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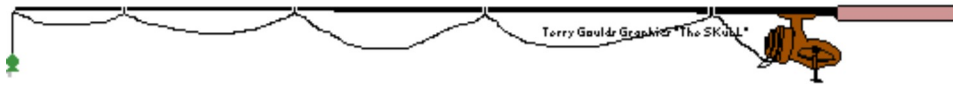
Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

Welcome to the Fishing Information Page



89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Andrew T. Manus, Director



Saltwater & Freshwater Regulations

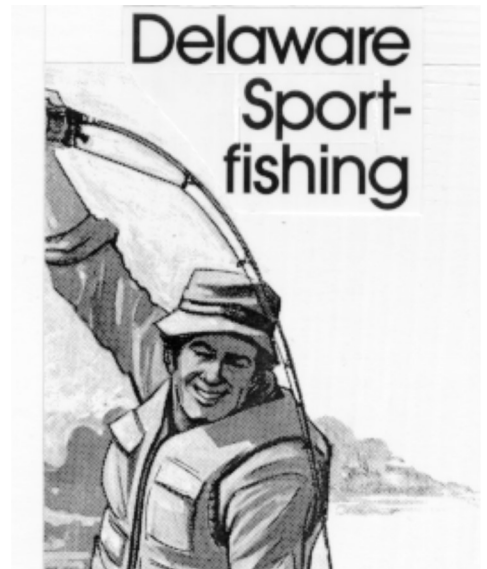
For Information, Select from One of the Following:

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Fishing License Requirements

A fishing license is required to fish in the non-tidal waters in this State. Non-tidal waters include lakes, ponds, impoundments and streams where the tides do not occur. Most non-tidal waters are fresh except for brackish water impoundments. A license may be obtained from the Dover, Delaware office or from over 100 license agents, mostly sporting goods and hardware stores, throughout the State. Each holder of a fishing license shall display the license on an outer garment while fishing.

Any resident of Delaware who is 16 years of age or older, but less than 65 years if age, is required to have a license to fish in non-tidal waters. The following individuals may fish without a license:



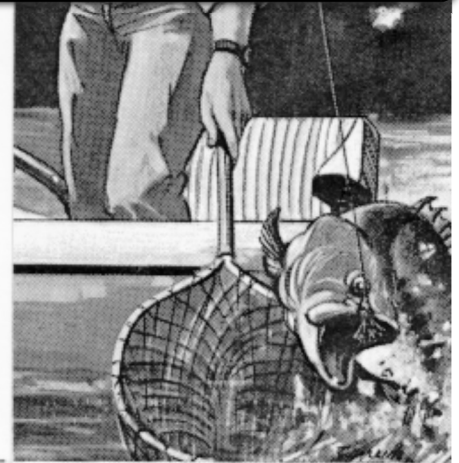
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- and certified by the Veterans Administration as having at least a 60% service-oriented disability.
- Any member of the armed forces who is a patient in a military hospital and submits a written statement signed by the patient's commanding officer certifying the nature of the disability and place of station.
 - Any patient in a Veterans Administration facility in this state.
 - Any patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the Department of Health and Social Services.
 - Any person who is legally blind.
 - Any person who fishes in a fee fishing facility, registered as such with the Department of Agriculture, is not required to have a fishing license.



Any nonresident who is 16 years of age or older except persons covered in 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 above, is required to have a license to fish in non-tidal waters.

The cost of a fishing license for non-tidal waters for a resident is \$ 8.50 and \$ 15.00 for a nonresident. A fishing license is valid through December 31 for the calendar year in which it is issued. Nonresidents may purchase a 7-consecutive day fishing license for \$ 5.20. For freshwater trout fishing, possession of a trout stamp may be required (see Freshwater Trout Fishing Program).

All funds derived from the issuance of fishing licenses are dedicated to a special account for the purpose of matching and securing federal money allotted to Delaware under the provisions of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act. Together, these funds support projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of sportfish and the provisions for public use and benefit from these resources.

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Gamefish and General Fishing Restrictions

Gamefish include the following species in Delaware:

Largemouth Bass	Smallmouth Bass
Black Crappie	White Crappie
Rock Bass	White Bass
Walleye	Northern Pike
Chain Pickerel	Salmon/Trout
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Hybrid Striped Bass
Sunfish of the genus <i>Lepomis</i>	

Gamefish may be found in either tidal or non-tidal freshwater. Gamefish taken from the waters of the State shall not be legally sold, traded or bartered unless authorized by permit.

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2. The use of more than three hooks or lures per rod or pole is prohibited.
3. The use of any chemical, poison or electrical shocking equipment or device is prohibited unless authorized by permit.
4. In non-tidal waters, the use of nets is prohibited except for a dip net used to assist in the landing of the hooked fish. In tidal streams, within 300 ft. of any constructed dam or spillway, all nets other than minnow traps not exceeding 2' x 1' x 1', dip nets and lift nets no larger than 6 feet by 6 feet used to take river herring are prohibited.
5. Carp may be taken with a bow and arrow or spear. They shall not be netted in non-tidal waters unless authorized by permit.
6. Anyone fishing for shad with a hook and line shall not use more than two lures per line and each lure shall not contain more than a single hook.
7. Stocking any live fish in any public waters is prohibited without written authorization from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
8. The possession, transporting, purchase or selling of walking catfish and/or the white amur or grass carp is prohibited without written authorization from the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
9. Snagging gamefish is prohibited.

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1998 Freshwater Fishing Limits

NAME OF FISH SPECIES	SIZE LIMIT (Inches)	CREEL LIMIT (Number Per Day)
LARGEMOUTH BASS - Tidal and Non-Tidal Waters (Except the Following)	None less than 12	6
Andrews Lake	12 - 15 Protected Less than 12 Greater than 15	5* Only 1 may be greater than 15"
Derby & Hearn's Ponds	15 - 18 Protected Less than 15 Greater than 18	5* Only 1 may be greater than 18"
Becks Pond	None less than 15	2
PANFISH - Bluegill, Pumpkinseed, Black or White Crappie, White or Yellow Perch	None	50 - But no More Than 25 per Species
STRIPED BASS INCLUDING HYBRIDS - Non-tidal Waters Only	None less than 15	2
TROUT - Freshwater	No minimum	6 (4 in Restricted Streams)**

*6 if all bass are less than minimum slot size.

**White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the

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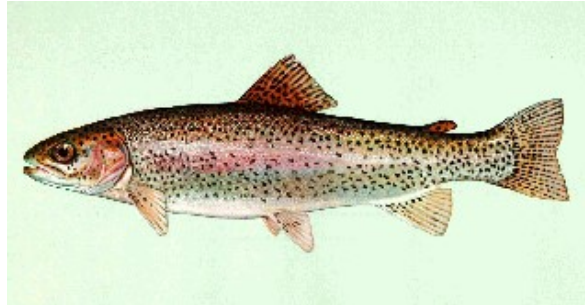
 

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The 1999 freshwater trout season opens at 7:30 a.m. Saturday, April 3.



Delaware's freshwater trout program is a self-supporting put-and-take fishery in selected streams in northern New Castle County. The fees paid for trout stamps are used to purchase trout from commercial hatcheries. Rainbow, brown and/or brook trout are stocked in selected streams within two weeks of the spring opening date and for an additional period of time into the season. There also may be a supplemental fall stocking. Since Delaware stream temperatures are marginal at best for trout survival in the summer and no reproduction has been noted, stocked fish are meant to be taken.

The following are designated trout streams in northern New Castle County:

1. **White Clay Creek** - Pennsylvania line to the down stream side of Paper Mill Road. White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the Pennsylvania line is designated as a restricted trout stream for fly fishing only.
2. **Mill Creek** - Brackenville Road to Route 7.
3. **Pike Creek** - Route 72 to Henderson Road.
4. **Christina Creek** - Maryland line through Rittenhouse Park.
5. **Beaver Run** - Pennsylvania line to Brandywine River.
6. **Wilson Run** - Route 72 through Brandywine Creek State Park.

Most access to these streams is through and on private property. Each fisherman should respect the privilege of using private property.

No fishing is permitted in any designated trout stream within two weeks of the opening day of spring trout season, which is the first Saturday in April.

On opening day in the spring, legal trout fishing on designated trout streams begins at 7:30 a.m. On other days, trout fishing begins one-half hour before sunrise. Fishing in designated trout streams is prohibited after one-hour past sunset.

The daily limit for trout is six in possession. Once an angler takes and possesses six trout in any day, he or she is prohibited from fishing in a designated trout stream during the remainder of that day.

A stream or portion thereof may be designated as a restricted trout stream. Only artificial flies having one single pointed hook and a fly rod may be used. There may not be more than two flies on a line at one time. The use of any metallic, wooden, plastic or rubber spinners, spoons, lures, plugs and/or natural bait is prohibited in a restricted trout stream.

The possession limit of trout on a restricted trout stream is four. Furthermore, the possession of more than four trout within 50 feet of any restricted trout stream is prohibited. A person may continue to fish on a restricted trout stream

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1. Residents 16 years of age and older but not over 65 years old are required to have a fishing license (\$ 8.50).
2. Residents 12 through 15 years old, are required to have a juvenile trout stamp (\$ 2.10). Residents 16 years and older but not over 65 are required to have a trout stamp (\$ 4.20) when fishing in a designated trout stream on or between the first Saturday in April and June 30 and on or between the first Saturday in October and November 30 of the same year.
3. Non-residents 16 years of age and older are required to have a license (\$ 15.00 annually or \$ 5.20 for seven consecutive days).
4. Non-residents 12 years of age and older are required to have a trout stamp (\$ 6.20) when fishing in a designated trout stream on or between the first Saturday in April and June 30 and on or between the first Saturday in October and November 30. Trout stamps are available from license agents or the Division of Fish and Wildlife at the Dover Office. A trout stamp is not valid unless it is signed across its face in ink.

Experimental Pond Stocking

In an effort to provide a diversity of fishing experiences, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has been evaluating the stocking of trout into warm water ponds during a cold time of the year when trout can be expected to survive (trout generally require temperatures below 75 degrees Farenheit). Tidbury Pond in Kent County will be stocked in March, as will the easternmost State Department of Transportation Pond at Gravel Hill near Georgetown in Sussex County. Trout stamp provisions that apply in designated trout streams will also apply to any pond so stocked with trout, except that trout stamp requirements will not be enforced in ponds stocked with trout from April 1 through February 28. There will be no closed season for trout fishing in any pond so stocked. The daily limit is six trout per day. Once a person takes and possesses six trout in any day, he or she is prohibited from fishing in that pond during the remainder of that day.

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1999 Tidal Water Recreational Fishing Limits

No license is required for hook and line recreational fishing in tidal waters.

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

NAME OF FISH SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE (Inches)	CREEL LIMIT (Number Per Day)
Atlantic Croaker	All Year	8	None
American Eel	All Year	6	None
Atlantic Sturgeon	CLOSED	N/A	N/A
Bluefish	All Year	None	10
Black Sea Bass	All Year	10	N/A
Red Drum	All Year	18 - 27 Max.	5, 1 greater than 27 Inches

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Spotted Seatrout	All Year	12	None							
Spanish Mackerel	All Year	14	10							
Striped Bass	All Year*	28	2							
Striped Bass Hybrid	All Year	None	None							
Summer Flounder	All Year Exept Closed 7/16 - 8/7	15	8							
Weakfish	All Year	14	14							
White Perch	All Year	8	None							
Winter Flounder	All Year	10	None							
Blue Crab	Pots - March 1 - November 30		1 Bushel Per Crabber							
Peeler		3								
Soft Shell		3 1/2"								
Hard Shell		5								
Hard Clams	All Year	1 1/2"	100 Residents 50 Nonresidents (500 With Permit)							
Smooth Conch	All Year	6" length OR 3 1/8" Diameter	N/A							
Knobbed Conch	All Year	5" length OR 2 3/4" Diameter	N/A							
Lobster	All Year	3 5/16" Carapace length	2 Per Diver							
Sharks	All Year	See Below	See Below							

*Striped bass recreational season is closed on the spawning grounds (Nanticoke River, C&D; Canal, and Delaware River and their respective tributaries north of the southern most jetty at the C&D; Canal) during April and May.

Finfish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail.

Bluecrabs are measured tip to tip on the back (Females with eggs are protected, females with U-shaped apron have no size limit).

Lobster carapace length is measured from rear of eye socket to rear of bodyshell.

SHARKS - It is unlawful to:

- possess the fins from any shark listed in the table below prior to landing unless the fins are attached to the body.
- fillet any shark listed in the table below prior to landing said shark. A shark may be eviscerated and the head removed prior to landing.
- release any shark listed in the table below in a manner that will not ensure the maximum probability of survival.
- have on board more than two sharks listed below except that two Atlantic Sharpnose sharks may also be on board.
- possess any prohibited species at any time.

Shark Species

Large Coastal Species

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Nurse Shark	Bignose Shark	Blacktip Shark	Bull Shark
Caribbean Reef Shark	Dusky Shark	Galapagos Shark	Lemon Shark
Narrowtooth Shark	Night Shark	Sandbar Shark	Silky Shark
Spinner Shark			

Small Coastal Species

Atlantic Angel Shark	Bonnethead	Atlantic Sharpnose Shark	Blacknose Shark
Caribbean Sharpnose Shark	Finetooth Shark	Smalltail Shark	

Pelagic (open sea) Species

Bigeye Sixgil Shark	Sevengil Shark	Sixgil Shark	Longfin Mako
Porbeagle Shark	Shortfin Mako	Blue Shark	Oceanic Whitetip Shark
Bigeye Thresher Shark	Thresher Shark		

Prohibited Species

Basking Shark	Great White Shark	Bigeye Sand Tiger	Sand Tiger	Whale Shark
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All recreational gill nets must be out of the water in Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean during the periods in 1999 on
 May 1-9, 14-16, 21-23,
 May 28-30-June 4-6, 11-13, 18-20 and June 24-30.

For information or to report a violation, call 1 (800) 523-3336

*Fishing for highly migratory oceanic species such as bluefin tuna, bigeye tuna, yellowfin tuna, true albacore, blackfin tuna, swordfish, billfish and certain shark species, when caught in waters outside of Delaware's jurisdiction (ocean waters greater than 3 miles offshore), are subject to federal regulations. For further information on federal regulations, call the **National Marine Fisheries Service** at (301) 713-2347 or (508) 281-9260. In addition, a 24-hour information line is available at (301) 713-1279 or (508) 281-9305.*

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