Delaware's Recreational Season, Size and Creel Limits 2010 Quick Reference

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Black sea bass Opens May 22; closing date TBA 12.5 inches 25 Bluefish All year None 10 Catfish (any species) All year None None None Red drum All year Superior Starks & Huls Pager Pots: Mar. 1 - None Striped bass Pots: Mar. 1 - None Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Sept. 30 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 41 inches Summer flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Sept. 20 inches Summer flounder Shark Sept. 20 inches Summer f			Atlantic sturgeon		Closed - no harvest perm	nitted
Bluefish All year None 10 Catfish (any species) All year None None Red drum All year 20 - 27 inches may be retained None 10 Red drum All year None 10 River herring (alewife & bluebuck) All year None 10 Scup All year 8 inches 50 Spanish mackerel All year 14 inches 10 Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches None Striped bass All year 12 inches None Striped bass All year 12 inches None Striped bass All year 15 inches 10 Summer flounder Jan. 1 - Oct. 12 18.5 inches 4 Tautog April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 14 inches 10 Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 None Note: A general Jishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Hard clams All year 1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident			Black drum	All year	16 inches	3
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Red drum All year 20 - 27 inches may be retained River herring (alewife & blueback) Scup All year None 10 Scup All year 8 inches 50 Spanish mackerel All year 14 inches 10 Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches None Striped bass All year 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & Fishing Guide page 18) Summer flounder Jan. 1 - Oct. 12 18.5 inches 4 April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 July 1 - Aug. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Shark, tuna & billfish Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Refer to Sharks & IMS Page Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Hard clams All year 1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident			Bluefish	All year	None	10
Red drum River herring (alewife & blueback) Scup All year None 10 Spanish mackerel Spotted seatrout All year 14 inches 10 Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches None 28 inches, except only 20 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs. Summer flounder Jan. 1 - Oct. 12 18.5 inches 4 April 1 - May 31 (see Fishing Guide page 18) Tautog April 1 - May 11 July 1 - Aug. 31 Jul		R. S.	Catfish (any species)	All year	None	None
Scup All year 8 inches 50 Spanish mackerel All year 12 inches 10 Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches 28 inches, except only 20-26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs. Summer flounder Jan. 1 - Oct. 12 18.5 inches 4 April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 Tautog April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Hard clams All year 1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident			Red drum	All year	•	5
Spanish mackerel All year 14 inches 10 Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches None Spotted seatrout All year 12 inches None Striped bass All year 28 inches, except only 20 - 26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay & their tribs. Summer flounder Jan. 1 - Oct. 12 18.5 inches 4 April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 July 1 - Aug. 31 14 inches 10 Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Hard clams All year 1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident			(alewife & blueback)	•		
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Striped bass All year Pote: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Striped bass All year All year All year Pote: Mar. 1 - April 1 - A	ater	Part State	Spanish mackerel	All year		10
Striped bass All year Pote: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Striped bass All year All year All year Pote: Mar. 1 - April 1 - A	×		Spotted seatrout	All year		None
Tautog April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 July 1 - Aug. 31 14 inches 10 Sept. 29 - Mar. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Shark, tuna & billfish Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams April 1 - May 11 15 inches 3 July 1 - Aug. 31 14 inches 10 None 1 1 2 inches 2 Peter to Sharks & HMS Page Peter - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches 1 bushel Hard-shell - 5 inches 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Tida		Striped bass	All year	26 inch fish may be retained from July 1 - Aug. 31 in DE River, DE Bay &	only on spawning grounds April 1 - May 31 (see
Tautog July 1 - Aug. 31 14 inches 10 Weakfish All year 13 inches 1 White perch All year 8 inches None Winter flounder Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Shark, tuna & billfish Refer to Sharks & HMS Page Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Hard clams All year 1.5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident			Summer flounder	Jan. 1 - Oct. 12	18.5 inches	4
White perch Winter flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams White perch All year Shark a linches Peeler - 3 inches Nov. 30; other gears year around Hard-shell - 5 inches 100/resident; 50/non-resident		6	Tautog	July 1 - Aug. 31	14 inches	10
Winter flounder Shark, tuna & billfish Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Feb. 11 - Apr. 10 12 inches 2 Refer to Sharks & HMS Page Pots: Mar. 1 - Peeler - 3 inches Soft-shell - 3.5 inches 1 bushel Hard-shell - 5 inches 100/resident; 50/non- resident			Weakfish	All year	13 inches	1
Shark, tuna & billfish **Refer to Sharks & HMS Page** **Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams** **Blue crab** **Pots: Mar. 1 - Peeler - 3 inches Nov. 30; other Soft-shell - 3.5 inches 1 bushel gears year around Hard-shell - 5 inches **Hard clams** **All year** **All year** **All year** **1.5 inches** **Toolines** **Toolines			White perch	All year	8 inches	None
Note: A general fishing license is now required to fish for blue crabs and clams Nov. 30; other gears year around Hard-shell - 5 inches 1 bushel Hard-shell - 5 inches 1 bushel 1 bushel 1 bushel 1 bushel 1 bushel 2 inches		THE		Feb. 11 - Apr. 10		
clams All year 1.5 inches resident		fishing license is	Blue crab	Nov. 30; other	Soft-shell - 3.5 inches	1 bushel
		· ·	Hard clams	All year	1.5 inches	
			Lobster	All year	3 3/8 - 5 1/4 inches	

	2010 Sharks and Highly Migratory Species (HMS)									
		Species	Open Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit					
	and the same	Spiny & smooth dogfish	All year	None	None					
Sharks *- Special permit may be required for federal waters		Blacktip shark, bull shark, great hammerhead, lemon shark, nurse shark, scalloped hammerhead, silky shark, smooth hammerhead, spinner shark, tiger shark	Jan. 1 -May 14; July 16 - Dec. 31	54 -inches FORK LENGTH	Boat anglers- only 1 shark of any species per vessel, except 1 additional bonnethead and 1 additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel. Shore anglers - only of 1 shark of any species per angler, except 1 additional bonnethead and one additional Atlantic sharpnose per angler onboard vessel.					
		Blue shark, oceanic white-tip shark, porbeagle, shortfin mako, thresher shark	All year	54 -inches FORK LENGTH						
		Atlantic sharpnose shark, blacknose shark, bonnethead, finetooth shark	All year	None						
		Sandbar shark, sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, basking shark, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill shark, bigeye thresher, bignose shark, Caribbean reef shark, Caribbean sharpnose	THESE SPECIES PROHIBITED		The sandbar & sand tiger are toothed sharks commonly taken in the nearshore waters of the state and are prohibited. Like all prohibited species, they must be immediately released to ensure the maximum probability of survival.					
		shark, dusky shark, Galapagos shark, longfin mako, narrowtooth shark, night shark, sevengill shark, sixgill shark, smalltail shark, whale shark, white shark								

Special Restrictions for Shark

It is unlawful to fillet a shark prior to landing. A shark may be eviscerated prior to landing, but head, tail and fins must remain attached to the carcass.

It is unlawful to release a shark in a manner that will not ensure the sharks maximum probability of survival. It is unlawful to possess the fins from any shark prior to landing unless they are naturally attached to the body of the



Atlantic tunas, swordfish and billfish

*All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling Permit. Further limits and restrictions apply. Consult www.hmspermits.gov or call toll free (888) 872-8862 for specific information.

