



TWRA NEWS

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TWRC TO MEET IN NASHVILLE FOR SEASON SETTING

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission will hold its next meeting on May 23, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and May 24, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Region II Ray Bell Office Building in Nashville.

Among the topics slated for discussion are the Agency's recommendations for the 2007-08 fall and spring hunting seasons. Proposals for manner and means, big game, small game, furbearers, early waterfowl, spring turkey, and wildlife management areas will be presented by the TWRA staff.

Highlights of the proposed changes include removal of the gauge restriction on shotguns used in turkey hunting. This would allow the use of 28 gauge and .410 shotguns. It also includes the addition of the rock dove (domestic pigeon) to the list of unprotected species.

A major change is being considered for checking in big game harvests. The proposed change states that 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 the first 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. TWRC members will take official action on these and other recommendations on Thursday.

Other proposed changes and the complete meeting agenda are posted on the TWRA Web site at www.tnwildlife.org

REMINDER TO REGISTER BOATS

In anticipation of the warm summer months, many people at this time buy, sell or trade boats, and two of the most frequently asked questions new boat owners have for the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is, “Do I have to register my boat?” and “how do I do it?”

Tennessee law requires that all mechanically powered vessels (including documented vessels) and all sailboats that are principally used in Tennessee must be registered by the TWRA. Mechanical propulsion includes electronic trolling motors and gas or diesel powered motors, but does not include boats powered by oars or paddles. Boats that require registration must be properly registered before using them on any public waters of Tennessee.

Applications for Boat Certificate of Number (boat registration application) can be obtained from boat dealers, county clerks, and TWRA offices. If a boat is purchased from an individual other than a dealer, the County Court Clerk must complete the County Court Clerk’s Certification on the application. Boats that have never been registered before must show certification that their sales tax was paid when purchased. After completing the application, it should be mailed to the Boating Section of the TWRA in Nashville.

Boat owners may now renew their boat registrations over the counter with the new Remote Easy Access License (REAL) system located at TWRA license agents and at all TWRA regional offices.

Boat registration fees are based on the length of the boat. The vessel may be registered for one, two, or three years. After making application for registration, you will receive a pocket-sized certificate of numbers and decals showing the vessel number and expiration date. The pocket-sized card must be on board any time the vessel is in use. It is the responsibility of the boat owner to paint on or permanently attach the registration numbers to the forward half of the boat.

If the vessel is lost, stolen, and/or recovered, destroyed, abandoned, or transferred to another person, the Certificate of Number issued for the vessel must be surrendered, together with written notification of its change in status, to the TWRA within 15 days of the event. If the change in status is transfer of ownership, the name and address of the new owner must be included in the notification.

SPRING SQUIRREL SEASON

Tennessee’s spring squirrel season opened 30 minutes before sunrise on Saturday, May 12, 2007. This year, the season will run through June 10, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

As in fall hunting seasons, fox, red, and gray squirrels are allowed to be harvested, with a daily bag limit of 10 squirrels.

Several wildlife management areas are also open for spring squirrel hunting during this time. Hunters need to refer to the *2006/2007 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide* for specific regulations and license requirements. Regulations are also available on the TWRA web page at www.tnwildlife.org.

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 70'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 excellent. Catfishing is excellent. Most fish being caught on nightcrawlers.

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 above summer pool and on a slow fall. Water temps are in the 70'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 11-14 foot water. Catfishing is good as fish head for the rock banks. Fish being caught using turkey livers or night crawlers. Bluegill and Redear fishing is excellent. Most fish being caught on crickets.

South of I-40: Water temps in the 70's. Bass fishing is good. Fish being caught around weed beds on spinnerbaits. 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. Bluegill and Redear fishing is excellent. Most fish being caught on crickets.

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 70's. Largemouth bass fishing is good. Fish being caught along shore lines on spinnerbaits. Smallmouth fishing is good. Fish being caught on plastic lizards. Crappie fishing is good. Bluegill and Redear fishing is good. Fish being caught on small jigs and crickets.

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 70's. Bass fishing is good. Fish being caught on plastic worms and lizards. Crappie fishing is good. Large fish are being taken around stumps and other cover along edge of creek channels on small jigs and minnows. Bluegill and Redear fishing is good. Most fish being caught on crickets or redworms.

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 good, fish are being caught on crank baits. Crappie fishing is good, being caught on small minnows and jigs around the fish attractors. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good.

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. Bluegill / Redear 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. Crappie fishing is good, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows. Bluegill / Redear 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. Crappie fishing is fair, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good.

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 good. Bass fishing is good. Crappie fishing is good, fishare being caught in deep water on small minnows. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good.

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. Crappie fishing is good. Bluegill / Redear are being caught using crickets and redworms.

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. Catfishing is good, being caught on chicken/turkey liver. Crappie fishing is fair, fish being caught around fish attractors. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good on crickets and redworms.

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. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfishing is good, fish being caught on turkey livers and night crawlers. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good.

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. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good.

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. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill / Redear fishing is good, fish being caught on crickets and redworms.

