110 pounds of oysters including dead oyster shell and the sack.

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING REGULATIONS

- Shrimp may be taken for personal use (bait or food) with a recreational fishing license but may not be sold.
- A person taking or attempting to take shrimp from salt water for non-commercial purposes is required to have a valid fishing license and a saltwater fishing endorsement.

Legal Sport Shrimping Devices

- Cast Net (pg. 7 for cast net restrictions)
- Seine (pg. 9 for seine restrictions)

The following minor bays are CLOSED

to oyster harvest:

- Christmas Bay, Brazoria County
- Carancahua Bay, Calhoun and Matagorda County
- Powderhorn Lake, Calhoun County
- Hynes Bay, Refugio County
- St. Charles Bay, Aransas County
- South Bay, Cameron County
- Areas along all shorelines with state health department approved or conditionally approved areas for shellfish harvest extending 300 feet from the water's edge or exposed oysters inside of the 300-foot area.

- Individual Bait-Shrimp Trawl with Individual Bait-Shrimp Trawl Tag (Item 334 - \$37) (pg. 10 and below)
 - Only one trawl per boat is allowed.
 - Must have an individual bait-shrimp trawl tag in possession while trawling (pg. 10).
 - Must not be greater than 20 feet in width between the doors.
 - Mesh size must not be smaller than 8-3/4 inches over a consecutive series of five stretched meshes.
 - Boards must not be larger than 450 square inches each.

COASTAL WATER AREAS (all the salt waters of the state)

OUTSIDE WATER	The Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward to nine nautical miles. May not take shrimp from outside waters during closed seasons (pg. 26)
INSIDE WATER	All bays, passes, rivers, or other bodies of water landward from the shoreline along the Gulf of Mexico. In these waters, the tide rises and falls and saltwater shrimp are found or migrate. Shrimping is not permitted within any natural or man-made pass leading from the inside waters to the outside waters of the state
MAJOR BAYS	Sabine Lake north of Cameron Causeway to south of a line marked by the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (Sabine Neches Canal/Sabine River) between the easternmost tip of Goat Island to the westernmost tip of Stewts Island
	Trinity Bay southward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County
	Galveston Bay
	East Bay westward from a line extending from Frozen Point to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Marker 12
	Matagorda Bay westward of a line extending from a location on the mainland (where a line running immediately northwest [bearing 330 degrees] from Shellfish Marker A intersects the mainland), thence southeasterly to Shellfish Marker A located near the mainland, thence to Shellfish Marker B located near the end of Shell Island Reef, thence to the tide gauge located near the Matagorda Peninsula, and thence southeasterly [bearing 153 degrees] to the Matagorda Peninsula
	East Matagorda Bay
	Tres Palacios Bay south of a line from Grassey Point to the mouth of Pilkington Bayou
	Espiritu Santo Bay
	Lavaca Bay southward of State Hwy. 35
	San Antonio Bay southward of a line from McDowell Point to Mosquito Point
Aransas Bay	
Corpus Christi Bay exclusive of the area bounded by a line extending from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway at the southwest point of the Dagger Island chain, along Dagger Island to the southeast tip of Ransom Island, then southeast to the westernmost point of land north of Marker 14 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel	
All exclusive of tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes and rivers	

COASTAL WATER AREAS (all the salt waters of the state)

BAIT BAYS (includes major bays and those listed here)	Chocolate Bay
	West Bay south and west of Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway inclusive of the area south of a line extending westward from Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge at Virginia Point, along the southern edge of Tiki Island to the northeastern tip of North Deer Island at Channel Marker 48
	Trinity Bay northward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County
	The Old Brazos River lying north of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Brazoria County
	Upper Laguna Madre
	Baffin Bay
	Alazan Bay
NURSERY AREAS (All Shrimping Prohibited)	Barroom Bay
	Lower Laguna Madre, including the Brownsville Ship Channel
	The entire Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, exclusive of all tributaries
	Those coastal waters not specifically named above as Major Bays or Bait Bays are considered Nursery Areas. Includes tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes, and rivers that serve as significant growth and development environments for postlarval and juvenile shrimp. Does not include outside waters, major bays, or bait bays

RECREATIONAL BAIT SHRIMPING (MAJOR BAYS AND BAIT BAYS)

LOCATION	SEASON	HOURS	LIMITS
Major Bays and Bait Bays	Year-round	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	2 quarts/person (heads attached) 4 quarts/boat (heads attached) on boats with individual bait shrimp trawl No count size restriction

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN BAIT (MAJOR BAYS ONLY)

LOCATION	SEASON	HOURS	LIMITS
Major Bays ONLY	Spring May 15 - Jul 15	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	15 pounds/person/day (heads attached) No count size restrictions
	Fall Aug 15 - Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset	15 pounds/person/day (heads attached) No count size restrictions

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING IN OUTSIDE WATERS – SOUTHERN ZONE

(South of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Mexican Border). Dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours public notice on new opening dates.

LOCATION	SEASON	HOURS	LIMITS
Beyond 5 nautical miles	Dec 1 - May 15 Jul 16 - Nov 30	Day and Night	100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
Inside 5 nautical miles	Jul 16-Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset (closed at night)	100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	CLOSED SEASON Dec 1 - May 15	N/A	N/A
Inside 9 nautical miles	SUMMER CLOSED SEASON May 15 - Jul 15	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) may close the Exclusive Economic Zone off Texas (9-200 nautical miles) at the same time Texas waters are closed. For additional information call (727) 824-5305.

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING IN OUTSIDE WATERS — NORTHERN ZONE

(North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Louisiana Border)

Dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours public notice on new opening dates.

LOCATION	SEASON	HOURS	LIMITS
Beyond 5 nautical miles	Dec 1 - May 15 Jul 16 - Nov 30	Day and Night	100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
Inside 5 nautical miles	Feb 16 - May 15 Jul 16 - Nov 30	30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset (closed at night)	100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)
	CLOSED SEASON Dec 1 - Feb 15	N/A	N/A
Inside 9 nautical miles	SUMMER CLOSED SEASON May 15 - Jul 15	Day and Night	CLOSED SEASON

NUECES COUNTY RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING RESTRICTIONS

It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take shrimp with a trawl in the Laguna Madre north of a line starting on the mainland at the most northeasterly point on the north side of the entrance to Whiteley Channel then proceeding in a straight line to the north end of Pita Island; then continuing on a line to the southernmost point on the westerly most spoil island bordering the north side of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel); then continuing on a line along the north edge of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel) to its junction with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; then continuing on a straight line to the Nueces/Kleberg County line marker on Padre Island.

OTHER AQUATIC LIFE (FRESH AND SALT WATERS)

- Aquatic life not addressed in this guide (except threatened and endangered species) may be taken only by hand or with the devices defined as lawful for taking fish, crabs, oysters, or shrimp.
- Anglers and hunters may NOT harvest marine mammals such as porpoises, dolphins and whales.
- In public fresh waters, a fishing license and freshwater fishing endorsement is required to take mussels, clams, crayfish, and other aquatic life for personal use. In salt water, a saltwater fishing endorsement is required with the fishing license.
- A hunting license is required to hunt non-protected turtles and frogs.
- Licensed recreational anglers may take no more than 25 pounds of whole mussels and clams, or 12 pounds of mussels and clam shells per day for personal use.
- Clams, mussels and other molluscan shellfish taken from public salt waters may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS). Maps identifying approved areas may be obtained from the TDSHS, Seafood and Aquatic Life Group (512) 834-6757. Additional information concerning area closures may be obtained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling (800) 685-0361.
- Consumption of clams and mussels taken from public fresh waters is prohibited by the TDSHS.
- Mussels and clams may only be taken by hand.
- Freshwater mussels of the following species may be taken only when they will not pass through a ring with an inside diameter (I.D.) specified for that species.

SPECIES	RING ID IN INCHES
Washboard	4.00
Threeridges and roundlakes	2.75
Mapleleafs and pimplebacks	2.75

SPECIES	RING ID IN INCHES
Tampico pearlymussel	2.75
Bleufer	2.75
All other species of freshwater mussels	2.5

- For information on harvesting native freshwater mussels and clams, including areas closed to harvest, call TPWD at (512) 389-4444.
- It is unlawful to take more than 15 live univalve snails during a day which include no more than two each of the following snails: lightning whelk, horse conch, Florida fighting conch, pear whelk, banded tulip, or Florida rocksnail. Exotic applesnails and giant ramshorn snails cannot be possessed live or dead unless removed from their shells.
- It is unlawful to take or kill shell-bearing mollusks, hermit crabs, starfish, or sea urchins from Nov 1 through Apr 30 within the following boundary: the bay and pass sides of South Padre Island from the east end of the north jetty at Brazos Santiago Pass to the west end of West Marisol Drive in the town of South Padre Island, out 1,000 yards from the mean high-tide line, and bounded to the south by the centerline of the Brazos Santiago Pass.

Definitions - Hunting, Fishing, and Boating

Active duty

Full-time military service in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Reserves, National Guard or Texas State Guard; includes full-time training duty and attendance while in active service at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary of the military department. Note: Veteran Waterfowl and Active Military Waterfowl season definitions differ (pg 61).

Aggregate limit

A daily bag or possession limit composed of more than one species or a single bag limit that applies to a group of counties.

Aircraft

Any mechanical or other device used for flight; this includes unmanned aerial vehicles (aka drones). Aircraft may not be used, or any attempt, to hunt, locate (including wounded animals), photograph, count, harass, drive any animal without a department-issued permit.

Air gun

A device that fires a bullet solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant.

Annual bag limit

(alligator, deer, pronghorn, turkey or javelina) The maximum number of these species that may be lawfully taken by a hunter during a license year.

Antler Point

A projection that extends at least one inch from the edge of a main beam or another tine. The tip of a main beam is also a point.

Antlerless Deer

A deer with no antler point protruding through the skin or a deer that has no antlers.

Artificial lure

Any lure (including flies) with hook or hooks attached that is man-made and is used as a bait while fishing.

Arrow gun

A device that fires an arrow or bolt solely by the use of unignited compressed gas as the propellant.

Bait

Something that intentionally or unintentionally lures any wildlife resource. Includes, but not limited, to salt, grain, minerals, or other feed, directly or indirectly placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered. Does not include scent attractants for animals. It is unlawful to use game fish or any part thereof as bait.

Baited area

Any (public or private) area where bait is found. For migratory game birds, this could include adjacent properties. There is no set distance from a baited area that a bird/animal may be hunted if the flight path or behavior is altered by its

placement. It is the hunter's responsibility to know if an area is baited. These areas are unlawful for ALL migratory game birds and eastern wild turkeys and Public Hunting Land.

Barotrauma

A condition caused by expansion of gases inside a fish, such as the stomach coming out of the mouth, bulging eyes, bloated belly, and/or distended intestines.

Buck deer

A deer with an antler point protruding through the skin or a deer with antler growth in velvet of greater than one inch.

Buck Pronghorn

A pronghorn with black cheek patches below the ears.

Catch

To take or kill and includes an attempt to take or kill.

CITES

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Community fishing lake

All public impoundments 75 acres or smaller located totally within an incorporated city limits or a municipal, city, county, or state park. For a listing of specific fishing regulations for these waters, pg. 16. For a list of Community Fishing Lakes in a specific area, call (512) 389-4444 or check online: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/LakeFinder.

Closed season

For any species, the period of time, if any, when fishing or hunting that species is not permitted.

Culling

Release of a fish after it was held in an angler's possession to be replaced with another fish of the same species.

Daily bag limit (Anglers)

Quantity of a species of a resource, such as fish, that may be taken in one day.

Daily bag limit (Hunters)

The maximum number of game animals/birds that may be lawfully taken or possessed by a hunter in one day. No person shall possess more than one daily bag limit while in the field or travelling to or from the field.

Day

A 24-hour period of time that begins at midnight and ends at midnight.

Depredation

Causing damage or destruction to property, commercial crops or native environments.

Descending Device

An instrument capable of releasing a fish at the depth from

which the fish was caught with a weighted hook, lip clamp, or container that will hold the fish while it is lowered to depth to effect release. The device must be capable of releasing the fish automatically, by actions of the operator of the device, or by allowing the fish to escape on its own when at depth. The device must use a minimum of a 16-ounce (454-gram) weight and a minimum of a 60-ft (15.2-m) length of line.

Final destination

The permanent residence (definition, pg. 30) of the hunter; the permanent residence of any other person receiving the animal/bird carcass part of an animal/bird carcass; or a Type 1 cold storage or processing facility.

Final processing

The cleaning of a dead wildlife resource for cooking or storage purposes. For a deer or pronghorn carcass, the term includes the processing of the animal more than by quartering.

Fishing

The act of taking or attempting to take aquatic animal life by any means.

Fishing guide

A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state. tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/commercial

Fishing guide deck hand

A person in the employ of a fishing guide who assists in operating a boat for compensation to accompany or to transport a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state. tpwd.texas.gov/fishboat/fish/commercial

Gear tag

A tag constructed of material as durable as the device to which it is attached. The gear tag must be legible, contain the name and address, or customer number, of the person using the device, and the date the device was set out. Date is not required for saltwater trotlines or crabtraps fished under a commercial license. For juglines, freshwater trotlines, minnow traps, and throwlines properly marked buoys or floats qualify as valid gear tags.

Hunt

To capture, trap, take, or kill, and includes the act of attempting to capture, trap, take, or kill.

Immediate consumption

The preparation process for a carcass portion to be immediately cooked and eaten. This would not include processed portions stored while marinating for later consumption.

Legal shooting hours for all game animals and nonmigratory (upland) game birds

The period from one-half hour before official sunrise to one-half hour after official sunset. For information on sunrise/sunset hours: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/sun

Livestock

Includes but is not limited to cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats and domesticated/non-feral swine.

Manipulation

The alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops, including but not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning and herbicide treatments. Only lawful for dove hunting, NOT waterfowl or cranes. Manipulation does not include the incidental distributing or scattering of grain, seed or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Migratory bird preservation facility

A stationary facility designed and constructed to store or process game birds.

Motorboat

Any vessel propelled or designed to be propelled by machinery, whether or not the machinery is permanently or temporarily affixed or is the principal source of propulsion.

Natural vegetation

Any non-agricultural, native or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or propagule. Natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the planting is considered natural vegetation (only natural vegetation may be manipulated for waterfowl and crane hunting.)

Nongame fish

All species not listed as game fish except endangered and threatened fish, which are defined and regulated under separate rules.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, and post-harvest manipulation

A normal agricultural planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation (including post-harvest) after such harvest and removal of a crop, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Includes commercial harvest, loading and unloading. Does not include the broadcast spreading of seed that is normally drill-planted.

Normal stabilization practice

A planting for agricultural soil-erosion control or post-mining land-reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

Open season

The period of time during which it is lawful to pursue, hunt, take, or attempt to take a specified animal, bird, or fish. The dates in this guide are opening and closing dates for the open season which includes all dates between them.

Operate

To navigate or otherwise use a motorboat or a vessel.

Outboard motor

Any self-contained internal combustion propulsion system, excluding fuel supply, which is used to propel a vessel and which is detachable as a unit from the vessel.

Party boat

A vessel, other than a sailboat, of 30 feet or more in length that is operated on inland waters of the state by the owner of the vessel or an employee and is rented or leased for a recreational event for more than six passengers.

Permanent residence

One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. This does not include one's temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting/fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent, car, truck, or trailer house used as a hunting/fishing club, or any hotel, motel, or rooming house used during a hunting, fishing, pleasure, or business trip.

Personal watercraft

A type of motorboat that is specifically designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

Possession limit (hunters)

The maximum number of any animal or bird that may be possessed by any person at any place. This limit only ceases when a bird or animal is legally finally processed or reaches its final destination. Final processing may only occur at final destination or cold storage facility.

Possession limit (anglers)

The maximum number of fish a person may possess before returning to their residence. Possession limit is twice the daily bag on game and nongame fish, except as provided in this guide, and does not apply to fish in the possession of or stored by a person at their residence.

Pre-charged pneumatic

An air gun or arrow gun for which the propellant is supplied or introduced by means of a source that is physically separate from the air gun or arrow gun. Note: Air guns or arrow guns powered by CO2 canisters are NOT pre-charged pneumatics.

Pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*)

In this document, "pronghorn" means "pronghorn antelope." More information: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/pronghorn

Residence (anglers)

A permanent structure where a person regularly sleeps and keeps personal belongings such as furniture and clothes, but does not include a temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting or fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house or mobile home used as hunting or fishing camp, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used on a temporary basis.

Sell

To transfer the ownership or the right of possession of an item to a person for consideration and includes a barter and an even exchange.

Sinkbox

A low floating device concealing a person below the surface of the water. Sinkboxes are unlawful.

Tag

A label attached to a harvested resource (such as animal, fowl, fish). The type of license (physical or digital) may affect the type of tag authorized for use.

Venting tool

A device capable of penetrating the abdomen of a fish for purposes of releasing gases accumulated in the body cavity as a result of retrieving the fish from depth. It must be a sharpened, hollow instrument that allows air to escape and of at least a 16-gauge, with an outside diameter of no less than 0.065 inches (1.65 mm).

Veteran

A person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable. Note: Veteran Waterfowl and Active Military Waterfowl season definitions differ (pg 61).

Vessel

Any watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used for transportation on water.

Waterfowl

Ducks (including teal), geese, mergansers, and coots. Does NOT include Sandhill Crane.

Wildlife resource

Any wild animal, wild bird, or aquatic life.

Wildlife Resource Document (WRD)

A document that allows a person to give, leave, receive, or possess any species (or part of) of legally taken game birds, game fish or game animals; WRD must contain: (A) name, signature, address, and hunting license number of the person who harvested or caught the wildlife resource; (B) name of the person receiving the wildlife resource; (C) description of the wildlife resource (number and type of species or parts); (D) date the wildlife resource was harvested or caught; and (E) location where the wildlife resource was harvested or caught (name of ranch; area; county).

Wounded deer

A deer leaving a blood trail.

Youth (for the purposes of participation in Youth-Only hunting seasons or special youth events)

Any person 16 years of age or younger.

Commonly Used Abbreviations

CDC	Centers for Disease Control	PWC	Personal Watercraft
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	TAHC	Texas Animal Health Commission
CWD	Chronic Wasting Disease	TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	TDSHS	Texas Department of State Health Services
HIP	Harvest Information Program	TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
IWVC	Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact	USCG	United States Coast Guard
MLDP	Managed Lands Deer Program	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
OGT	Operation Game Thief	WMA	Wildlife Management Area
PFD	Personal Flotation Device	WRD	Wildlife Resource Document
		WTD	White-tailed Deer

TPWD REGIONAL AND FIELD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES

Abilene	281 North Willis (79603) (325) 673-3333	Laredo	5119 Bob Bullock Loop (78041) (956) 718-1087
Amarillo	203 SW 8th Street, Suite 200 (79101) (806) 379-8900	Lubbock	1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415) (806) 761-4930
Beaumont	5655 Eastex Frwy., Suite A (77706) (409) 892-8666	Lufkin	Old Texas Plaza, 4100 S. Medford Drive, Suite 204B (75901) (936) 632-1311
Brownsville	5460 Paredes Line Road, Ste. 201 (78526) (956) 546-1952	Midland	4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703) (432) 520-4649
Brownwood	301 Main, Suite D (76801) (325) 646-0440	Mt. Pleasant	212 South Johnson (75455) (903) 572-7966
College Station	12815 FM 2154 (Wellborn Road) Suite 160 (77845) (979) 696-4148	Rockport	715 South Hwy. 35 (78382) (361) 790-0312
Corpus Christi	5541 Bear Lane, Suite 232 (78405) (361) 289-5566	Rusk	580 West Sixth Street (75785) (903) 683-2511
El Paso	401 East Franklin, Suite 520 (79901) (915) 834-7050	San Angelo	3407 South Chadbourne (76903) (325) 651-4844
Fort Worth	5400 Airport Frwy, Suite E (76117) (817) 831-3128	San Antonio	2391 N.E. Loop 410, Suite 409 (78217) (210) 348-7375
Garland	346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043) (972) 226-9966	Temple	3615 South General Bruce Drive (76504) (254) 778-8913
Houston (north)	350 North Sam Houston Pkwy E., Ste. 100 (77060) (281) 931-6471	Tyler	11942A FM 848, Suite 100 (75707) (903) 534-0388
Houston (south)	10101 Southwest Frwy, #206 (77074) (713) 779-8977	Victoria	2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600A (77901) (361) 575-6306
Kerrville	309 Sidney Baker South (78028) (830) 257-7611	Waco	1601 East Crest Drive (76705) (254) 867-7951
LaMarque	14037 Delany Road (77568) (409) 933-1947	Wichita Falls	4822 Kemp Blvd., Suite 1300 (76308) (940) 723-7327



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