



# TWRA NEWS

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**TWRC PASSES NEW REGULATIONS ON PADDLEFISH – HEARS REPORT  
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TENNESSEE ELK SEASON**

**FALL ARCHERY HUNTING FOR WILD TURKEYS**

**REGION I FISHING REPORT**

**TWRC PASSES NEW REGULATIONS ON PADDLEFISH – PLUS HEARS  
REPORT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A TENNESSEE ELK SEASON**

At its September meeting in Nashville, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission heard a preliminary report on the possibility of establishing an elk hunt in Tennessee.

The report, prepared following a request last May from the commission, suggested the possibility of establishing a hunting season for elk as early as 2007.

“This is a very preliminary report,” TWRA Chief of Wildlife Greg Wathen warned. “Whether or not the agency will recommend an elk season will depend on the results of a more intensive study of the status of Tennessee’s elk herd and its survival and reproduction rates which will be conducted this winter. A recommendation on how to set up the hunt will be made to the commission at its December meeting, after the Agency has had an opportunity to take public comments.”

Included in the report made to the commission at the September meeting were assessments of the possible effects of a hunting season based on models developed in some of the western states where elk hunting is common. The report also examined the results of elk programs in several eastern states where elk have been reintroduced.

“There are currently six eastern states with elk herds,” Wathen said. “The elk herds in Arkansas, Kentucky and Pennsylvania are among the states we particularly looked at. Arkansas reintroduced elk in 1981 with 112 animals released. That herd has now grown to approximately 400 to 450 animals. Kentucky began a much larger reintroduction program in 1997 when some 1500 animals were released from 1981-1985. That herd has now grown to approximately 400 to 450 animals. Kentucky began a much larger reintroduction program in 1997 where some 1500 elk were reintroduced during a 4 year time period.

“If an elk hunting season is proposed, it would probably be a strictly limited hunt taking place in mid-October and only on public lands,” Wathen added. “And there are several alternatives that the Agency is considering, including quota hunts similar to Tennessee’s current big game quota hunt system, quota hunts with an application fee, and issuing a permit to non-profit conservation organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, which would use the permit for fund raising to help pay for the state’s elk management program. Funds raised from application fees or permits issued to non-profit

groups would be directed back into the elk management program to help cover the costs of that program.”

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission enacted several commercial fishing regulation changes, which will be in effect before the upcoming paddlefish season. The closure date of the statewide season was changed. The season now opens on November 15 and closes on April 7. The statewide paddlefish season applies to all waters open to commercial paddlefish harvest, except the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River paddlefish season will still run from November 15 through April 15. The TWRC also passed a regulation that allows commercial roe fishers to check paddlefish for eggs with a stainless steel 12-gauge needle. The needle may be inserted into the abdomen of paddlefish between the pectoral and pelvic fins. This syringe and needle assembly (commonly known as a meat injector) must be kept on board all roe fishing vessels in a sanitary matter.

The TWRC voted to roll consideration of the TWRA budget for 2007/2008 to the next meeting, set for October 18 and 19, which will be held at the Holiday Inn Cedar Bluff, in Knoxville.

### **FALL ARCHERY HUNTING FOR WILD TURKEYS**

Increases in wild turkey populations have given rise to the expansion of hunting opportunities for wild turkeys in Tennessee. This year, there are more days and more counties to hunt wild turkeys in during the archery-only deer season, according to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA).

Only those counties that have the fall quota gun season are open to turkey hunting during the archery only season. Across the state, there are 65 counties with fall turkey hunting. Most TWRA Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are closed to these hunts.

During this season, only archery equipment legal for big game can be used. Turkeys taken during the archery season do not affect the bag limits for the fall quota turkey hunt or the spring turkey season. The bag limit is one turkey of either sex.

Hunters need to refer to the 2006-2007 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping guide or TWRA's website: [www.tnwildlife.org](http://www.tnwildlife.org) for all information on the fall turkey hunting season.

## **TWRA REGION I FISHING 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 plastic worms and lizards. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught deep on crickets and red worms.

### **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 fair, fish are being caught on spinner baits. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught on wax worms and crickets.

### **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 fair in deep water using plastic lizards. Crappie fishing is fair, fish being caught in deep water on small minnows and white/chartreuse jigs. Bluegill/shellcrackers are being caught on wax worms and crickets.

### **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 plastic worms. Crappie fishing is fair Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair on crickets and red worms.

### **GIBSON CO. LAKE (located at Trenton)**

**Creel Limits** – Bass – 5 (14-18" PLR) only 1 bass per day greater than 18", Bluegill/Redear (in combination) – 20, Blue and Channel Catfish - 5, Crappie- 30 (10" minimum). Catfishing is fair. Fish being caught on night crawlers and turkey livers. Bass fishing is fair, fish being caught using plastic lizards. Crappie fishing is fair. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair using wax worms, crickets and red 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, some fish being caught using crank baits and plastic lizards. Crappie fishing is fair. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is good. Fish are being caught on red worms, crickets and jigs tipped with 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 fair. Catfishing is good, being caught on chicken/turkey liver. Crappie is fair. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught on wax worms, red worms and crickets.

**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 fair, fish being caught on plastic lizards. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfishing is fair, some being caught on turkey livers and night crawlers. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught using red worms and small jigs tipped with wax worms.

**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 fair, fish are being caught on plastic worms. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are being caught on turkey livers. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught on red worms and crickets.

**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 fair. Fish being caught on plastic lizards. Catfishing is fair. Fish being caught on night crawlers and turkey livers. Crappie is slow. Some fish being caught on small

minnows. Bluegill and shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish are being caught on red worms, crickets and wax worms.

#### **REELFOOT LAKE:**

**Creel Limits-** Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches), Crappie – 30 (no size limit). Water temps in the upper 70's, which has improved fishing. Lake level is below summer pool. Bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught on spinner baits and plastic worms early and late around stumps in 3-4 ft water. Crappie fishing is fair. Some fish being caught in 6-8 ft. water. Bluegill fishing is fair, fish being caught on jigs tipped with wax worms. Catfish are fair, some are being caught on nightcrawlers.

#### **KENTUCKY LAKE:**

**Creel Limits-** Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass – 5 (minimum length 15 inches), 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: Water temps in the upper 70's. Bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught around weeds and logs on plastic lizards or worms early or late. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfishing is good. Fish being caught on turkey livers or night crawlers on main channel. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair. Fish being caught on gravel bars on jigs tipped with wax worms.

South of I-40: Water temps in the upper 70's. Bass fishing is fair. Some fish being caught on main river points on plastic worms. Crappie fishing is fair. Some fish are being caught deep on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is fair. Fish being caught on the main channel using turkey liver. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing is fair.

#### **PICKWICK LAKE:**

**Creel Limits:** Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass – 5 (15 inch minimum length limit on bass). Crappie – 30 (minimum length 9 inches). Water temps are in the upper 70's. Largemouth bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught on plastic lizards or jigs. Smallmouth fishing is fair. Some fish being caught early and late around grass beds. Crappie fishing is fair. Bluegill/shellcracker fishing fair. Fish being caught on crickets and jigs tipped with waxworms.

#### **LAKE BARKLEY:**

**Creel Limits:** Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass – 5 (minimum length limit 15 inches on bass). Crappie – 30 (minimum length limit 10 inches). Water temps in the upper 70's. Bass fishing is fair. Fish being caught on jigs and plastic worms along main river points. Crappie fishing is fair. Fish are scattered, some being taken around stumps and other cover in deep water along edge of creek channels on minnows. Catfishing is fair. Some fish being caught on night crawlers and turkey livers on main channel.