

## Texas

### Parks and Wildlife Department

Parks and Wildlife Department administers the laws relating to game, fish, oysters, and marine life, and may implement a program to control or eradicate nuisance aquatic vegetation, including hydrilla and giant sylvania, from public water in the state. The Department shall regulate the introduction and stocking of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants into the public water of the state.

### Department of Agriculture

The Department shall investigate the habits and propagation of insects that are injurious to the crops of the state and the best methods for their destruction.

	<b>Provision Summary</b>	<b>Citation</b>
<b>Invasive Plants and Animals</b>	(d) Texas Parks & Wildlife employees are authorized to inspect vessels leaving or approaching public water for water on vessels.	Tex. Parks & Wild Code <a href="#">§ 66.0073</a>
	People are required to drain water from vessels leaving or approaching public fresh water including all bilges, live wells, and other similar receptacles and systems holding or capable of holding water on board the vessel as a result of immersion in or transfer from the public water body. There is an exception for driving to another access point on the same body of water.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.1001</a>
<b>Invasive Plants</b>	People must immediately remove listed prohibited plants that are clinging or attached to watercraft, trailer, or motor vehicle before leaving area.	Tex. Parks & Wild Code <a href="#">§ 66.0071</a>
	Dep't of Parks and Wildlife has authority over all activities related to the managing nuisance aquatic vegetation on public bodies of surface water using pest control methods to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage in a manner that will cause the least possible hazard to persons, property, and the environment. Integrated pest management includes consideration of ecological, biological, chemical, and mechanical strategies for control of nuisance aquatic vegetation.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.932</a>
	Department of Agriculture's list of plant pests subject to quarantine and ways to dispose.	<a href="#">4 TAC § 19.1-19.662</a>

	(17) List of harmful or potentially harmful exotic plants.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.111</a>
<b>Invasive Animals</b>	(a) No person may import, possess, sell, or place into the public water of this state exotic harmful or potentially harmful fish or shellfish except as authorized by the Department. (b) The Department shall publish a list of exotic fish and exotic shellfish.	<a href="#">Tex. Parks &amp; Wildlife Code § 66.007</a>
	(c) An aquaculturist may not release in public water harmful or potentially harmful exotic species without a permit by the Dept. of Parks and Wildlife.	<a href="#">Tex. Ag. Code § 134.020</a>
	(15) List of harmful or potentially harmful exotic fish.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.111</a>
	No person shall import or possess a wildlife resource from outside the state without a permit or license.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 65.5</a>
<b>Use of Bait (unrelated to commercial licensing)</b>	A person commits an offense if they leave edible fish or bait fish taken from the public waters of this state to die without the intent to retain the fish for consumption or bait.	<a href="#">Texas Parks &amp; Wildlife Code § 66.011</a>
	(2)(A)(iii) A person in possession of a receptacle containing water and live bait purchased from a commercial bait dealer does not have to drain that receptacle upon leaving the public fresh water. Provided (I) The person has a dated receipt/evidence, and (II) the live bait, if it has come into contact with public water is used only on the water body from which the public water was obtained.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.1001</a>
	(g) A permit is not required for any person, while fishing, to place goldfish ( <i>Carassius auratus</i> ), common carp ( <i>Cyprinus carpio</i> ), native shrimp, crabs, crawfish and nongame fish into public waters or to immediately release any fish that does not comply with size and bag limits for that species.	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.252</a>
	Need permit to possess or sell nongame fish caught in public freshwater	<a href="#">31 TAC § 57.378</a>