

## 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

#### New River

1. All black bass (smallmouth, spotted, and largemouth) from 14 to 22 inches long must be returned to the water at once.
2. Daily creel limit of six black bass with only one being over 22 inches.
3. This regulation is in effect from the confluence of the New and Gauley rivers upstream to the West Virginia/Virginia state line, excluding Bluestone Lake (from the dam upstream to the mouth of Indian Creek) and the 12-mile catch and release section (from the Grandview sandbar boat ramp upstream to the I-64 bridge at Sandstone).

#### 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 Roncouverte.

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.

## FISH HANDLING AND RELEASE

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.

# 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 14 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 that 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.



## FREE FISHING DAYS

June 12-13, 2021

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

## 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.



## GOLD RUSH



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Strike gold during the West Virginia Gold Rush. Every spring, the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources takes to the lakes and streams throughout the state and stocks over 50,000 golden trout to give anglers from across the country a chance to reel in this prized catch.

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## FISHING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS

A permit is required from the Division of Natural Resources to hold any fishing tournament or big fish contest.

Make tournament permit requests 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 one 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.

## REGULATIONS PUBLIC MEETINGS

WVDNR staff will be available to discuss and take public comments for proposed 2022 regulations.

### March 15, 2021

Fairmont, Fayetteville,  
Martinsburg, Milton,  
Spencer and Summersville

### March 16, 2021

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

## Trout

### CATCH-AND-RELEASE

#### For catch-and-release waters listed on pages 6-7

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.
7. 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).

##### 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.

## Trout continued

### CATCH-AND-RELEASE CONTINUED

**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.

#### Streams

**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.
4. Open-face and closed-face spinning or spincast reels are prohibited.
5. All fish caught must be returned to water at once.
6. No trout shall be in the angler's possession while on stream sections designated as fly-fishing-only streams.
7. 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.
8. 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

**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.

### REDUCED CREEL LIMIT

**Stephens Lake - Raleigh County**  
Daily creel limit of two trout.



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# 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 eight 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 two 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.

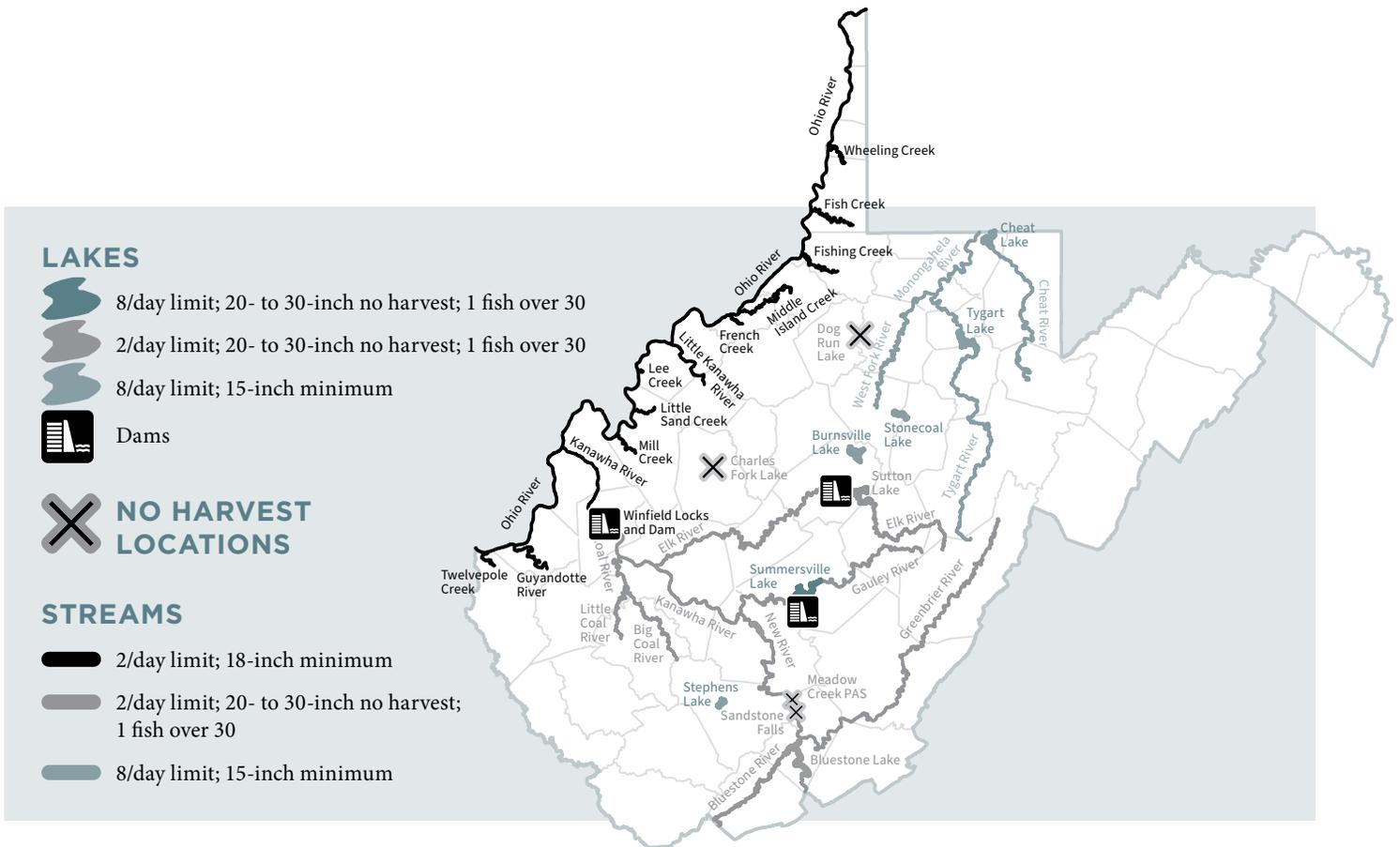
### SLOT LIMIT

**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 two 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 eight walleye, only one of which may be over 30 inches long.



## 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.

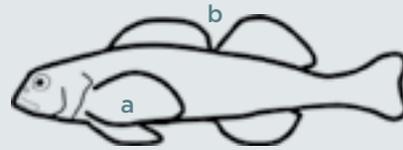
Overall, the nation and West Virginia anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have benefited greatly from this unique user pays-users benefit program and the cooperative efforts of industry, government, anglers and boaters contributing to enhancing America's aquatic resources and associated recreational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

## 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



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

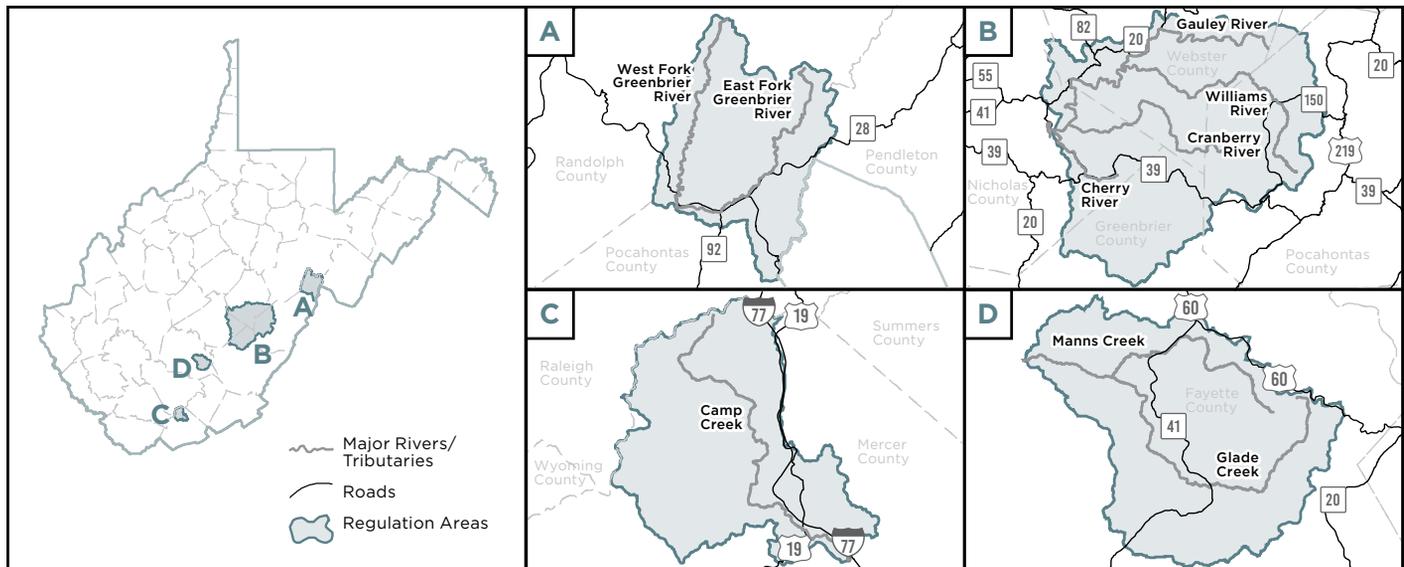
### 2. Zero possession limit of all fish species other than game fish, and no fish (including dead or packaged minnows) may be used as bait in the following waters:

- A. East and West Forks of the Greenbrier River including all tributaries.
- B. 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.
- C. Camp Creek (Mercer County) and all tributaries.
- D. Manns Creek including Glade Creek in Babcock State Park and all tributaries.

NOTE: These areas are delineated on the maps to the 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 light blue areas 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?sId=1396](https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp0/profile/speciesProfile?sId=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

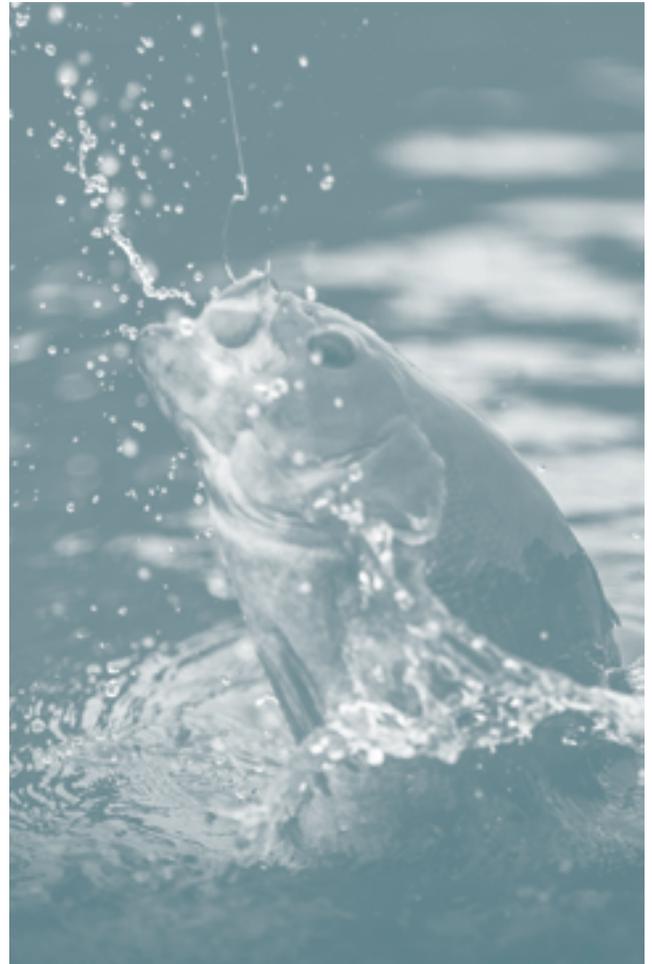
1. The diamond darter is a small fish found in the perch family and is protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act.
2. For more information, go to USFWS site at [fws.gov/northeast/pdf/DiamondDarter\\_1010.pdf](https://fws.gov/northeast/pdf/DiamondDarter_1010.pdf).

### 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.



## CATCH A BASS

From wide-open lakes to expansive rivers, it's easy to see why West Virginia is an angler's paradise. Plan a bass fishing trip this year in Almost Heaven and you'll be on your way to catching a trophy bass and creating lasting memories along the way.

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## ADA-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 WVdnr.gov**