

AN ORDER OF COLLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1 ESTABLISHING CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING REGULATIONS IN DISTRICT-OWNED LAKES; PROVIDING FOR A PENALTY FOR THE VIOLATION FOR THIS ORDER; PROVIDING FOR SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSES; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE CAPTION HEREOF.

WHEREAS, Collin County Municipal Utility District No. 1 (the “District”) is a conservation and reclamation district and political subdivision of the State of Texas existing and operating pursuant to the provisions of Article III, Section 52, and Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, Chapters 49 and 54, Texas Water Code, and Chapter 8164, Special District Local Laws Code (the “District Act”); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District (the “Board”) recognizes the importance of preserving the natural environment and maintaining the ecological balance of District lakes; and

WHEREAS, responsible fishing practices, including catch-and-release, help sustain fish populations and ensure recreational opportunities for all residents; and

WHEREAS, the use of nets, traps, and other harmful methods poses a risk to aquatic life and the overall health of District lakes; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 54.205, Water Code, the District is authorized to adopt and enforce reasonable rules and regulations for the purpose, among others, of regulating privileges on any land or any easement owned or controlled by the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to establish clear rules and regulations governing fishing activities and conduct at District lakes to promote safety, environmental stewardship, and community enjoyment;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 49.004, Water Code, the District’s governing board may set reasonable civil penalties for the breach of any rule of the District; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that all legal notices, hearings, procedures and publishing requirements have been performed and completed in the manner and form set forth by law.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COLLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1:

The findings set forth above are incorporated into the body of this Order as if fully set forth herein.

SECTION 1. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Order is to promote the long-term health of fisheries within District-owned lakes, maintain ecological balance, support community recreation, and ensure consistent conservation practices.

SECTION 2. DEFINITION

For purposes of this Ordinance:

1. “District Lakes” means all lakes, ponds, or other water bodies owned, maintained, or controlled by the District.
2. “Fishing” means catching, attempting to catch, or taking fish by any legal means authorized under Texas law.
3. “Catch and Release” means fish must be returned alive to the same water body immediately after being caught, without being retained, transported, or consumed.

SECTION 3. FISHING REGULATIONS

1. Catch-and-Release Only. All fishing in District Lakes is designated as catch-and-release only. No fish may be retained, removed, transported, or possessed from District Lakes.
2. Legal Fishing Methods. Only fishing methods allowed under the Texas Parks & Wildlife Code may be used and all Texas State licensing requirements must be met. Use of cast nets, trotlines, or traps is strictly prohibited in District Lakes.
3. Prohibited Conduct.
 - a. Failure to maintain any Texas State licensing requirements
 - b. Keeping or retaining any fish.
 - c. Transporting fish away from any District Lake.
 - d. Using prohibited gear or methods.
 - e. Harassing or disturbing wildlife or habitats.
 - f. Entering restricted maintenance zones or posted areas.
 - g. Littering or leaving trash in or around District Lakes.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT

1. District Enforcement. District representatives, contracted security personnel, or other agents authorized by the District may enforce this Ordinance and issue violation notices.
2. Texas Parks & Wildlife Enforcement. The District recognizes that all fishing activities within Texas are subject to the Texas Parks & Wildlife Code.
 - a. TPWD Game Wardens maintain full authority to enforce state fishing laws, including license requirements, prohibited methods, and the unlawful taking or transport of fish.
 - b. Violations of Texas fishing laws observed within District Lakes may be referred to TPWD for enforcement.
3. Cooperative Enforcement Agreements. The District may coordinate with TPWD under Texas Parks & Wildlife Code §12.103 to assist in enforcement and reporting of violations involving wildlife, fish, or game.

SECTION 5. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

1. District Civil Penalties. Violation of this Ordinance constitutes a civil offense. The following fines may be assessed by the District.
 - a. Fine up to \$500.00 per occurrence. Each day or each separate instance may constitute a separate violation.
 - b. The penal provisions imposed under this Order shall not preclude the District from filing suit to enjoin a violation of this Order. The District retains all legal rights and remedies available to it pursuant to local, state and federal law.
2. Referral for State Penalties. Conduct that violates the Texas Parks & Wildlife Code may be referred to TPWD and subject to state criminal penalties.

SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY

If any section of this Order is determined invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Order becomes effective immediately upon adoption by the Board of Directors of Collin County MUD No. 1.

The Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District shall give notice of the adoption of this Order by publishing a descriptive caption of the Order in a newspaper of circulation within the District.

THIS ORDER ESTABLISHING POLICY ESTABLISHING CATCH-AND-RELEASE
FISHING REGULATIONS IN DISTRICT-OWNED LAKES PASSED AND APPROVED this
_____ day of _____, 2025.

COLLIN COUNTY MUNICIPAL UTILITY
DISTRICT NO. 1

By: _____
President

Attest: _____
Secretary

(DISTRICT SEAL)