

# 2007

## DELAWARE

# FISHING

## GUIDE



Department of Natural  
Resources & Environmental Control

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# Outdoor

D E L A W A R E



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## From the Director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife



The Division of Fish and Wildlife is pleased to make available the 2007 Delaware Fishing Guide. You will notice that the 2007 Fishing Guide is in a completely different format. We hope you will find it convenient, easy to store, and filled with information on fishing regulations, access sites, and programs that the Division has for the recreational angler. All of the information provided in the Fishing Guide and much more is available via the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control web sites ([www.dnrec.Delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.Delaware.gov)) or ([www.fw.Delaware.gov](http://www.fw.Delaware.gov)).

Fishing and shell fishing are important and popular pastimes in Delaware that include everything from trout fishing in our small freshwater streams in northern New Castle County, to clamming in the Inland Bays, to offshore fishing miles off our coastline. The Division manages and maintains 35 freshwater fishing areas scattered throughout the State for largemouth bass and pan fishing, and 26 tidewater access areas leading to our tidal rivers, bays, and ocean. We conduct research and monitoring programs for all of our freshwater ponds, and provide critical data used to support coast-wide management of over 20 different marine species. These are financially challenging times for the Division due to increasing costs without a significant increase in revenue, but we will do everything possible to maintain all of the projects and facilities that the fishermen of the State of Delaware have come to expect.

Please have a safe, productive, and enjoyable year fishing in Delaware's waters.

Patrick Emory  
Director

Maps for this publication were created by the Office of the Secretary's GIS section. Fish illustrations were drawn by Duane Raver, and the shark illustrations by Bob Jones. The cover photos were contributed by staff of the Department.

# Contact Information



**Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control**  
**[www.dnrec.delaware.gov](http://www.dnrec.delaware.gov)**

Division of Fish and Wildlife – [www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov)

Director's Office	(302) 739-9910
Fisheries Section, Dover	(302) 739-9914
Little Creek Fisheries Field Office	(302) 739-4782
Aquatic Resources Education Center	(302) 653-2887

## Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section

Main Office (Dover)	(302) 739-9913
New Castle County (Delaware City)	(302) 836-4682
Kent County (Little Creek)	(302) 739-6139
Sussex County (Georgetown)	(302) 855-1901
24-hour hotline (KENTCOM)	(800) 523-3336
Boating Safety Education	(302) 739-9915
Ramp Certificates	(302) 739-9916
Boat Licenses/Registration	(302) 739-9916

## General Information

Freshwater Trout Program	(302) 739-9914
Non-tidal Fishing	(302) 739-9914 / (302) 653-2887
Fish Consumption Advisories	(302)-739-9914
Division Public Health	(302)-744-4546
Artificial Reef Program	(302) 739-4782
Fishing / Boating Access Areas	(302)-739-9914
Clamming	(302) 739-4782
Crabbing	(302) 739-4782

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# Freshwater Fishing

## License Fees

Resident of the State of Delaware	\$ 8.50
Non-residents	\$ 15.00
Non-residents 7-consecutive day	\$ 5.20

## Fishing License Requirements

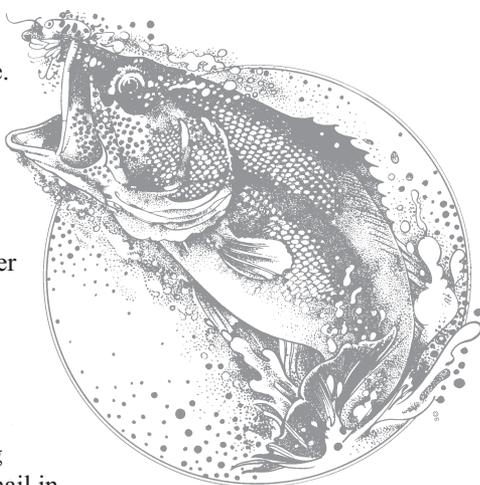
A fishing license is required to fish in the non-tidal waters of this state. Non-tidal waters include lakes, ponds, impoundments and streams where the tides do not occur. Most non-tidal waters are fresh except for brackish water impoundments. A license may be obtained from the Dover office or from over 100 agents, most sporting goods and hardware stores throughout the State, or online.

To order or purchase a fishing license online, go to:

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

Licenses. For a mail-in form select “mail in

application”. To purchase a license on-line select: “Get License On-line” and follow the steps listed. 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 of age, is required to have a license to fish in non-tidal waters. The following individuals may fish without a license:



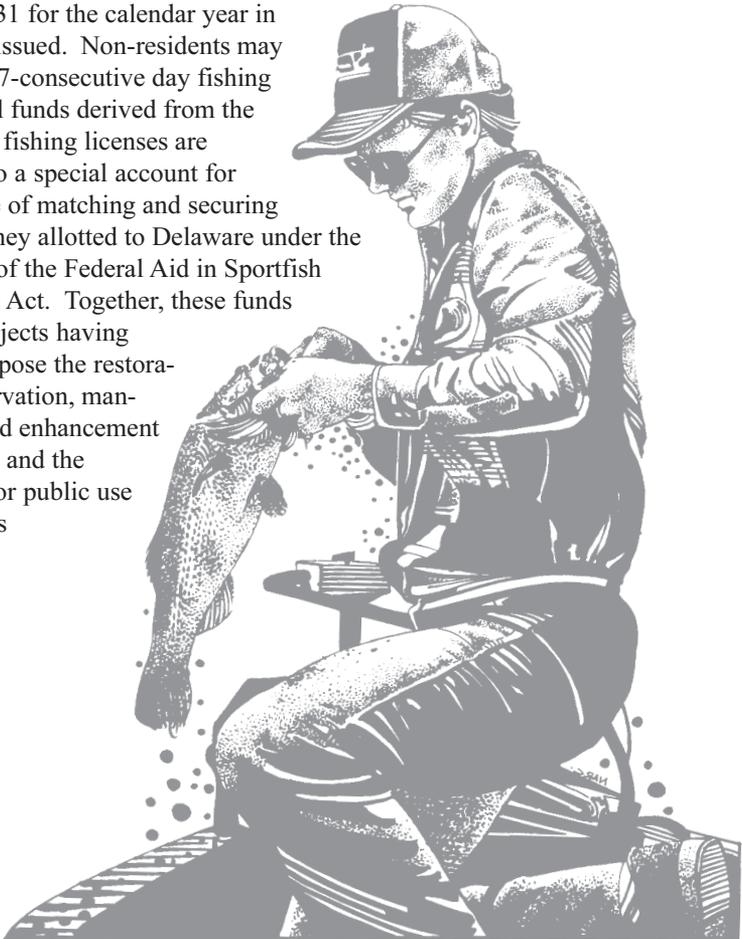
1. Any resident who owns or lives on a farm in this state containing 20 or more acres and the members of his or her immediate family who reside on the farm may fish on that farm.
2. Any resident who has been honorably discharged from the armed forces and certified by the Veterans Administration as having at least a 60% service-oriented disability.
3. 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.

*continued on page7*

4. Any patient in a Veterans Administration facility in this state.
5. Any patient in a rehabilitation hospital under the Department of Health and Social Services.
6. Any person who is legally blind.
7. Any person who fishes in a fee fishing facility, registered as such with the Department of Agriculture.
8. Any resident who served 90 or more days in military actions in Operation Iraqi or Enduring Freedom may be issued a license without charge, for the first 12 months following the date the resident was honorably discharged or removed from active status. Contact the Division for details.

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

A fishing license is valid through December 31 for the calendar year in which it is issued. Non-residents may purchase a 7-consecutive day fishing license. 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 Sportfish Restoration Act. Together, these funds support projects having as their purpose the restoration, conservation, management and enhancement of sportfish and the provision for public use and benefits from these resources.



# Freshwater Trout Fishing

## Season

The 2007 freshwater trout season in New Castle County opens at 7:30 a.m. Saturday April 7.

## 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 two weeks 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.

*continued on page 9*

## License and Stamp Requirements

1. Residents 16 years of age and older but not over 65 years old are required to have a fishing license.
2. Residents 12 through 15 years old, are required to have a Young Angler Trout Stamp. Residents 16 years and older but not over 65 are required to have a trout stamp 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.
4. Non-residents 12 years of age and older are required to have a trout stamp 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. Trout stamps are available from license agents or the Division of Fish and Wildlife.
5. A trout stamp is not valid unless signed across its face in ink.

### Fees:

Resident Fishing License	\$ 8.50
Resident Trout Stamp	\$ 4.20
Young Angler Trout Stamp	\$ 2.10
Non-resident Fishing License	\$ 15.00
Non-resident 7-day	\$ 5.20
Non-resident Trout Stamp	\$ 6.20

### Trout Pond Stocking

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 Blockhouse Pond behind Beebe Hospital in Lewes in Sussex County. 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. There will be no closed season for trout fishing in any pond so stocked, including stocking days. 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.

# 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.

## 2007 TENTATIVE TROUT STOCKING SCHEDULE

TROUT SEASON OPENS 7:30 A.M., APRIL 7, 2007

STREAM	Prior to season	April 9	April 12	April 16	April 19**	April 26	May 3**	Fall#
White Clay	8,750	2,000	2,000	1,200	2,000	3,500	2,000	2,000
Wilson Run	1,845		700	200	200	713*		
Christina Creek	2,570		800	400	200	500		
Beaver Run	715		200	200				
Mill Creek	210			150				
Pike Creek	150		150					

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

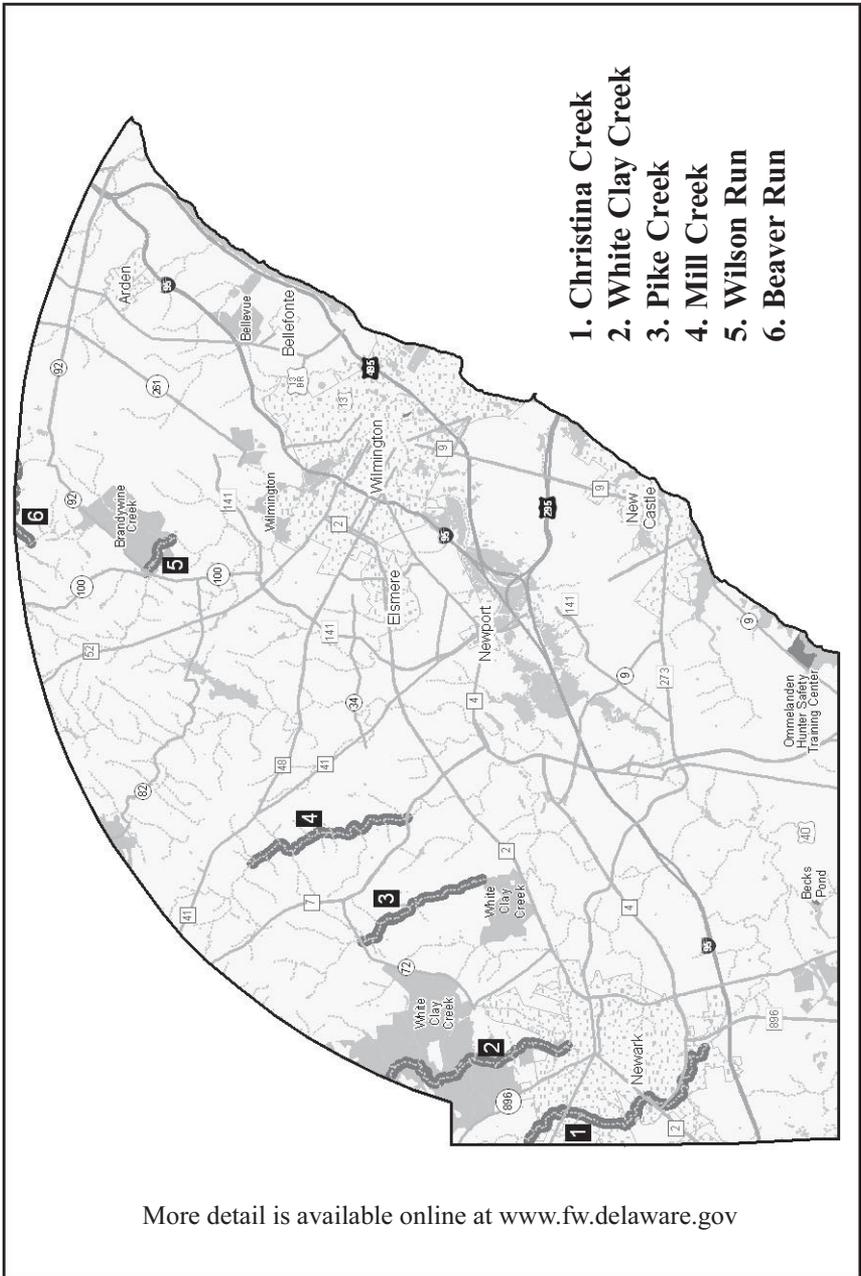
\*\* - On April 19 and May 3, brown trout averaging 11 inches will be stocked

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 26 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 (date yet to be determined)

# Designated Trout Streams



## General Non-tidal Fishing Regulations

These are some of the regulations and state statutes that all fishermen should be familiar with. Most have been edited to make them easier to read and understand. This is not a complete list and it is up to the angler to be familiar with all of the laws and regulations currently existing or newly adopted. For a complete listing refer to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control – Division of Fish and Wildlife web-site or request a copy from the Directors Office.

Unless otherwise authorized, it shall be illegal for any person to fish for any freshwater fish in the non-tidal waters of this State with any fishing equipment or by any method, unless it is provided for in the following subdivisions:

A hook and line may be used, and each hook and line shall have no more than 3 hooks or 3 separate lures with hooks.

Except for a person fishing for freshwater finfish with a hook and line through ice, the number of hooks and lines any 1 person shall be permitted to use to fish for any freshwater finfish in the non-tidal or fresh waters of the State shall be no more than 2.

A person may use a dip net to aid in landing any freshwater finfish taken or caught by hook and line in the non-tidal or fresh waters of the State.

No owner or tenant of any pond, lake or impoundment located in this State shall use or attempt to use any chemical, poison and/or electrical equipment or device to fish for freshwater finfish.

Upon the request of the owner of any privately owned pond located in the State, employees of the Division may be authorized by the Director to use any chemical, poison and/or electrical equipment or device to fish in said owner's pond for the purpose of fish management practices.

Carp may be taken and/or fished for by using a bow and arrow and/or spear, unless said equipment or method is otherwise restricted by any regulation promulgated by the Department.

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*continued from page 13*

It is illegal to sell, trade, or barter any finfish taken from the non-tidal waters of this State, unless authorized to do so in a permit issued by the Director.

It is illegal to take shad, except by hook and line, and no more than two (2) lures attached. Each lure may have no more than one (1) single pointed hook.

It is illegal to knowingly snag fish in non-tidal waters with any hook (single, double or treble) or otherwise catch or attempt to snag or catch any game fish by hooking the fish in any part of the body other than in the mouth.

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish within ten (10) feet of an entrance or exit of a fish ladder or to remove fish from any fish ladder between March 15 and May 30

#### **Closure of Department Ponds During Draw-downs**

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish in any pond or lake administered by the Department when the water level is lowered for the purpose of aiding in the control of aquatic vegetation, the conservation of fishes or the repair of water control facilities, provided it is duly posted with signs by the Division that state it is closed to fishing.

#### **Speed and Wake of Motorboats on Division Ponds**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorized vessel, except at a slow-no-wake speed, on any pond or lake administered by the Division.

#### **Fish Stocking Practices**

It shall be unlawful for any person to stock any species of fish into the non-tidal public waters of this State without the written permission of the Director. This regulation does not prohibit the stocking of private impoundments.

#### **Possession, Transportation and Sale of Illegal species**

It shall be unlawful for any person to transport, purchase, possess, or sell walking catfish (*Clarius batrachus*) or the white amur or grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idella*) or live northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) or blotched snakehead fish (*Channa maculata*) without the written permission of the Director.

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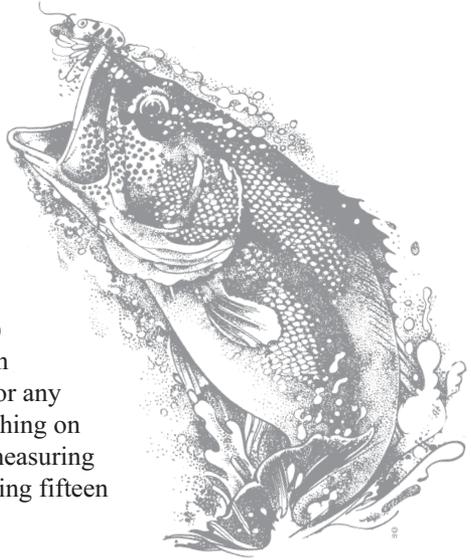
## Special largemouth bass management regulations

### Becks Pond

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Becks Pond more than two (2) largemouth bass. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Becks Pond any largemouth bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length. Any largemouth bass less than fifteen (15) inches in total length shall be immediately returned to Becks Pond with the least possible injury.

### Andrews Lake

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake more than one (1) largemouth bass of the six (6) allowed in possession to be larger than fifteen (15) inches in total length. Largemouth bass measuring less than twelve (12) inches may be taken and possessed within the six (6) allowed in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Andrews Lake any largemouth bass measuring from twelve (12) inches to and including fifteen (15) inches in total length.



### Derby Pond and Hearn's Pond

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond more than one (1) largemouth bass of the six (6) allowed in possession to be larger than eighteen (18) inches. Largemouth bass measuring less than fifteen (15) inches may be taken and retained up to the legal possession limit while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession while fishing on Derby Pond or Hearn's Pond any largemouth bass measuring from fifteen (15) inches to and including eighteen (18) inches in total length.

## Non-Tidal Length and Possession Limits

Species	Minimum Length	Daily Possession Limit
◆ Trout	No Minimum	6 (4 in restricted streams)
◆ Largemouth bass	12 inches	6
Becks Pond	15 inches	2
Andrews Lake	*none between 12" – 15"	6 (no more than one > 15")
Derby Pond	*none between 15" – 18"	6 (no more than one > 18")
Hearns Pond	*none between 15" – 18"	6 (no more than one > 18")

\*Largemouth bass less than 12" in Andrews and less than 15" in Derby and Hearns may be kept as part of the daily possession limit.

◆ Smallmouth Bass	none between 12" – 17"	6 (no more than one > 17")
◆ Panfish**	none	50 (no more than 25 of one species)

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

◆ Striped bass hybrid (only occur in Lums Pond)	15 inches	2
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# Non-tidal Fishing Access Areas

## Division of Fish and Wildlife

Area	Location	Acres	Boat Ramp	Shore Fishing
1	Becks Pond (No gas motors)	25	Yes	Yes
2	Garrisons Lake	86	Yes	Yes
3	Masseys Mill Pond	30	unimproved	Limited
4	Moores Lake	27	Yes	Yes
5	Derby Pond	23	Yes	Yes
6	Logan Lane Pond	2	No	Handicapped only
7	Mud Mill Pond	60	Yes	Yes
8	McGinnis Pond	31	Yes	Yes
9	Andrews Lake	18	Yes	Yes
10	Coursey Pond	58	Yes	Yes
11	McColley Pond	49	No	Limited
12	Tubmill Pond	5	Yes	Limited
13	Silver Lake (Milford)	29	No	Limited
14	Haven Lake	82	Yes	Limited
15	Griffith Lake	32	Yes	Yes
16	Blairs Pond	29	Yes	Yes
17	Abbotts Pond	17	Yes	Yes
18	Waples Pond	51	unimproved	Limited
19	Wagamons Pond	41	Yes	Yes
20	Hearns Pond	53	Yes	Yes
21	Concord Pond	77	Yes	Limited
22	Craigs Pond	12	Yes	Yes
23	Millsboro Pond	101	Yes	Limited
24	Ingrams Pond	24	Yes	Yes
25	Portsville Pond	15	Yes	Limited
26	Records Pond	92	Yes	Yes & Pier
27	Chipman Pond	52	Yes	Yes
28	Horsey Pond	46	Yes	Yes
29	Tussock Pond	9	Yes	Limited
<b>Parks and Recreation Access Areas</b>				
30	Lums Pond	189	Yes	Yes
31	Killens Pond	75	unimproved	Yes
35	Trap Pond	107	Yes	Yes
36	Trussum Pond	73	Car top only	No
37	Raccoon Pond	14	Car top only	Yes

“Area” number refers to the numbered red or brown boxes on the Fishing Areas map (see fold-out).

## Tidal Waters

### Minimum Size, Creel Limits & Seasons

Species	Open Season	Min. Total Length * (Inches)	Daily Limit
American eel	all year	6	50
Atlantic croaker	all year	8	none
Atlantic sturgeon	CLOSED		none
◆ Summer flounder	To Be Announced ( <i>See pg 19</i> )		
Tautog	April 1 – June 30	15	3
	July 1 – March 31 □	14	10
	□ Closed Sept. 1 – Sept. 28		
Black sea bass	all year	12	25
Bluefish	all year	none	10
Catfish	all year	none	none
Spotted sea trout	all year	12	none
Spanish mackerel	all year	14	10
Red drum	all year	20 – 27 max	5
River herring	all year	none	25
Scup (porgy)	all year	8	50
◆◆◆ Shad	Closed in Nanticoke River and its tributaries ( <i>See pg 19 &amp; 21</i> )		
American	other locations	none	10
and Hickory	other locations	none	combined
◆◆ Sharks	all year ( <i>See pg 19</i> )	54 (fork length)	1 per vessel
Dogfish sharks	all year	none	none
Striped bass	all year ( <i>See pg 19</i> )	28	2
◆ Weakfish	all year	13	8
White perch	all year	8	none
Winter flounder	Feb. 11 – April 10	12	10
Blue Crab (pots)	March 1 – Nov.30		1 bushel/crabber
	Peeler	3.0	
	Soft-shell	3.5	
	Hard shell	5.0	
Hard Clams	all year	1.5	100 resident
	all year	1.5	50 non-resident
Lobster	all year	3 3/8	2 per diver

*continued on page 19*

- ◆ Summer flounder regulations have not been established at the time of this printing. Check the Division web-site or call for the latest on this and other species.
- ◆ Weakfish daily limits are likely to change by the fall of 2008. Check the Division website or call for the latest information.

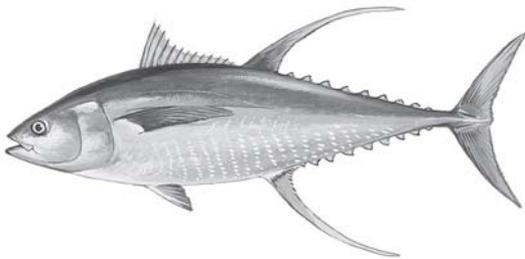
\* Finfish are measured from tip of snout to tip of tail (*see pg 46*). Blue crabs are measured tip to tip on the back. Female crabs with eggs are protected. Female crabs without eggs but with U-shaped aprons have no size limit. Lobsters are measured from rear of eye socket to rear of body shell.

Striped bass season is closed April 1 – May 30 on spawning grounds which include the Nanticoke River, C&D Canal, Delaware River north of the C&D Canal including the south jetty of the Canal. No harvest, catch and release only; note Circle-hook requirement.

◆◆ Includes all sharks in the management unit except smooth and spiny dogfish. No sand tiger sharks may be retained. In general the limit for sharks is one per vessel or 1 per person per day for shore anglers and the minimum size is 54 inches FORK LENGTH. No limits apply to spiny dogfish and smooth dogfish.

◆◆◆ Shad includes American and Hickory and the limit of 10 refers to the two species in combination.

## Tuna Regulations



Tuna regulations and permits are available from the Federal government. Federal phone: (888) USA-TUNA Federal web site: <http://www.nmfspermits.com>

# General Tidal Fishing Regulations

These are some of the regulations that all fishermen should be familiar with. For a complete listing refer to the Division's web site or request a copy from the Director's Office.

## Striped bass

### Spawning season

The spawning season for striped bass (*Morone saxatilis*) in Delaware is considered to begin at 12:01 A.M. on April 1 and continue through midnight on May 31 of each calendar year.

### Spawning areas

It shall be unlawful for any person to take and retain any striped bass during the striped bass spawning season from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries, the Delaware River and its tributaries to the north of a line extending due east beginning at and including the south jetty at the mouth of the C & D Canal, or the C & D Canal or its tributaries.

### Circle-hooks

It shall be unlawful for any person to fish during the striped bass spawning season on any striped bass spawning ground with natural bait using any hook other than a non-offset circle hook when said hook measures greater than three-eighths ( $3/8$ s) inches as measured from the point of the hook to the shank of the hook.

### Striped bass possession limits

It shall be unlawful for any recreational fisherman to take and reduce to possession more than two (2) striped bass per day (a day being 24 hours) from the tidal waters of this State. Any striped bass taken from the tidal waters of this State that is not immediately returned, without unnecessary injury, to the same waters from which it was taken, is deemed taken and reduced to possession for purposes of this subsection.

### Black sea bass

It shall be unlawful for any recreational person to have in possession any black sea bass that measures less than twelve (12) inches total length excluding any caudal filament.

### Summer flounder

It shall be unlawful for any person while on board a vessel, to have in possession any part of a summer flounder that measures less than the current minimum size limit between said part's two most distant points unless said person also has in possession the head, backbone and tail intact from which said part was removed.

*continued on page 21*

## **Sharks**

It shall be unlawful for any person to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing it unless the fins are naturally attached to the body of the shark. It shall be unlawful for any person to fillet a shark prior to landing it. A shark may be eviscerated and the head removed prior to landing.

## **River herring**

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in possession, except a person with a valid Delaware commercial food fishing license, more than twenty-five (25) blueback herring and/or alewife (*Alosa aestivalis* and/or *Alosa pseudoharengus*), collectively known as river herring, at or between the place caught and his/her personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or unless said person has a valid bill-of-sale or receipt for said river herring that indicates the date they were received, the number of river herring received and the name, address and signature of the commercial food fisherman who legally caught the river herring; or a bill-of-sale or receipt from a person who is a licensed retailer and legally obtained said river herring for resale.

## **American shad and hickory shad**

It shall be unlawful for any person who does not have a valid commercial food fishing license to have in possession more than an aggregate of ten (10) American shad and hickory shad.

It shall be unlawful for any person to take and reduce to possession any American shad or hickory shad from the Nanticoke River or its tributaries.

## **Electric lights**

“Lights used for illumination for visual purposes” shall mean any light that is fixed in position anywhere directly above the hull or deck of the vessel, dock or shore area or any electric flood light less than 500 watts and fixed in position no less than ten (10) feet directly above the surface of the water. An electric flood light is any electric light that does not have a focused beam.

It shall be legal for any person to fish in the tidal waters of this State with the aid of “lights used for illumination for visual purposes”.

# Division of Fish and Wildlife

## Tidal Fishing Access Areas

Area	Location / Water Body	Boat Ramps	Fishing Piers	Parking
1	7th Street Park / Christina, Brandywine and DE Rivers	Closed	1	20
2	Newport Boat Ramp / Christina River	♣2	none	51
3	Churchmans Road / Christina River	♣1	none	20
4	Fort DuPont State Park / DE River	♣3	none	100
5	Canal Wildlife Area / C&D Canal	none	♣8 . along road	
6	Augustine Beach / DE River	♣2	1	100
7	Odessa / Appoquinimink River	1	none	2
8	Collins Beach / DE Bay	♣3	1	120
9	Woodland Beach / DE Bay	1	♣1	50
10	Woodland Bch. / Duck Creek / DE Bay	2	none	30
11	Port Mahon / DE Bay	3	1	75
12	Water Street (Dover) / St. Jones River	car top	none	as available
13	Lebanon Landing / St. Jones River	1	♣1	7
14	Scotton Landing / St. Jones River	1	♣1	10
15	Bowers Beach / DE Bay	♣5	none	200
16	Cedar Creek / DE Bay	♣8	none	150
17	Front St., Milford / Mispillion River	♣1	♣1	10
18	Milton / Broadkill River	♣1	♣2	20
19	Lewes / DE Bay	♣3	none	50
20	Masseys Landing / Indian River & Rehoboth Bay	♣4	♣1	100
21	Rosedale Bch. / Indian River	♣2	♣1	30
22	Seaford / Nanticoke River	♣4	♣1	93
23	Phillips Landing / Broad Creek / Nanticoke River	♣3	none	50
24	Edward R. Koch / Broad Creek <i>(shoreline fishing only)</i>	none	none	10
25	Laurel below Records Pond / Broad Creek	none	♣1	17
26	Assawoman Wildlife Area / Little Assawoman Bay	♣2	2	20
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Areas</b>				
32	Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier	none	1	75
33	Indian River Marina	2	No	40
	Indian River Inlet	none	along inlet	200
34	Holts Landing/ Indian River Bay	1	Yes	25

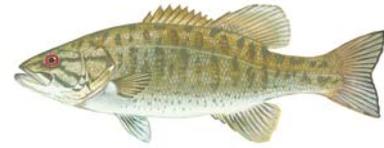
“Area” number refers to the numbered yellow or brown boxes on the Fishing Area map.

Note – All motor boats launched from tidal access areas administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate (see page 27). A daily or seasonal fee may be required at areas administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

# Freshwater Fishes



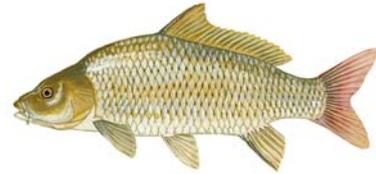
Largemouth bass



Smallmouth bass



Bluegill



Carp



Channel catfish



Black crappie



White perch



Yellow perch



Chain pickerel



Rainbow trout



Redear sunfish



American shad

# Saltwater Fishes



Red Drum



Black Drum



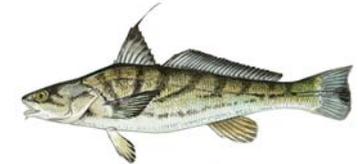
Striped Bass



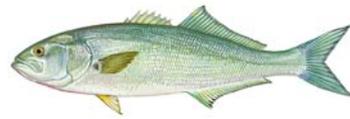
Tautog



Atlantic mackerel



Kingfish



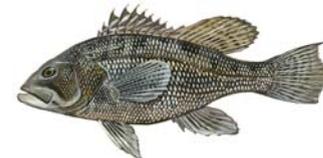
Bluefish



Sheepshead



Summer flounder



Black sea bass



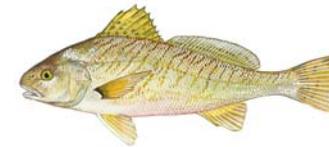
Triggerfish



Weakfish



False albacore



Atlantic croaker



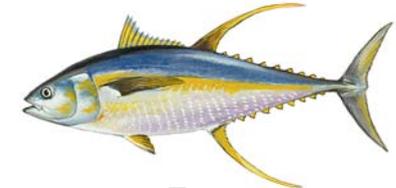
White marlin



Scup



Dolphinfish



Tuna

# Fishing Map

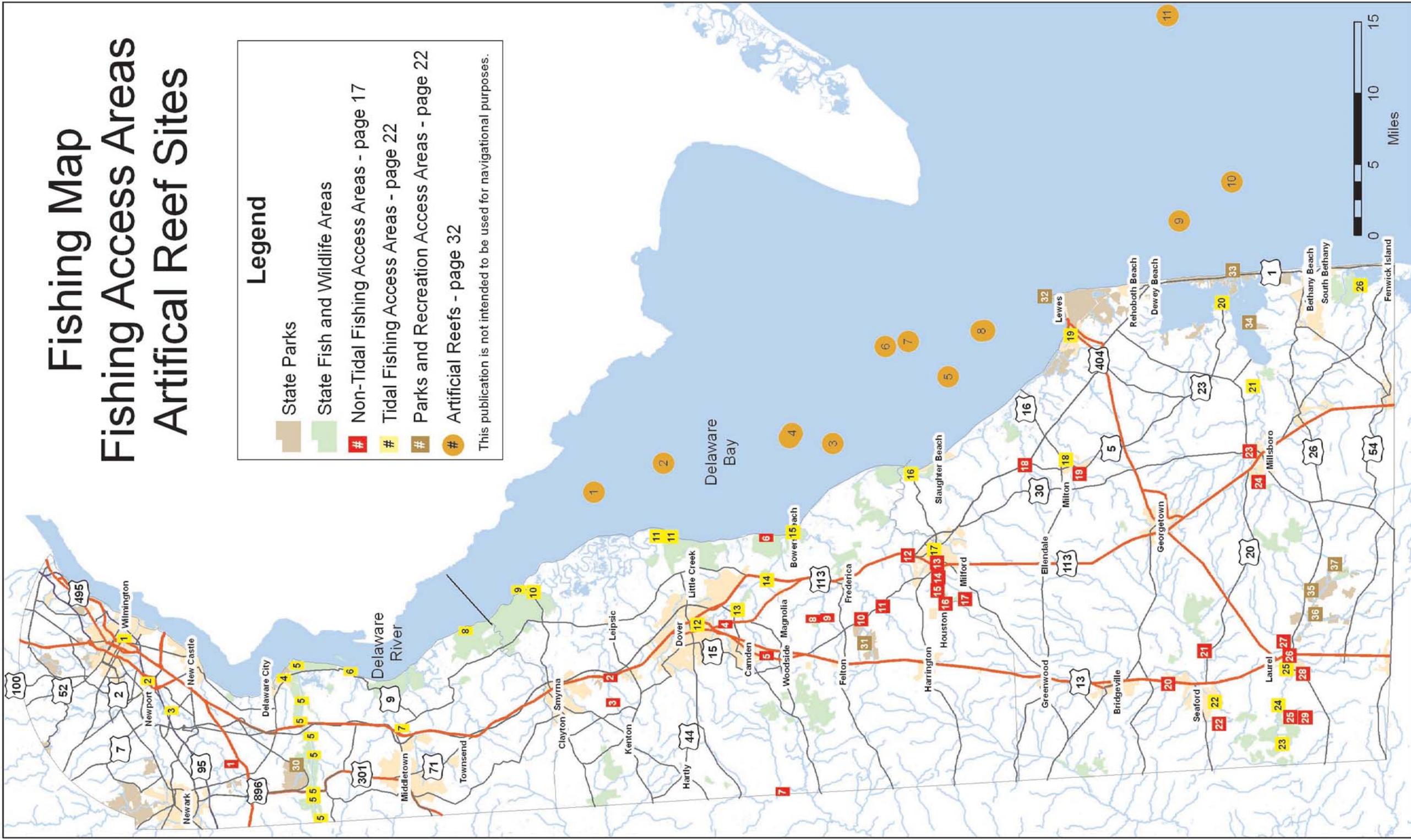
## Fishing Access Areas

## Artificial Reef Sites

### Legend

-  State Parks
-  State Fish and Wildlife Areas
-  Non-Tidal Fishing Access Areas - page 17
-  Tidal Fishing Access Areas - page 22
-  Parks and Recreation Access Areas - page 22
-  Artificial Reefs - page 32

This publication is not intended to be used for navigational purposes.



# Boat Ramp Certificates

## Requirements:

All motor boats launched from tidal access areas administered by the Division of Fish and Wildlife must be registered in Delaware or have a valid ramp certificate. Ramp certificates cost \$35.00 and are available from the Division of Fish and Wildlife or its authorized agents.

## Authorized Sales Outlets of Boat Ramp Certificates

All phone numbers listed below have a (302) Area Code

### New Castle County

Delaware City Marina .....	834-4172
Eastern Marine, Newark .....	737-6603
Carlisle's Marine, Newark .....	737-0100
Rudy's Outboard Service, Wilm. ....	999-8735

### Kent County

Hi-Rise Bait and Tackle, Frederica .....	335-4885
Smith's Bait and Tackle, Leipsic .....	744-9140
Sonny's Bait and Tackle, Frederica .....	335-4675
Fish and Wildlife Office, Dover .....	739-9916

### Sussex County

Beach Marine, Lewes .....	645-7066
Bill's Sport Shop, Rehoboth .....	645-7654
Bob's Marine Service, Ocean View .....	539-3711
Cedar Creek Bait & Tackle .....	422-4227
Duke's Boat Sales, Millsboro .....	945-1111
Full-Tilt Marine, Millsboro .....	947-1122
Henlopen Bait & Tackle, Lewes .....	645-8106
Lewes Harbor Marina, Lewes .....	645-6227
C.H. McKinney & Sons, Rehoboth .....	277-8800
Rt. 113 Boat Sales, Selbyville .....	436-1737
Shorts Marine, Long Neck .....	945-1200
Sturgis Marine, Seaford .....	629-3581
Taylor Marine, Milford .....	422-9177
Walker's Marine, Seaford .....	629-8666
Indian River Marina .....	277-3071
Old Inlet Bait & Tackle .....	227-7974

## Surf Fishing

The Division of Parks and Recreation surf fishing beaches are Beach Plum Island, Cape Henlopen State Park, Delaware Seashore State Park, and Fenwick Island State Park. Special restrictions and regulations apply to these areas. For more information contact the Division of Parks and Recreation (302) 739-9220.



In order to drive a vehicle on a designated State Park beach, a SURF FISHING VEHICLE PERMIT is required. Only four-wheel drive vehicles with a minimum ground clearance of seven inches that are licensed to operate on public roadways are eligible for Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits. Permit holders must be actively engaged in surf fishing while on the beach. Permits are available at State Park offices, various license agents, and at the DNREC main office in Dover. Purchasers of Surf Fishing Vehicle Permits will receive additional rules and safety requirements. The revenue collected from these permits supports the management of seashore State Parks and beaches. None of the proceeds go towards fisheries management programs or fishing access projects conducted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

## 21th Annual Youth Fishing Tournament

As part of its activities for National Fishing Week, June 2-10, the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife will hold its 21th annual Youth Fishing Tournament from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday June 9. The event will take place at Ingrams Pond in Millsboro, Wyoming Pond in Town Park, Wyoming, and at the Lums Pond State Park dog training area.

This fishing event is for youths ages 4 to 15. An adult must accompany youths under age 12 and contestants should bring their own fishing equipment. The tournament is free to the public and prizes will be awarded in three age groups: 4-7; 8-11; and 12-15.

The tournament was established to introduce youth to the sport of fishing and to teach the catch and release approach to conservation. There is no pre-registration nor entrance fee required and the tournament is held rain or shine.

In addition to the fishing tournament celebrating National Fishing Week, the Division has designated June 9 and 10 as free fishing days when anyone may fish in Delaware's non-tidal waters without a fishing license.



## Circle Hooks

Scientific studies have shown that the use of circle hooks reduces mortalities for hooking and releasing a variety of fish species, therefore the Division of Fish and Wildlife recommends their use when fishermen are using natural baits. Due to their unusual design, circle hooks invariably hook the fish in the corner of the mouth or elsewhere on the jaw allowing for much easier and quicker hook removal. Unlike standard “J”-style hooks however, the angler does not ‘set’ the hook, rather the line is tightened with the reel and the hook sets itself when the fish turns and runs. The significant reduction in hook and release mortality rates experienced for striped bass in all studies prompted the Division to develop a strict “Circle-Hook Only” regulation during the spawning season on the spawning grounds as stated below.



“Only non-offset circle hooks must be used when fishing with natural bait in designated striped bass spawning areas during the designated striped bass spawning season if you are using any hook having a gap greater than 3/8 inches as measured from the hook point to the shank of the hook.”

## Handling and Releasing Fish

Catch-and-release fishing can be an effective way to conserve fish if certain precautions are observed. Bringing fish up from more than 30 feet down can reduce chances for survival.

Whether fishermen choose to release fish or are required to do so by law, all released fish must be handled carefully to have a good chance for survival. The angler controls several factors that affect a fish's chance of survival:

- ◆ **Circle Hooks and Striped Bass** - Only non-offset circle-hooks must be used when fishing with natural bait in designated striped bass spawning areas during the designated striped bass spawning season if you are using any hook having a gap greater than 3/8 inches as measured from the hook point to the shank of the hook. Striped bass spawning areas are defined as the Delaware River and its tributaries from the southernmost jetty at the mouth of the C&D Canal upstream to the PA/DE line, the C&D Canal, and the Nanticoke River and its tributaries. The spawning season is April 1 through May 31. Scientific studies have shown that the use of circle hooks reduces mortalities for hooking and releasing, therefore the Division recommends their use in other areas as well when fishermen are using natural baits.
- ◆ **Exhaustion**- The fight is tough on the fish. It can upset the fish's chemical balance if it lasts too long.
- ◆ **Loss of Slime**- Fish have a slime coating, which seals out infection. Rough handling can destroy this protective layer.
- ◆ **Time out of the water**- As long as it is out of the water, a fish can't breathe or restore its chemical balance.
- ◆ **Wounds**- Anglers can do a lot to minimize the damage of hook wounds both before and after the fish is hooked.
- ◆ **Use barbless hooks**. They are much easier to remove from a fish than barbed hooks, meaning less *wounding* and *time* out of water. Barbs can easily be bent or filed down on bait hooks or artificial lures. You can leave a bump instead of a barb to prevent the hook from penetrating too far or coming out too soon. Some barbless hooks are made with a bend to serve this purpose.
- ◆ **Reduce the use of treble hooks** to minimize *wounding* and *time* out of water. Often, single hooks can replace treble or tines can be clipped without ruining the lure. Experiment!

If you must remove the fish from the water:

- ◆ **Remove the fish carefully by supporting its weight** in an upright position with your hands and lifting straight up; or
- ◆ **Use a shallow landing net**, preferably of rubber or knotless nylon. These nets will remove less *slime* and will reduce *wounding* and *time* out of water.
- ◆ **Keep control of the fish** so that it cannot flop around and cause further *wounds* or loss of *slime*.

*continued on page 31*

Handling and releasing fish:

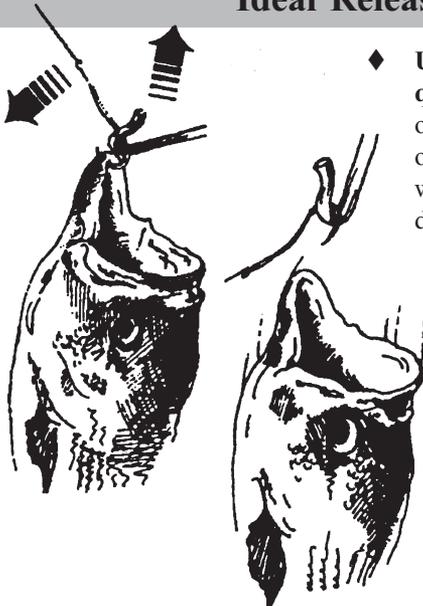
- ◆ **Handle fish carefully using wet cotton or rubber gloves or a wet towel** to minimize *slime* loss. If you must use your hands, be sure to wet them first.
- ◆ **Cradle the fish on its back and cover its eyes.** This will calm the fish, reducing *wounding* and *slime loss*.
- ◆ **Always avoid touching the gills.** This is where the fish takes in oxygen and or salts from the water when recovering from the *exhaustion* of the fight. Gills are very delicate.
- ◆ **Carefully return the fish to the water after removing the hook.** Hold it in or close to the water and release it upright and head first.
- ◆ **Revive an unresponsive fish** by moving it gently back and forth in the water to relieve its *exhaustion*.

Difficult hooks:

- ◆ **Carefully remove hooks inside the fish's mouth, gill or gullet with tools** like needlenose pliers that can grasp a hook or with disgorgor or deep throat-type tools. Fish experience high mortality rates when hooks are left in the gills or gullet.
- ◆ **When the hook is in the stomach, cut the line and leave the hook.** Studies have shown that many fish are usually able to pass hooks if a short piece of leader is left attached.

For further information contact: Chesapeake Bay Foundation (410) 268-8816

## Ideal Release:



- ◆ **Use a dehooker to remove a hook quickly,** keeping the fish in or over the water. There will be little or no *slime* loss or *time* out of water. You can make or buy a dehooker.

To use a dehooker, pull down on the line with your hand and up on the dehooker as shown.

## Artificial Reef Program

Delaware has eleven permitted artificial reef sites in Delaware Bay and along the Atlantic Coast. Development of these sites began in 1995 and will continue in the future. The Delaware Reef Program is one part of a comprehensive fisheries management effort and is designed to enhance fisheries habitat, benefit structure-oriented fish, and provide fishing opportunities for anglers.

Reef construction is especially important in the Mid-Atlantic Region, where near shore bottom is usually featureless sand or mud. We have neither the natural rocky outcrops

common in New England or the coral reefs of our Southeastern Atlantic Coast. Durable, stable, non-toxic reef materials can develop an invertebrate community which is hundreds of times richer than adjacent bottom, providing food and physical



*Decommissioned armored vehicles such as this one are among the recycled materials used to create an artificial reef for marine habitat off Delaware's Atlantic coast.*

protection for reef fish such as tautog, seabass, scup, spadefish and triggerfish. In addition, gamefish such as bluefish, striped bass and weakfish are attracted to baitfish, which congregate around reef structure.

Recycled materials have supported reef development efforts to date. Donated concrete culvert pipe and other concrete products are the primary material used at the eight Delaware Bay sites. Ballasted tire units have been deployed at the three ocean sites. The tugboat "Golden Eagle" has been sunk in the lower bay. To date, 24,500 tons of concrete products, 8,000 tons of ballasted tire units and 86 decommissioned military vehicles have been deployed on our sites. During 1999 two small vessels ("P3" and "Dolphin") were deployed on site #7 and the commercial tug "Delilah" was sunk on site #11.

*continued on page 33*

The reef program uses DGPS (Differential Global Positioning System) to accurately place materials on site. The site charts in the reef guide show where reef materials have been deployed since 1995. Locations (latitude - longitude) noted for each site indicate the position of deployments of reef material from an anchored barge. In the case of large, concentrated reef deployments, a latitude or longitude range, may be given such as: N 39 15.377'-402'. This indicates material occurs between 39 degrees, 15.377 to 15.402 minutes north latitude. Due to variability between DGPS receivers, slight variations in readings may occur. It is suggested you use your GPS and a good fathometer to locate reef structure, then note the coordinates on your own GPS. You can view the reef guide on-line or contact the Fisheries Little Creek field office for a copy (302) 739-4782.

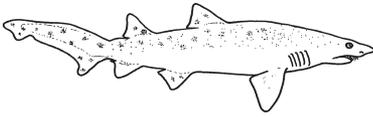
## How to Fish the Reef

Anchoring or grappling immediately above reef structure is essential to catch reef-fish. At Bay sites, this is best done around slack tide. In order to find specific patch reefs to fish, a Global Positioning System (GPS) unit and a fathometer are necessary accessories on your vessel. As the tide begins to slack, proceed to the patch reef coordinates (motoring slowly into the tide) checking the fathometer as you pass over the area. Once you've located structure, put the motor in neutral and track the direction of your drift. This will indicate which way the wind and tide are pushing you. Run the vessel back towards the structure. If you are grappling directly into structure, pass over the structure and throw the grapple. It should hook into structure. Adjust the amount of line to position the boat directly above structure. Use an anchor that will give or bend when retrieved. The procedure is similar using a sand anchor except anchoring occurs well upstream of the structure, paying out enough line to position the boat over the reef. Good Luck Fishing Delaware's Reefs!



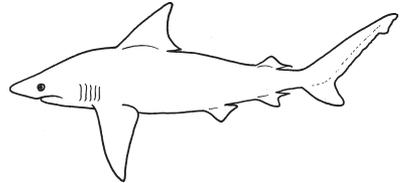
*Photo provided by Vince Capone*

## Common Sharks in the Delaware Bay

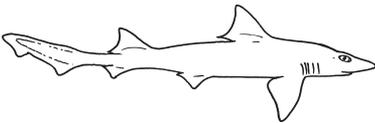


**Sand Tiger** - *Odontaspis taurus* - Gray-brown to tan with dark spots. Length to 10.5 feet. First and second dorsal fins nearly equal in size. Teeth long, curved and not serrated. Protected species, none may be retained.

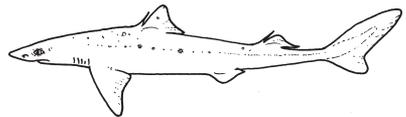
**Sandbar Shark** - *Carcharhinus plumbeus* - Also known as the brown shark. Color dark gray to brown on back, fading almost to white on belly. A heavy-bodied shark with a large first dorsal fin that begins at a point located at the middle of the pectoral fin. One of the most common sharks caught in Delaware waters. Limit 1/day-Minimum size 54" from tip of snout to fork in tail (fork length)



**Smooth Dogfish** - *Mustelus canis* - Known locally as the sand shark, this harmless species is extremely common in the Delaware Bay along the coast and in the bays. Gray to gray-brown and ranging up to 5 feet in length. Large first and second dorsal fins, with "sandpaper-like" teeth. No daily limit on catches.



**Spiny Dogfish** - *Squalus acanthias* - Dark gray to brownish-gray with random white spots on sides. Easily identified by a sharp spine located at the leading edge of both the first and second dorsal fins. Commonly caught in cold water by anglers targeting mackerel or striped bass. No daily limits on catches.



The above sharks are four of the most common found in the Delaware Bay. The sand tiger shark is on the prohibited list in the Shark Management Plan and therefore it is not allowed to be possessed. They should be returned to the water unharmed. There are 18 other sharks on the prohibited list, including the dusky shark (*Carcharhinus obscurus*) and white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*).

Large coastal sharks, small coastal sharks and pelagic sharks are greatly over fished. **Only one per vessel is allowed. It must be 54 inches or longer fork length.** Spiny dogfish are managed under a fishery management plan. There is no possession limit or minimum size limit on dogfish. Nevertheless, dogfish should be conserved.

In general, any shark with teeth is a large coastal, small coastal or pelagic shark and is managed. It is illegal to remove their fins or fillet them prior to landing them on shore. They must be released unharmed when returned to the water. For more information on managing sharks - contact the Fisheries Section at (302) 739-9914.

## Fish Consumption Advisories

Fishing is an important activity in Delaware's inland and coastal waters. Among the benefits provided by fishing are quality recreational opportunities, direct and indirect input to the local economy, food for recreational anglers and food for the commercial marketplace. Fish are a good source of readily digestible protein, they are low in fat and sodium, and the unique types of fats found in fish are believed to provide cardiovascular benefits.

Despite the general benefits of fishing and fish consumption, there has been a growing concern regarding the presence of chemical toxins in the flesh of finfish and shellfish taken from Delaware waters and the associated health risk to anglers and their families who consume their catch. The existence of chemicals in the edible portion of some fish has resulted in the public advisories. These advisories are as a result of joint action taken by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and the Department of Health and Social Service's Division of Public Health. The advisories were deemed necessary because of the nature of pollutants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

Even when present in the water in extremely small amounts, some chemicals tend to build up over time in fish tissue because fish can absorb and concentrate contaminants from food they eat, or to a lesser extent, directly from the water. The amount of contaminants fish accumulate depends on the species, size, age, sex, and feeding area of the fish. Generally speaking, older larger individual fish accumulate the most contaminants, although in some cases contaminants are shed each time the fish spawn. Since fish accumulate many contaminants in their fatty tissues, certain species with higher oil content can pose more risk than others when both inhabit polluted areas.

For more information concerning health advisories for Delaware waters, go on-line or contact the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

# Delaware Fish Consumption Advisories

Waterbody	Species	Contaminant of concern	Geographical Extent	Meals/yr 8-ounce serving
Delaware River	All Finfish	A, B, C, D	Delaware State Line to the C&D Canal	0
Lower Delaware River	Weakfish-all sizes;	A	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to	12
-and Delaware Bay	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A	the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	12
	Striped Bass, White Perch American Eel, White Catfish, Channel Catfish, Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Chesapeake & Delaware Canal to the Mouth of the Delaware Bay	1 ♦
Delaware Atlantic Coastal Waters including Delaware Inland Bays	Bluefish-14 inches or less	A	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	12
	Bluefish-greater than 14 inches	A, C	Coastal Delaware from Mouth of the Delaware Bay Southward to MD/DE Line	1 ♦
Shellpot Creek	All Finfish	A	Philadelphia Pike to the Delaware River	0
Army Creek and Pond	All Finfish	A, B, E, G	Entire Creek and Pond	2
Red Lion Creek	All Finfish	A, B	Route 13 to the Delaware River	1
Chesapeake & Delaware Canal	All Finfish	A, F, E, H	Entire Canal in Delaware	0
Appoquinimink River	All Finfish	A, B	Tidal Portions	1
Drawyers Creek	All Finfish	A, F	Tidal Portions	1
Silver Lake Middletown	All Finfish	A, E, F, B	Entire Lake	1

Saint Jones River	All Finfish	A, B, C	River Mouth to Silver Lake Dam	2
Moore's Lake	All Finfish	A, F	Entire Pond	2
Silver Lake Dover	All Finfish	A, B, C	Entire Pond	2
Wyoming Mill Pond	All Finfish	A, B, F	Entire Pond	2
Tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Baynard Blvd.	0
Non-tidal Brandywine River	All Finfish	A, B	Baynard Blvd. To Pennsylvania Line	2
Tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E	River Mouth to Smalley's Dam	0
Non-tidal Christina River	All Finfish	A, E, H	Smalley's Dam to DE/MD Line.	6
Tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	River Mouth to Route 4	0
Non-tidal White Clay Creek	All Finfish	A	Route 4 to DE/PA Line	12
Red Clay Creek	All Finfish	A, B, D	State Line to Stanton	2
Little Mill Creek	All Finfish	A	Creek Mouth to Kirkwood Highway	0
Becks Pond	All Finfish	A, C	Entire Pond	1
Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A, E	Rittenhouse Park to DE/MD Line	12
Designated Trout Streams & Ponds other than Christina Creek	Stocked Trout	A	Designated Trout Streams are listed on pg. 12	12

Notes: ♦ Women of childbearing age and children should not consume any amount of these fish.

For more information on the specific contaminant(s) of concern for each waterbody listed, consult the Division's website ([www.fv.delaware.gov](http://www.fv.delaware.gov)) or contact DNREC at (302) 739-9902, or the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

Contaminants of concern: A) PCBs, B) Dioxin, C) Mercury, D) Chlorinated pesticides, E) Dieldrin, F) DDT, G) Furan, and H) Chlordane. For more information consult the Division's website or contact DNREC at (302) 739-9902, or the Division of Public Health at (302) 744-4546.

# Clamming

## Methods Of Take And Limits

It shall be unlawful for any person to attempt to take, catch, kill or reduce to possession any hard clams with a device other than a hand-held rake with a head no wider than fourteen (14) inches measured perpendicular to the tines and a straight handle not in excess of seven (7) feet in length.

It is unlawful to harvest hard clams from one-half hour after sunset through one-half hour before sunrise.

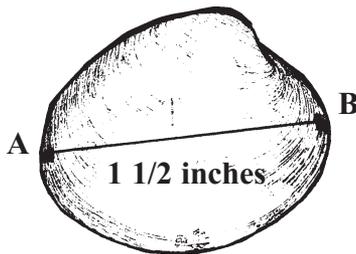
It is unlawful for any resident to harvest more than one hundred (100) clams per day unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

It is unlawful for any non-resident to harvest more than fifty (50) hard clams per day unless otherwise permitted to do so by license or permit.

No shellfish harvesting (excluding crabs) is allowed in the **Prohibited Areas** marked on the map. This includes all non-tidal and impounded water as well. Shellfish harvesting is allowed from December 1 through April 15 in the **Seasonally Approved Areas**. This is your protection against contracting shellfish-borne disease. This is also the law. All boundaries may be marked with signs and or buoys saying “No Shellfish Harvesting” or “Prohibited Shellfish Area”. Questions regarding these closures should be directed to the Division of Public Health 302-744-4546.

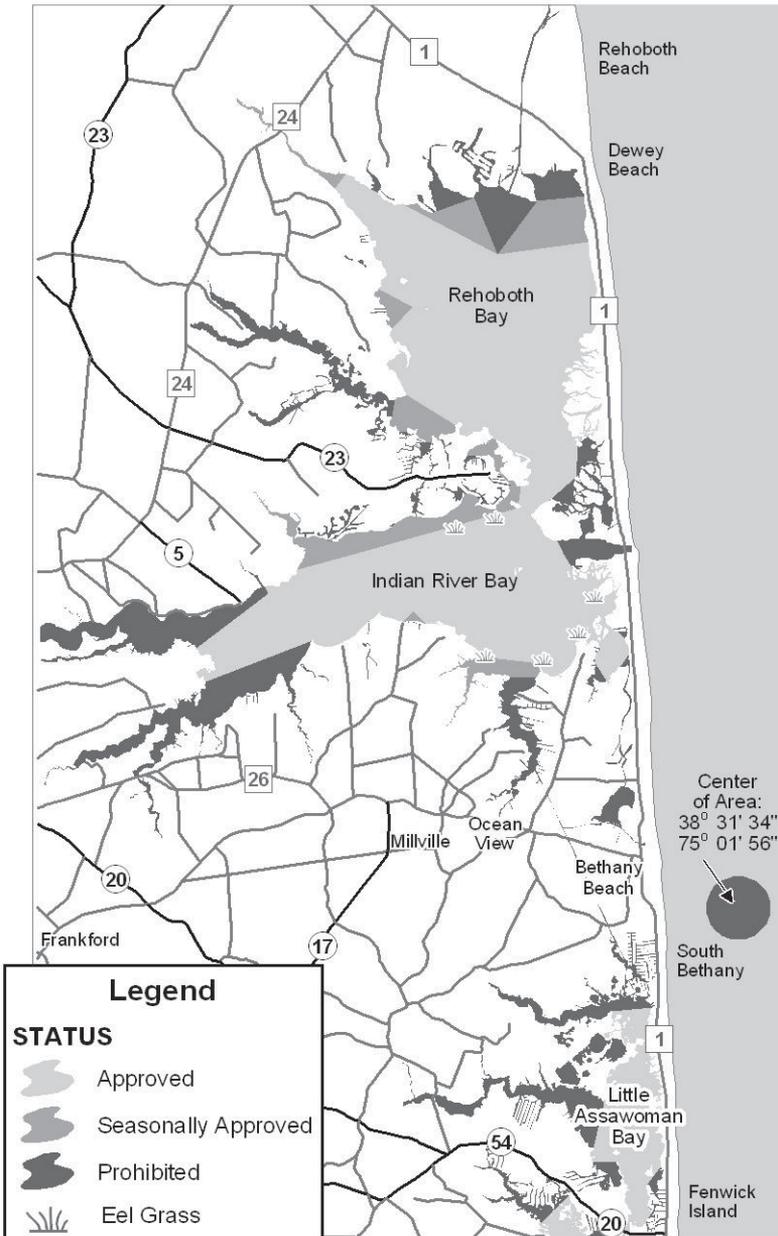
Clamming is prohibited in eel grass beds marked with white PVC pipes and signs.

## Minimum Hard Clam Size



The minimum size for a hard clam is 1 1/2 inches for point A to point B.

# Clamming Map



Clamming is prohibited in eel grass beds marked with signs and white PVC pipe.

# Blue Crabs

The blue crab is common in all the tidal waters of Delaware. It is a popular recreational resource and tops the list of the State's economically important marine fish and shellfish.

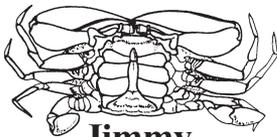
Blue crabs grow very quickly and reach maturity in 12 to 18 months. Most do not live beyond two years under current exploitation levels.

In order to grow, a blue crab must shed its shell and form a new shell. This process is repeated up to 18 times to attain maximum length. It is legal to take crabs at three stages, but to get the most yield in weight out of a crab, they should reach a minimum length before being harvested. This is measured from tip to tip of the back shell.

Mature females (sooks) are identified by the rounded apron on their under side. Once this stage of development is achieved, females stop growing. Because a portion of the female population does not reach five inches before achieving maturity, the minimum size requirement has been dropped. Females bearing eggs, commonly known as sponge crabs, may not be taken and should be returned to the water immediately.

Recreational crabbers may use two pots without a license, however the person claiming to own the pots must tend them. These pots must be marked with all white buoys with the owner's full name and permanent mailing address inscribed either on the buoy or on a waterproof tag attached to the buoy. All crab pots must be tended at least once every 72 hours. All crab pots must be removed from the water between December 1 and February 28. Recreational crabbers may use a trot line (no length limit) and any number of hand lines or traps. The recreational daily limit is one bushel per person.

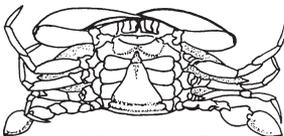
A by-catch reduction device is required to be attached in each funnel entrance of a recreational crab pot to reduce the possibility of diamondback terrapins entering and drowning. A by-catch reduction device is a rigid rectangular frame of plastic or metal that measures 1.75 inches x 4.75 inches and is available at local tackle shops, or can be hand-made.



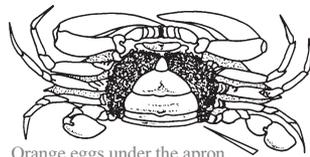
**Jimmy**  
Mature Male



**Sook**  
Mature Female



**She-crab**  
Immature Female



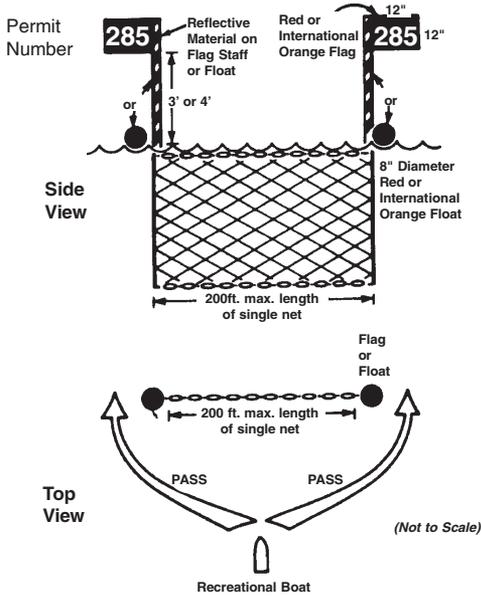
Orange eggs under the apron  
**Sponge Crab**  
Female with eggs

# Recreational Gill Nets

A recreational fisherman, with a \$5.00 permit for residents and \$50.00 for non-residents obtained from the Department, may fish a staked or anchored gill net, no longer than 200 feet in certain areas and times. The net must have floats or flags at both ends of the net with the netter's permit number on the floats or flags. Between May 11 and September 30, a recreational gill net may only be fished in the Delaware River and Bay to the north of Route 16 in Broadkill Beach within one-half nautical mile of the shoreline and in the Inland Bays within 1,000 feet of the shoreline. Between May 1 and November 30, the net shall not be fished to the south of Route 16 in the Delaware Bay or Ocean. Between May 1 and June 30, no recreational gill net may be set within 1/2 nautical mile of the shore of Delaware Bay from the northern boundary of Beach Plum Island to the Murderkill River.

Other restrictions apply to recreational gill nets and anyone obtaining a permit will be informed of these restrictions. During 2007 all gill nets are required to be out of the Delaware Bay and Ocean on the following dates: May 3-8; May 11-13; May 18-20; May 25-28 June 1-3; June 8-10; June 15-17; and June 22-30 in order to reduce the fishing mortality on weakfish. Each closure period begins at 12:01 AM on the first day and ends at midnight on the last day. No striped bass caught in recreational gill nets may be retained at any time.

## Nets Must Have Floats or Flags



# Boating Safety

Every year people are killed or seriously injured in boating accidents in Delaware's waters. All of these accidents were avoidable if the 'rules of the road' had been followed and safe boating practices had been adhered to. The Handbook of Delaware Boating Laws and Responsibilities is available at no cost by contacting the Enforcement Section of the Division of Fish and Wildlife (1-302-739-9915) or through our website [www.fw.delaware.gov](http://www.fw.delaware.gov)

The Enforcement Section of the Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for enforcing all of the safe boating laws as well as making sure that fish and shellfish size and creel limits are being followed. Some of the waters of the State are also patrolled by other authorities such as police officers and the U.S. Coast Guard. Boaters approached by a patrol boat with its blue light flashing should reduce speed, yield the right of way to the patrol boat, or if necessary stop your vessel. The operator must stop when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer.

The safety equipment and requirements for Delaware boaters vary depending on the type and length of the vessel. Here is an example of what is required of a typical fishing boat from 16 to 26 feet in length. For a complete list of all requirements for all size vessels contact the Enforcement Section.

- ◆ Boater Safety Education Card (for all operators born after January 1, 1978). For information contact 739-9915 or go on-line.
- ◆ Valid Boat Registration Card
- ◆ Valid Boat Registration decal (displayed)
- ◆ Personal Floatation Device(s) – one of the appropriate size for each person on-board
- ◆ Type IV throwable PFD
- ◆ Type B-I Fire Extinguisher
- ◆ Flame Arrestor
- ◆ Ventilation System for fuel vapors
- ◆ Horn, Whistle, or Bell
- ◆ Visual Distress System (day and night)
- ◆ Navigational Lights

It is the responsibility of each vessel operator to observe the rules of the road and the carriage requirements. The Division recommends boaters wear their life jacket at all times while on the boat. Six out of ten boating fatalities could be prevented by boaters wearing their lifejackets. The consistent use of lifejackets will save more lives.

# Boating Safety

## Education

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1978 must successfully complete an approved boating safety course before operating a motorboat and/or Personal Watercraft in Delaware. Approved courses are a State of Delaware sponsored course, a U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary course, a U.S. Power Squadron course, Delaware Safety Council or any other state course which is approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and DNREC.

Four Leading causes of Boating fatalities in Delaware waters are;

1. Not wearing a PFD or wearing it unzipped
2. Collision (including PWC accidents)
3. Capsizing
4. Alcohol

## Alcohol

Just as drinking and driving don't mix, drinking and boating are a dangerous combination. Sun, glare from the water, constant boat motion and boat vibration all contribute to boater fatigue. Add alcohol consumption and those problems are compounded. Additionally, alcohol affects balance and muscle coordination, causes tunnel vision and slows reaction time. It also affects reasoning and increases the tendency to take risks.

Operating a boat under the influence of alcohol or drugs is against the law and could result in fines up to \$1,000 for first offense and/or up to 60 days in jail. A blood alcohol content of .08 or greater constitutes being under the influence.

## Registration, Numbering and Marking of Undocumented Vessels

Vessels equipped with any type of motor must be registered in Delaware if principally used (a period of more than 60 days) in this State. The registration card or valid temporary registration card must be on board when the boat is in use. For further information on boating registration call: (302) 739-9916.

## Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

In addition to the carriage requirements listed, a PFD must be worn by a child 12 years old or under while aboard a boat which is underway and all PWC riders. Current regulations require all vessels to carry a wearable Type I, II, III, or V PFD for each person on board and a throw cushion type IV for the boat, excluding boats less than 16'. The Boating Education Office suggests all vessels carry a type IV, throwable with a line attached for casting, and that you wear your life jacket zipped.

## Negligent Operation

Skippers on Delaware waters are legally responsible for damages to life, limb or property caused by his/her vessel. And, of course, negligent operation is illegal.

## Safe Boating Speed

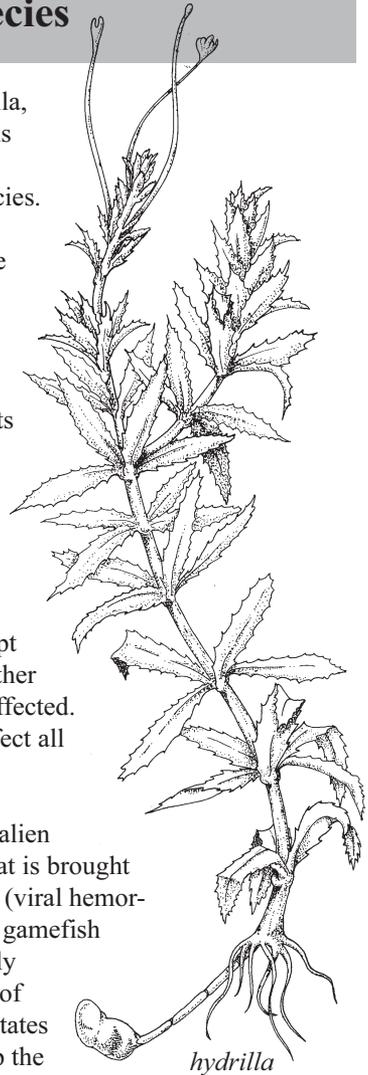
The speed of all vessels on Delaware waters must be slow enough to prevent any wake of appreciable height when the vessels are within 100 feet of: "Slow-No-Wake" speed areas, docks, launching ramps, marked swimming areas, swimmers, anchored, moored, or drifting vessels.

## Invasive Species

Northern snakeheads, zebra mussels, hydrilla, and Japanese green crabs... Every week it seems that a new alien species has invaded our waters, often with detrimental effects on our native species.

Habitat destruction and invasive species are the two biggest reasons for declines in native plants and animals. Plants are especially important in altering habitat and affecting those species that depend on that habitat. For example, the use of non-native ornamental plants in water gardens would not seem to be a problem. However, many of these (purple loosestrife or creeping water primrose) have escaped or have been “released” and begun to dominate the natural landscape where it occurs. The native insects that normally feed on the native plants then have less food, and don’t adapt to the new plants as a food source. Birds and other animals that feed on those insects will also be affected. Changes at the base of the food web (plants) affect all parts of the web.

Sometimes, the problem is not the original alien species but a parasite or disease ‘hitch-hiker’ that is brought with it. A prime example of this would be VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) which can affect most of our gamefish species, both fresh and brackish water. Currently there is a federal order preventing the transport of untested live fish from any of the Great Lakes States without a certified inspection in an effort to stop the spread of this disease. This strictly limits the purchase of any fish for stocking from PA, NY, Ohio or other states in the region. Since Delaware often purchases both bass and trout (also affected) from Pennsylvania hatcheries, this may become a problem for us.



Anglers can help with the invasive problem in two ways; first, by serving as extra eyes on the water. Always be aware of unusual fish, plants, or even

*continued on page 45*

invertebrates in our waters. Most anglers are knowledgeable about the types of plants and animals that they commonly see or catch. Observations of something unknown or completely out of place could be a signal that something may be wrong. If you see something that you feel is very unusual, please contact us at: 302-739-9914. There are two invasive species that could potentially show up in Delaware waters that should be on your radar; the northern snakehead and flathead catfish. Both species have been documented in neighboring states and could pose a real threat to our fish communities if they were to become established here. Go to the Division's website to view photographs of what these species look like. To date, we are unaware of any angler encounters with either of these two species in Delaware, but we have had numerous 'false alarms'. Snakeheads have been confused with anything from eastern mudminnows to chain pickerel to eels. We have had a couple of bowfin taken and reported as snakeheads by anglers in New Castle County but no confirmed incidents yet. If you catch a snakehead or a flathead catfish – do not return it to the water – kill it and contact one of the Division's field offices or a Fish and Wildlife enforcement office nearest you. Document the catch by either freezing the fish or taking a good photo before disposing of it.

Secondly, some well-meaning anglers "stock" species that they feel will be good sport fish such as flathead catfish or redear sunfish. However, non-natives may also impact our resident fishes in ways not yet known. Keep in mind that it was only a century ago that Fisheries Agencies and the Federal Government stocked common carp in most waters to provide another food fish. Too late, it was found that this fish greatly impacts our gamefish through sheer numbers and muddies the water affecting spawning of nest builders such as the sunfish. So please, don't stock fish, no matter the species, in any public waters.

## Northern Snakehead Fish



It is unlawful to transport, purchase, possess, or sell live northern snakehead fish (*Channa argus*) or blotched snakehead fish (*Channa maculata*) in Delaware. Federal law prohibits the importation or transportation beyond state boundaries of any snakehead fish of the family Channidae.

# Measuring Finfish

Many of the popular recreational species of fish in Delaware are subject to minimum size limits as part of comprehensive fisheries management plans established on a coast wide or regional basis, to maintain or rebuild fish stocks. All of the coastal states utilize “Total Length” as the standard measurement to determine if a fish is of legal size. The only exception is the federal requirement for sharks which is a “Fork Length” measurement.

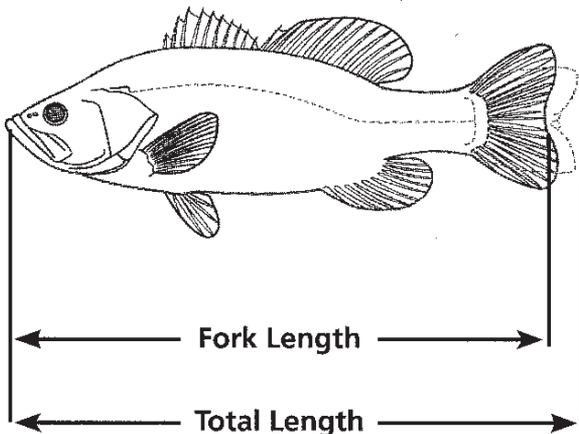
## Measuring Boards.

The correct and most accurate method to measure your catch is to use a “measuring board”. Measuring boards are easy to make and stow as part of your everyday fishing equipment. Use a 1” x 8” as long as the largest minimum size limit for the species that you will be fishing for. This will form the base of your measuring board. Take an additional 6-inch piece of the same material and attach it to the end such that it would form the letter “L”. Attach a yardstick or measuring tape to the center of the base with the end butted against the short upright piece.

## Measuring Your Catch

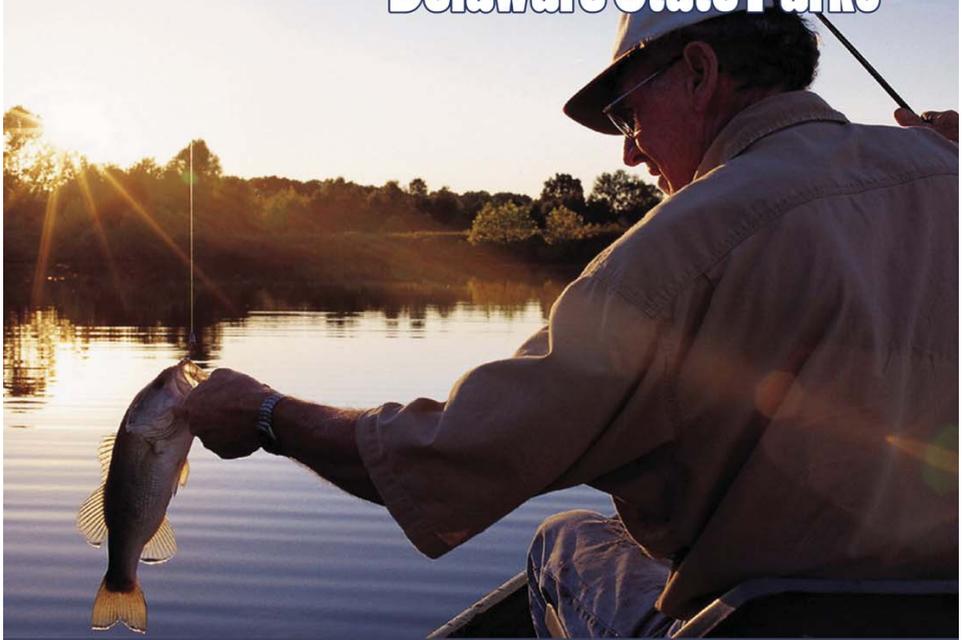
Place the fish on the measuring board with the tip of the jaw or snout against the upright with the mouth closed. Hold the head down with one hand to keep the fish in place, pinch the upper and lower lobes of the tail together while swiping the tail back and forth across the board. Note the measurement of the longest part of the tail\*; that is the “total length”. Keep in mind that fish which barely make the minimum length may shrink a fraction of an inch after being on ice for an hour or more. Sometimes it is possible to get an accurate measurement while the fish is still in the landing net.

\* - When measuring black seabass do not include the long caudal fin filament in your measurement of total length.



Maryland DNR

# Discover Fishing at Delaware State Parks



## Discover Fishing at Delaware State Parks

Are you a seasoned angler, or just beginning? Do you like freshwater, saltwater or fly fishing? Do you have your own boat, or would you rather use one of ours? Whatever your fishing needs, there's a special place waiting for you in a Delaware State Park. Enjoy our popular surf-fishing beaches, angle for trout in a cool, clear stream, or escape to one of our serene freshwater ponds. If you fish, we have what you need:

- Boat Ramps
- Fishing Piers
- Boat Rentals
- Bait and Tackle Shops
- Fishing Tournaments
- Charter and Head Boats
- Surf Fishing Beaches
- Two Full-Service Marinas

Annual Passes make it easy to enjoy fishing in the parks all year long.



To find out more, call (302) 739-9220 or visit  
[www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com)



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*we're saving a place for you!*

