

COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES TRIBAL FISHING CODE

TITLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 101. Authority and Purpose

This Code is enacted under the inherent sovereignty of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) to regulate the conservation and harvesting of wildlife, promote ethical and traditional hunting practices, and protect the health, welfare, and natural resources of the CRIT Reservation.

(1) OPEN WATERS:

Subject to fishing permit requirements, all waters within the exterior boundary or accessed by lands within the exterior boundary of the Colorado River Indian Reservation are open to

the taking of fish, amphibian, crustaceans, mollusks, except:

- (a) where posted as closed to such activity; and/or
- (b) those impounded in private ponds, tanks, or cages, or otherwise held in captivity; and/or
- (c) as otherwise provided for in these Regulations.

Please note that special bag and size limits apply to:

MOOVALYA POND, AHAKHAV TRIBAL PRESERVE, DEER LAKE, 12 MILE LAKE & NO NAME LAKE.

(2) RESTRICTED DEVICES:

(a) The use of bow and arrows, snags, spears or spear guns is prohibited within one hundred (100) yards of any boat dock or posted swimming area.

(3) WATERCRAFT:

(a) Watercraft with outboard type gasoline engines may be used in the following areas if the outboard engine is completely raised out of the water. The outboard engine may be used to transfer the boat to and from the trailer.

1. Deer Lake
2. 12 Mile Lake
3. Moovalya Pond
4. No Name Lake
5. Ahakhav Tribal Preserve.

(b) Except for emergency situations involving injuries, department functions & fishery management operations, no person shall use anything other than electric trolling motors, sails, or oars as power when fishing or recreating in the areas noted in section 3(a) of this regulation.

(c) Except for emergency situations department functions, fishery management operations and routine maintenance, no person shall operate any type of watercraft in the Colorado River Indian Irrigation delivery system or drainage system.

(4) **SPECIES IDENTIFICATION:**

(a) All fish, amphibians, crustaceans and mollusks possessed or transported must have head and tail, skin, or shell attached so that the species can be identified, numbers counted, and any required minimum size determined.

(5) **JURISDICTION OF THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES:**

Any person hunting, fishing, or trapping wildlife on the Colorado River Indian Reservation consents to the laws of the Colorado River Indian Tribes and submits to the jurisdiction of the Tribal Court of the Colorado River Indian Tribes. Furthermore, Jurisdiction of non-Indians, Under *Montana v. United States*, 450 U.S. 544 (1981), tribes have jurisdiction over non-Indians for fish and game violations on land within a reservation including fee land. Tribal jurisdiction under two circumstances: (1) if the non-Indian has entered into a consensual relationship with the tribe, such as obtaining a tribal hunting or fishing permit, or other permit (2) if the non-Indian's actions directly threaten the tribe's political integrity, economic security, or health and welfare, such as violating tribal regulations and/or laws or depleting tribal natural resources.

Title II: Definitions

Section 201. Key Terms

- **“Tribal Member”**: An enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
- **“Non-Member”**: Any person who is not an enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.
- **“Game Species”**: Species identified by the Tribal Game & Fish Department as eligible for lawful harvest.
- **“Closed Season”**: Any period during which hunting of a specified species is prohibited.
- **“Permit”**: A document issued by the Tribe authorizing hunting activity under specific conditions.
- **“Tag”**: A physical or digital validation required to legally harvest a specific animal.
- **Under Power**: A vehicle in motion by outside forces (engine, oars, wind, etc.).
- **Tagging**: Identification of harvested game including name, license, permit and declaration numbers, date/time of take.
- **Aggregate**: Combined total of animals taken, regardless of species.
- **Declaration**: Mandatory reporting form for successful hunts.

- **Violation:** Any breach of CRIT Fish & Game laws.
- **Size Limit:** The minimum total length from nose to tail-fin, a fish may be to be legally harvested.

TITLE III – PERMITS AND LICENSES

Section 301. Licensing

- All fishermen must obtain a valid CRIT Fishing Permit.
- Tribal members 14 years of age and older may fish without a permit.
- Tribal members must have their Tribal ID on their person at all times while fishing.

Section 302. Youth Permits

- Children under 14 may fish without a permit when accompanied by a licensed adult. They are entitled to half the adult bag limit.
- Tribal children under 14 may be issued a full permit.

Section 303. Senior and Designated Hunter

- A Tribal senior (55+) may designate another Tribal member in writing to fish on their behalf.

Title IV: Seasons, Limits, and Methods

Section 401. Season Determination

- The Game & Fish Department shall publish an annual season schedule by July 1.
- Seasons shall be based on biological surveys, population data, and traditional knowledge.

Section 402. Bag and Possession Limits

- Bag limits shall be established for each species annually.
- No person shall possess more than the allowable limit, whether fresh or processed.

Section 403. Approved Methods of Take

- Legal methods include only angling for all fish except carp. Carp may be taken by angling, bow and arrow, snag, snare, spear or spear gun.
- The following are prohibited:
 - Use of poison, snares, or explosives

B. FISH:

(1.) SEASON: All fishing is year round, except those protected species listed in this section.

(2.) **PROTECTED SPECIES:** The following fish species are protected species and may not be taken or possessed:

(a) Colorado River Squaw fish (Colorado Pikeminnow)



(b) Humpback Chub



(c) Bonytail Chub



(d) Razorback Sucker



(4.) LIVE BAIT FISH, LIVE BOXES AND STRINGERS:

1. Live bait may be taken only for personal use as bait and only by the following methods:

- (a) Dip net or throw net not exceeding six (6) feet in diameter.
- (b) A minnow trap with dimensions not exceeding twelve (12) inches in width, twenty-four (24) inches in length and twelve (12) inches in depth.
- (c) A seine not exceeding ten (10) feet in length and four (4) feet in width.
- (e) A crayfish net, defined for the purposes of these regulations as a net not exceeding twenty-four (24) inches per side or in diameter which is retrieved by means of a hand-held line.
- (f) Bait fish: The only species of live fish that may be taken for the purpose of live bait fish are:

- 1. Fathead Minnow
- 2. Mosquito Fish
- 3. Plains Red Shiner
- 4. Thread-fin Shad
- 5. Carp
- 6. Goldfish
- 7. Sunfish
- 8. Golden Shiners
- 9. Crayfish

2. Any person using a stringer or live boxes shall remain within a reasonable distance of the stringer or live box at all times. Unattended stringers and live boxes must bear a water-proof identification tag with the permit holder's name, permit number and address.

(5.) BAG, POSSESSION AND SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR ALL WATERS ON THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, EXCEPT MOOVALYA POND, AHAKHAV TRIBAL PRESERVE, DEER LAKE, 12 MILE LAKE & NO NAME LAKE:

Game Fish:

(a) **BLACK BASS** (including large and small mouth)

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish, per day in the aggregate.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in the aggregate, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: No black bass less than nine (9) inches in length may be taken. All unharmed fish less than the legal minimum size must be returned immediately to the water from which it was taken.

(b) **CATFISH:** (including channel, flathead, blue and albino)

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day in the aggregate.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in the aggregate, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(c) **RAINBOW TROUT:**

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in possession, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(d) **STRIPED BASS:**

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in possession, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(6.) BAG, POSSESSION AND SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR ALL WATERS ON THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION, EXCEPT MOOVALYA POND, AHAKHAV TRIBAL PRESERVE, DEER LAKE, 12 MILE LAKE & NO NAME LAKE:

Non-game fish:

(a) **BULLHEAD CATFISH:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(b) **SUNFISH:** (includes blue gill, green sunfish, red ear sunfish, warmouth, perch)

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(c) **TILAPIA:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(d) **CRAPPIE:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(e) **CARP:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(f) Game Fish or any part thereof may not be used for baitfish.

(7.) BAG AND SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR MOOVALYA POND, AHAKHAV TRIBAL PRESERVE, DEER LAKE, 12 MILE LAKE & NO NAME LAKE:

Game Fish:

(a) **BLACK BASS** (including large and small mouth)

Bag Limit: Five (5) fish, per day in the aggregate.

Size Limit: No black bass between 13 and 16 inches in length may be taken. All unharmed fish between 13 and 16 inches must be returned immediately to the water from which taken

(b) **CATFISH:** (including channel, flathead, blue and albino)

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in the aggregate, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(c) **RAINBOW TROUT:**

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in possession, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(d) **STRIPED BASS:**

Bag Limit: Ten (10) fish per day.

Possession Limit: Twenty (20) fish in possession, of which no more than ten (10) may be taken in any one day.

Size Limit: None

(8.) BAG AND SIZE LIMITATIONS FOR MOOVALYA POND, AHAKHAV TRIBAL PRESERVE, DEER LAKE, 12 MILE LAKE & NO NAME LAKE:

Non-game Fish:

(a) **BULLHEAD CATFISH:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(b) **SUNFISH:** (includes blue gill, green sunfish, red ear sunfish, warmouth, perch)

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(c) **TILAPIA:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(d) **CRAPPIE:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(e) **CARP:**

No bag, possession or size limitation.

(f) Game Fish or any part thereof may not be used for baitfish.

C. BULLFROGS:

(1.) **SEASON:** July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025

(2.) **METHOD OF TAKE:** Bullfrogs may be taken only by angling, spear, gig, bow and arrow,
dip net or by hand.

(3.) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** Fifteen (15) per day or in possession, dead or alive.

D. OTHER AMPHIBIANS:

(1.) **SEASON:** All amphibians, except bullfrogs and those protected species listed in this section, may be taken from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, inclusive.

(2.) **METHOD OF TAKE:** All amphibians, except bullfrogs, may be taken only by angling, by hand, with any handheld non-motorized implement which does not discharge a projectile or by a minnow trap.

(3.) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** Fifteen (15) per day or in possession, dead or alive

(4.) **PROTECTED SPECIES:** The following amphibian species are protected species and may not be taken or possessed:

(a) Lowland Leopard Frog *Rana yavapaiensis*



(b) Arizona Toad *Bufo microscaphus microscaphus*



(c) Colorado River Toad *Bufo alvarius*



E. SOFT-SHELLED TURTLES:

(1.) **SEASON:** Soft-shelled Turtles may be taken from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, inclusive.

(2.) **METHOD OF TAKE:** Soft-shelled turtles may be taken only by angling, by hand, with any handheld non-motorized implement which does not discharge a projectile.

(3.) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** Five (5) per day and or in possession/dead or alive.

F. OTHER REPTILES:

(1.) **SEASON:** All reptiles, except those protected species listed below, may be taken from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, inclusive.

(2.) **METHOD OF TAKE:** Reptiles may be taken by hand, spear, gig, bow and arrow, net, or trap.

(3.) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** Five (5) per day and or in possession in the aggregate.

(4.) **PROTECTED SPECIES:** The following reptile species are protected species and are not to be taken or possessed:

(a.) (Banded) Gila Monster *Heloderma suspectum (cinctum)*



(b.) (Desert) Rosy Boa *Lichanura trivirgata (gracia)*



(c.) (Sonoran) Desert Tortoise Gopherus (*Xerobates*) *agassizi*



(d.) Chuckwalla *Sauromalus obesus*



(e.) Cowles Fringe-toed Lizard *Uma notata rufopunctata*



(f.) Flat-tailed Horned Lizard *Phrynosoma mcallii*



(g.) Mojave Fringe-toed Lizard *Uma scoparia*



(5.) PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES:

No reptile or any part thereof may be purchased, bartered, sold or offered for sale.

(G.) CRUSTACEANS, MOLLUSKS AND INVERTEBRATES:

(1.) **SEASON:** All Crustaceans and Mollusks may be taken from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, inclusive.

(2.) **BAG AND POSSESSION LIMIT:** There is no bag or possession limit dead or alive.

(3.) **METHOD OF TAKE:** Reptiles may be taken by hand, spear, gig, bow and arrow, net, or trap.

(4.) **PROTECTED SPECIES:** The following species are protected species and are not to be taken or possessed:

(a.) Riverside Fairy Shrimp *Streptocephalus wootoni*



(b.) California Floater *Anodonta californiensis*



TITLE VII – SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 701. Firearm Safety

- Hunters under 18 must complete a hunter safety course.
- Firearms must not be discharged while under the influence or with disregard for human life/property.

Section 702. Accidents

- All hunting accidents must be immediately reported to Tribal Police or a Game Warden and followed by a written report.

Section 703. Enforcement and Penalties

- Violations may result in fines, suspension, confiscation of weapons, and criminal charges.
- Civil fines may include \$25 per excess bird/waterfowl.
- Appeals may be filed with the Tribal Court within 30 days.

H. ENFORCEMENT:

Violation of this regulation is a violation of the Natural Resource Code of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as affecting the jurisdiction or power of the Tribes to manage, control, or regulate wildlife under CRIT law. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed as affecting the Sovereign Immunity of the Tribes.

TITLE VIII – FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 801. Regulatory Updates

The CRIT Fish and Game Department shall annually review and revise these regulations as needed.

Section 802. Sovereign Immunity

Nothing herein shall be construed as a waiver of the sovereign immunity of the Colorado River Indian Tribes.

The foregoing regulation was issued by the Department of Fish and Game pursuant to Article I, Section 1-205 of the Natural Resources Code and was duly approved by the Administrative Committee on _____, 2025.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES

BY: Amelia Flores
Chairwoman, Tribal Council

BY: Woodrow Sharp
Chief Game Warden

Reviewed by the Office of the Attorney
General of the Colorado River Indian Tribes

Date: 04-22-2025

Initials: *T. Nez*