









# Fishing Regulations

## SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS










Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 19 to April 7, 2018 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. Regulations in red are new this year. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
<b>LARGEMOUTH &amp; SMALLMOUTH BASS</b>				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Jan. 1–April 14 <b>April 15–June 15</b> Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
Largemouth Bass	Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir		15 inches	3 combined
	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake		15 inches	2 combined
Smallmouth Bass				
<b>NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE</b>				
	Statewide	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
Northern Pike	Statewide (exceptions below)		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
	Trophy Musky Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, <b>Lake Hopatcong &amp; Monksville Reservoir</b>		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: <b>44 inches</b>	
Muskellunge				
<b>CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL</b>				
	Statewide	Open year round	15 inches	5 combined
Chain Pickerel				
<b>WALLEYE</b>				
	Statewide	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 <b>March 1–April 30</b> Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
Walleye				
<b>STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b>				
	Statewide	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1
Striped Bass				
<b>HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)</b>				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	16 inches	2
Hybrid Striped Bass	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1

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Regulations in red are new this year.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
<b>AMERICAN SHAD</b>				
 American Shad	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 28)	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	—	3
<b>CHANNEL CATFISH</b>				
 Channel Catfish	Statewide	Open year round	12 inches	5
<b>CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)</b>				
 Crappie	Statewide	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
<b>SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS</b>				
 Rock Bass, White Perch, Yellow Perch, Sunfish (see below for sunfish exceptions), Bullheads, White Catfish, Suckers, Carp, Bowfin, Pumpkinseed and all other species with no specified creel limit.	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	No minimum size	25 combined
	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
 Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
<b>BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH</b>				
 Banded Sunfish*  Blackbanded Sunfish*  Bluespotted Sunfish*  Mud Sunfish	Statewide	Closed	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
<b>FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)</b>				
American Eel, Banded Killifish, Creek Chub, Fallfish, Fathead Minnow, Gizzard Shad, Golden Shiner, Margined Madtom, Mummichog, and Tadpole Madtom. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Statewide	Open year round <b>Exceptions</b> In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 7 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 19 to June 15.	No minimum <b>Exception</b> American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined