

Arizona HAWG Catfish Challenge

Fish Handling Guidelines

- Set the hook quickly to avoid deeply hooked fish.
- Land the fish as quickly as possible.
- Use a soft, knot-less landing net.
- Wet hands before touching fish; no dry towels.
- Remove hook while fish is in the water if possible.
- Use de-hooking tools and heavy cutters to cut and remove hooks. Today's hooks do not rust out.
- Learn new methods to back hooks out. Cut line, gently pull shank to reverse hook and remove with pliers.
- Measure weight, and if possible length and girth, in a timely manner.
- Measure length on a wet, cool surface. Do not place on hot dry boat surfaces.
- Avoid keeping the fish out of water for more than 30 seconds at a time (approximately as long as you can hold your own breath).
- Handle the fish only when measuring, weighing, and photographing.

State Record Rules

Fish must be weighed on a certified fair trade scale in pounds.

Scale location, register number and expiration date of scale certification must be recorded on entry form. Fish should be weighed whole and ungutted.

The Department reserves the right to cut open any fish after weighing. (Rule #1 not required for catch-and-release or Trophy FishAZ entries).

Length of the fish must be measured by a straight line from the tip of the snout to the tip of the compressed tail in inches.

Fish must be caught in Arizona waters including the Colorado River where it borders Mexico, California and Nevada, and all of Lake Powell.

Fish must be taken during the legal open season and by the legal method of take for the water where taken. Any illegal act associated with taking or handling of the fish will disqualify the record.

Identification of species must be verified by a member of the Arizona Game and Fish Department. A photograph of the fish is required for the record file and for identification purposes.

The Angler must provide a valid Fishing License number. A photo copy of the current valid license, or verification by a member of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, is required.

If the weights and measurements are not witnessed by the Department personnel, two witnesses must be present at the time the fish is weighed and measured (except catch-and release entries).

The Arizona Game and Fish Department reserves the right to further check identification and/or verification of witnesses and to refuse an application that is questionable.

Fish taken from private waters that are closed to public access are not eligible for Record or Fish-of-the-year.

Eligible fish species for both State record and Fish-of-the-year entries are those sportfish listed under the current State records.

Illegally released fish species from pet and aquarium trades are not eligible for a State record or Fish-of-the-year.

In the event of any dispute regarding the authenticity of the fish record application, the fish must be made available for inspection by Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel.

The determination made by Department personnel shall be conclusive.

Anglers may be required to submit to a lie-detector test prior to certification of a state record.