

WEST VIRGINIA ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Chapter 20-1  
Series VIII

REGULATIONS FOR CATCHING AND SELLING MINNOWS AND AQUATIC LIFE

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SUBJECT: REGULATIONS FOR CATCHING AND SELLING MINNOWS AND AQUATIC LIFE

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SECTION 1.0 GENERAL

- 1.01. Scope -- These procedural rules are promulgated to regulate the catching and selling of minnows and aquatic life.
- 1.02. Authority -- These regulations are issued under authority of West Virginia Code, Chapter 20, Article 1, Section 7, and are exempt from provisions of Chapter 29A-1-3(c).
- 1.03. Filing Date -- These regulations were promulgated in December 1974 and filed in the Secretary of State's Office, and are hereby refiled on December 30, 1982.
- 1.04. Effective Date -- These regulations become effective on January 1, 1983 and shall remain in effect until otherwise amended or new regulations are issued by the Director.

SECTION 2.0 SPECIES WHICH MAY BE TAKEN FOR SALE

- 2.01. Minnows (Cyprinidae) -- All species, except carp and goldfish.
- 2.02. Suckers -- Any species.
- 2.03. Madtoms (Catfish family, Noturus spp).
- 2.04. Gizzard Shad (Dorosoma cepedianum).
- 2.05. Crayfish, hellgrammites, and lizards (salamanders).

SECTION 3.0 SPECIES WHICH MAY NOT BE TAKEN FOR SALE

- 3.01. Trout, black bass, rock bass, white bass, crappie,  
walleye, sunfish, pickerel, muskellunge, channel  
catfish.

SECTION 4.0 IDENTIFICATION

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

SECTION 5.0 POSSESSION LIMIT

- 5.01. Minnows, Suckers, Madtoms -- Not to exceed ten pounds in  
total weight.
- 5.02. Gizzard Shad -- No limit.
- 5.03. Crayfish, Hellgrammites, Lizards -- Not to exceed 250  
in aggregate number.

SECTION 6.0 LIMIT OF SALE

- 6.01. Minnows, Suckers, Madtoms -- Not to exceed fifty per  
purchaser.
- 6.02. Gizzard Shad -- No limit.
- 6.03. Crayfish, Hellgrammites, 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 7.0 SIZE LIMITS

- 7.01. There are no size limits on bait taken for sale.

SECTION 8.0 METHODS

- 8.01. Seines -- Not to exceed four feet in depth nor more than six feet in length having a mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch.
- 8.02. Dip Nets -- Not to exceed thirty-six square feet in overall area having a mesh not smaller than one-quarter inch.
- 8.03. Minnow Traps -- Provided the opening is not larger than one inch in diameter.

SECTION 9.0 RESTRICTED AREAS

- 9.01. 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 10.0 OUT-OF-STATE SALE PROHIBITED

- 10.01. No person shall at any time transport beyond the limits of the State, any species of wildlife captured or

caught within the State. (Note: This does not apply to persons who propagate and sell their own fish under a propagation license).

Title 47  
procedural rules

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