

## 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 at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

### Look inside to find out how to enter.

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

Telephone: 1-512-389-8037 or

1-800-792-1112 (press 0 and request ext. 8037)

Fax: 1-512-389-4405

E-mail: [anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us)

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



ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM  
4200 SMITH SCHOOL ROAD  
AUSTIN, TX 78744



# PROGRAM RULES AND

# APPLICATION FORM

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

## FIRST FISH AWARD

Recognition for the first fish caught by anglers of any age.

## STATE RECORDS

### Public Waters

**Rod & Reel** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by any method of rod & reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by bow fishing.

**Unrestricted** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas public waters by any other legal method.

### Private Waters

**Rod & Reel** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by any method of rod & reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from Texas private waters by bow fishing.

## WATER BODY RECORDS

**Rod & Reel** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by any method of rod & reel fishing.

**Fly Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by fly fishing methods using artificial flies.

**Bow Fishing** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by bow fishing.

**Unrestricted** – Recognition for the largest fish of a species caught from a particular Texas public water body by any other legal method.

## 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.

1. Catch **MUST** meet or exceed minimum length requirements.
2. Weighing is required for selected species. (see below)

### FRESHWATER SPECIES (WEIGHT REQUIRED)

Species	Min. Length
Bass, Guadalupe	14 inches
Bass, Hybrid	25 inches
Bass, Largemouth	21 inches
Bass, Smallmouth	18 inches
Bass, Spotted	16 inches
Bass, Striped	35 inches
Bass, White	15 inches
Bluegill	10 inches
Catfish, Blue	36 inches
Catfish, Channel	30 inches
Catfish, Flathead	45 inches
Crappie, Black	15 inches
Crappie, White	15 inches
Sunfish	10 inches
Trout, Rainbow	15 inches
Walleye	25 inches

### SALTWATER SPECIES (WEIGHT OPTIONAL)

Species	Min. Length
Amberjack, Greater	42 inches
Catfish, Gafftopsail	20 inches
Croaker, Atlantic	15 inches
Cobia (ling)	40 inches
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	30 inches
Drum, Black	20 inches
Drum, Red	25 inches
Flounder	17 inches
Jack, Crevalle	36 inches
Mackerel, King	40 inches
Marlin, Blue	137 inches
Sailfinh	84 inches
Seatrout, Sand	14 inches
Seatrout, Spotted	20 inches
Sheepshead	18 inches
Snapper, Red	18 inches
Snook	26 inches
Taiapon	80 inches

## CATCH & RELEASE AWARD

Recognition for the catch and live release of a trophy class fish.

1. Catch must meet or exceed minimum length requirements. (see below)
2. Measure the fish, take photos, and return it to the water **quickly**. 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.
3. A witness to live release is required.

### FRESHWATER SPECIES (WEIGHT OPTIONAL)

Species	Min. Length
Bass, Guadalupe	14 inches
Bass, Hybrid	25 inches
Bass, Largemouth	21 inches
Bass, Smallmouth	18 inches
Bass, Spotted	16 inches
Bass, Striped	35 inches
Bass, White	15 inches
Bluegill	10 inches
Catfish, Blue	36 inches
Catfish, Channel	30 inches
Catfish, Flathead	45 inches
Crappie, Black	15 inches
Crappie, White	15 inches
Sunfish	10 inches
Trout, Rainbow	15 inches
Walleye	25 inches

### SALTWATER SPECIES (WEIGHT OPTIONAL)

Species	Min. Length
Amberjack, Greater	32 inches
Catfish, Gafftopsail	14 inches
Croaker, Atlantic	9 inches
Cobia (ling)	37 inches
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	18 inches
Drum, Black	14 inches
Drum, Red	20 inches
Flounder	14 inches
Jack, Crevalle	20 inches
Mackerel, King	27 inches
Marlin, Blue	131 inches
Sailfinh	84 inches
Seatrout, Sand	11 inches
Seatrout, Spotted	15 inches
Sheepshead	12 inches
Snapper, Red	15 inches
Snook	24 inches
Taiapon	ANY SIZE

# 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: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing License No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Species: \_\_\_\_\_ Catch Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Tag number on fish (if present): \_\_\_\_\_  
Length of fish: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Witness to measurement: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Body (lake, bay, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gear type (check one and complete):  Bow & Arrow  Trotline  Rod & Reel – what lure/bait was used: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  Fly Fishing (artificial flies only) – what type was used: \_\_\_\_\_  
Check all award categories that may apply:  Big Fish Award  Catch & Release  First Fish Award  Outstanding Angler  
 State Record – Public  State Record – Private  Water Body Record

*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 & Release award category.

Witness to live release: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## The following information must be completed for Big Fish (freshwater), Water Body, State Record – Public and State Record – Private award categories.

Please note: Water Body and State Record applications will be forwarded to a TPWD fisheries biologist for species identification. The biologist will review the photographs supplied with the application. If the biologist is unable to conclusively identify the species from photographs, the angler must provide the catch for physical/scientific examination (whole and intact – except for grass carp and tilapia which must have intestines removed immediately after catch).

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 (If yes, please complete witness information.)  
Witness to live release: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No.: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## Notary is required only for State Record – Public and State Record – Private award 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

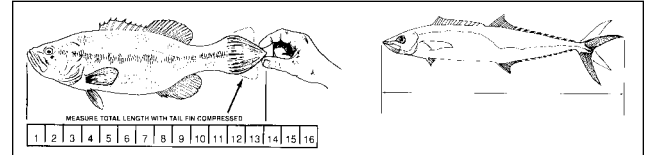
**For additional information and current records listing:** Telephone: 1-512-389-8037 or 1-800-792-1112 (press 0 and ask for ext. 8037); Fax: 1-512-389-4405; E-mail: anglers@tpwd.state.tx.us; Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishawards

## 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 (Water Body and State Record applications only.)

1. Photographs must be submitted with Water Body and State Record applications. These become the property of TPWD with publication and television rights. Photos will not be returned.
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 (Water Body and State Record applications only.)

1. Fish species identification is required for Water Body and State Record applications.
2. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department fisheries biologists identify the fish species from the photos submitted with the application.
3. 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.
4. If the angler is unable to provide the fish for examination, the record claim will not be considered.

## Weight (Big Fish, Water Body and State Record applications.)

1. For Big Fish Awards, weighing is required for freshwater species (must be weighed on certifiable scales within 3 days of the catch date) and is optional for selected saltwater species.
2. For Water Body and State Record applications, **ALL** 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.
3. 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.
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.

## 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.