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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.



DNRpolice



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New for 2021

1. DNR is introducing three new licenses—the Sportsman Plus, the Sportsman 3-Year and the Sportsman Plus 3-year. See page 32 for details.
2. A statewide 30-fish daily creel and 60-fish possession limit is now in place for each of the following fish species: black and white crappie in aggregate, bluegill and all other sunfish species in aggregate, all other game fish currently not under a creel limit and yellow perch.
3. A river-wide 14" to 22" slot limit with a daily creel of six fish with only one fish allowed over 22" is in place for all black bass in the New River from the confluence of the New and Gauley rivers upstream to the West Virginia/Virginia state line excluding the 12-mile catch and release section and Bluestone Lake (from the dam upstream to the mouth of Indian Creek). See page 3.
4. The Kanawha River (from the confluence of the Gauley and New rivers downstream to the Buffalo Bridge) has a four-fish daily creel limit with a 15" minimum size limit for all Moronidae species, including striped bass, white bass, and hybrid striped bass.
5. A two-fish daily creel limit for all trout is in place on Stephens Lake in Raleigh County (see page 7).
6. A West Virginia resident child under 12 years of age and who has been legally adopted is eligible for an infant lifetime license provided that the license is purchased within two years of the adoption order or decree.



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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.