

Alligator Tagging Changes for 2020

Beginning with the 2020 alligator hunting season, alligator hunters will no longer receive a temporary alligator tag in the mail, and they will no longer be required to physically take their harvested alligator to a Game Management Region Office for their CITES tag. Instead, alligator hunters will use the Game Check system to report their harvest, just like deer and turkey hunters.

What does this mean for Alligator Hunters?

Selected alligator hunters will have to purchase their alligator hunting permit before going hunting, and a harvest record will print out as the second page of that alligator hunting permit. If that hunter harvests an alligator, they must report the harvest via Game Check within 24 hours, and they must record the confirmation number on their harvest record. Hunters should remember to print out the paper copy of the harvest record, write down the confirmation number, and keep the record with them. Once the harvest has been reported on Game Check, the hunter will be mailed a CITES tag. Alternatively, the hunter can go to a Game Management Region Office and pick up a CITES tag if they so desire, but a visit to the office is no longer required.

What does this mean for Taxidermists?

Taxidermists can accept alligators from a hunter using their Game Check confirmation number in lieu of the CITES tag. If the taxidermist chooses to be more strict, and require a CITES tag before they accept the alligator, that is their choice, but it is not required. Some hunters may choose to wait until they receive their CITES tag in the mail to take their alligator or the hide to the processor, and that is fine, too.

What does this mean for Meat Processors?

Just like taxidermists, meat processors and/or hide tanneries can accept alligators from a hunter using their Game Check confirmation number in lieu of the CITES tag.

What does this mean for Law Enforcement?

When a DNR Game Warden encounters an alligator hunting party, the selected hunter must be in possession of an alligator hunting permit and harvest record, and everyone in the hunting party that is at least 16 years old must possess a valid hunting license. Once that party harvests an alligator, the selected hunter must report the harvest on Game Check and record the confirmation number on their printed harvest record. Game Wardens will need to see the confirmation number the same way they used to check the temporary tag to make sure the harvest was legal.