



Other Changes to Freshwater Fisheries Law:

All referenced sections are to the proposed new sections.

- Establishes definitions for terms used to describe fish, wildlife and plant species such as “indigenous”, “exotic”, “invasive”, “non-indigenous” and “wild”. This is needed for biological definition of those species that may need extra protection or eradication. (50-1-5) **Passed**
- Adds spotted bass as a freshwater game fish (50-1-30) **Passed**
- Establishes a new category of fish as “freshwater nongame” which is any species not listed as a “game” fish. (50-1-30) **Passed**
- Geographically describes the major bodies of freshwater in the state. Currently there is no legal description of the freshwater bodies. (50-1-50) **Passed**
- Requires commercial shad fisherman in freshwater to obtain a freshwater commercial license instead of a saltwater license. Also eliminates sturgeon as a species that may be taken. Sturgeon can no longer be legally taken under the ASMFC plan. (50-5-1500) **Passed**
- Requires commercial fishermen who take anadromous fish to sell to a wholesale seafood dealer or a licensed bait dealer. 50-5-1556 **Passed**
- Clarifies the definition of “resident” for purposes of licensing and establishes that a business enterprise can be licensed as a non-resident and defines a non-resident business (50-9-30) **Passed**
- Renumbers the section that requires tags and permits for nongame devices as part of Chapter 9. (50-9-80) **Passed**
- Renumbers the commercial freshwater license as part of Chapter 9 where other licenses are found and clarifies when a person needs to have a freshwater commercial license. (50-9-410) **Passed**
- Adds crayfish to those nongame species that may be taken commercially (50-9-410 (C) (1)) **Passed**
- Moves several local laws into the local laws section of the code (50-19-250; 50-19-251; 50-19-1190) **Passed**
- Redefines certain definitions e.g. “bow and arrow” is now “archery equipment.” (50-13-10)
- Conforms as much as possible equipment definitions that are applicable to both salt water and freshwater, e.g. cast net. Adds definitions e.g. crayfish trap and

minnow trap. Adds definitions for terms used throughout the Chapter that were not defined before, e.g. “total length”. (50-13-10)

- Establishes one general penalty for violations. (50-13-30)
- Adds two more game fishing devices for bank fishermen but requires that all devices be attended. (50-13-50)
- Consolidates several offenses in to one section so that officers can write one section instead of multiple e.g. Unlawful to use methods not authorized or take species not authorized (50-13-60); Requires any fish taken subject to a length limit be landed head and tail fin intact (50-13-60); Unlawful to exceed limit; legal size (50-13-70);
- Renumbers sections dealing with traps, nets etc. into Article 3 of the Chapter so as to have all sections dealing with nets, traps, etc in one place. Adds restrictions on the placement and fishing of traps as in the saltwater laws. (50-13-200);
- Allows taking of crabs by regulation (50-13-595) but prohibits taking crabs in the freshwater except as authorized. (50-13-905)
- Adds an article for the protection of freshwater shell fish (50-13-900)
- Reduces the number and size of freshwater gill nets that can be used recreationally; adds crayfish and minnow traps to non game equipment that can be fished recreationally; adds hand grabbing to method of take recreationally (50-13-1135)
- Establishes a limit on the number of game fishing devices that can be used to take nongame fish (50-13-1145)
- Adds hoop nets to those nongame devices that have to be marked with white/yellow floats. Eliminates a duplicative section on the same topic. (50-13-1116)
- Establishes recreational limit for eels (50-13-1147)
- Establishes a maximum length for trotlines (2500’) and requires both ends to be marked and marked at 500’ intervals (50-13-1116); (50-13-1180)
- Clarifies that live bream may be used in certain water bodies for taking nongame fish and adds to those bodies. (50-13-1187)
- Adds rusty crayfish to those species not allowed in the state and also requires a permit for non-indigenous species except pet trade. (50-13-1630)
- Adds a section prohibiting “dumping the bait bucket” (50-13-1635)
- Conforms State lake management regulations to APA (50-13-2010)
- Eliminates the seasonal shad fishery with hook and line behind St Stephens Power House. (50-13-2016)
- Repeals Local laws no longer applicable.