

P E N N S Y L V A N I A












2025 FISHING POCKET GUIDE

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COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS-2026

Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
ALL SPECIES OF TROUT  Additional regulations may apply- consult the current <i>Pennsylvania Fishing Summary</i> .	Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season April 4 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 7 Extended Season: Stocked trout waters Jan. 1 through Feb. 15 and Sept. 8 through Dec. 31 Extended Season: Waters not managed as stocked trout waters Jan. 1 through Feb. 15 and Sept. 8 through Dec. 31	7 inches 7 inches NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only	5-streams, lakes and ponds (combined species) 3 (combined species)
BASS - Lakes, Rivers and Streams Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Additional regulations may apply.	Jan. 1 through April 10 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31 April 11 through June 12  June 13 through Sept. 30	15 inches NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted) NO HARVEST begins at 12:01 a.m. 12 inches 40 inches 18 inches 24 inches	4 (combined species) 1 (combined species) 4 2
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge* Pickereel* Northern Pike*	Open year-round 	40 inches 18 inches 24 inches	1 (combined species) 4 2
Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids) Sauger	Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 2 through Dec. 31 Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 2 through Dec. 31	15 inches 12 inches	 6 6
American Shad** American Shad	Open year-round Open year-round -Lehigh River, Schuylkill River*** and tributaries	No minimum NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only	3
American Shad River Herring** Hickory Shad**	 	CLOSED YEAR-ROUND Susquehanna River and tributaries CLOSED YEAR-ROUND	
Herring, Gizzard Shad American Eel	Open year-round Open year-round	No minimum 9 inches	50 (combined species) 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 <i>Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations</i> .	Open year-round    	No minimum	50 (combined species)
Baitfish/Fishbait**** (except Mudbugs/Includes Crayfish) Mudbugs (Dragonfly Nymphs)	Open year-round Open year-round	No minimum No minimum	50 (combined species) Unlimited if taken from lakes, ponds, swamps and adjacent areas. 50 per day if taken from moving waters (rivers and streams).
Mussels/Clams and 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). 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.