



# Rules and Application Form

**Texas Parks and Wildlife Department wants to recognize your angling achievement.**

If your catch qualifies for our awards program, you will receive a personalized certificate. Your achievement will be included in official reports that are sent to newspapers and magazines. Photos submitted with applications may be selected for display at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC), Sea Center Texas and on the TPWD website.



**For additional information and current records listings:**

**Phone:** (903) 670-2275 or (903) 676-2277

**E-mail:** [anglers@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:anglers@tpwd.texas.gov)

**Website:** [www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishawards](http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishawards)

# AWARD CATEGORIES

## RECORDS BY WEIGHT

### STATE RECORDS

#### Public Waters

**Rod and Reel** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by any method of rod and reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by bow fishing.

**Other** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by any other legal method, excluding nets.

#### Private Waters

**Rod and Reel** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by any method of rod and reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by bow fishing.

### WATER BODY RECORDS (public waters only)

**Rod and Reel** - Largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by any method of rod and reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** - Largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by bow fishing.

**All-Tackle** - Largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by any legal method, excluding nets.

## RECORDS BY LENGTH

### CATCH AND RELEASE RECORDS

Recognition for the catch and live release of the longest fish of a species from Texas public waters. State and water body records will be recognized.

**Rod and Reel** - Longest fish of a species caught by any method of rod and reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** - Longest fish of a species caught by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

1. Catch must meet or exceed minimum length for a Big Fish Award (see next column).
2. A witness to live release is required.
3. Measure the fish, take photos and return it to the water quickly. Weighing is optional.
4. Keep the fish in water as much as possible prior to release. Remove hook with pliers. Gently place the fish back into the water. Do not hang the fish on a stringer or gaff. If necessary, revive the fish by holding it upright in the water and facing it into the current, forcing water through its gills.

## FIRST FISH AWARD

Recognition for the first fish caught by an angler of any age.

## OUTSTANDING ANGLER

Any catch that does not meet requirements of other award categories but deserves recognition.

## BIG FISH AWARD

Recognition for catching a trophy class fish of selected species. Catch must meet or exceed minimum length requirements.

## FRESHWATER SPECIES

Species	Min. Length	Species	Min. Length
Bass, Guadalupe	14 inches	Catfish, Blue	36 inches
Bass, Hybrid Striped	25 inches	Catfish, Channel	30 inches
Bass, Largemouth	21 inches	Catfish, Flathead	45 inches
Bass, Smallmouth	18 inches	Cichlid, Rio Grande	9 inches
Bass, Spotted	16 inches	Crappie, Black	15 inches
Bass, Striped	35 inches	Crappie, White	15 inches
Bass, White	15 inches	Gar, Alligator	72 inches
Bluegill	10 inches	Gar, Longnose	50 inches
Buffalo, Bigmouth	30 inches	Gar, Spotted	42 inches
Buffalo, Black	30 inches	Sunfish	10 inches
Buffalo, Smallmouth	32 inches	Trout, Rainbow	15 inches
Carp, Common	30 inches	Walleye	25 inches

## SALTWATER SPECIES

Species	Min. Length	Species	Min. Length
Amberjack, Greater	42 inches	Mackerel, Spanish	26 inches
Catfish, Gafftopsail	20 inches	Marlin, Blue	137 inches
Croaker, Atlantic	15 inches	Sailfish	84 inches
Cobia (Ling)	40 inches	Seatrout, Sand	14 inches
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	30 inches	Seatrout, Spotted	20 inches
Drum, Black	20 inches	Sheepshead	18 inches
Drum, Red	25 inches	Snapper, Red	18 inches
Flounder	17 inches	Snook	26 inches
Jack, Crevalle	36 inches	Spadefish, Atlantic	17 inches
Ladyfish	21 inches	Tarpon	80 inches
Mackerel, King	40 inches	Tunny, Little	22 inches

## ELITE ANGLER

A one-time achievement award for an angler who catches trophy class fish of five different species. To be eligible, an angler must earn five freshwater OR five saltwater Big Fish Awards.

1. Fish caught on or after May 1, 2004 will count toward Elite Angler status.
2. There is no time limit for catching the five trophy fish.
3. Anglers who qualify should call (903) 670-2275 or email: anglers@tpwd.texas.gov

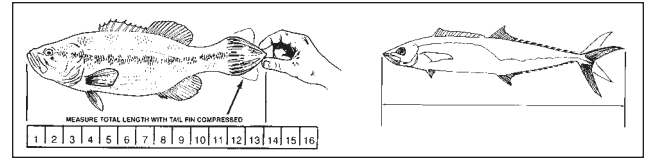
# INFORMATION AND RULES

## For additional information and current records listing:

Phone: (903) 670-2275 or (903) 676-2277; E-mail: anglers@tpwd.texas.gov; website: www.tpwd.texas.gov/fishawards

### Length Measurements

1. Place fish on its side with the jaw closed.
2. Squeeze the tail fin together or turn it in a way to obtain the maximum overall length.
3. Measure a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin.



### Photographs

1. Photographs are **required** for Catch and Release Record, State Record by Weight, Water Body Record and Big Fish Award applications. Photos of other outstanding catches are welcome. Video recordings will not be accepted in lieu of photographs.
2. Take clear, color, side-view photos from several different angles. One must clearly show the fish lying on its side with a ruler or other measuring device placed beside the fish. Another photo must show the angler with the fish. TPWD biologists will use the photos to identify the species for all records, and to verify length measurement for Big Fish Awards and Catch and Release Records.
3. Get close enough so that the image fills the frame. Make sure anal and dorsal fins are spread out and visible.
4. If the fish is a shark, photos of the teeth as well as photos of the head and back taken from above must be submitted along with the side-view photographs. The photo of head and back should clearly show whether a shark does or does not have a ridge between the dorsal fins.
5. Photos may be submitted by e-mail or mailed with the application. Submitted photos become the property of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. High-quality photos may be chosen for display on the Angler Recognition website and at TPWD locations and events.

### Species Verification

TPWD will not certify a State Record, Water Body Record, Catch and Release Record or Big Fish Award until the fish species is verified. If biologists are unable to make a conclusive identification from the photographs submitted, the angler will be asked to provide the fish for examination, and an affidavit of fish authenticity may be required.

### Weight Record Applications

1. Fish must be at least 8 ounces (0.5 pounds) to be eligible for a weight record. **Exception:** For Junior Rod & Reel records, minimum weight is 2 ounces (0.125 pounds).
2. Fish must be weighed on certifiable or legal-for-trade scales within 3 days of the catch date. Scales are found in marinas, bait stores, feed mills, grocery stores and post offices. Visit our website for a list of Official Weigh Stations.
3. Certified scales are scales (either electronic or spring-based) that have been on an annual basis certified as accurate by a Texas Department of Agriculture Licensed Service Provider or the International Game Fish Association (IGFA.) If a non-certified scale is used, the applicant will have 30 days from the weighing date to have the scale certified.
4. The fish must not contain anything or have anything attached which artificially increases weight.
5. One or more disinterested witnesses must observe the weighing.

### Fly Fishing Equipment

1. The lure must be a recognized type of artificial fly. A fly may be dressed on a single or double hook or two single hooks in tandem. Treble hooks are prohibited. The use of any other type of lure or natural or preserved bait, either singularly or attached to the fly, is prohibited. No scent, either natural or artificial is allowed on flies. The use of scented material in a fly is prohibited.
2. The rod, reel, line, and leader equipment used must be designed for fly fishing.
3. Casting and retrieving must be carried out in accordance with normal customs and generally accepted practices. The major criterion in casting is that the weight of the line must carry the lure rather than the weight of the lure carrying the line.

## RULES FOR ALL AWARD CATEGORIES

1. For all award categories, the fish must be landed in Texas waters.
2. An Angler Recognition Award Application Form (PWR BR T3200-349B) completed by the angler must be received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within **60 days of the date of catch**. The 60-day limit will be waived for catches recognized as world records by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).
3. The fish must be caught while obeying all laws or regulations governing the fish species and the waters in which it was caught.
4. Only one person may catch the fish (except for netting or gaffing the fish to bring it into the boat or onto shore).
5. The fish must not have contained anything (including electronics or other tagging devices) to assist in locating the fish.
6. Any deliberate falsification of any application will result in disqualification. All existing records will be removed and future applications from the angler will not be considered.
7. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department reserves the right to review, investigate, reject, disqualify, or accept any application submitted or any award granted. In cases of disputes, the decision of the Angler Recognition Awards Program Committee will be final.



# ANGLER RECOGNITION AWARD APPLICATION

Review **OutdoorAnnual.com** for current size, bag and possession limits before going fishing. Read the information and instructions thoroughly. Complete the information below (please print legibly) and return to: anglers@tpwd.texas.gov or to Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, Attn: Angler Recognition, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, Texas 75752. Applications must be received by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department within 60 days of the catch date.

**The following information must be completed for ALL AWARD CATEGORIES.**

Angler: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 M  F E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing License #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Name of Water Body: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gear type (check one and complete):  Rod and Reel - what lure/bait was used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fly Fishing (artificial flies only) - what type was used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bow and Arrow  Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check all categories that may apply: **Awards by Weight:**  State Record - Public  State Record - Private  Water Body Record  
**Awards by Length:**  State Catch and Release Record  Water Body Catch and Release Record  Big Fish Award  
**Other Awards:**  First Fish  Outstanding Angler

*I, undersigned, state that the fish described on this application was hooked, fought and brought to net or gaff by me without assistance. I further declare that the fish was caught in accordance with Angler Recognition Program rules, all applicable laws and regulations governing the species and the waters in which it was caught. I state that all of the information on this application is true and correct.*

Angler Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**The following information must be completed for CATCH AND RELEASE RECORDS.**

Length of fish: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Witness to measurement and live release: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**The following information must be completed for weight record categories: WATER BODY, STATE RECORD - PUBLIC and STATE RECORD - PRIVATE.**

Date of weighing: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Weight of fish: \_\_\_\_\_ pounds Length: \_\_\_\_\_ inches Girth: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Scales Certification Number or business that performed annual certification: \_\_\_\_\_ Date scales were last certified: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Weigher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scale Location (Address): \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness to Weighing: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Was fish released?  No  Yes

**Notary is required for all STATE RECORD categories.**

*I, undersigned, state that the fish described on this application was hooked, fought and brought to net or gaff by me without assistance. I further declare that the fish was caught in accordance with Angler Recognition Program rules, all applicable laws and regulations governing the species and the waters in which it was caught. I state that all of the information on this application is true and correct.*

Angler Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Notary Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**TPWD Staff Approval**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Office or Facility: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_