

# PENNSYLVANIA FISHING LICENSE BUTTON



These annual buttons are available to all current, adult and youth Pennsylvania fishing license customers who possess a valid Pennsylvania fishing license that enables them to fish for the entire year. Lifetime Senior License and Multi-Year License holders can also purchase the buttons. For all eligible customers, the buttons are NOT required by law, and fishing license buttons are an optional purchase. The fee is \$10.00 per button.

## WHO MUST WEAR A LIFE JACKET?



**WEAR IT**  
National Safe Boating Council  
Pennsylvania

- Children 12 years of age and younger on Commonwealth waters when underway on any boat 20 feet or less in length and in all canoes and kayaks.
- On Pittsburgh District United States Army Corps of Engineers lakes (only), everyone in boats less than 16 feet in length and in all canoes and kayaks.
- All water skiers and anyone towed behind vessels, personal watercraft (PWC) operators and passengers, and sailboarders (windsurfers). Inflatable life jackets are not acceptable for these activities.
- From November 1 through April 30, boaters are required by law to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak.

[www.WearItPennsylvania.com](http://www.WearItPennsylvania.com)  
In partnership with the National Safe Boating Council

See **WATER POLLUTION** or **POACHING?** **REPORT IT!**  
PFBC TOLL-FREE HOTLINE **855-FISH-KIL**

## COMMONWEALTH INLAND WATERS - 2021

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

Species	Seasons	Daily Limit	Minimum Size
ALL SPECIES OF TROUT Additional regulations may apply - see Trout Regulations for stream sections that are both Stocked Trout Waters and Class A Wild Trout Waters.	Statewide Opening Day of Trout Season April 3 at 8 a.m. - Sept. 6	5 (combined species) streams, lakes, and ponds	7 inches
	Extended Season: Stocked trout waters and all waters downstream of stocked trout waters. Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 and Sept. 7 - Dec. 31	3 (combined species)	7 inches
	Extended Season: Class A wild trout stream sections. Jan. 1 - Feb. 28 and Sept. 7 - 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>	
BASS-LAKES Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Additional regulations may apply.	Jan. 1 - April 16 and Nov. 1 - Dec. 31	4 (combined species)	15 inches
	April 17 - June 11	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b> See catch-and-release guidelines.	
BASS-RIVERS AND STREAMS Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Additional regulations may apply.	Jan. 1 - April 16 and Oct. 1 - Dec. 31	4 (combined species)	15 inches
	April 17 - June 11	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)</b>	
Muskellunge and Tiger Muskellunge**	Open year-round	1 (combined species)	40 inches
	Pickerele**	Open year-round	4
Northern Pike**	Open year-round	2	18 inches
	Walleye and Saugeye (Hybrids)	Open year-round	24 inches
Sauger	Jan. 1 - March 14 and May 1 - Dec. 31	6	15 inches
	Jan. 1 - March 14 and May 1 - Dec. 31	6	12 inches
American Shad***	Open year-round	3	No minimum
American Shad	Open year-round - Lehigh River, Schuylkill River****and tributaries	<b>NO HARVEST - Catch and immediate release only</b>	
American Shad and River Herring***		<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND - Susquehanna River and tributaries</b>	
Hickory Shad***		<b>CLOSED YEAR-ROUND</b>	
Herring, Gizzard Shad	Open year-round	50 (combined species)	No minimum
American Eel	Open year-round	25	9 inches
Striped Bass and Striped Bass/White Bass Hybrids	Open year-round	2 (combined species)	20 inches
Sunfish, Yellow Perch, White Perch, Crappies, Catfish, Rock Bass, Suckers, Carp, White Bass, Bowfin, and other gamefish not otherwise listed. Additional regulations may apply - see Panfish Enhancement Special Regulations.	Open year-round	50 (combined species)	No minimum
Baitfish/Fishbait****(except Mudbugs/Includes Crayfish)	Open year-round	50 (combined species)	No minimum
Mudbugs (Dragonfly Nymphs)	Open year-round	Unlimited if taken from lake, ponds, swamps, and adjacent areas. 50 per day if taken from moving waters (rivers and streams).	No minimum
Mussels/Clams and Paddlefish, Spotted Gar, and other threatened and endangered species.		<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.

NOTES: 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.  
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.  
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.  
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.

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.

## 2021 Mentored Youth Trout Day: March 27 (statewide)

Take part in the Commission's Mentored Youth Trout Day. Youth under the age of 16 can join a mentor (adult) angler who has a current fishing license and trout permit to fish on **Saturday, March 27** on stocked trout waters statewide. For more information, visit [www.fishandboat.com/mentoredyouth.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/mentoredyouth.htm).

Pennsylvania's Best Fishing Waters is a program established by the Commission, using the expertise and knowledge of its fisheries biologists, to highlight statewide locations for different categories of fish to assist anglers in knowing the prime fishing hotspots.



[www.PaBestFishing.com](http://www.PaBestFishing.com)

## 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:



[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)

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



# 2021

## Seasons, Sizes, and Creel Limits



Purchase your fishing license at an issuing agent or online at [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com), and be ready for the state's trout opener on April 3 (statewide).

# BIG BASS WATERS

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 March 1 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.

## Waters Governed by These Regulations

County	Water
Allegheny	Upper, Middle, and Lower Deer Lakes <i>Closed to fishing from March 1 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 Dam
Cambria	Hinckston Run Reservoir

County	Water
Cambria	Wilmore Dam
Carbon	Mauch Chunk 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	Bridgeport Reservoir
Westmoreland	
Indiana	Yellow Creek Lake (State Park)
Lackawanna	Lackawanna Lake (State Park)
Luzerne	Frances Slocum Lake (State Park)
Luzerne	Lake Arthur
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	Somerset Lake (lake drained)
Somerset	Quemahoning Reservoir
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.	January 1 to December 31: <b>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 16 and June 12 to December 31:</b> Catch-measure-immediate release tournaments permitted (see <a href="http://www.fishandboat.com">www.fishandboat.com</a> for tournament requirement details). <b>From April 17 to June 11:</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.	

## GENERAL BOATING REGULATIONS

**BOATING** – A Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket or personal flotation device (PFD) is required for each occupant on all types of boats in all waters.

Motorboats (including boats powered by electric motors) must be registered, and they must be registered in their state of principal use. Boat operators of boats with greater than 25 horsepower and born on or after Jan. 1, 1982, may not operate unless they have obtained and have in possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate. All PWC (personal watercraft) operators must have obtained and have in possession a Boating Safety Education Certificate. Persons 11 years of age or younger may NOT operate a boat with greater than 25 horsepower or a PWC. Persons 12–15 years of age may not operate a PWC with any passengers on board 15 years of age or younger or rent a PWC.

Owners of unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, stand-up paddleboards, etc.) can launch their boats at Commission lakes, access areas and properties, and at PA state parks and forests if their boats display the Commission's launch use permit OR boat registration, OR PA 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.



This program provides anglers with an opportunity to fish for larger trout in select waters. Approximately 10,000 large trout, measuring between 14 to 20 inches, will be distributed in **these waters managed with 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 SR 4035 in Craigsville

### 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 Ohioyle 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 to mouth

### 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 the T-364 (Countryman Bridge) downstream to the T-364 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)

## LAKES

Season	Minimum Size	Daily Limit
Jan. 1 through April 16 and June 12 through Dec. 31	15 inches	4 (combined species)
April 17 through June 11	<b>NO HARVEST</b> - Catch and immediate release only (no tournaments permitted)	

## STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are plants and animals that have been introduced into new ecosystems and have environmental, recreational, economic, or health impacts. These invaders may damage equipment and compete with native species. Anglers and boaters may unknowingly introduce AIS into new waters. Go to [www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com) for more information.



# Pennsylvania ANGLER & BOATER

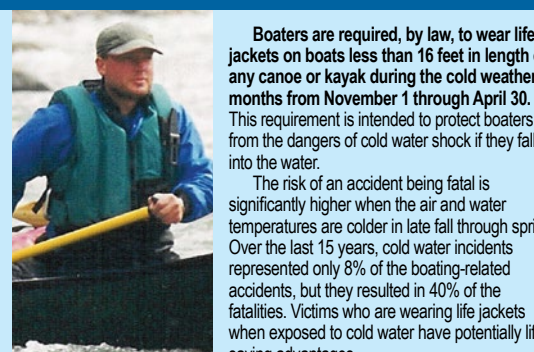
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Boaters are required, by law, to wear life jackets on boats less than 16 feet in length or any canoe or kayak during the cold weather months from November 1 through April 30. This requirement is intended to protect boaters from the dangers of cold water shock if they fall into the water.

The risk of an accident being fatal is significantly higher when the air and water temperatures are colder in late fall through spring. Over the last 15 years, cold water incidents represented only 8% of the boating-related accidents, but they resulted in 40% of the fatalities. Victims who are wearing life jackets when exposed to cold water have potentially life-saving advantages.

See the *Pennsylvania Fishing Summary/Boating Handbook*:

[www.fishandboat.com](http://www.fishandboat.com)