

## 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](http://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 29.
- 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.
- Mail to: DNR Wildlife Resources, 324 4th Ave., South Charleston, WV 25303.

### 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.
Largemouth	21 in.	5 lb.	Sunfish		10 in.
Smallmouth	20 in.	4 lb.	Chain Pickerel		20 in.
Spotted	14 in.	1.5 lb.	Northern Pike		32 in.
Rock	11 in.	1 lb.	Walleye		25 in.
Striped	25 in.	7 lb.	Sauger		17 in.
Hybrid Striped	24 in.	7 lb.	Yellow Perch		13 in.
White	15 in.	2 lb.	Freshwater Drum		27 in.
Muskellunge	40 in.	15 lb.	Fallfish		18 in.
Tiger Musky	40 in.	15 lb.	Common Carp		31 in.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Anglers are reminded that it is unlawful to release any fish, water animal or other aquatic organism, alive or dead, or any part, nest or egg thereof into public waters of this state except as authorized by the Director of the Division of Natural Resources. A stocking permit for trout and bass may not be required depending on the source and disease-free certification of the fish.

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 West Virginia 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 bighead and silver carps, and it is important that we work toward slowing their advance into West Virginia waters.

## Asian Carp continued ...

### 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](http://www.wvdnr.gov)
- Learn to identify bighead and silver carp. Visit [wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Asian\\_Carp.shtm](http://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/Invasive\\_Species.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Invasive_Species.shtm)

## WEST VIRGINIA ABOUNDS WITH OUTDOOR FUN!

### Get involved.

**State Conservation Camp** - June annually  
[wvconservationcamp.com](http://wvconservationcamp.com)

**Junior Conservation Camp** - June annually  
[dep.wv.gov/environmental-advocate/YEP/Pages/YouthConservationCamp.aspx](http://dep.wv.gov/environmental-advocate/YEP/Pages/YouthConservationCamp.aspx)

**Free Fishing Days** - June 13-14, 2020

**Trout Unlimited Trout in the Classroom Program**  
[www.tu.org/TIC](http://www.tu.org/TIC)

**NRA Youth Shooting Events**  
[explore.nra.org/interests/youth-interests/](http://explore.nra.org/interests/youth-interests/)

**Bass Federation Youth Events**  
[bassfederation.com/tbf-youth/](http://bassfederation.com/tbf-youth/)

**Centershot Ministries**  
[centershot.org/](http://centershot.org/)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**DO NOT DUMP BAIT** into the waters of West Virginia. This will further protect our streams, rivers and lakes from invasive species.

## 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 effectiveness 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 percent solution.
- **Bleach:** soak or spray all surfaces for a least one minute in a 2 percent 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 that 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 percent detergent/water solution kept above 120°F