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 in private-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 big horn 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

No person may pursue a wounded wildlife resource across a property line without the consent of the landowner of the property where the wildlife resource has fled.

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 Sportsmen'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) 389-4830.**

**LICENSE RESTATEMENT**

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) non-profit. 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. 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.

**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 fishing, 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.
- use any game fish or part of a game fish as bait.
- transport live, nongame fishes taken from: - the Red River 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.
- use unpotted or dug 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.
- 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 as bait.

**FISHING**

**What’s New for Fishing**

Freshwater fishing regulations: modified length limit for largemouth bass on Moss Lake and Brushy Creek Lake; modified length and bag limits for blue and channel catfish, and restricted legal gear to pole and line, and angling only for Brusly Creek downstream from Brusly Creek Lake to the Williamson/Milam County line; removed length limit for crappie on Lake Nasworthy, and standardized length and bag limits for blue, channel, and flathead catfish in the Texas and Oklahoma waters of Lake Texoma and on the Red River below Lake Texoma. Saltwater fishing regulations: new 15-inch minimum size for flounder.

**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!

**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)
- Catfish (channel)
- Catfish (flathead)
- Cobia
- Crappie (black)
- Crappie (white)
- Mackerel (King)
- Mackerel (Spanish)
- Minnow
- Minnow (includes hybrids or subspecies of listed fish)
- Red Drum
- Saltfish
- Seatrout (spotted)
- Sharks
- Snook
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Trout
- Wahoo
- Walleye

**UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES**

It is UNLAWFUL to:
- use any game fish or part of a game fish as bait.
- transport live, nongame fishes taken from:
  - the Red River 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.
- use unpotted or dug 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 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.
- use any game fish or part of a game fish as bait.
- 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 as bait.

**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.
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. 84) 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 sidewalk, 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 Falley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
- 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 Cedary Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedary 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 MUST 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, 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. 84) 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 diameter.
- 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 diameter.

Jugline Placement and Location Restrictions
Juglines may not be used in the following:
- Community Fishing Lakes (definition, pg. 84)
- Lake Bryan in Brazos County
- Reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state park
- Bellwood Lake in Smith County
- Boeme City Lake in Kendall County
- Brushey Creek Lake and Brushey Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line
- Canyon Lake Project #6 in Lubbock County
- Davis Island Reservoir in Cameron County
- South Concho River from Lone Wolf dam to Bell Street dam
- Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County
- 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 gag 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 height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a gear tag attached.
- GEAR TAG (pg. 84) valid for only 6 days must be visibly attached.

OSTER 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 buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a GEAR TAG (pg. 84) 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 Cedary Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flow into Cedary 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 fouled 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. 84), 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, 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 faced 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 by the holder of a commercial fishing license.
- 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 1,900 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 Callianassid 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 FRESHWATER 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 FRESHWATER 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 diameter.
- For commercial purposes, must be marked with orange floats that are not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in diameter.

**TROTLINE (Saltwater) Construction and Design Restrictions**

- Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (pg. 84). 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 diameter.
- For commercial purposes, must be marked with orange floats that are not less than 6 inches in length and 3 inches in diameter.

**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. 84)
- 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
- Bruskey Creek Lake and Bruskey 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
- Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County
- 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 Reservior in Titus County
- Wheeler Branch Reservior 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 trolleys 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-trawl-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-trrimp trawl may be retained per person for bait purposes only.

**TROLINE (Freshwater):** 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. 84). 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.
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 hydilla, water hyacinth, and giant salvinia; fishes such as tilapia and Asian carp (grass, silver, and bighead carp); and aquatic invertebrates such as hard shell clams and zebra mussels.
• pose the risk of harming native aquatic life, including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp.
• may not have within the frame an area that exceeds 5 square feet or contain an animal life (including crabs, crayfish, and shrimp).
• transport any exotic aquatic plant or animal.
• posse or transport any exotic aquatic plant or animal listed as harmful or potentially harmful aquatic species that are visible to the unaided eye, such as adult zebra mussels, which may be attached to boats or trailers.

FISH CONSUMPTION BANS AND ADVISORIES

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) monitors fish in the state for the presence of environmental contaminants and alerts the public through bans and advisories when a threat to human health may occur from the consumption of contaminated fish. For a listing of all consumption bans and advisories, and a listing of areas tested where no bans or advisories were issued, visit tpwd.texas.gov/oa/seafood. call (800) 695-0355 (toll free) or (512) 634-6757 (fish) or email: seafood.regulatory@tdshs.texas.gov.

RESERVOIR BOUNDARIES
• Buchanan Reservoir in Burnet, Lampassas, Llano, and San Saba counties comprises all impounded waters of the Colorado River from the 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 in the Texas/Louisiana border state 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.
• Lake Conroe in Montgomery and Walker counties comprises all impounded waters of the West Fork of the San Jacinto River from the Grantwood 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.
• Gibbons Creek Reservoir in Grimes County comprises all waters within the Texas Municipal Power Agency property boundaries.
• Inks Lake in Burnet and Llano counties comprises all impounded waters of the Smith River from the 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 Nawsa 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 (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 Trinity River.
• Lake O’The Pines in Camp, Marion, Morris, and Upshur counties comprises all impounded waters of Big Cypress Creek from the Ferril’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 Blackbuck 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.
• Purvis Creek State Park Lake in Henderson and Van Zandt counties comprises all waters within the Purvis Creek State Park boundaries.
• Lake Somerville in Butler, Lee, Milam, and Washington counties comprises all impounded waters of Sanders Creek from Pat Mayse Lake Dam upstream to County Road 35610.
• Toledo Bend Reservoir in Newton, Panola, Sabine, and Shelby counties comprises all impounded waters of the Sabine River from Toledo Bend Reservoir 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 Pedemates 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 saltwater:

1. 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 Bloomingston and Seadrift.

The following public waters ARE NOT considered salt water:

- State Hwy. 185 between Bloomington and Seadrift, thence northward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of FM Road 521 north of Palacios, thence northward 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 northward 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 northward 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.

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°F and 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.

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.
- Hold larger fish (over 5 lbs.) vertically by the lower jaw but release the fish with a second hand under its body.

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.

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

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.
**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 (pg. 12). For locations that have larger daily bag limits for some species (Caddo Reservoir, Kirby Reservoir, Lake Livingston, Palestine Reservoir, the Sabine River below Toledo Bend 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 fish species caught in the brackish or fresh waters of this state, the same statewide bag, possession, and length limits as listed on pg. 22-38 apply.

**STATEWIDE BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR FRESHWATER FISH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY BAG LIMIT</th>
<th>LENGTH IN INCHES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bass - largemouth (listing for “Southeast Texas” for largemouth bass limit, pg. 17)</td>
<td>5 (in any combination)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - smallmouth</td>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - Alabama, Guadalupe and spotted</td>
<td></td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - striped and hybrid striped (also known as palmetto or sunshine bass)</td>
<td>5 (in any combination)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - white</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - yellow</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish - Channel and blue (includes their hybrids and subspecies)</td>
<td>25 (in any combination)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish - flathead</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crappie - white and black, their hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>25 (in any combination)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddletail</td>
<td>No harvest allowed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gar - alligator</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>See Special Restrictions - includes mandatory harvest reporting (pg. 14). See notes on “Lawful Archery Equipment” (pg. 8).</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shad - gizzard and threadfin</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunfish - Various species including bluegill, redear, green, warmouth, and longear</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout - Rainbow and brown, their hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>5 (in any combination)</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye, Saugeye</td>
<td>5 (only 2 can be less than 16 inches in length)</td>
<td>No Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Breder, 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 Bass8 and Gear1. Please read (and comply with) each exception. MLL = Minimum Length Limit.

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

**EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan Henry</td>
<td>Gazza</td>
<td>Bass12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athens</td>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>Bass8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>Bass8 Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedford Boys Ranch</td>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>C&amp;R2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellwood</td>
<td>Smith</td>
<td>Bass1 Ctfsh1 Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boerne City Lake</td>
<td>Kendall</td>
<td>Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunig</td>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>RDM1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright</td>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>Bass6 Ctfsh2 Gear2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brushy Creek Lake and Brushy Creek downstream from the lake to the Williamson/Milam County line</td>
<td>Williamson</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bryan</td>
<td>Brazos</td>
<td>Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buck</td>
<td>Kimble</td>
<td>Bass4 Ctfsh2 Gear1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buescher State Park Lake</td>
<td>Bastrop</td>
<td>Bass8 Ctfsh2 Gear1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caddo*</td>
<td>Harrison, Marion</td>
<td>Bass13 Ctfsh2 S&amp;W5 Ctfsh9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calaveras</td>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>RDM1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canyon Lake Project #6</td>
<td>Lubbock</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casa Blanca</td>
<td>Webb</td>
<td>Bass6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleburne State Park Lake</td>
<td>Johnson</td>
<td>Bass6 Ctfsh2 Gear1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Mill</td>
<td>Fannin</td>
<td>Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colote Creek Reservoir</td>
<td>Gold, Victoria</td>
<td>RDM1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Fishing Lakes (except Reservoirs totally within State Parks; see State Park Lakes, pg. 17)</td>
<td>Various - definition, pg. 84</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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)</td>
<td>Tom Green</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conroe*</td>
<td>Montgomery, Waiker</td>
<td>Bass5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Davy Crockett</td>
<td>Fannin</td>
<td>Bass1 Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devils River (including tributaries) from State Hwy. 163 bridge downstream to the confluence with Big Satank Creek</td>
<td>Val Verde</td>
<td>Bass3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dixieland</td>
<td>Cameron</td>
<td>Ctfsh1 Gear3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elm</td>
<td>Fort Bend</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairfield</td>
<td>Freestone</td>
<td>Bass6 RDM1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falcon</td>
<td>Starr, Zapata</td>
<td>Gar2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette County</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
<td>Bass9 Gear4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folk</td>
<td>Hopkins, Rains, Wood</td>
<td>Bass9 Ctfsh2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Parker State Park Lake</td>
<td>Limestone</td>
<td>Ctfsh2 Gear1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Reservoir boundaries (pg. 12)
EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS

LOCATION | COUNTY | EXCEPTIONS
---|---|---
Gibbons Creek Reservoir* | Grimes | Bass9 Gear3
Gillmer | Upshur | Bass6
Grapevine | Denton, Tarrant | Bass12
Guadalupe River (for additional restrictions on use of artificial lures, see "Poole and Line," pg. 8) | Comal | Trout1 Trout2
Houston County | Houston | Bass8
Jacksonville | Cherokee | Bass12
Joe Pool | Dallas, Ellis, Tarrant | Bass8
Kirby | Taylor | Ctfsh7
Kurth | Angelina | Bass1
Kyle | Hays | C&F1 Gear2
Lady Bird (Town) | Travis | Bass8 Carp1
Lake O’ The Pines* | Marion, Morris, Upshur | Ctfsh2
Lakewood | Williamson | Bass11
Lewisville | Denton | Ctfsh6
Livingston* | Houston, Leon, Madison, Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, Walker | Ctfsh3 Gar3
Lost Maples State Natural Area | Bandera | Bass3 Ctfsh2 Gear1
Marine Creek | Tarrant | Bass6
Meridian State Park Lake | Bosque | Bass6 Ctfsh2 Gear1
Mill Creek Lake | Van Zandt | Bass1
Mineral Wells | Parker | Ctfsh2 Gear1
Monticello | Titus | Bass9
Moss | Cooke | Bass1
Murvaul* | Panola | Bass8
Nacochiche | Nacogdoches | Bass1 Gear3
Nacogdoches | Nacogdoches | Bass1
Naworthy | Tom Green | Bass7 Ctfsh1
Nelson Park Lake | Taylor | Bass4 Ctfsh2 Gear2
O.H. Iive | Coleman, Concho, Runnels | Bass12
Palestine | Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson, Smith | Ctfsh7
Pflugerville | Travis | Bass6 Gear1
Pilant | Fort Bend | Ctfsh2 Gear1
Pinkston | Shelby | Bass8 Gear4
Puris Creek SP Lake* | Henderson, Van Zandt | Bass1 Ctfsh2 Gear1
Raven | Walker | Bass1 Ctfsh2 Gear1
Red River below Lake Texoma | Grayson | S&WR Ctfsh4
Richland Chambers | Freestone, Navarro | Ctfsh6
Sections of Rivers within State Parks | Various | Gear1
Sabine River (from Toledo Bend Dam to Sabine Pass) | Newton, Orange | Bass10 Ctfsh1 Ctfsh8 S&WR S&W5
Sheldon | Harris | Ctfsh2 Gear1
Southeast Texas (includes public waters bordering adjacent counties) | Chambers, Galveston, Hardin, Jefferson, Liberty (south of U.S. Hwy 90), Newton, Orange | Bass14
State Park Lakes (includes reservoirs totally within State Parks) | Various | Ctfsh2 Gear1
Tankersley | Titus | Ctfsh1 Gear3
Tawakoni | Hunt, Rains, Van Zandt | Ctfsh10
Texoma | Cooke, Grayson | S&WR S&W5 Ctfsh4 Ctfsh3 Wall1 Gar1

* Reservoir boundaries (pg. 12)

EXCEPTIONS TO STATEWIDE FRESHWATER HARVEST REGULATIONS

LOCATION | COUNTY | EXCEPTIONS
---|---|---
Timpson | Shelby | Bass8
Toledo Bend* | Newton, Panola, Sabine, Shelby | Bass2 Ctfsh1 Ctfsh9
Trinity River | Polk, San Jacinto | S&W4 Ctfsh5 Shad1
Trinity River (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
Waco | McLennan | Ctfsh6
Walter E. Long | Travis | Bass8
Wells | Titus | Bass6
Wheeler Branch | Somervell | Bass8 Gear1

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 = 5 bass. 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 - Daily bag for all five species of bass = 8 bass in any combination. Possession limit = 10. For largemouth bass, MLL = 12 inches.

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, and daily bag for all four species of bass = 5 bass in any combination.

Bass6 - For largemouth bass; MLL = 18 inches, and daily bag = 5. Culling of striped bass is prohibited.

Bass7 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14-18 slot. Bass 14 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained, and daily bag for all species of bass = 8 bass in any combination of which no more than 4 may be largemouth bass 18 inches or greater. Possession limit = 10.

Bass8 - Daily bag for all species of bass = 8 bass in any combination. Possession limit = 10. For largemouth bass, MLL = 12 inches.

Bass9 - For largemouth bass, length limit is a 14–18 slot. Bass 14 inches and less or 18 inches or greater in length may be retained, and daily bag for all four species of bass = 5 bass in any combination.

BASS (Striped, White, and Hybrid Striped)

SAW1 - 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.

SAW2 - For striped bass, no MLL, daily bag = 5, and only 2 striped bass, 30 inches or greater, may be retained each day.

SAW3 - For striped bass and hybrid striped bass, no MLL and daily bag = 5. Culling of striped bass is prohibited.

SAW4 - 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.

S&W5 - For white bass, no MLL and daily bag = 25.
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.
C&R2 - No harvest of largemouth bass or sunfish is allowed.

CATFISH (Blue, Channel, and Flathead)
Ctfsh1 - For channel and blue catfish, MLL = 12 and daily bag = 5 in any combination.
Ctfsh2 - For channel and blue catfish, no MLL and daily bag = 5 in any combination.
Ctfsh3 - For channel and blue catfish, daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination. Applies only to the portion of Lake Livingston in Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity, and Walker counties.
Ctfsh4 - For blue and channel catfish, No MLL and daily bag = 15. Only 1 blue catfish 30 inches or greater may be retained each day. For flathead catfish, No MLL and daily bag = 5.
Ctfsh5 - For the Trinity River from the Lake Livingston dam downstream to the FM Road 3278 bridge, blue and channel catfish MLL = 12 and daily bag = 10, of which only 2 fish can be 24 inches or larger.
Ctfsh6 - For blue catfish, length limit is a 30- to 45-inch slot. Blue catfish 30 inches or less or 45 inches or greater in length may be retained. Only 1 blue catfish 45 inches or greater may be retained each day. Daily bag = 25 blue and channel catfish in any combination.
Ctfsh7 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL and daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination of which no more than 5 blue or channel catfish 20 inches or greater may be retained.
Ctfsh8 - For flathead catfish, daily bag = 10 and possession limit = 10.
Ctfsh9 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL, and daily bag and possession limit = 50 in any combination of which no more than 5 blue or channel catfish 30 inches or greater may or may be retained.
Ctfsh10 - For blue and channel catfish, no MLL and daily bag limit = 15. In the 25-fish bag, no more than 7 fish 20 inches or greater may be retained, and no more than 2 of those fish may be 30 inches or longer.

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.
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 fish for, take, or seek to take alligator gar in that portion of Lake Texoma encompassed within the boundaries of the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge or that portion of Lake Texoma from the U.S. 377 bridge (Wills Bridge) upstream to the I.H. 35 bridge.
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. 14).

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.

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.”

WALLEYE
Wal1 - For walleye, MLL = 18 inches and daily bag = 5.

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. 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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY BAG LIMIT</th>
<th>LENGTH IN INCHES</th>
<th>CLARIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>Maximum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amberjack - greater</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bass - Striped, its hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>5 (in any combination)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish - Channel and blue, their hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>25 (in any combination)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish - flathead</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catfish - gafftopsail</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum - black</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drum - red</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flounder - all species, their hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>5/2 (in any combination)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Daily bag is 5 fish except from Nov. 1-30, when it is 2 fish (flounder may be taken only by pole-and-line); and from Dec. 1-14, when it is 2 fish (flounder may be taken by any legal means, including gigging). Possession limit – the daily bag.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY BAG LIMIT</th>
<th>LENGTH IN INCHES</th>
<th>CLARIFICATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gar</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alligator See Special Restrictions - includes mandatory harvest reporting (pg. 41)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper - black</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper - gag</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper - goliath (formerly called Jewfish)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grouper - Nassau</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Catch and release only</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel - king</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackerel - Spanish</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin - blue</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marlin - white</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mullet - all species, their hybrids and subspecies</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>12 (during Oct - Jan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sailfish</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seaturout - spotted</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Allowable species</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Hammerhead (smooth, great, scalloped)</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sagit, Bigeye tosheter, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Oceanic Whitetip, Sandbar, Sand Tiger, SewerGill, Silky, Sagit, SmallTail, Whale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shark Prohibited species</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Catch and release only. Non-offset, non-stainless steel circle hooks MUST be used.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheephead</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper - lane</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper - red</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snapper - vermilion</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snook</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarpon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triggerfish - gray</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tripletail</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>No limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BAG AND LENGTH LIMITS FOR SALTWATER FISH**

**HOW TO ATTACH RED DRUM TAG**

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.

**SALTWATER FREEZE EVENTS**

When temperatures on the coast are predicted to fall below 32°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 19-28.
- 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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crab Line</th>
<th>Net</th>
<th>Sand Pumps</th>
<th>Other Devices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crab Trap</td>
<td>Folding Panel Traps</td>
<td>Umbrella Net</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full list of definitions of these devices, pg. 7

**CRAB DAILY BAG, POSSESSION AND LENGTH LIMITS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY BAG</th>
<th>POSSESSION</th>
<th>MINIMUM LENGTH</th>
<th>EXCEPTIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blue crab</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>5 inches (measured across widest point of body from tip of spine to tip of spine, pg. 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone crab (right claw only)</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>No limit</td>
<td>2-1/2 inches claw (measured from tip of claw to first joint behind the immovable claw, pg. 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ghost shrimp</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20 per person</td>
<td>None</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RECREATIONAL OYSTER REGULATIONS**

- Oysters taken for personal use (food) with recreational licenses may not be sold.
- Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services Seafood and Aquatic Life Group.
- Oysters may be taken only from marked private leases with permission of the lessee.
- Recreational Seasons: Monday-Saturday, Nov 1 - Apr 30, sunrise–3:30 p.m.
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.

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 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 B 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
- Ives Palacios Bay south of a line from Grasse 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

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 | 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)
Fit | Aug 15 -Nov 30 | 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset | 15 pounds/person/day (heads attached)

RECREATIONAL SHRIMPING IN OUTSIDE WATERS – SOUTHERN ZONE

LOCATION | SEASON | HOURS | LIMITS
--- | --- | --- | ---
Beyond 5 nautical miles | Dec 1 - May 15 | 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)
Inside 9 nautical miles | SUMMER CLOSED SEASON | N/A | N/A

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>SEASON</th>
<th>HOURS</th>
<th>LIMITS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beyond 5 nautical miles</td>
<td>Dec 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Day and Night</td>
<td>100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside 5 nautical miles</td>
<td>Feb 16 - May 15</td>
<td>30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset (closed at night)</td>
<td>100 pounds onboard/day (heads attached)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside 9 nautical miles</td>
<td>SUMMER CLOSED Season May 16 - Jul 15</td>
<td>Day and Night</td>
<td>CLOSED SEASON</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 westmost spool of 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>RING ID IN INCHES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washboard</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Three ridges and roundlakes</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mapleleaf and pimpleback</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definitions - Fishing
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.

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.

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

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.

Catch
To take or kill 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 incorporated city limits or a public park, and all impoundments of any size totally within the boundaries of a state park. For a listing of specific fishing regulations for these waters, pg. <7>. For a list of Community Fishing Lakes in a specific area, call (512) 389-4444 or check online: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/LakeFinder.
DEFINITIONS

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

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
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.

Residence
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.

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

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) 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).

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

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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
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Brownsville 5460 Paredes Line Road, Ste. 201 (78526) (956) 546-1952  Midland 4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703) (432) 520-4649
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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
WILDLIFE RESOURCE DOCUMENT

Refer to sections on Transfer of Wildlife Resources, Cold Storage/Processing Facility, and Taxidermist for an explanation of requirements to complete and possess this document.

I,

(1) Name

(2) Phone

(3) Address

City / State / Zip

give, donate, leave the wildlife resource(s) or parts thereof, listed below to: (complete Sections 4 through 12), OR possess the wildlife resource(s) or parts thereof, listed below, without other applicable licenses, stamps, tags, or permits (complete Sections 6 through 12):

(4) Receiver’s Name

(3) Address

City / State / Zip

(6) Number and Type of Species or Parts

which was killed or caught on (7) Date ________________________________ at the following location:

(8) Name of Ranch, Area, Lake, Bay, or Stream and County, State, or Country

(9) Hunt and/or Fish License of person who killed or caught the wildlife resource described in Section 6

(10) State

(11) Signature

(12) Date

NOTE: Reproduction of this information is allowed, in any form, including a legible handwritten version. Form is also available online: tpwd.texas.gov/oa/transfer