Luring The Best!

Champion angler Chris Lane plans to defend his title in the 2013 Bassmaster Classic at Grand Lake. Page 33

Wet Your Line
Here is your complete guide for fishing in Oklahoma

Super for Sandies!
We share great spots for white bass fishing. Page 16
THE WORLD'S BEST. TULSA'S BACKYARD. WHO WILL BE THE ONE?

BASSMASTER CLASSIC

ATTEND IN PERSON TULSA, OK | FEB 22-24

CHRIS LANE 2012 BASSMASTER CLASSIC CHAMPION

BASSMASTER.COM | FEBRUARY 22-24 | TULSA, OK | TULSASPORTSCOM | #BASSMASTERCLASSIC

TulsaSportsCommission

Walmart FLW TOUR

June 6-9, 2013
WOLF CREEK PARK
GROVE, OK • GRAND LAKE

Grand Lake
O’ the Cherokees

Where the best come to fish.

grandlakefun.com
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HIGHLIGHTS OF CHANGES

- **Statewide:** The limit for striped bass is 5 per day. Exceptions are listed in the Special Area Regulations section, page 18.

- **Lake Elmer Thomas:** The minimum length requirement for largemouth bass has been eliminated.

- **Sooner Lake:** All striped bass less than 20 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

- **Kaw Lake:** The limit for hybrid striped bass is 20 per day, and only 5 may be longer than 20 inches.

- **Black Kettle National Grasslands:** For all ponds and lakes, any largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 14 inches in length must be returned to the water immediately.

- Medicine Creek has been designated a trout fishing area from Gondola Lake dam south to the State Highway 49 bridge. Quartz Mountain Nature Park is no longer a designated trout fishing area.
Residency definitions

A “resident” is any individual who has an established residence in Oklahoma for 60 consecutive days prior to submitting a license application, except for lifetime license applicants and senior citizen license applicants who must have established residency for a period of six months. Any person holding a valid driver license is considered a resident of the state that issued the permit. For a valid Oklahoma driver license to be used as the sole source of proof of residency, it must be at least 60 days from the date the license was issued, except for lifetime license applicants, whose license must have been issued for six months or longer. If a person does not hold a valid Oklahoma driver license, the Department may consider other reliable documentation, such as resident income tax returns, voter registration, motor vehicle or vessel registrations, and other public records documenting residence. Residency for children under 18 years of age is presumed to be that of the custodial parent or legal guardian. A person who owns land in Oklahoma but does not live here is considered nonresident.

1A) Allows anglers to fish the entire lake without having to purchase a resident or nonresident license. Oklahoma residents with a valid fishing license are not required to purchase this license if only fishing the Oklahoma portion of the lake.

2A) Residents who reach 65 years-of-age (or those who turn 65 during the calendar year) are eligible to purchase a Senior Citizen License which is good for the rest of their lives. Anyone born before January 1, 1923, is exempt from the license but must carry proof of age such as a driver’s license. Senior Citizen License applications are available through wildlifedepartment.com, Department headquarters, field installations and license vendors, but the license is purchased only through Department headquarters.

3A) For legal residents who have resided in this state for at least six months and who are receiving Social Security disability, Supplemental Security Income benefits, disability benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C.A., Sect. 231a, postal employees receiving disability benefits under 5, U.S.C., Section 8451 (1998), or disability benefits through the Multiple Injury Trust Fund. This license is valid for five years. Can be purchased only through Department headquarters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Licensed Types</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Valid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fishing</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Combination, Fishing &amp; Hunting</td>
<td>$42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year Combination, Fishing &amp; Hunting</td>
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<td>July 1 - June 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-Day Fishing</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>Two consecutive days</td>
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<td>Youth Annual Fishing (16 &amp; 17 years old)</td>
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<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Annual Combination, Fishing &amp; Hunting (16 &amp; 17 years old)</td>
<td>$9</td>
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<td>5-Year Fishing</td>
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<td>Five years from date of purchase</td>
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<td>Lifetime Fishing</td>
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<td>Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting &amp; Fishing (under 60 percent disability)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting &amp; Fishing (60 percent or more disability)</td>
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<td>Lifetime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake Texoma (see 1A below)</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddlefish</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Citizen Fishing (see 2A below)</td>
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<td>Lifetime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Citizen Combination Fishing &amp; Hunting (see 2A below)</td>
<td>$25</td>
<td>Lifetime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Fishing (see 3A below)</td>
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<td>Five years from date of purchase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek &amp; Three Rivers WMAs)</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Day Land Access Permit (not valid for fishing or hunting) (Honobia Creek &amp; Three Rivers WMAs)</td>
<td>$10</td>
<td>Three Consecutive Days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife Conservation Passport (permit does not provide fishing privileges)</td>
<td>$26</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing Guide License (Cost reduced to $20 with Coast Guard Mariner credentials)</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>January 1 - December 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek and Three Rivers WMAs)</td>
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1A) Allows anglers to fish the entire lake without having to purchase a resident or nonresident license. Oklahoma residents with a valid fishing license are not required to purchase this license if only fishing the Oklahoma portion of the lake.

2A) Residents who reach 65 years-of-age (or those who turn 65 during the calendar year) are eligible to purchase a Senior Citizen License which is good for the rest of their lives. Anyone born before January 1, 1923, is exempt from the license but must carry proof of age such as a driver’s license. Senior Citizen License applications are available through wildlifedepartment.com, Department headquarters, field installations and license vendors, but the license is purchased only through Department headquarters.

3A) For legal residents who have resided in this state for at least six months and who are receiving Social Security disability, Supplemental Security Income benefits, disability benefits under the Railroad Retirement Act, 45 U.S.C.A., Sect. 231a, postal employees receiving disability benefits under 5, U.S.C., Section 8451 (1998), or disability benefits through the Multiple Injury Trust Fund. This license is valid for five years. Can be purchased only through Department headquarters.
Make Camping A Power Trip.

Take a lightweight, portable Honda Generator on your next outdoor sporting trip and you’ll have power for just about anything. Like a coffee maker, electric lights, TV or even a grill for all the fish you’ll reel in.

The EU Series features generators that are easy to start, produce fewer emissions and are remarkably quiet. Plus, they’re covered by our 3-Year Warranty.† They’re the catch of the day. And that’s no fish story.

**Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. ***Minimum Advertised Price. Please read the owner's manual before operating your Honda Power Equipment and never use in a closed or partly enclosed area where you could be exposed to carbon monoxide. ©2012 American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
License Requirements
An Oklahoma resident or nonresident fishing license is required of all persons who take, attempt to take or possess fish or other aquatic dwelling organisms by any method in Oklahoma. Persons fishing the Red River must have a valid Oklahoma fishing license unless exempt.

In addition, persons fishing on waters located within the Honobia Creek or Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas must have a valid Land Access Permit, unless exempt. Persons residing in another state who own land in Oklahoma but do not live on that land, and are fishing on that land, must purchase a nonresident fishing license.

All required licenses or written evidence of exemption and identification must be carried while fishing.

Fishing Guide License
Fishing guides must possess an Oklahoma fishing guide license. This license costs $90 unless the guide provides Coast Guard Mariner credentials, in which case the license costs $20. For a list of licensed guides, visitwildlifedepartment.com.

License Exemptions
The following persons are exempt from the resident or nonresident fishing license:

- Residents under 16, and nonresidents ages 14 to 16 who are residents of AL, AK, AR, CA, CT, DE, GA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MD, MI, NH, NY, NC, ND, OH, TX, or WI.
- Nonresidents under 14.
- Resident owners or tenants, their spouses, parents, grandparents, children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses who fish in private ponds on land owned or leased by such owner or tenant.
- Nonresidents 65 and older who are residents of Texas.
- Resident disabled veterans with 60 percent or more disability. Call State Dept. of Veterans Affairs, (888) 655-2838 to acquire proof of exemption.
- Any person who fishes with pole and line, trotline or throw line in streams, natural ponds and mine pits in or forming the boundary of the county in which he is a bona fide resident, when using any bait other than commercial or artificial bait, blood, stink bait, cut fish, and shrimp.
- Any person legally blind or physically impaired who is unable to properly use fishing apparatus and one accompanying companion while the blind or physically impaired person is fishing.
- Persons under 18 who are in legal and physical custody of the State of Oklahoma or its agencies by court order.
- Persons under 18 who are in the custody of a child care facility as defined by Title 10 O.S., Section 402.
- Persons fishing during Oklahoma’s Free Fishing Days.
- Any patient of a state institution in Oklahoma established for the care and treatment of mental illness or alcohol or drug dependency or any person developmentally disabled residing in any group home or other institution or persons developmentally disabled when accompanied by an attendant of such institution or legal guardian or when fishing on institutional property.
- Residents having a proven disability rendering them nonambulatory and confined to wheelchairs as certified by a duly qualified physician.
- Job Corps trainees of this state, having a proper identification card.
- Any person participating in an aquatic education event or clinic sanctioned by the Wildlife Department.

The following persons are exempt from the purchase of the Land Access Permit (Honobia Creek and Three Rivers WMAs): Oklahoma residents under 18 years-of-age on the first day of the current calendar year or those 64 years-of-age or older. All nonresidents are required to purchase an $85 annual Land Access Permit, no exemptions.

It is the angler’s responsibility to know what regulations apply to the body of water he or she is fishing.

About this Guide
This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award-winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports ODWC’s staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. It also manages the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries and habitat programs.

If you have any feedback or are interested in advertising, please contact us at 413.884.1001 or online at www.JFGriffin.com

Designers: Jon Gulley, Erin Murphy, Evelyn Haddad and Chris Sobolowski

J.F. GRiffin PUBLIsHIng LLC
430 Main St. Suite 5 | Williamstown, MA 01267

This is a legal document. This booklet is an interpretive summary of the Titles 29 and 800 of Oklahoma Statutes governing fish and wildlife laws as established by the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission. For a complete listing of official regulations, you can obtain copies of current Oklahoma Statutes through your local library.

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation is to manage Oklahoma’s wildlife resources and habitat to provide scientific, educational, aesthetic, economic and recreational benefits for present and future generations of hunters, anglers and others who appreciate wildlife. The Wildlife Department receives no general state tax revenues and is proud to be funded entirely by sportsmen. For general information on licenses, regulations and the current fishing report, log on towildlifedepartment.com or call (405) 521-3721. Effective dates of this publication: January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013.
Special Licenses & Permits

Fiscal-Year Licenses
The fiscal-year licenses (combination, youth combination) are valid from July 1 to June 30. These licenses allow fishing during the time period specified on the license.

Resident 5-Year Combination Hunting/Fishing License
People who have been residents of Oklahoma for at least six months may buy a 5-year combination hunting/fishing license. Holders of these licenses are exempt from the annual fishing and hunting license only. Holders of resident 5-year licenses who become residents of another state during the 5-year period of their license may continue to use their license as a nonresident annual fishing or hunting license. When hunting, they must buy any season-specific hunting licenses that are not covered by a nonresident annual hunting license.

Lifetime Senior Citizen Combination Hunting/Fishing License
Residents born on or after Jan. 1, 1923, upon reaching age 65 (or those who turn 65 during the calendar year) are eligible to buy a senior citizen combination hunting/fishing license, which is valid for life. The license provides the same exemptions as a resident lifetime combination hunting/fishing license. Anyone born before Jan. 1, 1923, is exempt but must carry proof of age such as a driver’s license.

Disability Fishing License
Persons who have resided in Oklahoma for at least six months and who are receiving Social Security disability benefits, Supplemental Security Income benefits, or persons receiving disability benefits under the Federal Railroad Retirement Act or the Multiple Injury Trust Fund may buy a five-year disability fishing license for $10.

Lifetime Disabled Veteran Combination Hunting/Fishing License
This license is available to resident disabled veterans, as certified by the Veterans Affairs Department. For veterans with a disability of less than 60 percent, the cost of the license is $200. For veterans with a disability of 60 percent or more, the cost of the license is $25. The license provides the same benefits as a resident lifetime combination hunting/fishing license.

Land Access Permit
A $40 annual Land Access Permit is required of all residents who fish or hunt on Honobia Creek and Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas, unless exempt. Nonresidents are required to buy an $85 annual permit, no exemptions.

Wildlife Conservation Passport
Unless exempt, people who enter or use designated Wildlife Department lands are required to purchase a Wildlife Conservation Passport. Exemptions include those who hold a valid Oklahoma resident or nonresident annual, combination or lifetime hunting/fishing license, senior citizen lifetime hunting/fishing license, or disability hunting/fishing license. Also exempt are residents younger than 18 at the start of the year, and students or instructors on tours or activities sanctioned by ODWC.

FREE FISHING DAYS
June 1-2, 2013
No state fishing licenses or permits required. Some city permits may still apply.
Be sure to take someone fishing!

This program operates free from discrimination on the basis of political or religious opinion or affiliation, race, creed, color, gender, age, ancestry, marital status or disability. A person who feels he or she may have been discriminated against or would like further information should write: Director, Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152, or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.
Frequently Asked Questions

I lost my fishing license. Do I have to buy another one to fish?
No. You can obtain a replacement license. Go online to wildlifedepartment.com to download a replacement application, or send us this information: type of license you lost (annual, lifetime, senior citizen's, etc.), your name, date of birth, address, driver’s license or Social Security number, location and approximate date when you bought your license. Replacement costs are $1.50 for annual licenses; $5 for five-year licenses; and $10 for lifetime licenses and senior citizen licenses. Mail your replacement application and a money order to ODWC License Section, P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, OK 73152. Annual licenses bought at wildlifedepartment.com can be replaced for $4.50 by returning to the license sales page online.

Who qualifies for a disability license?
The disability license is available to any person who has been a resident of Oklahoma for six months and is receiving disability benefits through Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Railroad Retirement, United States Postal Service, or Multiple Injury Trust Fund. Applications can be downloaded from wildlifedepartment.com/apps.htm or requested from the Wildlife Department. Proper verification of receipt of benefits from the appropriate organization must be submitted with a completed application. For more information or to get an application, call (405) 521-3852.

I have a problem affecting my farm pond. Can you help?
The Wildlife Department’s Fisheries Division offers free technical assistance to landowners who have questions about managing ponds on their property. Many times, problems with fish diseases, growth, harvest, aquatic vegetation control and clearing muddy water can be diagnosed over the telephone. Any landowner in Oklahoma is eligible for technical assistance. Call the Fisheries Division at (405) 521-3721. You may be referred to a fisheries biologist in your area for additional assistance.

I’m going to Grandpa’s farm and want to fish in his pond. Do I have to buy a fishing license?
No. Resident owners or tenants, their spouses, parents, grandparents, children and their spouses, grandchildren and their spouses are not required to have a fishing license when fishing in a private body of water on land that is owned by the resident owner or tenant.

Where can I find information about lake water levels in Oklahoma?
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers operates a telephone line listing lake levels, planned water discharges and times, and water clarity. The number is (918) 669-752, or go online to www.swt-wc.usace.army.mil/old_resvrept.htm. For current Oklahoma water data from the U.S. Geological Service, go online to waterdata.usgs.gov/ok/nwis/rt.

Is the Alabama rig legal? How many hooks can it have?
The rig is legal to fish with in Oklahoma. There is no limit on the number of hooks.

Am I trespassing when I fish from my canoe or boat on a creek or a river?
Water is considered part of public lands, so it is not considered trespassing. However, the land surrounding the creek as well as the creek bed is considered private.

What do I need to know about registering my boat and motor?
The Oklahoma Tax Commission requires most boats and outboard motors greater than 10 horsepower to be titled and registered. To learn about requirements and to download forms, go online to tax.ok.gov/boatmotor or visit any tag agency.

How can I find out about Oklahoma’s boating laws and boating safety manual?
The Oklahoma Lake Patrol oversees boating laws and safety. Online versions of Oklahoma’s boating safety manual are available at dps.state.ok.us/ohp/aboutlp.htm.
General Regulations

It is unlawful to:

- fish without carrying a license or written evidence that you are exempt.
- fish upon the land of another without consent of the owner, lessee or occupant of that land. Anglers must obtain permission to enter any posted or occupied land or land primarily devoted to farming, ranching or forestry purposes. Nothing in this guide shall be interpreted as permitting fishing or allowing access into any area, public or private, without permission from the owners or custodian as required by law. Consent is not valid for more than one year, unless the owner, lessee, or occupant specifically grants consent for a specified period of time.
- catch fish from the waters of this state which are dead or die as a result of angling, and not remove those fish and bury or burn them, except nothing will prevent anglers from returning fish remains to lakes and reservoirs. No person may bury or burn any dead fish where it will become exposed through erosion or where that land is at anytime subject to overflow.
- sell, barter or trade fish, frogs or turtles, except with a commercial license.
- enter, swim, wade, operate a boat or a float or floating device in any safety zone (the water area below any dam for a distance of 50 yards from base of the dam).
- use, operate or park vehicles not registered for use on public roadways under Vehicle Code 47 O.S. 1971, 15-101 through 15-114, on lands owned or managed by the Wildlife Department.
- possess fish, or parts thereof, taken by another person without written information which includes the taker’s name, address, license number, date taken, and number and kind of fish, plus name and address of person receiving those fish.
- use and/or place into lakes and reservoirs of this state any container, including but not limited to drums, cans, tubs, boxes or barrels which attract, entice or lure fish into an open cavity within the container.
- sell, barter or trade fish, frogs or turtles, except with a commercial license.
- enter, swim, wade, operate a boat or a float or floating device in any safety zone (the water area below any dam for a distance of 50 yards from base of the dam).
- use, operate or park vehicles not registered for use on public roadways under Vehicle Code 47 O.S. 1971, 15-101 through 15-114, on lands owned or managed by the Wildlife Department.
- possess, consume or use any alcoholic beverage as defined in 37 O.S., Section 163.1 on any lands or waterways subject to the control of the Wildlife Department, except in designated parking or camping areas.
- use or possess any controlled and/or dangerous substance as defined in 63 O.S., Section 2-101 on any lands or waterways subject to the control of the Wildlife Department.
- use Jet Skis, jet boats and other similar nonpropeller-driven watercraft in the upper Illinois River above the confluence with Baron Fork Creek.
- tamper with the trotline, throwline, jugline or limbline of another person without permission from that person.
- stock fish in any public waters including streams and rivers without written consent from the Wildlife Department director.

Method of Take Regulations

These methods are legal for taking game and nongame fish throughout the year, statewide, unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations” starting on page 18.

Rod and Reel: A person may use up to seven rods while fishing unless restricted further under “Special Area Regulations.”

Trotline/Throwlines: Trotlines/throwlines are restricted to no more than three lines and 100 hooks per person. A legal trotline/throwline has:

- no glass or metallic floating device on the line;
- no metallic posts in water for attachment;
- lines made of nonmetallic material only;
- hooks at least 24 inches apart;
- owner’s name and address attached to each line;
- been attended at least once every 24 hours;
- not been set within three feet of surface of water at any point beyond six feet from either point of attachment, except at Great Salt Plains and Ft. Supply reservoirs where water is less than three feet deep.

Jugline: Juglines are restricted to no more than five hooks per line and 20 juglines per person. A legal jugline is a vertical line suspended from a nonmetallic or nonglass floating device, drifting free or anchored, and has:

- owner’s name and address attached;
- been attended at least once every 24 hours.

Limbline: Limblines are restricted to no more than two hooks per line and 20 limblines per person. A legal limline is a line attached to a limb, branch, other natural object, or nonmetallic manmade material and has:

- the owner’s name and address attached;
- been attended at least once every 24 hours.

Yo-Yo: Yo-yos are restricted to no more than 20 per person and shall:

- have the owner’s name and address attached;
- not be left unattended for more than six hours;
- not be strung or suspended from any horizontal line across any channel or navigable waterway;
- have no more than 10 yo-yos attached from any one line or support;
- not have metallic material in lines used for attachment;
- have lines no greater than 50 feet in length and must be placed or suspended without restricting orimpeding boat traffic. Lines must be visible to boats at all times, day or night.

These methods are legal for taking nongame fish according to the following provisions unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations” starting on page 18.

Bow and Arrow: Bowfishing may be used to take nongame fish only, throughout the year in all waters unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations.” Legal bowfishing is restricted to:

- any bow (including a crossbow);
- arrows having no more than one point with no more than four barbs on each point;
- devices that permit a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are permitted.

Gig, Grabhook, Spear and Speargun: Gigs and spears are legal for taking nongame fish and white bass only. Grabhooks (handheld hook, handheld pole of natural or man-made material, or rope with a single hook attached used in the initial taking of a fish) are prohibited in all state waters. Note: Scuba divers in Delaware and Mayes counties are no longer exempt from the grabhook restriction. Spearguns used by Scuba divers are legal for taking nongame fish, blue and channel catfish.

Gigs, spears and spearguns shall:

- not contain more than three points with no more than two barbs on each point;
- be lawful in all rivers and streams from Dec. 1 through March 31, and year-round in all reservoirs, unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations;”
- Gigs shall be lawful year-round in rivers and streams in Delaware and Mayes counties, unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations;”
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**TURTLE & BULLFROG REGULATIONS**

**Snagging:** Snagging, the dragging of one single hook or one treble hook attached to a fishing line through the water to impale fish, shall be unlawful in all waters year-round for nongame fish only unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations.”

**Noodling:** Noodling is the taking of non-game fish by use of hands only. Possession of hooks, gaff hooks, spears, poles with hooks attached or ropes with hooks attached while in the act of noodling shall be proof of violation of the “hands only” noodling law. Noodling shall be lawful year-round in all waters unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations.”

**Netting (Noncommercial):** The use of gill nets, trammel nets, hoop nets, or haul seines is prohibited statewide.

**Seines, Cast Nets, Trawls and Dip Nets (Noncommercial):** Seining, cast netting, trawling and dip netting bait for personal use is lawful in all waters year-round except Lakes Taft, Lone Chimney, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10th Street bridge), Hefner, Draper, Close to Home Fishing Waters (see page 34), the Wichita Mountains NWR, and in Wildlife Department Fishing Areas (see page 36), however cast nets may be used to take bait for personal use at Lake Carl Etling and on the Illinois River from the south boundary of the MarVal trout camp downstream to the U.S. 64 Bridge.

Any person may seine, trap or transport nongame fish commonly used for personal bait, provided the seine does not exceed 20 feet in length and 1/2 inch mesh; unless seineing for minnows, then the mesh shall not exceed 1/4 inch. Minnow traps shall have a mesh size no greater than 1/2 inch, shall not be longer than three feet, shall not exceed 18 inches in diameter on round traps or 18 inches on a side on square or rectangular traps. The trap entrance (throat) cannot exceed two inches across the opening.

**WHAT’S LEGAL WHEN NOODLING?**

**Legal:**
- Using only the hands to take nongame fish, which includes flathead catfish, buffalo and carp.
- Using a stringer to secure a fish once it has been caught.

**Not legal to possess when noodling:**
- Hooks, gaffs, spears, poles with hooks attached, ropes with hooks attached.
- Any game fish, such as channel catfish and blue catfish.

**Not legal to use to help catch fish:**
- Any object other than your hands used to help you catch a fish.
- It is unlawful to place into any lake or reservoir any container that will attract, entice or lure fish into an open cavity within that container. Containers include, but are not limited to, drums, cans, tubs, boxes and barrels. It is also illegal to noodle within such containers.

No person shall fish with more than three minnow traps. All minnow traps must have the owner’s name and address attached and the traps must be attended once every 24 hours. All game fish and nongame fish not commonly used for bait must be released immediately. No person may possess with intent to transport or transport via land-based transportation more than 200 nongame fish, including shad, for personal use as bait. The sale, offer for sale, transport from Oklahoma with intent to sell or offer to sell shad taken from Oklahoma waters is prohibited. Minnow traps cannot be made with glass. Cast nets shall have a mesh size no greater than 3/8 inch square. Trawl nets pulled by motor driven boats may not exceed three feet in diameter and 3/8 inch square mesh. Cast nets, trawls and handheld dip nets are lawful for taking nongame fish only as bait for personal use. A resident or nonresident fishing license is required of each person using these methods, unless exempt.

**Turtle Regulations**

Turtles may be taken in all waters with a resident or nonresident fishing license with the provisions listed below. Turtles taken with a firearm require a hunting license. Turtles may be taken year-round provided that:
- no more than six turtles per day are taken;
- shooting of turtles on federal reservoirs is prohibited;
- terrestrial (land) turtles may not be sold;
- taking of the western chicken turtle, map turtle, painted and razorback musk turtles and/or alligator snapping turtle is prohibited;
- the Wichita Mountains NWR is closed to turtle harvest;
- no aquatic turtles may be sold or purchased without the proper commercial turtle harvester or buyer’s license.

**Bullfrog Regulations**

Bullfrogs may be taken with hook and line, gig, spears, bow and arrow or other methods, except firearms, under a resident or nonresident fishing license. Bullfrogs taken with a firearm require a hunting license. Bullfrogs may be taken year-round provided that:
- no more than 15 bullfrogs per day are taken;
- bullfrogs may not be sold or shipped out of state;
- the Wichita Mountains NWR is closed to bullfrog harvest.

**Season & Limits:**
- Noodling is lawful year-round in all waters unless restricted under “Special Area Regulations” (pages 18-25). From May 1 to Aug. 31, the daily limit for noodling is three flathead catfish at least 20 inches long. From Sept. 1 to April 30, the daily limit for noodling is 10 flathead catfish at least 20 inches long. There is no statewide daily limit or size restriction for buffalo, carp or any other nongame fish.
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Tooth Patch: Another way to distinguish black bass is the presence or absence of a tooth patch on the tongue. The majority of largemouth bass have no tooth patch on the tongue, while smallmouth and spotted bass do have a tooth patch on the tongue.

**Largemouth Bass**
- Mouth hinge well behind eye
- **State record:** 14 lbs., 12.3 oz.

**Smallmouth Bass**
- Mouth hinge in front of eye
- **State record:** 8 lbs., 7 oz

**Spotted Bass**
- Mouth hinge even with back edge of eye
- **State record:** 8 lbs., 2 oz.

STATEWIDE DAILY & SIZE LIMITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>DAILY LIMIT (for areas without special regulations)</th>
<th>SIZE LIMIT (for areas without special regulations)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth and/or Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>6 (combined)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spotted Bass</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel and/or Blue Catfish (A)</td>
<td>15 (combined)</td>
<td>Only one Blue Catfish over 30&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flathead Catfish (B)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20” minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White and/or Black Crappie</td>
<td>37 (combined)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass (C)</td>
<td>5 (except Lake Texoma)</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striped Bass Hybrids and/or White Bass (C)</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trout (C)</td>
<td>See Trout regulations on pages 38-41</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walleye, Sauger and/or Saugeye</td>
<td>6 (combined)</td>
<td>18” minimum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paddlefish (C)</td>
<td>See Paddlefish regulations on page 28</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alligator Gar (D)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(All species not listed have no daily or minimum size limits)

A. Scuba divers with spearguns from May 1 through August 31: Daily limit of three combined, no size limit. Statewide limits apply remainder of the year.
B. Noodlers and scuba divers from May 1 through August 31: Daily limit of three, 20-inch minimum. Statewide limits apply remainder of year.
C. Release of paddlefish, trout, striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids caught and placed on a stringer, in a livewell, or otherwise held in possession is prohibited, statewide (no culling).
D. Alligator gar may be caught by use of rod and reel, trotline, and throwline. Alligator gar taken by bow and arrow, gigs, spears, or spearguns cannot be released. Alligator gar caught and placed on a stringer cannot be released (a practice called culling).

BLACk Bass (LARGeMoutH, SMIALLMoutH & SpOtteD Bass)

Statewide Daily Limit:
- Largemouth & Smallmouth – 6 (combined)
- Spotted – None

Statewide Minimum Size Limit:
- None

Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits
**CATFISH**

**Statewide Daily Limit:**
- Channel and/or Blue Catfish combined – 15
- Flathead Catfish – 10

**Statewide Size Limit:**
- Channel Catfish – None
- Blue Catfish – Only one over 30”
- Flathead Catfish – 20” minimum

*Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits*

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**CRAPPIE**

**Statewide Daily Limit:**
- 37 (combined White and/or Black crappie)

**Statewide Minimum Size Limit:**
- None

*Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits*

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**Channel Catfish**
- Curved anal fin
  - State record: 35 lbs., 15 oz.

**Blue Catfish**
- Straight anal fin
  - State record: 98 lbs.

**Flathead Catfish**
- Tail not forked
  - State record: 78 lbs., 8 oz.

**Black Crappie**
- No true pattern to black spots
- 7-8 bony spines in dorsal fin
  - State record: 4 lbs., 10 oz.

**White Crappie**
- Distinct vertical bands of blue/gray spots
- 5-6 bony spines in dorsal fin
  - State record: 4 lbs., 15 oz.

---

**DAILY LIMITS & MEASURING FISH**

Daily limits are for 24-hour periods (midnight to midnight). No person can have in their possession while in the field more than one daily limit of any fish species. Nonresidents cannot have more than two days’ limit in their possession at any time, except for Paddlefish (see page 28).

When measuring fish, total length is measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with fish laid flat on a ruler, mouth closed and tail fins pressed together.
**STATEWIDE DAILY & SIZE LIMITS**

**STRIPE BASS, HYBRIDS, & WHITE BASS**

Statewide Daily Limit:
- Striped Bass - 5
- Striped Bass Hybrids and/or White Bass - None

Statewide Size Limit:
- None

Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits.

**DISTINGUISHING WHITE BASS**

White bass are also distinguished from striped bass and striped bass hybrids by tooth patches on the tongue. White bass have a single tooth patch, striped bass and striped bass hybrids have two tooth patches.

**TROUT (RAINBOW & BROWN)**

Statewide Daily Limit:
- Rainbow Trout - 6
- Brown Trout - 6

Statewide Minimum Size Limit:
- None

Check pages 38 - 41 for areas with additional daily and size limits.
## Walleye, Sauge, Saugeye

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Daily Limit:</th>
<th>6 (combined)</th>
<th>Statewide Minimum Size Limit:</th>
<th>18&quot; minimum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits*

- **Walleye**
  - State Record: 12 lbs., 13 oz.
  - No spots on spiny dorsal fin
  - Few or no cheek scales

- **Sauge**
  - State Record: 5 lbs., 5 oz.
  - Distinct spots on spiny dorsal fin
  - Tan body with distinct brown blotches

- **Saugeye**
  - State Record: 10 lbs., 10 oz.
  - Spiny dorsal fin with distinct spots and bars in webbing
  - Body gold with distinct brown blotches
  - Cheek covered with scales

## Paddlefish

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Daily Limit:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Statewide Minimum Size Limit:</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Check page 28 for areas with additional daily and size limits*

- Distinctive rounded, protruding nose.
- State Record: 125 lbs., 7 oz.

## Alligator Gar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide Daily Limit:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Statewide Minimum Size Limit:</th>
<th>None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

*Check pages 18 - 25 for areas with additional daily and size limits*

- State Record: 192 lbs., 1 oz.

---

Miami

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2013 OKLAHOMA FISHING GUIDE
Springtime brings some of the best fishing opportunities of the year for many fish species. The white bass in particular embark on its annual spawning run up creeks and tributaries flowing into major reservoirs during spring, and the fast and furious feeding frenzies can be among the most rewarding fishing times of the year. You need only arm yourself with an assortment of jigs and a good rod and reel. Each region of the state can lay claim to some of the best white bass fishing in Oklahoma.

**Lake Texoma**
**Region:** South Central.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (903) 465-4990.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Cliff Sager, biologist, (580) 920-5771.
Cliff Sager, south central region senior biologist, said, “Texoma white bass are often overlooked because of the lake’s great striped bass population.” Sager said that if conditions are right, the spring spawning run is as good as anywhere else in the state. Pennington Creek provides the best place to catch the white bass during the spring run.

**Kaw Lake**
**Region:** North Central.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (580) 762-5611.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Tom Wolf, biologist, (580) 716-3131.
The hot spots during springtime are north of the lake in the Arkansas River and northeast on Little Beaver Creek.

**Waurika**
**Region:** Southwest.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (580) 963-2111.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Ryan Ryswyk, biologist, (580) 912-0204.
“While Beaver Creek offers a fair place to catch the run, it’s more common for anglers to target spawning white bass on the rip-rap along the east-west running dam,” said Larry Cofer, southwest region fisheries supervisor. Cofer said the success of the white bass in Waurika is because of the lake’s high abundance of shad.

**Eufaula**
**Region:** Central.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (918) 484-5135.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Danny Bowen, biologist, (405) 379-5408.
Flat Rock and Mill Creek offer two great spots to catch white bass. Flat Rock has easy access right off the road at the bridge that crosses over it, while Mill Creek will require a little walking. Mill Creek runs through the Eufaula Wildlife Management Area, and anglers should work upstream and downstream, depending on the flow, to find where the white bass are stacked up. Fishing surfacing schools in the central pool as well as in the North Canadian and South Canadian portions of the lake while trolling also offers great chances at white bass.

**Broken Bow**
**Region:** Southeast.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (580) 494-6374.
**Wildlife Department biologist:** Kyle James, biologist, (918) 686-3640.
Biologist Kyle James claims that good habitat and an excellent supply of threadfin shad make Broken Bow the prime spot to catch white bass in the southeastern part of the state. White bass in the spring can be found north of the lake in the Mountain Fork River, and bank access and camping are near many of the popular places to catch a few sandies.

**Canton**
**Region:** Northwest.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (580) 886-2989.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Ty Harper, biologist, (580) 747-3485.
Known for its great walleye fishing, Canton Lake may not be the first lake to come to mind when the conversation turns to sand bass fishing. But some argue that it is the best location to go for some white bass in northwestern Oklahoma. The spring run is best along the North Canadian River coming into Canton and a couple of miles upstream. During summer, fishing along the dam on the southern end of the lake is a good way to land sand bass.

**Tennkiller**
**Region:** East Central.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (918) 487-5252.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Josh Johnston, biologist, (918) 683-1031.
“Thousands of people from across the state and from other states have come to Tennkiller year after year to catch white bass during the spring,” biologist Josh Johnston said. Although he has noticed a decline in the number of anglers fishing Tennkiller over the years, Johnston said he believes the white bass fishing is as good as, if not better than, it has been in the past. Horseshoe Bend north of the lake provides a prime location for catching the spring run at its peak.

**Fort Gibson**
**Region:** Northeast.
**Corps of Engineers contact:** (918) 682-4314.
**Wildlife Department contact:** Josh Johnston, biologist, (918) 683-1031.
Fort Gibson in northeastern Oklahoma provides some great bank access along with boat access to springtime white bass fishing. Chouteau Creek at the State Highway 412 bridge and farther north where Pryor Creek crosses U.S. 69 provide some great bank access for those unable to fish from a boat, said Brad Johnston, northeast region fisheries technician.
What are ANS?
Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) are invasive, non-native species that threaten the ecological integrity of aquatic ecosystems in Oklahoma. ANS can be brought into the state unknowingly by anglers and boaters who move their boats and equipment from one body of water to another without cleaning them. These species often have no natural predators and can expand their range and population size unchecked, damaging native species and harming lakes, streams, and rivers.
ANS cause harm to fish populations and other aquatic organisms and can clog up water intake structures and waterways. Hydrilla plants grow thickly in areas to the point that recreation is limited, and bighead and silver carp can displace other species such as paddlefish. Anglers and boaters are vital partners in preventing ANS from spreading.

As soon as you pull your boat out of the water, follow these steps:
Check:
Inspect your boat, trailer and equipment for zebra mussels, mud, plant fragments, seeds, and any other organisms from the water. Remove them.

Drain:
Drain water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, bait containers, coolers, and ballast.

Clean or Dry:
Pressure wash the boat, trailer and equipment with hot water (140°F). If pressure wash is not available, allow the boat, trailer and equipment to dry thoroughly for at least five days before visiting a new water body.

“Hi, I’m Kevin Van Dam and I make a living fishing all over the country. Unfortunately, zebra mussels are affecting a lot of our fisheries. The best way to stop the spread of them is to power wash your boat and trailer every time you leave a lake. Make sure you do it. I always do mine.”

Want more info? Visit ProtectYourWaters.net.
Think you found ANS?
Contact biologist Curtis Tackett at (405) 521-3721.
The following water bodies have regulations that differ from statewide regulations for one or more species of fish. Anglers should keep in mind that municipalities, national wildlife refuges and the Chickasaw National Recreation Area (Lake Arbuckle) have the authority to set fishing regulations on waters in their jurisdiction that may differ from either the statewide regulations listed beginning on page 8 or the individual lake regulations listed below.

It is the angler's responsibility to know what regulations apply to the body of water he or she is fishing.

TAILWATERS

First 1,000 feet below any federal or Grand River Dam Authority dam
Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Unlawful to keep a foul-hooked fish (any fish hooked other than inside the mouth), unless taken in a tailwater open to snagging. Bowfishing prohibited, except Wister, Eufaula, Ft. Gibson, Keystone, and Hudson which are open. Bowfishing is open on Thunderbird past the first 75 feet from the dam. Gigs, spears and spearguns prohibited, except Hudson which is open. Snagging prohibited, except Ft. Gibson tailwaters are open 24 hours; Wister is open to snagging from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m., year-round. Snagging of paddlefish or any fish is closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. year round on the Grand River from the U.S. 412 bridge upstream to the Markham Ferry (Lake Hudson) dam.

Salt Fork of the Arkansas River from the spillway of Great Salt Plains Lake downstream to State Highway 38 bridge
Prohibited method of fishing: bowfishing (see Tailwaters above), trotline, throwline, limbline, jugline and yo-yo.

Fishing restrictions for Bureau of Reclamation tailwaters
The following restrictions apply to these Bureau of Reclamation tailwaters. Closed, year-round: Arbuckle, Ft. Cobb and Foss. First 75 feet from dam closed: Altus-Lugert, McGee Creek, Tom Steed, and Thunderbird.

LAKES

Adair Recreation Area
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only one rod and reel per person. No other method of fishing allowed.

Altus-Lugert
**Contact:** (580) 563-2238.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Walleye and/or saugeye: six per day/14-inch minimum. (This regulation applies to the tailwater also) Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

American Horse
*Attention Anglers: American Horse Lake is undergoing repairs and is closed to fishing during the renovation.*

**Contact:** (580) 474-2668.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

Arbuckle
**Contact:** (580) 622-3161.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/13- to 16-inch protected slot limit. All crappie: 15 combined per day/10-inch minimum.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

Arcadia
**Contact:** (405) 216-7470.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids: five combined per day, of which only two may be 20 inches or longer.

Birch
**Contact:** (918) 396-3170.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

Black Kettle National Grasslands Lakes (Black Kettle, Skipout, Spring Creek)
**Contact:** (580) 497-2143.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Prohibited methods of fishing: trotlines, throwlines, limblines, yo-yos, juglines.

Broken Bow (from the slab at the Narrows downstream to the dam)
**Contact:** (580) 494-6379.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and/or smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

Burtschi
**Contact:** (580) 529-2795.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

Carl Albert
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to rod and reel only. No other method of fishing allowed.

Carl Blackwell
**Contact:** (405) 372-5157.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

Carl Etling
*Attention Anglers: Fishing opportunities are limited due to prolonged drought.*

**Contact:** (580) 474-2668.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches. Striped bass hybrids: five per day/no size limit.

**Methods:** One rod and reel per person during trout season (other times no more than two rods and reels per person). Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other...
method of fishing allowed.

**Note:** For additional trout regulations see page 38.

**Chimney Rock/W.R. Holway**

**Contact:** (918) 782-9994.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined /13- to 16-inch protected slot limit.

**Chouteau (includes oxbows and cutoffs)**

**Contact:** (918) 682-4314.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

**Copan**

**Contact:** (918) 532-4334.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

**Crowder (Washita County)**

**Contact:** (800) 654-8240 before 5 p.m.; (580) 343-2443 after 5 p.m.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day. There is a 16- to 22-inch protected slot limit, of which only one may be 22 inches or longer. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Dahlgren**

**Contact:** (405) 325-7288.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

**Stanley Draper**

**Contact:** (405) 755-4014.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to no more than three rods and reels per person, with no more than three hooks per line (treble hooks are considered one hook). Bowfishing is permitted year-round during daylight hours only. No other method of fishing allowed, including no castnetting.

**Dripping Springs**

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day. There is a 16- to 22-inch protected slot limit, of which only one may be 22 inches or longer.

**Elmer**

**Attention Anglers:** Elmer Lake is currently undergoing renovations. The lake will not fill until sufficient rainfall has occurred. Please call for updates.

**Contact:** (580) 529-2663

**Daily/Size Limits:** Walleye, sauger and saugeye: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. (This regulation applies to the tailwaters also.)

**Evans Chambers**

**Contact:** (580) 474-2668.

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

**Foss**

**Contact:** (580) 592-4433.

**Elmer Thomas (Wichita Mountains NWR)**

**Daily/Size Limits:** Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to rod and reel only. No other method of fishing allowed.

**Tips for Fishing with Youngsters**

Fishing with youngsters can be rewarding and memorable for everyone, especially if you know what to expect. Heed these tips to help make your outing great.

- It’s not about the fish. In 10 years, the memories will be of positive times spent together, not how many fish were caught.
- Youngsters are happy to catch anything. It’s not about looking for lunkers. Young anglers are just as excited when 5-inch bluegill snatch their worms.
- This trip is about them, not you. Bring the camera instead of your own fishing gear. Be patient, as you’ll spend most of the time helping them cast, get free from weeds, putting worms on as bait, and removing hooks.
- Keep it short, especially if the fishing is slow. Thirty minutes is a long time for a short attention span. Changing positions often might help, as will snacks and drinks.
- It’s OK to play with the worms… or dig in the mud, watch the geese, splash the turtles, etc. Exploring nature is a far better use of time than playing video games, and it’s fine if your fishing trip turns into a nature walk or boat ride.

Taking children fishing is just another step toward building a lifelong love of the outdoors. Not to mention, it’s a great opportunity for families to take a break from hectic schedules. Take a child fishing today!

— Andrea Crews, senior biologist
LAKES (CONTINUED)

Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Walleye and/or saugyeye: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

Fort Cobb
Contact: (405) 643-2249.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Walleye and/or saugyeye: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

Fort Gibson (includes all tributaries and upstream to Markham Ferry Dam)
Contact: (918) 682-4314.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. All crappie: 15 combined per day/10-inch minimum. Paddlefish: see regulations on page 28.

Grand (applies to all tributaries and upstream to state line, and to the area below Pensacola Dam downstream to State Highway 82 bridge)
Contact: (918) 782-9594.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. All crappie: 15 combined per day/10-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer. Paddlefish: see regulations on page 28.

Great Salt Plains (including lake and tailwaters)
Contact: (580) 626-4731.
Daily/Size Limits: Walleye, saugyeye: six combined per day/no size limit.

Hefner
Contact: (405) 755-4014.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Methods: Fishing limited to no more than three rods and reels per person, with no more than three hooks per line (treble hooks are considered one hook). Bowfishing is permitted year-round but during daylight hours only. No other method of fishing allowed, including castnetting.

Heyburn
Contact: (918) 247-6391.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

Hudson
Contact: (918) 782-9594.

Hugo
Contact: (580) 326-3345.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

Jap Beaver
Contact: (580) 529-2795.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.
Methods: Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

Lawtonka
Contact: (580) 529-2663.
Daily/Size Limits: Walleye, sauger or saugeye: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. (This regulation applies to the tailwater also.) Additional city regulations apply.

Lone Chimney
Contact: (918) 762-3581.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Hybrid striped bass: 20 daily, only 5 may be over 20 inches.
Methods: Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

McGee Creek
Contact: (580) 889-5822.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. There is a 16- to 22-inch protected slot limit, of which only one may be 22 inches or longer.

Murray
Contact: (800) 654-8240 before 5 p.m.; (580) 343-2443 after 5 p.m.
Daily/Size Limits: Walleye and/or saugeye: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. (This regulation applies to the tailwater also.)

Nanih Waiya
Contact: (918) 297-0153.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.
Methods: Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

Newt Graham (includes oxbows and cutoffs)
Contact: (918) 682-4314.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

Okmulgee
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/13- to 16-inch protected slot limit.

Oologah (including all tributaries to state line and downstream below dam to mouth of Caney River)
Contact: (918) 443-2250.
Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass, striped bass hybrids or white bass: 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

Ouachita National Forest ponds and lakes
Contact: (580) 494-6402, ext. 107.

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### LAKES (CONTINUED)

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<th>Daily/Size Limits</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Largemouth and smallmouth bass:</strong> six combined per day/14-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to rod and reel only. No other method of fishing allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mouth bass:</strong> six combined per day/14-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smallmouth bass:</strong> six combined per day/13 to 16-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Striped bass hybrids:</strong> 10 combined per day/20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.</td>
<td>Prohibited methods of fishing: gigs and spears downstream from Horseshoe Bend boat ramp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass:</strong> six combined per day/14-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Smallmouth bass:</strong> six combined per day/13 to 16-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Striped bass:</strong> 5 per day, 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Catfish:</strong> 15 combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carp:</strong> 37 combined per day/10-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing allowed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tilapia:</strong> 100 combined per day/10-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only one rod and reel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Perch:</strong> 25 per day/no size limit.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only one rod and reel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bream:</strong> 20 per day/20-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to rod and reel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Crappie:</strong> 15 combined per day/12-inch minimum.</td>
<td>Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SPECIAL AREA REGULATIONS

- **Ozio Cobb**
  - **Contact:** (918) 297-0153.
  - **Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.
  - **Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

- **Pawhuska**
  - **Contact:** (918) 287-3040.
  - **Methods:** Fishing limited to only one rod and reel per person during trout season (other times, consult City of Pawhuska for fishing regulations).
  - **Note:** For additional trout regulations see page 38.

- **Vincent**
  - **Contact:** (580) 474-2668.
  - **Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.
  - **Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

- **Watonga (Roman Nose State Park)**
  - **Contact:** (580) 474-2668.
  - **Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish: six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.
  - **Methods:** Fishing limited to only one rod and reel per person during trout season (other times no more than two rods and reels per person).
  - **Note:** For additional trout regulations see page 38.

- **Waurika**
  - **Contact:** (580) 963-2111.
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**Lakes (Continued)**

**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass; six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Striped bass hybrids and/or white bass; 20 combined per day, of which only five may be 20 inches or longer.

**Wayne Wallace**
Contact: (918) 465-2565.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass; six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to only two rods and reels per person. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

**W.D. Mayo** (includes oxbows, cutoffs, and below dam to state line)
Contact: (918) 775-4475.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass; six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Sauger: six per day/16-inch minimum.

**Webbers Falls** (includes oxbows and cutoffs)
Contact: (918) 487-5252.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Sauger: six per day/16-inch minimum.

**Wister** (from dam upstream to U.S. 271 on Fourche Maline River, to U.S. 59 on the Poteau River and to the low water dam, ½ mile above County Road 156 on Holson Creek)
Contact: (918) 655-7206.
**Daily/Size Limits:** Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Sauger: six per day/16-inch minimum.

**Rivers and Creeks**

**Arkansas River (Keystone dam downstream to the Arkansas state line)**
**Daily/Size Limits:** Sauger: six per day/16-inch minimum.

**Methods:**
- From Keystone Dam downstream to Interstate 44 bridge in Tulsa; snagging is prohibited, and keeping a foul-hooked fish (any fish hooked other than inside the mouth) is prohibited.
- In the tailwater area immediately below Webbers Falls Lock and Dam; bowfishing, gigs, spears, spearguns and snagging is prohibited in the first 1,000 feet. Trotlines, throwlines, limelines, juglines and yo-yos are prohibited below Webbers Falls Lock and Dam for a distance of one mile.

**Baron Fork Creek** (see restrictions on fishing methods on Upper Illinois River and Tributaries)

**Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area**
**Daily/Size Limits:** All species of black bass; six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/only one blue catfish over 30 inches. All crappie; six combined per day/no size limit. Possession limit is twelve (12) of all species of game fish after the first day.

**Methods:** Fishing limited to one rod and reel per person during trout season (otherwise no more than two rods and reels per person). No other method of fishing allowed.

**Note:** For more trout regulations see pages 38 and 40.

**Lower Canadian River** (downstream from Eufaula dam for one mile)
**Methods:** Gigs and spears, spearguns, and snagging prohibited. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations.)

**Caney River (Below Hulah Lake dam)**
**Methods:** Bowfishing prohibited from Hulah dam downstream 1,200 feet to the regulation dam. Gigs, spears, spearguns and snagging prohibited from Hulah dam downstream to the confluence of old and new river channels. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations.)

**Flint Creek** - (see regulations on fishing methods on Upper Illinois River and Tributaries)

**Glover River from confluence with Little River upstream to the “Forks of the Glover”**

**Daily/Size Limits:** All species of black bass; six combined per day/no size limit on large-mouth or spotted bass, however, smallmouth bass have a 12-inch minimum of which only three smallmouth greater than 12 inches may be included in the daily limit of six black bass.

**Kiamichi River** (below Hugo Lake dam)
**Methods:** Trotlines, throwlines and noodling are prohibited from Hugo dam downstream to first railroad bridge. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations.)

**Lee Creek** (including Little Lee Creek)
**Daily/Size Limits:** All species of black bass; six combined per day/no size limit on large-mouth or spotted bass, however, smallmouth bass have a 9- to 12-inch protected slot limit of which only one smallmouth greater than 12 inches may be included in the daily limit of six black bass.

**Lower Illinois River (From Tenkiller dam downstream to the confluence of the Arkansas River)**
**Daily/Size Limits:** Sauger: six per day/16-inch minimum. Largemouth and smallmouth bass: six combined per day/14-inch minimum.

**Methods:** From Tenkiller Dam downstream to the U.S. 64 bridge; fishing limited to one rod and reel per person. No other method of fishing allowed. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations.)

**Note:** For more trout regulations see page 38.

**Upper Illinois River and tributaries** (includes Baron Fork Creek and Flint Creek)

**Daily/Size Limits:** Illinois River upstream from Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, Baron Fork Creek and Flint Creek; all species of black bass; six combined per day/no size limit on large-mouth or spotted bass, however, smallmouth bass have a 9- to 12-inch protected slot limit of which only one smallmouth greater than 12 inches may be included in the daily limit of six black bass.

**Methods:** Snagging and noodling are prohibited at all times. Bowfishing, speargunning, and gigging are prohibited, except for the following methods/seasons:
- Upstream from Horseshoe Bend boat ramp; bowfishing and speargunning are permitted from Dec. 1 through March 31. Giggling is permitted from Dec. 1 through March 1.
- Upstream from State Highway 51/U.S. 62 bridge; gigging is permitted from Dec. 1 through March 31.

**Lower Mountain Fork River trout area** (below Broken Bow dam)
**Methods:** Fishing limited to one rod and reel per person. No other method of fishing allowed. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations.)

**Note:** For more trout regulations see page 38.
Oklahoma River (North Canadian River from NW 10th to NE 10th, Oklahoma City)

See page 34 for “Close to Home Fishing” area regulations.

Upper Poteau River and Fourche Maline River and tributaries in Le Flore Co.


Lower Poteau River (downstream from Wister dam to ¼ mile past confluence of old and new river channels)

Methods: Prohibited methods of fishing: trotlines and throwlines. (Also see “Tailwaters” regulations)

Medicine Creek trout area (Gondola Lake dam south to State Highway 49 bridge)

Methods: Fishing limited to one rod and reel per person during trout season. Fishing limited to rod and reel and bowfishing. No other method of fishing allowed.

Note: For more trout regulations see page 38.

Lower Red River (below Lake Texoma)

Denison Dam downstream to the mouth of the Shawnee Creek:

We advise anglers to meet all fishing license requirements for both Oklahoma and Texas. See map below. If you are fishing in Oklahoma waters, an Oklahoma fishing license is required, unless exempt. If you are fishing in Texas waters, you need a Texas fishing license. A Lake Texoma fishing license is not valid below Denison Dam.

Mouth of Shawnee Creek downstream (east): If fishing in the Red River, anglers must possess an Oklahoma fishing license, unless exempt.

For all of the Lower Red River:

Daily/Size Limits: Striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids; five combined per day/no size limit.

Methods: Bowfishing for paddlefish is prohibited year-round. See “Tailwaters” regulations for other daily, size, and fishing method regulations.

Robber’s Cave (From Carlton Lake dam downstream 1.5 miles to the State Park boundary)

Methods: Fishing limited to one rod and reel per person during trout season (other times no more than two rods and reels per person). No other method of fishing allowed.

Note: For more trout regulations see page 38.

OTHER AREAS

Camp Gruber JMTC

For information on fishing opportunities, open dates and areas, as well as other regulations pertaining to Camp Gruber Joint Maneuver Training Center, contact Oklahoma Army National Guard online at ok.ngab.army.mil/CGTS/ or call the voice phone system at (918) 549-6041.

Ponds and creeks within the following Wildlife Department Management Areas:

Atoka, Beaver River, Gary Sherrer, Cherokee, Cookson, Ellis Co., Ft. Gibson, James Collins, Robert S. Kerr WMA, Lexington, Okmulgee (except in Deep Fork River), Pushmataha, Robbers Cave, Sandy Sanders and Stringtown

Daily/Size Limits: Largemouth and smallmouth bass; six combined per day/14-inch minimum. Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/one blue catfish over 30 inches.

Ponds and creeks within each of the Honobia Creek or Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas

Special Permits: All resident anglers age 18 (by Dec. 31 of the previous calendar year) to 63, and all non-resident anglers regardless of age must possess the Land Access Permit to either fish and/or hunt on either the Honobia Creek or Three Rivers Wildlife Management Areas. For additional Honobia/Three Rivers WMA regulations see the “Oklahoma Hunting” guide (regulations).

Ponds and creeks within other Dept. of Wildlife Management Areas not listed above

Daily/Size Limits: Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/one blue catfish over 30 inches.

Oklahoma State Park Ponds

Daily/Size Limits: Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/one blue catfish over 30 inches.

Wichita Mountains. NWR lakes (except Elmer Thomas)

Daily/Size Limits: Channel and/or blue catfish; six combined per day/one blue catfish over 30 inches.

Methods: Fishing limited to rod and reel only. No other method of fishing allowed.

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**Paddlefish Regulations**

Paddlefish daily limit is one daily on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Any paddlefish caught on a Monday or Friday must be released immediately. Anglers cannot possess a paddlefish in the field on Mondays or Fridays.

Once you keep a fish, you must stop paddlefish fishing (snagging) for the day.

Paddlefish angling by all methods is closed on the Spring River from the State Highway 60 bridge upstream to the Kansas line. Snagging of paddlefish or any fish is closed from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays year-round. Paddlefish must be released immediately after being caught, unless kept for the daily limit. Anglers fishing trotlines or throwlines must release all paddlefish before leaving their lines (unless keeping one for a daily limit).

Paddlefish taken by bowfishing, gigs, spears and sparguns cannot be released. These methods cannot be used Mondays and Fridays.

Paddlefish not immediately released are considered kept and must be tagged immediately with the angler’s paddlefish permit number. Date and time of harvest must be recorded on the permit. Under no circumstances can any paddlefish be caught, kept and later released (no culling).

Each cleaned paddlefish and its parts (carcass, meat or eggs) must be tagged and kept separate from all other cleaned paddlefish or paddlefish parts. Each person must keep his paddlefish distinctly separate from paddlefish taken by others. Paddlefish and paddlefish parts must remain tagged until the person in possession of the same reaches his residence.

When snagging for paddlefish, anglers are allowed only one single hook or one treble hook. All hooks must have barbs removed or completely closed. Anglers must stop snagging when a paddlefish is kept. When landing a paddlefish, it is illegal to use gaff hooks or any technique or device that injures the fish, unless the angler is bowfishing.

No person can possess eggs (attached to the egg membrane) of more than one paddlefish. No person can possess more than 3 pounds of processed paddlefish eggs or fresh paddlefish eggs removed from the membrane. Processed eggs are any eggs taken from a paddlefish that have gone through a process that turns the eggs into the product caviar or into a caviar-like product.

No person can ship into or out of, transport into or out of or, have in possession with the intent to so transport, or cause to be removed from this state, raw unprocessed, processed or frozen paddlefish eggs.

All paddlefish must have all internal organs removed before leaving the state.

**Note:** For information on fishing below dams for paddlefish, see “Tailwaters” on page 18.
What is the biggest fish you’ve ever caught? A 7-pound largemouth, a 2-pound crappie or a 45-pound blue catfish? While your fish may not have broken a state record, it could very possibly be the biggest fish ever caught out of your favorite lake. The Lake Record fish program was established to recognize big fish and the lakes where they are caught.

Been to the lake lately? You might have caught a lake record!
The Lake Record fish program continues to grow, as more and more anglers find themselves holding a fish that qualifies for a lake record. From lakes large and small, from one side of the state to the other, the Lake Record program recognizes anglers who land a fish that is a record for that lake.

Once an angler catches a fish that might qualify as a lake record, he or she must have the catch certified at a Lake Record Keeper location. For a full list of record keepers, visit our website, wildlifedepartment.com/fishing.htm

The minimum weights to qualify your catch in the Lake Record program must be larger than a 6 lb. largemouth bass; 4 lb. smallmouth bass; 2 lb. spotted bass; 2 lb. crappie; 15 lb. channel catfish; 40 lb. blue or flathead catfish; 3 lb. white bass; 20 lb. striped bass; 8 lb. hybrid; 5 lb. walleye/saugeye; 1 lb. sunfish or a 40 lb. paddlefish.

Jon Duvall of Wister holds his Wister Lake Record crappie caught with rod and reel April 17, 2010, weighing 4.2 pounds.

Royce Harlan of Kingston holds his Texoma Lake Record largemouth bass caught with rod and reel March 3, 2012, weighing 12.4 pounds.
### Rod and Reel Record Fish

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<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
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<td>16 1/4</td>
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### Unrestricted Division Record Fish

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<td>10-12-97</td>
<td>Paul R. Forman/throw line</td>
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How to Certify a State Record

1. Fish must be caught on rod and line and must be hooked and played by only one person. (Except for unrestricted division, which recognizes fish species taken by legal means other than rod and reel such as bow and arrow, gig, spear, trotline, jugline, limbline, etc. These records must tie or exceed the weight of the existing rod and reel record.)

2. Fish must be caught in accordance with Oklahoma fishing regulations.

3. No fish caught from any hatchery or commercial put-and-take lake is eligible.

4. Accredited or certified weight scales must be used to weigh the fish. Accredited steel measuring tapes must be used to measure the fish. The fish should be measured from tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with fish laid flat on a ruler, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together, giving length of fish in inches. Measure the girth of the fish in inches around its widest point. Three witnesses, one of which must be an employee of the Wildlife Department, must witness the weighing and measuring of the fish and sign the affidavit.

5. The fish may be frozen, but must be in a thawed, natural, live-weight condition when approved by a Wildlife Department biologist or technician. Preserve the fish until you receive an official letter of verification from the director of the Wildlife Department.

6. A clear photograph showing a close-up side view of the fish must accompany the completed fish affidavit form. All photographs become the property of the Wildlife Department.

7. The Wildlife Department reserves the right to collect fish scale, tissue or spine samples to check fish identification and to refuse any questionable fish affidavit submitted. The affidavit must be submitted within 30 days of the date the fish is caught.

8. With the exception of grass carp, no restricted exotic species will be eligible for state record fish recognition.
2012 PROVES A RECORD-SETTING YEAR FOR LARGEMOUTH, SMALLMOUTH BASS


The largemouth weighed 14 pounds, 12.3 ounces. The smallmouth was 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

“A BIG DEAL”

Williams’ largemouth, at 14 pounds, 12.3 ounces, broke a state record that was set in 1999. Williams caught his lunker about 11 a.m. on a ¼ ounce Strike King jig. The fish measured 26 inches long and 22 3/8 inches in girth.

“Catching the state record largemouth bass in Oklahoma is a big deal, and catching a fish this large is a big deal,” said Barry Bolton, chief of fisheries for the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The last two state record largemouth bass, as well as several from the state’s Top 20 Largemouth Bass List, have been caught in the southern and southeastern regions of the state. Lakes in that region tend to warm up earlier and cool off later in the year than in other regions, which affords these fish a longer growing season.

Gene Gilliland, assistant chief of fisheries, said Cedar Lake has been known to produce big largemouth bass for anglers in recent years — not just because of its southeastern location, but also because it has received Florida strain largemouth bass through the state’s fish stocking program.

“HUGE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY”

Wasser was preparing for an upcoming local fishing tournament at Lawtonka when he hooked his record smallmouth. At 8 pounds 7 ounces, the fish outweighed the previous record smallmouth by 4 ounces.

Wasser caught the bass on a ¼ ounce shaky head lure rigged with a finesse worm and 10 pound test line. His smallmouth measured 23 1/8 inches long and 18 inches in girth.

“I was fishing in less than 5 feet of water when the bass bit,” Wasser said. He was fishing with his mother and his 6-year-old son when he caught the fish.

Wasser said, “None of us have seen one even close to that big. Definitely more than a dream-come-true experience that none of us will ever forget.”

Gilliland said Lake Lawtonka was one of the first lakes in the state to be stocked with Tennessee strain smallmouth bass, which grow larger and are seemingly more adaptable to large lake environments than the state’s native strain of smallmouth bass that inhabit the many Ozark and Ouachita streams and rivers of eastern Oklahoma.

“An 8-pound smallmouth is huge anywhere in the country,” Gilliland said.

Currently all but one of the Oklahoma state record black bass in the books — which include smallmouth, largemouth, spotted and hybrid black bass — have been caught in March.

Bolton said these new records “speak to the quality of fishing we have in Oklahoma and also to the anglers who get out there and fish for them.”

Anglers who believe they may have hooked a record fish must weigh the fish on an Oklahoma State Department of Agriculture certified scale, and a Wildlife Department employee must verify the weight. For a complete list of record fish and the procedures for certifying a state record, look elsewhere in this guide or go online to wildlifedepartment.com.

WATCH ONLINE

View a video about the record largemouth bass online at tinyurl.com/bnhx3dq or scan the QR code.
State gears up to host nation's greatest bass fishing tournament

The 43rd edition of sport fishing’s greatest championship will come to Oklahoma for the first time in its history. The 2013 Bassmaster Classic tournament will lure the world’s best anglers to Grand Lake on Feb. 22-24.

Grand Lake marks the westernmost site for the Classic since the 1979 championship on Lake Texoma. This will be the sixth time that B.A.S.S. has held a professional event on Grand Lake, which was the venue for three Invitational tournaments in the 1990s and Elite Series events in 2006 and 2007.

“We’re very excited to bring the Classic to Oklahoma and Grand Lake,” said B.A.S.S. Chief Executive Bruce Akin. “It’s a wonderful venue for us, and we’re confident it will provide a true test of the best when the world’s greatest bass anglers compete in the championship of our sport.”

The event will bring an expected economic impact of nearly $26 million to the economy in the Tulsa region. The Classic’s average attendance is more than 70,000 each year.

Tulsa’s BOK Center will hold daily weigh-ins, and the Tulsa Convention Center will hold the Classic Outdoors Expo. Competition boats will launch from Wolf Creek Park in Grove.

As many as 54 anglers will compete for a $500,000 first-place prize and a $1.2 million purse over three days of fishing in average February temperatures in the mid-40s. Low temperatures and late winter Classics have typically meant big tournament weights.

WATCH ONLINE

View a video about the Bassmaster Classic online at tinyurl.com/dxvwqda or scan the QR code.

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<td>Ardmore</td>
<td>(580) 223-4844</td>
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<td>Jean Neustadt</td>
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<td>Mountain Lake</td>
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<td>Scott King</td>
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<td>Atoka</td>
<td>(580) 924-4087</td>
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<td>Bell Cow</td>
<td>(405) 258-3212</td>
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<td>Bluestem</td>
<td>(918) 287-4692</td>
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<td>Carl Blackwell</td>
<td>(405) 372-5157</td>
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<td>Chickasha</td>
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<td>Wintersmith Park</td>
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Looking for a nearby lake or pond to fish?

Through agreements between Oklahoma municipalities and the Wildlife Department, these areas offer convenient “Close to Home” fishing opportunities in metro areas.

Close-to-Home Fishing waters have the following restrictions:

- Fishing is limited to no more than three rods and reels per person, with no more than three hooks per line (treble hooks are considered one hook). No other fishing methods are allowed, except noodling is allowed in the North Canadian River from the NW 10th Street bridge downstream to the MacArthur Street bridge in Oklahoma City.
- All largemouth bass caught must be released (returned to the water) immediately after being taken; no harvest is allowed.
- Channel catfish and blue catfish have a combined daily limit of six; only one blue catfish over 30 inches is allowed to be kept.
- No netting of any kind (including castnetting) is permitted.
- For all other species, consult the statewide regulations.

Oklahoma City – (405) 755-4014:

- Crystal Lake (6625 SW 15th). Fishing pier may be reserved for youth-related aquatic programs. For more information, contact City Care at (405) 657-7947.
- Dolese Youth Park (5105 NW 50th)
- Edwards Park (1515 N Bryant Ave.)
- Kids Lake (3200 W Wilshire Blvd.)
- Kitchen Lake (5894 SE 119th) (Opening mid-2013)
- Oklahoma River from NW 10th Street bridge to NE 10th Street bridge.
- Route 66 Park (9901 NW 23rd)
- South Lakes Regional Park (4210 SW 119th) — west pond fishing access is closed.
- Waters of the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge (5101 N Stinchcomb Ave.)
- Zoo Lake (2101 NE 50th) — east shoreline only

Choctaw – (405) 390-8198:

- Choctaw Creek Park (2001 N. Harper)
- Ten Acre Park (NE 10th Street and Choctaw Road)

Through agreements between Oklahoma municipalities and the Wildlife Department, these areas offer convenient “Close to Home” fishing opportunities in metro areas.

TROTTING FISHING REGULATIONS AT DOLESE YOUTH PARK POND

Through a generous donation from BancFirst, Oklahoma City provides a special trout season at Dolese Youth Park Pond from Jan. 1 through Feb. 28, 2013.

- Only one pole or rod and reel per person.
- Only six trout per person per day.
- No culling (releasing fish earlier caught and kept).
- Bank fishing only. No wading, tubing or boating.
- An Oklahoma City fishing permit and a state fishing license are required.

Del City – (405) 670-7314:

- Eagle Lake (3405 E Reno)

Edmond – (405) 216-7641:

- Hafer Park (1034 S Bryant Ave.)
- Mitch Park (1501 W Covell Road)
- Bickham-Rudkin Park (450 E 33rd St.)

Enid – (580) 554-1536:

- Meadowlake Park (Corner of South Van Buren Street and West Rupe Avenue)
- Government Springs North Park (300 S 5th St.)
- Crosslin Park (1600 block West Purdue Avenue)
- City of Enid Water Works (1400 block West Chestnut Avenue)

Guthrie – (405) 282-8400:

- Mineral Wells Park (Division and Mineral Wells Circle)
- Highland Park (Warner Avenue and N Drexel Boulevard)

Harrah – (405) 454-2951:

- Heritage Park (1374 N Church Ave.)

Jones – (405) 399-5301

- Battey-Mullhousen pond (North Henney Road and West Main Street) – CLOSED FOR RENOVATION.

Lawton – (580) 581-3400:

- Elmer Thomas Park - Lake Helen (Interstate 44 and NW Cache Road)

Moore – (405) 793-5090:

- Little River Park (700 SW 4th)
- Buck Thomas Park Pond (1903 NE 12th St.)

Mustang – (405) 376-7739:

- Wildhorse Park (SW 59th and Mustang Road)

Norman – (405) 366-5472:

- George M. Sutton Urban Wilderness Area (12th Avenue NE and Rock Creek Road)
- Norman Lions Northeast Park (1800 Northcliff Ave.)
- Griffin Community Park (1001 E Robinson)

Yukon – (405) 354-7208:

- City Park (2200 S Holly St.)
- Welch Park (615 Annawood Road)
- Robertson Activity Center (1200 Lakeshore Drive)
75 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Reaches Milestone

If you’ve ever purchased firearms or ammunition, bows, arrows, fishing lures, rods and reels, hunting or fishing licenses, or fueled up your boat – you’re part of the most successful effort to conserve fish and wildlife in America – the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program. This program has helped to save millions of acres of habitat and significantly increased many wildlife populations, and this year marks the 75th anniversary of the WSFR program.

Here is how the process works. Hunters, anglers and outdoors-enthusiasts purchase items related to the outdoors such as guns, ammunition, fishing poles, boats and fuel. The federal government collects a special kind of tax, called an excise tax, on these items, that it distributes back to the states based on several factors that include the number of licensed hunters and anglers in the state.

Every time an Oklahoman buys a license, he supports important conservation projects like increasing hunting access or installing boat ramps.

Over the last 75 years, this process has made lasting positive changes for the wildlife, fish and habitat in our state, and the future looks just as bright. Visit wsfr75.com to join the celebration!

Many partners join in efforts to improve future of fishing

Much of the conservation and enhancement work in Oklahoma would not be possible without the vital support of our various partners and supporters. The Wildlife Department, and in turn you as a sportsman, are fortunate to have quality organizations that have made significant contributions to fisheries management in Oklahoma. These organizations are featured on our website at wildlifedepartment.com. Please visit the site to read about the ongoing projects that enhance Oklahoma’s waterways and expand fishing and boating access.

TULSA URBAN FISHERIES

Residents in the Tulsa area have access to many urban ponds and. For local residents looking for a place to fish that is close to home, these sites offer plenty of opportunities.

Listed sites are open to the public in the Tulsa area. All statewide fishing regulations apply, in addition to any municipal or county regulations not listed here. For more information, go online to wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/tulsaurbanfisheries.htm.

- **Brookwood**: 81st and South Yale, southwest corner.
- **Crescent Pond**: South of 81st between Sheridan and Memorial, in Southfield Estates neighborhood.
- **Garden Ridge Pond**: Behind the Hillcrest building, southeast corner of U.S. 169 and State Highway 91. Simplest access from Garnett Road then west on South 109th East Avenue.
- **The Gardens**: 51st and South Hudson, southwest corner.
- **Hunter Park**: South of 91st between Sheridan and Yale.
- **Leake Park**: 71st and South Memorial, southwest corner.
- **Lynn Lane Reservoir**: South of 21st between South 177th East Avenue (Lynn Lane) and South 193rd East Avenue (Tulsa County Line).
- **Metcalfe**: South of 11th on South Mingo Road.
- **Minshall Park**: 71st and Sheridan, southwest corner.
- **Mohawk Park**: Zoo main entrance is 36th Street North east of Sheridan Road. Mohawk Reflective Ponds are accessible by taking an immediate right turn on Cherokee Drive once in the main entrance. Public fishing allowed in Mohawk Creek area; from main entrance, continue north on Chickasaw Drive to Creek Drive, which parallels Mohawk Creek.
- **MS6**: North of 11th on South Mingo Road.
- **Nelson Park**: South 92nd East Avenue and Skelly Drive (south of Interstate 44).
- **Owen Park**: West Edison Street and North Quanah Avenue, south of Tulsa Country Club.
- **Redford**: North of East Skelly Drive on South 101st East Avenue.
- **Veterans’ Pond**: 101st and South Elm in Jenks, northeast corner.
**Lake Vincent at a Glance:**

| The Lake: | 160 surface acres. |
| Average Depth: | 16.1 feet. |
| Maximum Depth: | 48 feet. |

**Shoreline Length:** 5.1 miles.

**Getting there:** Lake Vincent is in the Ellis County Public Hunting Area, 13 miles southwest of Arnett.

**Facilities:** The lake has boat ramp access and picnic areas. Fishing and picnic supplies are available in nearby Arnett.

Situated in the Ellis County Public Hunting Area, a renovated Lake Vincent has again become an attractive fishing spot in northwestern Oklahoma.

This 160-acre lake was built in 1961 and has been known for its sunfish, bass, catfish and crappie. To maintain this fishery, ODWC has restocked the lake, enhanced the habitat, and increased angler access. In 2009, the lake was the first of 15 ODWC-owned lakes to undergo renovations.

The first step in the renovation process was to remove unwanted fish — drum, shad and grass carp — from the lake. Biologists then could restock the lake with sunfish, channel catfish, and largemouth bass. ODWC also increased fish habitat. When Lake Vincent was built, several old car bodies were submerged to provide feeding and spawning areas for fish and to supply cover. When the lake was drained, the cars were pulled from the lake bed, and more than 400 Eastern red cedar trees were fastened to the cars, which were pushed back into the lake. Other trees were simply placed close to the shoreline to provide habitat for fish.

Finally, angler access was improved by building a new boat ramp on the north side of the lake. Additionally, fishing berms were created so anglers can now access the deeper parts of the lake.

For more information about Lake Vincent, contact Byron State Fish Hatchery at (580) 474-2663, or go online to wildlifedepartment.com and click on “Fishing.” Check elsewhere in this guide for Lake Vincent’s Special Area Regulations.

**The Wildlife Department owns and manages 15 small lakes ranging in size from 30 to 263 acres.**

Information and maps about these lakes and their location can be obtained online at wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/deptlake.htm. Fishing regulations for these lakes are listed beginning on page 18. The Wildlife Department lakes include:

1. American Horse Lake  
   **Note:** American Horse Lake is undergoing repairs and is closed to fishing during the renovations.

2. Burtschi

3. Carl Etling  
   **Note:** Fishing opportunities are limited due to prolonged drought.

4. Dahlgren

5. Elmer  
   **Note:** Lake Elmer is undergoing renovation. Water has been drained from the lake. It will take from two to three years for stocked fish to reach harvestable size. It is illegal to transfer any fish from another body of water to Lake Elmer.

6. Evans Chambers

7. Hall

8. Jap Beaver

9. Nanih Waiya

10. Ozzie Cobb

11. Raymond Gary

12. Schooler

13. Vanderwork

14. Vincent

15. Watonga

Maps of these areas are available at wildlifedepartment.com
**Department Fishing Areas — PUBLIC USE RESTRICTIONS**

The following rules and restrictions govern public use on all Wildlife Department Fishing Areas:

**Waterfowl Refuge Portion** - The Waterfowl Refuge Portion (WRP) of the following lakes/areas is closed during Oct. 15 - Jan. 31 to all public use and access: Canton, Hackberry Flat, Hugo, McClellan-Kerr, Red Slough, and Wister. Visit wildlifedepartment.com for a map of the WRP portion or contact the Area Managers listed in the “Oklahoma Hunting” guide.

**Fishing** - Fishing is permitted at all times in accordance with regulations. “Closed areas” may be designated for purposes of safety and/or security. After 10 p.m. and until 5 a.m., all Wildlife Department fishing areas are restricted to fishing and hunting (when applicable) related activities only. No person may fish with more than two poles, except during trout seasons at Designated Trout Areas when only one pole per person is allowed. Trotlines, throwlines, limelines, juglines, nets, seines, yo-yos, spearguns, noddling and taking of bait minnows by any method is prohibited, except cast nets may be used to take bait for personal use only at Lake Carl Etling, Lake Dahlgren (Lexington WMA) is closed to fishing during designated controlled hunts (check current “Oklahoma Hunting” guide for dates).

**Hunting** - Always check the current “Oklahoma Hunting” guide for season details and restrictions. All forms of hunting are permitted on Lakes Vincent, Hall, Jap Beaver, Burtschi, Nanih Waiya, Ozzie Cobb, Schooler, Evans Chambers, American Horse and Vanderwork during open hunting seasons from Sept. 1 through spring turkey season. Hunting is restricted to shotguns and bows only. These lakes are closed to antlerless deer harvest, except during archery season. See current “Oklahoma Hunting” guide for seasons and restrictions on lakes Vincent (Ellis County WMA) and Dahlgren (Lexington WMA). Hunting and shooting other than provided above is prohibited. “Closed areas” may be designated for purposes of safety and/or security.

**Camping** - Limited to three days, except at the Lower Illinois River PFHA, Kiamichi River Access Area and Arcadia CEA where no camping is permitted, and at Lakes Watonga and Carl Etling where camping is limited to 14 consecutive days, and at Blue River PFHA where camping is restricted to 14 days in a 30-consecutive-day period. Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas. Quiet shall be maintained in camping areas between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. Operation or use of any audio-producing device including radios, televisions and musical instruments or motorized equipment used in such a manner as to reasonably annoy or endanger persons at any time or exceed state or local laws governing noise levels is prohibited.

**Boats & Motors** - Must comply with existing state boat regulations and boat operators must obey Oklahoma State Boat Laws. All boats must be operated at no-wake speed (six miles per hour or less) and may not be left on the water or at areas longer than the limit on camping.

**Water Skiing** - Water skiing is prohibited.

**Littering** - Disposal of trash, refuse and debris, including organic and inorganic material is prohibited, except in designated trash containers.

**Motor Vehicles** - Driving, occupying or parking any motor driven vehicle, except on maintained roads (unless posted as “no parking zones”), designated parking areas and camping areas is prohibited. It is unlawful to operate any vehicle in a manner to create a public nuisance or to park in a “no parking zone.” Motor vehicle operators must be licensed drivers.

**Vandalism, Theft, & Damage to Property** - Vandalism, theft, cutting or defacing of trees and vegetation, removal of soil, rocks, water or minerals or damage to state property is prohibited.

**Fireworks/Explosive Devices** - Possession or use of explosive devices, including fireworks and firecrackers, is prohibited.

**Swimming** - Swimming is not permitted in Wildlife Department lakes.

**Dogs** - Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except when used to hunt during legal open seasons on those areas where hunting is permitted.

**Disorderly Conduct** - No person shall use threatening, abusive or indecent language, participate in disorderly assemblage nor publicly appear nude or intoxicated on any lands owned and managed by the Wildlife Department.

**Glass beverage containers** - Are prohibited at Department fishing areas, except in designated camping and parking areas.

**Alcoholic Beverages/Controlled Substances** - Beer and other alcoholic beverages are not allowed (as defined in O.S. Title 37, Section 163.1), except at camping and parking areas. No person shall use any controlled dangerous substance (as defined in O.S. 63, Section 2-101) on any lands or waterways subject to control of the ODWC.

**Blue River Public Fishing & Hunting Area**

In addition to restrictions listed above, the following regulations apply to the Blue River PFHA:

- **Wildlife Conservation Passport** - All persons who enter or use the Blue River PFHA must possess the Wildlife Conservation Passport, unless exempt (see page 6).

- **Hours** - Vehicular access is closed to all except emergency traffic from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. year-round.

- **Hunting** - Always check current “Oklahoma Hunting” guide for season details and restrictions. All hunting is restricted to shotguns and archery only. Closed to waterfowl hunting and antlerless deer harvest during deer gun season.

- **Camping** - Camping is restricted to 14 days in a 30-consecutive-day period. The Area Manager may grant extensions. Extension approval will be based upon degree of area use, anticipated weekend or holiday occupancy and recreation season. Requests for extensions must be received by the Area Manager a minimum of 48 hours prior to start of extension date. Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas. No person shall leave a vehicle, camper, tent or any personal property unattended for more than a 48-hour period without approval of the Area Manager. Unauthorized placement of camping equipment or other items placed at a campsite, and/or personal attendance without overnight occupancy at a campsite for the purpose of reserving a campsite for future occupancy is prohibited. All property removed from unauthorized placement at a campsite will be at the owner’s expense and liability.

- **Carl R. & Ruth Walker Landrum Wilderness Area & Plaster Wildlife Management Unit** - Special rules pertain to these areas, including walk-in access only (except where wheelchair access provided), no camping, and no swimming.

**Arcadia Conservation Education Area**

- **Fishing** - Walk-in fishing is allowed year-round on the Arcadia Lake shoreline within the conservation area. No overnight fishing allowed. Fishing is not allowed on the ponds or wetland areas.

- **Hunting** - All hunting seasons are closed except controlled archery deer hunts, which are offered through the City of Edmond. For more information log on to edmondok.com.

- **No camping allowed.**

- **Closed to all nonhunting and nonfishing activities Oct. 1 - Jan. 15.**

- **For additional information, contact Daniel Griffith, (405) 396-2223.**

**Lower Illinois River Public Fishing and Hunting Area — Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit**

No camping permitted. All hunting is restricted to shotguns with pellets or archery equipment only. See "Oklahoma Hunting" guide for open hunting seasons.

2013 OKLAHOMA FISHING GUIDE 37
General Trout Regulations

License Requirements:
- A resident or nonresident fishing license is required of all persons who take or attempt to take fish, including trout, unless otherwise exempt.
- A trout license is no longer required because it is included in the resident or nonresident fishing license.

Trout Seasons:
See map and description of each state-designated trout area.

Method of Taking:
- It is unlawful to take fish from state-designated trout areas during trout season by any means except one rod and reel (or one pole and line).
- Trout caught and placed on a stringer or otherwise held in possession cannot be released (no culling.)

Daily & Size Limits:
- Daily limit is six rainbow trout in all state-designated trout areas except in portions of the Blue River, the Lower Illinois River and the Lower Mountain Fork River (See maps and descriptions on pages 39-40)
- There is no minimum size limit for rainbow trout at any state-designated trout area except in portions of the Lower Illinois River and the Lower Mountain Fork River (See maps and descriptions on pages 39 and 40)
- Daily limit for brown trout is six with no minimum size limit, except at the Lower Mountain Fork River and Lower Illinois River where the daily limit is one; size limit: 20-inch minimum, with a possession limit of two after the first day.

Possession Limit:
No person shall have in his possession in the field more than one daily limit of any trout species. After the first day, no person shall have more than 12 rainbow trout and 12 brown trout in his possession, except at the Lower Mountain Fork River and Lower Illinois River where the possession limit for brown trout is two. Nonresidents shall not have more than two day’s limit of any trout species upon leaving the state.

Trout Fishing Tips:
Oklahoma has two introduced species of trout, rainbows and browns. Of the two, rainbows are far more abundant. Brown trout are stocked in the Lower Mountain Fork River below Broken Bow dam and in the Lower Illinois River when available, while rainbows are usually stocked every two weeks at all eight of the state’s trout areas during designated trout seasons. Anglers can use the following tips to help them put trout on the stringer:
- For the trout stocking schedules of all trout areas statewide, log on to wildlife.com.
- Use an ultra-light rod and reel spooled with six pound or lighter line to produce more strikes.
- Small spinners, spoons and crappie size jigs (tube or maribou) are good artificial lures.
- Fishing with live or prepared bait such as worms, power baits and salmon eggs is very productive where legal.
- Try small hooks (size 10 to 18) and sinkers to keep bait near the bottom and prevent trout from detecting any resistance.
- Fish during the early morning and late afternoons for best action.
- Concentrate on fishing around structure such as behind large rocks, logs and below riffles. Trout also tend to congregate above and below waterfalls, in and around deep pools and undercut banks.
- Rainbows tend to occupy faster moving water while browns may be found in more slack stretches.
- Trout face upstream to wait for insects to appear above them.
- Fly fishermen should try to fish with flies that resemble the insects and crustaceans that are most seasonally abundant.
- Fishing often improves a few days after stocking when trout have adjusted to their new environment.

Lake Watonga

Trout Season
Trout are stocked from Nov. 1 through March 31 of the following year.

Designated Trout Area/Size/Location
Seven miles north of Watonga in Blaine County. This 55-acre lake is within Roman Nose State Park.

Bank Access/Boat Ramps
Bank access and a boat ramp on the west side of the lake.

Notes of Interest
Camping and lodge facilities are available within Roman Nose State Park. For information, call the park at (800) 892-8690.

Lake Pawhuska

Trout Season
Trout are stocked from Nov. 1 through March 31 of the following year.

Designated Trout Area/Size/Location
96-acre lake 3 miles west of Pawhuska on U.S. 60 and 1.75 miles south on county road in Osage County.

Bank Access/Boat Ramps
Public-use facilities include a boat ramp, boat/fishing dock, parking area and restrooms – all handicap-accessible.

Notes of Interest
Camping at Lake Pawhuska is limited to primitive sites. Camp sites with electrical hook-ups available at nearby Lake Bluestem.

Special Regulations
City of Pawhuska requires a boating permit to launch a boat. For information call (918) 287-3040.
Lower Illinois River

Trout Season:
Year round.

Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:
7.75 miles of Illinois River from Tenkiller Dam to U.S. 64 bridge near Gore in Sequoyah County.

Bank Access/Boat Ramps:
The Lower Illinois River Public Fishing and Hunting Area – Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit offers public fishing access to almost one mile of the trout stream and 320 acres of public hunting opportunity (see map). To reach the area, travel north on State Highway 100 from Gore about four miles. Turn east onto county road E0990 and travel about one mile to the entrance. Park in the designated parking area only. The area is managed for walk-in access only.

Four other public access sites are available along the state designated trout stream, including a pool off the river located immediately below the dam which allows trout fishing even during high power generation. Another good site is located at the River Road Public Access Area about six miles downstream from the dam. The Gore Landing Public Access Area, operated by the town of Gore (918) 489-2636, offers camping and a boat launching ramp.

Special Regulations:
Brown trout – one over 20 inches in length. Rainbow trout – six, no minimum length. From USGS stream gauge downstream to Gravel Pit County Road: one over 20 inches in length.
Trout fishing in the Lower Illinois River Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit from the USGS stream gauge downstream to Gravel Pit County Road is restricted to artificial flies and lures only and barbless hooks only. Single barbed hooks 3/0 or larger may be used only when fishing with natural bait for species other than trout.

Lower Illinois River Public Fishing and Hunting Area
Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit – all general trout fishing regulations apply (see page 38). No overnight camping is allowed on the area.

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Do You Care About Wildlife?

Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a program of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation designed specifically to stop illegal killing of the fish and game which belong to you, whether you’re an angler, sportsman or outdoor enthusiast. It’s a big problem with no simple solution. Help from public sportsmen and sportswomen makes all the difference. Here’s why:

• One day before the opening of a recent deer season, two poachers killed four whitetail bucks.
• Late one summer night, three men steered their boat across a state reservoir, stopped at their illegal net site and hauled in a load of striped bass and other open-water fish they could sell for $1 a pound on the commercial market.

In each of these examples, you were the loser. You lost hunting and fishing opportunities or the chance to view wildlife in their natural surroundings. At the same time, law-abiding sportsmen received a bad reputation from those who fail to distinguish between legal and illegal hunting. OGT is something everyone can do to help wildlife and help us apprehend the poachers.

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Operation Game Thief trailer is on the move!

Thanks to generous contributions from the Oklahoma Station Chapter Safari Club International and Safari Club International, the Department has equipped a traveling trailer to highlight the importance of obeying game laws. The Operation Game Thief trailer is hitting the roads and educating Oklahomans young and old about wildlife conservation. Keep your eyes peeled; the trailer may be coming to an area near you!
**Lower Mountain Fork River**

**Trout Season:**
Year round.

**Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:**
12 mile portion of the Lower Mountain Fork River and its tributaries from the Broken Bow Reservoir spillway downstream to the U.S. 70 bridge. About five miles of this designated trout stream lies within Beavers Bend State Park, in McCurtain County.

**Bank Access/Boat Ramps:**
Bank access is unlimited within the state park and downstream to the re-regulation dam. Another public access point exists at Presbyterian Falls. Boat ramps are located just upstream of and below the re-regulation dam.

**Notes of Interest:**
Camping and cabin facilities are available within Beavers Bend State Park and below the re-regulation dam. For information call the park at (580) 494-6300.

**Trout Regulations:**
- Brown trout - Daily limit: one; size limit: 20-inch minimum.
- Rainbow trout - Daily limit: six combined from Red and Blue Zones. See Zone regulations below.

**Special Regulations by Zone:**

**Blue Zones:** (From the Broken Bow Reservoir spillway downstream to the Lost Creek diversion structure; from the first State Highway 259A scenic bridge downstream to the State Park Dam; and from the mouth of Rough Branch Creek downstream to U.S. 70 bridge):
- Rainbow trout - Daily limit: six; no minimum size limit.
- Use of bait and barbed hooks is permitted.

**Red Zones:** (From the Lost Creek diversion structure downstream to the first State Highway 259A scenic bridge, including the Lost Creek channel; and from the State Park Dam downstream to the mouth of Rough Branch Creek):
- Rainbow trout - Daily limit: one; Size limit: 20-inch minimum.
- Possession of any trout less than 20-inches is prohibited.
- Use of bait or barbed hooks is prohibited in the Red Zone. Fishing is restricted to barbless hooks, artificial flies and artificial lures only.

**ANS Alert** - Didymo, an aquatic nuisance species commonly referred to as “rock snot,” has been identified in the Lower Mountain Fork River. To prevent spreading this undesirable organism, please clean and dry waders and other fishing equipment after use in the Lower Mountain Fork River.

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**Blue River**

**Trout Season:**
Trout are stocked from Nov. 1 through March 31 of the following year.

**Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:**
6.25 miles of Blue River flows through the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area located in Johnston County, four miles east of Tishomingo on State Highway 78 and six miles north.

**Bank Access:**
Bank/wading access is available throughout the area (see accompanying map).

**Notes of Interest:**
Camping facilities available only at the Blue River Campground area (see map). Special access is provided for handicapped persons confined to wheelchairs. For information, call (580) 443-5728. For complete public use restrictions, see page 37.

**Special Regulations:**
From Nov. 1 to Feb. 28, the portion of the Blue River which enters the north side of the property and flows to the end of the first walk in trail is catch and release only. (See shaded area on map.) Fishing is restricted to barbless hooks, artificial flies and lures only. Starting March 1, special regulations do not apply. Also, no camping and no vehicles are allowed except in designated parking areas of the Carl R. and Ruth Walker Landrum Wilderness and the Bill and Valerie Plaster Wildlife Management Unit. Nonhunting and nonfishing visitors to the area are required to possess a Wildlife Conservation Passport, unless exempt (see page 6).
Robber's Cave

**Trout Season:**
Trout are stocked from Nov. 1 through March 15 of the following year.

**Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:**
1.5 miles of Fourche Maline River immediately below Carlton Lake Dam downstream to the southern boundary of Robber's Cave State Park, located in Latimer County, five miles north of Wilburton on State Highway 2.

**Bank Access:**
Bank access is good because the entire designated trout stream lies within Robber's Cave State Park.

**Notes of Interest:**
Camping and cabin facilities are available within the state park. For information call (918) 465-2565.

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Medicine Creek

**Trout Season:**
Trout are stocked from Jan. 1 through March 15 of the following year.

**Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:**
Medicine Creek from Gondola Lake dam downstream to the State Highway 49 bridge.

**Bank Access:**
A sidewalk along the east side of Medicine Creek in the town of Medicine Park will offer the best fishing access. Parking and fishing access also will be found along the creek’s east bank just north of the State Highway 49 bridge. The west side of the creek is mostly undeveloped but is accessible on foot. Anglers should avoid trespassing on any residential property.

**Notes of Interest:**
Camping facilities are available at the nearby Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge. For more information, call the refuge headquarters at (580) 429-3222 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Lodging is available in and around Medicine Park.

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Lake Carl Etling

**Note:** Fishing opportunities are limited due to prolonged drought. Call (580) 474-2663 for current information.

**Trout Season:**
Trout are stocked from Nov. 1 through April 30 of the following year.

**Designated Trout Area/Size/Location:**
Cimarron County, about 30 miles northwest of Boise City. 159-acre lake located within Black Mesa State Park.

**Bank Access/Boat Ramps:**
Berms extending from the south bank. Boat ramps on east and south sides of the lake.

**Notes of Interest:**
Camping facilities, including hookups, are available within the state park. For information, call Black Mesa State Park at (580) 426-2222.
Law Enforcement Office Headquarters: (405) 521-3719
(Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

If you witness a violation, call your game warden or contact the
Operation Game Thief hotline at (800) 522-8039.

District Chiefs
1 Jeff Brown, Nowata .....................(918) 331-5078
2 Joe Adair, Tahlequah .....................(918) 431-2543
3 Mike Virgin, Broken Bow ...............(580) 313-2305
4 Jimmie Henthorn, Kingston ..........(580) 320-2955
5 James Champeau, Crescent ............(405) 850-8701
6 Rick Eagle, Kingfisher .................(405) 688-0888
7 Thor Carlson, Oakwood .................(580) 623-0191
8 Tracy Daniel, Ponca City ..............(580) 304-6034

If you can’t reach your local game warden and have an emergency or see someone committing a violation, call a game warden in an adjoining county, or your local sheriff’s office.

If you can’t reach your local game warden and have an emergency or see someone committing a violation, call a game warden in an adjoining county, or your local sheriff’s office.
Watch Online
View a video about game wardens online at tinyurl.com/cg2xmy8 or scan the QR code.

District 4

Bryan
Bob Wingo, Durant..................(580) 320-2956
Jay Harvey, Bennington.................(580) 513-0814
Danny Clubb, Durant..................(580) 320-2957

Coal
Todd Smith, Coalgate.................(580) 927-5071

Creek
Dwight Luthur, Bristow.................(918) 625-6363
Karlin Bailey, Sapulpa.................(918) 625-6801

Hughes
Lt. Tom Cartwright, Holdenville............(405) 380-6729

Johnston
Curtis Latham, Tishomingo...........(580) 320-2948
Bud Cramer, Jr, Tishomingo...........(580) 320-2950

Marshall
Linda Powell, Madill.................(580) 320-2951
Chris Stover............................(580) 320-2959

Okfuskee
Lt. Nathan Erdman, Boley..............(580) 320-2949

Pontotoc
Dale Stites, Stratford................(580) 399-9289

Seminole
Daryl Houser, Earlsboro..............(405) 380-8995

District 5

Carter
Jeremy Brothers, Lone Grove..............(580) 220-7264

Cleveland
Lt. Tony Woodruff, Lexington............(405) 850-9757
Chad Strang, Moore..................(405) 323-7863

Garvin
David Steele, Wynnewood.................(405) 238-1785

Lincoln
Gary Emmons, Chandler.............(405) 240-1870

Logan
Wade Farrar, Cashion..................(405) 850-9607

Love
Bob Mullinax, Marietta...........(580) 276-7193

McClain
Brian Meskimen, Purcell.............(405) 278-1755

Murray
Casey Young, Sulphur..................(580) 618-0044

Oklahoma
David Rempe, OKC....................(405) 343-5489
Chance Whiteley, Luther.................(405) 203-3176
Tim Campbell, Spencer............(405) 203-3178

Payne
Lt. Jon Cunningham, Stillwater....(405) 747-0505

Potawatomie
Mike France, Shawnee.............(405) 850-8546

District 6

Blaine
Lt. Mark Walker, Watonga..........(580) 623-0206

Caddo
Tyler Howser, Anadarko..................(405) 590-5696

Canadian
David Rempe, OKC....................(405) 343-5489
Joey Rushing, Yukon.................(405) 850-2127

Comanche
Mike Carroll, Lawton............(580) 512-4706

Grady
Mark Murray, Rush Springs............(405) 779-1479

Jefferson
Game Warden...........................(405) 313-0451

Kingfisher
Blake Pearson, Okarche...............(405) 368-0887

Stephens
Jerrod Davis, Duncan.............(580) 512-4704

District 7

Beckham
Harry Steele, Elk City...................(580) 799-3950

Custer
Gary Roller, Clinton..............(580) 695-3642

Dewey
Clint Carpenter, Putnam............(580) 623-3255

Ellis
Lt. Bryan Wilkerson, Shattuck........(580) 334-0480

Greer
Brandon Lehman, Granite............(580) 450-7706

Harmon
J.D. Stauffer............................(580) 450-7701

Jackson
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Kiowa
David Smith, Hobart................(580) 450-7703

Roger Mills
Game Warden...........................(580) 497-6897

Tillman
Ted Haisty, Hollister.............(580) 305-1484

Washita
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Beaver
Mike Baker, Beaver....................(580) 651-9135

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Rusty Merefee, Boise City.............(580) 651-9133

Garfield
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Grant
Marshall Reigh, Medford..............(580) 541-0930
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Blake Cottrill, Buffalo.............(580) 727-5048

Kay
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Major
Lt. Frank Huebert, Fairview.........(580) 227-0393

Noble
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Texas
Max Crocker, Guymon..............(580) 651-9134

Woods
Terry Swallow, Alva.............(580) 430-5158

Woodward
Lt. Mark Reichenberger, Woodward...(580) 334-0353
LAKES WITH FISHING DOCKS AND PADS

Many lakes across the state offer facilities that make fishing more accessible to people with greater needs. These facilities include open docks or pads on or near the water, covered docks, and enclosed docks. Many sites also have fishing areas specially designed to allow access for people who use wheelchairs. For a complete list of accessible fishing sites, go online to wildlifedepartment.com/fishing/boatingaccess/accessible_fishing_dock.htm or scan the QR code.
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