

**TITLE 58
LEGISLATIVE RULE
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
800 39 11 22 AM '99

**SERIES 61
SPECIAL FISHING RULE**

OFFICE OF THE CLERK
800 39 11 22 AM '99

§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. -- West Virginia 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 Division of Natural Resources rule "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 West Virginia 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~~ shall 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.

3.5. Fishing Methods

3.5 .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").

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 .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:

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

3.5 .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;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.5 .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; and

4.1.8. Lake Underwood -- A 1.0 acre pond at YMCA Kennedy Center in Cabell 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~~ Any person who possesses a valid Class Q license in accordance with West Virginia 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 thirteen (13) ~~must~~ shall 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.