

2013

DELAWARE

FISHING GUIDE



FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

See page 29

What's **NEW** for 2013

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





















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



2013 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

DELAWARE'S RECREATIONAL SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

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

2013 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

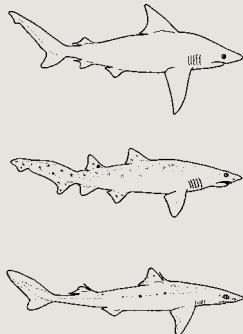
NOTE: A GENERAL FISHING LICENSE IS NOW REQUIRED TO FISH FOR BLUE CRABS AND CLAMS.

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

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

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
 Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None	None
	Jan. 1 -May 14	54 -inches FORK LENGTH	Boat anglers- only 1 shark of any species per vessel, except 1 additional bonnethead and 1 additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel. Shore anglers - only 1 shark of any species per angler, except 1 additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per shore angler.
	July 16 - Dec. 31		
	All year	54 -inches FORK LENGTH	
	All year	None	


PROHIBITED SPECIES

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

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

TUNAS AND HMS – SPECIAL PERMIT REQUIRED

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