

**TITLE 800. DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**  
**CHAPTER 10. SPORT FISHING RULES**

**SUBCHAPTER 1. HARVEST AND POSSESSION LIMITS**

**800:10-1-3. Additional definitions**

The following words or terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**‘Department fishing areas’** means lakes American Horse, Burttschi, Chambers, Dahlgren, Doc Hollis, Elmer, Etling, Fugate, Hall, Jap Beaver, Nanih Waiya, Ozzie Cobb, Raymond Gary, Schooler, Vanderwork, Vincent, Watonga, the Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area and the Lower Illinois River Public Fishing and Hunting Area - Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit.

**‘No culling’** means fish caught and placed on a stringer or otherwise held in possession (live well, basket, ice chest, etc.) cannot be released.

**‘Total length’** means measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail, with the fish laid flat on the rule with mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.

**‘Close To Home’** fishing waters means bodies of water designated as such under a cooperative fisheries management agreement between ODWC and participating cities and/or municipalities. "Close to Home" fishing waters shall be designated in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Oklahoma Fishing Guide which is published annually.

**800:10-1-4. Size limits on fish**

There are no length and/or size limit restrictions on any game or nongame fish, except as follows:

- (1) All largemouth and smallmouth bass less than fourteen (14) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken from public waters unless regulated by specific municipal ordinance or specified in regulations listed below: Lakes and Reservoirs with no length limit on largemouth and smallmouth bass - Lake Murray, all waters in the Wichita National Wildlife Refuge, ~~and American Horse Lake.~~
- (2) All largemouth and smallmouth bass between thirteen (13) and sixteen (16) inches in total length must be returned unharmed immediately after being taken from lakes Chimney Rock (W.R. Holway), Arbuckle, Okmulgee and Tenkiller Lake (downstream from Horseshoe Bend boat ramp).
- (3) All crappie (*Pomoxis* sp.) less than 10 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken from Lakes Arbuckle, Tenkiller, Hudson, Texoma, Ft. Gibson, including all tributaries and upstream to Markham Ferry Dam and Grand Lake, including all tributaries to state line.
- (4) All walleye, sauger, and saugeye (sauger x walleye hybrid) less than ~~14~~ 14 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken statewide, except at ~~Altus-Lugert, Ellsworth, Foss, Fort Cobb, Lawtonka, Tom Steed, Waurika and Murray lakes and the respective tailwaters, where walleye, sauger and saugeye less than 14 inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately and~~ at Great Salt Plains Reservoir and tailwater where the size limit does not apply, ~~and in the Illinois River below Tenkiller Dam and the Arkansas River from Keystone Dam downstream to the Oklahoma state line where all sauger less than 16 inches must be returned to the water unharmed immediately, and at Atoka~~ Bluestem, Bluestem, Carl Blackwell, Healdton, Ponca City, Shell, Sooner, and Thunderbird

Reservoirs and the respective tailwaters where all walleye, sauger, and saugeye less than 18 inches total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately.

(5) All largemouth and smallmouth bass between sixteen (16) and twenty-two (22) inches in total length must be returned to the water immediately after being taken from McGee Creek Lake, Dripping Springs Lake and Crowder Lake (Washita County).

(6) All rainbow trout less than twenty (20) inches in total length must be returned to the water immediately after being taken from the lower Mountain Fork River trout stream from the Lost Creek water control structure downstream to the first Highway 259 Scenic bridge, including Evening Hole and the Lost Creek stream channel, and from the State Park Dam downstream to the mouth of Rough Branch Creek and in the lower Illinois River trout stream from the USGS stream gauge downstream to the gravel pit county road. All brown trout less than twenty (20) inches in total length must be returned to the water immediately after being taken from the lower Mountain Fork River from Broken Bow Dam downstream to the U. S. Highway 70 bridge, and from the lower Illinois River trout stream from Tenkiller Dam downstream to the U. S. Highway 64 bridge.

(7) All blue catfish and channel catfish less than twelve (12) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken from Texoma Lake.

(8) All smallmouth bass less than fourteen (14) inches in total length must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken from all rivers and streams including the Illinois River upstream from the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, and from the Glover River from the confluence with the Little River upstream to the 'Forks of the Glover River'. Possession of smallmouth bass less than fourteen (14) inches in total length on all streams and rivers is prohibited.

(9) All black bass (largemouth, spotted and smallmouth) less than fourteen (14) inches in total length must be returned unharmed immediately after being taken from the Blue River Public Fishing Area.

(10) All striped bass less than twenty (20) inches must be returned unharmed immediately after being taken from Sooner Reservoir.

#### **800:10-1-5. Bag limits on fish**

No person shall, during any one day, take, attempt to take, kill, or harvest more than:

(1) Six (6) largemouth or smallmouth bass or six in aggregate, except in "Close To Home" fishing water, Doc Hollis Lake and at American Horse Lake where all largemouth bass caught must be returned to the water unharmed immediately after being taken (no harvest allowed), at Texoma Reservoir where the limit is five (5), largemouth, smallmouth or spotted bass or five in aggregate, at Lake Konawa, McGee Creek Lake, Dripping Springs Lake and Crowder Lake (Washita County) where the limit is six (6) of which only one (1) may be twenty-two (22) inches or longer and rivers and streams including the Illinois River upstream from the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, and from Glover River from the confluence with the Little River upstream to the "Forks of the Glover River" where the limit is six (6) black bass aggregate of which only one may be a smallmouth bass, which must be fourteen (14) inches or longer.

(2) Fifteen (15) channel and/or blue catfish, or fifteen (15) in aggregate, of which only one (1) blue catfish may be 30 inches in length or larger; except at all U.S. Forest Service and State Park lakes (not including Lake Murray) and Department of Wildlife Management Area ponds and all Department of Wildlife Conservation fishing areas, in

"Close To Home" fishing waters and all waters within the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, where the limit is six (6). ~~Five (5) flathead catfish. Ten (10) flathead catfish, except in Lake Texoma where the daily limit is five (5). For noodlers and scuba divers the daily limit is three (3) blue, channel, or flathead catfish or three in aggregate of which only one can be 30 inches or longer from May 1 through August 31, annually.~~

(3) Thirty-seven (37) crappie (*Pomoxis* sp.) except at Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area where the limit is six (6) and at lakes Arbuckle, Tenkiller, Hudson, Ft. Gibson including all tributaries and upstream to Markham Ferry Dam and Grand Lake including all tributaries to state line where the limit is fifteen (15).

(4) Six (6) rainbow trout - possession limit of twelve (12) after first day, except in the lower Mountain Fork River trout stream from the Lost Creek water control structure downstream to the first Highway 259 Scenic bridge, including Evening Hole and the Lost Creek stream channel, and from the State Park Dam downstream to the mouth of Rough Branch Creek, and in the lower Illinois River trout stream from the USGS stream gauge downstream to the gravel pit county road where the limit is one (1) rainbow trout per day twenty (20) inches or longer in total length (no culling); and in the Blue River from its entry onto the Plaster Wildlife Management Unit/Landrum Wilderness downstream approximately ½ mile to a marker cable where all trout caught must be released immediately from November 1 to March 1 (thereafter, statewide trout bag limit applies).

(5) Six (6) brown trout, except in the lower Mountain Fork River trout stream below Broken Bow dam downstream to the U. S. Highway 70 bridge, and in the lower Illinois River trout stream from Tenkiller Dam downstream to US Highway 64 bridge where the limit is one (1) fish per day twenty (20) inches or longer in total length.

(6) Six (6) walleye, sauger and/or saugeye, or six (6) in aggregate.

(7) Five (5) striped bass except as designated in 800:10-1-5(8).

(8) Ten (10) striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids or ten (10) in aggregate of which only two (2) may be twenty (20) inches or longer in Texoma Reservoir.

(9) Twenty (20) striped bass of which only five (5) may be twenty (20) inches or longer, except as designated in 800:10-1-5(8) and (10).

(10) Five (5) striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids, in aggregate, of which only two (2) may be 20 inches or longer in Arcadia Lake and Skiatook Lake.

(11) Twenty-five (25) white bass in Lake Texoma.

(12) One (1) paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) per day on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday, statewide. Catch and release of paddlefish only (no harvest) is permitted on Monday and Friday, statewide. Possession of paddlefish in the field is prohibited on Monday and Friday, statewide. The catch and release of paddlefish is permitted by use of rod and reel, trotline and throwlines. Paddlefish must be released immediately unless kept for the daily limit. Paddlefish taken by bow and arrow, gigs, spears or spearguns shall not be released.

(A) Individual annual harvest limit- An individual harvest limit for paddlefish may be set or amended annually by the Wildlife Conservation Commission and will be listed in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Fishing Guide. Special area (or management unit) paddlefish harvest caps, a general statewide paddlefish harvest cap, and the total number of paddlefish permits issued may be set or amended annually by the Wildlife Conservation Commission for use in determining the individual annual harvest limit. Once an individual

angler has reached their annual harvest limit, continued catch and release is permitted.

(B) Paddlefish permit- It shall be unlawful for any person, regardless of residency, age or disability, to fish for paddlefish or be in possession of paddlefish parts without having first secured from the Department of Wildlife Conservation, an annual paddlefish permit. Immediately upon taking possession of a paddlefish with the intent of harvesting said fish, the angler must record the date and time of harvest on the paddlefish permit in the harvest record area provided. This permit must be carried on their person while fishing and/or in possession of paddlefish or parts and be produced for inspection upon the demand of any Oklahoma citizen or game warden. This permit shall be valid for paddlefish catch and release fishing in all waters of the state and at any time unless otherwise prohibited.

(C) Harvest Tagging- Paddlefish caught and placed on a stringer or otherwise held in possession must be plainly labeled (tagged) immediately with the angler's paddlefish permit number. Paddlefish taken into possession cannot be released (no culling). Each person must keep their own paddlefish distinctly separate from paddlefish taken by other anglers. Each cleaned paddlefish, or its meat, eggs, or carcass, must be kept separate from all other cleaned paddlefish or its parts. Paddlefish or their parts must remain tagged until the person in possession of the paddlefish or paddlefish parts has reached their residence. All paddlefish must have all viscera (internal organs) removed from the paddlefish before leaving the state. Persons fishing trotlines or throwlines must release all paddlefish on their lines, except the one (1) paddlefish held in possession for their daily limit, before leaving the trotline or throwline. Anglers must cease snagging for the day when they have taken their daily limit of paddlefish into possession.

(D) Reporting- Harvest of paddlefish must be reported by the harvesting angler to Oklahoma Department of Wildlife within 24 hours of harvest.

Instructions for reporting harvest will be provided in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Fishing Guide and on the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife website.

(13) Release of striped bass and/or striped bass hybrids caught and placed on a stringer, in a live well or otherwise held in possession is prohibited statewide (no culling).

(14) One (1) alligator gar (*Atractosteus spatula*) per day, statewide, except during the period of May 1 through May 31 when angling for alligator gar by all angling methods is prohibited on Lake Texoma between the Highway 99 bridge upstream to the I-35 bridge. The catch and release of alligator gar is permitted year round, except during the closure referenced above, by use of rod and reel, trotline and throwlines. Alligator gar must be released immediately unless kept for the daily limit. Persons fishing trotlines or throwlines must release all alligator gar on their lines except the one alligator gar held in possession for their daily limit, before leaving the trotline or throwline. Alligator gar taken by bow and arrow, gigs, spears or spearguns shall not be released. Alligator gar caught and placed on a stringer or otherwise held in possession cannot be released (no culling). Anglers must cease snagging when they have taken their daily limit of alligator gar into possession.

(15) One (1) of any fish species classified as those of Special Concern Category I or Category II (as identified in 800:25-19-6). Such harvest must be reported to ODWC.

(16) All tiger muskie (*Esox masquinongy* x *Esox lucius*) caught must be returned to the

water unharmed immediately after being taken (no harvest allowed).

(17) Other fish do not have bag or possession limits. Notwithstanding the foregoing fish bag limits, any bag limits for fish can be superseded and set by Commission resolution as authorized by Section 6-302(B) of Title 29 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

#### **800:10-1-7. Possession limit**

(a) No resident or nonresident shall have in their possession, in the field, more than one (1) daily bag limit listed in 800:10-1-5 and 800:10-1-6. Nonresidents shall not have more than two (2) daily bag limits in their possession at any time other than in the field, except for paddlefish which shall not exceed the individual annual harvest limit as listed in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Fishing Guide. "In the Field" means while fishing, or while in a boat, or on the bank or in the immediate vicinity of any river, creek, stream, lake or pond, or while transporting or carrying the fish from the waters described above to camp or from such waters to the final destination.

(b) No person may possess with intent to transport or transport via land based transportation more than 200 shad, for personal use as bait. The sale, offer for sale, transport from Oklahoma with intent to sell or offer to sell shad taken from waters of this state is prohibited.

(c) No person shall transport shad from waters infested with Bighead or Silver Carp. These waters shall be designated in the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation Oklahoma Fishing Guide which is published annually. If shad are collected from these listed waters for use as bait, they may only be used in the water body from which they were collected.

(d) Fish cleaning – You may not possess a fish that has been filleted or had its head or tail removed while actively engaging in fishing.

### **SUBCHAPTER 3. METHODS OF TAKING**

#### **800:10-3-3. Additional definitions**

The following words or terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

**"Bow and arrow"** when used for bowfishing means any bow and arrow (including crossbows) ~~having no more than one (1) point with no more than four (4) barbs.~~ Devices and devices that permit a bow to be held mechanically at full or partial draw are permitted.

**"Foul hooked"** means a fish hooked other than inside the mouth.

**"Gaff hook"** means a handheld hook or handheld pole with a hook attached and may only be used in the landing of a fish, other than paddlefish, already hooked by other legal hook and line methods.

**"Gig"** means a hand-held fish spearing device mounted at the end of a shaft containing not more than three (3) points and not more than two (2) barbs on each point.

**"Grabhook"** means a handheld hook or handheld pole, or rope, with a single hook attached used in the initial taking of a fish.

**"Jugline"** means a vertical line suspended from a nonmetallic or nonglass floating device which is drifting free or anchored, having no more than five (5) hooks per line and limited to twenty (20) such juglines per person.

**"Limblin"** means a line attached to a limb, branch, other natural object, or non-metallic manmade pole having no more than two (2) hooks attached per line and limited to twenty (20) such

limblines per person.

**"Noodling"** means the taking of fish by use of hands only.

**"Snagging"** means the dragging of one (1) single hook or one (1) treble hook through the water attached to a hand-held line or fishing rod and line for the purpose of impaling fish. Only one (1) pole or rod per angler is permitted while snagging.

**"Yo-Yo"** means any mechanical fishing device which automatically recoils when a fish strikes and is limited to no more than twenty (20) such devices per person.

**"Unattended"** means not within visual observing distance.

**"Fish Remains"** means any fish that has been filleted or has had the entrails removed.

**800:10-3-5. Use of bow and arrow, grabhooks, gigs, spears, and spearguns, snagging, noodling and netting**

(a) **Bow and arrow.** The use of bow and arrows in bowfishing shall be lawful for taking nongame fish only in all waters of the state throughout the year, except:

(1) Illinois River and its tributaries shall be closed at all times to such fishing except, those portions above the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir which is open from December 1 through March 31 annually. Tenkiller Reservoir below Horseshoe Bend boat ramp is open to bowfishing.

(2) Reservoir tailwaters, other than Eufaula, Keystone, Wister, Fort Gibson, Thunderbird and Hudson (Markham Ferry) shall be closed to fishing with bow and arrows throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(3) All waters defined as "Designated Trout Areas" during open season for taking trout are closed.

(4) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.

(5) Only that section of the Caney River from Hulah Dam downstream approximately 1,200 feet to the re-regulation dam is closed. Fishing with a bow and arrow is lawful in the Caney River below the re-regulation dam.

(6) The following portions of Grand River:

(A) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(B) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the highline crossing (approximately ½ mile) is closed throughout the year with the next ½ mile downstream from the highline crossing closed during periods when the spillway gates are open and discharging water and for seven (7) days following closure of the spillway gates.

(7) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(8) "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert and Taft and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.

(9) The taking of paddlefish by bow and arrow is prohibited on the Red River from Denison Dam downstream to the stateline year round.

(10) Bowfishing may be used at Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper throughout the year during daylight hours

only.

(11) The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River from the spillway of Great Salt Plains Reservoir downstream to the State Highway 38 Bridge is closed.

(12) Bowfishing for tiger muskie at Lake Carl Etling is prohibited.

(b) **Grabhooks.** Taking fish by use of a grabhook is prohibited in all state waters.

(c) **Gigs, spears and spearguns.** The use of gigs, spears and spearguns containing not more than three (3) points with no more than two (2) barbs on each point shall be lawful for taking nongame fish only, except white bass may be taken by use of a gig. These methods are lawful in all:

(1) Rivers and streams from December 1 through March 31, except:

(A) The taking of paddlefish by use of gig, spear or speargun is prohibited from May 16 through March 14 of the following year, statewide.

(B) The Poteau and Fourche Maline Rivers and all their tributaries within LeFlore County are closed throughout the year.

(C) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.

(D) The Canadian River from Eufaula Dam downstream for a distance of one (1) mile to be so designated by buoy or other appropriate marker is closed throughout the year.

(E) The Caney River from Hulah Dam downstream to the confluence of the old and new river channels is closed.

(F) The following portions of Grand River:

(i) The main river channel of the Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(ii) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream for a distance of one (1) mile is closed throughout the year.

(G) Rivers and streams in Delaware and Mayes counties are open to the use of gigs throughout the year, unless specifically closed in other sections of this chapter.

(H) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(2) Lakes and reservoirs throughout the year, except:

(A) Waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge other than that portion of Lake Elmer Thomas are closed.

(B) Tenkiller Reservoir, below the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp, is closed throughout the year except by speargunning when used with a self-contained underwater breathing apparatus which is closed from June 15 through July 15 annually to the taking of flathead catfish only.

(C) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Carl Albert, Sooner, Lone Chimney and Taft and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed. Konawa is closed to gigging.

(D) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.

(3) Reservoir tailwaters other than Hudson (Markham Ferry) shall be closed to fishing

with gigs, spears and spearguns throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(d) **Snagging.** Snagging for nongame fish only shall be lawful in all waters of the State throughout the year, except:

(1) Reservoir tailwaters other than Fort Gibson which is open 24 hours a day, ~~and Wister which is open from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.~~; shall be closed to fishing by snagging throughout the year. This does not alter provisions of 29 O.S., Section 7-101, which designates a safety zone of the first 150 feet immediately below the dam on all reservoirs except Tenkiller, Canton, Salt Plains, and Fort Supply.

(2) Wister tailwater is closed to snagging from below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.

(23) The following rivers, lakes, and streams:

(A) The Illinois River and its tributaries above the Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir and below the dam shall be closed at all times to such fishing.

(B) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.

(C) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.

(D) The Canadian River from Eufaula Dam tailwater ~~Downstream~~downstream for a distance of one (1) mile to be so designated by buoy or other appropriate marker is closed throughout the year.

(E) The Caney River from the Hulah Dam downstream to the confluence of the old and new river channels is closed.

(F) The following portions of the Grand River:

(i) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.

(ii) That portion of the Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the highline crossing (a distance of approximately ½ mile) is closed throughout the year with the next ½ mile downstream from the highline crossing closed during periods when the spillway gates are closed.

(iii) That portion of the Grand River occurring from the Markham Ferry Dam (Lake Hudson Dam) downstream to the Highway 412 bridge from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. year-round.

(G) The Arkansas River from the tailwaters below Keystone Dam downstream to the Interstate 44 (Skelly Drive) Bridge at Tulsa shall be closed at all times to such fishing.

(H) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.

(I) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert, Sooner and Konawa and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.

(J) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.



- (34) When snagging for paddlefish the hook must have the barbs removed or completely closed. Only one (1) rod and reel is permitted per angler when snagging.
- (e) **Noodling.** Possession of hooks, gaffs, spears, poles with hooks attached and/or ropes with hooks attached while in the act of noodling, shall be proof of violation of the "hands only" noodling law. Noodling shall be lawful for nongame fish and blue, channel, and flathead catfish; only during daylight hours throughout the year.
- (1) Rivers and streams of the state, except:
- (A) The Illinois River and its tributaries above Horseshoe Bend boat ramp on Tenkiller Reservoir and below the dam shall be closed at all times to such fishing.
  - (B) All waters designated as "Designated Trout Areas" during the open season for taking trout are closed.
  - (C) Kiamichi River from Hugo Dam downstream to the first railroad bridge is closed.
  - (D) The following portions of the Grand River:
    - (i) The main river channel of Grand River below the turbine outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the State Park Bridge is closed throughout the year.
    - (ii) The Grand River occurring below the spillway outlets of Grand River Dam downstream to the highline crossing is closed throughout the year except the day of and two (2) days following closure of the spillway gates when noodling will be legal.
  - (E) The Little River tributary of Thunderbird Reservoir above Franklin Road in Cleveland County is closed.
  - (F) Wister tailwaters is closed to noodling from below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.
- (2) Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation Reservoirs, Grand and Hudson Lakes.
- (3) All waters within the boundaries of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge are closed.
- (4) All Department Fishing Areas, all "Close To Home" fishing waters (except noodling is allowed in the North Canadian River from the NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge downstream to the MacArthur St. bridge in Oklahoma City) and Lakes Pickens, Carl Albert, Taft, and Lone Chimney, Ponca and Carl Blackwell and all ponds and lakes in the Ouachita National Forest are closed.
- (5) Lakes Hefner, Overholser (including tailwaters and downstream to NW 10<sup>th</sup> St. bridge) and Draper are closed.
- (f) **Netting (noncommercial).** Netting (noncommercial) is closed statewide.
- (g) **Collecting Bait for personal use.** Cast netting, trawl netting, dip netting, minnow traps and seining non-game fish commonly used for bait for personal use is lawful in all waters of this state unless specifically closed under 800:10-5-2, 800:10-5-3 and/or 800:10-5-6. Cast nets and dip nets shall have a mesh size no greater than three-eighths (3/8) inch square mesh. Seines shall not exceed twenty (20) feet in length, and the mesh shall be no larger than one-half (1/2) inch square unless seining for minnows then the mesh shall not exceed one-fourth (1/4) inch. Minnow traps shall have a mesh size no greater than one-half (1/2) inch, shall not be longer than three (3) feet, shall not exceed eighteen (18) inches in diameter on round traps or eighteen (18) inches on a side on square or rectangular traps. The trap entrance (throat) cannot exceed two (2)

inches across the opening. No person shall fish with more than 3 minnow traps. All minnow traps must have the owner's name and address attached and the traps must be attended once every 24 hours. All game fish and non-game fish not commonly used for bait must be released immediately. Minnow traps cannot be made with glass.

## **SUBCHAPTER 5. AREA RESTRICTIONS AND SPECIAL FEES**

### **800:10-5-1.1. Definitions**

The following words or terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meaning, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

- ~~(1) “artificial flies and lures” means artificial flies or lures constructed of any material excluding those containing, constructed with or used in conjunction with:~~
  - ~~(A) Soft plastic fish eggs, worms, grubs and larvae.~~
  - ~~(B) Any natural fish food such as bait fish, fish parts, crayfish, frogs, grubs, insects, larvae, worms and fish eggs.~~
  - ~~(C) Any human food substances such as cheese, corn and garlic.~~
  - ~~(D) Any dough bait, putty or paste type bait.~~
  - ~~(E) Any substance, either chemical or natural, designed to attract fish by taste or smell regardless if the substance is added in the manufacturing process or applied afterward.~~
- ~~(21) “barbless hooks” means any hook manufactured without a barb for the purpose of keeping a fish attached to the hook or hooks having manufactured barbs that have been removed or pinched down in a manner that renders the barb ineffective in holding a fish to the hook.~~
- ~~(32) “glass beverage containers” means any container made partially or entirely of a glass product for the purpose of containing a consumptive beverage.~~

### **800:10-5-2. Department fishing areas**

The following rules and restrictions govern public use on all Department Fishing Areas, including:

- (1) Department owned lakes and access areas.** The following rules apply:
  - (A) Camping is permitted, but limited to three (3) days duration at all areas, except at the Kiamichi River Access Area and the Lower Illinois River Public Fishing and Hunting Area - Simp and Helen Watts Management Unit where no overnight camping is permitted and at Lakes Watonga, Carl Etling and the Illinois River Access Areas where camping shall be limited to fourteen (14) consecutive days. Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas.
  - (B) Boats and motors are permitted except at Doc Hollis Lake and American Horse Lake. All boats and motors must comply with existing state boat regulations and boat operators must obey Oklahoma State Boat Laws. All boats must be operated at no-wake speed (six '6' miles per hour or less) and may not be left on the water or the areas longer than the limit on camping.
  - (C) Water skiing is prohibited.
  - (D) Disposal of trash, refuse and debris is prohibited, except in designated trash containers. This includes organic and inorganic materials.
  - (E) Glass beverage containers are prohibited at Department fishing areas except in designated camping and parking areas.
  - (F) Commercial concessions and private developments on Department property are

prohibited. Soliciting, advertising or promoting any commercial or private activity is prohibited. The use of these areas for any commercial operation in any way is prohibited.

(G) Dogs must be kept on a leash at all times, except when used to hunt with, during legal open hunting seasons on those areas where hunting is permitted.

(H) Boat houses, ramps, docks and other facilities may not be constructed on Department property without specific approval of the Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(I) It shall be unlawful to drive, occupy or park any motor driven vehicle, including automobiles, trucks, mini bikes, motorcycles, etc., except on maintained roads, (unless posted as "no parking zones"), designated parking areas, and designated camping areas. It shall be unlawful to operate any vehicle in a manner to create a public nuisance or to park in a "no parking zone." Operators must be licensed drivers.

(J) Cutting or defacing of trees and vegetation shall be prohibited. Removal of any vegetation, soil, rocks, water or minerals is prohibited except under written approval of the Department Director.

(K) Vandalism, theft, and damage to State property ~~is~~are prohibited.

(L) No person shall use threatening, abusive, or indecent language, participate in a disorder assemblage, nor publicly appear nude or intoxicated on any lands owned or managed by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

(M) After 10:00 p.m., and until 5:00 a.m., all Department fishing areas will be restricted to fishing and fishing related activities only, and hunting if permitted by Commission.

(N) Swimming is not permitted unless a designated swimming area is established by the Wildlife Conservation Commission.

(O) Hunting is permitted on the following lakes: Hall, Jap Beaver, Burtschi, Nanih Waiya, Ozzie Cobb, Schooler, Evans-Chambers, American Horse and Vanderwork during the period of September 1 through Spring Turkey Season, including migratory bird seasons. Hunting regulations and restrictions for lakes Dahlgren, and Doc Hollis, and Vincent are the same as those listed for Lexington WMA (Dahlgren), Sandy Sanders WMA (Doc Hollis), and Ellis County WMA (Vincent). The following lakes are closed to hunting or taking of wildlife by any means: Elmer, Etling, Raymond Gary and Watonga. Hunting is restricted to shotguns or archery only. These lakes are closed to antlerless deer harvest, except during archery season. Hunting and shooting other than that provided above is prohibited. The Director may designate "closed areas" for purposes of safety and/or security.

(P) Fishing is permitted in accordance with provisions provided in OAC 800:10, Subchapter 1. The Director may designate "closed areas" for purposes of safety and/or security.

(Q) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles, except during trout seasons at "Designated Trout Areas" where no person may fish with more than one (1) pole.

(R) Trotlines, throwlines, limblines, juglines, nets, seines, yo-yo's, spearguns, and the taking of any fish by noodling and the taking of bait minnows by any method is prohibited, except cast nets may be used to take bait for personal use at Lake Carl Etling.

(S) No person shall possess, consume or use any intoxicating beverage or low-point beer, as defined in Title 37, except in camping and parking areas on any lands or waterways subject to the control of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

except U.S. Forest Service regulations shall apply to Black Kettle, Ouachita, Rita Blanca and Tiak Wildlife Management Areas.

(T) No person shall possess, consume, use or manufacture any controlled or dangerous substance, as defined in Title 63 on any lands or waterways subject to the control of the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

(U) All impoundments are catch and release only on the following Department property unless determined otherwise as published in the Oklahoma Fishing Guide: Cimarron Bluff WMA.

**(2) Blue River Public Fishing and Hunting Area.** The following rules apply:

(A) Hunting shall be permitted during regular hunting seasons and is restricted to shotgun and long bow and arrow only. No other use or other firearms are permitted.

(B) Blue River PFHA is closed to all except emergency traffic from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. throughout the year.

(C) Glass beverage containers are prohibited at Blue River PFHA except in designated camping and parking areas.

(D) Fishing is permitted in accordance with provisions provided in OAC 800:10, Subchapter 1.

(E) Trotlines, throwlines, noodling, limblines, spearguns, juglines, nets, seines, and yo-yo's are prohibited throughout the year.

(F) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles, except only one (1) pole and line or rod and reel is permitted during the designated trout season.

(G) The following special rules pertain to the Carl R. and Ruth Walker Landrum Wilderness and Plaster Wildlife Management Unit:

(i) no camping

(ii) areas closed from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

(iii) no swimming

(iv) walk-in access only (except where wheelchair access is provided).

(H) The Blue River Campground Area is closed to swimming, effective January 1, 1990, unless suitable agreement can be reached between the Department and an acceptable second party who would be responsible for managing a designated swimming area for a three month season, annually. The Department will assume no cost or liability for development and operation of a designated swimming area.

(I) Effective July 1, 2000 the following rules apply to camping at the Blue River Campground Area:

(i) Camping is restricted to 14 days in a 30 consecutive day period. The Area Manager may grant extensions by issuing a permit for camping beyond the 14 day limit. Such extensions shall be based upon degree of area use, anticipated weekend or holiday occupancy and recreation season. Extensions shall be requested 48 hours prior to the requested date of the extension.

(ii) Camping is permitted only in designated camping areas.

(iii) No person shall leave a vehicle, camper, tent or any personal property unattended for more than a 48-hour period without approval of the Area Manager.

(iv) If property must be removed, it will be at owners expense and liability. The unauthorized placement of camping equipment or other items on a campsite and/or personal appearance without overnight occupancy at a campsite for the purpose of reserving a designated campsite for future occupancy is prohibited.

**(3) Arcadia Conservation Education Area**

- (A) Walk-in fishing permitted on all parts of the lake shoreline. No fishing in any ponds or wetland areas unless part of an ODWC sanctioned education event.
- (B) Camping prohibited except as authorized by ODWC

**800:10-5-3. Designated trout areas**

**(a) Designated trout areas and seasons.** The following are the designated trout areas and trout seasons at each area:

- (1) The Illinois River and its tributaries from the Tenkiller Ferry Reservoir Dam downstream to the Highway 64 Bridge near Gore, trout season is year-round.
- (2) Blue River, within boundaries of the Blue River Public Fishing & Hunting Area (includes Landrum Wilderness Area and Plaster Wildlife Management Unit), trout season is from November 1 through March 31 of the following year; season is annual.
- (3) Lake Watonga located within the boundaries of Roman Nose State Park, trout season is from the November 1 through March 31 of the following year; season is annual.
- (4) The lower Mountain Fork River and tributaries from Broken Bow Dam downstream to U.S. Highway 70 bridge, excluding that portion from the mouth of Rough Branch Creek downstream to the Re-regulation dam. Trout season is year-round.
- (5) Medicine Creek from Gondola Lake dam downstream to the State Highway 49 bridge, where trout season is from November 1 through March 15 of the following year; season is annual.
- (6) Lake Carl Etling located within the boundaries of Black Mesa State Park, trout season is from November 1 through April 30 of the following year; season is annual,
- (7) The Fourche Maline River from Carlton Lake Dam downstream to the Robbers Cave State Park boundary a distance of approximately one and one-quarter (1¼) miles, trout season is from November 1 through March 15 of the following year; season is annual.
- (8) ~~Lake Pawhuska~~ Perry CCC Lake trout season is from November 1 through March 31 of the following year; season is annual.

**(b) General; area restrictions.** The following rules apply to designated trout areas and to specified locations within certain designated trout areas:

- (1) It shall be unlawful to take or attempt to take fish from these areas during trout seasons except with rod and reel or pole and line, except collecting shad with cast nets is legal from the south boundary of the MarVal trout camp downstream to the Highway 64 bridge; only one (1) rod and reel or pole and line per person is allowed.
- (2) Once a trout is reduced to possession by being placed on a stringer or in the creel of any type, said trout must count toward day's limit and cannot be released.
- (3) Glass beverage containers are prohibited at designated trout areas except in designated camping and parking areas.
- (4) The following areas are retracted to fishing tackle made by fly-tying or artificial lures made of wood, metal, glass, feathers, hair, synthetic fibers or hard plastic and barbless

hooks only. The use of any substance in combination with retriected fishing tackle is prohibited:

- ~~(4)~~ ~~Fishing in the~~ (a) The lower Mountain Fork River trout stream below Broken Bow dam from the Lost Creek water control structure downstream to the first Highway 259 Scenic bridge, including Evening Hole and the Lost Creek stream channel, and from the State Park Dam downstream to the mouth of Rough Branch Creek, ~~is restricted to artificial flies and lures only and barbless hooks only.~~
- ~~(5)~~ (b) Fishing in the lower Illinois River trout stream below Tenkiller dam from the USGS stream gauge downstream to the gravel pit county road is restricted to artificial flies and lures only and barbless hooks only, except that single barbed hooks, size 3/0 or larger, may be used only when fishing with natural bait.
- ~~(6)~~ (c) Fishing in the Blue River from its entry onto the Plaster Wildlife Management Unit/Landrum Wilderness Area downstream approximately ½ mile to a marker cable is restricted to artificial flies and lures only and barbless hooks only during the period November 1 to March 1, annually.
- (7) All trout retained in possession must be kept separate from other anglers' fish on a stringer or in a creel that is clearly marked with that anglers name and license number.

#### **800:10-5-5. Tailwaters**

The following rules shall apply to fishing in tailwater areas below any Federal or Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) dams:

- (1) No person may fish with more than two (2) poles (or rods) when fishing within 1,000 feet downstream from any Federal or GRDA dam except at Wister, where no person may fish with more than two (2) poles (or rods) when fishing below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.
- (2) Foul hooking (any fish hooked other than inside the mouth) is unlawful in the Arkansas River from Zink Lake dam downstream to the Interstate 44 bridge and in reservoir tailwaters (first 1,000 feet of stream below the base of any Federal or GRDA dam) except, in those tailwaters open to snagging, foul hooking is permitted for taking nongame fish only; foul-hooked game fish must be returned to the water immediately.
- (3) Each angler must keep their fish separate, marked with their name and license number, when fishing in tailwaters, which is the first 1,000 feet below dam, except at Wister, where each angler must keep their fish separate, marked with their name and license number when fishing below the dam down to the power-line at the confluence of the old and new river channels.