

WILD TURKEY BAG LIMIT REGULATION AMENDMENT

CALE GODFREY — ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE DIVISION



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REGULATION AMENDMENT

4VAC15-240-70. Turkey. Bag Limit.

The bag limit for hunting turkeys shall be one a day, three a license year, no more than ~~two~~ one of which may be ~~taken in the fall~~ beardless.

Rationale

- Public concern over lower than desired populations in some regions of Virginia
- Reducing bag limit on “beardless” turkeys (i.e., hens) is intended to protect females
 - Enhance potential reproductive output
 - Facilitate increase in turkey population
- Expand fall hunting bag limit for those desiring to take birds during the fall seasons

Anticipated Effective Date: January 1, 2026





WILD TURKEY REGULATION AMENDMENT

Motion

I move that the Wildlife & Boat Committee recommend to the Board of Wildlife Resources proposing the amendment to the wild turkey bag limit regulation as presented by staff.



Blue Catfish Regulatory Changes



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Background

Introduced into Chesapeake Bay – late 1970s

Popular sportfish – Targeted by 30% of Virginia anglers



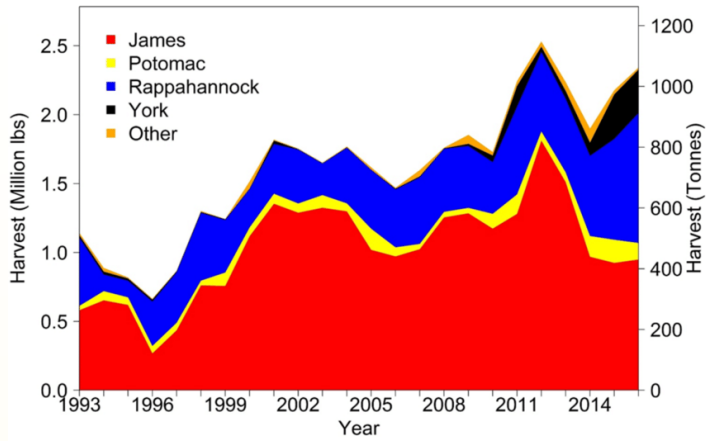
Background

Introduced into Chesapeake Bay – late 1970s

Popular sportfish – Targeted by 30% of Virginia anglers

Important commercial species

Strong concerns about negative impacts to other species



Orth et al.



Background

DWR regulation – only allows 1 fish >32” – reflective of VDH consumption advisories

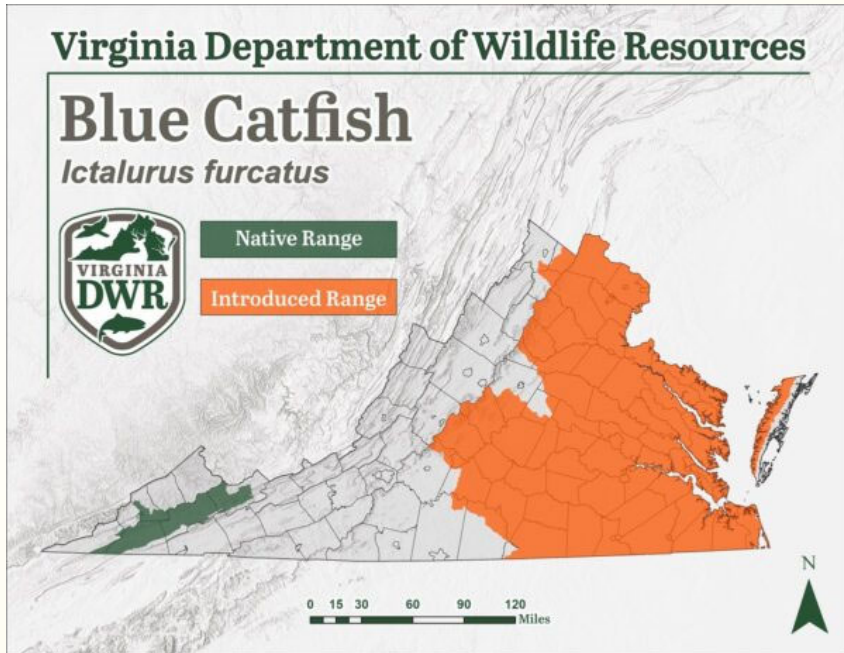
Experimental commercial electrofishing

Efforts to lessen USDA inspection requirements

Incentives to encourage harvest

General assembly – 2024 – Workgroup to create market

General assembly – 2025 – Remove DWR size limit



Current Regulation



Current Regulations – 4VAC15-320-25

20/day, No statewide limit

Exceptions

Kerr Reservoir – 20/day, only one >32”

James River and its tributaries below the fall line, Rappahannock River and its tributaries below the fall line, and York River and its tributaries (including the Pamunkey and Mattaponi River) below the fall line – No daily limit, only one >32”

All rivers below the fall line other than the James River and its tributaries, the Rappahannock River and its tributaries, and the York River and its tributaries – No daily limit



Staff Recommendation



Current Regulations – 4VAC15-320-25

20/day, No statewide limit

Exceptions

Kerr Reservoir – 20/day, only one >32”

James River and its tributaries below the fall line ~~downstream to a line connecting Hog Point on Hog Island (Surry County) and the downstream point of the mouth of College Creek (James City County)~~ ~~Rappahannock River and its tributaries below the fall line, and York River and its tributaries (including the Pamunkey and Mattaponi River) below the fall line~~ – No daily limit, only one >32”

All rivers below the fall line other than the James River and its tributaries ~~downstream to a line connecting Hog Point on Hog Island (Surry County) and the downstream point of the mouth of College Creek (James City County), the Rappahannock River and its tributaries, and the York River and its tributaries~~ – No daily limit



Schedule

August 21st – Board

If recommended by Board, goes to 30 day public comment period

October 22nd – Wildlife and Boat Committee

Public comments summarized and presented. Any recommended changes are identified and described.

October 23rd – Full Board

Board will vote to adopt/reject recommendation

January 1st – Any adopted regulation goes into effect



Motion

I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee of the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources put forward staff's regulatory recommendations on blue catfish to the full Board for public comment



Regulatory Reform Proposals

Aaron Proctor, Policy Manager



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Regulatory Reform – Governor Youngkin's EO 19

- Goal: reduce regulatory mandates by 25%
- Measure: actual mandates on regulated community
- Office of Regulatory Management
- Began efforts summer 2023 within normal reg cycles



Regulatory Reform

- Opportunity for housekeeping of regulatory catalog
- Unnecessary or otherwise could be handled administratively to reduce procedural burdens(e.g., a permit application)
- Not affecting opportunity or resource management
- Currently sitting at 21% (1193 baseline, ~895 is goal)



Regulations Identified

- 4VAC15-20-100
 - 4VAC15-20-110 (repeal)
 - 4VAC15-20-155
 - 4VAC15-20-160
 - 4VAC15-20-210
 - 4VAC15-30-10 (repeal)
 - 4VAC15-30-40
 - 4VAC15-35-80
 - 4VAC15-40-200
 - 4VAC15-40-260
 - 4VAC15-40-280
 - 4VAC15-40-290
 - 4VAC15-90-280
 - 4VAC15-200-60
- 4VAC15-275-10
 - 4VAC15-275-20
 - 4VAC15-275-30
 - 4VAC15-275-40
 - 4VAC15-275-60
 - 4VAC15-275-70 (repeal)
 - 4VAC15-275-80
 - 4VAC15-275-90(repeal)
 - 4VAC15-275-100 (repeal)
 - 4VAC15-290-80
 - 4VAC15-290-140
 - 4VAC15-330-180
 - 4VAC15-330-190
 - 4VAC15-340-20
 - 4VAC15-340-40
 - 4VAC15-360-20



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-20-100**: Unnecessary mandate covered by DOT regulations for vehicular operation and standards on state/public roads.
- **4VAC15-20-110 (repeal)**: With paper licenses and records no longer issued, this is an unnecessary section that can be repealed and reduces our regulatory burden by one mandate. The official licensing system used by DWR is all online and produced digitally.
- **4VAC15-20-155**: The striking of subsection A lends to regulatory simplification and reduction of unnecessary oversight. Subsection B now references the correct form required to camp and also removes unnecessary mandates regarding the administrative process of obtaining a camping form. The portion struck from subsection C is duplicative of language in subsection E regarding removal of personal property and refuse.



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-20-160**: §29.1-520(10) covers subsection B
- **4VAC15-20-210**: §29.1-574(A) covers subsection B
- **4VAC15-30-10 (repeal)**: Covered by Code, §§ 29.1-103, 29.1-521(10), and 29.1-521(11)
- **4VAC15-30-40**: Subsection F was amended by the DWR Board in May of this year to strike the mandatory reporting of caught snakeheads to the department. This change will become effective (law) on 9/1/2025. However, further review of this section reveals that the whole subsection F is unnecessary as it duplicates §29.1-574(B).



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-35-80**: Removes unnecessary requirements and does not change the desired outcomes of the regulation's intent.
- **4VAC15-40-200**: Simplifies the regulation by removing two mandates and replacing with one mandate (*not to be used* on public lands).
- **4VAC15-40-260**: Sunday hunting is now legal. Any local ordinances a locality places on hunters regarding the use of firearms or time-of-day noise rules are outside the scope of this regulation section.
- **4VAC15-40-280**: Language in subsection C is unnecessary and outdated. Hunters who utilize Public Access Lands for Sportsmen (PALS) need to obtain such permit to do so in addition to having their other annual or lifetime hunting licenses and big game tags. Additionally, the cost of a PALS permit is no longer the same as a state resident hunting license (PALS is \$18 annually; state resident hunting license is \$23 annually)



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-40-290**: Stricken language is heavy on oversight; addresses the old “I notched the wrong paper tag” issue. Such accidents should not be deemed unlawful and were commonly resolved through communication with department representatives and procedural instruction.
- **4VAC15-90-280**: Regulatory language is unnecessary and implied in that muscle tissue is not listed as a lawful part for purchase or sale.
- **4VAC15-200-60**: Simplifies regulation by using one mandate instead of two.
- **4VAC15-275 (multiple sections)– Game: Hunter Education:**
Opportunity to rewrite this chapter for reduction opportunities in same way we recently overhauled Ch. 410 – Boating Safety. Reflects updates to programming and modernization of requirements.



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-290-80**: Reduction of regulatory burden; unnecessary language removed without changing regulatory outcomes.
- **4VAC15-290-140**: Reduction of regulatory burden; unnecessary language removed without changing the ultimate regulatory outcomes. HIP numbers and proof of purchase now in Go Outdoors Virginia account.
- **4VAC15-330-180**: Regulatory simplification; reduces two mandates while still maintaining the integrity of the regulatory section.
- **4VAC15-330-190**: Records are kept per permit issuance terms to artificially raise trout. Same with notice of inspections – is outlined upon issuance of trout aquaculture operations.



Summary of Proposals

- **4VAC15-340-20**: No other gear requires notification of law enforcement officer. Further, very few personal haul seine permits are issued in a given year. None were issued in 2025.
- **4VAC15-340-40**: Removes unnecessary language from subsection B. Conservation Police Officers do not need this regulatory permission to inspect fishing tackle.
- **4VAC15-360-20**: Since taking of minnows and chubs for sale is not allowed, there is no need to define a gear type or restrictions on that gear.



Motion:

I move that the Board approve staff recommendations to meet the Agency's goal of 25% regulatory reduction per Executive Order 19, and that they are put forward to public comment.



A person wearing a backpack and a cap is hiking on a rocky trail. The image is overlaid with a dark green tint. The title text is in a large, white, serif font.

Aquatic, Non Game and Boating Regulation Cycle

Mike Bednarski
Amy Martin
Stacey Brown

Proposed Schedule – Board and Committee Meetings – 2025-2026

October 22nd, 2025 – Committee Meetings

October 23rd, 2025 – Board Meeting

January 21st, 2026 – Committee Meetings

January 22nd, 2026 – Board Meeting

March 18th, 2026 – Committee Meetings

March 19th, 2026 – Board Meeting

May 20th, 2026 – Committee Meetings

May 21st, 2026 – Board Meeting

August 19th, 2026 – Committee Meetings

August 20th, 2026 – Board Meeting



Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife, Non Game, and Boating – 2026

Jan 2026 – Feb 2026 - public issues Scoping period -- forms on web – staff makes contact with constituent groups or individuals, assess concerns or ideas for changes, utilizing format on input form.

Feb-March - Aquatic committees meet

March 18th, 2026– Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - preliminary review of issues

March 19th, 2026 - Board meeting – preliminary review of issues identified by staff

April-May – Aquatic staff core group meets to finalize staff recommendations, finalize staff recommendations with AG review

May 20th, 2026 - Wildlife and Boat committee mtg. - Staff recommendations presented

May 21st, 2026 - Board Meeting – Staff recommendations presented, Board proposals created

45 Day public comment period on Board proposals (no public meetings, unless a hot topic needs discussion)

Aug 19th, 2026- Wildlife and Boat committee – staff presents final recommendations on proposals

Aug 20th, 2026 - Board Meeting – Staff presents final recommendations for final board approval

January 1st, 2027 – Regulations go into effect

Digest out late fall



Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife, Non Game, and Boating – 2026

Recommended Motion:

I move that the WB Committee support the proposed meeting schedule as presented by staff.



Regulatory Cycle – Aquatic Wildlife, Non Game, and Boating – 2026

Recommended Motion:

I move that the Board support the proposed meeting schedule as presented by staff.



Virginia Wildlife Action Plan

Board of Wildlife Resources Wildlife and Boat Committee Meeting August 20, 2025

Jeff Trollinger
Wildlife Action Plan Coordinator



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State Wildlife Action Plan

- A conservation blueprint developed by a state, territory or tribe that guides efforts to conserve plant, fish, wildlife, and their habitats
- A non-regulatory document
- A collection of scientifically-based recommendations from experts across the wildlife conservation community and representatives from local, state & federal government agencies (including DWR), conservation NGOs, and tribal governments
- A requirement by Congress for a state to be eligible for State Wildlife Grants, which fund most research and management of many of our nongame species



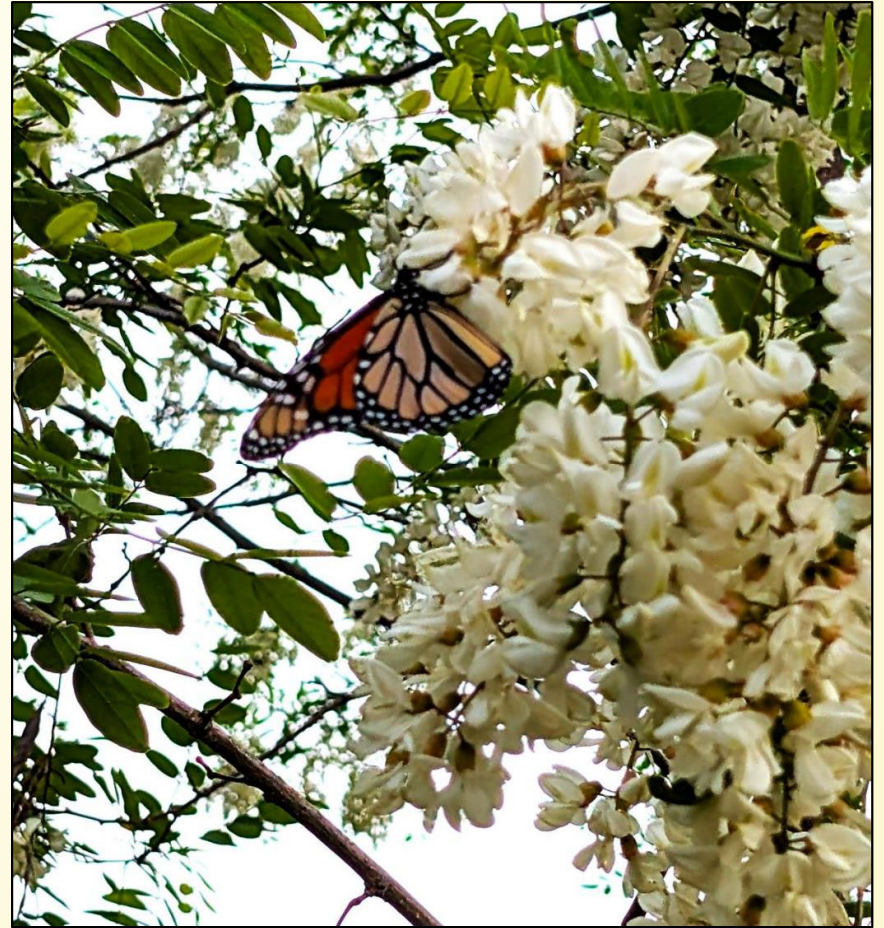
Eight Essential Elements

- Distribution and abundance of species (SGCN list)
- Key Habitats
- Threats and Research Needs
- Conservation Actions
- Monitoring
- Plan Review
- Coordination among stakeholders & partners
- Public Participation



2025 Revision Highlights

- Engagement and consultation with **Virginia's Sovereign nations and recognized tribes** and inclusion of culturally-important species, traditional ecological knowledge, priority actions
- Inclusion of **more marine species**
- Identification and **inclusion of plants** as SGCN
- Return to broad array of conservation actions, including **wildlife education, wildlife-related recreation, and law enforcement**



2025 Revision Highlights

- Inclusion of specific **environmental vulnerabilities and relevant adaptation and resilience actions**
- Focus on **working lands** and unique threats and conservation opportunities available in these areas
- Inclusion of **Assessment Priority species**
- Based on **smaller watersheds** (HUC12) instead of Planning District Commissions to increase **actionability**
- Depicted in **online tool**



2025 Revision Results

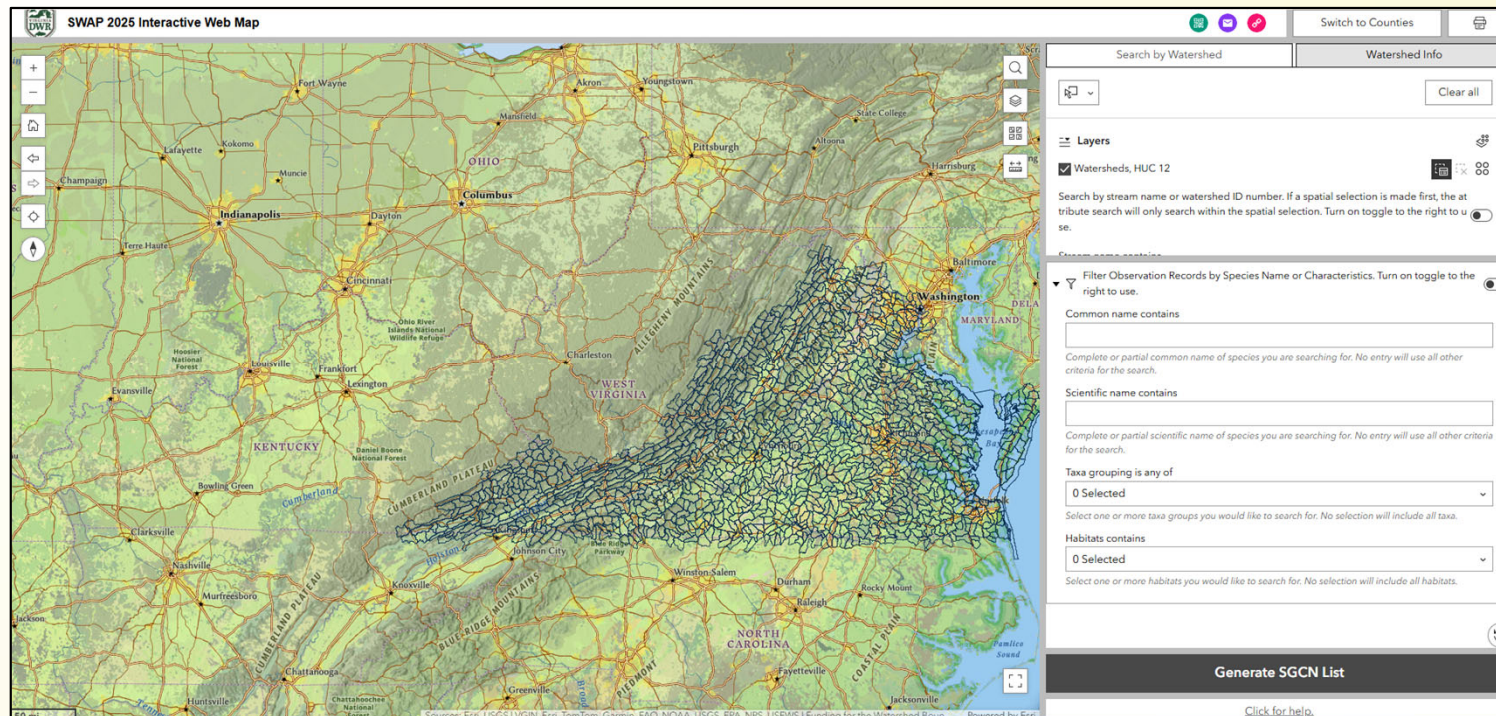
A robust, actionable plan to guide the wildlife conservation activities of DWR and our partners across the Commonwealth.

- Total of 1,920 Species of Greatest Conservation Need
 - ✓ Habitats identified
 - ✓ Distribution and abundance understood
 - ✓ Threats identified, actions recommended
- 521 Assessment Priority Species
 - ✓ Research needs identified
 - ✓ Experts identified
- County and 12th order HUC attribution of SGCN



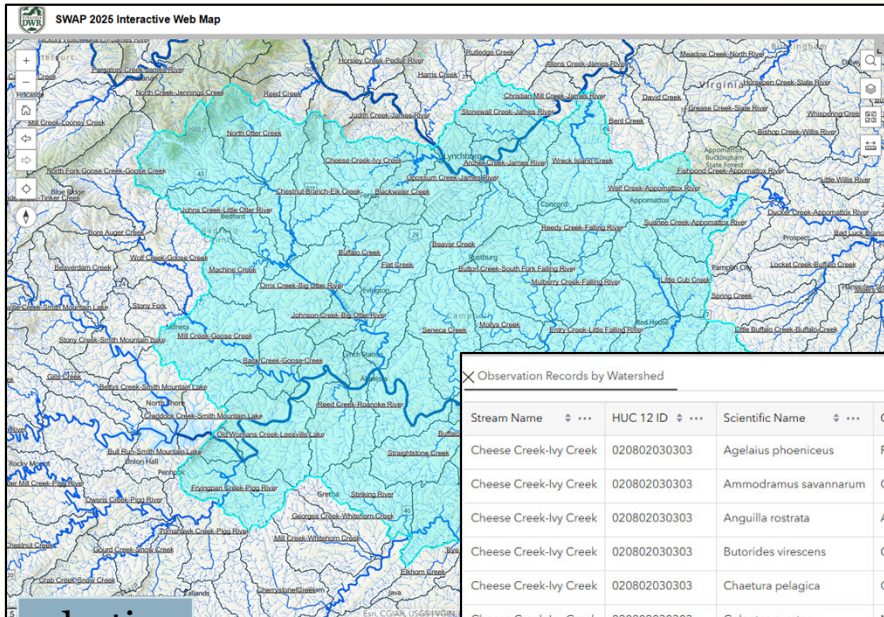
Online Tool

- Available on DWR website
- Allows one to view to habitat types and associated data (e.g., karst, caves, cliffs & talus, etc.)
- All the GIS tools – basemap gallery, measuring, data view and layout options



Online Tool

Geographic search



- Generate table of SGCN by county, group of counties
- Generate table of SGCN by 12th order watershed, group of watersheds
- Modify and sort table as needed
- Save, export, and download table as needed

Observation Records by Watershed

If exporting this table as a CSV, select "do not convert" in Excel or other spreadsheets to retain leading zeros.

Stream Name	HUC 12 ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Grouping	Type	Tier	COR	Habitats
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Agelaius phoeniceus	Red-winged Blackbird	Bird	Bird	IV	a	Grass Lands, Non-Tidal Wetlands, Tidal Wetlands
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Ammodramus saviannarum	Grasshopper Sparrow	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Anguilla rostrata	American eel	Freshwater Fish	Freshwater Fish	II	a	Non-Tidal Headwater Streams, Streams and Rivers
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Butorides virescens	Green Heron	Bird	Bird	II	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Riparian and Floodplains, Shorelines, Streams and Rivers, Large Rivers, Tidal Headwater Streams
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Chaetura pelagica	Chimney Swift	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Grass Lands, Shrub Lands, Savannah, Urban Lands, Artificial Impoundments
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Colaptes auratus	Northern Flicker	Bird	Bird	III	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Urban Lands
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Colinus virginianus	Northern Bobwhite	Bird	Bird	III	a	Grass Lands, Shrub Lands, Savannah, Glades and Barrens
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Contopus virens	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Dumetella carolinensis	Gray Catbird	Bird	Bird	IV	a	Shrub Lands, Urban Lands
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Hylocichla mustelina	Wood Thrush	Bird	Bird	IV	a	Forest and Wood Lands
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Icteria virens	Yellow-breasted Chat	Bird	Bird	IV	a	Forest and Wood Lands, Shrub Lands, Savannah
Cheese Creek-Ivy Creek	020802030303	Lasiurus borealis	Red bat	Mammal	Mammal	IV	a	Forest and Wood Lands

Resulting SGCN list



Online Tool

Result Filter and Buildable Query

- Use to filter results from geographic search
- Use to generate SGCN list by species name, taxa group, or habitat
- Modify and sort table as needed
- Save, export, and download table as needed

Filter Observation Records by Species Name or Characteristics. Turn on toggle to the right to use.

Common name contains

owl

Complete or partial common name of species you are searching for. No entry will use all other criteria for the search.

Scientific name contains

Complete or partial scientific name of species you are searching for the search.

Taxa grouping is any of

0 Selected

Select one or more taxa groups you would like to select

Habitats contains

0 Selected

Select one or more habitats you would like to search

Generate S

Observation Records by Watershed

If exporting this table as a CSV, select "do not convert" in Excel or other spreadsheets to retain leading zeros.

Stream Name	HUC 12 ID	Scientific Name	Common Name	Grouping	Type	Tier	COR	Habitats	Threat Code
Calpen Bay-Chincoteague Bay	020403030501	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Swans Gut Creek-Chincoteague Bay	020403030502	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Assateague Channel	020403030503	Megascops asio	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Riparian and Floodplains, Urban ...	1.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.4.2
Assateague Channel	020403030503	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Chincoteague Inlet-Chincoteague Bay	020403030504	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Assateague Island-Atlantic Ocean	020403030603	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Assawoman Inlet	020403040101	Megascops asio	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Riparian and Floodplains, Urban ...	1.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.4.2
Metompink Inlet	020403040103	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Metompink Inlet	020403040103	Tyto alba	Belted Owl	Bird	Bird	I	a	Forest and Wood Lands, Grass Lands, Glades and Barrens, Tidal Wetl...	2.1.2, 1.1.1, 9.3.3
Wachapreague Inlet	020403040104	Megascops asio	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Riparian and Floodplains, Urban ...	1.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.4.2
Machipongo River	020403040202	Megascops asio	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Riparian and Floodplains, Urban ...	1.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.4.2
Machipongo River	020403040202	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Great Machipongo Inlet	020403040203	Megascops asio	Eastern Screech-Owl	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Forest and Wood Lands, Savannah, Riparian and Floodplains, Urban ...	1.1.1, 8.2.5, 8.4.2
Great Machipongo Inlet	020403040203	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Mockhorn Bay-The Thorofare	020403040301	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3
Sand Shoal Channel	020403040302	Sturnella magna	Eastern Meadowlark	Bird	Bird	IV	b	Grass Lands, Transportation Networks	2.1.2, 9.3.3



Public Comments

Public Comment period: June 20 - July 18, 2025

Comments received: 50 total submissions

- 62 topics covered
- 17 comments were referred to other divisions.
- 31 responses were applicable to Wildlife Action Plan:
 - ✓ 23 related to Habitats/Threats/Conservation Actions
 - ✓ 7 related to the SGCN list
 - ✓ 28 related to missing information (mostly wildlife corridors)
 - ✓ 2 related to the structure of the Plan
 - ✓ 12 comments were related to information already in the Plan
- All comments have been appropriately addressed and the Plan updated to reflect.



Remaining Schedule

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| August 2025 | DWR Board Presentation and proposed endorsement |
| September 2025 | Submit to the USFWS |
| October - May 2026 | Regional Review team will evaluate the Plan to ensure it addresses the 8 elements mandated by Congress |
| Early 2026 | SWAP will be sent to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a final decision on approval |



Committee Motion – August 20, 2025

Recommended Motion:

Mr. Chairman,

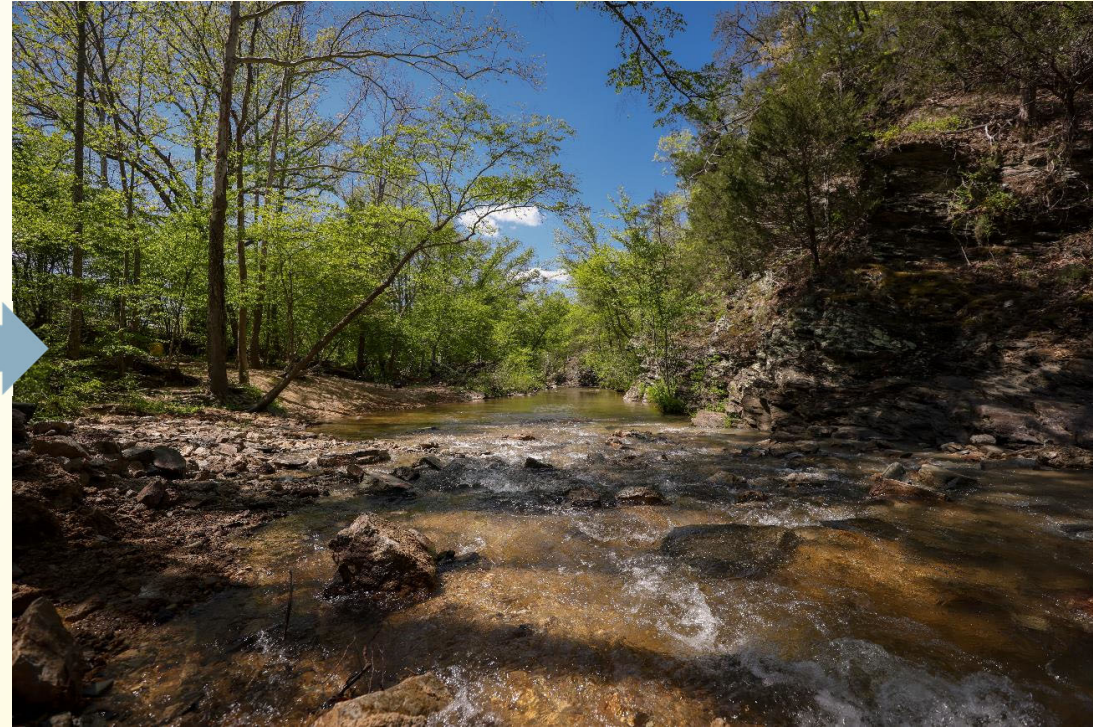
I move that the Wildlife and Boat Committee recommend that the Board endorse the 2025 Virginia Wildlife Action Plan as presented by staff.





State Wildlife Grants fund meaningful work:

Baber Mill Dam Removal



Enhanced conservation for freshwater mussels, sea lamprey, American eel, and a host of resident aquatic fauna.

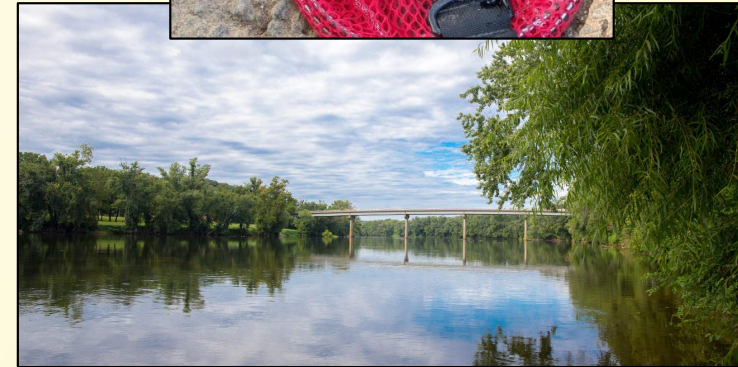
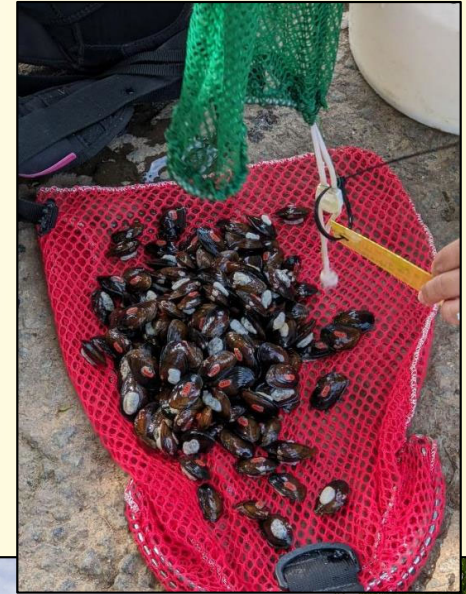


State Wildlife Grants fund meaningful work:

Reintroduction of critically imperiled freshwater mussels



Appalachian Monkeyface Releases - Clinch and Powell rivers



James Spinemussel Release – James River



State Wildlife Grants fund meaningful work:

South Fork Shenandoah River Restoration Elkton Landfill Site



MANGE IN VIRGINIA BLACK BEARS

UPDATE ON THE MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND MANGE RESPONSE

MICHAEL LIPFORD - DIRECTOR, WILDLIFE DIVISION



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DWR COMMITMENTS TO MANGE

- 1. Improve the public mange reporting system**
- 2. Enhance options for response to mange reports**
3. Expand involvement of bear hunters in sample/data collection
4. Reduce hunting mortality to assist natural recovery of bear populations
5. Increase public awareness about mange in Virginia and DWR actions toward it
- 6. Develop a more comprehensive bear sarcoptic mange management plan**



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Combining efforts with Arkansas Game and Fish to leverage resources
- Staff reviewed >70 research papers covering mange biology and impacts to a variety of species and regions
- Plan is designed to be adaptive as new information/insights surface
- Timeline moving forward
 - Draft completed by September 8th
 - Plan will be shared for review with:
 - External experts (researchers and managers)
 - The board and interested stakeholders



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Executive Summary & Statement of Adaptive Framework

Goals

Introduction

Surveillance & Monitoring Strategies

Management & Response Strategies

Research (Past, Present, & Future)

Communication & Outreach

Appendices



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Draft Plan Goals

1. Implement science-based surveillance and management techniques and continually adapt as more is learned
2. Manage for resilient populations of black bears affected by sarcoptic mange to ensure sustained use and conservation of the resource
3. Identify critical knowledge gaps and address them through professional networks and research efforts
4. Communicate broadly and effectively with constituents and foster citizen science opportunities



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Surveillance & Monitoring Strategies

- Conducted through direct observation, engagement of stakeholders, and utilization of technological tools
- Passive surveillance efforts will focus on utilizing observations to confirm presence of mange and severity of infection – Helpline, online reporting, etc.
- Active surveillance efforts will focus on securing samples from infected and non-infected bears and conducting diagnostic testing – maybe hunter-harvested or clinical suspects
- Surveillance data will be integrated to map distribution of mange, guide management responses, and fill in knowledge



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management & Response Strategies

- Examples of recommended strategies include removal of severely affected bears, limiting artificial congregation of bears, and adapting population indices/models to incorporate disease affects
- Examples of strategies not recommended for adoption at this time include the removal of mild or moderately affected bears and treatment of clinical suspects
 - These and other strategies will be continually reviewed as more is learned (adaptive management).



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Research (Past Present, & Future)

- Outlines past and ongoing efforts of DWR to contribute to the knowledge of mange
- Future Research Directions focuses on unknown aspects of mange in black bears that warrant further investigation
 - Epidemiology & disease ecology – transmission mechanisms, role of bear population density, relationship to wild canid populations
 - Impact on bear populations – genetic effects, influence on survival and reproduction
 - Immunology – occurrence of population immunity, potential cyclical patterns



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Communication & Outreach

1. Public awareness – improve awareness and transparency regarding what is known/unknown about mange, species impacted, and DWR action related to the disease
2. Public engagement & support – convey what individuals can do to help address mange, how those efforts contribute to fighting mange, how to reduce risk of mange to humans and domestic animals
3. Agency communications – ensure DWR staffs and partners have most up-to-date and appropriate information regarding mange



DEVELOP A BEAR MANGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Appendices

- Regional and Virginia specific history with mange
- Biology and ecology of sarcoptic mange
- Mange response protocols
- Glossary of terms
- Literature References



ENHANCE OPTIONS FOR RESPONSE TO MANGE REPORTS

Human Wildlife Conflict Specialist

- Interviews conducted on August 12th & 14th
- Panel recommendation submitted to HR
- Working to complete process and offer position

Enhanced Response Capacity for Reports of Severely Affected Bears

- Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement, and Helpline staffs identified for designation to authorize dispatch – will enable coverage on evenings and weekends
- Phone number being established for severe mange reports outside business hours
- Process outlined for providing individual authorization to dispatch and reporting.



ADDITIONAL MANGE COMMITMENTS UPDATES

- Reduce hunting mortality while keeping recreational opportunity
 - New regulations effective for upcoming seasons
- VA Tech mange research
 - Finishing second field season with increases in hair samples and bears captured
 - Details to be provided at October Board meeting
- Develop bear hunter log
 - Distributed to bear hunters to record mange and healthy bears during chase and hunting seasons, primarily in mange areas
- Public bear observation form
 - Distributed to interested landowners and hunters to record mange and healthy bears
- Camera grid deployment in mange area
 - Staff deployed ~80 trail cameras in mange area to establish baseline data on bear observations to compare with future years
 - Thanks to landowners, bear hunters, the Shenandoah National Park, and USFS for their assistance and support.



