

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. Residents must have a valid fishing license and nonresidents must have a valid hunting 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.

GIGGING, SNAGGING AND SNARING

Suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs may be taken by snaring year-round. Other nongame fish, turtles 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 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.

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.

FREE FISHING DAYS

June 12 -13, 2010

Other Methods of Fishing – REGULATIONS

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 Fish** on page 4.
- 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. | Bullhead | 16 in. | 2 lb. |
| Brown | 21 in. | 4 lb. | Channel | 25 in. | 6 lb. |
| Rainbow | 21 in. | 4 lb. | Flathead | 29 in. | 10 lb. |
| Golden Rainbow | 21 in. | 4 lb. | Blue | 29 in. | 10 lb. |
| Bass | | | Crappie | | |
| 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. |

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.

