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. All anglers must have a valid fishing 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.

The Diamond Darter is a fish species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take this fish species and use it for any purpose including as live bait for fishing.

Gigging, Snagging and Snaring

Suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs may be taken by snaring year-round. Other nongame fish, certain turtles (see Turtles, Frogs, Toads and Salamander Regulations on page 9) 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 (see Turtles, Frogs, Toads and Salamander Regulations on page 9) 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.

The Diamond Darter is a fish species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act. It is illegal to take this fish species and use it for any purpose including as live bait for fishing.

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.
- hand fish.

HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE FISHING AREAS

For more information on developed sites contact:

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
Wildlife Resources Section
324 4th Avenue • South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

304.558.2771 or **www.wvdnr.gov**

Turtle, Frog, Toad, and Salamander Regulations

Turtles

- **The season is closed for the following turtles:** wood turtle, spotted turtle, northern map turtle, Ouachita map turtle and midland smooth softshell turtle. These turtles, their eggs, offspring or parts thereof may not be possessed.
- **Eastern snapping turtle and eastern spiny softshell turtle:** The daily creel limit of eastern snapping turtle and eastern spiny softshell is ten (10) turtles and the possession limit is twenty (20) turtles. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess turtles.
- **All Other turtles:** The total possession limit is four (4) turtles in aggregate. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess turtles.
- **Collection dates:** Turtles may be taken only between January 1 and May 15 and July 15 and December 31.

Frogs and Toads

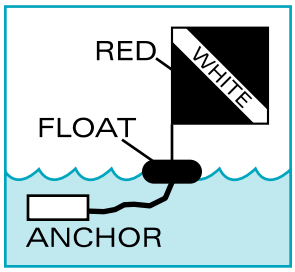
- **The season is closed for the following frogs and toads:** eastern spadefoot toad, northern cricketfrog and northern leopard frog. These frogs and toads, their eggs, offspring or any parts thereof may not be possessed.
- **Green and Bull Frogs:** See Regulation Summary, page 2. Residents and non-residents may take or possess green and bull frogs.
- **All other frogs and toads**: The total possession limit for all other frogs and toads is four (4) in aggregate. Only West Virginia Residents may take or possess these "other" frogs and toads.

Salamanders

- The season is closed for the following salamanders: Eastern hellbender, mudpuppy, Cheat Mountain salamander, Cow Knob salamander, Shenandoah Mountain salamander, smallmouth salamander, streamside salamander, green salamander, cave salamander, West Virginia spring salamander. These salamanders, their eggs, offspring or any parts thereof may not be possessed.
- All other Salamanders: The total possession limit for all other salamanders is ten (10) in aggregate.

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.

OPEN FISHING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

A permit is required from the Division of Natural Resources to hold a tournament that is open to the public or awards cash or prizes. Club tournaments, which are restricted to members competing for points, do not require a permit.

Tournament permit requests should be made to:

WVDNR Wildlife Resources Section
324 4th Avenue • South Charleston, West Virginia 25303

Call (304) 558-2771 for information.