**WEST VIRGINIA FISHING GUIDE**

**Boating Education Requirement**

Persons born after December 31, 1975, must successfully complete an approved boating education course before operating a boat in West Virginia. More information can be found at wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm.

**Wear Your Life Jacket**

Personal flotation devices are not just for swimming in boats and not just for those who can’t swim. Make sure the PFD is in good condition and fits properly. Youth under 12 years of age must wear a PFD while in a boat, or on deck while a motorboat is moving.

**Wading**

- Walk with a fishing buddy
- Wear a wading belt
- Hold your feet or chest against a stick while you wade
- Study how swiftly the water is moving
- Wear appropriate clothing for wading (water temperature and button subassembly)

**Person in Water**

Reach-Throw-Talk is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in the water.

- Reach — If you can safely reach the person, then throw the litter, object, or other unsightly trash.
- Throw — If you cannot reach the person, then throw an object.
- Talk — If you cannot throw an object, then talk to the person to get their attention.

**Wading**

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**Fishing in Cold Weather**

Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. A common misconception is that the air temperature must be below freezing before you become hypothermic. Any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia. Symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, slurred speech, confusion, and exhaustion. In the case of an emergency, get the victim out of the cold, give them warm drinks, keep them warm, and get them to shelter.

**Fishing for Trout**

- Trout can be caught in most areas of the state. However, the most productive areas are in the mountainous regions and along the rivers and streams.
- Trout are most active during the spring and fall.
- Use worms, corn, or nightcrawlers as bait.
- Use a light tackle with a small hook and a leader.

**Fishing for Walleye**

- Walleye are common in most areas of the state. However, the most productive areas are in the lakes and reservoirs.
- Use live bait, such as minnows or nightcrawlers.
- Use a lead core line with a lead weight.
- Use a slow retrieve.

**Fishing for Bass**

- Bass are common in most areas of the state. However, the most productive areas are in the lakes and reservoirs.
- Use live bait, such as minnows or nightcrawlers.
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- Use a slow retrieve.

**Fishing for Catfish**

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**Fishing for perch**

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**Fishing for crappie**

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**Fishing for bluegill**

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**Fishing for trout**

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- Use a light tackle with a small hook and a leader.
- Use a slow retrieve.

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Boating and Water Safety

Wear Your Life Jacket

Personal flotation devices are not just for wearing in boats and not just for those who don’t know how to swim. Make sure the PFD is in good condition and the property. Youth under 12 years of must wear a PFD. If you are on deck while in motion, be sure to be wearing a PFD.

Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading:

• Work with a fishing buddy.
• Wear your PFD.
• Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
• Shovel your feet or use a stik along the bottom to anchor your feet.
• Stay low so easily the water is moving.

Wear appropriate gear for the temperature and other weather conditions.

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To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. A trapped surface layer of clothing layer will protect you from the cold. If you lose heat fast, it will be harder to keep warm. Hypothermia symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, pale or blue limbs, difficulty speaking, confused or reduce. In an emergency, get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, keep them warm, remove too much clothing and get them into dry clothes.

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**ANGLERS ALERT**

**Spread of Invasive Plants**

Moving live fish or other aquatic plants and fish from one body of water to another can cause long-term damage to the ecological stability of the state’s rivers and streams and threaten recreational fishing. Please take these precautions to prevent problems.

- Do not move fish from one body of water to another.
- Do not allow live fish in tackle boxes, coolers, live wells, etc., before leaving an access area.
- Do not release live bass into aquatic or fish habitat.
- Remove all aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, and fishing gear before leaving an access area.

**Fishing and Boating Access Sites**

Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used only for the purpose of fishing and related watercraft activities. Fishing from the shore is not to use any of the access sites allowed. Any lauching, with the approval of the West Virginia DNR, if such facilities shall be provided in suitable parking spaces. Any individual or organization acting under proper authority may prohibit the launching from a boat, launching and watercraft activities at any public boating and fishing access site.

**The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:**

- Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an an intoxicated state of intoxication.
- Smoking.
- Swearing or baiting.
- Camping.
- Open Fires.
- Trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided.
- Anchoring or mooring of any vessel or the mooring of any watercraft.
- Discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosives.
- Leaving unattended watercraft.
- Parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft.
- Use of live wells or other aquatic animals and plants.
- Moving live fish or other aquatic animals and plants from one body of water to another.
- Discharge of sewage, waste or any other harmful substances.
- Use of any firearm or other weapon.
- Use of any motor or other mechanical device.
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Trout stocking hotline

Become involved in protecting your sport. Be willing to

Useful Phone Numbers

- (800) 642-3074

Money used to buy and develop stream and lake access

sites comes from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses,

including the conservation stamp. Federal funds used

WildlifeWV

Romney, WV 26757

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WEST VIRGINIA

Anglers outraged at state's approach to water quality

• West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the

state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted

property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct.

West Virginia's waters

- West Virginia’s waters

- Remove all visible plants and animals from your boat,

access area

- Do not discharge of firearms, fireworks or explosives

in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or

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- Persons in water

Person in water

- Personal flotation devices are not just for wearing in boats and

- Study how swiftly the water is moving

- Wade with a fishing buddy

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is in trouble in water.

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Reporting Boating, Fishing and Hunting Violations

In progress – call W.V. District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours

1. Observe and watch down the line of information concerning the violation.

2. Don’t self-enact

3. Confront violator

4. Provide to Law Enforcement Officer in person or report the violation online as soon as possible at wvdnr.gov. It is recommended to document your involvement in protecting your sport. Be willing to testify in court.

Wildlife Resources Section – District 2
West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
1 Depot Street, Moorefield, WV 26836
(304) 822-3615 – wvdnr.gov
WVonline
@wvs Fish
wvdnr.gov

Money spent on fishing and hunting recreations is sent back to the West Virginia economy through the Lake or Pond: County

Acres

Mineral

Berkeley

Pendleton

Cacapon River

Blue Ford South/North

Fishing

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

– Wear a PFD if they are on deck while a motorboat is moving.

– Wear appropriate foot wear (considering water temperature, bottom, etc.).

– Study how swiftly the water is moving. Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.

– Hypothermia is a life-threatening condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia. Symptoms include: uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. In the case of an emergency, get the victim out of the cold, dry them with warm clothes, keep them warm, remove all wet clothing, and get them into dry clothes.

– To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers acts as insulation. A wool hat prevents heat from escaping through your head. Fishing is a difficult sport with most gloves, but lightweight rubber gloves, gloves without fingertips and gloves that have a “grip” on the fingers allow greater manual dexterity.

– There is no substitute for a life-saving device. If the person is close to you, REACH out with a long object such as a oar or pole and try to get a hand or arm. You may be able to remove the person from the water. You will need to work quickly to prevent drowning or injury. Panic and try to save someone trying to save themselves. If you can’t reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. If the person is on your boat, and the boat is moving, LOOSEN the rope from the anchor and throw them a line. If you can’t get to the person, then use WAVE and they will swim to you.

– Once you have rescued the victim, change into dry clothes and warm them up. If the victim is unconscious, call 911 immediately. Do not try to move the victim.

Boating Education Requirement

Persons born after December 31, 1986, must successfully complete an approved boating education course before operating a boat on any state or federal waterway. Click on boating under the law enforcement heading.

Wear Your Life Jacket

Personal flotation devices are not just for wading in boats and not just for those who don’t know it. Make sure the PFDs is in good condition and fits properly. Youth under 12 years old must wear a PFD. If they are not dark while in moving water, they should wear a jacket.

Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

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