



TWRA NEWS

CONTACT: Dave Gabbard
200 Lowell Thomas Drive
Jackson, TN 38301
1-731-423-5724
1-800-372-3928
1-731-423-6483 (fax)
E-Mail: Dave.Gabbard@state.tn.us
Hearing Impaired TDD # 615-781-6691
Website at: www.tnwildlife.org

“STOP POACHING” 1-800-831-1173

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TWRC PASSES SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

TWRA REFUGES CLOSE TO PUBLIC ACCESS NOVEMBER 1

REMEMBER – ASK FIRST BEFORE HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND

REWARDS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON POACHING

TWRC PASSES SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC) approved the sport fishing regulations for next year during its regularly scheduled meeting held Oct. 22 – 23, 2008 in Kingsport, TN. The new regulations go into effect on March 1, 2009.

Changes in the sport fishing regulations for Region I (West Tennessee) are as follows:

- Amended the proclamation to keep the smallmouth bass minimum length of 15 inches on Kentucky Lake.
- Establish the crappie creel limit for waters in West Tennessee (Kentucky and Barkley Lakes and west to but excluding the Mississippi River) of 30 per day. The daily creel limit for crappie on the Mississippi River is 50 per day.

The TWRC also removed all wording in the proclamation regarding the use of a tooth patch for differentiating spotted bass from largemouth bass.

During Wednesday's committee meetings, the commission voted to keep the change to commercial fishing regulations that removed all seasons and size limits on paddlefish statewide. All gear and closed water regulations would remain in force. This change will become effective on Nov. 7, 2008.

The TWRC's next meeting will be held Nov. 19-20 in Nashville at the TWRA Region II Ray Bell Building.

TWRA REFUGES CLOSE TO PUBLIC ACCESS NOVEMBER 1

Several TWRA waterfowl refuges in West Tennessee will close to public access November 1, 2008 and will remain closed until March 1, 2009. These areas are designed to provide migrating waterfowl a place to feed and rest, undisturbed by human activities. The refuges are closed to public access, except in designated observation areas, each year during the peak of the migrations.

The refuges in West Tennessee that will close November 1st are Bean Switch (Weakley Co.), Cypress Pond (Decatur Co.), Eagle Lake (Shelby Co.), Hop-in (Obion Co.), Horns Bluff (Crockett/Gibson Co.), Jarrell Switch (Carroll Co.), Maness Swamp (Weakley Co. – closed until Feb. 14) and White Lake (Dyer Co.). Black Bayou Refuge (Lake Co.) will close to all hunting on November 14, 2007.

For all information concerning refuges in Tennessee go to www.tnwildlife.org.

REMEMBER – ASK FIRST BEFORE HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) would like to remind all hunters that Tennessee State Law (TCA 70-4-106) requires all hunters to have permission before hunting on private property.

Every year TWRA Offices across the state receive calls from landowners about people hunting without permission. TWRA Law Enforcement Personnel will, as in past years, assist landowners who wish to sign a warrant and prosecute hunters for hunting without permission.

TWRA urges all hunters to obtain a *2008 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide* or go to www.tnwildlife.org and review the information before hunting. Each year, hunters are issued citations for violations that a few minutes of reading could have prevented.

REWARDS OFFERED FOR INFORMATION ON POACHING

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) offers rewards of up to \$1000.00 for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of wildlife poachers.

Activities such as shooting from public roads, taking over the limit of game, hunting over bait, or spotlighting deer are illegal. Such actions cannot be tolerated and should be reported to the TWRA.

If you have information about poaching activities, call the TWRA Poaching Hotline. The hotline numbers are: West Tennessee (1-800-831-1173), Middle Tennessee (1-800-255-8972), Cumberland Plateau (1-800-241-0767, and East Tennessee (1-800-831-1174). All information will be kept in the strictest confidence.