

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 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 length.
- Fish must be measured in the presence of a witness who must sign the application form. If no witness is available, the 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 30.
- 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 Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

Minimum Sizes

TROUT		CATFISH	
Brook	15 in.	Blue	35 in.
Brown	21 in.	Bullhead	16 in.
Rainbow	21 in.	Channel	25 in.
Golden Rainbow	21 in.	Flathead	35 in.
BASS		CRAPPIE	
Largemouth	21 in.	SUNFISH	10 in.
Smallmouth	20 in.	CHAIN PICKEREL	20 in.
Spotted	14 in.	NORTHERN PIKE	32 in.
Rock	10 in.	WALLEYE	28 in.
Striped	30 in.	SAUGER	17 in.
Hybrid Striped	24 in.	YELLOW PERCH	13 in.
White	15 in.	FRESHWATER DRUM	22 in.
MUSKELLUNGE		FALLFISH	
MUSKELLUNGE	45 in.	FALLFISH	18 in.
TIGER MUSKY		COMMON CARP	
TIGER MUSKY	40 in.	COMMON CARP	31 in.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are an ever-increasing threat to aquatic ecosystems across the country and in West Virginia waters. Species such as Asian carp, northern snakehead, rusty crayfish, zebra mussels, didymo and hydrilla have had impacts on and are threatening native fishes of not only West Virginia waters but the Great Lakes, and Ohio and Mississippi River basins. Recreational impacts and economic costs associated with invasive species can be substantial if invasive species do become a problem. Informing anglers of these threats and how they can help are our best and first line of defense to guard against invasive species.

What anglers can do:

- **NEVER** move fish from one body of water to another.
- Drain live wells thoroughly before leaving an access area.
- Allow all equipment to dry completely before moving between waterbodies.
- Dispose of **ALL** unwanted bait into a trash receptacle; do not release bait into lakes or streams.
- Do not release aquarium fish into West Virginia's waters.
- **Report sightings.** Take a picture, note the location and report new sightings to ais@wv.gov or WVdnr.gov.

By following these simple steps, anglers can help ensure West Virginia's good fishing for future generations. For more information on aquatic invasive species, please visit: WVdnr.gov/Fishing/Invasive_Species.shtm

Anglers are reminded that it is unlawful to release any fish or aquatic organism, alive or dead, or any part, nest or egg thereof into public waters of this State except as permitted by a stocking permit authorized by the Director of the Division of Natural Resources.

ASIAN CARP

Some species of Asian carp (bighead and silver carp) pose a particularly serious threat to West Virginia waters. Native to Asia, they were introduced to the United States in the 1970s for use in the aquaculture industry and have since escaped into the Mississippi River basin. Due to their large size, voracious appetite, and reproductive capabilities, they are regarded as highly invasive and have been expanding their range up the Mississippi and Ohio river basins at an alarming rate. Asian carp eat plankton, which puts them in direct competition with native mussels, other filter feeders such as Paddlefish and Smallmouth Buffalo and other forage fishes such as Gizzard shad and Emerald shiner. Nearly all of our native fish species feed on plankton at some point in their lifecycle, thus there is potential for adverse effects of Asian carp on all fishes. In states where they have become established, Asian carp can comprise up to 90 percent of the fish community.

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES SIGHTINGS

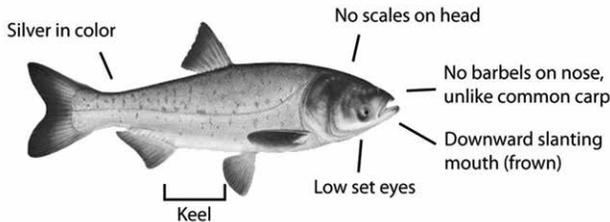
Think you've seen an Asian carp or snakehead?
Please report all sightings to: ais@wv.gov or WVdnr.gov.

Aquatic Invasive Species

ASIAN CARP CONTINUED

Learn to identify bighead and silver carp:

- Low set eyes, below midline of body
- Large, upturned mouth lacking barbels
- Silver in color with small scales
- Keel along the abdomen

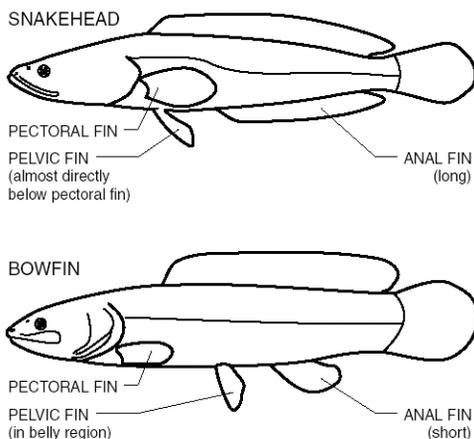


NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

The Northern snakehead is a species of predatory fish native to southeast Asia. Snakeheads were introduced to the United States for the aquarium trade and sold to live food markets and have since been introduced to public waterways. Northern snakeheads are voracious predators preying on and competing with native fishes for forage. They are known to reduce forage availability in some waters. Snakeheads are also facultative air breathers meaning they can breathe air when oxygen levels in the water are low allowing them to survive in stressful conditions, where a native species may not. Currently, there have been no live reports of northern snakeheads in West Virginia waters, but they are present in the Potomac drainage, so it is important to continue to be vigilant and monitor their expansion.

Learn to identify a northern snakehead:

- Body somewhat elongated with flattened head
- Dark, irregular blotches along their sides
- Long dorsal and anal fins
- Pelvic fins located beneath the pectorals
- No spot at base of tail



PROTECT WEST VIRGINIA WATERS

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.