

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - 2009

	Missouri	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Hoop net (wing, heart, lead and straight lead net), fyke net	Minimum mesh size: 1 ½" Maximum lead/wing depth: 6 feet Must be attended: every 48 hours	Minimum mesh size: 1" Maximum lead/wing length: 60 feet Must be attended: every 72 hours	Minimum mesh size: 3" Maximum lead/wing length: 50 feet Minimum thread size: #7 nylon; #9 cotton or linen Must be attended: every 72 hours	Minimum mesh size: 2 ½" Maximum lead/wing length: 300 feet Minimum thread size: 15 gauge	Minimum mesh size: 3" Only 7 nets can have leads (up to 35 yards in length) with minimum mesh of 3 inches. Hearts may be used. On nets less than 3" mesh leads, hearts and wings are not allowed.	Minimum mesh size: 1" Leads in overflow area only
Fiddler net	Same as hoop net	Same as hoop net	Same as hoop net	Minimum mesh size: 1 ½" No leads Minimum thread size: 15 gauge	Minimum mesh size: same as adjoining states On nets less than 3" mesh leads, hearts and wings are not allowed.	Minimum mesh 1" Leads in overflow area only
Gill net	Minimum mesh size: 2" Must be attended: at all times	Minimum mesh size: 3" Must be attended: every 24 hours	Minimum mesh size: 3" Mesh sizes > 4" and < 5" prohibited Maximum length: 300 yards May not be hobbled < 2/3 height Must be attended: every 24 hours	Minimum mesh size: 3 ½"	Minimum mesh size: same as adjoining states Maximum length: 1,000 yards (3,000 feet)	Minimum mesh size: 3" Maximum length: None
Trammel net	Minimum mesh size: 2" Must be attended: at all times	Minimum mesh size: 3" Must be attended: every 24 hours	Inside webbing: Minimum mesh size 3"; mesh sizes > 4" and < 5" prohibited Outside walling: Minimum mesh size: 6" Must have vertical ties every 6' May not be hobbled < 2/3 height Maximum length: 300 yards, Must be attended: every 24 hrs	Minimum mesh size: 3 ½"	Minimum mesh size: same as adjoining states Maximum length: 1,000 yards (3,000 feet)	Minimum mesh size: 3"
Slat trap (basket)	Not permitted	Minimum openings in catch area: 2 Minimum catch area opening: 1 ¼" x 8" Maximum diameter: 2 feet Must be attended: every 72 hours	Minimum openings in catch area: 4 Minimum catch area opening: 1 ½" x 6" Only one outside funnel opening permitted Must be attended: every 72 hours	Minimum openings in catch area: 7 Minimum catch area opening: 1 ½" x 3 1/2" Trap size: 24" x 6'	Minimum mesh size: same as adjoining states Maximum length: 1,000 yards (3,000 feet) Minimum catch area opening: 1 ½" x 24" beginning at cod end (enclosed end) of trap and extending to throat (open end) of trap. Maximum Trap size: 15 inches in width or height and 6 feet in length. Slatbasket license and slatbasket tag required for each slatbasket.	Minimum openings in catch area: 3 Minimum catch area opening: 1" Trap size: 24"x 6'

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - 2009

	Missouri	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Trotlines	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Must be attended: every 24 hours Tag (\$5) required per 50 hooks	Minimum hook spacing: 18" apart Minimum # hooks: 50 Maximum line length: 3,000 feet Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Must be attended: every 24 hours	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Must be attended: daily	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart
Snagline	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart	Not permitted	Not permitted
Seine	Minimum bar mesh size: 2"	Maximum mesh size: 1" Minimum twine size: #147 knotless; #6 knotted Must have float and lead line	Minimum mesh size: ¼" Maximum mesh size: ½" Minimum twine size: #7 nylon; # 9 cotton or linen Maximum length: 50 feet May not be fished in a stationary manner Must be attended: at all times	Minimum mesh size: 3 ½"	Not permitted	Minimum mesh size: 2" Maximum length: 1,200 feet
Minnow (bait) seine	Maximum mesh size: ½" Maximum length: 20 feet Maximum height: 4 feet For harvesting bait only	Legal mesh size: ¼" Maximum length: 30 feet Maximum height: 6 feet	Same as seine	No regulation	Maximum length: 25 feet Maximum height: 4 feet	Maximum mesh size: ¼" Maximum length: 30 feet
Cast net	Not permitted as commercial method	Maximum mesh size: 1" Maximum diameter: 20 feet	Minimum mesh size: ¼" Maximum mesh size: 1" Maximum diameter: 10 feet	Maximum mesh size: 1" Maximum diameter: 9 feet	Not permitted as commercial	Any cast net
Minnow traps	Not permitted as commercial method	Throat opening: 1" Maximum length: 3 feet Maximum diameter: 18"	Not permitted as commercial method	Throat opening: 1 ½"	Maximum Throat opening: 1" Maximum length: 30" Maximum diameter: 12" No wings or leads.	Throat opening: 1" x 3" Maximum length: 24"
Turtle traps	Not permitted	Must be attended: every 24 hours; all turtles must be removed, except one decoy.	Minimum mesh size: 3" Must be positioned partly above the water Must be attended: every 24 hours	Minimum mesh size: 1 ½" Horizontal opening: 1" x 3 feet Maximum box size: 4" x 4 feet x 4 feet	No regulation	Not permitted
Gear Tag Requirement	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by state (fees apply).	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by state (fees apply).	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by commercial fisher (no fee). Tag must be > 1"x 3" and labeled with commercial fishing license number and name.	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by state (fees apply).	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by state (fees apply).	All gear must be tagged with tag furnished by state (fees apply).

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - 2009

	Missouri	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Gear setting restrictions	Commercial fishing prohibited within 300 yards of the mouth of any tributary, stream, or ditch. Gear may not be used under ice	Commercial fishing prohibited within 50 yards of in or out flows of overflow lakes and mouth of tributary streams, except the mouth of the Ohio River.	Commercial fishing prohibited within 100 yards of the mouth of any river, creek, slough, inlet, or outlet and within 300 yards of any commercial boat dock or resort. Commercial fishing gear shall not extend more than three-quarters (3/4) across any river, stream, or chute.	Nets shall not extend more than half the width of any stream.	Nets shall not extend more than half the width of any stream. Nets must be 100 yards apart. Fish cannot be driven into any commercial gear.	
License required for helpers	Helper must have at least a sport fishing license	One commercial helper allowed per commercial fishing license	Licensed commercial fisher must be in boat. Commercial fisher required to have a helpers license for each helper in their boat.	Helper required to have a license	Helper required to have any license issued by Miss. Dept. of Wildlife, Fisheries & Parks.	Helper not required to have a license
Reporting requirements	Monthly report required	Monthly report required	Monthly report required for all non-roe fish species. Daily harvest/import receipt required for all roe fish species (paddlefish, shovelnose sturgeon, and bowfin).	Annual report on alligator gar harvest required	Annual report required.	Individual trip transaction report for all commercial fishers
Reciprocal agreement	TN and IL - Yes KY - No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Blue catfish regulations	Minimum size limit: 15"	No specific regulations	Maximum size limit: 34" Creel limit: no limit under 34"; aggregate (all 3 species combined) daily creel limit of one catfish over 34" (possession limit: 2)	Minimum size limit:: 12" Maximum size limit (applies to Tennessee reach only): 34"	Minimum size limit:: 12" Daily creel limit of one over 34 " in MS border waters with Arkansas & Tennessee	Minimum size limit:: 12" 5% may be undersized
Flathead catfish regulations	Minimum size limit: 15"	No specific regulations	Maximum size limit: 34" Creel limit: no limit under 34"; aggregate (all 3 species combined) daily creel limit of one catfish over 34" (possession limit: 2)	Minimum size limit:: 16" Maximum size limit (applies to Tennessee reach only): 34"	Minimum size limit:: 16" Daily creel limit of one over 34 " in MS border waters with Arkansas & Tennessee	Minimum size limit:: 14" 5% may be undersized
Channel catfish regulations	Minimum size limit: 15"	No specific regulations	Maximum size limit: 34" Creel limit: no limit under 34"; aggregate (all 3 species combined) daily creel limit of one catfish over 34" (possession limit: 2)	Minimum size limit:: 12" Maximum size limit (applies to Tennessee reach only): 34"	Minimum size limit:: 12" Daily creel limit of one over 34 " in MS border waters with Arkansas & Tennessee	Minimum size limit:: 11" 10% may be undersized

COMMERCIAL FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - 2009

	Missouri	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Buffalo fish regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	Minimum size limit:: 16"	Minimum size limit:: 16"	Minimum size limit:: 16"
Freshwater drum regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	No specific regulations	Minimum size limit:: 12"
Paddlefish regulations	Minimum size limit:: 24" Measured from front of eye to fork in tail. Season: year round	Minimum size limit:: 32' Season: November 1 through April 30 Supplemental roe permit required.	Minimum size limit:: 34" Measured from front of eye to fork in tail. Season: November 15 through April 15. Supplemental permit required for paddlefish harvest. See TWRA website for additional regulations.	Minimum size limit:: 34" in Tennessee reach; 34" in Mississippi reach Measured from front of eye to fork in tail. Season: December 20 through April 10 Supplemental permit required for paddlefish harvest.	Minimum size limit: 38" or the Arkansas minimum size limit, whichever size limit is less. Measured from front of eye to fork in tail on a flat measuring board not measured by running a tape along the side of the fish's body. Season: December 1 through March 31 Supplemental permit required for paddlefish harvest.	Closed - no harvest allowed.
Shovelnose sturgeon regulations	Harvest slot: 24" to 32" Measured from tip of snout to fork in tail. Season: October 15 through May 15. Supplemental permit required for shovelnose sturgeon harvest.	Harvest slot: 24" to 32" Measured from tip of snout to fork in tail. Season: October 15 through May 15. Supplemental roe permit required.	Harvest slot: 24" to 32" Measured from tip of snout to fork in tail. Season: October 15 through May 15. Supplemental permit required for shovelnose sturgeon harvest. See TWRA website for additional regulations.	Closed - no harvest allowed.	Closed - no harvest allowed.	Closed - no harvest allowed.
Bowfin regulations	Minimum size limit:: none Season: year round	Minimum size limit:: none Season: year round Supplemental roe permit required.	Minimum size limit:: none Season: year round Supplemental permit required for bowfin harvest. See TWRA website for additional regulations.	Minimum size limit:: none Season: year round	Minimum size limit:: none Season: year round	Minimum size limit:: 22" Season: March through November
Turtle regulations	Common snapping and soft shell turtle can be harvested using legal commercial fishing methods.	Commercial harvest not permitted; commercial license required to sell turtles (common snapper and softshell) caught by sportfish methods.	No harvest of alligator snapping turtles. Common snapping turtles (minimum carapace length limit: 12") can be harvested using legal commercial fishing methods.	No harvest of alligator snapping turtles.	No harvest of alligator snapping turtles. Commercial harvest of common snapping turtles requires a commercial fishing license and a special permit. Minimum carapace length of 12 "	Alligator snapping turtles may not be sold or harvested for commercial purposes

"These tables are not legal documents. They are summaries of the sport and commercial fishing regulations on the Mississippi River and are provided by LMRCC as a guide only. The LMRCC recommends that all anglers confirm these regulations by contacting the appropriate state agency before fishing the Mississippi River."