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Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	DWR
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	4VAC15-350
VAC Chapter title(s)	Fish: Gigs, Grab Hooks, Trotlines, Snares, Etc
Action title	May 2026 – Ch. 350
Final agency action date	8/20/2026
Date this document prepared	8/26/2026

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

Section 60:

Changes to subsection D were adopted to reflect joint regulations for the South Holston Reservoir regarding the use of juglines, limblines, and trotlines by anglers to provide consistency in regulations regarding these activities between the Department and the state of Tennessee on the shared waters of the South Holson Reservoir.

*Proposed changes which would have prohibited the catch of snapping turtles were reversed at final stage due to Board members and public comment expressing concerns about the ability to enforce this change, as well as potential inconsistency between regulations regarding harvest methods.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, "mandate" has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, "a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part."

Section 60:

Where possible, the Department seeks consistency in regulation with other states on shared waters. Historically, this regulation rule has been published in the Department's annual fishing and boating guide was but not formally in administrative code. This final adopted amendment formalizes the regulation requirement within Administrative Code and ensures consistency with regulations on the Reservoir set by the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) that the agency has "adopted final amendments" to the regulation; 3) the name of the agency taking the action; and 4) the title of the regulation. A suggested statement is, "On [insert date] the Board/Department of [insert name] adopted final amendments to the [title of regulation(s)]."

On August 20, 2026, the Board of Wildlife Resources adopted final amendments to Chapter 350.