

## **Fisheries Division Staff Fishing Regulation Change Proposals For Implementation in 2010**

**Change the 14-inch minimum length limit to 13-inches for largemouth bass on the lower Ouachita River from Tate's Bluff (Ouachita County) to Felsenthal Lock and Dam (Union and Ashley Counties) and the lower Saline River from Stillion Bridge (Ashley and Bradley Counties) to the mouth.**

Based on sampling conducted in summer/fall 2007 to collect largemouth and spotted bass population data, a 14-inch minimum length on largemouth bass was imposed on the lower Ouachita River, lower Saline River and Felsenthal Reservoir and went into effect on January 1, 2009. Concern over mercury levels in largemouth bass, especially those over 13 inches in length prompted reconsideration of this regulation and a recommendation to reduce the minimum length limit to 13 inches. Proposed regulation change also clarifies portion of existing regulation regarding waters that occasionally connect to the Ouachita River, such as ox-bow lakes, but where the regulation does not apply.