



TWRA NEWS

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DATE: April 25, 2007

PUBLIC INPUT FOR NEW FISHING REGULATIONS

TWRA UPGRADES REGULATION GUIDES FOR SPORTSMEN

TWRC PREVIEWS PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2007-2008 SEASON

WEST TENNESSEE FISHING REPORT

PUBLIC INPUT FOR NEW SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is soliciting comments for its 2008 sport fishing regulations. This is an opportunity for the public to share ideas and concerns about fishing regulations with TWRA staff. Public comments will be considered by fisheries managers and may be presented as proposals for regulation changes.

Comments may be submitted by mail to: *Sport Fish Comments*, TWRA, Fisheries Management Division, P.O. 40747, Nashville, TN 27204 or emailed to twra.comment@state.tn.us. Please include “Sport Fish Comments” on the subject line of emailed submissions. The comment period will run until May 18, 2007.

TWRA UPGRADES REGULATION GUIDES FOR SPORTSMEN

The TWRA has announced that it is undertaking a full redesign of the official hunting and trapping, fishing and waterfowl hunting regulation guides for 2007/2008. The publications, which have traditionally been printed on newsprint, will be completely redesigned. The new layout and design will result in an easier to read publication with a high quality look and feel. The new publications will be printed in full color on a high quality magazine stock paper. This improvement makes Tennessee one of a handful of wildlife resource agencies in the country working to deliver a higher quality publication to its sportsmen.

“The new improved regulation approach is actually saving the TWRA money because the effort is being supported by advertising revenue and we felt that our sportsmen deserved something more user friendly than our existing guides,” said TWRA Chief of Information and Education Don King. “I’ll admit that over time our regulations have become pretty complicated. One of our goals with this effort is to make the information easier to understand. We are excited about the opportunity to provide a higher quality, more valuable publication while at the same time saving the agency money.”

While the TWRA has introduced improvements to the hunting and fishing regulation guides in recent years, including editorial sections in areas such as statewide deer harvests and deer outlooks, this new approach will be a complete overhaul, which will include more articles of interest to state anglers and hunters. The new design of the guides is intended to provide an easier format for finding necessary rules and regulations, as well as information to help sportsmen be more successful during the fishing and hunting seasons.

Working with the conservation publisher, J. F. Griffin Publishing, LLC, the TWRA will be introducing the new look with the hunting regulation guides available in late July. J. F. Griffin Publishing, LLC has won national awards for its work with fish and wildlife agencies, and is a leader in the production of high quality regulation guides supported through advertising revenue. The company will be accepting advertising reservations for the TWRA Hunting & Trapping Guide until June 19. Reservations in the Waterfowl Hunting Guide will be accepted through July 6, 2007 and in the Fishing Guide through December 2, 2007. For additional advertising information in the TWRA regulation guides, contact J. F. Griffin Publishing at 1-413-884-1001.

TWRC PREVIEWS PROPOSED CHANGES FOR 2007-2008 SEASON

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission heard the Agency’s recommendations for the 2007-08 fall and spring hunting seasons during the meeting held in Nashville on April 18 and 19, 2007. Proposals for manner and means, big game, small game, furbearers, early waterfowl, spring turkey, and wildlife management areas were presented by the TWRA staff.

The proposed changes:

MANNER AND MEANS - Legalize all shotgun sizes for hunting turkey, which includes 28 gauge and .410.

SMALL GAME - Put the pigeon (rock dove/rock pigeon) on the list of unprotected species.

FURBEARER - Expand the river otter hunting and trapping seasons in East Tennessee (Region IV) to be the same as the rest of the state-Friday before thanksgiving to February 15.

BIG GAME -

Deer

Add Cumberland County to Unit A.

Add Decatur, Gibson, Houston, McNairy, and Stewart counties to Unit L.

Add 2 more days of either-sex deer hunting to the first segment of the Unit B muzzleloader season so season will be Nov. 3-7. Nov. 8-9 remains antlered only.

Make hunter quota changes in the special season antlerless deer seasons in units A and B.

Feral Hog

Add Blount and Sevier counties to the Nov. 12-15 and Nov. 29-Dec. 12 hunts (dogs permitted).

Add two hunts, Oct. 8-9 and Oct. 20-21, in Monroe County (dogs permitted).

Black Bear

Expand mid-Nov. bear season in Carter, Cocke (entire county), Monroe, Polk (E. of Hwy 411) counties to be Nov. 12-15. Season in Blount and Sevier counties will also be Nov. 12-15.

Add two hunts, Oct. 8-9 and Oct. 20-21, in Monroe County (dogs permitted).

Add three archery hunts (no dogs) in Blount, Carter, Cocke, Greene, Johnson, Monroe, Polk, Sevier, Sullivan, Unicoi, and Washington counties--Sept. 22-Oct. 26, Oct. 29-Nov. 2, and Nov. 10-16.

Wild Turkey

Turkey Season for Fall 2007: Nov. 10-16 and some counties also open Dec. 10-14.

Add Washington County to fall turkey hunting--Nov. 10-16, hunter quota 50.

Lewis County to be open during both hunting seasons.

WMA bag limits clarified and defined for each WMA.

Counties open during the both seasons (i.e., Nov. 10-16 and Dec. 10-14) to have 3 birds, either sex, per permit.

2008 Spring Turkey Season

Bag Limit--One (1) bearded turkey per day, not to exceed four (4) per season. Turkeys taken on all quota hunts and specially designated WMAs are bonus birds. Young Sportsman hunt -- One (1) bearded turkey. Turkey counts toward the statewide bag unless taken on a WMA where turkey is listed as a bonus bird.

Young sportsmen hunt March 22-23, regular season March 29-May 11.

Big Game Tagging and Check-out Requirements

All animals harvested must be accompanied by one tagged animal and must be taken together to the nearest big game checking station by the most reasonably direct route within **thirty-six (36) hours** of last kill where one new temporary kill tag will be issued. Evidence of species and sex must be available for inspection by wildlife officer or Agency designated personnel prior to issuance of permanent game tag.

5. WMA

1. Waterfowl hunting from temporary blinds - no blinds, blind materials, boats, or decoys left overnight unless otherwise specified by rule or proclamation.

2. On all WMAs open to the late duck season, the statewide Youth Waterfowl Season is open, unless exception is noted. On all WMAs, the legal hunting hours during the Youth Waterfowl Season comply with federal regulations for migratory birds (30 minutes before official sunrise to sunset), unless exception is noted.

3. Tellico Unit of the South Cherokee -- Add an additional bear/boar party dog hunt.

4. Tellico and Ocoee units of the South Cherokee -- Make concurrent hunt dates to also correspond to same hunts in the county off the WMA.

5. Chickamauga WMA -- Make a 3:00 p.m. waterfowl hunting closure on the Candies Creek, Rogers Creek, Yellow Creek, and Johnson Bottoms units.

6. Open the Bompreszi Unit of Eagle Lake Refuge to specified small game and to waterfowl, deer, and turkey hunting. The area is opened to shotgun and archery equipment only.

7. Edgar Evins State Park -- Add deer Safety Zone (Archery Only) hunt, Oct. 9-10. Hunter quota is 200. There will be a hand held-drawing at Park Office at noon on Sept. 12.

8. North Chickamauga Creek -- Dove is same as statewide season. No dove hunters or hunting equipment on field prior to 7:00 a.m. on opening day of the first segment. Waterfowl hunting closes at 3:00 p.m.

9. Oak Ridge WMA -- Reduce bag limit from 3 to 2, and **remove the antler restriction** (4 points on one side or a 15" outside spread).

10. Bear Hollow Mountain, Williamsport, and Yanahli -- Add special regulations for horseback riding and the prohibition of alcoholic beverages.

The TWRC will vote on the above recommendations at its annual season setting meeting on May 23-24 at the TWRA Region II Office.

WEST TENNESSEE FISHING REPORT

REELFOOT LAKE:

Creel Limits- Largemouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limits on Spotted Bass), Crappie – 30 (no size limit). Bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is good, water temperature is in the 60's. Fish being caught on minnows and jigs in both deep and shallow water. Most fish being caught on south end of lake. Bluegill fishing is good. Catfishing is fair.

KENTUCKY LAKE:

Creel Limits- Largemouth Bass/ Smallmouth Bass/ Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 30, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 10 inches) Sauger – 10 (minimum length 14 inches), Catfish (only one catfish over 34 inches per day. No limit on fish under 34 inches)

North of I-40: Lake level is on a slow rise. Water temps are in the 60's. Bass fishing is good. Some small fish being caught around stumps along the edge of creek channels on crawfish colored crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Most fish being caught in 5-10 foot water. Catfishing is fair in the New Johnsonville Steam Plant Harbour. Fish being caught using turkey livers or night crawlers.

South of I-40: Water temps in the 60's. Bass fishing is fair. Some fish being caught off of the river points using crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Fish being caught in 6 ft.-12ft. water in the creek channels on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good. Fish being caught on the main channel in 35 ft.-40 ft. water. White Bass is fair. Some fish being caught off points at the mouth of creeks on live crawfish.

PICKWICK LAKE:

Creel Limits: Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass). Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length 9 inches). Water temps are in the 60's. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Fish being caught along shore lines on crank baits in 6 – 8 ft. water. Smallmouth fishing is fair. White bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is improving.

LAKE BARKLEY:

Creel Limits: Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass/Spotted Bass – 5 (minimum length limit 15 inches/ no length limit on Spotted Bass), Redear – 20, Crappie – 30 (minimum length limit 10 inches). Water temps in the mid 60's. Bass fishing is good. Fish being caught on crankbaits. Crappie fishing is good. Large fish are being taken around stumps and other cover along edge of creek channels on small jigs and minnows.

REGION I TWRA FAMILY FISHING LAKE REPORT

BROWNS CREEK LAKE (located ten miles south of I-40 in Natchez Trace State Park):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5 (16"-21" PLR) only one per day greater than 21", Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is fair, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows and red & white jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.

CARROLL LAKE (located on Hwy. 22 between McKenzie and Huntingdon):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is fair, being caught on small minnows. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.

DAVY CROCKETT LAKE (located 4 miles west of Humboldt off Hwy. 152):

Creel Limits- Bass-10, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum).). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is good in shallow water using spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on redworms in 4 - 5 ft of water.

GARRETT LAKE (located on Hwy. 190 near Dresden):

Creel Limits- Bass- 5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie-30 (10" minimum).). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is fair using crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and red and white jigs. Bream fishing is slow.

GIBSON CO. LAKE (located at Trenton)

Creel Limits – Bass – 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfishing is fair. Bass fishing is good using crank baits in 10 to 15 ft. water. Crappie fishing is excellent, lots of keepers are being caught in deep water on small minnows and blue and white jigs. Bream fishing is fair. Some are being caught off the bottom using wax worms.

GLENN SPRINGS LAKE (located on Glenn Springs Rd, 12 miles northeast of Millington):

Creel Limits- Bass - 5 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfish are being caught chicken/turkey livers and night crawlers. Bass fishing is good using crankbaits in 10 to 12 ft. water. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and white jigs. Some bream are being caught on the bottom using wax worms.

HERB PARSONS LAKE (located 8 miles north of Collierville off Collierville-Arlington Road):

Creel Limits- Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, being caught on minnows and crank baits. Catfishing is good, being caught on chicken/turkey liver and large minnows in 6-8ft water. Crappie are good, being caught on medium minnows and chartreuse jigs tipped with wax worms around fish attractors .in 4-6 ft water. Bream is fair in deep water on wax worms and red worms.

LAKE GRAHAM (located 5 miles east of Jackson on Cotton Grove Road):

Creel Limits- Bass - 10 (14"-18" PLR) only one bass per day greater than 18", Blue and Channel Catfish -5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish being caught on crankbaits and spinnerbaits . Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught on red & black jigs and minnows in 4-6 ft. water. Catfishing is fair, some being caught on turkey livers and night crawlers. Bream fishing is fair.

MAPLES CREEK LAKE (located 4 miles north of I-40 in Nathez Trace State Park):

Creel Limits- Bass -5, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie - 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on spinnerbaits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is slow.

WHITEVILLE LAKE (located 2 miles south of Whiteville off Hwy. 64):

Creel Limits- Bass - 5, Blue and Channel Catfish- 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Bass fishing is good, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows and chartreuse jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bream fishing is fair.

