

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE  
Branch of Fish Hatcheries

Washington 25, D. C.

Leaflet FL-403  
Revised January 1960

FISH AND WILDLIFE REGULATIONS  
FOR THE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Reproduced below is Order 59-392, Fish and Wildlife Regulations for the District of Columbia, as promulgated by the Board of Commissioners, D.C., on March 12, 1959, (published officially in the Washington Evening Star on March 20, 1959).

March 12, 1959

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Regulations for the District of Columbia

ORDERED:

That these regulations are hereby made and promulgated to be known as "The Fish and Wildlife Regulations for the District of Columbia", pursuant to the authority contained in the Act entitled "An Act to revise and modernize the fish and game laws of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes", approved August 23, 1958 (72 Stat. 814). These regulations shall be effective on and after March 12, 1959.

PART 1 - GENERAL

Sec. 101. Definitions. The following words and phrases shall have the meaning respectively ascribed to them by this section, and such meaning shall obtain except in those instances where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(a) "Bait fish" means all species of small fishes commonly called minnows, shiners, or chubs, by whatever name described, and including small fish of any other species commonly used as bait, less than six inches in length, but not including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and striped bass.

(b) "Chief of Police" means the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia or his designated agent.

(c) "District" means the District of Columbia.

(d) "Hook" means a single, double, or treble hook, and any artificial lure or plug with multiple or gang hooks constituting a single unit.

(e) "To take" in its various forms means to pursue, to capture, to catch, to retain, or to kill, or to attempt to do any of the said acts.

(f) "Wild animal" includes, without limitation, mammals, birds, fish, and reptiles not ordinarily domesticated.

(g) "Wildlife" means any wild animal other than a fish.

Section 102. Exemption of governmental, scientific and educational activities. Nothing contained in these regulations shall be construed to regulate or prohibit the conduct of scientific or educational studies by an official representative of a recognized governmental or scientific agency or institution; to regulate or prohibit activities conducted by or under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior, the Smithsonian Institution, or the Director of the National Zoological Park; or to regulate or prohibit educational or scientific activities conducted by or under the supervision of an authorized representative of an educational agency or institution.

Section 103. Relationship to regulations issued by the Secretary of the Interior. Nothing contained in these regulations shall supersede any regulation promulgated by the Secretary of the Interior and relating to any area in the District of Columbia under his jurisdiction.

## PART 2 - FISHING

Sec. 201. General. Except as expressly prohibited by these regulations, fishing is permitted in all of the waters of the District for all varieties of fish, without regard to season, size, creel limit, and type of bait or lure.

Sec. 202. Method of fishing. Except as provided in Section 203, fishing in the District for fish other than bait fish shall only be by hook and line, with or without a rod, with the line or the rod, as the case may be, held in the hand or being constantly attended. No person shall at any time engage in fishing with more than two rods, or two handlines, or one rod and one handline. No person shall use a line with more than two hooks attached. Nothing contained in this Section shall prohibit the use of a landing net to assist in possessing fish secured by hook.

Sec. 203. Use of dipnets. A dipnet with a net not exceeding three feet in its largest dimension, manually controlled by one person, may be used to take shad and herring in the waters of the Potomac River upstream from Key Bridge.

Sec. 204. Taking of bait fish. Bait fish may be taken without a permit for personal use and not for sale by means of a minnow seine not more than six feet in length, by a drop net or lift net not exceeding four feet in its largest dimension, or by a minnow trap not more than two feet in length. Bait fish shall be taken only from the main streams of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. No person shall take bait fish for purposes of sale except under the authority of a permit issued by the Chief of Police, specifying the location in which such fish may be taken, and the type and size of net which may be used.

Sec. 205. Sale of bass prohibited. No largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) or smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*) of any size, and no striped bass or rockfish (*Roccus saxatilis*) less than twelve inches in length, shall be sold or offered for sale in the District.

Sec. 206. Waters in which fishing is prohibited. Fishing is prohibited in the following waters: Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens; Rock Creek and its tributaries above the National Zoological Park; and ornamental pools and fountain basins in parks and on public space. Waters in all other areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior are open to fishing except where posted.

Sec. 207. Prohibited fishing. The taking of fish by any means or method not authorized by these regulations is prohibited.

### PART 3 - HUNTING

Sec. 301. General. All wildlife in the District is protected, and none shall be killed or otherwise taken except in accordance with these regulations.

Sec. 302. Taking of depredating wildlife. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to prohibit the taking of rats, mice, and moles, and, under special permit issued by the Chief of Police, the capturing by humane means of any other wildlife found to be causing damage to any person or private property.

Section 303. Protection of government property and elimination of nuisance wildlife. Notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 301 and 302 of these regulations, persons responsible for the care of property of the governments of the United States or the District may take such action as may be necessary to protect such property from damage by wildlife, and both of the said governments may take such action as may be necessary to capture or destroy wildlife causing annoyance to the public, creating a nuisance, or destroying or damaging property.

NOTE: In accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of Section 5 of the Act approved August 23, 1958, (Public Law 35-730; 72 Stat. 814), the foregoing regulations, prior to their adoption by the Commissioners, were reviewed by the Secretary of the Interior and approved by him on March 11, 1959.

By order of the Board of Commissioners, D. C.

(Officially published in the STAR, March 20, 1959)