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# Digest GAME and FISH Laws

STATE OF TEXAS

June, 1959



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This Digest includes Game and Fish Laws  
enacted through the First Called Session of the  
Fifty-sixth  
Legislature

SEE YOUR LOCAL GAME WARDEN  
FOR DETAILS

Game and Fish Commission

Walton Building

Austin, Texas

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## HOW TO USE THIS DIGEST

Read the general laws first.

If you want to know the regulations for a particular county or lake, look for that county under "Special Laws" or "County Laws" or "Lake Laws." If you do not find that county or lake mentioned, the "General Law" applies.

It must be understood that any restrictions contained in a special law must be obeyed even though they appear to be in conflict with the general law. Likewise, any privilege granted in a special law must be enjoyed without concern for general restriction in conflict.

**THIS DIGEST DOES NOT CONTAIN** the hunting, trapping and fishing regulations for the following counties: Archer, Armstrong, Bailey, Bandera, Baylor, Bell, Bexar, Bosque, Bowie, Brazos, Brewster, Briscoe, Brown, Carson, Castro, Childress, Clay, Collingsworth, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Cottle, Crockett, Culberson, Dallam, Deaf Smith, Denton, Dimmit, Donley, Edwards, Ellis, El Paso, Erath, Falls, Fannin, Freestone, Floyd, Gray, Grimes, Hale, Hall, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardin, Hartley, Hemphill, Hill, Hood, Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Jack, Jasper, Jeff Davis, Jefferson, Johnson, Knox, Lamb, Lavaca, Liberty, Limestone, Lipscomb, Llano, Mason, McLennan, Medina, Milam, Montague, Montgomery, Moore, Motley, Newton, Nolan, Ochiltree, Oldham, Orange, Palo Pinto, Parker, Parmer, Pecos, Polk, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Red River, Reeves, Roberts, Robertson, Sherman, Somervell, Stephens, Sutton, Swisher, Tarrant, Taylor, Terrell, Titus, Tyler, Washington, Wheeler, Williamson, Wise, Young, and Zavala Counties and the hunting and trapping regulations for those counties west of the Pecos River.

However, laws pertaining to the sale of fish; sale and transportation of minnows; shipment and sale of game birds or game animals, and other special and/or general laws, which apply to the above counties, may be included in this digest.

A supplement digest covering these counties will be available after September 1, 1959.

### WARNING

Any person convicted of violating any game law may forfeit his hunting license and all hunting rights for one year from date of conviction.

Any person convicted for the first time of violating the trespass law, Article 1377, Penal Code as amended, may be fined not more than \$200 and may forfeit his license and all hunting or fishing rights for a period of one year from date of conviction. The penalty for a second conviction is \$500 to \$1000 and license forfeiture for two years; and penalty for third conviction is confinement from thirty days to one year in the county jail, plus fine of from \$500 to \$1000, as well as forfeiture of hunting rights for three years.

# HUNTING LAWS

## LICENSES

**Resident:** Price \$3.15. Required of every Texas citizen not less than 17 nor 65 or more years of age who hunts outside his county of residence and required of every Texas citizen who hunts deer or turkey anywhere in the State. Citizen who hunts deer or turkey on land on which he resides is not required to pay the \$3.15 fee, but must have an exemption license. Citizen who is less than 17 or is 65 or more years of age is required (according to Atty. Gen. Letter Opinion No. S-229, dated July 11, 1955) to have an exemption license before hunting deer or turkey. "Citizen" includes any person except an alien who has been for more than six months immediately preceding application for license a bona fide resident of Texas.

**Non-Resident Hunting Licenses:** (No Exemptions.) Annual license for all game \$25.00. 5-Day Migratory Bird license \$5.00. Migratory Waterfowl license (issued on reciprocal basis only) \$10.00. Shooting Resort license (for licensed shooting resort hunting only) \$3.15.

**Hunting Boat:** Fee \$2.00. Required of every person owning or navigating a sail boat or power boat for accommodating hunters for pay.

**Shooting Preserve:** Fee \$5.00. Required of every person who acts as manager for any club or shooting preserve or lessor of premises leased for hunting purposes, who accommodates hunters for pay.

**Shooting Resort:** Fee \$10.00. Required of every person who acts as manager, or owner, of "shooting resort" as defined by law, who accommodates hunters for pay.

**Game Breeder:** Fee \$2.00. Required of every person who holds in captivity any game animals or game birds for the purpose of propagation. Apply to Game and Fish Commission for detailed information.

**Commercial Game Bird Breeder's License:** Fee \$25.00 Permits holder to raise pen-raised game birds and sell same for all purposes, including sale of game bird carcasses for food. Restaurants, boarding houses, clubs and hotels may resell such game birds without license for consumption on the premises.

**Blind:** In Harrison and Marion Counties license required for operation of commercial blinds for use in hunting waterfowl. Fee \$5.00 for each blind. Such license is not required of sportsmen hunting in private blinds.

### It Is Unlawful To—

Hunt out of county of your residence without a license.

Hunt under license of another.

Allow another person to hunt under your license.



## GAME BIRDS

Brant, chachalaca, doves, ducks, geese, grouse, partridge, pheasants, pigeons (wild), plover, prairie chickens, quail, shore birds of all varieties, snipe and turkeys are game birds.

All wild birds belong to the people of this state. It is unlawful to kill or have in possession either dead or alive, any wild, non-game bird, except the following birds, which are unprotected: black bird, butcher bird (shrike), buzzard (vulture), crows, duckhawks, eagle (golden or Mexican brown), goshawk, hawk (Cooper's or blue darter, and sharp-shinned), jaybirds, owl (great horned), pelicans (white), ravens, ricebirds, roadrunners, sapsuckers, sparrows (English), starlings, and woodpeckers. Canaries and parrots as domestic pets are unprotected. Bats are also unprotected.

### **It Is Unlawful To—**

Kill a brown pelican.

Kill or molest a carrier pigeon.

Take game birds by net or trap.

Destroy the nests or eggs of any birds protected by the laws of this State.

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

A separate digest is published by the Game and Fish Commission on migratory game birds.

## NON-MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

### CHACHALACA

**Open Season:** December 1 to January 16, inclusive.

**Frio and La Salle Counties:** No closed season.

**Bag Limit:** Five per day, not more than 10 in any 7-day period.

**Possession Limit:** 10.

**Protected Area:** Unlawful to hunt chachalaca between Rio Grande River and State Highway 4, now Federal Highway 83, from the Zapata-Starr County line to the west boundary of the city limits of Brownsville.

**Means of Taking:** If shotguns are used they must not be larger than 10 gauge, and must be permanently plugged so that they will hold not more than three shells, including magazine and chamber.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

## PHEASANT

### General Law

No open season.

### Special Law

**Ellis County:** Season open December 1 through January 16. Bag limit, 3 cock pheasants; possession limit, 6 cock pheasants.

**Frio and La Salle Counties:** Season open all year.

**Hidalgo County:** Season open on enclosed tracts of not less than 320 acres which have been stocked with wild pheasant raised by licensed game breeder in this State, during October, November, December and January.

**Kaufman County:** Season open all year except in "Point" or "Combine Community." Closed in "Combine Community."

**Smith County:** Season open all year.

**Travis County:** Open season for legally propagated pheasants November 15 through December 31, on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and any legal holiday during season. Controlled season for taking legally propagated pheasant September 1 through November 1, on Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and any legal holiday during season. Shooting hours sunrise to sunset, except on November 15 and September 1 ten a.m. to sunset. Daily bag limit, 4 pheasant per day. Only shotgun may be used.

**Wood County:** Season open all year.

## PRAIRIE CHICKEN (PINNATED GROUSE)

Season closed.

## QUAIL

### General Law

**Open Season:** December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive.

**Bag Limit:** Twelve a day and not more than 36 a week, or in possession.

**Means of Taking:** If shotguns are used they must not be larger than 10 gauge, and must be permanently plugged so that they will hold not more than three shells, including magazine and chamber.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.



## SPECIAL SEASONS

**Borden County:** Closed until April 30, 1963.

**Brooks County:** Open December 1 to January 31, both dates inclusive.

**Camp County.:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and State legal holidays during the period December 1 to January 16, and on December 1 and January 16.

**Cochran County:** Open December 1 to December 15, both dates inclusive.

**Delta, Franklin and Hopkins Counties:** Each day except Sunday during period December 1 to January 16, inclusive.

**Guadalupe County:** Sunday and Wednesday of each week during period December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive.

**Hunt County:** Open season Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of each week during period December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive, and when a Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday during such period is a legal holiday, also on the day following such holiday.

**Kenedy and Kleberg Counties:** December 1 to January 31, both days inclusive.

**La Salle County:** November 1 to December 15, both days inclusive.

**Live Oak County:** November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**McMullen County:** November 1 to December 15, both days inclusive.

**Rains County:** Monday, Wednesday and Saturday of each week during period December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive, and when a Monday, Wednesday or Saturday during such period is a legal holiday, also on the day following such holiday, unless same falls on Sunday.

**Scurry County:** Closed until April 30, 1963.

**Upshur County:** Each day except Sundays during period December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive. Written consent of owner or person in charge of premises to hunt quail, or oral consent in presence of two witnesses required.

**Van Zandt County:** Each day except Sundays during period December 1 to January 16, both days inclusive. May not hunt quail with gun or dog on premises of another outside of county of residence without written consent of owner or agent.

**Wood County:** Any person found with shotgun and bird dog on premises other than own is presumed to be unlawfully hunting quail. Consent to hunt quail on another's premises must be in writing, or given in presence of two witnesses.

# TURKEY GOBBLERS

## GENERAL LAW

**Open Season:** November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Bag Limit:** Three gobblers a season.

**Means of Taking:** If shotguns are used they must not be larger than 10 gauge, and must be permanently plugged so that they will hold not more than three shells, including magazine and chamber.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

## SPECIAL LAWS — SEASON

**Burleson, Harrison, Jim Hogg, Lee, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine, and Shelby Counties:** Closed until 1960.

**Brazoria, Fort Bend and Matagorda Counties:** Closed season until April 30, 1963.

**Colorado and Austin Counties:** Closed until 1961.

**Delta, Franklin and Hopkins Counties:** Season closed.

**De Witt County:** Season closed until November 16, 1964.

**Eastland County:** November 16 to November 30, both days inclusive.

**Kenedy County:** Precinct 1, November 15 to December 1, both days inclusive.

**La Salle and McMullen Counties:** November 1 to December 15, both dates inclusive.

**Shackelford County:** Season closed until 1964.

**Throckmorton County:** Open season November 16 to December 15, both days inclusive, for years 1959 and 1960.

## SPECIAL LAWS — BAG LIMIT

**Eastland County:** 1 gobbler per season.

**Kenedy County:** 1 gobbler per season.

**Kendall, Kimble, Kinney, Menard, Real and Schleicher Counties and Val Verde County east of Pecos River:** 2 gobblers per season.



# **FOREST FIRES**

# **Destroy**

# **GAME and FISH!**

**Only YOU**  
**can prevent woods fires**

## **GAME ANIMALS**

Antelope, bear, buffalo, deer, elk, javelina (peccary), wild sheep and squirrels are game animals.

All wild animals belong to the people of this state.

Any kind of gun may be used to take game animals.

### **It Is Unlawful To—**

Kill or possess any game animal for which no open season is provided.

Use any type of squealer, caller, or other device to attract animals to aid hunting in Falls and Limestone Counties.

### **ANTELOPE**

**General Law:** Season closed.

### **BEAR**

#### **Open Season**

**General Law:** November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

#### **Bag Limit**

One a season.

### **BUFFALO**

**General Law:** Season closed.

## DEER (Bucks with Pronged Horn)

### General Law

**Open Season:** November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Bag Limit:** Two bucks a season.

**Means of Taking:** Unlawful for any person to make use of a dog or dogs in the hunting, pursuing, or taking of any deer in Texas. No restriction as to type of gun.

**Shooting Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

Sale of deer hides permitted.

#### It Is Unlawful To—

Hunt deer without hunting license.

Possess deer carcass without deer tag thereto attached, bearing date and place of kill, and name of hunter.

Possess deer carcass or green hide with all evidence of sex removed.

Use the same deer tag on more than one deer.

Kill doe deer, fawn or spike buck.

Use a deer call, except deer horns which may be rattled.

Hunt at night with a headlight in territory where deer are known to range.

### SPECIAL SEASONS

**Burleson County:** Precinct 4, closed until 1960.

**Cass County:** Season closed.

**Chambers County:** Closed until May 6, 1962.

**Delta, Franklin and Hopkins Counties:** November 21 to November 25, both days inclusive. Out-of-county hunters must register with county clerk.

**Duval County:** Open season November 16 to December 31, both days included.

**Eastland County:** November 16 to November 30, both dates inclusive.

**Foard County:** Season closed until 1961.

**Galveston and Washington Counties:** Closed until 1960.

**Gregg, Harrison, Rusk and Shelby Counties:** November 15 to November 25, inclusive. Non-residents of county required to have a 3-day, nonrenewable permit from county clerk.

**Hardeman County:** Season closed until 1961.

**Kenedy County:** Precinct 1: November 15 to December 1, both dates inclusive. Limit, one buck deer.

**Lamar County:** Open season November 16 to November 20, both days inclusive. Rifles prohibited in Precinct 4.

**La Salle and McMullen Counties:** November 1 to December 15, both days inclusive.



**Lee County:** Precinct 1: Closed until January 1, 1961.

**Marion County:** November 16 to November 20, both days inclusive.

**Maverick County:** Open season November 16 to December 31, both dates inclusive.

**Morris County:** Season closed until 1962.

**Panola County:** Open November 15 to November 30, both days inclusive.

**Sabine County:** Open season November 16 through November 30. Non-residents required to have 3-day non-renewable permit from county clerk.

**San Augustine County:** Open season November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Shackelford County:** Season closed until 1964.

**Throckmorton County:** Open season November 16 to December 15, both days inclusive for years 1959 to 1960.

**Upshur and Wood Counties:** Open November 16 to November 25, both days inclusive. Limit, one buck deer. Out-of-county hunters must register with county clerk.

**Val Verde County East of Pecos River:** Open November 16 to December 15, both days inclusive.

#### Special Law—Means of Taking

**Angelina, Atascosa, Burnet, Caldwell, Cameron, Concho, De Witt, Frio, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Haskell, Hays, Hidalgo, Jackson, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kimble, Real, San Saba, Schleicher, Shackelford, Starr, Tom Green, Trinity, Uvalde, Webb, Wharton, Wilson, Zapata Counties:** Lawful to use dogs during open season in trailing wounded deer.

**Nacogdoches, Panola and Sabine Counties:** Lawful to use dogs during open season in hunting, pursuing or taking deer.

**Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Wharton Counties:** Unlawful to hunt deer with dogs for any purposes.

**Marion County:** Only shotgun loaded with buckshot or slugs permitted.

**Sabine and San Augustine Counties:** Hunting during deer closed season while in possession of shotgun and buckshot, whether shotgun is actually loaded with buckshot or not, shall be prima facie evidence of violation.

**Shelby County:** It is unlawful for any person at any time to hunt deer with dogs in that part of Shelby County situated south and west of U. S. Highways 59 and 96, being that part of such County lying south and west of the highways from Carthage in Panola County, through Tenaha and Center in Shelby County, to San Augustine in San Augustine County.

**Upshur and Wood Counties:** May not hunt in deer territory with shotgun loaded with buckshot or slug, or with rifle larger than .22 caliber except during deer open season.

## Special Shooting Hours

**Marion County:** Sunrise to sunset.

## ELK

Season closed.

## JAVELINA (PECCARY)

### General Law

**Open Season:** November 16 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Bag Limit:** Two per season.

Sale of javelinas or their hides prohibited, but this provision does not apply to javelinas or their hides imported from another state or foreign country.

### Special Law

**Kenedy County, Precinct 1:** Open season November 15 to December 1, both dates inclusive. Limit, one javelina.

**La Salle and McMullen Counties:** Open season, November 1 to December 15, both dates inclusive.

**Frio, Jim Hogg, Kinney, Maverick, Starr, Upton, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb and Zapata Counties:** Open all year.

## SHEEP (Wild)

Season closed.

## SQUIRREL

### General Law

**Open Season:** May, June, July, October, November and December.

**Bag Limit:** Ten squirrels in any one day and not more than 20 in possession at any one time.

**Means of Taking:** Unrestricted.

### Special Seasons

**Angelina County:** Open season October 1 to January 15, both days included.

**Bastrop, Burnet, Caldwell, Callahan, Coleman, Concho, Cooke, De Witt, Eastland, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Irion, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, McCulloch, Menard, Mills, Real, Runnels, San Saba, Schleicher, Sterling, Tarrant, Throckmorton, Tom Green, Travis, Uvalde, Victoria, Wilson Counties:** No closed season.

**Leon, Madison Counties:** Open May 16 through July; October through December.

**Cass, Cherokee, Harrison and Marion Counties:** Open October, November and December.

**Fayette and Lavaca Counties:** Open May through December.



**Jasper and Newton Counties:** Open season November 1 to December 15, both days inclusive.

**Lamar County:** Open season, months of May and June of each year, and the period from October 1 to December 31, both dates inclusive.

**Shelby County.** Open October 15 to January 15, both dates inclusive.

**Morris County:** Open October 1 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Nacogdoches and San Augustine Counties:** Open October 1 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Panola County:** Open October 1 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Rusk County:** Open October 1 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**Sabine County:** Open November 17 to December 31, both days inclusive.

**San Jacinto County:** Open October 15 to January 15, both days inclusive.

**Trinity County:** Open season October 1 to January 15, both days included.

**Tyler County:** Precinct 4 closed until January 1, 1968. All other Tyler County precincts open season November 4 to December 15, both days inclusive.

**Upshur and Wood Counties:** Open season October 1 to January 15, both days inclusive.

**Wharton County:** Open April through December.

### Special Bag Limits

**Leon, Madison and San Jacinto Counties:** 5 per day and not more than 15 per week.

**Delta, Franklin and Hopkins Counties:** Not more than 8 per day or in possession.

**Sabine and San Augustine Counties:** Not more than 5 per day or in possession.

**Lamar County:** Not more than 8 per day, nor more than 16 in possession.

**Shelby County:** Not more than 10 per day or in possession.

**Upshur and Wood Counties:** Not more than 7 per day and 30 per week.

**Aransas, Atascosa, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Chambers, Colorado, Concho, Cooke, De Witt, Eastland, Fort Bend, Galveston, Gillespie, Goliad, Gonzales, Guadalupe, Hays, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Lampasas, Live Oak, McCulloch, Matagorda, Menard, Mills, Real, Refugio, San Patricio, San Saba, Schleicher, Throckmorton, Travis, Uvalde, Victoria, Waller, Wharton, Wilson Counties:** Daily bag or possession limit not restricted.

## ARCHERY SEASON

**Open Season:** The open archery season is from October 1 to October 31, both days inclusive, except in counties having less than a thirty-one day regular season, the length and dates of the open season will be set by the Game and Fish Commission. (See supplemental digest for seasons set by Commission.)

**Game Permitted:** During the open archery season, it is lawful to hunt buck deer, turkey gobblers, bear and javelina.

**Bows and Arrows:** It is unlawful to use a bow not capable of shooting a hunting arrow equipped with a broadhead hunting point 130 yards. Broadhead hunting points must be not less than seven-eighths inches in width and not more than one and one-half inches in width. All arrows must have on them the name and address of the user in some non-water-soluble media. It is unlawful to use either poisoned, drugged or explosive arrows. It is unlawful to have in possession any type of firearms or crossbow on person, in automobile, hunting camp, or otherwise, while hunting with a bow and arrow.

**Exceptions:** The above regulations do not apply in the following counties: Anderson, Angelina, Armstrong, Atascosa, Austin, Bailey, Bandera, Baylor, Bee, Bell, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Bosque, Bowie, Brazoria, Brewster, Burnet, Caldwell, Calhoun, Callahan, Camp, Carson, Cass, Castro, Cherokee, Colorado, Comanche, Comal, Coryell, Cottle, Crockett, Crosby, Dallam, Dallas, Deaf Smith, Delta, De Witt, Dickens, Eastland, Ector, Edwards, Ellis, Erath, Fannin, Fayette, Fisher, Foard, Fort Bend, Franklin, Frio, Galveston, Garza, Gillespie, Glasscock, Goliad, Gonzales, Gregg, Grimes, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hansford, Hardeman, Hardin, Harrison, Hartley, Haskell, Hays, Hemphill, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Houston, Howard, Hutchinson, Irion, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Karnes, Kaufman, Kendall, Kenedy, Kent, Kerr, Kleberg, Kimble, King, Kinney, Knox, Lamar, Lamb, Lampasas, La Salle, Lavaca, Leon, Lipscomb, Live Oak, Llano, McCulloch, McMullen, Marion, Martin, Mason, Matagorda, Maverick, Menard, Mitchell, Montgomery, Moore, Morris, Nacogdoches, Newton, Nolan, Nueces, Ochiltree, Oldham, Panola, Parmer, Polk, Rains, Reagan, Real, Red River, Roberts, Rockwall, Rusk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, San Saba, Schleicher, Scurry, Shackelford, Shelby, Sherman, Smith, Somervell, Sterling, Stonewall, Sutton, Taylor, Terrell, Throckmorton, Titus, Tom Green, Trinity, Tyler, Upshur, Val Verde, Van Zandt, Victoria, Walker, Waller, Washington, Wharton, Wilbarger, Wilson and Wood.

Hunting in Jack, Wise and Parker Counties shall be done only by residents of those counties.

## STORAGE

**State Law.** No limit to the time game birds or game animals may be kept in storage. Any person accepting game for storage must keep a record giving time of storage, name and address of person placing game on storage, and kind and amount of game stored by each individual.



## SHIPMENT AND SALE

It is unlawful to sell or buy game birds or game animals, dead or alive, regardless of where caught or killed. **Exceptions:** game breeders; taxidermists may sell unclaimed specimens; and deer hides may be sold.

It is unlawful to bring game into this state during the closed season on such game without a permit from the Game and Fish Commission.

It is unlawful to ship game except to one's own home or to a taxidermist and unless affidavit is attached that the shipper has lawfully killed such game.

## WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

**Rockport Wildlife Sanctuary:** Unlawful to take any birds or animals. (Boundaries described by suitable markers in Rockport area.)

**Lake Corpus Christi** (except that part of the lake located in Jim Wells and Nueces Counties): Unlawful to enter with gun or rifle, or to attempt to shoot any bird or animal.

**Murvaul Lake, Panola County:** Hunting of wildlife prohibited on waters of Murvaul Lake West of Farm to Market Road No. 1971, and firearms not permitted within 200 feet of said waters.

**Wichita County:** Hunting, except for ducks and geese, prohibited in certain marked areas in and near Wichita Falls. For boundaries consult local Game Warden.

**Public Parks:** Hunting prohibited at all times in public parks under control of State Parks Board.

### IT IS UNLAWFUL TO—

Hunt in State Parks under the control of the Texas State Parks Board.

Hunt for hire or hire anyone to hunt.

Hunt from an automobile, motor boat, sail boat, boat under tow, or airplane.

Hunt on a State Game Preserve.

Hunt or fish on enclosed lands of another without the owner's consent.

Shoot any gun or firearm in, on, along or across any public road in this state.

Refuse to permit a game and fish warden to search your game bag or automobile or other receptacle.

## GAME AND FISH COMMISSION Field Offices

City	Address	Phone
Beaumont	271 Franklin Street	TE 5-5411
Brownsville	County Courthouse	LI 6-1952
Corpus Christi	1220 South Staples Street, Room 222	TU 2-4992
Dallas	1st Floor County Courthouse	RI 2-4817
Fort Worth	3rd Floor, County Courthouse	ED 6-5812
Galveston	2313 Broadway	SO 2-0732
Houston	3507 Milam	JA 8-6886 JA 8-6858
Rockport	Marine Laboratory	SO 4-2472
San Angelo	State Fish Hatchery	4373
San Antonio	401 W. Nueva	CA 3-2722 CA 2-1661
Seabrook	Field Laboratory	La Porte, 7861
Tyler	County Courthouse Rm. 105	LY 3-4625

# FRESH WATER FISH LAWS

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

### LICENSES REQUIRED

**Price \$2.15.** Required of every person fishing in any of the waters of the State of Texas. No license required of persons under 17 years of age or over 65 years of age. No license is required of a person, or member of such person's immediate family when fishing upon property that he owns or upon which he resides. No license required of persons fishing with trotline, throw line, or ordinary pole and line having no reel or winding device attached when fishing in the county of his residence. No other fishing license shall be required of a person who holds a commercial fishing license issued in this State.

A seine or net license is required of commercial fishermen operating in fresh waters as well as those operating in salt water. (See Salt Water and Commercial Fishing Laws.)

A license is required to sell fish. (See Salt Water and Commercial Fishing Laws.)

**"Fresh Water."** All fresh water rivers and streams and all lakes, lagoons and bodies of rivers, except tidal bays or coastal waters, such as bays and gulfs, are fresh water to their mouths. Exceptions are noted in salt water laws as to certain coastal lakes.

**"Public Water."** For information as to what waters are public, consult your county attorney.

### TACKLE

Ordinary pole and line, set line, trotline, artificial lures and seines or nets of not less than three-inch square mesh permitted. Seine or net made of wire or other metallic substance is prohibited. Minnow seines not more than twenty feet in length are permitted for taking minnows and rough fish, and fruit jars with funnel attached are permitted for taking minnows. Cast nets permitted on rough fish. All other methods or means of taking fish are prohibited unless specially noted below.

**Fresh water rough fish are:** shad, carp, suckers, gar and buffalo.

**Spear Fishing:** Spear gun, spear, or bow and arrow may be used to take carp, buffalo, gasper gou, gar fish, and Rio Grande perch in the public waters of the State of Texas.

### SIZE LIMITS

Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, spotted bass, or any subspecies of these fishes, not less than seven inches. Limits in certain counties are noted below.



## BAG LIMITS

Largemouth black bass, smallmouth black bass, spotted bass, or any subspecies of these fishes, singly or in the aggregate, fifteen (15) of which not more than ten (10) shall be of greater length than eleven (11) inches; white bass, twenty-five (25); blue catfish, channel catfish and yellow catfish, singly or in the aggregate, twenty-five (25); crappie or white perch, twenty-five (25). In those counties where sale of catfish is permitted, this limitation as to possession of catfish does not apply to persons having a commercial fisherman's license, wholesale fish dealer's license, wholesale truck dealer's fish license, or retail fish dealer's license.

**Sale prohibited:** Sale of bass or crappie or white perch is prohibited in all counties. Special sale restrictions noted below as to other species.

**Minnow Laws:** License required for dealing in minnows. (See Salt Water and Commercial Fishing Laws.) Other restrictions on sale or transportation of minnows noted below.

**Notice:** It is unlawful to fish by any method in waters within the confines of any public park under the control of the State Parks Board, without the consent of persons in charge of the park.

It is unlawful to fish from deck or road surface of any highway bridge or causeway maintained by State Highway Department or to leave any dead fish or bait on such property.

It is unlawful to enter the enclosed land of another without the consent of the owner or person in charge thereof and thereon catch or take, or attempt to catch fish.

**Penalties** for using electricity-producing apparatus for taking fish are \$25 to \$200; for using explosives, poisons, etc., \$50 to \$100 and 60 to 90 days in jail.

**Life Preservers:** Required on all hired boats for each person aboard on fresh waters. Does not apply on river within ten miles of bay, inlet or gulf waters into which river flows, nor on Caddo Lake in Marion County, nor on Gulf of Mexico. Life preserver is any device designed for and capable of buoying body of adult in water.

# SPECIAL REGULATIONS

## COUNTY LAWS

**Anderson County:** Unlawful to fish for, take or catch or have in possession for sale, or to carry, transport or ship for sale, or to buy or sell or offer for sale or offer to buy, barter or exchange fish taken from waters of Neches River.

**Angelina County:** No fish from public waters may be sold or offered or possessed for sale.

**Archer County:** Lake Kickapoo, Big Wichita River, Lake Kemp, Diversion Lake, Lake Wichita, connecting irrigation canals and laterals. Unlawful to barter or sell or to offer for barter or sale or to buy any fish except minnows for bait. No minnows or edible fish may be left on banks to die.

**Austin County:** Same as Waller County.

**Bastrop County:** Not more than 150 minnows may be transported beyond county at any one time; possession of more than 150 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

Seine and net prohibited except dip net or legal minnow seine for minnows.

**Baylor County:** Same as Archer County. Also, minnows may not be taken from public waters for transportation out of county for sale. Transportation beyond county of more than 200 minnows from public waters is prima facie evidence of violation.

**Borden and Scurry Counties:** Unlawful to buy or sell fish taken from public waters. Unlawful to use rough fish, including gold fish, for bait except as cut bait. Bull-head catfish and bream may be used alive. Possession of live gold fish within 100 feet of public waters is prima facie evidence of violation. Unlawful to use net, seine, snag line, or other device other than pole and line, rod and reel, set line, throw line with not more than 2 hooks, or non-metallic trotline with not more than 30 hooks spaced at least 3 feet apart. Limit of one trotline per person or two per party. No trotline may be placed within 200 feet of dock, pier, or swimming beach. It is lawful to use minnow seine not more than 20 feet in length for taking minnows, however, no other fish may be taken with minnow seine. Unlawful to place floats, except plastic or sponge rubber, on Lake J. B. Thomas. Unlawful to discharge firearms on or across Lake J. B. Thomas, except shotgun during open waterfowl season. Possession of unlawful fishing devices within 200 feet of public waters is prima facie evidence of violation.

**Bosque County:** Sale of fish taken from waters of Lake Waco, the Bosque Rivers, or their tributaries prohibited. Transportation of minnows taken from waters of Bosque County outside County for sale prohibited. Transportation of more than 100 minnows taken from Bosque County waters to any other county of this state, prima facie evidence of violation.

**Bowie County:** Texarkana Lake Law applies to this county.



**Brewster County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale any fish taken in county. In Rio Grande River seines and nets prohibited except twenty-foot minnow seine for taking minnows.

**Brown County:** Unlawful to sell catfish taken in county.

**Burleson County:** Minnows may not be taken from public waters for transportation out of county for sale. Possession of more than 500 minnows is prima facie evidence of violation.

**Burnet County:** Unlawful to sell catfish taken in county. Seine and nets prohibited except: (1) 20-foot minnow seine on minnows for bait; (2) may take rough fish with cast net or 20-foot minnow seine, or with seines and nets having meshes not less than one-inch square, or with wire, rope or gig, but may not possess other fish when using latter devices. Unlawful to transport minnows out of county. Possession of more than 500 prima facie evidence of violation. For Colorado River and its lakes, see "Lake Laws."

**Calhoun County:** Only hook and line, trotline, cast net or legal minnow seine for bait, and flounder gig and light permitted in Guadalupe River.

**Callahan County:** See Lake Baird, in "Lake Laws."

**Cass County:** Permitted: gig, ordinary hook and line, set hook and line and artificial bait, and fruit jar with funnel for minnows. Seines and nets prohibited, except (1) 20-foot minnow seine for minnows for bait; (2) hoop, trammel or gill net of not less than 3-inch square mesh for buffalo, carp and catfish, and cast net and minnow seine on rough fish. Also, Texarkana Lake Laws apply to this county.

**Chambers County:** May take rough fish with cast net or legal minnow seine or with seines and nets the meshes of which are not less than one inch square, or with wire, rope or gig, but may not possess other fish when using latter devices. Alligator season is closed until 1962.

**Cherokee County:** Fish from public waters of county may not be sold or offered or possessed for sale.

**Childress County:** Unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to transport minnows of any and all species from a county wherein such minnows are caught, seined or taken into any other county in this State. Possession of more than five hundred (500) minnows at one time is prima facie evidence of violation of Act. This does not prohibit the transportation for personal use of one hundred and fifty (150) minnows or less from one county to another, nor does it prohibit transportation of minnows from one county to another when such minnows have been raised in a minnow hatchery in this State, such provisions applying only to Childress County. Minnow hatchery defined as pond or series of ponds located wholly on private, enclosed property, and not connected with nor a part of any stream, where such pond or ponds are used in whole or in part for propagation of minnows.



**Coke County:** Sweetwater Oak Creek Lake, unlawful to sell or buy or offer to sell or buy or to take or possess for commercial purposes any fish from said lake. Neither game nor rough fish nor goldfish may be used for bait, unless cut up and used as cut bait. Minnows from lake may not be transported beyond county for sale, and not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county for any purpose. Season closed on bullfrogs from lake or within 200 yards of lake during March, April and May. Seine or net prohibited except minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for taking minnows for bait. Bottles, cans, or floats must be tied stationarily or held by fisherman. Trotlines prohibited within 200 feet of any dock, pier, beach or other swimming area. Set or throw line may not have more than 2 hooks. Trotlines may have not more than 30 hooks. Only one trotline per person or two per party of two or more persons permitted, and no two trotlines may be joined together.

**Coleman County:** Unlawful to use seine or net except (1) 20-foot minnow seine for catching minnows for bait; (2) net of not less than 3-inch mesh for taking carp and suckers in Colorado River; (3) cast net or legal minnow seine for rough fish.

**Collin County:** Seines and nets prohibited except minnow seine not longer than 20 feet for taking minnows for bait. Hooks on set line, throw line or trotline may not be less than three feet apart. Possession of illegal tackle within 200 yards of water prima facie evidence of violation. Unlawful to take minnows from streams, except not more than 50 at one time when not for sale. See Lavon Lake.

**Comanche County:** Minnows may not be transported beyond county, except 200 for personal use and minnows raised in minnow hatchery. Possession of more than 400 minnows by non-resident of county prima facie evidence of violation.

**Concho County:** Unlawful to transport more than 200 minnows out of county. No minnows may be transported out of county for sale. Unlawful to sell catfish taken in county. Seines and nets prohibited except 20-foot minnow seine for minnows, cast net or legal minnow seine for rough fish, and nets of not less than three-inch square mesh for catching carp and suckers in Colorado River.

**Cooke County:** Only rough fish may be taken or possessed for sale. Seines and nets are prohibited except (1) cast net or legal minnow seine for taking rough fish and minnows; (2) seine or net having meshes of not less than three inches square for taking rough fish. When using seine or net for rough fish, all other fish must be immediately returned to waters. May not possess rough fish and other fish at same time, nor any fish but rough fish while using seine or net. Trotline, set line or throw line may have not more than 100 hooks, spaced not less than three feet apart. Possession of prohibited tackle within 500 yards of water prima facie evidence of violation. Unlawful to take minnows in district composed of Grayson and Cooke counties for transportation out of district for sale, or to sell minnows outside of district.



Transportation out of district of more than 200 by any person or of any amount by minnow dealer prima facie evidence of violation. Daily bag limits for Lake Texoma, 25 white bass, 25 crappie, 10 black bass; 15 catfish; 35 bream, goggle-eye or other small sunfishes, singly or in aggregate. Possession limit for Lake Texoma, 10 black bass on Reservoir, or 35 elsewhere; 15 catfish on Reservoir, 30 elsewhere (not including polliwog or chuckle head on which there is no size or catch limit); 35 bream, goggle-eye or other small sunfishes at Reservoir, no limit elsewhere. Size limits for Lake Texoma, catfish not less than 10 inches; black bass not less than 10 inches. Inquire of Commission, local game warden or county clerk as to special Texoma license.

**Culberson County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale any fish taken in county.

**Dallas County.** Seines and nets prohibited except cast net or legal minnow seine on rough fish; minnow seine not longer than 20 feet for minnows. Hooks on throw, set or trotline may not be closer than 3 feet apart. Illegal tackle in possession closer than 200 yards of public water is prima facie evidence of law violation.

**Delta County:** Lawful to grabble for, or use, seine or net having meshes one-inch square to take catfish, perch, buffalo and drum.

**De Witt County:** Unlawful to sell or offer to sell or to buy any fish taken in county. May take suckers, buffalo, carp, shad or gar with seine or net of not less than one-inch square mesh, or by wire, rope or gig, but may not possess any other species of fish when using such devices.

**El Paso County:** Unlawful to sell fish taken in county. Permitted: hook and line, pole and line, trotline, or set line; cast net or legal minnow seine for rough fish; 10-ft. minnow seine with meshes not larger than three-eighths inch square and legal fruit jar for minnows.

**Fayette County:** Hoop net prohibited. Minnows may not be transported beyond county for sale. Not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county for any purpose and possession of more than 200 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

**Fisher County:** Same as Chambers County.

**Foard County:** Minnows taken in county may not be transported beyond county, except those raised in private hatcheries and except 150 for personal use. Possession of more than 500 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

**Franklin County:** May take catfish, perch, buffalo and drum by hand or with seine or net having meshes one inch square.

**Gonzales County:** Seines and nets may not be used or possessed except minnow seine not longer than 20 feet with not less than 1/16-inch mesh for minnows. Possession of prohibited seine or net within 200 yards of public water prima facie evidence of violation.

**Grayson County:** Same as Cooke County.

**Guadalupe County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale any perch or catfish taken from waters of county. Gear permitted: ordinary hook and line, trotline or artificial bait; 20-foot minnow seine of not less than one-fourth inch mesh and legal fruit jar for minnows; cast net or legal minnow seine for rough fish; 3-inch square mesh seine or net for rough fish but no other fish may be possessed while using same.

**Hardeman County:** Same as Foard County.

**Harrison County:** Seines and nets prohibited in all waters, except: (1) 20-ft. minnow seine for minnows; (2) hoop net, set net or trammel net with meshes not less than 3½ inches square for taking buffalo, gar, catfish, shad and bowfin or grindle; (3) cast net or legal minnow seine for rough fish. Unlawful to take or possess alligators. Limit on white bass is 25 per day or in possession. Additional laws applying to Caddo Lake are: gig or spear prohibited; daily bag limits on bream and goggle-eye, 35; crappie 15, catfish 25. Size limits, crappie not less than 9 inches, catfish not less than 8 inches. Driving or riding in boat while under influence of intoxicants, or driving in reckless manner or at high rate of speed is unlawful. Shooting in, on, along or across Caddo Lake unlawful except when hunting during open season. Fish guides may not take, catch, retain or have in possession any bass or crappie.

**Haskell County:** Unlawful to transport minnows outside of county. Possession of more than 500 minnows prima facie evidence of violation. Seines and nets prohibited except 20-ft. minnow seine for bait. Hooks on set line, throw line or trotline may not be less than 3 feet apart. Possession of prohibited tackle within 200 yards of public water prima facie evidence of violation.

**Hays County:** Unlawful to transport minnows taken from waters out of county for sale, or to transport more than 200 for any purpose. Possession of more than 200 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

**Hopkins County:** May take catfish, perch, buffalo and drum by hand or with seine or net of one-inch square mesh.

**Houston County:** Following regulations apply in all public waters except Trinity River: seines and nets prohibited except dip net and minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for taking minnows; trolling permitted from any kind of boat; no fish from public waters may be sold, or offered or possessed for sale.

**Hudspeth County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale fish taken in county. In Rio Grande River seines and nets prohibited except 20-foot minnow seines for minnows.

**Hunt County:** Only ordinary hook line, set line or throw line, ordinary cord line, seine or net with meshes not less than one and one-half inches square, legal fruit jar and legal minnow seine for minnows; cast net and legal minnow seine for rough fish, permitted. Unlawful to sell or offer to sell catfish.



**Jackson County:** Permitted devices: Hook and line or trotline or flounder gig and light, or cast net or minnow seine not more than 20 feet in length for catching bait and rough fish; legal fruit jar for minnows. All other devices prohibited.

**Jeff Davis County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale any fish taken in county.

**Jefferson County:** No open season on alligators.

**Jim Wells County:** Unlawful to take for purpose of sale any fish from Lake Corpus Christi in San Patricio, Jim Wells and Live Oak Counties, or from the waters of Nueces River between Calallen Dam and west boundary line of Live Oak County on Nueces River. Unlawful to use seine or net except 20-foot minnow seine for taking minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Unlawful to use trotlines with hooks less than 3 feet apart.

**Jones County:** Unlawful to take any fish in county for commercial purposes. For Fort Phantom Hill Lake regulations, see "Lake Laws."

**Karnes County:** Commercial dealer or any employee of commercial dealer may not take minnows. No other person may take minnows for sale. Minnows may not be transported beyond county for commercial purposes; not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county per day or possessed in vehicle.

**Kaufman County:** Hooks on set line, throw line or trotline may not be closer than 3 feet apart. Seines and nets unlawful except 20-foot minnow seine for minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Possession of prohibited tackle within 200 yards of water prima facie evidence of violation. Minimum size limits: bass, trout, 8 inches; crappie or other fish,  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound. Sale of bream or other perch, or channel catfish less than 12 inches long, prohibited.

**Kendall County:** Trot or set line may not have more than 25 hooks, spaced not closer than 4 feet apart. Unlawful to transport minnows beyond county. Possession of more than 500 minnows prima facie evidence of violation. Seine or net prohibited except (1) 20-foot minnow seine for minnows and rough fish; (2) cast net for rough fish; (3) seine or net having not less than one-inch-square mesh or wire, rope, or gig, for rough fish, but may not possess other fish while using latter devices.

**Kimble County:** Throw line or drop line may have only one hook. Not more than 30 drop lines per person or group of persons permitted. Trotline may have not more than 30 hooks. Only one trotline per person or party or group of persons permitted. Artificial lure permitted only with rod and reel. Seines and nets prohibited except minnow seine not longer than 20 feet for taking minnows, carp, buffalo, sucker or gar. Illegal tackle declared a nuisance and subject to court's disposition. May not sell catfish, perch or bream. Minnows from public waters may not be transported beyond county for sale. Not more than 200 minnows from public waters may be possessed in, or transported per day beyond, county for



any purpose. Licensed bait dealers may possess not more than 1000 minnows from public waters.

**King County:** Minnows may not be transported beyond county, except 150 for personal use and minnows raised in hatchery. Possession of more than 500 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

**Knox County:** Same as King County.

**Lamar County:** Seines and nets prohibited, except (1) seine or net of not less than 2-inch square mesh; (2) 20-foot minnow seine to take minnows for bait; (3) may take rough fish with cast net or legal minnow seine, or with seine or net having meshes not less than one-inch square, or with wire, rope or gig, but other fishes may not be possessed while using latter devices.

**Lampasas County:** Unlawful to sell catfish. Seines and nets prohibited except (1) 20-foot minnow seine for taking minnows for bait; (2) may take rough fish with cast net or legal minnow seine; or with seine or net having meshes not less than one-inch square or with wire, rope or gig, but may not possess other fishes while using latter devices. Minnows may not be transported beyond county for sale and not more than 200 minnows may be transported for any purpose. Special regulations apply to Colorado River and its lakes. See "Lake Laws."

**Liberty County:** No open season on alligators.

**Live Oak County:** Unlawful to take any fish for sale from Lake Corpus Christi in San Patricio, Jim Wells and Live Oak Counties, or from waters of Nueces River between Calallen Dam and west boundary line of Live Oak County or Nueces River, including all waters within all tributaries of Nueces River within Live Oak, San Patricio and Nueces Counties. Unlawful to use seine or net except 20-foot minnow seine for minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Unlawful to use trotline with hooks less than 3 feet apart.

**Loving County:** Unlawful to sell catfish taken in county. Seines and nets prohibited, except 20-ft. minnow seine to take minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish.

**Marion County:** Permitted devices: ordinary hook and line, rod and reel, set hook and line, trotline or artificial bait and legal fruit jars for minnows. Seines and nets prohibited except: (1) 20-ft. minnow seine for minnows and rough fish; (2) hoop net, set net or trammel net of not less than 3½-inch mesh, for buffalo fish, garfish, catfish, shad and bowfin or grindle. Cast net permitted for taking rough fish. Limit on white bass, 25 per day or in possession. Unlawful for guide to take, retain or possess any bass or crappie. Unlawful to take or possess alligator. Additional regulations for Caddo Lake are: daily bag limits are crappie 15, catfish 25; size limits are crappie not less than 9 inches; catfish not less than 8 inches. Unlawful to drive or ride in any boat on Caddo Lake while under influence of intoxicants, or to drive self-propelled motor craft in careless manner or at high speed. Unlawful to shoot in, on, or along or across Caddo Lake



except while hunting, during open season. Gig permitted in Caddo Lake on buffalo, gar, shad, bowfin or grindle, and catfish.

**Menard County:** Same as Kimble County.

**Mills County:** Unlawful to sell bass, crappie or catfish. In lake waters seines and nets are unlawful, except 20-foot minnow seine to take minnows and rough fish and except cast net or seine or net the meshes of which are not less than one inch square, or wire, rope or gig used for taking rough fish, but no other fish may be possessed while latter devices are used. In streams, seines and nets prohibited except minnow seine not longer than 20 feet nor deeper than 26 inches, for minnows.

**Mitchell County:** Same as Chambers County. Also trotlines may not have more than 25 hooks and must have metal identification tag bearing name and address of owner. Fish from Lake Colorado City may not be taken for sale.

**Montgomery County:** Minnows taken in county may not be transported beyond county except 150 for personal use, unless raised in private minnow hatchery. Possession of more than 500 minnows prima facie evidence of violation.

**Morris County:** Seine or net with meshes not less than three inches square permitted on all fish, except no seines or nets permitted in Daingerfield State Park Lake or Ellison Creek Reservoir. Unlawful to shoot on, in, along or across Daingerfield Lake unless hunting with shotgun during open season. Also, Texarkana Lake Laws apply to this country.

**McCulloch County:** Unlawful to transport minnows out of county except 150 for personal use. Possession of more than 500 prima facie evidence of violation. May not sell catfish taken in county. Seines and nets unlawful, except: 20-ft. minnow seine to take minnows and rough fish; and may take rough fish with cast net, or with seine or net having meshes not less than one inch square or with wire, rope or gig, but may not possess other fish while using latter devices.

**McLennan County:** Sale of fish taken from waters of Lake Waco, the Bosque Rivers or their tributaries prohibited.

**Nacogdoches County:** Same as Cherokee County.

**Nueces County:** Same as Live Oak County.

**Panola County:** See Murvaul Lake under "Lake Laws."

**Pecos County:** Unlawful to sell any fish taken in county. Permitted gear: ordinary hook and line or trotline or artificial bait. Seines and nets prohibited except 20-ft. minnow seine for taking minnows and rough fish and cast net for rough fish.

**Polk County:** Unlawful to take minnows from waters of county for sale; unlawful for commercial minnow dealers or his employee to take minnows. Unlawful to transport minnows outside of county for sale or to transport

more than 200 minnows outside of county, or to have more than 200 minnows in vehicle.

**Presidio County:** Unlawful to sell fish taken in said county. In Rio Grande River seines and nets prohibited except 20-ft. minnow seine for taking minnows.

**Rains County:** Seines and nets of not less than 1½-inch square mesh permitted and fish may be caught by hand.

**Real County:** Unlawful to use gear with more than 2 hooks, except artificial lures used with rod and reel. Bottles, cans and floats unlawful unless line to which hooks are attached is tied securely to stationary object or held by fisherman. Twenty-foot minnow seine permitted for minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Unlawful to take minnows for sale, or transport beyond county more than 200 minnows. Unlawful to take, offer or possess for sale, catfish, perch or bream.

**Reeves County:** Unlawful to sell any fish taken in county. Gear permitted: ordinary hook and line or trotline or artificial bait. Seines and nets unlawful, except 20-ft. minnow seine to take minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish.

**Refugio County:** Only hook and line, trotline, flounder gig and light, and cast net or legal minnow seine for bait permitted in Guadalupe River.

**Robertson County:** Unlawful to take minnows for transportation outside of county for sale, or to sell minnows outside of county. Transportation of minnows beyond county by dealer and transportation of more than 200 minnows beyond county by any person prima facie evidence of violation.

**Rockwall County:** Seines, nets and fruit jars prohibited, except 20-ft. minnow seine for minnows. Hooks on set-line, throw line or trotline may not be closer than 3 feet apart. Possession of prohibited devices within 200 yards of waters is prima facie evidence of violation. Fish may not be taken or possessed for sale. May not take minnows from streams except not more than 50 at one time when not for sale.

**Runnels County:** In New Lake Winters, throw line may not have more than two hooks, seines and nets prohibited, and minnows may not be taken or possessed from lake. Non-metallic trotline with not more than 25 hooks may be used provided it is marked with name and address of owner. Trotline limit one per person and two per party and trotline may not be set within 200 feet of intake tower or boat dock. May not sell, buy, or offer to sell or buy, or take or possess for commercial purposes, any fish from New Lake Winters. In other waters of county, seines and nets prohibited except 20-ft. minnow seine to take minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish, and 3-inch mesh net for carp and suckers in Colorado River. Unlawful to sell catfish taken in county. It is unlawful to transport more than 300 minnows out of Runnels County. Possession of more than 500 minnows constitutes prima facie evidence of violation.



**Rusk County:** Seines and nets prohibited except dip net and minnow seine not more than 20-feet long for taking minnows. Trolling permitted from any kind of boat. No fish from public waters may be sold or offered or possessed for sale.

**Sabine County:** Same as Cherokee County, except for the Sabine River. Persons may sell fish taken from the Sabine River in Sabine County, except bass and crappie. Sale of such fish is subject to General Laws.

**San Augustine County:** Same as Cherokee County.

**San Patricio County:** Same as Live Oak County.

**San Saba County:** Unlawful to sell or buy or offer to sell any fish. For gear permitted in Colorado River and its lakes, see "Lake Laws." Other waters, unlawful to take fish by any device except ordinary pole and line or throw line equipped with more than two hooks, except dowagiac or other artificial bait. Trotlines may not have more than 20 hooks. In lakes other than Colorado River lakes, seines and nets unlawful except minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for catching minnows and rough fish, and may take rough fish with cast net and with seine or net having meshes not less than one inch square, or with wire, rope or gig but may not possess other fish while using such devices. In streams, seines and nets unlawful except minnow seine not longer than 20 feet nor deeper than 26 inches for minnows. Unlawful to transport minnows outside of county, except 150 for personal use. Possession of more than 500 minnows evidence of violation of act.

**Scurry County:** See Borden and Scurry Counties.

**Shackelford County:** Unlawful to take any fish for commercial purposes.

**Smith County:** Same as Cherokee County.

**Somervell County:** Unlawful to take minnows from public fresh waters of Somervell County for sale, except by licensed bait dealer. Licensed bait dealer may not transport minnows taken from waters of Somervell across county line for sale unless minnows were taken from a hatchery.

**Terrell County:** Unlawful to sell or offer for sale any fish taken in county.

**Tom Green County:** Trotline or set line may not be equipped with more than 30 hooks, and group of persons fishing together may not use more than two trotlines or set lines, and no two trotlines or set lines shall be joined together. Seines and nets prohibited except twenty-foot minnow seine for minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Possession of prohibited tackle on waters or set up for use is violation. Unlawful to sell, buy or attempt to buy any fish except buffalo, carp, suckers and gar. Unlawful to use crappie, catfish or bass for bait. Unlawful to transport minnows beyond county for sale or to transport more than 200 minnows beyond county for any purpose in any one day.

**Travis County:** Following regulations apply to all waters except Colorado River, beginning with Lake Austin, and its lakes. Unlawful to use trotline or throw line with hooks spaced closer than 3 feet. May take rough fish with cast net or legal minnow seine; or with seine or net having meshes not less than one inch square, or with wire, rope or gig, but may not possess other fish while using such devices. No fish may be sold except rough fish, mullet and needlefish. For tackle permitted in Lakes Austin and Travis and Colorado River, beginning with Lake Austin, see "Lake Laws." All waters, minnows may not be transported beyond county for sale and not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county for any purpose. For spear fishing see "Colorado River and its Lakes."

**Trinity County:** Same as Polk County.

**Uvalde County:** Same as Chambers County. Also, unlawful to take minnows for sale or to sell minnows taken in county. Unlawful for commercial minnow dealer or his employee to transport minnows from county. May not sell catfish.

**Val Verde County:** All waters: unlawful to sell catfish. Seines and nets unlawful except cast net for rough fish and 20-ft. minnow seine for taking minnows and rough fish. In all waters except Rio Grande River. Pecos River and San Felipe Creek; not more than an aggregate of 20 hooks permitted on devices; unlawful to use crappie, catfish or bass for bait; unlawful to transport minnows from county. Possession of more than 200 minnows prima facie evidence of violation. In Devil's River and its lakes, fish bag limit 20 in aggregate per day or in possession.

**Van Zandt County:** In Sabine River seines and nets of not less than 1½ inch square mesh permitted, and fish may be caught by hand.

**Victoria County:** Only hook and line, trotline, flounder gig and light, and cast net or legal minnow seine for bait permitted in Guadalupe River.

**Walker County:** Unlawful to transport minnows out of county for sale, or to transport more than 2000 minnows out of county for any purpose, or to have more than 2000 minnows in a vehicle in said county.

**Waller County:** Minnows from public waters may not be taken for transportation beyond county for sale, nor sold outside said county. Transportation of any minnows by commercial minnow dealer or his agent, or of more than 250 minnows at one time by any other person, beyond county, is prima facie evidence of violation.

**Ward County:** Seine or net unlawful, except 20-ft. minnow seine permitted for taking minnows and rough fish, and cast net for rough fish. Unlawful to sell catfish.

**Washington County:** Unlawful to take minnows from public waters for purpose of transporting outside of county for sale, or to sell said minnows outside of county.



Such transportation of any minnows by dealer, or of more than 200 by other person is prima facie evidence of violation.

**Wichita County:** Big Wichita River, Lake Kemp, Diversion Lake, Lake Wichita, connecting irrigation canals and laterals within Wichita and Wilbarger Counties: no seines and nets permitted except twenty-foot minnow seine of not less than one-sixth inch square mesh for taking minnows for bait. May use one trotline per person or not more than two per party of two or more persons. Trotlines must not be set nearer than fifty (50) feet apart, nor contain more than fifty (50) hooks nor have hooks thereon nearer than four (4) feet apart. Unlawful to barter or sell or to offer for barter or sale or to buy any fish except minnows for bait. No minnows or edible fish may be left on banks to die. Also, minnows may not be taken for sale outside county, nor transported beyond county for sale, nor sold beyond county. Transportation of more than 50 minnows beyond county at one time prima facie evidence of violation.

**Wilbarger County:** Minnows may not be taken to transport out of county for sale. Transportation of not more than 200 minnows raised in minnow hatchery permitted for personal use. Transportation of more than 200 beyond county prima facie evidence of violation. Fishing tackle and fish sale provisions same as Wichita County in laterals leading from irrigation canals connected with Lake Kemp or diversion dam.

**Willacy County:** It is lawful to have in possession while on land adjoining the harbor area of Willacy County Navigation District or while traveling to or from such land, a seine, net, trawl, trap, or other device prohibited within the public waters of Willacy County Navigation District for the purpose of catching fish or shrimp or when same is on board a vessel in port or in a channel of said waters while en route to or from Gulf of Mexico.

**Williamson County:** Unlawful to transport minnows out of county except 150 for personal use. Possession of more than 500 minnows evidence of violation of law. May not sell catfish.

**Wilson County:** Unlawful to sell bass, perch, crappie or catfish taken in county. Seines and nets prohibited, except 10 foot minnow seine with meshes not less than one-fourth inch square to take minnows and 20-ft. minnow seine and cast net for rough fish.

**Wood County:** Fish from public waters of county may not be sold or offered or possessed for sale. Rough fish may be taken with 2-inch mesh seine or net or by grabbing with hands within seine, but may not be sold when so taken. Other fish may not be possessed while so fishing.

## LAKE LAWS

**Lake Austin** from and including mouth of Bull Creek and south and east thereof, permitted gear, not more than 2 of the same or different types as follows: ordinary pole and line, rod, reel and line, hand line, set line, throw line, artificial lures when used with fly rod or rod and reel. Except when artificial lures are used no line shall have more than two hooks and only two lines shall be used at one time. Twenty-foot minnow seine permitted for minnows and rough fish; cast net permitted on rough fish. Minnows taken in public waters of Travis County may not be transported beyond county for sale, and not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county for any purpose. Fish may not be sold.

**Colorado River and its Lakes:** Beginning at the mouth of Bull Creek to headwaters of Buchanan Lake, including Lakes Travis, Buchanan, Roy Inks, Granite Shoals, Marble Falls and that part of Lake Austin beginning at (but not including) mouth of Bull Creek, permitted devices are ordinary pole and line, throw line with not more than 6 hooks, rod and reel with not more than 6 hooks, artificial bait, fruit jar with funnel attached for minnows, and trotline with not more than 30 hooks. Not more than 30 hooks in aggregate permitted on all devices, except that in Buchanan Lake it is permissible to use more than one trotline with not more than 30 hooks each. No device may be attached to another device by any means. Trotlines prohibited in vicinity of boat dock or pier, bathing pier or beach or any place commonly used as a swimming and bathing area. Seines and nets prohibited except 20-foot minnow seine for taking minnows and rough fish, cast net for rough fish, and in Buchanan Lake 50 foot minnow seine is permitted. Carp, buffalo, gaspergou, gar and Rio Grande perch may be taken by spear gun and spear. Minnows taken in public waters of Travis County or Lampasas County may not be transported beyond county for sale, and not more than 200 minnows may be transported beyond county for any purpose. See county laws for fish sale provisions. In that part of river and lakes in Llano County, daily bag and possession limits are fixed by Commission proclamation. See supplement digest. In all of Colorado River and its lakes, carp, buffalo, gaspergou, gar and Rio Grande perch may be taken by spear gun and spear.

**Lake Baird:** Gear permitted ordinary pole and line, rod and reel, fly rod, throw line equipped with not more than two hooks, and trotline with not more than 25 hooks. One trotline per person, or two trotlines per party of two or more persons. Seines and nets prohibited except 20-ft. minnow seine for minnows. Minnows may not be taken for sale. Not more than 100 minnows may be possessed. May not sell or buy or offer to sell or buy fish, or take or possess fish for sale. Unlawful to shoot rifle or pistol.

**Lake Bridgeport:** See Wise County.

**Caddo Lake:** See Harrison and Marion Counties.



**Lake Corpus Christi:** Same as Jim Wells County.

**Devil's River Lake:** See Val Verde County.

**Diversion Lake:** See Archer County.

**Fort Phantom Hill Lake (Jones County):** Throw lines may not have more than 2 hooks. Seines and nets prohibited except cast net and legal minnow seine for rough fish; 20-foot minnow seine for minnows. Only one trotline per person, two trotlines per party of 2 or more persons, each containing not more than 25 hooks, permitted. Minnows may not be taken for sale, and not more than 100 minnows may be possessed. Fish may not be taken in Jones County for sale.

**Lake Kemp:** See Archer County.

**Lake Kickapoo:** See Archer and Baylor Counties.

**Lake Lavon (Collin County):** Seines and nets prohibited except minnow seines not longer than twenty feet for taking minnows for bait. Hooks on set line, throw line or trotline may not be less than three feet apart. Possession of illegal tackle within two hundred yards of water prima facie evidence of violation. Minnows and fish may not be sold or possessed for commercial purposes. It is unlawful to operate or be a passenger in any boat while under the influence of alcoholic beverage. All boats must carry individual life preservers for each person in the boat, must be equipped with lights after dark, and may not operate at dangerous rate of speed or in a reckless manner so as to endanger the safety of any person on the lake. It is unlawful to discharge firearms on or across Lake Lavon, except for shotguns during the open waterfowl season.

**Lytle Lake:** See Taylor County.

**New Lake Winters:** See Runnels County.

**Sweetwater Oak Creek Lake:** See Coke County.

**Lake Texarkana:** Waters of this lake in and along Bowie, Cass and Morris Counties are public fresh waters of this State; unlawful thereon to drive, operate, ride or be passenger in boat or other water vessel while intoxicated; unlawful to operate motor boat in reckless or careless manner or at a high or dangerous speed, including the interference with free and proper use of the waters by other boats; unlawful for any person, with the exception of game wardens and peace officers while discharging their duties, to fire any gun on, along or across this Lake; game wardens and other peace officers to inspect boats on these waters to enforce the law, and such inspections and arrests for violations in presence of officers or wardens may be made without warrant.

**Murvaul Lake (Panola County):** Unlawful to camp, swim, bathe, wade, water ski, or use trotline except in areas designated by Panola County Fresh Water Supply District No. 1. Permit from same Water District required

to use net or seine. Trotline regulations prescribed by Water District. Unlawful to fish from dam, spillway outlet or within 300-foot radius of spillway. Goldfish or carp may not be used for bait, and traps may not be used for taking fish. Unlawful to possess or use pistol or rifle within 500 feet from waters of lake. Waters West of F.M. Road No. 1971 designated wildlife sanctuary and no hunting is permitted in sanctuary.

**Lake Texoma:** For minnow sale and transportation laws, see Cooke and Grayson counties. No fish but rough fish may be sold. Daily bag limits: 25 white bass, 25 crappie, 10 black bass; 15 catfish; 36 bream, goggle-eye or other small sunfishes, singly or in aggregate. Possession limit; 10 black bass on Reservoir, or 35 elsewhere; 15 catfish on Reservoir, 30 elsewhere (not including polliwog or chucklehead, on which there is no size or catch limit); 35 bream, goggle-eye or other small sunfishes at Reservoir, no limit elsewhere. Size limits: catfish, not less than 10 inches; black bass, not less than 10 inches. Tackle: seine or net prohibited except cast net or legal minnow seine for taking rough fish and minnows; or seine or net having meshes not less than three inches square for taking rough fish. When using seine or net for rough fish, all other fish must be immediately returned to waters. May not possess rough fish and other fish at same time, nor any fish but rough fish while using seine or net. Trotline, set line or throw line may have not more than 100 hooks, spaced not less than three feet apart. Possession of prohibited tackle within 500 yards of waters prima facie evidence of violation.

**Lake Wichita:** Same as Archer and Wichita counties.

TO THE SPORTSMEN OF TEXAS . . .

TEXAS GAME AND FISH, the official monthly publication of your Game and Fish Commission, is offered to you at the non-profit subscription rate of \$2.00 per year.

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# SALTWATER AND COMMERCIAL FISHING LAWS

## LICENSE FEES

Bait Dealers License.....	\$ 2.00
Bait Shrimp Dealer.....	50.00
Commercial Fisherman's License.....	3.00
Commercial Bay-Bait Shrimp Boat (May be purchased only in January and February).....	30.00
Commercial Gulf Shrimp Boat.....	30.00
Commercial Fishing Boat License, salt water.....	6.00
Fish Boat, fresh water (if propelled by motor or sail).....	3.00
Fish Guide License.....	2.00
Menhaden Commercial Fish Boat License.....	100.00
Menhaden Fish Plant Permit.....	25.00
Mussel License.....	10.00
Mussel Shell Dredge License.....	25.00
Oyster Dredge License.....	15.00
Oyster Location Rental, per acre.....	1.50
Retail Fish Dealer (Cities less than 7,500 population).....	3.00
Retail Fish Dealer (Cities 7,500 to 40,000 population).....	10.00
Retail Fish Dealer (Cities over 40,000 population).....	15.00
Retail Oyster Dealer's License (Cities over 7,500 population).....	5.00
Retail Truck Fish and Oyster Dealer's License.....	25.00
Seine or net license, attached to each 100 feet....	1.00
Shrimp House Operator.....	50.00
Skiff License (if propelled by oars or poles).....	1.00
Sports Bait-Shrimp Trawl.....	3.00
Wholesale Fish and Oyster Dealer's License.....	200.00
Wholesale Truck Fish and Oyster Dealer's License.....	100.00

**Bait Dealer's License** is required of any person who sells either minnows, fish, shrimp or other aquatic products for fish bait. See shrimp regulations for coastal counties.

**Commercial Fishing Boat License** is required for each boat used for taking any edible aquatic life from tidal waters for commercial purposes, except shrimp.

**Commercial Fisherman's License** is required of any person who takes any edible aquatic products or any menhaden from the waters of this state for pay or for the purposes of sale, barter, or exchange.

**Fish Boat License** is required of each boat equipped with motor of any kind or with sails, when used for taking any edible aquatic products for commercial purposes from fresh waters, with the exception of shrimp.

**Fish Guide License** is required of any person who operates a boat for pay or anything of value in accompanying or transporting any person engaged in taking any edible aquatic life from the waters of this state.

**Menhaden Commercial Fishing Boat License** is required for boat or vessel used for taking menhaden fish from tidal waters.

**Menhaden Fish Plant Permit** is required to operate a fixed installation upon land used to process fish and the by-products by application of pressure, heat and chemicals or combination thereof to raw fish to convert same into oil, solubles, scraps or other products. Write Commission for details for making application for permit.

**Mussel License** will be required for the purpose of taking mussels or mussel shells from the beds of state-owned streams and water.

**Mussel Shell Dredge License** required for use of dredge for taking mussels or mussel shells from beds of state-owned streams and waters.

**Oyster Dredge License** is required for each dredge used for the purpose of dredging oysters.

**Retail Fish Dealer's License** is required of any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of buying for the purpose of selling either fresh or frozen edible aquatic products to the consumer. Separate license will be required for each market in which such dealer or person operates. Fee of such license based on population of the city.

**Retail Oyster Dealer's License** is required of any person, firm or corporation buying oysters only for the purpose of selling to the consumer trade in cities of more than 7,500. (This license is provided for use of markets or dealers handling oysters only and who do not care to take out retail fish and oyster dealer's license.)

**Retail Truck, Dealer's License** is required of any person, firm or corporation engaged in the business of buying for the purpose of selling or distributing either fresh or frozen aquatic products to the consumer trade. Separate license required by each truck so operated and sales permitted only hotels, cafes and house-to-house peddling.

**Seine or Net License** must be attached to each hundred feet or fraction thereof of each seine or net used for the purpose of taking fish or shrimp from the waters of this State when fishing for commercial purposes.

**Skiff License** is required for each boat propelled by oars or poles that is used for the purpose of taking aquatic products for commercial purposes.

**Sports Fishing License:** See license requirements, Fresh Water Fish Laws, "General Regulations."



**Wholesale Fish Dealer's License** is required of each person, firm or corporation who buys for the purpose of selling to retail fish dealers and to the consumer, or who cans, preserves or processes aquatic products for commercial purposes.

**Wholesale Truck Dealer's License** is required of each person, firm or corporation who operates a truck for the purpose of selling to or taking orders from retail fish dealers and/or to the consumer trade. Separate license required for each truck operated.

## SEASONS

### Fish

No closed season. Exception, menhaden may be taken April 1 to December 1 for commercial purposes by nets and legal purse seines in certain waters.

### Terrapin

Season open November, December, January and February.

### Oysters

Open September 1 to March 31. Exceptions: that part of Laguna Madre which is south and west of Baffin's Bay has no closed season; and that part of Copano Bay west of a line drawn from the east gable of Sorenson's clubhouse to the mouth of Mission Bay is closed, except private leases. In Aransas, Nueces, Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, it is unlawful to take oysters from public beds or reefs from May 1 to September 1.

It shall be unlawful to take or catch oysters from the public waters of Chambers and Galveston Counties for the market from the first day of April to the first day of November.

In the public waters of Chambers and Galveston Counties no person shall operate or have in use from any one (1) boat more than one (1) oyster dredge which shall not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in width across the mouth and shall not have a capacity in excess of two (2) bushels.

During the open season it shall only be lawful to take or catch oysters from the public waters of Chambers and Galveston Counties from sunrise to sunset.

No person, firm or corporation shall have on board any commercial fishing boat, barge, float, or other vessel while in the public waters of Chambers and Galveston Counties more than fifty (50) barrels of oysters which shall be culled oysters of legal size. If a boat is pulling or towing another boat or boats, then such towing and towed boats combined shall not have aboard more than fifty (50) barrels of oysters, culled and of legal size. As used herein, a barrel is equivalent to three (3) bushels.

## SIZE LIMITS

**Fish (Commercial Fishing):** Flounder, not less than 12 inches; speckled trout, not less than 12 inches; redfish,

not less than 14 inches nor more than 35 inches; pompano, not less than 9 inches; sheepshead, not less than 9 inches; mackerel, not less than 14 inches; and gafftopsail, not less than 11 inches. **Exception:** In Cameron, Kenedy and Willacy Counties, the limits on speckled trout, flounder and redfish taken from Laguna Madre apply in sport fishing as well as commercial fishing.

**Terrapin:** Not less than six (6) inches in length.

**Green Turtle:** Not less than twelve (12) pounds in weight.

**Oysters:** In shell, 3½ inches from hinge to mouth.

## FISHING DEVICES

**Fish:** Tidal waters, ordinary pole and line, casting rod, rod and reel, artificial bait, trotline, set line, or cast net, minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for catching bait, spear or gig and light for taking flounder, set net, trammel net or strike net of not less than 1½ inch mesh and not longer than 1800 feet permitted in tidal waters. All other seines or nets are unlawful. In open Gulf, all seines and nets, not including the bag, shall not be of less than 1½-inch square mesh. Mesh of the bags and for 50 feet on each side of the bags may be of not larger than one-inch square mesh. No seine, nor the combined length of two or more seines, may be more than 1800 feet. It is unlawful to possess a device on waters where its use is prohibited unless such device is on board a vessel when at port or in a channel en route to or from the Gulf of Mexico.

**Oysters:** In reefs in bodies of water less than four feet deep, only hand tongs may be used. In reefs in water from four to six feet deep, hand power dredges may be used. American citizen, or any firm or corporation composed of such citizens, may use scrapers or dredges in removing oysters from other natural reefs, provided they have procured a license from the Game and Fish Commission before beginning operations. Exceptions: unlawful to dredge oysters in the headwaters of Matagorda Bay east of a line from Palacios Point on the mainland in Matagorda County across Matagorda Bay to Cotton Bayou on the Matagorda Peninsula, or in that part of Aransas Bay west of a line running from the north end of Two by Four reef to the east side of Borup reef and thence to the mainland, or in Carancahua Bay and Pass or within 300 yards of the mouth of said pass in Matagorda Bay, or in that part of Copano Bay west of a line drawn from the east gable of Sorenson's clubhouse to the mouth of Mission Bay, except oysters taken from a private lease.

## SHRIMP

### LICENSES

"Commercial Gulf Shrimp Boat" is boat used for catching shrimp for pay or sale from the Gulf or "outside" waters of the state or unloading shrimp caught outside of Texas. License fee, \$30.00. License expires August 31.



"Commercial Bay-Bait Shrimp Boat" is boat used for catching shrimp for pay or sale from the "inside" or bay waters. License fee, \$30.00. License may be purchased in January and February only and expires March 1 of the following year.

"Shrimp House Operator" is any person, except Wholesale Fish Dealer, who operates shrimp house for pay or for unloading and handling shrimp from a Commercial Gulf Shrimp Boat or a Commercial Bay-Bait Shrimp Boat. A shrimp house operator is not permitted to buy or sell shrimp. License fee, \$50.00. License expires August 31.

"Bait-Shrimp Dealer" is any person, except Wholesale Fish Dealer, who operates establishment in any coastal county for pay or purpose of handling only bait shrimp or other fish bait for retail or wholesale purposes, either fresh or frozen. License fee, \$50.00. License expires August 31.

"Sports Bait-Shrimp Trawl" is any trawl, net or rig used for catching shrimp for one's own personal use. License fee, \$3.00. License expires August 31.

No other trawl or boat licenses are required for catching shrimp. Commercial Fisherman's License and Sports Fishing License are required when applicable.

Boat and trawl license in effect on May 20, 1959 will be valid until September 1, 1959, except those used for taking shrimp commercially in inside or bay waters will be valid until March 1, 1960.

### INSIDE WATERS

"Inside Waters" is defined in part as all bays, passes, rivers or other bodies of water landward from the Gulf of Mexico shoreline and in which the tide rises and falls.

**Open Season:** The open season for taking shrimp in inside waters is from August 15 to December 15, both dates inclusive (except for bait shrimp).

**Trawl Size:** During the open season, a trawl not larger than 65 feet from board to board with not less than 2 inches stretched mesh may be used. Only one trawl per boat is permitted, except for a 12-foot try net.

**Shrimping Hours:** No shrimping shall be done in inside waters between sunset and sunrise during the open season.

It is unlawful to head any shrimp aboard a boat in inside waters, or to dump same, except in artificial passes, canals or basins.

It is unlawful to take or catch shrimp from any natural or man-made pass leading from inside to outside waters.

### OUTSIDE WATERS

"Outside Waters" are defined in part as that portion of the Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward and within the jurisdiction of the State of Texas.

The season is closed in outside waters from June 1 to July 15, both dates inclusive (except for bait shrimp).

There are no limitations on the number or size of trawls towed by a commercial gulf shrimp boat. Mesh size of trawls shall not be less than 1 inch square or 2 inches stretched. Any try net shall not be larger than 12 feet from board to board.

### SHRIMP SIZE

For both inside and outside waters, the legal shrimp count (except bait shrimp) is not more than 65 headless and 39 heads-on for white shrimp, and 50 headless and 30 heads-on for brown or pink shrimp. Shrimp of any size may be taken for use as bait shrimp.

### BAIT SHRIMP

A Bay-Bait Shrimp Boat operator may take shrimp from all coastal waters, at any time and of any size, for sale as bait shrimp only. Not more than 250 pounds of heads-on bait shrimp may be taken per day per boat. For the purpose of taking bait, it is unlawful for a boat to use more than one trawl, except one try net, of a size not to exceed 25 feet from board to board and with not less than 1½ inches stretched mesh. A try net shall not exceed 5 feet from board to board. During the closed season in inside waters, it is unlawful to have on board more than one set of trawl doors and one set of try net doors.

It is unlawful to process for human consumption any shrimp taken for bait purposes.

It is unlawful to sell for transportation outside the State of Texas any shrimp caught for use as bait.

It is unlawful to sell bait shrimp to any cafe, restaurant, hotel, packer, canner or breeder.

It is unlawful to buy, sell or use for human consumption any bait shrimp, either fresh or frozen.

### SHRIMP FOR PERSONAL USE

Shrimp may be taken for personal use, from all coastal waters, by means of a cast net, dip net, bait trap, or minnow seine not larger than 20 feet in length and manually operated; or with a "Sports-Bait Shrimp Trawl" with not less than 1½ inches stretched mesh, not larger than 12 feet from board to board, and with boards not larger than 12 by 18 inches.

During the closed season, shrimp may not be taken for personal use for any purpose except for use as bait.

During the closed season, no person catching shrimp for his personal use may possess more than 2 quarts of shrimp, either fresh with heads-on or frozen, or both, to be used for bait only. Shrimp taken during the open season for personal use must meet the shrimp count requirements, except 2 quarts of bait shrimp of any size per person may be possessed.

It is unlawful to sell shrimp taken for personal use.

For further information, please consult your local game and fish warden or the Game and Fish Commission.



## Exceptions

**Menhaden** may be taken from the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the gulfward boundary lines of Aransas, Calhoun, Cameron, Jackson, Jefferson, Kenedy, Kleberg, Refugio, San Patricio, and Willacy Counties from the coast line of the Gulf of Mexico to the continental shelf between April 1 and December 1 of each year with nets and purse seines which, not including the bag, shall be not less than 1½" stretched mesh, except in any bay, river, pass or tributary thereto, or within one mile of any barrier, jetty, island or pass, or within ½ mile offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. Where conflict exists between this exception and those noted below, the menhaden law prevails.

**Brazoria and Harris Counties:** Seines and nets prohibited except cast net and legal minnow seine for bait.

**Chambers and Galveston Counties:** Seines and nets prohibited except cast net and legal minnow seine for bait.

In Swan Lake, Moses Lake, Clear Lake, Dickinson Bayou west of a line running from Miller's Point to April Fool Point, Turtle Bay and all waters lying northeast of a line extending from Kemah in Galveston County to a point known as Mesquite Knoll in Chambers County, and all waters of Galveston Bay lying east of a line extending from the extreme western point of Smith's Point in Chambers County to the west bank of Siever's Cut where East Bay intersects with the north bank of the Intracoastal Canal on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County at Siever's Fish Camp, which cut is at a point Intracoastal Canal on Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston County, seines and nets unlawful except cast nets, set nets, or minnow seine not more than 20 feet long when used for catching bait. In rest of "East Galveston Bay" other legal seines and nets permitted only during period beginning August 15 and ending May 15.

It shall be unlawful for any person to place or set, or have in his use or possession, in or on any of the waters of that portion of Galveston Bay and Trinity Bay lying within Chambers and Harris Counties, Texas, north of a line extending from Eagle Point to Smith Point, any set net, or gill net, trap or similar device for the purpose of catching fish. Provided it shall be lawful to use trammel nets which shall not exceed a length of twelve hundred (1200) feet and shall have at least a three and one half (3½) inch stretch mesh.

Provided, it shall not be unlawful to have in possession a seine, net, trawl, trap, or other device prohibited from being used in said waters for the purpose of catching fish or shrimp, when the same is on board a vessel when such vessel is at port or in the channel in said waters while en route to or from the Gulf of Mexico or other waters where it is lawful to use such seine, net, trawl, trap, or other device for the purpose of catching fish or shrimp.

**Matagorda County:** Seines and nets prohibited except cast net and legal minnow seine for bait in all waters of



Matagorda County except that in that part of Matagorda Bay east of the Colorado River seines and nets are permitted under general law.

**Calhoun, Jackson and Victoria Counties:** Seines and nets prohibited except cast net and minnow seine for bait, in Carancahua Creek, Carancahua Bay and lakes and coves opening thereto, Carancahua Pass or within a radius of one thousand yards from its mouth in Matagorda Bay; Keller's Creek and Keller's Bay within a radius of 1000 yards from the southwest corner of Olivia State Highway Roadside Park, Coloma Creek, Powder Horn Lake, Powder Horn Bayou, or within a radius of 1000 yards of its mouth in Matagorda Bay; Chocolate Creek or within a radius of 100 yards from its mouth in Chocolate Bay; Lavaca Bay within 1000 yards on each side of Lavaca Bay Causeway; Mission Bay, Contec Lake, Cedar Bayou, Hynes Bay and Pass Cavallo. In San Antonio Bay seines and nets, except cast net and minnow seine for bait, are prohibited. In other waters of Calhoun County, pocket net or drag seine of length not greater than 1800 feet and of mesh not smaller than 1½-inch square except for the sack or purse (which may be of mesh not less than 1-inch square) may be used in addition to seines and nets permitted by general law. Spear and gig and light permitted on all fish.

It is unlawful for any person to take or catch fish from the waters of Lavaca Bay, Banal Lake, Mesquite Creek, Placedo Creek, Garcitas Creek, Red Fish Lakes and Oyster Bayou in Victoria, Jackson and Calhoun Counties, Texas, by any other means than hook and line, rod and reel, or trotline, or flounder gig and light, or by the use of cast net or minnow seine not exceeding twenty (20) feet in length, used in catching bait. Any person drawing a seine or setting a net in the waters of Lavaca Bay, Banal Lake, Mesquite Creek, Placedo Creek, Garcitas Creek, Red Fish Lakes and Oyster Bayou in Victoria, Jackson and Calhoun Counties, Texas, or any person catching or taking fish by any other means than hook and line, rod and reel, or trotline, or flounder gig and light, or cast net and minnow seine not exceeding twenty (20) feet in length, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined in a sum of not less than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25) or more than Two Hundred Dollars (\$200).

**Refugio and San Patricio Counties:** In Copano Bay, Mission Bay and connecting waters west of State Highway 35, no seine or net is permitted except minnow seine not more than 20 feet long when used for taking bait.

**Aransas and Nueces Counties:** In Copano Bay and connecting waters west of State Highway 35 in Aransas County, no seine or net is permitted except minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for bait. In the following waters no seine or net except cast net or minnow seine not more than 20 feet long for taking bait, is permitted; all of Redfish Bay, its connecting inlets and bayous in Nueces County which lie south and southwest of a line starting at the juncture of the railroad dumps on the mainland, running east along the center of said dumps to its eastern extremity, thence northeast to the north side of the east-



ern entrance to Corpus Christi Bayou; thence southeast to the northern extremity of Harbor Island to a stake or marker, and north and northeast of a line running directly east and west from the mainland to Harbor Island across the southern extremity of Ransom Point; in the waters of Corpus Christi Bay and Laguna Madre and connecting inlets of bayous, lying between a line on the north running east from a stake or marker on the shore on the northeasterly point of Flour Bluff to a stake or marker on Mustang Island one mile north of Corpus Christi Pass, and the Nueces-Kleberg County line on the south; or within one mile of Dimmit Island in Nueces County, or Callo Del Oso and connecting inlets and bayous; or Oso Creek; Corpus Christi Pass, or Aransas Pass, or within one mile of said passes; all waters of Aransas Bay lying south of a line running from a stake or marker located on the shore of St. Joseph Island one mile north of the bayside entrance to the pass, commonly known as North Pass, to the southern end of Mud Island, thence to the north side of the entrance to Corpus Christi Bayou; all waters lying between Harbor Island and St. Joseph Island, between Harbor and Mud Islands, and between Harbor and Mustang Island, or in any pass or channel leading from one body of water to another in any of the salt waters of Nueces County; Puerto Bay, St. Charles Bay and Cedar Bayou.

**Kleberg and Kenedy Counties:** Seines, nets, and trawls prohibited except cast net, minnow seine not longer than 20 feet in all waters lying between Padre Island and the mainland, including all back bays and inlets and waters back of Laguna Madre. Provided, however, that in Baffin Bay, a bait shrimp trawl not over 10 feet in length, with boards not more than 18 inches wide or 36 inches long, may be used for the purpose of taking bait shrimp. Said bait shrimp shall not be sold nor transported for sale outside counties.

**Willacy County:** Tidal waters west of Padre Island, no seines or nets permitted except cast net for bait. However, the above provisions do not apply to the taking of drumfish under permits issued by the Game and Fish Commission during the period from January 1 through May 30.

**Cameron County.** No seine or net is permitted in Laguna Madre in Cameron County except cast net or minnow seine not longer than twenty (20) feet for taking bait. However, the above provisions do not apply to the taking of drumfish under permits issued by the Game and Fish Commission, provided, however that taking of drumfish under said permits shall be limited to the months of December, January and February of each year. In Brazos Santiago Pass seines and nets, except cast net and legal minnow seine for bait, are prohibited.

In any channel or canal connecting one body of bay water with another body of bay water, or in any canal or channel connecting a bay with the Gulf of Mexico, or within a mile of such channel, seines, nets or shrimp trawls are prohibited.

Any seine or net or shrimp trawl possessed in violation of law is subject to seizure by any officer and destruction by court order.

Permits to use suitable seines and nets for removal of rough fish may be obtained from the Game and Fish Commission for use where either seining or netting is permitted. Fee \$5.00. Proposed device must first be inspected and tagged by representative of Commission. "Rough fish" include those fish having no sporting value, predators, bony or rough-fleshed species.

## MISCELLANEOUS

The Game and Fish Commission is empowered to close an oyster reef by giving two weeks' notice when it has reason to believe same is being overworked.

Shell from oysters opened or shucked on board the boat must be deposited on shore as directed by Game and Fish Commission.

A person leasing an oyster claim or reef may apply for permission from the Game and Fish Commission to seine thereon for drumfish.

**Shrimp Shipment:** During closed season, not more than 25 pounds of bait shrimp may be shipped to any point in the interior beyond 50 miles of any county bordering any salt water bay on Texas coast.

## IT IS UNLAWFUL TO—

Ship, sell or possess for purpose of sale any fish or oysters taken from an insanitary reef.

Plant, or buy oysters for planting, bedding, marketing, or other purpose during closed season without permit from the Game and Fish Commission.

Ship or accept for shipment or transportation during closed season, oysters taken from public reefs.

Fail, or refuse to scatter culls from oysters you take from reefs.

Open or shuck oysters for market near or on reefs.

Sell oysters taken for planting or depositing for preparation for market.

Sell cargo of oysters containing more than 5 per cent young oysters.

Use insanitary containers for oysters.

Float or bloat oysters.

Deface, injure, destroy or remove any buoy, marker or fence, or part thereof.

Refuse to show license.

Erect, set, operate or maintain any fish pound net within three nautical miles from coast line without permit from Game and Fish Commission.



Take from public salt or fresh water any sand, shell or gravel without first obtaining a permit from the Game and Fish Commission, Austin, Texas.

Use explosives or poison water.

To retain undersize fish; they must be returned to the waters from which taken.

Use, operate, sail, anchor, tie, or moor to the bank any boat, sailboat, motorboat, skiff, barge, raft, or other floating device or to place any post, piling, obstruction, wire, rope, cable, net or trap, in or upon the waters of any natural or artificial pass which is now or may be hereafter opened, reopened, dredged, excavated, constructed, and maintained by the Game and Fish Commission of the State of Texas as a fish pass; between the Gulf of Mexico and any inland bay, within a distance of two thousand, eight hundred (2,800) feet inside of such pass where it empties into or opens upon the Gulf of Mexico.

## FURBEARER LAWS

Animals classified as furbearers by law are wild beaver, wild otter, wild mink, wild ring-tail cat, wild badger, wild polecat or skunk, wild raccoon, wild muskrat, wild opossum, wild fox, coypu, and wild civet cat. They must not be confused with those animals legally defined as "game animals." Game animals may not be trapped at any time, nor may their pelts or hides be sold (except deer hides when legally taken). Game animals are wild deer, wild elk, wild antelope, javelina, wild Rocky Mountain sheep, wild black bear, wild gray and red squirrels, cat squirrels or fox squirrels. (See Game Laws.)

### PROPERTY OF STATE

The protected furbearers and their pelts are the property of the State until they have been lawfully taken, and all regulations and laws complied with.

### OPEN SEASON (GENERAL LAWS)

The period of time when it is lawful to take pelt of furbearers as defined specifically above is during the months of December and January (except mink and muskrats), of each year, but there are exceptions to this general rule. Those exceptions are noted below in a summary of special laws that apply to various counties. Furbearers may be taken with traps, guns or dogs, with exceptions noted below.

A person may hunt, take or kill a furbearing animal as above defined for purposes other than taking its pelt for sale during any month of the year.

**Mink:** May be taken from November 15th to January 15th, both days inclusive. It is unlawful to hunt mink with dogs.

**Muskrats:** May be taken from November 15 through March 15 with traps only, except that persons may kill muskrats on their own premises at any time by any means. Unlawful to trap or kill muskrats on land of another without permission of landowner or lessee, whether the land is posted or enclosed or not.

### OPEN SEASON (SPECIAL LAWS)

In some counties it is unlawful to kill, take or have in possession for sale any wild fox or the pelt thereof at any time of the year. In other counties it is unlawful to take or kill fox unless they are destroying or are about to destroy, domestic stock, or unless other special provisions have been made by law, but even in these cases it is unlawful to sell their pelts except during the open season of December and January, unless stated otherwise.

**Austin, Burleson, Henderson, Kaufman, Lee, Leon, Madison, San Jacinto and Walker Counties;** No closed season on fox, but pelts may not be sold except during open season fixed by general law.

**Guadalupe, Hays and Kendall Counties:** Fox may be killed at any time and pelts may be sold.



**Camp County:** Unlawful to use trap or guns to take fox or to sell pelts.

**Cass County:** May take, kill or have in possession for sale wild fox or their pelts during month of December only.

**Cherokee County:** Unlawful to set steel trap, snare or deadfall for purpose of taking furbearers except from December 1 to February 15.

**Harrison and Marion Counties:** Closed on nutria in Caddo Lake and its tributaries.

**Hopkins, Delta, Franklin, Camp, and Rains Counties:** It is lawful to hunt mink with dogs.

**Kimble, Maverick and Val Verde (east of Pecos River) Counties:** Open season on beaver, January 1 to January 15, both days inclusive. Bag limit three per season.

**Lamar County:** Beaver season closed until December 1, 1960. Thereafter beaver season shall be during months of December and January of each year.

**Navarro County:** Unlawful to set steel trap, snare or deadfall to take fox.

**Robertson County:** No closed season on fox, and pelts may be sold at any time.

**Rusk County:** Season closed on fox and sale of pelts unlawful.

**Sabine and San Augustine Counties:** Lawful to use any type of trap, or snare to take opossums, bobcats and catamounts at any time of the year.

**Shelby County:** Unlawful to kill or possess for sale any fox. Fox destroying domestic stock may be killed. State health officer may authorize killing of fox when rabies menace exists. Trap or deadfall prohibited on all furbearers.

**Upshur County:** Unlawful to trap or hunt with gun any fox, except when in act of destroying farm stock. Sale of fox pelt unlawful.

### TRAPPER DEFINED

A resident trapper is any person who takes for the purpose of barter, sale, or who sells, or offers for sale the pelts of any of the burbearing animals of this State, and who has been a bona fide resident of this State for two years prior to his application for a license. All others are nonresident trappers.

### TRAPPER'S LICENSE

The fee for a Resident Trapper's License is one dollar (\$1.00). For a Nonresident Trapper's License the fee is two hundred (\$200.00) dollars.

### BEAVER-OTTER LICENSE

Fee \$50.00 to trap beaver and otter outside of county of residence.

## PROPAGATION OF FURBEARING ANIMALS

For a fee of \$5.00 a permit can be obtained for the purpose of taking furbearing animals alive during the open season for the purpose of sale or propagation.

### "FUR BUYER" DEFINED

**Retail Fur Buyer:** One who purchases the pelt or pelts of any of the furbearing animals of this State from the trappers only.

**Wholesale Fur Buyer:** One who purchases for himself or on behalf of another person, the pelt or pelts of any of the furbearing animals of this State from a retail fur buyer and/or from the trapper.

### FUR BUYER'S LICENSE

The fee for a Retail Fur Buyer's License is \$5.00. The fee for a Wholesale Fur Buyer's License is \$25.00.

### DEALER'S REPORT

Every Fur Dealer must file with the Game and Fish Commission, not later than the tenth day of each month, a complete sworn report, on printed forms furnished by the Game and Fish Commission, of the kind and number of the pelts of furbearing animals purchased in this State and shipped out of the state during the preceding month. No report is required for those months when no pelts are purchased. The above report is required of dealers who buy in the state and ship out of the state. If the dealer is a tanner, furrier, taxidermist or manufacturer, who tans or manufactures the pelt into a finished product in this State, a report is required not later than the tenth day of the month which shows the number of pelts purchased during the preceding month.

### UNDRIED PELTS

The possession of undried pelts, except muskrat, after January 31 of each year shall be prima facie evidence that the pelt was taken during the closed season.

### PREDATORY ANIMALS

Wolves, coyotes, cougars, rabbits, wild cats, bobcats, weasels, mountain lions, Mexican lions, and ocelot are not classed as furbearing animals. They are not protected by law. They may be killed at any time of the year.

It is unlawful for any person to possess or to receive, or to have for the purpose of transporting, or for the purpose of turning loose, or to turn loose or to cause to be turned loose, any live wolf within this State.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Federal Lacey Act:** This legislation, enacted in 1900, and amended and incorporated in the Criminal Code of the United States in 1909, prohibits the delivery of dead bodies of wild animals or parts thereof to any common carrier for transportation from one state to another when such animals have been killed or shipped in violation of state laws.



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## 10 COMMANDMENTS OF SAFETY

1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun. This is the first rule of gun safety.
2. Guns carried into camp or home, or when otherwise not in use, must always be unloaded, and taken down or have actions open; guns always should be carried in cases to the shooting area.
3. Always be sure barrel and action are clear of obstructions, and that you have only ammunition of the proper size for the gun you are carrying. Remove oil and grease from chamber before firing.
4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle even if you stumble; keep the safety on until you are ready to shoot.
5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger; know the identifying features of the game you intend to hunt.
6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot; avoid all horseplay while handling a gun.
7. Unattended guns should be unloaded; guns and ammunition should be stored separately beyond reach of children and careless adults.
8. Never climb a tree or fence or jump a ditch with a loaded gun; never pull a gun toward you by the muzzle.
9. Never shoot a bullet at a flat, hard surface or the surface of water; when at target practice be sure your backstop is adequate.
10. Avoid alcoholic drinks before or during shooting.

## HELP PREVENT FOREST AND GRASS FIRES

Forest and grass fires not only destroy lives, homes, timber, and crops, they also destroy wild-life, thereby reducing and limiting hunting pleasures. Ordinary precautions can eliminate 9 out of 10 forest or grass fires. But precautions cannot be left to "the other fellow." It's up to you to do your part in observing the following simple rules which will prevent forest fires and maintain hunting opportunities for all sportsmen:

1. Select a suitable place for your campfire, preferably beside a stream or lake. Remove all combustible material down to the mineral soil. Extinguish your fire with water.
  2. Limit your smoking to the camp area or while resting in a safe place near a stream or a lake. Avoid smoking while on the trail. Never throw away lighted matches, burning cigarettes or cigar stubs, hot ashes from pipes or any other burning substance which has not been thoroughly extinguished.
  3. Observe all fire-prevention rules applying to particular hunting areas—especially rules posted as a result of unusual dry spells.
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