


# 2021 SEASONS, SIZES, and CREEL LIMITS

## COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS-2021

(includes the Youghiogheny River Lake and does not include special regulation areas)

Species	Seasons	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
<b>ALL SPECIES OF TROUT</b>  Additional regulations may apply- see Trout Regulations for stream sections that are both Stocked Trout Waters and Class A Wild Trout Waters.	<b>Regional Opening Day of Trout Season*</b> - April 3 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 6 (only 18 southeastern PA counties)	7 inches	5-streams, lakes, and ponds (combined species)
	Regular Season - April 17 at 8 a.m. through Sept. 6	7 inches	5-streams, lakes, and ponds (combined species)
	Extended Season: <i>Stocked trout waters and all waters downstream of stocked trout waters.</i> Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and Sept. 7 through Dec. 31	7 inches	3 (combined species)
	Extended Season: <i>Class A wild trout stream sections.</i> Jan. 1 through Feb. 28 and Sept. 7 through Dec. 31	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only</b> Class A stream listing: <a href="http://www.fishandboat.com/classa.pdf">www.fishandboat.com/classa.pdf</a>	
<b>BASS-LAKES</b> Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Additional regulations may apply.	Jan. 1 through April 16 and Nov. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 17 through June 11	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b> See catch-and-release guidelines.	
	June 12 through Oct. 31	12 inches	6 (combined species)
<b>BASS-RIVERS AND STREAMS</b> Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Additional regulations may apply.	Jan. 1 through April 16 and Oct. 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
	April 17 through June 11	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b>	
	June 12 through Sept. 30	12 inches	6 (combined species)
<b>Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge**</b> <b>Pickeral**</b> <b>Northern Pike**</b>	Open year-round	40 inches 18 inches 24 inches	1 (combined species) 4 2
<b>Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids)</b> <b>Sauger</b>	Jan. 1 through March 14 and May 1 through Dec. 31	15 inches 12 inches	6 6
<b>American Shad***</b> <b>American Shad</b>	Open year-round	No minimum	3
<b>American Shad</b> <b>River Herring***</b>	Open year-round - Lehigh River, Schuylkill River**** and tributaries	<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only</b>
<b>Hickory Shad***</b>		<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>	
<b>Herring, Gizzard Shad</b>	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
<b>American Eel</b>	Open year-round	9 inches	25
<b>Striped Bass and Striped Bass/ White Bass Hybrids</b>	Open year-round	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> Additional regulations may apply- see Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations.	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
<b>Baitfish/Fishbait*****</b> (except Mudbugs/Includes Crayfish)	Open year-round	No minimum	50 (combined species)
<b>Mudbugs (Dragonfly Nymphs)</b>	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).
<b>Mussels/Clams</b>		<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>	
<b>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.

\* Includes only those waters in 18 southeastern PA counties and four waters crossing from those counties listed in the **Regional Opening Day of Trout Season Program**.

\*\* 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 March 1 to the opening day of the regular trout season in April, unless included in the **Regional Opening Day of Trout Season Program or 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 March 1 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.