

2026 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary / Boating Handbook



Multi-Year Fishing Licenses—page 5

MENTORED YOUTH TROUT DAY

March 28 (Statewide)

FISH-FOR-FREE DAYS

May 24 and July 4

TROUT OPENER April 4 Statewide

FishandBoat.com

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For More Information:

Headquarters

1601 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
Phone: 717-705-7800
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Boating Safety Education Courses

Phone: 888-723-4741

Centre Region Office

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Lobby Phone: 814-359-5124
Fisheries Admin. Phone:
814-359-5110
Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Fishing Licenses:

Phone: 1-800-838-4431

Boat Registration/Titling:

Phone: 866-262-8734

Publications:

Phone: 717-705-7835



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#PaFishAndBoat #WearIt

Region Offices: Law Enforcement/Outreach and Education

Contact **Law Enforcement** for information about regulations and fishing and boating opportunities. Contact **Outreach and Education** for information about fishing and boating programs and boating safety education.

Northwest Region

11528 State Highway 98, Meadville, PA 16335
Law Enforcement: 814-337-0444
Outreach and Education: 814-336-2426
Fax 814-337-0579 Fax 814-337-0579
Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie,
Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren

Southwest Region

236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501
Law Enforcement: 814-445-8974
Outreach and Education: 814-443-9841
Fax 814-445-3497 Fax 814-445-3497
Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver,
Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset,
Washington, Westmoreland

Northcentral Region

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive
Bellefonte, PA 16823
Law Enforcement: 814-359-5250
Outreach and Education: 814-359-5127
Fax 814-359-5254 Fax 814-359-5153
Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield,
Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean,
Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder,
Tioga, Union

Southcentral Region

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241
Law Enforcement: 717-486-7087
Outreach and Education: 717-705-7919
Fax 717-486-8227 Fax 717-705-7831
Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland,
Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon,
Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York

Northeast Region

5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656
Law Enforcement: 570-477-5717
Outreach and Education: 570-477-2206
Fax 570-477-3221
Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia,
Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan,
Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming

Southeast Region

P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17521
Law Enforcement: 717-626-0228
Outreach and Education: 215-968-3631
Fax 717-626-0486
Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware,
Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery,
Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill

Office hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. If you see anything suspected to be pollution, a disturbance or poaching on any waterway, regardless of how seemingly insignificant, report it immediately by calling the local PFBC Region Law Enforcement office listed above during business hours or call the PFBC toll-free hotline: 855-Fish-Kil to leave a message. A pollution or disturbance may also be reported to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at 1-800-541-2050 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

State Fish Hatcheries

•Bellefonte

1115 Spring Creek Road
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-355-3371

•Corry*

13365 Route 6
Corry, PA 16407
814-664-2122

•Fairview

2000 Lohrer Road
Fairview, PA 16415
814-474-1514

•Benner Spring

1735 Shiloh Road
State College, PA 16801
814-355-4837

•Huntsdale*

195 Lebo Road
Carlisle, PA 17013
717-486-3419

•Linesville*

13300 Hartstown Road
Linesville, PA 16424
814-683-4451

•Oswayo

96 State Route 244 East
Coudersport, PA 16915
814-698-2102

•Pleasant Gap

450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-359-5132

•Pleasant Mount

229 Great Bend Turnpike
Pleasant Mount, PA 18453
570-448-2101

•Reynoldsdale*

162 Fish Hatchery Road
New Paris, PA 15554
814-839-2211

•Tionesta

172 Fish Hatchery Lane
Tionesta, PA 16353
814-755-3524

•Tylersville

43 Hatchery Lane
Loganton, PA 17747
570-725-3965

* Includes visitor center. Visitors are welcome from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily.
Groups should make advance arrangements.



The mission of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) is to protect, conserve and enhance the Commonwealth's aquatic resources, and provide fishing and boating opportunities.

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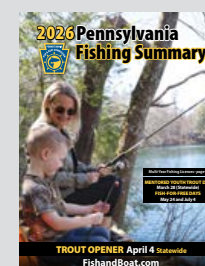
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On the cover



Fishing on Fuller Lake, Pine Grove Furnace State Park, Cumberland County. Photo-PFBC archives.

© Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

To find the stocking date of trout streams and lakes near you, visit fishandboat.com.

Fishing Licenses

Fishing licenses are sold by license issuing agents through an electronic point-of-sale (P.O.S.) system. This system brings increased efficiency, more options and easier upgrades for anglers. Fishing licenses are sold online.

A current license, on their person, is required of persons age 16 and over to fish or angle for any species of fish and to take fishbait, baitfish and species of amphibians and reptiles from Commonwealth waters by those legal methods described in this booklet.

FISHING is defined as the act of angling, or to catch, take, kill or remove, or the attempt to catch, take, kill or remove, from any waters or other areas within or bordering this Commonwealth any fish by any means or method for any purpose whatsoever. **CASTING and/or RETRIEVING**, whether by rod, reel and line, or by handline, for oneself or for others, requires a current license, unless specifically exempted by law. See "Assistance to Children" **on page 8** for specifics on when a license is required when assisting a child (15 years of age and under).

OBTAIN YOUR LICENSE:

- at more than 700 license-issuing agents
- at county treasurers
- at PFBC offices
- at **HuntFish.PA.gov**

Lost fishing licenses or replacements – A lost fishing license can be replaced at any issuing agent at cost or reprinted online for free. All replacement licenses include permits or privileges previously purchased by the customer. The total cost for a replacement license and previously purchased permits or privileges that were printed on the base license is \$6.97.

You qualify for a RESIDENT fishing license if you are a bona fide resident of Pennsylvania. When purchasing a resident fishing license, you must show positive proof of permanent residency by presenting one of the following documents:

- valid Pennsylvania driver's license
- valid non-driver photo identification card
- previous year's Pennsylvania state income tax return showing proof of payment of personal income tax as a resident of Pennsylvania
- previous year's local earned income tax return showing tax paid to a Pennsylvania municipality
- a current Pennsylvania voter registration card

All issued resident fishing licenses will remain valid for the year or years for which issued, regardless of whether the license holder is no longer a bona fide Pennsylvania resident.

National Guard and Armed Forces Reserve licenses are available only at the PFBC and county treasurers to those persons who provide docu-

mentation that within the previous 24 months the person was deployed as a member of the National Guard or as a member of the reserve component of the armed forces for a period of 60 consecutive days or more or was released early from service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty. Only one fishing license may be issued for each qualifying deployment of a person applying for the license for the previous 24-month period.

POW licenses are available to persons who provide military documentation stating the person is a former Prisoner Of War. Initial licenses are available only at the PFBC and county treasurers. After providing verification of eligibility, annual licenses may then be obtained at any issuing agent or online.

Individuals who hold a SENIOR RESIDENT LIFETIME license issued before January 1, 1991, are not required to purchase a trout permit. Additionally, any person who purchased both a **SENIOR RESIDENT LIFETIME license and either a trout permit or a combination trout/Lake Erie permit prior to January 1, 2015**, is exempt from the annual requirement to purchase a trout permit.

Individuals who obtained a SENIOR RESIDENT LIFETIME license and also purchased a trout permit or a combination trout/Lake Erie permit on or after January 1, 2015, are required to annually purchase a trout permit if fishing for trout.

Disabled Veterans Licenses – Any disabled veteran who has a service-connected disability who is 100 percent disabled as certified by the United States Veterans Administration and is a resident of this Commonwealth may obtain a free resident lifetime fishing license upon application to the Commission or county treasurers.

Disabled Veterans Reduced Licenses – Any disabled veteran who has a service-connected disability who is between 60 and 99 percent disabled as certified by the United States Veterans Administration and is a resident of this Commonwealth may initially obtain a reduced fee resident annual or a senior resident lifetime fishing license upon application to the PFBC or county treasurers. After providing verification of eligibility, annual licenses may then be obtained at any issuing agent or online.

Military personnel are required to purchase a fishing license. Those who are stationed in Pennsylvania under Permanent Change of Station (PCS) orders for a duration of 6 months or more, who produce documentation proving the same, qualify for a resident fishing license. All others must obtain a tourist or non-resident license.

Certain active duty military personnel are exempt from Pennsylvania's fishing license requirement. To be eligible for the military waiver, an angler must be a bona fide Pennsylvania resident, be on active duty, be stationed outside Pennsylvania and

be here on authorized leave. While in the act of fishing, the military personnel must carry proof of each of these requirements, such as a Pennsylvania driver's license, a military ID and valid military orders showing the place of assignment and leave status.

Under the law, a qualifying soldier, sailor, airman or Marine does not receive a free Pennsylvania fishing license. Instead, eligible active duty military personnel can legally fish without a license under the limited circumstances outlined in the law. They must have on their person while fishing evidence of Commonwealth residency, proof of their assignment to a facility outside this Commonwealth and a copy of their orders assigning them to temporary leave.

The law does not exempt military personnel on leave from any other requirements of fishing or boating laws and regulations.

Students from out of state who are attending school in Pennsylvania but who have not become residents of Pennsylvania are not eligible to purchase a resident license and must obtain a tourist or Non-Resident Pennsylvania Student fishing license.

Social Security Number requirements – Since 1998, federal and state laws require purchasers of a Pennsylvania fishing license to provide their Social Security Number when applying to purchase a fishing license.

Vouchers – A voucher may be purchased as a gift for another individual that can be redeemed for a license and/or permit. A voucher may be redeemed at any issuing agent. The voucher is non-refundable and expires as noted. A voucher is not a fishing license and individuals using a voucher to fish are in violation of the Fish and Boat Code and may be subject to legal action. Individuals wishing to purchase vouchers for holiday presents need to wait until December 1 of that year before purchasing a voucher.



1-Day Tourist and 1-Day Resident licenses – 1-Day Tourist and 1-Day Resident licenses are not valid for fishing during the period from March 15 to April 30 of any year. 1-Day Tourist or 1-Day Resident licenses issued to be used on March 14 will expire at 11:59 p.m. on March 14, regardless of what time the license begins.

POSSESSION AND DISPLAY OF LICENSES

The license shall be kept about the person while fishing and shown upon the request of any waterways or other officer designated by the Commission. In addition to showing the license to the officer, the holder thereof shall, upon demand, establish further identification to the satisfaction of the officer by producing some other positive means of identification.

TROUT PERMIT

A current Pennsylvania trout permit is required to fish for trout in Pennsylvania waters. Permits are printed on the license. An angler “fishes for trout” when the angler:

- Takes, kills or possesses, while in the act of fishing, a trout from any Pennsylvania or boundary waters.

- Fishes in waters under special trout regulations.
- Fishes in any Class A Wild Trout Waters or Wilderness Trout Streams or their tributaries.

- Fishes in any streams and rivers designated as stocked trout waters on February 16 through May 31 (see page 10).



PERMIT EXEMPTIONS: The following persons are NOT required to possess a trout permit or Lake Erie permit:

- Persons under 16 years of age.
- Disabled persons and other individuals who are exempt from fishing license requirements, or who are authorized to fish using an institutional license.
- Persons who possess a 1-Day Tourist license.

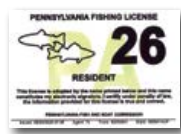
LAKE ERIE PERMIT

All anglers fishing in the waters of Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and their tributaries including waters that flow into those tributaries are required to possess a valid Lake Erie permit or combination trout/Lake Erie permit. See page 14 for a list of main tributaries that require a permit.



COMBINATION TROUT/LAKE ERIE PERMIT

In many cases, an angler may need both a trout permit and a Lake Erie permit to fish in waters in the Erie area. Rather than purchasing these individually, a combination trout/Lake Erie permit may be purchased.



CHARTER BOAT/ FISHING GUIDE PERMITS

Charter boat operators and fishing guides are required to obtain a permit when conducting business on the waters of the Commonwealth including the boundary waters. The annual fee for the permit is \$101.97 for residents and \$401.97 for non-residents. Pricing includes issuing agent fee of \$1.00 and \$0.97 transaction fee.

- A charter boat is a boat operated as a commercial enterprise, which carries passengers for hire for the purposes of fishing on the waters of the Commonwealth.

- A fishing guide is a person who operates a commercial enterprise by guiding or leading other people for the purpose of fishing on the waters of this Commonwealth.

- A commercial enterprise is an operation where a person provides fishing guide or charter boat services in exchange for any consideration including money, goods or services.

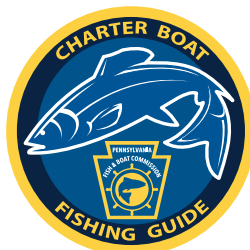
For permit application and issuance of Charter Boat/Fishing Guide permits:



For additional information about Charter Boat/Fishing Guide permits, contact the Bureau of Law Enforcement at 717-705-7861.

ANGLERS:

To find a charter boat operator or fishing guide for a fish species or location you wish to fish, go to the Commission's website.



MULTI-YEAR FISHING LICENSES

A 3-year fishing license is valid through 2028, a 5-year fishing license is valid through 2030, and a 10-year fishing license is valid through 2035. Customers who buy multi-year licenses save money by not having to pay agent/transaction fees each year. Anglers can also purchase multi-year trout, Lake Erie and combo permits and experience similar savings or purchase single year trout, Lake Erie and combination permits.

VOLUNTARY PERMITS

Voluntary Permits are designed to help maintain funding levels for several key fishing-related programs. Revenues generated from the sale of these permits will be reinvested into the Habitat/Waterways Conservation, Musky, Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters or Bass programs. The Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit does not meet the requirement to fish for trout in Pennsylvania waters.

VOLUNTARY YOUTH FISHING LICENSE

To participate in a Mentored Youth Fishing Day, anglers 16 years of age or older (adult anglers) must possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a Mentored Youth Permit OR a Voluntary Youth Fishing License. In addition to a valid fishing license, the adult angler (mentor) must possess a valid trout permit when the Mentored Youth Fishing Day relates to trout. While mentors will be permitted to fish for trout, they are not permitted to harvest trout and must release them unharmed. Youth may harvest up to two trout (combined species) with a minimum size of 7 inches. All other Commonwealth Inland Water Regulations apply.

- The Mentored Youth Permit is free, and the Voluntary Youth Fishing License is \$2.97 (\$1.00 cost plus \$1.97 in agent/transaction fee).

- While both the permit and the Voluntary Youth Fishing License provide the opportunity for youth to fish on Mentored Youth Fishing Days, the Voluntary Youth Fishing License provides an extended return for both Pennsylvania's youth and the Commission. For each license purchased for \$2.97, the Commission receives \$5 back in funding as a federal reimbursement. The same applies for each Voluntary Youth Fishing License Voucher, once it is redeemed. The Commission receives no federal reimbursement for Mentored Youth Permits.

- The funds received from the sales of the license reimbursement are then dedicated toward investment in youth outreach and education programs.

- While both the permit and the license provide the opportunity to participate in Mentored Youth Fishing Days, the Commission encourages anglers to purchase either a Voluntary Youth Fishing License or a Voluntary Youth Fishing License Voucher—for the future of fishing!

For the cost of fishing licenses and permits or to purchase fishing licenses and permits:



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Crawford County, PA



No matter where you drop your line in Crawford County, the fish are sure to bite. Whether you're a lake lover or a creek catcher, you can find plenty of spots to cast your line here. Woodcock Dam offers 333 acres of lake stocked with musky, walleye, and bass. Find your new favorite fishing spot on one of our 8 lakes or cast a line in French Creek and the other streams. With so much to do in Crawford County, you can bring the whole family and still enjoy relaxing fishing time, while they enjoy other local amenities.



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VOLUNTARY PERMITS

Voluntary Permits are designed to help maintain funding levels for several key fishing-related programs. Revenues generated from the sale of these permits will be reinvested into the Habitat/Waterways Conservation, Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters, Bass or Musky programs (*see page 5*).

The Wild Trout & Enhanced Waters Permit does not meet the requirement to fish for trout in Pennsylvania waters.



FishandBoat.com

General Fishing Regulations

NURSERY WATERS are closed to fishing at all times.

FIELD DRESSING AND DISPOSAL OF FISH – It is unlawful to possess a fish in any form or condition other than in the whole or having the entrails removed while on shore, along the waters of the Commonwealth, onboard a boat or on a dock, pier, launch area or parking lot adjacent thereto. Fish may be processed fully if they are being prepared for immediate consumption on site. This does not apply to fish processed at a fish cleaning station officially recognized by the Commission or by a permitted charter boat/fishing guide operation.

It is unlawful to discard any fish carcass or parts thereof into the waters of the Commonwealth or upon any public or private lands contiguous to the waters unless disposal is on lands with permission from the landowner or it is where fish are properly disposed into suitable garbage or refuse collection systems or at an officially recognized fish cleaning station.

TAGGED FISH – The PFBC and agencies in adjacent states apply tags to fish for special research purposes. If an angler catches a tagged fish and wishes to keep the fish, the tag number and location of the catch should be reported to the address or phone number on the tag or to the PFBC. If the angler doesn't wish to keep the fish, no attempt should be made to remove the tag unless special instructions have been posted at access areas, by the media or elsewhere. For example, sometimes the PFBC uses two-part tags, and parts of or all of the tags should be removed in some cases with scissors or a knife. This type of tag typically resembles rubber spaghetti, and information such as tag numbers and toll-free phone numbers can be easily read. Tagged fish that are not kept should be returned to the water immediately after removing the tag or recording the information from the tag. In no case should tags be pulled from a fish as this will cause significant injuries.

It is unlawful for a person to implant tracking devices in or to tag, brand, mark or fin clip any fish taken from Commonwealth waters unless the fish are purchased from an authorized commercial aquaculture facility, are part of a Commission-recognized and sanctioned stocking by a cooperative nursery, are authorized by a scientific collector's permit issued by the Commission, are part of a tagged fish contest in a boundary lake for which the Commission has issued a permit or are part of a Commission-partnered tagged fish contest.

Tackle and Equipment

RODS, LINES AND HOOKS. An angler may use a maximum of three lines fished either by rod or hand when fishing for gamefish, baitfish or both. An exception to this rule exists for those fishing through ice in winter (see Ice Fishing Equipment on this page). On open water (not covered by ice), it is unlawful for a person to fish with more than three fishing rods at a time. There is no restriction on the number of hooks used on each fishing line. All rods, lines and hooks shall be under the immediate control of the person using them.

SNAGGING HOOKS may not be used or possessed while in the act of fishing. A snagging hook is a device designed or modified to facilitate the snagging of

fish and may be a hook with a single barb, weighted on a shank below the eye and above the barbs, or a hook otherwise designed or modified to make the snagging of fish more likely than it would be with a normal hook.

ICE FISHING EQUIPMENT. It is unlawful while ice fishing to use more than five fishing devices, which may consist of rods, hand lines, tip-ups or any combination. Each device shall contain a single fishing line with no restriction on the number of hooks used for fishing, except when fishing in the Pymatuning Reservoir, where no more than three hooks shall be attached to each line. Self-hooking devices such as jaw jacks and automatic fisherman are allowed. Holes cut in ice may not exceed 10 inches between the farthest points as measured in any direction. All lines, rods or tip-ups shall be under the immediate control of the person using them. On PFBC lakes, shelters or shanties must be removed when through fishing for the day.

GAFF OR LANDING NET. A gaff or landing net is permitted to assist in landing fish caught using a lawful device (*see page 13 for exception*). Nets of all types can be no larger (excluding the handle) than 4 feet square or 4 feet in diameter. The use of a cast net or throw net in any Commonwealth waters except waters listed on the Commission's website are a violation of the Fish and Boat Code. These waterways require permits. Cast net and throw net permits are available online. **It is unlawful to use any type of net or seine to catch or take gamefish.**

SPEARS OR GIGS. Spears or gigs may be used to take **ONLY** snakeheads, carp, suckers and catfish. Spears or gigs may not be mechanically propelled, may not have more than five barbed points and may not be used in stocked trout waters.

BOW AND ARROW (including compound bows and crossbows) may be used for taking **ONLY** snakeheads, carp, suckers and catfish on all Commonwealth waters, day or night, with the following exceptions: (1) bowfishing is strictly prohibited in stocked trout waters during the closed season, (2) bowfishing is strictly prohibited in special regulations trout waters, (3) it is unlawful to cast direct rays of a spotlight, mounted headlight or any other kind of artificial light from any watercraft upon any occupied building or another watercraft and (4) it is unlawful to use generators on board a watercraft while bowfishing with a noise level that exceeds 90 decibel.

ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

An adult who assists a child (15 years of age and younger) by casting or retrieving a fishing line or fishing rod is not required to possess a valid fishing license provided that the child remains within arms' reach of the assisting adult and is actively involved in the fishing activity. An adult may assist a child by baiting hooks, removing fish from the line, netting fish, preparing the fishing rod for use and untangling the line without possessing a valid fishing license. An adult is required to possess a fishing license if they intend to set the hook for the child. An adult may not fish or set the hook for their child in a designated Children/Special Population Area.

Bait

BAITFISH includes all forms of minnows; suckers, chubs, Fallfish, lampreys; Gizzard Shad 8 inches or less; and all forms of darters, killifishes and stonecats (except those listed as threatened or endangered species). Legally taken gamefish may be used as bait. It is unlawful to use or possess goldfish, comets, koi and Common Carp as baitfish while fishing.

FISHBAIT includes crayfish, crabs and the nymphs, larvae and pupae of all insects spending any part of their life cycle in the water.

For all crayfish species, the head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken.

A person shall not release or dispose live baitfish into any water of this Commonwealth, except live baitfish baited on a hook for angling purposes. A person may collect live baitfish for angling. A species of baitfish collected for use as bait may not be transferred from waters in this Commonwealth into another drainage of this Commonwealth where this particular species does not already exist.

SEASON, SIZE, LIMIT: No closed season (except as noted below) and no minimum size. The daily limit and possession limit is 50 combined species. When purchasing bait, obtain and keep the sales slip or receipt. The receipt authorizes the possession of the fishbait or baitfish so purchased for a period of 15 days after its date of issue. Fishbait or baitfish purchased from a licensed dealer do not have a possession limit and do not count toward your daily limit of fishbait and baitfish taken from Commonwealth waterways. Stocked trout waters are closed for taking fishbait and baitfish from February 16 to the opening day of trout season. Most specially regulated trout waters are closed to taking fishbait and baitfish at all times.

TAKING AND KEEPING BAIT is permitted using rod and reel or handline, dip net or minnow seine not over 4 feet square or in diameter, or a minnow trap with no more than two openings that shall not exceed 1 inch in diameter. All devices must be under the immediate control of the person using them. Unattended minnow traps or baitfish containers left in Commonwealth waters must be identified with the owner's or user's name, address and telephone number. If fishing in a group and the total number of fishbait or baitfish taken exceeds the possession limit (50), separate containers must be provided for the fishbait and baitfish. Total possession limit in any one container may not exceed 50 baitfish or fishbait combined.

MUDBUGS (dragonfly nymphs): No daily limit from lakes, ponds, swamps or adjacent areas; the daily limit from rivers and streams is 50.

FROGS AS BAIT: Except for those listed as endangered or threatened or those with zero possession limit, frogs may be used as bait. Certain seasons and possession limits apply.

It is Unlawful . . .

• To possess, introduce or import, transport, sell, purchase, offer for sale or barter the following species in the Commonwealth: **snakeheads (all species), Black Carp, Bighead Carp, Silver Carp, Zebra Mussel, Quagga Mussel, European Rudd, Ruffe, crayfish (all species), Round Goby and Tubenose Goby.**

• To fish with more than three fishing lines at any time when fishing for gamefish, baitfish or both.

• To not have immediate control of all rods, lines and hooks.

• To fish (includes taking baitfish and fishbait) from February 16 to 8:00 a.m. on the opening day of trout season in any stocked trout water. Exceptions are certain specially regulated waters and Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-round Fishing.

• To cast repeatedly into a clearly visible bass spawning nest or redd in an effort to catch or take a bass.

• To take or attempt to take fish or keep fish accidentally caught by snatch-fishing, foul hooking or snag fishing. Handfishing is not permitted.

• To catch, kill or possess more than one day's limit of any fish, except: (a) at your residence and (b) you may possess two days' limit while traveling to your residence from an overnight fishing trip of two or more consecutive days.

• To have on a stringer or in a container or otherwise in possession, while in or along waters of the Commonwealth or immediately returning therefrom, more than the daily creel limit of any fish for one person.

• To fail to immediately return unharmed to the waters from which it was taken any fish caught out of season, undersize or over the daily creel limit. Any fish placed on a stringer, in any container or given away counts toward the possession limit of the person having caught it and the person to whom it was given.

• To kill any fish and fail to make a reasonable effort to lawfully dispose of it.

• To fish in or within 100 feet of the entrance or exit points of any fishway including fish ladders and other fish passage facilities.

• To use gamefish as bait except when taken by rod and reel or handline in conformance with seasons, sizes and creel limits or when purchased from an authorized bait dealer.

• To sell baitfish or fishbait taken from waters of the Commonwealth, except that licensed and authorized commercial fishermen may take and sell baitfish from Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay.

• To sell baitfish or fishbait within the Commonwealth or transport same out of the state except by authorized and licensed commercial bait dealers.

• To sell any species of fish, reptile (with the exception of Snapping Turtles) or amphibian taken from the Commonwealth.

• To sell, offer for sale, purchase or barter any fish parts or fish eggs obtained from fish taken from waters of this Commonwealth including boundary waters. This prohibition does not apply to fish parts or fish eggs (1) lawfully taken or sold or offered for sale by holders of Lake Erie commercial fishing licenses if the particular species of fish is authorized for taking by commercial licensees or (2) those obtained from fish taken lawfully from waters outside of this Commonwealth.

• To release any species of fish except those listed as approved by the PFBC in Commonwealth waters without written permission from the executive director of the PFBC.

• To release fish from another state, province or country into Commonwealth waters without written permission from the Commission.

• To transfer fish from one Pennsylvania watershed to another where that species is not always present without written consent from the Commission.

• To introduce (stock) fish into waters of the Commonwealth without submission of a Notice of Stocking to the Commission (*see page 22*).

• To place an obstruction in any waterway that blocks the free movement of fish.

• To use or have in possession while on or along Commonwealth waters nets larger than 4 feet square or in diameter except with a special permit issued by the PFBC.

• To conduct an organized fishing tournament in which there are 10 or more participants without a permit issued by the Commission. Applications must be submitted 60 days before the date of the proposed tournament. Fishing tournaments may not be conducted for a species of fish during the closed season for that species. Unless a special exemption is granted, fishing tournaments may not be conducted on the opening day of the season for any species of gamefish. Contact the nearest region office (*page 3*) for more information and permit applications. Applications are also online.

• To conduct an organized fishing tournament and fail to submit an accurate fishing tournament catch report when required.

• To conduct a tagged fishing tournament in boundary waters without a permit issued by the PFBC.

• To throw, leave, discard or deposit litter, debris or trash of any kind in or along waters or lands adjacent to or contiguous to waters of the Commonwealth.

• To obstruct the ingress, egress or regress to a person's property, catterways or fields.


• To dig in or drive upon any lands.

• To cut or damage trees or shrubs.


• To build or tend open fires without permission.

• To run any vehicle except fording in the most direct manner in any stream.

• To interfere with officers authorized to enforce the Fish and Boat Code in the performance of their duties or to refuse to accompany any officer after having been arrested for a violation of the Fish and Boat Code.



Meet Rock & Log:



If a Violation Occurs . . .

Persons accused of violating the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code or rules and regulations may be issued a citation and have a right to a hearing before a district justice. Law enforcement personnel have the authority to confiscate or seize as evidence fish and fishing equipment that are illegal or used to violate fishing laws or regulations. The PFBC may, upon proper notice, suspend or revoke the fishing privileges, boating privileges or other permits of any person convicted (or acknowledging guilt) of a violation of the Fish and Boat Code or PFBC regulations.

If you have been convicted of or plead guilty to a second or subsequent violation within a 12-month period, you may be assessed an additional fine of \$200 for those offenses classified as summary offenses.



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COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS-2026

| Species | Seasons | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|--|--|---|---|
| ALL SPECIES OF TROUT  Additional regulations may apply- see Trout Regulations- pages 23-36 . See pages 16-17 for stream sections that are both Stocked Trout Waters and Class A Wild Trout Waters. | Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season April 4 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 7 | 7 inches | 5-streams, lakes and ponds (combined species) |
| | Extended Season: Stocked trout waters Jan. 1 through Feb. 15 and Sept. 8 through Dec. 31 | 7 inches | 3 (combined species) |
| | Extended Season: Waters not managed as stocked trout waters Jan. 1 through Feb. 15 and Sept. 8 through Dec. 31 | NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only | |
| BASS - Lakes, Rivers and Streams Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Additional regulations may apply- see page 11 . | Jan. 1 through April 10 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 4 (combined species) |
| | April 11 through June 12  | NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted) NO HARVEST begins at 12:01 a.m. | |
| | June 13 through Sept. 30 | 12 inches | 6 (combined species) |
| Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge* | Open year-round  | 40 inches | 1 (combined species) |
| Pickeral* | | 18 inches | 4 |
| Northern Pike* | | 24 inches | 2 |
| Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids) | Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 2 through Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 6  |
| Sauger | Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 2 through Dec. 31 | 12 inches | 6 |
| American Shad** | Open year-round | No minimum | 3 |
| American Shad | Open year-round - Lehigh River, Schuylkill River*** and tributaries | NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only | |
| American Shad |  | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | |
| River Herring** | | Susquehanna River and tributaries | |
| Hickory Shad** | | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND  | |
| Herring, Gizzard Shad | Open year-round | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| American Eel | Open year-round | 9 inches | 25 |
| Striped Bass and Striped Bass/White Bass Hybrids | Open year-round  | 20 inches | 2 (combined species) |
| Sunfish, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Crappies, Catfish, Rock Bass, Suckers, Carp, White Bass, Bowfin and Other Gamefish Not Otherwise Listed Additional regulations may apply- see Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations-page 15 . | Open year-round  | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| Baitfish/Fishbait**** (except Mudbugs/includes Crayfish) | Open year-round | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| Mudbugs (Dragonfly Nymphs) | Open year-round | No minimum | Unlimited if taken from lakes, ponds, swamps and adjacent areas. 50 per day if taken from moving waters (rivers and streams). |
| Mussels/Clams | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Paddlefish, Spotted Gar and Other Threatened and Endangered Species | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |

SEASONS, SIZES AND DAILY LIMITS – Except for trout season, which begins at 8 a.m., all regulatory periods in the fishing regulations are based on the calendar day, one of which ends at midnight and the next of which begins immediately thereafter.

* Except those species in waters listed in the **Brood Stock Lakes Program**. Tiger Muskellunge is a muskellunge hybrid.

** Unlawful to take, catch or kill American Shad in the Susquehanna River and all its tributaries. River Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring) has a closed year-round season with zero daily limit applied to Susquehanna River and tributaries, Lehigh River and tributaries, Schuylkill River and tributaries, West Branch Delaware River, Delaware River, Delaware Estuary, Delaware River tributaries upstream to the limit of the tidal influence and Conowingo Reservoir.

*** Lehigh River upstream of the first dam in Easton, Pennsylvania and its tributaries and the Schuylkill River upstream of the I-95 Bridge and its tributaries.

NOTE: It is not a violation of the bass regulations if a bass is immediately returned unharmed to the waters from which it was taken. It is unlawful for an angler to cast repeatedly into a clearly visible bass spawning nest or redd in an effort to catch or take bass.

NOTE: For bass regulations, power dam pools and recreational dam pools on the Susquehanna River and navigational dam pools on the Ohio River drainage are "rivers." It is unlawful to conduct a fishing tournament on the North Branch, West Branch or main stem of the Susquehanna River that allows a tournament angler to harvest bass.

NOTE: Stocked trout waters are closed to fishing from February 16 to the opening day of the regular trout season in April, unless included in the **Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing Program**.

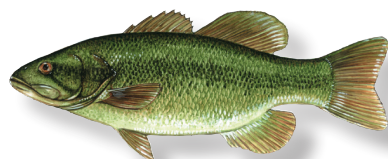
NOTE: Landlocked Alewife less than 8 inches in length taken from inland ponds, lakes or reservoirs that are collected by legal means may be harvested for use as baitfish.

NOTE: It is legal to fish for trout in Class A streams year-round, with no harvest beginning the day after Labor Day to the opening day of

trout season the following year. The exception is those stream sections designated as both Class A Wild Trout Streams and Stocked Trout Waters (Miscellaneous Special Regulations). See [pages 16 and 17](#). These stream sections are closed to fishing from February 16 until 8 a.m. on the opening day of trout.

**** **BAITFISH** includes all forms of minnows; suckers, chubs, Fallfish, lampreys; Gizzard Shad 8 inches or less; and all forms of darters, killifishes and stonecats (except those listed as threatened or endangered species). Legally taken gamefish may be used as bait. It is unlawful to use or possess goldfish, comets, koi and Common Carp as baitfish while fishing. **FISHBAIT** includes crayfish, crabs and the nymphs, larvae and pupae of all insects spending any part of their life cycle in the water.

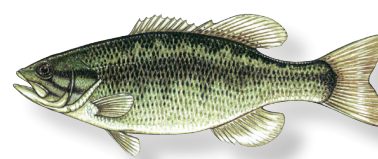
For all crayfish species, the head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken.



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Spotted Bass

Big Bass Program Special Regulations

These special regulations apply to Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass and Spotted Bass in the waters listed below. Stocked trout waters (lakes) that are in the Big Bass Program are closed to all fishing from February 16 until the opening day of the trout season. This closure does not pertain to stocked trout waters (lakes) open to year-round fishing. For all other species, inland regulations apply.

LAKES

| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|---|--|----------------------|
| Jan. 1 through April 10 and June 13 through Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 4 (combined species) |
| April 11 through June 12 | NO HARVEST- Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted). NO HARVEST begins at 12:01 a.m. | |

For the latest information and regulation updates, please consult the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission's website: fishandboat.com.

WATERS GOVERNED BY THESE REGULATIONS

| County | Water |
|-----------|---|
| Allegheny | Upper, Middle and Lower Deer Lakes |
| Allegheny | Marshall Lake |
| Allegheny | North Park Lake |
| Armstrong | Keystone Lake |
| Beaver | Bradys Run Lake |
| Bedford | Shawnee Lake (State Park) |
| Berks | Blue Marsh Lake |
| Berks | Hopewell Lake |
| Berks | Kaercher Creek Dam |
| Blair | Canoe Creek Lake (State Park) to include two small ponds and raceway adjacent to Canoe Lake |
| Bucks | Lake Towhee |
| Bucks | Nockamixon Lake (State Park) |
| Butler | Glade Run Lake |
| Butler | Lake Arthur (Moraine State Park) |
| Cambria | Beaverdam Run Reservoir |
| Cambria | Duman Lake |
| Cambria | Hinckston Run Reservoir |
| Cambria | Wilmore Dam |
| Carbon | Mauch Chunk Lake |

| County | Water |
|--------------------------|---|
| Centre | Colyer Lake |
| Chester | Chambers Lake |
| Chester | Marsh Creek Lake (State Park) |
| Crawford | Sugar Lake |
| Crawford | Tamarack Lake |
| Cumberland | Opossum Lake |
| Fayette | Indian Creek Reservoir (Mill Run Reservoir) |
| Fayette/ Westmoreland | Bridgeport Reservoir |
| Indiana | Yellow Creek Lake (State Park) |
| ● Jefferson | Kyle Lake |
| Lackawanna | Lackawanna Lake (State Park) |
| Lancaster | Speedwell Forge Lake |
| Lehigh | Leaser Lake |
| Luzerne | Frances Slocum Lake (State Park) |
| Luzerne | Lily Lake |
| Mercer | Shenango River Lake |
| Monroe/Wayne | Gouldsboro Lake |
| Montour | Lake Chillisquaque |

| County | Water |
|----------------|---|
| Perry | Little Buffalo Lake (Holman Lake) |
| Somerset | Quemahoning Reservoir |
| Tioga | Lake Nessmuk |
| Venango | Two Mile Run Reservoir (Justus Lake) |
| Washington | Cross Creek Lake |
| Washington | Peters Twp. Lake (Res. #2) |
| ● Westmoreland | Donegal Lake |
| Westmoreland | Indian Lake |
| Westmoreland | Keystone Lake (State Park) |
| Westmoreland | Twin Lakes Number One Reservoir (lower) |
| Westmoreland | Mammoth Dam |
| Westmoreland | Northmoreland Lake |
| Westmoreland | Twin Lake Number Two Reservoir (upper) |
| Wyoming | Stevens Lake |
| York | Lake Marburg (Codorus State Park) |
| York | Lake Redman |
| York | Lake Williams |
| York | Pinchot Lake (State Park) |

SMALLMOUTH BASS AND LARGEMOUTH BASS-CATCH AND RELEASE

| Counties | Waters | Season/Special Regulations |
|--|---|--|
| Cumberland, Dauphin, Juniata, Lancaster, Northumberland, Perry | Susquehanna River (98.0 miles) from the inflatable dam near Sunbury downstream to Holtwood Dam including all tributaries to a point ½ mile upstream from the confluence. | January 1 to December 31: NO HARVEST CATCH AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE ONLY. It is unlawful for an angler to cast repeatedly into a clearly visible bass spawning nest or redd in an effort to catch or take bass as with Commonwealth Inland Waters fishing regulations. From January 1 to April 10 and June 13 to December 31: Catch-measure-immediate release tournaments permitted (see fishandboat.com for tournament requirement details). From April 11 to June 12: No tournaments permitted. |
| Dauphin, Juniata, Perry | Juniata River (31.7 miles) from SR0075 bridge at Port Royal downstream to the mouth including all tributaries to a point ½ mile upstream from the confluence. | |

See catch and release guidelines on [page 15](#).

PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

| Species | Seasons | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|--|------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids) | Open year-round | 15 inches | 6 (combined species) |
| Bass: Largemouth, Smallmouth | Open year-round | 12 inches | 5 |
| Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge (Hybrids) | Open year-round | 30 inches | 2 (combined species) |
| Crappie** | Open year-round | 9 inches | 20 |
| All Other Species | Open year-round | No minimum | None |
| Baitfish/Fishbait* <small>See page 8 for definitions.</small> | Open year-round | No minimum | None |
| Frogs and Tadpoles | July 1 through Oct. 31 | No minimum | 15 |
| Snapping Turtles | July 1 through Oct. 31 | No minimum | 15 daily limit 30 possession limit |
| Turtles (all species other than Snapping Turtles) | Open year-round | No minimum | 2 |
| Mussels/Clams | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Threatened and Endangered Species | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS FOR PYMATUNING RESERVOIR

- Lights or firearms may not be used to take frogs.
- Hooks used to take turtles shall be at least 3½ inches long with at least 1 inch space between the point and shank.
- Spears, longbows, compound bows and crossbows may ONLY be used to take carp and suckers.
- Minnow seines and dip nets are restricted to 4 feet in size; mesh must measure not less than ½ inch, nor larger than ½ inch on a side.
- ICE FISHING** – An Ohio or Pennsylvania fishing license is recognized anywhere on the lake. It is unlawful while ice fishing to use more than five fishing devices, which may

consist of rods, hand lines, tip-ups or any combination. Each device shall contain a single fishing line with no more than three hooks attached to each line. Holes cut in ice may not exceed 10 inches between the farthest points as measured in any direction. All lines, rods or tip-ups shall be under the immediate control of the person using them.

NOTE: See this page for reciprocal fishing privileges between Pennsylvania and Ohio.

***For all crayfish species**, the head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken.

****** As per Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations-page 15

CONOWINGO RESERVOIR up to Holtwood Dam

| Species | Seasons | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|---|---|--------------|--|
| All Species of Trout | Open year-round | No minimum | 2 (combined species) |
| Bass: Largemouth, Smallmouth | Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and June 16 through Dec. 31 | 12 inches | 5 (combined species) |
| Northern Pike | Open year-round | 30 inches | 2 |
| Walleye | Open year-round | 15 inches | 5 |
| Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge (Hybrids) | Open year-round | 36 inches | 1 |
| Pickeral | Open year-round | 14 inches | 5 |
| Striped Bass and Striped Bass/White Bass Hybrids | Open year-round | 18 inches | 2 (combined species) only one of which may exceed 30 inches |
| Sunfish, Bluegill, Rock Bass | Open year-round | No minimum | 15 (combined species) |
| Crappies | Open year-round | No minimum | 15 |
| Carp | Open year-round | No minimum | 15 |
| Channel Catfish | Open year-round | No minimum | 5 |
| Suckers | Open year-round | No minimum | 30 |
| American Eel | Open year-round | 9 inches | 25 |
| Yellow Perch | Open year-round | No minimum | No daily limit |
| Baitfish/Fishbait* <small>See page 8.</small> | Open year-round | No minimum | 35 |
| All Other Fish Species | Open year-round | No minimum | No daily limit |
| American Shad and Hickory Shad, River Herring (Alewife and Blue-back Herring), Bivalves/Shellfish (Mussels/Clams) | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND (includes all threatened and endangered species) | | |

*It is illegal to: catch or process any species of crayfish unless the head is immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture; use any species of crayfish as bait unless the head is removed behind the eyes; catch and possess a female crayfish with eggs attached to the underside of the abdomen.

Fishing Privileges in Boundary Waters

The following fishing license agreements apply to boundary waters. You must abide by all other rules and regulations of the state in which fishing and where you launch or retrieve your boat.

A PENNSYLVANIA or MARYLAND LICENSE is valid on the Conowingo Reservoir or Youghiogheny River Lake when fishing from a boat (excluding coves and tributaries). **DOES NOT INCLUDE SHORE FISHING.**

A PENNSYLVANIA or NEW YORK LICENSE is valid on the Delaware River (including West Branch) between New York and Pennsylvania when **FISHING FROM A BOAT OR FROM EITHER SHORE.**

A PENNSYLVANIA or NEW JERSEY LICENSE is valid on the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania when **FISHING FROM A BOAT OR FROM EITHER SHORE.** A Pennsylvania fishing license is required to fish in all other waters identified on **page 13** as being part of the Delaware Estuary.

A PENNSYLVANIA or OHIO LICENSE is valid on the Pymatuning Reservoir when fishing from a boat. **DOES NOT INCLUDE SHORE FISHING.**

A PENNSYLVANIA LICENSE is required to fish Kinzua Reservoir in McKean and Warren counties. **No agreement** has been established with New York.

NO FISHING AGREEMENTS have been made on any other boundary waters.

DELAWARE RIVER AND ESTUARY

Saltwater Angler Registry

Anglers who target or catch shad, striped bass and river herring from the Delaware River below Trenton Falls or in the Delaware Estuary are required to register for free with the PFBC using the QR code on this page, register, for a fee, with the National Saltwater Angler Registry administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) or meet the saltwater angler registration requirements of another state. Anglers do not need to register if they meet one of the following exceptions:

- Are under the age of 16.
- Hold a Highly Migratory Species Angling Permit.
- Fish commercially under a valid license.
- Possess a valid registration with the National Saltwater Angler Registry.
- Registry administered by NOAA or from another exempted state.

Pennsylvania fishing license holders may choose to register for free with the PFBC. Go online for registration details.




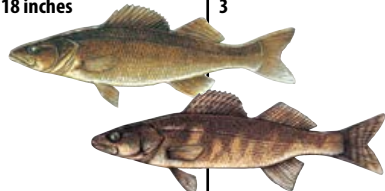

Anglers may also register with the National Saltwater Angler Registry website at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov with NOAA by clicking on the National Saltwater Angler Registry link. Please note that registered anglers must still possess a valid state fishing license.

Register:



DELAWARE RIVER AND ESTUARY (including tributaries to limits of tidal influence)

The following seasons, sizes and daily limits apply to the Delaware River, West Branch Delaware River and Delaware River tributaries, from the mouths of the tributaries upstream to the limit of the tidal influence and the Lehigh River from its mouth upstream to the first dam in Easton, Pennsylvania. The Delaware River estuary waters are listed at the right. ATTENTION: Non-offset (inline) circle hooks are required when fishing with bait for any species of fish in the Tidal Delaware Estuary including tributaries from the mouths of the tributaries upstream to the limit of the tidal influence. The definition of a non-offset (inline) circle hook is a non-offset hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term 'non-offset' means the point and the barb are in the same plane as the shank. ATTENTION: It is unlawful for any person to gaff or attempt to gaff any Striped Bass at any time when fishing.

| Species | Seasons | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|
|  | April 4 at 8 a.m. through Oct. 15 | North of I-84: 14 inches | 1 (combined species) |
| | | South of I-84: No minimum | 5 (combined species) |
| | | West Branch Delaware River * 12 inches | 2 (combined species) |
|  | Jan. 1 through April 10 and June 13 through Dec. 31 | 12 inches | 5 (combined species) |
| | April 11 through June 12 | NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only | |
|  | Open year-round | 40 inches | 1 |
| Northern Pike | Open year-round | 24 inches | 2 |
| Pickering | Open year-round | 12 inches | 5 |
|  | The portion of the Delaware River between New Jersey and Pennsylvania - open year-round. The portion of the Delaware River between New York and Pennsylvania - Jan. 1 until midnight, March 14 and May 2 until midnight, Dec. 31 | 18 inches | 3 |
| | | | |
| American Shad** | Open year-round | No minimum | 2 |
| American Eel | Open year-round | 9 inches | 25 |
|  | From the Pennsylvania state line upstream to Calhoun Street Bridge; Jan. 1 through March 31 and June 1 through Dec. 31† | 28 to less than 31 inches† | 1† |
| | April 1 through May 31† | 22 to less than 26 inches† | 1† |
| | From Calhoun Street Bridge upstream - open year-round | 28 to less than 31 inches | 1 |
| † It is unlawful to fish with bait for any species of fish in the tidal Delaware Estuary including tributaries from the mouths of the tributaries upstream to the limit of tidal influence using any hook type other than non-offset (inline) circle hooks. The definition of a non-offset (inline) circle hook is a non-offset hook where the point is pointed perpendicularly back towards the shank. The term "non-offset" means the point and the barb are in the same plane as the shank. For more information, consult: fishandboat.com. | | | |
| Baitfish/Fishbait* See page 8 for definitions. | Open year-round | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| River Herring*** | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Hickory Shad, Sturgeon and Other Threatened and Endangered Species | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Mussels/Clams | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Other Species | Inland seasons, sizes and daily limits apply except for waters under special regulations. | | |

*A special no-kill season with the use of artificial lures only has been established on the West Branch Delaware River (see page 17 for details).

**American Shad is catch and release in all Delaware River tributaries including those above tide.

***River Herring (Alewife and Blueback Herring) has a closed year-round season with zero daily limit applied to Susquehanna River and tributaries, Lehigh River and tributaries, Schuylkill

See fish consumption advisory for Delaware Estuary Striped Bass over 28"—see page 38.

When fishing with bait for any species of fish in the tidal Delaware Estuary, the use of a non-offset (inline) circle hook is required. A non-offset (inline) circle hook is considered a fishing device with no more than one point or barb.



River and tributaries, West Branch Delaware River, Delaware River, Delaware Estuary and Delaware River tributaries upstream to the limit of the tidal influence.

**** It is unlawful for any person to gaff or attempt to gaff any Striped Bass at any time when fishing.

For all crayfish species, the head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken.

The Delaware River estuary consists of the water areas listed below to their upper tidal limits:

| Water Area | Upper Tidal Limit |
|-------------------|--|
| Chester Creek | Kerlin Street (Chester-city) |
| Crum Creek | U.S. Route 13 (Eddystone) |
| Darby Creek | Pine Street (Darby-borough) |
| Delaware River | From the PA state line upstream to the U.S. Route 1 bridge |
| Frankford Creek | U.S. Route 13 (Frankford Avenue) |
| Marcus Hook Creek | U.S. Route 13 (Marcus Hook-borough) |
| Neshaminy Creek | Hulmeville Falls |
| Pennypack Creek | U.S. Route 13 (Frankford Avenue) |
| Poquessing Creek | State Road |
| Ridley Creek | MacDade Boulevard (Chester-city) |
| Schuylkill River | Fairmount Dam |

Delaware River and Estuary Anglers: Saltwater Angler Registry—see page 12.

DELAWARE RIVER BLUE CRABS

Female Blue Crabs bearing eggs or from which the egg pouch or bunion has been removed may not be possessed.

Crab Pots are limited to no more than two pots per person when taking crabs. In addition, two handlines may be used.

Unattended Crab Pots must be labeled with the name and address of the owner or user.

Disturbing Unattended Crab Pots is unlawful except by the owner, user or members of the immediate family and officers or representatives of the PFBC.

Horseshoe Crabs are unlawful to sell, offer for sale or purchase. It is unlawful to import into or transport in this Commonwealth horseshoe crabs for the purpose of sale.

* Measured point to point



Harvesting blue crabs from the Delaware River and its estuary waters is permitted pursuant to the regulations below.

| Season | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Open year-round | 4 inches * (hard shell) 3.5 inches * (soft shell) | One (1) bushel (combined - hard shell and soft shell) |

LAKE ERIE

The following seasons, sizes and daily limits apply to Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and peninsular waters, all Lake Erie tributaries in their entirety, which include Cascade Creek, Conneaut Creek, Crooked Creek, East Branch Conneaut Creek, Eightmile Creek, Elk Creek, Fourmile Creek, Middle Branch Conneaut Creek, Marsh Run, Mill Creek, Mud Run, Raccoon Creek, Sevenmile Creek, Sixmile Creek, Sixteenmile Creek, Stone Run, Temple Run, Turkey Creek, Twelvemile Creek, Twentymile Creek, Walnut Creek, West Branch Conneaut Creek and all waters that flow into these tributaries.

| Species | Seasons | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|--|--|--------------|--------------------------|
| Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge (Hybrids) | Open year-round | 40 inches | 1 |
| Northern Pike | Open year-round | 24 inches | 2 |
| Walleye | Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 2 through Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 6*** |
| Bass* Largemouth and Smallmouth | Jan. 1 through April 10 and June 13 through Dec. 31 | 15 inches | 4 (combined species) |
| | April 11 through June 12* | 20 inches | 1 |
| Yellow Perch | Dec. 1 through April 30 | 7 inches | 30*** |
| | May 1 through Nov. 30 | None | |
| Sunfish, Crappies, Catfish, Rock Bass, Suckers, Eels, Carp, White Bass, Bowfin and Other Gamefish Not Otherwise Listed | Open year-round | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| Burbot (when taken by scuba divers by use of nonmechanical spears or gigs at a depth of at least 60 feet) | June 1 through Sept. 30 | No minimum | 5 |
| Burbot (when taken by hook and line) | Open year-round | No minimum | 5 |
| Smelt (when taken by hook and line) | Open year-round | No minimum | None |
| Brook and Brown Trout** | 8 a.m. the opening day of the regular season for trout until midnight Labor Day | 9 inches | 5 (combined species)**** |
| | 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day until 12:01 a.m. on the Friday before the opening day of the regular trout season | 15 inches | 3 (combined species)**** |
| Rainbow Trout and Salmon** | 8 a.m. the opening day of the regular season for trout until 12:01 a.m. the Friday before the opening day of the regular season for trout the following year | 15 inches | 3 (combined species)**** |
| Lake Trout** | 8 a.m. the opening day of the regular season for trout until 12:01 a.m. the Friday before the opening day of the regular season for trout the following year | 15 inches | 2**** |
| Baitfish/Fishbait <i>See page 8 for definitions.</i> | Open year-round | No minimum | 50 (combined species) |
| American Eel | Open year-round | 9 inches | 25 |
| Mussels/Clams | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |
| Sturgeon, Spotted Gar, and Other Threatened and Endangered Species | CLOSED YEAR-ROUND | | |

For regulations and information about "Cast and Throw Net Permits," visit fishandboat.com.

Transportation of VHS-Susceptible Fish Out of the Lake Erie Watershed

An infectious fish disease, caused by a variant of Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS), has caused fish mortalities in the Great Lakes. The initial list of fish species that are susceptible to VHS includes Black Crappie, Bluegill, Bluntnose Minnow, Brown Bullhead, Brown Trout, Burbot, Channel Catfish, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Emerald Shiner, Freshwater Drum, Gizzard Shad, Herring, Largemouth Bass, Muskellunge, Northern

Pike, Pink Salmon, Pumpkinseed, Rainbow Trout, Redhorse Sucker, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, White Bass, White Perch, Whitefish and Yellow Perch.

It is unlawful to transport or cause the transportation of VHS-susceptible species of fish out of the portion of the Lake Erie Watershed in this Commonwealth into other watersheds of this Commonwealth except when certain conditions are met. It is illegal to use VHS-susceptible

fish species, fish parts and eggs taken from the Lake Erie Watershed as fishbait in Commonwealth waters outside the Lake Erie Watershed except when the fish are certified as VHS-negative. It is legal to transport dead recreationally caught fish out of the Lake Erie Watershed solely for the purpose of human consumption.

Because of diseases and invasive species, the Commission recommends as a good conservation practice that anglers not transport any live fish out of the Lake Erie Watershed and introduce those fish into other watersheds. For more information on invasive species, see [page 19](#). For more information on VHS, contact the Commission's Northwest Region Office ([page 3](#)) or visit fishandboat.com.

* It is unlawful to conduct or participate in a fishing tournament for bass on Lake Erie or Presque Isle Bay during the period from the second Saturday in April until midnight the second Saturday in June.

** It is unlawful to fish or possess trout in or along any Lake Erie tributary stream from 12:01 a.m. on April 3 until 8 a.m. on April 4 (32 hours total).

*** Adaptive management for daily limits: After the PFBC executive director establishes the daily limit for the year, the information will be available from any PFBC Office and posted at fishandboat.com.

**** The daily limit for all species of trout and salmon (combined) is 5 from 8 a.m. the opening day of the regular season for trout until midnight Labor Day. The daily limit for all species of trout and salmon (combined) is 3 per day from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day until 12:01 a.m. on the Friday before the opening day of the regular season for trout.

Special Regulations—Lake Erie Tributary Streams

- Designated as Nursery Waters are Trout Run and its tributaries, Godfrey Run, Orchard Beach Run and Crooked Creek (where posted). It is unlawful to fish, wade or possess fishing equipment while in or along Lake Erie tributary streams designated as Nursery Waters.

- Archery fishing or spear fishing is prohibited in or along Lake Erie tributary streams.

- From September 8 until the opening day of trout season in April, all Lake Erie tributary streams are closed to fishing from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. on the following day except for Walnut Creek between Route 5 downstream to the Manchester Road Bridge, which is closed to angler access and fishing from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. Walnut Creek from Manchester Road Bridge downstream to Lake Erie and Elk Creek north of Route 5 have no time restrictions for fishing.

- It is unlawful to fish from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. on the following day within 50 yards of the mouth of both Trout Run and Godfrey Run while fishing the Lake Erie shoreline.

Lake Erie Permit

All anglers fishing in the waters of Lake Erie, Presque Isle Bay and their tributaries including waters that flow into those tributaries are required to possess a valid Lake Erie permit or combination trout/Lake Erie permit.

The main tributaries where a permit is required are Cascade Creek, Conneaut Creek, Crooked Creek, Eightmile Creek, Elk Creek, Fourmile Creek, Mill Creek, Raccoon Creek, Sevenmile Creek, Sixmile Creek, Sixteenmile Creek, Turkey Creek, Twelvemile Creek, Twentymile Creek and Walnut Creek. A permit is also required for all of those waters that flow into these main tributaries.

Anglers fishing the East and West Basin ponds (Waterworks Ponds, Presque Isle State Park) are not required to possess a Lake Erie Permit.

Anglers fishing inland ponds, lakes and reservoirs in Erie County are not required to possess a Lake Erie Permit.

For all crayfish species, the head must be immediately removed behind the eyes upon capture unless used as bait in the water from which taken.

BROOD STOCK LAKES PROGRAM

These regulations are intended to restrict harvest and fish consumption from designated lakes during the FDA-mandated withdrawal period. During this period, fish anesthetics are used during Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge (hybrids), Northern Pike and pickerel culture operations. **From April 1 through May 31, fishing for these species is permitted on a catch and release/no harvest basis.** It is unlawful to take or possess any Muskellunge, Tiger Muskellunge (hybrids), Northern Pike and pickerel from these lakes during this period. When caught, these fish species shall be immediately returned unharmed.

For all other species, Commonwealth inland waters seasons, sizes and daily limits apply.

| County | Water Area |
|----------|------------------------|
| Crawford | Conneaut Lake |
| | Lake Canadohta |
| | Woodcock Creek Lake |
| Erie | Edinboro Lake |
| | Howard Eaton Reservoir |
| Mercer | Lake Wilhelm |

CATCH AND RELEASE LAKES

These lakes are regulated year-round as catch and release for all fish species. This means fishing is permitted on a catch and release/no harvest basis. It is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish from these lakes. Once caught, all fish shall be immediately returned unharmed.

Additional catch and release regulations specifically for trout can be found on [page 24](#). These include Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only, Catch and Release All Tackle and Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only.

| County | Water Area |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allegheny | Pine Township Park Pond |
| Columbia and Northumberland | Bear Gap Reservoir |
| | McWilliams Reservoir |
| Columbia | Klines Reservoir |
| Schuylkill | Lower Owl Creek Reservoir |
| Schuylkill | Owl Creek Reservoir |
| Somerset | Somerset Lake |
| Wayne | Lower Woods Pond |
| Westmoreland | Lower Burrell Park Pond |

HOW TO RELEASE FISH CATCH AND RELEASE

Some waters are managed strictly as "Catch and Release" waters. Minimum size limits require that fish less than the minimum must be released. Creel limits require that fish caught in excess of the limit must be released. Closed seasons require the release of fish species caught during a season when keeping them is not permitted. The number of fish that survive depends on several factors including the length of the fight, where the fish is hooked, water temperature and how the fish is handled and released.

To give released fish the best chance for survival, follow these recommended guidelines:

1. Use barbless hooks.
2. Play fish quickly.
Try to land your fish as quickly as possible, and don't play the fish to exhaustion.
3. Use a landing net.
4. Keep the fish in the water. The chance of a fish being injured increases the longer it is held out of water.
5. Wet your hands, net and other materials that may come in contact with the fish.
6. Hold the fish upside down while removing the hook. This can often pacify the fish and reduce handling time.
7. Remove hooks quickly. Hemostats or long-nose pliers are essential tools for quickly removing hooks.
8. Cut the line. When it is not possible to remove the hook without harming the fish, cut the line.
9. Don't touch the gills. Do not handle fish by placing your fingers in the gill slits.
10. Hold the fish upright underwater after hook removal and allow it to swim away under its own power. If necessary, hold the fish out of the current until it revives.
11. Fish that are bleeding from the mouth or gills due to hook removal do not survive after being released back into the water. Anglers may be charged with violating the Fish and Boat Code by failing to immediately release the fish unharmed. If regulations permit, the angler should keep the fish and have it count towards his or her daily limit.

PANFISH ENHANCEMENT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

These regulations are intended to increase the number, quality and size of panfish through the use of minimum length limits on sunfish, crappies and Yellow Perch. For all other species, Commonwealth inland waters seasons, sizes and daily limits apply, unless listed in other special regulation programs. It is unlawful to fish in the Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations waters listed below except in compliance with the following size and daily limits:

| County | Water Area | Species | Minimum Size | Daily Limit |
|----------------------|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| Berks | Blue Marsh Reservoir | Crappie | 9 inches | 20 |
| Butler | Glade Run Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| Cambria | Beaverdam Run Reservoir | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | When Panfish Enhancement Regulations apply to more than one species in the same waterway, the creel limit is 20 for each species with the total creel not to exceed 50 panfish combined. |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | Hinckston Run Reservoir | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Centre | Colyer Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | "Sunfish" includes Bluegills, Pumpkinseeds and Redear Sunfish. |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| | Foster Joseph Sayers Lake* (Bald Eagle State Park) | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| Chester | Chambers Lake | Sunfish | 7 inches | "Crappie" includes both Black Crappies and White Crappies. |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Crawford | Pymatuning Reservoir (State Park) | Crappie | 9 inches | *See Miscellaneous Waters with Special Regulations for crappies at Foster Joseph Sayers Lake. |
| | Tamarack Lake | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| Cumberland | Opossum Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| Fayette/Westmoreland | Bridgeport Reservoir | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| Huntingdon | Lake Perez | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| ● Jefferson | Kyle Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| Lehigh | Leaser Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | ● Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Mercer | Shenango River Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| Monroe | Gouldsboro Lake (State Park) | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Pike | Lower Lake (Lower Promised Land Lake) (State Park) | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| | Promised Land Lake (Upper Promised Land Lake) (State Park) | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Somerset | Quemahoning Reservoir | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Tioga | Lake Nessmuk | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Yellow Perch | 9 inches | |
| Washington | Cross Creek Lake | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | Peters Twp. Lake (Reservoir #2) | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| Westmoreland | ● Donegal Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | Indian Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | Lower Twin Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | Northmoreland Lake | Sunfish | 7 inches | |
| | | Crappie | 9 inches | |
| | Upper Twin Lake | Crappie | 9 inches | |

Miscellaneous Waters with Special Regulations

These special regulations apply to fish species identified for each location and regulation. Fish species not covered by a special regulation in these locales – inland regulations apply unless otherwise designated for these species.

BEAVER: Hopewell Township Park Lake

- Bass – 15-inch minimum size, daily limit 2 per day.

Panfish – Daily limit 10 combined species per day. Use of live fish for bait is prohibited. Refer to Big Bass Program for NO HARVEST dates ([see page 11](#)).

BEDFORD: Yellow Creek – from the confluence with Beaver Creek downstream to Red Bank Hill.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7 inches minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

BLAIR/HUNTINGDON/JUNIATA/MIFFLIN/PERRY: Juniata River and tributaries

- The daily limit of Rock Bass is 10; open season year-round; no minimum size limit.

CARBON: Pohopoco Creek – from the outlet of Beltzville Lake downstream to Hideaway Hunting and Fishing Club cable across creek.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7 inches minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

CENTRE: Bald Eagle Creek – from the confluence with Spring Creek downstream to the inlet of Sayers Lake near Boggs/Howard Township line.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no

harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

CENTRE: Bald Eagle Creek – from 0.38 mile upstream of Steel Hollow Run to 0.48 mile downstream of Steel Hollow Run.

- Trout (all species), all other species, inland regulations apply. Open to fishing year-round.
- From June 15 through Labor Day – the daily creel limit for trout is 3 (combined species). Trout must be at least 9 inches in length to be killed or possessed.
- From the day after Labor Day through June 14, no trout may be killed or possessed.
- All tackle types are permitted.

CENTRE: Foster Joseph Sayers Lake

- Black and white crappie: Daily creel limit is 10 (combined crappie species). No more than 5 fish may be greater than or equal to 9 inches in length. Total panfish daily creel limit may not exceed 50 when other panfish species are in the creel ([see page 10 and 15 applicable to other panfish](#)).

CENTRE: Penns Creek – from the State Road 45 bridge in Spring Mills downstream to the confluence with Elk Creek.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

CLARION: Beaver Creek Ponds

- Closed to fishing from January 1 through opening day of bass season.

- Bass – 15-inch minimum size, creel limit 2 per day on entire project area. Panfish – creel limit 10 per day combined species on entire area.

CLINTON: Fishing Creek – from the confluence with Cedar Run downstream to Country Club Road bridge in Mill Hall.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

COLUMBIA AND NORTHUMBERLAND: South Branch of Roaring Creek – from the bridge on State Route 3008 at Bear Gap upstream to the bridge on State Route 42. This is a catch and release/no harvest fishery for all species. It is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish. All fish caught must be immediately returned unharmed.

CRAWFORD: Paden Creek, Linesville Creek and Shenango River

- Nursery waters closed to all fishing March 1 through May 1. Waters involved are Paden Creek (Finley Creek) from the mouth upstream to “Finley Bridge” on U.S. Route 6, Linesville Creek from the mouth (Pymatuning Sanctuary) upstream to the Conrail Railroad bridge north of U.S. Route 6 in Linesville and Shenango River from the Pymatuning Lake Sanctuary boundary at the Route 285 bridge, locally known as Blair Bridge, upstream 100 yards.

CRAWFORD/ERIE: Conneaut Creek

- Lake Erie Tributary Regulations apply ([see page 14](#)) for entire stream in Crawford and Erie counties.

ERIE: Lake Pleasant

- It is unlawful to use any fish, live or dead, as bait while fishing at Lake Pleasant except for “salted minnows.” Further, it is unlawful to release any fish into Lake Pleasant except for those caught while fishing.

HUNTINGDON: Raystown Lake and Raystown Branch – From dam downstream to Juniata River.

- Trout (all species) no closed season. Creel limit 5 per day during regular season; 3 per day from the day after Labor Day to 8 a.m. on the opening day of the next regular season, minimum size – 7 inches.

- Raystown Lake and Tributaries – Smelt may be taken with a dip net from the shore or by wading only. Dip net may not exceed 20 inches in diameter or square. Daily limit – 200 smelt or one gallon by volume, whichever is greater.

HUNTINGDON: Whipple Lake

- All species, except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish, except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. For trout, inland regulations apply. This regulation will remain in effect until further notice.

LEHIGH: Little Lehigh Creek – from the confluence with Spring Creek downstream to Wild Cherry Lane bridge.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.
- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

LEHIGH: Little Lehigh Creek – from 0.25 mile upstream of Country Club Road bridge downstream to Fish Hatchery Road bridge.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

LEHIGH/NORTHAMPTON: *Monocacy Creek* – from Schoenersville Road bridge downstream to the confluence with Lehigh River.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

LUZERNE: *Harveys Lake*

- Open year-round to fishing. The daily limit is 3 trout (combined species) during the period from 8 a.m. on the opening day of trout season to midnight the third Monday in February the following year. Only 1 of the 3 trout daily limit may exceed 18 inches in length. No trout may be killed or had in possession from February 16 to the opening day of trout season. Inland regulations apply for other fish species.

MIFFLIN: *Kishacoquillas Creek* – from 1.5 miles upstream of the confluence with Tea Creek downstream to the Penn Central Railroad bridge.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

MONROE/NORTHAMPTON/PIKE: *Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area* - The use of eel chutes, eel pots and fyke nets is prohibited. The taking of the following fishbait is prohibited: crayfish or crabs, mussels, clams and the nymphs, larvae and pupae of all insects spending any part of their life cycle in the water.

The taking, catching, killing and possession of any species of amphibian or reptile within the boundaries of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is prohibited.

NOTICE FOR INFORMATION ONLY: Anglers are advised that the National Park Service 2016's Superintendent's Compendium of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements and Other Restrictions states: "The use of crayfish, clams, mussels, reptiles or amphibians as fishbait is prohibited, unless it is a commercially produced, preserved and packaged product." – Duration until further notice within Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

NORTHAMPTON: *Martins Creek* – from the confluence of the East and West Branch of Martins Creek downstream to the outflow of the Bangor sewage treatment plant near unnamed tributary.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

NORTHAMPTON: *Minsi Lake*

- All species, except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish, except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. For trout, inland regulations apply. This regulation will remain in effect until further notice.

NORTHAMPTON: *Monocacy Creek* – from Illicks Mill Dam downstream to Schoenersville Road bridge.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7-inch minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.
- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

● **POTTER:** *Freeman Run* – from the confluence of West Branch Freeman Run downstream to the mouth.

- All tackle types are permitted.
- Brook Trout and Brown Trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess Brook Trout or Brown Trout at any time.
- All other trout species – 7 inches minimum size limit – 5 trout daily limit (combined species) from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout to midnight on Labor Day. Catch and release/no harvest – it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any trout from 12:01 a.m. the day after Labor Day

to midnight the third Sunday in February the following year.

- Closed to all fishing from 12:01 a.m. the third Monday in February until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout.

- All species except trout – inland regulations apply. See § 61.1 (relating to Commonwealth inland waters).

SOMERSET/FAYETTE/WESTMORELAND/ALLEGHENY: *Youghiogheny River* – From the confluence with the Casselman River downstream to the confluence with Ramcat Run and Youghiogheny River from the PA Route 381 bridge at Ohiopyle downstream to the mouth of the river.

- No closed season on trout. Daily limit – Opening day of the trout season through Labor Day – 5 trout; the day after Labor Day through the opening day of the trout season of the following year – 3 trout. For all other species, inland regulations apply. See All Tackle Trophy Trout regulations on [page 24](#).

WARREN: *Allegheny River* – 8.75 miles from the outflow of the Allegheny Reservoir downstream to the confluence of Conewango Creek.

- From 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular trout season through Labor Day, the minimum size for trout is 14 inches, and the daily limit is 2 (combined species).
- From the day after Labor Day until 8 a.m. of the opening day of the trout season of the following year, no trout may be killed or had in possession.

WAYNE: *West Branch Delaware River* – From the Pennsylvania/New York border downstream to the confluence with the East Branch of the Delaware River.

- Artificial Lures Only season runs from October 16 until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the trout season.

- Fishing may be done with artificial lures only, constructed of metal, plastic, rubber or wood, or with flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials. All lures may be used with spinning or fly fishing gear.
- The daily creel limit of trout is zero (0) during the artificial-lures-only season.

See [page 13](#) for additional regulation for the Delaware River.

YORK: *Sheppard-Meyers Reservoir*

- All species, except trout – catch and release/no harvest; it is unlawful to take, kill or possess any fish, except trout. All fish caught other than trout must be immediately returned unharmed. For trout, inland regulations apply. This regulation will remain in effect until further notice.

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REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS - SEASONS AND LIMITS

| Species | Season | Daily Limit | Possession Limit |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| American Bullfrog | July 1 through October 31 | 10 (combined species) | 20 (combined species) |
| Green Frog | July 1 through October 31 | 10 (combined species) | 20 (combined species) |
| Snapping Turtle | July 1 through October 31 | 15 | 30 |
| Amphibian Eggs and Tadpoles | No closed season | 15 (combined species) | 15 (combined species) |
| Timber Rattlesnake* | June 13 through July 31 | 1 annual limit** (must be at least 42 inches in length, measured lengthwise along the dorsal surface from the snout to the tail, excluding the rattle, and must possess 21 or more subcaudal scales.***) | |
| Eastern Copperhead | June 13 through July 31 | 1 annual limit** | |

* It is unlawful to hunt, take, catch or kill Timber Rattlesnakes west of Route 15 and south of Interstate 81 to the Maryland line where there is no open season.

** It is unlawful to possess, take, catch or kill more than one Timber Rattlesnake or Eastern Copperhead per calendar year except as provided in Chapter 79.7(f) (Fish and

Boat Code) relating to organized reptile and amphibian hunt permits.

*** Subcaudal scales are large flat scales located on the underside of a Timber Rattlesnake between the vent (anal scale) and the base of the tail rattle.

See page 37 for Snapping Turtle consumption advice.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS

• A fishing license is required to catch or take reptiles and amphibians from the lands and waters of the Commonwealth.

• Unless otherwise indicated, reptiles and amphibians may only be taken by hand, hook, snake tongs, turtle hooks, traps and nets less than 4 feet square or 4 feet in diameter.

• It is unlawful to take, catch or kill a reptile or amphibian through the use of firearms, chemicals, explosives, winches, jacks or other devices.

• It is unlawful to damage or disrupt the nest or eggs of a reptile or to gather, take or possess the eggs of any reptile in the natural environment of this Commonwealth.

• It is unlawful to alter, damage or destroy habitat in the pursuit of a reptile or amphibian.

• It is unlawful to take, catch, kill or possess for the purposes of selling or offering for sale, importing or exporting for consideration, trading or bartering or purchasing an amphibian or reptile whether dead or alive, in whole or in parts, including the eggs or any life stage that was taken from lands or waters within this Commonwealth.

• It is unlawful to transport or import into or within this Commonwealth a native species from another jurisdiction. It is also unlawful to receive a native species that was transported or imported into or within this Commonwealth from another jurisdiction.

• Taking, catching and possessing amphibians and reptiles in Department of Conservation and Natural Resources natural areas designated by posters is prohibited.

Frogs:

• The use of artificial light to take frogs at night is illegal.

• Frogs may be taken with long bow and arrow including compound bows, crossbows, spears or gigs. Spears or gigs may not have more than five barbs and cannot be used in stocked trout waters.

Turtles:

• Set-lines, turtle traps or other devices for catching turtles must include a tag indicating the name, address and phone number of the owner or user. Traps, nets or other devices must be of a floating or partially submerged design to allow for the release of untargeted turtles. Hooks must be at least 3½ inches long with not less than 1 inch space between the point and shank of the hook. The number of lines or hooks per line is unlimited.

PERMITS

• A permit is required to hunt, take, catch, kill or possess Timber Rattlesnakes and Eastern Copperheads.

• Venomous Snake Permit holders must submit a catch report regardless if they did not hunt or hunted and did not harvest.

• A permit is required to hunt, take, catch or kill Snapping Turtles for the purpose of sale, barter or trade.

• The venomous snake permit fee for residents is \$31.97 per year; the fee for non-residents is \$61.97 per year.

• The Snapping Turtle permit fee for residents is \$61.97 per year; the fee for non-residents is \$121.97 per year.

• Prices for venomous snake and Snapping Turtle permits include a \$1.00 agent fee and \$0.97 transaction fee.

To purchase Venomous Snake and Commercial Turtle permits, visit your license issuing agent. Commercial Turtle Permits can also be purchased online.

The following Endangered/Threatened Native Species have NO OPEN SEASON. The DAILY LIMIT is 0 (zero) and POSSESSION LIMIT is 0 (zero).

The Commission has identified some species of reptiles, amphibians, fish and aquatic organisms as endangered, threatened or candidate species. Endangered and threatened species face extirpation and have **NO OPEN SEASON**.

SALAMANDERS:
Blue-spotted Salamander (Endangered)
Eastern Mud Salamander (Endangered)
Green Salamander (Threatened)
FROGS and TOADS:
Atlantic Coast Leopard Frog (Endangered)

Eastern Cricket Frog (Endangered)
Eastern Spadefoot (Threatened)
New Jersey Chorus Frog (Endangered)
SNAKES:
Eastern Massasauga (Endangered)
Kirtland's Snake (Endangered)

Northern Rough Greensnake (Endangered)
TURTLES:
Bog Turtle (Endangered)
Northern Red-bellied Cooter (Threatened)
Southeastern Mud Turtle (Endangered)

FOR A LIST OF ALL ENDANGERED, THREATENED AND CANDIDATE FISH SPECIES, visit the Commission's website.

The following native reptile and amphibian species have NO OPEN SEASON. The DAILY LIMIT is 0 (zero) and POSSESSION LIMIT is 0 (zero).

SALAMANDERS:
Eastern Hellbender
Four-toed Salamander
Jefferson Salamander
Marbled Salamander
Mudpuppy
Northern Ravine Salamander

FROGS and TOADS:
Mountain Chorus Frog
Upland Chorus Frog
Western Chorus Frog
SNAKES:
Eastern Hog-nosed Snake
Eastern Ribbonsnake

Eastern Smooth Earthsnake
Eastern Wormsnake
Mountain Earthsnake
Queensnake
Short-headed Gartersnake
Smooth Greensnake

TURTLES:
Blanding's Turtle
Spotted Turtle
Wood Turtle
Woodland Box Turtle
LIZARDS and SKINKS:
Broad-headed Skink
Eastern Fence Lizard
Northern Coal Skink

The following native reptile and amphibian species have NO CLOSED SEASON. The DAILY LIMIT is 1 (one) and POSSESSION LIMIT is 1 (one).

SALAMANDERS:
Allegheny Mountain Dusky Salamander
Eastern Long-tailed Salamander
Eastern Red-backed Salamander
Northern Dusky Salamander
Northern Red Salamander
Northern Seal Salamander
Northern Slimy Salamander
Northern Spring Salamander

Northern Two-lined Salamander
Red-spotted Newt
Spotted Salamander
Valley and Ridge Salamander
Wehrle's Salamander
FROGS and TOADS:
Cope's Gray Treefrog
Eastern American Toad
Fowler's Toad
Gray Treefrog

Northern Leopard Frog
Pickerel Frog
Spring Peeper
Wood Frog
SNAKES:
Central Ratsnake
Dekay's Brownsnake
Eastern Gartersnake
Eastern Milksnake
Northern Black Racer
Northern Ring-necked Snake

Northern Watersnake
Red-bellied Snake
TURTLES:
Eastern Musk Turtle
Eastern Painted Turtle
Midland Painted Turtle
Northern Map Turtle
Northern Spiny Softshell
LIZARDS and SKINKS:
Common Five-lined Skink

The practice of catch and release of amphibians and reptiles is encouraged.

Boat and Gear Cleaning Required by Law

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants and animals that have been introduced into new ecosystems and have environmental, recreational, economic or health impacts. These invaders may damage equipment and compete with native species. Anglers and boaters may unknowingly introduce AIS into new waters.

It is unlawful to transport any plants, fish or other aquatic life from one body of water to another. It is unlawful to release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. Dispose of unused bait in a trash can. Report AIS observations to the PFBC.

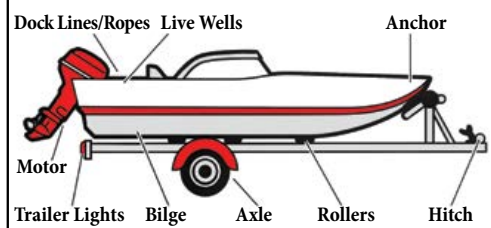
CHECK

Inspect every inch of your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving any body of water. Remove and leave behind plants, mud and aquatic life.

Check your boat

- Anchor and line
- Live wells
- Motor lower unit
- Hull and bilge
- Trailer hitch, rollers, lights and axle
- Life jackets
- Swimming floats, water skis, wakeboards and tubes

REMOVE THE PLUG



Check your fishing gear

- Shoes or boots
- Clothing
- Fishing vests
- Fishing rod, reel and line
- Hooks and lures
- Tackle boxes

Remove

- Visible plants
- Fish or other aquatic animals
- Mud and dirt

Do not transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.

DRAIN

Drain water from all equipment before leaving the area you are visiting. Some species may live for months in water that has not been removed.

- Motors
- Jet drives
- Live wells
- Compartments
- Boat hulls
- Bilge
- Shoes, boots and waders
- Bait buckets
- Life jackets
- Swimming floats, water skis, wakeboards and tubes
- Kayaks (pull open plugs)

CLEAN

Many AIS are microscopic and can't be seen. It's important to clean your gear even if it doesn't appear to have anything on it. Follow the cleaning instructions below after the water has been removed.

- Use hot (140° F) water to clean your equipment.
- Spray equipment with a high-pressure washer. If hot water is not available, a commercial hot water car wash also makes an ideal location to wash your boat, motor and trailer.
- Freezing gear for at least 6 hours will kill most AIS.

DRY

Dry everything before entering new waters. Allow equipment to dry to the touch, and then allow it to dry another 48 hours. Thick and dense material like life jackets and felt-soled wading gear will hold moisture longer, take longer to dry and can be more difficult to clean.

STOP INVASIVE CARP!

Bighead, Silver and Black Carp are invasive carp. It is unlawful to possess, introduce or import, transport, sell, purchase, offer for sale or barter these species in Pennsylvania. These species pose a significant threat to the biodiversity of native species and habitat, along with imposing safety risks to boaters.

Invasive carp had a devastating impact in the Mississippi River system and now pose this threat to the Great Lakes Basin. As AIS, these fish do not naturally occur in Pennsylvania waters and would only occur if transported and released.

These carp species are a threat due to their large size (some can grow to more than 100 pounds and 5 feet in length), reproductive success, habitat damage and large, year-round food consumption. In addition, Silver Carp, when startled, can jump up to 10 feet out of the water, striking boaters and causing severe injury.

For more information and to report sightings or catches of these fish species and other AIS, go to fishandboat.com.

Grass Carp are also known as invasive carp. Diploid Grass Carp are banned from stocking in Pennsylvania, but Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp are allowed to be stocked in lakes and ponds with a PFBC-approved permit.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Tips for New Zealand Mudsnails:

- Freeze gear for a minimum of 6 hours.
- Soak gear in hot (>120 Fahrenheit) water for at least 5 minutes.
- Dry gear for at least 5 days.

A Waterways Conservation Officer may order:

- The removal of aquatic plants or prohibited species from a watercraft, trailer or water-related equipment before transport or before immersing in Commonwealth waters.
- Confinement of the watercraft at a mooring, dock or other location until the related equipment is removed from the water.
- Removal of a watercraft from a Commonwealth water to remove prohibited AIS if the water has not previously been known to be infected with that species. Find lists of known waters of the Commonwealth with AIS in the United States Geological Survey's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database.
- Watercraft with attached aquatic plants or prohibited AIS, or that have not been drained, or drain plug not removed, are prohibited from entering Commonwealth waters.
- Decontamination of a watercraft, if possible, on site.

Clean Your Gear:



Report AIS:



General Boating Regulations

REQUIREMENTS – A Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket is required for each person on all boats in all waters. See additional life jacket requirements in the *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook* and online. Motorboats (including boats powered by electric motors) must be registered in their state of principal use. Boat operators born on or after January 1, 1982, who operate boats greater than 25 horsepower must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate in their possession. All PWC (personal watercraft) operators must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate in their possession. Persons 11 years old or younger may NOT operate a boat with greater than 25 horsepower or a PWC. Persons 12–15 years old may not operate a PWC with any passengers on board 15 years old or younger or rent a PWC.

Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, stand-up paddleboards, etc.) can be launched at Commission lakes and access areas or Pennsylvania State Parks/State Forests if they display a boat registration, Commission launch permit or Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) launch permit. DCNR recognizes boat registrations and Commission launch permits. An unpowered boat may have a registration OR launch permit, but it is not required to have both. The Commission does NOT recognize launch permits from other states. A Commission launch permit can be purchased online.

Boating and alcohol do not mix. Alcohol use increases the chances of having an accident. Alcohol affects balance, coordination and judgment. It is

illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Penalties include loss of boating privileges, significant fines and imprisonment.

For additional information, see the *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook* or visit the Commission's website.

Accessibility Resources

A copy of the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* and *Pennsylvania Boating Handbook* is available online in alternative accessible format.

TTY

Persons using a TTY may dial Pennsylvania Relay telephone number 711 to contact us.

MOTORIZED WHEELCHAIRS AND OTHER POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICES

A person who requires the use of a motorized wheelchair or similar device powered by an electric motor may use the device on Commission property. The Commission does not represent that its properties, except those specifically marked and designated for access by persons with disabilities, are suitable for this use. People needing the use of some other power-driven mobility device to access Commission property for fishing or boating opportunities may contact the Bureau of Law Enforcement for an application for access (also found on the Commission's website): PFBC Bureau of Law Enforcement, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg PA 17106-7000.

CHILDREN AND SPECIAL POPULATIONS

To inquire about waters available exclusively for children 15 years of age or younger and special populations, please contact a PFBC region office.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The PFBC and its partners offer fishing and boating opportunities at a variety of facilities throughout the Commonwealth.

Facility enhancements can provide greater access for all to enjoy Pennsylvania's waterways. The Commission provides funding for the planning, acquisition, development, expansion and rehabilitation of public fishing and boating facilities. Some of the most successful funding requests come from townships, boroughs and municipal governments that partner with nonprofit groups, private businesses and service clubs. Find grant applications, guidelines and more at fishandboat.com.

BORROW FISHING TACKLE

At the PFBC, we believe the lack of tackle should never be a reason to miss out on fishing. Partners across the Commonwealth loan out fishing tackle to get you casting a line into your local fishing spot. Find the loaner site closest to you on our website. Give us a call or visit our website if you or your organization is interested in becoming a loaner site.

BORROW A LIFE JACKET

Need a life jacket? Search "borrow a life jacket" on fishandboat.com to link to a life jacket loaner site.



Nathan Buchinski enjoys fishing at Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County.



The Holland Street Pier, Erie County, features smooth and open paved surfaces from parking lot to pier and provides lowered railings for anglers to fish from the seated position.



An adaptive kayak launch at Beltzville Lake, Carbon County.

2026 MENTORED YOUTH TROUT DAY:

MARCH 28 (Statewide) 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.



Mentored Youth Trout Day Regulations:

- Youth anglers must obtain a current year Mentored Youth Permit OR a Voluntary Youth Fishing License from the Commission and be accompanied by a licensed adult angler in order to participate. The angler may mentor multiple youth. No more than one licensed angler per actively fishing mentored youth.

- Anglers 16 years of age or older must possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and current trout permit and be accompanied by a youth (less than 16 years of age) who has obtained a Mentored Youth Permit OR a Voluntary Youth Fishing License from the Commission.
- Only youth anglers with a current year Voluntary Youth Fishing License OR Mentored Youth Permit may possess a total of two trout (combined species) with a minimum length of 7 inches. Adult anglers are prohibited from possessing trout.
- All other Commonwealth inland regulations apply.
- It is unlawful to fish in waters designated as part of the Mentored Youth Day fishing program after 7:30 p.m. on March 28.
- The waters included in the Mentored Youth Fishing Day Program are the Stocked Trout Waters statewide.

- Other waters may be added to the list of waters available for Mentored Youth Trout opportunities.
- Special regulation areas are not included in the program.

The PFBC is providing this opportunity for youth to fish with their mentors, and it is not intended as a way for mentors to get an early start to trout season. Mentors fishing with youth on this date should follow these guidelines:

- The youth should be capable of fishing on their own, with limited assistance from the mentor.
- The mentor should be fishing within arm's reach or 6 feet of the actively fishing mentored youth.
- The PFBC is discouraging youth organizations to use this as an opportunity to get a large group of youth fishing with minimal adult supervision.



FishandBoat.com

Notice of Stocking (NOS)

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of Pennsylvania's waters and aquatic life is paramount to the mission of the PFBC, and we must be proactive in responding to the increasing challenges brought on by Aquatic Invasive Species.

Any person or group engaged in stocking fish into Commonwealth waters is required to notify the PFBC by way of NOS. This includes streams and ponds located on private properties.

NOS SUBMISSION

A NOS is required for each waterbody. Multiple stocking



events (per waterbody) may be submitted on a single NOS form.

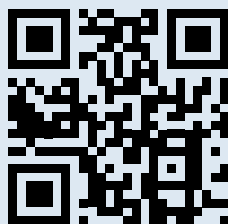
The NOS form submission is free and easy and helps the PFBC track the number, species and location of fish being introduced into the waters of the Commonwealth.

The information will assist the PFBC in assessing and quantifying fishing opportunities created outside of the PFBC as well as monitor threats to the Commonwealth's aquatic resources.

A NOS IS NOT NEEDED FOR:

- Fish baited on a hook for fishing
- Stocking an ornamental pond constructed with a closed system of water circulation with no risk of contacting the Commonwealth's surface waters
- Stocking allowed by a Triploid Grass Carp Permit
- Stocking waters contained within a property or premise of a propagation facility licensed under the Pennsylvania Aquaculture Development Law (3 Pa.C.S. §§ 4201-4223)

For a NOS:



More Information:



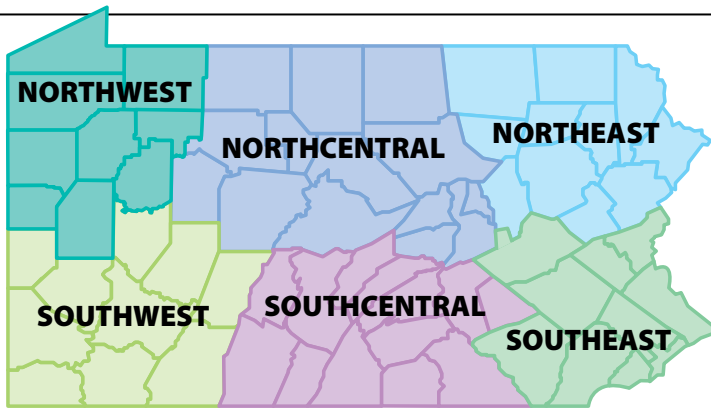
If you don't submit a NOS, a Waterways Conservation Officer may provide education of the requirement, request you submit a NOS to comply with the regulation, issue a warning or issue a \$150.00 citation.

FISH HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

Starting January 1, 2026, additional fish health certifications are required when stocking fish. These include:

- A Gill Lice certification is required for all stockings of Brook Trout or Rainbow Trout.
- VHSv certification is required when importing or stocking VHSv susceptible species of fish obtained from the states of OH, NY, WI, IN, IL, MN, MI, portions of Pennsylvania within the Great Lakes Basin and the Canadian Province of Ontario.

Required certifications must be present along with the NOS when a stocking occurs and should be obtained from the facility where the fish were purchased. Additional fish health certifications may be required when stocking in the Great Lakes Basin of Erie, Crawford and Potter counties. Please consult the PFBC Fish Health Inspection Protocol for information regarding the fish health certifications required for stocking.



Find the Regulation that Applies to Where You Want to Fish.

To assist trout anglers in knowing the regulations that apply to locations where they fish, the trout regulations are separated by PFBC Regions. From *pages 25 through 36*, each region contains a listing of its counties separated by specific trout regulation. An explanation of each regulation and its requirements is on this page and the next page.

Stocked Trout Waters

Many streams, lakes, ponds and reservoirs are officially classified as “stocked trout waters.” This means that these waters contain significant portions that are open to public fishing and are stocked with trout. The waters listed here are open to trout harvest during the “extended season” (*see page 10*). Unlisted streams (those not included in this list of stocked trout waters) are not open to harvest of trout during the extended season. Only stocked trout waters are open to harvest during this period. Spearing fish is not permitted in any of these waters at any time of the year.

These waters are closed to all fishing (including taking of minnows) from February 16 to 8 a.m. on the opening day of the trout

season. A person shall be deemed to be fishing if he or she has in possession any fishing line, rod or other device that can be used for fishing while on or in any water or on the banks within 25 feet of any water where fishing is prohibited. Unless geographically designated in the Region Regulated Trout Waters section, the term stocked trout waters includes the entire stream from headwaters to mouth.

Special note: Although the list was up to date at the time this booklet was printed, it is possible that some streams may later be deleted or added as stocked trout waters because of last-minute changes in water quality conditions. Check with the nearest PFBC office (*see page 3*) if there is any question about whether or not a water area is “stocked.”

Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing

Waters with this designation are considered stocked trout waters. From 8 a.m. opening day of trout through September 7, Commonwealth inland sizes and daily limits apply. From January 1 through February 15, and from September 8 through December 31, extended season sizes and daily limits apply. These waters are open to fishing from February 16 to opening day of trout season; however, no trout may be taken or possessed on these waters during this period. It is unlawful to fish in **rivers and streams** designated as stocked trout waters open to year-round fishing without a current trout permit. A trout permit is not required to fish in **lakes and ponds** that have been designated as stocked trout waters open to year-round fishing unless the person takes, kills or possesses, while in the act of fishing, a trout on or in these waters.

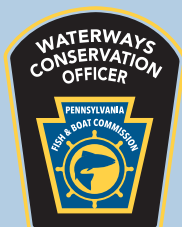
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Special Regulation Areas

The Commission establishes specially regulated areas on some trout waters. These specially regulated areas are assigned to one of the programs on this page with the regulations for each program included. These program regulations apply only to those waters designated by the Commission as being part of that program, not to all trout waters. When applicable, a list of specially regulated waters appears at the end of the stocked trout waters section for each region of the state.

ALL TACKLE TROPHY TROUT

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- Minimum size – 18 inches, caught on, or in possession on, the waters under these regulations from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular trout season through Labor Day.
- The daily limit is 1 (one) trout – except for the period from the day after Labor Day to 8 a.m. of the opening day of trout season of the following year, when no trout may be killed or had in possession.
- There are no tackle restrictions.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the All Tackle Trophy Trout area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the All Tackle Trophy Trout area.
- A current trout permit is required.
- The regulations apply to **trout only**; all other species, inland regulations apply.

ALL TACKLE TROUT SLOT LIMIT

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- From 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout through Labor Day, the daily limit of trout is 2 (two) (combined species). Trout must be at least 7 inches but less than 12 inches in length to be killed or possessed.
- From the day after Labor Day until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout, no trout may be killed or possessed.
- There are no tackle restrictions.
- A current trout permit is required.

ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY TROUT SLOT LIMIT

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- From 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout through Labor Day, the daily limit of trout is 2 (two) (combined species). Trout must be at least 7 inches but less than 12 inches in length to be killed or possessed.
- From the day after Labor Day until 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular season for trout, no trout may be killed or possessed.
- Fishing may be done with artificial lures only constructed of metal, plastic, rubber or wood; or with flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials. Lures may be used with spinning or fly fishing gear. Use or possession of other lures or substances is prohibited.
- Taking of baitfish or fishbait is prohibited.
- A current trout permit is required.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for the water from which taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Artificial Lures Only Trout Slot Limit area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Artificial Lures Only Trout Slot Limit area.

CATCH AND RELEASE ALL TACKLE

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- No trout may be killed or had in possession.
- There are no tackle restrictions.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Catch and Release All Tackle area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Catch and Release All Tackle area.
- A current trout permit is required.

CATCH AND RELEASE ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- No trout may be killed or had in possession.
- Fishing may be done with artificial lures only constructed of metal, plastic, rubber or wood, or with flies or streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials. All such lures may be used with spinning or fly fishing gear. Use or possession of any other lures or substance is prohibited.
- Wading is permitted unless otherwise posted.
- Taking baitfish or fishbait is prohibited.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only area.
- A current trout permit is required.

CATCH AND RELEASE FLY-FISHING ONLY

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- No trout may be killed or had in possession.
- Fishing may be done with artificial flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials, so long as all flies are constructed in a normal fashion with components wound on or about the hook. Fishing must be done with tackle limited to fly rods, fly reels and fly line with leader material of monofilament line attached. **Anything other than these items is prohibited.**
- Taking baitfish or fishbait is prohibited.
- Wading is permitted unless otherwise posted.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only area.
- A current trout permit is required.

DELAYED HARVEST ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY


- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- Minimum size – 9 inches, caught on or in possession on, the waters under these regulations from June 15 through Labor Day.
- The daily creel limit is three trout (combined species) from June 15 through Labor Day, caught on or in possession on the waters under these regulations. From the day after Labor Day until June 15, the daily creel limit is 0 (zero).

- Fishing may be done with artificial lures only constructed of metal, plastic, rubber or wood, or with flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials. All such lures may be used with spinning or fly fishing gear.
- The use or possession of any natural bait, baitfish, fishbait, bait paste and similar substances, fish eggs (natural or molded) or any other edible substance is prohibited.
- Taking baitfish or fishbait is prohibited.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only area.
- A current trout permit is required.

TROPHY TROUT ARTIFICIAL LURES ONLY

- Open to fishing year-round.
- Fishing is permitted on a 24-hour basis.
- Minimum size – 18 inches, caught on, or in possession on, the waters under these regulations from 8 a.m. on the opening day of the regular trout season through Labor Day.
- The daily limit is 1 (one) trout – except for the period from the day after Labor Day to 8 a.m. of the opening day of trout season of the following year, when no trout may be killed or had in possession.
- Fishing may be done with artificial lures only, constructed of metal, plastic, rubber or wood, or with flies and streamers constructed of natural or synthetic materials. All lures may be used with spinning or fly fishing gear.
- Taking baitfish or fishbait is prohibited.
- An angler in a boat may possess bait and fish caught in compliance with the seasons, sizes and daily limits in effect for a water from which it was taken, provided that the boat angler floats through the Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only area without stopping or engaging in the act of fishing or the boat angler puts in or takes out his or her boat at an access point within the Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only area.
- A current trout permit is required.

The Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program provides anglers with an exciting opportunity to fish for larger trout. Under the program, approximately 10,000 large trout, 2- to 3-years old and measuring between 14 to 20 inches, are distributed among these select waters under the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only Special Regulations and one water managed with Miscellaneous Special Regulations. These larger trout are stocked only during the spring stocking periods to coincide with the period of peak angler use. As with many waters managed with Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only and Miscellaneous Special Regulations, not all waters in the Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program receive a fall stocking. Fall stocking is limited to stream sections that are considered destination fisheries and provide relatively high angler use during fall. Currently, 16 of the 24 stream sections in this program receive a fall stocking. In the stocked trout water listings and the miscellaneous waters with special regulations sections, look for the **red keystone**, which indicates that this water is a Keystone Select Stocked Trout Water.



Special regulation waters appear on pages 25 through 36 after each region's section of stocked trout waters.

Southeast Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season Stocked Trout Waters

OPENING DAY:

APRIL 4

BERKS:

Antietam Creek (Antietam Reservoir to South St. Lawrence Borough Line at Exeter Park)
Antietam Reservoir
Furnace Creek (Robesonia Reservoir Dam to mouth)
Hay Creek (White Bear Road bridge to mouth)
Kistler Creek (junction Kistler Valley Road and Donats Peak to mouth)
Little Lehigh Creek (Longswamp Road bridge to Smith Lane bridge)
Little Swatara Creek (South Faust Road to Salem Road)
Maiden Creek (Kistler Creek to dam in Lenhartsville)
Manatawny Creek (SR 0073 bridge to 250 meters downstream confluence Furnace Run and Oley/Earl Township line to Airport Road bridge and 400 meters downstream Levensgood Run to Ironstone Creek)
Mill Creek (500 meters upstream Stump Road bridge to mouth)
Mill Creek (Creamery Road bridge at Mill Road intersection to Hassler Run)
Mill Creek (unnamed tributary downstream Millbach Road to unnamed tributary downstream Lebanon/Berks county line)
Northkill Creek (Feick Drive bridge to mouth)
Ontelaunee Creek (unnamed tributary 225 meters upstream SR 4036 to mouth)
Perkiomen Creek (Tollgate Road bridge, Berks County, to first unnamed tributary downstream Fruitville Road, Montgomery County)
Pine Creek (unnamed tributary near Pine Creek Road/Hawk Mountain Road junction to mouth)
Saony Creek (Bowers Road to SR 222 bridge Kutztown)

Scotts Run Lake
Spring Creek (Sewer Treatment Plant 490 meters upstream SR 3010 to Blue Marsh)
Swabia Creek (State Street Bridge, Berks County, to mouth)
Tulpehocken Creek (450 meters upstream Richland Road to Charming Forge Road bridge)
West Branch Conestoga River (approximately 350 meters upstream powerline to mouth)
Willow Creek (unnamed tributary 1.50 kilometers upstream Schaeffer Road to SR 73)
Wyomissing Creek (former mill dam upstream Mohnton Borough boundary to SR 222 bridge)

BUCKS:

Caroline Lake
Delaware Canal (upstream boundary up Washington Crossing State Park to canal lock at lower Park boundary and upstream boundary Lower Washington Crossing State Park to Ferry Road bridge Morrisville)
East Branch Perkiomen Creek (Branch Road bridge to Mill Creek)
Levittown Lake
Tohickon Creek (Dark Hollow Road bridge to mouth)
Unami Creek (150 meters downstream T-477 Milford Square Park to Pennsylvania Turnpike)

CHESTER:

Beaver Creek (SR 0030 to mouth)
Big Elk Creek (confluence East and West Branch Elk Creek to Camp Bonsall Road bridge)
Buck Run (Compass Road bridge to SR 372)
East Branch Big Elk Creek (swale 400 meters upstream Oxford Road to West Branch Elk Creek)

East Branch Brandywine Creek (SR 4031 to Reeds Road and Dowlin Forge to Pennsylvania Avenue in Downingtown)
East Branch Octoraro Creek (Steelville Road bridge, Steelville, to Knight Run)
East Branch White Clay Creek (first unnamed tributary downstream SR 0001 to mouth)
French Creek (upper State Game Lands #43 boundary off Harmonyville Road to 475 meters downstream Coventryville Road and 750 meters upstream Bertolet School Road to Hoffecker Road and unnamed tributary upstream West Seven Stars Road to SR 23 bridge)
Middle Branch White Clay Creek (Guernsey Road to Good Hope Road)
Pickering Creek (Pikeland Road bridge to Merlin Road bridge)
Pocopson Creek (Red Lion Road to mouth)
West Branch Brandywine Creek (SR 4005 Cedar Knoll downstream to SR 0340)
White Clay Creek (confluence East and Middle Branch White Clay Creek to PA/DE Stateline)

DELAWARE:

Chester Creek (dam upstream Forge Road to Bridgewater Road bridge)
Darby Creek (804 meters upstream Little Darby Creek to Hilldale Road bridge)
Ithan Creek (I-476 to mouth)
Little Darby Creek (most upstream bridge in Willows Park to mouth)
Ridley Creek (2,000 meters upstream SR 4008 to falls 225 meters upstream SR 4004 Barren and Bishop Hollow Roads and Brookhaven Road bridge to Chestnut Street bridge)

West Branch Chester Creek (Railroad crossing upstream Ivy Mills Road to mouth)
LANCASTER:
Big Beaver Creek (SR 222 and White Oak Road intersection to mouth)
Bowery Run (Railroad overpass to mouth)
Conowingo Creek (Black Bear Road to Black Barren Road)
Conoy Creek (Sagerville Road bridge to mouth)
East Branch Octoraro Creek (Steelville Road bridge, Steelville, to Knight Run)
Fishing Creek (Silver Spring Road bridge to mouth)
Hammer Creek (Hammer Creek Road to SR 322 bridge and Speedwell Forge Lake to Brunnerville Road and Clay Road to mouth)
Indian Run (Pleasant View Road to mouth)
Little Beaver Creek (Calamus Run to Walnut Run Road)
Little Chiques Creek (unnamed tributary 0.65 miles upstream Mount Joy Road to SR 230)
Little Cocalico Creek (unnamed tributary 250 meters upstream Southwest Creamery Road crossing to mouth)
Little Conestoga Creek (powerline upstream Miller Road to Harrisburg Pike)
Little Muddy Creek (Bowmansville Road to 140 meters downstream SR 897-Sewer Treatment Plant Discharge)
Meetinghouse Creek (Haiti Road bridge to Nickel Mines Run)
Middle Creek (Middle Creek Reservoir Dam to West Lime Rock Road)
Muddy Creek (100 meters upstream Pleasant Valley Road bridge to SR 897 bridge, Fivepointville)
Muddy Run (unnamed tributary upstream northern SR 772 crossing to powerline crossing)
Pequea Creek (Wanner Drive bridge downstream to 100 meters downstream of School Lane Road)

Rock Run (downstream boundary of campground 1.94 kilometers downstream Berks County to mouth)
Stewart Run (St. Catherine Road to mouth)
Swarr Run (Yellow Goose Road to SR 741)
West Branch Little Conestoga Creek (Bender Mill Road to Owl Bridge Road)
West Branch Octoraro Creek (Mount Pleasant Road bridge to Noble Road)
LEHIGH:
Cedar Creek (Lake Muhlenburg to mouth)
Coplay Creek (Dam upstream Hill Street bridge, Ormrod, to mouth)
Jordan Creek (SR 309 to Cedar Crest Boulevard bridge and 0.30 kilometer upstream Mauch Chunk Road to mouth)
Kistler Creek (junction Kistler Valley Road and Donats Peak to mouth)
Laurel Run (Mill Road bridge to Coopersburg Discharge Sewer Treatment Plant)
Lehigh Canal (first lock upstream Monocacy Creek crossing to Nancy Run crossing)
● Little Lehigh Creek (Longswamp Road bridge to Smith Lane bridge and Spring Creek to Wild Cherry Lane and 0.40 kilometer upstream Country Club Road bridge to upstream Face Fish Hatchery Road bridge and 155 meters upstream 24th Street Bogart's bridge to mouth)
● Monocacy Creek (Illicks Mill Dam to mouth)
Ontelaunee Creek (Mosserville Road to Donats Peak Road and unnamed tributary 225 meters upstream SR 4036 to mouth)
Swabia Creek (State Street bridge, Berks County, to mouth)
Switzer Creek (junction Bachman Road and Bausch Road to mouth)
Trout Creek (Furnace Road bridge, Lehigh Furnace, to mouth)

TROUT FISHING SOUTHEAST REGION AND TROUT FISHING SOUTHCENTRAL REGION

MONTGOMERY:

Deep Creek Dam
 East Branch Perkiomen Creek (900 meters upstream Skip Sal Road to Bergeys Mill Road)
 Kepner Creek (Whitehall Road to mouth)
 Loch Alsh Reservoir
 Manatawny Creek (Route 100 to mouth)
 Pennypack Creek (Lorimer Park at old Railroad crossing/rail trail to Frankford Avenue)
 Perkiomen Creek (Tollgate Road bridge, Berks County, to first unnamed tributary downstream Fruitville Road, Montgomery County)
 Skippack Creek (Old Forty Foot Road to mouth)
 Stony Creek (Railroad crossing downstream Germantown Avenue to junction West Elm and Markley Street)
 Unami Creek (Whites Mill Road to SR 0063)
 Wissahickon Creek (from Lafayette Ave. to Stenton Ave.)
NORTHAMPTON:
 Bushkill Creek (Bushkill Center Road bridge, Copella, to Filetown Road bridge, Belfast, junction and private bridge off Bushkill Drive to 0.10 mile upstream of Edgewood Avenue bridge, former Binney-Smith Dam, and 13th Street bridge to mouth)
 Hokendauqua Creek (entrance bridge to Point Philips Rod & Gun Club to 0.38 mile downstream Church Road bridge and 0.50 mile upstream second upstream Kreidersville Road bridge to mouth)
 Indian Creek (0.44 mile downstream Cedar Drive bridge to Indian Trail Road bridge)
 Jacoby Creek (Sand Point Road bridge to mouth)

Lehigh Canal (first lock upstream Monocacy Creek crossing to Nancy Run crossing and 1.00 kilometer downstream Carbon county line to West Bertsch Creek)
 Little Bushkill Creek (Delabole Road bridge to Jones Hill Road bridge and 0.34 mile downstream Engles Road bridge to mouth)
 ● Martins Creek (confluence East and West Branch Martins Creek to Bangor Sewer Treatment Plant discharge and Waltz Creek to dam 0.60 kilometer upstream intersection South Main Street and Old Franklin)
 Minsi Lake
 ● Monocacy Creek (SR 248 bridge to SR 512 bridge and 0.30 kilometer upstream Georgetown Road bridge to 100 meters downstream U.S. 22 bridge at PA19 and Illicks Mill Dam to mouth)
 Saucon Creek (second railroad bridge upstream near Bingen to 0.38 mile upstream High Street bridge)
PHILADELPHIA:
 Pennypack Creek (Lorimer Park at old railroad crossing/rail trail to Frankford Avenue)
 Wissahickon Creek (Germantown Pike to Wises Mill Road junction)
SCHUYLKILL:
 Bear Creek (500 meters downstream T-895/Bear Creek Road junction to a cable 800 yards above T-662)
 Deep Creek (Creek Road to mouth)
 Little Catawissa Creek (Reservoir Road to Trout Run Road)
 Little Mahanoy Creek (Malones Road bridge to Gordon Mountain Road bridge)
 Little Schuylkill River (Locust Creek to Panther

Creek and 1.10 miles upstream mouth to mouth)
 Lizard Creek (1.00 mile upstream Andreas Road bridge to 0.50 mile upstream Stone Mountain Road bridge)
 Locust Creek (Locust Lake Dam to mouth)
 Locust Lake
 Lower Little Swatara Creek (SR 0895 bridge near Dad Burnhams Road to mouth)
 Mahantango Creek (Route 125 bridge to Kiwanian Farm Road bridge)
 Mahoning Creek (Berry Road bridge to Lehigh River)
 Pine Creek (Dam at East Mahanoy junction to mouth)
 Pine Creek (Fountain Road to mouth)
 Pine Creek (Whitetail Lane to 340 meters downstream T-723 bridge)
 Rabbit Run Reservoir
 Upper Little Swatara Creek (upstream boundary Frog Hollow Environmental Center to Sweet Arrow Lake)
 Whippoorwill Dam

Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing

BERKS:
 Kaercher Creek Dam
 Tulpehocken Creek (from covered bridge at T-921 downstream to the mouth)
LANCASTER:
 Muddy Run Recreation Lake
LEHIGH:
 Leaser Lake
SCHUYLKILL:
 Sweet Arrow Lake
 Tuscarora Lake

Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only

NORTHAMPTON:
 Bushkill Creek (1.19 miles; from 0.10 mile upstream of Edgewood Avenue bridge,

former Binney-Smith Dam, downstream to the 13th Street Bridge)

Catch and Release All Tackle

CHESTER/MONTGOMERY:
 Valley Creek (at Valley Forge and tributaries including Little Valley Creek; **be aware that Valley Forge National Historic Park has imposed special bait restrictions; check local posters**)

Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only

CHESTER:
 French Creek (0.93 mile; from the dam at Camp Sleepy Hollow downstream to Hollow Road)
DELAWARE:
 Ridley Creek (0.60 mile; from the falls in Ridley Creek State Park downstream to the mouth of Dismal Run)
LANCASTER:
 Donegal Creek (2.21 miles; from 275 yards below SR 772 downstream to T-334)
 West Branch Octoraro Creek (2.01 miles; From 30 yards downstream of SR 0472 downstream to 230 yards upstream of the second unnamed tributary downstream of SR 2010, Puseyville Road)
LEHIGH:
 Little Lehigh Creek (1.54 miles; from the downstream face of the bridge on T-508, Wild Cherry Lane, downstream to the upstream face of the bridge on T-510, Millrace Road)
 Little Lehigh Creek (0.82 mile; from the upstream face of Fish Hatchery Road bridge downstream to near the Oxford Drive bridge)

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only

BERKS:

● Tulpehocken Creek (3.79 miles; from the first deflector below Blue Marsh Dam downstream to the T-921 covered bridge)

CHESTER:

East Branch Brandywine Creek (1.22 miles; from SR 4019, Dorlan's Mill Road, downstream to SR 4004, Dowlin Forge Road)
 Pickering Creek (1.50 miles; from SR 1019, Charlestown Road, downstream to 330 yards upstream of the railroad bridge)
 ● Middle Branch White Clay Creek (1.60 miles; from SR 3009, Good Hope Road, downstream to the confluence with the East Branch)

SCHUYLKILL:

Bear Creek (1.74 miles; from a cable 800 yards above T-662 downstream to the downstream side of the bridge on T-676)
 Little Schuylkill River (1.70 miles; from SR 895 in New Ringgold downstream to the T-848 bridge near Rauschs)

Artificial Lures Only Trout Slot Limit

NORTHAMPTON:

Monocacy Creek (2.22 miles; from Illick's Mill Dam upstream to and including the Gertrude Fox Conservation Area)
 Saucon Creek (2.12 miles; from the upstream boundary of the city of Bethlehem property downstream to the SR 0412 bridge)

Southcentral Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season Stocked Trout Waters OPENING DAY: APRIL 4

ADAMS:
 Bermudian Creek (Cranberry Road bridge to Wireman's Mill Road bridge and Greenbriar Road bridge to SR 0094 bridge)

Carbaugh Run (1.28 kilometers upstream Franklin/Adams to mouth)
 Conewago Creek (SR 234 bridge Arendtsville to Harrisburg Road)

Conococheague Creek (former dam at Birch Run Reservoir to Boyers Mill Road bridge)
 East Branch Antietam Creek (Waynesboro Reservoir to Vineyard Run)

Latimore Creek (Mountain Road to mouth)
 Little Marsh Creek (SR 3018 to Knoxlyn Road)
 Marsh Creek (Cashtown Road bridge to Route 30 bridge)

Middle Creek (Strawberry Nature Preserve to McGlaughlin Road T-318)
 Opossum Creek (Wenksville Road to mouth)
 Orrtanna Pond
 Toms Creek (Mount Hope Road to SR 0016 bridge)
 Waynesboro Reservoir
BEDFORD:
 Beaver Creek (SR 1027 to mouth)
 Bobs Creek (Rhodes Run to mouth)
 Clear Creek (Black Valley Road bridge to Elk Lake Lick Road and first bridge on North Milk and Water Road to mouth)
 Cove Creek (Valley Road bridge to mouth)
 Evitts Creek (last downstream SR 220 bridge to Koon Lake)
 Gladdens Run (SR 2013 to mouth)
 Little Wills Creek (Wolf Camp Run to mouth)
 Maple Run (State Game Lands #73 boundary to mouth)
 Raystown Branch Juniata River (0.80 kilometer upstream SR 1013 to Shobers Run)
 Sherman Valley Run (Valley Church Road Building to mouth)
 Town Creek (Blues Gap Road bridge to 1.40 miles upstream PA/MD stateline)
 Wills Creek (0.50 kilometer upstream Mckenzie Road bridge to Railroad bridge 400 meters downstream Brush Creek)
 ● Yellow Creek (Beaver Creek to Red Bank Hill and SR 0026 bridge to mouth)
BLAIR:
 Bald Eagle Creek (California Hollow Run to mouth)
 Beaverdam Creek (Bedford/Blair County Line to mouth)
 Bells Gap Run (Bellwood Reservoir to mouth)
 Blair Gap Run (lower Blair Gap Muleshoe Reservoir to mouth)
 Canoe Creek (bridge 100 meters upstream powerline to mouth)
 Clover Creek (SR 2005 bridge at Henrietta to Larke Road bridge near Larke)
 Frankstown Branch Juniata River (Confluence Pine Run and Beaverdam Creek to Halter Creek)

Poplar Run (first bridge on Poplar Run Road downstream, T-380, to mouth)
 South Poplar Run (Carson Run to mouth)
 Vanscoyoc Run (Decker Hollow Road to mouth)
CUMBERLAND:
 Big Spring Creek (Nealy Road bridge to Route 641 bridge)
 Childrens Lake (Boiling Springs)
 Doubling Gap Lake
 Fuller Lake
 Green Spring Creek (800 meters upstream Route 641 to 600 meters upstream Bullshead Road bridge)
 Laurel Lake
 Middle Spring Creek (Avon Road to mouth)
 Mountain Creek (Laurel Lake Dam outflow to 400 meters downstream campground entrance and Hunters Run to mouth)
 Yellow Breeches Creek (Route 233 bridge to mouth)
DAUPHIN:
 Armstrong Creek (Rutter Road to SR 0225)
 Clark Creek (T-684 to mouth)
 Mahantango Creek (Route 125 bridge to Kiwanis Farm Bridge Road)
 Manada Creek (Furnace Road to Orchard Road)
 Middletown Reservoir
 Pine Creek (Fountain Road to mouth)
 Powell Creek (confluence North and South Fork Powell Creek to Back Road bridge Waynesville and unnamed tributary near T-358 and T-553 intersection to Mountain Road bridge)
 Rattling Creek (Lykens Water Authority Reservoir to mouth)
 South Fork Powell Creek (Carsonville Road to mouth)
 Stony Creek (State Game Lands 211 gate to mouth)
 West Branch Rattling Creek (Lykens Road bridge to Lykens Water Authority cable crossing upstream of Powells Valley Road)
 Wiconisco Creek (SR 0225 bridge to mouth)

FRANKLIN:
 Carbaugh Run (1.28 kilometers upstream Franklin/Adams to mouth)
 Conococheague Creek (former dam at Birch Run Reservoir to Boyers Mill Road bridge)
 Conodoguinet Creek (Bear Valley Run to Letterkenny Reservoir)
 Dennis Creek (McCord Road bridge to mouth)
 East Branch Antietam Creek (Waynesboro Reservoir to Vineyard Run and Village of Roadside to SR 0016 bridge)
 Falling Spring Branch (Fifth Avenue to mouth)
 Letterkenny Reservoir
 Little Cove Creek (3rd Route 456 bridge downstream SR 0456 to Mill Drive)
 Rowe Run (700 meters upstream Pinola Road to mouth)
 West Branch Antietam Creek (Nunnary Road bridge to mouth)
 West Branch Conococheague Creek (Amberson Road bridge to new U.S. 30 bridge at Fort Loudon)
FULTON:
 Big Cove Creek (300 yards upstream SR 1003 bridge to Laurel Ridge Road)
 Cowans Gap Lake
 Laurel Fork (Cove Road to mouth)
 Licking Creek (SR 0522 bridge to Baby Run)
 Little Aughwick Creek (confluence North and South Branch Little Aughwick Creek to Huntingdon County Line)
 Little Brush Creek (Roaring Run to Little Brush Creek)
 Little Tonoloway Creek (Upper State Game Lands 128 boundary to SR 0655 bridge)
 North Branch Little Aughwick Creek (Pleasant Hill Road bridge to mouth)
 Oregon Creek (4.80 kilometers upstream mouth to mouth)
 Sideling Hill Creek (confluence of Oregon Creek and Laurel Fork to Trestle Hollow club boundary)
 South Branch Little Aughwick Creek (spring upstream Richmond spring to mouth)
 Spring Run (Union Church Road to mouth)

Wooden Bridge Creek (North Hess Road bridge to Wooden bridge #2 Road)
HUNTINGDON:
 Blacklog Creek (Farm Lane Bridge at Byron Church to mouth)
 Globe Run (150 meters downstream lake to mouth)
 Great Trough Creek, Newburg Park Road bridge, T-370, to 200 yards downstream State Park swimming area)
 Greenwood Lake
 Laurel Run (Owl Gap Trail to mouth)
 North Branch Little Aughwick Creek (Pleasant Hill Road bridge to mouth)
 North Spring Branch (Route 829 bridge to 200 meters downstream Route 944 bridge)
 Saddler Creek (SR 1007 bridge to mouth)
 Shade Creek (unnamed tributary upstream Felix Run to mouth)
 Shaver Creek (Stone Valley Lake to SR 0305 bridge at Bethel Church)
 Standing Stone Creek (Penn Roosevelt Dam to first SR 0026 bridge north of Huntingdon)
 Three Springs Creek (confluence North Spring Branch and Spring Creek to mouth)
 Tuscarora Creek (old Route 2009 bridge Nossville to Horse Valley Run)
 West Licking Creek (2.13 kilometers upstream Mountain Union Water Reservoir to mouth)
 Whipple Lake
JUNIATA:
 Big Run (Arch Rock Road bridge to mouth)
 Blacklog Creek (Farm Lane bridge at Byron Church to mouth)
 Cocolamus Creek (SR 2013 bridge to Cranes Run)
 Delaware Creek (first Route 333 bridge downstream East Salem to mouth)
 East Licking Creek (Wynn Gap Road bridge to mouth)
 Horning Run (Spigelmeyer Run to mouth)
 Horse Valley Run (upper Tuscarora State Forest boundary to mouth)

Laurel Run (Little Valley Creek to mouth)
 Lost Creek (Route 35 bridge upstream Little Lost Creek to mouth)
 Tuscarora Creek (old Route 2009 bridge Nossville to Horse Valley Run)
 West Branch Mahantango Creek (Crater Hill Road to Creek Road and Stream Ford)
LEBANON:
 Bachman Run (SR 0322 to mouth)
 Conewago Creek (first SR 241 bridge Northeast of Lawn to Little Conewago Creek)
 Hammer Creek (Hammer Creek Road to SR 322 bridge)
 Indiantown Run (Joseph Springs Hatchery to Marquette Lake)
 ● Lions Lake
 Mill Creek (unnamed tributary downstream Millbach Road to unnamed tributary downstream Lebanon/Berks County Line)
 Quittapahilla Creek (Snitz Creek to Annville Sewer Treatment Plant and Clear Spring Road bridge to mouth)
 Snitz Creek (Zinns Mills to mouth)
 Stovers Lake
 Trout Run (Upper Ridge Road to mouth)
 Tulpehocken Creek (Creamery Street bridge to 100 meters downstream from unnamed tributary downstream of T-618 bridge)
MIFFLIN:
 East Licking Creek (Wynn Gap Road bridge to mouth)
 Havice Creek (intersection Havice Valley Road and Flat Hollow Road to Locke Mills Road bridge, Siglerville)
 Honey Creek (Upper Bald Eagle State Forest boundary to 0.91 kilometer downstream to 0.50 mile downstream Treaster Run)
 ● Kishacoquillas Creek (Bunker Road bridge to Taylor Mill Road and 1.50 miles upstream confluence Tea Creek to Penn Central Railroad bridge and Mill Street bridge to mouth)
 Lingle Creek (625 meters upstream Conklin Road Bridge to mouth)

TROUT FISHING SOUTHCENTRAL REGION AND TROUT FISHING SOUTHWEST REGION

Meadow Creek (Drivey Valley Road bridge to mouth)
Strodes Run (Valley Road bridge to 500 meters downstream Strodes Run Road bridge)
Treaster Run (Treaster Valley Road bridge to lower Bald Eagle State Forest boundary)
West Licking Creek (2.13 kilometers upstream Mountain Union Water Reservoir to mouth)

PERRY:

Bixler Run (SR 850 bridge, Kistler, to SR 850/274 bridge, Fort Robinson)
Buffalo Creek (Heritage Hills Road bridge to Route 849 bridge downstream to Walnut Grove)
Bull Run (Historic Community Christian Church to mouth)
Fishing Creek (Trout Run to SR 11/15)
Fowler Hollow Run (where Fowler Hollow Road leaves Creek to mouth)
Horse Valley Run (upper Tuscarora State Forest boundary to mouth)
Laurel Run (Little Valley Creek to mouth)
Little Buffalo Creek (Mannsville Road bridge to mouth)
Little Juniata Creek (Roth Road to Linton Hill Road)
McCabe Run (Trout Run to mouth)
Montour Creek (SR 274 to mouth)
Panther Creek (Route 17 bridge, Ickesburg, to mouth)
Raccoon Creek (Route 17 bridge upstream Donnally Mills to mouth)
Sherman Creek (lower Tuscarora State Forest boundary to Couchtown Road bridge, Cisna Run)
Shultz Creek (Fowler Hollow Run to mouth)

YORK:

Beaver Creek (Burkholder Road to mouth)

Codorus Creek (Tannary Road to West Branch Codorus Creek)
Deer Creek (Five Forks Road bridge, junction T-540 and T-542, to first unnamed tributary downstream Stewartstown Road)
East Branch Codorus Creek (first unnamed tributary downstream South boundary city park to Iron Stone Hill Road bridge)
Fishing Creek (Red Mill Road to SR 0262)
Fishing Creek (Snyder Corner Road to 500 meters upstream mouth)
Muddy Creek (confluence North and South Branch Muddy Creek to private Road on north bank and 300 yards upstream of Bridgeton Road, SR 2032, bridge in Bridgeton to powerline crossing 2.60 kilometers downstream PA 425)
North Branch Muddy Creek (Pine Run to Carter Creek and Laurel Road bridge to mouth)
Otter Creek (Hake Road bridge to mouth)
Sheppard-Meyers Reservoir
South Branch Codorus Creek (Audubon property 700 meters upstream T-537 bridge to 350 meters downstream Shaffers Church Road)
South Branch Muddy Creek (Alum Rock Run to 430 meters upstream confluence unnamed tributary East T-633 and T-634)
Yellow Breeches Creek (Route 233 bridge to mouth)

Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing

BEDFORD:

Koon Lake

BLAIR:

Canoe Creek Lake

CUMBERLAND:

Mountain Creek (from Adams County line downstream to the backwaters of Laurel Lake)
Opossum Lake

DAUPHIN/LEBANON:

Stony Creek (from 0.40-mile upstream of Cold Spring Road downstream to State Game Lands #211 gate)

HUNTINGDON:

Lake Perez

LEBANON:

Lakeside Quarry

PERRY:

Little Buffalo Lake (Holman Lake)

YORK:

South Branch Codorus Creek (from SR 0616 in Centerville downstream to T-527)

Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only

CUMBERLAND:

Yellow Breeches Creek (1.17 miles; 0.17 miles of the Unnamed Tributary to Yellow Breeches Creek, from the outfall of Children's Lake to the confluence with Yellow Breeches Creek at Boiling Springs, and 1.00 mile of Yellow Breeches Creek from the confluence with the Unnamed Tributary at Boiling Springs downstream to the vicinity of Allenberry)

HUNTINGDON:

Spruce Creek (0.49 mile; Penn State Experimental Fisheries Area, about 0.60 mile above the village of Spruce Creek)
Spruce Creek (0.15 mile; PFBC property at Indian Caverns near Franklinsville)

MIFFLIN/UNION:

Penns Creek (7.48 miles; from approximately 600 meters downstream of Swift Run downstream to the downstream extent of the island near the end of Jolly Grove Lane)

Catch and Release All Tackle

BLAIR/HUNTINGDON:

Little Juniata River (13.70 miles from the railroad bridge at the east, downstream, border of Ironville downstream to mouth)

Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only

ADAMS:

Conewago Creek (1.20 miles; from 0.10 mile downstream of T-340, Russell Tavern Rd., downstream to SR 34)

BEDFORD:

Yellow Creek (0.93 mile from mouth of Maple Run, Jacks Run, upstream to cable near Red Bank Hill)

CUMBERLAND:

Big Spring Creek (1.52 miles; from 100 feet below the source, Big Spring, downstream to the Nealy Road bridge)

Green Spring Creek (1.20 miles; from mouth upstream to near confluence with Bulls Head Branch)

Letort Spring Run (1.71 miles; from 300 yards upstream of bridge on T-481, Bonnybrook Road, downstream to the Reading Railroad bridge at the southern edge of Letort Spring Park)

DAUPHIN:

Clark Creek (2.07 miles; PGC rifle range parking area on SR 325 downstream to PGC access road at the Iron Furnace)

FRANKLIN:

East Branch Antietam Creek (0.88 mile; from SR 16 downstream to T-365, Welty Rd.)

Falling Spring Branch (2.53 miles; from the first private lane located 672 feet upstream of Briar Lane bridge downstream to a wire fence crossing the Thomas L. Geisel property)

YORK:

Muddy Creek (1.60 miles; from 300 yards downstream of Bruce Road bridge, T-628, in Bruce downstream to 300 yards upstream of Bridgeton Road, SR 2032, bridge in Bridgeton)

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only

DAUPHIN:

Manada Creek (1.73 miles; from unnamed tributary at river mile 11.50 downstream to Furnace Road, T-616)

Wiconisco Creek (0.74 mile; from the western edge of the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art walking bridge downstream to the power line crossing located 1.70 miles upstream from the mouth)

FRANKLIN:

Falling Spring Branch (1.02 miles; from Walker Road downstream to Fifth Avenue)

FULTON:

Big Cove Creek – (0.93 mile; from 200 yards downstream of the SR 0928 bridge downstream to the lower Buchanan State Forest boundary)

JUNIATA/MIFFLIN:

East Licking Creek (4.00 miles; from the Texas Eastern gas pipeline crossing downstream to the upstream boundary of the Karl B. Guss State Forest Picnic Area)

LEBANON:

Quittapahilla Creek (1.10 miles; from Spruce Street bridge on T-398 downstream to the SR 0934 bridge)

MIFFLIN:

Honey Creek (1.80 miles; from the upper Bald Eagle State Forest boundary downstream 1.75 miles)

Artificial Lures Only Trout Slot Limit

YORK:

Codorus Creek (2.00 miles; from the West Branch Codorus Creek downstream to 0.40 mile downstream from Thoman Drive)

Southwest Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season
Stocked Trout Waters
OPENING DAY:
APRIL 4

ALLEGHENY:

Big Sewickley Creek (confluence Big and East Branch Sewickley Creek to Big Sewickley Creek Road, SR 4036, bridge)

Bull Creek (Stone Quarry Road bridge to West 4th Avenue bridge in Tarentum)
Deer Creek (328 yards upstream West Branch Deer Creek to big bend 0.56 mile downstream Rich Hill Road bridge)

Flaugherty Run (Boggs Run to mouth)
Long Run (Jacks Run at Lincoln Way bridge to upper boundary Versailles Borough near SR 48 and Marshall Drive intersection)

Lower Deer Lake
Middle Deer Lake
Montour Run (Trout Run to Ewings Mills Road bridge)
Peters Creek (Piney Fork to bend 0.80 mile downstream of the Large Park and Ride on Peters Creek Road)

Pine Creek (North Park Lake to 410 yards upstream Montour Run and 100 yards upstream of Willow Run to railroad bridge near the Bryant Drive and Duncan Ave. intersection and SR 0008 bridge Allison Park to Butler Plank Road bridge near the Glenshaw Ave. intersection)
 Turtle Creek (Saunders Station bridge to Brush Creek)
 West Deer Lake (Upper Deer Lake)
ARMSTRONG:
 Buffalo Creek (upstream end of Chicora Borough Park to 0.87 mile downstream Sarver Road, SR 3004, bridge)
 Cherry Run (SR 2005 bridge to mouth)
 Cowanshannock Creek (Huskins Run to mouth)
 Glade Run (Lemmon Hollow Road bridge to second tributary 625 meters downstream Pony Fork Road bridge)
 Huling Run (fourth tributary upstream mouth to 2nd T-440 bridge)
 Little Sandy Creek (SR 0236 bridge to mouth)
 North Fork Pine Creek (Route 66 bridge to mouth)
 Patterson Creek (due east of junction Little Road and Pumpstation Road, SR 4007, to mouth)
 Plum Creek (headwaters to mouth)
 Redbank Creek (North Fork Redbank Creek to Little Sandy Creek)
 Scrubgrass Creek (Muskrat Slide Road bridge to Pine Township Line)
 South Fork Pine Creek (headwaters to mouth)
BEAVER:
 Big Sewickley Creek (confluence Big and East Branch Sewickley Creek to Big Sewickley Road, SR 4036, bridge)
 ● Brush Creek (SR 588 to lower end of Brush Creek Park property)
 Brush Creek Park Pond
 Mill Creek (Mill Street bridge in Hookstown to last Georgetown Road bridge crossing)
 North Fork Big Sewickley Creek (2.00 miles upstream mouth to mouth)
 North Fork Little Beaver Creek (County Line downstream to Diner Street bridge)

South Branch Brady Run (May Road bridge to Brady Run)
 Traverse Creek (0.23 mile upstream of second Cabin Road bridge at former Group Camping Area to mouth)
CAMBRIA:
 Beaverdam Run (SR 1011 to mouth)
 Bens Creek (Portage Water Authority Dam to 0.56 mile downstream Scanlon Hill Road, SR 2012, bridge)
 Chest Creek (confluence unnamed tributary Bradley junction to mouth)
 Clearfield Creek (Beaverdam Run to Kolak Road)
 Duman Lake
 Elton Sportsmens Dam
 Hinckston Run (0.31 mile upstream Blackburn Road bridge to Hinckston Run Reservoir)
 Howells Run (first Wilmore Road, SR 2013, bridge downstream Ebensburg to mouth)
 Killbuck Run (Little Killbuck Run to mouth)
 Lake Rowena
 Laurel Lick Run (Veterans Dam to mouth)
 Laurel Run (Lecks Road bridge to mouth)
 Laurel Run (0.75 mile upstream Red Run to mouth)
 Little Paint Creek (Elton Sportsmen Club Dam to Berwick Road bridge)
 Noels Creek (Gailey Road bridge to mouth)
 North Branch Blacklick Creek (SR 0271 bridge, Blue Goose, to Elk Creek)
 North Branch Little Conemaugh River (Wilmore Dam to SR 0160 bridge)
 Stewart Run (0.25 mile upstream US22 bridge to mouth)
FAYETTE:
 Back Creek (Trout Run to mouth)
 Big Sandy Creek (Chaney Run to 383 yards downstream Stony Fork)
 Chaney Run (Headwaters to 219 yards downstream fourth Wharton Furnace Road, SR 2003, bridge)
 Dunbar Creek (stone quarry along Furnace Hill Road, SR 1055, to Sheepskin Trail crossing downstream of ballfield)
 Dunlap Creek (SR 0166 bridge and Creek Road intersection to Simpson Road bridge)

Georges Creek (Mountain Creek to U.S. 119 bridge)
 Indian Creek (SR 0381 bridge to Champion Creek)
 Meadow Run (200 meters upstream SR 2015 bridge to 240 meters downstream SR 0381 bridge and Beaver Creek to bridge on Dinner Bell Road)
 Mill Run (Clay Run to mouth)
 Mountain Creek (Route 857 bridge to mouth)
 Virgin Run Lake
GREENE:
 Browns Creek (Garners Run to mouth)
 Dunkard Fork (North and South Fork Dunkard Fork to first Veterans Road, SR 4003, bridge, Durbin)
 Enlow Fork (Enon Church Road, SR 3026, bridge to second downstream State Game Lands #302 Road bridge)
 Lake Wilma
 North Fork Dunkard Fork (Riggs Road bridge to mouth)
 South Fork Dunkard Fork (McCracken Road, SR 3016, bridge to mouth)
 Whiteley Creek (I-79 to Greene Lakes Road bridge)
INDIANA:
 Blacklegs Creek (0.30 mile upstream Shrokan Road, T-336/Blacklegs Road, SR 3027, to Big Run)
 Brush Creek (Brush Creek Road bridge to mouth)
 Canoe Creek (Painter Run to mouth)
 Cush Creek (Horton Run to mouth)
 Cush Cushion Creek (Hemlock Road to mouth)
 Laurel Run (first tributary downstream Laurel Run Road to mouth)
 Little Mahoning Creek (Buterbaugh Road bridge to 700 meters downstream West and North Mahoning Township lines)
 Little Yellow Creek (Malloy Hollow Road bridge to Yellow Creek Lake)
 Mudlick Run (SR 4024 bridge to mouth)
 South Branch Two Lick Creek (Valley Road, SR 1019, bridge to Wandin Road, SR 1014, bridge)
 Toms Run (Pine Ridge County Park, State Game Lands #276 boundary, to mouth)
 Yellow Creek (300 meters upstream Diehl Road bridge to Yellow Creek Lake Route 422 bridge)

and unnamed tributary East White/Cherryhill Township line to Route 954 bridge)
SOMERSET:
 Allen Creek (2.30 miles upstream mouth to mouth)
 Beaverdam Creek (Somerset/Quemahoning Township line to Dunmyer Road bridge)
 Beaverdam Run (0.70 mile downstream Shaffer Mountain Road, SR 1018, bridge to mouth)
 Bens Creek (confluence North and South Fork Bens Creek to mouth)
 Breastwork Run (SR 1017 to mouth)
 Brush Creek (School House Road bridge to mouth)
 Casselman River (from PA/MD state line to Coal Run)
 Clear Shade Creek (Pine Lake to mouth)
 Cub Run (1.60 miles upstream mouth to mouth)
 Ellick Creek (Cranberry Run to Mt. Davis Road, SR 2004/Faidley Road intersection)
 Flaugherly Creek (Great Allegheny Passage bridge 0.80 mile upstream of Old Deal Road to Glade City Road (SR 2006) bridge/Scratch Hill Road intersection)
 Gladdens Run (SR 2013 to mouth)
 Glade Run (High Point Lake to mouth)
 Jones Mill Run (first bridge downstream Becks Spring to Laurel Hill Lake)
 Kimberly Run (396 yards upstream U.S. 219 upper bridge to mouth)
 Kooser Lake
 Kooser Run (upstream boundary Kooser State Park to mouth)
 Laurel Hill Creek (Clear Run to mouth)
 Little Piney Creek (Elk Lick Rod and Gun Club Dam to Piney Creek)
 McClintock Run (Glade Run to mouth)
 Middle Creek (Copper Kettle Road, SR 3029, bridge to mouth)
 Miller Run (Headwaters to mouth)
 Piney Creek (third PA/MD state line crossing to Greenville Road bridge and 0.80 mile upstream Engles Mill Road bridge to mouth)

Piney Run (Crumb Road bridge to mouth)
 Raystown Branch Juniata River (0.80 kilometer upstream SR 1013 to Shobers Run)
 Shafer Run (437 yards downstream former Shafer Run Trout Hatchery to mouth)
 Shaffers Run (upstream SR 2021 bridge to mouth)
 South Fork Bens Creek (unnamed tributary 219 yards downstream SR 0985 bridge to 33 yards downstream private bridge off Jenner Lane/Waterway Drive and Keafer Hill Road bridge to mouth)
 Stonycreek River (Yonai Road bridge to upstream end of railroad retaining wall 0.46 mile downstream of Glessner Covered Bridge)
 Tub Mill Run (Oak Dale Road, SR 2001, bridge to mouth)
 Whites Creek (first Whites Creek Road bridge upstream Enos Run to mouth)
 Wills Creek (0.50 kilometer upstream Mckenzie Road bridge to Railroad bridge 400 meters downstream Brush Creek)
WASHINGTON:
 Aunt Clara Fork (Purdy Road, SR 4003, bridge to mouth)
 Dutch Fork (Dutch Fork Lake Dam to mouth)
 Dutch Fork Lake
 Enlow Fork (Enon Church Road, SR 3026, bridge to second downstream State Game Lands #302 Road bridge)
 Kings Creek (Kings Creek Road bridge to Aunt Clara Fork)
 Little Chartiers Creek (SR 0519 bridge to first bridge on Linden Creek Road, SR 1023, downstream Linden)
 Millers Run (Galati Road bridge to Parks Road bridge off SR 0050)
 Mingo Creek (Sugar Run Road, SR 1059, bridge at upstream Mingo Creek Park boundary to downstream park boundary)
 Pike Run (Laurel Road bridge to mouth)
 Templeton Fork (Rocky Run to mouth)
 Tenmile Creek (SR 0221 bridge at Weir Cole Road intersection to Bane Creek)
WESTMORELAND:
 Donegal Lake

TROUT FISHING SOUTHWEST REGION AND TROUT FISHING NORTHWEST REGION

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Fourmile Run (Donegal Lake Road to mouth)</p> <p>Hannas Run (Baton Road to mouth)</p> <p>Hendricks Creek (SR 0711 bridge to mouth)</p> <p>Indian Creek (SR 0381 bridge to Champion Creek)</p> <p>Indian Lake</p> <p>Jacobs Creek (Pennsylvania Turnpike bridge to Bridgeport Reservoir)</p> <p>Linn Run (unnamed tributary 547 yards upstream Grove Run Spring to lower State Park boundary)</p> <p>Loyalhanna Creek (Zimmerman Run to Monastery Run except in Keystone Select Stocked Trout Waters program section)</p> <p>Mammoth Lake</p> <p>Mill Creek (186 yards upstream Mill Road bridge to mouth)</p> <p>Sewickley Creek (Fairgrounds Road bridge to Brinker Run)</p> <p>Shannon Run (Wildcat Road upper bridge to mouth)</p> <p>Tubmill Creek (Tubmill Reservoir to private lane connected to Keiper Road)</p> <p>Turtle Creek (Saunders Station bridge to Brush Creek)</p> <p>Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing</p> <p>ALLEGHENY: North Park Lake</p> | <p>ARMSTRONG: Mahoning Creek (Mahoning Creek Dam outflow downstream to the confluence of Pine Run)</p> <p>BEAVER: Bradys Run Lake</p> <p>Main Lake (Raccoon Lake)</p> <p>FAYETTE: Dunlap Creek Lake</p> <p>FAYETTE/SOMERSET: Youghiogheny River (from the lake downstream to the confluence of the Casselman River)</p> <p>INDIANA: Cummings Reservoir (Blue Spruce Lake)</p> <p>SOMERSET: Fall Creek (from confluence with Ansell Run downstream to mouth)</p> <p>Laurel Hill Lake</p> <p>WASHINGTON: Canonsburg Lake</p> <p>WESTMORELAND: Keystone Lake</p> <p>Northmoreland Lake</p> <p>Twin Lakes Number One Reservoir (Lower Twin Lake)</p> <p>Twin Lakes Number Two Reservoir (Upper Twin Lake)</p> | <p>Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only</p> <p>FAYETTE: Dunbar Creek (4.22 miles; from the confluence of Glade Run downstream to the stone quarry along Furnace Hill Road, SR 1055)</p> <p>INDIANA: Little Mahoning Creek (3.60 miles; from Oberlin Road bridge abutments upstream of SR 1041 bridge upstream to Cesna Run)</p> <p>SOMERSET: Clear Shade Creek (1.00 mile; from the cable at Windber Water Dam upstream 1.00 mile)</p> <p>Catch and Release All Tackle</p> <p>CAMBRIA/INDIANA: West Branch Susquehanna River (26.10 miles; from outflow of AMD treatment plant near Watkins downstream to confluence of Cush Creek near Dowler Junction)</p> <p>All Tackle Trophy Trout</p> <p>FAYETTE/SOMERSET: Youghiogheny River (9.18 miles; from the confluence with Ramcat Run downstream to the Route 381 bridge at Ohiopyle)</p> | <p>Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only</p> <p>ALLEGHENY: Bull Creek (1.01 miles; from the first bridge on Thompson Road, above the Hemphill Road and Thompson Road intersection, downstream to the Thompson Road bridge in Millerstown)</p> <p>Deer Creek (1.90 miles; from the SR 0910 bridge at Martin Road intersection downstream to the lower boundary of Rose Ridge Golf Course)</p> <p>Pine Creek (1.43 miles; from the railroad bridge near the Bryant Drive and Duncan Ave. intersection downstream to 150 yards downstream of the Mt. Royal Blvd., SR 4019, bridge)</p> <p>ARMSTRONG/BUTLER: Buffalo Creek (3.70 miles; from Little Buffalo Run downstream to 0.60 mile above Craigsville Road bridge)</p> <p>CAMBRIA: Chest Creek (2.50 miles; Ridge Avenue downstream to Thomas Mills Road)</p> <p>FAYETTE: Meadow Run (2.23 miles; from Dinner Bell Road downstream to mouth)</p> | <p>SOMERSET: Laurel Hill Creek (2.33 miles; from 200 yards downstream of Jimtown Road bridge downstream to the Laurel Hill State Park Road bridge upstream of Laurel Hill Lake)</p> <p>Laurel Hill Creek (1.27 miles; from the footbridge on State Game Lands #111 Road in Humbert downstream to Paddytown Hollow Run)</p> <p>WASHINGTON: Dutch Fork (1.59 miles; from the first SR 0070 bridge upstream of the Columbia Gas Compressor Station downstream to the Dutch Fork Lake backwaters)</p> <p>Pike Run (1.10 miles; from the confluence with the unnamed tributary upstream of South Ridge Road, SR 2079, bridge downstream to the powerline crossing downstream of the Pike Run Drive, SR 2036, bridge)</p> <p>WESTMORELAND: Indian Creek (1.60 miles; from Hunters Lane bridge downstream to the SR 0381 bridge)</p> <p>Laurel Hill Creek (1.55 miles; from SR 711 downstream to SR 2045, Two Mile Run Road)</p> |
|--|---|--|---|--|

Northwest Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season Stocked Trout Waters OPENING DAY: APRIL 4

BUTLER:

Bear Creek (T-712 upstream Troutman to first bridge upstream Bruin)

Bonnie Brook (Bonnie Brook Road to mouth)

Buffalo Creek (upstream end of Chicora Borough Park to 0.87 mile downstream Sarver Road, SR 3004, bridge)

Connoquenessing Creek (Lake Oneida to SR 0356 bridge)

Glade Run Lake

Harbar Acres Lake

Little Buffalo Run (Clearfield Road bridge to mouth)

Little Connoquenessing Creek (SR 0422 bridge to SR 3029 bridge)

North Branch Slippery Rock Creek (White Oak Road bridge to mouth)

Silver Creek (T-633 bridge to mouth)

Slippery Rock Creek (0.75 mile downstream Slippery Rock Road to Heinz Camp property)

Thorn Creek (Great Belt Road bridge to Hicks Road bridge)

CLARION:
Beaver Creek (T-384 bridge to Route 338 bridge, Blair's Corner)

Canoe Creek (I-80 bridge to mouth)

Cathers Run (220 meters upstream Cathers Run Road to mouth)

Coon Creek (Zipp Run to Irish Run)

East Sandy Creek (T-586 bridge to Clarion/Venango County Line)

Leatherwood Creek (T-478 bridge to Pump Station, Saint Charles)

Mill Creek (T-342 bridge to Little Mill Creek)

Piney Creek (SR 2001 bridge to Little Piney Creek)

Redbank Creek (North Fork Redbank Creek to Little Sandy Creek)

Richey Run (Route 208 bridge upstream T-550 to Allegheny River Trail bridge near mouth)

Toms Run (T-627 bridge to childrens area near mouth)

Turkey Run (Salem Road bridge to SR 0058 bridge, Alum Rock)

CRAWFORD:

Caldwell Creek (West Branch Caldwell Creek to mouth)

Conneaut Creek (Dicksonburg Road bridge, Dicksonburg, to Pennside Road)

East Branch Oil Creek (Clear Lake Dam to mouth)

Fivemile Creek (T-922 bridge to mouth)

Little Sugar Creek (SR 2009 bridge to mouth)

McLaughlin Creek (T-890 bridge to mouth)

Muddy Creek (Dewey Road bridge to Teepleville Road bridge)

North Deer Creek (Headwaters to mouth)

Oil Creek (Mosey Run to SR 8 bridge at Rynd Farm)

Pine Creek (Seldom Seen Road bridge to mouth)

Sugar Creek (Center Road bridge to Wright Road bridge)

Thompson Creek (100 meters upstream bridge SR 2031 to mouth)

Woodcock Creek (SR 2036 bridge to mouth)

ERIE:
Cascade Creek (12th Street bridge to mouth)

Conneauttee Creek (Edinboro Lake to Route 99)

Crooked Creek (Gloskey Road bridge to Railroad bridge North SR 5)

East Basin Pond (Waterworks Ponds, Presque Isle State Park)

Elk Creek (200 meters upstream I-79 NB bridge to 500 meters downstream SR 98 bridge and 500 meters upstream Halls Run to mouth)

French Creek (PA/NY line to West Branch French Creek)
Lake Pleasant
South Branch French Creek (SR 2018 bridge, Corry Limits, to mouth)
Twentymile Creek (SR 20 bridge to Dohler Property Line)
Upper Gravel Pit
West Basin Pond
(Waterworks Ponds, Presque Isle State Park)

FOREST:

Beaver Run (50 meters upstream Lick Run to mouth)
Bluejay Creek (first SR 1003 bridge downstream SR 0066 to mouth)
Coon Creek (Zipp Run to Irish Run)
East Hickory Creek (Allegheny National Forest Road 119 bridge to mouth)
Little Hickory Run (Furnace Run to mouth)
Maple Creek (T-323 bridge to mouth)
Queen Creek (Beers Hollow to mouth)
Ross Run (unnamed tributary 1 kilometer upstream East Branch Ross Run to Ross Run Road bridge)
Salmon Creek (Bluejay Road bridge to mouth)
South Branch Tionesta Creek (800 meters upstream Fork Run to mouth)
Spring Creek (East Branch Spring Creek to mouth)
The Branch (Coal Bed Run to mouth)
Tionesta Creek (South Branch Tionesta Creek to Kellettville bridge)
Toms Run (T-627 bridge to childrens area near mouth)
West Branch Millstone Creek (Scott Run to SR 2005 bridge)
West Hickory Creek (Youngsville Road bridge to mouth)

LAWRENCE:

Bessemer Lake
Big Run (SR 388 bridge to mouth)
Deer Creek (1,500 feet upstream Route 208 bridge to mouth)
Hickory Run (T-312 bridge to mouth)

Honey Creek (0.25 mile upstream Musser Road bridge to North Fork Little Beaver Creek)
Little Neshannock Creek (West Branch Little Neshannock Creek to mouth)
Neshannock Creek (Headwaters to I-80 bridge and Pine Run to mouth)
North Fork Little Beaver Creek (Mud Road bridge to County Line)
Slippery Rock Creek (0.75 mile downstream Slippery Rock Road to Heinz Camp property)
Taylor Run (1.00 mile upstream SR 1018 bridge to Slippery Rock Creek)

MERCER:

Buhl Lake
Cool Spring Creek (Lake Latonka to mouth)
Little Neshannock Creek (West Branch Little Neshannock Creek to mouth)
Little Shenango River (Lake Wilhelm Road bridge to mouth)
Mill Creek (Scrubgrass Road bridge to mouth)
Neshannock Creek (Headwaters to I-80 bridge and Pine Run to mouth)
North Deer Creek (Bortz/Lower Road bridge to mouth)
Pine Run (Crill Road bridge to Neshannock Creek)
Sandy Creek (SR 173 bridge to SR 3013 bridge Pecan)
West Branch Little Neshannock Creek (Bend Road to mouth)
Wolf Creek (East Pine Street, Grove City, to 300 feet downstream Airport Road bridge)

VENANGO:

East Branch Sugar Creek (SR 0428 to mouth)
East Sandy Creek (Tarklin Run to mouth)
Hemlock Creek (Porcupine Run to mouth)
Horse Creek (250 meters upstream Wolf Branch to mouth)
Little Sandy Creek (400 meters upstream Bombishi Road bridge to old bridge at Polk Center Pump House)

Little Scrubgrass Creek (South Fork Little Scrubgrass Creek to mouth)
Little Sugar Creek (SR 0027 bridge, Diamond, to mouth)
Lower Twomile Run (Isaac Walton Park to mouth)
Mill Creek (SR 0038 bridge to T-522 bridge)
Oil Creek (Mosey Run to SR 0008 bridge at Rynd Farm)
Pine Run (SR 0038 bridge to Bear Run)
Pithole Creek (SR 0036 to 300 meters downstream SR 1004 Stone Arch bridge)
Prather Creek (T-508 bridge to mouth)
Richey Run (Route 208 bridge upstream T-550 to Allegheny River Trail bridge near mouth)
Sandy Creek (SR 0173 bridge to SR 3013 bridge in Pecan)
Sugar Creek (Center Road bridge to Wright Road bridge and 300 meters upstream Creek Road bridge to mouth)
Twomile Run (Reed Run to mouth)
West Pithole Creek (Coe Road bridge to mouth)

WARREN:

Blue Eye Run (Eldred Hill Road bridge to State Game Lands boundary)
Brokenstraw Creek (SR 3010 bridge to 2.60 kilometers upstream SR 0027 bridge Garland and 100 meters upstream SR 3010 bridge to Matthews Run)
Browns Run (Hook Run to mouth)
Caldwell Creek (West Branch Caldwell Creek to mouth)
Chapman Lake
East Branch Spring Creek (SR 3001 to mouth)
East Branch Tionesta Creek (T-300 bridge downstream Jojo to mouth)
East Hickory Creek (Allegheny National Forest Road 119 bridge to mouth)
Farnsworth Branch (bridge at Farnsworth Coop Hatch to mouth)
Fourmile Run (North Branch Fourmile Run to mouth)
Hemlock Run (100 meters upstream Logging Road to mouth)

Jackson Run (SR 0027 bridge to mouth)
Little Brokenstraw Creek (SR 0957 bridge, Lottsville, to T-441 bridge, Pittsfield)
Perry Magee Run (Youngsville Road to mouth)
Pine Creek (Seldom Seen Road bridge to mouth)
Queen Creek (Beers Hollow to mouth)
Sixmile Run (North Fork Sixmile Creek to mouth)
South Branch Tionesta Creek (800 meters upstream Fork Run to mouth)
Spring Creek (East Branch Spring Creek to SR 3001 bridge)
Thompson Run (800 meters upstream Double Run to mouth)
Tidioute Creek (SR 3011 bridge to mouth)
Tionesta Creek (South Branch Tionesta Creek to Kellettville bridge)
Twomile Run (headwaters to mouth)
West Branch Caldwell Creek (unnamed tributary West of Sanford to Three Bridge Run)
West Branch Tionesta Creek (Jones Run to Wildcat Run and Chapman Dam to mouth)
West Hickory Creek (Youngsville Road bridge to mouth)

Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing

FOREST:

Tionesta Creek (from Tionesta Dam outflow to mouth)

LAWRENCE:

Cascade Quarry

MERCER:

Shenango River (Hamburg Road bridge in New Hamburg to pipeline crossing upstream of Big Bend access area)

VENANGO:

Two Mile Run Reservoir (Justus Lake)

Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only

WARREN:

West Branch Caldwell Creek (2.75 miles; West Branch bridge upstream to Three Bridge Run)

Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only

LAWRENCE:

Slippery Rock Creek (0.51 mile; from Heinz Camp property downstream to lower McConnells Mill State Park property line)

VENANGO:

Little Sandy Creek (1.40 miles; from the old bridge at Polk Center Pump House downstream to the bridge on Savannah Road, SR 3024)

WARREN:

Caldwell Creek (1.49 miles; from Selkirk highway bridge downstream to approximately 0.50 mile upstream of the Dotyville bridge)

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only

CLARION:

Piney Creek (1.20 miles; SR 2016 bridge downstream to 0.20 mile upstream of the SR 0066 bridge)

FOREST:

East Hickory Creek (1.74 miles; from the Queen Creek bridge downstream to the Otter Creek bridge)

LAWRENCE:

Neshannock Creek (2.70 miles; from the base of the Mill Dam in Volant downstream to the covered bridge on T-476)

MERCER:

Cool Spring Creek (1.20 miles; from SR 2014 bridge upstream to the abandoned railroad grade)

VENANGO:

Oil Creek (1.62 miles; from bridge at Petroleum Center downstream to railroad bridge at Columbia Farm)

Oil Creek (1.00 mile; from the two green posts near the Drake Well Museum downstream to Oil Creek State Park hiking trail bridge)

Northcentral Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season Stocked Trout Waters

OPENING DAY: APRIL 4

CAMERON:

Clear Creek (Mud Run to mouth)
Driftwood Branch
Sinnemahoning Creek (Shippen township building to mouth)
East Branch Cowley Run (Cowley Road bridge to mouth)
First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek (headwaters to mouth)
Mix Run (Red Run to mouth)
North Creek (Fivemile Run to mouth)
Sinnemahoning Portage Creek (SR 0155 bridge near Sizer Run to mouth)
West Branch Cowley Run (Fee Run to mouth)
Wykoff Run (Big Spring Draft to mouth)

CENTRE:

● Bald Eagle Creek (Bell Hollow Road bridge to inlet of Sayers Lake near the Boggs-Howard Township line)
Big Poe Creek (Poe Lake to mouth)
Black Moshannon Creek (Black Moshannon Dam to unnamed tributary downstream to Gorton Road)
Cold Stream Dam
Harvest Fields Ponds
Little Fishing Creek (fourth bridge upstream SR 0064 bridge, Hublersburg, to mouth)
Marsh Creek (unnamed tributary 0.50 mile upstream Manntown Road to mouth)
● Penns Creek (SR 0045 to Elk Creek)
Pine Creek (Stony Run Road bridge to Bald Eagle State Forest boundary)
Poe Lake

● Seven Mountains Boy Scout Pond
Sinking Creek (Colyer Lake Dam to mouth)
Sixmile Run (Clay Mine Road to mouth)
South Fork Beech Creek (Private Pond to SR 0080)
Standing Stone Creek (Penn Roosevelt Dam to first SR 0026 bridge north of Huntingdon)
Wallace Run (unnamed tributary at Gumstump to 0.25 mile upstream to ballfield)
White Deer Creek (powerline crossing 125 meters upstream Black Gap Road to White Deer dam)
Wolf Run (Wolf Run Trail to Little Wolf Run)

CLEARFIELD:

Anderson Creek (Dubois Reservoir to unnamed tributary 1,000 meters downstream SR 0322)
Bennett Branch
Sinnemahoning Creek (South Branch Bennett Branch to Wilson Run)
Chest Creek (confluence with unnamed tributary Bradley junction to mouth)
Curry Run (Webb Road bridge to mouth)
East Branch Mahoning Creek (Beech Run to 1.00 kilometer downstream Branch Road bridge)
Gazzam Run (headwaters to mouth)
Gifford Run (Merrill Road bridge to Lost Run Road bridge)
Goss Run Dam
Janesville Dam
Juniata Lake (Tannery Dam)
Laborde Branch (T-899 bridge near junction SR 4016 to 700 meters downstream SR 4016 bridge)
Laurel Run (Parker Lake Dam to Abbot Run)
Laurel Run (Jeep Road near pond to mouth)

Little Clearfield Creek (confluence Watts Creek and Gazzam Run to 0.40 mile downstream of the T-584 bridge)
Little Muddy Run (SR 0253 bridge to confluence unnamed tributary 1.70 kilometers upstream mouth)
Medix Run (Jack Dent Branch to mouth)
Moose Creek (first unnamed tributary 0.70 kilometer downstream Moose Creek Reservoir to mouth)
Mosquito Creek (Grimes Run to mouth)
North Witmer Run (Hunter Run to mouth)
Parker Lake
Shaggers Inn Pond
South Witmer Run (pipe crossing at State Game Lands #120 to mouth)
Stony Run Pond
Wilson Run (Barrett Run to mouth)
Wolf Run (State Game Lands to mouth)

CLINTON:

Cooks Run (end of Road near Lick Run to Rock Run)
● Fishing Creek (Cedar Run to Country Club Road bridge Mill Hall)
Hyner Run (Power line crossing upstream Hyner Run State Park to mouth)
Kettle Creek (Long Run to mouth)
Little Fishing Creek (fourth bridge upstream SR 0064 bridge, Hublersburg, to mouth)
Young Womans Creek (County Line Branch to mouth)

ELK:

Bear Creek (Maple Run to mouth)
Belmouth Run (State Game Lands boundary bridge crossing to mouth)
Bennett Branch
Sinnemahoning Creek (Jay/Benezette Township Line to 300 meters downstream Station Road bridge)

Big Mill Creek (SR 0948 bridge to Rocky Run and Ridgway Reservoir to mouth)
Boggy Run (dam at headwaters to mouth)
Crooked Creek (500 meters upstream Long Branch to SR 1004 bridge)
Dents Run (Hodag Trail crossing to mouth)
East Branch Clarion River (State Game Land boundary 1.15 miles downstream of East Branch Dam to Indian Run)
East Branch Millstone Creek (0.50 miles upstream Loleta Road bridge to mouth)
East Branch Spring Creek (headwaters to Pigs Ear bridge)
Elk Creek (Water Tank Run to mouth)
Hicks Run (confluence East and West Branch Hicks Run to mouth)
Hoffman Run (Dam to mouth)
Laurel Run Reservoir
Little Toby Creek (Mead Run to mouth)
Maxwell Run (Civilian Conservation Corps Road near headwaters to 1.50 miles downstream SR 0949)
Mead Run (unnamed tributary at Shawmut to mouth)
Medix Run (Jack Dent Branch to mouth)
Millstone Creek (confluence East and West Branch to mouth)
Mix Run (Red Run to mouth)
Powers Run (SR 1001 bridge to mouth)
Ridgway Reservoir
Rocky Run (tributary 1,500 meters downstream county line to mouth)
Spring Creek (East Branch Spring Creek to mouth)
Twin Lakes

West Branch Clarion River (SR 0219 bridge north of Halsey to Silver Creek Road)
West Branch Hicks Run (Shaffer Draft Road to mouth)
Wilson Run (McKean/Elk County Line to mouth)
Wolf Run (T-317 bridge nearest Route 66 to mouth)
JEFFERSON:
Big Run (second bridge upstream junction T-374 and SR 3014 to mouth)
Callen Run (3.80 kilometers upstream Johns Run to mouth)
Canoe Creek (Painter Run to mouth)
Cathers Run (220 meters upstream Cathers Run Road to mouth)
Clear Creek (Trap Run to mouth)
Cloe Lake
East Branch Mahoning Creek (Beech Run to 1.00 kilometer downstream Branch Road bridge)
Fivemile Run (T-830 bridge upstream Colon to T-830 bridge 100 meters upstream Swamp Run)
Laurel Run (Jeep Road near pond to mouth)
Little Sandy Creek (SR 0236 bridge to mouth)
Little Toby Creek (Mead Run to mouth)
Mill Creek (T-342 bridge to Little Mill Creek)
Mill Creek (T-550 bridge, Reitz, to mouth)
North Fork Redbank Creek (Hetrick Run to Pekin Run and first tributary downstream Rose and Eldred Township Line to mouth)
Pekin Run (Mays Road bridge to mouth)

Rattlesnake Creek (450 meters upstream Siple Road bridge to mouth)
 Redbank Creek (North Fork Redbank Creek to Little Sandy Creek)
 Sandy Lick Creek (Schoolhouse Run to Fivemile Run)
 Wolf Run (State Game Lands to mouth)
LYCOMING:
 Hoagland Run (Big Sandy Run to mouth)
 Larrys Creek (first SR 973 bridge upstream Salladasburg to mouth)
 Little Bear Creek (Red Run to mouth)
 Little Muncy Creek (SR 0118 bridge to Big Run, Lairdsville)
 Little Pine Creek (0.40 mile upstream Bonnell Run to mouth)
 Loyalsock Creek (0.25 mile upstream Rock Run Road to SR 973)
 Lycoming Creek (Roaring Brook to Hoagland Run)
 Mill Creek (Warrensville) (700 meters upstream Sugar Camp Road to first Warrensville Road bridge downstream Warrensville)
 Muncy Creek (Peters Creek to Little Muncy Creek)
 Pleasant Stream (Potash Hollow to mouth)
 Rock Run (Hawk Run to mouth)
 Spring Creek (SR 2001 bridge to mouth)
 White Deer Hole Creek (State Forest Boundary to Bob Drick Road (T-464) bridge)
MCKEAN:
 Allegheny River (Seven bridges to Allegheny Portage Creek)
 Bell Run (Chapman Brook Run to Wingard Hollow Run)
 Bradford City Number Three Reservoir
 Chappel Fork (Bucklick Run to mouth)
 Combs Creek (Strang Hollow Run to mouth)
 East Branch Tionesta Creek (T-300 bridge downstream Jojo to mouth)

Hamlin Lake
 Havens Run (Pigeon Hollow to mouth)
 Kinzua Creek (dam 0.80 mile upstream SR 3009 Kushequa to 200 meters downstream Allegheny National Forest Road 15)
 Marvin Creek (T-450 bridge to SR 6)
 North Branch Sugar Run (Railroad Run to mouth)
 Potato Creek (confluence East Branch Potato and Havens Run to Marvin Creek)
 Red Mill Brook (Sergeant Norwich Township line to mouth)
 Sevenmile Run (350 meters upstream pipeline at two tributaries to mouth)
 Skinner Creek (Sherwood Hollow to mouth)
 South Branch Kinzua Creek (Hubert Run to mouth)
 Sugar Run (Kavanaugh Run to mouth)
 Twomile Run (headwaters to mouth)
 West Branch Clarion River (SR 219 bridge north of Halsey to Silver Creek Road)
 West Branch Potato Creek (confluence West and South forks to mouth)
 Willow Creek (headwaters to Willow Bay bridge)
MONTOUR:
 Mahoning Creek (from SR 642 and Bogart Road intersection to mouth)
 Mauses Creek (first dirt road upstream Old Furnace Road to mouth)
 Roaring Creek (Lick Run to mouth)
NORTHUMBERLAND:
 Little Shamokin Creek (T-445 to Foye Road bridge and transmission line crossing upstream intersection of Comfort and Miller roads to mouth)
 Mahantango Creek (Route 125 bridge to Kiwanis Farm Road bridge)
 Schwaben Creek (Moyer Road to Mouse Creek)

South Branch Roaring Creek (Jepko/Campground Road to mouth)
 Zerbe Run Rod & Gun Club Pond
POTTER:
 Allegheny River (Seven Bridges to Allegheny Portage Creek)
 Bailey Run (120 meters upstream Little Bailey Run to mouth)
 Cowanesque River (Dodge Hollow to Troups Creek)
 East Branch Cowley Run (Cowley Road bridge to mouth)
 East Branch Fishing Creek (Jeep Trail 0.20 mile upstream SR 4005 to mouth)
 East Fork Sinnemahoning Creek (Mud Lick Run to mouth)
 Elevenmile Creek (Turkey Path Road bridge to mouth)
 First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek (headwaters to mouth)
 Fishing Creek (Fisk Hollow to mouth)
 ● Freeman Run (West Branch Freeman Run to mouth)
 Genesee River (Ludington Run to state line)
 Kettle Creek (Long Run to mouth)
 Little Kettle Creek (Bloss Hollow to mouth)
 Lyman Run (Lyman Run Lake to mouth)
 Lyman Run Lake
 Oswayo Creek (Clara Creek to Horse Run Road)
 Pine Creek (Genesee Forks to 0.50 mile downstream Campbells Run)
 South Branch Oswayo Creek (T-354 bridge to mouth)
 South Woods Branch (Heth Run to mouth)
 West Branch Cowley Run (Fee Run to mouth)
 West Branch Pine Creek (Lyman Run to mouth)
SNYDER:
 Beaver Creek (0.50 mile downstream Snyder Avenue near Three Rivers Church to mouth)

Kern Run (Brick Plant Road bridge upstream Beavertown to mouth)
 Middle Creek (Black Mountain Road bridge to SR 4008 bridge near Faylor Lake inflow and 0.30 mile upstream Pine Swamp Road to 0.50 mile downstream SR 0522 in Middleburg)
 North Branch Mahantango Creek (Heister Valley Road bridge near township line to Swamp Road bridge near Aline)
 North Branch Middle Creek (Clarence F. Walker Lake to mouth)
 South Branch Middle Creek (Stecky Road to mouth)
 Swift Run (Sandhill Road to mouth)
 West Branch Mahantango Creek (Crater Hill Road to Creek Road and Stream Ford)
TIOGA:
 Charleston Creek (Outflow Hamilton Lake to mouth)
 Corey Creek (Route 6 bridge, Mainesburg, to Newtown Hill Road)
 Cowanesque River (Dodge Hollow to Troups Creek)
 Crooked Creek (Hills Creek Road to Ives Run Lane)
 East Branch Stony Fork (Draper Village to mouth)
 Long Run (Blue Run to mouth)
 Marsh Creek (Lower Marsh Creek Road to mouth)
 Mill Creek (Sopertown Road to mouth)
 Pine Creek (Genesee Forks to 0.50 mile downstream Campbells Run)
 Stony Fork (confluence East Branch and West Branch Stony Fork to mouth)
 Tioga River (Tioga/Bradford County Line to Fall Brook)
UNION:
 Buffalo Creek (Aikey Road bridge to Rapid Run)
 Halfway Lake
 Laurel Run (SR 0235 bridge to mouth)
 Limestone Run (Second SR 45 bridge upstream of mouth to mouth)

North Branch Buffalo Creek (Mifflinburg Reservoir to mouth)
 Penns Creek (downstream end of island near Jolly Grove Lane to Creek Road bridge near Libby Road)
 Rapid Run (Walbash Road bridge to mouth)
 Spring Creek (SR 2001 bridge to mouth)
 White Deer Creek (0.70 mile upstream Dyer Road to mouth)

Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing

CAMERON:

George B. Stevenson Reservoir
 West Creek (SR 1008 at Rathbun downstream to SR 3001 at Howard Siding)

CLEARFIELD:

West Branch Susquehanna River (SR 1001 bridge near Hyde to first Railroad bridge downstream of the confluence with Moose Creek)
 West Branch Susquehanna River (Anderson Creek to SR 2024 crossing at Porters bridge)

CLINTON:

Kettle Creek Lake

ELK:

West Creek (SR 1008 at Rathbun downstream to SR 3001 at Howard Siding)

LYCOMING:

Little Pine Lake
 Pine Creek (Bonnell Run at DCNR Clark Farm Access Area downstream to the confluence with Little Pine Creek)

LYCOMING/TIOGA:

Pine Creek (from SR 0414 bridge in Blackwell downstream to the confluence with Slate Run)

MCKEAN:

Meade Run (Blacksnake Run to mouth)

TIOGA:

Beechwood Lake
 Hamilton Lake

TROUT FISHING NORTHCENTRAL REGION

Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only

CAMERON:

Hunts Run (4.72 miles; from confluence with McNuff Branch downstream to the mouth)

CLINTON:

Fishing Creek (5.27 miles; from the private lane bridge at the Tylersville State Fish Hatchery downstream to Fleming's Bridge, SR 2004, at the Lamar Fish Hatchery)

Rauchtown Creek (1.14 miles; from the confluence of Rockey Run and Krape Run downstream to the SR 0880 crossing upstream of the Ravensburg St. Park Picnic Area)

Young Womans Creek (5.70 miles; from the Beechwood Trail downstream to a point 0.70 mile upstream of the confluence with the Left Branch Young Womans Creek)

LYCOMING:

Grays Run (2.38 miles; from the Grays Run Hunting Club property line downstream to the concrete bridge on T-842, Grays Run Road, at the old CCC camp)

MIFFLIN/UNION:

Penns Creek (7.48 miles; from approximately 600 meters downstream of Swift Run downstream to the downstream extent of the island near the end of Jolly Grove Lane)

POTTER:

Cross Fork (5.03 miles; Rhulo Hollow to Weed property located 0.20 mile downstream of the T-416 bridge)

UNION:

Cherry Run (2.70 miles; from the mouth upstream a distance of 2.70 miles)

Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only

CAMERON:

Driftwood Branch
Sinnemahoning Creek (1.55 miles; from the Shippen Township Building downstream to 330 yards upstream of the SR 0120 bridge near Emporium)

CENTRE:

Spring Creek (Fisherman's Paradise) (1.26 miles; from a point adjacent to the Stackhouse School Pistol Range downstream to the lower Bellefonte Hatchery grounds)

ELK:

West Branch Clarion River (0.68 mile; from intersection of SR 219 and SR 4003 upstream to the former Texas Gulf Sulphur property line 0.60 mile upstream of SR 4003 bridge)

JEFFERSON:

North Fork Redbank Creek (1.93 miles; from SR 322 in Brookville upstream 1.90 miles, except a 110-yard section from the Brookville Water Authority Dam downstream to the wire across the creek)

LYCOMING/TIOGA:

Slate Run (7.13 miles; from the confluence of the Cushman and Francis branches downstream to the mouth)

McKEAN:

Marvin Creek (0.90 mile; from the vicinity of the high voltage line 3.00 miles south of Smethport downstream for a distance of 0.90 mile)

POTTER:

Kettle Creek (1.70 miles; from a sign located 500 feet downstream of the SR 0144 bridge to a sign located 1.70 miles upstream of the lower boundary)

TIOGA:

Francis Branch Tributary to Slate Run (1.74 miles; from mouth upstream to Kramer Hollow)

UNION:

White Deer Creek (3.45 miles; from Cooper Mill Road upstream to Union/Centre County Line)

Catch and Release All Tackle

CENTRE:

Spring Creek (16.24 miles; from the Boalsburg Road bridge, SR 3010, at Oak Hall upstream of Hanson Quarry, formerly HRI/Neidig Bros. Quarry, downstream to the mouth with the exception of special regulations area at Fisherman's Paradise and the Exhibition Area, Talleyrand Park, in Bellefonte)

CLEARFIELD:

West Branch Susquehanna River (26.10 miles; from outflow of AMD treatment plant near Watkins downstream to confluence of Cush Creek near Dowler Junction)

ELK:

Clarion River (8.49 miles; from the confluence of the East and West branches downstream to the Main St. bridge, SR 948, in Ridgway)

LYCOMING:

Pine Creek (2.88 miles; from the confluence with Slate Run downstream to the confluence with Bonnell Run at DCNR Clark Farm Access Area)

POTTER/TIOGA:

Upper Kettle Creek basin (28.30 miles; Kettle Creek from the headwaters downstream to the confluence with Long Run and all tributaries including Long Run upstream to the headwaters)

Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only

CENTRE:

Lick Run (2.49 miles; from the headwaters to the mouth)

LYCOMING/TIOGA:

Cedar Run (7.33 miles; from the confluence with Buck Run downstream to the mouth)

McKEAN:

East Branch Tunungwant Creek (3.04 miles; from the confluence with Pigeon Run downstream to the Main Street bridge in Lewis Run)

Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only

CENTRE:

Black Moshannon Creek (1.30 miles; from Dry Hollow downstream to 0.30 mile downstream of the Huckleberry Road bridge)

CLEARFIELD:

Little Clearfield Creek (1.14 miles; from 0.40 mile downstream of the T-584 bridge downstream to 0.20 mile upstream of the SR 2023, Turkey Hill, bridge)

Sandy Lick Creek (1.50 miles; from the mouth of Laborde Branch downstream to the SR 219 bridge)

ELK:

Big Mill Creek (1.50 miles; from the confluence of Rocky Run downstream to 0.30 mile downstream of the Allegheny National Forest, Forest Road 135 bridge)

East Branch Clarion River (1.18 miles; from 110 yards downstream of the outflow from the East Branch Clarion River Dam to the State Gameland boundary 1.15 miles downstream of East Branch Dam)

LYCOMING:

Little Pine Creek (4.08 miles; Little Pine Creek Road bridge located 1.00 mile upstream Otter Run downstream to inflow of Little Pine Lake)

Loyalsock Creek (3.81 miles; 1.00 mile upstream Sullivan County Line downstream to unnamed tributary located 0.90 mile upstream of Plunketts Creek)

Lycoming Creek – (2.65 miles; 0.50 mile upstream Daugherty Run downstream to 0.10 mile downstream of the SR 0015 bridge, Old Route 15, near Haleeka)

● Muncy Creek (1.06 miles; 0.30 mile upstream T-650 bridge downstream to Big Run and 0.91 mile; 0.44 mile downstream of the SR 220 bridge in Picture Rocks downstream to 0.20 mile downstream of the Pine Run Road bridge)

McKEAN:

● Kinzua Creek (4.79 miles; from Guffey Road bridge, Rocky Road, downstream to Allegheny National Forest boundary near Westline)

West Branch Tunungwant Creek (1.24 miles; from T-499 bridge downstream to pipeline crossing near confluence of Gates Hollow)

POTTER:

Allegheny River (2.70 miles; from Pond Road 0.30 mile downstream of Colesburg downstream to ford 0.30 mile downstream of Prosser Hollow bridge)

● First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek (3.93 miles; Route 872 bridge at Schoolhouse Run downstream to Berge Run)

SNYDER:

● Middle Creek (2.00 miles; 0.30 mile upstream of Pine Swamp Road downstream to 0.60 mile upstream Covered Bridge Road)

TIOGA:

● Pine Creek (3.35 miles; Marsh Creek downstream to Bear Run)

All Tackle Trout Slot Limit

CENTRE:

Penns Creek (6.98 miles; from the confluence with Elk Creek downstream to the Catch and Release area located 600 meters downstream of Swift Run)

Northeast Region Regulated Trout Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season Stocked Trout Waters

OPENING DAY: APRIL 4

BRADFORD:

Gaylord Creek (Bradford/
Susquehanna County Line
to mouth)
Little Schrader Creek
(Marsh Creek to mouth)
North Branch Sugar Creek
(Alparon Park to mouth)
Schrader Creek (upstream
State Game Lands #12
boundary to Minersville
Road)
South Branch Towanda
Creek (SR 220, Stevenson,
to South Branch Road,
Kellogg)
South Creek (Dunnings
Station to SR 14, Fassett)
Sugar Creek (South Branch
Sugar Creek to SR 0006,
East Troy)
Sunfish Pond
Towanda Creek (South
Avenue to SR 3001
bridge)
Tuscarora Creek (Bradford/
Susquehanna County Line
to mouth)
Wysox Creek (SR 187 to
mouth)

CARBON:

Aquashicola Creek (Buckwa
Creek to entrance New
Jersey Zinc Plant)
Buckwha Creek (Princess
Run to Aquashicola
Creek)
Drakes Creek (Drakes Creek
Road and School House
Road to mouth)
Hickory Run (Hickory Run
Lake to Saylorville Dam)
Hickory Run Lake
Lehigh Canal (lock 0.40
kilometer upstream Long
Run to lock upstream
North Weissport)
Lizard Creek (Lauchnor
Road bridge to mouth
and 1.00 mile upstream
Andreas Road bridge to
0.50 mile upstream Stone
Mountain Road bridge)

Mahoning Creek (Berry
Road bridge to Lehigh
River)
Mauch Chunk Creek (Mauch
Chunk Lake to Mauch
Chunk Reservoir)
Nesquehoning Creek
(bridge on East end
Industrial Road to 350
meters downstream North
Mermon Street bridge)
● Pohopoco Creek
(Beltzville Lake to
Hideaway H&F Club Cable
across creek)
Sand Spring Run (Sand
Spring Lake to mouth)

COLUMBIA:

Beaver Run (Moyers Farm
5.00 kilometers upstream
mouth to mouth)
Briar Creek (West Branch
Briar Creek to mouth)
Fishing Creek (Camp
Lavigne Road to upstream
Kriebel property line
and 180 yards upstream
Benton Borough line to
Benton/Fishing Creek
Township line and 1.00
kilometer upstream SR
1022 to Orange/Fishing
Creek Township line and
0.60 kilometer upstream
SR 0487 bridge to Back
Branch Road bridge)
Huntington Creek (Forks
Farm to Twin Bridges
Park)
Little Fishing Creek (Talmar
Road to SR 42 bridge)
Mugser Run (T-315
Fisherdale to mouth)
Pine Creek (Volanski Road
to mouth)
Roaring Creek (Lick Run to
mouth)
Scotch Run (first bridge
upstream Mifflin
crossroads to mouth)
South Branch Roaring Creek
(Jepko/Campground Road
to mouth)
West Branch Briar Creek
(unnamed tributary 300
yards upstream Ridge
Road to mouth)
West Creek (third bridge SR
0239 upstream Benton to
mouth)

LACKAWANNA:

Aylesworth Creek Lake
Desandis Pond
Eston Wilson Lake
Gardner Creek (Milwaukee
Road to mouth)
Lackawanna River (old
Stillwater Dam to Panther
Creek)
Lehigh River (upstream
border State Game
Lands #127 to 1.10 miles
downstream confluence
Choke Creek)
Merli-Sarnoski Park Lake
Roaring Brook (Elmhurst
Reservoir to 550 meters
downstream Rock Bottom
Creek and Reservoir #7
Dam to Myrtle Street)
South Branch Tunkhannock
Creek (Boyarski Road
bridge to mouth)
West Branch Wallenpaupack
Creek (Mountain Cobb
Road bridge to Forks Road
bridge)

LUZERNE:

Big Wapwallopen Creek
(Nuangola Road to County
Road)
Harvey's Creek (Meeker-
Outlet Road to Rice Dam
and Pavlick Road, T-497,
to mouth)
Kitchen Creek (Shedy Hill
Road to mouth)
Lake Frances
Lehigh River (upstream
border State Game
Lands #127 to 1.10 miles
downstream confluence
Choke Creek)
Nescopeck Creek (old bridge
south of Lake Frances to
I-80 and private bridge
at Honey Hole to County
Road downstream I-81)
Pine Creek (Volanski Road
to mouth)

MONROE:

Brodhead Creek (0.57 mile
upstream North 5th Street
to I-80 bridge East of Exit
309)
Buckwha Creek (Princess
Run to Aquashicola
Creek)

Bush Kill (lower Resica
Falls Boy Scouts of
America boundary to
mouth)
Lehigh River (upstream
border State Game
Lands #127 to 1.10 miles
downstream confluence
Choke Creek)
McMichael Creek (300
meters upstream
Strawberry Hill Road
bridge to 1.60 kilometers
downstream Beaver
Valley Road bridge and
Glennbrook Road bridge
to mouth)
Pocono Creek (Flagler Run
to McMichaels Creek)
Princess Run (Princess Run
Road bridge to mouth)
Snow Hill Dam
Tobyhanna Creek (Mill
Pond #1 to Still Swamp
Run)

Tobyhanna Lake

PIKE:

Bush Kill (Pickerel Lake
to lower Delaware
State Forest boundary
and upper Resica Falls
Boy Scouts of America
boundary to mouth)
Decker Brook (second
downstream SR 006
bridge to State Game
Lands #183 downstream
boundary)
Fairview Lake
Lackawaxen River (0.60
mile upstream Middle
Creek to mouth)
Lake Loch Lomond
Lake Minisink
Little Bush Kill (Lake
Lehman club boundary to
Bushkill Rod & Gun Club
boundary and Bushkill
Falls boundary to mouth)
Lower Lake (Lower
Promised Land Lake
including outlet from
Upper Lake)
Masthope Creek (State
Game Lands #316
upstream boundary to
State Game Lands #316
downstream boundary)

Middle Branch Bush Kill
(State Forest boundary to
mouth)
Saw Creek (Bushkill
Falls Road bridge to
State Forest boundary
downstream Whitaker
Road bridge)
Shohola Creek (SR 0739 to
downstream boundary
State Game Lands #180)

SULLIVAN:

Elk Creek (SR 0154 bridge
Lincoln Falls to mouth)
Hoagland Branch (Porter
Creek to mouth)
Kings Creek (intersection
Tall Maple Road and SR
4008 to mouth)
Little Loyalsock Creek (SR
0087 bridge South of
Dushore to Big Bottom
Run)
Loyalsock Creek (0.25 mile
upstream Rock Run Road
to SR 973)
Mill Creek (Hills Grove) (Big
Hollow Road bridge to
mouth)
Muncy Creek (Peters Creek
to Little Muncy Creek)
North Branch Mehoopany
Creek (Saxer Road to
mouth)
Schrader Creek (upstream
State Game Lands #12
boundary to Minersville
Road)
West Branch Fishing
Creek (Hemlock Run
to Sullivan/Columbia
County Line)
SUSQUEHANNA:
Canawacta Creek
(confluence East Branch
and South Branch
Canawacta Creek to
mouth)
East Branch Tunkhannock
Creek (SR 2027 bridge
upstream Little Creek
to SR 374 bridge nearest
mouth)
East Branch Wyalusing
Creek (Forest Lake to
Fairdale Road, SR 3029,
to mouth)

Fall Brook (pipeline crossing to mouth)
 Gaylord Creek (Bradford/ Susquehanna County Line to mouth)
 Horton Creek (Village Pine Grove to mouth)
 Lackawanna River (old Stillwater Dam to Panther Creek)
 Martins Creek (South Bailey Road, T-377, to mouth)
 Meshoppen Creek (Jennings Road bridge to Route 29)
 North Branch Wyalusing Creek (first major tributary upstream Gaylord to mouth)
 Riley Creek (Singer Road to mouth)
 Salt Lick Creek (Johnston Street New Milford to Hallstead town park)
 Silver Creek (Cranberry Run to mouth)
 Snake Creek (Booth Road to Stateline)
 South Branch Canawacta Creek (SR 1007 to mouth)
 Starrucca Creek (Stevens Point to mouth)
 Tunkhannock Creek (Gelatt to Nine Partners Creek)
 West Branch Meshoppen Creek (SR 3004 at Risley Road to mouth)
WAYNE:
 Dyberry Creek (Headwaters to mouth)
 East Branch Dyberry Creek (Lower Woods Pond outlet to mouth)
 Equinunk Creek (Kinneyville Creek to mouth)
 Jones Creek (Mountain Cobb Road bridge to mouth)
 Lackawanna River (old Stillwater Dam to Panther Creek)
 Lackawaxen River (confluence Dyberry Creek and West Branch Lackawaxen River to 1.00 mile downstream Honesdale Sewer Treatment Plant and 0.60 mile upstream Middle Creek to mouth)

Long Pond
 Rose Pond Branch (State Game Lands #159 access road crossing to mouth)
 Shehawken Creek (Holbert Pond to unnamed tributary downstream Hempstead Lake)
 Van Auken Creek (Keen Pond to mouth)
 West Branch Dyberry Creek (Howell Pond to mouth)
 West Branch Lackawaxen River (Prompton Reservoir to mouth)
 West Branch Wallenpaupack Creek (Mountain Cobb Road bridge to Forks Road bridge)
WYOMING:
 Bowman Creek (Wyoming County Line to Church Road)
 Horton Creek (Village Pine Grove to mouth)
 Leonard Creek (Wyoming/ Luzerne County Line to mouth)
 Martins Creek (South Bailey Road, T-377, to mouth)
 Mehoopany Creek (North Fork Mehoopany Creek to Rogers Hollow)
 Meshoppen Creek (West Nicholson Road to Route 29 and Lemon Creek Road to Potts Falls)
 North Branch Mehoopany Creek (Saxer Road to mouth)
 Oxbow Lake
 Riley Creek (Singer Road to mouth)
 South Branch Tunkhannock Creek (Boyarski Road bridge to mouth)
 Tuscarora Creek (Bradford/ Susquehanna County Line to mouth)
 West Branch Meshoppen Creek (SR 3004 at Risley Road to mouth)
Stocked Trout Waters Open to Year-Round Fishing
BRADFORD:
 Cooks Pond
 Mountain Lake
 Sugar Run (T-420 to mouth)

CARBON:
 Lehigh River (0.33 mile upriver from railroad bridge at Glenn Onoko downriver to Mauch Chunk Creek)
CARBON/LUZERNE:
 Francis E. Walter Reservoir (Bear Creek Reservoir)
 Lehigh River (Carbon/ Luzerne County Line from outlet of F. E. Walter Reservoir downstream to confluence with Sandy Run)
COLUMBIA:
 Briar Creek Lake
LACKAWANNA:
 Lackawanna Lake
LUZERNE:
 Frances Slocum Lake
 Harveys Lake (see Miscellaneous Special Regulations on [page 17](#))
 Lake Irena
 Lake Took A While (Riverlands)
 Lily Lake
 Moon Lake
 Sylvan Lake
MONROE:
 Hidden Lake
PIKE:
 Lily Pond
 Little Mud Pond
SULLIVAN:
 Hunters Lake
SUSQUEHANNA:
 Quaker Lake
WAYNE:
 Duck Harbor Pond
 Upper Woods Pond
WYOMING:
 Lake Winola
 Mehoopany Creek (Henry Lott Brook to confluence of North Fork Mehoopany Creek)
Catch and Release Artificial Lures Only
CARBON:
 Hickory Run (3.12 miles; from the outlet of Saylorville Dam downstream to the mouth)
LACKAWANNA:
 Roaring Brook (3.70 miles; from Hollisterville Dam downstream to Elmhurst Reservoir)

PIKE:
 Toms Creek (2.10 miles; from the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area boundary downstream to the mouth)
Catch and Release Fly-Fishing Only
MONROE:
 Bush Kill (6.16 miles; on the Resica Falls Scout Reservation property except 200 yards on each side of the falls)
WAYNE:
 Dyberry Creek (0.87 mile; from 300 meters, 0.19 mile, downstream from the third bridge on Dug Rd., SR 4009, upstream of the mouth, downstream to the second bridge on Dug Rd., SR 4009, upstream from the mouth)
WYOMING:
 Bowman Creek (0.83 mile; from SR 0292 downstream to Marsh Creek)
Trophy Trout Artificial Lures Only
LACKAWANNA:
 Lackawanna River (4.24 miles; from the Gilmartin Street bridge in Archbald downstream to the Lackawanna Avenue bridge, SR 0347, in Olyphant. Excepted is a mid-section area extending 0.70 mile from the Depot Street bridge in Jessup downstream to the foot bridge in Robert Mellow Park)
Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only
BRADFORD:
 Towanda Creek (1.60 miles; from SR 3001 downstream to Con's Road, T-350)
CARBON:
 Mud Run (2.52 miles; in Hickory Run State Park)
LACKAWANNA/ WYOMING:
 South Branch Tunkhannock Creek (0.98 mile; from SR 6 downstream through Keystone College campus)

LUZERNE:
 Harveys Creek (1.70 miles; from Jackson Road, T-812, downstream to Pavlick Road, T-497)
 Nescopeck Creek (2.24 miles; from the upstream boundary of State Game Lands #187 downstream to a cable across the stream)
MONROE:
 McMichael Creek (2.29 miles; 0.13 kilometer downstream from the Turkey Hill Road, T-416, bridge downstream to Glenbrook Rd., SR 2004, bridge)
 Tobyhanna Creek (1.00 mile; from the confluence of Still Swamp Run, downstream to the PPL service bridge)
SUSQUEHANNA:
 Salt Lick Creek (1.42 miles; from 90 yards downstream from Beaver Creek downstream to boundary of State Game Lands #35)
WAYNE:
 West Branch Wallenpaupack Creek (1.74 miles; from 0.60 mile downstream from the Jones Creek confluence downstream to the Callapoose Rd., SR 3009, bridge)

An explanation of each trout regulation is on pages 23 and 24.

For the most current advisories, visit dep.pa.gov/Business/Water/CleanWater/WaterQuality/FishConsumptionAdvisory/Pages/default.aspx.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Public Health Advisory Fish Consumption

HEALTH BENEFITS OF EATING FISH

Fish are nutritious and good to eat. Fish are low in fat, high in protein and provide substantial human health benefits. Fish provide valuable vitamins and minerals and beneficial oils that are low in saturated fat. Omega-3 fatty acids found in fish are also beneficial, particularly in terms of cardiovascular health. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends that consumers eat a balanced diet, choosing a variety of foods including fruits and vegetables, foods that are low in trans fats and saturated fats, as well as foods rich in high fiber grains and nutrients. A diet that includes a variety of fish and shellfish can be an important part of a balanced healthy diet. The United States FDA, EPA, the American Heart Association and other nutrition experts recommend eating two meals (12 oz.) of fish per week. By following these advisories, you should feel comfortable making one of those meals (up to 8 oz.) a recreationally caught Pennsylvania sport fish.

CONTAMINANTS IN FISH

While most recreationally caught sport fish in Pennsylvania are safe to eat, chemicals, such as heavy metals, PCBs, PFAS and pesticides, have been found in some fish from certain waters. While the levels of unavoidable chemical contaminants are usually low, there can be potential health concerns to pregnant and breast-feeding women, women of childbearing age, children and individuals whose diet consists of a high percentage of fish.

The same contaminants found in fish tissue tend to be persistent and can build up in your body over time. It may take months or years of regularly eating contaminated fish to build up amounts that are a health concern. Health problems that may result from the contaminants found in fish range from small changes in health that are hard to detect to birth defects and cancer. Mothers who eat highly contaminated fish for many years before becoming pregnant may have children who are slower to develop and learn. The meal advice in this advisory is intended to protect children from these potential developmental problems. Adults are less likely to have health problems at the low levels that affect children. If you follow this advisory over your lifetime, you will minimize your exposure and reduce health risks associated with contaminants in fish.

INTRODUCTION TO FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

We are not recommending that you stop eating sport caught fish, except where "Do Not Eat" is shown. When properly prepared, eating fish regularly offers important health benefits as a good choice to replace high fat foods. You will gain benefits if you follow the sport fish consumption advisory carefully to: consume safer species of fish, trim and cook your catch correctly and follow the recommended meal frequencies. Using this advice, you will reduce your exposure to possible contaminants.

Consumption advisories provide guidance to individuals or segments of the population who are at greater risk from exposure to contaminants in fish. Advisories are not regulatory standards but recommendations intended to provide additional information to high-risk groups. These advisories apply only to recreationally caught sport fish in Pennsylvania, not commercial fish. The FDA establishes the legal standards for contaminants in food sold commercially including fish.

STATEWIDE ADVISORY

Pennsylvania has issued a general, statewide health advisory for recreationally caught sport fish: eat no more than one meal (½ pound) per week of sport fish caught in the state's waterways. This general advice was issued to protect against eating large amounts of fish that have not been tested or that may contain unidentified contaminants.

HOW TO USE THIS ADVISORY

Follow the general, statewide one meal per week advisory to limit your exposure to contaminants. To determine if more protective advice applies to the fish you have caught, find the locations and species of fish you've caught in the tables that follow. Find the meal advice for the waterbody and fish species you've caught. "Do Not Eat" means no one should eat those fish because of high contamination. The other groups are advice for how often to eat a fish meal.

One meal is assumed to be ½ pound of fish (8 oz. before cooking) for a 150-pound person. The meal advice is equally protective for larger people who eat larger meals and smaller people who eat smaller meals.

People who regularly eat sport fish, women of childbearing age and children are particularly susceptible to contaminants that build up over time. If you fall into one of these categories, you should be careful to space fish meals out according to the advisory tables that follow. Your body can get rid of some contaminants over time. Spacing the meals out helps prevent the contaminants from building up to harmful levels in the body. For example, if the fish you eat is in the one meal a month group, wait a month before eating another meal of fish from any restricted category.

Women beyond their childbearing years and men generally face fewer health risks from these contaminants. However, it is recommended that you also follow the advisory to reduce your total exposure to contaminants. For these groups, it is the total number of meals that you eat during the year that becomes important and many of those meals can be eaten during a few months of the year. If most of the fish you eat are from the one meal a month category, you should not exceed 12 meals per year.

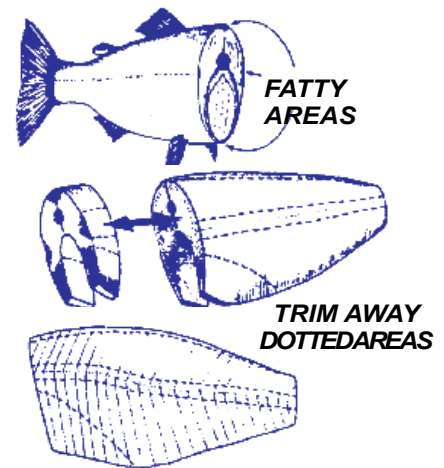
Sometimes, anglers catch fish with external growths, sores or other lesions. Such abnormalities generally result from viral or bacterial infections and may occasionally be caused by exposure to certain chemical contaminants. The appearance of viral or bacterial infections in fish may be unsightly, but there is no evidence to suggest that these infections pose a threat to consumers of these fish. Whether or not to eat such fish is a matter of personal choice.

CLEANING AND COOKING YOUR FISH

PCBs and most other organic contaminants usually build up in a fish's fat deposits and just underneath the skin. By removing the skin and fat before cooking, you can reduce the levels of these chemicals. Mercury, however, collects in the fish's muscle and cannot be reduced by cleaning and cooking methods. To reduce PCBs and other organics:

- Remove all skin.
- Slice off fat belly meat along the bottom of the fish.
- Cut away any fat above the fish's backbone.
- Cut away the V-shaped wedge of fat along the lateral line on each side of the fish.
- Bake or broil trimmed fish on a rack or grill, so some of the remaining fat drips away.
- Discard any drippings. Do not eat them or use them for cooking other foods or in preparing other sauces.

Most Recent Advisories:



Fish stocked from PFBC state fish hatcheries are subject to the blanket one-meal-per-week consumption advisory that applies to recreationally caught sport fish in Pennsylvania.

Snapping Turtle Consumption Advice: Snapping Turtle meat has been found to contain only small amounts of PCBs and is safe to eat without restrictions. Snapping Turtles do retain PCBs in their fat and internal organs. If you choose to eat Snapping Turtles, you can reduce your exposure by carefully trimming away all fat and internal organs and discarding them before cooking the meat or making soup.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The advisory listing was current at the time this summary went to press. Fish consumption advisories may have been issued or lifted since that time. Notice of such actions has been released to the public through press releases or can be found online.

For further information or the most current advice, contact:

Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection:
717-787-9637, dep.pa.gov.

(Questions concerning current advisory listings, waters sampled and sampling methods)

Pennsylvania Department of Health: 717-787-3550,
health.pa.gov.

(Questions about effects of chemicals on human health)

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission: 814-359-5147,
fishandboat.com.

(Questions about effects of chemicals on fisheries and current advisory listings)

2026 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORIES

DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

* The harvest of live mussels and clams in Pennsylvania is prohibited.

| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
|--|--|---|----------------|---|
| Belmont Lake (Wayne Co.) | Entire lake | Rock Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Beltzville Lake (Beltzville State Park) (Carbon Co.) | Entire lake | Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Brady's Lake (Monroe Co.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel | 6 meals/year | Mercury |
| | | Yellow Perch | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Broadhead Creek (Monroe Co.) | Entire basin | Rock Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Bushkill Creek (Monroe and Pike Cos.) | Entire basin | American Eel, All suckers | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Chester Creek (Delaware and Chester Cos.) | Confluence of West Branch Chester Ck. to mouth | Channel Catfish, American Eel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Darby Creek (Delaware and Philadelphia Cos.) | Entire basin upstream of Rt. 13 | Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Darby Creek (Delaware and Philadelphia Cos.) | Entire basin downstream of Rt. 13 including Cobbs Creek. Based on advisories from EPA. | All species | Do Not Eat | PCB, Pesticides, Metals |
| Delaware River | Source to Trenton, NJ-Morrisville, PA bridge | Rock Bass, Walleye over 17" | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Smallmouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Delaware Estuary including the tidal portion of all PA tributaries and the Schuylkill River to the Fairmount Dam (Bucks, Philadelphia and Delaware Cos.) | Trenton, NJ-Morrisville, PA Bridge to PA/DE border | White Perch, Flathead Catfish, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Striped Bass: over 28" | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Carp | 6 meals/year | PCB |
| | | American Eel | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| Hickory Lake (Wayne Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Maskenozha (Pike Co.) | Entire lake | Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Towhee (Bucks Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Wallenpaupack (Pike and Wayne Cos.) | Entire lake | Walleye | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Lehigh River (Northampton Co.) | Confluence of Saucon Creek to mouth | Carp, American Eel | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Little Bushkill Creek (Pike Co.) | Lake Maskenozha to mouth | American Eel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Long Pond (Wayne Co.) | Entire lake | Walleye | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Marsh Creek Lake (Chester Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Miller Pond (Wayne Co.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| | | Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Neshaminy Creek (Montgomery and Bucks Cos.) | Entire basin | All species | Do Not Eat | PFOS |
| Pennypack Creek (Montgomery and Philadelphia Cos.) | Entire basin | American Eel | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Promised Land Lake (Promised Land State Park) (Pike Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Prompton Reservoir | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| (West Branch Lackawaxen River) (Wayne Co.) | | Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Red Clay Creek (Chester Co.) | Entire basin | All species | 3 meals/year | PCB, DDT, Dioxins, Chlorinated-Pesticides |
| Schuylkill River (Schuylkill Co.) | Confluence of Mill Creek at Port Carbon to Auburn Dam | Trout | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Schuylkill River (Schuylkill and Berks Cos.) | Confluence of Mahannon Creek at Landingville to Kernsville Dam | Brown Bullhead, All suckers | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Schuylkill River (Berks Co.) | Kernsville Dam to Maiden Creek | All suckers | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Schuylkill River (Berks, Chester and Montgomery Cos.) | Confluence of Maiden Creek to Black Rock Dam above Phoenixville | All suckers | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Carp, Channel Catfish | 6 meals/year | PCB |
| Schuylkill River (Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia Cos.) | Black Rock Dam to Fairmount Dam in Philadelphia | Carp, American Eel | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| | | All suckers, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Corbicula (clam*) | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Schuylkill River (Berks, Chester, Montgomery and Philadelphia Cos.) | Confluence of Maiden Creek to Fairmount Dam | American Eel | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| | | All suckers | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Shohola Lake (Pike Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Stairway Pond (Pike Co.) | Entire pond | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tobyhanna Creek (Carbon and Monroe Cos.) | Pocono Lake Dam to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| West Branch Brandywine Creek (Chester Co.) | From business Rt. 30 (Lincoln Highway) in Coatesville to confluence of Buck Run | American Eel | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| West Branch Schuylkill River (Schuylkill Co.) | Entire basin | Brook Trout | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| White Clay Creek (Chester Co.) | Entire basin | American Eel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| White Oak Pond Lake (Wayne Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
|--|--|--|----------------|-------------|
| Beechwood Lake (Tioga Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meals/month | Mercury |
| Black Moshannon State Park Lake (Centre Co.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Bearwallow Pond (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| ● Canoe Creek Lake (Blair Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Chemung River (Bradford Co.) | NY/PA border to mouth | Channel Catfish | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Smallmouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| ● Colyer Lake (Centre Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Conestoga River (Lancaster Co.) | Slackwater to mouth | Rock Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Cowanesque River and Reservoir (Tioga Co.) | Cowanesque River mouth to PA/NY border | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Elk Lake (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek- George B. Stevenson Dam (Sinnemahoning State Park) (Cameron and Potter Cos.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek (Cameron Co.) | George B. Stevenson Dam to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Francis Slocum Lake (Luzerne Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Hamilton Lake (Tioga Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Hammond Lake (Tioga Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meals/month | Mercury |
| Hunters Lake (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | All species | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Kettle Creek Lake (Kettle Creek State Park) (Clinton Co.) | Entire lake | Black Crappie, Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Kettle Creek (Clinton Co.) | Alvin R. Bush Dam to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lackawanna Lake (Lackawanna State Park) (Lackawanna Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Jean (unnamed tributary Kitchen Creek) (Ricketts Glen State Park) (Sullivan and Luzerne Cos.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel, Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| | | Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Makoma (Mill Creek) (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| ● Lake Perez (Huntingdon Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Winola (Wyoming Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Laurel Lake (Cumberland Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lily Lake (Luzerne Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |

| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
|--|---|---|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Little Pine Creek (Lycoming Co.) | Entire basin | Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Logan Branch (Centre Co.) | Axemann to mouth | Brown Trout | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Lopez Pond (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lyman Run Reservoir (Potter Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Maple Lake (Lackawanna Co.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| McWilliams Reservoir (Northumberland and Columbia Cos.) | Entire reservoir | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Mountain Mud Pond (Merli-Sarnoski Park)(Lackawanna Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Pine Creek (Tioga Co.) | Confluence of Painter Run to confluence of Fourmile Run near Colton Point State Park | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Poe Lake (Centre Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Shumans Lake (Loyalsock Creek) (Sullivan Co.) | Entire lake | Chain Pickerel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Silver Lake (Susquehanna Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Steven Foster Lake (Bradford Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Sugar Creek (Bradford Co.) | Confluence of Bailey Run to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Sunfish Pond (Bradford Co.) | Entire pond | Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Susquehanna River (Susquehanna Co.) | Entire section in PA from the NY border above Starrucca Creek to the NY border below Great Bend | Smallmouth Bass, Fallfish | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Susquehanna River (Bradford and Wyoming Cos.) | NY border above Sayre to PA Route 92 bridge at Falls | Walleye | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| | | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Channel Catfish, Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Susquehanna River (Wyoming, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Columbia, Northumberland and Montour Cos.) | PA Route 92 bridge at Falls to confluence with West Branch | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Channel Catfish, Quillback, Carp, Walleye | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Susquehanna River (Snyder, Northumberland, Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, Cumberland, York and Lancaster Cos.) | West Branch to PA/MD border | Channel Catfish over 20", Flathead Catfish over 30" | 1 meal/month | PCB Mercury, PCB |
| Tioga Reservoir (Tioga Co.) | Entire reservoir | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Towanda Creek (Bradford Co.) | Confluence of Schrader Creek to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Trindle Spring Run (locally Silver Spring Run) (Cumberland Co.) | Silver Spring Meeting House to mouth (approx. 1 mile) | All trout | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Tunkhannock Creek (Wyoming Co.) | Confluence of South Branch to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tuscarora Creek (Juniata Co.) | SR 3008 bridge above Port Royal to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| West Branch Susquehanna River (Clinton, Lycoming, Union and Northumberland Cos.) | Bald Eagle Creek to confluence with Susquehanna River | Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| White Deer Creek (Clinton, Centre and Union Cos.) | Entire basin | Brown Trout | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Wyalusing Creek (Bradford Co.) | SR 0706 bridge at Camptown to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Yellow Breeches Creek (Cumberland Co.) | SR 3017 bridge at Huntsdale to confluence of Spruce Run | Brown Trout | 1 meal/month | PCB |

OHIO RIVER BASIN

| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Allegheny River (McKean Co.) | Confluence of Potato Creek to PA/NY border | Smallmouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Allegheny Res. (Warren and McKean Cos.) | Entire lake | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Allegheny River (Warren, Forest, Venango, Clarion and Armstrong Cos.) | Kinzua Dam to Lock & Dam 7 | Smallmouth Bass, Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Allegheny River (Armstrong Co.) | Pool 6 - Lock & Dam 7 to Lock & Dam 6 | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Allegheny River (Armstrong Co.) | Pool 5 - Lock & Dam 6 to Lock & Dam 5 | Carp, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Allegheny River (Armstrong and Allegheny Cos.) | Pool 4 - Lock & Dam 5 to Lock & Dam 4 | Carp, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Allegheny River (Allegheny Co.) | Pool 3 - Lock & Dam 4 to Lock & Dam 3 | Carp, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Allegheny River (Allegheny Co.) | Pool 2 - Lock & Dam 3 to Lock & Dam 2 | Carp, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Allegheny River (Allegheny Co.) | Lock & Dam 2 to Montgomery Lock & Dam on the Ohio River | See Ohio River (Allegheny and Beaver Cos.) | | |
| Beaver River (Lawrence and Beaver Cos.) | Confluence of Mahoning and Shenango rivers to mouth | Carp | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| | | Smallmouth Bass, Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Beaver Run Reservoir (Westmoreland Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Brokenstraw Creek (Warren Co.) | Confluence of Hare Creek to mouth | All suckers, Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Chapman Dam Reservoir (Warren Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Chartiers Creek and Little Chartiers Creek (Allegheny and Washington Cos.) | Chartiers Creek - Canonsburg to mouth Little Chartiers Creek - Canonsburg Lake Dam to mouth | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Carp | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| | | Smallmouth Bass | 6 meals/year | PCB |
| Clarion River (Clarion Co.) | Confluence of Canoe Creek above Callensburg to confl. of Turkey Run | Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Clarion River (Clarion, Clearfield and Elk Cos.) | Entire basin upstream of Piney Dam | Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Conemaugh R. (Indiana and Westmoreland Cos.) | Conemaugh Lake Dam to mouth | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Conewango Creek (Warren Co.) | NY/PA border to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Conneaut Lake (Crawford Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | Northern Pike | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Crystal Lake (Crawford Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Dunkard Creek (Greene Co.) | Confluence of Toms Run to confluence of Roberts Run | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Dunkard Creek (Greene Co.) | SR 2021 bridge to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| East Branch Lake (E. Br. Clarion R.) (Elk Co.) | Entire lake | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Eaton Reservoir (Erie Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Edinboro Lake (Erie Co.) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| French Creek (Erie, Crawford, Mercer and Venango Cos.) | Entire mainstem | Smallmouth Bass, Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| | | | | |
| Geneva Swamp (Crawford Co.) | Entire marsh | Bowfin | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Justus Lake (Venango Co.) | Entire lake | Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |

| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
|--|--|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lake Canadohta (<i>Crawford Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake LeBoeuf (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Muskellunge | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| | | Largemouth Bass, Carp | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Lake Pleasant (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Mahoning River (<i>Lawrence Co.</i>) | Entire portion in PA | Smallmouth Bass | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Carp | 6 meals/year | PCB |
| | | Channel Catfish | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| Monongahela River (<i>Fayette and Greene Cos.</i>) | Point Marion Lock & Dam to Maxwell Locks & Dam | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Monongahela River (<i>Fayette and Washington Cos.</i>) | Pool 4 - Maxwell Locks & Dam to Locks & Dam 4 | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Monongahela River (<i>Allegheny, Washington and Westmoreland Cos.</i>) | Pool 3 - Locks & Dam 4 to Locks & Dam 3 | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Monongahela River (<i>Allegheny Co.</i>) | Pool 2 (Braddock Pool)- Locks & Dam 3 to Locks & Dam 2 | Carp | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Monongahela River (<i>Allegheny Co.</i>) | From Locks & Dam 2 to the Montgomery Locks & Dam on the Ohio River | See Ohio River (<i>Allegheny and Beaver Cos.</i>) | | |
| Ohio River (<i>Allegheny and Beaver Cos.</i>) | From Lock & Dam 2 on the Monongahela River and Lock & Dam 2 on the Allegheny River to the Montgomery Lock & Dam Based on advisories issued by Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission | All suckers, Black Crappie, Carp, Channel Catfish, Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Hybrid Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass, Sauger, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Walleye, White Bass, White Crappie | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Ohio River (<i>Beaver Co.</i>) | From Montgomery Locks & Dam to the state border. Based on advisories issued by Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission | All suckers, Black Crappie, Carp, Channel Catfish < 18", Flathead Catfish, Freshwater Drum, Sauger, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass, Walleye, White Bass, White Crappie | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Oil Creek (<i>Venango Co.</i>) | SR 1004 bridge at Petroleum Center to mouth | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Shenango River (<i>Mercer and Lawrence Cos.</i>) | Shenango Reservoir Dam to mouth | All species | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| Sugar Lake (<i>Crawford Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass, Chain Pickerel | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tamarack Lake (<i>Crawford Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Muskellunge | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| | | Walleye | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tenmile Creek (<i>Washington and Greene Cos.</i>) | Entire basin | Freshwater Drum | 1 meal/month | Mercury |
| Tionesta Creek (<i>Warren and Forest Cos.</i>) | SR 0666 bridge at Henrys Mills to Tionesta Res. Dam | Smallmouth Bass, All suckers | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tionesta Reservoir (<i>Forest Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Traverse Creek (<i>Beaver Co.</i>) | Source to dam in Raccoon State Park | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Tunungwant Creek (<i>McKean Co.</i>) | Confluence of East and West branches to PA/NY border | Carp, All suckers | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Union City Reservoir (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | Entire lake | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| West Branch Caldwell Creek (<i>Warren Co.</i>) | Entire basin | Brown Trout | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Youghiogheny Lake (<i>Fayette/Somerset Cos.</i>) | Entire lake | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| Youghiogheny River (<i>Fayette and Somerset Cos.</i>) | Youghiogheny Lake Dam to confluence of Lick Run | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| LAKE ERIE BASIN | | | | |
| * Salmon and trout are migratory. They may be found seasonally in Presque Isle Bay or Lake Erie tributary streams. Trout, salmon and other fish, whether caught in the lake or tributaries, should be treated as Lake Erie fish. | | | | |
| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
| Lake Erie (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | Open waters | Walleye, Coho Salmon*, Steelhead* (Rainbow Trout), Brown Trout*, Smallmouth Bass, White Perch, White Bass, Lake Whitefish, Carp < 20", Freshwater Drum, Lake Trout < 30" and Channel Catfish | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| | | Carp > 20", Lake Trout > 30" | Do Not Eat | PCB |
| Lake Erie (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | Presque Isle Bay | Smallmouth Bass, White Perch, Freshwater Drum, Bowfin, Carp, Coho Salmon*, Steelhead* (Rainbow Trout) and Brown Trout* | 1 meal/month | PCB |
| Conneaut Creek (<i>Erie Co.</i>) | SR 0215 bridge to PA/OH border | Smallmouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |
| POTOMAC RIVER BASIN | | | | |
| Water Body | Area Under Advisory | Species | Meal Frequency | Contaminant |
| ● Long Pine Run Reservoir (<i>Adams Co.</i>) | Entire reservoir | Largemouth Bass | 2 meals/month | Mercury |

Recognizing and Reporting POLLUTION or DISTURBANCE of Waterways

POLLUTION or DISTURBANCE of any waterway or watershed is a serious violation of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Code that must be recognized and reported to a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission region law enforcement office. The law provides for criminal penalties for pollution or disturbances.

POLLUTION is an introduction into any waterway of anything that "might" harm or kill fish. Examples of "pollutants" are electricity, explosives, sediment runoff, sewage, insecticides, poisons, high volumes of extremely hot water, liquid concrete or cement, paint, chemicals, petroleum products like gasoline or oil, brine runoff from gas or water

well drilling and manufacturing waste. Common pollution indicators are: dead fish including crayfish, frogs and any other types of aquatic life; strange odors like manure, sewage or chemicals; muddy, cloudy or discolored water; shiny, oily sheen on water's surface; foamy material floating on the surface; and extremely muddy water.

DISTURBANCE of waterways or watersheds includes any alteration of a waterway, its banks, bed or fish habitat that "might" cause damage to or kill fish. Common disturbance indicators are removal of gravel from stream beds; earth-moving in or along a waterway; dragging logs across stream banks and through stream beds; installing

pipes or culverts; building or installing bridges; making roadways through or along a stream; draining a waterway, wetland or watershed; or changing the channel flow of a waterway. Various types of permits are required for any such work.

If you see anything suspected to be a pollution or disturbance of any waterway, regardless of how seemingly insignificant, report it immediately by calling the local Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission region law enforcement office listed on [page 3](#) of this publication or the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection at 1-800-541-2050 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week).

CALLING ALL PENNSYLVANIA ANGLERS!

We need your help. Pennsylvania is home to two giant salamanders, the Eastern Hellbender and the Mudpuppy. Both species are regularly found by anglers, often caught accidentally on fishing hooks or in minnow traps.

Anglers have a great opportunity to help herpetologists figure out the distribution and status of these species by simply taking a picture of any specimens encountered and e-mailing the picture, date, time and location of the observation to info@machac.org.

The Eastern Hellbender was historically found in the Susquehanna and Ohio drainages, covering two-thirds of Pennsylvania. Hellbenders do not have external gills as adults and look wrinkled due to skin folds used for respiration. Adults grow to 29 inches in length.



Eastern Hellbender

The Mudpuppy is found in the Ohio River and Lake Erie drainages, in the western third of Pennsylvania. Mudpuppies have large, feathery gills on either side of the head. Adults grow to 19 inches in length.



Mudpuppy



Fishing Education Programs

provide an opportunity for individuals and families to learn more about fishing and practice their skills. We offer fishing programs for various levels of experience.

Discover more about fishing, fly fishing, ice fishing and kayak fishing for a variety of fish species. Check out our upcoming events at FishandBoat.com.

Register:



2027 FISHING DATES* Commonwealth Inland Waters

Statewide Opening Day of Trout: April 3, 2027

Opening Day of Walleye/Sauger: May 1, 2027

Opening Day of Bass: June 12, 2027

Extended Trout Season: September 7, 2027

**Dates subject to change by regulation until publication of the 2026 Pennsylvania Fishing Summary.*

2026 FISH-FOR-FREE DAYS!

May 24 and July 4

No fishing license is needed to fish on either of these days. It's a great way to introduce someone to the world of fishing. Check the Commission's website for more information. Remember that all other regulations apply.

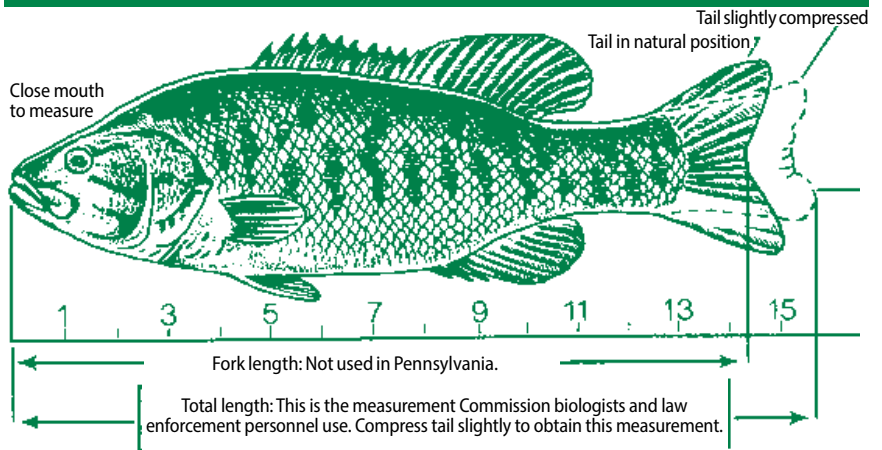
EXPLORE PA WATERS

ExplorePAWaters.com is for those who want to experience the thrill of catching a fish or the peace of paddling near native wildlife. Check out our maps and find fishing gear to borrow, boats to rent and access to water. Share the site with friends and family who are looking to get started and invite them on your next adventure.

Explore More:



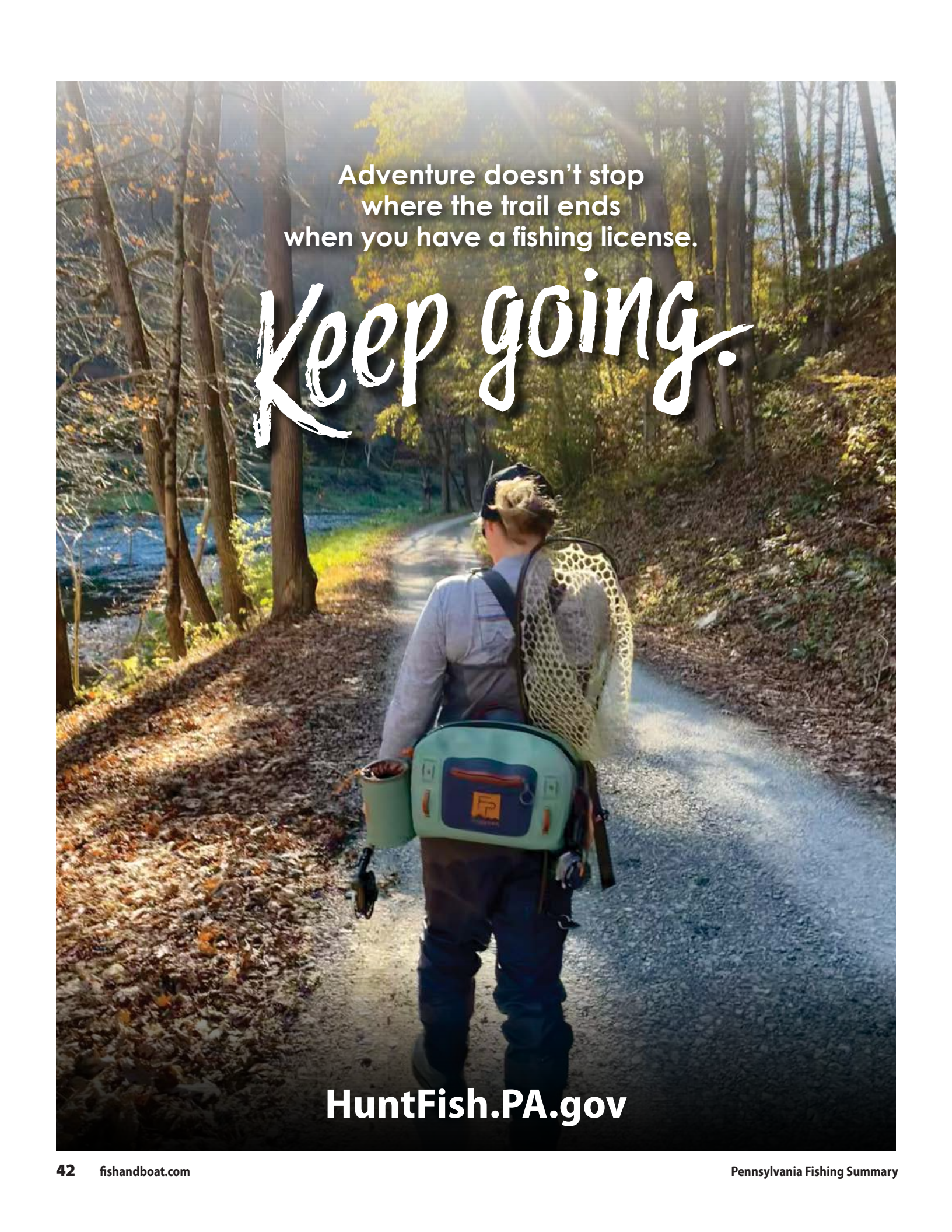
HOW TO MEASURE A FISH



This booklet is a summary of the laws and regulations applicable to fish and fishing in Pennsylvania in effect or proposed as of October 1, 2025. It is not, nor is it intended to portray, a verbatim reproduction of the text of the laws and regulations. Users are advised that regulations summarized in this book are subject to changes, which, as made, are printed in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Official text is found in 58 Pa. Code and online at: www.pacodeandbulletin.gov. For detailed and up-to-date information, contact the nearest office of the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

This publication is partially paid for through the sale of advertising. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission neither endorses products or services listed nor accepts any liability arising from the use of listed products or services.

Federal and state laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, religious creed, ancestry, national origin, age, sex or disability. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is an equal opportunity employer, and it complies with applicable federal and Pennsylvania nondiscrimination laws and regulations. The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission receives federal financial assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the United States Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Civil Rights Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240.

A person wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, dark pants, a baseball cap, and a fishing vest is walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The path is covered in fallen leaves and leads towards a river in the distance. The surrounding forest has trees with some autumn-colored leaves. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere.

Adventure doesn't stop
where the trail ends
when you have a fishing license.

Keep going.

HuntFish.PA.gov

2026 Pennsylvania Boating Handbook



WEAR IT
National Safe Boating Council
Pennsylvania

FishandBoat.com

HOW TO PADDLE A KAYAK



Meet
Rock & Log:

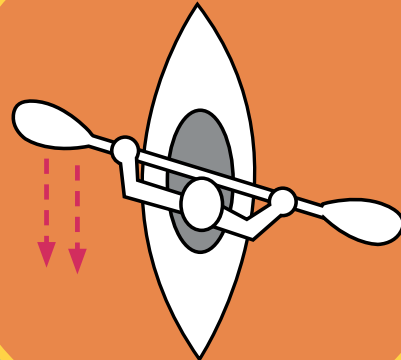


PADDLE HOLD



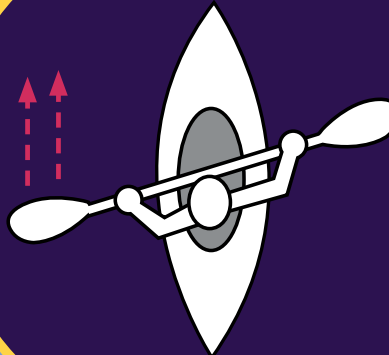
This is the proper way to hold
a kayak paddle.

FORWARD STROKE



Moves the
kayak forward.

REVERSE STROKE



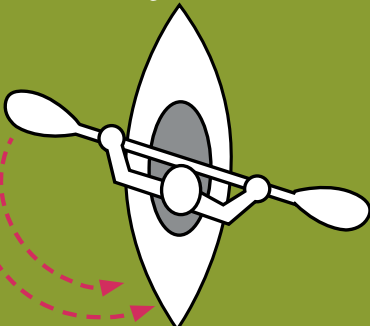
Moves the
kayak backwards.

How to
Paddle:



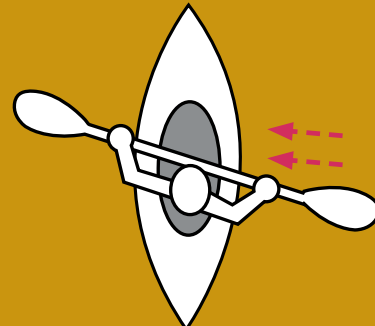
SWEEP STROKE

(Moving left shown)



Moves the kayak towards
the left or right depending
on the stroke side.

DRAW STROKE



Moves the kayak
sideways.

PFBC Law Enforcement Region Offices



Northwest Region

11528 State Highway 98, Meadville, PA 16335
814-337-0444 Fax 814-337-0579
Counties: Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, Warren.

Southwest Region

236 Lake Road, Somerset, PA 15501
814-445-8974 Fax 814-445-3497
Counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Cambria, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, Westmoreland.

Northcentral Region

595 East Rolling Ridge Drive, Bellefonte, PA 16823
814-359-5250 Fax 814-359-5254
Counties: Cameron, Centre, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Jefferson, Lycoming, McKean, Montour, Northumberland, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union.

Southcentral Region

1704 Pine Road, Newville, PA 17241
717-486-7087 Fax 717-486-8227
Counties: Adams, Bedford, Blair, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Juniata, Lebanon, Mifflin, Perry, York.

Northeast Region

5566 Main Road, Sweet Valley, PA 18656
570-477-5717 Fax 570-477-3221
Counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, Wyoming.

Southeast Region

P.O. Box 9, Elm, PA 17521
717-626-0228 Fax 717-626-0486
Counties: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Schuylkill.

For More Information:

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY:
cgaux.org/boatinged

UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS:
americasboatingcourse.com

AMERICAN SAILING ASSOCIATION:
americansailing.com

AMERICAN RED CROSS:
redcross.org

AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION:
americancanoe.org



Boaters who have a need to communicate with a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) Waterways Conservation Officer should contact the appropriate region office. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



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- Publications 717-705-7835
- Boat Registration/Titling 866-262-8734
- Law Enforcement 717-705-7861
- Boating Safety Education Courses 888-723-4741 (888-PaFish1)

PLEASE NOTE: This information was prepared to provide boaters with information they need to know when operating watercraft on Pennsylvania waterways. It reviews the Commission's boating regulations and includes information and tips to follow while boating. It does not present the actual laws and regulations. This handbook is the text for the Commission's Pennsylvania Basic Boating and Boating and Water Safety Awareness courses.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission receives federal financial assistance from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the United States Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, or if you need more information, please write to: Office of Civil Rights Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20240.

Persons with disabilities who wish to participate in a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission program and who anticipate the need for special accommodations should telephone 717-705-7833. This publication is available on our website at fishandboat.com and may also be obtained as a computer file (alternate accessible format) by contacting the phone number above. People using a TTY should dial Pennsylvania Relay telephone number 711 to contact us.

HuntFishPA:



YOUR BOATING
DOLLARS AT WORK

Produced under a grant from the
Sport Fish Restoration and
Boating Trust Fund administered
by the U.S. Coast Guard



On the cover



Kayaking on the
Conestoga River,
Lancaster County.
Photo-PFBC archives.

10/2025

Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

The PFBC is responsible for promoting fishing and boating, and regulating and enforcing fishing and boating laws and regulations in Pennsylvania. Established in 1866, the PFBC is primarily funded by Pennsylvania's boaters and anglers through boat registration fees and fishing license revenues.

Boating Opportunities

Pennsylvania provides a diversity of recreational boating opportunities. The Commonwealth has over 36,000 miles of rivers and streams ranging from small headwaters to large rivers. It has more than 205,000 surface acres of natural lakes and constructed impoundments. Lake Erie has 63 miles of shoreline and 735 square miles of waters within Pennsylvania's boundaries. The Delaware River provides 56 miles of tidal waters within Pennsylvania and access to the Atlantic Ocean.

Boating Courses and Safety Certificates

Boaters who successfully complete a PFBC-approved boating course are issued a Pennsylvania Boating Safety Education Certificate, valid for a lifetime of boating safety.




Approved permanent Boating Safety Education Certificates for Pennsylvania residents must be issued by the PFBC. Non-resident boaters must have a certificate issued for a course approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA).

Boating Safety Education Certificates are required:

- To operate a personal watercraft
- For persons born on or after January 1, 1982, to operate boats powered by motors greater than 25 horsepower.

Minimum Age of Operation

The following age restrictions and boating education requirements apply to the operation of motorboats.

| HP OF MOTOR | RESTRICTIONS OF USE |
|--|---|
|  PWC | All PWC (personal watercraft) operators, regardless of age, must have a Boating Safety Education Certificate. Persons 11 years of age or younger may NOT operate. Persons 12 through 15 years of age may NOT operate with any passengers on board 15 years of age or younger or rent a PWC. |
|  0-25 hp | None |
|  Greater than 25 hp | Persons 11 years of age or younger may NOT operate. Persons born on or after January 1, 1982, may not operate unless they have obtained and have in possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate. |

Mandatory Boating Education

Boating safety education is important for both new and experienced boaters. Knowledgeable boaters are safer boaters. Boating courses are fun for the entire family. Online courses allow you to work at your own pace in the comfort of your own home. Classroom courses may be available at locations throughout the state. Boating safety education provides the foundation for safe recreational boating and should be considered as an introduction to safe boating practices. Boating regulations and conditions can be expected to change. Therefore, the PFBC encourages boaters to take additional boating and water safety courses through organizations such as the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons, American Sailing Association, United States Sailing Association, American Red Cross and American Canoe Association.

CLASSROOM AND INTERNET COURSES

Approved classroom boating courses are available from the PFBC, United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, United States Power Squadrons and other approved course providers. In addition, the PFBC has several approved online courses. Information on these providers and their courses is available on the PFBC's website. Online course fees include a permanent Pennsylvania Boating Safety Education Certificate fee of \$10.



A student who successfully completes an online PFBC-approved course will immediately be issued a temporary Boating Safety Education Certificate by the course provider. Temporary Boating Safety Education Certificates are good for up to 60 days. Permanent certificates are then mailed to students within 4 weeks. Search "boating safety certificate" at fishandboat.com for instructions on ordering replacement or duplicate certificates.

When a person is required to have a certificate, it must be in the person's possession while operating a boat. Generally, PFBC law enforcement accepts a hard plastic, paper card, paper copy or digital image of a PFBC-issued certificate to meet this requirement.

Pennsylvania Water Trails

Pennsylvania Water Trails are boat routes suitable for canoes, kayaks, paddleboards and some motorized watercraft. Like conventional trails, water trails are officially designated recreational corridors between specific locations. Water trails are comprised of access points, boat launches, day use sites and, in some cases, overnight camping areas. From riffles to rapids, paddling these aquatic highways can be a great adventure. Information about water trails can be found at pecpa.org/water/pa-water-trails.

Boat Motors and Hull Types

MOTORS

There are four primary types of boat motors:

- Outboard motors** vary in size and clamp on to the transom. The whole motor pivots on its mounting to aim the wash and steer the boat. The boat turns in the opposite direction that the tiller arm is pushed.



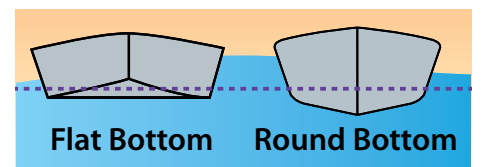
- Inboard/outboard (or sterndrive) motors** are bolted inboard, at the stern, with the drive unit through the transom.
- Inboard motors** are mounted lower in the boat and farther forward than an inboard/outboard. A rudder is used to steer.
- Jet motors** use an engine to pump water through a nozzle at the stern, which pivots to steer the boat.

Many Pennsylvania lakes have specific motor-type and horsepower limitations. For more information, visit the Commission's website.

BOAT HULL TYPES

There are two basic types of boat hulls:

- Planing hulls** are flat-bottomed and skim across the water.
- Displacement hulls** have round bottoms and plow through the water. They are more stable but not as fast as planing hull boats.



Most boats are a compromise between planing and displacement hulls (deep-V, modified-V, cathedral, etc.). There are also multiple-hulled boats such as catamarans and pontoons.

Boating Terminology

Aft- near or at the stern of the boat

Beam- the width of a boat, also the direction at right angles to the centerline of a boat

Bilge- the lowest point of a boat's interior hull

Bow- the forward part (toward the front) of a boat

Draft- the vertical distance from the waterline to the lowest point of the keel; it is the minimum depth of water in which a boat will float

Forward- aboard a boat, the direction to the front, to the bow

Freeboard- the vertical distance from the waterline to the gunwale

Gunwale- the upper edge of the side of a boat

Hull- the structural body of the boat; it does not include superstructure, masts or rigging

Keel- the main structural member of a boat; its backbone; the lateral area beneath the hull that helps to provide stability and reduce the sideways drift of a boat

Life Jacket- also known as a personal flotation device, vest or preserver

Port- looking toward the bow, the left side of the boat

Starboard- looking toward the bow, the right side of the boat

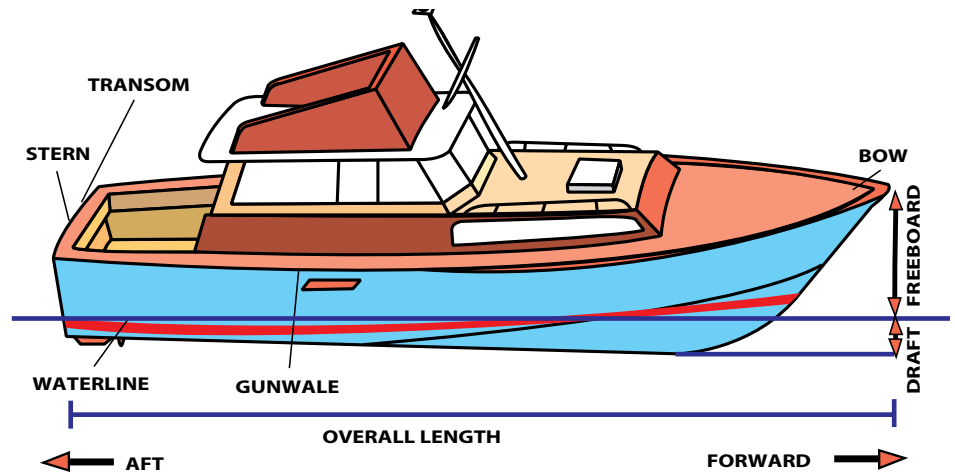
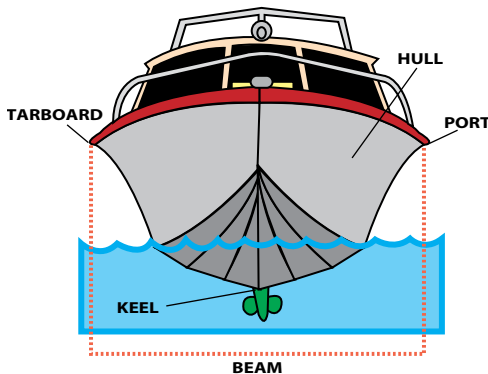
Stern- the aft (back or rear) portion of the boat.

Transom- the transverse part of the stern (where an outboard motor is attached)

Waterline- the intersection of a boat's hull and the water's surface

USCG- United States Coast Guard

USPS- United States Power Squadrons



Boat Operator Responsibilities

Boat operators are responsible for:

- Knowing the rules and regulations in the areas where they boat.
- Knowing the waters where they are boating.
- Having the required safety equipment for their watercraft.
- The actions of all persons on board their boats.

RULE OF RESPONSIBILITY DEFINED

NAVIGATION RULES USCG, RULE 2, "RESPONSIBILITY"

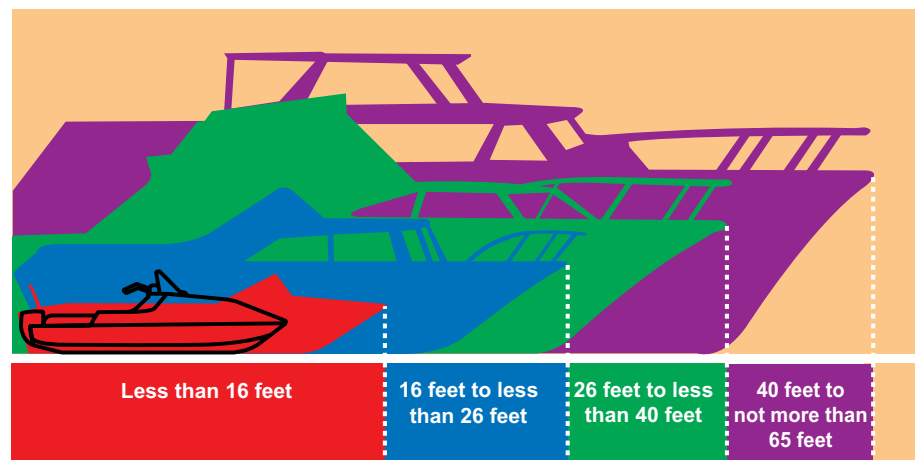
"2(a) Nothing in these Rules shall exonerate any boat, or the owner, master or crew thereof, from the consequences of any neglect to comply with these Rules or of the neglect of any precaution, which may be required by the ordinary practice of seamen, or by the special circumstances of the case."

"2(b) In construing and complying with these Rules due regard shall be had to all dangers of navigation and collision and to any special circumstances, including the limitations of the boats involved, which may make a departure from these Rules necessary to avoid immediate danger."

Boat Classification

Boats are classified according to length, which is the horizontal distance from bow (front) to stern (back) along the centerline. It excludes any projections that are not part of the boat's hull such as an outboard motor or swim platform.

Classification determines the minimum required equipment. *See page 11.*



Less than 16 feet (Class A)

Includes jonboats, small runabouts and personal watercraft.

16 feet to less than 26 feet (Class 1)

Boats used for skiing, fishing and day trips.

26 feet to less than 40 feet (Class 2)

Large boats that usually include enclosed cabins.

40 feet to not more than 65 feet (Class 3)

Large boats with advanced features.

Boat Operation Requirements

In Pennsylvania, it is illegal to...

- Operate a watercraft in a reckless, negligent or dangerous manner. Boats must be operated at a rate of speed that does not endanger the life or property of any person.
- Operate a boat at greater than slow, no-wake speed within 100 feet of the shoreline, docks, launch ramps, swimmers or downed skiers, persons wading in the water, anchored, moored or drifting boats and floats. Slow, no-wake speed is the slowest possible speed of a motorboat required to maintain maneuverability, so the wake or wash created by the motorboat on the surface is minimal. The slow, no-wake zone for wake surfing activity is 200 feet. *See page 19.*
- Operate a motorboat less than 20 feet in length at greater than slow no-wake while a person is standing on or in the boat.
- Operate a motorboat at greater than slow, no-wake speed with a person riding outside of the passenger carrying area or while a person is riding on the bow decking, gunwales, transom or motor covers.
- Operate a pontoon boat at any speed while a person is riding outside the passenger carrying area.
- Cause a boat to become airborne or to leave the water completely while crossing another boat's wake when within 100 feet of the boat creating the wake.
- Weave through congested traffic.
- Operate faster than slow, no-wake when within 100 feet to the rear or 50 feet to the side of another boat that is underway, unless in a narrow channel.
- Operate within 100 feet of anyone towed behind another boat.
- Operate a motorboat with anyone sitting, riding or hanging on a swim platform or swim ladder attached to the boat.
- Operate a motorboat **less than 26 feet in length** at greater than slow, no-wake speed when the boat is equipped with an engine cut-off switch and the engine cut-off switch is not attached to the operator. The use of an engine cut-off switch is not required when the operator is in a fully enclosed cabin of a boat.

Many waterways in Pennsylvania have special regulations such as electric motors only or horsepower restrictions. For more information, visit the Commission's website.

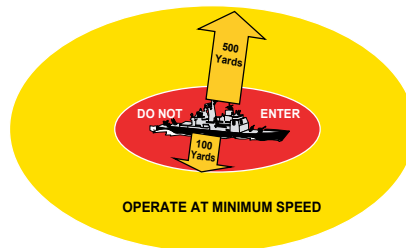
Homeland Security

Strict regulations have been issued relating to waterways for national security. Boaters must follow these regulations or be exposed to serious penalties. Our mutual security, in part, depends on your diligence in reporting suspicious activities that you may encounter on the water.



REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL WATERCRAFT:

- Stay at least 100 yards from all military, cruise line or commercial shipping boats. Violating the Naval Vessel Protection Zone is a felony offense, punishable by up to 6 years imprisonment and/or up to \$250,000 in fines.
- You must operate at slow, no-wake speed within 500 yards of United States naval boats.
- Check with local authorities and refer to current charts to identify and stay away from security zones and port operation areas.
- Generally, stay at least 100 yards from military areas, cruise lines and petroleum facilities. Also, stay away from dams and power plants.



GUIDELINES:

- Do not stop or anchor beneath bridges or in a channel. If you do stop, be prepared to be boarded by patrolling authorities.
- Be observant and report any suspicious activity to USCG or local authorities.
- Always secure and lock your boat when not on board.

Boat Rental Businesses

Boat rental businesses are commercial enterprises that rent boats to people for use on the waters of this Commonwealth. The business's responsibilities include inspections, record keeping, required safety equipment and accident reporting as well as providing their customers an orientation to boating safety and boat operation prior to rental. Boat rental businesses are also required to provide their business information to PFBC. More information about boat rental businesses can be found at fishandboat.com.

Abandoned Boats

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2026:

A boat is presumed to be abandoned under any of the following circumstances: (1) The boat is physically inoperable and left unattended on waters of this Commonwealth or other public property for more than 48 hours; (2) The boat has remained illegally on waters of this Commonwealth or other public property for more than 48 hours; (3) The boat is left unattended on or along waters of this Commonwealth or other public property and does not bear a valid registration; or (4) The boat has remained on the private property of a salvor for more than 30 calendar days. Penalties for abandoning a boat start at \$500 plus restitution costs associated with storage and disposal.

Boat owners are responsible for properly disposing of their boat when it is no longer wanted, or it has reached the end of its useful life. Proof of ownership may be necessary to dispose of a boat. Metal boats may be recyclable. Fiberglass boats may be disposed of at a disposal service or landfill. The disposal or destruction of a titled boat must be reported to the PFBC within 5 days. The disposal or destruction of a registered boat requires the surrender of the certificate of registration to the PFBC within 15 days.

Life Jackets

Personal flotation devices (PFDs, life jackets, life preservers, life vests and throwable devices) are the most important piece of equipment on a boat; life jackets are the best defense against drowning. **Each person in the boat must have a wearable, USCG-approved life jacket!** The Commission urges all boaters to wear life jackets at all times.

Since boating conditions can change quickly and without warning (increasing your chance of unexpectedly falling into the water), boating without wearing a properly fitted life jacket is dangerous. Trying to put on a life jacket while in the water is difficult and nearly impossible in moving water.

LIFE JACKET REQUIREMENTS:

- All boats must have a USCG-approved wearable life jacket on board for each person.
- When inflatable life jackets are used to meet carriage requirements, the inflatable life jackets must be worn.
- In addition to wearable life jackets, boats 16 feet and over must have a USCG-approved throwable device (ring buoy, life ring or buoyant seat cushion) on board. Canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- Life jackets must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.
- All life jackets must be in good and serviceable condition and legibly marked showing the USCG approval number. **This means the life jacket must be fully functional, free of tears or defects in the material. All buckles, straps, zippers and other closures must be operable.**
- Wearable life jackets must be "readily accessible," which means that they are out in the open ready to wear or that they are stowed where they can be easily reached. Throwable devices must be "immediately available," which means that the device shall be within arm's reach of the operator or passenger while the boat is operated and cannot be in a protective covering. A life jacket that is sealed in its original packaging is not readily accessible or immediately available.
- Life jackets must be the appropriate size for the person intended and adjusted to wear.
- A throwable device may not be used as a substitute for a wearable device.



LIFE JACKET WEAR REQUIRED FROM NOV.1 TO APRIL 30

Boaters must wear a life jacket in boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak or paddleboard. Recreational boating fatalities that occur in Pennsylvania from November through April are primarily due to the effects of cold water immersion. When water temperatures are less than 70 degrees F, cold water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities. Victims who wear a life jacket when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages such as insulation from the cold, buoyancy for victims who are unable to tread water and reduced risk of aspiration of water.

WEARABLE LIFE JACKETS

- Life jackets should be inspected regularly for tears and damage. If damage is present, do not repair the life jacket. Throw it away. Repairs to a life jacket may be the weak spot that causes a drowning.
- Inflatable life jackets must be checked frequently and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations to ensure correct operation.
- Life jackets must be used in accordance with any requirements on the approval label.
- Life jackets with old type identification (e.g. Type I, Type II, Type III and Type V) are still usable as long as life jackets are in good and serviceable condition.

WHO MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET?

- Children 12 years old and younger on Commonwealth waters when underway in any boat 20 feet or less in length and in all canoes, kayaks and paddleboards are required to wear a life jacket.
- On Pittsburgh District United States Army Corps of Engineers lakes (only), everyone in boats less than 16 feet in length and in all canoes, kayaks and paddleboards are required to wear a life jacket.
- All water skiers and anyone towed behind boats, personal watercraft operators and passengers and sailboarders (windsurfers) are required to wear a life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable for these activities.
- Boaters are required by law to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe, kayak or paddleboard during the coldwater months from November 1 through April 30.

MAKE SURE THE LIFE JACKET FITS—THE “TOUCHDOWN” TEST

For a life jacket to work properly, it needs to be on your body, and it should fit properly as well. A properly fitting life jacket is more comfortable (meaning you are more likely to wear it), but more important, it functions better. Life jackets that are too large can ride up or even come off when you are in the water.

It's easy to check a conventional life jacket for proper fit—just put it on. The life jacket should fit you snugly with all zippers, straps, ties and snaps correctly secured. With a partner behind you, raise your arms like you are signaling a touchdown in a football game. Have the partner lift the life jacket by the shoulders. The life jacket should come no higher than your chin. If the life jacket covers your face or comes off—that's what would happen in the water. In this case, tighten the straps or use a smaller size.

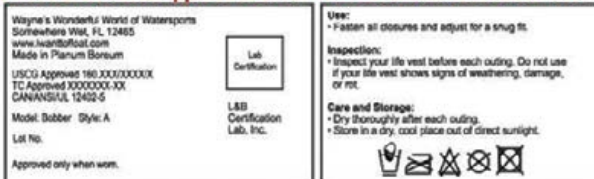
Boat Numbering and Registration

Boats propelled by machinery and electric motors must be numbered, regardless of length and type of motor. Boats excluded from numbering include unpowered kayaks, sculls and sailboards, documented vessels and boats with a valid temporary certificate. Documented vessels used for recreational purposes must be registered. In Pennsylvania, large pleasure boats, usually called yachts, are documented with the USCG. These documented vessels must be registered but need only display a valid registration decal.

Selection and Warning Panel:



Certification and Approval Panel: Care and Maintenance Panel:



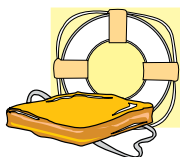
PLACEMENT ON BOAT: PAINTED OR ATTACHED TO EACH FORWARD HALF OF BOAT



Registration letters and numbers must:

- Read from left to right, be in a continuous line and be easily read.
- Be painted or permanently attached to each side on the forward half of the boat, where no other number may be displayed.
- Be bold, block letters 3 inches high and contrasting color to the boat hull.
- Be separated by a hyphen or space as shown above.

THROWABLE DEVICES



Throwable device—minimum 16.5 pounds of buoyancy, designed to be grasped, not worn.

The DECAL must be displayed within 6 inches of the number (before or following) on the same level. *How to apply:*

- Clean and dry the surface where the decal will be applied.
- Carefully remove the decal from the paper backing.
- Position the decal and press it firmly onto the prepared surface.

BOAT REGISTRATION

All motorboats and boats powered by electric motors must be registered. Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, stand-up paddleboards, etc.) can be launched at Commission lakes and access areas or Pennsylvania State Parks/State Forests if they display a boat registration, Commission launch permit or Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) launch permit. DCNR recognizes boat registrations and Commission launch permits. An unpowered boat may have a registration OR launch permit, but it is not required to have both. The Commission does NOT recognize launch permits from other states. A Commission launch permit can be purchased online.

Registrations are renewed on a 2-year cycle and expire on December 31 of the second year. Registrations are valid when issued by the Commission and online messengers. Application forms are available at county treasurers, certain boat dealerships, on the PFBC website, at the PFBC's headquarters in Harrisburg and at the PFBC regional law enforcement offices.

Note: Boats with unpowered boat registrations may NOT be equipped with gasoline or electric motors or any other mechanical propulsion and be operated on Pennsylvania waterways.

Upon the completion of the application and the payment of the fee, a registration card and two validation decals will be issued. The certificate of boat registration is your registration card and must be on board the boat during operation. The certificate also shows the boat registration number that must be displayed on the boat. The Pennsylvania registration number, issued with the original certificate of boat registration, stays with the boat as long as it is registered in Pennsylvania. It is the boat owner's responsibility to purchase the numbers and letters to display the registration number on the boat.

Display the number and validation decal on the bow of the boat as shown on [page 7](#). No other number may be displayed on either side of the bow. These numbers may not be removed, altered, tampered with or defaced, except by the owner or representative. Documented vessels as well as kayaks, sculls, sailboards and other low-volume boats of similar design are exempt from the display of numbers, but they must display the validation decal. Inflatable boats may carry their numbers and validation decal on boards lashed to each side of the bow. Canoes are not exempt and must display the numbers and the decal.



STATE OF PRINCIPAL OPERATION

Boats must be registered in the state in which the boat is primarily operated. If the boat is water-borne (including time at a marina slip or mooring) on Pennsylvania waters more than on waters of another state, it must be registered in Pennsylvania, regardless of where the owner lives. Reciprocal privileges are granted to boats with valid registration in other states for up to 60 days.

Note: A Pennsylvania Use Tax is charged for any boat owned by a Pennsylvania resident if that boat is at any time brought into the Commonwealth, regardless of where it is registered. There is an exception for casual sales of unpowered boats. Credit is given for tax paid to other states.

BOAT REGISTRATION FORMS

A Boat Registration Renewal Application is mailed to boat owners prior to the expiration date. If one has not received the form, boat owners should write to the Division of Licensing and Registration or go to:

Forms and Permits:



A Duplicate/Replacement Certificate of Registration can be obtained for \$3 through the Division of Licensing and Registration. Go to the Commission's website to download the form (PFBC-732).

A Change of Address form (PFBC-732) must be filed within 15 days at the Division of Licensing and Registration. This office must also be notified within 15 days if a boat is lost, stolen, destroyed, abandoned or sold.

To transfer boat ownership, form REV-336 must be completed and signed by the applicant and registered owner(s). If the registered owner(s) is/are not available, a bill of sale, signed by the registered owner(s), may be substituted. Sales tax payment must still be collected if applicable. It is unlawful for a person purchasing or acquiring a previously registered boat to operate that boat in Pennsylvania until the registration is transferred to the new owner.

A receipt is issued by authorized agents when the boat is registered, so the boat can be used immediately. It is valid for 60 days.

Note: All powered and titled boats used for pleasure are taxable. Proof of payment of sales tax is required at the time of registration.

Launch Permits

Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, stand-up paddleboards, etc.) can be launched at Commission lakes and access areas or Pennsylvania State Parks/State Forests if they display a boat registration, Commission launch permit or DCNR launch permit. DCNR recognizes boat registrations and Commission launch permits. An unpowered boat may have a registration OR launch permit, but it is not required to have both. The Commission does NOT recognize launch permits from other states.

A Commission launch permit can be purchased on the PFBC's website.



Boat Titling

A certificate of title is a legal document that proves ownership. Boat titling is different from boat registration, because a certificate of registration does not prove ownership. A certificate of title requires all owners of a boat to sign off on their interests when selling and provides the purchaser with proper documentation for titling and registering a boat. Application forms are the same ones used for boat registration and are available at county treasurers, certain boat dealerships, on the PFBC website, at PFBC's headquarters in Harrisburg and at the PFBC regional law enforcement offices.

Boat titling is required for all inboard motorboats (regardless of length) and personal watercraft with a model year of 1997 or newer AND all outboard motorboats 14 feet or more in length with a model year of 1997 or newer. At the request of the owner, the Commission will issue a title to any boat, regardless of the length, power source or year the boat was manufactured. However, once a title is issued, that boat must remain titled by future owners. Also, anyone with a boat currently titled in another state must obtain a Pennsylvania title when Pennsylvania becomes the state of principle use, regardless of the age, size or length of the boat.

Boat titling assures the buyer of a boat that the seller has clear ownership of a boat offered for sale. Some lenders won't finance a boat without a title, so securing a loan to purchase a boat may be easier if the boat is titled. Boaters who register and title their boats have more security. In the event of boat theft, such boats are easier to identify ([see page 17](#)).

For titling fees, go to fishandboat.com.

Capacity Plates

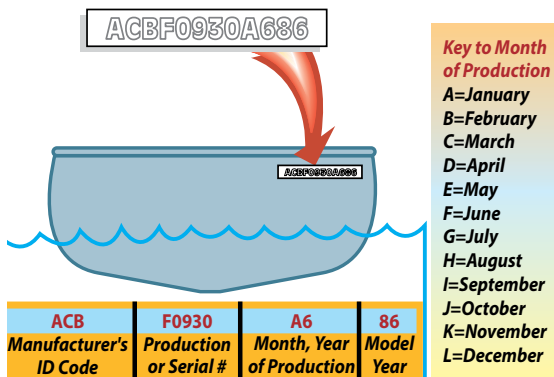
A boat's capacity plate provides important information about the boat including maximum weight capacity, maximum horsepower, maximum person capacity by number and maximum persons capacity by weight. Individuals being towed behind a boat (e.g. waterskiers, tubers, kneeboarders, wake surfers, parasailers, etc.) are considered to be passengers and must be counted in regard to the boat's maximum passenger capacity.

No boat shall be loaded beyond its safe carrying capacity. Observe and understand the capacity plate.



Hull Identification Number (HIN)

This number is federally required and is located on or near the boat transom's upper starboard (right) side. Also, the HIN is hidden by the manufacturer on the boat for recovery purposes. HINs are 12 characters in length and may be 17 characters on newer boats.



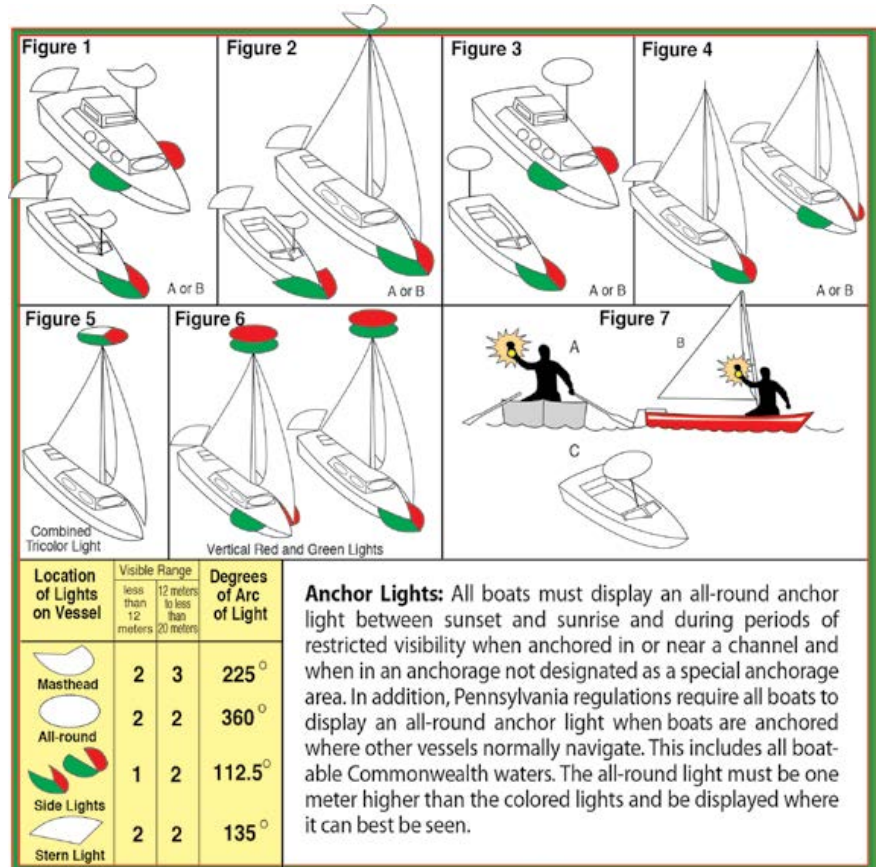
Night Operation and Lights

All boats must show required running lights between the hours of sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility such as fog and heavy rain. During such times, no other lights may be displayed, except those that cannot be mistaken for the required lights or do not impair their visibility or distinctive character, or interfere with keeping a proper lookout. A sailboat operating under power and sail must display the proper running lights for a powerboat. Navigation lights are restricted to the colors red, green and white. Navigation lights are designed to identify the type of boat and its situation (underway, direction of travel, at anchor, etc.) on the water. Boats underway include drifting boats. Night boaters should carry spare bulbs, fuses, batteries and a flashlight.

The navigation lights required for boats are determined by the boat's length and whether it is powered by machinery, sail, paddles or oars.

DOCKING LIGHTS: It is illegal to use docking lights while underway, except when docking and the boat is traveling at slow, no-wake speed and is within 100 feet of approaching a dock, a mooring buoy or the shoreline. A docking light is a flood or spotlight type of light permanently installed or permanently mounted on a motorboat that is used to illuminate a boat's forward course of travel.

The charts on this page show which lights are required.



Conversions: 7 meters = 23', 12 meters = 39'4", 20 meters = 65'6" <= less than

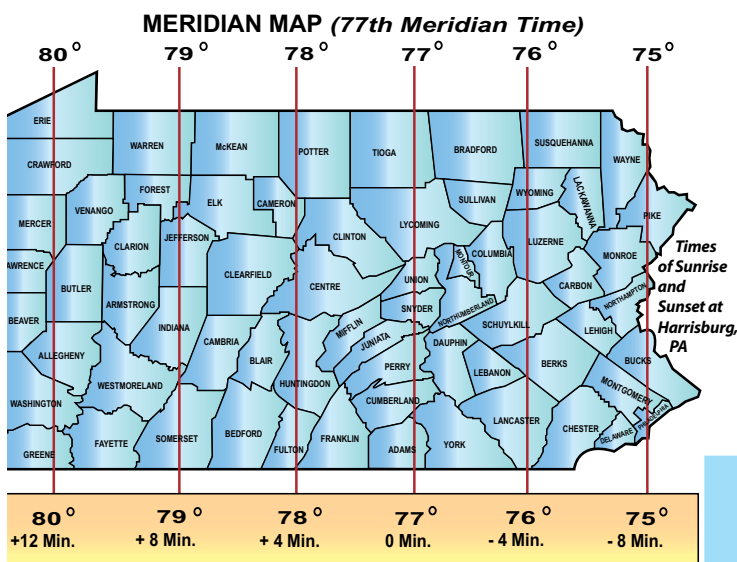
| Type of Boat | Length | Figure |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| Powerboat | < 12 meters | 1, 2 or 3 |
| Powerboat | 12 - 20 meters | 1 or 2 |
| Sailboat (sail only) | < 20 meters | 4, 5 or 6 |
| Sailboat (sail only) | Any | 4, 5 or 6 |
| Sailboat (sail only) | < 7 meters | 7B This is a white light either hand-held or installed ready to be displayed in time to avoid a collision. |
| Manually powered | Any | 7A This is a white light either hand-held or installed ready to be displayed in time to avoid a collision. |
| Anchored | Any | 7C This is an all-round white light visible for at least 2 miles and displayed where it can best be seen. An anchor light is not required but highly recommended when anchored in a special anchorage area. |

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

77TH MERIDIAN TIME: SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT HARRISBURG

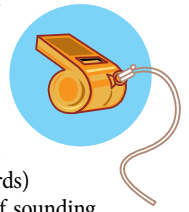
EASTERN STANDARD TIME and EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME when in effect.

| Dates | Rise | Set | Dates | Rise | Set | Dates | Rise | Set |
|--------------|------|------|---------------|------|------|---------------|------|------|
| Jan 1-5 | 7:30 | 4:54 | May 4-10 | 5:59 | 8:09 | Sept 7-13 | 6:44 | 7:24 |
| Jan 6-12 | 7:30 | 4:59 | May 11-17 | 5:52 | 8:16 | Sept 14-20 | 6:51 | 7:12 |
| Jan 13-19 | 7:28 | 5:06 | May 18-24 | 5:46 | 8:23 | Sept 21-27 | 6:57 | 7:01 |
| Jan 20-26 | 7:24 | 5:15 | May 25-31 | 5:42 | 8:28 | Sept 28-Oct 4 | 7:05 | 6:47 |
| Jan 27-Feb 2 | 7:18 | 5:24 | Jun 1-7 | 5:39 | 8:33 | Oct 5-11 | 7:11 | 6:38 |
| Feb 3-9 | 7:12 | 5:32 | Jun 8-14 | 5:37 | 8:37 | Oct 12-18 | 7:19 | 6:27 |
| Feb 10-16 | 7:04 | 5:40 | Jun 15-21 | 5:38 | 8:40 | Oct 19-25 | 7:26 | 6:17 |
| Feb 17-23 | 6:55 | 5:47 | Jun 22-28 | 5:39 | 8:41 | Oct 26-Nov 1 | 7:34 | 6:08 |
| Feb 24-Mar 1 | 6:45 | 5:56 | Jun 29-Jul 5 | 5:42 | 8:41 | Nov 2-8 | 6:42 | 5:00 |
| Mar 2-8 | 6:34 | 6:04 | Jul 6-12 | 5:47 | 8:39 | Nov 9-15 | 6:50 | 4:53 |
| Mar 9-15 | 7:23 | 7:12 | Jul 13-19 | 5:52 | 8:35 | Nov 16-22 | 6:58 | 4:48 |
| Mar 16-22 | 7:12 | 7:19 | Jul 20-26 | 5:58 | 8:30 | Nov 23-29 | 7:06 | 4:44 |
| Mar 23-29 | 7:00 | 7:26 | Jul 27-Aug 2 | 6:03 | 8:24 | Nov 30-Dec 6 | 7:13 | 4:41 |
| Mar 30-Apr 5 | 6:47 | 7:35 | Aug 3-9 | 6:10 | 8:16 | Dec 7-13 | 7:20 | 4:41 |
| Apr 6-12 | 6:38 | 7:41 | Aug 10-16 | 6:17 | 8:07 | Dec 14-20 | 7:25 | 4:43 |
| Apr 13-19 | 6:27 | 7:48 | Aug 17-23 | 6:24 | 7:57 | Dec 21-27 | 7:28 | 4:47 |
| Apr 20-26 | 6:17 | 7:55 | Aug 24-30 | 6:31 | 7:46 | Dec 28-31 | 7:30 | 4:51 |
| Apr 27-May 3 | 6:08 | 8:02 | Aug 31-Sept 6 | 6:38 | 7:34 | | | |



Sound-producing Devices

Motorboats less than 65 feet in length must carry some mechanical means of making a sound signal. This device may be hand-, mouth- or power-operated. An athletic coach's whistle is an acceptable device for small motorboats. Operators of unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards) are required to carry a device capable of sounding a prolonged blast for 4-6 seconds that can be heard by another boat operator in time to avoid a collision. An athletic coach's whistle is acceptable.



Visual Distress Signals (VDS)

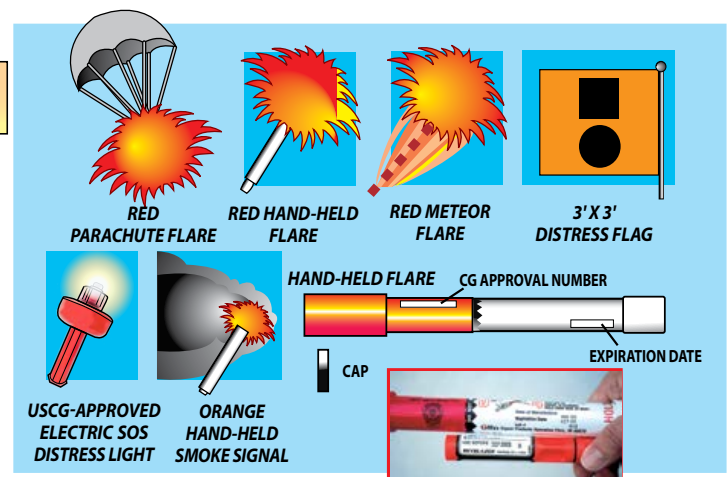
According to USCG navigation rules, boat operators are required to render assistance to a boat in distress to the extent they are able. VDS devices are required on boats navigating on federal waters such as coastal waters, the Great Lakes (including Lake Erie), territorial seas and bodies of water connected directly to any of these up to the point where the body of water is less than 2 miles wide.

In Pennsylvania, VDS devices are required only for boats operating on Lake Erie. Between the hours of sunset and sunrise, boats less than 16 feet in length must carry VDS suitable for use at night. Boats 16 feet and over in length must, at all times, carry devices suitable for day use and devices suitable for night use or devices suitable for use both day and night.

Approved day-use-only devices include orange smoke (hand-held or floating) and orange signal flags. Flares are approved for both day and night use. If flares are selected, a minimum of three must be carried. Three day/night signaling devices meet both requirements.




All VDS must be USCG approved, have legible approval numbers, be in serviceable condition and be readily accessible. VDS are not acceptable if the expiration date has passed. Though only required on Lake Erie, VDS are practical safety items for all boaters to carry.

Flares are of short duration. Use them only when another boat is in sight. When igniting a flare, hold it over the water on the downwind (leeward) side. Flares are not toys. Use them only in an emergency.



Minimum Required Equipment

Ensure boats are equipped with the proper safety equipment. The chart below provides a summary of the minimum equipment for boats. For more information, go to fishandboat.com.

| EQUIPMENT | Less than 16 feet | 16 to less than 26 feet | 26 to less than 40 feet | 40 to not more than 65 feet |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| LIFE JACKETS  | One USCG-approved wearable life jacket for each person on board. Life jackets must be properly sized, serviceable and readily accessible. From November 1 to April 30, boaters are required to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any paddleboard, kayak or canoe. | | | |
| THROWABLE FLOTATION DEVICES | Not required. | One throwable device must be carried on board. Canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device. | | |
| SOUND-PRODUCING DEVICE  | Means of making a sound signal audible for 1/2-mile. A whistle or horn must be readily accessible to the boat operator. An athletic coach's whistle is acceptable. | | | |
| NAVIGATION LIGHTS | Boats must use navigation lights from sunset to sunrise or during periods of reduced visibility. A signal light or flashlight is acceptable for unpowered boats. | | | |
| PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER  | At least one 5-B portable fire extinguisher. Not required if boat has no compartments or fixed fuel tanks. | | At least two portable 5-B fire extinguishers or one 20-B. | At least three 5-B portable fire extinguishers or one 5-B and one 20-B. |
| ENGINE CUT-OFF SWITCH | If equipped, use of engine cut-off switch required when operating at greater than slow, no-wake speed unless operator is in fully enclosed cabin. | | Not required. | |
| VENTILATION | Boats with inboard gas-powered engines must be equipped with an efficient natural or mechanical bilge ventilator. Blower(s) should be operated for 4 minutes prior to starting or restarting engine(s). | | | |
| MUFFLING DEVICE | Efficient muffling device is required to prevent excessive or unusual noise. | | | |
| BACKFIRE FLAME CONTROL | One approved device on each carburetor of all inboard gasoline engines. | | | |
| VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS—VDS (required only on Lake Erie) | USCG-approved VDS for night use are required only for operation from sunset to sunrise. | | USCG-approved VDS for day use and night use are required at all times. | |

Recommended Equipment (NOT REQUIRED BY LAW)

- ☒ Paddles or oars
- ☒ Anchors with sufficient line
- ☒ Dock lines
- ☒ Extra clothing
- ☒ Food and water
- ☒ Marine radio or cellular phone
- ☒ Tool kit with spare spark plugs
- ☒ Flashlight
- ☒ Portable fire extinguisher
- ☒ Bailer
- ☒ Fenders
- ☒ First aid kit
- ☒ Charts and compass
- ☒ Sunscreen and sunglasses
- ☒ Spare fuses and bulbs
- ☒ Gas can
- ☒ Extra line or throw bag
- ☒ Visual distress signals (required on Lake Erie)

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are classified by letters and numbers. The letter indicates the type of fire the unit is designed to extinguish. For example, a type B extinguisher is meant to put out flammable liquids, and type C is for electrical fires. The number stands for the amount of extinguishing agent in the unit.

Acceptable portable fire extinguishers for marine use are classified as B-I, B-II, 5-B or 20-B. One 5-B is equivalent to one B-I extinguisher, and one 20-B is equivalent to two 5-B extinguishers.

Motorboats 26 feet or more in length are required to carry hand portable fire extinguishers. Motorboats less than 26 feet in length, powered by an outboard motor and not carrying passengers for hire are not required to carry fire extinguishers unless boats have one or more of the following conditions:

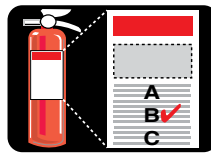
- Closed compartments under seats where portable fuel tanks may be stored
- Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or not completely filled with flotation material
- Closed living spaces
- Closed storage compartments in which flammable materials are stowed
- Permanently installed fuel tanks

Fire extinguishers must be in good and serviceable working condition including:

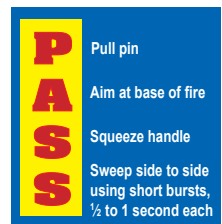
- Not expired
- Pressure gauge reading or indicator in the operable range or position, if applicable
- Lock pin firmly in place
- Discharge nozzle clean and free of obstruction
- No visible sign of significant corrosion or damage

Fire Extinguisher Use

Fire extinguishers must be immediately available and installed (mounted away from the fuel source). They



must be fully charged, in usable (good) condition and inspected regularly. Make sure everyone on your boat knows the location of the fire extinguisher and its use. Operation of a fire extinguisher is rather simple. Just remember PASS.



Carburetor Backfire Flame Control

Gasoline engines except outboards must have an approved (USCG, SAE or Underwriters Laboratories) backfire flame control on the carburetor to prevent ignition of gasoline vapors in case the engine backfires. It should be maintained regularly and can be cleaned with hot, soapy water or a commercial cleaner.

Noise Restrictions and Muffling Devices

Boat motors must be equipped with an efficient muffling system or device in good working order. Most boats and motors that come directly from the manufacturer are adequately muffled. It is illegal for a boat to be so loud that it is an extraordinary annoyance or distraction to people in the vicinity of that boat. Boat exhaust systems may not be modified in any manner that will reduce or eliminate the effectiveness of the muffler or muffler system.

Cutouts (muffler bypasses) are illegal in Pennsylvania. Boats without a muffler or muffling system must be backfitted before being operated.

Safe boat operation is coupled with preparation, prevention and practice. Each time before you start out on your next boating trip, follow these guidelines for maintenance, departure, trailering, launching and retrieving, docking, rules of navigation, night operation and anchoring.

Pre-departure Checklist

To ensure a safe and problem-free boating experience, make a checklist of items similar to the one below, and use it before each trip:

- ✓ **Life jackets:** Examine each life jacket for condition and ensure you have the correct number and sizes, appropriate for the intended activity on board.
- ✓ **Weather:** Check the weather forecast for the area and time frame you will be boating.
- ✓ **Float plan:** Leave a float plan with a family member, friend, neighbor or a marina operator. *See page 24.*
- ✓ **Fuel:** Make certain you have enough fuel and know where you can refuel. Use the $\frac{1}{2}$ rule: $\frac{1}{2}$ tank for your trip, $\frac{1}{2}$ tank to return to dock or launch ramp and $\frac{1}{2}$ tank for emergency use.
- ✓ **Battery and fire extinguishers:** Be sure the engine battery is fully charged and your fire extinguishers are properly charged.
- ✓ **Boat check:** Use the checklist on this page under "Preventative Boat Maintenance" to make sure your boat is in safe, operable condition.
- ✓ **Conduct an onboard safety discussion with passengers:** Everyone on board needs to know in advance what is expected of them and where they can find needed equipment. The discussion should include information on the location and proper use of life jackets (PFDs), fire extinguishers, visual distress equipment and first-aid kit. Explain emergency procedures; rules prohibiting discharging waste overboard; basic operation of the marine radio (if one is installed); other items such as boat operation, weather and/or water conditions, anchoring procedures, docking and line handling and the dangers of falling overboard and being struck by the propeller.

Preventative Boat Maintenance

Inspecting your boat and equipment before you launch or leave the dock can prevent many possible problems. Examine onboard safety equipment including life jackets and throwable devices (sizes and condition), fire extinguishers, bailers, anchor, motor, fuel, electrical systems, through-hull fittings and accessory attachments. Follow the owner's manual for regular maintenance on the boat and equipment; this will minimize problems afloat.

Hull condition:

- Check for any cracks or crazing.
- Ensure the hull sounds solid.
- Pull on the transom to ensure that it is solid.
- Make sure there is a drain plug and it is in place.
- Drain all water from the engine compartment.
- Check the bilge for any water. Check for cracks around the fittings, above and below the waterline and around chain plates, cleats, etc.

Rigging and sails:

- Check for signs of wear or fraying.
- Repair small tears or open seams by taping or sewing.
- Keep lines clean and store in a dry area out of the sun.

Engines, fuel tanks and lines, mechanical:

- Follow the manufacturer's maintenance plan.
- Check for fuel leaks from the tank, carburetor, engine compartment and fuel lines.
- Check hose connections for leaks or cracks, and make sure hose clamps are secure.
- Examine the ignition safety switch and lanyard for wear and proper operation.
- Check for proper operation of steering and other controls.
- Drain the fuel tank at the end of the season or use a fuel stabilizer.

Check for signs of wear and corrosion:

- Check for cracks or leaks.
- Check for firm hoses, free of leaks, and using double clamps.
- Make sure the backfire arrestor is attached and serviceable.
- Check the belts and battery for corrosion and anything unusual.

Leave a Float Plan

Let others know before you go. A float plan should be completed and left with a reliable person before you leave on all boating trips. The plan lets others know where you are going, when you expect to return, who is going with you and what emergency measures or rescue organization should be notified in the event you do not return as scheduled. Remember to contact the person you left the float plan with when you return. In addition to leaving a paper copy of a float plan behind, many boaters are also providing e-mail versions of their float plan with others. *Complete the float plan available on the Commission's website or [page 24](#) before going boating, and leave it with a friend.*

Trailering

Trailering is a package deal, which includes the boat, trailer, hitch and tow vehicle. Everything must be compatible. The tow vehicle hitch must match the trailer ball. The hitch should be mounted to the frame of the towing vehicle. Do not use bumper hitches. Trailer tires must have sufficient load-bearing capacity and be appropriate for the trailer. Practice is a key aspect of trailering. Before taking your boat on the road, use an empty parking lot to practice turning, parking and backing up. Before towing your boat:

- Check your tires.
- Make sure your wheel bearings are greased.
- Ensure the trailer hitch is firmly on the trailer ball, and it is latched and secured with a pin or lock.
- Cross and attach the trailer safety chains to the tow vehicle in an "X" pattern. Trailer safety chains should not drag (required by law).
- Make sure your lights work with your vehicle (required by law).
- Secure the winch, other tie down straps and any loose items.
- Always carry a spare tire for your trailer.



Duck blind, Lake Marburg, Codorus State Park, York County

When hunting on or near the water remember:

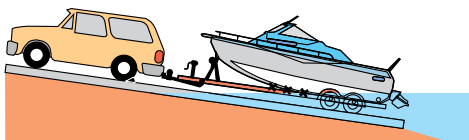
- Wear it. Wearing a bright-colored life jacket is recommended while on the water. Have your canine companion wear one too.
- Load properly. Never overload your boat. Gear and harvest add to the weight.
- Take extra precautions. Avoid capsizing or swamping. Many incidents occur when a hunter or angler leans over the edge of the boat or suddenly stands up.
- Dress appropriately. Understand the conditions for hypothermia. Dress in layers for the water temperature, not the air temperature.
- Check the weather. Always check the weather before heading out and assess conditions throughout the day.
- File a float plan (*see page 24*). Let others know where you're going and when you plan to return.

For more information, see "Hunters and Anglers" on [page 19](#).

Launching and Retrieving

Prepare your boat well away from the boat ramp, so you do not block ramp traffic. Before you launch, it is helpful to make sure you have not missed any important points:

- Put the plug in.
- Raise the motor.
- Disconnect trailer wiring and tie-downs.
- Tie a line to the bow to maintain control of the boat.
- Slowly back your boat trailer into the water, and set the emergency brake.
- Disconnect and secure the winch and safety chain from the bow.
- Push or motor the boat off the trailer while somebody holds the bow line.



Boarding

Stability is important when boarding a small boat. Wearing a life jacket when boarding is a common sense safety precaution. Passengers should steady the boat from the dock or shore while the operator boards. Maintain three points of contact when boarding and moving about a boat. Once in, the operator should steady the boat for others. When boarding, everyone should keep his or her weight as low and as close to the boat's center as possible. Holding onto the gunwales is the best way for boarders to keep steady.

Equipment and gear should be loaded onto the boat one item at a time, handing it to someone already on board. The load should be evenly distributed and secured, so it doesn't shift.

Boat Trim

Boat trim (the way a boat floats) is vital in a small boat. Weight should be distributed in the boat to keep the bow light. Keep the boat from listing (leaning to one side) by distributing weight equally from side to side. Sudden, sharp turns should be avoided, and the boat's capacity must never be exceeded.

Boat Handling

All boats handle differently, and inexperienced operators need hands-on practice with a capable teacher to become proficient in handling their boat. A motorboat is most easily maneuvered going against the current or wind. Boats do not have brakes. To reduce speed quickly, the motor

should be put in reverse and power applied. Stopping in this manner requires practice to avoid water washing in over the stern. Consult the owner's manual for proper procedures.

Docking

Docking is a difficult maneuver, especially for the new boater. Learning to dock also requires practice with a capable teacher. When docking, a boater must keep in mind that the boat's steering mechanism is located at the stern (back), which will move first, followed by the bow (front of the boat). Docking is similar to landing an airplane; you must encounter a fixed object but do so softly without inflicting damage. At the same time, environmental conditions such as current, wind and waves can make your approach more complicated.

Depending on the situation, docking procedures vary. Fenders, mooring lines, a boat hook and a heaving line should be ready. The approach to the dock should be planned. If possible, the boat should be headed into the current and/or wind to slow down and to more easily control it. A common method when docking in current is to slip the boat sideways bit by bit toward the dock, pier or slip. When docking correctly, the boat feels like it is moving in slow motion. After docking, a line should be secured from the dock to the bow of the boat. The current will hold the boat against the dock while the remaining lines are tied off.

A docking light is a flood or spotlight type of light permanently installed or permanently mounted on a motorboat that is used to illuminate a boat's forward course of travel. For specific information on illegal use of docking lights, [see page 9](#).

DOCKING TECHNIQUES

Although there are subtle docking differences between propulsion systems and watercraft, the following guidelines apply to most docking conditions:

- 1. Survey the dock:** Look for moving boats and traffic, available hands and the locations of cleats or pilings.
- 2. Visualize your approach:** Determine which side is better. Identify what lines you intend to use and who will do what.
- 3. Plan an exit strategy:** If things don't go according to plan, back out and try again rather than continue a flawed approach. Also, consider approaching from another direction or selecting another dock. Plan for a no-escape situation: if you get into

a situation from which escape is difficult, use spring lines with dock hands or fellow boaters on the dock to help keep you in control.

- 4. Approach slowly:** Docking is no place for speed. Relax and stay focused.
- 5. Use only the power necessary** to move the boat and maintain control. Alternating between idle speed in gear and drifting in neutral is one way to slow your movement. Apply brief bursts of power to help with steering and then shift to neutral to limit your speed.
- 6. Deploy boat fenders or other devices to protect the hull.**
- 7. Use a boat hook** to pull the boat closer to dock. If someone is available, hand them a line. Do not jump from the boat to dock.

Additional docking tips for specific situations.

With wind or current ahead: Approach at a moderate angle (about 15 to 20 degrees) slowly and with fenders and lines at the ready. As you touch the dock, reverse power to halt your advance and hand a line to a dock hand. If no dock hand is available, use a boat hook or have a crew member step (not jump) from the boat to the dock to secure the line.

With wind or current behind: In this situation, your big concern is pin wheeling. If the wind or current takes the stern, do not tie the bow first. Slow your approach by throttling back. Your angle should be a slight 5 to 10 degrees—coming alongside the pier. Reverse throttle slightly to still your approach; tie an aft quarter spring line. Then, tie your bow; tie remaining lines.

With wind or current off the pier: This is more challenging. You will need to increase the angle of your approach and use just enough power to reach and hold the dock. Have a crew member toss the line to a dock hand or carefully step on the dock to secure the line. You will be using power against a spring line to pull the boat parallel to the dock and hold it until you are secured by lines.

With wind or current toward the pier: Line up next to the pier, and let the wind take you in.

Departing

When departing, your boat will naturally point into the current or wind—whichever is dominant. If the current is strong, be prepared to counter it, especially if there are boats astern of you.

Untie the line and toss it from the bow, making sure the line is far enough away that it won't foul the propeller. It's easiest if a member of your crew does this for you, because you may need to apply some power in forward gear to maintain your position. If you have to do this yourself, get to the helm quickly to take control. Do not apply propulsion and leave the helm to go to the bow.

Once you're free, drift backward until you have clearance. Apply light forward throttle while also turning to go around rather than over the mooring line. Once you've moved to the side, power away.

Boat Navigation Rules

The navigation rules contained in this handbook are a summary for which a boat operator is responsible on inland waterways and Lake Erie. Additional and more in-depth rules apply regarding various types of waterways (such as International Waters and Western Rivers) and operation in relation to commercial boats and other watercraft. It is the responsibility of a boat operator to know and follow navigation rules. In states where Inland Rules do not apply, the equivalent International Waters, Western Rivers or Great Lakes rule(s) may be substituted. For a complete listing of the navigation rules, refer to the document "Navigation Rules" published by the USCG (COMDTINST 16672.2 Series). This is available through the United States Government printing office or online at navcen.uscg.gov. Refer to the state laws where you intend to boat for state-specific navigation requirements.

The purpose of the navigation rules (rules of the road) is to prevent collisions. Since there are no traffic lines and few signs on the water, boat operators must make choices. Common sense is required, but boaters must also know the rules of the road. Operators are responsible for:

- The safety of all passengers in the boat.
- The boat's wake and any damage caused by it.
- Maintaining a proper lookout and operating at a safe speed for the conditions.
- Using good seamanship, which is the foundation of the navigation rules.

PROPER LOOKOUT

Boat operators must maintain a proper lookout at all times when operating a boat. Collisions and other types of accidents can be avoided by scanning around the boat for swimmers, other boats and obstructions. Listening for dangerous

situations is also a part of maintaining a proper lookout. Passengers should be asked to assist.

AIDS TO NAVIGATION (ATON)

The closest things to signs on the water are aids to navigation (ATON). The purpose of ATON is to help boaters avoid problems on the water and for navigation when used in combination with a nautical chart. ATON includes buoys and daymarks (or dayboards). The United States Aids to Navigation System has been adopted by the Commission for use on all Commonwealth waters. Boaters should learn this system and presume nothing. Navigational aids may be moved by the Coast Guard, the PFBC, storms, heavy currents or vandals.



In the United States Aids to Navigation System, markers designate the edges of a channel and the direction of open water. The colors of these markers are important. Red markers indicate that boaters should navigate with the markers on their starboard (right) side when traveling upstream. Remember the slogan "Red, Right, Return" to find your way home to port. Green markers indicate that boaters should navigate with the markers on their port (left) side when traveling upstream. Red markers have even numbers, and green markers have odd numbers.

To aid visibility, these buoys may also have lights that match their color. Further distinction between buoys is recognized by their shape.

- **Nun buoys:** These are cone-shaped red buoys with even numbers and mark the edge of a channel on a boater's starboard (right) side when entering from the open sea or heading upstream.
- **Can buoys:** These are cylindrical-shaped green buoys with odd numbers and mark the edge of the channel on your port (left) side when entering from the open sea or heading upstream.



Information and regulatory markers are used to alert boaters of various warnings and regulatory matters. These regulatory markers are white can buoys with orange shapes and black lettering.

SAFE SPEED

A boater's speed of operation will vary according to the weather, water conditions, time of day or night, other boat traffic and individual boat characteristics. Safe speed allows the operator to be in control and take correct action to avoid a collision.

RISK OF COLLISION

A risk of collision exists when there is the possibility that two boats will arrive at the same point on the water at the same time. The first indication of a risk of collision is when one operator notices that another boat has a constant bearing (or constant relative position) and a decreasing range (the other boat is getting closer). When this occurs, the Rules of the Road make one boat either a stand-on (privileged) boat or a give-way (burdened) boat (explanation follows). The risk of collision ends when both boats have avoided the collision by proper action under the rules and are moving safely away from each other.



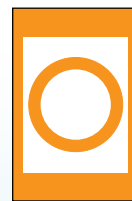
BOATS KEEP OUT!

Nature of danger may be placed outside crossed diamond such as dams, swim areas or rapids.



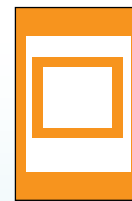
DANGER!

Nature of danger may be indicated inside the diamond shape such as rocks, shoals, dams, construction or stumps.



CONTROLLED AREA!

Area as indicated in circle such as speed limit, no fishing, no anchoring, ski only, slow-no wake, no prop boats or no ski.



INFORMATION

Tells directions, distances, places, food, repairs, supplies and other non-regulatory messages.



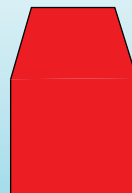
MOORING BUOY

White with reflectorized blue band. May have white light or reflector.



CHANNEL

Lateral System. Buoy on port side facing upstream.



CHANNEL

Lateral System. Buoy on starboard side facing upstream.

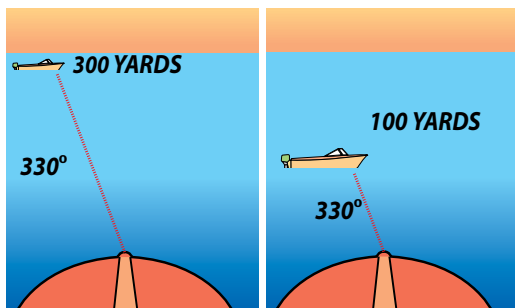


MID CHANNEL

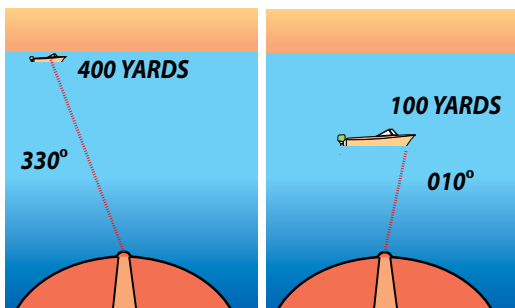
Lateral System. Pass close on either side.

STAND-ON AND GIVE-WAY BOAT

Under the Rules, the stand-on boat is required to maintain its course and speed. The give-way boat is required to stop or slow down or, when overtaking, to pass the other boat in a safe manner. Under no circumstances should the stand-on boat assume that the give-way boat is going to take the action required to avoid a collision. Both operators are required to avoid a collision in any situation.



CONSTANT BEARING - DECREASING RANGE

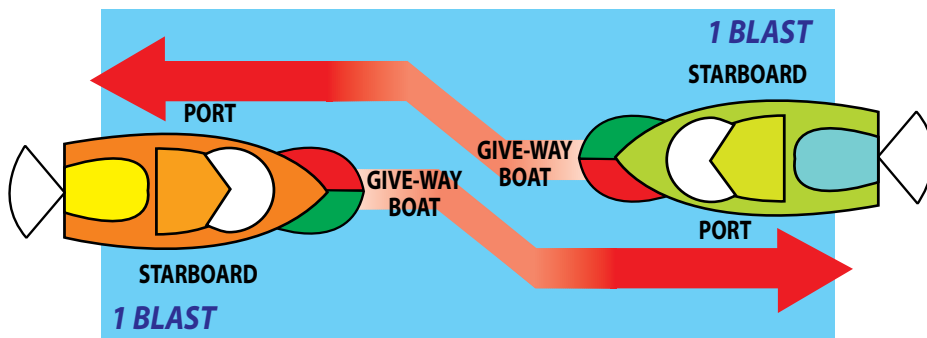


CHANGE IN BEARING - DECREASING RANGE

Rules for Power-driven Boats Underway

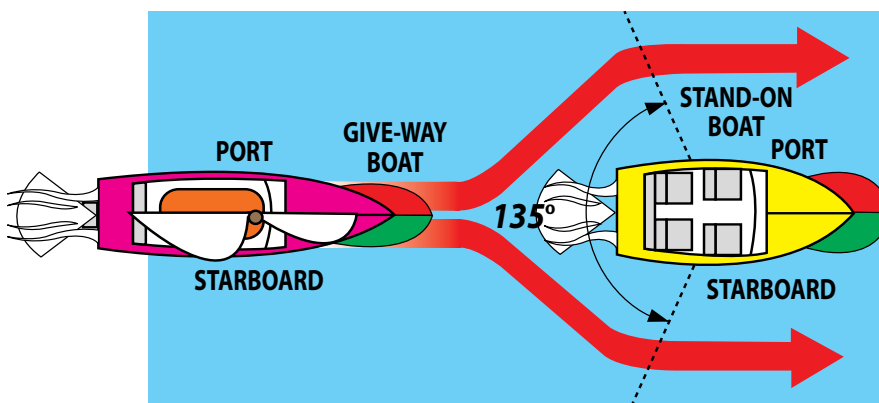
HEAD-ON (MEETING) SITUATION

When two boats meet head-on, both boats are required to turn starboard (to the right) to avoid the other. At night, a head-on situation exists when both the red and the green running lights are seen at the same time. Lights required on boats are explained previously in this handbook. Sound signals used when maneuvering are explained on this page.



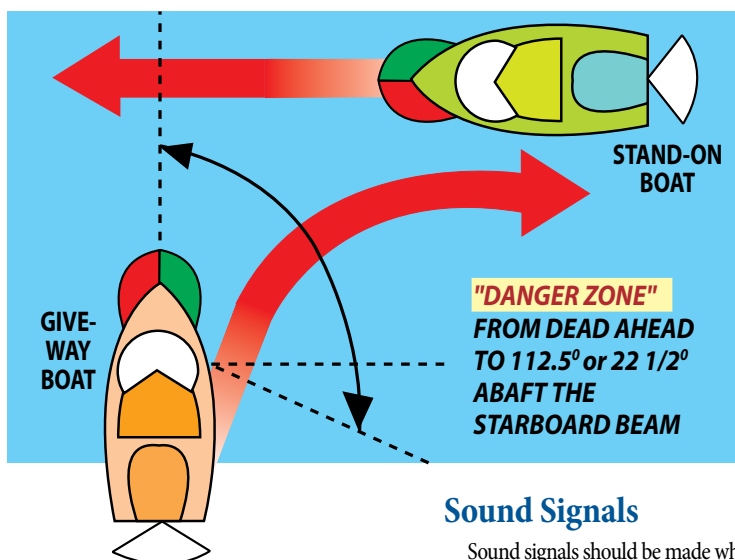
OVERTAKING (PASSING) SITUATIONS

The boat being passed is the stand-on boat. It must maintain its course and speed while the overtaking (give-way) boat passes by. The overtaking boat is always the give-way boat, and it may pass on either side.



CROSSING SITUATION

All boats have a danger zone from dead ahead (12 o'clock) to 4 o'clock (112.5 degrees) starboard (the right). In a crossing situation, the boat in the danger zone (ahead and to the right) is the stand-on boat. The give-way boat must stop or slow down and let the stand-on boat continue on. If the give-way boat does not take the required action in this situation or any of the other situations, then the stand-on boat operator must be prepared to take action to avoid a collision.



Sound Signals

Sound signals should be made when within hearing distance of another boat to indicate your intentions when meeting, crossing or overtaking another boat. Your signal should receive a response signal from the other boat indicating their agreement or disagreement with your intentions.

Short Blast- 1-second duration

Prolonged Blast- 4 to 6 seconds duration

1 Short Blast- I intend to leave you on my port side (boat turns right).

2 Short Blasts- I intend to leave you on my starboard side (boat turns left).

3 Short Blasts- I am operating in reverse (astern propulsion).

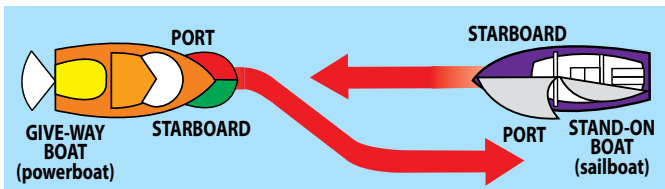
5 or More Short Blasts- Doubt or danger—the danger signal is used when the other boat's intentions are not understood or where the other boat's indicated course is dangerous.

Other Important Rules of the Road

- A power-driven boat must give way to any sailing boat that is under sail only (no auxiliary power propulsion).

Exceptions:

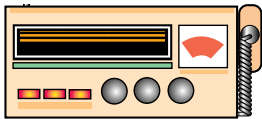
- When a sailboat is overtaking a power-driven boat, the power-driven boat is the stand-on boat and maintains course and speed while being overtaken.
- When a sailboat is approaching a boat at anchor, the power-driven boat remains anchored.
- In narrow channels, recreational boats under 65 feet long must not hamper the operation of large boats that cannot operate outside the channel. Boats should operate as near to the outer limit of the channel that lies on its starboard (right) side as is safe and practicable.
- Boats restricted in their ability to maneuver, such as tugs with barges, ferryboats, commercial fishing boats with nets or lines out or boats at anchor, are stand-on boats.
- Boats not under command (usually because of mechanical problems and are unable to steer) or constrained by their draft are stand-on boats.
- On a river, a boat operating upriver (against the current) gives way to a boat operating downriver (with the current). A boat operating across the current gives way to boats operating both upriver and downriver.



VHF Radio

A VHF (very high frequency) radio is used to communicate with other boaters, the Coast Guard, commercial boats, draw bridge tenders and lock operators. A VHF is not required to be USCG approved. Recreational boaters are not required to carry VHF radios, but they are highly recommended on larger waters such as Lake Erie. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulates their use. Recreational boats less than 20 meters in length are NOT required to have a station license to operate a VHF radio unless they travel to foreign ports or transmit to foreign stations. Use of a VHF radio is enforced by the USCG.

There are many channels on the VHF, but recreational boaters are given access to only a few.



| | |
|-------------------|--|
| 6 | intership safety communications only |
| 9 | commercial and non-commercial intership, ship to coast and alternate calling channel |
| 13 | ocean-going boats, bridge tenders, tugs while towing, locks |
| 16 | distress safety and calling, call Coast Guard, establish general contact |
| 24-28, 84-88 | public telephone calls (to call the marine operator) |
| 68, 69, 71 and 78 | non-commercial intership and ship to coast (recreational boat working channels) |
| 72 | non-commercial intership only |

Marine weather (WX-1, WX-2, WX-3) stations broadcast the latest available weather information from the National Weather Service continually. Forecasts are updated every 6 hours or more often as conditions require.

Anchoring

It is essential that every boater becomes proficient in anchoring. Some anchoring considerations include:

- Type and weight of the boat
- Character of the bottom in the area you are boating (rocky, sandy)
- Average depth of the water
- Strength of the wind and current
- Diameter of the anchor line

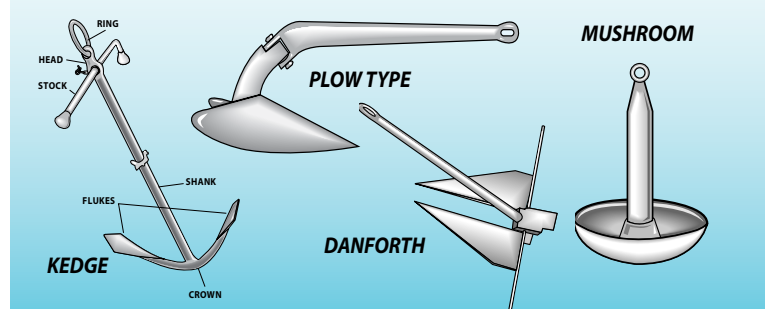
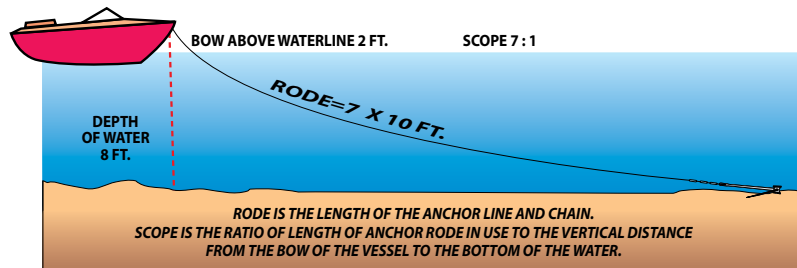
There are different types of anchors: kedge for rocks and heavy grasses, burying for sand and mud and mushroom for permanent moorings. The two questions boaters should ask themselves about anchoring are: which type of anchor will they need and how much

rode (the length of the anchor line) is necessary.

Anchors hold best when the pull of the rode on the anchor is as near to horizontal as possible.

The holding power of an anchor increases as the scope ratio increases. A ratio of 7:1 is standard; 10:1 is better in rough water. For example, if boating in 8 feet of water and the bow is 2 feet above the waterline, 70 feet of rode is recommended. Boaters should carry at least two anchors. A smaller, lighter anchor is good for use in calm weather and for positioning a boat, and a larger anchor is best for bad weather or when anchoring overnight. **Never anchor from the stern, especially in current or waves.** The anchor line should be tied to the bow. The end of the anchor rode (called the bitter end) must be secured to the boat.

To anchor, the boat should be headed into the wind or current. The engine is then reversed, or the boat is allowed to back off. When the boat begins to drift backward, lower the anchor from the bow (front of the boat). No one should be standing on any part of the anchor line. When about a third of the rode is out, the rode is tied off to a forward cleat to make the anchor dig into the bottom. Once the anchor digs in, the remaining rode is let out. A sight bearing is then taken on some stationary objects to make certain that the anchor is not dragging on the bottom.



Anchors can also be used as safety devices in an emergency situation. The operator may drop the anchor quickly to avoid running aground in the event the boat loses power. Make sure the anchor and line are stored in an easily accessible place.

Exercise caution when “weighing” (pulling up) anchor. The combination of anchor pull, current and weight can swamp a small boat. The anchor should be lifted as vertically as possible. As it is lifted, it can be washed. Take care that it does not hit the side of the boat.

Locks and Dams

In Pennsylvania, locks and dams are located on the Three Rivers in and near Pittsburgh (Monongahela, Allegheny and Ohio rivers). The dams provide a navigable channel for river traffic. Locks are a means of passing boats through the dams. The locks in Pennsylvania are built and maintained by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

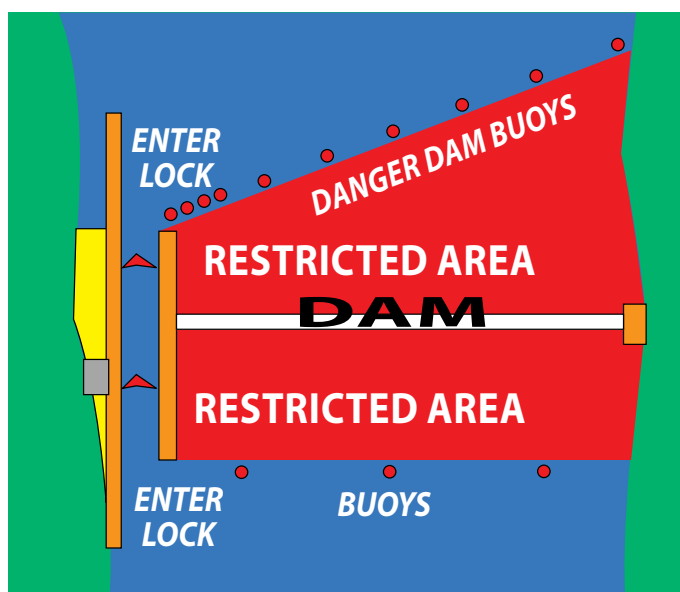
At locks, the lockmaster is in control and will signal your boat to enter with a horn or a light system.

There are priorities (of boats) set for safe and efficient passage:

- military craft
- mail boats
- commercial passenger craft
- commercial tows
- commercial fishermen
- pleasure boats

Before entering a lock, the boat should stop at least 100 yards from the lock entrance. The lockmaster can be signaled by the boater with a long and short blast of the horn, on the marine radio (channel 13) or with a signaling device on the lock wall. Once the lockmaster has been signaled, the boat must stay clear of the lock chamber until signaled to enter. Fenders and mooring lines (minimum of 75 feet) should be ready. Once inside the chamber, the lock lines are adjusted with the water levels. **The boat must not be tied fast to the lock wall.** Life jackets should always be worn.

TYPICAL FIXED-CREST DAM



LIGHT SYSTEM

THE ONE THAT IS FLASHING IS THE LIGHT TO OBEY.

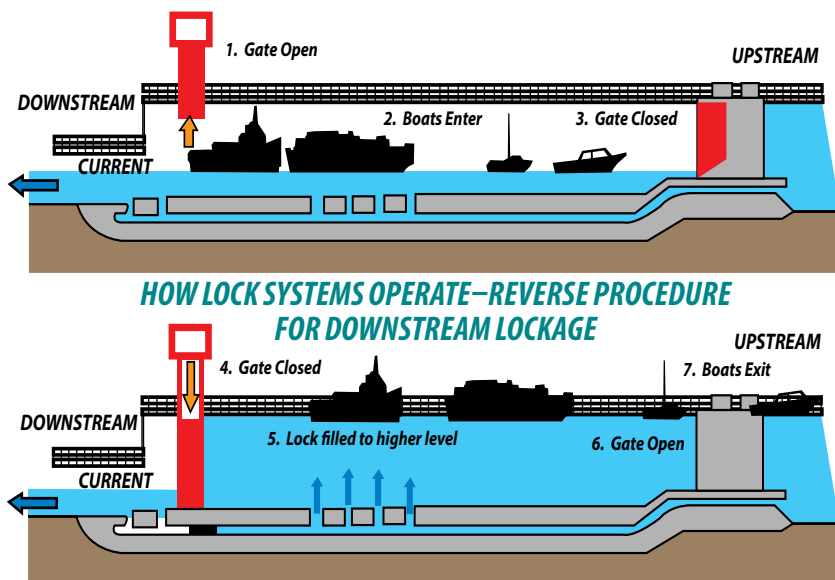
1. Red - Stand clear, do not enter.
2. Amber - Approach the lock under full control.
3. Green - Enter the lock.
4. Amber/Green - Enter the lock with caution.

Boat Theft

Small boats are vulnerable to theft. Titled boats are easier to identify and much more difficult to sell illegally. Boat dealers and other purchasers are more certain that someone offering a titled boat for sale has the legal right to do so.

BOAT AND MOTOR THEFT PREVENTION CHECKLIST

- ✓ **Secure it.** Store your boat and motor in a secure location. Use a hitch lock to secure your boat trailer. Lock your outboard motor to your boat with a motor lock or chain and padlock.
- ✓ **Mark it.** Use an engraving tool to mark your boat, motor and marine equipment with a unique identification (driver's license number, etc.). Hide your engraved identification in a location where it is not easily found.
- ✓ **Record it.** Keep a record of your boat and motor's make, model and serial numbers.
- ✓ **Report it.** Immediately report any theft to your local police and the PFBC, Division of Licensing and Registration, Harrisburg, at 866-262-8734. Reporting your loss to the police and the PFBC may lead to its recovery in the event someone attempts to sell or register it.



Personal Watercraft (PWC)

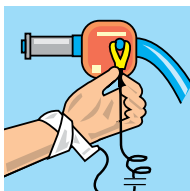
PWCs are defined as boats less than 16 feet in length that use an inboard engine powering a water jet pump as their primary source of propulsion, designed to be operated by a person sitting, kneeling or standing in other than the conventional manner of boat operation. Other boats may use jet propulsion, however, these boats are not considered a PWC.

These boats are fast and maneuverable and can be operated in relatively shallow water. Collisions are one of the most common types of accidents reported by PWC operators and are usually caused by the operator not keeping a proper lookout or operating the boat in a reckless manner. Many of these accidents are caused by people new to PWC operation, and nearly all of these accidents are avoidable.



PWC operators must follow the same laws and regulations as other boaters. **Pennsylvania regulations require that PWC operators must:**

- Wear life jackets at all times. All passengers must also wear life jackets. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable.
- Carry a fully charged fire extinguisher on board if gasoline powered (see fire extinguisher section).
- Carry a sound-producing device on board.
- Attach the cut-off switch safety lanyard to clothing, body or life jacket. The purpose of the switch is to stop the engine in case the operator falls off.



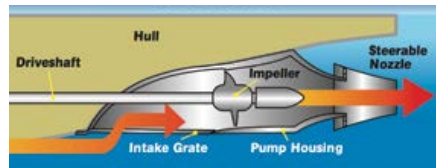
Furthermore, it is illegal:

- For anyone to operate a PWC without having in one's possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate. **See page 4** on how to obtain a certificate.
- To rent a PWC to anyone 15 years of age or younger. No one less than 16 years of age may operate a rented PWC.
- To operate a PWC from sunset to sunrise. **See page 10** for timetable.
- For a PWC with a capacity of three or less to tow more than one person on a boat-towed device.
- For anyone 11 years of age or younger to operate a PWC.

- For anyone 12 through 15 years of age to operate a PWC with any passengers on board 15 years of age or younger.

PWC Characteristics

- Jet pump propulsion, which eliminates a rudder or exposed propeller
 - Steerable nozzle, located at the stern of the boat
 - Cut-off switch and safety lanyard, which stops the engine when the operator falls off the PWC
- PWCs are highly maneuverable. Releasing the throttle (or slowing the engine) usually eliminates the ability to steer the craft.



PWC Operation

PWC operators should be responsible and considerate of others around them. Noise is the most common complaint against PWC operators. A PWC must be equipped with an efficient muffling system in good working order, which cannot be bypassed or altered. Courteous PWC operators will vary their areas of operation to reduce repetitive course tracking, stay away from shorelines and be aware of all boats and people in the area of operation.

Everyone who operates a PWC should read the owner's manual and become familiar with the craft before going on the water. Practice is essential for safe PWC operation. PWC operators must connect the safety lanyard to both the cut-off switch on the PWC and their life jacket, body or clothing. If the operator falls off, the operator should re-board the craft from the rear. PWCs have both "main" and "reserve" fuel tanks. Switch the fuel selector on your craft to "reserve" when the "main" tank has been used and head to shore to refuel. Safety gear, including gloves, eye protection, footwear and wetsuit or dry suit for protection against cold water, is not required by law but advisable for PWC operators.



Paddlesports

Canoeing, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding are popular recreational water sports in Pennsylvania. There are dangers that can be lessened with knowledge, preparation and practice. Primary hazards are capsizing, swamping or just falling out of the boat. Keep in mind that paddling is a "get wet" sport.

PADDLING TIPS

- **Wear your life jacket.** On average, 80 percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- **Expect to get wet and dress properly.** Even the best paddlers sometimes capsize or swamp their boats.
- **Be prepared to swim.** If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.
- **If you capsize, hold on to your boat,** unless it presents a life-threatening situation.
- **Scout ahead whenever possible.** Know the river. Avoid surprises.
- **Be prepared for the weather.** Get a forecast before you go.
- **Wear wading shoes or tennis shoes** with wool, polypropylene, pile or neoprene socks.
- **Never take your boat over a low-head dam.**
- **Portage (carry) your boat around any section of water about which you feel uncertain.**
- **Never boat alone.** Boating safety increases with numbers.
- **Keep painter lines (ropes tied to the bow) and any other ropes coiled and secured.**
- **Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.**
- **Kneel to increase your stability before entering rougher water,** like a rapid.
- **If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it.**
- **Leave a float plan.** It's a written statement that details your intended trip and is provided to a relative, friend, neighbor or marina operator. Include specifics about the boat, equipment, crew and departure and arrival times. **See page 24.**

BOATING ETIQUETTE

Courteous boat operation is key to having a great day on the water. Remember to:

- Be mindful of other boaters and anglers.
- Maintain a safe distance while operating and making a wake.
- Be mindful of your noise level. Sound travels far on the water.

Gear Up for Adventure

**Don't Forget
to Wear
Your
Life Jacket!**



Boat-towed Watersports

Boat-towed watersports include activities that involve being towed by a boat or riding in or on the wake of a boat such as waterskiing, wake surfing, kneeboarding and tubing. Participants in all of these types of activities are required to wear a USCG-approved life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable for anyone towed behind a boat. Persons engaged in barefoot, jump or trick skiing or wake surfing may elect to wear, at their own risk, a wetsuit designed specifically for that activity. A USCG-approved life jacket must be carried in the boat for each skier electing to wear the special water-ski wetsuit.

In addition to the operator, a competent observer must be in the passenger or carrying area of the boat in a position to observe the progress of the person being towed. A competent observer is a person who has the ability to assess when a person being towed is in trouble, knows and understands hand signals and is capable of helping the person being towed.

- To prevent propeller-related accidents, turn off your engine before picking up boat-towed watersports participants from the water.
- Boat-towed watersports are prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
- Boat-towed watersport participants are also considered passengers and count in the boat's total capacity.

- It's unlawful to operate a boat when it is loaded with passengers (including individuals being towed behind a boat) or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity.
- Skiers may start from the shore or dock if boat traffic permits. Skiers may not return to the shore or dock under power.
- Installation of ski ramps and jumps requires a permit from the PFBC. Mooring or drifting within 100 feet of a ski ramp or jump while it is in use is prohibited.
- Kite skiing and parasailing are permitted only on waters where unrestricted skiing is permitted.
- It is legal to tow more than one boat-towed device except when locally prohibited. Tow ropes must be at least 20 feet and may not exceed the following lengths (as measured from the boat's transom):
 - Conventional water-ski- 80 feet
 - Parasails- 300 feet
 - Nonreleasable kite ski- 50 feet
 - Releasable kite ski- 500 feet
- It is unlawful to operate a motorboat at any speed with a person or persons sitting, riding or hanging on a swim platform (teak surfing) or swim ladder attached to the motorboat, except when launching, retrieving, docking or anchoring the motorboat.

Boats engaged in the activity of wake surfing are limited to slow, no-wake speed when within 200 feet of the shoreline, docks, launch ramps, swimmers, downed skiers or other boat-towed watersports participants, persons wading in the water, anchored, moored or drifting boats and other marked areas.

- It is illegal to operate a motorboat propelled by an outboard motor, inboard/outboard motor or water jet while a person is wake surfing in or on the wake of the motorboat, unless the propulsion system is specifically designed by the manufacturer for that activity.

A diver down flag is displayed from a float during diving operations. This flag is red with a white diagonal stripe running from the top of the staff to the opposite lower corner.



The code flag alpha is a blue and white pennant, and boats must display this flag during dive operations if they are restricted in their ability to maneuver.

Boats not engaged in diving operations shall remain at least 100 feet from areas displaying the diver down flag or boats displaying the code flag alpha.

Sailing

Sailing is another popular form of boating in Pennsylvania. Sailboaters may have different requirements than other boaters. They should be familiar with the operation and navigation requirements found in this handbook. Navigation lights are required after dusk and during periods of restricted visibility.

Sailboaters should stay off the water during storms and periods of extremely high winds. They should also be aware of overhead power lines. Life jackets should be worn at all times.

Another type of sailing boat, the sailboard (windsurfer) is a single or double-hulled boat with jointed mast (surfboard with a sail). Sailboard operators in Pennsylvania must wear a life jacket. Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable.

Iceboats

Iceboats must follow all boating regulations while operating.

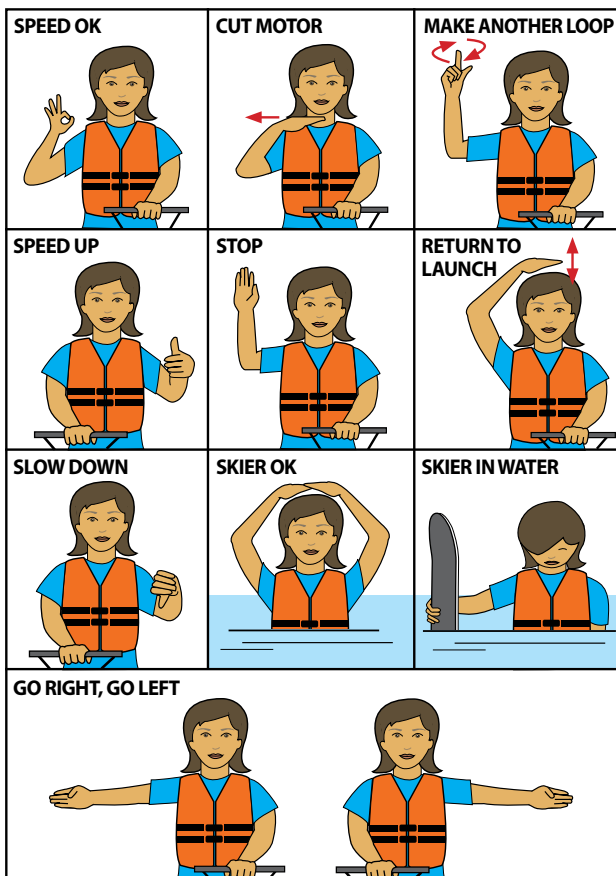
Hunters and Anglers

Hunters and anglers who use a boat as a platform to hunt or fish must remember that they are boaters too. Often, these types of boaters get so involved with their sport they forget to follow all boating regulations such as proper safety equipment, boating laws and the rules of the road. When fishing from a boat, remember to load your boat properly, remain seated, wear a life jacket and keep an eye on the weather. **Never anchor from the stern (back), and stay with your boat if it should capsize.**

Hunting from a boat is fun but can be dangerous. Fall weather is changeable and can be deadly for the boating hunter. Water temperatures are typically much colder during traditional hunting seasons. The hunter usually hunts from a small boat with a flat bottom. These boats are poorly suited for rough water. Life jackets appropriate for hunting should be worn at all times.

Please be aware of the mandatory cold weather life jacket wear regulation, effective November 1 through April 30—see page 7.

WATER-SKIING HAND SIGNALS



Swimming and Diving

Swimming is prohibited at PFBC lakes and access areas. Boaters should keep a sharp lookout for swimmers and divers at all times.

Ventilation and Fueling

Gasoline fumes are heavier than air and will settle to the lowest part of the boat's interior hull, the bilge. All motorboats except open boats must have at least two ventilator ducts with cowls (intake and exhaust). Exhaust blowers are part of most boat ventilation systems. Permanently installed fuel tanks must be vented.

Most boat explosions occur from improper fueling. Portable gas tanks should be filled on the dock or pier, not on board. The vent on the tank should be closed and the gas carefully pumped, maintaining contact with the nozzle and the tank's rim. Any spills should be cleaned up, the tank secured and the vent reopened.

When filling inboard tanks, everyone should be sent ashore and the boat closed up. All electrical systems should be shut off. After filling up and before starting the engine, the blower should be run for at least 4 minutes. Take appropriate precautions to prevent spills. Avoid discharging oil and gas from your boat's bilge. Toxic substances must be disposed of properly. Noncompliance may result in fines.

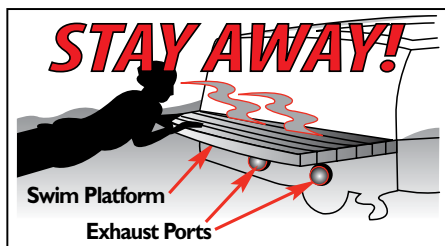
Boaters should routinely check for leaks in fuel lines and fittings, frayed wiring and improperly rigged electrical systems.

Carbon Monoxide



Carbon monoxide (CO) gas is a potentially deadly by-product of your boat's engine. Each year boaters are killed or injured by CO. Stay away from exhaust areas, and do not swim near exhaust vents. Never enter an enclosed area under a swim platform, where exhaust is vented. Only one or two breaths of the air in this "death chamber" can be fatal. Keep air moving through the boat to avoid problems.

Symptoms of CO poisoning depend on exposure. Brief exposure may produce shortness of breath, mild nausea and mild headaches. Moderate levels of CO exposure may cause death if headaches, dizziness and light headedness symptoms persist for an extended period of time. High levels of CO may be fatal, causing death within minutes. If you suspect someone is experiencing CO poisoning, move the individual to fresh air immediately and call 911.



Running Aground

Keep a sharp lookout when traveling on waters that have shallow areas to avoid running aground. Navigational charts, buoys and depth finders can assist in this task. If you run aground and the impact does not appear to cause a leak, follow these steps to refloat the boat:

- Do not put the boat in reverse. Instead, stop the engine and lift the out-drive.
- Shift the weight to the area farthest from the point of impact.
- Try to shove off the rock or bottom.

If this fails, contact help.

Water Hazards

It is important that boaters know the waters they are boating. Information about local hazards can be obtained by physically viewing their proposed route, consulting local boating sources and utilizing web resources such as the PFBC website.

MOVING WATER: Safety on the water depends on developing respect for the power of water. The power of current is deceptive and should be taken into account by all boaters. A strainer is an obstruction in the water (such as a tree branch) that allows water to pass through but will hold and trap boats and boaters. Rivers and rapids are rated with the International Scale of River Difficulty (Classes I - VI), which is a guide established by the American Whitewater. Parts of rivers can have a different class rating than the overall river's rating. The rating for any river will vary as water flow increases or decreases because of seasonal conditions.

WIND AND WAVES: The definition of wind is "moving air that is described by the strength and the direction of its source." Wind acts on the surface of the water, creating waves. The greater the force and duration of the wind, the bigger the waves will be. Large waves in big water can place small craft in danger. When crossing waves or another boat's wake, head into the waves or wakes at an angle (45 degrees) to reduce pounding.

Large bodies of water such as oceans or Lake Erie provide different challenges and dangers than moving water. Large, relatively shallow lakes, such as Lake Erie, may develop large waves faster than deeper, similar waters. Small inland boats should not venture out on large waters such as Lake Erie. Bodies of water that seem placid may hide currents. Never leave your boat unless you are wearing your life jacket and have someone aboard the boat to retrieve you.

TIDES AND TIDAL CURRENTS: Tides and tidal currents affect where a boater can travel or anchor safely. They also affect how long it takes to get to a destination, the speed needed to arrive at a given time and the heading that must be maintained.

Tides are the vertical rise and fall of ocean water (and waters affected by the ocean) caused by the

gravitational pull of the moon and sun. The moment the tide changes direction is known as "slack water." "High tide" is the highest level a tide reaches during ascending waters, and "low tide" is the lowest level a tide reaches during descending waters.

The tidal cycle is the high tide followed approximately 6 hours later by low tide (two highs and two lows per day). The tidal range is the vertical distance between high and low tides. The tidal range varies from 1 to 11 feet in Pennsylvania on the Delaware River. Boaters should consult tide tables for times of high and low tides.

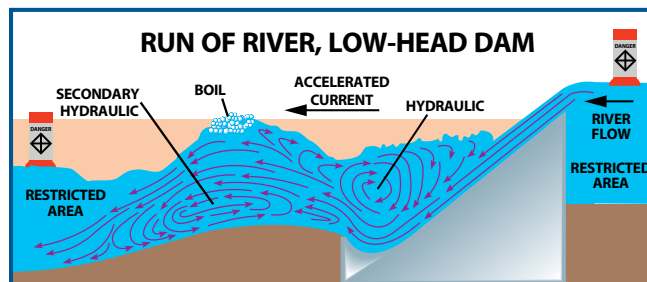
Dams

Dams on our rivers aid navigation, produce power and prevent flooding. Keep away from dams! Dangerous currents above the structure can draw boats into water going over or through a dam. Areas below a dam are also extremely hazardous to boats because of strong recirculating currents and turbulent waters.

The most dangerous hazard on a river is a low-head dam. There are hundreds of such dams on rivers and streams throughout Pennsylvania, and dams are true "drowning machines."

Water going over a dam creates a back current or undertow that can pull a boat into the turbulence and capsize it. This hydraulic can trap and hold a person or boat. Some dams are not marked and are almost impossible to see from upstream.

State law requires that many low-head dams in the Commonwealth be marked with signs and, when practical, buoys upstream and downstream from these dangerous structures. The signs detail restrictions for boating, swimming and wading and hazards posed by the dam. Restrictions are enforced by the PFBC Waterways Conservation Officers. Dams must be avoided and may be located by checking water trail guides, maps and the PFBC's website. **Dams may not always be marked.**



Weather

Weather can cause boaters problems. Having a mishap in cold water or in a remote area can result in hypothermia or other problems. Getting caught in a storm can have serious consequences. Never underestimate the weather.

Factors that determine weather conditions can be observed and measured. These factors include temperature, barometric pressure and wind. Weather affects the condition of open water and can suddenly change. Check local forecasts the night before going boating and again in the morning. The National Weather Service typically issues a new marine forecast every 6 hours on designated VHF radio channels.

Signs that dangerous weather may be approaching include:

- Clouds gathering, darkening and increasing in size
- A sudden temperature drop, a rapid wind shift or change in speed
- Static on the AM band of the radio (may indicate an approaching thunderstorm)
- A drop in the barometric pressure (check a barometer)

IF A STORM IS NEAR...

In a small boat, put on your life jacket and head for the nearest shore. Beach your boat and find shelter on the downwind (leeward) side of the land.

In a large boat, put on your life jacket and start your engine or secure your sails (whichever is applicable). Stow anything that is unnecessary. Secure your dinghy (if you have one) and turn on your running lights. Close up the boat and decide what to do. If land is near, head for it. If not, you may have to ride out the storm. Do so by keeping your bow (front) headed into the waves, wind and/or current. If your motor fails, a sea anchor on a line from the bow will keep the boat into the waves. A bucket will work as a sea anchor in an emergency.

Capsizing and Falls Overboard

Many boating accident deaths are caused by capsizing. If a small, open boat capsizes, everyone should take a head count, check for injury and stay with the boat. Most small boats have enough flotation to keep from sinking. If possible, the boat should be turned upright and the water bailed out. It can then be paddled to shore. It is also possible to paddle a swamped boat to shore. If a boat capsizes, everyone should stay with the boat.

SWAMPING AND CAPSIZING

If you do capsize or swamp the boat, stay with the boat and make sure everyone has a life jacket. Stay calm. If the boat can be righted, bail out as much water as possible, get in and paddle towards shore. If your boat capsizes or you fall overboard in moving water, such as a river, get in the self-rescue position with your feet pointed downstream and near the surface to avoid potential head injury and foot entrapment.

FALLS OVERBOARD

Falls overboard are dangerous situations. People fall overboard even when wind and seas are calm. The shock of falling into the water, especially cold water, can be life-threatening. Wearing a life jacket can be your only source of survival. The best means of survival is to already have a life jacket on and stay with the boat.

PREVENTION

- When getting into or moving around in a small boat, always maintain three points of contact, keeping your weight low and close to the centerline. Don't overload your boat.
- Do not allow passengers to stand in small boats, including canoes and kayaks, or sit on foredecks, gunwales, engine boxes, seat backs or transoms. Small boats, especially canoes and kayaks, are more likely to capsize when someone stands up.
- Watch crew members and frequently check that everyone is aboard.
- Wear deck-gripping shoes (bare feet have poor traction).
- Avoid rough water and weather conditions whenever possible.
- Practice a procedure for recovering someone lost overboard. Toss a life jacket over the side while moving. Test to see how long it takes to stop the boat, turn and retrieve the life jacket.

Propeller Strikes

When people and motorboats share the same water, propeller strikes can and do occur. A typical recreational propeller can rip an average person from head to toe in less than one-tenth of a second. **MOST**



PROPELLER STRIKES CAN BE PREVENTED!

Before starting your boat:

- Put on your life jacket!
- Walk to the stern and look in the water to make certain there is no one near your propeller (people near the boat's propeller may not be visible from the helm).
- Attach your engine cut-off switch lanyard to your life jacket. If the lanyard is removed from the switch, the engine will shut off.

Educate passengers:

- Explain the dangers of a motorboat running into a swimmer.
- Show the location and danger of the propellers and all safety equipment.
- Turn off the engine if anyone is near the prop to prevent injury.
- Establish clear rules for swim platform use, boarding ladders and seating (if possible, passengers should remain seated at all times).
- Talk about safety procedures and emergency action plans.
- Discuss preventing falls overboard:
 - Maintain three points of contact, keep your weight low and close to the centerline (balance issues may occur).
 - Watch crew members and frequently check that everyone is aboard.
 - Wear deck-gripping shoes (bare feet have poor traction).
 - Avoid rough water and weather conditions whenever possible.
 - Limit alcohol use and discuss physical effects resulting from on water activities.
- Discuss swamping and capsizing prevention.
 - Don't overload your boat.

If capsizing occurs, stay with the boat and make sure everyone has a life jacket. Stay calm. If the boat can be righted, bail out as much water as possible, get in and paddle towards shore. If capsized or overboard in a river, swim downstream, feet first, to avoid potential head injury and entrapment.

Keep a lookout:

- Assign a passenger to keep watch around the propeller area of your boat when people are in the water.
- Never allow passengers to board or exit your boat from the water when the engine is on or idling (your propeller may continue to spin). Turn the engine off.
- Be especially alert when operating in congested areas, and never enter swimming zones.
- Take extra precautions near boats that are towing skiers or tubers.
- Never permit passengers to ride on the bow, gunwale, transom, seat backs or other locations where they may fall overboard.
- Children should be watched carefully while onboard.

Consider purchasing propeller safety devices for your boat. A variety of safety devices are available to help prevent propeller strikes.

EMERGENCY ACTION FOR FALLS OVERBOARD AND PROPELLER STRIKES

1. Shout "Man Overboard" immediately.
2. Signal for assistance from passengers, crew or other boaters. Have someone call for assistance over the radio, if available.
3. Stop the boat immediately.
4. Toss a life jacket to the person overboard or any item that will float such as an empty ice cooler. Even if the person is wearing a jacket, it will help improve visibility and provide additional flotation.
5. Assign someone to constantly point at the person in the water. Never let the victim out of sight.
6. Avoid running the person over.
7. Approach against the wind, waves or current.
8. Come close to the victim.
9. Shift into reverse to stop forward motion.
10. Put engine in neutral gear or shut off the engine to stop the propeller from turning. It may be safer to trail a life jacket on a line astern and circle until the person can grasp it.
11. If the boat has a low freeboard, bring the person over the transom. Be alert for hot motors, exhaust pipes and CO.
12. Use a swim platform or ladder and rig a sling, rope ladder or knotted line.
13. A non-powered boat must be stabilized before attempting to bring the victim into the boat.

Rescue and Survival

No one should ever count on being rescued. Boaters must be prepared for mishaps on the water. Drowning can occur within a few feet of safety. Even those who cannot swim can save a life if they know some basic rescue techniques.



RESCUE SEQUENCE

- Self rescue:** The rescuer should try to talk the person in trouble into self-rescue and avoid endangering themselves unnecessarily.
- Reach:** A fishing rod, shirt, towel, branch, oar, pole, boat hook or other object can be used to reach out to the victim. If nothing is available and the victim is within arm's reach, the rescuer should lie flat and extend a leg to the victim, pulling them to safety.
- Throw:** If the victim is too far for the reach rescue, the rescuer should throw a rope, life jacket, empty jug, ice chest, gas can or anything else that will float to the victim. Rescue line bags are excellent items to keep on a boat.
- Row:** The rescuer may boat out to the victim and extend an oar or paddle. The victim should be brought back onboard over the stern (back) of the boat. They should be pulled onboard as carefully as possible. If it isn't possible to bring them onboard, the rescuer should have them hold on to the boat or hold them until help arrives.
- Go:** Swimming rescues are for trained lifesavers only. A swimming rescue should never be tried until all other basic rescue methods have been ruled out. Rescuers who must swim to a victim should wear a life jacket and take a floating object with them to extend to the victim. Rescuers should avoid personal contact with the victim unless they have lifeguard training. Even then, it is used only as a last resort.

The method of rescue depends on the rescuer's training and skill, the condition and location of the victim, the equipment available and what additional support is available at the scene.

Cold Water Shock

Cold water shock is a major factor in boating fatalities. It happens when someone is suddenly immersed in cold water. The water does not have to be freezing; cold water shock often occurs in water temperatures above 50° F.

The body's first response to cold water shock is usually an involuntary gasp (torso reflex). Hyperventilation (rapid breathing) and breathlessness

follow. The person may feel claustrophobic, panicked and confused. Cold water greatly reduces the victim's ability to hold his or her breath, control breathing and impairs the ability to swim.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is the lowering of the body's core temperature. It is a factor in many fatal boating accidents. Cold water robs the body of heat much faster than cold air of the same temperature.

Hypothermia begins with shivering and a loss of feeling in the extremities. Cold, blue skin, decreased mental skills and slurred speech are common symptoms. Unconsciousness can be followed by death. Warm layered clothing, a life jacket and eating high-energy foods will help prevent hypothermia.

FOUR STAGES OF COLD WATER IMMERSION

Cold water shock is a rapid development of a number of shock responses caused by cold water immersion that can result in sudden drowning.

- Initial cold shock (first 3-5 minutes):** Sudden immersion in cold water causes the gasp reflex; this can result in water inhalation, hyperventilation, changes in heart rate and rhythm, changes in blood pressure and panic. All of these reactions may result in death, especially for those with pre-existing heart conditions.
- Short term swim failure (3-30 minutes):** Cold water saps energy, and arms and legs become weak. Movement is difficult and slow. Death can occur by drowning, as the victim can no longer stay afloat.
- Long term hypothermia (30 minutes +):** The body loses heat to cold water 25 times faster than cold air. The body becomes hypothermic when it loses heat at a rate faster than it can generate heat. Continued exposure leads to unconsciousness and death. At this stage, death may occur without drowning.
- Post immersion collapse:** This stage occurs during or after rescue. The body is still hypothermic, and death may occur due to complications from inhaling water or lowered body temperature.

FIRST AID FOR HYPOTHERMIA

- Get the person out of the water or weather as quickly as possible.
- Replace wet clothing with dry clothing. Wrap the person in blankets to warm the person slowly.
- Handle hypothermia victims gently and do not give anything by mouth if they are unconscious. Never give alcohol to a hypothermia victim.
- Get medical help as soon as possible.

COLD WATER SURVIVAL

- Wear a life jacket. Flotation coats also offer insulation from the cold.
- Wear clothing that still insulates when wet such as wool, fleece or other synthetics.
- If you know you are about to fall into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands, so you don't inhale water.

- Do not remove your clothing.
- Get back into or climb on top of the boat.
- If you can't get out of the water and shore is too far, get into the Heat Escape Lessening Posture (HELP).



Alcohol and Boating

When on a boat, the effects of alcohol are magnified and cause reduced judgement. Combined with stresses from wind, motion and heat, your ability to think and perform basic tasks needed to safely operate your boat may become impaired. It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance. Alcohol is prohibited on land and water at all state parks and at most United States Army Corps of Engineers projects. Pre-arrest breath tests can be used by officers to determine the probability that a boat operator is under the influence. A blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or more is considered to be over the legal limit (0.02% blood alcohol concentration for minors). Penalties include loss of boating privileges, significant fines and imprisonment. An officer can stop a boat and arrest.

Courtesy Vessel Safety Checks

A Vessel Safety Check (VSC) is a free courtesy examination of private recreational boats to verify the presence and condition of safety equipment required by state and federal regulations. The boat examiner is a trained member of the United States Power Squadrons or the USCG Auxiliary. Persons whose boats fail the examination are informed of all shortcomings, so they may correct them and be given a chance for reexamination and the awarding of the decal. Boats that pass may display the distinctive VSC decal, which entitles the boat owner to discounts at some marine dealers (see website for details). Learn more about VSCs or arrange a free VSC by visiting cgaux.org/vsc.

Boating Accidents

Each operator of a boat involved in a boating accident must stop, render assistance and offer identification if doing so will not endanger yourself or passengers. If the accident results in a death or disappearance, the PFBC must be notified immediately, followed by a written boating accident report within 48 hours. If the accident results in an injury that requires treatment beyond first aid, a written boating accident report must be submitted within 48 hours. If the accident results in damage to the boat or other property exceeding \$2,000 or if there is a complete loss of the boat, a written boating accident report must be submitted within 10 days. All reports are confidential and for the use of the Commission for boating safety purposes only. Boating Accident Report Forms (PFBC-260) are available on the Commission's website. Reports must be sent to: PFBC, Bureau of Boating, P.O. Box 67000, Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.

Law Enforcement

Enforcement of boating laws and regulations, along with providing for safety on Pennsylvania waters, is the responsibility of the PFBC's Waterways Conservation Officers. Some of the waters of the state are also patrolled by other agencies such as the Bureau of State Parks, United States Army Corps of Engineers, USCG and the National Park Service.

Boaters approached by a patrol boat with its blue light flashing must reduce speed to slow, no-wake and yield the right of way to the patrol boat. The operator shall stop when requested to do so by a law enforcement officer. Violators can expect enforcement action. Persons who violate boating laws and regulations are subject to citation or arrest. The penalty can be a fine and/or jail sentence. The PFBC is also authorized by law to revoke, suspend or deny the boating privileges of persons who are convicted of violating the boating laws and regulations. Persons whose boating privileges are subject to revocation, suspension or denial will be notified in writing and given the opportunity for a hearing.

PFBC Lakes and Access Areas

Any boat, powered or unpowered, using a PFBC lake or access area, must display a current registration or launch permit issued by PFBC or DCNR. Inflatable boats less than 7 feet in length or which are not constructed of durable fabric and do not have at least two separate buoyancy chambers are prohibited.

Overnight mooring is permitted only if the boat has a current registration. Boats may be moored from March 1 through November 30 at designated areas. Launch permits do not allow these same privileges.

The following acts are prohibited on the PFBC property:

- Camping, building or maintaining fires
- Picking, cutting or digging flowers, plants, shrubs or trees
- Swimming at Commission access areas or in Commission-owned lakes
- Leaving trash, garbage or debris, except as placed in containers provided for such purposes and accumulated only during the use of Commission property
- Removing or defacing any sign, poster or property
- Overnight sleeping in boats, automotive vehicles, tents, campers or the like



- Blocking driveways, access roads or launch ramps
- Parking in undesignated areas

While on Commission property, dogs must be licensed and under control. When the dog is on a lawn area, trail or parking lot, it must be on a leash not to exceed 6 feet in length. The maximum number of dogs that an owner or handler is permitted to have on Commission property at one time is two. Droppings must be immediately scooped and disposed of off Commission property. The owner or handler is responsible for the conduct of the dog.

To learn more about amenities and accessibility of PFBC properties, *see page 20* of the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary* and visit fishandboat.com.

Permits

All tournaments, regattas, races, parades and exhibitions must be authorized by the PFBC or Coast Guard. A Special Activities Permit application must be filed with the Commission at least 60 days prior to such event. More information about Special Activities Permit applications is available online.

A ski ramp, floating dock, swim dock or other floating structure must have a permit from the Commission to be placed on any waters. Waterway markers, including signs and buoys, must have a permit from the Commission. Permit applications (PFBC 277) can be found on the Commission's website.

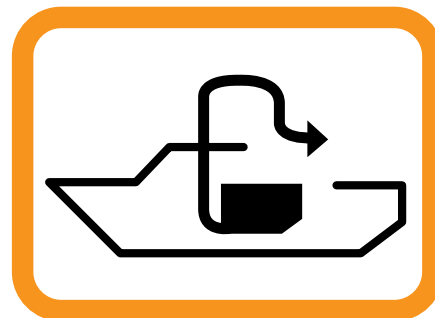
Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)

The Water Quality Act of 1987 requires the installation of an MSD on all boats with installed toilet systems operating in the navigational waters of the United States. Marine toilets are a source of pollution if not designed correctly.

They must be of a sealed construction, so no waste can be discharged from the toilet directly or indirectly into the water. All MSDs must be USCG approved. Portable toilets are not considered installed toilets. **Direct overboard discharge of portable toilet waste is a violation of state water regulations.**

Discharge of sewage, treated or untreated, is prohibited in all fresh water impoundments lying entirely within the boundaries of the state. When boating on these waters, if your watercraft is equipped with an installed toilet system, it must be removed, sealed or drained into a holding tank, which can be carried or pumped ashore for disposal at an approved sewage treatment system.

Pre-plan your trip: find pumpout locations on the PFBC website or look for the waterway sign below that indicates their availability.



Littering and Pollution

Plastic bags, discarded fishing line and other garbage kill fish, waterfowl and wildlife. Before throwing away six-pack rings, snip each circle with scissors. Once the rings are cut, no animal can get caught in the rings. In Pennsylvania, it is unlawful for any person to litter. If something blows out of your boat, go back and remove the object(s) from the water. Cigarette butts tossed in Pennsylvania waters is considered littering. Properly dispose of all litter, and report water pollution.

If you see any source or indication of pollution, such as dead fish, call the PFBC's Pollution Hotline at 855-FISH-KIL, or the Department of Environmental Protection at 800-541-2050, or the appropriate PFBC regional office. During after-hours, weekends and holidays, call the Department of Environmental Protection at 717-787-4343.



WASTE, OIL AND TRASH DISPOSAL IN PENNSYLVANIA AND FEDERAL WATERS

It is illegal to discharge sewage or other human waste, oil or trash into any state or federally controlled waters. Sewage carries disease and other pollutants harmful to people, aquatic plants and animals. Trash thrown into the water can injure swimmers and wildlife alike. It can also plug engine cooling water intakes.

The Refuse Act prohibits throwing, discharging or depositing any refuse matter of any kind (including trash, garbage, oil and other liquid pollutants) into the waters of the United States.

Discharge of oil and other hazardous substances:

- Regulations issued under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act require all boats with propulsion machinery to be able to retain oil mixtures on board.
- Discharge of oil or hazardous substances is prohibited. The penalty for illegal discharge may be a fine of up to \$10,000.
- Dumping oil into the bilge of the boat without means for proper disposal is also prohibited. Fuel spills can be removed using absorbent bilge pads.

- Oil waste must be disposed at an approved reception facility. On recreational boats, a bucket or bailer is adequate for temporary storage prior to disposing of the oil waste at an approved facility.
- Notify the Coast Guard immediately if your boat discharges oil or a hazardous substance into the water. Call toll-free 800-424-8802. Report the discharge's location, color, source, substances, size and time observed. You must also call the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and report the discharge.
- If boating on federally controlled waters and your boat is 26 feet or longer, you must display a 5- x 8-inch placard made of durable material,

fixed in a conspicuous place in the machinery spaces or at the bilge pump control station, stating the following:

DISCHARGE OF OIL PROHIBITED

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily waste upon or into any navigable waters of the United States. The prohibition includes any discharge, which causes a film or discoloration of the surface of the water or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violator's are subject to substantial civil and/or criminal sanctions including fines and imprisonment.



FLOAT PLAN

Complete this information before going boating and leave it with a reliable person. When you return, remember to contact that person.

Digital Float Plan:



1. Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

2. Boat Type: _____

Color: _____

Length: _____

Registration Number: _____

Choose one:

Inboard _____ Sail _____

Outboard _____ Other _____

Canoe/kayak/SUP _____

3. Operator Name: _____

Phone: _____

Passenger Name: _____

Phone: _____

Passenger Name: _____

Phone: _____

Passenger Name: _____

Phone: _____

4. CB: _____ VHF: _____
(Yes) (No) (Yes) (No)

5. Automobile Make/Model: _____

Color: _____

License Plate Number: _____

Parked at: _____

6. Leaving From: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

Returning To: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

7. Stop 1: _____

(Location)

(Time)

Stop 2: _____

(Location)

(Time)

Stop 3: _____

(Location)

(Time)

Stop 4: _____

(Location)

(Time)

8. Emergency Contact (if not returned by):

Date: _____ Time: _____

Name/Relationship: _____

Phone: _____

Boat and Gear Cleaning Required by Law

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants and animals that have been introduced into new ecosystems and have environmental, recreational, economic or health impacts. These invaders may damage equipment and compete with native species. Anglers and boaters may unknowingly introduce AIS into new waters.

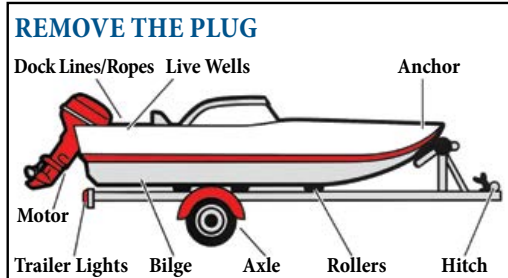
It is unlawful to transport any plants, fish or other aquatic life from one body of water to another. It is unlawful to release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. Dispose of unused bait in a trash can. Report AIS observations to the PFBC.

CHECK

Inspect every inch of your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving any body of water. Remove and leave behind plants, mud and aquatic life.

Check your boat

- Anchor and line
- Live wells
- Motor lower unit
- Hull and bilge
- Trailer hitch, rollers, lights and axle
- Life jackets
- Swimming floats, water skis, wakeboards and tubes



Check your fishing gear

- Shoes or boots
- Clothing
- Fishing vests
- Fishing rod, reel and line
- Hooks and lures
- Tackle boxes

Remove

- Visible plants
- Fish or other aquatic animals
- Mud and dirt

Do not transport any potential hitchhiker, even back to your home. Remove and leave them at the site you visited.

DRAIN

Drain water from all equipment before leaving the area you are visiting. Some species may live for months in water that has not been removed.

- Motors
- Jet drives
- Live wells
- Compartments
- Boat hulls
- Bilge
- Shoes, boots and waders
- Bait buckets
- Life jackets
- Swimming floats, water skis, wakeboards and tubes
- Kayaks (pull open plugs)

CLEAN

Many AIS are microscopic and can't be seen. It's important to clean your gear even if it doesn't appear to have anything on it. Follow the cleaning instructions below after the water has been removed.

- Use hot (140° F) water to clean your equipment.
- Spray equipment with a high-pressure washer. If hot water is not available, a commercial hot water car wash also makes an ideal location to wash your boat, motor and trailer.
- Freezing gear for at least 6 hours will kill most AIS.

DRY

Dry everything before entering new waters. Allow equipment to dry to the touch, and then allow it to dry another 48 hours. Thick and dense material like life jackets and felt-soled wading gear will hold moisture longer, take longer to dry and can be more difficult to clean.

STOP INVASIVE CARP!

Bighead, Silver and Black Carp are invasive carp. It is unlawful to possess, introduce or import, transport, sell, purchase, offer for sale or barter these species in Pennsylvania. These species pose a significant threat to the biodiversity of native species and habitat, along with imposing safety risks to boaters.

Invasive carp had a devastating impact in the Mississippi River system and now pose this threat to the Great Lakes Basin. As AIS, these fish do not naturally occur in Pennsylvania waters and would only occur if transported and released.

These carp species are a threat due to their large size (some can grow to more than 100 pounds and 5 feet in length), reproductive success, habitat damage and large, year-round food consumption. In addition, Silver Carp, when startled, can jump up to 10 feet out of the water, striking boaters and causing severe injury.

For more information and to report sightings or catches of these fish species and other AIS, go to fishandboat.com.

Grass Carp are also known as invasive carp. Diploid Grass Carp are banned from stocking in Pennsylvania, but Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp are allowed to be stocked in lakes and ponds with a PFBC-approved permit.

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Tips for New Zealand Mudsnaills:

- Freeze gear for a minimum of 6 hours.
- Soak gear in hot (>120 Fahrenheit) water for at least 5 minutes.
- Dry gear for at least 5 days.

A Waterways Conservation Officer may order:

- The removal of aquatic plants or prohibited species from a watercraft, trailer or water-related equipment before transport or before immersing in Commonwealth waters.
- Confinement of the watercraft at a mooring, dock or other location until the related equipment is removed from the water.
- Removal of a watercraft from a Commonwealth water to remove prohibited AIS if the water has not previously been known to be infected with that species. Find lists of known waters of the Commonwealth with AIS in the United States Geological Survey's Nonindigenous Aquatic Species database.
- Watercraft with attached aquatic plants or prohibited AIS, or that have not been drained, or drain plug not removed, are prohibited from entering Commonwealth waters.
- Decontamination of a watercraft, if possible, on site.

Clean Your Gear:



Report AIS:





You can
always spot
a safe boater.

Learn more about boating safety
at [FishandBoat.com](https://fishandboat.com)



