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Alabama HUNTING & FISHING Digest

2024–2025 REQUIREMENTS, FEES and SEASON DATES

Enhancing Forest Habitats For Wildlife

see page 36



» SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO ALLIGATOR SEASON

see page 6

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
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Contents

Major Changes & Important Information 6
Conservation ID (CID) Number & Game Check Confirmation Number 6
Conservation Advisory Board Members 8
Wildlife and Human Interactions 10
Rails and Gallinule 12
Misconceptions About Chronic Wasting Disease 14
Deer & Turkey Harvest Record and Game Check 16
Birdwatching is for Hunters too! 18
Seasons & Limits - Hunting & Trapping 20
Seeing the Forest and the Trees 36
Alabama Rut Map 37
Recreational Licenses – Who Needs a License 41
Learn to Shoot – Outdoor Alabama Academy 42
Collectible License Cards 44
Hunting License Descriptions and Fees 44
Fishing License Descriptions and Fees 46
Lifetime License Application 50
Sunrise & Sunset Times 53
Hunter Education Information 54
Hunting Laws, Regulations & Information 54
Deer / Turkey Transfer of Possession Certificate 57
Growing Bigger Bass – Largemouth Bass Genetics vs Fertility 60
Regulations & Information – Freshwater Fishing 62
Fishing License Reciprocal map with AL, TN & MS 67
Fishing Daily Creel, Possession & Size Limits 68
State-Owned Public Fishing Lakes Information 70
Freshwater Fish Records 71
Freshwater Fish Identification Pictures 72
Wildlife & Freshwater Division Facilities Map 74



ON THE COVER

Eastern Wild Turkey is an integral part of the Alabama landscape. Managing habitats for these majestic birds is vital to maintaining a healthy population. Learn more at *OutdoorAlabama.com.*

Photo by: Paul Brown

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

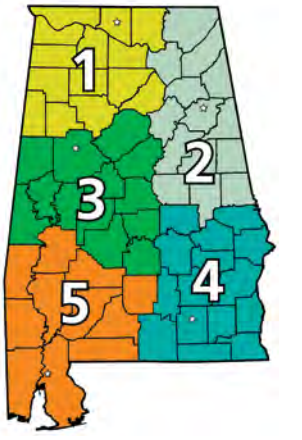
If you have questions or comments regarding **hunting or freshwater fishing** laws, regulations, freshwater fisheries or wildlife programs, or to report violations, please contact your local District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Office listed to the right.

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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Chuck Sykes, Director

Fred R. Harders, Assistant Director

The great outdoors has long been an important part of the lives of Alabamians. Time spent hunting and fishing with family and friends has been ingrained in our culture for generations. Outdoor recreational opportunities in our state are as abundant as the diversity of wildlife and landscapes found within its borders and along our Gulf Coast. Hunters and anglers have choices for outdoor adventure that range from chasing rabbits in the Appalachian foothills, to reeling in largemouth bass from our world-renowned rivers, reservoirs and lakes.

Despite Alabama's plentiful wildlife and outdoor recreational opportunities, less than four percent of Alabamians actually purchase a hunting or fishing license each year. Many are simply unaware that hunting, fishing, and shooting sports licenses are crucial to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' (ADCNR) efforts to preserve these natural resources for the future enjoyment of our children and grandchildren.

License sales for outdoors activities also leverage federal funding through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration acts which levy excise taxes on some hunting, fishing, and shooting sports equipment. In turn, these funds are distributed to states according to each state's size and number of license sales. About 80 percent of Pittman-Robertson funding is now generated by first-time gun owners and recreational target shooters. To accommodate this increased interest in shooting sports, ADCNR is working to provide additional recreational shooting opportunities and will soon open its thirteenth public shooting range which will be located in Shelby County.

The shift away from more traditional forms of outdoor recreation has increased the need for experienced mentors to share their passion for hunting and fishing with those with little to no experience. By becoming a hunting or fishing mentor, you can pass on these traditions to a new generation who will become future stewards of Alabama's natural resources. I encourage each of you to take someone who has never been hunting, fishing, or participated in sport shooting with you on your next outing.

Your purchase of a hunting, fishing or wildlife heritage license not only funds wildlife conservation and habitat restoration, it is also an important component of the state's economy. Outdoor-related activities in our state generate an economic impact of nearly $15 billion annually. That means more than 135,000 outdoor industry jobs for Alabamians. Hunting, fishing, and shooting sports make this possible.

Alabama's great outdoors is calling everyone. Anyone who has an interest in exploring the excellent hunting opportunities on our 1.3 million acres of public land, or experiencing some of the best freshwater fishing in the country on our abundant waterways should plan their next outdoor adventure in Alabama. Whether your interests include large and small game hunting, catching quality largemouth bass or taking aim at one of Alabama's many public shooting ranges, access to quality outdoor recreation can be found throughout our state.

No place on earth compares to Alabama, especially if you love the outdoors. I sincerely thank you for your support of ADCNR's conservation efforts and I hope you have a safe and successful season!

Kay Ivey

ADDITIONAL OFFICES & PHONE NUMBERS

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
(800) 272-4263

Enforcement: (334) 242-3467
Fisheries: (334) 242-3471
Wildlife: (334) 242-3469

ADMINISTRATION
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License Information
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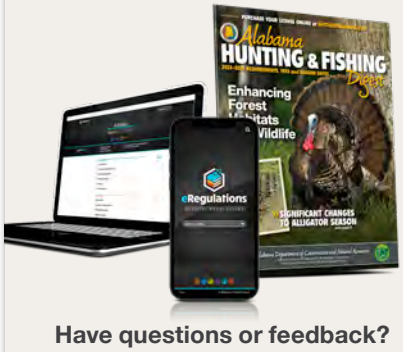
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MAJOR CHANGES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR THE 2024–2025 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

- ✓ **Expanded the Southwest, West Central, and Lake Eufaula Alligator Management Areas.**
- ✓ **Modified hunting dates and hours for all Alligator Management Areas except Southeast.**
- ✓ **Changed the Alligator Size and Bag Limits and included a new bonus management harvest permit and allow nonresidents to apply for a harvest permit.**
- ✓ **Reduced creel limit of Skipjack Herring.**
- ✓ **Prohibited the selling of Skipjack Herring from the Tennessee River and its tributaries.**
- ✓ **Removed slot limit of Largemouth Bass on Little Bear Creek Reservoir.**
- ✓ **Changed limited quota permit system for duck blinds at Swan Creek Wildlife Management Area.**
- ✓ **Expanded the Mobile-Tensaw Delta Waterfowl Management Zone.**
- ✓ **Prohibited operations of air-cooled motors in portions of Mud Creek WMA during Waterfowl season. Restricted the use of air-cooled motors in the dewatering areas of Mud Creek WMA and portion of Raccoon Creek WMA.**
- ✓ **Changed dates of operating airboats and air-cooled motors in Crow Creek and North Sauty Refuges.**

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

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A **PERMANENT** 6-digit number 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:

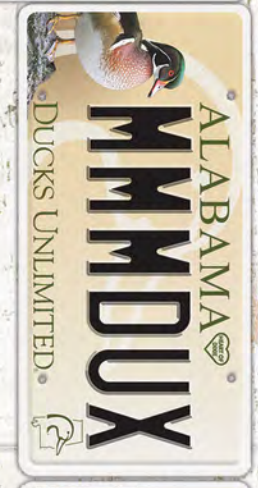
- » Maintain your annual deer and turkey harvest record
- » Determine future hunting season and bag limits
- » Determine trends in harvest timing and wildlife populations

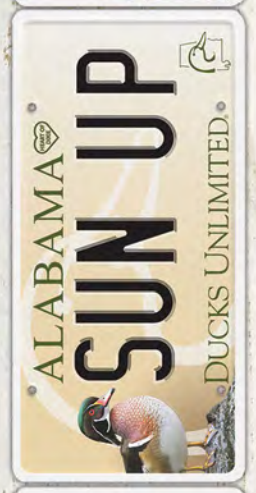


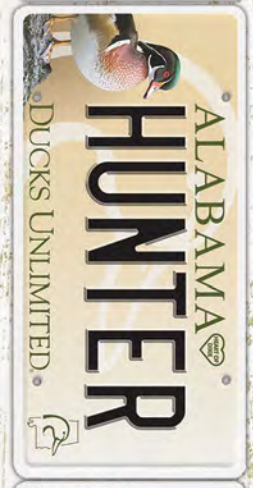
















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Revised: 1 Oct 2023

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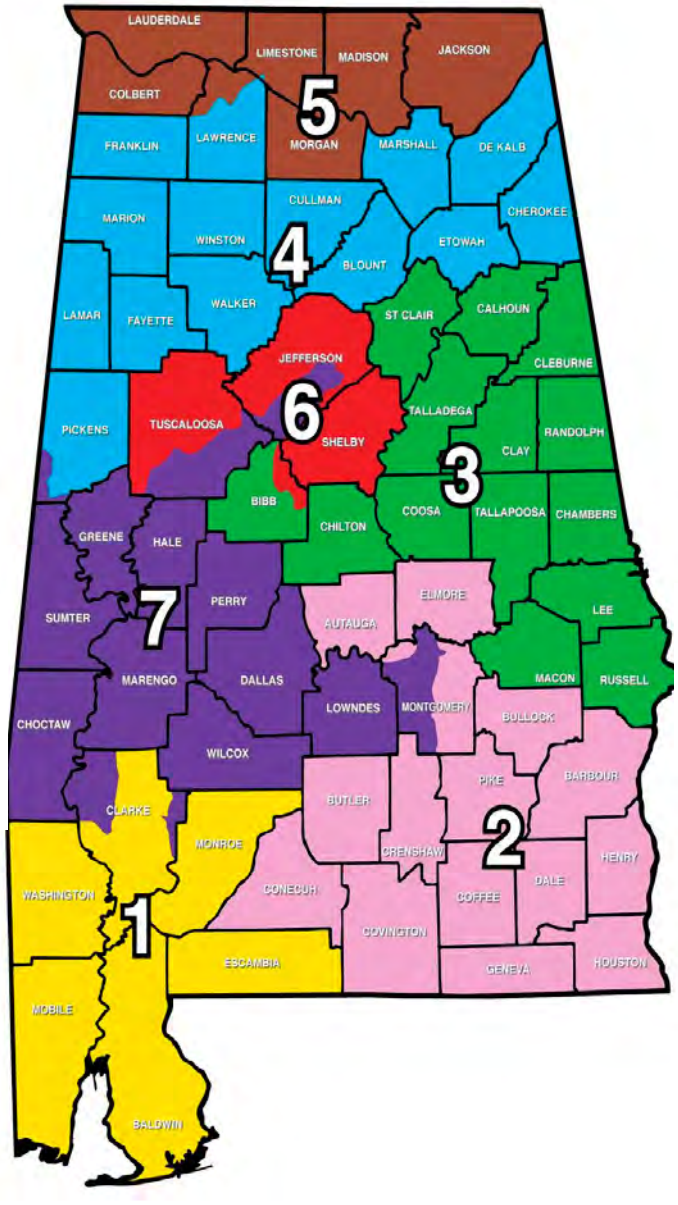
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WILDLIFE AND HUMAN INTERACTIONS

Every year the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) receives countless calls from homeowners regarding wildlife sightings and issues. Whether these situations result in a human-wildlife conflict often varies depending on the caller's knowledge, comfort level, and tolerance, or lack thereof, regarding whichever species of wildlife is being observed. Many calls are concerned residents wanting to report an unwanted wildlife sighting and a remedy can be found simply by removing attractants such as pet food, bird feeders, and odors from trashcans. Other calls involve situations that have resulted in property damage or injuries to small pets. Generally, residents reporting wildlife sightings are seeking reassurance of safety and preventative measures that can be taken to avoid conflict. Reports often involve common species such as coyotes, foxes, raccoons, and opossums. Property damage reports usually involve species such as white-tailed deer (eating crops or flowers in garden), foxes (denning under sheds), squirrels (nesting in the attic), and geese (leaving behind scat (droppings) on lawn or sidewalks). Whatever the case may be, the WFF is available to advise homeowners on methods to prevent conflicts with wildlife and prevent the development of nuisance wildlife issues.

In the majority of situations, eliminating attractants or implementing easy exclusionary/diversionary practices will resolve a homeowner's concern with wildlife that's being considered a nuisance. In other cases, WFF may permit the take of protected wildlife, such as white-tailed deer and Canada geese, causing crop damage, property damage, or concern for human safety. Permits may be granted only after WFF staff determines that the wildlife should be removed for human safety, to protect agricultural crops or other property from excessive damage. If you are experiencing an issue with nuisance wildlife, contact your county's corresponding WFF District Office to inquire about which species require a special permit to remove and how to obtain a permit to take protected wildlife due to nuisance issues. WFF also provides a variety of informative publications about how homeowners can discourage a particular species away from their property, and a list of permitted Nuisance Control Operators that are available for hire to handle nuisance wildlife situations To learn more about deterring nuisance wildlife visit: *www.outdooralabama.com/wildlife-management-programs/alabama-nuisance-animal-control.*



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RAILS & GALLINULE

Rails, gallinules, and sora are secretive marsh birds that inhabit various marshes and wetlands of Alabama. Nine species have been found in Alabama with some being designated as huntable migratory gamebirds. Most will have to study up to accurately identify them, and while they're not well-known by most outdoorsmen, they present a unique wing-shooting opportunity for those that don't mind getting in the mud.

Rails have relatively long, slightly decurved bills to grab and probe marsh soils for crustaceans and other invertebrates. Clapper rail are restricted to coastal salt marshes of Mobile and Baldwin counties while king rail are found in fresh or brackish marshes even away from the coast. Virginia rail resembles a miniature king rail and occur around salt, fresh, or brackish marshes. King, clapper, and Virginia rail are game birds.

Black rail and yellow rail have been documented in Alabama on only a few occasions. They are not game species. Black rail is federally listed as threatened.



Common gallinule, purple gallinule, and sora are found in freshwater marshes. These birds are duck-shaped and have shorter bills than most rails. Common and Purple gallinule are similar in size and typically depart Alabama during winter. Sora is another small rail and the most common. Sora are common statewide during spring and fall migration and remain in south Alabama during winter. These three birds are also gamebirds.

Members of the rail family make all sorts of odd sounds and remain hidden in dense marsh vegetation, offering migratory bird hunters unique challenges. Hunt them by poling a boat or wading through and along wetland vegetation while spotting or flushing birds. Hunters must have a small game license, HIP certification, and shotguns must be 10 gauge or smaller and plugged for no more than 3 shells. Alabama does not require non-toxic shot for these birds, but they occur near waterfowl and hunters must be sure not to possess lead shot if hunting both waterfowl and rails.



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MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) has been a hot topic in most southeastern states, including Alabama, over the last several years. Alabama's first detection of CWD occurred in a hunter-harvested deer taken in Lauderdale County during the 2021-22 hunting season. The deer was sampled and tested as part of the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division's (WFF) disease surveillance efforts. Through continued sampling initiatives, WFF employees have had significantly more opportunities to interact with hunters in Lauderdale and Colbert counties, as well as other areas of Alabama, and has provided a great deal of information about the disease to the public through public meetings, media outlets, the *outdooralabama.com* website, and social media postings. Even with the increased flow of information between WFF and the state's hunters, WFF staff continues to work to correct misinformation and misconceptions about CWD.

Perhaps the biggest misconception surrounding CWD is the disease itself. Many hunters still confuse CWD with hemorrhagic disease (HD). The diseases are completely different, but the similar acronyms (CWD and HD) cause confusion. HD is a viral disease that is spread only through small, biting insects. HD is not contagious and does not spread directly from deer to deer. As with most viral diseases, HD develops rapidly and runs its course in just a few days. The overwhelming majority of deer in Alabama that contract HD will recover with no ill effects, but some will die from HD each year. Those that survive develop antibodies to the virus and are less susceptible to the disease in the future. In Alabama, HD is typically an issue from mid-summer until cold weather eliminates the midges for the year. It is important that hunters understand that deer herds in other states experience losses from HD in ways different from what is seen in Alabama, and that large-scale losses from HD are not occurring in our state.

CWD is a contagious, fatal neurodegenerative disease caused by the transformation of normal prions (proteinaceous infectious particles) into infectious, self-propagating, abnormal prions. These abnormal prions concentrate in the brain, central nervous system tissues, and some lymph tissues. The infectious prions are shed though saliva, feces, urine, and other bodily fluids, as well as decaying carcasses of CWD infected animals. The disease can be transmitted anytime an infected deer makes contact with other deer and can also be transmitted indirectly as deer pick up prions shed at feeders, mineral licks, licking branches, scrapes, etc. CWD has a long incubation period of 12 months or longer and is progressive, meaning most deer that have CWD are likely to not show outward symptoms of being sick. This is why testing of samples from hunter-harvested deer is so important in monitoring the spread and prevalence of the disease within the deer population. You cannot tell by looking at a deer if it has CWD; the disease is detected by testing tissue in a laboratory setting.

Probably the second most common misconception or conspiracy theory that is mentioned during discussions of CWD is that the WFF stands to gain revenue from finding CWD. Hunters in Lauderdale and Colbert counties have seen many new WFF staff faces since the first positive was discovered. The assumption for many is the agency hired new people with money the Federal government sent WFF because of CWD. In reality, the new faces are veteran staff brought in from WMAs and programs in other parts of the state to assist with the increased sampling efforts. Sampling efforts are just added to the many other tasks and responsibilities these biologists, biologist aides, and wildlife technicians have on their agendas during the hunting season. Increased use of our resources to manage the issues that come with a contagious and fatal wildlife disease means that CWD is an expense to our agency and a peril for our deer herd. There is no benefit.

Unfortunately, CWD does not appear to be going away. State wildlife agencies in other parts of the country have been dealing

Article continued on page 57.



Your Playground Awaits

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MANDATORY FOR ALL DEER AND TURKEY HUNTERS

STEP 1 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 2 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.

OR

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

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

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST:

1. Smartphone by OUTDOOR AL app. Download Link: www.outdooralabama.com/contact-us/mobile-apps
2. Online at www.outdooralabama.com/gamecheck
3. Game Check by Phone, call: **800-888-7690**

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

Revised 03-13-2024

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.

Alabama 2024-2025 Harvest Record

All deer and turkey hunters must:

■ *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

Harvest Date:	Points:	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.

UNANTLERED DEER

Harvest Date:	Confirmation No.:
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____
____/____/____	_____

Attach handwritten version to record additional unantlered deer

TURKEY *(Gobblers Only)*

Harvest Date:	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____	____/____/____
Confirmation No.:	_____	_____	_____	_____

HARVEST REPORTING IS MANDATORY! HOW TO REPORT YOUR HARVEST

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BIRDWATCHING IS FOR HUNTERS TOO!

Deer hunters know that when they hear a rustling in the leaves they're much more likely to see a squirrel or a bird than the deer that they're waiting for, but you may not have considered that some of the best bird watching can be had in the deer stand while you are sitting there quietly waiting for your intended quarry. Birdwatching comes easily to deer hunters as most already have the tools needed for birdwatching with them in the stand: a good pair of binoculars and a smartphone. Although still an option, it is no longer necessary to carry around paper field guides and spending time flipping through pages of similar pictures trying to identify birds. With today's technology and resources, birding has become much easier with field guides available at your fingertips, right on your smartphone. There are a variety of different apps to help you identify birds by sight, and there are also apps available that can help you identify birds through the calls and songs you are hearing. Birdwatching is a great way to pass the time with kids in the deer stand as well and keep them busy while also learning about the nature around them. Consider active birdwatching to take advantage of your sits in the woods and enjoy more of what Outdoor Alabama has to offer, including the birds!







www.nwtf.org/Alabama

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Turkey Federation

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

- 186,855.5 acres conserved (most in the country)
- $809,277 total impact on conservation activities (includes NWTF dollars and partner match)
- Over $50,000 invested in education, outreach and scholarships each year
- Supported partnerships in research of the Wild Turkey in Alabama
- Provided landowner technical assistance and habitat support with the seed subsidy program
- R3 Coordinator for leading hunter Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation



Hunting & Trapping

IMPORTANT NOTES:

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

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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:

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

UNANTLERED DEER

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

SPECIAL YOUTH (Under 16) DEER HUNTING

Statewide, (includes all Privately Owned, Leased Lands and Open Permit – Public Lands (except Wildlife Management Areas) in Zones A, B, C and CMZ November 15–18 and in Zones D & E November 1-4. Dog hunting in those counties or parts of counties where and how it is allowed during the regular dog deer hunting season. Same legal arms and ammunition apply as in Deer season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119. See the current Wildlife Management Area Permits for youth deer hunting dates and other information 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.

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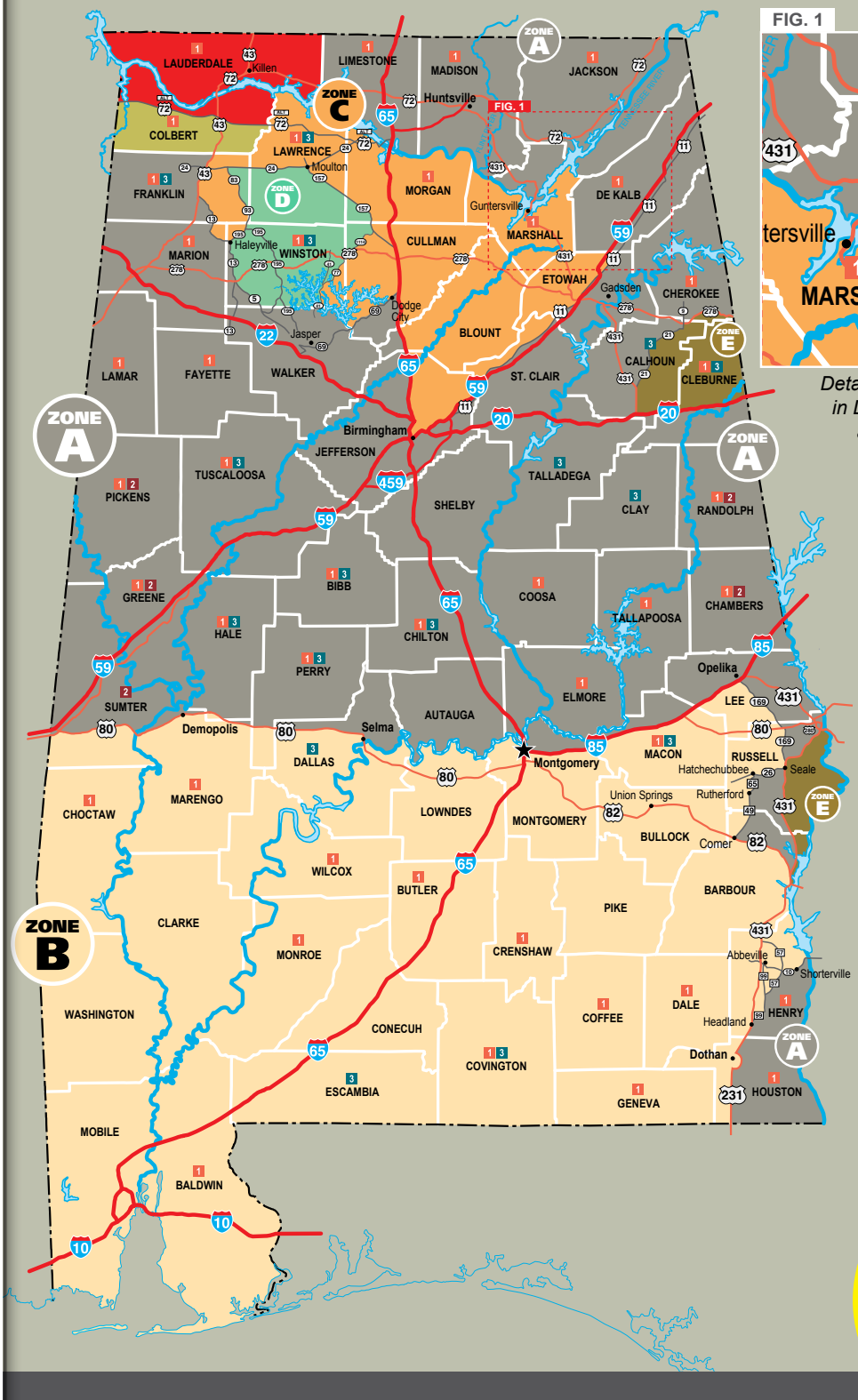
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2024-2025 Deer Season Zone Map





Detailed area of Zones A and C in DeKalb, Etowah, Jackson, and Marshall Cou nties.

ZONE A

ZONE B

ZONE C

ZONE D

ZONE E

1 2 3
SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS
(Page 28)

CWD MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ)

HIGH-RISK ZONE

BUFFER ZONE

ALABAMA WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES

VER. 02.01.2024 Digest

ZONE A			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 15-18, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 18-22, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6 – February 10, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6-15, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE B			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15-24, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		October 25, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 15-18, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 18-22, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6 – February 10, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6-15, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE C			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 15-18, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 18-22, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23 – December 1, 2024	Either Sex
		December 2-13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2 – February 10, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2 – February 10, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23 – December 1, 2024	Either Sex
		December 2-13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2-15, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2-15, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE D			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 1, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
		January 16-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Special Youth Gun		November 1-4, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 4-8, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 9-22, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 23 – December 1, 2024	Either Sex
		December 2-13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 9 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 9-22, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 23 – December 1, 2024	Either Sex
		December 2-13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 9 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	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, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
		January 16-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Special Youth Gun		November 1-4, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 4-8, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 9, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
		January 16-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 9 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
		January 2-27, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 9, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 9 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 1, 2025	Either Sex
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ)			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 15-18, 2024	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 18-22, 2024	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – February 10, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6 – February 10, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 23, 2024 – January 15, 2025	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 23 – December 13, 2024	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 14, 2024 – January 5, 2025	Either Sex
		January 6-15, 2025	Antlered Bucks Only

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

(2) ZONE B (see map): Those areas south or west of a line described as: beginning at the intersection of the Mississippi state line and US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County), east along US Hwy. 80 to the US Hwy. 80 Bypass in Selma (Dallas County); east along US Hwy. 80 Bypass to the Alabama River; east along the Alabama River to I-65; south along I-65 to the intersection with I-85; north along I-85 to AL Hwy. 169 (Exit 60 – Lee County); south along AL Hwy. 169 to AL Hwy. 1/US Hwy. 431; south along AL Hwy. 1/US Hwy. 431 to AL Hwy. 26; west along AL Hwy. 26 to Russell County Road 65; south along Russell County Road 65 to Russell County Road 4; west along Russell County Road 4 to Russell County Road 49; south along Russell County Road 49 to US Hwy. 82; east along US Hwy. 82 to US Hwy. 431; south along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 82; east along US Hwy. 82 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the Chattahoochee River to AL Hwy. 10; west along AL Hwy. 10 to Henry County Road 57; south along Henry County Road 57 to Henry County Road 99; south along Henry County Road 99 to US Hwy. 431; south along US Hwy. 431 to Ross Clark Circle (bypass around Dothan); east along Ross Clark Circle to US Hwy. 231; south along US Hwy. 231 to the Alabama/Florida state line; west along the Alabama/Florida state line to the Alabama/Mississippi state line, north along the Alabama/Mississippi state line ending at US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County). **Excludes Zone E description below.**

(3) ZONE C (see map): Those areas of Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Franklin, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Marshall, St. Clair, Walker, and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the Colbert County/Franklin County line on US Hwy. 43/13, south along US Hwy. 43/13 to Spruce Pine (Franklin County); south along AL Hwy. 13 to AL Hwy. 195



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

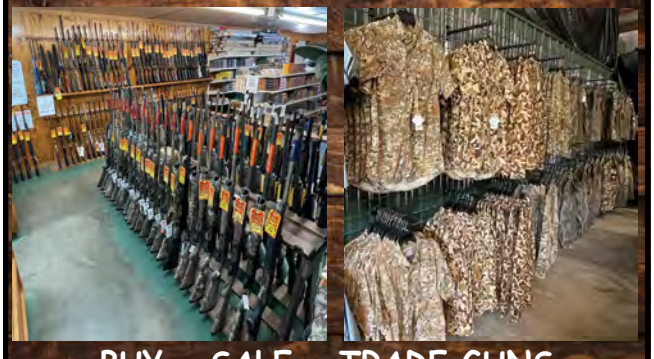
(4) ZONE D (see map): Those areas of Cullman, Franklin, Lawrence, Morgan and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of AL Hwy. 157 and AL Hwy. 24 in Moulton (Lawrence County); south along AL Hwy. 157 to Cullman County Road 1114; south along Cullman County Road 1114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

(5) ZONE E (see map): Those areas of Barbour and Russell Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and US Hwy. 431 in Eufaula (Barbour County), north along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 280; east along US Hwy. 280 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the 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 (Calhoun County); north along AL Hwy. 21 to AL Hwy. 9 in Piedmont (Calhoun County); north along AL Hwy. 9 to US Hwy. 278; east along US Hwy. 278 to the Alabama/Georgia state line; south along the Alabama/Georgia state line to I-20; west along I-20 ending at intersection with AL Hwy. 21 (Calhoun County).

(6) Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) Management Zone (see map): The CWD Management Zone (CMZ) includes all of Lauderdale and Colbert Counties.

(a) Within the CMZ, the High-Risk Zone (HRZ) includes Lauderdale County and the portion of Colbert County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Tennessee River and the Alabama/Mississippi State line, south along the Alabama/Mississippi State line to US Hwy. 72; east along US Hwy. 72 to US Hwy. 72 ALT; east along US Hwy. 72 ALT to the Colbert County/Lawrence County line; north along the Colbert County/Lawrence County line to the Tennessee River; west along the Tennessee River ending at the Alabama/Mississippi State line.

(b) Within the CMZ, the Buffer Zone (BZ) includes those portions of Colbert County with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Alabama/Mississippi State line and US Hwy. 72, south along the Alabama/Mississippi State line to the Colbert County/Franklin County

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

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:

1 DOG DEER HUNTING RESTRICTIONS:

(i) Dog Deer Hunting Prohibited Except by Special Permit from the Department: BALDWIN; **CHAMBERS**; **CHOCTAW** (that area south of AL Hwy. 10 and west of AL Hwy. 17 and north of County Road 18 from AL Hwy. 17 to County Road 14 then north of County Road 14 to the Mississippi state line); **COLBERT** (that area west of US Hwy. 43); **COOSA**; **COVINGTON** (north of US Hwy. 84); **ELMORE** (that area inside the following boundaries: from the Coosa County/ Elmore County line at the east bank of Lake Jordan, to AL Hwy. 9, south along AL Hwy. 9 to the intersection of US Hwy. 231, south along US Hwy. 231 to the intersection of AL Hwy. 14, west along AL Hwy. 14 to the east bank of the Coosa River, north along the east bank of the Coosa River to Lake Jordan, back to the Coosa County/Elmore County line); **GENEVA**; **HENRY**; **MACON** (that area inside the following boundaries: from County Road 24 at the Lee County line, west and south to County Road 26, west to County Road 10, southeast to County Road 5, south to County Road 47, south to County Road 2, east to the Russell County line); **MARENGO**; **MONROE**; **PICKENS** (north of US Hwy. 82); **TALLAPOOSA**; and **WILCOX** counties. Individual property owners in **CHAMBERS** and **COOSA** counties may hunt with dogs on their own property without special permit. No dog deer hunting allowed on Open Permit-Public Land (see 220-2-.85).

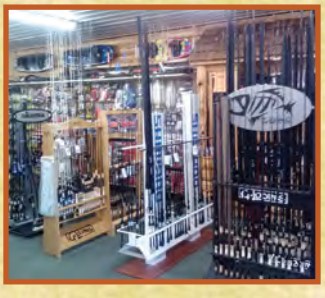
(ii) By Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs): BIBB; **PERRY**: (that area inside the following boundaries: east of AL Hwy. 219, south of US Hwy. 82 and north of AL Hwy. 183); **BUTLER** (that area south of AL Hwy. 106 and east of I-65); **CHEROKEE**; **CHILTON**; **CLEBURNE**; **COFFEE** (that area inside the following boundaries: AL Hwy. 134 from the Covington County Line, east to County Road 460, south to the Geneva County line, east to the Dale County line, north to AL Hwy. 134, west to AL Hwy. 87, north to US Hwy. 84, west to AL Hwy. 189, south to AL Hwy. 141, north to US Hwy. 84, west to the Covington County line); **CRENSHAW** (north of AL Hwy. 10 and that area inside the following boundaries: from the east city limit of Luverne, US Hwy. 29 east to the junction of County Road 57, County Road 57 south to the junction of Davis Road, Davis Road west to County Road 41, County Road 41 south to US Hwy. 331, US Hwy. 331 north to County Road 41, County Road 41 north to County Road 39, County Road 39 north to the Luverne city limit); **DALE** (that area inside the following boundaries: Judy Creek south to Dale County Road 36, east to AL Hwy. 27, north to the Henry County line, north to the Barbour County line, west to Judy Creek); **DEKALB**; **ELMORE** (that area inside the following boundaries: east of US Hwy. 231, south of AL Hwy. 14, west of Tumkeehatchee Creek and north of the Tallapoosa River); **FAYETTE** (that area inside the following boundaries: west of US Hwy 43 and north of AL Hwy. 18); **FRANKLIN**; **HALE** and **PERRY**: (that area inside the following boundaries: from Hale County Road 32 at the Hale County Line, west to the intersection of AL Hwy. 25, AL Hwy. 25 north until it intersects with the Talladega National Forest boundary, following the boundary south until it intersects the Perry County line, following the National Forest boundary east to Perry County Road 23, south to the intersection of Perry County Road 29, south to the Spring Hill Church Road, Spring Hill Church Road west to the junction of Perry County Road 23 and AL Hwy. 14, west to the Hale County line); **GREENE**; **PICKENS** and **TUSCALOOSA**: (that area inside the following boundaries: in Pickens County from the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and County Road 63, south on County Road 63 to Benevola, County Road 2 (commonly known as the Romulus Road) east through Greene County to US Hwy. 82 in Tuscaloosa County); **HOUSTON**; **JACKSON**; LAMAR; **LAUDERDALE**; **LAWRENCE**; **LIMESTONE**; **MADISON**; **MARION**; **MARSHALL**; **MORGAN**; **RANDOLPH**; **TUSCALOOSA** (that area north of US Hwy. 82); and **WINSTON** (that area east of AL Hwy. 5 from the Walker County line to Natural Bridge and all that area north of US Hwy. 278).

2 U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS LANDS:

On U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Lands in Alabama, if USACE does not further restrict. Be aware to consult USACE regulations regarding hunting activities and boat ramp use prior to hunting USACE regulated areas. Special Permits

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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.

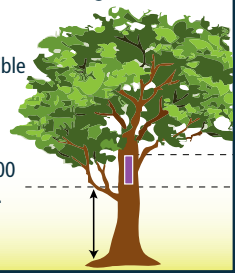
(iii) NO DOG DEER HUNTING ON THE PINEY WOODS/IVORY MOUNTAIN AREA – The borders of which are defined as follows: bounded by the Cleburne County line to the north running east and west, then to the west by Clay County Road 3 running south to State Route 49; The south border is Clay County Road 66 running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

PURPLE PAINT PROTECTS PROPERTY

Alabama is one of several states recognizing purple paint as a valid no-trespassing marker.

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



LEGAL ARMS & AMMUNITION

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

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

DEER

- Rifles using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .30 caliber or larger.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using buckshot, slugs, or single round ball.
- Muzzleloaders and Black Powder Handguns: .40 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with regulation 220-2-.03.
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Hunting with fully automatic firearms is prohibited.

TURKEY

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

MIGRATORY BIRDS

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

RACCOON & OPOSSUM

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

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

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

BULLFROG AND PIG FROG

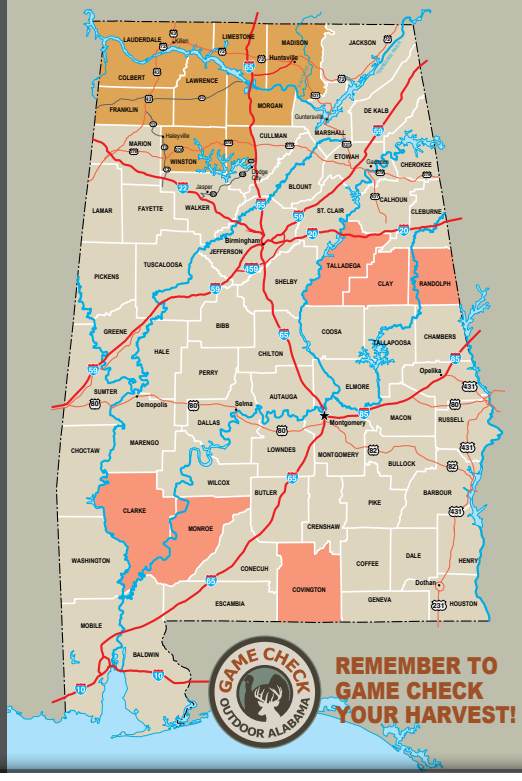
- Air powered rifles .25 caliber or smaller.
- Gig or spear.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
- Hand or dip net.

OTHER GAME BIRDS OR ANIMALS

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

Alabama Turkey Hunting Season Dates

TURKEY SEASON ZONES



REMEMBER TO GAME CHECK YOUR HARVEST!

PRIVATE, LEASED AND OPEN PERMIT PUBLIC LANDS
(EXCLUDING WMA AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER DISTRICTS)

ZONE 1
SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 22 – 23 *(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 29 – 30 *(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 16 – 24 *(NO DECOYS ALLOWED)*
FALL SEASON DECEMBER 14 – 29 *(NO DECOYS ALLOWED)*
SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 22 – 23 *(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.

WMA AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER DISTRICTS

Bankhead Ranger District; WMAs - Lauderdale, Freedom Hills, Black Warrior, Coon Gulf, Riverton CHA and Martin CHA:

Special Youth Hunt - April 5 (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 Creek Ranger District, Oakmulgee Ranger District, Tuskegee Ranger District and Conecuh Ranger District) and **REMAINDER OF WMAs THAT ALLOW TURKEY HUNTING:**

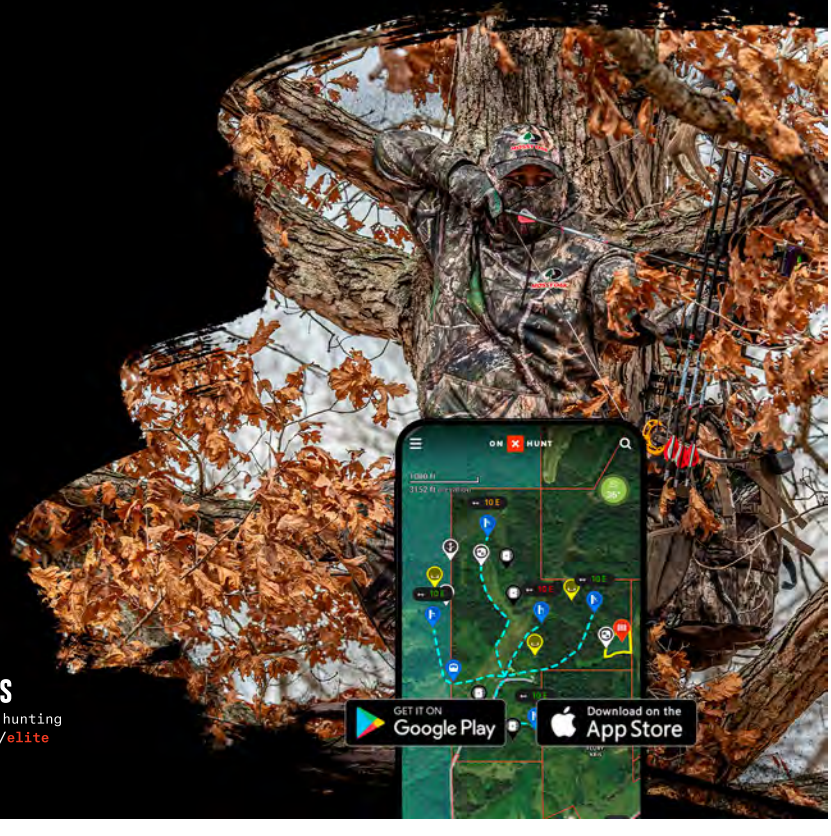
Special Youth Hunt - March 29 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Special Disabled Hunt - March 31 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Spring Season - April 1 - May 8 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed April 4 - May 8)

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

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MOURNING AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

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

NORTH ZONE (All counties except those listed below in south zone.)
- Limit 15 a day (90 days)

SPLIT SEASON with Shooting Hours:
- 12 o'clock noon until Sunset (Afternoon Shooting Only) **September 7**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **September 8 – October 20**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **November 23 – December 1**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)) **December 14 – January 19**

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 14**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **September 15 – October 27**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **November 23 – December 1**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **December 14 – January 19**

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

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



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

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

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

BOBWHITE QUAIL
November 2 – February 28
- 8 a day — 8 in possession
- Closed on the Bankhead National Forest

RABBIT
September 14 – March 2
- 8 a day — 8 in possession

SQUIRREL
September 14 – March 2
- 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
See page 53 for legal hunting hours.
1. Bobcat — See tagging requirement (above).
2. Coyote and Feral Swine — trapping by landowner or his agent. Feral Swine — upon capture, it shall be unlawful to release any live feral swine. See regulation 220-2-.86
3. Bobcat — See page 34 for trapping information.
4. No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.

FERAL SWINE (2025): (PRIVATELY OWNED AND LEASED LANDS ONLY) (DOGS ONLY)
Special Nighttime Season
May 10 – 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 7 – December 8
December 14 – January 25

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

SNIPE

November 9 – February 23

- 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.
- **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 1-10 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 23 and February 8

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



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

September 14 – September 29
November 29 – January 21

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

SPECIAL TEAL SEASON

September 14 – September 29

- **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 29 – December 1
December 6 – 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, 1 Pintail, 2 Canvasback, and 1 Scaup.

COOT

- 15 a day

MERGANSER

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

GEESE

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

ALL GEESE:

September 7 – October 6
October 19 – November 2
November 29 – December 1
December 6 – 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 29 – January 5
January 13 – 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

October 26 – February 28

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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Holly Ridge, NC
910.512.1743

Swainsboro, GA
478.455.0808

SEEING THE FOREST *AND* THE TREES



Alabama is situated in the heart of the southeastern Gulf Coast and is occupied by many types of forests. If you frequent many of our public hunting lands (WMAs and SOAs), you can see them all. From the hardwood regions of the highland rim, ridge and valley, and the Cumberland plateau, to the more piney-woods regions of the piedmont and coastal plain, our properties run the gamut of forest composition and structure.

The northern-most properties that the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division (WFF) owns hold their own mystique. A high percentage of acres exhibit almost solid hardwood stands from property line to property line. However stately and unique they are, mature hardwood stands suffer many of the same problems as overstocked pine plantations when it comes to quality understory habitat. Capturing most of the sunlight in the solid, overarching tree canopy seventy plus feet overhead, excessive shading prevents quality, low level herbaceous vegetation (grasses and forbs) from growing. A wide range of both game and non-game species rely on this missing factor for food and nesting and escape cover. How many of you have ever jumped a deer or rabbit from the tangled canopy of a single fallen tree in the middle of the wide-open woods? They were in there because it was the only place that afforded them shelter.



In an effort to counteract the lack of ground-level habitat, WFF strategically selects specific hardwood stands for thinning treatments. Thinning parameters call for harvesting the smaller overtopped trees, a few of the older declining trees, and good numbers of the non-mast producing gums, poplars, and maples. What we target to retain is a healthy number of oak, hickory, and other tree species that at some point during the year provide food for wildlife. Simply put, punching some small holes in the canopy by taking out non-desirable trees allows sunlight to hit the ground. And when that happens, mother nature responds by providing the missing ground-level vegetation. The areas of disturbance and associated vegetative response can be more friendly to ground nesting gamebirds such as Bobwhite quail and turkey and nongame birds such as White-eyed vireos and Hooded warblers, while also providing other animals like white-tailed deer and Eastern cottontails more food and cover.

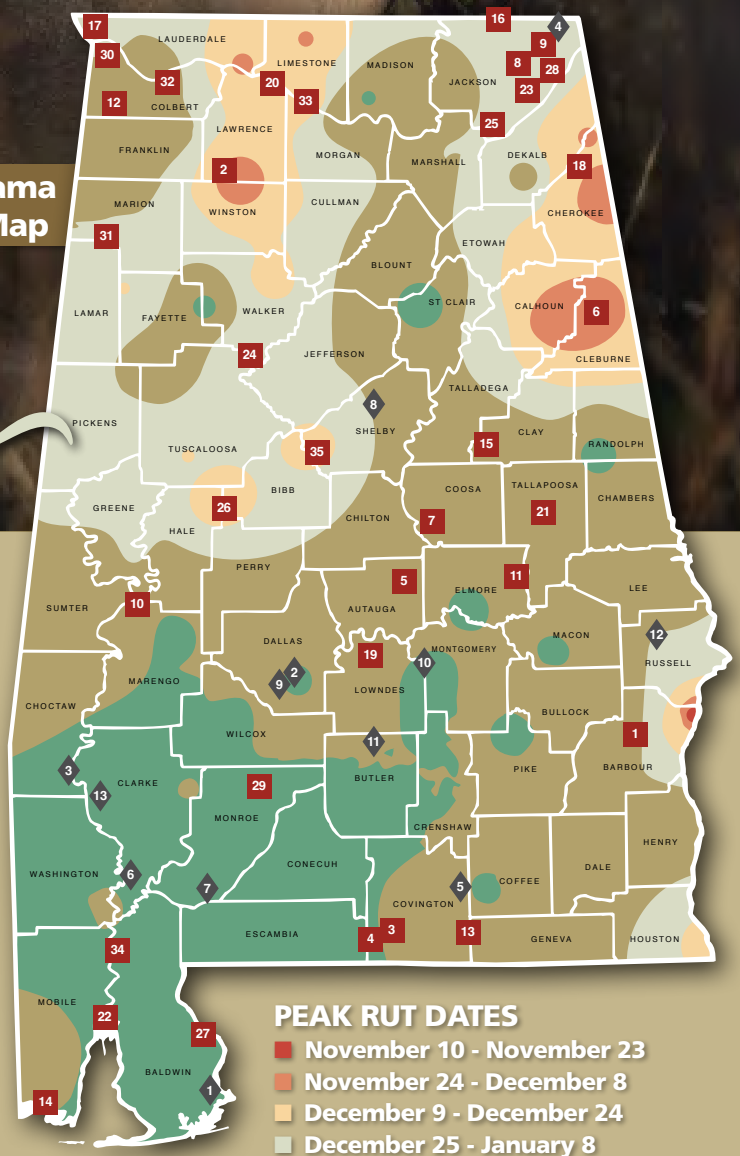
From the fall line southward, most of WFF properties are situated on the sandy, pine-growing soils of the coastal plain. Historic literature from early naturalist William Bartram documented vast plains of low tree density longleaf pine forests that were undoubtedly maintained by periodic lightning-strike initiated fires. These historical forests were teeming with native plants and wildlife and were very stable ecosystems. Current management of the upland coastal plain and piedmont forest stands are tailored to mimic these historic and natural processes – and one of the reasons why you see impressive smoke plumes over our properties at certain times of the year. Timber sales for young and middle-aged pine stands are designed to reduce tree densities, and the resulting open-canopied forests produce a tremendous amount of understory vegetation for wildlife habitat. Prescribed fire works in harmony with the thinning harvests and, when used at the right time and intensity, doesn't harm the maturing pines and promotes and maintains herbaceous vegetation while discouraging the establishment of tree saplings and other woody vegetation.

Amateur and professional wildlife managers have known for a long time that wildlife (just like humans) need three essential things to survive - food, shelter, and water. When closed-canopied forests limit the essentials and carrying capacity suffers, it's a logical approach to implement sound silvicultural prescriptions to correct these less-than-ideal situations. Enhancing forest habitats by strategic thinning harvests and wise use of prescribed fire can turn a simple, unmanaged stand of trees into a healthy forest ecosystem to be enjoyed by hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

HUNT THE RUT *All Season*

Alabama Rut Map



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

Learn more about WMAs by scanning the QR Code

PEAK RUT DATES

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



SECURING PUBLIC HUNTING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...

Forever Wild Land Trust, Alabama's land acquisition program, is now in its 32nd 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 288,000 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.

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



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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

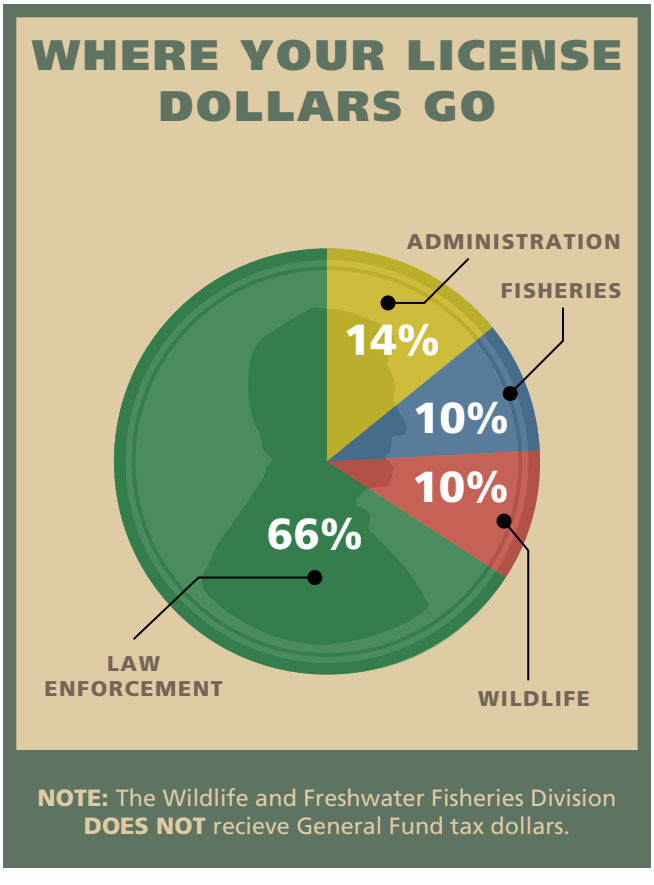
To qualify for a resident hunting or fishing license, a person must be a bona fide resident of Alabama for a minimum of 90 days continuously immediately prior to purchasing any such license or be a member of U.S. military stationed in Alabama. **For the purpose of buying hunting and fishing licenses, 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 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.

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

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 / turkey 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 migratory birds).
(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 / turkey over bait) and Nighttime Hunting License (if hunting Feral Swine / Coyote at night) required for all ages (No exemption). Federal Duck Stamp (if hunting migratory birds).

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.

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



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ALABAMA WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES ENFORCEMENT

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.

Classes are taught by Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors across the state.

SCAN QR Code to Learn more about the courses offered and sign up online.
Outdooralabama.com/academy

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ALABAMA WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES

CWD SAMPLE COLLECTION STATIONS

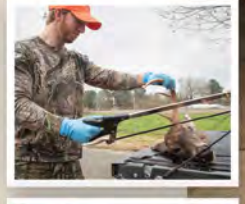
The Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division will be providing drop-off sampling locations available for hunters to submit their harvest for CWD testing.

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

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

For a complete list of CWD collection station locations visit

www.outdooralabama.com/cwd/cwd-sampling









RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education required if license buyer is born on or after 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: All Game*	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	$33.55
	State: Small Game*	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	$22.20
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.	$18.05
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.	$17.60
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.	$7.35
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.	$17.30
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.	$3.55
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.	$169.55
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.	$13.65
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	$12.10
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/24 – 6/30/25.	$30.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting big game (deer or turkey) and waterfowl on WMA, in addition 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.	$22.20
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	90 day proof of residency required. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25.	$27.25
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.

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NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES

Valid 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education required if license buyer is born on or after 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)	All Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey.	$389.40
	All Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	$240.40
	All Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	$169.55
	Small Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey.	$127.00
	Small Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	$77.35
	Small Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	$56.00
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.	$61.85
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.	$60.15
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.	$169.55
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 RECREATIONAL PRIVILEGE.	N/C
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	$12.10
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/24 – 6/30/25.	$30.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting on WMA's, in addition to the appropriate hunting license and WMA Permit (free). WMA shooting range users are required to have a valid hunting license or WMA License.	$22.20
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25.	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 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. Check with the hunting preserve for information.	$10.00

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





RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO		FEE
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater: Annual*	Required for residents 16 years of age and 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 county of legal residence.	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	$16.60
	Saltwater: Annual*		A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	$29.35
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	$12.10
	Saltwater: Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement	Required for any resident 16 years of age and over to possess, take or attempt to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 220-3-.46 (see *www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing*). NO EXEMPTIONS		$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 74)	Public Fishing Lakes	In lieu of a regular fishing license, a resident may purchase to fish 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	$7.50
PHYSICALLY DISABLED FRESHWATER FISHING 3-DAY EVENT LICENSE	Freshwater Trip	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR. Allows up to 20 physically disabled persons and their assistant to fish on one event license. $5.00 for each additional participant.	—	$100.00
	Saltwater Trip		—	$100.00
DISABLED FISHING LICENSE	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.	$3.45
	Saltwater Annual (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	—	$3.45
	Veterans Appreciation (20% disabled)	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 20% or more disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	**Freshwater** Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	$3.55
			Saltwater	$3.55
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Annual	12 month residency proof required. Required for use of any commercial gear. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$119.00
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$301.00
	Dealer or Buyer	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$121.00
SPEAR FISHING LICENSE	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.		$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 9/1/2024 – 8/31/2025 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO		FEE
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater: Annual	Required for nonresidents 16 years of age and older. Required in any public water regardless of tackle used. Special fishing license fees may apply to residents of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, & Tennessee.	—	$64.60
	Freshwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	$36.10
	Saltwater: Annual		A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	$63.30
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	$34.80
	Saltwater: Gulf Reef Fish Endorsement	Required for any nonresident 16 years of age and over to possess, take or attempt to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 220-3-.46 (see *www.outdooralabama.com/saltwater-fishing*). NO EXEMPTIONS.		$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 70)	Daily	In lieu of a regular fishing license, a nonresident 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	$8.80
	Annual		Expires August 31	$15.45
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	$36.10
PHYSICALLY DISABLED FRESHWATER FISHING 3-DAY EVENT LICENSE	Freshwater Trip	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR. Allows up to 20 physically disabled persons and their assistant to fish on one event license. $5.00 for each additional participant.	—	$100.00
	Saltwater Trip		—	$100.00
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater Commercial	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		Varies
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$901.00
	Dealer or Buyer	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/24 – 9/30/25		$361.00
SPEAR FISHING LICENSE	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.		$8.50
	7-day trip			$3.50

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


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Alabama's White-Sand Beaches

Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License Application

Prices valid September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025 **For information, email DCNR.WFF License@dcnr.alabama.gov**

Name: _____ CID#_____

Social Security # _____-____ -_____ Driver's License #: _____

Date of Birth:_____/_____/_____ Email: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address:_____

Phone: Home (____)____-_____ Work: (____)____-_____ Cell: (____)____-_____

Hunter Education ID #/St: _____ Current Lifetime License # _____

Sex: o Male
o Female

Weight: _____

Height: _____

Race: _____

Eyes: _____

Hair: _____

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

License Privilege (by age)	Under 2	2–11	12–49	50 +	Upgrade
Hunting*	$426.30	$568.25	$709.90	$426.30	o
Freshwater Fishing*	$213.50	$284.45	$355.45	$213.50	o
Saltwater Fishing **	$355.45	$426.30	$497.25	$355.45	o
Hunting & Freshwater Fishing*	$639.05	$709.90	$993.55	$639.05	o
Hunting & Saltwater Fishing*	$780.80	$993.55	$1,206.35	$780.80	o
Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing*	$568.25	$709.90	$851.75	$568.25	o
Hunting, Fresh & Saltwater Fishing*	$993.55	$1,135.45	$1,489.90	$993.55	o
Add Additional Privileges	**Under 2**	**2–11**	**12–49**	**50 +**	
State Duck Stamp	$188.10	$237.90	$287.90	$188.10	o
Wildlife Heritage *	$284.45	$284.45	$284.45	$284.45	o
Saltwater Reef Fish Endorsement**	$220.00	$220.00	$220.00	$220.00	o
Resident Military Veteran's Appreciation	**49 & under**	**50 & over**			
Freshwater Fishing (20% or more disabled)	$54.35	$30.70	**1-time Required Issuance Fee**	**$1.20**	**o**
Saltwater Fishing (20% or more disabled)	$54.35	$30.70			o
Hunting (40% or more disabled)	$72.00	$36.60			**o**
Hunting (100% or more disabled)	$54.35	$30.70			**o**
Replacement Lifetime License					
Each Replacement	$ 5.00				o
				Lifetime Application Total: $	

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

** Reef Fish Endorsement required for any person possessing, taking or attempting to take any gulf reef fish species listed in Rule 220-3-.46.
Visit: *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, 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, County Probate Office/License Commissioner, local agents (which includes most sporting good and bait & tackle shops in Alabama), on the website *www.outdooralabama.com*, 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:_____ Date: _____

☐ **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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Buying an "I'd rather be in the woods!" tag helps share that love of Alabama's incredible natural resources with kids – and adults – of all ages. Learn more at your local Probate Office.

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.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
ADULT MENTORED HUNTING PROGRAM
Take'em hunting!

HUNTER HARVEST PHOTO CHECKLIST

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

- WEAR THE LEGALLY REQUIRED AMOUNT OF HUNTER ORANGE*
- POINT MUZZLE OF UNLOADED FIREARM IN A SAFE DIRECTION
- PRESENT HARVEST MINDFULLY BY WIPING BLOOD AND POSITIONING RESPECTFULLY



WHEN POSTING YOUR PHOTO ON SOCIAL MEDIA, USE HASHTAG #IWEARBLAZEORANGE

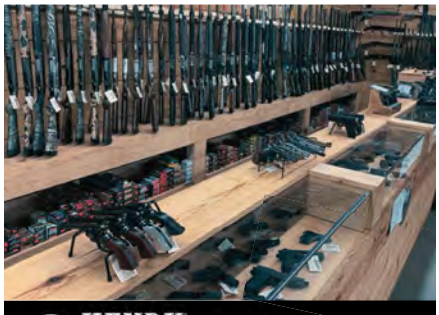
*See page 54 for hunter orange requirements

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

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

	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET	RISE	SET
DAY	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
1	0621	1910	0641	1830	0705	1754	0632	1638	0650	1650	0641	1718
2	0621	1909	0641	1828	0706	1753	0633	1638	0650	1651	0641	1719
3	0622	1908	0642	1827	0607	1652	0634	1638	0650	1651	0640	1720
4	0623	1906	0643	1826	0608	1651	0635	1638	0650	1652	0639	1721
5	0623	1905	0643	1824	0608	1650	0635	1638	0650	1653	0638	1722
6	0624	1904	0644	1823	0609	1649	0636	1638	0650	1654	0638	1723
7	0625	1902	0645	1822	0610	1649	0637	1638	0650	1655	0637	1724
8	0625	1901	0646	1820	0611	1648	0638	1638	0650	1655	0636	1725
9	0626	1900	0646	1819	0612	1647	0638	1639	0650	1656	0635	1726
10	0627	1858	0647	1818	0613	1646	0639	1639	0650	1657	0634	1727
11	0627	1857	0648	1817	0614	1646	0640	1639	0650	1658	0633	1727
12	0628	1856	0649	1815	0615	1645	0641	1639	0650	1659	0632	1728
13	0628	1854	0649	1814	0616	1644	0641	1640	0650	1700	0631	1729
14	0629	1853	0650	1813	0617	1644	0642	1640	0650	1701	0630	1730
15	0630	1851	0651	1812	0618	1643	0643	1640	0650	1702	0629	1731
16	0630	1850	0652	1810	0619	1643	0643	1641	0649	1703	0628	1732
17	0631	1849	0652	1809	0619	1642	0644	1641	0649	1704	0627	1733
18	0632	1847	0653	1808	0620	1642	0644	1641	0649	1705	0626	1734
19	0632	1846	0654	1807	0621	1641	0645	1642	0648	1705	0625	1735
20	0633	1845	0655	1806	0622	1641	0645	1642	0648	1706	0624	1736
21	0634	1843	0656	1805	0623	1640	0646	1643	0648	1707	0623	1736
22	0634	1842	0656	1804	0624	1640	0646	1643	0647	1708	0622	1737
23	0635	1840	0657	1803	0625	1640	0647	1644	0647	1709	0621	1738
24	0636	1839	0658	1801	0626	1639	0647	1644	0646	1710	0620	1739
25	0636	1838	0659	1800	0627	1639	0648	1645	0646	1711	0618	1740
26	0637	1836	0700	1759	0628	1639	0648	1646	0645	1712	0617	1741
27	0638	1835	0701	1758	0629	1639	0648	1646	0645	1713	0616	1741
28	0639	1834	0701	1757	0629	1639	0649	1647	0644	1714	0615	1742
29	0639	1832	0702	1756	0630	1638	0649	1648	0643	1715		
30	0640	1831	0703	1755	0631	1638	0649	1648	0643	1716		
31			0704	1754			0650	1649	0642	1717		

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

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50 YARD RESTRICTION FROM A PUBLIC ROAD

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

WHO NEEDS HUNTER EDUCATION?

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

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

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

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

HUNTING DEFINED

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

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUIREMENT

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

HUNTING LANDS

Land is divided into two categories:

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

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

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

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT FOR HUNTING

(for Wildlife Management Areas, see page 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 non-game species regulation 222-2-.92.

FURBEARING ANIMALS

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

ARCHERY SPECIFICATIONS FOR HUNTING

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

RUNNING DOGS

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

SALE OF GAME BIRDS & GAME ANIMALS

It is illegal in Alabama to sell any game bird or game animal or any part of the animal, except lawfully taken deer hides, deer hooves and squirrel skins, hides and tails.

Finished product items such as gloves, shoes, clothing, jewelry, tanned deer hides and similar products may be sold. Exceptions also apply to certain animals classified as both game animal and furbearing animal.

LIVE DEER AND ELK MAY NOT BE IMPORTED INTO ALABAMA

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

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

REPORT BANDS

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

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

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

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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

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

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



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

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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 14.

with the challenges of managing CWD-positive deer populations and the hunters who chase them for decades. Making efforts to stay informed with the most current and scientifically-sound information related to the disease and its management will be crucial to maintaining trust between the agency tasked with managing the resource and the hunters who utilize it. A mission of WFF is to manage wildlife resources for the sustainable benefit of people in Alabama, and we will continue our work to effectively mitigate CWD to ensure a robust deer herd for future generations.



DCNR DEER / TURKEY TRANSFER OF POSSESSION CERTIFICATE

I, _____
(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:

_____

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
TENNESSEE

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.

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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 white-tailed deer or feral swine. 220-2-.11)

5. Hunt any game animal or bird with a gun or bow and arrow except during daylight hours, with the exception of those species with legal night time seasons. (220-2-.07)

6. Shoot or hunt a turkey from an elevated tree stand with a firearm. All other legal game animals and birds may be taken with a bow and arrow or firearm from an elevated tree stand. (9-11-245)

7. Take a deer, whether dead or alive, from the public waters of this State. (9-11-250)

8. Use live decoys for migratory birds and turkey. (220-2-.11)

9. Use electronic dove, turkey or waterfowl calls. Electronic calls may be used to call predators during open hunting season for that species. (220-2-.11)

10. Hunt by the aid of fire or smoke, whether man-made or natural. (220-2-.11)

11. Hunt resident birds or animals on any floodwaters or backwaters, or islands less than 40 acres created by such. (220-2-.11)

12. Hunt or discharge a firearm from, upon or across any public road or railroad, or the right-of-way of any public road or railroad. You may not hunt or discharge a firearm within 50 yards of the right-of-way of any public road, highway, or railroad with a centerfire rifle, a shotgun using slugs or shot larger than number four (4) shot or a muzzle loading rifle .40 or larger. (9-11-257)

13. Willfully throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or artificial light from any motor vehicle while the vehicle is on any highway or public road and casting said light on any real property, between the hours of sunset and sunrise. (32-5-17)

14. Concentrate, drive, rally, molest, hunt, take, capture or kill any bird or animal from or by the aid of any automobile, ATV, aircraft, train, motor boat, sailboat or any other type mechanically propelled device. Persons may hunt from a floating craft or motor vehicle once the motor is shut off and all forward motion has ceased. It is not legal to hunt from a vehicle on a public road. (220-2-.11)

15. Use gasoline or other noxious chemical to drive wildlife from their burrows, dens or retreats. (220-2-.11)

16. Kill unantlered deer except during unantlered deer seasons. (9-11-236)

17. Use or possess a decoy while turkey hunting which has mechanical and/or electronic parts that have the capabilities of movement or producing sound or which can be manipulated to do so, including any that are handheld or attached to weapons such as fanning or reaping. Legal turkey decoys shall be allowed after the first 10 days of spring turkey season. In addition, legal turkey decoys are allowed during the special youth hunt and the spring special disabled hunt. (220-2-.01) (220-2-.11)

18. Take or attempt to take or have in possession more than the daily bag limit of any game bird or animal. (220-2-.18)

19. Import, possess, sell or offer to sell live: any species of mongoose, any species of wild rabbit or hare and any deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, coyote, wild turkey, wild rodents and any wild goat, sheep, antelope or other exotic game from any area outside of Alabama. (Also, see Sale of Game Birds and Game Animals, page 54) or any fish from the genus Clarias, Serrasalmus or Mylopharyngodon. (220-2-.26) (9-11-237)

20. Release any tame or wild turkey into any of the wild areas of the state. (220-2-.26)

21. Utilize firearms for hunting deer during the preliminary archery only season, except handguns may be possessed for personal protection. (220-2-.10)

22. Hunt using laser sights, attachments and light sources to project a beam forward of a gun or bow, except those who possess a current nighttime feral swine and coyote license, hunting those species during dates of the established special nighttime feral swine and coyote season or for legally blind hunters. (220-2-.11)

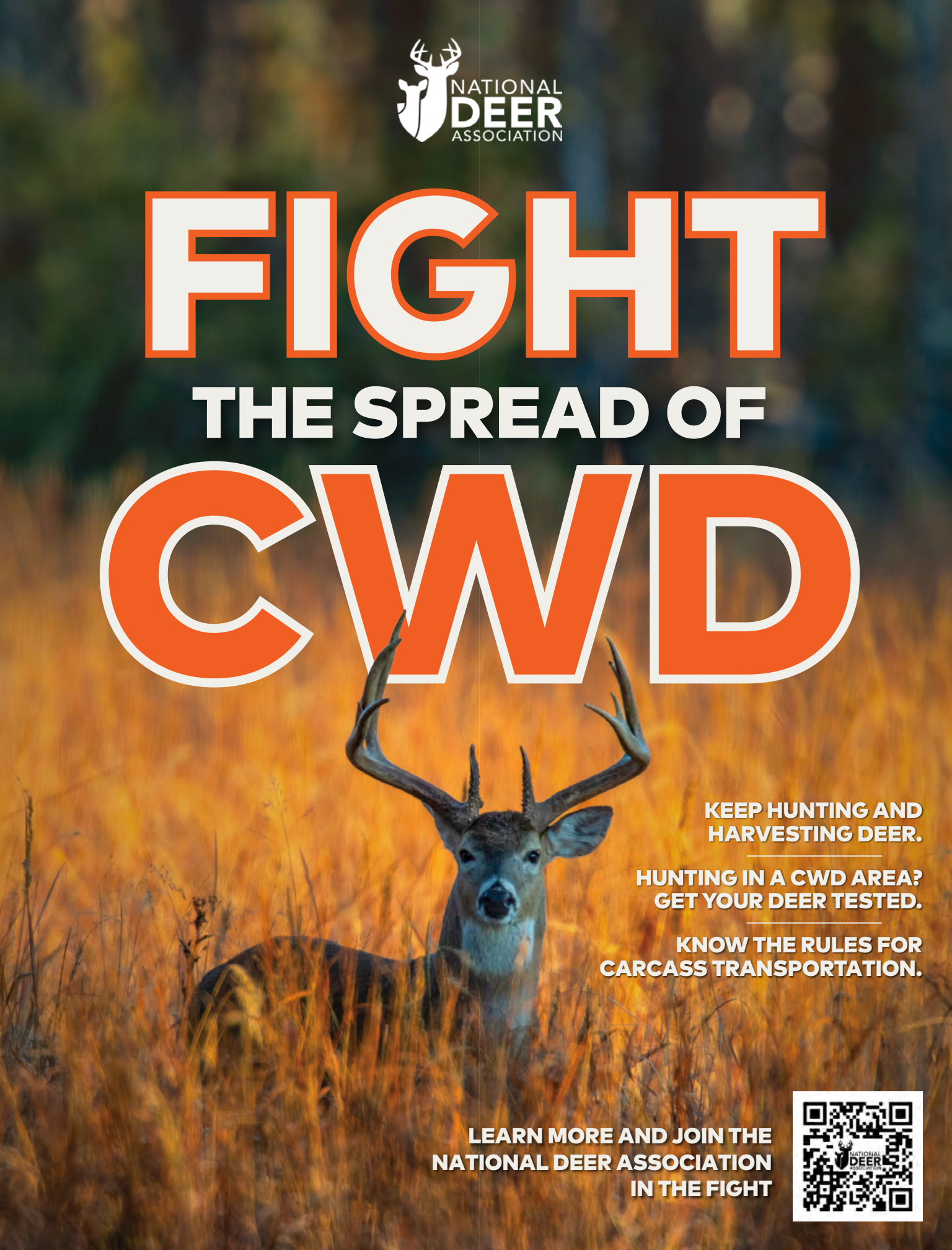
23. Hunt or take wildlife using poisons or explosives. (9-11-245)

24. Have in possession or keep in captivity any protected live wild bird or wild animal. (220-2-.26)

25. Trail wounded game onto property where the hunter does not have permission to enter. (9-11-241/242)

26. Possess live feral pig. To release any feral or domestic pig into the wild. Upon capture by trap or dog, feral pigs may not be released alive. (220-2-.86)

27. Hunt within 100 yards of any dwelling without the permission of the owner or lessee or discharge a firearm while hunting so that any projectile strikes any dwelling or building used for human occupation, or any commercial vessel, without the permission of the owner or lessee. This does not apply to a landowner or member of his/her immediate family hunting on his/her own property provided that no projectile strikes the above property of another without the permission of the owner or lessee. (220-2-.139)


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THE SPREAD OF
CWD
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LEARN MORE AND JOIN THE NATIONAL DEER ASSOCIATION IN THE FIGHT



GROWING BIGGER BASS

LARGEMOUTH BASS GENETICS VS. FERTILITY

The importance of bass genetics is often misunderstood by most anglers. Anglers are almost universally in favor of introducing Florida bass genes through stocking, thinking it will transform their fishery into the next Lake Fork. This is never the case. If it were that easy, we'd all be catching double digit bass from every lake. Reservoir fertility is far more important than genetics.

Alabama has a couple of great examples for comparison that illustrate this. Bass populations in Lake Guntersville and Smith Lake have the same percentage of Florida alleles. Both populations average just under 35 % Florida genetics. So, why are winning weights in bass tournaments typically about 50 % higher at Guntersville? Why does it take anglers 90 % longer to catch a bass over five pounds at Smith? Below, is a summary of how the two populations compare.

Bass grow at a much faster rate in Guntersville, so they reach heavier weights quicker than Smith Lake bass. In Guntersville, bass reach five pounds two years earlier than bass in Smith Lake. Additionally, the bass in Smith Lake require their entire lifespan to reach the five-pound mark, while the bass in Guntersville reach it four years before they attain their maximum age, meaning they still have a lot of time to grow to even larger sizes.

Since largemouth bass populations in Guntersville and Smith both have the same percentage of Florida alleles, another factor must be responsible for the differences in the two populations.

There are actually many factors more important than genetics, but the most important is fertility. Fertility measurements at Guntersville are 18 times higher than at Smith Lake, which is why Guntersville bass have much greater growth potential, and more than twice the overall abundance.

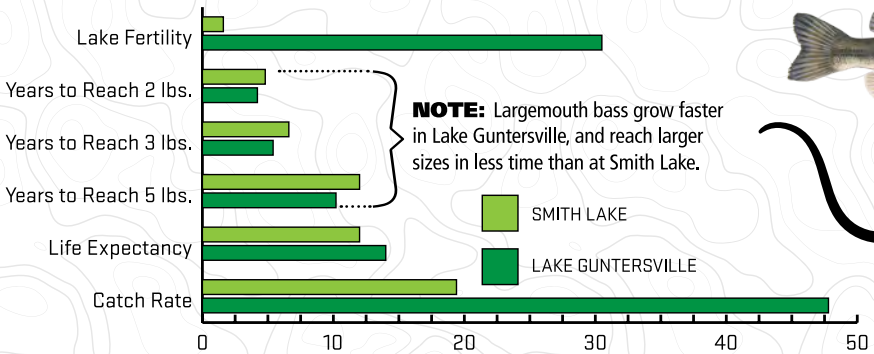
A lake's fertility comes from its surrounding watershed and the water flowing into the lake from upstream. For reference, Guntersville's watershed is almost 25,000 square miles.

Increasing fertility in reservoirs is impossible because of the size of their watersheds. You can't feasibly fertilize an area the size of West Virginia! So, unfortunately, every reservoir is stuck with whatever fertility level it has, and nothing limits a bass population's potential more than poor fertility.

Genetics can make a difference in rare circumstances, but it is frequently overvalued. Fertility ALWAYS makes a difference and is the primary factor that limits the potential of bass populations in every reservoir.

LARGEMOUTH BASS POPULATION DATA

COLLECTED BY WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISHERIES





BETTER FERTILITY BETTER FISH!



Tennessee - Tombigbee Waterway

BWT & Alabama/ Coosa Rivers

West Point Lake

Black Warrior & Tombigbee Lakes

Alabama River Lakes

Walter F. George & G.W. Andrews Lakes

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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.

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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 un-impounded tributary streams and creeks. All game fish and all other commercial or nongame fish taken by nets or seines must be immediately returned to the water from whence they came with the least possible harm. Dip nets may be used to land legally caught fish. Live baitfish can not be transported to other bodies of water.

MUSSEL HARVEST FOR BAIT

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

ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

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

PUBLIC WATER STOCKING

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

LEARN TO FISH

The Go Fish, Alabama! Program provides adults and families, with little-to-no fishing experience, an opportunity to fish under the guidance and instruction of a skilled fishing mentor. The program is for individuals interested in learning how to fish, socializing outdoors with friends and family, putting fish on the dinner table, or simply enjoying the thrill and challenge of the catch. Each event is conducted in a safe, welcoming, and constructive environment.

The Go Fish, Alabama! Program provides participants with all the necessary equipment and tackle needed for their learn to fish experience. This program operates state-wide and focuses on providing fishing opportunities within a short driving distance to metropolitan areas. Events are held at State Public Fishing Lakes, city lakes, State Park lakes, and other fishing destinations across Alabama. Each event typically lasts four hours and is offered in the morning or afternoon on weekends and weekdays. For more information about this program visit: *www.outdooralabama.com/GoFishAlabama.*

ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM

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

THE BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM (BAIT) PROGRAM

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

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

LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS BELOW DAMS

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

PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS

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

AT PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

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

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

COMMERCIAL FISHING

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

BOATING OPERATOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

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

BOATING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS

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

BOATING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR NONRESIDENTS

Nonresidents 12 years old and older, may operate on Alabama waters up to 45 days per calendar year without obtaining a vessel operator's license. However, operators 12 or 13 years old, can only operate if an adult 21 years old or older who either has a vessel operator's license in possession or who falls under the 45 day exemption period, is onboard and seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel if necessary. If operating a vessel for more than 45 days, the nonresident must get an Alabama Nonresident Vessel Operator's License. Nonresidents who have obtained a vessel certification or license from their home state, may use that in lieu of the Alabama Nonresident Vessel Operator's License. Upcoming changes October 1, 2024. Call ALEA at (334) 517-2930.

SALTWATER FISHING

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



POND MANAGEMENT

Ponds provide excellent fishing opportunities for anglers in Alabama. There are more than 275,000 fish ponds in Alabama. Fish ponds greatly alleviate the fishing pressure on our public streams and lakes. Therefore, the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division is vitally interested in this popular resource. Proper stocking with appropriate fish species and ongoing fish management will provide years of excellent fishing for bass, bluegill and shellcracker.

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

ALABAMA & GEORGIA RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

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

ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI & TENNESSEE RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT

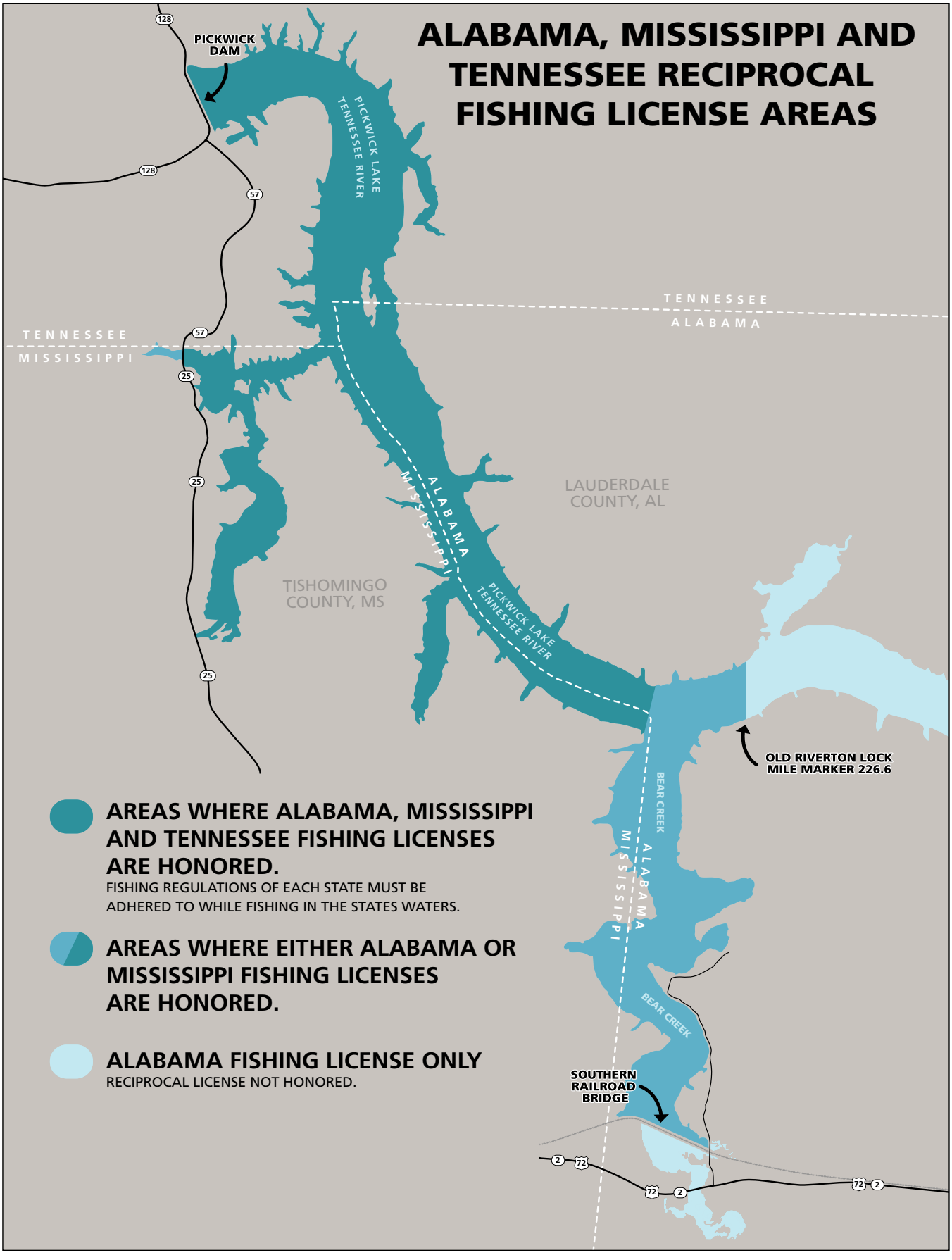
Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee have a reciprocal agreement for fishing the Tennessee River. See page 67.

NON-NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

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






ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI AND TENNESSEE RECIPROCAL FISHING LICENSE AREAS
PICKWICK DAM
PICKWICK LAKE TENNESSEE RIVER
TENNESSEE
ALABAMA
TENNESSEE
MISSISSIPPI
LAUDERDALE COUNTY, AL
TISHOMINGO COUNTY, MS
ALABAMA MISSISSIPPI
PICKWICK LAKE TENNESSEE RIVER
OLD RIVERTON LOCK MILE MARKER 226.6
BEAR CREEK
ALABAMA MISSISSIPPI
BEAR CREEK
SOUTHERN RAILROAD BRIDGE
128
57
25
72
2
AREAS WHERE ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI AND TENNESSEE FISHING LICENSES ARE HONORED.
FISHING REGULATIONS OF EACH STATE MUST BE ADHERED TO WHILE FISHING IN THE STATES WATERS.
AREAS WHERE EITHER ALABAMA OR MISSISSIPPI FISHING LICENSES ARE HONORED.
ALABAMA FISHING LICENSE ONLY
RECIPROCAL LICENSE NOT HONORED.

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

SPECIES	DETAILS	LIMIT
Black Bass	Includes combinations of largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, Alabama, shoal and those species formerly known as "redeye" bass, which are now known separately as Coosa, Warrior, Cahaba, Tallapoosa and Chattahoochee bass, based on their respective drainages. The Alabama bass was formerly known as spotted bass in the Mobile drainage. No more than five of the daily creel limit of 10 may be smallmouth bass. See exceptions for shoal bass in specific tributaries of the Chattahoochee River.	**10**
Walleye	It shall be illegal to take or attempt to take walleye by any method from Sweetwater Lake located in the Talladega National Forest, Cleburne County, from White Plains Lake (also known as 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, Winston Counties, or the Duck River Reservoir in Cullman County. Any walleye taken in these lakes or streams shall immediately be released back into the waters from which they were taken with least possible harm.	**2**
Sauger	It is illegal to possess any Sauger less than 15 inches in total length.	**5**
White Bass	—	**15**
Yellow Bass	—	**15**
Saltwater Striped Bass and Hybrids or Combinations	No more than five of the 15 may exceed 22 inches in total length. See exceptions for Lewis Smith, Inland, Yates, and Thurlow reservoirs and Lake Martin.	**15**
Crappie	It is illegal to possess any crappie less than nine inches in total length taken from Alabama public 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, Choctawhatchee, Chipola, and Chattahoochee rivers basins. It shall be unlawful to transport live catfish 34 inches in length or greater beyond the boundaries of this State.	**1**
Bream	—	**50**
Rainbow Trout	It shall be unlawful to fish with more than two rods or to cull from the creel any trout caught from the Sipsey Fork from Lewis Smith Dam downstream to the confluence with the Mulberry Fork. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a trout from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another trout.	**5**
Alligator Gar	Alligator gar caught with commercial fishing gear must be immediately returned to the water.	**1**
Sturgeon	All sturgeon must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	**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 Wacoochee creeks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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*.

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Proceeds from the sale of each Freshwater Fishing license plate:

- Protects, enhances, and restores aquatic habitat
- Supports freshwater fish hatchery operations
- Fights invasive species
- Provides high-quality fishing opportunities
- Reestablishes rare freshwater species
- Benefits water quality for cleaner lakes and rivers
- Promotes conservation education
- And much more!!!



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. Reopening TBD.		State-owned public fishing lakes are typically open six days a week from February 1 through June 30 each year. From July 1 until November 30, some lakes are only open five days a week. During the months of December and January, many lakes are closed or operate on a limited basis. Information and schedules may change without notice, so please visit our website *www.OutdoorAlabama.com*, call the Lake Manager, or the appropriate Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries District Office for the current operating schedule.
Bibb	Cindy Holder	(205) 938-2318	
Chambers	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Clay	Gregory Clark	(256) 488-0042	
Coffee	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Crenshaw	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Dale	City of Ozark, Ozzie Maianeto	(334) 774-0588	
Dallas	Earle Williams Sr & Shakenyia Pullom	(334) 267-9625	
DeKalb	Steven Simmons	(256) 657-1300	
Escambia	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Fayette	No on-site manager		
Geneva	Ray Windham	(334) 684-0361	
Lamar	Kathy Parker	(205) 695-8283	
Lee	William H. Smith	(334) 745-6563	
Madison	Chris and Cole Coultas	(256) 776-4905	
Marion	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Monroe	No on-site manager		
Pike	City of Troy, Brian Meadows	(334) 674-2480	
Walker	David Price & Tiffany Terradas	(205) 522-7739	
Washington	No on-site manager		





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

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

NOTE

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

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.

OPERATION GAME WATCH 1-800-272-GAME ALABAMA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

POACHING IS STEALING!

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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
Crappie, Black (tie)	4 lbs., 5 oz.	3/27/07	Ft. Payne Reservoir	Shelley Meadows / Mentone
	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
Crappie, White (tie)	4 lbs., 9 oz.	5/8/00	Lake Martin, Tallapoosa Co.	Jeremy S. White / Alexander City
	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., 4 oz.	5/2/12	Mulberry Fork	Bobby Lee Davis / Bessemer
Muskellunge	19 lbs., 8 oz.	12/31/72	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Steve Leatherwood / Haleyville
Paddlefish	52 lbs., 12 oz.	3/18/82	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Susan Holland / Muscle Shoals
Perch, Yellow	2 lbs., 2 oz.	3/7/15	Yates Reservoir	Gary Lee Grove, Jr. / Opelika
Pickerel, Chain	6 lbs., 6 oz.	6/24/76	Dyas Creek, Baldwin Co.	Michael P. Ryan / Bay Minette
Pickerel, Redfin (tie)	14 oz.	9/4/17	Baggett Creek / Washington Co.	Henry Merrit / Deer Park
	13 oz.	7/7/14	Armstrong Creek / Washington Co.	Frank Lambert Dickey / Chatom
Redhorse, Silver (a)	14 lbs., 14 oz.	4/24/95	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Chris Stephenson / Birmingham
Sauger	5 lbs., 2 oz.	3/5/72	Wilson Dam Tailwater	William F. Huntley / Athens
Sunfish, Bluegill (a)	4 lbs., 12 oz.	4/9/50	Ketona Lake, Birmingham	T. S. Hudson / Birmingham
Sunfish, Green	1 lb., 9 oz.	8/10/05	McLamore Pond, Walker County	Caleb Miller / Parrish
Sunfish, Longear	8 oz.	5/12/90	Yellow River	Jerry Jones / Ozark
Sunfish, Redbreast	1 lb., 4 oz.	6/12/10	Choctawhatchee River	Archie Russ / Brantley
Sunfish, Redear (b)	4 lbs., 4 oz.	5/5/62	Chattahoochee State Park	Jeff Lashley / Gordon
Trout, Rainbow	9 lbs., 1 oz.	4/22/06	Mud Creek, Tannehill State Park	Otha G. Hamm / Alexandria
Walleye	10 lbs., 14 oz.	6/24/80	Weiss Reservoir	Julia Hurley / Cedar Bluff
Warmouth	1 lb., 12 oz.	4/25/86	Farm Pond	Jimmy A. Barfield / Dothan

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

Revised: 1/9/2023

Alabama Game Fish

Illustrations By: **Duane Raver**



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Striped Bass



White Bass



Hybrid Striped Bass



Yellow Bass



Bluegill Sunfish



Redear Sunfish



Redbreast Sunfish



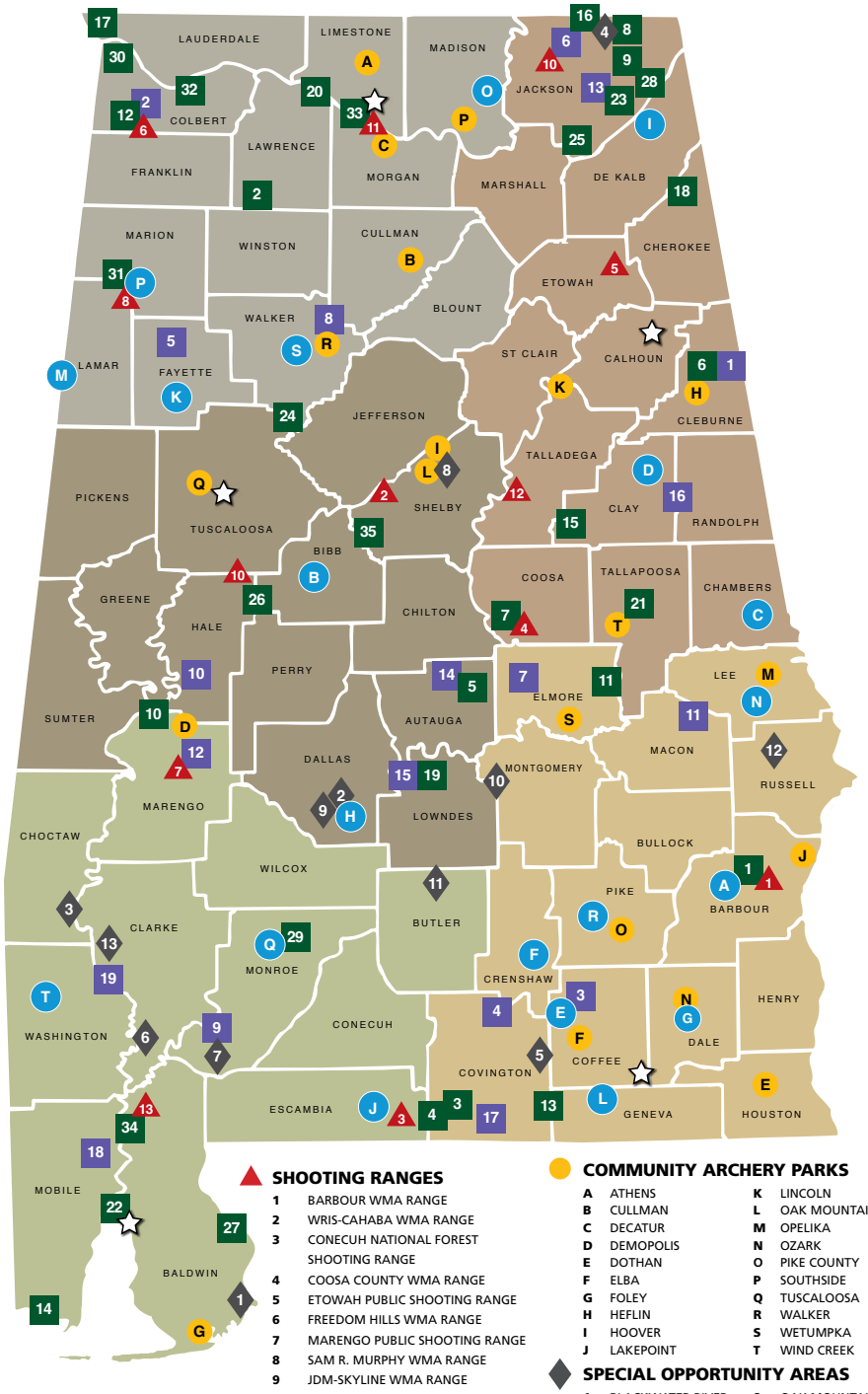
Rainbow Trout


ALABAMA GAME FISH
Black Crappie
White Crappie
Sauger
Walleye
Yellow Perch
Chain Pickerel


ALABAMA NON-GAME FISH
Sturgeon Illustration By: Joseph Tomelleri
Channel Catfish
Blue Catfish
Flathead Catfish
Lake Sturgeon
Bowfin
Freshwater Drum

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Facilities Map



SHOOTING RANGES

1 BARBOUR WMA RANGE
2 WRIS-CAHABA WMA RANGE
3 CONECUH NATIONAL FOREST SHOOTING RANGE
4 COOSA COUNTY WMA RANGE
5 ETOWAH PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE
6 FREEDOM HILLS WMA RANGE
7 MARENGO PUBLIC SHOOTING RANGE
8 SAM R. MURPHY WMA RANGE
9 JDM-SKYLINE WMA RANGE
10 SOUTH SANDY SHOOTING RANGE
11 SWAN CREEK WMA RANGE
12 RED EAGLE SKEET AND TRAP CLUB
13 UPPER DELTA WMA RANGE

DISTRICT OFFICES

COMMUNITY ARCHERY PARKS

A ATHENS
B CULLMAN
C DECATUR
D DEMOPOLIS
E DOTHAN
F ELBA
G FOLEY
H HEFLIN
I HOOVER
J LAKEPOINT
K LINCOLN
L OAK MOUNTAIN
M OPELIKA
N OZARK
O PIKE COUNTY
P SOUTHSIDE
Q TUSCALOOSA
R WALKER
S WETUMPKA
T WIND CREEK

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

1 BLACKWATER RIVER
2 CEDAR CREEK
3 CHOCTAW NWR
4 CROW CREEK
5 FRANK JACKSON STATE PARK
6 FRED T. STIMPSON
7 LITTLE RIVER STATE FOREST
8 OAK MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
9 PORTLAND LANDING
10 PRAIRIE GLADES
11 THIGPEN HILL
12 UCHEE CREEK
13 UPPER STATE

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS AND REFUGES

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

PUBLIC FISHING LAKES

A BARBOUR COUNTY
B BIBB COUNTY
C CHAMBERS COUNTY
D CLAY COUNTY
E COFFEE COUNTY
F CRENSHAW COUNTY
G DALE COUNTY (ED LISENBY LAKE)
H DALLAS COUNTY
I DEKALB CUONTY
J ESCAMBIA COUNTY (LEON BROOKS HINES LAKE)
K FAYETTE COUNTY
L GENEVA COUNTY
M LAMAR COUNTY
N LEE COUNTY
O MADISON COUNTY
P MARION COUNTY
Q MONROE COUNTY
R PIKE COUNTY
S WALKER COUNTY
T WASHINGTON COUNTY (J. EMMETT WOOD LAKE)

PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTING AREAS

1 BIG OAK
2 CHEROKEE
3 COFFEE COUNTY (VICTORIA)
4 DOZIER
5 FAYETTE
6 FOREVER WILD LAND TRUST - AL POWER CO.
7 JORDAN
8 LEWIS SMITH
9 LITTLE RIVER STATE FOREST
10 M. BARNETT LAWLEY FOREVER WILD FIELD TRIAL AREA
11 MACON STATE FOREST
12 MARENGO
13 MUD CREEK (WANNVILLE) DEWATERING UNIT PDWHB
14 PINE HILLS
15 PRAIRIE CREEK
16 R.L. HARRIS
17 SHILOH HILL
18 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA FOUNDATION
19 UPPER STATE

Revised 5/28/24

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- J.O. Venison/Steak/Beef Seasoning
- J.O. Soup Mixes





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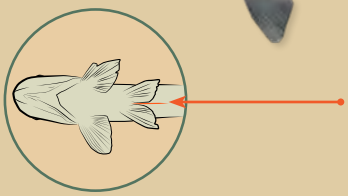
ATTENTION ALABAMA ANGLERS – BE ON THE LOOKOUT

INVASIVE CARP

OutdoorAlabama.com/invasive-carp-alabama

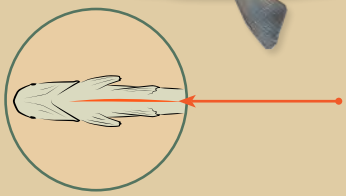
BIGHEAD CARP





SILVER CARP





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)

JUVENILE BAITFISH:



Gizzard Shad *(native)*



Bighead Carp



Silver Carp

REPORT ANY SIGHTINGS, WITH EXACT LOCATIONS, TO:

Alabama Wildlife
& Freshwater Fisheries

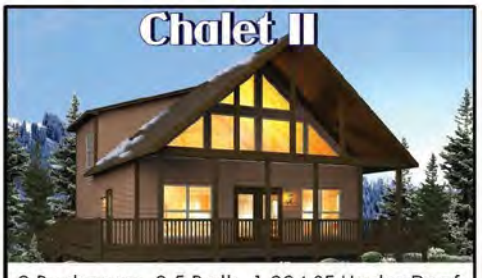
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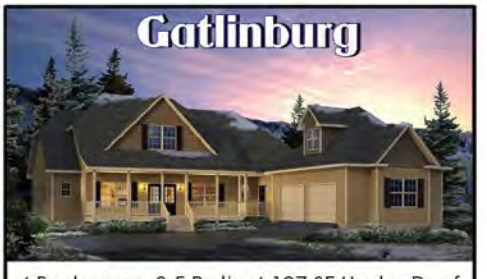
4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath 3,001 SF Under Roof



5 Bedrooms, 2 Bath 2,913 SF Under Roof



5 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath 2,844 SF Under Roof



4 Bedrooms, 3.5 Bath 4,197 SF Under Roof



3 Bedrooms, 2 Bath 1,242 SF Under Roof

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3 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bath 2,066 SF Under Roof

All drawings are conceptual renderings, home dimensions may vary and show options not inlcuded in base price.
Prices may be different in some areas, do not include land improvements, and subject to change.

STOP
CALL NOW

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