

TENNESSEE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION  
PROCLAMATION 15-12  
STATEWIDE PROCLAMATION ON THE  
COMMERCIAL TAKING OF FISH AND TURTLES

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 70, Tennessee Code Annotated, and Sections 70-1-206, 70-2-205, 70-4-107, and 70-4-119 thereof, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission hereby proclaims the following regulations pertaining to the commercial taking of fish and turtles, hereinafter called commercial fishing.

Commercial fishing is hereby authorized in accordance with the following provisions, except where expressly forbidden by law. All commercial fishing gear must meet the specifications and be fished in the manner provided for in Sections I, II, III, IV, and V of this proclamation.

SECTION I. WATERS OPEN TO COMMERCIAL FISHING

For purposes of this proclamation, "river" means that body of water confined within the identifiable banks. At high river stage, oxbows, sloughs, and backwaters accessible by boat from the river are open to commercial fishing, but are considered private water and may be fished only with permission of the landowner.

RIVERS

The following are open year-round to trotlines, hoop nets, fyke nets, pound nets, trap nets, gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets, cast nets and turtle traps unless otherwise specified.

1. FORKED DEER RIVER - except that portion of the Middle Fork lying within the boundaries of the Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge.
2. FRENCH BROAD RIVER
3. HARPETH RIVER - fishing authorized only downstream from Highway 49 Bridge, except that trotlines may be fished upstream of the bridge.
4. HATCHIE RIVER- Hoop nets, fyke nets, trap nets, and pound nets with a mesh size of one (1) inch or smaller and/or three (3) inches or larger on the square may be fished only during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, and April. No wings or leads may be attached.
5. HIWASSEE RIVER - fishing authorized only downstream from U.S. 11 Bridge (Charleston).
6. HOLSTON RIVER
7. MISSISSIPPI RIVER - except that portion from the Mississippi-Tennessee line upstream to Mississippi River Mile 745, marked by the upper, or northern, tip of Hickman Bar, which is closed. This closure includes McKellar Lake, the Loosahatchie River and the Wolf River Embayment (WRM 0.0-18.9). Wardlow's Pocket and Wardlow's Pocket Chute (except those portions lying within the boundaries of the Chickasaw National Wildlife Refuge) are open.
8. NOLICHUCKY RIVER
9. OBION RIVER
10. RED RIVER - fishing authorized only downstream from U.S. 41A Bridge, except that trotlines may be fished upstream of the bridge.

11. STONES RIVER - fishing closed from confluence with Cumberland River upstream, except that trotlines may be fished upstream of the Cumberland River confluence.
12. WOLF RIVER - Only the section from Germantown Bridge upstream is open to commercial fishing. Gill nets and trammel nets are prohibited. The section upstream of Bateman Bridge in Fayette County is open for trotlines only.
13. CUMBERLAND RIVER - As listed in Section I. RESERVOIRS, except from Cordell Hull Dam upstream is closed.
14. TENNESSEE RIVER - As listed in Section I. RESERVOIRS.
15. DUCK RIVER - That portion of the Duck River from its confluence with Blue Creek at approximate DRM 13.2 downstream to the Hustburg pipeline crossing is open year-round to trotlines, hoop nets, and slat baskets. The Duck River from DRM 4.0 downstream to the Hustburg pipeline crossing at approximate DRM 1.4 is open to gill nets and trammel nets from December 1 through January 15. The rest of Duck River downstream is open year-round to all legal commercial gear types.
16. BEECH RIVER - That portion from the confluence with the Tennessee River upstream to HWY 69 Bridge is open year-round to all commercial fishing gear. From HWY 69 Bridge upstream is closed year-round to all commercial fishing.

#### RESERVOIRS

Group A: The following reservoirs are open year-round unless otherwise specified to trotlines, hoop nets, fyke nets, pound nets, trap nets, gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets, cast nets and turtle traps. The reservoir boundary for commercial fishing regulations is the full pool elevation unless otherwise specified.

All commercial fishing gear except slat baskets, turtle traps, and trotlines is prohibited in all creeks entering reservoirs from 5 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset during the months of April and May; all commercial fishing gear is permitted in all creeks from 1 hour after sunset to 5 a.m. daily during the months of April and May, except that whip sets (the driving of fish into trammel and gill nets by the use of noise and disturbing the water) are not permitted in any creeks which have operating commercial docks.

1. BARKLEY
2. CHEATHAM - Commercial fishers must contract with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) and abide by the contract provisions as determined by TWRA in order to commercial fish this reservoir.
3. CHICKAMAUGA
4. DAVY CROCKETT (Greene County)
5. GUNTERSVILLE
6. JOHN SEVIER
7. NICKAJACK
8. PICKWICK

Group B: The following reservoirs are open year-round except for specific restrictions as listed:

All commercial fishing gear except slat baskets, turtle traps, and trotlines is prohibited in all creeks entering reservoirs from 5 a.m. to 1 hour after sunset during the months of April and May; all commercial fishing gear is permitted in all creeks from 1 hour after sunset to 5 a.m. daily during the months of April and May, except that whip sets (the driving of fish into trammel and gill nets by the use of noise and disturbing the water) are not permitted in any creeks which have operating commercial docks.

1. CHEROKEE - Trammel nets, gill nets and fyke nets are prohibited. The taking and possession of blue catfish and paddlefish by commercial fishing methods are prohibited.
2. DOUGLAS - Trammel nets, gill nets, fyke nets and hoop nets are prohibited above Point 14 from January through June. Trammel nets, gill nets and fyke nets are prohibited from the mouth to the headwaters of Indian, McGuire, Muddy and Flat Creeks from October through February.
3. KENTUCKY - commercial fishing gear is prohibited in the New Johnsonville Steamplant Harbor and within 50 yards of the Danville Railroad Bridge dikes (approximate TRM 78.3).

The Duck River embayment from DRM 4.0 upstream to its confluence with Blue Creek at approximate DRM 13.2 is closed year-round to all commercial fishing gear types except trotlines, hoop nets, and slat baskets. The Duck River embayment from the Hustburg pipeline crossing at approximate DRM 1.4 upstream to DRM 4.0 is closed to commercial fishing with gill nets and trammel nets except from December 1 through January 15 each year.

The Beech River embayment from the confluence with the Tennessee River upstream to HWY 69 Bridge is open year-round to all commercial fishing gear. Upstream of HWY 69 Bridge is closed to commercial fishing.

Paddlefish harvest and all entanglement type commercial fishing gear with mesh sizes greater than 4 inches is prohibited year-round in the Big Sandy River Embayment (all waters west of a line drawn from Pace Point to the mouth of Eagle Creek). Additionally, unattended entanglement type commercial fishing gear is prohibited from November 25 through March 15 in waters of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge located within the Big Sandy River Embayment and in all of the waters of the West Sandy Creek Arm of the Big Sandy River Embayment.

4. REELFOOT - The taking of grass carp (*C. idella*) is prohibited.
5. OLD HICKORY
  - (a) Trammel nets, gill nets, and fyke nets are prohibited from Highway 231 upstream to Cordell Hull Dam and including the Caney Fork River.
  - (b) Trammel nets, gill nets, and fyke nets are prohibited from Highway 109 upstream to 231 except fishing of legal entanglement gear by whipset or trammeling method are permitted by contract with the TWRA.
6. FORT LOUDOUN - the possession of all species of catfish taken by commercial methods from Fort Loudoun Dam upstream to the confluence of the French Broad and Holston rivers is prohibited.

### PRIVATE PONDS

Only Common Snapping Turtles, *Chelydra serpentina serpentina*, can be harvested from privately owned ponds if the commercial fisher possesses written permission from the pond owner and all applicable licenses and permits. Turtle traps, dip net and hand collection are the only legal commercial fishing gear in private ponds and all other statewide regulations and reporting requirements apply.

### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND REFUGES

Pursuant to T.C.A. 70-1-101, State Wildlife Management Areas and State Refuges have been defined as a specific land, water area or both that have been established for specific purposes relating to management and protection of wildlife and habitat. Waters bordering a State WMA or State Refuge at high river stage, such as oxbows, sloughs, and backwaters accessible by boat from the river or reservoir are open to commercial fishing unless otherwise specified. No water can be accessed by dragging, pulling or running a boat over a land barrier to another waterbody. All impoundments and sub-impoundments are closed to commercial fishing. For federal refuges see 50 CFR 32.62 (Tennessee) as it may be amended from time to time.

Group A: The following is open, both land and water areas, year-round to trotlines, hoop nets, fyke nets, pound nets, trap nets, gill nets, trammel nets, slat baskets, cast nets, turtle traps, dip net and hand caught, unless otherwise specified.

1. Reelfoot WMA – except that portion within the boundaries of the Reelfoot State Resort Park and the Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge.

Group B: Listed State WMA and State Refuge water areas accessible by boat from the main river channel are open with the following restrictions. State Refuges are closed Nov. 15 – to the last day of February to all forms of use and trespass, except fishing is permitted on the main river channel; State WMA waters accessible by boat from the main river channel are closed November 15 to February 15.

1. Dyson Ditch Refuge – Commercial fishers must contract with TWRA and abide by the Cheatham reservoir commercial contract provisions as determined by TWRA in order to fish commercially.
2. Hiwassee Refuge
3. Old Hickory Lock 5 Refuge – Commercial fishers must contract with TWRA and abide by the contract provisions as determined by TWRA in order to fish commercially.
  - a) Trammel nets, gill nets, and fyke nets are prohibited from Highway 231 upstream to Cordell Hull Dam.
4. Pardue Pond Refuge – Commercial fishers must contract with TWRA and abide by the Cheatham reservoir commercial contract provisions as determined by TWRA in order to fish commercially.
5. Barkley WMA (Unit 2)
6. Cheatham Lake WMA – Commercial fishers must contract with TWRA and abide by the Cheatham reservoir commercial contract provisions as determined by TWRA in order to fish commercially.

- a) The closed season does not apply to that portion of the Harpeth River downstream from State Highway 49 Bridge.

7. Obion River WMA

8. Old Hickory WMA

- (a) Trammel nets, gill nets, and fyke nets are prohibited from Highway 231 upstream to Cordell Hull Dam.
- (b) Trammel nets, gill nets, and fyke nets are prohibited from Highway 109 upstream to 231 except fishing of legal entanglement gear by whipsnet or trammeling method are permitted by contract with TWRA.

9. Tigrett WMA

Group C: Listed State WMA water areas not accessible by boat from the main river channel are open with the following restrictions.

1. John Tully WMA - Heathright Pocket, Cold Creek, the Chute, lying within the boundaries of the WMA in Lauderdale County are open, except for common snapping turtle harvest; all other ponds, lakes, arms, sloughs, bayous, and pockets within the WMA are closed.

SECTION II. LICENSE AND PERMITS

A commercial fishing license is required by anyone engaging in commercial fishing. A commercial fisher with a valid Commercial Fishing License must be on board the vessel while commercial fishing for fish or turtles. Commercial fishers must have a valid commercial helpers permit for each person on board the vessel that is aiding or assisting in the act of commercial fishing.

A commercial fisher with a valid Commercial Fishing License and a valid Commercial Roe Fish Permit, Supplemental must be on board the vessel while any part of a paddlefish or bowfin is harvested from the waters of the state. A maximum of sixty three (63) Resident Commercial Roe Fish Permits was established as those sold on or before November 1, 2014 during the 2014-2015 license year. The maximum number of Nonresident Commercial Roe Fish Permits sold shall be five (5). An individual who purchased a Resident Commercial Roe Fish Permit between March 1, 2006, and March 31, 2006, shall have priority to renew that permit by March 15 of each license year until he/she fails to renew such permit. An individual who purchased a Resident Commercial Roe Fish Permit between March 1, 2014 and November 1, 2014 shall have priority to renew that permit by March 15 of each license year until he/she fails to renew such permit. Priority status does not apply to nonresident permits. Beginning March 15, 2015, the number of Resident Commercial Roe Fish Permits will be reduced on a year by year basis to a maximum of forty (40) when/if the current maximum number is not purchased by March 15 of each license year. A wholesale fish dealer must have a valid Wholesale Fish Dealer's License and a valid Wholesale Roe Fish Permit, Supplemental to buy, hold, or sell any part of a paddlefish or bowfin.

A commercial fisher with a valid Commercial Fishing License and a Commercial Turtle Permit, Supplemental must be on board the vessel while any part of a turtle is harvested from the waters of the state. The maximum number of Resident Commercial Turtle Permits sold shall be thirty five (35) and the maximum number of Nonresident Commercial Turtle Permits sold shall be five (5). An individual who purchased a Commercial Turtle Permit between March 1, 2012, and October 15, 2012, shall have priority to renew that permit by March 15 of each year thereafter until he/she fails to renew such permit. Priority status does not apply to nonresident permits. A wholesale fish dealer must have a valid Wholesale Fish Dealer's License to buy, hold, or sell any part of a turtle.

SECTION III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- A. Fish and turtles classified as endangered, threatened, or in need of management as proclaimed by the Fish and Wildlife Commission may not be taken.
- B. The following fish species may be taken and sold commercially year-round unless otherwise restricted by this proclamation, other Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission proclamations or rules, or Tennessee Code Annotated.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
* ** Paddlefish	Polyodon spathula
Spotted gar	Lepisosteus oculatus
Longnose gar	Lepisosteus osseus
Shortnose gar	Lepisosteus platostomus
Bowfin	Amia calva
Skipjack herring	Alosa chrysochloris
Gizzard shad	Dorosoma cepedianum
Threadfin shad	Dorosoma petenense
Grass carp	Ctenopharyngodon idella
Common carp	Cyprinus carpio
Silver carp	Hypophthalmichthys molitrix
Bighead carp	Hypophthalmichthys nobilis
Black carp	Mylopharyngodon piceus
River carpsucker	Carpionodes carpio
Quillback	Carpionodes cyprinus
White sucker	Catostomus commersoni
Smallmouth buffalo	Ictiobus bubalus
Bigmouth buffalo	Ictiobus cyprinellus
Black buffalo	Ictiobus niger
Spotted sucker	Minytrema melanops
Silver redhorse	Moxostoma anisurum
Golden redhorse	Moxostoma erythrurum
Black bullhead	Ameiurus melas
Yellow bullhead	Ameiurus natalis
Brown bullhead	Ameiurus nebulosus
* Blue catfish	Ictalurus furcatus
Channel catfish	Ictalurus punctatus
Flathead catfish	Pylodictis olivaris
Freshwater drum	Aplodinotus grunniens
Yellow bass	Morone mississippiensis
Inland silversides	Menidia beryllina
Brook silversides	Labidesthes sicculus
Fathead minnow	Pimephales promelas
Golden shiner	Notemigonus crysoleucas

\* The taking and possession of blue catfish and paddlefish from Cherokee Reservoir by commercial fishing methods is prohibited.

\*\* Except for the Mississippi River, fishing for paddlefish or taking parts thereof shall not occur during the period from April 8 through 12:00 pm (noon) on November 20, nor shall they be possessed during this period unless they were previously taken during a legal taking season. Fishing for paddlefish or taking parts thereof from the Mississippi River shall not occur during the period from April 16 through 12:00 pm (noon) on November 14, nor shall they be possessed during this period unless they were previously taken during a legal taking season. Those persons possessing paddlefish or parts thereof during these closed periods must have in their possession reports denoting pounds of flesh or eggs (or both if applicable) in their possession, name and

address of supplier/fishermen, the name of the water body from which fish were harvested, and date of harvest or date obtained. Paddlefish must be 38 inches or larger from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail (eye to fork length) to be legal for harvest from all waters except the Mississippi River. Paddlefish must be 34 inches or larger from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail to be legal for harvest from the Mississippi River. Paddlefish may not be possessed alive away from the harvested waters. The cutting or mutilation of paddlefish to check for eggs is prohibited except that a stainless steel 12-gauge needle may be inserted into the abdomen between the pectoral and pelvic fins to determine the presence of eggs. Paddlefish may be checked once with a needle on either side of the abdomen for a total of 2 times. Repeated checking of paddlefish is not permitted. This needle and syringe device must be on board every roe fishing vessel and kept in a sanitary manner. Paddlefish less than the legal size limit (eye to fork length) must be returned immediately to the water without being checked. Female paddlefish from which eggs are taken must be kept whole and transported with its roe to a licensed wholesale roe fish dealer. Male paddlefish harvested must be kept whole until transported to the wholesale roe fish dealer. Ovaries may be removed from gravid females, screened and must be placed together in a single marked storage container that corresponds to the harvest date and length of each harvested female paddlefish. Storage containers must be marked and distinguishable from each other, so they can be matched with the harvested female paddlefish. Removal of the rostrum is permissible as long as the fish is not mutilated, so that the legal size of the harvested paddlefish can be determined from an eye to fork length measurement. Legal paddlefish may be eviscerated, except that a 2-inch portion of ovary must remain attached to each harvested female paddlefish until the fish and eggs are received by a licensed Wholesale Roe Fish Dealer.

- C. Only the Common Snapping Turtle, *Chelydra serpentina serpentina*, with a carapace (upper shell) length of at least 12 inches, may be taken during the period from March 1 through October 31 and statewide without limit by any legal commercial fishing method. Turtle carapace length is measured as a straight line distance on top of the turtle shell along the mid-line from the scute directly behind the turtle's head (nuchal scute), to the base of the notch where the two most posterior scutes meet. This length is used in determining the size category (legal or sub-legal) for reporting purposes.
- D. Only at Reelfoot Wildlife Management Area can the following turtle species be taken and sold commercially during the period from March 1 through October 31 and at all sizes unless otherwise restricted by this proclamation, other Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission proclamations or rules, or Tennessee Code Annotated.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
eastern river cooter	<i>Pseudemys c. concinna</i>
yellow-bellied slider	<i>Trachemys s. scripta</i>
red-eared slider	<i>Trachemys s. elegans</i>
musk turtle	<i>Sternotherus odoratus</i>
eastern mud turtle	<i>Kinosternon subrubrum</i>
spiny softshell turtle	<i>Apalone spinifera</i>
smooth softshell turtle	<i>Apalone mutica</i>
midland painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta marginata</i>
southern painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta dorsalis</i>
western painted turtle	<i>Chrysemys picta bellii</i>
northern map turtle	<i>Graptemys geographica</i>
false map turtle	<i>Graptemys p. pseudogeographica</i>
Mississippi map turtle	<i>Graptemys p. kohni</i>
common snapping turtle	<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>

- E. Commercial fishing gear is prohibited within 1,000 yards downstream of any TVA or Corps of Engineers Dam, within 300 yards of any commercial boat dock or resort, or within 100 yards of the mouth of any stream or river any time. For purposes of this proclamation, wingwalls and lock

walls are considered to be a part of the "dam", and measurements will be made from their downstream end.

- F. No catfish less than 8 inches in length may be kept alive. The commercial harvest of catfish greater than 34 inches in length is restricted to those commercial fishers holding license types 100, 101, and 103 and may not exceed one (1) catfish per day greater than 34 inches in length. The possession limit of catfish greater than 34 inches is two (2).
- G. Gill nets, trammel nets, turtle traps, and trotlines must be checked at least once every 24 hour period. Other types of commercial fishing gear must be checked at least once every 72 hour period. Each time a gear is checked, any and all species must be removed from the net.
- H. Fyke nets, trap nets, and pound nets with a mesh size of one (1) inch or smaller on the square may be fished only during the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, and April, except the Mississippi River, which is open year-round.
- I. A fish seine may be used in private waters and in waters which are replenished by overflows from the Mississippi, Tennessee, Obion, Hatchie, Wolf, Loosahatchie, and Forked Deer rivers, but which during the dry season of the year have no outlet to these rivers. Fish seines as defined in this proclamation may be used in the dewatering areas of Kentucky Reservoir.
- J. No commercial fishing gear shall be set so as to extend more than three-quarters (3/4) across any stream, river, chute, or embayment.
- K. Commercially harvested paddlefish or parts thereof taken from the waters of the state and sold in state must be marketed to a licensed wholesale fish dealer who has a valid Wholesale Roe Fish Permit, Supplemental.
- L. The following species may be harvested and sold only as dead bait.

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
brook silversides	<i>Labidesthes sicculus</i>
inland silversides	<i>Menidia beryllina</i>

- M. Commercial bowfishing is defined as the act of taking fish with archery equipment for the express purpose of harvest and sale. Archery equipment may only be used to harvest silver, bighead and grass carp.
- N. All nets shall be marked using a buoy that floats on top of the water. The minimum size of a buoy shall be LxWxH (8x5x2) inches or larger. Black or gray are not legal colors for buoys. Each piece of commercial fishing gear, including trotlines, fished commercially, shall bear securely fastened to the gear at the head end of the line or net or to the float, a current and valid identifying tag to be supplied by the commercial fisher. The tag shall measure at least one (1) inch by three (3) inches and shall have the name of the commercial fisher along with the commercial fisher's current license number.
- O. A commercial fisher (type 100, 101 and 103) that has purchased a commercial roe fish permit (supplemental) (type 108 or 110) is limited to fishing 12 gill nets during paddlefish season. The only legal gear for the taking of paddlefish is 6 inch bar mesh or greater, except on the Mississippi River where 5 inch bar mesh and greater is legal. Paddlefish season starts noon on November 20 through April 7, except for the Mississippi River where paddlefish season starts at noon on November 14 through April 15. Gill nets with a bar mesh of 6 inch or greater are only legal from noon on November 20 through April 7, except for the Mississippi River where 5 inch bar mesh is only legal at noon on November 14 through April 15.

- P. A commercial fisher (with a type 100, 101 and 103) may fish an unlimited number of gill nets year-round and statewide, except for those fishers that purchased a commercial roe fish permit (supplemental) (type 108 or 110) (see sub-section "O").

#### SECTION IV. COMMERCIAL FISHING GEAR

Legal gear types are listed below:

1. Slat Basket  
A slat basket is defined as a device used for taking of commercial fish only. Slat baskets may have only one outside funnel opening, and may be made of wood, plastic, or cane slats or splits which are placed lengthwise and so constructed that there must be a minimum of four openings in the catching area, each being at least 1½ inches wide and 6 inches long.
2. Hoop Net  
A barrel shaped net made of synthetic cotton, linen, or nylon, and supported by hoops. A hoop net is also known as a barrel net, set net, and funnel net. One or more throats are attached inside the hoop structure. Legal mesh size of hoop nets is one (1) inch or greater on the square. No wings or leads may be attached. Hoop nets may be fished year-round.
3. Fyke Net, Trap Net and Pound Net  
A fyke net, also known as a wing net, is a net to which as many as three (3) wings or leads may be attached. Trap nets or pound nets which have rectangular or box shaped traps shall also be legal by this definition. The wings or leads are equipped with floats and sinkers, and the webbing of the wings shall be constructed of twine not smaller than Number 7 in nylon or Number 9 in cotton or linen. The maximum length of each wing is 50 feet with a restriction of one (1) inch or smaller on the mesh size on the square. The legal mesh size of fyke nets is one (1) inch or smaller or three (3) inches or larger on the square. See Section III. for restriction on 1" or smaller sizes.
4. Trammel Net  
A trammel net is defined as a net having three (3) webs (nets) hung to a single top (float) and bottom (lead) line. The two outside webs are called walling, and the inside web is called webbing. The inside webbing shall have a mesh size of not less than three (3) inches on the square. Effective April 24, 2003, webbing with square mesh greater than 4.0 and less than 6.0 inches is prohibited except on the Mississippi River where webbing with square mesh greater than 4.0 and less than 5.0 inches is prohibited. The outside walling shall have a mesh size of not less than six (6) inches on the square. The maximum mesh size of the outside walling shall consist of vertical ties or hobbles on each side of the webbing at six (6) foot intervals along the float and lead line. A net may not be hobbled to less than two thirds the height of the net. Maximum length of a trammel net is three hundred (300) yards. Trammel nets must be fished in a stationary manner except in the Mississippi River.
5. Gill Net  
A gill net is defined as a single net attached to float and lead lines. Gill nets must have a minimum mesh size of 3 inches or greater. Gill nets with square mesh greater than 4.5 and less than 6.0 inches are prohibited except on the Mississippi River where square mesh greater than 4.0 and less than 5.0 inches are prohibited with a minimum mesh size of three (3) inches on the square. The maximum length of a gill net set is three hundred (300) yards. Gill nets must be fished in a stationary manner except in the Mississippi River. A net may be hobbled to not less than two thirds the original height of the net with each hobble at six (6) foot intervals or greater along the float and lead line.
6. Fish Seine  
A fish seine consists of a float and lead line to which netting is attached. The netting of the seine shall be constructed of twine not smaller than Number 7 nylon or synthetic fiber or Number 9

cotton or linen. The maximum length of a fish seine is 50 feet. The mesh size of seines shall be one-quarter (1/4") inch or larger or one-half (1/2") inch or smaller on the square. Seines must be constantly attended, and may not be fished in a stationary manner.

7. Turtle Traps

A barrel shaped net made of synthetic cotton, linen, and nylon supported by hoops (round and/or D-shape) constructed of plastic, fiberglass or metal. Metal traps can be square or rectangular and constructed of 2 X 4 inch wire or greater with supporting structures made from metal, plastic, fiberglass or PVC. Only one throat can be attached inside a hoop or metal turtle trap. Legal mesh size for all material, except for metal wire is one (1) to one and a half (1½) inches or three (3) inches and greater on the square. No wings or leads may be attached. Turtle traps must be set so that a portion of the catching area is positioned above the water. No wings or leads may be attached.

8. Cast Net

A cast net is defined as a net having a maximum radius of ten (10) feet and a mesh size (square measure) of not less than one-fourth (¼) inch and not greater than one (1) inch.

9. Trotline

A main line with drop lines. Each drop line has one baited hook. Single, double, or treble hooks each count as one hook. Drop lines must be at least 24 inches apart. The use of a main line with only one hook (e.g. limb line) is prohibited.

10. Dip Net

A dip net is a net constructed from natural or synthetic fibers which is attached to a frame that is attached to a pole.

11. Hand Collection

The use of hands to capture animals, without any other apparatus.

12. Archery Equipment

Archery equipment is defined as a bow (longbows, recurves, compounds and crossbows) and arrow.

## SECTION V. REPORT REQUIREMENTS

Commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers must have a valid phone number and street address on file with TWRA at all times. Commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers are required to submit daily and/or monthly reports as requested to the TWRA, except for commercial fishers with a commercial bow license that are only required to submit an annual report as instructed. Commercial fishers are required to provide TWRA with requested information and samples for all fish or turtles (or parts thereof) which they harvest from Tennessee waters or import into Tennessee. Requested information shall be reported on report forms provided by TWRA. These forms must be completed within 24 hours of harvest or importation and/or a completed Daily Commercial Roe Fish Harvest Report must be submitted to the wholesale fish dealer at time of transaction. Paddlefish and bowfin harvest are only documented on the Daily Commercial Roe Fish Harvest Report (WR-0896). All other commercial fish harvested are only documented on the Monthly Commercial Fishing Report (WR-0897) and turtles harvested are only documented on the Monthly Commercial Turtle Reports (WR-1067). Commercial fishers must notify TWRA on the appropriate form if they did not harvest fish or turtles (or parts thereof) during a month. Wholesale fish dealers are required to provide TWRA with requested information and samples for all fish or turtles (or parts thereof) which they receive from commercial fishers, wholesale fish dealers, or nonresident equivalents. Wholesale transactions are reported on the Monthly Wholesale Fish Dealer Report (WR-0665). Wholesale fish dealers must indicate the quantity of fish or turtles (or parts thereof) that they receive from a commercial fisher on reports issued by the commercial fisher and/or reports issued by TWRA. The wholesale fish dealer must record the raw drained egg weight (0.01 pounds) for each individual fish received with eggs indicated. The raw drained egg weight is the weight of the eggs

after rinsing and draining that is used to calculate the percentage of salt added that would yield the salted processed weight. Wholesale fish dealers must sign and date these reports within 24 hours of receiving the product. Wholesale fish dealers must satisfy the commercial fishing reporting requirements as instructed by TWRA for nonresidents who supply them with fish or turtles (or parts thereof) harvested out-of-state. Wholesale fish dealers must notify TWRA on the appropriate form if they did not receive fish or turtles (or parts thereof) during a month. Commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers must retain a copy of all reports and forms for a period of two years, and make them available for inspection by TWRA. Commercial fishers and wholesale fish dealers must contact the Fisheries Division within 5 days upon purchasing a license and request the required forms.

Commercial fishers importing or exporting commercial fish or turtles (or parts thereof) into or out of Tennessee must have bills of lading denoting the quantity of product, name and address of supplier, name of water body from which product was harvested, and date of import/export. A copy of the bill of lading must be in the possession of the person importing or exporting the product. Commercial fishers must retain a copy of each bill of lading for a period of two years, and make it available for inspection by TWRA.

Section VI. REPEAL OF PRIOR PROCLAMATIONS

This proclamation repeals Proclamation 14-18 dated December 9, 2014.

Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission

*[Signature]*  
Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of a proclamation lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 23 day of September, 2015.



*[Signature]*  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 3/10/2019

My commission expires on: \_\_\_\_\_

Proclamation 15-12 received and recorded this 25 day of September, 2015; to be effective the 25 day of October, 2015.

*[Signature]*  
Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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