

### WHO MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET?

- Children 12 years and younger on any boat 20 feet long or less and all canoes, kayaks and paddleboards.
- Everyone on boats less than 16 feet long and all canoes, kayaks and paddleboards from November 1 to April 30.
- Everyone on boats less than 16 feet long and all canoes, kayaks and paddleboards on Pittsburgh District United States Army Corps of Engineers lakes.
- Anyone towed behind boats, anyone on personal watercraft and sailboats (windsurfers).



Life jackets must be United States Coast Guard approved, appropriately sized and approved for the intended activity. Read the label.

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

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.



### See WATER POLLUTION or POACHING? REPORT IT!



PFBC TOLL-FREE HOTLINE **855-FISH-KIL**

## COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS-2024

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

**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 19 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 19 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.

### 2024 MENTORED YOUTH TROUT DAY: MARCH 30 (Statewide) 8:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Take part in the Commission's Mentored Youth Trout Day. Youth (less than 16 years of age) can join a mentor (adult) angler who has a valid Pennsylvania fishing license and current trout permit to fish on **Saturday, March 30 (Statewide)**. For more information, visit [fishandboat.com](http://fishandboat.com).



ExplorePAWaters.com is for those who haven't experienced the thrill of hitting a hole of eagerly biting fish or the peace of a meandering paddle trip with an up-close encounter of 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.



### CONVENIENT MULTI-YEAR FISHING

Anglers can purchase a license for three years, five years or ten years with just one purchase. That's right, no more remembering at the last minute to buy a license before opening day or that weekend fishing opportunity with friends and family. To order and for more information on licenses:

**HuntFish.PA.gov**



In addition to information provided in this guide, check your Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook for more information.



# 2024 Seasons, Sizes and Creel Limits



**TROUT OPENER April 6 Statewide**

**FishandBoat.com**

## Big Bass Program Special Regulations

These special regulations apply to Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass 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 19 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 12 and June 8 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
April 13 through June 7	<b>NO HARVEST</b> - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted). NO HARVEST begins at 12:01 a.m.	

### WATERS GOVERNED BY THESE REGULATIONS

County	Water
Allegheny	Upper, Middle and Lower Deer Lakes Closed to fishing from February 19 until 8 a.m. on opening day of trout.
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)
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
Monroe/Wayne	Gouldsboro Lake

County	Water
Montour	Lake Chillisquaque
Perry	Little Buffalo Lake (Holman Lake)
Somerset	Quemahoning Reservoir
Tioga	Lake Nessmuk
Venango	Two Mile Run Reservoir (Justus Lake)
Washington	Opossum 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 12 and June 8 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 13 to June 7:</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.	

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## General Boating Regulations

**REQUIREMENTS** – 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.

### BOAT AND GEAR CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants and animals that have been introduced into new ecosystems and have environmental, recreational, economic or health impacts.

Do not transport any plants, fish or other aquatic life from one body of water to another. Do not release unused bait into the waters you are fishing. Dump unused bait in a trash can.

### New Regulations Effective January 1, 2024

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.
- A prohibition of a watercraft into a Commonwealth water when the watercraft has aquatic plants or prohibited AIS attached or when water has not been drained or the drain plug not removed.
- Decontamination of a watercraft, if possible, on site.



[nas.er.usgs.gov](http://nas.er.usgs.gov)



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 among these select waters under the Delayed Harvest Artificial Lures Only and Miscellaneous Special Regulations.

#### ARMSTRONG/BUTLER COUNTIES

**Buffalo Creek**  
3.7 miles; from Little Buffalo Run downstream to 0.6 mile above Craigsville Road bridge

#### BERKS COUNTY

**Tulpehocken Creek**  
3.8 miles; from the first deflector below Blue Marsh Dam downstream to the T-921 covered bridge

#### CAMBRIA COUNTY

**Chest Creek**  
2.5 miles; Ridge Avenue downstream to Thomas Mills Road

#### CENTRE COUNTY

**Bald Eagle Creek**  
0.86 mile; from 0.38 mile upstream of Steel Hollow Run to 0.48 mile downstream of Steel Hollow Run

#### CHESTER COUNTY

**Middle Branch White Clay Creek**  
1.67 miles; from SR 3009, Good Hope Road, downstream to the confluence with the East Branch

#### DAUPHIN COUNTY

**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 1.7 miles upstream from the mouth

#### FAYETTE COUNTY

**Meadow Run**  
2.2 miles; from the SR 2011 bridge, Dinner Bell Road, adjacent to the Ohiopele St. Park office downstream to mouth

#### FULTON COUNTY

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

#### LACKAWANNA/WYOMING COUNTIES

**South Branch Tunkhannock Creek**  
0.99 mile; from SR 6 downstream through Keystone College campus

#### LAWRENCE COUNTY

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

#### LEBANON COUNTY

**Quittapahilla Creek**  
1.1 miles; from Spruce Street bridge on T-398 downstream to the SR 0934 bridge

#### LUZERNE COUNTY

**Harveys Creek**  
1.7 miles; from Jackson Road, T-812, downstream to Pavlick Road, T-497

#### LYCOMING COUNTY

**Little Pine Creek**  
3.9 miles; Little Pine Creek Road bridge located 1.0 mile upstream Otter Run downstream to inflow of Little Pine Lake

#### LYCOMING COUNTY

**Loyalsock Creek**  
3.8 miles; 1.0 mile upstream Sullivan County line downstream to unnamed tributary located 0.9 mile upstream Plunketts Creek

#### LYCOMING COUNTY

**Lycoming Creek**  
3.0 miles; 0.5 mile upstream Daugherty Run downstream to 0.1 mile downstream of the SR 0015 bridge, Old Route 15, near Haleeka

#### McKEAN COUNTY

**Kinzua Creek**  
4.77 miles; from Guffey Road bridge, Rocky Road, downstream to Allegheny National Forest boundary near Westline

#### MONROE COUNTY

**McMichael Creek**  
2.42 miles; 0.13 km downstream from the Turkey Hill Road, T-416, Bridge downstream to Glenbrook Road, SR 2004, bridge

#### POTTER COUNTY

**First Fork Sinnemahoning Creek**  
3.9 miles; Rt. 872 bridge at Schoolhouse Run downstream to Berge Run

#### SNYDER COUNTY

**Middle Creek**  
2.0 miles; 0.3 mile upstream of Pine Swamp Road downstream to 0.6 mile upstream Covered Bridge Road

#### SOMERSET COUNTY

**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

#### TIOGA COUNTY

**Pine Creek**  
3.3 miles; Marsh Creek downstream to Bear Run

#### VENANGO COUNTY

**Oil Creek**  
1.55 miles; from bridge at Petroleum Center downstream to railroad bridge at Columbia Farm

#### WESTMORELAND COUNTY

**Loyalhanna Creek**  
1.67 miles; from SR 711 downstream to SR 2045, Two Mile Run Road

See the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook*:

[FishandBoat.com](http://FishandBoat.com)