



FISHERIES DISTRICT 3 NEWSLETTER

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Jan – March 09

JONESBORO PUBLIC MEETING ON PROPOSED FISHING REGULATION CHANGES FOR 2010 SCHEDULED

Date: May 12, 2009

Time: 7 pm

***Where: AGFC NE Regional Office
2820 McClellan Drive, Suite 1280
Jonesboro, AR 72401***

You may feel that some of the state's existing fishing regulations need to be rescinded or revised. Or perhaps you have a new fishing regulation in mind altogether. If so, you should participate in the upcoming public listening session slated for May 12th. AGFC fisheries staff members will be on hand at the Northeast Regional Office to take notes on all public suggestions and to address statewide proposals now under consideration. Public comments and recommendations on issues discussed at the meeting will be subsequently forwarded to the Commission's Regulation Committee for thorough review. They then will be presented to the AGFC Board of Commissioners in June along with staff recommendations. The first formal reading of proposed fishing regulation changes for 2010 will be made at the July Commission meeting before they are voted on in August. Written comments or suggestions may also be forwarded to the address above.

LAKE MANAGERS PROPOSE NEW LARGEMOUTH BASS REG FOR LAKE ASHBAUGH

A pertinent proposed fishing regulation change for Northeast Arkansas to be discussed at the upcoming May public meeting concerns the lifting of the largemouth bass catch and release regulation for Lake Ashbaugh and the setting of a largemouth bass daily creel limit of six (6) fish. A moratorium on the harvest of largemouth bass from this 525-acre state-owned lake has been in effect since the lake's renovation in 2002. The intent was to protect brood fish so that an appreciable number of young fish could be recruited into the fish population. Although bass recruitment has not met expectations, lake managers are concerned that there is insufficient available forage for those fish 13" and smaller. There is also concern that overharvest may result if the catch & release regulation is replaced with the standard statewide daily creel limit of ten fish. A daily creel limit of six fish would continue to provide some protection for brood bass. Lake managers expect public support for this proposal. Several fishermen over the past few years have asked for the catch & release regulation to be rescinded and bass tournament organizers have also expressed such an interest, particularly those individuals associated with the Rayo Breckenridge Classic.



**REWARDS AVAILABLE
CATFISH TAGGING PROGRAM
STARTED AT LOWER LAKE HOGUE**

Lower Lake Hogue is a participant in an on-going statewide study designed to assess the exploitation rate of catchable channel catfish stocked into Arkansas waters by the AGFC. This could bring money to your pockets if you perchance catch one of the 400 tagged fish now present in the lake. Ten dollars (\$10) is the standard reward for most tags yet some have a higher return price of \$100. The reward tags have a reward amount and a toll free phone number (1-877-972-5438) for the anglers to call. Anglers reporting a tag will be asked for their name, address, tag number, location of catch, date of catch, kept or released, if the angler was targeting catfish, method of fishing, and length of fish. Tags must be mailed in for anglers to receive a reward payment due to state fiscal policies. Every angler will be asked if they were satisfied with their trip. A follow-up mail survey will be performed to ask additional questions concerning angler satisfaction, demographics, and attitudes towards harvest regulations. Angler participation in this study is the key to better fisheries management. Please help!

ALMOST A NEW AR RECORD!

Jacob Chambers, age 8, caught this saugeye from Lake Frierson on April 4th. AGFC verified its weight at 5 lbs. 13 oz. just 4 ounces less than the state record. Saugeye are flourishing well in Frierson and lake managers feel that the new state record is out there lurking. In fact, Jacob and his dad hooked one larger that day that got away. They also caught some nice bass on the outing fishing from the bank using minnows and gigs for bait. Jacob's fish, of course, qualifies him for a AGFC Master Angler Award.



We hope you enjoyed this newsletter and please give us a call if you have any questions.