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This pamphlet is a summary of the applicable laws and regulations governing sport fishing in West Virginia. The West Virginia Code and the West Virginia Code of Rules contain the details of these laws and regulations. Both publications are available for review in the Director's Office and Division of Natural Resources District Offices. Copies of the official regulations may be obtained from the West Virginia Secretary of State. Year-round fishing is in effect unless otherwise noted.

NEW FOR 2012

Walleye

Increase in the minimum size limit for walleye from 24 inches to 28 inches at Charles Fork Lake, Roane County and Moncove Lake, Monroe County. (see page 6)

Black Bass

Establishment of a 12-inch minimum size limit for largemouth bass, smallmouth bass and spotted bass on the Ohio River. (see page 3)

Licensing

A Senior Lifetime Hunting, Trapping and Fishing License(Class XS) is required for all hunters, trappers and anglers who turn 65 on or after January 1, 2012. (see page 24)



Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor
State of West Virginia

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Landowner – Sportsmen Relations

West Virginia anglers are indebted to local landowners throughout the state. Without their consent and generosity, fishing would be restricted to state and federal lands. The opportunity for continued use of private property is largely dependent upon anglers' attitudes and conduct. Most stream closures are the result of disrespect for private property.

Statement of Policy Relative to Public Use of Facilities

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons. Complaints should be mailed to: Director, Division of Natural Resources, 324 Fourth Avenue, Room 341, South Charleston, WV 25303, or to the Office of Human Resources, U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, MA 01035-9589. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

