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ON THE COVER

Wild Turkey.
Photographer: Bruce MacQueen

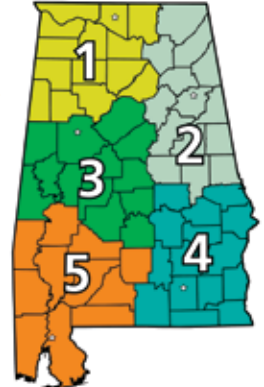
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If you have questions or comments regarding hunting or fishing laws, regulations, freshwater fisheries or wildlife programs, please contact your District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Office listed to the right. For information on saltwater fishing license requirements, size and possession limits, contact the Marine Resources Division, PO Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547; (251) 968-7576. For information on boat registration, license requirements or other information on boating in Alabama, contact the Marine Police Division, (800) 272-7930.

For information or to report violations, please call your nearest District Office.

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ROBERT BENTLEY, GOVERNOR

Alabama is blessed with recreational opportunities throughout the state—from the mountains of north Alabama through the central plains to the Mobile Delta—you can hunt, fish, hike, canoe or just relax and enjoy the scenery.

I recently had the pleasure of announcing the new Alabama Bass Trail, which consists of 11 bodies of water—Lake Guntersville, Wheeler Lake, Pickwick Lake, Lewis Smith Lake, Neely Henry Lake, Logan Martin Lake, Lay Lake, Lake Jordan, Alabama River, Lake Eufaula, and Mobile-Tensaw River Delta. These areas provide some of the best bass fishing you will find anywhere. The Alabama Bass Trail is sure to attract residents and non-residents. The website, AlabamaBassTrail.org, provides all the information you need to plan a fishing trip.

Alabama is also a premier hunting destination, with generous bag limits and seasons for deer, turkey and small game. This publication will help you learn what license you need, the dates of season openings and closings, safety tips and much more valuable information.

One thing you need to remember when hunting deer or turkey is to have a current harvest record and hunting license in your possession. The instructions on how to use the harvest record are found on page 16 of this publication.

Lastly, whether you are a resident or just visiting for a short while, enjoy your time in Alabama's great outdoors!

N. Gunter Guy, Jr.,
Commissioner
Curtis Jones,
Deputy Commissioner
Fred R. Harders,
Acting Director

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J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports the DCNR staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

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TRACKING

Alabama's White-tailed Deer Population

The white-tailed deer is the most popular game animal in Alabama. Approximately 200,000 licensed hunters averaged 20 days pursuing deer during Alabama's hunting season. Deer hunters spend many more days each year managing habitat and improving their understanding of deer hunting, biology, and management. All of this interest in white-tailed deer and deer hunting drives the \$1.4 billion economic engine that hunting provides annually in Alabama.

The white-tailed deer's importance to the people and economy of Alabama dictates that statewide management decisions affecting the deer population be based on sound scientific principles and data, as well as the interests of various user groups. Sometimes the data and some of the user groups disagree on how the deer herd should be managed. In some cases, what the data indicates is contrary to what some desire. Finding a balance between what is best for the resource based on sound management principals and scientific data and what is desired by the users is a constant struggle for decision makers.

The primary strategy for managing deer on a statewide basis is through regulated hunting. The effects of hunting on the population are determined by the length of the deer season and the bag limits. Season length, timing, and bag limits affect the number and sex of deer harvested and also may impact the age of deer taken (i.e., older bucks). Since the impact of hunting season ultimately determines the health of Alabama's deer herd, it is imperative that the process for setting seasons and bag limits not be taken lightly. The process involves gathering information from two primary sources: Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (WFF) wildlife biologists and enforcement officers and the public. Each year WFF field staff makes recommendations on season dates and bag limits for all game animals in Alabama. Their recommendations are made

based on data collected through various methods, their observations from the field, and information gained from discussions with hunters and land managers.

The public also has an opportunity to provide direct input on hunting season dates, lengths, bag limits, and most other hunting related issues. In addition to sharing comments with WFF staff, the public can provide information directly to members of the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) and address them in person at any of three public meetings. The CAB uses the public input and the recommendations submitted by the WFF staff to make their recommendations for the upcoming hunting seasons.

The public input component of this process allows for statewide or even regional "hot" issues to receive much publicity. Some topics, such as antlered buck harvest, supplemental feeding during hunting season, and lack of deer hunting opportunities during the perceived rut, have generated so much discussion and debate in recent years that more information has been sought to help in the decision making process. In 2003 and 2007, ADCNR's Commissioner formed committees to examine the current antlered buck harvest regulations and any alternatives that may have been more appropriate. The 2007 committee's recommendation was a primary reason for the implementation of a three-antlered buck season limit prior to the 2007-08 hunting season.

In 2011, current DCNR Commissioner N. Gunter Guy formed similar committees to examine the pros and cons of two current deer issues: supplemental feeding and extending deer season. Members of the committees included wildlife biologists, conservation enforcement officers, and representatives from user groups with an interest in these issues. Each committee was tasked with producing a document to be used primarily as an educational/informational tool for decision makers, hunters, or any persons seeking more information on these topics. It is still unclear what part these committees' reports will have on the future of these issues, but information provided in their reports surely will be considered. Copies of both reports are available at www.outdooralabama.com.

There never appears to be a lack of public input to the CAB on most wildlife and hunting related issues, particularly on deer-related items. Not having certain types of deer-related data, or the perception that the data does not exist, sometimes makes it difficult for some deer hunters to agree with WFF's season and bag limit recommendations. Since it is WFF's responsibility to manage Alabama's deer population for the good of the resource and the people of Alabama, it is imperative decisions affecting deer be made using sound science and the best available data. In order to do this, WFF has taken steps to improve the quality and quantity of deer-related data collected in the future.

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WHAT WE HAVE

Age-specific data has been collected from hunter killed deer on most state-operated wildlife management areas (WMA) for decades. Biologists collect ages, body weights, lactation information, and antler sizes from deer brought to check stations during the gun deer hunts on WMAs. These data are used to make management decisions on the WMAs, including season lengths and bag limits. The data also give biologists an idea of potential deer quality on similarly managed properties in the area.

Age-specific data also are collected from properties enrolled in Alabama's Deer Management Assistance Program (DMP). This program has been available to hunting clubs and landowners since 1985 and gives DMP Cooperators the opportunity to have WFF wildlife biologists assist them with deer management decisions on their properties. Cooperators are required to collect deer harvest data (i.e., age, sex, weight, antler size, lactation information) from all deer taken from the property. The data are reviewed by a wildlife biologist, who then makes property specific deer harvest recommendations. Biologists also can provide cooperators with advice and recommendations for habitat management on their property. The DMP data are site-specific, but they give biologists a starting point when assessing deer quality and condition in nearby areas when no other data are available.

WFF biologists have been collecting data on conception dates and reproductive health of deer populations throughout the state since 1995. Does typically are collected in the spring and summer to determine pregnancy status, number of fawns in utero, date of conception, and date of parturition. These data provide information on herd health and rut dates at the collection sites. They also give biologists a way to predict rut dates for other

regions of the state. Collections typically are made for three to five consecutive years at each site. Data from only one year often do not provide an accurate picture of rut dates for the property since dates can vary slightly from year to year. Annual variations in conception dates on a site become apparent when data are collected in multiple consecutive years. These collections take many man-hours of effort, which limits the number of sites that can be sampled each year.

Since pregnancy rates, conception dates, fawn production, and other reproductive health indices all are influenced by deer physical condition and deer management practices on a property, deer harvest data and hunter observation data now are collected when possible on sites used for spring/summer deer collections. Many sites used for collections in the past did not collect deer harvest or hunter observation data, which left unanswered questions about the conception date data collected from these sites. Unbalanced adult sex ratios and younger buck age structures influence both the timing and duration of the rut. Deer in poor physical condition also typically have fewer fawns in utero and lower pregnancy rates. Having deer harvest data and hunter observation data from collection sites allow biologists to determine if there are mitigating circumstances causing earlier, later, shorter, or longer rut periods on a property.

Other data available to WFF staff include data collected through the Department's website, www.outdooralabama.com. Hunters have been able to submit deer harvest data through the website since the 2005–06 hunting season. Hunters can submit a wide array of data for all deer they kill in Alabama. Data that can be submitted include name of hunter, date of harvest, county of harvest, WMA or private land, weapon used,

e-mail address, and deer condition data, which include sex, age, weight, lactation status, and antler size. Hunters can submit as little or as much data from each deer as they choose. Hunters can view annual county or statewide summaries of all data submitted through the website. The summaries show the number of deer killed for each sex and age class, as well as the average weights, antler size, and lactation rates for each age class. The size of the internet data set is small at this time, but it should continue to grow as more users discover the site and its features.

A new feature added to the internet deer data collection site during the 2011–12 hunting season allows hunters to separate the data they submit from all other data submitted to the website using their e-mail address. They can still view the county and state summaries, but this new feature also allows them to view a summary for only the data they submit. This allows hunters to submit and review data submitted for just the hunting club or property they hunt, allowing them to compare their deer herd's condition to deer in other areas in the same county or state.

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WHAT WE NEED

While WFF biologists and their cooperators have been busy collecting deer-related data, there are still much data yet to be collected. Efforts to improve the amount and types of deer-related data currently collected in Alabama are ongoing. In many instances, current methods will be tweaked or broadened in scope, while other situations dictate new methods and approaches be implemented in order to collect the necessary data.

One type of data that has not been collected in the past is county or region specific harvest rates. In the past, the only harvest numbers collected were statewide harvest estimates taken from the statistically valid annual hunter mail survey. The total annual statewide deer harvest may have little bearing on decisions related to bag limits and season lengths on a local or regional level. Having statistically valid estimates of county or region level harvest rates give decision makers better tools for making these types of decisions. In an effort to estimate more localized deer harvest levels, the 2012 hunter mail survey asked hunters to indicate the counties in which they harvested deer and the number of deer killed in each

county. Researchers realize there may be an issue with sample size for some counties in Alabama, so it may be necessary to look at several adjoining counties as a region to have statistically valid harvest estimates. Other methods to gather this type data may need to be pursued in the future if the revised mail survey does not produce valid samples for some areas of the state.

Efforts to improve collection of age-specific harvest data also are being explored. Data collection on WMAs will continue and may be expanded on many areas. Collecting more and better data from these sites will be relatively simple and is the first step to increasing the statewide sample size.

Efforts to increase participation and, ultimately, the amount of data collected from DMP cooperators will continue as well. At its peak in the late 1990's, the DMP had over 2,100 cooperators and annually collected age-specific data from nearly 50,000 hunter harvested deer. The number of cooperators has declined significantly, due primarily to the liberalization of the either-sex season. Only approximately 100 cooperators

remain enrolled in the program and data from less than 5,000 deer are collected annually.

WFF staff agrees the DMP needs to be revised if an increase in participation is desired. The biggest change is the elimination of fees associated with the DMP. Cooperators will no longer have to pay to have their data analyzed by a WFF biologist. Other changes, such as annual or semi-annual DMP cooperator only seminars and meetings have been discussed to improve communications and interactions among cooperators and WFF staff. These cooperator only seminars and meetings have been discussed as a way to give more back to the cooperator for agreeing to participate in the DMP and to recruit new cooperators. Increased participation in the DMP eventually will lead to a larger, more robust age-specific data set. These data will improve WFF's ability to evaluate herd health across the state, as well as assess the impacts of changes in season lengths and dates on hunter success. Please visit www.outdooralabama.com/hunting to obtain information on enrolling in the DMP.

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Data on conception dates and overall reproductive health of Alabama's deer herd will continue to be collected across the state. WFF biologists collect data from approximately 30–35 sites each year and continue to expand sampling into areas of the state where data have not been collected. In the near future, a detailed map showing conception dates as determined by these collection efforts will be made available to Alabama's deer hunters. Eventually, samples will be collected from multiple sites in all 67 counties. This likely will take many more years to complete due to the time required to collect these data.

WFF will continue to pursue improved understanding of deer management practices on the timing and duration of the rut in Alabama. Increased efforts to collect conception date, reproductive health, deer harvest, and

hunter observation data from properties under various deer management regimes will allow WFF biologists to determine when deer should rut when managed properly. These sites will include WMAs, DMP properties, and other properties willing to work as cooperators with WFF. Conception dates on some sites in Alabama indicate February breeding is rare in herds managed for a balanced adult sex ratio (i.e., one adult doe for each adult buck) and a buck population with an older age structure (i.e., buck harvest limited to 4.5+ year old bucks). While this management approach may not be for all deer hunters, data collected from these sites may provide answers as to why the rut is later in some areas of Alabama.

Recent research, including a study conducted by Auburn University at Fort Rucker, indicates coyotes can have a significant impact on fawn recruitment on some properties. Research conducted in Alabama during the late 1980's found very little apparent impact from coyote predation on fawn recruitment and deer population levels. The findings from Fort Rucker prompted WFF to request researchers with Auburn University and the Alabama Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Re-

search Unit to conduct similar research on up to fifteen sites across Alabama. The cooperative research project will attempt to determine fawn survival and recruitment rates at these sites, as well as the level of influence coyote populations and habitat quality/type have on fawn survival and recruitment rates. This type of information has not previously been available to WFF biologists and will be extremely beneficial when making deer management recommendations for hunting clubs and landowners. More importantly, these data will be extremely important when making hunting season and bag limit recommendations for Alabama.

The future of deer management in Alabama is difficult to predict. The increased efforts to improve data collection and understanding of the state's deer herd are promising. Using the data to develop a transparent science-based framework for making recommendations regarding deer seasons and bag limits in Alabama is WFF's objective. Recommendations based on these data always will be meshed with public input in order to reach the best compromise for managing Alabama's white-tailed deer, ensuring a healthy, well-managed herd for the future.

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ATTENTION ALABAMA HUNTERS:

Keep your Harvest Record accurate, up-to-date and in your possession; **IT'S THE LAW.**

Three easy steps to record your deer or turkey harvest.

- 1** Carry it when hunting — **ALWAYS.**
- 2** Fill it out before moving the animal.
- 3** Report your harvest online at www.outdooralabama.com/hunting.
(Optional)

You will need a pen or pencil with you in the field so you can **Note it before you tote it.**



Who must use the Harvest Record?

- Resident and nonresident license holders must use the harvest record that was printed with their original license.
- License exempt hunters and lifetime license holders are required to carry and maintain a single harvest record while hunting deer and turkey.

License Exempt Hunters are hunters under the age of 16, residents age 65 and older, and resident landowners who hunt their own property.

Important Information:

- Harvest record must be in possession when hunting.
- It is illegal to possess duplicate harvest records.
- It's the law; there are no exceptions to these rules.



Alabama 2012-2013 Harvest Record

■ Harvest record must be in possession when hunting. ■ Harvest record must be filled out before moving the animal.

Hunter's Name: _____

ANTLERED BUCK RECORD: One of the three must have 4 pt., 1" or longer on one side.

Antlered Buck #1: ____ / ____ / ____ (date of harvest) Points: Right ____ Left ____

Antlered Buck #2: ____ / ____ / ____ (date of harvest) Points: Right ____ Left ____

Antlered Buck #3: ____ / ____ / ____ (date of harvest) Points: Right ____ Left ____

Note: For Barbour County — Minimum of 3 points, 1 inch or longer, on one antler for all antlered bucks. Further restrictions apply on certain management areas. See Wildlife Management Area informations.

TURKEY RECORD: Record month, day and year of each harvested turkey below.

#1 ____ / ____ / ____ | #2 ____ / ____ / ____ | #3 ____ / ____ / ____ | #4 ____ / ____ / ____ | #5 ____ / ____ / ____

Who must use this Harvest Record?

- Resident and nonresident license holders must use the harvest record that was printed with their original license.
- License exempt hunters and lifetime license holders are required to carry and maintain a single harvest record while hunting deer and turkey.
License Exempt Hunters are hunters under the age of 16, residents age 65 and older, and resident landowners who hunt their own property.
- It is illegal to possess duplicate harvest records.
- It's the law; there are no exceptions to these rules.

Hunting & Trapping



HUNTERS & ANGLERS

Participate in fish & wildlife surveys!

Provide your email address at outdooralabama.com/license/info

This section is provided as a guide to the hunting season. Contact your local District Office with questions (page 2). See our website at www.outdooralabama.com for more hunting & fishing information.

All persons hunting on private lands of another must have written permission from the landowner with few exceptions. Hunting by the aid of bait is illegal in Alabama. All required hunting and fishing licenses must be in possession when hunting or fishing. An antlered buck and turkey harvest record must be in possession every time a person is hunting deer or turkey. It is unlawful to utilize or possess more than one harvest record.

Consult management area leaflet for special rules and regulations and seasons before hunting state wildlife management areas.

Any party controlling hunting rights may, by choice, be more restrictive on season and bag limits than those stipulated in this section.

DEER

ANTLERED BUCKS (bare antlers visible above natural hairline)

- Statewide—one a day.
- **White-tailed buck limit:** three during all combined seasons. One of the three must have at least 4 antler points 1" or longer on one antler (except for Barbour County). A *point* is an antler projection of at least one inch in length from base to tip. Main beam tip shall be counted as a point regardless of length.
- **Barbour County Antler Restriction:** white-tailed deer bucks must have a minimum of three points on one side (except on the statewide special youth deer hunting date).
- **Mandatory Harvest Record:** see page 16.

UNANTLERED DEER (except spotted fawns)

- During the Unantlered Deer Gun, Special Muzzleloader, Bow and Arrow, Spear and Special Youth (under 16) Seasons: two deer per day—only one of which may be an antlered buck (two unantlered deer; or, one unantlered deer and one antlered deer).

SPECIAL YOUTH (under 16) DEER HUNTING

- Statewide, (includes all Privately Owned and Leased Lands and Open Permit - Public Lands [except Wildlife Management Areas]) on November 9-12. Dog hunting in those counties or parts of counties where and how it is allowed during the regular dog deer hunting season. Same legal arms and ammunition apply as in Unantlered Deer season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119. See the 2012-13 Wildlife Management Area Schedule for youth deer hunting dates and other information.

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Assembly Required - Patents Apply

SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

If notes 1, 2 or 3 appear by the county listed, see the special exceptions at the end of this chart:

- Note (1) relates to Dog Deer Hunting.
- Note (2) relates to U.S. Corp of Engineers Lands.
- Note (3) relates to National Forest Service Lands.

TREE STAND SAFETY RECOMMENDATION

Falls from tree stands are the most common hunting accidents. Serious injury or death are likely to occur from such a fall. It is strongly recommended that no one hunt from an elevated stand without using a full body safety harness.

DEER HUNTING SEASONS

COUNTY	ANTLERED BUCKS		UNANTLERED DEER		ANTLERED BUCKS AND UNANTLERED DEER	
	By Stalk or Dog Hunting	STALK HUNTING ONLY No Dogs	Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	Open Permit-Public Land	SPECIAL MUZZLELOADER Privately Owned or Leased Land and National Forest Service Land Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	BOW AND ARROW AND SPEAR Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)
Autauga	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Baldwin	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Barbour	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Bibb ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Blount	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Bullock	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Butler ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Calhoun ³	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Chambers ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Cherokee	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Chilton ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Choctaw ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Clarke	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Clay ³	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Cleburne ³	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Coffee ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Colbert	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Conecuh	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Coosa ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Covington ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Crenshaw ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Cullman	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Dale ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Dallas ³	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
DeKalb	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Elmore ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Escambia ³	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Etowah	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Fayette ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Franklin ³	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Geneva ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Greene ^{1,2}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Hale ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Henry ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Houston	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Jackson	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Jefferson	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lamar	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lauderdale	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lawrence ³	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lee	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Limestone	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lowndes	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Macon ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Madison	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Marengo	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Marion	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Marshall	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Mobile	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Monroe	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Montgomery	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Morgan	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Perry ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31

DEER HUNTING SEASONS—CONTINUED

COUNTY	ANTLERED BUCKS		UNANTLERED DEER		ANTLERED BUCKS AND UNANTLERED DEER	
	By Stalk or Dog Hunting	STALK HUNTING ONLY No Dogs	Privately Owned or Leased Land Only	Open Permit-Public Land	SPECIAL MUZZLELOADER Privately Owned or Leased Land and National Forest Service Land Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	BOW AND ARROW AND SPEAR Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)
Pickens ^{1,2}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Pike	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Randolph	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Russell	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Shelby	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
St. Clair	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Sumter ²	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Talladega ³	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Tallapoosa ¹	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Tuscaloosa ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Walker	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Washington	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Wilcox	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Winston ^{1,3}	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31

1 DDH EXCEPTIONS:

Dog Deer Hunting by Special Permit Only

Chambers; Chilton (outside the following boundaries: US Hwy. 82 from the Bibb County line south to AL Hwy. 183, west to the Perry County line); **Choctaw** (that area south of AL Hwy. 10 and west of AL Hwy. 17 and north of County Road 18 from AL Hwy. 17 to County Road 14 then north of County Road 14 to the Mississippi state line); **Coosa; Covington** (north of US Hwy. 84); **Geneva; Henry; Macon** (that area inside the following boundaries: from County Road 24 at the Lee County line, west and south to County Road 26, west to County Road 10, southeast to County Road 5, south to County Road 47, south to County Road 2, east to the Russell County line); **Pickens** (north of US Hwy. 82); and **Tallapoosa** counties except by special permit from the Department. Individual property owners in Chambers and Coosa counties may hunt with dogs on their own property without special permit. No dog deer hunting allowed on Open Permit-Public Land (see definition, page 40).

By Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)

That area of **Bibb; Chilton; and Perry**: east of AL Hwy. 219, south of US Hwy. 82 and north of AL Hwy. 183. **Butler**: south of AL Hwy. 106 and east of I-65. **Coffee**: that area inside the following boundaries, AL Hwy. 134 from the Covington County Line, east to County Road 460, south to the Geneva County line, east to the Dale County line, north to AL Hwy. 134, west to AL Hwy. 87, north to US Hwy. 84, west to AL Hwy. 189, south to the AL Hwy. 41 and north to US Hwy. 84, west to the Covington County line. **Crenshaw**: that area north of AL Hwy. 10 and that area inside the following boundaries, from the east city limit of Luverne, US Hwy. 29 east to the junction of County Road 57, County Road 57 south to the junction of Davis Road, Davis Road west to County Road 41, County Road 41 south to US Hwy. 331, US Hwy. 331 north to County Road 41, County Road 41 north to County Road 39, County Road 39 north to the Luverne city limit. **Dale**: that area inside the following boundaries, Judy Creek south to Dale County Road 36, east to AL Hwy. 27, north to the Henry County line, north to the Barbour County line, west to Judy Creek. **Elmore**: that area east of US Hwy. 231, south of AL Hwy. 14, west of Tumkeehatchee Creek and north of the Tallapoosa River. **Fayette**: that area west of US Hwy. 43 and north of AL Hwy. 18. **Hale and Perry**: that area inside the following boundaries, from County Road 32 at the Hale County Line, west to the intersection of AL Hwy. 25, AL Hwy. 25 north until it intersects with the Talladega National Forest boundary, following the boundary south until it intersects the Perry County line, following the National Forest boundary east to Perry County Road 23, south to the intersection of Perry County Road 29, south to the Spring Hill Church Road, Spring Hill Church Road west to the junction of Perry County Road 23 and AL Hwy. 14, west to the Hale County line. **Greene; Pickens; and Tuscaloosa**: that area inside the following boundaries, in Pickens County from the intersection of US Hwy. 82 and County Road 63, south on County Road 63 to Benevola, County Road 2 (commonly known as the Romulus Road) east through Greene County to US Hwy. 82 in Tuscaloosa County. **Tuscaloosa**: that area north of US Hwy. 82. **Winston**: that area east of AL Hwy. 5 from the Walker County line to Natural Bridge and all that area north of US Hwy. 278.

2 U.S. CORP OF ENGINEERS LANDS

U.S. Corp of Engineers Lands in **Greene; Pickens; and Sumter** counties special muzzleloader and unantlered deer season same as privately owned or leased lands in those counties.

3 NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LANDS, except Wildlife Management Areas

See the table on page 20.

Be sure to register early for your Hunter Education class! (See page 64 for a class schedule)

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Ladder Stand Shooting Rails Climbing Stand Shooting Rails

Ladder Stands Lock-on Shooting Rails

ground blinds, weather protection, stand blinds, stand accessories

DEER HUNTING SEASONS: NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE LANDS (except Wildlife Management Areas)

COUNTY	ANTLERED BUCKS By Stalk or Dog Hunting	ANTLERED BUCKS Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs or Buckshot)	UNANTLERED DEER Same as Open Permit for County	SPECIAL MUZZLELOADER Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)	BOW AND ARROW AND SPEAR Stalk Hunting Only (No Dogs)
Bibb	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Calhoun	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Chilton	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Clay	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Cleburne	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Covington	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Dallas	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Escambia	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Franklin	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Hale	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Lawrence	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Macon	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Perry	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Talladega	Nov. 17–Jan. 15	Jan. 16–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Tuscaloosa	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31
Winston	No Dog Season	Nov. 17–Jan. 31	Dec. 15–Jan. 1	Nov. 12–Nov. 16	Oct. 15–Jan. 31

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Use this certificate to give an antlered buck or turkey to someone.

I, _____
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on _____ 20 ____.

This animal(s) was taken by me under Alabama Hunting
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on _____ 20 ____.

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Fully automatic firearms and/or silenced firearms are prohibited.

GENERAL PROHIBITIONS

It shall be unlawful for any person to use any method or have in their possession any weapon or ammunition contrary to this regulation while hunting or attempting to hunt game birds and animals or other species provided for herein unless expressly provided for by duly enacted laws of the State of Alabama. It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to submit firearms and ammunition or any device, instrument or accessory used in hunting to Conservation Officers for inspection. It shall be unlawful for any person to hunt with a bow or gun that has a light source attached that is capable of casting a beam of light (including a laser sight) forward of said bow or gun or to possess such a light source adapted for attachment to said bow or gun while hunting. It shall be unlawful to possess any equipment that uses electronics to increase the ability to see in the dark (night vision equipment) while hunting any species of wildlife, both protected or unprotected species.

DEER

- Rifles using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using buckshot, slugs, or single round ball.
- Muzzleloaders and Black Powder Handguns: .40 caliber or larger, provided further it shall be illegal to possess other firearms while hunting with muzzleloaders during the special muzzleloader season.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire, mushrooming ammunition.

TURKEY

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller using standard No. 2 shot or smaller.
- Long bows or compound bows (no crossbows).
- Handguns or pistols using centerfire mushrooming ammunition, black powder handguns or pistols .40 caliber or larger. Handguns or pistols can only have open metallic sights (no scopes).
- Nothing in this section is intended to prohibit the possession of rifles, shotgun/rifle combinations (drilling) or buckshot and slugs when the hunter is stalk hunting both deer and turkey provided no person shoots or attempts to shoot turkey with the rifle or shotgun using buckshot or slugs.



MIGRATORY BIRDS

- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, plugged with a one piece filler incapable of removal without disassembling the gun or otherwise incapable of holding more than 3 shells using shot compositions and shot sizes that are approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Waterfowl hunters shall not possess any size lead shot.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.

RACCOON & OPOSSUM

- Nighttime hunting: Shotguns using No. 6 shot or smaller; rimfire firearms.
- Daytime hunting: see *Other Game Birds Or Animals*.

BOBCAT, GROUNDHOG, UNPROTECTED WILDLIFE, FOX, COYOTE & FERAL SWINE

- Rifles of any caliber.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.

OTHER GAME BIRDS OR ANIMALS

- Rifles using rimfire ammunition or those operated by air.
- Muzzleloaders and black powder handguns of any caliber.
- Long bows, compound bows, or crossbows.
- Shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, using standard No. 4 shot or smaller.
- Handguns or pistols.
- Blowguns using darts propelled by the hunter's breath only.
- Sling shots.

SPEAR

Deer and feral swine may be taken by hand thrown spear during the open Bow and Arrow season on these species. The hand thrown spear shall have a sharpened blade a minimum of two inches in width. The spear shall only be hand thrown.



WMS DEER MAGNET

Our #1 SELLER! The ultimate attraction and nutrition plot. Consisting of Trophy Magnet Triticale, winter peas, annual clovers, biennial clovers, radishes, and chicory. Unrivaled fall attraction and spring nutrition combine to create a true deer magnet!

TROPHY MAGNET TRITICALE

University Tested. Hunter Approved! All They Can Eat! Don't let your deer go hungry this fall! Provide all they can eat from opening day until season's end with WMS Trophy Magnet. Consistently places first in University trials for forage produced from planting through January, in many cases beating other wheat and oat varieties 2 to 1. Earlier grazing and rapid regrowth, combined with excellent nutrition and high sucrose content creates the perfect hunting hot spot.

BRASSICA BLEND

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PERENNIAL PLUS

A versatile blend of ladino clovers, white clovers, red clovers and chicory. A great year round food source for deer and turkey.



Visit us online at ProductsForWildlifeManagement.com or call **1.877.400.8089** to place an order or find a dealer near you.



ATTENTION: HUNTERS & ANGLERS

We want to hear from you!

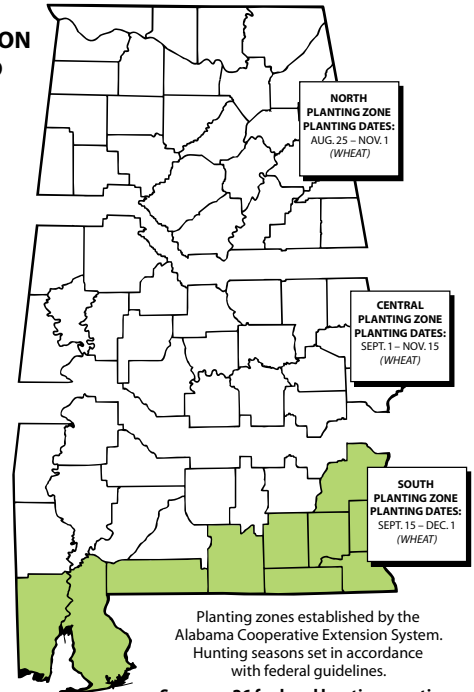
The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division needs your email address so you can participate in official Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division surveys!

Be sure to provide your email address when you buy your license!

DOVE SEASON ZONES AND WHEAT PLANTING DATES BY ZONES

DOVE HUNTING SEASONS BY ZONE

- NORTH ZONE DOVE SEASON
- SOUTH ZONE DOVE SEASON



TURKEY

- **Gobblers only**—one a day, five during combined fall and spring seasons.
- **Special Youth Hunt**—Saturday & Sunday prior to opening of the spring season, in accordance with rule 220-2-.119.
- **Special Disabled Hunt**—one day prior to all opening days. Participants must meet medical requirements of regulation 220-2-.109.
- **Mandatory Harvest Record:** see page 16.

FALL SEASON (DECOYS NOT PERMITTED)

November 17 – January 1

- **Clarke; Clay; Covington; Monroe; Randolph; and Talladega.** No decoys permitted during fall turkey season.

SPRING SEASON (DECOYS PERMITTED)

March 15 – April 30

- **Autauga; Baldwin; Barbour; Bibb; Blount; Bullock; Butler; Calhoun; Chambers; Cherokee; Chilton; Choctaw; Clarke; Clay; Cleburne; Coffee; Conecuh; Coosa; Covington; Crenshaw; Cullman** (except north of Lewis Smith Lake and north of Cullman County Road 437 and west of I-65); **Dale; Dallas; DeKalb; Elmore; Escambia; Etowah; Fayette; Geneva** (except south of AL Hwy. 52, east of AL Hwy. 167, west of Houston County line and north of the Florida line); **Greene; Hale; Henry; Houston; Jackson; Jefferson; Lamar; Lee; Lowndes; Macon; Marengo; Marion; Marshall; Mobile** (except south of I-10 from the Mississippi state line east to AL Hwy. 188 and south on AL Hwy. 188 to Coden, Alabama); **Monroe; Montgomery; Perry; Pickens; Pike; Randolph; Russell; Shelby; St. Clair; Sumter; Talladega; Tallapoosa; Tuscaloosa; Walker; Washington; and Wilcox.**

April 1 – April 30

- **Colbert; Franklin; Lauderdale** (west of US Hwy. 43); **Lawrence** (south of AL Hwy. 24); **Limestone** (north of US Hwy. 72); **Madison; and Winston.**

April 20 – April 24

- **Cullman** (north of Lewis Smith Lake and north of Cullman County Road 437 and west of I-65.); **Lawrence** (north and east of AL Hwy. 157 and west of AL Hwy. 33 and south of AL Hwy. 20); **Lauderdale** (east of US Hwy. 43); and **Morgan** (east of I-65).

No Open Season

- **Morgan** county is not open to turkey hunting west of I-65.

MOURNING & WHITE-WINGED DOVE

NORTH ZONE (All counties except those listed below in south zone.)

- 15 a day – 15 in possession (70 days)
- **Split Season with Shooting Hours:**
 - September 8 – October 7
 - September 8: 12 O'clock noon until Sunset (Afternoon Shooting Only)
 - September 9 – October 7: One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)
 - October 20 – November 3
 - One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)
 - December 8 – January 1
 - One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)

SOUTH ZONE

Baldwin; Barbour; Coffee; Covington; Dale; Escambia; Geneva; Henry; Houston; and Mobile.

- 15 a day – 15 in possession (70 days)
- **Split Season with Shooting Hours:**
 - September 22 – October 21
 - September 22: 12 O'clock noon until Sunset (Afternoon Shooting Only)
 - September 23 – October 21: One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)
 - November 22 – November 25
 - One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)
 - December 1 – January 5
 - One-half hour before Sunrise until Sunset (All Day)

NOTICE: At the time of printing, Federal Guidelines were not final concerning all migratory birds, including dove season dates. Check www.outdooralabama.com for updates prior to September.

BOBWHITE QUAIL

November 10 – February 28

- 12 a day — 12 in possession

RABBIT

October 1 – February 28

- 8 a day — 8 in possession
- No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

SQUIRREL

October 1 – February 28

- 8 a day – 8 in possession

RACCOON

September 1 – February 28

- **Private Owned and Leased Lands:** No Bag Limit
- **Open Permit-Public Land:** 5 Per Party
- No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

OPOSSUM

September 1 – February 28

- No Bag Limit
- No running of dogs during daytime or after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT FOR HUNTING

All persons hunting any wildlife species (except turkey and migratory birds (including crows) and while hunting legally designated species during legal nighttime hours) during dates and in areas open by regulation to gun deer season to include special youth gun deer season and special muzzleloader deer season are required to wear an outer garment above the waist with a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or either a full size hunter orange hat or cap.

Hunters are **not** required to wear hunter orange when:

- hunting from a stand elevated twelve (12) feet or more from the ground
- hunting in an enclosed box stand
- traveling in an enclosed vehicle
- traveling on foot no more than twenty (20) feet directly between an operating enclosed vehicle and a stand where the hunter is exempt from the hunter orange requirement. The hunter orange must be worn when traveling on foot between an operating enclosed vehicle and exempt stand when the distance is more than a direct distance of twenty (20) feet.

A small logo and/or printing is permitted on the front of hunter orange caps; otherwise, hunter orange must be of solid color and visible from any angle. Only hunter orange, commonly called blaze orange, ten-mile cloth, etc., is legal. The various shades of red as well as camo orange are not legal.

ALLIGATOR (2012)

- **By Special Permit Only**
- Must register on-line at www.outdooralabama.com between June 5 (8:00 a.m.) and July 13 (8:00 a.m.).
- Must be Alabama Resident to register.

**Sunset August 16 – Sunrise August 18 and
Sunset August 23 – Sunrise August 25**

- **Mobile Delta** (nighttime only)
- **Dallas; Monroe** (north of US Hwy. 84) and **Wilcox** (nighttime only)

Sunset August 10 – Sunrise August 26

- **Barbour, Coffee, Covington, Dale, Geneva, Henry, Houston, and Russell counties** (nighttime only)

BEAVER, NUTRIA, AND GROUNDHOG

No Closed Season

- No Bag Limit — Daylight Hours Only

STARLINGS, CROWS & BLACKBIRDS

No Closed Season

- No Bag Limit — Daylight Hours Only

BEAR, MOUNTAIN LION & RUFFED GROUSE

No Open Season

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WOODCOCK

December 18 – January 31

- 3 a day — 6 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

SNIPE

November 14 – February 28

- 8 a day — 16 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

RAIL, PURPLE GALLINULE & COMMON MOORHENS

November 23 – January 27

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- 15 a day — 15 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

HUNTER SAFETY RECOMMENDATION

Many hunters travel to and from their hunting area, tree stand, or blind just before dawn and after dusk. It is recommended that hunters use a small pen light while traveling to and from their stands or hunting area. A small red flashing light can be purchased that pins to a hat or other visible area. Use of a small light will help with the problem of identification of hunters during low light condition. This recommendation does not legalize the use of lights to hunt game animals.



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The Hog Trap LLC is the fastest way to rid your land of hogs!

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For more information, call 404-316-2264

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SPECIAL TEAL SEASON

September 8 – September 23

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- 4 a day — 8 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

SPECIAL EARLY CANADA GOOSE SEASON

September 1 – September 15

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- 5 a day — 10 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

SPECIAL SNOW/BLUE GOOSE SEASON

October 27 – November 11

- Monroe and Escambia Counties only
- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- 5 a day — 10 in possession
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

DUCK, COOT, MERGANSER

November 23 – November 24

December 1 – January 27

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

DUCK

- 6 ducks a day — may include no more than 4 Mallards (no more than 2 of which may be female), 3 Wood Ducks, 1 Mottled Duck, 1 Black Duck, 2 Redhead, 1 Pintail, 1 Canvasback, and 2 Scaup.
- The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

COOT

- 15 a day — 30 in possession

MERGANSER

- 5 a day, only 2 may be a Hooded Merganser.
- The possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

HUNTERS & ANGLERS

Participate in fish & wildlife surveys!

Provide your email address at outdooralabama.com/license/info

GEESE

September 22 – October 9 (Canada Geese only)

November 23 – November 24 (All Geese)

December 1 – January 27 (All Geese)

- Statewide (including Southern James Bay Population Zone)
- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- All geese: the daily bag limit of 5 shall not include more than 2 Canada geese or 2 white-fronted geese. The possession limit of 5 shall include no more than 4 Canada geese and white-fronted geese in aggregate.
- Shooting Hours: One-half hour before Sunrise to Sunset.

SPECIAL YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAYS

February 9 – February 10

- **Note:** At time of printing, federal guidelines were not final. See *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide*.
- Same shooting hours, bag limits, and legal arms and ammunition apply as did in regular waterfowl season, in accordance with Rule 220-2-.119.

TRAPPING:

BOBCAT, COYOTE, FOX, MINK, MUSKRAT, NUTRIA, OPOSSUM, OTTER, RACCOON & STRIPED SKUNK
November 10 – February 28

BEAVER

No Closed Season

COYOTE

No Closed Trapping Season on Private Lands with Landowner Permission

BOBCAT & OTTER

All bobcat and otter, regardless of method of harvest, are required to be tagged by a representative of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division within 14 days of harvest or may be left with a taxidermist with a completed tagging form, and the taxidermist is required to have the bobcat or otter tagged within 14 days of receipt.

FOX, BOBCAT, COYOTE & FERAL SWINE:

SPECIES	BAG LIMIT	DAYTIME			NIGHTTIME
		LEGAL ARMS (No Dogs)	DOGS ONLY (No Weapons)	LEGAL ARMS (With Dogs)	DOGS ONLY (No Weapons)
FOX	1 a day 1 in possession	Bow & Arrow: Oct. 15 – Jan. 31 Gun, Bow & Arrow: Nov. 17 – Jan. 31 and during and in areas of spring turkey season.	No closed season except during and in areas of spring turkey season.	Bow & Arrow: Oct. 15 – Jan. 31 Gun: Nov. 17 – Jan. 31	No closed season except no running of dogs after 3:00 a.m. during and in areas of spring turkey season.
BOBCAT ¹	No bag limit	Bow & Arrow: Oct. 15 – April 30 Gun: Nov. 17 – April 30		Bow & Arrow: Oct. 15 – March 14 Gun: Nov. 17 – March 14	
COYOTE	No bag limit	Gun, Bow & Arrow: No Closed Season		Gun, Bow & Arrow: Only in areas of and during dog deer season	
FERAL SWINE/ WILD HOGS ^{2,3,4}	No bag limit	Gun, Bow & Arrow, and Spear: No Closed Season	Gun, Bow & Arrow, and Spear: No closed season except during and in areas of stalk only deer season (which includes counties and areas listed under the dog deer hunting exceptions) and during and in areas of spring turkey season.		

- 1 See Tagging Requirements under Trapping on page 24.
- 2 Once reduced to personal possession of the landowner or agent, feral swine will no longer be considered a game animal. However, feral swine will be treated as a game animal at any time they are hunted.
- 3 Trapping by Landowner or his Agent. No bag limit — No Closed Season.
- 4 It shall be unlawful to transport feral swine alive beyond the boundaries of the property from which they are taken.

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IT IS LEGAL TO HUNT DOVES ON, OVER, OR FROM...

- Lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of normal agricultural operations, which include normal agricultural harvestings, normal agricultural post-harvest manipulations, or normal agricultural practices.
- Lands planted by means of top-sowing or aerial seeding where seeds have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, a planting for agricultural soil erosion control, or a planting for post-mining land reclamation.
- Lands or areas where grain or feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of the manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown.
- Standing crops.
- Lands planted as wildlife food plots, provided the seed is planted in a manner consistent with Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service recommendations for the planting of wildlife food plots. In states without Cooperative Extension Service recommendations for the planting of food plots, the seed must be planted in accordance with Extension Service guidelines for producing a crop.
- Lands planted as pasture improvements or for the purpose of grazing livestock. (The Fish and Wildlife Service will not make a distinction between agricultural fields planted with the intent to gather a crop and those planted without such intent provided the planting is carried out in a manner consistent with the recommendations of State Extension Specialists).
- Standing or manipulated natural vegetation.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation.
- A blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, provided your use of such vegetation does not expose, deposit, distribute or scatter grain or other feed. You should be aware that seeds or grains from such vegetation could create a baited area.

For further clarification, see www.fws.gov/le/huntfish/whatislegal.htm.



How the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division is Funded

Many Alabamians are not really sure how the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division is funded. Some think their state income tax contribution provides funding for fish and wildlife. The truth is that license buyers (hunters and anglers) pay to manage and protect the wildlife and aquatic resources of the state. *The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division does not receive any general tax money.*

Hunting and fishing license revenue is used to match available federal funds. These federal funds are generated by hunters and anglers through the purchase of certain hunting and fishing equipment. The available federal funds and license revenues can only be spent on wildlife and fisheries activities. Federal and state law prevents these monies from being diverted to other activities.

The federal funds are a result of the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson Congressional Acts. Monies collected from the sale of certain hunting and fishing equipment are collected in Washington D.C. and are allocated to state game and fish agencies based on the state's land and water area and the number of paid license holders. The more licenses sold, the more federal funds are available to the state. One dollar of state hunting and fishing license revenue can be matched to three federal dollars.



HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!





We want you to know...

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), Inc. is a partnership between the forest industry, academia, environmental groups, and others who care about the environment to conserve and manage forests and wildlife habitats.

Last year alone, more than 707,000 Alabama residents and nonresidents fished, hunted or watched wildlife. This is an incredible demand on the state's resources. Yet at the same time, Alabama's deer population has grown to 1.7 million and the turkey population to 450,000, due in part to SFI's member companies and their careful harvesting and improved land and wildlife management practices. We know that SFI-managed forests improve wildlife habitats and now we want you to know it, too.

SFI's member companies work hard to conserve the state's forests and sparkling waters for you, your family, and the animals that call them home.



**SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE**

Photo courtesy Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

To learn more about Alabama's SFI Program, visit www.alaforestry.org/sfi or call 800-206-0981.

YOUR FISHING & HUNTING LICENSE DOLLARS FUND FISH & WILDLIFE PROGRAMS AND ARE IMPORTANT TO ALABAMA.

How many licenses does it take?

- 2,333 Resident Freshwater Fishing Licenses Purchases 1 Fish Stocking Truck
- 3 Resident Hunting Licenses Purchases 20 Gallons of Gasoline
- 3,458 Resident Hunting Licenses Constructs 1 Shooting Range
- 20,833 Resident Freshwater Fishing Licenses Constructs 1 Boat Ramp with Parking
- 1,000 Resident Fishing or 500 Resident Hunting Licenses Pay for the Training of One Conservation Enforcement Officer at the Alabama Peace Officers Academy



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Frequently Asked Questions



I lost my current hunting or fishing license. Can I get a replacement?

Yes, you can reprint a copy at our website: https://www.alabamainteractive.org/dcnr_license/reprint/reprintWelcome.action

I live in Alabama but I have an out-of-state driver's license, can I purchase a resident license?

No, you should purchase a nonresident license. Residency is determined by the state your driver's license is issued.

I own property in Alabama. Do I need a license to hunt on my property?

Residents of Alabama can hunt their property without having to purchase a hunting license (Harvest Record, HIP, duck stamps still required). This would apply to the landowner and their spouse, children, parents, and brothers and sisters, provided that they are residents. Landowners or their family that possesses an out-of-state driver's license are considered nonresidents.

Who has to have a buck/turkey harvest record?

Every deer or turkey hunter must possess and have in their possession a buck/turkey harvest record. This includes those exempt from license (<16 years old and >65 years old) and resident landowner.

What license is required to hunt feral hogs?

A small game license is the only requirement unless hunting on a WMA; then nonresidents will need a WMA license in addition to the small game license.

I am a 65 year old resident of Alabama. What licenses do I need?

65 year old residents are exempt from State licenses: Hunting License, Freshwater and Saltwater Fishing License, WMA License, and State Duck Stamp. They must have proof of age and residency (valid driver's license is best). Harvest Record required for deer or turkey hunting. Saltwater Anglers Registry required for saltwater fishing. A federal duck stamp is still required.

If a non-resident is over 65 do they need to purchase a license?

Yes, any non-resident 16 or over must purchase a non-resident hunting or fishing license.

If I have a lifetime license and move out-of-state, is that license still good?

Yes, it is valid for the lifetime of the individual.

Is 45-70 black powder rifle legal during muzzleloader season? During gun deer season?

The 45-70 is black powder but it does not load from the muzzle, therefore, it is not allowed during muzzleloader season. It is legal during gun deer season.

Can I use a deer decoy to hunt deer?

Yes.

Can I use a scope on my muzzleloader?

Yes.

What is the maximum magazine capacity for hunting resident game on private lands? On WMAs?

On privatelands there is no restriction on magazine capacity. On Wildlife Management Areas it is 10 rounds. (If it's in the chamber, it isn't the magazine.)

Can I hunt coyotes or feral swine at night?

No. Coyotes and feral swine must be hunted during daylight hours only.

Can a person keep wildlife as a pet?

No, possession of wild birds, game animals, and many other wildlife is prohibited.

Can I use lighted pins on my bow? Lighted reticles on my scope?

Lighted pins and lighted reticles are legal as long as they do not cast a light forward of the weapon, or increase the ability to see at night (night vision).

If I wound a deer or other animal can I cross a property line to retrieve it?

No, you may not cross a property line to retrieve wounded or dead animals without the permission of the landowner. All land is considered posted for the purposes of hunting.

I lost my hunter education card. How do I get a replacement?

Go to the following website and follow the directions: <https://huntered.dcnr.alabama.gov/public/cardreplacement.aspx>

How do I find a hunter education class in my area?

A list of classes can be found at this website: <https://huntered.dcnr.alabama.gov/public>

I used to be in the military, do I still need a hunter education class?

Yes — only those that are active duty military are exempt as well as Alabama residents who are active members of the Alabama National Guard.

I am grandfathered in for hunter education in Alabama, will I need it in other states?

Possibly. Every state has a different grandfather date. For example, the grandfather date in Colorado is 1949. Be sure to check the laws of the state you are going hunting in.

Can I use bream as bait?

Yes, as long as they are taken legally and the fisherman does not exceed the possession limit of 50 per person.

Can I keep undersized fish/illegal fish if they are obviously injured?

No, they must be immediately returned to the water.

Is the Alabama Rig legal to fish in Alabama?

Yes.

What is the difference between hook and line and rod and reel?

A cane or fiberglass pole with hook and line is considered "ordinary hook and line". A pole with reel or other mechanical device attached is considered a "rod and reel".

Is using a cast net a legal method of catching bream?

No.

Are trotlines legal? Yes, with a valid fishing license. There are restrictions so check our website: www.outdooralabama.com

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How can I post a community fishing event on your website? Contact the Aquatic Education Supervisor, Mr. Doug Darr at (334) 242-3471 or doug.darr@dcnr.alabama.gov.

Can I clean my fish while I'm on the water? It is unlawful to fillet a fish while fishing or to possess fillets of fish while on public waters, except when fish are being prepared for immediate cooking and consumption; provided, that the fish may be drawn or gutted with heads left attached.

Does the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division provide technical assistance to pond owners? Yes. Contact the district office that serves your specific county for more information. There is no charge for this service. A PDF version of the book Sportfish Management in Alabama Ponds can be found at: www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/where/ponds/pondbook.pdf

What is the size limit of a fish caught in a reservoir that is not listed in the digest? If the species of fish you are looking for is not listed with a specific size or length limit for individual reservoirs, then you need only comply with the creel limit regulations provided for all public waters except as those otherwise listed.

What do I need to know about jug fishing? Just as with using a rod and reel in public waters, a recreational fishing license is required. There is no limit in the number of jugs allowed. Alabama does not require labeling jugs with your name or license number, but this is a way to assure someone else's jug is not fished. Jugs are not allowed in state owned public fishing lakes.

Have a question?

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MAJOR CHANGES FOR 2012–2013

- Dove Season Dates
- Removed Bag Limit on Raccoon on Private Owned & Leased Lands.
- Extended Trapping Season.
- Changed Legal Arms for Selected Small Game.
- Reduced Creel Limit on White Bass, Yellow Bass, Saltwater Striped Bass, Hybrids, Small Bass.
- Clarified Releasing of Caught Fish by Tournament Sponsors.
- Inclusion of Town Creek in Size Limit on Guntersville Reservoir.
- Amended Saltwater Striped Bass Creel and Fishing Methods on Lake Martin & Lewis Smith Reservoirs.
- Creel Limit Changed on Smallmouth Bass in Pickwick, Wheeler & Wilson Reservoirs.
- Changed Saltwater Striped Bass Creel Limit on Thurlow, Yates & Inland Reservoirs.
- Clarified Shoal Bass Restriction for Chattahoochee River.
- Restricted Turtle Harvest.

NOTICE: At the time of printing, federal guidelines were not final concerning all migratory birds, including dove season dates. Check www.outdooralabama.com for updates prior to September.

INTRODUCTION

This publication is provided as a popular guide to Alabama hunting and sport fishing laws and regulations. The *Code of Alabama* and the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* are the final authorities on laws and regulations relating to hunting and fishing. Contact the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, District Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Offices or any Conservation Enforcement Officer if you have a legal question not adequately covered in this booklet.

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HUNTING AND FISHING

To qualify for a resident hunting or fishing license, a person must be a bona fide resident of Alabama for a minimum of 90 days continuously immediately prior to purchasing any such license

WHO NEEDS A LICENSE ?

YOU ARE...	RESIDENT	NONRESIDENT
AGE	16–64	16+
HUNTING ON LAND YOU OWN	No	Yes
FISHING FROM THE BANK (PUBLIC WATERS) WITH A HOOK & LINE IN THE COUNTY YOU LIVE IN	No	N/A
MILITARY STATIONED IN ALABAMA	Yes	Stationed in Alabama (30 days or more) may purchase resident license
MILITARY VISITING ALABAMA	Home on leave — No license required (must have copy of leave papers)	Purchase of nonresident license required

* Residency is determined by Driver's License State of Issuance.

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or be a member of U.S. military stationed in Alabama. **For the purpose of buying hunting and fishing licenses, residency is determined by the Driver's License issuance.** Resident and nonresident annual hunting and fishing licenses are valid from September 1 through August 31 each year. Successfully completing an approved hunter education course is mandatory for all hunting license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977, see page 40 for exemptions. Licenses must be in possession while hunting or fishing. An antlered buck and turkey harvest record must be in possession every time a person is hunting deer or turkey. It is unlawful to utilize or possess more than one harvest record.

It is illegal to kill or cripple any species of game bird, game animal or game fish without making a reasonable effort to retrieve same and include it in the daily bag or creel limit, except all game fish not meeting legal length regulations, and protected species. An individual should not trail or retrieve game on property they do not have permission to enter. All game bags, hunting coats, camping equipment, live boxes, automobiles and such used in hunting and fishing will be open for inspection by officers of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

BUYING LICENSES

Alabama hunting and fishing licenses are available in all sections of the State from approximately 425 special license agents in many sporting goods stores, marinas, and at all county courthouses. Licenses may also be purchased by mailing completed applications, proper payment and copy of driver's license to Attn: License Sales, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, 64 N. Union St., Suite 567, Montgomery, AL 36104. For application packet call (334) 242-3465 or e-mail Wanda.McCullers@dcnr.alabama.gov or visit our website at www.outdooralabama.com/licenses. It is illegal to willfully or knowingly make a false statement to a license agent when purchasing a license. It is also illegal to lend, borrow, sell, buy, rent or use another person's license to hunt, fish or trap. A resident without an Alabama driver's license must present proof of residency to a probate judge or license commissioner to purchase a license.

Licenses are available by calling the toll-free number 1-888-848-6887 and online at www.outdooralabama.com.

MIGRATORY BIRD HARVEST INFORMATION PROGRAM

All licensed hunters who hunt doves, woodcock, rails, snipe, coots, ducks, or geese in Alabama are required by Federal law to obtain a Harvest Information Program (HIP) permit prior to hunting. The HIP program provides improved data collection on these species. This will allow hunting seasons for the various species to be set in an objective and efficient manner while maintaining healthy populations. **HIP permits are free and are available wherever hunting licenses are sold.** It takes a very short time to provide the requested information. In exchange for completing the HIP survey, you will receive proof of certification which must be in your possession while hunting migratory birds.

GENERAL INFORMATION LICENSE FEES

Hunting Licenses: Required for residents 16 years of age and under 65 years of age and nonresidents 16 years of age and older. Residents on active military duty home on leave may hunt and fish without licenses. (State and federal duck stamps are still required when hunting migratory waterfowl. Management Area License and Permit are required when hunting deer or turkey on a wildlife management area.) See *Hunter Education* on page 40.

DUPLICATE HUNTER EDUCATION CARD

Do you need a duplicate Hunter Education Card?

You can now obtain a duplicate Hunter Education Card online. Go to www.outdooralabama.com and click on the hunting/hunter education link to print a duplicate Hunter Education Card.

Please call the Hunter Education Office at (800) 245-2740 if you have questions, or if you are unable to print a temporary card.

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License Descriptions & Fees—Hunting

RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES

Valid: 9/1/12 – 8/31/13 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
HUNTING LICENSE <small>** Hunter Education required if license buyer is born on or after August 1, 1977. Hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under the 'supervision required' status in lieu of passing the hunter education course. (see page 40)</small>	State: All Game*	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$25.05
	State: Small Game*	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License.	\$16.70
WILDLIFE HERITAGE LICENSE	Annual	Allows residents to fish in freshwater statewide with hook and line from the bank, fish in WFF operated Public Fishing Lakes (daily lake permits required), hunt small game, except waterfowl, on WFF WMA (WMA permit required), shoot on WFF managed shooting ranges, and support wildlife. These privileges are also included in all resident hunting and freshwater fishing licenses, including lifetime licenses.	\$10.40
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	\$6.00
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/12 – 6/30/13	\$15.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting big game (deer or turkey) and waterfowl on Management Areas, in addition to the appropriate hunting license and a Management Area Permit (free). Shooting range users on Wildlife Management Areas are required to have a valid hunting license, the Management Area License, or Wildlife Heritage License.	\$16.70
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	6 months residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$8.40
COMMERCIAL FOWL HUNTING PRESERVE LICENSE	7-Day	In lieu of a regular hunting license, a resident may purchase for \$8.00, plus a \$2.00 issuance fee, a 7-day commercial fowl hunting preserve license that allows that person the privilege of hunting only artificially propagated or pen-raised fowl on a licensed commercial fowl hunting preserve. Check with the hunting preserve for information.	\$10.00

* Residents 64 years of age purchasing a hunting or fishing license are issued the license on a lifetime basis.

NOTE: Residents 65 years of age and over are exempt from buying freshwater and saltwater fishing licenses, hunting licenses, wildlife management area license or state duck stamp (federal stamp required), provided said resident has on his person, while hunting or fishing, an Alabama driver's license or proof of permanent Alabama residence and age.

NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES

Valid: 9/1/12 – 8/31/13 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
HUNTING LICENSE ** Hunter Education required if license buyer is born on or after August 1, 1977. Hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under the 'supervision required' status in lieu of passing the hunter education course. (see page 40)	All Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey.	\$287.45
	All Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$177.65
	All Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, to include deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$125.40
	Small Game: Annual	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey.	\$94.00
	Small Game: 10-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 240 consecutive hours.	\$57.40
	Small Game: 3-Day Trip	Valid for all legal game, except deer and turkey. Valid for 72 consecutive hours.	\$41.75
DUCK STAMPS	State	—	\$6.00
	Federal	Valid: 7/1/12 – 6/30/13	\$15.00
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA LICENSE	Annual	Required for hunting on Management Areas, in addition to the appropriate hunting license and a Management Area Permit (free). Shooting range users on Wildlife Management Areas are required to have a valid hunting license or the Management Area License.	\$16.70
FUR CATCHERS LICENSE	Annual	Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$500.90
COMMERCIAL FOWL HUNTING PRESERVE LICENSE	7-Day	In lieu of a regular hunting license, a nonresident may purchase for \$8.00, plus a \$2.00 issuance fee, a 7-day commercial fowl hunting preserve license that allows that person the privilege of hunting only artificially propagated or pen-raised fowl on a licensed commercial fowl hunting preserve. Check with the hunting preserve for information.	\$10.00

ATTENTION LICENSE BUYERS

We want to hear from you!

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division needs your email address so you can participate in official Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division surveys!

Be sure to provide your email address when you buy your license!

For more information on all available licenses, how and where to purchase your license and application packets, visit www.outdooralabama.com/licenses.

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RESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/12 – 8/31/13 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater: Annual*	Required for residents 16 years of age and under 65 years of age who fish with rod and reel, hook and line, or from a boat in public waters. This license is not required to fish with ordinary hook and line, only from bank in county of legal residence.	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License. \$12.50
	Saltwater: Annual*		— \$21.95
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours. \$9.35
FRESHWATER DISABLED FISHING LICENSE	Resident (totally disabled)	Applications are available at your local Probate/License Commissioner Office or online. Valid for fresh and saltwater. No expiration date.	— \$1.00
	Veterans Appreciation (20% disabled)	Present certification by the U.S. Veterans Administration to be 20% or more disabled to your local Probate/License Commissioner Office for issuance.	Includes privileges of Wildlife Heritage License. \$3.05
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Annual	12 month residency proof required. Required for use of any commercial gear. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$100.00
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$11.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$26.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$251.00
	Dealer or Buyer	12 month residency proof required. Valid: 10/1/12 – 9/30/13	\$101.00
SPEAR FISHING LICENSE	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.	\$6.05

* Residents 64 years of age purchasing a hunting or fishing license are issued the license on a lifetime basis.

Game fish may not be caught by any method other than ordinary hook and line, fly, troll, or spinner. The sale or purchase of game fish taken from public water is prohibited by law in Alabama.

NOTE: Residents 65 years of age and over are exempt from buying freshwater and saltwater fishing licenses, hunting licenses, wildlife management area license or state duck stamp (federal stamp required), provided said resident has on his person, while hunting or fishing, a driver's license or proof of permanent Alabama residence and age.

RESIDENT LIFETIME LICENSES

LICENSE PRIVILEGE (BY AGE)	UNDER 2	2-11	12-49	50+
Freshwater Fishing License*	\$156.80	\$209.05	\$261.35	\$156.80
Hunting License*	\$313.65	\$418.20	\$522.70	\$313.65
Saltwater Fishing License	\$261.35	\$313.65	\$365.90	\$261.35
Hunting & Freshwater Fishing License*	\$470.50	\$522.70	\$731.85	\$470.50
Hunting & Saltwater Fishing License*	\$575.00	\$731.85	\$888.70	\$575.00
Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing License*	\$418.20	\$522.70	\$627.30	\$418.20
Hunting, Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing License*	\$731.85	\$836.40	\$1,097.80	\$731.85
Wildlife Heritage License	\$209.05	\$209.05	\$209.05	\$209.05

* Includes the privileges of the Wildlife Heritage License. For details, see page 34.

Also see Lifetime application form on page 66.

Lifetime fishing licenses purchased prior to April 1, 1992 include saltwater.

NONRESIDENT FISHING LICENSES: Valid 9/1/12 - 8/31/13 (unless otherwise indicated)

CATEGORY	LICENSE TYPE	DESCRIPTION/INFO	FEE
SPORT FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater: Annual	Required for nonresidents 16 years of age and older.	\$48.00
	Freshwater: 7-Day Trip	Required in any public water regardless of tackle used.	Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours. \$27.10
	Saltwater: Annual	Special fishing license fees may apply to residents of Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, & Tennessee.	\$47.00
	Saltwater: 7-Day Trip		Trip licenses are valid for 168 consecutive hours. \$26.10
FRESHWATER COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE	Freshwater Commercial	Same as nonresident license in applicant's resident state, please call 334-242-3465. Valid: 10/1/12 - 9/30/13	Varies
	Retail Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish direct to the consumer. Valid: 10/1/12 - 9/30/13	\$11.00
	Wholesale Freshwater Fish Dealer	Required to sell commercial or nongame fish for resale. Valid: 10/1/12 - 9/30/13	\$26.00
FRESHWATER MUSSEL LICENSE	Catcher	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/12 - 9/30/13	\$751.00
	Dealer or Buyer	Includes residents with less than 12 month residency proof. Valid: 10/1/12 - 9/30/13	\$301.00
SPEAR FISHING LICENSE	Annual	Valid for fresh and saltwater. Must also have appropriate sportfishing license.	\$8.55
	7-day trip		\$3.55

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Bearing the Fruits of Wise Decisions ...



Forever Wild, Alabama's land acquisition program, is now in its 20th year. The program's purpose is to acquire land for conservation and outdoor recreational purposes, and it is highly successful. See page 61 for Forever Wild reference map.

With a modest budget, especially compared to many other states' similar programs, Forever Wild has delivered on what it was supposed to do. The program's success is the result of the carefully thought out decisions of its board members, personnel within the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources who have administered the program, and the overall support of the public.

Forever Wild was developed in response to the loss of land available to the public for hunting and outdoor recreation. Since its inception, Forever

Wild has protected over 220,000 acres, of which 200,000 are in 16 Wildlife Management Areas.

As successful as Forever Wild has been in protecting unique habitats and providing public recreation lands, this progress has only allowed us to keep pace with the loss of 288,000 acres of private-lease lands previously enrolled in the state's public hunting Wildlife Management Area system.

During the 2012 election, voters will have the opportunity to extend Forever Wild's funding to support the purchase of more public hunting lands. That vote will decide the course of the legacy we will leave to future generations that depend on Alabama's heritage of public hunting lands.

To learn more about Forever Wild, visit www.alabamaforeverwild.com

To learn more about the effort to protect Forever Wild and continue the program's funding so more land can be purchased, visit www.alabamiansforforeverwild.org



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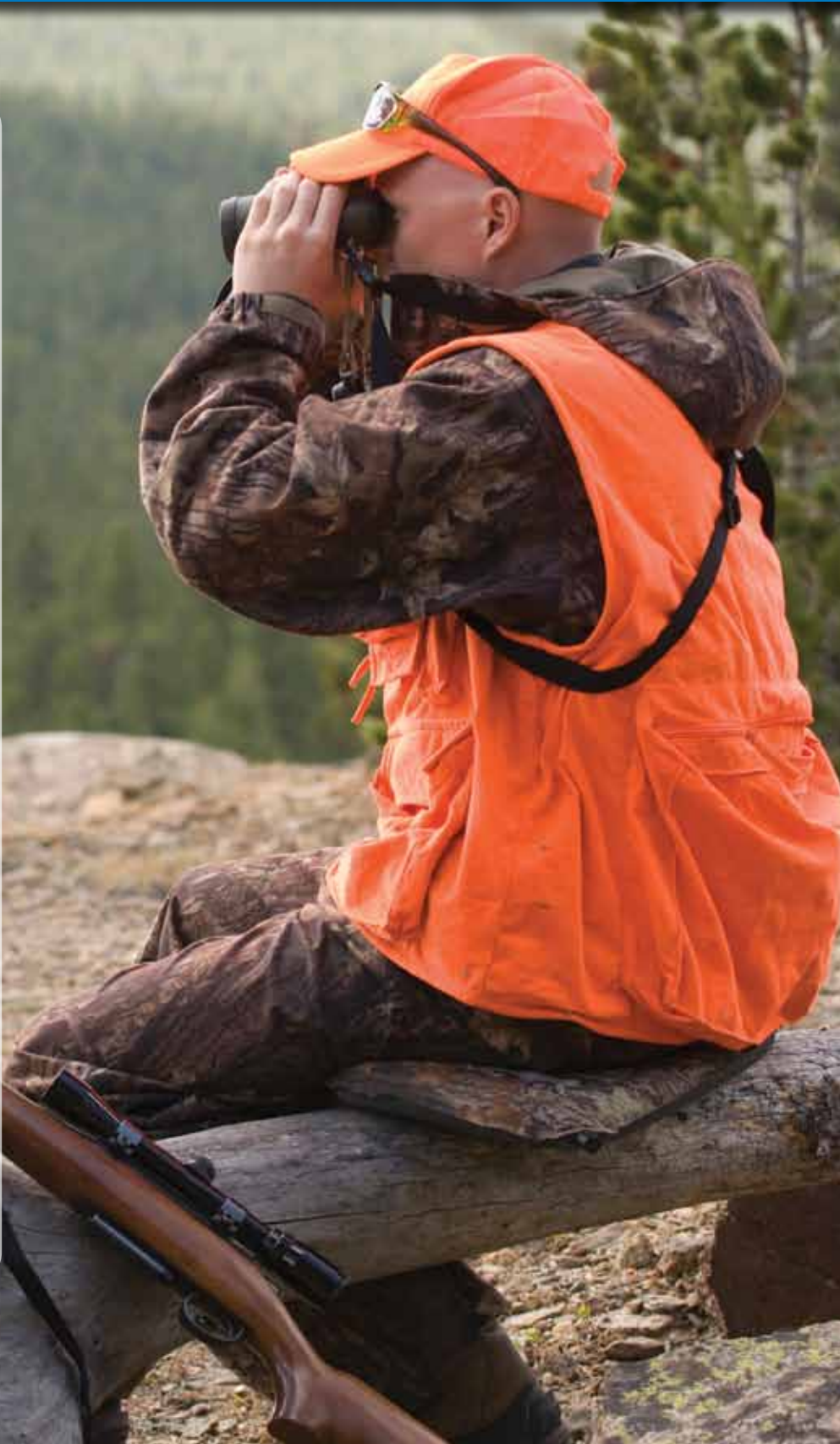
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50 YARD RESTRICTION FROM A PUBLIC ROAD

You may not hunt or discharge a firearm within 50 yards of the right-of-way of any public road, highway, or railroad with a centerfire rifle, a shotgun using slugs or shot larger than number four (4) shot or a muzzle loading rifle .40 caliber or larger. This law significantly impacts deer hunters. It is illegal to take any action to harvest a deer within the 50 yard restricted area with a weapon or shot listed above. The law was passed by the State Legislature to address safety issues.

HUNTER EDUCATION

The Wildlife Heritage Act of 2007 passed by the Legislature has provided a mentor provision for hunter education. Now, hunting license buyers have the option to hunt under the “supervision required” status in lieu of passing the hunter education course. Hunters under supervision **MUST** be under normal voice control, not to exceed 30 feet away from a properly licensed hunter 21 years of age or older. Under no circumstance shall the supervising person be the holder of a “supervision required” license.

Successfully completing an approved hunter education course is mandatory for all non-supervised hunting license buyers born on or after August 1, 1977, except APOST certified law enforcement officers employed in the state, active duty U.S. Military personnel and Alabama residents who are active members of the AL National Guard. Alabama is one of 49 states which has a mandatory hunter education program. The course is a minimum of 10 hours of instruction in addition to an examination. The course includes hunter responsibility, wildlife laws, wildlife management and identification, firearms safety, archery, muzzle-loading, basic survival and first aid. Goals of the hunter education program include increasing awareness of the importance of hunter-landowner relations, hunter behavior, reducing accident rates and increasing knowledge of basic wildlife management concepts and wildlife laws. This course is also available on CD-ROM and the internet at www.outdooralabama.com.

HUNTING DEFINED

Hunting includes pursuing, shooting, killing, capturing and trapping wild animals, wild birds, and all lesser acts, such as disturbing, harrying or worrying, or placing, setting, drawing or using any device used to take wild animals, wild birds, whether they result in taking or not, and includes every act of assistance to any person in taking or attempting to take wild animals or wild birds.

HUNTING PERMISSION REQUIREMENT

It is illegal to hunt, trap, capture, injure, kill or destroy any wild game on another person’s land without having in possession the written permission of the landowner or person in control of such land, unless accompanied by the landowner or unless a guest of the landowner.

HUNTING LANDS

Land is divided into two categories:

- **Private owned and leased land** is defined as that which is not open to the general public.
- **Open permit-public land** is defined as governmentally owned land open for public hunting and/or lands made available to the public on an individual basis whether for a fee or not. Examples of such lands would be National Forest Lands and lands owned by lumber or utility companies available for use by hunters either through free permits, fee permits or no permit requirement.

LEGAL HUNTING HOURS

Legal hunting hours for game birds during open season are daylight hours only (except hunting hours for mourning dove; see page 22). Other migratory game birds and waterfowl are as specified for each species. Game animals may be hunted in open season during daylight hours only, except fox, feral swine, bobcat and coyote may be hunted at night with lights and dogs only, and raccoon and opossum may be hunted at night with dogs, lights and rimfire firearm or shotgun with No. 6 or smaller shot during open season with written permission from the landowner. Certain restrictions apply for running dogs during spring turkey season (see individual species).

HUNTER ORANGE REQUIREMENT FOR HUNTING

All persons hunting any wildlife species (except turkey and migratory birds and while hunting legally designated species during legal nighttime hours) during dates and in areas open by regulation to gun deer season, including youth deer season and muzzleloader deer season, are required to wear an outer garment above the waist with a minimum of 144 square inches of hunter orange or either a full-size hunter orange hat or cap. Hunters are not required to wear hunter orange when hunting from a stand elevated twelve (12) feet or more from the ground, when hunting in an enclosed box stand, when traveling in an enclosed vehicle, or when traveling on foot no more than twenty (20) feet directly between an operating enclosed vehicle and a stand where the hunter is exempt from the hunter orange requirement. The hunter orange must be worn when traveling on foot between an operating enclosed vehicle and exempt stand when the distance is more than a direct distance of twenty (20) feet. A small logo and/or printing is permitted on the front of hunter orange caps; otherwise, hunter orange must be of solid color and visible from any angle. Only hunter orange, commonly called blaze orange or ten-mile cloth, etc., is legal. The various shades of red, as well as camo-orange, are not legal.

WATERFOWL HUNTING

Refer to the *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide* and the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book*, as well as federal regulations, for details on waterfowl hunting requirements and seasons. A September teal and goose season has been scheduled. See seasons and bag limits section for information.

REPORT BANDS

To properly manage migratory birds, biologists must know migration patterns, harvest and survival rates, and ecological processes. Reporting banded bird recoveries will help provide the needed information. All band reports are very important. Call (800) 327-BAND (2263) to report a recovery or email bandreports@patuxent.usgs.gov. Your help will greatly benefit migratory birds.

GAME ANIMALS

The following are designated as game animals in Alabama: bear, beaver, coyote, deer, fox, opossum, wild rabbit, raccoon, squirrel, nutria, mountain lion (cougar), red wolf, groundhog, bobcat and feral swine (wild hog). See *Protected Species* on page 41.

GAME BIRDS

The following are designated as game birds in Alabama:

- **Resident species:** bobwhite quail, ruffed grouse, wild turkey;
- **Migratory species:** wild duck, wild goose, brant, rail, sora, coot, common snipe, woodcock, mourning dove, purple gallinule, common moorhen and merganser.

PROTECTED SPECIES

All birds except English sparrows, crows, collared doves, starlings and blackbirds (except rusty) are protected by state law. Game birds and game animals may only be taken during open season for hunting. There is no open season in Alabama for **bear, mountain lion (cougar) and ruffed grouse**. Other wildlife species are protected by the nongame species regulation.

ALABAMA'S HUNTING & FISHING TRAIL FOR PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Alabama has a statewide network of hunting, fishing, and shooting sites for people with physical disabilities. There are no requirements to preregister to use the fishing and shooting facilities but those using the hunting sites (see below) must be approved in advance including certification that they meet disability guidelines. Users must be properly licensed and abide by all laws and regulations. Call (334) 242-3469 for additional information.

FURBEARING ANIMALS

The following are designated as furbearing animals in Alabama: beaver, bobcat, fox, mink, muskrat, nutria, opossum, otter, raccoon, skunk and coyote.

ARCHERY EQUIPMENT USED FOR HUNTING DEER & TURKEY

Longbows, including recurve and compound bows, legal for hunting deer and turkey, must have minimum tension (draw weight) of 35 pounds. Maximum allowable draw reduction (let-off) is 90 percent at full draw. Arrows must be 20-inch minimum length and equipped with a sharpened broadhead. Broad-

heads must have a minimum weight of 100 grains. The minimum cutting diameter for any broadhead shall be $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. Expandable broadheads shall have a minimum $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch cutting diameter after expansion of the broadhead. The minimum thickness for fixed blade broadheads shall be .015 inch, and the minimum thickness for expandable broadheads shall be .025 inch.

Crossbows (not legal for turkey) must have a minimum peak tension of 100 lbs. and must have a working safety. Arrows or bolts must be a minimum of 14 inches in length. Lighted pin sights are legal. Laser sights, attachments and light sources to project a beam forward of the bow are illegal for hunting.

Sights with magnification are prohibited on all bows except scopes may be used on crossbows.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division manages 36 Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) to provide public hunting opportunities. Consult the *Management Area Season Leaflet* and the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* or www.outdooralabama.com for hunting dates and regulations governing hunting on these areas. A valid permit must be in possession prior to carrying a firearm or bow and arrow on any Wildlife Management Area. Before hunting, hunters are required to have proper hunting licenses and management area permits.

In addition, WMA hunters must also possess the management area license. Shooting range users on WMAs are required to have a valid hunting license, management area license or wildlife heritage license (residents only). For locations, see map on page 56.

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DESIGNATED AREAS FOR PHYSICALLY DISABLED HUNTERS

Specific areas are reserved primarily for use by physically disabled hunters. These areas are open to deer hunting on designated days during gun deer season. To hunt these areas, hunters must possess proper hunting license, certificate of qualification and reserve hunting dates in advance. Application forms and information on these designated areas are available from the Wildlife Section, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, 64 N. Union St., Suite 584, Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 242-3469.

SPECIAL YOUTH HUNTS

Youth who have not yet reached their sixteenth birthday have the opportunity to participate in special hunts. The special deer hunt is scheduled for the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday before the opening of gun season. Each youth or youth hunting party (maximum of 2 youth) must be accompanied by a non-hunting, properly-licensed adult 25 years of age or older, or the parent of the youth, and wear hunter orange (adult must also).

The opportunity for youth to hunt turkey is offered the Saturday and Sunday prior to the regular spring season opening days. The same regulations apply as for the youth deer hunt, except hunter orange does not have to be worn while hunting turkey.

A special youth waterfowl hunt is offered statewide. The *Alabama Waterfowl Hunting Guide* should be referred to for rules and regulations.

Those interested in any of these special youth hunts should contact the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division's Wildlife Section at (334) 242-3469 for more details.

YOUTH DOVE HUNTS

Fields located throughout Alabama will offer exclusive youth dove hunts on selected Saturday afternoons beginning on the opening date. To participate, an adult (25 years of age or older or the youth's parent) must be accompanied by youth(s) less than 16 years old. These hunts are designed to maximize youth participation and foster mentoring by the adults. Information advertising the various hunts will be posted locally or you may call the nearest district office for information (see page 2).

SHOOTING RANGES

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division recognizes the increased need for public facilities where individuals can safely discharge firearms. The Division operates and maintains shooting ranges open to the public on Barbour, Black Warrior, William R. Ireland, Sr.-Cahaba River, Choccolocco, Coosa, Freedom Hills, Sam R. Murphy, Oakmulgee, Swan Creek, James D. Martin-Skyline, and Upper Delta Wildlife Management Areas, Etowah Public Shooting Range (Gadsden) and Marengo Public Shooting Range (Linden). Most ranges offer shooting opportunities from 25 to 100 yards. Ranges are constructed with revenue from the sale of hunting licenses, ammunition and matching Federal Aid Funds and are utilized by recreational shooters, competitive shooters, hunters and other shooting enthusiasts.

Follow all firearms safety and handling rules while utilizing public shooting ranges. For more information on shooting ranges, please call the area wildlife biologist or the Hunter Education Office at (334) 242-3620. A WMA License, hunting license, or wildlife heritage license is required to use the shooting ranges.

ALWAYS WEAR A FULL BODY HARNESS

Falling from treestands is the leading cause of injuries to hunters in Alabama. Injuries from treestand accidents could be minimized or prevented by wearing a full body harness. Alabama regulations now require all hunters utilizing a treestand on wildlife management areas to wear a full body harness.

Always use a pull-up rope to pull equipment from the ground to your treestand. Never carry a gun, bow, or other equipment while climbing up or down a tree. Always pull guns up to your treestand unloaded. The use of portable treestands is highly recommended. Never erect permanent stands without landowner permission.

SALE OF GAME BIRDS & GAME ANIMALS

It is illegal in Alabama to sell any game bird or game animal or any part of the animal, except lawfully taken deer hides, deer hooves and squirrel skins, hides and tails. Finished product items such as gloves, shoes, clothing, jewelry, tanned deer hides and similar products may be sold. Exceptions also apply to certain animals classified as both game animal and furbearing animal.

LIVE DEER AND ELK MAY NOT BE IMPORTED INTO ALABAMA

It is illegal to import any live member of the deer family (Cervidae) including deer, elk, caribou, moose, etc. This is our best defense against diseases that could devastate Alabama's deer herd. Recognizing the serious threat that the illegal transportation of live Cervidae into Alabama poses, the Alabama legislature increased the maximum fine for each violation to \$5000. Should you become aware of any live deer being transported within Alabama, it is important to notify the Division immediately. You may call the Game Watch number at (800) 272-4263.

Alabama's deer herd is an extremely important segment of our wildlife resources. The white-tailed deer is the most popular game animal from both a recreational and economic viewpoint. This

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herd, through proper management, has the potential to produce high quality deer. It is extremely important that this herd receives protection from sources that could cause harm. This is one reason it is illegal to import deer from outside Alabama. Any time a deer is moved, all its bacteria, viruses, diseases and parasites such as worms and ticks go along. Provisions such as "health certificates" do not ensure that animals are disease free. Diseases of concern to our deer populations are unlikely to move into Alabama unless they come here with infected deer. This risk of disease transmission to our native herd is too great. Recent outbreaks of both chronic wasting disease, commonly referred to as CWD, and bovine tuberculosis in other parts of the country demonstrate the wisdom of that ban. Many other states have recently banned or are in the process of banning the importation of deer.

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Alabama Cooperative Deer Management Assistance Program (DMP) was developed in 1984 to assist those who wish to intensify deer management on their lands. Over 100 landownerships and hunting clubs covering more than 200,000 acres are enrolled as DMP cooperators. Wildlife biologists are assigned to help cooperators develop deer management plans and harvest strategies. Conservation Enforcement Officers assist with legal aspects of the program. Cooperators collect biological information from deer taken on their lands each year. Analysis of the data results in a status report and deer management recommendations which are provided to each cooperator before the following hunting season. For more information, contact the nearest Wildlife Section district office (page 2).

FOREVER WILD PROGRAM

The Forever Wild Program was adopted by Alabama voters in November, 1992, to set aside land for permanent state ownership using a portion of the interest earned on profits from the sale of offshore natural gas. The land, to be used for hunting, fishing, camping, outdoor recreation, natural resource protection and research and preservation of unique sites, will be acquired from willing sellers at no taxpayer cost and will belong to you, the public.

The 15-member Forever Wild Board reviews all nominated tracts for purchase and establishes a priority purchase authorization. The Forever Wild Program will allow a steady acquisition effort to build a public land base to meet the needs of Alabama citizens and provide natural resource protection and management to accommodate hunters, hikers, campers and other outdoor recreationists. For further information, contact the Lands Division at (334) 242-3484 (see page 38).

NONGAME WILDLIFE PROGRAM

Since 1984, the Nongame Wildlife Program has been charged with the conservation of the nongame animals of this state—animals that are neither caught, hunted nor trapped. With over 900 nongame vertebrate species of animals native to this state, as well as thousands more invertebrates such as butterflies, crayfish, muskels and snails, this is a formidable task indeed. Funding for the Nongame Wildlife Program does not include any state general funds—not a penny of taxpayer dollars. Conservationists support the program through the nongame checkoff on state tax returns, direct donations, and from hunting license and wildlife heritage license fees.

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Prohibited Methods Of Hunting

The following are prohibited methods of hunting in the State of Alabama as condensed from the laws and regulations. Consult the *Alabama Game, Fish and Wildlife Law Book* and the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* for the entire law or regulation.

It is ILLEGAL to:

1. Hunt any area where baiting/feeding has occurred until 10 days after all bait/feed has been removed or consumed.
2. Hunt deer or turkey without an antlered buck and turkey harvest record in his/her possession. See page 16.
3. Move any buck deer or turkey before recording kill on harvest record.
4. Hunt any game animal or bird with a gun or bow and arrow except during daylight hours, with the exception of raccoon and opossum which may be hunted at night as prescribed by law.
5. Shoot or hunt a turkey from an elevated treestand with a firearm. All other legal game animals and birds may be taken with a bow and arrow or firearm from an elevated treestand.
6. Take a deer, whether dead or alive, from the waters of this State.
7. Use live decoys except when hunting unprotected birds or animals.
8. Use electronic dove, turkey or waterfowl calls. Electronic calls may be used to call predators during daylight hours only during open hunting season for that species.
9. Hunt by the aid of fire or smoke, whether man-made or natural.
10. Hunt resident birds or animals on any floodwaters or backwaters, or islands less than 40 acres created by such.
11. Hunt or discharge a firearm from, upon or across any public road or railroad, or the right-of-way of any public road or railroad. You may not hunt or discharge a firearm within 50 yards of the right-of-way of any public road, highway, or railroad with a centerfire rifle, a shotgun using slugs or shot larger than number four (4) shot or a muzzle loading rifle .40 or larger.
12. Willfully throw or cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight or artificial light from any motor vehicle while the vehicle is on any highway or public road and casting said light on any real property, between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
13. Concentrate, drive, rally, molest, hunt, take, capture or kill any bird or animal from or by the aid of any automobile, ATV, airplane, train, motor boat, sailboat or any other type mechanically propelled device. Persons may hunt from a floating craft or motor vehicle once the motor is shut off and all forward motion has ceased. It is not legal to hunt from a vehicle on a public road.
14. Use gasoline or other noxious chemical to drive wildlife from their burrows, dens or retreats.
15. Kill unantlered deer except during unantlered deer seasons as set by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division.

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16. Hunt wild turkeys with the aid of a dog.
17. Hunt with dogs during day time or after 3:00 a.m. during spring turkey season.
18. Take or attempt to take or have in possession more than the daily bag limit of any game bird or animal. Possession limit does not apply to deer and/or turkey provided not more than one deer and/or one turkey is taken on any one day (except two deer per day, one of which may be antlered, may be taken during the hunters' choice gun season). On DMP lands using valid tags, three deer, no more than one of which is an antlered buck, may be taken on one day. Possession limit of one day's bag limit does not apply to legally taken game birds or animals after they have been processed or stored in a cooler or freezer at home or a commercial processing plant.
19. Import, possess, sell or offer to sell live: any species of mongoose, any species of wild rabbit or hare and any deer, raccoon, fox, skunk, coyote, wild turkey or wild rodents from any area outside of Alabama. (Also, see Sale of Game Birds and Game Animals, page 42) or any fish from the genus *Clarias*, *Serrasalmus* or *Mylopharyngodon*.
20. Release any tame or wild turkey into any of the wild areas of the state.
21. Possess both gun and bow while hunting any species of game bird or animal except during open unantlered gun deer season, except handguns may be possessed for personal protection by properly licensed persons.
22. Hunt using laser sights, attachments and light sources to project a beam forward of a gun or bow.
23. Hunt using poison, explosives or chemicals to include deer blocks, molasses blocks, mineral blocks, chemical licks, and similar products. Deer may be hunted over plain salt licks containing no other minerals or chemicals.
24. Have in possession any protected live wild bird or wild animal.
25. Trail wounded game onto property where the hunter does not have permission to enter.
26. Transport live wild hogs or release wild hogs into areas except where trapped.
27. Hunt within 100 yards of any dwelling without the permission of the owner or lessee or discharge a firearm while hunting so that any projectile strikes any dwelling or building used for human occupation, or any commercial vessel, without the permission of the owner or lessee. This does not apply to a landowner or member of his/her immediate family hunting on his/her own property provided that no projectile strikes the above property of another without the permission of the owner or lessee.

Many dogs used by hunters in the pursuit of game animals accidentally become separated from their owners. Hunting dogs are very valuable to these hunters. It is generally illegal to kill or injure dogs which have intruded onto another's property and may subject the person to serious criminal charges. However, it is the responsibility of hunters to ensure their dogs do not infringe on other property owners.

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SIZE LIMITS

Management Tools of the Fisheries Biologist



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Fisheries biologists utilize regulations to manage angler harvest habits to protect and enhance fish populations. Size limits are intended to increase the number of total or larger fish and are among the most widely used tools available to resource managers for enhancing angling opportunities. There are basically three types of size limits used by the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries: minimum length limits, maximum length limits, and slot limits. A better understanding of when and why size limits are implemented will ultimately lead to the success of these types of regulations to improve a fishery.

The most commonly used fish size restrictions are minimum length limits, (e.g., 15" size limit). The intent of minimum length limits is to protect smaller fish from angler harvest, or fishing mortality. This type of size limit is suitable when a fish population exhibits good growth and low survival of young fish to a harvestable or adult size each year (i.e., recruitment). Allowing fish to spawn before they may be legally harvested will benefit a fishery that suffers from low recruitment. Ultimately a minimum length limit will improve the number of large fish in the population provided there are acceptable levels of angler harvest.

On the other side of the spectrum are maximum length limits (e.g., 34" maximum limit) which reduce or ban the harvest of larger fish.

Though less common, this type of size limit is imposed on a fishery to protect larger fish from excessive harvest in order to maintain greater numbers of these fish in a population. Growth rates of fish to reach a large size may be slow and these fish represent a smaller proportion of the fishery warranting further regulation.

Slot limits prohibit anglers from harvesting fish within a designated size range (e.g., 13"–16" slot limit) while allowing fish under and over the slot limit to be harvested. Typically, a fishery with slow growth and high recruitment will benefit from a slot limit. The goal is to allow anglers to remove a significant number of overabundant small fish below the slot. This will improve or sustain the growth of fish protected within the slot and ultimately increase the abundance of fish above the protected range.

Fisheries biologists are aware that there are tradeoffs when size limits are used. A high minimum length limit may increase the abundance of large fish, but the number of fish an angler could harvest or weigh-in at a fishing tournament would decline. Also, this may impact local economies because of anglers or tournaments going to other less restrictive lakes and reservoirs to fish. Determining when a size limit is appropriate for the fishery is an important decision, especially when multiple groups may be affected by the regulation.

Since the 1970's, the harvest of bass by anglers has significantly declined because anglers have become conditioned to release all bass in order to promote conservation. However, the effectiveness of a size limit at restructuring a fish population declines with high amounts of voluntary catch-and-release by anglers.

This imposes several problems for fisheries biologists attempting to maximize the potential of a bass fishery. Size limits are dependent upon angler harvest to effectively restructure fish populations. For example, at low levels of fishing mortality the benefits of a slot limit are lost due to lack of harvest below a slot limit. If small fish are not removed from the population, growth rates will not improve. While the catch-and-release ethic by bass anglers has provided benefits to some bass populations, this is not the case for all bass fisheries.

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General Guideline for Size Limits

GROWTH RATE	LOW RECRUITMENT	HIGH RECRUITMENT
FAST GROWING FISH	Minimum Length Limit	No Size Limit
SLOW GROWING FISH	No Size Limit	Slot Limit



Other angling groups, such as crappie and catfish anglers, have a greater tendency to catch and harvest fish. Since crappie recruitment can be variable from year to year, minimum length limits may protect smaller fish from harvest by anglers, particularly during years of low recruitment. Most catfish populations have good growth and adequate recruitment, and do not warrant size limits. However, trophy-size catfish may live more than 20 years and protection of these fish may be needed to maintain their abundance.

Size limits are a useful tool for biologists to manage fish populations, but for size limits to be successful anglers must accept that keeping some fish to eat is not a bad thing. These regulations depend on angler cooperation and law enforcement to ensure success. Anglers who are educated regarding the purpose of length limits and practice selective harvest will be the active conservationists who help biologists manage, protect, and enhance our valuable fisheries resources.

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SEASONS

All public streams, lakes and ponds are open to fishing throughout the year except some state-owned and managed public fishing lakes. It is illegal to fish in private waters without permission from the owners.

PRIVATE LANDS AND WATERS

It is illegal to fish in public waters on or from posted private land without the owner's permission.

MEANS OF CATCHING GAME FISH

It is illegal to take, catch or kill, or attempt to take, catch or kill any game fish by any means other than ordinary hook and line, artificial lure, live bait, troll or spinner in any of the public waters of this State. It is unlawful to use electrical devices, explosives, poisons or firearms to take fish of any species from these waters.

GAME FISH

The following species shall be named and designated as game fish in Alabama: rainbow trout, all members of the sunfish family, including largemouth, shoal, smallmouth, redeye and spotted bass (commonly called trout or green trout), white and black crappie (commonly called white perch), rock bass, shadow bass, flier, warmouth, redbreast, bluegill, longear and shellcracker (commonly called bream); all members of the bass family including white bass, yellow bass, saltwater striped bass (commonly called rockfish) and hybrid striped bass (a cross between the white bass and the saltwater striped bass); all members of the pike family including redbfin, grass and chain pickerel; the following members of the perch family: walleye, sauger (commonly called jack salmon), and yellow perch.

THE BASS ANGLERS INFORMATION TEAM (B.A.I.T.) PROGRAM

B.A.I.T. is a voluntary partnership between bass clubs and the Alabama Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries (ADWFF). The intent of the program is to summarize information on bass fishing. This information is of great value to us in the management of reservoir bass populations. It is used by participating clubs to select tournament locations.

Following a bass tournament, a club member fills out a data form on the back of a postcard (B.A.I.T. card) that provides details regarding the tournament format, the number of participants, and the numbers and weight of bass weighed-in. At the end of each year, the results are compiled and analyzed for every Alabama reservoir, and a report is published.

The B.A.I.T. Report ranks each reservoir based on five fishing quality indicators and determines an overall ranking. Reservoirs that rank at or near the top in several quality indicators in the same year have exceptional or outstanding bass fisheries. We try to present this information in a way that is most useful to bass anglers.

The B.A.I.T. Report is used by ADWFF fisheries biologists, in combination with their reservoir surveys, as the basis for fisheries management decisions. B.A.I.T. data allows biologists to identify trends in bass populations and helps them better understand the mechanisms that influence fish populations.

All bass anglers need to recognize that they have an opportunity to participate in the process of managing this extraordinarily valuable resource. Tell your fellow club members and tournament directors their participation is needed. If your club is already participating in this program, we thank you for your continued support. If your club is not participating, but would like to, you simply need to complete and mail a B.A.I.T. card following each



tournament. All clubs that participate are included on our mailing list and receive a copy of the Annual Report.

The B.A.I.T. program has proven to be a significant aid to Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division biologists in their efforts to manage the state's reservoirs. The benefits to all bass anglers and to our reservoir bass resources are expected to continue, thanks to the cooperation and enthusiasm of bass clubs participating as members of the Bass Anglers Information Team. To enter your club in the B.A.I.T. program or for more information, including a copy of the Annual Report, contact the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division at (334) 242-3882 or Damon.Abernethy@dcnr.alabama.gov. Information about the B.A.I.T. program is also available at the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division web site, www.outdooralabama.com.

CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS AND SIZE LIMITS

Detailed information on creel and possession limits and size limits is provided on page 58. Please familiarize yourself thoroughly with this information. You should also notice that size limits for the various fish species are not the same on all public waters. Be sure and check this information for each body of water you plan to fish. Should you have questions, you may contact any Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division Fisheries Biologist or Conservation Enforcement Officer or call (334) 242-3471 for assistance.

USE OF BREEM FOR BAIT

All species of bream may be used as bait as long as a person does not have in his possession total bream numbers in excess of the daily creel limit, regardless of size, and they are harvested legally. Other native game fish may not be used for bait.

SALE OF GAME FISH

It is unlawful to sell or purchase any game fish from Alabama or in Alabama from another state except (1) game fish raised in hatcheries and sold for stocking ponds and lakes; (2) non-native game fish (trout, salmon, etc.) raised for human consumption or (3) largemouth bass, shellcracker, yellow perch and bluegill bream raised in farm ponds, which may be sold under permit from the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. Contact your local District Office (page 2).

TROT LINES

It is illegal to (1) fish trotline or snag line within 25 feet of the bank unless the end of line is tied or anchored with at least six feet of 100 percent cotton line (untreated), and (2) fish a trotline, snag line, set line, commercial fishing net, slat boxes or wire baskets within one-half mile below any lock, dam or powerhouse. Nonresidents fishing trotlines are limited to 100 hooks total.

WIRE BASKETS

Wire baskets may be used only in certain counties to harvest nongame fish for personal consumption only. Persons holding a commercial fishing license may not fish with wire baskets. No fish taken in wire baskets may be sold or offered for sale. All game fish taken in the baskets must be immediately returned to the water. All baskets must be clearly marked with the valid wire basket license number and name of person using and owning the basket. It is illegal for any one person to fish with more than four wire baskets. Consult the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* or local Conservation Enforcement Officer (see District Offices, page 2) to determine number of baskets and locations where wire baskets are legal.

GIGS OR GRABBLING

Commercial or nongame fish may be legally taken by gigs or by grabbling by hand by persons possessing a valid sport fishing license.

FILLETING FISH

It is unlawful to fillet a fish while fishing or to possess fillets of fish while on public waters, except when fish are being prepared for immediate cooking and consumption; provided, however, that the fish may be drawn or gutted with heads left attached.

Continued on page 52.

ANNUALLY, HUNTING & FISHING— BIG BUSINESS IN ALABAMA

- *Economic Impact of Hunting & Freshwater Fishing:* **\$2.4 Billion** (Hunting \$1.4B; Freshwater Fishing \$1.0B)
- *Direct Expenditures from Hunting & Freshwater Fishing:* **\$1.7 Billion** (Hunting \$847M; Freshwater Fishing \$878M)
- *Sales Tax Paid to the State of Alabama from Hunting & Freshwater Fishing Expenditures:* **\$150 Million** (Hunting \$83M; Freshwater Fishing \$67M)

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE ONLINE

from www.outdooralabama.com

- *Biology and Management of White-tailed Deer in Alabama*
- *Effective Food Plots for White-tailed Deer in Alabama*
- *Ecology and Management of the Bobwhite in Alabama*
- *The Wild Turkey in Alabama*
- *Wild Pig Management*
- *Sportfish Management in Alabama Ponds*
- *Field Guide of Aquatic Plants of Alabama*

EBCI Fish and Wildlife Management and the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce Partnered

Fishing Events for 2012

For more information on these events, Visit www.fishcherokee.com

CHEROKEE, NC
Trails of Legends and Adventure

Shiver in the River Fly Fishing Tournament

— February 3, 4 & 5
\$225 entry fee with \$10,000 in prize money. Held on the 2.2 miles of Trophy, Catch-and-Release water on the Cherokee Reservation.

Second Annual Cherokee Opening Day Trout Fishing Tournament

— March 31
\$5 entry fee and \$10,000 in tagged fish in the rivers on the Cherokee Reservation.

Cherokee's Summer Kickoff Trout Fishing Tournament

— April 27, 28, & 29, Mid-Summer — July 13, 14 & 15,

End of Summer

— September 7, 8 & 9
\$11 entry fee for each and \$10,000 in tagged fish in the rivers on the Cherokee Reservation.

Meet Me in the Smokies Fly Fishing Tournament

— May 18, 19 & 20
\$225 entry fee with \$10,000 in prize money. Held on the 2.2 miles of Trophy, Catch-and-Release water on the Cherokee Reservation.

US Junior National Fly Fishing Championships

— June 22, 23 & 24
The top junior (17 years old and under) fly fishermen from the U.S. Invitation is only to youth anglers who qualify in a regional event.

Rumble in the Rhododendron Fly Fishing Tournament

— November 2, 3 & 4
\$225 entry fee with \$10,000 in prize money. Held on the 2.2 miles of Trophy, Catch-and-Release water on the Cherokee Reservation.

How Long is Your Trout?

— ongoing
Bring trout to the Cherokee Welcome Center and have it measured for the weekly contest which runs from Saturday to Sunday. Prizes are 1st Place: \$50, 2nd Place: T-Shirt, 3rd Place: Cap.

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Big Catch? Trophy Buck?

We welcome your digital photo submissions!

Your hunting & fishing photos could be included in future regulation magazines or online!

Please upload high-resolution images for consideration at:
www.eregulations.com/photos

SPEARFISHING

The spearing of nongame or commercial fish solely for the purpose of sport in all waters of this state, both fresh and salt, is legal provided that the person engaged in the act of spearing is completely submerged and possesses the appropriate sport fishing and spearfishing licenses. This license is issued by the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, Marine Resources Division and online. For more information and application packet, call (334) 242-3465 or visit our website at www.outdooralabama.com.

SNAGGING

It is unlawful to take fish by snagging on the Chattahoochee River or its impoundments, the Tennessee River or its impoundments, and State-owned public fishing lakes.

BOWFISHING EQUIPMENT

Any longbow, straight or recurve, crossbow or compound bow may be used for bowfishing; only solid fiberglass or solid metal arrows may be used or in possession. Barbed bowfishing heads shall not have sharpened cutting surfaces. Heads shall be designed so that the barbs may be reversed or removed to permit removal of the arrow from the fish. One end of a line having a minimum breaking strength of forty (40) pounds, and a minimum length of forty (40) feet must be attached to the arrow being used, and the other end of the line must be attached to the bow or some type of reel which is attached to the bow. Licensed sport fishermen may take any of the following fish at any time by bowfishing: shad, white amur, shark, mullet, or any fish designated as commercial or nongame except sturgeon, paddlefish or other protected species, provided however, that only one alligator gar per person per day may be taken. Consult the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* for special bowfishing regulations and exceptions.

TAKING MINNOWS AND SHAD FOR BAIT

It is legal for licensed anglers to take minnows, shad, and certain suckers from certain public waters by the use of a cast net, minnow jug, minnow basket, not to exceed 24 inches in length, 12 inches in diameter, with funnel entrance not more than one inch in diameter, dip net or minnow seine, the length of which shall not exceed 25 feet and the width or depth of which shall not exceed 4 feet for the purpose of taking shad or minnows for the exclusive use as fish bait. No seines may be used in unimpounded tributary streams and creeks. All game fish and all commercial or nongame fish taken by nets or seines must be immediately returned to the water from whence they came with the least possible injury. Dip nets may be used to land legally caught fish.

MUSSEL HARVEST FOR BAIT

Licensed anglers may use their hands, a rake or dip net not wider than 24 inches to collect the Asiatic Clam *Corbicula* for fish bait.

ZEBRA MUSSEL ALERT

The zebra mussel is an exotic species of freshwater mussel that has colonized many Southern bodies of water, including the Tennessee River system. These mussels can disrupt freshwater food chains and may cause major changes in some fish populations. Boaters are one of the major contributors to the spread of zebra mussels from infested to uninfested waters. To report zebra mussel sightings or for more information, contact: Alabama Sea Grant Extension in Mobile at (251) 438-5690.

PUBLIC WATER STOCKING

It shall be unlawful to intentionally stock or release any fish, mussel, snail, crayfish or their embryos, including bait fish, into the public waters of Alabama under the jurisdiction of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries as provided in Rule 220-2-.42 except those waters from which it came without the written permission of a designated employee of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources authorized by the Director of the Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries to issue such permit. The provisions of this rule shall not apply to the incidental release of bait into the water during the normal process of fishing.

LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS BELOW DAMS

It is unlawful for any person to operate any vessel on the waters of Alabama within 800 feet below a hydroelectric dam and/or navigation lock and dam unless each person aboard, including the operator, is wearing a securely fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device Type I, II, III or V.

PUBLIC BOATING ACCESS AREAS

Public access areas include state-owned and/or operated boat launching ramps, associated parking lots, piers and any real or personal property within the boundaries of such areas. Such public access areas are for the uses of pleasure boating, hunting and fishing. Picnicking is allowed only where tables are provided. The following is a synopsis of regulations for use of such areas, and is intended as a general guide for the boating public. Please refer to the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* for specific interpretation.

IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- Litter
- Camp or build fires
- Loiter
- Discharge firearms
- Consume alcoholic beverages
- Swim, dive, jump or sunbathe within 50 feet of any ramp or pier
- Block ramp, pier or the approach with vehicles or trailers
- Operate any unlicensed vehicle such as ATVs
- Solicit, sell, advertise or install signs
- Destroy, damage, cut or remove any tree, bush, shrub, plant or flower
- Operate commercial, industrial or construction equipment such as barges without written approval obtained from the Fisheries Section, 64 N. Union St., Suite 551, Montgomery, AL 36104.

All other state laws apply and are enforced on public access areas. Boating access information is available online at: www.outdooralabama.com.

COMMERCIAL FISHING

This pamphlet covers only freshwater sport fishing laws and regulations. For information on freshwater commercial fishing or musseling, contact the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, (334) 242-3465 or nearest District Office (page 2).

COMMUNITY FISHING PROGRAM

In 1995, a major initiative to bring fishing opportunities to urban dwellers became a reality when the Division launched the Community Fishing Program in cooperation with Alabama municipalities. Recognizing the shift in population from rural to urban areas, the program promotes fishing as wholesome fun for youth in Alabama cities and towns. From small communities to sprawling metropolitan areas, towns and cities throughout the State are all eligible to participate.

The Division partners with local communities or civic groups. The Division provides expertise, block off nets and loaner tackle. Communities and/or civic groups provide a location, volunteers and fish. The result is a lot of fun for everyone. Community events attracting participants are proof of the success of this program. To learn how to have a community fishing event in your community, contact your local district fisheries supervisor or Doug Darr, Fisheries Section, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104, (334) 242-3884. Our web address is www.outdooralabama.com.

BOATING OPERATOR LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

The Roberson-Archer Act and The Boating Safety Enhancement Act of 2001 mandates that no one under the age of 12 may operate a motorized vessel, and that every vessel operator be licensed and have the license in possession at the time of operation.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALABAMA RESIDENTS

Must be 12 years old or older, but cannot operate alone until the age of 14. Operators 12 or 13 years old, after obtaining the vessel

operator's license, can only operate if an adult 21 years old or older with a vessel operator's license in possession, is onboard and seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel if necessary. A licensed operator, 14 years old or older, may legally operate without supervision. Possession of a certificate of completion for a boating course is not a vessel license.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR NON-RESIDENTS

Non-residents 12 years old and older, may operate on Alabama waters up to 45 days per calendar year without obtaining a vessel operator's license. However, operators 12 or 13 years old, can only operate if an adult 21 years old or older who either has a vessel operator's license in possession or who falls under the 45 day exemption period, is onboard and seated in a position to take immediate control of the vessel if necessary. If operating a vessel for more than 45 days, the non-resident must get an Alabama Non-Resident Vessel Operator's License. Non-residents who have obtained a vessel certification or license from their home state, may use that in lieu of the Alabama Non-Resident Vessel Operator's License.

For information on obtaining a vessel operator's license, see page 60, contact the Marine Police Division at (334) 242-3673, or visit www.outdooralabama.com and click on Boating.

SALTWATER FISHING

For information on saltwater fishing license requirements, size and possession limits, contact the Marine Resources Division, PO Drawer 458, Gulf Shores, AL 36547, (251) 968-7576.

Continued on page 54.

Lawrence County Has It All!

- Bankhead National Forest
- Sipsey Wilderness Area
- Black Warrior Wildlife Management Area
- Great fishing on Wheeler Reservation & Wilson Lake – The Tennessee River
- Mallard Creek Campground
- Doublehead Resort
- Joe Wheeler State Park Cabins

For more information contact:

Lawrence County
Chamber of Commerce

(800) 974-1658

Visit our website at:

www.lawrencealabama.com

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GulfShoresDeepSeaFishing.com

POND MANAGEMENT

Ponds provide more fishing opportunities than most types of waters in Alabama. Alabamians utilizing ponds for fishing provide needed funding for sport fish restoration. There are more than 50,000 fish ponds in Alabama. Manmade fish ponds greatly alleviate the fishing pressure on our public streams and lakes. Therefore, the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division is vitally interested in this popular resource. Proper stocking and management will provide years of excellent fishing for bass, bluegill and shellcracker.

Sustaining good fishing in ponds requires proper design, stocking with appropriate fish species and ongoing fish management. Ponds should be thought of as gardens because all the basic gardening principles also apply to pond management.

Technical assistance is also provided to pond owners at no cost regarding proper management practices such as fertilization, liming, weed control and fish harvest. These management practices are essential to maintaining good fishing in ponds. In particular, proper fertilization results in an abundant food supply for bass and bream, ensuring that they will be abundant and in good condition. Contact a Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division Office for assistance (page 2).

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Fish from almost all waters in Alabama are safe for human consumption. For those few locations of concern, fish consumption advisories are provided by the Alabama Dept. of Public Health. For a current list of advisories call: (800) 201-8208 or visit www.adph.org.

Natural Shorelines Are Good For Fishing

By keeping shorelines natural, you can help protect water quality and improve fish habitat. A shoreline without trees and shrubs can get washed away, making the water muddy and unsuitable for fish. If you live near a lake or a river, plant a buffer strip along the water's edge using trees, shrubs, wildflowers or other native plants. Trees and other vegetation filter pollution and provide shade, shelter, habitat, and food critical for bass, trout, and other fish to thrive and reproduce. Keep your favorite fishing spots well vegetated!

For more tips and information, visit
epa.gov/owow/lakes



NON-NATIVE AQUATIC PLANTS

It is prohibited to introduce, place or cause the introduction or placement of any non-native aquatic plant into any public waters of the State. For further information, contact the local District Fisheries Biologist (see page 2).



By purchasing your licenses,
you are contributing
to this important work
and we thank you.

It's Your Nature

Celebrating 75 years of partnership
for American wildlife.

In 2012, we proudly observe 75 years of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs and the success of working through partnerships to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. Together, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program has contributed more than \$12 billion to fish and wildlife conservation in the U.S.—more than any other single conservation effort.

With your support, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program will continue to provide habitat for fish and wildlife, and recreational opportunities for anglers, boaters, hunters, and shooters for the future.

State-owned public fishing lakes include all land and waters under the direct supervision of the Fisheries Section of the Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division. The lakes are as follows:

PUBLIC FISHING LAKE	MANAGER	LAKEPHONE #	CLOSED DAYS
Barbour County Lake	Phillip Duke	(334) 775-1054	Thursdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Wednesdays; July 1–Nov. 30
Bibb County Lake	Vacant	(205) 938-2124	Closed for renovation— will reopen in the fall of 2012
Chambers County Lake	Lou Howell	(334) 864-8145	Tuesdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Tues. & Wed.; July 1–Nov. 30
Clay County Lake	Gene Simmons	(256) 488-0038	Thursdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Wednesdays; July 1–Nov. 30
Coffee County Lake	City of Elba	(334) 897-6833	Mondays & Tuesdays; Jan. 1—weekend after Thanksgiving
Crenshaw County Lake	Janice Coggins	(334) 335-2572	Tuesdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Tues. & Wed.; July 1–Nov. 30
Dale County Lake	Keith Stinson	(334) 774-0588	Wednesdays; Feb. 1–Dec. 1
Dallas County Lake	Patricia Rudolph	(334) 874-8804	Mondays; Feb. 1–June 20 Mon. & Tues.; July 1–Nov. 30
DeKalb County Lake	Lee Biddle	(256) 657-1300	Wednesdays; Feb. 1–Dec. 1
Escambia County Lake	John Sansom	(251) 809-0068	Mondays; Feb. 1–June 30 Mon. & Tues.; July 1–Nov. 30
Fayette County Lake	Joyce Harkins	(205) 932-6548	Mondays; Feb. 1–June 30 Mon. & Tues.; June 1–Nov. 30
Geneva County Lake	Rodney Peavey	(334) 684-0202	Thursdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Wed. & Thurs.; July 1–Nov. 30 Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs.; Dec. 1–Jan. 31
Lamar County Lake	Buster Parker	(205) 695-8283	Tuesdays; Feb. 1–June 28 Mon. & Tues.; June 29–Nov. 30
Lee County Lake	Dwight Lake	(334) 749-1275	Closed for renovation— plan to reopen in June 2013
Madison County Lake	Allen Smallwood	(256) 776-4905	Wednesdays; Feb. 5–Nov. 23 Tues., Wed., Thurs.; Nov. 27–Feb. 4
Marion County Lake	Mickey Goggans	(205) 921-7856	Wednesdays; Feb. 1–June 30 Tues. & Wed.; July 1–Nov. 30
Monroe County Lake	Brenda Craft	(251) 789-2104	Mondays; Feb. 1–June 30 Mon. & Tues.; July 1–Thanksgiving
Pike County Lake	No manager; anglers may fish free without permit. (334) 347-9467		
Walker County Lake	Judy Ingram	(205) 221-1801	Wed. & Thurs.; July 1–Nov. 30
Washington County Lake	James Tucker	(251) 846-2512	Mon. & Tues.; July 1–Nov. 30

IT IS ILLEGAL TO

- Stock fish into public fishing lakes, including minnows used as legal bait
- Sell fish caught from public fishing lakes
- Use any minnow as bait except for goldfish, shiners or toughies (fatheads)
- Operate gasoline outboard motors except where permitted
- Camp (except where permitted), swim, wade or use sailboats
- Launch any boat without a permit
- Be unruly or disorderly
- Solicit, sell or advertise
- Remove shrubs, wildflowers, trees or plants
- Deface or destroy state property
- Exceed posted speed limits
- Operate unlicensed vehicles such as ATVs
- Hunt, trap, pursue, catch or sell any wild bird or wild animal, or possess any firearm or bow and arrow
- Fish without a permit if age 12 or older



Low Cost Insurance for your Boat & Equipment

- ▶ Agreed Value coverage
- ▶ Tournament coverage
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- ▶ Broad cruising area
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mention priority code 4880 or at

BoatUSAngler.com/insurance

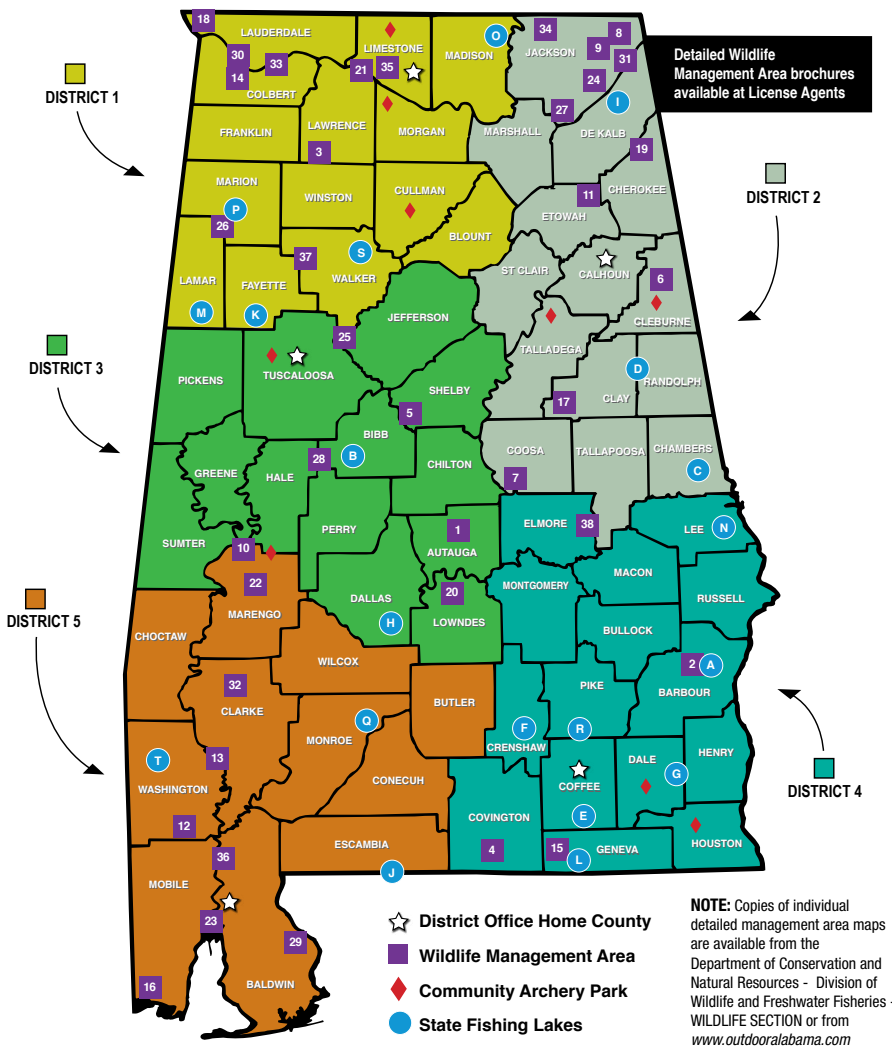


Policies subject to limits and exclusions.

NOTE

All anglers 12 years old and older must have a valid permit in possession to legally fish. No child younger than 12 years old can legally be left unaccompanied by an adult at a public fishing lake. All daily creel, possession and size limits are posted at each lake. Fishing time is limited to daylight hours or as specified by lake manager. No method other than hook and line with natural or artificial bait may be used at public fishing lakes. All anglers must exhibit their catch, fishing permit and fishing license to Conservation Officer or Lake Manager upon demand. All fish must be carried to the Lake Manager who must count and weigh them.

All state lakes are designated as wildlife sanctuaries. Following is a synopsis of regulations for state-owned public fishing lakes and is intended as a general guide. Please refer to the *Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Regulation Book* for complete regulations.



STATE FISHING LAKES

MAP LOCATION	COUNTY
A	Barbour County
B	Bibb County
C	Chambers County
D	Clay County
E	Coffee County
F	Crenshaw County
G	Dale County (Ed Lisenby Public Lake)
H	Dallas County
I	DeKalb County
J	Escambia County (Leon Brooks Hines Public Lake)
K	Fayette County
L	Geneva County
M	Lamar County
N	Lee County Public Lake
O	Madison County
P	Marion County
Q	Monroe County
R	Pike County
S	Walker County
T	Washington County (J. Emmett Wood Public Lake)

HUNT OHIO MONSTERS

3 square miles of an all-inclusive trophy whitetail hunting estate located in the beautiful Appalachian foothills of eastern Ohio

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OPEN PERMIT-PUBLIC LAND

Open Permit-Public Land is defined as governmentally owned land open for public hunting and/or lands made available to the public on an individual basis whether for a fee or not. Examples of such lands would be National Forest Service lands, land owned by lumber companies and utility companies available for use by hunters either through free permits, fee permits or no permit requirement. This does not include Alabama's Wildlife Management Areas. See the 2012-13 Wildlife Management Area Schedule for information.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS

MAP LOCATION	MANAGEMENT AREA	INCLUDES FOREVER WILD LANDS	ACREAGE*	NEAREST TOWN	HUNTED
1	Autauga		370	Prattville	DOVE**
2	Barbour	Yes	27,771	Clayton	BG-SG-SR
3	Black Warrior		91,263	Moulton	BG-SG-SR
4	Blue Spring		24,783	Andalusia	BG-SG
5	William R. Ireland, Sr.-Cahaba River	Yes	40,504	West Blocton	BG-SG-SR
6	Choccolocco		56,838	Heflin	BG-SG-SR
7	Coosa	Yes	32,624	Rockford	BG-SG-SR
8	Crow Creek Refuge		3,346	Stevenson	BG-SG
9	Crow Creek		2,069	Stevenson	BG-SG-WF
10	David K. Nelson (Demopolis)		8,308	Demopolis	WF-BG-SG
11	Etowah Public Shooting Range			Gadsden	SR
12	Frank W. & Rob M. Boykin		17,785	Citronelle	BG-SG
13	Fred T. Stimpson		5,361	Rockville	Youth Deer Only
14	Freedom Hills	Yes	31,996	Cherokee	BG-SG-SR
15	Geneva State Forest		6,739	Kinston	BG-SG
16	Grand Bay Savanna	Yes	5,151	Grand Bay	BG-SG
17	Hollins		29,002	Hollins	BG-SG
18	Lauderdale	Yes	19,831	Waterloo	BG-SG
19	Little River	Yes	13,100	Centre	BG-SG
20	Lowndes	Yes	12,531	White Hall	BG-SG
21	Mallard-Fox Creek		1,742	Decatur	WF-SG
22	Marengo Public Shooting Range			Linden	SR
23	Mobile-Tensaw Delta & W.L. Holland	Yes	51,040	Spanish Fort	WF-BG-SG
24	Mud Creek		8,003	Scottsboro	WF-SG-BG
25	Mulberry Fork	Yes	35,260	Tutwiler	BG-SG
26	Sam R. Murphy		17,625	Guin	BG-SG-SR
27	North Sauty Refuge		5,009	Scottsboro	BG-SG
28	Oakmulgee		44,500	Moundville	BG-SG-SR
29	Perdido River	Yes	17,337	Gateswood	WF-BG-SG
30	Riverton	Yes	6,631	Cherokee	BG-SG
31	Raccoon Creek	Yes	4,506	Stevenson	WF-SG-BG
32	Scotch		19,480	Coffeeville	BG-SG
33	Seven-Mile Island		4,685	Florence	WF-SG
34	James D. Martin-Skyline	Yes	46,890	Scottsboro	BG-SG-SR
35	Swan Creek		8,870	Decatur	WF-SG-SR
36	Upper Delta	Yes	42,451	Stockton	WF-BG-SG-SR
37	Wolf Creek		9,055	Townley	BG-SG
38	Yates Lake West	Yes	3,518	Tallassee	BG-SG

* Acreage current as of May 2012

** Open for Falconry also.

BG Big Game: Deer & Turkey

SG Small Game: Squirrel, Rabbit, Quail, Dove, etc.

WF Waterfowl

SR Shooting Range

RECORDS OF ALABAMA'S WHITE-TAILED DEER

WFF has a new records and recognition program for white-tailed deer killed in Alabama, the Records of Alabama's White-tailed Deer (RAWD). The program allows Alabama's deer hunters to compare deer taken in their region to other areas of Alabama, as well as other states in the Southeast. It also showcases the quality animals produced by management efforts and strategies within Alabama.

Contact your nearest ADWFF Office or visit www.outdooralabama.com for more information on the RAWD program.

Fishing Daily Creel, Possession & Size Limits

The creel and possession limits for fish in all public waters of this state, except as otherwise provided for certain State and Federally owned and/or managed fishing lakes and ponds, shall be as follows:

SPECIES	DETAILS	LIMIT
Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Coosa and Shoal Bass or Combinations	No more than five of the bass daily creel of 10 may be smallmouth bass. See exceptions for shoal bass in Little Uchee and Osanippa Creeks, tributaries of the Chattahoochee River.	10
Walleye	It shall be illegal to take or attempt to take walleye by any method from Sweetwater Lake located in the Talladega National Forest, Cleburne County, from White Plains Lake (also known as Whitesides Mill Lake), Calhoun County and from Shoal Creek upstream of White Plains Lake, Calhoun and Cleburne Counties. It shall also be illegal to take or attempt to take walleye by any method from Lake Mitchell on the Coosa River between Mitchell Dam and Lay Dam or from its tributary streams; Walnut Creek in Chilton County and Hatchet and Weogufka Creeks in Coosa County. Any walleye taken in these lakes or streams shall immediately be released back into the waters from which they were taken with least possible harm.	2
Sauger	It is illegal to possess any Sauger less than 14 inches in total length.	10
White Bass	—	15
Yellow Bass	—	15
Saltwater Striped Bass and Hybrids or Combinations	No more than five of the 15 may exceed 22 inches in total length. See exceptions for Lewis Smith, Inland, Yates, and Thurlow reservoirs and Lake Martin.	15
Crappie	It is illegal to possess any Crappie less than nine inches in total length taken from Alabama public waters, including Aliceville Reservoir and Pickwick Reservoir. Waters exempt from the nine-inch Crappie limit include impoundments less than 500 surface acres, and the reciprocal waters of the Chattahoochee River and Impoundments and their tributaries, Bear Creek Reservoir (Big Bear Lake of the B.C.D.A. Lakes), Lake Jackson at Florala and Weiss Reservoir. See exception for Weiss Reservoir.	30
Catfish	It is illegal to possess more than one (1) catfish over 34 inches in total length taken from Alabama public waters. No blue or flathead catfish over 34 inches in total length may be transported live beyond the boundaries of this state unless permitted in writing by the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This size limit shall not apply for harvest of blue catfish and flathead catfish from river basins where blue catfish and flathead catfish are not native. These river basins include the Perdido, Conecuh, Blackwater, Yellow, Choctawhatchee, Chipola, and Chattahoochee Rivers.	<< See details
Bream	—	50
Rainbow Trout	It shall be unlawful to cull from the creel any trout caught from the Sipsey Fork from Lewis Smith Dam downstream to the confluence with the Mulberry Fork. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a trout from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another trout.	5
Alligator Gar	—	1
Turtles	Includes Common Snapping, Painted, Eastern Chicken, River Cooter, Florida Cooter, Pond Slider, Eastern Mud, Loggerhead Musk, Stinkpot and all species of Softshells. Taking of turtles is limited to personal use only. Commercial use prohibited.	2

Good Fishing Depends on Clean Water

Many of our rivers, lakes, and coastal areas are experiencing algae blooms that cover our favorite fishing spots with green slime and cause fish kills and “dead zones” where no aquatic life can survive. The cause is usually nitrogen and phosphorus pollution that comes from farm and lawn fertilizers, septic systems, animal waste, and sewage treatment plants. Everyone can do their part for clean water by reducing fertilizer use, preserving plants along shorelines, and picking up pet waste. Supporting water quality protection supports great fishing!

Learn more at epa.gov/nutrientpollution



IMPORTANT NOTES

- The creel and possession limits provided for above shall **not** apply to fish held live for release by the sponsor or its designated agent after a bona fide fishing tournament provided they are released unharmed to the public waters from which they were taken as soon as reasonably possible on the same day they were taken. This does not obligate the sponsor or its designated agent to release dead or dying fish.
- **Total length** of fish measured from the front of the mouth to the tip of the tail with both mouth and tail closed.
- **It is a violation of Alabama law** for any person to transport more than one day’s creel limit of any species of fish beyond the boundaries of this state. It is a violation of Alabama law for any person to fillet freshwater fish while on public waters except when fish are being prepared for immediate cooking and consumption, provided however, that fish may be drawn or gutted with heads left attached.
- **It shall be unlawful** for any angler to fish with more than three rods and reels, or poles, or any combination thereof on Weiss Reservoir or Neely Henry lakes at any time.
- There is no closed season on any freshwater game fish.

SIZE LIMITS

As provided for above, as posted in State and Federally owned and/or managed public fishing lakes and ponds, and as follows:

Demopolis Reservoir

It is illegal to possess any Black Bass less than 14 inches in total length.

Guntersville Reservoir & its Tributary of Town Creek

It is illegal to possess any Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Harris Reservoir

It is illegal to possess any Largemouth Bass between 13 inches and 16 inches in total length.

Lake Jackson at Florala

Creel limit of five Black Bass greater than 12 inches in total length. Only one of the five can be over 22 inches in total length.

Lake Martin

It is illegal to possess more than two Saltwater Striped Bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit. It shall be unlawful to intentionally cull from the creel any saltwater striped bass from June 15th to October 15th. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a Saltwater Striped Bass from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another Striped Bass.

Lewis Smith Reservoir

It is illegal to possess more than two Saltwater Striped Bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit. It shall be unlawful to intentionally cull from the creel any saltwater striped bass from June 15th to October 15th. Culling is defined as removing and releasing a Saltwater Striped Bass from the creel (live well, stringer, basket, bucket, cooler or other container) whether or not it is replaced with another Striped Bass.

Lewis Smith Reservoir

It is illegal to possess any Black Bass between 13 inches and 15 inches in total length.

Little Bear Creek Reservoir of the B.C.D.A. Lakes

It is illegal to possess Largemouth Bass between 13 inches and 16 inches in total length.

Pickwick Reservoir

It is illegal to possess any Smallmouth Bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Thurlow Reservoir

It is illegal to possess more than two Saltwater Striped Bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length.

Walter F. George Reservoir (Lake Eufaula) & its Tributaries

It is illegal to possess any Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches in total length. (See *Chattahoochee River Tributaries*.)

Weiss Reservoir

It is illegal to possess Crappie less than 10 inches in total length.

West Point Reservoir & its Tributaries

It is illegal to possess any Largemouth Bass less than 14 inches in total length. (See *Chattahoochee River Tributaries*.)

Wheeler Reservoir

It is illegal to possess any Smallmouth Bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Wilson Reservoir & its Tributaries of Big Nance and Town Creeks

It is illegal to possess any Smallmouth Bass less than 15 inches in total length.

Yates Reservoir

It is illegal to possess more than two Saltwater Striped Bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length.

Inland Reservoir

It is illegal to possess more than two Saltwater Striped Bass that exceed 22 inches in total length in the daily creel limit and only one of those may exceed 30 inches in total length.

Chattahoochee River Tributaries

It is illegal to possess Shoal Bass in Little Uchee and Osanippa Creeks.

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- Make fishing in Alabama better through improved habitat.
- Provide education through expanded kids' fishing events.
- Protect Alabama's fishes, snails and mussels.

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- Purchase a tag now at your local probate office for \$50 above the regular renewal price.
- Personalization is available at no additional cost or can be transferred from existing personalized tags.

For more information visit: www.outdooralabama.com

LIGHTS

Operators of all vessels must comply with the requirements for the type and use of lights when anchored or underway from sunset to sunrise, or during times of limited visibility.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (LIFE PRESERVERS)

Vessels less than 16 feet in length will have aboard a Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device for each person. Vessels 16 feet and over in length shall have aboard a U. S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III or V personal flotation device for each person and at least one Type IV on board as a throwable device. The Type V personal flotation device must be worn to be acceptable.

All persons under eight years of age, on any vessel, must, at all times, wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device that must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely in place; except, no personal flotation device is required when inside an enclosed cabin or enclosed sleeping space.

EMERGENCY ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH

No person shall operate or give permission to operate any vessel less than 24 feet in length, having an open cockpit and having more than 50 horsepower, unless said vessel is equipped with an emergency engine or motor shut-off switch. The cut-off switch must be a lanyard-type and must be attached to the person, clothing or personal flotation device of the operator.

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS

1. Operating a vessel or personal watercraft under the age of 12 (check 2001 changes).
2. Operating a vessel in such a manner and at a rate of speed as will create a hazardous wash or wake when approaching or passing another vessel or when entering or leaving a harbor or marina area.
3. Operating a vessel towing a person or persons on water skis, or an aquaplane or similar device unless there is in the vessel a person, in addition to the operator, who is at least 12 years of age and is observing and is capable of communicating to the operator the progress of the person being towed or unless the vessel is equipped with a wide-angle mirror with a viewing surface of at least 78 square inches and a field of vision of at least 170 degrees.
4. Motor boats generally yield right-of-way to non-motor powered boats.
5. Vessels yielding right-of-way shall reduce speed, stop, reverse or alter course to avoid collision.
6. Vessel with right-of-way shall hold course and speed. If there is danger of collision, all vessels will slow down, stop or reverse until danger is averted.
7. Vessels approaching or passing another vessel must be operated in such manner and at such rate of speed as will not create a hazardous wash or wake.
8. All vessels must be operated at reasonable speeds for given situations and must be under the complete control of the operator at all times.

RECKLESS OPERATION

It is unlawful to operate a vessel in a reckless manner upon the waters of this state. A person is guilty of reckless operation when he operates any vessel or manipulates any water skis or any other marine transportation device upon the waters of this state in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property at a speed or in a manner to endanger or likely to endanger life or limb or property or cause injury to any person.

CARELESS OPERATION

It is unlawful to operate a vessel in a careless manner upon the waters of this State. Careless operation is the endangerment of life, limb or property through negligence, carelessness or inattention of the operator.

OPERATOR LICENSE

The Roberson-Archer Act and The Boating Safety Enhancement Act of 2001 mandates that no one under the age of 12 may operate a motorized vessel, and that every vessel operator be licensed and have the license

in possession at the time of operation. For more information on operator license requirements, see page 53.

Any person who was age 40 or older on April 28, 1994 is exempt from taking an approved boating course and/or the written exam. Persons who are age exempt are still required to obtain a boat operator's license.

HOW AND WHERE TO GET YOUR LICENSE

- Applicants may go to the Department of Public Safety Driver's License Examining Office in their county of residence, where they must successfully complete a written/oral exam or show proof of exemption (certificate of completion), answer medical questions, and pay application and license fees.
- Minors (under 21) must furnish a certified birth certificate and social security card.
- All applicants will fill out the proper forms and pay a one-time application fee of \$5 CASH to the Dept. of Public Safety. Upon successful completion of all requirements and payment of the \$23.50 license renewal fee, the "V" class will be added to the applicant's Alabama driver's license. Non-residents or non drivers will pay a \$28.50 fee (\$5 application fee and \$23.50 fee) to generate a vessel only card which will expire four years from date of issuance.
- Applicants may also take an approved on-line course (www.boat-ed.com or www.boaterexam.com) or classroom course and present the certificate of completion to the Driver's License Examiner's office in lieu of taking the exam there. Any fees charged for the on-line course are in addition to the license renewal fees.
- **Failure to have a license in possession when operating a vessel can result in the issuance of a citation, with average fine and court costs of \$200.**

OBSTRUCTION OF OPERATOR'S VIEW PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful for the operator of a vessel, when the vessel is operated at or above plane speed, to position or allow the positioning of, persons or equipment, including but not limited to, seats, coolers, tackle, ski and tubing devices, in a manner that would obstruct the operator's view, or would otherwise impair, the safe operation of the vessel while operating on the waters of the state. Sailboats and auxiliary sailboats are exempt from this section.

For more information on boating safety law and regulations, call the Marine Police Division at (334) 242-3673 or visit www.outdooralabama.com and click on Boating.

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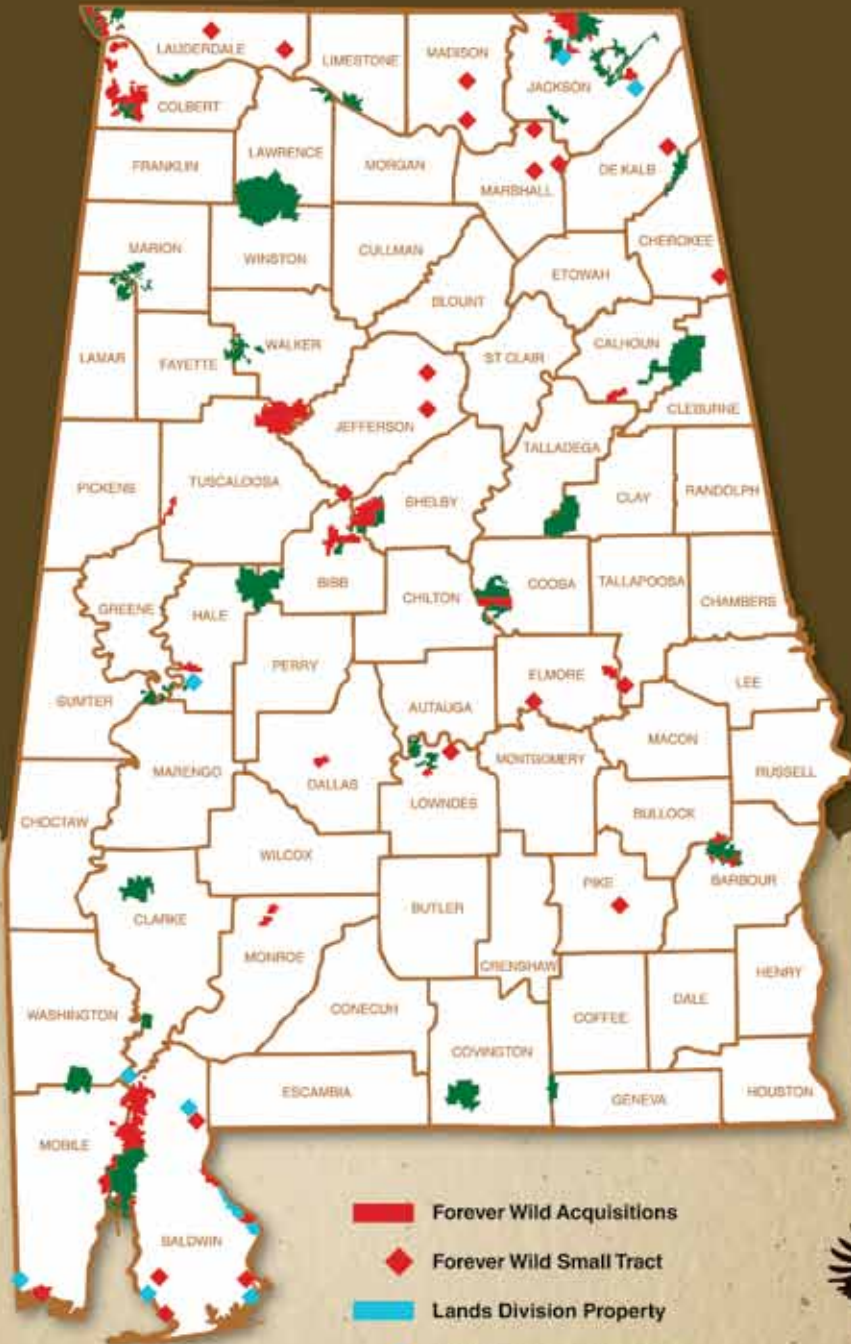


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Commonly Caught Alabama Game Fish



LARGEMOUTH BASS



SPOTTED BASS



SMALLMOUTH BASS



BLACK CRAPPIE



WHITE CRAPPIE



WALLEYE



SAUGER



YELLOW PERCH



BLUEGILL



**REDEAR SUNFISH
(SHELLCRACKER)**



CHANNEL CATFISH



BLUE CATFISH



FLATHEAD CATFISH



WHITE BASS



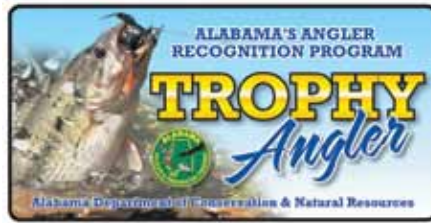
STRIPED BASS

Alabama's Angler Recognition Program is intended to honor those individuals who catch large sportfish from Alabama waters, and to provide biologists with useful statistics on the number of large fish caught from our reservoirs. The program includes four categories:

1. Master Angler
2. Trophy Angler
3. Lake Record
4. State Record

Anglers can submit applications for Master Angler and Trophy Angler status based upon their fish's total length, or total weight, but not both, and may submit an unlimited number of applications.

Fish must be caught by legal angling methods either on pole and line, or rod and reel from a private pond within the State of Alabama or from public waters under Alabama's Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries jurisdiction. Fish must meet the minimum size requirements listed in the table below. Each applicant must possess a valid Alabama fishing license and applications must be completed in full and submitted on an official application form within three (3) months of the catch.



Applications, specific requirements, and detailed instructions can be obtained from any District Fisheries office or from our website at: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/fishing/freshwater/record/>.

Application must include two photographs: 1) showing side view of the fish with a ruler or yardstick clearly visible beside the fish for use as a reference to its length, and 2) the angler holding the fish to be included on the Department's website. Each photograph must be of high enough quality that the species can be determined by Fisheries Section Biologists.

Qualified anglers will receive a certificate commemorating their catch, a decal to be displayed on their boat or truck, will have their picture posted on the department's webpage, and will be recognized in the Alabama Division of Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Annual B.A.I.T. Report.

SPECIES	MASTER ANGLER		TROPHY ANGLER	
	WEIGHT	LENGTH	WEIGHT	LENGTH
Black Crappie	2.5 lb.	15"	3.5 lb.	17"
Blue Catfish	50 lb.	46"	70 lb.	51"
Bluegill Sunfish	1 lb.	10"	2 lb.	13"
Channel Catfish	15 lb.	32"	25 lb.	37"
Flathead Catfish	30 lb.	38"	50 lb.	44"
Hybrid Striped Bass	12 lb.	27"	16 lb.	29"
Largemouth Bass	8 lb.	23"	10 lb.	25"
Redear Sunfish	1 lb.	11"	2 lb.	13"
Redeye Bass	12 oz.	11"	1 lb.	13"
Sauger	2 lb.	17"	3 lb.	19"
Smallmouth Bass	5 lb.	20"	7 lb.	22"
Spotted Bass	4 lb.	19"	6 lb.	21"
Striped Bass	25 lb.	38"	35 lb.	42"
Walleye	5 lb.	22"	8 lb.	26"
White Bass	3 lb.	17"	4 lb.	19"
White Crappie	2.5 lb.	16"	3.5 lbs.	18"

Qualifying sizes are derived from the standard weight (W_s) equation with a relative weight (W_r) of 110%.

ATTENTION: HUNTERS & ANGLERS

We want to hear from you!

The Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division needs your email address so you can participate in official Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries Division surveys!

Be sure to provide your email address when you buy your license!

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WILD HOG May-Sept. Unlimited Blowout Hunts

DEER Oct 15-Jan 31
8 pt. or larger, 2 does, 2 hogs per 3 days

TURKEY Mar 15-Apr 30
2 mature gobblers per 3 days

FISHING Complementary for Hunting Guests

BOW/GUN 2-Day, 3-Day & Multi-Day Hunts

2012 Hunter Education Class Schedule

Please note classes are subject to change.

For the most current class schedule and information, visit our website at www.outdooralabama.com/hunting/education.

COUNTY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DETAILS
Autauga	25*			10*	Online
Baldwin	14*	11*	9*	13*	Online
Barbour					
Bibb		5*		6*, 12*	Online
Blount	6, 7, 9, 10	10, 11, 13, 14	1, 2, 3, 4	5, 6, 8	Online
Bullock					
Butler	25*			3*	Online
Calhoun	27, 28, 30			5, 6, 8	(256) 435-1642
Chambers	18*			3*	(256) 435-1642
Cherokee	6, 7, 9			5*	Online
Chilton	20, 21, 23, 25		22, 23, 25, 27		Online
Choctaw					
Clarke	27, 28, 29		5, 6, 7		Online
Clay	18*			3, 4	(205) 339-5716
Cleburne	25*		23*		(256) 463-7522
Coffee					
Colbert	25*		6*		(256) 386-5616
Conecuh	25*				(251) 626-5474
Coosa	25*			3*	(256) 377-0022
Covington					
Crenshaw					
Cullman	20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27			8*	Online
Dale					
Dallas	24*		6*	6*	Online
Dekalb	27, 28, 30		30*		Online
Elmore	25*			3*	Online
Escambia		15*		3*	Online
Etowah	16*	6*	11*	8*	Online
Fayette		1*	20*		Online
Franklin	25*	29*			Online
Geneva		8, 9		3, 4	
Greene			22, 23, 24		Online
Hale			6*	3*	Online
Henry					
Houston					
Jackson	4*			5, 6, 8	(256) 435-1642
Jefferson	25*		6*	3*	Online
Lamar	25*		6*		Online
Lauderdale	18*	10*			Online
Lawrence	4, 5		6, 7		Online
Lee					
Limestone	4*		8*		Online
Lowndes	25*			3*	Online
Macon					
Madison	18*, 25, 26	15*	13*, 27, 28		Online
Marengo	25*	29*		3*	Online
Marion	25*			3*	Online
Marshall		8*	1, 2, 4		(205) 399-6311
Mobile		8*			Online
Monroe	11*		27*		Online
Montgomery	17*				Online
Morgan	18, 19			3, 4	Online
Perry	20, 21, 23		29, 30	1	Online
Pickens	27, 28, 29			5, 6, 7	Online
Pike					
Randolph	20, 21, 22, 23			5, 6, 7, 8	Online
Russell					
Shelby	28*		11*, 27*	5*	Online
St. Clair	21*		2*	1*	Online
Sumter			6*, 21, 22, 23		Online
Talladega	25*	11*	9*	5*	Online
Tallapoosa	11, 12		6, 7		(256) 839-5154
Tuscaloosa	30*	6*, 25*	11*	8*	Online
Walker	28*	29*		5, 6, 8	Online
Washington	25*				Online
Wilcox					
Winston	11*		22, 23, 25		Online

The Hunter Education program offers (2) types of courses, traditional and internet/field day. The traditional course is a minimum of 10 hours of instruction completed entirely in a classroom setting over several days. The internet/field day course is a two part class which requires completion of an internet based course followed by a one day field day. All classes listed are traditional classes unless indicated.

Note: Some counties have multiple classes in the same month.

* Indicates a field day course

For further information, call the Hunter Education Office: (800) 245-2740

CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

- Times in table are for Birmingham (downtown)
Location: WO86O49',N33O32'
- Add one hour when on Daylight Savings Time
- PLEASE BE AWARE that sunrise/sunset times for other locations in the state—both north to south and east to west—may vary by as much as ten minutes or more from the times given in the table for downtown Birmingham. Times are specific to a given location's coordinates of longitude and latitude, as well as day-of-the-year.

DAY	SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.	RISE A.M.	SET P.M.
1	0522	1812	0542	1731	0607	1655	0634	1639	0652	1651	0643	1719
2	0522	1811	0543	1730	0607	1654	0635	1639	0652	1651	0643	1720
3	0523	1809	0543	1728	1608	1653	0635	1639	0652	1652	0642	1721
4	0524	1808	0544	1727	0609	1652	0636	1639	0652	1653	0641	1722
5	0524	1807	0545	1726	0610	1651	0637	1639	0652	1654	0640	1723
6	0525	1805	0546	1724	0611	1650	0638	1639	0652	1655	0639	1724
7	0526	1804	0546	1723	0612	1650	0639	1639	0652	1655	0639	1725
8	0526	1803	0547	1722	0613	1649	0639	1639	0652	1656	0638	1726
9	0527	1801	0548	1720	0614	1648	0640	1639	0652	1657	0637	1727
10	0528	1800	0549	1719	0615	1647	0641	1640	0652	1658	0636	1727
11	0528	1758	0549	1718	0616	1647	0642	1640	0652	1659	0635	1728
12	0529	1757	0550	1717	0617	1646	0642	1640	0652	1700	0634	1729
13	0530	1756	0551	1715	0617	1645	0643	1640	0652	1701	0633	1730
14	0530	1754	0552	1714	0618	1645	0644	1641	0652	1702	0632	1731
15	0531	1753	0552	1713	0619	1644	0644	1641	0651	1703	0631	1732
16	0532	1752	0553	1712	0620	1644	0645	1641	0651	1703	0630	1733
17	0532	1750	0554	1711	0621	1643	0646	1642	0651	1704	0629	1734
18	0533	1749	0555	1709	0622	1643	0646	1642	0651	1705	0628	1735
19	0534	1747	0556	1708	0623	1642	0647	1643	0650	1706	0627	1736
20	0534	1746	0556	1707	0624	1642	0647	1643	0650	1707	0626	1737
21	0535	1745	0557	1706	0625	1641	0648	1644	0649	1708	0625	1737
22	0536	1743	0558	1705	0626	1641	0648	1644	0649	1709	0624	1738
23	0536	1742	0559	1704	0627	1641	0649	1645	0649	1710	0622	1739
24	0537	1740	0600	1703	0628	1640	0649	1645	0648	1711	0621	1740
25	0538	1739	0600	1702	0629	1640	0650	1646	0648	1712	0620	1741
26	0538	1738	0601	1701	0629	1640	0650	1646	0647	1713	0619	1742
27	0539	1736	0602	1700	0630	1640	0650	1647	0646	1714	0618	1743
28	0540	1735	0603	1659	0631	1639	0651	1648	0646	1715	0616	1743
29	0541	1734	0604	1658	0632	1639	0651	1648	0645	1716	—	—
30	0541	1732	0605	1657	0633	1639	0651	1649	0645	1717	—	—
31	—	—	0606	1656	—	—	0651	1650	0644	1718	—	—

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Hunting Club Liability Insurance

There are reasons to purchase hunting club liability insurance?

What does the OIC Club Policy include?

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- Member-to-Member Coverage
- Guest Liability Coverage
- No Deductible

Jed Reed

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DATA from the Astronomical Applications Dept. of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.

LIFETIME LICENSE APPLICATION

Name: _____

⁽¹⁾ Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____ Driver's License #: _____

Sex: Male
 Female

Date of Birth: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Weight: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Height: _____

Phone: Home (____) _____ - _____ Work (____) _____ - _____ Cell (____) _____ - _____

Eyes: _____

Hunter Education ID Number: _____

Hair: _____

License Privilege (by age)	Under 2	2-11	12-49	50 & over	New	Upgrade
Freshwater Fishing*	<input type="radio"/> \$156.80	<input type="radio"/> \$209.05	<input type="radio"/> \$261.35	<input type="radio"/> \$156.80	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting*	<input type="radio"/> \$313.65	<input type="radio"/> \$418.20	<input type="radio"/> \$522.70	<input type="radio"/> \$313.65	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Saltwater Fishing	<input type="radio"/> \$261.35	<input type="radio"/> \$313.65	<input type="radio"/> \$365.90	<input type="radio"/> \$261.35	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting & Freshwater Fishing*	<input type="radio"/> \$470.50	<input type="radio"/> \$522.70	<input type="radio"/> \$731.85	<input type="radio"/> \$470.50	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting & Saltwater Fishing*	<input type="radio"/> \$575.00	<input type="radio"/> \$731.85	<input type="radio"/> \$888.70	<input type="radio"/> \$575.00	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Freshwater & Saltwater Fishing*	<input type="radio"/> \$418.20	<input type="radio"/> \$522.70	<input type="radio"/> \$627.30	<input type="radio"/> \$418.20	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hunting, Fresh & Saltwater Fishing*	<input type="radio"/> \$731.85	<input type="radio"/> \$836.40	<input type="radio"/> \$1,097.80	<input type="radio"/> \$731.85	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Wildlife Heritage	<input type="radio"/> \$209.05	<input type="radio"/> \$209.05	<input type="radio"/> \$209.05	<input type="radio"/> \$209.05	<input type="radio"/>	N/A
Replacement Lifetime License	<input type="radio"/> \$5	<u>OR</u>	<input type="radio"/> N/C (current license must be returned)			

* Freshwater Fishing and Hunting Lifetime License include the Wildlife Heritage Privileges — see page 34.

Upgrading / Replacement: Enter Current Lifetime License Number _____

(If school age child, provide proof of enrollment in an Alabama school.)

This is to certify under penalty of law, that applicant named above is a bonafide Alabama resident having resided continuously in Alabama a minimum of 90 days immediately preceding this date as required by State Law. NOTE: It is a violation of Alabama law for any nonresident to **attempt** to purchase an Alabama lifetime hunting / fishing license.

Submit: (1) **completed application**, (2) **check or money order**, and (3) **copy of driver's license** to:

Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Div., Attn: License Sales, PO Box 301456, Montgomery, AL 36130-1456, or by walk-in or express mail requests: 64 N Union Street, Ste 567, 36104.

Questions: (334) 242-3465 or tereza.ancelet@dcnr.alabama.gov

License can also be issued by selected WFF District Offices (Tanner, Jacksonville & Northport), County Probate Office/License Commissioner, local agents (which includes most sporting good and bait & tackle shops in Alabama), our website www.outdooralabama.com or by calling 1-888-848-6887.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Check to be excluded from DCNR email updates **and** excluded from list sold by DCNR **If blank, you will be included.**

⁽¹⁾ DCNR is now required by Section 30-3-194 (A) Code of Alabama 1975 to collect social security numbers on all recreational licenses being issued/renewed.

PROCEDURES FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF ALABAMA STATE RECORD FRESHWATER FISH

- Fish must be caught in Alabama waters by legal means.
- Fish must be identified by Alabama Fisheries Section biologist or other certified fisheries biologist.
- Fish must be weighed on certified scales.
- Weighing must be witnessed by two people.
- Application must be submitted on an official application form within three months of the catch. Request a form by calling (334) 242-3471.
- Application form must be notarized.



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SPECIES	WEIGHT	DATE	LOCATION	ANGLER/HOMETOWN
Bass, Largemouth	16 lbs, 8 oz	11/3/1987	Mtn. View Lake, Shelby Co.	Thomas (T.M.) Burgin/Birmingham
Bass, Redeye ^b	3 lbs, 2 oz	3/8/2000	Chocolocco Creek	William Terry Johnson/Oxford
Bass, Rock	1 lb, 6 oz	5/6/1995	Paint Rock River	James R. Stewart/Scottsboro
Bass, Shoal (protected in AL; release when captured)	6 lbs, 11 oz	2/25/1996	Halawakee Creek	Darrell Trawick/Salem
Bass, Smallmouth ^c	10 lbs, 8 oz	10/8/1950	Wheeler Dam Tailwater	Owen F. Smith/Fairfield
Bass, Spotted ^b	8 lbs, 15 oz	3/18/1978	Lewis Smith Reservoir	Phillip C. Terry/Decatur
Bass, Striped	55 lbs	1955	Tallapoosa River	Charles Totty/Tallassee
Bass, Striped Hybrid	25 lbs, 15 oz	9/13/1996	Sipsey Fork (Warrior River)	E. H. Hodges/Chelsea
Bass, White	4 lbs, 9 oz	2/14/1987	Warrior River	Ben DeMott/Bessemer
Bass, Yellow ^a	2 lbs, 8 oz	4/12/2000	Guntersville Reservoir	Dennis M. Woebeking/Pisgah
Bowfin	18 lbs, 6 oz	7/31/2005	Lake Tuscaloosa	Nelson Ray Sansing/Sawyerille
Buffalo	57 lbs	4/13/1990	Guntersville Reservoir	Ralph B. Lowery/Albertville
Bullhead	3 lbs, 13 oz	4/8/1984	Private Pond/Montgomery Co.	Charles A. Lane/Montgomery
Carp	35 lbs	4/19/1980	Bear Creek, Colbert Co.	Darrin Jackson/Double Springs
Carp, Grass (White Amur)	73 lbs	4/10/2012	Guntersville Reservoir	Bradley D. Bridges, Sr./Bryant
Catfish, Blue	120 lbs, 4 oz	3/9/2012	Holt Reservoir	John Paul Nichols/Northport
Catfish, Channel	40 lbs	6/17/1967	Inland Lake	Donald R. Cox/Oneonta
Catfish, Flathead	80 lbs	6/22/1986	Alabama River, Selma	Rick Conner/Selma
Catfish, White	10 lbs, 5 oz	4/3/1981	Chambers Co. Public Fishing Lake	Roy T. Britton/Opelika
Crappie, Black (tie)	4 lbs, 5 oz	3/27/2007	Fort Payne Reservoir	Shelley Meadows/Mentone
	4 lbs, 5 oz	6/2/1997	Private Pond/Jefferson Co.	William D. Webb/Birmingham
	4 lbs, 4 oz	3/18/1984	Paint Creek	Sherril Harris/Sylacauga
Crappie, White (tie)	4 lbs, 9 oz	5/8/2000	Lake Martin, Tallapoosa County	Jeremy S. White/Alexander City
	4 lbs, 8 oz	4/4/1974	Guntersville Reservoir	Jack Grant/Altoona
Drum, Freshwater ^b	41 lbs, 8 oz	7/24/1949	Wilson Reservoir	Wilson Brock/Birmingham
Eel, American	5 lbs, 8 oz	5/11/1989	Lake Shechi, Chilton Co.	Tod A. Groover/Montevallo
Gar, Alligator (tie)	151 lbs, 9 oz	8/13/2009	Tensaw River	Richard Johnson/Bay Minette
	151 lbs, 5 oz	8/13/2004	Tensaw River	Michael Houseknecht/Mobile
Gar, Longnose	32 lbs, 14 oz	4/18/1985	Jordan Reservoir	Gary Smyth/Pelham
Gar, Spotted	8 lbs, 12 oz	8/26/1987	Cotaco Creek	Winston Baker/Alexander City
Herring, Skipjack	3 lbs, 4 oz	5/2/2012	Mulberry Fork	Bobby Lee Davis/Bessemer
Muskellunge (no longer stocked)	19 lbs, 8 oz	12/31/1972	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Steve Leatherwood/Haleyville
Paddlefish (protected; release when captured)	52 lbs, 12 oz	3/18/1982	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Susan Holland/Muscle Shoals
Perch, Yellow	1 lb, 15 oz	2/26/2000	Wheeler Reservoir, Limestone Co.	Mathew K. Patterson/Decatur
Pickrel, Chain	6 lbs, 6 oz	6/24/1976	Dyas Creek, Baldwin Co.	Michael P. Ryan/Bay Minette
Pickrel, Redfin	0 lbs, 11 oz	8/24/2010	Armstrong Creek, Washington Co.	Frank Lambert Dickey/Chatom
Redhorse, Silver ^a	14 lbs, 14 oz	4/24/1995	Wilson Dam Tailwater	Chris Stephenson/Birmingham
Sauger	5 lbs, 2 oz	3/5/1972	Wilson Dam Tailwater	William F. Huntley/Athens
Sunfish, Bluegill ^b	4 lbs, 12 oz	4/9/1950	Ketona Lake, Birmingham	T.S. Hudson/Birmingham
Sunfish, Green	1 lb, 9 oz.	8/10/2005	McLamore Pond, Walker Co.	Caleb Miller/Parrish
Sunfish, Longear	8 oz	5/12/1990	Yellow River	Jerry Jones/Ozark
Sunfish, Redbreast	1 lb, 4 oz.	6/12/2010	Choctawhatchee River	Archie Russ/Brantley
Sunfish, Redear ^b	4 lbs, 4 oz	5/5/1962	Chattahoochee State Park	Jeff Lashley/Gordon
Trout, Rainbow	9 lbs, 1 oz	4/22/2006	Mud Creek, Tannehill State Park	Otha G. Hamm/Alexandria
Walleye	10 lbs, 14 oz	6/24/1980	Weiss Reservoir	Julia Hurley/Cedar Bluff
Warmouth	1 lb, 12 oz	4/25/1986	Farm Pond	Jimmy A. Barfield/Dothan

a World Record

b Previous World Record — Rod and Reel

c Previous World Record — Any Method

Revised on May 31, 2012. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, gender, natural origin, or disability in its hiring or employment practices nor in admission to, access to, or operations of its programs, services, or activities.

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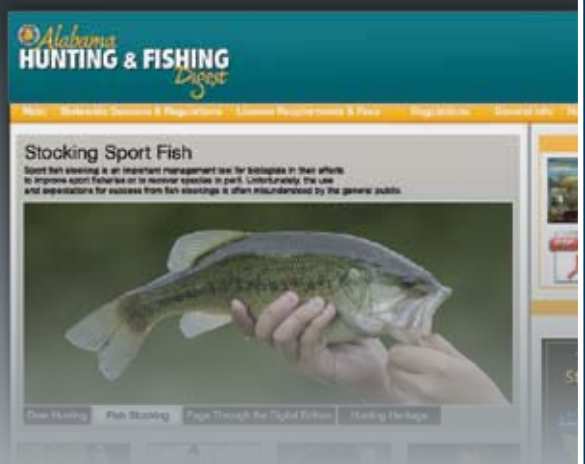
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FREE! Full-Body Harness, Carrying Straps
& 5-Year Limited Warranty!



Regal Graze Ladino Clover

7 lb. bucket
Plants 1 acre.



Hunting Boots & Footwear



Pro Hunter 30-Gallon Tripod Feeder with Tapered Hopper

- 30-gallon plastic, two-piece tapered hopper
- Lockable flip-top lid #MFH-PHB30B
- Holds 200 lbs. of feed AFC #477898
- Powder-coated leg pole kit (6 volt battery not included)

\$12999



Hunter Safety System Ultra Lite

- Packable and portable at only 2 pounds
- Padded shoulder straps for added comfort
- Extreme ventilation for warm weather
- Lighter, quicker leg strap buckles with silent rubber coating
- Single front buckle
- Available in sizes up to 3X #HSS310LXL, AFC #423109

\$9999



CANNON Scout Gun Safe

Scout 14, AFC #405550. 14 gun.
60" X 24" X 19". 350 pounds. Certified fire
protection 1200°F for 30 minutes.
Combination dial lock. Heat activated
door seal. Lined with
UL 5/8" thick fire board. **\$59799**



TROPHY ROCK

All Natural Mineral Lick

AFC #407100

20 lb. rock

\$2059

Available at participating locations.

GATOR MACHETE With Nylon Sheath 17" Blade

Machete doubles as a
saw. Black oxide-coated
steel blade with
serrated saw on
top. 25" overall.
1 lb.

#22-41567,
AFC #459102

\$2299

