



SCIENTIFIC COLLECTOR'S PERMIT APPLICATION PACKET

State law requires that anyone who kills or captures wildlife for scientific purposes in Oklahoma must obtain a scientific purposes license (see Oklahoma Title 29, Section 4-118 A). The Oklahoma Scientific Collector's Permit is the name currently given to our state's scientific purposes license. This permit covers a range of activities related to the capture and/or killing of wild animals. For purposes of this permit, the term "collect" shall mean to capture, catch, handle, hold in possession, kill, net, restrain, salvage, sample, secure, trap and/or voucher.

This application packet includes:

- **Application for a Scientific Collector's Permit**
- **Annual Scientific Collection Report Form**
- **State Statutes and ODWC Commission Rules Pertaining to Scientific Collector's Permits**
- **Special Advisories Regarding Cave and Aquatic Collections**

Please forward the following to ODWC **30 days in advance of needing your permit.**

1. Completed and signed application.
2. Check, money order, or credit card information for a \$10.00 payment.
3. If a new application, a letter of recommendation from at least one well-known biologist, or from an academic/scientific institution, who will vouch for the applicant's integrity and character. This letter must contain a brief statement about the purpose of the project.
4. If a renewal, the Annual Scientific Collection Report for the previous year.

For Aquatic Collections Mail To:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Fisheries Division
Scientific Collector's Permit
PO Box 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

For Terrestrial Collections Mail To:

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Wildlife Division
Scientific Collector's Permit
PO Box 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Scientific Collector's Permit Application Instructions

Valid Dates:

An Oklahoma Scientific Collector's Permit is valid for up to one calendar year (January 1 through December 31). Your permit is valid from the date that it is issued through the end of that calendar year.

Permission to Collect:

A Scientific Collector's Permit authorizes the permit holder to collect wildlife species within the state of Oklahoma, but it **does not provide authority to enter onto public or private property for collection purposes**. You must obtain verbal or written permission to collect wildlife on **both** private property (from the landowner or lessee) and public property (manager or representative of the federal, state or local agency). Please note that as of 2011 all individuals over the age of 18 must possess a **Conservation Passport**, a hunting license or a fishing license before they can enter a wildlife management area that is owned by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (OS Title 29-4-138). A list of applicable areas can be found at wildlifedepartment.com.

Capture or Possession of Wildlife:

A license or permit is required of anyone who captures or holds in possession fish or wildlife in Oklahoma (OS 29: 4-110 A and 29: 4-112 A). A Scientific Collector's Permit is required to authorize the capture and temporary possession of animals that are used in capture/mark/release studies (e.g. the mist-netting and banding of birds or bats).

Completing the Application Form:

1. **Applicant Information:** Include name, phone number, sponsoring institution, email, address, driver's license number, date of birth, height, and eye color.
2. **Justification:** Provide your educational and biological training such as degrees held and describe the research objective. Please attach a copy of your research proposal if it involves endangered or closed-season species.
3. **Collection Purpose:** Specify your purpose(s) for collecting wildlife in Oklahoma by checking one or more of the boxes that apply. If you check the "other" category, please specify the purpose in the blank space provided.
4. **Federal Permit:** In addition to a state permit, a federal permit is required to handle, capture, or voucher migratory birds and/or federally endangered or threatened wildlife. Please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Tulsa Field office at (918) 382-4500 if you need federal permit information.
5. **Location:** List the counties in which you will be collecting and any applicable state wildlife management areas. For aquatic collections, list the specific water body or water bodies in which you will be collecting. Be as specific as possible. You must submit a more detailed justification for statewide requests. If planning to collect on ODWC managed lands, you must obtain permission to collect from the area biologist at least two weeks in advance.
6. **Species:** List all of the species/taxa that will be handled or collected, the method of collection, the anticipated numbers that will be collected and the disposition of these animals. If working with a large number of species, you may list higher taxonomic groups such as genera, families or orders but note that all individual species must be documented on the annual collection report. Any species that is classified as threatened, endangered or protected by a closed season and that might be collected must be listed individually (see information on pages 10 & 11). Attach additional sheets if necessary.



Application for Scientific Collector's Permit Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY
Permit # _____
Issue Date _____
Renewal: Yes _____ No _____
Approval: _____
Division Chief

FEE: \$10.00

Check Enclosed (payable to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation)

Visa Mastercard Card No: _____

Discover _____

Expiration Date: _____

***Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing**
***Permit expires at the end of each calendar year**

DEPARTMENT USE ONLY – SPECIFIC PERMIT RESTRICTIONS/CONDITIONS

1. Applicant Information: (Please Type or Print)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Sponsoring Institution: _____ E-Mail: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Driver's License Number & State: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Eye Color: _____ **LAST 4 of SSN:** _____

2. Justification: Briefly state educational and biological training (include degrees held):

Briefly describe the research objective. If collecting protected species, please attach your research proposal.

3. Collection Purpose:

- Scientific Research Biological monitoring Educational
 Museum Collection Environmental Surveying Other (specify): _____

4. Federal Permit: An additional federal permit is required to handle, capture, or voucher migratory birds and / or federally endangered or threatened wildlife.

Federal Permit Number if applicable _____

5. Location: Identify the county or counties and/or specific water body where collection will occur; you must attach justification for "statewide" requests.

Counties	Water bodies / Watersheds

Please Note: If you intend to perform collection activities on ODWC wildlife management areas, you must obtain prior permission (preferably two weeks in advance) from the area biologist. (Contact information for each area is listed on ODWC's website.

- If you do not possess a valid hunting or fishing license, access to some Wildlife Management Areas requires the purchase of a Conservation Passport. A Scientific Collector's Permit is not equivalent to a hunting or fishing license and does not exempt you from the need to purchase a Conservation Passport. Consult with the WMA Biologist to determine if a Conservation Passport is needed.

6. Species: List the species that will be handled or collected during this study, the method of collection, anticipated numbers and the disposition (see codes). Attach additional sheets if necessary. If working with a large number of species, you may list higher taxonomic units such as family or order; however, all individual species that are collected must be documented on the annual collection report regardless of their disposition. **Any species with a closed season (including threatened and endangered species) that may be collected must be listed below (refer to the attached instruction sheet pages 10 & 11 for the current list).** For additional information about the collection of bat species, contact curtis.tackett@odwc.ok.gov

Disposition Codes: Release at point of capture (R), Release with mark/tag (RT), Deposit in museum collection (M), Hold in captivity (H), Kill for study purposes (K)

Species/Taxa (Common or Scientific Name(s))	Method of Capture	Anticipated Number of Specimens to be Caught	Disposition

If depositing specimens in a museum please specify the museum: _____

7. Signature: This permit does not authorize the holder to collect wildlife with firearms, bows and arrows or fish with hook and line without a legal Oklahoma hunting and/or fishing license. This permit also does not allow you to access private property. Landowner permission is always required to access private lands.

I, the undersigned applicant, do hereby certify that the statements made in this application are true and correct, and that I will in no way abuse the privileges granted under this permit.

I agree to conform to all rules and regulations promulgated by the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation.

I understand that for purposes of this permit, "collect" shall mean any attempt to capture, catch, handle, hold in possession, kill, net, restrain, salvage, sample, secure, trap, and/or voucher any wildlife species.

I understand that under this permit I am authorized to transport vouchered specimens out of state; however, a no-cost import/export permit is required to transport live wildlife or their eggs out of state.

I also understand that I am not permitted to secure any specimens on public or private lands without prior approval from the land owner or a representative of the land management agency.

I have full knowledge of the fact that I am not permitted to sell, offer to sell, or have in my possession for sale any specimen taken.

Signature of Applicant: _____



ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION REPORT

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation
Fisheries Division or Wildlife Division
ATTN: Annual Scientific Collection Report
PO Box 53465
Oklahoma City, OK 73152

Name _____ PERMIT NUMBER _____
Address _____ PERMIT YEAR _____
_____ * I plan to renew my permit

State Law (OS Title 29: 4-118 Part E) requires a report of your collection activity during each calendar year. Failure to report collection activity is justification for revocation of your permit or denial of future permit applications. In accordance with this law, we require, as relevant information, that the Annual Scientific Collection Report contain an accounting of all animals that were captured or restrained regardless of their final disposition. Therefore, **the collection report is not limited to those animals that are killed, but also includes animals that were captured or held in temporary possession.** If no activities were conducted, indicate NONE on the form.

If you plan to renew your permit, please return this form with your renewal application and \$10.00 fee. If you do not plan to renew your permit, your collection report is due to ODWC by March 1st of the following calendar year. Collection data can also be submitted electronically to clayton.porter@odwc.ok.gov for aquatic collections and mark.howery@odwc.ok.gov for terrestrial collections.

The Annual Scientific Collection Report form is divided into three sections in order to collect relevant data for each species in relation to its status and rarity.

Part A addresses species that require a federal permit (migratory birds and federally threatened or endangered species)

Part B addresses species of conservation interest. These species are listed in Appendix 1.

Part C addresses relatively common or widespread species that are not addressed in Parts A or B.

Part A

If you captured/netted migratory birds and/or federally-listed threatened or endangered species in accordance with a federal permit, a copy of your federal report may be used to comply with the state reporting requirement. If a copy of the federal permit is not provided, include your information below in Part B.

Appendix 1.

The following species are of conservation interest in Oklahoma and require individual reporting on the Annual Collection Report for the Scientific Collector's Permit.

Amphibians:

Three-toed Amphiuma (*Amphiuma tridactylum*)
Western Lesser Siren (*Siren intermedia netting*)
Ringed Salamander (*Ambystoma annulatum*)
Mole Salamander (*Ambystoma talpoideum*)
Ouachita Dusky Salamander (*Desmognathus brimleyorum*)
Cave Salamander (*Eurycea lucifuga*)
Grotto Salamander (*Eurycea (Typhlotriton) spelaeus*)
Oklahoma Salamander (*Eurycea tynerensis*)
Four-toed Salamander (*Hemidactylium scutatum*)
Ozark Salamander (*Plethodon angusticlavius*)
Kiamichi Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon kiamichi*)
Rich Mountain Salamander (*Plethodon ouachitae*)
Sequoyah Slimy Salamander (*Plethodon sequoyah*)
Texas Toad (*Anaxyrus speciosus*)
Bird-voiced Treefrog (*Hyla avivoca*)
Crawfish frog (*Rana (Lithobates) areolata*)

Reptiles:

Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)
Western Chicken Turtle (*Deirochelys reticularia*)
Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)
American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)
Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)
Round-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*)
Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*)
Desert Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)
Checkered Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tessellatus*)
Southern Prairie Skink (*Plestiodon septentrionalis*)
Northern Scarletsnake (*Cemophora coccinea*)
Western Mudsucker (*Farancia abacura*)
Gulf Crayfish Snake (*Regina rigida*)
Texas Longnose Snake (*Rhinocheilus lecontei*)
W. Black-necked Gartersnake (*Thamnophis cyrtopsis*)
Wandering Gartersnake (*Thamnophis elegans*)

Fish:

Southern Brook Lamprey (*Ichthyomyzon gagei*)
Shovelnose Sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus platyrhynchus*)
Alligator Gar (*Atractosteus spatula*)
American Eel (*Anguilla rostrata*)
Bluntnose Shiner (*Cyprinella camurus*)
Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
Prairie Speckled Chub (*Macrhybopsis australis*)
Blackspot Shiner (*Notropis atrocaudalis*)
Kiamichi Shiner (*Notropis ortenbergeri*)
Peppered Shiner (*Notropis perpallidus*)
Bluehead Shiner (*Pteronotropis hubbsi*)
Blue Sucker (*Cycleptus elongatus*)
Plains Topminnow (*Fundulus sciadicus*)
Longnose Darter (*Percina nasuta*)
Blackside Darter (*Percina maculata*)
Crystal Darter (*Crystallaria asprella*)
Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clara*)
Arkansas Darter (*Etheostoma cragini*)
Least Darter (*Etheostoma microperca*)
Goldstripe Darter (*Etheostoma parvipinne*)

Invertebrates:

Oklahoma Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus tartarus*)
Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus subterraneus*)
Southern Hickorynut (*Obovaria jacksoniana*)
Ouachita Kidneyshell (*Ptychobranthus occidentalis*)
Western Fanshell (*Cyprogenia aberti*)
Rich Mt. Slitmouth Snail (*Stenotrema pilsbryi*)
Prairie Mole Cricket (*Gryllotalpa major*)
Diana Fritillary (*Speyeria diana*)
Regal Fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*)
all cave isopods of the genus *Caecidotea*
all cave amphipods (genera *Allocrangonyx* or *Stygobromus*)

Birds: (see instructions for part A for migratory birds)

Greater Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)
Lesser Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*)

Mammals:

Desert Shrew (*Notiosorex crawfordi*)
Southeastern Bat (*Myotis austroriparius*)
Western Small-footed Bat (*Myotis ciliolabrum*)
Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)
Yuma Bat (*Myotis yumanensis*)
Tricolored / Eastern Pipistrelle (*Perimyotis subflavus*)
Canyon Bat (*Pipistrellus hesperus*)
Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)
Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus rafinesqueana*)
Western Big-eared Bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)
Black-tailed Prairie Dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*)
Colorado Chipmunk (*Tamias quadrivittatus*)
Texas Kangaroo Rat (*Dipodomys elator*)
Northern Rock Mouse (*Peromyscus nasutus/difficilis*)
E. White-throated Woodrat (*Neotoma leucodon*)
Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)
Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)
Western Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*)
Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*)

Capture/Collection of Threatened and Endangered Species:

Anyone who wishes to obtain authorization to collect threatened or endangered species must specifically state the species, the collection location (at least to the county level) and the number of individuals to be collected. Written justification/explanation is required by the applicant in order to obtain authorization to collect state-listed species. Unless a special exemption exists, a federal permit (typically an ESA Section 10 permit) is required from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in order to collect/capture any federally-listed species.

The following three species are listed as threatened or endangered by the State of Oklahoma (OAC 800:25-19):

Oklahoma Cave Crayfish (*Cambarus tartarus*)
Blackside Darter (*Percina maculata*)
Longnose Darter (*Percina nasuta*)

A federal permit, in addition to the state permit is required for the collection of the following species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act:

Whooping Crane (<i>Grus americana</i>)	Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)
Least Tern (<i>Sterna (Sternula) antillarum</i>)	Red-cockaded Woodpecker (<i>Picoides borealis</i>)
Rufa Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>)
Arkansas River Shiner (<i>Notropis girardi</i>)	Ozark Cavefish (<i>Amblyopsis rosae</i>)
Neosho Madtom (<i>Noturus placidus</i>)	Leopard Darter (<i>Percina pantherina</i>)*
Amer. Burying Beetle (<i>Nicrophorus americanus</i>)	Ouachita Rock Pocketbook (<i>Arkansia wheeleri</i>)
Winged Mapleleaf (<i>Quadrula fragosa</i>)	Neosho Mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>)
Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica</i>)	Scaleshell (<i>Leptodea leptodon</i>)
Gray Bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>)	Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)
Northern Long-eared Bat (<i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>)	Ozark Big-eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus t. ingens</i>)

** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a special 4(d) rule (Vol. 43, No. 19, 01/27/1978) for the Leopard Darter that defers permitting and authorization for collection activities (included in definition of 'purposeful take' under the ESA) to the states; therefore, possession of a valid Oklahoma Scientific Collector's Permit exempts individuals from also requiring a Section 10 incidental take federal permit. Upon approval, applicants that include the Leopard Darter in Number 6 of the application will receive a copy of the letter of concurrence from the USFWS-Oklahoma Ecological Services Field Office with their approved permit.

Capture/Collection of Species with Closed Seasons:

Oklahoma wildlife regulations designate a year-round closed season for specific wildlife species. If you wish to be authorized to collect any closed-season species, your permit application must specify the species and the collection location (at least to the county level). Additionally, written justification may be required depending upon the nature of the study and the number of specimens requested. Detailed location information is required for these species when submitting annual collection reports.

Amphibians: The following amphibians have a year-round closed season (OAC 800:25-7-9)

Three-toed Amphiuma (<i>Amphiuma tridactylum</i>)	Oklahoma Salamander (<i>Eurycea tynerensis</i>)
Ringed Salamander (<i>Amystoma annulatum</i>)	Four-toed Salamander (<i>Hemidactylium scutatum</i>)
Mole Salamander (<i>Ambystoma talpoideum</i>)	Western Slimy Salamander (<i>Plethodon albagula</i>)
Ouachita Dusky Salamander (<i>Desmognathus brimleyorum</i>)	Ozark Salamander (<i>Plethodon angusticlavius</i>)
Cave Salamander (<i>Eurycea lucifuga</i>)	Kiamichi Slimy Salamander (<i>Plethodon kiamichi</i>)
Grotto Salamander (<i>Eurycea (Typhlotriton) spelaeus</i>)	Rich Mountain Salamander (<i>Plethodon ouachitae</i>)
	Sequoyah Slimy Salamander (<i>Plethodon sequoyah</i>)

Birds: The following resident birds have a year-round closed season (OAC 800: 25-7-14). (Please note: The collection of all migratory birds is regulated under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and therefore the collection of birds other than resident game birds requires a federal permit in addition to this state permit.)

Greater Prairie Chicken (<i>Tympanuchus cupido</i>)	Lesser Prairie Chicken (<i>Tympanuchus pallidicinctus</i>)
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Invertebrates: None

Mammals: The following mammals have a year-round closed season (OAC 800:25-7-62)

Swift Fox (*Vulpes velox*)

Western Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale gracilis*)

Eastern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale putorius*)

Ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus*)

Reptiles: The following reptiles have a year-round closed season (OAC 800:25-7-8)

Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)

Lesser Earless Lizard (*Holbrookia maculata*)

Western Chicken Turtle (*Deirochelys reticularia*)

Desert Side-blotched Lizard (*Uta stansburiana*)

Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*)

Com. Checkered Whiptail (*Aspidoscelis tessellatus*)

American Alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*)

Western Mudsnake (*Farancia abacurra reinwardtii*)

Texas Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*)

Gulf Crayfish Snake (*Regina rigida rigida*)

Round-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma modestum*)

Wandering Gartersnake (*Thamnophis elegans*)

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE STATUTE, TITLE 29

§4-118. SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES LICENSE.

- A. No person may kill or capture wildlife or take their nests or eggs for scientific purposes without having first procured a license from the Director.
- B. A scientific purposes permit may be issued to anyone sixteen (16) years of age or older when the Director is presented with:
 - 1. A written testimonial from one well-known scientist or from any well-known scientific institution,
 - i. the testimonial certifying to the good character and fitness of the individual; and
 - 2. A signed application listing
 - a. the species sought,
 - b. the means to be used to take such species, and
 - c. the reason for collection.
- C. The annual fee for such license shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00).
- D. Each license shall list the species that the licensee is permitted to take, the means of taking and the period during which such may be taken.
- E. Each licensee shall report to the Director at the end of each year the number and species of wildlife taken or killed and any other relative collection data as the Department may require.
- F. Upon application, licenses may be renewed without complying with the provisions of paragraph 1, subsection B of this section. However, no license may be renewed before the receipt of an annual report.
- G. Upon conviction that any licensee killed or captured wildlife, took nests or eggs for other than scientific purposes, or took any game by means other than that described on the license, the licensee shall be punished in the same manner as though the license had never been issued and the license shall be void.

OKLAHOMA WILDLIFE REGULATIONS, TITLE 800

800:25-26-1. Purpose

The purpose of this Subchapter is to establish application procedures for obtaining a permit for the collection of fish and wildlife species for scientific purpose.

800:25-26-2. Application and fees

- (a) Anyone sampling or collecting fish or wildlife, or their nests or eggs for scientific purposes, must first have authorization from the Department. A fee will be charged to cover the costs of processing and handling the issuance of the permit. The issuance of a scientific collector permit shall constitute written authority from the Department for such collection activities.
- (b) The following are the procedures for obtaining a scientific collector permit
 - (1) Applications may be obtained by contacting the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation at P.O. Box 53465, Oklahoma City, 73152 or by appearance at Department Headquarters, 1801 N. Lincoln Blvd.
 - (2) The application must be accompanied by a letter of recommendation from at least one well-known scientist, or from any well-known scientific institution, who will vouch for the applicant's integrity and character. The letter must contain a brief statement about the purpose of the project.
 - (3) Permits expire at the end of each calendar year. A new application must be filed each time an applicant applies for a permit. A letter of recommendation may be required for each application.

800:25-26-3. Use

- (a) A copy of the approved application must be carried with the collector permit when sampling or collecting in the field.
- (b) The permit holder must notify the Law Enforcement Division at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of sampling or collecting in any county. Notification must be made prior to each trip, unless prior arrangements to the contrary have been made with the Game Warden(s) in the counties involved.
- (c) Instructors in charge of educational classes may take classes into the field and allow students to collect in their presence under their permit. If students collect or sample fish or wildlife when the instructor is not present, they must have their own permit.
- (d) Except as stipulated in (e), persons who sample or collect fish or wildlife under a scientific collector permit are not required to possess a fishing or hunting license.
- (e) The permit does not authorize the holder to collect game, furbearing, or predatory species with firearms, bows and arrows, or fish with any hook and line method without a valid Oklahoma hunting and/or fishing license. The following species may not be taken under a scientific collector permit: deer, bear, elk, antelope, or wild turkey.
- (f) This permit does not authorize sampling or collecting on State or Federal Refuges or Wilderness Areas.
- (g) Only those specific species, areas, and methods approved by the Department will be covered by the permit. Any variations from the above rules must be covered by specific written approval by the Director and said approval shall be attached to and carried with the permit.
- (h) A Scientific Collector's permit shall not be used to collect those species of wildlife for which a statewide closed season has been established by the Oklahoma Wildlife Commission, unless specifically authorized.
- (i) A Federal Permit is required in addition to the state permit, if migratory birds, threatened or endangered species are to be collected.

800:25-26-4. Reporting

- (a) The permit holder must submit a report listing all fish and wildlife collected within thirty (30) days of the end of the calendar year.
- (b) Failure to submit a report, even if no fish or wildlife were collected, is cause for revoking the permit. No renewals will be issued without receipt of completed report forms.

The following information is provided as a special advisory for Scientific Collector's Permit applicants who wish to collect bats or animals within cave environments.

Since you have applied for a Scientific Collector's Permit to trap, salvage, or collect bats in Oklahoma, you are likely aware of White-nose Syndrome (WNS) and the danger it poses to populations of cave bats in North America. The following resources provide information about the disease (new information is posted regularly):

US Fish & Wildlife Service <http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org>

USGS National Wildlife Health Center http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/index.jsp

NSS (National Speleological Society) <http://caves.org/WNS>

Report any signs of WNS to the OK Dept. of Wildlife Conservation as soon as possible: curtis.tackett@odwc.ok.gov or 405-365-5060.

Because human spread of WNS is considered a possibility and the additional stress to bats by researchers may increase arousals and cause loss of fat reserves or interfere with maternity activities, the following conditions apply to your Wildlife Collector's Permit:

Those permit applications that propose entering bat roosts (hibernacula, maternity or both) must show evidence that the cave owner and/or manager has been contacted and that the applicant has received permission to access the cave. If the research project or survey spans multiple years, the Wildlife Department may restrict the number of times the roost can be entered.

Any equipment (nets, traps, gloves, etc.) that has been in contact with bats outside of Oklahoma must be properly decontaminated in accordance with the most current WNS National Decontamination Protocol before being used in Oklahoma. Any equipment that has contacted bats or has been inside caves or mines in suspect/confirmed WNS-affected counties in the nation may not be used in Oklahoma. Properly decontaminate gear being used in a suspect/confirmed Oklahoma county between sites.

https://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/sites/default/files/resource/national_wns_decon_protocol_04.12.2016.pdf

The *Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation's Recommendations and Suggested Best Management Practices to Address White-Nose Syndrome in Oklahoma* are available at:

https://wildlifedepartment.com/sites/default/files/WNS_BMPS.pdf

The following information is provided as a special advisory for Scientific Collector's Permit applicants who are collecting in aquatic systems.

It's The Law! You must remove all aquatic plants and zebra mussels from boats, trailers and other gear prior to launching boats in state waters.

When conducting any field work in aquatic environments, be sure to take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of aquatic species from one water body to another.

Clean: Pressure wash any boat, kayak, canoe or other vessel with hot water (140°F) and remove any plant fragments, mud, and aquatic organisms that are visible.

Drain: Drain all water from your boat, motor, bilge, live wells, hauling tanks, coolers and ballast. Always use clean source water if hauling aquatic specimens off site.

Dry: If pressure wash is not available, allow the boat, trailer, and equipment to dry thoroughly for at least five days before using in a new water body. If equipment cannot be thoroughly dried, treat with a 10% bleach solution to decontaminate.

If you find something you believe to be an Aquatic Nuisance Species, contact fisheries biologist Elaine Gainer at elaine.gainer@odwc.ok.gov or 918-200-4815.

More information about aquatic nuisance species is available at:

<https://www.wildlifedepartment.com/content/aquatic-nuisance-species>

<http://stopaquatic hitchhikers.org/>



REVISED: 5/5/2022