## Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits 2017 Quick Reference

		D-9-1-1			
	Her.	Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Non - tidal Waters		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)	Opens first Saturday in April	None	6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)
		American eel	All year	9 inches	25
		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 permi	itted
		Black drum	All year	16"	3
		Black sea bass	May 15 - Sep. 21 Oct. 22 - Dec. 31	12.5"	15 15
	THE STATE OF THE S	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 permitte	d
		Scup	All year	8 inches	50
	Jeditor .	Spanish mackerel	All year	14 inches	15
		Spotted seatrout	All year	12 inches	None
/aters		Striped bass	All year	28 - 37" or 44" and greater, except only 20 - 25" fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs.	2, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31
Tidal Waters		Summer flounder	All year	17"	4
		Tautog	Jan 1 - Mar 31 April 1 - May 11 July 17 - Aug. 31 Sept. 29 - Dec 31	15" 15" 15" 15"	5 3 5 5
		Tilefish (Blueline & Golden)	All year	None	7 In any combination
		Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
		White perch	All year	8 inches	None
		Winter flounder	Feb. 11 - Apr. 10	12 inches	2
		Shark, tuna & billfish		Refer to back	

Note: A general fishing license is	Blue crab	Pots: Mar. 1 - Nov. 30; other gears year around	Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches Hard-shell - 5 inches	1 bushel
now required to fish	Conch (Knobbed)	All year	6" / 3.5" whorl	5 bushel
for blue crabs and	Conch (Channeled)	All year	6" / 3.125" whorl	5 bushel
clams	Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	100/resident; 50/non- resident
	Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches	2; V-notched prohibited

-	2015 Sharks and Highly Migratory Species (HMS)						
			Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit	
Sharks *- Special permit may be required for federal waters			Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None	None	
			Blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, nurse shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	54 inches FORK LENGTH	<b>Boat anglers</b> - only 1 shark of any species per vessel, except 1 additional	
	leral waters		Great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	78 inches FORK LENGTH	bonnethead and 1 additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel.  Shore anglers - only 1 shark of any species per angler, except 1 additiona bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per shore	
	quired for fed		Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark	All year	54 inches FORK LENGTH	angler.	
	it may be re		Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark	All year	None		
	Sharks *- Special perm		Sandbar shark, sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef 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.	
			Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark	SPECIES PROH	IBITED		

## **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







Tunas and HMS\* - Special permit required

Atlantic tunas, swordfish and billfish



