

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE



# **2003-2004**

## **TEXAS COMMERCIAL FISHING GUIDE**

**Effective September 1, 2003**  
**Expires August 31, 2004**

Information in this guide may change due to  
Legislative or Commission action.

- **IMPORTANT:** See Special Notices, Page 2 •

# A GUIDE TO TEXAS COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY REGULATIONS

Commercial fishing is any activity involving taking or handling fresh or saltwater aquatic products for pay or for the purpose of barter, sale or exchange.

This publication is a summary of regulations for the commercial fishing industry in Texas and is designed as a guide only. Regulations concerning sport fishing are contained in the "Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual"

which is available free of charge from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) offices and from bait, tackle and sporting goods dealers where fishing licenses are sold.

**More detailed information concerning commercial fishing industry regulations can be obtained from TPWD game wardens or any law enforcement office of TPWD.**

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# SPECIAL NOTICES

1. **All commercial shipments of aquatic products** must be accompanied by an invoice and containers must be labeled. (See **SHIPPING REGULATIONS** page 10.)
2. **The Shipper and Receiver** of commercial shipments of aquatic products must keep the shipping invoices on file as a record for one year from the date of shipment. (See **RECORDS** page 11.)
3. **Consumption of Clams, Mussels, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **fresh waters** is prohibited by the Texas Department of Health.
4. **Clams, Mussels, Oysters, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **salt waters** may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of Health. (Maps identifying approved areas may be obtained from the Department of Health, Seafood Safety Division (512) 719-0215. Additional information concerning **area closures** may be obtained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **1-800-685-0361**.)
5. Commercial Bay and Bait Shrimp boat licenses and Commercial Crab Fisherman's Licenses are subject to limited issuance. For detailed information see pages 21 and 37.
6. Commercial finfish fisherman's license are subject to limited issuance. For more information see page 19.
7. The possession of **all species** of fish and crabs is prohibited from the following areas. Catch and release of fish and crabs from these areas is lawful.
  - Portions of upper **Lavaca Bay** in Calhoun County.
  - The **Donna Irrigation System** in Hidalgo County.
  - **Clear Fork of the Trinity River** downstream from the 7th Street Bridge in Fort Worth to the confluence with the West Fork, the **West Fork of the Trinity River** from the confluence with the Clear Fork downstream to the Interstate Highway 20 Bridge southeast of Dallas.
  - **Mountain Creek Lake** in Dallas County.
  - **Lake Como, Echo Lake and Fosdic Lake** (also known as **Oakland Lake**) in Tarrant County.
8. TDH recommends limiting consumption of certain fish in these areas as follows:
  - (a) **GULF OF MEXICO: All Texas Coastal Waters.**
    - **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
      - **King mackerel** greater than 43 inches in total length should not be consumed.
      - For **king mackerel** 37 to 43 inches in total length:
        - Adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per week.
        - Women of child-bearing age and children should limit consumption to not more than one, 8-ounce meal per month.
        - **King mackerel** less than 37 inches in total length are safe for unrestricted consumption.
  - (b) **Arroyo Colorado, Llano Grande Lake, and the Main Floodway** upstream of the Port of Harlingen in Cameron and Hidalgo counties.
    - **Chemicals of Concern:** Organochlorine pesticides
      - For **smallmouth buffalo**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month.
  - (c) **B.A. Steinhagen Lake** in Jasper and Tyler counties; **Big Cypress Creek** in Marion County; **Caddo Lake** in Harrison and Marion counties; **Sam Rayburn Reservoir** in Angelina, Jasper, Nacogdoches, Sabine, and San Augustine counties; and **Toledo Bend Reservoir** in Newton, Panola, Sabine, and Shelby counties.
    - **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
      - **All Locations:** For **largemouth bass and freshwater drum**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month.
      - For **B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir:** For **white bass or hybrid striped bass**, adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than one, 4-ounce meal per month.
  - (d) **Brandy Branch Reservoir** in Harrison County; **Martin Creek Reservoir** in Panola and Rusk counties; and **Lake Welsh** in Titus County.
    - **Chemical of Concern:** Selenium
      - **For All Species of Fish:**
        - Adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per week.
        - Children 7 years of age and older should limit consumption to no more than one, 4-ounce meal per week.

- Children 6 years of age and younger, pregnant women, or women who may soon become pregnant should not consume fish from these reservoirs.
  - Persons consuming fish from these reservoirs should not consume mineral dietary supplements with selenium exceeding 50 micrograms per day.
- (e) **Houston Ship Channel** upstream and downstream of the Lynchburg Ferry crossing and all contiguous water including the **San Jacinto River** below U.S. Highway 90 bridge, and **Upper Galveston Bay** and all contiguous waters north of a line drawn from Red Bluff Point to Five Mile cut Marker to Houston Point in Harris and Chambers counties.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Dioxin (all waters), and Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and Organochlorine pesticides (upstream of the Lynchburg Ferry crossing)
  - **For All Species of Fish and Blue Crabs:**
    - Adults should limit consumption to no more than one, 8-ounce meal per month.
    - Women of child-bearing age and children should not consume any fish or blue crabs from this area.
- (f) **Lake Daingerfield** in Morris County and **Lake Ratcliff** in Houston County.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
    - For **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month.
- (g) **Lake Kimball** in Hardin and Tyler counties and **Lake Pruitt (Black Cypress Creek)** in Cass County.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
    - For all species of fish, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 11 years of age should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month.
- (h) **Lake Meredith** in Hutchinson, Moore, and Potter counties.
- **Chemical of Concern:** Mercury
    - For **walleye**, adults should limit consumption to no more than two, 8-ounce meals per month, and children should limit consumption to no more than two, 4-ounce meals per month.
- (i) **Lake Worth** in Tarrant County.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
    - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
- (j) **Trinity River** from Texas 34 to Cedar Creek Reservoir discharge in Kaufman, Ellis, Henderson, and Navarro counties.
- **Chemicals of Concern:** Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), Chlordane, DDE
    - Persons should not consume any species of **gar** from these waters.

**Note:** Additional information concerning Texas Department of Health closures or advisories may be obtained by calling (800) 685-0361 (shellfish) or (512) 719-0215 (other advisories) or visiting [www.tdh.state.tx.us/bfds/ssd](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/bfds/ssd).

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

These rules also apply to fish, shrimp, crabs or other aquatic life caught in the Exclusive Economic Zone and landed in Texas.

**Civil Restitution:** Persons violating laws involving the illegal taking, possessing, killing, catching or injuring of fish and wildlife may be fined, liable to the state for the value of each illegally possessed wildlife resource, and are subject to license suspension or revocation.

**Texas residents** 17 years of age or older while fishing, hunting, or trapping **MUST** have on their person a driver's license or personal identification certificate issued by the Department of Public Safety. **Non-residents** must have similar documents issued by the agency of the state or country of which the person is a resident

that is authorized to issue driver's licenses or personal identification certificates.

### POSSESSION OF PROHIBITED FISHING DEVICES

It is unlawful to possess a device designed to catch fish or other aquatic life in or on the public water of this state where the use of the device is prohibited.

In coastal waters, a prohibited device may be possessed on board a vessel if the vessel is in port or in a marked channel going directly to or from an area in this state where the use of the device is permitted.

Gill nets, trammel nets, strike nets and seines (other than minnow seines) may not be possessed within 500 yards of any public coastal waters.

## DEFINITIONS

**Aquatic Product:** Any live or dead uncooked, fresh or frozen aquatic animal life.

**Artificial Lure:** Any lure (including flies) with hook or hooks attached that is man-made and is used as a bait while fishing.

**Bait:** Something used to lure any wildlife resource. It is unlawful to use gamefish or any part thereof as bait.

**Bycatch Reduction Device (BRD):** A device installed in the cod end (tail bag) of a shrimp trawl for the purpose of excluding finfish from the net.

**NOTE: BRDs are required in certain trawls.**

**Cast Net:** A net which can be thrown or cast to drop over an area.

**Community Fishing Lake:** All public impoundments 75 acres or smaller located totally within an incorporated city limits or a public park, and all impoundments of any size lying totally within the boundaries of a state park. For a list of Community Fishing Lakes in your area, call 1-800-792-1112.

**Crab Line:** A baited line with no hook or pole attached.

**Crab Measurement:** Blue crabs are measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine. Stone crab claws are measured by the propodus length which is that distance from the tip of the immovable claw finger to the first joint behind the claw.

**Daily Bag Limit:** The quantity of a species that may be taken in one day.

**Day:** A 24-hour period of time that begins at midnight and ends the following midnight.

**Fishing:** Taking or trying to take fish, shrimp, crabs, oysters, clams, mussels, or any other aquatic life by any means.

**Fishing Guide:** A person who operates a boat for compensation to accompany or to transport a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state.

**Fishing Guide Deck Hand:** A person in the employ of a fishing guide who assists in operating a boat for compensation to accompany or to transport a person or persons engaged in fishing in the water of this state.

**Gaff:** Any hand-held pole with a hook attached.

**Game Fish** (includes hybrids or subspecies of fish on this list):

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Bass, Guadalupe   | • Marlin, blue         |
| • Bass, largemouth  | • Marlin, white        |
| • Bass, smallmouth  | • Pickerel             |
| • Bass, spotted     | • Sailfish             |
| • Bass, striped     | • Sauger               |
| • Bass, white       | • Seatrout, spotted    |
| • Bass, yellow      | • Sharks               |
| • Catfish, blue     | • Snook                |
| • Catfish, channel  | • Spearfish, longbill  |
| • Catfish, flathead | • Swordfish, broadbill |
| • Cobia             | • Tarpon               |
| • Crappie, black    | • Trout, brown         |
| • Crappie, white    | • Trout, rainbow       |
| • Drum, red         | • Wahoo                |
| • Mackerel, king    | • Walleye              |
| • Mackerel, Spanish |                        |

**Gear Tag:** A tag constructed of material as durable as the device to which it is attached. The gear tag must be clearly legible and show the name and address of the person using the device and except for saltwater trotlines and crab traps, the date the device is set out.

**Gig:** Any hand-held shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless.

**Jug Line (fresh water):** A fishing line with 5 or less hooks tied to a free-floating device.

**Lawful Archery Equipment:** Longbow, recurved bow, compound bow and crossbow.

**Mussels and Clams:** Includes all freshwater and marine bivalve mollusks except oysters.

- Freshwater mussels – bivalve mollusks of the family Unionidae.

**Natural Bait:** A whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.

**Non-game Fish:** All species not listed as game fish except endangered or threatened fish which are defined and regulated under separate rules.

**Non-resident:** A person who does not meet the resident requirements.

**Permanent Residence:** One's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place. This does not include a temporary abode or dwelling such as a hunting/fishing club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting/fishing club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, fishing, pleasure or business trip.

**Permanent Structure:** A building designed, planned, and constructed so as to remain at one location.

**Pole and Line:** A line with hook, attached to a pole. This gear includes rod and reel.

**Possession Limit:** The maximum number of a species of game, fish, or other animals that may be possessed at one time.

**Purse Seine:** A net with flotation on the corkline adequate to support the net in open water without touching bottom with a rope or wire cable strung through rings attached along the bottom edge to close the bottom of the net.

**Resident:** A person who has lived in Texas continuously for more than 6 months immediately before applying for a license. (This includes residents and their spouses or unmarried children living at home who enter the United States Armed Forces and continue to list Texas as their state of residency with the armed forces.)

**Seine:** A section of non-metallic mesh webbing. The top edge buoyed upwards by a floatline and the bottom edge weighted.

**Spear:** Any shaft with single or multiple points, barbed or barbless, which may be propelled by any means, but does not include arrows.

**Spear Gun:** Any hand operated device designed and used for propelling a spear, but does not include the crossbow.

**Throwline (fresh water):** A fishing line with 5 or less hooks and with one end attached to a permanent fixture. Components of a throwline may

also include swivels, snaps, rubber and rigid support structures.

**Trap:** A rigid device of various designs and dimensions used to entrap aquatic organisms.

**Trawl:** A beam trawl or otter trawl with a bag-shaped net which is used to catch shrimp.

- **Beam Trawl** – A trawl, without wings, the mouth of which is held open by a rigid beam of wood or metal.
- **Otter Trawl** – A funnel-shaped trawl, with wings, the mouth of which is held open by floats and weights and spread by trawl doors fastened to the wings.

**Trotline:** A non-metallic main fishing line with more than 5 hooks attached and with each end attached to a fixture.

**Turtle Excluder Device (TED):** A device installed in a shrimp trawl forward of the cod end (tail bag) for the purpose of excluding sea turtles from the net. **NOTE: TEDs are required in certain trawls.**

**Umbrella Net:** A non-metallic mesh net that is suspended horizontally in the water by multiple lines attached to a rigid frame.

## POTENTIALLY HARMFUL EXOTIC FISH, SHELLFISH & AQUATIC PLANTS

The importation, sale, transportation and release of exotic fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants designated harmful or potentially harmful by the Parks and Wildlife Commission are prohibited except by special permit from the Department. The list of potentially harmful species may be obtained by calling (800) 792-1112.

# LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

*License requirements and fees are subject to change. (License fees are not refundable.)*

## SPORTFISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Residents who possess a Resident General Commercial Fisherman's License must purchase a Resident Sport Fishing License or a Temporary Resident Sport Fishing License to fish for recreational purposes.

Non-resident commercial fishermen must obtain a Non-Resident Fishing License or a Temporary (5-Day) Non-Resident Fishing License to fish for recreational purposes.

In addition to the above, a Saltwater Sportfishing Stamp is required to fish for recreational purposes in coastal waters of this state and a Freshwater Trout Stamp to fish for freshwater trout for recreation.

## GENERAL LICENSES

### General Commercial Fisherman's

<b>Resident</b> (Type 372).....	<b>\$24</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 340) .....	<b>\$180</b>

Required for any person who:

- catches aquatic products from the waters of this state for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange or any other commercial purpose; or
- unloads in this state aquatic products that were taken from water outside this state and have not been previously unloaded in another state or a foreign country, for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter or exchange or any other commercial purpose.

- a non-resident who is residing in a state that denies the privilege of commercial fishing in that state to a Texas resident because of residency status is not eligible for a non-resident general commercial fisherman's license.

**Exceptions:**

- a person who holds a commercial shrimp boat captain's license, commercial oyster boat captain's license, a bait dealer's license and catching bait only, commercial crab fisherman's license, commercial finfish fisherman's license, Class A and Class B Menhaden boat license, or the crew of a licensed commercial shrimp boat or oyster boat **is not required** to obtain a general commercial fisherman's license.

**Commercial Finfish Fisherman's**

**Resident** (Type 371).....\$360  
**Non-resident** (Type 361).....\$1,440

Required for any person who takes finfish for commercial purposes from the coastal waters of this state.

- Finfish Fisherman: defined as a person who catches finfish from the coastal waters of this state for the purpose of sale, barter, exchange or any other commercial purpose.
- Finfish: defined as those living resources having either cartilaginous or bony skeletons (Chondrichthyes and Osteichthyes).

**Exceptions:**

- A person who is licensed as a bait dealer and who takes finfish for bait only is not required to obtain a commercial finfish fisherman's license.
- A person who is in a vessel licensed as a menhaden boat and who takes menhaden is not required to obtain a Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License.
- A person who holds a Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's License or the crew of a licensed commercial shrimp boat is not required to obtain a Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License when catching finfish incidental to legal shrimp trawling operations.
- A person may operate a boat bearing a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate **ONLY** if that person possesses on board the following documentation:
  - a commercial finfish fisherman's license issued to the plate owner AND a general commercial fisherman's license, AND
  - a copy of an affidavit permitting the boat operator to fish the commercial finfish fishing devices owned by the person to whom the commercial finfish fisherman's license was issued. The affidavit must contain the

date, original signature of the licensee, and commercial finfish license number which matches the commercial finfish license plate number on the boat.

- A person operating a boat for the purpose of commercial finfish fishing is not required to possess a commercial fishing boat license.

**Note:** No person applying for either a Resident or Non-resident Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License will be issued that license by the Department unless the person files with the Department, an affidavit containing statements that the applicant is not employed at any full-time occupation other than commercial fishing and during the period of validity of the Commercial Finfish License, the applicant does not intend to engage in any full-time occupation other than commercial fishing.

**Note:**

- A person purchasing this license will receive two (2) license plates bearing a number unique to that person, and two annual commercial finfish fisherman's license decals.
- A boat operated for the purposes of commercial finfish fishing is required to have a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.
- The plates are valid only when each is affixed with one annual commercial finfish fisherman's license decal to the upper left corner of the plate.
- **No more than one set of commercial finfish fisherman's license plates may be on board a commercial finfish fishing boat at any one time.**

**Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's**

**Resident** (Type 333).....\$30  
**Non-resident** (Type 433) .....\$120

Required of any person who operates a commercial shrimp boat catching or attempting to catch shrimp and other aquatic products from the public waters of this state or unloading or attempting to unload in this state shrimp and other aquatic products taken from waters outside this state.

**Commercial Oyster Boat Captain's**

**Resident** (Type 309).....\$30  
**Non-resident** (Type 409) .....\$120

Required of any person who operates a commercial oyster boat while taking oysters from the public waters of this state.

**Commercial Oyster Fisherman's**

**Resident** (Type 370).....\$120  
**Non-resident** (Type 470) .....\$300

Required of any person who takes oysters from the public waters of this state for pay or for

the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose. (Not required of the captain and crew of licensed commercial oyster boats.)

**Commercial Crab Fisherman’s**

**Resident** (Type 338).....\$600  
**Non-resident** (Type 438).....\$2,400

Required for any person who takes crabs for commercial purposes from the coastal waters of the state.

**NOTE:** No person may hold more than 3 commercial crab fisherman’s licenses.

**Exceptions:**

- A person may operate a boat bearing a commercial crab fisherman’s license plate ONLY if that person possesses on board the following documentation:
  - a commercial crab fisherman’s license or a general commercial fisherman’s license, AND
  - a copy of an affidavit permitting the boat operator to fish the commercial crab fishing devices owned by the person to whom the commercial crab fisherman’s license was issued. The affidavit must contain the date, original signature of the licensee, and commercial crab license number which matches the commercial crab license plate number on the boat.
- A person operating a boat for the purpose of commercial crab fishing is not required to possess a commercial fishing boat license.

**Note:**

- A person purchasing this license will receive two (2) license plates bearing a number unique to that person, and two annual commercial crab fisherman’s license decals.
- A boat operated for the purposes of commercial crab fishing is required to have a commercial crab fisherman’s license plate prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.
- The plates are valid only when each is affixed with one annual commercial crab fisherman’s license decal to the upper left corner of the plate.
- No more than one set of commercial crab fisherman’s license plates may be on board a commercial crab fishing boat at any one time.

**Commercial Mussel and Clam Fisherman’s**

**Resident** (Type 320).....\$36  
**Non-resident** (Type 420) .....\$960

Required of any person taking mussels, clams or their shells from the public waters of this state for commercial purposes.

**Fishing Guide Licenses** (available only at TPWD Law Enforcement Offices)

**Freshwater Fishing Guide**

**Resident** (Type 600).....\$125  
**Non-resident** (Type 700) .....\$125

Required for any person who for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports any person engaged in fishing in the fresh waters of the state.

**Saltwater Fishing Guide**

**Resident** (Type 610).....\$200  
**Non-resident** (Type 710) .....\$200

Required for any person who for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports any person engaged in fishing in the salt waters AND fresh waters of the state.

A vessel license is required from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to carry passengers for hire on waters designated as navigable by the USCG. It is the operator’s responsibility to assure compliance with USCG regulations. For additional information, contact the USCG Regional Examination Center in Houston at (713) 948-3350.

**NOTE: NO PERSON operating a vessel or boat as a fishing guide on or in the salt waters of this state may be issued a Fishing Guide license unless the person presents documentation to the license deputy that the applicant possesses a valid and appropriate U.S. Coast Guard Operator’s License.**

**BAIT DEALERS’ LICENSES**

All Bait Dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other Dealers, and all Bait Dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Aquatic Product Reporting Program. See page 11, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS.**

**Bait Dealer – Individual**

(Type 312).....\$36

Required for any person who catches, transports or sells his own catch of minnows, fish or other aquatic products (except shrimp) for bait.

**Note:** In addition to this license, a permit to sell non-game fish taken from public fresh water is required. The fee for this license is \$60 and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-4647.

**Bait Dealer – Place of Business/Building**

(Type 515).....\$36

Required for any person who buys for the purpose of sale, minnows, fish, shrimp in non-coastal counties or other aquatic products for bait.



**Bait Dealer – Place of Business/  
Motor Vehicle**  
(Type 516).....\$36

Required for any person operating a place of business and buying, for the purpose of sale from a motor vehicle, minnows, fish, shrimp in non-coastal counties or other aquatic products for bait.

**Bait-Shrimp Dealer (coastal counties)**  
(Type 335).....\$204

Required for any person who operates an established place of business engaged in selling shrimp for fish bait. Minnows, non-game fish or other aquatic products may also be sold for fish bait under this license. Only the place of business/building bait dealer’s license is required for grocery stores which do not unload or purchase shrimp directly from commercial bait-shrimp boats.

**OTHER BUSINESS LICENSES**

“Place of business” means a **permanent structure** on land or a **motor vehicle** where aquatic products or orders for aquatic products are received or where aquatic products are sold or purchased, but does not include a boat or any type of floating device, a public cold-storage vault, the portion of a structure that is used as a residence, or a vehicle from which no orders are taken or no shipments or deliveries are made other than to the place of business of a licensee in this state.

Aquatic products lawfully taken from the waters of another state or country may be sold within this state by licensed dealers without regard to size limitations imposed on such products taken within this state. A record of the source and disposition of such undersized or oversized products shall be maintained by the dealer for as long as the undersized or oversized products are retained and for at least 30 days thereafter.

All Fish Dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other Dealers, and all Fish Dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Aquatic Product Reporting Program. See page 11, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS.**

**\*Wholesale Fish Dealer**  
**(each place of business**  
**except trucks)** (Type 314) ..... \$825

**\*Wholesale Fish Truck Dealer**  
**(for each truck used as a**  
**place of business)** (Type 315).....\$561

Required for any person who operates a place of business for the purpose of selling, offering

for sale, canning, preserving, processing, or handling for shipments or sale aquatic products to retail or wholesale fish dealers, hotels, restaurants, cafes, or consumers.

**\*Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

**\*Retail Fish Dealer (each place of business except trucks)**  
(Type 302) .....\$92.40

**\*Retail Fish Truck Dealer (each truck used as a place of business)** (Type 316).....\$171.60

Required for any person who operates a place of business and sells aquatic products to **consumers.**

**\*Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

**Menhaden Fish Plant** (Type 326) .....\$180

Required for any person who operates, at a fixed location on land, any installation where fish and fish by-products are processed by pressure, heat or chemical means into fish oil, fish solubles, fish scraps or other products.

**Texas Finfish Import License**  
(Type 380).....\$90

Required of any person in this state receiving bass of the genus *Micropterus*, blue marlin, crappie, flathead catfish, goliath grouper (formerly called jewfish), longbill spearfish, muskellunge, northern pike, red drum, sailfish, sauger, snook, spotted seatrout, striped bass, tarpon, walleye, white bass, white marlin, yellow bass or hybrids of any of these fish directly from another state or country; or importing, transporting, or selling for resale these fishes in this state. (This license is not required for licensed Texas fish farmers raising these fishes, or persons transporting these fish by common carrier from outside this state to a point of delivery outside this state providing the fish are not unloaded in Texas and are accompanied by a bill of lading.)

**Shell Buyer**  
**Resident** (Type 324).....\$120  
**Non-resident** (Type 424).....\$1,800

Required to purchase for commercial use mussel and clam shells that have been taken from the public waters.

## BOAT LICENSES

Current boat registration or documentation papers must be presented when purchasing a boat license.

A **non-resident boat** is defined as a boat that does not have a Texas Certificate of Number or a boat that does not have a United States Coast Guard Certificate of Documentation that lists the owner's address in Texas.

### Commercial Fishing Boat

<b>Resident</b> (Type 304).....	<b>\$18</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 404) .....	<b>\$72</b>

Required of each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in taking aquatic products except menhaden, oysters and shrimp from the public waters of the state or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters for pay, barter, sale, exchange or any commercial purpose.

### Class A Menhaden Boat

(Type 325) .....	<b>\$4,200</b>
------------------	----------------

Required for each boat used in the coastal waters of this state for the purpose of catching, storing and transporting menhaden for pay, barter, sale or exchange. Persons aboard a menhaden boat for the purpose of taking menhaden are not required to possess a general commercial fisherman's license or commercial finfish fisherman's license.

### Class B Menhaden Boat

(Type 329).....	<b>\$50</b>
-----------------	-------------

Required for each boat used for the purpose of assisting a Class A Menhaden boat in catching menhaden. Persons aboard a Class B Menhaden boat for the purpose of catching menhaden are not required to possess a general commercial fisherman's license or commercial finfish fisherman's license.

### Bait-Shrimp Boat

<b>Resident</b> (Type 337).....	<b>\$348</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 437) .....	<b>\$750</b>

Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the inside waters of the state for taking **bait** shrimp for pay, barter, sale or exchange. A boat licensed as a commercial bait shrimp boat may also be used to take edible aquatic products, other than shrimp, for pay, barter, sale or exchange from inside waters.

### \*Bay-Shrimp Boat

<b>Resident</b> (Type 336) .....	<b>\$382.80</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 436) .....	<b>\$825</b>

Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in

the inside major bay waters of the state for taking shrimp for pay, barter, sale or exchange. A boat licensed as a commercial bay shrimp boat may also be used to take other edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale or exchange from inside waters.

**\*Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

### \*Gulf-Shrimp Boat

<b>Resident</b> (Type 330).....	<b>\$495</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 430).....	<b>\$1,485</b>

Required for each boat that must be registered under federal or state laws and is used in the Gulf of Mexico or "outside" waters of the state for taking shrimp and other edible aquatic products for pay, barter, sale or exchange or for boats unloading within the state such products taken outside the state's waters.

**\*Note:** HB 2470 of the 78th Legislature mandated a 10% surcharge on fees for these licenses. The funds generated by these increases will be dedicated to a shrimp marketing and promotion program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture.

### Commercial Oyster Boat License

<b>Resident</b> (Type 306).....	<b>\$420</b>
<b>Non-resident</b> (Type 406).....	<b>\$1,680</b>

Required for each boat used to transport or for taking oysters for pay or for the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange or any other commercial purpose from the public waters of this state by utilizing a dredge, tongs, or other mechanical means.

### Commercial Crab Boat

Refer to information under **Commercial Crab Fisherman's License** on page 7.

## PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH TAKEN FROM PUBLIC FRESH WATER

In addition to a General Commercial Fisherman's License, Bait Dealer's License, and/or a Commercial Fishing Boat License (if using a boat to catch non-game fish), no person may sell a non-game fish taken from the public fresh waters of this state unless that person first obtains a permit to sell non-game fish. (See the section entitled **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER**, page 14 of this guide.) The fee for the PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH is \$60, and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-8037.

# PURCHASE OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR RESALE

**Wholesale Fish Dealers** may purchase for resale, or receive for sale, barter, exchange, or any other commercial purpose aquatic products **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- general commercial fisherman's license;
- commercial oyster fisherman's license;
- commercial oyster boat license;
- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- commercial oyster boat captain's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfisherman's license.

All Wholesale Fish Dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other Dealers, and all Wholesale Fish Dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Aquatic Product Reporting Program. See page 11, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

**Retail Fish Dealers** may purchase for resale, or receive for sale, barter, exchange, or any other commercial purpose aquatic products **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- general commercial fisherman's license;

- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license when the retail fish dealer has given written notification to the Department of the dealer's intent to purchase aquatic products from the holder of a general commercial fisherman's license or a commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfisherman's license.

All Retail Fish Dealers who purchase aquatic product(s) from anyone except other Dealers, and all Retail Fish Dealers who harvest aquatic product(s) themselves are required to report these landings under the Aquatic Product Reporting Program. See page 11, **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

**Restaurant owners, operators, or employees** may purchase aquatic products (**only** for consumption by the restaurant's patrons on the restaurant premises) **only** from persons or entities in this state who hold a valid:

- general commercial fisherman's license;
- wholesale fish dealer's license;
- fish farmer's license;
- commercial shrimp boat license;
- commercial shrimp boat captain's license;
- commercial crab fisherman's license; or
- commercial finfisherman's license.

## SHIPPING REGULATIONS

### AQUATIC PRODUCT TRANSPORTATION INVOICES

All aquatic products (uncooked, fresh or frozen fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, etc.) shipped for commercial purposes must be accompanied by an invoice prepared by the shipper containing the following information:

- Invoice Number
- Date of Shipment
- Name and Physical Address of Shipper (Fish Dealer)
- Name and Physical Address of Receiver
- License Number of Shipper (Dealer Number)
- Quantity of Aquatic Products Contained in the shipment; finfish by species, number, or weight; oysters by volume; and all other aquatic products by weight.

Shippers shall sequentially number invoices during each license year. No number may be used twice during any one license period.

Shipper and receiver shall maintain a copy of invoice for a period of one year from date of shipment.

### CONTAINERS

All containers of aquatic products shipped for commercial purposes must have a label attached to the outside listing the following information:

- Aquatic Products Transportation Invoice number of the shipment of which the container is a part
- Kind of aquatic product contained
- Weight of aquatic product in the container

Finfish may not be shipped in individual packages that contain more than one species.

A commercial fisherman licensed to take aquatic products from Texas waters transporting **his own catch** within this state is not required to invoice the shipment or label containers.

### LICENSES

Any person transporting aquatic products for commercial purposes must have in his possession the license authorizing the shipment.

- General Commercial Fisherman's License, Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License of another individual, and an affidavit from the holder of the Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License authorizing the person to operate their fishing devices for shipment's of the fisherman's own catch.
- General Commercial Fisherman's License and Commercial Finfish Fisherman's License for shipments of the fisherman's own catch of finfish.
- Commercial Shrimp Boat License (or copy of Commercial Shrimp Boat License) and Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's License for shipments of shrimp and/or other aquatic products taken on a commercial shrimp boat.
- Commercial Oyster Boat Captain's License and Commercial Oyster Boat License (or copy of Commercial Oyster Boat License), for shipments of oysters taken on a commercial oyster boat.

- Commercial Oyster Fisherman's License for shipments of the fisherman's own catch of oysters.
- Wholesale or Retail Fish Dealer's Truck Licenses (original license) or a **copy** of the Wholesale or Retail Fish Dealer's business license for shipments going to or from the place of business of fish dealer.

No person may transport aquatic products **out** of this state for commercial purposes unless the shipper first obtains a Wholesale Fish Dealer's License, Retail Fish Dealer's License, or a Bait Dealer's License, whichever is applicable.

No person may bring into this state and **deliver** aquatic products for any commercial purpose unless he has obtained a Wholesale Fish Dealer's License or a Retail Fish Dealer's License, whichever is applicable.

A motor carrier providing contract carriage of aquatic products for a fish dealer is not responsible for invoicing or labeling the shipment or obtaining a Wholesale or Retail Fish Dealer's License. The shipper (seller of the aquatic product) is responsible for invoicing and labeling the shipment and obtaining the proper dealer's license.

## RECORDS

**Cash Sales Tickets:** Dealers who purchase fish, shrimp, or other forms of **aquatic products** except oysters from any person other than another dealer, must maintain cash sale tickets at their place of business for a period of one year from the date of the purchase. These cash sale tickets must be made available for examination by an authorized employee of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during reasonable business hours.

**A cash sales ticket must include:**

- the name of the seller;
- the **commercial license** number of the seller;
- the **finfish license** number of the seller, if one is required;
- the number of pounds sold by species;
- the date of sale;
- the water body or bay system from which the aquatic products were taken; and
- price paid per pound per species.

Cash sales tickets are required for all **aquatic** products except oysters and must be completed at the time the products are delivered from the fisherman to the dealer.

**Oyster Transaction Receipt:** Certified shellfish dealers handling oysters must maintain oyster transaction receipts at the place of business for at least one year from the date of the transaction for each first sale or exchange transaction involving oysters. An oyster transaction receipt must include: the name or registration number and commercial oyster boat license number of

the oyster harvesting boat; the name of the captain of the boat; the number of crew on the boat; the commercial oyster fishermen license number of the harvester; the name of the receiving certified shellfish dealer; the number of barrels of oysters received; the price paid per barrel; the location where the oysters were harvested; the description and number of gear used to harvest the oysters; and the date of the transaction.

## COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS

### Monthly Aquatic Products Report

All dealers who purchase or receive aquatic product(s) from anyone other than another dealer **MUST** file a monthly report with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department on or before the 10th day of each month following the month in which the reportable activity occurred. The report must be filed every month, whether or not reportable activity occurs. The filing of an incorrect or false report is unlawful. This report must include the name, amount purchased, unit, unit price, processing code, water body, and kind(s) of equipment used for each species.

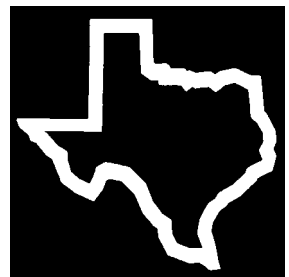
### Source of Forms

Dealer report forms for saltwater and freshwater products are available by writing: Commercial Harvest Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dickinson Marine Laboratory, 1502 F.M. 517 E, Dickinson, TX 77539 or calling (281) 534-0110.

## MARKING OF VEHICLES

All motor vehicles, trailers, or semi-trailers transporting finfish for commercial purposes are required to exhibit the inscription "FISH" on the rear of the vehicle. The inscription shall read from left to right, be attached or painted on the vehicle in block Arabic letters of good proportion in contrasting color to the background and be at least 6 inches in height, or be marked in the lower left portion, on the rear of the vehicle with a decal (see illustration – right) as prescribed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission. For information call (512) 389-4628. **Each individual dealer or company is responsible for generating their own decal according to provided guidelines.**

A motor carrier providing contract carriage of aquatic products for a fish dealer is not required to mark his vehicle providing the motor carrier does not own or have part ownership of the aquatic products.



(Reduced version of truck decal. Must be at least 6 inches by 6 inches in size and in contrasting color to the truck.)

# IMPORTATION REGULATIONS

No person may import into this state or possess a wildlife resource taken outside this state, unless the person possessing the wildlife resource produces on demand by a game warden a valid hunting, fishing or other applicable license, stamp, tag, permit or document for the state or country in which the wildlife resource was legally taken.

A person importing or possessing a wildlife resource from another state or country must produce upon demand by a game warden a valid driver's license or personal identification certificate.

Fish imported into Texas and landed by boat, must comply with Texas bag and size limits. This does not apply to fish caught under the authority of an approved Federal Fishery Management Plan.

## IMPORTATION OF COMMERCIALY PROTECTED FISH

All shipments of commercially protected finfish must be accompanied by a "Commercially Protected Finfish Shipping Invoice." A copy of the invoice must accompany all commercially protected finfish shipments through their place of final sale to the consumer.

### Commercially Protected Finfish

- Bass of the genus *Micropterus*\*
- Bass, striped\*
- Bass, white\*
- Bass, yellow
- Catfish, flathead\*
- Crappie, black\*
- Crappie, white\*
- Drum, red\*
- Grouper, goliath (formerly called jewfish)
- Marlin, blue
- Marlin, white
- Muskellunge
- Pike, northern
- Sailfish
- Sauger
- Seatrout, spotted
- Snook
- Speartfish, longbill
- Tarpon
- Walleye
- Hybrids of any of these fish\*

**\*NOTICE:** To be lawfully imported, sold, or purchased in Texas, **bass of the genus *Micropterus*, crappie, flathead catfish, red drum, striped bass, white bass, or a hybrid** of any of these fish must be farm raised and fed a prepared feed containing 20% or more of plant protein or grain by-products as a primary food source.

### Commercially Protected Finfish Invoice

1. Shall accompany all shipments of commercially protected finfish imported, exported or shipped within the state.

2. Shall contain all of the following information, correctly stated and legibly written:

- (a) Commercially Protected Finfish Shipping Invoice number;
- (b) Date of shipment;
- (c) Name and physical address of shipper;
- (d) Name and physical address of receiver;
- (e) Shipper's and receiver's Texas Finfish Import License number when required;
- (f) Number and weight of whole fish or fillets by species contained in the shipment; and
- (g) State (or country, if outside the United States) of origin.

3. Shall be in the form prescribed by the Parks and Wildlife Commission and 8 1/2 x 11 inches in size.

4. Be sequentially numbered during the license period.

5. The **shipper and receiver** is responsible for submitting a copy of each invoice for shipments made during each month to the **Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Regional Law Enforcement office** on or before the **10th day of the following month**, except a retail dealer or restaurant selling only to the consumer is not required to submit a copy of the invoice.

6. One copy of each invoice must be **retained** by the shipper and receiver, including retail dealers and restaurants, for a period of at least one year from the date of shipment.

### Package Requirements

Commercial shipments of commercially protected finfish must be shipped in containers whose volume is no greater than six cubic feet or in containers that do not contain more than three individual fish each.

### Package Labels

Each package of commercially protected finfish shall be labeled as to its contents. Labels shall be placed on the outside of each package and contain the following information:

1. The commercially protected finfish invoice number of the shipment of which the package is a part.
2. The number and weight of whole fish or fillets by species contained in the package.

### Importation of Commercially Protected Finfish from the EEZ by Commercial Fishermen

A commercially protected finfish lawfully taken or raised for commercial purposes in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) under the authority of a Federal Fishery Management Plan or Federal Permit may be transported into this state by the harvesting vessel. These commercially protected finfish may only be unloaded to the holder of a Texas Finfish Import License.

# COASTAL WATERS BOUNDARY

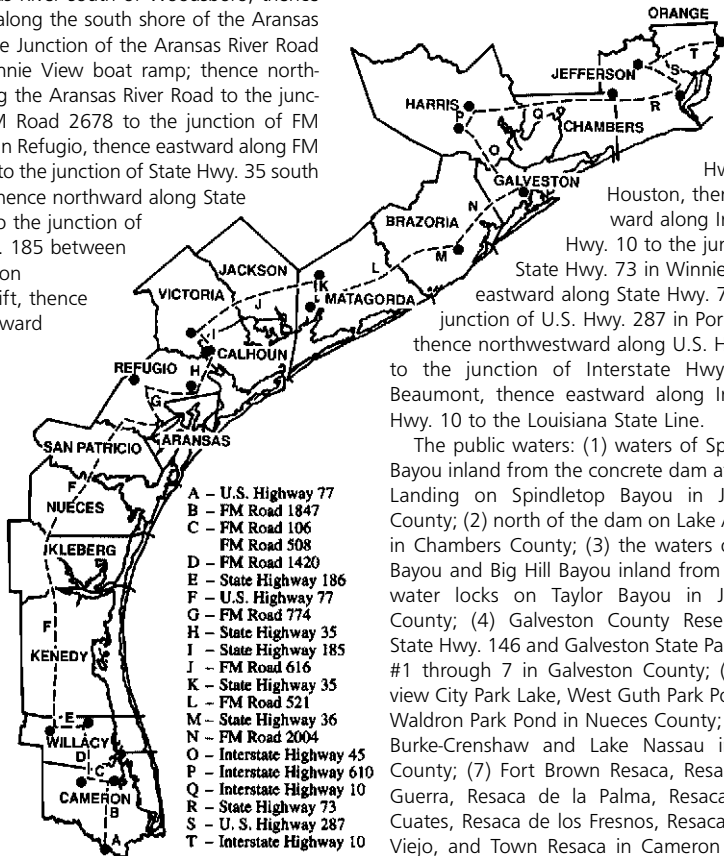
All public waters east and south of the following boundary are considered coastal waters: beginning at the International Toll Bridge in Brownsville, northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of Paredes Lines Road (FM Road 1847) in Brownsville, thence northward along FM Road 1847 to the junction of FM Road 106 east of Rio Hondo, thence westward along FM Road 106 to the junction of FM Road 508 in Rio Hondo, thence northward along FM Road 508 to the junction of FM Road 1420, thence northward along FM Road 1420 to the junction of State Hwy. 186 east of Raymondville, thence westward along State Hwy. 186 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 77 near Raymondville, thence northward along U.S. Hwy. 77 to the junction of the Aransas River south of Woodsboro, thence eastward along the south shore of the Aransas River to the Junction of the Aransas River Road at the Bonnie View boat ramp; thence northward along the Aransas River Road to the junction of FM Road 2678 to the junction of FM Road 774 in Refugio, thence eastward along FM Road 774 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 south of Tivoli, thence northward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of State Hwy. 185 between

Bloomington and Seadrift, thence northward

along State Hwy. 185 to the junction of FM Road 616 in Bloomington, thence northeastward along FM Road 616 to the junction of State Hwy. 35 east of Blessing, thence southward along State Hwy. 35 to the junction of FM Road 521 north of Palacios, thence northeastward along FM Road 521 to the junction of State Hwy. 36 south of Brazoria, thence southward along State Hwy. 36 to the junction of FM Road 2004, thence northward along FM Road 2004 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 45 between Dickinson and La Marque, thence northwestward along Interstate Hwy. 45 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 610 in Houston, thence east and northward along Interstate Hwy. 610 to the junction of Interstate

Hwy. 10 in Houston, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the junction of State Hwy. 73 in Winnie, thence eastward along State Hwy. 73 to the junction of U.S. Hwy. 287 in Port Arthur, thence northwestward along U.S. Hwy. 287 to the junction of Interstate Hwy. 10 in Beaumont, thence eastward along Interstate Hwy. 10 to the Louisiana State Line.

The public waters: (1) waters of Spindletop Bayou inland from the concrete dam at Russels Landing on Spindletop Bayou in Jefferson County; (2) north of the dam on Lake Anahuac in Chambers County; (3) the waters of Taylor Bayou and Big Hill Bayou inland from the salt-water locks on Taylor Bayou in Jefferson County; (4) Galveston County Reservoir on State Hwy. 146 and Galveston State Park Ponds #1 through 7 in Galveston County; (5) Lakeview City Park Lake, West Guth Park Pond, and Waldron Park Pond in Nueces County; (6) Lake Burke-Crenshaw and Lake Nassau in Harris County; (7) Fort Brown Resaca, Resaca de la Guerra, Resaca de la Palma, Resaca de los Cuates, Resaca de los Fresnos, Resaca Rancho Viejo, and Town Resaca in Cameron County; and (8) Little Chocolate Bayou Park Ponds #1 and #2 in Port Lavaca in Calhoun County, are not considered coastal waters for purposes of this proclamation.



- A - U.S. Highway 77
- B - FM Road 1847
- C - FM Road 106
- D - FM Road 1420
- E - State Highway 186
- F - U.S. Highway 77
- G - FM Road 774
- H - State Highway 35
- I - State Highway 185
- J - FM Road 616
- K - State Highway 35
- L - FM Road 521
- M - State Highway 36
- N - FM Road 2004
- O - Interstate Highway 45
- P - Interstate Highway 610
- Q - Interstate Highway 10
- R - State Highway 73
- S - U.S. Highway 287
- T - Interstate Highway 10

# FISH

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

It is unlawful to take, attempt to take, possess, sell, or purchase fish within a protected length limit, in greater numbers, by other means, or at any time or place other than as provided in this guide.

It is unlawful to transport by boat or person any fish within a protected length limit, or in excess of the daily bag limit or possession limit established for those fish.

No person on board a licensed commercial fishing boat (a commercial fishing boat, commercial shrimp boat, menhaden boat, commercial oyster boat) may possess any fish species whose sale is prohibited. To legally sport fish from a licensed commercial fishing boat the commercial plates must be removed from the boat. While no commercial plates are on board all sport fishing regulations apply including size, bag, and possession limits. While the commercial plates are on board, all commercial regulations apply, including size, bag and possession limits.

No person may possess a finfish of any species, except broadbill swordfish, shark or king mackerel, taken from public water that has the head or tail removed until such person finally lands the catch on the mainland, a peninsula or barrier island, not including jetties, piers and does not transport the catch by boat.

**Leaving fish to die.** A person commits an offense if the person leaves **edible fish** or **bait fish** taken from the public waters of this state to die without the intent to retain the fish for consumption or bait.

## PROHIBITED ACTS IN ALL PUBLIC WATERS

It is unlawful to fail to immediately remove the intestines from **grass carp, tilapia, or any other harmful exotic species** when caught or possessed. (For a complete listing contact TPWD at (800) 792-1112.)

It is **unlawful** for any person to use a gaff except to aid in the landing of fish caught by other legal devices, means, or methods. Fish landed with a gaff may not be below the minimum, above the maximum, or within a protected length limit.

It is **unlawful** for any person to release into the public waters of this state a fish with a

device or substance implanted or attached that is designed, constructed, or adapted to produce an audible, visual, or electronic signal used to monitor, track, follow, or in any manner aid in the location of the released fish.

It is **unlawful** to catch, possess, use, transport, purchase or sell any game fish or any part thereof as bait.

Billfish, except swordfish, may not be landed or possessed by the captain or crew of a commercial fishing vessel.

## SALE OF FISH – FRESH WATER

It is unlawful to sell any fish taken from the public fresh water of Texas except for the following:

(1) **Channel and Blue catfish** over **14** inches in length taken in the following:

- Angelina County
- Bowie County
- Camp County
- Cass County
- Chambers County
- Franklin County
- Freestone County
- Gregg County
- Hardin County
- Harris County
- Harrison County
- Jasper County
- Jefferson County
- Lamar County
- Leon County
- Liberty County
- Madison County
- Marion County
- Montgomery County
- Morris County
- Nacogdoches County
- Navarro County
- Newton County
- Panola County
- Polk County
- Red River County
- Sabine County
- San Augustine County
- San Jacinto County
- Shelby County
- Titus County
- Trinity County
- Tyler County
- Upshur County
- Walker County
- the Neches and Trinity rivers in Houston County
- the Colorado River in Bastrop, Colorado, Fayette, Matagorda, or Wharton counties

(2) A **PERMIT TO SELL NON-GAME FISH** is required to sell alligator gar, shortnose gar, spotted gar, longnose gar, bowfin, gizzard shad, threadfin shad, common carp, goldfish, grass carp, bighead carp, bigmouth buffalo, black buffalo, smallmouth buffalo, river carp-sucker, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, freshwater drum (gaspergou), Mozambique tilapia, blue tilapia, redbelly tilapia, Rio Grande perch, silversides, mullet, shiners, minnows, and hybrids of these species taken from the public fresh waters of this state. Other non-game fish may not be sold. For permit information call (512) 389-8037.

## SALE OF FISH – SALT WATER

All fish listed below taken from the public salt water of Texas may **NOT** be sold for any purpose. All other fish taken from public salt water may be sold provided all commercial fishing regulations including licensing, and size, possession, and bag limits are met.

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| • Bass of the genus Micropterus | • Muskellunge    |
| • Bass, striped                 | • Pike, northern |
| • Bass, white                   | • Sailfish       |
| • Bass, yellow                  | • Sauger         |
| • Catfish, flathead             | • Seatrout,      |
| • Crappie, black                | spotted          |
| • Crappie, white                | • Snook          |
| • Drum, red                     | • Spearfish,     |
| • Grouper, goliath              | longbill         |
| (formerly called jewfish)       | • Tarpon         |
| • Marlin, blue                  | • Walleye        |
| • Marlin, white                 | • Hybrids of any |
|                                 | of these fish    |

### Commercial Fishing Seasons

The commercial fishing seasons for red snapper, sharks, and king mackerel caught in Texas waters shall run concurrently with commercial seasons established for these species in federal waters of the Exclusive Economic Zone (more than 9nm off shore).

## TEXAS STATE WATERS – FEDERAL WATERS

Texas recreational and commercial fishermen fishing more than nine (9) nautical miles off the coast of Texas are in federal waters and are subject to rules and regulations that may differ from those in state waters. To insure you are in compliance with federal regulations, you should contact the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council at (888) 833-1844 (toll-free).

## PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE – SPECIAL REGULATIONS

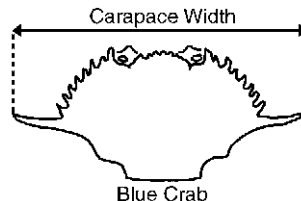
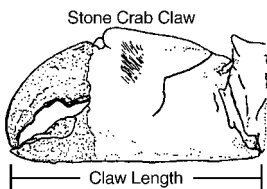
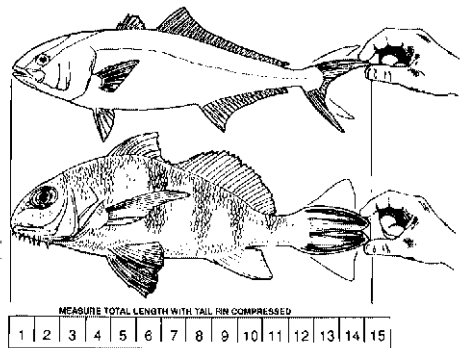
Until further notice, after November 15, 2000, the National Park Service will prohibit commercial fishing within the park boundary of the Padre Island National Seashore in the Laguna Madre and 1/8 mile east of the shoreline into the Gulf of Mexico to the two-fathom depth.

Commercial fishing guides are required to have an Incidental Business Permit in order to operate within the park boundaries.

For more information contact the National Park Service at (361) 949-8173.

## HOW TO MEASURE FISH AND CRABS

The length to be measured is that straight line distance from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail or caudal fin. All measurements are to be made as that straight line distance (not over the curve of the body) with the fish lying on its side and with the jaw closed in a normal position, not extended in any way. The tail should be squeezed or rotated to produce the maximum overall length.





## COMMERCIAL BAG, POSSESSION, AND LENGTH LIMITS

Species	Bag Limit	Possession Limit	Minimum Length (Inches)	Maximum Length (Inches)
Amberjack, greater	1	2	32	No limit
Drum, black*	No limit	No limit	14	30
Catfish: blue & channel	25*** (In any combination)	50 (In any combination)	14	No limit
Catfish, gafftopsail	No limit	No limit	14	No limit
Cobia	2	4	37	No limit
Flounder <sup>o</sup>	60	60	14	No limit
Mackerel, king	2	4	27	No limit
Mackerel, Spanish	15	30	14	No limit
Mullet: all species their hybrids & subspecies**	No limit	No limit	No limit	12 during Oct., Nov., Dec. & Jan.
Snapper, lane	No limit	No limit	8	No limit
Snapper, red	4	8	15	No limit
Snapper, vermilion	No limit	No limit	10	No limit
Shark: All species, their hybrids & subspecies	1	2	24	No limit
Sheepshead*	No limit	No limit	12	No limit

**<sup>o</sup>Special Regulation:** The daily bag and possession limit for the holder of a valid commercial finfish fisherman's license is 60 flounder, except on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat the limit is 10 per person and is subject to the 50% bycatch rule (see page 20).

\*Only the holder of a commercial finfish fisherman's license is exempt from recreational bag and possession limits while commercial fishing for black drum or sheepshead.

\*\*May not take from public waters or possess on board a boat mullet over 12 inches during October, November, December and January. No limits apply during other months.

\*\*\*Exceptions to daily bag limit:

- 1) in Lake Livingston (Polk, San Jacinto, Trinity and Walker counties) the daily bag limit for channel and blue catfish is 50 in any combination;
- 2) in lakes lying totally within a state park and community fishing lakes (see the Texas Parks & Wildlife Outdoor Annual), the daily bag limit for channel and blue catfish is 5 in any combination and fish may be taken by pole and line only.

The possession limit does not apply to fish in the possession of:

(1) **a person who has an invoice or sales ticket** showing the name and address of the seller, number of fish by species, date of the sale, and other information required on a sales ticket or an invoice.

(2) for all wildlife resources (including fish) taken for personal consumption and for which

there is a possession limit, the possession limit shall not apply after the wildlife resource has reached its final destination.

It is unlawful for any person while fishing on or in public waters to have in possession fish in excess of the daily bag limit or fish within a protected length limit as established for those waters.

## FRESHWATER DEVICES, MEANS, AND METHODS

This section describes what fishing devices may be lawfully used to take fish from public freshwater and in what areas the devices may be used. Areas of the state where fish may be taken commercially from public fresh water are described in the **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER** section on page 14 of this guide.

It is **unlawful** for any person to fish with more than 100 hooks on all devices combined or for any person to take, attempt to take, or possess fish caught by any device, means, or method other than as listed in this guide.

**In Community Fishing Lakes** and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of state parks, game and non-game fish may be taken by pole and line only.

**Channel and blue catfish** may be taken only by pole and line (includes rod and reel), trotline, jugline, or throwline.

**Non-game fish** may be taken by pole and line (includes rod and reel), trotline, jugline, throwline, shad trawl, minnow seine, dip net, cast net, minnow trap, gig, umbrella net, speargun and spear, or bow and arrow.

**Cast Net:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a cast net exceeding 14 feet in diameter. Non-game fish only may be taken.

**Dip Net:** It is **unlawful** for any person to take **game fish** with a dip net except a dip net may be used to aid in the landing of fish caught on other legal devices.

**Jugline:** It is unlawful for any person to use a jugline with more than 5 hooks attached. Gear tags must be attached within six inches of the free floating device, are valid for 30 days after the date set out, and must include the number of the permit to sell non-game fish taken from public fresh water, if applicable. For commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with an orange free floating device; for non-commercial purposes, a jugline must be marked with a white free floating device. The use of a jugline is prohibited in Lake Bastrop, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lake Bryan, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, Community Fishing Lakes, and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

**Lawful Archery Equipment:** Non-game fish only may be taken.

**Minnow Seine:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow seine: which exceeds 20 feet in length; with mesh exceeding 1/2-inch square; or which is not manually operated. **Non-game fish only** may be taken.

**Minnow Trap:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow trap exceeding 24 inches in length or with a throat larger than 1 inch x 3 inches. Non-game fish only may be taken.

**Shad Trawl:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a shad trawl longer than 6 feet or with a mouth larger than 36 inches in diameter. A shad trawl may be equipped with a funnel or throat and must be towed by a boat or by hand. Non-game fish only may be taken.

**Speargun and Spear:** Non-game fish only may be taken.

**Throwline:** It is unlawful for any person to use a throwline with more than 5 hooks attached. The use of a throwline is prohibited in Lake Bastrop, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lake Bryan, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, community fishing lakes, and in sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

**Trotline:** It is **unlawful** for any person to **use a trotline:** with a mainline length exceeding 600 feet; without valid gear tags (gear tags must be attached within 3 feet of each end of the trotline and are valid only for 30 days after the date set out); with hook intervals of less than 3 horizontal feet; with metallic stakes; with the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings above the water's surface; or with more than 50 hooks.

The use of trotlines is prohibited in Pinkston Reservoir, Lake Bastrop, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Fayette County Reservoir, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, Community Fishing Lakes, and in reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

**Umbrella Net:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use an umbrella net with the area within the frame exceeding 16 square feet. Non-game fish only may be taken.

## SALTWATER DEVICES, MEANS AND METHODS

It is **unlawful** to take gamefish on any device except pole and line (includes rod and reel). Non-game fish may be taken with lawful archery equipment, cast net (for bait only), gig, minnow seine (for bait only), perch trap (for bait only), pole and line (includes rod and reel), spear gun and spear, or trotline. Purse seines may be used for taking menhaden only.

In salt water, it is unlawful to fish with any device that is marked with a buoy made of a plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.

**Cast Net:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a cast net exceeding 14 feet in diameter. Non-game fish only, to be used for bait only, may be taken.

**Minnow Seine:** It is **unlawful** for any person to use a minnow seine which exceeds 20 feet in length. Non-game fish only, to be used for bait only, may be taken.

**Perch trap:** Perch traps may be used to take bait only, may not exceed 18 cubic feet and must be marked with an orange floating visible buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a gear tag attached.

**Purse Seine:** Purse seines with not less than 1-1/2 inch stretched mesh, not including the bag, may be used only for taking menhaden from the third Monday in April through the first day in November. Purse seines for taking menhaden may not be used in any bay, river, pass or tributary, nor within one mile of any barrier, jetty, island or pass, nor within 1/2 mile offshore in the Gulf of Mexico. When using a purse seine to take menhaden, edible aquatic products may not exceed 5 percent by volume of the menhaden in possession.

**Trotline:** A non-metallic main fishing line with more than five hooks attached and with each end attached to a fixture.

- May be used to take non-game fish, channel catfish, blue catfish and flathead catfish.
- Red drum, spotted seatrout and sharks caught on a trotline may not be retained or possessed.
- Maximum Number of Trotlines Allowed:
  - It is unlawful to fish for commercial purposes with more than 20 trotlines at one time.

- It is unlawful to fish for non-commercial purposes with more than 1 trotline at one time.
- Tag Requirements:
  - Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see page 4) attached and attached within 3 feet of the first hook at each end of the trotline.
- Construction and Design Restrictions:
  - The mainline length may not exceed 600 feet.
  - May not use metallic stakes.
  - May not place the main fishing line and attached hooks and stagings above the water's surface.
  - Must be marked with yellow flagging attached to stakes or with a yellow floating buoy not less than six inches in height and six inches in width, attached to end fixtures.
  - Floats must be yellow.
  - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
  - May not be baited with other than natural bait (EXCEPT Sail Lines). **Natural bait** is whole or cut-up portion of a fish or shellfish or a whole or cut-up portion of plant material in its natural state, provided that none of these may be altered beyond cutting into portions.
  - Hooks must be 3 feet apart.
  - May not be used with hooks other than circle-type hook (comparable to Mustad 11/0 circle hook Model #39960ST) with point curved in and having a gap (distance from point to shank) of no more than one-half inch, and with the diameter of the circle not less than five-eighths inch (EXCEPT Sail Lines).
- Placement and Location Restrictions:
  - May not be used in or on the waters of the Gulf of Mexico within the jurisdiction of this state;
  - May not be placed closer than 50 feet from any other trotline, or set within 200 feet of the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway or its tributary channels.
  - May not be used in Aransas County in Little Bay and the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula,

then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine-Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island, including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.

- No trotline or trotline components (EXCEPT Sail Lines), including lines and hooks, but excluding poles, may be left in or on coastal waters between the hours of 1 p.m. on Friday through 1 p.m. on Sunday of each week, except that attended sail lines are excluded from the restrictions imposed by this clause. Under the authority of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, §66.206(b), in the event small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories issued by the National Weather Service are in place at

8:00 a.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until 6 p.m. on Friday. If small craft advisories are in place at 1 p.m. on Friday, trotlines may remain in the water until Saturday. When small craft advisories are lifted by 8 a.m. on Saturday, trotlines must be removed by 1 p.m. on Saturday. When small craft advisories or higher marine weather advisories are still in place at 1 p.m. on Saturday, trotlines may remain in the water through 1 p.m. on Sunday. It is a violation to tend, bait or harvest fish or any other aquatic life from trotlines during the period that trotline removal requirements are suspended under this provision for adverse weather conditions. For purposes of enforcement, the geographic area customarily covered by marine weather advisories will be delineated by department policy.

## FINFISH LICENSE MANAGEMENT

A license management program (limited entry) has been in effect for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery since June 1999.

For further information regarding any limited entry requirements or other provisions of the program contact: Mr. Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Building, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 980-3353 or Mr. Bobby Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, 1502 F.M. 517 E, Dickinson, TX 77539, (281) 534-0110.

### FINFISH LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM

At least once each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides an opportunity for holders of commercial finfish licenses to apply to have their licenses purchased by the Department. If you are interested in more information about participating in this voluntary program contact the Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744, (800) 792-1112 ext. 4645 or (512) 389-4645.

## SHRIMP

### GENERAL REGULATIONS

#### LICENSE REQUIRED

- Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's License
- Commercial Shrimp Boat License (Bay, Bait, or Gulf)

(see pages 6 and 9)

To legally sport fish from a licensed commercial shrimp boat and to legally catch and retain fish species prohibited from sale, the commercial plates must be removed from the boat. While no commercial plates are on board, all

sport fishing regulations apply including size, bag and possession limits. All commercial regulations apply when the commercial plates are on board.

It is **unlawful** to:

- take or attempt to take shrimp within the boundaries of any natural or man-made pass leading from the inside waters to the outside waters (Gulf of Mexico) of the state.
- use a trawl or fail to have the spreading devices on deck and the trawl bag untied at a time when shrimping is prohibited.

- possess a trawl that is too wide or has small mesh in an area where the trawl is prohibited. Such trawls may be possessed on vessels in port or in a marked channel going directly to or from an area in this state where the use of the trawl is permitted.
- head shrimp aboard a boat in inside waters.
- possess a device designed to catch fish or other aquatic life, including a shrimp trawl, in or on the public waters of the state where the use of the device is prohibited.
- catch and retain fish species prohibited from sale on a licensed commercial shrimp boat while the commercial plates are on board.
- retain a red drum, spotted seatrout, or lightning whelk on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat if there is a trawl on board the boat.

It is **unlawful** for any person:

- aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bay** shrimp boat to off-load, transfer, sell, or barter any amount of live or dead shrimp to a person aboard another vessel;
- aboard a vessel to off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter from a person aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bay** shrimp boat any amount of live or dead shrimp;
- aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bait** shrimp boat to off-load, transfer, sell, or barter any amount of live or dead shrimp, except an amount of live or dead shrimp not to exceed two quarts per sport fisherman or one gallon (by volume) for two or more sport fishermen may be off-loaded, transferred, sold, or bartered to a person aboard a sport fishing vessel; or
- aboard a vessel to off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter from a person aboard a vessel licensed as a commercial **bait** shrimp boat any amount of live or dead shrimp, except a person aboard a sport fishing vessel may off-load, transfer, purchase, or barter an amount of shrimp not to exceed two quarts per sport fisherman or one gallon (by volume) for two or more sport fishermen.

A commercial shrimp boat license must be prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.

Fresh shrimp may be held in possession only through open seasons and 5 days thereafter, **except** that bait dealers and sport fishermen may possess bait shrimp throughout the year.

**The captain of a licensed commercial shrimp boat is required to hold a Commercial Shrimp Boat Captain's license.**

Non-game fish and other aquatic products taken incidental to legal shrimp trawling operations may be retained provided:

- the total weight of aquatic products retained, in any combination, do not exceed 50% by weight of shrimp on a shrimping vessel; or

- from May 1 to September 30 up to 1,500 live non-game fish not regulated by bag or size limit and/or 300 dozen ribbonfish may be retained daily **for bait purposes only** on board a vessel licensed for commercial bait shrimp fishing.

The taking of aquatic products of **illegal size** on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat engaged in the lawful taking of shrimp is not a violation if the aquatic products of unlawful size are returned to the waters from which taken in a manner to ensure their **best chance of survival**.

## DISPLAY BOAT NUMBERS

All commercial shrimp boats are required to exhibit the vessel's documentation or registration number on the **port** and **starboard** sides of the deckhouse or hull and on an **appropriate weather deck**. The number in block Arabic numerals in contrasting color to the background must be at least 18 inches in height on vessels over 65 feet and 10 inches in height for all other vessels and be permanently attached.

## METHOD OF NET MEASUREMENT

All total widths specified for commercial otter trawls, including try nets, are measured along the uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door, including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline. All beam trawl widths are measured along the beam in its fully extended position.

Mesh sizes specified for commercial trawls apply to the trawl, bag and trawl liner and are measured in inches of length between the two most widely separated knots in any consecutive series of five stretched meshes after the trawl has been placed in use.

## SPECIAL REGULATIONS (Bay and Bait Shrimping)

A boat having on board or displaying a bait shrimp boat license must operate **only** under commercial bait shrimp regulations, including: 1) 200 pound daily limit; 2) maintaining 50% of the shrimp alive; 3) places authorized for bait shrimping; and 4) sale or unload to a bait shrimp dealer or sportsman. See page 19, **GENERAL REGULATIONS**.

A shrimp boat licensed both as a bay shrimp boat and a bait shrimp boat may not shrimp in both a major bay and any other water on the same calendar day during the period May 15 through July 15 (Spring Open Season).

A shrimp boat licensed both as a bay shrimp boat and a bait shrimp boat may not take more than 600 pounds of heads on shrimp per calendar day during the period May 15 through July 15 (Spring Open Season).

## SHRIMP LICENSE MANAGEMENT

A license management program (limited entry) has been in effect for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery since June 1995.

For further information on any limited entry requirements and restrictions, contact: Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744; (800) 792-1112, ext. 4645 or (512) 389-4645.

## SHRIMP LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM

At least once each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides an opportunity for holders of commercial bay-shrimp boat licenses and/or commercial bait-shrimp boat licenses to apply to have their licenses purchased by the Department. If you are interested in more information about participating in this voluntary program contact the Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744; 1-800-792-1112 ext. 4645 or (512) 389-4645.

## WATERS DEFINED

**Outside Waters**—That part of the Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward 9 nautical miles.

**Inside Waters**—All bays, passes, rivers, or other bodies of water landward from the Gulf of Mexico. In these waters, the tide rises and falls and saltwater shrimp are found or migrate.

**Major Bays** (arranged geographically north to south)

- Sabine Lake (*north of Cameron Causeway to the south of a line marked by the GIWWW [Sabine Neches Canal/Sabine River] between the eastern most tip of Goat Island to the western most tip of Stewts Island*)
- Trinity Bay (*southward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County*)
- Galveston Bay
- East Bay (*westward from a line extending from Frozen Point to the GIWWW Marker 12*)
- Matagorda Bay (*westward of a line extending from a location on the mainland where a line running immediately northwest [bearing 330 degrees] from Shellfish Marker A intersects*

*the mainland; thence southeasterly to Shellfish Marker A located near the mainland, thence to Shellfish Marker B located near the end of Shell Island Reef, thence to the tide gauge located near the Matagorda Peninsula, and thence southeasterly [bearing 153 degrees] to the Matagorda Peninsula*)

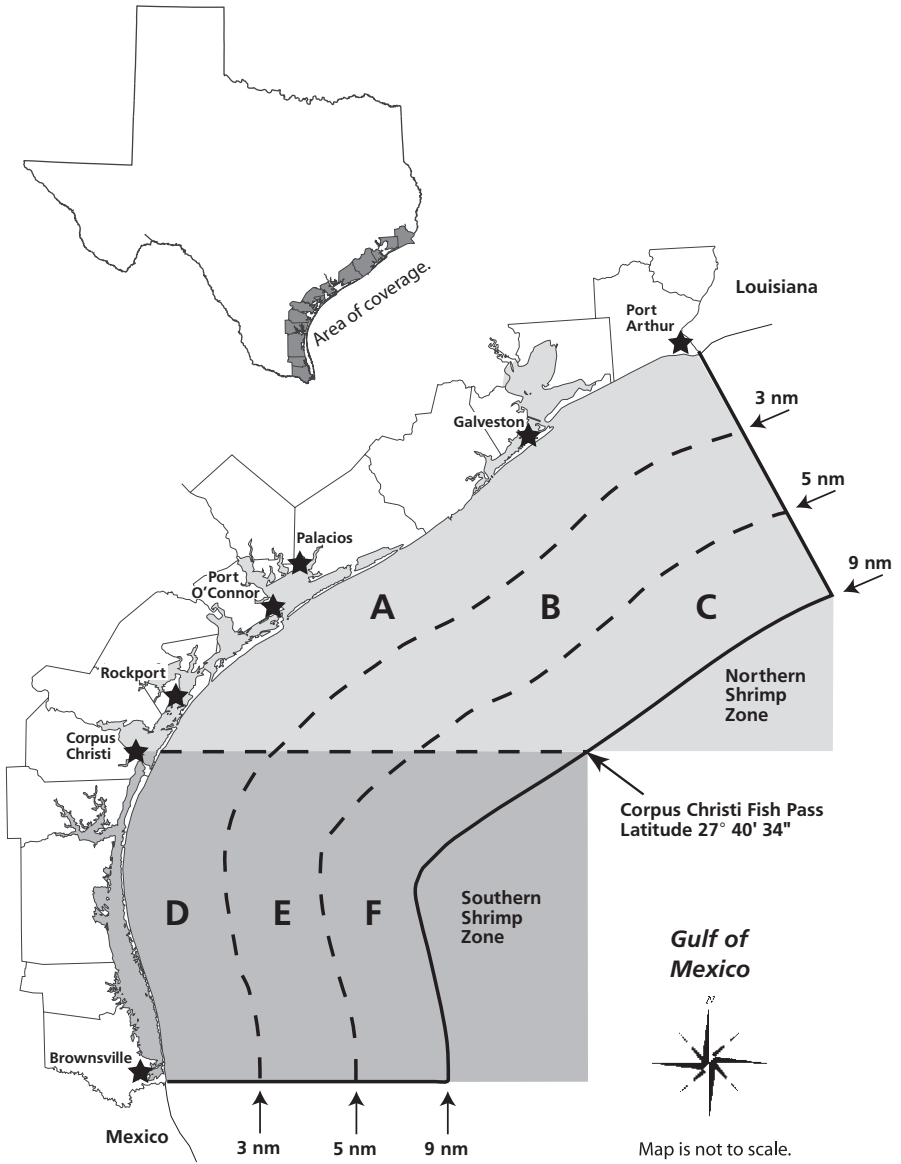
- East Matagorda Bay
- Tres Palacios Bay (*south of a line from Grassey Point to the mouth of Pinkerton*)
- Espiritu Santo Bay
- Lavaca Bay (*seaward of State Hwy. 35*)
- San Antonio Bay (*seaward of a line from McDowell Point to Mosquito Point*)
- Aransas Bay
- Corpus Christi Bay (*exclusive of the area bounded by a line extending from the GIWWW at the southwest point of Dagger Island chain, along Dagger Island to the southeast tip of Ransom Island, then southeast to the westernmost point of land north of Marker 14 in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel*)
- All exclusive of tributary bays, bayous, and inlets, lakes and rivers.

**Bait Bays include major bays** and the following (arranged geographically north to south)

- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWWW) exclusive of all tributaries
- Chocolate Bay
- West Bay (*south and west of Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge and the GIWWW inclusive of the area south of a line extending westward from the Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge at Virginia Point, along the southern edge of Tiki Island to the northeastern tip of North Deer Island at Channel Marker 48*)
- Trinity Bay (*northward from a line extending from the mouth of Double Bayou in Chambers County to Double Bayou Channel Marker 14, to Separator C-2, to Point Barrow in Chambers County*)
- The Old Brazos River (*lying north of the GIWWW in Brazoria County*)
- Baroom Bay
- Upper Laguna Madre
- Alazan Bay
- Baffin Bay, and
- Lower Laguna Madre including the Brownsville Ship Channel

**Nursery Areas** (Those coastal waters not specifically named above as Major Bays or Bait Bays are considered Nursery Areas)—Includes tributary bays, bayous, inlets, lakes, and rivers that provide growth and development environments for post-larval and juvenile shrimp. Does not include outside waters, major bays or bait bays.

# MAP OF GULF SHRIMP FISHERY MANAGEMENT ZONES



## OUTSIDE WATERS

### Commercial Gulf-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions

**SOUTHERN SHRIMP ZONE** (South of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34""] to the Mexican Border)

The State Outside Waters of the Southern Shrimp Zone are **CLOSED TO SHRIMPING** as follows:

Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
D & E	Inside 5 nautical miles	Night Shrimping All Year	30 min. after sunset to 30 min. before sunrise	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>
D & E	Inside 5 nautical miles	Winter Closed Season Dec. 1 – Feb. 15 Feb. 16 – May 15**	Day and Night	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>
D, E & F	Inside 9 nautical miles	Summer Closed Season May 15** – July 15**	Day and Night	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>	<b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b>
	9-200 nautical miles (Federal Waters)	Summer Closed Season May 15** – July 15**	<b>IMPORTANT NOTICE:</b> The rules regarding the Summer Closed Season for Federal Waters off Texas may have changed prior to publication of this guide. For current rules, please call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5305 or contact your nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office.		

The State Outside Waters of the Southern Shrimp Zone are **OPEN TO SHRIMPING** as follows:

Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
F	5-9 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May, 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Number of trawls:</b> No Limit</li> <li>• <b>Trawl Size:</b> No Limit</li> <li>• Approved <b>BRDSt</b> are required</li> <li>• Approved <b>TEDSt</b> are required</li> </ul>
E	3-5 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mesh Size:</b> Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes</li> </ul>

(Continued)



**SOUTHERN SHRIMP ZONE** (South of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Mexican Border) (continued)

The State Outside Waters of the Southern Shrimp Zone are **OPEN TO SHRIMPING** as follows: (continued)

Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements																						
D	Inside 3 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<p><b>Mesh Size:</b> Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trawls: No more than 2</li> <li>• Approved BRDs† are required</li> <li>• Approved TEDs† are required</li> </ul> <p><b>Trawl Size:</b> Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 ft. long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door; and each net cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Door Length (ft.)</th> <th>Total Width (ft.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3' or more but less than 4'</td><td>71'</td></tr> <tr><td>4' or more but less than 5'</td><td>73'</td></tr> <tr><td>5' or more but less than 6'</td><td>75'</td></tr> <tr><td>6' or more but less than 7'</td><td>77'</td></tr> <tr><td>7' or more but less than 8'</td><td>79'</td></tr> <tr><td>8' or more but less than 9'</td><td>81'</td></tr> <tr><td>9' or more but less than 10'</td><td>83'</td></tr> <tr><td>10' or more but less than 11'</td><td>85'</td></tr> <tr><td>11' or more but less than 12'</td><td>87'</td></tr> <tr><td>12' or more</td><td>89'</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otter Trawls — Total Width: 21 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>• Beam Trawls — May not exceed 10 ft. in width</li> </ul>	Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)	3' or more but less than 4'	71'	4' or more but less than 5'	73'	5' or more but less than 6'	75'	6' or more but less than 7'	77'	7' or more but less than 8'	79'	8' or more but less than 9'	81'	9' or more but less than 10'	83'	10' or more but less than 11'	85'	11' or more but less than 12'	87'	12' or more	89'
Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)																										
3' or more but less than 4'	71'																										
4' or more but less than 5'	73'																										
5' or more but less than 6'	75'																										
6' or more but less than 7'	77'																										
7' or more but less than 8'	79'																										
8' or more but less than 9'	81'																										
9' or more but less than 10'	83'																										
10' or more but less than 11'	85'																										
11' or more but less than 12'	87'																										
12' or more	89'																										

\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE: These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates.  
† BRD means Bycatch Reduction Device  
† TED means Turtle Excluder Device

Southern Shrimp Zone

## NORTHERN SHRIMP ZONE (North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"'] to the Louisiana Border)

The State Outside Waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are <b>CLOSED TO SHRIMPING</b> as follows:						
Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements	
A & B	Inside 5 nautical miles	Night Shrimping All Year	30 min. after sunset to 30 min. before sunrise	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
A & B	Inside 5 nautical miles	Winter Closed Season Dec. 1 – Feb. 15	Day and Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
A, B & C	Inside 9 nautical miles	Summer Closed Season May 15** – July 15**	Day and Night	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	CLOSED TO SHRIMPING	
	9-200 nautical miles (Federal Waters)	Summer Closed Season May 15** – July 15**	<b>IMPORTANT NOTICE:</b> The rules regarding the Summer Closed Season for Federal Waters off Texas may have changed prior to publication of this guide. For current rules, please call the National Marine Fisheries Service at (727) 570-5305 or contact your nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office.			
The State Outside Waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are <b>OPEN TO SHRIMPING</b> as follows:						
Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements	
C	5-9 nautical miles	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trawls: No Limit</li> <li>• Trawl Size: No Limit</li> <li>• Approved BRDs† are required</li> <li>• Approved TEDs† are required</li> </ul>	
B	3-5 nautical miles	Feb. 16 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trawls: No more than 2</li> <li>• Approved BRDs† are required</li> <li>• Approved TEDs† are required</li> </ul>	
A	Inside 3 nautical miles	Feb. 16 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trawls: No more than 2</li> <li>• Approved BRDs† are required</li> <li>• Approved TEDs† are required</li> </ul>	
(Continued)						

Northern Shrimp Zone

**NORTHERN SHRIMP ZONE** (North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Louisiana Border) (Continued)

The State Outside Waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are **OPEN TO SHRIMPING** as follows: (Continued)

Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements																						
	<b>Inside 3 nautical miles</b> <i>(continued from pg. 22)</i>				<p><b>Trawl Size:</b>                      Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 ft. long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door; and each net cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="370 82 623 626"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="370 347 396 626">Door Length (ft.)</th> <th data-bbox="370 82 396 347">Total Width (ft.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>3' or more but less than 4'</td><td>71'</td></tr> <tr><td>4' or more but less than 5'</td><td>73'</td></tr> <tr><td>5' or more but less than 6'</td><td>75'</td></tr> <tr><td>6' or more but less than 7'</td><td>77'</td></tr> <tr><td>7' or more but less than 8'</td><td>79'</td></tr> <tr><td>8' or more but less than 9'</td><td>81'</td></tr> <tr><td>9' or more but less than 10'</td><td>83'</td></tr> <tr><td>10' or more but less than 11'</td><td>85'</td></tr> <tr><td>11' or more but less than 12'</td><td>87'</td></tr> <tr><td>12' or more</td><td>89'</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)	3' or more but less than 4'	71'	4' or more but less than 5'	73'	5' or more but less than 6'	75'	6' or more but less than 7'	77'	7' or more but less than 8'	79'	8' or more but less than 9'	81'	9' or more but less than 10'	83'	10' or more but less than 11'	85'	11' or more but less than 12'	87'	12' or more	89'
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					<p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otter Trawls — Total Width: 21 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>• Beam Trawls — May not exceed 10 ft. in width</li> </ul>																						

(Continued)

Northern Shrimp Zone

**NORTHERN SHRIMP ZONE** (North of a line from the Corpus Christi Fish Pass [Latitude 27° 40' 34"] to the Louisiana Border) (Continued)

The State Outside Waters of the Northern Shrimp Zone are **OPEN TO SHRIMPING** as follows: (Continued)

Map Segments (see pg. 19)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements	Mesh Size:
A, B & C	<u>Seabobs</u>	Dec. 1 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	No person catching seabobs may catch or have catch on board a boat any other species of shrimp which exceed 10%, in weight or number of the entire catch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of trawls: No more than 1</li> <li>• Approved BRDs† are required</li> <li>• Approved TEDs† are required</li> </ul>	6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes
					<b>Door Length (ft.)</b>	<b>Total Width (ft.)</b>
					3' or more but less than 4'	48'
					4' or more but less than 5'	50'
					5' or more but less than 6'	52'
					6' or more but less than 7'	54'
					7' or more but less than 8'	56'
					8' or more but less than 9'	58'
					9' or more but less than 10'	60'
					10' or more but less than 11'	62'
					11' or more but less than 12'	87'
					12' or more	89'
					<b>Try Nets:</b>	
					• Otter Trawls — Total Width: 12 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches	

**\*\*SPECIAL NOTICE:** These dates may be changed by the department providing 72 hours public notice on new closing dates and 24 hours notice on new opening dates.  
 † BRD means Bycatch Reduction Device † TED means Turtle Excluder Device

## INSIDE WATERS

### Commercial Bay-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays Only)

Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements																											
<b>Major Bays</b>	<b>Spring Open Season</b> May 15 – July 15	30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.	Bag: 600 pounds Size: No Limit	<p><b>Main Net:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net.</li> <li>• Approved <b>BRDs</b><sup>†</sup> are required.</li> <li>• Approved <b>TEDs</b><sup>†</sup> are required (<b>FEDERAL REGULATION</b>).</li> <li>• Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 ft. long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door; and cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.</li> </ul> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Door Length (ft.)</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Total Width (ft.)</th> <th style="width: 40%;">Mesh Size:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3' or more but less than 4'</td> <td>40'</td> <td>Not less than 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4' or more but less than 5'</td> <td>42'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5' or more but less than 6'</td> <td>44'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>6' or more but less than 7'</td> <td>46'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7' or more but less than 8'</td> <td>48'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8' or more but less than 9'</td> <td>50'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9' or more but less than 10'</td> <td>52'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10' or more</td> <td>54'</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)	Mesh Size:	3' or more but less than 4'	40'	Not less than 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes	4' or more but less than 5'	42'		5' or more but less than 6'	44'		6' or more but less than 7'	46'		7' or more but less than 8'	48'		8' or more but less than 9'	50'		9' or more but less than 10'	52'		10' or more	54'	
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10' or more	54'																														
<b>Major Bays</b>	<b>Fall Open Season</b> Aug. 15 – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: Aug. 15 – Oct. 31: 50 h-o/lb Nov. 1 – Nov. 30: No Limit	<p><b>Beam Trawl:</b> Cannot exceed 25 ft. in total width</p> <p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otter Trawls — Total Width: 21 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>• Beam Trawls — May not exceed 10 ft. in width</li> </ul> <p><b>Main Net:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net.</li> <li>• Approved <b>BRDs</b><sup>†</sup> are required</li> <li>• Approved <b>TEDs</b><sup>†</sup> are required (<b>FEDERAL REGULATION</b>).</li> <li>• Trawl may not exceed 95 ft. in total width.</li> </ul> <p><b>Mesh Size:</b> Aug. 15 – Oct. 31: Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes Nov. 1 – Nov. 30: Not less than 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes</p> <p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otter Trawls — Total Width: 21 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>• Beam Trawls — May not exceed 10 ft. in width</li> </ul>																											

(Continued)

Commercial Bay-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays Only) (Continued)

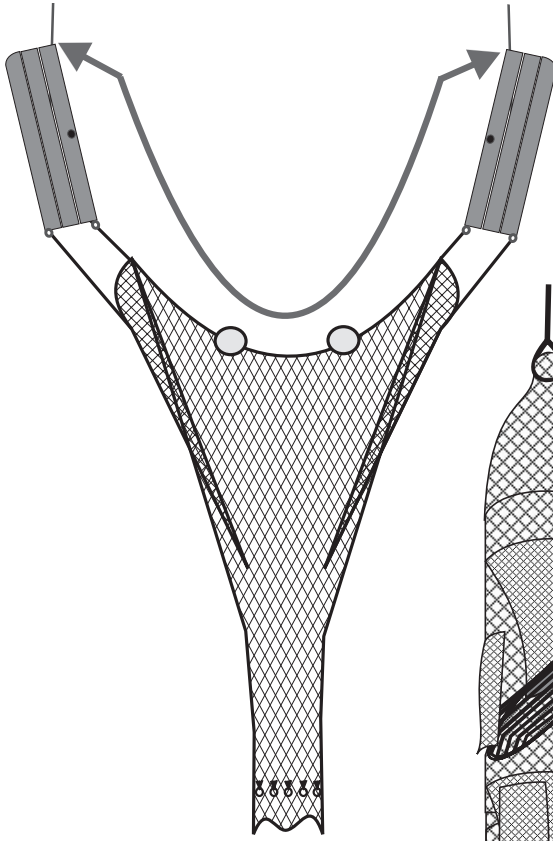
Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements																											
Major Bays – Only south of the Colorado River	Winter Open Season Feb. 1 – April 15	30 min. after sunset to 30 min. before sunrise	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	<p><b>Main Net:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net.</li> <li>Approved <b>BRD</b>s† are required.</li> <li>Approved <b>TED</b>s† are required (<b>FEDERAL REGULATION</b>).</li> <li>Other trawls must have doors at least 3 ft. long as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door; and cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.</li> </ul>																											
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				<p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Trawls – Total Width: 21 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>Beam Trawls – May not exceed 10 ft. in width</li> </ul>																											

† **BRD** means Bycatch Reduction Device      † **TED** means Turtle Excluder Device

**NOTE:** A trawl may be EXEMPT from the federal TED regulation if (1) there is no on-board power or mechanical-advantage trawl retrieval system; or (2) all live shrimp on board are retained in a container with a circulating seawater system if it does not possess more than 32 pounds of dead shrimp on board AND tow times do not exceed: (A) 55 minutes during the period April 1–October 31; AND (B) 75 minutes during the period November 1–March 31.

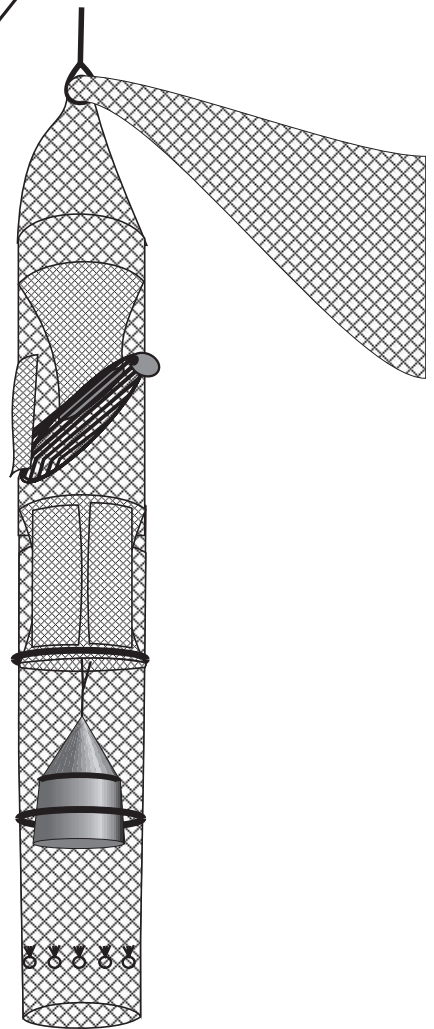
### Commercial Bait-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays and Bait-Bays)

Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements																											
<b>Major Bays and Bait Bays</b>	Year-round	<p>Aug. 15 – Mar. 31: 30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset</p> <p>Apr. 1 – Aug. 14: 30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.</p>	<p>Bag: 200 pounds Size: No Limit</p> <p><b>Special Requirements:</b> Nov. 15 – Aug. 15: at least 50% of the onboard catch must be kept in a live condition. Aug. 16 – Nov. 14: all shrimp must have heads attached.</p>	<p><b>Main Net:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net.</li> <li>Other trawls must have doors at least 3 ft. long, as measured along the door centerline from leading tip of door to trailing edge of door; and cannot exceed any of the following dimensions as measured along an uninterrupted corkline from leading tip of door to leading tip of door including any and all add-on devices or attachments to the corkline.</li> <li>Approved <b>TEDs<sup>†</sup></b> are required (<b>FEDERAL REGULATION</b>).</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Door Length (ft.)</th> <th>Total Width (ft.)</th> <th>Mesh Size:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>3' or more but less than 4'</td> <td>40'</td> <td>Not less than</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4' or more but less than 5'</td> <td>42'</td> <td>6-1/2 inches over</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5' or more but less than 6'</td> <td>44'</td> <td>5 stretched meshes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6' or more but less than 7'</td> <td>46'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>7' or more but less than 8'</td> <td>48'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>8' or more but less than 9'</td> <td>50'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>9' or more but less than 10'</td> <td>52'</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10' or more</td> <td>54'</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Beam Trawl:</b> Cannot exceed 25 ft. in total width</p> <p><b>Try Nets:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Trawls – Total Width: 12 ft.; Doors: 450 square inches</li> <li>Beam Trawls – May not exceed 5 ft. in width</li> </ul>	Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)	Mesh Size:	3' or more but less than 4'	40'	Not less than	4' or more but less than 5'	42'	6-1/2 inches over	5' or more but less than 6'	44'	5 stretched meshes	6' or more but less than 7'	46'		7' or more but less than 8'	48'		8' or more but less than 9'	50'		9' or more but less than 10'	52'		10' or more	54'	
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<p><b>Nueces County Laguna Madre Special Commercial Bait-Shrimping Regulations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All year in the intracoastal waterway between markers 17 and 57 in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County, commercial bait-shrimp boats may take bait-shrimp from 1:00 a.m. to 30 minutes before sunrise each day with a legal beam trawl only.</li> <li>It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take shrimp with a trawl at any other time or in any other place in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County north of a line starting on the mainland at the most northeasterly point on the north side of the entrance of Whiteley Channel then proceeding in a straight line to the north end of Pita Island; then continuing on a line to the southernmost point on the westerly most spoil island bordering the north side of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel); then continuing on a line along the north edge of the New Humble Channel (commonly referred to as Hap's Channel) to its junction with the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway; then continuing on a straight line to the Nueces/Kleberg County line marker on Padre Island.</li> </ul> <p><b>† BRD</b> means Bycatch Reduction Device   <b>† TED</b> means Turtle Excluder Device</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> A trawl may be EXEMPT from the federal TED regulation if there is no on-board power or mechanical-advantage trawl retrieval system.</p>																															



**OTTER TRAWL MEASUREMENTS**

Shrimp trawls in Texas are measured from leading tip of one door along the uninterrupted cork line to the leading tip of the other door.



**BRD MEASUREMENTS**

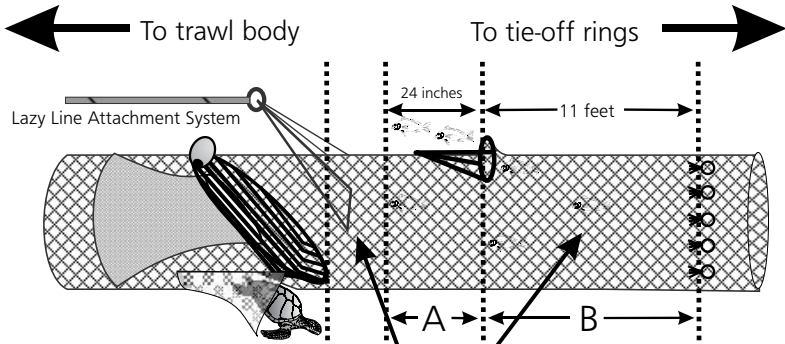
All measurements must be taken with gear in a hanging position.

For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.



## FISHEYE AND SEA EAGLE BRDs



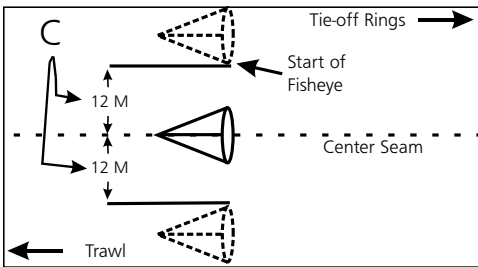
### Key Measurements

- A. Fisheye opening may not be placed less than 24 inches behind lazy line attachment system.
- B. Fisheye opening must be less than 11 ft. from the cod end tie-off rings.
- C. Fisheye may not be placed more than 12 meshes either side of the center seam of the tail bag.

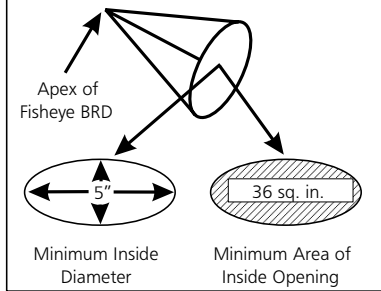
### Lazy Line Placement

- Lazy lines, choker straps, elephant ears, rings and other lines may be placed in these areas.
- Fisheye opening may not be obstructed by any ropes, rings, elephant ears or straps.

### Top View of Tail Bag



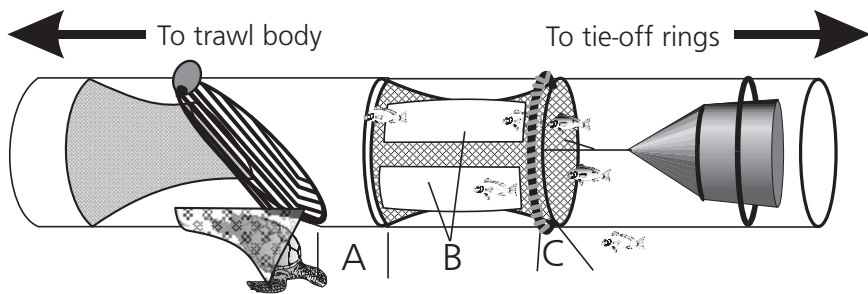
### Fisheye & Sea Eagle BRDs Inside Measurements



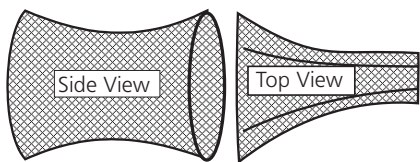
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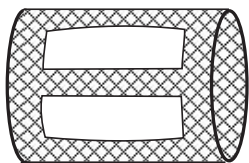
## JONES-DAVIS BRD



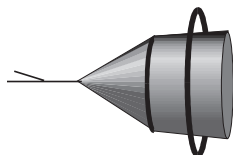
### Components



Funnel Section



Escape Openings  
(Openings are cutouts in the body of the trawl tail bag)



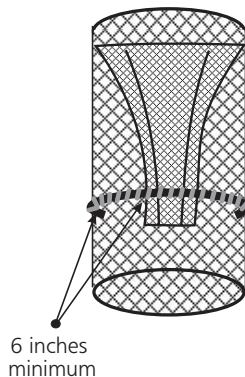
Jones-Davis Cone Stimulator



Semi-rigid Hoop

### Key Measurements

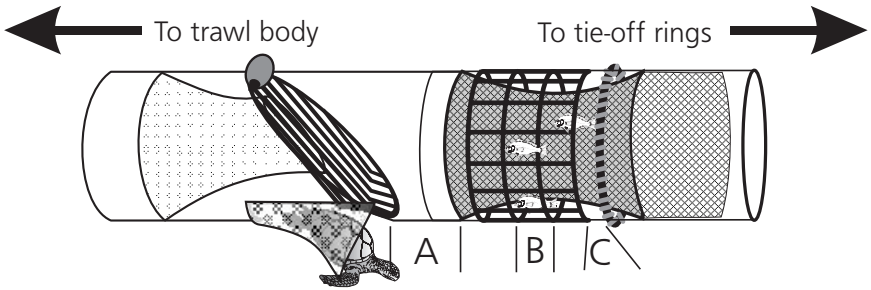
- Leading edge of the Escape Opening must be within 18 inches of the posterior edge of the TED grid.
- BRD escape opening should total a minimum of 864 sq. in.
- Clearance between the 28-inch hoop and the side of the funnel, when hanging, should be at least 6 inches.



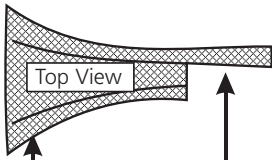
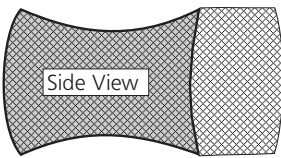
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## LARGE MESH EXTENDED FUNNEL BRD

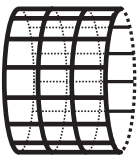


### Components



Funnel Section

Funnel Extension



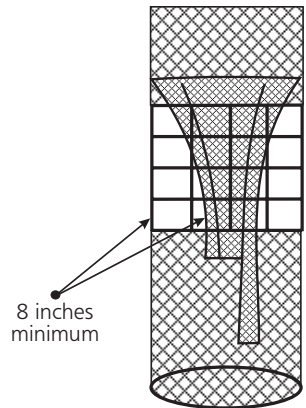
Large Mesh  
Escape Section



Semi-rigid Hoop

### Key Measurements

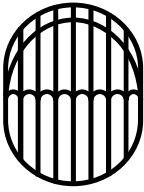
- A. BRD funnel should not be more than 14 inches from the posterior edge of the TED grid.
- B. Mesh size of the Large Mesh Escape Section should be between 4 and 5 inches on a side.
- C. Clearance between the posterior edge of the large mesh escape section and the funnel, when hanging, should be at least 8 inches.



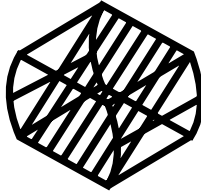
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

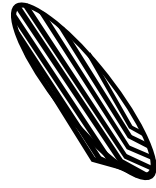
## APPROVED TED DESIGNS



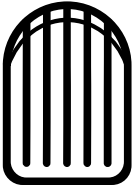
Standard Grid



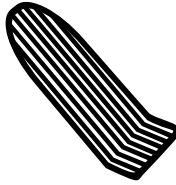
Hooped



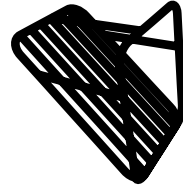
Bent Rod



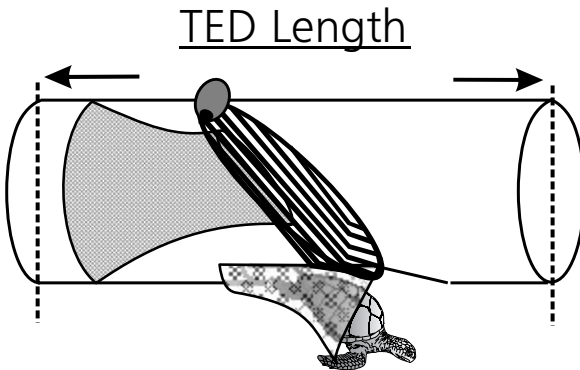
Anthony



Bent Pipe



Fixed Angle



If webbing immediately around TED has a mesh size smaller than allowed for the trawl, such webbing may not be greater than 60 total stretched meshes in length.

For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

Diagrams are derived from images provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

# CRABS

**NOTE:** The rules for fishing with crab traps during the months of February and March may have changed following publication of this annual. For current rules, please contact your nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office or call (800) 792-1112, ext. 4645.

- There are no public salt waters, seasons or times closed to the taking and retaining of crabs and ghost shrimp, EXCEPT as provided in this guide.
- It is lawful to take, attempt to take, or possess crabs and ghost shrimp by means, in numbers, and of sizes ONLY as described below.

## Bag, Possession and Length Limits

### Blue crab

- Daily Bag: No limit
- Possession: No limit
  - Except that not more than 5% by number, of undersized blue crabs may be possessed for **bait purposes only** and must be placed in a separate container.
  - May not possess egg-bearing (sponge) crabs.
  - May not possess a female crab that has its abdominal apron detached.
- Minimum Length: 5 inches
  - Measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine (see pg. 15).

### Stone crab (right claw only)

- Daily Bag: No limit
- Possession: No limit
  - Only the right claw may be retained or possessed.
  - The body of the stone crab must be returned to the water from which it was taken.
- Minimum Length: 2-1/2 inches claw measurement
  - Measured from the tip of the immovable claw to the first joint behind the claw (see pg. 15).

## Devices and Restrictions

**Crab Line:** A baited line with no hook attached.

- Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length and 6 inches in width.

- Buoys must be marked with a commercial crab fisherman's license plate number in letters of a contrasting color at least two inches high attached to the trap.
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.

## Crab Traps:

- May only remove crab traps from the water or remove crabs from crab traps during the period from 30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset.
- Maximum Number of Traps Allowed:
  - Only 200 crab traps at a time may be used while fishing under the authority of a commercial crab fisherman's license.
  - Only 20 crab traps at a time may be used while fishing under the authority of a commercial finfish fisherman's license.
- Tag Requirements: Must be used with a valid GEAR TAG (see pg. 4) attached within 6 inches of the buoy.
- Construction and Design Restrictions:
  - May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
  - Must be equipped with at least 2 escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls.
  - Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8" in diameter.
  - Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length and 6 inches in width.
  - Crab traps fished under the authority of a **commercial crab fisherman's license** must have buoys marked with a commercial crab fisherman's license plate number in letters of a contrasting color at least two inches high attached to the trap.
  - Crab traps fished under the authority of a **commercial finfish fisherman's license** must have buoys marked with a commercial finfish fisherman's license plate number preceded with the letter "F" in letters of a contrasting color at least two inches high attached to the trap.
  - Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
  - Must be equipped with a degradable panel. A trap is considered to have a degradable panel if one of the following methods is used in construction of the trap:
    - the trap lid tie-down strap is secured to the trap at one end by a simple loop of untreated jute twine (comparable to

- Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. The trap lid must be secured so that when the twine or wire degrades, the lid will no longer be securely closed; or
- the trap contains at least one sidewall, not including the bottom panel, with a rectangular opening no smaller in either dimension than 3 inches by 6 inches. Any obstruction placed in this opening may not be secured in any manner EXCEPT it may be laced, sewn, or otherwise obstructed by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller knotted only at each end and not tied or looped more than once around a single mesh bar. When the twine or wire degrades, the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed; or
  - the obstruction may be loosely hinged at the bottom of the opening by no more than two untreated steel hog rings and secured at the top of the obstruction in no more than one place by a single length of untreated jute twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #530), sisal twine (comparable to Lehigh brand #390) or untreated steel wire with a diameter of 20 gauge or smaller. When the twine or wire degrades, the obstruction will hinge downward and the opening in the sidewall of the trap will no longer be obstructed.
- Placement and Location Restrictions:
    - May not place a crab trap or portion thereof closer than 100 feet from any other crab trap, EXCEPT when traps are secured to a pier or dock.
    - May not fish a crab trap in public fresh waters.
    - May not fish a crab trap within 200 feet of a marked navigable channel in Aransas County; and in the water area of Aransas Bay within one-half mile of a line from Hail Point on the Lamar Peninsula, then direct to the eastern end of Goose Island, then along the southern shore of Goose Island, then along the eastern shoreline of the Live Oak Peninsula past the town of Fulton, past Nine Mile Point, past the town of Rockport to a point at the east end of Talley Island including that part of Copano Bay within 1,000 feet of the causeway between Lamar Peninsula and Live Oak Peninsula.
    - May not possess, use or place more than 3 crab traps in waters north and west of Highway 146 where it crosses the Houston Ship Channel in Harris County.
    - May not use or place more than 3 crab traps in public waters of the San Bernard River north of a line marked by the boat access channel at Bernard Acres.

**Other Devices:**

- Devices legally used for taking of fresh or saltwater fish or shrimp may be used to take crab if operated in places and at times authorized by a proclamation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Commission or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.
- See applicable pages in this guide to determine authorized uses, places and times for other legal devices.

## **CRAB LICENSE MANAGEMENT**

A license management program (limited entry) has been in effect for the Texas commercial crab fishery since June 1997.

For further information on any limited entry requirements and restrictions, contact Mr. Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Building, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 980-3353 or Mr. Bobby Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, 1502 F.M. 517 E, Dickinson, TX 77539, (281) 534-0110.

### **CRAB LICENSE BUYBACK PROGRAM**

At least once each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provides an opportunity for holders of commercial crab fisherman’s license to apply to have their licenses purchased by the Department. If you are interested in more information about participating in this voluntary program contact the Coastal Fisheries Division, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744; (800) 792-1112, ext. 4645 or (512) 389-4645.

# OYSTERS

**Commercial Oystering Seasons**—November 1 through April 30 except in all private leases with permits from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where there is no closed season. During open season, oysters may be taken only from sunrise to sunset.

**Legal Size Limits**—Three (3) inches (greatest length of shell) or larger. Oysters 3/4 inch to three inches are to be culled and returned to reef from which taken; provided, however, that each cargo may contain not more than 15 percent of oysters of this size. Not more than two barrels of unculled oysters are permitted on board while on a reef.

**Legal Means and Methods**—It is unlawful while taking or attempting to take oysters for pay or the purpose of sale, barter, or exchange

or any other commercial purpose to use more than one dredge, use a dredge which exceeds 48 inches in width and a two-barrel capacity, have more than one dredge connected in any manner to a winch, chain or other lifting device during the open public season; or have any additional dredge(s) on board unless secured below deck, to the wheelhouse or to the deck in such a manner as to be lashed, tied, shackled or chained as to prevent its immediate use. Commercial oyster boats limited to not more than 50 barrels of legal size oysters.

**Special Provisions**—Oysters may be taken only from waters approved by the State Commissioner of Health.

The harvesting, shucking, processing and sale of oysters must conform to all regulations specified by the Texas Department of Health.

# MUSSELS AND CLAMS

**Note:** The following are required to commercially take mussels, clams or their shells from the public waters of this state:

- commercial mussel and clam fisherman's license,
- general commercial fisherman's license, and
- commercial fishing boat license (if a boat is used).

- Season open year-round.
- May be taken for consumption only from waters approved by the State Commissioner of Health.
- May be taken by hand only unless the collector has a permit to use other means.
- May be taken only from 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset.
- No more than 75 pounds of whole mussels and their shells may be taken per day on Saturday and Sunday of each week (only 75 pounds may be possessed on public water or within 500 yards of public fresh water on Saturday or Sunday).
- Freshwater mussels of the following species may be taken only when they will not pass through a ring with an inside diameter (I.D.) specified for that species.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Ring I.D. in inches</b>
Washboard	4.00
Threeridges and roundlakes	2.75
Mapleleaves and pimplebacks	2.75
Tampico pearlymussel	2.75
Bleufer	2.75
All Other Species of freshwater mussels	2.50

**All public fresh waters of the state are open to freshwater mussel and clam harvest except that freshwater mussels and clams may not be taken from the following rivers or creeks and their tributaries:**

- North Sulphur River from State Highway 50 in Fannin County to State Highway 24 in Delta and Lamar counties;
- South Sulphur River from State Highway 50 in Hunt County to State Highway 154 in Hopkins County;
- Sulphur River from State Highway 37 in Franklin County to U.S. Highway 271 in Titus County;
- White Oak Creek from State Highway 37 in Franklin County to U.S. Highway 271 in Titus County;
- Big Cypress Creek from the Dam at Lake Bob Sandlin downstream to U.S. Highway 271 in Camp County;

- Sabine River from the dam at Lake Tawakoni downstream to State Highway 19 in Rains and Van Zandt counties, from FM 14 to State Highway 155 in Smith County and from State Highway 43 downstream to U.S. Highway 59 in Harrison and Panola counties;
- Angelina River from its source in Rusk County to its confluence with the Neches River in Jasper County;
- Neches River from the Dam at Lake B.A. Steinhagen downstream to its confluence with Pine Island Bayou in Orange County;
- Pine Island Bayou from its source in Hardin County to the confluence with the Neches River in Hardin County;
- Trinity River from State Highway 34 in Kaufman and Ellis counties downstream to FM 85 in Navarro County and from the dam at Lake Livingston downstream to U.S. Highway 59 in Polk County;
- Brazos River from U.S. Highway 380 downstream to U.S. Highway 83 in Stonewall County, from the dam at Possum Kingdom Reservoir downstream to U.S. Highway 180 in Palo Pinto County and from State Highway 7 downstream to Ranch Road 413 in Falls County;
- The Colorado River from its source in Dawson County downstream to Ranch Road 1205 in Borden County, from the dam at Lake E. V. Spence downstream to U.S. Highway 277 in Coke County, and from U.S. Highway 377 in McCulloch and Brown counties to Ranch Road 45 in Mills and San Saba counties;
- The North Concho River from State Highway 163 in Sterling County to the city limits of Water Valley in Tom Green County;
- The Concho River from the mouth of Kickapoo Creek downstream to the U.S. Highway 83 in Concho County;
- The San Saba River from Ranch Road 1311 in Menard County downstream to U.S. Highway 87 in McCulloch County;
- The Guadalupe River from State Highway 123 in Guadalupe County downstream to State Highway 80 in Gonzales County;
- The San Marcos River from its source in Hays County downstream to the confluence with the Guadalupe River in Gonzales County;
- The Comal River from its source downstream to its confluence with the Guadalupe River in Comal County;
- Pine Creek from its source in Lamar County to its confluence with the Red River, in Red River County;
- Sanders Creek from its source in Fannin County to the confluence with the Red River in Lamar County; and
- Elm Creek from its source downstream to the dam at Elm Creek Lake at Ballinger City Park in Runnels County.

## OTHER AQUATIC LIFE

It is unlawful for any person to knowingly take, kill or disturb any **sea turtle** or **sea turtle eggs** in the State of Texas.

There is no open season in any county for ALL MARINE MAMMALS INCLUDING PORPOISES, DOLPHINS AND WHALES.

Any other aquatic life (except threatened and endangered species) not addressed in this guide may be taken only with the devices defined as lawful for taking fish, shrimp, oysters or crabs in places and at times as provided in this guide.



## CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND CIVIL VALUE RECOVERY

If you violate fish and wildlife laws, in addition to civil restitution you may:

- be fined (Class C – \$25–\$500; Class B – \$200–\$2000; Class A – \$500–\$4000; State Jail Felony, \$1500–\$10,000);
- be jailed (Class B and higher offenses);
- face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to 5 years;
- forfeit hunting gear, including firearms, used to commit a violation.

**CIVIL RESTITUTION:** In addition to the **criminal** penalty for hunting and fishing violations, the department will seek the **civil recovery value** for the loss or damage to wildlife resources. The civil restitution cost is payable to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and is in addition to the fine assessed by the court. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue a license, tag, or permit. An individual who hunts or fishes after the refusal commits a class A misdemeanor which is punishable by a fine not less than \$500 or more than \$4,000; punishment in jail not to exceed one year; or both fine and confinement. **For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.**

### Operation Game Thief Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

You can make a difference by reporting illegal fishing and hunting activity! Up to \$1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of poachers.

### Reward Hotline 800-792-GAME

Support anti-poaching efforts by becoming a member of the Operation Game Thief Program (call 512-389-4381 for membership information) or by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, Texas Parks and Wildlife, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744.



# WHERE TO GET INFORMATION AND LICENSES

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department **Regional** and Field Law Enforcement Offices

ABILENE, 281 North Willis (79603) (325) 673-3333  
AMARILLO, 203 West 8th, Suite #200, LB14006  
(79101) (806) 379-8900

BEAUMONT, 5550-K Eastex Freeway (77708)  
(409) 892-8666

BROWNSVILLE, 5460 Paredes Line Road, Suite 201  
(78526) (956) 546-1952

**BROWNWOOD**, 301 Main, Suite D (76801)  
(325) 646-0440

BRYAN, 3608 East 29th Street, Suite 220 (77802)  
(979) 260-1372

**CORPUS CHRISTI**, 5541 Bear Lane, Suite 232  
(78405) (361) 289-5566

EL PASO, 401 East Franklin, Suite 520 (79901)  
(915) 834-7050

**FORT WORTH**, 5400 Airport Freeway, Suite E  
(76117) (817) 831-3128

FREEPORT, 210 W. First Street, Suite C (77541)  
(979) 233-7968 - hours 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

GARLAND, 346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043)  
(972) 226-9966

**HOUSTON (NORTH)**, 350 North Sam Houston  
Pkwy E., Suite 285 (77060) (281) 931-6471

HOUSTON (SOUTH), 10103 Fondren, #275  
(77096) (713) 779-8977

KERRVILLE, 309 Sidney Baker South (78028)  
(830) 257-7611

LAMARQUE, 14037 Delaney Road (77568)  
(409) 933-1947

**LUBBOCK**, 1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415)  
(806) 761-4930

LUFKIN, 1515 Atkinson Drive (75902)  
(936) 632-1311

MIDLAND, 4500 West Illinois, Suite 307 (79703)  
(432) 520-4649

**MT. PLEASANT**, 212 South Johnson (75455)  
(903) 572-7966

ROCKPORT, 715 South Highway 35 (78382)  
(361) 790-0312

**RUSK**, 801 West 6th Street (75785) 903) 683-2511

**SAN ANGELO**, 3407 South Chadbourne (76903)  
(325) 651-4844

**SAN ANTONIO**, 858 West Rhapsody (78216)  
(210) 348-7375

**TEMPLE**, 1602 West Avenue A, Suite 400 (76504)  
(254) 778-2851

TYLER, 3330 South Southwest Loop 323 (75701)  
(903) 534-0388

VICTORIA, 2805 N. Navarro, Suite 600A (77901)  
(361) 575-6306

WACO, 1601 East Crest Drive (76705)  
(254) 867-7951

WICHITA FALLS, 100 Fremar Valley (76301)  
(940) 723-7327

## COMMERCIAL FISHING LICENSE LIMITED ENTRY AND BUYBACK PROGRAMS

For further information regarding any commercial license management program or license buyback program contact: Mr. Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Building, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 980-3353 or Mr. Bobby Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, 1502 F.M. 517 E, Dickinson, TX 77539, (281) 534-0110.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Internet Web Site: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>

### Operation Game Thief

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department • 4200 Smith School Road • Austin, Texas 78744

**STOP POACHING! FOR 24-HOUR REPORTING OF VIOLATIONS, you may call:**  
**(800) 792-GAME; AUSTIN — (512) 389-4848; HOUSTON — (281) 842-8100**

### TOLL FREE INFORMATION (Mon. - Fri., 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)

For information concerning fishing regulations or other subjects related to TPWD.

(800) 792-1112 (general information) OR (512) 389- + extension #

#4820 Hunting & Fishing Licenses	#4828 Boat Registration	#4726 Resource Protection
#4627 Law Enforcement - Hunting	#4505 Coastal Fisheries	#4481 Scientific Permit
#4628 Law Enforcement - Fishing	#4505 Inland Fisheries	#4628 Commercial Licenses

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This digest will be revised as new regulations become effective. Note the date on the front cover and make sure you have the latest issue. For further information, please contact your local game warden or Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

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