

**TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
SPORT FISHING PROCLAMATION**

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 70, Tennessee Code Annotated, and Sections 70-4-107 and 70-4-119, thereof, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission proclaims the following regulations effective March 1, 2009.

**SECTION I. ENDANGERED SPECIES, GENERAL SEASONS, CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS, AND MINIMUM LENGTHS**

**A. ENDANGERED SPECIES**

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

**B. GAME FISH SPECIES**

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

Only the daily creel limit may be possessed while afield. It shall also be unlawful to possess while afield any fish, which has been altered to the extent that its species and/or total body length cannot be determined. The length of a fish shall be determined with the fish laying on a flat ruler, the mouth closed, and the caudal (tail) fin lobes squeezed so as to produce the maximum length. Unless stated otherwise a slot limit is a protected length range within which no fish may be harvested.

See Special Definitions (Section XVI) for Reservoir boundary and specific area descriptions.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Length Limit (minimum unless otherwise stated)</b>
Rock bass	20	None
Black bass (all species in combination) except as listed below and in Section V, VI, and VII)	5	None*
*Smallmouth bass from reservoirs: 18" minimum length limit		
All black bass from Mississippi River	10	None
Largemouth bass from Watauga Reservoir		12"
All black bass from Indian Boundary Lake	2	14"
Largemouth bass from: Cheatham, Chilhowee, Fort Loudon, Melton Hill, Norris, Old Hickory, Parksville, and Tellico reservoirs		14"
Largemouth bass from: Barkley, Boone, Center Hill, Cherokee, Chickamauga, Dale Hollow, Kentucky, Nickajack, Normandy, Percy Priest, Pickwick, Tims Ford, and Watts Bar reservoirs, Reelfoot Lake, Reelfoot Watershed Lake #18, and Goch Unit E		15"
Smallmouth bass from Dale Hollow	2*	16-21" Slot*
*One smallmouth bass under 16" and one smallmouth bass over 21"		
Smallmouth bass from Chickamauga, Nickajack, and Gunterville reservoirs	1	18"
Smallmouth bass from Kentucky Reservoir		15"
Smallmouth bass from: Davy Crockett and John Sevier		13-17" Slot*

reservoirs		
	*Only one smallmouth bass over 17" per day	
Smallmouth bass from: Douglas Reservoir, Pigeon River (from the confluence with the French Broad River to North Carolina state line), and Little Pigeon River (including East and West Prongs) to GSMNP boundary	1	20"
Smallmouth bass from: Nolichucky River (ENKA Dam upstream to state line), French Broad River (HWY 168 upstream to state line, excluding Douglas Reservoir), Holston River (I-40 Bridge upstream to North Fork Holston River, excluding Cherokee Reservoir), Clinch River (HWY 25E upstream to state line), Powell River (confluence with Gap Creek upstream to state line), North Fork Holston River (confluence with South Fork Holston upstream to state line), South Fork Holston River (confluence with North Fork Holston upstream to Fort Patrick Henry Dam), Little River (from Rockford Dam upstream to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park boundary), and Tellico River (from Tellico Reservoir boundary up stream to state line)		13-17" Slot*
	*Only one smallmouth bass over 17" per day	
Spotted bass from: Boone, Calderwood, Cherokee, Chilhowee, Davy Crockett, John Sevier, Fort Loudoun, Fort Patrick Henry, Melton Hill, Nickajack (upper end of reservoir only – South Chickamauga Creek upstream to dam), South Holston, Tellico, and Watauga reservoirs	15	
Spotted bass from Norris Reservoir	None	
Sauger except as listed below	10	15"
From Kentucky Lake	10	14"
From Mississippi River	6	None
From Douglas Reservoir including all tributaries	5*	16" Maximum**
	*Walleye or sauger in combination **Only one sauger over 16" per day	
Walleye except as listed below	5	16"
From Douglas Reservoir including all tributaries	5*	15"
	*Walleye or sauger in combination	
From Cherokee, South Holston, and Watauga reservoirs	5	18"
Walleye or sauger in combination from Chilhowee, Fort Loudoun, Melton Hill, and Tellico reservoirs and their tributaries	10*	15"
	*Only 5 walleye per day (only one over 24") from Tellico Reservoir	
Walleye or sauger in combination from Norris Reservoir and its tributaries (upstream to Grissom Island on the Clinch River)	5	15"
Yellow Perch	None	None

NOTE: For this proclamation, any walleye-sauger hybrid (saugeye) is considered the same as a sauger.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Length Limit (minimum unless otherwise stated)</b>
Striped bass or Cherokee bass (striped bass x white bass hybrid), or in combination (except as listed below)	2	15"
From Mississippi River (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	6	None
Striped bass from Boone (Boone dam upstream to Austin Springs Bridge), Norris, and Watts Bar reservoirs during November through March (statewide regulations apply during April through October and to Cherokee bass year round)	1	36"
From Cordell Hull and Melton Hill reservoirs	2	32-42" Slot*
		*only 1 striped bass per day can be over 42"
From Cherokee Reservoir - see SECTION II. WATERS WITH CLOSED SEASONS		
White bass (except as listed below)	15	None
From Mississippi River (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	30	None
Yellow bass	None	None
Northern pike	None	None
Muskellunge except as listed below	1	36"
Muskellunge from Melton Hill Reservoir		44"
Pickereel	None	None
Crappie (white and black combined; except as listed below)	15	10"
From private waters and State Park Lakes*	15*	None
		*Except Pin Oak Lake: daily creel limit of 30
From Norris Reservoir	10	10"
From Pickwick and Gunter'sville reservoirs	30	9"
From the Mississippi (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	50	None
Hatchie, Loosahatchie, Forked Deer, Wolf, and Obion rivers and their tributaries; Reelfoot Lake, Indian Boundary Reservoir, Davy Crockett Reservoir, and Beech River Watershed Lakes	30	None
From Barkley, Cheatham, J. Percy Priest, Kentucky, and Old Hickory reservoirs including all waters in Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Decatur, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Houston, Humphreys, Lake, Lauderdale, McNairy, Madison, Obion, Perry, Shelby, Stewart, Tipton, and Weakley counties.	30	10"
Bluegill and other bream (except as listed below)	None	None
From Norris Reservoir	30	None
From the Mississippi (river proper, sloughs and oxbows)	50	None
Redear Sunfish except as listed below	20	None
From Kentucky Reservoir	30	None
Trout (combined daily creel limit-all trout; except as listed below)	7	None
Brook trout		6"
Lake trout	2	
Catfish (all species in combination; except as listed below)	None*	34" Maximum

\*Only 1 catfish over 34" per day

Blue and channel catfish from Allen Branch Pond, and Indian Boundary Lake	5	
Beech River Watershed Lakes	5	15"

**C. NONGAME FISH SPECIES**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Length Limit (minimum unless otherwise stated)</b>
Non-game species (except as listed below and in Section V, VI and VIII)	None	None
Paddlefish may be harvested from April 24 to May 31, no culling	2	None
Paddlefish may only be harvested from Cherokee Reservoir during March 1 through March 15	1	30"

**SECTION II. WATERS WITH CLOSED SEASONS**

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

2. Downstream point of Boy's Island (the first island downstream of Weaver Pike Bridge) upstream to the top of the first island above Webb Road Bridge.
- K. On Cherokee Reservoir, a closed fishing zone will be in effect from July 15 through September 15. This zone is enclosed by lines from the boat ramp at the south end of the dam across the lake to Point 2, from Point 2 to Point 3, and from Point 3 back across the lake to the TWRA boat ramp at the north end of the dam. All bank fishing will be open and the coves along the southeast shoreline will be open to boat fishing, but no fishing for any species will be allowed in the described zone from July 15 through September 15.
- L. Douglas Reservoir – Henderson Island WMA rearing pond closed to fishing year-round.

### **SECTION III. CHEROKEE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA – SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

#### 1. Tellico Area – Daily Permit Required

- Tellico River from its confluence with Turkey Creek upstream to the Tennessee-North Carolina state line during the period March 15 through September 15.
- Citico Creek upstream from its confluence with Little Citico Creek during the period March 15 through September 15.
- Green Cove Pond (See Section III-F)

1. Fishing permitted year-round. Closed on Thursday and Friday during the period March 15 through September 15 (except when national or state holidays fall on Thursday and Friday). From September 16 through March 14 fishing is allowed every day and no permit is required.
2. Daily limit – 7 trout; possession limit – 14 trout.
3. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset. The possession of fishing equipment and/or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.
4. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.

#### B. Wild Trout Streams

##### Group I

- North River and tributaries
- Bald River and tributaries
- North Fork of Citico Creek and tributaries
- South Fork of Citico Creek and tributaries
- Laurel Fork and tributaries on Cherokee WMA beginning at the cable crossing ½ mile upstream from the USFS Dennis Cove Recreation Area and extending upstream
- Gee Creek and tributaries in Polk County
- Wolf Creek and tributaries in Polk County
- Beaverdam Creek and tributaries from its confluence with Birch Branch downstream to Tank Hollow Road (USFS Rd. 300)
- Paint Creek and tributaries in Greene County-from USFS campground upstream to U.S. Forest Service Boundary line south of Highway 70 near Munday Gap.

1. Fishing permitted year-round.
2. Daily limit – 3 trout; possession limit – 6 trout.
3. Size limit – Rainbow and brown trout – 9 inches minimum length; Brook trout – 6 inches minimum length

4. Only single-hook artificial lures are permitted. Use or possession of bait or multiple hook lures is prohibited. One single-hook artificial lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (for example: a dropper fly) is also permitted.
5. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
6. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.

#### Group II

- Rocky Fork Creek and tributaries on lands owned by SF Rocky Fork Holdings, Inc.
- Higgins Creek and tributaries
- Squibb Creek and tributaries
- Sarvis Cove and tributaries
- Dry Creek and tributaries (Greene County) upstream from the U.S. Forest Service boundary
- Sycamore Creek and tributaries
- Rough Ridge Creek and tributaries
- Little Jacob Creek (Sullivan County)
- Left Prong Hampton Creek (Carter County)

1. Fishing permitted year-round.
2. Daily limit – 7 trout; no more than 3 may be brook trout; Possession limit – 14 trout; no more than 6 may be brook trout
3. Size limit – Rainbow and brown trout – no minimum length limit; Brook trout – 6 inch minimum length limit
4. Only single-hook artificial lures are permitted. Use or possession of bait or multiple hook lures is prohibited. One single-hook artificial lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (for example: a dropper fly) is also permitted.
5. Fishing permitted from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
6. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.

#### C. Calderwood Reservoir

1. Appropriate licenses from Tennessee or North Carolina are legal on the entire reservoir while fishing from a boat.
2. Fishing permitted year-round.
3. Size limit – none.
4. Daily limit – 7 trout; possession limit – 14 trout
5. Trotlines and limblines prohibited.

#### D. Slickrock Creek

- That portion of Slickrock Creek which constitutes the boundary between the states of Tennessee and North Carolina.
1. Appropriate licenses from Tennessee or North Carolina are valid on this portion of Slickrock Creek.
  2. Fishing permitted year-round.
  3. Daily limit – 4 trout; possession limit – 8 trout.
  4. Size limit – Rainbow, brown, and brook trout – 7 inches minimum.
  5. Fishing permitted ½ hour before official sunrise and ½ hour after official sunset.
  6. Only single-hook artificial lures are permitted. Use or possession of bait or multiple hook lures is prohibited. One single-hook artificial lure separated from a legal lure by a length of line (for example: a dropper fly) is also permitted.
  7. Each angler permitted only one rod or pole.

- E. All other streams in the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area not listed above.
  - 1. Fishing permitted daily.
  - 2. Daily limit – 7 trout; possession limit – 14 trout
  - 3. Each fisherman permitted only one rod or pole.
  
- F. Green Cove Pond - Fishing permitted year-round. Closed on Thursday and Friday (except when national or state holidays fall on Thursday or Friday) year-round.
  - 1. Fishing limited to handicapped individuals (see Section XVI), children under age 13 and adults 65 years of age and older.
  - 2. Tellico-Citico daily permit required year-round.
  - 3. Season is open year-round.
  - 4. Days closed – Thursday and Friday (except open on all state and national holidays and scheduled special organized handicapped or children fishing events).
  - 5. Creel limit – 7 trout per day.
  - 6. Size limit – no restrictions.
  - 7. Hours open – ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset.
  - 8. Bait restrictions – no minnows.

**SECTION IV. TROUT FISHING – SPECIAL REGULATIONS**

- A. Quality Trout Fishing Areas - The areas listed below are designated as quality trout fishing areas and have regulations as described in a., b., c., and d. below:
  - 1. Hiwassee River: That portion of the Hiwassee River from the L&N Railroad Bridge upstream to the U.S. Forest Service's "Big Bend Parking Area".
  - 2. Watauga River: That portion of the Watauga River from Smalling Bridge downstream to the CSX Railroad bridge.
    - a. Daily limit – 2 trout; Possession limit – 2 trout.
    - b. Size limit – 14 inch minimum length.
    - c. Use or possession of any bait other than artificial lures is prohibited.
    - d. Trout less than 14 inches in length may not be possessed within quality trout fishing areas.
  
- B. City of Gatlinburg:
  - 1. Waters Open - the taking of trout is permitted within the streams designated below and under the limits and during the times contained herein:
    - a. General Streams
      - West Prong Little Pigeon River from Park Boundary to Gnatty Branch except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
      - Dudley Creek from Park Boundary to West Prong Little Pigeon River, except those sections set aside as Children's Streams.
      - Roaring Fork upstream to the Park Boundary.
      - Leconte Creek from Painter Branch to West Prong Little Pigeon River.
  
    - b. Children's Streams (may only be fished by children 12 and under, unless otherwise posted)
      - Leconte Creek from Painters Branch upstream to Park Boundary.

- West Prong Little Pigeon River from 100 yards above entrance of Herbert Holt Park downstream to Gatlinburg By-pass Bridge.
- Dudley Creek from Highway 441 Bridge to West Prong Little Pigeon River.

2. Season and Creel Limits:

- a. Fishing permitted year-round, except on Thursday, from ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
  - From December 1 through March 31:
    - (1) Possession of any trout shall be prohibited
    - (2) All trout caught must be immediately returned to the water
    - (3) Use or possession of bait is prohibited. Use or possession of any artificial lures other than single hook artificial flies, spinners, and spoons is prohibited. The use of one dropper fly having a single hook which is separated from a legal lure by a length of line is permissible.
  - From April 1 through November 30:
    - A. Daily creel limit shall be five (5) trout.
    - B. Total possession limit shall not exceed twice the daily creel limit
    - C. While fishing or when afield, possession of more than the daily creel limit shall be prohibited, regardless of whether the trout are fresh, stored in an ice chest, in a vehicle, or otherwise preserved.
- b. Creel Limits
  - General Streams – the creel limit is five (5) trout per day.
  - Children’s Streams - the creel limit is two (2) per day
- c. Methods: Fishing is permitted with one hand-held rod and single hook only.
- d. Daily Fees: In addition to the State licensing requirement, all Tennessee Residents ages 13 through 64 must possess a special Gatlinburg daily permit. The permit fee is \$2.00; provided that a non-resident may purchase a 1-day all inclusive permit, in lieu of the normal license/permit combination for a total fee of \$10.00. Non-residents under the age of 13 are exempt from the Gatlinburg daily permit.

C. Dale Hollow Reservoir

- April 1- October 31 – Daily creel limit – 7 trout; no more than 2 may be lake trout, no size limit
- November 1 – March 31 – Daily creel limit – 2 trout; minimum size limit – 22 inches

D. Horse Creek (Greene County) - That portion from the U.S. Forest Service boundary line upstream to the junction of Squibb Creek.

- Creel limit: 7 per day except from May 1 – September 30, when the limit is 2 per day.

E. South Fork of the Holston River - from the South Holston Dam to Highway 37 Bridge at Bluff City

- 16-22 inch slot (protected length range) – 7 trout, only 1 of which can be over 22 inches.

F. Delayed Harvest Areas: In the areas listed below, the harvest or possession of trout will be prohibited during the catch-and-release season. During the catch-and-release season, only artificial lures are permitted and the use or possession of bait is prohibited.

1. Paint Creek – Paint Creek Campground downstream to mouth at French Broad River.
    - Catch-and-release season – October 1 through the last day of February.
  2. Tellico River – Mouth of Turkey Creek upstream to mouth of North River.
    - Catch-and-release season will be from October 1 through March 14.
- G. Big Creek, Big Lost Creek, Goforth Creek, and Spring Creek and their tributaries in Polk County.
- Closed to fishing on Fridays from March 1 to July 1 (except state and national holidays)
  - Only a single hook lure or a baited single hook is allowed. Use or possession of multiple hook lures or bait is prohibited.
  - Fishing permitted ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
  - The possession of fishing equipment or tackle is prohibited on stream banks except during legal fishing hours.
- H. Hiwassee River from Appalachia Powerhouse to U.S. Forest Service’s “Big Bend Parking Area”.
- 14 inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 2 fish daily limit.
  - Does not affect quality trout fishing area regulations.
- I. Caney Fork River and its tributaries from Center Hill Dam to Cumberland River
- 18 inch minimum length limit for brown trout, 2 fish daily limit.
- J. Clinch River and its tributaries from Norris Dam downstream to HWY 61 Bridge
- 14-20” protected length range (slot), 7 trout daily creel limit, only 1 trout greater than 20 inches may be harvested per day.

**SECTION V. WILDLIFE AGENCY LAKES AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS**

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

Creel and Size Limits - Statewide limits apply except as listed below:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Daily Creel Limit</b>	<b>Length Limit</b> (minimum unless otherwise stated)
Catfish (blue and channel combined; except as listed below)	5	None
From Coy Gaither-Bedford, Laurel Hill, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	5	14"
Black bass (all species; except as listed below)	5	None
From Williamsport Lakes	1	20"

From Laurel Hill Lake	10	13-18" slot*
		*Only one bass over 18" per day
From Marrowbone and Coy Gaither-Bedford lakes	5	14-18" slot*
		*Only one bass over 18" per day
From Lake Graham, Herb Parsons, and Glenn Springs lakes	10	14-18" slot*
		*Only one bass over 18" per day
From Gibson County Lake	10	14-20" slot*
		*Only one bass over 20" per day
From Davy Crockett Lake	10	None
From Browns Creek Lake	5	16-21" slot*
		*Only one bass over 21" per day
Bluegill and redear Sunfish (combined) from Laurel Hill, Coy Gaither-Bedford, Gibson County, Glenn Springs, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	20	None
Crappie (white and black combined; except as listed below)	30	10"
From Coy Gaither- Bedford, Laurel Hill, Marrowbone, VFW, and Williamsport lakes	15	10"
From Glenn Springs Lake	30	8"

- C. Williamsport Lakes - Whippoorwill Lake is "youth fishing" only. Only youths 16 and under and an accompanying adult may fish.
- D. Laurel Hill Lake: The embayment above the road that lies between the concession building and the campground is a "youth fishing" only fishing area. Youths 16 and under may fish.
- E. Methods for Wildlife Agency Lakes:
1. Except for jug fishing as listed below, only rods and reels, poles, and hand-held lines may be used.
  2. Jug fishing will be permitted daily from April 1 through September 30 except Saturday, Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day, and daily from October 1 through March 31. Jugs are limited to ten (10) per boat. Jugs must be marked with the owner's name and address.
- F. Bridgestone/Firestone Centennial Wilderness WMA Ponds are designated as "youth fishing" ponds. Fishing is permitted for youths 16 years of age or younger who are accompanied by a non-fishing adult (18 years of age or older). Youths are limited to using one (1) pole or rod while fishing.
1. Fishing is permitted during daylight hours only.
  2. Daily creel limits:
    - Bluegill: 10
    - Channel Catfish: 5
    - Largemouth Bass: 0 (catch and release only)
- G. Egret and Heron Ponds at Williamsport, and the nursery ponds at Laurel Hill Lake are closed to fishing.

## **SECTION VI. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION MANAGED LAKES**

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

- A. Black bass from the following lakes must be a minimum of 15":
  - Falling Water (Burgess Falls) Lake, Burgess Falls Natural Area
  - Lake Lajoie, Chickasaw State Park
  - Lake Placid, Chickasaw State Park
  - Byrd Lake, Cumberland Mountain State Park
  - Lake Lindsey, David Crockett State Park
  - Fall Creek Lake, Fall Creek Falls State Park
  - Sullivan's Pond, Ft. Pillow State Historic Area
  - Indian Mt. "B" Lake, Indian Mountain State Park
  - Acorn Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
  - Creech Hollow Lake, Montgomery Bell State Park
  - Kelly (Standing Stone) Lake, Standing Stone State Park
- B. Black bass from Big Ridge Lake, Big Ridge State Park, must be a minimum of 14"
- C. Black bass from Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park, 14"-18" PLR (slot limit)
- D. Black bass from Travis McNatt Lake, Big Hill Pond State Park, daily creel limit of 10 bass (no size limit)
- E. Black bass fishing on Lake Woodhaven, Montgomery Bell State Park is restricted to catch-and-release only; i.e., all black bass caught must be immediately released unharmed.
- F. Channel or blue catfish or in combination: Daily creel limit of 5
- G. Crappie (white and black combined):
  - No minimum size limit
  - Pin Oak Lake (Natchez Trace State Park) – Daily creel limit of 30 fish
- H. Bluegill and redear sunfish in combination from Poplar Tree Lake, Meeman-Shelby Forest State Park: daily creel limit of 20 fish

## **SECTION VII. SPECIAL REGULATIONS ON LAKES CONTROLLED BY NON-STATE GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES**

- A. All black bass from Casper Lake (Shelby County) – minimum size limit: 16"; daily creel: 2
- B. New Lake (Lewisburg):
  - Black bass: Daily creel limit: 5; minimum length limit: 15".
  - Crappie: No minimum length limit.
  - Open ½ hour before official sunrise to ½ hour after official sunset.
  - Only rods and reels and cane poles are permitted.
- C. Campbell Lake (Maury County) – Anglers must follow regulations as posted at the lake
- D. All catfish from Lewisburg and Dickson city lakes – Daily creel limit: 5
- E. Kefauver Park (Madisonville) lake –

- All catfish - Daily creel limit: 5
- All black bass - Daily creel limit: 2; minimum length limit : 14"

#### **SECTION VIII. MINNOWS**

- A. The catching of minnows for the purpose of sale is prohibited in Cannon, Lincoln, Macon, Moore, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale counties. The possession limit for minnows taken from streams in the above counties is 150 in Cannon, Macon, Smith, Sumner, and Trousdale; 250 in Lincoln and Moore. It shall be unlawful to sell, take for sale, or offer for sale hornyhead minnows (stonerollers) in Carter, Unicoi, Washington, Johnson, Sullivan, and Morgan Counties.
- B. Minnow traps and seines as defined below may be used to catch minnows subject to all laws and regulations governing the catching of minnows.
  - 1. A minnow trap is hereby defined as a device used for the purpose of catching minnows. The mouth opening or openings shall not exceed one and one-half (1 ½") inches in diameter.
  - 2. A minnow seine is hereby defined as a net having a mesh size no greater than three-eighths (3/8) of an inch on the square, and no greater than ten (10) feet in length.

#### **SECTION IX. TURTLES**

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

#### **SECTION X. GIGGING, GRABBLING, GRAB HOOKING, SNAGGING, TUBBING, ARCHERY, SPEAR-GUN FISHING, DIPPING, AND CAST NETTING.**

- A. Season: open year-round except as noted below.
- B. All waters open except:
  - 1. Within 100 yards below dams except at Pickwick the closed area will extend downstream to the first moorage cell located across from the boat launching ramp. At John Sevier Steam Plant the discharge channel is also closed. Dipping and cast netting are excluded from this restriction.

2. Those areas closed to fishing listed in Section II.
3. All waters closed by separate proclamation.
4. Norris Reservoir between River mile 32 (Point 15) and the highway 25E Bridge on the Powell River Arm and between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Clinch River Arm from January 1 through April 30. Cast netting is excluded from this restriction.
5. Watauga Reservoir Tributaries – Closed from January 1 to April 30. The Elk River in Carter County from the Highway 321 Bridge downstream to RM3.0 (Point 11) on the Elk River Arm of Watauga Reservoir, Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek), Roan Creek (Mountain Lake Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek), and Watauga River (NC line downstream to end of Cownstown Road). Cast netting is excluded from this restriction.
6. Snagging prohibited year-round on the South Holston tailwater (from South Holston Dam to the headwaters of Boone Reservoir), Center Hill Reservoir, and the Cumberland Fossil Plant discharge channel into Barkley Reservoir.
7. All streams in the following counties closed year-round to gigging, but are open to all other methods identified in Section X.
  - Bedford
  - Lawrence
  - Maury
  - Giles
  - Lewis
  - Wayne
  - Hickman
  - Marshall
8. East Fork Obey River and tributaries closed January 1 through April 30.

C. Species which may be taken:

1. Non-game species – See Section I.C.
2. Catfish - See Section I.B.
3. Paddlefish – See Section I.C.

D. Methods Defined:

1. Gigging: The taking of fish by means of hand-held pole or spear with a tip consisting of a single sharpened point or one or more sharpened barbed points; including, but not limited to gear known as the Hawaiian Sling.
2. Grabbling: The taking of fishes with the hands.
3. Grab Hooking: The taking of fishes using one more single, double, or treble hooks fastened directly to a pole or rod in such a manner that they are not separated from pole or rod by a length of line.
4. Snagging: The taking of fishes using one or more single, double, or treble hooks which are manipulated or jerked through the water in such a manner as to impale or hook fishes.
5. Tubbing: The taking of fishes using a tub or like device which has neither top or bottom.
6. Archery: The taking of fishes using long, recurve, and compound bows using arrows with barbed points; crossbows are permitted.
7. Spear-gun Fishing: The taking of fishes using a spear-gun. A spear gun is any device designed to propel a spear through water and is drawn or held by mechanical device.
8. Dipping: Taking of fishes using a dip net.
9. Cast Netting: The taking of fishes by throwing and retrieving a cast net having a maximum radius of 10 feet and with a mesh size (square measure) of not less than

one-fourth (1/4") and not greater than one (1) inch.

#### **SECTION XI. SLAT BASKETS**

- A. A slat basket is defined as a device used for taking non-game fish only. Slat baskets may have only one outside funnel opening, and may be made of wood, plastic, or cane slats which are placed lengthwise and so constructed that there must be a minimum of four (4) openings in the catching area, each being at least 1 ½" wide and 6" long.
- Slat baskets as defined above and properly tagged shall be legal in all public waters except TWRA Managed Lakes.
  - Season: open year-round.
  - Only non-game fish and catfish may be taken. See Sections I.B. and I.C.
  - Only one basket tag will be issued to an individual.
  - Possession or use of more than one slat basket is prohibited.

#### **SECTION XII. TROT LINES, LIMBLINES AND JUGS**

- A. Season: open year-round except as noted in Section II and Section V.
- B. All waters open except as follows:
1. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs prohibited within 1,000 yards below any TVA or Corps of Engineers dam.
  2. Allen Branch Pond, Indian Boundary Lake, and Chilhowee (McKamy Pond) in Cherokee Wildlife Management Area closed to jug fishing and trotlines. Indian Boundary Lake is also closed to limblines.
  3. Trotlines prohibited in the Beech River Watershed Development Authority lakes, in the New Johnsonville Steamplant Harbor, and within 50 yards of the Danville Railroad Bridge dikes.
  4. Bards Lake on Land Between the Lakes closed to trotlines and limblines.
  5. Trotlines, limblines, and jugs prohibited on Norris Reservoir between River Mile 32 (Point 15) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Powell River Arm between River Mile 137 (Point 31) and the Highway 25E Bridge on the Clinch River Arm from January 1 through April 30.
- C. Methods Defined:
1. Trotline: A main line with drop lines to which single hooks are attached and baited in order to catch fish. Such drops must not be closer than 24 inches.
  2. Limblining: The use of no more than one hook on a single line suspended from a tree or shrub limb, or from a pole imbedded in or braced on the bank, with a maximum of 25 limblines per licensed angler.
  3. Jug Fishing: The use of a hook connected by a length of line to a floating buoy (jug).
- D. All species may be taken.
- E. Creel limit on game fish same as statewide; non-game species – no limit (except that no paddlefish may be harvested).
- F. Other Restrictions:
1. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs must be tagged and/or marked with the owner's name and address. On trotlines, the tag must be placed on the line within 5 feet of the bank, if the trotline is attached to a bank. On floating trotlines the

information shall be marked on the floats. In all situations, the tag must be placed within 5 feet of either end. On limblines, the tag must be affixed to the line above the water level.

2. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs must be run at least once each day.
3. Sport fishermen limited to 50 jugs or blocks each except New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbor and Bards Lake, where the limit is ten (10) jugs or blocks per sport angler and on Beech River Watershed Development Authority Lakes where the limit is twenty (20) jugs or blocks per boat. On Bards Lake, jugs are permitted only from October 1 through March 21.
4. Sport fishing trotlines, limblines, and jugs not fished according to these regulations are subject to be removed by Agency personnel.

### **SECTION XIII. SHAD TRAWLING**

- A. Season: open year-round.
- B. Waters Open: All waters except within 1,000 yards below any dam.
- C. Method Defined: The taking of threadfin or gizzard shad using a trawl having a mesh size no larger than 1 inch, a hoop diameter no larger than 48 inches, and a net length no longer than 72 inches.
- D. Shad collected cannot be sold.

### **SECTION XIV. SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS**

- A. Reelfoot Lake. During April and May, the use of gasoline engines to propel boats in selected areas of Reelfoot Lake as posted by TWRA signs is prohibited.
- B. Center Hill Reservoir.
  1. On the upper end of Center Hill Reservoir including Caney Fork River beginning at Rock Island State Park boat launching ramp and extending upstream to Great Falls Dam, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait) during the period from January 1 through April 30.
  2. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles may be used.
- C. Dale Hollow Reservoir.
  1. Compton Boat Ramp upstream to Hwy 52 bridge on the East Fork Obey River Arm, anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait) during the period from January 1 through April 30.
  2. No more than 3 rods and reels or poles per boat angler and 6 rods and reels or poles per bank angler may be used.
- D. Watauga Reservoir Tributaries.
  1. Anglers are restricted to the use of one hook having a single point or one lure having no more than one hook with a single point (artificial or bait) during the period from January 1 through April 30 in the following areas:
    - The Elk River in Carter County from the Highway 321 Bridge downstream to RM 3.0 (Pt. 11) on the Elk River Arm of Watauga Reservoir

- Doe Creek (Old Cabin Private Road downstream to Roan Creek)
- Roan Creek (Mountain Lake Estates Bridge downstream to Doe Creek)
- Watauga River (NC line downstream to the end of Cownstown Road).

E. Umbrella Rig Restriction - Umbrella rigs are defined as an array of more than 3 artificial lures or baits (with or without hooks) used by a single rod and reel combination. If the hook size is 6 or larger, then only one lure or bait may have a hook and that hook must be a single hook.

**SECTION XV. SPECIAL DEFINITIONS**

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

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

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

Family – Percichthyidae

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

\*Striped bass- White bass hybrid

Family – Percidae

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

\*Walleye - Sauger hybrid

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

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

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

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

Family – Ictaluridae

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

- B. Non-Game Species: All species except those listed as game fish and those proclaimed by the TWRC to be endangered, threatened, or in need of management.
- C. Hooks Defined: Hooks are defined as follows:  
     Single hook – 1 point  
     Double hook – 2 points  
     Treble hook – 3 points
- D. The use of rods and reels, poles, hand-held lines, and other devices and methods described in this proclamation are the only legal means of sport fishing.
- E. Reservoir full pool level is the reservoir/stream boundary for harvest restrictions, unless otherwise noted.
- F. Norris Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the Highway 25E bridge on the Clinch River Arm and upstream to Gap Creek on the Powell River Arm.
- G. Boone Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the 11E Bridge at Bluff City on the South Fork Holston River Arm and upstream to the new Austin Springs Bridge on the Watauga River.
- H. Cherokee Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the John Sevier Dam.
- I. Douglas Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream to the confluence of the Pigeon and French Broad rivers and to ENKA dam on the Nolichucky River (excluding sauger and walleye).
- J. Dale Hollow Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream on the Wolf River arm to the South Ford Road Bridge near Sulphur Springs.
- K. Cheatham Reservoir: For purpose of this proclamation, extends upstream on the Stones River to Percy Priest Dam.
- L. Handicapped – any person who is mentally impaired or physically impaired (including blindness) because of injury or disease, congenital or acquired, which permanently renders him/her so severely disabled as to be unable to move without aid of crutches or a wheelchair, or a person who has 80% permanent impairment of a hand or arm as determined by a physician using the standards outlined in the “Guide to Evaluations of Permanent Rating”, published by the AMA or other acceptable rating system.
- M. Bait – any living or dead organism, or prepared substance designed to attract fish by taste or odor. For the purpose of this proclamation, bait includes, but is not limited to, fish, fish eggs, crayfish, worms, grubs, crickets, corn, cheese, bread, pork rinds, putty or paste-type products, and flavors or scents applied to or impregnated into artificial lures.

**SECTION XVI. SHOOTING FISH AND TURTLES**

Shooting fish and turtles with firearms is prohibited.

**SECTION XVII. SALE OF FISH AND TURTLES**

It is illegal to sell or offer for sale fish and turtles taken under authority of this proclamation.

**SECTION XVIII. REPEAL OF PRIOR PROCLAMATIONS**

This proclamation repeals Proclamation 07-13 dated October 30, 2007 and Amendment 08-04 dated April 28, 2008.

Proclamation 08-17 received and recorded this 29th day of October, 2008 to become effective the 1st day of March, 2009. (FS 10-17-08; DBID 08-17-08)