2012 – 2013

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

Texas Commercial Fishing Guide

EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1, 2012 THROUGH AUG. 31, 2013

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

IMPORTANT: See Important Notices, Page 2

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Operation Game Thief

Texas' Wildlife Crime-Stoppers Program

You can make a difference by reporting poaching, pollution and dumping, arson in state parks, and intoxicated boaters! Up to $1,000 may be paid for information leading to arrest and conviction of a person for a violation of our state's wildlife and fisheries laws, as well as for certain laws related to environmental crime, arson, and intoxicated boaters.

Reward Hotline (800) 792-GAME

Operation Game Thief is privately funded. Please consider supporting efforts to protect our precious natural resources and keep our waterways safe by sending your tax deductible donation to Operation Game Thief, or by becoming an Operation Game Thief Member. Please visit www.ogttx.com for membership information. Donations can be sent to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744, or you may also call (512) 389-8801 to make a donation by credit card.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203, Attention: Civil Rights Coordinator for Public Access.

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 and 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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IMPORTANT NOTICES

NOTICES BY TPWD

1. A **Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag**
   a. The tag must be affixed to the outside of each sack of oysters at the time of harvest, in the location of harvest, contain information required by the Department of State Health Services under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, and remain affixed during transportation of the oysters to a dealer.
   b. The appropriate Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag (green or white) must be affixed to the sack regardless of the season or whether the requirements of 25 TAC §241.57 (relating to Molluscan Shellfish Harvesting and Handling) apply.
2. **All commercial shipments of aquatic products** must be accompanied by an invoice and containers must be labeled. (See Shipping Regulations page 14.)
3. **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 15.)
4. **Consumption of Clams, Mussels, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **fresh waters** is prohibited by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
5. **Clams, Mussels, Oysters, and Other Molluscan Shellfish** taken from public **salt waters** may be taken only from waters approved by the Texas Department of State Health Services. (Maps identifying approved areas may be obtained from the Texas Department of State Health Services, Seafood Safety Division (512) 834-6757. Additional information concerning **area closures** may be obtained 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **(800) 685-0361**.)

RETENTION BANS ON FINFISH AND SHELLFISH

By order of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) retention bans on finfish and shellfish are in effect in the following areas:

1. The area of **Lavaca Bay** inshore of a line beginning at the last point of land at the northeastern approach of the Lavaca Bay Causeway, then in a southwest direction to Aquatic Life Marker A to Aquatic Life Marker B to Channel Marker #12, then in a southeastern direction to Aquatic Life Marker C to Aquatic Life Marker D to Aquatic Life Marker E to Channel Marker #74, then in a northeastern direction to Aquatic Life Marker F to the southernmost point of land on the spoil island east of the ship channel, is **closed** to the **retention** of **finfish** and **crabs**. (Catch and release of finfish and crabs is lawful. This closure is due to mercury contamination.)
2. Echo Lake in Tarrant County is declared a prohibited area for the taking of all species of aquatic life. This closure is due to elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in fish samples.
3. c) The Donna Irrigation System in Hidalgo County is declared a prohibited area for the taking of all species of aquatic life. This closure is due to elevated levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in fish samples.

CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

TDSHS recommends limiting or avoiding consumption of certain fish in these areas as follows:

1. **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 one 8-ounce meal per week. Women of child-bearing age and children should limit consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month.
     - **King mackerel** less than 37 inches in total length are safe for unrestricted consumption.
2. **Galveston Bay** including **Chocolate Bay, East Bay, West Bay, Trinity Bay** and contiguous waters.
   - Chemicals of Concern: Dioxin and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
     - For **all catfish species** and **spotted seatrout**, adults should limit consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month. Children under 12 and women who are nursing, pregnant, or who may become pregnant should not consume catfish or spotted seatrout from these waters.
3. **Houston Ship Channel** upstream of the Lynchburg Ferry crossing and all contiguous water including the **San Jacinto River** below U.S. Highway 90 bridge.
   - Chemicals of Concern: Dioxin, organo-

chlorine pesticides, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).
    - For **all species of fish**, adults should limit consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month. Children under 12 and women who are nursing, pregnant or may become pregnant should not consume any fish from these waters.
4. **Houston Ship Channel** and all contiguous waters including **Upper Galveston Bay** north of a line drawn from Red Bluff Point to Five Mile Cut marker to Houston Point.
    - Chemical of Concern: Dioxin
        - For **blue crabs**, adults should limit consumption to no more than one 8-ounce meal per month. Children under 12 and women who are nursing, pregnant, or may become pregnant should not consume blue crabs from this area.
5. **Sabine Lake** and contiguous Texas waters in Jefferson and Orange counties.
    - Chemical of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
        - For **gafftopsail catfish**, adults should limit consumption to three 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 and women who are pregnant, nursing, or may become pregnant should limit consumption to one 4-ounce meal per month.
6. **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 two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month.
        - For **B.A. Steinhagen Reservoir:** For **white bass** or **hybrid striped bass**, adults should limit consumption to one 8-ounce meal per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to one 4-ounce meal per month. Women who are pregnant or nursing should not consume white bass or hybrid striped bass from this lake.
7. **Clear Lake** and **Hills Lakes** in Panola County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
        - For **largemouth bass** and **freshwater drum** in both locations, and for **bowfin** in **Clear Lake**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women of childbearing age, who are or might become pregnant, or who are nursing should not consume the indicated species from these lakes.
8. **Lake Daingerfield** in Morris County and **Lake Ratcliff** in Houston County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
        - For **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month.
9. **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 two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month.
10. **Lone Star Lake** (also known as **Ellison Creek Reservoir**) in Morris County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
        - Persons should not consume any species of fish from this reservoir.
11. **Lake Madisonville** in Madison County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
        - For **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are nursing, pregnant or who may become pregnant should not consume largemouth bass from this lake.
12. **Neches River** and all contiguous waters from State Highway 7 bridge west of Lufkin downstream to the US 90 bridge near Evadale in Angelina, Hardin, Houston, Jasper, Polk, Trinity and Tyler counties.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
        - For **flathead catfish, freshwater drum, gar, largemouth bass, spotted bass** and **white bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 should limit their consumption of these same fish to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are nursing, pregnant or who may become pregnant should not

consume the above species from this stretch of the Neches River.

13. **Village Creek** upstream of Neches River in Hardin County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
      - For **crappie, gar**, and **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 should limit consumption of crappie, gar, and largemouth bass to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are nursing, pregnant, or who may become pregnant should not consume crappie, gar, and largemouth bass from Village Creek.
14. **Clear Creek** upstream and west of Clear Lake in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston and Harris counties.
    - Chemical of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
      - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
15. **Lake Isabell** in Harris County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
      - For **largemouth bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are nursing, pregnant or who may become pregnant should not consume largemouth bass from this lake.
16. **Lake Worth** in Tarrant County.
    - Chemicals of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), aldrin, dieldrin
      - Persons should not consume **blue catfish, channel catfish** or **smallmouth buffalo** from these waters.
17. **Fosdic Lake** (also known as **Oakland Lake**) in Tarrant County.
    - Chemicals of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
      - For **common carp**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are of childbearing age, who are or who might become pregnant, or who are nursing, should not consume common carp from the lake.
18. **Mountain Creek Lake** in Dallas County.
    - Chemicals of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins
      - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
19. **Clear Fork of Trinity River** from Benbrook Reservoir dam and West Fork from Lake Worth dam, including **main stem of the Trinity** downstream to US 287 bridge. Portions of Anderson, Dallas, Ellis, Freestone, Henderson, Kaufman, Navarro and Tarrant counties.
    - Chemicals of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins
      - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
20. **Arroyo Colorado, Llano Grande Lake**, and the **Main Floodway** upstream of the Port of Harlingen in Cameron and Hidalgo counties.
    - Chemicals of Concern: Mercury, DDE, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
      - Persons should not consume **longnose gar** and **smallmouth buffalo** from these waters.
21. **Lower Leon Creek** from the Old US 90 bridge downstream to the Loop 410 bridge in San Antonio, Bexar County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)
      - Persons should not consume any species of fish from these waters.
22. **Canyon Lake** in Comal County.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
      - For **striped bass** and **longnose gar**, adults should limit consumption to two, 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month. Women who are of childbearing age, who are or who might become pregnant, or who are nursing, should not consume striped bass or longnose gar from Canyon Lake.
23. **Lake Alan Henry** in Garza and Kent counties.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
      - For **blue catfish, flathead catfish, crappie, largemouth bass** and **spotted bass**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month. Children under 12 and women of childbearing age who are or might become pregnant, or who are nursing, should not consume any of the indicated species from Lake Alan Henry.
24. **Lake Meredith** in Hutchinson, Moore and Potter counties.
    - Chemical of Concern: Mercury
      - For **walleye**, adults should limit consumption to two 8-ounce meals per month, and children under 12 should limit consumption to two 4-ounce meals per month.

Note: Additional information concerning Texas Department of State Health Services closures or advisories may be obtained by calling (800) 685-0361 (shellfish) or (512) 834-6757 (other advisories) or visiting: www.dshs.state.tx.us/seafood

OFFSHORE AQUACULTURE REGULATIONS

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department adopted rules that prescribe the procedures and conditions for operating an offshore aquaculture facility in Texas waters, and implement the department's responsibilities under Agriculture Code, Chapter 134 by providing protection for marine resources in the wild, including endangered species. TPWD's responsibility is to protect the health and viability of native populations of fish, shellfish, and aquatic life in state waters, including endangered species. In general, the new rules prescribe the conditions under which marine species may be introduced into an offshore aquaculture facility without damaging surrounding water and marine resources.

The regulation of offshore aquaculture involves both state and federal jurisdictions. With respect to state agencies, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is the primary agency responsible for regulating aquaculture, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has primary responsibility for establishing and enforcing water quality standards, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) is responsible for managing state-owned submerged lands, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) is responsible for management of animal disease necessary to protect agriculture, and the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) is the primary agency for protecting human health and safety, including seafood safety. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (COE) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) are responsible for establishing maritime navigation standards and the identification, marking, and mitigation of navigational hazards.

The intent of this rulemaking is that individuals applying to the various agencies for their necessary permissions be able to do so simultaneously so that the many needed reviews, inspections and other activities can be accomplished in the minimum amount of time. However, the rule also specifies that all of these other permissions be obtained before the permit is approved by TPWD. For more information, call Robert Adami at (361) 939-7784.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE: A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation or denial must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a $100 application fee.

CIVIL RESTITUTION

When a Texas Game Warden encounters a violation of hunting and fishing regulations, there will be a criminal complaint filed in either a justice court or a county court. Fines for such violations are assessed by the presiding judge hearing the case. In addition to assessed fines that may be associated with a criminal complaint, violators are also liable to civil restitution for the loss of or damage to wildlife resources that have resulted from the violation. Civil restitution will be assessed following each violation and each violator will receive an invoice for this restitution from the department. Failure to pay the civil recovery value will result in the department's refusal to issue any license, tag or permit in the violator's name until restitution is made. An individual who hunts or fishes after such a 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.**

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

Aquaculture: The business of producing and selling cultured species raised in private facilities.

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.

Charter Vessel: A vessel less than 100 gross tons that meets the requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard to carry six or fewer passengers for hire and that carries a passenger for hire at any time during the calendar year. A charter vessel with a commercial permit is considered to be operating as a charter vessel when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or when there are more then three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Circle Hook: A hook originally designed and manufactured so that the point of the hook is turned perpendicularly back toward the shank of the hook to form a generally circular or oval shape.

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 (800) 792-1112 or visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/fish/recreational/lakes/cfl.phtml.

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 attempting to take fish, shrimp, crabs, oysters, clams, mussels or any other aquatic life by any means.

Fishing Guide: A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons engaged in fishing in the waters 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
- Bass, largemouth
- Bass, smallmouth
- Bass, spotted
- Bass, striped
- Bass, white
- Bass, yellow
- Catfish, blue
- Catfish, channel
- Catfish, flathead
- Cobia
- Crappie, black
- Crappie, white
- Drum, red
- Mackerel, king
- Mackerel, Spanish
- Marlin, blue
- Marlin, white
- Pickerel
- Sailfish
- Sauger
- Seatrout, spotted
- Sharks
- Snook
- Spearfish, longbill
- Swordfish, broadbill
- Tarpon
- Tripletail
- Trout, brown
- Trout, rainbow
- Wahoo
- Walleye

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.

Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag: An identifying marker that must be affixed to the outside of each sack of oysters at the time of harvest, in the location of harvest, contain information required by the Department of State Health Services under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, and remain affixed during transportation of the oysters to a dealer.

Headboat: A vessel that holds a valid Certificate of Inspection issued by the U.S. Coast Guard to carry passengers for hire. A headboat with a commercial vessel permit is considered to be operating as a headboat when it carries a passenger who pays a fee or,

in the case of persons aboard fishing for or possessing coastal migratory fish or Gulf reef fish, when there are more than three persons aboard, including operator and crew.

Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ): A form of limited access that assigns a fixed share of the total allowable catch to each user of the resource.

Jug Line (fresh water): A fishing line with five 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.

Nongame 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.

Offshore Aquaculture Facility: All enclosures and associated infrastructure used to produce, hold, propagate, transport or sell stock under authority of an offshore aquaculture permit.

Paddle Craft: Any non-motorized vessel.

Paddle-craft Fishing Guide: A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons by means of a non-motorized vessel engaged in fishing in the coastal waters of this state.

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.)

Sack: 110 pounds of oysters including the weight of the sack.

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.

Stock: Native species of fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants intended for use in, being transported to, or contained within an offshore aquaculture facility under the terms of an offshore aquaculture permit.

Throwline (fresh water): A fishing line with five 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 five 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 AND AQUATIC PLANTS

The importation, sale, transportation and release of exotic fish, shellfish, or aquatic plants designated harmful or potentially harmful by the Texas 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 or visit: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wild/species/exotic/prohibited_aquatic.phtml.

LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

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

RECREATIONAL LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN

Persons who possess a General Commercial Fisherman's License must purchase a Recreational Fishing License or a Combination Hunting and Fishing License to fish for recreational purposes.

Non-resident commercial fishermen must obtain a Non-Resident Fishing License or a Non-Resident One-Day All-Water 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 Fishing Stamp is required to fish for recreational purposes in fresh waters of this state. When fishing under a recreational sport license; recreation size, bag and possession limits apply and no aquatic species taken under a recreational license may be sold.

SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT

A moratorium on the sale of licenses or a license management program (limited entry) has been in effect for the Texas bay and bait shrimp fishery since 1996, the crab fishery since 1998, the saltwater finfish fishery since 2000 and both the gulf shrimp and oyster fisheries since 2005. To retain eligibility in each of these fisheries, purchase of the previous year's license is required. A license buyback provision is in place for bay and bait shrimp boat, crab and finfish commercial licenses, but not for gulf shrimp boat or oyster boat licenses.

For further information regarding any limited entry requirements, license buybacks or other provisions of the program contact: Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 825-3356, email: art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us.

GENERAL LICENSES

General Commercial Fisherman's
Resident (Type 372) **$26**
Non-resident (Type 340)..... **$189**

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**

This is a limited entry license. See Page 8 — SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT.

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 OR
  - a general commercial fisherman's license, the original finfish 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:

- A person purchasing this license will receive two (2) license plates bearing a number unique to that person.
- A boat operated for the purposes of commercial finfish fishing is required to have commercial finfish fisherman's license plates prominently displayed as to be clearly visible from both sides of the boat.
- **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) **$50**
Non-resident (Type 433)..... **$126**

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).....**$32**
Non-resident (Type 409) **$126**

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)..... **$126**
Non-resident (Type 470).....**$315**

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)..... **$630**
Non-resident (Type 438)..... **$2,520**

This is a limited entry license. See Page 8 — SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT.

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

NOTE: No person may hold more than three 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.
- 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.
- 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).....**$38**
Non-resident (Type 420) **$1,008**

Required of any person taking mussels, clams or their shells from the public waters of this state for commercial purposes. See Page 40 — MUSSELS AND CLAMS.

Fishing Guide Licenses:

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

Fresh Water
Resident and Non-resident
(Type 600).....**$132**

All-Water
Resident (Type 610)..... **$210**
Non-resident (Type 710) **$1,050**

Required of any person operating as a fishing guide in all public waters (salt water only or both fresh and salt water).

NOTE: No person operating a motorized 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 original documentation to the license agent that the applicant possesses a valid and appropriate U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Operator's License. It is the operator's responsibility to assure compliance with USCG regulations. For additional information, contact the USCG Regional Examination Center in Houston, Texas at (713) 948-3350.

All-Water Paddle Craft
Resident (Type 650)..... **$210**
Non-resident (Type 750).....**$1,050**

Required of any person operating as a fishing guide and utilizing paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, etc.) in all coastal waters.

NOTE: Persons operating as a fishing guide and utilizing paddle craft (canoes, kayaks, etc.) while guiding can qualify for a fishing guide license upon presentation to a license agent of certification or proof of completion of a TPWD boater safety course, CPR/First Aid training, and completion of the American Canoe Association Coastal Kayak Day Trip Leading Assessment or the British Canoe Union Four Star Leader Sea Kayak Certification. This license is applicable only to paddle craft and cannot be used when a person is operating a motorized vessel.

Any person who possesses a All-Water fishing guide license and a valid USCG vessel operator's license is qualified as an All-Water paddle craft fishing guide.

All-Water fishing guide and All-Water paddle craft licenses available only at TPWD Law Enforcement offices. Fresh-water fishing guide licenses available at any location where licenses are sold.

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 Trip Ticket Program. See Page 15 — **COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS**.

Bait Dealer – Individual
(Type 312).....**$38**

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 nongame fish taken from public fresh water is required. The fee for this license is $60 and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-4444.

Bait Dealer – Place of Business/Building
(Type 515) **$38**

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) **$38**

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) **$215**

Required for any person who operates an established place of business engaged in selling shrimp for fish bait. Minnows, nongame 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 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 Trip Ticket Program. See Page 15 – **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) **$590**

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) **$95**

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 these fishes in this state. (This license is not required for fishes raised under a Texas Department of Agriculture Aquaculture License, 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)..... **$126**
Non-resident (Type 424).....**$1,890**

Required to purchase for commercial use mussel and clam shells that have been taken from the public waters. See Page 40 — MUSSELS AND CLAMS.

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
(Type 304)..... **$27**

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) **$4,200**

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) **$50**

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
Resident (Type 337) **$366**
Non-resident (Type 437)..... **$758**

This is a limited entry license. See Page 8 — SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT.

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
Resident (Type 336).....**$382.80**
Non-resident (Type 436)..... **$825**

This is a limited entry license. See Page 8 — SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT.

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.

Gulf-Shrimp Boat
Resident (Type 330)..... **$495**
Non-resident (Type 430)..... **$1,485**

This is a limited entry license. See Page 8 — SHRIMP, CRAB, FINFISH AND OYSTER LICENSE MANAGEMENT

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.

Commercial Oyster Boat License
Resident (Type 306)..... **$441**
Non-resident (Type 406) **$1,764**

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.

HARVESTER/SHELL RECOVERY TAGS

Green Tag (Type 301).....$0.20
White Tag (Type 303) $0.20

Harvester/Shell Recovery tag must be affixed to the outside of each sack of oysters at the time of harvest, in the location of

harvest, contain information required by the Department of State Health Services under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, and remain affixed during transportation of the oysters to a dealer.

The appropriate Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag (green or white) must be affixed to the sack regardless of the season or whether the requirements of 25 TAC §241.57 (relating to Molluscan Shellfish Harvesting and Handling) apply.

PERMIT TO SELL NONGAME 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 nongame fish), no person may sell a nongame fish taken from the public fresh waters of this state unless that person first obtains a permit to sell nongame fish. (See Page 18 — **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER**. The fee for the PERMIT TO SELL NONGAME FISH is $60, and can be obtained by calling (512) 389-4444.)

PURCHASE OF AQUATIC PRODUCTS FOR RESALE

Wholesale fish dealers and Retail fish dealers may display live tilapia, lawfully purchased from the holder of an exotic species permit, but must gut or behead the tilapia before selling or delivering to another person. It is unlawful to transfer live tilapia between fish dealers that do not possess exotic species permits.

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 finfish fisherman'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 Trip Ticket Program. See Page 15 — **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 finfish fisherman'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 Trip Ticket Program. See Page 15 — **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 finfish fisherman'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
- Dealer Number of Shipper
- 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.

INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION

No person may bring into this state and deliver aquatic products for commercial purposes unless the person has obtained a wholesale fish dealer's license, a retail fish dealer's license, a bait dealer's license, or an exotic species interstate transport permit, as applicable, issued by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Aquatic products lawfully taken from the waters of another state 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 undersize or oversize products shall be maintained by the dealer for as long as the undersize or oversize products are retained and for at least 30 days thereafter.

No person may transport aquatic products out of this state for commercial purposes unless the transporter first obtains a wholesale fish dealer's license or a retail fish dealer's license. A person who delivers aquatic products for a licensed wholesale fish dealer or retail fish dealer must possess a copy of the dealer's license while making deliveries.

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 **their 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.

- Commercial finfish fisherman's license OR
- General commercial fisherman's license and an affidavit from the holder of the commercial finfish fisherman's license authorizing the person to operate their fishing devices for shipments of the fisherman's own catch.
- 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

COMMERCIAL HARVEST REPORTS

Trip Tickets

NOTE: All aquatic product transactions are required to be recorded by individual trip regardless of the species involved in the transaction, and each trip's landings will be linked to information about the fisherman and his equipment. These transactions may be recorded electronically [using software provided by TPWD at the address below] or on paper using forms provided by TPWD [at the same address].

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 forms for all transactions conducted during the period covered by the report. **All commercial fishermen who sell their catch to individuals other than wholesale fish dealer, retail fish dealer, wholesale truck dealer, retail truck dealer, bait dealer, bait-shrimp dealer, MUST report these sales by filing a monthly report with the TPWD on or before the 10th day of each month following the month in which reportable activity occurred. Processed aquatic products not sold to the processing dealer must be reported by the commercial fishermen at the landing weight prior to processing.**

A trip ticket must include:

- the name of the seller;
- the **commercial license** number of the seller;
- commercial license type of seller;
- Texas driver's license;
- the date of sale;
- the number of pounds sold by species;
- unit and condition codes
- count and/or market size
- the water body or bay system from which the aquatic products were taken;
- price paid per pound per species;
- gear used to harvest the aquatic product;
- trip time;
- fishing time;
- commercial fishing vessel name;
- commercial fishing vessel registration number;
- dealer name; and
- the **commercial license** number of the dealer.

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

Source of Forms

Dealer report forms for aquatic products are available by writing: Commercial Harvest Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Dickinson Marine Laboratory, 1502 FM 517 E, Dickinson, TX 77539 or calling (281) 534-0117.

MARKING OF VEHICLES

All motor vehicles, trailers or semi-trailers transporting aquatic products 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 letters of good proportion in contrasting color to the background and be at least six inches in height, or be marked in the lower left portion, on the rear of the vehicle with a decal (see illustration at right) as prescribed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. For information call (512) 389-4853. **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 six inches by six 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 COMMERCIALLY 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
- Spearfish, 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 Dealer 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 on the form prescribed by the Texas 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:

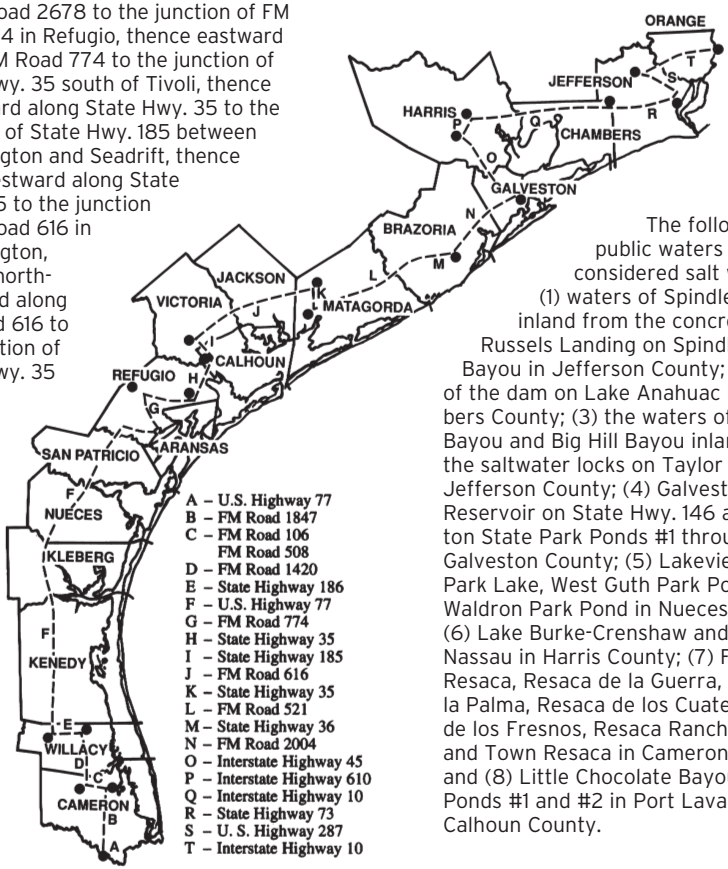
1. The commercially protected finfish invoice number of the shipment of which the package is a part.
2. The number and weight of whole fish or fillets by species contained in the package.

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.

FRESHWATER/SALTWATER BOUNDARY

All public waters east and south of the following boundary are considered salt 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 136 to 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 northwestward 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 following public waters are not considered salt water: (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 saltwater 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.

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. On board a commercial shrimp boat fish legally taken incidental to a legal shrimp operation may only be possessed by a person with a shrimp boat captain's license or a person who is the owner of a licensed commercial shrimp boat. To legally fish recreationally from a licensed commercial fishing boat, the commercial plates must be removed from the boat. While no commercial plates are on board, all recreational 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
- Orange 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 NONGAME 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 carpsucker, black bullhead, yellow bullhead, freshwater drum (gaspergou), Mozambique tilapia, blue tilapia, redbelly tilapia, Rio Grande cichlids (perch), silversides, mullet, listed shiners and minnows, and hybrids of these species taken from the public fresh waters of this state. Other nongame fish may not be sold. For permit information call (512) 389-4444.

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*
- 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
- Spearfish, longbill
- Tarpon
- Walleye
- 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 9 nm off shore).

TEXAS STATE WATERS — FEDERAL WATERS

Texas recreational and commercial fishermen fishing more than 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) or visit www.gulfcouncil.org and click on REGULATIONS.

INDIVIDUAL FISHING QUOTA (IFQ) FOR RED SNAPPER

No person aboard any vessel shall sell, barter, trade, or exchange red snapper; land or attempt to land red snapper for the purpose of sale, barter, trade, or exchange; or possess red snapper for the purpose of sale, barter, trade, or exchange unless the person possesses a valid federal permit for the harvest of Gulf of Mexico Reef Fish, a valid federal red snapper Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) vessel endorsement and a sufficient allocation for red snapper.

TOTAL ALLOWABLE CATCH (TAC) FOR GULF MENHADEN

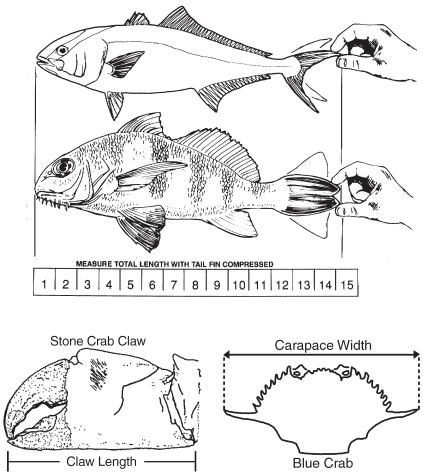
The commercial season for menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*) is open beginning on the third Monday in April and will continue until whichever of the following first occurs: the first day in November; or the total catch for the season has reached 31,500,000 pounds.

PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE — SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Starting March 7, 2009 anyone, excluding vendors and concessionaires, who makes money from a public resource at the Padre Island National Seashore or within its aquatic perimeter is required to possess a National Park Service issued "Commercial Use Authorization" permit while operating their service. Direct questions at (361) 949-9239, ext. 33. Also check the website for a full explanation of the rule: www.nps.gov/pais

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	34	No limit
Drum, black [a]	No limit	No limit	14	30
Catfish: blue and channel	25[b] (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 [c]	30/2 [c]	30/2 [c]	14	No limit
Gar, alligator	1	2	No limit	No limit
Grouper, gag	2	4	22	No limit
Mackerel, king	2	4	27	No limit
Mackerel, Spanish	15	30	14	No limit
Mullet: all species their hybrids and subspecies [d]	No limit	No limit	No limit	12 during Oct., Nov., Dec. & Jan.
Shark:	1 See Special Regulation [e] below	2		
Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead			24	No limit
Allowable shark species			64	No limit
Prohibited shark species [f]	0	0	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Sheepshead [a]	No limit	No limit	15	No limit
Snapper, lane	No limit	No limit	8	No limit
Snapper, red [g]	4	8	15	No limit
Snapper, vermilion	No limit	No limit	10	No limit
Triggerfish, gray	20	40	16	No limit
Tripletail	3	6	17	No limit

[a] 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.

[b] Exceptions to catfish 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 and 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.

[c] **Special Regulation:** The daily bag and possession limit of flounder for the holder of a valid commercial finfish fisherman's license is 30 fish, except on board a licensed commercial shrimp boat the limit is five per person with a current shrimp boat captain's license and is subject to the 50% bycatch rule (see page 23). For the period Nov. 1-30, flounder may be taken using hook and line only. Possession limit during the period Nov. 1-30 is two (2) fish.

[d] 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.

[e] **Special Regulation:** The daily bag limit is one (1) fish for all allowable shark species **INCLUDING** Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip and bonnethead.

[f] Prohibited shark species: Atlantic angel, Basking, Bigeye sand tiger, Bigeye sixgill, Bigeye thresher, Bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, Dusky, Galapagos, Longfin mako, Narrowtooth, Night, Sandbar, Sand tiger, Sevengill, Silky, Sixgill, Smalltail, Whale, White.

[g] **Special Regulation:** Red snapper may be taken using pole and line, but it is unlawful to use any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

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 on Page 16 — **SALE OF FISH — FRESH WATER**.

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 nongame 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), hand, trotline, jugline or throwline.

Nongame 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. Nongame 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 five hooks attached. Gear tags must be attached within six inches of the free floating device, are valid for 10 days after the date set out, and must include the number of the permit to sell nongame 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, Lake Naconiche, North Concho River from O.C. Fisher Dam to the Bell Street Dam, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, South Concho River from Lone Wolf Dam to Bell Street Dam, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, Wheeler Branch Reservoir in Somervell County, community fishing lakes and in reservoirs or sections of rivers lying totally within the boundaries of a state park.

Hand Fishing: Fishing by the use of hands only and without any other fishing device such as gaff, pole hook, trap, or spear.

- May be used to take channel and blue catfish in fresh water only.

Lawful Archery Equipment: Only nongame fish, may be taken for commercial purposes.

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. **Nongame 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 opening larger than one inch by three inches; or without a valid gear tag attached (tags are valid for 10 days). **Nongame 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. Nongame fish only may be taken.

Speargun and Spear: Nongame fish only may be taken. Not a legal means to take fish in a community fishing lake.

Throwline: It is unlawful for any person to use a throwline with more than five (5) hooks attached; or without a valid gear tag attached (tags are valid for 10 days). 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, Lake Naconiche, North Concho River from O.C. Fisher Dam to Bell Street Dam, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, South Concho River from Lone Wolf Dam to Bell Street Dam, Wheeler Branch in Somerville 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 three 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 three 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, Lake Bryan, Gibbons Creek Reservoir, Fayette County Reservoir, Bellwood Lake, Boerne City Park Lake, Lakes Coffee Mill and Davy Crockett in Fannin County, Dixieland Reservoir, Lake Naconiche, North Concho River from O.C. Fisher Dam to Bell Street Dam, Lake Pflugerville in Travis County, Tankersley Reservoir in Titus County, South Concho River from Lone Wolf Dam to Bell Street Dam, Wheeler Branch in Somerville 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; or without a valid gear tag attached (tags are valid for 10 days). **Nongame 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). Nongame 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. Nongame fish only, to be used for bait only, may be taken.

Circle Hook: It is **unlawful** to fish for red snapper using any kind of hook other than a circle hook when using natural bait.

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

Perch Traps: For use in SALT WATER only.

- May be used to take NONGAME fish for bait only.
- May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
- Must be marked with a floating visible orange buoy not less than 6 inches in height and 6 inches in width. The buoy must have a GEAR TAG (see page 6) valid only for 30 days attached.
- Must be equipped with a degradable panel as described for crab traps (see pages 37-39).
- Buoys or floats may not be made of plastic bottle(s) of any color or size.
- It is unlawful to place any type of trap within the area in Cedar Bayou between a department sign erected where Mesquite Bay flows into Cedar Bayou and the department sign erected near the point where the pass empties into the Gulf of Mexico.

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 five percent by volume of the menhaden in possession.

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

- May be used to take nongame fish, channel catfish and blue 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 one trotline at one time.
- Tag Requirements:
  - Must be used with valid GEAR TAGS (see page 6) which must be 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 6 inches in height and 6 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 1/2 inch, and with the diameter of the circle not less than 5/8 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 Department 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 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.

SHRIMP

GENERAL REGULATIONS

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

(see pages 8 and 10-11)

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 licenses, 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 recreational 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 recreational fishermen.

Commercial shrimp boat license plates 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 five 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.

Nongame fish and other aquatic products taken incidental to legal shrimp trawling operations may be retained provided each person that retains a lawful limit of fish has a current shrimp boat captain's license, or is the licensed owner of the shrimp boat, and:
- 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 Sept. 30 up to 1,500 live nongame 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. (See page 32.)

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 24 — **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).

WATERS DEFINED

Outside Waters—That part of the Gulf of Mexico extending from the shoreline seaward to nine 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 GIWW [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 GIWW 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 Pilkington Bayou)
- 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 GIWW 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.

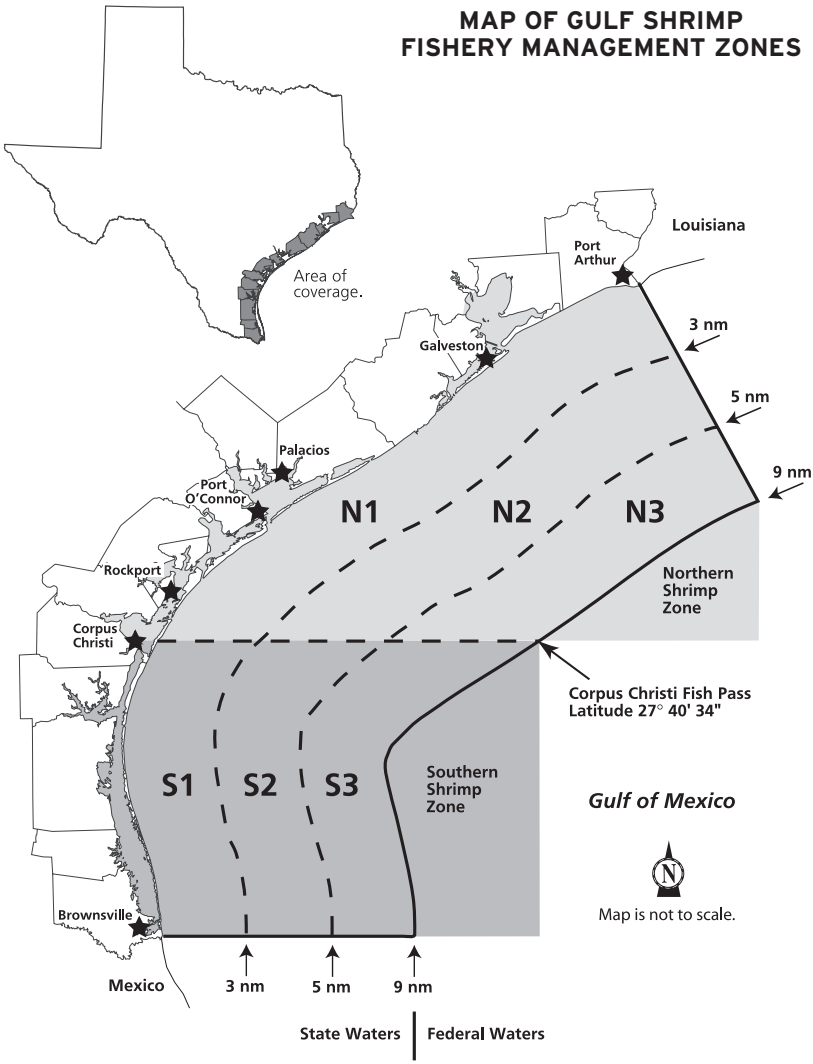
Bait Bays include major bays and the following (arranged geographically north to south)

- Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) exclusive of all tributaries
- Chocolate Bay
- West Bay (south and west of Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge and the GIWW

inclusive of the area south of a line extending westward from the Interstate Hwy. 45 Causeway Bridge at Virgina 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 GIWW 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 postlarval and juvenile shrimp. Does not include outside waters, major bays or bait bays.



OUTSIDE WATERS

Commercial Gulf-Shrimp Boats — Closed Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions

Closed Seasons:

- **Federal Waters** (from 9 nautical miles to 200 nautical miles from the Texas Coast), shrimping is closed:
  - from May 15** – July 15**
    IMPORTANT NOTICE: 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) 824-5305 or contact your nearest TPWD Law Enforcement office.
- **Within 5 nautical miles of the Texas coast** (Zones N1, N2, S1, S2), shrimping is closed:
  - at night (30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise)
  - from Dec. 1 – Feb. 15
- **Within 5 nautical miles of the Texas coast in the South Zone** (Zones S1, S2), shrimping is closed:
  - from Feb. 16 – May 15**
- **Within 9 nautical miles of the Texas coast** (Zones N1, N2, N3, S1, S2, S3), shrimping is closed:
  - from 30 minutes after sunset May 15** to 30 minutes after sunset July 15**

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.

Net Limitations:

- **Net Type I:**
  - **Trawl Size:** Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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.
  - **Net Dimensions:**

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'

- **Net Type II:**
  - Trawl Size: Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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.
  - **Net Dimensions:**

Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)
3' or more but less than 4'	40'
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'

- **Seabob Net:**
  - **Trawl Size:** Otter trawls must have doors at least 3 feet 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.
  - **Net Dimensions:**

Door Length (ft.)	Total Width (ft.)
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	62'

- **Try Nets** (Gulf and Inshore – Bay Shrimping):
  - **Otter Trawls:**
    - Total width: 21 feet
    - Doors: 450 square inches
  - **Beam Trawls:** May not exceed 10 feet in width
- **Try Nets** (Inshore – Bait Shrimping):
  - **Otter Trawls:**
    - Total width: 12 feet
    - Doors: 450 square inches
  - **Beam Trawls:** May not exceed 5 feet in width

See tables on pages 28-29 for open seasons, limits and requirements for the Southern and Northern Zones for Commercial Gulf-Shrimp Boats.

OUTSIDE WATERS

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

Southern Shrimp Zone

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

Map Segments (see pg. 25)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
S3	**5-9 nautical miles**	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May. 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	• **Number of trawls:** No Limit • **Mesh Size:** Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** No Limit • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION)
S2	**3-5 nautical miles**	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset		
S1	**Inside 3 nautical miles**	July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	• **Number of trawls:** No more than 2 • **Mesh Size:** Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Net Type I (see pg. 27) • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION)

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

OUTSIDE WATERS

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

Northern Shrimp Zone

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

Map Segments (see pg. 25)	Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
N3	**5-9 nautical miles**	July 16** – Nov. 30 Dec. 1 – May 15**	Day and Night	Bag: No Limit Size: No Limit	• **Number of trawls:** No Limit • **Mesh Size:** Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** No Limit • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION)
N2	**3-5 nautical miles**	Feb. 16 – May 15** July 16** – Nov. 30	30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset		
N1	**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	• **Number of trawls:** No more than 2 • **Mesh Size:** Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Net Type I (see pg. 27) • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION)
N1, N2 & N3	Seabobs	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 on board a boat any other species of shrimp which exceed 10%, in weight or number of the entire catch.	• **Number of trawls:** No more than 1 • **Mesh Size:** 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Seabob Net (see pg. 27) • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required (FEDERAL REGULATION)

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
Major Bays	**Spring Open Season** May 15 – July 15	30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.	Bag: 600 pounds Size: No Limit	**Main Net:** • No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. • **Mesh Size:** 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Net Type II (see pg. 27) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) • Approved **BRDs**† are required. • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required **(FEDERAL REGULATION)**.
Major Bays	**Fall Open Season** 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	**Main Net:** • No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. • Aug. 15 – Oct. 31: • **Mesh Size:** Not less than 8-3/4 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Nov. 1 – Nov. 30: • **Mesh Size:** 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • Approved **BRDs**† are required • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required **(FEDERAL REGULATION)**. • Trawl may not exceed 95 ft. in total width.
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	Main Net: • No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. • **Mesh Size:** 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Net Type II (see pg. 27) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) • Approved **BRDs**† are required. • Approved **TEDs**‡ are required **(FEDERAL REGULATION)**.

† **BRD** means Bycatch Reduction Device ‡ **TED** means Turtle Excluder Device * h-o means heads on

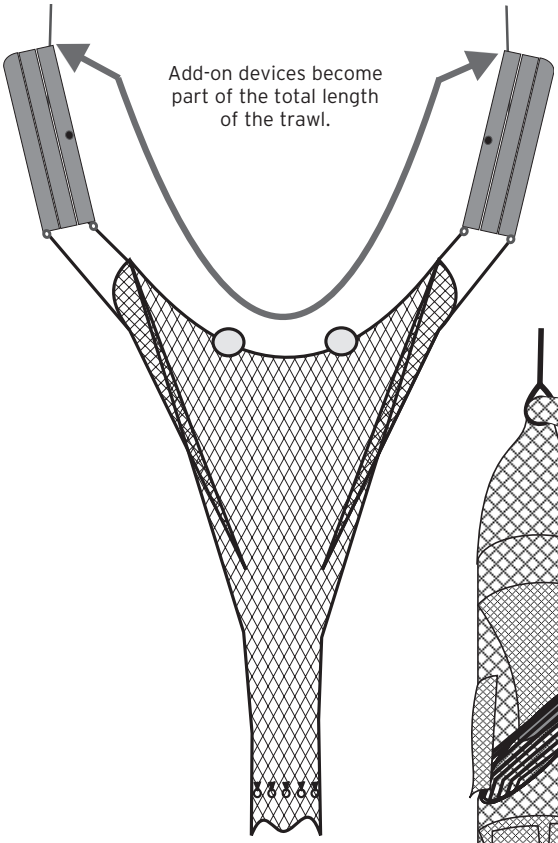
Commercial Bait-Shrimp Boats – Seasons, Limits and Gear Restrictions (Major Bays and Bait-Bays)

Location	Season (Dates)	Hours	Limits	Trawl Requirements
Major Bays and Bait Bays	Year-round	Aug. 15 – Mar. 31: 30 min. before sunrise to 30 min. after sunset Apr. 1 – Aug. 14: 30 min. before sunrise to 2 p.m.	Bag: 200 pounds Size: No Limit **Special Requirements:** 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.	**Main Net:** • No more than 1 net may be used at any one time as a main net. • **Mesh Size:** 6-1/2 inches over 5 stretched meshes • **Trawl Size:** Net Type II (see pg. 27) (Beam trawls used as the main trawl cannot exceed 25 feet in width.) • Approved **TEDs‡** are required **(FEDERAL REGULATION)**.

Nueces County Laguna Madre Special Commercial Bait-Shrimping Regulations

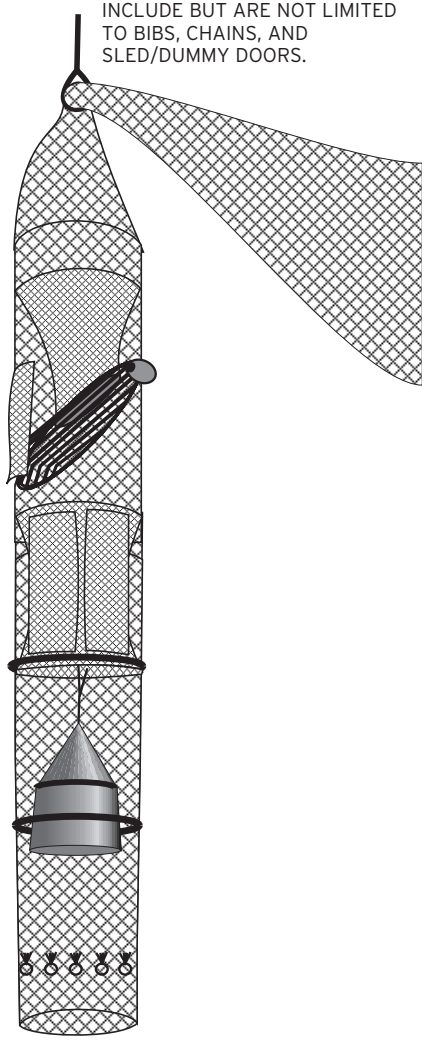
- All year in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway between markers 17 and 57 in the Laguna Madre in Nueces County, commercial bait-shrimp boats may take bait-shrimp from 1 a.m. to 30 minutes before sunrise each day with a legal beam trawl only.
- It is unlawful for any person to take or attempt to take shrimp 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.

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



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. (Any devices added to the cork line, except the corks, will not be considered interrupting the cork line and will be included in the total measurement of the trawl.) THESE ATTACHMENTS/ADDITIONS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO BIBS, CHAINS, AND SLED/DUMMY DOORS.



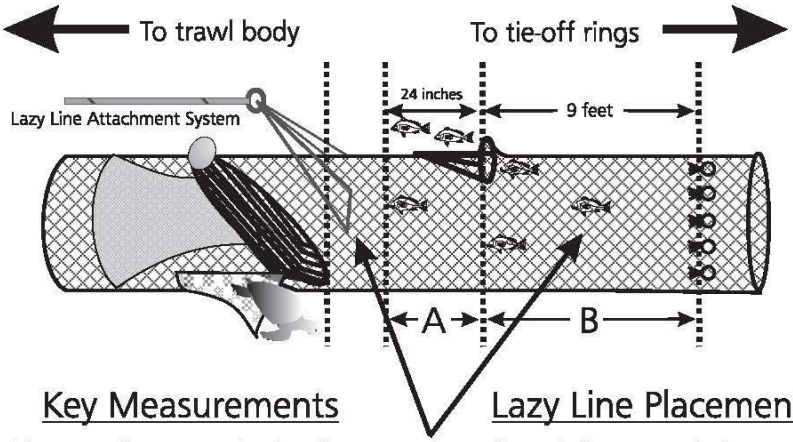
BRD MEASUREMENTS

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.

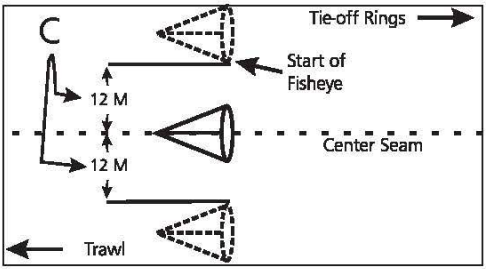
B. Fisheye opening must be less than 9 ft. from the cod end tie-off rings.

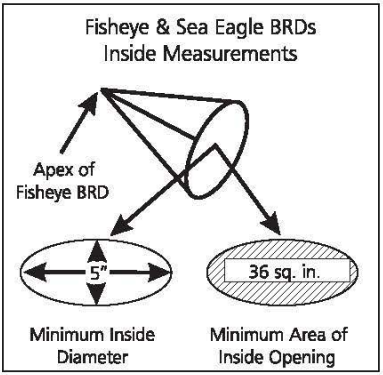
C. Fisheye may not be placed more than 12 meshes either side of the center seam of the tail bag.

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

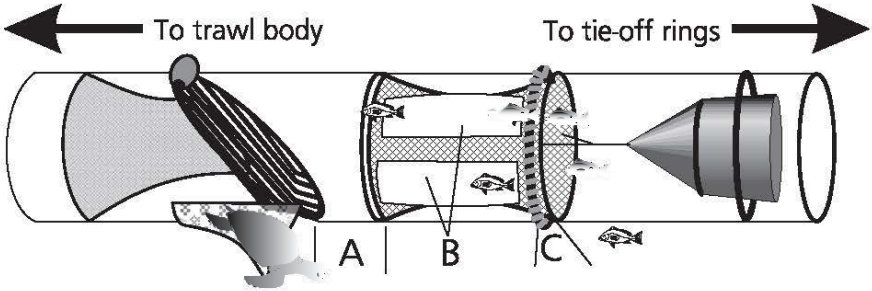




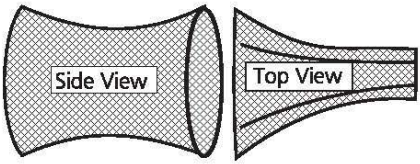
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

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

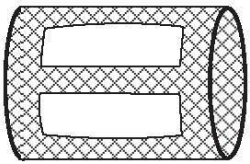
JONES-DAVIS BRD



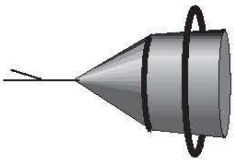
Components



Funnel Section



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



Jones-Davis Cone Stimulator

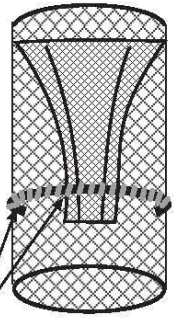
Semi-rigid Hoop

Key Measurements

A. Leading edge of the Escape Opening must be within 18 inches of the posterior edge of the TED grid.

B. BRD escape opening should total a minimum of 864 sq. in.

C. Clearance between the 28-inch hoop and the side of the funnel, when hanging, should be at least 6 inches.

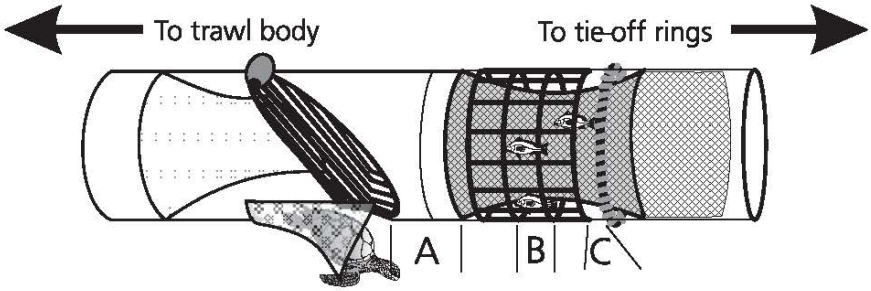


6 inches minimum

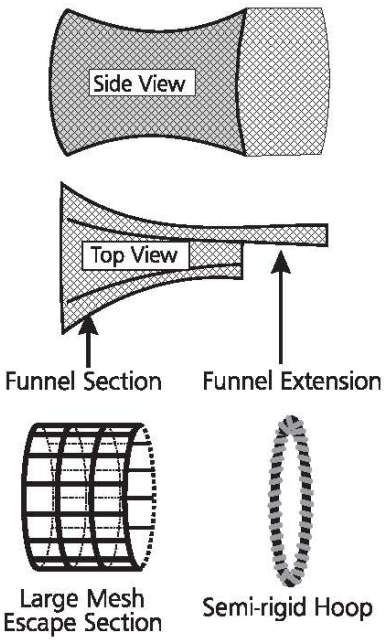
For additional information on specifications for trawls, BRDs and TEDs, call the nearest Coastal Law Enforcement office (see back cover).

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

LARGE MESH EXTENDED FUNNEL BRD



Components

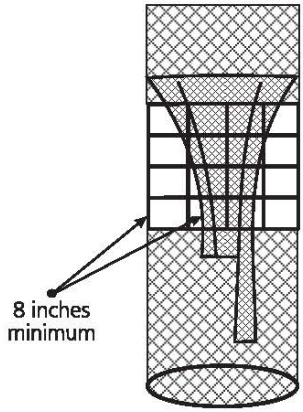


Key Measurements

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

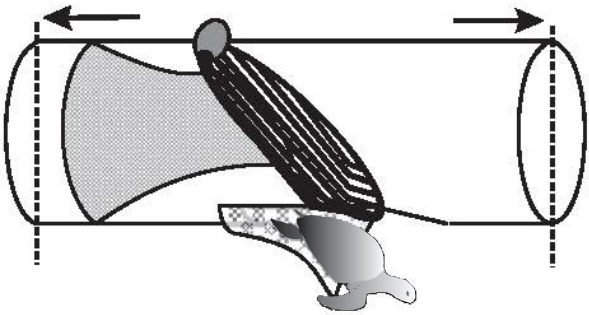
Bent Rod

Anthony

Bent Pipe

Fixed Angle

TED Length



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: It is unlawful to place, fish or leave a crab trap component in the coastal waters of the state from Feb. 15-24, 2013.

- 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: five inches
  - Measured across the widest point of the body from tip of spine to tip of spine (see page 19).

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 immediately 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 page 19).

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 2 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 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes 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 page 6) attached within 6 inches of the buoy.
- Construction and Design Restrictions (See Page 39):
  - May not exceed 18 cubic feet.
  - Must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls.
  - Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inch in diameter.
  - Must be marked with a white floating buoy not less than 6 inches in height, 6 inches in length and 6 inches 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 2 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 2 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 three 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 three crab traps in public waters of the San Bernard River north of a line marked by the boat access channel at Bernard Acres.
- Baiting Crab Traps: It is unlawful to use any part of a game fish for bait, except for processed catfish heads used as crab-trap bait by a licensed crab fisherman, provided the catfish is obtained from an aquaculture facility permitted to operate in the United States. A person who uses catfish as bait under this subparagraph shall, upon the request of a department employee acting within the scope of official duties, furnish appropriate authenticating documentation, such as a bill of sale or receipt, to prove that the catfish was obtained from a legal source.

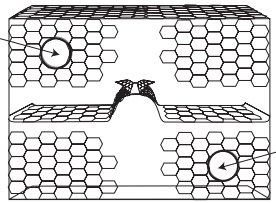
Other Devices:
- Devices legally used for taking of fresh or saltwater fish or shrimp may be used to take crab if operated in places and at times authorized by a proclamation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Code.
- See applicable pages in this guide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

ARANSAS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE — SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Beginning March 1, 2009 the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge began enforcing a no commercial crabbing regulation within refuge marshes. For more information contact the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge at (361) 286-3559.

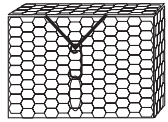
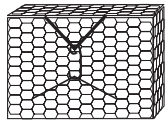
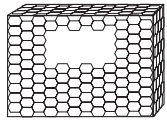
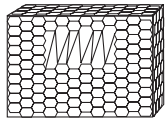
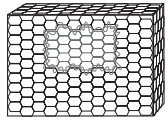
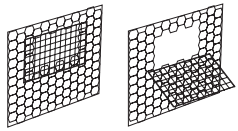
ESCAPE RINGS

A crab trap must be equipped with at least two escape vents in each crab-retaining chamber and located on the outside trap walls (saltwater perch traps are not required to be equipped with escape rings). Escape vents must be at least 2-3/8 inches in diameter.



DEGRADABLE PANELS

A crab trap and a saltwater perch trap 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:

Option 1	The lid tie-down strap is hooked into a **LOOP** of approved material.	
Option 2	The lid tie-down strap is hooked into a **BRIDLE** of approved material.	
Option 3	A hole (minimum of 3 in. x 6 in.) may be cut in the trap sidewall **AND EITHER**	
	a. The hole is laced over with a single strand of approved material; **OR**	
	b. Wire mesh is laced into the hole with a single strand of approved material; **OR**	
	c. The hole is covered by a hinged door tied once at the top with a single strand of approved material.	

OYSTERS

NOTICES –

1. As authorized by Section 3 of SB 932, the executive director of the department may close an oyster area upon finding that the area is being overworked or damaged, or if the area needs to be receeded or restocked. Information on closures will be available at all TPWD offices.
2. A Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag must be affixed to the outside of each sack of oysters at the time of harvest, in the location of harvest, contain information required by the Department of State Health Services under the National Shellfish Sanitation Program, and remain affixed during transportation of the oysters to a dealer.
3. The appropriate Harvester/Shell Recovery Tag (green or white) must be affixed to the sack regardless of the season or whether the requirements of 25 TAC §241.57 (relating to Molluscan Shellfish Harvesting and Handling) apply.

Commercial Oystering Seasons—Nov. 1 through Apr. 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 3:30 p.m.

Commercial Oyster Limits—No oyster boat may take more than 50 sacks of oysters per boat per day, and may possess no more than six sacks (equivalent of two barrels) of unculled oysters. A sack is defined as 110 pounds of oysters (including the sack).

Legal Size Limits—Three (3) inches (greatest length of shell) or larger. Oysters 3/4 inch to 3 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 six sacks 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 sacks of legal size oysters.

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

New Laws: The penalty for a commercial oyster boat taking oysters in a closed area has increased to a Parks and Wildlife Class "A" Misdemeanor (see criminal penalties section) and everyone on the vessel will be in violation.

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

MUSSELS AND CLAMS

A moratorium on the sale of new licenses is in effect for the Texas commercial freshwater mussel fishery. A commercial mussel or clam fisherman's license can only be obtained by a person who held a resident or non-resident commercial mussel or clam fisherman's license valid for the 2003-2004 or 2004-2005 license years or who obtained a commercial mussel or clam fisherman's license between Sept. 1, 2005 and May 1, 2006. For additional information, please call (512) 389-4444.

SEA TURTLES AND 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. To report stranded sea turtles or nests, please call 1-866-TURTLES.

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 by hand or 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–$2,000; Class A – $500–$4,000; State Jail Felony, $1,500–$10,000);**
- **be jailed (Class B and higher offenses);**
- **face automatic suspension or revocation of licenses for up to five 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.

LICENSE REINSTATEMENT: A person who seeks reinstatement of license privileges following license revocation or denial must apply for license privilege reinstatement and pay a $100 application fee. For questions concerning civil restitution call (512) 389-4630.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Texas is now a member of the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact (IWVC). The IWVC is a multi-state compact that allows member states to share information about wildlife violators and to deny licensure to persons who have failed to comply with conservation law in member states. For example, if a person has had their hunting, fishing or trapping privileges suspended in one member state, the suspension may be recognized by any member state. For more information call (512) 389-4383.

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
COLLEGE STATION, 12845 FM 2154 (Wellborn Road), Suite 160 (77845) (979) 696-4148
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
GARLAND, 346 Oaks Trail, Suite 100 (75043) (972) 226-9966
HOUSTON (NORTH), 350 North Sam Houston Pkwy E., Suite 100 (77060) (281) 931-6471
HOUSTON (SOUTH), 10101 Southwest Frwy, #206 (77074) (713) 779-8977
KERRVILLE, 309 Sidney Baker South (78028) (830) 257-7611
LAMARQUE, 14037 Delany Road (77568) (409) 933-1947
LAREDO, 5119 Bob Bullock Loop (78041) (956) 718-1087
LUBBOCK, 1702 Landmark Lane, Suite 1 (79415) (806) 761-4930
LUFKIN, 4100 S. Medford Drive, Suite 204B (75901) (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, 580 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, 3615 So. General Bruce Drive (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: Art Morris, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Division, Natural Resources Center, 6300 Ocean Drive, Suite 2500, Corpus Christi, TX 78412, (361) 825-3356, e-mail: art.morris@tpwd.state.tx.us.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Website: **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 (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 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
#4626 Law Enforcement – Hunting
#4853 Law Enforcement – Fishing
#4828 Boat Registration
#2011 Coastal Fisheries
#4444 Inland Fisheries
#4726 Pollution
#4647 Scientific Permit
#4628 Commercial Licenses

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

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