Freshwater Trout Fishing

Season
The 2009 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:30 a.m. Saturday April 4.

Trout Stamps
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 one week of the spring opening date and for an additional period of time into the season. 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 but may be released at the angler’s discretion.

The following are designated trout streams in northern New Castle County. See online trout stocking maps for more exact locations of stocking sites.

1. Christina Creek
2. White Clay Creek Pennsylvania line to the downstream side of Paper Mill Road. White Clay Creek from a point 25 yards above Thompson Bridge at Chambers Rock Road to the Pennsylvania state line is designated as a restricted trout stream for fly fishing only.
3. Pike Creek Route 72 to Henderson Road
4. Mill Creek Brackenville Road to Route 7
5. Wilson Run Route 92 through Brandywine Creek State Park
6. Beaver Run Pennsylvania line to Brandywine River

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

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License and Stamp Requirements for Trout Fishing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident/Age</th>
<th>Young Angler trout stamp</th>
<th>Fishing license</th>
<th>Trout Stamp</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 12</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 thru 15</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 thru 64</td>
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<td>65 and over</td>
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<th>Non-resident/Age</th>
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<th>Trout Stamp</th>
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<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 thru 15</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 and over</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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Trout stamp requirements apply 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.

**Fees:**
- Resident Fishing License $8.50
- Resident Trout Stamp $4.20
- Young Angler Trout Stamp $2.10
- Non-resident Fishing License $20.00
- Non-resident 7-day $12.50
- Non-resident Trout Stamp $6.20

**Trout Pond Stocking - Open to fishing Saturday March 7 beginning 7 a.m.**

In an effort to provide a diversity of fishing experiences, the Division of Fish and Wildlife has been stocking trout into two ponds during a cold time of the year when trout can be expected to survive. Trout generally require temperatures below 75°F. Tidbury Pond in Kent County will be stocked in March as will Newton Pond near Greenwood in Sussex. Kent County Parks and Recreation, the owner of Tidbury Pond, urges anglers to be respectful of the vegetative plantings and the fences erected to protect this vegetation. 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 from April 1 through February 28. Ponds will be open to fishing Saturday March 7 beginning 7 a.m. 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. Tidbury and Newton Ponds will be stocked prior to March 7 and again on March 19.
Trout Fishing Regulations

Anyone who wants to fish for trout shall purchase a trout fishing stamp and sign one’s name in ink across the face of the stamp. Any person exempt from purchasing a Delaware fishing license is also exempt from purchasing a Delaware trout stamp.

Designated Trout Streams
It shall be unlawful to fish in a designated trout stream within two weeks (14 days) of a scheduled opening of the trout season.

Restricted Trout Streams
It shall be unlawful to fish in a restricted trout stream with more than two (2) flies on a line at any one time.

It shall be unlawful to use any metallic, wooden, plastic or rubber spinners, spoons, lures, plugs and/or natural bait on any restricted trout stream.

It shall be unlawful to have in his or her possession more than four (4) trout within 50 feet of any restricted trout stream. On the restricted trout stream only, trout may be caught and released as long as the four (4) trout possession limit is not exceeded. All trout released must be returned to the water as quickly as possible with the least possible injury.

Hours of Fishing for Trout
It shall be unlawful for any person to fish for rainbow, brown and/or brook trout in designated trout streams on the opening day of the trout season before 7:30 a.m. and thereafter for the remainder of the trout season between one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.

Possession Limit of Trout
It shall be unlawful for any person to catch and/or have in his or her possession in any one day more than six (6) rainbow, brown and/or brook trout. On any day, after a person takes his or her legal limit of trout, said person shall be prohibited from fishing in a designated trout stream on the same day, unless otherwise authorized by law or this regulation.

Trout Stamp
It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in a designated trout stream on or before the first Saturday in April and June 30, of the same year, and on or before the first Saturday in October and November 30, of the same year, unless said person has in his or her possession a valid trout stamp, or, unless said person is exempted by law from having a trout stamp.
2009 TENTATIVE TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

TROUT SEASON OPENS 7:30 A.M., APRIL 4, 2009

<table>
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<tr>
<th>STREAM</th>
<th>Prior to season</th>
<th>April 6</th>
<th>April 9</th>
<th>April 13</th>
<th>April 16**</th>
<th>April 23</th>
<th>April 30**</th>
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<tr>
<td>White Clay</td>
<td>8,750</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>1,200</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>3,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilson Run</td>
<td>1,845</td>
<td>700</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>713*</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Trout stocked in these streams will be rainbows averaging 11 inches unless otherwise noted.

** - On April 16 and April 30, brown trout averaging 11 inches will be stocked

Trophy-size rainbow trout (14 inches or greater) will be stocked prior to the season opener

* - A special stocking of 11-inch rainbows and trophy-size rainbows for handicapped anglers will be conducted on April 23 in Wilson Run located at Brandywine Creek State Park – for details contact the Park office (302-577-3534)

# - A fall stocking of 1,000 pounds of rainbows will be conducted in mid-October (this date will be unannounced)
Designated Trout Streams

1. Christina Creek
2. White Clay Creek
3. Pike Creek
4. Mill Creek
5. Wilson Run
6. Beaver Run

More detail is available online at www.fw.delaware.gov