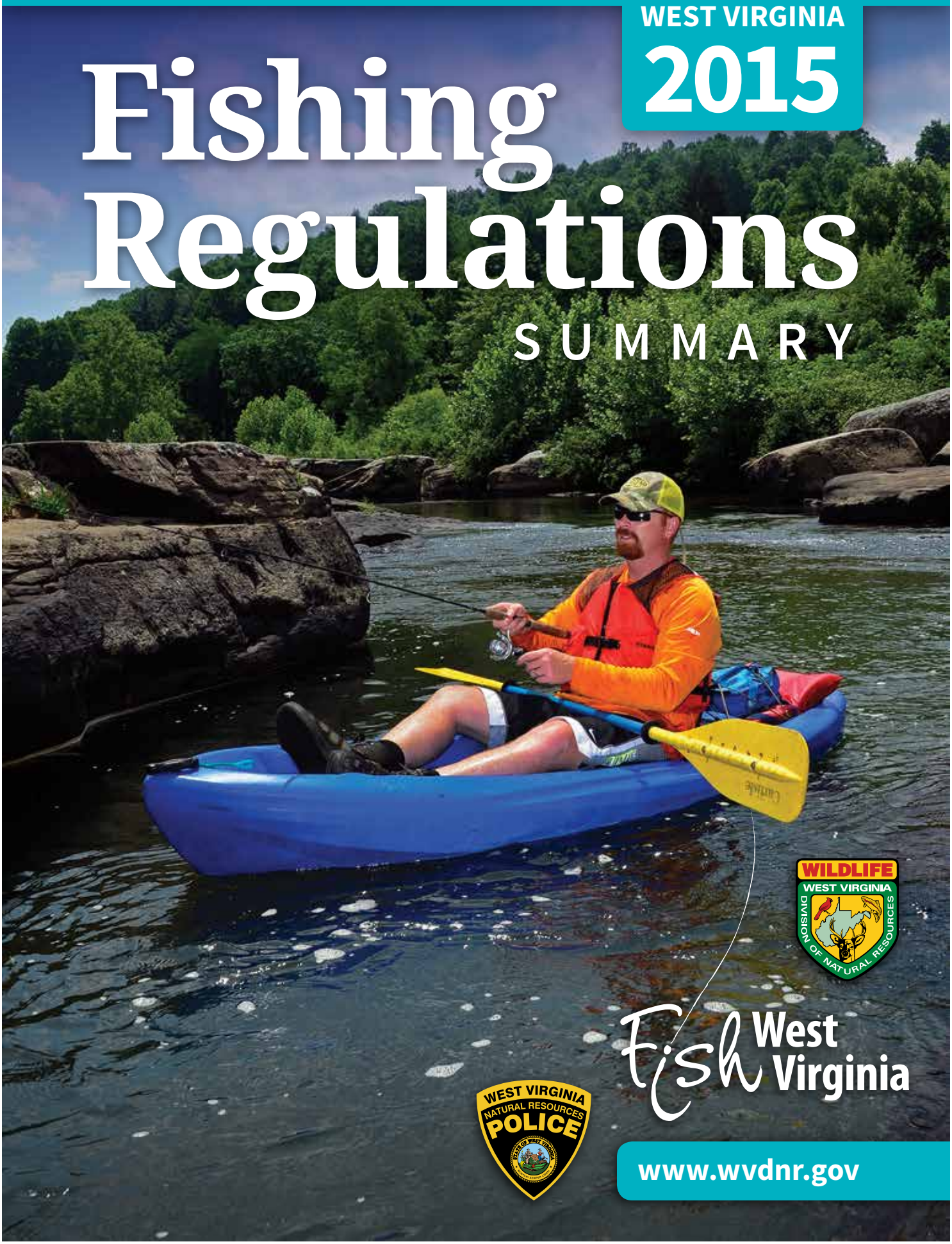
WEST VIRGINIA

2015

Fishing Regulations

SUMMARY



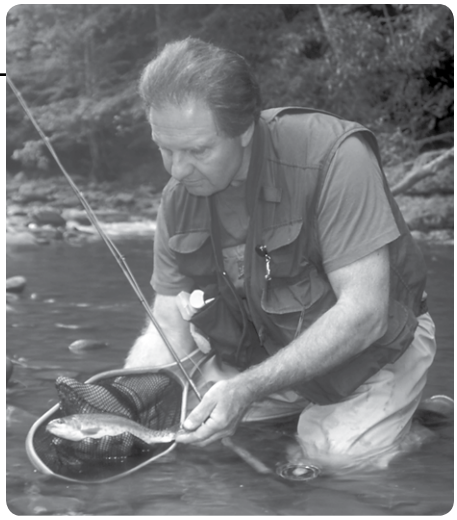
WILDLIFE WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Fish West Virginia

WEST VIRGINIA NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE

www.wvdnr.gov

From the Director



Fishing and boating are fun family recreational activities. Many West Virginians and visitors enjoy spending time on our lakes, rivers and streams. Whether you are paddling a canoe and float fishing for smallmouth bass or driving a motorboat on a reservoir, the first thing on all of our minds should be safety. All boaters must be aware of West Virginia's boating laws and regulations and practice safe boating measures.

Anyone born after December 31, 1986 must successfully complete a Boating Safety Education Course before operating a motorboat or personal watercraft upon the waters of this state. Course topics include: Boating Terminology, Boat Types, Capacities, Registration Requirements, Safety Equipment Required, Navigation Rules, and Preserving a Safe Marine Environment.

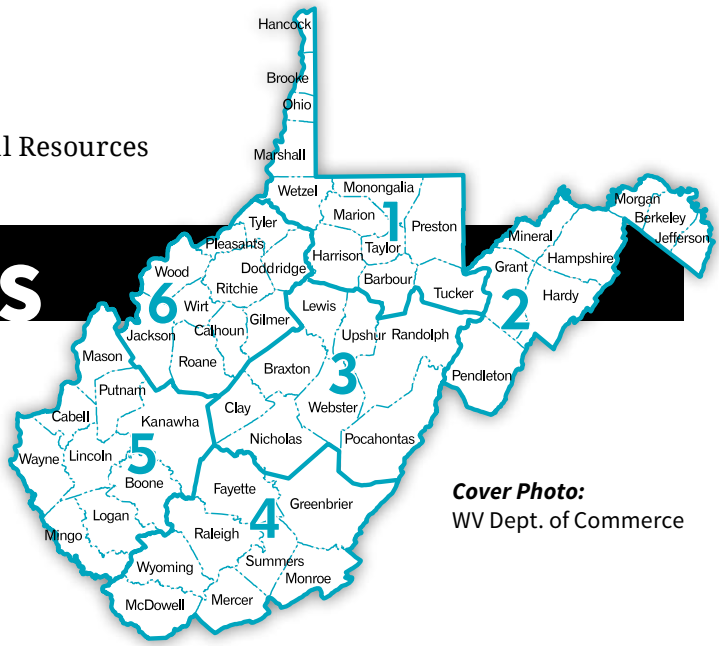
A number of online resources are helpful to first time and experienced boaters. I encourage all of you who will be boating and fishing in West Virginia this year to take the time to complete the boating safety course and review safety requirements in preparation for your time on the water. Please visit the online resources listed below and have a great and safe year on our rivers and lakes.

www.wvdnr.gov/lenforce/boating.shtm
www.boat-ed.com/westvirginia/
www.boaterexam.com/usa/westvirginia/
www.boaterexam.com/paddling/default.aspx

Frank Jezioro

Frank Jezioro, Director, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

DISTRICT OFFICES



Cover Photo:
WV Dept. of Commerce

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Law Enforcement – Major Brad DeBord **(304) 558-2784**

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Law Enforcement – Lt. Jon Cogar

District 2 - Romney, WV 26757
1 Depot Street **(304) 822-3551**

Fish Management – Jim Hedrick
Law Enforcement – Capt. Tom Stuckey

District 3 - French Creek, WV 26218
WV State Wildlife Center **(304) 924-6211**
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Fish Management – Jim Walker
Law Enforcement – Lt. Doug Benson

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2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive **(304) 256-6947**

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Fish Management – Jeff Hansbarger **(304) 675-0871**
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4300 1st Avenue • Nitro, WV 25143

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Fish Management – Scott Morrison
Law Enforcement – Capt. David Trader

Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241
Ward Road, P.O. Box 67 **(304) 637-0245**

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This pamphlet is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing sport fishing in West Virginia. The West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of Rules contain the details of these laws and regulations. Both publications are available for review in the Director's Office and Division of Natural Resources District Offices. Copies of the official regulations may be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State. Year-round fishing is in effect unless otherwise noted.

New for 2015

Night Fishing is permitted at the following lakes:

Boley – Babcock State Park, Coopers Rock State Forest, Little Beaver State Park, Pipestem Resort State Park, Seneca State Forest, Tomlinson Run State Park, Watoga State Park and Rockhouse.

Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
State of West Virginia

Frank Jezioro, Director
Division of Natural Resources

Curtis I. Taylor, Chief
Wildlife Resources

Col. Jerry Jenkins, Chief
Law Enforcement Section

Commissioners

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Peter L. Cuffaro – *Wheeling*

Thomas Dotson – *White Sulphur Springs*

Bob Fala – *Chapmanville*

David M. Milne – *Bruceton Mills*

Kenny Wilson – *Chapmanville*

Landowner – Sportsmen Relations

West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct. Most stream closures are the result of disrespect for private property.

Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, 324 Fourth Avenue, Room 341, South Charleston, WV 25303, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

REGULATIONS Summary

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	*Special Regulations
Black Bass Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Spotted	6* (in any combination)	None*	12* (in any combination)	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** 12-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10. See ***Special Area Regulations*** for additional restrictions.
Trout Rainbow, Golden Rainbow, Brook and Brown	6* (in any combination)	None	12* (in any combination)	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** Daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5. See ***Special Area Regulations*** for additional restrictions.
Muskellunge	2*	30 inches*	4*	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** 36-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 1, and possession limit 1 for muskellunge in aggregate with Tiger Musky. See ***Special Area Regulations*** for additional restrictions.
Tiger Musky	2*	30 inches*	4*	
Northern Pike	2	30 inches*	4*	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** 30-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 2, and possession limit 2.
Hybrid Striped Bass **Striped Bass** **White Bass**	30* *(in any combination)*	no more than four fish greater than 15 inches	30	**Statewide, except in designated special regulations waters**
Hybrid Striped Bass **Striped Bass** **White Bass**	4*	15 inches*	4*	**Mt. Storm and East Lynn lakes**
Hybrid Striped Bass **Striped Bass** **White Bass**	0	0	0	**Rollins Lake:** all hybrid striped bass, striped bass and white bass must be returned to the water immediately.
Paddlefish	0	0	0	All fish must be returned to the water immediately.
Shovelnose Sturgeon				
Lake Sturgeon				
Sauger	Lakes - 8* Rivers - 10* *(in any combination)*	None*	Lakes - 16* Rivers - 20 *(in any combination)*	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** 15-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5 for walleye. See ***Special Area Regulations*** for additional restrictions on walleye.
Saugeye				
Walleye				
Blue Catfish	2	24 inches	None	**Statewide**
Channel Catfish	4*	None	16*	**In state-managed impoundments** (See ***Public Fishing Lakes and Ponds Chart, pg. 10-11***): Daily creel limit 4, possession limit 16. No restrictions on Mt. Storm, Stonecoal, Cheat, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes and all rivers and streams.
Yellow Perch	None*	None	None	**Cheat Lake:** Daily creel limit 15
All Others	None*	None*	None*	**Jennings Randolph Lake:** 14-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 5 for chain pickerel.
Frogs Green and Bull	10	None	20	**Season:** 9 p.m. DST, June 13 to midnight July 31. **Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers bordering Kentucky** **Season:** Noon (EST), May 15 to midnight, October 31.

Check the 2015 Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac rivers.

Black Bass

Catch-and-Release

For waters listed below

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No black bass shall be in the angler's possession (creel limit 0) while fishing in designated catch-and-release lakes and streams.

Lakes

Dunkard Fork, Edwards Run Pond, Elk Fork, Kimsey Run, Millers Fork Pond, North Bend, O'Brien, Rockhouse, Tuckahoe, Upper Mud and Woodrum.

Streams

New River – Fayette, Raleigh and Summers counties
12-mile section from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone downstream to NPS Grandview Sandbar access site near Quinnimont. Access by state Route 41 at Quinnimont and state Route 20 at Sandstone.

South Branch of Potomac River – Hardy and Hampshire counties

Area 1 8-mile section in Hardy County from 3 miles east of Petersburg at the routes 28, 55 and 220 bridge (Petersburg Gap bridge) downstream to the county Route 13 bridge (Fisher bridge).

Area 2 9.5-mile section in Hampshire County from the routes 28 and 50 bridge (Romney bridge) downstream to the state Route 28 bridge (Blue Beach bridge).

Slot Limit

South Mill Creek Lake

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 16 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.

Greenbrier River – Greenbrier County

6-mile section beginning at the U.S. Route 60 bridge near Caldwell extending downstream to the U.S. Route 219 bridge at Ronceverte.

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 20 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one black bass over 20 inches caught within the slot limit area. Black bass under 12 inches may be harvested. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.

Minimum Size Limit

Stonewall Jackson Lake

1. Daily creel limit of one black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) 18 inches or longer.
2. Black bass under 18 inches may be harvested.
3. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.

For waters listed below

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) under 12 inches long must be returned to the water at once.

Lakes

Barboursville, Beech Fork, Chief Logan and Conaway Run.

Streams

Wheeling Creek – Marshall and Ohio counties
Entire length.

Ohio River
Entire length of Ohio River from the mouth of Mill Creek, Hancock County, downstream to the mouth of the Big Sandy River, Wayne County. This regulation applies to all waters included in the Ohio River Reciprocal Agreement with the State of Ohio.

HANDLING AND RELEASE PROCEDURES

When practicing catch-and-release fishing, survival of the released fish can be greatly enhanced by following these simple guidelines.

1. Time is important – play and release the fish as quickly as possible to reduce unnecessary stress.
2. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and use a pair of forceps or needle-nosed pliers to remove the hook.
3. Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Do not squeeze the fish, put your fingers in the eyes or gills, or cause scale loss.
4. When releasing the fish, hold it gently in the water until the fish is ready to swim off on its own.
5. You may take time to snap a quick photo of your catch before releasing it.
6. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

Children and Class Q Handicap Fishing Areas

For waters listed below

1. Areas are managed under special regulations March-May.
2. During this period fishing is restricted to children 10 years of age or under and to handicapped individuals holding a Class Q permit.
3. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
4. Creel limit is four trout.
5. Another person may assist with baiting hooks and removing fish.

Lakes

Baker Lake – Ohio County
3-acre lake in Bear Rock Lakes WMA. Access by county Route 41/6.

Coonskin Park Pond – Kanawha County
2.7-acre pond in Coonskin Park. Access by state Route 114 and county Route 51/2.

Handley Pond – Pocahontas County
5-acre pond on the Handley WMA. Access by county routes 17 and 17/1 which intersect U.S. Route 219 at Edray north of Marlinton.

Kanawha State Forest Pond – Kanawha County
1-acre pond in Kanawha State Forest. Access by county Route 42 off county Route 23.

Logan County Airport Pond
1-acre pond. Access by county Route 119/8 off state Route 17.

Millers Fork Pond – Wayne County
5-acre pond on the Beech Fork Lake WMA. Access by county Route 22 off county Route 17.

Raleigh County Airport Pond
1-acre pond at the entrance to the Raleigh County Airport. Access by county Route 9/9 off I-64 at Airport Exit 125-B.

Underwood Lake – Cabell County
1-acre pond on Huntington YMCA property. Access by state Route 2.

Westover Park Pond – Monongalia County
1-acre pond located at the Westover Park just off U.S. Route 19 approximately .5 mile east of I-79 Westover exit.

Streams

Mash Fork of Camp Creek – Mercer County
100-yard section of Mash Fork in Camp Creek State Park/ State Forest at Mash Fork Waterfalls. Access by county Route 19/5 from I-77, exit 20.

Woodbine Area of the Cranberry River – Nicholas County
300-yard section of the Cranberry River at the U.S. Forest Service Woodbine Recreation Area. Access by National Forest Route 76 from Richwood.

REGULATIONS OPEN HOUSE

March 16, 2015
Fairmont, Flatwoods, Harrisville, Martinsburg, Milton and Princeton

March 17, 2015
Elkins, Fayetteville, Glen Dale, Logan, Moorefield and Parkersburg

Muskellunge

Catch-and-Release

For waters listed below

1. All muskellunge caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No muskellunge shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

Streams

Buckhannon River – Upshur County
6.5-mile section beginning at the City of Buckhannon's water supply dam and continuing upstream to the first riffle. Included in this area is the section of French Creek from its mouth to the first riffle. The entire stream section is commonly referred to as Buckhannon Pool.

Middle Island Creek – Tyler County
6-mile section beginning at the state Route 18 bridge near Centerville and continuing downstream to the low water bridge near the Jug WMA. Included in this area are sections of Indian Creek and McElroy Creek from their mouth to their first riffle.

Minimum Size Limit

North Bend Lake

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of two muskellunge.

Stonewall Jackson Lake

1. All muskellunge under 52 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one muskellunge.

North Fork Hughes River – Ritchie County

1.3 mile section extending from North Bend Lake Dam downstream to the CR 809 bridge near the North Bend State Park campground.

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one muskellunge.

Trout

Catch-and-Release

For waters listed below and to the right

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
2. Only artificial flies and lures made of metal, wood, feathers, hair, or synthetic material may be used or possessed on catch-and-release trout streams during the catch-and-release season. No lure or fly with any scent, oil, or edible enticement added onto, or impregnated into (regardless if the scent is added in the manufacturing process or applied afterward), may be used or possessed on any catch-and-release trout stream.
3. Multiple hook lures must have barbless hooks.
4. Single hook lures may have barbed hooks.
5. All trout caught must be returned to the water at once.
6. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

Powerbait, Gulp and other manufactured scented baits are considered illegal under this section and may not be used or possessed on catch-and-release streams.

Streams

Back Fork of Elk River – Webster County
4-mile section beginning 2 miles upstream from Webster Springs and extending upstream. Access by county routes 24 and 24/3.

Blackwater River – Tucker County
3.5-mile section from the county Route 29/1 bridge in Blackwater Falls State Park downstream to the mouth of the North Fork.

Cranberry River – Webster, Pocahontas and Nicholas counties

Area 1 4.3-mile section from the junction of the North and South forks downstream to the low water bridge at Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76 from the Cranberry Glades parking area.

Area 2 Nicholas County – 1.2-mile section from the Woodbine Recreation Area downstream to Camp Splinter (Jakeman Run). Access by National Forest Route 76 from Richwood.

Elk River – Randolph County
2-mile section from the Elk Springs Campground downstream to Rose Run bridge. Access by county Route 49 off state Route 15 about 4 miles west of Valley Head.

Glade Creek of New River – Raleigh County
3-mile section from the mouth upstream to the National Park Service foot bridge. Access by Glade Creek Road off state Route 41.

North Branch of Potomac River – Grant and Mineral counties
See the current Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac Rivers.

North Fork of Cherry River – Nicholas County
1.8-mile section extending upstream from Richwood's water supply dam to first state Route 39 bridge. Access by state Route 39.

North Fork of Cranberry River – Pocahontas County
0.25-mile section from the mouth upstream to the limestone treatment dam. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76.

North Fork of the South Branch – Pendleton County
0.75-mile section at the mouth of Seneca Creek near Seneca Rocks Visitors Center. Access by county Route 28/3 at junction of state Route 28 and U.S. Route 33 at Seneca Rocks.

Paint Creek – Fayette County
2-mile section from mouth of Skitter Creek upstream to mouth of Milburn Creek. Access is by county Route 15.

Shavers Fork of Cheat River – Randolph County

Area 1 5.5-mile section in Monongahela National Forest, north of U. S. Route 250, from the mouth of Whitmeadow Run downstream to the mouth of McGee Run. Access by National Forest Route 92, which intersects U.S. Route 250 four miles west of Cheat Bridge.

Area 2 0.9-mile section encompassing the Stuart Recreation Area day use area downstream of Bowden. Access by foot from county route 6 on River Loop Trail, or by driving into Stuart Recreation Area to river (U.S. Forest Service day-use fee charged from mid-April through September).

Slatyfork section of Elk River – Pocahontas County
4.6-mile section from the junction of Big Spring and Old Field forks downstream to the mouth of Dry Branch including Props Run and Big Run. Access by foot from county routes 219/2 on the north and 219/12 on the south.

South Branch of the Potomac River – Pendleton County
1-mile section beginning 2 miles below U.S. Route 220 at Eagle Rock and extending downstream. Access by county Route 2.

Williams River – Pocahontas County
2-mile section beginning 2 miles below Tea Creek and extending downstream. Access by National Forest Route 86.

Trout Continued

Delayed Harvest Streams

For waters listed below

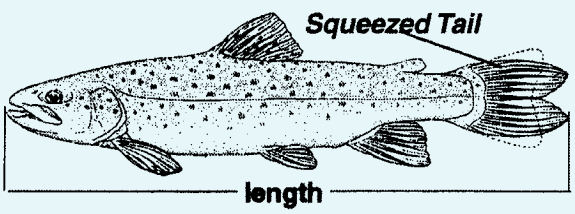
1. Catch-and-release regulations apply: October 1-May 31.
2. General regulations apply: June 1-September 30.

Bluestone River – Summers County
1-mile section from the mouth of Mountain Creek downstream to a stream gauge station within Pipestem State Park.

Clear Fork of the Guyandotte River – Wyoming County
1-mile section from the R.D. Bailey WMA manager's residence downstream to the state Route 6 bridge.

Middle Wheeling Creek – Ohio County
1.2-mile section from just above the upper limits of Middle Wheeling Creek Lake upstream to mouth of Gillespie Run. Access by county Route 39/6.

MEASURING A FISH



1. Lay the fish on top of a ruler on a flat surface.
2. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together.
3. Measure all fish from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body.

Fly-fishing-Only

For waters listed below

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
2. Only artificial flies and streamers may be used or in possession on any of the fly-fishing-only streams.
3. Only conventional fly-fishing tackle may be used. Open-face and closed-face spinning or spincast reels are prohibited.
4. All fish caught must be returned to water at once.
5. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as fly-fishing-only streams.
6. No lure or fly with any scent, oil, or edible enticement added onto, or impregnated into (regardless if the scent is added in the manufacturing process or applied afterward), may be used or possessed on any fly-fishing-only trout stream.

Powerbait, Gulp and other manufactured scented baits are considered illegal under this section and may not be used or possessed on catch-and-release streams.

Streams

Buffalo Creek of New River – Fayette County
Main stream and all tributaries of Buffalo Creek. Access by foot from county Route 25.

Dogway Fork of the Cranberry –
Webster, Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties
Main stream and all tributaries of Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 78.

Milligan Creek – Greenbrier County
Marked area about 1 mile north of U.S. Route 60 from the county Route 60/15 bridge extending downstream about .33 mile to a fence crossing.

Red Run of Dry Fork – Tucker County
Main stream and all tributaries of Red Run. Access by foot from state Route 72 and National Forest Route 13.

Second Creek – Greenbrier and Monroe counties
Marked 1.5-mile section on the Monroe/Greenbrier county line at Rodgers Mill.

Thorn Creek – Pendleton County
Marked .5-mile section beginning approximately 3 miles above the mouth. Access is by county Route 20.

Walleye

Minimum Size Limit

Rivers

Cheat, Kanawha, New (mouth of Gauley River upstream to Hawks Nest Dam), and Ohio

1. All walleye under 18 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye.

Lakes

Charles Fork and Moncove

1. All walleye under 28 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye.

Slot Limit

New River

From Hawks Nest Dam in Fayette County upstream to the West Virginia/Virginia state line in Summers County, except for a catch-and-release area as described below.

1. All walleye from 20 to 30 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye, only one of which may be over 30 inches long.

Catch-and-Release

New River

5-mile section from Meadow Creek public access site upstream to base of Sandstone Falls in Raleigh and Summers counties.

1. All walleye caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No walleye shall be in the angler's possession while on the stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

All Species

Catch-and-Release

Dixon Lake (Pedlar Wildlife Management Area)

1. All species of fish must be returned to the water at once.
2. No fish shall be in the angler's possession (creel limit 0) while fishing in designated catch-and-release lakes and streams.
3. Use of live minnows is prohibited.
4. Use of barbed hooks is prohibited.

Reciprocal Fishing

Ohio River

Ohio residents who carry fishing licenses valid in Ohio may fish on the Ohio River and its embayments or from the West Virginia banks of the Ohio River and embayments without obtaining West Virginia licenses.

West Virginia residents who carry fishing licenses valid in West Virginia may fish on Ohio River embayments in Ohio or from the Ohio banks of the Ohio River and embayments without obtaining an Ohio license.

Current West Virginia fishing laws shall apply while fishing on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks or in West Virginia embayments. The tributaries of the Ohio River above embayments, in both states, are not included as part of this agreement.

Current Ohio fishing laws apply while fishing from Ohio banks or in Ohio embayments.

Ohio fishing laws and Ohio River fishing regulations for the Eastern Unit, which cover the West Virginia /Ohio border, must be followed while fishing on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio.

The embayment and tributary reciprocal boundaries for each state are listed in the Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing on the Ohio River brochure available from West Virginia DNR offices, and online at **www.wvdnr.gov**. Ohio and West Virginia anglers may travel and fish embayments and tributaries to the landmark locations listed in the brochure. These locations are also defined by distance from the mouth of the tributary and GPS coordinates for convenience.

Potomac River

West Virginia residents who possess valid West Virginia fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of the Potomac River including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the West Virginia and the Maryland shores, and they may fish from the Maryland shore, without obtaining a Maryland fishing license, subject, however, to all other Maryland laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing.

Maryland residents who possess valid Maryland fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the Maryland and West Virginia shores, and they may fish from the West Virginia shore of the Potomac River, including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake, without obtaining a West Virginia fishing license, subject, however, to all other West Virginia fishing laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing. This agreement is limited to the Potomac River including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake and does not extend to any of their tributaries.

The State of Maryland has joint law enforcement jurisdiction on Jennings Randolph Lake.

REGULATIONS Other Methods of Fishing

Except as authorized below, it is illegal to take fish by any means other than by rod, line and hooks.

It is illegal to:

- use a firearm, crossbow, dynamite or any like explosive, or a poisonous mixture placed in the water for the purpose of killing or taking fish, frogs, aquatic turtles or other forms of aquatic life.
- fish with more than two (2) lines or poles in an impoundment stocked with trout by the DNR from January 1 – May 31.

Bow Fishing

Carp may be taken by bow year-round; other nongame fish may be taken by bow during all months of the year except May and June. All anglers must have a valid fishing license in order to fish using a bow. All persons using a bow to fish must observe all applicable fishing regulations.

It is illegal to:

- use an arrow having an explosive head or shaft or an arrow dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals.

Dipping

Dipping for nongame fish is legal from February 1 to midnight April 30 with a valid West Virginia fishing license. A dip net may not exceed 36 square feet in overall area, and its mesh may not be smaller than one-fourth (1/4) inch.

The Diamond Darter is a fish species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take this fish species and use it for any purpose including as live bait for fishing.

Gigging, Snagging and Snaring

Suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs may be taken by snaring year-round. Other nongame fish, certain turtles (see Turtles, Frogs, Toads and Salamander Regulations on page 9) and eels may be taken by gigging, snagging, or snaring from January 1 – May 15 and from July 15 – December 31, except that snagging and gigging shall be prohibited within 100 feet of all U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Locks and Dams and their appurtenances. Snagging of game fish is prohibited.

Hatchery Fish Removal

It is illegal to:

- take fish, frogs, aquatic turtles or other aquatic life from a state fish hatchery.

Ice Fishing

Holes cut for ice fishing must be no larger than 10 inches in diameter. This applies to public waters where ice fishing is allowed.

Seining for Minnows/Minnow Traps

Game fish may not be seined or trapped. A seine may be used to obtain minnows for use as bait provided the seine is not longer than six feet nor deeper than four feet. A thrownet may be used provided the diameter is no larger than six feet and mesh size no larger than three-eighths (3/8) inch. Minnow traps may be used provided the openings are not larger than one inch in diameter. A person may have in his possession no more than 50 minnows nor more than a total of 100 aquatic animal life (see Turtles, Frogs, Toads and Salamander Regulations on page 9) unless obtained from a licensed dealer and a bill of sale is provided. Possession of mussels or any parts thereof is prohibited. A valid West Virginia fishing license is needed to collect minnows and other aquatic life.

The Diamond Darter is a fish species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take this fish species and use it for any purpose including as live bait for fishing.

Trotlines and Droplines

Trotlines and droplines must be attached to the bank or a tree thereon, must bear an identification tag that is legible and waterproof, and must be attended every 24 hours. Wire or cable lines and hooks with more than one point are prohibited.

It is illegal to:

- fish with trotlines and droplines in state-managed impoundments except Stonecoal, Hawks Nest, Mt. Storm, Cheat and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes. (See chart on page 10 for state-managed lakes.)
- attach a trotline to public piers and docks or within 50 feet of dam appurtenances.
- use droplines on the Elk River, Hughes River, Little Kanawha River, Middle Island Creek, and South Fork of Hughes River.
- jug fish.
- hand fish.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FISHING AREAS

For more information on developed sites contact:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
324 4th Avenue • South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

304.558.2771 or **www.wvdnr.gov**

Turtle, Frog, Toad, and Salamander Regulations

Turtles

- **The season is closed for the following turtles:** wood turtle, spotted turtle, northern map turtle, Ouachita map turtle and midland smooth softshell turtle. These turtles, their eggs, offspring or parts thereof may not be possessed.
- **Eastern snapping turtle and eastern spiny softshell turtle:** The daily creel limit of eastern snapping turtle and eastern spiny softshell is ten (10) turtles and the possession limit is twenty (20) turtles. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess turtles.
- **All Other turtles:** The total possession limit is four (4) turtles in aggregate. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess turtles.
- **Collection dates:** Turtles may be taken only between January 1 and May 15 and July 15 and December 31.

Frogs and Toads

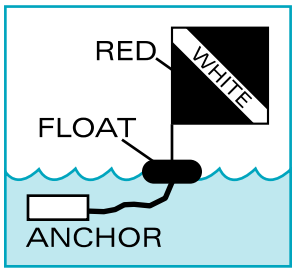
- **The season is closed for the following frogs and toads:** eastern spadefoot toad, northern cricketfrog and northern leopard frog. These frogs and toads, their eggs, offspring or any parts thereof may not be possessed.
- **Green and Bull Frogs:** See Regulation Summary, page 2. Residents and non-residents may take or possess green and bull frogs.
- **All other frogs and toads**: The total possession limit for all other frogs and toads is four (4) in aggregate. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess these "other" frogs and toads.

Salamanders

- The season is closed for the following salamanders: Eastern hellbender, mudpuppy, Cheat Mountain salamander, Cow Knob salamander, Shenandoah Mountain salamander, smallmouth salamander, streamside salamander, green salamander, cave salamander, West Virginia spring salamander. These salamanders, their eggs, offspring or any parts thereof may not be possessed.
- All other Salamanders: The total possession limit for all other salamanders is ten (10) in aggregate.

Spearfishing and Diving

1. Nongame fish may be taken by spearfishing from July 1 – September 30 during daylight hours only.
2. Spearfishing is prohibited on the following:
   - » Elk River, from Sutton Dam downstream to the U.S. Route 19 bridge at Sutton;
   - » New River, from Bluestone Dam downstream to the lower bridge at Hinton.
3. Spearguns may be discharged only beneath the surface of the water.
4. It is illegal to use a bolt having an explosive head or shaft or a bolt dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals.
5. A diver may not spearfish in such a manner as to interfere with other anglers.
6. A diver may not spearfish in heavily-traveled boat lanes, marked swimming areas or marked waterskiing areas.
7. "Diver down flag" shall be a red field of not less than 10 inches x 10 inches dimension with a white diagonal stripe not less than 1-1/2 inches wide running upper left to lower right. The flag shall be displayed at all times and be affixed to a separate flotation device. No such flag shall be attached to any navigational device or placed so as to obstruct boat traffic. Divers must come up within 100 feet of flag. All powerboats will remain a minimum distance of 100 feet away from the marker flag. The top of the flag shall be at least 3 feet above the surface of the water.



8. Fish taken by spearfishing may not be returned to the water or left on the bank.

OPEN FISHING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

A permit is required from the Division of Natural Resources to hold a tournament that is open to the public or awards cash or prizes. Club tournaments, which are restricted to members competing for points, do not require a permit.

Tournament permit requests should be made to:

WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section
324 4th Avenue • South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

Call (304) 558-2771 for information.

FISHING Public Lakes and Ponds

Key

• = **the listed feature or activity is available or permitted.**

*A blank space indicates the feature or activity **IS NOT** available or permitted.*

Lake - County

***** = National Forest Stamp required

COE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake

Accessibility

Use of Live Minnows

Camping

L = limited primitive

P = permit required

Night Fishing

C = registered campers only

P = permit required

Boating

NM = no motor boats

E = electric motors only

R = rental boats only

U = unlimited h.p.

5 = 5 h.p. maximum

10 = 10 h.p. maximum *(Larger motors must have props removed or motor tilted to the maximum limit.)*

* = contains no wake zones, speed zones and/or other restricted areas

f = fee charged for private boats, May 30 – Labor Day

A USCG approved life preserver is required for each occupant of ALL BOATS. See West Virginia Boating Regulations. All boats propelled by machinery must be licensed.

Lake or Pond – *County*	Acres				
Airport Pond – *Raleigh*	•	1				
Anawalt – *McDowell*	•	7		•		
Anderson – *Kanawha*	•	7		•		
Barboursville – *Cabell*	•	17			P	
Bear Rock Lakes – *Ohio*	•	16		•		E
Beech Fork – *Wayne* ***COE***	•	720	•	•	P	10*
Berwind – *McDowell*	•	20		•	P	E
Big Ditch – *Webster*	•	55		•		E
Big Run – *Marion*		7	•	•		E
Bluestone – *Summers* ***COE***	•	2040	•	•	P	U*
Boley – *Fayette*	•	18		•	P	E
Brandywine – *Pendleton**	•	6		•	P	E
Brushy Fork – *Pendleton*		18		•		E
Buffalo Fork – *Pocahontas**	•	22		•		E
Burnsville – *Braxton* ***COE***	•	968	•	•	P	U*
Cacapon – *Morgan*	•	6		•		NMf
Cameron – *Marshall*		6	•	•		
Camp Run – *Pendleton**		8		•		E
Castleman Run – *Brooke, Ohio*	•	22	•	•		E
Cedar Creek – *Gilmer*		8	•	•	P	
Charles Fork – *Roane*	•	70		•		E
Cheat Lake – *Monongalia*	•	1730	•	•	L	U*
Chief Cornstalk – *Mason*	•	5		•	P	E
Chief Logan – *Logan*	•	7		•		
Conaway Run – *Tyler*	•	30		•	P	E
Coonskin Park – *Kanawha*	•	2.5				
Coopers Rock – *Monongalia*	•	6		•	P	E
Curtisville – *Marion*	•	30	•	•		E
Dents Run - *Marion*		30				E
Doe Run – *Taylor*		11	•	•	P	E
Dog Run – *Harrison*		15	•			E
Dunkard Fork – *Marshall*	•	49	•	•		E
East Lynn – *Wayne* ***COE***	•	1005	•	•	P	U*
Edwards Run – *Hampshire*		1		•	L	
Elk Fork – *Jackson*	•	278	•	•		10
Elk Two Mile (Site 12) – *Kanawha*		2				
Elk Two Mile (Site 13) – *Kanawha*		3.5				
Elk Two Mile (Site 14) – *Kanawha*		4				
Fitzpatrick – *Raleigh*		2.5		•	P	
Flat Run – *Marion*		6	•	•		E
Ft. Ashby – *Mineral*		12	•	•		
French Creek – *Upshur*		2				
Frozencamp Left Fork – *Jackson*		20		•		E
Frozencamp Right Fork – *Jackson*		20		•		E
Handley Pond – *Pocahontas*	•	5		•	P	E
Hawks Nest – *Fayette*		250	•	•		U
Horse Creek – *Wyoming*	•	12		•		E
Huey Run – *Marion*		8	•	•		E
Hurricane W.S. Reservoir – *Putnam*	•	12		•		
Indian Rock – *Nicholas*	•	5				
James P. Bailey – *Mercer*	•	28				
Jennings Randolph – *Mineral* ***COE***		952	•	•	P	U*
Jimmy Lewis – *Mercer*	•	15		•		E
Kanawha State Forest – *Kanawha*	•	1			P	
Kee Reservoir – *Mercer*		70		•		E
Kimsey Run – *Hardy*	•	60		•		E
Krodel – *Mason*	•	22	•		P	E
Larenim – *Mineral*	•	10	•			NM
Laurel – *Mingo*	•	29		•		E
Lick Creek – *Wayne*		5	•	•		
Little Beaver – *Raleigh*	•	18		•		R
Lumberport – *Harrison*		6	•			E
Logan County Airport – *Logan*	•	1				E

Lake or Pond – *County*		Acres				
McClintic Ponds – *Mason*	•	61		•	P	E
Middle Wheeling Creek – *Ohio*		30	•	•		E
Miletree – *Roane*		10		•		E
Mill Creek – *Barbour*	•	8				E
Millers Fork – *Wayne*	•	5				
Moncove – *Monroe*	•	144		•	P	5
Mount Storm – *Grant*		1200	•	•		U*
Mountain Valley – *Summers*		39				E
Mountwood – *Wood*	•	48		•	P	E
Newburg Lake – *Preston*		5				
New Creek Dam 14 – *Grant*		40		•		
North Bend – *Ritchie*	•	305	•	•	P	10
North Bend State Park – *Ritchie*		1.5		C	P	
O'Brien – *Jackson*		217	•	•		10
Parker Hollow – *Hardy*		34		•		E
Pedlar Mason – *Monongalia*	•	16	•	•		E
Pedlar Dixon – *Monongalia*	•	7		•		
Pendleton - *Tucker*		14				NM,R
Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir – *Ritchie*		9		•		E
Pettigrew – *Kanawha*	•	8				NM
Pipestem – *Summers*	•	16		•	P	R
Plum Orchard – *Fayette*	•	202		•	P	U*
Poorhouse Pond – *Berkeley*		5				
R.D. Bailey – *Mingo, Wyoming* ***COE***		630	•	•	P	U*
Ridenour – *Kanawha*	•	27		•		R
Rock Cliff – *Hardy**	•	17		C	P	E
Rockhouse – *Logan*	•	14		•		E
Rollins – *Jackson*	•	41		•		E
Salt Lick Pond 9 – *Braxton*		15	•	•		E
Seneca – *Pocahontas*	•	3		•	P	E
Sherwood – *Greenbrier**		165		P	P	E
Silcott Fork – *Roane*		23		•		
Sleepy Creek – *Berkeley*	•	205	•	•	P	E
South Mill Creek – *Grant*	•	48		•		E
Spruce Knob – *Randolph**	•	23		•	P	E
Stephens – *Raleigh*	•	300	•	•		U*
Stonecoal – *Lewis, Upshur*	•	550	•	•	P	10*
Stonewall Jackson – *Lewis* ***COE***	•	2650	•	•	P	U*
Summersville – *Nicholas* ***COE***	•	2700	•	•	P	U*
Summit – *Greenbrier**	•	43		•	P	E
Sutton – *Braxton* ***COE***	•	1500	•	•	P	U*
Teter Creek – *Barbour*	•	35		•	P	E
Thomas Park – *Tucker*		8	•	•	L	E
Tomlinson Run – *Hancock*		30	•	•	P	E
Tracy – *Ritchie*		11		•	L	E
Trout Pond – *Hardy*		2		•	P	
Tuckahoe – *Greenbrier*	•	40		•		E
Turkey Run – *Jackson*	•	15	•	•		E
Turkey Run – *Marshall*		15	•	•		E
Tygart – *Taylor* ***COE***		1750	•	•	P	U*
Tygart River Backwaters – *Randolph*	•	31	•	•		E
Underwood Lake – *Cabell*	•	1				
Upper Cove Run – *Hardy*		6.5		•		E
Upper Deckers - *Preston*		16				E
Upper Mud – *Lincoln*	•	307	•	•		10
Wallback – *Clay*	•	15				E
Warden – *Hardy*	•	44		•		E
Watoga – *Pocahontas*	•	11		•	P	E
Westover Park – *Monongalia*	•	1.5				
Whetstone – *Marion*		6	•	•		E
Wolf Run – *Marshall*		23		•		E
Woodrum – *Jackson*	•	240	•	•		10

Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of West Virginia Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Article 1, Section 7, Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1961 as amended, the following rules and regulations govern public use of all fishing and boating access sites administered by the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section.

Requirements And Prohibitions:

1. Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from the shore. No other use of access sites is allowed.
2. After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.
3. Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access sites.
4. The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:
   a. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages.
   b. Swimming or bathing.
   c. Camping.
   d. Open fires.
   e. Trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided.
   f. Discharge of firearms, fireworks and explosives.
   g. Leaving unattended watercraft.
   h. Commercial use except as authorized by the Director.
   i. Parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching.

Any person violating any of these rules and regulations shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia and such other laws as may be applicable.

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability or other protected group status. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Effective 05/10/01

Channel Catfish

Beech Fork, Bluestone, East Lynn, Burnsville, Stonecoal, Tygart, and Stonewall Jackson lakes; Kanawha, New, South Branch of the Potomac, and Ohio rivers. Most warmwater streams and state managed impoundments.

Favorite baits

Minnows, night crawlers, chicken livers and other natural baits.

Crappie

Bluestone, Burnsville, East Lynn, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson, Sutton, Summersville, and Tygart lakes; Ohio River backwaters.

Favorite baits

Minnows, jigs and minnow-imitating lures.

Hybrid Striped Bass/ Striped Bass

Kanawha and Ohio rivers; Beech Fork, Bluestone, East Lynn, Mt. Storm and R.D. Bailey lakes.

Favorite baits

White jigs, silver spoons, shad imitation lures and live minnows.

Largemouth Bass

Beech Fork, Bluestone, Burnsville, Cheat, East Lynn, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson and Sutton lakes; Ohio River; most farm ponds and state managed lakes.

Favorite baits

Minnows, night crawlers, crayfish, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs, soft plastic and most top-water lures.

Musky

Burnsville, North Bend Lake, Stonecoal, and Stonewall Jackson lakes; Buckhannon, Elk (downstream of Sutton), Gauley, Hughes, Little Kanawha, Monongahela, Mud, New, and West Fork rivers; Dunkard, Middle Island, Mill and Sandy creeks.

Favorite tackle and baits

Bait casting reels using lures imitating minnows; large spinners. Live creek chubs, suckers or large minnows are excellent bait.

RIPARIAN AND SHORELINE HABITATS

Vegetation is an important component of habitats along West Virginia's streams and lakes. These riparian areas are crucial in the protection of aquatic habitats for fish and other organisms. Help protect West Virginia's waters by protecting riparian areas.

See the following links for more information:

www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource/HomeOwner/Pages/default.aspx

water.epa.gov/type/lakes/index.cfm

Smallmouth Bass

Summersville and Tygart Lakes; Cacapon, Elk, Greenbrier, Little Kanawha, New, South Branch of the Potomac, mainstream Potomac, Ohio and Shenandoah rivers.

Favorite tackle and baits

Spinning tackle of medium-light and ultra-light weight using spinners and other artificial lures resembling minnows, night crawlers, hellgrammites, crayfish, crankbaits, jigs, and numerous soft plastic and top-water baits.

Trout

Cranberry, Elk above Webster Springs, South Branch of the Potomac near Franklin, North Fork of the South Branch, Shavers Fork of Cheat and Williams rivers.

Walleye

Jennings Randolph, R.D. Bailey, Summersville, Stonecoal, and Tygart lakes; Elk, lower Gauley and New rivers; Kanawha, Monongahela and Ohio river dam tailwaters.

Favorite baits

Live minnows, night crawlers, jigs, minnow-imitating crankbaits and spinners.

White Bass

Tygart Lake; Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela rivers.

Favorite baits

Jigs, crankbaits, spinners, streamers and live minnows.

Many of West Virginia's streams offer excellent float trip fishing when water conditions are suitable. Some popular trips are listed.

Cacapon River

From	To	Mile
Capon Lake	Yellow Springs	2.5
Yellow Springs	Yellow Springs North	5.0
Yellow Springs North	Rt. 127 Bridge	19.0
Rt. 127 Bridge	Cacapon Crossings	9.0
Cacapon Crossings	Rt. 9 Bridge	18.0
Rt. 9 Bridge*	Cacapon Power Plant	8.5
Cacapon Power Plant	Great Cacapon	2.8

** Contains dam to be portaged.*

Walhonde Water Trail (Coal River System)

Big Coal River

From	To	Miles
Whitesville	Orgas	9.0
Orgas	John Slack Park	11.0
John Slack Park	Dartmont	9.0
Dartmont	Lions Park	12.0

Little Coal River

From	To	Miles
Madison City Park	Donald Kuhn Juv. Ctr	9.0
Donald P. Kuhn Juv. Ctr.	Waterway Park	6.0
Waterway Park	Rt. 119 Bridge	12.0
Rt. 119 Bridge	Lions Park	2.0

Coal River

From	To	Miles
Meadowood Park*	Lower Falls	6.0
Lower Falls	Gateway Shopping Ctr.	5.5

** Unimproved access below Upper Falls Dam***
***Danger: No Portage around Upper Falls Dam*

Greenbrier River

From	To	Miles
Renick	Anthony Bridge	10.0
Anthony Bridge	Caldwell	12.7
Caldwell	Ronceverte	6.0
Ronceverte	Fort Spring	8.5
Fort Spring*	Alderson	6.0
Alderson	Talcott Bridge	13.0
Talcott Bridge**	Barger Springs	4.5
Barger Springs	Willow Wood Bridge	6.0

** Contains rapids for experienced canoeists only.*
***Contains two falls to be portaged.*

New River*

From	To	Miles
Shanklins Ferry	Mouth of Indian Creek	6.0
Below Sandstone Falls	Prince	12.0
Prince	Thurmond	12.0

**Only experienced boaters should attempt to float the New River. Portaging some areas will be necessary.*

South Branch River

From	To	Miles
Petersburg Bridge	Welton Park	3.0
Welton Park	Fisher Bridge South	5.5
Fisher Bridge South	Fisher Bridge	2.5
Fisher Bridge	Old Fields Bridge	4.5
Old Fields Bridge	South Branch WMA (McNeill)	5.0
South Branch WMA (McNeill)	Harmisons	7.0
Harmisons	Stony Run	1.5
Stony Run	Romney Bridge	8.75
Romney Bridge	Hanging Rock	5.0
Hanging Rock	Blues Beach Bridge	4.5
Blues Beach Bridge	Maple Landing	7.5
Maple Landing	Millesons Mill Bridge	2.0
Millesons Mill Bridge	Blue Ford South/North	4.75
Blue Ford South/North	Indian Rock	4.0
Indian Rock	Mouth of South Branch	4.5

Boating Education Requirement

Anglers using boats must obey boating laws. In West Virginia, anyone born after December 31, 1986 must successfully complete a N.A.S.B.L.A.-approved Boating Education Course before operating a motorboat.

Contact a Natural Resources Police Officer for an available course near you. You can also take the online Boating Education Course available at **www.wvdnr.gov**. Click on boating under the Law Enforcement heading.

Safe Boating Rules

Boating accidents usually result from a collision with another boat or an object in the water such as rocks or pilings. A little boating knowledge, common sense and courtesy could prevent most accidents.

- Don't operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Don't sit on the edge of the boat.
- If you must stand up, do so carefully away from the sides.
- Drive at a safe speed.
- Use navigation lights at night.
- Keep a lookout for other boats and follow the rules of navigation.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Don't fish during a thunderstorm.

Check the weather conditions before you leave. Lightning, strong wind and high waves create hazardous conditions. If caught on a lake in a strong storm, put all fishing gear in the bottom of the boat, stay low in the boat and get off the water as soon as possible. In high waves, the best way to keep from capsizing is to steer the boat at a slight angle into the waves.

Alcohol and Drugs

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs creates the same risks and carries the same penalties as DUI. Intoxication affects your balance, which is already challenged by being in a boat. It also affects your coordination, vision and thinking ability. Alcohol also causes you to lose body heat faster should you fall into the water, increasing the risk of hypothermia. A blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or above qualifies as legally intoxicated.

Commercial River Traffic

While boating on the major rivers of West Virginia, always be alert for large commercial vessels. Large vessels always have the right- of-way because of long stopping distances and blind spots around them. Also, turbulent water around the large vessel could capsize a small boat easily.

Stay out of danger zones and restricted areas around locks and dams.

Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Most boating fatalities are the result of a boat capsizing or passenger falling overboard. Nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents were NOT wearing a PFD.

If you are fishing from a boat, West Virginia law requires that you have one PFD on board and readily available for each person on the boat. Any child 12 years of age or under must wear a PFD while the boat is in progress. Make sure the PFD is in good condition (try it out in the water from time to time), readily available and fits properly. Boats over 16 feet must also have a ring or cushion on board that can be thrown to a person in the water.

Courtesy on the Boat Ramp

Boat ramp traffic jams can be prevented if everyone practices common courtesy at the ramp. Be sure you observe these simple courtesies.

- Prepare your vessel for launching or for the drive home well away from the ramp.
- Use at least two experienced people to launch and retrieve the vessel – one to drive the towing vehicle and one to operate the vessel.
- Never block a ramp with an unattended vessel or vehicle.
- Move the vessel away from the launch lane immediately after removing it from the trailer. Return briefly to pick up the vehicle driver once he or she has parked the vehicle and is back at the ramp.
- When retrieving, do not pull your vessel into a launch lane until the towing vehicle is at the ramp. The line is formed by vehicles with trailers, not by vessels in the water. Drop off the vehicle driver, and wait offshore and clear of the ramp until he or she arrives with the trailer.

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Learn more about boating safety and take an online course at **www.boat-ed.com/westvirginia/**.

Person in the Water

Reach-Throw-Row-Go is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water. If the person is close to you, REACH out with a long object such as an oar or tree limb to pull the person into shore or the boat.

If you can't reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can be used if the proper device is not available.

If there is nothing to throw, ROW a boat to the person in trouble. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat if possible to prevent the boat from tipping over. If the boat has a motor, it must be shut off before you get to the person in the water.

GO (swim) to the person ONLY as a last resort and only if you have had life-saving training. People who are drowning often panic and injure or drown someone trying to rescue them.

Safety with Fishing Equipment

Fishing hooks can be dangerous if not handled properly. Look behind you before you cast to make sure your hook will not be caught on a power line, a tree or a person. Do not leave fishing tackle lying loose on the ground. Someone can trip on it and fall or step on a hook.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Without treatment, your life is in danger. Exposure to the cold along with wind, wetness and exhaustion causes hypothermia. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Actually, many cases of hypothermia develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees. And because water takes away body heat 25 times faster than air of the same temperature, any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia.

Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. To treat hypothermia, get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, keep the person awake, remove all wet clothing and get the victim into dry clothes.

Fishing in Cold Weather

To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers serves as insulation. A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fishing is difficult with most gloves, but lightweight rubber gloves, gloves without fingertips, and gloves that have a flap to expose your fingers allow greater manual dexterity.

Ice fishing

West Virginia doesn't possess numerous ice fishing opportunities and in some ways, that makes the sport a little riskier. Anglers may be tempted to venture out on a frozen lake or river before checking the thickness of the ice. Ice should be at least four inches thick before it is considered safe. Due to variations in ice thickness on a waterbody, extreme caution should be exercised.

Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

1. Wade with a fishing buddy.
2. Wear your PFD.
3. Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
4. Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
5. Study how swiftly the water is moving.
6. Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water temperature and bottom substrate).

TROPHY FISH CITATION PROGRAM

The trophy fish citation program was initiated to recognize outstanding fishing achievement. The color fish illustrations on the citations are reproductions of original paintings by artist Duane Raver. Applications to register a trophy fish can be obtained from any license agent, Wildlife Resources office or **www.wvdnr.gov**.

Reporting Procedures

- Fish must be legally caught with rod and reel by a licensed angler in West Virginia.
- Carp legally taken by bow and meeting minimum size requirements qualify for a trophy fish citation.
- Fish must meet or exceed the minimum weight or length.
- Fish certified by weight must be weighed on a scale certified by the West Virginia Division of Labor or at any office of the West Virginia Wildlife Resources Section. Fish must be weighed in the presence of a witness who must sign the application form.
- Fish certified by length must be measured in the presence of a witness who must sign the application form, or fish must be measured and a photograph must accompany the application. Measure total length of fish to nearest 1/8 inch from tip of snout to end of tail. See **Measuring a Fish** on page 6.
- A clear side view photograph of the fish is desirable.
- Nonresidents and residents are eligible for trophy fish citations.
- Applications must be submitted within 60 days of the date of catch.
- A $5 fee must accompany each application. Make checks or money orders payable to the West Virginia DNR. Mail to: DNR Wildlife Resources, 1336 State Street, Room 216, Gassaway, WV 26624.

Minimum Sizes

Trout			Catfish		
Brook	15 in.	1.5 lb.	Blue	29 in.	10 lb.
Brown	21 in.	4 lb.	Bullhead	16 in.	2 lb.
Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Channel	25 in.	6 lb.
Golden Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Flathead	29 in.	10 lb.
Bass			**Crappie**	15 in.	1.5 lb.
Largemouth	21 in.	5 lb.	**Sunfish**	10 in.	1 lb.
Smallmouth	20 in.	4 lb.	**Chain Pickerel**	20 in.	2 lb.
Spotted	14 in.	1.5 lb.	**Northern Pike**	32 in.	8 lb.
Rock	11 in.	1 lb.	**Walleye**	25 in.	5 lb.
Striped	25 in.	7 lb.	**Sauger**	17 in.	1.5 lb.
Hybrid Striped	24 in.	7 lb.	**Yellow Perch**	13 in.	1 lb.
White	15 in.	2 lb.	**Freshwater Drum**	27 in.	10 lb.
Muskellunge	40 in.	15 lb.	**Fallfish**	18 in.	2 lb.
Tiger Musky	40 in.	15 lb.	**Carp**	31 in.	15 lb.

TROUT STOCKING Lakes, Ponds and Streams

Code	No. Stockings .....Period	Code	No. Stockings .....Period	Code	No. Stockings .....Period
Q	One.....1st week of March	BW	One.....February	CR	Varies .....Varies
W	One..... January		One every two weeks .....March-May	M	One each month ..... February-May
	Two.....February	BA	One..... January	MJ	One each month .....January-April
	One each week.....March-May			Y	One..... April
X	After April 1 or area is open to public		One.....March	F	*One each week ...* Columbus Day week & following week

Lake or Pond – *County*	Code
Anawalt – *McDowell*	M
Anderson – *Kanawha*	BA
Barboursville – *Cabell*	BA
Bear Rock Lakes – *Ohio*	BW
Beech Fork (Tailwaters) – *Wayne*	M
Berwind – *McDowell*	M
Big Run – *Marion*	Y
Boley – *Fayette*	M
Brandywine – *Pendleton*	BW-F
Brushy Fork – *Pendleton*	BW
Buffalo Fork – *Pocahontas*	BW-F
Burnsville (Tailwaters) – *Braxton*	BW
Cacapon – *Morgan*	W
Castleman Run – *Brooke, Ohio*	BW
Cedar Creek – *Gilmer*	BA
Chief Cornstalk – *Mason*	BA
Chief Logan – *Logan*	MJ
Conaway Run – *Tyler*	M
Coonskin Park – *Kanawha*	Q
Coopers Rock – *Monongalia*	BW-F
Curtisville – *Marion*	MJ
Dog Run – *Harrison*	M
Dunkard Fork – *Marshall*	M
East Lynn (Tailwaters) – *Wayne*	M
Edwards Run - Hampshire	BW
Fitzpatrick – *Raleigh*	MJ
Ft. Ashby – *Mineral*	BW
French Creek – *Upshur*	BW
Handley – *Pocahontas*	Q
Horse Creek – *Wyoming*	M
Huey Run – *Marion*	BA
Indian Rock - Nicholas	M
James P. Bailey – *Mercer*	BA
Jennings Randolph (Tailwaters) – *Mineral*	M
Jimmy Lewis – *Mercer*	M
Kanawha State Forest – *Kanawha*	Q
Kimsey Run – *Hardy*	BW
Krodel – *Mason*	BA
Larenim – *Mineral*	BA
Laurel – *Mingo*	MJ

Lake or Pond – *County*	Code
Lick Creek – *Wayne*	MJ
Little Beaver – *Raleigh*	MJ
Logan County Airport – *Logan*	Q
Mason Lake – *Monongalia*	M
Middle Wheeling Creek – *Ohio*	BW
Miletree – *Roane*	BA
Mill Creek – *Barbour*	M
Millers Fork – *Wayne*	Q
Mountwood – *Wood*	MJ
Newburg – *Preston*	M
New Creek Dam 14 – *Grant*	BW-F
Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir – *Ritchie*	BA
Pipestem – *Summers*	M
Poorhouse – *Berkeley*	M
Raleigh County Airport – *Raleigh*	Q
R.D. Bailey (Tailwaters) – *Mingo, Wyoming*	BW-F
Ridenour – *Kanawha*	BA
Rock Cliff – *Hardy*	XBW-F
Rockhouse – *Logan*	M
Rollins – *Jackson*	MJ
Seneca – *Pocahontas*	BW-F
South Mill Creek – *Grant*	BW
Spruce Knob – *Randolph*	W-F
Stonewall Jackson (Tailwaters) – *Lewis*	BW
Summersville (Tailwaters) – *Nicholas*	BW-F
Summit – *Greenbrier*	W-F
Sutton (Tailwaters) – *Braxton*	BW-F
Teter Creek – *Barbour*	BW-F
Thomas Park – *Tucker*	M
Tomlinson Run – *Hancock*	MJ
Tracy – *Ritchie*	BA
Tuckahoe – *Greenbrier*	M
Turkey Run – *Jackson*	BA
Tygart (Tailwaters) – *Taylor*	M-F
Underwood – *Cabell*	Q
Wallback – *Clay, Roane*	M
Warden – *Hardy*	BW
Watoga – *Pocahontas*	W
Westover Park – *Monongalia*	Q

Updated daily during Trout Stocking Season: **Hunting and Fishing Hotline (304) 558-3399** and online at **www.wvdnr.gov**

Lakes, Ponds and Streams TROUT STOCKING

Stream – *County*	Code
Anthony Creek – *Greenbrier*	W-F
Back Fork of Elk River – *Webster*	M
Back Fork of Elk River (C & R) – *Webster*	CR
Beech Fork Lake (Tailwaters) – *Wayne*	M
Big Bullskin Run – *Jefferson*	W
Big Clear Creek – *Greenbrier*	BW-F
Big Sandy Creek – *Preston*	BW
Blackwater River – *Tucker*	W-F
Blackwater River (C & R) – *Tucker*	CR
Buckhannon River – *Upshur*	BW-F
Buffalo Creek – *Brooke*	BW
Buffalo Creek – *Logan*	M
Burnsville Lake (Tailwaters) – *Braxton*	BW
Camp Creek – *Mercer*	BW
Cherry River – *Nicholas*	BW
Clear Fork – *McDowell*	M
Clear Fork – *Wyoming*	BW
Clear Fork (C & R) – *Wyoming*	CR
Clover Run – *Tucker*	M
Cranberry River – *Nicholas, Pocahontas, Webster*	W-F
Cranberry River (C & R) – *Nicholas, Pocahontas*	CR
Cranberry River, Woodbine Area – *Nicholas*	Q
Deer Creek – *Nicholas*	M
Deer Creek – *Pocahontas*	M
Desert Fork – *Webster*	M
Dillions Run – *Hampshire*	BW
Dry Fork – *McDowell*	M
Dry Fork – *Randolph, Tucker*	BW
Dunloup Creek – *Fayette*	M
East Fork of the Greenbrier River – *Pocahontas*	W
East Lynn Lake (Tailwaters) – *Wayne*	M
East River of New River – *Mercer*	BW
Elk River – *Randolph, Webster*	W-F
Elk River (C & R) – *Randolph*	CR
Evitts Run – *Jefferson*	W-F
Fall Run – *Webster*	M
Gandy Creek – *Randolph*	W
Glade Creek (Babcock) – *Fayette*	BW
Glade Creek of New River – *Raleigh*	BW-F
Glady Fork – *Randolph*	W
Greenbrier River – *Pocahontas*	BW
Hills Creek – *Pocahontas*	M
Hopkins Fork – *Boone*	M
Horseshoe Run – *Tucker*	BW
Indian Creek of New River – *Summers*	M
Kings Creek – *Hancock*	M
Knapps Creek – *Pocahontas*	W-F
Laurel Creek – *Fayette*	M
Laurel Creek – *Greenbrier, Nicholas*	M
Laurel Fork – *Randolph*	W
Laurel Fork – *Webster*	BW
Left Fork of Buckhannon River – *Upshur*	M
Left Fork of Holly River – *Webster*	BW
Left Fork of Right Fork Buckhannon – *Randolph, Upshur*	BW
Little Clear Creek – *Greenbrier*	BW
Little Kanawha River (Headwaters) – *Lewis, Upshur*	M
Little River (East Fork) – *Pocahontas*	W
Little River (West Fork) – *Pocahontas*	W
Long Marsh Run – *Jefferson*	M
Lost River – *Hardy*	W-F
Lower Cove Run – *Hardy*	M
Marsh Fork – *Raleigh*	M
Mash Fork – *Mercer*	BW-Q
Meadow Creek – *Greenbrier*	M
Meadow Creek – *Summers*	M

Stream – *County*	Code
Middle Creek – *Berkeley*	W
Middle Fork – *Barbour, Randolph, Upshur*	M
Middle Wheeling Creek (C&R) – *Ohio*	CR
Mill Creek – *Fayette*	M
Mill Creek – *Berkeley*	W
Mill Creek – *Hampshire*	BW
Mill Run – *Berkeley*	M
Moores Run – *Hardy*	M
New Creek – *Mineral*	W
North Branch of Potomac River – *Mineral*	M
North River – *Hardy*	BW
North Fork of Anthony Creek – *Greenbrier*	BW
North Fork of Cherry River – *Greenbrier, Nicholas*	BW
North Fork of Fishing Creek Dam – *Wetzel*	M
North Fork of Lunice Creek – *Grant*	BW
North Fork of Patterson Creek – *Grant*	W
North Fork of South Branch – *Grant, Pendleton*	W-F
North Fork of South Branch (C & R) – *Pendleton*	CR
Opequon Creek – *Berkeley, Jefferson*	W-F
Paint Creek – *Fayette, Kanawha*	BW
Paint Creek (C & R) – *Fayette*	CR
Panther Creek – *McDowell*	M
Paw Paw Creek – *Marion*	BW
Pinch Creek – *Raleigh*	Y
Pinnacle Creek – *Wyoming*	BW-F
Pond Fork – *Boone*	BW-F
Potts Creek – *Monroe*	M
R.D. Bailey Lake (Tailwaters) – *Mingo, Wyoming*	BW-F
Red Creek – *Tucker*	BW
Rhine Creek – *Preston*	M
Rich Creek – *Monroe*	M
Right Fork of Buckhannon River – *Upshur*	M
Right Fork of Middle Fork – *Upshur*	M
Right Fork of Little Kanawha River – *Upshur, Webster*	M
Rocky Marsh Run – *Jefferson*	W
Second Creek (C & R) – *Greenbrier, Monroe*	CR
Shavers Fork (C & R) – *Randolph*	CR
Shavers Fork (Lower Section) – *Randolph*	W-F
Shavers Fork (Upper Section) – *Randolph*	W-F
South Branch (Franklin Section) – *Pendleton*	W-F
South Branch (Smoke Hole Section) – *Pendleton*	W-F
South Branch (C & R) – *Pendleton*	CR
South Fork of Cherry River – *Greenbrier, Nicholas*	BW
South Fork of Cranberry River – *Pocahontas*	BW
South Fork of Fishing Creek – *Wetzel*	M
South Fork of Potts Creek – *Monroe*	M
Spruce Laurel Fork – *Boone*	M
Stonewall Jackson Lake (Tailwaters) – *Lewis*	BW
Sugar Creek – *Webster*	M
Summersville Lake (Tailwaters) – *Nicholas*	BW-F
Sutton Lake (Tailwaters) – *Braxton*	BW-F
Tilhance Creek – *Berkeley*	BW
Tomlinson Run – *Hancock*	M
Trout Run – *Hardy*	W
Tuscarora Creek – *Berkeley*	BW
Twelvepole Creek (Wayne Dam) – *Wayne*	MJ
Tygart Lake (Tailwaters) – *Taylor*	M-F
Tygart Valley River (Headwaters) – *Randolph*	BW-F
Waites Run – *Hardy*	W
West Fork of Greenbrier River – *Pocahontas*	W-F
West Fork of Twelvepole Creek – *Wayne*	M
Wheeling Creek – *Marshall, Ohio*	BW
Whiteday Creek – *Marion, Monongalia*	BW
Williams River – *Pocahontas, Webster*	W-F
Williams River (C & R) – *Pocahontas*	CR

FISH State Records

Reporting Procedures

A record of the largest fish of each species legally taken with rod and reel by a licensed angler in West Virginia waters is maintained by the Division of Natural Resources. Certificates of accomplishment are awarded for each record holder.

Anglers landing a potential state record fish should report the catch as soon as possible to the district fisheries biologist in the closest DNR district office. Please follow these guidelines to ensure accuracy of reporting.

1. Name, address, and telephone number of angler.
2. Species of fish, where, when, and how caught.
3. Total length of fish measured from tip of snout to end of tail. Lay fish on top of ruler on a flat surface. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body. See MEASURING FISH on page 4.
4. Fish must be weighed on a scale certified by the West Virginia Division of Labor.
5. Signatures and telephone numbers of two persons who witnessed the length and weight measurements.
6. A DNR fisheries biologist must verify the species, length, and weight of the fish.
7. A photograph of the fish is desirable.

If a DNR biologist is not immediately available, wrap the fish in plastic wrap and freeze it. Contact the local DNR biologist as soon as possible.

SPORT FISH RESTORATION

Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities

Species	Yr.	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Location	Angler
Bass					
Largemouth	2001	25.75	9.62	Dog Run Lake	Eli Gain
	1994	24.8	12.28	Pond – *Grant Co.*	David W. Heeter
Smallmouth	1976	25.5	7.5	New River	Franklin J. Elliott
	1971	24.25	9.75	South Branch	David Lindsay
Rock	1964	13.8	1.75	Big Sandy Creek	Warren Ryan
Spotted	2000	19.0	4.77	R. D. Bailey Lake	Kevin Dameron
	1988	19.0	3.82	R. D. Bailey Lake	Leonard Blankenship
Striped	2010	47.16	45.70	Bluestone Lake	James Brooks
Hybrid Striped	2000	32.1	14.0	Kanawha River	Frankie Harris
	1985	31.5	16.75	Kanawha River	Robert Honaker
White	1985	20.0	4.56	New River	Louis Puskas
Bluegill	1986	11.7	2.75	Pond – *Randolph Co.*	Mark Allen Lewis
	1964	13.75	2.25	Farm Pond – *Fayette Co.*	Dennis Criss
Bowfin	1994	32.25	7.54	Pond – *Berkeley Co.*	Donald E. Newcomb, III
	2006	28.43	9.25	Ohio River backwater	Matt Stender
Buffalo	1976	41.0	38.0	Little Kanawha River	Hobert Null
Carp					
Common	1998	39.3	47.0	Farm Pond – *Preston Co.*	Gary Johnson
	1988	41.0	41.5	Stonecoal Lake	Charles J. Cook
Grass	2002	47.1	52.5	Farm Pond – *Mason Co.*	Joseph R. Spencer, II
	2005	50.75	71.69	Warden Lake	William R. Taucher
Catfish					
Blue	2014	47.75	52.95	Ohio River	Austin Hoffman
Bullhead	1977	22.75	6.1	Tygart Lake Headwaters	Gary R. Freeman
Channel	2005	40.3	33.42	Patterson Creek	Michael Sears
Flathead	1956	52.0	70.0	Little Kanawha River	L. L. McCLung
Chain Pickerel	2001	27.75	6.19	Tuckahoe Lake	Steven Demma
Crappie	1971	19.75	4.05	Meathouse Fork	Leonard Edgell
Eel	1983	44.25	6.27	Elk River	Steve Woods
	1977	44.0	7.25	Bunker Hill Quarry	Arlie R. Ruble
Fallfish	1970	21.25	3.5	North Fork of So. Branch	James Blackwell
Freshwater Drum	1989	35.5	27.0	South Fork of Hughes	Charles Mickel Lott
	1954	37.0	25.0	Little Kanawha River	Bill Dawkins
Gar					
Longnose	2006	52.25	16.42	Kanawha River	Shelby Searls
	2012	52.25	15.0	Ohio River	Mark A. Foster
	1993	50.5	19.08	Kanawha River	Michael Shan Casey
Goldeye	1983	18.5	3.0	Ohio River	Delbert McWilliams
Muskellunge	2003	52.7	38.5	Stonecoal Lake	Glenn Boyd
	1997	50.37	49.75	Stonecoal Lake	Anna Marsh
Northern Pike	1989	42.6	22.06	Dog Run Lake	Boyd O. Pratt, Sr.
Sauger	1985	23.0	4.75	Ohio River	Steve Powell
	2012	22.50	5.06	Ohio River	David L. Vance
Saugeye	2006	27.68	8.73	East Lynn Lake	Everett Chapman
Skipjack	2013	19.21	2.64	Ohio River	Zachary Hankins
Tiger Musky	1994	49.25	36.5	Mountwood Lake	Clyde E. Beckett
Trout					
Brook	2004	22.25	7.64	Shavers Fork	Gary M. Chapman
	1981	23.5	4.78	Lost River	Jack E. Foltz
Brown	1968	32.0	16.0	South Branch	Paul Barker
Golden Rainbow	1998	26.4	9.31	Brushy Fork Lake	Danny Crider
	1987	27.5	8.63	Stonecoal Lake	Gerald Estep
Rainbow	2014	33.11	19.40	Pond – *Berkeley Co.*	Eric Files, Sr.
Tiger	2011	28.7	10.65	Krodel Lake	Mike Connolly
Walleye	2004	30.87	18.97	Elk River	Jerry Rose
	1976	35.0	15.0	Kanawha Falls	Fred Cline
Yellow Perch	2012	14.5	1.93	Summersville Lake	Joshua Estes
	2010	15.44	1.20	Summersville Lake	Craig Hollandsworth

Aquatic invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are an increasing threat to aquatic ecosystems across the country. Introductions of invasive zebra mussels, snakeheads, and Asian Carp have had impacts on and are threatening sport fishing in the Great Lakes and Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Recreational impacts and economic costs associated with invasive species can be substantial if invasive species do become a problem. Informing anglers of these threats is important because they are our best and first line of defense to guard against invasive species. We are concerned that invasive aquatic species could become established in West Virginia and cause significant harm to our aquatic environments, particularly sport fish populations.

Asian Carp

Some species of Asian Carp (bighead and silver) pose a particularly serious threat to WV waters. Native to Asia, they were introduced into the United States for use as various biological control agents in the aquaculture industry and have since escaped. Due to their large size, voracious appetites, and reproductive capabilities, they are regarded as highly invasive species and have been moving up the Mississippi and Ohio River basins at an alarming rate. Their diet consists of plankton, aquatic vegetation, aquatic insects and native fish larvae, which puts them in direct competition with native mussels other filter feeders such as the paddlefish and bigmouth buffalo and other forage fishes like the gizzard shad, threadfin shad and emerald shiner. Nearly all fish feed on zooplankton at some point in their life cycle, thus there is potential for an adverse effect on all fishes in the Mississippi and Ohio River basins. In states where they have become established, Asian carp make up as much as 90 percent of the biomass of the entire fish community.

Silver carp are also known to leap high out of the water when disturbed by vibrations like those commonly caused by recreational watercraft, posing an additional threat to boaters.

The West Virginia section of the Ohio River is close to the leading edge of invasion of the bighead and silver carps, and it is important that we work toward slowing their advance into West Virginia waters.

What you can do:

- NEVER move fish from one body of water to another
- Drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- Dispose of ALL unwanted bait in the trash
- Do not release live aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- Take a picture, note the location, and report new sightings to **877-STOP-ANS** or **www.wvdnr.gov**
- Learn to identify bighead and silver carp. Visit **wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Asian_Carp.shtm** for detailed descriptions.

  Silver and Bighead carp:
  - » Are silver in color with small scales
  - » Have a large upturned mouth that lack barbels
  - » Have low set eyes, below midline of body
  - » Have a keel (ridge) along the abdomen

By following these simple steps, anglers can help ensure West Virginia's good fishing for future generations. For more information please visit: www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/AquaticInvasiveSpecies

How to Properly Disinfect Recreational Equipment

Disinfection Procedures

Disinfect boats and personal watercraft prior to moving to another waterbody, watershed, or upstream site.

There are a number of disinfection techniques that will kill most aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, including whirling disease and Didymo. Solutions of bleach or dishwashing detergent product are suggested as they provide the best combination of availability, cost and ef fectiveness against these species. It is recommended that all disinfected equipment be rinsed on dry land, away from state waters. It is preferable to drain used solutions into treated wastewater (e.g. sinks, tubs, etc.)

Suggested Techniques

Non-absorbent items (boats, canoes, rubber waders, etc.)

- **Dishwashing Detergent:** soak and scrub for at least one minute with a 5% solution.
- **Bleach:** soak or spray all surfaces for a least one minute in a 2% solution of household bleach.
- **Hot Water:** soak for at least one minute in very hot water (above 140°F - hotter than most tap water) or for 20 minutes in water kept at 120°F (hot tap water, uncomfortable to touch).
- **Drying:** Drying will kill most aquatic pathogens, but slightly moist environments will support some organisms for months. This approach should only be used for gear than can be left in the sun for extended periods of time.
- **Freeze:** Place item in freezer until solid.

Absorbent items (felt-soled waders, clothing, wetsuits, sandals, etc.)

- These items require longer soaking times to allow thorough penetration into the materials. The thicker and denser the material, the longer it will require for adequate disinfection.
- Bleach solutions are not recommended for absorbent materials.
- **Hot Water:** Soak items for at least 40 minutes in very hot water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water)
- **Dishwashing Detergent and Hot Water:** soak for 30 minutes in a hot 5% detergent/water solution kept above 120°F

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™
Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

Health Benefits of Eating Fish

Fish are nutritious and good to eat. When properly prepared, fish provide numerous health benefits, especially for the heart. The American Heart Association recommends eating two to three fish meals each week.

The benefits of eating fish include:

- Fish offer high-quality protein with fewer calories than a similar-sized portion of meat. Example: Both catfish and ground beef are about 18% protein. But, for an 8-ounce meal, the catfish will have only about 232 calories, while the regular ground beef will have about 640 calories.
- Fish are low in sodium and are good sources of potassium, vitamins, and other minerals.
- Fish are generally low in cholesterol and saturated fats, which have been associated with high blood pressure and heart disease.
- While the benefits of fish on nutrition are still being studied, much of the current research is focused on various kinds of beneficial fats in fish, particularly a kind of omega-3 fatty acids which are in some fish and fish oils. Some studies have indicated that eating these fatty acids have favorable effects on health conditions such as reducing blood cholesterol levels and high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries.

Keeping and Cleaning Fresh Fish

Keeping Your Catch Fresh

The two best ways of keeping fish fresh on a fishing trip are to keep them alive or chill them. Since keeping fish alive is not always possible, a practical solution to the problem is an ice chest. Keep the drain open on the chest, because dead fish left in water will soon lose their flavor.

Although not as effective as an ice cooler, fish stringers are often used out of necessity, especially when wade fishing.

Cleaning

The fresher the fish, the easier it is to clean. Do not freeze the fish whole or put the job off until the skin is dry and brittle. Scaling the fish can be done in a variety of ways. Fish scalers, which can be purchased from most tackle shops, do an adequate job.

When skinning catfish, drive a nail through the head into a board, with the fish's belly down. Cut completely through the skin around the back of the head and pull the skin off with pliers. Then, remove the head and entrails. Larger catfish are best filleted after they have been skinned and huge ones may be steaked – leaving the backbone in and cutting crosswise in one-inch steaks.

For frying small panfish such as bluegill or crappie whole in a skillet, make a cut down each side of the dorsal and anal fins, then pull the fins out by the "roots." After scaling, make a diagonal cut through the fish, thus removing the head, entrails and rib cage in one operation. Leave the tails on. When fried crisp, they make delicious "crunchies".

Fish Consumption Advisories

The West Virginia Fish Consumption Advisories are presented in the following pages. These recommendations are intended to allow you to receive the nutritional benefits from eating fish while keeping the level of contaminants from fish at levels in your body where health problems are not likely. Fish advisories are not intended to discourage you from eating fish, but should be used as a guide to eating fish in the proper amounts so as not to adversely impact your health. You can reduce your risks by eating fish less likely to contain contaminants, cleaning and cooking them properly, and eating portions that correspond to your body weight.

Contaminants in Fish

Some fish take in contaminants (PCBs, for example) from the water they live in and the food they eat. These contaminants build up in the fish over time. Eating contaminated fish can result in a buildup of these chemicals in your body, so it is important to keep your exposure as low as possible. The meal advisory on the following pages is intended to protect people, especially pregnant and nursing women, women who may become pregnant in the next few years, and small children from potential health problems from eating contaminants in fish.

Which fish are less likely to contain contaminants?

Some fish such as sunfish, crappie, and trout eat insects and other aquatic life and are less likely to contain contaminants at levels that might affect your health. If you eat walleye, bass, and other predatory fish, eat the smaller, younger fish that are less likely to contain contaminants. Eat fewer fish like carp and catfish, which feed on the bottom of lakes and rivers and are more likely to contain contaminants.

How should I prepare and cook fish to reduce the amount of contaminants in the fish?

PCBs and Dioxin are contaminants that usually build up in a fish's fat deposits and just underneath the skin. By removing the skin and fat before cooking, you can reduce the levels of these chemicals. Mercury and Selenium collect in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking methods.

To reduce PCBs and Dioxin contaminants:

- Fillet fish and throw away the fat, skin, and internal organs (where contaminants are most likely to accumulate) before you cook them. Fat is concentrated on the belly, the middle of the back, the line along the sides, and under the skin.
- Cooking does not destroy the contaminants, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat and allows some of the contaminated fat to drain away. Broil, grill, or bake the trimmed, skinned fish on a rack so the fat drips away. Throw away the fat that comes from cooking fish.

WV Statewide Consumption Advisories FISH

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminants
All Waters in West Virginia except where listed in the Specific Consumption Advisories on pages 22 and 23.	Hybrid Striped Bass	1 meal a month	Mercury PCBs
	White Bass		
	Black Bass *(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted)*	2 meals a month	
	Channel Catfish greater than 17”		
	Flathead Catfish		
	Rock Bass		
	Walleye and Saugeye		
	Sauger		
	All Suckers		
	Channel Catfish less than 17”	1 meal a week	
	All Other Species		
	Rainbow Trout	No Limit	

How to Use this Advisory

Follow the advice presented in this brochure, noting the differences between the General Advisories for all West Virginia waters on this page and the Specific Advisories on pages 22-23. Find the meal advice for the fish you’ve caught. “Do Not Eat” means no one should eat those fish because of very high contamination. The other groups (“One Meal a Week”, “Two Meals a Month”, “One Meal a Month”, and “Six Meals a Year”) are advice for how often to eat a fish meal. The size of the fish meal depends on your body weight. To adjust serving sizes, follow the advice in the meal size table.

Women of childbearing age, children and people who regularly eat fish are particularly susceptible to contaminants that build up over time. If you fall into one of these categories, you should be especially careful to follow the meal sizes and space fish meals out according to the advisory tables.

Your body can get rid of some contaminants over time. Spacing the meals out helps prevent the contaminants from building up to harmful levels in the body. For example, if the fish you eat is in the “One Meal a Month Group”, wait a month before eating another meal of fish from any restricted category. Occasionally eating fish in quantities slightly greater than the advisories recommend, such as during an annual fishing vacation, should not present a health hazard.

Meal Sizes	
A person weighing between	should eat no more than this amount per meal
pounds	**ounces of precooked fish**
20 or less	1.0
21-35	1.5
36-50	2.0
51-70	3.0
71-90	4.0
91-110	5.0
111-130	6.0
131-150	7.0
151 and over	8.0
Remember that 3.0 ounces of precooked fish is about the size of the palm of your hand or a deck of cards	
Remember that 1.5 ounces of precooked fish is about one-half the size of the palm of your hand or one-half the size of a deck of cards	

For Additional Information

The advisory listing was current at the time this summary went to press. Other fish consumption advisories may have been issued or lifted since that time. Notice of such actions is released to the public through press releases. For further information or the most current advice contact:

WVDHHR: (304) 558-2981 • www.wvdhhr.org/fish
WVDNR: (304) 558-2771 • www.wvdnr.gov
WVDEP: (304) 926-0495 • www.dep.wv.gov
USEPA: www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish

FISH 2015 WV Specific Consumption Advisories

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminant(s)*
Bluestone River	Carp	1 meal a month	PCBs
Fish Creek	Smallmouth Bass, all sizes	1 meal a month	Mercury
Flat Fork Creek	Carp	Do not eat	PCBs
	Channel Catfish, all sizes		
	Suckers		
Kanawha River downstream of I-64 bridge in Dunbar including all backwaters, Armour Creek, Heizer Creek, Manila Creek, lower two miles Pocatalico River	Flathead Catfish, all sizes	Do not eat	Dioxin* Mercury PCBs
	Channel Catfish, all sizes		
	Carp		
	Hybrid Striped Bass		
	Suckers		
	All other species	1 meal a month	
Little Kanawha and Hughes River	Sauger	1 meal a month	Mercury
Upper Mud and Mt. Storm lakes, and Pinnacle Creek	Follow Advisory Guidelines for WV Statewide Consumption on page 21.		Selenium**
R. D. Bailey Lake	Channel Catfish greater than 17”	6 meals a year	PCBs
Shenandoah River	Carp	Do not eat	Mercury PCBs*
	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal a month	Mercury
Summersville Lake	Flathead Catfish, all sizes	1 meal a month	Mercury
	Walleye	1 meal a month	
Sutton Lake	Black Bass, all sizes	1 meal a month	Mercury

** PCBs: Polychlorinated Biphenyls*

*** Measureable levels of Selenium were detected in fish samples from the listed water bodies. The levels measured would suggest advisories that are less restrictive or consistent with the statewide consumption advice in place for mercury and PCBs.*

Note: Contaminant- Meal Limits are determined by the chemical with asterisk. Other chemicals, such as dioxin, (Hg) methyl mercury may have an advisory at a less restrictive level.

Ohio River Consumption Advisories FISH

The protocol used to determine Ohio River fish consumption advisories (ORFCAP) is the product of the efforts of a multi-agency workgroup consisting of representatives from the six main stem states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia) as well as the US EPA and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to develop consistent fish advisories along the Ohio River main stem. The online Ohio River advisory is available at: **http://216.68.102.178/comm/fishconsumption/default.asp**, please refer to the website for recent updates.

Ohio River Segment	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminant(s)*
Pennsylvania Border (East Liverpool) **to Belleville Lock** (Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzel and Wood counties)	Channel Catfish 18" and over	Do not eat	*PCBs
	Channel Catfish less than 18" Common Carp Striped Bass Hybrid White Bass	6 meals a year	
	Black Crappie Flathead Catfish Freshwater Drum 14" and over Largemouth Bass Sauger Saugeye Smallmouth Bass Smallmouth Buffalo Spotted Bass All Suckers Walleye White Crappie	1 meal a month	
Belleville Lock to the Kentucky Border (Jackson, Mason, Cabell and Wayne counties)	Channel Catfish 18" and over	6 meals a year	*PCBs
	Channel Catfish less than 18" Common Carp Flathead Catfish Freshwater Drum 14" and over Striped Bass Striped Bass Hybrid All Suckers White Bass	1 meal a month	

** PCBs: Polychlorinated Biphenyls*

Note: Contaminant- Meal Limits are determined by the chemical with asterisk. Other chemicals, such as dioxin, (Hg) methyl mercury may have an advisory at a less restrictive level.

LICENSES 2015 Fishing Fees

Fishing and Hunting Licenses are good for the calendar year. You must purchase new licenses at the beginning of each year. All licensed anglers must carry a valid form of identification while fishing.

Resident Licenses

Conservation Stamp(Class CS): **$5**
Required for licensed anglers except holders of Class X, XJ, XS, A-L, B-L, and AB-L licenses.

Hunting and Trapping (Class A): **$19**

Fishing (Class B): includes National Forest **$19**

Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class X): **$35**
for ages 18 through 64

Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/ Trapping (Class XJ): **$16**
for ages 15 through 17

Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/ Fishing License (Class AHJ): **$16**
Same privileges as Class XJ, for ages 15-17 and completion of hunter safety course not required.

Trout Fishing Stamp (Class O): **$10**
Required of licensed anglers fishing for trout, except holders of Class XS license.

Nonresident Licenses

Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE): **$13**
Required for all licensed anglers

Fishing (Class F): **$37**

Hunting/Trapping (Class E): **$119**

One Day Fishing (Class LL): **$3**
One day

Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/ Trapping (Class XXJ): **$16**
for ages 8 through 17 (not required for fishing under age 15)

Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/ Fishing (Class AAHJ): **$16**
Same privileges as Class XXJ, for ages 15-17 and completion of hunter safety course not required.

National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing(Class I): **$2**
Required of licensed anglers except for holders of Class XXJ.

Trout Fishing Stamp (Class OO): **$16**
Required of licensed anglers fishing for trout.

Resident and Nonresident Licenses

Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons with a Life-threatening Condition (Class DT): ..... **FREE**
Issued for ages 20 or less. Requires no additional licenses or stamps.

Lifetime Licenses

Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L)*: **$805**

Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Infant (Class AB-L-I)*: **$402.50**
Must be purchased before age 2.

Senior Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class XS)*: **$25**
Required for anglers who turn 65 on or after 1/1/12.

Fishing (Class B-L)*: **$552**

Fishing - Infant (Class B-L-I)*: **$276**
Must be purchased before age 2.

Trout Fishing (Class O-L):** **$230**

Trout Fishing - Infant (Class O-L-I):** **$115**
Must be purchased before age 2.

** Conservation Stamp not required.*
***Valid only when accompanied by a Class B, AB-L, AB-L, I, B-L, B-L-I, X, or XJ license.*

Trout Stamp Requirements

Lifetime license holders who turn 65 after December 31, 2011 must purchase a trout stamp or the Senior Lifetime License which includes that privilege.

Individuals in the following groups do not need a trout stamp:

- residents who turned 65 years of age before January 1, 2012
- resident and nonresident youth under 15 years of age
- residents who are disabled veterans receiving 100% permanent service connected disability, or those who are former POWs

PURCHASING A LICENSE

Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At approximately 200 retail agent locations throughout the state and designated county clerks offices. ($3 issuing fee for first purchase and $1 for subsequent purchases.)
2. **www.wvfish.com** (Official DNR Web site – $2 fee per transaction.)
3. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning (304) 558-2758. ($2 fee per transaction.)

For additional information please contact:

Hunting and Fishing License Unit
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
324 4th Avenue • South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

(304) 558-2758 • wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov

DEFINITION OF RESIDENT

A person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and any full-time student of a college or university of this state. Nonresident students do not qualify for a lifetime license.

The WVDNR has the authority under Federal Welfare Reform Legislation (Title 42 of the U.S. Code Section 666 (a) (13) to collect the Social Security Number from an applicant for a recreational license such as a fishing and hunting license. This facilitates collection of child support payments. States failing to collect a SSN could face loss of federal welfare funds. The DNR takes every precaution including encryption and masking to protect your SSN.

Fishing License NOT Required for

1. Residents who are totally blind. A physician's statement or certificate must be carried while fishing.
2. Residents who turn 65 years of age before 1/1/12. A WV driver's license or WV photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles shall be carried while fishing.
3. Nonresidents or residents under 15 years of age.
4. Residents on active duty in the U. S. armed forces while on military leave. Leave papers shall be carried while fishing.
5. Resident landowners or their resident children, resident parents, or bona fide resident tenants of such land may fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with the laws and regulations applying to such fishing.
6. Residents honorably discharged from the U. S. armed forces receiving total permanent service-connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of any motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Such persons must carry a card issued by the DNR.
7. Residents or in-patients of any state mental hospital, health or benevolent institution. Such persons must be under proper supervision and carry a written statement or certificate signed by the superintendent of the institution or facility.
8. Developmentally disabled residents. A DDFL card issued by the DNR must be carried while fishing.

Violations

Point System for Fishing Violations

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges suspended for one year.

Points assigned for other fishing violations:

10 points for use of explosives or poison material in taking fish

6 points for taking fish by illegal method, exceeding daily creel limit, and using bait in a restricted area

4 points for all other violations

When a violator accumulates 10 or more fishing or hunting points combined, his/her license(s) will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on their second anniversary or upon restoration of the license(s).

Reporting Boating, Fishing and Hunting Law Violations:

In progress dial 911

Not in progress call your DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours or report online at **www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm**

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront violator.
3. Contact a local Natural Resources Police Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.
4. Become involved in protecting your sport, be willing to testify in court.

Stream Pollution or Fish Kills: Call **1-800-642-3074.**

WWW.WVHUNT.COM
goWILD!
WWW.WVFISH.COM

FREE FISHING DAYS

June 13-14, 2015

FISH Sport Fish Identification

Game Fish Defined: The following are game fish – bluegill, black bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted), rock bass, striped bass, white bass, channel catfish, flathead catfish, chain pickerel, crappie, muskellunge, northern pike, sauger, brook trout, brown trout, golden rainbow trout, rainbow trout, walleye, other sunfish and all game fish hybrids.

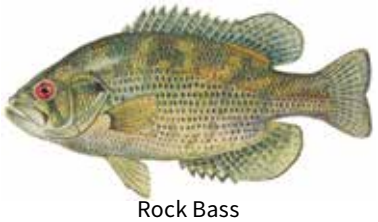
Paintings by Duane Raver.

Bluegill

Largemouth Bass

Smallmouth Bass

Spotted Bass


Rock Bass

Striped Bass

Hybrid-striped Bass

White Bass

Carp

Bullhead Catfish

Channel Catfish

Flathead Catfish

Chain Pickerel

Muskellunge

Tiger Musky

Northern Pike

Sauger

Walleye

Black Crappie

White Crappie

Fallfish

Freshwater Drum

Yellow Perch

Brook Trout

Brown Trout

Golden Rainbow Trout

Rainbow Trout