PERMIT CONDITIONS

1. A valid and current Scientific Collector’s Permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission is required to collect, take, or maintain any species of Pennsylvania fishes, amphibians, reptiles, or aquatic organisms, in any manner, or at any season not permitted by the regulations governing all holders of a valid Pennsylvania fishing license. Collecting without a valid Scientific Collector’s Permit and in a manner not authorized by a fishing license will result in prosecution under any and all appropriate sections of law, rule, or regulation.

2. No permit shall be valid for any water area, site locale, county, etc., other than that clearly specified on the permit or on a written extension of the permit provided by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. Collection in areas not specified on the permit in any manner or season not authorized by a valid fishing license will invalidate this permit.

3. The permit holder must be present on-site when any collecting takes place under the authorization granted in a Scientific Collector’s Permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission. If the permit holder is not present, those individuals (assistants) collecting will be considered as collecting without a permit.

4. The permit holder is required to notify the appropriate Regional Law Enforcement Manager (see page 9) for the county or enforcement district where scientific collecting is to be conducted at least 24 hours in advance of any collecting activities. The Regional Offices are open Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM. This notification shall include date and location of collection. Failure to provide proper notification will invalidate the Scientific Collector’s Permit and those engaged in collection will be regarded as not having a Scientific Collector’s Permit.

5. The use of any net or seine larger than four feet square or four feet in diameter or length or any electrofishing gear as a collecting device or aid is illegal unless specifically authorized by the individual Scientific Collector’s Permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

6. All organisms collected under authorization of a Scientific Collector’s Permit issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission which are not returned unharmed to their habitat must be used for the purposes authorized (based on the permit application).

7. All trap nets, gill nets, traps or similar devices, when set for collecting purposes, must be conspicuously tagged with the name, address, and Collector’s Permit number on a tag made of waterproof material and with all letters and numerals in print at least 2 inches in height. In the case of submerged gear, such as trap nets, fyke nets, gill nets, and similar devices, the identification label or tag must be affixed to a float which will be at the water’s surface while attached to the trap or net so that identification can be checked without removing the trap or net from the water.

8. All trap nets, gill nets, traps, or similar devices set to capture fishes, amphibians, reptiles, or aquatic invertebrates and operated under the authorization of a Scientific Collector's Permit must be tended daily (checked and cleaned at least once in every 24-hour period).

9. Upon request, the permit holder will present a copy of the permit to any Waterways Conservation Officer, Deputy Waterways Conservation Officer or other authorized agent of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission.

10. Lists of endangered, threatened and candidate species of fishes, amphibians, and reptiles are attached to and considered an integral part of each permit. Animals on these lists may only be taken...
with prior Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission approval for proven scientific and educational research purposes.

11. All Scientific Collector’s Permits issued by the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission shall expire and cease to be valid on December 31, of the calendar year of issue or date specified in permit conditions, whichever comes first.

12. Permit Renewal - A condition of permit renewal is that submission of all collection data for the previous year’s permit must be completed*. The collection data must include site latitude and longitude in decimal degrees, site date and time of day, collection gear used, species/level of identification collected, and total number caught. Permit renewal and data reporting are to be completed through the Scientific Collector online system.
*Type 2 permit holders working for PA DEP who enter data through DEP’s standard data entry protocol are exempt.

13. All reports and permits must be submitted by January 31 of the year following issue, even if permit renewal is not desired.

14. Failure to abide by any of the foregoing conditions will result in invalidation and revocation of current permit(s) and refusal to be issued permits in the future.

15. Please note that a Scientific Collector’s Permit does not grant persons the authority to trespass on private property.

16. Also note that the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, Bureau of Forestry and the PA Game Commission may also require permits for action performed on their respective properties.

17. Electrofishing training and safety plan documentation. For health, safety and liability reasons, applicants interested in obtaining a Scientific Collecting Permit for electrofishing need to provide documentation of formal training (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Electrofishing course) or other professional experience (e.g., satisfied with a letter of reference from a college professor that provided training, other collector permit holder for electrofishing, working with or trained by state fisheries biologists, etc.) that demonstrates the applicant has been adequately trained in electrofishing methodology/techniques and safety. An electrofishing safety plan also needs to be submitted for review prior to permit approval.

18. Endangered (E) and Threatened (T) species collections and reporting. Surveys for ET species require a Special Permit as per Chapter 75.4 in the Fishing and Boating Regulations (see below). Scientific Collectors’ with authorization to collect ET species and collectors’ observing incidental occurrences of ETC species must report ET occurrences online within 48 hours of discovery or identification of an ET species. Reporting must be conducted using the web-based interactive Scientific Collectors’ Permit system.
§ 51.71. Scientific Collector Permit.
(a) A valid and current scientific collector’s permit issued by the Commission is required to collect, take or maintain, for scientific or educational research purposes, any species of Pennsylvania fishes, amphibians, reptiles or aquatic organisms, during seasons not permitted by regulations governing holders of a valid Pennsylvania fishing license, venomous snake permit, organized reptile and amphibian and reptile hunt permit, or other license or permit.

(b) Holders of scientific collectors’ permits and their assistants shall comply with terms and conditions of the permit, including the requirement for a report of collecting activities. Permit holders and their assistants shall possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license. Permit holders shall be personally present any time collecting activities under the permit take place. Permits will cover the permit holder and the assistants named in the permit.

(c) The Commission will issue three categories of scientific collectors’ permits: nonprofit research and education, governmental and consulting.

1. Type I Permit: Nonprofit Research and Education. The Commission will issue a Type I (Nonprofit Research and Education) permit to individuals whom the Commission deems to be qualified to competently and capably conduct research or educational programs and who are not engaged in scientific collecting for monetary gain.

Qualifications. To qualify for a Type I permit, applicants shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission that they meet one or more of the following:

- They possess a Bachelor's Degree, are pursuing studies toward an advanced degree and have a demonstrable need to collect fishes, reptiles, amphibians and/or aquatic invertebrates to complete such a degree.
- They possess an advanced academic degree and are conducting biological research that requires field specimens.
- They are associated with or employed by a museum or an accredited institution of higher learning and are academically and/or professionally qualified to conduct biological research or have a valid need for collection of specimens for science or education.
- They have gained, through association with a museum, zoological institution or personal endeavor, recognized expertise in some area of herpetology, fisheries science, limnology, aquatic entomology, or related sciences.

Geographic area covered. A Type I permit will be generally limited to a specific geographic area (i.e., county or specific water area), except that the Commission may issue a statewide collector’s permit to persons serving as members of an advisory board or advisory committee to the Commission or, in exceptional cases, to persons conducting critical research that the Commission recognizes as justification for statewide collecting.

Fees. The fee for a Type I permit holder is $40.00; each assistant is free. Permit amendments are $20.00 each.
2. **Type II Permit: Governmental.** A Type II (governmental) permit is a free permit that the Commission issues to state and Federal employees who are engaged in scientific collecting as a part of their required duties. A Type II permit may be statewide or regional depending upon the application.

3. **Type III Permit: Consulting.** The Commission will issue a Type III (consulting) permit to individuals whom the Commission deems to be qualified to engage in scientific collecting and who are engaged in private consulting for profit. The Commission will issue a Type III permit to qualified individuals only and will not issue one in the name of a corporation or other business entity.

**Qualifications** - To qualify for a Type III permit, applicants shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Commission that they possess at a minimum a Bachelor's Degree in biological science, zoology, fisheries science, herpetology or a related field that is specific to the purpose of the scientific collecting described in their application. The Commission will consider professional experience, certification by a professional society or recommendations by acknowledged authorities in the appropriate field of biological science when evaluating an applicant’s qualifications.

**Geographic area covered** - A Type III permit will be limited to a specific site or sites as described in the conditions of the permit. A holder may change the area of coverage to accommodate new projects by making an application to the Commission for a permit amendment.

**Fees** - The fee for a Type III permit holder is $180.00; each assistant is $40.00. Permit amendments are $90.00 each.

**Effect Period of Permit**

It is the policy of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission that Scientific Collector's Permits be issued on a calendar year basis only. All permits are to be valid only from January 1 to December 31 of the year of issue.

**Fishing License**

For further information on acquiring a PA Fishing License go to [http://fishinpa.com/](http://fishinpa.com/)
Regulations: Endangered, Threatened, and Candidate Species lists, Special Permits, Qualified Surveyors

Chapter 75. Section (click link below to go to most recent species listing)

75.1. Endangered species.
75.2. Threatened species.
75.3. Candidate species.
75.4. Special permits.
75.5. Qualified surveyors for endangered and threatened species and their habitat.

Source

The provisions of this Chapter 75 adopted January 6, 1984, effective January 7, 1984, 14 Pa.B. 46, unless otherwise noted.

§ 75.1. Endangered species.

(a) General. The species of fish, amphibians and reptiles and invertebrates listed in subsections (b)—(d) are classified endangered. The catching, taking, killing, possessing, importing to or exporting from this Commonwealth, selling, offering for sale or purchasing of any individual of these species, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without a special permit from the Executive Director is prohibited.

(b) Fish. The following species are endangered:

(1) Northern brook lamprey, Ichthyomyzon fossor.
(2) Shortnose sturgeon, Acipenser brevirostrum.
(3) Lake sturgeon, Acipenser fulvescens.
(4) Atlantic sturgeon, Acipenser oxyrhynchus.
(5) Spotted gar, Lepisosteus oculatus.
(6) Hickory shad, Alosa mediocris.
(7) Cisco, Coregonus artedi.
(8) Northern redbelly dace, Chrosomus eos.
(9) Blacknose Shiner (Notropis heterolepis).
(10) Bridle shiner, Notropis bifrenatus.
(11) River shiner, Notropis blennius.
(12) Ghost shiner, Notropis buchanani.
(13) Ironcolor shiner, Notropis chalybaeus.
(14) Blackchin shiner, Notropis heterodon.
(15) Redfin shiner, *Lythrurus umbratilis*.

(16) Longnose sucker, *Catostomus catostomus*.

(17) Bigmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus cyprinellus*.

(18) Black bullhead, *Amerius melas*.

(19) Mountain madtom, *Noturus eleutherus*.

(20) Tadpole madtom, *Noturus gyrinus*.

(21) Northern madtom, *Noturus stigmosus*.

(22) Burbot, *Lota lota* (inland populations only).

(23) Threespine stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*.

(24) Pugnose Minnow (*Opsopoeodus emiliae*).


(26) Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis*.

(27) Iowa darter, *Etheostoma exile*.

(28) Eastern sand darter, *Ammocrypta pellucida*.

(29) Hornyhead chub, *Nocomis biguttatus*.

(c) *Reptiles and Amphibians*. The following species are endangered:

(1) Bog Turtle, *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*.

(2) New Jersey Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris kalmi*.

(3) Coastal Plain Leopard Frog complex, *Lithobates sphenoecephalus/L. kauffeldi*.

(4) Eastern Massasauga, *Sistrurus catenatus*.

(5) Kirtland’s Snake, *Clonophis kirtlandii*.

(6) Eastern Mud Salamander, *Pseudotrition m. montanus*.

(7) Northern Rough Greensnake, *Opheodrys aestivus aestivus*.

(8) Eastern Cricket Frog, *Acris crepitans*.

(9) Blue-spotted Salamander, *Ambystoma laterale*.

(10) Southeastern Mud Turtle, *Kinosternon subrubrum subrubrum*.

(d) *Invertebrates*. The following species are endangered:

(1) Northern riffleshell mussel, *Epioblasma rangiana*.

(2) Clubshell mussel, *Pleurobema clava*. 
(3) Dwarf wedgemussel, *Alasmidonta heterodon*.

(4) Eastern pearlshell mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera*.

(5) Rabbitsfoot mussel, *Theliderma cylindrica*.

(6) Snuffbox mussel, *Epioblasma triquetra*.

(7) Salamander mussel, *Simpsonaias ambigu*.

(8) Round hickorynut mussel, *Obovaria subrotunda*.

(9) Pistolgrip mussel, *Tritogonia verrucosa*.

(10) Rayed bean mussel, *Villosa fabalis*.

**Authority**

The provisions of this § 75.1 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § 2102 and 2305; and section 506 of The Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P.S. § 186).

**Source**


**Cross References**

This section cited in 7 Pa. Code § 128.102 (relating to protected designated areas).

§ 75.2. Threatened species.

(a) General. The species of fish, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates listed in subsections (b)—(d) are classified as threatened. The catching, taking, killing, possessing, importing to or exporting from this Commonwealth, selling, offering for sale or purchasing, of any individual of these species, alive or dead, or any part thereof, without a special permit from the Executive Director is prohibited.

(b) Fish. The following species are threatened:

(1) Bigmouth shiner, *Notropis dorsalis*.

(2) Southern redbelly dace, *Chrosomus erythrogaster*.

(3) Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops*. 

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(4) Brindled madtom, Noturus miurus.

(5) Chesapeake Logperch, Percina bimaculata.

(c) Amphibians and reptiles. The following species are threatened:

(1) Green Salamander, Aneides aeneus.

(2) Northern Red-bellied Cooter, Pseudemys rubriventris.

(3) Eastern Spadefoot Toad, Scaphiopus holbrookii.

(d) Invertebrates. The following species are threatened:

(1) Sheepnose mussel, Plethobasus cyphyus.

Authority
The provisions of this § 75.2 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § 2102, 2305 and 2307; and section 506 of The Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P.S. § 186).

Source

Cross References
This section cited in 7 Pa. Code § 128.102 (relating to protected designated areas).

§ 75.3. Candidate species.

(a) General. The species listed in subsections (b) and (c) are considered candidate species which could achieve endangered or threatened status in the future. They are subject to seasons, size, creel—bag—and possession limits specified in this subpart. A person who catches these species is encouraged to release them immediately and unharmed to the waters or other area from which they were taken.

(b) Fish.

(1) Least brook lamprey, Lampetra aepyptera.

(2) Brook stickleback, Culaea inconstans.

(c) Amphibians and reptiles.

(1) Blandings Turtle, Emys doidea blandingii.
(2) Broad-headed Skink, *Plestiodon laticeps*.

**Authority**

The provisions of this § 75.3 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § 2102 and 2305; and section 506 of The Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P.S. § 186).

**Source**


§ 75.4. Special permits.

The Executive Director, or a designee, may issue special permits under section 2305 of the code (relating to threatened and endangered species) to take, catch, kill or possess threatened or endangered species upon written application on forms provided by the Commission.

(1) Special permits will be issued only upon a showing of unique or extraordinary circumstances justifying the permit and the applicant shows that the permitted action does one of the following:

   (i) Has no demonstrable adverse impacts on the population of the species in this Commonwealth.

   (ii) Is in the best interest of the protection, conservation and management of the species.

   (iii) Is necessary and appropriate in the interests of public health and safety or promotes essential research or public education and information.

(2) Persons and institutions requesting special permits shall apply before taking, catching, killing, possessing or acquiring the threatened or endangered species. Application forms and information are available from the Natural Diversity Section, Division of Environmental Services, 595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823.

**Authority**

The provisions of this § 75.4 issued under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § 2102; amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S.; and section 506 of The Administrative Code of 1929 (71 P.S. § 186).

**Source**


**Cross References**

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This section cited in 58 Pa. Code § 75.5 (relating to qualified surveyors for endangered and threatened species and their habitat).

§ 75.5. Qualified surveyors for endangered and threatened species and their habitat.

(a) **Requirement.** To conduct surveys for endangered or threatened species or their habitat in connection with an application for a proposed or planned development activity, a surveyor shall be deemed qualified by the Commission.

(b) **Qualification.** An individual who wishes to be qualified by the Commission to conduct surveys for endangered or threatened species shall demonstrate to the Commission’s satisfaction that he meets the qualified surveyor requirements as approved by the Executive Director and published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. The individual shall demonstrate his qualifications by submitting the completed application provided by the Commission. Individuals on existing Commission lists as of January 5, 2013, will be deemed qualified for purposes of this section provided they submit the completed application provided by the Commission.

(c) **List.** Upon qualification, the Commission will place the names of the individuals meeting these requirements on its qualified surveyor list for the species described in the application. The Commission will make these lists available to the public on its web site at www.fishandboat.com.

(d) **Duration.** The Commission’s qualification of a surveyor is valid for 10 calendar years and expires on December 31 of the 10th year for which it was granted.

(e) **Renewal.** A qualified surveyor shall apply for renewal of the Commission’s qualification every 10 years by submitting the completed renewal application provided by the Commission within 90 days prior to the qualification’s expiration.

(f) **Denial and revocation.** The Commission may deny qualification of a surveyor who does not meet the requirements of this section. The Commission may revoke the qualification of a surveyor when the surveyor no longer meets the requirements of this section. A person aggrieved under this subsection may appeal to the Executive Director in accordance with 1 Pa. Code § 35.20 (relating to appeals from actions of the staff). Part II of 1 Pa. Code (relating to General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure) applies.

(g) **Other requirements.** When applicable, a qualified surveyor shall meet the requirements of §§ 51.71 and 75.4 (relating to scientific collectors’ permits; and special permits).
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission Regional Law Enforcement Offices

**NORTHWEST REGION**

Phone: 814-337-0444  
FAX: 814-337-0579  
*Counties*
Butler, Lawrence, Clarion, Mercer, Crawford, Venango, Erie, Warren, Forest

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

Phone: 814-445-8974  
FAX: 814-445-3497  
*Counties*
Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland

**NORTHCENTRAL REGION**

Phone: 814-359-5250  
FAX: 814-359-5254  
*Counties*
Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, S.Columbia, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union

**SOUTHCENTRAL REGION**

Phone: 717-486-7087  
FAX: 717-486-8227  
*Counties*
Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York

**NORTHEAST REGION**

Phone: 570-477-517  
FAX: 570-477-3221  
*Counties*

**SOUTHEAST REGION**

Phone: 717-626-0228  
FAX: 717-626-0486  
*Counties*
Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill

(Revision 1/21/2020)