

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
KEN HECHLER  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #2

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE**

AGENCY: BUREAU OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TITLE NUMBER: 58

RULE TYPE: LEGISLATIVE CITE AUTHORITY: 20-1-7(30), 20-1-17(7)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES X NO       

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 61

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: SPECIAL FISHING RULE

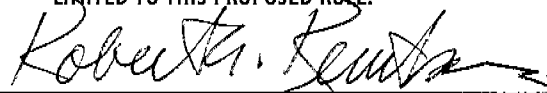
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED:       

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED:       

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND  
COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON July 1, 1997 AT  
4:30 p.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

GORDON ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CHIEF  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION  
ROOM 842, BLDG. 3, CAPITOL COMPLEX  
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE  
LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.



ROBERT A. REINTSEMA, COMMISSIONER

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$4.00

## **CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE PROPOSED RULE**

The Division of Natural Resources seeks to expand the angling opportunity for children and those individuals possessing a valid Class Q license (disabled). The addition of Millers Pond in Wayne County expands angling opportunities for these individuals in that area.

The Division has received many complaints concerning anglers who fish with more than two fishing poles in impoundments stocked with trout by the Division. To give all anglers an equal opportunity in these stocked impoundments, the Division will restrict each angler to two fishing poles or lines during the months of January through May.

## **SUMMARY OF THE RULE**

Title 58, Series 61, Special Fishing Rule establishes special fishing seasons and prohibitions with respect to the taking of fish and other aquatic species in West Virginia. This revision of Series 61 adds a new paragraph 3.4 specifying that anglers may only use two fishing lines or fishing poles in stocked trout impoundments during January 1 through May 31 of each year. The rule also adds Millers Pond in Wayne County to the list waters with a special season for children and individuals possessing a valid Class Q license.

FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

Rule Title: Series 61, Special Fishing Rules

Type of Rule X Legislative Interpretive Procedural

Agency Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section

Address Capitol Complex

Building 3, Room 842

Charleston, WV 25305

1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL			FISCAL YEAR	
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	0	0	0	0	0
PERSONAL SERVICES					
CURRENT EXPENSE					
REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS					
EQUIPMENT					
OTHER					

2. Explanation of above estimates: No additional enforcement or facility improvement is required.
3. Objectives of these rules: To limit trout-stocked impoundment angling to two lines/angler and to provide special fishing opportunity for children and valid Class Q disabled anglers.
4. Explanation of overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

A. Economic Impact on State Government: None

**Rule Title:** Series 61, Special Fishing Rules

**B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens:** None

**C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large:** None

**Date:** 5/27/97

**Signature of Agency or  
Authorized Representative:**

  
ROBERT A. REINTSEMA, COMMISSIONER

**TITLE 58  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
BUREAU OF COMMERCE  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SERIES 61  
SPECIAL FISHING RULE**

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STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**§58-61-1. General.**

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This rule establishes special fishing seasons and prohibitions with respect to the taking of fish and other aquatic species in West Virginia.

1.2. Authority. -- W. Va. Code §§20-1-7(30) and 20-1-17(7).

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

1.5. For the purposes of this rule concerning the open seasons, bag limits, possession limits, creel limits, size, age, weight, and sex limits of any game or nongame fish and other aquatic species of West Virginia, refer to "Fishing Regulations" (58 C.S.R. 60).

**§58-61-2. Definitions.**

2.1. "Daylight hours" means the time period between sixty (60) minutes before sunrise and sixty (60) minutes after sunset.

2.2. All other terms have the meaning prescribed in W. Va. Code §20-1-2.

**§58-61-3. Prohibitions.**

3.1. Protected Species -- Keeping or killing or attempting to keep or kill paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) at any time by any means is prohibited. If caught or taken, the paddlefish shall be immediately returned to the water.

3.2. Fishing on Catch-and-Release Trout Waters -- Fishing on catch-and-release trout waters is permitted during daylight hours only.

3.2.1. It is illegal to possess any lures except artificial flies and lures made of metal, wood, feathers, hair or synthetic material on catch and release trout waters.

3.2.1.a. Multiple-hook lures must have barbless hooks.

3.2.1.b. Single-hooked lures may have barbed hooks.

3.2.2. It is illegal to keep or kill any fish caught on catch and release trout waters. The leader should be cut on a deeply hooked or gill hooked fish.

3.3. Fishing on Fly-Fishing-Only Waters -- Fishing on fly-fishing-only-waters is permitted during daylight hours only.

3.3.1. It is illegal to use or possess any lures other than artificial flies and streamers while on fly fishing only waters.

3.3.2. It is illegal to use any fishing tackle other than conventional fly fishing tackle on fly-fishing only waters.

3.3.3. It is illegal to keep or kill any fish caught on fly-fishing only waters. The leader should be cut on a deeply hooked or gill hooked fish.

3.4. Fishing in Impoundments Stocked with Trout by the Division--Only two (2) lines or poles per angler are permitted during the period January 1 through May 31.

3.45. Fishing Methods

3.45 .1. Dipping -- A dip net may not exceed thirty-six square feet (36 sq. ft.) in overall area and its mesh may not be smaller than one-quarter inch (1/4").

3.45 .2. Bow Fishing -- It is illegal to:

3.45 .2.a. Use an arrow having an explosive head or shaft while bow fishing;

3.45 .2.b. Use an arrow dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals while bow fishing; or

3.45 .2.c. Use a crossbow while bow fishing.

3.45 .3. Giggling, Snagging, and Snaring --It is illegal to take any game fish by giggling, snagging, or snaring.

3.45 .4. Trotlines and Droplines -- The following requirements must be complied with when using trotlines and droplines:

3.45 .4.a. Trotlines and droplines must be attached to the bank, or a tree on the bank;

3.45 .4.b. Trotlines and droplines must bear an identification tag that is legible and waterproof;

3.45 .4.c. Trotlines and droplines must be attended at least once every twenty-four (24) hours;

3.45 .4.d. Wire or cable lines and hooks with more than one point are prohibited;

3.45 .4.e. It is illegal to attach a trotline to public piers and docks or within fifty (50) feet of dam appurtenances; and

3.45 .4.f. Trotlines and droplines are prohibited on impoundments designated by the director and published annually.

3.45 .5. Seining for Minnows and Use of Minnow Traps and Throw Nets -- The seining of minnows and use of minnow traps and throw nets is permitted with the following restrictions:

3.45 .5.a. Game fish may not be seined or trapped;

3.45 .5.b. A seine may be used to obtain minnows for use as bait provided the seine is not larger than six (6) feet nor deeper than four (4) feet;

3.45 .5.c. Minnow traps may be used provided the openings are not larger than one inch (1") in diameter; and

3.45 .5.d. A thrownet may be used provided the diameter is no larger than six (6) feet and the mesh size no larger than 3/8 inch.

3.45 .6. Underwater Spearfishing -- Spearfishing is permitted with the following restrictions:

3.45 .6.a. Spearguns shall be discharged only beneath the surface of the water;

3.45 .6.b. It is illegal to use a bolt having an explosive head or shaft while spearfishing;

3.45 .6.c. It is illegal to use a bolt dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals while spearfishing;

3.45 .6.d. A diver may not spearfish in such a manner as to interfere with other fishermen;

3.45 .6.e. A diver may not spearfish in heavily-travelled boat lanes, marked swimming areas, or marked waterskiing areas; and



3.45 .6.f. Fish taken by spearfishing may not be returned to the water or left on the bank.

**§58-61-4. Special Fishing Season for Children and Persons Possessing a Valid Class Q License.**

4.1. The special fishing season for children and persons possessing a valid Class Q license is from March 1 through May 31 and is open only in the following areas:

4.1.1. Handley Pond -- A 5-acre pond in Pocahontas County.

4.1.2. Wood Pond -- A 1/2-acre impoundment on the Bear Rock Wildlife Management Area in Ohio County.

4.1.3. Coonskin Park Pond -- A 2.7-acre pond on Coonskin Park in Kanawha County.

4.1.4. Westover Park Pond -- A 1.0 acre pond in Monongalia County.

4.1.5. Raleigh County Airport -- A 1.0-acre pond at the entrance to Raleigh County Airport.

4.1.6. Woodbine Area of Cranberry River -- A 300 yard long section of Cranberry River at the Woodbine Recreation Area in Nicholas County.

4.1.7. Millers Fork Pond--A 5-acre pond in Wayne County.

4.2. The season is open to:

4.2.1. All children ten (10) years of age or under who are accompanied by another person(s) to assist with baiting hooks and removing fish; and

4.2.2. All persons who possess a valid Class Q license in accordance with W. Va. Code §20-2-46e.

4.3. Fishing is restricted to daylight hours only.

4.4. The creel limit is four (4) trout.

**§ 58-61-5. Special Fishing Area Regulations for London, Marmet, and Winfield Dam Tailwaters on the Kanawha River.**

5.1. Requirements and prohibitions:

5.1.1. Children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by an adult within the designated public fishing area.

5.1.2. Sitting on, climbing over, through, or under handrails on the designated public fishing area is prohibited.

5.1.3. Swimming or diving from the designated public fishing area is prohibited.

5.1.4. Glass containers are prohibited on the designated public fishing area.

5.1.5. Intoxicants are prohibited on the designated public fishing area.

5.1.6. Firearms are prohibited on the designated public fishing area.