

COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS-2023			
Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
ALL SPECIES OF TROUT <small>Additional regulations may apply- see Trout Regulations for stream sections that are both Stocked Trout Waters and Class A Wild Trout Waters.</small>	Regular Opening Day of Trout Season - April 1 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 4	7 inches	5-streams, lakes, and ponds (combined species)
	Extended Season: Stocked trout waters Jan. 1 through Feb. 19 and Sept. 5 through Dec. 31	7 inches	3 (combined species)
	Extended Season: Stocked Class A wild trout stream sections. Jan. 1 through Feb. 19 and Sept. 5 through Dec. 31	NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only Class A stream listing: fishandboat.com	
BASS - Lakes, Rivers, and Streams	Jan. 1 through April 7 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted <small>Additional regulations may apply</small>	April 8 through June 9	NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)	
	June 10 through Sept. 30	12 inches	6 (combined species)
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge*	Open year-round	40 inches	1 (combined species)
Pickerele*	Open year-round	18 inches	4
Northern Pike*	Open year-round	24 inches	2
Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids)	Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 6 through Dec. 31	15 inches	6
Sauger	Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 6 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 and River Herring**	CLOSED YEAR-ROUND - 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 <small>Additional regulations may apply- see Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations</small>	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
Baitfish/Fishbait**** <small>(except Mudbugs/includes Crayfish)</small>	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 and Paddlefish, Spotted Gar, and other threatened and endangered species	CLOSED YEAR-ROUND		

**SEASONS, SIZES, AND CREEL 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 20 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 trout streams year-round, with no harvest beginning the day after Labor Day through 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. These stream sections are closed to fishing from February 20 until 8 a.m. on the opening day of trout season.

\*\*\*\* **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.

5002-22023



# 2023

## Seasons, Sizes, and Creel Limits



**Senator Xxxx XXXXXXXX**  
**XXth District**

**OFFICE**

## Big Bass Program Special Regulations

These special regulations apply to largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass in the waters listed. Stocked trout waters (lakes) that are in the Big Bass Program are closed to all fishing from February 20 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 7 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
April 8 through June 9	<b>NO HARVEST</b> - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)	

### WATERS GOVERNED BY THESE REGULATIONS

County	Water
Allegheny	Upper, Middle, and Lower Deer Lakes <i>Lakes Closed to fishing from February 20 until 8 a.m. on opening day of trout.</i>
Allegheny	Marshall Lake
Allegheny	North Park Lake
Armstrong	Keystone Lake
Beaver	Bradys Run Lake
Berks	Blue Marsh Lake
Berks	Carsonia Lake
Berks	Hopewell Lake
Berks	Kaercher Creek Dam
Bedford	Shawnee Lake (State Park)
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	Lake Arthur (Moraine State Park)
Cambria	Beaverdam Run Reservoir
Cambria	Duman Lake
Cambria	Hinckston Run Reservoir
Cambria	Wilmore Dam

County	Water
Carbon	Mauch Chunk Lake
Centre	Colyer Lake
Chester	Chambers Lake
Chester	Marsh Creek Lake (State Park)
Clarion/Venango	Kahle Lake
Crawford	Sugar Lake
Cumberland	Opossum Lake
Fayette	Indian Creek Reservoir (Mill Run Reservoir)
Fayette/Westmoreland	Bridgeport Reservoir
Indiana	Yellow Creek Lake (State Park)
Lackawanna	Lackawanna Lake (State Park)
● Lancaster	Speedwell Forge Lake
Lehigh	Leaser Lake
Luzerne	Frances Slocum Lake (State Park)
Luzerne	Harris Pond
Luzerne	Lily Lake
Lycoming	Rose Valley Lake
Mercer	Shenango River Lake

● = NEW ADDITION

County	Water
Monroe/Wayne	Gouldsboro Lake
Montour	Lake Chillisquaque
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)
Wayne	Lower Woods Pond (partial drawdown)
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.	<b>January 1 to December 31: NO HARVEST CATCH AND IMMEDIATE RELEASE ONLY.</b> 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. <b>From January 1 to April 7 and June 10 to December 31:</b> Catch-measure-immediate release tournaments permitted (see <a href="http://fishandboat.com">fishandboat.com</a> for tournament requirement details). <b>From April 8 to June 9:</b> 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.	



This program provides anglers with an opportunity to fish for larger trout. Under the program, approximately 10,000 large trout, measuring between 14 to 20 inches, are distributed in among these select waters under the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only and Miscellaneous Special Regulations.

See the *Pennsylvania Summary/Boating Handbook*:  
[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

## 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, and they 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 and Forests if they display a boat registration, Commission launch use permit, or Pennsylvania State Parks launch permit or mooring permit. 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.

### LIFE JACKET WEAR REQUIRED FROM NOVEMBER 1 TO APRIL 30



**Boaters must wear a life jacket on 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. In an effort to reduce the number of fatalities related to cold water immersion, the Commission has amended regulations to require life jackets to be worn on small and unstable boats during the period most noted for cold water temperatures.