










Recreational Fishing Size, Seasons, And Creel Limits For 2008


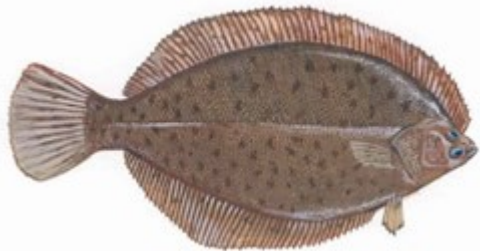



A [license is now required](#) for hook and line recreational fishing in Delaware tidal waters.







It is illegal to fish for any species of game fish (see Gamefish and General Fishing Restrictions) with more than two hooks and lines, and each hook and line shall have no more than three separate lures with hooks.



(Images provided as a courtesy and/or purchased from artist Duane Raver and the US Fish & Wildlife Service)

2008 Recreational Fishing Size, Seasons, and Creel Limits			
Species	Recreational Minimum Size Limit	Recreational Season	Recreational Creel Limit per Angler
American Eel 	6"	Open Year Round	50
Bass, Black Sea 	12"	Year Round	25
Bass, Largemouth 	12"	Open Year Round	6
Derby Pond	None between 15"-18"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>18"
Hearns Pond	None between 15"-18"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>18"
Andrews Lake	None between 12"-15"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>15"
Becks Pond	15"	Open Year Round	2
Bass, Smallmouth	None between & including 12" & 17"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1>17"

			
Bass, Striped 	(Non Tidal) 15" (Tidal) 28"	Open Year Round**	2 by hook and line only
Bass, Hybrid Striped	15" Non-tidal	Open Year Round**	2- non-tidal; no limit in tidal water
Blue Crabs Blue Crab	5" Hard; 3.5" Soft; 3" Peeler	Open Year Round	1 Bushel
Bluefish 	None	Open Year Round	10
Clams, Hard 	1.5" Wide	Open Year Round@	500 w/permit; 100 – resident; 50 - non-resident
Croaker, Atlantic 	8"	Open Year Round	None
Drum, Black	None	Open Year Round	None
Drum, Red 	20-27", none > 27"	Open Year Round	5

Flounder, Summer 	18" until 2008 regulations are finalized.	Open year round until 2008 season is finalized.	4 until 2008 limit is finalized.
Flounder, Winter 	12"	Open Feb. 11 – April 10	10
Horseshoe Crabs	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	NONE MAY BE TAKEN	NONE MAY BE TAKEN
Lobster 	3 3/8" Carapace length; female maximum length 5 1/2" until 2008 regulations are finalized.	Open Year Round	none; 2 per diver
Mackerel, Spanish 	14"	Open Year Round	10
Panfish	None	Open Year Round	50; but no more than 25 per species
River herring (blueback & alewife)#	None	Open Year Round	10 combined species
Shad (Hickory and American)*** 	None	Open Year Round, Closed Nanticoke River & its tributaries	10 combined species
Shark	54" fork length; except no limit for dogfish species	Open Year Round	1 per vessel per day; 1 per person per day from shoreline or pier; no limit for dogfish species

 Complete Shark Regulations			
Spot	None	Open Year Round	None
Weakfish (Sea Trout) 	13"	Open Year Round	6
Spotted Seatrout 	12"	Open Year Round	None
Sturgeon, Atlantic 	-	CLOSED	-
Tautog 	April 1 - May 11: 15" July 1 - Aug. 31: 14" Sept. 29 - March 31: 14"	May 12-June 30* Sept. 1-28 * New closure this year.	3 (April 1 - May 11) 10 (July 1 - Aug. 31) 10 (Sept. 29 - March 31)
Trout (Freshwater) 	None	Opens first Saturday in April	6 (4 in restricted streams); 6 in ponds

<p>White Perch</p> 	8" (Tidal water)	Open Year Round	None in tidal water, 25 in fresh water
<p>Scup</p> 	8"	State Waters* Open Year Round	50

*State waters include the Delaware River and Bay, Coastal Bays, and Atlantic Ocean out to 3 miles. Federal Waters include the Atlantic Ocean beyond 3 miles from the Delaware Shore.

**Striped bass recreational season is closed on the spawning grounds (Nanticoke River, C&D Canal, and Delaware River and their respective tributaries north of the southern most jetty at the C&D Canal) during April and May. On the spawning grounds, all striped bass must be released & circle-hook regulations apply. Striped Bass are not permitted to be retained if taken with a recreational gill net.

*** American shad and hickory shad (species combined) daily limit 10; catch and release only in the Nanticoke River and its tributaries.

River herring and alewife 10-fish limit, aggregate of fish.

- Finfish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail.
- Blue crabs are measured tip to tip on the back (Females with eggs are protected, females with U-shaped apron have no size limit).
- Lobster carapace length is measured from rear of eye socket to rear of body shell.