

MISSISSIPPI COMMISSION ON WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND PARKS

Title 40: Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks

Part 3. Fisheries

Part 3, Chapter 1. General Fisheries rules.

RULE 1.4 STATEWIDE CREEL LIMITS.

A. The following rules and regulations relative to sport fishing are adopted:

1. Statewide creel limits (per person, per day) on game and sport fish are as follows:

| Species | Creel Per Day |
|---|----------------------|
| Black Bass (combined largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass) | 10 |
| Sauger | 10 |
| Walleye | 3 |
| Striped Bass and Hybrids with 15" minimum size | 6 |
| Crappie (combined black and white) | 30 |
| Bream (combined bluegill, redear and other sunfish) | 100 |
| Alligator Gar | 2 |
| Paddlefish – must be less than 30" | 2 |

a. On all waters, excluding private ponds and lakes, not listed in this Rule or in 40 Miss. Admin. Code Part 3, Rule 2.2, statewide creel and length limits apply.

b. There is no daily creel limit for any game and sport fish species not listed above.

2. Creel limits for black bass, bream, crappie, striped bass, and striped bass hybrids in waters touched by the state boundary (border waters) shall be that of the adjacent state, or the Mississippi limit, whichever is greater.

3. Harvest and possession of walleye is prohibited in the Old Tombigbee River and its tributaries north of Hwy 278 (Monroe, Itawamba and Prentiss Counties).

4. Paddlefish greater than 30" must be immediately released when caught sport fishing in Mississippi. No paddlefish harvest is allowed in the Tenn-Tom Waterway, Tombigbee River or its tributaries and Pickwick Lake.

5. No Alligator Gar harvest is allowed on Bee Lake in Holmes County.

6. Violation of any of the Mississippi state laws or state regulations pertaining to paddlefish will be considered a Class I offense as specified in Section 49-7-90 of the Mississippi State Code of 1972 as amended.

7. Harvest and possession of all sturgeon species (Alabama, Atlantic, Pallid and Shovelnose) are prohibited in all Mississippi waters.

B. The correct method for measuring fish and the definitions for length limits are as follows:

1. Correct Method for Measuring Fish Length

a. Fish measurements (excluding Paddlefish) for length limit regulations shall be taken with the total length being measured using a flat board with fish mouth closed and tail squeezed together to give the maximum over-all measurement.

b. Paddlefish are measured from the front of the eye to the fork of the tail.

2. Minimum Length Limit (MLL)

a. All fish on or less than the regulated size length in inches must be returned to the water immediately after capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish over the minimum length limit in total length may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

3. Maximum Length Limit (MAXLL)

a. All fish on or more than the regulated size length in inches must be returned to the water immediately after capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish under the maximum length limit in total length may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

4. Slot Length Limit (SLL)

a. All fish on or between the designated range of lengths in inches must be returned to the water immediately upon capture and may not be in possession on the designated waters.

b. All fish shorter than the lowest length limit and all fish longer than the highest length limit may be kept not to exceed the legal daily creel limit.

5. All freshwater game fish must remain intact (with head, tail, skin and scales) while fishing lakes or waters having an established MDWFP length/slot limit in Mississippi.

C. Crappie Length and Creel Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for crappie (combined black and white crappie):

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|---|--|--------------|-------------|
| Arkabutla Lake | Tate, Desoto | 12" MLL | 15 |
| Charlie Capps WMA lake | Bolivar | None | 20 |
| Eagle Lake | Warren; <i>includes channel to Muddy Bayou water control structure</i> | 11" MLL | 30 |
| Enid Lake | Yalobusha, Lafayette, Panola | 12" MLL | 15 |
| Grenada Lake | Grenada, Calhoun, Yalobusha | 12" MLL | 15 |
| Lake Okhissa | Franklin | 10" MLL | 10 |
| Lake Washington | Washington | 11" MLL | 30 |
| Lake Monroe | Monroe | None | 20 |
| Lake Mary Crawford | Lawrence | None | 15 |
| Choctaw Lake | Choctaw | 12" MLL | 10 |
| Moon Lake (includes part east of Hwy 1) | Coahoma | 10" MLL | 30 |
| Pickwick & Tenn-Tom Waterway, including all tributaries | Pickwick Lake to Aliceville Lock & Dam | 9" MLL | 30 |
| Percy Quin State Park | Pike | None | 20 |
| Sardis Lake | Lafayette, Marshall, Panola | 12" MLL | 15 |
| Spillways of Arkabutla | To Prichard Road Bridge | | 15 |
| Enid | To I-55 | | 15 |
| Grenada | To Hwy. 51 | None | 15 |
| Sardis & Sardis Lower Lake | To Spaulding Creek | | 15 |
| Simpson County Lake | Simpson | None | 15 |

2. Each person with a valid sport fishing license or those exempt under 49-7-5 may fish no more than four (4) poles or rods with two (2) hooks or lures per pole while fishing on Sardis, Grenada, Arkabutla, and Enid Lakes.

3. The aggregate daily boat creel limit for all species of crappies (white crappie, black crappie and their hybrids) for boats with 3 or more licensed or exempt anglers shall be 40 legal crappie per boat on Arkabutla, Sardis, Enid and Grenada Lakes.

4. For Lake Washington in Washington County -- the possession of crappie (white crappie, black crappie and their hybrids) under 11 inches while in Paul Love Park or on the weir is prohibited.

D. Black Bass Length and Creel Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for black bass (combined largemouth, spotted and smallmouth):

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|---|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| Aberdeen Lake | Monroe | 14"MLL | 10 |
| Charlie Capps WMA lake | Bolivar | None | 5 |
| Columbus Lake | Lowndes, Monroe, Clay | 14"MLL | 10 |
| Choctaw Lake | Choctaw | 16-20" SLL | 10 (1 over 20") |
| Davis Lake | Chickasaw | 18-22"SLL | 10 (1 over 22") |
| Eagle Lake | <i>Warren; includes channel to Muddy Bayou water control structure</i> | 16"MLL | 10 |
| Lake Bill Waller | Marion | 18-22"SLL | 15 (1 over 22") |
| Lake Bogue Homa | Jones | 15" MLL | 5 |
| Lake Calling Panther | Copiah | 20" MAXLL | 10 (1 over 20") |
| Lake Claude Bennett | Jasper | None | 30 |
| Lake Jackson | Washington | None | 5 |
| Lake Jeff Davis | Jeff Davis | 18-24" SLL | 15 (1 over 24") |
| Lake Lamar Bruce | Lee | 18-24" SLL | 10 (1 over 24") |
| Lake Mary Crawford | Lawrence | 16-22" SLL | 10 (1 over 22") |
| Lake Monroe | Monroe | 18-24" SLL | 10 (1 over 24") |
| Lake Okhissa | Franklin | 18-22"SLL | 10 (1 over 22") |
| Lake Washington | Washington | 15" MLL | 5 |
| Leroy Percy State Park | Washington | None | 5 |
| Malmaison WMA Lakes | Grenada | 15" MLL | 2 |
| Moon Lake | Coahoma (includes east of Hwy 1) | None | 5 |
| Natchez State Park | Adams | 18-22"SLL | 7 (1 over 22") |
| Neshoba Co. Lake | Neshoba | 16-20" SLL | 10 (1 over 20") |
| North Abutment Campground Lake at Grenada | Grenada | 15" MLL | 2 |
| Pascagoula River | <i>George and Jackson Co. Merrill, MS to Hwy 90 Bridge includes all connected oxbow lakes and the East and West Pascagoula Rivers and all water areas in between the two said rivers</i> | 12" MLL | 10 |
| Paul B. Johnson State Park | Forrest | 18-22"SLL | 10 (1 over 22") |
| Percy Quin State Park | Pike | 16-22"SLL | 7 (1 over 22") |
| Pickwick Lake | Tishomingo | 15"MLL | 10 |

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| RecCon Lake | Bolivar | None | 2 |
| Ross Barnett Reservoir | Madison, Rankin, Leake, Hinds, Scott | 14" MLL | 7 |
| Simpson County lake | Simpson | 14-22" SLL | 10 (1 over 22") |
| Wolf/Broad Lake | Yazoo, Humphreys | 12" MLL | 5 |

2. For Lake Washington in Washington County -- the possession of black bass under 15 inches while in Paul Love Park or on the weir is prohibited.

E. Catfish Creel and Length Limits

1. Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for catfish:

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|--|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| Choctaw Lake | Choctaw | None | 5 |
| Lake Okhissa | Franklin | None | 5 |
| ReCon Lake | Bolivar | None | 10 |
| All MDWFP State Fishing and Park Lakes | Statewide | None | 10 |

2. The length limit on catfish (blue, channel and flathead) shall be no more than 1 catfish over 34 inches per person on reciprocated waters with AL and TN. There is no creel limit on catfish.

F. Bluegill and Redear Creel and Length Limits: Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Bluegill and Redear:

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| Choctaw Lake | Choctaw | None | 25 |
| Lake Okhissa | Franklin | None | 50 |
| Simpson County Lake | Simpson | None | 20 |

G. Be it further ordered that in addition to statewide regulations, persons fishing in the Pearl River from the Ross Barnett Reservoir dam to the City of Jackson water intake may take only one Striped Bass or Hybrid Striped Bass over 24 inches.

H. No person shall take in any one calendar day, more than the daily creel or bag limit of fish. No person shall at any time, by any means, or in any manner, transport more than seven (7) daily creel or bag limits of fish for each qualified angler present in the vehicle. A single angler may only transport his or her own limit(s) of fish, not to exceed seven (7) daily limits.

I. Walleye Creel and Length Limits: Until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following length and creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Walleye:

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Choctaw Lake | Choctaw | None | 0 |
| Davis Lake | Chickasaw | None | 1 |
| Lake Lamar Bruce | Lee | None | 0 |
| Lake Monroe | Monroe | None | 0 |

J. Rainbow Trout Creel and Length Limits: until such time that it is amended by the Commission, the following creel limit regulations shall be in effect for Rainbow Trout:

| Lake | County | Length Limit | Creel Limit |
|------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Lake Lamar Bruce | Lee | None | 3 |

History: Updated April 2023

Source: MISS. CODE ANN. §§49-1-29, 49-4-4, and 49-7-90.