Special Areas – REGULATIONS

BLACK BASS

Catch-and-Release

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.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, the line should be cut 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

Lakes

Dunkard Fork, Elk Fork, Kimsey Run, Millers Fork Pond, North Bend, O'Brien, Rockhouse, Stonewall Jackson, 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).

HANDLING & 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.

Minimum Size Limit

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) under 12 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish on page 4.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

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.

Slot Limit

Lakes

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.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

South Mill Creek

Streams

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.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

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.

REGULATIONS OPEN HOUSE

March 12, 2012

Fairmont, Lewisburg, Martinsburg, Milton, Spencer and Summersville

March 13, 2012

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

REGULATIONS – Special Areas

CHILDREN AND CLASS Q HANDICAP FISHING AREAS

1. Area is 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 license.
3. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
4. Creel limit is four trout.
5. Another person may assist with baiting hooks and removing fish.

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.

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.

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.

Wood Pond – Ohio County
.5-acre pond in the Bear Rocks Lake WMA. Access by county Route 41/6.

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.

MUSKELLUNGE

Catch-and-Release

Streams

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.

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.

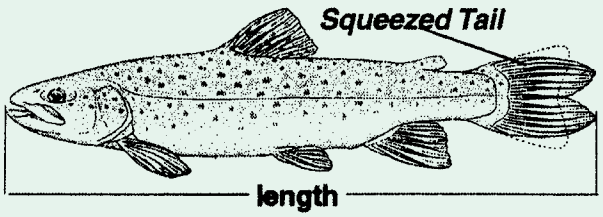
Middle Island Creek – Tyler County
6-mile section beginning at the state Route 18 bridge near Centerville and continuing downstream to the low water bridge near the Jug WMA. Included in this area are sections of Indian Creek and McElroy Creek from their mouth to their first riffle.

Minimum Size Limit

Lakes

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish below.
3. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

North Bend Lake



MEASURING 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.

Special Areas – REGULATIONS

TROUT

Catch-and-Release

Streams

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. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, the leader should be cut 5 to 6 inches above the lure.
6. All trout caught must be returned to the water at once.
7. 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.

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

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.
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

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.
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.

Delayed Harvest Streams

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.

REGULATIONS – Special Areas

TROUT CONTINUED

Delayed Harvest Streams continued

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

Streams

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 fly-fishing-only trout 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

1. All walleye under 18 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye.
3. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish on page 4.
4. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

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

Lakes

1. All walleye under 28 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye.
3. Measure fish from the tip of snout to the end of tail. See Measuring Fish on page 4.
4. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

Charles Fork and Moncove

Slot Limit

Rivers

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.
3. Measure fish from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail. See Measuring Fish on Page 4.

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.

Catch-and-Release

Rivers

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.

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

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.

Please see the following links for more information:

http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource/HomeOwner/Documents/BufferPlanting.pdf

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

Special Areas – REGULATIONS

ALL SPECIES

Catch-and-Release

Lakes

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.
5. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, the line should be cut 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

Dixon (Pedlar Wildlife Management Area)

FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS SITES

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 the 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.

The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:

- consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages.
- swimming or bathing.
- camping.
- open fires.
- trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided.
- discharge of firearms, fireworks and explosives.
- leaving unattended watercraft.
- commercial use except as authorized by the director.
- 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.

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.