

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

If your catch qualifies for our awards program, you will receive a certificate with gold embossed state seal. 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 Web site.

Look inside to find out how to enter.

For additional information and current records listings:

Telephone: (512) 389-8037 or

(800) 792-1112 (press 0 and request ext. 8037)

Fax: (512) 389-4405

E-mail: anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us

Web site: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishawards>



PROGRAM RULES AND APPLICATION FORM

Angler Recognition Program
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744



A W A R D C A T E G O R I E S

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

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 or cut the line. 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 moving it back and forth, 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 | 25 inches | Catfish, Channel | 30 inches |
| Bass, Largemouth | 21 inches | Catfish, Flathead | 45 inches |
| Bass, Smallmouth | 18 inches | Crappie, Black | 15 inches |
| Bass, Spotted | 16 inches | Crappie, White | 15 inches |
| Bass, Striped | 35 inches | Sunfish | 10 inches |
| Bass, White | 15 inches | Trout, Rainbow | 15 inches |
| Bluegill | 10 inches | Walleye | 25 inches |
| Carp, Common | 30 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 contact Joedy Gray at (512) 389-8037 or at: anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us

ANGLER RECOGNITION AWARD APPLICATION



Review the current Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual for statewide size, bag and possession limits before going fishing. Read the information/instructions on the application thoroughly. Complete the information below (please print legibly) and return to: Angler Recognition Awards, Attn: Joedy Gray – IF, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. 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: ____/____/____
E-mail: _____ Home Telephone No.: (____) _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Fishing License No.: _____
Species: _____ Catch Date: ____/____/____
Water Body (lake, bay, etc.): _____ County: _____
Gear type (check one and complete): Bow & Arrow Trotline Rod and Reel – what lure/bait was used: _____
 Other: _____ Fly Fishing (artificial flies only) – what type was used: _____
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 Catch and Release Water Body 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 Awards 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 certification: _____ Date scales were last certified: ____/____/____
Weigher's Name: _____ Telephone No.: (____) _____
Weigher's 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 Awards 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: _____

Biologist Approval

Name: _____ Title: _____ Telephone No.: (____) _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

INFORMATION AND RULES

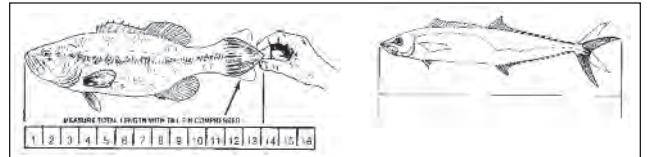
For additional information and current records listing: Telephone: (512) 389-8037 or (800) 792-1112 (press 0 and ask for ext. 8037); Fax: (512) 389-4405; E-mail: anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us; Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishawards

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.

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 (Catch and Release Records, State Records by Weight and Water Body Records)

1. Photographs must be submitted with applications. Photos become the property of TPWD with publication and television rights and will not be returned. Photos may be mailed with application form or sent by E-mail.
2. Clear, color, sideview photographs of the fish are required. Several photographs taken from different angles should be taken. One should show the fish lying on its side, the surface beneath the fish should be smooth and a ruler or marked tape placed beside the fish. The fins must be visible. Another must be of the angler with the fish.
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 species is a shark, photos of the teeth as well as photos of the head and back taken from above must be submitted with the application along with sideview photographs. Whether a shark does or does not have a ridge between the dorsal fins should be clearly evident in this photograph.

Verification of Fish Species (Catch and Release Records, State Records by Weight and Water Body Records)

1. Fish species identification is required for record applications.
2. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries biologists identify the fish species from the photos submitted with the application.
3. For weight records, if the TPWD fisheries biologist is unable to conclusively identify the species from the photographs, then the angler must provide the fish (whole and intact – except for tilapia and grass carp which must have intestines removed immediately after catch) for physical/scientific examination.

Weight Record applications

1. Fish (fresh and salt water) must be weighed on certifiable or legal for trade scales within 3 days of the date of catch. Scales are found in grocery stores, post offices, feed mills, fertilizer plants, marinas and bait stores.
2. Certified scales are scales (either electronic or spring) that have been certified as accurate by the Texas Department of Agriculture, the International Game Fish Association, or an independent commercial scales calibration company. If fish are weighed on a non-certified scale, the applicant will have 30 days from the weighing date to have the weighing scales certified.
3. The fish must not contain anything or have anything attached which artificially increases weight.
4. One or more disinterested witnesses must observe the weighing.

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 (PVD 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.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department maintains the information collected through this form. With few exceptions, you are entitled to be informed about the information we collect. Under Sections 552.021 and 552.023 of the Texas Government Code, you are also entitled to receive and review the information. Under Section 559.004, you are also entitled to have this information corrected.

TPWD receives federal assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies. TPWD is therefore subject to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, in addition to state anti-discrimination laws. TPWD will comply with state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any TPWD program, activity or event, you may contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.