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Adama JACABANA UNITE FEES and SEASON DATES 2025–2026 REQUIREMENTS, FEES and SEASON DATES

Requirements for Hunting Wildlife Management Areas

see page 14

>> BANK FISHING OPPORTUNIT see page 60

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources



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ON THE COVER

Alabama Smallmouth: A prized catch from the Tennessee River Basin.

Learn more at OutdoorAlabama.com

Photo by: Eric Engbretson

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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WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES DISTRICT OFFICES





DISTRICT 1

Blount, Colbert, Cullman, Fayette, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marion, Morgan, Walker, Winston 21453 Harris Station Rd. Tanner, AL 35671 (256) 353-2634 email: dcnr.d1wff@dcnr.alabama.gov

DISTRICT 2

Calhoun, Chambers, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, Coosa, DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, Marshall, Randolph, St. Clair, Talladega, Tallapoosa 4101 Hwy. 21 North Jacksonville, AL 36265

(256) 435-5422 email: dcnr.d2wff@dcnr.alabama.gov

DISTRICT 3

Autauga, Bibb, Chilton, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Jefferson, Lowndes, Perry, Pickens, Shelby, Sumter, Tuscaloosa

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DISTRICT 4

Barbour, Bullock, Coffee, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Elmore, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Macon, Montgomery, Pike, Russell

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DISTRICT 5

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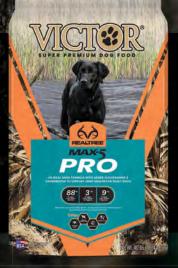


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Introduction



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

To assist all our outdoors enthusiasts, I'm pleased to join with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (ADCNR) in presenting the new *Alabama Hunting & Fishing Digest*.

As a daughter of Alabama's Blackbelt region — a sportsman's mecca of the most popular hunting and fishing grounds in the southeast — I was introduced early to the Yellow-hammer State's abundance of outdoor recreational opportunities, including hunting and fishing. Like other Alabamians, I count myself fortunate to share our pristine natural environment with such a rich diversity of wildlife. Alabama truly has it all!

For newcomers awaiting the many adventures in our great outdoors, you are in good company. Each year, Alabama's outdoors generates a whopping \$15 billion for our economy, supporting 135,000 outdoor industry jobs. In particular, hunters and anglers are vital economic resources as the money you spend on your Alabama adventures helps fund the majority of Alabama conservation efforts.

The ADCNR is tasked with promoting, enhancing and protecting our natural resources, including wildlife and fisheries. Much of its funding comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. With the recent consumer shift away from traditional hunting and fishing in favor of shooting sports, revenue has declined. Federal excise taxes on some hunting, fishing and shooting equipment, which are shared with states, helps partially offset the loss. To meet this new demand for shooting sports access, in Alabama we are expanding recreational shooting opportunities, including a planned renovation of the Etowah Public Shooting Range in Gadsden, and the development of a new public shooting range in Shelby County near Birmingham.

To get the most from your Alabama hunting and fishing adventure, I encourage you to become familiar with this guide. Within these pages, you will find a wealth of information profiling Alabama's extensive variety of game and fish, the best spots to find them, hunting seasons and up-to-date hunting and fishing regulations designed to protect and sustain our natural resources for generations to come.

Thank you for your support of our state's conservation efforts, and I hope you have a safe and successful outdoor season in Alabama.

Kay Ivery

KAY IVEY, GOVERNOR

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 Hunting & Freshwater

Fishing License Information (334) 242-3465

ALABAMA MARINE PATROL DIVISION (334) 676-6005, (800) 272-7930

MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION (251) 968-7576

Saltwater License Information (334) 242-3829, (888) 879-4150



About This Guide

This high-quality reference guide is brought to you by the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through a partnership with Kalkomey, a trusted leader in outdoor safety education since 1995. In addition to producing this guide, Kalkomey also offers a suite of educational courses to help people enjoy the outdoors safely.

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MAJOR CHANGES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE 2025-2026 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

MAJOR CHANGES:

- Included Colbert and Franklin Counties in CWD Management Zone redefining high risk zone and buffer zone areas and deer limit.
- Created a CWD sampling permit allowing additional antlered deer permit(s) from the CMZ.
- Allow two unantlered deer or one unantlered deer and one antlered buck to be taken per day from zones A, B, D, E, & CWD.
- ✓ Removed walleye restriction on the Duck River Reservoir.
- ✓ Removed the saltwater striped bass restriction on the Inland Reservoir.
- ✓ Clarified black bass included in slot limit on Lewis Smith Reservoir.
- Changed trapping season dates from specific calendar dates to generic dates.

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.

HUNTERS AND ANGLERS: IMPORTANT NUMBERS

CONSERVATION ID (CID) NUMBER

A **PERMANENT** six characters assigned to the **PERSON** who purchases a **FISHING or HUNTING LICENSE**

- » Residents can find it on top right corner of their purchased license
- » Nonresidents visit game.dcnr.alabama.gov/CID to obtain a CID

IT IS USED TO:

- » Log into your online account at: myoutdooralabama.com
- » Renew fishing and hunting licenses
- » Game Check your deer and turkey harvest

GAME CHECK CONFIRMATION NUMBER

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

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

IT IS USED TO:

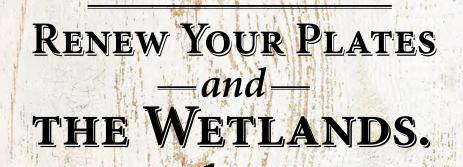
- » Maintain your annual deer and turkey harvest record
- » Determine future hunting season and bag limits
- » Determine trends in harvest timing and wildlife populations



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Revised: 13 May 2025

DEPT. OF CONSERVATION & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

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Mr. Brock Jones 100 Towncenter Blvd, Ste. 202 Tuscaloosa, AL 35406 Email: brock.j.jones1961@gmail.com Phone: (205) 292-1041 **Congressional District 6 Appointed: 4/5/21 - 3/28/27**

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Mr. Charlie Gray PO Box 1456 Dauphin Island, AL 36528 Email: Charlie@suretyland.com Congressional District 1 Appointed: 5/8/25 - 3/28/27

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER Mr. Rick Pate

Dept. of Agriculture & Indus. 1445 Federal Drive Montgomery, AL 36107-1123

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER

Dr. J. Mike Phillips AL Coop Extension System 109 Duncan Hall Auburn, AL 36849

EX-OFFICIO SECRETARY

Mr. Chris Blankenship Dept. of Conservation PO Box 301450 Montgomery, AL 36130-1450 Phone: (334) 242-3486

Mr. Raymond Jones, Jr. PO Box 2545 Huntsville, AL 35804 Email: rjj@gwjproperties.com Congressional District 5 Appointed: 5/9/25 - 5/9/31

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Mr. Jeff Martin 156 Shoreline View Talladega, AL 35160Email: jsmartin5333@gmail.com Congressional District 3 Appointed: 5/9/25 - 5/9/31

Mr. Kevin Savoy PO Box 610 Abbeville, AL 36310 Phone: (334) 585-2291 Email: ksavoy@yellawood.com Congressional District 2 Appointed: 4/5/21 - 3/28/27

Mr. Grady Hartzog PO Box 787 Eufaula, AL 36072 Phone: (334) 687-8075 **Congressional District 2 Appointed: 4/5/21 - 3/28/27**

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



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CONSERVATION AND COEXISTENCE WITH ALABAMA'S ALLIGATORS



Alligators are an iconic species in the southeastern United States, particularly in states like Alabama, where they thrive in numerous wetlands, swamps, rivers, and marshes. Their range spans across the entire state from the Tennessee River and its tributaries southward to the coastal marshes and Gulf of America. These reptiles play a vital role in Alabama's natural aquatic communities.

CURRENT STATUS OF ALLIGATORS IN ALABAMA

In the early 1900's, any sighting of an alligator in the state would have been quite the occasion, as their numbers were at dismally low levels due to overhunting and lack of protective regulations. Alabama was one of the first states to enact regulatory protection and once protected from harvest, the alligators did the rest and steadily backfilled those areas historically inhabited. Since that time, alligator populations have steadily increased over the past several decades making them a commonly sighted denizen of Alabama's wetland environments.

This recovery of alligator populations is the epitome of a success story in wildlife conservation. A species at the brink of extinc-

Article continued on page 43.

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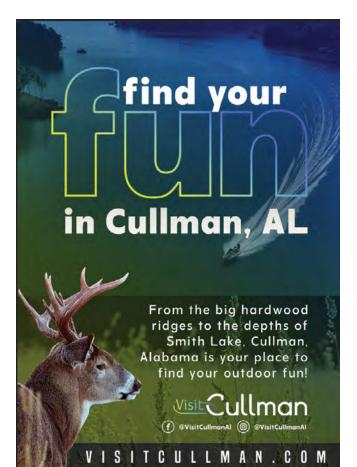
POINT MUZZLE OF UNLOADED FIREARM IN A SAFE DIRECTION



PRESENT HARVEST MINDFULLY BY WIPING BLOOD AND POSITIONING RESPECTFULLY



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



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CHECK OUT (ALSO CHECK-IN) ALABAMA'S WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) proudly manages 35 Wildlife Management Areas (WMA) across the state, consisting of almost 800,000 acres of high-quality habitat open to the public to pursue a wide array of game species. But before hunters take to the woods on any WMA, there are a few key requirements that need to be met. In general, to hunt on a WMA, hunters must obtain the applicable hunting license (all game, small game/wildlife heritage, duck stamps, HIP), a WMA license (for deer, turkey and waterfowl), an AREA permit, and a daily permit. Each WMA has unique rules and regulations depending on the species pursued, so please reference the AREA permits found online or speak with the WMA biologist about specific requirements before your hunt.

It is mandatory for all hunters to check in and out of a WMA at the beginning and end of their hunt. In an effort to make this easier for hunters, visits to the check stations to obtain a daily hunt permit are no longer required. As a convenient alternative, hunters can now utilize their smartphones, through the Outdoor Alabama app, to check in and out of the WMA. This option saves the hunter time by not requiring them to locate a kiosk at the beginning and end of each hunt and allows WMA biologists to see, in real time, how many hunt-





ers are on the property on any given day. For the tin foil hat crowd: the app does not track location of the hunter. As a traditional alternative, hunters can also use the paper AREA and daily permits that can be obtained from check stations or self-service kiosks at various locations on the WMA. When checking in using the paper permit, the hunter must fill out the "check-in" portion, tear it off, and deposit it in the return slot of the self-service box. While hunting, the remainder of the daily permit must be kept with the hunter at all times, filled out, and deposited back in any self-service box at the end of the day.

You may ask, "Why is it important to check in and out of a WMA during each hunt?" One goal of WFF is to be exceptional stewards of our state's natural resources and to provide the highest quality hunting experience for the public. The data collected from hunters checking in and out of WMAs, as well as reporting any game species harvested, provides WFF biologists with the best available information to make sound decisions for setting WMA hunt dates and bag limits each year. For example, on Barbour County WMA, during the January 16-19, 2025 deer hunt, biologists can see there was a total of 1349 check-ins and 110 deer harvested during this period. That is almost a third of the total number of deer harvested on this WMA during the 2024-2025 hunting season. Our biologists use this data to evaluate hunter effort and success compared with the management goals for that particular year and make any necessary changes for the following year to maintain a healthy deer population while maximizing hunter opportunities.

Therefore, by taking the time to check in and out of a WMA, whether you're using the paper permits or utilizing the app, you're not only helping WFF biologists make important management decisions, but you're also helping yourself and future generations by contributing valuable data. So, when visiting one of our many WMAs, we ask that you follow the necessary steps, check the rules for the WMA, and have a safe and successful hunt!

Where Your Adventure Begins



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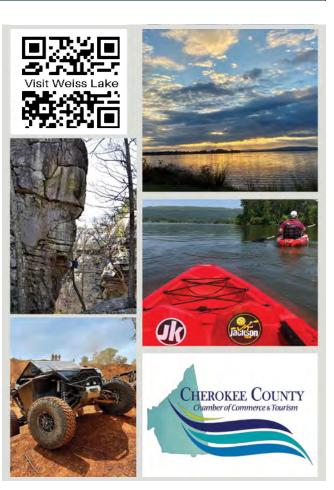
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MANDATORY FOR ALL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS



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? You can use the form below or print a Harvest Record online from www.outdooralabama.com. Possession of a smartphone with the Outdoor AL app installed will be accepted in lieu of a paper Harvest Record.

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

STEP DURING YOUR HUNT:

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

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:

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.

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 OF DEER AND TURKEY WITHIN 48 HOURS OF HARVEST OR BEFORE TRANSFERRING POSSESSION TO ANY OTHER PERSON: (IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RECORDED YOUR HARVEST VIA THE OUTDOOR AL APP, THIS STEP HAS BEEN COMPLETED)

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:

- 1. Date of harvest
 - Method of harvest
- 2. Type of animal harvested 3.
- County of harvest 4.
- 5. Public or private land
- 6. Hunting license number or H.E.L.P. number. or *CID

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

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST:

- 3. Game Check by Phone, call: 800-888-7690
- * The Conservation Identification (CID) is 6 characters permanently assigned to each hunter that is unique, and can be used to record deer or turkey harvests in the Game Check System. (To receive a CID, visit: game.dcnr.alabama.gov/CID)

Every Hunter MUST have a Paper Harvest Record in their possession OR the Outdoor AL App installed on a smart phone and in their possession.

All deer and turkey hunters must: Alabama Harvest Record Have Harvest Record in possession when hunting. Fill-out Harvest Record before moving the animal. Name: License No. or CID #: ANTLERED BUCK - One of the three must have 4 pts, 1" or longer on one side UNANTLERED DEER Harvest Date: Points: Confirmation No.: Harvest Date: Confirmation No.: R: L: /_____ R: _____ L: _____ / R: L: / / NOTE: For Barbour County - minimum of 3 points, 1" or longer, on one antler for all antlered bucks. Further restrictions apply on certain management areas. See Wildlife Management Area information.

TURKEY (Gobblers Only)

Harvest Date: Confirmation No.:

Attach handwritten version to record additional unantlered deer

HARVEST REPORTING IS MANDATORY! HOW TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST

• SMARTPHONE APP: OUTDOOR AL • ONLINE: www.outdooralabama.com • PHONE: 800-888-7690

Revised 06-6-2025

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17

PUBLIC LANDS: HABITAT FOR ALL

In central Alabama, lies the Charles D. Kelley – Autauga Wildlife Management Area (WMA), named after the late WFF Director Charles D. Kelley, who received national recognition for his work in returning bald eagles, bluebirds, and osprey to the state. This WMA offers 10,463 acres of upper coastal plain habitat that wildlife from deer to bluebirds utilize. While the area is primarily used for hunting deer, turkey, and rabbits, this WMA, along with others, also serves as important habitat for numerous songbirds.

To study songbirds and better understand how land management practices impact breeding birds, biologists initiated a breeding bird banding station on Autauga WMA in 2021. The habitat surrounding the banding station consists of mixed hardwood-pine forests, woodlands, and old fields, or early successional habitat. The early successional habitat was previously a loblolly pine plantation that was clearcut and planted with longleaf pine in 2020. As the young pines continue to grow and are managed, this area will transition to an open pine stand, and biologists will monitor changes in songbird composition during that transition.

During breeding season, birds are captured using mist nests placed in various habitats within a 50-acre study area. When birds are flying, the net catches them and drops them into a pocket, where they are quickly extracted by biologists. Biologists band the birds and collect various data such as species, age, sex, etc. Each bird band has a unique set of numbers that can be used later to identify that specific bird. Once all data is collected, the bird is released, forever linking the bird's band number to that data.

Comparing the data initially gathered to when the bird is recovered can provide information on migration, longevity, habitat



use, and site fidelity, etc. Since its inception, 362 individuals representing 42 species have been captured and banded. Of those banded in previous years, 60 have been recaptured, many of them being Neotropical migrants, meaning when they left the WMA last year, they flew to Latin America to winter. Then, they returned to the WMA to breed during summer. For example, in July 2021, we captured and banded a Yellow-breasted Chat which has been recaptured every year since. Thanks to bird banding, we already see evidence of how important Autauga WMA, and all WMAs, are to breeding songbirds. It is through the continued management of these public lands that breeding habitat is conserved for game and all wildlife species.





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2025 Commitments

University of Alabama Partnership and Wild Turkey Research in relation to the Timber Industry.

\$153,500 for Conservation Projects

\$60,000 to support Habitat for the Hatch Initiative

\$100,240 for Wild Turkey Research

\$92,556 for Hunting Heritage Projects

\$1,154,686 match from Partner or Grant Funds

Habitat for 2023the Hatch for

2023-24 projects impact **121,000 Acres** for the initiative

Alabama has **19 Projects** for Habitat for the Hatch Value of projects is **\$890,531** to date

*The purpose of this 10-year initiative is to improve wild turkey nesting and brood-rearing habitat at a landscape scale in Southeastern states through active management of over 1 million acres by 2033. This will ultimately lead to more robust wild turkey populations and healthier ecosystems across the Southeast.

<u>Hunting Tapping</u>

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 (see page 54). 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, USFWS, USFS, TVA, Corp. of Engineers and public and private land within the CWD CMZ).
- For the CWD sample drop-off locations see page 43.

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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:

- 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 selected collection of WMAs on specific WMA hunt dates depicted on the AREA Permits that will not count towards the hunter's State three buck limit. On specified WMAs within the Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone (CMZ) on specific WMA hunt dates depicted on the AREA Permits, one bonus buck per hunter per bonus buck hunt date will be allowed to be harvested that will not count towards the hunter's State three buck limit. All bonus bucks must be validated at WMA check station by WFF personnel.
- 3. **CWD Sampling Permit** See Chronic Wasting Disease Management Zone Rule - Regulation 220-2-.167(2).

WHITE-TAILED UNANTLERED DEER LIMIT

During the Unantlered Deer Gun, Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle, Archery, and Special Youth (under 16) Seasons, in Zones A, B, D, E & CMZ two unantlered deer or one unantlered deer and one antlered buck may be taken per day. In Zone C one unantlered deer and one antlered buck may be taken per day. See Special Exceptions below for selected areas.

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 14–17 and in Zones D & E October 31–November 3. Dog deer 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 gun season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119. See the current Wildlife Management Area Permits for youth deer hunting dates and other information about WMA hunting.

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.

READY TO GET MORE FOR YOUR PROPERTY? WORK WITH THE LAND SPECIALISTS.

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BEN RICHARDSON NORTHEAST ALABAMA 256.391.2107

3. SPENSER BRADLEY NORTH CENTRAL ALABAMA 205.913.7181

4. JEREMY MORRIS EAST CENTRAL ALABAMA 256.706.3389

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7. BRIAN SPIVEY SOUTHEAST ALABAMA 334.991.0825

8. TODD EDWARDS SOUTHWEST ALABAMA 251.747.1346

9. JEFF RODDENBERRY SOUTHERN ALABAMA 850.418.9048

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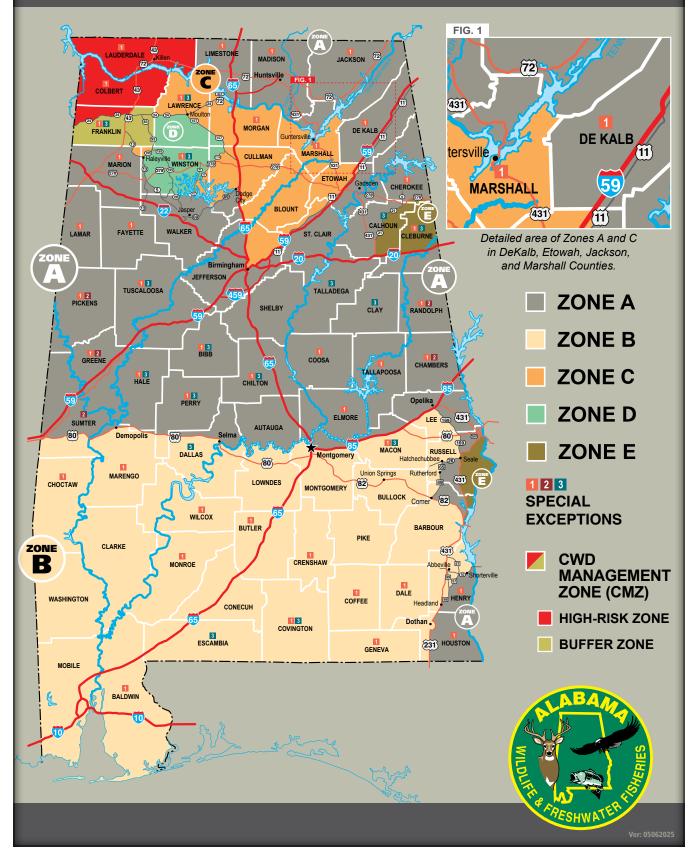
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2025-2026 Deer Season Zone Map



Seasons & Bag Limits: Hunting & Trapping

	ZONEA				
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
Special Youth Gun		November 14–17, 2025	Either Sex		
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 17–21, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 4, 2026	Either Sex		
·		January 5 – February 10, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
Where Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 4, 2026	Either Sex		
	701/5 0	January 5–15, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
ZONE B					
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15–24, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
Su a sial Vauth Curr		October 25, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
Special Youth Gun		November 14–17, 2025	Either Sex		
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 17–21, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 4, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 5 – February 10, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting:	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
Where Allowed	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 4, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 5–15, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	ZONE C				
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
Special Youth Gun		November 14–17, 2025	Either Sex		
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 17–21, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22 – November 30, 2025	Either Sex		
		December 1–12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2 – February 10, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2 – February 10, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22 – November 30, 2025	Either Sex		
where Allowed		December 1–12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2–15, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2–15, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	ZONE D				
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 1,2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 16–27, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Special Youth Gun		October 31 - November 3, 2025	Either Sex		
·	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 3–7, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 8–21, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		November 22 – November 30, 2025	Either Sex		
		December 1–12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2–27, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 8 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2–27, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 8–21, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
Where Allowed		November 22 – November 30, 2025	Either Sex		
		December 1–12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 8 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	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.

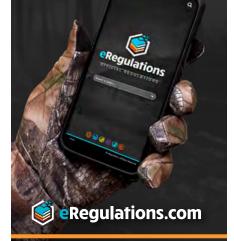
ZONE E					
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 1, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 16–27, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Special Youth Gun		October 31 – November 3, 2025	Either Sex		
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 3–7, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 8, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 16–27, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 8 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
		January 2–27,2026	Antlered Bucks Only		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 8, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 8 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 1, 2026	Either Sex		
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ)					
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
Special Youth Gun		November 14–17, 2025	Either Sex		
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 17–21, 2025	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – February 10, 2026	Either Sex		
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 22, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 22 – December 12, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only		
		December 13, 2025 – January 15, 2026	Either Sex		



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(1) ZONEA (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; south along the Franklin County/Lawrence County line to the Winston County line; west along the Franklin County/Winston County line continuing along the Franklin County/Marion 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, and E 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).
- (3) ZONE C (see map): Those areas of Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Marshall, St. Clair, Walker, and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the Franklin County/Marion County line on AL Hwy. 13 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 the Franklin County/Winston County; east along the Franklin County/Winston County line to the Lawrence County/Winston County line; north along the





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Franklin County/Lawrence County line 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 Franklin County/Lawrence County line; south along the Franklin County/Lawrence County line to the Winston County/Franklin County line; west along the Winston County/Franklin County line continuing west along the Franklin County/Marion County line ending at AL Hwy. 13. Excludes Zone D description below.

(4) ZONE D (see map): Those areas of Cullman, 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 the Franklin County line; east along the Franklin County/Winston County line to the Lawrence County line; North on the Lawrence County/Franklin County line 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 Chattahoochee 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 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 and a portion of Franklin County.
 - (a) Within the CMZ, the High-Risk Zone (HRZ) includes all Lauderdale and Colbert County and the portion of Franklin County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Alabama/Mississippi State line and State Hwy. 24; east along State Hwy. 24 to US Hwy. 43; north along US Hwy. 43 to the Franklin County/Colbert County Line.
 - (b) Within the CMZ, the Buffer Zone (BZ) includes those portions of Franklin County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Alabama/Mississippi State line and State Hwy. 24; south along the Alabama/Mississippi State line to the Franklin County/Marion County line; east along the Franklin County/Marion County line to the Franklin County/Winston line; east along the Franklin County/ Winston Line to the Franklin County/Lawrence County line; north along the Franklin County/Lawrence County line to Franklin County/Colbert County line; west along the Franklin County/Colbert County Line to US Hwy. 43; south along US Hwy. 43 to State Hwy. 24; west along State Hwy. 24 ending at the Alabama/Mississippi State line.





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.

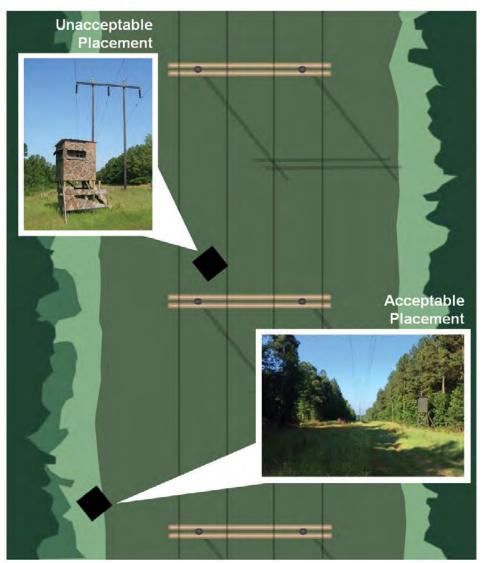
In some cases, the company may also ask property owners to relocate structures when additional right of way clearing is necessary.

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



SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:

- 1 DOG DEER HUNTING RESTRICTIONS:
- Dog Deer Hunting Prohibited Except by (i) Special Permit from the Department: BALD-WIN; 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 WIL-COX 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 bound-

aries: 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); CHER-OKEE; 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); FRANK-LIN; 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; LAU-DERDALE; LAWRENCE; LIMESTONE; MADI-SON; MARION; MARSHALL; MORGAN; RAN-DOLPH: 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).

2 U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS LANDS:

On U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Lands in Alabama, the special muzzleloader, air rifle, and unantlered deer seasons are allowed the same as privately owned or leased lands in those counties, 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.
- (iv) ABANDONMENT OF ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY ON NATIONAL FOREST SER-VICE LANDS (tree stands, hunting blinds, hunting equipment, pets, livestock, penraised quail, or other animals) is PROHIBITED. The prohibition (CFR 36. II. 261.10 e) will be enforced by USDA law enforcement personnel.
- (v) CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGE-MENT ZONE (CMZ): During Deer Gun Season on privately owned or leased land only, two unantlered deer may be taken per day. This does not apply to Wildlife Management Areas, Community Hunting Areas, and open permit public lands located within the CMZ.

LEGAL ARMS & AMMUNITION

(1) GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

- It shall be unlawful for any person to use any method or have in their possession 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 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 Enforcement Officers for inspection.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt with a bow or gun that has a light source attached that is capable of casting a beam of light (including a laser sight) forward of said bow or gun or to possess such a light source adapted for attachment to said bow or gun while hunting. Exceptions apply for legally blind hunters and when a person possesses a current nighttime feral swine and coyote license and is hunting during the dates of the established nighttime feral swine and coyote season.
- It shall be unlawful to possess any equipment that uses electronics to increase the ability to see in the dark (night vision/thermal) while hunting any species of wildlife, both protected and unprotected species, except during the special night-time feral swine and coyote hunting season with a valid license.
- Hunting with fully automatic firearms is prohibited.

(2) DEER

Archery Season

• Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.

Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle Season

- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzleloading handguns — .40 caliber or larger
- 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.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.

Gun Deer Season

- 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.
- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzleloading handguns .40 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.

(3) TURKEY

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using standard No. 2 shot or smaller.
- Muzzle-loading shotguns 10 gauge or smaller using standard No. 2 shot or smaller.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- 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.

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.

(4) MIGRATORY BIRDS

• Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, plugged with a one-piece filler incapable of re-

moval without disassembling the gun or otherwise incapable of holding more than 3 shells using standard No. 2 shot or smaller, except waterfowl must be hunted with steel shot or other shot compositions and shot sizes that are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

- Waterfowl hunters shall not possess any other size shot or any size lead shot.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(5) RACCOON & OPOSSUM

- Nighttime hunting: Shotguns using No. 6 shot or smaller; .22 caliber rimfire firearms.
- Daytime hunting See (7) Other Game Birds Or Animals.

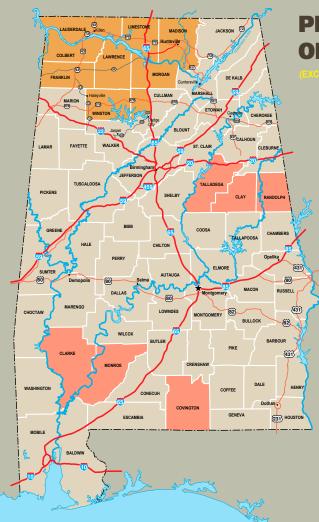
(6) BOBCAT, GROUNDHOG, UNPROTECTED WILDLIFE, FOX, COYOTE & FERAL SWINE

- 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 in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Muzzle-loading long gun and muzzleloading 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.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(7) OTHER GAME BIRDS OR ANIMALS

- Rifles using rimfire ammunition or those operated by air.
- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzleloading handguns of any caliber.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, using standard No. 4 shot or smaller.

2025-2026 TURKEY SEASON ZONES



PRIVATE, LEASED AND OPEN PERMIT PUBLIC LANDS

ZONE 1

SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 21 – 22 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 24 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPRING SEASON MARCH 25 – MAY 8 (DECOYS ALLOWED APRIL 4 - MAY 8)

ZONE 2

SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 28 – 29 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 31 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPRING SEASON APRIL 1 – MAY 8 (DECOYS ALLOWED APRIL 11 - MAY 8)

ZONE 3

FALL SEASON NOVEMBER 15 – 23 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED) FALL SEASON DECEMBER 13 – 28 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED) SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 21 – 22 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 24 (DECOYS ALLOWED) SPRING SEASON 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.



REMEMBER TO GAME CHECK YOUR HARVEST!

WMA AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER DISTRICTS

WMAs and Community Hunting Areas (CHA) included in the Bankhead Ranger District: Lauderdale, Freedom Hills, Black Warrior, Coon Gulf, Riverton CHA and Martin CHA

Special Youth Hunt – April 4 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)

- **Special Disabled Hunt –** April 7 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
- Spring Season April 8 May 8 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed April 11 - May 8)

Remainder of National Forests DISTRICTS

(Talladega Ranger District, Shoal nCreek Ranger District, Oakmulgee Ranger District, Tuskegee Ranger District and Conecuh Ranger District) **and REMAINDER OF WMAS THAT ALLOW TURKEY HUNTING**:

- Special Youth Hunt March 28 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
- Special Disabled Hunt March 31 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
- Spring Season April 1 May 8 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed April 4 - May 8)

BAG LIMIT – WMA AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER DISTRICTS

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

Legal Arms & Ammunition continued from page 29.

- Handguns or pistols.
- Blowguns using darts propelled by the hunter's breath only.
- Sling shots.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(8) BULLFROG AND PIG FROG

- · Air powered rifles .25 caliber or smaller.
- Gig or spear.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Hand or dip net.

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 6**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) September 7 – October 19
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) November 22 – November 30
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)) **December 13 – January 18**

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 13
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) September 14 – October 26
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) November 22 November 30
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) December 13 – January 18

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

National Whitetail Warrior Project

At Whitetail Warrior Project our mission is to support wounded and disabled Veterans by providing opportunities in the outdoors. We are focused on fellowship and the tradition of hunting in order to enrich lives and enable our most deserving citizens.



Order a tag today!

For more information about how you can be involved, visit our website at:





<u>www.whitetailwarriorproject.com</u> Email us at stphuntmore@gmail.com

Alabama-based National Non-profit enabling Veterans through Opportunities in the Outdoors Tax ID 45-2700243 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.

- 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/story/2021-12/ information-dove-hunters.

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/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/

mourning-dove-biology-management-in-alabama/.

BOBWHITE QUAIL

November 1 – February 28

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

RABBIT

September 13 – March 1

• 8 a day — 8 in possession



SQUIRREL

- September 13 March 1
- 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

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.

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^(1,3), **COYOTE**⁽²⁾, **FOX AND FERAL SWINE**⁽²⁾: (Daytime Hours Only)

- No Bag Limit
- No Closed Season
- No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.
- See page 53 for legal hunting hours.
- **1. Bobcat** See tagging requirement (above).
- **2. Coyote and Feral Swine** trapping by landowner or his/her 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.

(Nighttime Hours Only)

1. Fox — Nighttime hours with dogs only. See page 34 for trapping information.

FERAL SWINE (2026): (PRIVATELY OWNED AND LEASED LANDS ONLY) (DOGS ONLY) Special Nighttime Season: May 9 – 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 13 – December 14

- December 20 January 31
- 3 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

SNIPE

November 8 – February 22

- 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.
- Residents and Nonresidents who are sixteen (16) years of age or older holding a valid all game, small game, or lifetime Alabama Hunting License may apply for an Alligator Harvest Permit.

Sunset on 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 Sunset on the 2nd Thursday in September – Sunrise on the Sunday immediately following the 2nd Thursday on September

• West Central Management Area: The private and public waters in Monroe, Clarke, and Choctaw Counties (north of U.S. Highway 84), Marengo County west of State Highway 28 and south of State Highway 80, Wilcox, and Dallas Counties. (excluding Choctaw National Wildlife Refuge). Hunting Hours -Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.

- Seasons & Bag Limits: Hunting & Trapping
- Coastal Management Area: The private and public waters in Baldwin and Mobile that lie south of I-10. Hunting Hours -Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.
- Lake Eufaula Management Area: The public Alabama state waters only in the Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its navigable tributaries (excluding main channel of the Chattahoochie River), south of 13th Street Bridge (excluding Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge). Hunting Hours - Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.
- Southwest Management Area: The private and public waters in Baldwin and Mobile Counties that lie north of I-10 and private and public waters in Washington, Choctaw, Clarke, and Monroe Counties that lie south of US Hwy. 84. Hunting Hours - Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.

Sunset on the 2nd Saturday in August – Sunrise on the 1st Monday in 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). Hunting Hours - Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.

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 22, 2025 & February 7, 2026

- 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.



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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WESTERN CLOTHING BY SCULLY & KAYLEE, HISTORICAL REGALIA AND GREAT GIFTS IDEAS FOR ALL. ON THE INTERNET: www.OldSouthFirearms.com AND VISIT US IN OUR STORE at 425 Argo Margaret Road in Argo, Al; located just .8 miles off of Interstate 59 at the 148 Argo exit. See Google Maps

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

September 13 – September 21 November 28 – January 27

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

SPECIAL TEAL SEASON

September 13 – September 21

- 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 28 – November 29

December 5 – January 31

- 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, 3 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.

ALL GEESE:

September 6 – October 5 October 18 – November 1 November 28 – November 29 December 5 – January 31

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: November 28 – January 4

January 12 – January 26

- By Limited Quota Permit only. Must apply online at *www. outdooralabama.com*. Only residents and Lifetime Hunting License holders of the State of Alabama who are sixteen (16) years of age or older and in possession of a valid hunting license (license not required for individuals over the age of 64) may apply for a Sandhill Crane Permit. There is no fee to apply for a permit. There is a \$20 fee to accept the Sandhill Crane Permit in addition to a small processing fee.
- 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 Last Saturday in October – Last day of February

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.

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

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, except 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.

For Wildlife Management Areas, any person who hunts or traps wildlife species (except turkey, migratory birds, and while hunting legally designated species during legal nighttime hours) must wear a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or full-size hat.

Persons hunting privately owned, leased land, open permit public lands or WMAs 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

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.

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PRESCRIBED FIRE THE MISUNDERSTOOD HABITAT MANAGEMENT TOOL



Prescribed burning, a carefully planned and controlled fire, has long been a vital tool for managing natural landscapes, especially in southeastern states. This practice, which involves setting fire to a specific area under controlled and prescribed conditions, offers numerous ecological benefits. It helps to maintain the health and diversity of wildlife habitats, supports species that rely on fire-adapted ecosystems, and reduces the risk of uncontrolled wildfires. By understanding how different burning times, such as during the dormant or growing seasons, affect vegetative response, we can more effectively understand how prescribed burning can support the varied ecosystems of the region.

THE ROLE OF PRESCRIBED BURNING IN SOUTHEASTERN NATURAL COMMUNITIES

The southeastern U.S. is home to some of the most fire-prone ecosystems in the country. Fire has shaped the region's plant and animal communities for thousands of years, and many species



have evolved to depend on it. For many native plants, fire is a necessary part of their life cycle—some seeds require the heat from fire to germinate, while others have developed thick bark to protect them from flames. Fire plays a crucial role in nutrient cycling, reducing the buildup of excess vegetation, setting back woody plant succession and promoting the regeneration of fireadapted plants.

THE TIMING OF PRESCRIBED BURNS: DORMANT VS. GROWING SEASON FIRES

Prescribed burns can be conducted at different times of the year, each having its own set of benefits and impacts on the vegetative response. Fire frequency and intensity parameters can be delineated through a well-developed prescribed burn plan to accomplish a particular habitat management objective. While the timing of the burn can determine which plant species are favored, which communities thrive, and how the landscape recovers.

DORMANT SEASON BURNS (WINTER AND EARLY SPRING)

The dormant season, typically occurring in late fall to early spring, is the time when many plants are not actively growing. It's a great window for budding land managers to learn to burn as wind directions are typically more consistent and have lower temperatures. During the dormant season, many plants are not actively growing, meaning that fire has a less damaging effect on the larger woody plants, such as trees and shrubs. Instead, these burns remove the accumulated leaf litter and debris, which helps reduce the risk of larger, uncontrolled wildfires.

GROWING SEASON BURNS (SPRING AND SUMMER)

In contrast, burns conducted during the growing season, typically in the spring and early summer, have a different impact. These fires take place when many plants are actively growing, and the fire has a more intense effect on vegetation. Growing season burns are particularly useful for promoting the growth of fire-dependent plants that require fire to germinate, like certain species of wildflowers, grasses, and produce optimal brooding habitat for ground-nesting birds such as northern bobwhite quail and turkey. These burns can also help maintain species diversity by preventing the encroachment of woody vegetation that could shade out fire-adapted grasses and herbaceous plants.

One of the key benefits of growing season burns is their ability to stimulate the regeneration of specific fire-adapted species, like the longleaf pine, which requires fire for seedling establishment. The heat from the fire clears the understory of competing vegetation, allowing young pines to establish and grow. Additionally, growing season burns are particularly beneficial for species that need the heat and smoke from fire to trigger germination, such as certain wildlife preferred grasses and forbs that thrive in fireprone environments.

Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources



LEE

12

RUSSELI

HENRY

HOUSTON

AUTAUGA

19

LOWNDE

11

BUTLER

PEAK RUT DATES

5

November 10 - November 23
 November 24 - December 8

December 9 - December 24December 25 - January 8

January 9 - January 24 January 25 - February 8

GENEVA

DALLAS

9 2

ESCAMBIA

Why is Alabama Different?

Alabama underwent an extensive white-tailed deer restocking program during the middle of the 20th century. Deer stocked were from several states which not only brought great deer to Alabama but their genetics as well. The genetics determine the rut of those deer to this day. The restocking created a unique opportunity for hunters in Alabama to hunt the rut from mid-November until mid-February. This map can help you plan your hunting trip in Alabama so you can hunt the rut all season.

Wildlife Management and Special Opportunity Areas









Forever Wild Land Trust, Alabama's land acquisition program, is now in its 33rd 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 294,000 acres,

of which 93% contribute to 26 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**





It all started with a fistful of dirt.



Family owned and small town operated since 1986.

MOSSY OAK

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 initially 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) must be in possession every time a person is

For faster license sales, always use your Conservation ID#. Make sure you know your CID#, visit https://game.dcnr. alabama.gov/CID/Lookup today! 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 320 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).



RECREATIONAL LICENSES ON PAGES 44-48 ARE REQUIRED IF YOU ARE...

YOU ARE	RESIDENT	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT	RESIDENT/ NONRESIDENT		
AGE	16-64	65 AND OVER	16+	15 AND UNDER		
HUNTING ON LAND YOU DO NOT OWN	Yes ⁽²⁾	No ⁽⁴⁾ Certain licenses required	Yes	No ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required		
HUNTING ON LAND YOU OWN	No ^{(1) (2)} Certain licenses required	No ⁽⁴⁾ Certain licenses required	Yes	N/A		
FISHING IN ALL PUBLIC WATERS	Yes	No	Yes	No		
FISHING FROM THE BANK (PUBLIC FRESHWATERS) WITH ORDINARY HOOK & LINE IN THE COUNTY YOU LIVE IN	No	No	Yes	No		
MILITARY STATIONED IN ALABAMA	Yes	N/A	Stationed in Alabama (30 days or more) may purchase resident licenses ⁽³⁾	N/A		
MILITARY VISITING ALABAMA	No ⁽⁴⁾ Home on leave (must have copy of leave papers & AL driver's license)	N/A	Yes	N/A		
Residency is determined by Driver's License State of Issuance. Resident Applicant may not have valid driver's license in another state.						

(1) Still required are: Bait Privilege License (if hunting deer / feral swine over bait) and Nighttime Hunting License (if hunting Feral Swine / Coyote at night) required for all ages (No exemption). Federal & State Duck Stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

(2) Not required for any resident or resident member of landowner's immediate family who hunts on lands owned by landowner, nor shall it include any tenant or member of his or her immediate family who hunts on tenant's land and who resides on the land. Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters.

- (3) Must present orders showing stationed in AL for 30 days or more, along with driver's license and military ID for member and family members included on the orders to qualify for resident licenses to your local probate or DCNR office.
- (4) Still required are: Bait Privilege License (if hunting deer / feral swine over bait) and Nighttime Hunting License (if hunting Feral Swine / Coyote at night) required for all ages (No exemption). Federal Duck Stamp (if hunting waterfowl).

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.

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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ALABAN WIDHER A COSCHEMENT Whether you're a curious beginner or looking to re-ignite your outdoor skills, we offer a diverse range of courses designed to equip you with the knowledge and confidence to shoot responsibly for years to come.

These 4-hour outdoor courses are perfect for those ages 16+ who want to learn more about shooting safety in a low stress friendly environment.

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Article continued from page 10.

tion was protected from harvest and through a self-rebounding effort on the alligator's part, has produced a steadily expanding contemporary population. Due to the change in population status, the American Alligator has transitioned from an endangered species to one that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and state agencies now manage cooperatively across its southeastern range. Most southeastern states have implemented a controlled harvest program to assist with better managing their populations.

Despite this volume of success on populations, there remain continued challenges related to human-wildlife conflict issues. The steady sprawl of urbanization is bringing individuals to reside in previously undeveloped wetland associated habitats, increasing the interactions between humans and alligators. Ensuring the general public is aware of their presence and how to promote a realistic perception of alligators is important for those individuals to successfully coexist.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ALLIGATOR CONSERVATION

Alligators are essential for maintaining the health of their southeastern wetland ecosystems. As apex predators, they help regulate balances of fish, amphibians, and smaller reptiles. Their nesting activities also create habitats for a wide variety of other species. For example, their nests can provide breeding sites for certain fish and invertebrates, and their den sites can serve as shelters for smaller animals. In essence, alligators contribute to a balanced and thriving ecosystem, which in turn benefits local communities, agriculture, and tourism.

Alabama continues to host a successful limited quota controlled alligator harvest program to manage populations and

CWD SAMPLE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

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 OutdoorAlabama.com/cwd/cwd-sampling

RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026 (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.	\$34.35
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.	\$22.75
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.	\$18.45
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 \$1.10. Bait license required if hunting feral swine over bait. Required of all ages, NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$18.00
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.	\$7.50
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.	\$17.70
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.	\$3.60
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.	\$173.90
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.	\$13.95
DUCK STAMPS	State	_	\$12.35
DOCK STAMPS	Federal	Valid: 7/1/25 – 6/30/26.	\$30.00
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.	\$22.75
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	90 day proof of residency required. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.	\$27.90
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 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026 (unless otherwise indicated)

		-	
CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
	All Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey.	\$399.50
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education	All Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$246.60
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.	\$173.90
Hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under	Small Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey.	\$130.25
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.	\$79.35
course. (see page 54)	Small Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$57.40
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.	\$63.40
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.	\$61.65
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.	\$173.90
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	_	\$12.35
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/25 – 6/30/26.	\$30.00
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.	\$22.75
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.	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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Official 2025-2026 Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest

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RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/IN	F0	FEE
	Freshwater: Annual*	Required for residents 16 years of age and	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$17.00
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.	\$30.05
LICENSE	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip	county of legal residence.	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	\$12.35
	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/fishing/saltwater-fishing</i>). NO EXEMPT	0-346 (see www.outdoorala-	\$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 70)	Public Fishing Lakes	In lieu of a regular fishing license, a resident may purchase to fish at many WFF Division owned Public Fishing Lakes. (Not valid in other public reservoirs, lakes and rivers.) In addition, daily or annual fishing permit still required (available at most lakes).	Trip is valid for 1 day	\$7.65
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.	\$3.50
DISABLED FISHING LICENSE	Saltwater Annual (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	_	\$3.50
	Veterans Appreciation (20% disabled)	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 20% or more disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner	Freshwater Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$3.60
		Office for issuance.	Saltwater	\$3.60
	Annual	12 month residency proof Required for use of any com Valid: 10/1/25 – 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: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL	Catcher	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$301.00
LICENSE	Dealer or Buyer	12 month residency proof Valid: 10/1/25 – 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 9/1/2025 – 8/31/2026 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPT	ION/INFO	FEE
	Freshwater: Annual		_	\$66.25
	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.	\$37.00
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.	\$64.90
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip	– Louisiana, Mississippi, & Tennessee.	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecu- tive hours.	\$35.65
	Saltwater: Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement	Required for any nonresident 16 years of or attempt to take any gulf reef fish spectives (see www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/state)	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	\$9.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 70)	Annual at many WFF Division owned Fishing Lakes. (Not valid in o public reservoirs, lakes and addition, daily or annual fish	at many WFF Division owned Public Fishing Lakes. (Not valid in other public reservoirs, lakes and rivers.) In addition, daily or annual fishing permit still required (available at most lakes).	Expires August 31	\$15.80
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	\$37.00
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. 25 – 9/30/26.	Varies
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	for re	ercial or nongame fish esale. 25 – 9/30/26.	\$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL	Catcher	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$901.00
LICENSE	Dealer or Buyer	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/25 – 9/30/26.		\$361.00
SPEAR FISHING	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.		\$8.50
LICENSE	7-day trip			\$3.50

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



From casting off the pier to chasing monsters offshore, Alabama's Beaches reel in a different kind of fishing experience. Charter boats, back bays, beach fishing—it's all fair game.



For information, email DCNR.WFF License@dcnr.alabama.gov

Name:	CID#		
Social Security # Driver's License #:		Sex:	O Male O Female
Date of Birth:/Email:		Weight:	
Physical Address:		Height:	
Mailing Address:		Race:	
Phone: Home () Work: ()	Cell: ()	Eyes:	
Hunter Education ID #/St: Current Lifetime Life			icansa

Under 2 License Privilege (by age) 2-11 12-49 50 + Upgrade Hunting* \$437.35 \$437.35 \$582.95 \$728.30 0 Freshwater Fishing* \$291.80 \$364.65 \$219.00 \$219.00 0 Saltwater Fishing ** \$364.65 \$437.35 \$510.15 \$364.65 0 Hunting & Freshwater Fishing* \$655.60 \$728.30 \$1,019.35 \$655.60 0 Hunting & Saltwater Fishing* \$801.05 \$1.019.35 \$1,237.65 \$801.05 0 Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing* \$728.30 \$873.85 \$582.95 \$582.95 0 Hunting, Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing* \$1,019.35 \$1,164.90 \$1,528.60 \$1,019.35 0 Add Additional Privileges 12-49 Under 2 2 - 1150 + State Duck Stamp \$192.95 \$244.05 \$295.35 \$192.95 0 Wildlife Heritage * \$291.80 \$291.80 \$291.80 \$291.80 0 Saltwater Reef Fish Endorsement** \$220.00 \$220.00 \$220.00 \$220.00 0 **Resident Military Veteran's Appreciation** 49 & under 50 & over \$54.50 Freshwater Fishing (20% or more disabled)* \$30.25 0 1-time \$54.50 \$30.25 Saltwater Fishing (20% or more disabled) Required 0 \$1.20 Issuance Hunting (40% or more disabled)* \$72.60 \$36.30 0 Fee \$54.50 Hunting (100% or more disabled)* \$30.25 0

* 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.

\$ 5.00

Lifetime Application Total: \$

Date:

Visit: www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing/saltwater-reef-fish-endorsement for more information.

For children 17 years of age and younger, please submit the supporting documents as required below:

0-4 years of age: 1) Birth Certificate, 2) Parent/Guardian's AL Driver's License and 3) Physician Statement, Daycare Record or AL Tax Return (page 1,

and Dependent Schedule or equivalent list of dependents, Form 40 Part IV General Information or equivalent).

5-11 years of age: 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.

All others 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. Call 334-242-3465 if any questions.

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

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.

Applicant's Signature:

Replacement Lifetime License

Each Replacement

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

⁽¹⁾ 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.

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Article continued from page 43.

ensure sustainable use of this natural resource. Alligator harvest quotas are established within Alligator Management Areas (AMAs) and provided to the public via the limited quota hunt program open to residents and non-residents. Conducting the hunt provides multiple benefits including a unique hunting opportunity, boosting commerce in local economies, and having hunters harvest alligators in areas that receive reports of nuisance alligators, thus allowing hunters to utilize the resource instead of the alligator being removed by a nuisance control operator.

WAYS THE PUBLIC CAN ENJOY ALLIGATORS SAFELY

While alligators are a fascinating part of Alabama's wildlife, it is important to remember that they are wild animals and can be dangerous if provoked or approached irresponsibly. The public can enjoy observing alligators in their natural habitat, but they must be prudent and cautious to avoid negative interactions.

- 1. Assume Alligators are Present: Alligators may inhabit any waterbody within the state so always be aware of your surroundings. Be particularly aware when near the water's edge.
- 2. Never Feed Alligators: Feeding alligators purposefully may cause them to associate humans with food. Feeding alligators is irresponsible and illegal.
- 3. **Don't Dispose Fish or Food Scraps in Water:** When cleaning fish, refrain from dumping the scraps into the water so as not to attract alligators to the area. Don't provide a reason to become habituated to your activities.
- 4. Never Harass, Capture, or Handle an Alligator: Doing any of these actions can increase your likelihood of injury. Leave them alone and observe from a safe distance and give them their space.
- 5. **Be Responsible for People and Pets in Your Care:** Alligators don't know the difference between pets and native prey so keep your pets on a leash and away from the water's edge. Always supervise small children near water.

ACTIONS THE PUBLIC CAN TAKE TO COEXIST WITH ALLIGATORS

To live comfortably within alligator territory, the public can take a few proactive steps to minimize conflicts:

- Secure Food Sources: Never leave pet food, garbage, or fish scraps near water sources where alligators may frequent. Securing these food sources reduces the likelihood of attracting alligators into populated areas.
- Fencing and Barriers: Property owners in alligator-prone areas should consider installing fences or barriers to prevent alligators from entering their yards. These precautions can reduce the chances of accidental encounters.
- Educate Yourself and Others: Awareness is key to minimizing negative interactions. Educational programs and outreach efforts by local wildlife agencies, such as your Alabama Wildlife and Fresh Water Fisheries Division (WFF), can help residents and visitors understand how to live safely alongside alligators.
- **Report Sightings:** If you see an alligator in an unusual or dangerous location or behaving abnormally, report it to the appropriate authorities. WFF manages alligator removal programs, ensuring that the animals are removed when necessary.

CONCLUSION

Alligators in Alabama are a symbol of the state's rich natural heritage, and their conservation is crucial for maintaining healthy ecosystems. By understanding this reptile's role in the environment and adopting safe practices for coexisting with them, the public can enjoy the beauty of Alabama's wildlife while minimizing conflict. With mutual respect and awareness, humans and alligators can share the same space without conflict, ensuring that future generations will also have the opportunity to experience these fascinating creatures in the wild.

Your purchase of hunting and fishing licenses support wildlife and fisheries programs.

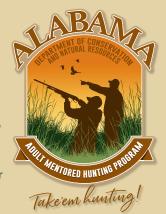
INTERESTED IN BECOMING A HUNTER?

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.



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).

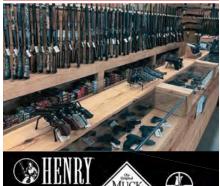
	SEPTE	MBER	осто	DBER	NOVE	MBER	DECE	MBER	JANU	JARY	FEBR	UARY
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
DAY	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	0622	1912	0642	1831	0706	1755	0634	1639	0652	1650	0643	1719
2	0622	1911	0643	1830	0607	1654	0634	1639	0652	1651	0643	1720
3	0623	1909	0643	1828	0608	1653	0635	1639	0652	1652	0642	1721
4	0624	1908	0644	1827	0609	1652	0636	1639	0652	1653	0641	1722
5	0624	1907	0645	1826	0610	1651	0637	1639	0652	1654	0640	1723
6	0625	1905	0645	1825	0611	1650	0638	1639	0652	1654	0639	1724
7	0626	1904	0646	1823	0612	1650	0639	1639	0652	1655	0639	1724
8	0626	1903	0647	1822	0613	1649	0639	1639	0652	1656	0638	1725
9	0627	1901	0648	1821	0614	1648	0640	1639	0652	1657	0637	1726
10	0628	1900	0648	1819	0614	1647	0641	1640	0652	1658	0636	1727
11	0628	1859	0649	1818	0615	1647	0642	1640	0652	1659	0635	1728
12	0629	1857	0650	1817	0616	1646	0642	1640	0652	1700	0634	1729
13	0630	1856	0651	1816	0617	1645	0643	1640	0652	1700	0633	1730
14	0630	1855	0651	1814	0618	1645	0644	1641	0652	1701	0632	1731
15	0631	1853	0652	1813	0619	1644	0644	1641	0651	1702	0631	1732
16	0632	1852	0653	1812	0620	1644	0645	1641	0651	1703	0630	1733
17	0632	1850	0654	1811	0621	1643	0645	1642	0651	1704	0629	1734
18	0633	1849	0655	1810	0622	1643	0646	1642	0651	1705	0628	1735
19	0634	1848	0655	1808	0623	1642	0647	1642	0650	1706	0627	1736
20	0634	1846	0656	1807	0624	1642	0647	1643	0650	1707	0626	1736
21	0635	1845	0657	1806	0625	1641	0648	1643	0649	1708	0625	1737
22	0636	1843	0658	1805	0626	1641	0648	1644	0649	1709	0624	1738
23	0636	1842	0659	1804	0627	1641	0649	1644	0649	1710	0623	1739
24	0637	1841	0659	1803	0627	1640	0649	1645	0648	1711	0621	1740
25	0638	1839	0700	1802	0628	1640	0649	1646	0648	1712	0620	1741
26	0638	1838	0701	1801	0629	1640	0650	1646	0647	1713	0619	1742
27	0639	1837	0702	1800	0630	1640	0650	1647	0647	1714	0618	1742
28	0640	1835	0703	1759	0631	1639	0651	1648	0646	1715	0617	1743
29	0640	1834	0704	1758	0632	1639	0651	1648	0645	1716		
30	0641	1833	0705	1757	0633	1639	0651	1649	0645	1717		
31			0705	1756			0651	1650	0644	1718		

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





over 2,000 firearms IN STOCK





EXIT 199 1556 Almon Street Heflin, AL 36264 256-253-2635 59400 AL Highway 77 Talladega, AL 35160

www.bamagunsandoutfitters.com

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/HunterEd.

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 34) 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 nongame 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

NEW LOUISIANA STATE RECORD NET TYPICAL

Home grown at Honey Brake-Raised on Buck Busters!



WWW.BUCKBUSTERSSEED.COM (800) 562-4570 *www.outdooralabama.com* website. Visit the Hunting page and look for the Special Opportunity Area link.

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 &



And be entered to win a \$100 gift certificate to your sporting good retailer of choice.

Your anonymous participation advances fish and wildlife conservation, helps protect your right to hunt, fish and shoot, and guides companies in developing better outdoor products. 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. Nonresidents 16 years of age and over using a Division shooting range or archery park are required to have either a valid Alabama nonresident 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. Article continued from page 36.

BALANCING ECOLOGICAL NEEDS

The timing of prescribed burns is crucial for managing specific plant and animal communities. Each spring, we all see the Facebook posts emerge about how growing season prescribed fires are burning up turkey nests. Individual nests do likely succumb to fire, but the holistic approach of improving the scale of habitat for future nesting and high-quality brooding opportunities takes precedence. If no actions are exerted to control the growth of woody encroachment, habitat quality will degrade to a thicket of woody saplings providing minimal benefits to the coveted wild turkey and bobwhite quail, as well as a wide collection of other wildlife species.

CONCLUSION: THE NEED FOR THOUGHTFUL FIRE MANAGEMENT

Prescribed burning is a vital tool for land managers in maintaining the health and biodiversity of the southeastern habitats. By conducting burns during different times of the year—whether in the dormant season or growing season—managers can achieve varied ecological outcomes, from controlling invasive species to fostering the regeneration of fire-dependent plants. Through careful planning, following a well-developed burn plan and understanding of the landscape's needs, prescribed burning can continue to be an essential practice for supporting the natural communities of the southeastern U.S., ensuring that these firedependent ecosystems thrive for generations to come.



DCNR DEER / TURKEY TRANSFER OF POSSESSION CERTIFICATE

(Full Name)

(Conservation Identification Number)

hereby transfer possession to:

(Full Name / Processing Plant / Taxidermist)

the following legally harvested animal:

____ Deer ____ Turkey

Date of Harvest:

Game Check Confirmation Number:

1

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES

For additional information or questions: www.OutdoorAlabama.com/hunting/hunter-resources

As required for Game Check 220-2-.146

Revised 05/26/2021

REELFOOT LAKE

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.** Hunting with fully automatic weapons is prohibited.

- **20.** 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)
- **21.** Release any tame or wild turkey into any of the wild areas of the state. (220-2-.26)
- **22.** Utilize firearms for hunting deer during the preliminary archery only season, except handguns may be possessed for personal protection. (220-2-.10)
- **23.** 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)
- **24.** Hunt or take wildlife using poisons or explosives. (9-11-245)
- **25.** Have in possession or keep in captivity any protected live wild bird or wild animal. (220-2-.26)
- **26.** Trail wounded game onto property where the hunter does not have permission to enter. (9-11-241/242)
- **27.** 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)
- **28.** 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)



FICE SPREAD OF

KEEP HUNTING AND HARVESTING DEER.

HUNTING IN A CWD AREA? GET YOUR DEER TESTED.

KNOW THE RULES FOR CARCASS TRANSPORTATION.

WATCH THIS CHRONIC TRUTH: A COMPREHENSIVE

COURSE ON CWD.



REEL IN THE FUR BAAIA BA

Bank fishing in Alabama offers a fantastic opportunity to connect with nature, enjoy the outdoors, and catch some fish. With a little planning and preparation, you can have a memorable and rewarding fishing experience. So, grab your gear, head to your favorite spot, and reel in the fun!



Accessibility: No boat? No problem! Many public access points, parks, and recreational areas offer excellent bank fishing spots.



Affordability: Bank fishing requires minimal gear compared to boat fishing, making it a budget-friendly option.



Relaxation: Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature while waiting for a bite. It's a great way to unwind and destress.

Variety of Species: Alabama's diverse waterways are home to a wide range of fish, including bass, catfish, crappie, and bream.



and Natural Resources

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Alcohol & Water Don't Mix • Reach, Throw, Don't Go, Learn to Float Never Dive in Lakes & Rivers



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



Freshwater Fishing

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 70).

LIMB LINES (BUSH HOOKS)

Fishing with limb lines is permissible in most Alabama public water bodies with a sport freshwater fishing license. They are not required to be labeled with angler identification and cannot be left unattended for more than 48 hours. Fishing with limb lines is illegal in State-owned PFLs (see page 70).

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

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



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.

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 unimpounded 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.

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES PROGRAM

Aquatic nuisance species (ANS) are non-native aquatic organisms that can cause significant ecological and economic harm to Alabama's waterways. These species, including aquatic plants, fish, mussels, snails and crayfish which outcompete native species, disrupt habitats and interfere with recreational and commercial activities. Examples of common aquatic nuisance species in Alabama include hydrilla, water hyacinth, zebra mussels and silver carp.

Boaters, anglers and other water users play a key role in preventing the spread of ANS. To help protect Alabama's aquatic resources, it's important to clean, drain and dry all equipment thoroughly before moving between bodies of water. This includes removing mud, plants and organisms from boats, trailers and other equipment, draining all water from motors, bilges, live wells and bait buckets and allowing equipment to dry completely before launching it in another waterbody. Additionally, individuals should never release aquarium pets, plants or bait into the wild regardless of whether they are exotic or native to Alabama.

Movement of both exotic and native species can have a detrimental affect on resident species in other Alabama watersheds, including direct competition for food and space, and the spread of diseases.

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources actively monitors and manages ANS threats through prevention, education, control and coordination efforts. For more information on aquatic nuisance species in Alabama, including identification and reporting procedures, visit www.outdooralabama.com/freshwater-fishing/aquatic-nuisance-species.

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.outdoorala-bama.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

Residents and Nonresidents should contact ALEA by visiting *www.alea.gov/dps/marine-patrol* or calling (800) 272-7930 for complete information concerning boating in Alabama.





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STATE PARKS ALAPARK.COM From mountaintop hikes to beachside breaks and every dynamic trail in between, natural beauty and recreational activities await at 21 Alabama State Parks! Fill your time with adventure, rest, or a little bit of both!



PLAN YOUR LODGE STAY, ROAD TRIP, OR CAMPING GETAWAY TODAY!



CREGUIDITIONS

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

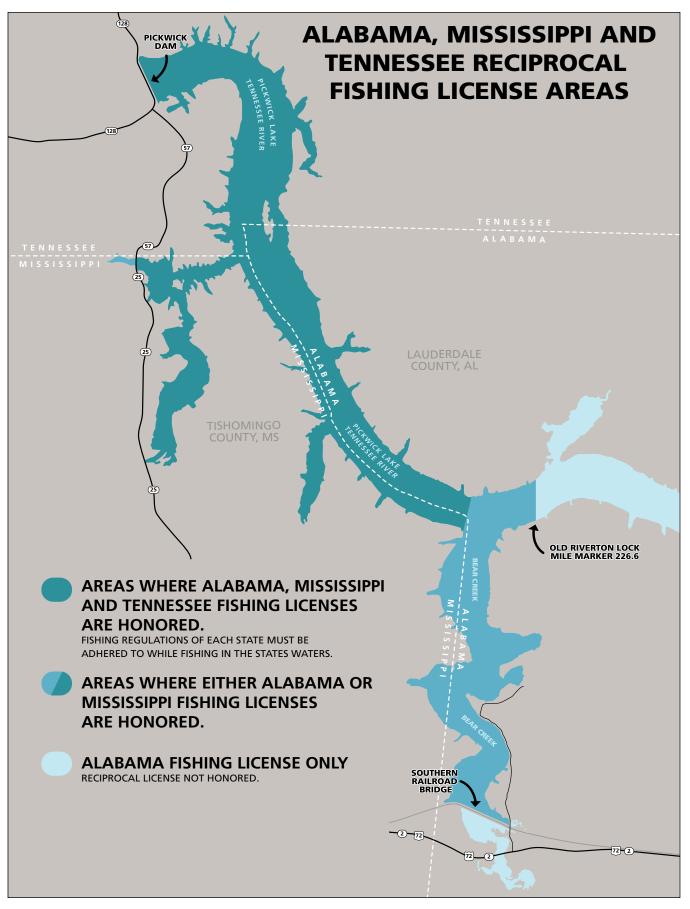
It is prohibited to introduce, place or cause the introduction or placement of any non-native aquatic plant into any public waters of the State. For further information, contact the local District Fisheries Office (see page 2).

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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 Chat-tahoochee 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 Whitesides 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, and Winston Counties. 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	See exceptions for the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments and tributaries on page 69.	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 Chattahoochee River and its impoundments and tributaries, Lewis Smith, Yates, and Thurlow reservoirs and Lake Martin. See page 69.	15
Crappie	It is illegal to possess any crappie less than nine inches in total length taken from Alabama public waters, 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, Choc- tawhatchee, 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.	Closed Season
Paddlefish or Spoonbill	All paddlefish must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	Closed Season
Skipjack Herring	Skipjack herring taken from the Tennessee River and its tributaries are illegal for sale or trade.	50

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 Wa-coochee creeks.

Chattahoochee River and its Impoundments and Tributaries - It is illegal to possess more than fifteen White Bass, Saltwater Striped Bass and Hybrids in aggregate and only two may exceed 22 inches in total length. Special creel limits apply in reciprocal waters as specified under regulation 220-2-.122 Georgia Reciprocal Fishing Agreement Regulation.

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.

Lewis Smith Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass, Alabama bass or spotted 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.

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.

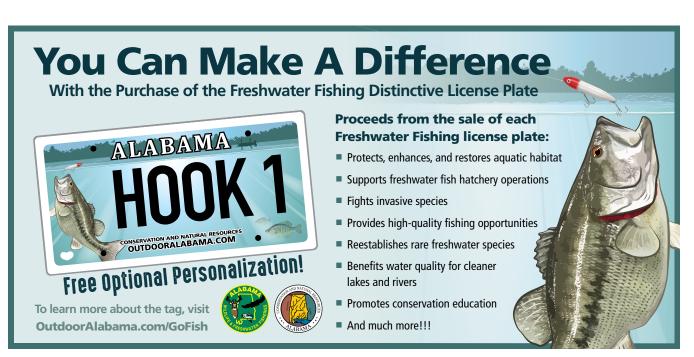
Wheeler Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any smallmouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

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. R		
Bibb	Micah and Amanda Dean		
Chambers	Alan and Karen Franks	(334) 219-0217	
Clay	Gregory Clark	(256) 488-0042	
Coffee	Closed for renovation. R	eopening TBD.	
Crenshaw	Closed for renovation. R	eopening TBD.	
Dale	City of Ozark, Renee White	(334) 774-0588	State-owned public fishing lakes are typically open
Dallas	Earle Williams Sr. & Shakenyia Pullom	(334) 267-9625	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 four days a week. During the
Escambia	Closed for renovation. R	eopening TBD.	months of December and January, many lakes are closed or operate on a limited basis. Information
Fayette	No on-site mai	nager	and schedules may change without notice, so
Geneva	Ray Windham (334) 684-0361		please visit our website www.OutdoorAlabama.co call the Lake Manager, or the appropriate Wildlif
Lamar	Kathy Parker (205) 695-8283		and Freshwater Fisheries District Office for the
Lee	William H. Smith	(334) 745-6563	current operating schedule.
Madison	Chris and Cole Coultas	(256) 776-4905	
Marion	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Monroe	No on-site mai	nager	
Pike	City of Troy, Brian Meadows (334) 674-2480		
Walker	David Price & Tiffany Terradas (205) 522-7739		
Washington	No on-site mai	nager	



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, hand grabbling or limb lines
- 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.

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.

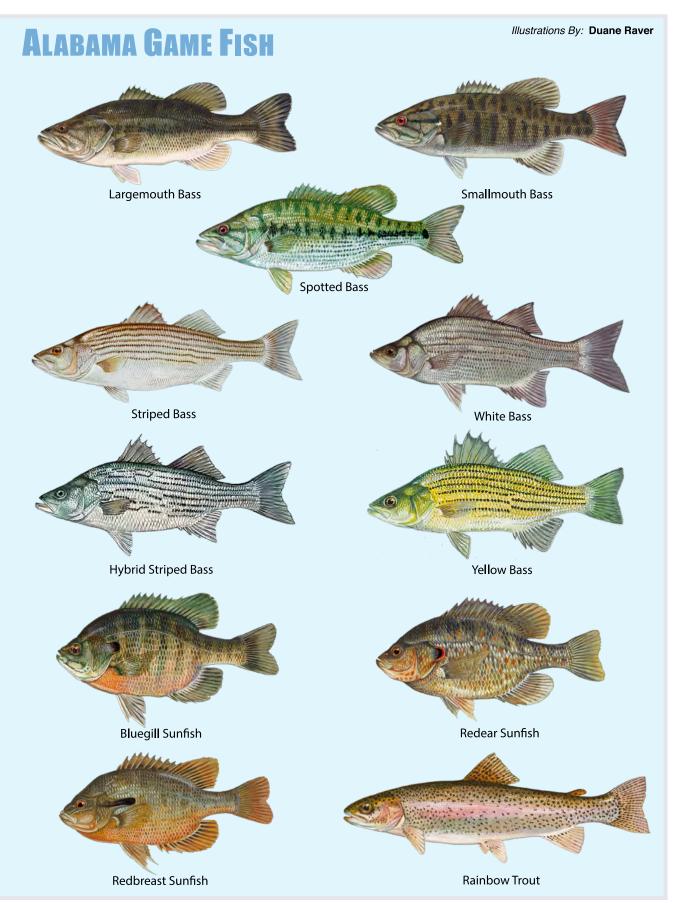


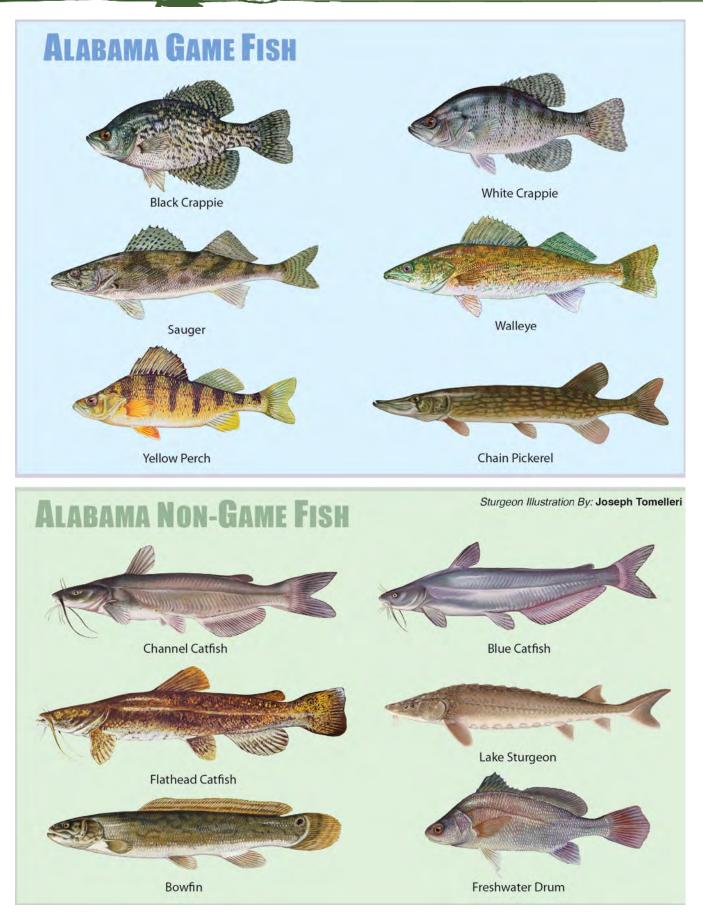
SPECIES	WEIGHT	DATE	LOCATION	ANGLER/HOMETOWN
Bass, Largemouth	16 lbs., 8 oz.	11/3/87	Mountain View Lake, Shelby Co.	Thomas "T.M." Burgin / Birmingham
Bass, Redeye ^(b)	3 lbs., 2 oz.	3/8/00	Choccolocco Creek	William Terry Johnson / Oxford
Bass, Rock	1 lb., 6 oz.	5/6/95	Paint Rock River	James R. Stewart / 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
	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., 8 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
Herring, Skipjack	3 lbs., 8 oz.	3/27/25	Wheeler Dam Tailwater	Randall L. Puckett / Albertville
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
Fickelei, Rediii (ile)	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: 3/27/2025





Official 2025–2026 Alabama Hunting and Fishing Digest



Your Ripple Effect.

Manufacturer-paid federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and the portion of fuel taxes attributed to motorboat use and small engines — combined with state fishing licenses help amplify vital fisheries conservation efforts and expand public access opportunities. Through the Sport Fish Restoration program, your participation generates powerful waves of benefits for fish, habitat, public access, and future generations of anglers and boaters.

Each year, nationally, these benefits include:

1 Billion+

Sport fish raised and stocked

Reinforced conservation heritage

200+

Species of sport fish studied and managed

925-

Transient boat slips constructed (2020-2024)

Strengthened community bonds through collaboration

850,000+

Students received aquatic and angler education Increased connection and access to wild places

748+

facilities constructed (2020-2024)

9,000+

Public boating and fishing areas operated and maintained

> Raised conservation and stewardship awareness



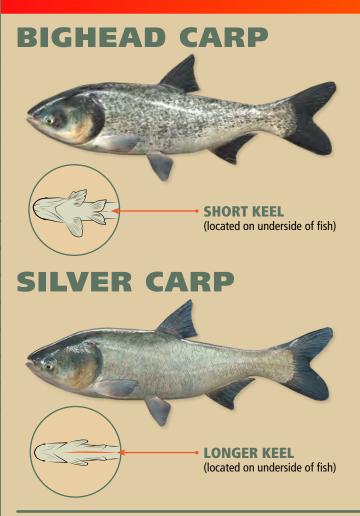




Together, industry, state, and federal partners make conservation happen. Scan the code at right to learn more.



ATTENTION ALABAMA ANGLERS – BE ON THE LOOKOUT **INVASIVE CARP** OutdoorAlabama.com/invasive-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

PLEASE DO NOT RELEASE THESE SPECIES BACK INTO THE WATER.

DISPATCH AND DISPOSE OF THEM PROPERLY.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO TRANSPORT LIVE WILD CAUGHT BAITFISH TO OR FROM THE WATERS IN WHICH THEY ARE CAUGHT. (REGULATION 220-2-.162)



REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS, WITH EXACT LOCATIONS, TO:Alabama Wildlife(256) 353-2634& Freshwater Fisheriesasiancarp@dcnr.alabama.gov





GA, SC, AL pricing shown. Pricing may be different in some areas, subject to change, and does not include any land allowances. Promo pricing cannot be used with any other discounts. Renderings may show options not included in base price.



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WITH YOUR NEW

HOME PURCHASE