

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

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2610
APR 21 1973



Mr. Randy Geddings
South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources
Department
P. O. Box 1645
Clemson, South Carolina 29631

Dear Randy:

Your summary of the regulations looks fine to me. If possible, I suggest you make a copy of this summary for each member and we can discuss the various regulations item by item as you have them listed. I only had one other item that might be worth some discussion. The cost of fishing for trout is becoming unreasonably high for non-residents in many states. This may be justified in waters where a hatchery program is concerned, but is it reasonable to charge an exorbitant fee for fishing an area in which there is no special cost above that incurred in an equivalent warmwater fishery? I'd like to see all states develop self supporting management programs, but at the same time, I hate to see sportsmen taxed unfairly.

I have penciled in a few comments which I will probably bring up at the meeting if no one else does.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Sincerely,

MONTE E. SEEHORN
Regional Fisheries Biologist

*Brook trout meeting
Dec. 5, 6, 7, or 6, 7, 8
Asheville*

LURE RESTRICTIONS

<u>State</u>	<u>Restrictions</u>	<u>Applies to</u>
Alabama	None	
Arkansas	None	
Georgia	Artificials only - selected streams	All Species
Kentucky	None	
Maryland	Lures only - selected "fish for fun" streams	All Species
	Fly fishing only - selected streams	All Species
North Carolina	Artificial lures with single hook on selected streams (native waters)	All Species
	Artificial flies having single hook on selected trophy streams	All Species
South Carolina	None	
Tennessee	Artificials only - selected streams	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
	Artificials with single hook - selected streams	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Texas	None	
Virginia	Artificial lures with single barbless hooks - selected "fish for fun" streams	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
	Artificial lures only - selected "fish for fun" streams	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
	<u>Blue Ridge Parkway</u> - Artificial lures with single hooks - selected lakes	Brook, Rainbow
	<u>Shanandoah National Park</u> - Artificial lures with single hooks - no bait	Brook, Brown, Rainbow

1. Objectives stated:

- a. To reduce pressure, limit the take, and enable releasing fish unharmed.
- b. Stream managed for "fish for fun" concept.
- c. To provide year-round fishing for the fishermen without the competition from lure and bait anglers.
- d. To minimize hooking mortality.

There's no reason bait fishermen shouldn't fish year round
Single hook vs treble hook?
Should these restrictions vary according to species. (brown vs brook etc.)

- e. To minimize hooking mortality, and to mollify the "purists" who demand "their" water.
- f. To give the "purist" a more sporty chance to harvest trout. Also cut down on hook mortality.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

- a. This is a valuable tool in the overall fisheries program. as pressure increases on native streams there may be a need for additional application. More information is needed on some streams.
- b. Yes
- c. Yes, but no biological reason for restricting angling to flies only.

Summary: Lure restrictions are of interest to us all. I would like to see a more in-depth discussion of this management tool backed up by research findings.

SIZE LIMITS

<u>State</u>	<u>Size Limits in Existence</u>
Alabama	None
Arkansas	None
Georgia	10" size limit on brown and rainbow trout on a designated river 8" size limit on brook trout on a designated river 8" size limit on all species on a single designated tailwater 8" size limit on brook trout on a designated river and creek 14" size limit on all species in second story reservoirs
Kentucky	None
Maryland	15" size limit on designated "Fish for Fun" streams
North Carolina	7" size limit on "General Waters" and reservoirs 10" size limit on brown and rainbow trout on "Native Waters" 7" size limit on brook trout on "Native Waters" 16" size limit on brown and rainbow trout on "Trophy Waters" 12" size limit on brook trout on "Trophy Waters"
South Carolina	None
Tennessee	6" size limit on brook trout 9" size limit on selected brown and rainbow streams 7" size limit for brown and rainbow trout on a single reservoir
Texas	None
Virginia	10" size limit on designated "Fish for Fun" streams - all species 12" size limit on selected streams and tailraces - all species 8" size limit in Shenandoah National Park and selected reservoirs
Georgia	22" size limit on brown and rainbow trout "Trophy Waters" 18" size limit on brook trout "Trophy Waters" 16" size limit on all species on a single designated "catch and release" stream

Are size limits necessary for brown trout fisheries?

How is the size limit going to eventually affect the gene pool?
(favoring slow growers.)

1. Some of the objectives stated:

- a. To provide a "fish for fun" stream for "trophy" fish.
- b. To provide a "fish for fun" stream with low pressure - part of overall plan to provide varied fishing experience.
- c. One state indicated the original objective was unclear.
- d. To establish a "put, grow, and take" tailwater fishery.
- e. Experimental - to test effects of a size limit on a wild brook trout population.
- f. In second story reservoirs to protect newly stocked trout from angler mortality and give them a chance to grow.
- g. A 15" size limit along with a one fish per day and lures only to manage for "fish for fun"; to provide year-round fishing; not manage for trophy fishing.
- h. A 7" minimum size to protect wild trout population.
- i. 10" size limit on brown and rainbow; 7" on brook on selected native streams to provide "catch and release" or "fishing for fun" angling, yet allow for a "reasonable" harvest.
- j. 16" on rainbow and brown; 12" on brook on selected trophy trout streams to provide "catch and release" or "fishing for fun" angling, especially for fish in the 12-15 inch range, yet allow limited harvest of trophy fish.
- k. 6" limit on brook trout only to allow brook trout to reach spawning size.
- l. 9" size limit on brown and rainbow trout on selected streams to allow these fish to reach spawning maturity (3 years).
- m. 7" size limit on brown and rainbow trout on a selected reservoir.
- n. 8" size limit on brook, brown and rainbow on selected reservoirs to prevent recently introduced smaller fish from being depleted by angling immediately after stocking.
- o. 10" size limit on selected "fish for fun" streams.
- p. 8" size limit in Shenandoah National Park to provide recreational opportunities to fish for "wild" trout without depleting the basic resource.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?
- a. Situations (a) and (e) - yes.
 - b. In situations (b) and (c) above there is probably insufficient law enforcement.
 - c. Changing conditions in situation (d) above have probably made this invalid. Currently being re-examined.
 - d. In situation (f) - dependent on law enforcement effort.
 - e. In situation (h) works well on light to moderately fished streams, with standing crops doubling and in rare cases increasing several fold. It has worked less well on heavily fished streams (possibly because of bait fishing hooking mortality, illegal fishing, etc.) and on brook trout streams. Seven inches on most brook trout waters is too high if you want emphasized harvest - 6 inches would be better. A major problem on brook waters is poaching with many fishermen refusing to abide by the size limit or the creel limit. Violations may be very high.
 - f. In situation (i) above it is achieving its objective, but harvest is low on smaller streams due to high minimum size limit. N. C. is currently looking closely at how to handle these smaller wild trout streams.
 - g. In situation (j) above it is achieving its objective but is applicable only to the larger more productive streams.
 - h. In situation (k) above it is achieving its objective.
 - i. In situation (l) above it is achieving its objective.
 - j. In situation (m) this is a reciprocal agreement between Tennessee and North Carolina. Unknown as to why or whether achieving its objective.

Note: I would like to see a vigorous discussion of size limits as well as data to back them up.

TROUT FISHING SEASON

<u>State</u>	<u>Trout Fishing Season in Existence</u>	<u>Species Involved</u>
Alabama	None Indicated	
Arkansas	None Indicated	
Georgia	Last Saturday in March through October 31 except designated "year round trout streams"	All Species
Kentucky	None Indicated	
Maryland	Eleven day closure on "put and take" trout streams for stocking, three times during spring stocking season.	All Species
North Carolina	Eleven month season opening April 2 (General waters and native waters)	All Species
South Carolina	One stream closed during period October-January to protect spawning trout	Brown, Rainbow
Tennessee	Season on one (1) selected stream involving a rainbow spawning migration (Open November 15 - March 15)	Rainbow
	Selected streams within the Cherokee Wildlife Management Area are closed on Thursdays and Fridays	Brown, Rainbow
	On selected streams in Cherokee Wildlife Management Area fishing is permitted on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1st Thursday in April through the 1st Sunday in September.	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Texas	None Indicated	
Virginia	None first Saturday in April - February 15 on streams, tail-races and reservoirs (with certain exceptions. One-half of stream closed 1st week in May and other half 2nd week in May for restocking.	Brook, Brown, Rainbow

Trout Fishing Season (continued)

1. Some Objectives stated:

- a. To protect brood fish during the spawning season and to provide the "opening day syndrome" to attract more license buying anglers.
- b. To provide opening days; to allow for scattering and acclimation of stocked trout before fishing; to eliminate truck following.
- c. Solely to provide opening day.
- d. To manage for trophy trout during spawning migration.
- e. To cut down on overall fishing pressure.
- f. In reservoirs with no closed season where other species are caught it allows trout to be kept which are caught incidental to fishing for other species.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

- a. Probably not protecting brood fish during the spawning season; probably does provide "opening day syndrome". From a management standpoint probably would not hurt to eliminate this regulation but is probably useful to an administrator.
- b. The regulation is achieving its intended objective and should not be eliminated or changed.
- c. In the case of the trophy fishery during spawning migrations more data are needed to evaluate (Tennessee).
- d. Does allow stocked trout to distribute and acclimatize and prevent truck following.
- e. Provides opening day, gives reproducing trout a chance to spawn naturally, cuts down on fishing pressure.
- f. By not having a season pressure is spread out over the year, streams not as crowded - creel data indicate that this has occurred.

AGE RESTRICTIONS

<u>State</u>	<u>Age Restrictions in Effect</u>
Alabama	None Indicated
Arkansas	None Indicated
Georgia	One selected stream restricted to fishermen under 12 and honorary license holders (Those over 65, blind persons, and totally disabled veterans).
Kentucky	None Indicated
Maryland	Selected streams restricted to fishermen under 16 and over 65 years of age.
North Carolina	None Indicated
South Carolina	None Indicated
Tennessee	None Indicated
Texas	None Indicated
Virginia	None Indicated

1. Objectives Stated:

- a. "To provide an easy fishing place for beginning anglers and the elderly, and to eliminate competition from the more skilled or physically adept."
- b. "To provide less competitive fishing for inexperienced fishermen and senior citizens."

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

Both states indicated that the regulation was achieving its objective and that it should not be changed or eliminated. No further comments were made by either state.

TROUT STAMP

<u>State</u>	<u>Trout Stamp Required</u>
Alabama	None Indicated
Arkansas	Yes
Georgia	Yes
Kentucky	Yes
Maryland	None Indicated
North Carolina	Yes
South Carolina	In process of initiating a trout stamp.
Tennessee	None Indicated <i>Yes</i>
Texas	None Indicated
Virginia	None Indicated <i>Yes</i>

1. Objective Stated:

- a. To insure that the trout fisherman pays for his fair share to support this exotic fishery and to provide information on the number of fishermen utilizing the trout fishery.
- b. To obtain needed revenue to operate the trout program.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives? Yes.

No state indicated that the trout stamp requirement should be changed or eliminated or that this requirement needed further evaluation.

Why should a non-resident pay three or four times more for a stamp than a resident?
In Va (non-resident) you have to buy a year round license to fish for trout, yet they offer a 3 day license to a warm water fisherman.

NIGHTTIME FISHING RESTRICTIONS

<u>State</u>	<u>Nighttime Fishing Restrictions in Existence</u>	<u>Species Involved</u>
Alabama	None Indicated	
Arkansas	None Indicated	
Georgia	Yes - Nighttime fishing not allowed on trout streams governed by a season.	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Kentucky	None Indicated	
Maryland	None Indicated	
North Carolina	None Indicated <i>State lands only</i>	
South Carolina	None Indicated	
Tennessee	Yes - Daylight hours only on selected streams	Brook, Brown, Rainbow
Texas	None Indicated	
Virginia	Yes - One hour before sunrise until one hour after sunset on streams, tailraces and reservoirs - (with certain exceptions).	Brook, Brown, Rainbow

Can a trout be any more abused at night than in the daytime?

1. Objectives Stated:

- a. To prevent abuse of stocked trout under the cover of darkness.
- b. To make enforcement efforts easier.
- c. To prevent poaching.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives:

- a. Not enforced, should be eliminated.
- b. Regulation is achieving its objective and should not be changed or eliminated.
- c. Not achieving its objective, should be eliminated.

SPECIAL BAIT RESTRICTIONS

<u>State</u>	<u>Restrictions</u>	<u>Species</u>
Alabama	None	
Arkansas	None	
Georgia	Live bait fish not allowed in any trout stream.	All Species
Kentucky	None	
Maryland	None	
North Carolina	None	
South Carolina	None	
Tennessee	Use or possession of minnows for bait in Green Cove Pond is prohibited.	Rainbow
Texas	None	
Virginia	Blue Ridge Parkway - no live or dead fish or fish eggs may be used as bait and digging of worms is prohibited.	Brook, Rainbow

1. Objective Stated:

- a. To prevent transfer of fish species to other drainages.
- b. To prevent introduction of competitive species.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

- a. Two states indicated yes.
- b. One state unknown.

62 $\frac{4}{650,000}$
248,000

CREEL AND POSSESSION LIMITS

<u>STATE</u>	<u>CREEL LIMIT</u>	<u>POSSESSION LIMIT</u>
Alabama	5 rainbow	None Indicated
Arkansas	6 brown or rainbow	12
Georgia	None <i>8</i>	8 (Exception - 4 brook on two experimental streams and 1 trout on Waters Creek a trophy stream)
Kentucky	8 rainbow	8
Maryland	1 brook, brown or rainbow per day on selected "Fish for Fun" streams	None Indicated
	3 brook or brown	3
North Carolina	7 (all species) on "General" waters	None Indicated
	4 (all species) on "Native" waters	<i>3 times daily limit</i> None Indicated
	1 (all species) on "Trophy Waters"	None Indicated
South Carolina	10	None
Tennessee	7 (all species) "General" waters	None Indicated
	3 (all species) - <i>native</i> specific streams	None Indicated
	4 brown - reciprocal agreement with North Carolina	None Indicated
Texas	5 rainbow	10
Virginia	6 (all species) - most waters	None Indicated
	5 (all species) - selected waters	None Indicated
	7 - one specific lake	None Indicated

Don't practically all studies show creel limits having little effect, especially where size limits are applied?

1. Objectives stated:

- a. To more evenly distribute the catch of rainbow trout among anglers.
- b. Stream managed for "Fish for Fun" concept; to provide year-round fishing.
- c. To provide protection for small native brook and brown trout streams that are vulnerable to over harvest.
- d. To prevent over harvest of streams with naturally reproductive trout populations.
- e. Reciprocal agreements.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

- a. Six states indicated yes and that no additional data were required.
- b. Unknown - regulation is new, not enough time to evaluate.
- c. Unknown - no more data needed.

SUMMARY: Most states indicated that their creel limits were achieving their intended objectives and no new data were needed. Two states indicated that it was unknown if the regulation was achieving its intended objective.

Note: It is interesting that there is considerable variation in creel limits between states but in most cases biologists feel that the limits are achieving their objectives. I would like to see a rigorous discussion of creel limits as well as any research data available to support these creel limits.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE NUMBER OF ROD AND REELS OR POLE AND LINE

<u>State</u>	<u>Restrictions</u>
Alabama	None
Arkansas	Rod and reel or pole and line only - applied to all waters.
Georgia	Limited to one pole and line; hand held - applies to all streams.
Kentucky	None
Maryland	None
North Carolina	None
South Carolina	None
Tennessee	Each fishermen permitted only one rod or pole - applies to selected streams.
Texas	None
Virginia	None

1. Objectives stated:

- a. To limit the fishery to sport fishing
- b. To limit the take and spread it out among anglers.
- c. Provides a more equitable distribution of trout
among fishermen.

2. Is the regulation achieving these objectives?

All states indicated that it was and no further data
were needed.