

FISH State Records

Reporting Procedures

A record of the largest fish of each species legally taken with rod and reel by a licensed angler in West Virginia waters is maintained by the Division of Natural Resources. Certificates of accomplishment are awarded for each record holder.

Anglers landing a potential state record fish should report the catch as soon as possible to the district fisheries biologist in the closest DNR district office. Please follow these guidelines to ensure accuracy of reporting.

1. Name, address and telephone number of angler.
2. Species of fish, where, when and how caught.
3. Total length of fish measured from tip of snout to end of tail. Lay fish on top of ruler on a flat surface. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body. See **Measuring a Fish** on page 29.
4. Fish must be weighed on a scale certified by the West Virginia Division of Labor.
5. Signatures and telephone numbers of two persons who witnessed the length and weight measurements.
6. A DNR fisheries biologist must verify the species, length and weight of the fish.
7. A photograph of the fish is desirable.

If a DNR biologist is not immediately available, wrap the fish in plastic wrap and freeze it. Contact the local DNR biologist as soon as possible.

Species	Yr.	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Location	Angler
Bass					
Largemouth	2001	25.75	9.62	Dog Run Lake	Eli Gain
	1994	24.8	12.28	Pond – Grant Co.	David W. Heeter
Smallmouth	1976	25.5	7.5	New River	Franklin J. Elliott
	1971	24.25	9.75	South Branch	David Lindsay
Rock	1964	13.8	1.75	Big Sandy Creek	Warren Ryan
Spotted	2000	19.0	4.77	R. D. Bailey Lake	Kevin Dameron
	1988	19.0	3.82	R. D. Bailey Lake	Leonard Blankenship
Striped	2010	47.16	45.70	Bluestone Lake	James Brooks
Hybrid Striped	2000	32.1	14.0	Kanawha River	Frankie Harris
	1985	31.5	16.75	Kanawha River	Robert Honaker
White	1985	20.0	4.56	New River	Louis Puskas
Bluegill	1986	11.7	2.75	Pond – Randolph Co.	Mark Allen Lewis
	1964	13.75	2.25	Farm Pond – Fayette Co.	Dennis Criss
Bowfin	1994	32.25	7.54	Pond – Berkeley Co.	Donald E. Newcomb, III
	2006	28.43	9.25	Ohio River backwater	Matt Stender
Buffalo	1976	41.0	38.0	Little Kanawha River	Hobert Null
Carp					
Common	1998	39.3	47.0	Farm Pond – Preston Co.	Gary Johnson
	1988	41.0	41.5	Stonecoal Lake	Charles J. Cook
Grass	2005	50.75	71.69	Warden Lake	William R. Taucher
Catfish					
Blue	2014	47.75	52.95	Ohio River	Austin Hoffman
	2016	44.88	59.74	Ohio River	Mark Blauvelt
Bullhead	1977	22.75	6.1	Tygart Lake Headwaters	Gary R. Freeman
Channel	2005	40.3	33.42	Patterson Creek	Michael Sears
Flathead	1956	52.0	70.0	Little Kanawha River	L. L. McClung
Chain Pickerel	2001	27.75	6.19	Tuckahoe Lake	Steven Demma
Crappie	1971	19.75	4.05	Meathouse Fork	Leonard Edgell
Eel	1983	44.25	6.27	Elk River	Steve Woods
	1977	44.0	7.25	Bunker Hill Quarry	Arlie R. Ruble
Fallfish	1970	21.25	3.5	North Fork of So. Branch	James Blackwell
Freshwater Drum	1989	35.5	27.0	South Fork of Hughes	Charles Mickel Lott
	1954	37.0	25.0	Little Kanawha River	Bill Dawkins
Gar					
Longnose	2006	52.25	16.42	Kanawha River	Shelby Searls
	2012	52.25	15.0	Ohio River	Mark A. Foster
	1993	50.5	19.08	Kanawha River	Michael Shan Casey
Goldeye	1983	18.5	3.0	Ohio River	Delbert McWilliams
Muskellunge	2017	53.5	34.58	Little Kanawha River	Joe Wilfong
	1997	50.37	49.75	Stonecoal Lake	Anna Marsh
Northern Pike	1989	42.6	22.06	Dog Run Lake	Boyd O. Pratt, Sr.
	1985	23.0	4.75	Ohio River	Steve Powell
Sauger	2012	22.50	5.06	Ohio River	David L. Vance
	2006	27.68	8.73	East Lynn Lake	Everett Chapman
Saugeye	2013	19.21	2.64	Ohio River	Zachary Hankins
Tiger Musky	1994	49.25	36.5	Mountwood Lake	Clyde E. Beckett
Trout					
Brook	2004	22.25	7.64	Shavers Fork	Gary M. Chapman
	1981	23.5	4.78	Lost River	Jack E. Foltz
Brown	1968	32.0	16.0	South Branch	Paul Barker
Golden Rainbow	1998	26.4	9.31	Brushy Fork Lake	Danny Crider
	1987	27.5	8.63	Stonecoal Lake	Gerald Estep
Rainbow	2014	33.11	19.40	Pond – Berkeley Co.	Eric Files, Sr.
Tiger	2011	28.7	10.65	Krodel Lake	Mike Connolly
Walleye	2004	30.87	18.97	Elk River	Jerry Rose
	1976	35.0	15.0	Kanawha Falls	Fred Cline
Yellow Perch	2012	14.5	1.93	Summersville Lake	Joshua Estes
	2010	15.44	1.20	Summersville Lake	Craig Hollandsworth