

TENNESSEE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION  
PROCLAMATION 16-43  
SPORT FISHING

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 70, Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 70-4-107, the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission proclaims the following regulations effective March 1, 2017.

SECTION I. ENDANGERED SPECIES, GENERAL SEASONS, AND STATEWIDE CREEL, POSSESSION, AND LENGTH LIMITS.

A. ENDANGERED SPECIES

All fish identified as endangered or threatened or listed as in need of management as proclaimed by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission may not be taken.

B. GAME FISH SPECIES

The season is open year-round on the following species, unless otherwise specified in this proclamation. The possession limit is twice the daily creel limit.

Only the daily creel limit may be possessed while afield. It shall also be unlawful to possess while afield any fish, which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or total body length cannot be determined. The length of a fish shall be determined with the fish laying on a flat ruler, the mouth closed, and the caudal (tail) fin lobes squeezed so as to produce the maximum length. The mouth of the fish may not be manipulated or extended.

Unless stated otherwise a slot limit is a protected length range within which no fish may be harvested.

Statewide daily creel and length limits for fish species are listed in the table below which includes exceptions for specific waterbodies. Additional exceptions are listed in Sections III, IV, V, VI, and XIII. See Special Definitions (Section XIV) for reservoir boundary and specific area descriptions.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Length Limit (minimum unless otherwise stated)
Rock bass and shadow bass (both species in combination)	20	None
Black bass (all species in combination) except as listed below	5	None*
*Smallmouth bass from reservoirs: 18" minimum length limit		
All black bass from Mississippi River	10	None
Largemouth bass from Watauga Reservoir		12"
All black bass from Indian Boundary Lake	2	14"
Largemouth bass from: Cheatham, Chilhowee, Fort Loudoun, Melton Hill, Norris, Old Hickory, and Tellico reservoirs		14"
Largemouth bass from: Barkley, Boone, Center Hill, Cherokee, Chickamauga, Cordell Hull, Dale Hollow, Great Falls, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Parksville, Percy Priest, Pickwick, Tims Ford, and Watts Bar reservoirs, Reelfoot Lake, Reelfoot Watershed Lake #18, and Gooch Unit E		15"
Smallmouth bass from Dale Hollow Reservoir	2*	16-21" Slot*
*One smallmouth bass under 16" and one smallmouth bass over 21"		
Smallmouth bass from Norris Reservoir		

June 1 through October 15	1	20"
October 16 through May 31		18"
Smallmouth bass from Cherokee and Douglas reservoirs		
June 1 through October 15	1	18"
October 16 through May 31		15"
French Broad River from Hwy 168 Bridge to Douglas Dam		
		18"
Smallmouth bass from Boone, Kentucky, South Holston, Pickwick and Watauga reservoirs		
		15"
Smallmouth bass from: Davy Crockett and John Sevier reservoirs		
		13-17" Slot*
*Only one smallmouth bass over 17" per day		
Smallmouth bass from: Pigeon River (from Hwy 321 bridge in Newport to state line), and Little Pigeon River (including East and West Prongs) to GSMNP boundary	1	20"
Smallmouth bass from: Nolichucky River (ENKA Dam upstream to state line), French Broad River (Hwy 321 Bridge upstream to state line), Holston River (I-40 Bridge upstream to North Fork Holston River, excluding Cherokee Reservoir), Clinch River (Hwy 25E Bridge upstream to state line), Powell River (confluence with Gap Creek upstream to state line), North Fork Holston River (confluence with South Fork Holston upstream to state line), South Fork Holston River (confluence with North Fork Holston upstream to Fort Patrick Henry Dam), Little River (from Rockford Dam upstream to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary), and Tellico River (from Tellico Reservoir boundary up stream to state line)		
		13-17" Slot*
*Only one smallmouth bass over 17" per day		
Spotted and Alabama bass from: Boone, Calderwood, Cherokee, Chilhowee, Davy Crockett, John Sevier, Fort Loudoun, Fort Patrick Henry, Melton Hill, Nickajack (upper end of reservoir only – South Chickamauga Creek upstream to dam), South Holston, Tellico, and Watauga reservoirs (harvested Spotted and Alabama bass limit do not count towards aggregate black bass limit from these reservoirs.)	15	None
Spotted and Alabama bass from Norris and Parksville reservoirs (harvested Spotted and Alabama bass creel limit do not count towards aggregate black bass limit from Norris and Parksville reservoirs)	None	None
Sauger except as listed below	10	15"
From Mississippi River	6	None
From Douglas Reservoir including all tributaries	5*	16" Maximum**
*Walleye or sauger in combination		
**Only one sauger over 16" per day		
Any walleye-sauger hybrid (saugeye) is considered the same as a sauger.		
Walleye except as listed below	5	16"
From Douglas Reservoir including all tributaries	5*	15"
*Walleye or sauger in combination		
From Fort Patrick Henry, South Holston, and Watauga reservoirs	5	18"
Walleye or sauger in combination from Cherokee, and Tellico reservoirs and their tributaries	10*	15"
*Only 5 walleye per day (only one over 24") from Tellico Reservoir		
Walleye or sauger in combination from Norris Reservoir and its tributaries (upstream to Grissom Island on the Clinch River)	5	15"
Dale Hollow Reservoir – see Section XIII.D.2 for seasonal length restrictions on East Fork Obey River.		
Yellow perch	None	None

Striped bass or Cherokee bass (striped bass x white bass hybrid), or in combination (except as listed below)	2	15"
From Mississippi River (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	6	None
Striped bass from Boone, Norris, and Watts Bar reservoirs during November 1 through March 31 (statewide regulations apply during April 1 through October 31 and to Cherokee bass year round)	1	36"
From Cordell Hull and Melton Hill reservoirs (Melton Hill dam upstream to Hwy 61 bridge at Clinton)	2	32-42" Slot*
*only 1 striped bass per day can be over 42"		
From Cherokee Reservoir - see SECTION II. WATERS WITH CLOSED SEASONS		
White bass (except as listed below)	15	None
From Mississippi River (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	30	None
South Holston Reservoir – no harvest allowed	0	
White bass, Striped bass or Cherokee bass (striped bass x white bass hybrid), or in combination from Douglas Reservoir	15	None
Yellow bass	None	None
Northern pike	None	None
Muskellunge (except as listed below)	1	36"
From Melton Hill, Great Falls, Center Hill and Dale Hollow reservoirs; and from Caney Fork, Collins, Calfkiller, and Rocky rivers and their tributaries.	1	50"
Pickerel	None	None
Crappie (white and black combined; except as listed below)	15	10"
From private waters	15*	None
From Norris Reservoir	10	10"
From Pickwick and Guntersville reservoirs	30	9"
From the Mississippi (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	50	None
From Hatchie, Loosahatchie, Forked Deer, Wolf, and Obion rivers and their tributaries; Reelfoot Lake, Indian Boundary Reservoir, and Davy Crockett Reservoir.	30	None
From Kentucky Reservoir	20	10"
From Barkley, Cheatham, J. Percy Priest, and Old Hickory reservoirs.	30	10"
Bluegill and other bream (except as listed below)	None	None
From Norris Reservoir	30	None
From the Mississippi (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	50	None
Bluegill from South Holston Reservoir	50	None
Redear sunfish	20	None
Trout (all trout combined; except as listed below)	7	None
Lake trout	2	None
Catfish (all species in combination; except as listed below)	None*	34" Maximum
*Only 1 catfish over 34" per day		
Blue and channel catfish from Allen Branch Pond, and Indian Boundary Lake	5	None
South Holston Reservoir	20*	34" Maximum
*Only 1 catfish over 34" per day		

## C. NONGAME FISH SPECIES

The season is open year-round on the following species, unless otherwise specified in this proclamation. The possession limit is twice the daily creel limit.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Length Limit (minimum unless otherwise stated)
Non-game species (except as listed below):	None	None
Paddlefish may only be harvested from April 24 through May 31. No culling. Exceptions for Cherokee and Watts Bar reservoirs:	2	None
Cherokee Reservoir - Paddlefish may only be harvested from April 1 through April 15. No culling.	1	None
Watts Bar Reservoir - Paddlefish may only be harvested from April 24 through May 31. No culling.	1	None
Sturgeon (shovelnose, pallid, and lake sturgeon, and hybrids of any sturgeon) – No harvest allowed.	0	
Skipjack herring	100	None

SECTION II. WATERS WITH CLOSED SEASONS

- A. Land Between the Lakes Wildlife Management Area - All waters open year-round, except the following:
1. Farm ponds – Open to fishing except those ponds posted as closed.
  2. Bards Lake – Trotlines and limb lines prohibited. Jugs permitted from October 1 through March 21 with a limit of 10 per person.
- B. Catoosa Wildlife Management Area - all streams and ponds are open from April 1 through December 31, except on dates of managed big game and turkey hunts.
- C. Woods Reservoir: See Proclamation 74-17 for areas closed to fishing.
- D. Buffalo Creek (Grainger County): Closed to all fishing and minnow seining from the mill dam upstream.
- E. Doakes Pond (Norris Reservoir) – That portion of Norris Reservoir known as Doakes Pond (a subimpoundment located adjacent to Highway 63 approximately 9 miles NE of LaFollette) is closed to fishing.
- F. Center Hill Lake and tributaries – Closed to taking or possessing of paddlefish.
- G. Clear Creek (tributary to the Clinch River, Anderson County) – closed to all fishing including minnow seining from Highway 441 upstream to the second dam (adjacent to the City of Norris Water Tower), as posted, from November 1 through March 31.
- H. All TWRA and USFWS hatchery ponds and raceways are closed to fishing year-round.
- I. South Holston River – Closed to all fishing from November 1 through January 31 in the following areas:
1. Hickory Tree Bridge upstream to the confluence with Bottom Creek.
  2. Downstream point of Boy's Island (the first island downstream of Weaver Pike Bridge) upstream to the top of the first island above Webb Road Bridge.

- J. On Cherokee Reservoir, a closed fishing zone will be in effect from July 15 through September 15. This zone is enclosed by lines from the boat ramp at the south end of the dam across the lake to Point 2, from Point 2 to Point 3, and from Point 3 back across the lake to the TWRA boat ramp at the north end of the dam. All bank fishing will be open and the coves along the southeast shoreline will be open to boat fishing, but no fishing for any species will be allowed in the described zone from July 15 through September 15.
- K. Douglas Reservoir – Henderson Island WMA rearing pond closed to fishing year-round.
- L. John Tully WMA (Lauderdale County) and Cove Lake State Park (Campbell County) – closed year-round to all sportfish methods for turtles.
- M. Chilhowee Reservoir – Little Tennessee River and its tributaries outside Great Smoky Mountains National Park from its confluence with Abrams Creek upstream to Calderwood Dam is closed to fishing.

### SECTION III. TROUT FISHING – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

- A. Tellico River, Citico Creek and Green Cove (Tellico-Citico Permit Areas)
  - Tellico River from its confluence with Turkey Creek upstream to the Tennessee-North Carolina state line during the period March 15 through September 15.
  - Citico Creek from its confluence with Little Citico Creek upstream to the confluence of North and South Forks of Citico Creek during the period March 15 through September 15.
    1. Tellico-Citico Permit required.
    2. Closed on Thursday and Friday during the period March 15 through September 15 (except when national or state holidays fall on Thursday and Friday). From September 16 through March 14 fishing is allowed every day and Tellico-Citico Permit is not required.
    3. Daily creel limit of 7 trout, with no length limit.
    4. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset. The possession of fishing equipment and/or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.
    5. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
  - Green Cove Pond
    1. Fishing limited to handicapped individuals (see Section XIV.O.), children under age 13, adults 65 years of age and older, and those using the following license types: Type 197 Sport Fishing License for the Blind, Type 189 Wheelchair Hunting and Fishing, Type 198 DAV Hunting and Fishing, Type 199 Intellectual Disability, and Type 169 Intellectual Disability Hunting and Fishing.
    2. Tellico-Citico Permit required year-round.
    3. Closed on Thursday and Friday year-round (except open on all state and national holidays and scheduled special organized handicapped or children fishing events).
    4. Hours open – ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
    5. Daily creel limit of 7 trout, with no length limit.
    6. Bait restriction – no minnows.
    7. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
    8. Use of boats is prohibited.
- B. Wild Trout Streams:
  - North River and tributaries.
  - Bald River and tributaries.
  - Sycamore Creek (tributary to Tellico River in Monroe County) and tributaries.
  - Laurel Fork and tributaries beginning at the cable crossing ½ mile upstream from the USFS Dennis Cove Recreation Area and extending upstream to the USFS boundary.
  - Beaverdam Creek and tributaries from its confluence with Birch Branch downstream to Tank Hollow Road (USFS Rd. 300).

- Paint Creek and tributaries from USFS campground upstream to USFS Boundary line south of Highway 70 near Munday Gap.
  - Rocky Fork and tributaries upstream of the junction of Rocky Fork Road and State Park Entrance Road.
  - Left Prong (tributary to Hampton Creek in Carter County).
  - The following restrictions apply to the wild trout waters listed above:
    1. Daily creel limit of 5 trout with no length limit.
    2. Only single-hook artificial lures are permitted. Use or possession of bait or multiple hook lures is prohibited. One single-hook artificial lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (for example: a dropper fly) is also permitted.
    3. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
    4. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
- C. Slickrock Creek -That portion of Slickrock Creek which constitutes the boundary between the states of Tennessee and North Carolina.
1. Appropriate licenses from Tennessee or North Carolina are valid on this portion of Slickrock Creek.
  2. Daily limit of 4 trout, possession limit of 8 trout.
  3. Rainbow, brown, and brook trout – 7 inch minimum length limit.
  4. Fishing permitted ½ hour before official sunrise and ½ hour after official sunset.
  5. Only single-hook artificial lures are permitted. Use or possession of bait or multiple hook lures is prohibited. One single-hook artificial lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (for example: a dropper fly) is also permitted.
  6. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
- D. Horse Creek (Greene County) - That portion from the U.S. Forest Service boundary line upstream to the junction of Squibb Creek.
1. Creel limit of 7 trout per day except from May 1 – September 30, when the limit is 2 trout per day.
- E. City of Gatlinburg:
1. Waters Open - the taking of trout is permitted within the streams designated below and under the limits and during the times contained herein:
    - a. General Streams
      - West Prong Little Pigeon River from Park Boundary to Gnatty Branch except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
      - Dudley Creek from Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River, except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
      - Roaring Fork upstream to the Park Boundary.
      - Leconte Creek from Painter Branch to West Prong Little Pigeon River.
    - b. Children's Streams (may only be fished by children 12 and under, unless otherwise posted)
      - Leconte Creek from Painters Branch upstream to Park Boundary.
      - West Prong Little Pigeon River from 100 yards above entrance of Herbert Holt Park downstream to Gatlinburg By-pass Bridge.
      - Dudley Creek from Highway 441 Bridge to West Prong Little Pigeon River.
  2. Season and Creel Limits:
    - a. Fishing permitted year-round, except on Thursday, from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
      - From December 1 through March 31:
        - (1) Possession of any trout shall be prohibited
        - (2) All trout caught must be immediately returned to the water
        - (3) Use or possession of bait is prohibited. Use or possession of any artificial lures other than single hook artificial flies, spinners, and spoons is prohibited. The use of one dropper fly having a single hook which is separated from a legal lure by a length of line is permissible.

- From April 1 through November 30:
    - (1) Daily creel limit shall be five (5) trout.
    - (2) Total possession limit shall not exceed twice the daily creel limit
    - (3) While fishing or when afield, possession of more than the daily creel limit shall be prohibited, regardless of whether the trout are fresh, stored in an ice chest, in a vehicle, or otherwise preserved.
  - b. Creel Limits
    - General Streams – creel limit is five (5) trout per day.
    - Children's Streams - creel limit is two (2) trout per day.
  - c. Methods: Fishing is permitted with one hand-held rod and single hook only.
  - d. Daily Fees: In addition to the State licensing requirement, all Tennessee Residents ages 13 through 64 must possess a special Gatlinburg daily permit. Non-residents under the age of 13 are exempt from the Gatlinburg daily permit.
- F. Delayed Harvest Areas: In the areas listed below, the harvest or possession of trout is prohibited during the catch-and-release season. During the catch-and-release season, only artificial lures are permitted and the use or possession of bait is prohibited.
1. Paint Creek – Paint Creek Campground downstream to mouth at French Broad River.
    - Catch-and-release season - October 1 through the last day of February.
  2. Tellico River – Mouth of North River upstream to the Tennessee/North Carolina state line.
    - Catch-and-release season - October 1 through March 14.
  3. Hiwassee River – Apalachia Powerhouse downstream to L&N Railroad Bridge.
    - Catch-and-release season - October 1 through the last day of February.
    - From March 1 through September 30, trout creel limit is 7 trout of all species combined and only 2 may be brown trout and there are no gear restrictions.
  4. Piney River – Cumberland Trail State Park Downstream to Highway 27 Bridge
    - Catch-and-release season - November 1 through the last day of February.
- G. Big Lost Creek, Goforth Creek, Spring Creek, and Greasy Creek and their tributaries in Polk County.
1. Closed to fishing on Fridays from March 1 to June 1 (except state and national holidays)
  2. Only a single hook lure or a baited single hook is allowed. Use or possession of multiple hook lures or bait is prohibited.
  3. Fishing permitted ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
  4. The possession of fishing equipment or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.
- H. Watauga River: Quality Trout Fishing Area (That portion of the Watauga River from Smalling Bridge downstream to the CSX Railroad bridge).
1. Daily limit of 2 trout, possession limit of 2 trout.
  2. Length limit – 14 inch minimum length.
  3. Use or possession of any bait other than artificial lures is prohibited.
  4. Trout less than 14 inches in length may not be possessed within quality trout fishing areas.
- I. South Fork of the Holston River - from the South Holston Dam to Highway 37 Bridge at Bluff City.
1. 16-22 inch slot (protected length range); creel limit of 7 trout per day, only 1 of which can be over 22 inches.
- J. Caney Fork River and its tributaries from Center Hill Dam downstream to Cumberland River.
1. 24 inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 1 fish daily limit.
  2. 14-20 inch slot (protected length range) for rainbow trout—only 1 of which can be over 20 inches.

- 3. 14-20 inch slot (protected length range) for brook trout—only 1 of which can be over 20 inches.
  - 4. Creel limit of 5 trout per day (all species in combination).
- K. Clinch River and its tributaries from Norris Dam downstream to Hwy 61 Bridge.
- 1. 14-20 inch protected length range (slot), 7 trout daily creel limit, only 1 trout greater than 20 inches may be harvested per day.
- L. Dillard Ponds (Cherokee National Forest, Greene County).
- 1. Creel limit of 4 trout per day.
  - 2. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
  - 3. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
- M. Elk River and its tributaries from Tims Ford Dam downstream to I-65 Bridge.
- 1. 20-inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 1 fish daily limit.
  - 2. Creel limit of 7 trout per day (all species in combination).

**SECTION IV. TWRA LAKES ON STATE FISHING AREAS AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS**

- A. TWRA Lakes are: Coy Gaither-Bedford, Browns Creek, Carroll, Davy Crockett, Garrett, Gibson County, Graham, Herb Parsons, Laurel Hill, Maples Creek, Marrowbone, VFW, Whiteville, Williamsport, Glenn Springs, and Reelfoot-Indian Creek Watershed Lakes.
- B. Unless noted in Section II, TWRA Lakes are open year-round. Lakes will be open ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset. Only authorized personnel may be on TWRA Lake property during closed hours, except that Garrett Lake is open 24 hours.
- C. Creel and length limits - Statewide limits apply except as listed below:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Length Limit</b> (minimum unless otherwise stated)
Catfish (blue and channel combined; except as listed below)	5	None
From Coy Gaither-Bedford, Laurel Hill, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	5	14"
Black bass (all species; except as listed below)	5	None
From Williamsport Lakes	1	20"
From Laurel Hill Lake	10	13-18" slot*
	*Only one bass over 18" per day	
From Marrowbone and Coy Gaither-Bedford lakes	5	14-18" slot*
	*Only one bass over 18" per day	
From Lake Graham, Herb Parsons, and Glenn Springs lakes	10	14-18" slot*
	*Only one bass over 18" per day	
From Davy Crockett Lake	10	None
From Browns Creek Lake	5	18-24" slot*
	*Only one bass over 24" per day	
From Gibson County Lake	10	18-24" slot*
	*Only one bass over 24" per day	
Bluegill and redear sunfish (combined) from Laurel Hill, Coy Gaither-Bedford, Gibson County, Glenn Springs, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	20	None



Crappie (white and black combined; except as listed below)	30	10"
From Coy Gaither- Bedford, Laurel Hill, Marrowbone, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	15	10"
From Glenn Springs, Herb Parsons, Whiteville, Browns Creek, and Maples Creek lakes.	30	8"

- D. Williamsport Lakes: Whippoorwill Lake is "youth fishing" area; only youths 16 and under and an accompanying adult may fish.
- E. Laurel Hill Lake: The embayment above the road that lies between the concession building and the campground is a "youth fishing" area; only youths 16 and under may fish.
- F. Methods for TWRA Lakes:
1. Except for jug fishing as listed below, only rods and reels, poles, and hand-held lines may be used. Snagging is prohibited.
  2. Jug fishing will be permitted daily from April 1 through September 30 except Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, and daily from October 1 through March 31. Jugs are limited to ten (10) per boat. Jugs must be marked with the owner's name and address, or TWRA Identification Number.
- G. Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA Ponds are designated as "youth fishing" ponds. Fishing is permitted for youths 16 years of age or younger who are accompanied by a non-fishing adult (18 years of age or older). Youths are limited to using one (1) pole or rod while fishing.
1. Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.
  2. Daily creel limits:
    - Bluegill: 10
    - Channel catfish: 5, no length limit
    - Largemouth bass: 0 (catch and release only)
- H. Egret and Heron Ponds at Williamsport, and the nursery ponds at Laurel Hill Lake are closed to fishing.

#### SECTION V. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION MANAGED LAKES

Statewide fishing regulations apply on lakes managed by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation except as listed below:

- A. Black bass from the following lakes must be a minimum of 15 inches in length:
1. Byrd Lake, Cumberland Mountain State Park
  2. Lake Lindsey, David Crockett State Park
  3. Sullivan's Pond, Ft. Pillow State Historic Area
  4. Indian Mt. "B" Lake, Indian Mountain State Park
  5. Acorn Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
  6. Creech Hollow Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
  7. Kelly (Standing Stone) Lake, Standing Stone State Park
- B. Black bass from Big Ridge Lake, Big Ridge State Park: 14 inch minimum length limit.
- C. Black bass from Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park: 14"-18" PLR (slot limit).
- D. Black bass from Lake LaJoie and Lake Placid, Chickasaw State Park: 14"-18" PLR (slot limit), creel limit of 10 bass per day, only one bass over 18 inches may be harvested.

- E. Black bass from Travis McNatt Lake, Big Hill Pond State Park: creel limit of 10 bass per day (no length limit).
- F. Black bass from Pin Oak Lake (Natchez Trace State Park): 12"-16" PLR (slot limit), creel limit of 10 bass per day.
- G. Channel or blue catfish or in combination: creel limit of 5 fish per day, no length limit.
- H. Crappie (white and black combined): creel limit of 15 per day, no length limit, exception:
  - 1. Pin Oak Lake (Natchez Trace State Park) – creel limit of 30 fish per day.
- I. Bluegill and redear sunfish in combination from Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park and Fall Creek Lake, Fall Creek Falls State Park: creel limit of 20 fish per day.

SECTION VI. SPECIAL REGULATIONS ON LAKES CONTROLLED BY NON-STATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

- A. All black bass from Casper Lake (Shelby County): Daily creel limit of 2 fish, 16 inch minimum length limit.
- B. New Lake (Lewisburg):
  - 1. Black bass: Daily creel limit of 5 fish; 15 inch minimum length limit.
  - 2. Crappie: No minimum length limit.
  - 3. Open ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
  - 4. Only rods and reels and cane poles are permitted.
- C. Campbell Lake (Maury County):
  - 1. Grass carp may not be harvested.
  - 2. Anglers must follow regulations as posted at the lake.
- D. All catfish from Lewisburg and Dickson city lakes: Daily creel limit of 5 fish, no length limit.
- E. Kefauver Park (Madisonville) Lake:
  - 1. All catfish - Daily creel limit of 5 fish, no length limit.
  - 2. All black bass - creel limit of 2 bass per day, 14 inch minimum length limit.
- F. Liberty Park Lake (Clarksville): All catfish – creel limit 5 per day, no length limit.
- G. Carroll County Lake:
  - 1. Largemouth bass –14"-18" PLR (slot limit), creel limit of 5 bass per day, only one bass over 18 inches may be harvested.
  - 2. Bluegill and redear sunfish in combination – creel limit 20 per day.
  - 3. Crappie (both species in combination) – creel limit 30 per day, 10 inch minimum length limit.
  - 4. Blue and channel catfish in combination – Creel limit of 5 per day, no length limit.
- H. Beech Watershed Lakes:
  - 1. All Beech Watershed Lakes:
    - a. Crappie – Creel limit of 30 fish per day, no length limit.
    - b. Catfish – Creel limit of 5 fish per day, 15-inch minimum length limit.
  - 2. Pine Lake: Largemouth Bass – Creel limit of 10 bass per day.
  - 3. Dogwood and Redbud lakes: Largemouth Bass - 12"-16" PLR (slot limit), creel limit of 10 bass per day.

SECTION VII. BAIT

- A. Licensed sport anglers can harvest and use fish and other aquatic life for bait as provided by the Bait Proclamation.

SECTION VIII. CRAYFISH

- A. Licensed sport anglers can harvest for use as food any crayfish species not listed by proclamation as endangered, threatened, or in need of management.
- B. The harvest, use, and possession of crayfish is prohibited in the following streams, in all their tributaries, and on all adjacent banks:
  1. Mill Creek in Davidson and Williamson counties
  2. East Fork Stones River in Cannon County
  3. Hurricane Creek in Cumberland, Fentress, Overton, and Putnam counties
  4. Roaring Paunch Creek in Scott County
  5. South Chickamauga Creek in Hamilton County
  6. Caney Fork River in Cumberland County
  7. Robinson Creek, Beason Creek (upstream of confluence of North Fork and South Fork), and Owl Creek (upstream of Highway 142) in Hardin and McNairy counties
- C. Crayfish harvested from the following streams and their tributaries shall not be possessed alive away from the waterbody from which they were harvested:
  1. French Broad River and its tributaries
  2. Holston River and its tributaries
  3. Clinch River and its tributaries
- D. Any method, except the use of explosives, chemicals, and electroshocking devices, may be used to harvest crayfish as food.

SECTION IX. TURTLES

- A. Only the Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina serpentina*) may be legally taken.
  1. Season: open year-round.
  2. Daily creel limit: 5; possession limit is twice the daily creel limit. Only the daily creel limit may be possessed while afield.
  3. Minimum length limit: 12 inches. For purposes of this proclamation, the length of a turtle is determined by measuring the carapace (upper shell) in a straight 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.
  4. It shall be unlawful to possess while afield any turtle which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or length cannot be determined.
  5. Turtles may be taken by all legal sport fishing methods except archery and spear guns. Additionally, sport fishermen may take turtles by the use of up to three hoop nets having a minimum mesh size of three-inches (3") on the square in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Stewart, Tipton, and Weakley counties. Each net must be marked with the owner's name and address or TWRA Identification Number. Each net must be set so that a portion of the catch area is above the water.

SECTION X. GIGGING, GRABBLING, GRAB HOOKING, SNAGGING, ARCHERY, AND SPEAR-GUN FISHING.

- A. Season: open year-round except as noted below.

## B. All waters open except:

1. Within 100 yards below dams except at Pickwick the closed area will extend downstream to the first moorage cell located across from the boat launching ramp. At John Sevier Steam Plant the discharge channel is also closed.
2. Those areas closed to fishing listed in Section II.
3. All waters closed by separate proclamation.
4. Norris Reservoir between River mile 32 (Point 15) and the highway 25E Bridge on the Powell River Arm and between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Clinch River Arm from January 1 through April 30.
5. Watauga Reservoir Tributaries – Closed from January 1 to April 30. The Elk River in Carter County from the Highway 321 Bridge downstream to RM3.0 (Point 11) on the Elk River Arm of Watauga Reservoir, Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek), Roan Creek (Mountain Lake Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek), and Watauga River (NC line downstream to end of Cowanstown Road).
6. Snagging prohibited year-round on the South Holston tailwater (from South Holston Dam to the headwaters of Boone Reservoir), Center Hill Reservoir, and the Cumberland Fossil Plant discharge channel into Barkley Reservoir.
7. All streams in the following counties closed year-round to giggering, but are open to all other methods identified in Section X.
  - Bedford, Lawrence, Maury, Giles, Lewis, Wayne, Hickman, and Marshall counties
8. East Fork Obey River and tributaries closed January 1 through April 30.

## C. Species which may be taken:

1. Nongame species may be taken according to Section I.C.
2. Catfish may be taken according to Section I.B.

## D. Methods defined:

1. Giggering: The taking of fish by means of hand-held pole or spear with a tip consisting of a single sharpened point or one or more sharpened barbed points; including, but not limited to gear known as the Hawaiian Sling.
2. Grabbling: The taking of fishes with the hands.
3. Grab Hooking: The taking of fishes using one more single, double, or treble hooks fastened directly to a pole or rod in such a manner that they are not separated from pole or rod by a length of line.
4. Snagging: The taking of fishes using one or more single, double, or treble hooks which are manipulated or jerked through the water in such a manner as to impale or hook fishes.
5. Archery: The taking of fishes using long, recurve, and compound bows using arrows with barbed points; crossbows are permitted.
6. Spear-gun Fishing: The taking of fishes using a spear-gun. A spear gun is any device designed to propel a spear through water and is drawn or held by mechanical device.

SECTION XI. SLAT BASKETS

- A. A slat basket is defined as a device used for taking nongame fish and catfish. Slat baskets may have only one outside funnel opening, and may be made of wood, plastic, or cane slats which are placed lengthwise and so constructed that there must be a minimum of four (4) openings in the catching area, each being at least 1 ½" wide and 6" long.
  1. Slat baskets may be fished on all public waters, except on Wildlife Agency Lakes (Section IV), and slat baskets may not be fished within 100 yards of the mouth of a river, creek or slough.
  2. A TWRA-issued metal slat basket tag must be attached to the frame of the slat basket.

3. Season: open year-round.
4. Only nongame fish and catfish may be taken. See Sections I.B. and I.C.
5. Only one slat basket tag will be issued to an individual.
6. Possession or use of more than one slat basket is prohibited.
7. Must check slat basket at least every 72 hours.

## SECTION XII. TROT LINES, LIMBLINES AND JUGS

- A. Season: open year-round except as noted in Section II and Section IV.
- B. All waters open except as follows:
  1. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs prohibited within 1,000 yards below any TVA or Corps of Engineers dam.
  2. Allen Branch Pond, Indian Boundary Lake, and Chilhowee (McKamy Pond) in Cherokee Wildlife Management Area closed to jug fishing and trotlines. Indian Boundary Lake is also closed to limblines.
  3. Trotlines prohibited in the Beech River Watershed Development Authority lakes, in the New Johnsonville Steamplant Harbor, and within 50 yards of the Danville Railroad Bridge dikes.
  4. Bards Lake on Land Between the Lakes closed to trotlines and limblines.
  5. Trotlines, limblines, and jugs prohibited on Norris Reservoir between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Powell River Arm between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Clinch River Arm from January 1 through April 30.
  6. South Holston Reservoir is limited to 15 limblines.
- C. Methods defined:
  1. Trotline: A main line with drop lines to which single hooks are attached and baited in order to catch fish. Such drops must not be closer than 24 inches.
  2. Limblining: The use of no more than one hook on a single line suspended from a tree or shrub limb, or from a pole imbedded in or braced on the bank, with a maximum of 25 limblines per licensed angler. Except limited to 15 limblines on South Holston Reservoir.
  3. Jug Fishing: The use of a hook connected by a length of line to a floating buoy (jug).
- D. Game fish may be harvested according to limits listed in Section I.B.
- E. Nongame fish may be harvested according to limits listed in Section I.C., except that paddlefish may not be harvested.
- F. Other restrictions:
  1. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs must be tagged and/or marked with the angler's name or current TWRA identification number. On trotlines, the tag must be placed on the line within 5 feet of the bank, if the trotline is attached to a bank. On floating trotlines the information shall be marked on the floats. In all situations, the tag must be placed within 5 feet of either end. On limblines, the tag must be affixed to the line above the water level.
  2. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs must be run at least once each day.
  3. Sport fishermen limited to 50 jugs or blocks each except New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbor and Bards Lake, where the limit is ten (10) jugs or blocks per sport angler and on Beech River Watershed Development Authority Lakes where the limit is twenty (20) jugs or blocks per boat. On Bards Lake, jugs are permitted only from October 1 through March 21.
  4. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs not fished according to these regulations are subject to be removed by Agency personnel.

SECTION XIII. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS

- A. Statewide hook restriction – Unless otherwise restricted in this proclamation, anglers are restricted to a maximum of 3 hooks per rod, pole, or hand-held line. Single, double and treble hooks each count as one hook. The statewide hook restriction does not apply when using a sabiki rig (also known as piscatore rig) to take shad or herring. A sabiki or piscatore rig is a set of small lures attached along a single line typically used to catch baitfish.
- B. Reelfoot Lake - During April 1 through May 31, the use of gasoline engines to propel boats in selected areas of Reelfoot Lake as posted by TWRA signs is prohibited.
- C. Center Hill Reservoir:
1. During January 1 through April 30, on Caney Fork River beginning at Rock Island State Park boat launching ramp and extending upstream to Great Falls Dam:
    - a. anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait), and
    - b. no more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used by each angler.
- D. Dale Hollow Reservoir:
1. No more than 4 rods and reels may be used by each angler.
  2. During January 1 through April 15, from Compton Boat Ramp upstream to Hwy 52 bridge on the East Fork Obey River Arm:
    - a. anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait), and
    - b. harvest of walleye is limited to 5 fish per day with a 16-inch minimum length limit, and only one walleye of the five fish may be over 20 inches.
- E. Watauga Reservoir Tributaries:
1. During January 1 through April 30, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait) in the following areas:
    - The Elk River in Carter County from the Highway 321 Bridge downstream to RM 3.0 (Pt. 11) on the Elk River Arm of Watauga Reservoir
    - Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek)
    - Roan Creek (Mountain Lake Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek)
    - Watauga River (NC line downstream to the end of Cowanstown Road).
- F. Melton Hill Reservoir:
1. Muskellunge that are not intended to be harvested must be released immediately in a manner that promotes survival of fish.
  2. Culling of muskellunge is not allowed.
- G. All streams in the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area: each angler permitted only one rod or pole.
- H. Calderwood Reservoir:
1. Appropriate licenses from Tennessee or North Carolina are legal on the entire reservoir.
  2. Trotlines and limblines are prohibited.

SECTION XIV. SPECIAL DEFINITIONS

- A. Game Fish - The following fish are designated as game fish:

Family – Centrarchidae - All fish in the family Centrarchidae, including those listed below and all hybrids, are designated as game fish.

Black bass	<i>Micropterus spp.</i>
Largemouth bass	<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>
Smallmouth bass	<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>
Spotted bass	<i>Micropterus punctulatus</i>
Redeye bass	<i>Micropterus coosae</i>
Alabama bass	<i>Micropterus henshalli</i>
White crappie	<i>Pomoxis annularis</i>
Black crappie	<i>Pomoxis nigromaculatus</i>
Rock bass	<i>Ambloplites rupestris</i>
Shadow bass	<i>Ambloplites ariommus</i>
Warmouth	<i>Lepomis gulosus</i>
Bluegill	<i>Lepomis macrochirus</i>
Redear sunfish	<i>Lepomis microlophus</i>
Longear sunfish	<i>Lepomis megalotis</i>
Green sunfish	<i>Lepomis cyanellus</i>
Flier	<i>Centrarchus macropterus</i>
Redbreast sunfish	<i>Lepomis auritus</i>
Pumpkinseed	<i>Lepomis gibbosus</i>
Orangespotted sunfish	<i>Lepomis humilis</i>

Family – Percichthyidae

Striped bass	<i>Morone saxatilis</i>
White bass	<i>Morone chrysops</i>
Cherokee bass*	<i>Morone sp.</i>
Yellow bass	<i>Morone mississippiensis</i>

\*Striped bass- White bass hybrid

Family – Percidae

Walleye	<i>Sander vitreus</i>
Sauger	<i>Sander canadensis</i>
Saugeye*	<i>Sander sp.</i>
Yellow perch	<i>Perca flavescens</i>

\*Walleye - Sauger hybrid

Family – Esocidae - All fish in the family Esocidae, including those listed below and all hybrids, are designated as game fish.

Muskellunge	<i>Esox masquinongy</i>
Northern Pike	<i>Esox lucius</i>
Chain pickerel	<i>Esox niger</i>
Grass pickerel	<i>Esox americanus</i>

Family – Salmonidae - All fish in the family Salmonidae, including those listed below and all hybrids, are designated as game fish.

Rainbow trout	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>
Brown trout	<i>Salmo trutta</i>
Brook trout	<i>Salvelinus fontinalis</i>
Lake trout	<i>Salvelinus namaycush</i>

Family – Ictaluridae

Blue catfish	<i>Ictalurus furcatus</i>
Channel catfish	<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i>
Flathead catfish	<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>
Bullhead catfish	<i>Ameiurus sp.</i>

- B. Nongame Species: All species except those listed as game fish and those proclaimed by the TFWC to be endangered, threatened, or in need of management.
- C. Hooks Defined: Hooks are defined as follows:  
     Single hook – 1 point  
     Double hook – 2 points  
     Treble hook – 3 points
- D. The use of rods and reels, poles, hand-held lines, and other devices and methods described in this proclamation are the only legal means of sport fishing.
- E. Reservoir full pool level is the reservoir/stream boundary for harvest restrictions, unless otherwise noted.
- F. Norris Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the Highway 25E bridge on the Clinch River arm and upstream to Gap Creek on the Powell River arm.
- G. Boone Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the Highway 37 Bridge at Bluff City on the South Fork Holston River arm and upstream to the new Austin Springs Bridge on the Watauga River arm.
- H. Cherokee Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the John Sevier Dam.
- I. Douglas Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to Hwy 321 Bridge at Newport on the Pigeon River, upstream to Hwy 321 Bridge on the French Broad River, and to ENKA dam on the Nolichucky River (excluding sauger and walleye which extend to the North Carolina State line).
- J. Dale Hollow Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream on the Wolf River arm to the South Ford Road Bridge near Sulphur Springs.
- K. Cheatham Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream on the Stones River to Percy Priest Dam.
- L. Barkley Reservoir: For the purpose of this proclamation, Barkley Reservoir includes the following dewatering areas- Barkley Unit 1 (also known as Dover Bottoms) and Bear Creek WMA.
- M. Kentucky Reservoir: For the purpose of this proclamation, Kentucky Reservoir includes the following dewatering areas- West Sandy, Big Sandy, Gin Creek, Camden Bottoms, Duck River Bottoms, Busseltown, Perryville, and Gumdale.
- N. Tellico Reservoir: For the purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream on Tellico River to Big Creek Boat Ramp.
- O. Handicapped – any person who is mentally impaired or physically impaired (including blindness) because of injury or disease, congenital or acquired, which permanently renders him/her so severely disabled as to be unable to move without aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or a person who has 80% permanent impairment of a hand or arm as determined by a physician using the standards outlined in the "Guide to Evaluations of Permanent Rating", published by the AMA or other acceptable rating system.
- P. Bait – any living or dead organism, or prepared substance designed to attract fish by taste or odor. For the purpose of this proclamation, bait includes, but is not limited to, fish, fish eggs, crayfish, worms, grubs, crickets, corn, cheese, bread, pork rinds, putty or paste-type products,



and flavors or scents applied to or impregnated into artificial lures.

- Q. Culling – The removal of a fish from the creel limit and replacing it with another fish of the same species. The released fish must be a live, healthy specimen which should be expected to survive once it is returned to its natural environment.

SECTION XV. SHOOTING FISH AND TURTLES

- A. Shooting fish or turtles with firearms or air guns is prohibited.

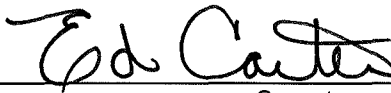
SECTION XVI. REPEAL OF PRIOR PROCLAMATIONS

This proclamation repeals Proclamation 15-27.

TENNESSEE FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION

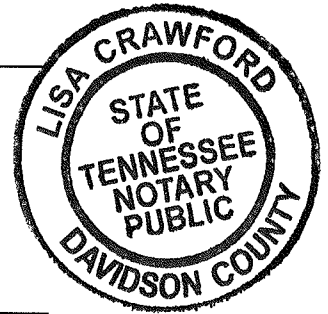
  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rules lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission on the 28 day of October, 2016.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 7 day of Nov., 2016.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary Public



My commission expires on: My Commission Expires: 3/10/2019

Proclamation 16-43 received and recorded this 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2016 to become effective the 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tre Hargett, Secretary of State

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