

Summary of Current *Recreational* Fish Regulations in Delaware for 2018 (Saltwater species)

Species	Recreational Minimum Size Limit	Recreational Season	Recreational Creel Limit per Angler
American eel	9"	Open Year Round	25
Bass, striped* <i>De. River, DE Bay, and Tributaries</i>	28-37" or 44" and greater* <i>20" to 25" slot length limit</i>	Open Year Round* <i>July 1 – August 31</i>	2 by hook and line only <i>2 by hook and line only</i>
Blue crabs	5" Hard; 3.5 Soft; 3" Peeler	Open Year Round (Pots: Mar 1 – Nov 30)	1 Bushel
Black sea bass (subject to change)	12.5"	Open May 15 – Sep 21 and Oct 22 – Dec 31	15 15
Bluefish	No minimum size	Open Year Round	10
Catfish	No minimum size	Open Year Round	No limit
Clams, Hard	1.5"	Open Year Round††	100 – resident; 50 - non-resident
Croaker, Atlantic	8"	Open Year Round	No limit
Drum, black	16" minimum	Open Year Round	3 (DE River & Bay)
Drum, red	20-27", none > 27"	Open Year Round	5
Flounder, Summer	16.5"	Open Year Round	4
Flounder, Winter	12"	Open Feb. 11 – April 10	2
Lobster	3 3/8" Minimum Carapace length**; Maximum length 5¼ inches for both males and females	Open Year Round	Using Pots (no limit); 2 per diver
Mackerel, Spanish	14"	Open Year Round	15
River herring (blueback & alewife)	None may be taken	CLOSED	None may be taken
Scup	8"	Open Year Round	50
Shad (Hickory and American)	No minimum size	Open Year Round; Closed Nanticoke River & its tributaries	10 combined species
Dogfish (Spiny & Smoothhound)	No minimum size	Open Year Round	No limit
Sharks, Hammerheads	78"	Open Jan. 1 – May 14; July 16 – Dec. 31	1 per vessel or 1 per shore angler
Shark, sand bar & sand tiger	None may be taken	CLOSED	None may be taken
Sharks,coastal (Group A see below)†	54" 83" (Shortfin Mako)	Open Year Round	1 per vessel or 1 per shore angler
Sharks,coastal (Group B see below)†	54"	Open Jan. 1 – May 14; July 16 – Dec. 31	1 per vessel or 1 per shore angler
Spot	No minimum size	Open Year Round	No limit
Spotted seatrout	12"	Open Year Round	No limit
Sturgeon, Atlantic	None may be taken	CLOSED	None may be taken
Tilefish (Blueline and Golden)	None	Open Year Round	7 in any combination
Tautog	16"	Closed May 16 – June 30	4
Weakfish (Sea trout)	13"	Open Year Round	1
White perch	8" (Tidal water)	Open Year Round	No limit in tidal waters; 25 in non-tidal waters

Consult Division website www.fw.delaware.gov for latest updates.

* Striped bass recreational season closed on spawning grounds (Nanticoke River, C & D Canal, and Delaware River and their respective tributaries north of the southern most jetty of the C & D Canal) during April and May. Non-offset circle hooks required on spawning grounds. Delaware waters of DE River, DE Bay, and their tributaries slot-limit season July 1 through August 31 (slot size limit 20-inch to 26-inch TL). Striped bass are not permitted to be retained if taken with a recreational gill net..

** Carapace length measured from rear of eye socket to posterior edge of body shell.

† Harvest limit for a vessel or shore angler is one shark from Group A or B below.

Sharks Group A – No Closed Season – shortfin mako, porbeagle, blue, oceanic white-tip, thresher, finetooth, blacknose, Atlantic sharpnose, and bonnethead.

Sharks Group B – Season Closed May 15 through July 15 in NJ, DE, MD, VA waters – tiger shark, nurse, lemon, blacktip, spinner, bull, and silky.

No limit & open year round for the following species: Atlantic sharpnose, blacknose, bonnethead and finetooth sharks; All other large and small coastal shark species must be released.

†† See Map in 2013 Fishing Guide.

All recreational gill nets must be out of the water in the Delaware Bay and the Atlantic Ocean during the periods in 2018 on May 1-7, 11-3, 18-20, 25-27; June 1-3, 8-10, 15-17 and 22-30. No gill nets may be fished between Cape Henlopen Point and the northern boundary of Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve at any time between May 1 and November 30 and no gill nets may be fished between the northern boundary of Beach Plum Island Nature Preserve and the Murderkill River at any time between May 1 and June 30. Other restrictions apply to recreational gill nets. Fisheries Section, Division of Fish & Wildlife, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901, (302)739-9914 ; (302)739-9916 or www.fw.delaware.gov

THIS TABLE IS ONLY A SUMMARY, DEPARTMENT REGULATIONS AND STATE LAWS PREVAIL

Summary of Current **Recreational** Fish Regulations in Delaware for **2018 (Freshwater species)**

Species	Recreational Minimum Size Limit	Recreational Season	Recreational Creel Limit per Angler
American eel	6"	Open Year Round	50
Largemouth bass (all waters except Becks)	12"	Open Year Round	6
<i>Becks Pond</i>	<i>15"</i>	<i>Open Year Round</i>	<i>2</i>
Smallmouth bass	None between & including 12" & 17"	Open Year Round	6, no more than 1 > 17"
Hybrid striped bass	(Only occur in Lums Pond) 15"	Open Year Round	2
Panfish* (non-tidal waters) See species list below	No minimum size	Open Year Round	50; but, no more than 25 per species
Panfish* (tidal waters) not including white perch	No minimum size	Open Year Round	No limit
Catfish (all species)	No minimum size	Open Year Round	No limit
Trout (Rainbow, Brown, & Brook)	No minimum size	Streams - Opens Apr. 5; Ponds - Opens March 1	6 (4 in restricted streams **); 6 in ponds
White perch (tidal waters)	8"	Open Year Round	No limit
White perch (non-tidal waters)	No minimum size	Open Year Round	25

* Panfish include bluegill, redear, pumpkinseed, black crappie, white crappie, white perch and yellow perch.

** Restricted streams meaning those designated as fly-fishing only (White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompsons Bridge to the Pennsylvania state line).