

# TEXAS HUNTING + FISHING

2023-2024



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# HUNTING SEASON

## GAME ANIMALS

### **Javelina**

General	North	Oct. 1 - Feb. 25
	South	Sep. 1 - Aug. 31

### **Mule Deer**

General	Panhandle	Nov. 18 - Dec. 3
	Trans - Pecos	Nov. 24 - Dec. 10

### **Pronghorn**

General	Select Counties	Sep. 30 - Oct. 15
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### **Squirrel**

General	East Texas	Oct. 1 - Feb. 25 & May 1 - 31
	Other Open Cos.	Sep. 1 - Aug. 31
Youth Only	East Texas	Sep. 23 - 24

### **White-tailed Deer**

General	North	Nov. 4 - Jan. 7
	South	Nov. 4 - Jan. 21
Youth Only	North	Oct. 28 - 29 & Jan. 8 - 21
	South	Oct. 28 - 29 & Jan. 8 - 21
Special Late	North	Jan. 8 - 21
	South	Jan. 22 - Feb. 4
Archery	Select Counties	Sep. 30 - Nov. 3
Muzzleloader	Select Counties	Jan. 8-21

## MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS

### **Dove**

Regular	North	Sep. 1 - Nov. 12 & Dec. 15-31
	Central	Sep. 1 - Oct. 29 & Dec. 15 - Jan. 14
	South	Sep. 14 - Oct. 29 & Dec. 15 - Jan. 21
Special White-Winged Dove Days	South	Sep. 1 - 3 & Sept. 8 - 10

### **Duck**

Regular	High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Oct. 28-29 & Nov. 3 - Jan. 28
	North	Nov. 11-26 & Dec. 2 - Jan. 28
	South	Nov. 4-26 & Dec. 9 - Jan. 28
Youth/ Veterans	High Plains Mallard Management Unit	Oct. 21-22
	North	Nov. 4 - 5
	South	Oct. 28 - 29

### **Goose**

Early Canada Goose	East	Sep. 9 - 24
Light & Dark Geese	West	Nov. 4 - Feb. 4
	East	Nov. 4 - Jan. 28
Light Goose Conservation Order	West	Feb. 5 - Mar. 10
	East	Jan. 29 - Mar. 10





# 2023-24

## Rails, Gallinules & Moorhens

Regular	Statewide	Sep. 9-24 & Nov. 4 - Dec. 27
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## Sandhill Cranes

Regular	Zone A	Oct. 28, 2023 - Jan. 28, 2024
	Zone B	Nov. 24, 2023 - Jan. 28, 2024
	Zone C	Dec. 16, 2023 - Jan. 21, 2024

## Snipe

Regular	Statewide	Nov. 4, 2023 - Feb. 18, 2024
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## Teal

September Teal Only	Statewide	Sep. 9-24, 2023
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## Woodcock

Regular	Statewide	Dec. 18, 2023 - Jan. 31, 2024
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## Turkey (Rio Grande)

Fall	North	Nov. 4 - Jan. 7
	South	Nov. 4 - Jan. 21
	Brooks, Kenedy, Kleberg & Willacy Co.	Nov. 4 - Feb. 25
	Archery - only	Sep. 30 - Nov. 3
Fall Youth - Only	North	Oct. 28-29 & Jan. 8-21
	South	Oct. 28-29 & Jan. 22 - Feb. 4
Spring	North	Mar. 30 - May 12
	South	Mar. 16 - Apr. 28
	One-Turkey Cos.	Apr. 1 - 30
Spring Youth Only	North	Mar. 23-24 & May 18 -19
	South	Mar. 9 -10 & May 4 - 5

## Turkey (Eastern)

Spring	East Texas	Apr. 22 - May 14
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## UPLAND GAME BIRDS

### Chachalaca

Regular	Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr & Willacy Co.	Oct. 28 - Feb. 25
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### Pheasant

Regular	Panhandle	Dec. 2-31
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### Quail

Regular	Statewide	Oct. 28 - Feb. 25
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## OTHER ANIMALS

### Alligator

Regular	22 Co. & Properties	Sep. 10-30, 2023
	All Other Counties	Apr. 1, 2024 - June 30, 2024

### Rabbits & Hairs

Regular	Statewide	No closed season
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# Texas Exotics

Texas' exotic animal species are as varied as its people. These animals can range from medium to large sizes and include various species of non-native mammals and birds (mostly flightless). The majority are kept in Central and South Texas, the former being home to the most confined animals, while the latter keeps the majority of free-range animals.

Hunting is one of the most common reasons for keeping exotics. Most exotic game species don't have a closed season or bag limit, so long as the owners of the animals and/or the lands they're kept on grant permission to hunters. The hunter must also possess a valid hunting license, must not hunt on private land, and may not possess the carcass of an exotic without the owner's permission. Some exotics are also kept for conservation efforts, as many species are threatened in their native habitats. They may even be reintroduced to their home after a time.

*All regulations are subject to change. Check with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Texas Department of Health to verify current regulations and restrictions.*



## Exotic Species

Any animal or fowl that is not indigenous to Texas is considered an exotic. Species include, but are not limited to:

- |                |                   |                |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| • Aoudad Sheep | • Emu             | • Red Deer     |
| • Axis Deer    | • Fallow Deer     | • Rhea         |
| • Cassowary    | • Nilgai Antelope | • Russian Boar |
| • Elk          | • Ostrich         | • Sika Deer    |

# Public Hunting

There are over 1 million acres of publicly accessible land located throughout Texas. Hunt areas include property owned by TPWD, acreage leased by the department from other state and federal agencies, forest products industries, and other cooperating private landowners. For more information, visit [tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/public](http://tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/hunt/public)

## Annual Public Hunting Permit

Nearly year-round hunting on more than 180 hunting areas, including wildlife management areas, state parks and approximately 120 dove and small game areas leased from private landowners.

## Drawn Hunts

The Public Hunt Drawing System provides opportunities to apply for a wide variety of supervised, drawn hunts, including

special drawings for both adults and youth hunters. Additionally, TPWD offers E-Postcard selection hunts and special hunt package drawings for exotic wildlife and quality native animals on TPWD managed lands as well as specially leased private properties.

## Regular (Daily) Permit Hunts

A Regular Permit is available for certain small game and waterfowl hunts. Regular permits are issued at the hunt area on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Mentored Hunting Workshops

TPWD and partner organizations offer mentored hunting workshops to help introduce new hunters to the hunting experience and provide training on the skills needed to be successful in the field.









# FISHING B

## FRESHWATER

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
<b>Alligator Gar</b>	1	
<b>Bass *</b>		
Largemouth & smallmouth	5	14" min
Spotted, Guadalupe & Alabama	5	None
Striped & Hybrid Striped	5	18" min
White	25	10" min
Yellow	No Limit	No Limit
<b>Catfish</b>		
Channel, blue, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	Only 10 >20"
Flathead	5	18" min
<b>Crappie</b>		
White, black, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	10" min
<b>Paddlefish</b>	No harvest.	
<b>Saugeye</b>	5	(only 2 <16")
<b>Shad</b>		
Gizzard & threadfin *	No Limit	
<b>Sunfish</b>		
Various species including Bluegill, Redear, Green, Warmouth & Longear	No Limit	
<b>Trout</b>		
Rainbow & Brown	5 (any combo)	
Walleye	5	(only 2 <16")



# Bag & Length Limits

## SALTWATER

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
<b>Alligator Gar</b>	1	
<b>Amberjack, greater</b>	1	38" min
<b>Bass *</b>		
Striped, its hybrids & subspecies	5 (any combo)	18" min
<b>Catfish</b>		
Channel, blue, their hybrids & subspecies	25 (any combo)	Only 10 >20"
Flathead		18" min
Gafftopsail	No Limit	14" min
<b>Cobia</b>	2	40" min
<b>Drum</b>		
Black drum *	5	14"min, 30" max
Red drum *	3	20"min, 28" max
<b>Flounder</b>		
All species, subspecies & hybrids	5	15" min
<b>Grouper</b>		
Black grouper	4	24" min
Gag grouper	2	24" min
Goliath grouper	Catch & Release Only	None
Nassau grouper	Catch & Release Only	None
<b>Mackerel</b>		
King	3	27" min
Spanish	15	14" min
<b>Marlin</b>		
Blue marlin	No Limit	131" min
White marlin	No Limit	86" min
<b>Mullet</b>		
All species, subspecies & hybrids	No Limit	12" max *
<b>Sailfish</b>	No Limit	84" min

	Bag Limit	Min/Max Length
<b>Sharks</b>		
Atlantic sharpnose, blacktip, bonnethead	1	24" min
Hammerhead (Smooth, great, scalloped)	1	99" min
All other allowable species *	1	64" min
<b>Sheepshead</b>	5	15" min
<b>Snapper</b>		
Lane	No Limit	8" min
Red	4 *	15" min *
Vermilion	No Limit	10" min
<b>Snook</b>	1	24" - 28"
<b>Tarpon</b>	1	85" min
<b>Seatrout</b>		
Spotted	5*	15" min, 25 " max
<b>Triggerfish</b>		
Grey	20	16" min
<b>Tripletail</b>	3	17" min

## FISHING LICENSES

### All-Water

All-Water Package	Resident	\$40
	Non Resident	\$68
One-Day License	Resident	\$11
	Non Resident	\$16
Senior Package	Resident (65+)	\$22
Special Resident (Legally Blind)	Resident	\$7
Year-From-Purchase	Resident	\$47

### Freshwater

Freshwater Package	Resident	\$30
	Non Resident	\$58
Senior Package	Resident (65+)	\$12

### Saltwater

Saltwater Package	Resident	\$35
	Non Resident	\$63
Senior Package	Resident (65yr+)	\$17

\* Special restrictions apply. Visit [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov) for more information.

Information Source: [tpwd.texas.gov](http://tpwd.texas.gov) | Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed. All information subject to change.



# Top Fishing Holes

**Amistad Reservoir** (Val Verde County)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Striped Bass, Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish

**Caddo Lake** (Harrison & Marion Counties)

Largemouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish

**Choke Canyon Reservoir** (Live Oak & McMullen Counties)

Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Crappie

**Devils River** (Val Verde County)

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Catfish

**Falcon International Reservoir** (Starr & Zapata Counties)

Alligator Gar, Channel Catfish, Largemouth Bass

**Lake Buchanan** (Burnet & Llano Counties)

Striped Bass, White Bass, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish

**Lake Conroe** (Montgomery County)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Striped Bass, Bluegill

**Lake Fork** (Hopkins, Rains & Wood Counties)

Crappie, White Bass, Channel Catfish

**Lake O' the Pines** (Marion, Morris & Upshur Counties)

Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Crappie, Sunfish, Channel Catfish, Blue Catfish, Flathead Catfish

**Lake Palestine** (Anderson, Cherokee, Henderson & Smith Co.)

Flathead Catfish, Spotted Bass, White Bass, Crappie

**Lake Texoma** (Grayson County)

Striped Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass

**O.H. Ivie Lake** (Coleman, Concho & Runnels Counties)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Catfish, Crappie

**Sam Rayburn Reservoir** (Jasper)

Largemouth Bass, White Bass, Catfish, Crappie

**Toledo Bend Reservoir** (Desoto, Newton, Sabine & Shelby Co.)

Striped Bass, White Bass, Crappie, Catfish, Bream



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