

NOTICE OF INTENT

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission does hereby give notice of its intent to modify the recreational harvest regulations for freshwater game fish on the waters of the Louisiana-Texas border, specifically Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River, in accordance with the reciprocal agreement between Texas and Louisiana.

Title 76

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

Part VII. Fish and Other Aquatic Life

Chapter 1. Freshwater Sports and Commercial Fishing

§110. Texas Border Waters Recreational Creel, Size, and Possession Limits ~~Toledo Bend Reciprocal Agreement~~

A. Purpose

1. Pursuant to Louisiana Revised Statute 56:673 and the July 1, 2010 Memorandum of Understanding between Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Commission hereby ratifies and enters into an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to establish uniform and reciprocal regulations for the recreational harvest of freshwater game fish on the waters of the Louisiana-Texas border, specifically Toledo Bend Reservoir,

Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River. Those regulations are as follows:

B. Toledo Bend Reservoir

1. The recreational daily creel limit (daily take) for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) is set at eight fish, in aggregate. The minimum total length limit for largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) is 14 inches. There is no minimum length limit on spotted bass. For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

2. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum ~~total~~ length limit.

3. There is no limit on the daily take of Yellow Bass (*Morone mississippiensis*).

4. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

5. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed twenty (20) inches in total length.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

C. Caddo Lake

1. Harvest regulations for black basses (largemouth bass, *Micropterus salmoides* and spotted bass, *Micropterus punctulatus*) on Caddo Lake are as follows:

a. Largemouth bass size limits - fourteen to eighteen (14-18) inch slot. A 14-18 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a largemouth bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 18 inches, both measurements inclusive.

b. Spotted bass size limits - no minimum length limit. For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

c. The daily creel limit (daily take) for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*) is set at eight (8) fish, in the aggregate, of which no more than four (4) largemouth bass may exceed eighteen (18) inches maximum total length.

2. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum length limit.

3. There is no daily creel limit on yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), and there is no minimum length limit.

4. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

5. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed twenty (20) inches in total length.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

D. Sabine River

1. For purposes of this Section the Sabine River shall be defined as River proper from the Toledo Bend Dam downstream to the Interstate 10 Bridge and the River proper upstream from Toledo Bend Reservoir to the point at which the entire river enters Texas as marked by state line sign.

2. The recreational daily creel limit (daily take) for largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and spotted bass (*Micropterus punctulatus*) is set at eight fish, in aggregate. The minimum length limit for largemouth bass (*M. salmoides*) is 14 inches. There is no minimum length limit on spotted bass.

For enforcement purposes, a spotted bass shall be defined as a black bass with a tooth patch on its tongue.

3. The daily creel limit for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) is set at five (5) fish. There is no minimum length limit and only two (2) fish may be over thirty (30) inches in total length.

4. The daily creel limit for white bass (*Morone chrysops*) is twenty-five (25) fish and there is no minimum length limit.

5. There is no daily creel limit on yellow bass (*Morone mississippiensis*), and there is no minimum length limit.

6. The recreational daily creel limit for black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*) and white crappie (*Pomoxis annularis*) is set at twenty-five (25) fish, in the aggregate, and there is no minimum length limit.

7. The recreational daily creel limit for channel catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*) and blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) is set at fifty (50) fish in the aggregate, there is no minimum length limit and not more than five (5) fish may exceed twenty (20) inches in total length.

8. The recreational daily creel limit for flathead catfish (*Pylodictis olivaris*) is set at ten (10) fish. The minimum length limit is eighteen (18) inches.

E. Daily Possession Limit: Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and the Sabine River

1. The following possession limits apply to all persons while on the waters of Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, or the Sabine River. No person shall possess any species of fish in excess of a one day creel limit. No person shall at any time possess in excess of the daily creel limit of any species, except that a two day creel limit may be possessed on the land, if the fish were caught on more than one day and no daily creel limits were exceeded. No person shall possess any fillets of any fish species while on the water.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25) (a), R.S. 56:325 (C), R.S. 56:326.3, R.S. 56:673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:548 (August 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), LR 17:1123 (November 1991), LR 19:790 (June 1993), LR 23:999 (August 1997), LR 31:948 (April 2005), LR 37: .

§149. Black Bass Regulations-Daily Take and Size Limits

A. The Wildlife and Fisheries Commission establishes a statewide daily take (creel limit) of 10 fish for black bass (*Micropterus spp.*). The possession limit shall be the same as the daily take on water and twice the daily take off water.

B. In addition, the Commission establishes special size and daily take regulations for black bass on the following water bodies:

B.1. - B.4.b.i. ...

5. Louisiana-Texas Border Waters - Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake, and Sabine River:

a. The size, daily take, and possession limits for black bass for water bodies located on the Louisiana-Texas border (Toledo Bend Reservoir, Caddo Lake and the Sabine River) are established in Section 110 of this Chapter.

*Maximum total length - The distance in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the most posterior point of the depressed caudal fin as measured with mouth closed on a flat surface.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6 (25)(a), R.S. 56:325(C), R.S. 56:326.3, and R.S. 56:673.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 14:364 (June 1988), amended LR 17:278 (March 1991), repromulgated LR 17:488 (May 1991), amended LR 17:1122 (November 1991), LR 20:796 (July 1994), LR 23:1168 (September 1997), LR 24:505 (March 1998), LR 26:97 (January 2000), LR 28:104 (January 2002), LR 29:373 (March 2003), LR 30:2339 (October 2004), repromulgated LR 30:2495 (November 2004), amended LR 37: .

§167. Black Bass Regulations, Caddo Lake

Repealed.

~~Harvest regulations for black bass (Micropterus spp.) on Caddo Lake located in Caddo Parish, Louisiana are as follows:~~

~~1. Size limit: 14 inch-17 inch slot. A 14-17 inch slot limit means that it is illegal to keep or possess a black bass whose maximum total length is between 14 inches and 17 inches, both measurements inclusive.~~

~~2. Daily take: 10 fish of which no more than four fish may exceed 17 inches maximum total length.~~

~~3. Possession limit: On Water - Same as daily take.~~

~~Off Water - Twice the daily take.~~

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:6(25)(a), R.S. 56:325(C), R.S. 56:326.3.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 19:790 (June 1993), repealed LR 37:

The Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the Commission to promulgate and effectuate this Notice of Intent and the Final Rule, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statements, the filing of the Notice of Intent and final Rule and the preparation of reports and correspondence to other agencies of government.

In accordance with Act #1183 of 1999, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries/Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby issues its Family Impact Statement in connection with the preceding Notice of Intent: This Notice of Intent will have no impact on the six criteria set out at R.S. 49:972(B).

Interested persons may submit written comments of the Notice of Intent to Mr. Mike Wood, Director, Inland Fisheries Section, Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Box 98000, Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000 no later than 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 5, 2011.

Stephen W. Sagrera

Chairman

Toledo Bend Reservoir			
	Louisiana	Texas	Agreement
Channel catfish	11" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue catfish	No Minimum Length Limit (MLL), only 5 fish over 20", 50 fish bag limit, in aggregate of blue & channel catfish
Blue catfish	12" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel catfish	
Flathead catfish	14" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and blue catfish	18" MLL, 5 fish bag limit	MLL 18", 10 fish bag limit
Black & White Crappies	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	10" MLL, 50 fish bag limit (no MLL in winter)	No MLL, 25 fish bag limit

Caddo Lake			
	Louisiana	Texas	Agreement
Channel catfish	11" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue catfish	No MLL, only 5 fish over 20", 50 fish bag limit, in aggregate of blue & channel catfish
Blue catfish	12" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel catfish	
Flathead catfish	14" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and blue catfish	18" MLL, 5 fish bag limit	MLL 18", 10 fish bag limit
White bass	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	10" MLL, 25 fish bag limit	No MLL, 25 fish bag limit
Yellow bass	No MLL, 50 fish daily bag limit	No MLL, No bag limit	No MLL, No bag limit
Largemouth bass	14-17" SL, 10 fish bag limit in aggregate w/spotted bass, only 4 fish over 17"	14-18" SL, 5 fish bag limit in aggregate with spotted bass	14-18" Slot Limit (SL), 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with spotted bass, only 4 fish over 18"
Spotted bass	14-17" SL, 10 fish bag limit in aggregate w/LMB, only 4 fish over 17"	No MLL, 5 fish bag limit in aggregate with LMB	No MLL, 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with largemouth bass
Black and White Crappies	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	10" MLL, 25 fish bag limit	No MLL, 25 fish bag limit

Sabine River*			
*River proper from the Toledo Bend Dam downstream to the Interstate 10 Bridge. River proper upstream from Toledo Bend Reservoir to the point at which the entire river enters Texas (state line is marked with a sign).			
	Louisiana	Texas	Agreement
Channel catfish	11" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with blue catfish	No MLL, only 5 fish over 20", 50 fish bag limit, in aggregate of blue & channel catfish
Blue catfish	12" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and flathead catfish	12" MLL, 25 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel catfish	
Flathead catfish	14" MLL, 100 fish bag limit in aggregate with channel and blue catfish	18" MLL, 5 fish bag limit	MLL 18", 10 fish bag limit
Striped Bass	No MLL, only 2 fish over 30", 5 fish daily bag	18" MLL, 5 fish bag limit	No MLL, only 2 fish over 30", 5 fish daily bag
White bass	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	10" MLL, 25 fish bag limit	No MLL, 25 fish bag limit
Yellow bass	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	No MLL, No bag limit	No MLL, No bag limit
Largemouth bass	No MLL, 10 fish bag limit in aggregate with spotted bass	14" MLL, 5 fish bag limit in aggregate with spotted bass	14" MLL, 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with spotted bass
Spotted bass	No MLL, 10 fish bag limit in aggregate with LMB	No MLL, 5 fish bag limit in aggregate with LMB	No MLL, 8 fish bag limit in aggregate with LMB
Black and White Crappies	No MLL, 50 fish bag limit	10" MLL, 25 fish bag limit	No MLL, 25 fish bag limit

Contact: Mike Wood