

# Fishing Regulations

## DELAWARE RIVER

This is not the full law. Consult the Division of Fish and Wildlife for further details. All persons are reminded that the statutes, code and regulations are the legal authorities. **Red text indicates a regulation change.**



### Delaware River

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- New Jersey and Pennsylvania fishing licenses are both recognized when fishing the Delaware River from a boat or either shoreline. This applies to the main stem of the river only.
- Anglers may launch a boat from either shore and on return, may have in possession any fish which may be legally taken according to the regulations of the state where the landing is made.
- No more than two rods, each with one line, or two hand lines—or one of each—may be used. No more than three single hooks or three treble hooks per line.
- To protect spawning striped bass, from the Calhoun Street bridge near Trenton downstream to the Commodore Barry Bridge at Bridgeport, non-offset circle hooks must be used when using bait with a #2 sized hook or larger, from April 1 to May 30.
- Spears (not mechanically propelled) and bow and arrows may be used to take shad, eel, carp, sucker, herring and bullhead except within 825 feet of an eel weir. A valid fishing license is required.
- Baitfish may be taken and possessed for personal use and are not to be bartered or sold.
- **A Delaware fishing license is now required for anglers aged 16 and over fishing the Delaware Bay and Delaware River between the upstream tip of Artificial Island and the Delaware-Pennsylvania state line. In that section of the river, the Delaware state boundary extends to the New Jersey shoreline. However, when fishing from shore in New Jersey along that section of the river, a Delaware fishing license is not required. Delaware fishing license information can be found at <http://www.fw.delaware.gov/Fisheries/Pages/NewFishingLicense.aspx>.**

Species	Open Seasons	Minimum Length	Daily Limit
Bass, Largemouth & Smallmouth	Jan. 1–April 17	12 inches	5 combined
	June 13–Dec.31		
	April 18–June 12	Catch and release only	Catch and release only
Eel, American*	Open year round	Pennsylvania: 8 inches (but 6–8 inches for baitfish) New Jersey: 6 inches	50
Herring, Alewife and Blueback	Open year round	No minimum	35 combined
Muskellunge & Hybrids	Open year round	40 inches	1
Pickereel, Chain	Open year round	12 inches	5
Pike, Northern	Open year round	24 inches	2
Shad, American	Open year round	No minimum	6
Shad, Hickory	Closed	—	—
Striped Bass & Hybrids (upstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–Dec. 31	28 inches	2
Striped Bass & Hybrids (downstream of Calhoun St. Bridge)	March 1–30	28 inches	2
	June 1–Dec.31		
Sturgeon, Atlantic and Shortnose	Closed	—	—
Trout	April 18–Oct. 15	No minimum	5
Walleye	Open year round	18 inches	3
All Other Freshwater Species	Open year round	No minimum	No limit
Baitfish*	Open year round	No minimum	50

- A listing of fishing access locations along the Delaware River is available at Fish and Wildlife's Web site [www.NJFishandWildlife.com](http://www.NJFishandWildlife.com), under Freshwater Fishing.
- The newly updated Delaware River Basin Commission recreation maps are available for \$25. An order form is available online at [www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/recreation.htm).
- Information for the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is available online at [www.nps.gov/dewa/](http://www.nps.gov/dewa/).
- Pennsylvania also enforces an 8-inch minimum on American Eel. Eel used as bait must be at least 6 inches and no greater than 8 inches in length.
- \* Regulations for American eel are different for Pennsylvania and New Jersey. In Pennsylvania, American eel must be 6 to 8 inches in length when harvested as baitfish; otherwise, the minimum size for Pennsylvania is 8 inches, with a limit of 50 for both uses. In New Jersey, American eel must be at least 6 inches in length, with a limit of 50. American eels brought to shore must conform to the regulations of the state (NJ or PA) in which they are landed.