

Arkansas Fish

Arkansas is a state very rich in fish. Only five states are home to more species of fish than “The Natural State,” which harbors 20 percent of the species found in North America.

Arkansas has at least 215 species of fish. Some fish are very familiar, while others are only seen by very few anglers. Arkansas has a wealth of water. The main reason for the diversity of fish species in Arkansas is distinct eco-regions which have a wide variety of habitats - bayous of the Delta with cypress and tupelo gum trees, big rivers, oxbow lakes, clear highland streams and springs, and huge, deep and cool reservoirs. Different species have filled highly variable niches of these bodies of water. Of the 215 species found in Arkansas, 197 are native and the others were introduced for food, bait, sportfishing or vegetation control.

Download and print the following educational ecosystem posters from this CD:

- *Ozark Mountain Stream Ecosystem Poster*
- *Ozark Tail Water Ecosystem Poster*
- *Ouachita Reservoir Ecosystem Poster*

At the time of this printing the Arkansas Legislature has not been able to agree on a state fish. This is not to say they haven't tried. Among the suggested state fish considered by the Arkansas Legislature have been the channel catfish and the largemouth bass. Both of these are heavily sought out by Arkansas anglers. Another group of fish that should be considered are fishes in the sunfish family. Sunfish such as bluegill, redear, and the longear often times are caught with more frequency than the catfish and bass and is possibly one of the easiest fish to catch in Arkansas.

The longear sunfish is one of the most beautiful fish in the United States and is caught in lakes, streams and reservoirs throughout the state. It is for these reasons it is the recommended state fish for the State Fish Art Contest.

Learn more about the Arkansas State Fish Art Contest, Arkansas fish and the longear sunfish by visiting

<http://www.agfc.com/education-class/state-fish-art-contest.aspx>

www.statefishart.com

<http://www.agfc.com/fishing/resources-fishing.aspx>

http://www.agfc.com/fishing/resources-fishing/fish-id_1/fish-id_3.aspx