

4VAC15-340-60. Seines, traps, and nets prohibited in certain areas

SUMMARY:

The recommendation is to include Abrams Creek and its tributaries in Washington County to the list of waters in which seines, traps and nets are prohibited from use to protect populations of Tennessee Dace, a state endangered species.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE OF AMENDMENT:

4VAC15-340-60. Seines, traps, and nets prohibited in certain areas.

- 1 A. It shall be unlawful to use seines and nets of any kind for the taking of fish from the public
2 waters of the Roanoke (Staunton) and Dan Rivers in Campbell, Charlotte, Halifax, and
3 Pittsylvania Counties and in the City of Danville; provided, however, this section shall not be
4 construed to prohibit the use of hand-landing nets for the landing of fish legally hooked or the
5 taking of fish from these waters pursuant to the provisions of [4VAC15-360](#). In addition, this
6 section shall not be construed to prohibit the use of cast nets, also known as throw nets, for the
7 taking of bait fish.
- 8 B. In Lick Creek and tributaries in Smyth and Bland Counties, in Bear Creek and in streams and
9 their associated tributaries that flow into Hungry Mother Lake in Smyth County, in Laurel Creek
10 and tributaries upstream of Highway 16 bridge in Tazewell and Bland Counties, in Susong
11 Branch and Mumpower Creek in Washington County and the City of Bristol, [Abrams Creek and](#)
12 [its tributaries in Washington County](#), and in Timbertree Branch in Scott County, it shall be
13 unlawful to use seines, nets, or traps; provided, however, this section shall not be construed to
14 prohibit the use of hand-landing nets for the landing of fish legally hooked.

RATIONALE:

The Tennessee dace is a small, colorful minnow known from Virginia, Tennessee and Georgia. In Virginia, Tennessee dace are found in the upper Tennessee drainage with populations known from the north and middle forks of the Holston River. Due to its limited range and threats to its populations resulting from habitat degradation (sedimentation) associated with regional influences such as mining, instream impoundments for flood control, and deforestation, this species was listed state endangered in 1992. A robust population has recently been found in Abrams Creek and its tributaries in Washington County. To maintain this healthy population of this endangered species, staff recommends including Abrams Creek and its tributaries in Washington County to the list of waters where the use of seines, traps, and nets are prohibited from use to minimize unintended capture of Tennessee dace.