

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

SENATE BILL 777

By: Jett

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to wildlife; amending 2 O.S. 2021, Section 6-313, which relates to commingling with wild aquatic species; allowing certain harvesting; prohibiting certain sales; allowing certain harvest under certain conditions; amending 29 O.S. Section 2-115, which relates to definition of game fish; expanding definition; repealing 29 O.S. 2021, Section 6-303.1, which relates to limitations on the possession of paddlefish eggs and products; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 2 O.S. 2021, Section 6-313, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-313. A. All catfish, minnows, fingerlings, fish, frogs, and other aquatic species which are legally produced, pursuant to the provisions of this act, shall be confined to the lands and waters of the licensee in such a manner so as to prohibit:

1. Contact with wild fish or other aquatic species in public waters; and

2. Such wild fish or other aquatic species ~~in~~ from being commercially harvested from public waters ~~from~~ and becoming a ~~part~~

1 ~~of the commercial production~~ sold as a wild-born commodity. As used
2 in this paragraph, "wild-born" means wild fish or aquatic species
3 born in public waters and not introduced through aquaculture.

4 B. 1. Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the
5 Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry shall not
6 restrict the manner in which persons, licensed pursuant to this act,
7 gather or impound aquatic species raised within the impoundments in
8 their commercial operations.

9 2. No person shall ~~sell or attempt to sell game fish and/or~~
10 ~~paddlefish obtained from public waters that have been commingled~~
11 ~~with privately produced fish subject to the provisions of this act~~
12 capture wild fish or aquatic species for direct sale. Licensed
13 producers may harvest both game fish and nongame fish from public
14 waters for use in aquaculture; provided, that the licensed producer
15 complies with all applicable regulations set forth by the Department
16 of Wildlife Conservation.

17 C. No licensee may receive, free of charge, any catfish,
18 minnow, fingerling, fish, frog or other aquatic species from the
19 state or federal government.

20 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 29 O.S. 2021, Section 2-115, is
21 amended to read as follows:

22 Section 2-115. "Game fish" is a fish normally sought after by
23 sportsmen, and includes only largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, white
24 bass, spotted bass, black crappie, white crappie, northern pike,
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1 trout, sauger, saugeye, striped bass, hybrid striped bass, walleye,
2 paddlefish, blue catfish and channel catfish. Blue catfish and
3 channel catfish are herein defined to mean "forked tail" catfish.

4 SECTION 3. REPEALER 29 O.S. 2021, Section 6-303.1, is
5 hereby repealed.

6 SECTION 4. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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