

Trout Fishing Regulation Proposed Code Book Language For Implementation in 2010

Option 2

1. Allow use of artificial lures with barbless treble hooks in special regulation areas on the Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters.

This change would allow the use of artificial lures with treble hooks in special regulation areas on the Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters, although all hooking points would be required to be barbless. A substantial amount of scientific literature supports that artificial lures with single, barbless hooks do not significantly improve post-release survival of fish over that observed for artificial lures with treble or barbed hooks. As originally proposed this change would have removed the barbless requirement, but based on a considerable amount of public comment it was decided to retain the barbless requirement. Allowing anglers to use artificial lures with treble hooks would expand the angling opportunities for anglers that fish with this type of tackle while still achieving management objectives. As management plans for other tailwaters are revisited this change will be recommended for the special regulation areas on those waters to provide consistency throughout the state.

2. Expansion of Norfolk Tailwater Catch-and-Release (C&R) Area.

This change would move the upper boundary of the C&R Area up to the bottom of Long Hole and the lower boundary down to the Bill Ackerman/River Ridge Walk-in Access an increase from approximately 1.0 mile to 2 miles in length). The results of a University of Arkansas study indicated that the effectiveness of the Norfolk C&R Area may be partially limited by reduced survival associated with high angling pressure and harvest outside of the C&R area. Increasing the size of the special regulations area would lend itself to reducing harvest related mortality fish that may move outside this area.

3. Removal of the Sylamore Catch-and-Release (C&R) Area.

This change would remove the Sylamore C&R Area, which is currently not meeting the objectives of increasing the abundance of larger (>16 inches) rainbow trout. AGFC population samples as well as data from a U of A study support this statement. The U of A study demonstrated that trout will move out of this area or will simply die as a result of high summer water temperatures, which modeling shows will not be alleviated by minimum flow. Based on these findings the management plan for this fishery states that reach of Bull Shoals Tailwater from Calico Rock to Guion would be managed solely as a put-and-take trout fishery, which would not warrant special regulations or physical habitat improvement.