

Fisheries Section  
4876 Hay Point Landing Rd  
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On the Web

[www.fw.delaware.gov/](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/)

## Tournaments 2008

A total of 17 tournament reports have been sent in by eight clubs so far this year. These events took place between March 8 and May 25. Ten ponds and the Nanticoke River were sites for reported tournaments thus far. Several ponds (Records, Chipmans, Concord, Haven, Moores, and Garrisons) each had two events.

All of the reports to date have been from relatively small (less than 25 anglers) tournneys. Catch rates (number of bass per angler hour) have ranged from 0.03 at Concord Pond to 0.43 bass/angler hour at Chipmans Pond.

Three fish 5-pounds or over were taken, one each from Records Pond, Garrisons Lake, and McColleys Pond.

Twenty additional tournaments were scheduled but no reports sent in yet. If this includes one or more from your club, please make an effort to get the report in to us. I have enclosed a note listing missing reports for your club.

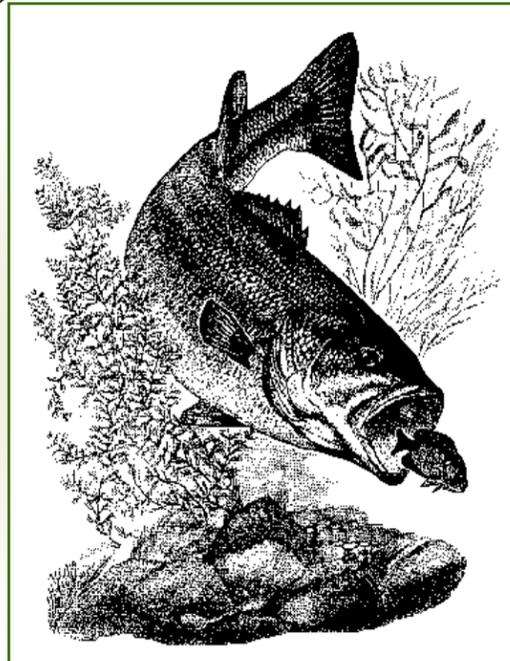
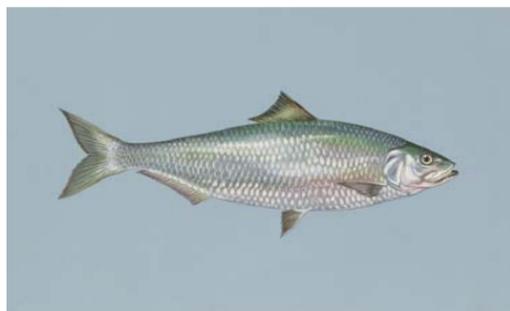
## American Shad Stocked

A total of 574,000 American shad fry were released into the Nanticoke River this spring from the Division's Shad Hatchery. This year's release was the largest number produced by the hatchery since operations began in 2005.

Adult American shad were collected from the main-stem Nanticoke upstream of Seaford and brought to the hatchery to spawn in tanks. In the hatchery environment, natural predation on the eggs and fry are eliminated for a few critical days.

About 3 days after hatching, the fry were released into the upper Nanticoke River and its tributaries. This should give the River's dwindling shad population a jump start.

This native East Coast species is a popular recreational and commercial species as well as a food source for largemouth bass and striped bass. It also provides an important upstream movement of nutrients when adults ascend rivers to spawn.



## Tournament News



Summer 2008

## Division Happenings

### Fisheries

Six ponds (Griffith, Hearn, Masseys, McColleys, Moores, Mud-Mill, and Waples) were sampled during spring 2008 to monitor the status of their fish populations. All have been completed and fish data are being analyzed. The largemouth bass populations looked best at Hearn, McColleys, and Moores with good numbers of fish and well-balanced size distributions.

Black crappie were most abundant at Moores Lake with McColleys second. Both of these ponds had good numbers of larger fish. Bluegill looked good in McColleys Pond in terms of both numbers and size.

Hearn Pond and Griffith Lake were sampled to assess the fish populations after their water-level drops and restocking. Both appeared to be improving with all normal pond species present. Several nice-sized (over 9 inches) redear sunfish were collected from Hearn Pond. Scale samples were collected from bass and panfish so age and growth can be determined during the winter season. After all fish and growth data are analyzed, the write-ups in the DE Public Ponds publication online will be updated [available at: [www.fw.delaware.gov/](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/)].

### Construction

Following completion of the Lewes boat ramp, the next project will be a boat access site in Riverfront Park in Laurel on Broad Creek. This construction project is tentatively planned for fall 2008.

Some improvements will also be done at the Lums Pond boat ramp. This facility has a very shallow slope and has proven difficult for some boats to use. Fisheries funds will be used to improve the accessibility of the ramp with the Division of Parks and Recreation providing the state share of the funds.

### Telephone numbers of Interest

• For tournament reports or tag returns: Cathy Martin, 302-653-2887, ext 106. Email:

[catherine.martin@state.de.us](mailto:catherine.martin@state.de.us)  
or

• Jared Jacobini, 302-653-2887, ext 110, Email:

[jared.jacobini@state.de.us](mailto:jared.jacobini@state.de.us)

• For tournament permit applications: Carol Weyant, 302-739-9913

### Fish & Wildlife Enforcement Agents:

New Castle County: 302-836-4682

Kent County: 302-739-6139

Sussex County: 302-855-1901

Dispatch Center: 302-739-4580

### 24-hour Enforcement Number for Environmental Complaints

1-800-662-8802

### Operation Game Theft :

800-292-3030

### Permit applications:

[www.fw.delaware.gov/](http://www.fw.delaware.gov/)

Click on Fisheries, Go to More Info for Anglers, & click on Bass tournament/bass tag reports.

## Angler Trash

While sampling MudMill Pond this spring, we rounded the bend and found an active shore angling spot. How do we know? The many pieces of trash lying there, maybe not all left by anglers but the bait containers and wads of fishing line sure point the finger directly at anglers. One piece of angling trash left at a site and all trash is automatically attributed to anglers. There is no excuse for leaving trash of any kind on public property.

Most state-owned properties are now carry-in carry-out due to the increased cost of gas and staff to maintain these areas. It is not difficult to bring a bag to collect your trash and take it home for proper disposal. Would you prefer that your license funds be spent on trash collection or management activities to improve fisheries?

Eastern Shore Bassmasters in partnership with the Division of Fish and Wildlife has placed fishing line recycling containers at many Kent County fishing ponds and at access sites on the Nanticoke River. The containers are made from PVC. Line



The view from the water at one shoreline site along MudMill Pond, 2008.

placed in these containers will be collected and sent in for recycling by Eastern Shore Bassmasters. This is a win-win program with less angling trash left on public property and re-use of materials through recycling. Please use these containers and encourage others to do so. We all benefit from this program.



Fishing line recycling container placed on the right side of the sign at Killens Pond State Park.

## Recreational Fishing Funding Advisory Council

The first meeting of this new advisory council was held on April 22, 2008. The mission for this Council will be to provide guidance to the Division in selecting and prioritizing construction and maintenance projects for the Fisheries Section.

Council members received information on Division fishing access areas, a presentation on the anticipated fishing license revenue for 2008, a list of construction projects underway, and some repair needs. The Division's most recently completed projects included: boat ramp at Newport, Milford boat ramp, and Masseys Landing. The

Lewes boat ramp is currently under construction and should be completed by the end of this summer.

A second meeting will be held after allowing Council members time to review the information that was provided.

Current Council members include: Bill Baker, Bernie Pankowski, Eric Burnley, Sr., Jack Carpenter, Floyd Morton III, Ralph Newberry, David Russell, Sen. Robert Venables, and Rep. Gerald Hocker.

## Invasive Species: Mitten Crab

Since a mature male Mitten crab was collected in the Chesapeake Bay (Patapsco River) in June 2006, nine more have been collected from the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays. Most crabs have been collected by local watermen, usually in crab pots.

However, this crab occurs in both freshwater and saltwater, spending much of its juvenile stage (2 to 5 years) in freshwater streams. Mature crabs migrate downstream to saltwater to spawn. Juveniles dig burrows in the bank similar to some crayfish species.

The species is easily identified by the fuzzy claws and the notch between the eyes.

If you find a mitten crab, **do not release it alive:**

1. Note the date and location of capture;
2. Take a photograph or keep the crab;
3. Contact the Mitten Crab hotline at 443-482-2222 or SERCMittenCrab@si.edu.

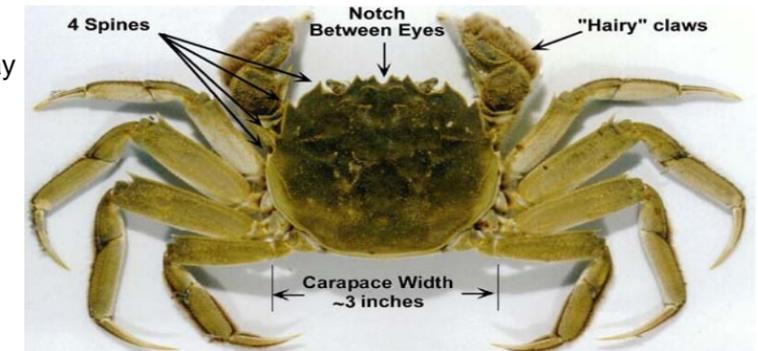


Photo: Lee Mecusm, CDFG

A total of three mitten crabs have also been collected from the Hudson River in New York. Two of the NY crabs have been juveniles leading to concerns about possible reproduction.

A citizen-based network for detecting and reporting mitten crabs has been established for the eastern United States by the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. The network seeks to document occurrences of the Mitten Crab and serve as a source for current information. If you collect a crab that may be a mitten crab, please contact the Mitten Crab hotline or the Division of Fish and Wildlife.



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[www.ProtectYourWaters.net](http://www.ProtectYourWaters.net)