

1 AN ACT

2 RELATING TO FISHING; INCREASING THE TIME FOR FREE FISHING
3 DAYS DESIGNATED BY THE STATE GAME COMMISSION FROM SATURDAYS
4 TO WEEKENDS.

5
6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

7 SECTION 1. Section 17-3-17 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1964
8 (1st S.S.), Chapter 17, Section 8, as amended) is amended to
9 read:

10 "17-3-17. FISHING WITHOUT LICENSE--EXCEPTIONS.--

11 A. It is a misdemeanor for any person, except
12 children who have not reached their twelfth birthday, to take
13 or attempt to take any game fish from any public stream or
14 water in this state without carrying a proper fishing license
15 as provided by law. The presence of any person, except
16 children who have not reached their twelfth birthday, along
17 any public stream or water in this state with fishing rod,
18 hook or line, without carrying a proper fishing license, is
19 prima facie evidence of the violation of this section. The
20 director of the department of game and fish or any
21 conservation officer may require any person along any public
22 stream or water in this state with fishing rod, hook or line
23 to exhibit the person's license.

24 B. The director, with the approval of the state
25 game commission, may designate no more than two

1 nonconsecutive two-day weekends in each year as free fishing
2 days. During the free fishing days, residents and
3 nonresidents may exercise the privileges of holders of proper
4 fishing licenses without having proper fishing licenses and
5 without payment of any license fees, subject to all
6 limitations, restrictions, conditions, laws, rules and
7 regulations applicable to holders of proper fishing licenses.

8 C. The director may designate, by special permit,
9 fishing events during which the requirement for a fishing
10 license or permit pursuant to Chapter 17 NMSA 1978 is waived
11 exclusively for designated event participants. During the
12 special permitted events, residents and nonresidents may
13 exercise only the privileges as allowed by the director. The
14 director's special permit shall substitute for the requirement
15 of any license or permit pursuant to Chapter 17 NMSA 1978, and
16 no payment of any license fee is required. The director's
17 special permit shall be for a period of no longer than three
18 days, and all other laws and rules shall apply."_____

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