From the Director

Great things continue to happen in West Virginia’s fish management program. Anglers in West Virginia enjoy some of the best fishing in the east because of the hard work of our fishery personnel. I’m proud to be a part of this work.

DNR’s coldwater program continues its aggressive stocking efforts. In 2019, we stocked 850,000 catchable trout in 110 streams, 72 impoundments and nine reservoir tailwaters. The average size of these trout were 12.5 inches long and 0.8 pounds! The governor’s new stocking initiative and our decision to stock trout Tuesday through Saturday from March through May has anglers excited. The annual Gold Rush event in April continues to draw thousands of anglers to our state to catch our famous golden trout.

Our warmwater program continues stocking fingerling Blue Catfish in our navigable rivers. Anglers now catch trophy-size blues in the Ohio and Kanawha rivers. The native walleye restoration program continues to provide trophy fish in waters around the state. Muskie have been called the fish of a thousand casts, but you can expect greater success in West Virginia. Stocking of advanced fingerlings in our reservoirs has produced outstanding fisheries in Burnsville, Stonecoal, North Bend and Stonewall Jackson lakes.

During the upcoming year, we will be developing a new trout management plan and creating new habitat structures in reservoirs and impoundments. To learn about our progress, go to wvdnr.gov or follow us on Facebook @wildlifewv or other social media channels.

Best Regards and tight lines,

Stephen S. McDaniel, DNR Director

DISTRICT OFFICES

Main Office - South Charleston, WV 25303
324 4th Avenue
Fish Management – Mark T. Scott (304) 558-2771
Law Enforcement – Col. Jerry Jenkins (304) 558-2784
License Unit – Michael Ingram (304) 558-2758

District 1 - Farmington, WV 26571
1110 Railroad Street (304) 825-6787
Fish Management – Dave Wellman
Law Enforcement – Capt. Steve Antolini

District 2 - Romney, WV 26757
1 Depot Street (304) 822-3551
Fish Management – Brandon Keplinger
Law Enforcement – Capt. Tom Stuckey

District 3 - French Creek, WV 26218
WV State Wildlife Center (304) 924-6211
163 Wildlife Road
Fish Management – James Walker
Law Enforcement – Capt. Douglas Benson

District 4 - Beckley, WV 25801
2006 Robert C. Byrd Drive (304) 256-6947
Fish Management – Vacant
Law Enforcement – Capt. Woodrow Brogan

District 5 – Alum Creek, WV 25003
Forks of Coal State Natural Area
50 Rocky Branch Road (304) 756-1023
Fish Management – Jeff Hansbarger
Law Enforcement – Capt. Terry A. Ballard

District 6 - Parkersburg, WV 26101
2311 Ohio Avenue (304) 420-4550
Fish Management – Nate Taylor
Law Enforcement – Capt. Stan Hickman

Operations Center - Elkins, WV 26241
738 Ward Road, P.O. Box 67 (304) 637-0245
Coldwater Biologist – David Thorne
Hatchery Program Manager – Jim Hedrick