

**DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA
MUNICIPAL
REGULATIONS
for
FISH AND
WILDLIFE**

CHAPTER 15. FISH AND WILDLIFE

1500.	PURPOSE AND SCOPE
1501.	LICENSING REQUIREMENTS
1502.	ANGLING METHODS AND REGULATIONS
1503.	PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES
1504.	SPECIES MINIMUM SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS
1505.	LICENSE FEES
1506.	FISHING SEASONS
1507.	SEARCH AND INSPECTION
1508.	REVOCAION OF A LICENSE
1560.	HUNTING
1599.	DEFINITIONS

1500. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1500.1 The rules in §§ 1501 through 1508.4 provide the minimum guidelines and procedures for the implementation of section 4 of D.C. Law 5-188, the Water Pollution Control Act of 1984, D.C. Code § 6-923 (1995 Repl.) which mandates the protection of aquatic animals and plants and the restoration and preservation of aquatic life in the District's waters for aesthetic enjoyment, recreation, and industry. The rules in § 1560 implement § 5 of an Act to Revise and Modernize the Fish and Wildlife Laws of the District of Columbia, Pub. L. No. 85-730, 72 Stat. 815, D.C. Code § 22-1632 (1996 Repl.).

1500.2 The purpose of these rules is to ensure that the District's fisheries and wildlife resources are properly managed and protected.

1500.3 The rules in §§ 1501 through 1507.3 shall apply to all District waters except bodies of water on private property.

1501. LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

1501.1 Any person fishing in the waters of the District of Columbia, including Rock Creek Park and all other fishable waters within the District of Columbia, regardless of whether the person is fishing from the Virginia shoreline or from National Park lands, is required by law to possess a valid D.C. Fishing License.

1501.2 The following persons shall be exempt from the licensing requirements of section 1501.1:

(a) Persons under sixteen (16) years of age;

(b) Persons over sixty-five (65) years of age.

1501.3 A licensed angler shall prominently display the license at all times while fishing and shall allow inspection of the license by conservation or law enforcement officer upon request.

1501.4 A scientific collection permit shall be required for scientific collection of fish or other aquatic organisms from District waters.

1501.5 Angling licenses shall be current for the period from January 1 to December 31, of the calendar year marked on the license.

1501.6 A person desiring an angler's license or a scientific collection permit shall file an application with the Director on a form prescribed by the Director.

1501.7 The provision of 1501.1 shall not apply during National Fishing Week.

1502. ANGLING METHODS AND REGULATIONS

1502.1 Fishing or taking fish or other aquatic organisms for commercial purposes is prohibited.

1502.2 Except as otherwise permitted by these rules, a person shall fish only with rod, hook, and line, not to exceed three (3) lines in number and not having more than two (2) hooks to each line. Artificial lures or plugs with multiple or gang hooks are considered one unit.

1502.3 The use of dip nets shall be prohibited, except that dip nets may be used for the capture of baitfish, gizzard shad, blueback herring, alewife, and in the landing of fish taken by angling, provided the net does not exceed twenty-four inches (24") in diameter or nine (9) square feet in overall area. The use of dip nets in rock Creek Park shall be prohibited under any circumstances, in conformance with section 1503.2.

1502.4 The use of a seine nets and cast nets shall be prohibited.

1502.5 Snagging shall be prohibited, except for the capture of blueback herring, alewife, gizzard shad, and menhaden.

1502.6 A person may operate eel traps provided the number of traps does not exceed five.

1502.7 An eel trap operator shall attach the operator's angling license number to each trap and shall check each trap daily.

1503. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1503.1 It shall be unlawful to do any of the following:

- (a) Introduce any species of fish or other aquatic organism not indigenous to the District of Columbia into the waters of the District of Columbia;
- (b) Possess a fish with a total length less than the minimum set in § 1504;
- (c) Possess a number of fish of a particular species greater than the possession limit set in § 1504;
- (d) Possess aboard any boat, while fishing or while in possession of fishing equipment, any fish for which a size or weight limit is prescribed in § 1504 from which the head or tail has been removed;
- (e) Capture, harass, harm, or fail to return to the water immediately any organism which is listed by U.S. Department of Interior as endangered or threatened except for direct application under § 1501.4;
- (f) Take, kill or injure fish or other aquatic organisms by the use of explosives, chemicals, firearms, or electricity, except for direct application under § 1501.4;
- (g) Take, catch, or possess any species of Sturgeon, Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*), American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*), Hickory Shad (*Alosa mediocris*), Chain Pickerel (*Esox niger*), and Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*), unless a special season is posted by the Department.
- (h) Take fish except as specified in this chapter; or
- (i) Take, catch or possess striped bass or hybrid striped bass.

1503.2 Nets of any kind shall be prohibited in Rock Creek Park for catching fish.

1503.3 Digging for bait in Rock Creek Park shall be prohibited.

1504. SPECIES MINIMUM SIZE AND POSSESSION LIMITS

1504.1 Species Minimum Size and Possession Limit:

Species	Minimum Size	Possession limits (Daily)
Largemouth Bass (<i>Micropterus</i> salmoides)	12"	5 (in combination with Smallmouth Bass)
	15" (March 1 through June 15)	

Smallmouth Bass (Micropterus dolomieu)	12" 15" (March 1 through June 15)	5 (in combination with Largemouth Bass)
Walleye (Stizostedion vitreum)	14"	1
American Eel (Anquilla Rostrata)	6"	10
Channel Catfish (Ictalurus punctatus)	12"	3
Yellow Perch (Perca Flavesens)	8"	3
Longnose Gar (Lesposoteus Osseus)	24"	1

1505. LICENSE FEES

1505.1 The fees for the licenses required in Section 1501 shall be as follows:

(a) Resident	\$ 7.00
(b) Nonresident	
(1) 2 week license	\$ 5.00
(2) 1 year license	\$ 10.0
(c) Scientific Collection Permit	
(1) Non-Profit or Public Institution	No Charge
(2) For-Profit Research Organization	\$ 50.00

1506. FISHING SEASONS

1506.1 Deleted. [47 DCR 3361 (May 12, 2000)]

1506.2 With the exception of § 1506.1, there shall be no closed season for angling.

1507. SEARCH AND INSPECTION

1507.1 A conservation officer may conduct a search and inspection in the following

instances:

- (a) The officer reasonably believes that a person either is or recently has been fishing;
- (b) The officer has probable cause to believe that the person has violated a provision of this chapter except as is provided in § 1507.2; and
- (c) When it is either not possible or not practical to obtain a warrant.

1507.2 In the absence of probable cause, an officer may conduct a search or inspection only to prevent the removal, alteration, or destruction of potential evidence of a violation of this chapter.

1507.3 Before beginning a search or inspection of a person, the officer shall state his or her purpose and inform the person that this chapter authorizes the search or inspection and requires the person to cooperate with the officer.

1508. REVOCATION OF A LICENSE

1508.1 Each license or permit issued under this chapter may be revoked if the licensee violates any rules in the chapter.

1508.2 A license may be revoked by the Director after written notice is given to the licensee which sets forth the reasons for the revocation.

1508.3 Before a license is revoked, the Director shall give the licensee an opportunity to answer and be heard in accordance with the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act, D.C. Code §§ 1-1501 et seq. (1999 Repl.).

1508.4 A person whose license has been revoked shall not be eligible for relicensure for a period of one calendar year unless the Director's revocation order specifies otherwise.

1560. HUNTING

1560.1 All wildlife in the District is protected, and none shall be killed or otherwise taken except in accordance with this chapter.

1560.2 Nothing in the chapter shall be construed to prohibit owners of private property from taking any action as may be reasonably necessary to protect their property or person, by humane means, from rats, mice, moles and other depredating wildlife; provided, that any action taken, by a property owner under the provisions of this subsection, shall be confined to that owner's property.

1560.3 Notwithstanding the provisions of § 1502.2 of this chapter, persons responsible for the care of property of the government of the United States or the District may take

any action as may be necessary to capture or destroy wildlife causing annoyance to the public, creating a nuisance, or destroying or damaging property.

1599. DEFINITIONS

1599.1 When used in this chapter, the following terms and phrases shall have the meanings ascribed:

Angling - fishing by hook and line.

Resident - a person who resides in the District of Columbia.

Nonresident - a person who does not reside in the District of Columbia.

Commercial - the taking of fish or other aquatic organisms for sale or profit.

Department - the Department of Health.

Baitfish - all species of small fish commonly called minnows, shiners, chubs, or by whatever name described, and including small fish of any other species commonly used as bait, less than six inches (6") in total length, but not including any fish with a minimum size limit or protected.

Conservation or law officer - any law enforcement official charged with enforcement of the fisheries regulations of the District of Columbia.

Scientific collecting - the collection of fish or other aquatic organisms for scientific purposes by educational institutions, other organizations, or individuals engaged in scientific research.

Indigenous - species of fish or other aquatic organisms that are native or introduced to the water of the District of Columbia prior to implementation of fisheries regulations.

Snagging - the taking of a fish by hooking in any part of the body other than the mouth.

Total Length - the length from the anterior-most part of the fish to the tip of the longest caudal fin rays.

Director - the Director of the Department of Health, or the Director's designee.

Wildlife - any wild animal other than a fish.

National Fishing Week (NFW) - a weeklong nationwide festivity, usually the first week in June, that brings government agencies, the sport fishing industry, conservation clubs, nonprofit organizations, local and corporate businesses and the American public together to sponsor fishing and educational events.