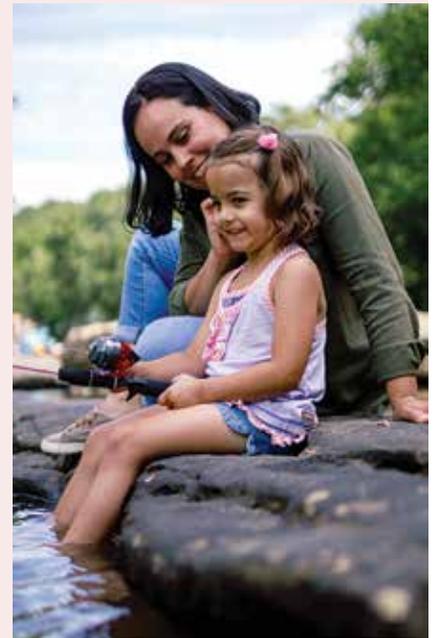


W E S T V I R G I N I A

# FISHING

## Regulations Summary 2020



**WVDNR**

[wvdnr.gov](http://wvdnr.gov)

## 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](http://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

163 Wildlife Road

**(304) 924-6211**

**Fish Management** – James Walker

**Law Enforcement** – Capt. Douglas Benson

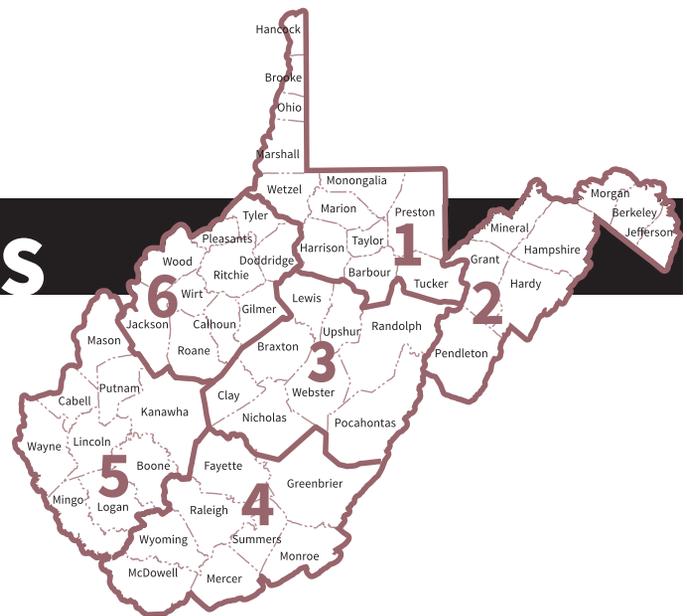
### District 4 - Beckley, WV 25801

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

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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 2020

1. The Candy Darter was listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and regulations were passed to protect this small species of fish. If you fish in the Forks of the Greenbrier, Cranberry, Williams, Cherry, or Upper Gauley rivers, Glade Creek of Manns Creek, or Camp Creek, please see page 11 for more details.
2. Changes to walleye and sauger regulations were approved. If you fish on the Bluestone, Coal, Elk, Greenbrier, Gauley, Kanawha (upstream of Winfield Locks and Dam), New and Ohio rivers, please see page 8 for more details.
3. The daily creel limit for musky, tiger musky, northern pike and all pickerel is now one fish per day.
4. For striped bass, hybrid striped bass, and white bass, Beech Fork, Bluestone, and R. D. Bailey lakes were changed to a 15” minimum size limit, with a daily creel in aggregate of four fish.
5. A wanton waste law was established with penalties. See page 13 for details.



Instagram: @dnrww  
 Facebook: WildlifeWV  
 Twitter: wvdnr



Facebook: DNRpolice



**Jim Justice, Governor**  
 State of West Virginia

**Stephen McDaniel, Director**  
 Division of Natural Resources

**Paul Johansen, Chief**  
 Wildlife Resources

**Col. Jerry B. Jenkins, Chief**  
 Law Enforcement Section

### Commissioners

- Jeffrey S. Bowers – Sugar Grove
- Gregory K. Burnette – Elkview
- Byron K. Chambers – Romney
- Peter L. Cuffaro – Wheeling
- Thomas O. Dotson – White Sulphur Springs
- David M. Milne – Bruceton Mills
- Kenny R. Wilson – Chapmanville

### 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.

# REGULATIONS Summary

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Size	Possession Limit	*Special Regulations
<b>Black Bass</b> Smallmouth, Largemouth, and Spotted	6* (in any combination)	None*	12* (in any combination)	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 12-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10. See <i>Special Area Regulations</i> for additional restrictions. 
<b>Trout</b> Rainbow, Golden Rainbow, Brook and Brown	6* (in any combination)	None	12* (in any combination)	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> Daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10. See <i>Special Area Regulations</i> for additional restrictions. 
<b>Muskellunge</b>	1*	30 inches*	2*	See <i>Special Area Regulations</i> for additional restrictions. 
<b>Tiger Musky</b>	1*	30 inches*	2*	
<b>Northern Pike</b>	1	30 inches*	2*	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 30-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 2, and possession limit 4. 
<b>Hybrid Striped Bass Striped Bass White Bass</b>	30* (in any combination)	no more than four fish greater than 15 inches	30	<b>Statewide, except in designated special regulations waters</b>
	4*	15 inches*	4*	<b>Beech Fork, Bluestone, Mt. Storm and R.D. Bailey lakes</b>
	0	0	0	<b>Rollins Lake:</b> all hybrid striped bass, striped bass and white bass must be returned to the water immediately.
<b>Paddlefish</b>	0	0	0	All fish must be returned to the water immediately.
<b>Shovelnose Sturgeon</b>				
<b>Lake Sturgeon</b>				
<b>Sauger</b>	Lakes - 8* Rivers - 10* (in any combination)	None*	Lakes - 16* Rivers - 20 (in any combination)	<b>Ohio River:</b> 6-fish daily creel in aggregate for walleye, sauger, and saugeye. Only 2 of the 6 fish can be walleye and must be a minimum of 18 inches in length.
<b>Saugeye</b>				
<b>Walleye</b>	8*	None*	16*	<b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 15-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10 for walleye. See <i>Special Area Regulations</i> for additional restrictions on walleye.
<b>Blue Catfish</b>	2	24 inches	None	<b>Statewide</b>
<b>Channel Catfish</b>	4*	None	16*	<b>In state-managed impoundments</b> (See <i>Public Fishing Lakes and Ponds Chart, pages 20-21</i> ): Daily creel limit 4, possession limit 16. No restrictions on Mt. Storm, Stonecoal, Cheat, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes and all rivers and streams. Potomac River: Daily creel limit 5 and possession limit 10. 
<b>Flathead Catfish</b>	*	*	*	See <i>Special Area Regulations</i> for restrictions on flathead catfish.
<b>Yellow Perch</b>	None*	None	None	<b>Cheat Lake:</b> Daily creel limit 15
<b>All Others</b>	None*	None*	None*	<b>In West Virginia:</b> chain pickerel daily limit 1 and possession limit 2. <b>Jennings Randolph Lake:</b> 14-inch minimum size limit, daily creel limit 5, and possession limit 10 for chain pickerel. 
<b>Frogs</b> Green and Bull	10	None	20	<b>Season:</b> 9 p.m. DST, June 15 to midnight July 31. <b>Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers bordering Kentucky</b> <b>Season:</b> Noon (EST), May 17 to midnight, October 31.



Check the 2020 Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac rivers.

## Black Bass

### Catch-and-Release

#### For waters listed below

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No black bass shall be in the angler's possession (creel limit 0) while fishing in designated catch-and-release lakes and streams.

### Lakes

Dunkard Fork, Edwards Run Pond, Elk Fork, Kimsey Run, Millers Fork Pond, North Bend, O'Brien, Rockhouse, Tuckahoe, Upper Mud and Woodrum.

### Streams

#### New River – Fayette, Raleigh and Summers counties

12-mile section from the I-64 bridge at Sandstone downstream to NPS Grandview Sandbar access site near Quinnimont. Access by state Route 41 at Quinnimont and state Route 20 at Sandstone.

#### South Branch of Potomac River – Hardy and Hampshire counties

**Area 1** 8-mile section in Hardy County from 3 miles east of Petersburg at the routes 28, 55 and 220 bridge (Petersburg Gap bridge) downstream to the county Route 13 bridge (Fisher bridge).

**Area 2** 9.5-mile section in Hampshire County from the routes 28 and 50 bridge (Romney bridge) downstream to the state Route 28 bridge (Blue Beach bridge).

### Slot Limit

#### South Mill Creek Lake and Parker Hollow Lake

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 16 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.

#### Greenbrier River – Greenbrier County

6-mile section beginning at the U.S. Route 60 bridge near Caldwell extending downstream to the U.S. Route 219 bridge at Ronceverte.

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) from 12 to 20 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one black bass over 20 inches caught within the slot limit area. Black bass under 12 inches may be harvested. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.

### Minimum Size Limit

#### Stonewall Jackson Lake

1. Daily creel limit of one black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) 18 inches or longer.
2. Black bass under 18 inches may be harvested.
3. All black bass harvested must be in accordance with the daily creel limit regulation.
4. Registered bass tournament anglers who are participating in DNR-permitted tournaments only are excluded from this regulation.

#### For waters listed below

All black bass (smallmouth, spotted and largemouth) under 12 inches long must be returned to the water at once.

### Lakes

Barboursville, Beech Fork, Chief Logan and Conaway Run.

### Streams

Wheeling Creek – Marshall and Ohio counties  
Entire length.

### Ohio River

Entire length of Ohio River from the mouth of Mill Creek, Hancock County, downstream to the mouth of the Big Sandy River, Wayne County. This regulation applies to all waters included in the Ohio River Reciprocal Agreement with the State of Ohio.

## REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS

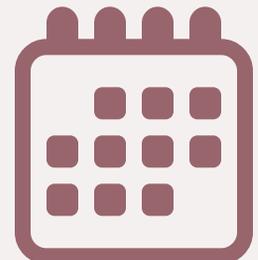
WVDNR staff will be available to discuss and take public comments for proposed 2021 regulations.

### March 16, 2020

Fairmont, Martinsburg,  
Milton, Princeton, Spencer  
and Summersville

### March 17, 2020

Buckhannon, Fayetteville,  
Glen Dale, Logan, Moorefield  
and Parkersburg



# REGULATIONS Special Areas

## Children and Class Q Handicap Fishing Areas

### For waters listed below

1. Areas are managed under special regulations March-May.
2. During this period fishing is restricted to children 10 years of age or under and to people with disabilities holding a Class Q permit.
3. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
4. Creel limit is four trout.
5. Another person may assist with baiting hooks and removing fish.

### Lakes

#### Baker Lake – Ohio County

3-acre lake in Bear Rock Lakes WMA. Access by county Route 41/6.

#### Coonskin Park Pond – Kanawha County

2.7-acre pond in Coonskin Park. Access is off I-77, Exit 1, U.S. Route 119 north to Henry Shores Drive.

#### Handley Pond – Pocahontas County

5-acre pond on the Handley WMA. Access by county Routes 17 and 17/1 which intersect U.S. Route 219 at Edray north of Marlinton.

#### Logan County Airport Pond

1-acre pond. Access by county Route 119/8 off state Route 17.

#### Millers Fork Pond – Wayne County

5-acre pond on the Beech Fork Lake WMA. Access by county Route 22 off county Route 17.

#### Raleigh County Airport Pond

1-acre pond at the entrance to the Raleigh County Airport. Access by county Route 9/9 off I-64 at Airport Exit 125-B.

#### Underwood Lake – Cabell County

1-acre pond on Huntington YMCA property. Access by state Route 2.

#### Westover Park Pond – Monongalia County

1-acre pond located at the Westover Park just off U.S. Route 19 approximately .5 mile east of I-79 Westover exit.

### Streams

#### Clear Fork – Wyoming County

300-yard section of Clear Fork in Gilliland Park in Oceana. Access is by Route 10.

#### Mash Fork of Camp Creek – Mercer County

100-yard section of Mash Fork in Camp Creek State Park/ State Forest at Mash Fork Waterfalls. Access by county Route 19/5 from I-77, exit 20.

## HANDLING AND RELEASE PROCEDURES

When practicing catch-and-release fishing, survival of the released fish can be greatly enhanced by following these simple guidelines.

1. Time is important – play and release the fish as quickly as possible to reduce unnecessary stress.
2. Keep the fish in the water as much as possible and use a pair of forceps or needle-nosed pliers to remove the hook.
3. Handle the fish with bare, wet hands. Do not squeeze the fish, put your fingers in the eyes or gills, or cause scale loss.
4. When releasing the fish, hold it gently in the water until the fish is ready to swim off on its own.
5. You may take time to snap a quick photo of your catch before releasing it.
6. To release a deeply hooked or gill-hooked fish, cut the line 5 to 6 inches above the lure.

## All Species

### Catch-and-Release

#### Dixon Lake (Pedlar Wildlife Management Area)

1. All species of fish must be returned to the water at once.
2. No fish shall be in the angler's possession (creel limit 0) while fishing in designated catch-and-release lakes and streams.
3. Use of live minnows is prohibited.
4. Use of barbed hooks is prohibited.

## 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.

## Catfish

### For waters listed below

1. Daily creel limit of four flathead catfish, of which only one may be 35 inches or longer.
2. Possession limit of eight.

### Streams

#### Kanawha River

Mouth of Kanawha River extending upstream to the confluence of the New and Gauley rivers.

#### Ohio River

Includes West Virginia tributaries within the reciprocal agreement boundaries.

### Hand-Fishing for Catfish Only

1. Season for hand-fishing runs from June 15 through Aug. 31 with fishing permitted from sunrise until sunset.
2. Hand-fishing is prohibited in all state-managed impoundments except Stonecoal, Hawks Nest, Mt. Storm, Cheat, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lakes.
3. Daily creel limit for all catfish species taken by hand-fishing is four total with only one fish allowed to be over 35 inches and only two of which may be blue catfish (minimum length 24"). In waters with special regulations, the more restrictive regulations apply. The daily creel limit for hand-fishing counts as part of any daily limit for hook and line fishing.
4. Use or possession of hooks, gaffs, spears or anything other than hands while hand-fishing is prohibited, as is the use of bait or fish attractors. Only naturally-occurring cavities and naturally-occurring habitat may be hand-fished. The placement or use of artificial cavities and nesting boxes for hand-fishing is prohibited. The use of SCUBA gear or any other artificial breathing apparatus to hand fish is prohibited.

## Muskellunge

### Catch-and-Release

### For waters listed below

1. All muskellunge caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No muskellunge shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

### Streams

#### Buckhannon River – Upshur County

6.5-mile section beginning at the City of Buckhannon's water supply dam and continuing upstream to the first riffle. Included in this area is the section of French Creek from its mouth to the first riffle. The entire stream section is commonly referred to as Buckhannon Pool.

#### Middle Island Creek – Tyler County

6-mile section beginning at the state Route 18 bridge near Centerville and continuing downstream to the low water bridge near the Jug WMA. Included in this area are sections of Indian Creek and McElroy Creek from their mouths to their first riffles.

### Minimum Size Limit

#### North Bend Lake

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of two muskellunge.

#### Stonewall Jackson Lake

1. All muskellunge under 52 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one muskellunge.

#### North Fork Hughes River – Ritchie County

1.3-mile section extending from North Bend Lake Dam downstream to the CR 809 bridge near the North Bend State Park campground.

1. All muskellunge under 40 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of one muskellunge.

## OUTSTANDING MUSKIE FISHING



West Virginia is home to some of the best Muskie fishing on the east coast. Stocking advanced fingerlings in our public impoundments has produced excellent fisheries. Natural reproduction and supplemental fingerling stocking continue to sustain our river fisheries.

**Try your luck on the Buckhannon River or Stonewall Jackson Lake to land "the fish of 1000 casts!"**

**WVDNR**

## Trout

### Catch-and-Release

#### For waters listed below and to the right

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only, except that on the three North Branch of the Potomac River Catch-and-Release Trout Fishing Areas fishing is permitted between the hours of 5:30 a.m. and 10 p.m. only.
2. Only artificial flies and lures made of metal, wood, feathers, hair, or synthetic material may be used or possessed on catch-and-release trout streams. No lure or fly with any scent, oil, or edible enticement added onto, or impregnated into (regardless if the scent is added in the manufacturing process or applied afterward), may be used or possessed on any catch-and-release trout stream.
3. Multiple hook lures must have barbless hooks (except on the North Branch of the Potomac River Catch & Release areas).
4. Single hook lures may have barbed hooks.
5. All trout caught must be returned to the water at once.
6. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as catch-and-release streams.

***Powerbait, Gulp and other manufactured scented baits are considered illegal under this section and may not be used or possessed on catch-and-release streams.***

### Streams

#### Back Fork of Elk River – Webster County

4-mile section beginning 2 miles upstream from Webster Springs and extending upstream. Access by county Routes 24 and 24/3.

#### Blackwater River – Tucker County

3.5-mile section from the county Route 29/1 bridge in Blackwater Falls State Park downstream to the mouth of the North Fork.

#### Bluestone River – Summers County

1-mile section from the mouth of Mountain Creek downstream to a stream gauge station within Pipestem State Park.

#### Cranberry River – Webster, Pocahontas and Nicholas counties

- Area 1** 4.3-mile section from the junction of the North and South forks downstream to the low water bridge at Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76 from the Cranberry Glades parking area.
- Area 2** Nicholas County – 1.2-mile section from the Woodbine Recreation Area downstream to Camp Splinter (Jakeman Run). Access by National Forest Route 76 from Richwood.

#### Elk River – Randolph County

2-mile section from the Elk Springs Campground downstream to Rose Run bridge. Access by county Route 49 off state Route 15 about 4 miles west of Valley Head.

#### Glade Creek of New River – Raleigh County

3-mile section from the mouth upstream to the National Park Service foot bridge. Access by Glade Creek Road off state Route 41.

#### Middle Fork of Williams River and tributaries – Webster/Pocahontas counties

#### Mill Creek – Randolph County

Entire length of Mill Creek and its tributaries within Kumbrabow State Forest.

#### North Branch of Potomac River – Grant and Mineral counties

See the current Maryland Fishing Regulations for special regulations on the North Branch of the Potomac and Potomac rivers.

#### North Fork of Cherry River – Nicholas County

1.8-mile section extending upstream from Richwood's water supply dam to first state Route 39 bridge. Access by state Route 39.

#### North Fork of Cranberry River – Pocahontas County

0.25-mile section from the mouth upstream to the limestone treatment dam. Access by foot on National Forest Route 76.

#### North Fork of the South Branch – Pendleton County

0.75-mile section at the mouth of Seneca Creek near Seneca Rocks Visitors Center. Access by county Route 28/3 at junction of state Route 28 and U.S. Route 33 at Seneca Rocks.

#### Otter Creek and tributaries – Randolph/Tucker counties

#### Paint Creek – Fayette County

2-mile section from mouth of Skitter Creek upstream to mouth of Milburn Creek. Access is by county Route 15.

#### Red Creek and tributaries – Tucker County

Upstream of county Route 45 bridge.

#### Seneca Creek – Pendleton County

0.20-mile section from the mouth extending upstream to the Route 28 bridge.

#### Shavers Fork of Cheat River – Randolph County

- Area 1** 5.5-mile section in Monongahela National Forest, north of U. S. Route 250, from the mouth of Whitmeadow Run downstream to the mouth of McGee Run. Access by National Forest Route 92, which intersects U.S. Route 250 four miles west of Cheat Bridge.
- Area 2** 0.9-mile section encompassing the Stuart Recreation Area day use area downstream of Bowden. Access by foot from county Route 6 on River Loop Trail, or by driving into Stuart Recreation Area to river (U.S. Forest Service day-use fee charged from mid-April through September).

## Trout continued

### Streams continued ...

#### Slatyfork section of Elk River – Pocahontas County

4.6-mile section from the junction of Big Spring and Old Field forks downstream to the mouth of Dry Branch, including Props Run and Big Run. Access by foot from county Routes 219/2 on the north and 219/12 on the south.

#### South Branch of the Potomac River – Pendleton County

1-mile section beginning 2 miles below U.S. Route 220 at Eagle Rock and extending downstream. Access by county Route 2.

#### Tea Creek and tributaries – Pocahontas County

Upstream of Tea Creek Campground

#### Williams River – Pocahontas County

2-mile section beginning 2 miles below Tea Creek and extending downstream. Access by National Forest Route 86.

**NOTE:** The Williams River Road will be closed to vehicle traffic for two years due to road improvements. The Williams River will continue to be stocked, and the road will remain open for foot and bicycle traffic during this time.

### Delayed Harvest Streams

#### For waters listed below

1. Catch-and-release regulations apply: October 1 – May 31.
2. General regulations apply: June 1 – September 30.

#### Clear Fork of the Guyandotte River – Wyoming County

1-mile section from the R.D. Bailey WMA manager's residence downstream to the state Route 6 bridge.

#### Middle Wheeling Creek – Ohio County

1.2-mile section from just above the upper limits of Middle Wheeling Creek Lake upstream to mouth of Gillespie Run. Access by county Route 39/6.

### Fly Fishing Only

#### For waters listed below

1. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
2. Only artificial flies and streamers may be used or in possession on any of the fly fishing-only streams.
3. Only conventional fly fishing tackle may be used. Open-face and closed-face spinning or spincast reels are prohibited.
4. All fish caught must be returned to water at once.
5. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as fly-fishing-only streams.
6. No lure or fly with any scent, oil, or edible enticement added onto, or impregnated into (regardless if the scent is added in the manufacturing process or applied afterward), may be used or possessed on any fly-fishing-only trout stream.

**Powerbait, Gulp and other manufactured scented baits are considered illegal under this section and may not be used or possessed on catch-and-release streams.**

### Streams

#### Buffalo Creek of New River – Fayette County

Main stream and all tributaries of Buffalo Creek. Access by foot from county Route 25.

#### Dogway Fork of the Cranberry –

#### Webster, Pocahontas and Greenbrier counties

Main stream and all tributaries of Dogway Fork. Access by foot on National Forest Route 78.

#### Edwards Run – Hampshire County

Upstream of the Edwards Run Pond 1.25 miles to the upstream boundary of Edwards Run WMA.

#### Milligan Creek – Greenbrier County

Marked area about 1 mile north of U.S. Route 60 from the county Route 60/15 bridge extending downstream about .33-mile to a fence crossing.

#### Red Run of Dry Fork – Tucker County

Main stream and all tributaries of Red Run. Access by foot from state Route 72 and National Forest Route 13.

#### Second Creek – Greenbrier and Monroe counties

Marked 1.5-mile section on the Monroe/Greenbrier county line at Rodgers Mill.

#### Spring Run – Grant County

Marked one mile section along Spring Run Road near Dorcas.

#### Thorn Creek – Pendleton County

Marked .5-mile section beginning approximately 3 miles above the mouth. Access is by county Route 20.

## WE'RE HIRING

DNR is actively recruiting candidates for natural resources police officers, wildlife biologists, park superintendents, wildlife managers and other positions.

For more information contact:

**WV Division of Personnel**  
(304) 558-3950  
personnel.wv.gov



**WVDNR**

# REGULATIONS Special Areas

## Walleye

### Minimum Size Limit

**Cheat River, Kanawha River** (from Buffalo Bridge to base of Winfield Dam), **Monongahela River, Tygart River** and **West Fork River** (downstream of Stonewall Jackson Lake Dam), as well as, **Burnsville, Cheat, Stephens, Stonecoal and Tygart lakes**

1. All walleye under 15 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 8 walleye.

**Ohio River** (including Ohio River tributary reciprocal boundaries)

1. All walleye under 18 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye.

### Catch-and-Release

**New River** (5-mile section from Meadow Creek public access site upstream to base of Sandstone Falls in Raleigh and Summers counties), as well as, **Charles Fork and Dog Run lakes**

1. All walleye caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. No walleye shall be in the angler's possession while on the waters designated as catch-and-release.

### Slot Limit

**Bluestone, Coal, Elk** (including Sutton Lake), **Greenbrier, Gauley** (excluding Summersville Lake -Summersville Dam upstream to mouth of Persinger Creek), **Kanawha** (upstream of Winfield Locks and Dam) and **New** (excluding no-harvest area near Sandstone) rivers, including all tributaries.

1. All walleye from 20 to 30 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 2 walleye, only one of which may be over 30 inches long.

**Summersville Lake** (Summersville Dam upstream to mouth of Persinger Creek)

1. All walleye from 20 to 30 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of 8 walleye, only one of which may be over 30 inches long.

## Key

### Lakes

 8/day limit; 20- to 30-inch no harvest; 1 fish over 30

 2/day limit; 20- to 30-inch no harvest; 1 fish over 30

 8/day limit; 15-inch minimum

 Dams

### No Harvest Locations

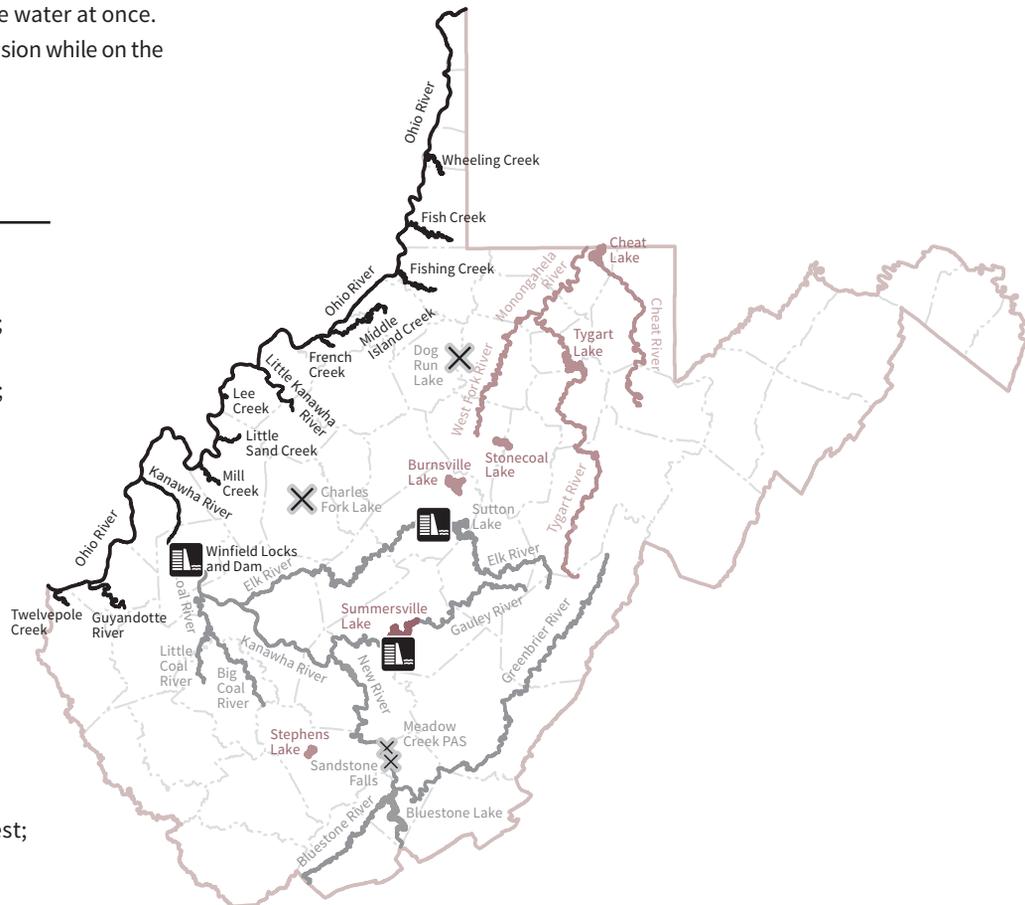


### Streams

 2/day limit; 18-inch minimum

 2/day limit; 20- to 30-inch no harvest; 1 fish over 30

 8/day limit; 15-inch minimum



## Reciprocal Fishing

### Ohio River

Anglers with a valid Ohio **resident** or West Virginia **resident** fishing license may fish on the Ohio River, its embayments or from either bank. The embayment and tributary reciprocal boundaries for each state are listed in the Waterfowl Hunting and Fishing on the Ohio River brochure available from West Virginia DNR offices, and online at [wvdnr.gov/fishing/PDFFiles/ohio\\_river\\_hunt\\_fish.pdf](http://wvdnr.gov/fishing/PDFFiles/ohio_river_hunt_fish.pdf). Ohio and West Virginia anglers may travel and fish embayments and tributaries to the landmark locations listed in the brochure. These locations are also defined by distance from the mouth of the tributary and GPS coordinates for convenience.

Current West Virginia fishing laws shall apply while fishing on the Ohio River proper or from West Virginia banks or in West Virginia embayments. The tributaries of the Ohio River above embayments, in both states, are not included as part of this agreement.

Ohio fishing laws and Ohio River fishing regulations for the Eastern Unit, which cover the West Virginia/Ohio border, must be followed while fishing from Ohio banks or on embayments or tributaries that are within the boundaries of Ohio.

### Potomac River

West Virginia residents who possess valid West Virginia fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of the Potomac River, including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the West Virginia and the Maryland shores, and they may fish from the Maryland shore, without obtaining a Maryland fishing license, subject, however, to all other Maryland laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing.

Maryland residents who possess valid Maryland fishing licenses may fish by angling in the waters of Jennings Randolph Lake which are opposite both the Maryland and West Virginia shores, and they may fish from the West Virginia shore of the Potomac River, including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake, without obtaining a West Virginia fishing license, subject, however, to all other West Virginia fishing laws, rules and regulations applicable to fishing. This agreement is limited to the Potomac River, including the North Branch and Jennings Randolph Lake and does not extend to any of their tributaries.

The State of Maryland has joint law enforcement jurisdiction on Jennings Randolph Lake.

### Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers

West Virginia or Kentucky residents with a valid resident fishing license may fish the entire main stem of the Big Sandy and Tug Fork rivers from the confluence of the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers upstream to the Virginia state line. West Virginia or Kentucky residents with a valid fishing license from their respective state of residence can fish from a boat or from either bank of the sections previously defined.

If fishing from a watercraft, fishing license holders shall abide by the laws, rules and regulations of the state in which he or she is licensed. If fishing from the bank, fishing license holders shall abide by the laws, rules and regulations of the state in which he or she is fishing.



The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950, placed a tax on the manufacturers of fishing equipment. The Wallop-Breaux Amendment of 1984 expanded the program by adding more tackle and sport fishing equipment under the excise tax and included the Federal fuel taxes attributable to motor boats and small engines. These two legislative acts support the overall Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFRP).

Federal tax collection agencies are responsible for collecting the excise taxes from the manufacturers. The collecting agencies deposit SFRP funds into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are allocated to states and territories based on the amount of surface area of water and the number of license holders.

In West Virginia, SFRP funds are used to rear and stock fish, enhance habitats in rivers and lakes, and provide opportunities to gain sound biological information on the status and condition of the diverse fish populations inhabiting West Virginia waters.

Projects to develop new access facilities and renovate existing facilities are also funded through the SFRP. States are required to use 15 percent of SFRP funding on recreational boating access projects. In addition, the program funds fish cleaning stations, parking areas and restrooms, among other boating amenities.

Overall, the nation and West Virginia anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have benefited greatly from this unique user pays-users benefit program and the cooperative efforts of industry, government, anglers and boaters contributing to enhancing America's aquatic resources and associated recreational activities.

# REGULATIONS Special Areas

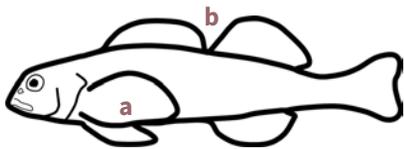
## New Baitfish Regulations

### 1. It is illegal to possess any darter in West Virginia

Darters are small fishes (1–5” in length) that belong to the perch family with yellow perch and walleye. Although much smaller, all darters share similar characteristics to their gamefish cousins with the most important being their two equal-sized dorsal fins which have a separation between them. Anyone collecting live baitfish is advised to inspect their catch for darters. Generally, darters will stay on the bottom of the bait bucket and do not swim freely in the water column. Any fishes displaying this bucket behavior and possessing two dorsal fins should be either returned at once into the waters where they were collected or destroyed immediately. Darter colorations can range from brightly colored to drab brown and can vary between males and females.

#### How to Identify darters (See drawing below.)

- Have relatively large pectoral fins compared to body size
- Have two dorsal fins that are approximately equal in length

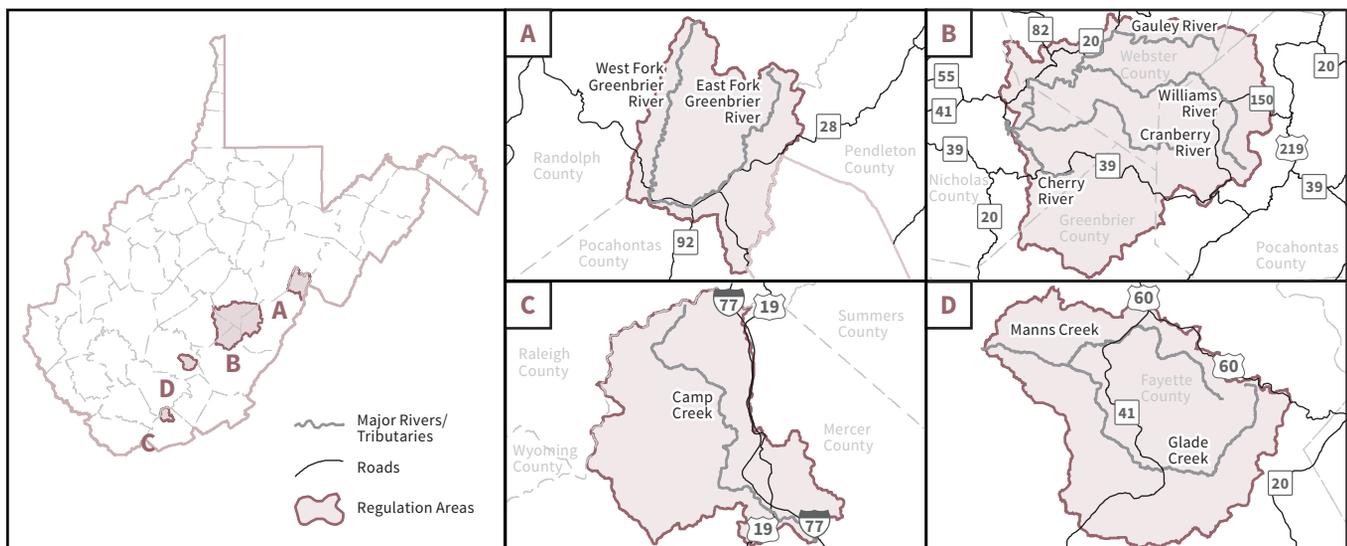


### 2. Zero possession limit of all fish species other than game fish, and no fish may be used as bait in the following waters:

- East and West Forks of the Greenbrier River including all tributaries.
- Gauley River upstream of the Route 55/20 bridge (i.e., Curtin, W.Va.) including the Cherry, Williams, Cranberry, and upper Gauley rivers and all respective tributaries.
- Camp Creek (Mercer County) and all tributaries.
- Manns Creek including Glade Creek in Babcock State Park and all tributaries.

**NOTE:** These areas are delineated on the map below.

### 3. It is illegal to release any fish into public waters other than the location where it was captured. DO NOT release unused baitfish.



**NOTE:** Baitfish Regulations apply to all tributaries in the pink regulation areas above.

## The Candy Darter – a New Endangered Species

The new baitfish regulations have been implemented to prevent the loss of native West Virginia fishes like our newest federally endangered species, the candy darter. Candy darters are small fish found only in the New and Gauley River systems (i.e., waters upstream of Kanawha Falls in Glen Ferris, W.Va.) and are restricted to the states of West Virginia and Virginia. The candy darter was listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) primarily due to hybridization with variegated darters, which were possibly introduced by an angler bait-bucket introduction. This introduction is one example of how moving baitfish out of their resident watersheds is harmful to our state's native fishes.

For more information about the candy darter, its listing and range information, please visit the USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) or the USFWS fact sheet at URLs below.

- [ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?slid=1396](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?slid=1396)
- [fws.gov/northeast/candydarter/PDF/Candy\\_Darter\\_FS.pdf](https://fws.gov/northeast/candydarter/PDF/Candy_Darter_FS.pdf)

## Other Protected Species

### Diamond Darter

1. The diamond darter is a small fish found in the perch family and is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
2. For more information, go to USFWS site at [fws.gov/northeast/pdf/DiamondDarter\\_1010.pdf](https://fws.gov/northeast/pdf/DiamondDarter_1010.pdf).

### Paddlefish and Sturgeon

All fish must be returned to the water immediately.

### All Mussel Species

It is illegal to possess mussels or any parts thereof.

## FREE FISHING DAYS



**June 13-14, 2020**

Take your son, daughter or grandchild to your favorite fishing spot. No license required on these days.

**WEST VIRGINIA**

# GOLD RUSH

*When the Rivers Run with Gold*

**50,000 Fish**  
**61 Locations**  
**5 days**  
**March 31 – April 4, 2020**

Be a part of the biggest fishing event of the year!

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[wvgoldrush.com](http://wvgoldrush.com)

# 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.
- stock fish in the waters of West Virginia. Please do not release unused bait into West Virginia waters.
- sell any fish for profit
- sell or give any legally caught fish to a pay pond.

## 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.

## Gigging, Snagging and Snaring

Suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs may be taken by snaring year-round. Nongame fish, certain turtles (see Turtles, Frogs, Toads and Salamander Regulations on page 13) 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.

## Hand-Fishing for Catfish

It is legal to hand-fish or “noodle” only for catfish in West Virginia public waters from June 15 to Aug. 31 with fishing permitted from sunrise to sunset. See page 5 for more details.

## 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 eight 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 13) unless obtained from a licensed dealer and a bill of sale is provided. 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 pages 20-21 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

## 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](http://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.
- **Snapping turtle and spiny softshell turtle:** The daily creel limit of snapping turtle and spiny softshell is 10 turtles and the possession limit is 20 turtles. Only West Virginia residents may take or possess turtles.
- **All other turtles:** The total possession limit is four 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, eastern cricket frog and northern leopard frog. These frogs and toads, their eggs, offspring or any parts thereof may not be possessed.
- **Green and American bullfrogs:** See Regulation Summary, page 2. Residents and non-residents may take or possess green and American bullfrogs.
- **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 frogs and toads, except for green frogs and American bullfrogs

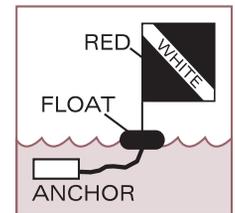
### Salamanders

- **The season is closed for the following salamanders:** Eastern hellbender, common mudpuppy, Cheat Mountain salamander, Cow Knob salamander, Shenandoah Mountain salamander, small-mouthed salamander, streamside salamander, green salamander, cave salamander and 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 10 in aggregate.

For more information, see Reptile and Amphibian Regulations.

## 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 1.5 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.



## WANTON WASTE

It is illegal for any person to cause through carelessness, neglect or otherwise to let any edible portion of any game fish to go to waste needlessly. The edible portion is the fillet meat from the gill plate to the tail fin. Edible meat does not include bones, sinew, viscera, meat from the head or neck, meat that has been damaged or rendered inedible by method of taking, or meat that is reasonably lost as a result of boning or close trimming of bones.

Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$500, or confinement in jail not less than 10 days nor more than 100 days, or both fined and confined; suspension of hunting and fishing license for a period of two years; and a applicable forfeiture and replacement provisions in Chapter 20, Article 2, Section 5a of the code.

# TROUT Stocking – Lakes and Ponds

Code	No. Stockings .....Period	Code	No. Stockings .....Period	Code	No. Stockings .....Period
Q	One.....1st week of March	BW	Twice a month..... February-April	CR	Varies .....Varies
W	One..... January		One..... May	M	One each month ..... February-May
	Two.....February	BA	One..... January	MJ	One each month ..... January-April
	One each week.....March-May		Y	One..... April	
X	After April 1 or area is open to public		One.....March	F	One each week..... weeks of October 19 and 26

Lake or Pond – County	Code
Anawalt – McDowell	M
Anderson – Kanawha	BA
Baker – Ohio	Q
Barboursville – Cabell	BA
Bear Rock Lakes – Ohio	BW
Berwind – McDowell	M
Big Run – Marion	Y
Boley – Fayette	M
Brandywine – Pendleton	BW-F
Brushy Fork – Pendleton	BW
Buffalo Fork – Pocahontas	BW-F
Cacapon – Morgan	W-F
Castleman Run – Brooke, Ohio	BW
Cedar Creek – Gilmer	BA
Chief Cornstalk – Mason	BA
Chief Logan – Logan	MJ
Conaway Run – Tyler	M
Coonskin Park – Kanawha	Q
Coopers Rock – Monongalia	BW-F
Curtisville – Marion	MJ
Deegan Lake – Harrison	MJ
Dog Run – Harrison	M
Edwards Run – Hampshire	BW
Fitzpatrick – Raleigh	MJ
Ft. Ashby – Mineral	BW
French Creek – Upshur	BW
Handley – Pocahontas	Q
Hinkle Lake – Harrison	MJ
Horse Creek – Wyoming	M
Huey Run – Marion	BA
Hurricane Water Supply – Putnam	BA
James P. Bailey – Mercer	BA
Jimmy Lewis – Mercer	M
Kanawha State Forest – Kanawha	Q
Kimsey Run – Hardy	BW
Krodel – Mason	BA
Larenim – Mineral	BA

Lake or Pond – County	Code
Laurel – Mingo	MJ
Lick Creek – Wayne	MJ
Little Beaver – Raleigh	MJ
Logan County Airport – Logan	Q
Mason Lake – Monongalia	M
Middle Wheeling Creek – Ohio	BW
Miletree – Roane	BA
Mill Creek – Barbour	M
Millers Fork – Wayne	Q
Mountwood – Wood	MJ
Newburg – Preston	M
New Creek Dam 14 – Grant	BW-F
Pendleton – Tucker	MJ
Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir – Ritchie	BA
Pipestem – Summers	M
Poorhouse – Berkeley	M
Raleigh County Airport – Raleigh	Q
Ridenour – Kanawha	BA
Rock Cliff – Hardy	XBW-F
Rockhouse – Logan	M
Rollins – Jackson	MJ
Seneca – Pocahontas	BW-F
South Mill Creek – Grant	BW
Spruce Knob – Randolph	W-F
Summit – Greenbrier	W-F
Teter Creek – Barbour	BW-F
Thomas Park – Tucker	M
Tomlinson Run – Hancock	MJ
Tracy – Ritchie	BA
Tuckahoe – Greenbrier	M
Turkey Run – Jackson	BA
Underwood – Cabell	Q
Wallback – Clay, Roane	M
Warden – Hardy	BW
Watoga – Pocahontas	W-F
Wayne Dam – Wayne	MJ
Westover Park – Monongalia	Q

Updated daily during Trout Stocking Season: **Hunting and Fishing Hotline (304) 558-3399** and online at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)  
 Prohibited to fish within 200 feet of Division of Natural Resources personnel who are stocking fish in public waters.

# Stocking – Streams **TROUT**

Stream – County	Code
Anthony Creek – Greenbrier	W-F
Back Fork of Elk River – Webster	M
Back Fork of Elk River (C & R) – Webster	CR
Beech Fork Lake (Tailwaters) – Wayne	M
Bullskin Run – Jefferson	W
Big Clear Creek – Greenbrier	BW-F
Big Sandy Creek – Preston	BW
Blackwater River – Tucker	W-F
Blackwater River (C & R) – Tucker	CR
Buckhannon River – Upshur	BW-F
Buffalo Creek – Brooke	BW
Buffalo Creek – Clay	M
Buffalo Creek – Logan	M
Burnsville Lake (Tailwaters) – Braxton	BW
Camp Creek – Mercer	BW
Cherry River – Nicholas	BW
Clear Fork – McDowell	M
Clear Fork – Wyoming	BW
Clear Fork (C & R) – Wyoming	CR
Clear Fork, Oceana – Wyoming	Q
Clover Run – Tucker	M
Cranberry River – Nicholas, Pocahontas, Webster	W-F
Cranberry River (C & R) – Nicholas, Pocahontas	CR
Cranberry River, Woodbine Area – Nicholas	Q
Deer Creek – Pocahontas	M
Desert Fork – Webster	M
Dillions Run – Hampshire	BW
Dry Fork – McDowell	M
Dry Fork – Randolph, Tucker	BW
Dunloup Creek – Fayette	M
East Fork of the Greenbrier River – Pocahontas	W
East Lynn Lake (Tailwaters) – Wayne	M
East River of New River – Mercer	BW
Elk River – Randolph, Webster	W-F
Elk River (C & R) – Randolph	CR
Evitts Run – Jefferson	W-F
Gandy Creek – Randolph	W
Glade Creek (Babcock) – Fayette	BW
Glade Creek of New River – Raleigh	BW-F
Glady Fork – Randolph	W
Greenbrier River (Cass) – Pocahontas	M
Greenbrier River – Pocahontas	BW
Greenbrier River (Marlington Section) – Pocahontas	MJ
Hills Creek – Pocahontas	M
Hopkins Fork – Boone	M
Horseshoe Run – Tucker	BW
Howards Creek – Greenbrier	MJ
Indian Creek of New River – Summers	M
Kings Creek – Hancock	MJ
Knapps Creek – Pocahontas	W-F
Laurel Creek – Fayette	M
Laurel Creek – Greenbrier, Nicholas	M
Laurel Fork – Randolph	W
Laurel Fork – Webster	BW
Left Fork of Buckhannon River – Upshur	M
Left Fork of Holly River – Webster	BW
Left Fork of Right Fork Buckhannon – Randolph, Upshur	BW
Little Clear Creek – Greenbrier	BW
Little Kanawha River (Headwaters) – Upshur	M
Little River (East Fork) – Pocahontas	W
Little River (West Fork) – Pocahontas	W
Lost River – Hardy	W-F
Marsh Fork – Raleigh	M
Mash Fork – Mercer	BW-Q
Meadow Creek – Greenbrier	M

Stream – County	Code
Meadow Creek – Summers	M
Middle Creek – Berkeley	W
Middle Fork – Barbour, Randolph, Upshur	M
Middle Wheeling Creek (C&R) – Ohio	CR
Mill Creek – Berkeley	W
Mill Creek – Fayette	M
Mill Creek – Hampshire	BW
Moore's Run – Hardy	M
New Creek – Mineral	W
North Branch of Potomac River – Mineral	M-F
North Bend Lake (Tailwaters) – Ritchie	MJ
North Fork of Fishing Creek – Wetzel	MJ
North River – Hardy	BW
North Fork of Cherry River – Greenbrier, Nicholas	BW
North Fork of Lunice Creek – Grant	BW
North Fork of Patterson Creek – Grant	W
North Fork of South Branch – Grant, Pendleton	W-F
North Fork of South Branch (C & R) – Pendleton	CR
Opequon Creek – Berkeley, Jefferson	W-F
Paint Creek – Fayette, Kanawha	BW
Paint Creek (C & R) – Fayette	CR
Panther Creek – McDowell	M
Paw Paw Creek – Marion	BW
Pinch Creek – Raleigh	Y
Pinnacle Creek – Wyoming	BW-F
Pond Fork – Boone	BW-F
Potts Creek – Monroe	M
R.D. Bailey Lake (Tailwaters) – Mingo, Wyoming	BW-F
Red Creek – Tucker	BW
Rhine Creek – Preston	M
Rich Creek – Monroe	M
Right Fork of Buckhannon River – Upshur	M
Right Fork of Middle Fork – Upshur	M
Right Fork of Little Kanawha River – Upshur, Webster	M
Rocky Marsh Run – Jefferson	W
Second Creek (C & R) – Greenbrier, Monroe	CR
Shavers Fork (C & R) – Randolph	CR
Shavers Fork (Lower C & R) – Randolph	CR
Shavers Fork (Lower Section) – Randolph	W-F
Shavers Fork (Upper Section) – Randolph	W-F
South Branch (Franklin Section) – Pendleton	W-F
South Branch (Smoke Hole Section) – Pendleton	W-F
South Branch (C & R) – Pendleton	CR
South Fork of Cherry River – Greenbrier, Nicholas	BW
South Fork of Cranberry River – Pocahontas	BW
South Fork of Fishing Creek – Wetzel	MJ
Spruce Laurel Fork – Boone	M
Stonewall Jackson Lake (Tailwaters) – Lewis	BW
Sugar Creek – Webster	M
Summersville Lake (Tailwaters) – Nicholas	BW-F
Sutton Lake (Tailwaters) – Braxton	BW-F
Tilhance Creek – Berkeley	BW
Tomlinson Run – Hancock	MJ
Trout Run – Hardy	W
Tuscarora Creek – Berkeley	BW
Twelvepole Creek (Wayne Dam) – Wayne	MJ
Tygart Lake (Tailwaters) – Taylor	M-F
Tygart Valley River (Headwaters) – Randolph	BW-F
Waite's Run – Hardy	W
West Fork of Greenbrier River – Pocahontas	W-F
West Fork of Twelvepole Creek – Wayne	M
Wheeling Creek – Marshall, Ohio	BW
Whiteday Creek – Marion, Monongalia	BW
Williams River – Pocahontas, Webster	W-F
Williams River (C & R) – Pocahontas	CR

# TROUT Raising Hatchery Trout



The trout raising process begins each year by collecting eggs and milt from adult trout. Rainbow and golden trout become ready to spawn starting around the middle of August and will be spawned weekly for the following eight to 10 weeks. Brown trout typically spawn in September and brook trout in October.

DNR spawns both two- and three-year-old trout which usually weigh around 3 pounds and 4-8 pounds, respectively. Prior to handling, an anesthetic is added to the water to reduce fish stress and make the trout easier to handle. Both the eggs and milt are extracted and mixed to produce fertilized eggs, which are then placed in incubating trays with a continuous flow of fresh spring waters. The eggs typically hatch in about three weeks, depending on water temperatures.

Just prior to hatching, the eggs are placed in troughs on a hatching tray, which holds the eggs just off the bottom, allowing the hatching fry to fall through a screen onto the tank bottom. The young fry will remain on the bottom of the trough for the next couple weeks of development before they start swimming freely in the water column. Once they absorb the yolk and become able to swim, the young fish are ready to start feeding.

These small trout will remain indoors through winter and well into the following spring. Hatchery staff must keep their tanks clean, provide feed multiple times per day, and watch for any signs of abnormal behavior or mortality that could indicate an illness. If the young fish contract an illness, hatchery staff must act quickly and take biological security measures to prevent further disease transmission.

In late spring, these fish are moved to outdoor raceways, where more space is available and growth can continue. The outside raceways become available upon completion of spring trout stocking. The raceways must be cleaned and disinfected prior to the small trout being released into this larger growing area. The trout remain in these outdoor raceways for the next eight to 12 months, before being stocked in streams and lakes throughout West Virginia.

*Bowden Hatchery near Elkins is undergoing major renovations to increase production by 50 percent.*

## Historical Comparison (1979-2019)

Year	Number of Streams Stocked	Miles of Stream Stocked	Number of Lakes Stocked	Acres of Lakes Stocked
1979	147	752	30	171
2019	153	867	74	1,170

Trout hatchery production is a year-around process. The DNR has staff members residing at each of the hatchery facilities who remain on seven days a week, 24-hour-a-day watch in case any issues arise that could jeopardize the trout. The DNR hatchery system typically produces 700,000 to 850,000 pounds of trout each year for stocking, with the variability due to water flows and drought conditions. During stocking season, hatchery personnel will stop as many as 40 times to stock fish on a single stream. Because trout stocking occurs in over 200 streams and lakes throughout the state, hatchery staff will make over 15,000 stops each year!



## Channel Catfish

Beech Fork, Bluestone, Cheat, East Lynn, Burnsville, Stonecoal and Stonewall Jackson lakes; Kanawha, Monongahela, South Branch of the Potomac, and Ohio rivers. Most warmwater streams and state managed impoundments.

### Favorite baits

Minnnows, night crawlers, chicken livers and other natural baits.

## Crappie

Bluestone, Burnsville, East Lynn, North Bend, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson, Sutton, Summersville, and Tygart lakes; Ohio River backwaters.

### Favorite baits

Minnnows, jigs and minnow-imitating lures.

## Hybrid Striped Bass/ Striped Bass

Kanawha, Monongahela and Ohio rivers; Beech Fork, Bluestone, Mt. Storm and R.D. Bailey lakes.

### Favorite baits

White jigs, silver spoons, shad imitation lures and live minnows.

## Largemouth Bass

Beech Fork, Bluestone, Burnsville, Cheat, East Lynn, Elk Fork, O'Brien, R.D. Bailey, Stonewall Jackson and Sutton lakes; Ohio River; most farm ponds and state managed lakes.

### Favorite baits

Minnnows, night crawlers, crayfish, crankbaits, spinnerbaits, jigs, soft plastic and most top-water lures.

## Musky

Burnsville, East Lynn, North Bend, Stonecoal, Stonewall Jackson and Woodrum lakes; Buckhannon, Elk (downstream of Sutton), Gauley, Hughes, Little Kanawha, Monongahela, Mud, New, Tygart and West Fork rivers; Dunkard, Middle Island, Mill and Sandy creeks.

### Favorite tackle and baits

Bait casting reels using minnow imitating lures; glide baits and jerkbaits. Large spinners are also excellent choices.

## RIPARIAN AND SHORELINE HABITATS

Vegetation is an important component of habitats along West Virginia's streams and lakes. These riparian areas are crucial in the protection of aquatic habitats for fish and other organisms. Help protect West Virginia's waters by protecting riparian areas.

### See the following links for more information:

[www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource](http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/Programs/nonptsource)

[water.epa.gov](http://water.epa.gov)

## Smallmouth Bass

Summersville and Tygart lakes. Cheat, Elk, Greenbrier, Guyandotte, New, South Branch of Potomac, Shenandoah, Tug Fork and Tygart rivers.

### Favorite tackle and baits

Spinning tackle of medium-light and ultra-light weight using spinners and other artificial lures resembling minnows, night crawlers, hellgrammites, crayfish, crankbaits, jigs, and numerous soft plastic and top-water baits.

## Trout (Year-Round Waters)

Blackwater, Cranberry, Elk above Webster Springs, Glade Creek of New River, South Branch of the Potomac near Franklin, North Fork of the South Branch, Shavers Fork of Cheat and Williams rivers.

## Walleye

Cheat, Jennings Randolph, Summersville, Stonecoal, and Tygart lakes; Elk, lower Gauley and New rivers; Kanawha, Monongahela and Ohio river dam tailwaters; and Stephens Lake.

### Favorite baits

Live minnows, night crawlers, jigs, minnow-imitating crankbaits and spinners.

## White Bass

Cheat and Tygart lakes; Ohio, Kanawha and Monongahela rivers.

### Favorite baits

Jigs, crankbaits, spinners, streamers and live minnows.

# FISHING Float Trips



Many of West Virginia's streams offer excellent float trip fishing when water conditions are suitable. Some popular trips are listed.

## Cacapon River

From	To	Miles
Wardensville.....	Capon Lake.....	8.5
Capon Lake.....	Yellow Springs.....	2.5
Yellow Springs.....	Yellow Springs North.....	5.0
Yellow Springs North.....	Rt. 127 Bridg2e.....	19.0
Rt. 127 Bridge.....	Cacapon Crossings.....	9.0
Cacapon Crossings.....	Fishers Ford Bridge.....	18.0
Fishers Ford Bridge*.....	Cacapon Power Plant.....	8.5
Cacapon Power Plant.....	Great Cacapon.....	2.8

\* Contains dam to be portaged.

## Cheat River

From	To	Miles
Hendricks.....	Parsons.....	3.2
Parsons.....	Holly Meadows.....	3.1
Holly Meadows.....	St. George.....	8.1
St. George.....	Hannahville Ford.....	8.4
Hannahville Ford.....	Riverview Lounge.....	12.4
Riverview Lounge.....	Rowlesburg.....	3.3

## Greenbrier River

From	To	Miles
Renick.....	Anthony Bridge.....	10.0
Anthony Bridge.....	Caldwell.....	12.7
Caldwell.....	Ronceverte.....	6.0
Ronceverte.....	Fort Spring.....	8.5
Fort Spring*.....	Alderson.....	6.0
Alderson.....	Talcott Bridge.....	13.0
Talcott Bridge**.....	Barger Springs.....	4.5
Barger Springs.....	Willow Wood Bridge.....	6.0

\* Contains rapids for experienced canoeists only.

\*\*Contains two falls to be portaged.

## New River\*

From	To	Miles
Shanklins Ferry.....	Mouth of Indian Creek.....	6.0
Below Sandstone Falls.....	Prince.....	12.0
Prince.....	Thurmond.....	12.0

\*Only experienced boaters should attempt to float the New River. Portaging some areas will be necessary.

## South Branch River

From	To	Miles
Petersburg Bridge.....	Welton Park.....	3.0
Welton Park.....	Fisher Bridge South.....	5.5
Fisher Bridge South.....	Fisher Bridge.....	2.5
Fisher Bridge.....	Old Fields Bridge.....	4.5
Old Fields Bridge.....	South Branch WMA (McNeill).....	5.0
South Branch WMA (McNeill).....	Harmisons.....	7.0
Harmisons.....	Stony Run.....	1.5
Stony Run.....	Romney Bridge.....	8.75
Romney Bridge.....	Hanging Rock.....	5.0
Hanging Rock.....	Blues Beach Bridge.....	4.5
Blues Beach Bridge.....	Maple Landing.....	7.5
Maple Landing.....	Millesons Mill Bridge.....	2.0
Millesons Mill Bridge.....	Blue Ford South/North.....	4.75
Blue Ford South/North.....	Indian Rock.....	4.0
Indian Rock.....	Mouth of South Branch.....	4.5

## Walhonde Water Trail (Coal River System)

### Big Coal River

From	To	Miles
Whitesville.....	Orgas.....	9.0
Orgas.....	John Slack Park.....	11.0
John Slack Park.....	Dartmont.....	9.0
Dartmont.....	Lions Park.....	12.0

### Little Coal River

From	To	Miles
Madison City Park.....	Donald Kuhn Juv. Ctr.....	9.0
Donald P. Kuhn Juv. Ctr.....	Waterway Park.....	6.0
Waterway Park.....	Rt. 119 Bridge.....	12.0
Rt. 119 Bridge.....	Lions Park.....	2.0

### Coal River

From	To	Miles
Meadowood Park*.....	Lower Falls.....	6.0
Lower Falls.....	Gateway Shopping Ctr.....	5.5

\* Unimproved access below Upper Falls Dam\*\*

\*\*Danger: No Portage around Upper Falls Dam

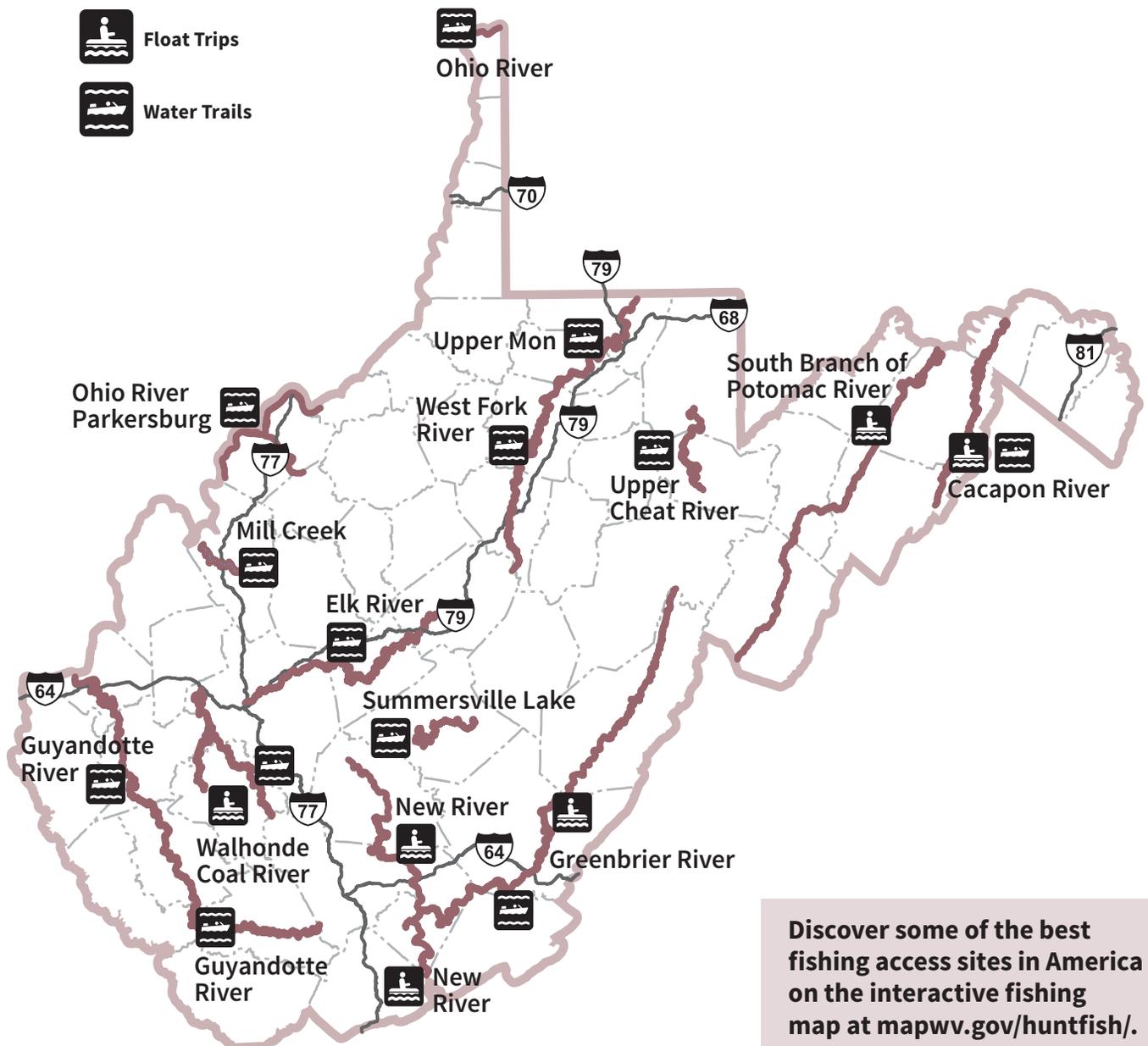
# Water Trails **FISHING**



A water trail is a route on a stream, river or lake that provides boaters with a recreational, scenic, historical and/or educational opportunity.

The West Virginia Recreational Trail Advisory Board and the West Virginia Department of Transportation recognize the increasing popularity of water sports, especially paddle sports on the lakes and streams of the state. Currently, there are 11 designated water trails in West Virginia:

- Cacapon River Water Trail
- Greenbrier River Water Trail
- Summersville Lake Water Trail
- Walhonde Water Trail (Coal River System)
- Guyandotte River Water Trail
- Upper Cheat River Water Trail
- Elk River Water Trail
- Mill Creek Water Trail
- Upper Mon Water Trail
- Ohio River Water Trail
- West Fork River Water Trail



Discover some of the best fishing access sites in America on the interactive fishing map at [mapwv.gov/huntfish/](http://mapwv.gov/huntfish/).

# FISHING Public Lakes and Ponds

## Key

• = the listed feature or activity is available or permitted.

A blank space indicates the feature or activity **IS NOT** available or permitted.

### Lake - County

\* = National Forest Stamp required

COE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lake



### Accessibility



### Use of Live Minnows



### Camping

L = limited primitive

P = permit required



### Night Fishing

C = registered campers only

P = permit required



### Boating

NM = no motor boats

E = electric motors only

R = rental boats only

U = unlimited h.p.

5 = 5 h.p. maximum

10 = 10 h.p. maximum (Larger motors must have props removed or motor tilted to the maximum limit.)

\* = contains no-wake zones, speed zones and/or other restricted areas

f = fee charged for private boats, May 30 – Labor Day

A USCG approved life preserver is required for each occupant of ALL BOATS. See West Virginia Boating Regulations. All boats propelled by machinery must be licensed.

## BECOME AN ORGAN DONOR!

West Virginia residents 18 and older may now register as an organ, eye and tissue donor when they purchase or renew a West Virginia fishing and hunting licenses online at wvfish.com.

For more information about organ donation, visit [donatelifewv.org](http://donatelifewv.org).



Lake or Pond – County		Acres				
Airport Pond – Raleigh	•	1				
Anawalt – McDowell	•	7		•		
Anderson – Kanawha	•	7		•		
Barboursville – Cabell	•	17			P	
Bear Rock Lakes – Ohio	•	16		•		E
Beech Fork – Wayne COE	•	720	•	•	P	10*
Berwind – McDowell	•	20		•	P	E
Big Ditch – Webster	•	55		•		E
Big Run – Marion		7	•	•		E
Bluestone – Summers COE	•	2040	•	•	P	U*
Boley – Fayette	•	18		•	P	E
Brandywine – Pendleton*	•	6		•	P	E
Brushy Fork – Pendleton		18		•		E
Buffalo Fork – Pocahontas*	•	22		•		E
Burnsville – Braxton COE	•	968	•	•	P	U*
Cacapon – Morgan	•	6		•		NMf
Cameron – Marshall		6	•	•		
Camp Run – Pendleton*		8		•		E
Castleman Run – Brooke, Ohio	•	22	•	•		E
Cedar Creek – Gilmer		8	•	•	P	
Charles Fork – Roane	•	70		•		E
Cheat Lake – Monongalia	•	1730	•	•	L	U*
Chief Cornstalk – Mason	•	5		•	P	E
Chief Logan – Logan	•	13		•		
Conaway Run – Tyler	•	30		•	P	E
Coonskin Park – Kanawha	•	2.5				
Coopers Rock – Monongalia	•	6		•	P	
Curtisville – Marion	•	30	•	•		E
Deegan – Harrison	•	15	•			E
Dents Run – Marion		30				E
Dixon – Monongalia	•	7		•		
Doe Run – Taylor		11	•	•	P	E
Dog Run – Harrison		15	•			E
Dunkard Fork – Marshall		49	•	•		E
East Lynn – Wayne COE	•	1005	•	•	P	U*
Edwards Run – Hampshire		1		•	L	
Elk Fork – Jackson	•	278	•	•		10
Elk Two Mile (Site 12) – Kanawha		2				
Elk Two Mile (Site 13) – Kanawha		3.5				
Elk Two Mile (Site 14) – Kanawha		4				
Fairfax – Monongalia		47	•		P	E
Fitzpatrick – Raleigh		2.5		•	P	
Flat Run – Marion		6	•	•		E
Ft. Ashby – Mineral		12	•	•		
French Creek – Upshur		2				
Frozenscamp Left Fork – Jackson		20		•		E
Frozenscamp Right Fork – Jackson		20		•		E
Handley Pond – Pocahontas	•	5		•	P	E
Hawks Nest – Fayette		250	•	•		U*
Hinkle – Harrison	•	6	•			E
Horse Creek – Wyoming		12		•		E
Huey Run – Marion		8	•	•		E
Hurricane W.S. Reservoir – Putnam	•	12		•		
Indian Rock – Nicholas	•	5				
James P. Bailey – Mercer	•	28				
Jennings Randolph – Mineral COE		952	•	•	P	U*
Jimmy Lewis – Mercer	•	15		•		E
Kanawha State Forest – Kanawha	•	1			P	
Kee Reservoir – Mercer		70		•		E
Kimsey Run – Hardy	•	60		•		E
Krodel – Mason	•	22	•		P	E
Larenim – Mineral	•	10	•			NM
Laurel – Mingo	•	29		•		E
Lick Creek – Wayne		5	•	•		

# Public Lakes and Ponds **FISHING**

Lake or Pond – County		Acres				
Little Beaver – Raleigh	•	18		•		R
Logan County Airport – Logan	•	1				
McClintic Ponds – Mason	•	61		•	P	E
Mason – Monongalia	•	16	•	•		E
Middle Wheeling Creek – Ohio		30	•	•		E
Miletree – Roane		10		•		E
Mill Creek – Barbour	•	8				E
Millers Fork – Wayne	•	5				
Moncove – Monroe	•	144		•	P	5
Mount Storm – Grant		1200	•	•		U*
Mountain Valley – Summers		39				E
Mountwood – Wood	•	48		•	P	E
Newburg Lake – Preston		5				
New Creek Dam 14 – Grant		40		•		
North Bend Lake – Ritchie	•	305	•	•	P	10
North Bend State Park Pond – Ritchie		1.5		C	P	
O'Brien – Jackson		217	•	•		10
Parker Hollow – Hardy		34		•		E
Pendleton – Tucker		14			P	NM,R
Pennsboro W. S. Reservoir – Ritchie		9		•		E
Pettigrew – Kanawha	•	8				NM
Pipestem – Summers	•	16		•	P	R
Plum Orchard – Fayette	•	202			P	U*
Poorhouse Pond – Berkeley		5				
R.D. Bailey – Mingo, Wyoming <b>COE</b>		630	•	•	P	U*
Ridenour – Kanawha	•	27		•		R
Rock Cliff – Hardy*	•	17		C	P	E
Rockhouse – Logan	•	14		•		E
Rollins – Jackson	•	41		•		E
Salt Lick Pond 9 – Braxton		15	•	•		E
Seneca – Pocahontas	•	3		•	P	E
Sherwood – Greenbrier*		165		•	P	E
Silcott Fork – Roane		23		•		
Sleepy Creek – Berkeley	•	205	•	•	P	E
South Mill Creek – Grant	•	48		•		E
Spruce Knob – Randolph*	•	23		•	P	E
Stephens – Raleigh	•	300	•	•		U*
Stonecoal – Lewis, Upshur	•	550	•	•	P	10*
Stonewall Jackson – Lewis <b>COE</b>	•	2650	•	•	P	U*
Summersville – Nicholas <b>COE</b>	•	2700	•	•	P	U*
Summit – Greenbrier*	•	43		•	P	E
Sutton – Braxton <b>COE</b>	•	1500	•	•	P	U*
Teter Creek – Barbour	•	35		•	P	E
Thomas Park – Tucker		8	•	•	L	E
Tomlinson Run – Hancock		30	•	•	P	E
Tracy – Ritchie		11		•	L	E
Trout Pond – Hardy		2		•	P	
Tuckahoe – Greenbrier	•	40		•		E
Turkey Run – Jackson	•	24	•	•		E
Turkey Run – Marshall		15	•	•		E
Tygart – Taylor <b>COE</b>	•	1750	•	•	P	U*
Tygart River Backwaters – Randolph	•	31	•	•		E
Underwood Lake – Cabell	•	1				
Upper Cove Run – Hardy		6.5		•		E
Upper Deckers – Preston		16				E
Upper Mud – Lincoln	•	307	•	•		10
Wallback – Clay	•	15				E
Warden – Hardy	•	44		•		E
Watoga – Pocahontas	•	11		•	P	E
Westover Park – Monongalia	•	1.5				
Whetstone – Marion		6	•	•		E
Wolf Run – Marshall		23		•		E
Woodrum – Jackson	•	240	•	•		10

## Rules and Regulations Governing Public Use of West Virginia Fishing and Boating Access Sites

Article 1, Section 7, Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1961 as amended, the following rules and regulations govern public use of all fishing and boating access sites administered by the Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section.

### Requirements And Prohibitions:

- Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from the shore. No other use of access sites is allowed.
- After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.
- Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access sites.
- The following are prohibited at fishing and boating access sites:
  - Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages.
  - Swimming or bathing.
  - Camping.
  - Open fires.
  - Trash disposal except where trash receptacles are provided.
  - Discharge of firearms, fireworks and explosives.
  - Leaving unattended watercraft.
  - Commercial use except as authorized by the Director.
  - Parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching.

Any person violating any of these rules and regulations shall be punished in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 20 of the Code of West Virginia and such other laws as may be applicable.

It is the policy of the Division of Natural Resources to provide its facilities, accommodations, services and programs to all persons without regard to sex, race, age, religion, national origin or ancestry, disability or other protected group status. The Division of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer.

STATE OF West Virginia  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## Boating Education Requirement

Anglers using boats must obey boating laws. In West Virginia, anyone born after December 31, 1986 must successfully complete a NASBLA-approved Boating Education Course before operating a motorboat.

Contact a Natural Resources Police Officer for an available course near you. You can also take the online Boating Education Course available at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov). Click on boating under the Law Enforcement heading.

## Personal Flotation Device (PFD)

Most boating fatalities are the result of a boat capsizing or passenger falling overboard. Nearly 80 percent of those who died in boating accidents were NOT wearing a PFD.

If you are fishing from a boat, West Virginia law requires that you have one PFD on board and readily available for each person on the boat. Any child 12 years of age or under must wear a PFD while the boat is in progress. Make sure the PFD is in good condition (try it out in the water from time to time), readily available and fits properly. Boats over 16 feet must also have a ring or cushion on board that can be thrown to a person in the water.

## Courtesy on the Boat Ramp

Boat ramp traffic jams can be prevented if everyone practices common courtesy at the ramp. Be sure you observe these simple courtesies.

- Prepare your vessel for launching or for the drive home well away from the ramp.
- Use at least two experienced people to launch and retrieve the vessel (one to drive the towing vehicle and one to operate the vessel).
- Never block a ramp with an unattended vessel or vehicle.
- Move the vessel away from the launch lane immediately after removing it from the trailer. Return briefly to pick up the vehicle driver once he or she has parked the vehicle and is back at the ramp.
- When retrieving, do not pull your vessel into a launch lane until the towing vehicle is at the ramp. The line is formed by vehicles with trailers, not by vessels in the water. Drop off the vehicle driver, and wait offshore and clear of the ramp until he or she arrives with the trailer.

Learn more about boating safety at [www.register-ed.com](http://www.register-ed.com) or take an online course at [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov).

## Safe Boating Rules

Boating accidents usually result from a collision with another boat or an object in the water such as rocks or pilings. A little boating knowledge, common sense and courtesy could prevent most accidents.

- Don't operate a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Don't overload the boat.
- Don't sit on the edge of the boat.
- If you must stand up, do so carefully away from the sides.
- Drive at a safe speed.
- Use navigation lights at night.
- Keep a lookout for other boats and follow the rules of navigation.
- Always let someone know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Don't fish during a thunderstorm.

Every vessel or watercraft must carry the proper safety equipment. A vessel means every description of watercraft, other than seaplane on the water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. Examples of watercraft include kayaks, canoes, inflatable pontoon boats and other vessels.

Check the weather conditions before you leave. Lightning, strong wind and high waves create hazardous conditions. If caught on a lake in a strong storm, put all fishing gear in the bottom of the boat, stay low in the boat and get off the water as soon as possible. In high waves, the best way to keep from capsizing is to steer the boat at a slight angle into the waves.

## Alcohol and Drugs

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs creates the same risks and carries the same penalties as DUI. Intoxication affects your balance, which is already challenged by being in a boat. It also affects your coordination, vision and thinking ability. Alcohol also causes you to lose body heat faster should you fall into the water, increasing the risk of hypothermia. A blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or above qualifies as legally intoxicated.

## Commercial River Traffic

While boating on the major rivers of West Virginia, always be alert for large commercial vessels. Large vessels always have the right-of-way because of long stopping distances and blind spots around them. Also, turbulent water around the large vessel could capsize a small boat easily.

Stay out of danger zones and restricted areas around locks and dams.

## Person in the Water

Reach-Throw-Row-Go is a method of rescuing a person who is in trouble in water. If the person is close to you, REACH out with a long object such as an oar or tree limb to pull the person into shore or the boat.

If you can't reach the person, then THROW them a life-saving device. If possible, it should be tied to the end of a line so you can pull the person to you. An inflatable ball or foam cooler can be used if the proper device is not available.

If there is nothing to throw, ROW a boat to the person in trouble. The person should be pulled in over the stern, or back, of the boat if possible to prevent the boat from tipping over. If the boat has a motor, it must be shut off before you get to the person in the water.

GO (swim) to the person ONLY as a last resort and only if you have had life-saving training. People who are drowning often panic and injure or drown someone trying to rescue them.

## Safety with Fishing Equipment

Fishing hooks can be dangerous if not handled properly. Look behind you before you cast to make sure your hook will not be caught on a power line, a tree or a person. Do not leave fishing tackle lying loose on the ground. Someone can trip on it and fall or step on a hook.

## Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a condition in which your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Without treatment, your life is in danger. Exposure to the cold along with wind, wetness and exhaustion causes hypothermia. A common misconception is that the air or water temperature must be below freezing before you can become hypothermic. Actually, many cases of hypothermia develop in air temperatures between 30 and 50 degrees. And because water takes away body heat 25 times faster than air of the same temperature, any water colder than 70 degrees can cause hypothermia.

Symptoms of hypothermia include uncontrollable shivering, fumbling hands, slow speech, confusion and exhaustion. To treat hypothermia, get the victim out of the cold, give warm drinks, keep the person awake, remove all wet clothing and get the victim into dry clothes.

## Fishing in Cold Weather

To stay warm, wear several layers of clothing. Air trapped between the layers serves as insulation. A wool hat prevents heat loss from your head. Fishing is difficult with most gloves, but lightweight rubber gloves, gloves without fingertips, and gloves that have a flap to expose your fingers allow greater manual dexterity.

## Ice fishing

West Virginia doesn't possess numerous ice fishing opportunities and in some ways, that makes the sport a little riskier. Anglers may be tempted to venture out on a frozen lake or river before checking the thickness of the ice. Ice should be at least four inches thick before it is considered safe. Due to variations in ice thickness on a waterbody, extreme caution should be exercised.

## Wading

There are several rules you should follow for safe wading.

1. Wade with a fishing buddy.
2. Wear your PFD.
3. Find out whether the bottom is rocky or muddy.
4. Shuffle your feet or probe with a stick along the bottom to avoid holes.
5. Study how swiftly the water is moving.
6. Wear appropriate footwear (considering water temperature and bottom substrate).



**2020 NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY**

**Admission**  
Adults: \$10 • Ages 14 and under: FREE

**Stonewall Resort State Park**  
Roanoke, W.Va. (located off I-79 Exit 91)

- Big buck and trophy fish displays
- Outdoor Youth Challenge
- Hands-on activities for kids
- Learn to clean a fish, shoot a rifle and cast a fishing line
- More than 100 vendors and exhibits

**SEPT 19-20**  
**9 A.M. - 6 P.M.**

**WVDNR**  
wvdnr.gov/nhfd



# FISH State Records

Species	Yr.	Length (inches)	Weight (pounds)	Location	Angler
<b>Bass</b>					
Largemouth	2001	25.75	9.62	Dog Run Lake	Eli Gain
	1994	24.8	12.28	Pond – <i>Grant Co.</i>	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 – <i>Randolph Co.</i>	Mark Allen Lewis
	1964	13.75	2.25	Farm Pond – <i>Fayette Co.</i>	Dennis Criss
Bowfin	1994	32.25	7.54	Pond – <i>Berkeley Co.</i>	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
<b>Carp</b>					
Common	1998	39.3	47.0	Farm Pond – <i>Preston Co.</i>	Gary Johnson
	1988	41.0	41.5	Stonecoal Lake	Charles J. Cook
Grass	2005	50.75	71.69	Warden Lake	William R. Taucher
<b>Catfish</b>					
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
	2019	27.87	4.0	Upper Deckers Lake	Matt Born
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
<b>Gar</b>					
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.
Sauger	1985	23.0	4.75	Ohio River	Steve Powell
	2012	22.50	5.06	Ohio River	David L. Vance
Saugeye	2006	27.68	8.73	East Lynn Lake	Everett Chapman
Skipjack	2013	19.21	2.64	Ohio River	Zachary Hankins
Tiger Musky	1994	49.25	36.5	Mountwood Lake	Clyde E. Beckett
<b>Trout</b>					
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 – <i>Berkeley Co.</i>	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	2018	14.5	2.04	Summersville Lake	Clinton Mills
	2010	15.44	1.20	Summersville Lake	Craig Hollandsworth

## 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.

## 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](http://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 a Fish** on page 29.
- 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.
- Mail to: DNR Wildlife Resources, 324 4th Ave., South Charleston, WV 25303.

### Minimum Sizes

Trout			Catfish		
Brook	15 in.	1.5 lb.	Blue	29 in.	10 lb.
Brown	21 in.	4 lb.	Bullhead	16 in.	2 lb.
Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Channel	25 in.	6 lb.
Golden Rainbow	21 in.	4 lb.	Flathead	29 in.	10 lb.
Bass			Crappie		15 in.
Largemouth	21 in.	5 lb.	Sunfish		10 in.
Smallmouth	20 in.	4 lb.	Chain Pickerel		20 in.
Spotted	14 in.	1.5 lb.	Northern Pike		32 in.
Rock	11 in.	1 lb.	Walleye		25 in.
Striped	25 in.	7 lb.	Sauger		17 in.
Hybrid Striped	24 in.	7 lb.	Yellow Perch		13 in.
White	15 in.	2 lb.	Freshwater Drum		27 in.
Muskellunge	40 in.	15 lb.	Fallfish		18 in.
Tiger Musky	40 in.	15 lb.	Common Carp		31 in.

## Aquatic Invasive Species

Anglers are reminded that it is unlawful to release any fish, water animal or other aquatic organism, alive or dead, or any part, nest or egg thereof into public waters of this state except as authorized by the Director of the Division of Natural Resources. A stocking permit for trout and bass may not be required depending on the source and disease-free certification of the fish.

Aquatic invasive species are an increasing threat to aquatic ecosystems across the country. Introductions of invasive zebra mussels, snakeheads and Asian Carp have had impacts on and are threatening sport fishing in the Great Lakes and Mississippi and Ohio rivers. Recreational impacts and economic costs associated with invasive species can be substantial if invasive species do become a problem. Informing anglers of these threats is important because they are our best and first line of defense to guard against invasive species. We are concerned that invasive aquatic species could become established in West Virginia and cause significant harm to our aquatic environments, particularly sport fish populations.

### Asian Carp

Some species of Asian Carp (bighead and silver) pose a particularly serious threat to West Virginia waters. Native to Asia, they were introduced into the United States for use as various biological control agents in the aquaculture industry and have since escaped. Due to their large size, voracious appetites and reproductive capabilities, they are regarded as highly invasive species and have been moving up the Mississippi and Ohio river basins at an alarming rate. Their diet consists of plankton, aquatic vegetation, aquatic insects and native fish larvae, which puts them in direct competition with native mussels, other filter feeders such as the paddlefish and bigmouth buffalo, and other forage fishes like the gizzard shad, threadfin shad and emerald shiner. Nearly all fish feed on zooplankton at some point in their life cycle, thus there is potential for an adverse effect on all fishes in the Mississippi and Ohio river basins. In states where they have become established, Asian carp make up as much as 90 percent of the biomass of the entire fish community.

Silver carp are also known to leap high out of the water when disturbed by vibrations like those commonly caused by recreational watercraft, posing an additional threat to boaters.

The West Virginia section of the Ohio River is close to the leading edge of invasion of bighead and silver carps, and it is important that we work toward slowing their advance into West Virginia waters.

## Asian Carp continued ...

### What you can do:

- NEVER move fish from one body of water to another
- Drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area
- Dispose of ALL unwanted bait in the trash
- Do not release live aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters
- Take a picture, note the location, and report new sightings to **877-STOP-ANS** or [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)
- Learn to identify bighead and silver carp. Visit [wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Asian\\_Carp.shtm](http://wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Asian_Carp.shtm) for detailed descriptions.  
Silver and Bighead carp:
  - » Are silver in color with small scales
  - » Have a large upturned mouth that lack barbels
  - » Have low set eyes, below midline of body
  - » Have a keel (ridge) along the abdomen

By following these simple steps, anglers can help ensure West Virginia's good fishing for future generations.

For more information please visit:

[www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Invasive\\_Species.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/Fishing/Invasive_Species.shtm)

## WEST VIRGINIA ABOUNDS WITH OUTDOOR FUN!

### Get involved.

**State Conservation Camp** - June annually  
[wvconservationcamp.com](http://wvconservationcamp.com)

**Junior Conservation Camp** - June annually  
[dep.wv.gov/environmental-advocate/YEP/Pages/YouthConservationCamp.aspx](http://dep.wv.gov/environmental-advocate/YEP/Pages/YouthConservationCamp.aspx)

**Free Fishing Days** - June 13-14, 2020

**Trout Unlimited Trout in the Classroom Program**  
[www.tu.org/TIC](http://www.tu.org/TIC)

**NRA Youth Shooting Events**  
[explore.nra.org/interests/youth-interests/](http://explore.nra.org/interests/youth-interests/)

**Bass Federation Youth Events**  
[bassfederation.com/tbf-youth/](http://bassfederation.com/tbf-youth/)

**Centershot Ministries**  
[centershot.org/](http://centershot.org/)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**DO NOT DUMP BAIT** into the waters of West Virginia. This will further protect our streams, rivers and lakes from invasive species.

## How to Properly Disinfect Recreational Equipment

### Disinfection Procedures

Disinfect boats and personal watercraft prior to moving to another waterbody, watershed, or upstream site.

There are a number of disinfection techniques that will kill most aquatic invasive species and fish and wildlife pathogens, including whirling disease and Didymo. Solutions of bleach or dishwashing detergent product are suggested as they provide the best combination of availability, cost and effectiveness against these species. It is recommended that all disinfected equipment be rinsed on dry land, away from state waters. It is preferable to drain used solutions into treated wastewater (e.g. sinks, tubs, etc.)

### Suggested Techniques

#### Non-absorbent items (boats, canoes, rubber waders, etc.)

- **Dishwashing Detergent:** soak and scrub for at least one minute with a 5 percent solution.
- **Bleach:** soak or spray all surfaces for a least one minute in a 2 percent solution of household bleach.
- **Hot Water:** soak for at least one minute in very hot water (above 140°F - hotter than most tap water) or for 20 minutes in water kept at 120°F (hot tap water, uncomfortable to touch).
- **Drying:** Drying will kill most aquatic pathogens, but slightly moist environments will support some organisms for months. This approach should only be used for gear that can be left in the sun for extended periods of time.
- **Freeze:** Place item in freezer until solid.

#### Absorbent items (felt-soled waders, clothing, wetsuits, sandals, etc.)

- These items require longer soaking times to allow thorough penetration into the materials. The thicker and denser the material, the longer it will require for adequate disinfection.
- Bleach solutions are not recommended for absorbent materials.
- **Hot Water:** Soak items for at least 40 minutes in very hot water kept above 140°F (hotter than most tap water)
- **Dishwashing Detergent and Hot Water:** soak for 30 minutes in a hot 5 percent detergent/water solution kept above 120°F

## Health Benefits of Eating Fish

Fish are nutritious and good to eat. When properly prepared, fish provide numerous health benefits, especially for the heart. The American Heart Association recommends eating two to three fish meals each week.

### The benefits of eating fish include:

- Fish offer high-quality protein with fewer calories than a similar-sized portion of meat. Example: Both catfish and ground beef are about 18 percent protein. But, for an 8-ounce meal, the catfish will have only about 232 calories, while the regular ground beef will have about 640 calories.
- Fish are low in sodium and are good sources of potassium, vitamins and other minerals.
- Fish are generally low in cholesterol and saturated fats, which have been associated with high blood pressure and heart disease.
- While the benefits of fish on nutrition are still being studied, much of the current research is focused on various kinds of beneficial fats in fish, particularly a kind of omega-3 fatty acids which are in some fish and fish oils. Some studies have indicated that eating these fatty acids have favorable effects on health conditions such as reducing blood cholesterol levels and high blood pressure and hardening of the arteries.

## Keeping and Cleaning Fresh Fish

### Keeping Your Catch Fresh

The two best ways of keeping fish fresh on a fishing trip are to keep them alive or chill them. Since keeping fish alive is not always possible, a practical solution to the problem is an ice chest. Keep the drain open on the chest, because dead fish left in water will soon lose their flavor.

Although not as effective as an ice cooler, fish stringers are often used out of necessity, especially when wade fishing.

### Cleaning

The fresher the fish, the easier it is to clean. Do not freeze the fish whole or put the job off until the skin is dry and brittle. Scaling the fish can be done in a variety of ways. Fish scalers, which can be purchased from most tackle shops, do an adequate job.

When skinning catfish, drive a nail through the head into a board, with the fish's belly down. Cut completely through the skin around the back of the head and pull the skin off with pliers. Then, remove the head and entrails. Larger catfish are best filleted after they have been skinned and huge ones may be staked – leaving the backbone in and cutting crosswise in one-inch steaks.

For frying small panfish such as bluegill or crappie whole in a skillet, make a cut down each side of the dorsal and anal fins, then pull the fins out by the "roots." After scaling, make a diagonal cut through the fish, thus removing the head, entrails and rib cage in one operation. Leave the tails on. When fried crisp, they make delicious "crunchies."

## Fish Consumption Advisories

The West Virginia Fish Consumption Advisories are presented in the following pages. These recommendations are intended to allow you to receive the nutritional benefits from eating fish while keeping the level of contaminants from fish at levels in your body where health problems are not likely. Fish advisories are not intended to discourage you from eating fish, but should be used as a guide to eating fish in the proper amounts so as not to adversely impact your health. You can reduce your risks by eating fish less likely to contain contaminants, cleaning and cooking them properly, and eating portions that correspond to your body weight.

### Contaminants in Fish

Some fish take in contaminants (PCBs, for example) from the water they live in and the food they eat. These contaminants build up in the fish over time. Eating contaminated fish can result in a buildup of these chemicals in your body, so it is important to keep your exposure as low as possible. The meal advisory on the following pages is intended to protect people, especially pregnant and nursing women, women who may become pregnant in the next few years, and small children from potential health problems from eating contaminants in fish.

The Statewide Consumption Advisories listed on the following pages are based on analysis of fish collected from waters across the state. Mercury levels drive the majority of the consumption advisories, with PCBs being much less widespread. Selenium has been measured from certain waters at low levels that do not require consumption restrictions beyond those in place for other contaminants.

### Which fish are less likely to contain contaminants?

Some fish such as sunfish, crappie and trout eat insects and other aquatic life and are less likely to contain contaminants at levels that might affect your health. If you eat walleye, bass, and other predatory fish, eat the smaller, younger fish that are less likely to contain contaminants. Eat fewer fish like carp and catfish, which feed on the bottom of lakes and rivers and are more likely to contain contaminants.

### How should I prepare and cook fish to reduce the amount of contaminants in the fish?

PCBs and Dioxin are contaminants that usually build up in a fish's fat deposits and just underneath the skin. By removing the skin and fat before cooking, you can reduce the levels of these chemicals. Mercury and Selenium collect in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking methods.

### To reduce PCBs and Dioxin contaminants:

- Fillet fish and throw away the fat, skin and internal organs (where contaminants are most likely to accumulate) before you cook them. Fat is concentrated on the belly, the middle of the back, the line along the sides, and under the skin.
- Cooking does not destroy the contaminants, but heat from cooking melts some of the fat and allows some of the contaminated fat to drain away. Broil, grill or bake the trimmed, skinned fish on a rack so the fat drips away. Throw away the fat that comes from cooking fish.

# FISH 2020 WV Statewide Consumption Advisories

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminants
<b>All Waters in West Virginia</b> except where listed in the Specific Consumption Advisories on pages 29-30.	White Bass	1 meal a month	Mercury PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)
	Black Bass <i>(largemouth, smallmouth, spotted)</i>	2 meals a month	
	Channel Catfish greater than 17"		
	Flathead Catfish		
	Hybrid Striped Bass		
	Walleye, Sauger and Saugeye		
	Rock Bass	1 meal a week	
	Channel Catfish less than 17"		
	All Suckers		
	All Other Species		
	Rainbow Trout	No Limit	

Note: Contaminant-Meal limits are determined by the chemical with an asterisk if there is more than one contaminant. Other chemicals, such as dioxin, (Hg) methyl mercury may have an advisory at a less restrictive level.

## How to Use this Advisory

Follow the advice presented in this brochure, noting the differences between the General Advisories for all West Virginia waters on this page and the Specific Advisories on pages 29-30. Find the meal advice for the fish you've caught. "Do Not Eat" means no one should eat those fish because of very high contamination. The other groups ("One Meal a Week," "Two Meals a Month," "One Meal a Month," and "Six Meals a Year") are advice for how often to eat a fish meal. The size of the fish meal depends on your body weight. To adjust serving sizes, follow the advice in the meal size table.

Women of childbearing age, children and people who regularly eat fish are particularly susceptible to contaminants that build up over time. If you fall into one of these categories, you should be especially careful to follow the meal sizes and space fish meals out according to the advisory tables.

Your body can get rid of some contaminants over time. Spacing the meals out helps prevent the contaminants from building up to harmful levels in the body. For example, if the fish you eat is in the "One Meal a Month Group," wait a month before eating another meal of fish from any restricted category. Occasionally eating fish in quantities slightly greater than the advisories recommend, such as during an annual fishing vacation, should not present a health hazard.

**DISCLAIMER:** Advisories are based on fish tissue gathered for specific fish species in specific streams or lakes. Fish move throughout the year and may travel many miles in one day. Unless there are man-made or natural barriers, fish carrying contaminants may move into upstream or downstream reaches, or into tributaries. Therefore, it is recommended to be aware of potential fish movement in the fish consumption advisories on pages 28-30.

Meal Sizes	
A person weighing between	should eat no more than this amount per meal
pounds	ounces of precooked fish
20 or less	1
21-35	1.5
36-50	2
51-70	3
71-90	4
91-110	5
111-130	6
131-150	7
151 and over	8
Remember that 3 ounces of precooked fish is about the size of the palm of your hand or a deck of cards	
Remember that 1.5 ounces of precooked fish is about one-half the size of the palm of your hand or one-half the size of a deck of cards	

## For Additional Information

The advisory listing was current at the time this summary went to press. Other fish consumption advisories may have been issued or lifted since that time. Notice of such actions is released to the public through press releases. For further information or the most current advice contact:

### WVDHHR:

(304) 558-2981

Interactive map at [node2.wvdhhr.org/scales/client/index.html](http://node2.wvdhhr.org/scales/client/index.html)

**WVDNR:** (304) 558-2771 • [www.wvdnr.gov](http://www.wvdnr.gov)

**WVDEP:** (304) 926-0495 • [www.dep.wv.gov](http://www.dep.wv.gov)

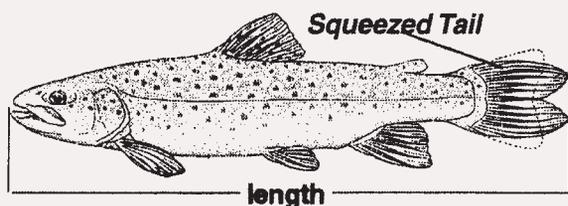
**USEPA:** [www.epa.gov/fish-tech](http://www.epa.gov/fish-tech)

# 2020 WV Specific Consumption Advisories **FISH**

Water Body	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminant(s)
<b>Bluestone River</b>	Carp	1 meal a month	PCBs ( <i>Polychlorinated Biphenyls</i> )
<b>Fish Creek</b>	Smallmouth Bass, all sizes	1 meal a month	Mercury
<b>Kanawha River</b> Downstream of I-64 bridge in Dunbar down to Winfield Lock and Dam including all backwaters, Armour Creek, Heizer Creek, Manila Creek, lower two miles Pocatalico River, Coal River mouth to Lower Falls	Carp	Do not eat	Dioxin* Mercury PCBs ( <i>Polychlorinated Biphenyls</i> )
	Channel Catfish, all sizes		
	Suckers		
	All other species	1 meal a month	
<b>Little Kanawha</b> from mouth upstream to Wells Lock  <b>Hughes River</b> from mouth upstream to North and South forks	Sauger	1 meal a month	Mercury
<b>R. D. Bailey Lake</b>	Channel Catfish greater than 17 inches	1 meal a month	PCBs ( <i>Polychlorinated Biphenyls</i> )
<b>Shenandoah River</b>	Carp	Do not eat	Mercury PCBs ( <i>Polychlorinated Biphenyls</i> )*
	Smallmouth Bass	1 meal a month	Mercury
<b>Summersville Lake</b>	Flathead Catfish, all sizes	1 meal a month	Mercury
	Walleye	1 meal a month	Mercury
<b>Sutton Lake</b>	Black Bass, greater than 12 inches	1 meal a month	Mercury
<b>Mount Storm Lake</b>	Striped Bass	1 meal a month	PCBs ( <i>Polychlorinated Biphenyls</i> )

Note: Contaminant- Meal limits are determined by the chemical with an asterisk if there is more than one contaminant. Other chemicals, such as dioxin, (Hg) methyl mercury may have an advisory at a less restrictive level.

## MEASURING A FISH



1. Lay the fish on top of a ruler on a flat surface.
2. Close the mouth of the fish and squeeze the tail fin lobes together.
3. Measure all fish from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail. Do not measure along the curvature of the fish's body.

# FISH 2020 Ohio River Consumption Advisories

The protocol used to determine Ohio River fish consumption advisories (ORFCAP) is the product of the efforts of a multi-agency workgroup consisting of representatives from the six main stem states (Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia) as well as the US EPA and the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) to develop consistent fish advisories along the Ohio River main stem. The online Ohio River advisory is available at: <http://216.68.102.178/comm/fishconsumption/default.asp>, please refer to the website for recent updates.

Ohio River Segment	Species	Limit your fish meals to:	Contaminant(s)
<b>Pennsylvania Border (East Liverpool) to Belleville Lock</b> (Brooke, Hancock, Marshall, Ohio, Pleasants, Tyler, Wetzels and Wood counties)	Channel Catfish 18 inches and greater	Do not eat	PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)
	Channel Catfish less than 18 inches Common Carp Striped Bass Hybrid White Bass	6 meals a year	
	Flathead Catfish Freshwater Drum Largemouth Bass Sauger Saugeye Smallmouth Bass Smallmouth Buffalo Spotted Bass All Suckers Walleye	1 meal a month	
<b>Belleville Lock to the Kentucky Border</b> (Jackson, Mason, Cabell and Wayne counties)	Channel Catfish 18 inches and greater Striped Hybrid Bass Striped Bass	6 meals a year	PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls)
	Channel Catfish less than 18 inches Common Carp Flathead Catfish Freshwater Drum Largemouth Bass Smallmouth Bass Spotted Bass All Suckers White Bass	1 meal a month	

*Note: Contaminant- Meal limits are determined by the chemical with an asterisk if there is more than one contaminant. Other chemicals, such as dioxin, (Hg) methyl mercury may have an advisory at a less restrictive level.*

- 1. Manage and regulate all sportfish populations inhabiting 127 lakes and thousands of miles of public streams across West Virginia**
  - a. Analyze fishery data to implement new or different regulations to improve or protect specific fisheries
  - b. Conduct angler creel and attitude surveys
  - c. Conduct fish tagging studies and angler tag-return data analysis
  - d. Temperature monitoring of coldwater streams
  - e. Tracking movement and habitat use of valuable sportfish species
  - f. Monitor fish communities and habitat in watersheds with dams removed and other impacted streams
  - g. Develop statewide management plans for species such as muskellunge and walleye
  - h. Fishing tournament registration and data analysis
- 2. Conducted 119 fishery surveys in waters statewide for species such as black bass, catfish and wild/native trout**
  - a. 20 surveys focused on black bass population assessments in impoundments
  - b. 16 surveys focused on black bass population assessments in rivers and streams
  - c. 44 surveys focused on blue, flathead and channel catfish
  - d. 39 surveys focused on wild or native trout population assessments
  - e. Broodstock collection surveys for native walleye, musky and brook trout
- 3. Built and deployed 1,621 habitat structures in waters around the state**
  - a. Three stream habitat projects that constructed 63 instream structures using natural materials and spanning almost two miles of stream
  - b. Felled and secured 337 mature trees into four lakes to greatly enhance shoreline habitat for all fish species
  - c. Deployed 1,129 Christmas trees in 11 lakes for fish habitat
  - d. Developed 70 oversized brush piles each consisting of several entire trees and larger boulders in Summersville Lake
  - e. Deployed 22 catfish spawning boxes in Beech Fork Lake
  - f. Apply limestone sand to improve water quality over 536 miles of stream and 250 acres of impoundments
- 4. Stocked almost 1.5 million warmwater fish species into 58 state waters**
  - a. Stocked over 1.4 million walleye fingerlings into 15 state waters
  - b. Stocked almost 40,000 hybrid striped bass fingerlings into five state waters
  - c. Stocked just over 24,000 blue catfish fingerlings into two state waters
  - d. Stocked over 6,600 catchable-sized channel catfish into 33 state waters
  - e. Stocked almost 300 advanced-fingerling muskies into three state waters
  - f. Native Brook Trout culture and reintroduction
  - g. Culture and reestablishment of native warmwater species such as muskellunge, paddlefish, lake sturgeon, blue catfish and a unique genetic strain of native walleye



*Implanting a Floy tag for a channel catfish study.*



*Catfish boxes provide spawning habitat in West Virginia lakes.*



*Seining a hatchery pond to collect fingerling gamefish for stocking.*

# LICENSES 2020 Fishing Fees

Fishing and Hunting Licenses are good for the calendar year. You must purchase new licenses at the beginning of each year. All licensed anglers must carry a valid form of identification while fishing.

## Resident Licenses

<b>Conservation Stamp(Class CS):</b> .....	<b>\$5</b>
Required for licensed anglers except holders of Class X, XJ, XS, A-L, B-L, and AB-L licenses.	
<b>Hunting and Trapping (Class A):</b> .....	<b>\$19</b>
<b>Fishing (Class B):</b> .....	<b>\$19</b>
<b>Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class X):</b> .....	<b>\$35</b>
for ages 18 through 64	
<b>Five-day Fishing (Class L):</b> .....	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class XJ):</b> .....	<b>\$16</b>
for ages 15 through 17	
<b>Trout Fishing Stamp (Class O):</b> .....	<b>\$10</b>
Required of licensed anglers fishing for trout, except holders of Class XS license.	
<b>Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class AHJ)</b> .....	<b>\$16</b>
for ages 15-17, includes privileges of Class XJ	

## Nonresident Licenses

<b>Conservation/Law Enforcement Stamp (Class CS/LE):</b> .....	<b>\$13</b>
Required for all licensed anglers	
<b>Fishing (Class F):</b> .....	<b>\$37</b>
<b>Hunting/Trapping (Class E):</b> .....	<b>\$119</b>
<b>One Day Fishing (Class LL):</b> .....	<b>\$3</b>
<b>Junior Sportsman Hunting/Fishing/Trapping (Class XXJ):</b> .....	<b>\$16</b>
for ages 8 through 17 (not required for fishing under age 15)	
<b>National Forest Hunting/Trapping/Fishing(Class I):</b> .....	<b>\$2</b>
Required of licensed anglers except for holders of Class XXJ.	
<b>Trout Fishing Stamp (Class OO):</b> .....	<b>\$16</b>
Required of licensed anglers fishing for trout.	
<b>Apprentice Junior Hunting/Trapping/Fishing (Class AAHJ)</b> .....	<b>\$16</b>
For ages 15-17, includes privileges of Class XXJ	

## Resident and Nonresident Licenses

**Special Hunting and Fishing License for Persons with a Life-threatening Condition (Class DT):** ..... **FREE**  
 Issued for ages 20 or less. Requires no additional licenses or stamps.



## Lifetime Licenses

Resident lifetime hunting, trapping and fishing licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license; applications are available at DNR offices, license agents and online at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com). Seniors who previously have made a resident purchase through a license agent or at a DNR office may buy a senior lifetime license online at [www.wvhunt.com](http://www.wvhunt.com). Non-resident, full-time students of any West Virginia college or university are eligible to purchase lifetime licenses.

<b>Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class AB-L)*:</b> .....	<b>\$805</b>
<b>Combination Hunting, Trapping and Fishing - Infant (Class AB-L-I)*:</b> .....	<b>\$402.50</b>
Must be purchased before age 2.	
<b>Senior Hunting, Trapping and Fishing (Class XS)*:</b> .....	<b>\$25</b>
Required for anglers who turn 65 on or after 1/1/12.	
<b>Fishing (Class B-L)*:</b> .....	<b>\$552</b>
<b>Fishing - Infant (Class B-L-I)*:</b> .....	<b>\$276</b>
Must be purchased before age 2.	
<b>Trout Fishing (Class O-L)**:</b> .....	<b>\$230</b>
<b>Trout Fishing - Infant (Class O-L-I)**:</b> .....	<b>\$115</b>
Must be purchased before age 2.	

\* Conservation Stamp not required.

\*\*Valid only when accompanied by a Class B, AB-L, I, B-L, B-L-I, X, or XJ license.

## PURCHASING A LICENSE

Licenses may be obtained as follows:

1. At more than 160 retail agent locations throughout the state and designated county clerks offices. (\$3 issuing fee for first purchase and \$1 for subsequent purchases.)
2. [www.wvfish.com](http://www.wvfish.com) (Official DNR Web site – \$2 fee per transaction.)
3. Directly from the Hunting and Fishing License Unit by phoning (304) 558-2758. (\$2 fee per transaction.)

**For additional information please contact:**

**Hunting and Fishing License Unit**

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

(304) 558-2758 • [wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov](mailto:wvdnrcustomerservice@wv.gov)

## Trout Stamp Requirements

Lifetime license holders who turned 65 after December 31, 2011 must purchase a trout stamp or the Senior Lifetime License which includes that privilege.

Individuals in the following groups do not need a trout stamp:

- residents who turned 65 years of age before January 1, 2012
- resident and nonresident youth under 15 years of age
- residents who are disabled veterans receiving 100% permanent service-connected disability, or those who are former POWs

***The WVDNR has the authority under Federal Welfare Reform Legislation (Title 42 of the U.S. Code Section 666 (a) (13) to collect the Social Security Number from an applicant for a recreational license such as a fishing and hunting license. This facilitates collection of child support payments. States failing to collect a SSN could face loss of federal welfare funds. The DNR takes every precaution including encryption and masking to protect your SSN.***

## Fishing License NOT Required for

1. Residents who are totally blind. A physician's statement or certificate must be carried while fishing.
2. Residents who turned 65 years of age before 1/1/12. A WV driver's license or WV photo ID card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles shall be carried while fishing.
3. Nonresidents or residents under 15 years of age.
4. Residents on active duty in the U. S. armed forces while on military leave. Leave number shall be carried while fishing.
5. Resident landowners or their resident children, resident parents, or bona fide resident tenants of such land may fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with the laws and regulations applying to such fishing.
6. Residents honorably discharged from the U. S. armed forces receiving total permanent service-connected disability benefits or former prisoners of war as determined by the Veterans Administration or resident disabled veterans who qualify under West Virginia Code 17A-10-8 and are exempted from payment of any motor vehicle registration fee by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Such persons must carry a card issued by the DNR.
7. Residents or in-patients of any state mental hospital, health or benevolent institution. Such persons must be under proper supervision and carry a written statement or certificate signed by the superintendent of the institution or facility.
8. Developmentally disabled residents. A DDFL card issued by the DNR must be carried while fishing. A trout stamp is not needed to fish for trout.

## DEFINITION OF RESIDENT

A person who has been a domiciled resident continuously in West Virginia for 30 consecutive days or more immediately prior to the date of application for a license or permit. This includes members of the U.S. armed forces stationed outside the state who were West Virginia residents at the time of entry into the service and any full-time student of a college or university of this state. Non-resident, full-time students of any West Virginia college or university are eligible to purchase lifetime licenses.

## Violations

### Point System for Fishing Violations

Persons making false application for a license will have their license privileges suspended for one year.

#### Points assigned for other fishing violations:

- 10 points** for use of explosives or poison material in taking fish
- 6 points** for taking fish by illegal method, exceeding daily creel limit, and using bait in a restricted area
- 4 points** for all other violations

When a violator accumulates 10 or more fishing or hunting points combined, his/her license(s) will be revoked for a period of two years.

Points will be removed on their second anniversary or upon restoration of the license(s).

#### Reporting Boating, Fishing and Hunting Law Violations:

- In progress** dial 911
- Not in progress** call your DNR District Law Enforcement Office during normal operating hours or report online at [www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm](http://www.wvdnr.gov/LEnforce/Poachers.shtm)

1. Observe and write down all of the information concerning the violation.
2. Don't confront violator.
3. Contact a local Natural Resources Police Officer or county communication center as soon as possible.
4. Become involved in protecting your sport, be willing to testify in court.
5. Report by text at 844-I-TIP-DNR (484-7367) or on Facebook. com/DNRpolice.

**Stream Pollution or Fish Kills: Call 1-800-642-3074.**

# FISH Sport Fish Identification

**Game Fish Defined:** all trout (Brook, Brown, Rainbow, Golden Rainbow), black bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted), Chain Pickerel, Muskellunge, Northern Pike, Tiger Musky, Striped Bass, White Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Walleye, Sauger, Rock Bass, White Crappie, Black Crappie, Bluegill, all sunfish species, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Blue Catfish and all game fish hybrids. *Paintings by Duane Raver*

## Game Fish



Brook Trout



Brown Trout



Rainbow Trout



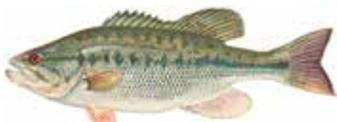
Golden Rainbow Trout



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Flathead Catfish



Channel Catfish



Striped Bass



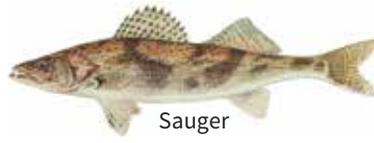
Hybrid-striped Bass



White Bass



Walleye



Sauger



Bluegill



Rock Bass



Blue Catfish



Chain Pickerel



Muskellunge



Northern Pike



Tiger Musky

## Other Species



Carp



Bullhead Catfish



Fallfish



Freshwater Drum



Yellow Perch