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2020

# DELAWARE FISHING GUIDE



FISHING PHOTO

## CONTEST WINNERS

See page 32



### NEW for 2020

- Designated Trout Waters extended in Pike Creek
- Improved Fishing & Boating Access
- Purchase a Delaware Recreational Fishing License Plate
- Two new State Records
- Two new Elite Anglers named



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## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE



Over the years, I have addressed in this column numerous ways the Division of Fish & Wildlife works to improve and maximize your Delaware fishing experience. These services put your fishing license dollars to work for you, and include using science and regulations to manage sustainable fish populations, creating artificial reef habitats, providing first-class fishing and boating access to our many waterways and improving our popular Sport Fishing Tournament.

An important and often overlooked part of delivering quality fishing and fishing access for you is our dedicated fisheries program staff. These individuals have a passion for fish biology, fisheries

management and providing fishing access that helps you spend quality time on the water. They live and breathe fish and fishing, both professionally and personally. It is a way of life and in their DNA. So the next time you make a successful catch or otherwise enjoy a day fishing, take a moment and thank our fisheries program staff.

The Division of Fish & Wildlife and its dedicated and passionate staff are committed to providing you quality fishing opportunities and experiences, as *We Bring You Delaware's Great Outdoors through Science and Service*.

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

David E. Saveikis

# FISH & WILDLIFE DIRECTORY

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Governor

## DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

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## DIVISION OF FISH & 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 and Delaware Administrative 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](http://www.fw.delaware.gov)

## DIRECTORY

### DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE - [WWW.FW.DELAWARE.GOV](http://WWW.FW.DELAWARE.GOV)

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| F.I.N. number .....                     | (800) 432-9228 |
| F.I.N. Helpline.....                    | (866) 447-4626 |
| 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 |
| Recreational Fishing Licenses .....     | (302) 739-9918 |

### FISH & WILDLIFE ENFORCEMENT SECTION

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| New Castle County.....                   | (302) 836-4682 |
| Kent County.....                         | (302) 739-6139 |
| Sussex County.....                       | (302) 855-1901 |
| <b>24-hour hotline (KENTCOM)</b>         |                |
| for reporting violations, problems ..... | (800) 523-3336 |
| Boating Safety.....                      | (302) 739-9915 |
| Ramp Certificates.....                   | (302) 739-9916 |
| Boat Registration.....                   | (302) 739-9916 |

### GENERAL INFORMATION

|   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Freshwater Trout Program .....                          | (302) 739-9914                  |
| Non-tidal Fishing ....                                  | (302) 735-2960 / (302) 735-8650 |
| Tidal Fishing.....                                      | (302) 739-9914 / (302) 735-2960 |
| Fish Consumption Advisories .....                       | (302) 739-9914                  |
| Division Public Health.....                             | (302) 744-4546                  |
| Artificial Reef Program .....                           | (302) 735-2960                  |
| Fishing / Boating Access Areas .....                    | (302) 739-9914                  |
| Clamming.....   | (302) 735-2960                  |
| Shellfish Health & Safety, Closures.....                | (302) 739-9939                  |
| Crabbing .....  | (302) 735-2960                  |
| State Record  |                                 |
| Fish Verification...                                    | (302) 735-2960 / (800) 523-3336 |
| Fish Kills & Environmental Emergencies/Complaints ..... | (800) 662-8802                  |



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## About This Guide

This high-quality 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.

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# 2020 LICENSE FEES

## 2020 LICENSE / STAMP FEES

| LICENSE CATEGORY                                    | RESIDENT | NON-RESIDENT |
|---|----------|--------------|
| <b>General Fishing License</b>                      | \$8.50   | \$20.00      |
| <b>7-day Tourist Fishing</b>                        | NA       | \$12.50      |
| <b>*Boat License 20 ft or less<br/>(optional)</b>   | \$40.00  | \$40.00      |
| <b>*Boat License more than 20 ft<br/>(optional)</b> | \$50.00  | \$50.00      |
| <b>Head Boat License</b>                            | \$300.00 | \$600.00     |
| <b>Charter Boat License</b>                         | \$150.00 | \$300.00     |
| <b>Guide/Fishing</b>                                | \$100.00 | \$300.00     |
| TROUT STAMP   | RESIDENT | NON-RESIDENT |
| <b>Young Angler (12-15)</b>                         | \$2.10   | \$6.20       |
| <b>Adult (16-64)</b>                                | \$4.20   |              |

**\* 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.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2020

- In 2019 two individuals met the qualifications as ‘Elite’ anglers and are named on page 26. For more information on how to qualify, see page 24. Give it shot in 2020!
- New state records for False Albacore and catfish were established in 2019. See page 28 for details.
- The Designated Trout Waters for Pike Creek have been extended. See page 8 for more details.
- New regulations will likely be necessary for several saltwater species in 2020. The electronic version of Delaware’s fishing guide, available at [www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov), is updated to reflect such regulatory changes as they occur.
- Anglers and boaters should be aware that shellfish aquaculture leasing has started in Delaware’s Inland Bays. For more information on lease marking, see page 16.
- A new Fishing & Boating Access site is open on the Little River in the Town of Little Creek. In addition, major renovations were made to the Millsboro Pond and Phillips Landing Fishing & Boating Access Areas. A kayak/canoe launch and transient boat dock and bank fishing opportunities are now available at Woodland Wharf. See pages 14, 15 & 17 for location information.

## 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:**  
<http://de.gov/pondbook>.

## FISH FACTS

Hey, having trouble identifying your catch? Want to know a good bait to use to catch a certain species? Need to find out what the current state record is for a species? Check out our “Fish Facts” page with loads of helpful information on over 180 species of fish and shellfish you can catch in Delaware waters. Just type [fishspecies.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://fishspecies.dnrec.delaware.gov) in any browser and click on a category. Many folks keep it bookmarked on their smartphone for quick access. Enjoy!

## BEFORE YOU FISH

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

- Purchase a 2020 Delaware fishing license and keep it with you while fishing (page 5).
- Get a free 2020 FIN number (automatically generated with the purchase of an individual license) and keep it with you while fishing (page 5).
- If fishing for freshwater trout get a 2020 trout stamp and affix it to your license (page 8).

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

- Abide by size and possession limits.
- Be aware of area and seasonal closures.

### 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.

## 2020 FREE FISHING DAYS!

In celebration of National Fishing and Boating Week, June 6-14, 2020, the Division has designated June 6 and 7 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware’s waters without a fishing license.



# FISHING LICENSE INFORMATION

## FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS AND FIN NUMBER

A general fishing license is required for fishing, crabbing, or clamping 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), from over 85 licensing agents located throughout the state, or online by accessing [www.fw.delaware.gov](http://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 Delaware 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](http://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 ac-

count 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 6).

## 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 overcrowded.



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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.
- » Persons 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.

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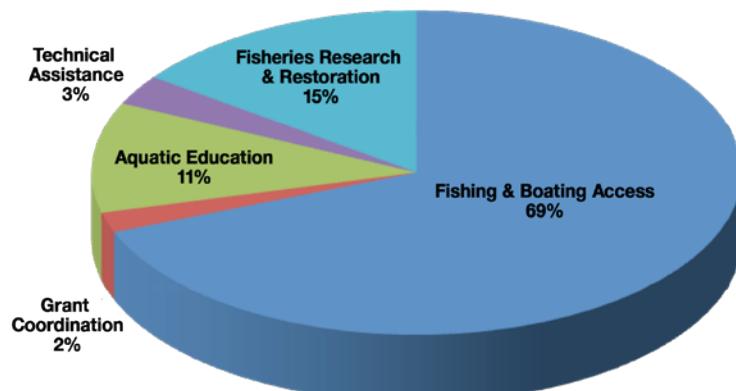
## DUPLICATE LICENSES

Duplicate licenses may be printed two times free of charge by visiting [www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov). Select Licenses, Permits and Registrations and the Lost Your Recreational License? For more information contact the Recreational Licensing Office at (302) 739-9918.

## FISHING LICENSE DOLLARS

### 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](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/fisheries).



# 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.

## SPEED AND WAKE OF MOTORBOATS ON DIVISION PONDS

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vessel, except at a **slow-no-wake speed**, on any pond or lake administered by the Division.

## CLEAN WATER

### How's My Waterway

How's My Waterway ([www.epa.gov/mywaterway](http://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.

## NEW LICENSE PLATES

Purchase a Delaware recreational fishing specialty motor vehicle license plate to show your passion and support for sport fishing in Delaware. There is a one-time purchase price of \$95, \$80 of which will be used to promote recreational fishing in Delaware and to support fisheries research, habitat restoration, and fish stocking. The new fishing plates can be ordered by mail. An application and ordering instructions are available online at <https://tinyurl.com/DEFishplate>.



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► Obtain a FIN Number  
► Boat Fishing Licenses  
► Seasonal Renewal Reminders

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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         |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| <b>Under 12</b>    | No              | No                       | No            | No          |
| <b>12 thru 15</b>  | No              | Yes                      | No            | No          |
| <b>16 thru 64</b>  | Yes             | No                       | Yes           | Yes         |
| <b>65 and over</b> | No              | No                       | No            | Yes         |
| <b>Fee</b>         | <b>\$8.50</b>   | <b>\$2.10</b>            | <b>\$4.20</b> | <b>NONE</b> |
| NON-RESIDENT / AGE | FISHING LICENSE | YOUNG ANGLER TROUT STAMP | TROUT STAMP   | FIN         |
| <b>Under 12</b>    | No              | No                       | No            | No          |
| <b>12 thru 15</b>  | No              | No                       | Yes           | No          |
| <b>16 and over</b> | Yes             | No                       | Yes           | Yes         |
| <b>Fee</b>         | <b>\$20.00</b>  |                          | <b>\$6.20</b> | <b>NONE</b> |

**It is unlawful for any person to transport, purchase, possess, or sell walking catfish (*Clarias 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.**

## PIKE CREEK

### Designated Trout Waters

The Designated Trout Waters on Pike Creek now extend from the crossing of the Route 72 bridge to the crossing of the Route 2 (Kirkwood Highway) bridge, opening a nice stretch of water that meanders through the White Clay Creek State Park — Judge Morris Estate to trout stocking.



## 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. 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 2020 freshwater trout season at Tidbury (Kent County) and Newton (Sussex County) Ponds opens at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday March 7, 2020.

The 2020 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday April 4, 2020.

**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 DNREC 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, 2020.

## SPECIAL FLY FISHING ONLY SECTION (RESTRICTED TROUT STREAM)

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 water).

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 water). 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.

## 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](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/TROUTStamp.aspx)



## 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).

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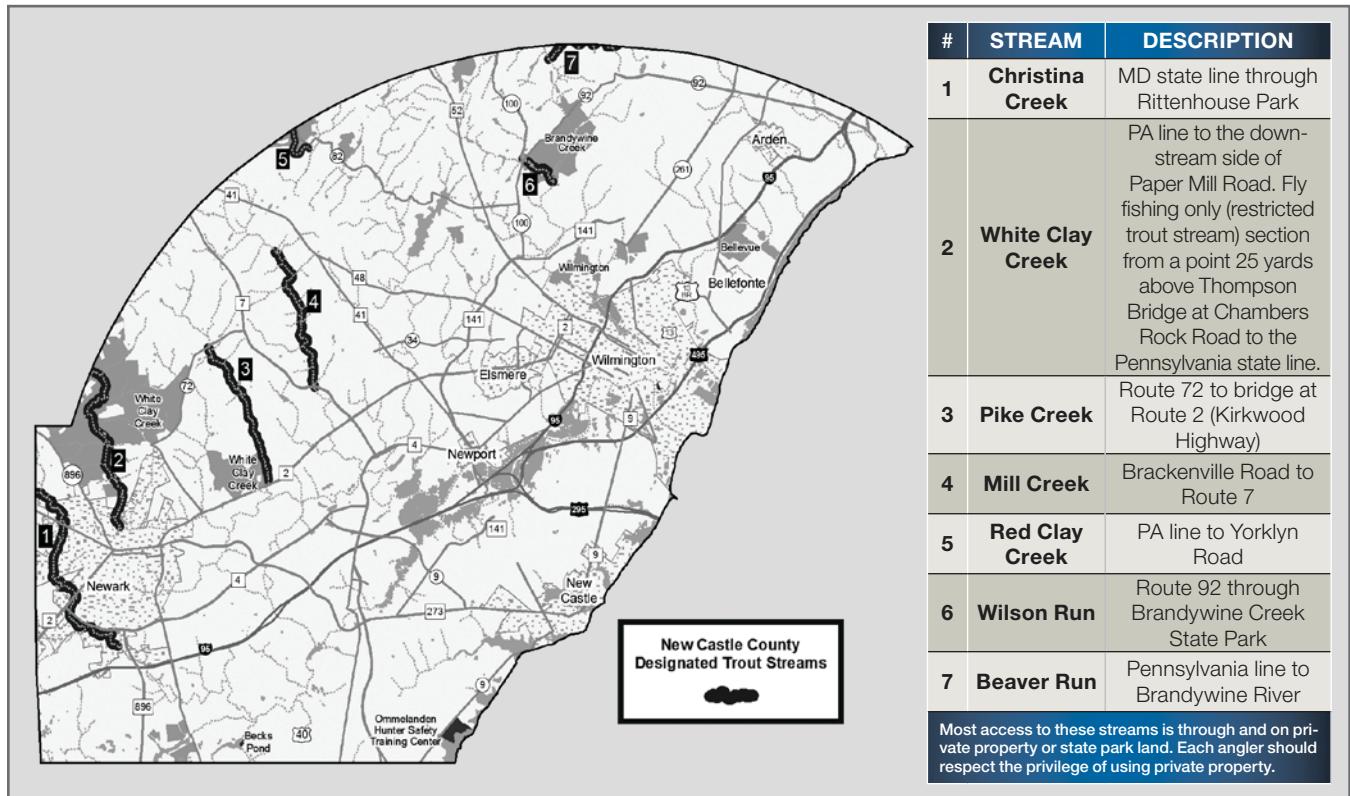
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# FRESHWATER TROUT FISHING



## 2020 TENTATIVE TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

| WATER                                     | PRIOR TO SEASON* | MARCH 19 | APRIL 6 | APRIL 9 | APRIL 13 | APRIL 16 | APRIL 23 | APRIL 30 | MID OCTOBER |
|---|------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|
| STREAMS (SEASON OPENS 7:00 A.M., APRIL 4) |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Beaver Run                                |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Christina Creek                           |                  |          |         |         |          | **       |          |          |             |
| Mill Creek                                |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Pike Creek                                |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Red Clay Creek                            |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| White Clay Creek                          |                  |          |         |         |          | **       |          | **       |             |
| Wilson Run                                |                  |          |         |         |          | **       |          | ***      |             |
| PONDS (SEASON OPENS 7 A.M., MARCH 7)      |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Tidbury Pond                              |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |
| Newton Pond                               |                  |          |         |         |          |          |          |          |             |

\* Prior to season: stocking includes trophy-sized rainbow trout (14 inches or greater) at all locations.

\*\* April 16 and April 30: Brown trout 11 inches or greater will be stocked at locations listed.

\*\*\* April 23: Stocking of 12-13 inch and trophy-sized rainbows to prepare for the annual anglers fishing derby for anglers with special needs and senior citizens on April 25, 2020 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.**

# BOATING SAFETY

## PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs)

A PFD must be worn by a child 12 years old or under while aboard a vessel which is underway. All PWC riders and anyone being towed must wear a PFD. Current regulations require all vessels to carry a wearable PFD for each person onboard. A throw able PFD is also required on vessels, excluding those less than 16'. The Office of Boating Safety & Education suggests all vessels carry a throw able with a line attached for casting, and that you wear your life jacket as it is meant to be worn, and at all times.

## 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 The Office of Boat Registration at: (302) 739-9916 OR visit <https://de.gov/boatreg>

## 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.

# DELAWARE SMALL BOAT EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

| EQUIPMENT   | CLASS A<br>(LESS THAN 16 FEET)   | CLASS 1<br>(16 FEET TO LESS THAN 26 FEET)  |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Annual registration fee  | \$20.00  | \$40.00  |
| 2. Decals & boat number   | Display properly on bow  | Display properly on bow  |
| 3. Personal flotation Device (PFD)*Must be serviceable (see below)  | One approved wearable PFD for each person on board   | One approved wearable PFD for each person on board plus one throwable PFD.   |
| 4. Whistle  | One hand, mouth or power operated, and audible at least one half (1/2) mile  | One hand, mouth or power operated, and audible at least one half (1/2) mile  |
| 5. Fire Extinguisher Portable   | One type B-1, if carrying passengers for hire, or if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors. | One type B-1, if carrying passengers for hire, or if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors. |
| 6. Ventilation At least two ventilator ducts fitted with cowls or equivalent, if boat construction will permit entrapment of flammable vapors.  |  |  |
| 7. Atlantic Ocean, Delaware Bay and Delaware River South of Artificial Island—U.S. Coast Guard regulations require all vessels to carry day and night distress signaling devices. Outboard motorboats less than 16' in length are exempt from daytime requirements. |  |  |

\* Test for serviceability of PFD—All PFD's must be readily accessible, in serviceable condition, legibly marked with approval number of the U.S. Coast Guard and be of appropriate size. PFD's must have flotation material without rot or being waterlogged, un torn or damaged coverings and straps in good condition.

## TAKE A BOATING EDUCATION COURSE

Those persons born on or after January 1, 1978 must take an approved boating education course before operating a motorized vessel, to include personal watercraft (PWC). Contact the Office of Boating Safety & Education for more information on taking a classroom course at: (302) 739-9915 OR find their online course options by visiting <http://de.gov/boatsafety>

Delaware Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police are responsible for enforcing all of the safe boating laws in Delaware. To report violations and accidents call their 24 hour dispatch line at: (302) 739-4580.

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## DELAWARE'S VOLUNTEER GUARDIANS



## SAFE BOATING CLASSES

### AND VESSEL INSPECTIONS

#### •USCG CERTIFIED SAFE BOATING CLASSES



VISIT: [www.uscg.safe.boating.course.safety](http://www.uscg.safe.boating.course.safety)

or: [www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Pages/FWPortal.aspxpx](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov/fw/Pages/FWPortal.aspxpx)

#### •USCG AUX CERTIFIED VESSEL INSPECTIONS

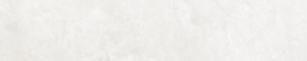
VISIT: [www.uscg.safe.boating.course.safety](http://www.uscg.safe.boating.course.safety)



USCG DISTRICT 5NR  
SECTOR DELAWARE BAY



## 2020 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

| NON-TIDAL WATERS  |   |  |  |   |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| SPECIES   |   | OPEN SEASON  | MINIMUM SIZE   | DAILY LIMIT   |
|    | <b>Largemouth bass</b>  | All year   | 12 inches; except 15 inches in Becks Pond  | 6; except 2 from Becks Pond   |
|    | <b>Smallmouth bass</b>  | All year   | None between & including 12 - 17 inches  | 6 (no more than 1 > 17 inches)                                      |
|    | <b>Striped bass hybrid</b><br>(Only occur in Lums Pond)                     | All year   | 15 inches  | 2   |
|    | <b>Panfish</b> (white perch, yellow perch, crappie, bluegill & pumpkinseed) | All year   | None   | 50 (no more than 25 of one species)                                 |
|    | <b>Trout</b> (special rules apply, pages 8 - 10)                            | Streams open 1st Sat. in April<br>Ponds open 1st Sat. in March           | None   | 6 (4 in fly-fishing only waters)                                    |
| TIDAL WATERS (Changes expected for species listed in RED)                           |   |  |  |   |
| SPECIES   |   | OPEN SEASON  | MINIMUM SIZE   | DAILY LIMIT   |
|    | <b>American eel</b>   | All year   | 9 inches   | 25  |
|    | <b>American &amp; hickory shad</b>  | Closed Nanticoke R. & its trib.; Open all year elsewhere                 | None   | 10 in any combination   |
|    | <b>Atlantic croaker</b>   | All year   | 8 inches   | None  |
|    | <b>Atlantic sturgeon</b>  | Endangered - no harvest permitted (see also page 25)                     |  |   |
|   | <b>Black drum</b>   | All year   | 16 inches  | 3   |
|  | <b>Black sea bass</b>   | May 15 - Dec. 31   | 12.5 inches (excluding caudal filament)  | 15  |
|  | <b>Bluefish</b>   | All year   | None   | 10  |
|  | <b>Catfish</b> (any species)  | All year   | None   | None  |
|  | <b>Cobia</b>  | TBD  |  |   |
|  | <b>Red drum</b>   | All year   | 20 - 27 inches may be retained   | 5   |
|  | <b>River herring</b> (alewife & blueback)                                   | Closed - no harvest permitted  |  |   |
|  | <b>Scup</b>   | All year   | 8 inches   | 50  |
|  | <b>Spanish mackerel</b>   | All year   | 14 inches  | 15  |
|  | <b>Spotted seatrout</b>   | All year   | 12 inches  | None  |
|  | <b>Striped bass</b>   | All year, except catch & release only on spawning grounds Apr 1 - May 31 | 28 - 35 inches; except, 20 - 25 inches only from Jul 1 - Aug 31 in DE Bay, River and their tributaries | 1, except catch & release only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31 |
|  | <b>Summer flounder</b>  | All year   | 16.5 inches  | 4   |
|  | <b>Tautog</b>   | Jan. 1 - May 15  | 16 inches  | 4   |
|   |   | July 1 - Dec. 31   |  | 4   |
|  | <b>Tilefish</b> (Blueline & Golden)   | All year, HMS permit required in Federal Waters                          | None   | 7 in any combination  |
|  | <b>Weakfish</b>   | All year   | 13 inches  | 1   |
|  | <b>White perch</b>  | All year   | 8 inches   | None  |
|  | <b>Winter flounder</b>  | Feb. 11 - Apr. 10  | 12 inches  | 2   |

## QUICK REFERENCE

# 2020 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

| SPECIES   | OPEN SEASON                  | MINIMUM SIZE                | DAILY LIMIT                     |           |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Blue crab<br>  | See page 23 for more details | Peeler - 3 inches           | 1 bushel                        |           |
|   |                              | Soft-shell - 3.5 inches     |                                 |           |
|   |                              | Hard-shell - 5 inches       |                                 |           |
| Jonah crab<br> | All year                     | 4 3/4 inches                | 50                              |           |
| Hard clams<br> | All year                     | 1.5 inches                  | 100/resident<br>50/non-resident |           |
| Lobster<br>    | All year                     | 3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches (slot) | 2; V-notched prohibited         |           |
| Conch<br>See page 22 for details  | Knobbed whelk                | All year                    | 5 inches / 3 inch whorl         | 5 bushels |
|   | Channeled whelk              | All year                    | 6 inches / 3.125 inch whorl     | 5 bushels |

### SHARKS, TILEFISH AND HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES (HMS) - SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR FEDERAL WATERS

| SPECIES  | OPEN SEASON   | MINIMUM SIZE                         | DAILY LIMIT  |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|--|
|   | Smoothhound and spiny dogfish   | All year                             | None   |
|   | Blacktip shark, bull shark, lemon shark, nurse shark, silky shark, spinner shark, tiger shark | Jan. 1 - May 14<br>July 16 - Dec. 31 | 54 inches FORK LENGTH  |
|   | Great hammerhead, scalloped hammerhead, smooth hammerhead                                     | Jan. 1 - May 14<br>July 16 - Dec. 31 | 78 inches FORK LENGTH  |
|   | Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark                 | All year                             | 54 inches FORK LENGTH, except shortfin mako is 83 inches - female / 71 inches - male (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 species. Like all prohibited species, they must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival. |
|---|---|---|

### 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.). A non-offset, corrosion-resistant, non-stainless steel circle hook must be used when fishing for shark, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures.

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 hmspermits.noaa.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information and permits. |
|---|--|---|

## SURF FISHING

The Division of Parks and Recreation surf fishing beaches are located in Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware Seashore State Park 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.



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



## 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     | Moores 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    | Portsville 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      | 88  | Yes          | Yes     |
| 37 | Trussum Pond   | 73  | Car top only | No      |
| 38 | Raccoon Pond   | 14  | Car top only | Limited |
| 39 | Smithmill Pond | 1.1 | No           | Yes     |

\* 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 RAMPS (LANES) | 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               | ♿ 2           | along road/lots |
| 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              |
| 27                                    | Little Creek / Little River                           | ♿ 1                | 1             | 21              |
| 28                                    | Woodland Wharf / Nanticoke River                      | ♿ kayak/ canoe     | bank          | 6               |
| 29                                    | Piney Point / Pepper & Vines Creeks                   | 0                  | bank          | as available    |
| <b>PARKS &amp; RECREATION AREAS**</b> |   |                    |               |                 |
| 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 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 29).

\*\* 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. In addition, during 2020, all recreational gill nets must be removed from the Delaware Bay and Ocean on the following dates: May 1-10, May 15-17, May 22-24, May 29-31, June 5-7, June 12-14, June 19-21, and June 25-30 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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# BE AWARE

Please help us track invasive fish by reporting your catch at  
<http://bit.ly/reportinvasivefish> or use your phone to scan the QR code!



## Flathead Catfish

Flathead catfish are most easily recognized by their broad, flat head, brown mottled coloration and lower jaw which sticks out further than the upper.



## Blue Catfish

The invasive blue catfish (on top), and a channel catfish (lower) can be differentiated by spreading out the anal fin and looking for a straight or lobed appearance.



## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Be A Good Steward. Clean. Drain. Dry.  
[StopAquaticHitchhikers.org](http://StopAquaticHitchhikers.org)

**CLEAN** all visible aquatic plants from watercraft and trailers as well as waders and boots.

**DRAIN** equipment (boat bilge, ballast tanks, bait containers, motor) before leaving any water access area.

**DISPOSE** of unwanted live bait (minnows, worms) in the trash.

**REPORT:** In most cases, new fish species that are introduced into our waters don't survive or present a problem. But some may flourish and potentially cause ecological or economic harm. When there is harm, these species are called invasive. Currently, we have several species in our waters that we are tracking as potentially invasive and the department could use your help to document new sites. If you catch something you feel is unusual, **please send an e-mail to [DNRCEFisheries@delaware.gov](mailto:DNRCEFisheries@delaware.gov) or call 302-739-9914.** If you catch a Northern snakehead, blue catfish or flathead catfish please do not return it to the water, but kill it and contact us. Document the catch by freezing it or taking a good photo.

## Northern Snakehead (Mature)

Northern snakehead are identified by a long dorsal (back) fin and anal fin, a rounded tail, and a large mouth reaching beyond the eye with many, sharp teeth. They are often confused with native bowfin. Visit <http://fishspecies.dnrec.delaware.gov> for more identification information.



## Northern Snakehead (Juvenile)



## SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE — INLAND BAYS

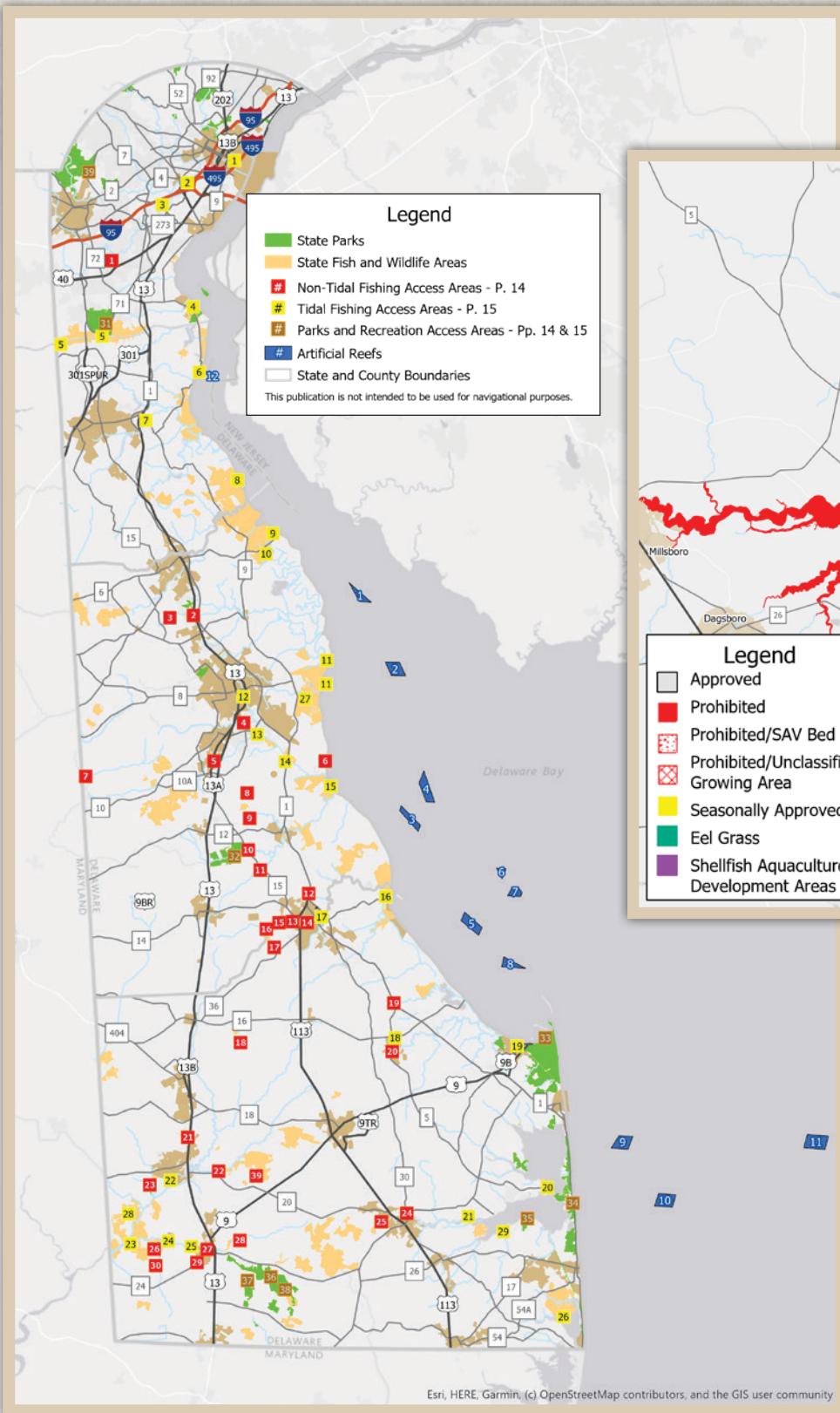
Anglers and boaters should be aware that shellfish aquaculture leases are established in Delaware's Inland Bays. Leased areas may contain submerged or floating aquaculture gear with various markings to alert boaters to their presence. Although anglers may fish in these areas, it is unlawful to anchor on a leased area or tie a vessel to any lease markers or gear. It is also unlawful to harvest any cultured or wild bivalve shellfish from the lease sites or associated navigation corridors. Shellfish aquaculture leases are presently limited to the areas indicated on page 17; however, other areas may be leased in the future. For a more precise interactive map of the leased areas, or more information on the program, please refer to <http://bit.ly/2hbF2x3>.



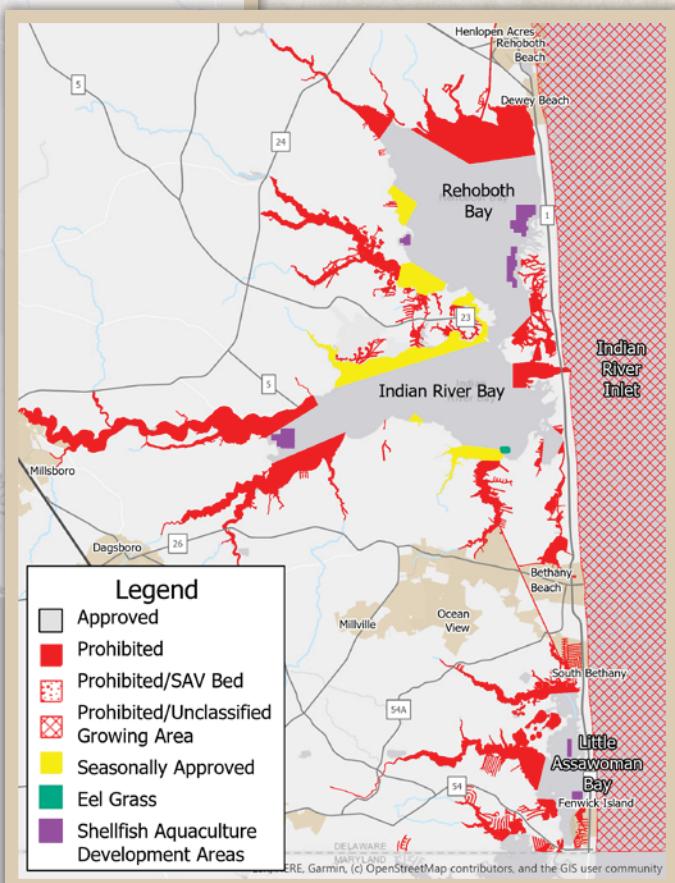
Shellfish aquaculture leases in the Indian River and Rehoboth Bays must be marked with 6-inch PVC pipe and shellfish aquaculture leases in Little Assawoman Bay must be marked with 9 x 16 inch orange bullet floats.

# FISHING & CLAMMING MAPS

## FISHING MAP



## CLAMMING MAP



Scan this QR code using your smart phone or tablet to get an expandable high resolution map of Delaware's shellfish closures or type [bit.ly/ZuiLyY](http://bit.ly/ZuiLyY) into your browser!

# 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. Catch and release only during this season; no harvest is allowed.

## CIRCLE-HOOKS

Anglers fishing with natural bait on the striped bass spawning grounds from April 1 through May 31 must use a non-offset circle hook where the gap of the hook is greater than 3/8 inches.

A non-offset, corrodible, non-stainless steel circle hook must be used when fishing for shark, except when fishing with flies or artificial lures.

The Division recommends that circle-hooks always 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.

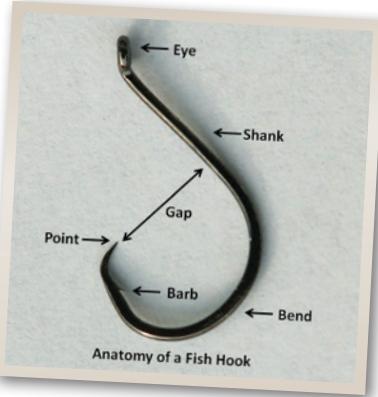
## AMERICAN SHAD AND HICKORY SHAD

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.



Mike Cline



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### HEAD BOAT FISHING

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**Half Day Trips - Departs 8 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.**

### CHARTER TRIPS AVAILABLE

**FOR 1 - 149 PEOPLE**

***Call for availability***

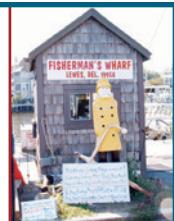
### PRIVATE CRUISES

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Ahoy!! Welcome to Fisherman's Wharf, by the drawbridge in Lewes, Delaware. It's a family affair here where the Delaware Bay meets the Atlantic Ocean, with 3 generations of Parsons to serve you! There's plenty to do here at Fisherman's Wharf for the whole family. Our fleet includes head boats, deep sea charter boats, cruising and sightseeing vessels.

### DOLPHIN and DOLPHIN/WHALE WATCHING CRUISES

**Departing at 9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.**

### EVENING CRUISES *Call for details!*



# 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

Electric lights may now be used in tidal waters for recreational fishing. Electric lights are often used in bowfishing, which is an effective method for taking invasive fish such as the northern snakehead.

## COURTESY DOCKS

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

## 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.



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# ETHICAL CATCH AND RELEASE OF SHARKS

Anglers are prohibited from landing and keeping protected sharks, including sand tiger and sandbar sharks. Due to their low reproductive rate and overfishing, possession of either species is prohibited. Prohibited sharks and all Highly Migratory Species that are not retained must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival, by cutting the line near the hook or by using a de-hooking device, in either case, without removing the fish from the water. Corrodible, non-offset circle hooks are required to fish for shark, except when using flies or artificial lures.

## ETHICAL SHARK FISHING PRACTICES

- Use non-offset **carbon or mild steel hooks** (not stainless steel) with minimal protective coating. This way, if the shark is lost before it is landed, the hook will rust out within a few weeks.
- Use **single barbless circle hooks**. If your hooks are not barbless, flatten the barb with a file or with pliers. The hook will disengage more easily if you file down the barb.
- Use “blocker-rigs” to keep the shark from being throat or gut hooked.
- Avoid removing sharks from water.
- **DO NOT** remove protected sharks from the water. Landing, attempting to land, possessing or removing any prohibited shark species **from the water is illegal** in Delaware.
- Use measuring devices that allow sharks to remain in the water. A leader clip attached to a marked or measured line with a trailing float works well. A marked or measured stick or boat pole can also be useful.
- A number of hook removal devices are commercially available that can improve hook removal efficiency and safety.
- Use heavy sized tackle and minimize fighting time.
- Strike quickly to ensure the hook attaches in the corner of the shark's mouth and the shark does not swallow your bait. If the shark is gut hooked, do not attempt to pull/tear/remove the hook. Cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Avoid using a gaff, especially near sensitive areas such as the brain, belly, dorsal fin, and tail area where there are major blood vessels close to the shark's skin surface.
- Never lift a shark by its tail without providing additional support. Take care not to squeeze the gills as these delicate structures can be easily damaged.



Barbless Circle Hook

## HOOK REMOVERS

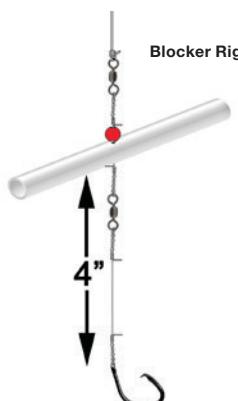
Use a long **hook remover** for throat hooked sharks. If the shark has swallowed the hook, **do not attempt to pull it out** — this will cause serious damage and compromise the survival of the shark. Cut the line **as close to the hook as possible** if you are unable to remove the hook.



Long Hook Removers

## BLOCKER RIG

The “blocker-rig”, is nothing more than a length of plastic pipe mounted perpendicular to the leader at a specific distance from the hook. The pipe prevents or “blocks” the fish from swallowing the bait. The distance between the eye of the hook and the plastic pipe should be 4 inches, as that measurement is important to keep the hook from being swallowed by most of the sharks anglers will encounter. The length of the pipe should be 9 inches, unless anglers are expecting sand tigers and then it should be 14 inches.



## FIGHT TIME

The longer the fight time, the longer it will take for your shark to recover. Sharks suffer lactic acid and carbon dioxide build-up in their blood and muscles, similar to how your muscles stiffen after a work-out. Such exhaustion weakens the animal and compromises its survival chances significantly. **Use heavy tackle to minimize fight time.**

## BOLT CUTTERS

Don't leave home without them! If the hook is embedded in the cartilage of the jaw and it is not an easy removal, use bolt cutters to cut the hook. Use wire cutter for small hooks and wire leaders.

## HANDLING FOR A HEALTHY RELEASE

Do not drag larger sharks over rocks, sand, or the side of a boat. Sharks do not have a rigid skeleton to prevent their organs from being crushed by their own body weight while out of the water. Work with the sharks in the water. Never pull a shark by the tail or pick it up by the gill slits. Do not lift hammerhead sharks by the sides of their heads, as the area contains many sensitive organs, vital to successful hunting. Larger sharks will require two people to restrain and carry the animal. If possible, use a cradle to stabilize the shark in the water and to facilitate safe hook removal.



Blocker Rig Hooked Sand Tiger Shark

Photo Courtesy  
Captain Mark Sampson

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# CRABS, CLAMS, CONCHS AND OYSTERS

## BLUE CRABS

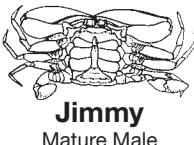
A fishing license is required to crab in all waters of the State of Delaware.

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.

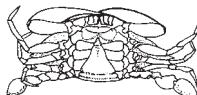
Blue crabs grow very quickly and reach maturity in 12 to 18 months. Most do not live beyond two years under current exploitation levels.

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.

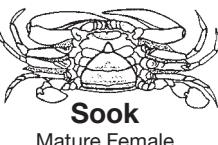
The minimum size for hard-shell blue crab is 5 inches, except mature females. Mature females (sooks) are identified by the rounded apron on



**Jimmy**  
Mature Male



**She-crab**  
Immature Female



**Sook**  
Mature Female



**Sponge Crab**  
Female with Eggs  
(Orange eggs under the apron)

## JONAH CRAB

Jonah crab are a species of crab that typically occur in offshore waters. The recreational possession limit is 50. The minimum size limit is 4 3/4" measured at the widest part of the carapace. The claws must remain naturally attached to the body of all Jonah crab retained and no egg-bearing females may be taken.

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.

## 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 is 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.

### Minimum Hard Clam Size

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



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.

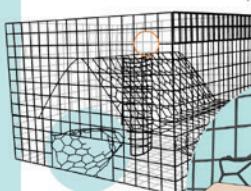
## OYSTERS

### RECREATIONAL HARVEST PROHIBITED

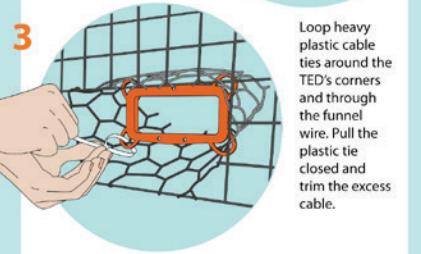
It is unlawful to recreationally harvest oysters in Delaware. This prohibition protects vulnerable oyster populations and protects you against contracting a shellfish-borne disease.

### How to Install a Turtle Excluder Device (TED)

1 Obtain a 1 3/4 x 4 3/4 inch TED (metal or plastic) for each funnel opening in the crab pot, along with heavy plastic cable ties. Hog rings or cable ties can be used to attach metal TEDs.



2 Position the TED in the rear area of the funnel opening.



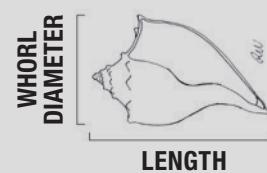
Loop heavy plastic cable ties around the TED's corners and through the funnel wire. Pull the plastic tie closed and trim the excess cable.

Use a minimum of four cable ties to attach the TED in funnel opening. Additional cable ties may be needed to achieve a firm attachment.

## CONCHS

Conch (channeled and knobbed whelk) may only be taken using conch pots with at least one escape vent measuring at least 5 inches x 10 inches in the top or parlor section. The recreational harvest of conch by any other method is prohibited. Recreational conch potters may not use, place, set or tend more than two conch 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 conch pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours. Knobbed conch must measure at least 5 inches along the axis or have a minimum diameter at the whorl of 3.0 inches. Channeled whelk must measure at least 6 inches along the axis or have a minimum diameter at the whorl of 3.125 (3 1/8) inches.

## MEASURING CONCH



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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 302-698-4500).
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. Citations will be issued for **dead** Snakehead provided anglers have them measured for both length and weight at an official weigh station.
15. Only one saltwater award and one freshwater award will be issued to any one individual during the tournament year; although, anglers may apply for and receive multiple citations within a 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. Anglers that receive adult division Tournament citations for five different species, no more than two of which can be Live Release Awards, **within one calendar year** will be recognized as "Delaware Elite Anglers". Both saltwater and freshwater Tournament species, or any combination thereof, are eligible. Once an angler achieves "Elite" status, he/she will receive a plaque commemorating their accomplishment. Anglers that achieve "Elite" status may continue to participate in the Sport Fish Tournament, but will not be eligible for additional Elite Angler plaques in subsequent years.
19. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any weigh station if the Tournament rules are not observed.
20. Hybrid striped bass will only be recognized for entry when caught in non-tidal water.
21. Youth Division applies to anglers age 15 and under that meet the associated minimum size or length eligibility requirements. All Delaware Sport fishing rules apply except for rule 18, as catches awarded under the reduced minimum size requirements of the youth division are not eligible Elite Angler consideration.
22. 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.
23. Call (302) 735-2960 for tournament information. Call (800) 523-3336 on weekends or holidays to coordinate state record verification.

## LIVE RELEASE AWARDS

In order to promote conservation ethics among Delaware anglers, the Division of Fish and Wildlife is providing recognition awards to anglers who catch and release live eligible species that exceed minimum qualifying lengths. Applications for Live Release Awards are available on-line or may be picked up at any Sport Fishing Tournament Weigh Station. To qualify, an angler must follow the same general tournament rules of the Sport Fishing Tournament, but:

- The eligible species must meet the minimum qualifying length as 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 **must be released immediately after measuring**.
- Fish retained for any reason other than obtaining a valid length measurement are not eligible.
- Billfish released alive are eligible for either the Live Release Award or the Sport Fishing Tournament Award, whichever one the angler chooses.

- Recipients of live release awards will be eligible for one freshwater live release award and one saltwater live release award per year, but may receive multiple citations in either category.
- Applications for live release awards **must be submitted to the Division of Fish and Wildlife within 30 days of 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.



# SPORT FISHING TOURNAMENT

## MINIMUM WEIGHTS AND LENGTHS\*

### FRESHWATER FISHES

| SPECIES                           | ADULT             |                     | YOUTH (AGE 15 AND UNDER) |                     |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
|                                   | WEIGHT*<br>(LBS.) | LENGTH*<br>(INCHES) | WEIGHT*<br>(LBS.)        | LENGTH*<br>(INCHES) |
| Bass (Hyb.), Striped <sup>2</sup> | 5                 | 22                  | 3.5                      | 19                  |
| Bass, Largemouth                  | 5                 | 20                  | 3.5                      | 17                  |
| Bass, Smallmouth                  | 2 <sup>1</sup>    | 17                  | 2 <sup>1</sup>           | 17                  |
| Bass, Striped                     | 34                | 44                  | 20                       | 37                  |
| Bluegill                          | 1                 | 10                  | 0.75 (12 ozs.)           | 8                   |
| Carp                              | 15                | 29                  | 11                       | 27                  |
| Catfish                           | 6                 | 25                  | 4.5                      | 23                  |
| Crappie                           | 1                 | 12                  | 0.75 (12 ozs.)           | 10                  |
| Muskie                            | 10                | 30                  | 7.5                      | 26                  |
| Perch, White                      | 1                 | 12                  | 0.75 (12 ozs.)           | 10                  |
| Perch, Yellow                     | 1                 | 12                  | 0.75 (12 ozs.)           | 10                  |
| Pickerel, Chain                   | 4                 | 24                  | 3                        | 20                  |
| Shad, American                    | 5                 | 23                  | 3.5                      | 18                  |
| Snakehead                         | Any               | None                | Any                      | None                |
| Sunfish, Redear                   | 1                 | 10                  | 0.75 (12 ozs.)           | 8                   |
| Trout                             | 2                 | 16                  | 1.5                      | 15                  |

### SALTWATER FISHES

|                           |                  |                   |                |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Albacore, False           | 12               | 26                | 9              | 24               |
| Albacore, True            | 30               | 32                | 22.5           | 29               |
| Bass, Striped             | 34               | 44                | 20             | 37               |
| Bass, Black Sea           | 3                | 17                | 2              | 15               |
| Bluefish                  | 12               | 29                | 10             | 27               |
| Cobia                     | 45               | 48                | 33.5           | 42               |
| Croaker, Atlantic         | 3                | 19                | 2              | 16               |
| Dolphinfish               | 15               | 41                | 11             | 38               |
| Drum, Black               | 50               | 45                | 37.5           | 39               |
| Drum, Red                 | None             | 45                | None           | 35               |
| Flounder                  | 7                | 25                | 5              | 23               |
| Kingfish                  | 1                | 13                | 0.75 (12 ozs.) | 11               |
| Mackerel, Atlantic        | 2                | 17                | 1.5            | 15               |
| Mackerel, King            | 10               | 26                | 7.5            | 22               |
| Mackerel, Spanish         | 5                | 22                | 3.5            | 20               |
| Marlin, Blue              | Any              | Any <sup>3</sup>  | Any            | Any <sup>3</sup> |
| Marlin, White             | Any              | Any <sup>3</sup>  | Any            | Any <sup>3</sup> |
| Scup (porgy)              | 2                | 14                | 1.5            | 12               |
| Shark (excl. Mako)        | 100 <sup>4</sup> | 66 <sup>3,4</sup> | 75             | 56 <sup>3</sup>  |
| Shark, Mako               | 250              | 83 <sup>3</sup>   | 250            | 83 <sup>3</sup>  |
| Sheepshead                | 8                | 22                | 6              | 20               |
| Swordfish                 | Any              | Any <sup>3</sup>  | Any            | Any <sup>3</sup> |
| Tautog                    | 7                | 25                | 5.5            | 20               |
| Tilefish, Blueline        | 10               | 28                | 7.5            | 25               |
| Tilefish, Golden          | 35               | 40                | 26.5           | 35               |
| Triggerfish, Gray         | 5                | 20                | 3.5            | 18               |
| Tuna, Bluefin             | 100              | 60 <sup>3</sup>   | 75             | 48 <sup>3</sup>  |
| Tuna, Yellowfin or Bigeye | 70               | 48 <sup>3</sup>   | 52.5           | 45 <sup>3</sup>  |
| Wahoo                     | 20               | 50                | 15             | 41               |
| Weakfish (Sea trout)      | 3                | 20                | 2              | 18               |

\* Lengths apply only to live release citations; weights apply only to fish officially weighed at a weigh station

1 - Must be 17 inches or longer

2 - Must be taken from non-tidal waters

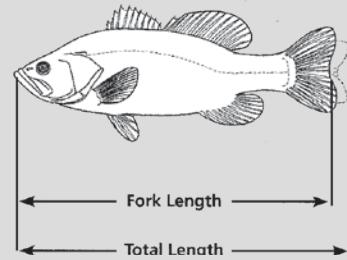
3 - Federal regulations require that these species, if not retained, must be released in a manner that will ensure maximum probability of survival, without removing the fish from the water

4 - Prohibited shark species (see p. 13) are not eligible for entry.

## 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.



## BE ON THE LOOKOUT

### Have You Seen a Sturgeon Lately?

If you find a dead sturgeon please report it immediately at [apps.dnrec.state.de.us/Sturgeon](http://apps.dnrec.state.de.us/Sturgeon), by email at [sturgeon@delaware.gov](mailto:sturgeon@delaware.gov) or by calling: **302-735-8650**.

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



NOAA/NMFS Permit 20314

# SPORT FISHING TOURNAMENT UPDATES

## YOUTH DIVISION

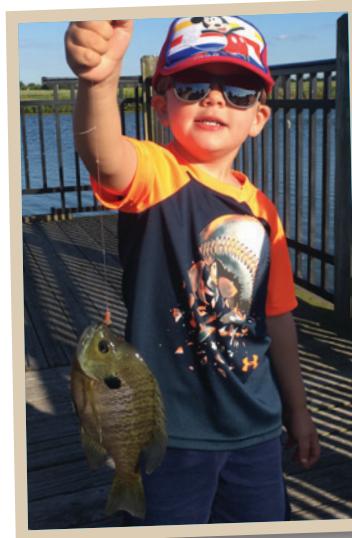
The Delaware Sport Fishing Tournament has implemented a youth division for young anglers age 15 and under. The youth division features lowered minimum qualifying sizes for each species. With the decreased minimum size requirements in the youth division, young anglers have a greater chance to be rewarded for that trophy catch. All 15 freshwater species and all 30 saltwater species recognized in the tournament's adult division will be eligible for youth division recognition and awards.

The youth division applies to the Live Release Award program for conservation minded young anglers that choose to return their trophy catch unharmed, immediately after landing and measuring their catch.

Youth division qualifying lengths and weights are provided on page 25. Other than the reduced qualifying lengths and weights the same tournament rules will apply to the youth division. Youth division entries are not eligible for the elite angler program.

## ELITE ANGLER AWARD

In 2017 the Division of Fish & Wildlife created a new "Elite Angler Award". Anglers that received Tournament citations for five different species within one calendar year, no more than two of which can be Live Release Awards, are recognized as "Delaware Elite Anglers". Two individuals achieved Elite Angler status in 2019 (at the time of printing): Richard Fairweather of Elkton, MD and Scott Newlin of Wyoming, DE. Congratulations on your outstanding achievement!



Owen Steiger, Age 3, with his qualifying live release bluegill!



Owen Steiger with his Youth Division Live Release Citation.



2020 award pins.

## ACCESS POINT ANGLER INTERCEPT SURVEY (APAIS)

The most critical responsibility of Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife's (DDFW) Fisheries Section is sustainably managing our fisheries to keep fishing in Delaware great. Good management depends on good data, so the Fisheries Section is always looking for ways to improve its data collection. To that end, the Fisheries Section, working with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP), will conduct the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS). This survey is a critical component of the Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP), used to estimate the number of fish caught and harvested by recreational anglers. MRIP counts and reports marine recreational catch and effort, using in-person, telephone, and mail surveys. The Fisheries Section believes that a Delaware APAIS conducted by DDFW will result in improved data quality and greater stakeholder confidence in that data. We anticipate that our involvement in conducting the APAIS will:

- Improve data quality and efficiency of data collection;
- Maximize angler participation; and

- Give Delaware anglers a bigger stake in the recreational data and the data collection program.

### What to expect when interviewed

The intercept survey is conducted by DDFW fisheries personnel at fishing access points along the Delaware coast. Saltwater anglers returning from a fishing trip may be asked to participate in the dockside survey. The interview, which only takes a few minutes to complete, consists of two major sections:

1. A background portion that addresses fishing mode (private boat, shore, or charter boat), gear type, number of anglers, hours spent fishing, general area fished, whether anglers were targeting specific fish species, and the anglers' county and state of residence; and
2. The latter portion which focuses on the anglers' catch. We ask questions pertaining to the species and number of fish released as well as those fish kept. For released fish, we collect information on whether they were used for bait,

or released alive or dead. We also ask to measure and weigh fish retained by the anglers

The intercept surveys are conducted by DDFW fisheries personnel at fishing access points along the coast of Delaware.

By participating in this survey, you're helping keep recreational fisheries sustainable.

- You're our **"eyes and ears" on the water** — what we learn from you is critical to understanding the health of our fisheries.
- You're on the **front line of conservation**. You can have a real impact on our waterways and how they're managed.
- Your input helps ensure that regulations are working and that our fish populations can support recreational fishing for future generations to enjoy.



# YOUTH FISHING & TOURNAMENT INFO

## 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH FISHING TOURNAMENT

As part of its activities for National Fishing and Boating Week, June 6–14, the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its 34th annual Youth Fishing Tournament from 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Saturday June 6, 2020. The event will take place at Ingams Pond in Millsboro, Akridge Scout Reservation in Camden, 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 and Boating Week, the Division has designated June 6 and 7, 2020 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware's waters without a fishing license.

## AQUATIC RESOURCES EDUCATION CENTER

You can learn about native Delaware sportfish and fishing opportunities in the First State by visiting Delaware's Aquatic Resources Education Center at 2520 Lighthouse Rd., Smyrna, near the Route 9 Bayshore Byway. The center offers two stocked catch and release fishing ponds and a unique vantage point for exploring the tidal salt marsh bordering Delaware Bay. There is a boardwalk over the marsh, plus trails and interpretive signs with information about ARE features including the popular Take a Kid Fishing! Program.

## 2020 TAKE A KID FISHING! PROGRAM

Delaware is a great state for youth fishing and the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife offers free Take A Kid Fishing! events at the Aquatic Resources Education Center and other ponds throughout Delaware. The Take a Kid Fishing! program is geared to kids age 6 to 15 and their families. All equipment is provided for participants to learn basic fishing skills and have a chance to try their hand at catching a fish. Why not join us this summer for a great day at the water's edge?

### EVENTS FOR 2020

- May 16 at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna 9AM–12PM
- May 30 at Lums Pond State Park in Bear, DE 10AM–1PM
- June 6 at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna 9AM–12PM
- June 13 at the Aquatic Resources Education Center in Smyrna 9AM–12PM
- June 27 at Lums Pond State Park in Bear, DE 10AM–1PM
- July 11 at Redden State Forest in Georgetown 10AM–1PM

For updates to this schedule and additional youth and adult fishing events go to [www.de.gov/takf](http://www.de.gov/takf). Find us on Facebook at Delaware Fish & Wildlife.

### REGISTRATION

Take a Kid Fishing! events include activity stations, fishing and prizes. The program is free of charge but pre-registration is required. You can register by sending an email to [Mary.Rivera@delaware.gov](mailto:Mary.Rivera@delaware.gov).

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 partici-

pate 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.

## DELWARE'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. Additional information about the pond locations and available facilities can be found at: <http://bit.ly/SmPond-DE>.



## LARGEMOUTH BASS TOURNAMENT PERMITS

A Division of Fish & Wildlife Fishing Event Permit is required to hold a Largemouth Bass tournament in Delaware's public ponds or rivers, regardless of the number of boats or anglers participating in the tournament. Applications may be submitted online at: <http://de.gov/fisheventrp> or by calling the Division's Enforcement Section at (302) 739-9913. Tournaments held on State Park properties must be approved by the Division of Parks and Recreation prior to submitting a permit application. Contact the appropriate park office for approval: Lums Pond (302) 368-6989, Killens Pond (302) 284-4526, and Trap Pond (302) 875-5153.

The Tournament Director/Organizer must submit a Largemouth Bass Tournament Report (<http://de.gov/basstournrpt>) within 30 days of tournament completion. Tournament anglers are encouraged to practice catch and release and to implement other measures that minimize stress to bass caught during tournaments. These conservation measures, links to the permit application and reporting form, and a newsletter for bass anglers, can be found on the Division's Largemouth Bass Tournament page at: <http://de.gov/lmbtourney>. Contact the Fisheries Section at (302) 739-9914 for additional information.



# STATE RECORD HOLDERS

| FRESHWATER           |                  |                                  |              |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| SPECIES              | WEIGHT           | ANGLER                           | YEAR         |
| Bass (Hyb.), Striped | 13 lbs. 13 ozs.  | Earl Blevins                     | 1990         |
| Bass, Largemouth     | 11 lbs. 1.6 ozs. | Andrew Klein                     | 2016         |
| Bass, Smallmouth     | 4 lbs. 15.5 ozs. | Jerry Proffitt                   | 1989         |
| Bluegill (Tie)       | 2 lbs. 10 ozs.   | Arnold Harmon<br>Clifford Snyder | 1998<br>2001 |
| Carp                 | 45 lbs.          | Ronald Burnett                   | 1976         |
| Catfish              | 47 lbs. 12 ozs.  | Colt Williamson                  | 2019         |
| Crappie              | 4 lbs. 9 ozs.    | Marvin Billips                   | 1976         |
| Musky                | 20 lbs. 8 ozs.   | Thomas Sutton                    | 2013         |
| Perch, White         | 2 lbs. 9 ozs.    | Wayne Hastings                   | 1997         |
| Perch, Yellow        | 2 lbs. 11ozs.    | Marvin Kessinger                 | 1976         |
| Pickerel, Chain      | 7 lbs. 3 ozs.    | Earl Messick                     | 1972         |
| Shad, American       | 6 lbs. 12 ozs.   | Bayard Conaway                   | 1972         |
| Snakehead            | 12 lbs. 12 ozs.  | Bobby Smith                      | 2017         |
| Sunfish, Redear      | 3 lbs. 1 ozs.    | Marty Messick                    | 1998         |
| Trout                | 11 lbs. 10 ozs.  | Edwin Wallace                    | 1997         |
| Walleye              | 6 lbs. 14 ozs.   | Nesbit Copenhaver                | 1995         |

| SALTWATER            |                 |                    |      |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------|
| SPECIES              | WEIGHT          | ANGLER             | YEAR |
| Albacore, False      | 22 lb. 9.6 ozs. | Jason Conrad       | 2019 |
| Albacore, True       | 80 lbs.         | David Francella    | 1987 |
| Bass, Striped        | 52 lbs.         | Benjamin Smith     | 2012 |
| Black Sea Bass       | 7 lbs. 6 ozs.   | Steve Samluk       | 1988 |
| Bluefish             | 24 lbs. 13 ozs. | Luis Mispireta     | 2015 |
| Cobia                | 79 lbs. 6 ozs.  | John Burbage       | 2018 |
| Cod                  | 44 lbs.         | John Osborne       | 1975 |
| Croaker, Atlantic    | 5 lbs. 3 ozs.   | Catherine Simpson  | 1980 |
| Dolphinfish          | 56 lbs. 9 ozs.  | William D. Emmert  | 2014 |
| Drum, Black          | 115 lbs.        | Kenneth Smith      | 1978 |
| Drum, Red            | 75 lbs.         | James Vandetti     | 1976 |
| Flounder             | 17 lbs. 15 ozs. | William Kendall    | 1974 |
| Kingfish             | 4 lbs.          | Billy Hastings     | 1973 |
| Mackerel, Atlantic   | 3 lbs. 5 ozs.   | Ricky Yakimowicz   | 1985 |
| Mackerel, King       | 48 lbs. 9 ozs.  | Gordon Harris      | 1992 |
| Mackerel, Spanish    | 6 lbs. 4 ozs.   | Eric Ludwig        | 2000 |
| Marlin, Blue         | 820 lbs.        | Bruce King         | 1986 |
| Marlin, White        | 120 lbs.        | William Garner Jr. | 1972 |
| Scup (porgy)         | 5 lbs. 5 ozs.   | Herman Schmidt     | 1979 |
| Shark (excl. Mako)   | 825 lbs.        | Brent Thomas       | 1981 |
| Shark, Mako          | 975 lbs.        | Thomas Barnes      | 2000 |
| Sheepshead           | 17 lbs. 2 ozs.  | Dave Walker        | 2014 |
| Swordfish            | 358 lbs.        | Kurt Lorenz        | 2013 |
| Tautog               | 21 lbs. 4 ozs.  | Glenn Cave         | 2005 |
| Tilefish, Blueline   | 22 lbs. 3 ozs.  | Andrew Orr         | 2015 |
| Tilefish, Golden     | 46 lbs. 8ozs.   | Tom Schanno        | 2017 |
| Triggerfish, Gray    | 6 lbs. 5 ozs.   | Buddy J. Masten    | 2012 |
| Tuna                 | 873 lbs.        | Dan Dillon         | 2005 |
| Wahoo                | 106 lbs.        | Will Stahlgren     | 2007 |
| Weakfish (Sea trout) | 19 lbs. 2 ozs.  | William Thomas     | 1989 |

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Jason Conrad with his 22 lb. 9 oz.  
state record false albacore.

# 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/<br>WEIGH STATION           | CITY           | PHONE (302) | WEIGH STATION | BOAT RAMP CERTIFICATE |
|---|----------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>NEW CASTLE COUNTY</b>                      |                |             |               |                       |
| <b>Master Baiters Bait &amp; Tackle</b>       | New Castle     | 834-2248    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Delaware Bass Stalkers</b>                 | Newark         | 737-2691    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Eastern Marine</b>                         | Newark         | 737-6603    | Yes           | Yes                   |
| <b>Capt. Bones Bait, Tackle &amp; Seafood</b> | Odessa         | 378-4200    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Port Penn Bait &amp; Tackle</b>            | Port Penn      | 834-7807    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Rudy Marine</b>                            | Wilmington     | 999-8735    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>KENT COUNTY</b>                            |                |             |               |                       |
| <b>Division of Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>        | Dover          | 739-9916    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Sonny's Bait &amp; Tackle</b>              | Frederica      | 422-2040    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Smith's Bait Shop</b>                      | Leipsic        | 744-9140    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Carlisle's Marine</b>                      | Smyrna         | 389-0100    | Yes           | Yes                   |
| <b>SUSSEX COUNTY</b>                          |                |             |               |                       |
| <b>Hook'em &amp; Cook'em Outfitters</b>       | Bethany        | 539-6243    | Yes           | Yes                   |
| <b>Vines Creek Marina</b>                     | Dagsboro       | 732-6043    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Fenwick Tackle</b>                         | Fenwick Island | 539-7766    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Island Watersports</b>                     | Fenwick Island | 537-2628    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Jim's Bait &amp; Tackle</b>                | Frankford      | 436-5050    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Sam's Fishing Tackle</b>                   | Greenwood      | 424-0197    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Pontoon Express</b>                        | Harbeson       | 945-0654    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Williamsville Country Store</b>            | Houston        | 422-4455    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Hook'em &amp; Cook'em</b>                  | Indian River   | 226-8220    | Yes           | Yes                   |
| <b>A &amp; R Bait and Tackle</b>              | Lewes          | 645-6111    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Beach Marine</b>                           | Lewes          | 645-7060    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Bill's Sport Shop</b>                      | Lewes          | 645-7654    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Fisherman's Wharf</b>                      | Lewes          | 645-8862    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Henlopen Bait &amp; Tackle</b>             | Lewes          | 645-8106    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Ice House Bait &amp; Tackle</b>            | Lewes          | 645-0600    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Lewes Harbour Marina</b>                   | Lewes          | 645-6227    | Yes           | Yes                   |
| <b>Lighthouse View Bait &amp; Tackle</b>      | Lewes          | 645-2722    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Steamboat Landing</b>                      | Lewes          | 645-6500    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Rick's Bait &amp; Tackle</b>               | Long Neck      | 945-9245    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Taylor Marine</b>                          | Milford        | 422-9177    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Lingo Marine</b>                           | Millsboro      | 934-9877    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Short's Marine</b>                         | Millsboro      | 945-1200    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>WMF Powersports</b>                        | Millsboro      | 945-9150    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Cedar Creek Marina</b>                     | Milford        | 422-2040    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Dan's Tackle Box</b>                       | Milton         | 684-3093    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Bob's Marine Service</b>                   | Ocean View     | 539-3711    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Old Inlet Bait &amp; Tackle</b>            | Rehoboth       | 227-7974    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Taylored Tackle Shop</b>                   | Seaford        | 629-9017    | Yes           | No                    |
| <b>Walker's Marine</b>                        | Seaford        | 629-8666    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Cedar Creek Marine Center</b>              | Seaford        | 629-3581    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Lankford's Gun Shop</b>                    | Seaford        | 536-7077    | No            | No                    |
| <b>Midlantic Marine</b>                       | Selbyville     | 436-9763    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Northbay Marina</b>                        | Selbyville     | 436-4211    | No            | Yes                   |
| <b>Rt 113 Boat Sales</b>                      | Selbyville     | 436-1737    | No            | Yes                   |

# 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.

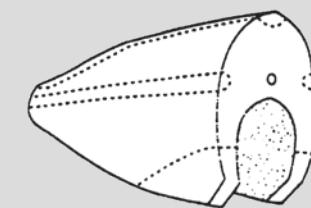
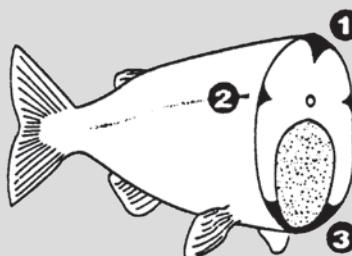
For more information concerning health advisories for Delaware waters, go on-line or contact the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546. For more information on balancing health risks and health benefits of consuming seafood, visit <http://seafoodhealthfacts.org>.

## 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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# 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, E                | DE/PA Line to the C&D Canal   | 1*                         |
| Lower Delaware River and Delaware Bay                           | Weakfish - all sizes, Bluefish - 14 inches or less                      | A                      | Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay                        | 12                         |
|   | Bluefish - greater than 14 inches                                       | A, C                   | Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay                        | 1*                         |
|   | Striped Bass, White Perch, American Eel, White Catfish, Channel Catfish | A                      | Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay                        | 2*                         |
| Delaware Atlantic Coastal Waters including Delaware Inland Bays | Striped Bass  | A                      | Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to DE/MD Line             | 2*                         |
|   | Bluefish - greater than 14 inches                                       | A, C                   | Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to DE/MD Line             | 1*                         |
|   | Bluefish - 14 inches or less  | A                      | Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to DE/MD Line             | 12                         |
| Shellpot Creek  | All Finfish   | A, E, G                | Governor Printz Blvd. to Delaware River   | 1                          |
|   |   | A, E, G, H             | Upstream of Governor Printz Blvd.   | 2                          |
| Tidal Brandywine River  | All Finfish   | A, B, E                | River Mouth to Baynard Blvd   | 2                          |
| Non-tidal Brandywine River                                      | All Finfish   | A, B, E                | Baynard Blvd. to DE/PA Line   | 6                          |
| Tidal Christina River   | All Finfish   | A                      | I-95 at Peterson Wildlife Refuge upstream to Smalleys Dam (includes Nonesuch Creek) | 12                         |
|   |   | A, B, E, F, G          | Mouth upstream to I-95 at Peter-son Wildlife Refuge                                 | 1                          |
| Non-tidal Christina River                                       | All Finfish   | E                      | Smalley's Dam to DE/MD Line   | 12                         |
| Tidal White Clay Creek  | All Finfish   | A, E, F, G             | River Mouth to Route 4  | 1                          |
| Non-tidal White Clay Creek                                      | All Finfish   | A, E                   | Route 4 to DE/PA Line   | 12                         |
| Red Clay Creek  | All Finfish**   | A, B, E, F             | Creek Mouth to DE/PA Line   | 3                          |
| Little Mill Creek   | All Finfish   | A, E, G, H             | Creek Mouth to Kirkwood Highway   | 1                          |
| Army Creek and Pond   | All Finfish   | A, B                   | Creek Mouth to Route 13, including Army Pond  | 4                          |
| Red Lion Creek  | All Finfish   | A, B                   | Route 1 to the Delaware River   | 2                          |
|   |   | A, E                   | Upstream of Route 1   | 12                         |
| Chesapeake & Delaware Canal                                     | All Finfish   | A, B E                 | Entire Canal in Delaware  | 1                          |
| Appoquinimink River   | All Finfish   | A, B, E                | Tidal Portions  | 2                          |
| Drawyers Creek  | All Finfish   | A, B, E                | Tidal Portions  | 4                          |
| Silver Lake Middletown  | All Finfish   | E                      | Entire Lake   | 12                         |
| Saint Jones River and Silver Lake Dover                         | All Finfish   | A, B, E                | Tidal River and Entire Pond   | 4                          |
| Fork Branch   | All Finfish   | C                      | McKee Road to College Road  | 24                         |
| Moores Lake   | All Finfish   | A                      | Entire Pond   | 12                         |
| Wyoming Mill Pond   | All Finfish   | F                      | Entire Pond   | 24                         |
| Waples Pond   | All Finfish   | C                      | Entire Pond   | 12                         |
| Prime Hook Creek  | All Finfish   | C                      | Entire Creek  | 12                         |
| Slaughter Creek   | All Finfish   | A, B                   | Entire Creek  | 6                          |
| Christina Creek   | Stocked Trout   | A, E                   | Rittenhouse Park to DE/MD Line  | 6                          |
| Designated Trout Streams & Ponds other than Christina Creek     | Stocked Trout   | A                      | See latest Delaware Fishing Guide for Designated Trout Streams                      | 12                         |

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

\*\* Except stocked trout - up to 12 8 oz. servings/yr.

For more information on the specific contaminant(s) of concern for each waterbody listed, consult the Division's website ([www.fw.delaware.gov](http://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) Dioxins and furans, C) Mercury, D) Chlorinated pesticides, E) Dieldrin, F) DDT, DDD and DDE , G) Chlordane, H) Heptachlor epoxide**



# FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS



**“Purple Worm”**

The Division of Fish & Wildlife held its ninth annual Fishing Photo Contest in 2019 with the theme “Get Out and Fish DE.” Submitted photographs must be taken in Delaware by Delaware residents and depict lawful fishing activities. Division of Fish & Wildlife Director David Saveikis, fisheries staff Rebecca Hoover and outdoors enthusiast and division staff member Anthony Gonzon served as judges and reviewed 64 eligible entries. First place was awarded to Dave Tally of Camden for a photograph of two anglers fishing on McColley Pond. Second place was awarded to Michael Cox for his photograph showing his father and daughter with a basket of crabs at Woodland Beach. Three honorable mentions were awarded to Jessica Scholl, Raymond Howard Scheufele and Andrea Olson.

## 1st Place

Awarded to Dave Tally of Camden for his photograph of two anglers fishing on McColley Pond.

## 2nd Place

Michael Cox of Middletown for his photograph showing his father and daughter with a fine mess of blue crab taken at Woodland Beach.



**“Filling the Basket with Pop Pop”**



**It's All About That Bass**  
Photo by Jessica Scholl



**What a CRAPPIE Day**  
Photo by Raymond Howard Scheufele



**1st Time Fishing**  
Photo by Andrea Olson

## HONORABLE MENTIONS:

**Congratulations to all the winners!**

For information about future contests, visit  
[www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov).

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