

**Regulation 4VAC15-330.  
Fish: Trout Fishing.**

**Section 4VAC15-330-120. Special provisions applicable  
to certain portions of Buffalo Creek, Dan River, Pound River, Roaring Run,  
South River, and South Fork Holston River.**

**And Section 4VAC15-330-130. Special provision applicable  
to certain portions of Mossy Creek.**

**SUMMARY:**

The proposals are to remove requirements of 16-inch minimum size limits and artificial lures only for fishing for trout in South River (from the Oak Lane Bridge near Waynesboro upstream to a sign posted 1.5 miles above the State Route 632 (Shalom Road) Bridge) and to establish this area for fly fishing only, with a 20-inch minimum size for trout.

**PROPOSED LANGUAGE OF AMENDMENTS:**

**4VAC15-330-120. Fish: Trout Fishing. Special provisions applicable to certain portions of Buffalo Creek, Dan River, Pound River, Roaring Run, ~~South River~~, and South Fork Holston River.**

A. It shall be lawful year around to fish using only artificial lures with single hooks in that portion of Buffalo Creek in Rockbridge County from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Buffalo Creeks, ~~in that portion of South River from the N. Oak Lane Bridge in Waynesboro upstream to a sign posted 1.5 miles above the State Route 632 (Shalom Road) Bridge~~, in that portion of the Dan River in Patrick County from Talbott Dam approximately six miles downstream to a sign posted just upstream from the confluence of Dan River and Townes Reservoir, in that portion of the Pound River from a sign posted 0.4 miles below the Flannagan Dam, downstream 1.2 miles to a sign posted just upstream of the confluence of the Pound River and the Russell Fork River, in that portion of the South Fork Holston River in Smyth County from a sign posted at the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary downstream approximately four miles to a sign posted 500 feet upstream of the concrete dam at Buller Fish Culture Station, and in that portion of Roaring Run in Botetourt County from a sign posted at the third footbridge above the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area upstream approximately one mile to a sign posted at the Botetourt/Alleghany County line.

B. The daily creel limit in these waters shall be two trout a day year around and the size limit shall be 16 inches or more in length. All trout caught in these waters under 16 inches in length shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession any bait or any trout under 16 inches in length in these areas.

**4VAC15-330-130. Fish: Trout Fishing. Special Provision Applicable to Certain Portions of Mossy Creek and South River.**

It shall be lawful year around to fish using only artificial flies with single hooks in that portion of Mossy Creek in Augusta County upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line to a sign posted at the confluence of Joseph's Spring and in that portion of South River from the N. Oak Lane Bridge in Waynesboro upstream to a sign posted 1.5 miles above the State Route 632 (Shalom Road) Bridge. The daily creel limit in these waters shall be one trout a day year around and the size limit shall be 20 inches or more in length. All trout caught in these waters under 20 inches in length shall be immediately returned to the water unharmed. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession any bait or any trout under 20 inches in length in this area.

**RATIONALE:**

The Department has partnered with the Shenandoah Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited (TU) and multiple private landowners to open a four-mile reach of South River to public angling. TU maintains the relationship with the private landowners, and the VDGIF manages the fishery through trout stocking, monitoring, and law enforcement. Anglers must obtain a free permit to fish the upper South River Special Regulation Area. This condition was established at the request of the private landowners. Currently, the fishery is managed with a 16-inch minimum size, 2-fish per day, single-point hook artificial lure regulation. A local fly fishing shop and trout anglers have advocated for a change in the current regulations to fly fishing only, 20-inch minimum size, one fish per day. The primary reason that private landowners agreed to allow public fishing on their properties along this stream was the presence of existing restrictive regulations. Trout Unlimited has surveyed the private landowners along this portion of South River, and the majority of them are in favor of this proposed change. Department biologists do not anticipate any negative impacts to the trout fishery associated with this recommendation.