

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

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.

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

Clear Fork – Wyoming County

300-yard section of Clear Fork in Gilliland Park in Oceana. Access is by Route 10.

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.

REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS



March 13, 2017

Fairmont, Flatwoods, Harrisville, Martinsburg, Milton and Mullens

March 14, 2017

Elkins, Glen Dale, Lewisburg, Logan, Moorefield and Parkersburg

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.

Flathead Catfish

For waters listed below

1. Daily creel limit of four flathead catfish, of which only one may be 35 inches or longer.
2. Possession limit of eight.

Streams

Kanawha River

Mouth of Kanawha River extending upstream to the confluence of the New and Gauley rivers.

Ohio River

Includes West Virginia tributaries within the reciprocal agreement boundaries.

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 mouths to their first riffles.

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.

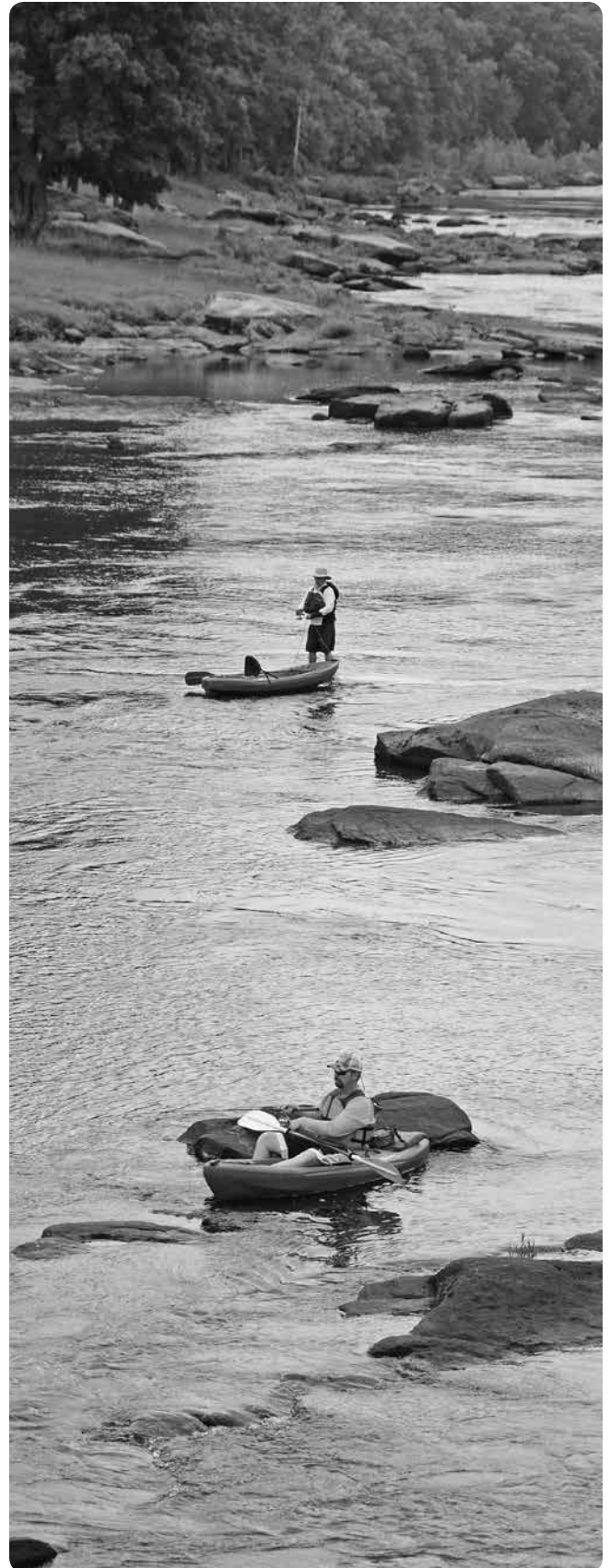
Stonewall Jackson Lake

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.

Mill Creek – Randolph County

Brook Trout Entire length of Mill Creek and its tributaries within Kumbrabow State Forest.

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.

Seneca Creek – Pendleton County

0.20-mile section from the mouth extending upstream to the Route 28 bridge.

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.

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.



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WVDNR

wvdnr.gov/nhfd



SEPT 23
24
9 A.M. – 6 P.M.

Walleye

Minimum Size Limit

Cheat River, Elk River (upstream of Sutton Lake Dam, including Sutton Lake), **Monongahela River, Tygart River** and **West Fork River** (downstream of Stonewall Jackson Lake Dam)

Burnsville, Cheat, Stephens, Stonecoal and Tygart lakes

1. All walleye under 15 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 8 walleye.

New River (mouth of Gauley River upstream to Hawks Nest Lake Dam)
Ohio River (including Ohio River tributary reciprocal boundaries)

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

Slot Limit

Coal River, Elk River (mouth of Elk River upstream to Sutton Dam), **Greenbrier River, Gauley River** (mouth of Gauley River upstream to Summersville Dam), **Kanawha River** (Winfield Dam upstream to confluence of New and Gauley rivers) and **New River** (upstream of Hawks Nest Dam to the West Virginia/Virginia state line, 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.

Gauley River (upstream of Summersville Dam, including Summersville Reservoir)

1. All walleye from 20 to 30 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 8 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.)

Charles Fork and Dog Run lakes

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 waters designated as catch-and-release.

Reciprocal Fishing

Ohio River

Anglers with a valid Ohio resident or West Virginia resident fishing license may fish on the Ohio River, its embayments or from either bank. 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.

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.

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

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.

Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers

Anglers with a valid Kentucky or West Virginia resident fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers from the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers upstream to the Virginia state line. Anglers with a valid fishing license from their respective state of residence can fish from a boat or from either bank of the sections previously defined.

If fishing from a watercraft, fishing license holders shall abide by the laws, rules and regulations of the state in which he or she is licensed. If fishing from the bank, fishing license holders shall abide by the laws, rules and regulations of the state in which he or she is fishing.