

SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER - 2009

	Missouri	Kentucky	Tennessee	Arkansas	Mississippi	Louisiana
Black Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, & spotted)	Creel limit: 6 (aggregate) Length limit: 12" minimum (applies to all three species)	Creel limit: 6 (aggregate) Length limit: 12" minimum on largemouth & smallmouth bass; no length limit on spotted bass	Creel limit: 10 (aggregate) Length limit: none (applies to all three species)	Creel limit: 10 (aggregate); no more than 4 can be smallmouth bass Length limit: 10" minimum on smallmouth bass; no length limit on largemouth & spotted	Creel limit: 10 (aggregate) Length limit: none (applies to all three species)	Creel limit: 10 (aggregate) Length limit: none (applies to all three species)
Rock bass & warmouth	Creel limit: 15 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 20 rock bass; no limit on warmouth Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Panfish (bluegill & other sunfishes/bream)	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Redear sunfish creel limit: 20 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 20 redeared sunfish (shellcracker); 50 bluegill & other bream Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 bluegill & other bream; no limit on fish under 4" Length limit: none	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Crappie (white & black)	Creel limit: 30 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 30 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 30 (aggregate) or limit of border state if higher Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 (aggregate) Length limit: none
Temperate Bass (yellow, white, striped & their hybrids)	Creel limit: 30 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 15 (aggregate) white, yellow & hybrids; 5 striped bass Length limit: no length limit on white, yellow & hybrids; 15" minimum on striped bass	Creel limit: 30 white bass; no limit on yellow bass; 6 striped or hybrids (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 white bass; no limit on yellow bass; 6 striped or hybrids (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: no limit on white or yellow bass; 6 striped or hybrids (aggregate) in waters that border AR & 5 in waters that border LA 15" minimum on striped bass and their hybrids.	Creel limit: no limit on white or yellow bass; 5 striped or hybrids but no more than 2 (aggregate) can be greater than 30" Length limit: none except as described above
Catfish (channel, blue, & flathead)	Creel limit: 20 channel & blue (aggregate); 10 flathead Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none except that no more than 1 (aggregate) can be greater than 34"	Creel limit: none except that no more than 1 (aggregate) can be greater than 34" in waters that border TN Length limit: none except as described above	Creel limit: none except that no more than 1 (aggregate) can be greater than 34" in waters that border Arkansas Length limit: none except as described above	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate) over length limit; 25 (aggregate) under length limit Length limit: minimum of 11" on channel, 12" on blue, 14" on flathead
Sauger	Creel limit: 8 (aggregate with walleye & saugeye) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 (aggregate with walleye & saugeye) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 15 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Walleye & saugeye (hybrids)	Creel limit: 8 (aggregate, with sauger) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 (aggregate with sauger) Length limit: 15" minimum	Creel limit: 5 (aggregate) Length limit: 16" minimum	Creel limit: 6 walleye & 6 saugeye Length limit: none	Creel limit: 3 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none

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Muskellunge	Creel limit: 1 (aggregate with northern pike) Length limit: 36" minimum	Creel limit: 1 Length limit: 30" minimum	Creel limit: 1 Length limit: 36" minimum	Creel limit: 6 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Northern Pike	Creel limit: 1 (aggregate with muskellunge) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Pickereel (chain & grass)	Creel limit: 6 (aggregate) Length limit: none	Creel limit: 5 chain pickereel; no limit on grass pickereel Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 6 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Alligator Gar	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate with "other fish"; see below) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Closed, no harvest permitted	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Paddlefish EFL measured from front of eye to fork in tail	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: 24" minimum EFL Season: March 15 to May 15 & September 15 to December 15	Creel limit: 2 for either gigging or snagging Length limit: none Season: February 1 through May 10	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: none Season: April 24 to May 31	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 2 Length limit: 30" maximum EFL maximum measured from back of eye to fork in tail (EFL)	Creel limit: 2 ,but can be no greater than 30" EFL No sale barter or trade Texas boundary waters closed
Shovelnose Sturgeon SL measured from tip of snout to fork of fail	Creel Limit: 10 Length Limit: 30" maximum SL Must remain whole & intact while on waters or adjacent banks.	No regulation	No regulation	Closed, no harvest permitted	Closed, no harvest permitted	Closed, no harvest permitted
Buffalo	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate with "other fish"; see below) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: no limit over length limit; 25 under length limit Length limit: 16" minimum
Freshwater Drum	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate with "other fish"; see below) Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 50 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: no limit over length limit; 25 under length limit Length limit: 12" minimum

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All other fish (not including any species listed as threatened, endangered, in need of management, or special concern by state or federal agencies)	Creel limit: 100 (aggregate); includes buffalo, freshwater drum, and alligator gar; does not apply to bighead carp, common carp, goldfish, grass carp, & silver carp Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none	Creel limit: 75 Length limit: none	Creel limit: 100 Length limit: none	Creel limit: none Length limit: none
Live bait	Crayfish, freshwater shrimp, frog (except bull & green frogs) & non-game fish can be harvested and used as bait. Creel Limit: 150; no more than 5 each of southern leopard frog, plains leopard frog, and cricket frog. Length Limit: All bluegill, green sunfish, & bullheads: 5" maximum; all other fish: 12" maximum	Creel Limit: 500 minnows (includes all non sportfish less than 6" & bluegill), crayfish, shad, and herring; 100 lampreys; 5 frogs (no bullfrogs); 5 tadpoles; 25 salamanders; 500 other aquatic inverts (no mussels except no limit on corbicula)	Non-game species (except species listed as endangered, threatened, or in need of management) and sport fish species (harvested following statewide creel & size limits) can be used as bait.	Live bream less than 4" in length can be used as bait	All species of fish can be used as bait. Only residents can use dip nets, cast nets boat-mounted scoops and wire baskets to catch shad and minnows for personal use in sportfishing.	Live bream can be used as bait but must they be harvested by angling methods only
Frogs	Bullfrogs and green frogs only (see "Live Bait" for other frog regulations). Creel limit: 8 (aggregate) Artificial light may be used. Season: sunset on June 30 through October 31.	Bullfrogs daily limit 15 Season starts noon on 3 rd Friday in May through midnight October 31 st	Closed, no harvest permitted	No regulation	Creel limit: 25 per night. Season: April 1 – September 30.	Season: open year round except during months of April & May Length limit: 5" minimum on bullfrogs; 3" minimum on pigfrogs
Turtles	Creel Limit: 5 Common snapping & 5 soft shell Season: common snapper = all year; soft shell = July 1 to December 31 No alligator snapper harvest	Common snapping and soft shell turtles can be harvested using legal sport fishing or hunting methods. Hunting license required when taken by gun or bow No alligator snapper harvest	Creel Limit: 5 common snapping turtles Length Limit: 12" minimum carapace May be taken by all sport fish methods except archery, spearguns & dipping. No alligator snapper harvest	Creel Limit: 6 No alligator snapper harvest	No more than 4 of any species and not more than 20 turtles in aggregate, except only one alligator snapping turtle with a minimum carapace length of 24 inches may be retained from July 1 to March 30.	Creel limit: 1 Alligator snapper per day per vehicle Size Limit: none

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Pole & Line	Pole Limit: 50 (aggregate); only 2 can be unlabeled poles Hook Limit: 50 (aggregate) per person	Pole Limit: none Hook Limit: none	Pole Limit: none Hook Limit: none	Pole Limit: none Hook Limit: none	Pole Limit: none Hook Limit: none	Pole Limit: none Hook Limit: none
Trotline, throwline, setlines	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Maximum # hooks: 50 (aggregate) per person Must be labeled. Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Minimum hook spacing: 18" apart Maximum # hooks: 50 per trotline & 1 per set line Limit of two trotline and 25 setlines per boat Lines must be set at least 3 feet below surface. Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Maximum # hooks: 100 Must be labeled, Must be attended: every 24 hours, Trotline may not be set within 100 yards of mouth of any river, creek or slough.	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Maximum # hooks: 100 Must have cotton ends Limit of 30 yo-yos Must be labeled, Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart Maximum # hooks: 100 Limit of 25 yo-yos with no more than 2 single hooks attached to each yo-yo. When fished on a line, yo-yo's must be at least 2 feet apart and fixed so that they cannot slip together.	Minimum hook spacing: 24" apart
Jugs (FFD)	Maximum # hooks: 50 (aggregate) per person Must be labeled Must be attended: at all times	Jug limit:: 50 per boat Limit of 1 hook per jug Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Jug limit:: 50 per license holder Limit of 1 hook per jug Must be labeled, Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Jug limit:: 20 Must be labeled,	Jug limit:: 25 or the number allowed in the adjacent border state whichever number is greater but must not exceed 50 per person. No more than 2 single hooks attached to each jug.	No regulations
Snagging, gigging	No culling allowed Creel Limit: 20 fish (aggregate) Snagging Season: March 15 to May 15 & September 15 to December 15 Gigging Season: September 15 to January 31; Gigging permitted from sunrise to midnight only	Rough fish species only Snagging allowed from river bank only Season: February 1 to May 10	Non-game & catfish species only	Rough fish species only Season: September 15 to February 15; 10 am to midnight (closed all other dates and times) Limit of 2 Catfish by snagging	Legal statewide, year round for all species of fish. Hook quantity and size restrictions exist when snagging below reservoirs.	Snagging for catfish only, Gigging for flounder only
Grabbling (tickling, noodling)	Not permitted	Rough fish species only Creel Limit: 15 (aggregate) with no more than 5 catfish Season: June 1 to August 31; day light only,	Non-game & catfish species only Open year round.	Buffalo, carp, catfish & drum only. Season: May 1 to July 15	Can only use hand or unaltered rope. Cannot alter natural cavities, cannot raise natural or artificial structures out of the water to aid in capture of the fish. Cannot place nonbiodegradable materials into public waters. Only wooden structures or containers may be placed in public waters.	No regulations

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Archery	No culling allowed Creel Limit: 20 fish (aggregate) No crossbows. Fish may be taken by longbow from streams between sunrise & midnight	Rough fish species only, Creel Limit: 5 on catfish; paddlefish daily limit 2; no cull on catfish and paddlefish.	Non-game & catfish species only. Open year round.	Rough fish species only Creel limit: 20 suckers; 5 catfish; no limit on other rough fish species Season: July 15 to May 1	Buffalo, carp, gar & bowfin only	Rough fish species only Archery license required,
Spear fishing	Not permitted	Rough fish species only, Creel Limit: 15 (aggregate) but no more than 5 catfish	Non-game & catfish only Open year round.	Not Permitted	Buffalo, carp, gar & bowfin only	Rough fish & catfish species only,
Slat trap	Not permitted	Not permitted	Limit of 1 trap per licensed angler Trap must be tagged with tag sold by TWRA May not be set within 100 yards of mouth of any river, creek or slough.	Not permitted	Not permitted	Limit of 5 traps per person
Hoop nets	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	Not permitted	5 nets permitted per person
Minnow trap	Maximum throat diameter: 1 ½" For bait harvest only Must be attended: every 24 hours,	Maximum throat diameter: 1" Maximum length: 3' Maximum diameter: 18"	Maximum throat diameter: 1 ½" Maximum length: 10' Maximum mesh size: 3/8"	Maximum throat diameter: 1 ½" Capacity shall not exceed 1 (one) gallon	No regulation	No regulation
Crayfish trap	Maximum opening: 1 ½" x 18"	No regulation	No regulation	No regulation	No regulation	No regulation
Minnow (bait) seine	Maximum length: 20' Maximum depth: 4' Maximum mesh size: ½" For bait harvest only	Maximum length: 30' Maximum depth: 6' Maximum mesh size: ¼"	Maximum length: 10' Maximum mesh size: 3/8"	Maximum length: 50' Maximum depth: 4' Maximum mesh size: ¼"	Maximum length: 25' Maximum depth: 4'	Maximum length: 30' Maximum mesh size: ¼"
Cast Net	For bait harvest only	Maximum diameter: 20' Maximum mesh size: 1"	Maximum diameter: 20' Maximum mesh size: 1" Minimum mesh size: ¼"	Maximum diameter: 9' Maximum mesh size: 3/8"	No regulation	Maximum diameter: 8 ½'
Dip net	Permitted for bait only	Maximum diameter: 3'	Non-game & catfish only, Open year round.	For bait only Maximum mesh: 1" For personal use only	No regulation	No regulation
Reciprocal Agreement	Kentucky: Yes Tennessee: Yes	Missouri: Yes	Missouri: Yes Arkansas: Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

“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.”