









Fishing Regulations






SIZE, SEASON AND CREEL LIMITS

Certain waters are closed to fishing for all species from March 22 to April 10, 2021 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.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
LARGEMOUTH & SMALLMOUTH BASS				
 Largemouth Bass	Jan. 1–April 14 April 15–June 15 Catch & Release only (all waters) June 16–Dec. 31	Statewide (exceptions below)	12 inches	5 combined
 Smallmouth Bass		Lunker Bass Lakes: Alloway, Assunpink, Parvin and Delaware lakes; Splitrock Reservoir	15 inches	3 combined
		Conservation Regulations: Ryker Lake	15 inches	2 combined
NORTHERN PIKE, TIGER MUSKY, MUSKELLUNGE*				
 Northern Pike	Open year round March 20–May 20 are Catch & Release only for Echo Lake Reservoir, Mercer Lake, Mountain Lake, Monksville Reservoir	Statewide	Northern Pike: 24 inches	2
 Muskellunge		Statewide (exceptions below)	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 40 inches	1 combined
		Trophy Muskie Waters: Echo Lake Reservoir, Greenwood Lake, Lake Hopatcong & Monksville Reservoir	Tiger Musky & Muskellunge: 44 inches	
*IMPORTANT: trout may not be used as bait in the Pequest River drainage.				
CHAIN PICKEREL AND REDFIN PICKEREL				
 Chain Pickerel	Open year round	Statewide	15 inches	5 combined
WALLEYE				
 Walleye	Jan. 1–Feb. 28 March 1–April 30 Catch & Release only May 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	18 inches	3
STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)				
 Striped Bass	March 1–Dec. 31	Statewide	One @ 28" to < 38"	1
HYBRID STRIPED BASS (freshwater only)*				
 Hybrid Striped Bass	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	16 inches	2
	March 1–Dec. 31	Raritan River (downstream of Duke Island Park dam)	One @ 28" to 38"	1

*Regulations for Striped Bass may change in 2021. Check our website for updates.

Regulations in *red* are new this year.

	SEASON	LOCATION	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
AMERICAN SHAD				
 American Shad	Open Year Round Season Closed in all other fresh waters	Delaware River Mainstem (see regulations on page 28)	—	3
CHANNEL CATFISH				
 Channel Catfish	Open year round	Statewide	12 inches	5
CRAPPIE (BLACK AND WHITE)				
 Crappie	Open year round	Statewide	8 inches	10 combined
SUNFISH AND ALL OTHER SPECIES WITH NO SPECIFIED CREEL LIMITS				
 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.	Open year round	Statewide (exceptions below)	No minimum size	25 combined
		Conservation Regulation Ryker Lake	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
			Yellow Perch: No minimum size	10
		Conservation Regulation Rainbow Lake (Salem Co.)	Sunfish: 7 inches	10 combined
BANDED, BLACKBANDED, BLUESPOTTED AND MUD SUNFISH				
 Banded Sunfish* Blackbanded Sunfish* Bluespotted Sunfish* Mud Sunfish	Closed	Statewide	Protected	0
* Illustrations by Ted Walke, PA Fish and Boat Commission				
FRESHWATER BAITFISH (See page 31 for complete description of gear types and restrictions)				
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).	Open year round Exceptions In trout stocked waters baitfish may only be taken with hook and line: from April 10 to June 15, or in waters open to fishing during the pre-season closure, from March 22 to June 15.	Statewide	No minimum Exception American Eel: 9 inches	35 combined