

DIVISION PROGRAM FOR PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ANGLERS

The State of Delaware has a variety of fishing waters available throughout the state ranging from limited trout waters to the surf fishing along the Atlantic coast. These waters include the free flowing streams, impounded freshwater ponds, tidal streams, inland bays, open water bay areas and ocean waters.

Accessible trout fishing areas are the most limited. Two seasonally stocked ponds are accessible for fishing, with assistance. These pond areas are Tidbury Pond near Dover operated by the Kent County Parks and Recreation, and Blockhouse Pond behind Beebe Hospital in Lewes, Sussex County. There are no readily accessible streamside fishing areas available on any of the stocked trout waters.

The Division does not maintain specific areas on free flowing streams as accessible fishing sites. Users of any specific site should be the judge as to whether an undeveloped area is accessible to their abilities. Angler ingress on to private streamside property will require landowner permission.

The Division owns and maintains 29 freshwater pond impoundments throughout the state. Logan Lane Pond located on the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Ted Harvey Conservation Area near Kitts Hummock is open by appointment only to physically challenged individuals. For an appointment to use Logan Lane call (302) 739-9912. This area offers limited bank fishing as well as pier angling. Records Pond has an accessible fishing pier and adjacent van accessible parking. The remaining freshwater ponds located throughout the state have areas of limited public bank fishing. Individuals using these bank-fishing areas may require assistance. The current Delaware Fishing Guide provides the location of these facilities.

The Division maintains 21 tidal water access areas. All of the launching areas are barrier free and have accessible floating boarding docks and floating courtesy. Several of the areas; Scotton Landing on the St. Jones River, Broad Creek below Records Pond in Laurel, Broadkill River at Milton, Nanticoke River adjacent to the Seaford Boat Ramp, Massey's Landing, Rosedale Beach on the Inland Bays, Woodland Beach and the Cape Henlopen Fishing Pier on the Delaware Bay all have barrier free fishing piers or platforms. The current Delaware Fishing Guide lists all of the tidal, Inland Bay and open water bay access areas and the amenities available.

Surf fishing requires access to the Atlantic Ocean beaches. Every four-wheel drive vehicle accessing the beaches must display a **SURF FISHING VEHICLE PERMIT**. This permit is available through the Division of Parks and Recreation. The Division of Parks and Recreation also has a limited number of accessible beach wheel chairs, which will permit chair bound individuals access to the beach. For more information on reserving an accessible beach wheel chair, contact Cape Henlopen State Park at (302) 645-8983 or Delaware Seashore State Park (302) 227-2800.

The current Delaware Fishing Guide located elsewhere on the web page provides the reader with a current list of all freshwater and tidal fishing and boating access areas.

The Division has been working since the early part of the 1980's and continues to work to make all of its facilities barrier-free to current state and federal accessibility standards. Every facility developed today is designed to achieve where possible compliance to the standards in effect at the time of construction. This means the sites may not be meeting every access criteria; however, the site complies with most criteria and is allowed to operate under waivers specific to the site conditions. Categorizing a site, as "accessible" does not imply the site is, or will be, totally accessible to every person with a physical impairment. What it does mean is the site complies with the accessibility guideline as much as possible and it is ultimately the user's responsibility to decide what conditions they can manage with their physical limitations.