

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION  
PROCLAMATION  
TAKING OF MUSSELS AND AQUATIC SNAILS

Pursuant to the authority granted by Title 51, Tennessee Code Annotated, and Sections 51-211, 51-409, 51-437, and 51-907 thereof, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission proclaims the following regulations pertaining to the taking of aquatic mollusks.

SECTION I. WATERS OPEN TO THE TAKING OF MUSSELS AND SNAILS (INCLUDING COMMERCIAL HARVEST)

- A. Tennessee River (including TVA reservoirs thereon) except those areas designated in Section II.
- B. Cumberland River (including U. S. Corps of Engineers reservoirs thereon) except those areas designated in Section II.
- C. Other waters designated as open to commercial fishing by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission Proclamation No. 79-15, dated October 9, 1979, except those areas designated in Section II.
- D. That section of the Clinch River from Norris Dam (CRM 79.8) downstream.
- E. Duck River from its confluence with Kentucky Lake in Humphreys County upstream to Kettle Mills Dam (DRM 105.6) in Maury County.

SECTION II. AREAS CLOSED TO THE TAKING OF MUSSELS AND SNAILS

- A. The following described areas are designated as sanctuaries, in which the taking of aquatic mollusks by any means, and/or the destruction of their habitat, is prohibited at all times:
  1. That section of the Tennessee River (Kentucky Reservoir) bounded on the north by TRM 140 (mouth of Elkins Branch, Decatur County) and on the south by TRM 141.5 (mouth of Cedar Creek, Perry County), as posted.
  2. That section of the Tennessee River (Kentucky Reservoir) between Pickwick Dam (TRM 206.7) and the downstream Tennessee Gas Pipeline located approximately one-tenth (1/10) mile downstream from TRM marker 202, as posted.
  3. That section of the Tennessee River (Nickajack Reservoir) between TRM 465.9 (Marine Way Upper Light) and TRM 471.0 (Chickamauga Dam), as posted.
  4. That section of the Tennessee River (Chickamauga Reservoir) between the Hunter navigation light (TRM 520.0) and Watts Bar Dam (TRM 529.9), as posted.

SECTION II. (Continued)

A. (Continued)

5. That section of the Clinch River from the Tennessee/Virginia state line (CRM 202.1) downstream to Norris Dam (CRM 79.8), as posted.
  6. That section of the Cumberland River north (upstream) of CRM 264 at the mouth of Cedar Creek to approximately CRM 265.5 encompassing all waters within the posted Lock 5 Wildlife Refuge.
  7. That section of the Cumberland River from the TVA Hartsville Plant Service Dock (CRM 284.1) upstream to CRM 284.8, 600 feet below Dixon's Island, as posted.
  8. That section of the Cumberland River from CRM 296.0, Bartletts Bar, upstream to Cordell Hull Dam (CRM 313.5), as posted.
  9. That section of the Powell River from the Norris Lake Headwaters at Gap Creek (PRM 55.0) upstream to the Tennessee-Virginia state line (PRM 115.6), as posted.
  10. That section of the Duck River from Kettle Mills Dam in Maury County (DRM 105.6) upstream, as posted.
  11. That section of the Tennessee River from Nickajack Dam (TRM 424.7) downstream to the Tennessee-Alabama state line (TRM 416.5), as posted.
- B. The taking of mussels and aquatic snails is prohibited in that portion of a stream within 1,000 yards below any TVA or Corps of Engineers Dam.

SECTION III. SPECIES, SEASONS, AND SIZE LIMITS

- A. Corbicula (Asiatic clam) may be taken regardless of size.
- B. No person shall take, transport, export, process, sell, offer for sale, ship, or receive any endangered or threatened mollusk species (or parts or products thereof), nor shall he willfully disturb, degrade, or destroy the habitat of those mollusks listed in Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission Proclamation No. 75-15 or in federal regulations issued under authority of Public Law 93-205.
- C. Season on all mollusks and relic shells not listed as endangered or threatened is open year-round (except in those areas designated in Section II.). Mussels may be taken only between sunrise and sunset of each day.
- D. All endangered or threatened species, regardless of size, all washboards (Megalonaias gigantea) with a minimum diameter less than 3 3/4 inches, and all other mussels with a minimum diameter less than 2 1/2 inches (except Corbicula; Section III. A.) shall be returned immediately and unharmed to the bed from which they were taken.

SECTION IV. LEGAL MUSSELING GEAR

- A. Mussels may be taken by brail or by hand, with or without the aid of diving equipment. Exception: On the Duck River brails are prohibited.
- B. All other methods of commercial mussel collection are prohibited including the use of mechanical dredges for mussel harvest.
- C. The use of brails measuring over 16 feet is prohibited. Mussel brail hooks shall be constructed of wire no smaller than 14 gauge and neither curved nor straight brail hook prongs shall measure more than 1 1/4 inches from tip to point of junction. After July 1, 1983, mussel brail hooks shall be constructed of wire no smaller than 12 gauge, and neither curved nor straight brail hook prongs shall measure longer than 1 1/4 inches from tip to point of junction.
- D. Nonmechanical hand-held mussel rakers shall be illegal for harvest of mussel

SECTION V. REPEAL OF PRIOR PROCLAMATION

This proclamation repeals Proclamation No. 153, dated April 28, 1967, in its entirety.

TENNESSEE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION

William F. Kew Sr.  
Chairman

I certify that this is an accurate and complete copy of rules lawfully promulgated and adopted by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission on the 29th day of August, 1980.

Gary J. Myers  
Secretary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this the 4<sup>th</sup> day of Dec, 1980.

Robert L. Stratton  
Notary Public

My commission expires on the 6 day of Dec, 1980.