

Of record - 1/19/66

FILED IN THE OFFICE
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SECRETARY OF STATE
THIS DATE 3/14/66

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 20-1
Series III
(1966)

SUBJECT: 1966 Fishing Regulations

Section 1. Opening and Closing Dates

1.01. Trout -- (Rainbow, Brook, Brown and Golden Rainbow) -- Open year round.*

1.02. Black Bass -- (Smallmouth, Largemouth and Spotted) -- Open year round.

1.03. Muskellunge -- Open year round.

1.04. Channel Catfish -- Open year round.

1.05. Other Species -- Open year round.

1.06. Frogs -- (Bull Frog and Green Frog) -- Opens at 8:00 p.m., EST, June 17, 1966. Closes at midnight, July 31, 1966.

(a) Frog season will open from May 15 through October 21, 1966 on Big Sandy and Tug Fork Rivers bordering Kentucky.

* Certain waters will be closed one (1) to five (5) days for stocking prior to the opening of small game hunting season.

Section 2. Daily Creel Limits and Possession Limits

2.01. Trout -- (Rainbow, Brook, Brown and Golden Rainbow) -- Daily creel limit is 8; only 5 of the 8 may be taken from impoundments. Possession limit is 16.

(a) Special Regulation -- Daily limit is 5 on Edwards Run State Fishing Area.

2.02. Black Bass -- (Smallmouth, Largemouth and Spotted) -- Daily creel limit is 8. Possession limit is 16 bass in the aggregate.

2.03. Muskellunge -- No possession limit.

2.04. Channel Catfish -- Daily creel limit (applies to State Public Fishing Impoundments only) is 8, possession limit is 16.

2.05. Other Species -- No limit.

2.06. Frogs -- (Bull Frog and Green Frog) -- Nightly limit (Noon to Noon EST) is 10 frogs. Possession limit is 20 frogs.

Section 3. Size Limits

3.01. Trout -- (Rainbow, Brook, Brown and Golden Rainbow) -- No size limit.

3.02. Black Bass -- (Smallmouth, Largemouth and Spotted) -- No size limit.

3.03. Muskellunge -- Minimum size limit is 26 inches total length.

3.04. Other Species -- No size limit.

Section 4. Stream and Lake Closures

4.01. Otter Creek in Randolph County is closed from the experimental limestone drum treatment station at its headwaters, downstream to Turkey Run tributary. The stream is under study to see if its acid water can be chemically treated to permit fish reproduction and future fishing.

Section 5. Catch and Release Trout Fishing Areas

5.01. Back Fork of Elk -- A special catch and release section of the Back Fork of Elk River about two miles upstream from Webster Springs in Webster County has been designated as a "fish for fun" area.*

5.02. Pinnacle Creek -- A three-mile marked section near Pineville, Wyoming County is designated as a "fish for fun" area.*

* Regulations for Catch and Release Trout Fishing Areas, "fish for fun" are as follows:

1. All fish caught must be returned to the water at once.
2. Only barbless hooks are permitted.
3. All natural baits, cheese, cheese eggs or plastic, rubber or synthetic imitations of the same are prohibited.
4. Wet or dry flies, spinners, spoons, nymphs, or plugs with barbless hooks are permitted.
5. Fishing permitted during daylight hours only.
6. An angler may not have fish in his possession while on the "fish for fun" stream.
7. Deeply hooked or gill hooked fish should be released by cutting the leader.

Section 6. Game Fish Defined

6.01. The following are game fish: brook trout, brown trout, rainbow trout, golden rainbow trout, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, Kentucky or spotted bass, pickerel, muskellunge, walleyed pike, white bass, rock bass, crappie, bluegill, other sunfish and channel catfish.

Section 7. Other Methods of Fishing

7.01. Dipping -- Dipping, for non-game fish only, shall be lawful in open waters during the period from February 1, 1966, to midnight April 15, 1966. A dip net so used shall not exceed thirty-six square feet in overall area, and its mesh shall not be smaller than one-quarter inch.

7.02. Snaring -- Snaring of any species of suckers, carp, fallfish and creek chubs through the ice is legal at all times.

7.03. Bow Fishing -- Year round open season for carp; other non-game species may be taken by long bow during all months except May and June. It shall be unlawful to use an arrow having an explosive head or shaft.

7.04. Gigging -- Non-game fish may be taken by gigging as follows: West of U.S. Route 19: January 1, 1966 through April 30, 1966, and July 1, 1966 through December 31, 1966. East of U.S. Route 19: January 1, 1966 through April 30, 1966, and November 1, 1966 through December 31, 1966.

(a) Special Regulation -- Anyone convicted of gigging game fish is subject to fishing license revocation.

7.05. Underwater Spear Fishing and Diving

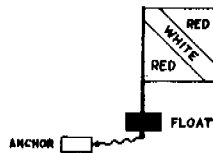
1. Non-game fish except catfish of any species, may be taken in open waters by underwater spear fishing during the hours of daylight only.

(a) New River, from Bluestone Dam downstream to the lower bridge at Hinton, is closed to spear fishing.

(b) Elk River, from Sutton Dam downstream to Route 19 bridge at Sutton, is closed to spear fishing.

2. Spear guns may be discharged only beneath the surface of the water.

3. It shall be unlawful to use an explosive head or shaft.
4. Skin divers shall not fish or dive in such a manner as to interfere with hook and line fishermen.
5. Skin divers shall not fish or dive in heavily traveled boat lanes, marked swimming areas, or areas set aside for waterskiing.
6. Diving areas will be marked with a minimum of two markers no more than 200 feet apart of the following types:



The flag shall have a minimum size of 12 x 12 inches and have a diagonal white stripe 3 inches wide. The top of the flag shall be at least 3 feet above the surface of the water.

7. No fish taken by spear fishing shall be returned to the waters or left on the banks of any waters.