



2003 OPENING DATES

TROUT: APRIL 12

WALLEYE/PIKE: MAY 3

BASS: JUNE 14


2003

Seasons, Sizes and Creel Limits

COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS

Includes the Youghiogheny Reservoir and does not include special-regulation areas



SPECIES	SEASONS	MINIMUM SIZE	DAILY LIMIT
All species of TROUT and SALMON 	Regular Season- April 12 at 8 a.m. through September 1	7 inches	5- streams, lakes and ponds (combined species) except areas with special regulations
	Extended Season- All approved trout streams and their downstream areas and all lakes and ponds, January 1 through February 28 and September 2 through December 31	7 inches	3 (combined species) except areas with special regulations
BASS - Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted LAKES	January 1 through April 11 and November 1 through December 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 12 through June 13	NO HARVEST	Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)
	June 14 through October 31	12 inches	6 (combined species)
BASS - Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted RIVERS AND STREAMS	January 1 through April 11 and October 1 through December 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 12 through June 13	NO HARVEST	Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)
	June 14 through September 30	12 inches	6 (combined species)
MUSKELLUNGE and Muskellunge Hybrids	January 1 through March 14 and May 3 through December 31	30 inches	2 (combined species)
PICKEREL *	January 1 through March 14 and May 3 through December 31	15 inches	6
PIKE- Northern and Amur	January 1 through March 14 and May 3 through December 31	24 inches	2 (combined species)
WALLEYE and Hybrids (Saugeye)	January 1 through March 14 and May 3 through December 31	15 inches	6
SAUGER	January 1 through March 14 and May 3 through December 31	12 inches	6
AMERICAN SHAD **	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	no minimum	6
AMERICAN SHAD **	(Lehigh River and tributaries) OPEN YEAR-ROUND	no minimum	1
AMERICAN SHAD, ALEWIFE, BLUEBACK HERRING, HICKORY SHAD**	(Susquehanna River and tributaries) CLOSED YEAR-ROUND	CLOSED	0
HERRING, GIZZARD SHAD **	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	no minimum	50 (combined species) except areas with special regulations
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 and other gamefish not otherwise listed	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	no minimum	50 (combined species) except areas with special regulations
BAITFISH and FISHBAIT (except mudbugs)	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	no minimum	50 (combined species)
AMERICAN EEL	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	8 inches	50
AMERICAN EEL (as baitfish)	OPEN YEAR-ROUND	6 inches to 8 inches	50
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)
PADDLEFISH	CLOSED YEAR-ROUND	CLOSED	0

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.

* During the period from January 1 through March 14 and December 1 through December 31, the daily limit of pickerel is three.

** Unlawful to take, catch or kill American shad, hickory shad (endangered species), alewife and blueback herring (collectively known as river herring) in the Susquehanna and all 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."

NOTE: Approved trout waters are closed to fishing from March 1 to the opening day of the regular trout season in April, unless included in the Select Trout-Stocked Lake Program. The list of approved trout waters appears in the Summary of Fishing Regulations and Laws.

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.