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# ALADAMA HUNDING & FSHNG 2023-2024 REQUIREMENTS, FEES and SEASON DATES

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see page 6



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#### **ON THE COVER**

Largemouth Bass are abundant and thriving in almost every aquatic habitat in Alabama and is the primary target species of most recreational and tournament bass anglers.

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have questions or comments regarding **hunting or freshwater fishing** laws, regulations, freshwater fisheries or wildlife programs, or to report violations, please contact your local District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Office listed to the right.

For information on **saltwater fishing** license requirements, size and possession limits, contact the Marine Resources Division, PO Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547; (251) 968-7576.

For information on **boating**, such as registration, license requirements or other information, contact the ALEA Marine Trooper Division (800) 272-7930.

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#### **KAY IVEY, GOVERNOR**

Growing up in Alabama's Black Belt, I developed a love of the outdoors. My travels as Governor have only deepened my appreciation for the diversity of landscapes and wildlife our great state has to offer. As far as I'm concerned, no place on Earth compares to Alabama, especially if you also cherish the outdoors.

Thanks to our state's abundant natural resources and its status as the most biologically diverse state east of the Mississippi River, Alabamians have many options when it comes to outdoor recreation. Whether you're chasing rabbits in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, reeling in largemouth bass from our world-renowned waterways, or hunting white-tailed deer and wild turkey throughout the state's many forests and fields, Alabama has ample outdoor recreation opportunity waiting for everyone.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) is tasked with promoting, enhancing and protecting our natural resources, including wildlife and fisheries. To fund that significant task, ADCNR depends on the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. Those license dollars are federally matched nearly three to one through the Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration acts to fund the management of the state's wildlife and fisheries for the benefit of all Alabamians.

It may surprise you that less than four percent of Alabamians purchase a recreational license. That small percentage of hunters and anglers fund the majority of Alabama's conservation efforts. That's why it is more important than ever to become a mentor. I encourage our hunters and anglers to take someone who has never been hunting or fishing with them on their next outing. By becoming a mentor, you can pass on those traditions to a new generation.

In addition to investing in the future of conservation in Alabama by purchasing recreational licenses, your participation in hunting and fishing helps thousands of Alabamians working in jobs associated with outdoor recreation. Each year, outdoor-related activities in our state generate an economic impact of almost \$15 billion. This translates into more than 135,000 jobs for Alabamians. Hunting and fishing help make this possible.

Thank you for your support of Alabama's great outdoors. I wish you a safe and successful season in the field and on the water.

Kay Ivery

#### **ADDITIONAL OFFICES & PHONE NUMBERS**

#### **TO REPORT VIOLATIONS**

(800) 272-4263

Enforcement (334) 242-3467 Fisheries (334) 242-3471 Wildlife (334) 242-3469 **ADMINISTRATION** 64 N. Union St., Suite 567 P.O. Box 301456 Montgomery, AL 36130 (334) 242-3465 **ALEA MARINE TROOPER** 

MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

DIVISION

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(251) 968-7576

License Information (334) 242-3829 (888)-879-4150 Christopher M. Blankenship, Commissioner

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# **MAJOR CHANGES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION** FOR THE 2023–2024 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

- ✓ Expanded Deer CMZ High Risk Zone to include all of Lauderdale County.
- ✓ Changed nighttime season dates for Coyote & Feral Swine to end opening day of archery deer season.
- ✓ Changed caliber from .30 to .25 for pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns for Bobcat, Groundhog, Unprotected Wildlife, Fox, Coyote and Feral Swine.
- $\checkmark$  No Walleye possession from the Duck River Reservoir.

## HUNTING OUT OF STATE? BEFORE YOU RETURN TO ALABAMA YOU NEED TO KNOW...

It is unlawful for persons to bring deer, elk, moose or caribou carcasses, hides or antlers into Alabama FROM ANY STATE, territory or province unless all meat has been deboned and skull plates and hides have been completely cleaned of all brain and spinal cord tissue. The presence of these materials in Alabama poses a serious threat to Alabama's deer herd.

## **JOIN THE** Movement

Recent research reveals that the quest for free-range, organic, all natural protein is one of the major motivating factors for new hunters and anglers as they begin their outdoor journey. Food supply chain issues during the COVID-19 pandemic also made hunting and fishing more appealing to the general public.

ADCNR's Go Fish, Alabama! and Adult Mentored Hunting programs were created to provide new hunters and anglers with the basic information and training they need to be successful in the field or on the water.



# **HOW TO: KNOW THE DIFFERENCE**

#### **CONSERVATION ID (CID) NUMBER**

## A **PERMANENT** 6-digit number assigned to the **PERSON** who **FISHES or HUNTS**

- Residents can find it on top right corner of their license
- Non-residents can obtain one at game.dcnr.alabama.gov/CID

#### IT IS USED TO:

- Record your deer and turkey harvest
- Renew fishing and hunting licenses
- Log into your account at myoutdooralabama.com

#### **CONFIRMATION NUMBER**

A number you receive when you Game Check your **DEER or TURKEY** 

- You record it on your harvest record
- It is required to transfer possession of harvest to processors, taxidermists, or any other person

#### **IT IS USED TO:**

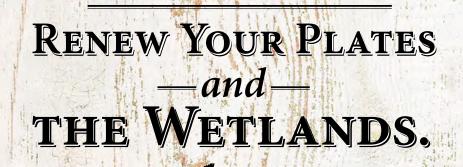
- Keep track of your deer and turkey harvest
- Determine future hunting season and bag limits
- Determine trends in harvest timing and wildlife populations



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LAUDERDALE

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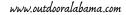
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For more information on the Conservation Advisory Board, visit: www.outdooralabama.com/about-us/conservation-advisory-board





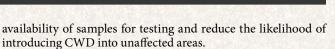
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# UPDATE ON CWD IN ALABAMA



Alabama Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division's (WFF) chronic wasting disease (CWD) surveillance efforts during the 2022–23 hunting season detected CWD in samples collected from a 4.5 year old hunter harvested buck killed in Lauderdale County. This was the third CWD positive deer found in Alabama since WFF began conducting surveillance for the disease in 2002. All three of the CWD-positives have been found in central Lauderdale County and all three have been hunter harvested adult bucks.

WFF first began conducting surveillance for CWD in wild deer during the 2001–02 hunting season following the discovery of the disease in Wisconsin. Since then, over 18,100 samples have been tested from all around the state, including over 3,600 deer between October 2022 and March 2023. Sampling efforts were increased significantly across Alabama, especially in the state's northwestern counties, following the discovery of CWD in northern Mississippi and southwestern Tennessee in 2018.

After the discovery of the first CWD positive deer in Lauderdale County, WFF implemented portions of its CWD Strategic Surveillance and Response Plan (SSRP). Part of its response included establishing an Emergency Regulation with rules to help increase The Emergency Regulation established the CWD Management Zone (CMZ). The original CMZ included all of Lauderdale and Colbert Counties. Within the CMZ, the portion of Lauderdale County west of U.S. Highway 43 was designated as the High-Risk Zone (HRZ). The remaining portion of Lauderdale County east of U.S. Hwy. 43 and all of Colbert County was designated as the Buffer Zone (BZ).

While the second and third CWD positive deer detected in Lauderdale County were within the HRZ, both were within 5 miles of the southern and eastern boundaries of the HRZ. WFF has modified the boundaries of the HRZ and BZ for the 2023–24 season due to the proximity of these two positives to the HRZ boundaries and to remain consistent with guidelines detailed in the WFF's CWD SSRP. The new HRZ will include all of Lauderdale County and extend into Colbert County running with a boundary along US Hwy. 72 from the Alabama-Mississippi line to US Hwy. 72 Alt. to the Colbert-Lawrence County line (Town Creek), then north along the county line (Town Creek) to the Tennessee River.

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 12**



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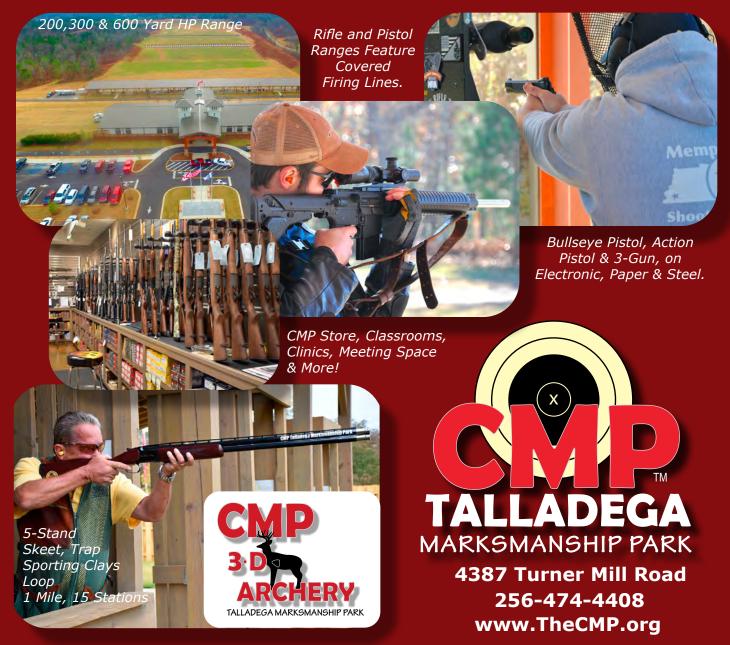
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The suspension of feeding and baiting of wildlife within the CMZ remains in place. The only exceptions to the suspension are: 1) seed or grain used solely for normal agricultural, forest management, or wildlife food plot production purposes, 2) feed solely placed inside an active hog trap, or 3) feed for attracting birds and squirrels with common bird and squirrel feeders within 100 feet of a residence or occupied dwelling.

CWD in Alabama will eventually spread. The infectious prions which cause the disease are found in saliva, feces, urine, reproductive material, and decaying carcasses. Practices which congregate deer, such as feeding and baiting, have the potential to increase disease. Suspending feeding and baiting of wildlife within the CMZ helps reduce unnatural concentrations of deer. The current feeding ban in the CMZ is likely to remain in place for the foreseeable future.

Movement of whole deer carcasses and high-risk deer body parts out of the CMZ also remains illegal. Research suggests CWD can be passed from infected deer to healthy deer through contact with feces, urine, or saliva as well as contact with CWD-infected carcasses or contaminated soil. Complying with current regulations restricting the movement of deer carcasses and high-risk parts (e. g., whole heads, brain and spinal cord tissues, large bones, etc.) from the HRZ and CMZ can help prevent the introduction of CWD into new areas.

Now is a great time to rethink future plans for managing deer and their habitat inside and outside of the CMZ. Another key step for many may be reducing deer numbers to levels that the existing habitat can support in the absence of supplemental feeding. Implementing additional habitat management practices to improve deer habitat quality, such as timber harvests and prescribed fire, can greatly increase year-round habitat quality for deer and other wildlife. These practices require planning and effort well ahead of the next hunting season. An option available to landowners and hunting clubs interested in obtaining assistance with developing a long-term deer management plan for their property is to work with a WFF wildlife biologist through Alabama's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP). To find out more about DMAP, contact your local WFF District Office.

Obtaining samples for CWD testing from hunter harvested deer is the most efficient way to obtain enough samples to meet surveillance goals from all counties. Continued sampling of deer from within the CMZ will provide a clearer picture of not only the current prevalence of CWD among the local population, but also the distribution of the disease within the CMZ. Continued sampling of deer outside the CMZ also is essential for early detection of the disease in new areas.

Everyone can help WFF's CWD management efforts by reporting sick or dead deer. Adult deer exhibiting symptoms that may be related to CWD are the highest priority for testing, especially those showing neurological symptoms. Sick deer can be reported at *www.outdooralabama.com/ReportSickDeer* or by calling the closest WFF District Office.

As CWD continues to spread, wildlife agencies across the U.S. are faced with unique challenges when attempting to manage the disease, including how to keep the number of diseased deer to a minimum in CWD-positive areas, reduce disease rates in affected areas when possible, and keep CWD from spreading into other areas of their states. For this to happen, deer hunters in affected areas, as well as hunters in other regions, must remain involved and informed. Hunters must also comply with rules in the CMZ for them to be effective. Most importantly, deer hunters must keep hunting. For more information on CWD in Alabama, visit *www.outdooralabama.com/CWD-Info*.

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# **INVASIVE SPECIES – YOU CAN HELP!**

Here in Alabama, we are fortunate to be the 4th most biologically diverse state in the Nation. With over 650 species of native wildlife, both game and nongame, many management considerations are needed to ensure our native wildlife continue to thrive into the future. One management issue on the forefront causing an increased concern for the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF), as well as other state agencies, is the increasing occurrence of invasive exotic species.

Invasive species have become an increasing problem across the southeast and it can be costly to manage their numbers or the potential negative impacts to our native wildlife. Non-native invasive species come in many forms and can enter the state in various ways ranging from escapes (intentional or unintentional) from the pet trade to hitching a ride on international cargo ships that visit multiple foreign ports prior to coming the U.S. Others can be intentionally introduced, such as feral pigs that were released by settlers, farmers, and Native Americans and are affecting well known for their destructive behavior on agriculture, wildlife and their associated habitats.

In order to combat the rising risks of non-native invasive species in the state, WFF updated the prohibited species regulation in 2020, making it illegal to possess certain species that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have deemed injurious wildlife, or those species that are likely to cause damage, which includes large constrictor species such as Burmese and reticulated pythons. In addition, tegu species were added to Alabama's prohibited species list, because of the growing concerns with tegu sightings in the state and their potential impacts on ground nesting birds, and in the wake of established populations popping up in surrounding states, including Florida and Georgia.

While we can manage habitat to increase populations of our native wildlife, if invasive species are allowed to establish in our State, increased problems will soon follow for our native wildlife. Regardless how they are introduced, invasive species must be managed or if left unchecked, can wreak havoc on our native ecosystems and native wildlife species. One way that the public can help us combat non-native invasive species is to speak up! If you come across any prohibited non-native invasive species such as a tegu in the wild, or even your own backyard, we want to know. Contact us at 334-242-3469 or DCNR.wildlife@dcnr.alabama.gov to report those sightings. It takes all citizens in Alabama to help us manage and protect our native ecosystems from these non-native invasive species.



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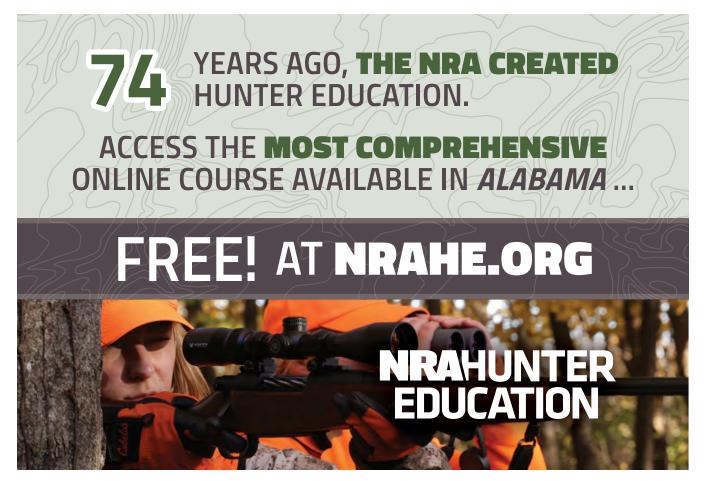
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## **MANDATORY FOR ALL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS**



#### **BEFORE YOU GO HUNTING:**

YOU MUST OBTAIN A HUNTING LICENSE (UNLESS EXEMPT\*) AND A HARVEST RECORD. Every hunter, regardless of age or license requirement MUST carry a harvest record. If you are exempt from needing a license or have a lifetime hunting license, you still need a Harvest Record. HOW DO I GET A HARVEST RECORD?

**DURING YOUR HUNT:** STEP

**1.** Date of harvest

**3.** County of harvest

2. Type of animal harvested

You must always have your Harvest Record and hunting license in possession while hunting.

#### PAPER OR ELECTRONIC HARVEST RECORD

**PAPER HARVEST RECORD:** The hunter must complete the information prior to moving the animal, then record your harvest in the Game Check System online and write the confirmation number on the harvest record within 48 hours.

www.outdooralabama.com. Possession of a smartphone with the Outdoor AL app installed will be accepted in lieu of a paper Harvest Record.

You can use the form below or print a Harvest Record online from

License exempt hunters are hunters under the age of 16, residents age 65 and older, and resident landowners who hunt their own property.

When a deer or turkey is harvested, the hunter must record the date and type of animal **BEFORE** moving the animal. This can be accomplished by one of these two methods:

ELECTRONIC HARVEST RECORD: Using the Outdoor AL app. the hunter must enter the information prior to moving the animal.

#### MANDATORY GAME CHECK FOR ALL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS

	AFTER THE HUNT: EVERY HUNTER MUST REPORT THEIR HARVEST	1.00
3	OF DEER AND TURKEY WITHIN 48 HOURS OF HARVEST OR BEFORE	
J	TRANSFERRING POSSESSION TO ANY OTHER PERSON:	
	(IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RECORDED YOUR HARVEST VIA THE OUTDOOR AL	APP,
	THIS STEP HAS BEEN COMPLETED)	
	the second s	

You must report your deer or turkey harvest into the Game Check system within 48 hours of harvesting it or before transferring possession to any other person. You will need the following information to report your harvest:

4. Public or private land

5. Hunting license number or H.E.L.P. number, or \*CID.

#### THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST:

- 1. Smartphone by OUTDOOR AL app. Download Link: www.outdooralabama.com/contact-us/mobile-apps
- 2. Online at www.outdooralabama.com/gamecheck

Have Harvest Record in possession when hunting. Fill-out Harvest Record before moving the animal

3. Game Check by Phone anytime, call: 800-888-7690

\* The Conservation Identification (CID) is a permanent 6-digit number that is unique to each hunter, and can be used to record deer or turkey harvests in the Game Check System. (For more information, visit: www.outdooralabama.com/hunter-resources/GetYourCID) Revised 03-24-2023

Every Hunter MUST have a Paper Harvest Record in their p	possession OR the Outdoor AL App installed on a smart phone and in their $posse$
Alabama 2023-2024 Harvest Record	All deer and turkey hunters must:
	Use the set of the second is a second in the second set of the second building of the second set of the second second second set of the second

Name: License No. or CID #:									
ANTLERED BUCK				one side	UNANTLE	RED DE	ER		
Harvest Date:	Points:	Confirm	ation No.:		Harvest D	Date:	Confirma	ation No.	:
//	R: L:				/	_/			
//	R: L:				/				
//	R: L:				/				
	ounty – minimum of 3 poir				/	_/			
Further restrictions appl	y on certain management	areas. See Wildlife I	Management Area inf	ormation.	/	/			
TURKEY (Gobblers	s Only)				Attach handw	ritten version	to record addition	nal unantlere	d deer
Harvest Date:	//		//		/		.    .	/	/
Confirmation No.:									

#### HARVEST REPORTING IS MANDATORY! HOW TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST

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# Hunting Grapping

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- All deer and turkey hunters are required to report their harvest using Game Check and have a deer / turkey harvest record (either paper or app form) in possession. See page 16 for more information.
- All persons hunting on private lands of another must have written permission from the landowner with few exceptions.
- Legal hunting hours for deer are 30 minutes before official sunrise time until 30 minutes after official sunset time. See page 53.
- All required hunting and fishing licenses and waterfowl stamps must be in possession when hunting or fishing (either paper or digital form).
- See hunter orange requirement and definition of open permit public land. Consult Wildlife Management Area Permit for special rules and regulations and seasons before hunting State Wildlife Management Areas.
- Any party controlling hunting rights may, by choice, be more restrictive on seasons and bag limits than those stipulated below.
- Hunting with the aid of bait is prohibited on public lands (including WMA, SOA, USFS, TVA, Corp. of Engineers and public and private land within the CWD CMZ).

#### DEER

#### ANTLERED BUCKS

Male deer with one or more antlers visible above natural hairline – Statewide – one a day.

#### White-Tailed Buck Limit

Three per hunter during all combined seasons. One of the three must have at least 4 antler points 1" or longer on one antler (except for Barbour County). A point is defined as an antler projection of at least one inch in length from base to tip. Main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.

#### Exceptions:

- 1. **Barbour County Antler Restriction** Antlered bucks must have a minimum of three points on one side, (except on the statewide special youth deer hunting dates during which any antlered buck may be taken).
- 2. Wildlife Management Area (WMA) Bonus Buck – One per hunter during all combined bonus buck hunt dates will be allowed to be harvested from a select collection of WMA's on specific hunt dates depicted on the WMA map permits that will not count towards the hunter's State three buck limit. Must be validated at WMA check station by WFF personnel.

#### **UNANTLERED DEER**

During the Unantlered Deer Gun, Special Muzzleloader, Bow and Arrow and Special Youth (under 16) Seasons, one unantlered deer may be taken per day in addition to one antlered buck per day. See Special Exception #3 for selected areas with one deer per day limit on U.S. Forest Service Lands (see #3 on page 29).

#### **SPECIAL YOUTH (Under 16) DEER HUNTING**

Statewide, (includes all Privately Owned, Leased Lands and Open Permit – Public Lands (except Wildlife Management Areas) in Zones A, B, C and CMZ November 10–13 and in Zones D & E October 27–30. Dog hunting in those counties or parts of counties where and how it is allowed during the regular dog deer hunting season. Same legal arms and ammunition apply as in Deer season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119. See the current Wildlife Management Area Permits for youth deer hunting dates and other information.

#### CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ):

All deer season dates and bag limits in the CMZ with the exception of Wildlife Management Areas and community hunting areas are the same as those listed for Zone A.

Dog Deer Hunting restrictions for Colbert and Lauderdale Counties are stated in Note 1, page 28.

See Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone Rule 220-2-.167 for CWD sampling requirements, restrictions on transport and disposal of deer carcasses and heads, restrictions on feeding and baiting of wildlife, and other applicable requirements and restrictions for CWD Management.

The most up-to-date regulations online.

🕀 😂 🍪 🥰 🕲



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al Irophy Properties Real Estate LLC. In Ohio, DBA Whitetail Properties Ranch nsed in TN - Tim Burnette, Broker, Licensed in TN & MS- Josh Monk, Broker, Li Iliken, Broker, Licensed in NY- John Myers, Real Ertate Broker, Licensed in Of

#### THE NEW HAVALON REDI

It took over three years of R&D to create the first Havalon EDC. The REDI features the all new REDI-Lock replaceable blade system, which lets you easily swap between styles of semi-permanent AUS-8 steel blades. Unlike the original Piranta line, REDI blades are designed for extended use and abuse, and can even be re-sharpened. The REDI is also the first Havalon to have spring assist for smooth, one hand opening, further proving that it is REDI for any adventure.



# HUNTERS ARRIVE WHERE SALAMANDERS THRIVE



In a rural region of southwest Alabama lies an area known for its unique biological communities housed within steep forested slopes with outcroppings of siltstone in the Tallahatta and Hatchetigbee formations of rust-colored soil commonly referred to as the Red Hills region of Alabama. Within the steep slopes of this unique habitat resides Alabama's State Amphibian, The Red Hills Salamander (Phaeognathus hubrichti) (RHS). First discovered in 1960 in Butler County, Alabama, this quite large (up to 11 inches) lungless salamander represents the sole member of its genus and is unique because of its terrestrial burrowing. Adding to its uniqueness, the RHS has a very narrow global range existing only within the Buhrstone/Lime Hills Region in south-central Alabama in a strip stretching from the Alabama River in the west to the Conecuh River in the east. This area consists of only a few counties in the state, where RHS appear to be strongly associated. The RHS was listed as federally Threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 1977. Loss of habitat is the primary threat to most species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including the RHS. Land acquisition is often the most effective and immediate means of protecting habitat for wildlife species, particularly in areas where development or

land uses are inconsistent with species recovery that threaten to destroy, modify, or curtail key habitat attributes.

In response to growing concerns over the loss of RHS habitat, the Alabama Department of Natural Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF), State Lands Division, the Forever Wild Land Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (US-FWS), and other partners worked and are continuing to work cooperatively to acquire key parcels containing RHS habitat to permanently protect populations of RHS. The partners' success stemmed from the Recovery Land Acquisitions (RLA) grant program, administered by the USFWS, available to states and U.S. territories, on a competitive basis, to purchase lands to protect threatened and endangered species. These RLA programs, funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, were first awarded in 2001 and are authorized through the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The RLA programs promote state and federal cooperation in listed species conservation by leveraging funds to acquire specific parcels of land, through fee

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 57**

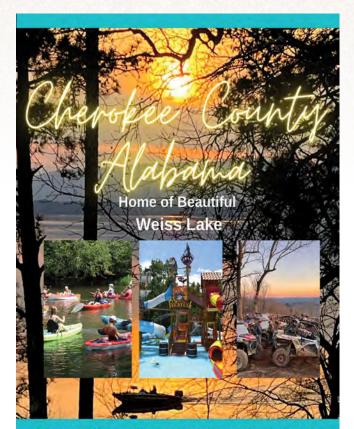


For more information about the program, please visit our website at www.whitetailwarriorproject.com or contact us at: Contact@whitetailwarriorproject.com

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You can also like us on Facebook by searching for Whitetail Warrior Project, Inc.

ALABAMA



Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce & Tourism www.cherokee-chamber.org 256-927-8455

www.nwtf.org/Alabama



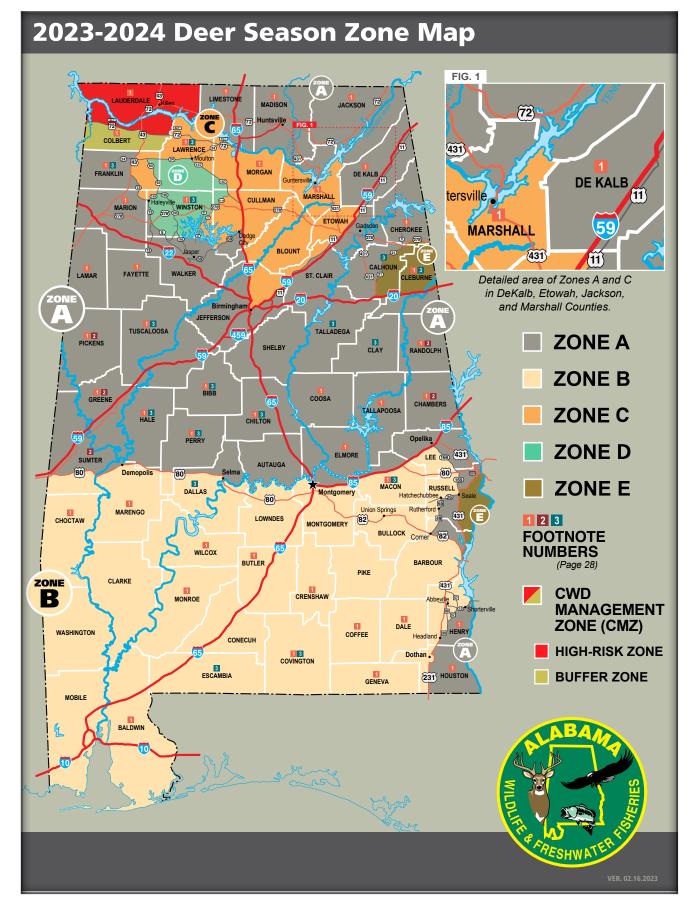
# TAG OUT. CONSERVE. HUNT. SHARE.

The Alabama State and Local Chapters support several missions in the state of Alabama: conservation, habitat improvement, wild turkey research, mentored hunts, shooting sports, scholarships and other efforts that support the development of new hunters.

- Alabama NWTF had the most acres conserved in the country
- 104,275 Acres Impacted from Habitat Projects
- \$583,838 dollars invested in Alabama Wildlife Habitat
- Supported partnerships in research of the Wild Turkey in Alabama
- Provided landowner technical assistance and habitat support with the seed subsidy program
- R3 Coordinator for leading hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation

National Wild Turkey Federation

• Invested over \$70,000 in education, outreach and scholarships.



#### Seasons & Bag Limits: Hunting & Trapping

	ZONEA		
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 14, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 10 – 13, 2023	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	November 13 – 17, 2023	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – February 10, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
iun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – January 15, 2024	Either Sex
Vhere Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 15, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	ZONE E		
rchery-Stalk Hunting		October 14 – 24, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		October 25, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
pecial Youth Gun		November 10 – 13, 2023	Either Sex
pecial Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	November 13 – 17, 2023	Either Sex
un Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – February 10, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
un Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – January 15, 2024	Either Sex
/here Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 15, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	ZONE		
rchery-Stalk Hunting		October 14, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
pecial Youth Gun		November 10 – 13, 2023	Either Sex
pecial Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	November 13 – 17, 2023	Either Sex
un Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18 – 26, 2023	Either Sex
		November 27 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – February 10, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 18 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – February 10, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
iun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18 – 26, 2023	Either Sex
Vhere Allowed		November 27 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 15, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 18 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 15, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	ZONED		
rchery-Stalk Hunting		September 30, 2023 – January 15, 2024	Either Sex
		January 16 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
pecial Youth Gun		October 27 – 30, 2023	Either Sex
pecial Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	October 30 – November 3, 2023	Either Sex
un Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 4 – 17, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 18 – 26, 2023	Either Sex
		November 27 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 4 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
un Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 4 – 17, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
/here Allowed		November 18 – 26, 2023	Either Sex
		November 27 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 4 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex

#### **CONTINUED ON PAGE 24**

#### DEER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DMAP)

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) offers an opportunity to gain assistance from wildlife biologist professionals to better manage deer herds on both private and leased lands. Visit the website for more information: www.outdooralabama.com/wildlife-management-programs/deer-management-assistance-program.

#### Seasons & Bag Limits: Hunting & Trapping

	ZONE E	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Archery-Stalk Hunting	September 30, 2023 – January 15, 2024		Either Sex
		January 16 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
Special Youth Gun		October 27 – 30, 2023	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	October 30 – November 3, 2023	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 4, 2023 – January 15, 2024	Either Sex
		January 16 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 4 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 27, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 4, 2023 – January 1, 2024	Either Sex
Where Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 4 – December 15, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 16 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
	CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MA	ANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ)	
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 14, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 10 – 13, 2023	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and USFS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	November 13 – 17, 2023	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – February 10, 2024	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – February 10, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 18, 2023 – January 15, 2024	Either Sex
Where Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 18 – December 8, 2023	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 9 – 31, 2023	Either Sex
		January 1 – 15, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only



(1) ZONE A (see map): Those areas with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Alabama/Mississippi state line and US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County), east along US Hwy. 80 to the US Hwy. 80 Bypass in Selma (Dallas County); east along US Hwy 80 Bypass to the Alabama River; east along the Alabama River to I-65; south along I-65 to the intersection with I-85; north along I-85 to AL Hwy. 169 (Exit 60 - Lee County); south along AL Hwy. 169 to AL Hwy. 1/US Hwy. 431; south along AL Hwy. 1/US Hwy. 431 to AL Hwy. 26; west along AL Hwy. 26 to Russell County Road 65; south along Russell County Road 65 to Russell County Road 4; west along Russell County Road 4 to Russell County Road 49; south along Russell County Road 49 to US Hwy. 82; east along US Hwy. 82 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the Chattahoochee River to AL Hwy. 10; west along AL Hwy. 10 to Henry County Road 57; south along Henry County Road 57 to Henry County Road 99; south along Henry County Road 99 to US Hwy. 431; south along US Hwy. 431 to Ross Clark Circle (bypass around Dothan); east along Ross Clark Circle to US Hwy. 231; south along US Hwy. 231 to the Alabama/Florida state line; east along the Alabama/Florida state line to the Chattahoochee River; north along the Chattahoochee River to US Hwy. 82; west along US Hwy. 82 to US Hwy. 431; north along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 280; east along US Hwy. 280 to Alabama/Georgia state line; north along Alabama/Georgia state line to I-20; west along I-20 to AL Hwy. 21; north along AL Hwy. 21 to US Hwy. 278; east along US Hwy 278 to the Alabama/Georgia state line; north along the Alabama/Georgia state line to the Alabama/Tennessee state line; west along the Alabama/Tennessee state line to the Lauderdale County/Limestone County line; south along the Lauderdale County/ Limestone County line to the Tennessee River; west along the Tennessee River to the Colbert County/Lawrence County line; south along the Colbert County/Lawrence County line to the Colbert County/Franklin County line; west

along the Colbert County/Franklin County line to the Alabama/Mississippi state line; south along the Alabama/Mississippi state line ending at US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County). **Excludes Zones C, D, E, and CMZ descriptions below.** 

- (2) ZONE B (see map): Those areas south or west of a line described as: beginning at the intersection of the Mississippi state line and US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County), east along US Hwy. 80 to the US Hwy. 80 Bypass in Selma (Dallas County); east along US Hwy. 80 Bypass to the Alabama River; east along the Alabama River to I-65; south along I-65 to the intersection with I-85; north along I-85 to AL Hwy. 169 (Exit 60 - Lee County); south along AL Hwy. 169 to AL Hwy. 1/US Hwy. 431; south along AL Hwy. 1/ US Hwy. 431 to AL Hwy. 26; west along AL Hwy. 26 to Russell County Road 65; south along Russell County Road 65 to Russell County Road 4; west along Russell County Road 4 to Russell County Road 49; south along Russell County Road 49 to US Hwy. 82; east along US Hwy. 82 to US Hwy. 431; south along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 82; east along US Hwy. 82 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the Chattahoochee River to AL Hwy. 10; west along AL Hwy. 10 to Henry County Road 57; south along Henry County Road 57 to Henry County Road 99; south along Henry County Road 99 to US Hwy. 431; south along US Hwy. 431 to Ross Clark Circle (bypass around Dothan); east along Ross Clark Circle to US Hwy. 231; south along US Hwy. 231 to the Alabama/Florida state line; west along the Alabama/Florida state line to the Alabama/Mississippi state line, north along the Alabama/Mississippi state line ending at US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County). **Excludes Zones A and E descriptions.**
- (3) ZONE C (see map): Those areas of Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Marshall, St. Clair, Walker, and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the Colbert County/Franklin County line on US Hwy. 43/13, south along US Hwy. 43/13 to Spruce Pine

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(Franklin County); south along AL Hwy. 13 to AL Hwy. 195 in Haleyville (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 195 to Winston County Road 93; north along Winston County Road 93 to Franklin County Road 93; north along Franklin County Road 93 to Franklin County Road 81; north along Franklin County Road 81 to Franklin County Road 83; north along Franklin County Road 83 to AL Hwy. 24; east along Alabama Hwy. 24 to intersection with AL Hwy. 157 in Moulton (Lawrence County); south along AL Hwy. 157 to Cullman County Road 1114; south along Cullman County Road 1114 to US Hwy. 278 in Jones Chapel (Cullman County); west along US Hwy. 278 to Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77); south along Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77) to Winston County Road 41 in Arley (Winston County); south along Winston County Road 41 to the Sipsey Fork; south along the Sipsey Fork to US Hwy. 69; north along US Hwy. 69 to I-65; south along I-65 to I-59; north along I-59 to US Hwy. 11; north along US Hwy. 11 to Etowah County/Dekalb County line; west along Etowah County/Dekalb County line to Dekalb County/Marshall County line; north along Dekalb County/Marshall County line to Marshall County/Jackson County line, north along Marshall County/Jackson County line to Tennessee River; west along Tennessee River to the Colbert County/Lawrence County line; south along the Colbert County/Lawrence County line to the Colbert County/Franklin County line; west along the Colbert County/ Franklin County line ending at US Hwy. 43/13. Excludes Zone D description below.

- (4) ZONE D (see map): Those areas of Cullman, Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of AL Hwy. 157 and AL Hwy. 24 in Moulton (Lawrence County); south along AL Hwy. 157 to Cullman County Road 1114; south along Cullman County Road 1114 to US Hwy. 278 in Jones Chapel (Cullman County); west along US Hwy. 278 to Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77); west along Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77) to Winston County Road 41 in Arley (Winston County); south along Winston County Road 41 to the Sipsey Fork; south along the Sipsey Fork to the Winston County/Walker County line; west along the Winston County/Walker County line to AL Hwy. 5; north along AL Hwy. 5 to AL Hwy. 13 at Natural Bridge (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 13 to AL Hwy. 195 in Haleyville (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 195 to Winston County Road 93: north along Winston County Road 93 to Franklin County Road 93; north along Franklin County Road 93 to Franklin County Road 81; north along Franklin County Road 81 to Franklin County Road 83; north along Franklin County Road 83 to AL Hwy. 24; east along AL Hwy. 24 ending at intersection with AL Hwy. 157 in Moulton (Lawrence County).
- (5) ZONE E (see map): Those areas of Barbour and Russell Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and US Hwy. 431 in Eufaula (Barbour County), north along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 280; east along US Hwy. 280 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the Chat-

tahoochee River to US Hwy. 82; west along US Hwy. 82 ending at intersection with US Hwy. 431 (Barbour County); and those areas of Calhoun, Cherokee, and Cleburne Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of I-20 and AL Hwy. 21 (Calhoun County); north along AL Hwy. 21 to AL Hwy. 9 in Piedmont (Calhoun County); north along AL Hwy. 9 to US Hwy. 278; east along US Hwy. 278 to the Alabama/Georgia state line; south along the Alabama/Georgia state line to I-20; west along I-20 ending at intersection with AL Hwy. 21 (Calhoun County).

- (6) Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone (see map): The CWD Management Zone (CMZ) includes all of Lauderdale and Colbert Counties.
  - (a) Within the CMZ, the High-Risk Zone (HRZ) includes Lauderdale County and the portion of Colbert County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Tennessee River and the Alabama/ Mississippi State line, south along the Alabama/Mississippi State line to US Hwy. 72; east along US Hwy. 72 to US Hwy. 72 ALT; east along US Hwy. 72 ALT to the Colbert County/Lawrence County line; north along the Colbert County/Lawrence County line to the Tennessee River; west along the Tennessee River ending at the Alabama/Mississippi State line.
  - (b) Within the CMZ, the Buffer Zone (BZ) includes those portions of Colbert County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the







## Safely Hunting The Rights Of Way

By: Jason K. McDade

In a state dominated by hardwood hollows and pine plantations, wildlife can often be seen along Alabama Power transmission rights of way. For landowners and their guests, this wildlife activity and low cover provides a unique and fruitful hunting experience that can be enjoyed by both seasoned and first-time hunters. Remember, the right to hunt any piece of property must be obtained from the landowner. But like any other hunting scenario, caution must be taken in these areas, and additional precautions are necessary when hunting near transmission lines and underground fiber optic lines.

In many cases, Alabama Power allows landowners to place hunting structures on the outer 5 feet of the company's rights of way as long as a minimum distance of 25 feet is maintained from existing transmission structures.

Landowners should be mindful that Alabama Power may have buried fiber optic lines in its rights of way. The "Call Before You Dig Law" provides that anyone excavating must call the 811 utility-locate hotline before digging begins to have all utilities located and marked.

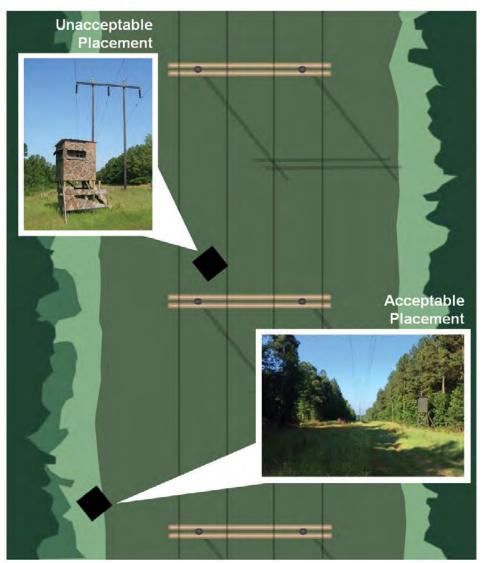
In some cases, the company may also ask property owners to relocate structures when additional right of way clearing is necessary.

To ensure the rights of way remain safe for property owners and to provide access for proper operation and maintenance of transmission lines, the following structures – even if temporary – are prohibited and are subject to immediate removal or relocation by Alabama Power.

- Any structure attached to a transmission tower or power poles
- Structures blocking access or located too close to facilities
- Structures underneath high-voltage lines

If you have any questions about the proper placement of hunting structures on Alabama Power rights of way, please call 1-877-891-2079. The safety of the public, customers, and employees is always Alabama Power's number one concern.

#### **Hunting Structure Placement**



Alabama/Mississippi State line and US Hwy. 72, south along the Alabama/Mississippi State line to the Colbert County/ Franklin County line; east along the Colbert County/ Franklin County line to the Colbert County/Lawrence County/ line; north along the Colbert County/ Lawrence County line to US Hwy 72 ALT; west along US Hwy. 72 ALT to US Hwy. 72; west along US Hwy. 72 ending at the Alabama/Mississippi State line.

#### **SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:**

- **1** DOG DEER HUNTING RESTRICTIONS:
- (i) Dog Deer Hunting Prohibited Except by Special Permit from the Department: BALDWIN; CHAMBERS; CHOCTAW (that area south of AL Hwy. 10 and west of AL Hwy. 17 and north of County Road 18 from AL Hwy. 17 to County Road 14 then north of County Road 14 to the Mississippi state line); COLBERT (that area west of US Hwy. 43); COOSA; COVINGTON (north of US Hwy. 84); ELMORE (that area inside the following boundaries: from the Coosa County/Elmore County line at the east bank of Lake Jordan, to AL Hwy. 9, south along AL Hwy. 9 to the intersection of US Hwy. 231, south along US Hwy. 231 to the intersection of AL Hwy. 14, west along AL Hwy. 14 to the east bank of the Coosa River, north along the east bank of the Coosa River to Lake Jordan, back to the Coosa County/Elmore County line); GENEVA; HENRY; MACON (that area inside the following boundaries: from County Road 24 at

the Lee County line, west and south to County Road 26, west to County Road 10, southeast to County Road 5, south to County Road 47, south to County Road 2, east to the Russell County line); **MARENGO**; **MONROE**; **PICKENS** (north of US Hwy. 82); **TALLAPOOSA**; and **WILCOX** counties. Individual property owners in **CHAMBERS** and **COOSA** counties may hunt with dogs on their own property without special permit. No dog deer hunting allowed on Open Permit-Public Land (see 220-2-.85).

(ii) By Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs): BIBB; PERRY: (that area inside the following boundaries: east of AL Hwy. 219, south of US Hwy. 82 and north of AL Hwy. 183); BUTLER (that area south of AL Hwy. 106 and east of I-65); CHEROKEE; CHILTON; CLEBURNE; COFFEE (that area inside the following boundaries: AL Hwy. 134 from the Covington County Line, east to County Road 460, south to the Geneva County line, east to the Dale County line, north to AL Hwy. 134, west to AL Hwy. 87, north to US Hwy. 84, west to AL Hwy. 189, south to AL Hwy. 141, north to US Hwy. 84, west to the Covington County line); CRENSHAW (north of AL Hwy. 10 and that area inside the following boundaries: from the east city limit of Luverne, US Hwy. 29 east to the junction of County Road 57, County Road 57 south to the junction of Davis Road, Davis Road west to County Road 41, County Road 41 south to US Hwy. 331, US Hwy. 331 north to County Road 41, County Road 41 north to County Road 39, County Road 39 north to the Luverne city limit); DALE (that area inside the following boundaries: Judy Creek south to Dale County Road 36, east to AL Hwy. 27, north to the Henry

County line, north to the Barbour County line, west to Judy Creek); DEKALB; ELMORE (that area inside the following boundaries: east of US Hwy. 231, south of AL Hwy. 14, west of Tumkeehatchee Creek and north of the Tallapoosa River); FAYETTE (that area inside the following boundaries: west of US Hwy 43 and north of AL Hwy. 18); FRANKLIN; HALE and PERRY: (that area inside the following boundaries: from Hale County Road 32 at the Hale County Line, west to the intersection of AL Hwy. 25, AL Hwy. 25 north until it intersects with the Talladega National Forest boundary, following the boundary south until it intersects the Perry County line, following the National Forest boundary east to Perry County Road 23, south to the intersection of Perry County Road 29, south to the Spring Hill Church Road, Spring Hill Church Road west to the junction of Perry County Road 23 and AL Hwy. 14, west to the Hale County line); GREENE; PICKENS and TUSCALOOSA: (that area inside the following boundaries: in Pickens County from the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and County Road 63, south on County Road 63 to Benevola, County Road 2 (commonly known as the Romulus Road) east through Greene County to US Hwy. 82 in Tuscaloosa County); HOUSTON; JACKSON; LAMAR; LAUDERDALE; LAWRENCE; LIME-STONE: MADISON: MARION: MARSHALL: MORGAN; RANDOLPH; TUSCALOOSA (that area north of US Hwy. 82); and WINSTON (that area east of AL Hwy. 5 from the Walker County line to Natural Bridge and all that area north of US Hwy. 278).

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#### **2** U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS LANDS:

On U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Lands in Alabama, if USACE does not further restrict. Be aware to consult USACE regulations regarding hunting activities and boat ramp use prior to hunting USACE regulated areas. Special Permits from the USACE may be required and some USACE areas are closed to hunting. For complete information concerning hunting on USACE lands, visit the USACE Mobile District website at the following: https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/ Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Hunting/.

#### **3** U. S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS):

- (i) STALK HUNTING No Dogs (same season dates as open permit for county) except Wildlife Management Areas – one deer per day.
- (ii) DOG DEER HUNTING No Dogs, except for USFS Lands within Calhoun, Clay, and Talladega counties during the Dog Deer Season on

open permit-public lands – on Thursdays and Fridays until 2:00 p.m.; on weekends during legal shooting hours. No dog deer hunting on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday of each week unless Christmas Day or New Year's Day falls on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. No other state or federal holidays are included in this exception. One deer per day.

(iii) NO DOG DEER HUNTING ON THE PINEY WOODS/IVORY MOUNTAIN AREA – The borders of which are defined as follows: bounded by the Cleburne County line to the north running east and west, then to the west by Clay County Road 3 running south to State Route 49; The south border is Clay County Road 66 running east and west from State Route 49 to Hwy 9; The eastern border is Hwy 9 running north from Clay County Road 66 to the Cleburne County line.



#### **LEGAL ARMS & AMMUNITION**

#### **GENERAL PROHIBITIONS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to use any method, any weapon or ammunition contrary to this regulation while hunting or attempting to hunt game birds and animals or other species provided for herein unless expressly provided for by duly enacted laws of the State of Alabama. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to submit firearms and ammunition or any device, instrument or accessory used in hunting to Conservation Officers for inspection. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt using laser sights, attachments and light sources to project a beam forward of a gun or bow, except those who possess a current nighttime feral swine and coyote license, • hunting those species during dates of the established special nighttime feral swine and coyote season or for legally blind hunters (220-2-.11), or to possess such a light source adapted for attachment to said bow or gun while hunting, except as provided for in 220-2-.02. It shall be unlawful to possess any equipment that uses electronics to increase the ability to see in the dark (night vision equipment) while hunting any species of wildlife, both protected or unprotected species, except during the special nighttime feral swine and coyote hunting season with valid license. Hunting with fully automatic firearms is prohibited.

#### DEER

- Rifles using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .30 caliber or larger.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a

broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using buckshot, slugs, or single round ball.
- Muzzleloaders and Black Powder Handguns: .40 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with regulation 220-2-.03.
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Hunting with fully automatic firearms is prohibited.

#### TURKEY

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using standard No. 2 shot or smaller.
- Long bows, compound bows and crossbows in conformance with regulation 220-2-.03.
- Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the possession of rifles, shotgun/rifle combinations (drilling) or buckshot and slugs when the hunter is stalk hunting both deer and turkey provided no person shoots or attempts to shoot turkey with the rifle or shotgun using buckshot or slugs.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.

#### **MIGRATORY BIRDS**

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, plugged with a one piece filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun or otherwise incapable of holding more than 3 shells using shot compositions and shot sizes that are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Waterfowl hunters shall not possess any size lead shot.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.

#### **RACCOON & OPOSSUM**

- Nighttime hunting: Shotguns using No. 6 shot or smaller; .22 caliber rimfire firearms.
- Daytime hunting: see Other Game Birds Or Animals.

#### BOBCAT, GROUNDHOG, UNPROTECTED WILDLIFE, FOX, COYOTE & FERAL SWINE

- Rifles of any caliber.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller.
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .25 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
  Muzzleloaders and black powder handguns of any caliber.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.
- Spear or sharpened blade.

#### **BULLFROG AND PIG FROG**

- Air powered rifles .25 caliber or smaller.
- Gig or spear.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
- Hand or dip net.

#### **OTHER GAME BIRDS OR ANIMALS**

- Rifles using rimfire ammunition or those operated by air.
- Muzzleloaders and black powder handguns of any caliber.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, using standard No. 4 shot or smaller.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Blowguns using darts propelled by the hunter's breath only.
- Sling shots.

#### Seasons & Bag Limits: Hunting & Trapping





## TURKEY SEASON ZONES

- ZONE 1 MARCH 25 MAY 8 (DECOYS ALLOWED APRIL 4 MAY 8)
- ZONE 2 APRIL 1 MAY 8 (DECOYS ALLOWED APRIL 11 MAY 8)
- ZONE 3 NOVEMBER 18-26 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED) DECEMBER 9 – 31 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED) MARCH 25 – MAY 8 (DECOYS ALLOWED APRIL 4 - MAY 8)

#### **GOBBLERS ONLY**

One gobbler per day, four gobbler bag limit during combined fall and spring season.

#### SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT (DECOYS ALLOWED)

Saturday & Sunday the week prior to opening of spring season.

**SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT** (DECOYS ALLOWED) One day prior to all regular season opening days. Participants must meet medical requirements of regulation 220-2-.109(2)(d).

#### WMA and U.S. Forest Service Ranger Districts

Bankhead Ranger District; WMAs - Lauderdale, Freedom Hills, Black Warrior, Coon Gulf, Riverton CHA and Martin CHA: April 8 - May 8 (daylight - 1 p.m.)

REMAINDER OF NATIONAL FORESTS DISTRICTS (Talladega Ranger District, Shoal Creek Ranger District, Oakmulgee Ranger District, Tuskegee Ranger District and Conecuh Ranger District) and WMAs THAT ALLOW TURKEY HUNTING: April 1 - May 8 (daylight - 1 p.m.)

#### **BAG LIMIT**

One gobbler per day; four gobbler bag limit during combined fall and spring season.
 No more than two gobblers from any one WMA, CHA, or National Forest Ranger District
 No more than one gobbler during the first 10 days of each season from each
 WMA, CHA and National Forest Ranger District

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#### MOURNING AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide.

NORTH ZONE (All counties except those listed below in south zone.)

• Limit 15 a day (90 days)

#### **SPLIT SEASON** with Shooting Hours:

- 12 o'clock noon until Sunset (Afternoon Shooting Only) September 2
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) September 3 – October 22
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) November 18 - November 26
- · One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) ) December 16 - January 14

#### **SOUTH ZONE**

Baldwin; Coffee; Covington; Dale; Escambia; Geneva; Henry; Houston; and Mobile.

• Limit 15 a day (90 days)

#### **SPLIT SEASON** with Shooting Hours:

- 12 o'clock noon until Sunset
- (Afternoon Shooting Only) September 9 One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset
- (All Day) September 10 October 29
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) November 18 - November 26
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) December 16 - January 14

Hi-Point Firearms ifers several traight wall iber carbine's amo patterns may suit you.

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#### IT IS LEGAL TO HUNT DOVES ON, OVER, OR FROM...

- Lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations, which include normal agricultural harvestings, normal agricultural postharvest manipulations, or normal agricultural practices.
- · Lands planted by means of top-sowing or aerial seeding where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, a planting for agricultural soil erosion control, or a planting for post-mining land reclamation.
- · Lands or areas where grain or feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown.
- Standing crops.
- · Lands planted as wildlife food plots, provided the seed is planted in a manner consistent with Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service recommendations for the planting of wildlife food plots. In states without Cooperative Extension Service recommendations for the planting of food plots, the seed must be planted in accordance with Extension Service guidelines for producing a crop.

Open Permit-Public Land is defined as governmentally owned land open for public hunting and/or lands made available to the public on an individual basis whether for a fee or not. Examples of such lands would be U.S. Forest Service Lands, land owned by lumber companies and utility companies available for use by hunters either through free permits, fee permits or no permit requirement. This does not include Alabama's Wildlife Management Areas. See the current Wildlife Management Area Map Permit for information on these areas.

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- Lands planted as pasture improvements or for the purpose of grazing livestock. (The Fish and Wildlife Service will not make a distinction between agricultural fields planted with the intent to gather a crop and those planted without such intent provided the planting is carried out in a manner consistent with the recommendations of State Extension Specialists).
- Standing or manipulated natural vegetation.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.

## For further clarification, see www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/ whatislegal.htm.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System recommends planting dates for some top sown grains between August 1 and November 30 depending on individual circumstances. For details see www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-1467/ANR-1467low.pdf.

#### **BOBWHITE QUAIL**

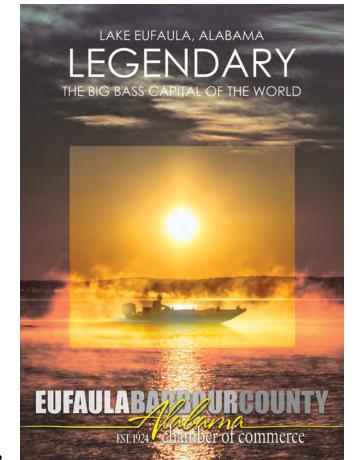
#### November 4 – February 29

- 8 a day 8 in possession
- Closed on the Bankhead National Forest

#### RABBIT

#### September 9 – March 3

• 8 a day — 8 in possession



#### SQUIRREL

#### September 9 – March 3

- 8 a day 8 in possession
- Fox squirrel closed on the Bankhead National Forest

#### RACCOON

#### **No Closed Season**

- May be hunted daytime or nighttime hours
- Private Owned and Leased Lands: No Bag Limit
- Open Permit-Public Land: 5 Per Party
- No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.

#### **OPOSSUM AND FOX**

#### No Closed Season

- May be hunted daytime or nighttime hours
- No Bag Limit
- No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.
- Fox nighttime hours with dogs only. See page 34 for trapping information.

#### BEAR, MOUNTAIN LION AND RUFFED GROUSE No Open Season

#### **BOBCAT & OTTER TAGGING REQUIREMENT 220-2-.30**

All bobcat and otter, regardless of method of harvest, are required to be tagged by a representative of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division within 14 days of harvest or may be left with a taxidermist with a completed tagging form, and the taxidermist is required to have the bobcat or otter tagged within 14 days of receipt.

#### **BOBCAT**<sup>(1,3)</sup>, **COYOTE**<sup>(2)</sup>, **FOX AND FERAL SWINE**<sup>(2)</sup>:

#### (Daytime Hours Only)

#### No Bag Limit No Closed Season

- No Closed Season
- See page 53 for legal hunting hours.
- 1. Bobcat See tagging requirement (above).
- 2. Coyote and Feral Swine trapping by landowner or his agent. Feral Swine — upon capture, it shall be unlawful to release any live feral swine. See regulation 220-2-.86
- 3. Bobcat See page 34 for trapping information.
- 4. No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.

#### FERAL SWINE (2024): (PRIVATELY OWNED AND LEASED LANDS ONLY) (DOGS ONLY) Special Nighttime Season

#### May 11 – August 31

- No Bag Limit
- Dogs only no firearms allowed.

#### FERAL SWINE AND COYOTE: (PRIVATELY OWNED AND LEASED LANDS ONLY) Special Nighttime Season

- No Bag Limit
- Begins 12:00 am on the day after the last day of Gun Deer Season in that Zone, and ends 30 minutes prior to sunrise on the opening day of Archery Deer Season in that Zone.

Must have a valid annual resident or nonresident nighttime feral swine and coyote hunting license (See pages 44–45).

#### BEAVER, NUTRIA AND GROUNDHOG No Closed Season

• No Bag Limit — Daylight Hours Only

#### STARLING, CROW AND HOUSE SPARROW

#### **No Closed Season**

• No Bag Limit — Daylight Hours Only

#### WOODCOCK

#### December 15 – January 28

- 3 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

#### **SNIPE**

#### November 11 – February 25

- 8 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

#### **ALLIGATOR**

- By Limited Quota Permit Only
- Must apply online at *www.outdooralabama.com* beginning at 8:00 am on the first Tuesday in June and ending at 8:00 am on the second Tuesday of July.
- Visit website for license requirement and application instructions.

#### Sunset on the 2nd Thursday in August – Sunrise on the Sunday immediately following the 2nd Thursday in August Sunset on the 3rd Thursday in August – Sunrise on the Sunday immediately following the 3rd Thursday in August

- West Central Management Area: the private and public waters in Monroe (north of U.S. Highway 84), Wilcox, and Dallas Counties. (nighttime only)
- **Coastal Management Area:** the private and public waters in **Baldwin** and **Mobile** that lie south of I-10 (nighttime only)
- Southwest Management Area: the private and public waters in **Baldwin** and **Mobile** Counties that lie north of 1-10 and private and public waters in **Washington**, **Clarke**, and **Monroe** Counties that lie east of US Hwy. 43 and south of US Hwy. 84. (nighttime only)

## Sunset on the 2nd Saturday in August – Sunrise on the 1st Monday of September

• Southeast Management Area: the private and public waters in Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Russell counties (excluding public Alabama state waters in Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its navigable tributaries) (nighttime only)

#### Sunset on the Friday preceding the 3rd Saturday in August – Sunrise on the Monday immediately following the 1st Sunday in October

• Lake Eufaula Management Area: The public Alabama state waters only in the Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its navigable tributaries, south of Hwy 208, Omaha Bridge, (excluding Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge) (daytime and nighttime)

#### **BULLFROG AND PIG FROG**

#### No Closed Season

- May be hunted daytime or nighttime hours
- Limit 20 frogs in aggregate per person from 12 Noon to 12 Noon the following day.

#### SPECIAL YOUTH, ACTIVE MILITARY AND MILITARY VETERAN'S WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS November 18 and February 3

- Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide.
- Same shooting hours, bag limits, and legal arms and ammunition apply as in regular waterfowl season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119.

#### CLAPPER RAIL, KING RAIL, VIRGINIA RAIL, SORA AND GALLINULE

#### September 9 – September 24 November 25 – January 17

- 15 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.



BE THE FIRST IN THE FIELD THIS HUNTING SEASON WITH YOUR MUZZLELOADER RIFLE. WE HAVE EVERY THING YOU WILL NEED TO SHOOT AND CARE FOR YOUR FIREARM. MUZZLE-LOADER HUNTERS AVERAGED 10.1 MAN-DAYS PER DEER IN ALABAMA, COMPARED TO 17.3 MAN-DAYS PER DEER WITH ALL OTHER WEAPONS COMBINED.

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#### **SPECIAL TEAL SEASON**

#### September 9 – September 24

- Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- 6 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

#### **DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER**

#### November 24 – November 25

#### December 2 – January 28

- Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

#### DUCK

• 6 ducks a day — may include no more than 4 Mallards (no more than 2 of which may be female), 3 Wood Ducks, 1 Mottled Duck, 2 Black Duck, 2 Redhead, 1 Pintail, 2 Canvasback, and 1 Scaup.

#### **COOT**

15 a day

#### MERGANSER

• 5 a day, only 2 may be a Hooded Merganser.

#### GEESE

- Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- Statewide.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

Refer to the Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide and the Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book, as well as federal regulations, for details on waterfowl hunting requirements and seasons.

#### HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT FOR HUNTING

(for Wildlife Management Areas, see page 55)

During dates and in areas open by regulation to gun deer season, including youth deer season and muzzleloader deer season, all persons hunting any wildlife species, except foxes, raccoons, and opossums during legal nighttime hours or turkey or migratory birds (including crows), are required to wear an outer garment above the waist with a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or either a full size hunter orange hat or cap.

Hunters are **not** required to wear hunter orange when:

- hunting from a stand elevated twelve (12) feet or more from the ground
- · hunting in an enclosed box stand
- · traveling in an enclosed vehicle

34

 traveling on foot no more than twenty (20) feet directly between an operating enclosed vehicle and a stand where the hunter is exempt from the hunter orange requirement. The hunter orange must be worn when traveling on foot between an operating enclosed vehicle and exempt stand when the distance is more than a direct distance of twenty (20) feet.

A small logo and/or printing is permitted on the front of hunter orange caps; otherwise, hunter orange must be of solid color and visible from any angle. Only hunter orange, commonly called blaze orange, ten-mile cloth, etc., is legal. The various shades of red as well as camo orange are not legal.

#### ALL GEESE:

September 2 – October 1 October 14 – October 28 November 24 – November 25 December 2 – January 28

#### DARK GEESE (CANADA, WHITE-FRONTED, BRANT)

• The aggregate bag limit shall be 5 a day.

#### LIGHT GEESE (SNOW, BLUE, ROSS'S)

• The aggregate bag limit shall be 5 a day.

#### **SANDHILL CRANE:**

#### December 2 – January 7

#### January 15 – January 30

- By limited quota permit only. Must apply online at *www.out-dooralabama.com*. Must be sixteen (16) years of age or older and a resident or lifetime hunting license holder to apply.
- Limit 3 per person per permit.
- Hunting zone will be that area north of Interstate 20 from the Georgia state line to the interchange with Interstate 65, then east of Interstate 65 to the interchange with Interstate 22, then north of Interstate 22 to the Mississippi state line. (excludes the remainder of the state).
- Shooting Hours Sunrise to Sunset
- Legal arms and ammunition are same as waterfowl

#### **TRAPPING:**

#### **BOBCAT, FOX, MINK, MUSKRAT, OTTER & STRIPED SKUNK** October 28 – February 29

#### **BEAVER, COYOTE, NUTRIA, FERAL SWINE, RACCOON AND OPOSSUM** No Closed Season

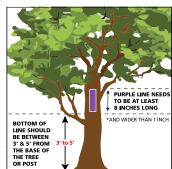
**Note:** Permit may be obtained through your local district office for the trapping of nuisance furbearers outside the dates of trapping season.

WFF has collaborated with the AL Trappers and Predator Control Assoc., The Safari Club and the USDA Wildlife Services to host adult and youth trapping workshops throughout the state. Go to www.outdooralabama.com for dates and locations.

#### **PURPLE PAINT PROTECTS PROPERTY**

During the 2016 Legislative Session, Alabama lawmakers adopted a rule allowing landowners to paint purple stripes on trees or fence posts as an alternative to no-trespassing signs. Properly posted no-trespassing signs remain lawful.

Purple paint's advantages include low cost, high visibility and difficult to remove. Alabama is one of several states recognizing purple paint as a valid no-trespassing marker.



According to the Code of Alabama, vertical stripes of purple paint must be longer than 8 inches, wider than 1 inch, 3–5 feet from the ground, readily visible to people approaching the property, 100 feet or less apart on forestland and less than 1,000 feet on non-forestland.

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# **THE ALABAMA RUT**

As most of Alabama's deer hunters know, the white-tailed deer rut in Alabama varies considerably from one area of the state to another. There are often variations of several weeks or more among regions within a single county. To enable hunters to better track when and where deer should be rutting throughout the deer season, WFF created a rut map which shows the two-week window when the majority of breeding occurs for each region of the state. Data collected from 282 sites in 66 counties by WFF's Wildlife Section staff beginning in 1995 were used to develop this useful reference for hunters. This required many, many hours in the field examining deer and collecting the necessary data.

While not as accurate as other techniques, an alternative approach to identifying peaks in breeding activity within counties comes from monitoring peaks in buck harvests. In most regions of Alabama, peaks in buck harvest typically occur at three times during the season — opening week of the gun stalk hunting season, the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, and the rut. By using buck harvest data collected through Game Check, peaks in rut-related activity can be identified in most counties.

Bucks are more susceptible to harvest during opening week of gun season because more hunters are afield than at any other time of the season. Bucks also have not been exposed to hunting pressure and the associated disturbances. Once deer season opens, deer quickly respond to these pressures and their activity levels can change significantly — almost overnight. This is usually most pronounced in mature deer. This "opening day effect" is obvious when looking at the opening weekend harvests for practically every county in Alabama. A second peak for buck harvests in many counties occurs between Christmas and New Year's Day. This again is due primarily to a sharp increase in the number of hunters out hunting.

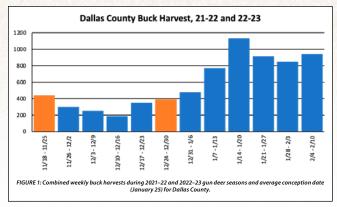
Surges in buck harvests occurring outside of opening week of gun season and the Christmas-New Year's Day holiday week are most often associated with increased movements associated with the rut. As the rut approaches and opportunities to breed near, the wiliest of mature bucks become susceptible to making "young deer" mistakes. Buck movements associated with the rut typically reach their peak about one week to 10 days prior to the peak of breeding. Bucks are on the move in search of receptive does, but most does are not ready to breed at that time. This means bucks are spending a great deal of time moving from doe group



to doe group looking for receptive does. As a result, increases in buck harvest usually occur at that time because bucks are more exposed and vulnerable to harvest. As more does become receptive and breeding peaks, buck movements tend to slow since they are encountering more does which are ready to breed.

By comparison, doe harvests almost always peak when hunter numbers are at their highest — opening week of gun stalk season and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day. Other peaks in doe harvest often occur at the end of season as hunters scramble to get at least one deer in the freezer before the season closes — also known as the "I'm running out of time" effect.

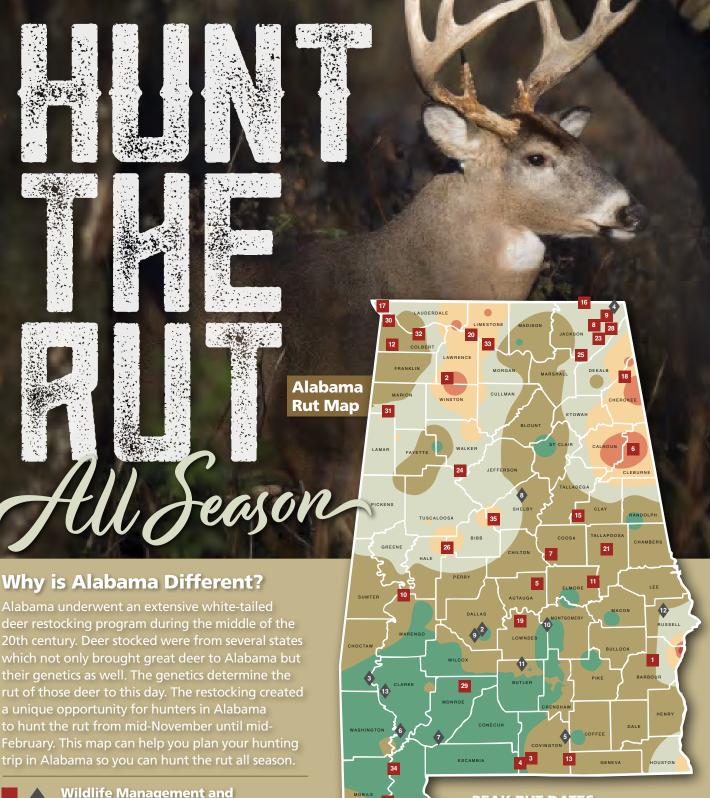
Figure 1 illustrates how peak breeding within a county can be estimated by looking at peaks in buck harvests. The graph shows the combined weekly buck harvest for Dallas County from the 2021–22 and 2022–23 gun deer seasons. The orange bars are harvests for the opening week of gun season and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day — periods when harvests typically spike due to reasons highlighted earlier. Buck harvests tailed off quickly following the opening week of season and did not jump again until the period between January 14 and January 28. Harvests steadily declined until the last week of season February 4–10. Buck harvest bumped up slightly during the last week of season. This was most likely due to the "I'm running out of time" effect.



Conception date data were collected from nine locations scattered throughout Dallas County from 1997 through 2019. Average conception dates ranged from January 21 to February 4 among the sites, but the average for the entire county was January 25. This follows right along with the increased buck harvest during the 7–10 day window prior to that date.

Deer hunters are always looking for that extra edge that will tip the scales in their favor. Two keys to being a successful deer hunter are having the knowledge to understand what is happening at any given time within the deer population being hunted (e.g., what are they eating, rut timing) and understanding when to take advantage of this knowledge. A deer's diet can and does change throughout the hunting season, so obtaining that key bit of information often takes quite a bit of effort. Knowing when they breed is a little less complicated since it occurs at roughly the same time each year. By knowing what to look for while in the field, as well as knowing how to use the various tools available online such as Alabama's Rut Map and harvest trends as reported in Game Check, Alabama's deer hunters can definitely improve their chances of having a successful season in years to come.

### **Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources**



#### PEAK RUT DATES

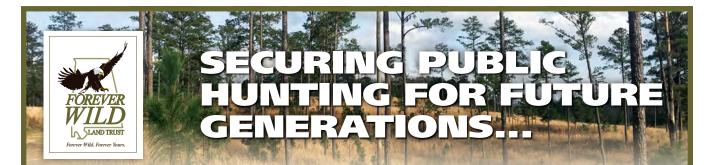
- November 10 November 23
- November 24 December 8
- December 9 December 24
- December 25 January 8
- January 9 January 24
- January 25 February 8

#### Wildlife Management and Special Opportunity Areas









Forever Wild Land Trust, Alabama's land acquisition program, is now in its 31st year. The purpose of this highly successful program is to evaluate acquisition of land for conservation and outdoor recreational purposes including public hunting.

Forever Wild has delivered on what it was supposed to do. The program's success is the result of the dedication of its board members, the ongoing work of personnel within the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who administer the program, and the continued support of the public.

Forever Wild was developed largely in response to the loss of land available to the public for hunting and outdoor recreation. Since its inception, Forever Wild

has conserved almost 286,000 acres, of which 93% contribute to 23 Wildlife Management Areas, Community Hunting Areas, and Special Opportunity Areas, as well as additional Recreational Areas.

As successful as Forever Wild has been in protecting unique habitats and providing public recreation lands, this progress has allowed Alabama simply to keep pace with the loss of other private-lease lands enrolled in the state's public hunting Wildlife Management Area system. Overwhelming public support for the continuation of Forever Wild's funding to acquire additional conservation and recreational land has preserved the legacy we will leave to future generations that depend on Alabama's heritage of public hunting lands.

ALforeverwild



To learn more about Forever Wild, visit **www.alabamaforeverwild.com** 







5

Sportsman



YAMAHA

63

YAMAHA

#### INTRODUCTION

This publication is provided as a popular guide to Alabama hunting and sport fishing laws and regulations. The *Code of Alabama* and the *Alabama Game*, *Fish*, *Furbearers*, *and Other Wildlife Regulation Book* are the final authorities on laws and regulations relating to hunting and fishing and can be accessed online at *outdooralabama.com/hunting/seasons-and-bag-limits*. Contact the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Offices or any Conservation Enforcement Officer if you have a legal question not adequately covered in this booklet.

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES**

To qualify for a resident hunting or fishing license, a person must be a bona fide resident of Alabama for a minimum of 90 days continuously immediately prior to purchasing any such license or be a member of U.S. military stationed in Alabama. For the **purpose of buying hunting and fishing licenses, residency is determined by the Driver's License issuance**. Resident and nonresident annual hunting and fishing licenses are valid from September 1 through August 31 each year. Successfully completing an approved hunter education course is mandatory for all hunting license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977, see page 54 for exemptions. Licenses must be in possession while hunting or fishing. A deer and turkey harvest record (either paper or app form)

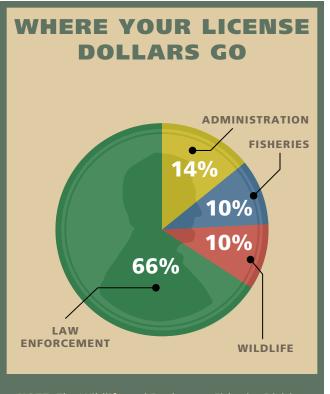
Renewing your Hunting and Fishing License has never been easier. Visit www.outdooralabama.com/renew.

must be in possession every time a person is hunting deer or turkey. It is unlawful to utilize or possess more than one harvest record.

It is illegal to kill or cripple any species of game bird, game animal or game fish without making a reasonable effort to retrieve same and include it in the daily bag or creel limit, except all game fish not meeting legal length regulations, and protected species. An individual should not trail or retrieve game on property they do not have permission to enter. All game bags, hunting coats, camping equipment, live boxes, automobiles and such used in hunting and fishing will be open for inspection by officers of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

#### **BUYING LICENSES**

Alabama hunting and fishing licenses are available in all sections of the State from approximately 275 special license agents in many sporting goods stores, marinas, and at all county courthouses. Licenses may also be purchased by mailing completed applications, proper payment and copy of driver's license to Attn: License Sales, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, 64 N. Union St., Suite 567, Montgomery, AL 36104. For application packet call (334) 242-3465 or e-mail dcnr.wfflicense@dcnr.alabama.gov or visit our website at www.outdooralabama.com/license-information. It is illegal to willfully or knowingly make a false statement to a license agent when purchasing a license. It is also illegal to lend, borrow, sell, buy, rent or use another person's license to hunt, fish or trap. For the purpose of buying hunting and fishing licenses, residency is determined initially by the Driver's License issuance. An Alabama resident without an Alabama driver's license must present proof of residency to a probate judge or license commissioner to purchase a license (excludes all persons with out-of-state driver's license).



**NOTE:** The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division **DOES NOT** recieve General Fund tax dollars.



#### WHO NEEDS A LICENSE?

Residency is initially determined by Driver's License State of Issuance.

YOU ARE	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
AGE	16–64	16+
HUNTING ON LAND YOU OWN	No	Purchase of non- resident license required
FISHING FROM THE BANK (PUBLIC WATERS) WITH A HOOK & LINE IN THE COUNTY YOU LIVE IN	No	N/A
MILITARY STATIONED IN ALABAMA	Yes	Stationed in Alabama (30 days or more) may purchase resident license
MILITARY VISITING ALABAMA	Home on leave — No license required (must have copy of leave papers and an AL driver's license)	Purchase of nonresident license required

#### **MIGRATORY BIRD HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM**

All licensed hunters who hunt doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots, ducks, geese or sandhill cranes in Alabama are required by Federal law to obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit prior to hunting. The HIP program provides improved data collection on these species. This will allow hunting seasons for the various species to be set in an objective and efficient manner while maintaining healthy populations. HIP permits are free and are available wherever hunting licenses are sold. It takes a very short time to provide the requested information. In exchange for completing the HIP survey, you will receive proof of certification which must be in your possession while hunting migratory birds.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION LICENSE FEES

Hunting Licenses: Required for residents 16 years of age and under 65 years of age and nonresidents 16 years of age and older. Residents on active military duty home on leave may hunt and fish without licenses. (State and federal duck stamps are still required when hunting migratory waterfowl. Bait Privilege License are required when hunting deer or feral swine over bait. Management Area License and Permit are required when hunting deer or turkey on a wildlife management area.) See *Hunter Education* requirement on page 54.

#### **DUPLICATE HUNTER EDUCATION CARD**

**Do you need a duplicate Hunter Education Card?** You can now obtain a duplicate Hunter Education Card online. Go to *www.outdooralabama.com* and click on the hunting/ hunter education link to print a duplicate Hunter Education Card.

Please call the Hunter Education Office at (800) 245-2740 if you have questions, or if you are unable to print a temporary card.

Licenses are available by calling the toll-free number 1-888-848-6887 and online at www.outdooralabama.com.





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NEW CLASSES! LEARNIC SHOOTI

### HANDGUNS + RIFLES + SHOTGUNS

4-hour outdoor firearm training sessions. Classes are taught by Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors across the state.

This class is perfect for those ages 16+ who want to learn more about handgun safety and marksmanship in a low stress friendly environment.

- Safe handling and storage
- The parts of a firearm
- Marksmanship
- Live fire on paper and steel targets
- Firearms, ammunition, and safety gear provided free of charge

There is no tuition fee for this course, participants will only need a Wildlife Heritage License (\$13.30) to attend. This license will allow you to use Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division ranges across the state.

Licenses may be purchased online ahead of time at outdooralabama.com, local probate offices, and many sporting goods stores.

REGISTER AND LEARN MORE ONLINE TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW OR VISIT: OUTDOORALABAMA.COM/FIREARMS-101
THESE CLASSES FILL UP FAST, SIGN UP TODAY ONLINE TO BOOK YOUR SPOTE





#### Contact the office nearest you

# First South is how you buy land.





800-955-1722 | FirstSouthLand.com



# CWD SAMPLE COLLECTION STATIONS

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division will be providing drop-off sampling locations available for hunters to submit their harvest for CWD testing.

Deer hunters play a critical role in the continued CWD monitoring efforts in Alabama.

It will only take a few minutes of your time to help protect this valuable natural resource.

For a complete list of CWD collection station locations visit

www.outdooralabama.com/ cwd/cwd-sampling



#### RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education required if license buyer is born on or after	State: All Game*	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$32.55
August 1, 1977. Hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under the 'supervision required' status in lieu of passing the hunter education course. (see page 54)	State: Small Game*	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$21.55
BAIT PRIVILEGE LICENSE	Annual	Allows taking of white-tailed deer or feral swine by aid of bait, in addition to required hunting licenses. Required of all ages. NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$17.55
NIGHTTIME FERAL SWINE AND COYOTE HUNTING LICENSE	Annual	Allows hunting of feral swine and coyote at night on private or leased lands during special season. Any 100% disabled hunting license holders pay \$1.05. Bait license required if hunting feral swine over bait. Required of all ages, NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$17.10
PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTING LICENSE	Annual All Game (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$7.15
50% PHYSICALLY DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION HUNTING LICENSE	State: All Game	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 50% or more disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	\$16.80
100% PHYSICALLY DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION HUNTING LICENSE	State: All Game	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 100% disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	\$3.50
PHYSICALLY DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION 3-DAY HUNTING EVENT LICENSE	State: All Game	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR Commissioner. Allows up to 10 US military veterans, 50% or more disabled, to hunt on one event license. Must present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration.	\$164.30
GAME CHECK H.E.L.P. NUMBER	Annual	H.E.L.P. License number to be used by license exempt residents to record deer and turkey harvest. NOTE: NOT NEEDED IF PURCHASING ANY OTHER ANNUAL RECREATIONAL PRIVILEGE.	N/C
WILDLIFE HERITAGE LICENSE	Annual	Allows residents to fish in freshwater statewide with hook and line from the bank, fish in WFF operated Public Fishing Lakes (daily lake permits required), hunt small game, except waterfowl, on WFF WMA, shoot on WFF managed shooting ranges, and support wildlife. These privileges are also included in all resident hunting and freshwater fishing licenses, including lifetime licenses.	\$13.30
DUCK STAMPS	State	_	\$11.75
DUCKSTAMPS	Federal	Valid: 7/1/23 – 6/30/24.	\$28.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting big game (deer or turkey) and waterfowl on WMA, in addi- tion to the appropriate hunting license and a WMA Permit (free). WMA shooting range users are required to have a valid hunting license, WMA License, or Wildlife Heritage License.	\$21.55
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	90 day proof of residency required. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24.	\$26.45
COMMERCIAL FOWL HUNTING PRESERVE LICENSE	7-Day	In lieu of a regular hunting license, a resident may purchase for \$8.00, plus a \$2.00 issuance fee, a 7-day commercial fowl hunting preserve license that allows that person the privilege of hunting only artificially propagated or pen-raised fowl on a licensed commercial fowl hunting preserve.	\$10.00

For more information on resident licenses, see the notes on page 41. See page 46 for footnotes.



#### NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES Valid 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024 (unless otherwise indicated)

	LICENSE	iss other wise indicated)	
CATEGORY	TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
	All Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey.	\$377.25
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education	All Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$232.90
required if license buyer is born on or after August 1, 1977.	All Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$164.30
Hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under	Small Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey.	\$123.05
the 'supervision required' status in lieu of passing the hunter education	Small Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$74.95
course. (see page 54)	Small Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$54.30
BAIT PRIVILEGE LICENSE	Annual	Allows taking of white-tailed deer or feral swine by aid of bait, in addition to required hunting licenses. Required of all ages. NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$59.95
NIGHTTIME FERAL SWINE AND COYOTE HUNTING LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting feral swine and coyote at night on private or leased lands during special season. Required of all ages, NO EXEMPTIONS. Bait license required if hunting feral swine over bait.	\$58.30
PHYSICALLY DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION 3-DAY HUNTING EVENT LICENSE	State: All Game	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR Commissioner. Allows up to 10 US military veterans, 50% or more disabled, to hunt on one event license. Must present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration.	\$164.30
GAME CHECK H.E.L.P. NUMBER	Annual	H.E.L.P. License number to be used by nonresidents 15 years and younger to record deer and turkey harvest. NOTE: NOT NEEDED IF PURCHASING ANY OTHER ANNUAL RECREATION- AL PRIVILEGE.	N/C
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	\$11.75
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/23 – 6/30/24.	\$28.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting on WMA's, in addition to the appropri- ate hunting license and WMA Permit (free). WMA shooting range users are required to have a valid hunting license or WMA License.	\$21.55
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24.	Varies
COMMERCIAL FOWL HUNTING PRESERVE LICENSE	7-Day	In lieu of a regular hunting license, a nonresident may purchase for \$8.00, plus a \$2.00 issuance fee, a 7-day com- mercial fowl hunting preserve license that allows that person the privilege of hunting only artificially propagated or pen-raised fowl on a licensed commercial fowl hunting pre- serve. Check with the hunting preserve for information.	\$10.00

**NOTE:** Please see 'General Information for Hunting and Fishing Licenses' on page 41.



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#### RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/IN	FO	FEE
	Freshwater: Annual*	Required for residents 16 years of age and Heritage License.		\$16.15
SPORT FISHING	Saltwater: Annual*	under 65 years of age who fish with rod and reel, hook and line, or from a boat in public waters. This license is not required to fish with ordinary hook and line, only from bank in	A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	\$28.50
LICENSE	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip	county of legal residence.	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	\$11.80
	Saltwater: Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement	Required for any resident 16 years of age and ov to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 22 <i>bama.com/saltwater-fishing</i> ). NO EXEMPTIONS		\$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 74)	Public Fishing Lakes	In lieu of a regular fishing license, a resident may purchase to fish for 1 day at many WFF Division owned Public Fishing Lakes. ( <b>Not valid</b> <b>in other public reservoirs, lakes and rivers.)</b>	Trip is valid for 1 day	\$7.30
PHYSICALLY DISABLED	Freshwater Trip	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR. Allows	—	\$100.00
FRESHWATER FISHING 3-DAY EVENT LICENSE	Saltwater Trip	up to 20 physically disabled persons and their assistant to fish on one event license. \$5.00 for each additional participant.	_	\$100.00
	Freshwater Annual (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$3.40
DISABLED FISHING LICENSE	Saltwater Annual (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	_	\$3.40
	Veterans Appreciation (20% disabled)	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 20% or more disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner	<b>Freshwater</b> Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$3.50
		Office for issuance.	Saltwater	\$3.50
	Annual	12 month residency proof Required for use of any com Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30	nercial gear.	\$119.00
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24		\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Require Fish Dealer		uired to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24	
FRESHWATER MUSSEL	Catcher	12 month residency proof Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30		\$301.00
LICENSE	Dealer or Buyer	12 month residency proof Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30		\$121.00
SPEAR FISHING LICENSE	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. M appropriate sportfishing	\$6.00	

\* Residents 64 years of age purchasing a hunting or fishing license are issued the license on a lifetime basis. Saltwater fishing license also required when saltwater fishing by use of any artificial bait, fly, lure, gig, cast net, bow, crab trap (five or less) or spear.

Game fish may not be caught by any method other than ordinary hook and line, fly, troll, or spinner. The sale or purchase of game fish taken from public water is prohibited by law in Alabama.

**NOTE:** Residents 65 years of age and over are exempt from buying freshwater and saltwater fishing licenses, hunting licenses, wildlife management area license or state duck stamp (federal stamp required), provided said resident has on his person, while hunting or fishing, a driver's license or proof of permanent Alabama residence and age. If fishing in saltwater, residents 65 and over are required to register in the Saltwater Angler Registry each year.

For more information on all available licenses, how and where to purchase your license and application packets, visit *www.outdooralabama.com/license-information*.







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#### NONRESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2023 – 8/31/2024 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPT	TION/INFO	FEE
	Freshwater: Annual		_	\$62.60
	Freshwater: 7-Day Trip	Required for nonresidents 16 years of age and older. Required in any public water	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecu- tive hours.	\$35.00
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Saltwater: Annual	regardless of tackle used. Special fishing license fees may apply to residents of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, & Tennessee.	A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	\$61.35
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip	– Louisiana, Mississippi, & Termessee.	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecu- tive hours.	\$33.75
	Saltwater: Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement	Required for any nonresident 16 years o or attempt to take any gulf reef fish spec (see www.outdooralabama.com/saltwo	cies listed in Rule 220-346	\$10.00
	Daily	In lieu of a regular fishing license, a nonresident may purchase to fish	Trip is valid for 1 day	\$8.55
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 70)	Annual	at many WFF Division owned Public Fishing Lakes. (Not valid in other	Expires August 31	\$15.00
FRESHWATER FISHING FAMILY TRIP LICENSE	Freshwater Trip	Allows nonresidents to add up to 4 additional immediate family (parents, spouse, children & grandchildren) to their Sport Fishing License. (License holder + 4 family members)	Trip is valid for 3 days	\$35.00
PHYSICALLY	Freshwater Trip	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR. Allows up to 20 physically disabled	_	\$100.00
DISABLED FRESHWATER FISHING 3-DAY EVENT LICENSE	Saltwater Trip	persons and their assistant to fish on one event license. \$5.00 for each additional participant.	_	\$100.00
	Freshwater Commercial	resident state, pleas	license in applicant's e call 334-242-3465. 23 – 9/30/24	Varies
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	direct to the	iercial or nongame fish e consumer. 23 – 9/30/24	\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	for re	nercial or nongame fish esale. 23 – 9/30/24	\$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL	Catcher	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24		\$901.00
LICENSE	Dealer or Buyer	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/23 – 9/30/24		\$361.00
SPEAR FISHING	Annual	Valid for fresh and caltwater Mustaleo	have appropriate sportfishing license	\$8.50
LICENSE	7-day trip	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.		

NOTE: Please see 'General Information for Hunting and Fishing Licenses' on page 41.





#### GULF SHORES & ORANGE BEACH 2023 OFFICIAL WICATION GUIDE



# GET YOUR FREE VACATION GUIDE

Escape to Alabama's 32-mile island and experience a vacation like no other. Relax on sugar-white sand beaches, indulge in our coastal cuisine and reel in the catch of a lifetime, all in one unforgettable place.

GulfShores.com . OrangeBeach.com . 877-475-1534

#### LIFETIME LICENSE APPLICATION

Prices valid through August 31, 2024

Name:		_CID#:		Sex: O N	/lale	
Social Security#Driver's License	e #:				emale	
Date of Birth:Email:				Weight:		
Address:						
		0	<b></b>	Height:		
City:County:		_State:	_2ıp:	Race:		
Phone: Home () Work ()				Eyes:		
Hunter Education ID Number/St: Curre	ent Lifetime Lice	ense #(for upgrade	or replacement)	Hair:		
License Privilege (by age)	Under 2	2–11	12–49	50 +	Upgrade	
Hunting*	\$413.00	\$550.45	\$687.70	\$413.00	0	
Freshwater Fishing*	\$206.85	\$275.60	\$344.35	\$206.85	0	
Saltwater Fishing **	\$344.35	\$413.00	\$481.70	\$344.35	0	
Hunting & Freshwater Fishing*	\$619.05	\$687.70	\$962.45	\$619.05	0	
Hunting & Saltwater Fishing*	\$756.35	\$962.45	\$1,168.55	\$756.35	0	
Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing*	\$550.45	\$687.70	\$825.10	\$550.45	0	
Hunting, Fresh & Saltwater Fishing*	\$962.45	\$1,099.85	\$1,443.20	\$962.45	0	
Add Additional Privileges	Under 2	2–11	12–49	50 +		
State Duck Stamp	\$182.25	\$230.50	\$278.90	\$182.25	0	
Wildlife Heritage *	\$275.60	\$275.60	\$275.60	\$275.60	0	
Saltwater Reef Fish Endorsement**	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	0	
<b>Resident Military Veteran's Appreciation</b>	49 & under	50 & over				
Freshwater Fishing (20% or more disabled)	\$51.50	\$28.60	1-time		0	
Saltwater Fishing (20% or more disabled)	\$51.50	\$28.60	Required	\$1.20	0	
Hunting (40% or more disabled)	\$68.60	\$34.30	Issuance	\$1.2U	0	
Hunting (100% or more disabled)	\$51.50	\$28.60	Fee		0	
Replacement Lifetime License						
Each Replacement	\$ 5.00				0	
		Lifetime App	olication Total:	:\$		

\* Freshwater Fishing and Hunting Lifetime License includes the Wildlife Heritage Privileges— see page 44.

\*\* Reef Fish Endorsement required for any person possessing, taking or attempting to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 220-3-.46. Visit: <u>www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-reef-fish-endorsement</u> for more information.

#### Please submit the supporting documents as required below:

<u>0-4 years of age:</u> 1) Birth Certificate, 2) Parent/Guardian's AL Driver's License and 3) Physician Statement, Daycare Record or Alabama Tax Return (pages 1-2).
 <u>5-11 years of age:</u> 1) Birth Certificate, 2) Parent/Guardian's AL Driver's License and 3) School Record, Progress Report or Report Card.
 12-17 years of age (without AL Driver's License or ID): 1) Parent/Guardian's AL Driver's License and 2) School Record, Progress Report or Report Card.

18+ and older (without AL Driver's License or ID) must provide 2 documents: 1) Alabama Tax Return (pages 1-2), 2) Certificate of Employment with Address and 3) Copy of Home Property Tax, Last 3 months of Utility Bills, or Other Legal Documents approved by DCNR.

Residency Certification: By signing below, this is to certify under penalty of law, that I am a bona fide Alabama resident having resided continuously in Alabama for a minimum of 90 days immediately preceding this date as required by State Law.

NOTE: It is a violation of Alabama law for any nonresident to attempt to purchase an Alabama lifetime hunting / fishing license.

Submit: (1) completed application, (2) check or money order, (3) copy of driver's license and (4) copy of residency proofs or VA disability letter as required to: Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Div., Attn: License Sales, PO Box 301456, Montgomery, AL 36130-1456, or by walk-in or express mail requests: 64 N Union Street, Ste 567, Montgomery, AL 36104.

Questions: (334) 242-3465 or DCNR.WFFLicense@dcnr.alabama.gov

License can also be issued by all WFF District Offices, County Probate Office/License Commissioner, local agents (which includes most sporting good and bait & tackleshops in Alabama), on the website <u>www.outdooralabama.com</u>, or by calling 1-888-848-6887.

#### Applicant's Signature:

Check to be excluded from list sold by DCNR If blank, you will be included.

<sup>(1)</sup> DCNR is now required by Section 30-3-194(a) Code of Alabama 1975 to collect social security numbers on all recreational licenses being issued/renewed.

Date:

# SUPPORT NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

Purchase an "I'd rather be in the woods!" tag and support education and outreach efforts to raise awareness about the wonderful possibilities of sustainable land management.

EDUCATE IMPROVE

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TREAS



# **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HUNTER?**

### DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?... DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO?... DON'T UNDERSTAND THE LAWS?... DON'T HAVE A MENTOR?...

There are many questions for people who have never been hunting or have been away from hunting for a long time. Alabama's Adult Mentored Hunting Program can help you answer the many questions you may have. Having a mentor to help you start a lifelong passion for the outdoors is the first step. Contact the Alabama Adult Mentored Hunting Program and tell them to "Take'em hunting!"





Learn more about the adult mentored hunting program by visiting OutdoorAlabama.com or contact Justin Grider at justin.grider@dcnr.alabama.gov or 205-339-5716.

# HUNTER HARVEST PHOTO CHECKLIST

Bag memorable moments by creating photos that reflect your principles as a hunter and confirm your dedication to safe and responsible hunting. Future hunters learn from your example.



WEAR THE LEGALLY REQUIRED AMOUNT OF HUNTER ORANGE\*



POINT MUZZLE OF UNLOADED FIREARM IN A SAFE DIRECTION



PRESENT HARVEST MINDFULLY BY WIPING BLOOD AND POSITIONING RESPECTFULLY



WHEN POSTING YOUR PHOTO ON SOCIAL MEDIA, USE HASHTAG #IWEARBLAZEORANGE \*See page 54 for hunter orange requirements

#### **CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**

- Times in table are for Birmingham (downtown) Location: W86°49',N33°32'
- Add one hour when on Daylight Savings Time
- PLEASE BE AWARE that sunrise/sunset times for other locations in the state—both north to south and east to west—may vary by as much as ten minutes or more from the times given in the table for downtown Birmingham. Times are specific to a given location's coordinates of longitude and latitude, as well as day-of-the-year.
- Legal hunting hours for deer are 30 minutes before official sunrise time until 30 minutes after official sunset time (see page 54).

	SEPTE	MBER	осто	OBER	NOVE	MBER	DECE	MBER	JANU	JARY	FEBR	UARY
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
DAY	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	0621	1913	0641	1832	0706	1755	0633	1639	0651	1650	0644	1718
2	0622	1911	0642	1830	0707	1754	0634	1639	0652	1651	0643	1719
3	0622	1910	0643	1829	0708	1753	0635	1639	0652	1651	0642	1720
4	0623	1909	0643	1828	0708	1753	0636	1639	0652	1652	0641	1721
5	0624	1907	0644	1826	0609	1652	0636	1639	0652	1653	0641	1722
6	0624	1906	0645	1825	0610	1651	0637	1639	0652	1654	0640	1723
7	0625	1905	0646	1824	0611	1650	0638	1639	0652	1655	0639	1724
8	0626	1903	0646	1823	0612	1649	0639	1639	0652	1656	0638	1725
9	0626	1902	0647	1821	0613	1649	0640	1639	0652	1656	0637	1726
10	0627	1901	0648	1820	0614	1648	0640	1639	0652	1657	0636	1727
11	0628	1859	0649	1819	0615	1647	0641	1640	0652	1658	0635	1728
12	0628	1858	0649	1817	0616	1646	0642	1640	0652	1659	0635	1729
13	0629	1857	0650	1816	0617	1646	0642	1640	0652	1700	0634	1730
14	0630	1855	0651	1815	0618	1645	0643	1640	0652	1701	0633	1730
15	0630	1854	0652	1814	0619	1645	0644	1641	0651	1702	0632	1731
16	0631	1852	0652	1812	0619	1644	0644	1641	0651	1703	0631	1732
17	0632	1851	0653	1811	0620	1643	0645	1641	0651	1704	0630	1733
18	0632	1850	0654	1810	0621	1643	0646	1642	0651	1705	0629	1734
19	0633	1848	0655	1809	0622	1642	0646	1642	0650	1706	0627	1735
20	0634	1847	0656	1808	0623	1642	0647	1643	0650	1707	0626	1736
21	0634	1845	0656	1807	0624	1642	0647	1643	0650	1708	0625	1737
22	0635	1844	0657	1805	0625	1641	0648	1644	0649	1708	0624	1738
23	0636	1843	0658	1804	0626	1641	0648	1644	0649	1709	0623	1738
24	0637	1841	0659	1803	0627	1641	0649	1645	0648	1710	0622	1739
25	0637	1840	0700	1802	0628	1640	0649	1645	0648	1711	0621	1740
26	0638	1839	0701	1801	0629	1640	0650	1646	0647	1712	0620	1741
27	0639	1837	0701	1800	0630	1640	0650	1647	0647	1713	0618	1742
28	0639	1836	0702	1759	0630	1640	0650	1647	0646	1714	0617	1743
29	0640	1835	0703	1758	0631	1639	0651	1648	0646	1715	0616	1744
30	0641	1833	0704	1757	0632	1639	0651	1649	0645	1716		
31			0705	1756			0651	1649	0644	1717		

DATA from the Astronomical Applications Dept. of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.





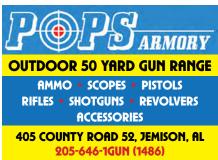
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#### 50 YARD RESTRICTION FROM A PUBLIC ROAD

You may not hunt or discharge a firearm within 50 yards of the right-of-way of any public road, highway, or railroad with a centerfire rifle, a shotgun using slugs or shot larger than number four (4) shot or a muzzle loading rifle .40 caliber or larger. This law significantly impacts deer hunters. It is illegal to take any action to harvest a deer within the 50 yard restricted area with a weapon or shot listed above.

#### WHO NEEDS HUNTER EDUCATION?

All license buyers (16 or older) born after August 1, 1977 must successfully complete an approved hunter education course. Exceptions include: APOST certified law enforcement officers employed in the state, active duty U.S. Military personnel and Alabama residents who are active members of the AL National Guard.

There are two ways to obtain your hunter education class: an in person class, or an all online option. Students taking hunter education must be ten years of age or older.

For those born after August 1, 1977 and have yet to complete an approved hunter education course but would still like to hunt, there is the option of purchasing a "Supervision Required" hunting license. This license requires the hunter to be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed adult hunter while in the field. Hunters under supervision MUST be under normal voice control, not to exceed 30 feet away from a properly licensed hunter 21 years of age or older. Under no circumstance shall the supervision Required" license

A list of classes along with more information about hunter education can be found on our website www.outdooralabama.com/ hunting/hunter-education-alabama.

#### **HUNTING DEFINED**

Hunting includes pursuing, shooting, killing, capturing and trapping wild animals, wild birds, and all lesser acts, such as disturbing, harrying or worrying, or placing, setting, drawing or using any device used to take wild animals, wild birds, whether they result in taking or not, and includes every act of assistance to any person in taking or attempting to take wild animals or wild birds.

#### HUNTING PERMISSION REQUIREMENT

It is illegal to hunt, trap, capture, injure, kill or destroy any wild game on another person's land without having in possession the written permission of the landowner or person in control of such land, unless accompanied by the landowner or unless a guest of the landowner.

#### HUNTING LANDS

Land is divided into two categories:

- **Private owned and leased land** is defined as that which is not open to the general public.
- Open permit-public land is defined as governmentally owned land open for public hunting and/or lands (not in a WMA) made available to the public on an individual basis whether for a fee or not. Examples of such lands would be U.S. Forest Service Lands and lands owned by lumber or utility companies available for use by hunters either through free permits, fee permits or no permit requirement.

#### **LEGAL HUNTING HOURS**

Legal hunting hours for resident game birds and game animals including deer during open season are daylight hours (defined as beginning 30 minutes before official sunrise time until 30 minutes after official sunset time) only. Migratory game birds and waterfowl are as specified for each species. Game animals may be hunted in open season during daylight hours only, except as specified for fox, raccoon, opossum, feral swine, coyote, bullfrog, pig frog and alligator under seasons.

#### HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT FOR HUNTING

(for Wildlife Management Areas, see page 55) During dates and in areas open by regulation to gun deer season, including youth deer season and muzzleloader deer season, all persons hunting any wildlife species, except foxes, raccoons, and opossums during legal nighttime hours or turkey or migratory birds (including crows), are required to wear an outer garment above the waist with a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or either a full-size hunter orange hat or cap. Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange when hunting from a stand elevated twelve (12) feet or more from the ground, when hunting in an enclosed box stand, when traveling in an enclosed vehicle, or when traveling on foot no more than twenty (20) feet directly between an operating enclosed vehicle and a stand where the hunter is exempt from the hunter orange requirement. The hunter orange must be worn when traveling on foot between an operating enclosed vehicle and exempt stand when the distance is more than a direct distance of twenty (20) feet. A small logo and/or printing is permitted on the front of hunter orange caps; otherwise, hunter orange must be of solid color and visible from any angle. Only hunter orange, commonly called blaze orange or ten-mile cloth, etc., is legal. The various shades of red, as well as camo-orange, are not legal.

#### **GAME ANIMALS**

The following are designated as game animals in Alabama: bear, beaver, coyote, deer, fox, opossum, eastern cottontail rabbit, swamp rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, nutria, mountain lion (cougar), red wolf, groundhog, bobcat, feral swine (wild hog) and alligator. See *Protected Species* below.

#### **GAME BIRDS**

The following are designated as game birds in Alabama:

- Resident species: bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey.
- Migratory species: wild duck, wild goose, brant, clapper rail, king rail, virginia rail, white-winged dove, sora, coot, common snipe, woodcock, mourning dove, gallinule, merganser, and sandhill crane.

#### **PROTECTED SPECIES**

All birds except House Sparrows, crows, collared doves, starlings and blackbirds (except rusty) are protected by state law. Game birds and game animals may only be taken during open season for hunting. There is no open season in Alabama for **bear**, mountain lion (cougar) and ruffed grouse. Other wildlife species are protected by the non-game species regulation 222-2-.92.

#### **FURBEARING ANIMALS**

The following are designated as furbearing animals in Alabama: beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, striped skunk, coyote and feral swine.

#### **ARCHERY SPECIFICATIONS FOR HUNTING**

Legal bows for hunting is defined as either a longbow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow. Longbows, recurve bows and compound bows must have a minimum peak tension of 30 lbs. Crossbows must have a minimum peak tension of 85 lbs at normal draw length. Arrows or bolts shall be equipped with broadhead having two sharpened edges and minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inches. Attachments to the bow which project visible light are prohibited except with license.

#### **RUNNING DOGS**

Deer may be run with dogs during the closed season only from October 1 to the opening of gun deer season in those counties/regions having an open dog deer season. Squirrel and rabbit may be run during closed season by licensed hunters (no guns).

#### **SALE OF GAME BIRDS & GAME ANIMALS**

It is illegal in Alabama to sell any game bird or game animal or any part of the animal, except lawfully taken deer hides, deer hooves and squirrel skins, hides and tails. Finished product items such as gloves, shoes, clothing, jewelry, tanned deer hides and similar products may be sold. Exceptions also apply to certain animals classified as both game animal and furbearing animal.

#### LIVE DEER AND ELK MAY NOT BE IMPORTED INTO ALABAMA

It is illegal to import any live member of the deer family (Cervidae) including deer, elk, caribou, moose, etc. This is our best defense against diseases that could devastate Alabama's deer herd. Recognizing the serious threat that the illegal transportation of live Cervidae into Alabama poses, the Alabama Legislature increased the maximum fine for each violation to \$5000. Should you become aware of any live deer being transported within Alabama, it is important to notify the Division at GAMEWATCH (800) 272-4263 immediately. It is also prohibited to import deer or elk carcasses from ANY other state, territories or possessions of the U.S. unless all meat has been deboned and antlers skull plate have been cleaned of spinal cord and brain tissue.

Alabama's deer herd is an extremely important segment of our wildlife resources. The white-tailed deer is the most popular game animal from both a recreational and

economic viewpoint. This herd, through proper management, has the potential to produce high quality deer. It is extremely important that this herd receives protection from sources that could cause harm. This is one reason it is illegal to import deer from outside Alabama. Any time a deer is moved, all its bacteria, viruses, diseases and parasites such as worms and ticks go along. Provisions such as "health certificates" do not ensure that animals are disease free. Diseases of concern to our deer populations are unlikely to move into Alabama unless they come here with infected deer. This risk of disease transmission to our native herd is too great. Recent outbreaks of both chronic wasting disease, commonly referred to as CWD, and bovine tuberculosis (in other parts of the country) demonstrate the wisdom of that ban. Many other states have recently banned or are in the process of banning the importation of deer.

#### **REPORT BANDS**

To properly manage migratory birds, biologists must know migration patterns, harvest and survival rates, and ecological processes. Reporting banded bird recoveries will help provide the needed information. All band reports are very important. To report a recovery, refer to *www.reportband.gov*.

#### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division manages 35 WMAs to provide public hunting opportunities. Consult the *Wildlife Management Area map permits* and the *Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book* or *www.outdooralabama.com* for hunting dates and regulations governing hunting on these areas. Before hunting, hunters are required to have proper hunting licenses and management area permits.

In addition, WMA hunters must also possess the wildlife management area license for hunting deer, turkey or waterfowl. Shooting range users on WMAs are required to have a valid hunting license, management area license or wildlife heritage license (residents only). For locations, see map on page 74.

#### SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, Wildlife Section manages 13 SOAs, providing a different public land hunting opportunity through a limited quota random computerized draw process. These areas provide a selected hunter and guest(s) the opportunity to hunt a dedicated specific unit within an SOA for a two (2) to four (4) days.

To learn more about the various SOAs, available hunts and how to register visit the

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#### DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTERS

Specific areas are reserved primarily for use by physically disabled hunters. These areas are open to deer hunting on designated days during gun deer season. To hunt these areas, hunters must possess proper hunting license, certificate of qualification and reserve hunting dates in advance. Application forms and information on these designated areas are available from the Wildlife Section, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 N. Union St., Suite 584, Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 242-3469.

#### **SPECIAL YOUTH HUNTS**

Youth who have not yet reached their sixteenth birthday have the opportunity to participate in special hunts. The special deer hunt is scheduled for the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday before the opening of gun season. Each youth or youth hunting party (maximum of 2 youth) must be accompanied by a non-hunting, properly-licensed adult 21 years of age or older, or the parent of the youth, and wear hunter orange (adult must also).

The opportunity for youth to hunt turkey is offered the Saturday and Sunday prior to the regular spring season opening days. The same regulations apply as for the youth deer hunt, except hunter orange does not have to be worn while hunting turkey.

A special youth waterfowl hunt is offered statewide. The Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide should be referred to for rules and regulations.

Those interested in any of these special youth hunts should contact the Wildlife &



Freshwater Fisheries Division's Wildlife Section at (334) 242-3469 for more details.

#### **YOUTH DOVE HUNTS**

Fields located throughout Alabama will offer exclusive youth dove hunts on selected Saturday afternoons beginning on the opening date. To participate, an adult (21 years of age or older or the youth's parent) must be accompanied by youth(s) less than 16 years old. These hunts are designed to maximize youth participation and foster mentoring by the adults. Information advertising the various hunts can be attained by calling the nearest district office (see page 2) or at www.outdooralabama.com.

#### SHOOTING RANGES AND ARCHERY PARKS

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division recognizes the need for public facilities where individuals can safely discharge firearms. The Division operates and maintains 12 shooting ranges open to the public. Most ranges offer shooting opportunities from 25 to 100 yards.

The Division also operates 20 archery parks in partnership with local entities. Archery Parks consist of stationary targets from 5 to 50 yards. Most facilities also have a 12-foot shooting platform for bowhunters to practice shooting from an elevated position.

Shooting ranges and archery parks are constructed with revenue from the sale of hunting licenses, and firearms and ammunition sales. Residents ages 16 through 64 using a Division shooting range or archery park are required to have either a valid Alabama: wildlife heritage license, hunting or freshwater fishing license or wildlife management area license. Non-residents 16 years of age and over using a Division shooting range or archery park are required to have either a valid Alabama: non-resident hunting license or wildlife management area license.

For exact locations, please refer to the map on page 74. For more information, please call the Hunter Education Office at (334) 242-3620.

#### **ALWAYS WEAR A FULL BODY HARNESS**

Falling from treestands is the leading cause of injuries to hunters in Alabama. Injuries from treestand accidents could be minimized or prevented by wearing a full body harness. Alabama regulations now require all hunters utilizing a treestand on Wildlife Management Areas to wear a full body harness.

Always use a pull-up rope to pull equipment from the ground to your treestand. Never carry a gun, bow, or other equipment while climbing up or down a tree. Always pull guns up to your treestand unloaded. The use of portable treestands is highly recommended. Never erect permanent stands without landowner permission.

#### **DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

The Alabama Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) was developed in 1984 to assist those who wish to intensify deer management on their lands. Over 100 landownerships and hunting clubs covering more than 200,000 acres are enrolled as DMAP cooperators. Wildlife biologists are assigned to help cooperators develop deer management plans and harvest strategies. Conservation Enforcement Officers assist with legal aspects of the program. Cooperators collect biological information from deer taken on their lands each year. Analysis of the data results in a status report and deer management recommendations which are provided to each cooperator before the following hunting season. For more information, contact the nearest Wildlife Section district office (page 2).

#### FOREVER WILD PROGRAM

The Forever Wild Program was adopted by Alabama voters in November 1992 to set aside land for permanent state ownership using a portion of the interest earned on profits from the sale of offshore natural gas. The land, to be used for hunting, fishing, camping, outdoor recreation, natural resource protection and research and preservation of unique sites, will be acquired from willing sellers at no taxpayer cost and will belong to you, the public.

The 15-member Forever Wild Board reviews all nominated tracts for purchase and establishes a priority purchase authorization. The Forever Wild Program will allow a steady acquisition effort to build a public land base to meet the needs of Alabama citizens and provide natural resource protection and management to accommodate hunters, hikers, campers and other outdoor recreationists. For further information, contact the Lands Division at (334) 242-3484 (see page 38).

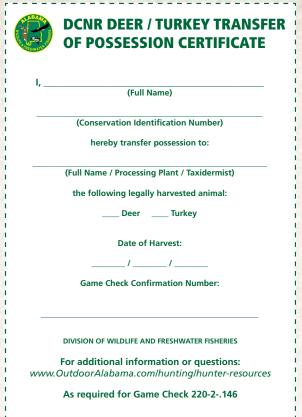
#### **NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM**

Since 1984, the Nongame Wildlife Program has been charged with the conservation of the nongame animals of this state—animals that are neither caught, hunted nor trapped. With over 900 nongame vertebrate species of animals native to this state, as well as thousands more invertebrates such as butterflies, crayfish, mussels and snails, this is a formidable task indeed. Funding for the Nongame Wildlife Program does not include any state general funds—not a penny of taxpayer dollars. Conservationists support the program through the nongame checkoff on state tax returns, direct donations, and from hunting license and wildlife heritage license fees.

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20**

simple or conservation easement, in support of USFWS approved species recovery plans and outlines. In Alabama, RLA grant programs, coupled with matching funds from the Forever Wild Program, have played an important role in protecting wildlife species including federally threatened RHS.

Since the initial purchase of 4,500 acres, WFF and Forever Wild have continued this partnership to purchase approximately 13,500 acres of land in the Red Hills region creating the newly formed Red Hills WMA. Most public land users utilizing Alabama's public land system usually haven't a clue how the lands they use to pursue their outdoor recreation activities are purchased. The Red Hills WMA not only protects imperiled wildlife species, like the RHS, but also provides the public a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities. While these benefit activities such as hunting and other outdoor recreation, it also removes the regulatory burden from private landowners as these lands are now protected in perpetuity and align with the WFF mission to protect, enhance, conserve, and manage the wildlife resources of the state, including both game and nongame species. When the state purchases land, it is a win/win for hunters, bird watchers, hikers, etc. as they now have access to public recreation lands while also providing protected and managed lands for a variety of imperiled species.



Revised 05/26/2021



REELFOOT LAKE is located in the Northwest corner of Tennessee. This 15,500-acre lake is located 5 miles from the Mississippi River, a major migratory path for waterfowl.

**REELFOOT LAKE** is the only large, natural lake in Tennessee and one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries making it a favorite fishing lake of America's Pro and recreational fishermen. Created by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, the shallow, cypress-filled waters are ideal for crappie, bass, bluegill and catfish.

Visit our website for more information, lodging, fishing packages and guide service www.reelfoottourism.com

REELFOOT LAKE TOURISM COUNCIL 1605 State Route 21 E Tiptonville, TN 38079 731-253-2007

### Waterfowl Season December 5 - January 31



The following are prohibited methods of hunting as condensed from Alabama law and regulation. Consult the Code of Alabama Title 9 and Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book for the entire law or regulation. Cites are provided below.

#### It is ILLEGAL to:

- 1. Hunt deer or turkey without a deer or turkey harvest record (paper or app form) in his/her possession or move any deer or turkey before recording harvest on the harvest record. Failure to report all deer and turkey harvested on your harvest record in Game Check is unlawful. (220-2-.146)
- 2. Hunt any game animal which does not exhibit wild characteristics or under conditions where animals do not have opportunity for escape. (9-11-501/502)
- **3.** Hunt any exotic game such as wild goat, wild sheep, deer other than white-tailed or fallow or elk except those certified prior to 2006. (9-11-503)
- **4.** Hunt in lawful areas where baiting/ feeding has occurred until 10 days after all bait/feed has been removed or consumed. (\*Except those in possession of a baiting privilege license hunting whitetailed deer or feral swine. 220-2-.11)
- **5.** Hunt any game animal or bird with a gun or bow and arrow except during daylight hours, with the exception of those species with legal night time seasons. (220-2-.07)
- **6.** Shoot or hunt a turkey from an elevated tree stand with a firearm. All other legal game animals and birds may be taken with a bow and arrow or firearm from an elevated tree stand. (9-11-245)
- 7. Take a deer, whether dead or alive, from the public waters of this State. (9-11-250)
- **8.** Use live decoys for migratory birds and turkey. (220-2-.11)
- **9.** Use electronic dove, turkey or waterfowl calls. Electronic calls may be used to call predators during open hunting season for that species. (220-2-.11)
- **10.** Hunt by the aid of fire or smoke, whether man-made or natural. (220-2-.11)
- **11.** Hunt resident birds or animals on any floodwaters or backwaters, or islands less than 40 acres created by such. (220-2-.11)

- **12.** Hunt or discharge a firearm from, upon or across any public road or railroad, or the right-of-way of any public road or railroad. You may not hunt or discharge a firearm within 50 yards of the right-of-way of any public road, highway, or railroad with a centerfire rifle, a shotgun using slugs or shot larger than number four (4) shot or a muzzle loading rifle .40 or larger. (9-11-257)
- **13.** Willfully throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or artificial light from any motor vehicle while the vehicle is on any highway or public road and casting said light on any real property, between the hours of sunset and sunrise. (32-5-17)
- **14.** Concentrate, drive, rally, molest, hunt, take, capture or kill any bird or animal from or by the aid of any automobile, ATV, aircraft, train, motor boat, sailboat or any other type mechanically propelled device. Persons may hunt from a floating craft or motor vehicle once the motor is shut off and all forward motion has ceased. It is not legal to hunt from a vehicle on a public road. (220-2-.11)
- **15.** Use gasoline or other noxious chemical to drive wildlife from their burrows, dens or retreats. (220-2-.11)
- **16.** Kill unantlered deer except during unantlered deer seasons. (9-11-236)
- **17.** Use or possess a decoy while turkey hunting which has mechanical and/or electronic parts that have the capabilities of movement or producing sound or which can be manipulated to do so, including any that are handheld or attached to weapons such as fanning or reaping. Legal turkey decoys shall be allowed after the first 10 days of spring turkey season. In addition, legal turkey decoys are allowed during the special youth hunt and the spring special disabled hunt. (220-2-.01) (220-2-.11)
- **18.** Take or attempt to take or have in possession more than the daily bag limit of any game bird or animal. (220-2-.18)

- **19.** Import, possess, sell or offer to sell live: any species of mongoose, any species of wild rabbit or hare and any deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, coyote, wild turkey, wild rodents and any wild goat, sheep, antelope or other exotic game from any area outside of Alabama. (Also, see Sale of Game Birds and Game Animals, page 54) or any fish from the genus Clarias, Serrasalmus or Mylopharyngodon. (220-2-.26) (9-11-237)
- **20.** Release any tame or wild turkey into any of the wild areas of the state. (220-2-.26)
- **21.** Utilize firearms for hunting deer during the preliminary archery only season, except handguns may be possessed for personal protection. (220-2-.10)
- **22.** Hunt using laser sights, attachments and light sources to project a beam forward of a gun or bow, except those who possess a current nighttime feral swine and coyote license, hunting those species during dates of the established special nighttime feral swine and coyote season or for legally blind hunters. (220-2-.11)
- **23.** Hunt or take wildlife using poisons or explosives. (9-11-245)
- **24.** Have in possession or keep in captivity any protected live wild bird or wild animal. (220-2-.26)
- **25.** Trail wounded game onto property where the hunter does not have permission to enter. (9-11-241/242)
- **26.** Possess live feral pig. To release any feral or domestic pig into the wild. Upon capture by trap or dog, feral pigs may not be released alive. (220-2-.86)
- **27.** Hunt within 100 yards of any dwelling without the permission of the owner or lessee or discharge a firearm while hunting so that any projectile strikes any dwelling or building used for human occupation, or any commercial vessel, without the permission of the owner or lessee. This does not apply to a landowner or member of his/her immediate family hunting on his/her own property provided that no projectile strikes the above property of another without the permission of the owner or lessee. (220-2-.139)



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# **BAIT PROGRAM Q&A**

#### WHAT IS THE BAIT PROGRAM?

Since its inception in 1986, the objective of the BAIT (Bass Anglers Information Team) program has been to gather information from bass club tournament organizers regarding their individual tournament catch results. The information provided to our agency by participating clubs is used to supplement the data collected, typically via electrofishing, by fisheries biologists with the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division to make informed management decisions.

# WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BAIT PARTICIPATION?

Participating in the BAIT program allows tournament organizers and anglers to participate in data collection and black bass management efforts with our agency. Published results in the annual BAIT report also provide valuable information for tournament planning. Since fishing quality can be cyclical and may vary considerably from one season to the next, these reports can be used as a tool for the strategic scheduling of tournaments to increase the potential of angler success. Information in these reports also allows anglers to better understand their chances of achieving a particular goal (i.e., catching a big bass) by studying past catch data on a particular water body.

# WHAT TYPES OF INFORMATION DO BAIT REPORTS CONTAIN?

Annual BAIT reports summarize bass tournament catch data based on five "fish-

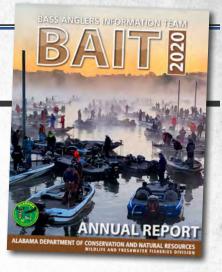
ing quality" indicators. These include: (1) percent success or the percentage of anglers with one or more bass at the weigh-in, (2) average bass weight, (3) number of bass per angler-day, (4) pounds of bass per anglerday, and (5) hours required to catch a bass five pounds or larger. BAIT reports also rank each reservoir for these annual fishing quality metrics. Historical trend data and a statewide summary of monthly catch data are also included, which allows anglers to review how a particular reservoir has performed over time and how angling success in Alabama can fluctuate seasonally.

#### HOW ARE ALABAMA RESERVOIRS RANKED FOR FISHING QUALITY?

Reservoirs with five or more tournament reports for a particular year are included in the annual BAIT report. Each water body is first ranked individually for each of the five fishing quality indicators. Next, scores are assigned to each reservoir by category and the overall rankings are determined by summing these values. This ranking system is intended to be a quick reference for anglers or tournament organizers for site selection and planning. It does not constitute a best/worst list of Alabama reservoirs and should not be interpreted as such.

#### SHOULD ALL BASS CLUBS PARTICIPATE IN BAIT?

Maximizing bass club participation in the BAIT program is extremely valuable as it increases the accuracy of the results. Even



if a bass club is not located in Alabama, it is important that angler catch data is submitted when tournaments are held in Alabama. More participation also improves the likelihood that an individual reservoir will meet the minimum guidelines to be included in the annual report, which provides more informative options for tournament location planning.

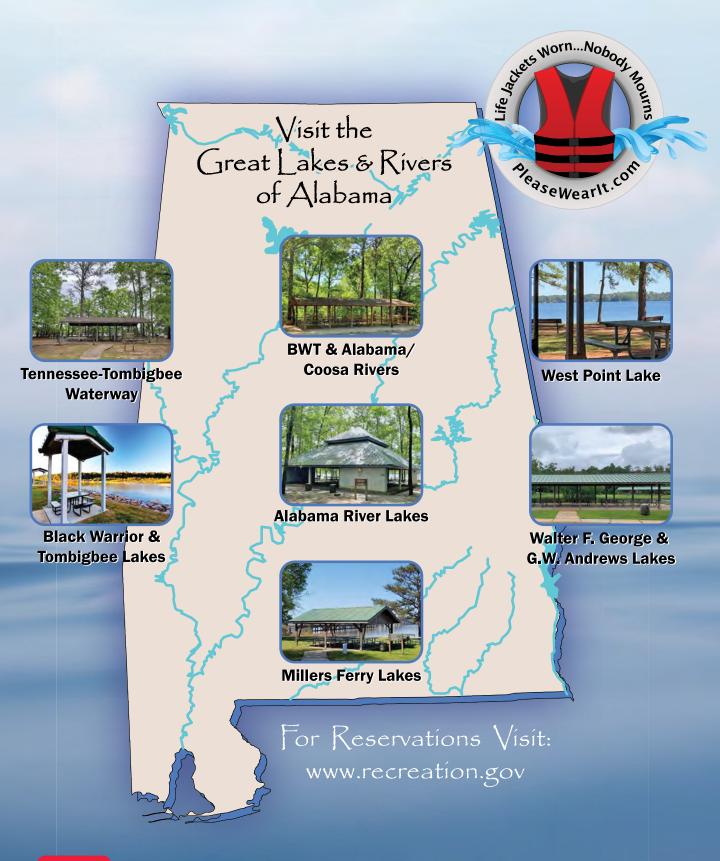
#### HOW IS TOURNAMENT CATCH DATA SUBMITTED FOR THE BAIT PROGRAM?

Tournament directors can request information on how to submit their catch data by contacting Keith Henderson at keith.henderson@dcnr.alabama.gov or (334) 242-3471. The reporting process is easy and takes very little time. The information can be submitted either electronically (email or website) or by mail.

#### WHERE ARE THE ANNUAL BAIT REPORTS LOCATED?

The most recently published annual BAIT report, an interactive map with the most up to date data, and historical reports can be found at: www.outdooralabama.com/BAIT.







US Army Corps of Engineers ® Mobile District For More Information, Visit: Mobile District www.sam.usace.army.mil





#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- All public streams, lakes and ponds are open to fishing throughout the year except some state-owned and managed Public Fishing Lakes (PFLs).
- It shall be unlawful for any person to take or have in possession more than the daily limit for any fish as established herein. This shall not apply to fish held live for release by the sponsor or its designated agent after a bonafide fishing tournament provided they are released unharmed to the public waters from which they were taken as soon as reasonably possible on the same day they were taken. This does not obligate the sponsor or its designated agent to release dead or dying fish.
- Except as otherwise noted, it shall be unlawful to possess any fish less than or greater than size restrictions as established herein. Size restrictions on all fish are determined by measuring total length from the front of the mouth to the tip of the tail with both mouth and tail closed. Except as otherwise provided for State and Federally owned and/or managed fishing lakes and ponds, the daily creel, possession limits and size restrictions for fish in all public waters of this State are on pages 68–69.
- It is a violation of Alabama law for any person to transport more than one day's creel limit of any species of fish beyond the boundaries of this state.
- It is illegal to fish in public waters on or from posted private land without the owner's permission. It is illegal to fish in private waters without permission from the owners.
- It is unlawful to fillet a fish or remove heads while fishing or to possess fillets of fish while on public waters, except when fish are being
  prepared for immediate cooking and consumption; provided, however, that the fish may be drawn or gutted with heads left attached.
- It is illegal to transport any live baitfish caught from streams, rivers, public lakes or reservoirs in Alabama, away from the waters where caught or to import live baitfish from streams, rivers, public lakes or reservoirs from any area outside the State of Alabama. Baitfish are defined as any species of fish or crayfish that are legal to use as bait for recreational or commercial fishing.

#### **GAME FISH**

The following shall be named and designated as game fish in Alabama: rainbow trout, all members of the sunfish family to include: largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, shoal, and those species formerly known as "redeye" bass, which are now known separately as Coosa, Warrior, Cahaba, Tallapoosa, and Chattahoochee bass, based on their respective drainages and the Alabama bass which was formerly known as spotted bass in the Mobile drainage; those fish commonly referred to as bream which include rock bass, flier, shadow bass, warmouth, redbreast, bluegill, longear, and redear (shellcracker); black and white crappie; all members of the temperate bass family to include: saltwater striped, white, and yellow bass and any hybrids thereof; all members of the pike family to include chain, redfin, and grass pickerel; the following members of the perch family: sauger (jack), walleye, and yellow perch.

#### **SALE OF GAME FISH**

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or offer for sale within this state, or ship or transport for sale within or without this state, or to ship into this state any game fish caught or taken in any of the fresh waters, whether public or private, of this state or any other state. Except (1) game fish raised in hatcheries and sold for stocking ponds and lakes; (2) non-native game fish (trout, salmon, etc.) raised for human consumption or (3) largemouth bass, shellcracker, yellow perch and bluegill (bream) raised in farm ponds, which may be sold under permit from the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. For more information, contact your local District Office (page 2).

#### **MEANS OF CATCHING GAME FISH**

It is illegal to take, catch or kill, or attempt to take, catch or kill any game fish by any means other than ordinary hook and line, artificial lure, live bait, troll or spinner in any of the public waters of this State. It is unlawful to use electrical devices, explosives, poisons or firearms to take fish of any species from these waters.



#### **ROD LIMITATIONS**

There is no restriction on the number of rods used by anglers in most Alabama public water bodies with the following exceptions. No more than three rods and reels, or poles, or any combination thereof may be used on Weiss or Neely Henry Reservoir at any time. No more than two rods and reels, or poles, or any combination thereof may be used in the Sipsey Fork River from Lewis Smith Dam to the confluence with the Mulberry Fork at any time.

#### **USE OF BREAM FOR BAIT**

All species of bream may be used as bait as long as a person does not have in his possession total bream numbers in excess of the daily creel limit, regardless of size, and they are harvested legally by hook and line. Other game fish species may not be used for bait.

#### SPEARFISHING

The spearing of nongame or commercial fish solely for the purpose of sport in all waters of this state, both fresh and salt, is legal provided that the person engaged in the act of spearing is completely submerged and possesses the appropriate sport fishing and spearfishing licenses. This license is issued by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, Marine Resources Division and online. For more information and application packet, call (334) 242-3465 or visit our website at *www.outdooralabama.com*.

#### SNAGGING

It is unlawful to take fish by snagging on the Chattahoochee River or its impoundments, the Tennessee River or its impoundments, and State-owned public fishing lakes. Further, it is unlawful to take or attempt to take fish by snagging within 800 feet of any dam on the Coosa River or its impoundments.

#### **JUG FISHING**

Fishing with jugs is permissible in most Alabama public water bodies with a sport fishing license, if required. Jugs are not required to be labeled with angler identification and there is no limitation on the number of jugs used. All jugs must be removed from the water at the end of the fishing trip. Fishing with jugs is illegal in State-owned PFLs (see page 74).

#### TROTLINES

It is illegal to fish a trotline or snag line, set line, commercial fishing net, slat boxes or wire baskets within one-half mile below any lock, dam or powerhouse. All recreational licensed fisherman utilizing trotlines are limited to 100 hooks total. All trotlines must have a plastic or metal tag attached containing the owners name and either their address, fishing license number, conservation ID number, or phone number. Trotlines operated under commercial fishing licenses are not limited in number of hooks.

#### **WIRE BASKETS**

Wire baskets may be used only in certain counties to harvest nongame fish for personal consumption only. Persons holding a commercial fishing license may not fish with wire baskets. No fish taken in wire baskets may be sold or offered for sale. All game fish taken in the baskets must be immediately returned to the water. All baskets must be clearly marked with the valid wire basket license number and name of person using and owning the basket. Consult the *Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book* or local Conservation Enforcement Officer (see District Offices, page 2) to determine number of baskets and locations where wire baskets are legal.

# HAVE YOU CAUGHT AN AMERICAN EEL?

The Rivers and Streams Fisheries Program of the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries is seeking information from the public regarding the catch or observation of American Eel in Alabama.

> If you catch an American eel, please provide the following information: location (GPS latitude/

longitude coordinates), approximate length, date and time it was caught, how it was caught, type of bait used, and any photos.

Please consider donating the specimen for further age and growth studies. Please keep it on ice and place it in a plastic bag in the freezer as quickly as possible.



**Contact: Steve.Rider@dcnr.alabama.gov** to arrange a time and place for pick up of the specimen.

# PONDSTOCKER II LLC



#### **GIGS OR GRABBLING/NOODLING**

Commercial or nongame fish may be legally taken by gigs or hand grabbling by persons possessing a valid sport fishing license. It shall be illegal to use any treble hook or any barbed hook for gigging or grabbling. Only a single barbless hook may be used.

#### **BOWFISHING EQUIPMENT**

Bowfishing with any longbow, recurve bow, compound bow or crossbow using barbed arrows attached by line to the bow, float, vessel or shooter is legal for the taking of commercial or nongame fish. A sport fishing license is required.

#### TAKING MINNOWS AND SHAD FOR BAIT

It is legal for licensed anglers to take minnows, shad, and certain suckers from specific public waters by the use of a cast net, minnow jug, minnow basket, not to exceed 24 inches in length, 12 inches in diameter, with funnel entrance not more than one inch in diameter, dip net or minnow seine, the length of which shall not exceed 25 feet and the width or depth of which shall not exceed 4 feet for the purpose of taking the species listed above for the exclusive use as fish bait. No seines may be used in un-impounded tributary streams and creeks. All game fish and all other commercial or nongame fish taken by nets or seines must be immediately returned to the water from whence they came with the least possible harm. Dip nets may be used to land legally caught fish. Live baitfish can not be transported to other bodies of water.

#### **MUSSEL HARVEST FOR BAIT**

Licensed anglers may use their hands, a rake or dip net not wider than 24 inches to collect the Asiatic Clam (*Corbicula*) for fish bait.

#### **ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT**

The zebra mussel is an exotic species of freshwater mussel that has colonized many southern bodies of water, including the Tennessee and Black Warrior Rivers. These mussels can disrupt freshwater food chains and may cause major changes in some fish populations. Boaters are one of the major contributors to the spread of zebra mussels from infested to uninfested waters. To report zebra mussel sightings or for more information, contact: the Fisheries Section at (334) 242-3471.

#### PUBLIC WATER STOCKING

It shall be unlawful to intentionally stock or release any fish, mussel, snail, crayfish or their embryos, including baitfish, into the public waters of Alabama under the jurisdiction of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries as provided in Rule 220-2-.42 except those waters from which they came without the written permission of a designated employee of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources authorized by the Director of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to issue such permit. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to the incidental release of bait into the water during the normal process of fishing.

#### **LEARN TO FISH**

The Go Fish, Alabama! Program provides adults and families, with little-to-no fishing experience, an opportunity to fish under the guidance and instruction of a skilled fishing mentor. The program is for individuals interested in learning how to fish, socializing outdoors with friends and family, putting fish on the dinner table, or simply enjoying the thrill and challenge of the catch. Each event is conducted in a safe, welcoming, and constructive environment. The Go Fish, Alabama! Program provides participants with all the necessary equipment and tackle needed for their learn to fish experience. This program operates state-wide and focuses on providing fishing opportunities within a short driving distance to metropolitan areas. Events are held at State Public Fishing Lakes, city lakes, State Park lakes, and other fishing destinations across Alabama. Each event typically lasts four hours and is offered in the morning or afternoon on weekends and weekdays. For more information about this program visit: *www.outdooralabama.com/GoFishAlabama*.

#### ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Alabama's Angler Recognition Program is intended to recognize individuals who catch large sportfish from Alabama waters and to provide biologists with useful statistics on the number of large fish caught from our reservoirs. The program includes four categories: Master Angler, Trophy Angler, Lake Record and State Record. Anglers can submit applications for Master Angler and Trophy Angler status based upon their fish's total length or total weight, but not both, and may submit an unlimited number of applications. Applications, specific requirements, and instructions can be obtained from any District Fisheries Office or from *www.outdooralabama.com/freshwater-fishing/state-record-angler-recognition*. Qualified anglers will receive a certificate commemorating their catch and a window decal.

#### THE BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM (BAIT) PROGRAM

BAIT is a voluntary partnership between bass clubs and the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) (see page 60). The program summarizes information on bass fishing and is used by WFF fisheries biologists, in combination with their reservoir surveys, as the basis for fisheries management decisions. BAIT data allows biologists to identify trends in bass populations and helps them better understand the mechanisms that influence them. These data may also be used by participating bass clubs to select tournament locations. All participating clubs receive a printed copy of the annual report.

For more info, contact the Fisheries Section at (334) 242-3471, email Keith.Henderson@dcnr.alabama.gov or visit *www.out-dooralabama.com/fishing/tournaments*.

#### LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS BELOW DAMS

It is unlawful for any person to operate any vessel on the waters of Alabama within 800 feet below a hydroelectric dam and/or navigation lock and dam unless each person aboard, including the operator, is wearing a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device Type I, II, III or V.

#### PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS

Public access areas include state-owned and/or operated boat launching ramps, associated parking lots, piers and any real or personal property within the boundaries of such areas. Such public access areas are for the uses of pleasure boating, hunting and fishing. Picnicking is allowed only where tables are provided. The following is a synopsis of regulations for use of such areas, and is intended as a general guide for the boating public. Please refer to the *Alabama Game*, *Fish*, *Furbearers*, *and Other Wildlife Regulation Book* for specific interpretation.

#### AT PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Litter
- Camp or build fires
- Loiter
- Discharge firearms, except as otherwise provided by law

- Consume alcoholic beverages
- Swim, dive, jump or sunbathe within 50 yards of any ramp or pier
- · Block ramp, pier or the approach with vehicles or trailers
- Operate any unlicensed vehicle such as ATVs, except those driven by mobility impaired persons in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
- · Solicit, sell, advertise or install signs
- Destroy, damage, cut or remove any tree, bush, shrub, plant or flower
- Operate commercial, industrial or construction equipment, such as barges, without written approval from the Fisheries Section, Suite 551, Montgomery, AL 36104

All other state laws apply and are enforced on public access areas. Boating access information is available online at: *www.outdooralabama.com*.

#### **COMMERCIAL FISHING**

This pamphlet covers only freshwater sport fishing laws and regulations. For information on freshwater commercial fishing or musseling, visit our website at *www.outdooralabama.com*, call (334) 242-3465 or visit the nearest District Office (page 2).

#### **BOATING OPERATOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

The Roberson-Archer Act and The Boating Safety Enhancement Act of 2001 mandates that no one under the age of 12 may operate a motorized vessel, and that every vessel operator be licensed and have the license in possession at the time of operation.

For information on obtaining a vessel operator's license, contact the ALEA Marine Trooper Division at (334) 517-2930, or visit *www.outdooralabama.com* and click on Boating.

#### **BOATING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS**

Must be 12 years old or older, but cannot operate alone until the age of 14. Operators 12 or 13 years old, after obtaining the vessel operator's license, can only operate if an adult 21 years old or older with a vessel operator's license in possession, is onboard and seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel if necessary. A licensed operator, 14 years old or older, may legally operate without supervision. Possession of a certificate of completion for a boating course is not a vessel license.

#### **BOATING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR NONRESIDENTS**

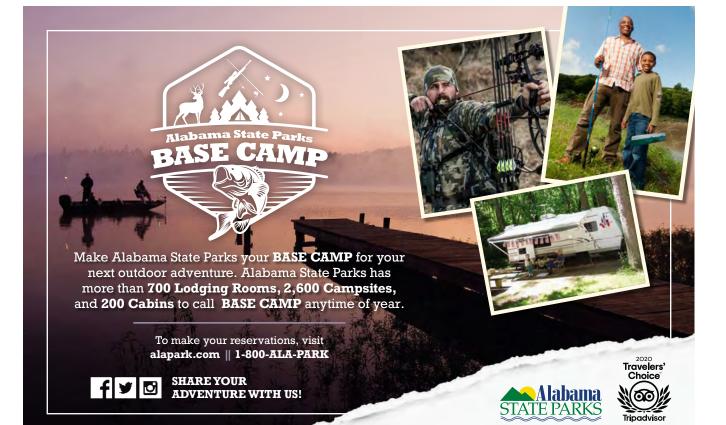
Nonresidents 12 years old and older, may operate on Alabama waters up to 45 days per calendar year without obtaining a vessel operator's license. However, operators 12 or 13 years old, can only operate if an adult 21 years old or older who either has a vessel operator's license in possession or who falls under the 45 day exemption period, is onboard and seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel if necessary. If operating a vessel for more than 45 days, the nonresident must get an Alabama Nonresident Vessel Operator's License. Nonresidents who have obtained a vessel certification or license from their home state, may use that in lieu of the Alabama Nonresident Vessel Operator's License.

#### SALTWATER FISHING

For information on saltwater fishing license requirements, size and possession limits, contact the Marine Resources Division, PO Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547, (251) 968-7576.

#### POND MANAGEMENT

Ponds provide excellent fishing opportunities for anglers in Alabama. There are more than 275,000 fish ponds in Alabama. Fish ponds greatly alleviate the fishing pressure on our public streams



and lakes. Therefore, the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division is vitally interested in this popular resource. Proper stocking with appropriate fish species and ongoing fish management will provide years of excellent fishing for bass, bluegill and shellcracker.

Technical assistance is provided to pond owners at no cost regarding proper management practices such as fertilization, liming, weed control and fish harvest. For additional information, contact a District Fisheries Office (see page 2).

#### **ALABAMA & GEORGIA RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT**

Alabama and Georgia have a reciprocal agreement for fishing from the banks or on the waters of the Chattahoochee River between Alabama and Georgia and all impoundments thereon, South of the Georgia Highway 109 bridge. This agreement does not include any streams or tributaries. Contact a Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division Office for assistance (page 2).

#### ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI & TENNESSEE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee have a reciprocal agreement for fishing the Tennessee River. See page 67.

#### **NON-NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS**

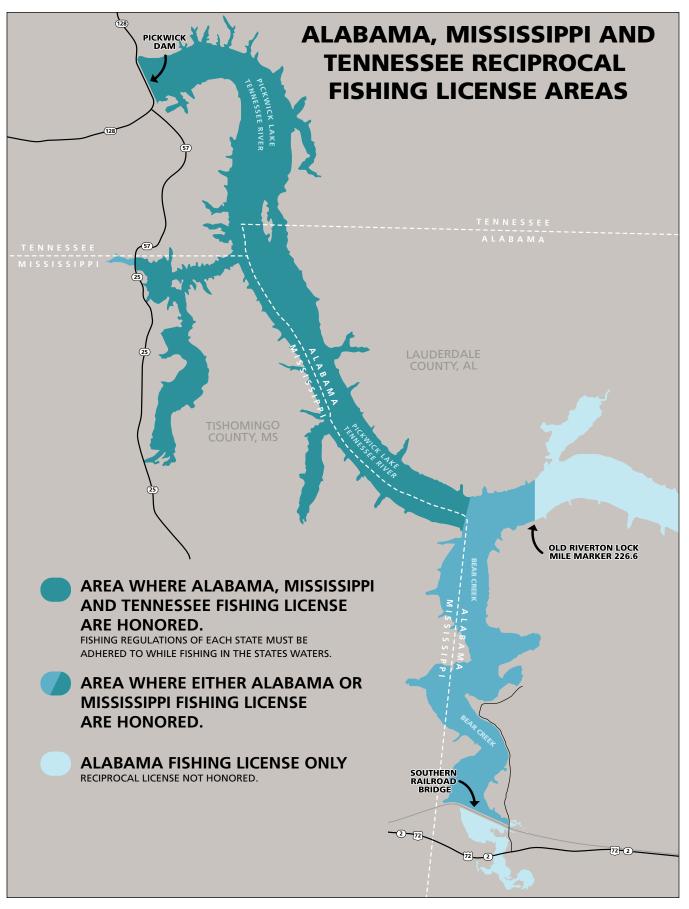
It is prohibited to introduce, place or cause the introduction or placement of any non-native aquatic plant into any public waters of the State. For further information, contact the local District Fisheries Office (see page 2).



- and pepper to taste.
- » Pour oil, vinegar, and ice water over all.
- » Cover and refrigerate for 2-12 hours\*.
- » Toss lightly before serving.
- » Eat with crackers and top with banana pepper, if desired.
- \*NOTE: the longer it marinates the better the flavor.

Learn more at: OutdoorAlabama.com/wildeats





The following seasons for taking fish in accordance with the below stated times, places, manners and restrictions are hereby established. The creel and possession limits for fish in all public waters of this state, except as otherwise provided for certain State and Federally owned and/or managed fishing lakes and ponds, shall be as follows:

SPECIES	DETAILS	LIMIT
Black Bass	Includes combinations of largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, Alabama, shoal and those species formerly known as "redeye" bass, which are now known separately as Coosa, Warrior, Cahaba, Tallapoosa and Chattahoochee bass, based on their respective drainages. The Alabama bass was formerly known as spotted bass in the Mobile drainage. No more than five of the daily creel limit of 10 may be smallmouth bass. See exceptions for shoal bass in specific tributaries of the Chattahoochee River.	10
Walleye	It shall be illegal to take or attempt to take walleye by any method from Sweetwater Lake located in the Talladega National Forest, Cleburne County, from White Plains Lake (also known as White- sides Mill Lake), Calhoun County and from Shoal Creek upstream of White Plains Lake, Calhoun and Cleburne Counties. It shall also be illegal to take or attempt to take walleye by any method from Lake Mitchell on the Coosa River between Mitchell Dam and Lay Dam or from its tributary streams; Walnut Creek in Chilton County, Hatchet Creek in Coosa and Clay Counties, Weogufka Creek in Coosa County, and the Mulberry Fork River and Sipsey Fork River or any of their tributary streams in Blount, Cullman, Lawrence, Walker, Winston Counties, or the Duck River Reservoir in Cullman County. Any walleye taken in these lakes or streams shall immediately be released back into the waters from which they were taken with least possible harm.	2
Sauger	It is illegal to possess any Sauger less than 15 inches in total length.	5
White Bass	_	15
Yellow Bass	_	15
Saltwater Striped Bass and Hybrids or Combinations	No more than five of the 15 may exceed 22 inches in total length. See exceptions for Lewis Smith, Inland, Yates, and Thurlow reservoirs and Lake Martin.	15
Crappie	It is illegal to possess any crappie less than nine inches in total length taken from Alabama public wa- ters, including Aliceville Reservoir and Pickwick Reservoir. Waters exempt from the nine-inch crappie limit include impoundments less than 500 surface acres, the reciprocal waters of the Chattahoochee River including impoundments and tributaries, Bear Creek Reservoir (Big Bear Lake of the B.C.D.A. Lakes), Lake Jackson at Florala and Weiss Reservoir. See exception for Weiss Reservoir.	30
Yellow Perch	_	No Limit
Catfish (under 34 inches)	_	No Limit
Catfish (over 34 inches)	This size limit shall not apply to catfish harvested from the Perdido, Conecuh, Blackwater, Yellow, Choctawhatchee, Chipola, and Chattahoochee rivers basins. It shall be unlawful to transport live catfish 34 inches in length or greater beyond the boundaries of this State.	1
Bream	_	50
Rainbow Trout	It shall be unlawful to fish with more than two rods or to cull from the creel any trout caught from the Sipsey Fork from Lewis Smith Dam downstream to the confluence with the Mulberry Fork. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a trout from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another trout.	5
Alligator Gar	Alligator gar caught with commercial fishing gear must be immediately returned to the water.	1
Sturgeon	All sturgeon must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	<b>Closed Season</b>
Paddlefish or Spoonbill	All paddlefish must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	<b>Closed Season</b>
Skipjack Herring	_	100

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES**

- The creel and possession limits provided for above shall not apply to fish held live for release by the sponsor or its designated agent after a bona fide fishing tournament provided they are released unharmed to the public waters from which they were taken as soon as reasonably possible on the same day they were taken. This does not obligate the sponsor or its designated agent to release dead or dying fish.
- Total length of fish is measured from the front of the mouth to the tip of the tail with both mouth and tail closed.
- It shall be unlawful to fish any trotline, snag or snare line without a plastic or metal tag attached containing the owners name and either their address, fishing license number or phone number.
- It shall be unlawful for any fisherman, other than a licensed commercial fisherman, to fish one or more trotline, snag or snare line or combination thereof containing more than 100 hooks total.

#### **SIZE LIMITS**

As provided for above, as posted in State and Federally owned and/or managed public fishing lakes and ponds, and as follows:

Chattahoochee River Tributaries - It is illegal to possess shoal bass in Little Uchee, Uchee, Osanippa, Halawakee and Wacoochee creeks.

**Chattahoochee River and its Impoundments and Tributaries** - Special creel limits apply in reciprocal waters as specified under regulation 220-2-.122.

**Guntersville Reservoir and its Tributary of Town Creek** - It is illegal to possess any largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

**Harris Reservoir** - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass between 13 inches and 16 inches in total length.

Lake Jackson at Florala - Creel limit of five black bass greater than 12 inches in total length. Only one of the five can be over 22 inches in total length.

**Inland Reservoir** - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length.

Lewis Smith Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any black bass between 13 inches and 15 inches in total length.

Lewis Smith Reservoir - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit. It shall be unlawful to intentionally cull from the creel any saltwater striped bass from June 15th to October 15th. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a saltwater striped bass from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another striped bass.

Little Bear Creek Reservoir of the B.C.D.A Lakes – It is illegal to possess largemouth bass between 13 inches and 16 inches in total length.

Lake Martin - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit. It shall be unlawful to intentionally cull from the creel any saltwater striped bass from June 15th to October 15th. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a saltwater striped bass from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another striped bass.

**Pickwick Reservoir** - It is illegal to possess any smallmouth bass or largemouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

**Thurlow Reservoir** - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length. Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its Tributaries - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass less than 14 inches in total length.

Weiss Reservoir - It is illegal to possess crappie less than 10 inches in total length.

West Point Reservoir and its Tributaries - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass less than 14 inches in total length.

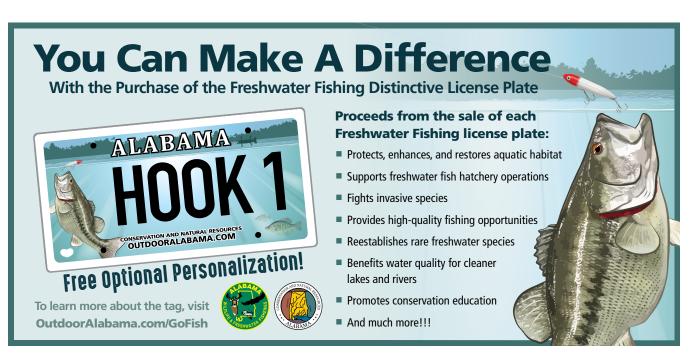
Wheeler Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any smallmouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Wilson Reservoir and its Tributaries of Big Nance and Town Creeks - It is illegal to possess any smallmouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Yates Reservoir - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length.

#### FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Fish from most waters in Alabama are safe for human consumption. For those locations of concern, fish consumption advisories are provided by the Alabama Department of Public Health. For a current list of advisories call: (800) 201-8208 or visit *www.adph.org.* 



State-owned Public Fishing Lakes (PFLs) include all land and waters under the direct supervision of the Fisheries Section of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. The lakes are as follows:

PUBLIC FISHING LAKE	MANAGER	LAKE PHONE #	CLOSED DAYS
Barbour	Closed for renovation	on. Reopening TBD.	
Bibb	Cindy Holder	(205) 938-2318	
Chambers	Closed for renovation	on. Reopening TBD.	
Clay	Gregory Clark	(256) 488-0042	
Coffee	City of Elba, Ricky Mularz	(334) 447-2384	
Crenshaw	Closed for renovation	on. Reopening TBD.	
Dale	City of Ozark, Dan Wallace	(334) 774-0588	State-owned public fishing lakes are typically open
Dallas	Earle & Shakenyia Williams (334) 349-2216		six days a week from February 1 through June 30 each year. From July 1 until November 30, some
DeKalb	Steven Simmons	(256) 657-1300	lakes are only open five days a week. During the
Escambia	Closed for renovation	on. Reopening TBD.	months of December and January, many lakes are closed or operate on a limited basis. Information and
Fayette	No on-site	manager	schedules may change without notice, so please
Geneva	Ray Windham	(334) 684-0361	visit our website www.OutdoorAlabama.com, ca
Lamar	Kathy Parker	(205) 695-8283	the Lake Manager, or the appropriate Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries District Office for the current
Lee	William H. Smith	(334) 745-6563	operating schedule.
Madison	Chris and Cole Coultas	(256) 776-4905	
Marion	Barbara Goggans	(205) 495-1753	
Monroe	Closed for renovation	on. Reopening TBD.	
Pike	City of Troy, Brian Meadows (334) 674-2480		
Walker	Sonny Posey (205) 275-4263		
Washington	No on-site	manager	

#### Make Hunting & Fishing Dreams Come True!

Hunt of a Lifetime is a nonprofit organization that grants hunting and fishing dreams to children, age 21 and under, who have been diagnosed with life threatening illnesses.



If you are interested in helping a child live their dream, please contact us for more information.

814.572.4387 HuntofaLifetime.org



#### AT ALL STATE OWNED PUBLIC FISHING LAKES, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Stock fish, including minnows used as legal bait
- Sell any fish that was caught from Public Fishing Lakes
- Use any minnow as bait except for goldfish, shiners or toughies (fatheads)
- Fish with jugs, bow and arrow, or hand grabbling
- · Operate gasoline outboard motors except where permitted
- Camp (except where permitted), swim, wade or use sailboats
- Launch any boat including kayaks and canoes without a permit
- · Be unruly or disorderly
- Solicit, sell or advertise
- · Remove shrubs, wildflowers, trees or plants
- Deface or destroy state property
- Exceed posted speed limits
- Operate unlicensed vehicles such as ATVs
- · Consume alcoholic beverages during hours of operation
- Hunt, trap, pursue, catch or sell any wild bird or wild animal
- Fish without a permit if age 12 or older

#### NOTE

All anglers 12 years old and older must have a valid permit in possession to legally fish. No child younger than 12 years old can legally be left unaccompanied by an adult at a Public Fishing Lake (PFL). All daily creel, possession and size limits are posted at each lake. Fishing time is limited to daylight hours or as specified by the lake manager. No method other than hook and line with natural or artificial bait may be used at a PFL. All anglers must exhibit their catch, fishing permit and fishing license to a Conservation Officer or the Lake Manager upon demand. All fish must be carried to the Lake Manager who must count and weigh them. All PFLs are designated as wildlife sanctuaries. The above is a synopsis of regulations for state-owned Public Fishing Lakes and is intended as a general guide. Please refer to the *Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book* for complete regulations.

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#### PROCEDURES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ALABAMA STATE RECORD FRESHWATER FISH

- Fish must be caught in Alabama waters by legal means.
- Fish must be identified by an Alabama Fisheries Section biologist or other certified fisheries biologist.
- Fish must be weighed on certified scales.
- Weighing must be witnessed by two people.
- Application must be submitted on an official application form within three months of the catch (request a form by dialing 1-334-242-3471).
- Application form must be notarized.



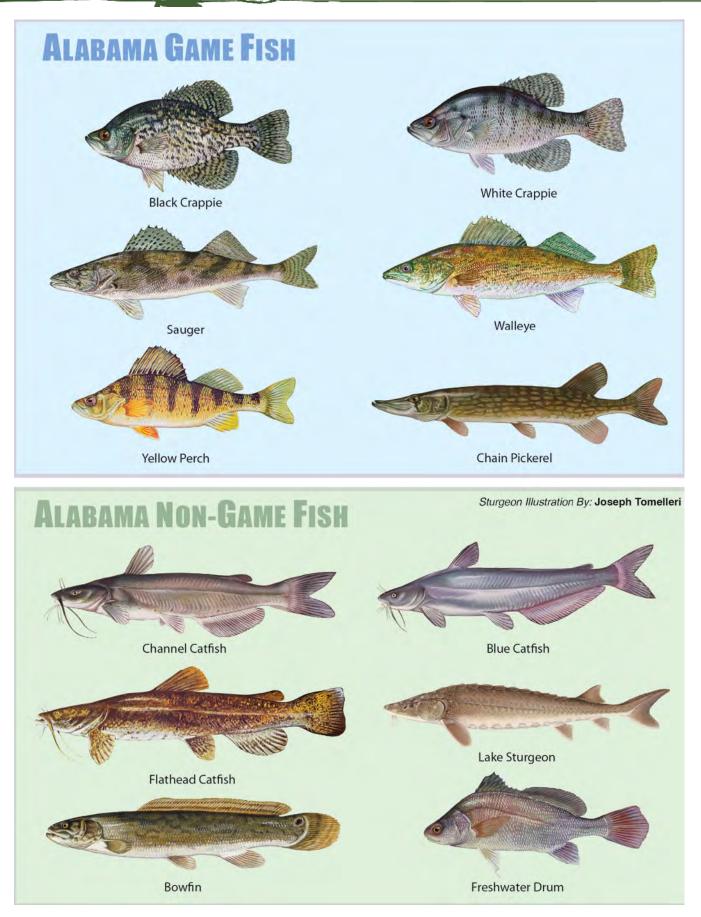
SPECIES	WEIGHT	DATE	LOCATION	ANGLER/HOMETOWN
Bass, Largemouth	16 lbs., 8 oz.	11/3/87	Mountain View Lake, Shelby Co.	Thomas "T.M." Burgin / Birmingham
Bass, Redeye (b)	3 lbs., 2 oz.	3/8/00	Choccolocco Creek	William Terry Johnson / Oxford
Bass, Rock	1 lb., 6 oz.	5/6/95	Paint Rock River	James R. Stewart / Scottsboro
Bass, Shoal	6 lbs., 11 oz.	2/25/96	Halawakee Creek	Darrell Trawick / Salem
Bass, Smallmouth (c)	10 lbs., 8 oz.	10/8/50	Wheeler Dam Tailwater	Owen F. Smith / Fairfield
Bass, Spotted (b)	8 lbs., 15 oz.	3/18/78	Lewis Smith Reservoir	Phillip C. Terry / Decatur
Bass, Striped (a)	69 lbs., 9 oz.	2/28/13	Bankhead Reservoir	James Bramlett / Dora
Bass, Striped Hybrid	25 lbs., 15 oz.	9/13/96	Sipsey Fork, Warrior River	E. H. Hodges / Chelsea
Bass, White	4 lbs., 9 oz.	2/14/87	Warrior River	Ben DeMott / Bessemer
Bass, Yellow (a)	2 lbs., 8 oz.	4/12/00	Guntersville Reservoir, Jackson Co.	Dennis M. Woebbeking / Pisgah
Bowfin	18 lbs., 6 oz.	7/31/05	Lake Tuscaloosa	Nelson Ray Sansing / Sawyerville
Buffalo	57 lbs., 0 oz.	4/13/90	Guntersville Reservoir	Ralph B. Lowery / Albertville
Bullhead (Brown)	5 lbs., 8 oz.	5/11/22	Private Pond, Butler Co.	Nekko Cantrell / Georgiana
Carp	35 lbs., 0 oz.	4/19/80	Bear Creek, Colbert Co.	Darrin Jackson / Double Springs
Carp, Grass (White Amur)	73 lbs., 0 oz.	4/10/12	Guntersville Reservoir	Bradley D. Bridges, Sr. / Bryant
Catfish, Blue	120 lbs., 4 oz.	3/9/12	Holt Reservoir	John Paul Nichols / Northport
Catfish, Channel	40 lbs., 0 oz.	6/17/67	Inland Lake	Donald R. Cox / Oneonta
Catfish, Flathead	80 lbs., 0 oz.	6/22/86	Alabama River, Selma	Rick Conner / Selma
Catfish, White	10 lbs., 5 oz.	4/3/81	Chambers Co. Public Fishing Lake	Roy T. Britton / Opelika
	4 lbs., 5 oz.	3/27/07	Ft. Payne Reservoir	Shelley Meadows / Mentone
Crappie, Black (tie)	4 lbs., 5 oz.	6/2/97	Private Pond, Jefferson Co.	William D. Webb / Birmingham
Crapple, black (lie)	4 lbs., 4 oz.	3/18/84	Paint Creek	Sherril Harris / Sylacauga
	4 lbs., 9 oz.	5/8/00	Lake Martin, Tallapoosa Co.	Jeremy S. White / Alexander City
Crappie, White (tie)	4 lbs., 9 oz.	4/4/74	Guntersville Reservoir	Jack Grant / Altoona
Drum, Freshwater (b)	41 lbs., 8 oz.	7/24/49	Wilson Reservoir	Wilson Brock / Birmingham
Eel, American	5 lbs., 8 oz.	5/11/89	Lake Shechi, Chilton Co.	Todd A. Groover / Montevallo
Gar, Alligator	162 lbs., 0 oz.	11/24/22	Spanish River	Michael Keith Dees / Fruitdale
Gar, Longnose	32 lbs., 14 oz.	4/18/85	Jordan Reservoir	Gary Smyth / Pelham
Gar, Spotted	8 lbs., 12 oz.	8/26/87	Cotaco Creek	Winston Baker / Alexander City
	3 lbs., 4 oz.	5/2/12	Mulberry Fork	Bobby Lee Davis / Bessemer
Herring, Skipjack				
Muskellunge	19 lbs., 8 oz.	12/31/72	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Steve Leatherwood / Haleyville
Paddlefish	52 lbs., 12 oz.	3/18/82	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Susan Holland / Muscle Shoals
Perch, Yellow	2 lbs., 2 oz.	3/7/15	Yates Reservoir	Gary Lee Grove, Jr. / Opelika
Pickerel, Chain	6 lbs., 6 oz.	6/24/76	Dyas Creek, Baldwin Co.	Michael P. Ryan / Bay Minette
Pickerel, Redfin (tie)	14 oz.	9/4/17	Baggett Creek / Washington Co.	Henry Merrit / Deer Park
	13 oz.	7/7/14	Armstrong Creek / Washington Co.	Frank Lambert Dickey / Chatom
Redhorse, Silver (a)	14 lbs., 14 oz.	4/24/95	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Chris Stephenson / Birmingham
Sauger	5 lbs., 2 oz.	3/5/72	Wilson Dam Tailwater	William F. Huntley / Athens
Sunfish, Bluegill (a)	4 lbs., 12 oz.	4/9/50	Ketona Lake, Birmingham	T. S. Hudson / Birmingham
Sunfish, Green	1 lb., 9 oz.	8/10/05	McLamore Pond, Walker County	Caleb Miller / Parrish
Sunfish, Longear	8 oz.	5/12/90	Yellow River	Jerry Jones / Ozark
Sunfish, Redbreast	1 lb., 4 oz.	6/12/10	Choctawhatchee River	Archie Russ / Brantley
Sunfish, Redear (b)	4 lbs., 4 oz.	5/5/62	Chattahoochee State Park	Jeff Lashley / Gordon
Trout, Rainbow	9 lbs., 1 oz.	4/22/06	Mud Creek, Tannehill State Park	Otha G. Hamm / Alexandria
Walleye	10 lbs., 14 oz.	6/24/80	Weiss Reservoir	Julia Hurley / Cedar Bluff
Warmouth	1 lb., 12 oz.	4/25/86	Farm Pond	Jimmy A. Barfield / Dothan

(a) World Record

(b) Previous World Record - Rod and Reel (c) Previous World Record - Any Method

Revised: 1/9/2023





Official 2023–2024 Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest



#### WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND REFUGES

#### BARBOUR

- BLACK WARRIOR BLUE SPRING
- BOGGY HOLLOW
- CHARLES D. KELLEY AUTAUGA COUNTY
- CHOCCOLOCCO
- COOSA
- CROW CREEK
- CROW CREEK REFUGE
- DAVID K. NELSON 10
- 11 FOREVER WILD GOTHARD - AWF YATES LAKE
- 12 FREEDOM HILLS 13 GENEVA STATE FOREST
- GRAND BAY SAVANNA 14
- HOLLINS 15
- JAMES D. MARTIN SKYLINE
- 17 LAUDERDALE
- 18 LITTLE RIVER
- 19
- MALLARD FOX CREEK 20
- 21 MARTIN MOBILE – TENSAW DELTA and W.L. HOLLAND
- 22 23 MUD CREEK
- 24 MULBERRY FORK
- 25 NORTH SAUTY REFUGE
- 26 OAKMULGEE
- PERDIDO RIVER 27
- RACCOON CREEK 28
- 29 RED HILLS
- 30 RIVERTON
- 31 SAM R. MURPHY
- 32 SEVEN MILE ISLAND
- 33 SWAN CREEK
- 34 UPPER DELTA 35
- WILLIAM R. IRELAND, SR. CAHABA RIVER

#### PUBLIC FISHING LAKES BARBOUR COUNTY

- А BIBB COUNTY в
- CHAMBERS COUNTY
- CLAY COUNTY
- COFFEE COUNTY
- CRENSHAW COUNTY
- DALE COUNTY (ED LISENBY LAKE) G
- DALLAS COUNTY н
- DEKALB CUONTY
- ESCAMBIA COUNTY (LEON BROOKS HINES LAKE) FAYETTE COUNTY
- GENEVA COUNTY L
- м LAMAR COUNTY
- Ν LEE COUNTY
- MADISON COUNTY 0
- MARION COUNTY MONROE COUNTY
- PIKE COUNTY
- WALKER COUNTY
- WASHINGTON COUNTY (LEMMETT WOOD LAKE)

#### PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTING AREAS

- BIG OAK
- CHEROKEE
- з COFFEE COUNTY (VICTORIA)
- 4 DOZIER
- 5 FAYETTE

8

20

- 6 FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST - AL POWER CO.
- 7 JORDAN
  - LEWIS SMITH
- LITTLE RIVER STATE FOREST 9 M. BARNETT LAWLEY FOREVER WILD 10
- FIELD TRIAL AREA
- MACON STATE FOREST 11
- 12 MARENGO
- MUD CREEK (WANNVILLE) DEWATERING UNIT PDWHB 13
- 14 PINE HILLS
- PRAIRIE CREEK 15
- R.L. HARRIS 16
- SHILOH HILL 17
- TURNIPSEED-IKENBERRY PLACE 18 19
  - UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA FOUNDATION UPPER STATE
    - Revised 5/9/23







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# INVASIVE CARP OutdoorAlabama.com/asian-carp-alabama



# WHAT TO LOOK FOR:

- » Low-set eye; large upturned mouth without barbels
- » Silver in color; Bighead Carp have dark blotches on the back and sides
- » Scaleless head; body scales are very small
- Adults typically weigh 5-50 lbs. and measure 1-3 ft.
- » Silver Carp may jump out of the water when disturbed by boat motors

### IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT LIVE WILD CAUGHT BAITFISH TO OR FROM THE WATERS IN WHICH THEY ARE CAUGHT.

(REGULATION 220-2-.162)

**JUVENILE BAITFISH:** 



Gizzard Shad (native)



**Bighead Carp** 



**Silver Carp** 

### **REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS, WITH EXACT LOCATIONS, TO:**

Alabama Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries

**256-353-2634** asiancarp@dcnr.alabama.gov







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Pricing may be different in some areas, subject to change, and does not include land improvements



















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