

Fishing Regulations

SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 21 to April 9, 2016 at 8 a.m. because of trout stocking. Refer to pages 18–20 for complete lists and exceptions. For Delaware River and Greenwood Lake, see regulations on pages 28–30.

	LOCATION	SEASON	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
 Largemouth Bass	Statewide (exceptions below)	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	12 inches	5 combined
	Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir		15 inches	3 combined
 Smallmouth Bass	Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake		15 inches	2 combined
	Lake Audrey	Year-round	Catch & Release Only	0
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE				
 Northern Pike	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
	Statewide (exceptions below)		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 36 inches	1 combined
	Trophy Musky Waters: Mountain & Echo Lake reservoirs		Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	
 Muskellunge				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
 Chain Pickerel	Statewide	Open year round	15 inches	5 combined
WALLEYE				
 Walleye	Statewide	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	18 inches	3
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Striped Bass	Statewide	March 1–Dec. 31	One @ 28" to < 43" AND one ≥ 43"	1 AND 1
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	16 inches	2
	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
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Delaware River only; regulations on page 28)	Closed (except for the Delaware River; see page 28)	—	—
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Statewide	Open year round	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Statewide	Open year round	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
	Statewide (exceptions below)	Open year round	No minimum size	25 combined
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.	Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
	Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Open year round	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish*	Statewide	Closed	Protected	0
 Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish				
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
Golden Shiner, Banded Killifish, Mummichog, Spottfin Killifish, Rainwater Killifish, American Brook Lamprey, Fathead Minnow, Bluntnose Minnow, Tadpole Madtom, Margined Madtom, All Shiners, Daces, Minnows, Gizzard Shad and American Eel. For Herring, Alewife and Blueback—see <i>Baitfish Regulations</i> (page 31).	Statewide	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 9 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 21 to June 15.	No minimum Exception American Eel: 6 inches	35 combined