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Alabama HUNTING & FISHING Digest

2026-2027 REQUIREMENTS, FEES and SEASON DATES

A Century Of Alabama's White-tailed Deer Management

see page 10

» BANK FISHING ADVENTURES

see page 58

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

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Christopher D. Lewis, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Director • Fred R. Harders, Assistant Director





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Alabama

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2026–2027 REQUIREMENTS, FEES and SEASON DATES

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Digest

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ON THE COVER

A magnificent Alabama buck demonstrates pre-rut behavior, reaching high to mark a "licking branch."

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Photo by Paul Brown

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

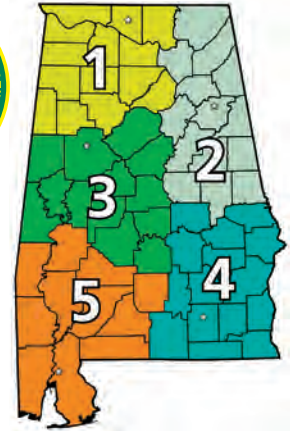
If you have questions or comments regarding **hunting or freshwater fishing** laws, regulations, freshwater fisheries or wildlife programs, or to report violations, please contact your local District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Office listed to the right.

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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As Governor of the great state of Alabama for nearly a decade, I have been reflecting on the efforts of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to expand access to hunting and fishing for all Alabamians and for those who travel here to enjoy our abundant natural resources and outdoor recreation opportunities.

Under the leadership of Commissioner Chris Blankenship, Alabama has bolstered its Wildlife Management Area System, renovated many of its State Public Fishing Lakes, improved and increased access to shooting sports, built new boating and fishing access areas and renovated many existing ones, and developed outreach programs that teach hunting and fishing skills to new generations of Alabamians. These investments in our outdoor recreation infrastructure will improve the quality of life in Alabama for years to come.

None of this is possible without our hunters, anglers, and gun buyers. License sales for outdoors recreation 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. These funds are distributed to states according to each state's size and number of license sales.

In addition to funding wildlife conservation and habitat restoration in Alabama, the purchase of hunting, fishing, and wildlife heritage licenses is also an important part of the state's economy. Outdoor recreation generates an economic impact of \$7.3 billion in Alabama annually. That spending supports more than 72,000 outdoor industry jobs for Alabamians. Your participation in hunting, fishing, and shooting sports makes all of this possible.

Alabama is dear to my heart. No better place exists to raise a family, start a business, and to enjoy life in the great outdoors.

Thank you for your support of ADCNR's conservation efforts, and I hope you have a safe and successful season!

Kay Ivey

KAY IVEY, GOVERNOR

ADDITIONAL OFFICES & PHONE NUMBERS

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS
(800) 272-4263

Enforcement: (334) 242-3467

Fisheries: (334) 242-3471

Wildlife: (334) 242-3469

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P.O. Box 301456
Montgomery, AL 36130
(334) 242-3465

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

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MAJOR CHANGES & IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FOR THE 2026–2027 SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS

MAJOR CHANGES:

- ✓ Turkey season dates changed for spring season. See page 30.
- ✓ Remove Turkey Decoy use delay to allow all season. See page 30.
- ✓ A special permit is required to dog deer hunt in Talladega National Forest. See page 29.
- ✓ Small game season dates to generic language to match the regulation. See page 29.
- ✓ Fox squirrel closed in the Tuskegee National Forest. See page 29.
- ✓ Added coastal rivers to Baldwin and Mobile counties restrictions to saltwater striped bass and hybrids or combination. See page 67.
- ✓ Change bass possession restriction in the Duck River Reservoir to slot limit and creel of 10. See page 67.
- ✓ Prohibit the sale of Skipjack Herring from all public waters of the state. See page 66.
- ✓ Approved fluorescent pink for hunter orange requirement. See page 33.

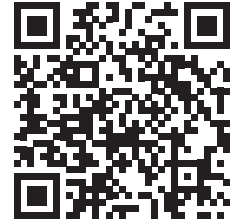
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- » The CID can be found on a purchased license or customers profile on the new system for both residents and nonresidents.

IT IS USED TO:

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

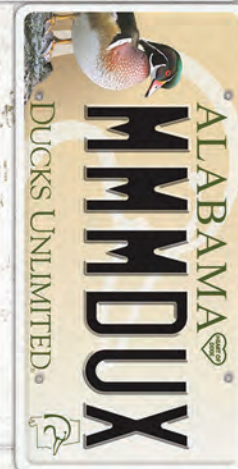
GAME CHECK CONFIRMATION NUMBER

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 Jan 2026

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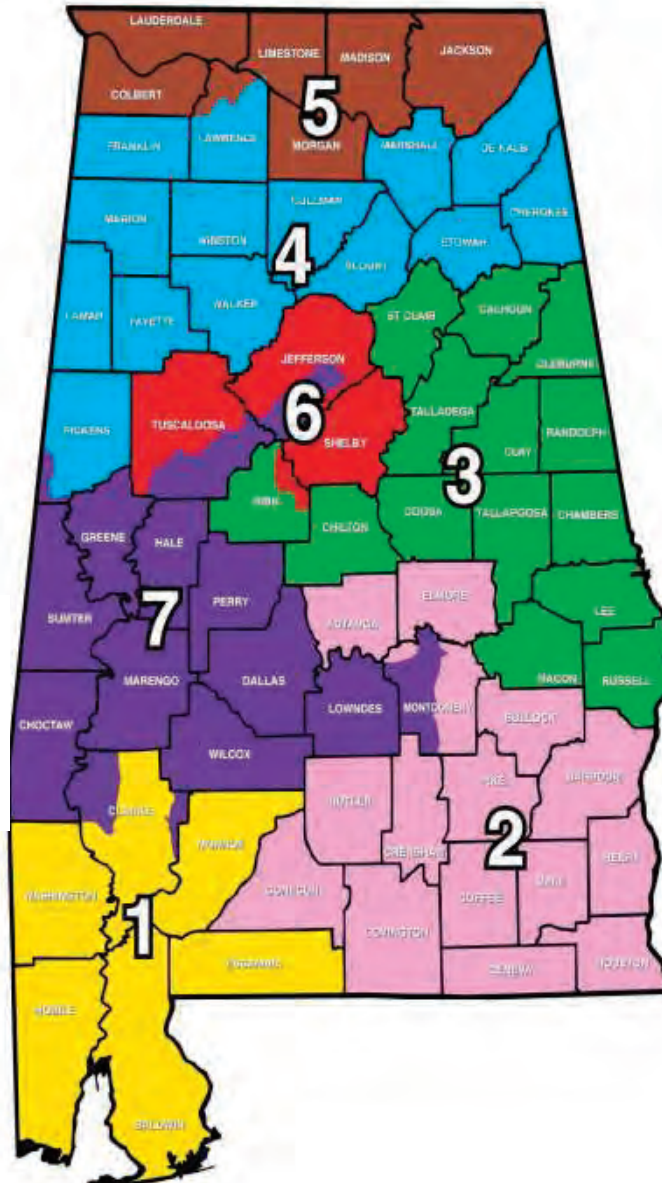
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A CENTURY OF STEWARDSHIP — WHITETAILED DEER MANAGEMENT IN ALABAMA



The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is Alabama's most significant game animal with respect to the number of its hunters and resources expended on pursuing them. Considering the abundant deer population we see now, it's difficult to comprehend that there was a time, not long ago, when their presence in our State was nearly gone, primarily due to unregulated commercial and sustenance hunting. By the early 1900s, this lack of regulated harvest had severely reduced deer numbers across Alabama. In many counties, deer were functionally absent. Their populations had been reduced to likely a few thousand individuals and restricted to isolated pockets of river bottomlands in southwest Alabama. Even into the 1950s and later, the sight of a deer track was enough to prompt neighborhood discussion and excitement. Where conservation laws were in place, their impact was minimal because enforcement was virtually nonexistent.

In 1907, the Alabama Legislature addressed concerns about wildlife conservation by appointing the first State Game and Fish Commissioner, John H. Wallace, Sr., to lead the newly formed Department of Game and Fish. Legislation was also passed that vested title and ownership of all wild birds and animals in the state to regulate their use and disposition for long-term sustainability. New statutes also appointed game wardens, specifically to enforce all game and fish laws. With enforcement officers in place, Alabama began actively establishing new laws to protect the state's natural resources. To address abysmal deer numbers and other conservation interests, new laws included making doe deer illegal game, closing deer season in many counties, setting a daily limit of one buck per day for a season that ran from November 1 through December 31, prohibiting night hunting of deer, requiring hunting licenses for hunting any game bird

Article continued on page 41.

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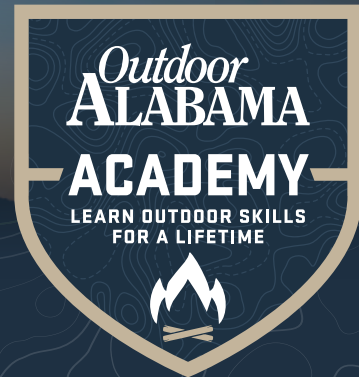
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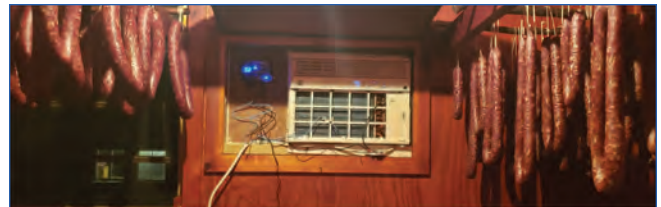
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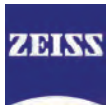
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PORTLAND LANDING SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREA: MANAGING HABITAT FOR BETTER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES



Portland Landing Special Opportunity Area (SOA) is a 10,200-acre tract in Dallas County within Alabama's Black Belt, one of the most productive regions in the state for wildlife. Acquired in 2018 by the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) in partnership with the Forever Wild Land Trust, the property is managed, in conjunc-

tion with the State Lands Division, to provide high-quality public hunting through a limited quota system.

From the start, the goal at Portland Landing has been simple: produce better habitat to create quality hunting opportunities. Through a combination of intensive habitat work and carefully managed hunter access, the area consistently delivers strong results for both deer and turkey hunters.

Habitat diversity at Portland Landing SOA is among the best in the state. The landscape includes bottomland hardwoods, upland hardwoods, mixed pine-hardwood stands, managed pine plantations, and native cedar glades. This mix, combined with the fertile soils of the

Black Belt, supports healthy populations of white-tailed deer, wild turkey, and other game species.

WFF biologists and support staff actively manage the SOA year-round. Habitat management practices include timber thinning, prescribed fire, invasive species control, and mechanical treatments, all designed to benefit wildlife.

Timber thinning has played a major role in improving deer and turkey habitat. Since 2018, about 1,200 acres of pine plantations have been selectively harvested. By opening the forest canopy, sunlight reaches the forest floor and promotes the growth of native grasses, forbs, and browse. These thinned areas, especially when combined with burning and fall disking, promote native plants that offer preferred food and cover for a variety of wildlife species.

Prescribed fire is one of the most effective tools used on the property. Each year, roughly 1,500 acres of upland pine and early successional habitat are burned on a 2-3 year rotation. These burns reduce thick understory and woody competition while encouraging the propagation of herbaceous plants that benefit both deer and turkeys. Burn units are typically 50-70 acres and are arranged in a checkerboard pattern across the property. This pattern of varying stages of plant succession provides critical nesting habitat alongside brood-rearing habitat for turkeys and creates bedding and fawning cover close to quality browse and travel corridors for deer.

In addition to fire and timber work, WFF uses herbicide treatments to control invasive species like cogongrass. Removing these plants helps native vegetation thrive, improving both forage quality and habitat structure.

Mechanical treatments also play a role. Mulching projects in 2020 and 2021 removed dense young hardwood thickets in select areas. This work opened the canopy, improved hard mast production, and created essential open loafing areas for turkeys. Around 30 acres have been treated so far, with ongoing maintenance supported

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Article continued on page 55.

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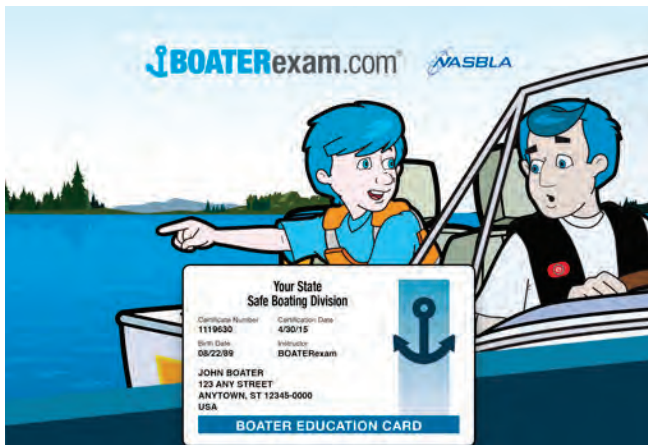
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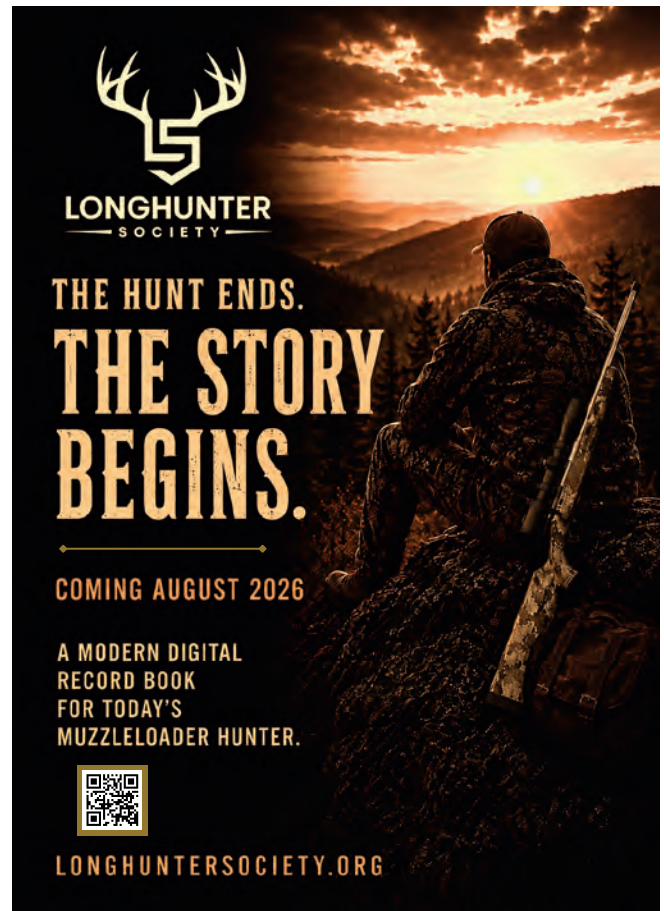
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STEP BEFORE YOU GO HUNTING:

1

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. See page 39 for required licenses.

STEP DURING YOUR HUNT:

2

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 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:

3

(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 6 characters permanently assigned to each hunter that is unique, and can be used to record deer or turkey harvests in the Game Check System. (To receive a CID, visit: game.dcnr.alabama.gov/CID)

Revised 06-02-2026

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 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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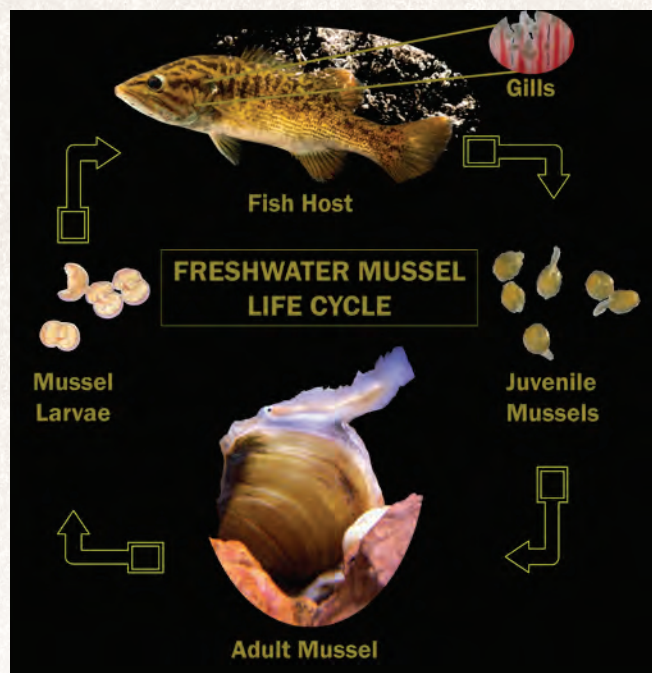
FRESHWATER MUSSELS: ALABAMA'S CHAMPION ANGLERS

Meet one of Alabama's most remarkable "bass anglers:" the Southern Pocketbook, a native freshwater mussel with one of nature's most ingenious fishing tricks. Unlike human anglers with rods and tackle, this mussel carries its lure right inside its shell. To reproduce, the Southern Pocketbook must first attract a fish. The female releases tiny larvae, called *glochidia*, less than half a millimeter long, that must attach to a fish's gills or fins for several weeks.

To make that happen, she extends a fleshy lure from inside her shell that looks and moves like a small minnow. When a curious bass strikes, the impact releases the larvae, which quickly latch onto the fish. There they grow safely until they're ready to drop off onto the streambed, where they mature into adult mussels. The fish, meanwhile, suffers little to no harm from these miniature hitchhikers.

Many mussel species have evolved with similar but unique strategies. Some pack their larvae into worm-like bundles called *conglutinates* to attract fish. Others mimic aquatic creatures such as snails, crayfish, or even fish eggs, to lure in their specific hosts. These remarkable adaptations are vital because most mussel species depend on only a few fish species to complete their life cycle. Some use bass, while others rely on walleye, minnows, darters, catfish, or even sturgeon. In essence, they have evolved into expert anglers, crafting irresistible baits that rival the best crankbait or swimbait in your tackle box.

Alabama is home to 181 kinds of freshwater mussels, more than anywhere else in the world. Their survival is more than biological curiosity; it's a cornerstone of healthy waterways. Mussels act as living filters, feeding on algae and bacteria while cleaning 8 to 20 gallons of water per day each. In large numbers, they can dramatically improve water quality in rivers and streams. They also provide an important food source for birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals. Some mussel species can live over 80 years and biologists use them to track long-term health of rivers and streams.



Freshwater Mussels have an unusual and complex life cycle, which includes a brief, obligatory stage as a parasite on a fish. Redeye Bass photograph by Joe Sartore.

Yet these quiet guardians are in trouble. Mussels are extremely sensitive to changes in their environment, such as degrading water quality and sediment buildup. Their decline often signals deeper problems, particularly, water pollution, streambank erosion, and habitat loss. Alabama has already lost 24 mussel species to extinction, and 67 more are federally protected or under review. The State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) lists 137 species as being of greatest conservation need.

In response, Alabama's Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, through its *Nongame Resources and Wildlife Health Section*, is working to restore mussel populations. Biologists are raising at-risk species in hatcheries and reintroducing them in native habitats. So far, five mussel species thought gone from Alabama have returned. One notable success is the Southern Combshell, now thriving again in the Cahaba River after disappearing in the 1970s.

Safeguarding mussels means safeguarding our rivers, fisheries, and communities. Healthy mussel populations reflect clean water and vibrant ecosystem, resources that sustain all of us.

So next time you cast a lure, remember nature perfected the art long before we did.

Learn more about Alabama's freshwater mussels at outdooralabama.com



Alabama

**AL NWTF Committed \$400,000 for
Conservation Projects and Wild Turkey Research**

2026 Commitments

**\$187,386 for
Conservation**

**\$60,000 for
Habitat for the Hatch**

**\$60,000 for
NWTF Endowed
Professorships**

**\$68,632 for Hunting
Heritage Projects**

**\$1,462,361 match from
Partner or Grant Funds**

www.tagoutal.com



Habitat for the Hatch

2024-25 projects impact
100,240 Acres for the initiative

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

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 51.
- All required hunting and fishing licenses and waterfowl stamps must be in possession when hunting or fishing (either paper or digital form).
- For hunter orange requirement (see page 33) and definition of open permit – public land (see page 52). Consult Wildlife Management Area Permit for special rules and regulations and seasons before hunting State Wildlife Management Areas.
- Any party controlling hunting rights may, by choice, be more restrictive on seasons and bag limits than those stipulated below.
- Hunting with the aid of bait is prohibited on public lands (including WMA, SOA, USFWS, USFS, TVA, Corp. of Engineers and public and private land within the CWD CMZ).
- For the CWD sample drop-off locations — see page 50.

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

WHITE-TAILED UNANTLERED DEER LIMIT

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

SPECIAL YOUTH (Under 16) DEER HUNTING

Statewide, (includes all Privately Owned, Leased Lands and Open Permit – Public Lands (except Wildlife Management Areas) in Zones A, B, C and CMZ) November 13–16 and in Zones D & E October 30–November 2. Dog deer hunting in those counties or parts of counties where and how it is allowed during the regular dog deer hunting season. Same legal arms and ammunition apply as in Deer gun season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119. See the current Wildlife Management Area Permits for youth deer hunting dates and other information about WMA hunting.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ):

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

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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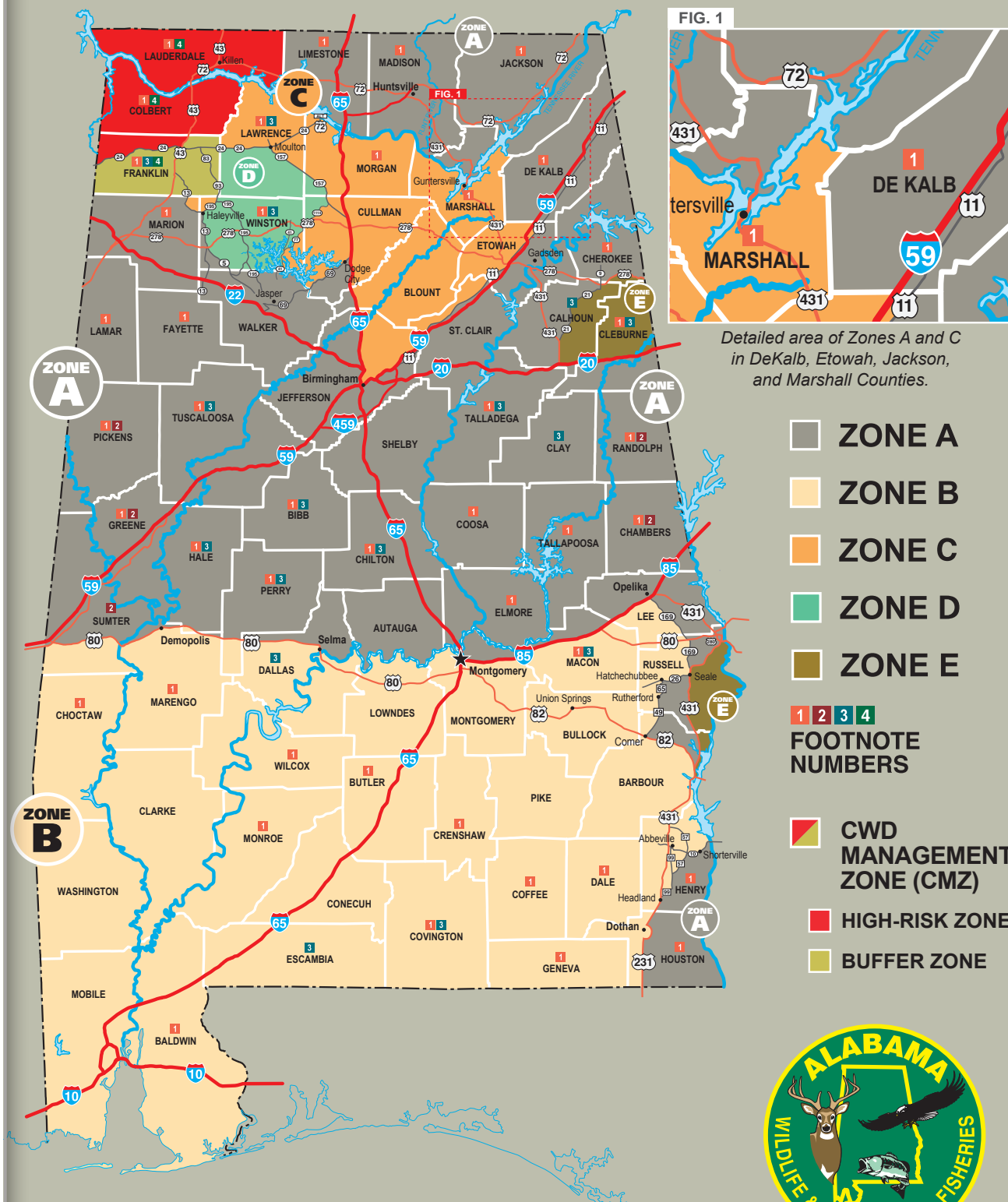
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2026-2027 Deer Season Zone Map



Ver: 05012026

ZONE A			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 13, 2026 – November 16, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 16, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 3, 2027	Either Sex
		January 4, 2027 – February 10, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 3, 2027	Either Sex
		January 4, 2027 – January 15, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE B			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2026 – October 24, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		October 25, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 13, 2026 – November 16, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 16, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 3, 2027	Either Sex
		January 4, 2027 – February 10, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 3, 2027	Either Sex
		January 4, 2027 – January 15, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE C			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 13, 2026 – November 16, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 16, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026	Either Sex
		November 30, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – February 10, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – February 10, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026	Either Sex
		November 30, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – January 15, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – January 15, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
ZONE D			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 1, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
		January 16, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Special Youth Gun		October 30, 2026 – November 2, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 2, 2026 – November 6, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 7, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026	Either Sex
		November 30, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	January 2, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 7, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 7, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026	Either Sex
		November 30, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 7, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	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, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
		January 16, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Special Youth Gun		October 30, 2026 – November 2, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 2, 2026 – November 6, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 7, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
		January 16, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 7, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
		January 2, 2027 – January 27, 2027	Antlered Bucks Only
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 7, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 7, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 1, 2027	Either Sex
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ)			
Archery-Stalk Hunting		October 15, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
Special Youth Gun		November 13 – 16, 2026	Either Sex
Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle	Privately Owned or Leased Land and Open Permit Public Lands (Stalk Hunting Only)	November 16, 2026 – November 20, 2026	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Stalk Hunting	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Land	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – February 10, 2027	Either Sex
Gun Deer-Dog Deer Hunting: Where Allowed	On Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	November 21, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex
	On Open Permit Public Lands Where Allowed	November 21, 2026 – December 11, 2026	Antlered Bucks Only
		December 12, 2026 – January 15, 2027	Either Sex

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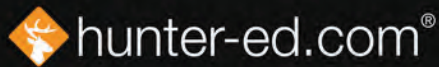
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(1) **ZONE A (see map):** Those areas with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of the Alabama/Mississippi state line and US Hwy. 80 (Sumter County), east along US Hwy. 80 to the US Hwy. 80 Bypass in Selma (Dallas County); east along 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; south along the Franklin County/Lawrence County line to the Winston County line; west along the Franklin County/Winston County line continuing along the Franklin County/Marion County line to the

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

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

(3) **ZONE C (see map):** Those areas of Blount, Cullman, Etowah, Jefferson, Lawrence, Marion, Morgan, Marshall, St. Clair, Walker, and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the Franklin County/Marion County line on AL Hwy. 13 south along AL Hwy. 13 to AL Hwy. 195 in Haleyville (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 195 to Winston County Road 93; north along Winston County Road 93 to the Franklin County/Winston County line; east along the Franklin County/Winston County line to the Lawrence County/Winston County line; north along the



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

(4) ZONE D (see map): Those areas of Cullman, Lawrence, Morgan and Winston Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of AL Hwy. 157 and AL Hwy. 24 in Moulton (Lawrence County); south along AL

Hwy. 157 to Cullman County Road 1114; south along Cullman County Road 1114 to US Hwy. 278 in Jones Chapel (Cullman County); west along US Hwy. 278 to Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77); west along Helicon Road (Winston County Road 77) to Winston County Road 41 in Arley (Winston County); south along Winston County Road 41 to the Sipsey Fork; south along the Sipsey Fork to the Winston County/Walker County line; west along the Winston County/Walker County line to AL Hwy. 5; north along AL Hwy. 5 to AL Hwy. 13 at Natural Bridge (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 13 to AL Hwy. 195 in Haleyville (Winston County); north along AL Hwy. 195 to Winston County Road 93; north along Winston County Road 93 to the Franklin County line; east along the Franklin County/Winston County line to the Lawrence County line; North on the Lawrence County/Franklin County line to AL Hwy. 24; east along AL Hwy. 24 ending at intersection with AL Hwy. 157 in Moulton (Lawrence County).

(5) ZONE E (see map): Those areas of Barbour and Russell Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and US Hwy. 431 in Eufaula (Barbour County), north along US Hwy. 431 to US Hwy. 280; east along US Hwy. 280 to the Chattahoochee River; south along the Chattahoochee River to US Hwy. 82; west along US Hwy. 82 ending at intersection with US Hwy. 431 (Barbour County); and those areas of Calhoun, Cherokee, and Cleburne Counties with the following boundaries: beginning at the intersection of I-20 and AL Hwy. 21 (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 and a portion of Franklin County.

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



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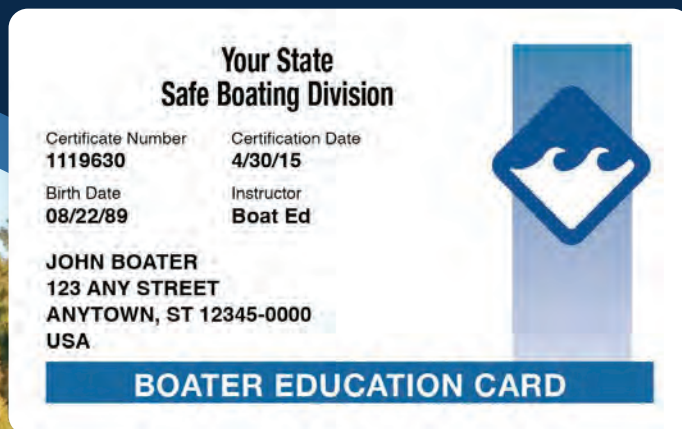
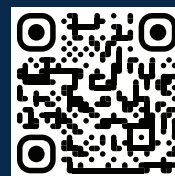
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SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS:

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); **TALLADEGA** (that area inside the Talladega National Forest); **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 bound-

aries: east of AL Hwy. 219, south of US Hwy. 82 and north of AL Hwy. 183); **BUTLER** (that area south of AL Hwy. 106 and east of I-65); **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

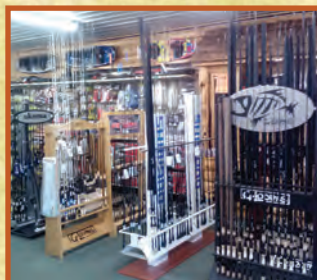
it intersects the Perry County line, following the National Forest boundary east to Perry County Road 23, south to the intersection of Perry County Road 29, south to the Spring Hill Church Road, Spring Hill Church Road west to the junction of Perry County Road 23 and AL Hwy. 14, west to the Hale County 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, the special muzzleloader, air rifle, and unantlered deer seasons are allowed the same as privately owned or leased lands in those counties, if USACE does not further restrict. Be aware to consult USACE regulations regarding hunting activities and boat ramp use prior to hunting USACE regulated areas. Special Permits from the USACE may be required and some USACE areas are closed to hunting. For complete information concerning hunting on USACE lands, visit the USACE Mobile District website at the following: <https://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Recreation/Hunting/>.



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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 (by permit only) 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. For more information on the Talladega National Forest Dog Deer Hunting Permit, visit www.outdooralabama.com/dogdeerpermit.
- (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, pen-raised quail, or other animals) is PROHIBITED. The prohibition (CFR 36. II. 261.10 e) will be enforced by USDA law enforcement personnel.
- (v) **CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE MANAGEMENT ZONE (CMZ):** During Deer Gun Season on privately owned or leased land only, two unantlered deer may be taken per day. This does not apply to Wildlife Management Areas, Community Hunting Areas, and open permit public lands located within the CMZ.

MOURNING AND WHITE-WINGED DOVE

Note: At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See website for any updates.

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 5, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **September 6, 2026 – October 18, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **December 12, 2026 – January 17, 2027**

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 12, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **September 13, 2026 – October 25, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **November 21, 2026 – November 29, 2026**
- One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day) **December 12, 2026 – January 17, 2027**

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

For further clarification, see www.fws.gov/story/2021-12/information-dove-hunters.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System recommends planting dates for some top sown grains between August 1 and November 30 depending on individual circumstances. For details, see www.aces.edu/blog/topics/forestry-wildlife/mourning-dove-biology-management-in-alabama/.

BOBWHITE QUAIL

First Saturday in November – Last day in February

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

RABBIT

Second Saturday in September – Last day in February

- 8 a day — 8 in possession

SQUIRREL

Second Saturday in September – Last day in February

- 8 a day — 8 in possession
- Fox squirrel closed on the Bankhead and Tuskegee National Forests.

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.

Continued on page 31.

2026-2027 SEASON TURKEY SEASON ZONES

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

ZONE 1

SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 13 – 14, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 19, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPRING SEASON MARCH 20 – MAY 3, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)

ZONE 2

SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 20 – 21, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 26, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPRING SEASON MARCH 27 – MAY 3, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)

ZONE 3

FALL SEASON NOVEMBER 14 – 22, 2026 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED)
FALL SEASON DECEMBER 12 – 27, 2026 (NO DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPECIAL YOUTH HUNT MARCH 13 – 14, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPECIAL DISABLED HUNT MARCH 19, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)
SPRING SEASON MARCH 20 – MAY 3, 2027 (DECOYS ALLOWED)

GOBBLERS ONLY

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

SPECIAL DISABLED HUNTS

Participants must meet medical requirements of regulation 220-2-.109(2)(d).

WMA AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE RANGER DISTRICTS

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

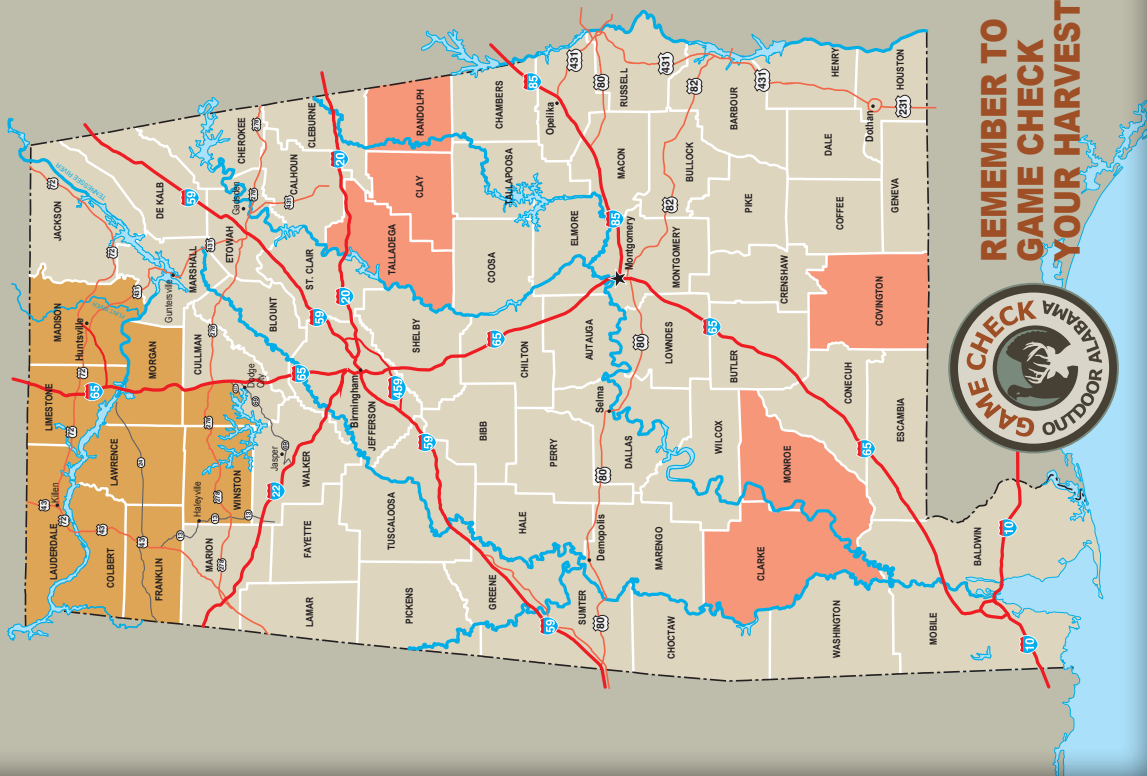
Special Youth Hunt - March 20, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Special Disabled Hunt - March 26, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Spring Season - March 27 - May 3, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)

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 13, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Special Disabled Hunt - March 19, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)
Spring Season - March 20 - May 3, 2027 (Daylight to 1 p.m.; Decoys allowed)

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
- Gobblers harvested from a WMA located within a National Forest Ranger District count towards the total bag limit for that Ranger District



REMEMBER TO
GAME CHECK
YOUR HARVEST!



Continued from page 29.

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

- No Bag Limit
 - No Closed Season
 - No running of dogs on open-permit lands during daytime or after 3:00 am during spring turkey season.
 - See page 51 for legal hunting hours.
 - 1. **Bobcat** — See tagging requirement. See page 29.
 - 2. **Coyote and Feral Swine** — trapping by landowner or his/her agent. Feral Swine — upon capture, it shall be unlawful to release any live feral swine. See regulation 220-2-.86
 - 3. **Bobcat** — See page 33 for trapping information.
- (Nighttime Hours Only)**
- 1. **Fox** — Nighttime hours with dogs only. See page 33 for trapping information.

FERAL SWINE (2027): (PRIVATELY OWNED AND LEASED LANDS ONLY) (DOGS ONLY)

Special Nighttime Season: May 8, 2027 – August 30, 2027

- 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 42–43).

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 18, 2026 – January 31, 2027

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

SNIPE

November 7, 2026 – February 21, 2027

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

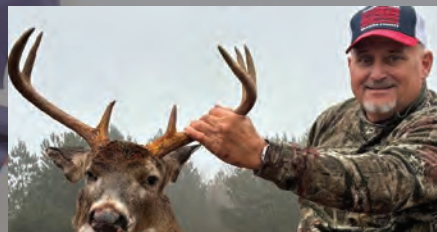
ALLIGATOR

- **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 last Tuesday of June.
- Residents and Nonresidents who are sixteen (16) years of age or

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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 Chattahoochee River), south of 13th Street Bridge (excluding Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge). Hunting Hours – Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.
- **Southwest Management Area:** The private and public waters in **Baldwin** and **Mobile** Counties that lie north of I-10 and private and public waters in **Washington, Choctaw, Clarke, and Monroe** Counties that lie south of US Hwy. 84. Hunting Hours – Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.

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

- **Southeast Management Area:** the private and public waters in **Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Russell** counties (excluding public Alabama state waters in Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its navigable tributaries). Hunting Hours – Official Sunset to Official Sunrise.

BULLFROG AND PIG FROG

No Closed Season

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

SPECIAL YOUTH, ACTIVE MILITARY AND MILITARY VETERAN'S WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

November 21, 2026 & February 6, 2027

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See website for any updates.
- 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 12, 2026 – September 20, 2026

November 27, 2026 – January 26, 2027

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

SPECIAL TEAL SEASON

September 12, 2026 – September 20, 2026

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See website for any updates.
- 6 a day
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

DUCK, COOT AND MERGANSER

November 27, 2026 – November 28, 2026

December 5, 2026 – January 31, 2027

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See website for any updates.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

DUCK

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

COOT

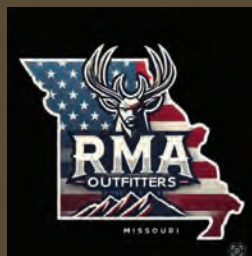
- 15 a day

MERGANSER

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

Refer to the *Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book*, www.outdooralabama.com, as well as federal regulations, for details on waterfowl hunting requirements and seasons.

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GEESE

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See website for any updates.
- Statewide.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

ALL GEESE:

September 5, 2026 – October 4, 2026

October 17, 2026 – October 31, 2026

November 27, 2026 – November 28, 2026

December 5, 2026 – January 31, 2027

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 27, 2026 – January 3, 2027

January 11, 2027 – January 25, 2027

- By Limited Quota Permit only. Must apply online at www.outdooralabama.com. Only residents and Lifetime Hunting License holders of the State of Alabama who are sixteen (16) years of age or older and in possession of a valid hunting license (license not required for individuals over the age of 64) may apply for a Sandhill Crane Permit. There is no fee to apply for a permit. There is a \$20 fee to accept the Sandhill Crane Permit in addition to a small processing fee.
- Limit 3 per person per permit.
- Hunting zone will be that area north of Interstate 20 from the Georgia state line to the interchange with Interstate 65, then east of Interstate 65 to the interchange with Interstate 22, then north of Interstate 22 to the Mississippi state line. (excludes the remainder of the state).
- Shooting Hours – Sunrise to Sunset
- Legal arms and ammunition are same as waterfowl

TRAPPING:

BOBCAT, FOX, MINK, MUSKRAT, OTTER & STRIPED SKUNK

Last Saturday in October – Last day of February

BEAVER, COYOTE, NUTRIA, FERAL SWINE, RACCOON AND OPOSSUM

No Closed Season

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

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

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, fluorescent pink or either a full-size hunter orange or fluorescent pink 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 or fluorescent pink requirement.

Persons hunting privately owned, leased land, open permit public lands or WMAs are not required to wear hunter orange or fluorescent pink 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 or fluorescent pink caps; otherwise, hunter orange or fluorescent pink must be of solid color and visible from any angle. Only hunter orange, or fluorescent pink, commonly called blaze orange or blaze pink, and ten-mile cloth, etc., is legal.

The various shades of red as well as camo orange and camo pink are not legal.



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LEGAL ARMS & AMMUNITION

(1) GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

- It shall be unlawful for any person to use any method or have in their possession any weapon or ammunition contrary to this regulation while hunting or attempting to hunt game birds and animals or other species provided for herein unless expressly provided for duly enacted laws of the State of Alabama.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to submit firearms and ammunition or any device, instrument or accessory used in hunting to Conservation Enforcement Officers for inspection.
- It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt with a bow or gun that has a light source attached that is capable of casting a beam of light (not including a laser sight) forward of said bow or gun or to possess such a light source adapted for attachment to said bow or gun while hunting. Exceptions apply when a person possesses a current nighttime feral swine and coyote license and is hunting during the dates of the established nighttime feral swine and coyote season.
- It shall be unlawful to possess any equipment that uses electronics to increase the ability to see in the dark (night vision/thermal) while hunting any species of wildlife, both protected and unprotected species, except during the special nighttime feral swine and coyote hunting season with a valid license.
- Hunting with fully automatic firearms is prohibited.

(2) DEER

Archery Season

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

Special Muzzleloader and Air Rifle Season

- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzle-loading handguns — .40 caliber or larger
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .30 caliber or larger.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.

Gun Deer Season

- Rifles using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .30 caliber or larger.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using buckshot, slugs, or single round ball.
- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzle-loading handguns .40 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.

(3) TURKEY

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

- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.

Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the possession of rifles, shotgun/rifle combinations (drilling) or buckshot and slugs when the hunter is stalk hunting both deer and turkey provided no person shoots or attempts to shoot turkey with the rifle or shotgun using buckshot or slugs.

(4) MIGRATORY BIRDS

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, plugged with a one-piece filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun or otherwise incapable of holding more than 3 shells using standard No. 2 shot or smaller, except waterfowl must be hunted with steel shot or other shot compositions and shot sizes that are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Waterfowl hunters shall not possess any other size shot or any size lead shot.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(5) RACCOON & OPOSSUM

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

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

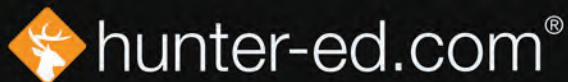
- Rifles of any caliber.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller.
- Pre-charged pneumatic air powered guns, .25 caliber or larger.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Muzzle-loading long gun and muzzle-loading handguns of any caliber.
- Pre-charged pneumatic arrow shooting rifles using an arrow equipped with a broadhead which has a minimum cutting diameter of 7/8 inch and 2 sharpened edges.
- Spear or sharpened blade.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(7) OTHER GAME BIRDS OR ANIMALS

- Rifles using rimfire ammunition or those operated by air.
- Muzzle-loading long guns and muzzle-loading handguns of any caliber.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows in conformance with 220-2-.03.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, using standard No. 4 shot or smaller.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Blowguns using darts propelled by the hunter's breath only.
- Sling shots.
- Raptors by properly permitted falconers.

(8) BULLFROG AND PIG FROG

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



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TRACKING THE TIMBERDOODLE



American Woodcock, aka the “timberdoodle,” is a migratory game bird and one of the most traditionally pursued upland birds in eastern North America. Woodcock breed in the northeastern U.S. into portions of Canada and winter in the southeast U.S. They are known for their elaborate courtship displays, referred to as the “sky dance,” and their notable long bills designed to probe for earthworms, which make up much of their diet. Population numbers have been declining, likely due to changes in land-use practices and habitat loss. More research is needed on management and conservation priorities across the species’ range. In an effort to better understand Alabama populations, the Alabama Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) has partnered with the Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Cooperative (EWMRC) to study woodcock migration and wintering ecology and to examine factors influencing population declines.

EWMRC is an international collaboration among state, provincial, and federal wildlife agencies, as well as university and conservation organizations with a vested interest in woodcock conservation. This network of partners allows for research across the

entire woodcock annual range. One of the most effective methods to study woodcock is using transmitters equipped with GPS and cellular technology, which allows researchers to track woodcock between northern breeding areas and southern wintering grounds.

During 2020–2021, WFF staff deployed gps transmitters on woodcock in central Alabama that were generously purchased by the Ruffed Grouse/American Woodcock Society for use on Alabama birds. WFF staff spent long nights using spotlights and UTVs to locate woodcock feeding in fields. A biologist with a spotlight and another with a dip net would slowly approach a bird, confusing it with the spotlight and attempting to capture it with the net. Upon capture, birds were sexed, aged, banded, and measured. Once body measurements were taken, a feather was pulled for information on its geographical range, blood was drawn for DNA analysis, and fitted with a transmitter prior to release.

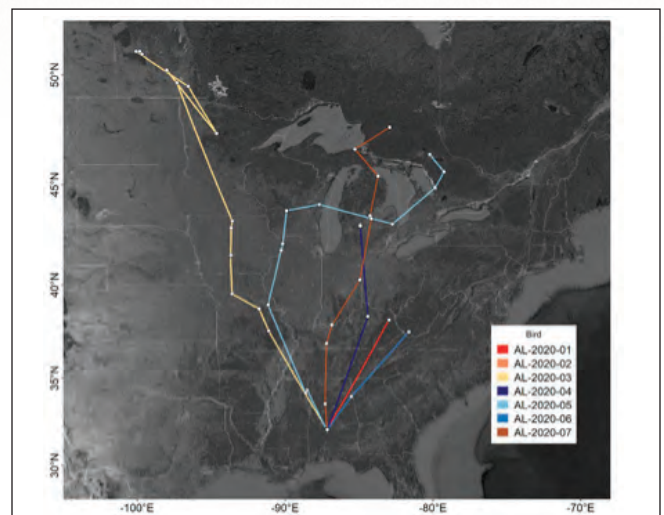
A total of 13 transmitters were deployed, including 8 transmitters (7 grams) on females, which are larger, and 5 smaller transmitters (4 grams) on males. Each of these transmitters took 125 and 75 GPS points, respectively, from the wintering grounds in Alabama to their breeding grounds in the northern U.S. and Canada. During the project, additional birds were captured and banded, marking the first time woodcock had been targeted for banding here since 1985. In total, 30 birds were banded, with 13 transmitters deployed.

Currently, the WFF is working with EWMRC to further study woodcock on the wintering grounds. There has been little research conducted on wintering ecology, with many knowledge gaps remaining. Through a partnership with the EWMRC, WFF plans to deploy transmitters on woodcock in the coming years.

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Spring 2020 migration routes of American Woodcock marked in Alabama February 2020. Two woodcock spent extended stopovers in Michigan and Wisconsin prior to migration termination in Ontario. One woodcock migrated over 2,100 miles into western Manitoba, almost to the western extent of the breeding range. Photo courtesy of the EWMRC.

Article continued on page 50.

HUNT THE RUT

Alabama
Rut Map

All Season

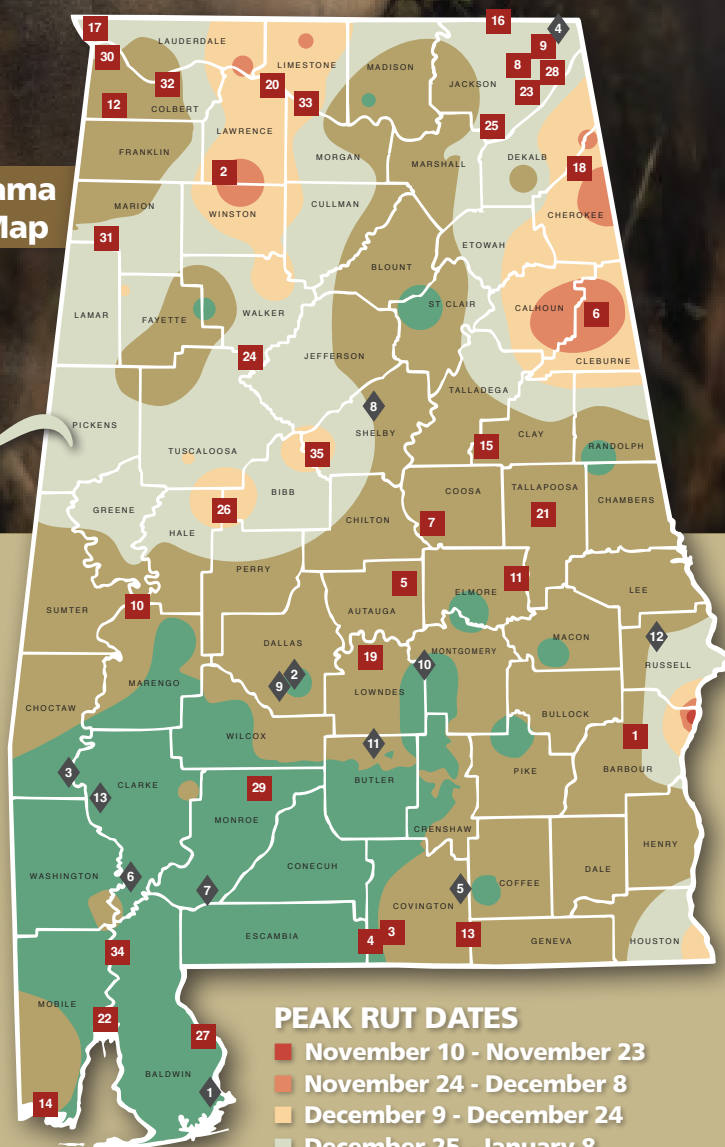
Why is Alabama Different?

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



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 52 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.

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.wflicense@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).

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



SECURING PUBLIC HUNTING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS...

Forever Wild Land Trust, Alabama's land acquisition program, is now in its 34th 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 295,000 acres,

of which 92% 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

RECREATIONAL LICENSES ON PAGES 42–46 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 ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required	Yes	No ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required
HUNTING ON LAND YOU OWN	No ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required	No ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required	Yes	No ⁽¹⁾ Certain licenses required
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 ⁽¹⁾ Home on leave (must have copy of leave papers & AL driver's license)	N/A	Yes	N/A

- (1) Still required are: Bait Privilege License (if hunting deer / feral swine over bait) and Nighttime Hunting License (if hunting Feral Swine / Coyote at night) required for all ages (No exemption). Federal & State Duck Stamp (Residents age 16-64 & Non-Residents age 16+) if hunting waterfowl.
- (2) Not required for any resident or resident member of landowner's immediate family who hunts on lands owned by landowner, nor shall it include any tenant or member of his or her immediate family who hunts on tenant's land and who resides on the land. Immediate family is defined as spouse, children, parents, brothers, and sisters.
- (3) Must present orders showing stationed in AL for 30 days or more, along with driver's license and military ID for member and family members included on the orders to qualify for resident licenses to your local probate or DCNR office.

MIGRATORY BIRD HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

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

DUPLICATE HUNTER EDUCATION CARD

Do you need a duplicate Hunter Education Card?

You can now obtain a duplicate Hunter Education Card online. Go to www.outdooralabama.com and click on the hunting/ hunter education link to print a duplicate Hunter Education Card. Please call the Hunter Education Office at (800) 245-2740 if you have questions, or if you are unable to print a temporary card.

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



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REQUIREMENTS

- High School diploma or GED Certificate
- Possession of a valid Alabama driver license
- Applicants must be 21 years of age at the time of application
- Applicants must qualify to be certified as a law enforcement officer by the Alabama Peace Officer's Standards and Training Commission

STEPS

- Complete the Application for Examination Form available at www.personnel.alabama.gov, or any Alabama Career Center Office.
- The job title for the Application for Examination Form is Conservation Enforcement Officer, Trainee - 70798.



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Article continued from page 10.

or animal, and requiring written permits from landowners to hunt on their land.

After new conservation laws and new officers to enforce them were established, the effort transitioned to a hands-on approach of directly supplementing deer populations through restocking. The Alabama Department of Game and Fish began the search for donor sources of white-tailed deer. In 1925, the Department collaborated with the state of Michigan for the first effort, along with the U.S. Forest Service and private residents, to initiate the first successful restocking effort by purchasing 105 deer and released them into the Bankhead National Forest in Winston County. The releases were carefully planned, taking into account available habitat, food sources, and the ability of relocated animals to establish breeding populations. While early techniques were labor-intensive and sometimes experimental by modern standards, they laid the foundation for one of the most successful wildlife restoration efforts in the Southeast. The passing of the Pittman-Robertson Act in 1937 enabled a key transition period with dedicated federal funding that allowed for the hiring of formally trained wildlife biologists to advance the restocking efforts. Subsequent releases continued until the mid-1960's throughout the state with deer sourced from North Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Arkansas, Wisconsin, Georgia, and multiple locations in Alabama.

Stocked deer adapted quickly to Alabama's diverse habitats. As populations expanded, regulated hunting seasons were gradually reopened in areas previously closed. Legal harvest allowance frameworks were adjusted as herd numbers increased, ensuring that populations continued to grow while enabling hunters to once again participate in traditional outdoor pursuits.

The success of these efforts relied on more than simply moving animals from one place to another. Habitat management, law enforcement, biological monitoring, and public cooperation all played, and continue to play, essential roles related to the success of this species' management. Wildlife biologists refine management strategies as deer populations change, balancing herd health, habitat capacity, and hunting opportunity.

The detection of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in Alabama has presented a new management challenge for our agency. As always, we will continue responding appropriately to wildlife population trends and disease concerns by implementing management actions based on the latest research. Our goal is to develop recommendations and regulations that help slow the risk of disease spread while improving our understanding of CWD distribution throughout Alabama.

While there is a lot of misinformation circulating, our focus remains rooted in factual data, disease processes, and the broader big picture and long-term view necessary to maintain a sustainable deer herd into perpetuity. In short, wildlife is managed for optimal viability into the future, which may not always align with what provides the greatest satisfaction for every individual hunter each season, although hunter satisfaction still remains an important Division goal.

Recognizing the importance of both hunter satisfaction and the long-term health and abundance of Alabama's deer population, the Division will continue fulfilling its mission by delivering positive conservation outcomes for wildlife resources and stakeholders regardless of the varying levels of understanding of the processes and considerations involved.

Article continued on page 50.



RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2026 – 8/31/2027 (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 52)	State: All Game*	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$35.30
	State: Small Game*	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$23.40
BAIT PRIVILEGE LICENSE	Annual	Allows taking of white-tailed deer or feral swine by aid of bait, in addition to required hunting licenses. Required of all ages. NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$18.95
NIGHTTIME FERAL SWINE AND COYOTE HUNTING LICENSE	Annual	Allows hunting of feral swine and coyote at night on private or leased lands during special season. Any 100% disabled hunting license holders pay \$1.10. Bait license required if hunting feral swine over bait. Required of all ages, NO EXEMPTIONS.	\$18.50
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.	\$7.65
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.	\$18.20
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.	\$3.65
PHYSICALLY DISABLED MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION 3-DAY HUNTING EVENT LICENSE	State: All Game	Event must be sanctioned by DCNR Commissioner. Allows up to 10 US military veterans, 50% or more disabled, to hunt on one event license. Must present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration.	\$179.05
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.	\$14.30
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	\$12.70
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/26 – 6/30/27.	\$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.	\$23.40
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	90 day proof of residency required. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.	\$28.70
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 39. See page 44 for footnotes.

2026-2027

COLLECTIBLE LICENSE CARDS

For an additional \$7 to your annual license purchase, you can select from six different designs that depict a variety of wildlife photography and artwork. The wildlife designs include deer, turkey, freshwater and saltwater fishing, an America's 250th Celebration card, and a watchable wildlife card featuring a female Ruby Throated Hummingbird.

Show your support for wildlife conservation today!

Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources | OutdoorAlabama.com

NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES

Valid 9/1/2026 – 8/31/2027 (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 52)	All Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey.	\$411.45
	All Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$253.95
	All Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$179.05
	Small Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey.	\$134.10
	Small Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$81.70
	Small Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$59.10
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.	\$65.25
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.	\$63.45
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.	\$179.05
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	—	\$12.70
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/26 – 6/30/27.	\$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.	\$23.40
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.	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 38.

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Easy installation & connection
Works on 6 or 12V feeders
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Road Feeder Unit with THE-ELIMINATOR

Easy to operate - 5 year warranty
Compatible with any 6 or 12 volt unit
Can feed up to 6 times a day
Each feed time can vary
Runs on main battery when hooked to it
Built in battery level indicator
Easy 4 wire hook up
Push button to reset



Control Box with attached Solar Panel & THE-ELIMINATOR

With over thirty years of experience in the feeder industry, West Texas Feeder Supply has the knowledge required to help meet all of your feeder needs. Our commitment to our customers is one of high quality merchandise, economical prices, and excellent service after the sale! We'll be there when you need us!

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WestTexasFeederSupply.com



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HUNTWISE



RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2026 – 8/31/2027 (unless otherwise indicated)

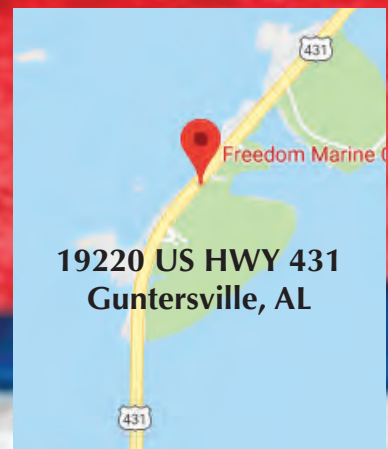
CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO		FEE
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater: Annual*	Required for residents 16 years of age and under 65 years of age who fish with rod and reel, hook and line, or from a boat in public waters. This license is not required to fish with ordinary hook and line, only from bank in county of legal residence.	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$17.45
	Saltwater: Annual*		A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	\$30.90
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	\$12.65
	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/fishing/saltwater-fishing). NO EXEMPTIONS		\$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 68)	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	\$7.80
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.	\$3.55
	Saltwater Annual (totally disabled)	Present certification of permanent disability benefit to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	—	\$3.55
	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.	\$3.65
			Saltwater	\$3.65
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Annual	12 month residency proof required. Required for use of any commercial gear. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$119.00
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$301.00
	Dealer or Buyer	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$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 9/1/2026 – 8/31/2027 (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.	—	\$68.20
	Freshwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	\$38.05
	Saltwater: Annual		A SW Reef Fish Endorsement Privilege is also needed to fish gulf reef fish in saltwater.	\$66.80
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours.	\$36.65
	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/fishing/saltwater-fishing). NO EXEMPTIONS.		\$10.00
PUBLIC FISHING LAKES DAILY FISHING LICENSE (SEE PAGE 68)	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	\$9.20
	Annual		Expires August 31	\$16.25
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	\$38.05
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: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		Varies
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$13.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$31.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$901.00
	Dealer or Buyer	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/26 – 9/30/27.		\$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 38.

ALABAMA'S BEACHES RULE #41:

Fish stories get bigger
EVERY TIME THEY'RE RETOLD.



Some trips are measured in numbers. Others are measured in moments.

On Alabama's Beaches, fishing is about both. Early mornings offshore. Slow afternoons in the bays. The pull of the line, the calm between casts, and the stories that follow.

**COME FOR THE CATCH. STAY FOR THE STORIES.
AND ENJOY A FISHING TRIP THAT FEELS CLOSE
TO HOME, BUT STILL FEELS LIKE AN ESCAPE.**

ALABAMA'S
BEACHES

ALABAMASBEACHES.COM/FISHING



LIFETIME HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/2026 – 8/31/2027 (unless otherwise indicated)

Visit www.OutdoorAlabama.com for more information or call 334-242-3465 for an application packet.

LICENSE PRIVILEGE (BY AGE)	UNDER 2	2-11	12-49	50 +	UPGRADE
HUNTING ²	\$450.40	\$600.40	\$750.10	\$450.40	o
FRESHWATER FISHING ²	\$225.50	\$300.50	\$375.55	\$225.50	o
SALTWATER FISHING	\$375.55	\$450.40	\$525.40	\$375.55	o
HUNTING & FRESHWATER FISHING ²	\$675.20	\$750.10	\$1,049.85	\$675.20	o
HUNTING & SALTWATER FISHING ²	\$825.05	\$1,049.85	\$1,274.70	\$825.05	o
FRESHWATER & SALTWATER FISHING ²	\$600.40	\$750.10	\$900.00	\$600.40	o
HUNTING, FRESHWATER & SALTWATER FISHING ²	\$1,049.85	\$1,199.80	\$1,574.40	\$1,049.85	o
ADD ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES	UNDER 2	2-11	12-49	50 +	
STATE DUCK STAMP	\$198.70	\$251.30	\$304.15	\$198.70	o
WILDLIFE HERITAGE	\$300.50	\$300.50	\$300.00	\$300.00	o
SALTWATER REEF FISH ENDORSEMENT (RES/NON-RES)	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	\$220.00	o
RESIDENT MILITARY VETERAN'S APPRECIATION	49 & UNDER	50 & OVER			
FRESHWATER FISHING (20% OR MORE DISABLED)	\$56.10	\$31.15	Add a 1-time issuance fee of \$1.20 to the total of your Military Veteran's lifetime privileges		o
SALTWATER FISHING (20% OR MORE DISABLED)	\$56.10	\$31.15			o
HUNTING (40% OR MORE DISABLED)	\$74.75	\$37.35			o
HUNTING (100% OR MORE DISABLED)	\$56.10	\$31.15			o

These NEW Physically Disabled Lifetime Licenses Will Go On Sale October 1, 2026

RESIDENT PHYSICALLY DISABLED	49 & UNDER	50 & OVER		
FRESHWATER FISHING (100% DISABLED)	\$50.00	\$30.00	Add a 1-time issuance fee of \$1.00 to the total of your Physically Disabled lifetime privileges	o
SALTWATER FISHING (100% DISABLED)	\$50.00	\$30.00		o
HUNTING (100% DISABLED)	\$50.00	\$30.00		o

NOTE: Replacement Lifetime License can be obtained at www.OutdoorAlabama.com or by visiting your local probate office.

Lifetime Application Total: \$ _____

CAREERS IN CONSERVATION

The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources offers a wide range of rewarding career opportunities. Whether you're inspired to work outdoors with nature and wildlife, drawn to law enforcement roles that protect Alabama's natural resources, or interested in supporting our mission through business and administrative work—you'll find many meaningful career paths to explore.

OUR DIVISIONS

JOIN OUR MISSION

The Department's primary goal is to promote the stewardship and enjoyment of Alabama's natural resources while ensuring continued growth and protection for future generations.

If you're passionate about protecting Alabama's natural resources and preserving them for future generations, there's a place for you within our department. Scan the QR code to discover career paths, current openings, and how to apply.

OutdoorAlabama.com/Careers



SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION

Buying an "I'd rather be in the woods!" tag helps share the love of Alabama's incredible natural resources with students – and adults – of all ages.

Learn more at your local Probate Office.



Stay up to date on your Prescribed Burn Manager certification by completing the revised course offered through the Alabama Forestry Commission.

Learn more ► **TREASUREForest.org**

In short, wildlife is managed for optimal viability into the future, which may not always align with what makes an individual hunter most satisfied each season, although that is also a Division goal. Mindful of the importance of both hunter satisfaction and long-term deer population health and abundance, the Division will continue to do its job as it was established to do and deliver positive conservation outcomes to all resource stakeholders regardless of their understanding of the processes and considerations involved. As the agency that brought deer populations from near extirpation at the turn of the century to a now virtually uncountable herd, our professional staff works to ensure that Alabama maintains a sustainable and healthy population of whitetails, providing both recreational opportunity and ecological value.

Deer hunting in Alabama contributes significantly to local economies, supports conservation funding through license sales, and connects generations of hunters to the land. The Alabama deer herd of today stands as a direct result of long-term planning and science-based management by an agency now known as the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries. As hunters and landowners look to the future, the same principles that restored Alabama's deer remain important: responsible harvest, quality habitat, and continued support for wildlife conservation programs. The success story of Alabama's whitetail restoration serves as a reminder that effective management and public support can bring a species back from the edge and ensure it remains a renewable resource for generations to come. We thank you for your support, from both you and your wallet, that enables us to make wildlife management decisions that benefit you now while also remaining mindful of their effects into the future.



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

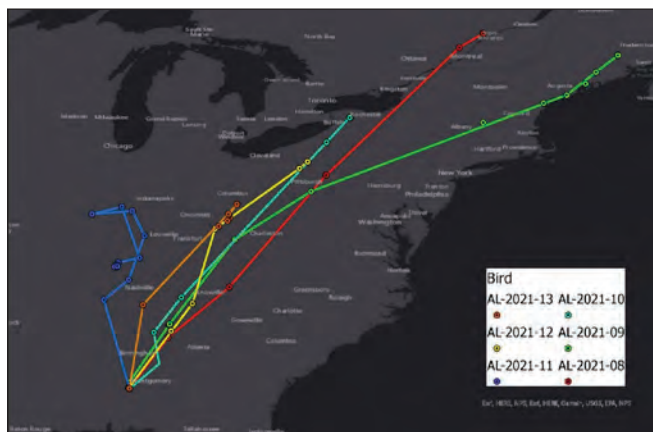
As required for Game Check 220-2-.146

Revised 05/26/2021

Article continued from page 36.

With major advancements in transmitter technology, this will provide data on habitat use, distributions, timing of migration, and more. Addressing these knowledge gaps will assist land managers in providing better habitat and harvest opportunities while simultaneously contributing to woodcock conservation.

Learn more about woodcock in Alabama by visiting www.outdooralabama.com. Learn more about and see results from the Eastern Woodcock Migration Research Cooperative by visiting www.woodcockmigration.org.



Spring 2021 migration routes of American Woodcock marked in Alabama February 2021. One woodcock migrated over 1,400 miles to the border of Maine and New Brunswick.

CWD SAMPLE DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

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

Deer hunters play a critical role in the continued CWD monitoring efforts in Alabama. It will only take a few minutes of your time to help protect this valuable natural resource.



For a complete list of CWD collection station locations visit

OutdoorAlabama.com/cwd/cwd-sampling

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 52).

	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	1912	0642	1831	0606	1655	0633	1639	0651	1650	0643	1719
2	0622	1911	0642	1830	0607	1654	0634	1639	0652	1651	0643	1719
3	0623	1910	0643	1829	0608	1653	0635	1639	0652	1652	0642	1720
4	0623	1908	0644	1827	0609	1652	0636	1639	0652	1653	0641	1721
5	0624	1907	0645	1826	0610	1651	0637	1639	0652	1653	0640	1722
6	0625	1906	0645	1825	0611	1651	0638	1639	0652	1654	0640	1723
7	0625	1904	0646	1824	0611	1650	0638	1639	0652	1655	0639	1724
8	0626	1903	0647	1822	0612	1649	0639	1639	0652	1656	0638	1725
9	0627	1902	0647	1821	0613	1648	0640	1639	0652	1657	0637	1726
10	0627	1900	0648	1820	0614	1648	0641	1639	0652	1658	0636	1727
11	0628	1859	0649	1818	0615	1647	0641	1640	0652	1658	0635	1728
12	0629	1858	0650	1817	0616	1646	0642	1640	0652	1659	0634	1729
13	0629	1856	0650	1816	0617	1646	0643	1640	0652	1700	0633	1730
14	0630	1855	0651	1815	0618	1645	0643	1640	0652	1701	0632	1731
15	0631	1853	0652	1813	0619	1644	0644	1641	0651	1702	0631	1732
16	0631	1852	0653	1812	0620	1644	0645	1641	0651	1703	0630	1733
17	0632	1851	0654	1811	0621	1643	0645	1642	0651	1704	0629	1734
18	0633	1849	0654	1810	0622	1643	0646	1642	0651	1705	0628	1734
19	0633	1848	0655	1809	0623	1642	0646	1642	0650	1706	0627	1735
20	0634	1847	0656	1807	0624	1642	0647	1643	0650	1707	0626	1736
21	0635	1845	0657	1806	0624	1642	0648	1643	0650	1708	0625	1737
22	0635	1844	0658	1805	0625	1641	0648	1644	0649	1709	0624	1738
23	0636	1842	0658	1804	0626	1641	0648	1644	0649	1710	0623	1739
24	0637	1841	0659	1803	0627	1640	0649	1645	0648	1711	0622	1740
25	0637	1840	0700	1802	0628	1640	0649	1645	0648	1712	0620	1740
26	0638	1838	0701	1801	0629	1640	0650	1646	0647	1713	0619	1741
27	0639	1837	0702	1800	0630	1640	0650	1647	0647	1714	0618	1742
28	0640	1836	0703	1759	0631	1639	0650	1647	0646	1715	0617	1743
29	0640	1834	0703	1758	0632	1639	0651	1648	0645	1716		
30	0641	1833	0704	1757	0633	1639	0651	1649	0645	1717		
31			0705	1756			0651	1649	0644	1718		

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/HunterEd.

HUNTING DEFINED

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

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUIREMENT

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

HUNTING LANDS

Land is divided into two categories:

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

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

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

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.

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.

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 57.

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.

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 13 shooting ranges open to the public. Most ranges offer shooting opportunities from 25 to 100 yards.



Premium 10-way Seed Blend

Produces forage for 12 months
1 bag plants 1 acre

Fall 8-way Seed Blend

Produces forage for 9 months
1 bag plants 1 acre








Visit **BuckBustersSeed.com** to find a retail store near you.

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 57. For more information, please call the Hunter Education Office at (334) 242-3620.

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 RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE HEALTH 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.

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. See page 32 or visit www.outdooralabama.com for rules and regulations.

Those interested in any of these special youth hunts should contact the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division's Wildlife Section at (334) 242-3469 for more details.

YOUTH DOVE HUNTS

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

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.



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and guides companies in developing
better outdoor products.

Article continued from page 14.

through partnerships with the Forever Wild Land Trust Program and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Old-field management also plays a vital role in managing open areas on Portland Landing SOA. Hundreds of acres of old food plots and agricultural fields are actively managed to provide high-quality habitat. While some fields are planted in cool and warm-season seed mixes for wildlife use, a rotational fall disking regime maintains early-successional conditions that benefit species like quail, turkey, deer, and pollinators. The simple action of disking during the fall provides a low-cost yet highly impactful management technique. The disking stimulates the growth of beneficial annual species such as ragweed, beggarweed, and many legumes, attracts insects crucial for growing turkey poults, while providing overhead cover from raptors.

Feral hogs are another factor that must be managed to protect habitat quality. Portland Landing uses an intensive trapping program with corral traps equipped with cameras and remote-triggered gates. This system allows staff to efficiently capture en-

tire sounder groups at once, reducing hog numbers and limiting their impact on food resources and habitat.

While habitat management efforts are essential to producing and sustaining healthy wildlife populations, regulated harvest and managing hunter pressure is equally important. Portland Landing SOA operates under a limited-quota system that carefully regulates hunter numbers and enforces strict harvest criteria. This low-pressure, regulated harvest approach has produced impressive and measurable results for Alabama public land hunting. Deer hunters average 1.4 deer harvested per hunt group annually during each hunt, demonstrating abundant opportunity and sustainable harvests.

Significantly, over 43% of bucks harvested annually are 4.5 years old or older. This reflects the integrated harvest criteria, allowing bucks to reach maturity and full potential before harvest. Antler restrictions on this SOA require antlered bucks to have antler measurements of either a 16" main beam spread or an 18" main beam length. The result is improved buck age structure and increased opportunity to harvest a buck of a lifetime, ensuring high-quality hunting experiences both now and for future generations.

Years of observation data on Portland Landing SOA further support the herd's health and abundance. Hunters report seeing an average of 6 deer per man-day hunted, with 31 percent of those observations being bucks—an indicator of quality opportunity for SOA hunters.

Turkey hunters enjoy similar success, averaging nearly one turkey harvested per hunt group during each limited-quota turkey hunt. Intensive habitat management aimed at promoting nesting and brood rearing habitat in conjunction with hunt management supports consistent and increasing turkey numbers and rewarding hunts.

By pairing intensive habitat management with responsible hunt management and harvest restrictions, Portland Landing SOA delivers quality hunting opportunities for Alabama sportsmen. This integrated strategy not only produces strong annual results but also ensures the sustainability of deer and turkey populations for generations to come.

For more information on Portland Landing and other Special Opportunity Areas, visit outdooralabama.com.

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.

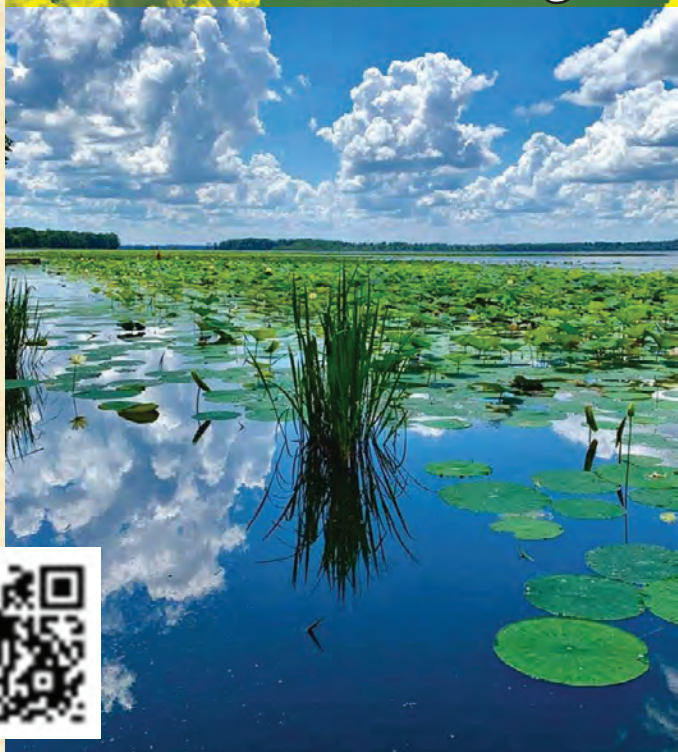
REELFOOT LAKE is the only large, natural lake in Tennessee and one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries making it a favorite fishing lake of America's Pro and recreational fishermen. Created by the New Madrid earthquakes of 1811-1812, the shallow, cypress-filled waters are ideal for crappie,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

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

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



Premier Fishing and Waterfowl Hunting





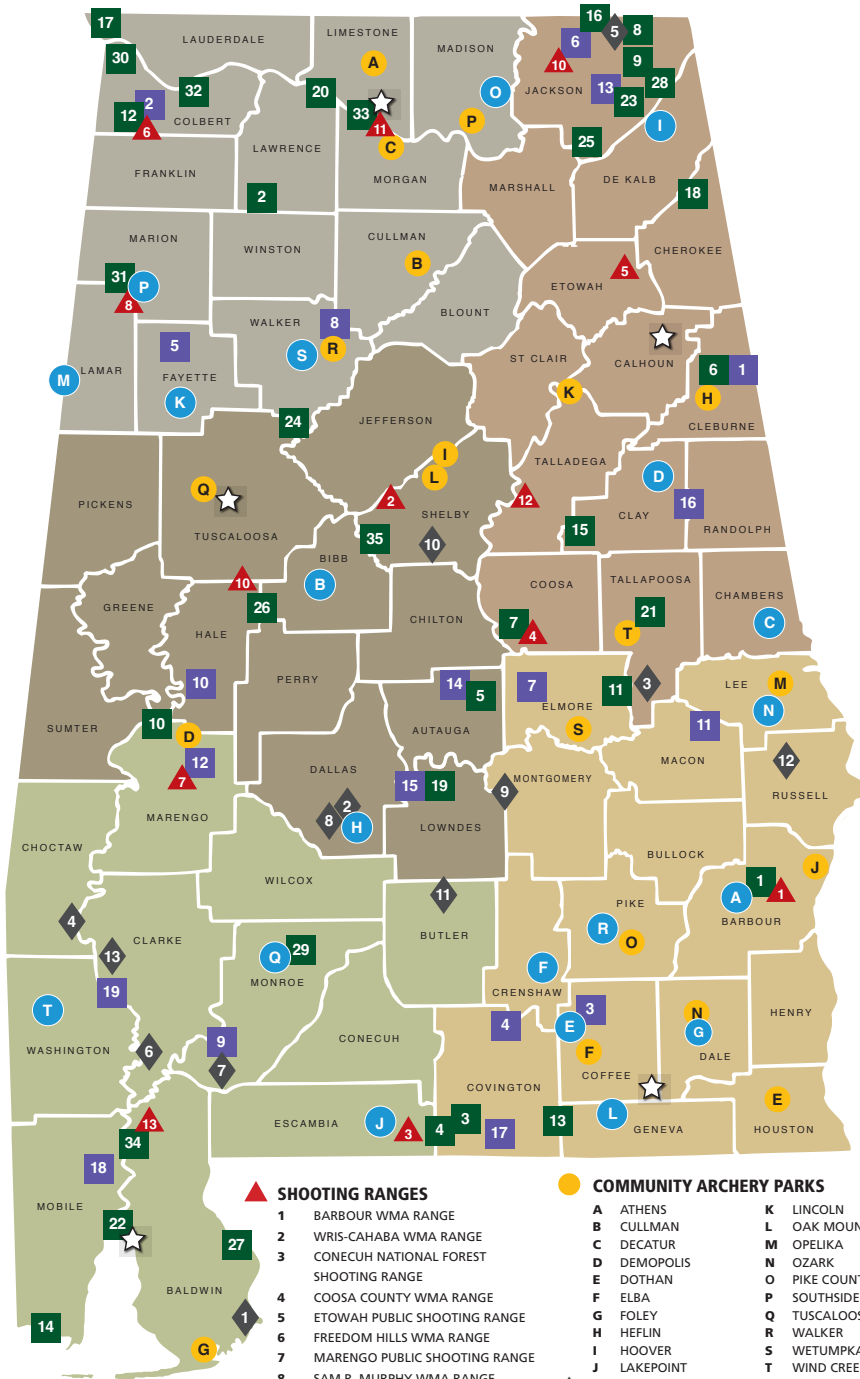
The following are prohibited methods of hunting as condensed from Alabama law and regulation. Consult the Code of Alabama Title 9 and Alabama Game, Fish, Furbearers, and Other Wildlife Regulation Book for the entire law or regulation. Cites are provided below.

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. (220-2-.01) (220-2-.11)
18. Take or attempt to take or have in possession more than the daily bag limit of any game bird or animal. (220-2-.18)
19. Hunting with fully automatic weapons is prohibited. (220-2-.11)
20. Import, possess, sell or offer to sell live: any species of mongoose, any species of wild rabbit or hare and any deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, coyote, wild turkey, wild rodents and any wild goat, sheep, antelope or other exotic game from any area outside of Alabama. (Also, see Sale of Game Birds and Game Animals, page 52) or any fish from the genus *Clarias*, *Serrasalmus* or *Mylopharyngodon*. (220-2-.26) (9-11-237)
21. Release any tame or wild turkey into any of the wild areas of the state. (220-2-.26)
22. Utilize firearms for hunting deer during the preliminary archery only season, except handguns may be possessed for personal protection. (220-2-.10)
23. Hunt using attachments and/or light sources to project a beam of light forward of a gun or bow (not including a laser sight), 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. (220-2-.11)
24. Hunt or take wildlife using poisons or explosives. (9-11-245)
25. Have in possession or keep in captivity any protected live wild bird or wild animal. (220-2-.26)
26. Trail wounded game onto property where the hunter does not have permission to enter. (9-11-241/242)
27. Possess live feral pig. To release any feral or domestic pig into the wild. Upon capture by trap or dog, feral pigs may not be released alive. (220-2-.86)
28. Hunt within 100 yards of any dwelling without the permission of the owner or lessee or discharge a firearm while hunting so that any projectile strikes any dwelling or building used for human occupation, or any commercial vessel, without the permission of the owner or lessee. This does not apply to a landowner or member of his/her immediate family hunting on his/her own property provided that no projectile strikes the above property of another without the permission of the owner or lessee. (220-2-.139)

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division Facilities Map



☆ District offices

SHOOTING RANGES

- 1 BARBOUR WMA RANGE
- 2 WRIS-CAHABA WMA RANGE
- 3 CONECH 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

COMMUNITY ARCHERY PARKS

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

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY AREAS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 BLACKWATER RIVER | 8 PORTLAND LANDING |
| 2 CHARLES F. SYKES - CEDAR CREEK | 9 PRAIRIE GLADES |
| 3 CHALK HILL | 10 SHELBY |
| 4 CHOCTAW NWR | 11 THIGPEN HILL |
| 5 CROW CREEK | 12 UCHEE CREEK |
| 6 FRED T. STIMPSON | 13 UPPER STATE |
| 7 LITTLE RIVER STATE FOREST | |

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS, COMMUNITY HUNTING 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 (CHA)
- 22 MOBILE - TENSAR 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 (CHA)
- 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 (FRED R. HARDERS LAKE) |
| E COFFEE COUNTY |
| F CRENSHAW COUNTY |
| G DALE COUNTY (ED LIDENBY LAKE) |
| H DALLAS COUNTY |
| I DEKALB COUNTY |
| 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 06/02/26

REEL IN THE FUN: **BANK FISHING** *Adventures* ACROSS ALABAMA



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

WHY BANK FISHING IS GREAT IN ALABAMA:



- ✓ **Accessibility:** No boat? No problem! Many public access points, parks, and recreational areas offer excellent bank fishing spots.
- ✓ **Affordability:** Bank fishing requires minimal gear compared to boat fishing, making it a budget-friendly option.
- ✓ **Relaxation:** Enjoy the peace and quiet of nature while waiting for a bite. It's a great way to unwind and destress.
- ✓ **Variety of Species:** Alabama's diverse waterways are home to a wide range of fish, including bass, catfish, crappie, and bream.

**EXPLORE
ALABAMA'S
FRESHWATER
BANK FISHING
OPPORTUNITIES
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Alabama Dept. of Conservation
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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 66–67.
- 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 Chat-tahoochee 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, red-breast, 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, redbfin, 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.



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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 68).

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 68).

TROT LINES

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

MUSSEL HARVEST FOR BAIT

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

ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

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

PUBLIC WATER STOCKING

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

LEARN TO FISH

The Go Fish, Alabama! Program provides adults and families, with little-to-no fishing experience, an opportunity to fish under the

guidance and instruction of a skilled fishing mentor. The program is for individuals interested in learning how to fish, socializing outdoors with friends and family, putting fish on the dinner table, or simply enjoying the thrill and challenge of the catch. Each event is conducted in a safe, welcoming, and constructive environment.

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

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS BELOW DAMS

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

PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS

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

AT PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS, IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

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

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

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



Alabama State Parks

STAY | PLAY | EXPLORE

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WHETHER YOU'RE A CAMPER, GLAMPER, OR A FRIEND OF OUR BEAUTIFUL LODGES, COTTAGES, AND CABINS, WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU.



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



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

Oak Mountain State Park



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 65.

NON-NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

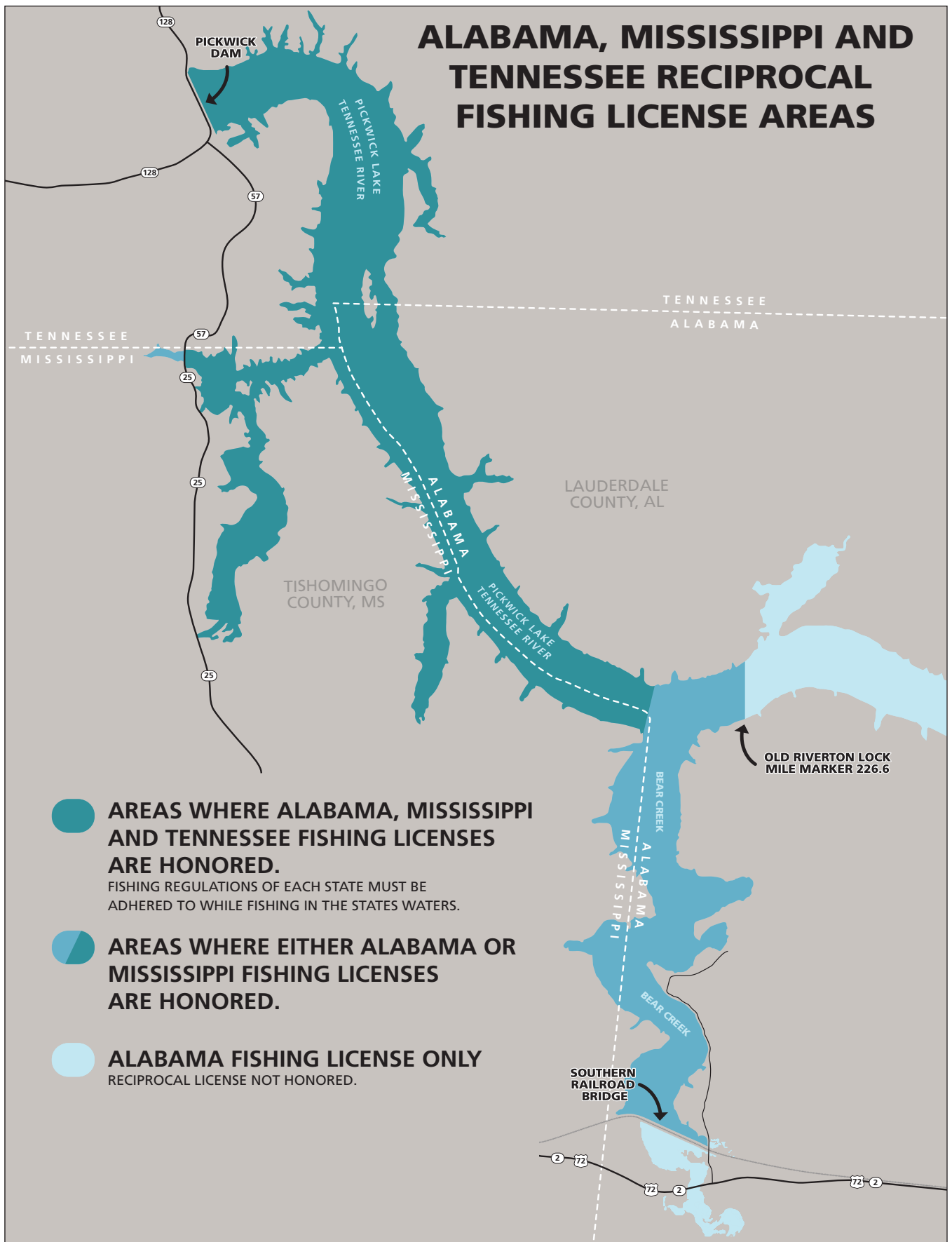
It is prohibited to introduce, place or cause the introduction or placement of any non-native aquatic plant into any public waters of the State. For further information, contact the local District Fisheries Office (see page 2).

**With you
wherever
you go.**

**The most up-to-date
fishing regulations online!**



 **eRegulations.com**





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, and Winston Counties. Any walleye taken in these lakes or streams shall immediately be released back into the waters from which they were taken with least possible harm.	2
Sauger	It is illegal to possess any Sauger less than 15 inches in total length.	5
White Bass	See exceptions for the Chattahoochee River and its impoundments and tributaries on page 67.	15
Yellow Bass	—	15
Saltwater Striped Bass and Hybrids or Combinations	No more than five of the 15 may exceed 22 inches in total length. See exceptions for Chattahoochee River and its impoundments and tributaries, Lewis Smith, Yates, and Thurlow reservoirs, Lake Martin and the coastal rivers of Baldwin and Mobile counties. See page 67.	15
Crappie	It is illegal to possess any crappie less than nine inches in total length taken from Alabama public waters, including Aliceville Reservoir and Pickwick Reservoir. Waters exempt from the nine-inch crappie limit include impoundments less than 500 surface acres, the reciprocal waters of the Chattahoochee River including impoundments and tributaries, Bear Creek Reservoir (Big Bear Lake of the B.C.D.A. Lakes), Lake Jackson at Florala and Weiss Reservoir. See exception for Weiss Reservoir.	30
Yellow Perch	—	No Limit
Catfish (under 34 inches)	—	No Limit
Catfish (over 34 inches)	This size limit shall not apply to catfish harvested from the Perdido, Conecuh, Blackwater, Yellow, Choc-tawhatchee, Chipola, and Chattahoochee rivers basins. It shall be unlawful to transport live catfish 34 inches in length or greater beyond the boundaries of this State.	1
Bream	—	50
Rainbow Trout	It shall be unlawful to fish with more than two rods or to cull from the creel any trout caught from the Sipsey Fork from Lewis Smith Dam downstream to the confluence with the Mulberry Fork. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a trout from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another trout.	5
Alligator Gar	Alligator gar caught with commercial fishing gear must be immediately returned to the water.	1
Sturgeon	All sturgeon must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	Closed Season
Paddlefish or Spoonbill	All paddlefish must be immediately returned to water with least possible harm.	Closed Season
Skipjack Herring	It shall be unlawful to sell, offer for sale, or trade anything of value for any Skipjack Herring taken from the public waters.	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.

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.

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

Coastal Rivers in Mobile and Baldwin Counties - It shall be unlawful to take or possess any Saltwater Striped Bass less than sixteen (16) inches in total length from the following coastal rivers and their tributaries: the Dog, East Fowl, Fish, Fowl, Perdido, and West Fowl rivers and their tributaries. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to take or possess more than two (2) Saltwater Striped Bass in the daily creel limit from the aforementioned coastal rivers and their tributaries.

Duck River Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any black bass between 14 inches and 22 inches in total length. Only one of the ten fish can be over 22 inches in total.

Guntersville Reservoir and its Tributary of Town Creek - It is illegal to possess any

largemouth or smallmouth bass less than 15 inches in total length.

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

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

Lewis Smith Reservoir - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass, Alabama bass or spotted bass between 13 inches and 15 inches in total length.

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

Lake Martin - It is illegal to possess more than two saltwater striped bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit. It shall be unlawful to intentionally cull from the creel any saltwater striped bass from June 15th to October 15th. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a saltwater striped bass from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other

container) whether or not it is replaced with another striped bass.

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

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

Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) and its Tributaries - It is illegal to possess any largemouth bass less than 14 inches in total length.

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

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

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

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

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

You Can Make A Difference

With the Purchase of the Freshwater Fishing Distinctive License Plate



To learn more about the tag, visit
OutdoorAlabama.com/GoFish



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:

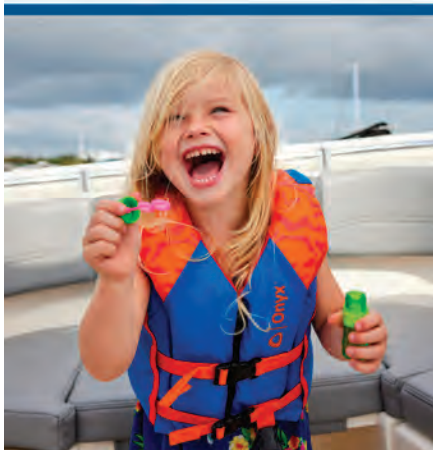
PUBLIC FISHING LAKE	MANAGER	LAKE PHONE #	CLOSED DAYS
Barbour	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		State-owned public fishing lakes are typically open six days a week from February 1 through June 30 each year. From July 1 until November 30, some lakes are only open four days a week. During the months 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	Micah and Amanda Dean	(205) 340-4093	
Chambers	Alan and Karen Franks	(334) 219-0217	
Clay	Gregory Clark	(256) 488-0042	
Coffee	Lee Jones	(334) 763-0559	
Crenshaw	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Dale	City of Ozark, Renee White	(334) 774-0588	
Dallas	Earle Williams Sr & Shakenya Pullom	(334) 267-9625	
DeKalb	Steven Simmons	(256) 657-1300	
Escambia	Closed for renovation. Reopening TBD.		
Fayette	No on-site manager	WFF District 3 Office (205) 339-5716 or (334) 242-3471	
Geneva	Ray Windham	(334) 367-8450	
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	WFF District 5 (251) 626-5153 or (344) 242-3471	
Pike	City of Troy, Brian Meadows	(334) 674-2480	
Walker	David Price & Tiffany Terradas	(205) 522-7739	
Washington	No on-site manager	WFF District 5 (251) 626-5153 or (344) 242-3471	



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

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

NOTE

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

PROCEDURES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ALABAMA STATE RECORD FRESHWATER FISH

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



POACHING IS STEALING!

CALL 1-800-272-GAME

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. Woebeking / 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	Sheril 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., 8 oz.	3/27/25	Wheeler Dam Tailwater	Randall L. Puckett / Albertville
Muskellunge	19 lbs., 8 oz.	12/31/72	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Steve Leatherwood / Haleyville
Paddlefish	52 lbs., 12 oz.	3/18/82	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Susan Holland / Muscle Shoals
Perch, Yellow	2 lbs., 2 oz.	3/7/15	Yates Reservoir	Gary Lee Grove, Jr. / Opelika
Pickerel, Chain	6 lbs., 6 oz.	6/24/76	Dyas Creek, Baldwin Co.	Michael P. Ryan / Bay Minette
Pickerel, Redfin (tie)	14 oz.	9/4/17	Baggett Creek / Washington Co.	Henry Merrit / Deer Park
	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: 4/7/2025



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



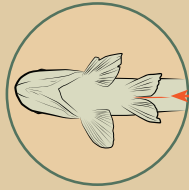
ATTENTION ALABAMA ANGLERS – BE ON THE LOOKOUT

INVASIVE CARP

OutdoorAlabama.com/invasive-carp-alabama



BIGHEAD CARP

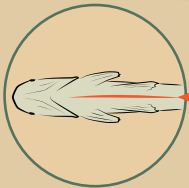


SHORT KEEL
(located on underside of fish)

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

SILVER CARP



LONGER KEEL
(located on underside of fish)

**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

(256) 353-2634

asiancarp@dcnr.alabama.gov



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