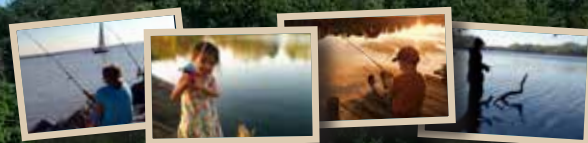


2014

DELAWARE

FISHING GUIDE



FISHING PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

See page 28

What's **NEW** for 2014

- Bowfishing for Tidal Water Invasives
- Black Drum Regulations Apply Statewide
- Updated Black Sea Bass Regulations
- Online Largemouth Bass Tag Reporting






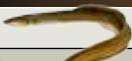




















DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE



2014 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 (white perch, yellow perch, crappie, bluegill & pumpkinseed)	All year	None	50 (no more than 25 of one species)
	Trout (special rules apply, pages 8 - 10)	Streams open 1st Sat. in April Ponds open 1st 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	Endangered - no harvest permitted (see page 23)		
	Black drum	All year	16 inches	3
	Black sea bass	May 19 - Sep. 21	12.5 inches (excluding caudal filament)	15
		Oct. 18 - Dec. 31		15
	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	All year	16 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




2014 SEASONS, SIZE AND CREEL LIMITS

SPECIES		OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
Blue crab 	See page 21 for more details	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
Conch	Knobbed whelk	All year	6 inches / 3.5 inch whorl	5 bushels
	Channeled whelk	All year	6 inches / 3.125 inch whorl	5 bushels

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

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


PROHIBITED SPECIES

  	Sandbar shark, sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark	The sandbar & sand tiger are toothed sharks commonly taken in the nearshore waters of the state and are prohibited species. 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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