

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
NATALIE E. TENNANT  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
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Form #6

**NOTICE OF FINAL FILING AND ADOPTION OF A LEGISLATIVE RULE AUTHORIZED  
BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

AGENCY: DOC, DNR, Wildlife Resources Section TITLE NUMBER: 58

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 61

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Special Fishing Rule

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

THE ABOVE RULE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE.

AUTHORIZATION IS CITED IN (house or senate bill number) HB 4220

SECTION 64-10-6(g), PASSED ON March 6, 2012

THIS RULE IS FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS RULE BECOMES EFFECTIVE ON THE  
FOLLOWING DATE: April 30, 2012

Angie R. Moore  
Authorized Signature

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

**SERIES 61  
SPECIAL FISHING RULE**

**FILED**  
**2012 APR 30 PM 2:19**  
**OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE**

**§58-61-1. General.**

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This rule establishes special fishing areas 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. -- April 30, 2012.

1.4. Effective Date. -- April 30, 2012.

1.5. For the purposes of this rule provisions 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, are contained in Division of Natural Resources rule "Fishing Regulations" (58CSR60).

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

3.1.a. 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.

3.1.a.1. Multiple-hook lures shall have barbless hooks.

3.1.a.2. Single-hooked lures may have barbed hooks.

3.1.b. 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.

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

3.2.a. It is illegal to use or possess any lures other than artificial flies and streamers while

on fly-fishing only waters.

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

3.2.c. 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.

3.3. 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.

#### 3.4. Fishing Methods.

3.4.a. 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").

3.4.b. Bow Fishing -- It is illegal to:

3.4.b.1. Use an arrow having an explosive head or shaft while bow fishing;

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

3.4.b.3. Use a crossbow while bow fishing.

3.4.c. Gigging, Snagging, and Snaring -- It is illegal to take any game fish by gigging, snagging, or snaring.

3.4.d. Trotlines and Droplines -- The following requirements shall be complied with when using trotlines and droplines:

3.4.d.1. Trotlines and droplines shall be attached to the bank, or a tree on the bank;

3.4.d.2. Trotlines and droplines shall bear an identification tag that is legible and waterproof;

3.4.d.3. Trotlines and droplines shall be attended at least once every twenty-four (24) hours;

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

3.4.d.5. It is illegal to attach a trotline to public piers and docks or within fifty (50) feet of dam appurtenances; and

3.4.d.6. Trotlines and droplines are prohibited on impoundments designated by the director and published annually.

3.4.e. 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:

3.4.e.1. Game fish may not be seined or trapped;

3.4.e.2. A seine may be used to obtain minnows for use as bait provided the seine is not larger than eight (8) feet nor deeper than four (4) feet;

3.4.e.3. Minnow traps may be used provided the openings are not larger than one inch (1") in diameter; and

3.4.e.4. 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.

3.4.f. Underwater Spearfishing -- Spearfishing is permitted with the following restrictions:

3.4.f.1. Spearguns shall be discharged only beneath the surface of the water;

3.4.f.2. It is illegal to use a bolt having an explosive head or shaft while spearfishing;

3.4.f.3. It is illegal to use a bolt dipped in or smeared with poison or other chemicals while spearfishing;

3.4.f.4. A diver may not spearfish in such a manner as to interfere with other fishermen;

3.4.f.5. A diver may not spearfish in heavily-travelled boat lanes, marked swimming areas, or marked waterskiing areas; and

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

3.4.g. Fishing through the Ice -- Fishing through the ice on public fishing impoundments is prohibited through holes in the ice with a diameter greater than ten (10) inches.

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

4.1. The special fishing areas for children and persons possessing a valid Class Q license are open only in the locations during the dates established in the Division's Rule, Fishing Regulations, 58CSR60:

4.2. During the dates established in the Division's Rule, Fishing Regulations, 58CSR60 the areas are only open to:

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

4.2.b. Any person who possesses a valid Class Q license in accordance with W. Va. Code §20-2-46e.

4.3. Fishing is restricted to daylight hours only.

#### **§58-61-5. Special Fishing Area Rule for London, Marmet, and Winfield Dam Tailwaters on**

**the Kanawha River.**

5.1. Requirements and prohibitions:

5.1.a. Children under the age of thirteen (13) shall be accompanied by an adult within the designated public fishing area;

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

5.1.c. Swimming or diving from the designated public fishing area is prohibited;

5.1.d. Glass containers are prohibited on the designated public fishing area;

5.1.e. Intoxicants are prohibited on the designated public fishing area; and

5.1.f. Firearms are prohibited on the designated public fishing area.

**§58-61-6. Special Area Rule for DNR-Owned or Leased Public Boating and Fishing Access Sites.**

6.1. Requirements and prohibitions:

6.1.a. Public boating and fishing access facilities shall be used solely for the purpose of launching and retrieving watercraft or fishing from shore. No other use of access sites is allowed;

6.1.b. Consumption of alcoholic beverages or possession of an open container of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on any public boating and fishing access site;

6.1.c. Swimming or bathing from any public boating and fishing access site is prohibited;

6.1.d. Camping is prohibited on any public boating and fishing access site;

6.1.e. Open fires are prohibited on any public boating and fishing access site;

6.1.f. Trash disposal is prohibited on any public boating and fishing access site, except where trash receptacles are provided;

6.1.g. Discharge of firearms, fireworks and explosives on any public boating and fishing access site is prohibited;

6.1.h. Leaving unattended watercraft is prohibited at any public boating and fishing access site;

6.1.i. Commercial use of any public boating and fishing access site is prohibited, except as authorized by the Director;

6.1.j. Parking of any vehicle or the mooring of any watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct any avenue of ingress or egress, except for the purpose of launching from any public

boating and fishing access site is prohibited;

6.1.k. Any law enforcement officer acting under proper authority may prohibit an individual from launching a watercraft from any public boating and fishing access site; and

6.1.l. After launching, vehicles shall be parked in available parking spaces.