

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION
SCIENTIFIC COLLECTOR PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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 (not an assistant) 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 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 7) 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 requires using online renewal procedures or a written request for renewal and completed application, AND submission of a report (type 2 permit holders working for PA DEP who enter data through DEP's standard data entry protocol are exempt). Site level collected 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 requires submission of this data prior to applying for the renewal. Reporting may be conducted online for the 2007 season and beyond. If the permit holder is not able to access the online web-based reporting system, hardcopy reports containing the aforementioned data parameters are to be submitted to the Commission's Natural Diversity Section.
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), Threatened (T), and Candidate (C) species collections and reporting. Surveys for ETC species require a Special Permit as per Chapter 75.4 in the Fishing and Boating Regulations (see below). Scientific Collectors' with authorization to collect ETC species and collectors' observing incidental occurrences of ETC species must report ETC occurrences online within 48 hours of discovery or identification of an ETC species. Reporting must be conducted using the web-based interactive Scientific Collectors' Permit system.

FISHING AND BOATING REGULATIONS

§ 51.71. Scientific collectors' permits.

(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) 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.

(i) *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:

- (a) 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.
- (b) They possess an advanced academic degree and are conducting biological research that requires field specimens.
- (c) 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.
- (d) 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.

(ii) *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.

(iii) *Fees.* The fee for a Type I permit holder is \$30.00; each assistant is free. Permit amendments are \$15.00 each.

(2) *Type II Permit: Governmental.* A Type II (governmental) permit is a free permit that the Commission issues, at the discretion of the Executive Director, 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.

(i) *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.

(ii) *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.

(iii) *Fees.* The fee for a Type III permit holder is \$150.00; each assistant is \$30.00. Permit amendments are \$75.00 each.

(c) 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.

EFFECTIVE 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.

2008 CHAPTER 75. ENDANGERED SPECIES

Sec.

75.1. [Endangered species.](#)

75.2. [Threatened species.](#)

75.3. [Candidate species.](#)

75.4. [Special permits.](#)

Source

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

Cross References

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

§ 75.1. Endangered species.

(a) *General.* The species of fish, amphibians and reptiles listed in subsections (b) and (c) 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 oxyrinchus*.
- (5) Spotted gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus*.
- (6) Hickory shad, *Alosa mediocris*.
- (7) Cisco, *Coregonus artedi*.
- (8) Silver chub, *Macrhybopsis storeriana*.
- (9) Gravel chub, *Erimystax x-punctatus*.
- (10) Bridle shiner, *Notropis bifrenatus*.
- (11) River shiner, *Notropis blennioides*.

- (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) Banded sunfish, *Enneacanthus obesus*.
 - (25) Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus*.
 - (26) Longear sunfish, *Lepomis megalotis*.
 - (27) Iowa darter, *Etheostoma exile*.
 - (28) Eastern sand darter, *Etheostoma pellucida*.
 - (29) Northern riffleshell mussel, *Epioblasma torulosa rangiana*.
 - (30) Clubshell mussel, *Pleurobema clava*.
 - (31) Dwarf wedgemussel, *Alasmidonta heterodon*.
 - (32) Eastern pearlshell mussel, *Margaritifera margaritifera*.
- (c) *Reptiles and amphibians*. The following species are endangered:
- (1) Bog Turtle, *Glyptemys muhlenbergii*.
 - (2) New Jersey Chorus Frog, *Pseudacris triseriata kalmi*.
 - (3) Coastal Plain Leopard Frog, *Rana sphenoccephala*.
 - (4) Massasauga Rattlesnake, *Sistrurus catenatus*.
 - (5) Kirtland's Snake, *Clonophis kirtlandii*.
 - (6) Eastern Mud Salamander, *Pseudotrion m. montanus*.
 - (7) Eastern Spadefoot Toad, *Scaphiopus holbrookii*.
 - (8) Rough Green Snake, *Opheodryx aestivus*.

Authority

The provisions of this § 75.1 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § § 2102 and 2305.

Source

The provisions of this § 75.1 adopted January 6, 1984, effective January 7, 1984, 14 Pa.B. 46; amended February 8, 1991, effective February 9, 1991, 21 Pa.B. 498; amended April 15, 1994, effective April 16, 1994, 24 Pa.B. 1958; amended September 17, 1999, effective September 18, 1999, 29 Pa.B. 4869; amended July 18, 2003, effective July 19, 2003, 33 Pa.B. 3496; amended September 9, 2005, effective September 10, 2005, 35 Pa.B. 5010. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (297643) to (297644).

§ 75.2. Threatened species.

(a) *General*. The species of fish, amphibians and reptiles listed in subsections (b) and (c) 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) Mountain brook lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon greeleyi*.
- (2) Skipjack herring, *Alosa chrysochloris*.
- (3) Goldeye, *Hiodon alosoides*.
- (4) Mooneye, *Hiodon tergisus*.
- (5) Bigmouth shiner, *Notropis dorsalis*.
- (6) Southern redbelly dace, *Phoxinus erythrogaster*.
- (7) Smallmouth buffalo, *Ictiobus bubalus*.
- (8) Spotted sucker, *Minytrema melanops*.

- (9) Brindled madtom, *Noturus miurus*.
 - (10) Bluebreast darter, *Etheostoma camurum*.
 - (11) Spotted darter, *Etheostoma maculatum*.
 - (12) Tippecanoe darter, *Etheostoma tippecanoe*.
 - (13) Channel darter, *Percina copelandi*.
 - (14) Gilt darter, *Percina evides*.
 - (15) Longhead darter, *Percina macrocephala*.
- (c) *Amphibians and reptiles*. The following species are threatened:
- (1) Green Salamander, *Aneides aeneus*.
 - (2) Red-bellied Turtle, *Pseudemys rubriventris*.

Authority

The provisions of this § 75.2 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § § 2102 and 2305.

Source

The provisions of this § 75.2 adopted February 8, 1991, effective February 9, 1991, 21 Pa.B. 498; amended November 7, 1997, effective November 8, 1997, 27 Pa.B. 5779; amended September 17, 1999, effective September 18, 1999, 29 Pa.B. 4869; amended September 9, 2005, effective September 10, 2005, 35 Pa.B. 5010. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (297644) and (260211).

§ 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) *Fishes*.

- (1) Ohio lamprey, *Ichthyomyzon bdellium*.
- (2) Least brook lamprey, *Lampetra aepyptera*.
- (3) American brook lamprey, *Lampetra appendix*.
- (4) Longnose gar, *Lepisosteus osseus*.
- (5) Bowfin, *Amia calva*.
- (6) Central mudminnow, *Umbra limi*.
- (7) Eastern mudminnow, *Umbra pygmaea*.
- (8) Hornyhead chub, *Nocomis biguttatus*.
- (9) River redhorse, *Moxostoma carinatum*.
- (10) Brook silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus*.
- (11) Brook stickleback, *Culaea inconstans*.

(c) *Amphibians and reptiles*.

- (1) Blandings Turtle, *Emys blandingii*.
- (2) Broad-headed Skink, *Eumeces laticeps*.
- (3) Timber Rattlesnake, *Crotalus horridus*.

Authority

The provisions of this § 75.3 amended under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § § 2102 and 2305.

Source

The provisions of this § 75.3 adopted February 8, 1991, effective February 9, 1991, 21 Pa.B. 498; amended April 15, 1994, effective April 6, 1994, 24 Pa.B. 1958; amended September 17, 1999, effective September 18, 1999, 29 Pa.B. 4869; amended September 9, 2005, effective September 10, 2005, 35 Pa.B. 5010. Immediately preceding text appears at serial pages (260211) to (260212).

§ 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: NonGame and Endangered Species Unit, Bureau of Fisheries, 450 Robinson Lane, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania 16823-9616.

Authority

The provisions of this § 75.4 issued under the Fish and Boat Code, 30 Pa.C.S. § 2102.

Source

The provisions of this § 75.4 adopted February 8, 1991, effective February 9, 1991, 21 Pa.B. 498.

The 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: 570-477-5717

FAX: 570-477-3221

Counties

**Bradford, Carbon, Northern Columbia,
Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan,
Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming**

SOUTHEAST REGION

Phone: 717-626-0228

FAX: 717-626-0486

Counties

**Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster,
Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton,
Philadelphia, Schuylkill**