

2013

DELAWARE FISHING GUIDE



FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

See page 29

What's *NEW* for 2013

- Bowfishing for Snakehead
- Trout Pond Regulations
- Cedar Creek Boat Ramp Open



DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE





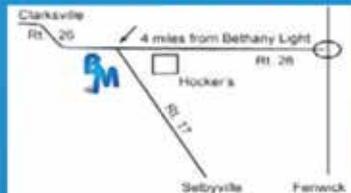
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FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS 29

Maps for this publication were created by the Office of the Secretary's GIS section. Fish illustrations were drawn by Duane Raver. The cover photo is from photo contest winner Joe Corning. A special thanks to the Delaware anglers and DNREC staff who donated pictures throughout this guide.

All of the information in this guide, and much more, may also be found on the Division's website www.fw.delaware.gov.

Doc. No. 40-05-03/13/01/01



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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



Recreational fishing provides countless opportunities to connect people to the outdoors while supporting thousands of fishing-related jobs vital to our economy. Your Division of Fish and Wildlife manages fisheries to ensure quality fishing into the future.

There is however a silent and growing threat to our valued fisheries—invasive species such as the snakehead fish which are introduced to or colonize Delaware and cause damage to our native fish and shellfish. You can help battle invasive species by

reporting them and by not releasing or transferring fish or live bait from other water bodies (learn more on page 16).

New anglers are needed to carry our fishing tradition into the future. The Division promotes youth fishing as part of Delaware's *Children in Nature* initiative (check pages 6 and 28). The rewards of introducing a child to fishing are evident on this year's cover showing the young angler's excitement of catching her first fish, a memory that can hook them on a lifelong fishing tradition. Check page 29 for other photographs of young anglers in action. The future of fishing, conservation and the outdoors depends on you *Taking a Kid Fishing*.

As an avid Delaware angler for many years, I hope to see you on the water. Wishing you "tight lines" this fishing season...

David E. Saveikis

FISH & WILDLIFE DIRECTORY

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Governor

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DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

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This summary is for the convenience of the sportsman and is not intended to cover all fishing laws and regulations. For specific provisions, reference should be made to Title 7, Delaware Code. When federal and state laws conflict, the law which is more restrictive governs.

FOR THE ACTUAL WORDING OF THE FISHERIES STATUTES AND REGULATIONS, AS WELL AS A WIDE VARIETY OF OTHER INFORMATION, VISIT THE DIVISION'S WEBSITE AT www.fw.delaware.gov



About this Guide

This high-quality regulation guide is offered to you by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control through its unique partnership with J.F. Griffin Publishing, LLC.

J.F. Griffin is an award winning publishing house that specializes in producing state fish & wildlife regulation books. J.F. Griffin supports DNREC's staff in the design, layout and editing of the guides. They also manage the marketing and sales of advertising to appropriate businesses within the book.

The revenue generated through ad sales significantly lowers production costs and generates savings. These savings translate into additional funds for other important fisheries programs.

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F.I.N. number(800)-432-9228
Fisheries Section, Dover (302)-739-9914
Fisheries Field Offices
Little Creek(302)735-2960
Woodland Beach (302)735-8650
Aquatic Resources
Education Center (302) 735-8652

FISH AND WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

Main Office(302) 739-9913
Region 1
(New Castle & Kent Counties).....(302) 739-6139
Region 2 (Sussex County).....(302) 855-1901
24-hour hotline (KENTCOM)
for reporting violations, problems
and fish kills **(800) 523-3336**
Boating Safety(302) 739-9915
Ramp Certificates(302) 739-9916
Boat Registration(302) 739-9916
Recreational Fishing Licenses(302) 739-9918

GENERAL INFORMATION

Freshwater Trout Program(302) 739-9914
Non-tidal Fishing (302) 739-9914 / (302) 735-8650
Tidal Fishing.....(302) 739-9914 / (302) 735-2960
Fish Consumption Advisories(302) 739-9914
Division Public Health.....(302) 744-4546
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2013 LICENSE FEES

2013 LICENSE FEES

LICENSE CATEGORY	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
General Fishing License	\$8.50	\$20.00
7-day Tourist Fishing	NA	\$12.50
*Boat License 20 ft or less (optional)	\$40.00	\$40.00
*Boat License more than 20 ft (optional)	\$50.00	\$50.00
Head Boat License	\$300.00	\$600.00
Charter Boat License	\$150.00	\$300.00

* **Boat License** - The optional boat license for a recreational fisherman covers the holder of the license, and all occupants in the boat, as do the charter boat and head boat licenses. A resident who purchases a Delaware boat-fishing license also will be given a single Delaware fishing license for their own use on those occasions that he or she may not be on the boat. A Delaware FIN is required of all anglers age 16 years or older on the vessel.

Non-resident - Any non-resident who is 16 years of age or older except persons covered by one of the exemptions is required to have a license to fish, clam, or crab in the waters of the State of Delaware. Non-residents may purchase a 7-consecutive day tourist fishing license.

BEFORE YOU FISH

BEFORE YOU GO FISHING, CRABBING, OR CLAMMING IN DELAWARE YOU MUST:

- Purchase a 2013 Delaware fishing license and keep it with you while fishing (page 5).
- Get a free 2013 FIN number (automatically generated with the purchase of an individual license) and keep it with you while fishing (page 6).
- If fishing for freshwater trout get a 2013 trout stamp and affix it to your license (page 9).

WHILE FISHING, CRABBING, OR CLAMMING IN DELAWARE, YOU MUST:

- Abide by size and bag limits (fishing limits - pages 12-13, crabbing limits - page 13, clamming limits - page 13).
- Be aware of area and seasonal closures (page 17).

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT:

- Delaware does not have fishing license reciprocity with other states. You must have a Delaware fishing license to fish, crab or clam in Delaware.
- Delaware does not recognize Federal FIN numbers or FIN numbers from other states. You must have a free Delaware FIN (page 5).
- You must have a New Jersey FIN number if you fish in New Jersey waters of Delaware Bay.

WHAT'S NEW FOR 2013

- The format of this year's fishing guide has significantly changed. We hope that you enjoy this new format, as it allows for a significant cost savings. The savings can be used to match federal Sport Fish Restoration monies used for research, aquatic education, maintenance and access development.
- New regulations were implemented since publication of the 2012 Delaware Fishing Guide. Please consult the Recreational "Season, Size and Creel Limit" section for updates to tautog, sea bass and Spanish mackerel. Regulations for Delaware's designated trout ponds are also in place. Please consult the "Freshwater Trout Fishing" section (page 9) for details. **All regulations are subject to change.** Stay updated by visiting www.fw.delaware.gov.
- Snakehead fish may now be taken with a bow and arrow in Delaware's non-tidal waters, unless otherwise prohibited by local ordinances or other area regulations. For example, bowfishing is not permitted on State Park property or at Becks Pond.
- Be sure to check out some of the fishing opportunities available to young anglers in 2013 on pages 6 and 28!
- The "Lacy E. Nichols Jr." boat ramp facility at Cedar Creek is fully refurbished and open for use.
- The Division has installed a new fishing and footbridge at the Garrisons Lake Access Area.

PUBLIC PONDS

A guide to public ponds, available online, is updated annually with the latest fisheries data. Each pond's information includes: fish populations, vegetation conditions, special regulations and facilities, and a contour map of the pond.

This information is available at:
www.fw.delaware.gov/fisheries/pages/DelawarePondBooklet.aspx.



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FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND FIN NUMBER

A general fishing license is required for fishing, crabbing, or clamming in tidal and non-tidal waters throughout the State of Delaware (see Fishing License Exemptions page 6). A fishing license may be obtained at DNREC headquarters (89 Kings Highway, Dover), online, or from over 85 licensing agents located throughout the state by accessing www.fw.delaware.gov and following the licensing link. A fishing license is good through December 31 for the calendar year in which it was issued.

In addition to the general fishing license, all anglers (resident and non-resident) age 16 or older must obtain a free Fisherman Information Network (FIN) number each year before fishing in tidal or non-tidal waters of Delaware. This includes those anglers exempt from obtaining a general fishing license. See these exemptions on page 6. A FIN number is automatically generated and issued with the purchase of an INDIVIDUAL fishing license. Non-residents who do not have an individual fishing license AND those exempt from the license requirement must obtain a FIN number before fishing. A FIN number can be obtained by automated telephone 1-800-432-9228 (toll free), or for live operator/customer service at 1-866-447-4626 (toll free) or by visiting the website at www.delaware-fin.com. The FIN number is mandatory and failure to provide a valid FIN number to an enforcement agent will be treated the same as a failure to have a valid fishing license. The number that you are issued will be valid

through December 31 for the calendar year in which it was issued. A FIN number is not needed if you only crab or clam.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will use the data obtained from the FIN program to identify anglers for survey purposes. The program allows for better estimates of recreational landings, an important component of fisheries management.

All funds derived from the issuance of fishing licenses are dedicated to a special account for

the purpose of matching and securing federal money allotted to Delaware under the provisions of the Federal Aid in Sportfish Restoration Act and cannot be diverted to other purposes. Together, these funds support projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of sportfish, and the provision for public use and benefits from these resources (page 28).

CATCH AND RELEASE

Many anglers practice catch and release fishing. This behavior, popularized by bass anglers, promotes the release of fish by anglers so the fish can be caught again. A long-term bass tagging study in Delaware has demonstrated many tagged fish are caught, released, and caught again – a few as many as four times. The Division strongly encourages catch and release fishing to maximize angling success - unless a fish population is known to be over crowded.



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FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

FISHING LICENSE EXEMPTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS

Exempt anglers are required to get a FIN number (page 5), unless otherwise noted below.

The following are exemptions or exceptions to the license provisions:

- **Surf Fishing Permit** - Residents and non-residents are exempt from fishing license requirements if they are the operator of a vehicle with a valid Delaware surf fishing vehicle permit when that vehicle is located on a designated Delaware State Park beach. Other occupants of that vehicle are required to have a fishing license if they are fishing.
- **Seniors** - Residents of the State of Delaware age 65 years and older are exempt from fishing license requirements, but must have proof of age and residency.
- **Children** - Children under the age of 16 are exempt from the license and FIN requirement.
- **Other Exemptions** - Anyone qualifying for the following exemptions should contact the Division at (302) 739-9918.
 - » Any resident who owns or lives on a farm in this state containing 20 or more acres and the members of his or her immediate family who reside on the farm may fish on that farm without a license.

- » A member of the armed forces who is a patient in a military hospital and submits a written statement signed by the patient's commanding officer certifying the nature of the disability and place of station.
- » Persons who are patients in any Veterans Administration facility in this State, or in any public hospital or sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis, or a patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the State Department of Health, provided such person carries identification which verifies his or her status as such a patient, shall not be required to purchase a fishing license. Forms shall be supplied to such persons when they apply for their licenses to be used for the identification purposes.
- » Residents living in this State for at least 1 year immediately prior to the date of application for a license who have been honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States and certified by the Veterans Administration as having at least a 60% service-connected disability.
- » Any Delaware resident that is a patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the Department of Health and Social Services.

- » Any Delaware resident who is legally blind.
- » Any person who fishes in a fee-fishing facility, registered as such with the Department of Agriculture.
- » Any resident who has served honorably for 90 or more consecutive days on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States, including service as a member of the Delaware National Guard, in military actions in Southwest Asia associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom may, for the first 12 months following the date the resident was honorably discharged or removed from active status, be issued a license to fish in this State without charge.
- » Any member of the US armed forces, including any reserve component, serving on full time active duty in the Delaware while not deployed or on temporary duty, and any member of Delaware's National Guard, shall be eligible for a resident fishing license. Qualifying persons should contact the Division at (302) 739-9918.

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27th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

As part of its activities for National Fishing Week, June 1-9, the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its 27th annual Youth Fishing Tournament from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday June 8. The event will take place at Ingrams Pond in Millsboro, Wyoming Pond in Town Park, Wyoming, and at the Lums Pond State Park dog training area.

This fishing event is for youths ages 4 to 15. An adult must accompany youths under age 12 and contestants should bring their own fishing equipment. The tournament is free to the public and prizes will be awarded in three age groups: 4-7; 8-11; and 12-15.

The tournament was established to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and to teach the catch and release approach to conservation. There is no pre-registration nor entrance fee required and the tournament is held rain or shine.

In addition to the youth fishing tournament celebrating National Fishing Week, the Division has designated June 8 and 9 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware's waters without a fishing license.

Delaware's Small Pond Program

The Division has nine small ponds scattered throughout the State which offer shore angling targeted at youth. The ponds range from ½ to 8 acres and contain good populations of largemouth bass and bluegill. Catch and release is the order of the day so barbless hooks are required at most. A brochure listing the pond locations and available facilities is available online (www.fw.delaware.gov), or by calling 302-735-8650.



Laurel Hossler receives a trophy from Sr. Cpl. Richard Blaasch for catching the most fish in her age group at the Lums Pond Youth Fishing Tournament.

GENERAL NON-TIDAL FISHING REGULATIONS

These are some of the regulations and state statutes that all anglers should be familiar with. Most have been edited to make them easier to read and understand. **This is not a complete list and it is up to the angler to be familiar with all of the laws and regulations currently existing or newly adopted.** For a complete listing, refer to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Fish and Wildlife website or request a copy from the Director's office.

Unless otherwise authorized, it shall be illegal for any person to fish for any freshwater fish in the non-tidal waters of this State with any fishing equipment or by any method, unless it is provided for in the following subdivisions:

A hook and line may be used, with each line to have no more than 3 hooks or 3 separate lures with hooks.

Unless a person is fishing through the ice, the number of hooks and lines that any one person is permitted to use to fish for any freshwater fish in the non-tidal waters of the State shall be no more than 2.

A person may use a dip net to aid in landing any freshwater finfish taken or caught by hook and line in the non-tidal or fresh waters of the State.

Carp and snakehead fish may be taken and/or fished for by using a bow and arrow and/or spear, unless said equipment or method is otherwise restricted by any Department regulation or local ordinance. At this time, no carp or snakehead fish may be taken from State Park ponds or Becks Pond using bow and arrow.

It is illegal to sell, trade, or barter any finfish taken from the non-tidal waters of this State, unless authorized to do so in a permit issued by the Director.

It is illegal to take shad, except by hook and line, and no more than two (2) lures attached. Each lure may have no more than one (1) single pointed hook.

It is illegal to knowingly snag fish in non-tidal waters with any hook (single, double or treble) or otherwise catch or attempt to snag or catch any game fish by hooking the fish in any part of the body other than in the mouth.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish within ten (10) feet of an entrance or exit of a fish ladder or to remove fish from any fish ladder between March 15 and May 30.

CLOSURE OF DEPARTMENT PONDS DURING DRAW-DOWNS

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in any pond or lake administered by the Department when the water level is lowered for any purpose provided it is duly posted with signs by the Department that state it is closed to fishing.



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FRESHWATER TROUT FISHING

LICENSE AND STAMP REQUIREMENTS FOR TROUT FISHING

RESIDENT / AGE	FISHING LICENSE	YOUNG ANGLER TROUT STAMP	TROUT STAMP	FIN
Under 12	No	No	No	No
12 thru 15	No	Yes	No	No
16 thru 64	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
65 and over	No	No	No	Yes
FEE	\$8.50	\$2.10	\$4.20	NONE

NON-RESIDENT / AGE	FISHING LICENSE	YOUNG ANGLER TROUT STAMP	TROUT STAMP	FIN
Under 12	No	No	No	No
12 thru 15	No	No	Yes	No
16 and over	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
FEE	\$20.00		\$6.20	NONE

It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, purchase, possess, or sell walking catfish (*Clarius batrachus*) or the white amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) or live northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) or blotched snakehead fish (*Channa maculata*) without the written permission of the Director.

TRASH-FREE

Reminder: Keep Fishing and Boat Launching Areas Trash-Free!

The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife has a carry-in, carry-out policy for state wildlife areas, fishing piers and boat launching facilities. Trash cans are not provided, and visitors are expected to take their trash with them when they leave. To help ensure that these wild lands and public facilities are kept clean and trash-free, don't forget to pack a trash bag for your next fishing trip.



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FRESHWATER TROUT FISHING

FRESHWATER TROUT FISHING

Delaware's freshwater trout program is a self-supporting put-and-take fishery in selected New Castle County streams and Kent and Sussex County ponds. Revenue generated from the sales of trout stamps is used to purchase rainbow, brook and/or brown trout for stocking (see page 10). Summer water temperatures limit trout survival and reproduction in Delaware waters, so stocked fish are meant to be taken, but may be released at the angler's discretion.

Season / Hours - The 2013 freshwater trout season in Tidbury (Kent County) and Newton (Sussex County) Ponds opens at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday March 2, 2013.

The 2013 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday April 6, 2013.

No fishing is allowed in designated trout streams or designated trout ponds (Tidbury & Newton Ponds) two weeks (14 days) prior to the

scheduled opening of the trout season. It is unlawful to fish for trout in designated trout streams or designated trout ponds between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

Trout Stamps - A trout stamp is required to fish in a designated **trout stream** from the first Saturday in April through June 30 and from the first Saturday in October through November 30 unless exempted by law. A trout stamp is also required to fish **Tidbury Pond** in Kent County and **Newton Pond** in Sussex County from the first Saturday in March through April 1. Stamps are available online in electronic form, or a printed stamp may be obtained at DN-REC Headquarters (89 Kings Hwy, Dover). All stamps must be signed across the face to legally trout fish. Purchasers of electronically issued stamps may obtain an original printed stamp by calling 302-739-9918. A stamp will be mailed to you after December 31, 2013.

SPECIAL FLY FISHING ONLY SECTIONS (RESTRICTED TROUT STREAMS)

White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the Pennsylvania state line is designated as a fly-fishing only trout stream (restricted trout waters).

It is unlawful to use any metallic, plastic or rubber spinners, spoons, lures, plugs or natural bait or to use more than two (2) flies on a line at any one time.

It is unlawful to possess more than four (4) trout within 50 feet of a fly fishing only section (restricted trout waters). Anglers may catch and release trout on these waters as long as the four (4) trout possession limit is not exceeded. All trout released must be returned to the water as quickly as possible with the least possible injury.

POSSESSION LIMITS OF TROUT

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess more than six (6) trout in any one day; except, it shall be unlawful to possess more than four (4) trout in or within 50 feet of any fly-fishing only waters (restricted trout streams).

COLLECTING STAMPS

If you are interested in collecting trout or duck stamps, please contact the Division 302-739-9918 or visit our website at www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/TroutStamp.aspx



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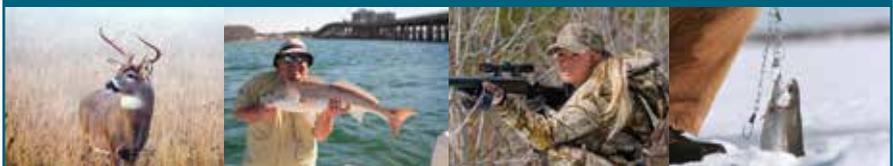
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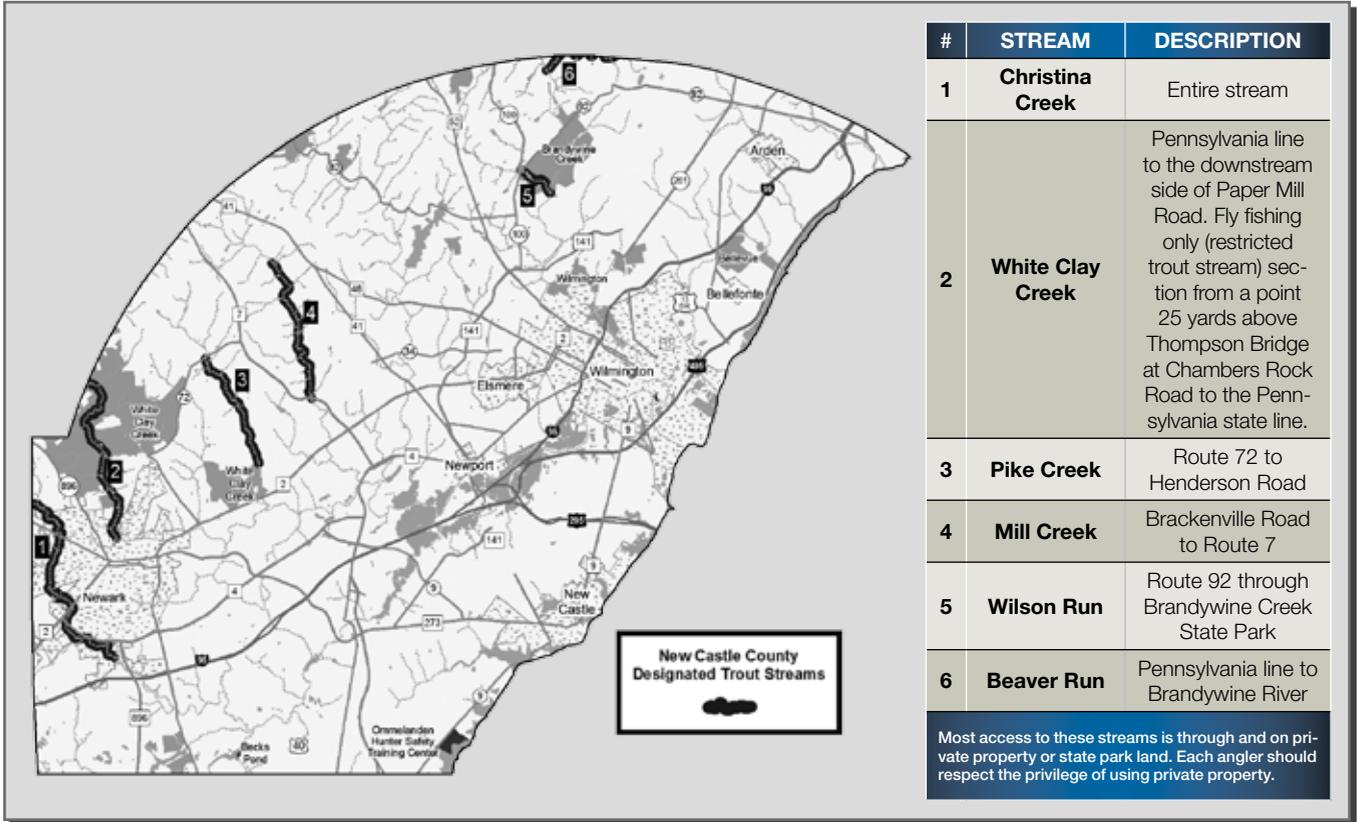


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FRESHWATER TROUT FISHING



2013 TENTATIVE TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

WATER	PRIOR TO SEASON*	MARCH 14	APRIL 8	APRIL 11	APRIL 15	APRIL 18**	APRIL 25	MAY 2**	MID OCTOBER
STREAMS (SEASON OPENS 7:30 A.M., APRIL 6)									
Beaver Run	🐟			🐟	🐟				
Christina Creek	🐟			🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟		
Mill Creek	🐟			🐟					
Pike Creek	🐟			🐟					
White Clay Creek	🐟		🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟
Wilson Run	🐟			🐟	🐟	🐟	🐟***		
PONDS (SEASON OPENS 7 A.M., MARCH 2)									
Newton Pond	🐟	🐟							
Tidbury Pond	🐟	🐟							

* Prior to season: stocking includes trophy-sized rainbow trout (14 inches or greater) at all locations.
 ** April 18 and May 2: Brown trout averaging 11 inches will be stocked at locations listed.
 *** April 25: Stocking of 11 inch and trophy-sized rainbows to prepare for annual handicapped anglers fishing derby on April 27, 2013 in Wilson Run at Brandywine State Park. For details on the fishing derby, please call the park office at 302-577-3534.

It shall be unlawful for any person to stock any species of fish into the non-tidal public waters of this State without the written permission of the Director. This regulation does not prohibit the stocking of private impoundments.

EDUCATION

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 must successfully complete an approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat and/or Personal Watercraft (PWC) in Delaware. Approved courses are a State of Delaware sponsored course, a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary course, a U.S. Power Squadron course, Delaware Safety Council or any other state course which is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and DNREC.

Four Leading Causes of Boating Fatalities in Delaware Waters are:

1. Not wearing a PFD or wearing it unzipped
2. Collision (including PWC accidents)
3. Capsizing
4. Alcohol

ALCOHOL

Just as drinking and driving don't mix, drinking and boating are a dangerous combination. Sun, glare from the water, constant boat motion and boat vibration all contribute to boater fatigue. Add alcohol consumption and those problems are compounded. Additionally, alcohol affects balance and muscle coordination, causes tunnel vision and slows reaction time. It also affects reasoning and increases the tendency to take risks.

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is against the law and could result in fines up to \$1,000 for first offense and/or up to 60 days in jail. A blood alcohol content of 0.08 or greater constitutes being under the influence.

REGISTRATION, NUMBERING AND MARKING OF UNDOCUMENTED VESSELS

Vessels equipped with any type of motor must be registered in Delaware if principally used (a period of more than 60 days) in this State. The registration card or valid temporary registration card must be on board when the boat is in use.

For further information on boating registration call: (302) 739-9916.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)

In addition to the carriage requirements listed, a PFD must be worn by a child 12 years old or under while aboard a boat which is underway and all PWC riders. Current regulations require all vessels to carry a wearable Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person onboard and a throw cushion type IV for the boat, excluding boats less than 16'. The Boating Education Office suggests all vessels carry a type IV throwable with a line attached for casting, and that you wear your life jacket zipped.

NEGLIGENT OPERATION

Skippers on Delaware waters are legally responsible for damages to life, limb or property caused by his/her vessel. And, of course, negligent operation is illegal.

SAFE BOATING SPEED

The speed of all vessels on Delaware waters must be slow enough to prevent any wake of appreciable height when the vessels are within 100 feet of: "Slow-No-Wake" speed areas, docks, launching ramps, marked swimming areas, swimmers, anchored, moored, or drifting vessels.

Every year people are killed or seriously injured in boating accidents in Delaware's waters. All of these accidents were avoidable if the 'rules of the road' had been followed and safe boating practices had been adhered to. The Handbook of Delaware Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available at no cost by contacting the Enforcement Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife (1-302-739-9915) or through our website www.fw.delaware.gov.

The Enforcement Section of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for enforcing all of the safe boating laws as well as making sure that fish and shellfish size and creel limits are being followed. Some of the waters of the State are also patrolled by other authorities such as police officers and the U.S.

Coast Guard. Boaters approached by a patrol boat with its blue light flashing should reduce speed, yield the right of way to the patrol boat, or if necessary stop your vessel. The operator must stop when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer.

The safety equipment and requirements for Delaware boaters vary depending on the type and length of the vessel. Here is an example of what is required of a typical fishing boat from 16 to 26 feet in length. For a complete list of all requirements for all size vessels contact the Enforcement Section.

- Boater Safety Education Card (for all operators born after January 1, 1978). For information contact 739-9915 or go to our website.
- Valid Boat Registration Card
- Valid Boat Registration decal (displayed)
- Personal Floatation Device(s) – one of the appropriate size for each person on-board
- Type IV throwable PFD
- Type B-I Fire Extinguisher
- Flame Arrestor
- Ventilation System for fuel vapors
- Horn, Whistle, or Bell
- Visual Distress System (day and night)
- Navigational Lights

It is the responsibility of each vessel operator to observe the rules of the road and the carriage requirements. The Division recommends boaters wear their life jacket at all times while on the boat. Six out of ten boating fatalities could be prevented by boaters wearing their life jackets. The consistent use of life jackets will save more lives.

SURF FISHING

The Division of Parks and Recreation surf fishing beaches are located in Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware Seashore and Fenwick Island State Park, and on Beach Plum Island. Special restrictions and regulations apply to these areas. For more information contact the Division of Parks and Recreation, (302) 739-9220.

In order to drive a vehicle on a designated State Park beach, a SURF FISHING VEHICLE PERMIT is required. Only four-wheel drive vehicles with a minimum ground clearance of seven inches that are licensed to operate on public roadways are eligible for Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits. Permit holders must be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach. Permits are available at State Park offices, various license agents, and at the DNREC main office in Dover.

Purchasers of Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits will receive additional rules and safety requirements. The revenue collected from these permits supports the management of seashore State Parks and beaches. None of the proceeds from these permits go towards fisheries management programs or fishing access projects conducted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



Zach Pillarelli

Ben Smith landed the state record striped bass while surf fishing at Delaware Seashore State Park in 2012!

2013 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

DELAWARE'S RECREATIONAL SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

NON-TIDAL WATERS				
SPECIES		OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
	Largemouth bass	All year	12 inches; except 15 inches in Becks Pond	6; except 2 from Becks Pond
	Smallmouth bass	All year	None between 12 - 17 inches	6 (no more than 1 > 17 inches)
	Striped bass hybrid (Only occur in Lums Pond)	All year	15 inches	2
	Panfish (bluegill, pumpkinseed, redear, crappie, yellow & white perch)	All year	None	50 (no more than 25 of one species)
	Trout (special rules apply, pages 8 - 10)	Streams open 1 st Sat. in April Ponds open 1 st Sat. in March	None	6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)
TIDAL WATERS				
SPECIES		OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
	American eel	All year	6 inches	50
	American & hickory shad	Closed Nanticoke R. & its tribs.; Open all year elsewhere	None	10 in any combination
	Atlantic croaker	All year	8 inches	None
	Atlantic sturgeon	Closed - no harvest permitted (see page 23)		
	Black drum	All year	16 inches (DE River & Bay)	3 (DE River & Bay)
	Black sea bass	Jan. 1 - Feb. 28	12.5 inches	15
		May 19 - Oct. 14		25
		Nov. 1 - Dec. 31		25
	Bluefish	All year	None	10
	Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None
	Red drum	All year	20 - 27 inches may be retained	5
	River herring (alewife & blueback)	Closed - no harvest permitted		
	Scup	All year	8 inches	50
	Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	15
	Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None
	Striped bass	All year	28 inches, except only 20 - 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs (DE waters only).	2, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31
	Summer flounder	Jan. 1 - Oct. 23	18 inches	4
	Tautog	Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	15 inches	5
		April 1 - May 11		3
		July 17 - Aug. 31		5
		Sept. 29 - Dec. 31		5
	Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
	White perch	All year	8 inches	None
	Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 10	12 inches	2

2013 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

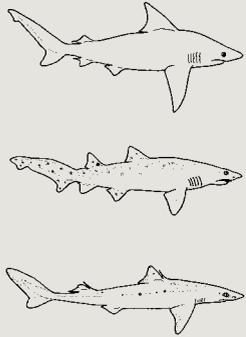
NOTE: A GENERAL FISHING LICENSE IS NOW REQUIRED TO FISH FOR BLUE CRABS AND CLAMS.

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches	1 bushel
		Soft-shell - 3.5 inches	
		Hard-shell - 5 inches	
Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	100/resident 50/non-resident
Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches (slot)	2; V-notched prohibited

SHARKS AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) – SPECIAL PERMIT MAY BE REQUIRED FOR FEDERAL WATERS

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
 Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None	None
 Blacktip shark, bull shark, great hammerhead, lemon shark, nurse shark, scalloped hammerhead, silky shark, smooth hammerhead, spinner shark, tiger shark	Jan. 1 -May 14	54 -inches FORK LENGTH	Boat anglers- only 1 shark of any species per vessel, except 1 additional bonnethead and 1 additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel. Shore anglers - only 1 shark of any species per angler, except 1 additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per shore angler.
	July 16 - Dec. 31		
 Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark	All year	54 -inches FORK LENGTH	
 Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark	All year	None	

PROHIBITED SPECIES

	Sandbar shark, sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark	The sandbar & sand tiger are toothed sharks commonly taken in the nearshore waters of the state and are prohibited. Like all prohibited species, they must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival.
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SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS FOR SHARK

- It is unlawful to fillet a shark prior to landing. A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the carcass.
- It is unlawful to release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival (i.e. no gaffs, no clubbing, careful hook removal, etc.).
- It is unlawful to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the shark.

TUNAS AND HMS – SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED

	Atlantic tunas, swordfish and billfish	*Special permit required - All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits.
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Sandbar and sand tiger shark images adapted from Compagno, L.J.V. 1984. FAO species catalogue. Vol. 4. Sharks of the World. Parts 1 & 2 available courtesy of www.fishbase.org. Lineart of other shark species from Bigelow, H.B. and W.C. Schroeder (1953) available courtesy of www.nefsc.noaa.gov/lineart/.

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NON-TIDAL FISHING ACCESS AREAS

AREA	LOCATION	ACRES	BOAT RAMP	SHORE FISHING
1	Becks Pond (No gas motors)	25	Yes	Yes
2	Garrisons Lake	86	Yes	Yes
3	Masseys Mill Pond	30	Unimproved	Yes
4	Moore's Lake	27	Yes	Yes
5	Derby Pond	23	Yes	Yes
6	Logan Lane Pond	2	No	Only
7	Mud Mill Pond	60	Yes	Yes
8	McGinnis Pond	31	Yes	Yes
9	Andrews Lake	18	Yes	Limited
10	Coursey Pond	58	Yes	Yes
11	McColley Pond	49	No	Limited
12	Tubmill Pond	5	Yes	Limited
13	Silver Lake (Milford)	29	No	Yes
14	Haven Lake	82	Yes	Limited
15	Griffith Lake	32	Yes	Yes
16	Blairs Pond	29	Yes	Yes
17	Abbotts Pond	17	Yes	Yes
18	Newton Pond (No gas motors)	10	Car top only	Yes
19	Waples Pond	51	Unimproved	Limited
20	Wagamons Pond	41	Yes	Yes
21	Hearns Pond	53	Yes	Yes
22	Concord Pond	77	Yes	Limited
23	Craigs Pond	12	Yes	Yes
24	Millsboro Pond	101	Yes	Limited
25	Ingrams Pond	24	Yes	Yes
26	Portville Pond	15	Yes	Limited
27	Records Pond	92	Yes	Pier
28	Chipman Pond	52	Yes	Yes
29	Horsey Pond	46	Yes	Yes
30	Tussock Pond	9	Yes	Limited
39	Fleetwood Pond	43	No	Limited
PARKS AND RECREATION ACCESS AREAS*				
31	Lums Pond	189	Yes	Yes
32	Killens Pond	75	Unimproved	Yes
36	Trap Pond	107	Yes	Yes
37	Trussum Pond	73	Car top only	No
38	Raccoon Pond	14	Car top only	Limited

*"Area" number refers to the numbered red or brown boxes on the Fishing Areas map (see map on page 17).

Access areas are closed from sunset until sunrise unless fishing.

*A seasonal or daily fee may be required at access areas administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

TIDAL FISHING ACCESS AREAS

AREA	LOCATION / WATER BODY	BOAT RAMP	FISHING PIERS	PARKING
1	7th Street Park / Christina, Brandywine and DE Rivers	Closed	1	24
2	Newport Boat Ramp / Christina River	♿ 2	1	54
3	Churchmans Road / Christina River	♿ 1	none	17
4	Fort DuPont State Park / DE River	♿ 3	none	135
5	Canal Wildlife Area / C&D Canal	none	♿ 8	along road
6	Augustine Beach / DE River	♿ 2	1	65
7	Odessa / Appoquinimink River	1	none	2
8	Collins Beach / DE Bay	♿ 3	1	120
9	Woodland Beach / DE Bay	1	♿ 1	50
10	Woodland Bch. / Duck Creek / DE Bay	2	none	18
11	Port Mahon / DE Bay	3	1	50
12	Water Street (Dover) / St. Jones River	car top	none	as available
13	Lebanon Landing / St. Jones River	1	♿ 1	7
14	Scotton Landing / St. Jones River	1	♿ 1	10
15	Bowers Beach / DE Bay	♿ 5	none	200
16	Cedar Creek / DE Bay	♿ 8	none	150
17	Front St., Milford / Mispillion River	♿ 1	1	10
18	Milton / Broadkill River	♿ 1	♿ 1 / 1	9 / 8
19	Lewes / DE Bay	♿ 6	none	128
20	Masseys Landing / Indian River & Rehoboth Bay	♿ 4	♿ 1	100
21	Rosedale Bch. / Indian River	♿ 2	♿ 1	30
22	Seaford / Nanticoke River	♿ 4	♿ 1	93
23	Phillips Landing/Broad Creek/ Nanticoke River	♿ 3	none	50
24	Edward R. Koch / Broad Creek (shoreline fishing only)	none	none	10
25	Laurel below Records Pond / Broad Creek	♿ 1	♿ 2	17
26	Assawoman Wildlife Area / Little Assawoman Bay	♿ 2	2	20
PARKS & RECREATION AREAS*				
33	Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier	none	♿ 1	75
34	Indian River Marina	♿ 2	No	40
	Indian River Inlet	none	along inlet	200
35	Holts Landing/ Indian River Bay	1	Yes	25

Area number refers to the numbered yellow or brown boxes on the Fishing Area map (see map on page 17).

Access areas are closed from sunset to sunrise unless you are fishing.

Note - All motor boats launched from tidal access areas administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate. Ramp certificates cost \$35 and are available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife or authorized agents (see page 25).

* A daily or seasonal fee may be required at areas administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

RECREATIONAL GILL NETS

Gear and seasonal restrictions apply to recreational gill nets and anyone obtaining a permit will be informed of these restrictions. During 2013, all gill nets must be removed from the Delaware Bay and Ocean on the following dates: May 1-5; May 10-12; May 17-19; May 24-27; May 31-June 2; June 7-9; June 14-16; June 21-30 in order to reduce weakfish mortality rates as required by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Weakfish Management Plan. Each closure period begins at 12:01 a.m. on the first day and ends at midnight on the last day. No striped bass caught in recreational gill nets may be retained at any time.

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INVASIVE SPECIES

There are several invasive species that anglers may run across in Delaware waters. We know about northern snakeheads, flathead catfish, and red swamp crayfish but want to get reports to document new sites. There is always the chance you may find something we don't know about so if you see something you feel is very unusual, please contact us at 302-739-9914. If you do catch any of the invasive species listed, do not return it to the water, but kill it and contact us. Document the catch by freezing it or taking a good photo. Check out our website (www.fw.delaware.gov) for more photos and information on invasive species.



Flathead catfish (INVASIVE)

Introduced flathead catfish have been shown to severely reduce native fish populations and crustaceans. Several individuals have been caught around the first dam in the Brandywine Creek and one from the C&D Canal. They are most easily recognized by their broad, flat head, brown mottled coloration, and lower jaw which sticks out further than the upper.



Red swamp crayfish (INVASIVE)

A large crayfish with distinctive red bumps on the claws. They often migrate over land during damp weather. They have been found in many locations within Delaware: Brandywine, Dover, Milton, and east of Smyrna. They often are found in stormwater basins within residential developments.



Blue catfish (INVASIVE)

These catfish are large, efficient predators that can grow to over 100 lbs. In some Virginia rivers, they now make up 75% of the fish population. They are slate blue with a deeply forked tail and have a straight edge on the anal fin (long fin in front of tail). In comparison, the channel catfish has a rounded (curving out) edge on the anal fin. Also, blue cats never have black spots like those on young channel cats. Blue cats have been found in the Nanticoke River just below the DE / MD line so they are heading to Delaware.



Northern snakehead (INVASIVE)

This fish has now been reported from: the Nanticoke River, Broad Creek, the Marshyhope, Nonesuch Creek, and Becks Pond. A young snakehead, likely from Becks Pond, was caught below Sunset Lake in fall 2012. It is long and cylindrical, with long dorsal and anal fins and a large mouth with many sharp teeth. Many bowfin (an unusual native species) have been killed and brought in as snakeheads. Be sure to check the photos to confirm the fish's identification. Bowfin have a short anal fin compared to the long one of the snakehead and adult males have a large "eyespot" at the top of the tail. Bowfin have been found in Dragon Run, C&D Canal, Brandywine Creek, and Nonesuch Creek.



Blue Catfish (INVASIVE) vs. Channel Catfish (NATIVE)

The invasive blue catfish (top) and a native channel catfish (bottom) — note the differences in the anal fins (yellow arrows).

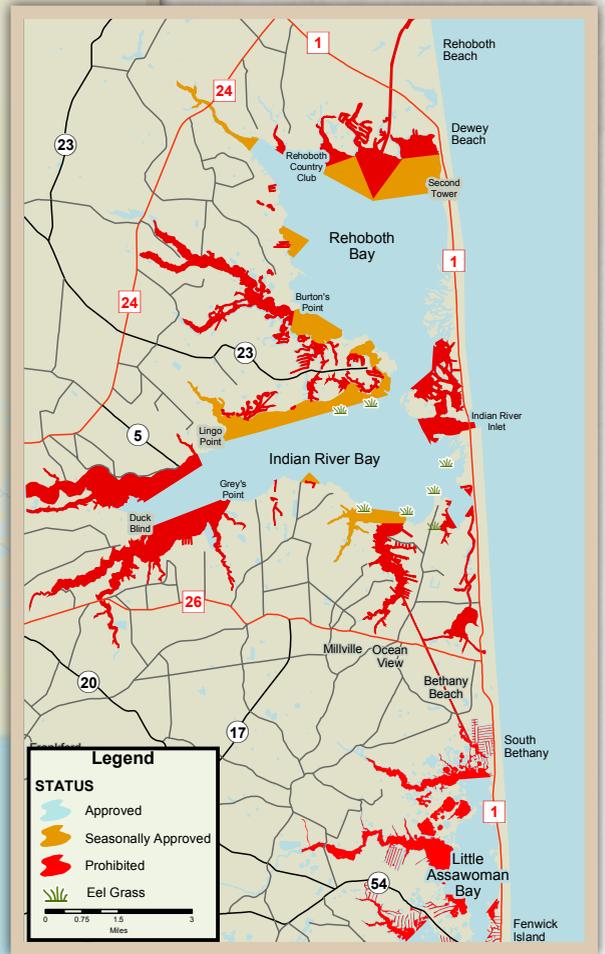
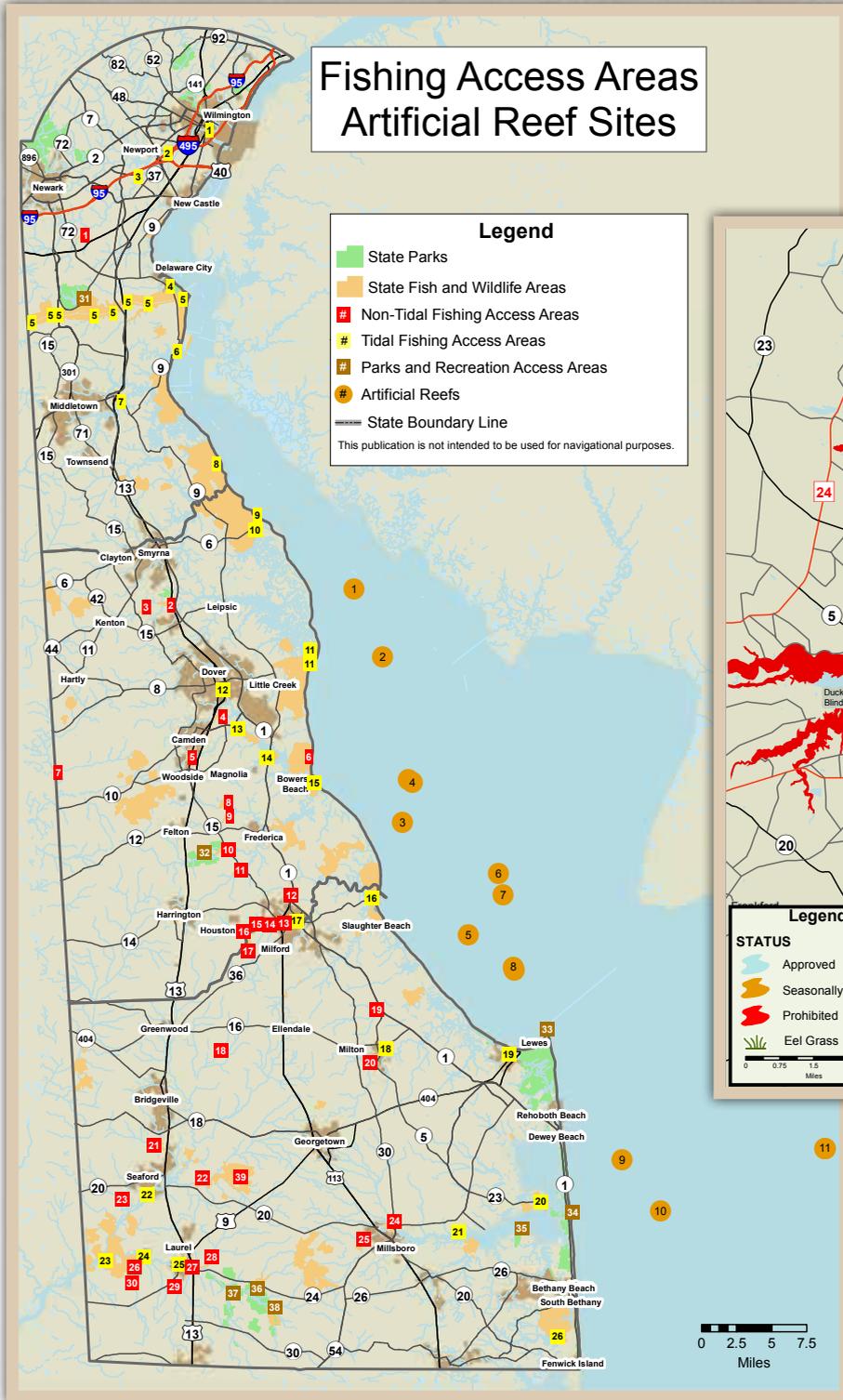


Bowfin (NATIVE)

The native bowfin has a short anal fin as compared to a Northern snakehead and males have an eyespot on upper tail. Please return this native safely to the water.

FISHING & CLAMMING MAPS

FISHING MAP



CLAMMING MAP

GENERAL TIDAL FISHING REGULATIONS

These are some of the regulations that all anglers should be familiar with. For a complete listing refer to the Division's website or request a copy from the Director's Office. See page 5 for license requirements.

STRIPED BASS SPAWNING SEASON

The spawning season for striped bass in Delaware is considered to begin at 12:01 a.m. on April 1 and continue through midnight on May 31 of each calendar year. It is unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass during the spawning season from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries to the north of a line extending due east beginning at and including the south jetty at the mouth of the C & D Canal, or the C & D Canal or its tributaries (see map on page 17). Catch and release only during this season; no harvest is allowed.

CIRCLE-HOOKS

It is unlawful for any person to fish during the striped bass spawning season on any striped bass spawning ground with natural bait using any hook other than a non-offset circle-hook when said hook measures greater than 3/8 inches as measured from the point of the hook to the shank of the hook.

The Division recommends that circle-hooks al-

ways be used when fishing natural baits because of their proven ability to reduce hook and release mortality for striped bass and other fish species. The circle-hook's design usually results in fish being hooked in the mouth, simplifying hook removal and reducing injury to the released fish.

POSSESSION LIMIT

A recreational angler may take no more than 2 striped bass per day (a period of 24 hours) from the tidal waters of this State at a minimum 28 inches unless otherwise authorized (e.g. spawning season or slot limit).

SLOT LIMIT SEASON

In 2009, the Division adopted a new slot-limit during July and August for striped bass anglers in Delaware waters of the Delaware River, Delaware Bay, and their tributaries. The existing 28-inch minimum size remains in effect in coastal areas.

AREA

Delaware waters only of the Delaware River and Bay and their tributaries. It does not apply to adjacent waters of Pennsylvania or New Jersey, nor does it apply to coastal waters, Indian River Inlet or the Inland Bays.

Season – July 1 – August 31

Size Limit – 20 inches to 26 inches (total length)

- Any striped bass less than or greater than the slot size must be released during this special season within the specified area. The 28-inch minimum size is in effect during all other months.

Limit – two (2) per angler

- Recreational hook-and-line fishermen only.

AMERICAN SHAD AND HICKORY SHAD

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession more than an aggregate of ten (10) American shad and hickory shad. Additionally, it shall be unlawful for any person to take and reduce to possession any American shad or hickory shad from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries.

RIVER HERRING

Both commercial and recreational river herring (blueback herring and alewife) fisheries are closed to harvest.

No person shall fish with any type of net, within 300 feet of any constructed dam or spillway on a tidal water river, stream, canal, ditch, or tributary located in this state.

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GENERAL TIDAL FISHING REGULATIONS

SUMMER FLOUNDER

It is unlawful for any person to have in possession any part of a summer flounder that measures less than the current minimum size limit between said part's two most distant points unless said person also has in possession the head, backbone, and tail intact from which said part was removed.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

It is legal for any person to fish in the tidal waters of this State with the aid of "lights used for illumination for visual purposes".

"Lights used for illumination for visual purposes" shall mean any light that is fixed in position anywhere directly above the hull or deck of a vessel, dock or shore area, or any electric flood light less than 500 watts and fixed in position no less than ten (10) feet directly above the surface of the water. An electric flood light is any electric light that does not have a focused beam.

COURTESY DOCKS

Crabbing, fishing or swimming from floating courtesy docks at any Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife boat ramp is prohibited.

ARTIFICIAL REEF PROGRAM

Delaware has eleven permitted artificial reef sites in Delaware Bay and along the Atlantic Coast. Development of these sites began in 1995 and will continue. The Delaware Reef Program is one part of a comprehensive fisheries management effort and is designed to enhance fisheries habitat, benefit structure-oriented fish, and provide fishing opportunities for anglers.

The site charts in the free reef guide show where reef materials have been deployed since 1995. The reef program uses DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) to accurately place materials on site. Locations (latitude - longitude) noted for each site indicate the position of deployments of reef material from an anchored barge. In the case of large, concentrated reef deployments, a latitude or longitude range, may be given such as: N 39 15.377'-402'. This indicates material occurs between 39 degrees, 15.377 to 15.402 minutes north latitude. Due to variability between DGPS receivers, slight variations in readings may occur. It is suggested you use your GPS and a good fathometer to locate reef structure, then note the coordinates on your own GPS. You can view the reef guide on-line or contact the Fisheries Little Creek field office for a copy (302) 735-2960.



The "Gregory Poole" a 175-foot minesweeper, later used in the Atlantic menhaden fishery, was sunk in 2007 on the DEL-JERSEY-LAND inshore reef site. This site hosts a community of fish including sea bass, ocean pout, hake, flounder, bluefish and tuna.

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SHARKS, CLAMMING AND OYSTERS

Sharks are managed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the regulations are complex. For more detailed information contact the NMFS or visit www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/. State regulations are subject to any changes in federal regulations. Please consult www.fw.delaware.gov for the latest changes in state regulations. See page 13 for more information on shark seasons, sizes, and daily limits.

COMMON DELAWARE SHARKS

The sand tiger, sandbar, smooth dogfish and spiny dogfish are the most commonly caught shark species in Delaware. Sandbar and sand tiger sharks are of special significance to the Delaware Estuary and its anglers. Delaware Bay is an important "pupping area" and nursery for sand tiger sharks, and they are commonly hooked. Due to their low reproductive rate and overfishing, both species are protected and **none may be retained**. No hook and line fisherman may remove from the water any sandbar shark, or any other prohibited species of shark. In addition, any sandbar shark or other prohibited species of shark must be immediately released in a manner that will ensure the maximum probability of survival.

Sand Tiger Shark (prohibited species) - Sand tigers are gray-brown to tan with dark splotches and lengths to 10.5 ft. First and second dorsal

fins are nearly equal in size. Teeth are long, curved and not serrated.

Sandbar Sharks (prohibited species) - Sandbar sharks are dark gray to brown on back, fading almost to white on the belly. This heavy-bodied shark has broad and triangular teeth with a large first dorsal fin that begins at a point located at the middle of the pectoral fin. Upper teeth are broad and triangular. Recent research has shown that large sandbar sharks are susceptible to internal injuries from deep hooking. When releasing sandbar sharks, do not remove these sharks from the water to prevent internal injuries.

Spiny Dogfish (no recreational limit) - The spiny dogfish is easily identified by a thorny spine located at the leading edge of both the

first and second dorsal fins. Teeth are small and bent toward corners of mouth. It is commonly caught in cold water by anglers targeting mackerel or striped bass.

Smooth dogfish (no recreational limit) - This is the most common shark found in Delaware. Smooth dogfish are typically caught during the warmer seasons. The smooth dogfish, known locally as the sand shark, is a harmless species. Teeth are low and flat with plate-like arrangement. Gray to gray-brown and ranging up to 5 feet in length, this shark has large first and second dorsal fins, with "sandpaper-like" teeth.

CLAMMING

METHODS OF TAKE AND LIMITS

A fishing license is required to harvest clams in waters of the State of Delaware. See page 5 for details.

It shall be unlawful for any person to attempt to take, catch, kill or reduce to possession any hard clams with a device other than a hand-held rake with a head no wider than fourteen (14) inches measured perpendicular to the tines and a straight handle not in excess of seven (7) feet in length.

It is unlawful to harvest hard clams from one-half hour after sunset through one-half hour before sunrise.

It is unlawful for any resident to harvest more than one hundred (100) clams per day unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

It is unlawful for any non-resident to harvest more than fifty (50) hard clams per day

unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

No shellfish harvesting (excluding crabs) is allowed in the **Prohibited Areas** marked on the map on page 17 or any tidal river, stream, or impoundment of the state. This includes all non-tidal and impounded water as well. Shellfish harvesting is allowed from December 1 through April 15 in the **Seasonally Approved Areas**. This is your protection against contracting shellfish-borne diseases. This is also the law. All boundaries may be marked with signs and or buoys saying "No Shellfish Harvesting" or "Prohibited Shellfish Area". Questions regarding these closures should be directed to the Watershed Assessment Section Shellfish and Recreational Waters Programs 302-739-9939. Clamming is prohibited in eel grass beds marked with white PVC pipes and signs.

CLEAN WATER

How's My Waterway

How's My Waterway (www.epa.gov/mywaterway) helps users quickly find information on the condition of their local waters using a smart phone, tablet, or desktop computer. This tool provides results within seconds using EPA's water quality assessment data. Check out the condition of your local waterbody today!

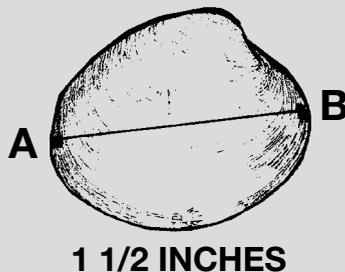


Photo shows an algae bloom.



Minimum Hard Clam Size

The minimum size for a hard clam is 1 1/2 inches from point A to point B.



OYSTERS

RECREATIONAL HARVEST PROHIBITED

It is unlawful to recreationally harvest oysters in Delaware. This prohibition protects vulnerable oyster populations and protects you against contracting a shellfish-borne disease.

BLUE CRABS

BLUE CRABS

Effective January 1, 2008 a fishing license is required to crab in all waters of the State of Delaware.

The blue crab is common in all the tidal waters of Delaware. It is a popular recreational resource and tops the list of the State's economically important marine fish and shellfish.

Blue crabs grow very quickly and reach maturity in 12 to 18 months. Most do not live beyond two years under current exploitation levels.

In order to grow, a blue crab must shed its shell and form a new shell. This process is repeated up to 18 times to attain maximum length. It is legal to take crabs at three stages, but to get the most yield in weight out of a crab, they should reach a minimum length before being harvested. This is measured from point to point of the top shell.

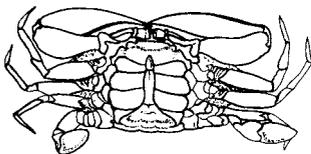
The minimum size for male blue crab is 5 inches. Mature females (sooks) are identified

by the rounded apron on their under side. Once this stage of development is achieved, females stop growing. Because a portion of the female population does not reach five inches before achieving maturity, the minimum size requirement has been dropped. Females bearing eggs, commonly known as sponge crabs, may not be taken and should be returned to the water immediately.

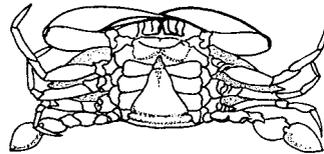
Recreational crabbers may not use, place, set or tend more than two pots. The person claiming to own the pots must be the one to set and tend them. These pots must be marked with all white buoys with the owner's full name and permanent mailing address inscribed either on the buoy or on a waterproof tag attached to the buoy. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours. All crab pots must be removed from the water between December 1 and February 28. Recreational crabbers may use

a trot line (no length limit) and any number of hand lines or traps. The recreational daily limit is one bushel per person.

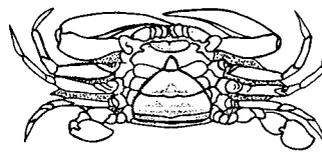
A turtle by-catch reduction device is required to be attached in each funnel entrance of a recreational crab pot to reduce the possibility of diamondback terrapins entering and drowning. A by-catch reduction device is a rigid rectangular frame of plastic or metal that measures 1.75 inches x 4.75 inches and is available at local tackle shops, or can be hand-made from heavy (>11 gauge) wire or other suitable material.



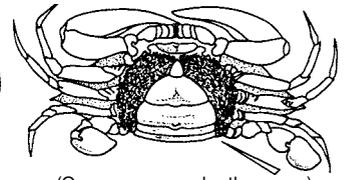
Jimmy
Mature Male



She-crab
Immature Female

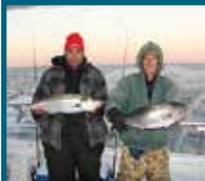


Sook
Mature Female



(Orange eggs under the apron)

Sponge Crab
Female with Eggs



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SPORT FISHING TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. The Sport Fishing Tournament is open to the public. There is no entry fee. Charter boat captains are eligible. Weighmasters are eligible to enter, provided their fish are weighed in at a weighing station other than their own.
2. All fish except those caught beyond the three-mile limit in the Atlantic Ocean entered in the Tournament must be caught within the boundaries of the State of Delaware. Any fish caught outside the three-mile territorial sea must be landed in a vessel leaving from a Delaware port and returning to a Delaware port.
3. All fish entered in the tournament must be weighed at an official Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament Weigh Station.
4. All fish entered in the tournament must be caught in a sporting manner with hook and line. No other person may touch the rod or line until the fish is brought within the grasp of the mate.
5. All scales used to weigh in fish must be certified yearly by the Delaware Division of Weights and Measures (Department of Agriculture 739-4811).
6. All fish entered in the tournament must meet the minimum weight requirement as set up for this year's tournament.
7. No smallmouth bass will be recognized from Kent or Sussex Counties unless Division of Fish and Wildlife qualified personnel examine and approve the catch.
8. **A fish will not be recognized as a state record unless qualified personnel from the Division of Fish and Wildlife approve the catch.** In case no Division personnel are available at the time of the weigh-in, the angler must save the entire fish for examination and approval at the earliest convenient time for the Division.
9. In the case of a tie for the largest fish of the year or a new state record, both fish will be recognized.
10. To replace a record for a fish weighing less than 25 pounds, the replacement must weigh at least 2 ounces more than the existing record. To replace a record for a fish weighing 25 pounds or more, the replacement must weigh at least one-half of 1 percent more than the existing record. Example: at 100 pounds the additional weight required would be 8 ounces. Any catch that exceeds the existing record by less than the amount required to defeat the record will be considered a tie.
11. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any entry.
12. All entry forms must be filled out completely and in a legible manner by the weighmaster. The signed forms should be mailed in **by the angler**.
13. The tournament runs from January 1 - December 31. No entry forms for the previous tournament year will be accepted after 4:30 p.m. January 31.
14. Only one citation per species of fish will be issued to any individual during the tournament year. In the event an individual catches a larger fish than the one for which he originally was issued a citation, a new citation will be issued for the **larger** fish if the individual returns the older citation.
15. Only one saltwater award and one freshwater award will be issued to any one individual during the tournament year.
16. Special citations will be issued upon approval of the Tournament Director in the case of unusual catches or extenuating circumstances. If the weigh station feels the catch is rare or unusual, an entry form should be submitted for approval. All decisions by the Director on unusual species will be final.
17. Citations will be awarded for released white or blue marlin. Fill out the standard entry form except for length, weight, and girth and include a signature and telephone number of a witness to the catch other than the angler and captain. Any marlin kept for taxidermy also will be eligible for Tournament entry provided a taxidermist receipt is enclosed with the entry form. Marlin retained for any purpose other than mounting will not be eligible for entry in the Tournament.
18. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any weigh station if the Tournament rules are not observed.
19. Hybrid striped bass will only be recognized for entry when caught in non-tidal water.
20. The State of Delaware assumes no responsibility in the certification of a catch for consideration by the International Game Fish Association or any record keeping body other than the Delaware Sportfishing Tournament. If the angler wishes to qualify his/her catch for consideration in some other tournament, it is the responsibility of the angler to insure that his catch and weigh-in meets the appropriate criteria. The Delaware Sportfishing Tournament makes no distinction based on line classes or sex of the angler or fly versus conventional fishing gear.
21. Call (302) 735-2960 for tournament information.

LIVE RELEASE AWARDS

In order to promote conservation ethics among Delaware anglers, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is providing recognition patches to anglers who catch and release live eligible species that exceed the minimum lengths specified. To qualify, an angler must make the catch in Delaware waters or off Delaware's Atlantic coast line. The eligible species must be measured from the tip of the jaw to the tip of the tail (straight line measurement with mouth closed) and this measurement must be verified by a witness who signs the entry form. The fish so measured must be released immediately. Fish kept either alive or dead and brought to a weigh station will be weighed for entry in the Sport Fishing Tournament using certified scales and will not be eligible for a Live Release Award. Only those fish released alive immediately shall be eligible for a Live Release Award. Billfish released alive are eligible for either the Live Release Award or the Sport Fishing Tournament Award, whichever one the angler chooses.

No angler will be issued more than one live release freshwater award and one live release saltwater award per year, although he or she may apply for and receive one of the live release citations for each eligible species.

Applications for Live Release Awards are available on-line or may be picked up at any Sport Fishing Tournament Weigh Station and must be mailed to the Division of Fish and Wildlife within 30 days after the catch. The entry form for live releases must include both the angler's signature and the signature of a witness to the actual measurement and live release of the fish. No fish entered for a Live Release Award will be eligible for consideration as a State record fish. All potential State record fish must be weighed at a certified Weigh Station.



J. Jacobini

SPORT FISHING TOURNAMENT

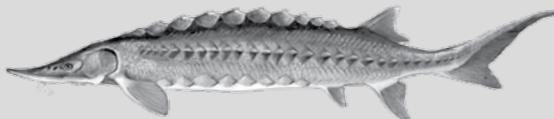
MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS

FRESHWATER FISHES		
SPECIES	WEIGHT (LBS.)	LENGTH* (INCHES)
Largemouth bass	5	20
Smallmouth bass	2 ¹	17
Striped bass	30	40
Striped bass hybrid ²	5	22
Bluegill	1	10
Carp	15	29
Catfish	6	25
Crappie	1	12
White perch	1	12
Yellow perch	1	12
Chain pickerel	4	24
American shad	5	23
Trout	2	16
Redear sunfish	1	10
SALTWATER FISHES		
False albacore	12	26
True albacore	30	32
Black sea bass	3	17
Striped bass	30	40
Bluefish	14	33
Atlantic croaker	3	19
Dolphinfish	15	41
Black drum	50	45
Red drum	do not qualify	45
Flounder	7	25
Kingfish	1	13
Atlantic mackerel	2	17
King mackerel	10	36
Spanish mackerel	5	22
Blue marlin	Any	Any
White marlin	Any	Any
Scup (porgy)	2	14
Shark (excl. Mako)	100	66
Mako shark	100	66
Sheepshead	8	22
Swordfish	Any	Any
Tautog	7	25
Blueline tilefish	10	28
Golden tilefish	35	40
Gray triggerfish	5	20
Yellowfin or bigeye tuna	70	48
Bluefin tuna	100	60
Wahoo	20	50
Weakfish (Sea trout)	3	20

* For Live release award only
 1 - Must be 17 inches or longer
 2 - Must be taken from non-tidal waters

BE ON THE LOOKOUT

Have You Seen a Sturgeon Lately?



If you find a dead sturgeon please report it immediately by calling: **302-735-8650**.

Don't forget to include an exact location and contact information in your message.

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STATE RECORD HOLDERS

See page 22 for more information on the Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament

SPECIES	WEIGHT	ANGLER	YEAR
SALTWATER			
False albacore	20 lbs.	Christian Anderson	2008
True albacore	80 lbs.	David Francella	1987
Black sea bass	7 lbs. 6 ozs.	Steve Samluk	1988
Striped bass	52 lbs.	Benjamin Smith	2012
Bluefish	21 lbs. 15 ozs.	Bill Thoroughgood	1980
Cod	44 lbs.	John Osborne	1975
Atlantic croaker	5 lbs. 3 ozs.	Catherine Simpson	1980
Dolphinfish	52 lbs. 15 ozs.	Charles Ciociola	2003
Black drum	115 lbs.	Kenneth Smith	1978
Red drum	75 lbs.	James Vandetti	1976
Flounder	17 lbs. 15 ozs.	William Kendall	1974
Kingfish	4 lbs.	Billy Hastings	1973
Atlantic mackerel	3 lbs. 5 ozs.	Ricky Yakimowicz	1985
King mackerel	48 lbs. 9 ozs.	Gordon Harris	1992
Spanish mackerel	6 lbs. 4 ozs.	Eric Ludwig	2000
Blue marlin	820 lbs.	Bruce King	1986
White marlin	120 lbs.	William Garner Jr.	1972
Scup	5 lbs. 5 ozs.	Herman Schmidt	1979
Shark	825 lbs.	Brent Thomas	1981
Mako shark	975 lbs.	Thomas Barnes	2000
Sheepshead	15 lbs. 11 ozs.	Christopher H. Wentz	2012
Swordfish	276 lbs. 12 ozs.	Albert Scott	1978
Tautog	21 lbs. 4 ozs.	Glenn Cave	2005
Gray triggerfish	6 lbs. 5 ozs.	Buddy J. Masten	2012
Tuna	873 lbs.	Dan Dillon	2005
Wahoo	98 lbs.	Jeff Murtoff	2003
Weakfish	19 lbs. 2 ozs.	William Thomas	1989

SPECIES	WEIGHT	ANGLER	YEAR
FRESHWATER			
Largemouth bass	10 lbs. 10 ozs.	James D. Hitchens	2012
Smallmouth bass	4 lbs. 15.5 ozs.	Jerry Proffitt	1989
Striped bass hyb.	13 lbs. 13 ozs.	Earl Blevins	1990
Bluegill	2 lbs. 10 ozs.	Arnold Harmon	1998
Carp	45 lbs.	Ronald Burnett	1976
Catfish	23 lbs. 6 ozs.	William Ridgley	1992
Crappie	4 lbs. 9 ozs.	Marvin Billips	1976
Tiger musky	15 lbs. 2 ozs.	Richard Harris	1991
White perch	2 lbs. 9 ozs.	Wayne Hastings	1997
Yellow perch	2 lbs. 11 ozs.	Marvin Kessinger	1976
Chain pickerel	7 lbs. 3 ozs.	Earl Messick	1972
American shad	6 lbs. 12 ozs.	Bayard Conaway	1972
Trout	11 lbs. 10 ozs.	Edwin Wallace	1997
Walleye	6 lbs. 14 ozs.	Nesbit Copenhaver	1995
Redear sunfish	3 lbs. 1 ozs.	Marty Messick	1998

LIVING CONSERVATION

James D. Hitchens is a man that is clearly living conservation. On March 22, 2012, Mr. Hitchens went down to his favorite fishing hole in lower Delaware expecting good things, but he may never have imagined just how good. Using a live shiner, Mr. Hitchens landed a 10 pound, 10 ounce largemouth bass measuring 26 inches long and 18 ³/₄ inches in girth! The fish broke a highly coveted state record that had endured since 1980. Most remarkable was that he and the folks at Taylored Tackle Shop in Seaford successfully kept the fish alive and Mr. Hitchens safely returned his prized catch to the waters from which it came. On behalf of all Delaware anglers, congratulations on a fine catch and thank you for your outstanding measure of conservation Mr. Hitchens.



WEIGH STATIONS AND/OR BOAT RAMP CERTIFICATE SALES

All motor boats launched from Division of Fish and Wildlife-administered tidal access areas (page 15) must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate (\$35) from DNREC or its authorized agents.

AUTHORIZED OUTLET/ WEIGH STATION	CITY	PHONE (302)	WEIGH STATION	BOAT RAMP CERTIFICATE
NEW CASTLE COUNTY				
Joseph Janvier	Middletown	836-9545	yes	no
Shooters Supply	New Castle	328-6242	yes	no
Delaware Bass Stalkers	Newark	737-2691	yes	no
Eastern Marine	Newark	737-6603	yes	yes
Capt. Bones Bait, Tackle & Seafood	Odessa	378-4200	yes	no
Rudy's Outboard Service	Wilmington	999-8735	no	yes
KENT COUNTY				
Donovan's Dock	Bowers Beach	335-3500	yes	yes
Sonny's Bait & Tackle	Bowers Beach	335-2990	yes	yes
Smith's Bait Shop	Leipsic	744-9140	yes	yes
Division of Fish & Wildlife	Dover	739-9916	no	yes
Carlisle's Marine	Smyrna	389-0100	no	yes
SUSSEX COUNTY				
Hook'em & Cook'em	Bethany	539-6243	yes	no
Vines Creek Marina	Dagsboro	732-6043	yes	no
Indian River Outfitter	Dagsboro	732-3210	yes	no
Rehoboth Bay Marina	Dewey Beach	226-2012	yes	no
Fenwick Tackle	Fenwick	539-7766	yes	no
Sam's Fishing Tackle	Greenwood	424-0197	yes	no
Williamsville Country Store	Houston	422-4455	yes	no
Hook'em & Cook'em	Indian River	226-8220	yes	yes
A&R Bait & Tackle	Lewes	645-6111	yes	no
Fisherman's Wharf	Lewes	645-8862	yes	no
Henlopen Bait & Tackle	Lewes	645-8106	yes	yes
Lewes Harbour Marina	Lewes	645-6227	yes	yes
Steamboat Landing	Lewes	645-6500	yes	no
Bayroad Discount Bait & Tackle	Lewes	945-1995	yes	no
Bills Sport Shop	Lewes	645-7654	yes	yes
Cedar Creek General Store	Lincoln	424-4568	yes	no
Rick's Bait & Tackle	Longneck	945-9245	yes	no
Cedar Creek Marina	Milford	422-2040	yes	no
Cedar Creek Bait & Tackle	Milford	422-4227	yes	yes
Hi-Way Bait & Tackle	Milford	335-5087	yes	yes
Taylor Marine	Milford	422-9177	yes	no
Bayside Marina	Millsboro	945-3440	no	yes
PotNet Seaside Bait & Tackle	Millsboro	945-7798	yes	no
Massey's Landing	Millsboro	945-2544	yes	no
Short's Marine	Millsboro	945-1200	no	yes
Dan's Tackle Box	Milton	684-3093	yes	no
Bob's Marine Service	Ocean View	539-3711	no	yes
Indian River Marina	Rehoboth	227-3071	yes	yes
Old Inlet Bait & Tackle Inc.	Rehoboth	227-7974	yes	no
CH McKinney's	Rehoboth	227-8800	no	yes
Taylor'd Tackle Shop	Seaford	629-9017	yes	no
Walkers Marine	Seaford	629-8666	no	yes
Capt. Mac's Lighthouse Bait & Tackle	Selbyville	436-2445	yes	no
Route 113 Boat Sales	Selbyville	436-1737	no	yes
Adams Wharf	Slaughter Beach	422-8940	yes	no

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

WATERBODY	SPECIES	CONTAMINANT OF CONCERN	GEOGRAPHICAL EXTENT	MEALS/YR (8-OUNCE SERVING)
All Waters not listed below	All Species not listed below	All	All Areas not listed	52
Delaware River	All Finfish	A, B, C, D	Delaware State Line to the C&D Canal	0
Lower Delaware River and Delaware Bay	Weakfish-all sizes;	A	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	12
	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A		12
	Striped Bass, White Perch, American Eel, White Catfish, Channel Catfish, Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	1*
Delaware Atlantic Coastal Waters including Delaware Inland Bays	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	12
	Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	1*
Shellpot Creek	All Finfish	A	Governor Printz Blvd. to the Delaware River	0
Army Creek and Pond	All Finfish	A, B, G	Entire Creek and Pond	2
Red Lion Creek	All Finfish	A, B	Route 13 to the Delaware River	1
Chesapeake & Delaware Canal	All Finfish	A, E, F, H	Entire Canal in Delaware	0
Appoquinimink River	All Finfish	A, B	Tidal Portions	1
Drawyers Creek	All Finfish	A, F	Tidal Portions	1
Silver Lake Middletown	All Finfish	A, E, F, B	Entire Lake	1
Waples Pond	All Finfish	C	Entire Pond	12
Prime Hook Creek	All Finfish	C	Entire Creek	12
Slaughter Creek	All Finfish	A,G	Entire Creek	6
Saint Jones River	All Finfish	A, B, C	River Mouth to Silver Lake Dam	2
Moore's Lake	All Finfish	A, F	Entire Pond	2
Silver Lake Dover	All Finfish	A, B, C	Entire Pond	2
Wyoming Mill Pond	All Finfish	A, B, F	Entire Pond	2
Tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Baynard Blvd	0
Non-tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A, B	Baynard Blvd. to Pennsylvania Line	6
Tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E	River Mouth to Smalley's Dam	0
Non-tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E, H	Smalley's Dam to DE/MD Line	6
Tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Route 4	0
Non-tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	Route 4 to DE/PA Line	12
Red Clay Creek	All Finfish	A, B, D	State Line to Stanton	6
Little Mill Creek	All Finfish	A	Creek Mouth to Kirkwood Highway	0
Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A, E	Rittenhouse Park to DE/MD Line	6
Designated Trout Streams & Ponds other than Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A	Designated Trout Streams are listed on page 10	12

Notes:

* Women of childbearing age and children should not consume any amount of these fish.

For more information on the specific contaminant(s) of concern for each waterbody listed, consult the Division's website (www.fw.delaware.gov) or contact DNREC at (302) 739-9902, or the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

Contaminants of concern:

A) PCBs, B) Dioxin, C) Mercury, D) Chlorinated pesticides, E) Dieldrin, F) DDT, G) Furan, and H) Chlordane.

FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

Fishing is an important activity in Delaware's inland and coastal waters. Among the benefits provided by fishing are quality recreational opportunities, direct and indirect input to the local economy, food for recreational anglers, and food for the commercial marketplace. Fish are a good source of readily digestible protein. They are low in fat and sodium, and the unique types of fats found in fish are believed to provide cardiovascular benefits.

Despite the general benefits of fishing and fish consumption, there are also health risks associated with consuming some locally caught fish. Certain toxic chemicals such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury persist in

the environment and accumulate in fish. When you eat the fish, you also ingest these chemicals. In cases where the health risk is elevated to recreational anglers and their families, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), in cooperation with the Department of Health and Social Services' Division of Public Health (DPH), issue fish consumption advisories to inform the public of the situation. The most recent fish consumption advisories for Delaware waters are shown on the accompanying table. These advisories are intended to protect public health and hence are conservative.

Although the list of waters and fish species

under advisory is extensive, monitoring shows that contaminant concentrations in the fish are slowly improving over time in many cases. This is the result of steady progress in cleaning up the sources of the contamination along with natural processes. DNREC and DPH will continue to monitor contaminant levels in fish over time and issue new or revised fish consumption advisories as appropriate.

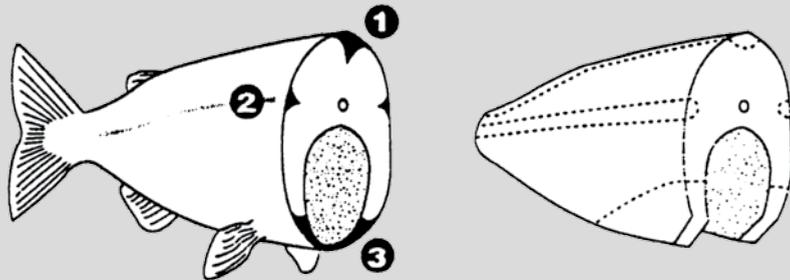
For more information concerning health advisories for Delaware waters, go on-line or contact the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546. For more information on balancing health risks and health benefits of consuming seafood, visit <http://seafoodhealthfacts.org>.

CUTTING THE FAT

Toxic chemicals tend to concentrate in the fatty tissue found in the:

- 1) dorsal area.
- 2) lateral line.
- 3) belly flaps.

When cleaning fish, always skin it and trim away fatty areas shown by the dotted line.



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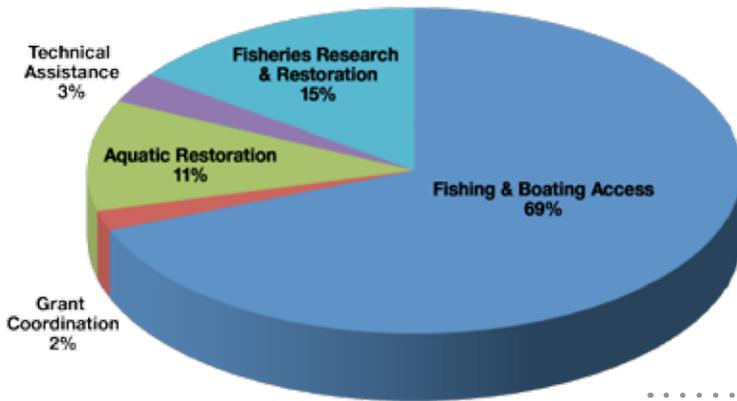


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WHERE DO YOUR FISHING LICENSE DOLLARS GO?

Your license and trout stamp purchases allow the Division to secure additional federal Sport Fish Restoration funds used for fisheries research, maintenance and construction of fishing areas, and aquatic education. Please note that anglers exempted from purchasing a fishing license may voluntarily purchase a license and/or trout stamp to support these activities. The Division is grateful to anglers that contribute to our mission in this way. For more information, please visit us at www.fw.delaware.gov/fisheries.

2013 'TAKE A KID FISHING' DAYS!

Do you know a child or young teen who might enjoy learning about fishing and trying their hand at landing a fish? The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's *Take a Kid Fishing!* program is designed for these budding young anglers, with dates coming up right around the corner!

Sponsored by the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's Aquatic Resource Education Center, *Take a Kid Fishing!* teaches young people fundamental fishing skills and conservation. Along with the angling, these free-admission days also feature activity stations and prizes. Participants should plan to arrive by 10 a.m., when experienced instructors will begin educational activities, followed by plenty of fishing. Fishing equipment will be provided, but participants may want to pack a picnic lunch. Catch and release is encouraged for young anglers landing fish.



TAKE A KID FISHING! DAYS ARE SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING SATURDAYS:

April 20 at the Aquatic Resource Education Center in Smyrna 10AM-1PM

May 18 at Abbots Mill Nature Center in Milford 10AM-1PM

June 8 at Wyoming Pond in Wyoming 10AM-1PM (Celebrating National Kids Fishing Month along with the Enforcement Section's Annual Youth Fishing Tournament!)

June 15 at Wilmington State Parks (Father's Day fishing event) 10AM-1PM

* While the events are free, participants 16 years and older must have a current Delaware fishing license and a FIN number to fish.

MORE EVENTS AND LOCATIONS TO COME!!

Participation in the program is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. To get more information on our *Take a Kid Fishing!* program, please call Tess Belcher at 302-735-8656 or email Theresa.Belcher@state.de.us.

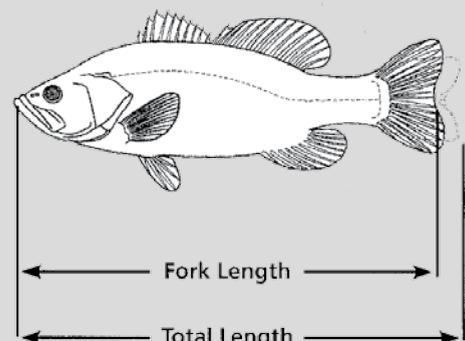
This program is part of Delaware's Children in Nature Initiative, a statewide effort to improve environmental literacy in Delaware, create opportunities for children to participate in enriching outdoor experiences, combat childhood obesity and promote healthy lifestyles. Delaware's multi-agency initiative, which partners state and federal agencies with community organizations, is in conjunction with the national No Child Left Inside program.

MEASURING YOUR CATCH

Place the fish on a measuring board or stick with the tip of the jaw or snout (the mouth closed) at the end of the instrument. Hold the head down with one hand to keep the fish in place, pinch the upper and lower lobes of the tail together while swiping the tail back and forth across the board. Note the measurement of the longest part of the tail*; that is the "total length". Keep in mind that fish which barely make the minimum length may shrink after being on ice for an hour or more. Sometimes it is possible to get an accurate measurement while the fish is still in the landing net.

***When measuring black sea bass do not include the long caudal fin filament in your measurement of total length.**

Maryland DNR





FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The Division of Fish and Wildlife held its second annual Fishing Photo Contest in 2012. Photograph entries were required to depict youth participating in fishing activities in Delaware.

The judges reviewed 52 entries and narrowed them down to the top five. Judges were looking for photos that best portrayed this year's contest theme, "Carrying on the Tradition." The three judges were nationally-renowned Delaware photographer Kevin Fleming, and local photographers Tony Pratt and Freda Barrett, both DNREC employees.

First place was awarded to Joseph Corning of Felton for this photograph of granddaughter Emily Bonavita. The photo, which appears on the cover, is titled "Em's First Fish". Clutching a bright pink fishing rod, Emily excitedly shows off her first catch, a bluegill that she caught at McGinnis Pond.

Brandy Myers of Millsboro was awarded second place for her photo of Lauren Myers who is learning the ins and outs of a fishing rod from her grandfather, Robert Cox, at Bethany Beach. The honorable mentions are presented below.



1st Place

Awarded to Joseph Corning of Felton for this photograph of his granddaughter **Emily Bonavita**. She excitedly shows off her first catch, a bluegill that she caught at McGinnis Pond.

2nd Place

Awarded to Brandy Myers for her photo of **Lauren Myers** who is learning the ins and outs of a fishing rod from her grandfather, Robert Cox, at Bethany Beach.



In addition, three honorable mentions were selected and are presented here:



Dillon Koster
Photo by David Koster



Seth Reynolds & Carl Lileberg
Photo by Ruth Reynolds



Finn O'Donnell
Photo by Sean O'Donnell

Congratulations to all the winners!

For information about future contests, visit www.fw.delaware.gov.

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