

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
Department of Natural Resources

Chapter 20-1
Series VIII

Subject: Regulations for Catching and Selling Minnows and Aquatic Life

Section 1. Species Which May be Taken for Sale

- 1.01 Minnows (Cyprinidae) All species, except carp and goldfish.
- 1.02 Suckers (Any species.)
- 1.03 Madtoms (Catfish family, Noturus spp.)
- 1.04 Gizzard Shad (Dorosoma Cepedianum).
- 1.05 Crayfish, hellgrammites, and lizards (salamanders).

Section 2. Species which May Not be Taken for Sale

- 2.01 Trout, black bass, rock bass, white bass, crappie, walleyes, sunfish, pickerel, muskellunge, channel catfish.

Section 3. Identification

- 3.01 Minnow -- have a single, soft (spineless) dorsal (back) fin which has nine (9) or less rays.
- 3.02 Gizzard Shad -- have a row of sharp spiny scutes along their keel and the last ray of the dorsal fin is greatly elongated.

Section 4. Possession Limits

- 4.01 Minnows, Suckers, Madtoms -- not to exceed ten pounds in total weight.
- 4.02 Gizzard Shad -- No limit.

4.03 Crayfish, hellgrammites and lizards -- not to exceed 250 in aggregate number.

Section 5. Limit of Sale

5.01 Minnows, Suckers, Madtoms -- not to exceed fifty per purchaser.

5.02 Gizzard Shad -- no limit.

5.03 Crayfish, hellgrammites and lizards -- not to exceed fifty in aggregate per purchaser.

(a) A receipt of sale must be supplied each buyer. Records of all sales must be kept and they shall be made available for inspection upon request by the Director of the Department of Natural Resources or his representative.

Section 6. Size Limits

6.01 There are no size limits on bait taken for sale.

Section 7. Methods

7.01 Seines -- Not to exceed four feet in depth nor more than six feet in length having a mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch.

7.02 Dip Nets -- Not to exceed thirty-six square feet in overall area having a mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch.

7.03 Minnow Traps -- Provided the opening is not larger than one inch in diameter.

Section 8. Restricted Areas

8.01 No bait may be taken for the purpose of sale from waters of the State Parks or from streams closed to fishing during the period of closure.

Section 9. Out of State Sale Prohibited

9.01 No person shall at any time transport beyond the limits of the State, any species of wildlife captured or caught within this State. (Note: This does not apply to persons who propagate and sell their own fish under a propagation license.)

Section 5. Supplement - Limit of Sale

(b) Limit of sale shall not apply when bait is sold to the operator of a private plant, pond or business, who has a valid license for the propagation, sale or purchase of fish, frogs, turtles and other forms of aquatic life for commercial purposes.